Third Annual Assembly
Lt. General U.S. Grant—The Civil War Years

His collaborator in Union victory and the man who developed the theory of 'total warfare' in bringing the war to the civilian populace, William T. Sherman, wrote of his supreme commander: "Each era creates its own agents, and General Grant more nearly than any other man impersonated the American character of 1861-65. He will stand as the typical hero of the Great Civil War." At The Round Table's Third Annual Assembly on March 15, at the Holiday Inn in Hillside, eight historians of national reputation will review and discuss the most interesting and controversial aspects of General Grant's service in the Civil War.

Activities begin on the preceding evening, March 14, 1986, with a dinner meeting of the U.S. Grant Association, at which Dr. Richard N. Current will speak on "President Grant and the Carpetbaggers, 1872." The cost of the dinner is $15.00. A reception and book sale for Assembly participants will also be held Friday evening, with the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop and Civil War Enterprises having their books on display. Our member, Bill Margeson, will have some 50 lithographs of General Grant on exhibit.

The Assembly itself begins on Saturday morning with remarks by Dr. John Y. Simon, professor of history at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale and vice president of the U.S. Grant Association. Dr. Simon's remarks will deal with Grant as commander of the Union armies. Unlike his predecessors, Grant had been able to see the war in its essence—that as long as the Confederacy was an undivided unit, Lee and Davis could shift its military forces to any location where they were needed. He also realized that the capture of specific cities or areas was not the answer; if the Union was to be successful, he and Sherman must combine to destroy the rebel armies opposing them.

The 1985 recipient of our Nevins-Freeman award, Dr. Simon has served since 1962 as editor of The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, with 25 volumes projected and 14 volumes now in print. Other works published by Dr. Simon include Ulysses S. Grant Chronology (1963); General Grant by Matthew Arnold with a Rejoinder by Mark Twain (1966); "A Lieutenant's View of Shiloh," Confederate Historical Society Journal (1964); "An Illinois Soldier at Vicksburg," Manuscripts (1967); and "Chattanooga Campaign" and "Battle of (continued on page 2)

Grant’s Civil War career began in somewhat inauspicious fashion with his attack on the Confederate encampment at Belmont, Missouri. Though directed by his commander, John C. Fremont, to make a demonstration down the Mississippi toward Columbus, Kentucky, Grant converted the directive into an attack. Though initially successful, his troops turned to looting the camp and after reforming them, he led them back to their boats for a hasty retreat. Tom Arliskas, a longtime student of this battle, will discuss Grant’s decision to attack, whether an order to attack even was issued by Fremont’s headquarters in St. Louis, and whether Grant’s report of the action was candid and accurate.

A graduate of St. Joseph College at Rensselaer, Indiana, Tom is an active member of the 46th Illinois Infantry regiment (reactivated), as well as an avid collector of Illinois Civil War memorabilia. He has addressed several Round Tables, as well as the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, on topics relating to his keen interest in the Belmont-Columbus campaign. In his studies Tom has read every Illinois newspaper of the period.

After Grant was reinstated to command of the Army of the Tennessee on March 17, 1862, he ordered the concentration of all his forces (about 38,000) at Pittsburgh Landing, Tennessee. Though both Grant and his principal lieutenant, W. T. Sherman, knew that the larger Confederate army was only 22 miles distant, no entrenchments were constructed about the Union camp, no line of defense was established, no adequate system of reconnaissance was arranged and no plan of action was prepared. The two-day battle of Shiloh, the bloodiest in the Western theatre until Chickamauga, though claimed as a victory by both sides, was essentially a Northern victory. It forced the Confederacy to evacuate much of Tennessee and opened the way to the final splitting of the Confederacy along the Mississippi. Wiley Sword will offer his evaluation of Grant’s role in this extremely critical battle of the West, for which Grant never made an official report.

A sales representative for an automobile parts manufacturer, Wiley is a graduate of the University of Michigan and presently resides in West Bloomfield, Michigan. He devoted nearly ten years to the research and writing of Shiloh, Bloody April (1973), which was reprinted in 1983 by Morningside Press. Awaiting publication is a new work, Wounded Earth: The Indian War in the Old Northwest 1790-1795. Among his collection of arms are inscribed pieces carried by Generals Judson Kilpatrick, Sterling ‘Pap’ Price and Alexander S. Webb. His writings include data on the Berdan Sharps rifle, the firearms of Custer’s 7th Cavalry, and a monograph on the Confederate Enfield rifle.

