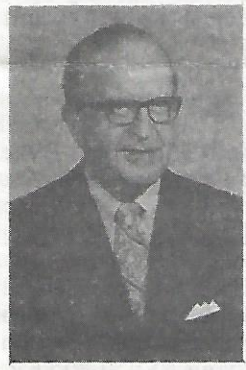


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXIV, Number 6 Chicago, Illinois February, 1973

Shutt on General John Alexander McClernand, February 9



Philip L. Shutt

The controversial Illinois "political general," John Alexander McClernand, will be the subject to be discussed by Philip L. Shutt of Lake Land College, Mattoon, Illinois, at the Civil War Round Table meeting, Friday, February 9, 1973, at the Chicago Bar Association.

In a summary of his talk, Mr. Shutt says:

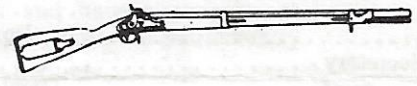
"For quite some time I have been interested in presenting a balanced viewpoint on the controversial figure of John A. McClernand so far as his Civil War activities are concerned. At the urging of the late Allan Nevins and

Bruce Catton, I was encouraged to explore the bias held against McClernand by Civil War buffs and during the War itself by the West Pointers around Gen. Grant, and even reaching into the highest Administration sources. My thesis is that McClernand has been more 'sinned against than sinning'. My purpose will be to present facts as I have researched them, which will balance the present attitude of many toward this political general. I do not intend to fight again the battles of Shiloh, Donelson, and Vicksburg!"

Philip L. Shutt was born in Iowa and received his B.A. in Education at Northern Iowa University, Cedar Falls, and an Ed. M. degree after advanced work at the University of Illinois. He has been Instructor in Composition and Journalism at Lake Land College since 1967. He was vice president of the Illinois State Historical Society, 1951-1952. Since 1967 he has been historiographer and archivist for the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield, Illinois, and his definitive history of the Diocese of Springfield is ready for publication. He has served on national archival committees and has done extensive research in local Illinois history, especially in Edgar County. He has spent more than five years gathering material on General John A. McClernand.

HERE AND THERE

Salt Creek Civil War Round Table, meeting at Glen Ellyn Public Library the third Friday in each month (usually) reports a series of outstanding programs. In November, Dana Wegner of Elmhurst, spoke on Commodore William D. ("Dirty Bill") Porter, brother of Admiral David D. Porter, and a highly colorful character. In December Orland Roberts spoke on Clara Barton and Mrs. Mary Ann Ball ("Mother") Bickerdike, and exhibited a collection of Civil War relics including a large number of G.A.R. badges and mementos.



318th REGULAR MEETING

Philip L. Shutt
of Lake Land College,
Mattoon, Illinois
on

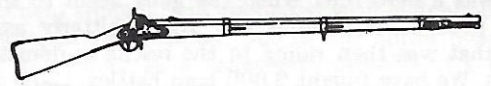
GENERAL JOHN ALEXANDER McCLERNAND

Friday, February 9, 1973

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



SEND IN THE CARD-NOW. Make your dinner reservation. The Bar Association management quite reasonably insists upon a firm commitment 48 hours in advance. Last month we overshot by 20 or more. Did any of those 20 complain about food or service? It's likely. Put it in writing that you will be there. You can always cancel out by calling WH-4-3085.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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Phone: WHitehall 4-3085

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*from the
Editor's pen*



Victor Hicken of Western Illinois University, Macomb, in his talk at the January meeting, ranged from the Revolution to Vietnam in comparing the Civil War fighting man with soldiers in other wars. He noted that no general is a hero to present-day college students—but this is nothing new. Kipling nearly a century ago wrote his poem recording that Tommy Atkins was a hero only when the guns begin to shoot. The Eastern press of the 1880s and 1890s bitterly assailed the cavalry that was then riding to the rescue as depicted in TV Westerns. We have fought 9,000 land battles, 1,200 sea fights, and the Marines have made 120 landings, but all of our wars had opposition. There was only one popular war, World War II. (Your editor disagrees here; World War I was as popular as wars get while it was going on and the draft dodging was minimal. A draft dodger, Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, was as ill-known as Benedict Arnold.)

