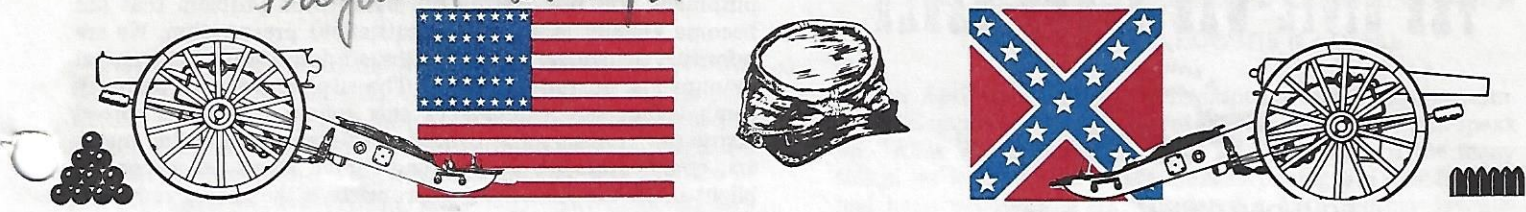


Research Comm. meeting  
Tues June 4 Library 5:00 PM.



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

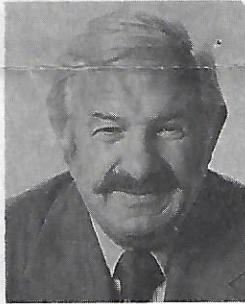
Volume XXXV, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May, 1975

## RALPH G. NEWMAN ON ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FUNERAL

On May 9, 1975 it will be our extreme pleasure to welcome back to the speaker's chair Ye Olde Proprietor of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, our founder, Ralph G. Newman. It would probably be a monumental task to tally the number of times Ralph has addressed the Round Table, but each occasion has been marked by the scholarship, wit and unique speaking ability that only Ralph can blend so well. The topic he has chosen for us this time is "The Last Full Measure of Devotion: The Moving, Incredible, Confusing Story of the Funeral of Abraham Lincoln".

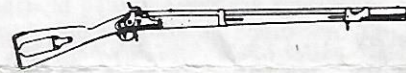


Ralph G. Newman

The funeral proceedings lasted for nineteen days. They were days of deep mourning, dirges, muffled drums, torchlight vigils, pageantry in dreadful bad taste and genuine sorrow. There were many processions and in keeping with the mood of the people, the weather was frequently rainy. During that time the funeral train traveled nearly seventeen hundred miles in taking the martyred President's body from the White House to Springfield, Illinois. The body was removed from the train to a public building or to a specially built structure for viewing at ten of the cities along the route. A million and a half Americans gazed upon the face of the Sixteenth President and more than seven million saw the train or one of the hearses pass by. Some cynics say that the memory of that funeral elected Republican Presidents for the next twenty years. It was such a funeral as the country had not seen before or since — the late Lloyd Lewis characterized it as "half circus, half heartbreak".

For many years Ralph has been fascinated by the strange blend of the ridiculous and the sublime that marked the dramatic days of a hundred and ten years ago. It began with the moment of his death and ended on the morning of Thursday, May 4, 1865, when his friends and neighbors walked behind Lincoln's coffin to a vault in Oak Ridge Cemetery on the north edge of Springfield.

In preparing for his talk to us, Ralph has even threatened to set a terrible precedent and resort to poetry. In discussing this possible break with tradition, he says, "Poetry cannot be considered great unless it's compared to that of Lowell Reidenbaugh or Ver Lyn Sprague. I only 'committed' poetry once in my life for public consumption and it was featured in a national television broadcast. I decided to retire 'undefeated' and not write anything else in that form — I figured that Carl Sandburg, Paul Horgan and others covered the field with more skill and grace than I could ever hope to acquire. Since my so-called poetry was about the Lincoln funeral I may, if time permits, inflict a bit of it on the audience. On the other hand, if this starts a rash of verbal assaults, I may decide that this is too awesome and terrifying a fate with which to threaten fu-



### 341st REGULAR MEETING

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Ralph G. Newman

on

The Last Full Measure of Devotion—  
Abraham Lincoln's Incredible Funeral

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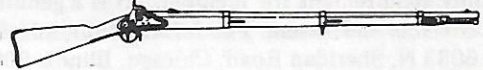
Friday, May 9, 1975

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Chicago Bar Association  
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee at the Bar Association at 5:00 P.M. on May 9th, just prior to the regular meeting. Among the important matters to be considered at that time are the site of the 1976 Battlefield Tour and the financial situation of the Round Table. All current officers, trustees and committee chairmen, as well as all past presidents, are urged to attend.

ture Round Tables."

