



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXVII, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September, 1966

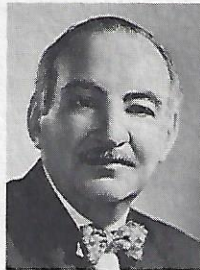
S. I. Neiman to Speak on 'Judah P. Benjamin' - Monday, Sept. 19

The 1966-67 year begins with a talk on Judah P. Benjamin, one of the most colorful figures of the Confederacy. Speaker is S.I. Neiman, author of a biography of Benjamin.

The meeting on Monday, September 19, begins a policy of having meetings on various nights of the week. It is planned to have all meetings this year at the Furniture Club, known for its good food and accommodations.



Mrs. Natalie Benjamin



S. I. Neiman



Judah P. Benjamin

Neiman has been closely associated with our Round Table. He is the jovial sort and some members note that his initials spell SIN. He says he enjoyed writing about Benjamin, and some of the bits he enjoyed most were in the 150,000 words the publisher's editor cut out. He will frame much of his speech on these words.

This material includes newly uncovered documentary evidence that Benjamin discussed, a possible ante-bellum southern "empire" to reach from the Mason-Dixon line to Cape Horn; his financial support of the original Ku Klux Klan and his gold framed photo in the Paris apartment of a New Orleans-born Parisienne actress-spy, and

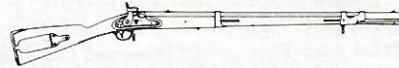
The misadventure of the missing portrait of the beautiful Creole, Mrs. Natalie Benjamin; highlights from some of the more than 200 letters inspired or provoked by Neiman's first attempt at Civil War biography; excerpts from Neiman's latest, "So You're Going to Write a Book? Don't!" and the late Otto Eisenschiml's discovery that he wrote a foreword for the wrong book, and

The search for Benjamin's trunk that stirred up a belated hunt for the nonexistent Confederate gold (1934) and how William Randolph Hearst unwittingly picked up the tab.

As Bob Cromie of the Tribune put it: "Write a Civil War book — why should Neiman have all the fun?"

When Judah P. Benjamin died May 6, 1884, the London Times said: "One of the most remarkable of modern careers has ended. . . (his) life was as various as an eastern tale, and he carved out for himself by his own unaided exertions not one but three. . . histories of great and well-earned distinction."

From the West Indian island of St. Croix, where he was born into a Spanish-Jewish family which fled the Inquisition, Benjamin was taken as a child to the Carolinas. He entered Yale university and at 16 was seeking



253rd REGULAR MEETING

* * * * *

S. I. Neiman

on

"Judah P. Benjamin"

* * * * *

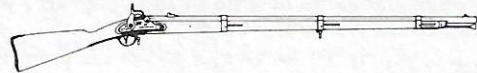
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1966

Furniture Club in Furniture Mart

Cocktails at 5:30

666 North Lake Shore Drive

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



"I am tired and sick of war. Its glory is all moonshine. It is only those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is hell."

--William Tecumseh Sherman, June 19, 1879.

his fortune in New Orleans. He rose to the position of a leader in the American bar and one of the ranking southern members of the United States Senate. In the Confederacy he was attorney general, secretary of war, and secretary of state.

Drama marked Benjamin's personal no less than his public life: a disastrous marriage to a beautiful Creole; a passion for gambling when the stakes were high; a near duel with Jefferson Davis; and a perilous escape to England when the Confederacy was falling apart.

To most men of 55 years, such an escape at the end of a career would have led to a quiet period of retirement. To Benjamin it merely served as the impetus to add a new and brilliant entry to an already outstanding record. Starting as an English barrister, he made another fortune and became a leader of the English bar. He was likewise a renowned figure in Paris.

Neiman is a native of Iowa where he attended the state university and Drake. His home now is in Highland Park and he is the dean of the electronics industry public relations counsellors. He is president of Public Relations Affiliates, Chicago.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,
Chicago 11, Illinois
Phone: WHitehall 4-3085

OFFICERS

President.....Michael S. Lerner
Vice President..... Ver Lynn Sprague
Secretary.....Malvin Hoffman
Treasurer.....Marshall Krolick
Assistant Treasurer.....Richard B. Cohen
Tape Record Librarian.....August Payne
Editor of Newsletter.....Gilbert Twiss
Combat Artist and Typographer.....Jerry Warshaw
Official Engrosser (Printer).....Allen Meyer
Judge Advocate General.....Arnold Alexander
Balladeer.....Win Stracke

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Executive Committee)

Terms expiring in 1967: Earl F. Bartholomew,
Charles V. Falkenberg, Jr., Jerry Warshaw.

