

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

January, 1990

William J. Sullivan on "Heartland of Freedom: Chicago During the Civil War"

by Barbara Hughett

President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation on April 15, 1861, three days after Southern forces had fired on Fort Sumter, calling for 75,000 militia to still the insurrection in South Carolina. This call elicited an instant supportive response from the Northern states. On that same day, Illinois Governor Richard Yates received a telegram from Secretary of War Simon Cameron urging him to use all of his expertise and efforts to fortify Cairo, Illinois, located at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. The governor directed General Richard Kellogg Swift, commander of a militia regiment in Chicago, to prepare to advance to Cairo. Those joining the militia under General Swift's command included the Chicago Zouaves, the Lincoln Rifles, and the Chicago Highland Infantry.

A considerable amount of improvising had to be done in order for the men to be ready to leave the next morning. A foundry was opened at 11:00 p.m. to obtain 600 rounds of fixed ammunition. Horses from the Chicago Transit Authority barn were pressed into service. Many of the men had no uniforms and no sidearms. The city's pawnshops were ransacked for items that could be of use to the soldiers. The troops were outfitted as well as possible and departed on the trains of the Illinois Central the morning of the 16th. Within two weeks these men had interdicted two steamers of supplies headed to the Confederacy.

The city of Chicago and its environs at the outbreak of the Civil War bore scant resemblance to the area we know today. Beyond just the size of the community, there were different tensions and different solutions. The life of Civil War Chicago was the contrast between the tenderloin district and the forerunner of the U.S.O.; between patriotic enlistments and planned sabotage by Confederate agents; between Irish and German laborers and the cream of Chicago society, melded into the shield of the Union. "Heartland of Freedom: Chicago During the Civil War" will be the topic of William J. Sullivan's address to The Civil War Round Table on January 12th.

A member of The Round Table for over 25 years, Bill Sullivan served as president for the 1988-89 term. He has also served as vice president, secretary, assistant treasurer, and trustee. A graduate of Culver Military Academy, Bill



William J. Sullivan



487th Regular Meeting

William J. Sullivan
on
"Heartland of Freedom:
Chicago During the Civil War"

Friday, January 12, 1990

Quality Inn
Halsted and Madison
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$15.00 per person
Entree: Chicken Breast with Apple Nut Stuffing,
Baked White Fish, or Fruit Plate

Please note: In order to guarantee a meal, reservations must be made by noon the Thursday before the meeting.



received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern University. He is past president of the Civil War Token Society and past president and former chairman of the board of the Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums. He was the recipient of the Good Shepherd award from Lamb's Farm in 1975 and received the third place award in the Illinois State Poetry Contest in 1967. Bill formerly served as news director of Multimedia Cablevision, with production responsibility for a daily news show which he anchored. Executive Director of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce, he is also president of the Oak Lawn Historical Society.

Bill is the author of numerous articles and *Oak Lawn: A Century of Progress* (1982). He appeared at our rostrum in January, 1976 to talk about "The Civil War on the Great Plains and in the Far West," and served on the panel of senators for our February, 1984 meeting on "Senate Confrontation: 1860." His most recent appearance before The

(continued on page 2)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut 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 Dan Weinberg, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, IL 60611.



(continued from page 1)

Round Table was in April of 1985, when his topic was "The Trans-Mississippi in 1864: A Game of Pitch and Toss."

We report with sadness the recent death of James M. Colwell, a longtime Round Table member and frequent battlefield tour participant. We extend our sincere condolences to his family.

We recently learned of the death of Elmer Abrahamson, a Round Table member for many years. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family.

