

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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January, 1962

## "Braxton Bragg: Misplaced General"-Dr. Grady McWhiney-January 12

Grady McWhiney, assistant professor of history at Northwestern University, and an occasional visitor at our meetings, will be the speaker on January 12, on "Braxton Bragg: Misplaced General." McWhiney's biography of Bragg will be published in 1962 by G. P. Putnam's.



Dr. Grady McWhiney

McWhiney grants that Bragg's name is enough to start an argument and that writers over a century have assigned him a low military reputation.

"Detractors range from Mary B. Chesnut - that nose-y chronicler of southern wartime activities - to Grantland Rice, late dean of American sportswriters," McWhiney said.

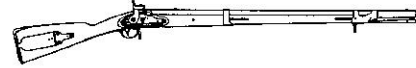
"Rather than defend Bragg, I have tried to understand him, to see him both as his contemporaries saw him and as he saw himself, to analyze and evaluate him by the standards of his age. I am not an apologist for Bragg. I agree that he was not an outstanding field general. His tactics lacked flexibility; he became unduly excited during battle, and either made hasty decisions or stuck too rigidly to predetermined plans. He was too engrossed in the details of moving, disciplining, organizing, and feeding his men to master the broader and more comprehensive duties of a battle leader. He lacked that quality all great commanders need - the mental strength and will to dominate whatever event or crisis occurs on the battlefield.

"Because Bragg was not a great battle captain, most writers make the mistake of dismissing him as an incompetent general. Such views ignore or minimize his real talents. Bragg was intelligent, diligent, and systematic; he was an outstanding organizer and trainer of troops.

"One of the most rigid disciplinarians in the Confederacy, Bragg also had a good understanding of the South's material and strategic needs. He was a poor field commander, but an excellent desk general. Because of his administrative ability, Bragg would have been most valuable to the Confederacy behind the lines, directing or planning operations. The irony of his career is that the South desperately needed, but inadequately used, his talents. He was a misplaced general whose greatest insights and abilities were squandered."

McWhiney is a native of Shreveport, La., and attended Centenary College there. He won his master's degree at Louisiana state and Ph.D. at Columbia. He served with the Marine Corps in the Pacific in World War II. He taught at Alabama State college, Millsaps, and University of California (Berkeley) before coming to Northwestern.

His publications include: co-authorship (with eight others) of "The Southerner as an American" (1960); co-editorship (with Douglas Southall Freeman) of "Lee's Dispatches to Jefferson Davis" (1957); and editorship



207th REGULAR MEETING

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Dr. Grady McWhiney

on

"Braxton Bragg: Misplaced General"

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1962

St. Clair Hotel  
162 East Ohio Street

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



ROBERT REILLY, who was the chief designer of our newsletter and whose artistry is apparent in the crisp drawings of our front page guns and rifles, faced a catastrophe recently. For 18 months he had been making pen and ink drawings of Civil War guns to illustrate a book he is writing on firearms. One morning his car door lock stuck. Bob laid the portfolio of drawings on a rear fender. When he got the door opened, he hopped in and drove off. Then he remembered the drawings. Gone! He retraced his route without success. In desperation he appealed to The Tribune, which ran an item on his misfortune. Mrs. Adelaide Pesek, office clerk at Our Lady of Ridge school, Chicago Ridge, saw the item. A pupil, Robert Wirth, 10, had picked up the portfolio and turned it over to her. It was restored to an overjoyed Bob Reilly.

of "Reconstruction and the Freedmen" (to be published by Rand McNally in 1962. He is now working on a military history of the Civil War which the University of Chicago Press will publish as a part of the Chicago History of American Civilization series.

Articles in scholarly magazines include: "Controversy in Kentucky: Braxton Bragg's Campaign of 1862," "Were the Whigs a Class Party in Alabama?," "Louisiana Socialists in the Early Twentieth Century," and "The Ghostly Legend of the Ku Klux Klan." His "John Pope" and other articles appear in Encyclopedia Americana and he has reviewed books for a number of publications.

