

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LV, Number 5

Chicago, Illinois

January 1995

James I. (Bud) Robertson, Jr., on "New Viewpoints on 'Stonewall' Jackson"

by Barbara Hughett

Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, the Confederate general who lost his life due to "friendly fire" wounds at the Battle of Chancellorsville (May 1863), has survived as one of the most admired American soldiers. Jackson was indeed a unique figure. An incredibly sad childhood would affect his adult life. An abiding faith in God and an Old Testament outlook on the American Civil War would mark the two most famous years of his life—1861-1863.

Jackson comes as close to the literal definition of a "Christian soldier" as America has ever seen. He was a man of strange contradictions. His complexity and simplicity, his ruthlessness and righteousness, continue to intrigue every serious student of the Civil War.

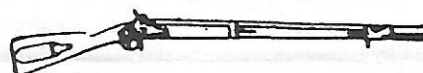
At least fifty biographies of General Jackson have been written. In some of these books, the writers set out to "prove" a preconceived notion about the general. Many of the others concentrated on Jackson's alleged eccentricities. The result has been one of the most distorted pictures of any prominent figure in American military history. On January 13, Professor James I. ("Bud) Robertson, Jr., will address The Round Table on the topic of "New Viewpoints on 'Stonewall' Jackson."

"No one in the past three decades," Robertson said, "has ever attempted a biography of Jackson based on thorough research into all known sources. That fact, plus the gross distortions of Jackson in recent years, led me to undertake an in-depth biography. The project is now in its eighth year. For the first two and one-half years, my research was only into manuscript material. When the writing is finished in 1995, the most completely researched biography of 'Stonewall' Jackson ever done will hopefully have appeal."

"Bud" Robertson, currently Alumni Distinguished Professor in History at Virginia Tech and a longtime friend of The Round Table, was the recipient of The Civil War Round Table's 1981 Nevins-Freeman Award. A native of Danville, Virginia, he received his masters and Ph.D. degrees at Emory University under the tutelage of Bell I. Wiley. He earned a Litt. D. degree at Randolph-Macon College. In 1961, Robertson was appointed executive director of the national Civil War Centen-



James I. (Bud) Robertson



537th Regular Meeting

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James I. (Bud) Robertson, Jr., on "New Viewpoints on 'Stonewall' Jackson"

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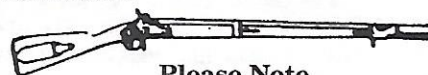
Friday, January 13

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Union League Club
65 West Jackson Boulevard

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Entree: Grilled Salmon Filet, Marinated in
Ginger and Pepper, or Beef Stroganoff

\$20 - The Civil War Round Table of Chicago members
\$25 - Nonmembers



Please Note

Make your reservation by Wednesday, January 11, by calling The Civil War Round Table offices at 312-341-1865. People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If you make a reservation and then find you cannot attend, please call to cancel or you will be billed for a dinner.

The Union League Club is located at the corner of Jackson Boulevard and Federal Street. Federal Street runs north and south between Dearborn and Clark Streets. Parking is free at the General Parking lot, just south of the Union League Club.

nial Commission by President John F. Kennedy, and served in that capacity throughout the Centennial period.

Robertson teaches the largest Civil War class in America, with an average enrollment of 300 students each semester. He also appears frequently on the A&E network's weekly television program, "Civil War Journal," and does a weekly Civil War broadcast which airs twice on Fridays on the Roanoke public radio station. Many of our members have participated in Robertson's annual "Campaigning with

(continued on page 3)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
 410 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 841
 Chicago, Illinois 60605-1402
 Phone: 312-341-1865
 Fax: 312-341-1863

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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 Membership Committee, 410 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 841, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1402.



BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The silent auction of a limited-edition print by Keith Rocco will continue at the January meeting. Proceeds will benefit the Illinois Monument at Vicksburg, which is in need of restoration. A Round Table member donated the print for this specific purpose. Entitled "Island of Mercy: The Pry Mill at Antietam," the print is an artist proof numbered 45 of 50 from a total edition of 950. The 1994 print is pencil-signed by Keith Rocco and Dr. Gordon Dammann, who commissioned the original painting for the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. According to Dammann, Rocco was chosen for the commission because of his careful attention to detail and his ability to communicate what the experience of war is like for the common soldier. If your bid is not successful in the silent auction, you can still obtain a print for \$175 by calling or writing the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, PO Box 470, 48 E Patrick Street, Frederick, Maryland 21705, 301-695-1864.

