

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

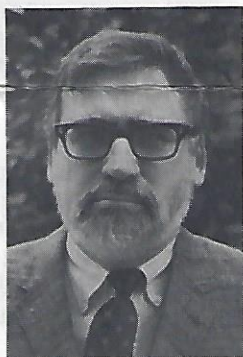
Volume XXXII, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September, 1971

Grady McWhiney on Jefferson Davis and His Generals, September 10

Grady McWhiney, professor of history at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, will be opening speaker for the 1971-72 season of The Civil War Round Table, Friday, September 10, 1971, at the Chicago Bar Association. His subject is "Jefferson Davis and His Generals." Dr. McWhiney will be welcomed as an old friend by members of the Civil War Round Table. While at Northwestern University he gave us two notable talks on "Braxton Bragg: Misplaced General" in 1962 and on "Confederate Defeat" in 1964, and he has been a fellow member for ten years.



Grady McWhiney

Dr. McWhiney's letter outlines the subject matter of his talk and sketches his career as follows:

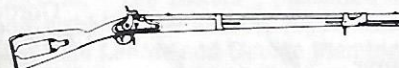
My topic, "Jefferson Davis and His Generals," will be an examination of the backgrounds as well as the strategic and tactical views of Davis and his highest ranking generals. I will argue that the men Davis selected were not always outstanding soldiers, but that the Confederate President was compelled by his own military experience and knowledge—indeed, by the circumstances of history—to appoint the men he did to high command. Once Davis became President the pattern of leadership was established. The major appointments, especially to high military positions, were his. He picked, assigned, and replaced. When the Provisional Confederate Congress chose the South's President, it indirectly chose its generals.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, in 1928, I spent two years in the marines near the end of World War II before I received a B.S. degree from Centenary College in 1950. My graduate work was done at Louisiana State University (M.A., 1951) and at Columbia University (Ph.D., 1960).

Within the past nineteen years I have taught at seven different colleges and universities, including Northwestern University (1960-65) and the University of British Columbia (1965-70). I am now, and have been since 1970, professor of history at Wayne State University. Twice (1959-60 and 1967-68) I have been a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and in 1970 I was a visiting professor at Tulane University.

I have authored or edited six books, including *Braxton Bragg and Confederate Defeat* (which won the American Historical Association's Pacific Coast Branch Award in 1969), and sixteen of my articles have been published in scholarly journals.

The other books include: co-authorship of "The Southerner as American" (1960); co-editorship of "Lee's Dispatches to Jefferson Davis" (1957); and "Historical Vistas" (2 vols., 1963-64); editorship of "Reconstruction and the Freedman" (1963).



303rd REGULAR MEETING

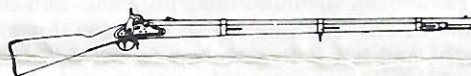
Dr. Grady McWhiney
on
Jefferson Davis and His Generals

Friday, September 10, 1971

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



Honors and fellowships received include: Harry S. Truman Award, 1970; Phi Alpha Theta Lecturer, Indiana University, 1970; American Historical Association's Pacific Coast Branch Award, 1969; Distinguished Visiting Scholar, World Affairs Conference, 1968; Canada Council Fellow, 1968-69; Columbia University Award for the best-written dissertation in United States history, 1960; Southern Fellowship Fund Fellow, 1954-55.

At a meeting of the CWRT Board of Directors at the Book and Bottle, Saturday, July 31, Norman Toberman was elected to the executive committee to replace Charles Falkenberg, elected senior vice president. Committee appointments were announced, subject to acceptance, and the year's program was mapped out.

Monday noon luncheon meetings continue at Chodash Brothers Restaurant, West Washington Street, and all members are invited to show up.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Phone: WHitehall 4-3085

OFFICERS

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Executive Committee)

Terms expiring in 1972: Ward Smidl, Francis Geigle,
Norman Toberman.

Terms expiring in 1973: Richard Cohen, George Fleming,
Don Sikorski

Founding Newsletter editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968



from the Editor's pen



Veteran Member Joseph L. Eisendrath brought the Civil War Round Table back to round table principles and tradition in his talk June 11 on "The Lincoln Myths." Joe threw out his 25 or so myths and left it to members to decide which they preferred to discuss first, second, and thereafter. The result was lively discussion in which all participated, and we got around to most or all of the 25.

Members who bring guests to CWRT meetings are requested to see that they are invited to join, if they are interested. On request to Brooks Davis a copy of the Newsletter for the meeting they attend will be mailed to them.

