

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXX, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March, 1970

T. L. Connelly on 'Lee' at Chicago Bar Assn. - Mar. 13



Thomas L. Connelly

Thomas Lawrence Connelly, who was scheduled to appear at our November meeting, will be the first speaker at our new quarters in the Chicago Bar Assn. on Friday, March 13. Connelly's topic will be "Lee and the War in the West," a talk that will not compliment Lee. Our March speaker is associate professor of history at the University of South Carolina.

"My theme," Connelly said, "will be that Lee is grossly overrated as a Confederate general and that it is time for a full re-evaluation of Lee's strategy, tactics and personality. On all of these scores, Lee comes out poorly."

Connelly asserts that after Lee's influence began to be felt in the autumn of 1861, some early Confederate victories were won over inferior Union commanders. And some of these victories, the professor says, were simply tactical triumphs in Virginia achieved at the expense of the Confederate position in the West.

"Lee contradicted himself in his strategic proposals," according to our March speaker.

And, after all, Connelly points out, the Union's "first team" of officers, including Grant and Sheridan, was in the West. Lee, he says, didn't look so great after he was confronted by the Union's "first team" in 1864.

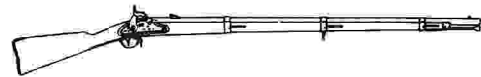
Our March speaker might be termed as great a discoverer as he is an historian. In 1961, when Connelly was only 23 years old and a graduate student at Rice University, he found the papers of Gen. Don Carlos Buell in a Texas prairie farmhouse near Houston.

Connelly found the cache of Buell's papers—more than 8,500 items in all—after he traced and befriended a great nephew of the general who lived in the house. The papers, which included letters from Grant and Sherman as well as early Western material, had formerly been housed in a chicken coop in trunks that were later brought into the farmhouse. Another cache of the general's papers was located in Kentucky.

Connelly negotiated with the general's descendent in behalf of Rice University and arranged to have Buell's papers deposited in the university library.

T.L. Connelly, who graduated from David Lipscomb College and received his master's degree and doctorate from Rice, was formerly a professor of history and chairman of the history department at Presbyterian College. From 1964 to 1969 he was assistant and associate professor of history at Mississippi State University. He joined the University of South Carolina faculty at Columbia this year.

Among his published books are "Will Success Spoil Jeff Davis," "Army of the Heartland: The Army of Tennessee,



289th REGULAR MEETING

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Thomas L. Connelly

on

"Lee and the War in the West"

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Friday, March 13, 1970

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Chicago Bar Association
29 S. LaSalle St.
11th Floor

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Executive Committee 5 p.m.
Nominating Committee 6 p.m.

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



1861-1862" and "Discovering the Appalachians." Books Connelly now has in progress include "The Lee Nobody Knows," "Davis and His Generals: Confederate Strategy Reviewed," and "Autumn of Glory: The Army of Tennessee, 1863-1865."

Connelly's scholarship has been recognized with such research fellowships and awards as the Charles Longcope research award, 1961; John Garner award, 1963; American Philosophical Society research grant, 1966, and the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities research grant, 1967.

His articles have been published in the Journal of Southern History, the Journal of American History, Military Affairs, Civil War History Quarterly, Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Civil War Times, Tennessee Historical Quarterly and the East Tennessee Historical Society publications.

Connelly is a charter member and was first president of the Confederate Historical Society of Nashville, so named because half of the members refused to call it the Civil War Round Table. A native of Nashville, our November speaker reports that he "grew up on the Nashville battlefield" and now owns an ante-bellum two-story log house atop the Cumberland Mountains near Sewanee, Tenn., a house that was twice raided by partisans during the Civil War.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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Treasurer Dick Cohen announced that all dues notices have been mailed and that \$20 dues for 1969-70 is owed by each CWRT member. Send your dues in now and note the meeting dates for the year published in the Bulletin Board on the back page of this Newsletter.

Chicago CWRT members are encouraged to contribute material to this Newsletter regularly. Contributions should be sent to Dick Bjorklund, Editor, Chicago Civil War Round Table Newsletter, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Suggestions for material include book reviews, photos of Civil War relics and sites, travel items on Civil War battlefields and monuments, comments on current events involving Civil War history and personal notes.

*from the
Editor's pen*



Chicago witnessed a unique and exciting scene on Feb. 13 when for the first time the Chicago Public Library's central building played host to 140 or more dinner guests of the Chicago Civil War Round Table. Guests wandered among memorabilia from the Civil War in the library's Grand Army of the Republic museum, rubbing elbows with items associated with Logan, Ellsworth and the lethal Civil War surgeons.

Dr. Philip Jordan presented an entertaining talk on seamy side of the Civil War and Reconstruction. It was a time, Dr. Jordan said, when "life was cheap" and no section of the country was more lawless than any other.

Ralph G. Newman, general chairman of the CWRT Ladies' Night, presented a book to Bruce Catton as the Chicago Civil War Round Table's tribute to him as the chief Civil War correspondent. Catton got a standing ovation as he accepted the gift.

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Our favorite bookstore got national mention in Time magazine of February 23 as one of "only a few of American great secondhand bookshops." It says: "Ralph Newman, owner of Chicago Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, observed: '(Lowdermilk & Co. in Washington) was like going to your favorite tavern—you could always find things there, like a first printing of the of the Gettysburg Address.' Newman will keep his own store open as long as he can. 'We're one of the few bookstores left where you can get a drink in the back.' Newman smiled, 'Try that on the Book-of-the-Month Club!'"

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Speakers Bureau Chairman Gordon Whitney announced that all members are encouraged to pass along to civic, service and other clubs the news that speakers are available from the Chicago Civil War Round Table. Those who are interested may obtain application blanks from Gordon for registration with the speakers bureau. If you have a special Civil War topic that you are willing to discuss at public meetings, contact Gordon Whitney.

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Applications for Civil War Round Table fellowships are available from the CWRT fellowship committee, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill., 60611. Round Table members and friends may make tax-deductible contributions to the CWRT fellowship fund for Civil War research and education. Contributions may be sent to the committee at the Chestnut Street address.

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Collections of the past five years of this newsletter may be purchased for \$7.50 a set from Elmer Underwood at Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. A limited number of the collections is available for sale.

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Club members who know of the death or illness of anyone associated with the Chicago CWRT are urged to promptly contact President Clyde Walton or the CWRT through the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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Eagle Shirtmakers is using a Civil War theme in advertising that employs a photo of Union Gen. Ambrose Everett Burnside whom they describe as "a pleasant but reckless Civil War leader." One of the colors they offer is "Civil War Buff."

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Brooks Davis drew praise for his presentation on the Battle of Perryville to one of the largest meetings held in recent years by the Decatur CWRT.

IMPORTANT: NOTE OUR NEW MEETING LOCATION

The monthly meetings of the Civil War Round Table set for March 13, April 10, May 8 and June 5, 1970, will be held on the 11th Floor of the Chicago Bar Association, 29 S. LaSalle St., Chicago.

While our long association with the Furniture Club has certainly been most pleasant and successful, it has been decided to move to the Bar Association, effective immediately, in an effort to provide greater convenience to our members.

Located in the Loop on LaSalle Street between Madison and Monroe Streets, the Bar Association is served by several CTA bus ones which stop within one block of the entrance. For the suburban commuters, the various train stations are less than a mile away and can be reached by walking or riding connecting bus lines.

For those who drive to the meetings, parking lots are located on Madison Street west of LaSalle and on Wells Street south of Madison, all within a block of the Bar Association.

Facilities and food at the Bar Association are excellent. We will have a separate room solely for our use, with the beverage dispensary located right in the meeting room, thereby providing a continuous and handy command post. There will be no increase in the dinner fee.

If the remaining meetings of the 1969-70 season indicate an acceptance by the membership of this new meeting location, we hope to make the Bar Association our permanent home. Therefore, we urge all members, and especially those who found the Furniture Club inconvenient, to attend the March meeting and sample our new headquarters. The combination of a thorough dissection of General Lee and the hospitality of the Chicago Bar Association promise a highly enjoyable evening on March 13.

Stuart L. Bernath, winner of the 3d Chicago CWRT fellowship and a member of the department of history at California State College in Long Beach, will be published in March when the University of California Press releases "Squall Across the Atlantic: American Civil War Prize Cases and Diplomacy." Pete Long believes that Bernath may be the first CWRT fellowship winner to break into print. A brief review of his book says:

"During the American Civil War, Union captures of British blockade-runners, the maneuvers of Northern diplomats, and the rulings of American judges seriously aggravated Anglo-American relations. This is the first comprehensive study of the prize cases, and it explains how and why many critical decisions—decisions encompassing questions of war and peace—were made on both sides of the Atlantic. The author points out significant disagreements within the Lincoln administration, explains how the court cases offered a crucial test of the administration's power to wage war, and examines the shrewd tactics used by Secretary of State Seward to ward off British protests. This book fills an important gap in Civil War diplomatic, legal, and naval history and should be the standard work for many years."

* * *

The tallest man in the Union Army was David Van Buskirk, Company "F", 27th Indiana Volunteers. Captured at Winchester and taken to Richmond, he was put on exhibition by an enterprising Confederate with whom he shared the entrance fee profits. He was allowed to roam freely in town as they estimated 6'10½" of height would not be likely to get far if he ran away. They were correct and he was later exchanged. When Mrs. Jefferson Davis viewed him he assured her blandly that he wasn't the tallest member of his family. "My two sisters leaned over and kissed the top of my head when I left Gosport," he remarked gravely.

Warren Reeder tried for about two years to find his burial plot, finally struggling up a sharp knoll at the rear of his old farmhouse overlooking the White River and then tearing down weeds and underbrush in a hot summer sun to get snapshots.

TO THE LADIES—

George Fleming, a long-time Round Table member, will tell the ladies about Gen. John A. Logan, Illinois politician and Civil War volunteer soldier, at the March 13 Camp Followers meeting.

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. at 18 E. Chestnut St. Make your reservations with Lenore Fleming, 11146 S. Vernon Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60628, 928-8977, not with the bookstore. Bring a friend.

Mr. Van Buskirk was county treasurer at the time of his death and the Monon railroad made a special stop each morning in front of his farm to take him to the county seat.

His younger brother was in the same company—only 6-footers or over were allowed to join—but he was only 6' 8½" high. Their father was shorter but of prodigious strength. At the age of 40 he held both boys off the ground, one in each hand, and they struggled in vain to recover their footing. No wonder Mrs. Davis just shook her head in bewilderment when viewing him.

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Our speakers bureau has provided the first two programs of 1970 of the CWRT of Milwaukee: Brooks Davis on Perryville in January and Joe Eisendrath on Myths About Abraham Lincoln in February.

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Those who participated in the battlefield tour to Washington, D.C. and thereabouts will remember Miss Sally McCloskey, who, tho confined to a wheelchair, attended the ceremony at the grave of her father, General Manus McCloskey, who had been a loyal and much admired member of our Round Table. Miss Sally has had to give up her apartment and is now at the Greenbelt Convalescent Center, 7010 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland - 20770.

Those members who were privileged to know our favorite general will be glad to know that his son Brigadier General Monro McCloskey, USAF (ret.) has written a book entitled Reilly's Battery. It was to Reilly's Battery that young Second Lieutenant Manus McCloskey was assigned after his graduation from West Point in 1898 and he was in combat in the Philippine Islands and in China. The book may be obtained at your favorite Book Shop. (\$4.00)

The author, Brigadier General Monro McCloskey, is now Executive Director of the Air Force Historical Foundation at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: A Connecticut Officer's Artillery Coat medium large, excellent shape, original buttons; Civil War Band Bugle; Approx. 80 5½" x 9" pictures of various Civil War Generals (will furnish list, if interested) Gordon Whitney, 6806 Grand Ave., Hammond, Ind., 844-8100

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Stonewall Jackson Memorial Inc., Charlottesville, Va., invites CWRT members to visit seven Jackson Shrines the organization maintains in Virginia. Among them are Jackson's home in Lexington, his military headquarters in Winchester, and Robert E. Lee's boyhood home in Alexandria. More information may be obtained from Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc., 532 Park Street, Charlottesville, Va. 22901. J.W. Johns, president of the memorial, said the group will gladly send literature to CWRT members.

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Members may wish to join the Civil War Round Table Associates, P. O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Ark. 72207, which publishes the Civil War Round Table Digest. Memberships, which include subscriptions to the digest, are \$7.50 per year.

THE NEW BOOKS



ABRAHAM LINCOLN BY SOME MEN WHO KNOW HIM: Being Personal Recollections of Judge Owen T. Reeves, Hon. James S. Ewing, Col. Richard P. Morgan, Judge Franklin Blades, John W. Bunn. Introd. by Isaac N. Phillips. Ed. with notes & foreword by Paul M. Angle. Reprint 1950 ed. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libs. Pr. 1969. \$6.75

Balch, Thos. W. **THE ALABAMA ARBITRATION.** Reprint 1900 ed. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libs. Pr., 1969. \$9.50

Bigelow, John. **THE PRINCIPLES OF STRATEGY,** illustrated mainly from American Campaigns. Reprint 1894 ed. N.Y.: Greenwood Press, 1968. \$26.50

Bolt, Christine. **THE ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION: A study in Anglo-American Co-operation, 1833-77.** Pub. for Inst. of Race Relations by Oxford Univ. Pr., 1969. \$4.95

Clay, Cassius Marcellus. **THE WRITINGS OF CASSIUS MARCELLUS CLAY.** Ed. Horace Greeley. Reprint 1848 ed. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr., 1969. \$16.25

Cleveland, Mather, **NEW HAMPSHIRE FIGHTS THE CIVIL WAR.** Lunenburg, Vt.: The Stinehour Press, 1969. \$20.00

Coleman, Kenneth, ed. **ATHENS, 1861-1865, AS SEEN THROUGH LETTERS IN THE LIBRARIES.** Athens, Ga.: Univ. Georgia Press, 1969. Paper, \$3.00

Curtin, Philip D. **THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE: A CENSUS.** Madison, Wis.: Univ. Wisconsin Pr., 1969. \$7.50

Davis, John C. B. **MR. FISH AND THE ALABAMA CLAIMS: A Chapter in Diplomatic History.** Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries Pr., 1969. \$9.50

Du Bois, W.E.B. **THE SUPPRESSION OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 1638-1870.** Reprint 1896 ed. N.Y.: Schocken, 1969. \$7.50; paper \$2.45

Dupuy, Trevor Nevitt. **THE MILITARY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, COMMANDER IN CHIEF.** N.Y.: Franklin Watts, 1969. \$3.95

Eaton, John and Ethel O. Mason, **GRANT, LINCOLN, AND THE FREEDMEN: Reminiscences of the Civil War,** with special references to the work for the contrabands and freedmen of the Mississippi Valley. Reprint 1907 ed. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Press, 1969. \$13.75

Haskell, Frank A. **THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG.** Ed by Bruce Catton. Boston, Houghton Mafflin, 1969. Paper \$1.75 (copyright 1957, hard cover).

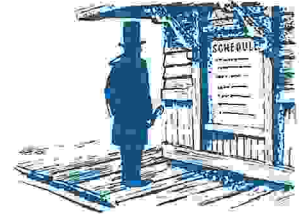
Helper, Hinton Rowan. **COMPENDIUM OF THE IMPENDING CRISIS OF THE SOUTH.** Reprint 1860 ed. Miami, Fla., Mnemosyne, 1969. \$8.25

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Here is the solution to the second Civil War Crossword Puzzle by August Payne that appeared in the February Newsletter:

1	H	2	E	N	3	R	Y		
4	I	C			O			5	H
6	L	K			S				U
7	L	E	8	S	S	9	O	N	
		10	R	A		11	C	T	
12	S	T	O	N	E				
	J					13	A	14	K
15	K	E	A	R	N	Y			

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

All at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 So. LaSalle St., 11th Floor.

March 13: Thomas L. Connelly on "Lee and the War in the West."

April 10: Program to be announced.

May 8: Civil War Film Night with Jerry Warshaw.

June 5: Program to be announced.



CIVIL WAR CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Here is the third Civil War crossword puzzle developed by August Payne and prepared for the Newsletter by Jerry Warshaw. Members who are interested in seeing such puzzles in future issues are urged to contact the editor, Dick Bjorklund, at the bookshop. The solution to this month's puzzle will be published next month.

1	2		3		4
5					
		6		7	
				8	
9	10			11	
12			13		
			14	15	
	16				

ACROSS

- Battle with Hornet's Nest & Hell's Hollow.
- Lt. Col.-3rd Illinois. (Initials)
- City in Nevada Named for him.
- Union Officer-Led bayonet charge at Chickamauga. (Initials)
- _____ Dept. of _____. (Initials)
- With Lincoln at Gettysburg. (Initials)
- _____ Springs. Alternate name for Logan Cross Roads.
- Military Governor of Cincinnati. (Initials)
- CSA Gen. Made a raid on Washington in 1864.

DOWN

- Succeeded Hooker as Commander of XXth Corps.
- CSA Gen. Fought against Gen. Garfield, (Initials)
- CSA Gen. Superintendant of West Point in 1855.
- 'Fighting Joe' _____. Union Gen.
- Son of Abe Lincoln. (Initials)
- CSA Gen. Led Forces at Ball's Bluff. (Initials)
- _____ Run Campaign.
- CSA Gen. Refused commission from Union Gen. Scott. (Initials)
- Union Gen. on Wilson's Raid through Georgia & Alabama. (Initials)