

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

October 1977

JOHN PATRICK HUNTER ON THE CAPTURE AND CAPTIVITY OF JEFFERSON DAVIS

Was Jefferson Davis wearing a hoopskirt when he was captured by Union soldiers? What really happened to the Confederate Treasury? What occupied the attention of the Confederate Congress in the final hours of the Confederacy? John Patrick Hunter, associate editor of *The Capitol Times*, Madison, Wisconsin, will answer these questions and more when he addresses The Round Table on October 14.

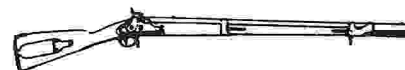
John, who has participated in nineteen Battlefield Tours, is certainly no stranger to us. He last addressed The Round Table in 1970 when he discussed the life and letters of Frank A. Haskell of Gettysburg fame. On this current occasion, the nationally-known journalist will share with us his research into the fate of President Davis after the fall of Richmond.

Davis and his cabinet fled Richmond on April 2, 1865 when it became obvious the city was about to be captured. Stopping at Danville, Virginia, they did what they could to continue both the government and the war, but with little effect. Following Lee's surrender on April 9, their efforts to hold the government together, as well as to avoid the Federal troops, became more and more desperate and ultimately doomed. Fleeing from town to town, Davis and what was left of his cabinet were finally captured on May 10 near Irwinville, Georgia. The former Confederate president was imprisoned at Fort Monroe, Virginia, where at first he was kept in chains. Eventually, however, conditions improved and his family was allowed to join him. Despite talk of prosecution and execution in mid-1865, he was released without trial on May 13, 1867.

John feels that although the basic facts of the flight of Jefferson Davis and his capture and captivity are well known to most of the members of The Round Table, there are some important details and gaps in the story which he would like to explore for us. Davis' adventures in April and May, 1865 comprise a tale which, as John will relate, is replete with malice, cruelty and uncommon heroism. One of the most fascinating aspects of the Davis story is his connection with Wisconsin and the Middle West. Thus, John will also describe those early years,



JOHN PATRICK HUNTER



364th REGULAR MEETING

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JOHN PATRICK HUNTER
on
The Capture and Captivity
of Jefferson Davis

Friday, October 14, 1977

* * *

Chicago Bar Association,
29 South LaSalle Street

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



including Davis' courtship of his first wife, Sarah Knox Taylor, the daughter of Zachary Taylor, in the frontier military post (Fort Crawford) at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

John Hunter has a wide-spread reputation as a fine author and speaker on a variety of Civil War subjects. He played a leading role in reawakening interest in Wisconsin's Colonel Frank A. Haskell, whose account of the Battle of Gettysburg is a classic. In addition, he was a member of the Wisconsin Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission, the Wisconsin Civil War Centennial Commission, the Wisconsin Bicentennial Commission and a friend and confidant of the late William B. Hesseltine, the noted Civil War historian. A native of Nicholas County, West Virginia, John is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. During World War II, he served as a war correspondent and has been a member of the staff of *The Capitol Times* since 1951.

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 in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Ward C. Smidl, 1104 Whippoorwill Lane, Palatine, Illinois 60067.



In the September issue of the Newsletter, we carried an item regarding the alleged finding of the missing pages of the John Wilkes Booth diary. If genuine, these papers which were discovered during an appraisal of property of the heirs of Edwin Stanton, would be a most important historical find. Sun Productions, a subsidiary of the Schick Corporation, has recently completed a movie detailing the background and location of the supposed diary pages. The premier showing of this controversial film will be held October 5, 1977 at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee.

We are saddened to learn that Civil War historian Gilbert Govan, author of many fine works, including a biography of Joseph Johnston, has become almost completely blind and is confined to a nursing home.

*from the
Editor's pen*



Dedication of Research Center

The Civil War Round Table and the Chicago Public Library will co-sponsor a reception in honor of the opening of the Civil War and American History Research Collection in the Cultural Center of the Library. The creation of this Research Center and the raising of sufficient funds to establish an endowment for it has been the main project of The Round Table for the past several years. The reception, on October 17, 1977, will be held from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. in the Cultural Center at Randolph and Michigan, Chicago. Refreshments will be served. The Research Center itself will remain open and various programs will be presented in the auditorium until 9:00 P.M. that evening. All members of The Round Table, their ladies and guests are cordially invited to attend this reception to join with the many national and local dignitaries who will be present to participate in the various ceremonies.

On the same date, the "Treasures of the Chicago Public Library" exhibition will also be opened in the beautifully renovated Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall of the Cultural Center. A formal, hardbound catalog of the exhibition, which will include many items from the Library's G.A.R. Collection, will be available. The regular price of the catalog, thirty pages of which will be devoted to Civil War items, is \$12.50, but members of The Round Table can obtain a copy at our October meeting at a special price of \$10.00.

