

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LVI, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

February 1996

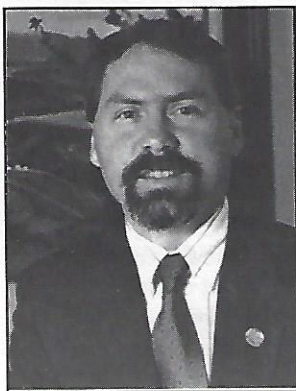
James Ogden on "To the Edge of Glory: Rosecrans's Campaign for Chattanooga"

by Barbara Hughett

THE DEFEAT of William Starke Rosecrans on the battlefield at Chickamauga and his subsequent removal from the command of the Army of the Cumberland have shaped history's perception of the man. On the strength of his victories in Western Virginia, at Corinth, Mississippi, and at Stones River, Tennessee, Rosecrans, by the summer of 1863, was considered to be one of the Union's most respected, successful, and promising commanders. All this changed, however, based largely on the impact of the ill-considered orders issued at mid-morning on the third day of the Battle of Chickamauga. Thus, one bad day on the battlefield—Sunday, September 20, 1863—removed William Starke Rosecrans from the limelight of American Civil War history.

His defeat in Chickamauga's bloody forest and fields has also influenced how Rosecrans's Campaign for Chattanooga is viewed. Most historians have focused on that battle itself, and those unfortunate orders he issued on September 20. Less attention has been given to his plan of campaign—a plan of campaign that had gained much before the defeat at Chickamauga. Even after that defeat, this plan allowed Federal forces to maintain and then go on to secure total control of the Chattanooga region, the strategic Gateway to the Deep South. The Rosecrans who planned this successful campaign has been masked by the fatigued and mentally-exhausted Rosecrans who was in command on that unfortunate Sunday in September.

In his talk to The Round Table on February 16, "To the Edge of Glory: Rosecrans's Campaign for Chattanooga," historian James Ogden III will examine the plan that the commander of the Army of the Cumberland developed and implemented. He will explore the factors Rosecrans was forced to address and will relate how those considerations shaped the 1863 Campaign for Chattanooga. He will set forth his position that Rosecrans's campaign was not the hazardous, careless dispersal of his forces in the face of a numerically-superior foe that it is of-



James Ogden



548th Regular Meeting

☆ ☆ ☆

James Ogden on "To the Edge of Glory: Rosecrans's Campaign for Chattanooga"

☆ ☆ ☆

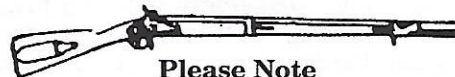
Friday, February 16

☆ ☆ ☆

Union League Club
65 West Jackson Boulevard

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$25 - The Civil War Round Table of Chicago members
\$30 - Nonmembers

Entree: Beef Stroganoff or Catch of the Day



Please Note

Make your reservation by Wednesday, February 14, by calling The Civil War Round Table offices at 312-341-1865. People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If you make a reservation and then find you cannot attend, please call to cancel or you will be billed for a dinner. **No last-minute orders for the Catch of the Day can be honored. The chef must have at least twenty-four hours notice.**

The Union League Club is located at the corner of Jackson Boulevard and Federal Street. Federal Street runs north and south between Dearborn and Clark Streets. Parking is free at the General Parking lot, just south of the Union League Club.

ten depicted to have been. He will show it to be a campaign that, "to paraphrase William M. Lamers's aptly-titled Rosecrans biography, brought 'Old Rosy' to 'the edge of glory.'"

James Ogden III is a native of St. Mary's County, Maryland, and graduated with a degree in American History from Frostburg State College, in Frostburg,

(continued on page 3)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
 410 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 841
 Chicago, Illinois 60605-1402
 Phone: 312-341-1865
 Fax: 312-341-1863

Officers

President	Carole Cierniak
Senior Vice President	Larry Gibbs
Vice President	Robert Girardi
Vice President	James Nethery
Honorary Vice President	Ernest A. Griffin
Treasurer	Charles Bednar
Secretary	Bruce Allardice
Assistant Treasurer	Robert Dawson
Assistant Secretary	Jerome Schur
Inspector General	Bruce Allardice
Membership Registrar	Carole Le Claire
Tour Registrar	Carole Le Claire
Newsletter Editor	Barbara Hughett
Contributing Editors	C. Robert Douglas, David Richert Larry Gibbs, Robert Girardi

