

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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EDWARD G. LONGACRE ON CAVALRY RAIDS – A CRITICAL COMPARISON

Cavalry raids were an important part of the strategy of both the North and the South during the Civil War. Some, such as Grierson's, were spectacularly successful; others failed badly. A discussion of raiding in general, and several successful and unsuccessful raids in particular, will highlight The Round Table meeting of December 11. We will hear that evening from a man who has studied and written about this subject extensively, Edward G. Longacre; it promises to be an informative, entertaining evening.

Of his talk, Longacre says, "I will attempt to give an overview of cavalry raiding, North and South, and to be both specific and general about the subject. Following a brief summary of raiding, 1861-1865, in all theaters of the war, I will analyze the nature and objectives of the "art." In this I hope to quote from military observers who wrote both during the war and after.

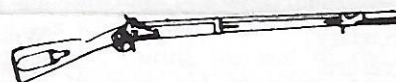


EDWARD LONGACRE

Then I expect to choose about five or six raids that typify the gender and which exemplify both the advantages and the drawbacks of raiding. "Included as examples of successful raids in either the strategic or tactical sense will probably be Stuart's Chickahominy Raid, Grierson's Mississippi Raid and Wilson's Selma Campaign. To illustrate flawed cavalry expeditions I might choose Stoneman's 1863 Virginia raid, the Wilson-Kautz Weldon Railroad Raid of 1864, or John Hunt Morgan's 1863 raid through Indiana and Ohio. I shall strive to keep the account balanced by discussing as many Confederate expeditions as Federal. Along the way I might be able to toss in various other observations about the utility of mounted campaigning (not necessarily limited to raiding) and give my opinions as to which generals were apt to be successful at cavalry employment, which were not, and why?"

Edward Longacre, who is currently staff historian at the headquarters of the Strategic Air Command, USAF, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, and Civil War materials editor of *Manuscripts*, the journal of the Manuscript Society, is a native of New Jersey. He received his B.A. in English from La Salle College, Philadelphia, an M.A. in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (where he also taught for two years), and is currently working on a Ph.D. in American history at Temple University, Philadelphia.

He is the author of about 50 journal and magazine articles on the Civil War (his name is certainly familiar to regular readers of *Civil War Times Illustrated*). Longacre has also written three

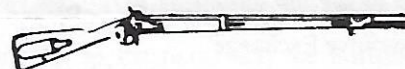


406th REGULAR MEETING

EDWARD LONGACRE
ON
CAVALRY RAIDS: A CRITICAL COMPARISON

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1981

Illinois Athletic Club
112 S. Michigan
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



MEETING SITE

As noted above, the December meeting will be held at the Illinois Athletic Club, 112 S. Michigan Avenue. We will be in the Illini Room.

books: *From Union Stars to Top Hat: A Biography of the Extraordinary General James Harrison Wilson* (1972); *Mounted Raids of the Civil War* (1975); and *The Man Behind the Guns: A Biography of General Henry J. Hunt, Chief of Artillery, Army of the Potomac* (1977). He is at work on a book to be published next year, *The Cavalry at Gettysburg: A Tactical Study of Mounted Operations During the Civil War's Pivotal Campaign*.

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.



Divers found the wreckage of the Federal warship Cumberland last summer in the James River off Newport News, Virginia. It was rammed and sunk by the C.S.S. Virginia in March, 1862. A number of artifacts have been bought up from the wreck including the ship's bell. However, the Virginia's ram, which brock off after slamming a seven-foot hole below the Cumberland's water line, has yet to be found. Nearby, divers found the wreckage of the Confederacy's Florida, a raider that sank or captured 60 Union merchant vessels. It was captured in 1864, towed to Newport News, and scuttled.

LLOYD DELANO MILLER (9 OCTOBER 1899 — 5 NOVEMBER 1981)

by Ralph G. Newman

Lloyd Miller was an intellectual roughneck. He was loud, he could be vulgar, he could drink with the best of us; yet he could be infinitely tender, a complete gentleman, and a most thorough scholar.

