

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVIII, Number 3

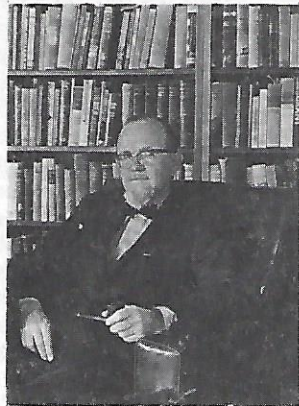
Chicago, Illinois

November 1977

## E. B. "PETE" LONG ON A BROADER APPROACH TO CIVIL WAR STRATEGY

Civil War scholar, author, educator, and Round Table past president and Honorary Life Member E. B. "Pete" Long will return for a most welcome visit on November 11. The subject of his remarks will be "A Broader Approach to Civil War Strategy".

Of his topic, Pete says, "This is a culmination of many articles and talks on Civil War strategy. We have concentrated too much on both Virginia and the Mississippi Valley. We have argued over which one is most important, and as a result we have neglected many other strategic aspects of the Civil War. When we look at the whole, we get an entirely new idea of military, political, social, and emotional aspects. We need to look at more of the day by day events. I hope and trust this talk will be controversial, and look forward to sharing these thoughts with my many friends of The Civil War Round Table."

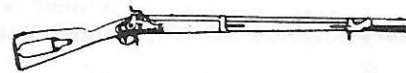


E. B. "Pete" Long

There is probably no one better qualified to deal with a subject such as this, for there is probably no one who knows more about the Civil War than Pete Long. He has literally devoted his entire life to the study of the events of 1861-1865 and spent an entire decade in full-time research for Bruce Catton's *Centennial History of the Civil War*. For that work he collected, analyzed, and arranged more than nine million words of research notes on 26,000 pages while visiting some 125 university and historical libraries. A set of these notes was presented by Doubleday & Company to the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. He also spent five years aiding Allan Nevins in a research and editorial capacity for the last two volumes of the *Ordeal of the Union*.

Pete was born in Wisconsin and graduated from high school there in 1937. He attended Miami University of Ohio and Northwestern University before going to work, first as a financial reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*, and later as editor of the *Morris (Illinois) Herald*. From 1944-52 he was with the Chicago bureau of the Associated Press, much of the time as radio news editor. From 1952-55 he served as associate editor of *American Peoples Encyclopedia* and then joined Bruce Catton as Research Director for his *Centennial History of the Civil War*.

Since 1970, Pete has been both Associate Professor of American Studies in the History Department and



365th REGULAR MEETING

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E. B. "PETE" LONG

on

A Broader Approach To  
Civil War Strategy

Friday, November 11, 1977

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Chicago Bar Association,  
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Myron Cohn has announced that there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee at the Bar Association at 5:00 P.M. on November 11, 1977, just prior to the regular Round Table meeting. Several important items are on the agenda. All current officers, trustees, and committee chairmen and all past presidents are urged to attend.

Consultant to the Archives at the University of Wyoming. Prior to that he was visiting lecturer in history at the University of California, Riverside, 1967-68; University of California, San Diego, 1968; and University of Illinois, Chicago Circle, 1968-69. Pete was awarded an honorary degree as Doctor of Literature by Lincoln College, Lincoln, Illinois, in 1961.

Other honors include the Harry S. Truman Award for Civil War History, 1961; award of merit, Illinois Civil War Centennial Commission, 1963 and 1965; award of commendation, Oklahoma Civil War Centennial Commission, 1965; award of distinction and bronze medallion, U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission, 1966; and gold medal, District of Columbia Civil War Round Table, 1967.

In addition to his best known work, *The Civil War Day-by-Day*, published in 1971, Pete has been involved in

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# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

## OFFICERS

President ..... Myron Cohn  
 Senior Vice President ..... Glen N. Wiche  
 Vice President ..... Irwin Levin  
 Vice President ..... Robert G. Walter  
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 Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terms expiring in 1978: John E. Comerford, Raymond J. Jankovich, Jr., Hugh P. McAniff, Marvin Sanderman.  
 Terms expiring in 1979: Donald E. Anderson, Henry Pomerantz, William J. Sullivan, J. Robert Ziegler.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership ..... Ward C. Smidl  
 Publicity ..... Marvin Sanderman  
 House ..... James R. Girman  
 Nominating ..... Terry Carr  
 By-Laws ..... Robert C. Grossman  
 Battlefield Tour ..... Merlin E. Sumner, Glen N. Wiche  
 Research Center ..... Brooks Davis  
 Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner ..... Irwin Levin  
 Battlefield Preservation ..... Henry Pomerantz

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.



