REV. JOHN SCHILDT ON ROADS TO GETTYSBURG

Millions of words have been written about the Battle of Gettysburg itself. Less often told, however, is the story of how the Army of the Potomac got there. That tale, including what it was like for the men in the ranks and the citizens along the roads to Gettysburg is what Rev. John Schildt will tell at the Round Table meeting on October 10.

With the aid of slides, Rev. Schildt will help us experience the heat, rain and mud faced by the soldiers on the long march from the banks of the Rappahannock to the fields of Gettysburg. The approximately 110,000 federal troops involved, marching four abreast, made a column between two and three miles long. The 22 supply wagons, 50 ambulances, and 26 guns accompanying them stretched it out over a 10 to 18 mile distance. Thus, the head of the first corps might be in Mechanicstown (modern day Thurmont) while the end of the column was just leaving Frederick. One student says that Rev. John Schildt the Army of the Potomac lined up in military column would have covered 84 miles on the road to Gettysburg. (According to the O.R.'s and a West Point study, over 55,000 horses and mules were needed to pull the wagons, ambulances, cannon, and for officer mounts.)

On the way to Gettysburg the troops passed such towns as Gum Springs, Trappe Rock, Jefferson, Walkersville, Graceham, Frizzellburg, Uniontown, and Hanover. These and many other places are all part of the story of the march to Gettysburg that our speaker will recount.

(Rev. Schildt's great grandmother, who lived in New Midway, Maryland, was able to give him a first hand account since many soldiers, including General Meade, went right by her door).

It was overhearing his great grandmother talk of hiding the horses and silverware and feeding the soldiers that started Rev. Schildt on his quest for knowledge of the Civil War. He was born and raised in Frederick County, Maryland, and graduated from Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, West Virginia and Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. He taught in several secondary schools in Maryland and Pennsylvania and is currently pastor of Bethel United Methodist Church in Chewsville, Maryland and chaplain of the Western Maryland Hospital in Hagerstown. He is also President of the Hagerstown Civil War Round Table.

Rev. Schildt is the author of September Echoes, 1960, about the battle of Antietam; Drums Along the Antietam, 1972, which is a comprehensive history of the valley of the

394th REGULAR MEETING

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REV. JOHN SCHILDT
ON ROADS TO GETTYSBURG

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1980

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Como Inn
546 N. Milwaukee
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

NOTICE: MEETING SITE

As noted above, the October meeting will be held at the Como Inn, 546 N. Milwaukee (second floor). There is ample free parking (attendant parking at the door or self-park behind the restaurant). To reach the Como Inn via public transportation, take the 56 bus which runs west on Madison, north on Canal, and northwest on Milwaukee. Or, take the north-south subway line to Grand and transfer to the 65 bus which stops about one block south of the restaurant. The Como Inn will provide free transportation to the train stations after the meeting.

Antietam; Roads to Gettysburg, 1978; Four Days in October, 1979, the complete story of the visit of President Lincoln to Harpers Ferry and the valley of the Antietam; and, most recently, Roads from Gettysburg which describes how the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia moved from the fields of Gettysburg to the river at Williamsport, Maryland. He is currently working on new information about Jackson and Hunter McGuire.
THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940
18 East Chesnut 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 Ward C. Smidl, 1104 Whippoorwill Lane, Palatine, Illinois 60067.

The Oak Lawn Historical Society is featuring the Smithsonian Institution photopanel exhibition “Five Critical Elections”. Focusing on how elections have affected the political growth of the nation during particularly pressing times, the exhibition covers the election of Lincoln in 1860 as well as Jefferson in 1800, Jackson in 1828, McKinley in 1896 and Roosevelt in 1936. The exhibition is supplemented with items from the society’s collections. There is no charge for admission and the society is open Monday through Friday from 1–5 pm. Call 425-3424 for further information.

STANLEY FITZGERALD HORN
1889-1980
by Lowell Reidenbaugh

“He was a distinguished scholar and historian who took the time to share his knowledge with other people.”

“He was always patient, interested and courteous with younger historians. He respected the art and science of history and respected people who were seriously interested in it and tried to help them.”

“Meticulous in his work, with a passion for accuracy, he was generous with his knowledge and learning.”

The tributes were numerous following the death on August 25 of Stanley Horn, 91, at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Horn suffered a broken hip in a fall in his yard on July 19. His health generally deteriorated after that. He is survived by his wife, a son, and a daughter.

