

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLI, Number 1

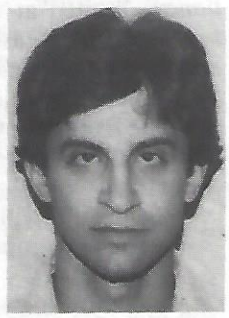
Chicago, Illinois

September, 1980

C. CRAIG CABA ON U.S. MILITARY UNIFORMS USED EARLY IN THE WAR

A look at and discussion of the uniforms used by the U.S. Army in the early days of the Civil War will highlight the first Round Table meeting of 1980-81 on September 5. The speaker will be C. Craig Caba who specializes in buying and selling Civil War uniforms and other antiquities. He plans to enhance our understanding of the topic through the use of slides. (Please note that the meeting is the first Friday in September and that it will be held at the Midland Hotel.)

A bewildering variety of uniforms appeared on the backs on soldiers reporting for duty in 1861. Caught unprepared, the Union Quartermaster Department could not clothe all volunteers. State governments tried to fill the gap. As companies were raised within their boundries, state governments procured and issued handsome uniforms that often bedazzled beholders. However, there was no standardization and Northern troops wore clothes displaying a wide variety of color and cut. Men from Wisconsin often came in cadet gray; certain Vermonters wore gray trimmed in emerald green; and New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania favored blue.



C. CRAIG CABA

Many units turned to the colorful European armies for inspiration—there were Zouaves in both the North and South, wearing uniforms patterned after the famed French Algerian units. There were also the Highlanders in plaid "trews" and the Garibaldi Guard dressed in uniforms imitating the Italian Bersaglieri.

However, troops appearing in such glamorous clothes were in the minority. Many fighting men arrived in their own clothes, to be outfitted when uniforms were available. If this was impossible, they would fight in everyday dress. It was not uncommon in the early days of the War for many newly-raised regiments to take the field in civilian dress. As the War progressed, however, both the exotic costumes and civilian dress were abandoned and troops were issued standardized uniforms.

In his talk, Caba plans to discuss the economics of buying the uniforms, noting some of the major producers; review in detail the task of clothing new recruits; and examine the problems that the massive number of volunteers created for Washington.

C. Craig Caba was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a neighborhood where, he notes, most men were Civil War enthusiasts. When the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table was formed, Caba became the youngest recruit at age 8. He



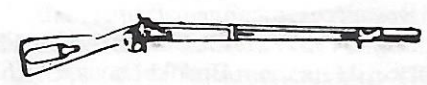
393rd REGULAR MEETING

C. CRAIG CABA ON U.S. MILITARY UNIFORMS USED EARLY IN THE WAR

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1980

Midland Hotel, Wright Room
172 W. Adams

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



NOTICE: MEETING DATE AND SITE
As noted above, the September meeting is being held the first Friday of the month, September 5. The location is the Midland Hotel at 172 W. Adams. (The Wright Room is on the lower level). For information about the site of future meetings, see the report on the Summer Executive Committee meeting, page 2.

graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1971 in Roman and Greek History and also attended the graduate program there in the same fields, concentrating on coinage and the economics of the classical period.

He is the author and publisher of *United States Military Drums 1845-1865*, and has written various articles for *Civil War Times*, *North-South Trader*, and *The Bugle* of the Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Association in Philadelphia. He is currently preparing a book on presentation artifacts due to be completed in 1981.

(Continued on page 4)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

OFFICERS

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Tape Record Librarian
400th Regular Meeting Festivities Glen Wiche

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.



The Second Great Lakes Civil War Show will be held Saturday, September 6, from 9-5 at the Troy, Michigan Hilton Inn (near Detroit). The show, sponsored by the Great Lakes Civil War Collectors and Historians, will feature Civil War and earlier memorabilia—no reproductions, post-Civil War, or non-related items will be permitted. Entrance to the show is \$2; six-foot display or sale tables are \$20 each. For further information, write or phone Karl Rommel, Table Chairman, 737 Cloverleaf Rd., Lansing, Michigan 48906 (517) 484-7865.

SUMMER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Round Table Executive Committee discussed and took action on a number of items of importance to all members at its annual summer meeting on July 12.