A controversial action on Grant’s part was the issuance of General Order No. 11, dated December 17, 1862, which cited the ‘Jews as a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department… and are hereby expelled from the department within 24 hours of the receipt of this order.’ Although the order was rescinded through the efforts of Halleck and President Lincoln on January 4, 1863, the issuance of this order severely damaged Grant’s reputation. Marshall Krolick will give his views on the effects of this unusual order on American Jewry and the American people at large.

A graduate of Drake University, Marshall received his
degree in law from Northwestern University in 1962. Our resident expert on the Gettysburg campaign and Civil War cavalry, he lectures frequently to schools, civic organizations and other Round Tables on these subjects. In 1985 he completed the editing of Abner Hard's The Eighth Illinois Cavalry, published by Morningside Press. He is presently preparing a study of the 1st Virginia Cavalry for the Virginia Regimental History series, and is also at work on the papers of William Brooke-Rawle, an officer of the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry. A Life member and past president of the Round Table, he is a partner in the Chicago law firm of Deutsch, Levy & Engel.

Frustrated in his attempts in late 1862 and early 1863 to capture Vicksburg, which would give the Union army control not only of the Mississippi but also of the Confederacy's only remaining railroad leading east from that river, Grant sought a different plan. In combination with Rear Admiral David D. Porter's fleet of ironclad gunboats and transports, he moved his army to the east bank of the river on April 30, 1863. Abandoning his communications, Grant skillfully interposed his army between the forces of Johnston and Pemberton, and struck quickly and vigorously. With his right he defeated Johnston and forced him out of Jackson; with his left he defeated Pemberton at Champion's Hill. Pemberton withdrew to the fortifications of Vicksburg on May 20, 1863, and the siege ended with the surrender of its defenders on July 4, 1863. Ed Bearss, chief research historian of the National Park Service, will provide his insights on this pivotal campaign that sealed the fate of the Confederacy in the West.

The recipient of our Nevins-Freeman Award in 1980, Ed for many years served as the principal guide on our annual Battlefield Tours. A native of Billings, Montana, he grew up on a ranch near Hardin, Montana, close to the Custer battlefield at Little Big Horn. He received his Master's degree in history from Indiana University and began his career in the National Park Service at Vicksburg in 1955 as park historian. While he did research that led to the lost resting place of the Union gunboat 'Cairo.' Among his many awards is the Distinguished Service Award of the Department of the Interior, presented in 1983, which noted, in part, that he is 'unquestionably the most productive historian in the history of the National Park Service.' Evidence of that productivity are such published works as Decision in Mississippi: Mississippi's Important Role in the War between the States (1962); Hardluck Ironclad: The Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo (1966); and Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads and in North Mississippi in 1864 (1979). The first volume of his extensive study of the Vicksburg campaign, Vicksburg, is the key, was published in 1985.

After Rosecrans had been badly defeated at Chickamauga (September 19-20, 1863) and penned in at Chattanooga, Bragg, perched on Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain, was in control of all approaches and waited for the Union army to starve and surrender. Grant, now in supreme command in the West, replaced Rosecrans with Thomas and ordered him to hold Chattanooga "at all hazards." When Sherman and his troops arrived to assume position on the Union left, Grant was ready to undertake a general offensive. Thomas made a reconnaissance in force on November 23rd and took Orchard Knob, securing favorable ground for the decisive action of the next two days. On the 24th Lookout Mountain was captured by Hooker's troops, and on the 25th Thomas' troops of the

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3rd Annual Assembly Schedule

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Coffee and rolls</td>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
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<td>9:05</td>
<td>Introduction: Ralph G. Newman</td>
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<td>9:10</td>
<td>JOHN Y. SIMON: GRANT AS COMMANDER</td>
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<td>10:10</td>
<td>Introduction: Robert Ziegler</td>
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<td>10:15</td>
<td>TOM ARLISKAS: GRANT AT BELMONT</td>
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<td>10:40</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>10:50</td>
<td>Introduction: Jerry Warshaw</td>
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<td>10:55</td>
<td>WILEY SWORD: GRANT AT SHILOH</td>
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<td>11:55</td>
<td>Introduction: Charles Wesselhoeft</td>
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<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>MARSHALL KROLICK: GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 11</td>
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<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:45</td>
<td>Introduction: C. Robert Douglas</td>
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<td>ED BEARSS: GRANT AT VICKSBURG</td>
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<td>2:45</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>2:55</td>
<td>Introduction: Terry Carr</td>
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<td>3:00</td>
<td>GORDON WHITNEY: GRANT AT CHATTANOOGA</td>
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<td>3:30</td>
<td>Introduction: Marvin Sanderman</td>
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<td>3:35</td>
<td>ROBERT KRICK: FROM THE RAPIDAN TO THE JAMES</td>
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<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>4:45</td>
<td>Introduction: Paul Kliger</td>
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<td>4:50</td>
<td>RICHARD SOMMERS: GRANT AT PETERSBURG</td>
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<td>5:40</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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<td>5:50</td>
<td>Adjournment</td>
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There will be a brief discussion/question and answer session following each presentation.

