



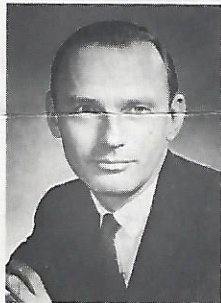
# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXIX, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March, 1969

## Brooks Davis: 'Battle of Perryville,' March 14



Brooks Davis

Past President Brooks Davis will share with us his intense interest in the Battle of Perryville on Friday, March 14. Brooks, a distinguished Civil War scholar, has often visited the Kentucky battleground, participated in lecturing to Perryville battlefield tours and has been a speaker at commemorative occasions.

As a special feature of his March 14 talk, Brooks will provide each Roundtabler with a map of the Perryville battleground so that every

member can follow his description of the action.

Brooks Davis, president of our Chicago Civil War Roundtable in 1965-66, thinks of the Battle of Perryville as one of the turning points of the Civil War. "I know that when you talk about 'turning points' you're running into controversy with many who conceive of other battles as the crucial points of the war," he concedes.

"But Perryville occurred at about the same time as Corinth and Sharpsburg in the fall of 1862, and Perryville was the center point of a major Confederate offensive against the North which, if it had succeeded, would have made a major difference in the outcome of the conflict," Davis said.

For Chicago Roundtablers, the Battle of Perryville holds special interest because it was the Civil War conflict fought closest to our city. "In fact," Brooks adds, "if the South had won at Perryville there was nothing to stop them between Louisville and Chicago."

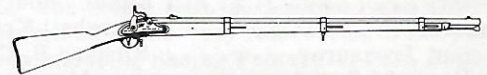
Another interesting aspect of Perryville is that it was Gen. P. H. Sheridan's first battle as a divisional commander. "I believe that Sheridan fought a poor battle," our speaker says, "and often I wonder what he did all day. We can allow Sheridan some leeway as a new divisional commander, but his showing at Perryville was not good regardless of what his defenders say."

There were freaks of nature at Perryville like the lack of water that made troops on both sides thirsty and led to the first skirmish at a place where both North and South sought to find water. And winds during the battle were "strange," causing some troops to be unaware of what was going on only 100 yards away.

Perryville marked the beginning of the decline of both commanders, Don Carlos Buell (Union) and Braxton Bragg (Confederate), according to Davis.

The Battle of Perryville is now commemorated by a Kentucky state battlefield park that Davis has visited many times with his children and with groups interested in the Civil War.

Our March speaker, highly esteemed by all members of the Chicago Civil War Round Table, admits that he owns "three times as many Civil War books as I have time to read. Someday I expect to be a casualty of that



279TH REGULAR MEETING

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Brooks Davis

on

The Battle of Perryville

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Friday, March 14, 1969

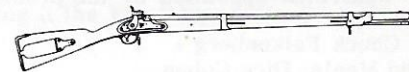
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Furniture Club in Furniture Mart

Executive Committee at 4:45 p.m.

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6 p.m.



war as all of my books are on overloaded shelves over my desk.

"The friends I have made because of my interest in the war both here in Chicago and throughout the war area have meant more to me than any other facet of the Civil War," Davis says.

He has spoken on Perryville before CWRT groups in Park Forest and Salt Creek. On one of his visits to the Perryville battleground he covered the back areas of the battlefield with Frank Rankin, a local banker who owned a jeep ideal for battlefield exploration.

"The people of the Perryville area," Davis adds, "have made great progress on the field since then, marking areas, acquiring land, building and equipping a museum and now they hold a regular summer tour of Perryville. The Louisville CWRT has made a great project out of it, holding a program on each anniversary and encouraging Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to walk two battle trails."

Brooks Davis is a member of "more dam groups" than he can count, including Sons of Union Veterans of which he is past Illinois department commander.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

## OFFICERS

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### BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Executive Committee)

Terms expiring in 1969: Maurice Fisher,  
Dan J. Lapinski, Charles Wesselhoeft.

Terms expiring in 1970: S. J. Kearney,  
James Coulter, James Henry.

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968



PRESIDENT WARSHAW asks all members to volunteer to work on appropriate committees of the CWRT. Chairmen appointed by the president for 1968-69 are:  
Awards: Chuck Falkenberg  
House and Meals: Dick Cohen  
Sickness and Memorials: Jim Coulter  
Fellowship Co-Chairmen: Arnold Alexander,  
Pete Long  
Auditing: Charley Wesselhoeft  
Nominating: Brooks Davis  
Publicity: Dick Bjorklund  
Battlefield Tour: Dan Lapinski and Clyde Walton  
Speakers Bureau: Don Pfeuffer  
Stand-by Speaker: Miner T. Coburn  
Special Events: Ver Lynn Sprague and Warren Reeder

Applications for CWRT fellowships are now available from Arnold Alexander, chairman of the CWRT fellowship committee, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Chairman Alexander reminds all CWRT members and friends that they may make tax-deductible contributions to the CWRT Fellowship Fund for Civil War research and education. Contributions may be sent to Alexander at the address above.

