

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

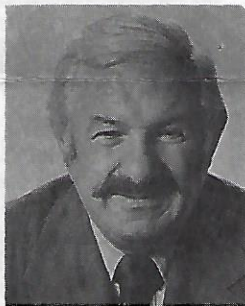
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Chicago, Illinois

June, 1975

## RALPH G. NEWMAN TO RECEIVE NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD—JUNE 13, 1975

"It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this." Abraham Lincoln said that on a sombre occasion over one hundred and eleven years ago, but what better words could describe the gala event which will be held on June 13, 1975, in the G.A.R. Rooms of the Chicago Public Library. That evening the Civil War Round Table of Chicago will honor its founder, and thus the founder of Round Tables everywhere, Ralph G. Newman, by presenting to him its most prestigious indication of respect and gratitude, the Nevins-Freeman Award. The very criteria of eligibility for the award, scholarship, literary achievement, and contributions to the study of Civil War history, have been the standards which have guided the course of our recipient's professional career.

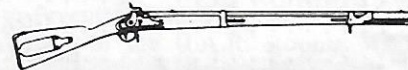


Ralph G. Newman

At the age of twenty-two Ralph Newman established a general bookshop in the old Daily News building on LaSalle Street in Chicago. The selection of this site for his establishment proved to have a significant effect on Ralph's life, for two of his early customers were Daily News employees Carl Sandburg and Lloyd Lewis. Through their influence and friendship, the shop's inventory became more and more specialized in offering books on Lincoln and the Civil War. Finally, in 1940, the sale of items on other fields was discontinued and the shop was renamed the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop. That same year the Round Table was born as Ralph organized the many customers who were in the habit of gathering in the shop to discuss their common interest.

Since that time, Ralph has been much more than just a member or officer of the Round Table. He has been its leader, the guiding light who has moved it into such areas as the awarding of graduate fellowships in Civil War history, the establishing of a Civil War Research Center, and, most recently, the founding of the Nevins-Freeman Award. His bookshop, having been moved many years ago to 18 E. Chestnut Street, remains our headquarters, a gathering place of warm hospitality where good companions can meet to share the events of 1861-1865.

Ralph's achievements too, like the Round Table's, have grown far beyond the beginnings in the bookshop. He has authored, co-authored or edited nine books, including "The American Iliad", "The Civil War Digest", and the recently published "Abraham Lincoln, His Story in His Own Words". In addition to the honorary degrees and special degrees he has received from seven universities, he serves as trustee of Lincoln College and of Lincoln Memorial University. Among the countless positions he has held are Vice-Chairman of the Illinois Civil War Centennial Commission, President of the Illinois State Historical Society, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ford's Theater Society, and, of course, Presi-



342nd REGULAR MEETING  
LADIES WELCOME

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NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD DINNER  
HONORING  
RALPH G. NEWMAN

\* \* \*

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

\* \* \*

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1975

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GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC ROOMS  
CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
RANDOLPH AT MICHIGAN

COCKTAILS AT 5:30 P.M.

DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.

Special reservation forms for the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner are enclosed with this Newsletter. Send in reservations promptly with check for \$15.00 per person or \$27.50 per couple, as the facilities available will compel us to limit the number in attendance. Ladies and guests are welcome, but be sure to include their names on the reservation card.

dent of the Round Table. He currently serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library, is a member of the Illinois Special Events Commission, and is a member of the Board of Regents of Lincoln Academy.

The award ceremonies in honor of Ralph will include remarks by three men who have themselves established eminent reputations. Dr. John Hope Franklin, John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor of History at the University of Chicago and the author of many fine books, is one of the nation's foremost authorities on the history of Black Americans. Dr. John Y. Simon, Associate Professor of History at Southern Illinois University, is executive director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association and is editor of "The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant", of which five volumes have already been published. Carl Haverlin, former President of Broadcast Music, Inc. and former Vice-President of the Mutual Broadcasting System, has long been a leading Lincoln and Civil War scholar and was the first president of the Civil War Round Table of New York.

