

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLVIII, Number 3

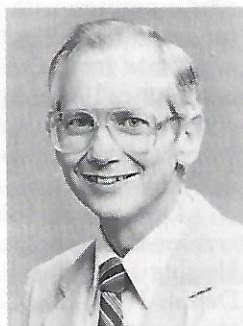
Chicago, Illinois

November, 1987

Dr. James A. Ramage on John Hunt Morgan: Folk Hero of the Confederacy

by C. Robert Douglas

An Alabama journalist, writing in the *Mobile Advertiser and Register* during the Civil War, declared... "Morgan's gallant and knightly valor and chivalry brought him nearer to the hearts of his countrymen than any other leader. The sentiment which the people feel for Morgan is the personal affection conciliated by admiration for the man, and his fame will be as enduring as that of the more prominent leaders of our armies, whose high position charges them with the chief responsibility of our country's fortunes. Their glory will be deservedly proportionate, but the name of Morgan will live in history side by side with theirs, as Marion's does with Washington." On New Year's Day, 1864, John B. Jones, a clerk in the Confederate War Department, wrote in his diary: "...the City Councils have voted the hospitalities of the city to Brig. Gen. J. H. Morgan, whose arrival is expected. If he comes, he will be the hero, and will have a larger crowd of admirers around him than the President."



These expressions are typical of the esteem and affection with which Morgan was held in the minds of the Confederate populace. On November 13, Dr. James A. Ramage, professor of history at Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, Kentucky, will address The Round Table and analyze how Morgan, the Confederate cavalryman from Kentucky, more than any other leader represented the Southern ideal of the chivalrous knight, the cavalier from the romantic novel come to life. Without formal military education, Morgan intuitively adopted the tactics of classic guerrilla warfare, and striking behind enemy lines, terrorized the Federal troops in Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Morgan's first major raid occurred in July, 1862, through Kentucky and covered over 1,000 miles; he captured and paroled 1200 prisoners, losing fewer than 100 men. The raid did much damage to Union morale and brought criticism to the Federal territorial commander, Don Carlos Buell. His second raid, in October, 1862, found him leading 1800 riders as they accompanied Kirby Smith's troops in their retreat from Kentucky after the battle of Perryville. Morgan's men captured several small posts and



465th Regular Meeting

James Ramage
on

John H. Morgan:
Folk Hero of the Confederacy

Friday, November 13, 1987

Quality Inn
Halsted and Madison

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$15.00 per person

Entree: Stuffed Pork Loin, Fish, or Fruit Plate



destroyed a number of railroad bridges.

With two brigades, 4,000 strong, Morgan started his third major raid in late December, 1862 to raise havoc with Rosecrans' lines of communication. With few casualties, he took 1887 prisoners and destroyed \$2,000,000 worth of property in his foray through Kentucky.

In early June, 1863, Braxton Bragg authorized Morgan to raid into Kentucky to slow Rosecrans' advance toward Chattanooga. Morgan disobeyed these orders, moved through southern Indiana and across Ohio in the longest cavalry raid of the war, covering more than 700 miles in 25 days while fighting almost constantly. The raid would end in disaster, as Union troops under Brig. Gen. E. H. Hobson captured Morgan and the remainder of his command at New Lisbon, Ohio on July 26, 1863. Imprisoned in the Ohio penitentiary, Morgan and six of his men escaped in late November, 1863. He was placed in command of the Department of Southwestern Virginia in April, 1864, charged with the defense of the saltworks there. En route to attack Union forces near Knoxville, he was surprised at Greeneville, Tennessee by a detachment of Federal cavalry

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
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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 John Peterson, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Illinois 60611.



Fellow member Mike Cohn will address the Indianapolis Round Table on November 9 on "Telegraphy in the Civil War." On November 19, Gordon Whitney will speak to the Cincinnati Round Table on "Hollow Victories—the Second Day at Chickamauga." Our good friend John Divine of Leesburg, Virginia, spoke to The Richmond Round Table in October on "The Second Ride Around McClellan." On October 17 he led a Stuart-Mosby Historical Society tour in Northern Virginia.

Battlefield Preservation Report

by Daniel J. Josephs

The Antietam Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Maryland, is currently facing many problems that threaten its existence. According to Dennis Frye, a leading official of Save Historic Antietam Foundation (SHAF), this hallowed battlefield, which was the scene of the bloodiest day in the Civil War, is "currently under siege."

