

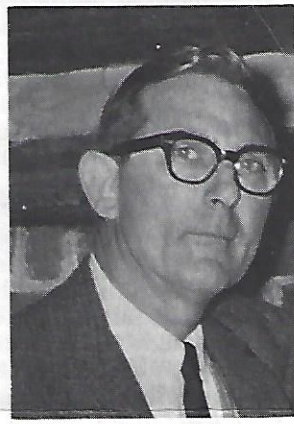
THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XL, Number 1 Chicago, Illinois September, 1979

WILLIAM MALLORY ON ACTIONS NORTH OF THE JAMES RIVER, SEPTEMBER 29 AND 30, 1864

The important actions which took place north of the James River in Virginia on September 29 and 30, 1864, are the topic of discussion for the first Round Table meeting of 1979-80 on September 14. The speaker that evening will be William Mallory of Richmond, Virginia. Bill is a member of our Round Table and helped plan several battlefield tours to the Richmond area.

In the pre-dawn darkness of September 29, 1864, General Grant, intent upon tightening his investment of Petersburg, slipped a strong force across the James River in a surprise move against the outer defenses of Richmond. His goal was twofold—to keep the Confederates from concentrating against the Army of the Potomac as they pushed toward the Boydton Plank Road, and to prevent General Lee from sending reinforcements to General Jubal Early in the Shenandoah Valley. During the morning, soldiers of the Army of the James stormed heavily armed but badly undermanned Fort Harrison. General Hiram Burnham, commanding the leading brigade, was killed in the assault and the captured fort was renamed in his honor. A mile and one-half to the north, another Federal force was repulsed in an attack on Fort Gilmer.

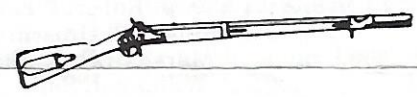


William Mallory

Fort Harrison was one of the effects of McClellan's Peninsula Campaign of 1862. After the Seven Days' Battle, the war shifted to other sectors, and for nearly two years, while the armies fought in northern Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, the defense perimeter of Richmond was extended and strengthened. By September, 1864, Fort Harrison was a strong earthwork commanding the southeastern approaches to the city.

General Lee considered the loss of Fort Harrison serious enough to demand his personal attention. On September 30, with reinforcements rushed up from Petersburg, he directed several vigorous assaults against the fort. The Union defenders had closed in the rear and strengthened it, and they successfully beat back the attacks, inflicting heavy losses on the Confederates. This action ended major Federal attempts against Richmond from north of the James.

Bill Mallory is a native Virginian, having been born, raised and educated in Richmond. He served in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve for 24 years, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer. He is First Commander of James Longstreet



383rd REGULAR MEETING

WILLIAM MALLORY
ON
ACTIONS NORTH OF THE JAMES RIVER,
SEPTEMBER 29 AND 30, 1864

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1979

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street, Chicago
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



BYLAWS REVISION

Revised Civil War Round Table bylaws will be discussed at the September meeting, and voted on in October. Members *unable to attend in September* may request that a copy of the revised bylaws be mailed to them. Use the message space on the enclosed reservation card, or write to Robert Grossman, 120 W. Madison, Chicago 60602.

Camp Sons of Confederate veterans and a member of many other historical organizations. These include: the Virginia Historical Society, the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, the Montana Historical Society, and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. He is also a volunteer worker in the Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Bill's interest in the Civil War stems from the fact that he had ancestors who fought in the War. His grandfather served in Woolfolk's Ashland Va. Artillery of Alexander's Battalion, First Corp, Army of Northern Virginia. In addition, his great grandfather served in DeGorney's 12th Battalion of Louisiana Heavy Artillery, was captured, and

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

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 400th Regular Meeting Festivities..... Robert G. Walter
 Confederate Purple Heart Custodian..... 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.



The Gettysburg Address has returned to Gettysburg. Through the end of September this year, and from Memorial Day to Labor Day for the next four years, that document will be on display at the Park. The speech, written on White House stationery and finished on blue-gray foolscap, is owned by the Library of Congress and was last shown from February, 1976 to September, 1976 as part of the Bicentennial. Although Gettysburg has long sought permission to display the address there, the Library has been reluctant, citing environmental problems. It is housed in a newly-constructed gallery and environmentally-controlled display case at the Cyclorama Center.

from the Editor's pen



by Marshall D. Krolick

In January of 1974 this column began with the words "With this edition of the Newsletter, the baton of editorship passes to yours truly...". Now it passes again, only this time it is the "yours truly" who is doing the passing instead of the receiving.

