

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLI, Number 3

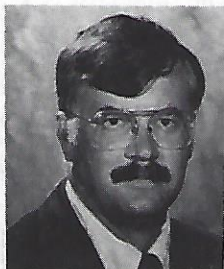
Chicago, Illinois

November, 1980

## GORDON E. DAMMANN ON CIVIL WAR MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

The knowledge of most historians about medical practice during the Civil War era is quite primitive compared with what they know about personalities and events. In addition, myths and misconceptions abound. Broadening our understanding and laying to rest some of the myths at The Round Table meeting of November 14 will be fellow member Dr. Gordon E. Dammann. Gordon plans to bring with him many of the instruments and some of the equipment a well-equipped Civil War surgeon would have used.

One of the most common misconceptions about Civil War medicine, held by a majority of people, is that surgery was performed without the benefit of anesthetics. However, as Gordon will explain, anesthetics were used, and used quite effectively. The two most common forms were chloroform and ether.

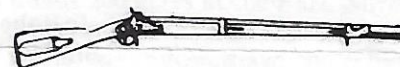


GORDON E. DAMMANN

Another misconception is that surgeons were knife-wielding barbarians who took great pleasure in removing soldiers' arms and legs. But, if we look at the medical knowledge of the times we see that primary amputation (within 48 hours) was accepted medical therapy for severe wounds to the arms and legs in the 1860s. Also, since the knowledge of sterilization was not to be thought of for another 10 years, Gordon says, we cannot fault the Civil War surgeon for failing to render his instruments surgically sterile.

Gordon Dammann, who is currently engaged in the private practice of dentistry in Lena, Illinois, is well-versed in the subject of his talk. He has written several articles about Civil War medicine for the *North/South Trader*, including "Civil War Medicine," "Drug Therapy During the Civil War," "Civil War Dentistry," and "The Ambulance System During the Civil War." He has also written "Civil War Dentistry" for the *Journal of the Illinois Dental Society* and portrays a regimental surgeon with the 15th Ill. Volunteers. Gordon is currently working on a book, *Civil War Medical Instruments and Equipment—Illustrated*, scheduled for completion in the spring of 1981.

A native of Peoria, Illinois, Gordon received his B.S. in 1965 and his D.D.S. in 1969, both from Loyola University, Chicago, and served in the U.S. Army Dental Corps from 1969-1971. He is on the executive council of the Illinois State Dental Society, a fellow of the International College



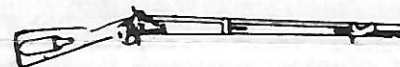
### 395th REGULAR MEETING

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### GORDON E. DAMMANN ON CIVIL WAR MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT ILLUSTRATED

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Como Inn  
546 N. Milwaukee  
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



### RESERVATION CARDS

Please note that the meeting reservation card enclosed with this newsletter has The Round Table's address printed on the reverse and can be used as a postcard (requiring a 10¢ stamp). This method of returning reservation cards saves The Round Table the cost of printing return envelopes.

of Dentistry, and a member of the American Dental Society, the American Society for the History of Dentistry, and the Society of Medical History of Chicago.

Gordon is a founder of the Lena Historical Society and a member of the Northwest Illinois Civil War Round Table and Company of Military Historians as well as our Round Table. He regularly speaks before school groups and various historical societies in the midwest and has exhibited at the Gettysburg and Great Lakes Civil War shows. This will be his first talk before our Round Table.



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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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.



A public meeting to consider plans to remove the mosaic benches which now surround Grant's Tomb in New York was held on September 30. Past president Merlin Sumner reports that those who want to save the benches appeared to gain the upper hand with the Park Service at the meeting, and that letters supporting removal, as well as restoration of the Tomb itself, should be sent to: Cecil Andrus, Secretary of the Interior, Interior Building, Washington, D.C. 20040.

