

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXIX, Number 1

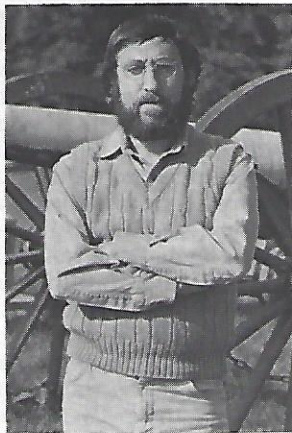
Chicago, Illinois

September, 1978

## DOUBLEHEADER EVENING: AUTOGRAPHING PARTY AND WILLIAM FRASSANITO ON "ANTIETAM: THE PHOTOGRAPHIC LEGACY OF AMERICA'S BLOODIEST DAY"

An autograph party and preview of a newly-published book will highlight the first Round Table meeting of 1978-79 on September 8. That evening, William Frassanito will discuss his *Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day*. The talk will be preceded by an autographing party to be held at the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

In September, 1862, following the confederate victory at Second Manassas, the Southern army turned northward. In the battle that ensued in the fields and woods surrounding Sharpsburg, Maryland, and along Antietam Creek, 26,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were killed or wounded, making September 17, 1862 the bloodiest single day in American history.

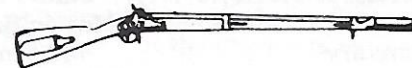


WILLIAM FRASSANITO

In his book, Frassanito recreates that battle through photographs taken immediately after the fighting ended by Civil War photographers Alexander Gardner and James F. Gibson. Gardner and Gibson recorded 95 scenes of the battlefield and its environs, and their studies of dead soldiers were the first the American public had seen depicting the true carnage of war. Frassanito, through meticulous historical research, has documented each photo as to photographer, date and camera location.

The book is not just a collection of photographs, however. Frassanito presents vignettes of some of the common soldiers who fought and died in the battle, offering glimpses into the men's private lives, such as their activities before the War, their military training and experiences, and how their families coped with their deaths. Thus, the personal tragedy that lies behind each photograph is conveyed. In his remarks, which will be illustrated with slides, Frassanito will discuss how he came to write the book, the significance of the Antietam photographs, and some of the research techniques used in working on this project.

William Frassanito first became interested in Civil War photography at the age of nine when he saw a *Life Magazine* article on the upcoming Civil War Centennial. In 1975, he published *Gettysburg: A Journey in Time*. This book, which recreated that battle through the 200 photographs taken shortly afterwards, received considerable critical acclaim. It was chosen as a Notable Book of 1975 by the American Library Association, and won him the Photographic Historical Society of New York's annual



373rd REGULAR MEETING

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WILLIAM FRASSANITO

on

Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day

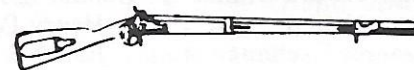
Friday, September 8, 1978

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Chicago Bar Association  
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



### AUTOGRAPHING PARTY

From 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on September 8, 1978, just prior to the regular meeting to be held on that date, there will be an autographing party at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago in honor of William Frassanito and his new book *Antietam: Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day*. All members and their guests are cordially invited to attend.

award for the most distinguished achievement in photographic history in 1975.

Frassanito is a graduate of Gettysburg College and received a masters degree in American cultural history from Cooperstown. During his undergraduate days at Gettysburg, he spent free moments touring the battlefield and worked as a tour guide during the summer. He is currently at work on another book that will cover the photographs of the Wilderness Campaign through Lee's surrender.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

