

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLVI, Number 8

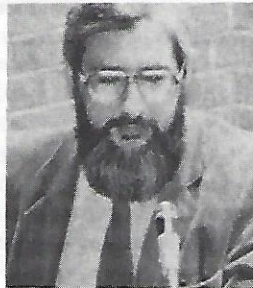
Chicago, Illinois

April, 1986

Edgar G. Archer on An Important Medical Aspect of the Civil War: Orthopedic Surgery

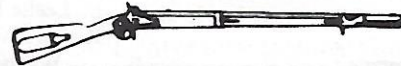
The Civil War, in terms of human casualties, cost more than any other American war. Approximately one million men were killed or wounded. Deaths, including those from disease, totaled 529,332. By comparison, about 116,500 Americans died in World War I and 405,400 in World War II. On April 11, 1986, Edgard G. Archer, director and chief conservator of the Abraham Lincoln Museum at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee, will discuss the effect that the state and quality of American medicine had on the various campaigns of the war.

In Archer's view, there were four ways that the quality and availability of medical care, as well as the effects of injury and disease, affected the course of the war: (1) the provision for and treatment of disease had a great effect on the aggregate strength present for a given battle; (2) the effect that the physical condition of key leaders had on the conduct of a given battle or campaign (the death of Albert Sidney Johnston on the 1st day at Shiloh, the mortal wounding of 'Stonewall' Jackson at Chancellorsville, the dysentery that plagued Robert E. Lee during the Gettysburg campaign, etc.); (3) the morale of the troops depended on the promptness and efficiency of the medical care provided to them; and (4) due to the severe nature of bullet wounds in this war, and the lack of sophisticated surgical procedures for treating them, amputation became the accepted surgical practice for a gunshot wound to a body extremity.



Edgar G. Archer

The great grandson of Confederate Brigadier General James J. Archer, our speaker received his bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky, and completed both his masters and doctoral work in forensic medicine and anthropology at the University of Tennessee. He is a trained conservator of historic works of art, frescos and murals, and began his professional career with the Kentucky Department of Parks. After five years of service there, he moved to Louisville as executive director of the Historic Homes Foundation. From there he came to Lincoln Memorial University to begin work on the design of the Lincoln Museum. Museum director for the past 12 years, he developed a program for a bachelor's degree in museum science and assisted in the preparation of a training program for all Army and Air Force museum personnel. In 1985 the East Tennessee Tourism Council designated him for its Tourism



450th Regular Meeting

Edgar Archer
on

An Important Medical Aspect of
the Civil War: Orthopedic Surgery

Friday, April 11, 1986

Quality Inn

Halsted and Madison

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

\$13.00 per person

Entree: Breast of Chicken Maryland,
Fish or Fruit Plate



Industry Leader award. His most recent project is the raising of funds to increase the endowment of the Lincoln Museum by \$1,000,000.

Gerhard Paul Clausius, 1907-1986

by Brooks Davis

The Civil War Round Table has lost a devoted member and a dear friend. Gerry, or "Doc," died in his sleep of an apparent heart attack in his home at Belvidere, Illinois on Friday, March 7. He is survived by his wife Ella, son Don, and daughter Doris along with 12 grandchildren. Burial was in the cemetery near his friend, Major General Stephen A. Hurlbut.

Ger was a veteran member of our group, enlisting in 1954 and participating fully in all activities here in Chicago and on the annual battlefield tours. Dr. Clausius served the Round Table in many ways, including a term as President in 1961-62. He spoke to us on two occasions. The first time was in October, 1973 about the General from Belvidere (his

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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 Dan Weinberg, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.



from the Editor's pen 

(With your permission, and because it is that time again, we herewith reprint, with appropriate changes, an editorial that first appeared in the April, 1977 edition. It was written by former newsletter editor Marshall Krolick.)

Well, it's that time again. On May 1 approximately one hundred members of The Round Table and their guests will depart on our annual Battlefield Tour. For most of them, this is a regular event, one in which they participate every year. For many the sites will be as familiar as their own home, for they have visited each place countless times before, either on their own or on a previous Tour. And yet every year back they come without fail.

Those who have never been might ask why and, if they did, the answer they would get would probably be "Because it's the Battlefield Tour." Sure, that begs the question, but to those who go it's answer enough. What they're saying is really quite simple. It's not the places themselves that make them set aside the first weekend in May, it's the experience, maybe even the people and what they bring to each other.

