

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LIV, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December 1993

Paul I. Kliger on "The Confederate Invasion of New Mexico"

by Barbara Hughett

AT THE outbreak of the American Civil War, the New
Mexico Territory—consisting primarily of the present states
of Arizona and New Mexico—was a sparsely-populated
area. The land formed a natural buffer between Confederate Texas and Union settlements in the state of California

and the Colorado Territory. This region comprised the

Union Department of New Mexico.

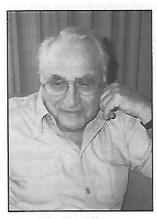
Early in the summer of 1861, Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley persuaded Confederate President Jefferson Davis that, with a small but well-equipped force, he could move up the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico from Texas and seize the New Mexico Territory for the Confederacy. The Confederate Army of New Mexico, also known as the "Texas Brigade," moved northward from Texas, fighting Union forces and winning the Battle of Valverde on February 21, 1862.

Sibley's troops continued north along the Rio Grande River, occupying the towns of Albuquerque and Santa Fe during early March. The Texans then headed east through Glorieta Pass, with the intention of adding nearby Fort Union to their string of victories. The capture of this key post would almost certainly lead to the fall of Denver, placing the lucrative Colorado gold fields under Confederate control. The Confederacy could then seek to expand its influence toward California and the Pacific Ocean.

On March 26-28, 1862, Union and Confederate troops fought the key battle of the Civil War in the Far West—the Battle of Glorieta. "The Confederate Invasion of New Mexico" will be the topic on December 10, when Paul I. Kliger

addresses The Civil War Round Table.

Honorary Life member and past president (1985-86), Paul Kliger has been a member of The Round Table since 1973. He was chairman of the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee, whose work culminated in the gala Fiftieth Anniversary celebration and symposium on October 12-14, 1990. More than four hundred people from twenty-eight states attended the festivities at the Sheraton North Shore Inn in Northbrook.



Paul I. Kliger



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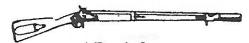
Friday, December 10

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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 \$20.00 per person

Entree: Roast Baron of Beef Bordelaise, Orange Roughy, or Fruit Plate



A Reminder
Please make your reservation by Wednesday, December 8.
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.

A native of Yonkers, New York, Paul has been interested in the Civil War since the age of twelve when he discovered *Miller's Photographic History of the Civil War* in the reading room of the Yonkers Library. Paul holds B.A. (in sociology, with Honors) and M.S.W. degrees from the University of Illinois Urbana, and is a veteran of World War II.

He was an executive with the Illinois Department of Mental Health for many years prior to his retirement, and is now very involved in his avocations which include Civil War history and photography. Paul is currently chair of The Round Table Honors Committee.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

357 West Chicago Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60610 Phone: (312) 944-3085

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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.

Special Auction

A very limited-edition Don Troiani print will be auctioned at the January 14 meeting, to benefit battlefield preservation. Entitled "Ranger Mosby," the print is pencil-fine and number 5 of 25. Bids for the silent auction will be taken at both the December and January meetings. (The Round Table received the print—which had been donated by the artist—as a token of appreciation for our \$750 gift to the APCWS Malvern Hill-Glendale fund-raising campaign.)



BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆
by David Richert

At its meeting November 13, The Round Table Executive Committee approved a \$500 contribution from the battle-field preservation fund to Friends of Grant's Tomb. The Tomb, located on a bluff overlooking the Hudson River in a section of New York known as Riverside Park, is badly deteriorated.

The Tomb was dedicated as a final resting place for General Ulysses S. Grant and his wife on April 27, 1897. It was erected by a private fund-raising group known as The Grant Memorial Association on land donated by the City of New York. In 1958 the Association donated the tomb to the American people with administration provided by the National Park Service (NPS). Because of budget constraints, maintenance at the tomb has been neglected causing much deterioration. There is also no security, and graffiti is a continual problem.

The Friends of Grant's Tomb is headed by an old friend of our Round Table, George Craig, who is seeking to raise funds to be donated to the NPS for repair and maintenance of the Tomb. Craig has previously helped restore other Civil War-related sites, including the grave of Union General George H. Thomas in upstate New York. Round Table members wishing to make their own contributions toward restoring the final resting place of a son of Illinois may send a tax-deductible check to Friends of Grant's Tomb, c/o George Craig, 83-12 St. James St., Elmhurst, New York 11373. Make checks payable to Friends of Grant's Tomb.

