

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVIII, Number 9

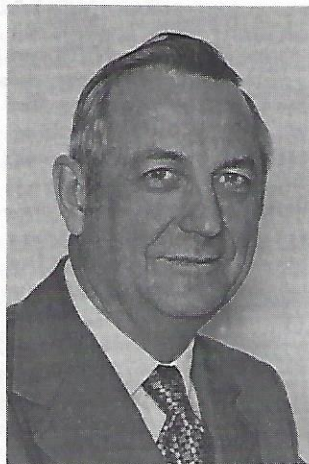
Chicago, Illinois

May, 1978

KENNETH CARLEY ON THE SIOUX UPRISING OF 1862

Minnesota's war within a war, "The Sioux Uprising of 1862," will be the subject of remarks by Kenneth Carley when he addresses The Round Table on May 12. As he will point out, fighting the Sioux was the first combat action seen by many Minnesota recruits who later fought the Confederates.

During August and September, 1862, the Sioux, or Dakota Indians, angered by the encroachment of settlers on their reservation along the Minnesota River, and for many other reasons, attacked whites in several places. Before the uprising could be brought under control, at least five hundred white settlers and soldiers were killed and considerable property was destroyed in southern Minnesota. Measured in terms of the number of lives lost, the outbreak was one of the worst in U.S. history, and it launched a series of Indian wars on the northern plains that did not end until 1890 at the Battle of Wounded Knee in South Dakota.



Kenneth Carley

Most of the soldiers, who would later fight the Confederates, were in the force led by Henry Hastings Sibley, Minnesota's first state governor. They finally put down the uprising on September 23, 1862, in the so-called Battle of Wood Lake. Many Indians were captured, but many more escaped to the prairies of Dakota Territory and elsewhere. Thirty-eight of the captured were hanged at Mankato, December 26, 1862, in what has been called "America's greatest mass execution."

Mr. Carley, who has a longstanding interest in both the Civil War and Minnesota history, is well-qualified to speak on the Sioux War. He is the author of *The Sioux Uprising of 1862*, a picture history which was first published by the Minnesota Historical Society in 1961, and which was revised and expanded by him in 1976.

Born and raised in Minnesota, Mr. Carley graduated with a degree in journalism (cum laude) from the University of Minnesota in 1939. Following a two year stint on a country weekly, he joined the picture desk of the *Minneapolis Star* in 1941. For more than 26 years he worked, first on the *Star* and later for its sister paper, the *Minneapolis Tribune*. Most of that time he served as assistant editor of the *Sunday Tribune's Picture Magazine*. He also reviewed books for the *Tribune*, many of them on various phases of American history, with emphasis on the Civil War. Reviewing Civil War books so



371st REGULAR MEETING

KENNETH CARLEY

on

The Sioux Uprising of 1862

Friday, May 12, 1978

Chicago Bar Association

29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

An important Executive Committee Meeting will be held in a separate meeting room at the Bar Association at 5:00 p.m. on May 12, 1978, just prior to the regular meeting scheduled for that date. Among the items on the agenda are the site of the 1979 Battlefield Tour. All current officers, trustees, and committee chairmen, as well as all past presidents, are urged to attend.

sparked his interest in the subject that in 1954 he helped found the Twin Cities Civil War Round Table.

In 1961, he translated his interest in the War into a series of *Picture Magazine* articles. These pieces described Minnesota troop participation in the War (Minnesota was a new state and had only 11 infantry regiments). The focal point of the articles consisted of six paintings in the Minnesota State Capitol showing actions like the famed stand of the First Minnesota at Gettysburg, the Second Minnesota's charge up Missionary Ridge, the Fourth Minnesota entering Vicksburg, and the charge of various Minnesota troops (and others) on Shy's Hill during the Battle of Nashville. These articles became the basis for Mr. Carley's first book, *Minnesota in the Civil War*, published in 1961 by Ross and Haines Inc., Minneapolis. During his time on the *Tribune* staff, Mr. Carley also reviewed books and wrote articles for the Minnesota Historical Society's quarterly, *Minnesota History*. He has been editor of that magazine since 1968.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

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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.