Professionally, Stanley Horn was known as “the voice of the Southern lumber industry” because of his affiliation, starting in 1908, with The Southern Lumberman, which he served as co-owner and editor after 1917. His greatest fame, however, derived from his Civil War books, including The Army of Tennessee, The Decisive Battle of Nashville, Gallant Rebel, The Robert E. Lee Reader, Boys' Life of Robert E. Lee, and Invisible Empire, the story of the original Ku Klux Klan.

An entertaining raconteur with a dry wit, Mr. Horn was in great demand as a speaker and he never disappointed his listeners. A native of the Nashville area (born on May 27, 1889), Mr. Horn received an honorary Doctor of Literature from the University of Chattanooga and was named an honorary member of the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Vanderbilt University.

Stanley Horn was the official Tennessee Historian, a former chairman of the Tennessee Historical Commission, chairman of the Civil War Centennial Commissions of Nashville and Tennessee, a former president of the state historical society, and a board member of the Sam Davis Home in Smyrna, Tennessee and the Carter House Association in Franklin. He was also involved in many other historic and professional associations.

His home reflected Mr. Horn’s numerous and varied interests in history. Included were mementoes from the Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson administrations as well as Pat Cleburne’s cane that featured a dagger that could be released by a handle mechanism. In addition, there was a chest containing letters by Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and other Confederate leaders. In his gentle humor, Mr. Horn would explain: “When the children were young we had a standing rule, in case of fire this chest went first, then we returned for the children.”

Well-traveled in the U.S. and Europe, Mr. Horn attempted life away from Nashville only once, in 1914, when he was an editorial writer for the Philadelphia Evening Ledger. His love for Nashville brought the experiment to an early conclusion.

In addition to his historic and lumbering interests, Mr. Horn maintained a lifelong affection for sports, once serving as co-owner of professional baseball clubs in Nashville and Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He never tired of spinning anecdotes from this little-remembered segment of his remarkable lifespan.
A FRIEND OF OUR ROUND TABLE
by Brooks Davis

Stanley Fitzgerald Horn, a giant in our Civil War history field, was a friend of The Round Table from the early days. He spoke first at the eighth meeting in 1941, then in 1942 at Harrogate, in 1944, in 1958 at Nashville (where he was made an Honorary Award Life Member), and in 1964. Many will remember meeting Mr. and Mrs. Horn during our tour to Nashville in 1977, where he gave each a minie ball found in or near his yard. (Mr. Horn’s yard contained over 90 labeled tree varieties and it was there that he fell while pulling down a dead limb.) Our Round Table recently honored him with the designation of a special Nevis-A-Freeman Award which would have been presented to him shortly in Nashville.

Stanley Horn’s books on the lumber industry and the Civil War were classics (The Army of Tennessee has gone through over 15 editions). He was a master in his field, as anyone debating him without full knowledge of the facts soon found out, and his stories of his field research were legendary, as was his sharp wit.

We shall miss him.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The variety of uniforms appearing on the backs of Northern soldiers in 1861 was almost as great as the number of different local and state militia units responding to the call to arms. Providing a look at this diversity of uniforms for the 68 members and guests who attended The Round Table meeting on September 5 was C. Craig Caba. He enhanced understanding of the subject through the use of slides.

Caba began his talk by discussing what the militia was, and what it did. The militia, he explained, was made up of civilians who served their towns through a military style organization. It existed for survival—to protect home and family from Indians, slave risings, fires, and floods. However, particularly in urban centers, men were seldom tested in battle or emergencies. In many ways the militia was more like a club and served as an important social institution. Men would enlist in units of their own choosing and wore gaudy uniforms of incredible variety—units tried to outdo each other with better, fancier uniforms. For styles, they often looked to Europe.

When the call to arms went out in 1861, men responded with enthusiasm. At this time, as Caba pointed out, the safety of Washington depended on the militia since the U.S. Army was so small. By May 3, 1861, Lincoln had authorized a half million man army, but the quartermaster lacked supplies for these troops. Thus, during 1861, it was up to the states to provide for their needs.

At this point Caba began showing slides of various militia soldiers, describing the background of their unit and providing some detail about their uniforms. The 8th New York, for example, which wore gray, had paraded in Richmond before the War, and their uniforms influenced the Confederate gray. Caba pointed out that the 8th fought at Bull Run in gray. The 39th New York, the Garabaldi Guards, was made up of men from Germany and Austria as well as Italy. Thus, there was a strong German influence on the uniforms—tyrolean hats, for example.

Turning his attention to the manufacture of uniforms, Caba noted that the North had superior industry—it early switched to machinery for production (the sewing machine revolutionized clothing manufacturing). Standard styles simplified production too, and relatively unskilled labor could be used. The rate of pay for women workers in 1861 was $7.50 per shirt; by 1864 it was only $5 per shirt. However, profits for the factory owners were high. Some producers further added to their profits by cheating. For example, uniforms were sold by the pound and manufacturers would wet those in the center to add to the weight.

