



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

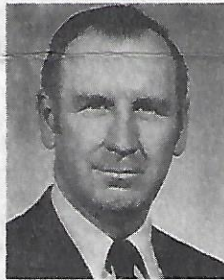
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December, 1975

HARRY W. PFANZ ON THE FIRST DAY AT GETTYSBURG

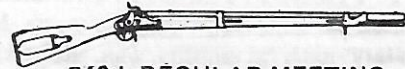
The great three day battle at Gettysburg, the largest and bloodiest engagement ever fought in the western hemisphere, was, to many, the turning point in the course of the Civil War. A Confederate victory would have brought immediate political and economic results favorable to the South. The effect of the Federal triumph, though hailed by Northerners as a cause for rejoicing, was not fully appreciated by most observers until well after the war. Some scholars have felt that the outcome of this pivotal battle was actually determined on the first of the three days of combat: July 1, 1863.



Dr. Harry W. Pfanz

Dr. Harry W. Pfanz, the Chief Historian for the National Park Service, will speak to The Round Table on December 12th about that very important first day at Gettysburg. For ten years, commencing in 1956, Dr. Pfanz served as the historian at Gettysburg National Military Park, during which time he became acquainted with many members of The Round Table. A native of Columbus, Ohio, he attended Ohio State University, receiving graduate degrees in history and political science. During World War II, he served as a field artillery officer in the European theatre. From 1952 to 1956, Harry was a historian in the Department of the Army's office of the Chief of Military History. After his tenure at Gettysburg, he served as superintendent of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial National Historic Site in St. Louis (which includes the "Gateway Arch"). Moving to Washington in 1971, he became the Chief of History and Historic Architecture in the National Park Service's Eastern Service Center. In 1972, he was appointed Chief of Park History in the Park Service's Washington office and, since early 1974, has been Chief Historian. Harry is married, has three children and resides with his family in Rockville, Maryland.

Dr. Pfanz' remarks will highlight the successive engagements of July 1, clashes which alternated between gains and losses for both sides. Although that first day ended technically as a Confederate victory, it resulted in irreparable losses to several of the Southern units Lee would call upon during the remaining two days of the battle. Buford and Reynolds battled against heavy odds to contain the opposition west and north of Gettysburg, yielding in most cases only to the sheer weight of numbers. With Reynolds' death, Doubleday continued the tactical objective until Howard arrived and bolstered the right flank while posting a reserve on the Cemetery heights. Although Lee warned his generals about not wanting a "general engagement until the rest of the Army came up", the opportunity presented by Early's arrival on the Federal flank could not be passed up. The resulting attack routed the Northern



346th REGULAR MEETING

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Harry W. Pfanz

on

The First Day At Gettysburg

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Friday, December 12, 1975

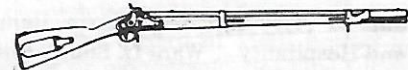
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Chicago Bar Association

29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



At 5:00 p.m. on December 12, 1975, immediately prior to the regular meeting, there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee at the Bar Association. Among the items on the agenda are plans for future Nevins-Freeman Award Dinners. All past presidents and current officers, trustees and committee chairmen are requested to attend.

troops who fled through the town. However, the Confederate assault lost its momentum after the Federal lines were crushed. The forward progress of the pursuing rebels was retarded by casualties and general fatigue which were accentuated by the extreme heat of the day and lack of water. The town became an obstacle which restricted the pursuing Confederates.

Throughout the years critics of the Southern performance on July 1st have asserted that the gray legions could have easily advanced on Cemetery Hill after the Union retreat. General Ewell became the object of much scorn. His adversaries complained that he should have at least taken the unoccupied Culps Hill during the late afternoon, thus making nearby Cemetery Hill untenable for Union soldiers. However, the real issue is the degree of blame which must be placed upon Lee who, as commanding general, failed to give Ewell a definite attack order. The Confederates' failure to move that day against Culps Hill and Cemetery Hill permitted Meade to complete his concentration on the heights at Gettysburg in preparation for July 2nd. With the aid of their strong defensive position, the Federals were able to repulse the ensuing Southern assaults. After two more days of heavy losses, Lee was forced to retreat to Virginia.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Ward C. Smidl, 1104 Whippoorwill Lane, Palatine, Illinois 60067.



from the Editor's pen



One of the strange ironies of the Civil War is the contrasting fates which awaited the Confederate military leaders after the conflict had ended. Many, such as Gordon and Lee, found status and financial security to be their lot in the years after 1865. However, there were others to whom deeds bravely performed during the Civil War did not bring enduring fame, prominence and economic position. For them, the fall of the Confederacy was but the first step of a long downhill slide.

