

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

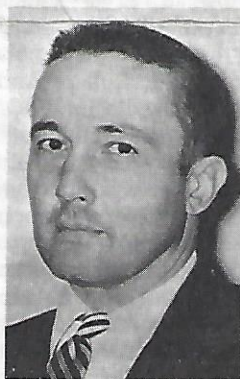
Volume XXXII, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March, 1972

Alan T. Nolan on "The Iron Brigade - And the Reasons Why"

Alan T. Nolan has spoken to us before on "The Iron Brigade," the subject of his book on Civil War military history, and when he comes to us March 10, 1972, for the Civil War Round Table meeting at the Chicago Bar Association, he wishes to enlarge the topic and get into the thinking and attitudes of the soldiers as they went to war—and after they got back.



Alan T. Nolan

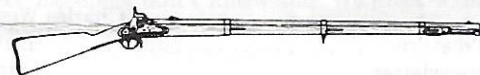
He writes, "I am interested, as I said in the preface to my book, in who these soldiers were, where they came from, who their leaders were, and what they did, and, as I did not discuss in my book, why they went to war and how they became actors in the historical process.

"I expect to talk about the Iron Brigade in a more or less standard buff way for awhile—the facts, the blood and thunder, the statistics, and some of the color. I will then proceed into two larger questions about them (and all the soldiers). The first of the larger questions would have to do with the "irrepressible" conflict theme and an examination of that theme. The second would have to do with slavery as a cause of the war, concentrating on an analysis which I think is original with me about the difference between contemporary Northern attitudes about slavery (they didn't like it) and Negroes (they didn't like them)—pointing up that these two attitudes were not in the minds of the contemporaries inconsistent, and using Lincoln and his sense of these two issues as more or less the typical consensus views in the Northwest Territory states.

"This kind of talk reflects my rather deep-seated feeling that history doesn't just happen—that there is a cause and effect at work—and that if history is to have any materiality you have to go behind the blood and thunder and think of the 'whys.'"

Alan T. Nolan has practiced law in Indianapolis since 1947 and is a member of the law firm of Ice Miller Donado & Ryan. He has specialized largely in labor relations matters. He was born in 1923 in Evansville and was raised in Indianapolis where he attended parochial and public schools and was graduated from Shortridge High School in 1941, going on Indiana University and the Harvard Law School. He is married and is the father of eight children ranging in age from five to 21 years old.

He is author of "The Iron Brigade," published by the Macmillan Company, and of "As Sounding Brass," published by Houghton Mifflin Company, a novel about current American life in a city like Indianapolis. He is a member of the board



309th REGULAR MEETING

* * *

Alan T. Nolan of Indianapolis,
author of "The Iron Brigade"

on

The Iron Brigade—And the Reasons Why

* * *

Friday, March 10, 1972

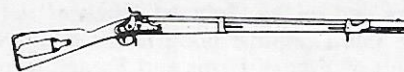
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Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

* * *

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



of the Midwest Education Foundation, which operated the Atterbury Job Corps Center during its first two years. He is chairman of the Disciplinary Commission, Supreme Court of Indiana.

* * *

HERE AND THERE

Stan J. Kearney suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized at the time of the February meeting, which he had planned to attend. We hope for the speedy recovery of our veteran member. Those who would like to cheer him on may use his home address, 14745 Edbrooke Avenue, Dolton, Ill. 60419.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Phone: WHitehall 4-3085

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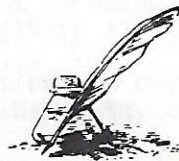
Terms expiring in 1972: Ward Smidl, Francis Geigle, Norman Toberman.

Terms expiring in 1973: Richard Cohen, George Fleming, Don Sikorski.

Founding Newsletter editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968



*from the
Editor's pen*



Tactics, theoretical and practical, was the subject discussed at the February meeting by Jay Luvaas of Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania, who pointed out that the dream induced by military books and studies was badly shattered by the realities of combat. French influence is evident in the wearing of the kepi as headgear and in the popularity of Zouave uniforms and tactics. Egbert L. Viele's "Handbook for Active Service" was a popular book in the early years of the war, and it is full of French terms and French ideas. Much of this derives from Napoleon I, although the army of Napoleon III was not to reach Sedan for another 10 years and was considered Europe's top.

