

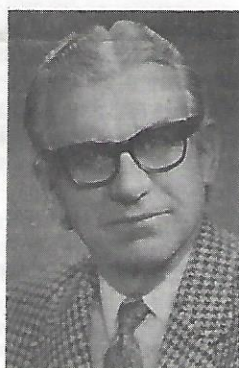
THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXIV, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March, 1973

Bell I. Wiley on Confederate Women for Ladies Night



Bell Irwin Wiley

The 18th Ladies Night of the Civil War Round Table will be different, we are promised. For one thing, it will be in a different place from our regular meeting rooms. It will open with a reception in the Grand Army of the Republic Room of the Chicago Public Library. There will be special displays, and, we are told, champagne will be served from an historic silver bowl. Dinner (with wine) will follow in the Tiffany Rotunda Room. We then move to the Auditorium for the program, where Betty Walter, president of the Camp Followers, Alice Cromie, and others will have a part.

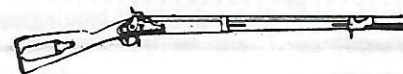
Speaker is Dr. Bell Irwin Wiley, professor of history at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, whose subject is "Women of the Lost Cause." In outlining his subject matter, Dr. Wiley says:

In discussing Women of the Lost Cause, I am not a late-comer attempting to clutch the coattail of the ladies' liberation movement. I began a serious study of Southern women and their role in the Civil War in 1932 when I launched research for my dissertation at Yale, "On Negroes in the Confederacy". I was impressed then by the administrative ability shown by many Rebel ladies when suddenly called on to manage plantations and farms during the absence of their husbands in military service. Not all were successful, of course, but some proved to be better administrators than their menfolk. This accentuated problems of adjustment when the men returned home, humiliated by defeat on the field of battle.

My investigation of the experiences and impressions of Confederate women was renewed and extended when I did the research for *The Life of Johnny Reb* in the early 1940's and for *Embattled Confederates* in the 1950's and early 1960's. I was especially impressed by the initiative, stamina and endurance of the lowly women.

In my opinion, the most interesting and perhaps the most intelligent of all Confederate women was Mary Boykin Chesnut, author of the famous *Diary from Dixie*. In my talk I shall devote much attention to her; I shall present some slides showing how she changed her diary in her various revisions of it after the War. I shall also refer briefly to Mrs. Jefferson Davis and other notables. In conclusion, I shall pay tribute to the lowly women, white and black, and make a summary statement concerning the impact of the War on the status of women in Southern society.

Dr. Wiley is known for his great research and thoughtful writing on the relatively unknown people of the war—the



319th REGULAR MEETING
18th LADIES NIGHT

Bell I. Wiley
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia
on

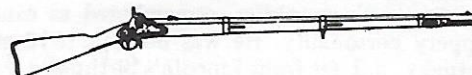
WOMEN OF THE LOST CAUSE

Friday, March 9, 1973

Grand Army of the Republic Room
Chicago Public Library
Randolph at Michigan

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



SPECIAL INVITATIONS for Ladies Night, with forms for reservation, have been mailed. Facilities are limited to 250 persons. Send in reservations promptly with check for \$15 per person. Guests are welcome, but get the names in the pot early—first come, first served.

privates, the "plain people," and the women back home. In addition to the two books he mentions, he has written *The Life of Billy Yank*; *The Plain People of the Confederacy*; *They Who Fought Here, A Southern Woman's Story*; *Life in Confederate Richmond*; "Co. Aytch," and others totaling more than 20.

(continued on page 4)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

OFFICERS

President Charles V. Falkenberg, Jr.
Senior Vice President Gordon Whitney
Vice President Charles D. Wesselhoeft
Vice President Ward C. Smidt
Secretary Burt Rovens
Treasurer Donald E. Jensen
Assistant Secretary Terry Carr
Assistant Treasurer Gerald M. Edelstein
Editor of Newsletter Don Russell
Contributing Editor Dick Clark
Judge Advocate General Philip R. Davis

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Executive Committee)

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

Terms expiring in 1974: Elmer Pendarvis, Edward Johnson,
Norman Toberman.

