

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXIX, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1979

APRIL 6: WILLIAM FRASSANITO ON "ANTIETAM: THE PHOTOGRAPHIC LEGACY OF AMERICA'S BLOODIEST DAY"

A discussion, by the author, about the research and writing of a unique new book will highlight The Round Table meeting on April 6. That evening, William Frassanito will talk about his *Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day*. He was originally scheduled to be with us in September, on the occasion of the book's publication, but was unable to because of the death of his father.

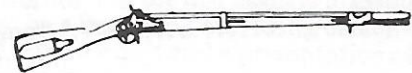
In September, 1862, following the confederate victory at Second Manassas, the Southern army turned northward. In the battle that ensued in the fields and woods surrounding Sharpsburg, Maryland, and along Antietam Creek, 26,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were killed or wounded, making September 17, 1862 the bloodiest single day in American history.



WILLIAM FRASSANITO

In his book, Frassanito recreates that battle through photographs taken immediately after the fighting ended by Civil War photographers Alexander Gardner and James F. Gibson. Gardner and Gibson recorded 95 scenes of the battlefield and its environs, and their studies of dead soldiers were the first the American public had seen depicting the true carnage of war. Frassanito, through meticulous historical research, has documented each photo as to photographer, date and camera location. The photographs are arranged into six basic groups that approximate both a geographic progression across the field and the chronological sequence of events during the battle. Each group is accompanied by a detailed map showing unit locations and camera positions.

The book is not just a collection of photographs, however. Frassanito begins with a discussion of the evolution of war photography before the Civil War, and describes the nature of photo coverage in the days before Antietam. He also presents vignettes of some of the common soldiers who fought and died in the battle, offering glimpses into the men's private lives, such as their activities before the War, their military training and experiences, and how their families coped with their deaths. Thus, the personal tragedy that lies behind each photograph is conveyed. In his remarks, which will be illustrated with slides, Frassanito will discuss how he came to write the book, the significance of the Antietam



380th REGULAR MEETING

* * *

William Frassanito

on

Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of
America's Bloodiest Day

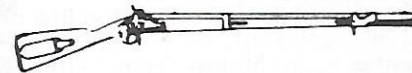
Friday, April 6, 1979

* * *

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



SPECIAL NOTICE

Please take note that because of Good Friday, the April meeting will be held on the *first* Friday, April 6, rather than the second Friday which is our normal date.

photographs, and some of the research techniques used in working on this project.

William Frassanito first became interested in Civil War photography at the age of nine when he saw a *Life Magazine* article on the upcoming Civil War Centennial. In 1975, he published *Gettysburg: A Journey in Time*. This book, which recreated that battle through the 200 photographs taken shortly afterwards, received considerable critical acclaim. It was chosen as a Notable Book of 1975 by the American Library Association, and won him the Photographic Historical Society of New York's annual award for the most distinguished achievement in photographic history in 1975.

Frassanito is a graduate of Gettysburg College and received a masters degree in American cultural history from Cooperstown. During his undergraduate days at Gettysburg, he spent free moments touring the battlefield and worked as a tour guide during the summer. He is currently at work on another book that will cover the photographs of the Wilderness Campaign through Lee's surrender.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

OFFICERS

President Glen N. Wiche
Senior Vice President Merlin E. Sumner
Vice President Hugh P. McAniff
Vice President Robert G. Walter
Secretary James R. Girman
Treasurer Marvin Sanderman
Assistant Secretary Marvin Goldsher
Assistant Treasurer Robert C. Grossman
Editors of the
Newsletter Marshall D. Krolick, David R. Richert
Contributing Editor Richard E. Clark
Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terms expiring in 1979: Donald E. Anderson, Henry Pomerantz, William J. Sullivan, J. Robert Ziegler.