The past five and a half years have been a tremendous personal experience for us. The opportunity to describe and comment on the modern happenings which touch the men and events of 1861-1865 is one which can only be described as a privilege. The subjects we have had occasion to turn our pen to have been diverse and exciting. There were the serious issues such as battlefield preservation, the Civil War Sites Fund, the Gettysburg Tower, and, of course, the establishment of our own Research Center. Too often we were called upon to sadly report the passing of a literary giant or an old friend. At times we had occasion to recall moments of nostalgia such as when we recounted past battlefield tours in an attempt to explain the meaning of this annual event. And there was the humorous Civil War too, as illustrated by the search for Colonel Shy's body or our belief in the immortal Spirit of Schimmelfennig. To many the writing of this Newsletter may seem like labor, but if the truth be known it is a labor of love.

However, as in other endeavors, the same voice for too long may tend to wear out its welcome. So it is time for a change, but we leave you in good hands. By way of introduction, your new Editor of the Newsletter is Dave Richert. Rest assured, he is no raw recruit, for without question, he has "seen the elephant". We were fortunate to have Dave join us in September, 1977, as Assistant Editor and the following year he became Co-Editor. In the latter position, he was responsible for both the lead story and the review of the previous meeting. To paraphrase Lee's description of George Meade, Dave Richert will make no mistake as your Editor.

Before we accept our muster out, we must express our gratitude to those without whose assistance there would have been no Newsletter. This publication is truly an iceberg and the Editor is only the tip. Therefore, it is with great appreciation that we raise our kepi to Glen Wiche and Lowell Reidenbaugh for providing us with the countless news items that enabled us to keep the columns full, to Dick Clark for his book list and the many hours of research that must go into it, to Edith Davidson of Mimeocrafters and the ladies of Jandon Graphics for catching all our errors before you could see them and for working overtime to make up for our missed deadlines, to Ralph Newman and Brooks Davis for their guidance and counsel and for always being there when we needed them, as they always are when The Round Table calls, to Dave Richert for his invaluable assistance and the pleasure of working together these past two years, and to so many, many more to whom we express our apologies for the absence of a specific mention.

Most of all, however, we thank you, the members of The Round Table, for your support and for putting up with us and our opinions. You are the reason that this is the finest organization of its kind anywhere and, because of you, so it will always be.

A reminder: more than 100 exhibits of Civil War military memorabilia will be offered for display, sale and trade at the Great Lakes Civil War Show to be held September 8 and 9, 1979 in Troy, Michigan. For further information, contact our own member, Dr. Michael Cunningham, 833-5560.

JUNE MEETING

One hundred and twenty members and guests came to the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner June 8 to honor Award recipient and Honorary Award Life Member E.B. "Pete" Long. During the program at the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, Pete's career and accomplishments were discussed by Ralph Newman, John Simon, and Pete's wife Barbara.

Ralph recalled the highlights of Pete's career and said he represents the "epitome of integrity in the field of history. When Pete presents a fact," he said, "it is a fact." Ralph added that it is people like Pete Long that the Round Table had in mind when the Nevins-Freeman award was created.

John Simon discussed Pete as a scholar, particularly his major role in two areas—as director of research for Bruce Catton's *Centennial History of the Civil War* and as editor of the 1952 edition of Grant's memoirs. He added that *The Civil War Day by Day* best expresses Pete as a scholar—everything is correct in that work.

Barbara described life with a full-time historian—their travels for the *Centennial History* and their work with Catton and Nevins. She also discussed Pete's search for an academic appointment and his teaching abilities, adding that he regularly receives the highest rating possible from his students at the University of Wyoming.

During the program, it was announced that the Civil War Research Center at the Library had received the Bruce Catton library to add to its collection.

SUMMER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

At its annual summer meeting, held on July 14, the Executive Committee discussed and took action on several items of importance to all Round Table members. It was decided to raffle off a free 1980 Battlefield Tour worth about \$300. Three hundred tickets at \$5 each will be sold at meetings and by mail (contact the treasurer, Marv Sanderman). In addition, approval was given to an increase in the meal price, beginning with the September meeting, to \$10 per person. This will enable The Round Table to meet increased costs at the Bar Association.

