

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXI, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March, 1971

Frank G. Rankin on Morgan's Raids, Friday, March 12

Morgan's Raids is a favorite subject of our next speaker, and on that subject he is a foremost authority. He comes from Louisville, Kentucky, for the Civil War Round Table meeting of Friday, March 12, 1971, at the Chicago Bar Association, to give us an over-all view of the famous Confederate Cavalry leader. He also promises to bring maps sufficient to supply each member, with routes of all of the famous raids indicated.

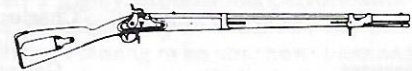


Frank G. Rankin

John Hunt Morgan's brilliant career as cavalry raider was also brief, lasting little more than two years of the four years' war. His first raid started from Knoxville, July 4, 1862. He was killed at Greenville, Tennessee, September 4, 1864. In his first raid he reached central Kentucky, capturing Cynthiana; he destroyed valuable military stores, and returned with his men better equipped at the expense of the enemy. Only a month later he repeated his exploit in much the same area. The third, called the Christmas raid, was highly successful. It is said that the Federals required six months to repair the damage done by Morgan's Men in 11 days. His raid across the Ohio River into Indiana and Ohio was less fortunate. Prevented by flooded waters from recrossing the Ohio River he followed its course for nearly 1,000 miles before being forced to surrender at Lisbon, Ohio. General Morgan was sent to the Ohio State Prison, but he escaped to lead a final raid in which he met defeat.

Frank G. Rankin has held many offices and has been awarded many honors in a long career of devotion to his state and its history. He is first vice president and a life member of the Kentucky Historical Society; a life member of the Filson Club, and an honorary life member of the Kentucky Civil War Round Table of Lexington, and a member of its board of trustees. He is founding president of the Louisville Civil War Round Table. He is serving a second term as president of the Louisville Board of Trade and is past president and director of the Kentucky Derby Festival Association. He is president of the Bourbon Beef Cattle Association, trustee of the Historic Homes Foundation, president of the Perryville Battlefield Association, member of the Governor's Mansion Committee, director of International Center, chairman of the George Rogers Clark Heritage Foundation, and was four times chairman of the Salvation Army Home and Hospital for Unwed Mothers.

Mr. Rankin received the Award of Merit and also the Jefferson Davis Medal of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, of which he is an honorary associate member. He was chairman of the Governor's Committee for the 175th Anniversary Commission for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and was chairman of the Louisville and Jefferson County Civil War Centennial Commission. He received an honorary degree of doctor of humanities from Indiana Technical University,



299th REGULAR MEETING

Frank G. Rankin
on
Morgan's Raids

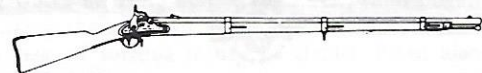
Friday, March 12, 1971

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street
Chicago

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

SPECIAL NOTICE: Brooks Davis invites all members to a cocktail party honoring Mr. and Mrs. Rankin at 5:00 p.m., third floor, 18 East Chestnut Street



and is vice chairman of the board of Lincoln Memorial University and is chairman of its executive committee. He received the distinguished service award of Chicago Civil War Round Table and is a member. He is a 33rd Degree Mason.

FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Applications are now being received for The Civil War Round Table Annual \$3,000 Graduate Fellowship Award for significant research in Civil War history. Eligible are graduate students intending to follow a career of teaching and scholarship who have received approval of a Ph.D. dissertation within the broad area of the American Civil War. The award was founded in 1965 through the generosity of Lloyd D. Miller, past president of CWRT and is supported by funds allocated by the CWRT. Those interested may receive further information from the Civil War Round Table Fellowship Award Committee, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Ill. 60611.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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TAPS

