

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXIII, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September, 1972

Lowell H. Harrison on General John C. Breckinridge, C.S.A.

The Civil War Round Table opens a new season Friday, September 22, 1972, with an outstanding speaker, Dr. Lowell H. Harrison of the Department of History, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, who will speak at the Chicago Bar Association rooms on "General John C. Breckinridge, C.S.A." Breckinridge was the only Confederate major general who also served in the cabinet. He also had the distinction of being the youngest Vice President of the United States, serving during the administration of President James Buchanan. The subject is peculiarly appropriate in connection with the special battlefield tour of the Civil War Round Table scheduled a week later to the Kentucky Bluegrass, including the battles of Richmond and Perryville, as Breckinridge was a notable figure in Kentucky war and politics.



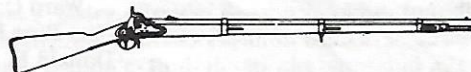
Lowell H. Harrison

Dr. Harrison has outlined the subject matter of his talk as follows:

"A member of one of Kentucky's most distinguished political families, John C. Breckinridge had been a state legislator, a U.S. Representative, a Senator, the youngest Vice President in the nation's history (1857-1861) and a defeated presidential candidate before reaching his 40th birthdate. Commissioned a Confederate brigadier general in 1861, he later became the only Confederate who attained the rank of major general and also served in the cabinet. Most of Breckinridge's military service was in the western theatre, but after Bragg removed him from command following the debacle of Missionary Ridge the Kentuckian commanded troops in Southwestern Virginia and in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

"When Secretary of War Breckinridge finally parted from President Davis following the fall of Richmond, he made good his own escape through Florida and Cuba to Europe. Faced with an order for his arrest, Breckinridge did not return to the United States until 1869. Disqualified from office-holding, Breckinridge resumed his legal career and remained aloof from politics. He died at his Lexington, Kentucky, home on May 17, 1875."

A native Kentuckian, Dr. Lowell H. Harrison earned his A. B. degree at Western Kentucky University and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at New York University; he has also done post-doctoral work at the London School of Economics on a Fulbright grant. Dr. Harrison has taught at New York University, West Texas State University (where he was Head of the Department of History and Chairman of the Division of Social Sciences) and at Western Kentucky University where he is now Professor of History and Faculty Regent. His areas of



313th REGULAR MEETING

Dr. Lowell H. Harrison

of Western Kentucky University,
Bowling Green

on

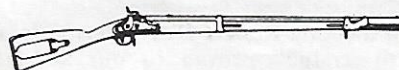
General John C. Breckinridge, C.S.A.

Friday, September 22, 1972

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



specialization include the Old South, the Civil War, and the early national period. He has received Distinguished Faculty Awards at West Texas State University and Western Kentucky University and from the Minnie Piper Foundation. He was co-editor of the *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review* for ten years, and he is a member of the Executive Board of the University Press of Kentucky, the State Historical Society's Publication Committee, and the Governor's Committee on Publishing State Documents.

Dr. Harrison's best known work is *John Breckinridge, Jeffersonian Republican* (1969). Several dozen of his articles have appeared in a number of historical journals. His Civil War articles have been published in *Texas Military History*, *The Panhandle-Plains Historical Review*, the *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, and the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meeting is scheduled at the Chicago Bar Association at 5:30 p.m., Friday, September 22, immediately preceding the Regular Meeting.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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*from the
Editor's pen*



At the June 9 meeting Robert H. Fowler, general manager of "Civil War Illustrated" proved to our satisfaction that everything possible about the Civil War has not been published and that discoveries of new material are still being made—even to the story of General Schimmelpennig's hiding place at Gettysburg, of peculiar interest to members of Chicago's CWRT. He listed numerous articles in the magazine that had added information to the Civil War story, and outlined more to come, indicating that a publication devoted to the Civil War is far from limited to a selection of twice-told tales.

The Civil War Tour of Chicago, June 25, was an outstanding success and there are photographs to prove it. The tour included the Mulligan Chicago Irish Brigade monument in Calvary Cemetery, monuments in Rosehill to Leonard Wells Volk, Long John Wentworth, the Ezra Taylor Battery, General Thomas E. G. Ransom, and the George A. Thomas G.A.R. Memorial marker for Chickamauga veterans. After a quick look at the German veterans memorial in St. Boniface, the tour went on the Graceland where are buried Allan Pinkerton, Timmy Webster, hanged as a spy, and Katy Warren, first lady detective. At the Chicago Historical Society, an Illinois art exhibit, 1820-1845, and a special fire show were viewed, Richard Blake gave his Lincoln impersonations—and outside was the Saint-Gaudens Lincoln. Visits to the Stephen A. Douglas tomb and to the Camp Douglas Confederate burials in Oak Woods followed.

