

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXI, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May, 1971

Harry M. Caudill on the Guerrilla War in Kentucky



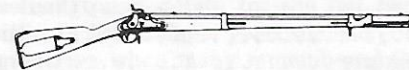
Harry M. Caudill

"The Guerrilla War in Kentucky" will be Harry M. Caudill's subject at the May 14, 1971, meeting of the Civil War Round Table at the Chicago Bar Association. Harry Caudill is an attorney and counselor at law in Whitesburg, Kentucky, and although he has never strayed far from his home town he has won an international reputation in his work for conservation, education, and the social problems of the mountainous area that has become known as Appalachia.

Harry M. Caudill was born at Whitesburg, Letcher County, Kentucky, near the headwaters of the Kentucky River, a descendant of the earliest settlers in the area. Other than the years spent away at school and in military service his entire life has been spent in his home county. His college career was interrupted by Army service during World War II. After being wounded in Italy he returned to the University of Kentucky to gain a law degree. Since 1948 he has practiced law at Whitesburg and is presently serving as President of the Letcher County Bar Association. During three terms he served his county (Letcher) as Representative in the State Legislature, consistently taking a strong lead in the fight for the conservation of natural resources and the improvement of the educational system of the state. He sponsored and made a strong fight for legislation to control or abolish the ravages of strip mining as practiced in the rugged terrain of eastern Kentucky, and has continued to be the most outspoken and best known opponent of this destructive method of recovering coal. After passage of the state sales tax, which he co-sponsored, and which added great amounts of money to the school program, he was appointed Chairman of a special legislative committee on Education which undertook to point out weaknesses in the system and bring about reform in the schools to accompany the increase in funds. He later served on the Governor's Commission on Education established to continue that investigation and prepare recommendations.

His book *NIGHT COMES TO THE CUMBERLANDS* has been widely read over the nation and in Washington and is considered a textbook on the problems of Appalachia. It is being used in the teaching of Sociology as required reading in various colleges and universities. The book has received wide acclaim from critics and was chosen as one of four adult books published in 1963 to receive award of merit from the Friends of American Writers Association. It also held a place on the list of fifty best books for that year listed by the American Library Association.

His articles on the ravages of strip mining to land, the need for school improvements, the problems of unemployment brought about by automation, the inadequacies of the welfare program, the need for development of the electric power potential of eastern Kentucky as a key to the rebuilding of the



301st REGULAR MEETING

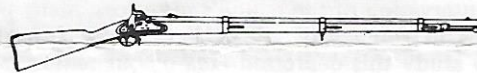
Harry M. Caudill
on
The Guerrilla War in Kentucky

Friday, May 14, 1971

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The nominating committee, consisting of all past presidents, Brooks Davis, chairman, will meet at 5:30 p.m., preceding the regular meeting.



area, the need for taxation of the severance of mineral resources, and the inadequacies of the Appalachian Redevelopment Act have been published in various magazines. These include the Atlantic, Readers Digest, The Nation, The New York Times Sunday Magazine, Audubon and others. He has been interviewed and quoted at length on the problems of Appalachia by many newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations and lectures constantly to groups of civic interest and on college campuses in several states. His constant purpose is to awaken people to the problems and to suggest possible remedies, thus creating the public pressures which may eventually lead to remedial legislation.

In February of 1965 he was honored as a distinguished alumni of the University of Kentucky during its Centennial Celebration. In May of 1968 he served as a panelist at the White House Conference on Natural Beauty called by President Johnson. The Kentucky Department of Natural Resources presented him an Award of Merit in 1966, and in 1968 he received the Nation Honor Award of the Soil Conservation Service. In June of 1968 he received an Honorary Degree as Doctor of Laws from Tusculum College.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Phone: Whitehall 4-3085

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He is usually accompanied by his wife and secretary, Anne. They have three children. Their home near Whitesburg, as well as the law office, sees a constant stream of newspaper, radio and television newsmen, government officials, writers of books and magazine articles, college students and faculty members, professional people, VISTAS and others who are concerned with the problems of the people of the Appalachian counties and with conservation of the region's resources. Many come to offer services in some way. Many have come from foreign countries to study this depressed area of our nation. Mr. and Mrs. Caudill find time to talk to all, entertaining many, making many on tours of the area, explaining its problems and potential, implanting the ideas which may eventually bring about the pressures for changes which are so desperately needed.

