

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXIV, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May, 1974

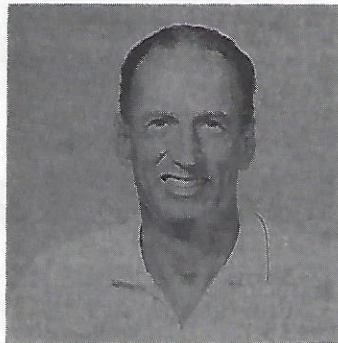
ALBERT P. SCHELLER ON THE RED RIVER CAMPAIGN

Those of us who were on the 1972 Battlefield Tour should certainly be looking forward to our next meeting, which is scheduled for May 10, 1974. It was on that memorable trip to Vicksburg that we were most fortunate to first meet and to have as one of our battlefield guides, Albert P. Scheller, who will be our May speaker. His thorough knowledge of the strategy and tactics of the entire Civil War, as well as the military operations in the Vicksburg area, impressed everyone. A lifetime of research combined with his fine sense of humor promises us a most entertaining and informative evening.

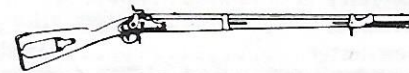
Al's topic will be the Red River Campaign of 1864, the unsuccessful attempt by Federal forces under Major General Nathaniel P. Banks to invade and occupy Confederate territory West of the Mississippi. In addition to the various army units, the expedition also included a naval flotilla of 20 ships led by Admiral Porter. Beginning in March, the campaign lasted less than two months, ending in May with a complete retreat by the Union troops.

This defeat caused the immediate dismissal of Banks as commander of the Department of the Gulf. His conduct of the campaign became the subject of a congressional investigation. However, even though their victory had secured permanent control of the Trans-Mississippi theater for the Confederates, the campaign produced serious repercussions in the Southern leadership structure also. Despite his brilliant successes on the battlefields, the Confederate commander, Richard Taylor, felt that the orders of his superior, Kirby Smith, had prevented an effective pursuit of the beaten Federals. Thus, his request to be relieved was granted after a bitter exchange of correspondence with Smith.

In describing to us this major, but often neglected, episode of the war, Al proposes to detail the several battles, such as those at Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, Fort De Russy, Blair's Landing, and Cane River, as well as the inventive engineering feat of Union Major Joseph Bailey. The latter officer devised a means of raising the level of the river, thus freeing Porter's fleet which had been trapped by low water and faced capture by Southern troops. In addition, Al will relate the reasons for the failure of the Federal column from Arkansas, under Steele, to unite with Banks. This lack of cooperation was blamed by many as a main cause for Bank's defeat. Having just visited the principal sites of the campaign last fall, our speaker will also be



Albert P. Scheller



331st REGULAR MEETING

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Albert P. Scheller
on
The Red River Campaign

* * *

Friday, May 10, 1974

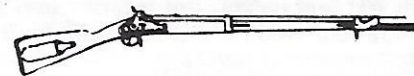
* * *

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting 4:30 p.m.



able to tell us the current condition of the battlefields and their state of preservation.

Al Scheller is a native of New Jersey. Like our president, Gordon Whitney, he is a retired firefighter, having spent 22 years with the New York City fire department, 14 of those as a marine pilot. After his retirement, Al moved to Florida where he now spends his winters maintaining a busy schedule of sports activities, especially tennis, and volunteer work with such organizations as the Y.M.C.A. and American Red Cross. In the spring and summer, Al puts on the uniform of the National Park Service to serve as a seasonal historian at Vicksburg National Military Park. He has held this post since 1970, after having occupied a similar position in 1969 at Carlsbad National Park.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Prior to the regular May meeting there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee at which time several important matters will be considered. Among the items on the agenda to be discussed are the site of the 1975 Battlefield Tour, the location of our meetings for the coming year, and a proposal by the Nominating Committee to increase the size of the Board of Trustees. All members of the Executive Committee, which is comprised of current officers, trustees and past presidents, are urged to attend this meeting which will begin at 4:30 p.m. at the Bar Association.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

