

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVII, Number 5

Chicago, Illinois

January, 1977

## JANUARY 14: JAMES I. (BUD) ROBERTSON, JR. ON LEE AND JACKSON: THE CONFEDERACY'S PREMIER TEAM

On January 14th The Round Table will have the genuine pleasure of a return visit by James I. (Bud) Robertson, Jr. the distinguished Civil War historian, who will address us on "Lee and Jackson: The Confederacy's Premier Team." Anyone who is familiar with the works of Bud Robertson is most certainly aware that we can look forward to a vivid and moving account of the battles and personalities of these two great men who stand above all others as the legacy of the lost cause.

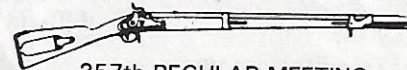
The fame of Lee and Jackson has grown almost to the point of idoltry in the one hundred and eleven years since the end of the war. Therefore, it is quite difficult for any writer to be objective in assessing their careers. However, notwithstanding their hero-worship status, an intense study of the battles they fought does prove they must both rank in that select group of great captains in military history.



Bud Robertson plans to concentrate his remarks, in a large part, on the personalities of the two men to support his theory that their human makeup had much to do with the military successes each of them enjoyed. He will also illustrate how each complimented the other as a general, and that the victories they achieved on the battlefield overshadowed the final defeat of the Confederacy they were defending.

Lee and Jackson had similar characteristics in that they were both extremely religious men, and both were completely devoted to duty. Beyond this each was radically different from the other. Lee was from the aristocratic class of the Old South, with the accompanying opportunities for an excellent education. Always a brilliant student, he graduated second in his class at West Point. Jackson, on the other hand, was born in Western Virginia to a poor family and did not receive a good education prior to West Point. He found study extremely difficult, and as a result, it was a constant struggle for him to perform well in his classes. During these early years he trained his mind to overcome these problems and the will to succeed became the motto of his entire life.

Lee, by nature was not a harsh man and because of this was not always able to deal with his subordinates properly. This one characteristic probably prevented him from becoming perhaps the greatest general in history. However, he was a great judge of character and had the ability to effectively utilize military intelligence in the planning of overall strategy. Jackson was the direct opposite in character. His



357th REGULAR MEETING

JAMES I. ROBERTSON, JR.

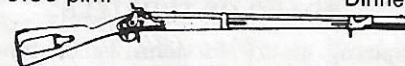
on

Lee and Jackson:

The Confederacy's Premier Team

Friday, January 14, 1977

Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle Street  
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



devotion to duty and the will to succeed meant any sacrifice would be made to achieve his goal. He expected complete obedience from his men, and was unbending to the difficulties encountered by the troops. Without this quality, it is doubtful he would have accomplished some of his greatest victories. While many soldiers hated Jackson for the hardships he expected them to endure, this is the exact reason his troops were willing to follow him to the death, as they soon realized that by these sacrifices he could insure victory for them. Thus ill feeling would eventually give way to supreme confidence and affection toward their eccentric leader.

The South won many battles with Lee as the great strategist and Jackson as the one man whom Lee could count on to perform the necessary tactics to gain victory. After Jackson's death at Chancellorsville, Lee was never again able to defeat the Union army with offensive strategy. His last invasion resulted in defeat at Gettysburg, and thereafter Lee was forced to use defensive maneuvers. His ability to continue the war for two more years before final submission at Appomattox also adds proof to the greatness of Lee as a military commander.

Robertson has contributed an infinite amount of material on Civil War history, having authored or edited fourteen books, including "The Stonewall Brigade", "The Concise Illustrated History of the Civil War", "Civil War Books: A Critical Bibliography", and "The Civil War Letters of General Robert McAllister". He has also written more than fifty articles in encyclopedias and historical periodicals and journals. Bud is now head of the History Department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Historical Society, Jefferson Davis Papers, Civil War History, and the New Market Battlefield Park. He has deservedly received many awards for his brilliant efforts, such as the Harry S. Truman Historical Award, The Mrs. Simon Baruch University Award, commendations from several governors, and has twice been awarded certificates for teaching excellence at Virginia Tech.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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Chicago Illinois 60611  
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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.



We extend our sincere congratulations to the Hagerstown, Maryland Civil War Round Table which celebrated its 20th anniversary on October 28, 1976. One of its members, Charles A. Gabe, has attended every meeting during those two decades.

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On October 23, 1976, the Pry House, General McClellan's headquarters during the Battle of Antietam, was gutted by fire. The house, which is situated on a high bluff on the East bank of Antietam Creek, was recently acquired by the National Park Service which had hoped to restore it to its condition at the time of the battle.

