

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLIII, Number 4

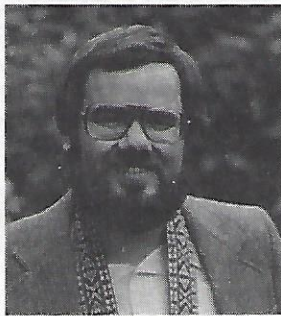
Chicago, Illinois

December, 1982

PERRY D. JAMIESON ON ARTILLERY TACTICS OF THE CIVIL WAR ERA

There is perhaps no area of military history that is more susceptible to discussion or interpretation than the strategy and tactics employed by opposing forces in any military campaign. Usually, such discussion and interpretation focuses on infantry tactics. But on December 10, members of The Civil War Round Table and their guests will have the opportunity to hear Perry D. Jamieson speak on "Artillery Tactics of the Civil War Era."

The most immediate support for the infantry in attack and defense was provided by the field artillery, which was used to attack and defend temporary fortifications; destroy or demolish obstacles and means of cover and thus prepare the way for the success of other arms; breach enemy lines or prevent them from forming; crush enemy masses; dismount enemy batteries; follow and support pursuits; and cover and protect retreats. Field artillery was divided into horse artillery, attached to and maneuvering with the cavalry, and mounted artillery which maneuvered with the infantry.



PERRY D. JAMIESON

Artillery was emplaced in whatever good locations could be found in the front lines. Artillery positions were necessarily exposed, and during preliminary bombardments the infantry would retire to defiladed positions. Supporting artillery fire usually ceased when the infantry moved out to attack, although on several occasions overhead fire was used when configuration of the terrain allowed it. Moves to the front and rear in the presence of the enemy were normally accomplished by half-batteries—half of the guns moving, the other half firing to cover the move.

Jamieson intends to divide his talk into four topical sections: artillery tactics of the Mexican War; tactical theory of the 1850s; artillery tactics of the Civil War; and tactical theory, 1865-1874. In reference to his talk, Jamieson says, "the first two sub-topics concern pre-Civil War artillery tactics. Round Table members may be less familiar with these two subjects than with Civil War artillery tactics, and I hope that they will think these are fresh and interesting areas. The last sub-topic will briefly cover traditional theory about artillery from the end of the war through the "assimilated" tactics of 1874."

Perry D. Jamieson is staff historian in the History Office of the Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. He received his B.A. from Michigan State University in 1969, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Wayne State University in



416th REGULAR MEETING

PERRY D. JAMIESON ON ARTILLERY TACTICS OF THE CIVIL WAR ERA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1982

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



MEETING SITE

Please note that the December meeting will be held at the Illinois Athletic Club, 112 S. Michigan.

1972 and 1979, respectively. Prior to joining the Strategic Air Command, he served as an instructor in American history at Oakland Community College in Michigan and as a lecturer in American military history at the University of Texas. He is the author of "Silas Casey" and "William J. Hordee" in the *Dictionary of American Military Biography* (Greenwood Press, Forthcoming); and with Grady McWhiney, of the recently published *Attack and Die: Civil War Military Tactics and the Southern Heritage* (University of Alabama Press, 1982).

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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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 60007.



8TH ANNUAL CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE CONGRESS

by Wayne Anderson

The 8th Annual Civil War Round Table Congress met October 7-10, 1982, in Corinth, Mississippi, with more than 130 delegates in attendance, including 12 National Park Service employees. Professor Robert Meinhard of Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota, presented a report to the Congress on the status of Civil War Battlefield Parks. As many Round Table members are aware, Civil War battlefields are threatened by industrial expansion, use of certain parks as recreational areas, and deterioration of historic sites. In addition, reduced funding has become a problem; the Park Service does not have the resources to acquire real estate or to employ an adequate staff.

Professor Meinhard's report summarized some of these problems. A specific example is the land acquisition program for Manassas. Public Law 96-442, passed in October, 1980, authorized the Park Service to purchase land on which the Brawner Farm is located. To date, however, funds have not been appropriated. Other examples of the problems: Petersburg and Kennesaw Mountain parks are located near urban areas and receive a large number of visitors each year. Both parks are becoming primarily sites for recreational activities. Also, Petersburg has been in the news because of the controversy over a new HUD housing development adjacent to the park, and Kennesaw Mountain needs to acquire buffer zones to protect it from urban expansion.