OFFICERS

President	Gordon Whitney
Senior Vice President	Ward Smidl
Vice President	Donald E. Jensen
Vice President	Francis R. Geigle
Secretary	Terry Carr
Treasurer	Gerald Edelstein
Assistant Secretary	Daniel Vetter
Assistant Treasurer	Glen Wiche
Editor of Newsletter	Marshall D. Krolick
Contributing Editor	Dick Clark
Assistant Editor	Robert H. Franke
Judge Advocate General	Philip R. Davis
Inspector General	Charles Wesselhoeft

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terms expiring in 1974: Elmer Pendarvis, Edward Johnson, Norman Toberman.
Terms expiring in 1975: Burton Rovens, Robert H. Franke, Myron Cohn.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Battlefield Tour Warren Reeder and Gerald Edelstein
Membership and Hospitality Donald E. Jensen
Fellowship Arnold Alexander, Lloyd Miller
House Committee Ray Jankovich and William Sullivan

The only requirement for membership is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Donald E. Jensen, 335 East Woodland Road, Lake Bluff, Ill. 60044.



*from the
Editor's pen*



A member of the Round Table has brought to our attention a recent conversation he was a party to, a conversation which should never happen again if our Round Table is to prosper and grow.

It occurred when the member was talking to an old friend whom he knew to be also interested in the Civil War. For some time the member had been unsuccessfully attempting to persuade this man to come to a meeting. Finally able to pin the man down as to the reason for his refusals, the member was surprised to hear the man express the opinion that one must be an expert on the war to qualify for membership. Further checking has disclosed that this belief is fairly common among non-members and has apparently served to dissuade several people from joining.

This impression is, of course, mistaken, but apparently, and most unfortunately, we, the membership, have unconsciously created it, or at least have done nothing to dispel it. The lines just above this column set forth the only criteria for acceptance in the Round Table and that is a "genuine interest" in the Civil War, not an expertise. Any man who shares our feeling for this period of our nation's history is eligible to join

us, regardless of the depth of his knowledge or the degree of his scholarship. That we welcome such a person to our ranks is the concept which we must actively convey to all.

Further, it should be realized that this matter is only a part of an even larger problem which has faced, and puzzled, the Executive Committee for years. That is, of course, the question of membership itself. As in any organization, the factors of death, illness, moving, etc., are constantly at work to decrease the roster. Yet the level of numerical strength must be maintained if we are to also maintain and support the quantity and quality of our programs and activities. The sad fact is that for every member in the Round Table there are at least two other men in the Metropolitan Chicago area alone who are students of the Civil War, but who are either not aware that the group exists or do not know enough about it to seek membership status. The question is and always has been, "How do we reach them?"

The answer to that query has two parts. The first solution is to utilize the public media and other institutional facilities for the dissemination of organizational information. Good progress is being made in that direction. The recently reorganized Membership Committee, under the able leadership of Don Jensen, has instituted several fine programs in this regard. However, they cannot do it alone. Your suggestions and assistance would be greatly appreciated. If you have access to any community newspaper, information service or bulletin board, please contact Don so that it can be utilized by the Round Table.

However, it is in the area of the second part of the answer, word-of-mouth communication and personal contact, that we all are not doing as much as we could be. The conversation related above makes this abundantly clear. The problem also appears to exist even after a guest has come to a meeting or a new member has joined. The number of guests who do not come back and members who drop out after a year or two is far too high. They must have had some interest or they would not have come in the first place. Therefore, we must look within ourselves as to why they are no longer with us.

In conclusion, we must all realize that membership is the most important internal function of any organization and in the Round Table, as in any other group, it is not the job of the Membership Committee alone. It is, and must be, the task of every member to seek out those who might have that "genuine interest" and to make them feel like a welcome addition to every meeting they attend.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At the April meeting, the Nominating Committee, which was composed of Brooks Davis, Arnold Alexander, Al Meyer, Charles Falkenburg, Charles Wesselhoeft and Marshall Krolick, announced its recommendations regarding the election of officers for the 1974-1975 year. The proposed slate is as follows:

President	Ward C. Smidl
Senior Vice President	Gerald M. Edelstein
Vice President	Francis R. Geigle
Vice President	James L. Henry
Secretary	Terry Carr
Treasurer	Glen N. Wiche
Assistant Secretary	Robert G. Walter
Assistant Treasurer	William J. Sullivan
Trustee (2-year term)	G. Paul Doucette
Trustee (2-year term)	Donald E. Jensen
Trustee (2-year term)	John D. Kaluf
Trustee (2-year term)	Daniel Vetter
Trustee (1-year term)	Charles D. Wesselhoeft

The election will be held during the May meeting, at which time other nominations for any of the above offices can be made from the floor. Installation of the new officers will be a

APRIL MEETING

On April 12, 1974, the members and their guests were treated to a lively description of military movements and human interest anecdotes. This entertaining and most informative presentation left us with a better appreciation of the bloody conflict that was the Battle of Stone's River. Our speaker was Dr. Robert Womack, Professor of Educational Philosophy at Middle Tennessee State University. A lifelong resident of Tennessee, he certainly gave ample evidence of why he is regarded as one of the foremost authorities on the Civil War in that state.

As Dr. Womack pointed out, despite the large number of casualties, 12,000 Union and 10,300 Confederate, and the battle's decisive effect on Southern fortunes in Middle Tennessee, Stone's River is of only secondary importance to historians and the battlefield is rarely visited today. He ascribed this lack of interest to several factors, including the absence of a definite winner, the poor military reputation of the opposing commanders, Bragg and Rosecrans, and other contemporary occurrences, such as Fredericksburg and the Emancipation Proclamation, which deprived the battle of its relative share of publicity.

The campaign which resulted in the battle began on December 26, 1862 when Rosecrans advanced from Nashville. Bragg countered by concentrating his scattered forces in the area of Murfreesboro, but his army was not at full strength. While on a recent visit to the West, Jefferson Davis had ordered the detachment of Stevenson's division to the reinforcement of Vicksburg. Also, Bragg's two cavalry leaders, Forest and Morgan, were off on raids, leaving his mounted arm under the command of the twenty-six year old Joe Wheeler. Nevertheless, Bragg determined to attack on his left on the morning of December 31, a plan which, by a unique coincidence, was identical to that devised by Rosecrans.

Dr. Womack maintained that if the Federals had been first to attack, or if McCook, on the right, could have contained the Confederate assault for just three hours, the Union might have destroyed Breckenridge's division, which was isolated on the east side of Stone's River. However, the Southern forces moved first and McCook's corps broke within an hour, forcing Rosecrans to recall his attacking force, Van Cleve's division, to strengthen his battered right.

The Confederates failed to take advantage of their initial success, primarily because of the actions of Bragg's subordinates. Cheatham was too drunk to lead his men, McCoun marched his troops in the wrong direction, and Breckenridge refused to march to support the action on the left because he mistakenly believed that Van Cleve was still in his front. Thus, Rosecrans was able to fold back his right flank and stabilize his line with its wings joined in the Round Forest. All that afternoon, Bragg repeatedly ordered assaults against this latter area, but the attacks, made over open ground, were repulsed with the assistance of the massed Federal artillery posted on the high ground behind the forest. As a result of the severity of the fighting which took place there, this part of the battlefield has been known ever since as Hell's Half Acre.

Despite his inability to break the last Union line, Bragg thought Rosecrans would retreat that night and so he wired Davis that he had won a great victory. However, the dawn of New Year's Day, 1863, found the Northerners still in their positions. As though each side was exhausted from the previous day's exertions, January 1 was allowed to pass without any attempt to renew the combat. On January 2, Bragg determined to have Breckenridge attack Swain's Hill, the high ground east of the river which Bragg had foolishly allowed the Federals to occupy during the lull the day before. Both Polk and Breckenridge felt the attack was suicidal and argued vehemently against it, but Bragg refused to cancel the order. The initial assault was successful, but as the Confederates gained the top of the hill, they became exposed once more to the murderous fire of the Union artillery across the

TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Not to be outdone by the Round Table in having outstanding programs, with all my influence, which is practically non-existent, I, Marilyn Whitney, president of the Camp Followers, petitioned the United States Government in Washington, D. C. to obtain for our May 10 meeting the Watergate tapes. I tried to contact the Special Prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, and Judge John Sirica, but to no avail. So instead for our May program we are having to settle for the Krolick tapes.

