

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XL, Number 4

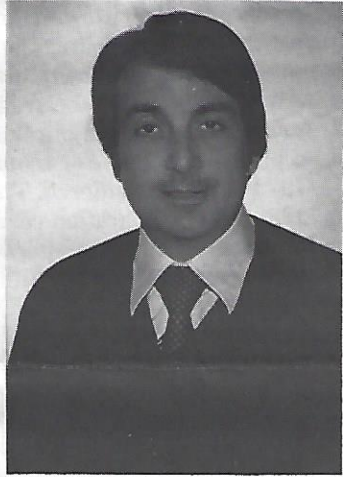
Chicago, Illinois

December, 1979

HENRY POMERANTZ ON ALDIE, MIDDLEBURG AND UPPERVILLE

Three little known but important cavalry engagements in June, 1863—at Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville, Virginia—will be the subject of discussion at The Round Table meeting on December 14. Examining those actions, which were a prelude to Gettysburg and which demonstrated that the union cavalry had come of age, will be fellow member Henry Pomerantz.

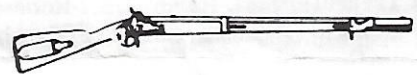
After Lee's success at Chancellorsville, the Confederates planned a second invasion of the North. The corps of Ewell, Longstreet and A.P. Hill were to advance via the Shenandoah Valley while Stuart's cavalry screened them from any Federal reconnaissance, advances or threats. The Union cavalry, now under the command of Alfred Pleasonton, who had succeeded Stoneman, engaged Stuart at Brandy Station on June 9. This was followed by a series of engagements at Aldie (June 17), Middleburg (June 19), and Upperville (June 21). In these latter three hard fought exchanges, the Union cavalry proved that the vigor and ability they showed at Brandy Station was no accident. The cavalry corps of the Army of the Potomac had considerably matured and developed from its experiences over the first



Henry Pomerantz

two years of the War. They were now a confident, better managed and determined group who could fight and win.

Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville have been a neglected and much confused aspect of Civil War history, possibly, Henry believes, because of the lack of detailed official reports and the fragmentation of the fighting as recorded by the participants. Henry, who is very familiar with the area, will recreate what occurred there, moving through the fighting with the aid of slides. He will also discuss the issue of Alfred Duffie and the sacrifice of the 1st Rhode Island Cavalry at Middleburg, the heroism of the 1st Mass. and 1st Maine Cavalry, the use of infantry in conjunction with cavalry, the Custer myth at Aldie, Stuart's lack of any active involvement in the fighting, and his subsequent decision to ride around the Federal Army, depriving Lee of valuable intelligence at Gettysburg.

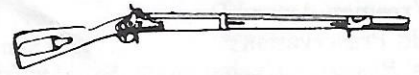


386th REGULAR MEETING

HENRY POMERANTZ
ON
ALDIE, MIDDLEBURG
AND UPPERVILLE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1979

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



Henry Pomerantz, a native of Chicago, received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in history from Southern Illinois University. He has been a member of The Civil War Round Table since 1965, and has served on the Board of Trustees and as battlefield preservation chairman. Henry, whose Civil War interest is the campaigns of the Army of the Potomac, has written papers on Second Manassas and troop movements in northern Virginia.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Merl Sumner has announced that there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee at the Bar Association at 5 p.m. on December 14, 1979, just prior to the regular Round Table meeting. Several important items, including the selection of the 1980 Nevins-Freeman recipient, are on the agenda. All current officers, trustees, and committee chairmen and all past presidents are urged to attend.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

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 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 Kentucky Department of Parks is in the process of attempting to make the Perryville Battlefield Park more attractive to visitors. Their most recent effort is an observation tower which overlooks the scenes of the heaviest fighting that took place there. They have also improved the audio and visual aids in the reception center and museum, and are planning a new, large-scale map and improved markings of trails and roadways that figured in the fighting.

As of mid-November, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural resources had taken no action on the two bills before it which would expand Mannassas National Military Park. Pending are HR 5048, introduced by Virginia Congressman Herb Harris and passed by the House on October 9, and S. 1857, Virginia Senator John Warner's version. As reported in last month's newsletter Warner's bill authorizes much more limited expansion of the Park, and consequently is expected to encounter less opposition than Harris' bill. Please write your senators urging support for the House-passed version.

The Abraham Lincoln Bookshop now has a store in Springfield, Illinois. It opened on November 13, appropriately enough on the first floor of the building where Lincoln and Herndon had their law offices. Among the documents on display at the store are many which Lincoln prepared in the building. The address of the Bookshop is 1 Old Capitol Plaza South.

The Round Table expresses its deepest sympathy to Nevins-Freeman Award winner and Honorary Award Life Member Lloyd Miller whose wife Elizabeth passed away recently. "Lib," as her many friends in The Round Table affectionately called her, was a popular companion on Battlefield Tours in years past. She will be missed.