On May 27, 1978, the Martin-Mitchell Museum and the Naperville Park District will jointly present a day-long series of programs associated with the Civil War. From 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 p.m., various activities will be presented at the Museum itself, which is located on Aurora Road in Naperville. Included will be the official opening of two military display rooms. Guided tours will also be provided of the entire Museum, an encampment of a reactivated Civil War regiment, and several old Naperville homes which have been restored and moved to the grounds of the Museum. At 7:30 P.M. that same evening, at the Naperville North High School, the First Brigade Band of Wisconsin will present a Civil War band concert, featuring the band's authentic Civil War instruments and uniforms. There will be a \$2.00 admission charge for the band concert, but there will be no fee for the activities at the Museum. Further information can be obtained by calling the Naperville Park District, 420-4200.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At the April meeting, Terry Carr, Co-Chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced the following proposed slate of officers for the 1978-1979 year:

President	Glen N. Wiche
Senior Vice President	Merlin E. Sumner
Vice President	Robert G. Walter
Vice President	Hugh P. McAniff
Secretary	James Girman
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Assistant Secretary	Marvin Goldsher
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Trustee	James H. Huber
Trustee	Irwin Levin
Trustee	Daniel R. Weinberg

The election will be held during the May meeting, at which time additional nominations for any of the above officers may be made from the floor. Installation of the new officers will be part of the program at the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner on June 9th. Four current members of the Board of Trustees, Donald E. Anderson, Henry Pomerantz, William J. Sullivan and J. Robert Ziegler, will remain in office for the coming year as they complete their two-year terms.

FOURTH ANNUAL ROUND TABLE CONGRESS

Jerry Russell, National Chairman of the Congress, has announced the program for the fourth annual meeting, to be held this year in Richmond, Virginia on September 28-30. The impressive list of speakers includes Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson, who will deliver the keynote address on Thursday evening. The topic of his remarks will be "Virginia in the Confederacy." Other speakers include Dr. Daniel P. Jordan of Virginia Commonwealth University, who will discuss "Richmond-First City of the Confederacy," Dr. Robert Meinhard of Winona State University, who will head a panel on recent developments in battlefield preservation, Mrs. Emma-Jo Davis, of the U.S. Army Transportation Museum, who will describe the Army's preservation efforts at Ft. Craddock, Dr. James Moore of Virginia Commonwealth University, who will speak on the "Confederate Cabinet," and Dr. Ludwell H. Johnson III, of William and Mary College, whose topic will be "Jefferson Davis-President of the Confederacy." Also, Bob Krick and Josh Billings will discuss, respectively, "Confederate and Union Generals in Virginia." The concluding address at the final banquet on Sunday evening will be delivered by Dr. Louis Manarin, Virginia State Archivist, who will speak on "Robert E. Lee of Virginia." In addition to the various meetings, there will also be a tour of the Petersburg-Five Forks Battlefield areas, conducted by Ed Bearss, and visits to Battle Abbey, the Museum of the Confederacy, and the House of Delegates where the Confederate Congress met. Optional tours will also be offered of the Richmond area on Thursday afternoon and of the other Richmond battlefields on Sunday morning. The registration fee for the Congress, which includes all meals, programs and tours (except the optional tours) is \$115.00. Lodging is not included. A \$15.00 discount will be offered to anyone registering prior to September 15th. For reservations or other information, write to Jerry Russell, CWRT Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72217.

RESERVE THE DATE!

June 9, 1978

**NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD DINNER
HONORING BELL I. WILEY**

APRIL MEETING by David R. Richert

The Round Table meeting on April 14 was a special occasion. That it was expected to be was clear from the larger than usual attendance, 103 members and guests. They came anticipating a scholarly yet colorful discussion of the largest cavalry battle ever fought on the North American Continent, the Battle of Brandy Station, by fellow member Marshall D. Krolick. No one left disappointed.

Marshall began his talk by going back almost two years before the battle, to July, 1861—First Bull Run. It was there that the Union troops first met the Confederate horsemen known as “The Black Horse”. In the months that followed, they and their leader, J.E.B. Stuart, became the nightmare of the Federal soldier. Their every deed was magnified a hundredfold—their legend grew to the point where they were considered invincible. There was no doubt that they ruled the field by June, 1863. However, as Marshall explained, after two years the farm boys and factory workers of the North, who made up the now unified cavalry corps which Hooker had formed, had learned how to ride and fight. What they needed, he said, was pride, the pride that comes from success.

With this background provided, Marshall set the stage for the battle itself. Following Chancellorsville, Lee had decided on an invasion of the North. To do so, however, he had to steal a march on Joe Hooker; Stuart was to screen his movements. To show off the glory of his men, Stuart held a large review and ball on June 5 near Culpepper Court House, Virginia. The Federals noted the activity, but were uncertain of its meaning. Halleck felt a cavalry raid was being planned, and the Union Chief of Cavalry, Alfred Pleasonton, supported his theory. Hooker was not convinced, but ordered Pleasonton to act. As Marshall pointed out, however, confusion has long existed over just what Pleasonton was to do.