Born in St. Louis, Lloyd attended both New York and Western Military Academies in New York State. He enlisted in World War I and was a member of the 135th Aero Squadron. By one of the strangest tricks of fate, he became a member of the 135th just as one of its original members, Percival G. Hart, left the unit for other duty. The two men never met until years later when they both were members of The Civil War Round Table. Perc Hart was the speaker at our first meeting. Lloyd enjoyed telling how our mutual friend, Joe Parrish, the Chicago Tribune cartoonist, brought him to my shop, then on the 19th floor of 33 North LaSalle Street. Lloyd leaned against a bookcase and dislodged a book. It was the History of the 135th Aero Squadron, written by Percival G. Hart, and published by the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop. Lloyd was not aware the book existed. That happened more than 40 years ago.

Lloyd entered the insurance business in Louisville, working for his father, following the end of World War I. He struck out on his own in 1927 as an agent for the Travelers Insurance Company. In the 1930s he went to Florida for a few years but it didn't work out and he returned, this time to Chicago where he remained in the insurance business in the greater Chicago area until his death. He hated the business (he would have made a fine teacher). He had a long association in business with George L. Lilley, a long-time member of this organization.

In his youth Lloyd played football and also coached for a while. He met a beautiful girl in Kentucky and fell in love with her. But she was engaged to someone else and was to be married. Her husband was killed in an explosion shortly after her marriage; she was a widow and pregnant. Lloyd proposed and they were married. He was devoted to Mary Elizabeth ("Lib") for the rest of her life. She died a few years ago and life was never the same for Lloyd. In addition to Lib's daughter, who was born shortly after their marriage, Lloyd and Lib had two other daughters. One of the tragedies of their early marriage was the death of their 2-1/2 year old son who fell out of a window when a screen gave way.

Lloyd was the most generous member of the Civil War Round Table. His gifts made our fellowship program possible and helped materially in the establishment of the Civil War and American History Research collection of the C.W.R.T. in the Cultural Center of the Chicago Public Library. His talk about the battle of Franklin was heard by more Round Tablers than any other single speech. He even constructed a metal board to which he could affix maps and movable figures and armies. Those who were fortunate enough to hear the talk were unanimous in their opinion that it was the finest and most understandable presentation of a battle in C.W.R.T. history.

He last met with us at our 400th meeting on April 10, 1981. he was feeble but not licked and did manage to give the Rebel yell. Lloyd was an Honorary Award Life Member of The Round Table and received the Nevins-Freeman Award in 1977.

A few of us had dinner with him not long ago and he called just before Pat and I went to Europe to ask when we could get together again. I would drive out to have lunch with him on occasion and we would drive to a seafood restaurant, visit Lib's grave and then he would stop at a candy store to buy a box of candy for my Pat and Margaret April.

(continued on page 4)

NOVEMBER MEETING

Stonewall Jackson's conduct during the Seven Days has long mystified students of that campaign. His failure to act aggressively there is out of character with his conduct both before and after that period. Can his conduct be explained? Our speaker at The Round Table meeting on November 13, Lowell Reidenbaugh, attempted to do so. He focused specifically on Jackson at White Oak Swamp, but he also discussed previous and subsequent events.

Lowell said the story really begins three weeks before the start of the Seven Days at the end of the Valley Campaign. Following a few days rest, Jackson started east to join Lee near Richmond—he covered 85 miles in four days. On June 22 he left his army for a meeting with Lee, Longstreet, A.P., and D.H. Hill in which they mapped out the strategy for what turned out to be the Seven Days campaign.

Jackson was to march from Ashland, turn Beaver Dam Creek, and strike the right flank of the Federal army. However, Jackson was in unfamiliar country and had no maps. Furthermore, his army was badly strung out and he found that bridges had been washed away. Thus he did not arrive on the scene in time for either the battle of Mechanicsville or Gaines' Mill.

McClellan by this time had decided to move his base to the James. Although Lee knew he was moving, he was unsure where and sent Stuart to find out. On June 28 Stuart reported that McClellan's base at White House Landing on the Pamunkey River was in smoldering ruins—Lee thus knew McClellan was headed south for the James; he hoped to prevent him from reaching his objective.

In order to cross the Chickahominy, Jackson had to rebuild Grapevine Bridge—it wasn't ready until early on the 30th. Jackson then crossed and headed for White Oak Swamp where again he found the bridge out. The Federal fire from the other side was too heavy to attempt to rebuild it. Fisher's Ford upstream was found to be clear but, said Lowell, it is not known whether Jackson ever learned of this fact. However, Munford found another crossing downstream and personally reported this to Jackson, but Jackson did not act on this information. While whether or not Jackson could have crossed White Oak Swamp is open to question, Lowell said, the fact remains that Lee never heard from him as to his position, and this was a serious mistake. Lee finally ordered Longstreet to attack. The fighting was fierce, but when darkness came the Federals were still on their way south.

