

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVI, Number 10

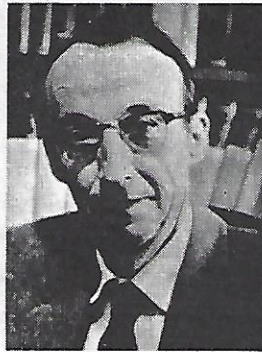
Chicago, Illinois

June, 1976

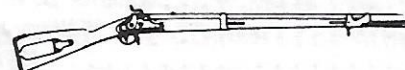
## DR. T. HARRY WILLIAMS TO RECEIVE NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD—JUNE 11, 1976

On Friday, June 11, 1976, Dr. T. Harry Williams will be with us to receive The Round Table's highest honor, the Nevins-Freeman Award. This accolade, given to those individuals who have made distinguished contributions to our study and knowledge of the history and heritage of the Civil War, has been presented to Bruce Catton and Ralph G. Newman in past years.

The achievements of Drs. Nevins and Freeman and their relationships to The Round Table are well-known to all. Indeed, the traditions they established take the measure of most of us. It is a rare scholar who can equal their standards, but without question T. Harry Williams is such a man. He has been Boyd Professor of History at Louisiana State University since 1953 and is the author of many excellent books on topics as diverse as Lincoln and his generals, radicals, Rutherford B. Hayes, Pierre G. T. Beauregard, Southern politics, and Huey Long. Harry, an Honorable Life Member of The Round Table, began his career as a student of Bill Hesselbine at the University of Wisconsin. In 1959, he was president of the Southern Historical Society, in 1966-67 was Harnsworth Professor at Oxford University in England, and in 1970 was the recipient of a Pulitzer Prize for his brilliant biography of Huey Long. Harry is equally at ease on either side of the conflict, being a native of Illinois and maintaining a summer home in Wisconsin in addition to his residency in Baton Rouge.



Dr. T. Harry Williams



352th REGULAR MEETING  
LADIES WELCOME

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NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD DINNER  
HONORING

DR. T. HARRY WILLIAMS

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INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

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FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1976

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CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
CLARK AT NORTH — 5:15 P.M.

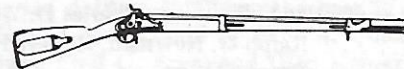
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GERMANIA CLUB

108 W. GERMANIA PLACE

Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7:45 p.m.



Special reservation forms for the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner are enclosed with this Newsletter. Send in reservations promptly with check for \$14.00 per person. Ladies and guests are welcome, but be sure to include their names on the reservation card.

Southern politics, the Navy, and many others.

At approximately 6:30 p.m. we will leave the Historical Society for a short walk to the elegant Germania Club, which is located at 108 W. Germania Place. A tour of this historic structure will be conducted for us by Walter Heurich, a past president of the Germania Club. Following the tour and our traditional Command Post (cash bar), we will sit down to a fine dinner featuring wine and traditional German dishes.

Thereafter, the meeting itself will begin with the installation of the new slate of officers, headed by incoming president Terry Carr. Following the presentation of the Nevins-Freeman Award to Dr. Williams, he will address us on "Why I Am Fascinated With The Civil War, or The Confessions Of An Addict". All of those who have been present when Harry has spoken to us in the past, and are thus familiar with his inimitable style and brand of humor, will anticipate with pleasure his remarks on a topic we can all certainly relate to. A reservation form for this fine evening is enclosed and it is requested that you enclose payment with your reservation. The cost is fourteen dollars per person and, of course, ladies are most welcome and invited.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

## OFFICERS

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Senior Vice President . . . . . Terry Carr  
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Terms expiring in 1977: John F. Scapin, Robert G. Walter, Glen N. Wiche, Edward J. Williams.

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Membership and Hospitality . . . . . Ward C. Smidl, Elmer Pendarvis  
House . . . . . Richard Percy  
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*



Last year about this time a gentleman had an idea. Like most ideas, and because similar ideas had failed in the past, his idea was criticized and a great many believed that it too would prove unsuccessful. However, much to his credit, that man refused to give up. He spent many, many hours of his time and a great deal of his own money to promote his idea. Gradually, the people he contacted began to also believe and the idea took root, flourished and, to the surprise of those who had scoffed, it worked.

As you might have guessed, the man is Jerry Russell and his idea is a National Congress of Civil War Round Tables. That idea grew out of the same frustration felt by all of us in the

past as we have seen the battlefields of the Civil War desecrated by commercial developers ignorant of the national heritage they were destroying. Jerry too saw the feeble opposition mounted by the individual Round Tables to these incursions and realized that only in unity is there hope of preventing on other hallowed fields what has happened at Gettysburg and Atlanta.

