

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

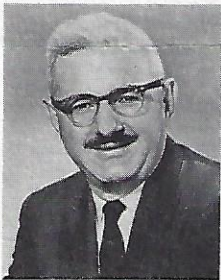
Volume XXVII, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October, 1966

Ralph G. Newman on 'Benjamin Franklin Butler' - Wednesday, Oct. 12

Ralph Geoffrey Newman, central figure in the founding of The Civil War Round Table and founder of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, home of the Round Table, will speak to our 254th regular meeting, Wednesday, October 12, on "Benjamin Franklin Butler: Politician, first class; Hero, junior grade." The dinner meeting will be in the Furniture Club at the Furniture Mart, 666 North Lake Shore Drive (entrance on McClurg Court).



Ralph G. Newman

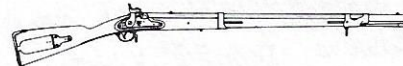
Ralph is ever present at our meetings and frequently heard with comments and announcements, but rarely is on the stated program. He has been on as a panelist and moderator, but his billing as a speaker goes back to meeting No. 9, Dec. 10, 1941 on "Gen. Ben F. Butler." Now, lest you think Ralph has a one-track mind, he has spoken to many other Round Tables and gatherings on many Lincoln and Civil War subjects, and merely bowed out of home assignments with the contention that the home crowd hears enough from him. This time he was persuaded with the argument that the Round Table membership is almost completely new in recent years and few members have heard him as a programmed speaker.

And here's Ralph's attitude about "Spoons" Butler: "Benjamin F. Butler of Massachusetts is both unforgettable and unlovable. A superb politician; he was a miserable soldier. Colorful, outspoken, conceited, a demagogue and defender of the oppressed. A brilliant lawyer, an efficient administrator, as a military leader he was characterized by one of his contemporaries as being 'as helpless as a baby, and as visionary as an opium eater.' His life span covered most of the 19th century. He was a party leader, Civil War general, member of Congress, governor, and prosecutor of President Andrew Johnson in impeachment proceedings. His life and deeds were never dull.

"I have been interested in 'Cock-eyed Ben' for almost 40 years and still keep finding new and interesting items about him. While he has been the subject of many books and articles, he really is difficult to capture on paper, and I suspect equally elusive in a speech, but at least in the latter media a person is subject to less inhibition.

"I spoke about him to the Round Table the first year of our existence, when I knew all too little about him - fortunately my audience knew less. Perhaps they were fascinated by the fact that my lecture was illustrated by chalk drawings (in person) by Joe Parrish (the Tribune cartoonist). I don't know if I know much more today than I did know, but perhaps I can partially conceal this from my audience."

No doubt there will be many waiting for the discus-



254th REGULAR MEETING

Ralph G. Newman

on

"Benjamin Franklin Butler:

Politician, 1/c; Hero, j. g."

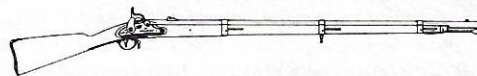
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1966

Furniture Club in Furniture Mart

Cocktails at 5:30

666 North Lake Shore Drive

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



sion period and a chance to stump Ralph. If anyone wants to research the subject, the Ben Butler collection in the Library of Congress was the biggest there until Gifford Pinchot came along!

Ralph is a native Chicagoan and majored in American history at Northwestern. He was a champion sprinter in high school and played some professional baseball, but began his life work in a book shop in the early 1930's. Carl Sandburg and Lloyd Lewis, among his first customers, persuaded him to specialize in books about American history. So many friends and patrons gathered to talk about their hobby that the Civil War Round Table was the outcome. The idea spread until there were about 150 Round Tables in the United States and similar groups in Britain, Canada, and Germany. However, the Round Table remained unique. Though there were several attempts to form a national organization, the groups preferred to remain individual.