Army of the Cumberland were ordered by Grant to seize the rifle pits at the base of Missionary Ridge. They were successful and, without orders, continued upward and carried the lines on the crest, driving the Confederates from the heights in complete rout. Gordon Whitney, a keen student of campaigns and personalities in the Western theatre, will give his insights on the battles around Chattanooga in late 1863.

A past president of both the Chicago and Louisville Round Tables, Gordon is currently forming a new Round Table in Madison, Indiana, a historic community on the Ohio River where he and his wife have the residence. Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he spent most of his adult life in Hammond, Indiana, where he served for 23 years as a member of its fire department, rising to the rank of senior captain. His strong interest in the Civil War comes naturally, as his relatives served in both the 1st Michigan Cavalry and the 22nd Michigan infantry.

After the victories around Chattanooga, Grant was made general in chief of all Union armies on March 12, 1864, and took over the strategic direction of the war. Bob Krick will discuss the battles of the Army of the Potomac in Grant's plan of enveloping Lee's right flank. The fighting began with the battle of the Wilderness (May 5-7), a tactical duel; the fighting for Spotsylvania Court House (May 7-20), a hard won Union victory; the North Anna River (May 23-27); and Cold Harbor (May 31-June 3), where a bloody repulse cost 7,000 Union casualties in a half hour of

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flying.

A native of New Jersey, Bob Krick moved to California where he earned a B.A. in U.S. history from Pacific Union College and a Master's degree in military history from San Jose University (1967). As author or editor, his works include Parker's Virginia Battery C.S.A. (1975); Lee's Colonels: A Biographical Register of the Field Officers of the Army of Northern Virginia (1979); and for the Virginia Regimental History Series, The 9th Virginia Cavalry (1982), The 30th Virginia Infantry (1983) and The 40th Virginia Infantry (1985). Chief historian at the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, he is currently preparing a book on the battle of Cedar Mountain.

By mid-June, Grant had crossed the James and nearly captured Petersburg, rail center for the Confederate capital. Lost opportunities, hesitant leadership by some subordinates and a brave Confederate defense cost him the city, so he settled down to besiege it. Richard Sommers will describe the actions of both sides in the 9-month siege that would find Lee forced out of his entrenchments and on the road to surrender at Appomattox Court House on April 9th.

Currently the chief archivist-historian at the U.S. Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, Dick Sommers received his B.A. degree from Carleton College and did his doctoral work at Rice University. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Papers of Jefferson Davis and is a frequent contributor to Civil War Times Illustrated and Civil War History. He is the author of Richmond Redeemed: The Siege at Petersburg (1981) and wrote the text entitled 'Petersburg Besieged' for Volume VI of The Image of War, 1861-65. He has been an active member of the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Round Table, serving it as president, vice-president, editor and program chairman.

We report with sadness the death, on February 17, of long-time member and Honorary Life Member Don Russell. He was 87. Don was a former Chicago newspaperman who, in 1938, covered the 75th anniversary reunion of the veterans of the Battle of Gettysburg. He was also an expert on Buffalo Bill Cody and George Custer, and was a founder of the Westerners organization. Don served the Round Table in many ways through the years, including editing this newsletter. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family.

Fellow member Dennis Read will lead a Civil War Tour Class from Judson College from May 12-June 3, 1986. The tour, open on both a credit and non-credit basis to members of The Civil War Round Table and their families, will include Gettysburg, Washington, D.C., Manassas, Fredericksburg, Richmond, Williamsburg, Berkeley Plantation, Petersburg, Appomattox, the Shenandoah Valley, Antietam and Harpers Ferry. The non-credit cost is $650. A $100 deposit is required by April 15. For further information, contact Dennis Read, Judson College Library, 1151 N. State St., Elgin, Illinois 60120 (312) 695-2500 x203.

The first annual Gulf Coast Civil War Conference will be held in Tampa, Florida March 28-29, 1986. It will feature Robert Krick, Chief Historian at Fredericksburg, Dr. Richard McMurry of North Carolina State, and James W. Thompson, Historian-in-Chief, Sons of Confederate Veterans. The cost is $125 for Civil War Round Table Associates and $150 for non-members ($10 discount if paid by March 10). The fee includes all sessions and meals, but not lodging. For further information, contact CWRT Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 (501) 225-3996.