Jackson was severely criticized by some, such as Longstreet, for what he failed to do at White Oak Swamp. However, Lowell noted, Lee never blamed Jackson. And Jackson himself never felt he had done anything wrong, maintaining that if Lee had wanted him, he would have sent for him. (Hunter McGuire later said Jackson had orders to stay on the north side until he received further orders, which he never did, and that Lee intended to drive the Federals north into Jackson).

Lowell himself feels that to understand Jackson's performance it is necessary to go back to the 22nd. From that time forward he had virtually no sleep and very little to eat (the cooks and supplies were far behind). In addition, Lowell said, he was suffering from fever. Thus, all things considered, it boils down to two questions—should Jackson have done more at White Oak Swamp? Could Jackson have done more at White Oak Swamp?

Lowell feels that if Jackson had been in full command of his faculties he would have probed for a crossing of White Oak Swamp more aggressively. Could Jackson have done more given his lack of sleep and food, and the fever he suffered — "I'll let you be the judge," Lowell concluded.

In response to a question as to whether Jackson, coming from the Valley where he essentially answered to no one, was unable to operate under another's command, Lowell said he did not think this could explain Jackson's poor performance. He noted that Jackson had operated effectively under another before the Seven Days, and did so well after that campaign.

Lowell's talk was preceded by a ceremony recognizing the 70th birthday of our founder, Ralph Newman. Bob Douglas read a brief tribute and presented Ralph with an engraved silver tray.

The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States is seeking new members. The Order was organized on April 15, 1865, the day Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, to act as a guard of honor for the president's funeral cortege, and to enforce unqualified allegiance to the U.S. government, protect the rights and liberties of American citizenship, and maintain national honor, union and independence. To be eligible for membership, an applicant must be a direct male descendant of a commissioned officer who served in the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps. during the war of the Rebellion, (1861-1865) and be 18 years old or more. Applicants for membership are required to furnish hereditary proof of succession. For further information, contact Commander Martin P. Dutch, Illinois Commandery, at 543-8000 (days) or 323-2457 (evenings).

We reported in October that planned construction of additional HUD low-income housing on the boundaries of Petersburg National Battlefield had been halted. But, we have since learned that the halt was only temporary, and time is running out. According to the Civil War Round Table Associates newsletter, HUD has left the final decision up to the people of Petersburg, and specifically the mayor, city council and local housing authority. The mayor is reportedly under considerable pressure from the housing authority which purchased the housing site last summer and is reluctant to part with it.

Opposition to the project has centered around the known adverse effects on the park of the existing HUD units (vandalism, fires, etc.), and fears that additional housing would aggravate the situation. To illustrate the problem: Petersburg Battlefield ranks seventh in vandalism among all the parks in the National Park System; a uniformed ranger was recently held-up at gunpoint in the park; and the Suffolk, Virginia, Round Table has warned its members not to visit the Battlefield alone or even in small groups.

The alternatives to additional housing on the park boundaries, offered to the city by HUD, include finding a different site, stopping the project completely, or using the available funds for rehabilitation of existing dwellings elsewhere in the city (this last option was in fact approved by the city council last summer). If you wish to make your views on this matter known, you can write: Mayor LeRoy B. Roper, City of Petersburg, City Hall, West Tabb Street, Petersburg, Virginia 23803.

James C. Roach, assistant chief of interpretation and visitor services at Colonial National Historical Park, Yorktown, Virginia, has been named Chief of Interpretation at Gettysburg. Roach received his bachelor's in history and social studies at West Virginia Wesleyan College and his MA in history at West Virginia University.

Meanwhile, Frances Kolb has changed her mind about accepting the job as superintendent at Petersburg.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Cox, LaWanda C. *Lincoln and Black Freedom: A Study in Presidential Leadership*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1981. \$14.95.

Croom, M.L., Editor. *Easy Company: N.C. 61st Infantry Regiment, C.S.A.* Richlands, N.C.: Croom, 1980. pbk. \$8.95.

Donald, David. *Charles Sumner and the Coming of the Civil War*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981. pbk. \$12.50. Original hardcover edition done by Knopf in 1960.