## from the Editor's pen



(Last month we shared with you our thoughts on the passing of a great Civil War historian, Glenn Tucker. Again in this issue, this column must sadly be devoted to a similar task, this time because of the death of a warm, concerned human being who gave of himself not only to The Round Table but to the cultural welfare of his community and his country. To express our deep sense of loss we turn over our pen to one who perhaps knew him best, Ralph G. Newman.)

WARREN A. REEDER, JR.  
(1913-1976)

Warren Reeder was, in every sense of the phrase, a gentle man. Quiet and unassuming, he dedicated a major part of his life to his family, his church, and an appreciation of our national heritage.

His public services were numerous and included active participation in the Christian Fellowship Church, the Hammond Public Library (former president); Urban Libraries Council (treasurer); The Civil War Round Table (former president); the Calumet Board of Realtors (former president); and the Hoosier State Bank of Indiana (director.) Among the many historical societies in which he was a leader were the Hammond Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Society. He was also for many years a member of the board of trustees of Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee.

Warren was born in Hammond, Indiana and spent most of his life in that city. A graduate of the University of Chicago, he was a collector of books and manuscripts relating to American history and a respected student of certain aspects of our country's past. The author of "No Performance Tonight," the story of the 1918 Hagenbeck-Wallace circus train collision in northwest Indiana, he had also recently completed a history of Hammond and at the time of his death was working on a special study of John Hunt Morgan in Indiana. Warren's collection of American historical manuscripts included complete sets of letters and documents of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, the Signers of the Constitution of the United States, the members of the Continental Congress, the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the United States. He owned the bibles which had been the property of John Brown and of "Stonewall" Jackson.

I first met Warren in the fall of 1945 when, in the company of his late father, he came into the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, which was then on Michigan Avenue just south of the Chicago Public Library. I acquainted him with the existence of The Civil War Round Table and he became very active in the affairs and committees of this organization, serving as its president in 1962-1963 and as a member of our first battlefield tour in 1940. As the battlefield tour became an annual event, Warren became an annual participant, thus sharing the honor of being present on more tours than any other member of the organization. He devoted many hours to the problems and welfare of the Hammond Public Library and when the Urban Libraries Council came into existence several years ago I, as chairman of this national group, immediately asked Warren to join our Executive Board and to serve as treasurer. As always when public service called, he readily accepted.

Warren would visit me about once a month, usually in the company of his son Roger. Our conversation would range over a wide canvas from Colonial history to present day politics. Our recent meetings focused, in part, on the problems of the housing and improvement of his fine collection. When I last met with him a few weeks ago, I happened to

(Continued on page 4)

## DECEMBER MEETING

The magnificent Civic Reception Center of the Chicago Public Library Building was the setting as seventy-two members and guests gathered to hear Robert Orr Baker of St. Paul, Minnesota address us on the Battle of Brices Crossroads. Mr. Baker's remarks, preceded by dinner at Stouffer's in the Prudential Building, were followed by a tour of the remodeled facilities of the Library Building, including the future home of our Research Center.

Mr. Baker began his discussion by describing the situation in the western theater in early 1864. Grant, as recently appointed overall commander, wanted Sherman to invade the Confederate interior, with the destruction of Southern war resources, as well as Johnston's army, as his purpose. Sherman, whose base was at Nashville, realized that the protection of his supply line, a single-track railroad, would be a major factor in the proposed campaign. Wishing to preserve his own numerical strength as much as possible, he requested that troops from other areas be detailed to guard his rear and that they also undertake movements which would otherwise occupy the Confederate cavalry of S.D. Lee and the renowned Nathan Bedford Forest.

Accordingly, the Federal command in Memphis organized a series of expeditions designed to not only keep Forest in Mississippi, but to defeat him and break up his force. The first of these, a cavalry foray by Sooy Smith in February, was a total failure. The second attempt soon proved to be no better. It was commanded by Samuel Sturgis, whose force consisted of 3,300 horse soldiers. Sturgis left Memphis on April 20, met Forest near Bolivar, Mississippi on May 2, was soundly defeated, and immediately retreated back to Memphis. Contrary to Sturgis' boast that he had driven Forest from Mississippi, which was exactly the opposite of what Sturgis was supposed to do, Forest stayed in the state for the rest of May to refit and reorganize his command.

On June 1, just as Forest began to move toward West Tennessee and Sherman's supply line, a third Federal column moved south. Again under the dubious leadership of Sturgis, it was a combined force of 3,000 cavalry armed with repeating weapons, under Grierson, 5,000 infantry, and 22 guns. However, as soon as the Union troops set out on their march, it began to rain heavily. The torrential downpour would not cease until the day of the battle, ten days later. On the 9th, Sturgis held a conference with his generals who recommended a return to Memphis because of the bad weather and resulting slow progress. Sturgis disagreed and ordered the advance to continue the next day.

