

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXIII, Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

November, 1972

## Dick Peterson Presents 'Our Terrible Tragedy' November 10

Dick Peterson of Coldwater, Michigan, our speaker for the November 10, 1972, meeting at the Chicago Bar Association, has spent eight years collecting photographs, paintings, recordings, and sounds for his narrative slide presentation of "Our Terrible Tragedy: The Great American Civil War." He uses a pair of slide projectors combining old with new pictures, drawing upon contemporary art and photography to depict the events in contrast with the same scenes as viewed today. The pictures are accompanied by narration, authentic music, and dramatic recitation. He has made his presentation in theaters and to civic groups and schools.

The following program notes were prepared by him for a previous showing:

How did we become what we are today? Too often we accept our everyday activities and frustrations without looking into one of the most valuable tools available to us . . . history.

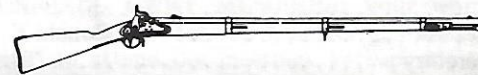
The answer to most of our problems lies within the vast storehouse of historical mistakes and errors . . . the same mistakes and errors we've made a hundred times over. If we want to look into our own national domestic problems, one of the keys rests in a period of history called the American Civil War of 1861-1865.

Looking at many of our history books, we often find that too few of them devote any reasonable number of chapters to this important period of history. During the Civil War centennial of 1961-1965, a great deal of interest was revitalized and people once more had a glimmer of the terrible tragedy which almost ruined our young country. Since that period, however, we have fallen into a current events torpor that tends to obscure the meaning behind the Civil War.

Dick Peterson has spent over 8 years accumulating photographs, paintings (many of his own) recordings and sounds indicative of this vital period of history. Both he and his wife Pauline have traveled the battlefields of Antietam, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Shiloh and countless others, developing available material in making the documentary you are about to see.

Sit back and enjoy this show . . . then look to today to see if you can discover the reasons we are in part what we are . . . then see if you can make judgment over these American errors based on today's government and its decisions. Dick Peterson does not want anyone to forget the drama which influenced (more than any other) our current American attitudes. Relive the vivid scenes of yesteryear . . . meet the tremendous cast of characters which created giants of men.

This fully automated show using a split screen, two projectors and stereophonic sound is now brought before you . . . before you to enjoy . . . and to contemplate.



315th REGULAR MEETING

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Dick Peterson  
of Coldwater, Michigan  
Presents  
**OUR TERRIBLE TRAGEDY:**  
The Great American Civil War

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Friday, November 10, 1972

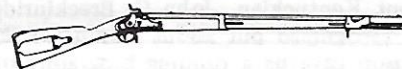
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Chicago Bar Association  
29 South LaSalle Street

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Cocktails at 5:30 p.m

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



### THE GEORGIA MILITIA

(From the September, 1972, issue of Battle Lines of Atlanta Civil War Round Table, Inc.)

The Georgia Militia, as we all know, was called out and put into the field in the Atlanta Campaign. Confederate records keeping at that time was very scant in this part of the South and surprisingly little is known about the actual activities of the Militia. We also know very little about how well the Militia conducted itself nor what the Confederate military leaders thought about these men.

The following correspondence throws a little light on the subject. It is found in the records of Georgia's Governor Joseph E. Brown in "Executive Secretary's Letterbooks," volume XVII, pages 481-482, on file in the Georgia Department of Archives and History.

Near Chattahoochee  
July 7th 1864

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meeting is scheduled at the Chicago Bar Association at 5 p.m., Friday, November 10, immediately preceding the Regular Meeting.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

## OFFICERS

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Founding Newsletter editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968



*from the  
Editor's pen*



Dr. Lowell H. Harrison of Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, was our September speaker, and his subject was that eminent Kentuckian, John C. Breckinridge, whose name is readily recognized but about whom few know very much. Dr. Harrison gave us a running biography of Breckinridge, hitting the high points and emphasizing Breckinridge's services as general, C.S.A., reaching the conclusion that he was the outstanding political general of the Confederacy.

