

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

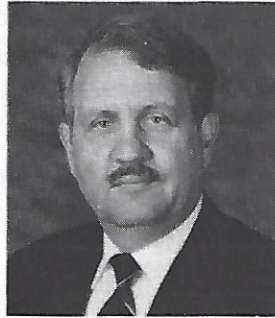
February 1992

William Glenn Robertson on "General Thomas J. Wood at Chickamauga: The Fatal Order Revisited"

by Barbara Huggett

The traditional view holds that the battle lines at Chickamauga were fairly stabilized by the morning of September 20, 1863, following initial fighting on the 18th and heavy and confused fighting on the 19th. At that point, Union General William Rosecrans ordered Negley's division to move northward and Crittenden's division to move into the vacated spot. Union General George Thomas then sent a courier, Captain Sanford Kellogg, to ask Rosecrans for reinforcements. Kellogg *overlooked* a Union division and reported a gap in the Union line to Rosecrans.

Without consulting Chief of Staff James A. Garfield, who was not available at the time, Rosecrans called to his aide, Major Frank S. Bond, and asked him to write an order to General Thomas J. Wood to "close up on Reynolds and support him immediately." Wood, under the traditional view, blindly complied because of an earlier rebuke he had received from Rosecrans about slow execution of another order—although he knew that Confederates were in his front in strength and that no gap existed at the time. Wood's action, though, *caused* a gap in the Northern line, and allowed forces under Confederate General James A. Longstreet to break through, driving two divisions away and causing a major portion of the Federal line to flee in considerable disorder. Bond's order became known as "the fatal order," which had made possible a Confederate victory at Chickamauga.



William Glenn Robertson

William Glenn Robertson will challenge this traditional viewpoint when he addresses The Civil War Round Table on February 14. His topic will be "General Thomas J. Wood at Chickamauga: The Fatal Order Revisited." Robertson's extensive research on the incident indicates that Rosecrans and Garfield—not Kellogg, Bond, and Wood—were at fault for the Union debacle.

Contrary to the explanation that Garfield was unavailable for consultation, Robertson will present evidence indicating that Garfield was indeed present and even explained the order to Kellogg. The excuse that Garfield was not present, he will contend, was a self-serving one for Garfield, and was contrived during the former general's presidential campaign in 1880. Robertson's conclusions



508th Regular Meeting

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William Glenn Robertson
on
"General Thomas J. Wood at Chickamauga:
The Fatal Order Revisited"

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Friday, February 14, 1992

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Holiday Inn Mart Plaza
350 North Orleans Street
Buttons—15th floor

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$17.50 per person

Entree: London Broil, Orange Roughy,
or Fruit Plate



A Reminder

Please make your reservation by Wednesday, February 12. Mail the enclosed postcard or call the book shop at (312) 944-3085.

If you are driving and coming from the south, turn left into the Mart Plaza lot just after crossing the river on Orleans. From the north, turn right from Orleans on Hubbard, left on Kingsbury, right on Kinzie, and left into the Mart Plaza lot. Parking is free.

about what really transpired that morning at Chickamauga will emphasize that events are seldom as simple as history books sometime state and that we can benefit by probing more deeply into the events of the war in all theaters.

A native of Virginia, William Glenn Robertson holds a B.A. from the University of Richmond, and a M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. He has been on the faculty of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, since 1985, and he currently serves as the chief of Teaching Team III. He is the

(continued on page 4)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

357 West Chicago Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60610

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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Dan Weinberg, 357 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60610.



The Kankakee Civil War Round Table is sponsoring a Civil War Symposium, to be held April 4 at the Howard Johnson Lodge in Bradley, Illinois. The pre-registration fee is \$35.00. Speakers will include Franklin Crawford, Richard McMurry, Alan Nolan, William Glenn Robertson, and Richard Sommers. For information, call Steve Goodknecht at (815) 939-3568.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund has signed a purchase contract on thirty-nine acres in Kansas City where heavy fighting occurred during the Battle of Westport, the largest engagement west of the Mississippi River. The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites will hold a \$2000 option on the property for eighteen months. During that time, the Monnett Fund, the tax-exempt fundraising arm of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, must raise \$21,300, half of the property's cost. The APCWS will then provide the other half.