Mr. Caudill serves as Chairman of the Congress for Appalachian Development, an organization chartered in West Virginia and with members in most of the Appalachian states. This organization seeks to "restore self government in the Appalachian mountains in order to wisely conserve and develop the human and natural resources of the region for the common benefit of all the people residing therein." He has been recently actively engaged in the widely publicized and successful effort of conservationists to save the Red River Gorge of Kentucky from being dammed and flooded, and in the successful effort to have a 400 acre tract of virgin timber land in eastern Kentucky preserved as a last remaining remnant of the once magnificent forests of the region, a project which he initiated.

His writing has dealt with the widespread incidence of black lung among soft coal miners and the scandalous disregard of industry, organized labor, and government to the prevention

and cure of this dreadfully disabling disease so common among Appalachian workmen.

Known as a historian of the Cumberland mountain region, his book, *Dark Hills to Westward* (Atlantic Press, June 1969) has its setting in the primordial undisturbed forests of West Virginia and Kentucky and tells the true (though fictionalized) story of Jennie Wiley, the frontier woman who was captured by the Indians, saw all her children murdered, and after a year of hardship with the Indians in the east Kentucky mountains managed to escape and return to her own people.

Growing out of his years of struggle to stop the wrecking of the eastern mountains by surface mining, his writing, lecturing and concern have come to encompass the entire frightening aspect of environmental deterioration.

Some articles about Harry M. Caudill and his work: *American Heritage*, December, 1969, "The Lonely War of a Good Angry Man," by David McCullough; *The New Yorker*, Dec. 27, 1969, "U. S. Journal: Kentucky," by Calvin Trillin; *U.S. News & World Report*, May 11, 1964, "We Are on Our Way to Becoming a Welfare Reservation," *Business Week*, July 18, 1970, "Appalachia as a Developing Nation."

*from the
Editor's pen*



Frank G. Rankin of Louisville CWRT gave us a run-down on the five major raids of John Hunt Morgan at the March 12 meeting at Chicago Bar Association. He dedicated his talk to the memory of Henrietta Hunt Morgan, the "mother of heroes," her sons in addition to General Morgan including Private Francis Key Morgan, Lt. Thomas Hunt Morgan, and Colonel Richard C. Morgan, while the daughters became the widows of A. P. Hill and Basil Duke. The Morgan clan is buried in Lexington's historic cemetery where also are buried Henry Clay and John C. Breckinridge. The maternal Hunt family was pioneer and became famous and wealthy. John was born in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1825, but the family returned to Kentucky in 1830 and John always considered himself a Kentuckian. He served in the Mexican war, took up hemp manufacture, and became captain of the Lexington Rifles, a militia company that was important in his rise to fame, and was basis for the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry, more commonly known as Morgan's Men. Morgan's men became C.S.A. when they joined Simon Bolivar Buckner but it was always an informal sort of organization. It was the last to leave Nashville when it was evacuated. Shiloh was their first battle, shortly after which they ran entirely around Halleck's army.

Morgan discarded the sabre at an early date and led no cavalry charges. He adopted the principle of cavalry fighting on foot and using horses mainly for rapid transportation. He was a master at deception, making superior use of scouts and spies in gathering information and of the telegraph in putting out false information to confuse his opponents. His was a lightning war, predecessor of the German blitzkrieg. Joseph Wheeler was inclined to give Morgan a free hand, but Braxton Bragg failed to understand his talents or to use them effectively. J. E. B. Stuart and Bedford Forrest used cavalry effectively in much the same way Morgan did. They were individualists, and Morgan was at his best when acting alone.

He was a knight in shining armor in the last war between gentlemen, Frank Rankin concluded.

We learn with regret of the serious illness of Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and editor of "Lincoln Lore." He was taken ill in Florida and hospitalized in March, canceling all engagements for two months. He had been scheduled to speak at the Indianapolis CWRT.

