

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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February, 1962

## Gen. George E. Pickett in Illinois - Rev. Landry Genosky, Feb. 15

AN ENIGMATIC CHARACTER of the CIVIL WAR will be under discussion at our 208th Regular meeting, Thursday, February 15, at the St. Clair hotel.



Rev. Landry Genosky

Rev. Landry Genosky, O.F.M., of the history department of Quincy (Ill.) College, will speak on "Some New Lights of the Lincoln-Pickett Relationship."

"Pickett's Charge" at Gettysburg fixed his name in history. But in the background of George E. Pickett are a number of mysteries.

Pickett, a Virginian, took up residence in Quincy, Ill., in 1840 with his uncle, Andrew Johnston, a lawyer and founder of the Quincy Whig. Pickett moved there to obtain an appointment to West Point from Illinois. The competition for appointments was keener in Virginia.

There are claims that Lawyer Abraham Lincoln, well known to Quincy, aided Pickett in obtaining the appointment, and also that Lincoln visited the Pickett family in April, 1865, on his tour of captured Richmond. Most historians dispute these claims.

While living two years in Quincy, Pickett was a popular amateur actor. Frequently he took female roles in stage productions. This followed the custom of the day, when it was considered improper for women to appear on the stage.

Father Genosky directed his research toward Pickett's acquaintance with Lincoln during these years. Some of this background is found in Norma Lorene Johnston's "Lincoln's Relationship with Four Quincy Republicans" 'Archibald Williams, Andrew Johnston, Abram Jonas, and O. H. Browning) and "Lorenzo Bull's Reminiscences, in Quincy, Past and Present."

Father Genosky started his research in 1958 when he received a letter from R. E. Stivers, of Kensington, Md. Stivers, who had been working on a Pickett biography since 1953, had discovered among the Pickett letters that about 50 out of 100 pertained to Pickett's stay in Illinois. Hitherto none have been published. Father Genosky has devoted his free time to the study of Pickett in Illinois.

"My paper will center on the characters, conjectures and myths of the Pickett appointment to West Point, especially Lincoln's role in this appointment," Father Genosky said. "The talk will be based almost exclusively on material hitherto unpublished, though Mrs. LaSalle Corbett Pickett's works ("Pickett and His Men" 1895 and "What Happened to Me" 1917) will be considered.

"Though my paper will be concentrated on Pickett's stay in Illinois, there are other 'vexing questions' regarding Pickett: His role in the Mexican War, the San Juan affair, his conduct at Gettysburg, and his so-called 'murder' of twenty-three Confederate soldiers in North Carolina, not to mention his relationship with Gen. Butler and his final pardon."



208th REGULAR MEETING

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Rev. Landry Genosky, O.F.M.

on

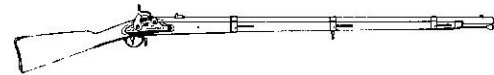
"Some New Lights on the Lincoln-Pickett Relationship"

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1962

St. Clair Hotel  
162 East Ohio Street

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



DR. FRANK E. VANDIVER, professor of history at Rice Institute, Houston, will deliver the Jefferson Davis inaugural commemorative address February 22 in Richmond, Va., at a luncheon in the Richmond hotel after a symbolic commemoration in Capitol square. Davis was inaugurated there, at the foot of the famous equestrian statue of George Washington, on February 22, 1862. This made him president of the entire Confederacy. His inauguration at Montgomery, Ala., the year before, had been as provisional president of the first seven states to secede from the Union. Vandiver currently is writing a history of the Confederacy for the New American Nation series by Harpers.

Father Genosky is a native of Minneapolis, attended parochial prep schools and college in Westmont, Ill., and Cleveland, Ohio, and received his degree from St. Joseph Seminary, Teutopolis, Ill., in 1946. He was ordained a Franciscan priest, June 24, 1945. He attended Catholic University of America and received a master's degree in American History in 1948. He has been on the history faculty of Quincy College since then.

Father Genosky was one of the prime movers in the founding of the Tri-State (Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri) Civil War Round Table of Quincy and has been editor of its newsletter which uniquely features a table of Quincy dates correlated with Civil War dates.