The Goodman Theatre Resident Company announces a world premiere in October of a play "Assassination, 1865," by Stuart Vaughan, described as a multi-media production which delves into the fascinating and little noted trial of the conspirators in the killing of President Lincoln. The theatre schedules previews October 21 to 24 and regular performances October 26 to November 28. Plans are under way for a theatre party for Civil War Round Table members at one of the preview performances.

HAROLD B. HIXSON (1903-1971)

The death of Hal Hixson at the conclusion of our 1970-71 season was mourned by all members of the Civil War Round Table. It has been announced that gifts to the Fellowship Fund in his memory will be appreciated by Mrs. Hixson. The following tribute to our valued member was written by Ralph G. Newman:

Hal Hixson liked to say that he was just an "ordinary guy," or he would refer to himself as a "common man." In truth he was an extraordinary guy, one of the most uncommon common men I have ever encountered. His dry humor, his casual approach to life, and his modest reference to his own accomplishments poorly concealed a brilliant mind and an affectionate nature.

His membership in the Civil War Round Table extended back to its infancy. Until 1971, he was the only member who had participated in every battlefield tour from their inception in 1950. He was enrolled and packed, ready to leave with us this year, when his energy and health failed him.

Never one to boast of his scholarship and knowledge, he was a thorough student of the period we all love so much. On the few occasions when we could persuade him to speak, he was both informative and entertaining.

Having shared thirty years of my life span with him, I find it difficult to contemplate a world that does not include him. Our paths crossed in many areas—in Chicago, at the book shop; in Lincoln, Illinois, where we were both trustees of Lincoln College; and in Cumberland Gap, where we shared an interest in Lincoln Memorial University.

His friendship for, and with, J. Ambler Johnston helped cement the warm relationship which existed between "Mr J" and the Round Table. I can recall our first meeting with J. Ambler in Richmond in 1953, when the Civil War Round Table went to Virginia and met Douglas Southall Freeman and his companion-in-arms. Many of us recall our flight to Richmond and our speculation as to whether Dr. Freeman's invitation to us to come "to tea" on Sunday really meant *tea*. Hal assured us that a Southern gentleman and scholar never meant *tea*, but was confident that we would understand the true meaning of the invitation. Hal was right—we all found the *tea* most stimulating.

Abraham Lincoln once said that "the better part of one's life consists of his friendships." Hal Hixson's life was an eloquent illustration of Mr. Lincoln's infinite wisdom. We shall miss him at our meetings, in places where learned men gather, in our travels, and wherever men meet in fellowship and treasure their heritage and share a love for our country and its inhabitants, past and present.

TAPS

James E. Murray, a member of the Civil War Round Table, died at his home in Neosho, Missouri, July 17, 1971, at the age of 73. Many will remember him from battlefield tours. He was also a member of the Kansas City and Springfield Civil War Round Table organizations. Born March 5, 1898, in Holden, Missouri, he was sales engineer of electrical equipment in Kansas City until his retirement in 1961 when he moved to Rogers, Arkansas. He had lived in Neosho for about three years. He was a member of the Congregational Church, of the Masonic Lodge at Holden, and of the Neosho Senior Citizens Club. He is survived by his wife Mary, a son James of Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and two grandchildren.

George Kirksey, for many years a member of the Civil War Round Table and with us on several battlefield tours, was killed in an auto accident in Aiyles, Bains, France, May 30, 1971. He had been UPI sports editor in New York and public relations executive in Houston, Texas, and was instrumental in bringing major league baseball to Houston. With Craig F. Culinan, Jr. and others he helped organize the Continental

(Continued on page 4)



PROPOSED GETTYSBURG TOWER. The controversial tower at Gettysburg National Military Park will be erected on a site approved by the National Park Service after negotiations with Thomas R. Ottenstein, Silver Spring, Maryland, promoter of the project. A site to which there were serious objections has now been donated to the National Park Service, and a new location east of Taneytown Road substituted. The Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia has endorsed the new proposal, pointing out:

The purpose of the Tower is educational . . . it is to whet the appetite of the Gettysburg visitor, to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of the meaning of Gettysburg. This will be accomplished through the interpretive, audio-visual elements planned for the Tower and through a selected staff of qualified historians available to answer questions. We are assured that the creative and accurate presentation of this material will make the Tower a "classroom in the sky".

The Gettysburg Tower is a 307 foot tower of cantilever construction with a two-story, tinted glass, sky blue observation platform, 70 feet in diameter. Four high-speed elevators will transport passengers to the three viewing levels. Since it's in a beautifully wooded area, parking will be fully screened from public view.

