

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Warren Hassler on 'McClellan,' Friday, April 11



Warren W. Hassler, Jr.

A new look at Gen. George Brinton McClellan - perhaps the most controversial figure of the Civil War - will be offered by Warren W. Hassler Jr. at our meeting on Friday, April 11. Professor Hassler, of Pennsylvania State University, is a military biographer of McClellan and one of the general's chief supporters among Civil War scholars.

"The McClellan case is neither all black nor all white," Hassler asserts, "but I believe that McClellan comes out pretty well on balance. My view is more sympathetic to the general than the anti-McClellan opinions we are most accustomed to hearing."

Hassler, using new evidence, will discuss such matters as:

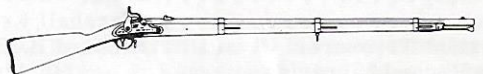
- o McClellan's dickering with the Lincoln Administration over grand strategy, including the number of troops to be involved in conflicts and the political implications of the strategy discussions.
- o The relative roles of Lincoln, Stanton and McClellan in planning war strategy.
- o McClellan's relations with Congress.
- o A new perspective on the disastrous Peninsular Campaign putting that campaign into context.
- o McClellan's removal from command after the Seven Days battle and his restoration later in 1862.

Hassler's assessment of McClellan will review his entire Civil War career up to the time that Lincoln finally relieved the general of his command for failure to promptly follow up the victory of Union forces at Antietam in November, 1862.

"Look at the caliber of the opposition to McClellan," Hassler cautions, "and remember that" Lincoln and Stanton were both of the other political party. McClellan admittedly had his faults, but the other generals had the opportunity to learn as they went along. McClellan had no such opportunity. I believe that his final removal from command was inopportune and that the general looks better in retrospect than his detractors of Civil War days would have us believe."

McClellan (West Point '46) was the son of a distinguished Philadelphia surgeon. After graduation from the Military Academy, he served 10 years as a military engineer before taking an executive position with the Illinois Central Railroad. His commands during the Civil War began with the Department of the Ohio and later he commanded the Army of the Potomac before succeeding Winfield Scott as commander of all Union armies.

Our April speaker, a native of Baltimore, graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and, after service in the Air Force in World War II, he took a bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1950, a mas-



280th REGULAR MEETING

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Warren W. Hassler Jr.

on

"A New Look at McClellan"

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Friday, April 11, 1969

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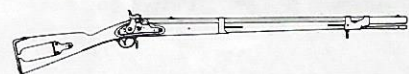
Furniture Club in Furniture Mart

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6 p.m.

Autographing Cocktail Party
4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For Member Grady McWhiney, Northwestern University, author of "Braxton Bragg and Confederate Defeat" newly published by Columbia University Press, \$10 a copy. At Book & Bottle, 17 E. Chestnut, hospitality facility of Ralph G. Newman's Abraham Lincoln Book Shop.



ter's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1951, and a doctorate from Johns Hopkins in 1954. The following year he joined the faculty of Penn State where he is now a full professor of American history and a specialist in the Civil War and U.S. military history.

Of his April 11 talk, Hassler says: "I will not try to cover all the things pertaining to McClellan's Civil War military career. Rather, for this knowledgeable Round Table, I will select a number of significant and controversial points regarding Little Mac, analyze and evaluate them, and try to place them in the context of the whole Federal war effort. There is room for several interpretations on some of these hotly debated issues and I would explore them in some depth. Some of the avowed and extreme anti-McClellanites will find much with which to take issue."

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940
18 East Chestnut Street,
Chicago 11, Illinois
Phone: Whitehall 4-3085

OFFICERS

President Jerry Warshaw
Vice President Clyde C. Walton
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Executive Committee)

Terms expiring in 1969: Maurice Fisher,
Dan J. Lapinski, Charles Wesselhoeft.

Terms expiring in 1970: S. J. Kearney,
James Coulter, James Henry.