To analyze that experience, you must look at many things. Of course there is the scholarship and the chance to make three-dimensional what has previously only come to us from the printed page. The words of Ed Bearss, as he brings to life the drama of battle; the lump in your throat when J. Ambler Johnston pulled Stonewall Jackson's watch from his pocket as we stood on the ground of Chancellorsville—these moments are "The Battlefield Tour."

Then, too, there are the good times, the fun of comradeship with old friends. The sing-alongs as Miles Janousek pounded the piano; Pete Johnson throwing peanuts to the dancers on the showboat at Vicksburg; those same dancers turning their backs and lifting their skirts to prominently display Al Meyer's smile buttons; Will Plank's car stuck in the mud at Manassas; Ver Lynn Sprague in the washroom at Gettysburg; the birth of the Schimmelfennig legend on a restaurant signboard in Mississippi; your editor (Marshall Krolick) being presented with a live pork chop at Schimmelfennig's headquarters in Gettysburg; Tuckertee Ridge; Dan Lapinski and John Commerford bursting from their Shenandoah Valley motel room in their shorts as lit sparklers stuck through the keyhole lend the appearance of truth to false cries of fire—these moments are "The Battlefield Tour."

We cannot overlook the awards and those who have been lucky, or unlucky as the case may be, enough to win them. The look on the face of a true Daughter of the Confederacy as we thank her for opening her ante-bellum home by presenting her with the bust of Abraham Lincoln; the treasured Bafart Award, that hollow cane awarded for excellence in imbibing, a prize which caused each competitor to strive for even greater performance; the Confederate Purple Heart, meticulously created by John Margreiter and given without a straight face for sacrifice beyond the call of duty—these moments are "The Battlefield Tour."

And, perhaps most importantly of all, for each of these moments there is the memory. Whether within your own mind or around the table wherever Round Table members gather, the stories are told and retold over and over. Each time the laugh wells up again, the wistful smile appears.

Some of the old regulars are gone now, Warren Reeder, Heine Bass, Gil Twiss, Hal Hixson, Will Leonard, and too many more; but each year as we get on that bus their spirit is already aboard, and so it will always be. The feeling they had is handed down to us and we in turn will pass it on. That too is "The Battlefield Tour," and thus the only question left is "Where to next year?"

Third Annual Assembly

On March 15, 1986, the Third Annual Assembly of The Civil War Round Table was held at the Holiday Inn in Hillside, Illinois. Over 300 Civil War enthusiasts heard eight Civil War historians discuss "Lt. General U.S. Grant: The Civil War Years."

Professor John Simon's talk was on "Grant as Commander." Grant's military career during the Civil War was remarkable. His first command was as a colonel of an Illinois infantry regiment; his last was as commanding general of the largest army that the U.S. had organized up to that time. With battlefield victories at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, and Petersburg, Grant was the North's foremost soldier. Of his accomplishments, John believes these are most significant: Grant always initiated the attack (except at Shiloh); and, as general-in-chief, he was able to coordinate the movements of all Union armies against the Confederacy.

Thomas Arliskas's topic was "Grant at Belmont." In late 1861, Grant transported several regiments down the river supposedly to demonstrate near Columbus, Kentucky. Instead, he attacked the Confederates at Belmont. Initially his attack was successful, but the Confederate counterattack pushed Grant's force back to the ships. Belmont was Grant's first battle in the Civil War. In it, he learned that the enemy was more afraid of him than he was of them, and that it was better to be the attacker than the defender.

The two-day battle of Shiloh was the largest battle in the Western theatre until Chickamauga; Wiley Sword discussed "Grant at Shiloh." On the first day, the Confederates drove the Union forces from their camps and nearly won the battle. But, on the second day, Grant counterattacked and forced the Confederates to retreat to Corinth. Both sides claimed victory, but the Union forces were in control. Shiloh was the first battle that Grant and Sherman fought together. Also, it demonstrated Grant's resolve that he, not the enemy, would win.

Marshall Krolick talked about Grant's "General Order No. 11" which expelled all Jewish civilians from Grant's military department. Although it was later rescinded, the Order caused much controversy during Grant's career. Why did he issue it? The intent of the Order was to halt the illegal trading that took place along the Mississippi River; in the South, many of the Union Army's sutlers and local merchants were Jewish. Marshall also pointed out that when the order was published in December, 1862, Grant was under pressure because the Union forces had not taken Vicksburg. These factors, not prejudice, led to the Order.