## OFFICERS

President ..... Glen N. Wiche  
Senior Vice President ..... Merlin E. Sumner  
Vice President ..... Hugh P. McAniff  
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Assistant Treasurer ..... Robert C. Grossman  
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Newsletter ..... Marshall D. Krolick, David R. Richert  
Contributing Editor ..... Richard E. Clark  
Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terms expiring in 1979: Donald E. Anderson, Henry Pomerantz, William J. Sullivan, J. Robert Ziegler.  
Terms expiring in 1980: Dennis D. Donnellan, James H. Huber, Irwin Levin, Daniel R. Weinberg.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership-Hospitality ..... Ward C. Smidl  
Publicity ..... J. Robert Ziegler  
Nominating ..... Myron Cohn  
Battlefield Tour .. Marvin Sanderman, Robert H. Franke  
Research Center ..... Myron Cohn, Daniel R. Weinberg  
Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner ... Donald E. Anderson  
Battlefield Preservation ..... Henry Pomerantz  
Members' Resource Exchange ..... James R. Girman,  
David G. St. John, Paul I. Kliger  
Oral History ..... Brooks Davis, C. Robert Douglas  
Tape Record Librarian ..... Steven Ziegler

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.



During his celebration of the 4th of July weekend, President Jimmy Carter and members of his family visited the Gettysburg National Military Park for several hours. The President was accompanied on his tour of the battlefield by noted Civil War author Shelby Foote. During the tour the President indicated, by many remarks, a good basic knowledge of the history of the battle. Among the topics he discussed with Foote were the possible effect that the presence of Stonewall Jackson might have had, the tactics proposed by Longstreet, and the advisability of Pickett's Charge. The President requested that Park officials arrange for a marker to be placed at the farthest point of advance accomplished by Wright's Georgia Brigade on the second day of the battle. On the day of his visit to Gettysburg, which began and ended at Camp David, Carter also toured Antietam, Harper's Ferry, and the Eisenhower Farm, where he spoke for several minutes with Mrs. Eisenhower.

## 1978 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

Once again a battlefield tour is history. This past May eighty-four hardy campaigners, veterans and recruits alike, tramped the fields of Virginia and, as usual, a great time was had by all. Even the rain that fell incessantly on Thursday, the first day, did not dampen our spirits (although it must be admitted that everything else got awfully wet) as we visited the battlefield sites of Fredericksburg. There, at the position of Gregg's Brigade the valor exhibited by the intrepid Denny Donnellan caused him to be subsequently awarded our highest tour honor, the Confederate Purple Heart. Even the men of 1861-1865 would have marveled at the bravery of our dashing Denny as he stood there, sans raincoat and umbrella, in a drenching downpour, garbed in a yellow garbage bag placed upside down over his head and hanging to his ankles.

Fortunately the skies were somewhat drier on Friday as the group split into two contingents. One bus visited the shops of Fredericksburg and Stratford, the plantation birthplace of Robert E. Lee. The other buses departed for Kelly's Ford, Brandy Station, Culpepper, Cedar Mountain, and Clark's Mountain. On Saturday, the topics were Chancellorsville and Wilderness and the highlights included recreating Jackson's flank march, and hiking the interval between Fairview and Hazel Grove. The last day, Sunday, began with a sunrise tour of Spotsylvania. That afternoon the group was given a guided tour of the Capitol in Washington before heading for the airport and home.

Evenings on the tour were a combination of scholarship and entertainment. Thursday night Bob Krick delighted all with an in-depth and oft-times humorous view of Confederate General William Barksdale, a man whose career and personality can only be described as unique. On Friday Ed Bearss contrasted for us the leadership of Lee at Chancellorsville and Grant at Wilderness, a comparison which leads back to the differing personality traits of the two generals. Saturday night was, as always, Fun Nite and after the "awards" and "prizes", presented tongue-in-cheek by the Tour Committee, we were treated to Chris Calkins' fascinating portrayal of a Union officer relating his thoughts on the war after Appomattox.

And so the Tour is over for another year, but the memories linger on. Good times, good friends, and a deep appreciation of the efforts put forth on our behalf. A Battlefield Tour doesn't just happen. It is the product of long hours of hard work by many people whose only reward is the satisfaction of a job well done. To Margaret April who provides for every possible detail and contingency, to this year's tour chairmen Merlin Sumner and Glen Wiche for planning one of the finest tours in our history, to Pete Long for his resource list, to the bus marshals, house committee, and so many more we owe a heartfelt thank you.