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Club members who know of the death or illness of anyone associated with the Chicago CWRT are encouraged to promptly contact President Warshaw or the CWRT through the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop.

*from the  
Editor's pen*



more than 100 members, their ladies and their guests enjoyed the annual CWRT Ladies Night on St. Valentine's Day, February 14. Many members turned out in uniform with their ladies clad in Civil War-era dresses.

Those who attended will long remember the excitement of hearing the 1st Brigade Band using century-old instruments to play a gay variety of 19th Century songs. Euguene J. Kupjack, our entertaining speaker, brought to life the delicate art of historical miniaturization.

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Our Ladies' Night evening got off to a mournful start as Ver Lynn Sprague eulogized the late Wilson Smith, a long-time active member of the Chicago CWRT.

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Chicago's CWRT Speakers' Bureau will furnish Joe Eisendrath to speak at Salt Creek CWRT on March 21 and Elmer Brinkman also at Salt Creek on April 18. A report of the year's activities of the Speaker's Bureau will appear in a future issue of the Newsletter.

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President Jerry Warshaw remained out of the hospital just long enough to preside at Ladies' Night. He underwent successful surgery at Wesley Memorial Hospital on February 17.

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Jack Foster of the Illinois Sesquicentennial Commission should be credited with the excellent publicity given our Ladies' Night program. An item on the program appeared next to Kup's Column in that day's editions of the Chicago Sun-Times. Jack has filled in bravely for our publicity chairman who took up other duties after the death of Gil Twiss.

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The late Gil Twiss was memorialized in the latest edition of Overset, the publication of the Chicago Press Club. Overset mentioned prominently our late member's connection with CWRT and the 14 years he edited this newsletter.

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Past Presidents and Honorary Life Members of the Chicago CWRT are especially urged to attend the March 14 meeting to participate in the inauguration of new Honorary Life Members.

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President Warshaw appeals to all CWRT members to recruit new members for our group and to bring visitors to meetings whenever possible. "The future of our club depends upon our willingness to bring the work of the Round Table to the attention of others, especially young people, who share our interest in the Civil War." Membership applications are available from Treasurer Marshall Krolick or from the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop.

All CWRT members and their guests are welcome to attend meetings of the Unofficial CWRT Board of Directors and Chowder and Marching Society held each Monday at noon in our CWRT meeting room in Chodash Restaurant, 312 W. Randolph St.

Members who plan to take this year's Battlefield Tour should read the lead article in the February issue of Civil War Times Illustrated titled "The First Day at Shiloh" by Major E. C. Dawes. It is a first person account of the action beginning on March 15, 1862 when part of Sherman's division disembarked at Pittsburg Landing.

19TH ANNUAL C.W.R.T. BATTLEFIELD  
TOUR TO WESTERN TENNESSEE AND  
NORTH MISSISSIPPI

(This excellent description of the 1969 Chicago CWRT Battlefield tour was written by tour chairman Dan Lapinski for the previous issue of the newsletter. We are running it again to remind readers that the exciting trip to Shiloh and nearby Civil War shrines will be held May 1-4 and that reservations should be made promptly.)

Plans are nearing completion for the 19th annual Civil War Round Table battlefield tour. The tour, this year, will cover the Western Tennessee and Northern Mississippi theater with special emphasis on Shiloh. The dates for this year's tour are May 1 to 4.

The tour will depart from O'Hare International Airport the morning of May 1. A Delta Airlines jet will fly the group nonstop to Memphis where they will be joined by out-of-town CWRT members as well as members from other Round Tables. Members of the West Tennessee Historical Society and Sons of Confederate Veterans, Nathan Bedford Forrest, Camp 215 will be on hand at the Memphis airport to welcome the campaigners. An invitation to help Memphis celebrate its sesquicentennial will also be made at that time.

Air conditioned Greyhound buses will take the group on a tour of Memphis pointing out such places as the site of the gunboat attack on Memphis, the Jeff. Davis house, (yes they have one in Memphis, too), the Nathan Bedford Forrest home, the Pink Palace Museum and other sites related to the Civil War.

The tour will visit La Grange, Tennessee, the one time base for Grierson's famed raid into the heart of the Confederacy. After a short visit, the group will proceed to Corinth, Mississippi where they will be based for the next three days at the Holiday Inn. Command posts will be established at various points along the tour to revive and rehabilitate the battle fatigued campaigners.