One of those in the front rank of that latter unfortunate group was Bushrod Rust Johnson. A man of paradoxes, Johnson was a Northern Quaker who, in education and profession, took up the ways of war, eventually casting his lot with the South. Born in Ohio, he graduated from West Point in

1840. After service in the Seminole and Mexican Wars, he resigned from the army in 1847 to become a teacher in Kentucky and Tennessee. Joining the Confederate forces as a colonel of engineers, he quickly became a brigadier general, and later a major general, of infantry. Johnson's Civil War career can best be described as capable and efficient, albeit unspectacular. Captured at Donelson and wounded at Shiloh, he returned to participate in the Kentucky Campaign of 1862, the battles of Stones River and Chickamauga, the sieges of Knoxville and Petersburg, and the retreat to Appomattox.

After the war, his fortunes steadily declined. Although in 1870 he was Chancellor of the University of Nashville, by 1880, the year of his death, he was struggling to earn a meager living as a poor dirt farmer in southern Illinois. When he passed away his body was interred at Miles Station, Illinois, just a short distance from his last home. There lay for the next ninety-five years, in a neglected grave in an abandoned cemetery, the mortal remains of a major general of the Confederate States of America, forgotten by the North, where he had been born and had died, and by the South, for whom he had risked his life and his reputation. His cracked tombstone saw no flowers placed by the U.D.C., heard no "Taps" on important holidays, saw no visitors who remembered the feats of glory.

To those who care about the men of 1861-1865, such stories as that of Bushrod Rust Johnson bring a sense of regret, a sadness, maybe even a feeling of guilt. Fortunately there are some who are not willing to let such stories end in a weed-filled graveyard. One such man is Noble K. Wyatt of Alton, Illinois. Mr. Wyatt is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, his great-grandfather having served in the Army of Northern Virginia. Learning of the general's burial site, Mr. Wyatt visited the cemetery and viewed its deplorable condition. Although determined to do something, he realized that nothing of a permanent nature could be accomplished while the general lay where he was. The facilities for future care were just not available.

On a subsequent trip to Nashville, Mr. Wyatt learned that Johnson's wife, who had died in 1858, was buried in that city and that the plot next to her was still owned by the general's family. As the cemetery contains the graves of other Confederate leaders, it is a well-maintained stop on the historical tour of the city. Mr. Wyatt immediately began a campaign to relocate Johnson's grave. Initially providing the necessary financial aid himself, his efforts eventually attracted assistance and support from across the country.

The saga of Bushrod Johnson now has a happy ending. Noble K. Wyatt has seen his dream come true. On August 2, 1975, the remains of the general were disinterred and on August 23rd he was reburied in City Cemetery, Nashville, after an impressive ceremony replete with full military honors. Thus the dignity and respect so long denied has been restored to Bushrod Rust Johnson thru the devotion of one man. Noble K. Wyatt can be justly proud of what he has accomplished, for it goes far beyond his service to his general. In truth, he has taught each of us a lesson, a lesson of what every individual can do to protect our heritage if only he cares enough to act. If we will just adopt the spirit of Noble K. Wyatt the battlefields will be saved, the monuments will be protected from desecration, the historical markers will not be vandalized, the privates, as well as the generals, will not be forgotten. Think about it and then — do something.



A survey of the governments of the several states that comprised the Confederacy has disclosed that eighty-nine widows of former Confederate soldiers are still receiving pensions from the various states. The amounts of these pensions vary from state to state, with Alabama paying the highest, three hundred thirty-five dollars per month. Georgia and Florida currently share the distinction of having the most Civil War widows on the pension rolls, each having thirteen. One of the Florida ladies is only sixty-one years old.

NOVEMBER MEETING

After a fine dinner at the famed Blackhawk Restaurant, seventy-seven members and guests attended the program portion of the November meeting which was held in the G.A.R. Memorial Rooms of the Chicago Public Library Building. In this setting, which will provide the location for our Research Center, President Jerry Edelstein presented our check for five thousand dollars to Thomas Orlando, Special Collections Librarian for the Library. This gift represents the second installment and half-way point of our commitment to fund the Research Center.

Our speaker for the evening was Dr. George M. Fredrickson of Northwestern University. Dr. Fredrickson began his remarks on "Lincoln and Racial Equality" by reminding us that we must view the 16th President in the context of the attitudes of his era, rather than with a modern view. This is especially true because Lincoln said many things which do not always equate with his historical image. For example, during the famous debates with Douglas, he said that he was not in favor of permitting the black man to vote or to serve on juries and that there were basic differences between the races which must result in one being superior and the other inferior. Statements such as this have lead at least one noted Afro-American historian to categorize Lincoln as a white racist.

