

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLV, Number 2

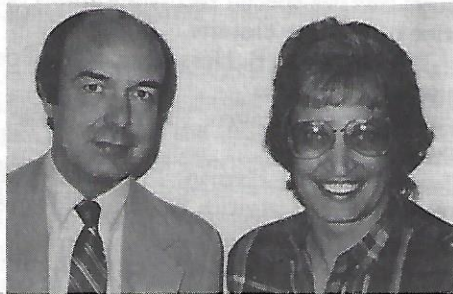
Chicago, Illinois

October, 1984

Jim and Alice Trulock on Joshua L. Chamberlain

In his memoirs, *Reminiscences of the Civil War*, Confederate general John B. Gordon described this remarkable soldier as "one of the knightliest soldiers of the Federal Army." At The Round Table meeting October 12, 1984, Jim and Alice Trulock will present a slide lecture on the life of General Joshua L. Chamberlain. They have made an extensive five-year study of Chamberlain's career, and their lecture will include new material from primary sources. The lecture will feature some 112 slides, some of which are of unpublished photographs of Chamberlain and other Civil War figures.

Born in Brewer, Maine in 1828, Chamberlain was descended on his father's side from a long line of volunteer soldiers dating back to colonial times. His early education took place at



Jim and Alice Trulock

a military academy in Ellsworth, Maine. Later, he graduated from Bowdoin College in 1852 and the Bangor Theological Seminary in 1855. That same year Chamberlain returned to Bowdoin as a professor. Scheduled to study abroad in 1862, he went instead into the army and was commissioned a lieutenant colonel on August 8, 1862. His Civil War service involved him in 20 engagements, ranging from skirmishes to pitched battles, including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor and Five Forks.

In the late afternoon of July 2, 1863, it was at Little Round Top that the 20th Maine, with Chamberlain in command, performed one of the miracles of the war and saved the left flank of the Union battle line. Outnumbered 2 to 1, their front doubled back to the shape of a horseshoe, ammunition exhausted, the men fixed bayonets, charged and not only broke up the Confederate attack, but took 400 prisoners. For this day's work, Chamberlain would be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. During the war, he was wounded six times and won a field promotion to brigadier general from General U. S. Grant.

At Appomattox Court House, Chamberlain was appointed to command the Union troops at the ceremonies to receive the surrender of Lee's infantry. It was here that both armies saluted each other, and John B. Gordon would use his sword in salute of the respectful gesture of the Union troops. For his conduct at Five Forks, Chamberlain was



434th Regular Meeting

Jim and Alice Trulock
on
Joshua L. Chamberlain

Friday, October 12, 1984

Chicago Press Club
410 N. Michigan

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$13.00 per person



Meeting site

Beginning this month, Round Table meetings will be held at The Chicago Press Club, 410 N. Michigan (in the Wrigley Building). The Press Club is on the lower level. You can either take the elevator or walk down the stairs which are just to the right of the entrance to the Wrigley Building Restaurant (at the rear of the lobby).

made a brevet major general, but declined a commission in the regular army and was mustered out in January, 1866. That autumn, he was elected governor of Maine, serving until 1870. For the next 13 years he served as president of Bowdoin College. As major general of the Maine state militia, he maintained order during the disputed election of 1878-1879. Later, he was involved with various business enterprises in Florida; he also served as surveyor of the port of Portland, Maine. His reminiscences, *The Passing of the Armies*, published in 1915, provide an excellent account of the Appomattox campaign, highlighted by his account of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. He died in 1914 at Portland, Maine, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Alice and Jim Trulock have been active members of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table and those in our group who attended the 3rd annual Midwest Civil War Round

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut 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 60007.



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Table Conference held in Indianapolis last April 27-29, may recall meeting them there. The lecture which they will present was most recently offered at the opening of the Chamberlain House and Civil War Museum in Brunswick, Maine as a part of the Varney Lecture Series of the Pejepscot, Maine Historical Society. General Chamberlain himself was a member of that society.

The Trulocks are currently writing a book on Chamberlain's Civil War career and have recently completed the introduction to Amos M. Judson's *History of the Eighty-Third Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers*. The 83rd Pennsylvania was instrumental, along with the 20th Maine, in repelling the Confederate attack on Little Round Top on July 2, 1863. The new edition of Judson's *History* will be published on October 15, 1984 by Stonewall House of Alexandria, Virginia, and represents the first time that this rare regimental history has been reprinted. *Civil War Books* describes this book as... "one of the better regimental histories that appeared immediately after the war."

