

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLIII, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September, 1982

ROBERT G. TANNER ON THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY CAMPAIGN OF 1862: A MILITARY STUDY

Stonewall Jackson's spectacular operations in the Shenandoah Valley in the spring of 1862 will be the subject of Robert G. Tanner's remarks when he addresses the first Round Table meeting of 1982-83 on September 10. Mr. Tanner, an Atlanta, Georgia, attorney, is the author of *Stonewall in the Valley*. We are thus assured of an interesting and scholarly talk.

Mr. Tanner plans to begin by sketching the initial strategic situation in Virginia in the Spring of 1862. He will then discuss the Battle of Kernstown and its implications and follow the gradual unfolding of the Jackson-Lee strategy which led to the maneuver and combat across the Valley in May and June. His talk will be illustrated with maps.



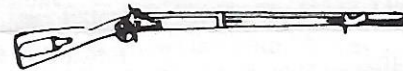
ROBERT G. TANNER

Jackson began the Valley Campaign on March 23, 1862 when he attacked a portion of General N. P. Banks' army under General James Shields at Kernstown. At that time, McDowell was concentrating forces on the Rappahannock across from Fredericksburg in preparation for a move on Richmond, and Jackson's attack was intended to prevent Banks from sending him reinforcements. Jackson's force was smaller than Shields' and he suffered defeat. However, he accomplished his purpose as the troops which had left the Valley to join McDowell were recalled.

In early May, to the surprise of Banks who thought Jackson had started for Richmond, Jackson moved quickly, but in a roundabout way, from his position near Swift Run Gap. Marching west, he defeated the vanguard of General John Fremont's army, under General R. H. Milroy, at McDowell on May 8. Having thus checked Fremont's advance toward the upper Valley, Jackson crossed the Massanutten Mountain ridge and, together with General Richard Ewell attacked the Federal outpost at Front Royal on May 23. Banks was compelled to evacuate his position at Strasburg and retreat to Winchester where he was defeated on the 25th. Jackson followed Banks to Harper's Ferry and by threatening an attack created such panic in Washington that McDowell was recalled to the north side of the Rappahannock after he had crossed the river and started for Richmond.

Lincoln was determined to prevent Jackson's escape, so Fremont was ordered to Harrisonburg and McDowell to Strasburg to cut him off. Jackson, however, stayed a step ahead of his pursuers, his rear guard clearing Strasburg just as the first Federal patrols entered the town. On June 8, Fremont attacked Ewell at

(continued on page 4)



413th REGULAR MEETING

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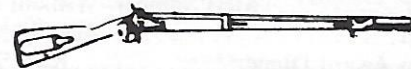
ROBERT G. TANNER
ON
THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY
CAMPAIGN OF 1862: A MILITARY STUDY

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982

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Illinois Athletic Club
112 S. Michigan
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$12.50 per person



MEETING SITE

As noted above, the September meeting will be held at the Illinois Athletic Club; we will return to the Como Inn in October. Please make your meeting reservations early—no later than noon, September 9—and remember to notify the Bookshop if your plans change. Also note that the Executive Committee, at its summer meeting, voted to increase the meal price to \$12.50 per person for 1982-83.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Marv Sanderman has announced there will be an executive committee meeting from 5:45-6:15 p.m. on September 10. It will be held in the Wabash Room on the 5th floor of the Illinois Athletic Club. All officers, committee chairman and past presidents are urged to attend.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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- Contributing Editors Richard E. Clark
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- Terms expiring in 1983: Betsy Davis, J. William Gimbel, Jr., Matthias Lorenz, Karl Sundstrom.
- Terms expiring in 1984: Martin P. Dutch, Marvin Goldsher, Richard McAddo, Leslie McDonald.

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- Honorary Awards Brooks Davis
- Publications Glen Wiche
- Awards Construction David St. John
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- Golf Outing Terry Carr

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 60007.



SUMMER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

At its meeting on July 17, The Round Table Executive Committee took action on a number of important items:

Dues: There will be no increase in dues for 1982-83 except for first and second year members who will now pay the regular rate of \$35. Previously, first and second year members paid \$30.

Meal cost. The cost of meals at all regular dinner meetings was increased from \$10 to \$12.50. Beginning with the November meeting, anyone not making a reservation by noon of the Thursday preceding the Friday meeting will be charged \$2 extra. However, anyone may attend any meeting without charge if they do not choose to eat the meal.