Bruce Catton in writing a sketch of Ralph said: "According to many historians, Ralph Newman has exercised a great influence on modern American historical research and writing. Introductions and prefaces to more than 150 books pay credit to Mr. Newman for source material, help and inspiration. Carl Sandburg describes him as the 'founder of a unique American institution,' and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Allan Nevins characterized him as a 'national resource.' He has an international reputation as a top-flight expert in rare books and manuscripts. Many of the great collections of material on Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War,

(Continued on Page 4, Column 1)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,
Chicago 11, Illinois
Phone: Whitehall 4-3085

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THE SPEAKING SCHEDULE for meetings has been completed with George J. Fleming for January 13 and Col. Harold B. Simpson, USAF ret., on March 20. Fleming is teaching history at St. Joseph Junior College, Calumet campus, in East Chicago, Ind. He will speak on "Political Generals," with emphasis on John A. Logan. Col. Simpson is founder of the Confederate Research Center, Hill Junior College, Hillsboro, Texas. He is also founder of Round Tables at Wiesbaden, Germany; Montgomery, Ala., Waco, Texas, and Hill Junior College and author of several books, among them "Brawling Brass." His speaking subject will be announced later.

CHARLES V. FALKENBERG, JR., chairman of the 17th annual Battlefield Tour, was in the Kansas City area late in August and inspected the terrain and places that we will tour next April 20-23. "Chuck" advises that because of tricky plane connections, reservations will be needed early to assure space in planes, hotels, and motels and for meals. Accordingly, the tour bulletin will be issued early in March. E. B. (Pete) Long also is assisting with arrangements in the Kansas City area, a region he knows well.

VOLUNTEERS are needed for committee work. Some persons named in this year's committee list found they were unable to serve. If you can aid the cause, report to President Mike Lerner that you are available for assignment. Elmer Pendarvis needs help on the Hospitality and House committee which has the duty of transporting and placing flags and making other arrangements at meetings. If you can help, report to Elmer.

E. B. (Pete) Long spoke to Indianapolis CWRT on September 12 and will appear before Louisville CWRT on October 21.

from the
Editor's pen



S. I. Neiman's talk on Judah P. Benjamin drew 80 members and guests to the opening meeting of the 1966-67 season at the Furniture club on September 19. He presented some new material that he hadn't been able to include in his book on Benjamin.

"Benjamin lived to thumb his nose at all of his detractors," Neiman said. "While there was no mystery about his life prior to the Civil War, after the war he was bent on destroying all documents bearing on his service in the war. He couldn't distinguish between the Confederacy and his own activities. He refused to discuss the war during the last years of his life, thus shutting off an important chapter of the history of the Confederacy.

"Benjamin was one of the wealthiest men in the South. Few lawyers appeared more times than he before the Supreme court. He was a prolific writer. His textbook on Sales became a standard of the law profession. He felt that the North and South had too little in common to remain united.

"He steeled himself against his emotions. His speeches seldom caught fire. He tolerated infidelity of his wife, Natalie, despite his ability to mount towering rages. He was accused of not getting along with the generals - notably Jackson and Beauregard.

"He was accused of favoring Jews in passing thru the lines. He promised passes to anyone who could bring in contraband. He was defensive and sensitive about his Jewish faith. Natalie remained a Catholic. He remained a Jew until faced with death. Then he took the last rites of the Catholic church."

Detailing the flight of Benjamin and Jefferson Davis, Neiman said, "This started the biggest treasure hunt the South had ever seen." Neiman told of Benjamin raising funds for the Ku Klux Klan, not knowing that the klan later would turn against Jews as well as Negroes.

* * * * *

On behalf of the Round Table membership, Brooks Davis, 1965-66 president was presented with a Civil War rifle. In making the presentation, Ralph Newman noted that the weapon was made by William Muir & Co., Windsor Lock, Conn., an 1861 model manufactured in 1864, and one of 30,000 made and issued during the war.