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968



PRESIDENT WARSHAW asks all members to volunteer to work on appropriate committees of the CWRT. Chairmen appointed by the president for 1968-69 are:

Membership: Maurice Fisher
Awards: Chuck Falkenberg
House and Meals: Dick Cohen
Sickness and Memorials: Jim Coulter
Fellowship Co-Chairmen: Arnold Alexander,
Pete Long

Auditing: Charley Wesselhoeft
Nominating: Brooks Davis
Publicity: Dick Bjorklund
Battlefield Tour: Dan Lapinski and Clyde Walton
Speakers Bureau: Don Pfeuffer
Stand-by Speaker: Miner T. Coburn
Special Events: Ver Lynn Sprague and Warren Reeder

Applications for CWRT fellowships are now available from Arnold Alexander, chairman of the CWRT fellowship committee, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Chairman Alexander reminds all CWRT members and friends that they may make tax-deductible contributions to the CWRT Fellowship Fund for Civil War research and education. Contributions may be sent to Alexander at the address above.

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Club members who know of the death or illness of anyone associated with the Chicago CWRT are encouraged to promptly contact President Warshaw or the CWRT through the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop.

*from the
Editor's pen*



Brooks Davis gave a colorful account of the "terrific fight" at Perryville, Kentucky, at our March 14 meeting. Giving an expert description of the troop movements in the critical battle, Brooks helped the members by providing maps on which to follow the action. Perryville, which marked the collapse of an attempted invasion of the North by Confederate forces, was an action in which the casualties were great, so great that the action was a shock to the townsmen.

Frank Rankin, a friend of CWRT from Louisville, provided a dramatic sidelight by displaying the battle flag of the Arkansas 5th Regiment which had been picked up on the Perryville battlefield by a Union captain. Rankin described how the flag later came into his hands from a 90-year-old woman who had been the captain's neighbor.

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Dan Lapinski reported on the progress of this year's battlefield tour to be conducted May 1-4 in Shiloh and vicinity. Cost of the tour will be \$185 including air fare to Memphis, housing and many extras. A battlefield tour issue of this newsletter will be published soon.

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Charley Wesselhoeft's table won Krolick Kwick Kwiz, though some members grumbled because Krolick's questions are becoming more challenging.

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Clyde Walton has asked all members to complete questionnaires recently mailed to them and to return their comments on the club and its program to him in time for the shaping of the program for next year when Clyde will head the Chicago CWRT.

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President Warshaw announced that Maurice Fisher has been named membership and hospitality chairman replacing the late Wilson Smith. As an aid to hospitality at our meetings, Fisher has introduced a system of marking the names of all guests and new members in red ink so that they may be identified and greeted by veteran club members.

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Margaret April, longtime Girl Friday to Ralph Newman, has been named working secretary of the Chicago CWRT assigned to take care of club correspondence and other matters that were formerly handled by the late Gil Twiss and other club members.

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Among those present and honored by the March meeting were:

Past presidents and honorary life members (both titles): Harry Hershenson (1947-48) and Hal B. Hixon (1956-57).

Honorary life members: Fred C. Evers, Roscoe C. Mathis and Win Stracke.

Past presidents: Jerry M. Slechta (59-60); C. Robert Douglas (60-61); Gerhard P. Clausius (61-62); Warren A. Reeder Jr. (62-63) and J. Brooks Davis (65-66).

All CWRT members and their guests are welcome to attend meetings of the Unofficial CWRT Board of Directors and Chowder and Marching Society held each Monday at noon in our CWRT meeting room in Chodash Restaurant, 312 W. Randolph St.

LETTERS FROM OLD FRIENDS

President Jerry Warshaw announced that in addition to the eleven past presidents and/or honorary life members present at the March 14 meeting, he received communications from a number of others who were to be honored. Included among them were Bruce Catton, an honorary life member, whose wife died shortly before our meeting was held, and Past President Elmer Gertz (52-53), who was unable to attend because of another engagement.

Here are excerpts from some letters received from invitees:

"We have only intermittent passenger train service between Nashville and Chicago, I don't like to fly, and it is too far to walk or hitch-hike - so I'm afraid it will not be possible for me to get there.

Stanley F. Horn
Nashville, Tenn.
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"I deeply regret that a commitment made almost a year ago will prevent me from being at the Round Table meeting tonight when you are honoring past presidents and honorary award life members. There is no single organization that has meant as much to me in my life as the Round Table and I always regret any event that interferes with the privilege of enjoying an evening of fellowship with all of you.