Terms expiring in 1980: Dennis D. Donnellan, James H. Huber, Irwin Levin, Daniel R. Weinberg.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership-Hospitality Ward C. Smidl
Publicity J. Robert Ziegler
Nominating Myron Cohn
Battlefield Tour .. Marvin Sanderman, Robert H. Franke
Research Center Myron Cohn, Daniel R. Weinberg
Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner ... Donald E. Anderson
Battlefield Preservation Henry Pomerantz
Members' Resource Exchange James R. Girman,
David G. St. John, Paul I. Kliger
House Wayne J. Anderson,
Karl Sundstrom
Oral History Brooks Davis, C. Robert Douglas
Tape Record Librarian Steven Ziegler

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 Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum, the institutional arm of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, has been awarded the 1979 Baroness/Lincoln Award by the Civil War Round Table of New York. The Award, which has been given annually since 1962, is presented for outstanding contribution to the greater appreciation of the life and works of Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Director of the Library and Museum, which is located in Fort Wayne, Indiana, accepted the Award in New York City on February 14. Dr. Neely recently spoke to our Round Table in February of 1979 and a thorough description of the Library and Museum's collection and projects is contained in the February issue of the Newsletter.

from the Editor's pen



(With your permission, and because it is that time again, we herewith reprint, with appropriate changes, an editorial that first appeared in our April, 1977 edition.)

Well, it's that time again. On May 2 approximately one hundred members of The Round Table and their guests will depart on our annual Battlefield Tour. For most of them, this is a regular event, one in which they participate every year. For many the sites will be as familiar as their own home, for they have visited each place countless times before, either on their own or on a previous Tour. And yet every year back they come without fail.

Those who have never been might ask why and, if they did, the answer they would get would probably be "Because it's the Battlefield Tour". Sure, that begs the question, but to those who go it's answer enough. What they're saying is really quite simple. It's not the places themselves that make them set aside the first weekend in May, it's the experience, maybe even the people and what they bring to each other.

To analyze that experience, you must look at many things. Of course there is the scholarship and the chance to make three-dimensional what has previously only come to us from the printed page. The words of an Ed Bearss, as he brings to life the drama of battle; the lump in your throat when J. Ambler Johnston pulls Stonewall Jackson's watch from his pocket as we stand on the ground of Chancellorsville—these moments are "The Battlefield Tour".

Then, too, there are the good times, the fun of comradeship with old friends. The sing-alongs as Miles Janousek pounds the piano; Pete Johnson throwing peanuts at the dancers on the showboat at Vicksburg; those same dancers turning their backs and lifting their skirts to prominently display Al Meyer's smile buttons; Will Plank's car stuck in the mud at Manassas; Ver Lynn Sprague in the washroom at Gettysburg; the birth of the Schimmelfennig legend on a restaurant signboard in Mississippi; your editor being presented with a live pork chop at Schimmelfennig's headquarters in Gettysburg; Tuckertee Ridge; Dan Lapinski and John Commerford bursting from their Shenandoah Valley motel room in their shorts as lit sparklers stuck through the keyhole lend the appearance of truth to false cries of fire—these moments are "The Battlefield Tour".

We cannot overlook the awards and those who have been lucky, or unlucky as the case may be, enough to win them. The look on the face of a true Daughter of the Confederacy as we thank her for opening her ante-bellum home by presenting her with the bust of Abraham Lincoln; the treasured Bafart Award, that hollow cane awarded for excellence in imbibing, a prize which caused each competitor to strive for even greater performance; the Confederate Purple Heart, meticulously created by John Margreiter and given without a straight face for sacrifice beyond the call of duty—these moments are "The Battlefield Tour".

And, perhaps most importantly of all, for each of these moments there is the memory. Whether within your own mind or around the table wherever Round Table members gather, the stories are told and retold over and over. Each time the laugh wells up again, the wistful smile appears. Some of the old regulars are gone now, Warren Reeder, Heine Bass, Gil Twiss, Hal Hixson, Will Leonard, and too many more; but each year as we get on that bus their spirit is already aboard, and so it will always be. The feeling they had is handed down to us and we in turn will pass it on. That too is "The Battlefield Tour", and thus the only question left is "Where to next year?"