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Chairman Clement Silvestro spoke in behalf of the Graduate Fellowship Award fund - "our most important program." President Mike Lerner presided over a board of trustees session before the regular meeting. The Fellowship fund was discussed and it was emphasized that though Lloyd D. Miller has been the principal contributor, it was never intended that he should be the sole contributor. At a luncheon meeting of the Fellowship Award committee at the Germania Club on September 14, Cochairmen Silvestro and Miller, Arnold Alexander, Brooks Davis, C. Robert Douglas, Newton C. Farr, E. B. Long, Ralph Newman and Mike Lerner were present and contributed \$550. Donations are invited from other members of the Round Table and can be made to Alexander, who is in charge of finances. Contributions are income tax deductible. The committee announced that an award will be made for 1967-68 and stated the intent to establish the award on a trust fund basis.

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Treasurer Marshall Krolick reminds members that October 1 is the end of the dues grace period and urges payment at once.

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Your editor is indebted to Bob Douglas for the report of the regular meeting.

Fellowship Award Winner

Richard William Iobst, 1966-67 winner of The Civil War Round Table Graduate Fellowship Award for Significant Research in Civil War History, already is well along in gathering material for his doctoral dissertation, "North Carolina Raises an Army, 1861-1862." The award was announced in the June newsletter. Iobst, 32, lives with his wife, Mary, and their two boys at Raleigh, N.C. He took his bachelor's and master's degrees in history at the University of North Carolina. Supervisor for his doctoral work there is Dr. Frank W. Klingberg of the



Richard W. Iobst

department of history. Iobst's master's thesis was "Fort Fisher: A Study."

Iobst was born at Allentown, Pa., and is familiar with the eastern Civil War battlefields from Pennsylvania to the Carolinas. He is a member of the North Carolina Civil War Round Table at High Point. He has worked with Dr. Louis H. Manarin, editor of the Roster of North Carolina Troops. With Manarin, Iobst wrote "The Bloody Sixth," a North Carolina regiment in the Confederate States army.

A seminar paper, "North Carolina Raises an Army: October 1859-March 1861," will be a part of the doctoral dissertation. The work will begin with North Carolina's military reaction to John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry and end with the effective application of the Confederate conscription act in North Carolina in mid-1862. It is a study of the evolution of North Carolina's antiquated militia system into an efficient state army. This includes the raising, organization, and equipping of troops, how they were officered and trained, and the particular method in which North Carolina troops were furnished to the Confederacy for combat.

Research will go into the North Carolina military board, directed by Col. Warren Winslow, and administered by Gov. John W. Ellis; the Ellis letter book and papers; the adjutant generals' office letter book, 1847-1861; the Charles F. Fisher and William A. Graham papers; the House and Senate journals; military and naval board letter book; numerous general works; newspapers of the period, and the Official Records. The research will be done in North Carolina and Washington.

Iobst expects to finish research by the end of the year, and begin writing in the new year with completion by next June. The Round Table will receive a copy of the manuscript.

Of his work, Iobst says: "I find there was much confusion and desperation in North Carolina's military circles during those trying days. The state was overly generous in giving rifles and other military equipment to other states in the Confederacy. Her governor and her state convention (which sat as a revolutionary body in place of the disconvened General Assembly) attempted to fight a revolution within the bounds of constitutional means. State sovereignty was overly proclaimed amidst confusion and unpreparedness. The governor, before his death in July, 1861 . . . proved himself a champion of the States Rights philosophy by being an advocate of military preparedness. The increase of military units and the greater distribution of military equipment served to instill a warlike spirit into North Carolina's young men."

Iobst's works published and due to be published include "The Battle of New Bern," a booklet, and "The Battles of Fort Fisher." While attending the university, he has worked for the North Carolina Centennial commission and the state's Historic Sites division. He has researched and placed about 100 markers and maps, including those at the battlefields of New Bern, Ashe-

TO THE LADIES -

The "Camp Followers" meeting at 6 p.m. on October 12 at 18 East Chestnut street will have the pleasure of hearing Mary Lynn McCree discourse on

"Hors' du Combat, Being a lecture on certain physiological and psychological aspects of conduct during the intervals between actual combat with miscellaneous notes and comments on various personalities concerned with this recurring non-phenomena."