The Civil War soldier was actuated mainly by the concept of duty rather than freedom. Patriotism was a strong feeling in 1861. Adventure and romance were also motives. McClellan was the symbol for the adventurous; Grant represented duty. Motives occasionally were forcibly expressed in other wars. A Bunker Hill veteran put it, "They was tryin' to take away my freedom." A soldier landing in France in 1917 said, "I've come to fight all the kings."

Foreign observers have sized up the American fighting man.

Von Steuben said they would obey, but unlike Europeans, always asked, Why? Henderson noted that in the Civil War obedience was based on intelligence, not habit. Tenacity and aggressiveness were praised down to the days of Merrill's Marauders and Ernie Pyle's "Brave Men." British in the Civil War deplored Grant's wastefulness of men, Sherman's lack of strategic sense, and the misuse of cavalry. Von Borke, however, saw new ideas in entrenching, logistics, and the use of cavalry and guns in the Civil War, and his ideas influenced Prussian military thought.

Opponents commonly looked upon American soldiers as undisciplined, ignorant, and, very frequently stated, "mongrelized." Opinions often changed after action. Rommel saw the Americans as adapting quickly to modern warfare. The Japanese were profoundly shaken by the frontal attacks at Tarawa.

J. Ambler Johnston has made disappointingly slow recovery from the accident reported in the last issue. Friends may write to him at Westport Manor Nursing Home, 7300 Westport Road, Richmond, Virginia 23226.

Our sincere sympathies are extended to Richard F. Blake and Miner T. Coburn. Mrs. Blake died in early December; Mrs. Coburn in early January.

CORRESPONDENCE

On behalf of the Museum of the Confederacy I would like to thank you for the article on the Confederacy Collection that was printed in the January issue of your NEWSLETTER. The plates really are beautiful, and I think that being able to see pictures of some of them will be a big help as far as promoting the series. The sale of the plates has been most successful, thanks, in part, to people like you who have taken an interest in our Museum and who care enough to help us out. We are hoping that we will be able to break ground for the new building sometime in the coming year.

Also, thank you for mentioning the November issue of our NEWSLETTER on Conrad Wise Chapman. Should any of your Round Table members be interested in obtaining a copy of that NEWSLETTER, they should send 25¢ to the Museum of the Confederacy at the above address requesting one of the NEWSLETTERS. We will be happy to send them a copy.

VETERAN DRAMA CRITIC

Philip Richard Davis, judge advocate general of the Civil War Round Table, writes: "On January 17, 1973, I'll be 78 years old and will mark my 64th year as Drama Critic for the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin—thus making me the oldest and the longest-serving Drama Critic in America. My column is called, 'A Lawyer on the Aisle.'" This is a record that CWRT can well be proud of.

The informal noon luncheon meetings, suspended since we were burned out at Chodash's, were resumed January 15 at the LaSalle Hotel coffee shop.

THAT COMPUTER AGAIN!

Members who included subscription for Civil War History magazine with their dues should disregard notices from Kent State University Press asking payment. It's all a computer error, Treasurer Donald Jensen assures us.

PROMINENT WEST POINTERS

The article following from *The Bivouac—An Independent Military Magazine*, August, 1883, Vol. I, No. 8, comes to us from our fellow member Alan C. Aimone, military history librarian at USMA, who says the author may have been Thomas Jordon, prolific writer and Confederate classmate of Gen. Thomas:

The value of thorough training in the science of war has been too often demonstrated to be questioned. At the close of the Mexican war General Scott, who was not a graduate of West Point, said: "I give it as my fixed opinion that but for our graduated cadets the war between the United States and Mexico might, and probably would, have lasted some four or five years, with, in its first half, more defeats than victories falling to our share; whereas in less than two campaigns we conquered a great country and a peace, without the loss of a single battle or a skirmish." During the late civil war the generals on both sides who achieved distinction were, with rare exceptions, graduates of the West Point Academy. A very large number of the cadets, after having served the term required by law, drop back into civil life, but there were few classes before the war which did not contain the names of men who have acquired fame. Among those who were at the Academy in my time were Pemberton, Bragg, Beauregard, Thomas, Halleck, Hardee, McDowell, Meigs, and A. J. Smith. The late Major Turner and Bob Renick, of this city, both were there. I remember Pemberton as a handsome boy with black curly hair; genial, companionable, and with a decided talent for drawing and painting. Possibly he would have made a greater name as an artist than he did as a soldier. He was a Philadelphian, and married a young lady from Norfolk, Va., and during the late war he linked his fortunes with the South.