McWhiney spoke to the Kentucky CWRT in Lexington in September and will speak to Milwaukee CWRT on January 17.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,  
Chicago 11, Illinois  
Phone: Whitehall 4-3085

## OFFICERS

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## Gettysburg Planning Advances

Planning is well advanced for the 12th annual battlefield tour, April 25-29. With the next issue of the newsletter, Chairman H. George Donovan will begin announcing in details. Principal attention is to Gettysburg, and there will be a on day side tour to Harper's Ferry and Antietam.

Transportation will be by air to Harrisburg, Pa., and then by bus. Headquarters will be at Gettysburg Hotel, with priority to air passengers. Overflow will go to Howard Johnson motor lodge, particularly for those joining by car. Dinners will be at Gettysburg Hotel. Fun Night will be at the Francis Scott Key hotel in Frederick, Md.

Members of Round Tables at Gettysburg, Harrisburg, and Hagerstown, Md. have expressed interest in joining us in part of our activities. And, as always, members from Milwaukee and Madison, Wis., are a special segment of our group. Members from any other Round Tables will be welcome.

ANTIETAM CENTENNIAL will be a high point of commemorations in 1962. Joining in the event is Hagerstown, Md., which will mark the 200th anniversary of its founding. An historical pageant, "Hills of Glory," featuring highlights of the battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg) and the growth of Hagerstown, will be performed 11 times from Aug. 31 to 16 at Hagerstown fairgrounds. On Sept. 17, anniversary of the battle, there will be a 31 mile parade from Hagerstown to Sharpsburg and back via Keedysville and Boonsboro. Re-activated Civil War units from thruout the United States are being invited to participate in a re-enactment on the battlefield. The battle is sometimes called the "bloodiest day of the Civil War." It was a turning point of the war and President Lincoln chose the time to make preliminary announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation. Various organizations have united in the Antietam-South Mountain Centennial Association, Inc., to sponsor the observance. Offices are at 29 E. Washington St., Hagerstown, Md.

from the  
Editor's pen



Doctors Arthur V. Bergquist, chairman, Harry M. Hetz, and Harry Haver of Ravenswood hospital staff, and Otto Eisenschiml, chemist and author, headed the panel which discussed Civil War Medicine and Surgery at the December 15 meeting. Ninety-five members and guests were present.

Slides were used as an aid to the discourse. Hetz noted that there was only one microscope in the Union army. Knowledge of bacteriology and pathology was lacking. There was a fight against infectious diseases. Typhoid and dysentery were among the greatest killers.

Haver pointed to the improvement in recovery of wounded soldiers in World War II and the Korean War as compared with the Civil War. He also noted that many Civil War surgeons were 4 or 5 month trainees and had never seen surgery before. Transfusions were unheard of. The germ theory was not used. Asepsis was not applied. There was a terrific rate of amputations. Abdominal wounds were highly fatal; 100 per cent of small ball injuries died; 59 per cent of large ball injuries lived. Nursing help was not what it was cracked up to be.

Eisenschiml dealt with "the drugs they didn't have." Some were obtained by capture from the enemy, some by smuggling, some through the blockade, and some were developed from home products. Quinine, morphine and chloroform were most needed. Medicines were made from 400 indigenous plants, but no scientific finding survived the war.

Bergquist told of the great loss from hospital gangrene. At the start of the war there was no rank and no money for the medical service. From no hospitals, at the start, there were about 200 on each side at the finish. Ambulances were the two wheel "avalanche" and the four wheel - both bone shaking.

The talks were well briefed and held the audience, but it was no surprise that there was no time left for discussion from the floor.

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See BULLETIN BOARD for action on ethical code for historical writers.

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The Round Table's night at Jazz Ltd. received considerable notice in press, radio and television. Most prominent was a picture spread in the Sunday Tribune of Nov. 26 with a spritely story by Mary Middleton.

"DEAR EVERYBODY," the monthly newsletter of our member Henry Bass, of Enid, Okla., is a mine of information on what's going on out that way. "Heinie," chairman of the Oklahoma Civil War Centennial commission, met with Prof. LeRoy Fischer, who founded the CWRT at Oklahoma State University - the only CWRT that gets college credit.