The Civil War Fortifications Study Group will hold its third annual meeting at Vicksburg, Mississippi, on February 16-19. Tours of fortifications on Vicksburg Campaign-related battlefields and Port Hudson will be led by Ed Bearss. Evening presentations will focus on fortifications and their preservation. For further information, contact Dale Floyd, President, Civil War Fortifications Study Group, 8107 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22152, 703-569-9566.

The Civil War Trust has agreed to purchase the development rights to forty acres of the Cross Keys battlefield from the owner, Peter Svenson. Svenson, whom many of us had the opportunity to meet during our tour to the Valley last spring, is the author of the 1992 book *Battlefield: Farming a Civil War Battleground*. The Trust will pay \$74,000 for the development rights, which includes a major portion of the Confederate right in the battle and the scene of significant action. The Trust will then transfer the rights to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, a state open-space preservation agency. Svenson intends to continue farming the land. As he points out, many battlefields that are preserved are not farmed even though they were at the time of the war. "There's something a little sterile" about such places, he says.

The Cross Keys battlefield, site of a June 1862 victory by Stonewall Jackson during his Valley Campaign, has been identified by Congress as one of the war's significant actions and a Priority II battlefield. Although it is not immediately threatened, Svenson says change is in the air. Svenson's land borders another ninety-six-acre tract preserved by the private Lee-Jackson Foundation. Ideally, says Svenson, three or four adjacent properties should be preserved as well.

A Maryland resident has launched a fund-raising effort to buy and tear down the National Tower at Gettysburg. The congressionally-approved boundary expansion of 1990 brought the tower inside the park boundary. However, while the National Park Service now has the right to acquire the tower and bring it down, it does not have the funds to do so. The man behind the fundraising effort, retired public relations executive James A. Holechek, has said the owners want about \$6.6 million for the tower.

☞ DECEMBER MEETING ☞

by Larry Gibbs

On December 9, David E. Long addressed 158 members and guests at the 536th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Long is the author of *The Jewel of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln's Re-election and the End of Slavery*, which has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, the Bancroft Prize, and the Lincoln Prize of Gettysburg College. Long's presentation, entitled "I Shall Never Recall a Word: Emancipation and the Race Issue in the 1864 Presidential Election Campaign," reflected the book's theme.

Recently, some historians have criticized Lincoln and the effectiveness of the Emancipation Proclamation. By the standards of these historians, Lincoln was a racist because he was slow to endorse complete slave emancipation. In addition, one modern historian views the Emancipation Proclamation as unimportant to the freedom of four million slaves; this historian concludes that the slaves freed themselves.

Long took exception to this "modern" interpretation. He asserted that "the Emancipation Proclamation was of staggering importance." Although the proclamation did not include emancipation in the border states, it was the first official act toward complete emancipation.

The Emancipation Proclamation was an executive order which could have been retracted after it was issued on January 1, 1863. Long claimed that the central question is "would Lincoln have ever retracted the Emancipation Proclamation in order to end the savage conflict?" He thinks that the only period when Lincoln wavered at all was in the fall of 1864.

In the summer of 1864 Lincoln faced almost insurmountable problems. He was running for reelection during a Civil War. The Copperheads formed the Northwest Conspiracy with Camp Douglas as a possible target. Setbacks in the 1862 elections, several military reversals, and many Union deaths multiplied Lincoln's adversities. Several newspaper articles by the Democratic press stirred up an anti-emancipation attitude in the North. No popular American leader ever faced such a severe crisis. Nevertheless, Lincoln wanted freedom for the slaves to remain as a condition for Confederate surrender.

A famous Republican editor, Henry Raymond of the *New York Times*, told Lincoln that substantial Republican opposition threatened Lincoln's reelection if Lincoln insisted on emancipation as a condition for ending the war. Lincoln almost submitted to Raymond's peace initiative proposal. On August 26, 1864, in an unpublished and undelivered letter meant for Raymond, Lincoln for the only time suggested that emancipation may not be a requirement for Confederate surrender. However, Long asserted that "Lincoln decided that he could not proceed with Raymond's plan; a peace commission to Richmond would be tantamount to Union surrender."