It has recently been announced that the Research Center has received, as a permanent addition, the outstanding Civil War library of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Lutz. This ten thousand volume collection, which includes a large selection of regimental histories in mint condition, will be on display on the day of the reception in the Research Center reading room.

Admission of Women Members

After a spirited and full discussion during the September meeting, the admission of women to membership in The Round Table was approved by those present by a vote of thirty-eight to thirty-four. Pursuant to the procedure established by the Executive Committee, as outlined in the September Newsletter, this vote is not determinative of the issue. Instead, the question will be finally resolved by a poll of all local members (those who reside within two hundred miles of Chicago) and former officers.

For this reason, a ballot is enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter and all qualified members are urged to mark their vote, sign their name to certify that they are eligible, in accordance with the above provisions, to participate in the poll, and return the ballot in the enclosed envelope. Meeting reservation cards may be included in the same envelope as the ballots.

We are sure that it is unnecessary to restate the importance of this issue to the future of your Round Table. Such a vital question should, and must, be determined only by the decision of all those involved. Please show your interest in our fine organization by taking the few moments necessary to vote. It would not be fair to those who have devoted time and energy to the merits of this proposition, pro or con, to have it determined by anything less than one hundred percent participation.

Treasurer Jim Huber has announced that dues for the 1977-1978 Round Table year are now due. Those members whose remittance is not received by the date of the November meeting, November 11th, will be dropped from the membership roster.

September Meeting

Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign in the spring of 1862, and its effect on the war, was the subject of fellow member Lowell Reidenbaugh's remarks when he addressed 88 members and their guests on September 9.

Following a brief geographical introduction to the Shenandoah Valley, Lowell began his discussion with Lincoln's announcement on January 31, 1862, that McClellan would commence his "On to Richmond" campaign on February 22. Three days later, however, McClellan replied that he could not be ready by then and that, furthermore, he preferred the water route to Richmond. Lincoln finally agreed, providing enough troops were left behind by McClellan to protect Washington.

Despite the fact that 73,000 of his troops were detailed to defend Washington, McClellan's forces far outnumbered the Confederates on the Peninsula. To help prevent McDowell, then at Fredericksburg, from being reinforced so that he could join McClellan, worsening the odds even further, Confederate General Joseph Johnston assigned Jackson the task of harassing the Federal troops in the Valley.

In late March, Jackson received word, erroneously, that the Federal troops under General James Shields had departed to join McDowell. Therefore, on March 23 Jackson began moving north. However, he ran into Shields at Kernstown and, following a four hour fight, was forced to withdraw. As Lowell pointed out, although this was a tactical defeat for Jackson, it was a strategic victory because the Federal authorities were alarmed, resulting in another 50,000 troops being ordered back from Fredericksburg.

Following the battle of Kernstown, Jackson moved south and then east to Swift Run Gap, slowly followed by General N.P. Banks. Ten days later, he ordered General Richard Ewell and his 8,500 men to replace him at the Gap and keep an eye on Banks while Jackson moved further south. Turning southeast, Jackson gave the impression he was leaving the Valley. At Mechum's River Station, however, he put his troops on the train back to the Valley.

After pausing at Staunton, Jackson moved to the west side of the Valley where on May 8 he defeated General R. H. Milroy at McDowell. Jackson chased Milroy to Franklin where General John Fremont was camped, but decided Banks was his real objective and turned back into the Valley where he began moving north on the Valley Turnpike. On May 20, after receiving a letter from Johnston cautioning against attacking Banks in his entrenched position at Strasburg and telling Ewell to move to Richmond, Jackson paused to send a wire of protest to Lee. Johnston rescinded his order and Jackson, now joined by Ewell, continued north and then east into the Luray Valley.

On May 23, Jackson advanced on Front Royal where he defeated and captured Kenly's Brigade. The next day, assuming that Banks would move north on the Valley Turnpike from Strasburg to Winchester, Jackson moved to cut him off, but Banks had already passed. After chasing him back through Winchester, Jackson paused to rest before advancing to Halltown, near Harper's Ferry. Meanwhile, the Federal authorities in Washington were, as Lowell put it, "going crazy". Shields, who had reached Fredericksburg on May 22, was ordered back to the Valley and Fremont was ordered into it. Both Fremont and Shields were closer to Strasburg than Jackson, and if they arrived first, he would have been cut off. Jackson pulled out, leaving the Stonewall Brigade as a rear guard at Harper's Ferry. On May 31, he reached Winchester and recalled the Stonewall Brigade, which, by hard marching, was able to slip through Strasburg just ahead of the Federal forces who had not moved quickly enough.