# SIXTH ANNUAL CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE CONGRESS

by Wayne Anderson

More than 125 delegates met at the Holiday Inn, Tiftonia, Tennessee, October 2-4 for the Sixth Annual Civil War Round Table Congress. The topic this year was the Civil War in Tennessee and Northern Georgia. Friday's sessions featured several noted speakers and a panel dealing with battlefield preservation. On Saturday, the delegates toured the Chickamauga Battlefield and Lookout Mountain.

The delegates heard a report about the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1980 (HR 3) which was passed by the House and sent to the Senate in May. Richmond and Stones River National Battlefield Parks will benefit from this legislation since both are located near rapidly expanding urban areas. Some of the provisions of HR 3 include:

1. Purchase 22 acres of land around Ft. Harrison and 35 acres near Ft. Gilmore. Both locations have no buffer zone, and the additional land would protect parts of the Richmond Park.

2. Acquire through purchase and easement 166 acres in New Market Heights. This would preserve a portion of the Chaffin's Farm battlefield where black soldiers of the X Corps penetrated the line held by the famed Texas Brigade. The total cost is \$1.4 million for all three parcels of land.

3. Acquire over 250 acres for Stones River National Military Park. One hundred and eighty-five acres will be purchased and used in the park's development plan. Another 77 acres will be purchased easements along the Louisville and Nashville Railroad tracks. The park plans to plant trees along the right-of-way to obscure the view of a nearby industrial area. The cost for this is over \$3 million.

Also, Stones River has commenced to restore the park to its 1863 appearance. This includes restoring segments of Union trenches, erecting rail fences, and restructuring the famous cedar glade. The cotton field is being restored and there are plans for new interpretive trails.

Clearly, gains are being made in battlefield preservation (see story on Manassas on page 3.) In addition, the National Park Service is interested in the opinions of groups and individuals who want to preserve our nation's historic heritage. And, I met several park historians and assistant historians at the Congress and everyone is very active and enthusiastic about their role in battlefield preservation.

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Speaking at the annual banquet of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table on November 7 will be Honorary Award Life Member of our Round Table Joseph Eisendrath. Joe's topic is "Myths about Lincoln." Member Lowell Reidenbaugh will give his interpretation of the "Battle of White Oak Swamp" to the Louisville Round Table on November 21.

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Among the 10 journalists selected for the newly-established Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame is Lloyd Lewis, author of *Myths About Lincoln* and *Sherman: Fighting Prophet*. Lloyd joined the old Chicago Record-Herald in 1915, and later became drama editor at the Daily News.



## OCTOBER MEETING

Many volumes have been written about the Battle of Gettysburg itself, but very few of them describe how the soldiers got there. Yet, as Rev. John Schildt made clear to the 86 members and guests who attended the Round Table meeting on October 10, the 175,000 soldiers involved and the countless thousands of civilians who lived along the route they took had a lot of experiences worth telling. Rev. Schildt recounted the story of the roads to Gettysburg with the aid of slides.

Although he discussed the Confederate advance briefly, Rev. Schildt emphasized the route of the Union infantry. In the spring of 1863 the Union army at Fredericksburg was not in a position to take the offensive and thus Lee believed the time was right for a northern invasion. Although the distance from Fredericksburg to Gettysburg is less than 150 miles, the Confederates covered more ground since they moved west first to mask their movements. On June 16 the first Confederates crossed the Potomac at Williamsport and by June 26 were in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

Hooker was slow to act but by June 22 he had realized he should go after Lee. From June 25-27 the Union troops crossed the Potomac at Edwards Ferry on two specially constructed bridges. Their crossing went on day and night—most of the time in the rain. (In Rev. Schildt's opinion this was the greatest river crossing of the War).

The Army of the Potomac was now in Maryland, and at this point Rev. Schildt began describing the routes of the various units—providing numerous anecdotes about their experiences and the experiences of the civilians along their route.

He described, for example, the mud march of the Third Corps along the C & O Canal during the night of June 25. The men, horses and mules were all afraid of slipping into the water and the soldiers finally came up with the idea of putting candles on the ends of their muskets to light the way. (Rev. Schildt pointed out how the rain, humidity and perspiration which plagued the Army during the march to Gettysburg was responsible for the fact that much of the ammunition was found to be defective during the battle).