Founding Newsletter editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968



*from the
Editor's pen*



Philip L. Shutt of Lake Land College, Mattoon, Illinois, gave us a warm defense of the Illinois general John A. McClernand, based on thorough research of the McClernand papers, including an anonymous manuscript biography. McClernand was a citizen soldier, remembered as cantankerous and a peppery personality. He was born in 1812 at Hardinsburg, Kentucky, not far from Lincoln's birthplace, and died in 1900 at the age of 88 at his home in Springfield, Illinois. His only military experience prior to the Civil War was in the Black Hawk War, where he carried a dispatch to Gen. Posey over a hazardous 100 miles. At that time, 1832, he began the practice of law in Gallatin County, serving in the General Assembly 1836-1842. He moved to Jacksonville in 1843 and was again elected to Congress, serving 1843-1850; then moved to Springfield, and served in Congress 1859-1861.

He was chairman of the Illinois delegation asked to recommend appointments as brigadier general of volunteers. Others thought he should be named, but he deferred to Grant on this occasion. McClernand was, however, commissioned brigadier general of volunteers in the first list approved, May 17, 1861. He served at Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, and Shiloh. He had proposed an expedition down the Mississippi to take Vicksburg and Jackson and cut the railroad to New Orleans. President Lincoln authorized him to recruit volunteers in Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa, but when he asked for leave of

absence to do this, he was rebuked by Halleck for not going through military channels. The conflict was resolved by giving Grant command of the expedition, and McClernand command of the 13th Army Corps. He was successful in raising 14 regiments for the expedition in 16 days. McClernand was in further trouble when he made an unauthorized move up the Arkansas River, although his capture of Arkansas Post later proved useful. Breakdowns in communications, due to Forrest's raids, may have caused some of McClernand's difficulties. After Vicksburg, McClernand issued an order congratulating his troops, but critical of the work of the other corps. Grant first read it in a newspaper and asked McClernand to explain. McClernand said his adjutant had neglected to forward the order. Professor Shutt noted that nothing from the adjutant has been recorded. McClernand was relieved from command, and returned home. He asked for a court of inquiry, but Lincoln refused. No charges were brought, and McClernand asked reassignment. In 1864 he was returned to command of the 13th Corps, succeeding E.O.C. Ord, for the Red River campaign. However, McClernand contracted malaria and returned home, and resigned his commission Nov. 30, 1864.

He was state Democratic chairman in 1867, circuit judge, 1870-73, and permanent chairman of the 1876 Democratic National Convention at St. Louis that nominated Tilden. He served on the first Utah Commission, 1886-94; was chairman of the Shiloh Battlefield Commission, 1895, and helped organize the Spanish-American War Veterans in Illinois in 1898. He died in 1900.

Professor Shutt blamed Rawlins for McClernand's ouster, and said he could find no proof that Grant hated McClernand. This is borne out by a story your editor stumbled upon while looking up a point in Gen. Charles King's "The True Ulysses S. Grant." James H. Wilson, lieutenant colonel on Grant's staff, and later a famed cavalry general, was sent to McClernand with an order, which McClernand profanely refused to obey with a volley of oaths that seemed to be directed at Wilson, and Wilson demanded satisfaction. McClernand apologized profusely. Wilson returned to Grant and reported the entire conversation, including the profanity and McClernand's apologetic words. Says King, "Grant, far from being filled with wrath, was apparently filled only with merriment," and thereafter when Grant wanted to reprove profanity, often that of Rawlins, he would use McClernand's phrasing, "I was simply expressing my intense vehemence on the subject matter, sir."

J. Ambler Johnston, whose slow recovery from a recent accident has been reported in this Bulletin, has left the nursing home and has returned to his home, where he may be addressed, 2618 Hanover Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23220.

