



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLV, Number 8

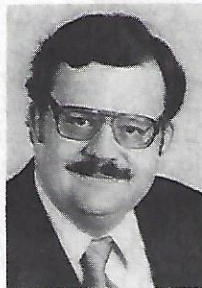
Chicago, Illinois

April, 1985

## William J. Sullivan on The Trans-Mississippi in 1864: A Game of Pitch and Toss

The last offensive of the Confederate army west of the Mississippi River will be the focus of William J. Sullivan's remarks when he addresses The Round Table at its April 12th meeting. Long interested in the Civil War campaigns in the West, Bill, a current Vice President of The Round Table, will detail the events of Price's raid of September-October, 1864 into Missouri.

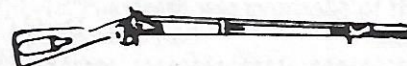
In August of 1864 Sherman was preparing to move on Jonesborough during the march to the sea; Sheridan was skirmishing near the Smithfield crossing of the Opequon Creek in the Shenandoah Valley; Lee was in the Petersburg defenses, with all attempts to retake the Weldon Railroad ending in failure; Farragut and his fleet are operating against Mobile Bay and Fort Morgan falls; Forrest has raided Memphis and held it for part of a day while Smith retreats, leaving Forrest free to operate against Sherman's supply lines; the Democratic convention meets in Chicago to nominate their candidate for President; Lincoln has asked his cabinet to sign a memorandum that they will support the new President-elect, since he believed that he would not be re-elected; and General Sterling Price and an army of 12,000 men began an expedition to retake Missouri for the Confederacy.



William J. Sullivan

After Shelby's raid into Missouri in early 1863 and again after the battle of Jenkin's Ferry in April, 1864, E. Kirby Smith was urged by the Confederate high command to either reinforce the Army of Tennessee or take the offensive. He initiated a plan for the seizure of the state of Missouri, sending Major General Sterling Price with 12,000 men and 14 guns across the Arkansas River into Missouri. Price's army was composed of veterans led by Fagan, Marmaduke and 'Jo' Shelby. Price succeeded in crossing the state without the commander in St. Louis, William S. Rosecrans, being aware of his movements. In moving on St. Louis, 'Pap's' goal was to cut the Mississippi River. The speed of this movement was slowed at Pilot Knob (about 86 miles from St. Louis). Despite the urgings of his subordinate commanders, Price determined to assault the fortifications there. The Union commander, General Thomas Ewing, drew in supporting units to gain time that would enable Rosecrans to concentrate forces from the rest of the

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440th Regular Meeting

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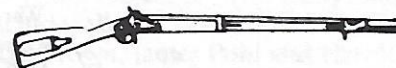
William J. Sullivan  
on  
The Trans-Mississippi in 1864:  
A Game of Pitch and Toss

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Friday, April 12, 1985

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Quality Inn  
Halsted and Madison  
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
\$13.00 per person  
Entree: London Broil, Fish or Fruit Plate



### Meeting site

Because of the inadequacy of the room size at the Press Club, it has been decided that we should seek another meeting location. Therefore, our April and June meetings will be held at the Quality Inn, which is on Halsted Street between Madison and Monroe, just one block west of Interstate 94 (Kennedy-Dan Ryan Expressway). This is an area of extensive urban renewal and is rapidly becoming one of the most dynamic locations in Chicago. The hotel has its own sheltered self-parking garage. The entrance and exit is on Madison Street (which is two-way west of the expressway) and the parking fee for those attending our meeting will be only \$1.00. Please advise the garage attendant that you are going to our meeting. For those utilizing the commuter trains, both Union and Northwestern stations are only a few blocks away and the hotel will make a van available after the meeting for those requesting a ride to either station. The #20 Madison bus stops across the street

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# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

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

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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.



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state. Since the St. Louis garrison was considered not strong enough to resist Price's army, the veteran corps of A. J. Smith was detained at Cairo and Rosecrans could only stand and wait.

