Richard M. McMurry on John Bell Hood, Friday, December 8

John Bell Hood will be the subject of Richard M. McMurry of Valdosta State College who will be our speaker Friday, December 8, 1972, at the year's last meeting of The Civil War Round Table at the Chicago Bar Association. Dr. McMurry is associate professor of history at Valdosta State College, a senior unit of the University System of Georgia at Valdosta. He is a former student of Bell I. Wiley; his Ph.D. dissertation was on the Atlanta campaign, so he has had long exposure to Civil War study. In explaining the subject matter of his talk, Dr. McMurry writes:

"The talk itself will revolve around an attempt to discuss what it was that made John Bell Hood the kind of man he was. It will not be so much an attempt to cover his biography or to interpret him as an effort to discuss the forces that shaped his life and his outlook on the world. I believe that there were three of these: his background in the Old South with its fascination with the unrealistic and the romantic, his association with Robert E. Lee at West Point and in the United States army, and his battle experience in Virginia in the summer of 1862. I suggest that these combined to produce in Hood the attitude that led him to do the kind of things that he did in 1864."

Richard Manning McMurry was born in DeKalb County, Georgia, September 13, 1939, and was educated in the public schools of Atlanta and Decatur, receiving his B.A. at Virginia Military Institute in 1961, and M.A. and Ph.D. at Emory University (1967). He served as lieutenant in the Adjutant General's Corps, 1961-1963, and was personnel management officer at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In 1968 he took part in the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Workshop on the Teaching of the History of the American Negro, held at Duke University. He received the Ross H. and Mary B. McLean Prize at Emory University in 1964 and the Colonial Dames $500 Award in 1966. He was lecturer at Emory before accepting appointment as assistant professor at Valdosta in 1967, becoming associate professor in 1970. He is working on a biography of General Hood, and his publications include the following:


316th REGULAR MEETING

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Richard M. McMurry
Associate Professor of History
Valdosta State College,
Valdosta, Georgia

JOHN BELL HOOD

* * *

Friday, December 8, 1972

* * *

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

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

"Negroes at New Market Bridge,” ibid., 1968.
"Cairo, Columbus, and Island Number 10,” ibid., 1968.
"Western Battlefields: Kentucky,” ibid., 1969.
more of the Civil War than appears in their text books. The program included narration, use of numerous and fast-moving slides, mostly from contemporary illustration, songs of the period, and sound effects. The entire program takes two hours, and usually is given in three consecutive segments. For our meeting he took only the last part, covering Vicksburg, Gettysburg, and the Gettysburg Address in some detail and continuing to the end of the war and Appomattox. Questioning brought out that the program usually is directed to high school juniors and seniors to supplement their history studies, and that the method used has been highly successful in gaining their attention and interest. As some members remarked, history is of little value unless it can be known to the general public, and this seems an effective way of delivering the message.

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TAPS

The death is reported of Mr. Bud Dinwiddie, C.W.R.T. member. His address was the YMCA, 31 East Ogden Avenue, LaGrange, Ill.

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WELCOME

The Lone Star Banner, Volume 1, No. 1, records the first meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Texas held in September at Fort Worth with 100 members present representing 14 cities and towns. Hal Simpson presented a slide-tour of Gettysburg, aided by Bill Moore with dioramas.

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The Salt Creek CWRT at its annual dinner meeting October 20, 1972, had a guest speaker Richard Blake with his presentation “A Look at Lincoln.” This was the program given Chicago CWRT members at the Chicago Historical Society as feature of the Civil War Tour of Chicago in June.

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The Cincinnati Civil War Round Table issues a complete list of papers delivered before that organization since November, 1956.

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Report on Fellowship

July 25, 1972

Dear Marshall Krolick,

I would like to make a progress report as your 1968-69 Fellowship holder. I continue to teach at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette. My book on Mexican-United States Relations, 1861-1867 is still several years away from publication, partly because I have received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for 1972-73 and have had to put it aside until I return. This fellowship will allow me to do research on Central American-United States Relations from 1840-1885.

I would also like to inform the Round Tablers that early next year an article, based in good part upon research done under the Civil War Round Table Fellowship, will appear in Civil War History. Also that next April I will read a paper: “Mexican Policy and the Impeachment of President Andrew Johnson” at the Organization of American Historians Convention in Chicago from 11 to 14 April. I inform you of this now, since I will be out of the country until the convention and might not be able to remind you later. This paper also contains considerable information obtained while working under your fellowship.

Naturally, with my small successes, I wish once again to thank the whole Chicago Civil War Round Table for its help and encouragement.

Best wishes,

Thomas Schoonover
KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS TOUR

The Kentucky-Bluegrass special fall tour moved quickly back into the 19th century as Kentucky Colonel Frank Rankin narrated while we drove south following Buell toward Bragg and Perryville. Robert Kinnard, president of the Louisville C.W.R.T. welcomed us at lunch at Big Springs Country Club in Louisville. Mrs. E. O. Kelly, a charming Springfield native, boarded our bus there to tell us about the Lincoln family life in that area. A short drive to Shaktown followed and we toured the restored community in the rain. Command Post, courtesy of the Beams and Wallaces, preceded a Shaker country dinner. Dr. Thomas Clark spoke afterward on “Shaktown and the Civil War” and each tour member was given a copy of Dr. Clark’s new book by Earl Wallace.

