

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLVI, Number 5

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January, 1986

Wayne Anderson, Marshall Krolick, William Sullivan, Karl Sundstrom and James Vlazny on Our Ethnic Ancestors in the Civil War

The foreign-born element in the population of the United States in the mid-nineteenth century was very large in relation to the native-born. By far the greater part of that foreign-born element was located in the northern states; of the foreign-born in 1860, 86.6 per cent were inhabitants of the free states. By virtue of their numbers, the foreign-born would play a significant role in the Civil War. On January 10, 1986, a panel that includes five of our members, Wayne Anderson, Marshall Krolick, William Sullivan, Karl Sundstrom and James Vlazny, will present short summaries of the participation of such ethnic groups as the Irish, Scandinavians and Germans, as well as Jews and Blacks in the events of the Civil War period.

In his remarks, Wayne Anderson will discuss the increase in immigration of Scandinavians to the United States as the war began. He will focus on the service of the 15th Wisconsin Infantry regiment, which fought at Perryville, Stones River, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge, as well as in the Atlanta campaign.

A native Chicagoan, Wayne received a B.A. degree in political science from Western Illinois University in 1971 and secured an M.P.A. degree from Roosevelt University in 1974. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1971 and received a recent promotion to major in the Army Reserve Corps. Wayne functions on contract compliance for the suburban bus division of the Regional Transportation Authority. In the Round Table, he has served as chairman of our Battlefield Preservation committee, and is the current Inspector General, as well as an assistant editor of our Newsletter. His interests include the Atlanta campaign and the battle of Spotsylvania Court House.

Past President Marshall Krolick will deal in his presentation with two major controversies that affected the Jewish community during the Civil War. One concern arose early in the war when the Federal congress included in the Volunteer Act of 1861 a provision that "chaplains had to be a 'regularly ordained minister of some Christian denomination.'" The matter was debated in Congress and later reversed to permit the service of Jews as army chaplains. Another point of concern developed with the issuance from General Grant's headquarters of General Order No. 11, dated December 17, 1862, which cited the 'Jews as a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department... and are hereby expelled from the



447th Regular Meeting

Wayne Anderson, Marshall Krolick, William Sullivan,
Karl Sundstrom and James Vlazny
on
Our Ethnic Ancestors in the Civil War

Friday, January 10, 1986

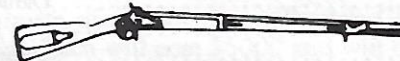
Quality Inn

Halsted and Madison

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$13.00 per person

Entree: Rock Cornish Hen, Fish or Fruit Plate



Executive Committee meeting

President Paul Klinger has announced there will be an Executive Committee meeting at The Quality Inn on Saturday, January 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All current officers, committee chairmen, and past presidents are urged to attend.

department within 24 hours of receipt of this order.' Though Halleck and Lincoln rescinded this order on January 4, 1863, it severely damaged Grant's reputation. Marshall will also discuss whether there was a 'Jewish position' on the war and the institution of slavery.

A partner in the Chicago law firm of Deutsch, Levy & Engel, Marshall has served as Assistant State's Attorney of Cook County. An active member since 1961, he has filled the posts of president, vice-president, treasurer and tour chairman, as well as Newsletter editor for five years. He has earned national recognition for his knowledge of the Get-

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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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Picnic	Paul Klekner and Nate Yellen

The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Dan Weinberg, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.



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tysburg campaign, and speaks frequently on aspects of that campaign to various groups throughout the country.

Our current Vice President and Publicity Chairman, Bill Sullivan, will deal with the status of the Irish in this critical era. Before the war began, the Irish were emerging from a period of severe discrimination through the rise of the Know Nothing party. Signs that stated, "No Irish need apply," were commonplace reminders of this attitude. At the outbreak of the war, such men as Thomas Meagher and James Mulligan formed regiments to fight for their adopted country. Those Irish who enlisted did so as much from ethnic pride as they did to be assimilated into the general populace. In the late 1850s the Irish were looked upon as a 'criminal class' and 70% of those in jail were of Irish descent. In the cities of the East, the Irish were associated with the Democratic party and found themselves competing with free blacks for employment. It was the contribution of the Irish to love their adopted country and yet hate their fellow countrymen.