On September 26, 1864, Price assaulted Pilot Knob and after a brilliant defense, Ewing was forced to abandon the position, blow up his stores and then join the troops in the defense of the state capital, Jefferson City. Price attacked the outermost defenses in the St. Louis area, but abandoned his march on the city with the arrival of A. J. Smith's troops from Cairo. As Price moved westward toward Jefferson City, Rosecrans called out all the militia in the state and ordered them to concentrate on Jefferson City. Price, now pursued by troops from St. Louis, withdrew from the area of the capital and attacked along the Kansas-Missouri border. He was defeated at the Big Blue and Little Blue Rivers, and later at Mine Creek. He made one more stand at Newtonia in late October before finally withdrawing back into Arkansas. Price's raid had accomplished one of the goals of the Confederate high command in that his movements had drawn valuable Federal troops and resources away from the Tennessee theatre of operations for several months. The 'Price Raid' was the last offensive of the Confederate army west of the Mississippi River. With about the same number of troops that 'Stonewall' Jackson had commanded in the Shenandoah Valley campaign of 1862, Price in late 1864 had nearly seized Missouri for the Confederacy.

A graduate of Culver Military Academy, Bill received both his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Northwestern University. He is a former state chairman of the Civil War Token Society and serves as chairman of the board of the Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums. Since 1976, he has been the Director of the Oak Lawn Historical Society where he is the chief administrative officer, with responsibility for their history programs. In 1983 the Illinois State Historic Sites Advisory Council (which nominates historic sites to the state preservation office for inclusion on the National and Illinois Register) selected Bill as one of its 15 members.

Bill is the author of numerous articles and *Oak Lawn: A Century of Progress* (1982). He appeared at our rostrum in January, 1976 to address us on 'The Civil War on the Great Plains and in the Far West', and served on the panel of senators for our February, 1984 meeting on 'Senate Confrontation: 1860'. A resident of Oak Lawn, Bill is the News Director for Multimedia Cablevision, with production responsibility for a daily news show which he serves as anchor.

**The Art Institute of Chicago** recently received a bronze statuette of a standing Abraham Lincoln by the American sculptor Daniel Chester French. It was a gift from Mrs. Philip D. Sang in memory of her late husband. The statue, cast in 1912, was made from a plaster model used for the 10-foot bronze sculpture resting on a pedestal in Lincoln, Nebraska. French is perhaps best known for his sculpture of the "Seated Lincoln" in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., produced in 1916. The statue in the Art Institute depicts Lincoln in a mood of repose with a downward tilt of the head, slightly rounded shoulders and hands clasped solemnly. French said he had "purposely tried to represent Lincoln bearing the burdens and perplexities and problems of the Great War."



### March meeting

"Stephen Dodson Ramseur: Lee's Gallant General" was the topic of our speaker, Gary Gallagher, when he addressed 110 members and guests at the 439th Regular Meeting of The Civil War Round Table on March 8. Stephen Ramseur was born on May 31, 1837, in Lincolnton, North Carolina. His parents were the descendants of German immigrants and possessed strong religious beliefs which would influence Ramseur throughout his life. At the age of 16 he enrolled in Davidson College, a small school with an enrollment of less than 100. Early in his academic career, Ramseur decided not to remain at Davidson but to seek admission to the Military Academy at West Point. With the encouragement of Daniel H. Hill, a Davidson faculty member and West Point graduate, he passed the entrance examination and was admitted as a cadet.

West Point gave Ramseur his first exposure to people and places outside the South. They did not impress him favorably. However, he did well in his military and academic studies, ranking 14th in a class of 41. He graduated in 1860, was commissioned as a brevet second lieutenant of artillery, and assigned to Ft. Monroe, Virginia.

Before his native state of North Carolina seceded, Ramseur resigned his commission during the first week of April, 1861. He planned to travel to the Confederate capital in Montgomery, Alabama, and offer his services to the South. While in North Carolina for a brief visit with friends, he was informed that he had been elected captain of Ellis Light Artillery. Ramseur accepted the appointment and immediately began to train recruits into artillerymen.

In April, 1862, Ramseur became colonel of the 49th North Carolina Infantry. He trained the regiment and took it to Richmond where it saw its first combat during the Peninsula campaign. While leading the 49th in the ill-fated charge at Malvern Hill, Ramseur was severely wounded and did not rejoin the army until January, 1863. While on medical leave, Ramseur was promoted to brigadier general on November 1, 1862, to replace another North Carolina officer, General George B. Anderson, who was mortally wounded at Antietam.

In his first battle as a general officer, Ramseur and his brigade performed well at Chancellorsville. Assigned to Rodes' division, Ramseur's brigade was part of Jackson's flanking march and night attack which routed the Union XI Corps on May 5, 1863. The next day, Ramseur and his brigade attacked and seized the Union breastworks near Fairview. In their official reports, General A. P. Hill, Jeb Stuart and Richard Rodes all gave high praise to both Ramseur and his brigade for their service at Chancellorsville.

