

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVIII, Number 10

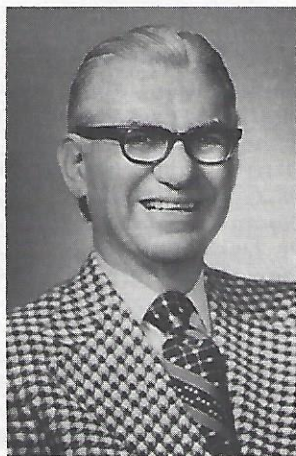
Chicago, Illinois

June, 1978

DR. BELL I. WILEY TO RECEIVE NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD

The Nevins-Freeman Award was created by The Round Table in 1974 to recognize individuals who, through their scholarship and dedication to the ideals and traditions of our country, North and South, have made significant contributions to our knowledge of the history and heritage of the past, and particularly of the events of 1861-1865. This year's recipient, Dr. Bell I. Wiley, more than meets the Award's criteria. He will receive his well-deserved honor at the Fifth Annual Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner June 9.

The name Bell Wiley is a familiar one to all students of the Civil War. He has authored, co-authored or edited 24 books, most of them about the relatively unknown people of the War—the privates, the plain people, and the women back home. In addition his by-line has appeared on numerous magazine articles and book reviews. During his career, Dr. Wiley has also lectured widely, in this country and abroad, about the Civil War, the South, and the United States. As a teacher for 50 years, he has helped generations of college students to an understanding of America's past.



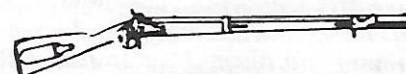
Dr. Bell I. Wiley

However, Dr. Wiley is more than a familiar name and respected historian and educator to members of The Round Table. Over the years, as a frequent participant in its meetings, he has become a valued friend. Appropriately, he is an honorary life member.

Born in Halls, Tennessee in 1906, Bell Wiley attended Asbury College, the University of Kentucky, and Yale University, receiving his Ph.D. from the latter in 1933. He has taught at Mississippi Southern College, the University of Mississippi, Louisiana State University, and, from 1949 until his retirement in 1974, at Emory University where he was Charles Howard Candler Professor of History. Active even in retirement, he served during the past year as a visiting professor of history at the University of Kentucky.

During the Civil War Centennial, Dr. Wiley was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Civil War Centennial Commission. He has also served as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the National Historical Society, as President of the Southern Historical Association, on the National Archives Advisory Council, and on the editorial boards for the U.S. Grant Association and the Jefferson Davis Association.

Abroad, Bell Wiley was an American Specialist Lecturer for the U.S. Department of State from 1964-1966. During



372nd REGULAR MEETING

NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD DINNER

HONORING

DR. BELL I. WILEY

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1978

Blackhawk Restaurant

139 North Wabash, Chicago

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

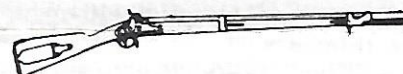
Grand Army of the Republic Rooms

Chicago Public Library Cultural Center

Randolph at Michigan

Reception at 7:45 p.m.

Program at 8:30 p.m.



Special reservation forms for the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner are enclosed with this Newsletter. Send in reservations promptly with check for \$15.00 per person. Guests are welcome, but be sure to include their names on the reservation card. Special parking rates are available after 5:00 p.m. at the parking garage on the Northeast corner of Randolph and Wabash. Parking tickets will be validated at the registration desk at the Blackhawk Restaurant.

that time he delivered a series of lectures on the Civil War on BBC-TV in England. On the continent, where interest in the War was not as great, he discussed "The Changing Status of Negroes in the U.S." Dr. Wiley was also Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University, 1965-66.

The Award evening's activities will begin at 5:30 with cocktails at the Blackhawk Restaurant, to be followed at

Continued on page 2, column 1

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

OFFICERS

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 Senior Vice President Glen N. Wiche
 Vice President Irwin Levin
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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.



Continued from page 1, column 2

6:30 by dinner. At 7:30, members and guests will adjourn to the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center for a reception in honor of the opening of a major exhibition in the Civil War and American History Research Center in the Cultural Center. This exhibition, entitled "One Hundred Important Additions to the Civil War and American History Research Collection: An Exhibition of Acquisitions 1974-78," will be on display from June 12 through August 12 and will formally introduce the Research Center to the country. The fifty-six page illustrated catalog of the exhibition will be distributed to all those present.