That first Congress, held last fall in Manassas, attracted nearly two hundred people representing twenty-seven Round Tables. In addition to the main theme of battlefield preservation, meetings were also held on the effective administration of Round Tables. With the same goals before him, Jerry Russell is already hard at work organizing and planning the Second Congress. The success of 1975 is behind him. He is more than entitled to the assistance of every one of us to insure that 1976 will be even bigger and better and thus, and most important, more effective.

The Second Congress will be held October 21-23, 1976, at the Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The speaker at the concluding banquet on October 23 will be our own founder and Nevins-Freeman Award recipient, Ralph G. Newman. Among the many other prominent speakers who will address the meetings are Francis Wilshin, Jay Luvaas, Harry Pfanz, Robert Meinhard, and B. Franklin Cooling. Seminars on battlefield preservation will include current status reports on the Atlanta Cyclorama, Hancock's Tomb, Manassas, Petersburg, and other threatened areas. An activities panel will focus on such topics as relic hunting and reenactment groups. In addition to a tour of the Military History Research Collection and Omar Bradley Museum at the War College, there will also be a bus tour to Antietam lead by our own Honorary Life Member and Chief Guide Edwin C. Bearss. For those who wish to stay an extra day, there may be a tour to Gettysburg on Sunday, the 24th.

As you can see, it is a schedule of both work and enjoyment. Registration fee, including the banquets and Antietam tour, is \$76.00 per person if paid by September 15th, \$85.00 thereafter. Lodging is additional but is available at the Penn Ram Motel in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and there will be bus service from that motel to the War College.

Anyone desiring further information, please contact either your Editor or Jerry Russell, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72207. As we have said many times before in this column, the conflict of 1861-1865 is being waged again, only this time the goal is battlefield preservation. As our forefathers did, it is time to answer the call to arms. The fight begins with your support of the National Congress of Civil War Round Tables. Our Round Table was the first to be formed and, if we are to continue this role of leadership, we must have proper representation in Carlisle. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend so that Jerry Russell's idea will continue to grow. Only in this way is there hope to preserve for those who follow us those places which mean so much to the history of our country.

## SUMMER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President-elect Terry Carr has announced that the Summer Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 17, 1976. The exact time and place have not as yet been determined, but all members of the Executive Committee will be notified by mail. Among the important items on the agenda are the consideration of a dues increase, selection of a site for our regular meetings, participation by The Round Table in the National Civil War Round Table Congress, and further planning for the Research Center. Many of these issues are vital to the future growth of our organization and so all current officers, trustees and committee chairmen and all past presidents are urged to attend.

## MAY MEETING

Sixty-seven members and guests were on hand on May 14, 1976 to recount the highlights of the recently completed Battlefield Tour and to welcome back an old friend, Al Scheller, for his second appearance before us. After the election of officers, in which the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee was accepted unanimously, Al began his spirited remarks on "Illinois Officers and Units in Mississippi" by referring to the common link between the two states, the Illinois Central Railroad. Many of the Mississippi railroads of the 1860's, which are now part of the Illinois Central system, were the targets of Grierson's Raid in the spring of 1863. This cavalry foray, called by Sherman the most brilliant of its type during the war, was spearheaded by Grierson, an Illinois music teacher, and the 6th and 7th Illinois Cavalry regiments. Designed to confuse and disrupt Confederate plans as Grant moved on Vicksburg, the raid was highly successful as it pulled the rebel cavalry away from the Grand Gulf area and caused the dispersment of the reserves Pemberton had built up at the Big Black.

Al then reminded us that of the 77,000 federal troops before Vicksburg on July 1, 1863, 36,000 were from Illinois. These included fifteen brigade commanders and four division commanders, as well as Grant and McClelland. The latter, of course, was the Illinois Democratic politician who had persuaded Lincoln to authorize him to raise an army for an independent campaign against the citadel on the river. However, Halleck and Stanton allowed the troops to be absorbed into Grant's army and, much to McClelland's disgust, he was relegated to the role of a corps commander. In this capacity he rendered surprisingly effective duty, but his constant fighting with Grant and insubordinate attitude culminated in his bombastic press release following the Vicksburg assault of May 22, 1863. Grant seized upon the opportunity presented by this document, which praised McClelland's corps to the degradation of others, and removed the troublesome political general.

Among other generals discussed for us by Al were John Logan, Michael Lawlor and Jacob Lauman. Logan was probably the most successful non-professional soldier in the Union Army, rising to corps and, for a time, army command. Lawlor was a huge, extremely colorful man who, without orders, led his brigade in an impetuous attack which spearheaded the federal victory at the Big Black. Lauman, a division leader at Jackson, has the misfortune to misinterpret orders, causing him to direct his Illinois troops into a suicidal charge. For this he was relieved and sent home.

