

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXIV, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June 1974

BRUCE CATTON TO RECEIVE NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD-JUNE 14, 1974

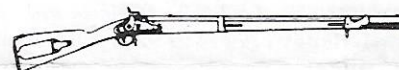


Bruce Catton

Vaughn, President of Doubleday Publishing Co., and others, as well as a response by Mr. Catton. The evening's program will also feature the bestowal of several Honorary Life Memberships, as recently conferred by the Executive Committee, as well as our Installation of Officers. The site for these festivities, as well as the dinner that will precede the program, will be the impressive Grand Army of the Republic Rooms, located in the Chicago Public Library at Randolph Street and Michigan Avenue.

Allan Nevins (1890-1971) and Douglas Southall Freeman (1886-1953) were both Honorary Life Members of The Civil War Round Table. During their lifetimes these two journalist-historians made significant and impressive contributions to the literature of American history and particularly to that of the American Civil War, 1861-1865. We were privileged to have both of these gentlemen and scholars in our midst on numerous occasions. Dr. Nevins appeared as a speaker before our organization and generously shared his valuable time in providing counsel and companionship to many of us. Dr. Freeman made his last speech about the War Between the States when he addressed us on the occasion of our Battlefield Tour to Richmond in 1953. He also was a most gracious host, entertaining us at his home on the last day we were in the former Confederate capital.

Allan Nevins was born in Southern Illinois, at Camp Point, and received both his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Illinois. After spending his early professional career as a writer and editor for several New York newspapers, he turned to teaching. In 1931 he became the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University, a chair he was to occupy for twenty-seven years. In 1957 he followed Horace Greeley's advice and accepted the position of Senior Research Associate at the Huntington Library in California. Here he was to remain until shortly before his death. Among Dr. Nevins' numerous awards were two Pulitzer Prizes for biography and the Bancroft Prize for history. He received the latter in recognition



332nd REGULAR MEETING
LADIES WELCOME

NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD DINNER
HONORING
BRUCE CATTON

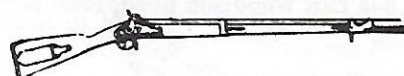
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 1974

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC ROOMS
CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
RANDOLPH AT MICHIGAN

COCKTAILS AT 5:30 P.M.

DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.



Special reservation forms for the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner are enclosed with this Newsletter. Send in reservations promptly with check for \$15.00 per person, as the facilities available will compel us to limit the number in attendance. Ladies and guests are welcome, but be sure to include their names on the reservation card.

of the first two volumes of his brilliant study of the war, "Ordeal of the Union."

The career of Douglas Southall Freeman closely paralleled that of Dr. Nevins, both in profession and outstanding achievement. Dr. Freeman, who was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, received a B.A. from Richmond College and a Ph.D. from John Hopkins University. During his thirty-five years as Editor of the Richmond News Leader, he also spent many years on the faculties of some of our most outstanding universities. In 1934 he received a Pulitzer Prize for "R. E. Lee" which, along with his "Lee's Lieutenants" written in 1944, still stand today as the definitive works on the great Confederate general and his army.

What finer example than these could we have by which to measure the candidates for the highest honor The Civil War Round Table can bestow. By giving the Award the names of Dr. Nevins and Dr. Freeman we have indicated the high

(Continued on Page 4)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

OFFICERS

President	Gordon Whitney
Senior Vice President	Ward Smidl
Vice President	Donald E. Jensen
Vice President	Francis R. Geigle
Secretary	Terry Carr
Treasurer	Gerald Edelstein
Assistant Secretary	Daniel Vetter
Assistant Treasurer	Glen Wiche
Editor of Newsletter	Marshall D. Krolick
Contributing Editor	Dick Clark
Assistant Editor	Robert H. Franke
Judge Advocate General	Philip R. Davis
Inspector General	Charles Wesselhoeft

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terms expiring in 1974: Elmer Pendarvis, Edward Johnson, Norman Toberman.

Terms expiring in 1975: Burton Rovens, Robert H. Franke, Myron Cohn.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership and Hospitality	Donald E. Jensen
Fellowship	Arnold Alexander, Lloyd Miller
House Committee	Ray Jankovich and William Sullivan

The only requirement for membership is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Donald E. Jensen, 335 East Woodland Road, Lake Bluff, Ill. 60044.



