

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXII, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October, 1971

JERRY L. SCHOBER ON MARY ANN PITMAN, REBEL SOLDIER, U.S. CITIZEN, PATRIOT

"Mary Ann Pitman, Rebel Soldier, United States Citizen, and Patriot" will be Jerry L. Schober's subject at the Friday, October 8, 1971, meeting of The Civil War Round Table at the Chicago Bar Association. Thus he will introduce to us a character who, so far as can be recalled, has not yet stumped us in one of Miner Coburn's quiz programs. Jerry Schober has been with the National Park Service since 1960 and is at present superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg National Cemetery, and Eisenhower National Historic Site.



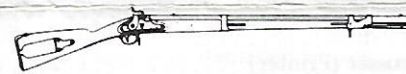
Jerry L. Schober

In outlining the subject matter of his talk, Mr. Schober writes: "Mary Ann Pitman, a young lady from Chestnut Bluff, Tennessee, entered the Confederate Army for excitement, but was to quickly find more than she bargained for. She and W. H. Craig raised enough men in West Tennessee to form a company in Freeman's 22nd Tennessee Infantry. The troops elected W. H. Craig a first lieutenant and Mary Pitman 2nd lieutenant. Miss Pitman's first major engagement was the Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862. It should be noted that the 22nd Tennessee was singled out for its conspicuous role in the capture of General Benjamin M. Prentiss and 2,200 of his men in the Hornet's Nest. Shortly after Shiloh, Mary Ann and 60 of her troops joined General Nathan Belford Forrest's command in search of more excitement. She served 12 months with Forrest before disclosing her identity as a female to the General. Forrest quickly recognized her value as a woman was greater than a soldier and sent her on missions to secure ammunition and arms.

"Miss Pitman was captured in 1864 upon the completion of one of her missions for Forrest by the Union Army. Thus begins the really interesting portion of her illustrious career.

"I plan to catch you, gentlemen, cold with a hypothesis that Miss Pitman was directly responsible for a battle and the only blemish on a colorful general's career."

Jerry L. Schober was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1931. He served for four years in the Korean Conflict in the U.S. Air Force, 1951-55, and received his BS degree at Mississippi College in 1960. He was married in 1955 to Kathleen Shaw and they have three daughters. He entered the National Park Service in 1960 as historian, Vicksburg National Military Park, was chief historian at Shiloh, 1933-66, assistant chief of interpretation and resources management, Washington, D. C., 1966-68; superintendent, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace, Kentucky, 1968-70, and since last year has been superintendent at Gettysburg.



304th REGULAR MEETING

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Jerry L. Schober, superintendent
Gettysburg National Military Park,

on

Mary Ann Pitman, Rebel Soldier, United States Citizen, and
Patriot

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Friday, October 8, 1971

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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.

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SPECIAL LADIES' NIGHT MEETING

World Premiere of the play "Assassination, 1865," by
Stuart Vaughan at the Goodman Theatre, Chicago

* * *

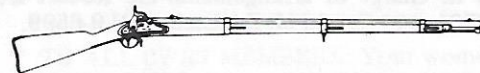
Friday, October 20, 1971, 8 p.m.

Cocktails, 5:30 p.m., Adams Room, 6th floor, Palmer House

Dinner, 6 p.m., Monroe Room, 6th floor, Palmer House

Price, \$12.50 per person, includes dinner and theatre tickets.

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LADIES' NIGHT - OCTOBER 20

A special Ladies' Night meeting has been arranged for Wednesday, October 20, to preview the world premiere of a new play, "Assassination, 1865," by Stuart Vaughan, which is the opening presentation of the 1971-72 season at the Goodman Theatre. The play concerns the assassination of Lincoln and the trial of the conspirators and its cast of 22 includes most of the characters concerned in the historic events. It will stress some of the unanswered questions of the trial by military commission. Accompanying the stage presentation will be a projection of actual photographs and contemporary drawings on screen.

The author, Stuart Vaughan, is professor of the theatre at

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



Harvard University with long stage experience as director of the New York Shakespeare Festival, the Phoenix Theatre resident company, and repertory theatres in Seattle and New Orleans. This is his first play, but he is author of a book, "A Possible Theatre," 1969, based on his experiences. He is a native of Terre Haute, Indiana, and has degrees from Indiana State University, Terre Haute, and from Indiana University, Bloomington.

