

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLVII, Number 7

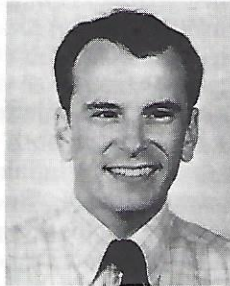
Chicago, Illinois

March, 1987

Howard R. McManus on The Battle of Cloyd's Mountain

by C. Robert Douglas

In a dispatch to his commander, Maj. Gen. Franz Sigel, dated April 30, 1864, George Crook wrote: "Not having a sufficient infantry force to make two columns, I shall only make a demonstration toward Lewisburg, so as to keep the enemy from leaving there, while I march with the main body from Fayetteville, on the bridge of New River. Gen. Averell, with 2,000 mounted men, will go through Logan Court House to the vicinity of Saltville, and if circumstances will not justify his attacking that place, to destroy the railroad from there toward the bridge, so as to prevent reinforcement from Tennessee. Should I be successful in taking the bridge, I shall cross the river and move toward Lynchburg, destroying the road as far as I deem it prudent, then fall back on Lewisburg."



Howard R. McManus

The movement that Crook outlined in his dispatch to Sigel was a lesser-known element in U.S. Grant's overall plan to crush the Confederate armies and capture its capital, Richmond. Under one facet of Grant's plan, Crook was to lead a raiding Federal force through the Allegheny Mountain gaps of Southwestern Virginia, with the objective of destroying the important Virginia & Tennessee railroad. In this movement, the troops under Crook's command would collide near Dublin, Virginia with Confederate infantry and artillery led by Brig. Gen. Albert G. Jenkins in a fierce clash at Cloyd's Mountain. This action will be the focus of remarks by Howard R. McManus, an instructor of American history in Roanoke, Virginia, at The Round Table meeting on March 13, 1987.

The railroad that Crook was to destroy, the Virginia & Tennessee, possessed some of the largest engines and one of the best-constructed tracks in the Southern network of rail lines. As the war progressed, it became a vital supply line for the Confederacy. It stretched for 204 miles from Bristol, just over the Tennessee border, to Lynchburg, in Southwestern Virginia. To the Confederacy, the railroad's importance arose from its location and its direct linkup with other railroads. The operation of the salt and lead mines in southwestern Virginia and the shipment of their ore were essential elements of the materiel of war needed by the Confederate nation. At Lynchburg, its eastern terminal, the Virginia & Tennessee connected with the Orange & Alexandria and the Southside railroads. These latter lines crossed through other important regions of Virginia.



459th Regular Meeting

Howard McManus
on
The Battle of
Cloyd's Mountain

Friday, March 13, 1987

Quality Inn
Halsted and Madison

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$13.00 per person

Entree: Chicken, Fish, or Fruit Plate



Extending northward to the Potomac River, the Orange & Alexandria connected with the Virginia Central, which also terminated at the rebel capital. The Southside extended to Petersburg, where it intersected with a direct line to Richmond, the Richmond & Petersburg railroad.

Crook's advance began on April 29, 1864 when his force of 3 brigades, comprising 6,155 men, moved forward into the rugged Allegheny Mountains. The three brigades had Col. Rutherford B. Hayes commanding the 1st, Col. Carr B. White the 2nd, and Col. Horatio G. Sickel leading the 3rd. Along with the movement of these three brigades, Crook also planned to send 2,000 cavalry led by Brig. Gen. William W. Averell toward Saltville, Virginia. Averell's force was to move by way of Logan Court House and try to destroy the saltworks and sections of the Virginia & Tennessee railroad.

The South appreciated the strategic importance of southwestern Virginia through the establishment of the Trans-Allegheny or Southwestern Department of Virginia. Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge relieved Maj. Gen. Samuel Jones in the command of the 7,000 troops in that area. However, Breckinridge was appalled at the prospect of his

(continued on page 2)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Phone: (312) 944-3085

Officers

President	Patricia K. Sumner
Senior Vice President	Daniel R. Weinberg
Vice President	William J Sullivan
Vice President	Richard W. McAdoo
Secretary	Leslie MacDonald
Treasurer	Joseph L. Wischart
Assistant Secretary	John M. Coverick, Sr.
Assistant Treasurer	Mary J. Abroe
Inspector General	Wayne J. Anderson
Registrar	Richard W. McAdoo
Newsletter Editor	David R. Richert
Assistant Editors	C. Robert Douglas Wayne J. Anderson
Contributing Editors	Richard E. Clark Marshall D. Krolick
Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968	

Board of Trustees

Terms expiring in 1987: Larry Gibbs, Paul Klekner, Duff McGovern, James Vlazny
Terms expiring in 1988: W. Frank Meacham, Jr., Marlan H. Polhemus, David R. Richert, Robert J. Schell

Committee Chairmen

Battlefield Tour	William J. Sullivan Joseph Wischart
Nevins-Freeman	
Membership	Daniel Weinberg
Nominating	Paul Kliger
Publications/Archives	Jerry Warshaw Glen Wiche
Honors	Don Anderson
Battlefield Preservation	Jean Anderson Martin P. Dutch
Publicity	
Tape Record Librarian	Hal Ardell
Fiftieth Anniversary	Paul Kliger
House	Hal Ardell
Picnic	

The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Dan Weinberg, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Illinois 60611.



The Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin dinner meeting on April 12 will feature Dr. Wayne C. Temple, Chief Deputy Director of the Illinois State Archives, speaking on "Dr. A.G. Henry, Personal Physician to the Lincolns." The dinner will be held at 5 p.m. at the Milwaukee Yacht Club, 1700 Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee; the cost is \$15. For further information, or to make a reservation, contact William Upham, 930 E. Knapp St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202 (414) 277-1312.

(continued from page 1)

modest force trying to defend such a broad expanse and so vulnerable to Federal attack. Although Breckinridge would emerge the victor over Sigel's force at the battle of New Market on May 15th, his deployment of 4,000 infantry and 12 artillery pieces to the lower Shenandoah Valley would drain away forces that could have provided a more adequate defense for the Virginia & Tennessee railroad against Crook's expedition. To confront the possibility of a Federal force advancing through the gaps in the Alleghenies, Breckinridge placed Brig. Gen. Albert G. Jenkins in temporary command of the remaining troops in Southwestern Virginia.

Rain and snowstorms for over eight days were to impede the progress of Crook's troops, with bitter cold and long marches a great burden to the men. When the cold abated at last, the narrow mountain passes became quagmires as three miles of infantry, cavalry and artillery surged wearily forward. Surprised by Crook's advance, Jenkins rallied 2,400 scattered troops to meet the Union force at Cloyd's Mountain. The Confederate defense line was broken and repulsed by the strong Federal attack. Although the battle lasted a little over one hour, the contending armies sustained casualties of over 1200 men, with the Federals losing 688 men, or almost 10% casualties. The Confederates would lose 538 men, nearly 23% of their command. In his address, Howard will try to recapture the events of this 1864 expedition and battle through the recorded experiences of the common soldiers who were participants.

An 'army brat', Howard had a head start on an interest in the Civil War since he was born at Fort Monroe, Virginia, the site of Jefferson Davis' imprisonment after the war. He secured both his Bachelor's and Master's degree in history at Virginia Tech, with our Nevins-Freeman recipient, James I. 'Bud' Robertson as his thesis advisor. The subject of his thesis was 'The Federal Expedition against the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, April 29-May 19, 1864.' Howard and his wife and daughter reside in Roanoke, Virginia, where he is instructor of Advanced Placement American history at William Fleming High School.

"**Richmond and Military History**" will be the theme of the American Military Institute meeting in Richmond, Virginia April 10-12, 1987. Among the speakers and their topics will be Dr. Emory Thomas on "Richmond and the Confederacy," Chris Calkins on "Five Forks to Appomattox: Breakout and Pursuit," and Roland Galvin on "Drewry's Bluff—The Naval Perspective." There will also be a colloquium on "Pivotal New Books in Civil War History" featuring Dr. Russell F. Weigley, Dr. Peter Maslowski, and Dr. Herman Hattaway. For further information, contact Executive Director, AMI, 3309 Chestnut St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015.

We reported late last year that the Senate had approved an amendment by Maryland Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., to an appropriations bill that would have compensated Frederick, Maryland for a Civil War debt (\$200,000 paid to Jubal Early during his 1864 invasion of the North). We have learned, however, that the payment provision was deleted from the final version of the spending measure. Mathias, who is now retired, had sought compensation for Frederick throughout his career in the Senate.

February meeting

by Wayne Anderson

The 458th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table was held on February 20. Ralph Newman, noted Lincoln scholar and a founding member of The Round Table, spoke on "Robert Todd Lincoln In The Civil War" before 122 members and guests.

Robert Todd Lincoln was born on August 1, 1843 in Springfield, the first child of Abraham and Mary Lincoln. Robert had a normal childhood. In his teens, he left Springfield to attend a private academy in Massachusetts, and in the fall of 1861 he enrolled at Harvard.

During his first semester there, Robert became a celebrity because his father was the Republican candidate for President. He was asked on several occasions to speak before his fellow students. After the election of 1860, he resumed the life of a college student and was involved with the daily academic routine. However, the onset of the Civil War was in the making and this would affect Robert, his classmates at Harvard, and hundreds of thousands of young men in both the north and south.

