

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXIX, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May, 1979

## CHRIS CALKINS ON THE APPOMATTOX CAMPAIGN

A visual tour of the Civil War's last major military action will be featured at The Round Table meeting of May 11. That evening, National Park Service historian Chris Calkins will describe, with the aid of slides, maps, and artifacts, the Appomattox Campaign of April, 1865, or, as it is perhaps better known, Lee's retreat and surrender. Participants in the 1978 Battlefield Tour to Fredericksburg will remember Chris well since he both served as one of our guides and also presented a fascinating portrayal of a Union soldier after Appomattox on Fun Night.

Upon evacuation of Richmond and Petersburg, the Army of Northern Virginia moved west swiftly with the Union troops in pursuit. Lee hoped to pull together his forces at Amelia Court House and move southward via the railroad to join Joe Johnston. Unfortunately, he had to pause for 24 hours on April 4 to let his starving men forage for food. The delay enabled pursuing Union troops to overtake him, and, with his southern flank threatened by Sheridan, Lee was forced to continue west toward Lynchburg.



Chris Calkins

On April 6, the Confederate rear guard under Ewell and Gordon was hit hard by Sheridan at Saylor's Creek and over 6,000 Confederates, including Ewell and five other generals, were captured. By April 8, Sheridan had moved ahead of Lee and was blocking the road to Lynchburg in the vicinity of Appomattox Court House. Although Lee was able to push through Sheridan's cavalry on the morning of April 9, he soon found his army surrounded by Union infantry. There was nothing left to do but surrender.

As Chris notes, the geographical location of the Appomattox Campaign, Southside Virginia, is fairly unique for Civil War enthusiasts because it has changed very little in appearance in the last 100 years. His slide program will follow the route of Lee's retreat and show pertinent houses, sites and battlefields connected with the final Virginia campaign. In addition to these modern views, Chris will bring along a series of unpublished photographs and paintings depicting many of the areas which are no longer in existence or which have changed considerably.

The narration for the program will be provided by the words of men of both armies and civilians along the way who were participants in this page of history. Chris also intends to offer a brief map discussion to clarify troop



381st REGULAR MEETING

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Chris Calkins

on

The Appomattox Campaign

Friday, May 11, 1979

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Chicago Bar Association  
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

An important Executive Committee Meeting will be held at the Bar Association at 5:00 p.m. on May 11, 1979, just prior to the regular meeting scheduled for that date. Among the items on the agenda are the site of the 1980 Battlefield Tour. All current officers, trustees, and committee chairmen, as well as all past presidents are urged to attend.

movements, and to show original artifacts from the retreat route so that, as he says, these silent witnesses can help bring the story to life.

Chris Calkins is a native of Detroit, Michigan and was educated there and in Virginia. He began working for the National Park Service in 1972 at Appomattox Court House where, during the summer, he portrayed a Union soldier in the Park's Living History Program. In 1977 he transferred to Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park where he serves as Bob Krick's assistant. He also coordinates the summer Living History interpretive program there.

Chris is the author of two articles, "Military Operations around Farmville, Virginia, April 6-7, 1865," and "The Battle of Saylor's Creek, April 6, 1865." He is currently working on a study dealing with the last two days of the War, April 8-9, 1865, and the battles of Appomattox Station and Appomattox Court House. This will be his first visit to our Round Table here in Chicago.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

## OFFICERS

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## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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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.



Our old friend and Honorary Award Life Member, Dr. T. Harry Williams, who has served as Boyd Professor of History at Louisiana State University since 1953, has announced his retirement from that position effective this spring. Dr. Williams, who will continue to maintain his principal residence in Baton Rouge, as well as his summer home in Wisconsin, will devote his time to further writing and research. In his honor, the Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table has established the "T. Harry Williams Scholarship Fund", the purpose of which will be to provide for graduate fellowships in history at Louisiana State University. Anyone wishing to contribute to this Fund can forward his donation to the Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table at 601 St. Ferdinand Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At the April meeting, Myron Cohn, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced the following proposed slate of officers for the 1979-1980 year:

President	Merlin E. Sumner
Senior Vice President	Robert G. Walter
Vice President	Donald E. Anderson
Vice President	Robert H. Franke
Secretary	Marvin Goldsher
Treasurer	Marvin Sanderman
Assistant Secretary	J. Robert Ziegler
Assistant Treasurer	Robert C. Grossman
Trustee	James Girman
Trustee	Paul I. Klinger
Trustee	Richard J. Percy
Trustee	Nathan Yellen

The election will be held during the May meeting, at which time additional nominations for any of the above offices may be made from the floor. Installation of the new officers will be part of the program at the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner on June 8th. Four current members of the Board of Trustees, Dennis D. Donnellan, James H. Huber, Irwin Levin, and Daniel R. Weinberg, will remain in office for the coming year as they complete their two-year terms.