Ruth Painter Randall, biographer of Mary Todd Lincoln, died at Champaign, Ill., Jan. 22, 1971, at the age of 78. She was born in Salem, Virginia, Nov. 1, 1892, and attended Roanoke College, where her father was a professor of literature. She received an M.A. at Indiana University in 1914, and in 1917 was married to James G. Randall, famed Lincoln scholar and professor at the University of Illinois from 1920 until his retirement in 1949. He died in 1953. Mrs. Randall was author of "Mary Lincoln, Biography of a Marriage," 1953; "Lincoln's Sons," 1956; and "The Courtship of Mr. Lincoln," 1957. She also wrote a series of biographies for younger readers, starting with "I, Mary," about Mrs. Lincoln, and including "I, Varina" (Mrs. Jefferson Davis); "I, Jessie," (Mrs. John C. Fremont) and "I, Elizabeth" (Mrs. George A. Custer). She followed these with "I, Ruth: Autobiography of a Marriage," about her own life.

*from the
Editor's pen*



It came near being two talks for the price of one at the February 19 meeting of the Civil War Round Table. Our speaker, Harry H. Anderson of the Milwaukee County Historical Society left Milwaukee by bus at 4 p.m.—and it only takes a couple of hours to travel from Milwaukee to Chicago—except when dense fog for 25 miles of IH-94 cuts visibility to ten feet. The road was closed after accidents involving 15 vehicles, resulting in one fatality and 18 injuries. So while Harry's bus was detouring around back roads there passed the hour devoted to cocktails at 5:30 p.m., the dinner at 6:30 p.m., the desert served too promptly in the opinion of our fifty president Dan Lapinski, and inevitably the opening of the 298th regular meeting. For once no one was impatient with reports on the battlefield tour, membership, the results of the quiz; never before were guests greeted with so extended applause as they were introduced. But all stalling must end some time, and Past President Joseph G. Eisendrath was pressed into service as backup speaker. Joe had got well into his introduction when our scheduled speaker arrived.

Despite adverse circumstances, Harry Anderson rose to the occasion with a masterly presentation of the Indian wars in the Northwest during the Civil War years. Cutting short introductory remarks he plunged into the period when Maj. Gen. John Pope, replaced by McClellan after Second Manassas, was appointed to command the Department of the North West with headquarters in St. Paul. The Minnesota outbreak of the Santee Sioux had passed its peak. Little Crow and his following had retreated to Devil's Lake in Dakota Territory, where they were succored by the Yantonnais Sioux and the Plains fighters, the Teton Sioux. Pope was an efficient administrator of his department and his pre-war experience in the West gave him advantage in an Indian campaign. He sent out two columns in 1863, one under Gen. Alfred Sully, West Point graduate also with pre-war experience in the West who proved quite able; the other under Henry Hastings Sibley, a veteran fur trader and Minnesota political figure who was somewhat hampered by local considerations. Although the co-operative effort failed, both won some success. Pope, having moved his headquarters to Milwaukee, planned an 1864 campaign against the Teton Sioux with the same forces. Sully led a force of 1,800 to Fort Rice. On the Missouri he was joined by a force of 1,500 from Minneapolis. At Killdeer Mountain he won a marked victory in which some 150 Indians were killed. Effective use of light artillery by Capt. Nathaniel Pope contributed to this result. Sully continued the pursuit through the Bad Lands—hell with the fire out—to the Yellowstone.

The spread of Indian fighting to the Southern Plains brought about a reorganization of the forces in the West. Gen. Pope now headed the Military Division of the Missouri, with Grenville Dodge, Samuel C. Curtis, and Patrick Connor as subordinates. Because of exaggerated reports of minor activity of Indians in the Blue Earth area, Sully was sent toward Devil's Lake and had no part in the 1865 main effort. Gen. Patrick Conner detached columns under Nelson Coles and Samuel Walker. They ran out of supplies, their animals froze to death, their wagons were burned, and they were ineffective in fights they had with Indians. The troops were volunteers who were awaiting discharge now that the main war was over, and morale was low.

The Indian wars had little effect on the main Civil War effort and relatively few troops were diverted to the Far West. The 1865 failure negated the success won by Harney in 1855 and resulted in continuing war with the Sioux for another decade and more. Sully had used Indian allies effectively, often from the same tribes he was fighting, but it was not until Crook's day that this was again attempted.