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

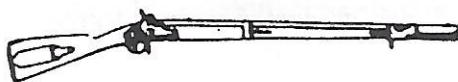
Board of Trustees

Terms expiring in 1996: Karen Krieger, Eleanor Leichenko, Susan Phillips, Norman Potesman
Terms expiring in 1997: Donni Case, Gene Holland, Janet Linhart, Frank Patton

Committee Chairs

Spring Battlefield Tour	Robert Girardi Kurt Carlson
Battlefield Preservation Fund	Mary Munsell Abroe
Financial Planning	Kurt Carlson
Membership	Glen N. Wiche C. Robert Douglas
Publications/Printed Material	David Richert
Publicity/Public Relations	Donni Case
Hospitality	Susan Phillips Janet Linhart
Nominating	Barbara Hughett
Field Artist/Archives	Jerry Warshaw
Nevins-Freeman Award	Glen N. Wiche
Honors	Paul I. Klinger
Tape Record Librarians	Robert Girardi Roger Bohn
Battlefield Preservation Raffle and Schimmelfenning Boutique	Ted Birndorf
House	Thomas Herres Charles Ten Brink
Picnic	Paul Klekner Robert Dawson

The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 410 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 841, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1402.



BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The city of Nashville, Tennessee, has awarded a \$50,000 contract to determine how to stabilize and interpret Fort Negley, the nation's last inland stone "star" fort from the Civil War period. It is the first step in a \$450,000 program to stabilize and interpret the fort.

Negley is one of the few battlefield sites still remaining in the Nashville area. Following the war, it was dismantled and its granite blocks used to build a reservoir. It was rebuilt by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s to its original specifications and on its original foundations. In 1993, the Nashville Department of Parks and Recreation cleared the fort of thick trees and vegetation that had overgrown the structure. However, it remains in serious disrepair.

In other news from Nashville, the Tennessee Historical Society will place a marker at Redoubt 4, one of five earthen forts built by Confederate General John Bell Hood during his siege of the city in December 1864. The six-foot tall, three-sided marker will feature a period topographic map of the battlefield, narratives of the battle, biographies of the principal participants, and a Don Troiani painting based on the storming of the redoubt.

Newport News, Virginia, is undertaking a five-year project to create a complex of historical attractions focusing on the city's role in the Civil War. The \$10 million project calls for construction of a Civil War campus on thirty-two acres that includes Endview Plantation, a 1700s mansion. The house and campus are part of a 300-acre parcel purchased by the city for light commercial and industrial development. An interpretive center is planned that would focus on the Peninsula Campaign's first phase, from April to May 1862. Approximately ten linear miles of Civil War fortifications still exist in Newport. Since the area was never farmed, they are well-preserved.

The city is also spending about \$75,000 to purchase, through the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS), five acres of the Lee's Mill battlefield. The land was purchased by APCWS and will be held until the city is able to approve the expenditure. Explained APCWS President Dennis Frye, "Because we are not a governmental entity, our board can authorize purchases quickly. This is a classic example of how we can come in as a purchaser and hold a threatened piece of battlefield until the governmental entity can act."

Gettysburg National Military Park has awarded more than \$95,000 in planning grants to local governments to help preserve the historic setting surrounding the battlefield. The annual grant program focuses on the Borough of Gettysburg and five townships within the 11,000-acre Battlefield Historic District established by Congress in 1990. The largest single grant was to Adams County for a regional transportation study. Most of the grants went to Gettysburg Borough for a variety of planning purposes, including park improvement, a historic district ordinance update, a historic building survey, and strategic planning.

❧ JANUARY MEETING ❧

by Larry Gibbs

On January 12, at the 547th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table, 123 members and guests heard a presentation by Brigadier General Harold W. Nelson (retired) on "Teaching Generalship on Civil War Battlefields." Nelson is a former teacher of military history at the U.S. Military Academy and the author of several national park publications dealing with Civil War battlefields.

Nelson's speech dealt with the importance of the study of Civil War battle sites to modern generals. "The classroom setting does not give officers a good sense of reality about combat," observed Nelson. Many officers need to get a feel for the ground to appreciate a variety of aspects of battle life."

Since 1991, all U.S. officers at West Point have been required to tour and study Civil War battlefields. Nelson pointed out that "virtually all of the Gulf War generals who participated in the left hook toward Basra, Iraq (January 1991), had previously visited the Chancellorsville battlefield." Similarities exist between the Gulf War action and Stonewall Jackson's flank attack at the Battle of Chancellorsville (May 2, 1862).

