

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LV, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

February 1995

Ralph G. Newman on "A Handful of Lincoln and Civil War Authors"

by Barbara Hughett

Over the years, the membership of The Civil War Round Table has enjoyed a rare privilege. In the fifty-four years of its existence, Round Table members have had the pleasure of listening to some of the greatest writers in the areas of Lincoln and Civil War scholarship. Unfortunately, since some of these great writers and speakers are no longer alive, many current members have been deprived of the joy of listening to such luminaries as Douglas Southall Freeman, Alan Nevins, Bruce Catton, Avery Craven, Carl Sandburg, and many others.

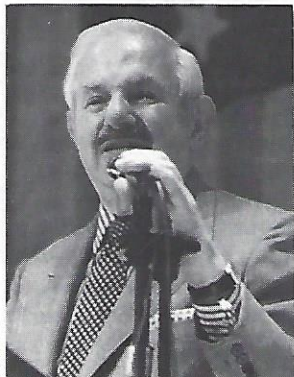
Our founder, Ralph G. Newman, was of course present at that first meeting on December 3, 1940, and has heard them all—at least once. He will share his recollections about some of these colorful personalities on February 17, when he addresses The Round Table on the topic of "A Handful of Lincoln and Civil War Authors."

From his memory of more than five hundred Round Table meetings, he has selected a group of these gifted individuals who have helped bring the events of 1861-1865 to life. He will recall some of the brilliant, often amusing, always informative, hours that he and his Round Table colleagues spent with these great historians. Ralph Newman will try to tell us how they sounded and what they said, and how he and his fellow Round Tablers laughed, wept, and learned from their words of wisdom and founts of wit.

Ralph Newman has contributed much to the world of Lincoln and Civil War scholarship and has been involved in many civic and educational activities and associations. There is simply not enough space here to include more than a few of his accomplishments, affiliations, and honors. A

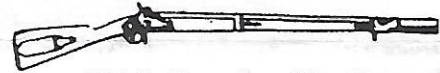
bookseller, rare manuscripts dealer, and appraiser, Newman has been specializing in Lincoln and Civil War books longer than anyone else. He opened his first book shop in downtown Chicago in 1933. He founded, and for many years owned, the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop; and he opened Newman Rare Books, in Chicago's Fine Arts Building, last year.

With fifteen of his customers, Ralph Newman started the first Civil War Round Table in 1940. Now there are over 200 American Civil War Round Tables in this country and



Ralph Newman addressing the 50th Anniversary Dinner in 1990.

Michael Marienthal



538th Regular Meeting

☆ ☆ ☆

Ralph G. Newman on "A Handful of Lincoln and Civil War Authors"

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Friday, February 17

(This is the *third* Friday of the month)

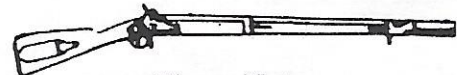
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Union League Club
65 West Jackson Boulevard

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

\$20 - The Civil War Round Table of Chicago members
\$25 - Nonmembers

Entree: Grilled Breast of Chicken with Pesto Cream or Catch of the Day



Please Note

Make your reservation by Wednesday, February 15, by calling The Civil War Round Table offices at 312-341-1865. People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If you make a reservation and then find you cannot attend, please call to cancel or you will be billed for a dinner. **No last-minute orders for the Catch of the Day can be honored. The chef must have at least twenty-four hours notice.**

The Union League Club is located at the corner of Jackson Boulevard and Federal Street. Federal Street runs north and south between Dearborn and Clark Streets. Parking is free at the General Parking lot, just south of the Union League Club.

around the world.

He served for fourteen years as president of the board of directors of the Chicago Public Library. He has been honored as a laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois and serves on its board of regents. Newman has been an officer and director of many organizations and institutions, includ-

(continued on page 3)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
410 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 841
Chicago, Illinois 60605-1402
Phone: 312-341-1865
Fax: 312-341-1863

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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 Membership Committee, 410 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 841, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1402.

Round Table Vice President Larry Gibbs addressed the Kankakee Civil War Round Table on February 1. His topic was "Reconstruction Revisited."