It is a bit late, as you read this, to sign up for the Special Battlefield Tour of the Kentucky Bluegrass, September 29 to October 1, but still possible to give it a try. The tour includes Shakertown, Lexington, the battles of Perryville and Richmond, and much more of Civil War interest.

TAPS

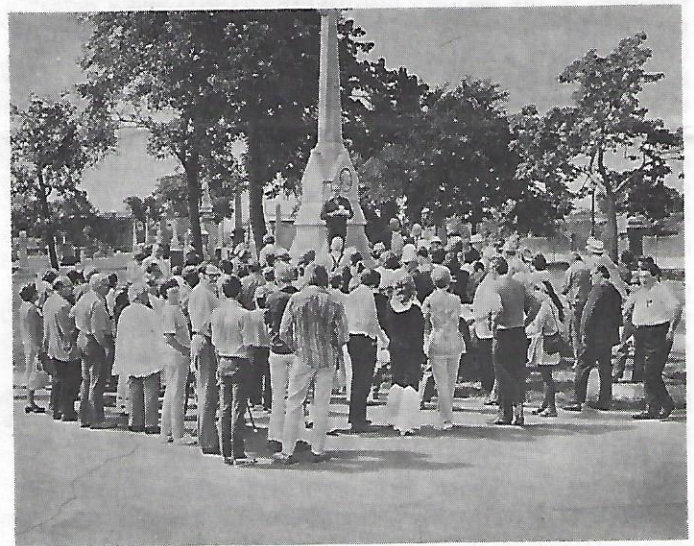
Monroe F. Cockrell died May 29, 1972, at the James C. King Home in Evanston at the age of 87. Memorial services were held June 8 at Hebblethwaite Chapel, Evanston. He had been retired since 1950 as Vice President of the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company after 27 years with the bank.

Monroe Cockrell was one of the fifteen who on Dec. 3, 1940, founded The Civil War Round Table and was its first president when that office was instituted, 1945-1946. His paper on General Nathan Bedford Forrest at the 7th meeting signified a lifelong interest. He was active in other historical groups, including the Chicago Corral of The Westerners.

He was author of several books and pamphlets on Civil War subjects, "The Battle of Corinth," "The Lost Account of the Battle of Corinth," "Gunner with Stonewall: Reminiscences of W. T. Poague," and, with Otto Eisenschiml, "The Battle of Shiloh." He also produced a series of maps on military campaigns and movements. He corresponded with many authors and historians and for 20 years he produced an annual pamphlet at Christmastime called "After Sundown" often running to 40 pages or so, in which he recorded results of his researches, oddities he had picked up, travel notes, and always delightful chit-chat. On a later issue he scribbled, "How many others do you know who had something to say through 16 issues?"

He is survived by a daughter Mrs. Nancy O'Reilly, a brother, Frank N. a sister, Mrs. Sarah Dargan, and four grandchildren.

Harry Chodash of 609 Dundee Road, Glencoe, died June 2, 1972, at Weiss Memorial Hospital at the age of 68. He had been a partner with his brothers Abe and Benjamin in Chodash Brothers' Restaurant, 312 West Randolph Street, now Jason's, where Civil War Round Table members held luncheon meetings for several years.



THE CIVIL WAR TOUR OF CHICAGO, Sunday, June 25, played to a capacity house of 120, filling three buses, and was voted an outstanding achievement under the capable direction of Mike Lerner, tour chairman. Professor Philip Shutt was speaker at the Mulligan Memorial in Calvary Cemetery, Evanston, at the start of the tour. Photos are by Orville Peterson.



TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Time: 5:30 p.m., September 22, 1972

Place: Home of Pat (Mrs. Ralph) Newman, 175 East Delaware Place, Apt. 5203, Chicago, Ill.

Program: Pat (Mrs. Ralph) Newman will discuss Julia Dent Grant, wife of General U.S. Grant and will include some exciting discoveries.