CONFEDERATE SEAL USED FIRST TIME

The Great Seal of the Confederacy, which was never used during the Civil War, appeared on an official document for the first time Thursday June 3 as the Confederate Memorial Literary Society presented its first annual literary awards to three historians. The presentations were made at the Society's annual Jefferson Davis birthday reception at the White House of the Confederacy.



TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Meeting: Friday, September 10, 1971

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

Program: Mr. Dan Lapinski, immediate past president of the Civil War Round Table. While he will not divulge his subject matter until the meeting, Mr. Lapinski modestly admits it may be somewhat of a shocker!

Reservations may be made by calling Joyce Warshaw at 866-6667, or writing her. (Mrs. Jerry) 1319 Crain Street, Evanston, Ill. 60202.

Camp Follower membership cards are once more available, each one signed by the Commander-in-Chief.

The program last June was an outstanding dramatic production, "The Sisters", presented with great talent and vigor by the author, Joyce Warshaw, and supporting stars Lenore and George Fleming.

An award for literary and histrionic achievement was immediately given by the audience.

* * *

TO ALL CWRT MEMBERS: Your womenfolk always qualify as Camp Followers and are cordially invited to attend the meetings. Perhaps some of the newer members don't know this. We meet when they do, drink, eat and have a program—then break camp simultaneously with the gentlemen.



According to Kurt Brandenburg, director, the seal was not used during the war because the British-made press was trapped in Bermuda by federal blockade. The seal itself was simply an ornament in the office of the Confederate secretary of state. "As far as we know today," Brandenburg explained, "the awards are the first official documents to bear the authentic seal of the Confederacy."

The honors were presented by Mrs. Frank D. Williams, president of the society.

The Founders Award for the best historical documentary work of the year was given to Warren Ripley, a South Carolina Journalist, for his book *Artillery and Ammunition of the Civil War*. Ripley is state editor of the *Charleston Evening Post*.

The Jefferson Davis Award was presented to Dr. Frank E. Vandiver, provost of Rice University, for his work "Their Tattered Flags."

Honorable mentions went to J. Cutler Andrews for *The South Reports the Civil War*, and to Frank J. Merli for *Great Britain and the Confederate Navy, 1861 to 1865*.

The Annual Award of Merit for an outstanding article dealing with Confederate history was presented to William J. Cooper, Jr., professor in the department of history at Louisiana State University. Cooper's article "A Reassessment of Jefferson Davis as War Leader: The Case from Atlanta to Nashville" appeared in the May, 1970 issue of the *Journal of Southern History*. Honorable Mentions went to Dr. Charles B. Dew for his article "Who won the Secession Election in Louisiana?" (*Journal of Southern History*; February, 1970), and to William C. Davis for "The Conduct of Mr. Thompson" (*Civil War Times* illustrated, Vol. IX, No. 2, May, 1970).

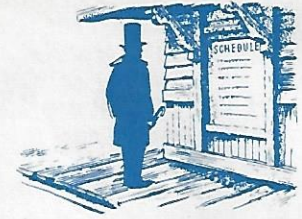
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Dr. Raymond Dooley has been elected an honorary award life member of CWRT following his retirement as president of Lincoln College, Lincoln, Illinois, where he had served 26 years. Tragically his successor, Dr. Earl F. Hargett, died of a heart attack only a few hours after assuming the presidency.



THE NEW BOOKS

(compiled by Dick Clark)



BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS

Adams, Charles Francis. *Studies Military and Diplomatic, 1775-1865*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries (1971). \$14.50. Reprint 1911 edition.

Arnold, Isaac Newton. *The History of Abraham Lincoln and the Overthrow of Slavery*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, (1971). Reprint of the 1866 edition. \$24.50

Badeau, Adam. *Grant in Peace. From Appomattox to Mount McGregor*. A Personal Memoir. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries (1971). \$22.50 Reprint 1887 edition.

Baker, Jeffrey J. W. *Strike the Tent*. With photographs by Lawrence O. Holmberg, Jr. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday (1970). Unpaginated, color photos; in the steps of R.E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. \$5.95

Bright, John. *Speeches of John Bright, M.P., on the American Question*. Introd. by Frank Moore. N.Y.: Kraus, 1970. Reprint 1865 edition. \$34.00

Browne, Junius Henri. *Four Years in Secessia*. N.Y.: Arno, (1970). Reprint 1865 edition. \$16.00

Cole, Arthur Charles. *The Era of the Civil War, 1848-1870*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries (1971). First published 1919 as vol. III of the Centennial History of Illinois. \$17.50