Those who wish to preserve this sacred battlefield have been fighting on many fronts. In the March, 1986, issue of this newsletter, it was reported that there was a controversy surrounding the Grove Farm area, which was the location of the headquarters of General Fitz Porter of the Union V Corps after the battle and which also was the site of President Lincoln's visit to McClellan. As reported in March, 1986, the Washington County Commission had voted to rezone the Grove Farm area to allow the construction of a shopping center. Due to the efforts of SHAF, the Commission's rezoning decision was overturned by a Maryland circuit court judge, who ruled that the rezoning was without basis and null and void. According to Dennis Frye, the Washington County Commission has appealed the court's ruling to the Maryland Court of Special Appeals; a hearing was scheduled to take place in late October. The owner of the land may convert the farm area into residential homes if the appeal is lost, Frye said.

Ted Alexander, a ranger at the Antietam Battlefield, reports another threat there has been stopped for the moment. In an area of farmland across the Hagerstown Pike, a developer attempted to rezone the land to permit construction of a townhouse complex. The developer had filed a petition with the Washington County Commission for rezoning, but withdrew it due to the efforts of SHAF and other groups and individuals after a public hearing in early June, 1987. Apparently the developer now plans to convert the farmland into less threatening single family homes, according to the Harpers Ferry Civil War Round Table newsletter.

Last month, this column reported a legal battle concerning the construction of a cable T.V. tower on Bolivar Heights in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. According to Dennis Frye, G.S. Communications is attempting to construct another tower on Red Hill, which is within a mile of Bloody Lane at Antietam and which was the location of Union signalmen during the battle. G.S. Communications is owned by the same company that owns the company involved in the Harpers Ferry controversy, according to Frye. The rezoning of the land was granted by the Washington County Board of Zoning Appeals and upheld by Maryland Circuit Judge Fred Wright, III, according to the *Morning Herald* of Hagerstown. A local citizen group, Citizens Against the Tower (CAT), supported by SHAF, has filed a petition with the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. A decision is not expected for six months to a year.

Finally, according to Dennis Frye, the 98 acre Reel Farm was put up for sale by the owner in late August. The Reel Farm is located opposite the Antietam Visitors Center just behind the West Woods where McLaws and Longstreet advanced to blunt Union General Sedgwick's charge during the battle. Frye fears that if a developer purchases the farm, Antietam could be fighting a commercial development across the street from the Visitors Center.

Anyone interested in and concerned about these problems at Antietam can contact Dennis Frye at SHAF, P.O. Box 550, Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782.

October Meeting

by Barbara Hughett

When must the Constitution be stretched? When does the national security override individual freedom? When does individual freedom get ruined by an excessive concern for national security? These were some of the questions presented by William Safire on October 9th, when he spoke about "Lincoln's Excesses: Their Effect on Modern Presidents" before 168 members and guests at the 464th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Mr. Safire, *New York Times* columnist and author of several books on politics and language, was special assistant and senior speechwriter for President Nixon from 1969-73. His most recent book, *Freedom*, subtitled *A Novel Of Abraham Lincoln And The Civil War*, covers the first 21 months of the Civil War, ending with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, with the purpose of exploring the balance between individual liberty and national security.

In his talk, Mr. Safire sought to bring present day relevance to some of the acts of the early Civil War period. He compared Lincoln's assumption of powers, such as the gathering of troops and suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in the spring of 1861, when Congress was not in session, to recent political situations. As an example, he cited a message that John Poindexter, President Reagan's former national security advisor, sent to the National Security Council staff, saying, "I just met with the President and he read a Walter Burns' piece in a book on terrorism, recounting the unilateral acts taken by Abraham Lincoln, and the President would like to know what he can do unilaterally, ala Lincoln, in Nicaragua." Upon reading this, Mr. Safire said to himself, "There it is again—another president again saying, 'I can do without the Congress.'" He also compared Lincoln's firing of General McClellan, which took a great deal of political courage, to President Truman's firing of General McArthur, and felt that the public acceptance of the latter was ensured by the historical precedent set by the former. Other comparisons made were the Lincoln administration's censure of newspapers to the wiretapping of recent administrations and the assertion of majority rule to what happened in the Bork hearings this past month.