As News Director for Multimedia Cablevision, Bill also has production responsibility for a daily news broadcast on which he serves as 'anchor'. He has B.A. and M.A. degrees from Northwestern University and serves as chairman of the board of the Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums. A resident of Oak Lawn, Bill has been the director of the Oak Lawn Historical Society, functioning as chief administrative officer, with responsibility for the society's various programs. He served on the panel of senators for our February, 1984 meeting on "Senate Confrontation: 1860" and spoke to our April, 1985 meeting on "The Trans-Mississippi in 1864: A Game of Pitch and Toss."

As objects of ridicule, the Irish were joined by the Germans due to their mutual Catholicism, but the Germans were further weighed down by the specter of Judaism. Karl Sundstrom, a veteran member, feels that the Germans were unduly maligned by an extremely critical press, despite their substantial support of the war effort. More than half of the 12,000 men in the XI Corps of the Federal army were born in Germany or were of recent German descent. This ethnic preponderance was further reflected in the corps' officer group which included names like Schurz, Schimmelpennig, Buschbeck and Von Gilsa. The precipitous retreat of the XI Corps due to Jackson's masterful flank attack at Chancellorsville caused the corps to be denounced as 'the Flying Dutchmen.' Karl will endeavor to paint a more representative picture of the German-American contribution to Union victory.

A resident of North Riverside, Karl was born and raised in the Chicago suburbs and teaches at the high school level on the west side of Chicago. A 1966 graduate of Loyola University, he secured an M.A. degree in English literature from Northern Illinois University in 1977 and another M.A. in American studies from Northern in 1983. He wrote a master's thesis on the XI Corps or 'Dutch Corps' at Chancellorsville.

Jim Vlazny will concentrate, in his presentation, on the unique roles of the Negro in the Civil War. As Jim views him, the Negro was: the most likely major cause of the war; the most controversial and discussed; the most abused; the most underpaid; the most killed and wounded (percentage-wise); and the most important source of manpower for both the North and the South. For support of his views, Jim

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December meeting

On December 13, 104 members and guests met at the 446th Regular Meeting of The Civil War Round Table to hear Christopher Calkins, historian at Petersburg National Battlefield, discuss "The Ragged and Starved Confederates: An Examination of Lee's Army, 1864-65."

Chris talked about the logistical conditions affecting Lee's army from the Battle of the Wilderness to its surrender at Appomattox Court House. Quoting from primary sources, he found that reports on the condition of Lee's Army were contradictory. A former Confederate writing in 1893 described his comrades as ragged, threadbare and often without shoes. However, a soldier in the 2nd Vermont, guarding Confederate prisoners during the Appomattox Campaign, described his foes as looking as well dressed as Union soldiers.

Chaplain Halleck Armstrong of the 50th Pennsylvania described captured Confederates as good in appearance, but with no pretense of uniformity. Joseph Gorgas of the Confederate Ordnance Department wrote in September, 1864, that the Confederacy was better off now than during the previous two years. The only scarcity, he said, was of men to wage war.

Chris said it is common to interpret Lee's army as threadbare and starving at the end of the war. He gave two reasons for this interpretation. One is the belief that the South lacked the material resources to fight a war, and, second, the South always fought outnumbered. He mentioned several modern writers who have used these reasons.

Chris became interested in the condition of Lee's army when he worked at Appomattox Court House National Park. He excavated a large number of artifacts from the last camp site of the Army of Northern Virginia. Of these artifacts, he discovered nearly all equipment and ammunition was made in the Confederacy. Hardly any was made in the North.

When Grant commenced his campaign in the spring of 1864, he knew that supplies were of critical importance to the Confederacy. After the Army of the Potomac failed to take Petersburg by force, it besieged the city. From July, 1864, to March, 1865, Grant continually attempted to capture the rail lines that entered Petersburg. He realized that if the Confederates were cut off from their supply lines, they would be in trouble.

Chris described the categories of supplies that Lee's army needed: Ordnance; clothing; and subsistence (food). In the area of ordnance, the Army of Northern Virginia had no major problems. Weapons and ammunition were obtained from Southern factories and were captured from the enemy. Contrary to popular opinion, the soldiers of Lee's army were as well armed as their foes. In the Army of the Potomac, only two regiments per corps were armed with repeating rifles. The remainder, like the Confederates, used single-shot rifles.

