

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLIII, Number 7

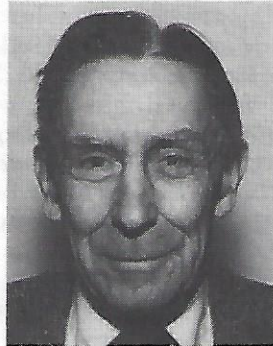
Chicago, Illinois

March, 1983

John E. Divine on Cavalry Campaigns: A Prelude to Gettysburg

Although historians and Civil War buffs have given little attention to the ten days of mid-June, 1863, during which the Army of Northern Virginia moved north for its second invasion, those June days saw some of the most deadly cavalry fighting of the entire war. Discussing these cavalry actions at The Round Table meeting on March 11 will be John E. Divine of Leesburg, Virginia. John is well-known to many Round Table members, and all will attest to his immense knowledge and the enthusiasm with which he imparts it.

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. General Joseph Hooker, moving his Army of the Potomac so as to protect the Capital, wanted desperately to discern Lee's intentions.

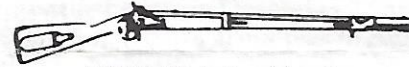


John E. Divine

Between the two moving infantry columns the cavalry divisions of General Alfred Pleasonton and General J.E.B. Stuart operated. Pleasonton was trying desperately to reach the passes of the Blue Ridge Mountains to look down on Lee's moving columns; Stuart was trying just as desperately to deny him this information.

A series of engagements took place at Aldie (June 17), Middleburg (June 19) and Upperville (June 21). In these three hard fought exchanges, the Union cavalry showed, as it had at Brandy Station on June 9, that it had considerably matured and developed from its experiences over the first two years of the war. It could now fight and win. However, after Upperville the Union cavalry pulled back and failed to gain Ashby's Gap from which it would have been able to see the Confederate forces poised for invasion west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. On June 26, Stuart set off on his movement around the Federal army; he did not return until July 2, the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg.

John Divine, a native of Loudoun County, Virginia, grew up in this borderland where the two armies marched and counter-marched, and where the guerrilla forces played their deadly game of warfare. He was

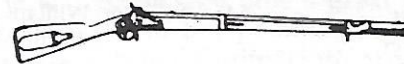


419th Regular Meeting

John E. Divine
on
Cavalry Campaigns: A Prelude
to Gettysburg

Friday, March 11, 1983

Illinois Athletic Club
112 S. Michigan
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$12.50 per person



educated in the local schools and Strayers Business College of Washington, D.C. In World War II he graduated from the Army Finance School at Duke University. Commissioned in the Finance Department, he served overseas as a Finance Disbursing Officer. Since the war he has been engaged in banking and real estate.

John says that his interest in the Civil War stems from his background of a divided family. A grandfather in the Union Army and two maternal great uncles in the Confederate service gave fuel for constant arguing as to the relative merits of the two causes. He started out to find the answer, but after many years he still isn't sure which was right. However, he has enjoyed looking for the answer.

A reminder: a nominating committee meeting will be held at 2 p.m. March 12 at the home of Bob Franke, 100 W. Thackery Place, Mt. Prospect. Call Bob at 392-6721 for further information and directions.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

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

Officers

President	Marvin Sanderman
Senior Vice President	Donald E. Anderson
Vice President	J. Robert Ziegler
Vice President	Daniel R. Weinberg
Secretary	William Margeson
Treasurer	Pat Krelle Sumner
Assistant Secretary	James Vlazney
Assistant Treasurer	Paul Klekner
Inspector General	Edward F. Cosentino
Commissary General	William J. Sullivan
Aide de Camp	Paul Klinger
Registrar	Margaret April
Newsletter Editor	David R. Richert
Assistant Editor	Matthias Lorenz
Contributing Editors	Richard E. Clark Marshall D. Krolick

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

Board of Trustees

Terms expiring in 1983: Betsy Davis, J. William Gimbel, Jr., Matthias Lorenz, Karl Sundstrom.

Terms expiring in 1984: Martin P. Dutch, Marvin Goldsher, Richard McAddo, Leslie MacDonald.