Battlefield Tour site: In addition to choosing Chattanooga-Chickamauga as the site of the 1983 Battlefield Tour, the Committee selected Washington, D.C. and environs as the site of the 1984 tour, and the Trans-Mississippi as the site of the 1985 tour. The 1984 and 1985 sites are subject to review by the Executive Committee.

Honorary Award Life Members. In the future, all Nevins-Freeman Award recipients will automatically become Honorary Award Life Members of the Round Table. See below for the list of Life Members selected by the Executive Committee this year.

1983 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

The Executive Committee has selected Chattanooga-Chickamauga as the site of the 1983 Round Table Battlefield Tour. It will be held April 27-May 1, 1983. Co-chairmen Merl Sumner and Bill Margeson report that plans for the trip are already well underway. More details will be announced later.

HONORARY AWARD LIFE MEMBERS

At its meeting July 17, The Round Table Executive Committee selected Richard Clark, Gerhard "Doc" Clausius, Barbara Long, and James I. "Bud" Robertson as Honorary Award Life Members. As most are aware, these individuals have each given many years of devoted service to The Round Table.

Additional contributions to the Civil War Research Fund, in memory of Elmer Underwood, have been made by William E. Ballinger, Al Meyer, Ralph Newman, and Sarah Brink Ranstead.

James O'Toole, who was instrumental in developing Wilsons Creek into one of the top Civil War parks while superintendent, has been transferred to the Lincoln Home in Springfield.

The John Pelham Historical Association has been formed and membership is open to anyone interested in Pelham. For information, contact Peggy Vogtsberger, 7 Carmel Terrace, Hampton, Virginia 23666.

A reminder: the 8th Annual National Congress of Civil War Round Tables will be held October 7-10 in Corinth, Mississippi. The Congress will focus on the Battle of Shiloh, and will include a battlefield tour led by Ed Bearss. For further information, contact Civil War Round Table Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 (501) 225-3996.

JUNE MEETING

As it has been in the past, the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and program this year was a special evening. Members and guests gathered on June 11 to honor the recipient of the award, Dr. Frank E. Vandiver. In return, they had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Vandiver present a very personal portrait of the two men for whom the award is named; two men who, he said, he is "honored to call mentors." Dr. Vandiver spoke of Allan Nevins and Douglas Southall Freeman both as scholars and as the human beings he knew.

With regard to Nevins, Dr. Vandiver noted how, while working as a journalist, Nevins would rush to the library the last half hour of every workday to do research. The vast data he collected resulted in 100 books covering a wide scope—from a biography of Henry Ford to the reminiscences of British travelers.

Nevins major achievement, however, was the *Ordeal of the Union*. According to Dr. Vandiver, it is a study based on incredible scholarship, setting a standard few can continue. And, it is presented in marvelously crafted prose. As Dr. Vandiver said, "his journalism was at work." Nevins, said Dr. Vandiver, taught history and writing in every paragraph. He also showed that history is not a dull subject—Nevins enjoyed it and so does the reader.

Freeman, Dr. Vandiver said, has a similar effect on readers. He noted that early in his career Freeman was picked to edit Lee's dispatches to Davis—the result provided a model for editing; Freeman's notes enlightened and he didn't get in the way of Lee's prose.

Freeman was commissioned to do a life of Lee, but years went by. Finally he sent a crate to his editor, Maxwell Perkins, with the first two of a projected four volumes. This was more than Perkins expected, but he found he couldn't put the manuscript down. *R. E. Lee*, said Dr. Vandiver, set a new standard in biography. It was based on superb scholarship—appropriately, it won a Pulitzer. Likewise, Freeman's *Lee's Lieutenants* is a literary landmark. Freeman, in Dr. Vandiver's opinion, is a master of classical biography.

The hallmark of both Nevins and Freeman, Dr. Vandiver said, is research and style. Both men have had a lasting effect on history. They were trailblazers and benchmarks—people like them do not come along often.

Turning to his personal relationship with Nevins and Freeman, Dr. Vandiver said he found both formidable at first. His contact with Freeman began with the death of a friend who had worked with Freeman; Dr. Vandiver wrote him to say he hoped to carry on his friend's work in Confederate ordnance (he was 15 at the time). Freeman encouraged him and when Vandiver found Confederate ordnance officer Josiah Gorgas's diary, Freeman invited him to come to Richmond. He was terrified of this imposing man, but found him filled with southern courtesy.

Freeman sent Vandiver to the Rockefeller Foundation for a fellowship to work on the diary and later recommended him to write a biography of Jackson for MacMillan.

