Admirers of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee had better come prepared to defend their hero at the meeting of the Chicago Civil War Round Table on Friday, November 14. Thomas Lawrence Connelly, associate professor of history at the University of South Carolina and an outstanding military historian of the Civil War, will speak on "Lee and the War in the West."

"My theme," Connelly said, "will be that Lee is grossly overrated as a Confederate general and that it is time for a full re-evaluation of Lee's strategy, tactics and personality. On all of these scores, Lee comes out poorly."

Connelly asserts that after Lee's influence began to be felt in the autumn of 1861, some early Confederate victories were won over inferior Union commanders. And some of these victories, the professor says, were simply tactical triumphs in Virginia achieved at the expense of the Confederate position in the West.

"Lee contradicted himself in his strategic proposals," according to our November speaker.

And, after all, Connelly points out, the Union's "first team" of officers, including Grant and Sheridan, was in the West. Lee, he says, didn't look so great after he was confronted by the Union's "first team" in 1864.

Our November speaker might be termed as great a discoverer as he is an historian. In 1961, when Connelly was only 23 years old and a graduate student at Rice University, he found the papers of Gen. Don Carlos Buell in a Texas prairie farmhouse near Houston.

Connelly found the cache of Buell's papers—more than 8,500 items in all—after he traced and befriended a great nephew of the general who lived in the house. The papers, which included letters from Grant and Sherman as well as early Western material, had formerly been housed in a chicken coop in trunks that were later brought into the farmhouse. Another cache of the general's papers was located in Kentucky.

Connelly negotiated with the general's descendent in behalf of Rice University and arranged to have Buell's papers deposited in the university library.

T.L. Connelly, who graduated from David Lipscomb College and received his master's degree and doctorate from Rice, was formerly a professor of history and chairman of the history department at Presbyterian College. From 1964 to 1969 he was assistant and associate professor of history at Mississippi State University. He joined the University of South Carolina faculty at Columbia this year.

Among his published books are "Will Success Spoil Jeff Davis," "Army of the Heartland: The Army of Tennessee, 1861-1862" and "Discovering the Appalachians." Books Connelly now has in progress include "The Lee Nobody Knows," "Davis and His Generals: Confederate Strategy Reviewed," and "Autumn of Glory: The Army of Tennessee, 1863-1865."

Connelly's scholarship has been recognized with such research fellowships and awards as the Charles Longcope research award, 1961; John Garner award, 1963; American Philosophical Society research grant, 1966, and the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities research grant, 1967.

His articles have been published in the Journal of Southern History, the Journal of American History, Military Affairs, Civil War History Quarterly, Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Civil War Times, Tennessee Historical Quarterly and the East Tennessee Historical Society publications.

Connelly is a charter member and was first president of the Confederate Historical Society of Nashville, so named because half of the members refused to call it the Civil War Round Table. A native of Nashville, our November speaker reports that he "grew up on the Nashville battlefield" and now owns an ante-bellum two-story log house atop the Cumberland Mountains near Sewanee, Tenn., a house that was twice raided by partisans during the Civil War.
**OFFICERS**

President .................. Clyde Walton  
Senior Vice President .......... Dan Lapinski  
Vice President ................ Don Russel  
Vice President .......... Charles Falkenberg  
Secretary .................... Charles Wesselhoft  
Treasurer ........................ Richard Cohen  
Assistant Treasurer ........ Don Jensen  
Editor of Newsletter .......... Dick Bjorklund  
Contributing Editor .......... Dick Clark  
Official Engrosser (Printer) .. Allen Meyer  
Judge Advocate General .... Philip R. Davis  
Balladeer ........................ Win Stracke  
Leader of the Band ........... Miles Janousek

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Executive Committee)**


Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

Applications for Civil War Round Table fellowships are available from the CWRT fellowship committee, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill., 60611. Round Table members and friends may make tax-deductible contributions to the CWRT fellowship fund for Civil War research and education. Contributions may be sent to the committee at the Chestnut Street address.