The Confederate Historical Society, founded in England in 1962, announces termination of its activities because of the rising costs printing its Journal and failure of the members to endorse an increase in dues in a recent poll. Last issue of the Journal will be Volume X, No. 4. Some back issues of the Journal are available at 50¢ each from the Hon. Secretary, Kenneth M. Broughton, 19, Montague Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 3SL, England.

Warren A. Reeder was scheduled speaker on "Lincoln and His Children" at the February 13 meeting of the CWRT of Milwaukee.

Television got an assist from CWRT members in celebrating Lincoln's Birthday (on the right date, also Monday) Ralph Newman was on NBC's Today show at 7 a.m. and Dick Blake gave his "A Look at Lincoln," on Channel 11 at 7 p.m.

WEST POINT IN THE REBELLION

(Our fellow member Alan C. Aimone, military history librarian at the United States Military Academy, sends us another article from *The Bivouac—An Independent Military Magazine*, in an issue dated July, 1883, Volume I, Number 7. An article from the same source was published in the February issue of the CWRT bulletin.)

At the outbreak of the Rebellion there were one thousand two hundred and forty-nine graduates living, eight hundred and twenty-one in the army and four hundred and twenty-eight in civil life. Of the eight hundred and twenty-one in the army, six hundred and twenty-seven remained true to the Union, and one hundred and eighty-four joined the Rebellion, ten taking neither side. Of the four hundred and twenty-eight in civil life, two hundred and ninety-two remained true, ninety-nine joined the Rebellion and the course of forty-seven is unknown. In other words, seventy-three per cent of the graduates were loyal, and twenty-three were disloyal. In other words, for every one of the graduates who joined the Rebellion, there were left more than three to oppose.

There were in service at the beginning of the war three hundred and fifty graduates born in or appointed from slave territory. Of these, one hundred and sixty-two remained loyal and one hundred and sixty-eight joined the Rebellion. In other words, nearly one-half of the graduates from the South stood by the Union.

Let us examine the Rebellion record a little in some other respects. When the Rebellion broke out there were four ex-Presidents living, of these the only Southerner joined the Rebellion; another did the country more harm than an avowed rebel; while the other two were certainly not over demonstrative in their efforts to preserve the Union.

Belonging to the bench of the Supreme Court were four Southern judges of whom two remained loyal, one was strongly sympathetic with the South, and one joined the rebels. The Southern judges of the United States District Courts sided with their own people.

Of the Senators in Congress from the seceding states, but one, and of the House of Representatives, but three remained loyal.

Nearly all the agents of the State, Treasury, Interior, and Postoffice Departments espoused the rebel cause. Over one fourth of the officers of the Navy on the active list resigned or were dismissed in 1860-61, nearly all of whom being



TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Time: 5:30 p.m., Friday, March 9, 1973

Place: G.A.R. Room, Chicago Public Library

Program: Open to the Public! For the first time the men will be allowed to attend our meeting. Invite your trooper to an evening of merriment and scholarly dissertation on our favorite subject.

Reservations: Special invitations are in the mail. Be sure to return promptly with check for \$15 per person.

Last Meeting: Betsy (Mrs. Brooks) Davis spoke on the subject, "Kiss 'n' Tell; or, The Ladies Talk about the Civil War," with especial attention to Louisa May Alcott, Mrs. Burton Harrison, Mary Todd Lincoln, Mary B. Chesnut, and Varina Howell Davis. (No infringement on Dr. Bell I. Wiley, who will talk about some of these ladies from another point of view.) Betsy is scheduled to give her talk at the Ladies Night meeting February 18 of the Louisville Civil War Round Table.