MARCH MEETING

A colorful account of a competent but not so colorful Confederate general highlighted the meeting of March 9. That evening, 76 members and guests heard Dr. Herman Hattaway describe the career of Stephen D. Lee. Lee, according to Hattaway, was a man who lacked the flair that attracted attention. But, he said, Lee was extremely capable and was always the right man at the right place with the right ability.

Dr. Hattaway began with a quick overview of Lee's life, from his birth in 1833 to his death, at 75, in 1908. Lee grew up in a military environment, attending a military school run by his uncle and then West Point. At 27, he was a captain in the Confederate Army and by age 30 a lieutenant general, the youngest man ever to hold such a rank. Following the War, he became, among other things, an insurance salesman, farmer, politician, college president (Mississippi A & M), and a member of the Vicksburg National Military Park Commission.

Following graduation from West Point, where he served under Robert E. Lee, Stephen Lee saw action against the Indians in Florida and in the West. On February 20, 1861, he resigned from the Union army and was named a captain in the South Carolina artillery. He served as an aide to Beauregard, who appreciated his military experience, and was involved in the trips to Fort Sumter to demand the evacuation of the Federal troops there. After the firing he was also in the party which went to arrange surrender terms.

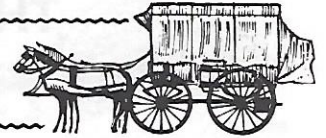
Lee then became a captain in the Hampton Legion, where he grew as a commander and distinguished himself as a "can do" leader. As Dr. Hattaway explained, he showed courage and coolness under fire and never asked his men to do anything he didn't do himself. Although he was in command of green troops, he never let them remain "raw" for very long. In the fall of 1861 Lee was promoted to major and in the spring of 1862 to lieutenant colonel. Lee, noted Dr. Hattaway, went about his job methodically, but his unit always secured the ammunition they needed, occupied the most advantageous ground, and were never out of action. During the Seven Days, his troops came under heavy fire but stood fast. This led to Lee's promotion to colonel.

At Second Manassas, Lee located his artillery battery in a very strong position where he was able to stop the federal assault, giving the Confederates the opportunity to counter-attack and carry the day. The battle made Lee a hero and his name became known to all Confederate soldiers. At Antietam, where the Confederates were on the defensive most of the time, Lee played a prominent role in repulsing three of the five Federal charges. He later called it the greatest battle he ever participated in.

Shortly after Antietam, Robert E. Lee named Stephen Lee a brigadier general and he was sent to the Western theater to command the defenses at Vicksburg. During the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou, Lee chose his terrain carefully and forced the Federals to advance as he chose. The result was a clean-cut Confederate victory. Lee wanted to hold out longer at Vicksburg and objected formally to the surrender on July 4, 1863. He was exchanged quickly after his capture at Vicksburg and returned to combat. As Dr. Hattaway pointed out, Grant and Sherman were unhappy to see Lee facing them again.

Following his subsequent promotion to major general, Lee was put in charge of all of the Confederate cavalry in Mississippi. His skill as a commander was clearly demonstrated at this point in his career by the fact that he was able to deal with his most prominent subordinate, Nathan B. Forrest, who had been unable to get along with his prior superiors. In fact, said Hattaway, they served capably and harmoniously together and remained strong friends after the War. The only friction between the two occurred after the Battle of Tupelo as each felt the other had not performed as he should have.

The SUTLER'S WAGON



FOR SALE: Revolutionary War military books, all in excellent condition. Contact David G. St. John, home 358-5912; work 327-0100.