The ceremonies honoring Dr. Wiley will begin at 8:30. After receiving the award, he will address us on the subject of "Reminiscences of a Civil War Historian." In his remarks, Dr. Wiley will describe how he first became interested in Civil War history, give some highlights of his research experiences, and present and discuss some of his major findings or conclusions.

SUMMER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President-elect Glen Wiche has announced that the Summer Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 15, 1978 at 11:00 a.m. at the Little Corporal Restaurant, 1 East Wacker Drive, Chicago. The agenda will include many important items vital to the future growth of our organization and so all current officers, trustees and committee chairmen and all past presidents are urged to attend.

1979 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

At its meeting on May 12, 1978, just prior to the regularly scheduled meeting, the Executive Committee selected Shiloh and Northern Mississippi as the locale of our 1979 Battlefield Tour. Proposed sites to be visited, in addition to Shiloh, include Corinth, Iuka, Brice's Crossroads, Holly Springs, Ft. Pillow and La Grange. President-elect Glen Wiche will announce the selection of the Battlefield Tour Committee in the near future. Further arrangements and details will be announced as they become available. The likely dates of the Tour are May 2-6.

A major Civil War Relic and Collector's Show, sponsored by the Mason-Dixon Relic Hunters Assoc., will be held at the Sheraton Inn in Gettysburg on July 8 and 9, 1978. In addition to over one hundred and eighty displays by many of the country's leading Civil War collectors and dealers, there will also be several lectures and seminars conducted by noted Civil War historians, including Dr. Gordon Dammann, of Lena, Illinois, a member of our Round Table. Dr. Dammann's topic will be "Civil War Medicine". The show will culminate a week long observance of the 115th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. The festivities that begin on July 2, 1978 will also feature a parade, memorial services, a firemen's festival and a fireworks display. For further information regarding any of these activities, contact the Gettysburg Travel Council, 35 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325, 717/334-6274.

After a hearing conducted at the request of the San Francisco Boosters, a civic organization, the San Francisco City Court of Historical Review and Appeals has cleared General Albert Sidney Johnston of all accusations of aiding the cause of the Confederacy while still in command of the United States Department of the Pacific in 1861. The charges were based on rumors and misinformation to the effect that Johnston had been disloyal to the Federal Government and had encouraged revolt designed to take California out of the Union. However, testimony at the hearing from various witnesses, including two retired Army Generals, verified that Johnston had actually asserted his loyalty and thwarted attempts to seize Federal arms from the local arsenal. The witnesses stated that Johnston had told the conspirators who had solicited his aid that, as long as he was still a member of the United States Army, he would protect Government property with his life and all of the facilities at his command. He then proceeded to move the arms and ammunition from the arsenal to Alcatraz, a much more defensible site. After the testimony, Judge Harry W. Low stated that there was no valid evidence that Johnston had acted in any way detrimental to the Federal Government, or to his oath as an officer, prior to his resignation from the Army.

MAY MEETING

Certain events, although important, receive little attention, both when they occur and in later history, because of other events which may have taken place at the same time. According to Kenneth Carley, such is the case with the Sioux uprising of 1862 in Minnesota. That incident, which occurred at the same time as Second Bull Run, was the subject of his remarks to 85 members and guests at The Round Table meeting May 12.

Mr. Carley began his discussion by describing the situation of the Sioux in Minnesota in the mid-nineteenth century, thus pointing out some of the factors behind the uprising. One problem, he noted, was the treaty system under which the Indians lived. They had given up much of their land in 1851, for a very low price, and were then crowded onto a small reservation. In addition, crops had been bad in 1861 and 1862 and there was not enough food. Supplies were available at the Indian Agency, but the annuity money due the Sioux under the treaty of 1851, which could have been used to buy food, had been delayed by the War. The Indian agent would not give out supplies without payment, and traders in the area also refused credit.

The situation was thus quite combustible in mid-August, 1862, and, as Mr. Carley explained, only a little spark was necessary to ignite it. That spark was provided when a small band of Sioux, returning from an unsuccessful hunting trip on August 17, killed five whites on a farm. As the news spread, other Indians debated whether or not to fight, but finally decided on war and attacked. The settlers were surprised as most were on good terms with the Indians and did not even have guns. At the time of the uprising, and again because of the War, there were few soldiers at nearby Fort Ridgely.

