

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLVI, Number 9

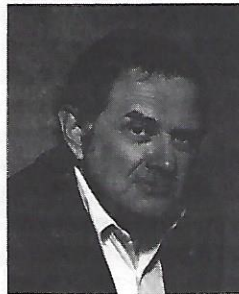
Chicago, Illinois

May, 1986

Gordon Whitney on The President Will Now Make a Few Remarks

"I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes." The author of these words, Edward Everett, the foremost American orator of the period, had been the principal speaker at the dedication of the military cemetery at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863. Everett penned these lines in a letter to President Lincoln the day after the dedication in acknowledgment of the unexpected masterpiece of oratory that Mr. Lincoln had delivered.

On May 9th, our good friend and past president, Gordon Whitney, will address The Round Table on the events that preceded the dedication of the cemetery, as well as on those that took place on that day. His remarks will include an appraisal of contemporary reactions to Mr. Lincoln's speech, and conclude with a review of the several versions of the Gettysburg address.



Gordon Whitney

Everett's assignment was to depict, for the multitude who had thronged the little Pennsylvania town, the course of the three days' battle which would come to be known as the "high water mark" of the fortunes of the Confederacy. Everett had thoroughly studied the official reports of the commanders, and had familiarized himself with the topography of the field. As he called the role of its landmarks, Seminary Ridge, the Peach Orchard, Cemetery Hill, Culp's Hill, Round Top, Little Round Top, he could exclaim, "humble names, henceforward dear and famous!" Little commented on at the time, but more significant as a revelation of Everett's nationalism, was his prophecy of the day of reconciliation that would follow a restored Union. "The bonds that unite us as one People, a substantial community or origin, language, belief, and law (the four great ties that hold the societies of men together); common national and political interests; a common history; a common pride in a glorious ancestry; a common interest in this great heritage of blessings; the very geographical features of the country; . . . these bonds of union are of perennial force and energy, while the causes of alienation are imaginary, factitious and transient."

Lincoln made five handwritten copies of the speech that through the years has stirred the deepest feelings of Americans. He wrote most of the first version in Washington, before traveling to Gettysburg. There, he probably



451st Regular Meeting

Gordon Whitney
on
The President Will Now
Make a Few Remarks

Friday, May 9, 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



Executive Committee meeting

President Paul Kliger has announced there will be an Executive Committee meeting on May 9 at 5 p.m., in the Mid-City A Room on the 2nd floor of the Quality Inn. The main item on the agenda is selection of the 1987 Battlefield Tour site. All current officers, committee chairmen and past presidents are urged to attend.

revised the first version, and then made a second. Lincoln planned to read the second version, and he held it in his hand while speaking. He did make several changes while he spoke. The most important change was to add the phrase "under God" after the word "nation" in the last sentence.

Historians are in general agreement that they know which version of the speech Lincoln actually gave at Gettysburg. Several reporters were present at the ceremonies and took down his words while he spoke. Though the reports vary somewhat, they all include the phrase "under God". Lincoln added that phrase to the copies of the

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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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House	Tom Peters
Picnic	Paul Klekner and Nate Yellen

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.



(continued from page 1)

address that he later made after the ceremonies at the Gettysburg battlefield.

Lincoln made the last copy of the address in 1864, and this was the only copy that he signed. This version is the one carved on a stone plaque in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. Many false stories have grown up about this famous address. One story says that the President wrote it in pencil on the back of an old brown envelope while on the train going to Gettysburg.

Newspaper reaction to the President's remarks was mixed. An anti-Lincoln paper, the *Chicago Times*, wrote, "the cheek of every American must tingle with shame as he read the silly, flat and dishwatery utterances of the man who has to be pointed out to intelligent foreigners as the President of the United States." A Cincinnati newspaper was more generous in terming the address of the President as "the right thing in the right place, and a perfect thing in every respect." The *Chicago Tribune's* initial commentary was... "The dedicatory remarks of President Lincoln will live among the annals of the war." From Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's capital, the *Patriot and Union* wrote... "the President succeeded on this occasion because he acted without sense and without constraint in a panorama that was gotten up more for the benefit of his party than for the glory of the nation and the honor of the dead."