Battlefield Preservation Report

by Mary J. Abroe

The new year begins on an encouraging note for a relatively new but vital participant in the struggle to save our endangered Civil War heritage—the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites. Incorporated in 1987, the APCWS aims to protect sites in the Virginia-Maryland-Pennsylvania Theater (and eventually in the West) through outright purchase, acquisition of easements, or other suitable means in order to preserve them for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Association already has acquired property at Port Republic, Spotsylvania, and White Oak Road Battlefield near Petersburg, while negotiations are ongoing for land at Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville, McDowell, and the North Anna. The accomplishments of this heretofore all-volunteer effort are heartening; it has become apparent, however, that a full-time, paid staff is essential if the APCWS is to continue dealing with contemporary preservation problems in an efficient and timely manner. According to president Gary Gallagher, "creation of an office . . . will provide the Association with more clout and pave the way for more battlefield preservation more rapidly." Fortunately, a challenge grant from the Gilder Foundation of New York offers the APCWS an opportunity to fund such a project.

This is not the first time that the Gilder Foundation has supported the activities of the APCWS. In 1988 the Foundation offered a \$50,000 grant on the condition that the organization raise an equal amount in private contributions. Individuals, Round Tables, and businesses from 30 states responded magnificently—donations amounted to \$67,000—and the challenge was met. As a result, the APCWS was able to move ahead in its important work. The current Gilder Challenge stipulates that the Association raise \$35,000 between December 1, 1989 and April 30, 1990 in order to receive matching funds. All monies generated will be used to set up and run a permanent APCWS office, which will be involved in corporate and foundation fund raising and continued identification of land for potential acquisition. Will Greene, staff historian at Fredricksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park and an Association board member, will be on a leave of absence from the NPS in 1990, to serve as acting executive director; the office will begin operating in early January with funds currently in the APCWS treasury. Its address is: APCWS, 613 Caroline St., Suite E, Fredricksburg, Virginia 22401.

There are two ways in which we can back the endeavors of the APCWS: membership and donations to help meet the Gilder Challenge. The Association currently has 1411 members, 24 of whom also belong to the Chicago Round Table. The loyalty of its grass-roots supporters has been a much-valued mainstay of the APCWS from the outset, and one of the mandates of the new office is to broaden that original base. There are several different membership categories; inquiries may be directed to Will Greene at the above address. An incentive to encourage contributions for the Gilder Challenge is a raffle to be held in May 1990. A minimum contribution of \$100 renders the giver eligible to win books, prints, and other Civil War-related items, all of which have been donated; a contribution of \$500 qualifies the donor for a choice group of prizes as well as the regular ones.

The stepped-up pace of development and skyrocketing land values in the Association's target area require that

(continued on page 4)

December Meeting

by Barbara Hughett

There is no better illustration of the spiritual struggle existing during the American Civil War than the presence of the Dunker church in the middle of the battlefield at Antietam. The Dunker church, a Church of the Brethren, was a peace church whose parishioners rejected war as a means of settling differences. And yet, there it was at the center of the fighting on September 17, 1862, the bloodiest day in American history. "The Gods of War and the Prince of Peace" was the Reverend Armin G. Weng's topic on December 8th, when he addressed 84 members and guests at the 486th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Reverend Weng is a retired Lutheran minister who, in addition to his theological education, received a bachelor's degree in American history at St. Olaf College. He is currently an instructor at the American Institute of Commerce in Davenport, Iowa.

By the time of the outbreak of hostilities in the spring of 1861, some of the nation's Protestant denominations had already been torn asunder by the issues which had contributed to the coming of the war. The Methodists divided in 1844; the Baptists in 1845; and the Presbyterians in 1857. Others held together longer but were severed after the war began. Some churches did manage to avoid division. The peace churches—such as the Quakers, the Mennonites, and the Churches of the Brethren—remained united in their opposition to any kind of war. The Catholic church, largely due to its international character, held together at least a fabric of unity throughout the war. However, individual Catholic priests, as well as Protestant ministers and Jewish rabbis, in the South delivered sermons supporting the Confederate cause and justifying slavery as a humane institution for "those people" who were not blessed with European civilization.

The kinds of struggles which took place within the Lutheran church were perhaps typical of what happened in other churches. Immigrants coming to this country established churches with services in their own language. Thus, a town in Minnesota or Wisconsin, for example, might have several Lutheran churches—one Swedish, one Norwegian, one German, and so forth. A conflict developed between the newer immigrants and the older immigrants who had become more Americanized. A very active church press gave voice to some of these differences.