Forest, in the meantime, was recalled from Alabama by S. D. Lee and had reached Tupelo on June 5. Lee wanted to prevent Sturgis from reaching Tupelo, but left it to Forest's discretion as to whether to attack. The latter, being thoroughly familiar with the terrain, and receiving excellent intelligence as to the location and condition of the Federals, decided to move his 4,800 men against Sturgis on the 10th.

That day dawned sunny and hot. The advance unit of the Confederates reached Brice's Crossroads at 4:00 A.M. and passed through it toward the bridge over swollen Tishomingo Creek north of the crossroads. The arrival of Grierson's troops at 5:30 prevented the destruction of the bridge and the Southerners withdrew to the area south and east of the crossroads. As the Federals awaited the arrival of their infantry, the cavalry began a desultory action with what Sturgis thought was just a small Confederate detachment. As more of his troops came on the field, Forest extended his line to the southwest, finally cutting the Guntown Road, thus blocking the Union's southward advance. At the same time, Forest also ordered Barteau to move around the Federal left flank to be in position to subsequently attack Sturgis' rear.

The increasing Confederate pressure finally forced Grierson to retire, just as the Union infantry arrived after a six

## TO THE CAMPFOLLOWERS (LADIES)

A record crowd, including some regulars who have not been with us recently and several out-of-town visitors, graced the meeting at which we finally heard the Holloway tape on "Great Britain and The American Civil War". A solemn promise: no more tapes! They are just too difficult to hear and to understand, so an all-out effort will be made from now on to provide live speakers.

Our next meeting, on January 14, 1977, will be addressed by Civil War Round Table member Merlin N. Sumner, who will speak on "Incidents Curiously Related: A Biographical Sketch of Ulysses S. Grant." This promises to be an outstanding evening and you are all urged to attend. The cocktail hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the second floor dining room of Stouffer's Restaurant, corner Randolph and Wabash, and the talk will be at 6:00 promptly, to enable the speaker to attend the men's meeting. Dinner will follow the address. Add your reservation to your husband's card or telephone Margaret April, 787-1860. We need volunteers from our own group to speak and will also be grateful for suggestions as to other people who can be approached. Please help if you possibly can.

The Illinois State Bar Association has announced that our own member, Dick Blake, will present his brilliant portrayal "A Look At Lincoln" as part of the program at the Bar Association's Centennial Dinner. The event, which will mark the Bar Association's 100th Anniversary, will be held on January 22nd, in the Forum Thirty Hotel in Springfield. Also on the program for that evening will be an address delivered by United States Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.

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The Smithsonian Institution has announced that it will offer a series of lectures on the Civil War. The lectures will be delivered in Washington on ten successive Wednesday evenings beginning January 19th and ending March 21st, 1977. Among the scheduled speakers will be Colonel Joseph Mitchell, Horace Jones, President of the D. C. Round Table, our own member, and future speaker, Josh Billings, and Dr. William Morgan of the Navy Historical Center.

mile trot and one mile run in the intense heat. Forest also received reinforcements and at 1:30 ordered an advance which forced the Federals back into an arc-shaped line one quarter mile south and east of the crossroads. Maintaining general pressure along this line, Forest, learning that Barteau was in position, ordered an overall assault. Barteau and the Confederate artillery smashed into the Federal wagon train which had been foolishly parked south of the creek. Sturgis' line collapsed and the retreat turned into a rout as the entire Union force attempted to escape over the bridge. The beaten Federals attempted a stand two miles from Ripley, but could not hold and Sturgis again returned to Memphis. He and those parts of his army who evaded capture covered, in retreat, in less than two days the same distance that it took them ten days to advance.

Forest captured large quantities of prisoners, equipment, wagons, and baggage. It was a great victory, but, ironically, as was true of so many Confederate successes, only in the tactical sense. Sturgis, in utter defeat, had accomplished the more important part of his task. He had held Forest in Mississippi, away from Sherman's vital supply line. Those supplies would continue to flow all summer, eventually all the way into Atlanta.

# THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Bates, Finis L. *The Escape and Suicide of John Wilkes Booth*. Saint Clair Shores, Mich.: Scholarly Press, 1976. Reprint of text of 1907. \$25.00

Boardman, Fon S. *America and the Civil War Era, 1850-1875*. New York: H. Z. Walck, 1976. \$7.95

Kimball, William J. *Starve or Fall: Richmond and its People, 1861-1865*. Ann Arbor: University Microfilms International, 1976. \$13.50

Laframboise, Leon. *History of the Artillery, Cavalry and Infantry Branch of Service Insignia*. Steelville, Mo.: Watson Publishing Co., 1976. 519 photos of 909 insignia. \$18.50

Mathews, Byron H., Jr. *The McCook-Stoneman Raid*. Philadelphia: Dorrance, 1976. \$6.95

May, Clarence E. *Life under Four Flags in North River Basin of Virginia*. Verona, Va.: McClure Press, 1976. \$18.00. History of Rockingham County.

