

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLII, Number 3

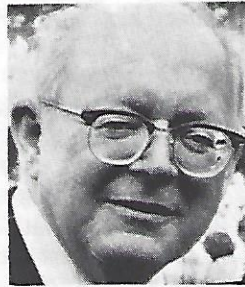
Chicago, Illinois

November, 1981

LOWELL REIDENBAUGH ON JACKSON AT WHITE OAK SWAMP

Following his brilliant, spectacular operations in the Shenandoah Valley in the spring of 1862, Stonewall Jackson joined Lee near Richmond shortly before the start of the Seven Days Campaign. Unfortunately, his performance there was somewhat less than spectacular. Fellow member Lowell Reidenbaugh will discuss that campaign, of which the Battle of White Oak Swamp was a part, and Jackson's conduct at The Round Table meeting of November 13. It is fitting that we hear about "Jackson at White Oak Swamp" from Lowell, not only because he is one of the leading authorities on Jackson, but also because his last talk to The Round Table, in September, 1977, described Jackson's Valley Campaign. In a sense he will be continuing the story.

The Seven Days Campaign began on June 25. The Battle of White Oak Swamp (or, as it is also known, Frayser's Farm) took place on the sixth day of the campaign, June 30. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was trying to attack McClellan from across the desolate mire of White Oak Swamp. But the Confederate offense was plagued by a lack of coordination, and Jackson, as he had been at several of the earlier battles of the campaign, was accused of not carrying out his role. June 30 was perhaps the decisive day of the week-long campaign; Lee lost his chance to cut the Federal army in two and prevent it from reaching its haven at Harrison's Landing.

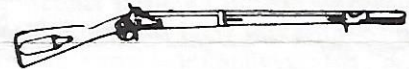


LOWELL REIDENBAUGH

Lowell says of his talk, "Jackson at White Oak Swamp will trace Jackson from the close of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign at Port Republic, June 9, 1862, through the early portion of the Seven Days battles around Richmond and attempt to explain his lethargic conduct at White Oak Swamp on June 30—a three-week account of Old Jack's activities?"

Although he has lived in St. Louis for over 30 years and is an active member and past president of the Round Table there, Lowell is a long time and popular member of our Round Table and a regular Battlefield Tour participant. He traces his interest in the Civil War, or as he refers to it, the War for Southern Independence, to his boyhood in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. There, he knew veterans of the conflict and listened to their tales of the burning of the Wrightsville-Columbia Bridge by state militia to head off Jubal Early's division during the Gettysburg Campaign.

Lowell has been with *The Sporting News*, the international sports weekly, since 1947. He became managing editor in 1962

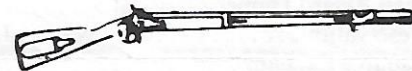


405th REGULAR MEETING

LOWELL REIDENBAUGH
ON
JACKSON AT WHITE OAK SWAMP

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1981

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



The Battlefield Tour Committee co-chairmen, Bob Ziegler and Dan Weinberg, are looking into the possibility of arranging bus transportation to and from Gettysburg. However, before proceeding any further they need to know how many members might be interested. The cost would be \$75-\$100 (as opposed to \$300 by air). It is about a 16 hour trip; the bus would probably leave Chicago early Wednesday morning and return early Monday morning. If you think you might be interested, please so indicate on your meeting reservation card (use the card even if you will not be attending the meeting).

and held that position until his recent appointment as senior editor. Prior to joining *The Sporting News* he served short stints as a general reporter for the *Lancaster Intelligencer-Journal* and as a sports writer for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. In addition to providing the introduction to the Morningside Press reprint of the revised edition of *The Memoirs of Stonewall Jackson*, by Anna Jackson, Lowell has written a history of the National League titled *100 Years of National League Baseball*.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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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.



According to an article in *The Arkansas Democrat*, Columbia Broadcasting has begun making a film about the Civil War in that state titled, "The Blue and the Gray." Based upon research by Bruce Catton, the eight hour film will cover the war from John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry to the assassination of Lincoln. The story is woven around two families, North and South, the mothers being sisters. The \$15 million dollar film, directed by Andrew J. McLagen (Gunsmoke and several John Wayne movies) will probably be shown in the fall of 1982.

Honorary Award Life member of The Civil War Round Table, 1980 Nevins-Freeman Award recipient and Battlefield Tour guide Edwin C. Bearss has been named chief historian of the National Park Service. He succeeds Harry W. Pfanz who resigned last spring.

