

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

November, 1969

T.L. Connelly on 'Lee and the War in the West'-Nov. 14



Thomas L. Connelly

Admirers of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee had better come prepared to defend their hero at the meeting of the Chicago Civil War Round Table on Friday, November 14. Thomas Lawrence Connelly, associate professor of history at the University of South Carolina and an outstanding military historian of the Civil War, will speak on "Lee and the War in the West."

"My theme," Connelly said, "will be that Lee is grossly overrated as a Confederate general and that it is time for a full re-evaluation of Lee's strategy, tactics and personality. On all of these scores, Lee comes out poorly."

Connelly asserts that after Lee's influence began to be felt in the autumn of 1861, some early Confederate victories were won over inferior Union commanders. And some of these victories, the professor says, were simply tactical triumphs in Virginia achieved at the expense of the Confederate position in the West.

"Lee contradicted himself in his strategic proposals," according to our November speaker.

And, after all, Connelly points out, the Union's "first team" of officers, including Grant and Sheridan, was in the West. Lee, he says, didn't look so great after he was confronted by the Union's "first team" in 1864.

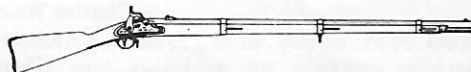
Our November speaker might be termed as great a discoverer as he is an historian. In 1961, when Connelly was only 23 years old and a graduate student at Rice University, he found the papers of Gen. Don Carlos Buell in a Texas prairie farmhouse near Houston.

Connelly found the cache of Buell's papers—more than 8,500 items in all—after he traced and befriended a great nephew of the general who lived in the house. The papers, which included letters from Grant and Sherman as well as early Western material, had formerly been housed in a chicken coop in trunks that were later brought into the farmhouse. Another cache of the general's papers was located in Kentucky.

Connelly negotiated with the general's descendent in behalf of Rice University and arranged to have Buell's papers deposited in the university library.

T.L. Connelly, who graduated from David Lipscomb College and received his master's degree and doctorate from Rice, was formerly a professor of history and chairman of the history department at Presbyterian College. From 1964 to 1969 he was assistant and associate professor of history at Mississippi State University. He joined the University of South Carolina faculty at Columbia this year.

Among his published books are "Will Success Spoil Jeff Davis," "Army of the Heartland: The Army of Tennessee,



285th REGULAR MEETING

Thomas L. Connelly

on

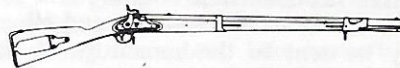
"Lee and the War in the West"

Friday, November 14, 1969

Furniture Club in Furniture Mart

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



1861-1862" and "Discovering the Appalachians." Books Connelly now has in progress include "The Lee Nobody Knows," "Davis and His Generals: Confederate Strategy Reviewed," and "Autumn of Glory: The Army of Tennessee, 1863-1865."

Connelly's scholarship has been recognized with such research fellowships and awards as the Charles Longcope research award, 1961; John Garner award, 1963; American Philosophical Society research grant, 1966, and the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities research grant, 1967.

His articles have been published in the Journal of Southern History, the Journal of American History, Military Affairs, Civil War History Quarterly, Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Civil War Times, Tennessee Historical Quarterly and the East Tennessee Historical Society publications.

Connelly is a charter member and was first president of the Confederate Historical Society of Nashville, so named because half of the members refused to call it the Civil War Round Table. A native of Nashville, our November speaker reports that he "grew up on the Nashville battlefield" and now owns an ante-bellum two-story log house atop the Cumberland Mountains near Sewanee, Tenn., a house that was twice raided by partisans during the Civil War.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968



Applications for Civil War Round Table fellowships are available from the CWRT fellowship committee, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill., 60611. Round Table members and friends may make tax-deductible contributions to the CWRT fellowship fund for Civil War research and education. Contributions may be sent to the committee at the Chestnut Street address.