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites recently acquired over 134,000 acres of key ground at Mansfield Battlefield (Sabine Cross Roads) in northwest Louisiana. The property lies on Honeycutt Hill, the major terrain feature on the battlefield. In a ceremony in October, the APCWS donated its entire purchase to the Louisiana Office of State Parks for inclusion in the Mansfield State Commemorative Area. The state previously administered forty-four acres across the highway from Honeycutt Hill.

The Battle of Mansfield occurred on April 8, 1864, and marked the highwater mark of General Nathaniel P. Banks's Red River Campaign. Confederate forces under General Richard Taylor confronted Banks south of Shreveport and drove the Federals back toward their gunboats and eventually out of north and central Louisiana. The APCWS land comprises the Union left on the afternoon of April 8. Defended by a mixed force of cavalry, infantry, and artillery from Wisconsin, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, and New Hampshire, Honeycutt Hill became the focal point of Taylor's attack about 4 p.m. Texans under General John Walker poured across the open fields and up the slope defended by the bluecoats. The charge dissolved the Federal left and led to the complete collapse of Banks's line.

Today Honeycutt Hill retains much of its 1864 appearance. "The Association's purchase of Honeycutt Hill is an absolutely stunning addition to the Mansfield State Commemorative Area," said Arthur Bergeron, a historian with the Louisiana State Parks. "We now have the opportunity to show visitors much more of the battlefield than we could with our original park." The state plans to expand a proposed walking tour to include Honeycutt Hill and interpret the action that determined the battle's outcome.

NOVEMBER MEETING &

by Barbara Hughet

On November 12, K. Jerry Williams, of Merseyside, Great Britain, spoke before 158 members and guests at the 525th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Williams, who is employed in the construction and shipbuilding industries in England, is a student of the American Civil War and a historic preservationist. While working for Cammell Laird Shipyards Company in 1972, he saved from destruction one of the original ledgers relating to the building of the CSS *Alabama*. In 1983, he saved from demolition 10 Rumford Place, the offices of Fraser Trenholm & Co.—in effect, the Confederate headquarters in Britain throughout the American Civil War. The topic of Williams's address was "The Confederate Navy and Blockade Running in England."

"The outbreak of hostilities," Williams related, "found the southern states in the worst position for ensuing hostilities. The North had a ten-to-one advantage in manufacturing, two-to-one in manpower, and thirty-to-one in arms production. Although the Union, at the start of the war, had only forty-five ships available, this would soon be increased substantially because of the capacity to build ships. The South, because of its lack of resources, was forced to turn to Europe. This situation brought James Dunwoody Bulloch to Liverpool as a ship purchasing agent for the Confederacy."

Bulloch arrived in Liverpool on June 4, 1861, and set up offices at Fraser Trenholm & Co., foreign bankers for the Confederacy, with instructions to have naval vessels built in Merseyside. His orders from Confederate Secretary of the Navy Stephen R. Mallory were "to buy or have constructed six steam vessels suitable for use as commerce destroyers against the Union, to be delivered unarmed under the British flag at any Confederate port. In addition, he was to buy and run arms for cruisers."

He signed contracts for the Laird's rams and bought the Sea King, later to be renamed the CSS Shenandoah. The last Confederate flag to be lowered at the war's end was the one aboard the Shenandoah, which traveled from the coast of California to the River Mersey to surrender. The Shenandoah, going by way of the Cape of Good Hope and Australia, captured or destroyed thirty-six vessels, valued at about \$1,400,000. The ship's captain, James Waddell, did not learn of the collapse of the Confederacy until August 1865, at which time he sailed for Liverpool by way of Cape Horn. (The Shenandoah was turned over to the United States government by British authorities. The ship was later sold, served various owners, and was eventually lost in the Indian Ocean while sailing under the flag of the Sultan of Zanzibar.)

Another of Laird's ships bought by the Confederate government was the CSS Alabama. Under the command of Captain Raphael Semmes, the Alabama sailed all over the Atlantic Ocean, menacing United States vessels—and destroying many of them—and running the blockade at Galveston, Texas. From August 1862 until June 1864, the Alabama captured and burned fifty-five Union vessels worth \$4,500,000. The Alabama was defeated and sunk after a dramatic duel with the USS Kearsage, on June 19, 1864, off the coast of Cherbourg.

Other Confederate vessels built in Britain included the CSS Florida and the CSS Tallahassee, later renamed the *Olustee* and the *Chameleon*. The *Florida*, which ran the blockade into Mobile, Alabama, destroyed thirty-seven United States vessels before being sunk at Hampton Roads in the fall of 1864.

After the war, the United States government demanded that damages should be paid by the British government for the destruction caused by the Confederate cruisers. "The vessels Alabama, Florida, and Shenandoah alone had accounted for one-half of the Union vessels captured during hostilities by the southern high seas raiders. Since the Alabama had caused the most damage, the American demand was known as the 'Alabama Claims.'