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

On March 6, the Executive Committee of the Civil War Round Table sent a questionnaire to all members. The questionnaire was prefaced by this statement:

“So that we might plan properly for our future meetings and improve the operation of The Civil War Round Table, you would kindly take the time to answer the following questions, and if you so desire, add any comments you care to make about our organization.”

Member response was excellent, but in all frankness, we are not sure what we learned—except that there is an amazing (but wholesome) diversity of opinion among our membership. Here are the questions we asked, and a summary of the answers we received.

**QUESTION NUMBER 1:**
How long have you been a member?  
Answers ranging from 1 to 23 years. 
Other answers: “Many Years” “Since first trip to Fredericksburg” 
No answer: 2

**QUESTION NUMBER 2:**
Do you regularly attend meetings?  
YES: 40  
NO: 53  
Other answers: “Pure neglect, I'll do better” “Bad legs” “As often as possible” “Out of town” “when I can” “Live 350 miles from Chicago” “75 years old now” “Too many conflicts” “Often out of town” “82 years old and live in Probertstown” “Don't like to be out in bad weather” “Business conflicts” “Friday not always good” “3 or 4 a year, work schedule irregular” “Retired and ill, price $20 and $7 too high” “Live 180 miles from Chicago” “Age 69 and just out of hospital” “Personal conflict”

**QUESTION NUMBER 3:**
If you do not, why not?  
A. Time of meeting inconvenient.  
   Inconvenient: 16  
   Convenient: 25  
   No Answer: 53  
   Comments: “Somewhat” “too early” “ol pappy is pooped” other activities” “no good” “Have to work” (5 others said Friday was not a good night).  
B. Food not satisfactory:  
   Not satisfactory: 3  
   Satisfactory: 34  
   No answer: 59  
   Comments: “O.K.” “Cold and poor”, “O.K.” (3 others said “excellent” and 3 more said “fine” or “good”), “poor quality”, “steak tough”.  
A. Program not appealing:  
   Not appealing: 8  
   Appealing: 31  
   No answer: 53  
   Comments: “fine” “O.K.” “fine” “sometimes” “Occasionally” “sometimes” “excellent” “lousy” not scholarly; more battles, less politics; quality could be better. “Talked too much and read too much” not scholarly.  
D. Location difficult to reach:  
   Difficult: 23  
   Not difficult: 22  
   No answer: 49

---

Chicago CWRT members are encouraged to contribute material to this Newsletter regularly. Contributions should be sent to Dick Bjorklund, Editor, Chicago Civil War Round Table Newsletter, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill., 60611. Suggestions for material include book reviews, photos of Civil War relics and sites, travel items Civil War battlefields and monuments, comments on current events involving Civil War history and personal notes.
TO THE LADIES

On Nov. 14, the Campfollowers will have the pleasure of hearing one of their own members speak. Ella Clausius will tell us about “Jesse, Wife of Gen. Fremont.” She assures us that they led very interesting lives.

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. in the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 E. Chestnut St. Dinner later. For reservations, please call Lenore Fleming, 928-8977. Please do not make reservations through the book shop.

Elmer Underwood gave the ladies a thoroughly enjoyable and informative look at the “Role of Women in the Civil War” at the October meeting. He might have entitled it “Never Underestimate the Power of a Determined Woman.”

----

E. Price of meal:
Price too high: 13
Price O.K.: 24
No answer: 52

Comments: “competitive,” “youse pays fo what youse gets” “well...” could be less. “40” members feel it is too high, but I come anyway. “not excessive” “fine” $7.00 a little steep” could be less. Try a luncheon meeting. Too high for others. “in line with Loop prices.” “much too high. Never above $5.00.” with 6 kids, expenses a problem.

F. Other (comments): Busy on Friday, Conflicts with other meetings. Try meeting on N or S side. Too far South Bend. Too much protocol... a social organization. Business open Friday PM. No time. Cannot attend more than 3-4 meetings a year. Put Win Stracke to work. Do not know members and no change to meet others. “Business requirements.” “good quarters.” Allow more time before and after for chin-chat. Have a ball like this year every year. “Too difficult to make trip.” President overlooks faults of others, has no goals. I travel extensively. I’m involved in other activities. My schedule prevents attending. In poor health. Live out of town and hard to get to city. Price of business. Other engagements. Work involves travel—I attend when I can.

