

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXX, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June, 1970

A. P. Andrews on 'Gen. Earl Van Dorn,' Friday, June 5

The military career of a colorful and controversial Confederate general will be reviewed by A. P. (Al) Andrews at a meeting of the Chicago Civil War Round Table on Friday, June 5.

Andrews will speak on his fellow Mississippian, "Major General Earl Van Dorn—Saint or Sinner."

Our speaker, a founder and first president of the Jackson Civil War Roundtable and editor of its newsletter "The Rebel Yell," says this of his subject:



A. P. Andrews

"Born of illustrious parents in the quiet and picturesque town of Port Gibson, Mississippi, on Sept. 17, 1820, little Earl Van Dorn's star, placed thusly in the infinite sky of destiny, began its ascension.

"This young man's star decreed that he be a soldier. And a soldier he was; a trained soldier; a graduate of West Point," Andrews continued.

"In mind's eye, we watch the steady ascension of this soldier's star as he bares his breast to arrows of the Seminoles in Florida; the shot, shell and grape of Santa Anna's army in Mexico; and then to see it rise higher and higher as our soldier, now a major, leads his troops against the warring Comanche and Apache tribes in Texas."

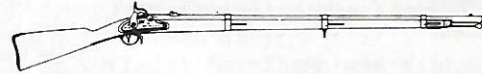
A major in the 2d Cavalry at the start of the Civil War, Van Dorn resigned his commission and became second in command to Jefferson Davis as brigadier general of Mississippi troops. When Davis went to Montgomery, Van Dorn succeeded to command, later to be commissioned a colonel C.S.A. on March 16, 1861. On Sept. 19, 1861, Van Dorn was commissioned and confirmed a major general in the Confederate army and, according to Andrews, he became the ranking officer of that designation.

With that appointment, says Andrews, "Major General Earl Van Dorn's star had reached its zenith. It was never to go higher but, instead, to start a slow descent and then to suddenly dive behind the horizon, never to rise again." Andrews will attempt to explain the decline of Earl Van Dorn at our June meeting.

But even after Van Dorn was named a major general, his career had its exciting moments, including the daring exploit at Holly Springs when Van Dorn's cavalry captured or destroyed \$1.5 million worth of supplies for Grant's army, an episode that led to the sacking of a Union colonel.

Van Dorn's star disappeared on May 8, 1863, when he was killed at Spring Hill, Tennessee, by "a resident of the neighborhood, Dr. Peters, who stated in justification of his act that Van Dorn had 'violated the sanctity of his home.' Van Dorn's friends, one the other hand, indignantly deny that there was any such reason. They say Van Dorn was shot in the back, in cold blood, and for political reasons," according to Stanley F. Horn's "The Army of Tennessee."

Our June speaker is no stranger to the Chicago Civil War



292d REGULAR MEETING

* * *

A. P. (Al) Andrews

on

"Major General Earl Van Dorn -
Saint or Sinner?"

* * *

Friday, June 5, 1970

* * *

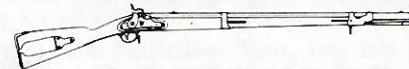
Chicago Bar Association
29 S. LaSalle St.

* * *

Executive Committee at 5:30 p.m.

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



Round Table which, in 1961, awarded him a national distinguished service award for historical research. Another 1961 citation from the Wisconsin State Senate praised his research on Wisconsin soldiers at Vicksburg. Andrews was cited also by the Mississippi State Senate for his research on the history of his state and by the Kentucky Historical Society for his work on "Jefferson Davis—A Profile."

Andrews spent 15 years in the life insurance business as an agent, supervisor, district manager and divisional manager. He organized and helps operate the Nationwide Motorists Assn. of Mississippi, an organization with 14,000 members. Our June speaker also operates the A. P. (Al) Andrews Research Bureau, a 15-year-old organization that produced two documentaries, one on Jefferson Davis and the other on "The Army of Northern Virginia from Organization to Surrender."

He has written a number of treatises on Civil War history including such subjects as Mississippians at Gettysburg, Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, the Freedman Bureau in Mississippi, the reorganization of civil government in Mississippi, and humor, poetry, legend and folklore of the Civil War.