Jackson now realized that Shields had turned south into the Luray Valley hoping to hit Jackson on the flank. However, by doing so he had cut himself off from Fremont on the other side of the Shenandoah River. There was no available crossing because Jackson had destroyed the bridge. Jackson withdrew to Harrisonburg where on June 6 his great cavalry leader Turner Ashby was killed in a minor skirmish. On June 8, Ewell defeated Fremont at Cross Keys, and on June 9, Jackson, after crossing the

To The Campfollowers (Ladies)

A record-sized group, which included the wives of several out-of-town members and several suburbanites who have not been with us recently, attended our September meeting. After enjoying the delightful hospitality of Jackie Cohn, we heard a most informative talk by George Fleming, which was followed by a lively question and answer period. We then walked over to the Pearson Room of the Water Tower and had dinner in charming surroundings.

Our speaker in October will be Civil War Round Table member Merlin Sumner, who will talk on "The Sensational 67th Ohio," a regiment in which some of his ancestors served. We will meet at 5 pm in the Chelsea Room on the first floor of the Continental Plaza Hotel at Michigan and Delaware, the talk will follow at 6 pm. For the first time, it will be possible for you to order from the menu! Please be with us and bring an interested friend or two. There is parking in the hotel, and an open parking lot at the southwest corner of Michigan and Oak, which is just two short blocks from the Continental. Add your reservation to your husband's card or call Margaret April at 787-1860.

The Louisville Civil War Round Table has announced plans for its annual program in honor of the Battle of Perryville. All those attending will meet on the evening of October 7th at the historic Elmwood Inn, in Perryville, for dinner and a social hour. On the next morning, October 8th, which is the actual anniversary of the battle, there will be a tour of the battlefield conducted by Dr. Kenneth A. Hafendorfer, current president of the Louisville Civil War Round Table, who is completing a book on the battle. The schedule for the afternoon includes a candlelight tour of historic homes in Perryville, several of which were used as hospitals during the battle. This will be followed by a dinner, again at the Elmwood Inn, which will also serve as the regular monthly meeting of the Louisville Civil War Round Table. Principal speaker at the dinner will be Charles Hines, whose topic will be the aftermath of the battle. On Sunday, October 9th, there will be a re-enactment of the battle. Anyone wishing to participate in any or all of the events of this fine weekend should contact Frank Rankin, Post Office Box 1861, Louisville, Kentucky 40201 for further details.

Several of our own members are again active on the speaking trail. Marshall Krolick addressed the Louisville Civil War Round Table on September 17th and the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table on September 29th. On each occasion his topic was the "Battle of Brandy Station." Gordon Whitney will describe the career of Union General Jefferson C. Davis for both the Kansas City and St. Louis Civil War Round Tables in late October. In the Chicago area, Ralph G. Newman will discuss "The Real Abraham Lincoln: The Man, Not the Myth" before the Joliet Propeller Club on October 11, 1977 at 7 o'clock p.m. Anyone wishing to attend and hear Ralph's remarks can call Anita Bolan, 739-5000, for location and other details.

river on a bridge crudely constructed by laying planks across the running gear of wagons, fought Shields at Port Republic. The Federals had a strong artillery position there which was chewing up Jackson's troops until successfully charged and silenced by Taylor's Louisiana Brigade. The remaining Federals then fled and Jackson was able to rest his troops for a few days before heading east to join Lee.

In summing up the effects of the Valley Campaign, Lowell pointed out that three times during it Jackson had prevented McDowell from joining McClellan and that McClellan blamed the absence of McDowell for his failure to win on the Peninsula. Lowell concluded that without the Valley Campaign, the war would have ended two or three years sooner.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Eaton, Clement. *Jefferson Davis, the Sphinx of the Confederacy*. New York: Free Press, 1977. \$12.50

Fischer, LeRoy H., editor. *The Western Territories in the Civil War*. Manhattan, Kansas: The Journal of the West, 1977. 28 cm. pbk. \$6.00

Hubbard, John Milton. *Notes of a Private*. By John Milton Hubbard, Company E, 7th Tennessee Regiment, Forrest's Cavalry Corps. Bolivar, Tenn.: R.P. Shackelford, Sr., 1977. \$7.50

Hollister, John J., editor. *Chickamauga and Chattanooga on Your Own*. An Illustrated Guide to the Battlefields. Edina, Minn.: Battlefield Guide Publishers, 1977. 43 p., illus., oblong, paper.

Levenson, Dorothy. *The First Book of the Civil War*. Illustrated with original drawings and photos. Revised edition. New York: Watts, 1977. \$4.50

Rawley, James A., comp. *Lincoln and Civil War Politics*. Huntington, N.Y.: R.E. Krieger Pub. Co., 1977. Pbk \$4.50. Reprint of an edition done by Holt, Rinehart, 1969.