Describing the accomplishments of Ralph G. Newman to the Civil War Round Table of Chicago can only be compared to telling the Army of Northern Virginia about Robert E. Lee. That we know what he has achieved and respect and honor him for those achievements is best illustrated by his selection as the recipient of the Nevins-Freeman Award. This highest salutation which the Round Table has within its power to bestow will be presented to Ralph during gala ceremonies on June 13, 1975. For this reason, we shall reserve the detailing of his brilliant career for next month's Newsletter. Suffice it to say that without his leading the way there may not have been a Round Table, either here in Chicago or in almost ninety other locations around the world.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street  
Chicago Illinois 60611  
Phone: (312) 944-3085

## OFFICERS

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Senior Vice President . . . . . Gerald M. Edelstein  
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Terms expiring in 1975: Burton Rovens Robert H. Franke,  
Myron Cohn, Charles D. Wesselhoeft.

Terms expiring in 1976: G. Paul Doucette, Donald E.  
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## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Battlefield Tour . . . Brooks Davis, Terry Carr, Robert Walter  
Membership and Hospitality . . . . . Burton Rovens  
House Committee . . . . . Ray Jankovich and Irwin Levin  
Research Center . . . . . Ralph G. Newman, Robert H. Franke,  
Brooks Davis

The only requirement for membership is a genuine interest  
in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Burton  
Rovens, 6033 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois 60660.



*from the  
Editor's pen*



We are greatly disappointed to learn that the tomb of General Winfield Scott Hancock and his family, in Norristown, Pennsylvania, has been the repeated target of vandals. The entrance gate has been torn off and the bronze nameplates over each of the tomb's six compartments have been removed. Attempts have apparently been made to enter the compartments themselves. In addition, the inside of the tomb is littered with trash and broken bottles. A campaign has been begun by Camp 200, Sons of Union Veterans, to raise the necessary funds to repair the damage and clean and seal the tomb. If you wish to assist in this fine project, please contact the Camp by writing to 4278-80 Griscom Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19124.

While we certainly applaud this effort to restore the final resting place of the gallant leader of the II Corps, its accom-

plishment will not resolve the nationwide problem that has become equally as serious as battlefield preservation. We are referring, of course, to the continued desecration of historical monuments of various types. The situation at the Hancock tomb is but one example of this cancer which has spread across our country. The condition of statutes, roadside markers, commemorative plaques and similar items has become a blight upon the land. How appropriate is the hackneyed question "Is nothing sacred anymore?"

One can only wonder what is it in our society which causes this destruction of these innocent reminders of our national heritage. Can it be that there is within some elements of our citizenry a feeling of national self-hatred which manifests itself in the defacing of the evidence of our past? Or is it our own failure to educate our young to revere and respect the ideals which brought forth the people and events honored by these bits of stone and metal? What perverse pleasure can be derived by breaking off the sword of a marble horseman or smearing graffiti across the abdomen of a bronze statesman?

But before we lay all the blame at the feet of the midnight vandal, we must recognize that he is not the only culprit. Desecration is a tree with two roots which feeds equally as much on neglect as on the intended act. Does a statue splashed with blue paint look any worse than one turned moldy-green by the absence of the refinisher's touch? Is a grave with its headstone overturned any less presentable than its neighbor which is covered by a two-year growth of weeds? And so we must indict not only he who intends to do harm, but also each other, for we who say we care have not cared enough.

