

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLIII, Number 9

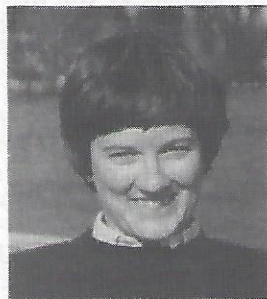
Chicago, Illinois

May, 1983

Kathy Georg on Actions at the Rose Farm on the Second Day at Gettysburg

For over a century the Rose Farm has been identified with the severest and bloodiest of fighting at Gettysburg. The 230 acres of the Civil War farm comprised lands within Union and Confederate battle lines and provided the setting for the clashes in the Wheatfield, the Loop, and Rose Grove. The confusion of army movements and countermovements, the paucity of Confederate battle reports, the misleading early battle histories, and the vast number of regiments involved all contribute to enmeshing the true events of 2 July 1863 in a web of contradiction, chaos, and complication, confounding even the most determined efforts to unravel the snare.

Forty-nine regiments from 13 Union brigades and almost 20 regiments from five Confederate brigades found themselves embroiled in the conflict within the Rose Farm boundaries. Casualties among higher Confederate officers included Hood, Anderson, Semmes, DeSaussure, Mounger, and Fraser; notable Union officers who fell on Rose property included Cross, Zook, Merwin, Wheeler, Jeffords, and Taylor.



Kathy Georg

Discussing some of the events that took place at the Farm at The Round Table meeting on May 13 will be Gettysburg National Military Park research historian Kathy Georg. Kathy notes that because of the immensity of scope of this Rose Farm fighting it will be necessary to limit the presentation to one portion only of that conflict. She will examine primarily the events around the Rose Farm buildings and lane, concentrating on the attack by Kershaw's and Semmes' Brigades. Union counterattacks at the Loop and Rose Grove will also be discussed. Photographs and battle maps, presented through a slide program, will illustrate the movements and action areas. Kathy believes that an analysis of casualties clearly demonstrates that the bloodiness of the Rose Farm fighting, while severe in its own right, has been greatly over-stated and over-inflated. She will offer probable causes for these exaggerations, citing the early post-battle distortions.

In addition, Kathy will briefly examine the history of the farm itself, including the ownership of George and Dorothy Rose—the unfortunate pair who reaped the harvest of death instead of the ripened grain from



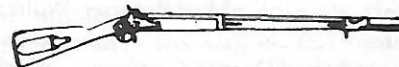
421st Regular Meeting

Kathy Georg
on
Actions at the Rose Farm
on the Second Day
at Gettysburg

Friday, May 13, 1983

Illinois Athletic Club
112 S. Michigan

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$12.50 per person



Executive committee meeting

President Marv Sanderman has announced there will be an executive committee meeting, to discuss the site of the 1984 Battlefield Tour, from 5:45-6:15 p.m. on May 13. It will be held in the Directors Suite South, 5th Floor, Illinois Athletic Club. All current officers, committee chairmen and past presidents are urged to attend.

the Wheatfield. The history of the Rose family, she notes, has likewise been clouded by misstatements and outright falsehoods from the early histories, and shows how false history or "history" based on other than primary research can be not only misleading, but costly to those responsible for the interpretation and preservation of historic sites.

A feature of Kathy's presentation will be a showing of those O'Sullivan photographs taken about three days
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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Phone: (312) 944-3085

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Picnic Theodore Eberly
Golf Outing Terry Carr

The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Ward C. Smidl, 1104 Whippoorwill Lane, Palatine, Illinois 60007.



Nominating Committee Report

Bob Franke, chairman of the Nominating Committee, has announced the following proposed slate of officers for the 1983-84 year:

President Donald E. Anderson
Senior Vice President J. Robert Ziegler
Vice President Daniel R. Weinberg
Vice President Paul Kliger
Secretary James Vlazney
Treasurer Paul Klekner
Assistant Secretary Karl Sundstrom
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Trustee William Margeson
Trustee Pat Krelle Sumner
Trustee Joseph Wisheart
Trustee (to fill the unexpired term
of Richard McAddo) Sidney Bernstein

The election will be held during the May meeting, at which time additional nominations for any of the above offices may be made from the floor. Three current members of the Board of Trustees, Martin P. Dutch, Marvin Goldsher, and Leslie MacDonald, will remain in office for the coming year as they complete their two-year terms.