Scott's Tactics, translated from the French by Gen. Winfield Scott, was standard, only partly superseded by Hardee's Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics, also translated from the French, and although William J. Hardee became a Confederate general his work went on in the Union army in one guise or another. Casey's Tactics, appearing in 1862, became the most popular, but it showed no great change from its French-oriented predecessors. Viele told how to employ light infantry, riflemen, and infantry of the line, distinctions that had ceased to exist. H. W. Halleck in his "Elements of Military Art and Science," leaned heavily on Baron Jomini's interpretation of Napoleon's tactics which preferred column to

line in attack. Despite some advance in fire-power, the Crimean War brought about little change.

In cavalry the standard was the 1841 Cavalry Tactics, sometimes called the Poinsett Tactics for Joel R. Poinsett who was secretary of war when they were adopted. The 1861 Cavalry Tactics of Philip St. George Cooke was modernized, drawing something from British and even Russian experience in the Crimean War as observed by George B. McClellan, whose influence on cavalry was great. It may be recalled that the McClellan saddle was standard until horse cavalry was abolished in 1942. A single-rank formation was advocated instead of the mass charge of Napoleon's day. There was much argument for shock action of spur and saber, although the Regular Army in its two regiments of dragoons and regiment of mounted riflemen had a tradition of dismounted action, and the 1855 cavalry regiments were actually light cavalry. But McClellan frittered away his cavalry in assigning troops as escorts to general officers, where they were used as messengers and orderlies. Pope was first to have a separate division of cavalry and in 1863 Hooker organized a cavalry corps to answer the effective Confederate use of cavalry under Wheeler, Morgan, Stuart, and Forrest. Wheeler wrote a Confederate Cavalry Tactics published in 1863.

Artillery tactics also derived from the French in the system of 1829, Robert Anderson's tactics of 1839 and the revision by Ringgold in 1843. Artillery was assigned in direct support of infantry and the battery was its only tactical unit. One battery was assigned to each infantry brigade, and there was no reserve. Guns were massed at Malvern Hill but as late as 1863 there was no intervening command between that of a captain of a battery and Hooker, the commanding general. Hooker revised this and built up an artillery reserve.

A workable balance of the three arms was lacking throughout the war, although in its closing year there was more massing of artillery and use of artillery reserve, and the Cavalry corps of Sheridan and Wilson demonstrated wider uses of that arm. The only effective pursuit after a victory was that of Wilson's cavalry after Nashville.

PRISON CWRT BURIAL FUND

J. Ambler Johnston, honorary award life member of CWRT writes us on behalf of a project that as he says is "something close to our hearts." Most of us know of his interest in the Prison Civil War Round Table, which was founded in 1961 in the Virginia State Penitentiary in Richmond—and has met every Thursday afternoon since that time. Last year one of its founders Stewart Newsome, died, leaving no assets or family to claim the body, which was therefore sent to the Medical College of Virginia. That disposition was a shock to his many friends, both within and outside the prison. He had been in prison 42 of his 68 years, a scholarly, quiet, unobtrusive man, yet a student, a thinker, and a leader. A hurried solicitation of outside friends and the co-operation of prison officials resulted in the body being retrieved and given formal burial in a public cemetery.

It was then decided to set up The Prison Civil War Round Table Burial Fund, restricted to this one purpose with burial to be at minimal expense in a recognized public cemetery in which records are kept. A start has been made with a deposit of \$60, under control of the prison superintendant and the staff sponsor of Prison CWRT. Contributions to this fund are solicited in amounts of \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 or more. Checks should be mailed to the Prison CWRT Burial Fund and mailed to Superintendent A. E. Slayton, Jr. Ambler Johnston may be addressed for anything pertaining to this project at: Superintendent's Office, Virginia State Penitentiary, Richmond, Va. 23219.

