

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

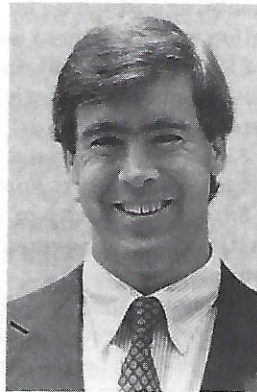
December 1992

Peter Cozzens on "The Real Rock of Chickamauga: The Twenty-First Ohio on Horseshoe Ridge"

by Barbara Hughett

The epic Battle of Chickamauga was waged on the deeply-wooded banks of Chickamauga Creek in northern Georgia in late September of 1863. Here the two principal armies of the Western Theater—the Union Army of the Cumberland and the Confederate Army of Tennessee—grappled for two days to decide the fate of the nearby city of Chattanooga, Tennessee—the gateway to the "Deep South."

It was the quintessential soldier's battle, a nightmare of confusion in which commanding generals fought by feel and units disappeared in deep forest and spongy bottom land. On the second day of the battle, September 20, Confederate General James Longstreet launched a multi-divisional attack. After seven hours of severe fighting, Union troops under General George H. Thomas, aided by General Gordon Granger's Reserve Corps, were able to establish a defense line that permitted the Union forces to regroup and remain through the night before being ordered to withdraw into the defenses of Chattanooga. Only one high-ranking hero emerged from the bitter contest: George H. Thomas.




Peter Cozzens

In his address on December 11, Peter Cozzens will contend that Thomas's direct contribution to the Battle of Chickamauga was relatively marginal. He will further explain why he believes that Thomas owed his sobriquet, "The Rock of Chickamaga," largely to the actions of one regiment—the Twenty-first Ohio.

A native of Wheaton, Illinois, Peter Cozzens is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Knox College, where he received a degree in international relations. A foreign service officer with the United States Department of State, he is presently serving as consul in the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he served as a military intelligence officer in the U. S. Army.

Cozzens is the author of the recently-published *This Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga*, a main selection of the History Book Club. He also wrote *No Better Place to Die: The Battle of Stones River* (1990), which was a selection of both the Book-of-the-Month Club and the History Book Club.



516th Regular Meeting


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Peter Cozzens on "The Real Rock of Chickamauga: The Twenty-first Ohio on Horseshoe Ridge"

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Friday, December 11

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Holiday Inn Mart Plaza
350 North Orleans Street
 **The Sauganash Ballroom**
14th Floor

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Cash Bar on 14th Floor
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$20.00 per person

Menu: A Holiday Buffet featuring Baron of Beef Bordelaise, Orange Roughy, and Fruit and Vegetable Selections



A Reminder

Please make your reservation by Wednesday, December 9. 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.

He has contributed articles to a number of periodicals, including *Civil War Times Illustrated* and the *Illinois Historical Journal*. He recently completed a book on the Chattanooga campaign that will conclude his trilogy on the Civil War in the West, and has begun work on a biography of Ambrose Bierce.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
357 West Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60610
Phone: (312) 944-3085

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Picnic	Paul Kleckner

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.



Founder Ralph G. Newman spoke about Chicago history on November 18, at a reception at the Mid-America National Bank of Chicago. The event, co-sponsored by the Central Michigan Avenue Association, was in honor of an exhibition of rare photographs of Chicago from the Witteman Photographic Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library. The exhibition will run through December 11 at the bank, located at 130 East Randolph Street.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The Department of the Interior recently awarded over \$280,000 to eighteen Civil War battlefield preservation agencies in ten states. The awards were made through Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan's American Battlefield Protection Program for such projects as preservation planning, interpretation, and site stabilization. The awards were as follows:

- \$3500 to the Alabama Historical Commission to conduct site research at Fort Morgan, and \$2000 to develop a conference for the Mobile Bay Maritime Commission, which will include discussion of preservation methods for Fort Morgan and sites associated with the Battle of Mobile Bay.
- \$19,312 to East Carolina University for investigation and assessment of Civil War shipwrecks at Fort Morgan, including the USS Tecumseh.
- \$20,000 to the Arkansas Historical Preservation Program to develop an Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail to promote preservation of Civil War sites throughout the state.
- \$9800 to Arkansas State Parks to appraise land at the Prairie Grove battle site for future acquisition of easements, and \$10,200 for development of longterm interpretation and battlefield wayside exhibits at Prairie Grove.
- \$19,950 to the Mill Springs Battlefield Preservation and Development Association to prepare a battlefield management plan.
- \$10,000 to Louisiana State Parks to control and study causes of erosion at Fort Desperate (Port Hudson).
- \$8,188 to the city of Corinth, Mississippi to prepare a battlefield management plan and initiate a battlefield commission.
- \$15,000 to the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City to develop a protection plan for Byram's Ford.
- \$20,000 to the Oklahoma Historical Society to survey society holdings and do appraisals of land parcels at Honey Springs.
- \$18,000 to Gettysburg National Military Park to conduct a pilot fieldwork stabilization project to remove inappropriate vegetation, restack collapsed breastworks, add topsoil, and plant grasses.
- \$9000 to the city of Franklin, Tennessee to support a preservation conference on Fort Granger and to encourage preservation of Franklin Civil War sites.
- \$20,000 to Rutherford County and Stones River National Battlefield to develop a corridor protection and interpretive plan for the Thompson Lane beltway.
- \$10,000 to Richmond National Battlefield Park to conduct a pilot fieldworks stabilization project, and \$5000 to undertake boundary surveying and marking of Malvern Hill and Fort Harrison sites for protection of sensitive areas.
- \$20,000 to Lord Fairfax Planning District Commission to do a multicounty planning project for preservation and resource management at Valley Civil War sites.
- \$20,000 to the Shenandoah Valley Travel Association to produce and distribute a brochure and map on the war in the Valley.
- \$5000 to the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites to develop a management plan for Fisher's Hill.
- \$20,000 to the Winchester-Frederick County Economic

(continued on page 3)

☪ NOVEMBER MEETING ☪

by Barbara Hughett

Union and Confederate forces met for the second time on the battlefield at Manassas Junction, Virginia, near the Bull Run Creek, on August 28-30, 1863. Union General John Pope's bungling performance resulted in another Northern defeat. On November 13, historian John Hennessy spoke before 131 members and guests at the 515th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. His topic was: "Return to Bull Run: Seeds of Command Controversy."

Hennessy, the author of *Return to Bull Run: The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas* (1992), noted that the last full-length book on Second Manassas had been written in 1890. "Second Manassas," he observed, "was the beginning and end of nothing; it gets lost between the Seven Days and Antietam." Yet, "it was here that [General Robert E.] Lee first showed his combination of strategy and tactical genius that would become his hallmark." It was during this engagement at Manassas that the great triumph of the high command of the Army of Northern Virginia—Generals Robert E. Lee, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, and James Longstreet—fully emerged.

Some limited Union successes the first two days of the battle came to naught because of Pope's mismanagement, the failure of men under General George B. McClellan to come speedily to Pope's aid, and Pope's not comprehending the presence and position of Longstreet's men. "While Pope focused single-mindedly on Jackson, Lee and Longstreet arrived on the field. . . . Unknown to Pope, Lee placed Longstreet on Jackson's right, extending the Confederate line more than a mile southward and wrapped it around Pope's exposed left. Shaped like a huge pair of gaping jaws with Pope between them, Lee's line was ready to snap shut."

After a morning of light skirmishing and cannon fire on August 30, Pope massed 10,000 men to attack Jackson's line at what was later called the Deep Cut. "At 3:00 p.m., these troops swept forward. Jackson's men, protected by an unfinished railroad, cut them down in huge numbers." After thirty minutes of intense fighting, the Federals fell back. That night Pope "led his badly-beaten men back toward Washington. On their retreat they met troops from McClellan's army marching to assist them."