Friday, May 2, will be spent studying and touring Shiloh Battlefield Park and related areas including Grant's headquarters at Savannah. The Park Service will present a special program with a film of the battle and a conducted tour of the museum in the administration building. Lunch will be served at the famous Catfish Hotel on the Tennessee River at Pittsburg Landing. (They serve dishes other than catfish for the less courageous.)

A special memorial service will be conducted at the Illinois monument to honor the memory of our late member Otto Eisenschiml whose ashes are scattered at this place. Ample time will be allowed to roam the battlefield on your own in the afternoon. A local historian has been scheduled to speak at the evening dinner.

Saturday, May 3, calls for a trip to the Northern Mississippi area visiting Baldwin and the battlefield at Brice's Crossroads. Claude Gentry, the outstanding authority on the Battle of Brice's Crossroads, will guide the group through the stages of the battle and will display his personal collection of materials relating to the action.

On to Tupelo, Mississippi, where we shall be met by Guy Braden of the National Park Service. A tour of the Battle of Tupelo will follow and the members will get a glimpse of the historic Natchez Trace. Returning to Corinth that evening, we shall have a prominent speaker followed by the traditional Fun Nite.

Sunday, May 4, the group will review the campaigns at Iuka and Corinth. Much of this area has remained in much the same condition as when the battles took place. Sunday afternoon it's on to Holly Springs. The Holly Springs Garden Club has scheduled a tour through some of the most beautiful ante-bellum homes of the Old South. This should prove to be a most interesting afternoon for the ladies and the antique collectors. The battle fatigued veterans will then proceed to Memphis Airport where a

TO THE LADIES—

Members of the Camp Followers attended the Ladies' Night ball with their gentlemen and guests on Feb. 14, St. Valentine's Day.

Camp Followers will meet on Friday, March 14, at 5:30 p.m. in the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago.

An interesting, though still unconfirmed, program has been arranged.

A catered dinner will be brought in, for which reservations must be made. Please contact:

Mrs. G. P. Clausius, 929 Garfield Ave., Belvidere, Ill. 61008. Phone 815-544-3739

jet will be waiting to fly them back to Chicago.

Tour chairmen Dan. J. Lapinski and Clyde Walton have promised some very interesting if not provocative speakers including Shelby Foote, Dr. John Bettersworth, Governor James Coleman, Claude Gentry and other noted historians. Ed Bearss will accompany the tour as coordinator and commentator at large.

Costs of the tour and further details will be provided in the special tour letter in March.

ON TO SHILOH IN '69.

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An article by the late Gil Twiss on the state of Round Tables in the U.S. was given prominent mention in the latest issue of the newsletter of the Confederate Historical Society in England. The editor of that newsletter comments:

"I was surprised, then, to learn from Newsletters received that several groups have discussed the possibility of widening the scope of their interest to cover a period of history far greater than that occupied by the Civil War, and that two Round Tables have passed resolutions changing their titles to the American History Round Table.

"One explanation for this is the approach of the bicentennial of that other conflict, the American War of Independence (or Revolutionary War, depending on your point of view—one member of your committee insists upon calling it the First American Civil War!).

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Our member E. B. "Pete" Long was well received when he spoke to the Kansas City CWRT on Jan. 29 on "Generals and Their Ladies."

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Our friend Lloyd Ostendorf was last month's speaker at the New York Civil War Round Table which meets in that city's Overseas Press Club.

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Madison's Civil War Round Table favored its members with a sheet carrying calendars of every month of the Civil War period from 1861 to 1865 so that its scholars can check dates against days of the week.

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A UPI dispatch about a home that was moved in Uriah, Ala., ended with this:

Mrs. Garrett said workers had found a surprise message penciled on wood under the base of one of the six towering portico columns:

"The Federals are suffering heavy reverses after 15 months of labor, expense and suffering. They are holding to their first position. Whether they will win the war remains to be seen."