At the March meeting of the Round Table, I understand that Mr. Marshall Krolick was subpoenaed to appear and be put on trial. Many witnesses attested to his "character." In fact, they "roasted" him. All was in fun and Marshall took it like the gentleman he is.

We will have the tape of that famous Round Table meeting and Marshall's interesting talk on "Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg." The latter is a very controversial subject involving who was to blame for the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg, Lee or Longstreet. Marshall is past president of the Round Table, is currently editor of the Newsletter, and is Roberta's other half.

The May meeting will be held at the Book and Bottle, 17 East Chestnut Street, and will begin at 5:30 p.m. Make your reservations by phoning Margaret April at 787-1860.

At our April meeting, Elmer Underwood's talk on the Moon Sisters, Charlotte and Virginia, was exciting, historic, interjected with hilarious events, and fascinating. "Lottie" Moon, about to become the bride of Ambrose Burnside, left him at the altar, refusing to say her vows. She and her sister, Virginia were Peace Democrats and made numerous trips from Oxford, Ohio to various Confederate officers with orders and information. They were truly liberated women.

river. After suffering heavy casualties, Breckenridge was forced to fall back to his starting point.

Dr. Womack then related how Bragg's generals counseled him to retreat on January 3, but when he did so, they criticized him severely in letters written behind his back to influential people in Richmond. This caused Davis to send Joe Johnston west to investigate the command situation in the Army of Tennessee. When Johnston recommended that Bragg be retained, the unrest in the Army's leadership continued to grow, thus setting the stage for Chickamauga and Chattanooga, where we shall pick up the story of the War in the West on our battlefield tour.

Two members of a fourteen-man team of experts, assembled in April by the Navy, have issued statements which apparently confirm that the wreck discovered last summer by Duke University scientists is the Monitor. While they stop short of actually stating that the sunken ship is definitely the long-lost ironclad, Midshipman Edward Miller of the Naval Academy and Ernest Peterkin of the Naval Research Laboratory do cite such new evidence as the unique design of the anchor well hatch cover and the direction in which the wreck is laying on the bottom. These facts were discovered as a result of underwater pictures taken within the last few weeks which were even clearer than the previous ones produced by the Duke research team.

Continued from page 2

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

part of the program at the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner in June. It should be noted that the Nominating Committee has proposed an increase in the size of the Board of Trustees from six to eight and this will be voted upon by the Executive Committee at its meeting in May prior to the election.



THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Aschmann, Rudolph. *Memoirs of a Swiss Officer in the American Civil War*. Edited by Heinz K. Meier. Bern, Switzerland: Herbert Lang, 1972.

Buck, Lucy Rebecca. *Sad Earth, Sweet Heaven: The Diary of Lucy Rebecca Buck During the War Between the States, Front Royal, Virginia, Dec. 25, 1861 — April 15, 1865*. Birmingham, Alabama: The Cornerstone, 1974. \$10.95

Cook, Adrian. *The Armies of the Streets: The New York City Draft Riots of 1863*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1974. \$14.50

Cunliffe, Marcus. *Soldiers and Civilians; The Martial Spirit in America, 1775-1865*. New York: Free Press, 1973. Paper \$4.95. Issued hardbound in 1968.

Dick, Everett Mewfon. *The Dixie Frontier: A Social History of the Southern Frontier from the Transmontane Beginnings to the Civil War*. New York: Octagon Books, 1974. \$14.00. Reprint of the Knopf edition of 1948.

Ellison, Mary. *Support for Secession: Lancashire and the American Civil War*. Epilogue by Peter d'A. Jones. Chicago: University of Chicago Press [1972, i.e. 1973]. \$10.50

Henry, Robert Selph. "First with the Most" *Forrest*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press [1974]; \$22.50. Reprint of the edition done by Bobbs-Merrill in 1944.

Heth, Henry. *The Memoirs of Henry Heth*, by James L. Morrison, Jr. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1973. \$13.95

Ingram, George W. *Civil War Letters of George W. and Martha F. Ingram, 1861-1865*. Compiled by Henry L. Ingram. Introduction by Charles R. Schultz. College Station, Texas A & M University, 1973.

