

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVI, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

February, 1976

## JAMES T. HICKEY ON LINCOLNIA IN ILLINOIS

A change of pace is on tap for The Round Table as, on February 13, 1976, we will turn our attention away from the military aspects of the Civil War. Instead, we will focus on the writings of the conflict's central political figure as evidenced by documents accumulated by his home state. Our speaker for the evening will be James T. Hickey, since 1958 the curator of the Lincoln Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library.

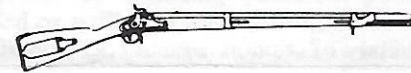


James T. Hickey

Mr. Hickey is a nationally known Lincoln scholar and an authority on historic restorations of the early and mid 19th century. During his tenure, the State Historical Library has acquired approximately five hundred original documents in Lincoln's handwriting, as well as collections of pictures, relics, and broadsides related to our sixteenth President. Mr. Hickey's remarks will center on the Abraham Lincoln letters which have come into the library's possession during the last five years, with special emphasis on how they were acquired, from whom, and, of course, their content. Attention will also be given to the policy and reason for building the Lincoln Collection of the library. He plans to bring with him copies of many of these documents for our examination.

Since 1959, our speaker, in addition to his library duties, has been engaged in research for the reconstruction and furnishing of the Old State Capitol in Springfield. He selected and purchased most of the 3,000 items of the 1840-1860 period with which the reconstructed building is equipped. More recently, he has also served as historical consultant for the restoration of the Illinois Executive Mansion. The project of refurbishing the public rooms of the Mansion with pieces of the Regency style is still underway.

Mr. Hickey's interest in Lincoln originated when he was a boy. After returning from military duty with the Air Force in World War II, he began to collect Lincoln memorabilia and became active in the Logan County Historical Society. That society helped restore the Postville Courthouse at Lincoln, Illinois and Mr. Hickey himself continued historical restoration work by supervising the furnishing of the Mount Pulaski Courthouse, in which Lincoln had practiced law. As a part of his search through the midstate area for Lincoln records, Mr. Hickey discovered many original Lincoln documents that are now a part of the Historical Library's Lincoln Collection, the largest in the country outside Washington, D.C. Shortly after joining the Historical Library staff, he took a leave of absence to work with the United States Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission in compiling information for the authoritative



348th REGULAR MEETING

\* \* \*

James T. Hickey  
on  
Lincolnia In Illinois

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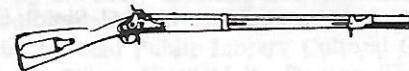
Friday, February 13, 1976

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Chicago Bar Association  
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



three-volume record of Lincoln's activities, *Lincoln Day by Day*. In recognition of his service to Lincoln scholarship, Lincoln Memorial University awarded Mr. Hickey the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in 1972.

Mr. Hickey is the author of many articles published in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. These include "Three R's in Lincoln's Education" (1959), "Lincoln the Real Estate Agent" (1960), "Oglesby's Fence Rail Dealings and the 1860 Decatur Convention" (1961), and "The Lincolns' Globe Tavern" (1963). He has also edited many original documents for publication. The most recent of those is "An Illinois First Family: The Reminiscences of Clara Matteson Doolittle", which appears in the February, 1976 *Journal*. Mr. Hickey is a member of the board of trustees of Lincoln College and serves as treasurer and a member of the board of trustees of the Illinois Executive Mansion Association.

His vocation is also his avocation, and he has served as advisor for several private restoration projects in Springfield. Two of the outstanding examples are the Lincoln-Herndon law office on Adams Street, facing the Old State Capitol, and the Great Western Railroad Station (now called the Lincoln Depot), from which the President-elect left Springfield on February 11, 1861. It was at that station that Lincoln delivered his famous Farewell Address. Mr. Hickey lives with his wife Betty and their daughter in a restored farmhouse near Elkhart, Illinois, which is located eighteen miles northeast of Springfield. The original part of their house was built in 1866.



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street  
Chicago Illinois 60611  
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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Ward C. Smidl, 1104 Whippoorwill Lane, Palatine, Illinois 60067.



*from the  
Editor's pen*



*Some time ago, Past President Ver Lynn Sprague became interested in compiling a "Ten Title Civil War Library." As Ver Lynn conceived it, this would be a list that would provide an in-depth study of all aspects of the Civil War to those who are not inclined to read countless volumes or who do not have the room for an extensive book collection. For assistance, he turned to his fellow students of the Civil War, asking them to vote for the books they felt would properly qualify. The project has now been completed and for the announcement of the results we hand our pen to the eminent Mr. Sprague.*

# A TEN TITLE CIVIL WAR LIBRARY

*by Ver Lynn Sprague*

I deeply appreciate the help of members of the Civil War Round Tables and the other students of the great conflict in the preparation of a list of books which might merit the title of a "Ten Title Civil War Library."