Ed joined the National Park Service in 1955 and served at Vicksburg, Mississippi, as park historian. While there, he did research that led to the lost resting place of the Union gunboat Cairo. He also located the two forgotten forts at Grand Gulf, and helped to obtain for Grand Gulf status as a state military monument. Most recently, Ed has been supervisory historian of the National Park Service.

A feature of the Illinois State Fair in Springfield last summer was a portrayal of the daily routine of a Union Army private in the Civil War. Using reproductions and original equipment, Carol Andrews, site superintendent at Lincoln's Tomb State Historic Site, and Keith Herron, site interpretive specialist, demonstrated life as it was for a Union soldier. The first half of the program focussed on the soldier's uniform, how it was worn and how the soldiers could modify what they wore to account for seasonal changes. Herron also demonstrated how soldiers carried ammunition, loaded their muskets and how bayonets were used. "We try to arouse interest in Civil War history, and the Lincoln heritage which is so much a part of that era, by bringing to life the daily routine of the Union private," explained Herron.

The Confederacy still lives—in Brussels, Belgium. An article by Bud Livingston in the New York Round Table newsletter reports on the Confederate Historical Association of Belgium. Formed in 1972 for the "vulgarisation de las Guerre de Secession" (the explanation of the War of Secession) the Association has 150 members scattered throughout Western Europe. Glass cases in their club house contain a variety of Civil War memorabilia such as a Confederate war bond, a Jackson, Mississippi newspaper announcing the secession of that state, a uniform of the Washington Artillery of New Orleans, pins, decals, and a wide variety of books.

In celebration of its tenth anniversary next year, the Association is organizing an international convention of Civil War history which will be held in Brussels May 20-23, 1982. The program will include lectures by historians, movies and slide shows, guided tours in and around Brussels, and a trading post of books and miscellaneous historical artifacts. For further information, write: Confederate Historical Association of Belgium—1982 Convention, Clos des Peupliers, 64, B-1200 Brussels, Belgium.

Everyone who wants to know about virtually every Confederate monument will want a copy of *Confederate Monuments: Enduring Symbols of the South and The War Between the States* by Dr. Ralph W. Widener. Five years of research went into this two-volume book which documents over 2,500 Confederate monuments located from coast to coast. It contains photographs of every monument, the inscriptions and dates of dedication and/or unveiling. The cost of the two-volume, limited edition set is \$60. For further information, write Historical Publishing Company, Box 31209, Dallas, Texas 75231.

OCTOBER MEETING

A detailed account of the crucial Battle of Perryville was the offering at The Round Table meeting on October 9. The speaker was Dr. Kenneth Hafendorfer of Louisville who enhanced understanding of the course of the battle with several large maps. His talk was preceded by an autographing party at the Book Shop for Hafendorfer's new book, *Perryville—Battle for Kentucky*.

In early October, 1862, Confederate General Braxton Bragg, after moving boldly across Union General Don Carlos Buell's front in Tennessee, was in Kentucky seeking to link up with General Kirby Smith. He had about 32,000 men in two wings, one under Polk, the other under Hardee. But suddenly he found himself facing Buell (Buell had three corps, McCook, Crittenden and Gilbert). Buell, said Dr. Hafendorfer, was convinced the Confederates would concentrate near Perryville. However, to throw the Confederates off he feinted toward Frankfort where Bragg had gone to help install the new Confederate Governor of Kentucky. Bragg himself was off balance and uncertain of Buell's position.

Early on October 7 Bragg ordered Hardee to move north; Joe Wheeler's cavalry, protecting the rear of Bragg's army, lay in ambush for the federal forces about six miles west of Perryville. Wheeler was discovered by Union cavalry but he put them to flight; Wheeler himself had to fall back when Buell ordered his infantry forward. During this action Buell was thrown from his horse and was confined to an ambulance for the rest of the battle. The skirmish ended at dark and the Confederates began to form around Perryville. Buell, said Dr. Hafendorfer, was now convinced both Bragg and Smith were there; Bragg at the same time began to fear the Federal force was larger than he expected.

As Dr. Hafendorfer explained, it was very hot and dry in Kentucky at this time and the Chaplin River and its tributaries were the only source of water. Thus, on the evening of the 7th Buell decided to take control of the hill overlooking Doctors Creek to insure a supply of water. The man in charge of this action was a new brigadier named Phil Sheridan. The Confederates fell back and the Union forces were left in control of the hill.

On the morning of the 8th, Polk, although ordered to move against the Federal forces immediately, took a defensive-offensive stand. Bragg arrived about 10 a.m. to see why Polk had not carried out his orders and took personal command. He found that his right was weak and moved Cheatham there. His plan was for Cheatham to drive in the Union left, Buckner to move across their center and Anderson to come up the Springfield Road and roll up the Union forces. Meanwhile, Crittenden, who had been driven back by Wheeler, was about three miles from town and Buell had decided to call off the battle until the next day.

