

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVIII, Number 4

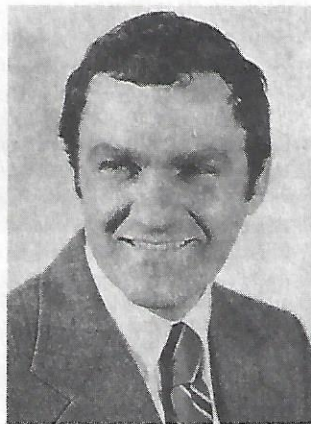
Chicago, Illinois

December 1977

DR. LEWIS H. CROCE ON LINCOLN AND THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY

Lincoln from a different angle, as the day-to-day administrator of the federal civil service, is the way the sixteenth president will be viewed by Dr. Lewis H. Croce when he addresses The Round Table December 9 on the topic, "Lincoln and the Federal Bureaucracy: An Aspect of the Civil War Neglected."

When Lincoln became President he possessed no experience as an administrator of public policy, nor was he thoroughly familiar with the ways of the bureaucracy of the federal government in Washington. Yet, the Civil War saw a tremendous growth in the size, responsibilities, and problems of administration within the executive branch of government. Was Lincoln successful in supervising the intricacies of the bureaucracy? Or is he liable to criticism for ineptness in an area of the Civil War crisis that has been forgotten? These are questions seldom asked, but Dr. Croce will fill in this gap with his remarks.



Dr. Lewis H. Croce

Dr. Croce, currently Professor of History at Mankato State University, Mankato, Minnesota, has, for some time, specialized in the areas of nineteenth century American politics, the American presidency, the politics of the Civil War era, and the life and career of Abraham Lincoln. He is the author of *The Lincoln Administration: A Study of the Federal Bureaucracy During the Civil War* (available on University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan) and "Was Lincoln Prepared for the Presidency?" *The Lincoln Herald*, (Winter, 1977). In addition, he has published book reviews in the *Journal of Southern History*, *Journal of the West*, *Indiana Magazine of History*, and *Wisconsin Magazine of History*.

His work has been aided by a number of grants and awards, including those from the National Science Foundation (for the study of the use of computers in historical research); the Henry E. Huntington Library (for the study of Lincoln's government); the Harry S. Truman Library (for the study of Truman as ex-president); and the Mankato State University faculty research grant (for research in the Public Record Office and the British Museum, London).

Born in Washington, D.C., Dr. Croce received a Bachelor of Arts degree from George Washington University, and Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy (history) degrees from the University of Maryland. He joined the faculty of



366th REGULAR MEETING

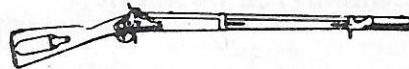
DR. LEWIS H. CROCE
on
Lincoln and the
Federal Bureaucracy

Friday, December 9, 1977

Chicago Bar Association,
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



LADIES ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP

By a final count of ninety-seven (97) to fifty-eight (58), the eligible voters have determined to admit women to membership in the Round Table. This decision is now final and so any ladies who wish to join may immediately submit their applications for membership to the Membership Chairman or Treasurer. The dues structure for women is identical to that applicable to men. Family or joint memberships for husband and wife are not available.

Mankato State University in 1968. In 1972-73 he was Senior Lecturer in History, The Stockwell College of Education, University of London, England, and in 1973 he was a Tutorial Fellow, Worcester College, University at Oxford, Oxford, England.

Dr. Croce is a member of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Southern Historical Association, and the American Political Science Association. He has presented professional papers to the Southern Historical Association, the Northern Great Plains History Conference, the Missouri Valley History Conference, the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Great Lakes History Conference, and the National Science Foundation Conference on Cliometrics. He has also addressed Civil War Round Tables in Washington, Milwaukee, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Rochester, Minnesota. This is his first visit to our Round Table.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

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



Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist MacKinley Kantor passed away in a Sarasota, Florida nursing home on October 11, 1977. Mr. Kantor, who won the coveted award for his brilliant novel, *Andersonville*, a portrait of the infamous Confederate prison camp, was 73 at the time of his death. A former newspaperman, Mr. Kantor had worked for the *Chicago Tribune* and other papers, as well as serving as a war correspondent during World War II. He was also considered an expert on high-altitude bombing and flew several missions during the Korean War as a technical consultant. Among his many other successful novels was *Glory For Me*, which provided the basis for the award-winning movie, "The Best Years Of Our Lives."

from the Editor's pen



For many years, the Neiman-Marcus Christmas Catalog has provided the perfect, although usually expensive, solution for the problem of a gift for that person who seemingly has everything. This year there is even help for those who have a Civil War student on their gift list.