**BLACK SAILORS WRITE HEROIC CHAPTERS
IN U.S. NAVY HISTORY**
(U.S. Navy release)

Japanese aircraft screamed down at the battleship USS West Virginia on that chaotic day of December 7, 1941. Dorie Miller, a steward's mate, carried his wounded captain to cover and then leaped to an unmanned machine gun. He held this post for the duration of the raid, destroying four attacking planes.

Dorie Miller was awarded the Navy Cross by Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz. He was killed in 1943 when the aircraft carrier Liscombe Bay was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine.

This U. S. Navy man was a black American. But too few Americans realize that he is only one of many black Naval heroes whose exploits stud the pages of our history.

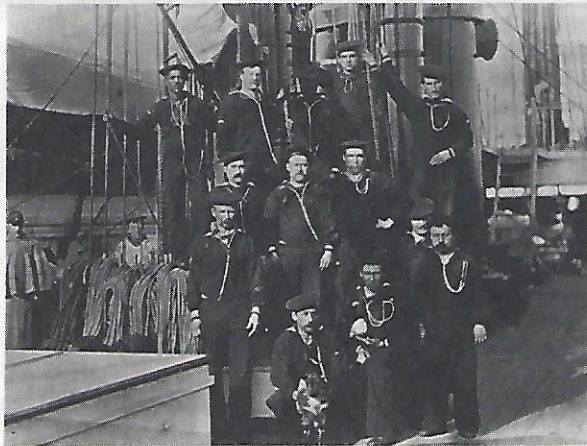
Fifteen hundred blacks served our country in the Navy's first sea battles of the Revolutionary War. And one of every six of our Navy men in the War of 1812 was black. But it wasn't until the Civil War, and its more effective record-keeping, that individual deeds of valor by black Navy men began to be documented.

At the battle of Mobile Bay in 1864, John Lawson was one of six men killed or injured by a shell that crashed into the flagship Hartford. He was wounded by the explosion and thrown violently against a bulkhead. Though ordered to tend to his injuries, he refused to go below and stayed at his station through the remainder of the action. Lawson subsequently received the Medal of Honor, being one of five black men, in the War between the States, to receive this nation's highest military decoration.

A black "volunteer" carried out one of the more incredible naval feats of the entire Civil War. On May 13, 1862, while the officers of the Confederate steamer Planter were ashore in Charleston, S. C., an escape party of 16 slaves under the guidance of Robert Smalls stole aboard the ship and made for sea.

In fleeing the harbor, Smalls had to pass several Confederate forts. As he passed each outpost, he gave the correct signal with the ship's whistle. Finally the steamer came abreast of the huge guns of Fort Sumter. Smalls boldly signaled and kept a steady course as though the Planter were engaged on a routine mission. The ship was permitted to pass. When he was out of range of the fort's cannon, Smalls hoisted a white flag and sailed the ship directly into the hands of the Union Fleet blockading the harbor.

This "crew" of eight men, five women and three children received a cash award from President Lincoln for their bravery. Smalls himself was named captain of the vessel and served as



BLACK SAILORS IN CIVIL WAR. Black Navy men were an integral part of a ship's crew of a century ago, as evidenced by this U.S. Navy photo of the Civil War era. And as this is all the information accompanying this photo, your art editor enters it in our quiz program. What ship? Where? and Who?

TO THE LADIES—

The Program: Frantic efforts now under way assure a suitable program for the occasion.

The Time: Friday, March 12, 1971.

The Place: The Book and Bottle, 17 East Chestnut Street, directly across the street from the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop.

And the Girl to call for reservations is Joyce Warshaw, 1319 Crain Street, Evanston, Ill. 60202; phone 866-6667.

Last Meeting: That thrilling, romantic tragedy "The Sisters," conceived, dedicated, and written in the style of the 1860s by Joyce Warshaw was remarkably well received by a small but critical audience at the February meeting. It was pronounced a significant contribution to Civil War literature and was given a highly professional performance by those talented thespians Joyce Warshaw, Lenore Fleming, and George Fleming who are now planning to take the Combination on a limited tour of centers of learning and discrimination. By popular demand it may even be repeated for the June 11 meeting. For this unbiased and unprejudiced preview of one of the century's outstanding dramatic productions we are indebted to Betsy Ross Davis, director of public relations for the Thespian Combination.

its commanding officer in the Union Navy until the ship's decommissioning at the end of the war.