According to Pleasonton, whose explanation was generally accepted for 75 years, he was to make a reconnaissance in force toward Culpepper, but was not to fight. Thus, the theory has grown up that the battle was accidental. But, according to Marshall, nobody looked at the facts. Hooker's orders, given both orally and in writing, were actually very clear. Pleasonton was to cross the Rappahannock with the object of dispersing and destroying the enemy force. Nowhere did it say he was to conduct a reconnaissance.

The Federal plan called for simultaneous crossings of the Rappahannock at two points. The left wing, consisting of Gregg's Third Division and Duffie's Second Division, was to cross at Kelly's Ford; the right, consisting of Buford's First Division, at Beverly Ford. Each was accompanied by a brigade of infantry. The plan assumed that Stuart was at Culpepper. However, he had moved north to Fleetwood Hill, near Brandy Station, to guard the Confederate flank for the invasion north. Stuart was thus where Gregg and Buford were to unite for the move to Culpepper. His troops, however, were badly positioned. The various brigades were widely scattered, inferior commanders were in key positions near the fords, and he had artillery closer to the river than cavalry. The reason for this military lapse, Marshall feels, was simply carelessness borne of overconfidence. For two years Stuart had been the attacker—“The Black Horse” had nothing to fear from the Yankees.

Buford, crossing at Beverly Ford, surprised the Confederate pickets, and as the Federal forces advanced, the fighting slowly spread. Stuart moved up additional men to the vicinity of St. James Church where both sides established battle lines. By noon, the Confederate pressure seemed to be building, and the Federals tried to put them back on the defensive with a charge. The Union forces were driven back, but the charge did cause the Confederates to



FOR SALE: Various issues of Civil War Times Illustrated (especially in volumes III through XIII) and American History Illustrated. One dollar each, plus postage. Contact Mrs. Warren E. Pabst, 131 Page Avenue, Lyndhurst, New Jersey.

April Meeting Continued

pause, and the fighting lulled into intermittent skirmishing. Buford, by now, was beginning to wonder what had happened to Gregg.

Crossing late at Kelly's Ford, Gregg was observed by Confederate pickets. Stuart had been notified and sent reserve forces to Stevensburg to cut him off. However, using an unguarded road apparently forgotten by Stuart, Gregg moved to Brandy Station. His arrival from the rear gave Stuart his second surprise of the day, and Stuart began moving troops back from the church to Fleetwood Hill.

For the next hour and a half, this hill became a major battleground—charge met countercharge with sabres and pistols the arms of the day. It was, as Marshall described it, a battle “the likes of which had never been seen before on the American continent, and the likes of which would never be seen again.” Battle lines were non-existent and each regiment charged when ready, held the hill for a period, and was displaced. Finally, force of numbers forced Gregg to withdraw to Brandy Station. He had not received support from either Duffie or Buford. Duffie could have reached him quickly from his position at Stevensburg, but he obeyed an earlier order to advance to Brandy Station by another route which required backtracking. Pleasonton, who was with Buford, had not advanced since doing so would have exposed his rear and supply and withdrawal line to Beverly Ford. His hope was that Gregg would push the Confederates into Buford.

Finally, just after 3 p.m., Pleasonton began an orderly withdrawal back across the river. Stuart, meanwhile, had called on Lee, at Culpepper, for infantry support. Pleasonton later claimed he was forced to withdraw because of the infantry. However, as Marshall pointed out, the Confederate infantry was never involved. But the irony was that while Pleasonton had not seen the infantry, they were there. Hooker, attaching no significance to the report, still considered a cavalry attack the Confederate intent. By disregarding the infantry, he lost the opportunity to discern Lee's invasion plans. Marshall also noted that the supposed capture of Confederate documents, disclosing Southern plans, simply never took place. It was another falsehood of Pleasonton's.

The Battle of Brandy Station, Marshall concluded, accomplished nothing at all militarily. After the fight everyone was where they started from, and it didn't affect Lee's invasion of the North. However, Marshall made clear that the impact was important, as important as that of many other major battles. Stuart knew he had been fought to a standstill, and worse, he was surprised. He was criticized in the Richmond press, and seeking a deed that would restore his lost glory, he rode around the Army of the Potomac and away from Gettysburg. Lee was thus deprived of his eyes just when he needed them most.

On the Union side, the battle gave the Federal horse soldier the pride he sought, for he had not been bested this time. “Truly,” said Marshall, “‘The Black Horse’ was dead and its epitaph would forever read, ‘killed at Brandy Station.’”