Morris, Richard B., editor. *A House Divided: The Civil War, 1850-1865*. 2nd ed. New York: Webster Division, McGraw-Hill, 1976. Pbk. \$2.50

Polley, Joseph B. *Hood's Texas Brigade, its Marches, its Battles, its Achievements*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1976. \$20.00. Reprint of the Neale issue of 1908.

Riatti, John C. *Military Annals of Mississippi: Military Organizations which entered the service of the Confederate States of America from the State of Mississippi*. Compiled by... with an index by the staff, Mississippi Collection, University of Mississippi Library, Oxford. Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 1976. \$15.00

*Southern Historical Society Papers*. The 52 volumes available, some as originals, some as reprints. Millwood, N.Y. Kraus Reprint Co., 1976. The set: \$1143.00. Individual volumes also to be had, apparently.

Wakelyn, Jon L. *Biographical Dictionary of the Confederacy*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1976. \$29.95

Warren, Louis A. *Lincoln's Youth: Indiana Years, Seven to Twenty-one, 1816-1830*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1976. Reprint of edition of 1959. \$21.00

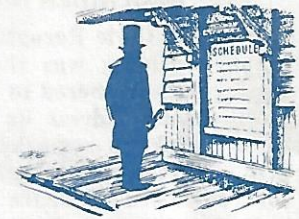
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mention Matthew Arnold's essay on General Grant's "Memoirs." He hadn't heard of it—I promised to locate a copy for him. On Monday morning, November 29, I was in New York and wandered into a book shop where I found a copy of the little volume. I didn't know at the time that Warren had been stricken the day before and was in the hospital. When I returned to Chicago on Saturday, November 4, just in time for the funeral, the book was in my pocket.

It was my privilege to have known Warren Reeder for a major part of my adult life—for more than thirty-one years. What a rare honor it has been to share so many moments with him. I never heard a harsh word from him directed to me or to anyone. He contributed generously, perhaps too generously, from his frail body to the betterment of the world he lived in. But that was characteristic of him. He never shirked a responsibility and, once having assumed it he gave it, in the words of his great hero, "the last full measure of devotion."

Abraham Lincoln, speaking about his friend Owen Lovejoy, best described our feelings toward Warren Reeder when he wrote:

"He was my most generous friend. Let him have the marble monument, along with the well-assured and more enduring one in the hearts of those who love liberty, unselfishly, for all men."



## BULLETIN BOARD

### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

January 14: Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. on "Lee and Jackson: The Confederacy's Premier Team."

February 11: Mark E. Neely, Jr. on "To Distinguish Myself: Lincoln and the Mexican War."

March 11: Dr. William E. Parrish on "The Bohemian Brigade: The Eastern Press Covers the War in Missouri in 1861."

April 15: Elden E. (Josh) Billings on "Sherman: A Critical Character Sketch."

May 4-8: Annual Battlefield Tour to Middle Tennessee.

May 13: Dr. Richard J. Sommers on "Petersburg."

June 10: Ladies night, Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Wieboldt's Men's Grill, 9th Floor, State and Madison; all members welcome.

### NEW MEMBERS

Morton Balon, 1240 Park Avenue, Apt. 314, Highland Park, Illinois 60035.

Joseph Kopec, Harshe-Rotman & Druck, Inc., 108 N. State Street, Chicago, Il. 60602.

Thomas Morey, 2813 Greenwood, Hazelcrest, Illinois 60429

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Peter Johnson, 1714 Torre Molinos Circle, Tempe, Arizona 85281

Kevin M. Kavanagh 233 N. Taylor, Oak Park, Il. 60302.

Edward S. Waterbury, 1823 Risa Place, Glendale, California 91208.

Treasurer Irwin Levin and membership chairman, Ward Smidl have announced that all those members whose 1976-1977 dues have not been paid to date have been dropped from the membership roster and mailing list. Anyone wishing reinstatement must contact Irwin or Ward.

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In the November issue of the Newsletter, we reported that Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith, the only decendent of the 16th President, had donated a collection of Lincoln memorabilia to the State of Illinois. President J. Richard Stoltz of Lincoln College, in Lincoln, Illinois, has written to remind us Mr. Beckwith came to our state to attend a ceremony at Lincoln College on October 10, 1976, during which an honorary doctorate of laws was conferred upon him. Mr. Beckwith presented to the College several pieces of china belonging to Mrs. Lincoln and to her son, Robert, as well as a chair which was used in the White House during Lincoln's term of office. We apologize for this omission in our previous item and we certainly congratulate the College, the only institution of higher learning named for Mr. Lincoln during his lifetime, for its continuing devotion to the preservation of the Lincoln heritage.