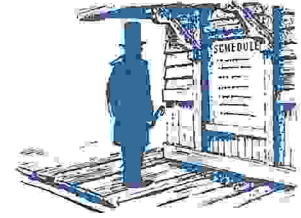
The Flags of the Confederate States of America. By authority of the United Confederate Veterans. [June 3, 1906]. 6 p., illus., paper. \$1.50. Wallington, England: Confederate States Printing House, 1977. Facsimile reprint of the original UCV publication of 1907.

Perhaps encouraged by the success of "The Killer Angels," two more Civil War novels have recently appeared on the literary scene. "Jim Mundy," written by Robert H. Fowler, publisher of "Civil War Times Illustrated," has received a complimentary review from the *Chicago Tribune*. This book follows the career of a young, anti-slavery North Carolina farmer during his service in the Confederate Army. The other book, "Look Away, Beulah Land," by Lonnie Coleman, did not receive such favorable treatment from the *Tribune*. As the reviewer noted, this work appears to be more popularly oriented, as it has a decidedly soap opera theme in detailing life on a Georgia plantation during the War.

The *Chicago Sun-Times* recently noted that the descendants of Dr. Samuel Mudd are still actively attempting to clear the name of their ancestor. They have recently petitioned President Carter to reverse the conviction of the man who set John Wilkes Booth's broken leg during his flight from Washington. The paper went on to note that, in light of recent developments in the United States, Dr. Mudd's descendants should consider themselves very fortunate that Mr. Booth's descendants have not sued Mudd's estate for malpractice.

Dr. Robert Sheridan, chairman of the University of Delaware's marine biology program and director of the research expedition to the site of the Monitor, and other scientists are now convinced that the famous Civil War Ironclad can be recovered from the ocean floor. The findings of the four-day expedition last April to the area off Cape Hatteras disclosed that the ocean currents in the area are gentle enough to permit exploration by diving and that the ocean floor is cohesive enough to permit digging under the ship during the raising procedure. Several possible methods of salvage have been suggested and are now under consideration. Among these is one theory which calls for the assistance of the famous Glomar Explorer. It is hoped by all concerned with the project that the ship can be raised before 1980.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

October 14: John Hunter on "The Capture and Captivity of Jefferson Davis".

November 11: E. B. "Pete" Long on "A Broader Approach to Civil War Strategy".

December 9: Dr. Lewis H. Croce on "Lincoln and the Federal Bureaucracy".

January 13: To be announced.

February 10: To be announced.

March 10: Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr.—Topic to be announced.

April 14: Marshall D. Krolick on "Brandy Station".

May 3-7: Annual Battlefield Tour to Chancellorsville, Wilderness, Fredericksburg, etc.

May 12: To be announced.

June 9: Ladies' Night, Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Wieboldt's Men's Grill, 9th Floor, State and Madison; all members welcome.

New Members

David G. St. John, 934 Carmel Drive, Palatine, Illinois 60067.
James H. Chapman, 1604 S. Western, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068.

James Kostohrys, 5512 S. Ashland, La Grange, Illinois 60525.
Thomas P. Brakey, 442 Des Plaines, Forest Park, Illinois 60130.

Richard C. Winship, 10938 S. Bell, Chicago, Illinois 60643.
Edward P. Kress, 3351 W. 62nd Street, Chicago, Illinois 60629.

Peter J. Roche, P.O. Box 370, Lemont, Illinois 60439.
Julian Bragg, 6817 Cottage Street, Richmond, Virginia 23228.

Burton Natarus, 1329 Sandburg Terrace, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

Karl Sundstrom, 119 Groveland, Apt. 3, Riverside, Illinois 60546.

Mark Yuccas, 243 E. Forest Lane, Palatine, Illinois 60067.

James (Jim) Meade, great-grandson of Union General George Meade, commander of Federal forces at Gettysburg, died recently in Georgia at the age of 63 of a heart attack. Mr. Meade, a graduate of the University of Maryland, was a halfback with the Washington Redskins and also served as an assistant football coach at his alma mater and at Furman University. During World War II, he was a Captain of paratroops in the Pacific Theatre.

Our old friend and oft-times speaker, Joseph C. Cullen, has retired after a long and excellent career with the National Park Service. Joe's most recent position was as assistant to the regional director for Virginia. Joe is, of course, an eminent Civil War historian and has authored many fine books pertaining to the conflict. During his retirement from government service, Joe plans to devote his time to research and writing. He has recently had a book published on a Revolutionary War subject and is currently at work on another Civil War book. We wish him much success in the future.