QUESTION NUMBER 4:
Do you have any suggestions for improving the quality, procedure, or other aspects of our meetings?
None: 31
No answer: 23

QUESTION NUMBER 5:
Do you have any specific suggestions for speakers for future meetings and subjects to be discussed?
None: 32
No answer: 20

QUESTION NUMBER 6:
What suggestions can you make toward improving our organization as a whole?
None: 20
No answer: 34
Comments: Keep trying. “Old battlefield movies”. Recruit in college history departments. Doing real well. Encourage young people. Make full report of talks and question and answer period. “in group” conviviality too much (&) memberships for high school students. “Get after lax members like me.” Attract younger members. Like battlefield trips. Meetings cost too much for young men with families and mortgages. Recruit young people. Make full transcript of talk available instead of tapes. Fine as is. Make tapes of meetings more available. Publish the speeches. Price too high for others, but not me; place inconvenient but not for me, “doing a good job.” Lower dues and cost of dinner; don’t have to eat steak. “I can’t see that it needs improving.” “Raise a little polite hell on occasion and publish our own quarterly.” Introduce all members. No cliques. “Maintain present level.” Don’t over organize. Limit battlefield trips to male members of the round table. Tighter board control and a vice-president-president elect system. “Think it’s fine.” No cliques and pre-arrange the seating. Free dues to best speaker of the year, more PR and publicity and more heated arguments. Willing to serve on committees “Older members not together” (&) assign old members as table hosts. “Need younger people”. Have father-son-daughter night and take the whole family. Get more people involved. Stump the experts meeting, using a panel. Like Krocold quiz (&) summer activities. Send letters to history departments (&) get younger men (&) more publicity in the Tribune. “Would like to participate.” “Like it the way it is”. Publish speeches and question period which follows: “Needs no improvements.” “Continue as is.” “Think it’s terrific.”
THE NEW BOOKS


Bassett, Margaret. PROFILES AND PORTRAITS OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS AND THEIR WIVES. Freeport, Maine: Bond Wheelwright, [c1969]. 449p. $10.00


Brown, William Wells. THE NEGRO IN THE AMERICAN REBELLION, his heroism and his fidelity. N.Y.: Kraus Reprint, 1969. 380p. $15.00


Lester, Julius, comp. TO BE A SLAVE. N.Y.: Dial, [1969]. 160p. $3.95


BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS

November 14: Thomas L. Connelly on "Lee and the War in the West."

December 12: Professor Okan Uya (winner of this year's Chicago CWRT fellowship award) on "Robert Smell of South Carolina."

January 9: Dr. Archer Jones on "Military Leadership, North and South."

February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8 and June 5: Programs to be announced.

Members may wish to join the Civil War Round Table Associates, P. O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Ark. 72207, which publishes the Civil War Round Table Digest. Memberships, which include subscriptions to the digest, are $7.50 per year.

NEW MEMBERS: Fred Warren, 235 Constance Lane, Chicago Heights, Ill. 60411; James E. Gleichert, 918 A N. Milwaukee, Libertyville, Ill. 60048; Seymour Rovens, 308 Nuvoo, Park Forest, Ill. 60466; Robert W. Keller, 550 W. Surf, Chicago, Ill. 60657


Grady McWhiney’s recent book “Braxton Bragg and Confederate Defeat, volume 1: Field Command,” won the American Historical Association’s Pacific Coast Branch award of $200 for “the best monograph... by a scholar who resides in Western North America.” McWhiney has been a member of the Round Table for eight years.

The extraordinary Atlanta Cyclorama is scheduled to be given a total rehabilitation and is to be housed in a fine new structure. A new sound-track has been done that gives us a foretaste of excellence. Victor Jory does a tremendous job of narration, and Sam Wilhoit, who acted as director-producer, has prepared new music and sound effects. The whole recaptures in a very moving way July 22, 1864, and can be had on a compatible stereo album for $5.98 from the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop 18 E. Chestnut, Chicago, Ill. 60611 (25¢ for handling, and from Illinois residents the usual 30¢ tax).