The Confederate Memorial Literary Society is again soliciting entries for its annual awards for historical research and writing on the period of the Confederate States. As in previous years, the Jefferson Davis Award will be given for book-length narrative history, the Founders Award for work in the area of research or editing of primary sources resulting in publication, and the Award of Merit for a published article or monograph. Only works published in 1979 will be considered. The deadline for entries is March 1, 1980; the presentation ceremony will be held June 3 at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. To enter, or to obtain further information, contact the Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 East Clay Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Addressing the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table on "The Battle of Brandy Station" on November 16 was our own member and former newsletter editor Marshall D. Krolick. On that same evening Pat Newman spoke to the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table on "The General's Lady". Henry Pomerantz will present his talk on Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville to the Milwaukee Round Table on December 13.

Carol Julian, widow of Allen P. "Ned" Julian, reports that the voluminous material which Ned had compiled for his study of the Civil War in Georgia is available to anyone who is interested in editing it and publishing a book on the subject. She also has available a list of books, and their prices, from Ned's library which are being offered for sale. Persons interested in further information about the Civil War in Georgia material or a book list should write to Mrs. Allen P. Julian, 1838 Meredith Dr., N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30318.

NOVEMBER MEETING

In virtually every way that is meaningful and measurable, Richmond was indeed the first city of the Confederacy. That was the premise on which Dr. Daniel P. Jordan began his talk November 9; by the time he finished he had convinced the 82 members and guests who attended that it was so. Dr. Jordan used slides of paintings and drawings to enhance and illustrate his lively presentation.

Richmond, he noted first, was the population center of the Confederacy—it had over 100,000 people during the War, one-third of whom were black. These blacks, both the slaves and freemen, were important to the city. They constructed the fortifications and provided the labor in the factories. Many free blacks served as nurses and barbers.

Of course, as Dr. Jordan explained, Richmond was the political center—the bureaucracy and the bureaucrats were there. And, he added, it was without question the economic center of the Confederacy. Not only did five major railroads come into the city, it was also a deep water port. In addition, there was considerable heavy industry. The Tredegar Iron Works (now being restored) which was the largest and which made much of the heavy artillery for the South, was only one of a dozen iron works in the city. Further proving Richmond's economic importance are the facts that it was the flour producing center of the South, had 52 tobacco plants, and many banks.

Richmond's place as the leading social, cultural and intellectual center was demonstrated, first of all, by the four major newspapers published there. These were not only read in the South, but in the North as well. And there were many other periodicals published in Richmond, such as the *Southern Literary Messenger* which Edgar Allan Poe once edited, the *Southern Planter* which is still being published, and numerous religious publications. There were also several Confederate periodicals which came into being during the War such as *The Magnolia*. Further enhancing the intellectual leadership of Richmond were the 29 educational institutions which existed there, including the Medical College of Virginia which remained in operation throughout the entire War.

Part of the social scene were the great taverns, hotels, and inns such as the Spotswood Bar which was sort of an unofficial political and military headquarters. The city's 33 churches, like St. Pauls where Jefferson Davis worshipped, were also part of the social scene, and served double duty as hospitals when needed. The theater prospered in Richmond no matter what was happening at the front—there was always a full house. The offerings ranged from traditional fare to specially-written Confederate plays. Clearly, Dr. Jordan concluded, Richmond was the social, cultural, and intellectual first city of the Confederacy.

Perhaps most important, he said, Richmond was the military center of the South. Tens of thousands of troops marched through the city or trained there. At first, Dr. Jordan explained, this was exciting, but later the constant tramping became rather mundane. The city was also a major arsenal, providing 5000 small arms a month. And, the naval works and the naval academy were both located in Richmond. The presence of so many military personnel naturally gave military leaders an active place in the life of the city.

As a medical center Richmond was unsurpassed. Twenty-eight general and numerous private hospitals were located in the city—most wounded or sick Confederate soldiers were ultimately treated there. The greatest of the hospitals was Chimborazo, a mammoth place which achieved the enviable

mortality rate of only 10 per cent. And as the sick and wounded came to Richmond, so did the prisoners—the city was the prison center of the Confederacy. The most famous was the detestable Libby Prison.

Finally, Richmond was the psychological and morale center of the Confederacy. Most citizens were very patriotic and supported the War effort however they could. There were patriotic songs prepared, and even Confederate textbooks for use in the schools. But there were problems, such as inflation, which became worse as the War went on; Dr. Jordan discussed such incidents as the bread riots of 1863 and the series of alarms which gripped the city—the citizens were terrified at the prospect of the enemy at the gates.

And finally, as Dr. Jordan so vividly described in concluding his talk, the enemy was at the gates and the first city of the Confederacy ultimately fell.

The restored Stonewall Jackson home in Lexington, Virginia, was dedicated in ceremonies held at the home in mid-October. The restoration, by the Historic Lexington Foundation, took three years and cost \$350,000. Painstaking detailed research and documentation preceded every restoration decision, both as to the house and its grounds and furnishings, so that it now appears exactly as it did when Jackson lived there in 1859. Many of the furnishings are Jackson originals acquired from the family. The interpretation that the staff will provide for visitors to the home will focus on the pre-War Jackson, and in particular on his 10 Lexington years.