Entertainment for the evening will be provided by Mrs. Judy Plant who will present her unique program "Music and The Civil War, or What Really Won The War". Mrs. Plant, who is assistant band director of the First Brigade Band of Milwaukee, plays the songs of the 1860's on authentic instruments. The combination of her musical ability and her lively and often humorous commentary should produce a fitting climax to what will be the most memorable evening in Round Table history.



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street  
Chicago Illinois 60611  
Phone: (312) 944-3085

## OFFICERS

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The only requirement for membership is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Burton Rovens, 6033 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois 60660.



*from the  
Editor's pen*



We were very pleased to learn that the 1975 Pulitzer Prize for fiction has been awarded to Michael Shaara for his brilliant novel "The Killer Angels". In our opinion, this book, which is a study of the Battle of Gettysburg as seen through the eyes of the prominent participants, is the finest example of Civil War prose it has ever been our privilege to read. It is a book about which the reader must have mixed emotions — he cannot bear to put it down, but yet he dreads completing it for he hopes it will never end.

Because of our own personal interest in Gettysburg, we must admit that when Ralph Newman suggested that we read Mr. Shaara's work, we did so reluctantly and with a definitely negative attitude. Too often in the past, as we have mentioned before in this column, we have been let down by the author's pen or the movie producer's film as they distort history to turn the drama of 1861-1865 into a maudlin, unrealistic soap opera full of romanticized nonsense. However, after only a few

pages of "Killer Angels" this feeling had completely disappeared, to be replaced by total engrossment as we found ourselves transported to the side of the spy James Harrison as he travelled the roads of Maryland and Pennsylvania to reach Longstreet. Again and again, page after page, as we planned with Longstreet, observed with Freemantle, marched and fought with Chamberlain, died with Armstead, we realized the vicarious dream of every Civil War student: we were there! Through the words of the author, the battle was real. We could hear the guns, see the lines attack and retreat, talk and think with men whose names are legend to us.

But the ability to paint such a vivid picture with sentences on a page is not what makes Mr. Shaara and his book unique, nor is it why we applaud his success. To laud one who has such talent is the job of the literary critic, and that we are not. Instead, we of the Round Tables are historians, amateurs to be sure for the most part, but historians nonetheless. Thus, the regard we have for Mr. Shaara because of his work is of a different base. Simply put, we respect him because he knows the battle and, in painting his word picture, he has been faithful to that knowledge. It is the highest praise we can offer and Michael Shaara deserves it.

True, in the book there are minor historical discrepancies, but they are few and certainly do not detract or distract. Overall, it is obvious that the author has done his homework; his research would, we think, even satisfy a Nevins or a Freeman. "The Killer Angels", fiction though it purports to be, surely belongs in the library of every student of the Civil War, alongside the works of Coddington and Tucker. For, although this book may not definitively tell you the military details of what happened on July 1-3, 1863, it does tell you how it felt to be there. In the long run, isn't that just as important?

## 1976 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

At its meeting held just prior to the May meeting, the Executive Committee selected as the site of the 1976 Battlefield Tour the Manassas-Antietam area. Tentative plans call for one day at 1st and 2nd Bull Run and another day at Antietam. Among the possible locations for visits on the remaining days are Monocacy, Balls Bluff, Chantilly, Aldie, South Mountain, and the Washington defenses. Committee chairmen have been selected to immediately begin work on the details. With the Bi-Centennial celebration in full swing on the eastern seaboard by next May, members may want to plan extended vacations to include the Battlefield Tour as well as other historic places of interest in the Washington area.

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President-Elect Jerry Edelstein has announced that the annual summer Executive Committee meeting will be held on August 2, 1975 at 11:30 A.M. at The Book and Bottle, 17 East Chestnut Street, Chicago. Reminders will be mailed but all new officers, trustees and committee chairmen, as well as past presidents should mark their calendars and plan to attend.