Howell, H. Grady, Jr. *Going to Meet the Yankees*. (A History of the Sixth Mississippi Infantry, C.S.A.). Jackson, Mississippi: The author., 1981. 370p., illus., maps, index. \$30.00.

Jordan, Weymouth T., and Louis Manarin. *North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster*, Volume VIII. North Carolina: Division of Archives and History, 1981. 556 p., illus., index. \$22.00.

Mattern, Carolyn J. *Soldiers when they Go. The Story of Camp Randall, 1861-1865*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin for Department of History, University of Wisconsin, 1981 Pbk. \$4.95.

Olson, Kenneth E. *Music and Muskets: Bands and Bandmen of the American Civil War*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1981. \$27.50.

Smith, Stephen. *Handbook of Surgical Operations*. Towson, Md.: The Medical Purveyor. 1981. \$35.00; post. \$2.00. An identical reprint of the manual issued to all Union surgeons. Ltd. to 50 numbered copies.

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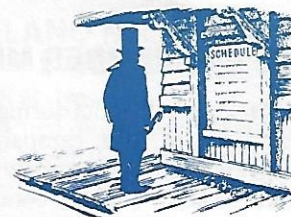
Early on the morning of November 5 he awoke and said, "I'm lonesome, I want to be with Lib." He went to sleep and a few hours later they found he had indeed gone to join his beloved Lib.

He was one of my oldest and dearest friends. His bluff exterior concealed the gentlest of souls. He raised the most fuss, (originally) about women at the Round Table, but who was the first to take his wife on a battlefield tour—Lloyd Miller. He was a dedicated student of not only the Civil War but American History and his collection of books about the American presidents was one of the best in existence. He dedicated much time to the Masons and was Past High Priest of Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois. He was an "original;" and we were all lucky indeed that he was our fellow member and our friend.

It has been over 60 years since any memorial services have been held for the more than 400 soldiers buried in the Camp Nelson Confederate Cemetery near Cabot, Arkansas, but if local resident Earl Cherry has his way, things will be different next Memorial Day. Cherry has been working for more than 20 years to bring some recognition to the forgotten plot of land. When he was a child, he says, the cemetery was the site every Decoration Day of an elaborate ceremony. However, when the last Civil War veteran around Cabot died about 60 years ago people lost interest.

Cherry, who left Cabot as a child, returned in the 1950s to find the cemetery overgrown with weeds and brush. With the help of the Cabot Lion's Club he began working on restoring it. Finally,

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.

December 11: Edward Longacre on "Cavalry Raids—A Critical Comparison." 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: David Lilley on "The Atlas of the Antietam Battlefield?"

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

April 9: Pat Newman on "Julia Dent Grant?"

May 5-9: Annual Battlefield Tour: Gettysburg.

May 14: Zenos Hawkinson on "Mr. Lincoln's War and the Immigrant Imagination?"

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

NEW MEMBERS

Hal Bascomb, 218 S. Webster Lane, Schaumburg, Illinois 60193 (312) 529-2535. Hal is in the advertising business and is interested in military aspects of the war.

L. Bradford Gregg, 230 E. Ontario, Apt. 1504, Chicago, Illinois 60611 (312) 943-0340. Mr. Gregg, a lawyer, is interested in Lincoln and all aspects of the war.

Kevin W. Hughes, 544 Chatham Circle, Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60090 (312) 541-6259. Kevin works for Mid-States Building Specialties in Lincolnwood and is interested in military aspects of the war.

Ronald B. Johnson, 948 Nottingham Lane, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014 (815) 459-7296. Ron works for R & M Kaufman in Aurora and has a special interest in military matters.

Bill Loehrer, 1807-A Henley Street, Glenview, Illinois 60025 (312) 724-7275. Bill is a computer systems analyst and is primarily interested in military aspect of the war.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Erik Ernst, 1303 Judson Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

David Murphy, 1160 Valley Lane, #308, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60194.

Mrs. Eleanor H. Smith, 1603 Camelot Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23229.

Karl E. Sundstrom, 110½ Lincoln Avenue, 3-I Riverside, Illinois 60546.

in its last session, the State legislature appropriated \$20,000. The money will be used to build a new fence and to make other improvements. In addition, the veterans administration has agreed to buy new markers for the graves. Cherry is trying to get the state to make the cemetery into a park so that its future will be assured.

The soldiers buried at Camp Nelson Cemetery died during a measles epidemic.