The project was begun on the 1974 battlefield tour of The Round Table and was continued by correspondence. Two hundred and seventy-four ballots were received. Many were cast on the ballot prepared and circulated by the undersigned. Others were completely unprompted. All of the titles which made the top ten were on the prepared ballot. Seven titles which were not on that list made the second ten ranking. Selectors were asked to nominate titles which were in print or available, not in the rate book category. Ballots listing Esposito's West Point Atlas of the Civil War, which is out of print, were counted with the currently available West Point Atlas of American Wars which contains the same material.

Newest publication to make the honor list is our own Pete Long's "Civil War Day by Day." Pete's great volume ranked fourth, beaten in the voting by such obvious selections as "Battles and Leaders," Grant's "Memoirs," and Freeman's "Robert E. Lee," which were the top three in that order. Alice Cromie's "Tour Guide" gave the Chicago Camp Followers, and Woman's Lib, representation among some great writers. Her indispensable, for Civil War tourists, guide book almost had to be disqualified as out of print. Then we got the good news of the second edition and back it goes in its well-deserved seventh position. We wonder if your endorsement of it may have helped to persuade the publisher that a rapidly sold out first edition may be a solid justification for the publishing of a second.

One title that didn't make our first ten deserves special mention. At the time of the voting only the first two volumes of Shelby Foote's trilogy "The Civil War — A Narrative" had been published. The ballots put the series in sixteenth position, but the comments of the voters, based on the faith that the third volume would maintain the high standard set in the first two, indicate that a vote taken today with volume three on our shelves would place Shelby in the top ten. I leave it to those braver than I to decide which title it would replace.

The prepared ballot reflected a personal feeling that a list like this one should have at least one piece of fiction and William's "House Divided" and Kantor's "Andersonville" were offered — and almost entirely turned down. These two, along with "Red Badge of Courage" and "Gone With the Wind," collected a few scattered votes, but it is obvious that a "First Ten" group of authors with no room for a Nevins, a Tucker, a Miller, or a Pratt cannot, in the opinion of serious students, make a place for a mere story teller.

Be consoled with the recollection that we do not really have to limit our Civil War libraries to ten titles. Thank you all.

## THE TEN TITLE CIVIL WAR LIBRARY

1. "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War" — Four Volumes
2. "The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant" — Two Volumes
3. "Robert E. Lee", Freeman — Four Volumes
4. "The Civil War Day by Day", E.B. Long
5. "The West Point Atlas of American Wars", Esposito
6. "The Life of Billy Yank and the Life of Johnny Reb", Bell Wiley — Two Volumes
7. "A Tour Guide to the Civil War", Alice Hamilton Cromie
8. "Sherman, Fighting Prophet", Lloyd Lewis
9. Catton ("A Stillness at Appomattox" ranked in this position but the great total of votes for the Centennial Series, The Trilogy, "Grant Moves South", "America Goes to War", etc. would justify the selection of any Catton title and make the omission of his work unreasonable.)

(Continued on Page 4)



## JANUARY MEETING

"The Civil War On The Plains" was the topic of the evening on January 9, as William Sullivan, Secretary of The Round Table, addressed sixty-five members and guests. Bill first focused his attention on the Southwest as he described the small, widely scattered army posts which garrisoned the frontier in 1861. Stripped of their regular troops because of the war in the East, these forts were manned by green recruits from the surrounding area.

In January of 1862, the Confederate General Sibley marched up the Rio Grande with his Army of New Mexico. His purposes were to seize federal stores, drive Union troops out of the New Mexico territory, and establish a military government. He was opposed by a Northern force under E.R.S. Canby. The two armies clashed at Valverde in February and Canby, who had only one hundred day recruits, was routed. Sibley pushed on and soon occupied Santa Fe and Albuquerque. However, Canby was soon joined by the First Colorado Cavalry, a tough band of aggressive fighters from the Denver area. Designated cavalry, although only two of its companies were mounted, the regiment had marched overland from Colorado to join the federal force.

With this added strength, Canby determined to make a stand at Glorietta Pass in late March. As troops from both sides fought a stubborn dismounted action across a ravine within the pass, a unit of the First Colorado under the then unknown Chivington, climbed a ridge to gain the Confederate rear where they easily destroyed the Southern trains. A mounted charge by another Colorado company turned the battle tide and Sibley retreated all the way to Texas. By late 1862, the Federals had pushed into western Texas where they were to remain throughout the war.

