

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVI, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1976

350th REGULAR MEETING—APRIL 9, 1976 A SYMPOSIUM: "WHERE GOES THE CIVIL WAR?"

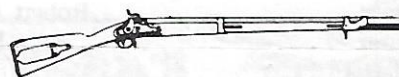
By Gerald M. Edelstein

On Friday, April 9, 1976, the 350th meeting of The Round Table will feature a Symposium chaired by E. B. "Pete" Long. The panel will bring together distinguished individuals from the various segments of Civil War study. Included, in addition to Pete, will be Ralph G. Newman, speaking for publishers, booksellers and editors, Marshall D. Krolick representing Round Table scholarship, and John Y. Simon relating the opinion of the academician. The Symposium will concentrate on the status of Civil War writing today, where it has gone in the recent past, and what should be its direction for the future.

Chairman Long will open the discussion with a few remarks referring to the late Dr. James Randall's famous paper "Has the Lincoln Theme been Exhausted," asking in kind whether the Civil War theme has been exhausted. He also will briefly touch upon the 1953 address to our Round Table by Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman. On that occasion Dr. Freeman raised the question of what remained to be accomplished in the Civil War field.

After Pete's brief remarks about the broad topic theme, the other participants will speak for ten to twelve minutes. In their individual presentation, each will attempt to point out whether, in his opinion, there are still unexplored frontiers and, if so, how best they can be developed. Cooperation in the past, or the lack of it, among the factions represented by the panel will be examined and, hopefully, suggestions offered for the future. There will be a short rebuttal period for the panelists after each of the individual remarks. A general discussion will be held at the conclusion of the presentations to encourage spirited response from the membership. The program will be concluded by brief remarks from the panelists and Chairman Long. We know this if going to be a unique and stimulating evening and, as we are expecting a large attendance, we encourage you to get your reservation in early.

In describing the qualifications of the members of our Symposium, we, of course, begin with its Chairman, E. B. "Pete" Long. He has been a Civil War and Lincoln scholar, writer, instructor, lecturer and educator for more than thirty years. A native of Wisconsin, Pete attended Miami University of Ohio and Northwestern. A former newsman and encyclopedia editor, he was associated with Bruce Catton as Director of Research for the monumental *Centennial History of the Civil War*. For five years he aided Allan Nevins in a research and editorial capacity for the last two volumes of the *Ordeal of the Union*. After teaching in the Civil War and Reconstruction field as visiting lecturer at the University of California and the University of Illinois, Pete has been, since 1970, both Associate Professor of American Studies in the History Department and Consultant to the Archives at the University of Wyoming. His latest book is "*The Civil War Day by Day*," published by



350th REGULAR MEETING

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Symposium

on

Where Goes The
Civil War

* * *

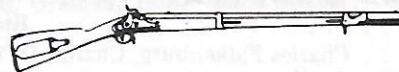
Friday, April 9, 1976

* * *

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



All members and their families and friends are invited to attend the dedication of a headstone for the grave of Capt. Marcellus E. Jones on April 11, 1976 at 2:00 p.m. in the Wheaton Cemetery. For further details on this ceremony, which is sponsored by The Round Table, see page 2.

Doubleday in 1971. At present he is working on a book concentrating on the Civil War in the West and the influence of the war on westward development. We are proud that Pete is an Honorary Life Member and Past President of The Round Table.

Since 1961 Marshall Krolick has served The Round Table as Treasurer, Vice President and Tour Chairman, in addition to his term as President in 1971-1972. Since January, 1974 he has been editor of this Newsletter. Marshall was also our quizmaster for a number of years, which led to his authorship of the "Civil War Quiz," a column which appears on a regular basis in *Civil War Times Illustrated*. Specializing in the study of the Battle of Gettysburg, he has spoken on that subject before many Round Tables around the country. Having received his B.A. from Drake University in 1959 and a J.D. Degree in 1962 from the Northwestern University School of Law, Marshall is a practicing attorney in Chicago.

At age twenty-two, Ralph Newsman discarded his baseball

(Continued on page 4)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago Illinois 60611
Phone: (312) 944-3085

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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*



Several months ago we expressed in this column our opinion of the location and program of the first two Nevins-Freeman Award Dinners. To put it bluntly, we were most critical of both aspects as we felt that each occasion had failed to combine the importance and dignity of the Award with an evening of enjoyment for those present. We called upon the 1976 Award Committee to examine the situation. They have done so and, based upon their report, we are proud to congratulate them for a job well done.