Union fortunes soon changed. The battles for Atlanta and Mobile Bay were Northern victories. General Sheridan destroyed the Confederate breadbasket in the Shenandoah Valley, and in November 1864 Lincoln was reelected with a landslide vote. "Lincoln treated his 1864 reelection as a mandate for emancipation," stated Long.

After the election, Lincoln desired to expand emancipation to include slaves not covered by the Emancipation Proclamation. In December 1864 and January 1865, he and Secretary of State William Seward courted Democratic support for an amendment that would abolish slavery. With Lincoln's effective leadership, the Thirteenth Amendment

abolishing slavery was passed in 1865.

At great personal and national risk, Lincoln achieved his objective of emancipation. "With his support for emancipation, Abraham Lincoln mandated the greatest social change in U.S. history," proclaimed Long. "The abolition of slavery was the greatest unsurpassed and singular act of courage by any American president." This policy became a reality in spite of extreme pressure for Lincoln to waver. In the end, Lincoln remained steadfast in his belief that the Confederacy would have to surrender under the condition of acceptance of emancipation.

Robertson (from page 1)

Lee" symposiums, held each summer in Virginia.

His published books include *General A.P. Hill* (a History Book Club main selection); *Soldiers Blue and Gray* (a Pulitzer Prize nominee); and *Civil War! America Becomes One Nation* (winner of the American Library Association's 1993 Best Book for Young Readers Award). He served as editor of *The Concise Illustrated History of the Civil War*. For many years, he wrote a column for *Civil War Times Illustrated*, "The War in Words," in which he profiled the best writings in Civil War literature.

Among his numerous honors is the 1991 Outstanding Faculty Award, presented by the Virginia State Council of Higher Education. In addition to his upcoming full-length biography of General Jackson, Robertson is collaborating with noted artist Mort Kunstler on an art-and-history book about Generals Jackson and Robert E. Lee.

"Bud" Robertson has appeared before The Round Table on several occasions throughout the years. He last addressed us in October 1990 at our 50th Anniversary Symposium. His topic then was "Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis: Tragic Presidents." That essay is included in *The Continuing Civil War: Essays in Honor of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago* (1992), on sale at all Round Table meetings, in the Schimmelfenig Boutique.

A variety of programs will be presented in Springfield, Illinois, on Sunday, February 12, to commemorate the 186th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the Lincoln Heritage lectures at the Lincoln Home Visitors Center will be given by William Hanchett, Harold Holzer, and George L. Painter. For information, call 217-492-4148.

The twenty-second annual Abraham Lincoln Symposium will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Hall of Representatives in the Old State Capitol. The theme this year is "Abraham Lincoln and American Religious Thought." Speakers will include Mark Noll and British professor of American history Richard J. Carwardine. Both of these events are free-of-charge.

The annual Abraham Lincoln Association banquet will feature an address by actor Jason Robards, Jr., and an award presentation to Brian Lamb, CEO of C-SPAN and host of the "Booknotes" program. Festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. in the ballroom of the Springfield Renaissance Hotel. Tickets are \$40 per person. For information, call Naomi Ramage at 217-785-7929.

With the Western Sharpshooters: Michigan Boys of Company D, 66th Illinois by Lorenzo A. Barker, has recently been published by Blue Acorn Press. For information, call 1-800-ACORN1.

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



Larson, Rebecca D. *Blue and Gray Roses of Intrigue*. Thomas Publications, P.O. Box 3031, Gettysburg, PA 17325. 1993. \$5.95.

Lewis, Lloyd. *Sherman, Fighting Prophet*. U. of Nebraska Press. 1993. Pbk. \$20.00. Original of 1932.

Marvel, William. *Southwest Virginia in the Civil War: The Battles for Saltville*. H.E. Howard, Inc. 1992. \$19.95.

Executive Committee Meeting

President Barbara Hughett has announced there will be a special meeting of the Executive Committee of The Civil War Round Table on Saturday, January 28. It will take place from 10:00 a.m. till Noon at Newman Rare Books, 410 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 802. The main topic on the agenda will be plans for fundraising. All current officers, committee chairs, and past presidents are urged to attend.