"The United States government's claim was based on international law [which stated that] a neutral nation should not allow its seaports to be used to support the navy of a country at war. The American authorities said that Great Britain had permitted the Confederate government to purchase the raiders in England and that these vessels had used British ports around the globe as their bases."

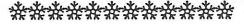
After lengthy discussions between the two governments, it was agreed to submit the matter to an international arbitration commission. The claim of the United States government was approved in 1873, and Great Britain was forced to pay 15.5 million dollars in compensation.

Executive Committee Meeting

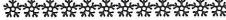
President Kurt Carlson has announced that there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil War Round Table immediately *after* the December 10 meeting. The principal purpose of the committee meeting is to determine the site of the May 1995 battlefield tour. The following sites were nominated at the November 13 Executive Committee meeting: Charleston/Columbia/Savannah; Chickamauga/Chattanooga; Nashville; New Orleans/Gulf Coast; and West Point. All current officers and committee chairs and past presidents are urged to attend.

The Round Table is planning a fall Kentucky tour, on October 5-9, 1994. The tour will include the Perryville battlefield, some major Lincoln sites, and more! Mark your calendars now. More information will be coming soon from Brooks Davis, tour chair, and committee members Chuck Bednar and Joe Wisehart.

The Round Table Monday Lunch Group—which has met more-or-less continuously for the past twenty-five years—gathers each Monday (except for the fourth Monday of each month, when it is preempted by the Union League Civil War Round Table luncheon at the Union League Club) at 12:15 p.m., at the LaSalle Inn, 2 North LaSalle Street (LaSalle and Madison Streets). Use the 180 West Madison Street entrance for easier access. Everyone is welcome!



happy Holidays from the officers of The Civil War Round Table and the Newsletter staff.



The New Books Compiled by C. Robert Douglas

Hennessy, John. Return to Bull Run: The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas. Simon & Schuster. 1992. \$28.00.

Hicken, Victor. *Illinois in the Civil War*. U. of Illinois Press. 1991. \$37.50; pbk. \$14.95. Original of 1966.

Hoehling, A.A. Last Train From Atlanta. Stackpole Press. 1992. \$16.95. Original of 1958.

Holt, Michael F. Political Parties and American Political Development From the Age of Jackson to the Age of Lincoln. LSU Press. 1992. \$35.00.

Jones, Howard, Union in Peril: The Crisis Over British Intervention in the Civil War. U. of North Carolina Press. 1992. \$34.95.

Karamanski, Theodore J. Rally Round the Flag: Chicago and the Civil War. Nelson-Hall Publishers. 1993. \$24.95.

Round Table Treasurer Larry Gibbs reminds members that their 1993-94 dues must be paid by December 1. Persons who have not paid by that date will be dropped from the membership rolls.

Honorary Life member Lowell Reidenbaugh addressed the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table on November 8. His topic was "The Idiosyncracies of Stonewall Jackson."



When Lincoln Came To Egypt, by George W. Smith (1940), has been reprinted by Crossfire Press in Herrin, Illinois. The book chronicles Abraham Lincoln's visits to and political encounters in southern Illinois, an area sometimes referred to as "Egypt." For this new edition, John Y. Simon, The Round Table's 1985 Nevins-Freeman Award recipient, has written a new foreword, "Abraham Lincoln In Southern Illinois." Simon calls Smith's book "a triumph of dedicated Lincoln scholarship." To order a copy (\$24.95 cloth, \$12.95 paper), write Crossfire Press, P.O. Box 365, Herrin, Illinois 62948, or call 618-942-3856. (Illinois residents add 6.25% sales tax—\$1.56 for cloth, 81¢ for paper. Also add \$2 per order for postage.)

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 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 10: Paul I. Kliger on "The Confederate Invasion of New Mexico"

January 14: Harold Holzer and Mark E. Neely, Jr., on "Civil War Art"

February 11: Robert Remini on "Henry Clay, Slavery, and the Coming of the Civil War"

March 11: General Gordon R. Sullivan on "The Wilderness" April 8: Major Frank K. McKenzie, USMC, on "Combined Operations Against Charleston"

 May 5-8: Annual Battlefield Tour—Shenandoah Valley
 May 13: Robert K. Krick on "Lawyers, Politicians, and Clerks: The Regimental Command of Lee's Army"

June 10: Stacey Allen on "New Discoveries at Shiloh"

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New Members

Tammy Lynne Andries, 544 S. Cuyler, Oak Park, IL 60304-1503, 708-445-0876

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Ted Dawson, Warren Hall #307, Thompson Point, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901

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