

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Herman Hattaway on How the North Won

The growth of Abraham Lincoln as a war strategist, the contributions of U. S. Grant in expediting Northern victory and the significance of the Union's War Board are essential themes developed in the book published in 1983, *How the North Won*. On February 8, 1985, Herman Hattaway, co-author of that book and professor of history at the University of Missouri-Kansas City will use that title as the theme of his address to the Round Table.

In the book, Dr. Hattaway and Archer Jones present new assessments of the leadership and strategies of both sides. For the first time they present a complete explanation for the superiority of the Federal system of command, tracing its origin to Secretary of War Stanton's War Board. An astute man, Stanton realized that he knew nothing of how war was organized and there was precious little time for him to learn. Since the nation could offer no professional military literature, and its army officers maintained no permanent, critical journal of military thought, Stanton therefore turned to the professional soldiers and organized the Army's bureau chiefs into a primitive kind of general staff.



Herman Hattaway

His improvisation of a war board at least afforded Stanton a degree of insight into military operations that his predecessor, Simon Cameron, never even sought to achieve. The board consisted of Adjutant General Lorenzo Thomas; Montgomery Meigs, Quartermaster General; General James W. Ripley, Chief of Ordnance; General Joseph G. Totten, Chief Engineer; and Colonel Joseph P. Taylor, Commissary General—reinforced by any field officer who might be in Washington, and later by Stanton's "military aide", General E. R. S. Canby, a tough young combat veteran.

Testimony to Lincoln's growth as a war strategist is illustrated in the book... "by December, 1861, in proposing a primitive turning movement for the Army of the Potomac, Lincoln began to mature the notion of simultaneous advances... If two forces advanced, one probably would get through, for he believed it unlikely that both could be successfully resisted at the same time. Presumably the enemy would exploit their interior position by concentrating against one of the two advancing forces; but it, if pressed too hard, should fight back slowly into the entrenchments behind." (p. 57).

"Lincoln's many attributes included an ability to draw the best from those around him, such as Stanton and Hal-



438th Regular Meeting

Herman Hattaway
on
How the North Won

Friday, February 8, 1985

Chicago Press Club
410 N. Michigan
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$13.00 per person
Entree: Sirloin of Beef or Whitefish



Executive Committee meeting

President Bob Ziegler has announced there will be an Executive Committee meeting at 5 p.m. on February 8, immediately preceding the regular meeting. On the agenda is a discussion of the format of the Nevins-Freeman Assembly in September.

leck; an excellent knowledge, gained during the conflict, of the art of war and how to use this knowledge to understand and guide the war effort; an administrative capacity that permitted him to delegate efficiently and to concentrate on fundamental problems; and a superior ability to integrate the military and political factors. His own grand strategic contributions exemplify the latter. The use of black troops simultaneously weakened the rebels, strengthened the Army and pleased the radicals; his reconstruction policy sought both to entice states away from the Confederacy and to conciliate conservative opinion at home. Lincoln's military performance supports his acknowledged greatness." (p. 696)

(continued on page 2)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street
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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 60007.



With regard to Grant, Hattaway and Archer note: "Grant's strategy is usually associated with its executor, Sherman, and Grant with the 1864 campaign in Virginia. Of course, Sherman, Grant's personal and official friend, had much to do with the development of the plan for 1864. But the strategy distinctly belonged to Grant and he applied it, when possible, in Virginia as well as in Sherman's operations and in his multiple raids in the winter of 1865. In addition to a clear grasp of the right course of action, Grant added his unobtrusive but firm dominance of his subordinates, his talent for delegation, and his good management. Grant's qualities always eluded the brilliant and verbal Sherman, who never could fathom wherein lay the essential genius of the reticent Grant. But Sherman undoubtedly would have agreed with one of Meade's staff officers, equally baffled by the enigma of the quiet and unprepossessing Grant; Colonel Lyman finally concluded that Grant 'does everything with a specific reason; he is eminently a wise man.' The same might well have been said of Lincoln." (p. 696)