An exhibit, "Michigan and the Civil War 1861-1865," is on display at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing through September 5. Throughout the exhibit, the Museum will present films and slide programs from many of the national military parks, such as "Battle of Chickamauga," "Salvage of the Gunboat CAIRO," "Portrait of a Battle" (about Shiloh), and a slide program on the history of Andersonville prison. For further information, call (517) 373-1979.

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after the Rose Farm battles, identifying the sites as they appear today and the probable victims and circumstances of their deaths. Three photographs heretofore unidentified by location in Frassanito's *Gettysburg: A Journey in Time* will be shown in relation with their correct sites and the story of the possible casualties depicted.

Kathy Georg was born and raised in Pennsylvania. She attended the University of Pittsburg at Johnstown, majoring in history, and received a B.A. in secondary education in December, 1971; she graduated magna cum laude and received a history department award. While substitute teaching, and working at a bakery, Kathy attended the University of Pittsburgh graduate school.

In 1974 Kathy began work as a temporary park technician at Gettysburg. She received her master's degree in history from Pitt in April, 1975, and became research historian at Gettysburg in 1976. Her duties include historical studies and reports related to the park's cultural resources, as well as those of the national cemetery and the Eisenhower National Historic Site. Kathy's personal study interest of the Gettysburg campaign involves casualties and hospitals, and medical techniques. She is currently working with a local preservation group and the Pennsylvania Hospital Association to locate with signs the field hospitals of the Union and Confederate armies in the Gettysburg area, which should be erected this summer.

April meeting

Expressing concern that historians wrench figures such as Stephen A. Douglas out of context and judge them by contemporary standards instead of by the standards of their own time, University of Illinois Professor of History Robert W. Johannsen asked, and answered, the question, "how representative was Douglas of the spirit of the age?" In doing so he provided the 102 members and guests present at The Round Table meeting April 8 with new insights into both the man and the times.

Professor Johannsen began by noting how news of the revolution in France in 1848 sent a wave of enthusiasm across the U.S. People believed it would spread throughout Europe and that the U.S. had provided the inspiration. Stephen A. Douglas, the new senator from Illinois, urged the U.S. to send its congratulations and to offer assistance. He felt republicans around the world had their eyes on the U.S. and that it must sympathize with every such revolution.

These sentiments grew out of his belief, which was shared by many, that no other nation had done more for the cause of civilization. America's destiny was manifest, he believed; it was the beacon light to peoples throughout the world. The U.S. was the epitome of progress; there was no limit to what it could accomplish.

Stephen A. Douglas was born and raised in upstate New York—an area known for its fierce individualism, passion for self-rule and independence of mind, all of which Douglas imbibed. He had excellent schooling and found particular excitement in the classics. Even when he began the study of law in 1833 he continued his study of the classics. In 1828, when he was 15, Douglas came under the spell of Andrew Jackson who was leading the party against John Quincy Adams. Douglas became a disciple of Jacksonian Democracy.

Professor Johannsen feels it is important that Douglas came from upstate New York which was an area of ferment and unrest while he lived there. The Erie Canal had opened up the area to development and it was alive with the spirit of change; it also was the focus of religious revivals and of utopian experiments. This background gave Douglas a perspective unique for a future politician.

Douglas headed west for more, and more rapid, opportunities and decided to stay in Illinois where he found the people to be Democrats in principle, practice and name. He became a licensed attorney and found satisfaction in the rough and tumble of western politics. His rise was meteoric—from states attorney, state legislator, secretary of state and supreme court judge to the House and then the U.S. Senate. He operated on the national level for 18 years and was widely recognized as the most prominent and controversial figure of the times.

Douglas was brash and aggressive and a rhetorician, but he could also be terse and to the point. He had great oratorical powers and his arguments in Congress were always well-informed and well-documented. Douglas always had an armload of books—he was a heavy user of the Library of Congress.