The committee, consisting of Brooks Davis, Irwin Levin, and Bob Bermant, has worked hard and planned well. They have prepared for us an affair which should give us a feeling of

anticipation beforehand and pleasant memories afterwards. It will begin with a tour of the Lincoln Gallery and new Civil War exhibit at the Chicago Historical Society. From there we will have a short walk to the elegant Germania Club for Command Post and dinner. This will be followed by the installation of officers, presentation of the Nevins-Freeman Award and an address by its recipient, Honorary Life Member Dr. T. Harry Williams.

Additional details will, of course, be announced in future issues of the Newsletter. However, we know that on June 11, 1976 we will at last have an evening worthy of the event. For that, we owe the Award Committee a sincere debt of gratitude. The best way to express that appreciation is to be present to participate in what they have arranged for us.

Recently we indicated that "The Sutler's Wagon" would have to close up shop because of a lack of merchandise. However, since that notice appeared, we are happy to report that a large inventory has been received. So the old peddler is once again on the road, but we call upon you to keep it there. This you can do in two ways. First, if you have a Civil War item to sell or trade or you need a book, an artifact, or just some information, let us know. By doing so, you reach not only our membership but the many other Round Tables with whom we exchange newsletters. Secondly, respond to other people's notices if you have what they are seeking or know someone who might. Don't assume the "other fellow" will do it.

One of the items on the shelves of this month's "Wagon" comes from the National Park Service staff at Appomattox. The background of their request is of interest. As a result of an agreement between Lee and Grant, each Confederate was provided with a parole certificate. These forms were printed in the Clover Hill Tavern at Appomattox by General John Gibbon, using a portable army press he had with him. The Park Service is now refurbishing the tavern for the purpose of interpreting the parole process. To complete the restoration, they need information on the type of press used and the availability of a sample for inclusion in the exhibit. This is the type of assistance that Round Tables should and must provide to our Battlefield Parks so that they can give to America the lessons of history which make up our heritage.

MARCELLUS E. JONES DEDICATION

As announced last month, on April 11, 1976 at 2:00 p.m., The Round Table will dedicate a headstone for the grave of Capt. Marcellus E. Jones, 8th Illinois Cavalry. Capt. Jones, while a lieutenant, had the distinction of firing the first shot at the Battle of Gettysburg. The ceremonies will take place in Wheaton Cemetery, which is located on Warrenville Road approximately two blocks south of Roosevelt Road. In entering the Cemetery, those attending should use the southern-most gate. To avoid confusion, please remember that in Wheaton Warrenville Road is also known as West Street.

It is anticipated that the dedication will receive prior publicity in the local press. Present plans for the actual ceremony include a military salute and brief remarks by several speakers. In honor of Capt. Jones' post-war service as Sheriff of DuPage County and Postmaster of Wheaton, representatives of the city will also be on hand. All Round Table members and their families are urged to attend. Projects such as this are the very essence of the purpose of The Civil War Round Table. In this way we can convey the spirit and dedication of the men of 1861-1865 so that they will be remembered by not only our generation, but those who will follow us. Others will not care unless we do. Show that you care by being present on April 11.

The site of the informal luncheon meetings, which are held each Monday at 12:00 noon, and to which all members are invited, has been changed to the Men's Grill of Wieboldt's, 9th floor, State and Madison. No reservations are necessary.

MARCH MEETING

In writing this column each month, detailing the address given at the previous meeting, we often find ourselves using words of praise for a job well done. These words flow easily from the pen for we are fortunate in generally having excellent speakers who are deserving of such accolades. However, it is much harder to find the right adjectives when the evening has been one of those "special" ones, when we have been privileged to hear an address which will always rank as one of our very finest. Such a night was March 12, 1976.

Our speaker was Roger G. Holloway of London, England. His topic was "Great Britain and the American Civil War." Mr. Holloway is not a renowned author or historian, and, in fact, he does not profess to be. Instead he is just like each of us, merely an interested student of that conflict of 1861-1865. The subject he chose was not a pivotal battle or a controversial general, but, as he made evident to the seventy-seven members and guests present, his topic was equally, if not more important than either of those popular themes to the outcome of the war. The standing ovation he received at the conclusion of his remarks is the best testimony to the excellence of his presentation.

Mr. Holloway began by describing the political and social climate in England as the Civil War began. The prime minister, Palmerston, welcomed the American conflict as a means of loss of power and prestige by a rising, potentially dangerous, rival. Much of the early sentiment in England for the Confederacy was based on a form of snobbery as the white Southerners were largely of English stock, while many Northerners had come from the continent. The British industrial element favored the Confederacy for a more practical reason, fear of competition from the North. However, the traditional British dislike of slavery was, from the start, to put a damper on English sympathy for the South.