Reservations: Write or phone before September 18, 1972 Betty (Mrs. Robert) Walter, 1511 East Miner Street, Arlington Heights, Ill. 6004, phone 253-7053

Last Program: The June 9 meeting had been planned for months by the Camp Followers as "Margaret's Surprise Party", and broke all known records as the only secret ever kept from Margaret April.

To let her know we love her and appreciate the countless extras she does for all of us, the Camp Followers gave her a ring, set with her Zodiac symbol, Pisces, in jade and gold.

The Round Table was represented by Ralph Newman, Al Meyer and Bob Douglas. Bob reminisced over his year as co-chairman of the Battlefield Tour with Ralph, who took off immediately to represent Illinois in the Expo, leaving Margaret to take his place. Bob's co-chairmanship was painless and most successful. Ralph then told of asking Margaret to become his secretary on a temporary basis—22 years ago. Someday, he'll hire her! Al presented a big leather bound memory book, lettered in gold "To Margaret April from the Civil War Round Table and the Camp Followers" and filled with messages from her many friends.

The front piece was designed in color by Joyce

and Jerry Warshaw, who called it the "Dear Margaret Book."

Thanks to Ralph, Betsy and Brooks Davis, word of Margaret's surprise had reached many people, so there were letters from: J. Ambler Johnston, Estelle & T. Harry Williams, Pete & Barbara Long, Ed Waterbury, Glen Wiche, Clyde Walton, Ned Julian, Arnold Alexander, Ann & Stewart McClelland, Raymond Dooley, Bell I. Wiley, Henry Bass, Joe Richter, Elmer Underwood, Dick Clark, Al Meyer, John Patrick Hunter, Ed Bearss, Pete & Sandy Johnson, Don Russell, Alice and Bob Cromie and Ralph Newman.

Betsy, Joyce and Lenore Fleming read the letters, and Pat Simon, who became Pat Newman the very next day, read Ralph's.

Commendable undercover work was done by Margaret's sister, Frieda Weisbach, who found out what Margaret wanted. Eleanor Smith scoured the area and couldn't find it, so she cornered Eleanor Sprague on the Battlefield Tour and passed the buck. Camp Follower Sprague earned her promotion in the quartermaster corps by finding the lovely little Pisces clear off in Sausalito!

18 members were on hand to cheer Margaret, welcome Betty Walter as their new president, reward Eleanor Smith as retiring president and enjoy a delicious dinner in a private dining room at Stouffers.

The guest of honor made the reservations as usual!

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.



AT THE LINCOLN STATUE by Augustus Saint-Gaudens in the courtyard of the Chicago Historical Society, the speaker was Mike Lerner, tour chairman. A look at new display rooms of the Chicago Historical Society was followed by an added treat in the Auditorium, where Richard Blake gave his much-acclaimed impersonation of Lincoln.



A CLOSE-UP OF THE TOUR CROWD, which included many interested guests, attracted by publicity in the Chicago Daily News and elsewhere. Many became members of the Civil War Round Table. Because of the wide interest shown, making the Chicago Tour an annual event is being considered.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Dacus, Robert H. *Reminiscences of Company "H", First Arkansas Mounted Rifles*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1972. Wrappers, \$5.00. 47 pages.

Ewing, Cortez Arthur Milton. *Presidential Elections from Abraham Lincoln to Franklin D. Roosevelt*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press [1972]. \$14.25. Original publication of 1940.

Goldston, Robert C. *The Coming of the Civil War*. N.Y.: Macmillan [1972]. \$4.95. Traces social and economic differences between North and South.

Grainger, Gervis D. *Four Years with the Boys in Gray*. 45 pages, wrappers. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1972. \$5.00. Narrative of a boy of the Orphan Brigade, Co. I, Sixth Kentucky Infantry.

Luebke, Frederick C. *Ethnic Voters and the Election of Lincoln*. Edited with an introduction by . . . Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1971. 226 pages. \$9.75.

Opie, John N. *A Rebel Cavalryman with Lee, Stuart and Jackson*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1972. 336p. \$12.50. Originally published Chicago, 1899. Sixth Virginia Cavalry.