Douglas studied the history and geography of the west and also looked into new areas such as science and technology. He promoted practical science and urged it be taught in schools, and government support for scientific endeavors was part of his legislative program. For Douglas, the future was boundless. He believed in west-

ward growth and expansion; that boundaries to the country could not be fixed. He came to represent the spirit of young America. Professor Johannsen noted that even Lincoln shared much of this faith in America and its future.

This faith, in the case of Douglas, rested on the bedrock of Democracy—in the sovereignty of the people, the sanctity of the Union and the inalienable right to self government. But Douglas, Professor Johannsen explained, distrusted ideology. He was a pragmatist who never sought more than he thought politically possible. Yet, he would not compromise on some things—self-government, state sovereignty and the Union. Unfortunately, his principles began to lose viability and his pragmatism failed to achieve results. The mood of the nation changed; the spirit of unchecked expansion to the west gave way to order and stability. Industrial development and the growth of cities gave rise to material interests which replaced patriotism; public spirit declined and parochialism grew.

These changes in the nation were aggravated by the issue of slavery; it dominated the political life of the 1850s and polarized the nation. It also wrecked the party system which couldn't accommodate the opposing points of view.

Douglas believed there was much danger to the nation in discussion of a moral issue like slavery; he felt sectional conflicts should not be stirred by moral questions. Douglas maintained that the only course was to allow people to decide if slavery should exist in their territory; he felt that sooner or later the people would decide rightly (Douglas, Professor Johannsen explained, was not pro-slavery, as some believe).

Douglas castigated both north and south, abolitionists and slaveholders, for tearing the nation apart. For him the real issue of 1860 was the Union and the vision of its future. After Lincoln's election he did all he could to keep the nation together. He told southerners that Lincoln's election did not warrant secession, that Lincoln did not control Congress and the courts and that they just had to wait four years. He said the U.S. should remain a beacon for the world and should not be plunged into conflict.

Douglas implored Lincoln to save the nation, to subordinate all to save the Union. For him, destroying the party platform was better than breaking up the Union. Contemplating the destruction of the Union, said Professor Johannsen, was more than Douglas could bear.

After the fall of Sumter Douglas returned to Illinois to rally his constituents behind the Union. He said that the eyes of the world were still on the U.S. and that perhaps out of the conflict a new and stronger Union would emerge. But he would not be around for the result. Worn out physically and spiritually, he died. The Union he knew and loved was gone, and, as Professor Johannsen concluded, he probably would not have adjusted to the new age.

We note with sadness the passing, on March 7, of longtime member Dr. Morley McNeal at the age of 91. Dr. McNeal, a North Shore pediatrician for more than 50 years, was a frequent Battlefield Tour participant. When he retired at age 80, he occupied himself with a 2,000 volume Confederacy period collection. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family.



THE NEW BOOKS

(compiled by Dick Clark)

Alexander, John H. *Mosby's Men*. Gaithersburg, Md.: Butternut Press, 1983. \$22.50. Reprint of the Neale 1907 issue.

Berlin, Ira, editor. *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867; Series II: The Black Military Experience*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982. 852 p. \$37.50.

Botsford, T. G. and J. Q. Burton. *The 47th Alabama Infantry*. Edited by William Stanley Hoole. Dayton, O: Morningside Bookshop, 1983. 32 p. Pbk. \$6.00.

Chesnut, Mary Boykin. *Mary Chesnut's Civil War*. Edited by C. Vann Woodward. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983. \$14.95 paperback version of the 1981 hardcover.

Connelly, Thomas L. and Barbara L. Bellows. *God and General Longstreet: The Lost Cause and the Southern Mind*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982. \$12.95.

Davis, William C. *The Battle of New Market*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1983. Pbk \$7.95. The hardcover edition of 1975 (Doubleday) is out of print.

Davis, William C. *The Orphan Brigade: The Kentucky Confederates Who Couldn't Go Home*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1983. \$8.95. Pbk. Doubleday still has in hardcover at \$12.95.