## FIFTH ANNUAL ROUND TABLE CONGRESS

Jerry Russell, national chairman of the Congress, has announced the program for the Fifth Annual Meeting, to be held this year in Fayetteville, Arkansas on October 4th-6th. The keynote speaker will be our own Honorary Award Life Member, Ed Bearss who will discuss "The Early War in the Trans-Mississippi" on Thursday evening. Other speakers will include Dr. Michael Dougan of Arkansas State University whose topic will be "Arkansas in the Confederacy", Dr. John Cziraky of Temple University, on "William Clarke Quantrill", and Dr. Walter Brown of The University of Arkansas, who will speak on "Albert Pike as a Confederate General". As in past years, Dr. Robert Meinhard of Winona State University will discuss recent developments in battlefield preservation. Also on the agenda are Ron Cavanaugh, historian of the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park and Betty Gentry, superintendent of Pea Ridge National Military Park, as well as several panel discussions. The concluding speaker at the final banquet on Saturday evening will be Dr. Leroy Fischer of Oklahoma State University who will discuss "Confederate Indians". In addition to the various addresses there will be tours of Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove as well as a Battlefield reenactment at Prairie Grove. An optional tour to Wilson's Creek on Sunday is also being considered. The registration fee for the Congress, which includes all meals, sessions, tours, admissions, etc. is \$125 for members of Civil War Round Table Associates and \$150 for non-members. A \$10 discount is available if the registration fee is paid by September 20th, 1979. Lodging is not included in these prices. For reservations or other information, write Jerry Russell, Civil War Round Table Associates, P. O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72217.

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Furthering our continuing program to establish and endow the Civil War and American History Research Center, The Round Table has presented an additional check in the amount of \$5,000 to the Chicago Public Library Special Collection Division. As in the past, these funds will be utilized for the purchase of research and reference sources and to provide for the restoration and preservation of Civil War artifacts and exhibit items. The Research Center is located adjacent to the GAR Memorial Hall in the Cultural Center of the Chicago Public Library at Randolph and Michigan Streets.



## APRIL MEETING

The 132 members and guests who attended The Round Table meeting of April 6, a record number, were treated to a fascinating look at and discussion of Civil War photography. Our speaker was William Frassanito, who used as his subject matter photos from both his recent *Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day*, and his earlier work, *Gettysburg: A Journey in Time*.

Frassanito began his talk by describing how he, personally, got interested in the subject of Civil War photography. This occurred in 1955 when he read a copy of Life Magazine which featured a selection of Civil War photographs. As his interest developed and he looked at more and more photos, however, he began noticing inconsistencies in captions, such as the same scene shown from two different angles would have two totally different identifications. He thus started doing his own research, using such evidence as rocks with distinctive features and other landmarks appearing in the photos. This led him to search for these landmarks in the field to determine the exact location of a photo. Then, by consulting regimental histories and other records, he determined what units would have been at that place, in an attempt to identify the soldiers depicted.

Out of this research came his first book, *Gettysburg: A Journey in Time*. Its success made it possible for Frassanito to undertake the work on the Antietam book. Now, he noted, he is involved in a similar project on Grant's Virginia campaigns. This trilogy, he explained, cannot be described as a photo history of the war, but rather a history of photo coverage of the war.

In discussing the major photographers of the Civil War, Frassanito pointed out that by the time of the war Matthew Brady was half blind and that there is no evidence he ever actually took any photos. In fact, he was only at the front three times, one of these at Gettysburg immediately after the battle. However, Brady did have the original idea of sending out photographers to cover the war and for this he is entitled to great credit. Frassanito also explained that although there are only a few names usually mentioned in connection with Civil War photography, there were actually 300 known war photographers working in the Eastern theater alone.