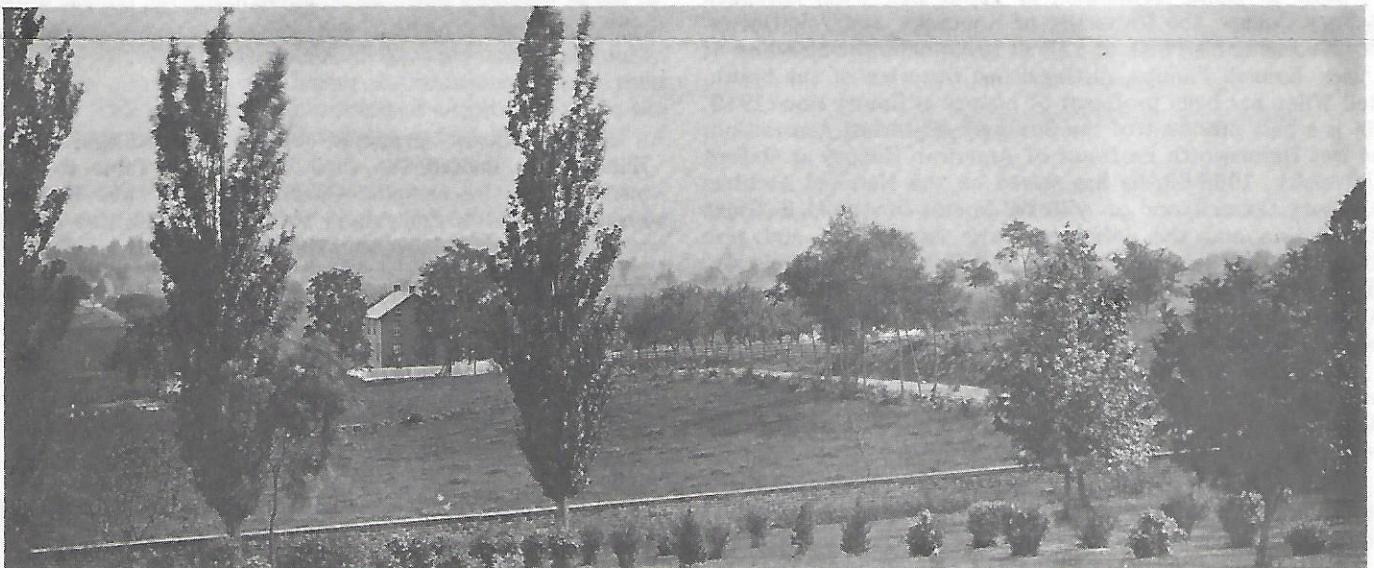
To all CWRT Members: your women folk always qualify as a camp follower and are cordially invited to attend the meetings. Perhaps some of the newer members don't know this. We meet when they do, drink, eat and have a program—then break camp simultaneously with the gentlemen.



Southerners, probably joined the Rebellion. Of those appointed in the army from civil life nearly *one-half*, while but a little more than *one-fifth* of the West Point officers, left the service and joined the Rebellion.

* * *

Madison CWRT invited the ladies to the February 8 meeting when Mrs. Caroline Mattern was scheduled to speak on Camp Randall.



LOOKING TOWARD BIG AND LITTLE ROUND TOPS FROM THE NATIONAL CEMETERY, GETTYSBURG. So says the notation on this old picture, but the Round Tops are dim in the photo, and you will see little of them in the reproduction. What you do see is houses and fields as they appeared on the battlefield in the 1890s.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Cruden, Robert. *The War that Never Ended: The American Civil War*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall [1972, c.1973]. \$8.95

Dawson, Sarah (Morgan). *A Confederate Girl's Diary*. Introduction by Warrington Dawson. Edited with a foreword and notes by James I. Robertson, Jr. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press [1972, c.1960]. \$17.25

Hill, Louise B. *Joseph E. Brown and the Confederacy*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press [1972]. Reprint of 1939 edition. \$15.50

Rapier, Regina. *Felix Senac: Saga of Felix Senac; Being the Legend and Biography of a Confederate Agent in Europe*. Atlanta: Bulletin of Art and History, v.11, no. 1. \$10.00