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The Illinois Memorial Temple at Vicksburg, Mississippi, is undergoing restoration, and additional monies are needed. Illinois had more units and soldiers engaged in Vicksburg operations than any other state — a fact acknowledged by our legislature's appropriation of nearly \$200,000 during the first decade of this century to raise the imposing, Parthenon-like structure on the grounds of Vicksburg National Military Park. Our friend Terry Winschel, park historian at Vicksburg, has asked the Civil War Round Tables of Illinois to contribute to completion of the restoration, and Superintendent William Nichols has pledged to match the funds we raise. Those who wish to donate to the project should make their check payable to The Civil War Round Table of Chicago, with "Illinois Monument at Vicksburg" noted on the memo line. To remit the donation or to receive further information, please contact Mary Abroe, 212 Woodbine Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091-3332; 708-251-4745.

Historian A. Wilson Greene, a founder and president and CEO of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites since January 1990, has left his position to become executive director of the Pamplin Park Civil War Site, south of Petersburg. He will continue his association with APCWS as a trustee. Under Will's leadership, APCWS, founded in 1987, grew to an organization of 8800 members that raised \$1.8 million for preservation in 1994. Dennis Frye, historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, was named interim president while a formal search for a replacement for Will is conducted. Our congratulations and thanks to Will for a job well done, and our best wishes for success in his new endeavor.

A \$47,000 cooperative agreement, awarded by the American Battlefield Protection Program to the Georgia State Office of Historic Preservation, will help preserve the Resaca Battlefield, located thirty-three miles south of Chattanooga. It was the scene of fierce fighting on May 14 and 15, 1864, during the Atlanta Campaign. According to O.J. Keller, a Georgia Civil War Commission member, "The construction of Interstate 75 did destroy some of the Confederate earthworks at Resaca, but the view from the highway toward the west reveals that the Union lines have changed very little in the intervening 130 years. Part of the Confederate forts to the north and east also remain, including the famous four-gun battery, which federal troops captured during severe fighting on May 14." The preservation plan will be completed in April.

The owners of a farm along Fox Gap Road, west of Middletown, Maryland, will receive \$321,000 in exchange for placing a conservation easement on their 109-acre farm, which lies on the South Mountain Battlefield. The property, the site of intense fighting during the Battle of South Mountain in September 1862, will now be protected from future development. The easement acquisition brings to \$1.2 million the state's investment since last year in preserving the battlefield. Last fall it paid \$118,000 for the White House Inn adjacent to the 109-acre farm, and last spring paid \$140,000 and \$640,000 for two other farms. The state hopes to acquire another half-dozen easements from South Mountain property owners.

☞ JANUARY MEETING ☞

by Larry Gibbs

At the 537th regular meeting on January 13, 157 members and guests of The Civil War Round Table were treated to an address by James I. (Bud) Robertson Jr., who gave an engaging speech on "New Viewpoints on 'Stonewall' Jackson." Robertson is currently working on an in-depth biography of Jackson. He spent three years doing research before starting to write, because he wanted to test accepted perceptions about Jackson's life.

Although Thomas Jonathan Jackson was perhaps the most popular field commander in the world after the Shenandoah Valley campaign in 1862, Robertson stated that his presentation was more about Jackson the man than about his military exploits. "The first impressions of Stonewall Jackson are not usually correct," Robertson explained. For example, he was called "Old Jack," not "Stonewall" by his men. As another example, only one reliable source supported the idea that Jackson liked lemons. However, he did enjoy many fruits, especially peaches. Also, according to Robertson, "Jackson was an astute businessman, certainly not the country bumpkin that one may imagine." He overcame a great deal of adversity, and he was a self-made man with great determination.

Robertson pointed out that Jackson has been portrayed as an eccentric personality, but "the 'character' idea has been grossly overblown," he asserted. However, Jackson did have unusual mannerisms, such as throwing his right arm into the air "to balance his body's flow of blood." He did not eat what he liked to eat and never used seasonings. Jackson was virtually humorless, never knowing how to interpret the punchline of a joke.

Jackson's personal life might explain some of his unique characteristics, Robertson explained. Tragedy and the deaths of family members plagued Jackson from his birth. He was painfully shy, introverted, and poverty-stricken, and suffered from maladies such as dyspepsia, poor vision, and partial deafness. To overcome these adversities, Robertson claimed that "Jackson's unbelievable determination was one of his greatest traits." He realized that the military life might be his only chance to excel. Although woefully unprepared for West Point, he rose from the bottom to rank seventeenth in a class of fifty-nine students. During his time at West Point, he received no demerits for poor behavior.

A major emphasis of Robertson's speech was on "Stonewall" Jackson's deep faith in God. "His Calvinist religious considerations colored his outlook on war; Jackson was fighting for God, not his men, and therefore he asked more of his men," stated Robertson. Jackson demanded and received total discipline. "His men could march farther and longer than other soldiers because they were in superb shape," said Robertson. Jackson had supreme confidence in his men, never thinking of defeat. In return, his soldiers were in absolute awe of Jackson.