"Heinie" and LeRoy went over the terrain of Honey Springs, the biggest battle fought on Oklahoma soil in the Civil War. They decided that a campaign to make it a state recreational park would serve the dual purpose of commemorating the battle. Honey Springs was one of the first battles in which colored troops proved their mettle in combat and was the only Civil War engagement in which Colorado troops were engaged outside of skirmishes with wild tribesmen of plains and mountains.

Fischer heads a committee to authenticate events transpiring in Oklahoma during the war. The committee has prepared a map to form a permanent record. The state highway department will use it as the motif for the back of the state's official highway map.

## Nevins Heads National Commission

Dr. Allan Nevins was elected chairman at a meeting of the national Civil War Centennial Commission at a meeting on December 4. Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant III who resigned last September was named chairman emeritus.

Dr. James I. (Bud) Robertson, Jr., was named executive director to succeed Karl Betts. Bud has done an outstanding job as editor of CIVIL WAR HISTORY.

Dr. Nevins, historian and Pulitzer prize winning author, announced a deemphasis on battle reenactments, which he said will be left to local groups.

"Above all, our central theme will be unity, not division... We shall allow the just pride of no national group to be belittled or besmirched," Dr. Nevins said.

Battle reenactments were one point of dispute which led to a series of resignations from the commission in September.

Dr. Nevins said that in the next two years special emphasis would be placed on the Emancipation Proclamation.

"We shall use our energies and influence to help make the national commemoration of the Civil War both instructive and constructive," he said. "We shall promote the publication of books and the collection of sources, which will stand as a permanent memorial of this commemoration. We shall do what we can to make the principal events of the war, civil and military, more meaningful to teachers and students in the schools of the nation."

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SECESSION REPORT, written by John Mies and produced by Art Thorsen, and aired on radio WBBM Monday through Friday at 6:15 to 6:20 p.m., received the award for the best program in the historical field for 1961 in the midwest area from the American College of Radio Arts, Crafts and Sciences. The program is built around what happened day by day 100 years ago. Mies says that if anyone is interested in a special day, tapes are available.

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HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS has been granted by the National Park Service to Apache Pass, Arizona; Grenville M. Dodge house, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Fort Ruby, Nevada; Fort Fisher, North Carolina; and Glorieta Pass, New Mexico, all of which have some association with the Civil War.

The battle of Glorieta Pass, on March 26-28, 1862, ended a Confederate attempt to seize and hold a large portion of the southwest and its resources. The pass is also known as Apache canyon. Johnson's ranch, where the Confederate supply train was destroyed, has disappeared, but other key positions in the battle are identifiable.

Fort Fisher for nearly 4 years guarded the Confederate port of Wilmington, N. C. and was the last rebel port to fall. The large earthwork has suffered damage, but North Carolina is promoting a stabilization program.

Fort Ruby was established in late 1862 to protect stage and telegraph facilities to the west from Indian attacks. The fort was abandoned in 1869, but two original structures remain in good condition.

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NAVY FILMS AVAILABLE on the CIVIL WAR - "Story of the U. S. Navy in the Civil War," Part I and II - #FN-6943 E & F - 45 to 50 minutes; and "The Ship that Shook the World" - #MN-8419 - 27 minutes, a DuPont Cavalcade of America presentation of the story of the building of the U.S.S. Monitor. For film loan and information address Public Information Officer, 9th Naval District, Great Lakes, Ill.

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## BULLETIN BOARD

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE at a meeting November 30, studied and discussed a resolution offered by Judge Joseph Burke and adopted at the September 15 regular meeting when Dr. Otto Eisenschiml spoke and presented his suggested voluntary code for historical writers. The Burke resolution directed that the proposal be referred to the committee with directions to submit a report on adoption. The executive committee cast a negative vote on the Burke resolution and adopted the following:

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the code heretofore submitted by Otto Eisenschiml be and the same is hereby approved under the name "Otto Eisenschiml Suggested Code of Ethics and Procedure for Principles and Practices of Civil War Writers and Historians."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such approval be submitted to the members for vote.

The executive committee resolution was submitted to the membership at the December 15 meeting and was adopted unanimously.