The standard blue uniform was finally adopted in March, 1862. However, as Caba pointed out, a number of units continued to wear their own uniforms throughout the War.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

Manassas—The Senate Subcommittee on Parks & Recreation held hearings on S. 1857 on September 3 and revisions were being made in the bill at the time this newsletter went to press. However, no details were available. (S. 1857, in its original version, would add only about 700 acres to the Manassas battlefield whereas the House-passed version of the bill, HR 3098, would add over 1,700 acres, including all of the Brawner Farm.) Although the House version (sponsored by Rep. Herbert Harris) has passed on several occasions, opponents of Manassas expansion have prevented the measure from coming to a vote in the Senate during the past two sessions of Congress. Your views on this matter, including both the extent of expansion and the need for action, can be communicated to your senators.

Gettysburg—In order to properly interpret the battle action at Gettysburg, a number of trees need to be cut down, especially in the Devil’s Den area (a number of trees also need to be planted). There has been some hue and cry over the cutting of trees and the congressman for the district, William Goodling, is considering whether a Congressional investigation is needed. Comments on this matter should be sent to Representative Goodling, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Petersburg—The Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority are making plans to construct a 100-unit housing project immediately adjacent to the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield Park. The National Parks Conservation Association has said that “the location for this public housing project on the border of Petersburg NBP could have an irreversible and damaging effect on the Park.” The National Park Service is also opposes to the project. The local housing authority has been unable to provide proper maintenance for two other existing projects on the boundaries of the park and the residents of these projects have inflicted acts of vandalism on park property and created security problems. Views on this matter should be sent to your representative and senators.

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Fellow member William J. Sullivan has been elected Regional Vice President for region five of the Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums. Region five consists of the counties of Cook, Will, Kane, DuPage, McHenry and Lake.

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A reminder to all members—1980-81 dues must be paid by November 1. Persons who have not paid by that date will be dropped from the rolls.
THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)


Mitgang, Herbert, ed. Lincoln as They Saw Him: His Life and Times from the Original Newspaper Documents of the Union, the Confederacy, and Europe. New York: Octagon Books, 1980. c1971. Reprint. $25.00


Saun, Lewis O. The Popular Mood of Pre-Civil War America. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, c1980. $29.95


Honorary Award Life Member Don Russell was the speaker at the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table’s September meeting. Don talked to them about "The Ignored General—John Gibbon." Former newsletter editor Marshall Krolick spoke to the Lynchburg, Virginia, Round Table on September 16. His subject was "Stuart’s Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign."

BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular Meetings are held the second Friday in each month except as noted.

October 10: Rev. John Schildt on “Roads to Gettysburg”. Meeting will be held at the Como Inn, 546 N. Milwaukee.

November 14: Dr. Gordon Dammann on “Civil War Medical Instruments and Equipment—Illustrated”. Meeting will be held at the Como Inn.

December 12: Robert G. Hartze on “General Van Dorn”. Meeting will be held at the Midland Hotel.

January 9: Howard C. Westwood on “The Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War”.

February 13: Marshall D. Krolick on “Stuart’s Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign”.

March 13: To be announced.

April 10: 400th Regular Meeting.

April 29-30: Annual Battlefield Tour to Vicksburg.

May 8: Archie P. McDonald on “Jed Hotchkiss, Jackson’s Topographer”.

June 5: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and installation of officers. Recipient of award: James I. Robertson, Jr.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Wieboldt’s Men’s Grill, 9th Floor, State and Madison; all members welcome.

NEW MEMBER

Matt E. Lorenz, 2651 S. Central Park, Chicago 60623 (522-0142). Matt teaches theory and composition at the Chicago Conservatory. He is interested in military aspects of the War, Lincoln, and Civil War bands and music.

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According to an archeologist from Texas A & M University, if the Confederate ironclad Georgia is to be salvaged from the Savannah River, the river will have to be dammed. Ervan Garrison, who has led a team of divers from the college and the Army Corps of Engineers, said a dam would allow divers to work in clear, still water instead of a muddy, swift-flowing current. Money for such a dam would require Federal funds, and could not be expected until late 1981, if at all. In the meantime, divers will continue to work on the perimeter of the wreck and scour the channel for items that fell out of the ironclad. They will also try to determine if it should be raised.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

An important executive committee meeting will be held at the Como Inn at 5:00 pm. on Oct. 10, just prior to the regular meeting. The main item of the agenda is the site of future meetings. All current officers, trustees, and committee chairmen, as well as all past presidents, are urged to attend.