Ralph G. Newman
Abraham Lincoln Book Shop
Chicago, Ill.
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"Please plan to nominate me for the biggest stinker of the year award, because next Friday night I will be down in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, making the rounds of the spring training baseball camps, and going fishing every morning, and probably to hi li or the dog tracks at night. I hope to find some time for some swimming and some fishing and some vigorous loafing. So, please, President Warshaw forgive your fat friend for not being present at the March meeting honoring past presidents and honorary life members.

Mike Lerner
Chicago, Ill.
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"On March 14 I am due at a very important meeting incident to revision of the battlefield guide around Richmond, which is all set up and it would be difficult to postpone.

J. Ambler Johnston
Richmond, Va.
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"Please tell me... I wish I could attend the meeting of your admirable circle of scholarship and fellowship on March 14, and subsequent evenings that you set aside. I am now busy teaching at the Claremont College's graduate school again, went to Washington last week for a meeting of the trustees of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and helped lay plans for the Woodrow Wilson Institution we are establishing in Washington. Please say that I shall be delighted to have letters from the members of the group. I send best wishes to all of them, and to you.

Allan Nevins
San Marino, Cal.
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"Thanks for inviting me to the affair on March 14. I know it will be a whingding, but an engagement here will prevent me from attending. Please convey my regrets to all the wonderful people.

T. Harry Williams
Baton Rouge, La.
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"Your letter to my father, Ray D. Smith, inviting him to your meeting just came to my attention. Unfor-

TO THE LADIES—

Sixteen Camp Followers were at the meeting on Friday, March 14. Mrs. E. B. Long showed the award winning film "The Face of Lincoln," which was a most unusual and interesting presentation, and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

At the April meeting, Mr. E. B. Long will give us "A Capsule Preview of the 1969 Battlefield Tour." This program will be of special appeal for those Camp Followers who will be going on the trip, but will also be interesting and informative for all.

Reservations for the catered dinner should be made with Mrs. George J. Fleming, 11146 So. Vernon, Chicago, Ill. 60628, phone number 928-8977.

unately, Dad, who will be 90 his next birthday, is in the Georgian Home in Evanston, bed-ridden and quite senile and therefore could not be with you as you requested. He did, however, read your letter and was able to understand enough of it to be pleased at your invitation. He often speaks of the Civil War Round Table and his old friends there, but I am afraid he won't ever be able to attend another of its meetings.

Clifford H. Smith,
Northbrook, Ill.
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"I had planned a trip west in June to the Huntington Library, and also to my native State of Kansas, and I do not believe it would be wise to make another trip just now. Moreover, I am deeply involved in an issue of battle ground preservation against commercial expansion and I should be here.

"Thank you kindly for your invitation. With best wishes to that fine group of men in the Chicago CWRT, I remain,

Frederick Tilberg,
Senior Historian (Retired)
Gettysburg NMP,
Gettysburg, Pa.



Members of the 104th Regiment and their ladies form a grand promenade line at the annual Ladies' Night meeting where the group danced to music by the 1st Brigade Band, a unit that has Civil War instruments and musical scores.

THE NEW BOOKS



Anders, Curt. **FIGHTING CONFEDERATES.** 315p., chronology, bibliog., index. N.Y.: Putnams', 1968. \$6.50. Six sketchy biogs.

Beers, Henry Putney. **GUIDE TO THE ARCHIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.** Washington: The National Archives, 1968. 536p., \$3.75. Companion to a guide to Federal Archives relating to C.W.

Boney, F.N., ed. **THE DIARY OF SERGEANT MATHEW WOODRUFF, JUNE-DECEMBER, 1865.** U. Alabama, 1969. \$5.00

Brick, John. **GETTYSBURG.** 176p., paper. N.Y.: Popular Library, 1968. 60¢. Original copyright 1960.

Catton, Bruce. **GRANT TAKES COMMAND.** 556p., frontis., maps, notes, bibliog., index. N.Y.: Little, 1969. \$10.00. Final volume.

Churchill, Winston S. **THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.** 145p., illus., maps, paper. N.Y.: Apollo, 1968. \$1.95. Part of his History of the English Speaking Peoples.

Coffin, Levi. **REMINISCENCES OF LEVI COFFIN,** the Reputed President of the Underground Railroad. N.Y.: Augustus M. Kelley, 1968. 712p., \$15.00. Reprint of 1876 ed. Arno Press reprints the 1898 ed.