Distinguished Lecturers Series

The following cassette tapes of previous talks to The Round Table are now available.

46. Douglas Southall Freeman, "Five Problems of Critique for the Civil War Historian." (Recorded during the Round Table Battlefield Tour to Richmond, 5/7/53). Note: this is a special recording and is being offered at the price of \$10 per cassette.

47. William B. Hesseltine, "The Prison at Andersonville" (4/12/56).

48. Avery Craven, "The Civil War: 100 Years After" (3/9/56).

49. Harold Hyman, "Lincoln's Joe McCarthy: The Investigative Activities of John F. Potter of Wisconsin" (11/19/54).

All orders should be sent to: Pat Sumner, 403 Hatlen, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. The cost of each tape, unless otherwise noted, is \$7; add \$2 per order for shipping.

For a complete list of available tapes, see previous newsletters or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Pat Sumner at the above address.

The Georgetown University Library in Washington, D.C. recently acquired the E. H. Swaim Collection of materials relating to the Lincoln assassination and its aftermath. It contains thousands of clippings, photos, books and correspondence. One of the most outstanding items in the collection is an original affidavit signed by one of the soldiers who witnessed the capture of John Wilkes Booth at Garrett's barn. The affidavit claims, among other things, that the dead man had red hair, while Booth's was "black as a raven's wings." The Swaim Collection has been used by historians to substantiate the claim that Booth was not killed at the Garrett farm but died in Enid, Oklahoma in 1903. E. H. Swaim was a Texas lawyer who was in his 90s when he died a couple of years ago.

The newly-renovated 13-foot electric relief map of Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign was dedicated on April 1, 1984. The map, which was originally prepared for the Civil War Centennial in 1962, is on display at the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society at 301 Main Street in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

September meeting

The Cultural Center of the Chicago Public Library was the setting for the 2nd annual Nevins-Freeman Assembly, with 55 members and guests in attendance. The morning portion of the day's program carried the theme, "20th Century Correspondents Cover the Civil War." Four speakers explored this theme with talks on the careers and writings of significant contributors to Civil War literature. The first speaker, C. Robert Douglas, spoke of the business and literary aspects of the life of Stanley F. Horn, author of "The Army of Tennessee: A Military History" and "The Robert E. Lee Reader". Then David L. Wilson, assistant editor of *The Papers of U. S. Grant* and adjunct professor of history at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, spoke of the career of the newspaperman-historian, Lloyd Lewis, whose writings included "Sherman: Fighting Prophet", "Captain Sam Grant" and "Myths After Lincoln." After an intermission for refreshments and review of exhibits of materials relating to *Gone With the Wind* and its author, Margaret Mitchell, the program resumed with John P. Hunter's review of the life and works of Professor William B. Hesseltine, who wrote "Lincoln and the War Governors" and "Civil War Prisons." The morning concluded with the remarks of our founder and prominent Chicago attorney, Elmer Gertz, whose talk focused on reminiscences of his friend of the early days of the Chicago Round Table, Otto Eisenschiml. A distinguished Chicago chemist, Otto's books included "Why Was Lincoln Murdered?", "The Celebrated Case of Fitz John Porter" and "Why the Civil War?"

After luncheon at the Wedgewood Room of Marshall Field's, the assembly program continued with remarks by President Bob Ziegler. He advised the audience of the illness of the 1984 winner of the Nevins-Freeman award, Richard Barksdale Harwell, and read a telegram sent to Mr. Harwell to confirm his award and wish him a speedy recovery. Since Mr. Harwell was to address the assembly on the subject, "Margaret Mitchell as a Historian", it was decided to remain with that theme. Past president Bob Douglas read an essay written by Harwell as a part of a collection of essays on the great Civil War novel entitled "Gone With the Wind as Book and Film." In this essay, Harwell surveyed the range of Civil War fiction through the years and rated *Gone With the Wind* as his choice for its enduring appeal. "It was the right novel at the right time—a novel of comeback from war published (1936) when America was searching for a boost out of depression."