Dr. Fredrickson feels that this latter view is wrong as it does not take into account the politics of the times. Lincoln was facing a white electorate and opponents who accused Republicans of favoring intermarriage. In the 1850's there were many Northerners, including even the prominent abolitionist Owen Lovejoy, who did believe in the inherent inferiority of the Negro. However, there were others, especially Henry Clay, who felt the only basic difference between blacks and whites was that caused by their respective environments. Clay's theory went on to say that while slavery was an evil, its elimination would be a problem because of white prejudice. Clay thus believed that racial equality was a hopeless utopia and therefore that the only realistic solution was separation of the races through colonization by the blacks outside of America.

Lincoln, a lifelong admirer and disciple of Clay, adopted as his own philosophy this doctrine of separation. Although he was sincerely opposed to slavery as a moral wrong and an economic danger, he too feared the racial antagonism and potential race war which might result from emancipation. While he did not believe that Negroes were inherently inferior, and thus were certainly entitled to basic human rights, he was afraid to give them such rights because he felt the prejudice of whites would prevent the exercise of these rights by blacks in America. Faced with this dilemma, Lincoln viewed colonization as the perfect answer and so, in August of 1862, he called influential black leaders to the White House and urged them to support the Liberian proposal. To emphasize his point, he further stated that both races suffered greatly from living together under slavery, a condition he thought would get worse, not better, after slavery was abolished.

However, faced with the necessity of issuing the Emancipation Proclamation as a political move to prevent intervention by England and France, Lincoln said little after January 1, 1863 to further colonization. Perhaps that was fortunate because, despite its attractiveness in the American political climate of the 1860's, it was actually an unrealistic proposal which could not work.

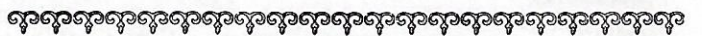
Lincoln also believed that white prejudice was the voice of the majority and, therefore, in a democratic society racial equality could not be forced upon that majority. Once he became president, his racial policy was further complicated by what he understood to be his paramount constitutional duty, to preserve the Union. Thus even if he had felt all along that freeing the slaves was a feasible action, he would not have done so if such a move would have in any way fostered the success of secession.



TO THE CAMPFOLLOWERS (LADIES)

"When Movies Were Movies" was the topic of Jerry Warshaw's excellent talk to us as he discussed one of his favorite interests, silent movies which had Civil War subjects. As Jerry mentioned, what the early film makers termed their "mistakes" actually became the successful techniques still used today. After Jerry concluded his remarks, his wife Joyce showed us several of the movies Jerry had described.

On December 12 our speaker will be a past president of The Round Table, Dan Lapinski, who will describe for us the events of the Blackhawk War. Many of the participants in that early Indian conflict would later rise to prominence during the Civil War period. The meeting will begin at 5:30 P.M. at Stouffer's Restaurant, Randolph at Wabash. For reservations call or write Roberta Krolick, 3126 Violet Lane, Northbrook, Illinois 60062, 498-3126.



As Dick Clark notes in "The New Books", in this issue of the Newsletter, a new edition of Alan T. Nolan's excellent book, "The Iron Brigade", is now available. Published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, this recent edition contains new and additional photographs, as well as an introduction by our own Honorary Life Member, T. Harry Williams. The book received much critical acclaim when it was originally published in 1961. It is a definitive work on the career of this great fighting unit of the Army of the Potomac, the only brigade in that army to consist entirely of soldiers from the western states.

The Confederate Memorial Literary Society has announced that applications are being accepted for its annual awards for historical research and writing on the period of the Confederate States of America. The Jefferson Davis Award is given for book-length narrative history, the Founders Award is presented for research or editing of primary sources resulting in publication, and the Award of Merit honors the outstanding published article or monograph. Deadline for entries is March 1, 1976, and the awards ceremonies will be held on June 3, 1976 at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Further information and application blanks can be obtained by writing to the Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 East Clay Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

The Round Table has received the latest publication of the Confederate Historical Association of Belgium. This twenty-six page publication contains numerous news items of interest to the members of the association, as well as major articles on Matthew F. Maury and the Confederate ships, Georgia and Florida, and a biography of Jefferson Davis. While the text is written in French, one of the articles, in this issue the one pertaining to Jefferson Davis, is reprinted within the publication in English. The association was founded in 1972 in Brussels and its membership includes historians, weapons and artifacts collectors, war games advocates, and stamp and coin collectors, all of whom are interested in the study of the Confederacy. One of its major projects has been to establish a documentation center and library where the membership can pursue their interests. In addition, the association holds two monthly meetings, presents exhibitions, re-enactments, and an arms show, and issues its publication quarterly.