Terms expiring in 1968: Elmer C. Brinkman,
Henry W. Kennedy, William C. Krone.



Set Battlefield Tour Dates

The 17th Annual Battlefield tour has been set for April 20-23, 1966, and Chairman Charles V. Falkenberg, Jr., announces an outline of the program, with details to be fitted in as completed.

Thursday, April 20 — Ozark DC-9 jet from O-Hare to Springfield, Mo. Air-conditioned buses to Holiday Inn and lunch. Tour Wilson's Creek battlefield, cemetery, and terrain of Zagonyi's charge. Command post, dinner, and Edwin Bearss' talk on Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove.

Friday, April 21 — Buses via Telegraph road to Pea Ridge and tour battlefield, then Prairie Grove. Command Post and dinner, Holiday Inn, Fayetteville, Ark., with talk on battle of Westport and Sterling Price invasion of Missouri in 1864.

Saturday, April 22 — Central Airlines flight to Kansas City and Muehlebach hotel. Buses to Westport battlefield and Kansas City points of interest. Command post and dinner at Muehlebach hotel with talk on siege of Lexington and Lone Jack.

Sunday, April 23 — Buses to Independence, Mo., Harry S. Truman's home and library, battlefields of Lexington and Lone Jack. Braniff jet, dinner en route, to Chicago.

New York CWRT elected as its 1966-67 president, Col. E. P. Leddy of West Hartford, Conn.

Hartford (Conn.) CWRT on May 26 dedicated a plaque to mark the U.S.S. Hartford bell from Farragut's flagship at the battles of New Orleans and Mobile Bay.

PRISON CWRT of Richmond, Va., has had as recent speakers J. Ambler Johnston, our Honorary Award Life Member, and Virginius Dabney, editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

from the
Editor's pen



The 1966-67 year — our 26th — gets off to a fast start with all meeting dates set, all except two speakers named, Ladies' Night at the Ivanhoe restaurant and theater, and the 17th annual battlefield tour dates set and the program pretty well outlined.

The executive committee decided to vary the meeting nights from Monday through Friday to accommodate some members who said they could not attend on Friday, the usual meeting night, or Thursday, the main alternate. Members were highly pleased with the food and accommodations of the Furniture Club where two meetings were held last year. Arrangements are being made to hold as many meetings as possible there this year, perhaps all except Ladies' Night. Though the address is 666 N. Lake Shore Drive, the entrance is on McClurg court north of Erie street. The Furniture Mart parking facilities on the south side of Erie are open at the time our meetings begin.

Speakers include some old voices and some new. Though Ralph Newman is almost ever present at meetings, and has spoken at many other Round Tables, he has not been a scheduled speaker at our meetings in recent years. So, Ralph will make one of his rare visits to our rostrum in October. Other speakers include Col. Allen P. (Ned) Julian, a favorite in several previous appearances; Frank Klement, an expert on Civil War dissidents; Alice Hamilton Cromie, author of the Civil War Guide, our first scheduled woman speaker; Fred Benton, Jr., Baton Rouge lawyer who is an expert on Port Hudson; Henry Simmons, Civil War author, and J. Robert Smith, incoming president of the Illinois State Historical society.

Walter K. Tatsch, who was scheduled to speak January 13 on "The Artillery of the Civil War," died August 8, of an apparent heart attack while in the parking lot of the Wilmette Gun club. Walter, 69, was one of our most ardent members, a regular at meetings and on battlefield tours, and most active on the Speakers' Bureau list. He was a World War I veteran and conversant with all phases of the Civil War.

President Mike Lerner has appointed all committees and has a message to members in this issue. Committee chairmen are responsible for getting their groups together and outlining work.

Besides the regular monthly meetings there are volunteer interim get togethers each Monday noon at Chodash Bros. restaurant, 312 West Randolph street. These are open to anyone who wants to show up for lunch.