However, there is progress being made. At Antietam, the Piper Farm is in the process of being restored and a new interpretive film is in use at the Visitors Center. Zeb McKinney, Superintendent at Shiloh, informed me that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is studying the erosion of the bluffs on the Tennessee River. Dennis Kelly (a park historian who was recently transferred from Stones River to Kennesaw Mountain) informed me of the following progress at Stones River: vandalism has decreased in the last two years; the park acquired an original 12 lb. Wiard gun carriage (the only one existing in the Park system) and placed it on the original battlefield site; grave markers in the National Cemetery are being restored to their original height; and a new auto tape tour describing the battle was introduced last January.

Several battlefield parks (Manassas, Kennesaw Mountain, Petersburg, etc.) are preparing master plans for future development. I contacted the Park Service and was informed that the plans will not be available until January, 1983. If any Round Table member is interested in obtaining a master plan for a particular park, or a copy of Professor Meinhard's report on the current status of Civil War Battlefield Parks, contact Wayne Anderson (312-631-5728).

Fellow member Bill Sullivan has been chosen to be a Commentator at the Third Annual Illinois History Symposium to be held in Springfield December 3 and 4. Bill will comment on two papers presented on Illinois waterways by Professor John Lamb of Lewis University and Marcy Hudspeath of Greenfield Village.

Gregg Higginbotham of Kansas City is writing a book on the Battle of Lone Jack, Missouri (August, 1862) and is trying to compile a list of known participants. If you have any information, call him at (913) 796-9094.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Everyone knows who and what John Brown was, or at least they think they do. But the 151 members and guests who heard Stephen Oates' discussion of him at The Round Table meeting November 14 came away with new insights into and understanding of both the man and the effects he had.

Oates noted that Brown is one of the least understood figures of the Civil War era. He is either portrayed as a great abolitionist or as a madman, but few have taken the time to really understand him, to gain insight into his motivations and personality. To do so, Oates said, he had to go back to unpublished sources—he simply couldn't trust what had been written before.

Promoting insurrection through his raid at Harpers Ferry was only one of Brown's plans, said Oates. He had an alternative: even if he failed the effort would polarize north and south and lead to a holocaust that would wipe out slavery. This, of course, is exactly what happened.

Brown, explained Oates, pursued an idea with single-minded determination. He had a great bitterness for slavery; he felt it violated the ideals of the Declaration of Independence, and that it could not be eradicated peacefully. Southerners, in his view, dominated key posts in government and they were determined to extend slavery. The Dred Scott decision enraged him, and he was troubled that so few northerners seemed to care. He felt it was preferable that a generation should perish than that slavery should continue to exist.

Brown believed in a providential God, that God shaped the course of human affairs. (As Oates noted, he was not alone in such beliefs in the nineteenth century—Lincoln and Lee both held such beliefs too.) Brown felt God was calling him to root out slavery, and he believed that God would guide him at Harpers Ferry. Thus, he didn't even bother to scout out the territory or contact the slaves who were supposed to join him.

When John Brown appeared in Harpers Ferry, hysteria swept the town. What southerners had feared since Nat Turner's rebellion in 1831 seemed to be taking place. Yet Brown failed to follow up on his initial success—he didn't move out as planned. Instead, he kept looking out of the window at the sky (no one knows why; perhaps, Oates suggested, he was looking for a sign from God).

Some of the ironies of John Brown's raid are that one of the first to die was a free black man who failed to halt when ordered to by the militia. Also, the old white mayor of the town, who was a friend of slaves, was killed by one of Brown's men. Under the man's will, his slaves were to be freed at his death; that shot thus freed his slaves.

Federal troops under Lee arrived and Brown was carried away, speedily tried and sent to the gallows. However, before he was hanged he did all he could to polarize the sections, to bring about the holocaust in the flames of which slavery would perish.