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It is with deep sadness that we must report the death of the noted Civil War and Lincoln historian Paul M. Angle. Mr. Angle, former director of the Chicago Historical Society and Honorary Life Member of the Round Table, passed away at the age of 74 on May 11, 1975. A native of Ohio, Mr. Angle was graduated from Miami University at Oxford, Ohio before receiving his masters degree from the University of Illinois in 1924. Thereafter, he also served as executive secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association, historian of the Illinois State Historical Library, and secretary of the Illinois State Historical Society. In addition to countless articles and book reviews, Mr. Angle's literary achievements included the authorship or editorship of many books, such as "The Lincoln Reader", "Mary Lincoln, Wife and Widow" (with Carl Sandburg) and "Here I Have Lived: A History of Lincoln's Springfield".



## MAY MEETING

The popularity of our founder, Ralph G. Newman, and his well-founded reputation as a speaker were once again demonstrated as the largest audience in many years was in attendance on May 9, 1975. One hundred and six members and guests were present to hear Ralph describe "Abraham Lincoln's Incredible Funeral". Just prior to his remarks, the Round Table's election of officers for the coming year was held. As usual, the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee, which was reported in the May Newsletter, was approved without opposition.

Ralph then began his discussion by taking us back to Ford's Theater on the night of April 14, 1865. He reminded us that the President had previously attended performances at Ford's eight times since the theater was rebuilt after a fire in 1863. On that fatal Good Friday evening, Lincoln and his party had arrived at 8:30, after the play had already begun, to occupy the box which had been personally decorated by Henry Ford, the owner's brother. It was, of course, in that box that the assassination took place.

After the shooting, the President's body was carried to the Petersen House across the street. As word of the tragic event spread, a surging crowd soon gathered, making access to the house difficult for the arriving governmental officials. As soon as he came upon the scene, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton took charge of the situation. As the doctors tended the dying Lincoln in the little rear bedroom, Stanton set up a command post in the front sitting room. There he organized a dragnet in an attempt to capture the conspirators. He also ordered shorthand clerks to immediately take testimony from those who had witnessed the occurrence in the theater. When the Vice-President arrived, Stanton, knowing Mrs. Lincoln's dislike for the Tennessean, suggested that Johnson not stay and the latter complied with the request.

At 7:22 A.M., despite the attention of ten doctors, the President died. Stanton immediately met with the widow and together they planned the funeral. On the next day, Easter Sunday, the body rested in a second floor bedroom at the White House as mourning bells tolled, buildings were draped in black, and ministers delivered hastily rewritten sermons expressing the nation's grief. On Tuesday, the doors of the White House were opened and twenty-five thousand mourners filed past the body. On the next day at 11:00 A.M., six hundred invited guests attended the funeral service in the Green Room, but Mrs. Lincoln and Tad were too upset to be present. The eulogy was delivered by the Rev. Phineas D. Gurley of Washington. After the services, the cortege moved down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol rotunda where three thousand people per hour viewed the remains.

On Friday morning, April 21, the eight-car funeral train left Washington with the body in the last coach. It was to follow in reverse a route similar to the one taken by the then newly-elected president in 1861. That first day there was a stop in Baltimore before arriving in Harrisburg at night. Saturday and Sunday were spent in Philadelphia and the following two days in New York. Thereafter, stops were made in Albany, Buffalo, Cleveland, Columbus, Indianapolis and Chicago. In each place the body was removed from the coach and ceremonies were held. In addition, as the train moved slowly through the countryside between cities, thousands lined the sides of the tracks.

By the time the entourage finally reached Springfield on May 3, the train had been viewed by over seven million people, while one and a half million had passed by the remains. During the trip, the weather had been strongly foreboding with frequent rainstorms. In the Illinois capital, a funeral service was held by Bishop Simpson and, after the rereading of Lincoln's second inaugural address, the martyred President was at last laid to rest after nineteen days of ceremonies and national mourning.

## TO THE CAMPFOLLOWERS (LADIES)

In May, at our last regular meeting of the season, Dan Weinberg delivered a very interesting and educational program on Andrew Johnson and Impeachment. He led us through the various stages which resulted in the trial of Johnson, also describing to us the different Republican factions in Congress (radicals, non-radicals and conservatives) whose members, depending to a large extent on their political beliefs, determined the outcome of the trial. A lively question and answer period followed in which the query was posed as to whether or not the course of history would have differed had Lincoln not succumbed to the assassin's bullet. Dan's belief is that because Lincoln possessed a political flexibility which was totally lacking in Andrew Johnson's character, perhaps the decade immediately following the war would have been different, but in the final analysis reconstruction would probably have taken the same course as it did.