Committee Chairmen

Membership	Ward C. Smidl, Matt Lorenz, Glen Wiche
Hospitality	Jean Anderson
Publicity	Theodore Eberly
Nominating	Robert Franke
Battlefield Tour	Merl Sumner, William Margeson
Research Center	Leslie MacDonald
Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner	Karl Sundstrom
Battlefield Preservation	Wayne J. Anderson
Members' Resource Exchange	Martin Dutch
House	Kevin F. Bowen, Michael Marienthal, Tom Peters
Oral History	Leslie MacDonald
Tape Record Librarian	Joseph L. Wisheart
Awards Artist	James Kostohrys
Round Table Conference ...	Paul Klinger, Charles Wesselhoeft
Grants	Nathan Yellen
Honorary Awards	Brooks Davis
Publications	Glen Wiche
Awards Construction	David St. John
Picnic	Theodore Eberly
Golf Outing	Terry Carr

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 60007.



Nevins-Freeman Assembly

Plans for the First Annual Nevins-Freeman Assembly (the name selected for our Civil War conference), to be held all day on June 11 at the Chicago Historical Society, are taking shape. The award recipient, Dr. John Hope Franklin, will be honored at the luncheon and will make a few remarks. In the afternoon, he will join Dr. John Simon of Southern Illinois University and Dr. Frank Klement of Milwaukee on a panel discussing "Civil Rights and the Civil War." This event replaces the Nevins-Freeman Dinner. Further information about the Assembly will be provided in future newsletters.

The Second Annual Midwest Civil War Conference, hosted by the Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table of Michigan in conjunction with the Round Tables of Indianapolis, Ft. Wayne, and Kalamazoo, will be held on April 30 in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Topics on the agenda include: "Kentucky: A Border State Goes to War;" "With Sherman to the Sea;" "Lew Wallace and the Old Wound of Shiloh;" "Lincoln in Art;" and "The Decisive Moment at Gettysburg." The cost of the conference is \$13 (dinner is an additional \$12). For further information and reservations, contact Frank E. Hasse, 8529 Dogwood Lane, Warren, Michigan 48093.

Ed Bearss heads a list of distinguished historians scheduled to participate in "The Civil War in the West," a symposium to be held at the University of Arkansas at Monticello on March 28. Other participants include: Thomas L. Connelly, William C. Davis, and Dr. Frank E. Vandiver. The symposium, funded by the Governor Winthrop Rockefeller Distinguished Lectures Foundation, is free. For further information, contact: William Shea, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arkansas, Monticello, Arkansas 71655 (501) 367-6811.

The Civil War Round Table Associates newsletter recently reported on a serious problem facing Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park. It seems the park is being flooded with visitors, but unfortunately they are joggers, sunbathers, baseball players, underage beer drinkers and pot smokers. The well preserved fortifications are slowly being eroded, but attempts to restrict the use of the park are being met with stiff local opposition. Letters to your senators and Senator Malcolm Wallop, head of the Senate Parks Subcommittee, may help save Kennesaw Mountain for history.

One of the least known Confederate memorials is Confederate Memorial Hall in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1889 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the hall originally served as an old soldiers' home for Southern veterans. After World War I the building was turned into a museum of Confederate culture and the ground floor still contains many relics, including portraits of Southern generals and a sideboard that allegedly belonged to Jefferson Davis.

Unfortunately, the hall has been hit hard by inflation and the Confederate Memorial Association is trying to raise funds to restore and maintain it. To make a contribution, or for further information, write: Confederate Memorial Association, c/o John Hurley, 1101 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

February meeting

Despite his distinguished service to the Union in the Civil War, time and history have not done justice to General George H. Thomas. But fellow member C. Robert Douglas helped correct that situation at The Round Table meeting February 18. In describing the career and accomplishments of Thomas, Bob made clear to the 123 members and guests present why Thomas deserves a much greater level of respect than he has heretofore received.

George H. Thomas was born in 1816 to a prosperous Virginia farm family. He studied law before entering West Point in 1836 where he was a classmate of William T. Sherman (Thomas graduated 12th in a class of 42). His first assignment as a second lieutenant was in Florida fighting Indians (he received the brevet rank of first lieutenant for gallantry). He then served in the Mexican War and was breveted captain and major for gallant service at Monterey and Buena Vista.

Following another tour of duty in Florida and as an instructor at the military academy, he was ordered to report to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri where Jefferson Davis, then secretary of war, was organizing the new 2nd cavalry regiment. Other officers there included Albert Sidney Johnston, Robert E. Lee and William J. Hardee. Thomas watched with increasing apprehension the gradual approach of conflict and when it came he decided he could not, in good conscience, join the secessionist movement. His family never forgave him for this.