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NEW MEMBERS: Oscar Getz, 1550 Lake Shore Dr., Chicago.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Dirk W. Kitzmiller to: 2323 W. 114th St., Chicago 43; Dr. Dan E. Pickle to: 979 E. 5205 S., Salt Lake City 17, Utah.

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AVAILABLE at meetings: Goldfinished CWRT lapel pin, \$1; Cloth patch of emblem, 50 cents.

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CIVIL WAR TIMES adds "Illustrated" to its title and comes out with some four color printing in its April, 1962, issue. Price is up from \$4.95 to \$7.50 to charter subscribers and \$9 regular, with \$1 for single copies - 10 a year. Robert H. Fowler continues as editor, and author Edward J. Stackpole is publisher. The prospectus promises "a fascinating new magazine" with regular features and articles by Bruce Catton, V. C. (Pat) Jones, Glenn Tucker, Dr. Otto Eisenschiml and others. The original CIVIL WAR TIMES has gone through three volumes - tabloid size the first year, and magazine size the next two. The December, 1961, issue featured "Nashville: The War's Most Decisive Battle," by our honorary award member, Stanley F. Horn.

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GEORGE L. CASHMAN, curator of the Lincoln Tomb and longtime secretary of the Springfield CWRT, will make two appearances in Chicago in January and Round Table members are invited to attend either or both. He will speak to the Exchange Club in Oak Park on Thursday evening, January 18, and to the High Twelve Club on the evening of January 19. Both dinners will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Oak Park Arms hotel at \$2.50 per plate. Reservations can be made with Claude Towne, 306 Keystone Ave., River Forest, phone FOrEst 9-6204.

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PAUL J. SEDGWICK, chairman of District of Columbia Civil War Centennial commission, suggests that April 9, 1965, be commemorated as "Heroes' Day" across the land in honor of the men who were the blue and the gray, rather than as surrender day. The newsletter of the D.C. commission notes that on Dec. 27, 1861, President Lincoln told Sen. Sumner (Mass.) that he was preparing an emancipation doctrine.



## THE NEW BOOKS



**THE STAKES OF POWER: 1845-1877**, by Roy F. Nichols (Hill and Wang, 256pp, \$4.50).

**BOOK REVIEW REFERENCE FOR A DECADE OF CIVIL WAR BOOKS, 1950-1960**, compiled by Dr. Leo P. Kibby (Spartan Book Store, San Jose, Calif., 64pp, \$4.30).

**ANTISLAVERY: The Crusade for Freedom in America**, by Dwight Lowell Dumond (U. of Michigan, 372pp, \$20).

**A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ANTISLAVERY IN AMERICA** (U. of Michigan, 119pp, \$10).

**BLACK MOTHER: The Years of the African Slave Trade**, by Basil Davison (Little, Brown, 290pp, \$6.50).

**A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF KENTUCKY HISTORY**, by J. Winston Coleman, Jr. (U. of Kentucky, 516pp, \$15). Reprint.

**THE GALVESTON WAR: The Texas Crescent on the Eve of Secession**, by Earl Fornell (U. of Texas).

**VALIANT HOURS: An Irishman in the Civil War**, by Thomas Francis Galway (Stackpole).

**THE CONFEDERACY**, by Lamont Buchanan (Crown). Reprint.

**AMERICAN JEWRY AND THE CIVIL WAR**, by Bertram W. Korn (Meridian). Reprint.

**RICHARD HENRY DANA, 1815-1882**, by Samuel Shapiro (Michigan State).

**HOUSE UNDIVIDED**, by Allen E. Roberts (356pp, \$5, Educational Bureau, Royal Arch Masons, Box 529, Trenton, Mo.) Story of freemasonry and the Civil War.

**CIVIL WAR BATTLES IN WINCHESTER AND FREDERICK COUNTY, Va., 1861-1865**, 24 page booklet, Frederick County centennial commission.

**SHERIDAN IN THE SHENANDOAH**, by Edward J. Stackpole (Stackpole, Co., 413pp, \$5.95).

**THE BATTLE OF ATLANTA AND THE GEORGIA CAMPAIGN**, by William Key (Twayne, 92pp, \$3).

**ALABAMA CENTENNIAL** commission has reproduced a booklet listing military incidents in that state and a map showing sites where they took place. This appeared originally in the spring issue of the Alabama Historical quarterly, published by the state department of Archives and History.