During the first day's battle at Gettysburg, Ramseur's brigade attacked and routed the right flank of the Union I Corps and captured 800-900 prisoners. His brigade, along with Dole's, was the first to enter the town of Gettysburg. When Lee's army retreated to Virginia, Ramseur commanded a portion of the rear guard. In October, 1862, he requested and was granted leave. He returned to North Carolina and married Ellen Richmond.

In the spring of 1864, the Battle of the Wilderness took place. Ramseur's brigade was not active in that battle. However, it saw more than its share of combat at Spotsylvania. On May 10, Ramseur led a counterattack to restore the Confederate line breached by Upton's attack. On May 12, Ramseur's brigade was one of the first to counterattack after Hancock's II Corps captured the "Mule Shoe." Again, Ramseur was wounded, but he and his men remained in

combat for over 20 hours until ordered to withdraw to a new defensive line. On June 1, the day after his 27th birthday, he was promoted to major general and took command of Jubal Early's division.

In the fall of 1864, Ramseur's division fought with Early's command to prevent the Federals from controlling the Shenandoah Valley. Although outnumbered, Ramseur's division fought well at Winchester and Fisher's Hill. When the Confederates made a surprise attack at Cedar Creek on October 19, it was Ramseur's division in the lead. During the afternoon, as the Confederates awaited the Union counterattack, Ramseur was mortally wounded, carried from the field, and captured by Union cavalry.

That evening, several former West Point classmates, including George Custer and Wesley Merritt, visited Ramseur who recently had been informed that his wife gave birth. On October 20, Stephen D. Ramseur died. He was one of the youngest and most combative of the Confederate general officers. His death was symbolic of the collapse of Lee's army during 1864-65.

**Big find at Petersburg**—On the evening of April 2, 1865, as Lee's forces began withdrawing from besieged Petersburg, a locomotive and some cars were placed on a bridge over the Appomattox River, a bridge that ran to the Southside Railroad shops. Shortly thereafter, the bridge was fired, and it as well as the train collapsed into the river. This destruction was the subject of at least one photograph which showed the engine in the river, (*Miller's Photographic History*, vol. 3, p. 296).

Chris Calkins, historian at Petersburg National Battlefield, has discovered that parts of the engine, a car, and the bridge rails still lie in the river. Officials from Petersburg are now determining the feasibility of raising these artifacts for public display. Sounds like a fascinating project. It also makes one wonder how much is in the Potomac River at Harpers Ferry. The bridge there was destroyed *nine* times!

The above item is from the Harpers Ferry Round Table newsletter.

**The Sixth Annual Confederate History Symposium** will be held April 20 at Hill Junior College in Hillsboro, Texas. This year's subject is "The Gettysburg Campaign" and will include talks by Frank Vandiver, Grady McWhiney, Norman Brown, James Pohl and Harold Simpson. A Civil War skirmish featuring infantry and artillery units will be enacted. For more information and reservations, write: Confederate Research Center, P.O. Box 619, Hillsboro, Texas 76645.

**The Second Annual Civil War Relic Show and Sale** will be held May 10-12 in Cambridge, Ohio. In addition to the show and sale, there will be an encampment, a battle reenactment, drill competition, period dress competition and a military ball. For further information, contact Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitor and Convention Bureau, 2250 Southgate Parkway, Cambridge, Ohio 43725 (614) 432-2022.

**The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States** has announced that it is accepting Associate Members who will have all the rights, privileges and obligations as hereditary members. For further information, call Marty Dutch, Commander, Illinois Commandery, at 543-8000 (days), 323-2457 (evenings).



# THE NEW BOOKS

(compiled by Dick Clark)



Alberts, Don E. *Rebels on the Rio Grande: The Civil War Journals of A.B. Peticolas*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1984. \$19.95.

Bailey, Ronald H. & Editors of Time-Life Books. *The Bloodiest Day: The Battle of Antietam*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1984. \$19.95.

*Battlefields of the South: From Bull Run to Fredericksburgh: with sketches of Confederate commanders, and gossip of the camps, by an English Combatant, Lieutenant of Artillery on the Field Staff*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1984. \$19.95. Original of 1864.