The APCWS will own the property but plans to deed it to the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department, which would manage it as a historic battlefield park. In addition, the Monnett Fund plans to deed fifty acres of the battlefield it already owns west of the Blue River. The 39-acre parcel includes Byram's Ford, which is threatened by a proposed flood control project on the Blue River. Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan has included Byram's Ford on his list of the twenty-five most endangered battlefields.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources held a public hearing late last year on the application by Carl Zipfel to build a marina on Johnson's Island. Zipfel also wants to build a 203-home development on the island, which is just south of Marblehead in Sandusky Bay. The island, the site of the graves of more than 200 Confederate soldiers held in a Civil War prison there, is a National Historic Landmark.

Opponents of the marina say it would increase boat traffic, endanger the threatened Lake Erie water snake, and damage the historical value of the island. Zipfel maintains wildlife in the area is no different than that along the other shorelines in the area, and that both the Ohio Historical Society and the national office on historic preservation have approved a memorandum of agreement on how he would preserve the cultural and historic aspects of the island. For further background on the Johnson's Island situation, see the Battlefield Preservation Report in the February 1991 issue of this newsletter.

Civil War artist Don Prechtel has completed work on a new oil painting of Kershaw's Brigade at the Battle of Cedar Creek. The print is available for \$125; for each print sold Prechtel will donate \$25 to the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation. For information or to order, contact Don Prechtel, c/o Americana Gallery, 83647 N. Pacific Highway, Creswell, Oregon 97426, (503) 895-4347.

The Friends of the President Street Station in Baltimore are initiating a fundraising effort to save this significant Civil War site and turn it into a museum. The station has fallen into disrepair and is not even recognized with an appropriate marker. For information, contact Robert E. Reyes, 126 Club Road, Pasadena, Maryland 21122.

The Friends of Grant Cottage will soon be administering the site in Saratoga Springs, New York where Ulysses S. Grant spent his last days and wrote his memoirs. Renovations are underway, due largely to the work of the Ulster County Committee to Save Grant Cottage.

❧ JANUARY MEETING ❧

by Barbara Hughett

Most historians of American women have dealt with the Civil War only in passing, being preoccupied instead with the Victorian era in which the war occurred. Victorianism, dominated by a "brutalizing" patriarchy, imposed severe restrictions on women. Especially in the South, women were marginal in the male-dominated culture and wives and slaves were both victims of it.

Yet some women did find ways for self-expression and made important contributions to our understanding of Civil War-era America. On January 10, historians Virginia G. Crane and Karen K. Osborne spoke before 114 members and guests at the 507th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Their topic was "A Woman's War: Two Perspectives—North and South."

Crane and Osborne focused on the experiences of two women—one from the North, one from the South—both of whom wrote extensive diaries during the war. Mary Boykin Chesnut, was the daughter of a wealthy South Carolina family. Educated at an elite Charleston finishing school, she acquired a passion for reading and a respect for intelligent and gifted women. While her marriage to plantation owner and politician James Chesnut was apparently one of emptiness and distance, she enjoyed her role as hostess to the leaders of the Confederacy, and found personal fulfillment in her writing. She sought to drive away the gloom of war with parties, theatricals, and other entertainments. "The Davises and Robert E. Lee, John Bell Hood, every beautiful woman in Richmond, veterans without arms, without legs, one without a voice (shot through the throat), widows, Kentucky Cavaliers with no thought about dying tomorrow—all those and others joined in her days of 'pleasure snatched from the wrath to come.'"

Chesnut was an abolitionist—"southern female style." "God forgive us," she wrote in reference to slavery, "but ours is a monstrous system and wrong." She felt an "unholy" joy at the news of emancipation. Nevertheless, she viewed the war as a tragedy for herself and her world. In 1866 she wrote, "there are nights here with the moonlight, cold & ghastly & the whippoorwills & the screech owls alone disturbing the silence when I could tear my hair & cry aloud for all that is past & gone." Her diary has been described as "the finest piece of literature to come out of the Civil War."

Maria Lydig Daly, a descendant of three wealthy New York families, was thirty-two and considered to be "past marriageable age" when she wed Judge Charles Patrick Daly. Her husband was an Irish-American and a self-made man. Though her family did not approve of her choice, the marriage was one of deep love and commitment. Daly was very loyal to the Union, but shared her husband's Copperhead political leanings. She condemned abolitionists whom she felt were responsible for the war, and referred to African-Americans as "dressed-up baboons." Her dislike of the Northern president grew over the war years. "Lincoln," she wrote, "is mentally what he is physically, long and loose in the joints."

