

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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January, 1973

## Victor Hicken on "The Civil War Fighting Man," Fri., Jan. 12



Victor Hicken

Was the Civil War soldier a different sort of person from those we now know as veterans of the world wars, Korea, and Vietnam? That question may not have an answer, but it should be an interesting subject for discussion when Victor Hicken, professor of history at Western Illinois University, Macomb, addresses the Civil War Round Table at the Chicago Bar Association, Friday, January 12, 1973. He states his subject as "The Civil War Fighting Man: Comparisons with the Past and Present."

Dr. Hicken is well qualified to discuss this subject, as he is author of "The American Fighting Man," published by the Macmillan Company, New York, 1969. The comparisons, he says, will be made under seven heads: Motivation for battle; as seen by their enemies; as seen by foreign and neutral observers; battlefield characteristics; in enemy prisons; ethnic makeup; and some material on elite fighting units.

In his letter, Dr. Hicken says, "This material is always interesting to me, and I can't understand why it shouldn't be to others. I believe the Round Table members will listen—even though it is not totally on the Civil War." We'd guess at this point he's probably right.

Dr. Hicken has won the "Distinguished Professor" award at Western Illinois, plus what is described as a considerable honor entitled "First Annual Faculty Lecturer." He is a director, and former vice president of the Illinois Historical Society and is a member of the honorary societies Pi Alpha Theta and Pi Gamma Mu.

Victor Hicken was born at Witt, Illinois, September 28, 1921, and was educated in the public schools of Gillespie. He received a B.Ed. degree at Southern Illinois University in 1943, and from 1943 to 1946 served in the U.S. Naval Reserve, with rank of lieutenant, junior grade. At the University of Illinois he received the degrees of M.A. in 1947 and Ph.D. in 1955, both in American history. He has been at Western Illinois University since 1947, rising from instructor to full professor, and was formerly chairman of the department of history.

In addition to numerous articles for professional journals and two or three for the Chicago Tribune, he is author of:

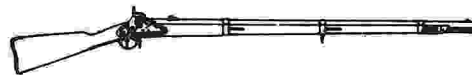
*Illinois in the Civil War.* Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1966.

*Western Illinois Factbook.* Macomb: Western Illinois University, 1968

*Illinois at War.* Springfield: State of Illinois, 1968.

*The American Fighting Man.* New York: Macmillan, 1969.

*The Purple and the Gold.* Macomb; Western Illinois University Foundation, 1971.



### 317th REGULAR MEETING

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Victor Hicken,  
Professor of History,  
Western Illinois University,  
Macomb, Illinois,  
on

THE CIVIL WAR FIGHTING MAN:  
Comparisons with the Past and Present

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Friday, January 12, 1973

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Chicago Bar Association  
29 South LaSalle Street

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Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



*Urbanization in Illinois.* Macomb: Western Illinois University, 1972.

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A report on Chicago's Kentucky Bluegrass Tour appears in the Milwaukee CWRT newsletter for December, presumably authored by Editor Philip J. Hohlweck who, with Mrs. Hohlweck took the tour; others were Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Follett of Madison and Jerry M. Schlecta of Jefferson. December speaker was Dr. James B. Renberg of Carroll College, who spoke on "After the War: Problems of Reconstruction."

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Meeting is scheduled at the Chicago Bar Association at 5pm Friday, January 12 immediately proceeding the regular meeting.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Phone: Whitehall 4-3085

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Founding Newsletter editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968



*from the  
Editor's pen*



A new interpretation of John Bell Hood, one of eight Confederate generals of the full rank, was given to CWRT members December 8 by Richard M. McMurry, associate professor of history at Valdosta State College, Valdosta, Georgia, who is at work on a biography of the general. Prof. McMurry pointed out that the common opinion is that Hood was a somewhat simple person, stupid, and incompetent, who lost Atlanta, and lost his entire army at Nashville. The two biographies of him make no attempt to explain him, are based on incomplete research, and contain errors of fact. Hood's bad repute stems largely from opinions expressed in the memoirs of Sheridan, Sherman, Johnston, and Schofield, but there is evidence that some of the records have been falsified.

Hood was born in Kentucky, and there are no wartime letters to members of his family there. He married late in life, and he and Mrs. Hood died in a yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans in 1879. Hood's "Advance and Retreat" was published for the benefit of his orphaned children, but the papers on which it was based had disappeared. Prof. McMurry found them by simply asking for the John Bell Hood file in the National Archives. They had been left by Hood with General Sherman prior to the trip home, and eventually were turned over to the Archives.

Hood's father prospered at medical quackery, making devices to support the internal organs and John Bell Hood

lived in the big house of Southern cavalier mythology. He was graduated 44th in a class of 45 at West Point, while Lee was superintendant. Lee became Hood's father figure, and they served together in Texas after Hood was named to the new 2nd Cavalry, probably through Breckinridge influence. Hood's first Confederate commission was as captain, and he was sent to Kentucky, but this is not mentioned in his memoir or in the biographies. He became colonel of the 4th Texas Infantry, and his four further advances seem inevitable and justified, although often criticized. He was made brigadier general commanding the Texas Brigade because a Texan was demanded, and Hood was a Regular Army officer who had served in Texas. He was outstanding at Gaines Mill and Second Manassas and his finest hour was at Antietam. Promotion to major general followed; he was wounded in the arm at Gettysburg and in the leg at Chickamauga. At Dalton he seemed in line for corps command as lieutenant general. And naming Hood as general when Johnston was removed also seems inevitable, especially as Hardee had previously refused the command.

Hood's failures were partly due to his physical condition; because of his wounds he was unable to oversee his forces; the staff that might have helped was weak and indecisive; and his corps commanders failed to give him their full support and confidence. Hood was typical of the new South that emerged after 1820; romantic and unrealistic, of undoubted courage, but impulsive and intuitive. Yet until he reached army command, his record was good.

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## Ambler Johnston in Accident

James I. Robertson, Jr., chairman of the history department at V.P.I. and known to us as "Bud" writes in a letter of Nov. 28:

"It is my sad duty to report a serious accident that recently befell a charter member of The Civil War Round Table.

"During the Thanksgiving holidays, "Uncle Ambler" Johnston fell and fractured a hip. Surgeons operated to insert a pin and discovered the fracture to be much nastier than they had anticipated. Hence, Uncle Ambler will be complete bedridden for at least three months—and the prognosis thereafter is not favorable. Those of us who know him well, and are familiar with the boundless energy that has kept him going strong in spite of his eighty-seven years, are fearful that so long a period of immobilization may produce physical and mental strains with which he will be unable to cope. I personally am deeply depressed.

"He is in Stuart Circle Hospital (Richmond, Va. 23220) and will be there for another ten days at least. He then will be carried home for the long period of recuperation.

"Please give my regards to the Round Table at its next meeting."

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## Gettysburg High Water Mark

Frederick Tilberg, senior historian, retired, Gettysburg NMP, comments on the old-time picture reproduced on page 3 of the November, 1972, issue of the Newsletter:

"You are right that the Clump of Trees which appears at the right was the objective of Pickett's Charge and known since that event as the High Water Mark of the Confederacy. The view is southwestward. At the left, close up, is the monument to the First Pennsylvania Cavalry commanded by Col. John P. Taylor. At the left of the Copse of Trees a single gun marks, in a preliminary way, the position held the New York Light Artillery, First Battery, commanded by Capt. Andrew Cowan. Soon after this photograph was made, two guns and monument bearing the notable inscription "Double Canister at Ten Yards" were placed in this location.

"Best wishes to all the members of the Chicago Round Table."

### The Ghost of West Point

"According to a UPI dispatch," remarked Dr. Watson on the evening of Nov. 15 last, "a room reportedly frequented by a ghostly old gentleman with a large handlebar mustache and wearing a Union Army cap was put off limits today to West Point cadets."

"I had anticipated the appearance of such a phenomenon," responded Sherlock Holmes Warshaw

"Come, now, Holmes, you could not have deduced a wraith-like figure walking through the walls of a barracks room, after strolling peacably about the barracks room occupied by three cadets."

"Illusion often accompanies supernatural interpretation of a quite ordinary event," Jerry Holmes observed.

"Ordinary!" exclaimed Dr. Watson. "You call it ordinary when a room has to be vacated and declared off limits because of hordes of cadets trying to trap a grand old man of the Union Army with tape recorders and cameras."

"Elementary, Dr. Watson," said Holmes. "Too bad the cameras were banned. We might have had a picture for this issue of the Newsletter of that eminent military history librarian of the Military Academy library, Al Aimone, in the dress uniform of the 104th Reconstituted Illinois Infantry."

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### CIVIL WAR TOKENS

Most of us know that small change was scarce during the Civil War, resulting in the issuing of paper money in 10-cent and 25-cent denominations and the use of postage stamps in glass cases as currency. We would take it for granted that tokens issued by business firms as redeemable in trade would also be used, for they have been in use well into the present century. But that there were 25 million of them of 10,000 different kinds seems astonishing. The Civil War Token Society comes up with these figures and says tokens were issued in 23 of the then-existing 35 states and in nearly 400 towns and cities. The society issues a quarterly journal and a sample copy will be sent to anyone interested on application to Gail Levine, 5375 Duke St., Alexandria, Va. 22304. Illinois state chairman is Bill Sullivan, 4332 West 109th St., Oak Lawn, Il. 60453.



CIVIL WAR SCENE PLATES. The Great Seal of the Confederacy, left, and the White House of the Confederacy are two of a series of ten matched white Oxford Bone China plates made by Lenox, Inc., Trenton, N.J., in the Confederacy Collection, limited to 2,500 sets, produced for the White House of the Confederacy, 1201 East Clay Street, Richmond, Va. 23219. The sets are priced at \$900, rated as 75% deductible as charitable contribution, as proceeds are used for restoration of the White House of the Confederacy and for the building of a museum on adjacent property. Other subjects include Lee and Jackson, J.E.B. Stuart, Fort Sumter, Confederate Camp, The Merrimac, The General (locomotive), Blockade Runner, and "A Call to Arms" from Julian Scott's painting. The Confederate seal depicts an equestrian statue of Washington surrounded by a wreath of cotton, corn, wheat, tobacco and rice. The "White House" is from a Harper's Weekly drawing.

### TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Time: 5:30 P.M., Friday, January 12, 1973

Place: 17 East Chestnut, The Book and Bottle

Program: Mary Ellen Wehler (Mrs. Marvin), a dedicated camp follower, on Montgomery 1861 Convention.

Reservations: Write or phone Betty Walter (Mrs. Robert), 1511 East Miner Street, Arlington Heights, Ill. 60004, 312-253-7053.

Last Meeting: The ladies had a marvelous holiday meeting at the home of Mrs. Brooks Davis as Lenore Fleming (Mrs. George) led us in song with her guitar. Lenore gave us the background for each song and then provided the music for us to sing by. If any recording company is interested, we are now available.

To all CWRT Members: your womenfolk always qualify as a camp follower and are cordially invited to attend the meetings. Perhaps some of the newer members don't know this. We meet when they do, drink, eat and have a program—then break camp simultaneously with the gentlemen.

### Holman Hamilton Honored

Marcus T. McEllistrem, chairman of the committee on awards and honors of the University of Kentucky, Lexington, makes the announcement following:

For twenty-eight years, the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Kentucky has elected annually a Distinguished Professor of the Year. The holder of this title for 1971-72 is Professor Holman Hamilton of the Department of History. He gave the annual Distinguished Professor lecture on December 6 at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of the Agricultural Science Center. Following the lecture, a reception honored Dr. Hamilton.

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### CONFERENCE ON U. S. GRANT

A scholarly conference on "Ulysses S. Grant in Perspective" is scheduled for April 27 and 28, 1973, at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, under sponsorship of the Illinois State Historical Society. Prof. Richard N. Current, University of North Carolina, will speak on the responses of Grant and Lincoln to Civil War and Reconstruction issues. Papers will be given by Michael Lee Benedict, Ohio State University; Thomas L. Connelly, University of South Carolina; Mark Plummer, Illinois State University; John Y. Simon, Southern Illinois University; and Arthur Zilversmit, Lake Forest College. For details write Roger D. Bridges, Illinois State Historical Society, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Il. 62706.

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### HERE AND THERE

An act of Congress approved October 12, 1972, provided \$3,200,000 for the restoration of the gunboat Cairo, sunk in Civil War action in the Yazoo River, and for its exhibition at the Vicksburg National Military Park.

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The November, 1972, Newsletter of the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, is devoted entirely to the artist Conrad Wise Chapman (1842-1910) and his 31 oil paintings of the Defenses of Charleston which are on special exhibit at the museum. There are reproductions of several pictures.

## THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Klement, Frank L. *The Copperheads in the Middle West*. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1972. Original of 1960. \$7.50

Kranz, Henry B., editor. *Abraham Lincoln; a New Portrait*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries [1972, copyright 1959]. \$10.00

Lothrop, Thornton Kirkland. *William Henry Seward*. New York: AMS Press, 1972. 423p. Reprint 1899 edition. \$15.00

McCall, Samuel Walker. *Thaddeus Stevens*. New York: AMS Press, 1972. 369p. Reprint 1899 edition. \$12.50

Monaghan, Jay. *Diplomat in Carpet Slippers; Abraham Lincoln Deals with Foreign Affairs*. By Jay Monaghan. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1972 copyright 1945. 505p. \$20.50

Morse, John Torrey. *Abraham Lincoln*. New York: AMS Press, 1972 2 vols. Reprint of 1899 edition. \$29.50

Padover, Saul K. *Karl Marx on America and the Civil War*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1972. \$17.50; paper \$4.95

Pemberton, John C., III. *Pemberton: Defender of Vicksburg*. Chapel Hill; University of North Carolina Press, 1972. Paper \$2.95

Selby, John Millin. *The Stonewall Brigade*. Colour plate by Michael Roffe Reading. Berkshire, England: Osprey Publ. Ltd. \$4.00

Sokoloff, Alice Hunt. *Kate Chase for the Defense*. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1971. 315p. \$8.50

Starr, Stephen Z. *Colonel Grenfell's Wars: The Life of a Soldier of Fortune*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1971. 352p. \$10.95

Storey, Moorfield. *Charles Sumner*. New York: AMS Press, 1972. Reprint 1900 edition. \$16.50

Thayer, William Roscoe. *John Hay*. New York: AMS Press, 1972. 2 vols. Reprint 1916 edition. \$29.50

Thornbrough, Emma Lou, compiler. *Black Reconstructionists*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1972. Paper, \$2.95

Turner, Justin G. and Linda Leavitt Turner. *Mary Todd Lincoln: Her Life and Letters*. New York: Knopf, 1972. 750p. \$15.00

Wilson, Francis. *John Wilkes Booth; Fact and Fiction of Lincoln's Assassination*. New York: Benjamin Blom, 1972. Reprint 1929 edition. \$12.00

Woodward, C. Vann. *American Counterpoint: Slavery and Racism in the North-South Dialogue*. Indianapolis: Little, Brown, 1971. 301p. \$7.95; paper \$2.95

Zornow, William Frank. *Lincoln and the Party Divided*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1972. Reprint 1954. \$11.75

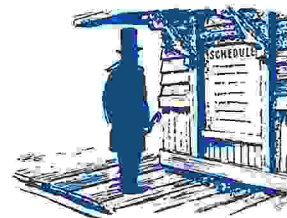
### Civil War Letters

Arnold Gates, literary editor of the Lincoln Herald, writes about his work at Old Bethpage—and hopes that someone will know about the Civil War letters of Lt. Chesley A. Mossman. Arnold's address is 289 New Hyde Park Road, Garden City, N.Y. 11530. Old Bethpage is a Long Island village restoration of the 1860's with houses, farms, general store, blacksmith, carpentry shop, and church. As we read the brochure some seven of the projected 18 showplaces are not yet open, which accounts for Arnold's busyness. The letter:

"It is always a great pleasure to receive a copy of the Chicago Round Table's Newsletter.

"At the moment I am deep in the editing of the journals of Chesley A. Mosman, a first lieut. of the 59th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. I have finished typing out a first draft but before I go further I have been trying to locate the letters he wrote to relatives living in St. Louis and Marine Prairie, Ill.

## BULLETIN BOARD



### FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle, second Friday in each month except as noted.

January 12: Victor Hicken on "The Civil War Fighting Man: Comparisons with the Past and Present."

February 9: Philip L. Shutt on General John Alexander McClernand.

March 9: Ladies Night, Bell I. Wiley of Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., on "Women of the Lost Cause." at G.A.R. Room, Chicago Public Library.

Saturday, April 21: 160th birthday of Stephen A. Douglas at Douglas tomb and Chicago Historical Society, details to be arranged: ladies invited.

May 10-13: Annual Battlefield Tour, Gettysburg and the Army War College, Carlisle, Pa.

June 8: George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director, National Parks Service

### NEW MEMBERS

Todd Fisher  
2137 Greenwood  
Wilmette, Ill. 60091

David J. Lynam  
1242 Pratt Ave.  
Chicago, Ill. 60626

Kevin Kavanagh  
8606 Golf Course Rd.  
Crystal Lake, Ill. 60014

Thomas J. Lynam  
513 Lake Shore Dr.  
Barrington, Ill. 60010

### Change of Address

Daniel J. Fuss  
22 Hillside Rd.  
Wellesley Hills, Mass. 02181

Rodney R. Miller  
320 Huntington Lane  
Elmhurst, Ill. 60126



"Mosman's journal notes for January 22, 1864 included this:

"Gen. Grant passed through on the train and the soldiers who have never seen him lined the track and gazed at him as they would at a caged animal, crowding as close as they can to the car, sticking their heads in the windows and gawking at him. He appears to be about 5 feet 8 inches tall, with sandy whiskers. He was sitting down so I did not get a good view of him. Yes, I gawked at him too. My curiosity got the better of my manners."

"My work at Old Bethpage Village Restoration keeps me busy during the day. I am now working with the staff, trying to sharpen its interpretation of history. This involves a lot of history reading and research but it is interesting since much of it is in the period we are all interested in, the mid 19th century."

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Five members of the Junior JCWRT gave a program on "Spies of the Confederacy at the December 12 meeting of the Jackson, Mississippi, Civil War Round Table.