Mary Lynn is curator of the Hull House mansion and manuscript librarian of the University of Illinois, Chicago Circle campus. In 1964-65 she served ably as director of research, Illinois Civil War Centennial commission.

She brings beauty, wit and brains to any enterprise she undertakes. This should be a bang-up program and we hope attendance will be high. Ladies call chairman Betsy Davis, 944-5082 for reservations.

- Barbara Long, program chairman

The Camp Followers had nineteen at their first meeting on September 19 with Lloyd D. Miller speaking on "Americana in Your Hip Pocket." He gave biographies of all the men pictured on U.S. paper currency.

WILSON A. SMITH, leading about 25 members of the Civil War Round Table; Lloyd D. Miller, leading a like number of Masons, and Roland D. Persenico, leading the 104th Illinois Infantry, reactivated, took part in the Lacon, Ill., Old Settlers' Days Sept. 9-11. The 104th took first place in the parade, gave a military exhibition, and was guard of honor for memorial services at the cemetery. State Senator Hudson Sours of Peoria was the chief speaker on President Lincoln's selections and rejections for his cabinet and general officers and on the concept of Unconditional Surrender. About nine Round Tablers joined in golf play. Everybody joined in the dinner catered by local people and prepared under the supervision of Barney Strong, Lacon's chef of renown. The Old Settlers' Days drew Civil War buffs from miles around.

GEORGE L. CASHMAN, who has been editor of the Springfield (Ill.) CWRT newsletter for many years has found a replacement in Richard Kahne. Richard lived in Desplaines and attended a number of our meetings and now has moved to 1805 S. Pasfield, Springfield. George is curator of the Lincoln tomb at Oak Ridge cemetery and has been a speaker on Lincoln subjects at a number of Round Tables.

ville, Avasboro, Bentonville, Roanoke Island, and Plymouth. Research for museums include those at Zebulon B. Vance's birthplace, Fort Fisher, Bentonville, and the Bennett Place, where Johnston surrendered to Sherman. Iobst proof read Glenn Tucker's book, "Zeb Vance: Champion of Personal Freedom." He has been a frequent public speaker.

The Graduate Fellowship Award was first given a year ago to David Meerse for a study of the Buchanan administration. The award is financed by a principal gift from Lloyd D. Miller and contributions of Round Table members and other Round Tables.

THE NEW BOOKS



IRONMAKER TO THE CONFEDERACY: Joseph R. Anderson and the Tredegar Iron Works, by Charles B. Dew (Yale University Press, \$10).

TEXAS IN TURMOIL: The Sage of Texas, 1849-1875, by Ernest Wallace (Steck-Vaughn Co., Austin, 293pp, \$2.95).

SANDBURG: Photographers View Carl Sandburg, edited by Edward Steichen (Harcourt, Brace & World, \$10.75).

GLOUCESTER COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR, by Ludwell Lee Montague (DeHardit Press, Gloucester, Va.)

LOUISIANA PAPERBACKS: "American Negro Slavery," by Ulrich B. Philips (560pp, \$2.95); "Slavery in Mississippi," by Charles S. Syndor (288pp, \$1.95).

BOOK NOTES

In November, Louisiana State University Press will publish "Hardluck Ironclad, The Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo," by Edwin C. Bearss. This is the story that Ed has related to a number of Round Tables, including ours. The book will have 24 pages of photographs showing the Cairo in wartime and now, the salvage operations to raise her, and the artifacts found on board.

NEWMAN (Continued from page 1)

other phases of American history and literature, were gathered under his guidance. As an appraiser of historical and literary documents, papers, and collections of materials, he has performed services for many institutions."

Ralph's activities are so many that there is space to brief only a few. He was chairman of Chicago Civil War Centennial commission, secretary-treasurer of the state commission, and guiding hand of the outstanding Illinois exhibit at the New York World's Fair. He is now editing the papers of President Lyndon B. Johnson and has performed that service for other renowned men. He has assisted in the formation of a number of Round Tables. He is a member of the Chicago Public Library board and has engaged in many similar civic services.