*from the
Editor's pen*



I have heard that two of the rules an editor should follow are not to write in the first person and not to use his editorial space to express his personal feelings. If that be true, then I must apologize in advance, for this column will break both of those journalistic standards.

For one of the couples in attendance at our June meeting, the evening will be unique in that it will mark both an end and a beginning. I am, of course, referring to our chief executives for the past year, Gordon Whitney, President of The Round Table, and his lovely wife, Marilyn, President of the Camp Followers. The installation of officers on June 14 will mark the end of their terms of office, but that is not the "change" of which I speak. Of much more importance, by that evening Gord and Marilyn will have ended an old way of life and begun a new one, having taken up residence on a farm in Southern Indiana, near the Ohio River.

The significance of this move can be more fully appreciated when it is realized that both of them are, like most of us, "big city" folks, having lived in Hammond all their lives. Neither of them has any experience in farming or farm life, but, knowing

them and knowing their dreams, there is no question that they will learn and they will succeed.

And know them, I am proud to say, I do. Over the years a relationship has developed between Gord and I, and between our wives, which, to me, cannot be simply described as "friendship." He and I have walked the battlefields together, sat in each other's libraries, and spent money (too much) together at The Gettysburg Sutler. But on all these, and many other occasions, the talk has not been just of Civil War, it has been of life itself. Thus I have come to know Gordon and Marilyn Whitney and I am a better person for it, for maybe part of their dedication to our American heritage, their spirit, and their ability to strive toward their goals has rubbed off on me. At least, I hope so.

As I wish them well for the future, I know that one thing the miles of distance will not alter is the relationship we share, a companionship which developed from a common interest and because a group in Chicago was organized to pursue that interest. In that realization, maybe I have learned what Ralph Newman and our other founders already knew in 1941; that such a relationship, such companionship is really what this Round Table is all about.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The first item on the agenda of the Executive Committee at its meeting on May 10, 1974, was the selection of the site of the 1975 Battlefield Tour. While the choice itself, Richmond, was almost unanimous, a full discussion was had pertaining to the type of activities and programs the tour should include. It was finally decided to leave such matters to the recommendation of the Tour Chairmen, but many interesting suggestions were put forth for their consideration. In-coming President Ward Smidl then announced the appointment of Brooks Davis, Bob Walter and Terry Carr as Tour Chairmen for next year.

Among the other matters approved were an increase in the membership of the Board of Trustees from six to eight, the design of the Nevins-Freeman Award, and the designation of the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner as our annual Ladies Night event. A committee, to be headed by Jerry Edelstein, was appointed to study the question of the location of our meetings for the 1974-1975 year. The meeting concluded with reports by the Treasurer and the Chairman of the Research Center Fund Committee.

* * * * *

MAY MEETING

A reunion with an old friend, the election of officers for the coming year, and a guest quizmaster were just a few of the highlights of our May meeting, which was attended by 68 members and guests. In our usual "democratic" fashion, the slate of officers proposed in April by the Nominating Committee was elected unanimously. Our new leaders are headed by Ward Smidl, as President, and Jerry Edelstein, as Senior Vice President. The quiz for that night, prepared by Past President Warren Reeder, challenged our expertise in local Civil War affairs as well as general knowledge of the war. As the scores attest, we did not meet the challenge head on, thus indicating the need for some serious studying over the summer.

The "old friend" was, of course, our speaker for the evening, Albert P. Scheller, seasonal historian at the Vicksburg National Battlefield Park. Most of us had not seen Al since he and Ed Bearss guided us through the Vicksburg area on our 1972 Battlefield Tour. The memory of that visit two years ago led us to anticipate a most informative and enjoyable talk and, in his vocal re-creation of the Red River Campaign of 1864, Al certainly lived up to our expectations.

He began by pointing out that the campaign was the product of "Olds Brains" Halleck who felt it would accomplish three basic purposes, the establishment of a solid base for

loyal federal governments in Louisiana and Texas, the securing of a supply of cotton for New England mills, and the presence of a federal military force in Texas to deter expansion by Maximillian. Both Grant and Banks felt an expedition to capture Mobile would be more beneficial to the war effort, but they were overruled by Halleck. The original plan called for a combination of troops from the Department of the Gulf and from Union forces near Vicksburg to cross Louisiana, unite with a federal army from Arkansas under Steele and then, together, drive for Shreveport. Support and transport were to be provided by Admiral Porter's river fleet.