Most of the fighting took place at the Fort and the town New Ulm, both of which were attacked twice and heroically defended against a numerically superior force. In their attacks on the Fort, the Sioux were driven back by artillery. A force under Henry Hastings Sibley, consisting mostly of green troops of the Sixth Minnesota, finally relieved the siege of Fort Ridgely. Reinforced by the Third Minnesota which had recently returned to the state after their parole by the Confederates (they were captured by Forrest in Tennessee), Sibley decisively defeated the Indians on September 23 at the Battle of Wood Lake. As a result of the uprising, approximately 500 whites, including soldiers and civilians, had been killed.

Many Sioux escaped to the prairies of the Dakotas, but about 2,000 were captured. Sibley immediately started trials which turned out to be, as Mr. Carley explained, a travesty of justice since the Indians didn't understand what was going on. Although 303 were sentenced to hang, Lincoln took a personal interest in the situation and commuted the sentences of all but 38 (he made a distinction between murderers and rapists and those who had just admitted participating in the uprising). The 38 were hung in Mankato in what has been called the greatest mass execution in American history. The rest of the Sioux were forever banished from Minnesota.

In 1863, John Pope, who had been sent west in 1862 after Sibley convinced Lincoln that the uprising was of national importance, went after the Indians in the Dakota Territory. As Mr. Carley concluded, however, his efforts didn't accomplish much, and the long-time warfare with the Indians which started with the 1862 uprising did not end until the Battle of Wounded Knee in 1890.

We are saddened to learn of the death, on April 9, 1978, of our long-time member Dr. James Gleichert. Dr. Gleichert had just recently moved to Eugene, Oregon. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

Extensive research conducted by Dr. Harold Schwartz has resulted in his conclusion that Abraham Lincoln suffered from a genetic condition known as Marfan Syndrome, a form of heart disease. Schwartz, who is on the staff of the University of Southern California School of Medicine, became interested in the matter in 1959 when he treated a patient who had the Syndrome and who, the Doctor learned, shared a common ancestor with Lincoln. Schwartz then made an extensive study of the Lincoln family and drew up genealogical charts, from which he concluded that three of Lincoln's children also died of Marfan complications. Symptoms of the Syndrome are abnormally long arms and legs, a sunken chest, crossed eyes, and a leaky heart valve. Physical descriptions of the 16th President confirm that the first three characteristics were present. Schwartz' research has shown that during the last few months of Lincoln's life, he became easily fatigued, suffered frequent headaches, and developed a coldness in the extremities. These are all signs of poor blood circulation as would be expected with a failing heart. Based on his conclusions, Dr. Schwartz believes that at the time of the assassination, Lincoln had no more than six months to live before a heart attack would have killed him.

An explosion apparently triggered by a Civil War artillery shell recently blew out the glass front wall of an Ayden, North Carolina relic shop, killing the store owner and injuring two teenagers. Two other buildings nearby were destroyed in the subsequent fire. The police investigation disclosed that the store owner was drilling on the century old shell when it exploded. The shop specialized in Civil War Battlefield memorabilia and also sold metal detectors and the other accessories required for the discovery of battlefield relics. After the fire had been put out, it was necessary to call upon an ordinance disposal team from nearby Ft. Bragg to search the remains of the shop for any other dangerous shells or ammunition.

The Annual Confederate Memorial Services, held yearly since 1914, will be conducted this year on June 4, 1978, at 4:00 P.M., at the Confederate Monument in Jackson Circle, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. The feature of the ceremonies will be an address by our own member, Frank G. Rankin, of Louisville, Kentucky, on the topic of "Jefferson Davis, Spiritual Victory". Also included in the program will be the presentation of memorial wreaths at both the Confederate Monument and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Once again, the ludicrous controversy over the flying of a Confederate Flag on State buildings in the South has arisen, this time in North Carolina. The Office of the Governor determined to fly the flag over the State Capital on Confederate Memorial Day, May 10th. Immediately, a number of protests were received, principally from the leadership of the U.D.C. In responding to these complaints, the Governor's Office stated that the decision not to fly the flag was based upon a desire to avoid upsetting any particular interest group. Research by the Governor's staff had confirmed that there was no state law requiring the flag to be flown. However, this opinion apparently ignores a 1961 legislative resolution recommending the placing of the flag on the State Capital and other state buildings on appropriate holidays, including Confederate Memorial Day.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Blassingame, John W., editor. *Slave Testimony*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1977. \$37.50; paper \$9.95.

Gutman, Herbert G. *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1976. \$15.95.

Johnson, William J. *Abraham Lincoln the Christian*. Milford, Michigan: Mott Media, 1976. \$2.95 paper.