Another fine Shaker meal started our second day, after which we were briefed on the battle of Perryville and the Kentucky campaign. Another charming Kentucky lady, Mrs. Joe Wallace boarded our bus at Harrodsburg to tell about the restoration of the old business district of Perryville. A tour of the town followed coffee with members of the Preservation Association. Dr. Hamleton Tapp joined us to lead the battlefield tour. We sat down at the battlefield park to enjoy lunch when we dramatically interrupted by an attack by a Confederate infantry unit supported by a howitzer! We then boarded the bus for a bluegrass tour to Lexington. Buddy Thompson of the Kentucky C.W.R.T. joined us and made old Lexington come alive.

Yet another surprise followed as we arrived at the Gen. Ben Hardin Helm place for a tour and cocktail party given by Joseph Murphy and his mother-in-law, Mrs. William Townsend. The home was filled by members of the Kentucky C.W.R.T. Many of Judge Townsend’s Lincoln relics were on display as well as furniture and paintings of the period. Following the reception we drove to our motel for Command Post and fun night. Dr. Holman Hamilton, president of the Kentucky C.W.R.T. spoke on the “War in Kentucky,” condensing a four-year period. Co-chairman Frank Rankin was given a document written and signed by Cassius Clay in thanks for his work on our behalf.

Sunday morning’s program put us at Whitehall at 9:45 where we were joined by Dr. Gerald McMurtry who spoke on “Judge Townsend and Whitehall”. Miss Esther Bennett, Cassius Clay’s great grand daughter was a surprise visitor. The restored home was greatly admired, especially by those who had seen it during its years of decay. Lunch at the University of Eastern Kentucky and a quick tour of the virtually non existent battlefield of Richmond were next. We then boarded the bus for another bluegrass tour leading to Farmington, the Joshua Speed home in Louisville. Ralph Newman told us about the Lincoln-Speed relationship on the way. The home is beautifully restored and we enjoyed our final surprise, tea in the lovely gardens. Farmington is within feet of a busy expressway and yet remains a charming quiet vestige of another era. We regretfully left for the airport and the end of our special fall tour.

The Round Table thanks Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Morris and Earl Wallace of Shaktown, Jeremiah Beam, Dr. Clark, Mrs. Joe Wallace and the Perryville Preservation Association, Mrs. Arthur Coyle and Joseph Tucker of Perryville, Dr. Tapp, The North-South Skirmish Association, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Allison of the Lexington cemetery, Mr. Murphy and Mrs. Townsend, Mr. Houchin of Holiday Inns, Dr. Hamilton, Dr. McMurtry, Miss Bennett, Mr. Archer of Whitehall, Dr. Martin of E.K.U., David Green of Richmond, Mrs. Lyons Brown Jr. of Farmington, bus driver Henry Mattax, Stanley Sherman of division travel service, Marshals Jack Kaluf, Ward Smidt, and Gordon Whitney, Pete Long, Registrar Margaret April, and Co-chairman Frank Rankin for making this top flight tour possible. Brooks Davis, tour chairman

Robert H. Fowler of Civil Times Illustrated, who was our June 9, 1972, speaker, announced that the National Historical Society is co-sponsor with the American Commemorative Council of a series of heirloom plates, The Southern Landmark Series to be issued two a year, first of which commemorates Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello. Price of each plate is $36, including shipping, and orders may be sent to the Council, P.O. Box 5531, Birmingham, Ala. 35201.

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The CWRT of Milwaukee got off to an early start on the American Revolution Bicentennial with a talk scheduled for Nov. 8, 1972, by Dr. John Krugler of Marquette on “Causes of the American Revolution.”


Treliese, Allen W. Reconstruction, the Great Experiment. N.Y.: Harper Torchbooks. Wrappers. $2.95.


Fox, Gustavus Vasa. Confidential Correspondence of Gustavus Vasa Fox, Assistant Secretary to the Navy, 1861-1865.

BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle Street, second Friday in each month except as noted.

January 12: Speaker to be announced.
February 9: Speaker to be announced.

May 10: 10th Anniversary of Battlefield Tour, Gettysburg and the Army War College, Carlisle, Pa.
June 8: George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director, National Parks Service.

NEW MEMBERS

Stanley Balzekar, Jr. 8315 S. Latrobe Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60632

Theodore Karrison 3815 Mt. Prospect Road Franklin Park, Illinois 60131

F. T. Brandt 9 Crescent Place, Apt. #2517 Addison, Illinois 60101

George L. Karrison 6786 N. Ardmore Chicago, Illinois 60631

Kenneth J. Sayce 2311 Wooddale Road Addison, Illinois 60101

Change of Address

Chris W. Butzen
1010 F. Margarite Drive
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15216

William G. Steffey
9 Crescent Place, Apt. #2517
Toronto 13, Ontario, Canada

George F. Kauffman of York, Pa., writes to note that a new tour of Gettysburg arranged for visitors by the National Park Service eliminates the National Cemetery, scene of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and Culp's Hill where Spangler's Spring and the Indiana State Monument are located. Park Superintendent Jerry L. Schober explains the change as allowing visitors "to see more of historic Gettysburg and to tour the field in a more nearly chronological order." He also states that the "Culp's Hill area will become an alternate tour." Maybe we can add this to subjects to be debated during our own proposed Gettysburg Tour.

Edited by Robert Means Thompson and Richard Wainwright.