The advance, under A. J. Smith, set out on March 10, 1864 and by the 14th had captured Fort De Russey. Confederate troops under Richard Taylor then abandoned Alexandria, which they did not have the strength to defend, and the Navy occupied the city on March 16th. Banks' army did not reach there until nine days later because of bad weather. Banks was now under pressure to move rapidly, as Grant ordered the return of Smith's troops by mid-April, so he marched immediately for Grand Ecore which he reached on April 2. There he was faced with three choices as to the best route to Shreveport. Instead of going by water or by the river road, he chose the inland route. This was a mistake as it deprived Banks of naval support and supply.

The federal march from Grand Ecore reached to within three miles of Mansfield where, on April 8, Taylor decided, against the orders of his superior, Kirby Smith, to make a stand. Banks hesitated, so, after waiting until 4:00 for the Northerners to move, Taylor assaulted both Union flanks. The ferocity of his attack caused a complete rout of the Federal line within forty-five minutes. The Confederates pushed on for almost six miles until they were stopped by a reserve line established by the XIX Corps. The next day Banks retreated to Pleasant Hill where he deployed.

Taylor, by a rapid march, was in position to attack by 3:00 but was compelled to rest his troops because of their exhausted condition. His attack, at 5:00, was misdirected and failed to hit his objective, the federal left flank. Thus, he presented his own flank to A. J. Smith who was prompt to take advantage of the opportunity. The Confederate right was rolled up and their entire line gave way just as Kirby Smith arrived on the field. He ordered a retreat back to Mansfield. Banks' original thought was to pursue, but he let his subordinates persuade him to return to Grand Ecore, much to the disgust of A. J. Smith.

Over Taylor's objections, Kirby Smith divided the Confederate force, taking a portion with him to unsuccessfully chase after Steele who, bogged down by a supply shortage, never even came close to uniting with Banks. Taylor, with only six thousand troops left, nevertheless pursued Banks who, rejoining Porter at Grand Ecore, continued on to Alexandria. Enroute, the Confederates harassed the retreating Federals, but no major engagement occurred. On the river, the ironclad Eastport was ordered destroyed after striking a mine and an underwater raft. Low water prevented the fleet from passing the falls above Alexandria and threatened the capture of the ships. However, Union engineers under Major Bailey of Wisconsin constructed a series of dams which raised the level of the river, thus permitting Porter to pass.

On May 16 Banks evacuated the city after burning it and, by May 20, he had recrossed the Mississippi, thus ending the campaign. In summary, Al stated that in addition to failing to achieve any of its three objectives, the campaign had adverse effects on the Union cause in other areas. It delayed the advance on Mobile for ten months, thus freeing fifteen thousand Southern troops for duty in Georgia, and also deprived Sherman of A. J. Smith's soldiers for the Atlanta campaign. Thus, the Red River Campaign can truly be referred to as one of the most monumental Federal failures of the entire war.



TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

At the May meeting of the Camp Followers, the Krolick tapes were most thoroughly enjoyed. We found there were no time lapses in these tapes and they were chock full of information. We all had quite a good laugh at Marshall's "roasting", but thereafter we settled down to listen to his very good speech on a controversial subject, his opinion that Robert E. Lee was the complete cause of the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg.

This was my last meeting as the president of the Camp Followers and I was extremely proud of the quality of the programs we had. So many members of the Round Table including, Ward Smidl, Don Sikorski, Elmer Underwood and Mike Lerner spoke before our group, as well as some members of the Camp Followers, Ella Clausius and Roberta Krolick.

June will be a special meeting at which we will join the Round Table in their special award night. It will be held in the GAR Room in the Chicago Public Library on June 14th. Call Margaret April at WH4-3085 to make your reservations for this very special meeting.



