

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVI, Number 9

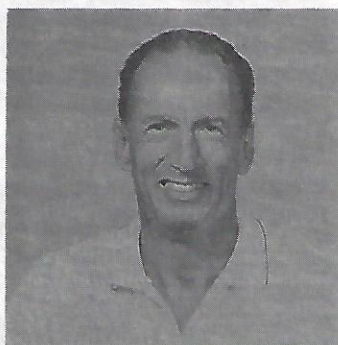
Chicago, Illinois

May, 1976

ALBERT P. SCHELLER ON ILLINOIS OFFICERS AND UNITS IN MISSISSIPPI

Al Scheller, returns to Chicago on May 14, 1976 to make his second appearance before the Round Table. We met Al during our 1972 Battlefield Tour to Vicksburg when he ably served as one of our guides. That led to his first visit, in May, 1974 when he described for us The Red River Campaign. Al's forthcoming appearance will focus on the exploits and foibles of Illinois officers, enlisted men, and units in Mississippi during the Civil War.

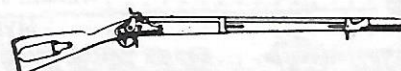
One of the important areas to be discussed will be the Grant-McClerland controversy. McClerland came to the Civil War as a political leader of the Democratic Party in the northwest. He was greatly involved in recruiting activities, in both Illinois and Indiana, and was a shrewd manipulator behind the scenes. Finally, in late 1862, he obtained orders from Lincoln for an attempt to capture Vicksburg. This fracturing of War Department plans, with its alienation of Grant and Sherman, was to lead to many complications during the Spring of 1863. The incident resulted in the traditional regular army response towards civilian interference, which was to complicate the final investment of Vicksburg.



Albert P. Scheller

Brief attention will be devoted to Grierson's Raid, which was coordinated with the grand movement upon Vicksburg so as to upset Confederate communications and draw rebel troops from the defense of the river city. Al also hopes to further our understanding of the little female soldier of the 95th Illinois Infantry Regiment as well as describing the exploits of several Illinois recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Fighting General Lawler, "a man of some consequence in his own estimation if not in others", will be vividly presented. General Lawler, the fighting Irishman from Shawneetown, Illinois had a good-size reputation. He was widely recognized by his blue checkered shirt and loose gray pantaloons, along with the battered hat beneath which pertruded a flaming red nose. His historic charge on May 17th at Big Black River was one of the great movements of the Civil War.

Among the units Al will mention is the Mississippi Marine Brigade, in his estimation one of the great maverick organizations in the Union Army. The contributions by the Illinois 33rd Infantry Regiment, will be examined. The 33rd, more commonly known as "the teacher's regiment", was originally raised on the campus of the Illinois State Normal School near Bloomington. Other highlights will include the



351st REGULAR MEETING

Albert P. Scheller

on

Illinois Officers and

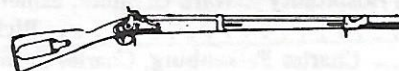
Units in Mississippi

Friday, May 14, 1976

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



At 5:00 P.M. on May 14, 1976, just prior to the regular meeting scheduled on that date, there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee at the Bar Association. Among the important items to be discussed will be the selection of the site of the 1977 Battlefield Tour, finalization of the plans for the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner, participation in the National Congress of Civil War Round Tables to be held in October, assistance in battlefield preservation projects, and a review of our financial statement. It is important that all current officers and trustees and past presidents attend this meeting.

46th Illinois Infantry Regiment and its humiliating embarrassment at Jetts Field, the 54th Infantry Regiment and its bloody furlough in Illinois, the "hard luck" of the 41st Illinois Infantry, and Chicago's Mercantile Battery and Battery "F", 2nd Illinois in their eye-ball confrontation at the Vicksburg seige line.

Al Scheller is a native of New Jersey. He recently retired to Florida after 22 years of service in the New York City Fire Department, including 14 as a marine pilot. During recent summers Al has served as seasonal historian at the Vicksburg National Military Park after having occupied a similar position for a brief period at the Carlsbad National Park. Besides his study of the Civil War, Al maintains an active interest in sports and performs volunteer work for the American Red Cross.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

OFFICERS

President	Gerald M. Edelstein
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Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

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Terms expiring in 1976: G. Paul Doucette, Donald E. Jensen, John G. Kaluf, Allen Meyer.