When he began examining the photographs, Frassanito started by sorting them out by photographer groups, as each cameraman had distinctive features. To illustrate, he showed us Gettysburg photos taken by Brady's studio. In each, Brady and/or one or two assistants appear. Being able to pinpoint such features is important in identifying photographs. Providing such identification has become important because photos are very useful in park restoration. For example, Frassanito showed two Gettysburg scenes which he was able to positively identify and which the Park Service will now use as a basis for restoration work. One, of McPherson's barn, shows that the original barn was quite different from current conceptions and the Park Service thus halted a costly project to restore the barn until it can revise its plans.

In discussing his research techniques, Frassanito talked about his often painstaking research in the field in searching for the landmarks that enable him to pinpoint exact photo and camera locations. The problem, he said, is compounded by new growth which often obscures the landmark. He illustrated this point with slides showing the same scenes in 1863 and today.

Civil War photographers, Frassanito noted, were technicians producing a commercial product, not historians. Thus, they were not above stretching the truth. He showed how a dead Confederate soldier was used in several locations in the Devil's Den area at Gettysburg to enhance the scenes and make them more dramatic.

RESERVE THE DATE!

June 8, 1979

NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD DINNER  
HONORING E. B. "PETE" LONG

Long time member and veteran Battlefield Tour campaigner, Dr. Allan M. Giddings is now a resident of Spring Hill Manor Nursing Home in Battle Creek, Michigan. We are pleased to hear that, despite some difficulty in walking, the Doctor is doing quite well. We are sure that he would welcome cards and letters from many of his old comrades on past Tours.

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As many of our members are aware, The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City has established The Monett Battle of Westport Fund to provide battlefield markers on the site of this important action which took place during Price's Missouri Raid in 1864. The next marker to be erected by the Fund will be in honor of Dr. Bert L. Maybee who for many years has been the guiding light of The Kansas City Round Table. All of us who have had the honor of attending a meeting in Kansas City owe a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. Maybee for his gracious hospitality and many courtesies. This outstanding gentleman has also been a member of our Round Table for some time. Those who wish to join with the members of The Kansas City Round Table in honoring Dr. Maybee can do so by forwarding a donation to The Monett Fund in c/o William Lucas, 207 East 10th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

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The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table will hold its Twentieth Anniversary Meeting on May 18th, 1979. Featured Speaker for the evening will be Dr. John Y. Simon, Director of the U.S. Grant Association and History Professor at Southern Illinois University.

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With the strong support of President Glen Wiche, The Round Table is about to begin a long overdue oral history program. The preservation of the history of our own organization and the trails our scholars have followed is as important as saving the sites over which the men of Blue and Grey fought. Our members, over the years, have made solid contributions to the lore of the Civil War, but these contributions have too often been lost to posterity after they are gone. Co-Chairmen Bob Douglas and Brooks Davis plan to visit with many of our veteran members, in addition to those of more recent vintage, all of whom have been active in study and research. Each will be interviewed and their remarks taped. In this way, those who come after us will be able to relive on a first-hand basis the frustrations, joys, and success which have been so important to us. In addition, it is hoped that this program can be expanded across the country. Already, contact has been established with the scholars of other Round Tables as well as those in the academic field. A possible federal grant application is now under consideration to provide additional funds for this most important work.

However, in Frassanito's view such dead soldiers are not just objects; they are people. Thus, for his Antietam book, he attempted to present some of them as human beings. He discussed for us several of such men and the techniques he used to find out what they and their lives were like. The goal, he said, was to show the far reaching human effects of the tragedy of battle depicted by the camera.

# THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Broadfoot, Tom. *Civil War Books: A Priced Checklist*. Edited by Tom Broadfoot. Compiled by Ann Sterling and Marianne Pair/General Books and Regimentals/Stuart Wright, Confederate Imprints. Wendell, N.C., Avera Press, 1978. \$25.00

Forgie, George B. *Patricide in the House Divided: A Psychological Interpretation of Lincoln and His Age*. New York: Norton, 1979. \$14.95

Harwell, Richard B. *In Tall Cotton*. The 200 most important Confederate Books, for the Reader, Researcher and Collector. With a preface by E. Merton Coulter. Austin, Texas: Jenkins Publishing Company, 1979. \$19.50

Krzyzanowski, Wlodzimierz, 1824-1887. *The Memoirs of Wladimir Krzyzanowski*. James S. Pula, ed. [translated by Stanley J. Pula]. Palo Alto: R. & E. Research Associates, 1978. \$8.00

O'Connor, Thomas H. *The Disunited States*. The Era of Civil War and Reconstruction. 2nd ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1978. Paper \$6.95

Young, Bennett H. *Confederate Wizards of the Saddle*. Being reminiscences and observations of one who rode with Morgan. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1979. \$30.00. Reprint of the Boston issue of 1914.