After the War began, Robert saw his classmates join the army and go south. Later, he heard about friends who were killed or wounded. Robert was a patriotic young man who wanted to do his duty and join the army. He felt that the son of a president should be in the service during wartime. Also, both he and President Lincoln were being criticized because Robert was in college and not in the army.

Robert talked with his father about joining the army. Abraham Lincoln understood his son's feelings, but thought that he should complete his education first. Also, Robert's mother was still deeply moved by the death of her son William ("Willie") in February, 1862. If Robert were to join the army and become a casualty, it was possible that Mary Todd Lincoln would suffer a nervous breakdown. Robert returned to Harvard to complete his education, graduating in 1864.

With his college days over, Robert once again talked to his father about joining the army. On January 19, 1865, President Lincoln wrote to General U.S. Grant to inquire if there was a position on Grant's staff for Robert. Grant replied that Robert could serve on his staff with the rank of captain. Robert accepted the offer and reported for duty at Petersburg on February 22, 1865. However, he was able to obtain leave for his father's inauguration on March 4. Ralph said that such a request from a junior officer with almost no active time in service was very unusual.

While assigned to Grant's staff, Robert Lincoln's primary duties involved escorting visitors to points of interest along the siege lines at Petersburg. He also participated in the pursuit of Lee's army during the Appomattox campaign. He was present at Wilmer McLean's house at Appomattox when Lee surrendered to Grant, but he was not in the room when the terms of surrender were written. Like other junior staff officers, Robert waited outside the house until all terms were negotiated. After the surrender was signed, Robert was introduced to General Lee.

Robert was in Washington on April 14, but did not accompany his parents to Ford's Theatre where the President was assassinated. Shortly after the assassination, he tendered his resignation, which was accepted. Robert was on active service for three months during the Civil War. In his book, *Campaigning With Grant*, Colonel Horace Porter wrote: "The new acquisition at company headquarters

soon became exceedingly popular. He had inherited many of the genial traits of his father and entered heartily into all the social pastimes at headquarters. He was always ready to perform his share of hard work, and never expected to be treated differently from any other officer on account of his being the son of the Chief Executive of the nation." Ralph commented that if a reader believed that he could believe anything.

Robert Todd Lincoln's military career was brief and unusual. Few individuals with no prior military service are given commissions and then serve on the commanding general's staff. However, Robert was a man who did possess talent. After the war he studied law and was admitted to the bar. He was an executive for a railroad and was appointed Secretary of War under Garfield. Robert was also a founder of one of the most prestigious law firms in Chicago—Isham, Lincoln and Beale.

Honorary Award Life Members

Don Anderson, chairman of the Awards Committee, has announced the selection of two new Honorary Award Life Members of The Civil War Round Table—Elden E. "Josh" Billings and Walter N. Hebert. Josh, who lives in Washington, D.C., is a long-time member and a regular companion on our Battlefield Tours. Those who participated in the 1984 tour to Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia will remember that he served as one of our guides to Civil War Washington, about which he is one of the foremost authorities in the nation, and spoke at dinner one evening on "Social and economic conditions in Washington during the War."

Walter, now of Houston, Texas, is another long-time member. His association with The Round Table began in 1944 when the publication of his book, *Fighting Joe Hooker*, was the occasion of a gala dinner at our 36th meeting. He last spoke to us in 1983; his subject again was Hooker.

Our sincere congratulations are extended to both men.

Those who participated in recent Battlefield Tours to Petersburg and Richmond had a chance to see some of the restoration work done at the White House of the Confederacy in Richmond. Today, however, after a decade of effort, work has come to a standstill for lack of funds. Four and one-half million dollars is needed to finish the interior restoration, to restore the furnishings and room settings to their wartime appearance, to restore and preserve thousands of artifacts in storage, and to mount and display the comprehensive Civil War collection. Gifts to the White House of the Confederacy are tax deductible. To make a contribution, or for further information about giving opportunities, contact The Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 East Clay Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

A new trivia game, compiled by James Murfin, author of *The Gleam of Bayonets*, is now available. Called Civil War Wit, the game consists of 108 old sepia toned photographs and illustrations with the questions and answers printed on the back. The cost is \$5.98 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling. Games can be ordered from Interpretive Marketing Products, 490 N. 31st Street, Suite 108, Billings, Montana 59101. The game is part of a series which consists of National Park Wit and Yellowstone Teton Wit.

We have just learned that Murfin is suffering from Acute Myelogenous Leukemia caused by a combination of the various medications he was taking for his arthritis. At last report he was out of the hospital and doing well. We extend our best wishes to him.

The New Books

compiled by Dick Clark



Martin, David G. *Carl Bornemann's Regiment, the 41st New York Infantry (DeKalb Regt.) in the Civil War*. Hightstown, NJ: Longstreet House, 1987. 323 p., roster, biogs., index. maps. \$23.95.