Terms expiring in 1977: John F. Scapin, Robert G. Walter, Glen N. Wiche, Edward J. Williams.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Battlefield Tour	Terry Carr, Irwin Levin, Henry Pomerantz
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Nominating	Charles Falkenburg, Charles D. Wesselhoeft
Research Center	Ralph G. Newman, Robert H. Franke, Brooks Davis

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



On Sunday, April 11, 1976 The Round Table dedicated the headstone for the grave of Capt. Marcellus E. Jones, 8th Illinois Cavalry, who fired the first shot at the Battle of Gettysburg. That the ceremony was a success is due to the efforts of many people to whom recognition must be given. First of all to the members of The Round Table and their families who supported the concept and then attended in large numbers on an unusually inclement day; then to S. Louis Rathje and to the other members of the Board of Trustees of Wheaton Cemetery who gave their consent to our proposal and waived several rules so as to make it possible; to Lt. Timothy C. Phillips and 5th Army Headquarters at Fort Sheridan for

providing a military honor guard and bugler; to Fred Kornick of Kornick Monument Co. for supplying the headstone and its installation; to Bob Hallwachs, reporter for the Aurora Beacon-News and great-grandson of the sergeant whose carbine Jones used to fire that immortal shot, for his fine article which resulted in much local attention; to our own member Bob Bermant for securing radio and television coverage of the dedication; to Mrs. Bruce Fraley for bringing to the ceremony the bugle used by her great-grandfather Morgan Huges, bugler of Jones' Company E, 8th Illinois Cavalry; and to the city officials of Wheaton for their assistance and participation.

As you can tell, events such as this are not the work of one man or one group. They require the efforts and time of many, but in the end it is well worth it. The question of "why bother?" might be asked by some and, if so, a response must be made. Your editor tried to give that answer in several articles in past issues of the Newsletter and, during the ceremony, in remarks detailing Jones' career. However, as we look back on our efforts we feel just as Edward Everett must have felt on November 20, 1863, the day after his two hour oration at Gettysburg.

The reason for that feeling is the words of Rev. Gene Winkler, pastor of the Community United Methodist Church in Naperville Illinois. Rev. Winkler, a former resident of Vicksburg and a fellow student of the Civil War, was kind enough to participate in the dedication program and delivered the closing prayer. As Lincoln did 113 years ago, it was his few simple words which gave to the ceremony its meaning and which reminded us of why we were there. For that we owe to Rev. Winkler probably the biggest "Thanks" of all, for he has, far better than we ever could, silenced any that might ask "why bother?" So that all might share his thoughts, we here repeat the prayer he so beautifully offered.

"O Almighty God,
For Marcellus Jones, we thank thee,
a man who lived an ordinary life well
with grace and dignity,
who answered when his country called,
who did his duty
to wife and child and community and nation.
For all like Capt. Jones,
we praise thee.
For men and women who are unsung heroes
because they live out their lives
not in drudgery
but in anticipation and hope and faith.
We mark his grave so that
ours and future
generations will remember the
cause in which he fought,
a free and undivided nation,
a land for black people and white people,
for immigrants and natives,
for people to speak their mind
and exercise their God-given rights.
But we also, o Lord, mark his
grave because he is one of us,
those persons who try to do what
we think best, who want to
leave our mark on the footnotes of history.
As thou didst bless Captain Jones
in this earthly life and we trust
have received him unto thyself again,
so we pray for thy blessing and
assurance that our plain existences
will not be lived out in beige, unmarked
landscapes, but in the hills and through
the valleys, so that we will be able to stand
before thee on that last day and hear thee say,
Well done, good and faithful servant.
Amen."

APRIL MEETING

"Has the study of the Civil War become an exhausted theme?" was the topic of the evening as The Round Table marked the occasion of its 350th regular meeting. Ninety-two members and guests were on hand to hear a distinguished quartet of Civil War historians deliver a unanimous negative answer to this thought-provoking issue. The panel was chaired by E.B. "Pete" Long, Civil War author and researcher and Associate Professor of History at the University of Wyoming, and also included John Y. Simon, Professor of History at Southern Illinois University and editor of the U.S. Grant papers, Ralph G. Newman, author, bookseller, and founder of The Round Table, and Marshall D. Krolick, editor of the Newsletter and author of the "Civil War Quiz" column in Civil War Times Illustrated.

Pete introduced the discussion with a reference to Dr. James G. Randall and Douglas S. Freeman, both of whom had addressed this subject by pointing to numerous unexplored areas. He then called upon Marshall who commented upon the prejudice shown by most authors, both in the immediate post-war period, as well as the first half of this century. He called for the modern writers to describe the events and personalities of 1861-1865 as they actually were and not as the legends demand that they be. Marshall also referred to what has always been to the Civil War student a dirty word, fiction. The recent Pulitzer Prize winning novel "The Killer Angels" was cited as a classic example that Civil War fiction need not be romantic trash. Well researched and written, this type of book can serve a definite purpose in providing diversion to the serious historian as well as an opening door to the beginner. Leaving the literary field momentarily, Marshall then called for renewed efforts in Battlefield preservation, as well as in interesting the young in the history of the Civil War.