Thomas was a martial-looking young man, about six feet two inches. As he and I were the biggest in the class, he was my file leader for about two years. There was no nonsense about him. He attended strictly to business, and was a model soldier. A Virginian by birth, he married a Troy girl, and when the war came on he took the Union side. Rather suggestive of the influence of a wife. However, Bob Chilton, Lee's Adjutant-General, was a Southern man who married a Michigan girl, the daughter of Governor Mason, and she was rather the more rebellious of the two; but her ancestors were Virginians, which may account for it.

Bragg prided himself on being the ugliest man in the corps. He was a reckless and daring fellow, who was always ready for any sort of a racket. He was one of the few who were addicted to nocturnal excursions to Benny Haven's ranch, and many



GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD. This old photograph, probably taken about 1890, has a partially destroyed description making reference to the "High Water Mark," showing the monuments of the 72nd and 106th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Time: 5:30 P.M., Friday, February 9, 1973

Place: Book and Bottle, 17 East Chestnut, Chicago
Program: Kiss 'n Tell—The Ladies of the Civil War, to be presented by Betsy Davis (Mrs. Brooks).

Reservations: Write or phone before February 7, Betty Walter (Mrs. Robert), 1511 East Miner Street, Arlington Heights, Ill. 60004, 312-253-7053.

Last Meeting: Mary Ellen Wehler, dedicated camp follower, gave us an absorbing insight into the "Montgomery Convention" and what led to it. Lively discussion and exchange of ideas followed to the enjoyment of all.

To all CWRT Members: your women folk always qualify as a camp follower and are cordially invited to attend the meetings. Perhaps some of the newer members don't know this. We meet when they do, drink, eat and have a program—then break camp simultaneously with the gentlemen.

were the hairbreadth escapes he and the other frisky ones had in getting back to quarters after a jolly time at "Benny Haven's oh."

McDowell was called the Fat Boy, and from his sobriquet you may know he was good-natured. I think it was Josh Billings who said, "You never heard of a fat man committing murder; no indeed. A fat man never kills any thing that isn't good to eat." McDowell made a good soldier, nevertheless. He, too, married a girl from Troy. The way it happened that so many of the officers were captured by the fair Trojans, they were on General Wool's staff, and he lived there, and during the piping times of peace they fell into the snares of the Troy girls.

Hardee was, to use a current expression, a good deal of a dude. He thought more of his shape than his books. His reputation came largely from the system of tactics which bore his name. He was a pet of Jeff Davis, who, as Secretary of War, appointed him on a board of officers to translate the tactics from the French,—from whence comes our military science,—taking care that he should be the ranking officer. So the work took Hardee's name, although the credit belonged to Benet, who was, I think, of French extraction, and a good scholar.

Halleck came of an obscure family, but he was studious and scholarly, and finally married one of the Hamiltons, which set him on the top shelf socially.

Beauregard was French all over. He looked like a Gaul, acted like a Gaul, and his extraction stuck out every way. He was an excellent student, and graduated with high honors.

Meigs was, in my opinion, one of the ablest men in the army, and his career as a cadet gave promise of a brilliant future.—*Veteran in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

"Secession, Salt Pork, Surgeons, and Sin: The Michigan Soldier in the Civil War" was the topic (topics?) of Gerald G. Herdman of Andrews University at the November 20 meeting of the Battle Creek CWRT. A title like that just couldn't miss!

Philip Hohlweck, editor of Milwaukee CWRT "General Orders" spoke on Berdan's Sharpshooters at the Milwaukee Club, January 11.

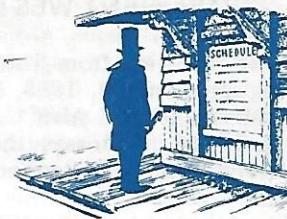


THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Bloke Monday 7PM ch 11
Newman Today show Monday

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FUTURE MEETINGS

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

February 9: Philip L. Shutt on General John Alexander McClernand.

March 9: Ladies Night, Bell I. Wiley of Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., on "Women of the Lost Cause." at G.A.R. Room, Chicago Public Library.

Friday, April 13: Dana Wegner on Commodore William D. (Dirty Bill) Porter.

Sunday, April 22: 160th birthday of Stephen A. Douglas at Douglas tomb and Chicago Historical Society, details to be arranged: ladies invited.