The abolitionists found in Brown an engaging symbol. But, said Oates, the vast majority of northern whites approved of his hanging; they agreed with the south's right to hold slaves. Like Lincoln, they believed that violence, bloodshed and treason were not warranted. Nevertheless, the reaction in the south was extreme. To them, Brown's raid seemed a monstrous Republican plot to drown the south in blood; they felt all Yankees were bloodthirsty fanatics. Rumors of slave uprisings spread across the south and severe discipline was imposed in slave compounds. Compromise with the Republicans seemed impossible; Edmund Ruffin and others used Brown's name to whip up fear and urge secession.

How could there be such an overreaction in the south? As Oates explained, southerners in 1859 were in no mood to view Brown's raid as an isolated act—it played on their fears. Whites

were outnumbered 20 to 1 in some areas in the south, and they thus had a great fear of insurrection and abolitionists. Through the 1830s and 40s they had devised a closed society to preserve themselves. Southerners could see how slavery could be adapted in the west—to mining, cattle ranching, etc. Thus they sought the right to take slaves into the west. This brought them into conflict with the Republicans who were only slave containers, willing to let slavery die a natural death.

The south believed that if the Republicans gained power an invasion would come. Thus, all that was needed in 1859 was a small spark to start a big fire, and that spark was provided by Brown. His second objective—to create a holocaust—came to the fore. In this sense he was a perceptive man; he understood that simply stepping into the south to free the slaves would be cataclysmic. As far as the south was concerned, Oates explained, Brown's raid was a culmination of Republican policies.

Brown's raid insured a violent insurrection would take place if the Republicans won the presidency, which they did a year later. Ironically, the Republicans had no real power in 1861, only the presidency. But for southerners a fateful turning point had been reached. Lincoln, to them, embodied Turner, Brown and Garrison and was a threat to their existence—secession, the fall of Fort Sumter and war soon followed.

In the war slavery perished as Brown had hoped. By its end, Oates noted, even Lincoln had come to share Brown's view that only war could purge the land of slavery (he said so in his second inaugural address). Thus through four years of war the shadow of John Brown lay across the land. But, as Oates concluded, it was not only Brown but the white supremacist society in which he lived and the contradiction between slavery and the ideals of the Declaration of Independence that made him a catalyst for war.

As most know by now, Homer Davis, a dedicated student of the Civil War and a friend of many in our Round Table, passed away August 31. A recent issue of the Montgomery County (Md.) Civil War Round Table newsletter contained a tribute to Homer by James I. Robertson, Jr. Here are some excerpts from that tribute:

"No one, absolutely no one, enjoyed the Civil War more. He marvelled at the color and the drama, the deep devotion and extraordinary sacrifice, and the eternal meaning of the war. . . . Oh, he truly had a fascination with the Civil War; but more than that, he had an abiding affection for anyone who shared that fascination. And that is why so many of us miss Homer so much.

To know him was a pleasure. Behind that oftentimes blustery exterior was the heart of a gentle prince. He brightened every gathering and enlivened every conversation. . . .

Homer is now in Arlington National Cemetery, enjoying the long rest near soldiers of blue and gray for whom he had so much respect and admiration. He would want us to be envious; he would not want us to be sad. He lived as heartily as he loved, and the best compliment we could pay him is to follow his example."

The Shenandoah Valley Civil War Round Table is seeking donations to help modernize the 8 x 10 foot electric map that traces Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign. The map is the property of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society and was built over 20 years ago as an educational aid for visitors. A solid state electrical system and other improvements will cost over \$6000. Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to Historical Society-Map Project, Route 8, Box 87, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Alshuler, Constance Wynn. *Chains of Command: Arizona and the Army, 1856-1875*. Tucson: The Arizona Historical Society, 1981. 280 p., maps, illus. \$19.00

Angle, Paul M., ed. *The Lincoln Reader*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1981. Original of 1947.

Brandt, Keith. *Abe Lincoln: The Young Years*. Illustrated by John Lawn. Mahwah, NJ: Troll Associates. \$6.00.

Commager, Henry Steele, ed. *Fifty Basic Civil War Documents*. Malabar, Florida: R.E. Krieger Pub. Co., 1982. pbk \$5.95. Original of 1965.