Looking back, the 25th anniversary year with President Brooks Davis was outstanding. Speakers were Clement Silvestro, Kevin McCann, Wilbur S. Nye, Gen. Mark Clark, Dee Alexander Brown, J. Ambler Johnston, E. B. (Pete) Long, Sir Denis Brogan, Robert Johannsen, and Frank Vandiver. The year included publication of the Muster Roll and special program for the anniversary dinner. Cooperation in celebration of the Grand Army of the Republic centennial included visits to Chicago Public Library, Springfield, Petersburg, and Decatur. The meetings were peripatetic—at the Union League Club, St. Clair hotel, Chicago Press Club, Knickerbocker hotel, United States naval armory, Stouffer's restaurant, and the Furniture Club. Special projects were the Auction for the Fellowship Award fund and launching of the Speakers Bureau. And there were two battlefield tours! —to Chattanooga-Atlanta and Washington (Booth trail) and visit at the White House.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your officers and committee chairmen worked hard over the summer to make the 1966-67 Round Table meetings interesting and educational, besides the usual fun that goes with attending each of our sessions.



Michael S. Lerner

All of us in this 26th year of Civil War Round Table activity have a great responsibility to those students, scholars and practitioners of Civil War who have gone on to their rewards. When we look back over our shoulders and enumerate the long list of great men who no longer are attending our monthly meetings, it is quite a staggering experience.

We owe them a debt of gratitude, and to ourselves we owe an extra effort to keep up the heritage of great Civil War scholarship tradition alive by accumulating additional knowledge and gathering more information on our war.

I am sure that it is the goal of each new administration to leave the Civil War Round Table of Chicago a better organization when passing the gavel on to the successors come June, and this of course can only be accomplished with the help of all the membership and officers.

All of us should be scouting for new members who have interests, who have knowledge, and who have enthusiasm and exuberance for the Civil War. New membership forms have been printed and a new brochure on the advantages of Civil War Round Table membership are being prepared. When they are available, I do hope each and every one of you will pass them on to your friends and acquaintances.

Thank you very much, and looking forward to a great year for the Round Table, I am

Your Humble Servant,
Mike Lerner, President

THE NATIONAL CEMETERY at New Albany, Ind., was established on Dec. 15, 1862, one of seven cemeteries set up by an act of Congress. The first soldiers were buried that month and then it received many Civil War dead. There have been 4975 burials - of these 2798 are Civil War dead, and of the 684 who are unidentified, the majority are from the Civil War. The cemetery was closed to burials in April 1962. New Albany, on the Ohio river, celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1963. During the Civil War it was a busy river port and one of the largest towns of Indiana. In the first three months after the fall of Fort Sumter, 19 companies were formed in New Albany and Floyd county. Camp Noble was established at the fairgrounds north of the town. Many of the troops trained there fought in Gen. Lew Wallace's division.

A COLLECTION OF ABOUT 40,000 ITEMS accumulated by Thomas R. Ware, Confederate navy paymaster at Mobile, Ala., during the Civil War, has been transferred from Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park to the National Archives in Washington, D. C. The collection includes correspondence and contracts involved in the building of ironclad vessels; records of expenditures and contracts for repairing and outfitting the raider Florida; correspondence and financial records of Charles J. Helm, Confederate States agent at Havana, Cuba, concerning stores shipped to Mobile through the blockade during 1863 and 1864; records concerning Confederate marines stationed at Mobile, and items relating to Ware's service as a United States navy paymaster before the war. The National Bank of Fredericksburg discovered the collection in its attic in 1939. In National Archives the documents complement other Ware items there and add to the Confederate Naval records now in Archives.

Committees 1966-67

MEMBERSHIP—Chairman Morton B. Feigen, Maurice Fisher, Wilson A. Smith, Elmer C. Brinkman.

HONORARY AWARDS—Chairman Charles D. Wesselhoeft, Lloyd Miller, Ver Lynn Sprague.

FELLOWSHIP AWARDS — Co-chairmen Lloyd Miller and Clement Silvestro, Harold Hyman, Newton C. Farr, C. Robert Douglas, E. B. Long, Ralph Newman, Clyde Walton, Arnold Alexander, Brooks Davis.

SPECIAL EVENTS—Chairman Miles Janousek, S. J. Kearney, Louis Oppenheimer.

BATTLEFIELD TOUR—Chairman Charles V. Falkenberg, Jr.; Assistants, Al Meyer and Jerry Warshaw; Co-historians, Edwin C. Bearss and E. B. Long; Marshals, Richard Cohen and Lester Joseph; Coordinator Gilbert Twiss, Registrar Margaret April.