The Southern retreat was, at least in part, caused by the advance of the California Column. This five thousand men force had left their native state too late to take part in the action at Glorietta, but news of their arrival hastened Sibley's flight. The Californians, under the able Colonel Carleton, stayed on to fight Indians and protect the intercontinental telegraph line. They performed vital tasks for the Union in superb fashion, despite the hardships of their duties and the conditions of their quarters, such as Fort Ruby which had neither stockade nor barracks.

Bill then described for us the problems caused for the Federal government during the Civil War by the Indians. An uprising in Minnesota in 1862 by several tribes necessitated the dispatching of troops and appointment of John Pope to take charge of the situation. In the Southwest, the First New Mexico, under the famed scout Kit Carson, skirmished constantly against the Navajos, whose modern reputation belies the ferocity of their fighting in the 1860's. In the Department of the Pacific, the army's main duty was also constant campaigning against the Indians. However, these numerous outbreaks cannot be attributed to Confederate agitation. Only in the Indian territory did the Southerners stir up the tribes. Their purpose being to create a buffer against a federal invasion of Texas from the north, four Indian regiments were recruited in the Territory by the Confederates. Although supposedly only home guards, these troops did see service at Pea Ridge.

As he closed his fine remarks, Bill discussed the Sand Creek "Massacre" of 1864. This controversial incident occurred as the Third Colorado Cavalry, under the same Chivington of Glorietta fame, was completing its enlistment term. Having seen neither Confederate nor Indian since entering the service, the regiment was anxious for action as they sought the warlike Northern Cheyenne. Instead they happened upon and attacked the camp of Black Kettle's allegedly peaceful Southern Cheyenne. Although the Indians ran up the American flag, Chivington's troops killed 130 men, women and children. Chivington was never prosecuted although two congressional investigations were held.

## TO THE CAMPFOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Despite the cold and inclement weather, a record turnout came to hear our own Betsy Davis on "Kate Chase and the Ten Commandments." We were rewarded by a delightful discourse on that belle of the Civil War period. Betsy's remarks were followed by a lively discussion.

This month, the other half of the Davis family, Brooks, will address us on the "Mississippi Marine Brigade". He promises to reveal much that has been unknown (is anything known?) about this renegade group. Please note that dinner will be in a new location, the Emperor's Suite of the Little Corporal Restaurant, on the first floor of the United of America Bank Building, southeast corner of Wacker Drive and State Street (parking facilities just across the street.) This is an interesting room and the dinner promises to be unusual, different from anything we've had lately. Bring an interested friend, with the hope of adding another regular to our group. Make reservations by including yours on your husband's reservation card or writing or calling Margaret H. April at 175 E. Delaware Pl., #5112, Chicago, Illinois, 787-1860.

## 1976 NEVINS - FREEMAN AWARD

Chairman Brooks Davis of the Awards Committee has announced that the recipient of the 1976 Nevins-Freeman Award will be Dr. T. Harry Williams, renowned Civil War author and Boyd Professor of History at Louisiana State University. Dr. Williams, an Honorary Life Member of The Round Table, has, throughout his career, set an example of scholarship and devotion to excellence equaled by few others in the field of Civil War study. He will be honored by us during ceremonies to be held on June 11, 1976. Ladies are welcome and are cordially invited to attend this gala affair. A fine program, featuring the lively speaking ability of Dr. Williams, is being planned. Because of the construction work being performed at the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, we will be unable to utilize the G.A.R. Rooms. The Awards Committee will select an alternate site.

Past President Dr. Gerhard Clausius has been kind enough to offer to make available copies of a tape containing an interview he had in 1968 with our late friend and Civil War scholar, J. Ambler Johnston. In this conversation, J. Ambler relates how assistance from an unexpected source completed Douglas Southall Freeman's research into the details of Mrs. Robert E. Lee's passage, in 1862, from the White House, on the Pamunkey, through Federal lines to Richmond. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy need only send a blank cassette tape and return postage to Dr. Clausius, 929 Garfield Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

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As we go to press, two of our most active members are unfortunately listed on the roster of Sick Call. Founder and Nevins-Freeman Award Winner Ralph Newman is recuperating from gall bladder surgery at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago. Past President Warren Reeder, who holds the record for most battlefield tours attended, is recovering from a heart attack at St. Margaret's Hospital in Hammond, Indiana. Cards and letters would most certainly be appreciated by both of these fine gentlemen.





# THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Clymer, Kenton J. *John Hay: The Gentleman as Diplomat*. Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press, 1975. \$15.00

Dell, Christopher. *Lincoln and the War Democrats. The Grand Erosion of Conservative Tradition*. Rutherford: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, c1975. \$18.50

Grady, John C. and Bradford K. Felmy. *Suffering to Silence: The History of the 29th Texas Cavalry, C.S.A.* Quanah, Texas: Nortex Press, 1975. \$9.00

Jenkins, Brian. *Britain and the War for the Union*. Vol. I Montreal: McGill-Queens University Press, 1974.

Johnston, Robert Marteson. *Bull Run; Its Strategy and Tactics*. Plainview, N.Y. Books for Libraries, 1972. \$15.00. Reprint of 1913 edition.

Moehring, Eugene P. and Arleen Keylin, editors. *The Civil War Extra: From the Pages of the Charleston Mercury and the New York Times*. New York: Arno Press, 1975. \$12.98

Stutler, Boyd B. *West Virginia in the Civil War*. Third printing. Charleston, W. Va.: Education Foundation, Inc. \$8.00

Wiley, Bell I. *The Common Soldier of the Civil War*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1975. \$12.95



(Continued from Page 2)

10. Abraham Lincoln — The works of Carl Sandburg and Ben Thomas tied for this position. Together they outranked the other three biographies included (Grant, Lee, and Sherman). A Lincoln biography obviously belongs in our collection, either Sandburg's or Thomas' are preferred.

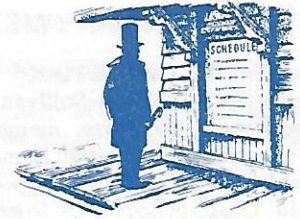
## THE SECOND TEN

1. "The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War", Narrative by Catton — Two Volumes
2. "Chickamauga — Bloody Battle in the West", Glen Tucker
3. "The Ordeal of the Union", Nevins
4. "The Photographic History of the Civil War", Miller
5. "Lee's Lieutenants", Freeman
6. "The Civil War — A Narrative", Shelby Foote — two of three volumes
7. "Gettysburg", Coddington
8. "From Manassas to Appomattox", Longstreet
9. "Arms and Equipment of the Civil War", Jack Coggins
10. "The Civil War Dictionary", Boatner

The Chicago Historical Society, Clark at North, has opened a new gallery exhibition devoted to the Civil War. Utilizing letters, photographs and paintings, as well as military equipment, the display illustrates the war's effect on America in the 1860's by stressing the human aspect of the conflict. The galleries are open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., and Sunday from 12:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. Admission is \$1.00 for adults, 50¢ for children, and 25¢ for senior citizens.

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The first monuments to be placed on Civil War battlefields were erected in 1865 at Manassas by the Union soldiers who had fought there. One of these is located on the Henry House



# BULLETIN BOARD

## FUTURE MEETINGS

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

February 13: James T. Hickey on "Lincolnia in Illinois".  
March 12: Roger G. Holloway on "Great Britain and the American Civil War."

April 9: 350th Regular Meeting. Symposium, chaired by E. B. "Pete" Long, on "Is Civil War History Still a Pertinent Subject?"

May 5-9: Annual Battlefield Tour to Manassas and Antietam.

May 14: Albert P. Scheller on "Illinois Regiments and Generals in Mississippi".

June 11: Ladies Night. Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers. Recipient of Award: T. Harry Williams.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at LaSalle Hotel Coffee Shop; all members welcome.

## NEW MEMBERS

Dr. E. Boone Brackett, 318 N. Linden, Oak Park, Illinois 60302.

Edward F. Cosentino, 304 Kensington Court, Palatine Illinois 60067.

George W. Robinson, 107 West Berkeley Drive, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004.

James B. Schroeder, 1143 Butternut Lane, Northbrook, Illinois 60062.

Edward M. Franklin, 535 North Michigan Avenue, Apt. 1309, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Thomas L. Jarnowski, 4854 North Chester, Norridge, Illinois 60656.

Hill, adjacent to the Visitors Center, and commemorates the action in July, 1861. The other was placed in the area of the railroad cut, the scene of the fiercest fighting in the conflict of August, 1862. For many years, both of these memorials have been badly in need of restoration, but, as is unfortunately normal, the funds were just not available in the National Park Service's budget. However, as a direct result of the Bicentennial, the necessary money has finally been allocated for the project. With the help of old photographs of the monuments, the inscriptions will be restored and other required work performed. When we visit the area on our 1976 battlefield tour, it is hoped that the project will be substantially completed, if not finished.

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It is with regret that we have learned of the death of Henry M. Scharf, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Mr. Scharf, a close friend of the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower, was a founder of the Eisenhower Society and also the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association.