When Robert Anderson was given command of the Department of the Cumberland, he selected Sherman, Thomas, Buell and Burnside to assist him (Bob noted that Anderson had difficulty persuading Lincoln to appoint Thomas a brigadier because so many southern officers had already played false). In the battle of Logan's Cross Roads or Mill Springs (January, 1862) Thomas actions enabled the Union forces to prevail. On April 25, 1862 he was promoted to major general and was assigned to the command of Grant's army, but he demanded to be relieved feeling it was a matter of justice that Grant be restored to command.

Reassigned to command in Buell's Army of the Ohio, he served during Bragg's invasion of Kentucky. When Washington became dissatisfied with Buell, Thomas received orders to supersede him, but Thomas declined. Under a reorganization Thomas was given command of the XIVth Corps in Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland. At Stones River, where the very existence of Rosecrans' army was imperiled, the center under Thomas held firm.

Rosecrans finally forced Bragg to fall back to Chattanooga but in the process his army became widely extended. Bragg made an effort to cut him off from his base in Chattanooga but Rosecrans concentrated and took up positions west of Chickamauga Creek. On September 20 Confederate attacks routed all the Union forces except Thomas. Thomas' leadership, Bob said, was a decisive factor in preventing Union defeat from turning into total disaster; it earned him the title of "The Rock of Chickamauga." For this service, he was promoted to brigadier general in the regular army.

Thomas assumed command of the Army of the Cumberland on October 19, 1863 and was ordered by Grant to hold Chattanooga "at all hazards." When Grant was ready to take the offensive, Thomas made a recon-

naissance in force on November 23. Then, on the 25th, when Sherman and Hooker were unable to move forward, Thomas' troops were ordered to seize the rifle pits at the base of Missionary Ridge. Not only did they do so, but they continued upward and carried the crest, driving the Confederates off.

Thomas participated in the advance to Atlanta and his troops were the first to enter the city. When Sherman got approval for the march to the sea, it became necessary to form a new army to oppose Hood in the west—Thomas was given command and ordered to Nashville. When Hood finally reached that city, he found Thomas' army in formidable entrenchments. Washington exerted pressure on Thomas to attack, but he continued to calmly make his preparations. Logan was directed to proceed to Nashville and assume command if Thomas had not moved to the attack by the time he arrived and Grant considered going there himself. But events proved that unnecessary.

The battle began on December 15 and following two days of fighting Hood's army was in full retreat. As Bob pointed out, the battle of Nashville was a decisive battle of the war in that it sealed the fate of the Confederacy through the virtual destruction of the major army of the Confederate west. After Nashville there were no more battles of material import, and within four months the war was over. With the end of the war Thomas was given command of the military division of the Tennessee and in 1869 he assumed command of the Military Division of the Pacific. He died in March, 1870.

Given his outstanding record, why hasn't time and history done justice to Thomas (according to Thomas Van Horne, Thomas' biographer, Thomas once said to him "Time and history will do me justice"). Bob gave five reasons.

- Thomas fought in the western theater of the Civil War while the main theater was in the east.
- He hurt his chances for advancement by refusing higher command on two occasions.
- He was a Virginian and early in the war Washington authorities considered his loyalty suspect. He thus received no positions of high trust.
- He was considered only a great defensive commander. However, as Bob pointed out, only twice in all the war was a major Confederate army driven away from a prepared position in complete rout—at Chattanooga and Nashville; each time the blow that routed it was launched by Thomas.
- Finally, Thomas the man remains a mystery. He let no one poke into his private life and even his biographer was not permitted to view his personal papers.

The Second Annual National Forum on Lincoln and the Union will be held April 14-16 in Springfield, Illinois. Among the speakers will be Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr., director of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum; Dr. John Simon on "The Paradox of U.S. Grant;" Dr. Robert Meinhard on "Lincoln: Was He The Great Emancipator?"; and Dr. Herman Hattaway. Also included will be tours of the Old State Capitol, Lincoln's home, the Lincoln Tomb, and New Salem State Park.

The cost of the forum is \$140 for Civil War Round Table Associates members and \$160 for non-members. For further information, contact NFLU, c/o CWRT Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72217.

THE NEW BOOKS



(compiled by Dick Clark)

Clark, Walter. *Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War 1861-65*. 5 volumes. Wendell, NC: Broadfoot's Bookmark. \$250.00 Reprint of the Goldsboro 1901 edition.

Conrad, W.P. and Ted Alexander. *When War Passed This Way*. A Chronicle of the Civil War in South-Central Pennsylvania and nearby Maryland. Greencastle, PA: The Lilian S. Besore Memorial Library. 450 p., maps, illus. \$20.00.