Under the auspices of several Texas Civil War Round Tables, Sons of Confederate Veterans Camps, and United Daughters of The Confederacy Chapters, a Confederate History Symposium will be held on the campus of Hill Junior College, Hillsboro, Texas, on April 7th, 1979. The theme of the Symposium will be "The Trans-Mississippi Theater". In addition to the discussions of military topics, there will also be a marching and firing demonstration by a reactivated infantry unit and a presentation of the movie on the raising of the Cairo.

The Illinois Department of Conservation has announced that some much-needed tuckpointing and cleaning will be performed this summer at the Stephen A. Douglas Tomb which is located at 35th Street and Lake Park Avenue in Chicago. As our membership is well aware, the caretaker of the Tomb, Mr. Herman Williams, is one of the most dedicated individuals it has ever been our pleasure to meet. For many years, Mr. Williams has complained that the State does not provide sufficient funds or services to maintain the Tomb in a proper manner. Apparently his complaints are now being recognized and the proper action will be taken.

Civil War Round Table Associates has announced that it will sponsor a Civil War Studies Forum to be held at Gettysburg from July 5th through the 8th, 1979. The theme of the Forum will be the Battle of Gettysburg and included on the agenda will be several panel discussions as well as addresses by Dr. Harry Pfanz, Chief Historian of the National Park Service, and Marshall D. Krolick, our own past President and Co-Editor of the Newsletter. The Forum is being held in conjunction with the Civil War Relic and Collectors Show which is also being presented in Gettysburg on July 7th and 8th. For further information or registration forms, contact Civil War Round Table Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72207.

After Brice's Cross Roads, Lee was promoted to lieutenant general and in 1864 assumed a corps command under Hood in Tennessee. Although he performed well there, Dr. Hattaway said, he exhibited a need for more experience in this level of operations. Lee had never served in divisional command although, in Dr. Hattaway's opinion, he had the potential to succeed in such a position. During the retreat from Nashville, where he again fought well, Lee was wounded and did not recover in time to get back in the War before the end.

In summing up the military career of Stephen D. Lee, Dr. Hattaway called him one of the most professional of soldiers, but a man with limitations. These, he said, included modesty and a lack of sparkling brilliance. This, coupled with the fact that he always led small bodies of troops in lesser battles and his lack of color kept him from attracting widespread attention. Nevertheless, Dr. Hattaway said, the final word on Lee has to be competent. Although not a great commander like Robert E. Lee, Stephen Lee made a consummate contribution to the Confederate war effort.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Gutman, Richard J. S. and Kellie O. Gutman. *John Wilkes Booth Himself*. Dover, Ma: Hired Hand Press, 1979. Ltd 1000 copies. \$18.50. All the known photos.

Miers, Earl Schenck. *The Web of Victory: Grant at Vicksburg*. Westport, Ct: Greenwood Press, 1978. \$21.00. Reprint of the 1955 printing.

Moore, Samuel J. T., Jr. *Civil War Guide to Richmond*. Rev. ed. Richmond, Va, 1978. \$8.50.

Oates, Stephen B. *Our Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln, John Brown, and the Civil War Era*. Amherst: Univ. Massachusetts Press, 1979. \$11.50.

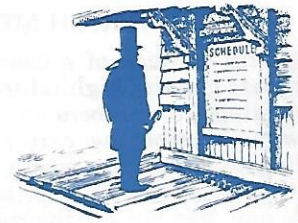
Parker, J. Carlyle. *A Personal Name Index to Orton's Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861 to 1867*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1978.

Potter, David M. *Lincoln and His Party in the Secession Crisis*. New York: AMS Press, 1979. \$27.00. Reprint of the Yale University issue of 1942.

