

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLII, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1982

## PAT NEWMAN ON JULIA DENT GRANT

Many wives of famous men, be they heroes or presidents, seemingly have no dimension of their own and are known only because of the men they married. In her talk to The Round Table on April 9, Pat Newman intends to correct that situation with regard to Julia Dent Grant. In addition to discussing a historic person, Pat will, in a sense, be making history herself—she will be the first woman ever to address The Civil War Round Table.

Julia Dent Grant was the pampered daughter of a Missouri planter, a man known as Colonel Dent, not because of his military experience, but simply because he was a juleps-on-the-veranda farmer and at that time and place being dubbed a colonel was in true Southern tradition. Julia was also the daughter of a slave holder and was given slaves of her own after her marriage to Ulysses S. Grant.



**PAT NEWMAN**

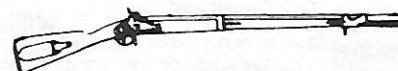
Julia and Ulysses knew each other for over 40 years—they were married for 37 years. She was devoted to her husband, who returned that love. Even today they are considered perhaps the happiest couple that ever occupied the White House. During the Civil War she frequently travelled to be with her husband and his army. After his two terms as president, she toured the world with him and was a great comfort to him in his heroic battle against death.

Julia was the mother of four children and the son of her eldest son, Frederick Dent Grant, was Ulysses S. Grant, III, who once addressed The Civil War Round Table. She wrote her memoirs years after Grant had written his, but her book wasn't published until a few years ago. According to Pat, many of the events in Gore Vidal's novel, *1876*, are based on Julia Dent Grant's recollections.

Of her talk, Pat says, "I will explain Julia Dent Grant in first person: it seems to flow better that way. I will in no way attempt to imitate Julia in manner of speech or southern accent. I also intend to use 20th-century expressions rather than Julia's 19th-century language which would be too flowery. My one problem is that I must assume that all in the audience will know Grant's life story, and in the 30 to 40 minutes that I have to talk I cannot cover the battles, etc. Remember, I have over 40 years of a relationship between two people to cover."

Pat Newman was born in Oak Park, Illinois and attended Marycrest College in Davenport, Iowa. During summer vacations she became involved in summer stock and performed in Estes Park and Denver, Colorado. By the time she turned 21 she had become a fashion model.

Pat spent 10 years in the advertising business and another six in



### 410th REGULAR MEETING

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### PAT NEWMAN ON JULIA DENT GRANT

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FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1982

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Como Inn  
546 N. Milwaukee  
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

An important Executive Committee Meeting will be held at the Como Inn at 5:00 p.m. on April 9, just prior to the regular meeting. Among the items on the agenda are discussion of finances and the Battlefield Tour, and committee chairmen reports. All current officers, trustees, and committee chairmen, as well as all past presidents, are urged to attend.

executive positions in the clothing business. For the past four years she has been Vice President of Lincoln's New Salem Enterprises, Inc., the concessionaire for the State of Illinois at New Salem State Park. She also works with her husband, Ralph, when he is engaged in appraisals or attending major auctions.

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# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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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)

Her interest in Julia Dent Grant began when she married Ralph, who, as most know, is president of the Ulysses S. Grant Association. However, she notes that she was interested in the Civil War period even before meeting Ralph. That interest developed because of the book and movie, *Gone With The Wind*. She describes herself as a GWTW buff and is compiling an extensive collection of materials regarding the author, the casting and filming of the movie, etc. Since her encounter with Julia Dent Grant, she has also become interested in researching other "little-known" First Ladies.

LaWanda Cox, author of *Lincoln and Black Freedom—A Study in Presidential Leadership*, has been named the 1982 winner of the Baroness/Lincoln Award of the Civil War Round Table of New York. The award, in memory of the late Dr. Benjamin Baroness, a Lincoln scholar and charter member of the New York Round Table, has been given annually since 1962 for "contribution to the greater appreciation of the life and works of Abraham Lincoln." Mrs. Cox is professor emeritus in the Department of History at Hunter College and Graduate Center, CUNY.

The New York Round Table has also established The Bell I. Wiley Award to honor those whose outstanding nonliterary/artistic talents have contributed to a greater understanding and preservation of that which pertains to the Civil War." The award, in the form of a plaque, will be presented whenever appropriate. It will not necessarily be annual.