During the election of 1860, the Lutheran church suddenly became very involved in social issues. Many of its members by this time were concerned about slavery and what was happening to the country. Some Lutheran church historians maintain that had it not been for the votes of the German Lutherans in the North, Abraham Lincoln would never have been elected president of the United States.

A convention of the General Synod of the Lutheran churches in America scheduled for 1861 was postponed for a year, in hopes that the war would be over by then. When they met in 1862, only one delegate from the South was present—and he was from strongly pro-Union eastern Tennessee. That same year a new church body was formed—the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Confederate States of America. The old church was torn in half. And it wasn't until 1916, as the Lutherans were celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, that it was reunited.

In the years since then, most of the other churches have also come together. It was only within the last several

years that the Northern and Southern branches of the Presbyterian church found that they no longer had to fight the Civil War and became one again. The only major denomination that has not yet been able to put itself back together is the Baptists. The "Gods of War" thus still continue to touch the lives of the people of the "Prince of Peace." The costs of the Civil War were enormous in many ways. The story of what happened in the churches of America represents one of those costs.

Moments in Round Table History

January 17, 1941: The 2nd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table, with founding member Elmer Gertz speaking on "William F. Storey and the *Chicago Times* in the Civil War."

January 17, 1957: Meeting to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Robert E. Lee, with J. Ambler Johnston, longtime friend of Douglas Southall Freeman, speaking on "Lee and Freeman."

January 9, 1987: Marshall Krolick's address to The Round Table on "Captain to Brigadier: The Promotions of Custer, Farnsworth, and Merritt."

A funeral took place at Antietam National Cemetery this past September 17th, the 127th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam. A horse-drawn cart draped in black transported the final remains of four Union soldiers to their final resting place. 85 men in Civil War uniforms gave full military honors to the fallen members of the Irish Brigade whose bones were found over a year ago by relic hunters. Artifacts—buttons, rounds of ammunition, and religious mementos—were also unearthed from a field near the battleground. This discovery gave archaeologists and anthropologists an opportunity to attempt to piece together the final hours of the soldiers' lives. It was determined that two of them were in their 20s, one was in his 30s, and the fourth was around the age of 45. None of the men have been positively identified as yet.

The Eleventh Annual Confederate History Symposium will be held at Hill College in Hillsboro, Texas, on March 31. Participants will include Grady McWhiney and Norman Brown. For information, write to the Harold B. Simpson Confederate Research Center, P.O. Box 619, Hillsboro, TX 76645 or phone (817) 582-2555.

The Twelfth Annual Conference of the Confederate Historical Institute will be held in Lynchburg, Virginia on April 5-8. The conference will focus on "Commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Cessation of Hostilities at Appomattox." Speakers will include James I. "Bud" Robertson and Chris Calkins. For further information, contact the Civil War Round Table Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, AK 7221, 501/225-3996.

Zetna Andrews of the Jackson, Mississippi Civil War Round Table was recently awarded the Bell I. Wiley Award from the New York Civil War Round Table for her work in preserving the Coker House on the Champion Hill Battlefield in Mississippi.

The New Books

compiled by C. Robert Douglas



Bailey, Anne J. *Between the Enemy and Texas: Parson's Texas Cavalry in the Civil War*. TCU Press. 1989. \$29.95.

Bicknell, Rev. George. *History of the Fifth Maine Regiment*. Available from MacDonald's Militaria, Eustis, ME 04936. 1988. pbk. \$29.95.

Blackett, R. J. M., ed. *Thomas Morris Chester, Black Civil War Correspondent: His Dispatches From the Front*. LSU Press. 1989. \$35.00.

Cooling, B. F. *Jubal Early's Raid on Washington: 1864*. White Maine Publ. Co., 63 W. Burd St., P.O. Box 152, Shippensburg, PA 17257. 1989. \$22.95.

Cozzens, Peter. *No Better Place to Die: The Battle of Stone's River*. University of Illinois Press. 1989. \$24.95.

Cromie, Alice H. *A Tour Guide to the Civil War*. (Revised). Rutledge Hill Press. 1989. pbk. \$10.95. Original of 1975.

