

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXIX, Number 2

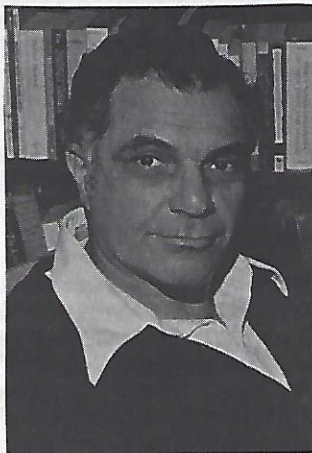
Chicago, Illinois

October, 1978

DR. HAROLD M. HYMAN ON HAS THE LINCOLN MURDER CONSPIRACY THEME BEEN EXHAUSTED?

Another visit from an old friend, and a talk on a lively, controversial subject, will be featured at the next Round Table meeting on October 13. That evening, Dr. Harold M. Hyman, William P. Hobby Professor of History at Rice University will be on hand to discuss, "Has the Lincoln Murder Conspiracy Theme Been Exhausted?"

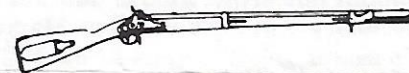
As his focal point for the presentation, Dr. Hyman plans to use *The Lincoln Conspiracy*, a book, film and TV program from Schick Sun Classics Productions. Utilizing what the authors of that work claim is newly discovered, unpublished historical papers—secret service documents, congressmen's diaries, old letters, book manuscripts, deathbed confessions, secret cipher-coded messages, rare photographs, and missing pages of the John Wilkes Booth diary—*The Lincoln Conspiracy* attempts to detail the failure to protect Lincoln, the plots to kidnap him, his assassination, and the subsequent government cover-up.



The book's major contention is that Lincoln was the victim of a conspiracy headed by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. That conclusion, maintain the authors, is based on more than 10,000 hours of research. They claim that they have employed modern investigative techniques such as psychological stress evaluators, handwriting analyses, toxicology tests, chemical analyses of possibly altered documents, and special infrared and ultraviolet photography to arrive at and verify their findings.

Among the unpublished documents on which *The Lincoln Conspiracy* relies are: journals and cipher-coded manuscripts written by the Chief of the National Detective Police (secret service), Colonel Lafayette Baker, detailing the Lincoln kidnap-assassination conspiracy plot and its cover-up; Stanton's papers, including the missing pages of Booth's diary and letters to or intercepted by him describing details of the assassination conspiracy cover-up and the framing of Booth's co-conspirators at their trial; and the papers of Representative George Julian establishing that the Booth diary was intact with no pages missing when delivered to Stanton.

Dr. Hyman intends to survey the arguments and evidence presented by *The Lincoln Conspiracy*, and will also look at the Lincoln murder literature of the past 100 years. He will then offer his judgment about the trustworthiness of the various contributions to this literature, with special attention to the most recent offering.



374th REGULAR MEETING

DR. HAROLD HYMAN

on

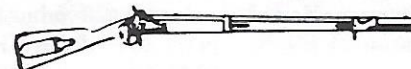
Has The Lincoln Murder Conspiracy
Theme Been Exhausted?

Friday, October 13, 1978

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



CIVIL WAR TOUR OF CHICAGO

Sunday, October 15

see page 3 for details

Harold Hyman received a B.A. with honors from U.C.L.A. and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University. Prior to his present position at Rice, which he assumed in 1968, Hyman served on the history faculties of Earlham College, U.C.L.A., Arizona State University, and, from 1963 to 1968, the University of Illinois at Champaign. Among the books he has authored, co-authored or edited are *Stanton—The Life and Times of Lincoln's Secretary of War* (1962), *Heard Round the World: The Impact Abroad of the Civil War and Reconstruction* (1968), *The Radical Republicans and Reconstruction* (1966), *A More Perfect Union: The Impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction* (1973), and *Union and Confidence: The 1860s* (1976). In addition to his many books, Dr. Hyman has had articles appear in every major historical publication. His credentials without doubt establish him as a foremost authority who is well-qualified to speak on the subject he has chosen for us. This will be his fifth address to The Round Table.

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.