Problems existed in clothing Lee's army. Chris gave several reasons for this. One is that the soldiers did not repair their uniforms. Also, they threw away extra issues of clothing and were indifferent to their appearance. General Robert A. Lawton, the Quartermaster of the Army, wrote that his department had built up a reserve supply of shoes and clothing, but inefficient clothing requests from commanders, a poor distribution system, and wastage by the soldiers caused clothing problems in the Army of Northern Virginia.

Subsistence was another problem for the Confeder-

ates. Lee wrote in February, 1865, that if changes were not made in the Army's Commissary Department, the army would suffer. Virginia suffered a drought in the fall of 1864, and when Sherman's army captured Fort Fisher in early 1865, the Confederacy lost its last port through which supplies could be imported. Chris cited several other reasons for food shortages in Lee's army. One is that the southern people lost confidence in the currency system. Farmers did not want to sell their produce to the Confederate government for worthless paper. Also, the railroads remained privately owned. This meant the Confederacy could not direct food shipments where they were needed most.

In February, I.M. St. John was appointed as Confederate Commissary General, and in a short time he made several noticeable improvements. When Lee evacuated Petersburg on April 2, 1865, his army was not starving. Ration warehouses were established at Richmond, Danville and Lynchburg, and Lee's line of retreat followed its supply line. However, at Appomattox Station, Custer's cavalry captured the supply trains destined for Lee's army. Without food, the army couldn't fight, and it surrendered.

In conclusion, Chris stated that the Confederacy could produce enough food, with the exception of meat. It was the system of distribution that did not work. The condition of soldiers varied from command to command. But the popular image of ragged Confederates contrasts with the written records that supplies were on hand. The true answer regarding the condition of Lee's army, Chris said, lies between these contrasts.

Round Table treasurer Dick McAdoo's artillery reenactment unit, Camp Fuller, recently went to Natchez, Mississippi to participate in the filming of John Jakes' "North and South, Book II," to be shown on ABC next spring. Dick says there were about 5000 reenactors present, and reports that not only did they have a good time, they got paid.

Six Confederate generals were mortally wounded during the five hour Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. The Franklin Memorial Association is raising funds for bronze busts of five of them (Patrick Cleburne's is already done). Each will cost \$5000 and will be placed in the Carter House Museum at Franklin, Tennessee. If you are interested in making a contribution, write Franklin Memorial Association, Box 1641, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37133.

The Eighth Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet will be held in Suffolk, Virginia on January 25, 1986. The speaker will be William D. Henderson, a professor of history at Richard Bland College, who will discuss the "41st Virginia Infantry, Mahone's Brigade." Henderson is working on a book on the 41st for the Virginia Regimental Histories Series.

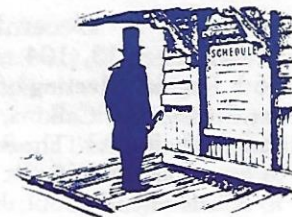
An article in the September-October issue of *American* magazine reports that the monuments at Gettysburg are showing the effects of time, weather and acid rain, and that in an effort to do something about it, Superintendent John Earnst has started an Adopt-a-Monument program. He is encouraging the individual states that donated the monuments to raise public and private funds to adopt and care for their monuments. Earnst says virtually all of the 300 monuments in the park need work.

The New Books

compiled by Dick Clark



BULLETIN BOARD



Avirett, James B. and other officers of the Army of Northern Virginia, C.S.A. *The Memoirs of General Turner Ashby and his Compeers*. New introduction by Millard K. Bushong. Gaithersburg, MD: Butternut Press, 1984. Original of 1867. \$28.50.

Banes, Charles H. *History of the Philadelphia Brigade*. 69th, 61st, 72nd, & 106th Pennsylvania Volunteers. New introduction by Kent Masterson Brown. Original of 1876. Gaithersburg, MD: Butternut Press, 1984. \$28.50.

Barber, Lucius W. *Army Memoirs of Lucius W. Barber, Company "D," 15th Illinois Volunteer Infantry*. May 24, 1861 to Sept. 30, 1865. Original of 1894. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1985. \$19.95.

Buck, Samuel D. *With the Old Confeds*. Actual Experiences of a Captain in the Line. Gaithersburg, MD: Butternut Press, 1985. \$16.50. Original of 1925.

Cimprich, John. *Slavery's End in Tennessee, 1861-1865*. University, AL: University of Alabama Press, 1985. \$27.50.