E. B. (Pete) Long was speaker at the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, January 25, 1972, on "Coastal Operations: A Forgotten Front."

SHEPHERDSTOWN MONUMENT

The picture of the Confederate Monument in the January, 1972, Bulletin presented a problem in exact identification in that the original owner misspelled the site as Sheppardstown, with the only added clew "Antietam, Md." Brooks Davis, as recorded in the February Bulletin, sent along a pamphlet on Shepherdstown that seemed to tie it down as Shepherdstown. Now comes Raymond L. Ives, chief, interpretation and resources management, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, verifying that Shepherdstown, West Virginia, is only about four miles from Sharpsburg, Maryland, and sending along a map to show the close relations of Shepherdstown, Sharpsburg, and Antietam.

Warren E. Pabst of the Civil War Round Table of Northern New Jersey cut short his lunch in Lyndhurst to look up a map, and we are not sure he did not start out immediately to see the place, as he writes, "If you have never driven through some of these beautiful old towns on a fall day, you have something to look forward to."

Dr. Warren W. Hassler, Jr., of Pennsylvania State University, notes the "combat that took place near Shepherdstown on 19 September, 1862, when advance elements of Fitz John Porter's Union Fifth Corps, attempting to pursue Lee after Antietam, were repulsed in a crossing attempt of the river by Stonewall Jackson's rearguard."

W. Dean McClanahan, superintendant of the Antietam-C & O Canal Group, National Park Service, Sharpsburg, locates the monument as in the Elmwood Cemetery in Shepherdstown, about six miles from the park headquarters building.

But it remained for James R. Braden, president of the Civil War Round Table of Washington, Pennsylvania, to tell us all about the monument, which maybe was what we were fishing for. He writes: "The monument is in an excellent state of preservation. To me, the most interesting features of this monument are the inscriptions on the front and the sides:

Erected to the memory of Our Confederate Dead by The SSM Association of Shepherdstown, June 6, 1870.

True patriots,
A nation's tears
Embalm their memory.

To the unknown dead
Though nameless,
Their deeds are not forgotten.

TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Time: Friday, March 10, 1972, 5:30 p.m.

Place: Stouffer Restaurant, 32 East Randolph Street, private dining room.

Program: Ralph G. Newman on "The Lights Go On at Ford's Theatre."

Reservations: Phone Joyce Warshaw, 866-6667, or write her (Mrs. Jerry) 1319 Crain Street, Evanston, Illinois 60202.

Last Meeting: Gordon Whitney gave us his long awaited program on "The G.I. in the Civil War" and it was agreed that it was well worth waiting for.

* * *

TO ALL CWRT MEMBERS: Your womenfolk always qualify as Camp Followers and are cordially invited to attend the meetings. Perhaps some of the newer members don't know this. We meet when they do, drink, eat and have a program—then break camp simultaneously with the gentlemen.

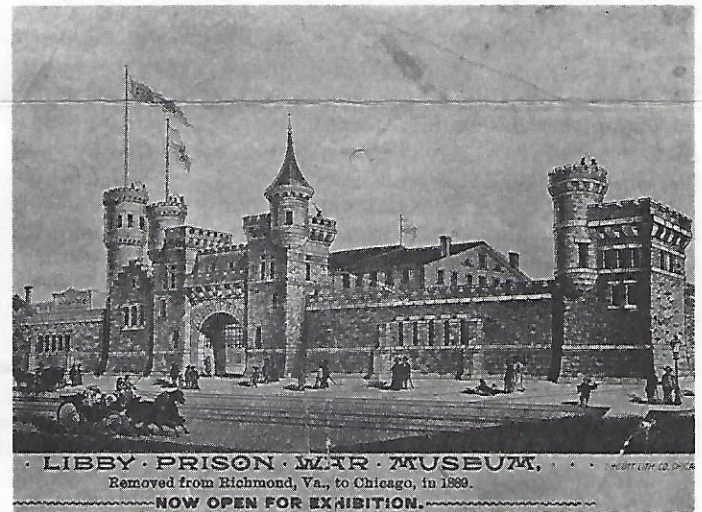


We lie here in obedience
To the commands
Of our sovereign states.