Taking a break from the Camp David summit talks, President Carter, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visited Gettysburg on September 10. Begin, a student of American history, had asked to see the site of the Battle of Gettysburg and the cemetery which Lincoln dedicated in November, 1863. The entourage, guarded by Secret Service men crouching like the Twentieth Maine behind the rocks below the brow of Little Round Top and by a circling helicopter, visited Cemetery Ridge, Culp's Hill, Seminary Ridge, Little Round Top, and the National Cemetery. As the party walked part of the route of Pickett's Charge, a newspaperman remarked that the entourage generated by the three leaders appeared to outnumber the original Confederate attackers.

BRUCE CATTON

October 9, 1899 - August 28, 1978

by Ralph G. Newman

Bruce Catton first spoke to The Civil War Round Table in the spring of 1951, at the Hotel Gettysburg, on the occasion of our second Battlefield Tour. The first volume in his Army of the Potomac trilogy, *Mr. Lincoln's Army*, had recently been published and it occurred to me that since he lived in nearby Washington, he might be persuaded to speak to us on our first evening in the battlefield area.

He accepted my invitation and when I arrived at the hotel at about 5 p.m. there was this mild, scholarly looking man sitting in the lobby. I recognized him from his photograph on the jacket for *Mr. Lincoln's Army*, introduced myself, and we promptly moved to the bar for martinis (a maneuver repeated on many occasions across a period of almost thirty years). It was a memorable evening. Among the members of the CWRT tour that year were Allan Nevins, Otto Eisenschiml, and many others whose names are now hallowed in the history of Civil War literature. His speech that evening was superb—as was every speech he ever made.

Subsequently, I saw him on many an occasion—at his appearances before The Civil War Round Table, at parties in his honor at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, at various commemorative affairs during the Lincoln Sesquicentennial and during the Civil War Centennial. He came to Springfield, Illinois to speak at the 100th anniversary of the funeral of Abraham Lincoln, which coincided with the end of the Centennial. He, Allan Nevins, Carl Haverlin, Shelby Foote, and many others kept the Governor's Mansion bright until the early hours of the morning as we held an informal Civil War Round Table meeting and after-hours cocktail party.

The Civil War Centennial, in many respects, had been a debacle but Illinois, led by Governor Kerner, Clyde Walton, and others rescued it by having it end in a blaze of glory. Catton and Nevins were two of the reasons for the success of the final convocation.

When The Civil War Round Table created the Nevins-Freeman Award in 1974, it was obvious that the first awardee would be Bruce Catton. It was a thrilling evening with Sam Vaughan, head of Doubleday & Company, Bruce's publisher and "Pete" Long, his faithful and magnificent research chief, speaking about their friend and associate. Bruce's response was brief—but eloquent. It was his last appearance before The Civil War Round Table and I believe it was his last public speech.

I saw Bruce many times afterward, usually at lunch or dinner in New York. Pat and I also spent several memorable days with him at his beautiful home near Frankfort, Michigan in 1975 and I remember the thrill when I turned off the main road and found that the short driveway to the Catton home was officially named "Glory Road."

Bruce probably converted more individuals to the gospel of the Civil War than any other person. He wrote from the heart and from the viewpoint of the common soldier. He was influenced by the late Lloyd Lewis, whom he never met, but whose *Sherman: Fighting Prophet* inspired him to write about the war of the 1860's. He started out to be a novelist but found that in the Civil War truth indeed is stranger and more fascinating than fiction.

A gifted writer, a generous gentleman, an affectionate friend, Bruce Catton contributed greatly to our intellectual and historical development. His many works, his great influence in the shaping of *American Heritage*, and his gracious response to any request from those less gifted all contribute to his lasting monument—a love and appreciation of our country and its heroes.

He will live forever in his books and in our hearts.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Due to the death of his father, our scheduled speaker, William Frassanito, was unable to attend the meeting and discuss his new book, *Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day*. Fortunately, fellow member and Senior Vice President Merlin Sumner was available to fill in on short notice and talk about the 67th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment. His presentation, which was punctuated by numerous anecdotes about the men of that unit and their experiences, provided the 94 members and guests who attended with an interesting insight into what life was like for an average volunteer unit.

The 67th Ohio was not as well known as many other Civil War units, such as the Iron Brigade. Nor could it boast of a special uniform or prominent personalities within its ranks. In fact, it participated in no major engagements and never had a regimental history written about it. What it was, explained Merlin, was just a typical volunteer infantry regiment.