In a discussion of military operations, Nelson stated that there were two types of Civil War armies. At Gettysburg, Confederate General Robert E. Lee represented the old fashioned foraging army, where requisition of food and materials was required. Union General George Gordon Meade symbolized a newer type of army — powered by steamboat or train. Lee's army procured beef on the hoof while Meade's army used salt pork transported from the rear. Nelson proclaimed that "at Gettysburg, Lee must give battle due to supply concerns. However, Meade was not under the necessity of battle. He did not have to attack because of the nearness of his supply lines."

Strategy was described by Nelson as the carrying out of broad policies of military leaders. Strategists get to shape how men will be turned into fighting units. The type of guns used in warfare is deemed part of the overall strategy. Nelson indicated that the breech-loading single-shot rifle was satisfactory for Union troops. This rifle was very reliable, while the repeating rifles were deemed wasteful by Northern generals because the soldiers fired too quickly. Hence, the repeaters were not used much despite their increased firepower.

Modern generals are also taught tactics using Civil War battlefields as a guide. Nelson used the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863) as an example. In his opinion, Confederate General Richard Ewell's troops could not have taken Cemetery Hill on the evening of the first day. On the second day, most of the blame for lack of complete Confederate victory at Little Round Top has fallen on James Longstreet. "However," Nelson asked, "where was General Lee during the attack? In order to reduce the time for transmission of orders, the big Confederate mistake was the absence of Lee at the point of Longstreet's attack!"

Longstreet and Lee disagreed on the advisability of a direct attack on the Union center. Longstreet vehemently argued that the entire Rebel army should move south in order to force the Union army to attack. Nelson

addressed this question of strategy in terms of Rebel supply lines. He opined that Longstreet's plan was not feasible. Nelson indicated that Lee did not know the location of the Union army and cavalry. The fourteen-mile train of requisitioned Confederate supplies was an impediment to any rapid change of plans. Furthermore, Nelson stated that "all the roads in the Gettysburg vicinity led to Gettysburg and they would not support a sudden movement of Rebel troops toward the south. The ground around South Mountain is very rough and heavily-forested." For these reasons, Nelson believes that Lee could not have successfully followed Longstreet's strategy at Gettysburg.

JAMES OGDEN (continued from page 1)

Maryland. His interest in the Civil War began in childhood, and he worked summers during his college years for the Maryland Park Service at Point Lookout State Park, site of the largest Civil War prison. He served as a college internship at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, doing research and writing on an aspect of that site's Civil War history that had not previously been addressed.

Beginning his career with the National Park Service in 1982, Jim Ogden has been stationed at Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park, Georgia and Tennessee, Russell Cave National Monument, Alabama, and Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Virginia. In November 1988, he returned to the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park as Site Historian. He has spoken before many historical groups all over the country and has written articles for professional and popular publications. He has been a commentator on the Arts and Entertainment Network's television series, "The Civil War Journal." He has taught a number of Civil War history courses for the Continuing Education Department of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Jim Ogden has conducted — since 1986, and especially since 1989 — more than one hundred Staff Rides for various groups from the United States Army. We are all looking forward to this coming May, when he will be one of our major tour guides on The Round Table's annual battlefield tour, to Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

A new Lincoln exhibit will open at the Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street at North Avenue, on February 12, 1996, and run through February 13, 1997. "The Last Best Hope of Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America" was first shown at The Huntington Library in California a couple of years ago. It brings together key items from three of the most important collections of Lincolniana ever assembled: the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection of The Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield, Illinois; the Lincoln Collection at The Huntington Library in San Marino, California; and the private collection of Louise and Barry Taper, of Beverly Hills, California. This exhibit will provide visitors with a comprehensive view of Lincoln and his vision for the country whose government he called the "last best hope of earth."