Ed Bearss described Grant's role in the Vicksburg Campaign. Grant tried five times to capture Vicksburg before he finally succeeded. In the spring of 1863, after his troops were transported to the east bank of the Mississippi, Grant used an indirect approach to keep his opponent off balance. He first marched to Jackson but then turned west and headed for Vicksburg. His assault on the city failed and he besieged it until it fell on July 4. Shortly thereafter, the Union forces captured Port Hudson and the North con-

trolled the Mississippi.

Gordon Whitney's topic was "Grant at Chattanooga." In November, 1863, Grant was appointed commander of the Western Theatre. Grant relieved Rosecrans at Chattanooga and appointed Thomas as commander of the Army of the Cumberland. When the "cracker line" was opened Grant was ready to attack; the Confederates were driven away into Georgia. For his work at Chattanooga, Lincoln named Grant commanding general of all the Union armies.

Bob Krick spoke on Grant's campaign from the Rapidan to the James in the spring of 1864. Bob pointed out that this was a costly campaign for the Union army; in six weeks it suffered over 55,000 casualties. At Cold Harbor alone 7,000 Union soldiers were killed or wounded in 30 minutes. As a result, proud regiments were reduced both in size and effectiveness. However, Grant was always moving his forces against Lee.

"Grant at Petersburg" was Professor Richard Sommers' topic. Petersburg is the longest siege in American military history, lasting over nine months. During it, Grant was constantly extending the left flank of the Army of the Potomac, attempting to sever the railroad lines which entered Petersburg from the south. At the same time, he was directing the operations of the other Union armies. In this capacity, Grant was performing as a modern army group commander; he was the first American commander to do this.

The Fifth Annual Midwest Civil War Round Table Conference will be held April 25-27, 1986, at the Clarion Hotel in Cincinnati. Among the speakers will be John Y. Simon and Richard M. McMurry; a highlight of the program will be an exchange of views between Bob Krick and Tom Connelly on Robert E. Lee and the general's image in history. The conference fee of \$54 includes both lunch and dinner. The registration deadline was April 1, but if you are interested you can call Michael Rhein, (513) 231-2067, to see if space is still available.

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wife Ella spoke to the Camp Followers that same night, reading love letters from a Corporal Butterfield to his true love). The second time was in February, 1981 when he presented a sympathetic portrayal of Mary Todd Lincoln. The good doctor spoke to many school, church, service, and C.W.R.T. groups; he estimated 159 addresses before his last talk to us. Members always looked forward to a humorous question of the speaker involving Gen. Hurlbut at every meeting—indeed, Doc made history more interesting by his use of humor. (His gift as outgoing President was an original Joe Miller joke book!)

Dr. Clausius was born in Chicago in 1907 of immigrant parents who were deeply patriotic, thus he had early memories of G.A.R. parades and historic events which formed the basis for his Civil War interest. A graduate of the Illinois School of Optometry in Chicago, he moved to Belvidere and set up his practice. He and Ella were married in 1933. He was a member of many historical groups and was very active in his community, serving the Board of Education, the Rotary, the Ida Public Library, the Chamber of Commerce, and his church, Immanuel Lutheran. Memorials may be made to the Belvidere High School C.W.R.T. for use in erecting a Hurlbut memorial or to his church. Our prayers go out to Ella—the good Doctor will long be missed.

The New Books

compiled by Dick Clark



Morrison, James L., Jr. *"The Best School in the World." West Point, the Pre-Civil War Years, 1833-1866.* Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1986. 255 p., illus., bibliog., index. \$27.50.

Robson, John S. *How a One-legged Rebel Lives. Reminiscences of the Civil War.* The Story of the Campaigns of Stonewall Jackson as told by a High Private in the "Foot Cavalry." New introduction by Kent Masterson Brown. Gaithersburg, MD: Butternut Press, 1984. \$25.00. Original of 1898.

Thomas, Dean S. *Cannon. An Introduction to Civil War Artillery.* Arendtsville, PA: Thomas Publications, 1985. 72 p., illus., pbk \$5.00.