May 10-13: Annual Battlefield Tour, Gettysburg and the Army War College, Carlisle, Pa.

June 8: George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director, National Parks Service.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at LaSalle Hotel coffee shop; all members invited.

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Washington, Booker T. *The Booker T. Washington Papers*. Louis R. Harlan, editor. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1972-. Vol. 1: The Autobiographical Writings. vol. 2: 1860-1889. Each \$15.00. This is a projected 15-volume set.

Wilson, John A. *Adventures of Alf Wilson. A Thrilling Episode of the Dark Days of the Rebellion*. Marietta, Ga.: Continental Book Company [1972]. Wrappers. \$3.95 Reprint of 1897 edition enlarged by photographs not in the original.

Abel, Annie H. *The American Indian as Participant in the Civil War*. St. Clair Shores, Mich.: Scholarly Press, 1972. \$14.50. Reprint of 1919 issue.

Bearss, Edwin C. *Protecting Sherman's Lifeline. The Battles of Brice's Cross Roads and Tupelo, 1864*. Washington, D.C.: National Park Services, 1971.

Bearss, Edwin C., editor. *A Louisiana Confederate Diary of Felix Pierre Poche*. Natchitoches, La.: Louisiana Studies Institute, Northwestern State University, 1972. 352p. \$9.95

Corbin, William E. *A Star for Patriotism*. Monticello, Iowa: William E. Corbin, 231 North Cedar Street. \$8.50. Personal, local, national history in the letters (some 200) of students of Bowen Collegiate Institute at the time of Civil War.

Durden, Robert F. *The Gray and the Black: The Confederate Debate on Emancipation*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press [1972.] \$10.95

Filler, Louis. *Slavery in the United States of America*. New York: Van Nostrand [1972.] Paper, \$2.95

Gettysburg on Your Own. Edina, Minn.: Battlefield Guide Publishers, 197-. Paper, \$1.95

Haynes, Robert V., compiler. *Blacks in White America before 1865; Issues and Interpretations*. New York: McKay [1972.] \$7.95. Paper \$4.95

Hesseltine, William B. *Lincoln and the War Governors*. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1972 [c. 1948]. \$7.50

Holmes, Sara Katherine [Stone]. *Brokenburn; The Journal of Kate Stone, 1861-1868*. Edited by John Q. Anderson. Baton Rouge; Louisiana State University Press [1972]. \$8.95

Miers, Earl Schenck. *The Last Campaign: Grant Saves the Union*. Philadelphia: Lippincott [1972]. \$7.95

Mollo, John. *Military Fashion; a Comparative History of the Uniforms of the Great Armies from the 17th Century to the First World War*. New York: Putnam [1972]. \$25.00

Nash, Howard Peverear. *Andrew Johnson: Congress and Reconstruction*. Rutherford, N.J.: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press [1972]. \$8.50

Nye, Russel B. *Fettered Freedom; Civil Liberties and the Slavery Controversy, 1830-1860*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press [1972, c.1963]. Paper, \$3.45

Poore, Ben: Perley. *The Conspiracy Trial for the Murder of the President, and the Attempt to Overthrow the Government by the Assassination of its Principal Officers*. Edited, with an introduction, by Ben: Perley Poore. New York: Arno Press, 1972. 3 vols. \$70.00. Reprint of work issued 1865-66.

Seward, William Henry. *The Works of William H. Seward*. Edited by George E. Baker. New York: AMS Press, 1972. 5 vols. \$135.00. Original of 1853-84.

Thompson, Clara Mildred. *Reconstruction in Georgia: Economic, Social, Political, 1865-1872*. Savannah, Ga.: Beehive Press, 321 Barnard St., Savannah, Ga. 1972. \$15.00. Originally presented as the author's thesis, Columbia University.

Turner, George Edgar. *Victory Rode the Rails: The Strategic Place of the Railroads in the Civil War*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press [1972]. \$17.50. Original of 1953.

United States. Library of Congress. *An Album of American Battle Art, 1775-1918*. With text by Donald H. Mugridge and Helen F. Conover. New York: Da Capo Press, 1972. \$19.50. Reprint of 1947 edition.

Vicksburg on Your Own. Edina, Minn.: Battlefield Guide Publishers, 197-. Wrappers, \$1.95

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VOLUME XXXIV, DIRECTORY NUMBER

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