Andrews, in addition to his active role in the Jackson CWRT, is a member of the Exchange Club of Vicksburg, the Mississippi Historical Society, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Sons of the American Revolution, the American Assn. for State and Local History, and the Southern Historical Assn. His wife, the former Zenta Underwood of Yazoo City, Mississippi, is treasurer of the Jackson CWRT.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940
 18 East Chestnut Street,
 Chicago 11, Illinois
 Phone: Whitehall 4-3085

OFFICERS

President	Clyde Walton
Senior Vice President	Dan Lapinski
Vice President	Don Russell
Vice President	Charles Falkenberg
Secretary	Charles Wesselhoeft
Treasurer	Richard Cohen
Assistant Treasurer	Don Jensen
Editor of Newsletter	Dick Bjorklund
Contributing Editor	Dick Clark
Official Engrosser (Printer)	Allen Meyer
Judge Advocate General	Philip R. Davis
Balladeer	Win Stracke
Leader of the Band	Miles Janousek

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Executive Committee)

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

Terms expiring in 1971: Don Pfeuffer, Elmer Underwood, Marshall Krolick.

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Battlefield Tour	Hal Hixon Ned Julian
Fellowship	Arnold Alexander E. B. "Pete" Long
Nominating	Brooks Davis
Membership and Hospitality	Marshall Krolick
Speakers Bureau	Gordon Whitney
Budget and Finance	Marshall Krolick, Chairman Dick Cohen Dan Lapinski Charles Wesselhoeft



Deaths: John R. Peacock, of High Point, North Carolina member since 1949. Mr. Peacock, affectionately known as "Rebel" had been all for some long time. He was an enthusiastic tour member in the early years. Mr. Peacock was an authority on the war in North Carolina and Tennessee and his photo library was nationally known.

Boyd B. Stutler of Charleston, West Virginia, member since 1950 also died recently after a very long illness. Mr. Stutler was an expert on the war in West Virginia and was active on the boards of several C.W. publications.

Ray D. Smith of Chicago, member since 1941 and an honorary member as well, died in April. He maintained an outstanding and unique index of the "Confederate Veteran" magazine which was used by students and authors from all over the country. Mr. Smith gave the collection and index to Knox College several years ago.

*from the
Editor's pen*



Jerry Warshaw presented a novel Civil War film program at our May meeting, complete with popcorn and a piano player who reportedly worked for a bottle of muscatel. Arnold Alexander, a reformed lawyer, provided background music as members watched "The Drummer Boy of the Eighth," "The Battle" and Buster Keaton's classic "The General."

Warshaw, who knows films as well as he does the Civil War, provided lively commentary, including a remark that a tired Arnold Alexander was "the Longstreet of the musicians' union."

Other Civil War Round Tables ought to consider tapping their special resources—including old movie buffs—for unique programs like Jerry Warshaw's Civil War Movie Night.

Lloyd Miller, the chief benefactor of our fellowship program, presented to President Clyde Walton a check for \$3,000 to support the program this year. Miller pointed out that if each of the 50 members present came up with only \$60 during the coming year, the program could be expanded.

Jack Kaluf, after an operation, is resting at home, P.O. Box 152, St. John, Indiana, 46373.

George Fleming will speak on Gen. John A. Logan at a meeting of the Hammond Historical Society on Tuesday, May 26.

NEW OFFICERS

Officers for 1970-71 were elected unanimously at the May meeting following the presentation of a report by Nominating Committee Chairman Brooks Davis. Elected were:

Dan Lapinski, president; Marshall Krolick, senior vice president; Miner Coburn, vice president; Elmer Underwood, vice president; Charles Wesselhoeft, secretary; Richard Cohen, treasurer; George Fleming, assistant treasurer; Ward Smidl, Francis Geigle and Charles Falkenberg Jr., trustees for terms expiring in 1972; Mort Feigen, Norman Wiche and Dick Bjorklund, trustees for terms expiring in 1971.

Officers will assume their duties at the June meeting.

Editors of Chicago Today ought to brush up on their Civil War history. A recent light-hearted item by John McHugh on dogs being banished from Chicago parks reviewed the exploits of a mythical dog named Finn McCool. "We fought in all the Colonial wars for independence," the dog says, "but during the Civil War we fought on both sides. In fact, one of my ancestors bit Stonewall Jackson at Gettysburg when he got excited and he was rewarded with a stiff kick in the rump." Certainly the dog was not kicked by Jackson, who died more than a year before Gettysburg in the battle Chancellorsville. In fact, Chicago Today editors might be condemned to read the comments of Douglas Southall Freeman, who said the story of Gettysburg is that "Jackson is not here."