While she could not be called a feminist by today's standards, the war years certainly made Daly more aware of the world of possibilities. Under the influence of a loving husband, she challenged the concept of "a woman's sphere," turning more and more to the public world of men. "American women," she wrote, "would be quite as courageous as

the men; they have an equal love of adventure and excitement."

Although Chesnut and Daly approached many issues differently and had frequent opposing viewpoints, Crane and Osborne found similarities in the lives of these two women. Both were wealthy, socially-prominent, and remained childless. Chesnut and Daly both considered themselves writers, recording their impressions of a historic American event. Though neither woman had what Daly called a "mania for being useful," they both did "war work"—in hospitals for brief periods and for more extended spans of time in fundraising efforts for relief organizations.

Chesnut's experience of the war in the South, however, had more effect on her than Daly could possibly have understood. "To Chesnut, war meant death and destruction in a personal way that distant New Yorkers would have failed to comprehend. Turning one's wardrobe was a choice for Daly, a necessity for Chesnut. The result was that the Civil War was the central event of Chesnut's life while it remained peripheral to Daly's."

Fall Kentucky Tour

by Brooks Davis

Twenty years ago this coming fall, a special battlefield/Lincoln sites tour took place, led by Colonel Frank Rankin and Brooks Davis. We are pleased to announce that Round Table members, guests, and friends will again have the opportunity to visit the Kentucky Bluegrass country, sample its bourbon, and taste its old ham. Our headquarters will be at the restored Shaker village called Pleasant Hill.

The 1972 tour was a joint effort of our Round Table and the Louisville and Lexington Civil War Round Tables. We visited Lincoln and Civil War sites in both those cities, plus the Lincoln shrines in Springfield, Harrodsburg, and Knob Creek; toured the Richmond and Perryville battlefields, and Whitehall; and heard some fine talks. Newlyweds Pat and Ralph Newman were among the forty-seven members and guests.

The 1992 tour will doubtless include many of the above attractions and some additions, such as the Kentucky War Museum at Frankfort. The field at Perryville has been expanded by fifty acres and is better marked than it was twenty years ago. **The dates will be October 2-4.** Please mark your calendar and wait for detailed information from Colonel Rankin and Brooks Davis.

The Nineteenth Annual Abraham Lincoln Symposium and Banquet will be held in Springfield on Wednesday, February 12. The afternoon symposium, with a theme of "The Lincoln Image in Popular Culture," will feature addresses by Gabor S. Boritt and Harold Holzer, with comments by Walter Arnstein and Olivia Mahoney. United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Jack Kemp will be the speaker at the evening banquet.

Other events in Springfield, in honor of Lincoln's birthday, include the presentation of the Lincoln Heritage Lecture Series, sponsored by the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. This year's lectures will be given by Richard N. Current and Paul H. Verduin. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Visitor Center. For further information on these events, call the Abraham Lincoln Association (217-525-9600) and the Lincoln Home National Historic Site (217-492-4150).

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Marten, James. *Texas Divided: Loyalty and Dissent in the Lone Star State, 1865-1874*. University of Kentucky Press. 1990. \$25.00.
- Martin, Samuel J. *The Road to Glory: Confederate General Richard S. Ewell*. Guild Press. 1991. \$24.95; pbk. \$16.95.
- Marvel, William. *Burnside*. University of North Carolina Press. 1991. \$29.95.
- McLean, James L., Jr. and Judy W. McLean. *Gettysburg Sources, Volume 3*. Butternut and Blue. 1990. \$26.50.
- McWhiney, Grady. *Braxton Bragg and Confederate Defeat*. Vol. I. 1991. \$29.95. Original of 1969.
- Meade, Robert D. *Judah P. Benjamin: Confederate Statesman*. 1989. Ayer Company Publishers, P.O. Box 958, Salem, NH 03079. \$36.50. Original of 1943.
- Meier, Heinz K., ed. *Memoirs of a Swiss Officer in the American Civil War*. Peter Lang Publishers, Inc., 62 W. 45th St., New York, NY 10036. 1972. \$36.00.
- Mixson, Frank M. *Reminiscences of a Private*. J. J. Fox, 9 Precipice Road, Camden, SC 29020. 1990. \$20.00. Original of 1910.
- Moore II, Robert H. *The Charlottesville, Lynchburg and Bedford Artillery*. H.E. Howard, Inc. 1991. \$16.95.
- Nelson, Jacquelyn S. *Indiana Quakers Confront the Civil War*. University of Indiana Press. 1991. \$27.95.
- Ness, George T., Jr. *The Regular Army on the Eve of the Civil War*. 1990. Toomey Press. \$39.95.
- Nulty, William H. *Confederate Florida: The Road to Olustee*. 1990. University of Alabama Press. \$21.95.
- Parrish, T. Michael, ed. *Reminiscences of the War in Virginia by David French Boyd*. Jenkins Publ. Co., Box 2085, Austin, TX 78768. 1989. Pbk. \$5.00.