The afternoon activities concluded with a six-man panel discussing the subject, "Why Do Civil War Round Tables Exist: The Fascinating Never-Ending Incredible Saga of 1861-1865." Panel members included Charles Shields (South Suburban), Brodie Herndon (Northern Illinois), Jim Vlazny (Chicago), Bill Thomas (Salt Creek), John Hunter (Madison) and Phil Hohlweck (Milwaukee). Our founder, Ralph Newman, was scheduled to serve as panel moderator, but his illness caused the substitution of past president Don Anderson in his place. Each of the panelists traced the origin of his own interest in the Civil War period and then engaged in a discussion of the direction of future activities of the Round Tables.

Thomas Harnett Kane, author of numerous books about Louisiana and of biographies of the wives of Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis and Stonewall Jackson, died on September 4. He was 73.

Fredericksburg National Military Park has announced the publication of a new handbook entitled *Chatham: The Life of a House*. The author, Ralph Happel, is the former chief historian for the Park Service at Fredericksburg and participated in the negotiations which led to the donation of the property to the Park Service. Chatham, one of the most beautiful mansions in Virginia, is located on the east bank of the Rappahannock River across from the northern end of Marye's Heights. At various times during the Civil War it served as the headquarters for Generals McDowell and Sumner. It is now occupied by the Park Service as the administrative headquarters for the Fredericksburg National Military Park and contains the office of the current chief historian of the Park, our own good friend and oft-times speaker, Bob Krick. Certain areas of the house are open to the public and have been restored to their 19th Century appearance. Mr. Happel's book contains 84 pages and is profusely illustrated. Those interested in obtaining a copy should write to the Fredericksburg National Military Park at P.O. Box 679, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404.

In order to ensure an up-to-date roster, all members are encouraged to report changes of address promptly; remember to include your new phone number as well. And, since work phone numbers are also printed in the roster, any changes should be reported. There is a space to note changes of address/new phone numbers on the meeting reservation card.

The Civil War Round Table of New York recently published a thirty year commemorative booklet detailing its history, programs and membership, 1951-1981. The 80-page, 8½ x 11 book contains a number of photos and illustrations. It's available for purchase for \$10. If you are interested, write to Guy Di Carlo, Jr., Merrill Lynch, Marketing Services Department, One Liberty Plaza, New York, New York 10080.

Edwin Bearss, Chief Research Historian of the National Park Service and a Nevins-Freeman Award recipient and Honorary Award Life Member of The Civil War Round Table received the Dr. Alvin Calman award of the Civil War Round Table of Northern New Jersey on June 23 "for his devoted service in promoting the understanding of the Civil War." Dr. Calman was a charter member of the New Jersey Round Table and lifetime head of the history department at Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey.

Mrs. Leslie Cheek, Jr., daughter of Douglas Southall Freeman, will be the guest of honor and dinner speaker at the Tenth Annual Lee-Jackson Day celebration to be held October 26 in Charlottesville, Virginia. Mrs. Cheek is a director for Virginia of the R.E. Lee Memorial Association. She will discuss her father as a writer.

The Round Table expresses its sincere condolences to treasurer Paul Klekner and his wife Peggy on the death of their son, Alexander, who was killed in a motor bike collision over the Labor Day weekend. Their daughter, Susan, was badly injured in the accident.

A memorial has been established for Alexander. Donations may be made to the Alexander Klekner Memorial Fund and sent c/o Walter Sheets, Superintendent Gavin Schools, Gavin School, North, 100 S. Route 59, Lake Villa, Illinois 60046.

THE NEW BOOKS

(compiled by Dick Clark)



Allan, William. *The Army of Northern Virginia in 1862*. Introduction by Robert K. Krick. Dayton: Morningside Bookshop, 1984. \$60.00. Original of 1892.

Baum, Dale. *The Civil War Party System: The Case of Massachusetts, 1848-1876*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1984. \$29.95.

Bigelow, John. *The Peach Orchard. Gettysburg, July 2, 1863*. Explained by official reports and maps. Introduction by Jim McLean. Gaithersburg, MD: Butternut Press, 1984. Paperback \$15.00.

Caldwell, J.F.J. *The History of a Brigade of South Carolinians*—first known as "Gregg's" and subsequently as "McGowan's Brigade". Edited with an introduction, notes, and index by Lee A. Wallace, Jr. Maps by David Lilley. Dayton: Morningside Press, 1984. \$25.00. Original of 1866.

Chambers, Henry A. *Civil War Diary*. Edited by T.H. Pearce, biographical sketch by Selby A. Daniels. Wendell, NC: Broadfoot Pub. Co., 1983. \$25.00. Primarily with 49th N. Carolina.