Dr. Vandiver said Freeman's death was a serious personal blow. Freeman was a role model he will never forget. He was a master of style and Vandiver said he still learns from him every time he rereads *R. E. Lee* or the introduction to *Lee's Lieutenants*.

Dr. Vandiver knew Nevins better than Freeman—they met at historical association meetings and Nevins was a scholar-in-residence at the Huntington where Vandiver was working. The young historians there would accompany Nevins on walks, and he was always willing to talk about somebody else's work.

Nevins encouraged Dr. Vandiver to redo the letters of Jefferson Davis, a project which is still going on, and gave him the first year of his Harmsworth professorship at Oxford (Nevins was

unable to take both years because of illness). Nevins, Dr. Vandiver said, taught him how to do research, that a scholar could be a warm, humorous person, and the value of encouraging people (Nevins always seemed to have time to deal with another's problems). Nevins, like Freeman, taught by how as well as what he wrote, he concluded, and both men are still "landmarks of their field."

NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD

John Hope Franklin, James B. Duke Professor of History at Duke University and a distinguished historian whose work has centered on the Reconstruction period and the history of Black Americans, has been selected by the Executive Committee as the 1983 Nevins-Freeman Award recipient. Dr. Franklin, who retired in 1980 as head of the history department at the University of Chicago, earned his doctorate in 1941 from Harvard. He is a long-time and Honorary Award Life Member of The Civil War Round Table and spoke to us on several occasions. The award will be presented at the annual Nevins-Freeman Award dinner in June.

The New Trier Extension Service is offering, as part of its fall program, an adult education class entitled "Gettysburg-1863 and 1862". The ten week course, which will be taught by our own Past President, Marshall D. Krolick, will begin on September 13, 1982. Class sessions will be held on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at New Trier West High School in Northfield. The curriculum will emphasize the campaign and subsequent battle, the political and military personalities involved, the creation and dedication of the National Cemetery, including Lincoln's remarks, the development of the National Military Park, a Gettysburg bibliography, and suggestions for touring the town and battlefield today. For additional information or registration forms, contact the New Trier Extension Service, 3013 Illinois Road, Wilmette, Illinois, 60091, 256-7070.

Mrs. Lynda Crist, Editor of The Jefferson Davis Papers, was the first recipient of the Houston Civil War Round Table Award of Merit. The Award was established "To provide an annual recognition to an individual or group for outstanding contribution toward understanding and preservation of our heritage of the Civil War period 1860-1865." The award was presented May 20. Taking part in the presentation was our Nevins-Freeman Award recipient Dr. Frank E. Vandiver. Dr. Vandiver spoke on "The Enigma of Jefferson Davis."

A historical marker at the site of Camp Kane in St. Charles, Illinois, was dedicated June 13. Camp Kane was the location of training facilities for the 8th Illinois Cavalry. The camp was organized early in the War by a St. Charles resident, John Farnsworth, a congressman and friend of Lincoln. Among the notables who trained at Camp Kane were William Medill, brother of the founder of the Chicago Tribune, and John Beveridge, who later became Governor of Illinois.

The site of Camp Kane is in Langum Park, on the east side of the Fox River on Route 25, south of Route 64. The marking of the camp came about through the efforts of the St. Charles Historical Society.

Historic Gettysburg-Adams County, Inc. and the Mason-Dixon Civil War Collectors Association have begun a program of marking some 61 sites that have been identified and documented as having been used as a hospital during the Battle of Gettysburg. The funds are being made available by the Collectors Association.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Bogue, Allan G. *The Earnest Men: Republicans of the Civil War Senate*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1981. \$28.50

Dawson, Joseph G. III. *Army Generals and Reconstruction. Louisiana 1862-1877*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982. \$25.00

Davis, Burke. *The Civil War: Strange & Fascinating Facts*. Drawings by Raymond Houhlihan. New York: The Fairfax Press, 1982. Originally published as *Our Incredible War*, 1960.

Davis William C. *The Deep Waters of the Proud. The Imperiled Union 1861-1865*. vol. 1. New York: Doubleday, 1982. \$19.95

Davis, William C., editor. *The Embattled Confederacy. The Image of War, 1861-1865*. vol. 3. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1982. \$39.95

Grant, Ulysses S. *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*. vol. 9 July 9-Dec. 31, 1863. Edited by John Y. Simon. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1982. \$40.00

Grant, Ulysses S. *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*. vol. 10. Jan. 1-May 31, 1864. Edited by John Y. Simon. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1982. \$40.00

Key, William. *The Battle of Atlanta and the Georgia Campaign*. Revised edition. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 1981. \$8.95. Originally published by Twayne, 1958.