The history of The Round Table, *The Civil War Round Table: Fifty Years of Scholarship and Fellowship*, by Barbara Hughett, is available for \$30 per copy. You may purchase the book at the February meeting or order it from Morningside Bookshop, 260 Oak Street, Dayton, Ohio 45401 (1-800-648-9710). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling.

Books are needed for the raffle held at each monthly meeting. The proceeds are donated to the cause of battlefield preservation. Please bring any books you may be able to contribute for use in the raffles to Ted Birndorf, chairman of the Battlefield Preservation Committee.

Schimmelfennig Boutique

In addition to The Round Table history, the following items are available at each monthly meeting:

- Lapel pins \$3.00 each, two for \$5.00
- Mugs \$2.00 each, two for \$3
- Meeting tapes \$7.00 each
- Photos \$5.00 each
- Civil War Buff Posters \$10.00 each

Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the programs of The Civil War Round Table.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 N. Orleans (Buttons, 15th Floor), the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

- February 14:* W. Glenn Robertson on "General Thomas J. Wood at Chickamauga: The Fatal Order Revisited."
- March 13:* Herman Hattaway on "How They Teach Civil War History at West Point."
- April 10:* Dennis Frye on "Mosby vs. Sheridan in the Shenandoah."
- April 30-May 3:* Annual battlefield tour—Gettysburg.
- May 8:* Lawrence Hewitt on "Port Hudson: The Most Photographed Battlefield of the Civil War."
- June 12:* Steven Newton on "Joseph E. Johnston: Rationalizations, Ego, and Politics After the Battle of Seven Pines."

New Members

- Gerald Edelstein, 313 Locust Road, Winnetka, IL 60093, (708) 446-3824
- Walter Fagan, 629 Laporte, Wilmette, IL 60091, (708) 256-2429
- Douglas P. Goodman, 282 East Niagra, Elmhurst, IL 60126
- Chris Ross, 451 Laura Court, Naperville, IL 60540, (708) 369-4215

Changes of Address

- Kevin Barry, 8317 B Highpoint, Darien, IL 60559
- Paul D. Benson, 1212 St. James Place, Libertyville, IL 60048
- Ronald B. Johnson, c/o U.S. Peace Corps, P.O. Box 1094, Suva, Fiji Island, South Pacific
- Barbara Long Pleiter, 2 Briar Knoll Court, Asheville, NC 28803

(continued from page 1)

author of numerous articles and four books, including *Backdoor to Richmond: The Bermuda Hundred Campaign* (1987) and *The Petersburg Campaign: The Battle of Old Men and Young Boys* (1989).

He wrote two chapters, "First Manassas" and "Chickamauga," in *The Civil War Battlefield Guide* (1990). Among his current projects are two books, *A Walking Guide to Chickamauga* and *The Post of Albuquerque, 1846-1867*.

A treasure trove of Civil War artifacts are being discovered in Florida, according to an article in *The Rebel Yell*, the newsletter of the Jackson, Mississippi Civil War Round Table. The accoutrements and personal belongings of an entire Union infantry brigade are being released, item by item, from a blanket of mud. The relics have been cradled in the remains of the steamer *Maple Leaf*, which went down in the St. Johns River, south of Jacksonville, on April 1, 1864. Three thousand items have been retrieved since 1988 when the dig began.