Was Lincoln right to stretch the Constitution as he did? "Sometimes," Mr. Safire stated, "once in a blue moon, the ends do justify the means. Most of the time, the means warp and corrupt the ends." He seemed to think that what Lincoln did in the early Civil War period represented one of those "blue moon" exceptions. He expressed disappointment that he had not received more flak from historians about the more controversial portions of his book. Examples of such included the account in his book of a deal offered to New York's Governor Seymour, the leading Peace Democrat, following the Union defeat at the Battle of Fredericksburg, and his version of the circumstances surrounding \$15,000 allegedly raised for Lincoln by publisher and lobbyist Thurlow Weed.

Mr. Safire talked of the excitement in writing about Lincoln and said that, especially when you come to him with a critical eye, as he did, he gets to you. You see his central idea and the sense of purpose that we may yearn for when we look at the current crop of candidates who are running for president. He made the observation that, "Everyone wants to be president, but nobody wants to be president for a reason, or has a central idea." Lincoln had a central idea, which Mr. Safire sees as "the assertion of

majority rule, to prove that democracy is not an absurdity." He commented that, in looking at Lincoln with modern eyes, as he has tried to do in his book, he has gained respect for the man, who he feels to be one of our two greatest presidents, and irritation with some historians who have sought to deify the man, instead of appreciating him as the extraordinary, but very human person that he really was.

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and killed on September 4, 1864 in the garden of the house where he had been sleeping.

A native of Paducah, Kentucky, Dr. Ramage served in the U.S. Air Force for four years, with duty in Okinawa and Turkey. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Murray State University and secured his doctorate in history at the University of Kentucky, under the direction of Dr. Holman Hamilton. He served as Assistant to the President from 1972 to 1976; since then, he has been a full-time faculty member.

He has served the city of Highland Heights as chairman of the Recreation Commission. For his work in developing a parks and recreation program, he received the Kentucky Governor's Volunteer Activist Award in 1978.

His publications include: *John Wesley Hunt: Pioneer Merchant, Manufacturer and Financier* (1974), published by the University Press of Kentucky, and "Holman Hamilton: A Biographical Sketch" and "Civil War Romance: The Influence of Wartime Marriage on the Life and Career of John Hunt Morgan" for *Kentucky Profiles: Biographical Essays in Honor of Holman Hamilton* (1982), published by the Kentucky Historical Society. His writings also include articles in scholarly journals and such popular Civil War magazines as *The Blue and the Gray*, *Virginia Country's Civil War* and *The Confederate Veteran*. His second book, *Rebel Raider: The Life of General John Hunt Morgan* (1986) won the Douglas Southall Freeman award for the most outstanding work in Southern history for 1986. The book is also co-winner of the 1987 Kentucky Governor's award for the most outstanding book in Kentucky history published during the past four years.

Alabama, which observed the birthday of Jefferson Davis on June 1st this year, is the only ex-Confederate state with a statewide holiday honoring the birth of the Confederate president. South Carolinians can choose between one of four optional holidays during the year, one of which is Davis' birthday, but state offices are not closed. Mississippi observes his birthday on the same day as Memorial Day.

"**Sherman Bashes The Press,**" an article in the July-August *American Heritage*, documents the Civil War general's animosity toward reporters, who he referred to as "dirty newspaper scribblers who have the impudence of Satan." The article contains material from previously unpublished letters which Sherman wrote to his foster father and a boyhood companion.

Relics from the ironclad Monitor will be placed in the Mariners Museum at Newport News, VA, according to an announcement from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Mariners Museum will be the principal home for the artifacts retrieved from the wreck of the Monitor, which sank in late 1862 off the coast of Cape Hatteras.



The New Books

compiled by Dick Clark

Allan, William. *Battlefields of Virginia, Chancellorsville*, embracing the operations of the Army of Northern Virginia from the First Battle of Fredericksburg to the death of Lieutenant-General Jackson. Gaithersburg, MD: Butternut & Blue, 1985. \$40.00. 152 p., maps. Reissue of 1867 production.

Alleman, Tillie Pierce. *At Gettysburg, or What a Girl Saw and Heard of the Battle*. A True Narrative. Baltimore, MD: Butternut & Blue, 1987. \$20.00.

Billings, John D. *The History of the Tenth Massachusetts Battery of Light Artillery in the War of the Rebellion...* Baltimore, MD: Butternut & Blue, 1987. 400 p., maps. \$34.00.

Brugioni, Dino A. *The Civil War in Missouri: As seen from the Capital City*. Jefferson City, MO: Summers Pub., 1987. pbk \$14.95.