Brooks Davis spoke to the May meeting of the Madison CWRT on Perryville.

Collections of the past five years of this newsletter may be purchased for \$7.50 a set from Elmer Underwood at Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. A limited number of the collections is available for sale.

TO THE LADIES —

Early on the morning of Thursday, April 30, about 50 hard-core Round Tablers left rain-drenched Chicago via Delta Airlines for the sunny south on the 20th Annual Battlefield Tour. And sunny it proved to be during all four days as though ordered by co-chairman and advance agent, Col. Allen P. (Ned) Julian. The colonel, along with some 35 others, greeted the group at the Savannah airport.

Registrar Margaret April, with her customary efficiency, saw that the luggage was trucked to the new DeSoto-Hilton hotel while the drones Greyhounded through beautiful Savannah and out to Fort Pulaski for a box lunch under the pines.

A switch on this trip was the presence at the fort of a Park Service "Girl Guide," as charming as she was knowledgeable. After a lengthy visit to the fort, during which there was only one casualty (nonfatal) the buses returned to the hotel for the traditional command post followed by dinner after which Col. Lindsey P. Henderson, Jr. (Ret.) amply supplied with flags, guns and letters talked on the Volunteer Units of Savannah.

Friday started with a trip down the Savannah River that was relaxing and pleasant after the "Waving Girl" got by pollution personified in the form of a stinky paper mill. The boat passed Ft. Pulaski and on out to Tybee Roads; box lunch aboard and returned to Savannah. The greater part of the group devoted the afternoon to visiting Fort McAllister under the guidance of Col. Julian while the rest saw Savannah by bus and on foot culminating in a visit to Sherman's Headquarters, a fine old mansion, well maintained, now the property of the Episcopal Church. Following command post and dinner, Federal Judge Alexander A. Lawrence spoke on "If Longstreet had come up at Gettysburg" in which he presupposes that Lee chased Meade back into Washington and proceeded, practically unopposed north as far as New England. Peace terms, of course, were signed by Lincoln and we have lived happily ever since in the Confederate States of America. The judge delivered this with a straight face except for a few times when he broke up as did his audience.

Saturday, another beautiful day, started with a somewhat delayed departure (one of the marshals overslept) for the north end of Hilton Head, site of the naval action in the fall of 1861 which reduced the Confederate Fort Walker and enabled the Federals to land on Hilton Head and to establish a naval base at Port Royal that made the Union blockade of Southern ports more effective. Lunch at "Tidaholm" a beautiful ante-bellum house in Beaufort was a welcome change from the box variety. This was followed by a tour of the charming old town (the birth-place of Secession) with its numerous old houses and a visit to beautiful St. Helena's Episcopal Church. A Beaufort lady rode each bus and did a splendid guide job.

On arrival at Charleston, 50 people spent an hour at the Military College of South Carolina, generally known as The Citadel where their Col. Nicholson opened the beautiful library and extensive and interesting museum. The library houses Bruce Catton's manuscripts. A series of murals in the library includes one of Citadel cadets manning a 4-gun battery on Morris Island firing the first shot of the Civil War (contrary to general belief) across the bow of the Star of the West; nine more shots (3 hits) forced the relief vessel for Fort Sumter to turn back. The speaker of the evening, Warren Ripley, State Editor of the Charleston Evening Post, set the scene for a visit to Fort Sumter the next day on a chartered boat. Sunday afternoon saw a bus go to Fort Moultrie and Sullivan's Island while another made a tour of scenic Charleston where Mrs. April had arranged entry to two interesting old homes. A delicious buffet at the Francis Marion Hotel preceeded departure for Atlanta and O'Hare. A downpour at Atlanta caused no discomfort and it was clear flying into Chicago on schedule.

Our thanks to that genial gentleman, Win Stracke who played and sang timely songs each evening immediately after dinner. Our marshals Dick Cohen, Jerry Warshaw, Al Meyer and Brooks Davis are to be commended for a fine job.

On June 12 Margaret April will give the Camp Followers the inside story of the Round Table Savannah trip, and who should know more about it than Margaret?

Cocktails at 5:30, 18 E. Chestnut. Please make your reservations with Mrs. George (Lenore) Fleming, 11146 S. Vernon, Chicago, 60628, 928-8977, *not* with the Bookstore.

Joyce Warshaw entertained the ladies with a view of the Civil War version of Post Exchanges: the suttlers' wagons accompanied by copies of Harpers' Weekly and authentic artifacts.