On June 13th, the men and women will meet together at the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner to be held at the Chicago Public Library, in the G.A.R. Rooms. We hope to see you then.

## 1975 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

The efficient planning of Co-Chairmen Brooks Davis, Terry Carr and Bob Walter, the hard work of Registrar Margaret April, and the warm hospitality of the members of the Richmond Civil War Round Table all combined to make our 25th annual Battlefield Tour one of the finest ever. One hundred and twelve campaigners spent four full days enjoying the near perfect weather of springtime Virginia as they viewed the many sites of historic interest.

Upon our arrival in the capital of the Confederacy on Wednesday evening, April 30, we were escorted to our headquarters for the tour, Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge in north Richmond. The selection of the motel site was a prime example of the foresight of our tour chairmen as it was conveniently located next door to the Satin Lady Massage Parlor. There many of our members were able, in the ensuing days, to gain relief from the rigors of the campaign. That first evening after dinner, we were treated to a review of what we were to see the next day, ably delivered by Bill Mallory of the Richmond Round Table. We were most fortunate to have Bill and his fellow Richmondites, Julian Bragg and John Damorel, with us each day as guides, for their knowledge and companionship added immeasurably to the success of the trip.

On Thursday, we began at Massaponax Church where, thru a mix-up, there was no one to greet us and admit us to this historic building which served as both a headquarters and a hospital for the Union army. However, the day was saved as admittance was gained when one of our members exhibited a previously undisclosed felonious talent for breaking and entering. From there it was on to Guinea Station, where we toured the Jackson Shrine and Bob Krick, historian at the National Park headquarters in Fredericksburg, related for us the war-time activities in the area. We then travelled to the North Anna and, after lunch, Cold Harbor for a description of the 1864 battle. That night, after a gracious mint julep at the beautiful White House of the Confederacy, the failures of McClellan in the Peninsula Campaign were described to us by our old friend Joe Cullen.

Friday saw the tour divided, one bus off for a day at Williamsburg while the remainder followed the route of Ambler Johnston's splendid guide book in a review of the 1862 campaign for Richmond. The latter contingent had a box lunch in the field at the Watt House, Porter's headquarters during the Battle of Gaines' Mill. Later, through the efforts of Bill Malloy and Julian Bragg, they were able to view Jackson's gun emplacements overlooking White Oak Swamp. The site is deep in the woods and therefore inaccessible unless you know

(Continued on Page 4)



# THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Cooling, B. Franklin. *Symbol, Sword, and Shield: Defending Washington During the Civil War*. Hamden, Conn.: Shoe String Press, 1975. \$12.50

Dell, Christopher. *Lincoln and the War Democrats: The Grand Erosion of Conservative Tradition*. Rutherford [N.J.]: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1974. \$30.00

Meredith, Roy. *Mr. Lincoln's Camera Man, Mathew B. Brady*. 2nd revised edition. New York: Dover Publications, 1974. \$12.50; paper \$6.95. An unabridged and corrected republication of the original published in 1946 by Scribner's, with a new index of negative numbers.

Sandburg, Carl. *Abe Lincoln Grows Up*. With illustrations by James Daugherty. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1975 (c1928). Paper \$1.95.