Professor Hattaway addressed our group on Stephen D. Lee at our March, 1979 meeting. A native of Louisiana, he received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. from Louisiana State University where he studied under Nevins-Freeman award winner T. Harry Williams. He joined the history department of the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1969 and was promoted to a full professorship in 1981. An ordained but inactive member of the clergy of the Anglican Catholic church, he lectures in church history at Holyrood Seminary, Liberty, New York. His book, *General Stephen D. Lee*, received the Jefferson Davis award as the best book of 1976 in Confederate history. Late next year, the University of Georgia Press will publish the sequel to *How the North Won* in its issuance of *Why the South Lost* which again will include Archer Jones as co-author.

Distinguished Lecturers Series

The following cassette tapes of previous talks to The Round Table are now available.

57. John E. Divine, "Cavalry Campaigns: A Prelude to Gettysburg" (3/11/83)

58. Perry Jamieson, "Artillery Tactics of the Civil War Era" (12/10/82)

59. Harold M. Hyman, "Has the Lincoln Conspiracy Theme Been Exhausted?" (10/13/78)

60. T. Harry Williams, "Beauregard" (recorded during the CWRT battlefield tour to Vicksburg, Mississippi 5/14/54)

All orders should be sent to: Pat Sumner, 403 Hatlen, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. The cost of each tape, unless otherwise noted, is \$7; add \$2 per order for shipping.

For a complete list of available tapes, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Pat Sumner at the above address.

New facilities at the Confederate Research Center in Hillsboro, Texas were dedicated on November 11. Some of the features of the Center are: over 3500 books, brochures and pamphlets on the Civil War; hundreds of newspaper and magazine clippings; capsule histories of all Texas-Confederate artillery, cavalry and infantry battalions, regiments and special forces; letters, diaries and unpublished manuscripts; Civil War newspapers and military documents; and extensive map and photographic files. The Center is directed by Col. Harold Simpson.

January meeting

"The Union Veteran and the G.A.R.: Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty," was the topic of fellow member Brooks Davis' talk to 99 members and guests at The Round Table meeting January 11. Brooks noted at the outset that the activities of the veterans is an overlooked topic when the Civil War is studied. He also noted that his grandfather, John Brooks Davis, who served in the 3rd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, was a member of the G.A.R. post in Paxton, Illinois.

The formation of veterans' organizations and societies originated during the Civil War. In September, 1863, the Union 3rd Corps formed a society to secure funds for embalming and shipping bodies home for burial. The Society of the Army of the Tennessee was organized in April, 1865, at Raleigh, North Carolina. Its membership was limited only to officers, and its purpose was to assist the families of officers in indigent circumstances.

The G.A.R. had its origins during Sherman's Meridian, Mississippi campaign in February, 1864. W. J. Rutledge, chaplain of the 14th Illinois Infantry, and his tentmate, Dr. B. F. Stephenson, discussed the idea of forming a post-war organization that would preserve the friendships and memories of their war-time service. They corresponded after the war and met in Springfield. After several meetings with other veterans, they established an organization and membership ritual ceremony. The rites were printed in Decatur, and two of the printers, who were also Union veterans, were so deeply impressed by the ceremony that they organized the first G.A.R. post.

The movement spread quickly in the midwest. By October, 1866, departments were organized in Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and other states. Mary Deering, in her book, *Veterans in Politics*, emphasized the partisan aspect of the G.A.R. and concluded that bright politicians, who were also veterans, saw the possibility of a Republican-oriented veterans' organization and encouraged its development.

The first national encampment was held at Indianapolis in November, 1866, and General Stephen A. Hurlbut was elected as national commander. In 1868, former General John A. Logan became the commander. He moved the G.A.R. headquarters to Washington, D.C. and began to centralize its operations. During the national encampment of 1868, the delegates voted to stay out of the political arena and not to endorse candidates for public office. Also, resolutions were passed favoring veterans' preference in federal appointments and stating that former Confederate soldiers could not be buried in national cemeteries.