The Committee voted to partially support our delegate, Wayne Anderson, to the fifth annual National Congress of Civil War Round Tables. They also authorized the treasurer to send a \$250 check to the Civil War Sites Fund. This money was raised from the book raffles held at meetings last year. Also on the agenda was a discussion of the bylaws revision (see box on page 1) and the fall tour (see insert).

Finally, the Committee unanimously supported a resolution expressing appreciation for a job well done to the outgoing newsletter editor, Marshall D. Krolick.

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Battlefield Tours to Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove and Wilson's Creek, led by our own Honorary Award Life Member Ed Bearss, are among the highlights of the fifth annual National Congress of Civil War Round Tables to be held October 4-7, 1979, in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Ed will also deliver the keynote address, "The Early War in the Trans-Mississippi". Many other prominent speakers are on the agenda as well, including Dr. Robert Meinhard, Professor of History at Winona State University who will discuss battlefield preservation.

The registration fee for the Congress, which includes all meals, sessions, tours, etc. (but not lodging) is \$125 for members of Civil War Round Table Associates and \$150 for non-members. For reservations or further information, write Jerry Russell, Civil War Round Table Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72217.

HISTORIANS WILLIAMS, DOWDEY, TILBERG DIE

The field of Civil War history suffered three serious losses this past summer with the deaths of T. Harry Williams, Clifford Dowdey, and Frederick Tilberg. Williams, who retired as Boyd Professor of History at Louisiana State University last May, died July 6. Dowdey, the author of numerous books and articles about the Civil War, died May 30, and Tilberg, retired Gettysburg National Park Service Historian, died on June 17.

Dr. T. Harry Williams, 70, an Honorary award Life Member of The Civil War Round Table, a recipient of the Nevins-Freeman Award in 1976, and a friend of many members was the author of numerous books, monographs, and reviews. These were on topics as diverse as Lincoln and his generals, Lincoln and the radicals, Rutherford B. Hayes, P.G.T. Beauregard, and Huey P. Long, but all demonstrated the same high level of research and writing. Williams received a Pulitzer Prize in 1970 for his brilliant biography of Long. At the time of his death, he was at work on a biography of the late President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Dr. Williams began teaching at Louisiana State in 1941 and was, according to Dr. John Loos, chairman of the history department there, responsible for producing "more Ph.D. holders than anyone else in the entire history of the department". He was also popular with students; in his final course before retiring he drew 350 graduate and undergraduate students.

On April 26, LSU honored Williams with a testimonial dinner, and on April 27 with the Williams Symposium. At the Symposium, Dr. Frank E. Vandiver, Professor of History at Rice University, and Don E. Fehrenbacher, Professor of History at Stanford, delivered papers on the Civil War era. Also speaking were Louisiana Senator Russell B. Long and Harry McPherson, a Washington attorney and former assistant to President Johnson.

Clifford Dowdey, who was 75 at the time of his death, considered himself one of the few survivors of a breed of independent professional writers. He was the author of nine novels, nine non-fiction books, and numerous magazine pieces. He had also been editor of the 101-year-old *Virginia Record* magazine since 1955.

Dowdey began his career as a newspaperman and spent several years researching, often at night, before starting his first novel—*Bugles Blow No More*, a best seller that portrayed Richmond during the Civil War—in 1934. His most well known non-fiction book was the biography of Robert E. Lee, titled simply *Lee*. Another of his works, *The Seven Days*, won the Fletcher Pratt award as the best Civil War book in 1964.

Honorary Award Life Member Dr. Frederick Tilberg, 83, was the first park historian at Gettysburg, serving from 1937 to 1965. He was a firm believer in historical preservation, maintaining that preserving places where history was made helps you to appreciate history more. He was a member and former president of the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, an organization committed to saving the battlefield from development.

Tilberg authored the National Park Service handbook on Gettysburg and gave liberally of his time and knowledge to authors researching and writing about the battle. He began his own history of the Battle of Gettysburg upon retirement in 1965, and was near completion when illness slowed him down.