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The Cincinnati Round Table newsletter reported on a recent issue of *The Ohio Digest* in which there is an article about a mystery concerning an Ohio Volunteer medal of the Civil War. The medal was removed from a captured German soldier in 1944 by Cpl. Frank Martincik of Nebraska. Martincik donated the medal to the Ohio National Guard in 1981. The medal, believed to be the only one in existence today, is inscribed: "The State of Ohio to Charles E. Austin, Veteran, 14th Independent Battery, Ohio Volunteer Artillery." So far, no one has been able to find out anything about Austin, nor how the medal came to be in the hands of a German soldier.

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The Special Collections Division of the Chicago Public Library reports it has received an almost complete set of the Southern Historical Society Papers (volumes 1-17, 1876-1889; volumes 19-38, 1891-1910; volumes 39-41, 1914-1916; and volume 43, 1920). Special collections is still looking for volumes 18 and 42 to complete the set. Any leads would be appreciated. They can be brought to the attention of R. G. Marshall, Archival Specialist.

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The Northern Great Plains History Conference, to be held in Bemidji, Minnesota, October 7-9, 1982, is inviting papers on any phase of military history, American or foreign. For further information, contact: Dr. Archer Jones, Department of History, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota 58105.

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The Harrisburg Round Table reports that when Jack Davis went to Fayetteville, Arkansas to witness the final days of shooting of the CBS mini-series, "The Blue and the Gray," he found that almost everyone connected with the project already were—or soon became—Civil War enthusiasts. Rip Torn, who plays Grant, has admired him for years and always wanted to depict him on screen. Stacy Keach is a long-time Civil War buff who hopes to go on to a feature length motion picture on the war someday. And Gregory Peck, who plays Lincoln, is making his dramatic television debut solely because of the opportunity to play Lincoln. Peck has admired and studied him all his life, and has a personal library of nearly 1000 books devoted to the war and Lincoln.

The Lynchburg Round Table newsletter reports the series also has a slavish devotion to accuracy. Historians are on hand to ensure that even the slightest detail—such as whether Grant was left- or right-handed—is correct.

## MARCH MEETING

The skirmish at Spring Hill, Tennessee, where Confederate General John Bell Hood's "best chance at victory came to naught" was fellow member Gordon Whitney's topic when he addressed 110 members and guests at The Round Table meeting on March 12. In addition to assessing the Confederate failure there, Gordon looked at events preceding that action and discussed the battle, such as it was, in detail.

Following the fall of Atlanta, Confederate President Jefferson Davis visited Hood at Palmetto, Georgia on September 25, 1864. He had two goals; to decide what to do about Hardee and to get the Confederate soldiers motivated. With regard to the first, at Hood's recommendation he replaced Hardee with Cheatham (Gordon feels Cleburne would have been a better choice). He also spoke to Hood's men, urging an invasion into Tennessee.

On October 1 Hood moved out and began destroying Union fortifications, railroads, etc. He kept his army on the offensive and stayed ahead of Sherman. Sherman soon gave up and turned his back on Hood; each general then headed into the other's territory. Sherman began his march through Georgia while Hood's plan was to invade Tennessee and Kentucky and to march all the way to the Ohio River. As Gordon noted, this plan depended on speed; he had to move before General George Thomas, whom Sherman left in charge, could mobilize against him. Hood started out on October 22, but he took a circuitous route. In addition, he was not joined by Nathan Bedford Forrest until November 19. As a result, Gordon explained, Hood lost 30 days during a period when a prompt move north could have enabled him to flank Nashville.

During this time Thomas was trying to create an army from scattered forces. Sherman was sending him the 4th Corps under David Stanley and the forces of John Schofield. Hood was in a good position to cut them off. But, as Gordon noted, both commanders got a case of the doldrums. Schofield was slow to move even though he realized Hood was headed for Columbia—which would block his path to Franklin—but Hood, too, was moving slowly.

On November 27 the Confederate Army began to encircle Columbia and Hood began laying plans for a flanking movement to trap the federal army. Hood expected a great victory. Unfortunately, as Gordon explained, Hood's curious and erratic behavior worsened at this time. Many feel he was using a narcotic as a pain killer. Although he was only 33, he looked much older. He had a useless arm from his wound at Gettysburg, he had lost a leg at Chickamauga and he had arthritis. Thus, as Gordon said, it is easy to understand why he might need relief from pain.

By noon on November 28 Schofield learned the Confederates were crossing the Duck River above Columbia—it was clear to him that a flanking movement was taking place. But, still, he was slow to act. At the same time, however, confusion plagued the Confederates. The Confederate cavalry advantage disintegrated when it came under attack from federal infantry. In Gordon's opinion this should not have happened. Although Forrest was surprised by strong forces at Spring Hill, this was no excuse for his lack of aggressiveness.