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numerous other publications. These include: *As Luck Would Have It*, co-authored with Otto Eisenschiml and published in 1947; *The Civil War*, Vol II, *The Picture Chronicle*, co-authored with Ralph Newman and also issued separately in a revised edition as *The Civil War Digest*. In addition he authored "President Lincoln and General Grant" which appeared in *Lincoln for the Ages*, edited by Ralph Newman; served as editor of the new edition of James Ford Rhodes' *History of the Civil War*, 1961; and compiler and annotator of the General Section of *Civil War Books, A Critical Bibliography*, Volume II, edited by James I. Robertson, Jr., and published in 1969.

## from the Editor's pen



(This month we turn our pen over to Henry Pomerantz, our delegate to the recently held 3rd Annual National Congress of Civil War Round Tables, for a report on its activities.)

The Congress met in Jackson, Mississippi on October 6-8, 1977 with 125 delegates from Round Tables in the United States and Australia. Thursday evening's program began with Dr. O.E. Cunningham's remarks on the "Personalities at Vicksburg." The next morning the National Park Service presented their film on the "Raising of the Cairo." This film is available free of charge by writing to the Vicksburg National Military Park. The salvaged portions of the Cairo are now resting on the battlefield and plans are underway for its reconstruction next spring, hopefully to be finished within five years.

The central theme of the Battlefield Preservation Panel presented on Friday was the present status and future planned efforts to protect the integrity of battlefield sites which have been ignored, neglected, and misused. It should be the goal of every Round Table this year and next to become involved with a battlefield site preservation project.

Looking at the status of Manassas today, the Marriott Great America project fortunately appears dead. Marriott is now seeking to obtain land and build its park in Howard County, Maryland where they are receiving strong opposition from the local landowners. Although Marriott still owns the land where Longstreet's Corps launched the decisive counterattack to end the Second Battle of Manassas, it is our understanding that both Pope and Marriott share a career demise in Prince William County. The Harris bill now in Congress proposes the acquisition by the government of 1500 acres of additional land to protect the integrity of the park from future encroachments. The new Manassas Park historian, Mr. Dennis Kelly, has expressed his plans for establishing additional markers for a better and more comprehensive guide tour through the Second Manassas battle.

At Gettysburg, proposals have been made for restoring the field with peach trees in the orchard and wheat in the wheatfield. It would be nice if the trees and outgrowths which obstruct views and which were not present during the battle could also be removed. In Atlanta, the famous Cyclorama is in jeopardy of being lost. Funds are desperately needed to restore the painting which has been severely damaged by water from a leaking roof. A delegate from the Atlanta Round Table expressed his opinion that Atlanta is experiencing reconstruction in reverse. The Mayor and city council are not sympathetic to anything related to the Civil War. At Kennesew, little intrusion has taken place but future projects should and could be developed in the Dallas, New Hope, and Picketts Mill areas. At Fredericksburg and Wilderness large tracts of land are in jeopardy, especially from land developers. Jerry Russell, National Chairman of the Congress told the group to be ready to act on behalf of these areas as well as Antietam, Five Forks, Appomattox, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Chancellorsville, Manassas, Perryville and other sites. He reminded us what our failure to object has allowed to happen at Nashville and Franklin.

Also on Friday, Mr. Fred Brooks of Baton Rouge spoke about the conditions existing at Port Hudson. In 1965 the State of Louisiana purchased 600 acres out of approximately 10,000 acres on the site where the battle was fought. Since that time nothing has been done with those 600 acres

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## October Meeting

The flight, capture, and captivity of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and some of the myths associated with these events, was the subject of remarks by John Hunter when he addressed 81 Round Table members and their guests on October 14.

Following a review of the highlights of Davis' life up to the final days of the Civil War, John began his discussion with Lee's notification to Davis, on April 2, 1865, that Petersburg would be abandoned, leaving Richmond vulnerable to attack. Davis moved the government to Danville, Virginia, where it stayed until April 10, the day news was received of Lee's surrender. At Greensborough, North Carolina, Davis' next stop, the citizens refused to house the government officials, fearing Yankee reprisals, and Davis continued south to Charlotte, North Carolina. There, he learned of Lincoln's assassination and mourned him as the best friend the South had in the enemy's camp.

Davis' plan was to reach Confederate troops in the Trans-Mississippi and continue the war, or to establish a government in exile in Mexico. He unsuccessfully urged General Joe Johnston, who was negotiating surrender with Sherman, to break away and move south. Following a meeting with the last four members of his cabinet to discuss the route, Davis struck out for Texas at the end of April. As they traveled, however, dissenters began to defect, and the cavalry escort was discharged in early May.

At this point, John turned his attention to the question of the supposedly lost Confederate treasury, pointing out that, first of all, only about \$500,000, not \$2 million, left Richmond with Davis. Part of this money was used to pay Confederate troops and the rest distributed in various ways. That Davis kept none of it for himself is evidenced by the fact that after the war his family was always strapped for money.