Craven, Avery. **RECONSTRUCTION: THE ENDING OF THE CIVIL WAR.** vi, 330p., bibliog., index. N.Y.: Holt, 1969. \$6.95

Frederickson, George. **WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.** vii, 182p., bibliog., notes. Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1968. \$4.95. Paper \$1.95

Freeman, Douglas Southall. **A CALENDAR OF CONFEDERATE PAPERS;** with a bibliography of some Confederate publications... 620p., N.Y.: Kraus, 1968. \$27.50. Original of 1908.

Greenleaf, William, comp. **AMERICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1860.** 391p., U. South Carolina, 1968. \$7.95. In the Documentary History of the U.S.

Kraditor, Eileen S. **MEANS AND ENDS IN AMERICAN ABOLITIONISM: Garrison and His Critics on Strategy and Tactics, 1834-1850.** N.Y.: Pantheon, 1968. 296p. \$7.95

Lander, Ernest McPherson, Jr. **THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN ANTEBELLUM SOUTH CAROLINA.** ix, 122p., index. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State U., 1969. \$5.00

~~M. F. L. Williams~~ **YANKEE STEDEATHER, GEN.** port., bibl. New Haven: Yale, 1968. \$10.00

McWhiney, Grady. **BRAXTON BRAGG AND CONFEDERATE DEFEAT.** Volume I: Field Command. N.Y.: Columbia, 1969. \$10.00

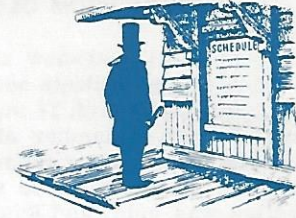
Mahan, Alfred Thayer. **ADMIRAL FARRAGUT.** 333p., illus. N.Y.: Haskell House, 1968. \$11.95. Reprint of 1892 ed.

Moran, Philip R., ed. **ULYSSES S. GRANT, 1822-1885: Chronology, Documents, Bibliographical Aids.** 114p. Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.: Oceana, 1968. \$4.00. In their Presidential Chronology Series.

Ratner, Lorman. **POWDER KEG: Northern Opposition to the Antislavery Movement, 1831-1840.** N.Y.: Basic Books 1968. \$172p., bibl., index. \$6.00

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Our member Frank Palumbo has asked members of the Chicago Civil War Round Table to make contributions to Carthage College, Kenosha, Wis., for acquisitions for the college's history collection.



BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS

MAY 9: William K. Alderfer "Illinois' Wartime Capitol."

JUNE 6: Charles L. Dufour "The Blue and the Gray in Mexico."

All meetings are held on Friday nights in the Furniture Club of the Furniture Mart.

This year's battlefield tour will visit Shiloh, Corinth, Brice's Crossroads, Holly Springs and Memphis on May 1-4.

DECEASED: Vernon Hanson.



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Robert Robinson, a Chicago CWRT member, was chairman of the centennial commission of Highland Park this year as the city observed its 100th birthday at the largest meeting ever held in Highland Park Country Club. Robinson also heads Highland Park's historical society which now owns a handsome Victorian residence at Linden and Central in the suburb where it will establish a museum.

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CWRT newsletters throughout the country have picked up from this newsletter Francis Wilshin's warning about HR 12556 and HR 18116, now pending in the House of Representatives, which would open the grounds of Manassas National Battlefield Park for expansion of Arlington National Cemetery. Write your Congressman and your Senators asking that these bills and similar proposals be defeated in the interests of preserving our Civil War historical heritage.

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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. Membership subscriptions to the digest, are \$7.50 per year.

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Our Don Russell, who favored us with such an exciting description of George A. Custer's Civil War exploits, will speak on Custer at a meeting of the Madison (Wis.) CWRT on April 10.

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Member Morton B. Feigen spoke to 300 youngsters in Highland Park on "The Relationship of the North Shore Areas Between Chicago and Milwaukee to the Pre-Civil War, Civil War and Post-Civil War Periods." Mort also discussed the Indian movements and, during a question period, found that many of those present were descended from early settlers. As an historian, Mort was careful to urge the scions of old families to preserve diaries and other records carefully.

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E. B. "Pete" Long spoke to the largest meeting of the year of the St. Louis CWRT on "The Atlantic and Gulf Coasts: The Forgotten Front."

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