Club members who know of the death or illness of anyone associated with the Chicago CWRT are urged to promptly contact President Clyde Walton or the CWRT through the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Treasurer Dick Cohen announced that all dues notices have been mailed and that \$20 dues for 1969-70 is owed by each CWRT member. Send your dues in now and note the meeting dates for the year published in the Bulletin Board on the back page of this Newsletter.

Chicago CWRT members are encouraged to contribute material to this Newsletter regularly. Contributions should be sent to Dick Bjorklund, Editor, Chicago Civil War Round Table Newsletter, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Suggestions for material include book reviews, photos of Civil War relics and sites, travel items on Civil War battlefields and monuments, comments on current events involving Civil War history and personal notes.

from the
Editor's pen



QUESTIONNAIRE

On March 6, the Executive Committee of the Civil War Round Table sent a questionnaire to all members. The questionnaire was prefaced by this statement:

"So that we might plan properly for our future meetings and improve the operation of The Civil War Round Table, would you kindly take the time to answer the following questions, and if you so desire, add any comments you care to make about our organization."

Member response was excellent, but in all frankness, we are not sure what we learned - except that there is an amazing (but wholesome) diversity of opinion among our membership. Here are the questions we asked, and a summary of the answers we received.

QUESTION NUMBER 1:

How long have you been a member?

Answers ranging from 1 to 28 years.

Other answers:

"Many Years" "Since first trip to Fredericksburg"

No answer: 2

QUESTION NUMBER 2:

Do you regularly attend meetings?

YES: 40

NO: 53

Other answers: "Pure neglect, I'll do better" "Bad legs" "As often as possible" "Out of town" "when I can" "Live 300 miles from Chicago" "75 years old now" "Too many conflicts" "Often out of town" "82 years old and live in Prophetstown" "Don't like to be out in bad weather" "Business conflicts" "Friday not always good" "3 or 4 a year, work schedule irregular" "Retired and ill, price \$20 and \$7 too high" "Live 150 miles from Chicago" "Age 69 and just out of hospital" "Personal conflict".

QUESTION NUMBER 3:

If you do not, why not?

A. Time of meeting inconvenient.

Inconvenient: 16

Convenient: 25

No Answer: 53

Comments: "Somewhat" "to early" "ol pappy is pooped" "other activities" "no good" "Have to work" (5 others said Friday was not a good night).

B. Food not satisfactory:

Not satisfactory: 3

Satisfactory: 34

No answer: 59

Comments: "O.K.", "Cold and poor", "O.K." (3 others said "excellent" and 3 more said "fine" or "good"), "poor quality", "steak tough".

A. Program not appealing:

Not appealing: 8

Appealing: 31

No answer: 53

Comments: "fine" "O.K." "fine" "sometimes" "Occasionally" "sometimes" "excellent" "lousy" not scholarly; more battles, less politics; quality could be better. "Talked too much and read too much" not scholarly.

D. Location difficult to reach:

Difficult: 23

Not difficult: 22

No answer: 49

Comments: "at times" "excellent location" "difficult to get to and from" "not at all" "have to move car twice" "worried about car, though" "Union League Club or hotel better" "from Prophetstown, yes" (3 other out-of-town members did not like the location; one though the corridors too long; two others suggested a more central location).

E. Price of meal:

Price too high: 13

Price O.K.: 24

No answer: 52

Comments: "competitive" "youse pays fo' what youse gets" "well . . ." could be less. "40" members feel it is too high, but I come anyway. "not excessive" "fine" "\$7.00 a little steep" could be less. Try a luncheon meeting. Too high for others. "In line with Loop prices." "much too high. Never above \$5.00." with 6 kids, expenses a problem.

F. Other (comments): Busy on Friday, Conflicts with other meetings. Try meeting on N or S side. Too far South Bend. Too much protocol . . . a social organization. Business open Friday PM. No time. Cannot attend more than 3-4 meetings a year. Put Win Stracke to work. Do not know members and no change to meet others. "Business requirements." "good quarters". Allow more time before and after for chit-chat. Have a ball like this year every year. "Too difficult to make trip". President overlooks faults of others, has no goals. I travel extensively. I'm involved in other activities. My schedule prevents attending. In poor health. Live out of town and hard to get to city. Press of business. Other engagements. Work involves travel—I attend when I can.