For a mere \$30,000, a party of five will be provided with air transportation to Illinois and a complete tour of the "Land of Lincoln." The expedition, referred to by Neiman-Marcus as its "Seven Day Lincoln-Land Safari," begins in Springfield, where the group will be welcomed by Governor Thompson at a breakfast in the Executive Mansion. Round Table member and renowned Lincoln actor Richard Blake will then escort the fortunate five on a tour of sites associated with the 16th President, including his home in Springfield, the tomb, New Salem, and the locations of several of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. At the latter places, and also at Lincoln College, Blake will portray Lincoln in the re-enactment of several of the more important speeches. Each night, the entourage will be quartered in Civil War-style, but heated, cavalry tents pitched in a field near Charleston, Illinois, where they will dine on delicacies from the Neiman-Marcus gourmet department and be serenaded with Civil War music. At several stops during the tour, a re-activated Civil War regiment will provide an honor guard.

For those who cannot spare the time to participate in the \$30,000 tour, the Neiman-Marcus catalog also offers, for only \$5, a piece of real estate once owned by Abraham Lincoln. The deed will convey approximately one square inch of land carved out of Lincoln's forty acre farm near Springfield. Along with the modern deed, the purchaser will also receive a facsimile copy of the original deed by which Lincoln acquired the property. For those who desire something a little fancier, for \$100 the facsimile deed will be cast in copper, and for \$300 it will be provided in carved marble.

Probably the most important aspect of this entire offer is that the proceeds of the tour and land sales, over and above expenses, will be donated to Lincoln College.

On behalf of the entire Newsletter Staff, we wish all of our readers and their families a most happy Holiday Season and a healthy and prosperous New Year. We pray that 1978 will bring to our world that which Appomattox brought to the men of 1861-1865—Peace, the most precious gift.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

At its meeting held on November 11, 1977, the Executive Committee discussed the 1978 Nevins-Freeman Award. Final selection of the recipient and details of the dinner and program were referred to the committee established for this purpose. Other items on the agenda were a report from the immediate past and current Treasurers on the financial position of The Round Table as compared to the previous year and a description by the Battlefield Tour Committee of the proposed plans for the 1978 Tour and Fun Night. The Executive Committee also approved a motion providing that a non-member guest cannot attend more than two meetings in any year.

November Meeting

The need to enlarge our view of the Civil War by taking into account all of its aspects and events, political, social, economic, geographic, and military, was the subject of remarks by E. B. "Pete" Long when he addressed eighty-five members and guests on November 11. For too long, he contended, readers have been getting the "mountain peaks" of the War while what was happening in the "foothills and valleys" has been ignored.

Pete pointed out that over the past 110 years there have been strong differences of opinion about virtually everything associated with the war, decisive battles, personalities, the importance of various theaters, etc. Many brilliant scholars have put forth their theories, but the student must be careful not to be overly influenced by the prejudices of any one particular author. Each action, person, and area was important, but no single one was the key. All are part of history, part of the puzzle, and leaving out any gives an incomplete picture. The war was not won or lost in any one place or by any one man. According to Pete, historians must open their eyes and probe more deeply. The goal should not be something new or sensational, but, rather, to sift the evidence, seek out new facts, and travel the road dictated by the research. Perhaps most important, historians should put it all in context.

To give some idea of the scope of the Civil War, Pete reminded us that although even the very knowledgeable can only name about 300, there were actually over 10,000 events in the Civil War. These ranged from major battles to raids. In addition, war-related activities took place from Europe to Mexico to the Far East, and every action or activity affected someone or something. Few of these, however, are remembered or written about today, even though the press of the day often considered them significant. Island No. 10, for instance, was regarded at the time as being as important as Shiloh which took place on the same day, and which now occupies our attention.

In discussing the importance of geography, Pete noted first of all that ours was not a traditional civil war. Since the South had seceded and declared its independence, it was actually a war between nations. In order to protect its national integrity, the South had to try to defend a vast border, a task which was clearly impossible. Although the blockade around its coast was breached at times, and although the Federals often failed to fully exploit their enclaves within the South's perimeter, ultimately the Confederates lost the War and geography was an important factor in this loss.