Pete then returned to the podium to offer his own comments. He began by criticizing the policy of most academics who look upon mid-nineteenth century historians as beneath their ivy-bound dignity. He feels this attitude is produced by jealousy brought on by the popularity of Civil War books and classes. Pete set forth standards by which the future author must be guided if he is to match the excellence of many who have preceded him. He then went on to point out the many areas which demand further attention, such as biographies of Halleck, Sheridan, Meade, and Chase; military works on lesser known, but still important, battles, the quality of which would equal Coddington and Sword; and studies of such diverse topics as supply systems, arms manufacture, staff functions, and the contribution of blacks on the home front.

The next speaker was Ralph, who pointed out that despite the large number of Civil War books written, relatively few are deserving of reference by students. Although the public has become very discriminating in its search for quality, the publishing community has failed to recognize this and continues to turn out countless volumes which are justifiably ignored. There is one common thread which runs through all successful Civil War books, whether brand new or one hundred years old; they are all well written. Even in the booming reprint business, only those books of literary style and merit are popular, and then only if the editing and organization have been properly done. Ralph also called for a study of the effect of the Civil War on modern America, as well as a new series on the writings and speeches of Lincoln.

John concentrated his remarks on the many opportunities still available for editors. Among these are works on the correspondence of Robert E. Lee throughout his life, as well as the letters of Seward and Chase. He classified Sherman as the best letter writer of the Civil War period, but faulted the editing of both volumes containing his correspondence for leaving out the best parts. John also proposed projects such as the collected writings of blacks during the war, a revised approach to statistical analysis and its terminology, and competent psychiatric histories of the great leaders of the period, such as Lincoln.

TO THE CAMPFOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Reita Follett of Milwaukee, Wisconsin delivered a most informative talk on "Civil War Riots in Wisconsin" at the April meeting. A lively discussion period followed the address. Because so many members of The Round Table had given their wives glowing reports of Roger Holloway's speech on "Great Britain and the American Civil War," it was decided to play the tape of it as our May Program, instead of having a live speaker. We will meet again in the Little Corporal Restaurant, State and East Wacker Drive, with bar service beginning at 5:30 pm., to be followed by the running of the tape, and dinner. This promises to be a very interesting evening, so please join us and bring an interested friend. Add your reservation to your husband's card, or telephone Margaret April at 787-1860.

The SUTLER'S WAGON



WANTED: Richmond Civil War Centennial Committee Publications, Numbers 3-5, 7, 9, 14-16, 18-21, 23-25. Contact Glen Wiche, 655 Thornwood Drive, Naperville, Illinois 60540.

NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD DINNER

Award Presentation Honoring T. Harry Williams
Installation of Officers; Tour of Civil War Exhibit
Ladies Welcome
Chicago Historical Society and Germania Club
June 11, 1976

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At the April meeting, Charles Wesselhoeft and Charles Falkenberg, Co-Chairmen of the Nominating Committee, announced the following proposed slate of officers for the 1976-1977 year:

President	Terry Carr
Senior Vice-President	Myron Cohn
Vice President	Robert H. Franke
Vice President	Maurice Fisher
Secretary	William J. Sullivan
Treasurer	Irwin Levin
Assistant Secretary	Donald E. Anderson
Assistant Treasurer	James H. Huber
Trustee	John E. Comerford
Trustee	Raymond J. Jankovich, Jr.
Trustee	Hugh P. McAniff
Trustee	Marvin Sanderman

The election will be held during the May meeting, at which time additional nominations for any of the above offices may be made from the floor. Installation of the new officers will be part of the program at the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner on June 11th. Four current members of the Board of Trustees John F. Scapin, Robert G. Walter, Glen N. Wiche, and Edward J. Williams, will remain in office for the coming year as they complete their two-year terms.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Abraham, James. *With the Army of West Virginia, 1861-1864*. Reminiscences & Letters of Lt. James Abraham. Compiled by Evelyn Abraham Benson. Lancaster, Pa.: Evelyn A. Benson, 1974. Typescript reproductions and copies of newsprint bound in plastic ring-binder. \$15.00

Anderson, LaVere. *Mary Todd Lincoln, President's Wife*. Illustrated by Cary. Champaign, Ill.: Garrard Pub. Co., 1975. \$3.25. For young people.

Borer, Mary. *The American Civil War, 1861-1865*. Illustrated by Douglass Phillips. Guildford, England: Lutterworth Press, 1974. \$3.50. For young people.