Dawson, Joseph G. *Army Generals and Reconstruction: Louisiana, 1862-1877*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982. xvi, 294 p. \$25.00.

Harwell, Richard B. *The Confederate Hundred*. 2nd edition. 58 p. with new preface. Wendell, NC: Broadfoot's Bookmark, 1982. Edition limited to 500 copies. \$15.00. A signed edition, bound by hand and limited to 100 copies: \$25.00.

William, R.H. *With the Border Ruffians: Memories of the War West, 1852-1868*. Edited by E. W. Williams, with historical notes by Arthur J. Myer and Joseph W. Snell. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1982. 490 p., pbk \$9.95. Originally published London, 1907.

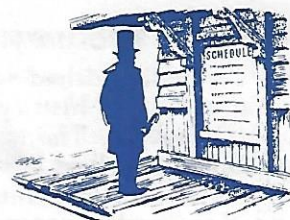
Note: *Confederate Monuments: Enduring Symbols of the South and the War Between the States* by Ralph Widener, which was listed last month, is out of stock. However, Brooks Davis says that Frank Rankin of Louisville has two copies for sale. Also, please note that the correct price is \$25, not \$15.

The New Market Battlefield Park will sponsor the 16th Annual Reenactment of the Battle of New Market on Sunday, May 8. Saturday will feature infantry and artillery competition, and a Civil War Ball and Buffalo Roast in the evening. For further information, write: New Market Battlefield Park, P.O. Box 1864, New Market, Virginia 22844.

The fifth annual Confederate Historical Institute will be held May 5-7, 1983 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. A highlight of the meeting will be tours of the Stones River and Franklin battlefields led by Ed Bearss, chief historian of the National Park Service. Also on the program will be talks by Stones River park historian Dan Brown ("The Long Arm at Stones River"); Dennis Kelly, park historian at Kennesaw Mountain ("Forrest at Murfreesboro"); Dr. Richard McMurry ("Hood Takes Command"); and Dr. Grady McWhiney.

The cost of the Institute is \$140 for Institute members and \$170 for non-members (\$10 discount for registration before April 15). This includes all sessions, meals and tours, but not lodging. For further information about the Institute, contact Civil War Round Table Associates, P.O. Box 7388M, Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 (501) 225-3996.

BULLETIN BOARD



Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Illinois Athletic Club, 112 S. Michigan, the second Friday in each month except as noted.

March 11: John Divine on "Cavalry Campaigns: A Prelude to Gettysburg."

April 8: Robert W. Johannsen on "Senator Stephen A. Douglas and the Spirit of the Age."

April 27-May 1: Annual Battlefield Tour to Chattanooga-Chickamauga.

May 13: Kathy Georg on "Actions at the Rose Farm on the Second Day at Gettysburg."

June 11: First Annual Nevins-Freeman Assembly. Recipient of award: Dr. John Hope Franklin.

Changes of address

Allan W. Follett, 6420 Offshore Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53205.

Hamilton Pitt, 300 North State Street, Apt. 4034, Chicago, Illinois 60610 (312) 645-0609.

The Fifth Annual Civil War Institute, "Campaigning with Lee," will be held June 18-25 in Richmond, Virginia. This year's seminar will focus on the war in and around Richmond, and will include visits to the historical sites in that city. In addition, two all-day bus tours will cover the Petersburg area and Lee's retreat to Appomattox. There will also be classroom study and panel discussions. The program director is again Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson. Among the speakers will be Dr. Daniel Jordan.

The cost of the seminar, which will be based on the campus of the University of Richmond, is \$295 per person, double occupancy. This includes the registration fee, lodging, meals, tours and instructional materials. Registration must be received by March 15. For further information, contact Dr. Linda Leffel, Donaldson Brown Center, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061 (703) 961-4848.

Chapman Grant, 95, grandson of Ulysses S. Grant, died in January in California. He was the son of Jesse Grant, the general's youngest son, and is survived by a son, Ulysses Grant V.

Fellow member Arnold Gates of New York recently spoke at the Library of Congress at a luncheon celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Armed Services Editions. He talked about his experiences with these books in World War II. One example—during the battle of Saipan he carried Carl Sandburg's *Storm Over the Land* in his helmet and read it during lulls in the fighting. Years later he told Sandburg about this, and how the book was a comfort in those uncertain days. Sandburg, he says, was quite pleased and signed his copy of the book.