Members of the Civil War Round Table and their ladies will assemble for cocktails at 5:30 p.m. in the Adams Room, 6th floor of the Palmer House and will be served dinner at 6 in the adjoining Monroe Room. From there it is a short walk to the Goodman Theatre where curtain time will be 8 p.m. The cost will be \$12.50 per person, including dinner and theatre seats. Co-chairmen in charge of arrangements are Robert Douglas, phone 446-2561, and Gerald M. Edelstein, UN 9-6599.

*from the
Editor's pen*



Grady McWhiney of Wayne State University gave us one of his usual fast-moving, fact-filled, and always lively presentations in discussing "Jefferson Davis and His Generals" at the September 10 meeting; in fact to some of us the end came surprisingly soon, although much more was brought out in discussion. Davis, said McWhiney, was the heart and brains of the Confederate government. He worked 15 hours a day and he managed the War Department even to its minutia. He advised on strategy and tactics and on occasion told his

generals where and when to fight. A West Point graduate, he had served in the Black Hawk War. In the Mexican War he fought at Monterey and Buena Vista. At first his efforts were appreciated. "The man and the hour have met," said W. L. Yancy, and Lewis T. Wigfall echoed this good opinion. But early in 1862 Howell Cobb recorded that many in Congress found Davis odious. Josiah Gorgas and C. C. Clay were others who were critical.

Davis was in poor health. He suffered from insomnia, neuralgia, and a variety of ailments, and was often ill in bed. He had a sickly appearance. Many of his advisers were sickly—L. P. Walker, George W. Randolph, James A. Seddon. Six men held the office of Secretary of War. Many top generals were sick men. Samuel Cooper, the senior, had not been in the field for 30 years and had been on sick leave for 22. Bragg had dyspepsia, boils, migraine, and liver complaints and dosed himself with calomel and mercury. Hood had lost a leg and an arm in battle. J. E. Johnston, wounded seven times, was hit twice at Fair Oaks and was out for six months. Lee had lumbago, rheumatism, a heart ailment, was out ten days in 1864, and asked to be relieved because of illness. Stonewall Jackson had a variety of ailments, but seemed to forget them on the field of battle.

While Davis was accused of favoring West Pointers and credited with picking generals with military experience, many appointments were obviously political. Examples are H. Marshall and J. C. Breckinridge of Kentucky, Robert Toombs and Howell Cobb of Georgia, Wigfall, James Chestnut, N. L. Bonham, John B. Floyd, who was through after Fort Donelson, Albert Pike, who resigned after Elkhorn, Felix Zollicoffer, killed at Mill Spring.

Of 88 generals appointed in 1861, 40 were Regular Army (two not West Pointers); 23 were West Point officers who had resigned, and 25 had no army experience. Of 425 generals in all, at least 153 were lawyers and politicians, 55 were business men; some were farmers.

In a few cases Davis conspicuously rewarded personal friends. Bishop Leonidas Polk, who had had only five months of army service became a major general. Dick Taylor, brother of Davis's first wife, was made a general officer. Others were Mercer and Drayton.

McWhiney then analyzed the six officers who became full generals—the equivalent of 4-star or 5-star rank today. The senior was Samuel Cooper, 64 years old, who had been The Adjutant General in the U.S. army. He had been in ill health for years and was barely capable of conducting the confederate office of adjutant general. Albert Sydney Johnston, 58, had quit the army, served independant Texas, then was named colonel of the new 2nd Cavalry by his friend Davis, then secretary of war. He conducted the so-called Mormon War. Third was Lee, 53, also a West Point friend of Davis. Fourth was Joseph E. Johnston. He had been quartermaster general with rank of brigadier general, and protested to Davis that he should have higher relative ranking. For this Davis never forgave him. P. G. T. Beauregard, 43, had been an engineer officer. Because of disputes after First Manassas he was sent West, and when he left temporarily because of ill health without proper leave, Davis replaced him with Bragg and never gave Beauregard important command again. Sixth was Bragg who had quit the army in 1856 after winning fame in the 3rd Artillery at Buena Vista. While he is usually considered a long-time friend of Davis, actually he had disliked Davis and criticized him as Secretary of War. However, he found Davis did not know this, and they worked together amicably. He excelled as as organizer and administrator.