Hennessy characterized the slow pace at which McClellan proceeded to reinforce Pope (he had been ordered on August 7 to "move quickly") as "a sorry chapter in U.S. history." McClellan wrote to his wife on August 13: "I see

that the Pope bubble is likely to be suddenly collapsed. Stonewall Jackson is after him, and the paltry young man who wanted to teach me the art of war will in less than a week either be in full retreat or badly whipped. *He* will begin to learn the value of entrenchments, lines of communication and of retreat, and bases of supply. He will learn."

On August 23, McClellan wrote: "I take it for granted that my orders will be as disagreeable as it is possible to make them—unless Pope is beaten, in which case they may want me to save Washington again." Of course, McClellan received the position he sought to regain, the command of the Army of the Potomac—for a brief span of time. And Pope was sent off to Minnesota to quell the Sioux uprising.

In closing, Hennessy quoted from an address Pope gave in Chicago after the battle at Manassas. "My friends," Pope said, "I am glad to see you tonight. I am glad to be back to breathe again the pure air of the state of Illinois. It has been many years my home, and I am glad to return to it. God Almighty only knows how sorry I am ever to have left it." One can hardly blame him.

Former President Richard McAdoo addressed the South Suburban Civil War Round Table on November 19. His topic was "Civil War Artillery."

Honorary Life member Ernest A. Griffin gave a presentation on the history of Camp Douglas, on November 10, to the eleventh-grade history classes of member Larry Gibbs, at Rich Central High School in Olympia Fields.

According to an item in the newsletter of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table, the Sons of Confederate Veterans recently voted to thank African-Americans who fought for the South for their "valuable and courageous service" during the Civil War. Meeting in Wilmington, North Carolina, the SCV also voted to renounce the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups, and to absolve General James Longstreet of any blame for the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg.

A new situation marker describing the action of the Iron Brigade at Antietam was unveiled on September 12, as part of "Iron Brigade Day" at the national battlefield park. The program included an address by Alan T. Nolan, author of *The Iron Brigade* (1961) and *Lee Considered* (1991), and a walking tour of The Cornfield led by Lance Herdegen, co-author of *In the Bloody Railroad Cut at Gettysburg* (1990).

General Colin L. Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was the keynote speaker at a ceremony at Gettysburg National Military Park on November 19, honoring the 129th anniversary of the dedication of the national cemetery there. It was on that occasion that President Abraham Lincoln delivered what has become known as "The Gettysburg Address."

Joseph L. Eisendrath, Jr., a Round Table member since 1941 and an Honorary Life member, died in late October. Joe served as president of The Civil War Round Table for the 1950-51 term. He addressed regular meetings on two occasions. In January 1947, his topic was "Lincolniana in the Official Records." He spoke on "The Lincoln Myths" in June 1971. At the February 1954 meeting, he was one of the participants in a panel symposium on "Has the Lincoln Theme Been Exhausted? A Reappraisal." Joe has attended several meetings in recent years, and we will miss him. We offer our deepest condolences to his family.

Preservation Update (from page 2)

Commission to develop interpretive exhibits on war sites in the Valley.

- \$16,000 to Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park to develop an exhibit at the portal to The Wilderness.