Clark, Walter A. *Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War 1861-65*. Written by members of the respective commands. Edited by... 5 vols. Reprint by Broadfoot Pub. Co., 1984. Set \$250.00; individual vols. \$50.00.

Cooper, Alonzo. *In and out of Rebel Prisons*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1983. \$19.95 Original of 1888.

Dabney, Virginius. *The Last Review. The Confederate Reunion, Richmond, 1932*. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 1984. \$27.50.

Dilts, Bryan Lee. *1890 Maine Census Index of Civil War Veterans or their Widows*. Compiled by... Salt Lake City, UT: Index Pub., 1984. \$37.00.

Donald, David Herbert. *The Politics of Reconstruction, 1863-1867*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1984. pbk \$4.95. Original with Louisiana State University Press, 1965.

Genco, James G. *Arming Michigan's Regiments 1862-1864*. Compiled by... Rochester, MI: Ray Russell, 1982. pbk \$10.00.

Goldsborough, William W. *The Maryland Line in the Confederate Army. 1861-1865*. Gaithersburg, MD: Butternut Press, 1983. \$35.00. Original 1944.

Hanchett, William. *The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1983. \$18.50.

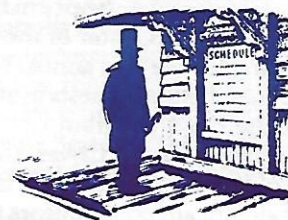
Herndon, William. *Life of Lincoln*. The History and personal recollections of Abraham Lincoln as originally written by William H. Herndon and Jesse W. Weik, with introduction and notes by Paul M. Angle. New introduction by Henry Steele Commager. New York: Da Capo, 1983. pbk. \$10.95.

Hewitt, Lawrence L. *A Place Named... Desperate!* Baton Rouge: VAAPR, 1984. pbk \$4.95. Re: Port Hudson. A diary from 15th Arkansas.

Hunt, Henry J. *Three Days at Gettysburg*. Foreword by William R. Jones. Golden, CO: Outbooks, 1981. pbk \$3.95.

Jordan, Weymouth T. compiler. *North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865. Volume IX, Infantry (32nd-35th and 37th Reg-*

BULLETIN BOARD



Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Chicago Press Club, 410 N. Michigan, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

October 12: Jim and Alice Trulock on "Joshua L. Chamberlain."

November 9: Kent Brown on "Alonzo Cushing at Gettysburg."

December 14: David Finney on "The Death of Stonewall Jackson."

January 11, 1985: Merlin Sumner on "Grant's Staff."

February 8: Herman Hattaway on "How the North Won the Civil War."

March 8: Gary Gallagher on "General Stephen D. Ramseur."

April 12: William Sullivan on "The War in the Trans-Mississippi."

May 1-5: Annual Battlefield Tour to Richmond/Petersburg/Appomattox.

May 10: Jeffry D. Wert on "The 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign."

New members

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Odom, 1242 N. Lake Shore, Chicago, Illinois 60610 (312) 266-0461.

Leslie S. Hindman, 100 E. Walton Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611 (312) 787-9872.

John C. O'Brien, Jr., M.D., 8223 Forest Hills Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75218 (214) 327-5140.

Donna Payne, 9511 Asbury Road, Leroy, New York 14482 (716) 768-2022. (Donna is president of the Rochester Civil War Round Table.)

A. A. Rayner, Jr., 501 E. 32nd Street, #1914, Chicago, Illinois 60616 (312) 842-3716.

Jerri Jennifer Smart, 415 Franklin Avenue, River Forest, Illinois 60305 (312) 366-7368.

Jim Sullivan, 269 E. Third, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126.

Changes of address

Arthur Armstrong, 2241 Tanglewood Drive, Apt. 3A, Hammond, Indiana 46323.

F. Jay Nimtz, 511 West Colfax Avenue, South Bend, Indiana 46601.

Barry S. Pokorny, 5196 Stirrup Court, West Chester, Ohio 45069.

We have recently learned of the death of Morrison Worthington, one of the earliest members of The Round Table. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family.

iments). Unit histories by Louis H. Manarin. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1983. \$25.00.

King, Spencer B. *Sound of Drums*. Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1984. 544 p. \$32.95. Centennial essays from Sunday edition of the Macon Telegraph and News, 1960-1965.