Rev. Schildt also described General Meade's experience of going to bed on the 27th as commander of the Fifth Corps and waking up in command of the Army of the Potomac (when the messenger arrived Meade thought he was being arrested for some unknown reason). The change of command occurred at Mt. Prospect, near Frederick, on June 28. Sunday, June 28, Rev. Schildt explained, was unlike any other Sunday in the north during the Civil War. Men from both armies were stirred by the ringing of churchbells and went to church to pray for peace. That same day saw the continuous rumble of troops passing through Frederick—in fact, citizens reported it was impossible to cross the street. Also on the 28th Lee had a visit from a spy informing him that Meade was now in command. Lee respected Meade more than Hooker, and decided to reform at Gettysburg rather than continue his drive toward Harrisburg.

On June 29 the Eleventh Corps marched in the rain to Harmony Grove. As they went through Graceham, the Moravians turned out to watch, and the diary that the Moravian church had been keeping since 1850 describes the Eleventh Corps' passing in its June 29 entry. On July 1 at 9 p.m., Sedgwick's Sixth Corps at Manchester received orders to move to Gettysburg. An all-night forced march brought them there by late in the afternoon of July 2. They

got there so unexpectedly fast, in fact, that the scouts on Round Top, seeing their bayonets in the distance, feared that Lee had gotten into the Union rear. This, according to Rev. Schildt, was one of America's greatest military marches. It, like the entire story of the roads to Gettysburg, was one of the tremendous events of the Civil War.

## CARTER SIGNS MANASSAS EXPANSION BILL

The "Third Battle of Manassas," which went on longer than the Civil War itself, is finally over. On October 14 President Carter signed a bill authorizing a 1500 acre addition to the Manassas National Battlefield Park—about 800 acres outright and 700 acres in scenic easements. Areas included in the legislation are the entire Brawner Farm, the Stone Bridge and the Wheeler tract. The only significant exclusion is about 200 acres at the Park entrance. The bill appropriated \$8.7 million for the expansion.

Passage of the bill followed swiftly a compromise by Virginia Senator John Warner on September 3. He agreed at that time to alter his version of the expansion legislation to bring it more in line with that proposed by Virginia Congressman Herbert Harris. The House had passed Harris' bill a year ago. In fact, similar versions of his bill had been passed by the House four times in the last five years. However, expansion was always killed in the Senate due to the objections of former Virginia Senator William Scott (Warner replaced Scott in 1978). Scott's opposition reflected that of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors which wanted the land around the Park for development.

## 1980-81 DUES REDUCED

At a meeting just prior to the regular meeting on October 10, the Executive Committee voted to reduce 1980-81 dues for third year and subsequent members to \$35 per year. See the enclosed letter for further details.

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The Special Collections Division of the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center will hold a silent auction of Civil War and other books from November 22-29. Included are about 150 regimental histories. For further information and a detailed catalogue, write or call Special Collections Division, Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (269-2926).

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Forrest Avenue in Atlanta, named for Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, has been officially changed to McGill Blvd., after Ralph McGill, the late Atlanta Constitution publisher and Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist. The action came in early September despite the protests, and a lawsuit, by historians, businessmen and residents. (One businessman complained that the name change cost him about \$6,000 to alter stationary and another \$60,000 in lost business because people couldn't find his office.) The name change resolution was introduced by two city councilmen to "eradicate the racism" suggested by the name of Nathan Forrest who was an early organizer of the Ku Klux Klan.



## THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Bradford, Ned, editor. *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*. New York: Crown (Fairfax Press Book). Reprint of the one-volume condensation of 1956.

Bremner, Robert H. *The Public Good: Philanthropy and Welfare in the Civil War Era*. New York: Knopf, 1980. \$15.00. Sixth title in the series *The Impact of the Civil War*.