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Furgurson, Ernest B. *Chancellorsville 1863: The Souls of the Brave*. Knopf. 1992. \$25.00.
- Godbold, E. Stanley, Jr. *Confederate Colonel and Cherokee Chief: The Life of William Holland Thomas*. U. of Tennessee Press. 1990. \$24.95.
- Gottschalk, Phil. *In Deadly Earnest: The Missouri Brigade*. Missouri River Press. 1992. \$29.95.
- Greene, A. Wilson. *Whatever You Resolve to be: Essays on Stonewall Jackson*. Butternut and Blue. 1992. \$22.50.
- Grunder, Charles S. and Brandon H. Beck. *The Second Battle of Winchester: June 12-15, 1863*. H.E. Howard, Inc. 1990. \$16.95.
- Hassler, Warren W., Jr. *Crisis at the Crossroads: The First Day at Gettysburg*. Stan Clark Military Books. 1992. \$27.50; pbk. \$15.00. Original of 1970.
- Hearn, Chester G. *Gray Raiders of the Sea: How Eight Confederate Warships Destroyed the Union's High Seas Commerce*. International Marine Publ. Co., P.O. Box 220, Camden, NJ 04843. 1991. \$24.95.
- Jones, Archer. *Civil War Command and Strategy: The Process of Victory and Defeat*. Free Press. 1992. \$19.95.
- Kohl, Lawrence F., ed. *Memoirs of Chaplain Life: Three Years With the Irish Brigade in the Army of the Potomac by William Corby*. Fordham University Press. 1992. \$27.50.
- Kunhardt, Philip B., Jr. et al. *Lincoln: An Illustrated Biography*. Knopf. 1992. \$50.00.

Tenting Tonight?

Is anyone interested in singing, playing, and researching the music of the Civil War era? Member Eileen Crowley is seeking to form a group if sufficient interest is indicated. You can reach Eileen at (312) 413-1490, from 8:00 a.m. till 3:30 p.m., or at (312) 545-6253, from 5:00 till 8:00 p.m.

Conclusion of Silent Auction

The silent auction for the Don Troiani print, "Until Sundown: Sunken Road, Battle of Antietam, September 17th, 1862," will be concluded at the December meeting. Proceeds will go to The Round Table's battlefield preservation fund.

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

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 \$3.00
- Meeting tapes \$7.00 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 North Orleans Street (Buttons, 15th Floor), the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

December 11: Peter Cozzens on "The Real Rock of Chickamauga: The Twenty-first Ohio on Horseshoe Ridge."

January 8: Brooks Davis on "Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln as Commanders in Chief."

February 12: Brian Pohanka on "Digging into Custer's Last Stand: New Perspectives on the Little Big Horn."

March 12: Frank Byrne on "Civil War Prisons: Myths and Realities."

April 16: Frances Kennedy on "Community Benefits of Battlefield Preservation" (Please note: this is the **third** Friday of the month.)

May 6-9: Annual Battlefield Tour—Vicksburg.

May 14: William Piston on "Clio and the General: James Longstreet and the Writing of Southern History."

June 11: Carol Reardon on "The Image of Pickett's Charge in American History."

New Members

Andy Gelman, 1650 Sunnyside Highland Park, IL 60035
Arthur M. Gordon, 200 E. Delaware Place, Chicago, IL 60611, (312) 337-3382

Kenneth Graham, 420 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60657, (312) 935-6630

James K. Joyce, 1256 W. 183rd Street, Homewood, IL 60430, (708) 957-1695

Richard Lane, 2239 Dayton, Chicago, IL 60614, (312) 327-4207

Peter Marks, 585 Ingleside Place, Evanston, IL 60207
Kimberly G. O'Lone, 1256 W. 183rd Street, Homewood, IL 60430, (708) 957-1695

Carl Przborowski, 947 Franklin, River Forest, IL 60305, (708) 771-8688

Marc Schmitz, 924 W. George, Chicago, IL 60657, (312) 935-4054

Robert T. Varney, 833 Wrightwood, Chicago, IL 60614, (312) 975-6545

Ruben R. Vernof, 404 Beech Drive, Glenview, IL 60025, (708) 998-0985

Gini Williams, 1203 Franklin, River Forest, IL, (708) 771-0408

Nathan Yellen, 7327 Kedvale, Lincolnwood, IL 60646, (708) 679-8940

Changes of Address

Mark Herr, 1266 Pine Valley #102, Schaumburg, IL 60173
Scott B. Johnson, 2214 N. Kenmore, Chicago, IL 60614

Happy Holidays

from the Officers of The Round Table
and the Newsletter Staff! ☺