Catton, Bruce. *Gettysburg: The Final Fury*. New York: Berkley Pub. Corp., 1976. Paperback \$3.95.

Crook, David Paul. *Diplomacy during the American Civil War*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1975. Paperback \$5.95. Based on the author's *The North, the South, and the Powers, 1861-1865*.

Fuld, George and Melvin Fuld. *U.S. Civil War Store Cards*. 2nd edition. Lawrence, Mass.: Quarterman Publications, c1975. \$35.00

Hunt, Christopher J. and G.A. Embleton. *The American Civil War*. New Malden, England: The Almark Pub. Co., 1974. \$7.25

Kunkel, Mabel. *Abraham Lincoln: Unforgettable American*. Lexington, Kentucky: The Republic Group, 1976. \$15.00

Lorant, Stefan. *The Life of Abraham Lincoln: A Short Illustrated Biography*. New York: Bantam Books, 1976 (c1954). Paperback \$1.95

Mohr, James C., editor. *Radical Republicans in the North: State Politics during Reconstruction*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, c1976. \$11.95

Nutt, Laetitia Lafon Ashmore. *Courageous Journey: The Civil War Journal of . . .* Edited with a foreword by Florence Ashmore Cowles Hamlett Martin. Miami, Florida: E.A. Seemann Pub., c1975. \$7.95

Rose, Willie Lee, editor. *A Documentary History of Slavery in North America*, edited with commentary by . . . New York: Oxford University Press, 1976. \$19.95

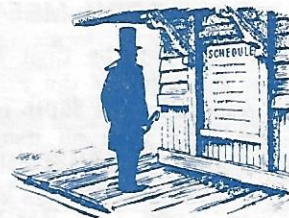
Plum, William R. *The Military Telegraph during the Civil War in the United States*. Introduction by Paul J. Schelps. New York: Arno Press, 1974. 2 vols. \$42.00

Sully, Langdon. *No Tears for the General: The Life of Alfred Sully, 1821-1879*. Palo Alto, Calif.: American West Publishing Co., 1974. \$9.95



From June 3rd to the 19th, 1976 in the Civic Reception Center of the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, there will be presented an exhibition entitled "The Little Giant: An Exhibition of Manuscripts, Printed Works and Memorabilia Reflecting the Life and Career of Stephen A. Douglas, Selected From Chicago Collections." On display will be items from the Douglas Collections of the Chicago Historical Society, Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago, The Newberry Library, Grand Army of the Republic Museum, Chicago Public Library, Mr. Ralph G. Newman, and Mr. Joseph L. Eisendrath. A catalog of the entire exhibition will be available.

The 9th annual reenactment of the Battle of New Market will take place at 2 o'clock p.m. on Sunday, May 9, 1976, at the New Market Battlefield Park in Virginia. Last year 360 participants took part and over 7,000 spectators were present.



BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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

May 14: Albert P. Scheller on "Illinois Officers and Units 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.

NEW MEMBERS

Eugene V. Diggins, 1221 West Arthur Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60626

George M. Egart, 202 North Merrill Avenue, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068

Thomas A. Orlando, 1100 North Dearborn, Apt. 1812, Chicago, Illinois 60610

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Raymond J. Jankovich, Jr., 1132 Hinswood Drive, Darien, Illinois 60559

Malcolm Macht, 1306 West Colter, Phoenix, Arizona 85013

David C. Mearns, 4800 Fillmore Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22311

ROUND TABLE CONGRESS RESET

Because of scheduling requirements, the dates for the Second Annual National Civil War Round Table Congress have been changed to October 21-23, 1976. The site of the Congress will be the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. A fine program of outstanding speakers seminars, and battlefield tours is being assembled by National Chairman Jerry Russell. The principal address at the concluding banquet will be delivered by our own founder Ralph G. Newman. Additional details will be announced in the June issue of the Newsletter, but all members of The Round Table who can possibly attend this important meeting should set aside the dates now.

It is with deep sadness that we must announce the death of two long and respected members of The Round Table. William Plank of Marlboro, New York died on February 17, 1976 at the age of seventy-nine. A former newspaperman, Will served as a correspondent at Pershing's headquarters during World War I. He was a life-long student of the Civil War and his book "Banners and Bugles", a record of Ulster County, N.Y. during the war, is described in "Civil War Books" as a superior work of its type. Stanley J. Kearney of Chicago passed away on April 13, 1976. Although in his eighties, Stan was a regular attendant at meetings and on our Battlefield Tours. A past officer of The Round Table, Stan was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in 1974 in recognition of his devoted service. The fellowship and knowledge of each of these fine men will be sorely missed by all of us.