

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

September, 1975

## WILEY SWORD ON SHILOH: MYTH VERSUS HISTORICAL RECORD — SEPTEMBER 12, 1975

Wiley Sword, the author of the recently published book, "Shiloh: Bloody April" (William Morrow and Company, October, 1974), visits the Round Table on September 12, 1975 to inaugurate our 1975-76 meeting program. His topic on that evening will, of course, be Shiloh, the first great battle of the Civil War in the West. For years historians of the War between the States have decried the absence of a definitive work on the conflict of April 6 and 7, 1862. Now that void has been filled, as the critics have praised Mr. Sword's fine book for its detailed description of the events at Pittsburg Landing.

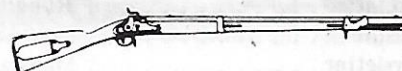


Wiley Sword

In his address to us, Mr. Sword proposes to highlight the vast difference he has found between the myths surrounding the battle and its actual historical record, as uncovered by his extensive research. He plans to devote a major portion of his remarks to the areas of greatest controversy such as the factors responsible for a lack of preparation on April 6 by Prentiss and Sherman, the nature of Grant's orders to Lew Wallace, the feasibility of the Confederacy's attempt to mount a large scale offensive with only limited preparation, the possibility of a lack of confidence by Beauregard in the battle plan, and the actual effect of Albert Sidney Johnston's death on Southern fortunes during the battle.

Otto Eisenschimmel, writing a number of years ago in Civil War Times observed about Shiloh that "No other battle of the Civil War has been so often and so bitterly refought in later years." However, this intense controversy revolving around the tactics of the two days of conflict has drawn the attention of participants, as well as of the students of later generations, away from the strategic impact of Shiloh. It has been said that the South never smiled after Pittsburg Landing for it was a battle that had to be won and was not. For the Confederacy, Shiloh was a lost opportunity, a chance to defeat in detail the Union armies before they could combine to destroy the lower South. If Grant could have been defeated before Buell's arrival, then only the latter would have stood between Johnston and a successful invasion across the Ohio. Also, a sidelight of importance in Southern history resulting from the battle is the advancement of Braxton Bragg to army command by reason of Johnston's death among the peach blossoms.

On the Union side of the ledger, Shiloh was a victory won, but at great cost. It was essentially a battle fought with little direction from the top command. However, because of this the battle forged the separate Federal units in the West into a great army. This sense of identity, independent from the headquar-



343rd REGULAR MEETING

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Wiley Sword

on

Shiloh: Myth Versus  
Historical Record

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Friday, September 12, 1975

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Chicago Bar Association  
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



ters of its generals, was to remain a unique characteristic of the Union armies along the Mississippi, Tennessee, and Cumberland Rivers. In addition, victory at Shiloh prepared the stage for the Vicksburg campaigns which ultimately split the Confederacy in two, a major factor in final Southern defeat.

Wiley Sword, a native of Missouri, received a B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1959. Like many of the great Civil War authors before him, writing about the events of 1861-1865 is an avocation rather than his occupation. Mr. Sword is engaged in the automobile industry as a manufacturers' representative selling automotive foundry supplies. He resides with his wife and two children in West Bloomfield, Michigan.

In addition to the study of battlefield strategy and tactics, he is also a collector of historical American firearms and edged weapons. His writings, in addition to his book, include articles appearing in Civil War Times Illustrated, American History Illustrated, Arms Gazette, The American Rifleman, and Gun Report. Plans for the authorship of future volumes contemplate books on the era of the American Revolution and Indian warfare.

# 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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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Ward C. Smidl, 1104 Whippoorwill Lane, Palatine, Illinois 60067.



*from the  
Editor's pen*



NATIONAL CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE CONGRESS  
OCTOBER 2, 3, AND 4, 1975

As we have stated many times before in this column, the major problem facing Civil War students today is battlefield preservation. The steadily increasing wave of commercial development continues to threaten more and more sites of the conflict of 1861-1865. It is no big secret that those of us interested in historical preservation have been unable to halt these desecrations because we lack organized strength, a unified voice with which to render effective protest.

Now, however, through the dedication and perseverance of one man, an attempt is being made to weld together a union which will be able to speak for us all in this vital campaign. Many of the veterans of The Round Table will remember Jerry Russell of Little Rock, Arkansas. We first were privileged to

meet him when he joined our 1969 Battlefield Tour to Shiloh and Northern Mississippi. At that time he introduced us to The Civil War Round Table Digest, a newsletter Jerry had begun and which he hoped would become a clearing house for Civil War news and information, thus bringing the individual Round Tables closer together.