His works include, "The Story of Quincy, Illinois, 1819-1860." He is a co-worker in the Quincy College centennial issue of the Quincy Herald-Whig. He has done newspaper articles and reviews and has been a speaker on "Prominent Quincyans" (Browning, Douglas, Richardson, Singleton).

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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## DISCOVER OLD VICKSBURG CAVE

The CWRT of MISSISSIPPI has started 1962 with a revamped newsletter, printed by offset process, which permits the use of pictures. Two pictures pertain to a newly discovered cave which was a refuge during the siege of Vicksburg. Lt. Col. "Hank" Hanisee found it. Ed and Margie Bearss explored it. They found that the cave roof is crumbling and needs reinforcing before opening to the public. The cave is in the shape of a "Y" with two small rooms branching off from the entrance and with shelves dug into the walls of the entrance. Another picture is of a porcelain washbowl and pitcher brought up from the gunboat Cairo, which lies underwater in the Yazoo river. Scuba divers Ken Parks and "Skeeter" Hart also have brought up two Navy double edge short swords, a Navy Colt (still loaded), a box of black shoe polish, and a foot tub, only slightly rusted. These, the pilot house, a cannon and other artifacts previously brought up, are exhibited in a trailer van, usually near the hospitality booth in Vicksburg. The project to raise the Cairo (estimated to cost \$250,000 or more), has been a labor of love for Parks, Hart, and the Bearsses. Contributions can be sent to Operation Cairo, Inc., Vicksburg, Miss.

KANSAS CITY CWRT will present its 1961 Harry S. Truman Award for Meritorious Service in the Field of Civil War History to Edwin C. Bearss, of Vicksburg, Miss. This will be at a dinner meeting on February 27, and Bearss will speak on "The Battle of Wilson's Creek." Ed, in his duties as research historian for Region 1 of the National Park Service, did the historical survey for Missouri's new Wilson's Creek National Military Park near Springfield, Mo., and for Pea Ridge National Military Park at Rogers, Ark. He was a founder of the CWRT of Mississippi.

JOHN O. COOK has been named superintendent of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, succeeding Charles S. Dunn, who retired. Cook was superintendent of Saguaro National Monument, Arizona.

from the  
Editor's pen



The star character of Grady McWhiney's forthcoming book, BRAXTON BRAGG: MISPLACED GENERAL, was foremost in his talk to 90 members and guests on Friday, January 12.

The Northwestern professor read excerpts from letters and diaries. He pointed out that Bragg was loved by his troops. But, by temperament and behavior, Bragg was not qualified for field command. Under battle pressures he tended to lose control of the situation. He was a good disciplinarian and organizer and if his talents had been used in that direction, history would have been kinder to him.

President G. P. Clausius called attention to the honors that Highland Park residents had accorded pediatrician Dr. Morley McNeal on his 70th birthday. Members gave Dr. McNeal a rousing round of applause. Frank G. Rankin, president of the Louisville, Ky., CWRT was present and was introduced. Clausius read an invitation from the Virginia Civil War Commission to visit the Centennial Center in Richmond. Chairman H. George Donovan gave a report on preparations for the Gettysburg area battlefield tour.

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BEG YOUR PARDON: Dr. A. V. Bergquist, chairman of the December meeting on Civil War medicine and surgery, writes: "In the January newsletter I note that Gil Twiss has in his review of the medical program, 'Small BALL wounds were 100 per cent fatal: large BALL, 59 per cent.' His news training needs anatomy - BOWEL was meant."

So, you have to read the newsletter every month to keep things straight!

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Dues of the Illinois State Historical Society have been raised from \$3 to \$5 to face the realities of economics, but it's still a bargain. This buys the JOURNAL of the society, a distinguished publication in its field, and THE DISPATCH which carries news of the activities of the society, local groups, and some Civil War Round Table news. Membership in the society promotes the inquiry into Illinois history. There is an occasional book publication free to members. Membership permits attendance at the spring and fall meetings and tours of the society and the occasional regional meetings. It gives support to publication of ILLINOIS HISTORY, the magazine for junior and high schools. Many members of our CWRT are members of the state society and perhaps others would like to be. A membership form is included with this newsletter.

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The letters page of the Chicago Sunday Tribune magazine published the following:

"In a recent installment of his Sunday History Quiz, Ralph Newman wrote about the origin and world-wide success of the Civil War Round Tables, but he was altogether too modest. Let me add that from the very beginning he has been the main propelling power of these Round Tables, and that he is constantly providing the spark which keeps the movement going at its present speed. - Otto Eisenschiml."

Let us add that Otto, too, was a founder and has been a moving spirit.

A PANEL DISPLAY, showing the locations of all the 68 land grant colleges and universities in the United States and Puerto Rico, is on exhibit in the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago. It commemorates the Morrill act of 100 years ago, signed by Abraham Lincoln, establishing the land grant colleges.

## Step Up Gettysburg Plans



Gettysburg Hotel, Tour Headquarters

As the new year began, planning for the Chicago Civil War Round Table's 12 annual Battlefield Tour, April 25 to 29 to Gettysburg, Harpers Ferry, and Antietam, was stepped up. Though the detailed tour leaflet and reservation form will not be out until late March, twenty reservations have been made. Items of the tour cost are not all in hand, but the committee is working to keep the basic individual charge under \$200.

Tour Chairman H. George Donovan has made a preliminary trip to the Gettysburg area and has conferred with persons who will have a hand in guiding and hosting the party. These include Supt. James B. Myers, and Historians Frederick Tilberg and Harry Pfanz, Gettysburg; Supt. Benjamin H. Davis and Historians Robert Lageman and Dwight Stinson, Antietam; and Acting Supt. Joseph R. Prentice and Historian Arthur Sullivan, Harpers Ferry.

Dr. Tilberg, who is author of the National Park Service guidebooks on both Gettysburg and Antietam, was a chief figure in our 1952 tour to Gettysburg and also has spoken to us in Chicago. At his suggestion, the study of Pickett's charge at Gettysburg will be made as a walkover of the field of advance up to the positions of the Federals on Cemetery Ridge.

At Antietam, an effort is being made to have the noon meal served by a church ladies' group. This may be at near by Keedysville.

The tour will be made by plane to a nearby city, and buses in the field. Headquarters will be at the Hotel Gettysburg, where Donovan conferred with Proprietor Henry M. Scharf. The Command Post and two principal dinners will be at the hotel. Arrangements are being made at one or more motels for any overflow of persons who arrive by car.

Park Service people advised against including South Mountain in the same day's tour with Harpers Ferry and Antietam. So that location may be offered as an option on the final Sunday. A visit to the Jennie Wade house will be another option. A scheduled event of that day will be the Cemetery Story. And, other special plans are in view.

E. P. (Pete) Long, who is rounding up a panel, "Antietam Free-for-All," for Friday night, April 27, has announced that Edward J. Stackpole of Harrisburg will be one of the panelists. Gen. Stackpole is publisher of Civil War Times and the Army, Navy and Air Force journal, and author of several books, particularly FROM CEDAR MOUNTAIN TO ANTIETAM.

The April 26 dinner will be devoted to orientation talks by park service personnel. April 28 will be "Fun Night" dinner at the Francis Scott Key hotel in Frederick, Md.

A feature at Gettysburg will be the new Visitors Center. The famous Philipoteaux cyclorama painting of the battle is presently being installed in the building along with other exhibits.

Representatives of state Civil War Centennial commissions met with the national commission in Washington, January 31 and February 1.

## BULLETIN BOARD

ROBERT H. GEORGE, emeritus professor of history, Brown University, Providence 1, R. I., is making a study of "Brown University and the Civil War." He needs detailed materials, and asks that any persons who have letters, diaries, or photographs of Brown alumni who participated in the war, and more especially material related to undergraduates in the years 1861-1865 please communicate with him.

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THE "LONG NINE" BANQUET, a project of the Sangamon County Historical society, will be held February 28 at the St. Nicholas hotel, Springfield. This event marks the 125th anniversary of the passage by the state legislature, meeting in Vandalia, of the bill making Springfield the state capital. Gov. Otto Kerner will introduce the speaker.

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NEW MEMBERS: L. P. McCoun, 621 Turner Ave., Glen Ellyn, Ill.; Bernard Slepak, 442 Burton Ave., Highland Park, Ill.

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION, Maryland Department, has launched a fund drive to purchase lands for donation to Antietam National Battlefield Site at Sharpsburg, Md., to protect the historic area from encroachments. When the site was established in 1890, the area surrounding Sharpsburg was mainly farmland, as it was at the time of the battle on September 17, 1862. Assuming that the scene would stay rural, Congress authorized purchase of less than 20 acres of land for a tour road through the battlefield. Over the years, various states and the Washington County (Md.) Historical Society have donated parcels of land until the site comprised 183 acres. Congress in 1960 authorized purchase of 600 acres with appropriated funds and the imposition of restrictive covenants on the remainder of the 1,800 acre area of the battlefield. The American Legion will concentrate on purchasing important parts of the battlefield which would still be excluded from the park. Francis Saunders is chairman of the Legion's battlefield committee.

WARD HILL LAMON Civil War Round Table of Danville, Ill., has adopted a signed charter - parchment, decorated with crossed Confederate and Union flags. The group is now more than a year old and has 50 members. President is Robert B. Wright of the Commercial-News, Danville, Ill. The number of Round Tables nears 150.

A CWRT is active in Sacramento, Cal., and our member Chester F. Gannon is one of its founders and directors. Recently Chester spoke on Col. Edward Baker, Illinois friend of Lincoln. Baker was killed at Ball's Bluff and is buried in California. Chester is campaigning to have an appropriate monument erected over his grave.

MONITOR AND MERRIMACK - The Naval Amphibious Training Command has announced plans to reenact the battle of the ironclads, using electrically controlled models, March 7, 8 and 9, at Little Creek, which is part of the Norfolk, Va., naval operations area. The Virginia Civil War commission has designated the Monitor-Merrimack commemoration as one of its major events of the year.

## THE NEW BOOKS



**THE MANY FACES OF THE CIVIL WAR**, by Irving Werstein (Messner, 192pp, \$3.95).

**UNDER THE FLAG OF THE NATION**, diary of Pvt. Owen Johnston Hopkins, edited by Otto F. Bond (Ohio State U., 308pp, \$5).

**POWDER BOY OF THE MONITOR**, by Gordon D. Shirreffs (Westminster, 188pp, \$2.95).

**FOUR YEARS IN THE CONFEDERATE ARTILLERY**, Diary of Pvt. Henry Robinson Berkeley, edited by William H. Runge (U. of N. Carolina, 156pp, \$4).

**PORTSMOUTH UNDER FOUR FLAGS, 1752-1961**, by Marshall W. Butt (Portsmouth Historical Association, Box 1106, Portsmouth, Va., 133pp, \$2). Illustrated.

**A REBEL CAME HOME**, Diary of Floride Clemson, edited by Charles M. McGee, Jr. and Ernest M. Lander, Jr. (U. of S. Carolina). The Maryland Civil War story of a granddaughter of John C. Calhoun.

**THE CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL HANDBOOK**, by William H. Price (Prince Litho Co., 4019 5th Rd., N. Arlington, Va., 72pp, \$1). A brief compendium of facts, biographies and pictures.

**JEFFERSON DAVIS AND HIS CABINET**, by Rembert W. Patrick (Louisiana State U. 401pp, \$6).

**A CASUAL VIEW OF AMERICA: The Home Letters of Salomon de Rothschild, 1859-1861**, edited by Sigmund Diamond (Stanford U.).

**CONFEDERATE CAVALRY WEST OF THE RIVER**, by Stephen B. Oates, (U. of Texas, 264pp.). The activities of an unpublicized segment of Confederate Cavalry.

**THE CONFEDERATE RAIDER ALABAMA**, by Raphael Semmes, abridged and edited by Philip Van Doren Stern (Fawcett, paperback).

**INDEX TO OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE NAVIES IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION**, with a new introduction by Philip Van Doren Stern (Antiquarian Press, 457pp, \$17.50).

**JAMES BUCHANAN: Bachelor President**, by Philip S. Klein (Penn State U.). The first definitive biography.

**LINCOLN: A Contemporary Portrait**, edited by Allan Nevins and Irving Stone (Doubleday). An evaluation for our own time by a dozen writers.

**NEW MEXICO CIVIL WAR BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1861-1865**, an annotated checklist of books and pamphlets, by Jack DeVere Rittenhouse (Stagecoach Press, Houston, 36pp, \$4).

**REBEL RELIGION**, by Herman A. Norton (Bethany Press, \$2.75). History of Confederate chaplaincy and a full roster.

**A SELECTED, ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCES IN THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PERTAINING TO KANSAS IN THE CIVIL WAR**, by Eugene Donald Decker (Emporia State College Research Studies, 95pp, paper).

**A SOLDIER'S STORY OF HIS REGIMENT (61st Georgia)**, by Pvt. G. W. Nichols (Continental, Kennesaw, Ga., 292pp, \$7.50).

**TEXAS AND THE CIVIL WAR**, by Dr. Allan C. Ashcraft (70pp, \$1.02 to Texas Civil War Commission, 112 East 18th St., Austin, Texas).

**TEXAS UNDER THE CARPETBAGGERS**, by W. C. Nunn (U. of Texas, 276pp, \$5).

**THE TRAGIC CONFLICT: The Civil War and Reconstruction**, selected and edited with an introduction by William B. Hesseltine (Braziller, 544pp, \$7.50). Forty-five contemporary accounts.

**TRUE TALES OF THE SOUTHWEST WAR: How Soldiers Fought and Families Lived, 1861-1865**, collected and edited by Clarence Poe (U. of N. Carolina, 208pp, \$2.95).

## FUTURE MEETINGS



Friday, March 16 - Dr. William M. Lamers and Gen. William S. Rosecrans.

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

Friday, May 11 - Everett Lewy (and annual election of officers).

June - Date and speaker to be announced (installation of officers).

### SPECIAL EVENTS

March 7-9, Norfolk, Va. - Naval Amphibious Training Command will reenact battle of Monitor and Merrimack, using electrically controlled models.

March 24, Richmond, Va. - Centennial committee and Ballet Impromptu, program of ballet featuring Civil War and 19th century in interpretations.

March 24-25, Shenandoah Valley - Dedication of electric map of Stonewall Jackson's Valley campaign at Harrisonburg, Va., and circle tour of battle sites.

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

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



**THE ORIGINAL HANDWRITTEN ORDER** that on November 8, 1861, set off the famous "Trent Affair" of the Civil War has been acquired by the Illinois State Historical Library. The order was written by Capt. Charles Wilkes of the Union warship San Jacinto, and it instructed his executive officer, Lt. D. M. Fairfax, to seize two Confederate agents on the British ship Trent. The agents were James M. Mason of Virginia and John Slidell of Louisiana.

Civil War Chronology, Quincy (Ill.) Tri-State CWRT Newsletter: Sept. 10, 1861, Police item: Man who abused wife, fined \$5; Man who abused heifer, fined \$3. Sept. 11, Gen. S. A. Hurlbut and Col. Williams arrested for inebriety.

**UNION ARMY OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTHWEST**, a culling from the Official Records (Horn and Wallace, Albuquerque, \$7.50).

**THE VIRGINIA BISHOP: A Yankee Hero of the Confederacy**, by John Sumner Wood (Garrett and Massie, Richmond, 200pp, \$3.50). Life story of John Johns, who confirmed Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis.

**A YANKEE PRIVATE'S CIVIL WAR**, by Robert Hale Strong, edited by Ashley Halsey (Regnery, 218pp, \$3.95). A farm boy from DuPage County in the 105th Illinois Infantry.

20 Monochrome maps, of more important Civil War actions; order from Director 86, Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington 25, D. C., \$5.

Ohio Civil War Centennial Commission: **OHIO TROOPS IN THE FIELD**, by Edward T. Downer (34pp, paper); **THE OHIO PRESS IN THE CIVIL WAR**, by Robert S. Harper (35pp); **OHIO POLITICS ON THE EVE OF THE CIVIL WAR**, by Henry H. Simms (34pp), 75 cents each.