1974 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

It must be reported that despite a vigorous assault by 101 gallant campaigners from North of the Mason-Dixon line, the heights of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain are still standing. Even Private John Hunter's solo charge up the mountain, Colonel Henry Kennedy's inspiring addresses to the troops, and the daring leadership of Generals Warren Reeder and Jerry Edelstein failed to cause the capture and destruction of those imposing Southern eminences. By way of alibi, many of our number laid their inability to instill fear into the Confederate hearts to the extreme privation of a lack of liquid refreshment on the first night of the Tour. It seems that the laws pertaining to a local election held that day caused the cancellation of our hallowed Command Post.

A true highlight of the trip was the unique Chattanooga Choo-Choo Hilton, our headquarters during our four-day visit. Its fine dining facilities and shopping arcade are housed in the remodeled Southern Railway Depot. Parked on the tracks extending from the former station are numerous Pullman cars which have been transformed into fully furnished cars. Those who desired standard sleeping quarters were housed in the adjacent modern hotel building, which features a sun-roofed pool and waterfall alongside the coffee shop. Any trip to Chattanooga must certainly include a stay at this excellent hotel.

Our stops on Thursday included Orchard Knob, the National and Confederate Cemeteries, and the Jewish Cemetery where Jerry Edelstein delivered a talk on the Ochs family. That night Dr. James Livingood described for us the fighting around Chattanooga, which we retraced on Friday during stops on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. Our speaker on Friday evening was Ed Tinney, historian of the Chickamauga National Battlefield Park and one of our guides on the tour. Ed spoke to us on the fight for battlefield preservation around the country. Saturday found us spending the day at Chickamauga after visits to Dug Gap, McLemore's Cove and the Lee and Gordon mansion. Saturday night was our traditional fun night, featuring the Buster Keaton silent film classic, "The General", with brilliant narration by our own Jerry Warshaw, ably assisted by the piano mastery of Arnold Alexander. The concluding events on Sunday included a boat ride on the Tennessee River and a tour of the Chattanooga Railroad Museum.

(Continued on Page 4)



THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Commager, Henry Steele. *The Blue and the Gray: The Story of the Civil War as Told by Participants* . . . Revised and abridged edition. 604 p. New York: New American Library, 1973. Paper \$2.25

Davis, Charles Shepard. *The Cotton Kingdom in Alabama*. Philadelphia: Porcupine Press, Inc. [1973]. \$12.50. Original of 1939.

Fogel, Robert W. and Stanley L. Engerman. *Time on the Cross*. Vol. I: The Economics of American Negro Slavery. 286 p. Vol. II: Evidence and Methods—A Supplement. 267 p. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1974. \$8.95 and \$12.50.

Henig, Gerald S. *Henry Winter Davis; Antebellum and Civil War Congressman from Maryland*. New York: Twayne Publishers [c1973]. \$7.50

Ingram, George W. *Hurrah for the Texans*. 25 p., illus., 350 copies, 150 for sale. Paper \$7.50. College Station, Texas A & M University, 1973. University Library Keepsake Number 3.

Lewis, Lloyd. *Myths after Lincoln*. With an introduction by Carl Sandburg. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1973. \$5.75. First issued in 1929 by Harcourt, Brace.

Mitgang, Herbert. *The Fiery Trial: A Life of Lincoln*. New York: Viking Press, 1974. \$6.95. For young people.

Simpson, Harold B. *Hood's Texas Brigade in Reunion and Memory*. Hillsboro, Texas: Hill Junior College Press, 1974. Library edition, limited to 925 copies: \$9.50. Special edition, full black leather: \$34.00.

Strong, George Templeton. *The Diary of George Templeton Strong*. Edited by Allan Nevins and Milton Haley Thomas. New York: Octagon Books, 1974 [c1952]. 4 vols. \$90.00

BATTLEFIELD TOUR (Continued from Page 3)

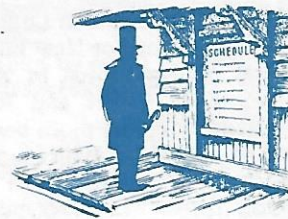
No article summarizing the Battlefield Tour can be complete without reference to the infamous Confederate Purple Heart, that magnificent memorial created by the equally infamous Dr. John Margreiter of St. Louis and awarded each year for gallantry above and beyond the call of duty on the trip. This year's winner (?) of the priceless prize was our beloved Jack Kaluf, who had the honor to be advised by Delta Airlines officials that he had been bumped off our overbooked (by the airline) return flight. Jack's remarks, both on that occasion and on his being told of his selection as this year's recipient of the matchless medallion can best be described by the currently popular phrase "expletives deleted."