Our old friend and oft-times speaker, Frank Klement of Milwaukee, has taken a year's leave of absence from Marquette University. He and his wife have departed for England, where he will be visiting Professor of American History at the University of Sussex in Brighton.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Basler, Roy P. *Lincoln*. New York: Octagon Books, 1975. Original of 1961. \$10.50

Davis, William C. *Duel between the First Ironclads*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1975. \$8.95

Genovese, Eugene D. *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1974. \$17.50

Hale, Donald R. "We Rode with Quantrill": Quantrill and the Guerrilla War as Told by the Men and Women who were with him, with a True Sketch of Quantrill's Life. Clinton, Missouri: The Printery, 1974. Paper \$2.65

Lord, Francis. *Civil War Collector's Encyclopedia*. Volume 2. W. Columbia, South Carolina: Lord Americana & Research, Inc. \$19.50

Nolan, Alan T. *The Iron Brigade*. New edition with introduction by T. Harry Williams. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1975. \$12.00

United Confederate Veterans. Tennessee Division, S.G. Shepherd Camp No. 941. *Minutes, United Confederate Veterans Camp #941, Wilson County, Tennessee, 1897-1928*. Compiled and edited by Thomas E. Partlow. Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1975. Includes index. \$20.00

Walters, Judith Allison. *Brief Biographies of Twelve Illinois Men Who Fought in the Civil War*. Illustrated with their photographs. Bethel, Washington: Judith Allison Walters, 1975. Paper. \$5.00

Warner, Ezra J. and W. Buck Years. *Biographical Register of the Confederate Congress*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1975. \$15.00

Weichmann, Louis J. *A True History of the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*. Edited by Floyd E. Risvold. New York: Knopf, 1975. \$15.00. An important memoir, never before published.

Wight, Levi Lamoni. *The Reminiscences and Civil War Letters of Levi Lamoni Wight*. Edited by Davis Bitton. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1974. \$7.00

Wilson, Major L. *Space, Time, and Freedom: The Quest for Nationality and the Irrespressible Conflict, 1815-1861*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1974. \$13.95

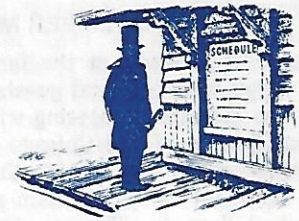
Wood, Forrest G. *The Era of Reconstruction, 1863-1877*. New York: Crowell, 1975. \$3.50

Wyeth, John Allan. *Life of General Nathan Bedford Forrest*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1975. \$20.00. Reprint of the 1899 edition.

Several Round Tables have recently returned from fall field trips. The Harrisburg C.W.R.T. visited Harper's Ferry and the battlefields of 1864 in the Shenandoah Valley. Contingents from the Round Tables of the District of Columbia and Alexandria made a joint visit to Fort Delaware, the federal installation often referred to as the "Andersonville of the North". While there, they were the guests of the Wilmington C.W.R.T. Our recent hosts, the Richmond C.W.R.T., toured South Mountain and Antietam, the site of our own forthcoming campaign.

Our sincere appreciation is once again extended to Bob and Mary Younger of the Morningside Bookshop, who have presented to The Round Table copies of the latest reprints issued by their Morningside Press. The three new books include "Recollections of a Maryland Confederate Soldier and Staff Officer Under Johnston, Jackson and Lee", by McHenry Howard, "The Life of N. B. Forrest", by Dr. John A. Wyeth, and "History of The Fourth South Carolina Infantry", by J. W. Reid. These new volumes will become a part of 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.

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: Roger G. Holloway on Great Britain and the American Civil War.

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

May 5-9: Annual Battlefield Tour to Manassas and Antietam. May 14: 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. John B. Carter, 73 East Elm Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

John M. Coverick, Sr., 12256 South May Street, Chicago, Illinois 60643.

Philip E. Howard, 1428 North State Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Daniel Vetter, 607 Cool Wood Drive, Houston, Texas 77029.

Dr. Felix Millan, 1117 Melbrook Drive, Munster, Indiana 46321.



collection to be established in our Research Center in the Chicago Public Library.

The Virginia Association of Realtors has published a new and expanded edition of the "State Historical Markers of Virginia". This book provides the location and text of all historical markers within the state, three hundred and fifty of which pertain to Civil War events. Copies are available for \$3.00 plus 35 cents postage and can be obtained from the Association, 11 South Tenth Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

The city of Americana, Brazil is unique in that country in that it was founded one hundred years ago by ex-Confederate soldiers, who chose exile rather than voluntarily submit to the federal government. The current population of the city is ninety thousand people, three hundred of whom trace their ancestry directly to the former Southerners. Many of these Confederate descendants still speak English with a slight southern accent and, in their homes, preserve the memory of the Old South. Four times a year they gather for a picnic of southern fried chicken, pecan pie and cornbread. They have formed an association, the American Descendancy Fraternity, which maintains their cemetery and is currently attempting to establish a Confederate museum.