Breckinridge was a native Kentuckian, but lived briefly in Iowa shortly after his marriage. He returned to Lexington, making his home there the rest of his life. He was a major in the Mexican War. He was elected to Congress, defeating a veteran Whig in Henry Clay's old district and was re-elected over Former Governor Letcher. So grateful was Breckinridge to Owen County for this result that he named his son Owen County. In 1856 he was delegate to the Democratic Convention and was nominated for Vice President, with James Buchanan, President. Breckinridge was the youngest Vice President, and in 1860 was nominated for President by the split Democratic Party. Defeated by Lincoln, Breckinridge remained in the Senate as a Unionist advocating Kentucky neutrality, and when that failed he fled to Richmond and was commissioned brigadier general. He commanded the Reserve Division at Shiloh and covered the retreat to Corinth. Promoted to major general he served under Bragg, who quarreled with him, charged him with drunkenness, and

removed him from command after Missionary Ridge. However, Breckinridge was assigned to the southwest Virginia command where he fought the battle of New Market. He became Secretary of War February 4, 1865 and went with Davis to Johnston's army after Lee's surrender. Breckinridge eluded capture and escaped to Cuba. He remained in Europe until amnesty was granted, when he returned to Lexington, became vice president of the Lexington & Big Sandy Railroad, and died in 1875. He inspired his men, Gen. John B. Gordon said, and Basil Duke praised his military aptitude and courage. However he often appeared apathetic and had to be spurred to action to show his best qualities.

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Dan Lapinski was scheduled to tell about Island No. 10 at the October meeting, which your editor was scheduled to miss because of commitment to another Civil War symposium. However, a preview of Dan's talk reveals that he formed a high opinion of the generalship of John Pope during this campaign and points out that a defeat such as Pope's at Second Bull Run should not automatically discredit the rest of his career. Pope also performed ably after Second Bull Run in taking over the Sioux outbreak in Minnesota, and in his subsequent command in the West took an enlightened view of the Indian problem that even our modern-day extremists on Indian wrongs can approve.

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Mike Lerner, reporting on the June tour of Civil War Chicago, was pleased that many outsiders were able to join members on the trip — and some of them became members. One unexpected addition was gift of two pair of sox to Mike from a woman visitor as token of appreciation for a fine job well done.

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Some of those who attended the Grant's 150th Birthday Party at the Grand Army of the Republic Room of the Chicago Public Library were brought up short by a song title that seemed to reflect events more recent than the Civil War. A second visit to the G.A.R. Room enables us to report the title as follows: "Mother, Is the Battle Over? Can I Come Home from Canada?" with words and music by J. W. Turner, published by the B. J. Lanert Co.

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J. Ambler Johnston writes to the Civil War Round Table from the Jackson Monument, Chancellorsville Battlefield, Fredericksburg, Va.: "So well do I recall being here with you many years ago. Love to the Old Timers." And the Old Timers well recall many battlefield visits with Ambler Johnston.

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CWRT of Decatur, Illinois, held the August meeting in a coach of the Monticello and Sangamon Valley Railway, drawn by a locomotive bedecked with Civil War flags. Charles Durst, Champaign, spoke on early railroads in the area.

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## TAPS

Thomas E. Holt, who was 1963 president of Cincinnati CWRT, died August 12, 1972, at the age of 70. He was a past president of the Ohio Gun Collectors and his collection included 100 rifles and 50 short guns. A partner in the construction firm of Holt and Reichard, he is credited with building one of the largest expansion bridges in army history during World War II.

The Springfield Armory Museum issues its "last appeal for support" pending hearings on a bill in Congress to place it under the National Park Service. The City of Springfield is giving some aid during 1972, but, says the appeal, "we have come very close on several occasions to being forced to close." The museum claims the world's largest collection of military small arms. The address is Federal Street, P. O. Box 515, Springfield, Massachusetts 01101. Larry D. Lewis is vice chairman.

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Ralph G. Newman was scheduled speaker on "The Lights Go On at Ford's Theatre" at the annual camp followers night of Cincinnati Civil War Round Table. (For a report on his talk see "To the Camp Followers" in the April issue.)

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Salt Creek Civil War Round Table scheduled Charles Wesselhoeft on "Civil War Railroads" for the 76th regular meeting March 17, 1972, at the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

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The Battle of Plum Run Bend was the subject of E. B. (Pete) Long in the June, 1972, issue of Civil War Times Illustrated. Although the largest gunboat fleet engagement in the Civil War, Plum Run Bend has had little notice, largely because of difficulty in resolving the confusion and controversy, which Pete attempts. Albert Castel writes on "Quantrill in Texas" in this issue.