Relations between the federal government and London became strained in 1861 because of the blockade of Southern ports. The situation was brought to the brink of disaster by the Trent affair. This was, of course, the removal of Confederate envoys Mason and Slidell from a British ship by Capt. Wilkes of the U.S.S. San Jacinto. Wilkes felt he had acted properly and, for a time, the people and certain governmental authorities in the North agreed with him. Congress authorized a medal, newspapers praised him, and the crowds gave him a hero's welcome. However, as word of the English reaction was received, the president and his cabinet realized the possible implications of the action. Fortunately, while the British populace clamored for war, on both sides of the Atlantic the voices of moderation went to work. The situation reached a climax when Palmerston prepared a dispatch, which basically constituted an ultimatum, to Washington demanding the release of the two Confederates. Prince Albert, the Royal Consort who was thought of as little more than a figurehead, upon reading the message, recommended to the Queen that it be revised to merely a protest which would include the suggestion that possibly Wilkes had acted without orders. When this was done, it gave Lincoln the loophole he needed to resolve the dilemma without losing face either at home or abroad. Mason and Slidell were released and war with England was averted permanently.

In the meantime, the Confederate government also had its "British" problem. If it was to encourage cotton trading with England, it would lose the bargaining power a cotton shortage would produce in the South's quest for foreign intervention. On the other hand, holding back the cotton until Britain intervened might risk the loss of friendly relations necessary to intervention. The Davis government chose to gamble on the latter course, a cotton embargo, but it failed as England easily developed alternative cotton sources in Egypt and India. The Confederacy never realized that at best intervention was a forlorn hope as England needed Northern wheat as much as Southern cotton and feared the political consequences of intervention more than the economic result of a cotton

TO THE CAMPFOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Our March meeting was one of the most exciting we've ever had. Joseph L. Eisendrath gave the members a choice of the "Myths About Lincoln" they would like to have discussed and a lively question and answer period evolved. For the first time in our history, it was suggested that the speaker be asked back in the future because time did not permit him to cover his topic as thoroughly as we would have liked.

The April meeting will feature Mrs. Rita Follett of Madison, Wisconsin speaking on "Civil War Riots in Wisconsin."

It will be held in the same place, the Little Corporal Restaurant, State at Wacker (parking just across the street) with drinks at 5:30 p.m., the talk at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. Please come and bring a friend. Add your reservation to your husband's card or call Margaret H. April, 787-1860.



WANTED: Information on Hill's Company, Missouri State Guard, Confederate. Contact Steve Lacy, 5015 South 37th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

WANTED: Information on the burial place of Thomas Elwood Graham, Co. E, 47th Ohio Volunteers, who died of typhoid November 5, 1862 in either Charleston or Charles Town, West Virginia. Contact C. E. Graham, 1308 - 35th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

WANTED: Diary of Benjamin F. Hunter, color bearer of Company C, 79th Ohio, who was wounded at Averysboro, North Carolina March 16, 1865 and died in Illinois in 1899. Contact C. E. Graham, 1308 - 35th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

WANTED: Any information on portable army field presses used during the Civil War. These printing presses were known as the Army Press or Adams Press. Contact Ronald G. Wilson, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Appomattox, Va. 24522.

shortage.

Mr. Holloway then turned his attention, and ours, to the issue of shipbuilding, the production of Southern warships and blockade runners in British shipyards. Exhibiting the same brilliant blend of scholarship, speaking ability, and humor he displayed throughout the evening, he introduced us to the exploits of those two magnificent protagonists, Confederate ship buyer James Bullock and U.S. Ambassador Charles Francis Adams. The latter received great assistance from the U.S. consul in Liverpool, Thomas Dudley. Hampered by a lack of ready cash, Bullock worked constantly at securing financial backing and hiding his activities from British and American authorities. The neutrality of England did not prevent it from trading with both North and South and this commerce included guns. Bullock felt that there was no difference between guns and ships. Adams countered by citing an international law which specifically forbade a neutral from arming and equipping ships for a belligerent. Bullock then pointed out that this did not prohibit the mere building of the ships without installation of arms.

Using both legal arguments and practical subterfuges,
(Continued on Page 4, Col. 2)

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Criswell, Grover. *Confederate and Southern State Currency*. 1976 Bicentennial Edition. Ltd. reprint. Citra, Florida: Grover Criswell, 1976. \$15.00.

Hattaway, Herman. *Stephen D. Lee*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1976. \$12.50.

McFadden, Janice Bartlett Reeder, editor. *Aunt and the Soldier Boys*. Santa Cruz, California: Moore's Graphic Arts, 1975. \$6.00.