TO THE LADIES—

The Program: Charles Wesselhoeft will speak on "Civil War Railroads," including description of existing railroads, their operating problems in wartime, and their importance in strategy.

The Time: Friday, May 14, 1971.

The Place: The Book and Bottle, 17 East Chestnut Street, directly across the street from the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop.

And the Girl to call for reservations is Joyce Warshaw, 1319 Crain Street, Evanston, Ill. 60202, phone 866-6667.

* * *

Ladies' Night, Friday, April 2, was the usual smashing success, taxing the capacity of Cafe LaTour at Outer Drive East—we had expected 95; the attendance was 142—but despite tight fitting in of tables the service was carried on in efficient fashion. Ralph G. Newman recalled the small beginnings of CWRT when a few friends gathered at noon; the bookshop in Madison Street was locked up until the re-fighting of the Civil War was completed in some neighboring restaurant; and after being tossed out of several places because of excessive exuberance in the re-fighting, a more permanent arrangement was made. Even then informality continued, with the speaker at one meeting presiding and introducing the speaker at the next. At length CWRT grew to a point where it became essential to have officers, committees, directors, and the other paraphernalia of organization.

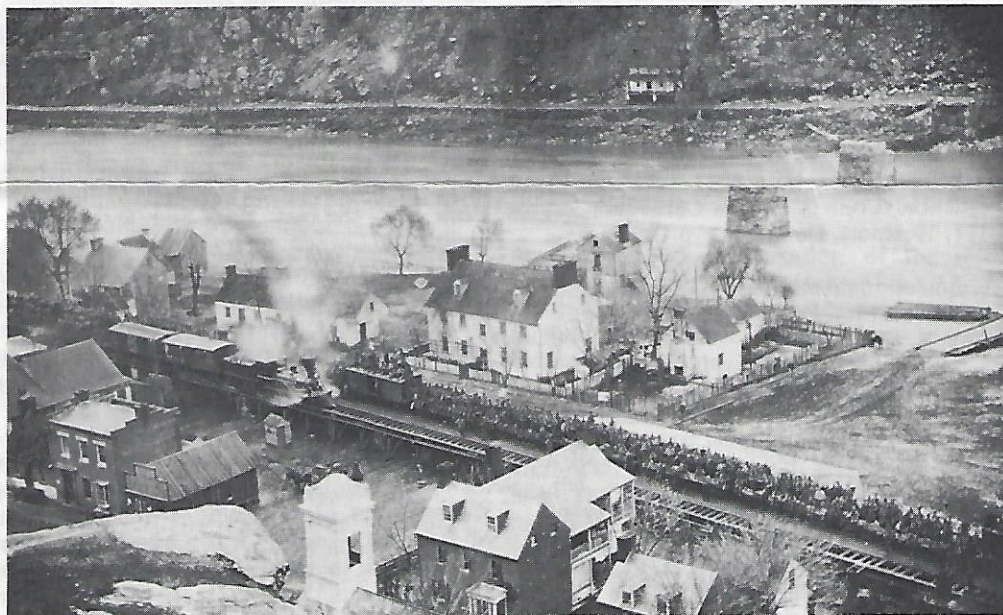
Col. Allen P. Julian gave us a completely informal view of Margaret Mitchell and her overwhelmingly successful novel "Gone With the Wind." Peggy Marsh, as she was known to her friends—her husband was John Marsh, newspaperman and later director of press relations for the Georgia Power Company—started writing the book for her own amusement when she was laid up after an auto accident. Tragically she died when run down by another auto many years later. The book grew so large that she was sure no one would publish it, and after it was published she had no confidence in its success. She tried to persuade her friend in the book department of the Davison

store to cut down on an order for 1,000 copies. The store sold thousands of copies. The business of the book became completely overwhelming. She had to refuse to autograph copies, and would not do so even for family or close friends. (She autographed another book for Ned Julian, but not a copy of "Gone With the Wind" even when she knew he had paid what she considered an outrageous price for one.)