Yet we must not forget that even with the efforts of all those people there would be no tour at all if it were not for our good friends of the National Park Service. Without them to show us the sites of "our war", to guide us over the largely unmarked terrain, to so generously share with us the product of their years of research and study, we would surely have no reason to go. For years we have been fortunate to have with us Ed Bearss and we can only add to the well deserved mountain of praise that he has so deservedly already received. And this year there were two others, Bob Krick and his assistant Chris Calkins. Their dedication to our common interest and their willingness to give of themselves for our benefit gives us cause to be greatly in their debt. These men, and others like them at battlefield parks across the country, are professionals, devoted to the preservation of our National heritage. They do their jobs with the warmth and feeling that shows that they care not only about the history, but about the people who come to study it. They are our friends and we are very proud of that.

## JUNE MEETING

The more than one hundred members and guests who came to honor Nevins-Freeman Award Recipient Dr. Bell I. Wiley on June 9 themselves had the honor of hearing his fascinating "Reminiscences of a Civil War Historian." The program was held in the new Chicago Public Library Cultural Center auditorium, and followed a reception in honor of the opening of a major exhibition in the Civil War and American History Research Center—"One Hundred Important Additions to the Civil War and American History Research Collection: An Exhibition of Acquisitions 1974-78."

Dr. Wiley began his review of his 50 year career as a Civil War historian by describing his childhood in middle Tennessee. In a sense, he said, he grew up with the War since his maternal grandfather was a private in the Army of Tennessee and his grandmother told him stories about his grandfather's experiences. In addition, he listened to members of his congregation tell tales of the War after church.

Growing up among plain people, Wiley became interested in the common people of the past. Unfortunately, he discovered, there was little written about them in the history books. He did note that the place to find out what they were like was to study the Civil War. Soldiers, away from home, wrote letters setting down their experiences. And, because war was the most dramatic event in the peoples' lives, the letters were saved and are now available for study.

After describing the research that led to his Ph.D. from Yale, Dr. Wiley related how this thesis was later expanded into his first book, *The Negro in the Civil War*. Among the conclusions he reached as a result of that project was that the Negroes were not content, but in fact yearned for freedom. He also discussed the methods of research for his second book, *The Life of Johnny Reb*, and his finding that, although the Confederate soldier was fighting to save family and friends from foreign invaders, many were also fighting to preserve the institution of slavery.

Dr. Wiley said he now regards slavery as a basic cause of the Civil War. Other issues, he feels, could have been resolved, but slavery was too emotional a problem. He explained that the civil rights activity of the 1960s helped lead him to this conclusion. Segregation, like slavery, was economically unsound, but it took action by the federal government to eliminate it just as it took the Civil War to abolish slavery.

In his research for another book, *The Life of Billy Yank*, Dr. Wiley discovered that the Yankee soldier had a deep allegiance to the Union. He also found that soldiers on both sides were much alike, particularly in the keen sense of humor they exhibited. Of all he has learned, however, the one outstanding conclusion from his 50 year career as an historian is that the American people are sound. They have, he said, endured so much, yet have acquitted themselves so magnificently throughout.

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## CIVIL WAR TOUR OF CHICAGO

A tour of the Civil War sites and monuments of Chicago is presently being planned by The Round Table. The event, which will occur on a Sunday in October, is under the direction of Past President Brooks Davis. Among the possible locations to be visited are the Chicago Historical Society, Douglas Monument, Rosehill, Graceland, and Oakwoods Cemeteries, and the G.A.R. Museum. Similar tours in the past have been tremendous successes and so an enjoyable day should certainly be anticipated. Further details, including the exact date and reservation information, will be available at the September meeting and in the October Newsletter.