[Lincoln, Abraham] *Lincoln Said*. With portraits by Herschel C. Logan. [16] pages. Miniature 7 x 5.3 cm. Santa Ana, California: Log-Anne Press, 1982. \$12.50

McAulay, John D. *Carbines of the Civil War, 1861-1865*. Union City, Tennessee: Pioneer Press, 1981. 123 p. \$7.95

Newman, Ralph G. *Robert Todd Lincoln: An Informal Appraisal*. Bulletin of the 38th Annual Meeting of the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin. Historical Bulletin no. 37. Madison, 1982.

Russell, Andrew J. *Russell's Civil War Photographs: 116 Historical Prints*. With a preface by Joe Buberger and Matthew Isenberg. New York: Dover Publications, 1982. Folio paperback. \$6.95

Sawicki, James A. *Infantry Regiments of the U.S. Army*. Dumbries, Va.: Wyvern Publications, 1981. 682 p., ill. (some colored). Pbk. \$24.95

Smith, Page. *Trial by Fire. A People's History of the Civil War and Reconstruction*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1982. \$29.95. Fifth volume in his multi-volume history of the U.S.

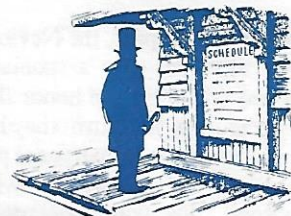
Swinfen, D.B. *Ruggles' Regiment: The 122nd New York Volunteers in the American Civil War*. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1982. \$20.00

Ward, Joseph Richardson. *An Enlisted Soldier's View of the Civil War: The Wartime Papers of Joseph Richardson Ward, Jr.* Edited by D. Duane Cummins and Daryl Hohweiler. West Lafayette, Indiana: Belle Publications, 1981. \$10.00. On the 39th Illinois Infantry.

Wilson, David L. and John Y. Simon, editors. *Ulysses S. Grant: Essays and Documents*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1981. \$13.95. [Occasional Publications, Ulysses S. Grant Association.]

Wrone, David R. *Two Assassinations: Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy*. Bulletin of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin. Historical Bulletin, no. 36. Madison, 1981.

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.

September 10: Robert G. Tanner on "The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862—A Military Study." The meeting will be held at the Illinois Athletic Club, 112 S. Michigan.

October 8: Richard W. Hatcher, III, on "The Wilson's Creek Campaign."

October 30-31: Fall Tour to Springfield, Illinois.

November 12: Stephen Oates on "John Brown: Catalyst for the Civil War."

December 10: Perry D. Jamieson on "Artillery Tactics of the Civil War Era."

January 14, 1983: To be announced.

February 11: C. Robert Douglas on "General George H. Thomas."

March 11: John Divine on "Cavalry Campaigns: A Prelude to Gettysburg."

April 8: Robert V. Johannsen on "Senator Stephen A. Douglas."

April 27-May 1: Annual Battlefield Tour to Chattanooga-Chickamauga.

May 13: To be announced.

June 10 or 11: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers. Recipient of award: Dr. John Hope Franklin.

We report with sadness the passing, on May 25, of founding Round Table member Percival G. Hart. Mr. Hart, an Honorary Award Life Member, was born in Chicago in 1895 and served in the Air Force in World War I. Several of the pre-Round Table meetings were held at his home and he spoke at the first meeting on December 3, 1940, on "Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign."

We have also learned that long-time member Arthur Bernstein died on June 26 in Rochester, Minnesota. Our sincere condolences are extended to the families of both men.

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Cross Keys but was repulsed, and the next day Jackson defeated Shields at Port Republic. Both Fremont and Shields retreated toward Winchester, freeing Jackson to leave the Valley and join Lee on the Peninsula.

Robert Tanner received his B.A. in history from Virginia Military Institute, his M.A. in psychology from Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia, and his J.D., cum laude, from Wake Forest University School of Law in 1973. While at Wake Forest he was on the law review. He was admitted to the Georgia Bar in November, 1973, and is a member of the firm of Long, Weinberg, Ansley & Wheeler. He is also a member of the State Bar of Georgia, Corporate and Banking Section; the Atlanta Bar Association; and the American Bar Association. In addition to *Stonewall in the Valley*, which was a History Book Club Selection, Mr. Tanner has written several legal articles.