**RICHMOND, Va.**, centennial committee has published a list of more than 160 business firms, societies, organizations and churches which date to Civil War times.

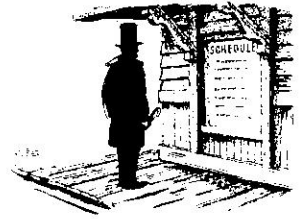
**DR. CHESTER D. BRADLEY**, co-chairman and curator, Fort Monroe Casemate (Jefferson Davis) Museum, Fort Monroe, Va., reports that two long-forgotten casemates in the West Bastion of the fort have been cleaned out and opened to the public. It is planned to place an 8-inch Columbiad in one of the casemates.

**FROM ROCK ISLAND** county centennial commission comes this story:

Jennie Rodgers, 18, an Irish girl, enlisted and served in Company G, 95th Illinois Infantry, as Albert E. J. Cashier, trained at Rockford, and was remembered as an especially good soldier. Her identity was discovered only after the war when she was admitted to Quincy Soldiers and Sailors home with a broken leg.

During the Civil War the penalty for desertion was death, but in spite of the many thousands of deserters, the record shows that only one hundred and twenty-one men actually paid that price for their temporary freedom. - Springfield (Ill.) CWRT.

## FUTURE MEETINGS



Friday, Feb. 15 - "Some New Lights on the Lincoln-Pickett Relationship," Rev. Landry Genosky, O.F.M.

Friday, March 16 - "Antietam," Lloyd Miller.

Wednesday, April 11 - Dr. Richard D. Mudd.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday, Jan. 18 - George L. Cashman, curator of Lincoln Tomb, at Oak Park Exchange Club; Jan. 19, Cashman at High Twelve Club and dinner at Oak Park Arms.

Feb. 1-2 - "Our American Cousin," play on stage at Ford's theater the night Lincoln was shot. In theater of Chicago Historical society, Dr. Paul M. Angle, director. No admission, but limit of two tickets.

April 12-14 - Andrews Raid commemoration (The Great Locomotive Chase), Atlanta to Chattanooga.

April 25-29 - Chicago CWRT, 12th Annual Battlefield Tour, to Gettysburg, Harper's Ferry, and Antietam.

Aug. 31-Sept. 17 - Battle of Antietam centennial, and founding of Hagerstown, Md. (Bicentennial).



**DR. OTTO EISENSCHIML** has been a busy speaker before various groups - among them, Nov. 21, Twin Cities CWRT, on his book, "The Hidden Face of the Civil War," and Nov. 29, CWRT of Dayton, Ohio, on "Stories Behind My Books" .... **PETE LONG** spoke Dec. 4 on "First Bull Run" to a meeting of Fort Wayne, Ind., CWRT.

**MRS. EVA W. DAVIS**, director of Old Court House Museum, and recipient of our distinguished service award during the battlefield tour to Vicksburg last spring, has been nominated for the Federal Foundation Award for 1961 for the work she has done in the museum, historical society, and in public relations. "Miss Eva" has our best wishes in the competition for the award.

**THE GENERAL**, one of the locomotives which figured in the Andrews Raid (Great Locomotive Chase), will be on tour after a reenactment, April 12-14, 1962. Requests for visits by The General, or itinerary information, should be addressed to Warren A. McNeill, Director of Public Relations, Louisville and Nashville, Railroad, Louisville, Ky.

**AT SAYLOR'S CREEK** battlefield park, a memorial plaque has been dedicated to the late Wilmer R. Turner for his work in preserving the route and battlefield of Lee's Retreat. A 37 mile Explorer Scout trek named for Turner and following the route from Saylor's Creek to Appomattox has been an annual event of the Piedmont Area Council since 1957 .... The CENTENNIAL MUSEUM and ELECTRIC MAP of Jackson's Valley Campaign is tentatively scheduled to open at Harrisburg, Va., on March 23, 1962.