Bragg was in position by noon; his troops had arrived unnoticed by the Federals. The attack was ordered for 12:30. The Confederate guns opened against McCook on the Union left but Polk decided to delay when he received reports of new Federal columns approaching. This allowed the Union line to be extended northward unmolested. Once again Bragg came up to see what the delay was and ordered the attack to be launched.

The Confederate right advanced quickly but came under heavy fire from three sides; losses on both sides were heavy. With the attack on the right at a standstill, action shifted toward the center. At this time neither Gilbert nor Buell was at the front and Sheridan had been ordered not to use his artillery. It was now about 3 p.m. and Cleburne picked up the assault. Sheridan, despite his orders, ordered his artillery to open as the Confederates advanced, but he soon found himself besieged. About 4 p.m. Buell finally heard firing and Gilbert headed up to see

what was happening.

Late in the day McCook's line was crushed but he finally received aid from Buell and the battle was halted. Bragg, now realizing he faced the entire Federal army, ordered a retreat to Harrodsburg. It had been, Dr. Hafendorfer said, a bloody battle—Buell lost about 845 killed and Bragg about 500. However, Dr. Hafendorfer concluded, with the withdrawal of Bragg from the state following the battle, never again would the soil of Kentucky be bloodied by the Civil War.

Some items of interest from the Kentucky Round Table newsletter: Knob Creek Farm, the 200-acre LaRue County farm where Abraham Lincoln lived as a small child before his family moved north to Indiana, is for sale. The cost is about \$1 million. In recent years the farm has not been used for agricultural purposes, but, rather, as a tourist attraction.

Pvt. Daniel Webster Beall, a Confederate cavalryman, was killed in June, 1863, and his body was returned to his native Gallatin County for burial in a family cemetery near Warsaw, Kentucky. But recently a distant relative had it removed to the Warsaw Cemetery. To the astonishment of those who witnessed the exhumation, Beall's body was encased in a cast iron coffin estimated to weigh 500 pounds. Through a glass window at the head of the casket it could be seen that the body was remarkably well preserved. (Reportedly, arsenic was the preservative element most commonly used by embalmers of the Civil War era).

The Confederate Memorial Literary Society has announced that entries are now being accepted for the 1981 awards for historical research and writing on the period of the Confederate States of America. There are two categories: the Jefferson Davis Award for book-length narrative history, and the Founders Award for work in the area of research or editing of primary sources resulting in publication of one or more volumes. Each award consists of a citation and an impression of the Great Seal of the Confederacy. They will be presented on June 3 at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Deadline for entries is March 1, 1982. For further information, write: The Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 E. Clay Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, heir of the Grand Army of the Republic, is now in its one hundredth year and is making a special effort to reach those who have Union ancestors and urge them to join. All male descendants not less than 14 years old of soldiers, sailors or marines who were regularly mustered in and served honorably, or who were honorably discharged from the Army or Navy during the Civil War and who have not been convicted of any heinous crime and who neither they nor their ancestors through whom they claim membership have borne arms against the U.S. are eligible for membership. The organization also has associate members who have no Union ancestor but who wish to participate.

The objectives of the organization are: to perpetuate the memory of the GAR, to preserve and make available for research records pertaining to it, to honor all who have served our country in any war, to teach patriotism and citizenship duties, to oppose attempts to weaken our Constitutional Union and to sustain American principles of representative government, equal rights and justice for all.

For further information, call Col. Robert F. Dyer, Jr., Commander of the Lincoln-Cushing Camp (202) 229-3579.



THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Barton, Michael. *Goodmen: The Character of Civil War Soldiers*. 135 p., bibliog., index. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1981. \$11.95

Bearss, Edwin C. and Warren Grabau. *The Battle of Jackson May 14, 1863. The Siege of Jackson, July 10-17, 1863. Three Other Post-Vicksburg Actions*. Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1981. Publication sponsored by The Jackson Civil War Round Table. 158 p., maps, illus., notes. \$12.00

Bernard, George S. *War Talks of Confederate Veterans*. Compiled and edited by . . . Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1981. xxiii, 335 p., ports., illus., 2 folding maps. \$17.50. Original of 1892.

Brown, D. Alexander. *Grierson's Raid*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1981. 261 p., endpaper maps, illus., notes, index. \$17.50. Original of 1954.