Pete believes historians do not always see the whole picture, the broad strategy, because some of the actions did not have big casualty lists. He cited Paducah, Kentucky as an example. Taken by Grant in 1861 without firing a shot, it enabled the Federals to occupy the high ground at the mouth of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, and prevented the Confederates from controlling the Ohio River. Had the South controlled the Ohio, crossing it would have been harder for the Federals and the capture of Forts Henry and Donelson more difficult.

Other important events which, however, do not receive attention in the history books, include Plum Run Bend, Tennessee, one of the largest gunboat battles in history (had the Confederates won, the Federal advance would have been delayed); and the Battle of Memphis which set the stage for Vicksburg. These and the countless others which have been largely ignored are examples, according to Pete, of the myopia which affects the field of Civil War history. The need, he feels, is to put all of it together, to see the whole, and, by doing so, to "reach a sounder appraisal of this great event—the Civil War."

To The Campfollowers (Ladies)

Dan Lapinski regaled the group at our November meeting with a fascinating talk on "The Death and Resurrection of John Wilkes Booth". Dan's remarks, which were heightened by personal reminiscences of his search for the Booth mummy, provided a fitting anticlimax to our special Campfollowers' meetings. Details of the availability to ladies of membership in The Civil War Round Table appear elsewhere in this Newsletter. Pat Newman has graciously invited us to be her guests for our final meeting, and we will gather in Apartment 5203, 175 East Delaware Place, at 6:30 pm for cocktails and dinner. There will be no speaker; this will be a social evening only. Parking is available in the John Hancock Building or in the Continental Plaza Hotel, directly across the street. Add your reservation to your husband's card or call Margaret April, 787-1860, no later than Monday, December 5.

Several Round Table members have been active on the speaking trail. August Payne described First Bull Run for the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table on October 28 and Wayne Anderson related the incidents of the Atlanta Campaign for the La Porte-Porter County Civil War Round Table on June 28. Dan Lapinski regaled the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table on October 27 with his entertaining remarks on The Death and Resurrection of John Wilkes Booth. Lloyd Miller followed Dan to Milwaukee where he delivered his brilliant description of the Battle of Franklin, on November 17.

Phil Hohlweck, who is also a member of our Round Table, was unanimously reelected as President of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table at its September meeting. Reelected as Vice President was Dr. John Mullooly, who, along with his son, is a frequent participant in our annual battlefield trips.

Preliminary plans have already been announced for the Fourth Annual National Congress of Civil War Round Tables, which shall be held in Richmond in October, 1978. Host for the conclave will be the Richmond Civil War Round Table, and Dr. James I. "Bud" Robinson will be the keynote speaker. "Virginia in the Confederacy" will be the subject of his remarks. Ed Bearss has also agreed to be present and to conduct a tour of the Richmond battlefields. With battlefield preservation again to be a major topic on the agenda of the Congress, the delegates should find the Richmond area to be especially interesting. A major super-highway is currently being constructed directly across several of the important sites of the Peninsula Campaign of 1862.

A law of the State of Maryland permits state auditors to open safe deposit boxes which have been abandoned for more than 15 years. Upon the opening of such a box at the Mercantile Bank and Trust Company of Baltimore, there was found to be among the contents the original of the last letter written by Stonewall Jackson to Robert E. Lee. This note, penned at approximately 3:00 P.M., on May 2, 1863, just prior to Jackson's famed attack on the Union flank at Chancellorsville, advised General Lee of Jackson's belief that "Providence will bless us with success." Along with the letter, the box also contained a copy of Sir Walter Scott's poem "The Lady of the Lake," which bore the inscription "T. J. Jackson, West Point, 1844." The items have been turned over by the State Comptroller to the Maryland Historical Society, pending the outcome of any possible claim by the decedents of the owner of the safe deposit box, A. C. Morrison.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Bull, Rice C. *Soldiering: The Civil War Diary of Rice C. Bull*. Edited by K. Jack Bauer. San Rafael, California: Presidio Press, 1977. \$12.95

Johnson, Ann Donegan. *The Value of Respect: The Story of Abraham Lincoln*. La Jolla, California: Value Communications, 1977. \$4.95

Johnson, Curt and Mark McLaughlin. *Battles of the Civil War*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1977. \$12.95

Lee, Fred L. *The Battle of Westport, Oct. 21-23, 1864*. Kansas City: Westport Historical Society, 1976. \$4.95, paper; \$20.00, limited cloth edition.