Riley, Franklin Lafayette. *General Robert E. Lee after Appomattox*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries [1971]. Reprint of 1922 edition. \$12.50

Stevens, C.A. *Berdan's United States Sharpshooters in the Army of the Potomac, 1861-1865*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1972. Facsimile reprint of 1892 issue. \$15.00

Tindall, George Brown. *The Disruption of the Solid South*. Athens: University of Georgia Press [1972]. \$4.00

U.S. Navy Department. Naval History Division. *Civil War Naval Chronology 1861-1865*. Washington: Department of the Navy, 1971. \$9.75. Bound here into one big, solid volume are the six issues brought out in the centennial years. Many illustrations, maps, music facsimiles, an index. A real treasure.

425 CONFEDERATE GENERALS

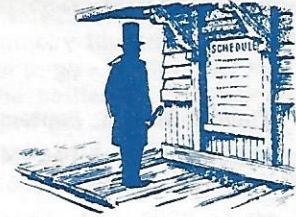
New to us is the Confederate Generals Historical Society, P. O. Box 677, Helena, Arkansas 72342, which will undertake the study of the 425 men who served as Generals in the Army of the Confederate States of America: 146 were West Point graduates; two-thirds had served in the United States Army, some as far back as the War of 1812; 129 of them were attorneys; 19% were killed in action.

The society's prospectus points out that previous military training was in the background of 272 of the Confederate Generals—including service in the French Army, the British Army, and the Walker filibustering expedition to Nicaragua. Some went on after the war to serve in the armies of the Khedive of Egypt, the Emperor of Mexico, and the Czar of Russia.

It is appropriate that Helena, Arkansas, be the home of the society, in that seven Confederate Generals enlisted from Helena and Phillips County: Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne; Maj. Gen. Thomas C. Hindman; Brig. Gen. Charles W. Adams; Brig. Gen. Archibald S. Dobbins; Brig. Gen. Daniel C. Govan; Brig. Gen. Lucius E. Polk; and Brig. Gen. James C. Tappan.

Membership at \$6 a year, \$10 for two years includes a membership card, a membership certificate, a print of Generals of the Confederacy, and a one-year subscription to *Stars & Bars*, a quarterly newsletter devoted to the study of the Confederate Generals. Members are invited to contribute to the newsletter, and each member can run free classified ads, if he has relevant articles or information to buy, sell, swap, or trade.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

September 22: Dr. Lowell H. Harrison on "General John C. Breckinridge, C.S.A."

September 29-October 1: Special Battlefield Tour—The Kentucky Bluegrass.

October 13: Dan Lapinski on Island No. 10 (tentative).

April: Stephen A. Douglas birthday and Ladies Night, G.A.R. Room, Chicago Public Library, date and details to be arranged.

May: Annual Battlefield Tour, Gettysburg, dates and details to be arranged.

June: Special Award meeting and Ladies Night, G.A.R. Room, Chicago Public Library; tentative; date and details to be arranged.



CEREMONY HONORS UNION ARMY UNKNOWN

The last available gravesite at City Point National Cemetery in Hopewell, Va., recently was used for the burial—109 years later—of a Union Army soldier killed nearby in the Seven Days Battle.

Last April, Brett McWilliams was searching for Civil War artifacts in a wooded area in Charles County, Va., a half-mile from Frayser's Farm, where heavy fighting had occurred in 1862. He found the remains of the soldier beneath four inches of earth.

With the body were a number of items—the metal tip of a bayonet scabbard, lead bullets, hobnails, fragments of buckles, bits of leather, and metal buttons. A brass uniform button identified the soldier as a member of a New York regiment.

At a ceremony conducted recently by Army units from Fort Lee, Va., the remains were buried with full military honors. Taking part were a burial detail, bugler, color guard, and the 392d Army Band. Since there was no way to determine the religious faith of the soldier, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant chaplains officiated.

There was a reading of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and as the words were spoken, the Army band softly played *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Established in 1866, City Point National Cemetery contains the graves of more than 5,000 Union and 100 Confederate soldiers.

The American Cemetery for September, 1971

WANTS CIVIL WAR DEBT PAID

Officials from Frederick, Maryland, have asked Congress to reimburse the city for a 108-year-old Civil War debt they say has cost almost \$4 million in interest. City fathers say the debt was incurred in 1864 when Confederate Gen. Jubal Early marched his troops through their county seat, about 40 miles from Washington, and demanded \$200,000 from the populace. The city borrowed the money from local banks and paid the ransom to keep the general from seizing almost \$1 million worth of Union supplies stockpiled in Frederick.