Davis, William C. *Stand in the Day of Battle. The Imperiled Union*, vol. 2 Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1983. \$19.95.

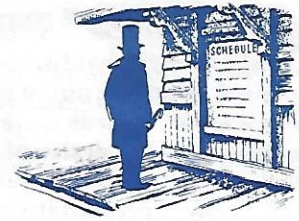
Dawson, John Harper. *Wildcat Cavalry: A History of the 17th Virginia Cavalry*. Dayton, O: Morningside Bookshop, 1982. 160 p. \$15.00.

Graves, Rev. Joseph A. *The History of the Bedford Light Artillery*. Gaithersburg, Md: Butternut Press, 1983. 83 p. \$16.50. Original of 1903.

Note: We have been informed that *Confederate Monuments: Enduring Symbols of the South and the War Between the States* by Ralph Widener, which was reported as being out of stock in the March newsletter, is in fact still available. Copies, at \$25 each, can be obtained from Ralph Widener, P.O. Box 12353, Dallas, Texas 75225.

According to Civil War Round Table Associates, the Southeast Region of the National Park Service has come out with a preliminary draft of a General Management Plan/Environmental Assessment for Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. As we reported in March, Kennesaw is slowly but surely being destroyed by recreational users of the park. Unfortunately, it appears the emphasis of the plan being proposed is on accommodating these users as opposed to ensuring the park's historic preservation and development. However, no action has yet been taken and you are urged to write your representatives and senators about this problem, suggesting that they carefully review the preliminary plan for its conformity with Congressionally-established purposes of the park.

BULLETIN BOARD



Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Illinois Athletic Club, 112 S. Michigan, the second Friday in each month except as noted.

May 13: Kathy Georg on "Actions at the Rose Farm on the Second Day at Gettysburg."

June 11: First Annual Nevins-Freeman Assembly. Recipient of award: Dr. John Hope Franklin. Addresses: Dr. Franklin, "George Washington Williams as a Civil War Historian;" Alan T. Nolan, "An Evaluation of Federal Army Commanders;" Karen Osborne, "The Saga of Mother Bickerdyke;" Wayne C. Temple, "Some Things You Never Knew About Abe Lincoln." Panel discussion, "Civil Rights and the Civil War" with Dr. Franklin, John Y. Simon, Dr. Frank L. Klement, and Elmer Gertz. The meeting will be held at the Chicago Historical Society, North Avenue and Clark Street, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost of \$35 per person includes lunch.

New members

Ira Kaplan, 111 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611, (312) 943-8366.

Timothy A. Mahoney, 1567 Ridge, #507, Evanston, Illinois 60201, (312) 475-7806.

Abel L. Robertson, Jr., M.D., 947 South Adams, Hinsdale, Illinois 60521, (312) 789-2644.

Changes of address

Timothy J. O'Connell, 7412 Pingree Road, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014.

David G. St. John, 208 S. Quentin Road, Palatine, Illinois 60067.

The telephone number of new member Carl Heinze, listed in the April newsletter, should have been (312) 965-0799.

Research Center Committee chairman Leslie MacDonald has announced that the following cassette tapes of lectures presented to The Round Table are now available for \$5 each: Bruce Catton, "Politics and the Army of the Potomac" (9/26/63); E. B. Long, "Ulysses S. Grant: The Man Behind the Memoirs" (4/11/52); Ralph G. Newman, "Benjamin Franklin Butler: Politician and Hero" (10/12/66); T. Harry Williams, "Beauregard, the Man" (5/6/55); Stephen B. Oates, "John Brown: Catalyst for the Civil War" (11/12/82); and Allan Nevins, "The Dark Hour of the War in the Northwest" (9/11/59). John Hope Franklin's talk on "The Military Occupation of the South" (10/16/64) will be available in June.

Proceeds from the sale of the tapes will go to the Research Center. To make your purchase, see Leslie at the meeting, or contact her through the Book Shop.

Contributions to the Civil War Round Table Research Fund, in memory of Peggy Lebold, have been received from Margaret April, Al Meyer and Ralph Newman.