When she signed a contract for the filming, she stipulated that she was not to be consulted on any detail. However, she was, and after a few calls from Darryl Zanuck she refused to answer the phone. One day her cook answered the phone and was very apologetic in reporting that Peggy would not answer. The question happened to be what kind of costume a cook might be wearing during the Civil War. This she could answer, and it was the beginning of a friendship between Peggy's cook and Zanuck's secretary. Peggy was much amused some months later to learn that her cook had become a consulting technician for the Hollywood studio.

Margaret Mitchell was very jealous of any criticism of her accuracy in background detail, for she felt her research had been thorough. In her younger years she had gone calling with her mother in days when many remembered Civil War years, and many Confederate veterans were still alive. She absorbed some prejudices. She would not allow anyone to say a kind word for General Sherman! She objected to Tara in the film because she felt that the Greek-columned plantation house just did not exist—although even now many examples have survived in Georgia. The studio compromised by having square columns. She also insisted that there were few slaves and few large plantations holding large numbers of slaves, although the 1860 census, which she studied closely, showed near a half million slaves in Georgia.

Did she plan another book? Ned Julian told of a trip with her to battlefields in north Georgia in which she dodged being seen in any town in which she had friends who would expect her to call. This trip was in the interest of another book, but she never got to work on it. Ned Julian's picture of her was of a quite small, and very retiring girl, who shunned the spotlight that her success had turned upon her. She could be warm and friendly, but she avoided people because she just didn't want to talk about it.



HARPERS FERRY IN WARTIME. This picture from the United States Military Academy Library at West Point comes to us from CWRT Member Alan C. Aimone, who says it turned up in a collection of four boxes of Civil War photographs, mostly relating to the 6th Army Corps. It was taken in late fall or early spring, as the men on the troop train are wearing greatcoats. They are not armed. He has been unable to find it duplicated in book illustrations. A pontoon bridge is noted at extreme right. That is all we know about it so add it to our photo quiz program, hoping someone may have more details.

THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)



Carpenter, Bonnie. *Old Mountain City; an Early Settlement in Hays County*. San Antonio: Naylor Co., 1970. \$7.95. Texas in the Civil War era.

Donald, David. *Charles Sumner and the Rights of Man*. N.Y.: Knopf, 1970. \$15.00. The second and concluding volume.

Grant, Ulysses Simpson. *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*. Vol. 3: October 1, 1861—January 7, 1862. Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinois University Press, [c1970]. \$15.00

Hatch, Carl E., editor. *Dearest Susie: A Civil War Infantryman's Letters to His Sweetheart*. N.Y.: Exposition Press, [1971]. \$3.50. A corporal in the 83rd Ohio.

Kirkland, Edward Chase. *The Peacemakers of 1864*. N.Y.: AMS Press, 1969. Reprint 1927 edition. \$10.00

Postell, William D. *The Health of Slaves on Southern Plantations*. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith [1970]. Edition of 1951. \$4.50

Praus, Alexis A., compiler. *Confederate Soldiers and Sailors who Died as Prisoners of War at Camp Butler, Illinois, 1862-1865*. Kalamazoo, Michigan: Edgar Gray Publications, n.d. [1970]. Mimeographed typescript in wrappers, [54] pages. \$6.00

Reilly, Robert M. *United States Military Small Arms, 1816-1865*. Baton Rouge, La.: The Eagle Press, 1970. \$22.50

Reynolds, Donald E. *Editors Make War: Southern Newspapers in the Secession Crisis*. Nashville, Tenn.: Vanderbilt University Press [1970]. \$10.00

Still, William N., Jr. *Iron Afloat: The Story of the Confederate Armorclads*. Nashville, Tenn.: Vanderbilt University press, 1971. \$10.00

Talmadge, Marian and Iris Gilmore. *Emma Edmonds: Nurse and Spy*. N.Y.: Putnam [1970]. Ages 10-13. \$3.49

Thomas, Emory M. *The Confederacy as a Revolutionary Experience*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J. Prentice-Hall, 1970. \$5.95; paper \$1.95