The Confederate flanking force of seven divisions greatly outnumbered Stanley's force deployed at Spring Hill, but Stanley's prompt action checked Forrest and convinced Cleburne that he had a superior force. About 3 p.m. Schofield became convinced that the Confederates would not attack at Columbia and ordered the move north toward Franklin. Hood became more and more confused and began issuing orders even though he couldn't even see what was going on; he could not grasp the situation and sent troops to the wrong place.

Cleburne ordered an attack on Stanley at Spring Hill but didn't know that Hood had changed plans—it turned out Cleburne was

unsupported. He was finally ordered by Cheatham not to move. But, as Gordon explained, a combined force could have taken Spring Hill and the Columbia-Franklin Pike. Failure to take the pike let the federal column pass.

In the late afternoon Hood retired from the field exhausted, but sent his aide, Harris, to find out what was going on. Hood finally realized what was happening and the true position of his army. However, by this time it was too late to do much about the situation. He still wanted Forrest to block the turnpike, but Forrest claimed he could do little because of lack of ammunition. By 2 a.m., when Confederate forces did reach the turnpike, they found it empty—most of the federal troops had passed; Schofield was in Franklin by dawn.

In concluding his remarks, Gordon said that one of the lessons of Spring Hill is that no officer not in good mental and physical condition should command. But he added that although Hood must bear the blame for the failure there, his subordinates must share it. For example, Cheatham may have been under the influence of alcohol, and in any case he failed to communicate properly with Hood as to his position. S.D. Lee's artillery was tardy in arriving at Spring Hill—prompt action would have had a profound effect. And finally, Forrest failed to block the pike as he should have. His excuse, lack of ammunition, was a poor one; he could have gotten it where he had before—by taking it from the Yankees. (On the federal side, Gordon noted that Schofield's delay almost cost him his army; if Stanley had not been so competent Hood may have been successful.)

The result of Hood's failure at Spring Hill was that the attack that should have come in full force there in fact came later at Franklin, where it should not have. Spring Hill thus was, as Gordon said, a turning point for the Confederates."

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Stephen Oates, author of *With Malice Toward None: The Life of Abraham Lincoln*, as well as a recent book on Martin Luther King, will present the McMurtry Lecture at The Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum in Fort Wayne on May 20. His topic is "Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr."

Several Round Table members, including Ralph Newman and Brooks Davis, are planning to drive down the afternoon of the 20th and return the next day. They encourage anyone who is interested to join them. For further information, contact Marv Sanderman at 537-7510 (evenings).

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The Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society and The Civil War Round Table of Fort Wayne, Indiana, will present "A Civil War Conference" on April 24 at the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Museum. Among the speakers will be our own Ralph Newman on "Civil War Recollections," Dr. Mark Neely on "Lincoln's Assassination," Dr. Weldon Petz on a "Musical Note in Lincoln's Life," and James Brady, II, on "Michigan in the War." Tours of the museum and the city will also be available.

The cost of the conference is \$10 per person; the dinner charge is an additional \$10. For further information and reservations, contact: The O'Brians, 8757 Maysville Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815 (219) 493-1277.

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Among recently published books is *General John Sedgwick: The Story of a Union Corps Commander* by Richard Elliott Winslow, III (Presidio Press). Winslow was The Round Table's Fellowship Award recipient in 1970-71. The book resulted from his doctoral thesis.

Due to be published this year by Morningside is fellow member Frank Palumbo's *George Henry Thomas: The Dependable General, Supreme in Strategy of Tactics and Command*.

# THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Armstrong, David A. *Bullets and Bureaucrats; The Machine Gun and the United States Army, 1861-1916*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1982. \$27.50

Brown, George William. *Baltimore and the 19th of April, 1861*. Baltimore: Maclay and Associates, 1982. 176 p., illus., pbk. \$4.95

Fischer, LeRoy H., editor. *Civil War Battles in the West*. Manhattan, Kansas: Sunflower University Press, 1981. 112 p., illus., maps, plans, index. 8½ x 11 pbk. \$8.00.

McJimsey, George T. *The Dividing and Reuniting of America, 1848-1877*. St. Louis, Mo.: Forum Press, 1981. pbk \$7.95.