Because The Round Table has been operating at a deficit for the past several years—currently almost \$2800—a deficit which the Committee felt cannot be overcome through cost cutting alone, it was decided that a dues increase was needed. Accordingly, dues for regular members were increased to \$50 per year; sustaining members to \$75. However, in order to help attract and retain new members, dues for the first two years of membership will remain at \$30 per year. In addition, national dues (more than 200 miles from Chicago) will remain at \$20 per year.

Steps taken by the Committee to help hold down costs included: printing the membership roster every other year (a list of additions and address corrections will be distributed in between) and eliminating the free bar at the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and on Battlefield Tours.

Due to an ongoing problem with room availability at the Bar Association, several alternate meeting sites were discussed. The primary options are the Como Inn at 546 N. Milwaukee Ave. and the Midland Hotel at 172 W. Adams. Both offer meals in a price range which does not require an increase in our current \$10 meal cost (although the selection is more limited at the Midland). The Como Inn, while not downtown, is easily accessible by bus (the Como Inn's own van will take members to the train stations after meetings) and there is ample free parking.

The Executive Committee decided to give both sites a try. Since the Como Inn is not available for the September meeting, we will meet at the Midland that month—the October meeting will be at the Como Inn. Further details will appear in the October newsletter.

A committee was appointed to study ways of attracting new members and retaining old ones. Part of the effort will involve contacting members who have not renewed membership to find out why. Also, in order to help current members get acquainted with new ones, and thus help new members become an integral part of the organization sooner, the newsletter will try to list some background information about all new members.

The Committee authorized the treasurer to send a \$215 check to the Civil War Sites Fund. The money was raised from the book raffles held at meetings last year.

In order to help raise additional funds for The Round Table, the Committee approved a Civil War collector's auction, similar to one held in 1966. It is tentatively scheduled for late spring or early summer, 1981. Persons making items available for sale can receive 50 per cent of the sales price, or they can donate the entire proceeds to The Round Table. If you have any items to offer, contact Ralph Newman at the Book Shop.

It is with sincere regret that we announce the death, on June 1 in Rochester, Minnesota, of member Juanita Bernstein. Mrs. Bernstein was the wife of long-time member Dr. Arthur Bernstein and a good friend of many in The Round Table. Our deepest condolences are extended to Dr. Bernstein and the rest of Mrs. Bernstein's family.

JUNE MEETING

One hundred and twelve members and guests were in attendance June 13 to honor Nevins-Freeman Award recipient Edwin C. Bearss. They themselves had the pleasure of hearing Ed discuss his interest in the Civil War and reminisce about his 20 year association with The Round Table.

Ed said his interest in the War began when he was about 10 and his father started reading Civil War books to him. (One of the first was on J.E.B. Stuart and Stuart was Ed's great hero for awhile). Ed also verified the oft told story that he named the cattle on the ranch after Civil War battles. He said he simply didn't like the prosaic names usually given.

In the Marine Corps, Ed gained a reputation for knowing a lot about the Civil War, although he feels he didn't really know that much. However, the 28 months he spent in the hospital after he was wounded did give him time to do a lot of reading. After getting out of the service Ed attended college and then went to work for the Department of Defense in a very boring job. A visit to the Shiloh battlefield got him interested in being a Park historian.

Ed's first job was at Vicksburg. While there he met, first, Gil Twiss, and, later, Pete and Barbara Long. His first meeting with The Round Table came when they visited in 1961. This began a 20 year association which Ed fondly recalled through numerous anecdotes. In a more serious vein, Ed pointed out a greater benefit of his relationship with The Round Table than the good times. Without Round Tables, he said, people like him in the Park Service would have little to do—there would be nobody to provide a challenge to him as a historian.

1981 NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD

The Round Table Executive Committee has selected the distinguished Civil War historian James I. (Bud) Robertson, Jr., as the recipient of the 1981 Nevins-Freeman Award. Dr. Robertson, a professor of history at Virginia Polytechnic, is the author or editor of 14 books on the Civil War and has written numerous articles. He is also a frequent speaker at Round Tables around the country, and has appeared before us on many occasions.