1974 Gettysburg, High Water Mark of the Rebellion

GETTYSBURG, HIGH WATER MARK OF THE REBELLION. That is the only identification on this photograph from our collection dating to the 1890s. The clump of trees surrounded by an iron fence, at right, may mark the point reached by Pickett's charge. A wheeled cannon is barely visible between monument at left and the lone tree.



## TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

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

Place: The Book and Bottle, 17 East Chestnut Street

Program: Glen Wiche, member of the Confederate Historical Society in London, will tell us about the C.S.A. in the U.K.

Reservations: Write or phone before October 10, 1972 Betty Walter (Mrs. Robert), 1511 East Miner Street, Arlington Heights, Ill. 60004, 253-7053.

Last Meeting: Mr. Bill Sullivan enlightened the camp followers with a talk on amateur and historical battlefield hunters. Our "deep" thanks to him.

TO ALL CWRT MEMBERS: your womenfolk always qualify as a camp follower 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.



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The Springfield and Decatur Civil War Round Tables will hold a ball on April 20, 1973, in Springfield. Chicago members are invited. Additional details will be available after the first of the year. President of Springfield CWRT is John L. Satterlee, 6 Lambert Lane, Springfield, Ill. 62704.

Governor.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the State troops promise well and have already done good service. While the army was near Marietta they were employed to support the Cavalry of the extreme left and occupied a position quite distant from any other infantry of ours. According to all accounts their conduct in the presence of the enemy was firm and creditable. Such Federal parties as approached the crossing places of the Chattahoochee guarded by them have been driven back.

These proofs of their value make me anxious that their number shall be increased. Is it possible? You know that the distinguished officer at their head [General Gustavus Woodson Smith], is competent to a high command.

Most Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt.

J. E. Johnston

His Excellency  
J. E. Brown

The above letter was delivered to the Governor's office in the Governor's absence. James M. Mobley, Aide-de-Camp, forwarded it with the following addition.

Atlanta, July 8th 1864

The foregoing is a copy of a letter delivered here this morning from Genl. Johnston by the hand of Genl. Lovell. Could not all but the last part be published?

Yours truly  
Jas. M. Mobley  
A. De.C.



## THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Hall, Florence Marion. *The Story of the Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. 129p. Reprint 1916 edition. \$9.50.

Hay, John. *Lincoln and the Civil War in the Diaries and Letters of John Hay*; selected & with introduction by Tyler Dennett. Westport, Conn.: Negro Universities Press [1972, copyright 1939]. 349p. \$15.50.

Hepworth, George Hughes. *The Whip, Hoe, and Sword*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. 298p. Reprint of 1864 edition. \$13.50.

Hesseltine, William B. *Civil War Prisons*. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press. \$6.00. Paper \$1.95.

Higginson, Mary Potter. *Thomas Wentworth Higginson; the Story of his Life*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries [1972]. 435p. Reprint of 1914 edition. \$19.50.

Johnston, Richard Malcolm and William Hand Browne. *Life of Alexander H. Stephens*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries [1971]. 619p. Reprint of 1878 edition. \$17.50.

Kerby, Robert Lee. *Kirby Smith's Confederacy; the Trans-Mississippi South, 1863-1865*. N.Y.: Columbia University Press, 1972. 529p. \$12.95.

Klein, Maury. *Edward Porter Alexander*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1971. 279p. \$11.00.

Leland, John A. *A Voice from South Carolina*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. A Reconstruction title first printed in 1879. \$12.00.

Lincoln, Abraham. *Four Speeches by Abraham Lincoln, hitherto unpublished or unknown*; with an introduction by Earl Wellington Wiley. N.Y.: Kraus Reprint, 1972. Original of 1927. 112p. \$4.00.

Logan, John A. *The Great Conspiracy*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. Reprint of 1885 edition. 810p. \$37.50.

Macartney, Clarence E. *Grant and His Generals*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. 352p. Copyright 1953. \$13.50.