Since 1969, Jerry has carried on this work almost single-handedly for we must acknowledge that he did not receive the expected support from many of the Round Tables. Under his guidance, and because of his own personal dedication, in the past few years the Digest has become the focal point in the war for battlefield preservation. Every new threat or planned development is reported in full in the Digest, which is sent to every Round Table as well as to its own subscribers. Instructions on means of protest have been included with each story, so that Congressmen, local politicians, and bureaucrats can be advised of opposition.

However, Jerry Russell, too, has realized that letters alone cannot combat the financial resources and influence of the commercial interests. Late in 1974, again almost singlehandedly, he began a campaign to have convened a National Civil War Round Table Congress, a meeting which could provide the vehicle for a study of the problem and the forming of an organization with which to fight. While this time Jerry has received some of the assistance to which he is entitled, it is basically through his efforts alone that the Congress has become a reality. It will be held on October 2, 3, and 4, 1975 in Manassas, Virginia. What more perfect site could be found, for at this time Bull Run is our most threatened battlefield. If the Marriott Corporation has its way, a gigantic amusement park is to be built, not down the road, but directly across the street from the Manassas Battlefield Park.

For the Congress, Jerry has scheduled a fine program which, while focusing on battlefield preservation, will also include areas of Civil War study as well as Round Table administration. The roster of featured speakers is certainly most impressive. Activities will begin on the evening of October 2 with a reception and an address by our own Honorary Life Member Bell I. Wiley. The next morning there will be a panel discussion on battlefield preservation chaired by Dr. B.F. Cooling of the U.S. Army Military History Research Collection at Carlisle. Lunch on October 3 will be followed by addresses by Drs. Thomas Connelly, Francis Lord, and Francis Wilshin, and several historical presentations, including a mini-re-enactment. That evening the principal speaker will be Gary Everhardt, Director of the National Park Service. On October 4, in the morning, there will be a panel on Round Table activities as well as business meetings and discussions. The afternoon will feature a guided tour of the Bull Run battlefield. The Congress will then conclude that night with a banquet and address by Congressman Herbert E. Harris, who has sponsored legislation to protect the park at Manassas.

The cost of registration at the Congress, which includes all activities, luncheons and banquets, but does not include lodging, is seventy dollars. Headquarters will be the Manassas Holiday Inn. For further information or to register for the Congress, correspondence should be directed to Jerry Russell, Civil War Round Table Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72207.

This is an ambitious project, but one which, if successful, can produce great benefits to all who care about studying and preserving the legacy left by those who saw the elephant in 1860-1865. While our Executive Committee has determined to send an official delegate to the Congress, we urge all members of our Round Table, and Round Tables everywhere, who can attend to do so. The opportunity to fight back has now been put before us, we cannot let it slip away. And may we also suggest to those who participate in the Congress that one of the first orders of business should be recognition of the years of dedication given to us and our cause by the man who has brought them together, Jerry Russell. He richly deserves it.

## JUNE MEETING

As has become our tradition, the June meeting was devoted to the presentation of the Nevins-Freeman Award. Over one hundred and eighty members and friends gathered to pay tribute to this year's recipient, our own founder Ralph G. Newman. Ralph's great contributions to us and his many accomplishments in the field of Civil War study were described to those in attendance by the evening's principal speakers, John Hope Franklin, John Y. Simon, and Carl Haverlin. Entertainment was provided by the Civil War musical talent of Mrs. Judy Plant. Also included on the program was the announcements that the Executive Committee had bestowed well-deserved Honorary Life Memberships on three long and valued members, Arnold Alexander, Al Meyer, and Miner Coburn.

Unfortunately it must also be reported that a cloud was again cast upon the festivities by the combination of the June heat and the lack of air-conditioning in the library. We have been assured that a new cooling plant will be installed prior to next year's Nevins-Freeman dinner. However, this will not erase the unfortunate situation which occurred this year, including the resulting conduct of many of our members, a subject we plan to explore in a future issue of the Newsletter.

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The annual summer Executive Committee meeting was held this year in the G.A.R. rooms of the Chicago Public Library, future site of our Research Center. Nineteen members were on hand to discuss the affairs of the Round Table and partake of the luncheon graciously provided by our new president, Jerry Edelstein. Main items on the agenda were the reports of the various officers and committee chairmen.

The past Treasurer, Glen Wiche, and his successor, Myron Cohn, were able to assure us that we begin the new year in a financially stable condition. An extensive discussion centered on the fine progress of the Research Center Committee and a full report to the membership will appear in the October issue of the Newsletter. The Executive Committee also voted to send an official delegate to the National Civil War Round Table Congress to be held in Manassas in October (as is described elsewhere in this issue). The identity of our delegate will be determined by appointment by the President.