QUESTION NUMBER 4:

Do you have any suggestions for improving the quality, procedure, or other aspects of our meetings?

None: 31

No answer: 23

Comments: Do not ask speakers for "questions". "The best". Start promptly and earlier: 6:15. 80% should be about war. Hold meetings in Loop. "more light-hearted". Fewer awards. Enjoy them very much. More prominent speakers. Rotate locations. Start and quit on time. "Lower cost meeting place". Well handled last few years. "well satisfied". Battles, commanders, A. Lincoln. "Stick close to Civil War". "doing all right." "when is next auction." "excellent". More time for questions and answers. Raise quality of meetings to University level. "Everything is fine". Keep on trying. Improve quality of speakers. "like it as is" "Put some fire under the new membership-hospitality chairman". Book drawings every meeting. Very good, but more Illinois. "don't care for non-military aspects". No more race track meetings. "issues and battles" Meet without dinner. "other activities" Conduct more dignified and scholarly meetings. Subjects should be broader. "Begin punctually". "Less business." "Quality speakers". Hand out material so can follow speakers better. Start dinner sooner.

QUESTION NUMBER 5:

Do you have any specific suggestions for speakers for future meetings and subjects to be discussed?

None: 32

No answer: 20

Comments: Leave it to directors. More on Chicago and Illinois and rename club in 1974-76 American History Round Table. Personalities, not battles. More south (&) longer meetings. Prof. Cook, Bell Wiley, T. H. Williams and old drawing cards. More battlegrounds. More personalities, less battles. Albert Castel (&) John Krenkel (Yates), John Pullen (20th Maine) Leslie Anders (18th mo.). Excellent. Ralph Newman and Fred Schwengel. Battles and generals and "concentrate on the Civil War". "good" "can't please everyone" Lincoln, reconstruction and KKK. Biographical papers. The Cairo. "Controversy and have two speakers taking different sides." More speakers of national reputation. Our own members. Fewer battles, more panel discussions. More

TO THE LADIES

On Nov. 14, the Campfollowers will have the pleasure of hearing one of their own members speak. Ella Clausius will tell us about "Jessie, Wife of Gen. Fremont." She assures us that they led very interesting lives.

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. in the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 E. Chestnut St. Dinner later. For reservations, please call Lenore Fleming, 928-8977. Please do not make reservations through the book shop.

Elmer Underwood gave the ladies a thoroughly enjoyable and informative look at the "Role of Women in the Civil War" at the October meeting. He might have entitled it "Never Underestimate the Power of a Determined Woman."

naval aspects. "Excellent." More battles. Panel discussions and exhibits (&) poll members on speakers. "More battles." "Stamps and coins of Confederacy." Avoid extended discussions of small things. Spies, propaganda, telegraph, railroads, ballons. Confederate uniforms. More on campaigns. Reconstruction. Social-cultural aspects. Ordinance and artillery. Use our own members 40% of the time. "Bell Wiley and G.I. approach". Symposia: Stanton-McClellan, political questions, biographies, artillery and ammo. Those who do not read speeches. Bud Robertson, Alan Nolan, Burke Davis, Glen Tucker. "Lincoln" (&) battles from President's point of view. "Battles and strictly Civil War". Jay Luvaas. More biographh and battle talks. "Should not recount Bang! Bang! More battles and leaders. Union navy-Grierson's raid. Battles and campaigns. Relate issued of Civil War to contemporary social problems.

QUESTION NUMBER 6:

What suggestions can you make toward improving our organization as a whole?