BRUCE CATTON (Continued from Page 1)

standard of excellence we have established for the recipient.

In applying that standard to determine the first person to receive this prestigious award, the committee found that one individual was foremost in everyone's mind. He is, of course, Bruce Catton, the man who epitomizes scholarship and achievement in the field of Civil War history. His books form the foundation of the library of every true student of the war. Included in the imposing list of titles are: "The War Lords of Washington", 1948; "Mr. Lincoln's Army", 1950; "Glory Road", 1952; "A Stillness at Appomattox", 1953; "U. S. Grant and the American Military Tradition", 1954; "Banners at Shenandoah", 1955; "This Hallowed Ground", 1956; "America Goes to War", 1958; "Grant Moves South", 1960; "The Coming Fury", 1961; "Two Roads to Sumter", 1963; "Terrible Swift Sword", 1963; "Never Call Retreat", 1965; "Grant Takes Command", 1969; "Waiting for the Morning Train", 1972.

Mr. Catton, who is also an Honorary Life Member of The Round Table, was born in Petosky, Michigan in 1899. Like Freeman and Nevins, his background lies in newspaper journalism, but as he passed the age of fifty, he determined to devote time to writing a history of the Army of the Potomac.



BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held on the second Friday in each month, except as noted. Location of 1974-1975 meetings will be announced in the September issue of the Newsletter.

June 14: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner, honoring Bruce Catton, and Installation of Officers. Ladies welcome.—G.A.R. Room, Chicago Public Library.

August 3: Summer Executive Committee Meeting, 11:30 A.M.—Book and Bottle, 17 East Chestnut Street, Chicago.

September 13: Edwin C. Bearss, topic to be announced.

October 11: Harold M. Hyman on "The Johnson Impeachment—From Appomattox To Watergate."

November 8: Wilbur Kurtz, Jr. on "Lincoln, Sherman and Lloyd Lewis."

December 13: Frank Rankin, topic to be announced.

January 10: William C. "Jack" Davis on "The Battle of New Market."

February 14: Program to be announced.

March 14: Gordon Whitney on "The Other Jeff Davis."

April 11: Harold Simpson on "The Texas Brigade, Lee's Grenadier Guard."

May 1-4: Annual Battlefield Tour to Richmond.

May 9: Ralph G. Newman on "The Last Full Measure of Devotion—Abraham Lincoln's Incredible Funeral."

June 13: Ladies Night, Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner, and Installation of Officers.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at LaSalle Hotel coffee shop; all members welcome.

NEW MEMBER

James H. Huber, 855 Hinman Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60202

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Gordon Whitney, R.R. 2, Madison, Indiana.

James T. Goodman, 850 DeWitt Place, Apt. 19-B, Chicago, Illinois.

Dan Lapinski, 263 Timber View Avenue, Oak Brook, Illinois 60521

Thomas L. Jarnowski, U.S.S. Patterson DE 1061, FPO New York, New York 09501

Bruce Catton, 63 E. 79th Street, New York, New York 10021

The result was his famous trilogy, the last volume of which, "A Stillness at Appomattox", won for him the Pulitzer Prize in 1954, as well as a National Book Award. From that point on his name has become synonymous with Civil War literature, as his accomplishments in the field attest. In addition to his books, he has also served twenty years as an editor for American Heritage, the last fifteen as Senior Editor.

In addition to this opportunity to again be with, and honor, Mr. Catton, our Award Dinner will also allow us to welcome an old friend and meet a new one, both of whom have been instrumental in the career of our Award recipient. Visits with our own E. B. "Pete" Long have become all too few since his move to Wyoming, but his absence has not dimmed our pride in his own literary and educational achievements, details of which are well known to all. Samuel S. Vaughn has had a distinguished career with Doubleday & Co., Inc. and its subsidiary, Doubleday Publishing Co. It was his firm which agreed to publish "Mr. Lincoln's Army" after two other companies turned it down. Doubleday and Mr. Vaughn have been closely associated with Mr. Catton ever since.