Al also touched upon the feats of several Illinois soldiers who received the Medal of Honor. One of these was Sgt. T.J. Higgins of the 99th Illinois. During the May 22 attack on the 2nd Texas Lunette at Vicksburg, Sgt. Higgins kept going when the rest of his regiment stopped, reached the rebel works and there planted his flag. However, being unsupported, he was soon captured. Not a Medal of Honor winner, but certainly an interesting character was Private Albert D.J. Cashier of the 95th Illinois. This soldier put in three years of hard service, including much combat at Vicksburg, Nashville, Brice's Crossroads, and during the Red River and Mobile campaigns. Not until an automobile accident in 1911 revealed the facts was it learned that Private Cashier was actually a woman whose real name was Jennie Hodges. However, the official records, the Illinois monument at Vicksburg and her headstone all still list her as Albert D.J. Cashier.

Al concluded by recounting the experiences of several outstanding Illinois units. Among these were the "college student" regiment, the 33rd Illinois; the 56th Illinois which lost 195 men when their transport burned and sank off the North Carolina coast; the 54th Illinois which was attacked by Copperheads while on leave in Charleston, Illinois; and, of course, the famous Mississippi Marine Brigade, Illinois soldiers formed into a special unit to fight guerrillas along the river.

## TO THE CAMPFOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Due to several cases of illness and Battlefield Tour fatigue, it unfortunately became necessary to cancel the May meeting. The program that was to be heard, the tape of Roger Holloway's talk on "Great Britain and the American Civil War", will be rescheduled for a future meeting in the Fall. In June we will, of course, be joining with the gentlemen of The Round Table for their annual Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers, which is described elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter. In addition to the other festivities of the evening, we will have the opportunity to view the elegant furnishings of the Germania Club, one of the most historic buildings in Chicago.

## MAY 14TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

At its meeting on May 14th, just prior to the regularly scheduled meeting, the Executive Committee selected Middle Tennessee as the locale of the 1977 Battlefield Tour. Proposed sites to be visited include Nashville, Fort Donelson, Stone's River, Franklin, Columbia, Spring Hill, and The Hermitage. Among other business conducted, a resolution was passed that any new members joining after January 31 in any year will pay only a half year's dues. If they join after April 30, they will pay a full year's dues, but the payment will be applied to the following year. This formalizes a practice unofficially in effect for some time. Committees were appointed to study a possible change in meeting sites for next year and the feasibility of a Fall, 1976 weekend tour to Galena. Also discussed were the Treasurer's Report and the correspondence between The Round Table and the Chicago Public Library which sets forth the agreement regarding the Research Center. There will be a full discussion of the latter in the September Newsletter.

It is our sad duty to announce the passing of Round Table Members Roy F. Nebert and Bernard A. Quish and Honorary Life Members Fred C. Evers and Otto Kerner. Mr. Evers was one of the original founders of The Round Table.

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As part of the nation's Bicentennial Celebration, on July 4, 1976 there will be a reenactment of the battle of Gettysburg, sponsored by the town's Travel Council. At least 1,000 participants are expected to take part. Among the activities, in addition to the actual reenactment, will be a recreated Civil War campsite, musket and cannon firing demonstrations, a military drill competition, an 1860's fashion show, parades, fireworks, and a military ball. Further information can be obtained by writing the Travel Council at Department 1863, 35 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

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Representative Paul Findlay, of Illinois, has introduced a bill in Congress to provide 1.2 million dollars to help develop the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield. The home, which was first declared a national historic site in 1971, has undergone extensive renovation since that time. However, the initial Congressional appropriation has been more than used up by rising costs and land acquisition delays. Thus, as Mr. Findlay pointed out, the additional funds are required in order to complete the restoration of the site. Future plans include the proposed repurchase of various items of furniture owned by the Lincolns when they resided in Springfield. This furniture is now the property of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, but is for sale.

# THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Bauer, Charles J. *So I Killed Lincoln. John Wilkes Booth.* New York: Vantage Press, 1976. \$6.50

Brown, Richard M. *Strain of Violence: Historical Studies of American Violence and Vigilantism.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1975. \$13.95. On extralegal violence of Civil War era.

Douglas, Henry Kyd. *I Rode with Stonewall.* Atlanta: Mockingbird Books, 1976. Paperback \$1.95

Faulk, Odie B. *The U.S. Camel Corps. An Army Experiment.* 40 half-tones. New York: Oxford University Press, 1976. \$9.75

Ferris, Norman B. *Desperate Diplomacy: William H. Seward's Foreign Diplomacy, 1861.* Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975. \$12.95

Forbes, Edwin. *Life Studies of the Great Army.* San Francisco: Dunderave, Ltd., 1975. 40 etchings in portfolio, boxed, index with descriptive story of each etching. \$77.00

Franklin, John Hope. *A Southern Odyssey.* Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1976. \$12.50

Gibson, Dennis A., editor. *Index to Louisiana Place Names Mentioned in the War of the Rebellion [Official Records].* Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1975. \$15.00

Gutman, Herbert G. *Slavery and the Numbers Game: A Critique of Time on the Cross.* Urbana; University of Illinois Press, 1975. \$7.95; paper \$2.95.