Johnson, William J. *Robert E. Lee the Christian*. Milford, Michigan: Mott Media, 1976. Paper \$3.95.

Johnson, Michael P. *Toward a Patriarchal Republic: The Secession of Georgia*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1977. \$15.00.

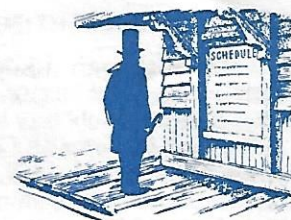
Owen, G. Frederick. *A Heart that Yearned for God: Abraham Lincoln, his Life and Faith*. Washington, D.C.: Third Century Publishers, 1976.

Walters, Ronald G. *The Antislavery Appeal: American Abolitionism after 1830*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976. \$11.00.

1978 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Carl Sandburg. To commemorate this event, the United States Postal Service has scheduled the issuance of a stamp recognizing the poet and author. In addition, Sandburg's home in Flat Rock, North Carolina will be the site of commemorative activities throughout the year. The home, named Connemara by Mr. & Mrs. Sandburg, is now administered by the National Park Service and is open to the public. The Sandburgs lived in the house for twentytwo years and, during that time, while Mr. Sandburg devoted his time to writing, Mrs. Sandburg bred and cared for a prize-winning Chikaming goat herd. Originally the summer residence of Christopher Memminger, the first Secretary of the Treasury of the Confederacy, Connemara now contains many of the personal possessions used by the Sandburgs, as well as Mr. Sandburg's library containing over 13,000 volumes. Nearby is the prominent Flat Rock Playhouse, which offers performances commemorating both Sandburg and another famous North Carolina author, Thomas Wolfe. The repertory of the ten week summer session of the Playhouse includes "An Afternoon with Mr. Lincoln" and "Rootabaga Stories," written by Sandburg, and Wolfe's "Look Homeward Angel."

A bill to increase the authorized funds for the development of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park from \$2,285,000 to \$8,000,000 has been introduced in Congress by Missouri Senators Thomas F. Eagleton and John C. Danforth. The funds would provide for a five year development plan for the 1,752 acre Park, which would include landscaping and replanting so as to recreate the site as it existed on the date of the battle, August 10, 1861. The Park Service estimates that once this work is completed, the Park could attract as many as 300,000 visitors each year. A key element of the program would be the construction of a permanent visitors center, to replace the present trailer facility. The building would include an electronic map of the battle, a museum, and administrative offices. Everyone is urged to support this vital project by writing to their own senators and congressmen requesting votes in favor of this legislation.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

June 9: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers. Award Recipient—Dr. Bell I. Wiley.

July 15: Summer Executive Committee Meeting, 11:00 A.M., Little Corporal Restaurant, 1 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago.

September 8: William A. Frassanito on "Antietam—The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day". Meeting to be preceded by autographing party at Abraham Lincoln Book Shop.

October 13: Dr. Harold Hyman on "The Lincoln Conspiracy".

November 10: Gordon Whitney on "General Jefferson C. Davis".

December 8: Brooks Davis on "The Perryville Campaign".

January 12: Dr. Grady McWhiney on "Confederate Generals—Their Strengths and Weaknesses".

February 9: Dr. Mark E. Neeley on "Has The Lincoln Theme Been Exhausted?".

March 9: To be announced.

April 13: To be announced.

May 2-6: Annual Battlefield Tour—Shiloh and Northern Mississippi.

May 11: To be announced.

June 8: 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.

Last Tuesday of each month: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Caravelle Motel, River Road and Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont; all members welcome.

NEW MEMBERS

David A. Gorak, 1829 South 59th Avenue, Cicero, Illinois 60650.

Jeanne B. Griffith, 320 Greenwood, Evanston, Illinois 60201

The town of Grottoes, Virginia plans to construct a sewerage disposal plant in Rockingham County, Virginia near the battlefield of Port Republic. If permitted to proceed, this industrial development will seriously detract from an important historical area associated with Jackson's famed Valley Campaign of 1862. While the site of the plant is not on the battlefield proper, it does lie well within the staging area from which Ewell and Taylor began their successful flanking movement that resulted in the Confederate victory. Dedicated local citizens have, for years, been endeavoring to have his area preserved as it now exists. Those wishing to aid them in this effort should write their opinions to Mr. Green Jones, Environmental Protection Agency, Sixth and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106, or Mr. Tucker Hill, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street, Richmond, Virginia 23214.