This is the same monument as shown in the picture on page 694, Volume II, Battles and Leaders of The Civil War New York,: The Century Company, 1914.

* * *

George Fleming, longtime CWRT member, spoke on "John A. Logan, Political General" January 21, 1972 at the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table meeting at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Dr. Fleming is associate professor of history and chairman of the history department of St. Joseph's College, East Chicago, Indiana.



LIBBY PRISON: RICHMOND AND CHICAGO. Libby, famous Civil War prison, left, was originally a tobacco warehouse. Libby Prison War Museum, right, opened in Chicago in 1889. If these two pictures, submitted by Gordon Whitney, are not puzzle pictures, they are pictures that have puzzled many Chicagoans. The picture at right closely resembles the Wabash Avenue facing of the Chicago Coliseum, and in fact so it is. A close look shows the brick prison over the top of the battlemented wall. Architect C. M. Palmer conceived the medieval

castle and towers that surrounded the real exhibit. When the Coliseum was erected in 1888 the front wall was retained, and it is said that a brick wall of Libby, or at least some of the bricks, was incorporated in the structure. The Chicago Historical Society's Civil War exhibit includes a brick wall from Libby Prison bricks. Some years ago timbers from Libby Prison were found as part of a barn near Hamlet, Indiana. But the Coliseum wall, so often represented as Libby Prison, and it looks the part, was actually only decorative.

THE NEW BOOKS

(compiled by Dick Clark)



Anderson, LaVere. *Abe Lincoln and the River Robbers*. Illus. by Cary. Champaign, Ill.: Garrard [1971]. Juvenile. \$2.59

Burns, Zed H. *Ship Island and the Confederacy*. Hattiesburg: University & College Press of Mississippi, 1971. \$2.50

Cole, Arthur C. *The Irrepressible Conflict, 1850-1865*. Reprint of 1938 issue. St. Clair Shores, Mich.: Scholarly Press [1971?] \$22.00. Outrageous! This is still listed as in print with Macmillan at \$8.95. There is another reprint done by Reprint House International at \$16.50. And Quadrangle Books has it in paper at \$3.45. Is there something wrong in the industry?

Davis, Jefferson. *The Papers of Jefferson Davis. Volume I, 1808-1840*. Edited by Haskell M. Monroe, Jr., and James T. McIntosh. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1971. \$15.00

Day, Samuel P. *Down South, or, An Englishman's Experience at the Seat of the American War*. N.Y.: Burt Franklin [1971]. 2 vols. \$35.00. Reprint of the 1862 edition.

Eckenrode, Hamilton James. *Jefferson Davis, President of the South*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries [1971]. \$13.50. Reprint of 1923 edition.

Harmon, George Dewey. *Political Aspects of Slavery and the Civil War*. Westport, Conn.: Negro Universities Press [1971]. \$10.00. Reprint of 1952 edition.

Horner, Harlan Hoyt. *Lincoln and Greeley*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press [1971]. \$17.50. Reprint of 1953 issue.

Kellogg, Robert H. *Life and Death in Rebel Prisons*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. \$16.75. Reprint of 1865 edition.

Locke, Raymond Friday, compiler. *The Civil War*. Los Angeles: Mankind Publications [1971]. Paper, \$1.75. "Selected readings from *Mankind* magazine.

Moore, Frank, editor. *Songs and Ballads of the Southern People, 1861-1865*. N.Y.: Burt Franklin [1971]. \$18.50. Reprint of 1886 edition.

Murdock, Eugene C. *One Million Men: The Civil War Draft in the North*. Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1971. \$10.00

Rhodes, James Ford. *Lectures on the American Civil War . . .* Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries [1971]. \$11.50. Reprint of 1913 edition.