The wreckage of a 173-foot Union troop transport was found in the St. John's River near Switzerland, Florida, last May. The ship, the Maple Leaf, was built by Dr. Keith Holland, a Jacksonville dentist and president of St. John's Archeological Expeditions, Inc. The transport, carrying the camps and baggage of the 112th and 169th New York regiments and the 13th Indiana, struck a Confederate mine on April 1, 1864. Sixty-five people were killed.

Sharpsburg and the area around the Antietam battlefield has remained virtually untouched by 20th century encroachment. Recently, however, the Washington County, Maryland, Commissioners rezoned an agricultural area south of town (Grove Farm) to permit the construction of a shopping center. The local zoning commission had advised against the move, but the Commissioners did it anyway.

The Harpers Ferry Round Table newsletter reports that the controversy has attracted much media attention and that the Commissioners are receiving considerable negative publicity. Some say they are worried about their political futures since 1986 is an election year. You are encouraged to add your voice to the effort to get the Commissioners to change their minds by writing a letter of protest to the Washington County Commissioners, c/o Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740. Whether or not the Commissioners rescind their decision, there is reason to hope for the area's preservation; the owner of the property is considering cancelling the contract with the developer and selling the land to the State of Maryland.
February meeting

On February 14, 1986, 98 members and guests met at the 448th Regular Meeting of The Civil War Round Table to hear noted Lincoln scholar Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr., discuss "Lincoln and Douglas: A Relationship to Consider."

Dr. Neely noted that when Stephen Douglas died in June, 1861, Senator Orville Browning (R-III) eulogized him on the Senate floor as a patriot. This is the popular opinion of Douglas. According to some historians, he was the supreme nationalist, a pragmatic man, and a problem solver.

During the period from Lincoln's election in November, 1860, to the firing upon Fort Sumter in April, 1861, Douglas worked tirelessly to keep the Southern states from leaving the Union and to entice those states which had already seceded to return. In the presidential election campaign of 1860, Douglas risked physical harm by campaigning in the Deep South and telling Southerners that secession was illegal.

After Fort Sumter was fired upon in April, 1861, Douglas became a "fire-eating Unionist." He was one of the first Northern Democrats to support the Northern war effort. He wrote a letter to Lincoln and warned him of the necessity of keeping Maryland in the Union and for the Union to retain control of Fortress Monroe and Harpers Ferry. Douglas addressed the Illinois legislature (both houses had Republican majorities) and in a rousing speech, he stated his support of Lincoln's policies. When Douglas was on his deathbed, he told his children to obey the laws and support the Constitution.

Although this supports the popular image that many Americans have of Stephen Douglas, Dr. Neely pointed out that there was another facet to the man. In March, 1861, one week before Lincoln's inauguration, Douglas wrote a 40-page paper proposing a way to solve the Secession Crisis and avoid a civil war. He advocated that the nation be divided into two sections, each would have its own government and court system. The most important feature of his plan was for trade and free use of the Mississippi River. Dr. Neely described this proposal as a half-hearted commercial union.

The Secession Crisis was a real crisis and Douglas was not alone in making proposals and compromises to avoid a civil war. Many of these proposals were considered impractical when first introduced. Dr. Neely discussed a plan written by Winfield Scott, then Commander of the U.S. Army. Scott wrote a letter to Lincoln in which he conceded that states have a right to secede but that also noted that under certain circumstances the federal government can use force to coerce a state from seceding.

Scott also proposed dividing the nation into four confederacies, based upon natural geographic boundaries. He even went so far as to select the capitals for these confederacies. As Dr. Neely pointed out, when you are a president facing a secession by several states and even your commander of the army approves secession, then you have a real crisis on your hands.

Dr. Neely stated that terms such as "nationalism," "patriotism," and "the Union" are difficult to define. Often they include a specific social context. If a man will go to war, he will fight for a certain ideal and that part of the country which he likes. Both Douglas and Lincoln loved the Union, but they loved different parts of the Union and loved it in different ways.

Douglas himself described his difference of views with Lincoln as irreconcilable. Douglas considered himself a pragmatic man and a problem solver. That's why he supported the concept of popular sovereignty where the voters would decide to become a free state or slave state. He believed the Union could exist half slave and half free.

In summary, Dr. Neely said that Douglas' reaction to the Secession Crisis was typical of the man. His concept of nationalism was materialistic and provincial. He could not foresee the type of civil war that would be fought. Lincoln wanted a free republic, while Douglas saw the war as a fight to control the Mississippi River and felt that the government could not force the Southern states to abolish slavery.