What better time than now, as our nation enters upon its bi-centennial, to correct this mistreatment of those signposts which mark the course of our country's history. Their condition and the concern which maintains their preservation should be the symbols of our national pride. Every student of history who has seen the battlefields eroded and has asked "What can I do?" now has his answer. The only requirement is a donation, not of money, but of time. Each individual, each Round Table should look around and find the general's grave, the cannon in the square, the roadside marker. They're there, and almost all of them need your attention with the scrub brush and the cleaning rag. Let's get together to make this country shine so that those who come behind us can read and see what those who came ahead of us did. Maybe then reverence will replace destruction, care replace neglect. Its certainly worth a try.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At the April meeting, past-president Arnold Alexander, chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced recommendations regarding the election of officers for the 1975-1976 year. The proposed slate is as follows:

President	Gerald M. Edelstein
Senior Vice President	Terry Carr
Vice President	Richard E. Clark
Vice President	Charles D. Wesselhoeft
Secretary	William J. Sullivan
Treasurer	Myron Cohn
Assistant Secretary	Robert A. Bermant
Assistant Treasurer	Irwin Levin
Trustee	Robert G. Walter
Trustee	Glen N. Wiche
Trustee	John F. Scapin
Trustee	Edward J. Williams

The election will be held during the May meeting, at which time additional nominations for any of the above offices may be made from the floor. Installation of the new officers will be part of the program at the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner on June 13th. Four current members of the Board of Trustees, Donald E. Jensen, Jack D. Kaluf, Allen Meyer, and G. Paul Doucette, will remain in office for the coming year as they complete their two-year terms.

APRIL MEETING

Not only is he one of the liveliest speakers in the Civil War field, but, as President Ward Smidl informed us, Colonel Harold Simpson may also still hold the tree sitting record in his old Chicago neighborhood. The reunion between Ward and Colonel Simpson, who were boyhood friends, was just one of the highlights of the evening as seventy-eight members and guests gathered on April 11, 1975. The Colonel's remarks were preceded by several important announcements, including final details of the forthcoming Battlefield Tour and the report of the Nominating Committee.

With the business matters concluded, everyone settled back to enjoy a spirited description of the career of Hood's Texas Brigade. This storied unit, which had its beginnings in militia companies from across the Lone Star State, was in the main comprised of the only Texans to serve in the Army of Northern Virginia. Initially formed on November 1, 1861 at Dumfries, Virginia, the basic core of the brigade was three Texas regiments, the First, Fourth and Fifth. Before 1861 had ended, the Eighteenth Georgia had been added to the roster and, just after the Battle of Seven Pines in the spring of 1862, eight companies of South Carolina's Hampton Legion became part of the brigade. These eastern units fought side by side with the Texans through the bloody campaigns of The Peninsula, Second Bull Run and Antietam. When they were re-assigned in the fall of 1862, the brigade was brought up to its required complement of four regiments by the assignment to it of the Third Arkansas. The Texans and Razorbacks would fight and bleed together for the remaining two and one-half years of the war.

The brigade, a part of Longstreet's Corps, took the field for every battle of the Army of Northern Virginia, except Chancellorsville, and also followed "Old Pete" to Suffolk, Knoxville and Chickamauga. Its casualty lists in these battles were consistently among the highest in the Confederate army. At Gaine's Mill, Second Bull Run and Antietam, the five regiments suffered a combined loss of 1,780. In the bloody combat of Miller's Cornfield on September 17, 1862, 82.3 percent of the men of the First Texas became casualties. This was the greatest one-day loss suffered by any regiment in either army. Altogether, of the approximate 4,500 men to serve during the war in the three Texas regiments, only 476 were left in the ranks to surrender at Appomattox.

However, there was a lighter side to even the hardest of the brigade's campaigns. After the famous "roasting ears" battle against the troops of Franz Sigel, the brigade quartermaster paid for the green corn confiscated by the soldiers, only to see the Texans forced out of action for the next ten days as a result of an attack of the "Virginia Quickstep". The great snowball fight of January, 1863 began within the brigade and eventually involved over 15,000 Confederate troops, all marching and fighting as if in an actual battle. The casualties unfortunately suffered as a result of this entertainment compelled Lee to issue an order prohibiting further snowballing. While the brigade was en route to Gettysburg on June 27, 1863, a liquor ration was made available which produced a complete state of intoxication. As Colonel Simpson put it, this was their fourth "state" of that memorable day. The brigade had eaten breakfast in Virginia, lunch in Maryland, and dinner in Pennsylvania.