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## 1976 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

Chairman Terry Carr has announced the preliminary schedule for the 1976 Battlefield Tour to the Manassas-Antietam area. Our headquarters will be at a beautiful new Quality Inn which has recently been opened on the outskirts of Leesburg, Virginia. The central location of the motel will provide minimum travel times to the many sites we will be visiting. Tentative plans call for a dinner flight to Washington on Wednesday evening, May 5. Thursday will be spent at Manassas studying the battles of First and Second Bull Run. Friday will take us to the fields of Balls Bluff, Monocacy, and South Mountain, as well as the correspondents' memorial at Gathland. Saturday we will be at Antietam for an in-depth examination of the bloodiest single day of the War. The proposal for Sunday is an open morning followed by an afternoon visit to Arlington National Cemetery. Also under consideration are the possibilities of optional side trips on Friday and on Sunday morning. Our tour guides will be under the direction of Honorary Life Member Edwin C. Bearss, with the able assistance of fellow campaigner Josh Billings and the members of the D.C. Round Table. Additional details will be announced when available, but it already promises to be a great trip so reserve the dates, May 5-9, 1976.

## TO THE CAMPFOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Our first meeting promises to be an interesting, informative one. Round Table member Bill Sullivan will talk on "The Spirits of the Sixties." Recipes (no samples) will be available, making it possible for you to duplicate these libations in your own home. All former members are urged to attend and a special invitation is extended to wives of members who have not been with us before. The meeting will be held at Stouffer's, 32 East Randolph Street. A cash bar will open at 5:30, the talk will be at 6:00 and dinner will be served at 7:00. Please be prompt. Reservations must be made no later than Tuesday, September 9. Write or call Margaret April, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611 - 787-1860.

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WANTED: Any information, documents, or relics pertaining to the Confederate States Marine Corps. Also identity of descendants of members of the Corps. Contact Thomas Bohon, Rt. #1, Box 54F, Cascade, Maryland 21719.

FOR SALE: Quality books on Lincoln. For list, contact Richard B. Cohen, 3435 Woodcock Court, Memphis, Tennessee 38116.

The Veterans Administration is still spending almost half a million dollars a year to support 417 widows and children of Civil War veterans. There are still 205 widows of Civil War veterans ranging in age from 60 to 118, as well as 212 children aged 50 to 98 who have physical or mental disabilities. Last year the government spent \$525,503 on these widows and children. With deaths, that is expected to fall below \$500,000 this year.

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Our former member, Al Harris, has announced the formation of the Randolph County (Indiana) Civil War Round Table. Its address will be in care of Mr. Harris at 609 Englewood Drive, Winchester, Indiana 47394. Monthly meetings will be held on Sundays at 2:00 P.M. The Round Table is also establishing a library and its first acquisition was a set of the Official Records.

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The staff of the Newsletter has determined that the time has come to honor those unsung heroes of the Civil War who have never received any credit (and justifiably so) for their magnificent (?) deeds. Through the tireless efforts of our overworked and underpaid (and properly so) research team, we have compiled a list of these long-forgotten (and deservedly so) martyrs. Therefore we herewith announce the creation of the "Obscurity of the Month" contest. Each issue, unless the prior month's personality has not been identified, we will announce another name from this hallowed Roll of (dis) Honor. To the first person who, in writing (by letter or postcard, postage due not acceptable), properly identifies the outstanding achievement of that personality, we will award a suitable prize. Winners shall be determined by earliest postmark. In case of a tie, prizes will be cut in half as we are too cheap to award duplicate prizes. So get your books out and your thinking caps on, for here is your first "Obscurity of the Month." What distinction was achieved during the Civil War by Larkin Skaggs?

# THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Asimov, Isaac. *Our Federal Union. The U.S. from 1816-1865*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1975. \$7.95. For younger people.

Barney, William L. *Flawed Victory: A New Perspective on the Civil War*. Foreword by James P. Shenton. New York: Praeger, 1975. \$8.50

Benedict, Michael Les. *The Fruits of Victory: Alternatives in Restoring the Union 1865-1877*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1975. Paper \$3.25

Boles, John B., editor. *America: The Middle Period. Essays in Honor of Bernard Mayo*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1974. \$8.50

Brogan, Sir Denis William. *Abraham Lincoln*. New edition with 1962 introduction by the author and with a preface by Hugh Brogan. London: Gerald Duckworth & Co., Ltd. \$7.50

Cook, Adrian. *The Alabama Claims: American Politics and Anglo-American Relations, 1865-1872*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1975. \$13.50

Crowe, Charles R., editor. *The Age of Civil War and Reconstruction, 1830-1900*. A Book of Interpretive Essays. Rev. ed. Homewood, Ill.: Dorsey Press, 1975. Paper \$8.50