## SUMMER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

At its annual Summer meeting, held this year on July 15, the Executive Committee discussed a myriad of important matters. First on the agenda was the treasurer's report, which indicated that we are solvent. Bob Grossman, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee then presented his recommendations to revise and update the by-laws. The members of the Executive Committee will review Bob's suggestions and will vote upon them at their next meeting. President Glen Wiche reported that the Bar Association has increased the meal prices and therefore, in order to cover this, the Committee was compelled to raise the meeting cost to \$8.50, effective immediately. The design of a new membership application prepared by Jerry Warshaw was approved and the finished product should be available in the near future. Funds were appropriated to partially subsidize two delegates to the Fourth Annual National Congress of Civil War Round Tables to be held September 28-30 in Richmond. Henry Pomerantz will be one of our delegates, but the other has not been selected. Anyone who is interested in assuming this post should contact Glen Wiche. The final items discussed were reports of the early plans for the Fall Tour of Chicago and the 1979 Battlefield Tour to Shiloh and Northern Mississippi.

The statements for 1978-1979 dues have now been received by all members. Treasurer Marvin Sanderman has announced that all those not paying their dues on or before October 31, 1978 will be dropped from the membership and mailing lists. Also appearing on the dues statements is the category of Sustaining Member for those who voluntarily remit dues of \$50.00 or more, rather than the required amount. Anyone who is able to participate in this program is sincerely urged to do so, so that Round Table can continue to provide programs and projects of the highest quality for the benefit of its membership and all others interested in preserving our national heritage.

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David Davis IV of Bloomington, Illinois, the great-grandson of Lincoln's close friend and campaign manager, David Davis, died April 14, 1978 in Bloomington at the age of 71. The late Mr. Davis served in the Illinois State Legislature from 1953 until 1967. He also was active in the Constitutional Convention of 1969-1970 and was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Bank of Bloomington from 1955 to 1977. In 1959 Mr. Davis transferred to the State of Illinois the former Bloomington mansion of his great-grandfather and this building is now operated by the State as a museum. The original David Davis was appointed by Lincoln to the United States Supreme Court, where he served from 1862 to 1877.

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The July 3, 1978 issue of Crain's Chicago Business magazine featured an article on The Round Table and several of our members who are also prominent in the Chicago business community. Among those interviewed and quoted with regard to their interest in the Civil War and our organization were Past Presidents Dan Lapinski, Brooks Davis, Bob Douglas, Mike Lerner, and current President Glen Wiche.

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On June 15, 1978, our own Past President and noted Hurlburtian expert, Dr. Gerhardt P. Clausius, addressed the Duneland Historical Society of Chesterton, Indiana on the subject of "Mary Todd Lincoln—The President's Widow". It is rumored that during the question and answer session following his remarks, Dr. Clausius refused to comment on allegations of a purported assignation between Mrs. Lincoln and the dapper, debonair General, Stephen Augustus Hurlburt.

# THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Anderson, Mary A., editor. *The Civil War Diary of Allen Morgan Geer*. Seattle: Robert C. Appelman, 1977. \$15.00

Averell, William Woods. *Ten Years in the Saddle: The Memoir of William Woods Averell, 1851-1862*. Nicholas J. Amato and Edward K. Eckert, editors. San Rafael, California: Presidio Press, 1978. \$16.95

Brandy, Ken and Florence Freeland, compilers. *The Gettysburg Papers*, Volume I. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1978. \$17.50

Blackerby, Hubert C. *Blacks in Blue and Gray: Afro-Americans in the Civil War*. Tuscaloosa, Alabama: Portals Press, 1978. \$7.50

Boritt, S. Gabor. *Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream*. Memphis, Tennessee: Memphis State University Press, 1978. \$15.00

Brooks, Noah. *Abraham Lincoln and the Downfall of American Slavery*. New York: AMS Press 1978. \$30.00. Reprint of 1894 edition.