Calkins, Christopher M. *Thirty-six Hours before Appomattox*. April 6 and 7, 1865. [80] p., maps, illus., bibliog., wraps. The author, 1980. \$2.25

Dunkelman, Mark H. and Michael J. Winey. *The Hardtack Regiment. An Illustrated History of the 154th Regiment, New York Infantry Volunteers*. Rutherford, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1981. \$19.50 211 p., maps, illus., bibliog, index.

Foner, Philip S. *British Labor and the American Civil War*. New York: Holmes & Meier, 1981. \$9.50

Hafendorfer, Kenneth A. *Perryville. Battle for Kentucky*. Owensboro, KY: McDowell Publications, 1981. xx, 419 p., maps, illus., bibliog., index. \$25.00

Marszalek, John F., *Sherman's Other War: The General and the Civil War Press*. Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1981. \$14.95

Milligan, John D. *Gunboats down the Mississippi*. New York: Arno Press, 1980. xxvii, 216 p., illus. Reprint of 1945 issue from U.S. Naval Institute.

Neely, Mark E., Jr. *The Abraham Lincoln Encyclopedia*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1981. \$39.95

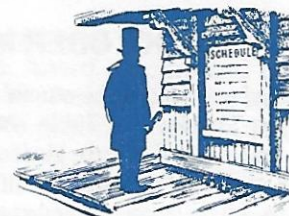
Sheppard, Eric W. *Bedford Forrest, The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1981. 320 p., maps, 1 folding, illus., index. \$20.00

Starr, Stephan Z. *The Union Cavalry in the Civil War, Volume II. The War in the East: From Gettysburg to Appomattox, 1863-1865*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1981. 584 p., \$30.00

Thomas, Henry Walter. *History of the Doles-Cook Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia, C.S.A.* Containing muster roles of each company of the Fourth, Twelfth, Twenty-first and Forty-fourth Georgia regiments, with a short sketch of the services of each member, and a complete history of each regiment. . . Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1981. x, 632 p., 31 plates. \$35.00. Original of 1903.

Todd, Frederick P. *American Military Equipage, 1851-1872*. New York: Scribner's 1981. 602 p., illus. \$30.00. Reprint in one volume of the three vols. issued by The Company of Military Historians.

Treasurer Nate Yellen reminds members that those who have not paid their 1981-82 dues by November 1 will be dropped from the rolls.



BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Como Inn, 546 N. Milwaukee Avenue, the second Friday in each month except as noted.

November 13: Lowell Reidenbaugh on "Jackson at White Oak Swamp"

December 11: Edward Longacre on "Cavalry Campaigns, A Comparative View." The meeting will be held at the Illinois Athletic Club, 112 S. Michigan Avenue.

January 8, 1982: William Davis on "The Siege of Charleston, 1861-1865"

February 12: To be announced.

March 12: Gordon Whitney on "The Mystery of Spring Hill"

April 9: To be announced.

May 5-9: Annual Battlefield Tour: Gettysburg.

June 11: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and installation of officers. Recipient of award: Frank E. Vandiver.

The October newsletter reported on the efforts of the Old Courthouse Museum in Vicksburg and the Davis Family Association to get back from Saxeville, Wisconsin a bell believed stolen from Jefferson Davis' plantation by Union soldiers. Saxeville maintains there is no evidence that the bell, which rests in the town's park, actually came from Davis' plantation.

That story brought this letter from Gordon Cotton, Director of the Old Court House Museum and a member of the Board of the Davis Family Association:

"Dan Lee of the Vicksburg National Military Park sent me a copy of your October issue, and I read the account of the Davis family seeking the return of the Saxeville Bell. I thought you might be interested in the follow-up.

"As a result of the AP story [on which the newsletter story was based], the handwritten memoirs of a Wisconsin soldier came forth from his descendants, who are now Southerners. He tells the story of stealing the bell, how it was transported back to Wisconsin in a flour barrel, and of seeing it in Saxeville after the war. He gives an accurate account of how they reached Brierfield Plantation from their camp at Red Bone Church south of Vicksburg. We feel this is sufficient proof that the bell is stolen property and does belong to the Davis heirs. We have informed the Saxevillans of the fact and are awaiting their answer. By the way, the Yankees also stole two wagonloads of corn from Brierfield, and we want that back, too!

"If they don't return the bell, we are perhaps even: we have Capt. Saxe, for whom the town is named. He lies buried at Shiloh?"

Divers in Columbia, South Carolina, have begun searching the Congaree River there for Confederate property dumped by Union troops when Sherman invaded the city in 1865. The search is being sponsored by the Historic Columbia Foundation and a group of citizens. From diaries and tidbits of information gathered from many sources they have pieced together where they think Confederate shells, cannons, pikes, artillery and other artifacts may be buried under river sediment.