Crute, Joseph H., Jr. *Confederate Staff Officers 1861-1865*. Wendell, NC: Broadfoot's Bookmark, 1982. \$25.00. 267 p. Over 4000 entries.

Darrah, William Culp. *Cartes de Visite in Nineteenth Century Photography*. Gettysburg, PA: W.C. Darrah, 1981. 221 p., illus. \$27.00

Fuller, J.F.C. *Grant and Lee: A Study in Personality and Generalship*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1982. \$25.00; pbk \$10.95. Available again.

Meredith, Roy, ed. *Mr. Lincoln's General, U.S. Grant: An Illustrated Autobiography*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1981. Original of 1959.

Miller, Darlis A. *The California Column in New Mexico*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1982. \$19.95; pbk \$10.95.

Hyman, Harold M. and William M. Wiecek. *Equal Justice Under Law: Constitutional Development, 1835-1875*. New York: Harper & Row, 1982. \$20.95. In the New American National series.

Karpisek, Marian E. *William Clark Quantrill*. Dover, Ohio: Dover Historical Society, 1980. [55] p.

Lee, Richard M. *Mr. Lincoln's City: An Illustrated Guide to the Civil War Sites of Washington*. McLean, VA: EPM Publications, Inc., 1981. 175 p., maps, illus., bibliog, 28cm. Pbk \$12.95.

Mathis, Gerald Ray. *In the Land of the Living: Wartime Letters by Confederates from the Chattahoochee Valley of Alabama and Georgia*. Troy, Alabama: Troy State University Press, 1982. 131 leaves. pbk \$21.50.

Morris, Robert C. *Riting, and Reconstruction: The Education of Freedmen in the South 1861-1870*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981. 314 p. \$25.00.

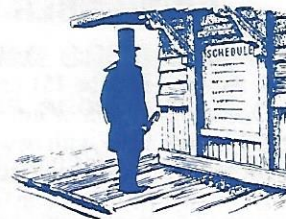
Mullins, Michael and Rowena Reed. *The Union Bookshelf, A Selected Civil War Bibliography*. Wendell, NC: Broadfoot's Bookmark, 1982. \$17.00

Owsley, Frank Lawrence. *Plain Folk of the Old South*. With a new introduction by Grady McWhiney. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982. \$22.50; pbk \$6.95. Original of 1949.

Paskoff, Paul F. and Daniel J. Wilson, editors. *The Cause of the South: Selections from DeBow's Review, 1846-1867*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982. \$27.50; pbk \$8.95.

On behalf of the entire Newsletter staff, we wish all of our readers and their families a happy Holiday Season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

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.

December 10: Perry D. Jamieson on "Artillery Tactics of the Civil War Era." The meeting will be held at the Illinois Athletic Club, 112 S. Michigan.

January 14, 1983: Dennis Frye on "The Cows' Tails Mystery: The Seige and Capture of Harpers Ferry."

February 11: C. Robert Douglas on "General George H. Thomas: Time and History Will Do Me Justice."

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: Kathy Georg on "Actions at the Rose Farm on the Second Day at Gettysburg."

June 11: Civil War Conference. Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers. Recipient of award: Dr. John Hope Franklin.

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Robert C. Grossman, 100 W. Monroe St., Chicago, Illinois 60603.

Ray Schwaller, 6733 Park Lane, Palos Heights, Illinois 60463.

We have just learned that founding Round Table member David H. Annan died on June 14, 1982 in Houston, Texas, after heart surgery. He was 95.

Dave was born in Chicago and graduated from the University of Chicago in 1919. Following service in the Navy, he served as American Vice Consul in Kobe, Japan, from 1920-21. During World War II he served as an assistant to the Secretary of the Navy. Dave was a member of the Board of Trustees of Lincoln College and Lincoln Memorial University. Dave made numerous donations throughout his life, including an indoor track to the University of Chicago; a gym and swimming pool to Lincoln Memorial University; tennis courts and a swimming pool to Lincoln College; and his superb Civil War collection to The Chicago Historical Society. He was once described by Ralph Newman as "the most generous Scotsman I have ever known."