None: 20

No answer: 34

Comments: Keep trying. "Old battlefield movies". Recruit in college history departments. Doing real well. Encourage young people. Make full report of talks and question and answer period. "In group" conviviality too much (&) memberships for high school students. "Get after lax members like me." Attract younger members. Like battlefield trips. Meetings cost too much for young men with families and mortgages. Recruit young people. Make full transcript of talk available instead of tapes. Fine as is. Make tapes of meetings more available. Publish the speeches. Price too high for others, but not me; place inconvenient but not for me. "doing a good job." Lower dues and cost of dinner; don't have to eat steak. "I can't see that it needs improving." "Raise a little polite hell on occasion and publish our own quarterly." Introduce all members. No cliques. "Maintain present level." Don't over organize. Limit battlefield trips to male members of the round table. Tighter board control and a vice-president-president elect system. "Think it's fine." No cliques and pre-arrange the seating. Free dues to best speaker of the year, more PR and publicity and more heated arguments. Willing to serve on committees. "Older members gather together" (&) assign old members as table hosts. "Need younger people". Have father-son-daughter night and take the whole family. Get more people involved. Stump the experts meeting, using a panel. Like Krolick quiz (&) summer activities. Send letters to history departments (&) get younger men (&) more publicity in the *Tribune*. "Would like to participate." "Like it the way it is". Publish speeches and question period which follows: "Needs no improvements." "Continue as is." "Think it's terrific."

THE NEW BOOKS



Barnes, William Horatio. *HISTORY OF THE THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr. [1969]. 636p. \$21.50

Bassett, Margaret. *PROFILES AND PORTRAITS OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS AND THEIR WIVES*. Freeport, Maine: Bond Wheelwright, [c1969]. 449p. \$10.00

Brewer, James H. *THE CONFEDERATE NEGRO: VIRGINIA'S CRAFTSMEN AND MILITARY LABORERS, 1861-1865*, Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ., 1969. \$6.00

Brown, William Wells. *THE NEGRO IN THE AMERICAN REBELLION*, his heroism and his fidelity. N.Y.: Kraus Reprint, 1969. 380p. \$16.00

— Same title. Miami: Mnemosyne Pub. Co., 1969. \$11.50

Buckingham, James S. *THE SLAVE STATES OF AMERICA*. 2 vols. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr. [1968]. \$35.00

Capps, Claudius M. *THE BLUE AND THE GRAY: The Best Poems of the Civil War*. N.Y.: Books for Libs., 1969. 181p. \$8.75

Cochin, Augustine. *THE RESULTS OF SLAVERY*. Tr. by Mary L. Booth from 2nd vol. of author's *L'Abolition de l'esclavage*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr., [1969]. \$13.75

Cullop, Charles P. *CONFEDERATE PROPAGANDA IN EUROPE, 1861-1865*. Coral Gables, Fla.: Univ. Miami Pr. [1969]. 160p. \$6.95

Eaton, John. *GRANT, LINCOLN, AND THE FREEDMEN: Reminiscences of the Civil War*, with special reference to the work for the contrabands and freedmen of the Mississippi Valley. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr., [1969]. 331p. Reprint 1907 ed. \$13.75

Glass, Paul, comp. *SINGING SOLDIERS (The Spirit of the Sixties)*. A History of the Civil War in Song. Selections and historical commentary by Paul Glass; musical arrangements for piano and guitar by Louis C. Singer. N.Y.: Grosset, 1968. \$6.95. Orig. publ. 1964.

Lester, Julius, comp. *TO BE A SLAVE*. N.Y.: Dial, [1969]. 160p. \$3.95

Lowell, James Russell. *THE ANTI-SLAVERY PAPERS OF JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr. [1969]. 2 vols. Reprint 1902 ed. \$19.00

McHenry, George. *THE COTTON TRADE: Its bearing upon the prosperity of Great Britain and commerce of the American Republics*, considered in connection with the system of Negro slavery in the Confederate States. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr. [1969]. 1xix, 292p. Reprint 1863 ed. \$12.50

Russell, John Henderson. *THE FREE NEGRO IN VIRGINIA, 1619-1895*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr. [1969, c1913]. 194p. \$9.00. (Johns Hopkins Univ. Studies in Hist. & Pol. Sci.)

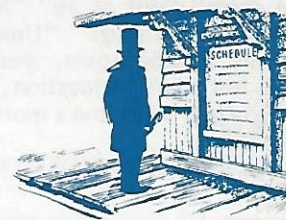
Sanborn, Franklin B. *THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF JOHN BROWN, LIBERATOR OF KANSAS AND MARTYR OF VIRGINIA*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr., [1969, c1885]. 645p. \$19.50

Scott, Eben Greenough. *RECONSTRUCTION DURING THE CIVIL WAR IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr. [1969]. 432p. Reprint 1895 ed. \$14.25

Wesley, Charles Harris. *NEGRO AMERICANS IN THE CIVIL WAR*, from Slavery to citizenship. 2nd ed. N.Y.: Publishers Co., 291p., [1968].

Williams, George Washington. *A HISTORY OF THE NEGRO TROOPS IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION*. Preceded by a review of the military services of Negroes in ancient and modern times. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr. [1969]. 353p. Reprint 1888 ed. \$12.75

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

November 14: Thomas L. Connelly on "Lee and the War in the West."

December 12: Professor Okan Uya (winner of this year's Chicago CWRT fellowship award) on "Robert Small of South Carolina."

January 9: Dr. Archer Jones on "Military Leadership, North and South."

February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8 and June 5: Programs to be announced.



Members may wish to join the Civil War Round Table Associates, P. O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Ark. 72207, which publishes the Civil War Round Table Digest. Memberships, which include subscriptions to the digest, are \$7.50 per year.

NEW MEMBERS: Fred Warren, 235 Constance Lane, Chicago Heights, Ill. 60411; James E. Gleichert, 918A N. Milwaukee, Libertyville, Ill. 60048; Seymour Rovens, 308 Nauvoo, Park Forest, Ill. 60466; Robert W. Keller, 550 W. Surf, Chicago, Ill. 60657

ADDRESS CHANGES: Alan C. Aimone, Apt. 5G, 131 Willow Avenue, Cornwall, N. Y. 12518; Henry B. Bass, Box 1069, Bass Building, Enid, Okla. 73701; Miles Janousek, 3415 Prairie Ave., Brookfield, Ill. 60513; Thomas Kearney, 520 S. Gunderson, Oak Park, Ill. 60304; Walker W. Means, 707 Ten Main Center, Kansas City, Missouri 64105; John L. Savage, 3 Colton Lane, Winnetka, Ill. 60093; Paul C. Behanna, Post Office Box 108, Fontana, Wisconsin; Grady McWhiney, University of British Columbia, History Dept., Vancouver 8: B.C., Canada; Jay Adler, 9050 S. Hoyne, Chicago, Illinois 60620; Robert E. Cleveland, 100 N. La Salle Street, Chicago, Illinois; Karl A. Meyer, 30 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.; Robert G. Robinson, 1708 Second Street, Highland Park, Illinois; Gordon Whitney, 6806 Grand, Hammond, Ind.; C. Robert Douglas, 332 Ingram Lane, Northfield, Ill. 60093; Joseph R. Oswald, 10301 South Hoyne, Chicago, Illinois 60643; Charles J. Shields, P. O. Box 148, Frankfort, Ill. 60423; Malvin K. Hoffmann, 443 Webster Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60614; Robert L. Huttner, 2440 N. Lakeview Ave., Apt. 8C, Chicago, Ill. 60614.

Grady McWhiney's recent book "Braxton Bragg and Confederate Defeat, volume 1: Field Command." won the American Historical Association's Pacific Coast Branch award of \$200 for "the best monograph . . . by a scholar who resides in Western North America." McWhiney has been a member of the Round Table for eight years.

The extraordinary Atlanta Cyclorama is scheduled to be given a total rehabilitation and is to be housed in a fine new structure. A new sound-track has been done that gives us a foretaste of excellence. Victor Jory does a tremendous job of narration, and Sam Wilhoit, who acted as director-producer, has prepared new music and sound effects. The whole recaptures in a very moving way July 22, 1864, and can be had on a compatible stereo album for \$5.98 from the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop 18 E. Chestnut, Chicago, Ill. 60611 (25¢ for handling, and from Illinois residents the usual 30¢ tax).