

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVII, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June 1977

## LLOYD D. MILLER TO RECEIVE NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD

In 1974 The Civil War Round Table inaugurated its Annual Nevins-Freeman Award with a dinner honoring the first distinguished recipient of this honor, Bruce Catton. Named for Allan Nevins (1890-1971) and Douglas Southall Freeman (1886-1953), both honorary life members of this organization, the Award was created to recognize those individuals who, by their scholarship or dedication to the ideals and traditions of our country, North and South, had made major contributions toward an understanding of the past and particularly the four years of our history upon which The Civil War Round Table has focused its interest. In 1975, the recipient of the Nevins-Freeman Award was Ralph G. Newman, who was one of our founders and who has been, through his writings, speeches, and generous counsel, the bulwark of The Round Table since its creation. Last year, the indefatigable T. Harry Williams honored us by allowing us to honor him. A brilliant teacher, a superb scholar, and a delightful human being, T. Harry exemplifies the criteria established by The Round Table in creating the Award.

The 1977 recipient of the Nevins-Freeman Award will be our own member and past-president Lloyd D. Miller. A member of The Round Table since April 23, 1941, the date of the fifth meeting, Lloyd has not only served the organization in numerous capacities, but has consistently been the prime benefactor in any project designed to further the study of the events of 1861-1865. All of those who have been assisted in the past by our scholarship program or who will benefit in the future from the facilities of our Research Center owe to him a debt of gratitude that can never adequately be repaid.

Lloyd D. Miller was born in St. Louis, Missouri on October 9, 1899. He attended New York Military Academy, Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York (near West Point) and is a graduate of that institution. During World War I he served with the 135th Aero Squadron, many of whose members had served with the Lafayette Esquadron prior to the United States entry into the war in 1917. After the armistice he became associated with his father in the Washington Insurance Company in Louisville. When that company merged with the National Insurance Company, he came to Chicago and worked for the firm from 1923 to 1927 when he founded his own business, the Lloyd Miller Agency.

In addition to speaking appearances before The Round Table on four occasions, Lloyd has also addressed other Round Tables twenty-seven times. He is recognized as one of the foremost authorities on the Battle of Franklin and his speeches on this significant and very bloody encounter between North and South have been among the most exciting



Lloyd D. Miller



362nd REGULAR MEETING  
LADIES WELCOME

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NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD DINNER  
HONORING  
LLOYD D. MILLER

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INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

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FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1977

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CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY CULTURAL CENTER  
PRESTON BRADLEY HALL, THIRD FLOOR  
CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
WASHINGTON AT MICHIGAN  
COCKTAILS AT 6:00 P.M. DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.

Cost of the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner will be \$15.00 per person and, of course, ladies are welcome. Special invitations and reservation forms have been received by all in the mail. Please send in your reservations promptly, as the available facilities may compel us to limit the number in attendance.

and informative in Civil War Round Table history. He has also given Civil War talks to over one hundred other organizations, including schools, colleges, Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, and Optimists Clubs, trade and professional associations, American Legion chapters, Knights of Columbus, Masonic Lodges and Chapters, National Sojourners, and churches.

Lloyd has been elected an honorary life member of five Civil War Round Tables including, of course, our own. He has also been a member of the Board of Trustees of Lincoln Memorial University since June 23, 1969, as well as president of the Kiwanis Club of Rogers Park; Most Excellent High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, State of Illinois, an early member of the Northbrook Sports Club, and founder (with Norman Ross, senior) of the Polar Bears Club. His interest in American history extends far beyond the Civil War and includes a superb library devoted to all of the Presidents of the United States and their contemporaries.

The dinner and ceremonies, during which Lloyd will be honored, will take place in the magnificent Preston Bradley Hall of the newly restored Chicago Public Library Cultural Center. The program will also include, in addition to Lloyd's acceptance remarks, the installation of officers for our 1977-1978 year and a film review of past battlefield tours. The latter, narrated by Lloyd in his own inimitable style, should be a truly nostalgic highlight to be remembered by all long after this gala evening is over.



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

## OFFICERS

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  
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Contributing Editor ..... Richard E. Clark  
Assistant Editor ..... Robert H. Franke  
Inspector General ..... Charles D. Wesselhoeft  
Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

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

Terms expiring in 1978: John E. Comerford, Raymond J. Jankovich, Jr., Hugh P. McAniff, Marvin Sanderman.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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Hospitality ..... Robert H. Franke  
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House ..... Richard J. Percy, Merlin E. Sumner  
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Battlefield Tour ..... Gordon Whitney, Myron Cohn,  
William J. Sullivan  
Research Center .... Ralph G. Newman, Robert H. Franke,  
Brooks Davis  
Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner ..... Gerald M. Edelstein,  
Merlin E. Sumner  
Battlefield Preservation ..... Marvin Sanderman

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.