Simon, Paul. *Lincoln's Preparation for Greatness: The Illinois Legislative Years*. Urbana, University of Illinois Press [1971] Copyright 1965. \$6.95; paper \$2.95

Springer, Charles H. *Soldiering in Sioux Country: 1865*. Edited by Benjamin Franklin Cooling, III. Illus. by John W. Hampton. San Diego: Frontier Heritage Press, 1971. \$7.50

U.S. Congress. *Report of the Joint Committee on Reconstruction*, by W. P. Fessenden, James W. Grimes, others. U.S. 39th Congress, 1st Session. Freeport, N.H.: Books for Libraries, 1971. \$29.50. Reprint of 1866 edition.

Wells, Tom Henderson. *The Confederate Navy: a Study in Organization*. University: University of Alabama Press [1971]. \$7.50

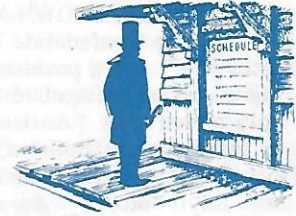
Whiting, William. *War Powers under the Constitution of the United States*. 10th edition. Glorieta, N.M.: Rio Grande Press [1971, c. 1864]. \$10.00

Wiley, Bell Irvin. *The Life of Billy Yank; the Common Soldier of the Union*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1971 [c1952]. \$8.95

Wiley, Bell Irvin. *The Life of Johnny Reb; the Common Soldier of the Confederacy*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1971 [c1943]. \$8.95

The above two, which we thoroughly welcome back into

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle Street, 11th floor, second Friday in each month except as noted.

March 10: Alan T. Nolan on "The Iron Brigade—and the Reasons Why."

April 21: U.S. Grant sesquicentennial at G.A.R. Room, Chicago Public Library, T. Harry Williams, speaker on Grant as President.

May 4-7: Battlefield Tour, Vicksburg Campaign.

May 12: Damon Wells, Jr.

June 14: Robert Fowler

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Jason's Restaurant (formerly Chodash), 312 West Randolph Street; all members invited.



print, may be had together in a slip-case for \$17.95

Willson, Robina Beckes. *John Slidell and the Confederates in Paris, 1862-65*. New York: AMS Press, 1970. Reprint of the 1932 edition. \$10.00

Zilversmit, Arthur, editor. *Lincoln on Black and White: a Documentary History*. Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth [1971]. Paper \$3.95

* * *

NEW MEMBERS

Norman Malina, 1627 South Ridgeland, Berwyn, 60402
Robert J. Younger, 7484 Greenbank Court, Dayton, Ohio 45415

Dr. Gordon E. Dammann, 302 Walnut, Lena, Ill. 61048
Arthur H. Jones, 140 North Lombard Avenue, Oak Park 60302

Mark T. Cox, IV, 2052 Lincoln Park West, Chicago 60614

* * *

SOLDIERS' INGENUITY

"When the siege of Atlanta was in full blast, we moved our entrenchments to within fifteen or twenty paces of the enemy in many places, and then men resorted to all kinds of tricks and devices to get a good shot. One was to get a piece of looking-glass, and then turn a loaded gun-barrel down, pointed over the top of our works; and by lying down below it, and using the looking-glass, a soldier could sight his gun without exposing himself at all.

"But a very ingenious contrivance was to hollow a conical minie-ball and fill it with powder, and then fit a percussion cap to the point of the ball, with an opening down to the powder. One man would load his rifle with this ball, and several of his comrades would stand with their weapons cocked, ready to fire. The man with the conical ball in his rifle would fire at a stump, fencerrail, or any solid substance that could be seen near the enemy's rifle pits.

"When the bullet struck, it would explode and sound as if someone just outside their works had fired a gun. This naturally would make them raise their heads to see what it meant. Then came the opportunity for the men waiting to surprise their antagonists with the most effective shots, much to the gratification of our men, and the chagrin of the boys in blue."

(Reprinted by the Hagerstown, Md., CWRT *Bugle Call* from *Camp-fire Chats of the Civil War*, by Washington Davis (1888). Attributed to Ira J. Bloomfield, 26th Illinois.)