Toombs, Robert Augustus. *The Correspondence of Robert Toombs, Alexander H. Stephens, and Howell Cobb*. Edited by Ulrich Bonnell Phillips. N.Y.: Da Capo, 1970. Reprint 1913 ed. \$37.50

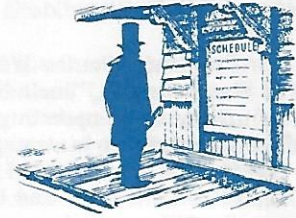
Williams, James. *Letters on Slavery from the Old World; Written during the Canvass for the Presidency of the United States in 1860*. To Which are Added a Letter to Lord Brougham on the John Brown Raid; and a Brief Reference to the Result of the Presidential Contest and its Consequences. [Nashville, Tenn.: 1861]. Westport, Conn.: Negro Universities Press, 1971. \$11.00

Woldman, Albert A. *Lincoln and the Russians*. [Cleveland, 1952]. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1971. \$12.25

NEWSPAPERS

Our fellow member E. B. "Pete" Long was subject of a feature story in The Wyoming State Tribune, Cheyenne, Jan. 29, 1971, recording his research work at the University of Wyoming where he is associate professor of American studies. The article recalls his 27 years of Civil War research, including 10 years for Bruce Catton's Centennial History of the Civil War, for which Long collected, analyzed, and arranged nine million words of notes. He is now teaching a class in Civil War and Reconstruction history, is a consultant for the University Archives, and is now at work on a book he calls "The War Beyond the River," in which he will trace the Civil War's influence on westward development. His "The Civil War Almanac" is scheduled for publication this year.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle Street, 11th floor, second Friday in each month except as noted.

April 29-May 2. The annual Battlefields Tour: The Shenandoah Valley including the three Winchester, Cross Keys, Port Republic, Front Royal, Kearns town, New Market, Cedar Creek, Fisher's Hill. Tour leaves O'Hare Field Thursday morning for Dulles Airport; Thursday and Friday nights at motel in Winchester as headquarters; travel up the Valley Saturday, spending night at Harrisonburg; Sunday we take the Skyline Drive to Second Manassas and back to Dulles Airport, arriving in Chicago Sunday night.

May 14. Harry M. Caudill on "The Guerrilla War in Kentucky."

June 11. To be announced.



Miner Coburn is scheduled as speaker for Ladies Night, June 10, 1971, of Madison CWRT at the Jefferson Country Club. His subject is "Mr. Lincoln and the Women in His Life."

* * *

TAPS

Allan Nevins, biographer and Civil War historian, died March 5, 1971, at the age of 80 in Menlo Park, California. He was awarded Pulitzer prizes for his biographies of Grover Cleveland and Hamilton Fish. By his own evaluation he counted these and his biography of John Charles Fremont as most noteworthy. His projected 12-volume Civil War history included "Ordeal of the Union," "The Emergence of Lincoln," and "The War for the Union." A final two volumes were scheduled for publication in 1971.

Allan Nevins was born May 20, 1890, at Camp Point, Illinois, received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois, and was awarded a doctorate at Oxford in 1913. He served on the staffs of three newspapers, the New York Post, the New York Sun, and the New York World. He taught at Cornell and Columbia universities in the United States, at Oxford and Cambridge in England, and at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Since 1958 he had been senior associate in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California. He suffered a stroke in 1967 but continued work on his Civil War series until June, 1970, when he entered the Sharon Heights Convalescent Home in Menlo Park.

He was editor of several notable volumes. "American Press Opinion: Washington to Coolidge," 1927, was an anthology of historic and influential editorials. He was co-editor with Frank Weitenkampf of "A Century of Political Cartoons." "Letters of Grover Cleveland" was a by-product of his biography, and he reduced to one-volume readability "The Diary of John Quincy Adams" and "Polk: The Diary of a President."

He attended Civil War Round Table several times, addressing us April 28, 1950 on "Could the Civil War Have Been Avoided, and If So, How" and September 11, 1959, on "The Darkest Hour of the Civil War in the Northwest."

Allen Nevins was a thorough student, and was thoroughly approachable. He was a great inspiration to many of us, and many counted him as good friend and good companion.