All three men—Williams, Dowdey, and Tilberg—during their long and distinguished careers exemplified the best in Civil War scholarship. They will be sorely missed, not only by their friends and relatives, but by Civil War scholars everywhere.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

California. Adjutant General's Office. *Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861 to 1867*. Compiled by Richard H. Orton. Detroit: Gale Research, 1979. 887 p., \$45.00

Carter, Samuel III. *The Last Cavaliers. Confederate and Union Cavalry in the Civil War*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1979. 338 p., illus., 1979. \$15.95

Coddington, Edwin B. *The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1979. A very good reprint of the original of 1968. \$30.00

Edmondston, Catherine Ann Devereux. "Journal of a Secesh Lady." *The Diary of Catherine Ann Devereux Edmondston, 1860-1866*. Edited by Beth Gilbert Crabtree and James W. Patton. Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1979. 850 p., illus., index. \$28.00

Findley, Paul. A. *Lincoln: The Crucible of Congress*. New York: Crown, 1979. 280 p., illus., bibliog., index. \$14.95

Jones, Robert H. *Disrupted Decades: The Civil War and Reconstruction Years*. Huntington, N.Y.: Krieger Publ. Co. 1979. Original of 1973. \$9.95

Krick, Robert K. *Lee's Colonels. A Biographical Register of the Field Officers of the Army of Northern Virginia*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1979. 415 p., \$30.00

Liddell Hart, Sir Basil Henry. *Sherman: Soldier, Realist, American*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1978. 486 p.

Litwak, Leon E. *Been in the Storm So Long: The Aftermath of Slavery*. New York: Knopf, 1978. \$20.00

Lord, Francis A. *Civil War Collector's Encyclopedia*. Volume 3. West Columbia, S.C.: Lord Americana & Research, 1979. 207 p.

Monitor Conference. *The Monitor, Its Meaning and Future: Papers from a National Conference*. Raleigh, North Carolina, April 2-4, 1978. Washington: Preservation Press, 1978. 132 p. paper.

Patten, George. *The Complete Cannoneer*. Compiled agreeably to the regulations of the War Department as published in Artillery Drill by Geo. Patten, 1861. And containing other observations on muzzle loading cannon by M.C. Switlik with selected excerpts from other artillery manuals. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Rochester, Minn.: Ray Russell, 1979. 1000 copies. \$10.00

A Pictorial History of the Battle of Gettysburg. Gettysburg: Fourscore, Ltd., 1978. 72 p., maps, illus., oblong pbk. \$3.50

Satterlee, John L., editor. *The Journal and the 114th, 1861 to 1865*. Springfield, Ill.: John L. Satterlee, 1979. 319 p., \$15.00

Simms, Henry Harrison. *A Decade of Sectional Controversy, 1851-1861*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1978. Original of 1942.

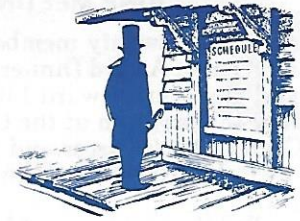
Winters, John D. *The Civil War in Louisiana*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1979. 552 p., First published in 1963. \$25.00

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later paroled at Port Hudson. Both men surrendered with their commands in 1865.

Appropriately, Bill was one of the founders of the Richmond Civil War Round Table, and served two terms as president of that organization. Although he has only been a member of our Round Table for two years, he did assist in planning our 1953, 1964, and 1973 Battlefield Tours to the Richmond area. This will be his first talk to the Round Table in Chicago.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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

January 11: Dr. John Y. Simon on "Grant as Historian: The Memoirs Revisited."

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

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

April 11: Ralph G. Newman on "The Lights Go On Again At Ford's Theater".

April 30, May 1-4: Annual Battlefield Tour to the Shenandoah Valley.

May 9: To be announced.

June 13: 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.

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

NEW MEMBERS

Jack H. Dezell, 2113 N. Chestnut Ave., Arlington Hts., Illinois 60004.

Thomas Fletcher, RFD #2, Box 175, Newark, Illinois 60541.

Hugh Horton, 1702 Tate, Corinth, Mississippi 38834.

Cindy Kozlowski, 5223 S. New England Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60629.

James J. Lussem, 6864 N. Tonty Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60646.

Colonel Edwin W. Meyerson, 1516 N. State Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

Bernard Paprocki, 2704 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60635.

Robert Paprocki, 2704 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60635.

William C. Reed, Jr., 1602 W. Margaret Ave., Peoria, Illinois 61604.

Wiley Sword, 5640 Kolly Road, Birmingham, Michigan 48010.

Roger Tragesser, 549 Woodmar Terrace, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Robert A. Bermant, 55 Dior Terrace, Los Altos, California 94022.

Terry Carr, 935 Daniel Drive, Bensenville, Illinois 60106.