The Tenth Annual Historic Homes Tour, sponsored by the Galena Historical Society, will be held in Galena on June 11, and 12, 1977. At least five private homes with extensive historical background will be visited during the tour. These homes are not normally open to the public. Other attractions scheduled during the two-day event include a Saturday night Lamplight Tour of the Ulysses S. Grant home, a special film presentation on the history of Galena, and a farmer's market. Further information can be obtained directly from the Galena Historical Society.

## May Executive Committee Meeting

In addition to selecting the site of the 1978 Battlefield Tour, as is reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Executive Committee, at its meeting held just prior to the regularly scheduled May meeting of The Round Table, also discussed a proposal to raise the dues effective immediately. A decision on this was tabled for resolution at the Summer Executive Committee Meeting and, in the interim, President-elect Myron Cohn will appoint a budget committee to thoroughly study The Round Table's financial situation. Their report will provide a basis for the decision to be reached at the summer meeting. Based upon that decision, the dues bills for the 1977-1978 year will be mailed immediately after July 16, 1977. Also reviewed was the fund raising campaign for the Research Center which, at this time, appears to be lagging behind schedule. This matter also will be a prime issue on the agenda for the summer meeting and it would appear that it is time for a complete revamping of the fund raising procedure. A motion to engage the services of professional fund raisers was defeated, as it is the feeling of the Executive Committee that we can accomplish our purpose with renewed efforts and without external assistance. The other item of discussion was the question of opening the membership in The Round Table to ladies and this matter was also tabled for further discussion, and hopefully a final resolution, at the Summer Executive Committee Meeting. Any members having opinions on this volatile question should communicate their position to members of the Executive Committee so that their feelings can be expressed during the discussion to be had on July 16.

## 1978 Battlefield Tour

At its meeting on May 13, 1977, the Executive Committee chose, by a very close vote, the Fredericksburg, Virginia area as the site of the 1978 Battlefield Tour. Proposed stops include Fredericksburg, Wilderness, Chancellorsville, Cedar Mountain, Brandy Station, Bristoe Station, and Aldie. Tentative dates for the tour are May 3-7, 1978. The tour chairmen will be selected in the near future by President-elect Myron Cohn and further details will be announced as plans are finalized.

## Summer Executive Committee Meeting

President-elect Myron Cohn has announced that the Summer Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 16, 1977. The agenda, which includes discussion of a possible dues increase, clearly indicates that this will be one of the most vital meetings in the history of The Round Table, so all incoming officers, directors, and committee chairmen, as well as all past-presidents, are urged to reserve this date and to plan to attend. Notice of the exact time and place of the meeting will be sent out by special mailing.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has announced that it has recovered Confederate President Jefferson Davis' meerschaum pipe and case, which were recently stolen from a display case at the Casement Museum at Fort Monroe, Virginia on May 9, 1977. The items were recovered from a private individual in Augusta, Georgia. No arrests have been, as yet, made, but the investigation is continuing. It was at Fort Monroe that Mr. Davis was held prisoner for a time after his capture at the end of the war. In another matter related to him, the United States Senate Judiciary Committee has approved a bill to restore citizenship to Mr. Davis. This action was taken without dissent following a speech by Mississippi Senator James O. Eastland, who noted in his remarks that Congress had passed in 1976 a bill to restore the citizenship of Robert E. Lee.



## May Meeting

The program of the May meeting began, after various announcements, with the election of officers for our 1977-1978 year. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee was approved unanimously and our new leaders will be installed during the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner in June.

With the official business concluded, the fifty-eight members and guests present were treated to a spirited review by Dr. Richard J. Sommers of Grant's efforts to extend his Petersburg lines in the fall of 1864. Dr. Sommers, Archivist-Historian of the U.S. Army Military Research Collection at the Army War College, began his remarks by describing the Siege of Petersburg as the longest (nine and one-half months) and one of the most decisive campaigns of the Civil War. He pointed out that most historians, in discussing this period of the war, have concentrated on the questions of the first four days, such as Grant's stealing a march on Lee, Baldy Smith's lost opportunity, and the actual contribution of Beauregard, or on such subsequent military curiosities as the Battle of the Crater and the Beefsteak Raid. However, Dr. Sommers feels that the truly important events of the Siege were the battles around Peeble's Farm in late September and early October.

By September, 1864, the federal forces had cut the Weldon Railroad, leaving the Southside Railroad, which entered Petersburg from the southwest, as the city's only remaining rail link with the southern Confederacy. At this time, Grant had one hundred two thousand men, of which seventy-five thousand were in the Petersburg lines. To oppose him, Lee had fifty-three thousand, with thirty-seven thousand of that total in the city's trenches. The Union left flank was at Globe Tavern on the Weldon Railroad.