President of our Round Table in 1973-1974, Gordie also served as president of the Louisville, Kentucky, Round Table after moving to Madison, Indiana several years ago. His recent efforts have accomplished the formation of the Jefferson County Round Table and at last count, there were over 60 members on its rolls. A native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Gordie spent most of his adult life in Hammond, Indiana, where he served in that city's fire department, rising to the rank of senior captain. He comes by his great interest in the Civil War most honestly, since his relatives served in both the 1st Michigan Cavalry and the 22nd Michigan Infantry regiments. He has been a frequent companion on our annual battlefield tours and appeared among us most recently at our 3rd Annual Assembly on March 15. In that symposium Gordie detailed the battles that saw the Union forces under Grant free the Confederate grip on Chattanooga in November, 1863.

To commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Civil War in Virginia, The Friends of Virginia Civil War Parks, Inc., is sponsoring commemorations at each of the five parks, beginning with Manassas, July 18-21, 1986 and ending with Appomattox in 1990. To help defray expenses, they are selling one ounce silver limited edition medallions. Each will have a design appropriate to the battle it commemorates. The first, commemorating First Manassas, is now available.

Each medallion will have a maximum minting of 5000; the first 2500 will be serial numbered. The Manassas medallions are \$30 (\$25 for each additional medallion). To order, send your name, address and telephone number, with your payment, to: Treasurer, Friends of Virginia Civil War Parks, Inc., P.O. Box 34936, Richmond, VA 23234-0936. Be sure to include \$6 for shipping and handling.

The Friends, organized in 1984, are dedicated to assisting the National Civil War parks in Virginia to protect and interpret their historical resources. Individual memberships are only \$10 per year. To join, send your check to the address above.

April meeting

On April 11, 92 members and guests attended the 450th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table to hear Edgar Archer, director of the Abraham Lincoln Museum at Lincoln Memorial University discuss Civil War medicine.

According to Mr. Archer, the quality and availability of medicine affected the course of the war in four ways: (1) the treatment of disease had an effect on the aggregate strength of any army before a battle; (2) the influence of key leaders on a battlefield was determined by their physical condition (e.g., the dysentery that plagued Robert E. Lee during the Gettysburg Campaign); (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, and the lack of sophisticated surgical procedures for treating them, amputation became the accepted surgical practice for a gunshot wound to a body extremity.

During the Civil War, there were approximately 3,000 physicians and surgeons in the Confederate Medical Service. Also, doctors were hired on a contract basis if the armies remained in a given area for a long period of time. There was a ratio of one doctor per 1,000 troops during the war. Many of these doctors were involved in hospital administration and other duties rather than the practice of medicine. The average soldier would become sick 12 to 15 times during the war, in addition to any wounds suffered in battle. This meant that the medical resources of both sides became over-taxed.

The typical Confederate medical officer was a male in his 30s who received his medical training in the North. During this period medical training consisted of attending lectures for about six months and then serving an apprenticeship with a doctor for a period of one or two years. There were no licensing boards to examine individual qualifications and many of the doctors who entered the army did not have successful practices in civilian life.

The Confederate Medical Service, unlike its Union counterpart, separated surgeons from other types of doctors. Those who were surgeons performed surgery while the remaining doctors were involved with administration or other fields of medicine. A Confederate infantry regiment was authorized two surgeons. One was the assistant surgeon, with the rank of captain, the other was the regimental surgeon with the rank of major.

During the war, doctors on both sides learned what worked and what didn't by trial and error. They learned, for example, not to locate latrines next to the cook's tent, that boiled water reduced dysentery, and not to locate camps in swampy areas. Microbiology was non-existent and, as Archer pointed out, Civil War doctors often did the right things based on the wrong reasons.