The brigade's veteran's association was formed in Houston in 1872. It was to become one of the most active and honored groups of its type, holding annual meetings into the 1930's. General Robertson, who had led the brigade at Gettysburg and Chickamauga, served eleven terms as association president, far more than anyone else. The last survivor of the gallant Texans, Lieutenant Bolling Eldridge of the Fifth Texas, passed away on October 29, 1938. With his death, our last actual connection with the Texas Brigade was broken. However, its legend will go on as long as the Civil War is studied, for its record of bravery and dedication can never die.

TO THE CAMPFOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Our April meeting was a tremendous success as a large number of Campfollowers turned out to hear Ralph Newman speak on "What Was Abraham Lincoln Really Like?" Of the many things we learned, one of the most surprising was that Lincoln had been what might be considered a 19th century juvenile delinquent. Just as most of today's teenagers do, however, he outgrew his youthful hippie behavior and through diligent study (he was known to have read Euclid while riding the Illinois circuit), he matured into the powerful figure who led us through one of the bloodiest periods in our country's history. Mr. Newman pointed out that although Lincoln was a brilliant politician and an exceptional leader of his day, his simplicity in speech and manner made what he said and did much more remembered than the noble words of many of our most eminent forefathers.

At our May meeting, Dan Weinberg is scheduled to talk on Andrew Johnson and Impeachment. Dan has done extensive work in the field of our American presidents, so his program on Johnson should be quite an education. Try to be with us. The meeting will be at the Book and Bottle, 17 E. Chestnut, at 5:30 P.M. on May 9th. For reservations, write or call Mary Ellen Wehler, 244 S. Elmwood, Aurora, Illinois 60506. Phone 896-0169.



WANTED: To borrow, rent or buy a copy of "They Were There" written by Philip Van Dorn Stern in 1959. Contact Edward C. Johnson, 813 W. Diversey, Chicago, Illinois 60614, GR 2-5051.

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**NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD DINNER**  
Award Presentation Honoring Ralph G. Newman  
Installation of Officers; Gala Entertainment  
  
Ladies Welcome!  
  
G.A.R. Room, Chicago Public Library  
  
June 13, 1975

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The National Historical Society is sponsoring a tour of Gettysburg, Harper's Ferry, South Mountain and Antietam May 10-12, 1975. In addition to actual battlefield visits, group discussions and lectures have been planned. The price of the tour, including meals, lodging, battlefield transportation, etc. is one hundred twenty-five dollars per person. For information, contact the Society at 206 Hanover Street, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

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The Kansas City Civil War Round Table has announced that the 1975 recipient of their prestigious Harry S. Truman Award was Dr. Warren W. Hassler, Jr., Professor of American History at Penn State University. Dr. Hassler, who is probably the foremost authority on the career of Major General George B. McClellan, has authored many fine books on military subjects, among which is a biography of "Little Mac". The Truman Award was presented to him in Kansas City on March 25th.

# THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Conklin, Henry. *Through "Poverty's Vale": A Hardscrabble Boyhood in Upstate New York, 1832-1867*. Edited by Wendell Tripp. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1974. \$8.50. Material on service with 81st New York.

Davis, Jefferson. *The Papers of Jefferson Davis*. Volume 2, June 1841-July 1846. Edited by James T. McIntosh. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1975. \$20.00

Dinkins, James *1861-1865 by an Old Johnnie: Personal Recollections and Experiences in the Confederate Army*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1975. Original of 1897. \$15.00

Evitts, William J. *A Matter of Allegiances: Maryland from 1850 to 1861*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1974. \$11.00

Garrison, William Lloyd. *The Letters of William Lloyd Garrison*. Volume 3, No Union with Slaveholders, 1841-1849. Edited by Walter M. Merrill. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University, 1973. \$30.00

Grant, Julia Dent. *The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant [Mrs. Ulysses S Grant]*. Edited, with notes and foreword by John Y. Simon. With introduction by Bruce Catton. New York: Putnam's Sons, 1975. \$12.50

Hotchkiss, Jedediah. *Confederate Military History: Virginia*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1975. This is the expanded form of the volume that adds some six hundred pages to the regular edition: \$32.50. Original of 1899.