Danziger, Edmund Jefferson, Jr. *Indians and Bureaucrats: Administering the Reservation Policy during the Civil War*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1974. \$8.95

Davis, William C. *The Battle of New Market*. Garden City: Doubleday, 1975. \$8.95

Fischer, LeRoy H., editor. *Journal of the West*. 14.1 (January, 1975). "The Western States in the Civil War." (Ten articles by ten different authors). Paper \$4.25

Frederickson, George Marsh, editor. *A Nation Divided: Problems and Issues of the Civil War and Reconstruction*. Minneapolis: Burgess Publishing Co., 1975. \$7.95; paper \$4.95

Hyman, Harold M. *A More Perfect Union: The Impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on the Constitution*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1975. Paper \$6.95

Ignoffo, Matthew F. *What the War did to Whitman: A Brief Study of the Effects of the Civil War on the Mind of Walt Whitman*. New York: Vantage Press, 1975. \$3.95

Luebke, Frederick C. *Ethnic Voters and the Election of Lincoln*. University of Nebraska Press, 1973. Paper \$1.95

Meade, Robert Douthat. *Judah P. Benjamin: Confederate Statesman*. New York: Arno Press, 1975. \$27.00. Original done by Oxford in 1943.

Meredith, Roy. *Mr. Lincoln's Camera Man, Mathew B. Brady*. 2nd revised edition. New York: Dover Publications, 1974. \$12.50; paper \$6.95. Unabridged and corrected republication, with a new index of negative numbers.

*The Ordnance Manual for the Use of the Officers of the United States Army*. Third edition. Grand Junction, Colo.: Ordnance Park Corp., 1970. Facsimile edition. \$15.50

Parish, Peter J. *The American Civil War*. New York: Holmes & Meier, 1975. \$25.00; paper \$12.50

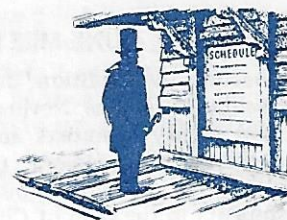
Parsons, Thomas W. *Incidents & Experiences in the Life of Thomas W. Parsons, from 1826 to 1900*. Edited by Frank Furlong Mathias. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1975. \$13.50. With something on the Kentucky Cavalry.

Pease, Jane and Bill Pease. *The Fugitive Slave Law and Anthony Burns: A Problem in Law Enforcement*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1975. Paper \$2.75

Rice, Charles Duncan. *The Rise and Fall of Black Slavery*. New York: Harper & Row, 1975. \$12.50

Rosenberg, Morton M. *Iowa on the Eve of the Civil War*. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1975. Paper \$3.95

## BULLETIN BOARD



### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

September 12: Wiley Sword on "The Battle of Shiloh".

October 10: Dr. Alfred C. Raphelson on "The Career of General Alexander Schimmelfennig".

November 14: Dr. George Frederickson on "Lincoln and the Race Issue".

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

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

February 13: James T. Hickey on "Recent Lincoln Document Acquisitions by the Illinois State Historical Library".

March 12: Edward G.A. Kubler on "The Building and Recovery of the Monitor".

April 9: 350th Regular Meeting. Symposium, chaired by E. B. "Pete" Long, on "Is Civil War History Still a Pertinent Subject?".

May 5-9: Annual Battlefield Tour to Manassas and Antietam.

May 14: Albert P. Scheller on "Illinois Regiments and Generals in Mississippi".

June 11: Ladies Night. Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers.

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

### NEW MEMBERS

William F. Mallory, 4705 West Grace Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230.

James R. Saer, 4715 Central, Western Springs, Illinois 60558.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Dr. Grady McWhiney, History Department, University of Alabama, University, Alabama 35486.

Malcolm Macht, 2829 Carolina N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110.

Elmer Gertz, 6249 N. Albany, Chicago, Illinois 60659.

Thomas L. Jarnowski, 4854 N. Chester, Norridge, Illinois 60656.

Edward Waterbury, 91 Winthrop Drive, Riverside, Connecticut 06878.



Rywell, Martin. *Confederate Guns and their Current Prices*. Illustrated handbook . . . plus directory of Confederate edged weapons, swords, sabers, bayonets, bowie knives, makers, dealers, importers. 11th edition. Union City, Tenn.: Pioneer Press, 1974. \$2.00

Stearns, Austin C. *Three Years with Company K*. Edited by Arthur A. Kent. Rutherford, N.J.: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1975. \$12.50. On the Massachusetts 13th.

Stern, Philip Van Doren. *Secret Missions of the Civil War*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1975. Reprint of Rand McNally issue of 1959. \$15.25