LADIES' NIGHT — Chairman Al Meyer, Win Stracke, James J. O'Connor.

HOSPITALITY AND HOUSE—Co-chairman Elmer R. Pendarvis and Lester Joseph, Charles Bournstine.

NOMINATING—Chairman Dr. Vernon W. Schick, Gerhardt P. Clausius, Arnold Alexander, Ralph Newman, C. Robert Douglas, Daniel Lapinski.

PUBLICITY—Co-chairmen George A. Barclay and Julian Jackson, Henry B. Bass, Baker Marsh, Bernard Slepak, Ver Lynn Sprague.

SICKNESS AND MEMORIALS — Chairman H. George Donovan, Paul C. Behanna, Richard E. Clark, Samuel K. Levin.

LEGAL—Chairman Philip R. Davis, Marshall Krolick, Everett Lewy.

SPEAKERS BUREAU (and liaison with other Round Tables) — Co-chairmen Elmer C. Brinkman and Brooks Davis.

AUDITING—Co-chairmen Richard B. Cohen and Herbert W. Kuehne.

DECATUR CWRT is giving honorary memberships to the men who are in the service or who are going to be in school for the next four years. These memberships will last until the young men are out of service or out of school (then they can start paying again), Marguerite Bringer, secretary, writes.

THE NEW VISITORS' CENTER at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Lincoln City, Ind., was dedicated August 21. George B. Hartzog, Jr., director of National Park Service, was speaker. Albert Banton, formerly at Vicksburg military park, is now superintendent at Lincoln Boyhood memorial.

THE WHITE SOX PLANE that took our 1966 tour to Washington and back in May had a busy time when the airlines strike came on in July. Arthur Allyn, Sox owner, made the plane available to other baseball clubs and Pilot H. B. (Dusty) Berk had a packed schedule flying the DC-7B hither and yon.

AT A MEETING of the CWRT of Colorado, George Pyle gave a talk on the fire that was set on the Great Plains in 1865. Military authorities had decided the only way to control the Plains Indians was to destroy their means for living and making war. The fire burned portions of five states as far south as the Texas panhandle. It did not destroy the ability of the Indians to make war, but it did kill thousands of wild animals. After the Civil War, the United States turned attention to the Indians.

THE NEW BOOKS



LINCOLN AND THE MUSIC OF THE CIVIL WAR, by Kenneth A. Bernard (Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho, 328 pp. \$6.95).

CLIMAX AT BUENA VISTA: The American Campaign in Northeastern Mexico, 1846-47, by David Laverder (Lippincott, \$4.50). Training ground of some Civil War officers.

JAMES LUSK ALCORN, The Persistent Whig, by Lillian A. Pereyra (Louisiana State, 237 pp, \$7.50). Post-war Republican governor of Mississippi.

A HISTORY OF SLAVERY IN NEW YORK, by Edgar J. McManus (Syracuse U., 219 pp, \$5.95).

JOHN ROACH, Maritime Entrepreneur, by Leonard A. Swann (Naval Institute, 303 pp, \$7.50). Builder of first steel warships for navy; a biographical study of the period 1862-1886 in which he was foremost marine engine manufacturer and shipbuilder.

THE QUEST FOR EQUALITY, The Constitution, Congress and the Supreme Court, by Robert J. Harris (Louisiana State, 192 pp, \$4). The quest through the ages, and special attention to the concept during the Reconstruction period after the Civil War.

THE BATTLE OF LITTLE BIG HORN, by Mari Sandoz (Lippincott, \$4.50). Custer's last stand.

DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY, A History of West Point, by Stephen E. Ambrose (Johns Hopkins, \$8 regular, \$11 deluxe). Foreword by Dwight D. Eisenhower.

DESCRIPTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CIVIL WAR MANUSCRIPTS IN ILLINOIS, by William L. Burton (Northwestern U., 416 pp, \$8.50) From Illinois Historical Library, Newberry Library, Chicago Historical Society, and other main sources.