The U.S. government, in addition to posting a \$100,000 reward for the fleeing Davis, stated that the captors would be allowed to keep the Confederate treasury. The night before the capture, two Federal units, the 4th Michigan and 1st Wisconsin, fought a pitched battle, each thinking the other was the Confederates. News of the capture, on May 10, and the rumor that Davis was dressed in woman's clothing, which persisted for 100 years after the war, spread like wildfire.

In explaining the way the President was dressed, Mrs. Davis said she had thrown a waterproof and a black shawl over him. She admitted he was trying to avoid recognition, but denied he was dressed like a woman. Her story was corroborated by Col. Henry Harndon of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry who reported that, in fact, Davis was otherwise neatly dressed as a gentleman. The waterproof and shawl are now at the Davis home in Mississippi. The waterproof could be either a man's or a woman's; the shawl, although definitely feminine, is not unlike that worn by Lincoln.

Davis was sent by ship to Fort Monroe where he was to spend the next two years. He was placed under heavy guard in a sparsely-furnished cell and fed soldier's rations. Under orders from the War Department, Davis was forcibly placed in irons. This fact, however, received widespread unfavorable publicity and five days later, on orders from Stanton, the shackles were removed. For five weeks Davis was not permitted to see anyone, and only after six months was he allowed to go outside. When he was finally permitted to correspond with his wife, both his letters and hers were censored.

The Federal government was reluctant to bring Davis to trial, and it was not until two years later, in May 1867, that a hearing was held in Richmond. The government asked for a continuance and Davis was released on bail, the crowds cheering him as he went to his hotel. The government did not want to proceed with his trial on

## To The Campfollowers (Ladies)

At our October meeting, Civil War Round Table member Merlin Sumner delivered a most interesting talk on the 67th Ohio, in which several members of his family served. This month we will be fortunate enough to hear CWRT member Dan Lapinski, who will throw some new light on "The Death and Resurrection of John Wilkes Booth". Because of the controversy concerning the recent motion picture on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, this is certain to end with a lively question and answer period. The facilities of the Chelsea Room of the Continental Plaza Hotel were so delightful that we will again meet there at 5:00 pm, with the talk at about 5:30 pm, to be followed by dinner of your choice. The hotel is at the corner of Michigan and Delaware and parking is available in the building or in the open lot at the corner of Michigan and Oak. Please join us and bring a friend to what promises to be one of the outstanding meetings of the season. Add your reservation to your husband's card or telephone Margaret H. April, 787-1860.

Noble K. Wyatt, who almost single-handedly caused the removal of Bushrod Johnson's remains from an unmarked grave in Illinois to an honored resting place in Nashville and the erection of a monument to the Confederate general on the battlefield at Chickamauga, will be honored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Chicago Chapter 858, at a luncheon meeting to be held in Chicago at 1 o'clock p.m. on November 12, 1977. The ceremonies, which will be held at Stouffer's Restaurant, at Randolph and Wabash, will culminate with Mr. Wyatt being presented with the Chapter's Jefferson Davis Medal and Certificate for Historical Endeavors. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting and assist in giving to Mr. Wyatt this well-deserved recognition can contact Lee Wilkin by phone during the day at 873-1005, or by writing to her at 16700 South Oconto, Tinley Park, Illinois 60477.

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The Lee-Jackson Foundation has announced plans to erect an historical display on the battlefield at Cross Keys. The site of the display will be that portion of the terrain known as "Victory Hill." The purpose of this portion of the Foundation's activities is to provide interpretive markings on the many battlefields of Jackson's Valley campaign, most of which are now unmarked and can only be followed by a modern student with the help of a very knowledgeable guide. Plans for the Cross Keys display call for three panels, one detailing Confederate action, the second describing Union action, and the third containing a map of the entire battlefield. For anyone wishing to assist in this worthy project or any of the other activities of the Foundation, such as the restoration and maintenance of the various homes of Lee and Jackson, the address of the Foundation is 405 Commonwealth Building, Charlottesville, Virginia 22901.

treason and insurrection charges because his defense would be that the Southern states had a right to secede. This would force a court decision on the right of secession, which the Federal authorities wished to avoid. Finally, President Johnson published a general amnesty and the prosecution of Davis and other Confederate leaders was dropped. However, in 1876, a bill which restored civil rights to all Confederates specifically excluded Davis, dealing, as John put it, "a final blow to the aging Ex-President of the Confederacy."



## THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Alexander, E.P. *Military Memoirs of a Confederate. A Critical Narrative.* [Dayton, Ohio]: Morningside Bookshop, 1977. \$22.50. Facsimile edition of the Scribner edition of 1907.

Balsiger, David and Charles E. Sellier, Jr. *The Lincoln Conspiracy.* Los Angeles: Schick Sunn Classics, 1977. Paperback, \$2.25.