Two black American sailors were awarded Medals of Honor during the Spanish-American War.

In 1898, shortly after the outbreak of the war, the USS Cushing was heading for Cuba in heavy seas. A towering wave swept over the deck, snapped a lifeline and carried a young officer over the side. A crewman tried to swim to him but was exhausted by battling the seas.

Daniel Atkins, a ship's cook, then tied a line around his waist and plunged into the water. He swam to the two men, tied ropes around both, and all three were pulled back aboard.

A few months later, Fireman Second Class Robert Penn was on duty near the boiler room of the USS Iowa. An explosion ripped through the ship and Penn rushed to the scene to find scalding water cascading from a ruptured boiler. Hot coals had to be removed from the boiler to prevent another possible explosion.

Penn laid boards across buckets so as to stay out of the boiling water swirling across the deck, then began the task of transferring the coals to a safe place. For this deed, performed at the risk of serious injury or death, Penn also earned the Medal of Honor.

Closer to the present day, the Korean conflict witnessed the valor of the first black American to win the gold wings of a naval aviator. Ensign Jesse L. Brown waged a series of daring attacks on enemy ground troops and supply lines. His Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal were presented posthumously, as this Navy hero lost his life on a mission in December, 1950.

Black Americans continue to add to the Navy's traditions of excellence. Today, black officers and enlisted men have embarked on careers in all areas of Navy life, afloat and ashore, including demanding tours of duty in nuclear propulsion and guided missile testing. Their abilities are winning recognition and responsibility in undersea craft, in naval aviation and aboard surface ships. One of the latter, the guided missile destroyer USS Jouett, is commanded by Captain Samuel Gravely, one of the Navy's first black officers.

But they remember their debt, and that of the Navy itself, to the valiant men who first brought the black American into the history—and legend—of the U. S. Navy.



THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Abel, Annie Heloise. *The American Indian as Participant in the Civil War*. N.Y.: Johnson Reprint, 1970. \$10.50. Originally published 1919.

Brown, William Garrott. *The Lower South in American History*. St. Clair Shores, Mich.: Scholarly Press, 1970. Copyright 1902. \$14.50

California, University of, Santa Barbara, Library. *The William Wyles Collection*. Introduction by Donald C. Davidson. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1970. 5 vols. \$650.00

Channing, Steven A. *Crisis of Fear: Secession in South Carolina*. N.Y.: Simon & Schuster, 1970. \$7.95

Feldstein, Stanley. *Once a Slave; the Slave's View of Slavery*. Introduction by Thomas P. Govan. N.Y.: Morrow, 1971. \$8.95

Field, Henry Martin. *Bright Skies and Dark Shadows*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries [1970]. \$9.75. Recollections of a minister's travels through the wartime South, with a long chapter on the Battle of Franklin.

Hammond, Bray. *Sovereignty and an Empty Purse: Banks and Politics in the Civil War*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1970. \$10.00

Hawke, David Freeman, editor. *Herndon's Lincoln*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1970. \$7.50

Miller, Francis Trevelyan. *Portrait Life of Lincoln*. N.Y.: Books for Libraries [1970]. Reprint 1910 ed. \$14.50

The February, 1971, issue of *Civil War Times Illustrated* features articles on "The 1863 Remington Rifle," (the "Zouave" rifle) by Albert P. Hout, historian of the National Parks Service; "The Affair at Hunterstown," by the late Col. Wilbur S. Nye; "Massacre at Saltville," by William C. Davis; "John Bell Hood," by Gerald A. Patterson, and "Life Aboard a Gunboat," by Rowland Staffort True. In the January issue: "Haw's Shop," by Robert A. Williams; "The Column from California," by Col. Clarence C. Clendenen; "On the Road to Appomattox," by Maj. Gen. William Mahone; and Col. George St. Leger Grenfel, "A Reckless, Unthinking Adventurer," by Terence H. Nolan and Jerrell H. Schofner.