BOOK NOTES

The annual Fletcher Pratt award for 1966 by New York CWRT for the best nonfiction book about the Civil War was presented to James V. Murfin for his "Gleam of Bayonets," the story of Antietam. Honorable mentions went to Kenneth M. Stamp for "The Era of Reconstruction" and Milton F. Perry for "Infernal Machines." A special award was given Thomas Yoseloff for publishing many excellent additions to the Civil War book shelf.

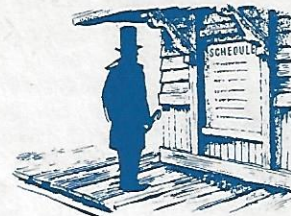
Keepsake Press, 3737 Armitage Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60647, is planned to memorialize the Lincoln Heritage Trail (Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois) with a collection of postal items to be issued on Feb. 12, 1967, from 36 different towns on the trail.

THE IOWA attorney general's office ruled that county funds cannot be used to maintain the grave of a Civil War veteran buried in a pasture near Sutherland, O'Brien county. The unidentified veteran is buried along with the first white settler of the county and members of his immediate family. The attorney general's ruling was on a law that allows funds to be used for cemeteries where United States servicemen are buried.

FROM HENRY BASS' monthly newsletter, Dear Everybody:

"During this tour I was told of a luncheon held the week before in New York attended by MacKinlay Kantor, Bruce Catton, Herb Kann, Ralph Newman, and Carl Haverlin. The discussion turned to education. To the surprise of all, not one possessed a college degree. But in the group were three Pulitzer prize winners and a total of thirty-five honorary doctorates."

BULLETIN BOARD



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Board of Trustees) and past presidents are called to meet at 5 p.m. Monday, September 19, in Furniture Club, prior to regular meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, October 12 - Ralph G. Newman, "Benjamin F. Butler."

Tuesday, Nov. 15 - Allen P. (Ned) Julian, "Gallant John Hood."

Thursday, Dec. 8 - Frank Klement, "Clement L. Vallandigham."

Friday, Jan. 13, 1967 - To be announced.

Tuesday, Feb. 14 - Ladies' Night, Speaker Alice Hamilton Cromie; dinner and theater at Ivanhoe restaurant.

Monday, March 20 - To be announced.

April 20-23 - Battlefield tour to Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, Westport and Lexington.

Wednesday, April 26 - Fred Benton, Jr., "The Battle and Siege of Port Hudson."

Thursday, May 25 - Henry Simmons, "Northern Censorship of the Press: Necessary or Needless?"

Friday, June 23 - J. Robert Smith, "Gen. Mike Lawler."

* * * * *

NEW MEMBERS: J. Robert Geiman, 135 S. La Salle St. Rm. 2325, Chicago, Ill. 60603; Thomas H. Hoyer, 811 N. Main St., Wheaton, Ill. 60187; James J. O'Connor, 612 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, Ill. 60200; Harold A. Palast, 7008 N. Hamlin Ave., Lincolnwood, Ill. 60645.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Joseph Burke to: Chicago Civic Center, Rm. 3030, Chicago 60602; C. Robert Douglas to: 195 Old Farm Road, Northfield, Ill.; Donald Gray to: 1055 S. Poplar Ave., Kankakee, Ill. 60901; Harold M. Hyman to: 1708 Henry St., Champaign, Ill. 61822; Peter H. Johnson to: 3644 E. Van Buren St., Phoenix, Ariz. 85008; Malcolm Macht to: 96 Ormont Rd., Chatham, N.J. 07928; Carl H. Peterson to: 8251 Kildare Ave., Skokie, Ill. 60076; Ver Lynn Sprague to: 1936 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. 60614; Frank Welcher to: 7340 Indian Lake Rd., Indianapolis, Ind. 46236; John G. West to: 15000 Crown Dr., Minnetonka, Minn. 55343.

DECEASED: Walter K. Tatsch, August 8, 1966.



MR. LINCOLN had his day at the Wisconsin state fair—to honor his address to the Wisconsin Agricultural society in 1859. But the planners did what many people do—pictured him with a beard (he grew it in 1860). Gov. Warren P. Knowles unveiled a plaque picturing Lincoln looking up at the moon and stars, with the inscription, "I cannot conceive how a man can look into the heavens and say there is no God." A Lincoln scholar took note of the beard and queried Vernon Wendland, state fair administrator. Wendland said he had been approached by Republicans who asked if they could donate the plaque to the state. He agreed it would make a nice addition to the fairgrounds. He didn't think the beard would make too much difference.