Cunningham, Homer F. *The Presidents' Last Years: George Washington to Lyndon B. Johnson*. 1989. McFarland Press. \$25.95.

Donnelly, Ralph W. *The Confederate States Marine Corps*. White Maine Publ. Co. 1989. \$24.95.

Dyer, John P. *'Fighting Joe Wheeler'*. Olde Soldier Books. 1989. \$30.00. Original of 1941.

Fehrenbacher, Don E., ed. *Lincoln: Speeches and Writings 1809-1865*. Library of America. 1989. 2 vols. \$70.00.

Gallagher, Gary W., ed. *Antietam: Essays on the 1862 Maryland Campaign*. Kent State University Press. 1989. \$17.50.

Galloway, B. P. *The Ragged Rebel: A Common Soldier in W. H. Parsons' Texas Cavalry 1861-1865*. U. of Texas Press. 1988. \$19.95.

Jones, Tom. *Hood's Texas Brigade Sketchbook*. Hill College Press. 1988. \$15.00.

Perret, Geoffrey. *A Country Made by War. From the Revolution to Vietnam—The Story of America's Rise to Power*. Random House, Inc. 1989. \$22.50.

Sewell, Richard H. *A House Divided: Sectionalism & Civil War, 1848-1865*. The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1988. \$29.95; pbk. \$9.95.

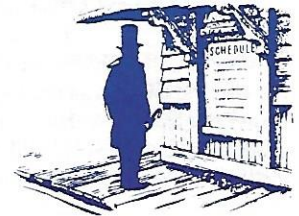
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preservation challenges be met with speed, forethought, and sufficient "ammunition." Through the creation of a central office, the APCWS can channel its energies most effectively. The fact of our united support—not the size of individual gifts—will determine whether the second Gilder Challenge results as the first.

Former president Merlin Sumner spoke to the North Carolina Civil War Round Table in Hillsboro, North Carolina, on November 18th on "Some Observations About Grant and His Staff."

"**Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign**" was the subject of member Lowell Reidenbaugh's recent address to the Kentucky Civil War Round Table.

BULLETIN BOARD



Future Meetings

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

January 12, 1990: William J. Sullivan on "Heartland of Freedom: Chicago During the Civil War."

February 9: Chicago Historical Society, "A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln."

March 9: Michael Andrus on "General Edward 'Allegheny' Johnson."

April 13: Richard McMurry on "Confederate Journalism."

May 3-6: Annual Battlefield Tour, The Maryland Campaign of 1862.

May 11: William Parrish on "Confederate Governors."

June 8: Jerry Rodgers, topic to be announced.

New Members

Randall J. Gingiss, 1100 N. Lake Shore Dr., #19A, Chicago, IL 60611, (312) 787-4954

William P. Kovacs, 8 Sterling Circle, #304, Wheaton, IL, 60137, (708) 653-6523

Eleanor Leichenko, 7840 Greenfield, River Forest, IL 60305, (708) 771-7975

Dr. Harold E. Leichenko, 7840 Greenfield, River Forest, IL 0305, (708) 771-7975

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Dr. John P. Whitley, 11703 El Hara Circle, Dallas, TX 75230, (214) 368-5363

Jane M. Zefran, 1941 W. Cermak Rd., Chicago, IL 60608, (312) 847-6688

Louis R. Zefran, 1941 W. Cermak Rd., Chicago, IL 60608, (312) 847-6688

Changes of Address

William C. Krone, 311 Ridge Haven Place, Richardson, TX 75080

Timothy E. Penrod, 543 Blackstone, La Grange, IL 60525

In commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the surrender of Robert E. Lee at Appomattox, the Capital District Civil War Round Table and the United States Military Academy are sponsoring a seminar entitled "Leadership in the Civil War." It will be held on April 5-8 at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, with proceeds to be donated to battlefield preservation efforts. Speakers will include Herman Hattaway, Robert Krick, and Richard McMurry. For additional information, write to: West Point Civil War Seminar 1990, Box 265, Delmar, NY 12054-0265. The deadline for registrations is January 31.