Round Table members **Marshall Krolick (past president) and George Levy** will be among the speakers at a commemoration of the centennial of Rosehill Cemetery on Sunday, January 15. Rosehill is also sponsoring an Appomattox Court House Surrender Reenactment on April 8 and 9. For information on these events, call Rosehill historian David Wendell at 312-561-5940.

Honorary Life Memberships were bestowed on Hal Ardell and David Richert at the December 9 meeting. Hal has served as treasurer and vice president, and was for many years our tape record librarian. Dave has served on the *Newsletter* staff for seventeen years, ten years as editor. He was also vice president and was president during 1990-91, the year of The Round Table's fiftieth anniversary celebration.

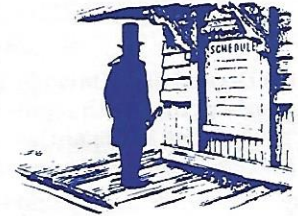
Civil War preservation activist Jerry L. Russell will be presented with an Honorary Life Membership at the January 13 meeting. Russell, founder and chairman of Civil War Round Table Associates, owns a public relations firm in Little Rock, Arkansas. The Round Table Executive Committee voted to present this award to Jerry, in recognition of his many contributions in the Civil War field, at its summer meeting.

Schimmelfennig Boutique

The history of The Round Table, *The Civil War Round Table: Fifty Years of Scholarship and Fellowship*, by Barbara Hughett, is available for \$30 per copy. You may purchase the book at the monthly meeting or order it from Morningside Bookshop, 260 Oak Street, Dayton, Ohio 45401 (1-800-648-9710). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling.

In addition to The Round Table history and *The Continuing Civil War*, the essays from the Fiftieth Anniversary Proceedings, the following items are available at each monthly meeting: Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes, Civil War Buff posters and T-shirts, CWRT T-shirts, polos, and sweatshirts.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Union League Club, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

January 13: James I. (Bud) Robertson, Jr., on "New Viewpoints on 'Stonewall' Jackson"

January 28: 10:00 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting, Newman Rare Books

February 17: Ralph G. Newman on "A Handful of Lincoln and Civil War Authors" (Please note: this is the **third** Friday of the month.)

March 10: Ervin L. Jordan, Jr., on "Give Us a Flag: Afro-Confederate Loyalty in Civil War Virginia"

April 14: William Hanchett on "Lincoln's Assassination After 130 Years"

May 3-7: Annual Spring Battlefield Tour—Charleston, Columbia, and Savannah

May 12: Tamara Moser Melia on "James B. McPherson and the Ideals of the Old Army"

June 9: John Y. Simon on "Forging a Commander: Ulysses S. Grant and the First Year of the Civil War"

New Members

John W. Barriger, 155 Melrose Avenue, Kenilworth, IL 60043. 708-256-3335

Eric Beck, 266 Windsor, Bartlett, IL 60103

Nelson D. Cornelius, 73 East Elm Street, #5-B, Chicago, IL 60611, 312-642-3385

Jeanette E. Eilers, 530 Cherry Street, Winnetka, IL 60093

Thomas D. Eilers, 530 Cherry Street, Winnetka, IL 60093, 708-446-5358

Peter D. Finocchiaro, 4230 N. Francisco Avenue, Chicago, IL 60618, 312-463-4741

Maraya Y. Goyer, 2020 Lincoln Park West, Chicago, IL 60614, 312-935-6309

Barbara Leff, 70 W. Burton Place, #1804, Chicago, IL 60610, 312-337-4780

Frank McCovey, Jr., 400 N. McClurg Court, #3200, Chicago, IL 60611, 312-923-0141

Vera M. Pallin, 4347 N. Hermitage Avenue, Chicago, IL 60613, 312-404-7378

Richard C. Petersen, 528 E. Forest Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187, 708-653-6647

George E. Sweeney, Jr., 48 N. Brainard, LaGrange, IL 60525, 708-579-3812

Changes of Address

Jonathan Brown, 1434 W. Cullom Avenue, Chicago, IL 60613

Ed Johnson, 5033 W. Gunnison, Chicago, IL 60630

Joanne Johnson, 1971 Ammer Ridge Court, #302, Glenview, IL 60025-1877

Fundraising continues to purchase a headstone for Buckner S. Morris, second mayor of Chicago and historic Civil War figure. Send contributions to Buckner S. Morris Fund, Midwest Bank, 300 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60604.