Grant originally planned his move toward the Southside Railroad and the equally important Boydton Plank Road for October 5, with a cooperating diversionary attack on Wilmington. However, excellent intelligence work by Butler discovered a weakness in the Confederate lines north of the James, so Grant shifted his diversionary attack to that point and moved his target date up to September 29. The attack north of the James began on schedule and penetrated the Confederates' outer works. However there it ground to a halt. Meanwhile, for some unexplained reason, there was little movement on the 29th on the federal left, the area of the main assault. That night Lee sent ten thousand men northward to assist in repelling Butler, and then followed the reinforcements himself, leaving A. P. Hill in charge of the Petersburg lines. Meade, not aware that Lee had weakened his force in the trenches, recommended that the movement on the left be cancelled, but Grant, intent on maintaining pressure and cutting at least the Boydton Plank Road, if not the railroad itself, ordered the attack to go forward the next day.

On the 30th, the federals, with twenty-four thousand troops, moved against the vital road intersection near Peeble's Farm, which led to the Boydton Plank Road. However, Warren, in the lead, was delayed by his own caution and the logistical bottleneck of a single road and took two hours to travel one mile. Upon meeting the Confederate pickets, the northerners stopped to deploy and this consumed another two hours. Finally in position by 1:00 P.M., Griffin's division stormed the Confederate works and routed the defenders. The way to the Boydton Plank Road was wide open. However, instead of advancing, and in the absence of Meade, the federals stopped to rest and establish a defense perimeter. Finally, at 2:45 Meade arrived and ordered the troops forward.

Parke, in his first battle at the head of the 9th Corps, moved out too cautiously and stopped when he met the divisions of Heth and Wilcox and the cavalry of Rooney Lee, all rushed to the danger point by Hill. Parke then attacked but with only twelve hundred out of an available twenty thousand men and he was crushed. The Confederates counter-attacked and regained much of what they had lost. The lines finally stabilized as night fell with the Union holding the Peeble's Farm intersection. Again, Meade did not want to renew the attack on October 1, but Grant ordered him to do so. However,

## To The Campfollowers (Ladies)

Because our ranks were decimated by personal and family illness, college graduations, and late returns from a great Battlefield Tour, it was necessary to cancel the May meeting. There will not be a June meeting because we will be joining the men of The Round Table at the Annual Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner. Dr. George J. Fleming has indicated that he will be with us in September to talk on "After The War: Reconstruction." Be sure to watch for the September Newsletter because there is a very strong possibility that the location of our meeting will be changed with the beginning of the new season.

On July 3, 1861, after having been appointed colonel of the 21st Illinois Infantry, Ulysses S. Grant took his first step on the road to Appomattox by marching his regiment from Camp Yates in Springfield toward Naples, Illinois. The regiment and its new commander arrived at the latter town, located on the Illinois River, on July 6, having marched a total of 53 miles. Several downstate Illinois organizations have recently announced a coordinated effort to raise the estimated \$3,200.00 necessary to erect historical markers along the route of march. The signs have been designed by a noted Lincoln artist, Dr. Lloyd Ostendorf, pursuant to a commission authorized by Mrs. John Mack, Sr. of Springfield. The original artwork prepared by Dr. Ostendorf will be donated to the Lincoln Library when the project is completed. The signs are to be in place by June 1, 1977, and a dedication pilgrimage will be held from June 9 through June 12. The route and events of the march have been documented by Dr. Wayne Temple and Dr. Thomas Kremm of the Illinois State Archives, with the assistance of several Civil War and Grant historians. Anyone wishing to contribute to this worthy project can send donations to Mr. Phil Wagner, 2801 South 6th, Springfield, Illinois 62703.

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The Will Leonard Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, has been formed to perpetuate the many, and varied, interests of the late Chicago Tribune Columnist and beloved Round Table member. Funds raised by the Foundation will be used to further the projects of the Chicago Historical Society and other appropriate institutions. Anyone wishing to donate to the Foundation or to join in its work can write to The Will Leonard Foundation in care of The Marina City Bank, 300 North State Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

Warren and Parke had apparently had enough and, while there was heavy fighting that day, they dragged their feet and little was gained. A Confederate infantry counter-attack was repulsed and federal cavalry, under Gregg, defeated an attempted flank attack by Hampton.

On October 2, the Union commanders reversed their position as Meade, with reinforcements arriving, wished to continue the assault. Grant was reluctant to do so, but acceded to Meade's wishes. As the troops advanced, they found the Confederate lines empty. Unaware that Hill had unexpectedly pulled back to Petersburg, Meade was puzzled. Fearing the unknown, he cancelled the attack and pulled back to his defensive position at Peeble's Farm. Hill realized his mistake and rushed his men back to the lines in front of the Boydton Plank Road. The action at Peeble's Farm was over. For the rest of the year, Grant and Meade used the position they had gained as a jumping off point for further assaults against the railroad. Hill, by his determined defense, had won the Confederacy another six months of life.



## THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Connelly, Thomas L. *The Marble Man: Robert E. Lee and His Image in American Society*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1977. \$10.00.

Hill, Jim D. *The Civil War Sketchbook of Charles Ellery Stedman, Surgeon, United States Navy*. San Rafael, Calif.: Presidio Press, 1976. \$25.00

Hobbs, Ralph L. *The Fate of the Two Confederate Wagon Trains of Gold*. Winnsboro, South Carolina: Ralph L. Hobbs, 1976. \$10.00. 125 copies

Jewell, Carey. *Harvest of Death: A Detailed Account of the Army of Tennessee at the Battle of Franklin*. Hicksville, New York: Exposition Press. \$5.00

*Military Analysis of the Civil War: An Anthology* by the editors of Military Affairs. Introduction by T. Harry Williams. Millwood, New York: KTO Press, 1977. \$15.00

Parks, Joseph H. *Joseph E. Brown of Georgia*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1977. \$35.00

Robertson, James I., Jr. and Richard M. McMurry, editors. *Rank and File: Civil War Essays in Honor of Bell Irvin Wiley*. San Rafael, Calif.: Presidio Press, 1976. \$8.95

Scrugham, Mary. *Peaceable Americans of 1860-1861. A Study in Public Opinion*. New York: Octagon, 1971. \$9.00. Reprint of 1921 publication.

Smith, Merritt Roe. *Harpers Ferry Armory and the New Technology: The Challenge of Change*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1977. \$15.00

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On May 12, 1977, a rare signed photograph of a beardless Abraham Lincoln was sold at auction for \$4,000.00 in the Charles Hamilton Galleries, New York City, New York. This photograph, taken by a Springfield photographer in 1858, is only the seventh known picture of Lincoln without a beard. The purchaser was a New York City collector of Lincolnia.

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On May 16, 1977, Round Table Member Dr. John Hope Franklin, prominent author and professor of history at the University of Chicago, received an honorary doctoral degree during the 276th Commencement exercises at Yale University.

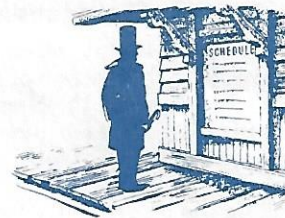
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After a three-year restoration project, which cost approximately \$250,000.00, the two-story structure which was the first White House of the Confederacy, is once again open to the public in Montgomery, Alabama. Because of the nature of the final stages of the remodeling, the building had been closed since the early spring of 1976. The principal speaker at the dedication ceremonies was Governor George Wallace of Alabama and among the guests was the great-grandson of the former Confederate President.

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Just as this issue was going to press, we learned the tragic news of the death of Past President Arnold Alexander on May 25, 1977. A tribute to Arnold and his great service and dedication to The Round Table will appear in the September Newsletter.

## BULLETIN BOARD



### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

June 10: Ladies night, Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers. Recipient of Award—Lloyd Miller.

July 16: Summer Executive Committee Meeting.

September 9: Lowell Reidenbaugh on "Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign".

October 14: John Hunter on "The Capture and Captivity of Jefferson Davis".

November 15: E. B. "Pete" Long on "A Broader Approach to Civil War Strategy".

December 9: Dr. Lewis H. Croce on "Lincoln and the Federal Bureaucracy".

January 13: To be announced.

February 10: To be announced.

March 10: Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr.—Topic to be announced.

April 14: To be announced.

May 3-7: Annual Battlefield Tour to Chancellorsville, Wilderness, Fredericksburg, etc.

May 12: To be announced.

June 9: 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.

### New Member

David L. Laske, 6951 Cleveland, Niles, Illinois 60648.

### Changes of Address

Judge Joseph Burke, 6736 N. Hermitage Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60626.

C. Robert Douglas, 301 Winrock Village Apts., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110.

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On April 23, 1977, the Stephen A. Douglas Association held memorial services at the tomb of the "Little Giant" which, of course, is located in Chicago. After remarks by Round Table Founder Ralph G. Newman, and the presentation of a wreath on behalf of The Round Table, those in attendance adjourned to the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center to attend a luncheon and hear an address on Douglas by Dr. Harold Hyman. The day's activities were dedicated not only to Douglas, but to the founder of the Association, the late Mayor of Chicago, Richard J. Daley, who was a devoted admirer of the former Illinois senator and presidential candidate.

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Kurt Brandenburg has recently resigned from his position as Director of the Museum of the Confederacy to accept a new post as Executive Director of the Chester County, Pennsylvania, Historical Society. The Society operates a central museum, a library, archives, and several historic homes.