Levitt, Stan. *The Cracker-Barrel Papers*, Being an Account of Interesting, lesser-known Facts, Legends, and Truths Associated with our Great and Glorious Conflict, The War Between the States, 1861-1865. Chicago: Contemporary Books, 1977. \$8.95

Lucas, Marion Brunson. *Sherman and the Burning of Columbia*. Foreword by Bell I. Wiley. College Station, Texas: Texas A & M University Press, 1976. \$10.95

McDonough, James Lee. *Shiloh: In Hell Before Night*. Knoxville, Tennessee: The University of Tennessee Press, 1977. Cloth \$9.95, paper, \$5.00

McGinnis, Ralph Y. *Quotations from Abraham Lincoln*. Edited by ... Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1977. cloth \$12.95; paper \$6.95

Nugent, William Lewis. *My Dear Nellie: The Civil War Letters of William L. Nugent to Eleanor Smith Nugent*. Edited by William M. Cash and Lucy Somerville Howorth. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1977. \$10.95

Apparently, as of this date, no decision has been reached by the Court in the litigation involving the refusal by the owner of the Gettysburg Tower to pay the local seven per cent amusement tax. As was reported in an earlier issue of the Newsletter, Mr. Ottenstein, the developer of the Tower, is contending that the Tower is an "educational experience," rather than an entertainment facility subject to the amusement tax. The township officials, who are charged with the responsibility of collecting the tax, are quite fearful that, if Mr. Ottenstein is successful in his claim, all of the other tourist "attractions" in and around Gettysburg will also refuse to succumb to the amusement tax. It should be noted that, for the first several years of operation, the Tower paid the tax without any complaint. In fact, the tax was included in the Tower's original admission fee of \$1.50. In the past year, despite his refusal to pay the tax, Mr. Ottenstein has raised his admission fee to \$1.75.

Thomas Schoonover, Associate Professor of History at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, and a past winner of our Fellowship Award, has announced that his dissertation "Dollars Over Dominion: The Triumph of Liberalism in Mexican-United States Relations, 1861-1867," which he completed with the assistance of the Fellowship, will be published in book form by Louisiana State University Press in May, 1978.

Although the South lost the Civil War, it appears to be winning the financial war. While the value of the United States dollar continues to go down, the value of Confederate money is on the increase as the eagerness of collectors, mostly Northerners, causes the market price to rise. A \$50.00 note issued in Alabama in 1861 is now selling for as much as \$1,000.00, and a Richmond \$5.00 bill is worth \$900.00. Even rarer is an 1861 Virginia \$500.00 note, one of which was recently sold for \$10,000.00.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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

January 13: Sherman Lavigna on "Benjamin Franklin Butler: Beast or Benefactor".

February 10: Dr. Thomas Buckley on "Naval Modernization and the Civil War".

March 10: Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. on "Civil War Chaplains".

April 14: Marshall D. Krolick on "Brandy Station".

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

May 12: Kenneth Carley on "The Sioux Uprising of 1862".

June 9: 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 Members

Richard E. Coombs, 1508 N. State Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

Terry M. Hatch, 886 Fairway, Libertyville, Illinois 60048.

Changes of Address

William C. Vinck, 7938 S. Kilbourn, Chicago, Illinois 60652.

Samuel Nowinson, 1000 N. Lake Shore Drive, Apt. 306, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Gerald Edelstein, 313 Locust Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093.

The Museum of the Confederacy has announced that entries are being accepted for the Confederate Memorial Literary Society Competition for historical research and writing on the period of the Confederate States. Divided into three classifications, prizes include the Jefferson Davis Award for book-length narrative, the Founders' Award for research or editing of primary sources, and the Award of Merit for a published article or monograph. Deadline for entries is March 1, 1978. For further information, contact the Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 East Clay Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. The prizes will be awarded at ceremonies at the Museum to be held on June 3, 1978.

A recent article in the *Chicago Daily News* pointed out that although Chicago was a major center on the Underground Railroad before the Civil War, only one station of the Railroad is known to still exist in the area. This former hiding place for slaves fleeing to Canada is the Graue Mill, located on Salt Creek near the intersection of Yorke Road and Ogden in Oak Brook. The property now belongs to the DuPage County Forest Preserve District and is open to the public. Admission is 50¢ for adults and 10¢ for children under 14. The building itself dates back to 1852 and was for many years an operating mill, providing grinding services for the corn-growers in the area.