Dick Clark, who processes the meeting reservation cards, reminds members that unless they have a change of address or other message, it is not necessary to return a card if they are *not* planning to attend. However, it is important that those who will attend the meeting return the cards.

The Director of The Flowers Collection, Winston Broadfoot, reports that due to inadequate security at Duke University Library, the home of the Collection, nearly 1,000 volumes have been lost. Much of the loss consisted of regimental histories and personal narratives on the Civil War. Approximately two years ago the Collection had many Confederate newspapers stolen, only a portion of which were recovered.

Southern Illinois University recently acquired a significant addition to its Ulysses S. Grant collection in the form of materials previously housed in the Frederic Dent Grant family home in Clinton, New York. Included are Grant albums, illustrations, addresses, the Grant death mask, a Grant portrait, posters, and a letter from Lincoln to Grant. In addition, there are materials of Frederic Dent Grant, son of Ulysses, books from the family collection, various pamphlets and journals related to the family and the Civil War, and Civil War Round Table historical materials, programs, and membership information.

The collection will be housed at the university's Morris Library, where John Simon, executive director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association, has his office.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Albaugh, William A., III. *A Photographic Supplement of Confederate Swords*. Orange, Virginia: Moss Publications, 1979. \$20.00

Armstrong, William H. *Warrior in Two Camps: Ely S. Parker, Union General and Seneca Chief*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1978. \$11.95

Belz, Herman. *Reconstructing the Union: Theory and Policy during the Civil War*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1979. Reprint of a Cornell University Press issue of 1969. \$23.50

Blassingame, John W. *The Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum South*. Revised and enlarged edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 1979. \$15.00; pbk \$4.95

Castel, Albert E. *A Frontier State at War: Kansas, 1861-1865*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1979. Reprint of a Cornell University Press Issue of 1954. \$21.00

Davis, Cullom, editor. *The Public and the Private Lincoln: Contemporary Perspectives*. Edited by Cullom Davis, et al. Carbondale, Illinois: Southern Illinois University Press, 1979. \$18.95

Douglas, Frederick. *The Frederick Douglas Papers: Series One: Speeches, Debates, and Interviews. Volume I: 1841-46*. Edited by John W. Blassingame. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1979. \$35.00. First volume of a projected 14-volume series.

Fritz, Jean. *Stonewall*. With drawings by Stephen Gammell. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1979. \$7.95; pbk \$3.95

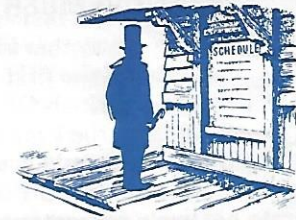
Schomaekers, Gunter. *The American Civil War*. London: Blandford Press, 1979. \$11.50

Which president was most hated during his lifetime? According to University of Massachusetts historian Stephen Oates, that dubious distinction belongs to Lincoln. Oates made his comments at a Lincoln conference sponsored by the Illinois Humanities Council and Sangamon State University in late September.

"Lincoln was the most unpopular President this country has ever known—at least during his lifetime," Oates said. "Both Lincoln and his wife were ripped to pieces by the press. Every press from conservative Republican to Democrat came down on him. What made the myths grow up around him, the Father Abraham and all the rest, was simply that he got assassinated. First, he was President during our only Civil War. And second, he was the first President to be gunned down." Oates traced the myths about Lincoln to the writings of Carl Sandburg who "made the real man into a folk Lincoln, a saintly, Christ-like figure who could do no wrong."

Oates also said that Lincoln saw slavery as the country's greatest evil—that he was not more interested in saving the Union than in freeing slaves. "Lincoln always hated slavery and the war came as a way to strike it down," he said.

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 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 "From Glory to Disrepute: Sherman in the Carolinas".

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

May 9: Dr. Walter L. Brown on "Albert Pike as Confederate General."

May 14-18: Annual Battlefield Tour to the Shenandoah Valley.

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

Robert G. Arndt, 3640 S. 59th Avenue, Cicero, Illinois 60650.

Harris D. Riley, Jr., M.D., 606 N.E. 17th, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Theodore Birndorf, 35 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 1020, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

Henry W. Kennedy, 2215 W. 111th Street #303, Chicago, Illinois 60643.

Herman W. Lazerson, 253 E. Delaware Place, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Irwin S. Levin, 6446 N. Christiana, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60645.

Daniel E. McCarthy, 2243 W. Belden, Chicago, Illinois 60647.

David Murphy, 3900 S. Powell #6, Lyons, Illinois 60534.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the unavailability of accommodations on the dates originally planned, the 1980 Battlefield Tour to the Shenandoah Valley has been rescheduled for May 14-18. Please mark these new dates on your calendar.

And remember, The Round Table is raffling off a free Tour. You can still get tickets for the drawing (\$5 each) from treasurer Marv Sanderman at meetings or by mail—write to Marv in care of The Round Table.