Ralph co-authored with the late Otto Eisenschiml, "The American Iliad," a history of the Civil War; and with E. B. (Pete) Long, "The Civil War: The Picture Chronicle." He edited the first appearance in book form of "The Diary of a Public Man," and a complete reissue of The Railsplitter, Lincoln's 1860 newspaper. He has written numerous articles - and has been written about. He has been prominent in historical societies and was president of the Illinois society. He conducts a weekly quiz column, "Do You Remember?" in the Chicago Sunday Tribune. He has been the promoter of activities at New Salem. He has been closely identified with the guiding boards of Lincoln College and Lincoln Memorial University.

ROBERT REILLY, a founder of Baton Rouge (La.) CWRT, will address the New Orleans CWRT on "Firearms of the Civil War." Bob is a former member of our CWRT and chief designer of our newsletter. He has exceptional skill in drawings of firearms.

PRISON CWRT of Richmond, Va., heard J. Ambler Johnston tell of his recent trip to Alaska. The group has a revision of its mailing address: Prison Civil War Round Table, c/o Mr. R. C. Brady, Education Director, 500 Spring Street, Richmond, Va. 23219.

BULLETIN BOARD



THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Board of Trustees) and past presidents are called to meet at 4:45 p.m., Wednesday, October 12, in the Furniture Club, prior to the regular meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday, Nov. 15 - Allen P. (Ned) Julian, "Gallant John Hood."

Thursday, Dec. 8 - Frank Klement, "Clement L. Vallandigham."

Friday, Jan 13, 1967 - George J. Fleming, "Political Generals."

Tuesday, Feb. 14 - Ladies' Night, Speaker Alice Hamilton Cromie; dinner and theater at Ivanhoe restaurant.

Monday, March 20 - Col. Harold B. Simpson, subject to be announced.

April 20-23 - Battlefield Tour to Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, Westport, and Lexington.

Wednesday, April 26 - Fred Benton, Jr., "The Battle and Siege of Port Hudson."

Thursday, May 25 - Henry Simmons, "Northern Censorship of the Press: Necessary or Needless?"

Friday, June 23 - J. Robert Smith, "Gen. Mike Lawler."

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sept. 30-Oct. 1-2 - Freeport, Ill., Illinois State Historical Society meeting.

Oct. 2-3 - Freeport, Ill., Illinois Sesquicentennial commission meeting.

Oct. 8 - Perryville (Ky.) Pilgrimage Trek, Boy Scouts, sponsored by Louisville CWRT.

Oct. 20-23 - Evansville (Ind.) CWRT battlefield tour to Fredericksburg, Petersburg, Five Forks, and Manassas.

NEW MEMBERS: John P. Cullen, 4049 West 31st St., Chicago 60623; James Ruddle, 1805 N. Wilshire, Arlington Heights.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: C. B. Stolen to: 1340 E. 48th Place, Apt. 301, Tulsa, Okla. 74105.



THE PERRYVILLE PILGRIMAGE TREK, for Boy Scouts but open to visitors, and sponsored by the Louisville, CWRT, will take place Saturday, October 8, the anniversary of the battle. There will be marches over the routes which the Union and Confederate troops took in 1862. There will be guided tours of houses of historic interest. Twelve vintage cars will be displayed at an antique automobile show. There will be a flintlock rifle shoot by the Kentucky team and a gun show. A concert of Civil War music will be played by the 100th Division army reserve band. Wreaths will be placed at the Union and Confederate monuments on the Perryville battlefield. John Brooks Davis, past president of Chicago CWRT and commander of Sons of Union Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic, will speak. The city of Perryville is sponsoring a guided bus tour of the town and battlefield.

T. HARRY WILLIAMS, an Honorary Award Life Member of our CWRT and Boyd professor of American History at Louisiana State University, is occupying the chair of the Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University, England, during the current year.