As national commander and as a congressman, Logan was active in veterans' affairs. He is best remembered for his devious speeches, called "waving the bloody shirt" and for establishing Memorial Day. However, after Grant was elected President, the G.A.R.'s membership declined and several prominent members, including Logan, allowed their membership to lapse.

After 1876, membership began to increase. During the late 1870s, many violent labor strikes took place, and conservative veterans rallied to support the federal government against the strikers. The veterans believed that preserving law and order was now as equally important as preserving the Union. Also at this time the G.A.R. became involved with lobbying for pensions, forming auxiliary organizations, and advocating the improvement of history as taught in the public schools.

Membership again declined in the 1890s because the veterans were aging and dying off. However, during the Presidential campaign of 1896, the G.A.R. showed that it still had some strength at the national level. A travelling train of ex-generals, called the "Patriotic Heroes Battalion," and including one-legged Dan Sickles and one-armed Oliver Howard, travelled across the country in support of William McKinley and caused the comment that G.A.R. means "Generally All Republicans."

After 1900, new political issues were emerging and the G.A.R. was no longer a dominant force in American politics. At each annual encampment the number of members in attendance was smaller than the previous year. The last encampment was held in Indianapolis in 1949. Six of the surviving 16 veterans were present. The final campfire was held and all rode in the parade, accompanied by the U.S. Marine Band. The last Civil War veteran, Albert Woolson of Duluth, Minnesota, died at 109 in 1954. Taps had sounded for the Grand Army of the Republic.

Editors' note. There is a statue of General Logan, on horseback, in Grant Park, near Michigan Avenue and 9th Street. It was recently cleaned and restored by the Chicago Park District, and is now illuminated at night.

Civil War in Missouri Conference

A two day conference on the Civil War in Missouri, sponsored by the Missouri Historical Society, will be held May 31-June 1, 1985 at the Historical Society in Forest Park, Missouri.

"The Civil War in Missouri" will bring together historians and other scholars, both academic and non-professional, in a varied format to discuss issues, events, personalities and experiences in wartime Missouri. In addition to formal papers, the conference will include dramatic presentations, material culture studies and analyses of the impact of the war on residents and their communities in Missouri. The twenty presentations were selected from a statewide solicitation.

The conference will begin Friday morning with a historical overview by keynote speaker Professor William E. Parrish, head of the History Department, Mississippi State University, and co-author of *Missouri, the Heart of the Nation*. The afternoon program will include four sessions on various local Civil War topics. In the evening a dramatic presentation created from historical sources and titled "St. Louis Voices of the War Between the States" will be featured.

The Saturday program will include four sessions on several aspects of the War in Missouri, and the conference will conclude with a dramatic reenactment of wartime experiences called "War of the Border: 1854-1865."

The conference is free and open to the public, but registration will be limited due to space considerations. For more information, call the Missouri Historical Society, (314) 361-9265.

An exhibit, "To Save the Union: Indiana Regiments in the Civil War," will open at the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis on February 8. Through personal letters, drawings, newspapers and artifacts from the Civil War period, the exhibit will illustrate Indiana's involvement in the Civil War. For information, contact the Society at 315 W. Ohio, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202 (317) 232-1882.

THE NEW BOOKS

(compiled by Dick Clark)



Balz, Herman. *Lincoln and the Constitution. The Dictatorship Question Reconsidered.* The Seventh Annual R. Gerald McMurtry Lecture. Delivered at Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1984. 31 p., wraps.

Coddington, Edwin B. *The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command.* New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1984. pbk \$17.95.

Dunaway, Maxine. *Civil War Period Data from Thomas A. Peters Ledger, 1861/62-1864.* Polk County, Missouri. Including some Polk County Loyalty Oaths, 1862-64. Transcribed and arranged by... Springfield, MO: M. Dunaway, 1984. pbk. \$12.00.

Dunaway, Maxine. *1862 Rebel List of Polk County, Missouri.* Transcribed and arranged by... Springfield, MO: M. Dunaway, 1984. pbk. \$10.00.