## THE NEW BOOKS



Belz, Herman. RECONSTRUCTING THE UNION: Theory and Policy During the Civil War. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell, 1969. \$8.50

Bigelow, John. FRANCE AND THE CONFEDERATE NAVY, 1862-1868: An International Episode. N.Y.: Bergman, 1968. \$12.50

Clemenceau, Georges. AMERICAN RECONSTRUCTION, 1865-1870. N.Y.: Da Capo, 1969. \$10.00

Crocker, Lionel, comp. AN ANALYSIS OF LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS AS PUBLIC SPEAKERS AND DEBATORS. Springfield, Ill.: C. C. Thomas, 1968. \$15.50

Eppes, Susan Bradford. THROUGH SOME EVENTFUL YEARS. Introd. by Joseph D. Cushman, Jr. Gainesville, Fla.: University of Florida, 1968. \$10.00

Goff, John S. ROBERT TODD LINCOLN: A Man in His Own Right. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma, 1969. \$7.95

Helper, Hinton Rowan. THE IMPENDING CRISIS OF THE SOUTH: How to Meet it. Ed. by George M. Fredrickson. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard, 1968. \$7.50

Hyman, Harold, editor. HEARD ROUND THE WORLD: The Impact Abroad of the Civil War. N.Y.: Knopf, 1969. \$7.95

James, D. Clayton. ANTEBELLUM NATCHEZ. Baton Rouge, La.; Louisiana State U., 1968. \$10.00

Miles, Nelson A. PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF GENERAL NELSON A. MILES. N.Y.: Da Capo, 1969. \$27.50

Murdock, Eugene C. PATRIOTISM LIMITED, 1862-1865: The Civil War Draft and the Bounty System. Kent, O.: Kent State U., 1967. \$7.95

North, Douglass C. and Robt. P. Thomas, eds. THE GROWTH OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY TO 1860: Documentary History of the United States. Columbia, S.C.: University of S. Carolina, 1968. \$7.95

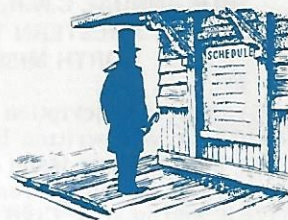
O'Connor, Thomas H. LORDS OF THE LOOM: The Cotton Whigs and the Coming of the Civil War. N.Y.: Scribner's, 1968. \$7.50

Stampp, Kenneth M. and Leon F. Litwack, eds. RECONSTRUCTION: An Anthology of Revisionist Writings. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State U., 1969. \$12.00. Paper \$4.25

Thorndike, Rachel Sherman. THE SHERMAN LETTERS: Correspondence Between General and Senator Sherman from 1837 to 1891. N.Y.: Da Capo, 1969. \$15.00

Waller, John L. COLOSSAL HAMILTON OF TEXAS: A Biography of Andrew Jackson Hamilton, Militant Unionist & Reconstruction Governor. El Paso, Texas: Western Press, 1968. \$5.00

Wilson, Joseph T. THE BLACK PHALANX. N.Y.: Arno Press, 1968. \$15.50



## BULLETIN BOARD

### FUTURE MEETINGS

APRIL 11: Warren W. Hassler Jr. on "McClellan."

MAY 9: William K. Alderfer "Illinois' Wartime Capitol."

JUNE 6: Frank G. Rankin on "John Hunt Morgan."

All meetings are held on Friday nights in the Furniture Club of the Furniture Mart.

This year's battlefield tour will visit Shiloh, Corinth, Brice's Crossroads, Holly Springs and Memphis on May 1-4.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Sylvestre C. Watkins, 11372 Links Drive, Reston, Virginia 22070.

Miles Janousek, 3415 Prairie Ave., Brookfield, Illinois 60513.



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From the Journal of the Confederate Historical Society:

Life at Camp Douglas was dreary beyond endurance and in the vermin infested pen typhus and dysentery ravaged. Day after day Stanley's company diminished and every morning he saw men carried to the hospital from where they never returned. Those not yet delirious or too weak to move unaided were kept in the huts and the victims were perpetually going by, trembling with weakness, writhing with pain, disgusting the senses. No more unlovely sight is there than a sick secessionist in bilious butternut, soiled in his own filth. Every morning the wagons came to the hospital and dead house to take away the corpses which were piled one upon another like carcasses of frozen mutton at the docks.

The latrines were all at the rear of the blank barracks and each time imperious nature compelled one to resort to them, the men still able to remain aware of conditions, lost a little of that respect and consideration they owed their fellow creatures. Men, looking like exhumed corpses lay around in the filth cursing and blaspheming. Some lay for hours, regardless of the weather at the edge of the gaping ditches, breathing the foul atmosphere, praying for death. "Good God, let me die! Let me go Lord!" As time went past Stanley was often tempted with an impulse to challenge a malignant sentry's bullet by crossing the deadline.

But, in the course of six weeks, more powerful influences than Mr. Shipman's gentle reasoning were undermining Stanley's resolve to remain a prisoner. The increase in sickness, the horrors of the prison, the oily atmosphere, the ignominious cartage of the dead, the useless flight of time and fear of being incarcerated for years and driven mad finally persuaded him to accept with several other prisoners the terms of release and to enroll in the U.S. artillery service. On June 4th 1862 Stanley breathed fresh air once more.