Jordan, William B., Jr., compiler. *Maine in the Civil War. A Bibliographical Guide.* Portland: The Maine Historical Society, 1976.

Meckler, Alan M., editor. *The Draft and its Enemies: A Documentary History.* Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1975. \$10.00

Monjo, F.N. *Gettysburg:* Illustrated by Douglas Gorsline. New York: Windmill Books, 1975. \$7.95. Juvenile fiction.

Murfin, James V. *The Gleam of Bayonets: Battle of Antietam and the Maryland Campaign of 1862.* Atlanta: Mockingbird Books, 1976. Paper \$1.95. Hardcover appearance in 1965.

Fishel, Leslie and Benjamin Quarles. *The Black American: A Documentary History.* Glenview, Ill.: Scott, Foresman, 1976. Paper \$8.50

Spears, Jack. *The Civil War on the Screen, and Other Essays.* South Brunswick, N.J.: A.S. Barnes, 1975. \$17.50

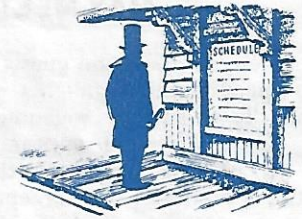
*The Times Reports the American Civil War.* Extracts from The Times, 1860-1865. Introduced and edited by Hugh Brogan. Preface by Colin Bell. London: Times Newspapers, 1975. \$8.50



On May 15, 1976, the Sons of Confederate Veterans held their annual Memorial day services at Oxford College, Oxford, Georgia. The services, which honor Confederate soldiers and veterans of all wars, were jointly sponsored by the Kennesaw Camp and James W. Longstreet Camp of the Sons and the Alfred Holt Colquitt Junior Chapter of the Children of the Confederacy.

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In 1915, the Government began a system of licensing battlefield guides at Gettysburg. One of that original group of guides, Ralph Butt, is still conducting tours of points of interest on the battlefield. However, despite his 60 years of service, Mr. Butt is not the oldest guide. That distinction belongs to 93 year old J. Guy Wolf. Mr. Wolf, a retired high school teacher, receives \$8.00 for a two hour trip in the visitor's car.



# BULLETIN BOARD

## FUTURE MEETINGS

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

June 11: Ladies Night. Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers. Recipient of Award: T. Harry Williams. Chicago Historical Society and Germania Club.

June 17: Executive committee meeting. 11:00 A.M. Location to be announced.

September 10: Joseph P. Cullen on "The Battle of Cold Harbor."

October 8: William W. Hassler on "The Haunting Mystery of A.P. Hill."

November 12: Brooks Davis — Topic to be announced.

December 10: Robert Orr Baker on "The Battle of Brices Cross Roads — June 10, 1864".

January 14: Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. on "Lee and Jackson: The Confederacy's Premier Team".

February 11: To be announced.

March 11: Dr. William E. Parrish on "The Bohemian Brigade: The East Covers the War in Missouri in 1861".

April 8: Elden E. (Josh) Billings on "Sherman: A Critical Character Sketch".

May 4-8: Annual Battlefield Tour to Middle Tennessee.

May 13: Dr. Richard J. Sommers on "Petersburg".

June 10: Ladies night, Nevins-Freeman award dinner and installation of officers.

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

Our own member, and past president of the St. Louis Round Table, Lowell Reidenbaugh, has been designated an Honorary Kentucky Colonel. The certificate, evidencing this appointment by Kentucky Governor Julian M. Carroll, was delivered to Lowell at a meeting of the St. Louis Round Table by Bud Robertson. Editorial courtesy prevents any further comment on this appointment, but we would be interested in ascertaining the criteria and qualifications for this office.

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Those who were present on the 1975 Battlefield Tour to Richmond will recall our Fun Night presentation by Harold E. Howard, who brilliantly portrays a Confederate cavalry trooper returning home after Appomattox. Since his appearance before us, Mr. Howard has been kept quite busy entertaining other Round Tables. Recent appearances have included Louisville, Milwaukee, District of Columbia, and St. Louis. Reports indicate that all of these groups as thoroughly delighted with Mr. Howard as we were. We highly recommend his program to all other Round Tables. He can be contacted through the National Park Service headquarters at Appomattox.

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The former Decatur home of Illinois Governor, Richard J. Oglesby, has been acquired by the Macon County Conservation District for restoration. This house was built in approximately 1873 by Oglesby, who had served as a general in the Union Army prior to his election as governor in 1864.