A preservation group in Maryland is planning to restore the 163-year-old home of assassin John Wilkes Booth in northeast Maryland and turn it into a bed-and-breakfast setup. The non-profit Preservation Association for Tudor Hall asked the Maryland General Assembly last winter to provide $80,000 for the restoration, but one lawmaker said the money would be better spent burning it down and compared the idea to building a museum for Lee Harvey Oswald, who killed John F. Kennedy. The group has applied to the Maryland Historical Trust for a $161,000 restoration grant and a $100,000 low interest loan to be used for acquisitions. The Tudor Hall Association hopes to expand to five guest rooms, fill the house with period pieces, and open a small Lincoln library.

The Hodgenville (Kentucky) Rotary Club is trying to raise $18,000 to restore the bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln in the town square. Lincoln was born a couple of miles from where the statue stands, and about 300,000 visitors pass by each year on their way to the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. The statue was erected in 1909 and Robert Todd Lincoln attended the dedication ceremony. However, decades of exposure have taken their toll and the statue is now in terrible shape. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the restoration may contact the Lincoln Statue Restoration Fund, P.O. Box 87, Hodgenville, Kentucky 42748.

The Frederick Iron and Steel and Danzer Metal Works of Hagerstown, Maryland, recently completed a four-month project of rebuilding and restoring two 15-inch Rodman cannons. Rodmans were among the largest cannons used in the Civil War; they weighed about 30 tons and were capable of firing at targets 2½ miles away. The restored cannons will be mounted atop their original perch at Fort Foote, seven miles south of Washington, D.C. and three miles north of Fort Washington, overlooking the Potomac River in Maryland. Fort Foote was one of about 70 forts that formed a chain of defense around the nation's capital.

The Jackson Civil War Round Table in October acquired the Coker House at Champion Hill. Built in 1852, the Greek Revival house three miles southeast of Edwards was the site of an artillery skirmish when Union forces under Major General Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate forces under Lieutenant General John C. Pemberton met May 16, 1863. It was donated to the Round Table by Fred Adams, chief executive officer of Cal-Maine Foods, Inc.

The Jackson Round Table will attempt to restore the house to its original state. If you are interested in contributing to this effort, contact Jackson Civil War Round Table, c/o Mrs. A.P. Andrews, Apt. 816, 809 N. State St., Jackson, Mississippi 39201.


Michigan. Adjutant General. Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865. 46 vols. Being reprinted by Detroit Book Press, c/o John K. King Books, P.O. Box 363-A, Detroit, MI 48232. With an expanded history of each organization. They are starting off at $12.95 per volume.


Future meetings
Regular meetings are held at the Quality Inn, Halsted and Madison, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.
March 15: (Saturday) Third Annual Assembly on "Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant: The Civil War Years." Holiday Inn, Hillside, Illinois. Note: The Assembly will take the place of the usual second Friday of the month meeting.
April 11: Edgar Archer on "Orthopedic Surgery in the Civil War."
May 1-4: Annual Battlefield Tour: The 1862 Peninsula Campaign.
May 9: Gordon Whitney on "The President Will Now Make a Few Remarks."
June 6: James L. "Bud" Robertson on "Confederate General A. P. Hill." Note: This is the first Friday of the month.

New members
Sam and Sasha Adam, 9300 S. Michigan, Chicago, Illinois 60619 (312) 995-0793.
Mary Abrams, 5924 N. Paulina St., Chicago, Illinois 60660 (312) 271-3191.
John K. LaVerty, P.O. Box H-3003, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02741 (617) 997-1515 x2321.
Harry E. Von Erfelda, 84 Grape St., New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740 (617) 992-4024.

Change of address
Richard F. Lema, 140 East 9th St., Plainfield, New Jersey 07060.

Edwin Bearss, chief research historian of the National Park Service, recently received the Bill L. Wiley Award of The Civil War Round Table of New York for his dedication to Civil War research and battlefield narration. The award is given periodically to "honor those whose outstanding talents have contributed to a greater understanding and preservation of that which pertains to the Civil War." The award is named in memory of Dr. Bell L. Wiley, renowned author and educator. The only previous recipient was Jerry Russell, founder of Civil War Round Table Associates.

1986 Nevins-Freeman Award
The Round Table Executive Committee has selected Dr. Harold M. Hyman, William P. Hobby Professor of History at Rice University, as the recipient of the 1986 Nevins-Freeman Award. Dr. Hyman is the author of numerous books and articles relating to the Civil War and Reconstruction, and has spoken to The Round Table a number of times. The award will be presented at the Nevins-Freeman Award dinner September 12, 1986.