Activated in the fall of 1861, the 67th Ohio spent January, 1862, near Washington, D.C., living in the open without even tents for shelter. In the spring of that year, it was part of the force which met and defeated Jackson at Kernstown and then skirmished with the Confederates at Front Royal. Later, it went to North Carolina, coming under fire for 40 days in the attempt to take Morris Island, and was subsequently stationed at Hilton Head, South Carolina.

In 1864, the 67th was assigned to General Benjamin Butler and had the dubious distinction of being part of his bottled-up army at Bermuda Hundred. However, it did distinguish itself when, guarding the Union right flank about 12 miles from Richmond on May 10, it maintained the line against four assaults. Over 70 members of the unit were killed or wounded.

The 67th was stationed in the Petersburg lines for a brief time, and ultimately, participated in the chase of the fleeing Confederates to Appomattox. The rest of 1865 was spent on garrison duty and on December 7 it was released from service. Appropriately, as Merlin pointed out, the names of the men who served in the 67th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment are now inscribed on the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Cleveland.

WESTERNERS AND THE ROUND TABLE TO HONOR DON RUSSELL

On Friday, October 27, The Westerners will hold a dinner in honor of Don Russell, a founding member and past president of that organization and an honorary award life member of The Civil War Round Table. The Round Table is co-hosting the dinner, and all members are invited to attend.

In addition to the Civil War, Don has long studied the history of the American West, an interest that led to his helping found the The Westerners. His particular specialty is General George Armstrong Custer, about whom he is considered one of the foremost experts in the country. Don is also the biographer of Buffalo Bill and has written or edited several other books. He edits *The Brand Book* for the Westerners. Now retired, Don was on the editorial staff of the *Chicago Daily News* for many years. He had the honor of covering the 75th reunion at Gettysburg for that newspaper in 1938.

The dinner, consisting of buffalo roast, will be held at the Illinois Athletic Club, 112 South Michigan Avenue, beginning at 5 pm. The cost is \$15 per person. For information or reservations, call either Dan Lapinski at FI 4-0019, or Ralph Newman at 787-1860.



WANTED: Original issue of Volume 1, Number 2, *Confederate Veteran* magazine. Contact Lowell Reidenbaugh, 2106 St. Clair Avenue, Brentwood, Missouri 63144.

CIVIL WAR TOUR OF CHICAGO

A tour of the Civil War sites and monuments of Chicago will be held on Sunday, October 15. Among the places to be visited are the Douglas Monument, Oakwoods, Rosehill, and Graceland Cemeteries, and the G.A.R. collection at the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center. The tour will be led by co-chairman Brooks Davis and Ralph Newman.

Following an optional brunch at The Mavin in the Allerton Hotel at 10 am, buses will depart from the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 East Chestnut, at 11:20 for the Cultural Center, passing several historic spots, such as the Tremont House site, en route. At the Cultural Center, the G.A.R. and Research Center collections will be discussed and viewed.

On the way to the Douglas Monument at 35th Street and Lake Shore Drive, where there will be talks on both Douglas and Camp Douglas, the buses will pass the Lincoln and Logan statues in Grant Park. The 6000 Confederate dead at Oakwoods Cemetery, the tour's next stop, will be the subject of another talk.

Heading back north, through Lincoln Park, the Lincoln and Grant statues will be viewed, as well as that of Sheridan at Sheridan Road and Belmont. At Rosehill Cemetery on the north side, there will be a talk on the Union monuments there. And, at Graceland Cemetery, the discussion will be about the Pinkerton Plot. The tour will return to the Bookshop at about 5 pm for a cocktail hour.

The cost of the tour is \$10 per person (\$8.75 for children under 12); the optional brunch is \$7.50 per person (\$5.00 for children under 12), tip included. Reservations must be made by October 11 by returning the form previously sent to all members.

A non-profit association, the Friends of Hildene, has purchased Robert Todd Lincoln's estate, Hildene, in Manchester, Vermont. Although it has already been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Hildene is in need of restoration before it can be opened to the public. The Friends of Hildene are seeking contributions (tax deductible) for this project. Their address is Friends of Hildene, Manchester, Vermont 05254.

Contributions to support the continued preservation and renovation of Beauvoir, the last home of Jefferson Davis are being sought by The Beauvoir Development Foundation, Inc. In particular, funds are needed for the development of the Jefferson Davis Memorial Library and Confederate Research Center which will house the large and valuable collection of Confederate books and papers owned by Beauvoir. The Foundation also plans to renovate the Confederate museum, providing better protection and display for Beauvoir's collection of Confederate artifacts. Tax deductible contributions may be sent to Beauvoir Development Foundation, P.O. Box 16257, Jackson, Mississippi 39206.



THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Bartleson, John D., Jr. *A Field Guide for Civil War Explosive Ordnance*. Indian Head, Maryland: U.S. Naval Ordnance Station, n.d. Wraps, \$2.75

Bearss, Edwin C. *The Battle of Wilson's Creek*. Diamond, Mo.: George Washington Carver Birthplace District Association, 1975. Paper, \$2.00

Connelly, Thomas L. *The Marble Man. Robert E. Lee and His Image in American Society*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1978. Paper \$5.95. Hardcover in 1977.

Crouch, Howard R. *Relic Hunter. The Field Account of Civil War Sites, Artifacts and Hunting*. Falls Church, Va.: Howard R. Crouch, 1978. \$12.85

McGinnis, Ralph Y., editor. *Quotations from Abraham Lincoln*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1978. Paper \$6.95. Hardcover of 1977.

Reed, Rowena. *Combined Operations in the Civil War*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, c1978. \$16.95

Sloan, John A. *Reminiscences of the Guilford Grays, Co. B, 27th N.C. Regiment*. Wendell, N.C.: Broadfoot's Bookmark, 1978. \$15.00. Original of 1883. Ltd. 500 copies.

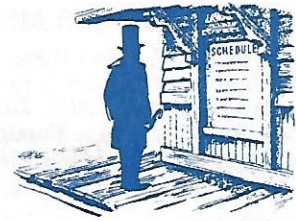
Smith, William A. *The Anson Guards, Co. C., Fourteenth Regiment, N.C. Volunteers*. Wendell, N.C.: Broadfoot's Bookmark, 1978. \$20.00. Ltd. 500 copies. Original of 1914.

Underwood, George C. *History of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment of N.C. Troops*. Wendell, N.C.: Broadfoot's Bookmark, 1978. \$15.00. Original of 1901. Ltd. 500 copies.

Gilbert Govan, a Civil War authority and friend of many Round Table members, died July 20 in Chattanooga, Tennessee at the age of 86. Govan had served as a Battlefield Tour guide during visits to Chattanooga and also spoke to The Round Table in Chicago. He was book page editor of the *Chattanooga Times* for 35 years and had been librarian at the University of Chattanooga. He was co-author, with Dean James Livingood, of *A Different Valor*, a biography of Joseph Johnston.

Our honorary life member and chief battlefield guide, Ed Bearss, is in the process of writing an additional new chapter for his book, *Hard Luck Ironclad*. This fine work, which is the history of the U.S.S. Cairo and its subsequent salvaging under Ed's direction, originally appeared in 1966. Louisiana State University Press is now planning a revised edition which will include the new chapter.

Louisiana State University Press is issuing a special 35th anniversary edition of Dr. Bell I. Wiley's Civil War classic. *The Life of Johnny Reb and The Life of Billy Yank*. It is due out this month. Dr. Wiley, who was our most recent recipient of the Nevins-Freeman Award, is an honorary life member of The Round Table. The special anniversary edition, which marks the publication date of the original edition of *The Life of Johnny Reb* in 1943, will have a new, added introduction. Each set will be boxed, numbered and signed by Dr. Wiley. Only 500 sets will be issued and the price for each will be \$45.00. Anyone who is interested in obtaining a limited edition set should contact Mr. Robert T. Summer, Sales and Promotion Manager, Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.



BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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

October 15: Civil War Tour of Chicago.

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

Jean Anderson, 363 Dover Drive, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018

Donald J. Gleason, 257 Vine Avenue, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068

John Lapinski, 263 Timber View Drive, Oak Brook, Illinois 60521

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Bert Margeson, 132 South Madison, La Grange, Illinois 60525

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Dr. Colman J. O'Neill, 348 Sherwood Court, La Grange, Illinois 60525

Daniel Vetter, 10834 North 32 Lane, Phoenix, Arizona 85029

On September 2, *The Daily Herald* (Arlington Heights) published a two column article about The Round Table. It discussed the history of the organization in considerable detail, emphasizing Ralph Newman and his role in its founding and growth, and quoted Dan Lapinski who talked about the search for John Wilkes Booth's body.