There are several failures related to the practice of Civil War medicine. Essentially, this was due to ignorance and, therefore, a lack of tools and resources to solve medical problems. Many patients survived in spite of the treatment given by doctors. Purging and cupping were two common treatments which did more harm than good. The common communicable diseases, such as dysentery, took more lives than bullets. Confederate soldiers were at a disadvantage when compared with Northern soldiers because the majority of them came from rural areas and were never exposed to communicable diseases until they joined the army.

However, Civil War medicine did enjoy several suc-

cesses. First, it was recognized by the doctors that soldiers needed a support system to recover from wounds or illness. This support system included rest, proper diet, and clean hospitals. Other successes included better evacuation of the wounded from the battlefield by detailing enlisted personnel whose sole function was to evacuate wounded soldiers, and establishing medical stations at regimental, brigade, division and corps levels.

Gunshot wounds were the most common injuries that surgeons treated on the battlefields. The .58 caliber rifle was responsible for 94 per cent of all gunshot wounds. Because the surgeons could not provide treatment for infection, amputation of a body extremity was the common practice. If a primary amputation was performed within 24 hours, the mortality rate was 28 per cent. If it was performed after 24 hours, the rate was over 60 per cent. An experienced Civil War surgeon could perform the amputation of a leg within three minutes. Seventy-five per cent of all Civil War surgery was amputations.

Following his talk, Archer presented a series of slides which included several case studies of wounded soldiers and examples of Civil War wounds.

Due to a lack of space in the April newsletter, the summary of the Third Annual Assembly on "Lt. General U. S. Grant: The Civil War Years" failed to give credit to those persons who were responsible for the phenomenal success of the event. Particular credit must go to Merlin Sumner. Merl spent countless hours over the past year putting the program together and attending to a thousand details. The over 300 persons who attended will all attest that his efforts were well spent—The Round Table expresses its sincere gratitude to Merl for a job well done.

The Knoxville Round Table is sponsoring a reenactment of the Battle of Campbell's Station May 17-18, 1986. It will take place on the actual battlefield and be an authentic portrayal of General Ambrose Burnside's delaying action against General James Longstreet's advance toward Knoxville in November, 1863. For information, contact Norman Shaw, 922 Woodview Lane, Knoxville, TN 37909.

Nominating Committee report

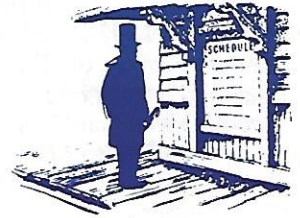
J. Robert Ziegler, chairman of the Nominating Committee, has announced the following proposed slate of officers for the 1986-87 year:

President	Patricia K. Sumner
Senior Vice President	Daniel R. Weinberg
Vice President	William J. Sullivan
Vice President	Richard W. McAdoo
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Trustee	Marlan H. Polhemus
Trustee	David R. Richert
Trustee	Robert J. Schell
Trustee (to fill the unexpired term of John M. Coverick, Sr.)	James Vlazny

The election will be held during the May meeting, at which time additional nominations for any of the above offices may be made from the floor. Three current trustees, Larry Gibbs, Paul Klekner, and Duff McGovern, will remain in office as they complete their two year terms.

The New Books

compiled by Dick Clark



BULLETIN BOARD

Adams, George Worthington. *Doctors in Blue*. Dayton: Morningside Bookshop, 1985. \$17.50. Original of 1952.

Anderson, Jay. *The Living History Sourcebook*. Nashville, TN: American Association for State and Local History, 1985. 469 p., photos, 6x6 pbk. \$19.95.

Brenner, Walter C. *The Ford Theatre Lincoln Assassination Playbills*. Los Angeles: The American Scene, 1986. Limited to 160 copies. This is a reprint of the original privately printed in 1937.

Clark, James Lemuel. *Civil War Recollections of James Lemuel Clark*. Including previously unpublished material on the great hanging at Gainesville, Texas in October, 1862. Edited and with an introduction by L.D. Clark. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 1984. \$12.50.