Kingman, Eugene. *Tramping out the Vintage, 1861-1864.* The Civil War Diaries and Letters of... Edited by Helene C. Phelan. Almond, NY: H. C. Phelan, 1983. 369 p., ill. pbk \$9.95.

Lee, Agnes. *Growing up in the 1850's. The Journal of Agnes Lee.* Edited by Mary Custis Lee de Butts. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, published for the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association, 1984. xx, 151 pp., illus., index.

Miers, Earl Schenck. *The Web of Victory: Grant at Vicksburg.* Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1984. pbk. \$8.95. Original of 1955.

Smith, James Power. *With Stonewall Jackson in the Army of Northern Virginia.* Gaithersburg, Maryland: Zullo and Van Sickle Books, 1982. \$16.50. Originally published by Southern Historical Society Papers, 1920.

Stevens, Charles Augustus. *Berdan's United States Sharpshooters in the Army of the Potomac, 1861-1865.* Revised with roster and index. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1984. \$30.00.

Swanberg, W. A. *First Blood: The Story of Fort Sumter.* New York: Scribner's, 1984. pbk \$12.95. Original of 1957.

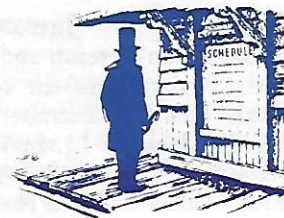
Todorich, Charles. *The Spirited Years: A History of the Antebellum Naval Academy.* Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1984. \$19.95.

Wilson, Edmund. *Patriotic Gore: Studies in the Literature of the American Civil War.* Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1984. pbk \$12.50. Original of 1962.

Young, Harold. *Vicksburg Battlefield Monuments: A Photographic Record.* Photographs by Harold Young, text by Steve Walker and David F. Riggs. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1984. pbk \$10.95.

Jerry Russell, national chairman of Civil War Round Table Associates, recently received the Harry S Truman Award from the Kansas City Round Table for outstanding contributions to the study and preservation of Civil War history. Among previous recipients of the award are Bruce Catton, Allan Nevins, Ed Bearss, Ralph G. Newman and John Y. Simon.

BULLETIN BOARD



Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Chicago Press Club, 410 N. Michigan, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

February 8: Herman Hattaway on "How the North Won."

March 8: Gary Gallagher on "General Stephen D. Ramseur."

April 12: William Sullivan on "The War in the Trans-Mississippi."

May 1: Preliminary tour of the Richmond area, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. \$20 per person.

May 1-5: Annual Battlefield Tour to Richmond/Petersburg/Appomattox.

May 10: Jeffry D. Wert on "The 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign."

June 14: Richard B. Harwell, subject to be announced.

Change of address

Mrs. Simon Pleiter (formerly Barbara Long), 6659 Walnutwood Circle, Baltimore, Maryland 21212.

We regret to report the death, on January 18, of Milwaukee Round Table president Philip J. Hohlweck. Phil, who had served as president since 1973, was a good friend of many in our Round Table. Last September he participated on our Nevins-Freeman Assembly panel, "Why do Civil War Round Tables Exist?" Our sincere condolences are extended to his family.

On to Richmond

Persons planning to fly to the Battlefield Tour to Richmond/Petersburg/Appomattox this May should note that a special airfare of only \$138 round trip is available on United, which offers a choice of a couple of flights per day to and from Richmond. Seats are limited, however, and you are advised to make reservations promptly by calling United or your travel agent.

In making your reservation you may want to plan to arrive Tuesday April 30 so that you can participate in the preliminary tour of sites in the Richmond area on Wednesday, May 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Further details about this tour will be announced.

James L. McDonough and Thomas L. Connelly have received the Douglas Southall Freeman Award from the Military Order of the Stars and Bars for their book, *Five Tragic Hours: The Battle of Franklin*. The award was presented at a ceremony at the Carter House in Franklin, Tennessee on December 20.

The Eighteenth Annual Reenactment of the Battle of New Market will be held on Sunday, May 12, 1985, in New Market, Virginia. For more information, contact: New Market Battlefield Park, P.O. Box 1864, New Market, Virginia 22844.