North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster. Volume IV: Infantry [4th — 8th Regts.] Compiled by Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr. Unit Histories by Louis H. Manarin. \$12.00

Rawley, James A. *Turning Points of the Civil War*. Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press [1974, c1966]. Paper \$2.45

Schwaab, Eugene Lincoln, compiler. *Travels in the Old South, Selected from Periodicals of the Times*. Edited by Eugene L. Schwaab, with the collaboration of Jacqueline Bull. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1973. 2 vols. \$25.00

Starr, Stephen Z. *Jennison's Jayhawkers: A Civil War Cavalry Regiment and its Commander*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1973. \$12.95

Summersell, Charles, editor. *The Journal of George Townley Fullam, Boarding Officer of the Confederate Sea Raider Alabama*. University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1973. \$8.00

Theaker, James G. *Through One Man's Eyes: The Civil War Experiences of a Belmont County Volunteer*. Letters of James G. Theaker. Annotated by Paul E. Rieger. [Sylvania, Ohio: Paul E. Rieger, 1974] \$6.95

Windrow, Martin C. and Gerry Embleton. *Military Dress of North America, 1665-1970*. New York: Scribner's, [1973]. \$10.00

During the relocation of an old forgotten cemetery in Pinckneyville, Illinois the graves of two comrades in the 110th Illinois Infantry were among those moved. The body of Sgt. Thomas Hinds, dressed in his uniform, was found in a cast-iron casket. Hinds had died in Chattanooga on January 19, 1864. The other soldier was Sgt. Thomas J. Able who had passed away on April 13, 1863. The two had mustered in together and had originally served in the same company. The 110th, which was in Hagen's Brigade, was in the midst of the heaviest fighting in the Round Forest at Stone's River.



BULLETIN BOARD

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

May 2, 3, 4, and 5: Annual Battlefield Tour to Chattanooga and Chickamauga.

May 10: Albert P. Scheller on The Red River Campaign.

June 14: Installation of Officers Dinner and presentation of Nevins-Freeman Award to Bruce Catton — Ladies welcome.

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

New Members

Harmon Bernard, Jr., 2122 Timber Lane, Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Keith S. Hoover, 403 Fair Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126

Jack E. Meyer, P.O. Box 336, Lake Villa, Illinois 60046

Charles H. Otis, 617 S. Chester, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068

John V. Penrod, 924 May Street, Hammond, Indiana 46320

Change of Address

Robert H. Franke, 100 Thackery, Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056

At times we all have some complaint about the U.S. Postal Service, but Union Private Horace H. Prindle of the 22nd Michigan would be astonished to learn that a letter he wrote on November 14, 1863 to a Birmingham, Michigan girl has just been delivered, 110 years later, to a Royal Oak, Michigan senior citizens home. Postal authorities are at a loss to explain the long-delayed delivery or why the letter was forwarded to the senior citizens home. Written from a hospital in Nashville, the letter describes the Battle of Lookout Mountain, where Prindle was wounded, and the death rate in his hospital, six per day. Prindle proved to be a sound, if earthy, military analyst, when he summed up the situation in the West by writing, "I think that old Brag (sic) has bout bragged his last brag."

On April 6, 1974, the State of Kentucky dedicated a monument on the Shiloh battlefield in memory of the state's Civil War dead. This project was made possible by an appropriation passed by the 1972 Kentucky General Assembly. At the same session, legislation was also enacted for a similar marker at Gettysburg, but the latter project was held up because there were no military units from Kentucky in the Pennsylvania battle. However, through the efforts of our member Frank Rankin, Gettysburg Park Superintendent Jerry Schober and others, it was determined that the Kentucky Monument will be erected to mark the exact spot where her native son delivered his famous Gettysburg Address. It is hoped that the monument, a bronze casting depicting Lincoln speaking and the text of address, will be ready for dedication next year.

HELP WANTED

The Round Table archives, stored in the second floor office at the Book Shop could be useful to all members. Tour records, correspondence, officer's reports, supplies, files, talk tapes, photos, maps, and publications are among the many items collected there.

Your assistance is needed to sort out, throw out and organize this valuable material. Please contact Brooks Davis at DE7-7144 or WH4-5082 if you can spend some spare time helping your Round Table complete this project.