Potter, David M. *The Impending Crisis 1848-1861*. Complete and edited by Don E. Fehrenbacher. Illus. New York: Harper & Row, 1976. \$15.00.

Richardson, H. Edward. *Cassius Marcellus Clay: Firebrand of Freedom*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1976. \$3.95.

Smart, James G., editor. *A Radical View: The "Agate" Dispatches of Whitelaw Reid 1861-1865*. Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1976. \$20.00. Two volumes.

Thomas, Edison H. *John Hunt Morgan & His Raiders*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1976. \$3.95.

Trefousse, Hans Louis. *Impeachment of a President: Andrew Johnson, the Blacks, and Reconstruction*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975. \$10.95.

Wilson, John Alfred. *Adventures of Alf Wilson*. Marietta, Georgia: Continental Book Company, 1975. \$3.95. Reissue of 1880 publication.



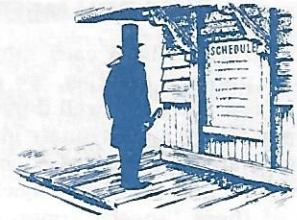
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career for the role of bookshop proprietor. Through his friendship with Carl Sandburg and Lloyd Lewis the shop became more specialized in the areas of Lincoln and the Civil War. By 1940 it was renamed the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop and it was in that year that Ralph organized the many customers who gathered to visit in the shop into The Civil War Round Table. He has authored, co-authored or edited nine books including *The American Iliad* and recently *Abraham Lincoln, His Own Story in His Own Words*. He has served as Vice Chairman of the Illinois Civil War Commission, President of the Illinois State Historical Society and President of The Round Table. Last June Ralph was the recipient of the 1975 Nevins-Freeman Award in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in Civil War history.

At the time of John Simon's admission to The Civil War Round Table he was, at eighteen years of age, the youngest member ever accepted. He later received his Bachelor's Degree from Swarthmore College in 1955, a Master's Degree from Harvard in 1956, and, in 1961, a Ph.D. from Harvard. In 1962 he was named Executive Director and Managing Editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Association. Since 1964, John has served as Associate Professor of History at Southern Illinois University. His books include *Ulysses S. Grant Chronology* and *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, published by the Southern Illinois University Press.

Under the sponsorship of the Breathedsville Jaycees, the Antietam Civil War Round Table has been formed as a separate organization within the confines of the Maryland Correctional Training Center. Meetings are held weekly and a monthly newsletter is published. The first guest speaker was our Honorary Life Member, Ed Bearss, who spoke on the battle for which this new Round Table was named.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

April 9: 350th Regular Meeting. Symposium, chaired by E. B. "Pete" Long, on "Where Goes The Civil War?"

April 11: Dedication of headstone for grave of Capt. Marcellus E. Jones, Wheaton Cemetery, Wheaton, Illinois. 2:00 p.m.

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. Chicago Historical Society and Germania Club.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Wieboldt's Men's Grill, 9th Floor, State and Madison; all members welcome.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Lester B. Vandeberg, 320 Jackson Street, Park Forest, Illinois 60466.

(Continued from Page 3)

Bullock secured the construction and release of the Florida, Alabama, and other ships. However, Adams continued his efforts and finally, as the Laird rams were nearing completion, he threatened war. Realizing again the implications of open hostility with the United States, the British government impounded the vessels, justifying its action as an act of policy if not of law. From that point, September, 1863, the supply of English ships to the Confederacy ceased and Northern commercial interests breathed a collective sigh of relief.

The Executive Committee of the Jackson Mississippi Civil War Round Table has appointed a committee to pursue the preservation of the Champion's Hill Battlefield. It is hoped that the 12,000 acres which comprise the battlefield area can be acquired by the National Park Service as a National Park. A letter has been sent by the committee to Mississippi Senator John C. Stennis, requesting the Senator's assistance in this project. The letter points out that, despite the battle's importance in the Vicksburg campaign, there are few markers on the site to commemorate or interpret the action. Considering what has happened at Gettysburg and what is threatened at Manassas, the fight to save Champion's Hill must be shared by every student of the Civil War. Therefore, we urge every Round Table, and each individual member, to write to their Congressional Delegation advising them of the situation and enlisting their aid.

The Kansas City Civil War Round Table has enacted a resolution establishing the "Monnett Battle of Westport Fund." Named in memory of the late Howard N. Monnett, the purpose of the fund is to raise the necessary amount to erect markers on the Westport Battlefield. Contributions are now being accepted and we encourage your support for this important project.