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Ryan, David D. *Cornbread and Maggots, Cloak and Dagger: Union Prisoners and Spies in Civil War Richmond*. Dietz Press, Richmond. 1994. \$24.95.
- Ryan, David D. *Four Days in 1865: The Fall of Richmond*. Cadmus Press, Richmond. 1993. \$19.95.
- Savas, Theodore P. and David A. Woodbury, eds. *The Campaign for Atlanta & Sherman's March to the Sea: Essays on the 1864 Georgia Campaigns (Volume One of Campaign Chronicles)*. Savas Woodbury Publishers. 1992. \$42.50; Pbk. \$16.00.
- Savas, Theodore P. and David A. Woodbury, eds. *The Campaign for Atlanta & Sherman's March to the Sea, Volume Two*. Savas Woodbury Publishers. 1995. Pbk. \$16.00.
- Savas, Theodore P., David A. Woodbury, and David Lang, eds. *The Campaign for Atlanta & Sherman's March to the Sea, Volume Three. The Atlanta Death Roster. Union and Confederate Casualties in the Battles Around Atlanta*. Savas Woodbury Publishers. 1995. \$29.95.

The single largest Civil War reenactment of 1995—and the second largest ever—was held in Spring Hill, Tennessee, in October. Around 9000 participants recreated the last days of the Army of the Tennessee, witnessed by more than 25,000. Only the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, with about 12,000 reenactors, surpassed this event.

The twenty third annual Abraham Lincoln Symposium will be held on Sunday and Monday afternoons, February 11 and 12, in Springfield. This year's theme is "Lincoln's Biographers." Speakers and commentators will include Alan C. Guelzo, Wayne C. Temple, Michael Burlingame, and Rodney O. Davis. The event is sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and the Illinois State Historical Society. The evening of the 12th, the Abraham Lincoln Association will hold its annual banquet. The featured entertainment will be provided by the New Hutchinson Family Singers, performing nineteenth-century songs. For information about both events, call Tom Schwartz at 217-787-2118. Also in Springfield, on the morning of February 12, the Lincoln Home National Historic Site will host the Lincoln Heritage Lectures. The speakers this year are John Y. Simon and David Zarefsky. For information, call Tim Townsend at 217-492-4097.

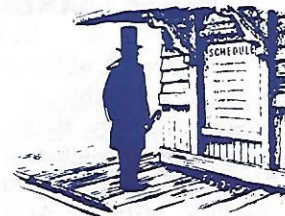
Schimmelfennig Boutique

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.

In addition to The Round Table history and *The Continuing Civil War*, the essays from the Fiftieth Anniversary Proceedings, the following items are available at each monthly meeting: Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes, Civil War Buff posters and T-Shirts, CWRT T-shirts, polos, and sweatshirts.

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 Union League Club, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

February 16: James Ogden on "To the Edge of Glory: Rosecrans's Campaign for Chattanooga" (Please note: this is the **third** Friday of the month.)

March 8: Brian S. Wills on "The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest: A Battle from the Start"

April 12: John C. (Jack) Waugh on "The Class of 1846"

May 1-5: Annual Battlefield Tour: Chickamauga and Chattanooga

May 10: Charles P. Roland on "Reflections on Lee: A Historian's Assessment"

June 14: Michael W. Kauffman on "The Lincoln Assassination — The Investigation Continues"

New Members

Linda L. Bender, 4117 N. Major, Chicago, IL 60634, 312-545-6445

Stephen C. Carlson, 1323 South Federal Street, Chicago, IL 60605, 312-663-0356

Jim Hulbert, 206 W. Hickory Street, Hinsdale, IL 60521, 708-325-2509

Patrick S. McGreevy, 4421 Hickory Hills Road, Sioux Falls, SD 57103, 605-336-9705

Brian Seiter, 9812 S. California, Evergreen Park, IL 60805, 708-425-4030

David E. Westfall, 27 W. Greenview Avenue, Warrenville, IL 60555, 708-393-2260

Gail N. Westfall, 27 W. Greenview Avenue, Warrenville, IL 60555, 708-393-2260

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just a reminder: Please call in your dinner reservation **EARLY!** To sweeten our request, we will have an Early Bird Raffle for those who call in their reservation by February 13. You may be one of two lucky winners of a free cocktail! Help us out and be a winner!

Former President Kurt Carlson addressed the Kiwanis Club of Glen Ellyn on January 10. His topic was "Backing the Boys: Illinois Business and Industry During the Civil War."

Former President Barbara Hughett spoke to the Kankakee Civil War Round Table on February 7, on "The Civil War Round Table Movement: Its Past and Its Future."

The 15th Annual Midwest Civil War Round Table Conference will take place on April 19-20, 1996, in Cincinnati, Ohio, hosted by the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table. Speakers will include A. Wilson Greene, John Hennessy, and Jim Ogden. The cost is \$100 per person; special hotel rates are \$72 per night. For more information, call Michael Rhein at 513-831-4031.