Cox, Jacob D. *The Battle of Franklin, Tennessee*. New introduction by Dr. Michael A. Hughes. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop. \$30.00. Original of 1897.

Haley, John West. *The Rebel Yell and the Yankee Hurrah: The Civil War Journal of a Maine Volunteer*. Edited by Ruth L. Siliker; introduction by Robert M. York. Camden, Maine: Down East Books, 1985. 311 p., illus., \$22.95. With the 27th Maine.

Haythornthwaite, Philip J. *Uniforms of the American Civil War, 1861-65*. Illustrated by Michael Chappell. Poole, Dorset: Blandford Press, 1985. pbk \$6.95. Original of 1975.

Long, E.B. *The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac, 1861-1865*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1985. pbk \$16.95. The original of 1971 is still available in hardcover, too.

Lowry, Terry. *September Blood. The Battle of Carnifex Ferry, West Virginia*. Charleston, WV: Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., 1985. 170 p., maps, photos, pbk. \$9.95.

Wyatt-Brown, Bertram. *Yankee Saints and Southern Sinners*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1985. 248 p. \$20.00. Essays on differences dividing North & South in pre-Civil War years.

Zeitlin, Richard H. *Old Abe the War Eagle: A True Story of the Civil War and Reconstruction*. Madison: Wisconsin Veterans Museums, 1985. pbk \$7.95.

A court clerk in the Tazewell County (Illinois) courthouse, while cleaning out a vault recently, discovered an undated legal opinion by Abraham Lincoln in a case involving a disputed estate. The paper shows that Lincoln was the attorney for three children who were being sued, apparently over the estate of a deceased parent. In a nine-line opinion, Lincoln said he had studied the matter and could see no reason the estate should not pay the bill.

Lincoln Collection curator for the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency, Tom Schwartz, called it a "tremendous find." He said more than 8,000 documents are known to exist from Lincoln's 20-year career as a circuit-riding lawyer in Illinois. Many bear only Lincoln's signature, he said, and documents handwritten and signed by Lincoln are rare.

Future meetings

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

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

George M. Craig, 83-12 St. James St., Elmhurst, New York 11373.

Evan C. Davis, 1307 Santee Lane, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056 (312) 635-0908.

Lee C. Moorehead, 646 Sylvan Place, Batavia, Illinois 60510 (312) 879-8441.

J. Glenn Schnizlein, 606 Wehrli Dr., Naperville, Illinois 60540 (312) 420-2820.

William G. Shepherd, 504 Fifth St. #F-2, Wilmette, Illinois 60091 (312) 251-7194.

Donald E. Waldemer, 32 Middlesex, St. Louis, Missouri 63144 (314) 994-1599.

Change of address

Byron A. Roche, Jr., 7326 N. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60626.

Fellow member Marshall Krolick is much in demand as a speaker these days. In March, in addition to addressing the Third Annual Assembly on Grant's General Order Number 11, he presented a talk on Brandy Station to the Harpers Ferry Round Table on March 12 and to the Montgomery County Round Table on March 13. Brandy Station was also his topic when he addressed the Indianapolis Round Table on April 14. On April 15 he spoke to the Jefferson County (Madison, Indiana) Round Table on "Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg." From May 28 to June 1, Marshall will be a guide for *Virginia Country Magazine's* tour of Gettysburg, as well as one of the speakers, and on July 3 he will appear at the Gettysburg Tourism Council's lecture series.

The 1986 Lincoln/Barondess Award of the Civil War Round Table of New York has been presented to the Lincoln Memorial Shrine of Redlands, California. The award, given annually in memory of the late Dr. Benjamin Barondess, a Lincoln scholar, is for "contribution to the greater appreciation of the life and works of Abraham Lincoln."

The Lincoln Shrine was founded through the generosity of Robert Watchorn, a native of England, who presented the building and his extensive Lincoln and Civil War collection. It now serves as an important research source for Lincoln scholars.