Taylor, Joe Gray. *Louisiana Reconstructed, 1863-1877*. Louisiana State University Press, c1974. \$20.00

Trefousse, Hans Louis. *Impeachment of a President: Andrew Johnson, the Black, and Reconstruction*. Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press, 1975. \$10.95

Wills, Mary Alice. *The Confederate Blockade of Washington, D.C., 1861-1862*. Springfield, Virginia: Blockade, 1975. \$7.95

Frassanito, William A. *Gettysburg: A Journey In Time*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1975. \$12.95

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(Continued from Page 3)

where to look. The groups were reunited in the afternoon at Harrison's Landing for a cocktail party at Berkeley plantation overlooking the James River. In this magnificent setting we were greeted by the plantation's present owner, Malcolm Jamieson, whose ancestor had camped on the grounds in 1862 while serving as a drummer boy in the federal army. During the party, the dual positions of host and head bartender were superbly filled by one of our Richmond Co-Chairmen, Hobson Goddin. Later that evening we were joined by Honorary Life Member and battlefield companion, Ed Bearss who spoke to us about the personalities and the armies involved in the Petersburg campaign.

With Ed as our chief guide, Saturday found us first stopping at the perfectly preserved earthworks in Fort Darling on Drewry's Bluff and then visiting the Petersburg battlefield. After viewing the park headquarters and museum and such prominent spots as The Crater and Fort Stedman, we finished the day at Five Forks before heading for the hotel for Fun Night. The highlight of the latter program was a magnificent performance by Harold Howard who most convincingly portrays a young Confederate soldier enroute home at the war's end. The activities of the last day, Sunday, were curtailed by a flight schedule change by the airline, but there was still time for stops at Battle Abbey and Hollywood Cemetery before departing for home with most pleasant memories of a wonderful time had by all.

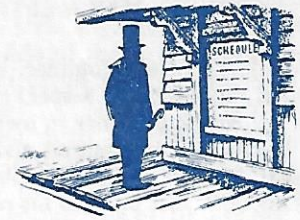
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Among other Round Tables which conducted Battlefield Tours last month were the District of Columbia CWRT, which toured Monocacy on May 17, and Richmond CWRT, which visited Second Bull Run on May 31. Also, our friends of the Springfield CWRT were invited by the Greene County Historical Society to tour, on May 31, the homes of General Carlin, Colonel Baker and Major Reno.

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The Spring quarterly issue of Chicago History, the magazine publication of the Chicago Historical Society, contains the full text of a recently discovered document pertaining to the

# BULLETIN BOARD



## FUTURE MEETINGS

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

June 13: Ladies Night. Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner, and Installation of Officers. Recipient of Award: Ralph G. Newman.

August 2: Summer Executive Committee Meeting, The Book and Bottle, 17 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago. 11:30 A.M.

September 12: Wiley Sword on "The Battle of Shiloh".

October 10: Dr. Alfred C. Raphelson on "The Career of General Alexander Schimmelfennig".

November 14: Dr. George Frederickson on "Lincoln and the Race Issue".

December 12: Dr. Harry Pfanz on "The First Day at Gettysburg".

January 9: William Sullivan on "The Civil War on The Plains".

February 13: James T. Hickey on "Recent Lincoln Document Acquisitions by the Illinois State Historical Library".

March 12: To be announced.

April 9: 350th Regular Meeting. Symposium, chaired by E. B. "Pete" Long, on "Is Civil War History Still a Pertinent Subject?".

May 7: Albert P. Scheller on "Illinois Regiments and Generals in Mississippi".

June 11: Ladies Night. Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at LaSalle Hotel Coffee Shop; all members welcome.

## NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Harold Brown, 111 North Addison Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126.

Robert F. Paprocki, 2704 North Oak Park Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60635.

J. Robert Ziegler, 1064 East Pratt Drive, Palatine, Illinois 60067.

Steven D. Ziegler, 1064 East Pratt Drive, Palatine, Illinois 60067.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

James H. Huber, 1110 Grove Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

Ralph J. Wick, 317 Merrimac, Park Forest, Illinois 60466.



Lincoln assassination, with an introductory note by Ralph Newman. As Ralph points out, the occupants of the front rooms on the first floor of the Peterson House, the residence to which Lincoln was taken after being shot, have been previously unknown. However, this document, a letter written May 5, 1865 by George Francis, identifies himself and his wife, Huldah, as the tenants of that two-room suite. In addition, and of even more importance, the letter goes on to describe the events of the night of April 14-15, 1865, including the comings and goings of the Lincoln family and government officials who had taken over the Francis apartment while the President lay in the little bedroom down the hall.