Brownell, Josiah C. *At Andersonville: A Narrative of Personal Adventure at Andersonville, Florence and Charleston Rebel Prisons*. Edited by Daniel E. Russell. Glen Cove, NJ: Glen Cove Public Library, 1981. ix, 40 p. \$15.00.

Cheek, Philip and Mair Pointon. *History of Sauk County Riflemen, known as Comapny "A" Sixth Wisconsin Veteran Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1865*. With new introduction by Alan T. Nolan. Gaithersburg, MD: Butternut Press, 1984. 220 p., illus. \$26.50.

Colorado, Ray C. *The Civil War in the Western Territories: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico & Utah*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984. pbk \$8.95. Hardcover of 1959.

Daniel, Larry J. *Cannoneers in Gray. The Field Artillery of the Army of Tennessee, 1861-1865*. University, AL: The University of Alabama Press, 1984. 234 p., illus., notes, bibliog., index. \$19.95.

Editors of Time-Life Books. *Lee Takes Command: From Seven Days to Second Bull Run*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1984. \$19.95.

Gallagher, Gary W. *Stephen Dodson Ramseur, Lee's Gallant General*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985. xiv, 213 p., maps, illus., notes, bibliog, index. \$19.95.

Watson, William. *Life in the Confederate Army: Being the Observations and Experiences of an Alien in the South during the American Civil War*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1984. \$26.60. Original of 1888.

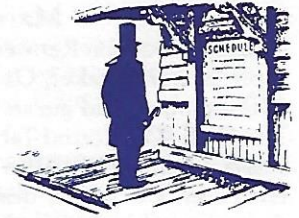
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from the hotel. From downtown the bus runs west on Washington, south on Clinton, and west again on Madison. Going to downtown it runs straight east on Madison.

Also, there will be available for dinner a fruit plate in addition to the normal meat and fish alternatives. Please indicate your choice on your reservation card. Unfortunately, the Quality Inn is already booked in May, so for our May meeting we will return to the Press Club one last time.

**If you are flying to the Battlefield Tour please note:** It has just come to our attention (March 27) that United Airlines has made some changes with regard to its flights to and from Richmond. You are advised to contact United or your travel agent as soon as possible.

# BULLETIN BOARD



## Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Quality Inn, Halsted and Madison, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

April 12: William Sullivan on "The Trans-Mississippi in 1864: A Game of Pitch and Toss."

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

May 10: Jeffry D. Wert on "The 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. **Note:** The meeting will be at the Chicago Press Club.

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

September 20: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner: Recipient of Award, Dr. John Y. Simon. **Note:** This is the third Friday of the month.

## New members

Hal Ardell, 6781 North Keota Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60646 (312) 774-6781.

Andrew J. Boling, Baker & McKenzie, 130 E. Randolph, Suite 2700, Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312) 861-8076.

Thomas Chasteen, P.O.B. 489, Crossville, Illinois 62827 (618) 966-3372.

Jerry Feinstein, 8149 N. Kenton, Skokie, Illinois 60076 (312) 674-0120.

Steven D. Horton, 3123 N. Cicero Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60641 (312) 777-4816.

Fred Mittleman, 615 Sapling Lane, Deerfield, Illinois 60015 (312) 945-4209.

Dr. Donald W. Turner, Northwestern University Dental School, 240 E. Huron, Chicago, Illinois 60611 (312) 908-5941.

William C. Vinck, 7907 S. Kilbourn, Chicago, Illinois 60652 (312) 582-9713.

## Changes of address

Arthur Armstrong, 3549 Highway Avenue, Highland, Indiana 46322.

Richard J. Percy, 7330 Winthrop Way, #7, Downers Grove, Illinois 60516 (312) 963-2688.

Jim Sullivan, 269 E. Third, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126.

**If you want a preview** of what you will experience on our Battlefield Tour, you might want to participate in the annual "Lee's Retreat" tour on April 13 which follows the line of Lee's withdrawal from Petersburg to Appomattox. The cost is \$20, which includes lunch. For information, write Appomattox Tour, Petersburg National Battlefield, Petersburg, Virginia 23805.

**Fellow members on the speaking circuit** recently included Merlin Sumner who spoke to the Salt Creek Round Table March 1 on "Grant's Staff: A Plus or a Minus?" and Marshall Krolick who addressed the Atlanta Round Table March 12 on "Brandy Station: Prelude to Gettysburg."