Civil War Nursing. New York: Garland Pub., 1984. Contains *Hospital Sketches* by Louisa M. Alcott and *Memoir of Emily Elizabeth Parsons* dating from 1863 and 1880. \$35.00.

Gragg, Rod. *The Civil War Quiz and Fact Book*. New York: Harper & Row, 1985. \$15.95; pbk \$8.95.

Katz, D. Mark. *Custer in Photographs*. Gettysburg, PA: Yo-Mark Production Co., 1985. \$150.00.

Kunhardt, Dorothy Meserve and Philip B. Kunhardt, Jr. *Twenty Days: A Photojournalistic Account of Lincoln's Assassination, the Conspiracy & Aftermath*. Original in cloth of 1965. Van Nuys, CA: Newcastle Publishing Co., 1985. pbk \$14.95.

Martin, Richard A. and Daniel L. Schafer. *Jacksonville's Ordeal by Fire; A Civil War History*. Jacksonville, FL: Florida Publishing Co., 1984. \$15.00.

Perry, Milton F. *Infernal Machines. The Story of Confederate Submarine and Mine Warfare*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1985. Cloth original of 1965. pbk \$8.95.

Schuyler, Hartley & Graham. *Illustrated Catalog of Civil War Military Goods: Union Army Weapons, Insignia, Uniform Accessories, and other Equipment*. Rev. edition of the catalogue of 1864. New York; Dover Publications, 1985. pbk \$9.95.

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will utilize data and quotations from Abraham Lincoln, Alexander Stephens, Patrick Cleburne, Frederick Douglass and others.

Director of the Corporate Licensing Department of Abbott Laboratories, Jim is a native Chicagoan with a B.S. degree from Loyola University (1963), a Ph.D. degree in Organic Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin (1968), and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago (1976). He is a member of the Chicago, Northern Illinois and London, England Civil War Round Tables. His business travel permits him to attend meetings of the London group once or twice each year.

Future meetings

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

January 10, 1986: "Our Ethnic Ancestors in the Civil War;" a panel featuring Wayne Anderson, Marshall Krollick, Bill Sullivan, Karl Sundstrom, and Jim Vlazny.

February 14: Mark E. Neeley, Jr., on "Lincoln and Douglas: A Relationship to Consider."

March 15: All day (Saturday) assembly on "Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant: The Civil War Years."

April 11: Edgar Archer on "Orthopedic Surgery in the Civil War."

May 1-4: Annual Battlefield Tour: The 1862 Peninsula Campaign.

May 9: Gordon Whitney on "The President Will Now Make a Few Remarks."

June 6: James I. "Bud" Robertson on "Confederate General A. P. Hill." **Note:** This is the first Friday of the month.

New members

James F. Davis, 9504 W. 105th Terr., Overland Park, Kansas 66212 (913) 888-8243.

Peter E. Gutzmer, 1601 W. Chase Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60626 (312) 338-6626.

Irvin L. and Muriel G. Kaage, 7326 N. Olcott Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60648 (312) 774-5243.

Roger W. Peck, 733 Shepard Ct., Gurnee, Illinois 60031 (312) 367-5144.

Mark A. Plummer, 504 Hovey, Normal, Illinois 61761 (309) 452-6133.

Arthur T. Seybert, 6824 W. Ardmore Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60631 (312) 775-2223.

Changes of address

John Krelle, 236 Williams Drive, Schaumburg, Illinois 60195 (312) 980-5734.

Merlin E. and Patricia K. Sumner, 236 Williams Drive, Schaumburg, Illinois 60195 (312) 980-5734.

The eighth annual conference of the Confederate Historical Institute featuring the "Civil War on the Border" will be held April 10-12, 1986 in Kansas City, Missouri. Among the speakers will be Rick Hatcher of the Wilsons Creek National Military Park on the "Battle of Wilsons Creek;" Dr. Archie McDonald from Austin State University on "General Sterling Price;" Dr. Grady McWhiney; and Ed Bearss. Ed will lead a tour of the Battle of Westport and there will be an optional tour of the Battle of Mine Creek.

The registration fee is \$145 for Confederate Historical Institute members, \$160 for Civil War Round Table Associates, and \$180 for non-members. There is a \$10 discount for registration and payment before March 15. The fee includes meals, sessions and tours, but not lodging. For further information, contact Civil War Round Table Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72217.