The Stonewall Jackson House, located in Lexington, Virginia, was damaged by a fire which occurred on the evening of January 15th, 1979. The fire apparently started in the basement furnace room and spread upward through the heating and electrical ducts. However, as a result of early discovery and efficient work by the local fire department, the damage was held to a minimum. The firemen are also to be commended for utilizing extreme care in their efforts so as to minimize the effects of water and axes on the historic structure. The house, which is owned by The Lee-Jackson Foundation has been undergoing restoration and, of course, this fire will delay the completion of that project. However, the fire loss was totally insured and it is still hoped that the restoration can be completed before the end of 1979.

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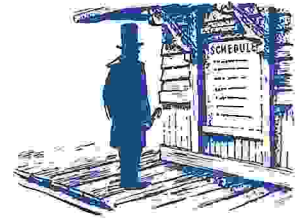
We are sorry to learn of the death, on January 9th, 1979, of Ruth Fields Yerby who had served as curator of the Stonewall Jackson Headquarters Museum in Winchester, Virginia since it was first opened to the public in 1956. Mrs. Yerby was our hostess when we were guests of honor at a command post held at the Headquarters during our Battlefield Tour to the Shenandoah Valley in 1971.

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A proposed change in the constitution of the St. Louis Civil War Round Table which would have extended membership privileges to women was soundly defeated, by a ratio of approximately four to one, at the St. Louis Round Table's February meeting. Any ladies who wish to express their opinions on the result of this vote are urged to contact Lowell Reidenbaugh who, it is reported, was the leader of the chauvinistic element.

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Mrs. Anne Lee Ely, the granddaughter of General Robert E. Lee, died in November, 1978 in Copperville, Virginia at the age of 81. She was the daughter of Robert E. Lee, Jr., the general's youngest son, who rose to the rank of Captain during the Civil War.



# BULLETIN BOARD

## FUTURE MEETINGS

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

May 2-6: Annual Battlefield Tour—Shiloh and Northern Mississippi.

May 11: Chris Calkins on "The Appomattox Campaign".

June 8: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and installation of officers. Recipient of Award: E.B. "Pete" Long.

September 14: William Mallory on "Actions North of the James River, September 29 and 30, 1864."

October 12: Robert K. Krick on "E. P. Alexander, Peerless and Insightful Cannoneer."

November 9: Dr. Daniel P. Jordan on "Richmond, First City of the Confederacy".

December 7: Henry Pomerantz on "Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville, Prelude to Gettysburg and Aftermath of Brandy Station".

January 11: Dr. John Y. Simon, topic to be announced.

February 8: Dr. James Lee McDonough on "The Last Day at Stones River".

March 14: Dr. John G. Barrett, topic to be announced.

April 11: Ralph G. Newman on "The Lights Go On Again At Ford's Theater".

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

Last Tuesday of each month: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Caravelle Motel, River Road and Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont; all members welcome.

## NEW MEMBERS

Michael A. Feldmeier, 15441 Michaele Dr., Oak Forest, Illinois 60452.

Jeffrey M. Goldsher, 515 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Illinois 60202.

Robert Moyat, 1960 Lincoln Park West, Apt. 1107, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

David Gorak, 36 N. Ahrens, Lombard, Illinois 60148.

Barlow's Knoll, the right flank position of the Union Army during the first day's fighting at Gettysburg, is to be restored this summer to its 1863 condition by the National Park Service. The government has acquired and will demolish a motel which previously occupied a portion of the site. The restoration project will include recontouring the ground and returning the area to the agricultural use present at the time of the Battle. In addition to the commercial property, which the government was forced to acquire through condemnation proceedings, the balance of the Knoll area is owned by the Adams County government and by a private owner. The Park Service has obtained a scenic easement from the latter and is currently negotiating with the County to acquire its property, which is vacant. This restoration of the Barlow's Knoll area is part of the continuing program to restore as much of the Battlefield as possible to the condition it was in at the time of the Battle. The Park Service, and especially its Gettysburg staff, headed by Superintendent John Ernst and historian Tom Harrison, are to be highly commended for their ongoing efforts in this most important aspect of historic preservation.