An Associated Press dispatch on May 7 told of a word of protest from our friend Bell Wiley:

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga.—There was a protest today against Vice President Agnew's substitution for President Nixon as chief speaker Saturday at the dedication to the Stone Mountain Monument near Atlanta.

Professor Bell Wiley of Emory University and a Civil War historian told the Stone Mountain Memorial Assn. that Agnew would be an affront to the memory of Robert E. Lee.

Wiley said of the Confederate army commander: "He was a gentleman and a statesman. He believe in higher education. Robert E. Lee did not believe that college students and professors were bums."

Wiley was challenged by two association members.

The association later joined in a statement expressing regret that Nixon could not come, but that it will be glad to have Agnew in his place.

* * *

There is strong possibility that the Perryville Battlefield State Shrine will grow from 20 to 390 acres if funds requested by the Kentucky Department of Parks are given by the Department of Interior. Each agency would bear half of the \$216,000 cost.

The Perryville and Battlefield Tour, Inc. has published a booklet, "400 Days to Perryville" (listed in the May newsletter book section) which is available at \$2 from that group in an effort to assist the state in development of the park.

* * *

Lloyd Miller and his magnetic map presented a program on Gettysburg at the May meeting of the Springfield CWRT.

Here is the solution to August Payne's crossword puzzle in the May newsletter.

1	S	E	2	M	3	M	E	4	S
H			5	I	E			H	
E			6	S	S			E	
7	R	O	S	S	E	R			
M				E				I	
8	A	M	9	E	S			D	
N			E			10	C	A	
			11	S	E	V	E	N	

THE NEW BOOKS



Avey, Elijah. **THE CAPTURE AND EXECUTION OF JOHN BROWN; a Tale of Martyrdom.** Chicago: Afro-Am Press, 1969. \$7.80. Reprint 1906 ed.

Callahan, Edward Wm., ed. **LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE NAVY OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF THE MARINE CORPS FROM 1775 TO 1900.** N.Y.: Haskell House, 1969. \$25.00. Reprint 1901 ed.

Dyer, Brainerd. **THE PUBLIC CAREER OF WILLIAM M. EVARTS.** N.Y.: Da Capo, 1969. \$15.00. Originally of 1933.

Fowle, George. **LETTERS TO ELIZA FROM A UNION SOLDIER, 1862-1865.** Ed. by Margery Greenleaf. Chicago: Follett, 1970. \$4.95

Gasparin, Ahenor Etienne, comte de. **THE UPRISING OF A GREAT PEOPLE; the U.S. in 1861...** N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1969. \$14.50. Reprint 1862 ed.

Greeley, Horace. **RECOLLECTIONS OF A BUSY LIFE.** Miami, Fla.: Mnemosyne, 1969. \$16.25. Reprint 1868 ed.

Hay, John. **LETTERS OF JOHN HAY AND EXTRACTS FROM DIARY.** N.Y.: Gordion Press, 1969. 3 vols. \$35.00. The original was printed but not published in 1908. A treasure to have available!

Holmes, Oliver Wendell. **TOUCHED WITH FIRE: Civil War Letters and Diary of...** Ed. by Mark De Wolfe Howe. N.Y.: Da Capo, 1969. \$8.50 Original copyright 1946.

Keifer, Joseph Warren. **SLAVERY AND FOUR YEARS OF WAR: a political history of slavery in the United States...** Miami, Fla.: Mnemosyne, 1969. 2 vols. \$10.50.

Lewis, Edward Rieman. **A HISTORY OF AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO THE WORLD WAR.** N.Y.: Octagon, 1969 [copyright 1937]. \$17.50

Lonn, Ella. **FOREIGNERS IN THE UNION ARMY AND NAVY.** N.Y.: Greenwood, 1969. \$20.50. Original 1959.