Cleaves, Freeman. *Rock of Chickamauga; The Life of General George H. Thomas*. University of Oklahoma Press, 1986. pbk \$11.95.

Cole, Arthur Charles. *The Era of the Civil War, 1848-1870*. With a new introduction by John Y. Simon. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1987. \$24.95. The Sesquicentennial History of Illinois, vol. 3, first published in 1919.

Durkin, Joseph T. *Confederate Navy Chief: Stephan R. Mallory*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1987. \$19.95. Original of 1954.

Ellington, Charles G. *The Trial of U.S. Grant: The Pacific Coast Years, 1852-1854*. With a foreword by John Y. Simon. Glendale, CA: A.H. Clark Co., 1987. \$27.50.

Foster, Gaines M. *Ghosts of the Confederacy: Defeat, the Lost Cause, and the Emergence of the New South, 1865 to 1913*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987. \$39.95.

Freedman, Russell. *Lincoln, a Photobiography*. New York: Clarion Books, 1987. \$15.95.

Georg, Kathleen R. and John W. Busey. *Nothing but Glory: Pickett's Division at Gettysburg*. Edited by David G. Martin. Sketches and maps by Kathleen R. Georg. Hightstown, NJ: Longstreet House, 1987. 693 p., \$40.00.

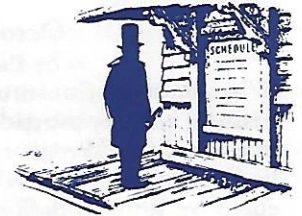
Gilmor, Harry. *Four Years in the Saddle*. Introduction by Daniel C. Toomey. Baltimore, MD: Butternut & Blue, 1987. \$26.50. Original of 1866.

Humphreys, Andrew A. *From Gettysburg to the Rappahannock*. The Army of the Potomac, July, 1863, to April, 1864. Baltimore, MD: Butternut & Blue, 1987. Original of 1863. \$19.00.

Kent, Zachary. *The Story of the Election of Abraham Lincoln*. Illustrated. Chicago: Children's Press, 1986. \$9.95; pbk \$2.95.

The 1887 reunion of the Orphan Brigade was reenacted in Bardstown, Kentucky on September 12 and 13. The program, sponsored by the John Hunt Morgan Camp 1342, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Louisville Round Table, followed the same format as the original reunion, with the identical speeches.

BULLETIN BOARD



Future meetings

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

November 13: James Ramage on "John H. Morgan: Folk Hero of the Confederacy."

December 11: Gordon Dammann on "In Defense of the Civil War Surgeon."

January 8, 1988: James Vlazny on "Robert Barnwell Rhett: Father of Secession."

February 12: Hon. Paul Simon. Subject to be announced.

March 11: Harold Holzer on "The Confederate Image: Prints of the Lost Cause."

April 8: Michael Snyder on "The Battle of Seven Pines."

April 28-May 1: Annual Battlefield Tour: Chancellorsville.

May 13: To be announced.

June 10: Edward Longacre on "The Army of the James."

New members

Charlotte Buchanan, 1510 Bunker Hill Rd., Pueblo, Colorado 81001 (303) 545-4800.

Ken Hoffman, 6201 N. Kenmore, Chicago, Illinois 60660 (312) 465-7929.

Timothy Pyne, 403 Blythe Rd., Riverside, Illinois 60546 (312) 447-0822.

Pat Redding, 2901 King Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60616 (312) 842-2128.

Changes of address

Robert A. Balzekas, 4030 S. Archer, Chicago, Illinois 60632.

William C. Vinck, 2001 Fairway, Birmingham, Michigan 48009 (313) 646-0863.

A noted art historian has been charged with stealing numerous documents from the Library of Congress and the National Archives. According to an item in the Philadelphia Round Table newsletter, Charles Merrill Mount of Washington was arrested by the F.B.I., which said he had more than 200 Civil War-era documents in safe deposit boxes. The documents included letters written by Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee and are valued at several hundred thousand dollars.

The New York Times reported in July that the remains of Confederate soldiers from Texas who died at the Battle of Glorieta Pass, NM have been recovered from a mass grave and plans are being made to return them to their state. The grave was discovered by Kip Siler, who was digging the foundation for a home on land his grandfather acquired 60 years ago. Buttons, belt buckles and bullets were found among the bones.