The Sixth Annual Civil War Round Table Congress will be held in Chattanooga on October 2-4, 1980. Dr. Grady McWhiney will be a featured speaker and Ed Bearss is scheduled to conduct tours of the Chattanooga, Chickamauga, and perhaps Stones River battlefields. For further details, write CWRT Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72217.

A Veterans Administration project that involved digging up the graves of unknown Civil War soldiers for reburial in mass graves—to make room in national cemeteries for modern day veterans—was cancelled in mid July after an outburst of public criticism. The exhumations began at the national cemetery at Grafton, West Virginia, which has been full for 20 years. A total of 627 graves were scheduled to be opened there, and as many as 150,000 nationwide. The remains were to be placed in 32-inch containers that would end up in a common crypt with a large marble marker. Among critics of the plan was the *New York Times* which accused the VA of "trampling on the final resting places." The VA is now exploring other ways to create additional gravesites in national cemeteries.

MEMBERS RESOURCE EXCHANGE

In response to the letter from Karl Sundstrom regarding the Members Resource Exchange (which included a list of members and their interests) distributed with the May newsletter, the following members have indicated their particular interest in the Civil War.

Frank Crawford—Andersonville; Battle of New Market, Va.; Matson Slave Trial with Abraham Lincoln (1847).

George M. Egart—Atlanta Campaign; Sherman, Johnston and Hood; Economic problems, especially of the Confederacy.

Hugh Horton—Regts. 6th, 9th, 32nd Mississippi, C.S.A. Corinth and all N. Mississippi.

Joseph A. Malcom—Civil War Press Corps.

Felix Milan, M.D.—Texas-Mexican War, Mexican American War and effects upon secession movement and slavery.

Joseph B. Mitchell—Battles and campaigns; Civil War leaders; strategy and tactics.

David J. Murphy—Muskets, cartridges; western common infantryman; Gettysburg.

Harris D. Riley Jr., M.D.—All subjects, but especially medical history and Western Theatre.

Richard W. Tereba—Army units for Illinois; Chickamauga, Chattanooga; George H. Thomas.

Glen Wiche—Confederate diplomatic history, especially Great Britain; Foreigners in Confederate armies; C.S.S. Shenandoah; Confederate exiles to Brazil, Mexico.

Robert J. Younger—Missouri Federals and Rebels; Mollus, Papers, Photos.

HONORARY AWARD LIFE MEMBER

John Hope Franklin, a long-time member of The Round Table who recently retired as head of the history department at the University of Chicago, was selected as an honorary award life member by the Executive Committee at its meeting on July 12. Dr. Franklin, who earned his doctorate in 1941 from Harvard, taught at a number of universities before joining the University of Chicago in 1967. He has served as President of the American Studies Association, The Southern Historical Association, The Organization of American Historians, and The American Historical Society Association. His numerous publications have centered on the Reconstruction period and the history of Black Americans. He spoke before our Round Table on several occasions.

The National Park Service now has available a new attractively published booklet entitled "Salem Church". Through use of maps, drawings, photographs, and extensive text written by Ralph Happel, former historian at the Fredericksburg National Military Park, the booklet describes the history of the church itself, as well as the battles which swirled around it. The church, which was a significant landmark in the Fredericksburg area during the Civil War, has now been restored by the Park Service and is open to the public. Anyone wishing to purchase this fine booklet may do so for \$1.50 at the Fredericksburg National Military Park or can order a copy by mail by sending \$2.00 (including postage) to Fredericksburg National Military Park, Post Office Box 679, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Bearss, Edwin C. *Hardluck Ironclad. The Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo*. Revised Edition. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1980. \$17.50; pkb \$5.95.

Davis, William C. *The Orphan Brigade. The Kentucky Confederates who Couldn't Go Home*. New York: Doubleday, 1980. \$12.95.

Dawson, Francis W. *Reminiscences of Confederate Service, 1861-1865*. Edited by Bell I. Wiley. With an introduction, appendix, and notes. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1980. \$14.95. From the original of 1882, printed in 100 copies.

Fehrenbacher, Don E. *The South and Three Sectional Crises*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1980. \$8.95.

Kajencki, Francis C. *Star on Many a Battlefield: Brevet Brigadier General Joseph Karge in the American Civil War*. Cranbury, N.J.: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1980. \$18.50.