Burns, Zed H. *Confederate Forts*. Foreword by Porter L. Fortune. Natchez, Mississippi: Southern Historical Publications, Inc., 1977. \$9.95

Daniel, Larry J. and Riley W. Gunter. *Confederate Cannon Foundries*. Union City, Tennessee: Pioneer Press, 1978. \$17.95

Fleming, Walter L. *Civil War and Reconstruction in Alabama*. Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Company, 1978. Reprint of 1911 edition. \$30.00

Frassanito, William A. *Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1978. \$15.95

Gibbon, John. *Personal Recollections of the Civil War*. Introduction by Don Russell. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1978. \$17.50

Irby, James A. *Backdoor at Bagdad: The Civil War on the Rio Grande*. El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1977. Paper, \$3.00

Johnson, Curt and Mark McLaughlin. *Civil War Battles*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1977. \$12.95

Klingberg, Frank W. *The Southern Claims Commission*. New York: Octagon Books, 1978. \$13.00

Kunhardt, Dorothy Meserve and Philip B. Kunhardt, Jr., and the Editors of Time-Life Books. *Mathew Brady and his World*. Alexandria, Virginia: Time-Life Books, 1977. \$25.00

Larew, Karl G., editor. *Garret Larew Civil War Soldier*. With an account of his ancestors and of his descendants. Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1975. \$12.00

Lee, Susan. *Jefferson Davis*. Illustrated by Len W. Meents. Chicago: Childrens Press, 1978. \$6.60

Matloff, Maurice, editor. *The Civil War: A Concise History of the War Between the States*. New York: McKay, 1978. \$9.95

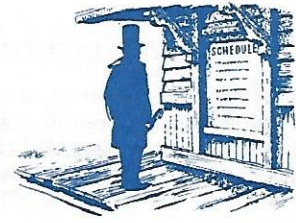
Moore, Frank. *The Rebellion Record*. A Diary of American Events, with documents, narratives, illustrative incidents, poetry, etc. . . . 12 vols. Gettysburg, Pa.: Civil War Times Illustrated, 1978. \$25.00 per volume.

Norton, Oliver W. *The Attack and Defense of Little Round Top, Gettysburg, July 2, 1863*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1978. \$17.50. Original of 1913.

Parrish, William E., compiler. *The Civil War: A Second American Revolution?* Huntington, N.Y.: Robert E. Krieger Pub. Co., 1978. Paper \$4.50. Originally done by Holt in 1970. Grades 11-12.

Russell, William H. *My Diary North and South*. Norwood, Pa.: Norwood Editions. 2 vols. \$75.00. Reproduction of 1863 edition.

## BULLETIN BOARD



### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

September 8: William A. Frassanito on "Antietam—The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day". Meeting to be preceded by autographing party at Abraham Lincoln Book Shop.

October 13: Dr. Harold Hyman on "Has The Lincoln Murder Conspiracy Theme Been Exhausted?"

November 10: Gordon Whitney on "General Jefferson C. Davis".

December 8: Brooks Davis on "The Perryville Campaign".

January 12: Dr. Grady McWhiney on "Confederate Generals—Their Strengths and Weaknesses".

February 9: Dr. Mark E. Neeley on "Has The Lincoln Theme Been Exhausted?"

March 9: Chris Calkins on "The Appomattox Campaign".

April 6: To be announced.

May 2-6: Annual Battlefield Tour—Shiloh and Northern Mississippi.

May 11: To be announced.

June 8: 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.

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

### NEW MEMBERS

Alan Dimmers, 450 S. Broad Street, Hillsdale, Michigan 49442.

Clarke V. Harrison, 1331 Monroe, Evanston, Illinois 60202.

C. C. Odom, II, 1242 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

James Sipta, 2242 N. Lockwood, Chicago, Illinois 60639.

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Dr. John L. Margreiter, 14061 Westermill Drive, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017.

Karl Sundstrom, 6204 N. Hoyne, Apt. 2A, Chicago, Illinois 60659.

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Schomaekers, Gunter. *The American Civil War*. Translated by Anthony Kemp. Dorset, England: Blandford Press, 1977. \$10.00

Scott, H.L. *Civil War Military Dictionary*. Martin Rywell, editor. Union City, Tenn.: Pioneer Press, 1978. Paper, \$2.00

Smith, John David and William Cooper, Jr., editors. *Frances Dallam Peter's Lexington Civil War Diary*. Lexington: Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission, 1976. Paper, \$4.50