As a tactician, "Stonewall" Jackson did the unpredictable. The flank attack became his specialty. After completing his fifth flanking maneuver of the war at the Battle of Chancellorsville, he was wounded in the left arm by "friendly fire" and died eight days later, on May 10, 1863, at Guinea Station, Virginia.

Robertson concluded that "Stonewall" Jackson epitomized the good and virtue of the 'Lost Cause'. Death struck him at the high point of Confederate success. However, Robertson does not believe that the Confederacy would have won the Civil War—even if Stonewall Jackson had survived.

RALPH NEWMAN (continued from page 1)

ing the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Ulysses S. Grant Association, the Stephen A. Douglas Association, and Lincoln College. He served as chairman of the Illinois Commission of the New York World's Fair and the Illinois Sesquicentennial Commission.

His literary works include *The American Iliad*, *Lincoln for the Ages*, *The Civil War Digest*, and *Abraham Lincoln's Last Full Measure of Devotion*. In a number of works, he collaborated with fellow Round Table members Otto Eisenschiml and E.B. (Pete) Long. For ten years, he wrote a column for the Chicago Tribune, and wrote a syndicated column, "Civil War Scrapbook," during the Civil War Centennial years.

Newman served as secretary of The Round Table from 1940-45, making all the arrangements for speakers and meeting places. He was the tenth president (1954-55) of The Civil War Round Table. In 1975, The Round Table honored him with its Nevins-Freeman Award. This will be his tenth address to a regular meeting of the organization he founded; he also served as a member of a panel or assembly on several occasions.

Ralph Newman's first ambition was to be a baseball player. He played minor league baseball for the Arizona State League and later for the Western Association. In 1931-32, he played for teams in Tucson and Wichita. His budding baseball career came to a halt when he was injured while trying to steal second base. Shortly thereafter, he went into the book business.

Mark E. Neely, Jr., once described Ralph Newman: "A man of irrepressible energy, with a fertile and inventive mind, Mr. Newman has headed, shaped, aided, rescued, or advised, dozens of important historical institutions and organizations." Neely added that Newman "has been at the hub of the great wheel of Lincoln interest for five decades."

President's Note

The Executive Committee of The Civil War Round Table voted, at its meeting on January 28, to raise the price for dinner meetings, effective at the March 10 meeting. From that time on, our monthly dinners will cost \$25 for Round Table members and \$30 for non-members. This change is being made for budgetary reasons, and was prompted by the report of our Financial Planning Committee at the Executive Committee meeting. For the past couple of years, after all costs have been factored in, The Round Table has been losing over \$4 on each dinner served. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

"The Era of Sacrifice: The Fight for Freedom, 1856-1866"—a year-long exhibition—will open at the Wheaton History Center in DuPage County, Illinois, on February 12. A private showing will be given at 3:00 p.m., followed by a dinner at 5:00 p.m., featuring a performance of "An Evening with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln" with Max and Donna Daniels. Tickets are \$50 per person. For information, call Roger Bohn at 708-858-2956.

Round Table Secretary Bruce Allardice has written a feature article, which appears in the February issue of *Civil War Times Illustrated*. "Out of the Shadows" is about the Confederacy's "least known" general, Robert C. Tyler. Allardice's book, *Other Generals in Gray*, will be published by Louisiana State University Press this spring.

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



McCammom, Charles S., ed. *Loyal Mountain Troopers: The Second and Third Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry in the Civil War: Reminiscences of Lt. John W. Andes and Major Will A. Mateer*. Blount County Genealogical & Historical Society, P.O. Box 4986, Maryville, TN 37802-4986. 1993. \$30.00

McCarthy, Carlton. *Detailed Minutiae of Soldier Life in the Army of Northern Virginia, 1861-1865*. U. of Nebraska Press. 1993. Pbk. \$9.95. Original of 1882.

Miers, Earl Schenck, ed. *A Rebel War Clerk's Diary by John B. Jones*. LSU Press. 1993. Pbk. \$16.95. Original of 1958.

Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois, is celebrating its 130th anniversary this year. A book, *The Lincoln College Story: 1865-1995*, by Barbara Hughett, has been released, and a 130th Anniversary Convocation will be held on February 11 on the college campus. Former Illinois Governor James Thompson will give an address, and honorary degrees will be bestowed on Mary Lincoln biographer Jean H. Baker; Brian Lamb, CEO of C-SPAN, which aired the Lincoln-Douglas Debates reenactments last summer and fall; and Jayne Thompson, prominent attorney and former First Lady of Illinois.