Lord, Francis A. **UNIFORMS OF THE CIVIL WAR.** Illustrations by Arthur Wise. N.Y.: Yoseloff, 1970. \$10.00

Mabee, Carleton. **BLACK FREEDOM: The Nonviolent Abolitionists from 1830 through the Civil War.** N.Y.: Macmillan, 1970. \$9.95

MILITARY OPERATIONS OF THE CIVIL WAR. A guide index to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-1865, Volume II: Main Eastern Theater of Operations, 2nd Fascicle, Containing Section M: "Comprehensive Index of Recognized Military Operations, 1st Part..." Washington, Government Printing Office, 1970. 172p. \$1.00 GS4.21:2/2

Northup, Solomon. **TWENTY YEARS A SLAVE.** N.Y.: Dover, 1970. Paper. \$3.00

Rawley, James A., ed. **LINCOLN AND CIVIL WAR POLITICS.** N.Y.: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1969. Paper. \$2.25

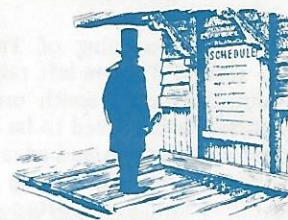
Schuckers, Jacob. W. **THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICES OF SALMON PORTLAND CHASE...** Miami, Fla.: Mnemosyne, 1969. \$17.75. Reprint issue of 1874.

Stavis, Barrie. **JOHN BROWN: THE SWORD AND THE WORD.** N.Y.: A.S. Barnes, 1970. \$6.95

Steiner, Bernard Christian. **LIFE OF REVERDY JOHN-SON.** N.Y.: Russell & Russell, 1970. \$11.00. Reprint 1914 ed.

Wilson, Dell B. **THE GRANDFATHER AND THE GLOBE.** Banner Elk, N.C.: Pudding Stone Press, 1969. \$5.00. A particularly engaging chronicle of how the Civil War affected the lives of certain families living in the Grandfather Mountain Region of Watauga County, North Carolina, and in adjacent Globe Valley. Fictional characters placed in faithfully recorded events and social history.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

All at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 So. LaSalle St., 11th Floor.

June 5: Al Andrews on "Van Dorn"

1971 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

Members of the executive committee voted to conduct the Chicago CWRT's 1971 Battlefield Tour in the Shenandoah Valley. Co-chairmen of the tour are Senior Vice President-elect Marshall Krolick and Lloyd Miller, who are not "the odd couple," as some wag suggested.

A small preview of the 1971 Battlefield Tour appeared in the Saturday Review's "Booked for Travel" column on May 16. David Butwin, SR's skillful travel writer, included these comments on Civil War sites in the Shenandoah Valley:

"Leaving the turnpike and heading south, we crossed into West Virginia and in late afternoon descended a bending road into Harpers Ferry, scene of John Brown's raid on October 16, 1859. The town got its name in 1747 when Robert Harper established a ferry service across the Potomac and set up a gristmill on the banks of the Shenandoah, near the confluence of the two rivers. President Washington, recognizing the water-power potential of the region, selected Harpers Ferry as a site for a federal armory and arsenal, the same buildings John Brown besieged for thirty-six hours before he was forced to surrender to a small force of U.S. Marines commanded by Colonel Robert E. Lee. Harpers Ferry took such a beating from floods and the Civil War (Stonewall Jackson captured the town in 1862, taking more than 12,500 prisoners) that it gradually declined into ghostliness. Since 1944 the National Park Service has undertaken to restore the old business section and significant Civil War and John Brown-was-here sites. But a forsaken air remains..."

"Harpers Ferry is the northern gateway to the Shenandoah Valley, which stretches 100 miles southwest between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains. U.S. 81 cleaves the entire valley and runs on into Tennessee, a route less sterile than most divided highways. Early on, the visitor learns that if the valley belongs to one spirit it is that of Stonewall Jackson. The Confederate general, who pulled off the daring valley campaign of 1862, is remembered in untold plaques, street names, restaurants, and other modern monuments. We passed his Civil War headquarters in Winchester, too tired and hungry to stop, finally halting well after dark at the Wayside Inn in Middletown. Not to our surprise, a gray plaque posted in front of the inn proclaimed it to be the site of a Stonewall Jackson attack in May 1862..."

"Virginia continues to pay homage to the Civil War battles that were fought on its soil. In fact, an outsider would get the impression that the entire war was won and lost in the Shenandoah Valley. One of the latest and most ambitiously organized memorials is outside the town of New Market where a museum and battlefield recall a muddy day in May 1864, when 250 cadets from Virginia Military Institute were pressed into duty to hold a sector of the Confederate front line against a massed Union assault. The battle might have been forgotten but for a VMI alumnus, Geroge Randall Collins, who bequeathed \$3-million to make sure it wasn't. The museum, due to open this spring, will house enough displays and dioramas to make it "the best cross-sectional view of the war," according to its planners. It will be called the Hall of Valor, words that may not go down so easily with every American motorist who passes by."