Morse, Bliss. *Civil War Diaries & Letters of Bliss Morse*. Compiled, edited, and published by Loren J. Morse. Wagoner, OK: L.J. Morse, 1985. \$26.00. He was with the 105th Ohio.

Pohanka, Brian C., editor, and John M. Carroll. *Nelson A. Miles. A Documentary Biography of his Military Career, 1861-1903*. Glendale, CA: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1985. 327 p., illus., index. \$35.00.

Smith, Mason Philip. *Confederates Downeast: Confederate Operations in and around Maine*. Portland, ME: The Provincial Press, 1986. 232 p., maps, illus., bibliog., index. \$11.50(?)

Suderow, Bryce A. *Thunder in the Arcadia Valley: Price's Defeat*. Cape Girardeau: Southeast State University, Center for Regional History and Cultural Heritage, 1986. pbk \$10.00.

Temple, Wayne. *Lincoln's Connections with the Illinois & Michigan Canal, his Return from Congress in '48, and his Invention*. Springfield, Illinois: Illinois Bell, 1986. xxi, 212 p., map, facsim., illus., wraps.

Welsh, Peter. *Irish Green & Union Blue. The Civil War Letters of Peter Welsh*. Edited by Lawrence Frederick Kohl with Margaret Cosse Richard. Bronx, NY: Fordham University Press, 1986. \$22.95. With the 28th Massachusetts Regt.

Yeary, Mamie. *Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray*. Introduction and index by R.E.L. Krick. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1986. 904 p., plus new index. \$75.00. Reissue of the 1912 privately printed work.

Valuable photographs of general, and later, president, Ulysses S. Grant by Mathew Brady have been found in Duke University's Perkins Library manuscript department. According to an article in the *Duke Alumni Magazine*, the 15-photo collection includes four individual portraits of Grant taken in 1864, 1866 and 1883. There are 11 group pictures, 10 taken at City Point and one at Lookout Mountain. The photos were identified by comparison with the same prints listed as Brady's and published in Frost's *U.S. Grant Album, A Pictorial Biography of Ulysses S. Grant, From Leather Clerk to the White House*.

Meeting reservations

If you plan to attend the Round Table meeting, please make a reservation by either returning the postcard enclosed with the newsletter or calling the Book Shop (944-3085) by noon on Thursday, March 12. Last month over 20 people showed up without reservations causing problems for the Quality Inn in preparing extra meals and delaying the start of the meeting.

BULLETIN BOARD



Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Quality Inn, Halsted and Madison, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

March 13: Howard McManus on "The Battle of Cloyd's Mountain."

April 10: Mike Chesson on "The Bread Riots in Richmond."

April 30-May 3: Annual Battlefield Tour—The Trans-Mississippi.

May 8: Betty Otto on "Maryland Campaign, September 1862."

June 5: Mark Boatner on "How the Civil War Dictionary Came Into Being." **Note:** This is the first Friday of the month.

New members

Robert J. Anderson, 127 W. Willow, Wheaton, Illinois 60187.

Garold L. Cole, 1003 Bakewell, Normal, Illinois 61761 (209) 341-2108.

John A. Velke, III, 60 Wedgewood, South Elgin, Illinois 60177 (312) 931-4370.

Dale L. Weitman, 322 Bristol Lane, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005 (312) 255-4136.

The 50th anniversary of The Civil War Round Table will occur in 1990, and planning for the celebration is well underway. The planning committee, under chairman Paul Kliger, proposes that the event be held in October, 1990, and that the general theme be "The Heritage of Appomattox—Peace and Unification." They are suggesting a program that will consist of a banquet on Friday evening, an all day program on Saturday with selected presentations by noted Civil War historians, a gala ball on Saturday evening, and a Civil War Tour of Chicago on Sunday. Among the topics being considered for the Saturday program are "Grant: Peacemaker at Appomattox," "Lincoln: Leadership and the Emancipation Proclamation," and "Lee: Generalship, Leadership and Decisionmaking." Round Table members and Civil War enthusiasts from all across the nation will be invited to attend.

The committee is interested in hearing from anyone with comments or suggestions about the program. Contact Paul Kliger, 1923 Warren, Evanston, Illinois 60602 (312) 864-4029.

A living history weekend and battle demonstration will be held at Fort Pillow, Tennessee March 13-15. There will be skirmishing Saturday afternoon and a tactical battle demonstration before the public on Sunday. The site is 50 miles north of Memphis and 20 miles west of Ripley, Tennessee.

The 125th anniversary re-enactment of the Battle of Shiloh will be held April 3-5 on part of the original battlefield, adjacent to the present National Park. The Shiloh Re-enactment Association is stressing authenticity and putting strong emphasis on an 1862 impression.