McClure, John R. *Hoosier Farm Boy in Lincoln's Army*. The Civil War Letters of Pvt. John R. McClure. Introduced and edited by Nancy Niblack Baxter. Privately printed, 1971. 72p. \$3.95.

McDonough, James L. *Schofield: Union General in the Civil War and Reconstruction*. Tallahassee, Florida State University Press, 1972. 208p. \$10.00.

McKay, Charlotte Elizabeth. *Stories of Hospital and Camp*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. 230p. Reprint of 1876 edition. \$12.00.

Maurice, Frederick Barton. *Robert E. Lee, the Soldier*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries [1972]. Reprint of 1925 edition. 313p. \$18.50.

Miers, Earl Schenck. *The Great Rebellion; the Emergence of the American Conscience*. Westport, Conn.: Negro Universities Press [1971, copyright 1958]. 369p. \$16.00.

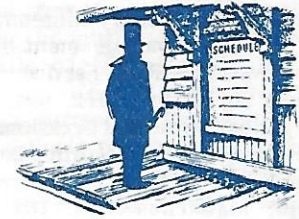
Miles, Nelson A. *Serving the Republic: Memoirs of the Civil and Military Life of . . .* Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. 339p. Reprint of 1911 edition. \$15.00.

Mitchell, Joseph B. *Military Leaders in the Civil War*. N.Y.: G. Putnam's Sons [1972]. 251p. Ten generals singled out. \$6.95.

Nash, Howard P. *A Naval History of the Civil War*. South Brunswick: A. S. Barnes [1972]. 342p. \$9.95.

The National Archives. *Military Operations of the Civil War. A Guide-Index to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-1865*. Volume II: Main Eastern Theater of Operations. 1st Fascicle, Containing Section L: "Tables of Key Reports for Principal Military Operations."

## BULLETIN BOARD



### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

November 10: Dick Peterson of Coldwater, Michigan, in narrative slide presentation: Our Terrible Tragedy: The Great American Civil War.

December 8: Richard M. McMurry of Valdosta State College, Valdosta, Ga., on John Bell Hood.

March 9: Bell I. Wiley of Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., on Women of the Lost Cause.

April: Stephen A. Douglas birthday and Ladies Night, G.A.R. Room, Chicago Public Library, date and details to be arranged.

May: Annual Battlefield Tour, dates and details to be arranged.

June: Special Award meeting and Ladies Night, G.A.R. Room, Chicago Public Library; tentative; date and details to be arranged.



### NEW MEMBERS

Howard E. Armstrong  
3549 Highway Avenue  
Highland, Indiana 46322

Richard J. Percy  
702 S. Ardmore  
Villa Park, Ill. 60181

Merrill D. Froney  
231 Redwood Ave.  
Elk Grove Village, Ill. 60007

S. James Hofman  
2906 S. Poplar Ave.  
Chicago, Ill. 60608

David Kampf  
1411 W. Byron St.  
Chicago, Ill. 60613

Joseph P. Moore  
3549 N. Seeley  
Chicago, Ill. 60618

### Change of Address

Richard B. Cohen  
3435 Woodcock Court  
Memphis, Tenn. 38116

Robert Andrew Brown  
315 Clarke Ave.  
Palm Beach, Fla. 33480

Robert J. Jensen  
727 Hill Road  
Winnetka, Ill. 60093

Morley McNeal  
675 Carlisle Ave.  
Deerfield, Ill. 60015

Sam Nowinson  
7337 S. Shore Drive  
Chicago, Ill. 60649

Barry S. Pokorny  
2739 N. Wilton Avenue  
Chicago, Ill. 60614

Curtis G. Solsvig  
3072 N. Fairwood Court  
Wauwatosa, Wis. 53222

Dallas Irvine, compiler. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1968. 76p. paper. \$0.65. Second fascicle, Containing Section M: "Comprehensive Index of Recognized Military Operations," in two parts, each \$1.00.

O'Connor, Thomas H. *The Disunited States; the Era of Civil War and Reconstruction*. N.Y.: Dodd, Mead, 1972. 272p. paper. \$3.95.

Ostendorf, Lloyd. *Lincoln and His Photographers*. Madison: Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin, 1971. 14p. wrappers. \$1.50.