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Church, Frank L. *Civil War Marine: A Diary of The Red River Expedition, 1864.* Edited and annotated by James P. Jones and Edward F. Keuchel. Washington, D.C. History and Museums Division, U.S. Marine Corps, 1975. Pbk 8½ x 11. \$1.65

Oates, Stephen B. *With Malice toward None: The Life of Abraham Lincoln.* New York: New American Library, 1978. Pbk. \$2.95

Steffen, Randy. *The Horse Soldier, 1776-1943.* Volume I: The Revolution, The War of 1812, The Early Frontier, 1776-1850. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1977. \$25.00

Steffen, Randy. *The Horse Soldier, 1776-1943.* Volume II: 1851-1880. \$25.00

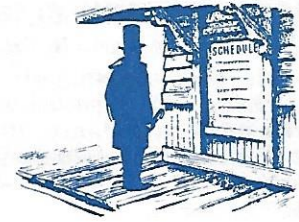
It is with regret that we announce the death of a long-time member of The Round Table, Everett Lewy. Mr. Lewy, a Chicago attorney, passed away on April 13, 1978. Many years ago, he addressed The Round Table on the subject of the Battle of Chickamauga. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family.

The large bust of Abraham Lincoln located at his tomb in Springfield has been given an extensive cleaning by the State of Illinois. After the work is done, a protective coating will be applied to the bronze bust to protect it from the constant rubbing of Lincoln's nose by tourists who believe the tradition that this action will bring them good luck.

The University of Rochester has been given a letter in which President Lincoln said he did not think his second inaugural address, calling for "malice toward none" and "charity for all," would be popular immediately. The letter, written to an Upstate New York newspaper editor, was donated to the University by Mr. Thomas D. Spencer of New Canaan, Connecticut. In the March 15, 1865 correspondence, the 16th President stated that he expected the inaugural address, delivered eleven days earlier, "to wear as well as—perhaps better than—anything I have produced; but I believe it is not immediately popular." The letter was written to Mr. Spencer's great-great-grandfather, Thurlow Weed, founder of the *Albany Evening Journal* and a prominent Republican politician.

In a ceremony held recently in Franklin, Tennessee, the mortal remains of Confederate Lt. Col. William Shy were reburied in his original grave. As we reported in a recent issue of the Newsletter, Col. Shy's body had been removed from the grave in December by apparent grave robbers, and had been left sitting on top of the casket. However, because of the bizarre circumstances, Tennessee law enforcement officials at first did not realize that the body was Shy's and thought that a murder had been committed. The reburial ceremony was attended by approximately 75 people, but was marked by an extremely heavy thunderstorm which interrupted the proceedings. Confederate, Tennessee and American flags were draped over a new casket, which was sealed inside a steel vault in the ground. The original cast iron coffin, from which Shy's body had been removed by the thieves, has been donated to the Carter House, a Civil War Museum in Franklin.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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

May 12: Kenneth Carley on "The Sioux Uprising of 1862".

June 9: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers. Award Recipient—Dr. Bell I. Wiley.

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

Last Tuesday of each month: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Caravelle Motel, River Road and Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont; all members welcome.

NEW MEMBERS

David Murphy, 247 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

William W. Nugent, 618 Melrose Avenue, Kenilworth, Illinois 60043.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Dr. John Howser, 715 Lake Street, Oak Park, Illinois 60301.

Herman M. Lazerson, 222 E. Pearson Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Thomas Orlando, 2326 N. Lincoln Park West, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

Memorial Day ceremonies will be held in the theater of the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center at 11:00 A.M. on May 30, 1978. In addition to selections of Civil War music, the program will include readings by various Chicago celebrities of appropriate Civil War writings. The general public is invited to these ceremonies. Entrance to the theater can be obtained through the Randolph Street door of the Cultural Center Building at Randolph and Michigan, Chicago.

Lumir Buresh, who is a member of both our Round Table and the Kansas City Civil War Round Table, has advised us that good progress is being made on the Battle of Westport marker project. Thirteen of the markers are now in place, and the remaining ten should be installed by October, 1978. In addition, the Kansas Legislature now has pending before it a bill to add an additional 168 acres to the 120 acres already included within the Mine Creek Battlefield Park. Lumir's extremely fine book on this latter battle, "October 25th and the Battle of Mine Creek," has recently been published, and he is graciously making it available to Round Table members at a reduced price of \$11.50. Those wishing to obtain a copy can write to him at 4817 West 69th Street, Prairie Village, Kansas 66208.