Crowley, William J. *Tennessee Cavalier in the Missouri Cavalry*. Columbia, Mo.: Kelly Press, Inc., 1978. Ltd. 500 copies. \$12.50

Culver, J.F. "*Your Affectionate Husband, J.F. Culver*." Letters Written During the Civil War. Edited by Leslie W. Dunlap. Iowa City: Friends of the University of Iowa Libraries, 1978. \$15.00

Gould, Benjamin A. *Investigations in the Military and Anthropological Statistics of American Soldiers*. New York: Arno. Reprint of the 1869 issue published for the U.S. Sanitary Commission. Half title: *Sanitary Memoirs of the War of the Rebellion*. vol. 2

Handlin, Oscar and Lillian. *Abraham Lincoln and the Union*. Boston, 1980. \$10.95

Leemhuis, Roger P. *James L. Orr and the Sectional Conflict*. Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1979. Paper text ed. \$9.00

Quill, J. Michael. *Prelude to the Radicals: The North and Reconstruction during 1865*. Washington, D.C. University Press of America, 1980. \$16.75; paper \$8.75

Rawley, James A. *Race and Politics. Bleeding Kansas and the Coming of the Civil War*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1979. \$15.95, paper \$4.50. Copyright 1963.

Schweitzer, George K. *Civil War Genealogy*. Knoxville, TN: The Author. \$5.00

Weller, Edwin. *A Civil War Courtship*. Edited by William Walton. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1980. \$11.95. Info on the New York 107th.

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Confederate monuments are a common sight throughout the south. Thus, it is not strange that there should be one in Union, West Virginia, from whence came the 27th Virginia Infantry. What is strange, however, is the fact that the monument isn't in town, but, rather, north of town in the middle of a 20-acre cow pasture. The monument is a statue of a soldier, in a slouch hat, holding a rifle. It is carved in white marble. The soldier stands, at parade rest, atop a limestone pedestal. Pedestal and soldier are 20 feet tall.

Town files reveal that the monument was carved in Italy and unveiled with much pomp on August 29, 1901. However, no one knows why it is located in the cow pasture. Karen Mitchell, who owns the pasture and has done some research on the monument, has two theories. One is that the town was expected to grow in the direction of the statue and eventually encompass it. The other is that the local government in 1901 may have deemed a Confederate monument unseemly within the city limits.

## BULLETIN BOARD



### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

November 14: Dr. Gordon Dammann on "Civil War Medical Instruments and Equipment—Illustrated". Meeting will be held at the Como Inn.

December 12: Robert G. Hartje on "General Van Dorn". Meeting will be held at the Midland Hotel.

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.

April 29-May 3: Annual Battlefield Tour to Vicksburg.

May 8: Archie P. McDonald on "Jed Hotchkiss, Jackson's Topographer".

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

Mark Hommerding, 5611 S. Quincy, Hinsdale, Illinois 60521. (312) 323-3194. Mark is a student at Hinsdale Central High School. He is interested in military aspects of the War and in Robert E. Lee.

David Komaniecki, 2544 S. Lawndale, Chicago, Illinois 60623. (312) 865-1629. Dave is interested in both military and political aspects of the War.

Leslie W. MacDonald, 2744 W. Rascher Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60625. (312) 878-3394. Leslie is interested in military and political aspects of the War and in Lincoln.

William A. Welsheimer, 1825 Wilber St., South Bend, Indiana 46628.

Virginia Zarob, 7100 N. Olcott, Chicago, Illinois 60631. (312) 631-6949. Virginia is a teacher at Holy Cross School in Deerfield. She is interested in military strategy and in Lincoln.

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Dr. John B. Carter, 1100 N. Lake Shore, Apt. 7B, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Dr. Frank E. Vandiver, Office of the President, North Texas State University, P.O. Box 13737, NT Station, Denton, Texas 76203.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

An executive committee meeting to decide on a permanent site for future Round Table meetings will be held at the Como Inn at 5:00 pm. on November 14, just prior to the regular meeting. All current officers, trustees, and committee chairmen, as well as all past presidents, are urged to attend.