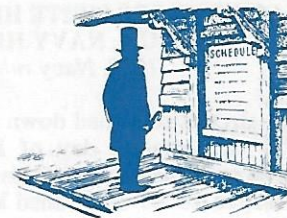
CORRECTION

The address of our new member James E. Murray is 411 Cottage Lane, Neosho, Missouri, 64850 (not Wisconsin as incorrectly given in the list in the Bulletin for February).

U.S.S. CAIRO

Several sharp-eyed readers identified the gunboat picture in the Bulletin for February as the U.S.S. Cairo, among them Ruth A. Heriot, P.O. Box 349, Vicksburg, Miss. 39180, who writes: "The boat in your picture is the U.S.S. Cairo, sunk in the Yazoo River by mines December 12, 1862, recently raised and now in the Ingalls Shipyard, Pascagoula, Miss., awaiting funds for restoration and placement in Vicksburg National Military Park. The identical picture with proper identification is in the section following page 50 in "Hardluck Ironclad," by Edwin C. Bearss, Louisiana State University Press, 1966." And of course we recall that Ed Bearss told us all about it at a meeting about that time. Jerry Warshaw identified the photo as having been used in *The Illinois Intelligencer*, No. 2, Oct. 31, 1966. With all that, your art editor had to run it down to page 225, Volume I of "The Photographic History of the Civil War." So, with all this interest, watch for the next quiz picture.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle Street, 11th floor, second Friday in each month except as noted.

March 12. Frank Rankin on "The Saga of Morgan's Men."

April 2. 300th Meeting and Ladies' Night at Cafe LaTour, 400 East Randolph Street, atop the Outer Drive East. Speakers, Col. Ned Julian on "Margaret Mitchell and Gone With the Wind;" Ralph Newman will recall early days of the Civil War Round Table. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.; tickets, \$10 per person; parking in the building.

April 29-May 2. The annual Battlefields Tour: The Shenandoah Valley including the three Winchester, Cross Keys, Port Republic, Front Royal, Kearns town, New Market, Cedar Creek, Fisher's Hill. Tour leaves O'Hare Field Thursday morning for Dulles Airport; Thursday and Friday nights at motel in Winchester as headquarters; travel up the Valley Saturday, spending night at Harrisonburg; Sunday we take the Skyline Drive to Second Manassas and back to Dulles Airport, arriving in Chicago Sunday night.

May 14. Harry M. Caudill on "The Guerrilla War in Kentucky."

June 11. To be announced.



An exhibit dedicated to Abraham Lincoln was displayed during February in the gallery of The Daily News and Sun-Times Building, 401 N. Wabash ave. Included were photographs, drawings, and military equipment used during the Civil War.

HERE AND THERE

Frank A. Palumbo's Civil War Museum collection has been placed on exhibition in the library of Carthage College. One of its features is a collection of 70 prints, including 35 of the '36 Kurz & Allison stone lithographs, three by Louis Prang, the Alexander Hay Ritchie steel engraving of Abraham Lincoln, and William E. Marshall's engraving of General Grant. There are also eight reprints of Gilbert Gaul paintings. The collection of Confederate currency numbers 90 pieces. Uniforms, arms, and equipment are included. The Palumbo collection was last exhibited at the Museum of Science and Industry during the Civil War Centennial.

Ralph G. Newman was speaker at the February 16, 1971, meeting of the Louisville Civil War Round Table at the Arts Club on "The Lights Go On Again at Ford's Theatre." A partial presentation of the play "Our American Cousin" was given. The birthday of Robert E. Lee was commemorated January 19 with Frank G. Rankin speaking on "From Glory to Glory."

Don Russell was speaker at the 67th regular meeting of Salt Creek Civil War Round Table, January 22, 1971, at Glen Ellyn Public Library, the subject being "Lincoln Raises an Army," a talk given many years ago in Chicago.