*Civil War Maps in the Library of Congress, An Annotated List.* Falls Church, Va.: The Sterling Press, 1977. \$7.95. Paper, \$5.95.

Fuller, Claud E. and R.D. Steuart. *Firearms of the Confederacy.* Lawrence, Mass.: Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1977. \$25.00. Copyright 1944.

Hotchkiss Map Collection in the Library of Congress. Falls Church, Va.: The Sterling Press, 1977. \$6.95. Paper, \$4.95.

Noble, Glenn. *John Brown and the Jim Lane Trail.* Broken Bow, Neb.: Purcells, Inc., 1977.

*The White House of the Confederacy Cook Book.* Richmond: Museum of the Confederacy, 1977. \$5.00.

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The deadline for mailing in ballots on the vital issue of whether women should be admitted in The Round Table has been extended to November 11, 1977. For those who may have misplaced their ballot, an additional copy is enclosed herewith. It would be hard to understand how anyone interested in the future of our Round Table could fail to participate in this most important decision. Therefore, we urge everyone who has not already done so to complete the ballot and mail same to the office of The Round Table, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611 before the above-mentioned deadline.

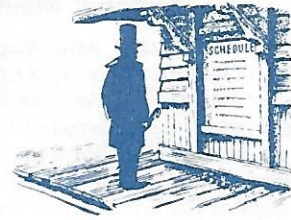
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and over the past year relic hunters have raked the area. Only recently has a bond sale been able to raise \$700,000 to start a project of preservation. The plan calls for a three-hour walking tour and several exhibits, especially at Fort Desperate.

A report by the chief historian of the Park Service was made concerning the status of the land acquisition program. During the past three years property has been purchased at Antietam (320 acres), Fredericksburg (1300 acres), Gettysburg (360 acres), Manassas (114 acres), and Petersburg (129 acres). We also heard Don Garrett's interesting remarks about the "CSS Ram Arkansas," Albert P. Scheller's "Vicksburg from the Union Viewpoint," and Dr. William K. Scarborough's "Vicksburg From the Confederate Viewpoint." The group was then given a tour of the Old Capitol Museum and the Archives building, as well as a reception at the Governor's mansion.

Promptly at 7:00 A.M. Saturday, our long-time friend, Ed Bearss, launched the morning breakfast meeting with his talk on "The Significance of Champion Hill," certainly one of the decisive battles of the Vicksburg campaign. Despite the torrential rain, the group traveled to the site of Champion Hill and was present for the ceremony dedicating the battlefield as a National Historic Landmark. Mrs. Champion was there to receive a plaque from the National Park Service director. After the ceremonies a march through the abandoned old Middle

## BULLETIN BOARD



### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

November 11: E.B. "Pete" Long on "A Broader Approach to Civil War Strategy".

December 9: Dr. Lewis H. Croce on "Lincoln and the Federal Bureaucracy".

January 13: To be announced.

February 10: To be announced.

March 10: Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr.—Topic to be announced.

April 14: Marshall D. Krolick on "Brandy Station".

May 3-7: Annual Battlefield Tour to Chancellorsville, Wilderness, Fredericksburg, etc.

May 12: To be announced.

June 9: Ladies' Night, Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Wieboldt's Men's Grill, 9th Floor, State and Madison; all members welcome.

### New Members

Dr. Michael R. Cunningham, 208 Alexander Blvd., Elmhurst, Illinois 60126.

John M. Goverick, Sr., 12256 S. May St., Chicago, Illinois 60643.

George W. Robinson, 107 W. Berkley Dr., Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004.

James C. Pantazi, 3755 N. Kedvale Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60641.

George E. Bedingfield, 303 W. Berkley Dr., Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004.

### Changes of Address

Frank G. Rankin, 1816 Spring Dr., Louisville, Kentucky 40205.

E. C. Johnson, 2681 N. Orchard St., Chicago, Illinois 60614.

Dr. A. M. Giddings, 31 N. Washington, Hart Motor Inn, Battle Creek, Michigan 49013.

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Road and up Champion Hill was led by Russel, Bearss and Scheller. Next stop was the defenses of the Big Black River, followed by a tour of the Vicksburg Park. Vicksburg itself has not been attacked by outside commercialism and industrialization.

That evening we heard former Mississippi Governor James P. Coleman talk about "Mississippi in the Civil War." According to his account, the state suffered from total devastation resulting in a loss of 25% of the eligible male population between 1860 and 1870, as well as a loss of 80% of its financial wealth in property values. Mr. Coleman pointed out that it took the state until 1920 to match the wealth it had in 1860.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies Mr. Russell was unanimously nominated and re-elected as Chairman and President for another term, with next year's Congress to be held in Richmond, Virginia.