Don Russell, 1899-1986

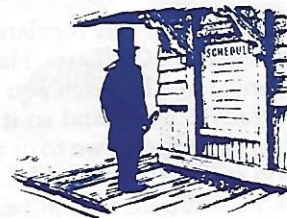
by Ralph G. Newman

While not a founding member of The Civil War Round Table, Don Russell was among our very early members, joining our group in the 1940s. He bridged the gap between the Old West and the Civil War. He was one of the organizers of The Westerners, which serves those dedicated to the history and legends of western history in the same manner that The Civil War Round Table brings together those who keep the memory of the Blue and the Gray alive. He worked for the *Chicago Daily News* in the great Carl Sandburg, Lloyd Lewis, and Henry Justin Smith days. As a copy editor one of his jobs was to receive and prepare for publication the contributions of Carl Sandburg. Don's biography of Buffalo Bill is the definitive work on the subject.

Physically, he seemed to be the embodiment of a character out of his favorite period in history. Certainly Central Casting would have promptly selected him to portray an American living in the great plains west of the Mississippi. His slow drawl, his reserved sense of humor, and his vast fund of knowledge of our past caused all who met him to believe he was not an historian, but a character out of our past, come to meet with and enlighten us on the history of his era. Don was very generous with his knowledge and his time and would devote long hours to researching a minute period in history for one of his many friends. Because so many of the great western personalities—Custer, Sheridan, Miles, Schofield, et al—are also prominently identified with the Civil War, it was natural that he would be interested in and knowledgeable about the 1861-1865 period.

Don was born in Huntington, Indiana, attended Northwestern University for two years, and then completed his education at the University of Michigan after serving in the Army in World War I. His first employment as a journalist came as a copy-reader for an Atlanta, Georgia newspaper. Early in the 1920s he moved to Chicago and was employed for a short time on the *Chicago Journal* and the *Chicago Evening Post* before joining the *Chicago Daily News*. In the mid-1950s he left the *Daily News* to become an editor of the *New Standard Encyclopaedia*, where he was associated with our fellow-member, the late E.B. "Pete" Long. Don was the author of several books in addition to his work on Buffalo

BULLETIN BOARD



Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Quality Inn, Halsted and Madison, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

April 11: Edgar Archer on "An Important Medical Aspect of the Civil War: Orthopedic Surgery."

May 1-4: Annual Battlefield Tour: The 1862 Peninsula Campaign.

May 9: Gordon Whitney on "The President Will Now Make a Few Remarks."

June 6: James I. "Bud" Robertson on "Confederate General A. P. Hill." **Note:** This is the first Friday of the month.

September 12: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner. Recipient of Award, Dr. Harold M. Hyman.

New members

Mark L. Schwarz, 4334 N. Clarendon, Chicago, Illinois 60613 (312) 327-7556.

Richard Stromberg, 2150 F Chestnut, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018 (312) 297-5295.

Bill, and wrote many magazine articles. He was one of the most frequent contributors to *The Westerners Brand Book*, which he edited for many years.

Don was a great and unique personality; a warm and generous friend; and a careful and knowledgeable scholar.

The 5th Annual All Military Book Fair will be held May 3 in Fairfax, Virginia. For further information, contact C. Batson, Box 143X, Centreville, Virginia 22020 (703) 631-0884.

A symposium on Stonewall Jackson, sponsored by the Garland Gray Research Center of the Stonewall Jackson House, will be held April 18-20, 1986, in Lexington, Virginia. Among the speakers will be Robert G. Tanner on "Stonewall in the Valley," Donald Pfanz on "Jackson at Chancellorsville," and Dennis E. Frye on Jackson at Harpers Ferry. In addition to the talks, Robert K. Krick will lead a tour of selected sites in the Valley.

The cost of the symposium is \$135, which includes sessions, admissions, and meals, but not accommodations. The registration deadline for the symposium is April 11. For further information, call (703) 463-2552.

The Sixth Annual Confederate History Symposium will be held at Hill College in Hillsboro, Texas on April 19. The theme this year is "Major Battles of the Army of Tennessee, and speakers will include Grady McWhiney on the Battle of Shiloh, Rick Selcer on the Battle of Murfreesboro, Norman Brown on the Battle of Chickamauga, and James Pohl on the Battle of Franklin. The cost of the symposium is \$15. Proceedings are published in hard cover in a limited number (\$18.50). For further information, write Confederate Research Center, P.O. Box 619, Hillsboro, Texas 76645, or call (817) 582-2555.