Cummings, Charles M. *Yankee Quaker, Confederate General; The Curious Career of Bushrod Rust Johnson*. Rutherford (N.J.): Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, (1971). \$15

Daniel, John Moncure. *The Richmond Examiner During the War*. N.Y.: Arno Press, 1970. Originally printed 1868. \$10.00

Ellis, Keith. *The American Civil War*. N.Y.: Putnam (1971). \$4.95

Harmon, George Dewey. *Political Aspects of Slavery and the Civil War*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1971. Original of 1952. \$10.00

Henry, Robert Selph. *The Story of the Confederacy*. Magnolia, Mass.: Peter Smith. Original of 1936. \$6.75

McKay, Ernest. *Henry Wilson: Practical Radical; a Portrait of a Politician*. Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat (1971). \$11.00

May, Samuel. *The Fugitive Slave Law and its Victims*. Revised and enlarged. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1970. Reprint 1861 edition. \$7.75

Moody, Loring. *Facts for the People, Showing the Relations of the United States Government to Slavery*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. Reprint 1847 edition. \$8.75

Morgan, William Henry. *Personal Reminiscences of the War of 1861-5; in camp, on bivouac, on the march, on picket, on the skirmish-line, on the battlefield, and in prison*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries (1971). Reprint 1911 edition. \$11.00

Pettit, Eber M. *Sketches in the History of the Underground Railroad*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. Reprint 1879 edition. \$9.50

Pierce, Paul Skeels. *The Freedmen's Bureau; a Chapter in the History of Reconstruction*. N.Y.: Haskell House, 1971. Reprint 1904 edition.

Rodenbough, Theophilus F., ed. *Photographic History of the Union and Confederate Cavalry in the Civil War (1861-1865)*. Glendale, N.Y.: Benchmark Pub., 1970. Reprint 1911 edition. \$9.50

Simms, William Gilmore. *Sack and Destruction of the City of Columbia, S.C.* Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries (1971). Reprint 2nd edition of 1937. \$7.00

Sinkler, George. *The Racial Attitudes of American Presidents: From Abraham Lincoln to Theodore Roosevelt*. N.Y.: Doubleday, 1971. \$8.95

September 10: Grady McWhiney on "Jefferson Davis and His Generals."

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

Reservations have been made for the following dates, subject to change as untoward circumstances arise: September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, 1971; January 14, February 11, March 10; April 14, May 12, June 9, 1972.



Stephens, Alexander H. *Recollections of Alexander H. Stephens; his Diary Kept when a Prisoner at Fort Warren, Boston Harbour, 1865*. Edited with introduction by Myrta Lockett Avery. N.Y.: Da Capo, 1971. Original of 1910. \$17.50

Townsend, George Alfred. *Campaigns of a Non-combatant*. N.Y.: Arno Press, (1970). Reprint 1866 edition. \$15.00

Unger, Irwin, compiler. *Essays on the Civil War and Reconstruction*. Magnolia, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1971. \$7.00 (Holt paperback rebound).

Webb, Robert N. *The Raid on Harpers Ferry, October 16, 1859; a Brutal Skirmish Widens the Rift between North and South*. N.Y.: Watts (1971). \$3.95

Whitford, William C. *Colorado Volunteers in the Civil War, the New Mexico Campaign in 1862*. Glorieta, N.M.: Rio Grande Press (1971). Reprint 1906 edition. \$7.00

Wilson, James Harrison. *Under the Old Flag; Recollections of Military Operations in the War for the Union, the Spanish War, the Boxer Rebellion, etc.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press (1971). 2 vols. Reprint 1912 edition. \$18.00

Woolley, Edwin Campbell *The Reconstruction of Georgia*. N.Y.: AMS Press (1971). Reprint 1901 edition. \$8.50

TAPS (CONTINUED)

League in 1956, which was dissolved in 1960 when Houston was admitted to the National League. Kirksey was executive of the Houston Sports Association until he sold out to become a world traveler. He became a sports car fan and was driving a Porsche when he was killed. His home was in Hillsboro, Texas.

A resolution to restore posthumously citizenship to Gen. Robert E. Lee has been introduced by Senator Harry F. Byrd, Democrat, Virginia. In May or June, 1865, Lee learned of President Andrew Johnson's offer to amnesty "to induce all persons to return to their loyalty" and sent the required application to General U. S. Grant. Meanwhile an oath of allegiance had been required, to which Lee subscribed when he was inaugurated president of Washington College, Now Washington and Lee University. Through oversight, no action was taken and the oath, duly executed, signed, and notarized, was discovered recently in the National Archives.