Jones, B.W. *Under the Stars and Bars. A History of the Surry Light Artillery*. Recollections of a Private Soldier in the War Between the States. Edited by Lee A. Wallace, Jr. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1975. Over 200 pages of notes and index and illustrations are added to the original, done in Richmond in 1909; end-paper map by Barbara Long. \$20.00

Longford, Lord. *Abraham Lincoln*. Introduction by Elizabeth Longford. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1974. \$8.50

Parish, Peter J. *The American Civil War*. New York: Holmes & Meier Publishers, 1975. \$25.00. Parish is lecturer in history at Glasgow University.

Sloan, Edward W., III. *Benjamin Franklin Isherwood, Naval Engineer*. The Years as Engineer in Chief, 1861-1869. Annapolis: United States Naval Institute, 1965. \$8.50

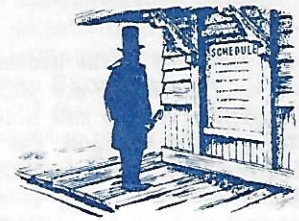
Taylor, Walter Herron. *General Lee, His Campaign in Virginia, 1861-1865, with Personal Reminiscences*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1975. \$22.50. Original of 1906.

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In addition to our own tour to Richmond, several other Round Tables have scheduled battlefield visits this spring. March 22 saw the Tennessee Valley CWRT at Stone's River. Oklahoma City examined several sites in western Tennessee and Mississippi April 4-7, including Shiloh, Corinth and Brices Crossroads, while on April 19th and 20th, Harrisburg followed Jubal Early's 1864 campaign. In May, Baton Rouge CWRT will travel to Mobile Bay on the 3rd and 4th and on the 10th our friends from Atlanta will climb Kenesaw Mountain. Later this month, on the 17th, Cincinnati will survey the fields at Munfordville, Kentucky.

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The Salt Creek Civil War Round Table which, we are proud to say, lists on its rolls many of our own members, held its 100th regular meeting on April 18th. The speaker on that memorable occasion was our founder, Past President and May speaker, Ralph G. Newman, whose topic was "Everything You Wanted to Know About Lincoln And Were Too Afraid To



# BULLETIN BOARD

## FUTURE MEETINGS

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

April 30, May 1-4: Annual Battlefield Tour to Richmond.  
May 9: Ralph G. Newman on "The Last Full Measure of Devotion - Abraham Lincoln's Incredible Funeral."

June 13: Ladies Night. Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner, and Installation of Officers. Recipient of Award: Ralph G. Newman.

September 12: Wiley Sword on "The Battle of Shiloh".  
October 10: Dr. Alfred C. Raphelson on "The Career of General Alexander Schimmelfennig".

November 14: Tour of the new Civil War Exhibit at the Chicago Historical Society.

December 12: Dr. Harry Pfanz on "The First Day at Gettysburg".

January 9: William Sullivan on "The Civil War on The Plains".

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at LaSalle Hotel Coffee Shop; all members welcome.

## NEW MEMBERS

George P. Edwards, 3323 N. Wolcott, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

Hamilton Pitt, 2250 N. Lincoln, #304, Chicago, Illinois 60614.



Ask". Salt Creek was founded in 1962 and continues to prosper, presenting fine programs for its over fifty members. Its meetings are held on the third Friday of each month in the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

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Several works of art, including a famous oil painting of Mary Todd Lincoln by her niece, Kathryn Helm, an oil of Lincoln, death and life masks of the 16th President, a cast of Lincoln's hand, and a Rogers sculpture, "The Council of War", have been stolen from the home of Judge William Townsend in Lexington, Kentucky. Any information concerning the whereabouts of these valuable items may be communicated to the judge's daughter, Mrs. Joseph Murphy, Helm Place, Bowman's Mill Road, R.R. #1, Lexington, Ky. 40503.

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The eightieth general convention of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the thirty-eight annual meeting of the Order of the Stars and Bars will be jointly held in Alexandria, Virginia on August 14-16, 1975. For information, contact William D. McCain, Adjutant-in-Chief, Southern Station, Box 1, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401. The organizations have established the Watie Scholarship Fund in honor of the Cherokee chief who became a Confederate general. Contributions to the fund will be utilized to further the education of children of Cherokee descent at Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma.