

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXV, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October, 1974

DR. HAROLD M. HYMAN ON THE ANDREW JOHNSON IMPEACHMENT: FROM APPOMATTOX THROUGH WATERGATE



Dr. Harold M. Hyman
Photo by Bill Hyman

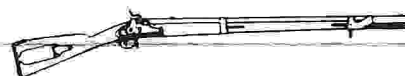
A reunion with another old friend is in store for us at our next regular meeting, which will be held on October 11, 1974. On that evening Dr. Harold M. Hyman, William P. Hobby Professor of History at Rice University will speak to us on "The Andrew Johnson Impeachment: From Appomattox Through Watergate". In this, his fourth appearance before The Round Table, Dr. Hyman has chosen a most topical subject, an event closely related to the Civil War that has been prominent in our contemporary newspapers in recent months.

The impeachment of Andrew Johnson, seventeenth president of the United States, had its roots in the struggle for power between the president and the so-called "Radical Republicans" during Reconstruction. The Radicals, hard-line senators and representatives, were bent on the subjugation and punishment of the South after the war. Johnson's more liberal policies stood in their way. The conflict finally came to a head in 1868 when the president attempted to dismiss the Radicals' pet, Edwin M. Stanton, from his post as Secretary of War. This, shouted the Radicals, under the vitriolic leadership of the ailing Thaddeus Stevens, was a clear violation of the Tenure of Office Act. That choice morsel of Radical-sponsored legislation provided that no cabinet officer could be removed without the consent of the Senate.

On February 24, 1868 a resolution of impeachment was passed by the House. Of the eleven articles prepared, nine related to the Stanton controversy, one to alleged remarks the president had made in speeches, and the last was a catch-all, condemning Johnson on a broad front. However, the harshness of the language of the articles alienated many of the undecided among the people and the press. It was the first instance in a classic pattern of over-kill, a course of conduct that was to work against the Radicals.

When the Senate trial began, this policy was continued by the impeachment managers from the House, a group which included former generals Logan and Butler. The latter even resorted to literally "waiving the bloody shirt" when he produced a stained garment during the proceedings. As a result, by the time a vote was taken on May 16, 1868, public sympathy seemed to have shifted to the president who had been ably defended by a battery of attorneys. The count fell one vote short of the two-thirds necessary for conviction and the country as a whole seemed glad the matter had ended, regardless of the result.

In his examination of this historic event, Dr. Hyman will



334th REGULAR MEETING

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Dr. Harold M. Hyman

on

The Andrew Johnson Impeachment:
From Appomattox Through Watergate

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Friday, October 11, 1974

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Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



discuss the uniqueness of the Johnson impeachment in our history and the reasons why no other president, until Richard M. Nixon, came even close to such an ordeal. He will attempt to deal with the nature of impeachment in light of the complex impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction, as well as to suggest the lessons to be learned by American presidents as a result of the events of 1868.

Harold Hyman received a B.A. with honors from U.C.L.A. and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University. Prior to his present position at Rice, he has served on the history faculties of Earlham College, U.C.L.A., Arizona State University and, from 1963 to 1968, the University of Illinois at Champaign. Among the books he has authored, co-authored or edited are "Stanton — The Life and Times of Lincoln's Secretary of War" (1962), "Heard 'Round The World: The Impact Abroad of the Civil War and Reconstruction" (1968), "The Radical Republicans and Reconstruction" (1966), and "A More Perfect Union: The Impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction" (1973). He is currently working on an interpretive biography of Abraham Lincoln which he hopes to complete next year. In addition to his many books, Dr. Hyman has had articles appear in every major historical publication. His credentials without doubt establish him as a foremost authority on the politics of the Reconstruction period.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
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The only requirement for membership is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Donald E. Jensen, 335 East Woodland Road, Lake Bluff, Ill. 60044.



*from the
Editor's pen*



(Several years ago we of The Round Table devoted ourselves to the sacred duty of securing for our beloved hero, Brigadier General Alexander Schimmelpfennig, that honored niche in the annals of fame which he so richly deserves. If we remain true to our cause, our heavenly crusade will surely lead the world out of its darkness to bask in the reflected glory that radiates from our beau ideal, "The Savior of Gettysburg". When that day comes, no longer will the Cattons and the Tuckers write of Grant, Lee, Sherman or Jackson. Instead, only the dashing derring-do of the immortal Schimmelpfennig will leap from the written page to dazzle the imagination of the historical reader.

Yet, before we can go forth to spread the message of truth, each of us must know for himself every detail of the brilliant career of this second "Alexander the Great". Certainly everyone is familiar with his exploits on July 1, 1863, but what do

we know of the other feats of his noble life. Therefore, it is for the education of all that we herewith reprint, in all its priceless prose, the obituary of our fallen martyr exactly as it appeared in the October 7, 1865 issue of Harper's Weekly. Let there not be a dry eye upon the conclusion of these eulogistic echoes!)

"Brigadier-General Alexander Schimmelpfennig died on the 7th of September, 1865, at Wernersville, near Reading, Pennsylvania, after a long illness, contracted in part, it is believed, by severe service in the army. His full and correct name was Alexander Schimmelpfennig Von Der Oye. Belonging to an old aristocratic family in Prussia, he entered the army of that country early, after having received a careful military education; but his liberal and democratic spirit did not permit him to stay there.

In the revolution of 1848-49 he sided with the people, and took up arms against this very army when it invaded the Palatinate in 1849. He was compelled to leave his country, and went, after some stay in Switzerland, to London, where he commenced, in common with a number of his countrymen, an active and earnest agitation for the supremacy of the same liberal ideas for which he had taken arms before. A short time was sufficient to show him the fruitlessness of these efforts at that time and in that place, and he came to this country (1853) to find here a new home.

He first lived in Philadelphia, and afterward in Washington, always watching with keen eye the chances of freedom, and ready to support it where and when he could. The days following the attack on Fort Sumter found him ready and willing. Communication was then destroyed between the national capital and the loyal North. Alexander Schimmelpfennig set out on foot to reach Pennsylvania, where he intended to offer his military services. The rebel Marylanders turned him back, but, undaunted by the bullets fired at him, he set out a second time, and then, under the disguise of a surveyor, and having passed an examination as such by some rebel officer, he actually reached Pennsylvania, and commenced the formation of a regiment. Sickness (small-pox) delayed his plans for some months; but soon we find him on the field at the head of the Seventy-fourth Pennsylvania regiment, and taking part in the campaign in West Virginia near Frémont. He soon received the command of a brigade, and did great service in the second Bull Run battle. After the battle of Gettysburg Schimmelpfennig was at the head of a division to join our forces before Charleston, South Carolina; and there, in a more independent position, he showed the intrepidity of a true soldier. As a reward he had the honor to enter Charleston first; but his health was gone almost entirely, and it was only the indomitable spirit of duty and the enthusiasm for the cause that made him stay when it was almost a physical impossibility to do so. At last he broke down entirely, and breathed his last after having seen the Union restored and freedom triumphant, not, as he might justly think, without his share in the action of the nation."

1974-1975 dues are now, as their name implies, due. Treasurer Glen Wiche advises that anyone whose dues are not paid by October 31st will be dropped from the membership roll and the mailing list. (We are confident that the fear of being cut off from this nefarious newsletter will cause an avalanche of checks).

Margaret April still has available, at five dollars each, copies of the group picture taken on the 1974 Battlefield Tour to Chattanooga. Anyone who would like to order one can write her at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop. The picture was taken at the Illinois Monument atop Missionary Ridge. It should be noted that twenty-four years ago, on the first Civil War Round Table Battlefield Tour, a group picture was also taken at the same spot. Of the thirty-three people in that first picture, only two, Warren Reeder and Ralph Newman, were present to be included in the 1974 photograph.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

On September 13, 1974, eighty members and their guests learned once again the following maxim of Civil War study: the best way to become familiar with the details, strategy and tactics of a Civil War battle is to spend an evening with Edwin C. Bearss. In his discussion of the fall of Fort Donelson, Ed began with a review of the general Confederate situation in the west at the end of 1861. The overall department commander, A.S. Johnston, had his headquarters at Bowling Green, a town which also marked the center of the southern defense line. The right flank of this line was Cumberland Gap while the left rested at Columbus, Kentucky on the Mississippi.

Early in 1862, several Union officers, including Sherman and Grant, realized that the keys to this line were Forts Henry and Donelson located just below the Kentucky border on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers respectively. If these works could be taken, the rivers would provide avenues for federal advances into middle Tennessee and points south. Although only twelve miles apart, the two forts differed greatly in strength. Henry had not been completed and was poorly placed on low ground. Donelson, on the other hand, was an imposing bastion situated on high bluffs with its flanks protected by creeks.

On January 30, 1862, General Halleck, federal commander of the Department of Missouri, approved a joint army-navy expedition against Henry. Led by Grant and Foote, it approached the fort on February 4th. Landing his troops below Henry, Grant devised a plan calling for simultaneous advances on February 6th by the infantry on both banks and the gunboats on the river. Foote's ships arrived in front of the fort well before the army and immediately attacked. The Confederate commander, Tilghman, had recognized that, because of the incompleteness of the works as well as their partial flooding by the high water of the river, Henry could not be defended. Having sent all his infantry to Donelson that morning, he attempted to fight a delaying action with artillery. However, after less than an hour, the naval shelling forced him to surrender. When Grant arrived with his troops, he found the fort in Foote's possession.

Grant immediately determined to advance on Donelson, but could not begin his march until the 11th. In the meantime, Johnston decided to hold Donelson and thus ordered reinforcements to it. The troops of Floyd, Pillow, Buckner and Clark strengthened the garrison to approximately 17,000 men with Floyd assuming command by seniority. Grant, too, was being reinforced as Halleck forwarded fresh troops by boat up the Cumberland. However, the bulk of the federal army made the march overland, discarding their heavy coats and blankets enroute because of the unseasonably mild weather.

By nightfall on the 12th, Grant had arrived before Donelson and had forced the Confederates back into their main defense line of rifle pits. This line ran in a semi-circle from the river north of the fort back to the river south of the town of Dover. On the 13th heavy fighting occurred during which the federals were generally repulsed, despite slight gains by McClernand's division on the right. That night the temperature plummeted and soldiers on both sides began to suffer from exposure. The next day, the 14th, brought a severe defeat for the navy as Foote's ironclad gunboats were severely damaged in an unsuccessful attempt to repeat their victory at Fort Henry.

Despite their successes on the field, the Confederates realized that they could not continue to hold out against the ever-increasing odds. By the 14th, the number of Northern troops had increased to over 27,000. Therefore, the Confederates launched an attack on their left early on the 15th in the hope of breaking out. Their plan was to roll up McClernand's right, thus opening the Charlotte and Forge Roads. The Southern assaults practically destroyed the federal brigades of McArthur and Oglesby, forcing McClernand to send for help. However, Grant, who was off conferring with the wounded

TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

The first Camp Followers meeting of the season was a most enjoyable program as Minor T. Coburn spoke to us on Spies of the Blue and Gray. Rose O'Neil Greenhow, Belle Boyd, Pauline Cushman and Elizabeth Van Lew were four of the outstanding feminine intriguers described to us by Mr. Coburn.

Next month Lenore Fleming will be our speaker. Her subject (all the ladies agree) is one of our very favorites — the many-faceted Judah P. Benjamin. Try hard to be with us. While your husbands are enjoying the meeting downtown, why not treat yourselves to an evening out too. As usual, the place is the Book & Bottle, 17 East Chestnut Street, the time is 5:30 P.M., and the date is October 11th. To make your reservation, write or call Mary Ellen Wehler, 244 South Elmwood, Aurora, Illinois 60506, 896-0169.

Foote, had, before leaving, left orders for all divisions to stay where they were and not to bring on a general engagement. Thus, McClernand's first message was ignored. Not until his second plea and the sounds of the heavy fighting had convinced Lew Wallace of the seriousness of the situation was assistance sent.

At this point, the Confederates had achieved their objective, the roads were open. Buckner begged Floyd to continue the fighting as he felt a great victory could have been won. However, Floyd followed Pillow's advice to break off the combat and return the men to their rifle pits to gather up their equipment for the escape. Grant, having returned to the front, now ordered Smith, on the Federal left, to attack. This assault drew Southern attention away from the escape and darkness fell with them still within their lines.

That night, Floyd telegraphed Johnston that he had won a great victory, then held a council at which it was decided to surrender the fort and army the next day. The determining factors were Buckner's statement that Smith had gained an enfilading position and a scout's report that the Charlotte Road was under icy, saddle-skirt high water where it crossed Lick Creek. A disgusted Forrest refused to surrender and led his men out during the night. Floyd and Pillow, afraid for their lives if captured, passed the command to Buckner and escaped, Floyd taking his Virginia troops with him. Buckner was left to receive, and reluctantly agree to, Grant's demand for unconditional surrender in response to Buckner's polite request for terms. With the fall of Donelson, so fell the Confederate defense line, industrial Nashville and Middle Tennessee, as Johnston was forced to fall back to Corinth.

A two-day weekend symposium will be held November 22-24, 1974, to discuss the Civil War along the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. Presentations by professional and lay Civil War historians of national prominence as well as field trips to fort sites are included in the program. Highlights will include presentations on the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson and the leadership roles of Generals Nathan Bedford Forrest and Ulysses S. Grant, weapons and uniform displays and demonstrations, and discussions of the life of the common soldier including such topics as rebel religion, clothing and travel modes.

This "Blue-Gray Affair" is cosponsored by Fort Donelson National Park, Kentucky Department of Parks and TVA-Land Between The Lakes under the auspices of the Kentucky Civil War Round Table and the Kentucky Historical Society. Headquarters for the weekend is Lake Barkley State Resort Park near Cadiz, Kentucky. For further information, write The Blue-Gray Affair, TVA-Land Between The Lakes, Golden Pond, Kentucky 42231.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Davis, William C. *Breckinridge; Statesman, Soldier, Symbol*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1974. \$17.50.

De Leon, Thomas Cooper. *Belles, Beaux, and Brains of the 60's*. New York: Arno Press, 1974. \$25.00. Reprint of the 1909 edition.

Dennis, Frank L. *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates*. New York: Mason & Lipscomb Publishers, 1974. \$6.95. (Great Events in World History Series)

Fischer, LeRoy H., editor. *The Civil War In Indian Territory*. Los Angeles: Morrin L. Morrison. \$8.50; paper \$4.25.

Freeman, Benjamin H. *The Confederate Letters of Benjamin H. Freeman*. Compiled and edited by Stuart T. Wright. Hicksville, N.Y.: Exposition Press, 1974. \$5.00. (Co K, 44th North Carolina)

Greenbie, Marjorie L. Barstow. *My Dear Lady; the Story of Anna Ella Carroll*, the "great unrecognized member of Lincoln's Cabinet". New York: Arno Press, 1974. \$18.00. Reprint of 1940 edition.

Robinson, Luther E. *Abraham Lincoln as a Man of Letters*. Folcroft, Pa.: Folcroft Library Editions, 1974. \$22.50. Reprint of a 1918 edition.

Rawley, James A. *The Politics of Union: Northern Politics during the Civil War*. Hinsdale, Illinois: Dryden Press, 1974.

Stampp, Kenneth M., editor. *The Causes of the Civil War*. Newly revised. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1974. \$6.95. Paper \$2.45.

Villard, Henry. *Lincoln on the Eve of '61; A Journalist's Story*. Edited by Harold G. & Oswald Garrison Villard. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1974. \$7.75. Reprint of 1941 edition.

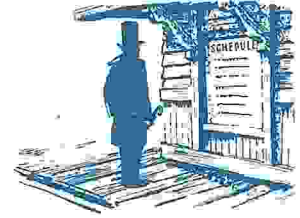
Simpson, John E. *Howell Cobb: The Politics of Ambition*. Chicago: The Adams Press, 1973. \$4.95.

Woodman, Harold D. *The Legacy of the American Civil War*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1973. \$7.95. Paper \$4.50.

As a result of his recent illness, our Quizmaster, Charlie Wesselhoeft, was unable to perform his customary duties for the September meeting. His place was taken by Past President Gordon Whitney who, not in attendance himself because of his move to Madison, Indiana, nonetheless prepared and mailed a very tough test. The low scores indicate the need for some further study by our so-called experts. We are glad to hear that Charlie is recuperating at his fishing retreat in Minnesota and look forward to his early return.

It was with deep regret that we learned of the passing of three of our members. Ezra J. "Bud" Warner, renowned author of "Generals in Blue" and "Generals in Grey", died in California on May 30, 1974. Philip R. Davis, a Chicago attorney for over fifty years and an active member of the Round Table for twenty-five years, died on August 17, 1974. H.K. MacCorkle, long-time member of the Oklahoma City Round Table, as well as our own, passed away on April 19, 1974.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

October 11: Harold M. Hyman on "The Johnson Impeachment - From Appomattox To Watergate."

November 8: Wilbur Kurtz, Jr. On "Lincoln, Sherman and Lloyd Lewis."

December 13: Shelby Foote, topic to be announced.

January 10: William C. "Jack" Davis on "The Battle of New Market."

February 14: Gordon Whitney on "The Battle of Nashville."

March 14: Frank Rankin on "The Orphan Brigade."

April 11: Harold Simpson on "The Texas Brigade, Lee's Grenadier Guard."

May 1-4: Annual Battlefield Tour to Richmond.

May 9: Ralph G. Newman on "The Last Full Measure of Devotion - Abraham Lincoln's Incredible Funeral."

June 13: Ladies Night, Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner, and Installation of Officers.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at LaSalle Hotel Coffee Shop; all members welcome.

NEW MEMBERS

Kenneth M. Harrison, 2937 Garfield Street, Highland, Indiana 46322

Donald L. Hatch, Jr., 432 Westmoreland, Apt. 14, Vernon Hills, Illinois 60060

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

E.C. Brinkman, 140 E. Franklin Place, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045

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Malcolm Macht, 2812 Florida Avenue, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110



A campaign has been initiated to raise funds for the restoration of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. It is anticipated that the work will cost approximately forty thousand dollars. The church's beautiful stained glass windows prevented the church from being used as a hospital after the nearby Battle of Perryville as they rendered the interior too dark for efficient medical operations. However, the church was visited the day after the battle by the Bishop General, Leonidas Polk, who entered to pray for peace and for a blessing on friend and foe alike. Anyone wishing information or to contribute can correspond directly with the church at Short and Chiles Streets, Harrodsburg.