The Kankakee Civil War Round Table will hold its annual symposium on Saturday, April 1. Speakers will be Marshall D. Krolick, former president of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago; Robert K. Krick; and David Ruth. For information, call Rod Hogan at 815-567-3407.

The 14th Annual Midwest Civil War Round Table Conference, sponsored by the Jefferson County (Indiana) Civil War Round Table, will be held on April 21-23 at Clifty Falls State Park in Madison, Indiana. Speakers will include Gordon Whitney, former president of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago; Kenneth Hafendorfer; Wiley Sword; and James Truelock. For information, contact Kathy Ayers, 3121 Clifty Drive, Madison, Indiana 47250.

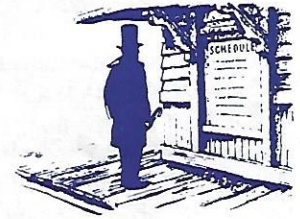
Marshall D. Krolick and John Divine will be among the speakers at a symposium titled "J.E.B. Stuart in the Gettysburg Campaign." Sponsored by the J.E.B. Birthplace, Inc., it will be held on March 10-12 in Mount Airy, North Carolina. For information, call 703-251-1833.

Schimmelfennig Boutique

The history of The Round Table, *The Civil War Round Table: Fifty Years of Scholarship and Fellowship*, by Barbara Hughett, is available for \$30 per copy. You may purchase the book at the monthly meeting or order it from Morningside Bookshop, 260 Oak Street, Dayton, Ohio 45401 (1-800-648-9710). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling.

In addition to The Round Table history and *The Continuing Civil War*, the essays from the Fiftieth Anniversary Proceedings, the following items are available at each monthly meeting: Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes, Civil War Buff posters and T-shirts, polos, and sweatshirts. Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the programs of The Civil War Round Table.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Union League Club, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

February 17: Ralph G. Newman on "A Handful of Lincoln and Civil War Authors" (Please note: this is the **third** Friday of the month.)

March 10: Ervin L. Jordan, Jr., on "Give Us a Flag: Afro-Confederate Loyalty in Civil War Virginia"

April 14: William Hanchett on "Lincoln's Assassination After 130 Years"

May 3-7: Annual Spring Battlefield Tour—Charleston, Columbia, and Savannah

May 12: Tamara Moser Melia on "James B. McPherson and the Ideals of the Old Army"

June 9: John Y. Simon on "Forging a Commander: Ulysses S. Grant and the First Year of the Civil War"

New Members

C. William Busse, Jr., 769 C. Margate Lane, Prospect Heights, IL 60070

George Cohan, 3740 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60613, 312-281-3619

The city of Chicago is sponsoring the city's commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the flag raising at Iwo Jima towards the end of World War II. A dinner and program will be presented on February 23 at the Hilton Hotel and Towers. The prime speaker will be longtime Round Table friend and 1980 Nevins-Freeman Award recipient Edwin C. Bearss. Tickets are \$35 per person. For information, call James Balcer at 312-744-7582.

"The Jewel of Liberty" Symposium, organized by our December speaker David E. Long and member Pete Brown, who heads HistoryAmerica Tours, will take place in San Diego on March 15-19. Speakers will include David Long, William C. Davis, Don Fehrenbacher, William Hanchett, Harold Holzer, Richard McMurry, John Y. Simon, and Frank J. Williams. The event—centering on the presidential election of 1864—is being cosponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Association. Newman Rare Books will be the exclusive bookseller at the symposium, and Round Table founder Ralph G. Newman will be honored in the program. For information, call Pete Brown at 1-800-628-8542.

"The Last Full Measure"—a symposium about the end of the Civil War—is being sponsored by the American Blue & Gray Association/Civil War Education Association, in Washington, D.C., on April 19-23. Speakers will include many of the same speakers from the "The Jewel of Liberty" symposium, with the additions of Stephen B. Oates and Charles Strozier. Ralph Newman will also be honored at this event for his role in founding The Civil War Round Table Movement. For information, call Bob Maher at 1-800-298-1861.

Round Table President Barbara Hughett will speak to the Cuyahoga Valley Civil War Round Table, near Akron, Ohio, on March 8. Her topic will be "The Civil War Round Table Movement: Its Past and Its Future."