McPherson, James M. *Ordeal by Fire: The Civil War and Reconstruction*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. xviii, 694, xxxii p., maps, photos, notes, bibliog., index. \$29.95

Roske, Ralph J. *His Own Counsel: The Life and Times of Lyman Trumbull*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1979. 232 p., pbk \$7.50. Nevada Studies in History and Political Science No. 14.

Teetor, Paul R. *A Matter of Hours: Treason at Harpers Ferry*. East Brunswick, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1981. 360 p., illus. \$27.50

Underhill, Lonnie E. *Genealogy Records of the First Arizona Volunteers Infantry Regiment*. Tucson; Roan Horse Press, 1980. 124 p., paper \$18.50

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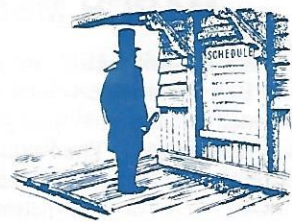
Gettysburg National Military Park unveiled an exhibit of five works by the famed Lincoln sculptor John R. Frank on February 26. The wooden sculptures, "That Reminds Me of a Story," "Lincoln at Gettysburg," "Lincoln, The Last Days," "Lincoln in Mr. Brady's Studio," and "Lincoln at New Salem" will be on display at the Visitor Center throughout 1982.

Also, the Park has announced the continuation of outdoor amphitheater programs for the summer of 1982. The programs, conducted by park rangers, will be held nightly during June, July and August. A variety of subjects and formats will be presented, each designed by individual rangers.

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According to an item from United Press International, members of a private underwater archeology team have reported pinpointing the wreckage of several Civil War vessels involved in the siege of Charleston. However, their major target, the Confederate submarine Hunley, eluded them. According to Clive Cusler, head of the non-profit National Underwater and Marine Agency, Inc., divers located the Housatonic, which was sunk by the Hunley, and started working around it in a tight circle. "If nothing else," he said, "we proved that the Hunley did not go down with the Housatonic."

The divers did confirm the locations of the Union ironclads Weehawken, Patapsco and Keokuk, and three Confederate ships—The Stonewall Jackson, the Rattlesnake and the Raccoon. They also found the 16-ship "Great Stone Fleet" which was brought in in 1862 by the Union Navy, loaded with stone ballast, and sunk to prevent blockade runners from moving in and out of the harbor.



## BULLETIN BOARD

### FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Como Inn, 546 N. Milwaukee Avenue, the second Friday in each month except as noted.

April 9: Pat Newman on "Julia Dent Grant."

May 5-9: Annual Battlefield Tour: Gettysburg

May 14: Zenos Hawkinson on "Mr. Lincoln's War and the Immigrant Imagination."

June 11: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and installation of officers, recipient of award: Frank E. Vandiver.

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Drum Barracks Civil War Museum in Wilmington, California, is one of the few landmarks of the Civil War period in California. The Pacific Coast was far removed from the bloody eastern battlefields, especially because transcontinental transportation was undeveloped and inadequate, at best. Despite the isolation of the West, the Union leaders felt that the loyalty of the frontier was essential to their success. War fever was high in California after the firing on Fort Sumter, and the trend of events in the East was watched eagerly. Sympathizers of both "the blue and the gray" were numerous; in many localities southern feeling was high and constituted a real threat to the Union cause. Military posts were established throughout the western frontier to keep secessionist elements under control.

Camp Drum was established in 1862 as a garrison and depot for supplies for the Department of the West, present day Southern California, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico. It was named for then Assistant Adjutant General Richard Coulter Drum, who had been head of the Department of the West for several years. Camp Drum, renamed Drum Barracks in 1863, was expected to send immediate relief in the form of men and supplies to put down Indian and Southern problems. Later in the war, the post became a rendezvous for thousands of recruits and replacements for the Army of the West.

Drum Barracks was abandoned in 1871, but a beautifully restored building of colonial design, the former officer's quarters, remains. On display there are furnishings and military artifacts of the Civil War period.

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According to an Associated Press item, the town of Chesterfield, Massachusetts, which wants to re-enact a Civil War battle this September, is having trouble finding Confederates. The Union ranks are filling out nicely reports the celebration chairman, "but secessionists have been slower to surface." The re-enactment will honor the town's Medal of Honor winner, Samuel Eddy, who fought with the 37th Massachusetts.

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According to the Associated Press, thieves broke into the historic home of General William Sherman in Lancaster, Ohio, and stole more than 100 items, including weapons, military accouterments, paintings, furniture and personal effects of Sherman. The theft took place early in March.