Kohn, Richard, editor. *Military Laws of the United States from the Civil War through the War Powers Act of 1973*. New York: Arno Press, 1979. \$35.00

Hokanson, Nels Magnus. *Swedish Immigrants in Lincoln's Time*. With a foreword by Carl Sandburg. New York: Arno Press, 1979. \$22.00. Reprint of 1942 issue.

Kurz & Allison. *Battles of the Civil War. The Complete Kurz & Allison Prints, 1861-1865*. New York: Fairfax Press, 1979. \$19.95. Reprint of the Oxmoor House edition of 1976.

Lindstrom, Aletha Jane. *Sojourner Truth, Slave, Abolitionist, Fighter for Women's Rights*. Illustrated by Paul Frame. New York: J. Messner, 1980. \$8.00.

Mellon, James. *The Face of Lincoln*. Compiled and edited by...New York: Viking, 1979. \$75.00.

McElroy, John. *This Was Andersonville. The True Story of Andersonville Military Prison*. Edited with an introduction by Roy Meredith; illustrated by Arthur Meredith, Jr. New York: Fairfax Press, 1979. \$7.00.

Michie, Peter Smith. *The Life and Letters of Emory Upton*. New York: Arno Press, 1979. \$32.00. Reprint of 1885 edition.

Phillips, Stanley S. *Excavated Artifacts from Battlefields & Campsites of the Civil War 1861-1865*. Supplement I. Richmond, Va.: John G. Duggan, Jr., 1980. \$21.25.

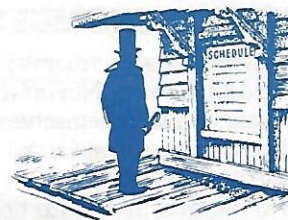
Robertson, James I., Jr. *An Index-Guide to the Southern Historical Society Papers, 1876-1959*. Millwood, New York: Kraus International Publications, 1980. \$95.00.

Schildt, John W. *Roads from Gettysburg*. Chewsville, Maryland: The Author, 1979. \$13.00.

(Continued from page 1)

Caba, who teaches high school history during the day, created Civil War Antiquities & Americana, a mail order business in 1975. It has since expanded to include restoration of historical buildings. He is also the director and curator of the Wert Gettysburg Collection, the first collection gathered on the battlefield by scout, soldier and citizen of Gettysburg J. Howard Wert. This will be Caba's first talk before our Round Table.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular Meetings are held the second Friday in each month except as noted.

September 5: C. Craig Caba on "U.S. Military Uniforms Used Early in the War". Note: This is the first Friday in September. Meeting will be held at the Midland Hotel, 172 W. Adams.

October 10: Rev. John Schildt on "Roads to Gettysburg". Meeting will be held at the Como Inn, 546 N. Milwaukee.

November 14: Dr. Gordon Dammann on "Civil War Medical Instruments and Equipment—Illustrated".

December 12: Robert G. Hartze on "General Van Dorn".

January 9: Howard C. Westwood on "The Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War".

February 13: Marshall D. Krolick on "Stuart's Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign".

March 13: To be announced.

April 10: 400th Regular Meeting Featuring Harold Howard.

May 8: To be announced.

June 5: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and installation of officers. Recipient of Award: James I. Robertson, Jr.

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

NEW MEMBERS

Dave Hawkinson, Lincoln College, 300 Keokuk, Lincoln, Illinois 62656. Dave has a special interest in Abraham Lincoln.

George Murray, 7363 N. Seeley, Chicago, Illinois 60645. George works for Wilczek Oil Company in Cicero. His special interests are military and autobiography.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Peter H. Johnson, Box 2891, Tubac, Arizona 85640.

Glen Wiche, 1360 N. Lake Shore Drive, Apt. 504, Chicago, Illinois 60610. (312) 642-8417.

ROSTER CHANGES

Frank A. Palumbo: add phone (312) 342-5489.

Robert G. Robinson: add phone (312) 432-7591.

Mike Lerner, who used to conduct The Round Table's tours of Chicago, is missing his notes on that tour. He believes they were loaned to another member. Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the notes should contact Mike at 7528 N. Ridge, Chicago 60645.