Ratchford, J.W., Asst. Adj. Gen. in the Confederate Army. *Some Reminiscences of Persons and Incidents of the Civil War*. A facsimile reproduction of the 1909 edition with a preface by Dr. Bluford B. Hestir. [Austin, Texas: Shoal Creek publishers, 1971]. \$5.00

Sone, Kate. *Brokenburn: The Journal of Kate Stone, 1861-1868*. Edited by John Q. Anderson. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1972. Returned to print. \$8.95

United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Register of the Confederate Debt*. [Edited by Raphael P. Thian]. Boston: Quarterman Publications [1972]. \$15.00. Reprint, with a new foreword, of the 1880 edition originally published under title: Register of issues of Confederate States Treasury notes.

Utley, Robert M. *Frontiersmen in Blue: The United States Army and the Indian, 1848-1865*. New York: Macmillan, [c.1967]. \$9.95

Velazquez, Loreta Janeta. *The Woman in Battle: A Narrative of the Exploits, Adventures, and Travels of Madame Loreta Janeta Velazquez*. Edited by C.J. Worthington. New York: Arno Press, 1972 [c.1876].

(continued from page 1)

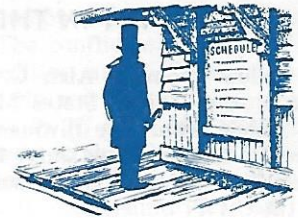
Born in Halls, Tennessee, in 1906, Bell Wiley attended Asbury College, the University of Kentucky, and Yale University, receiving his Ph.D. at Yale in 1933 under the direction of Ulrich Bonnell Phillips, distinguished historian of the South. Bell Wiley has been professor of history at Emory since 1949. He is a past president of the Southern Historical Association; he was Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University, 1965-66; he has served on the National Archives Advisory Council, and on editorial boards for the U. S. Grant Association and the Jefferson Davis Association, and gave distinguished service to the Civil War Centennial Commission. His talk to us is based on a series of lectures in honor of Dr. Andrew D. Holt at the University of Tennessee, scheduled for book publication.

Dr. Wiley has addressed the Civil War Round Table a number of times, including the 1954 Battlefield tour, the 1956 Atlanta tour, and in Chicago in 1962 and in 1969.

HERE AND THERE

Brooks Davis distributed copies of an advertisement for Very Old Barton Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whisky, which featured the Battle of Perryville and its re-enactment by the Louisville CWRT, at the February meeting.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

March 9: Ladies Night, Bell I. Wiley of Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., on "Women of the Lost Cause," at G.A.R. Room, Chicago Public Library.

Friday, April 13: Dana Wegner on Commodore William D. (Dirty Bill) Porter.

Sunday, April 22: 160th birthday of Stephen A. Douglas at Douglas tomb and Chicago Historical Society, details to be arranged: ladies invited.

May 10-13: Annual Battlefield Tour, Gettysburg and the Army War College, Carlisle, Pa.

Friday, May 18: Edward C. Johnson on Embalming Surgeons of the Civil War.

June 8: George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director, National Parks Service.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at LaSalle Hotel coffee shop; all members invited.

NEW MEMBERS

George N. Johnson
2146 MacArthur Dr.
Glenview, Ill. 60025

Daniel R. Weinberg
18 E. Chestnut St.
Chicago, Ill. 60611

Change of Address

Theodore H. Wirtz
28 W. Indian Knoll Trail
West Chicago, Ill. 60185



Richard Stolz, president of Lincoln College, Lincoln, Illinois, has invited the Civil War Round Table to hold a meeting on the campus. Gordon Whitney was named by President Charles Falkenberg to head a committee to determine details and date, presumably in the fall.

Dr. Chester D. Bradley, curator of the Fort Monroe Casemate Museum reports that 68,000 persons visited the museum during 1972.

"The Children of Pride: A True Story of Georgia and the Civil War," by Robert Manson Myers is among new books reported in the January bulletin of the Chicago Public Library.