Dr. John Hope Franklin, John Matthews Manley Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago, and a long-time member of our Round Table, was honored by his own alma mater, Fisk University, at a Dinner held on March 10, 1979 in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago. Proceeds from the dinner have gone toward the establishment of the John Hope Franklin Chair in History at Fisk University. The amount necessary to complete the endowment of the Chair is anticipated to be \$700,000. Earnings from the endowment will provide for salaries, fringe benefits, research, publications, and travel activities of the Chair. Dr. Franklin graduated from Fisk in 1935, earned his Doctorate in American History in 1941 from Harvard University, and has subsequently taught at Fisk, St. Augustine, North Carolina College, Howard University, Brooklyn College, and Cambridge University before joining the faculty of the University of Chicago. Since 1967, he has been the Head of the History Department at Chicago. He has also served as President of The American Studies Association, The Southern Historical Association, The Organization of American Historians, and The American Historical Society Association. His numerous outstanding publications have centered on the Reconstruction period and the history of Black Americans. We join with all of his friends and colleagues in congratulating this most distinguished historian on the well-deserved honor bestowed upon him by Fisk University.

The Suffolk, North Carolina Civil War Round Table is sponsoring a Battlefield Preservation Meeting to be held on April 29th, 1979 at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. Among the scheduled speakers are Colonel Joseph L. Mitchell, noted author and historian, Mrs. W. P. Snyder, Leader of the Save the Battlefields Committee of Manassas, Brien Vornado, Superintendent of the Manassas Battlefield Park, and Representative Herbert Harris of Virginia's Eighth District who has sponsored many preservation bills in the Congress. In addition to the Suffolk Civil War Round Table, support for the meeting has also been given by the Alexandria and Williamsburg Round Tables, as well as several Sons of Confederate Veterans camps, United Daughters of the Confederacy chapters, and The North-South Skirmish Association. Registration for the meeting is \$10 per person. All those interested are urged to contact Robert R. Hardy, 5085 Indian Trail, Suffolk, Virginia 23434 before April 15th, 1979.

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 6: William A. Frassanito on "Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day".

May 2-6: Annual Battlefield Tour—Shiloh and Northern Mississippi.

May 11: Chris Calkins on "The Appomattox Campaign".

June 8: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and installation of officers. Recipient of Award: E.B. "Pete" Long.

September 14: William Mallory on "Actions North of the James River, September 29 and 30, 1864."

October 12: Robert K. Krick on "E. P. Alexander, Peerless and Insightful Cannoneer."

November 9: Dr. Daniel P. Jordan on "Richmond, First City of the Confederacy."

December 7: Henry Pomerantz on "Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville, Prelude to Gettysburg and Aftermath of Brandy Station."

January 11: Dr. John Y. Simon, topic to be announced.

February 8: Dr. James L. McDonough on "The Last Day at Stones River".

March 14: Dr. John G. Barrett, topic to be announced.

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

Last Tuesday of each month: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Caravelle Motel, River Road and Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont; all members welcome.

NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Allen Bagdade, 3136 Elder Court, Northbrook, Illinois 60062.

K. Robert Blietz, 208 E. 4th Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

Franklin R. Crawford, 1996 Orth Road, Caledonia, Illinois 61011.

Michael Marienthal, 1832 S. Halsted St., 1st Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60608.

The Shenandoah Valley Civil War Round Table is again urging all those interested in Battlefield Preservation to write the appropriate governmental officials concerning the proposal by the town of Grottoes, Virginia to construct a sewage disposal plant in the vicinity of the Battlefield of Port Republic. The purpose of this plant, which has been approved by the local County Board of Supervisors, is to encourage industrial development in the area. The proposed site is on the ground from which Jackson directed the Battle, fought on June 9th, 1862, which climaxed his famed Valley Campaign. Construction of this plant will greatly jeopardize any efforts at preservation in the area and therefore, everyone is urged to voice their objections by writing either Mr. Fenton Roudabush, Environmental Protection Agency, Sixth and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19160 or Mr. Gregg Coffman, Valley Regional Office, State Water Control Board, 116 North Main Street, Ridgewater, Virginia 22812. Among those in the lead in the campaign to prevent this construction project is Jim Gallagher, former Chicago newspaperman and General Manager of the Chicago Cubs, who retired to the Port Republic area several years ago.