Three of the six had been given high rank by Davis while he was Secretary of War. In 1855 two new mounted regiments were raised. They were designated Cavalry, making them a separate branch of service from the two regiments of Dragoons and one regiment of Mounted Riflemen. This permitted appointments without regard to seniority. Joseph E. Johnston was made lieutenant colonel of the 1st Cavalry, and in the 2nd Cavalry Albert Sydney Johnston was colonel and Robert E.

Lee, lieutenant colonel. (Other appointments to the 2nd included W. J. Hardee and George H. Thomas—of Virginia— as majors.)

It must be admitted, however, that the six full generals named by Davis were outstanding officers. And even hindsight fails in finding others who might have been more deserving. Davis was a man imprisoned by his own character and background. He might have done much worse than he did.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

President Krolick has named the following committee chairmen for 1971-72:

Ladies' Night, Robert Douglas, Gerald M. Edelstein
Battlefield Tour, Charles Wesselhoeft and Gordon Whitney
Fellowship, Arnold Alexander and Lloyd Miller
Honorary awards, Morton B. Feigen
Nominating, Robert Douglas
Mailing list, Brooks Davis
Publicity, Michael Lerner
Sickness and Memorials, Henry Kennedy
Speakers bureau, Don Sikorski
Publication, Don Russell
Special events, Ralph G. Newman and Jerry Warshaw
Membership, Burt Rovens, Al Meyer
House, Dick Cohen, Terry Carr

TAPS

W. Norman FitzGerald, Jr. (1894-1971) was one of the earliest members of the Civil War Round Table, Chicago, and was founder of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. The following tribute to him is taken, in part, from the August, 1971, issue of Milwaukee CWRT bulletin General Order No. 140:

Norman FitzGerald was the kind of a man who shared his understanding and knowledge of American History with his fellow men.

He was justly proud of his appointment to the Civil War Centennial Commission by the President of the United States. Only recently he was designated a Fellow of The Company of Military Historians. He was a member of many historical societies throughout the country.

The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table was a source of great pride and pleasure to Mr. FitzGerald. He looked after the affairs of the Round Table zealously and under his guidance the Table grew from the seven original members to its present one hundred members. Except when away on vacation, his attendance was one hundred percent.

We start the last half of our twenty-fifth year without our president and founder. His presence will be sadly missed by all of our Round Table. He was the kind of a man one feels better for having known. Mr. Norman FitzGerald will live in our memory.

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HARPER'S FERRY. This view of John Brown's Fort was probably photographed in the 1890's. It seems to have been considerably boarded up. How come?

TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Time: Friday, October 8, 1971, 5:30 p.m.

Place: The Book and Bottle, 17 East Chestnut Street, directly across the street from the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop.

Program: Mr. Gordon Whitney, secretary of the Civil War Round Table, on "The G. I. in the Civil War." Mr. Whitney is a member of the 104th Reactivated Illinois Volunteer Infantry and will appear in authentic uniform, armed. As an authority on this phase of the war he has filled many speaking engagements, and earned an enviable reputation. He promises to "keep the girls awake." The Camp Followers will be honored and bright-eyed.

Reservations may be made by calling Joyce Warshaw, 866-6667, or by writing her (Mrs. Jerry) 1319 Crain Street, Evanston, Illinois 60202.

Last Meeting: Dan Lapinski reported on the mystery story of William Newby, farmer, 35, of near Carmi, who enlisted in Company D, 40th Illinois Infantry, was shot at Shiloh, and presumably buried there by men of his own regiment. In 1891 a half-crazed inmate of the White County Poor Farm was identified as Newby, and various checks, tests and scars convinced 150 persons, including all members of his family, that this was Newby. His wife gave up her widow's pension, but a claim was filed for back pension for Newby, amounting to \$20,000. The pension bureau was skeptical and assigned Thomas H. McBride, its top investigator, to the case. Newby was said to be "Crazy Jack," a prisoner at Andersonville. A White County native Dan Benton, called Rickety Dan, disappeared from the poor farm about the time Newby was shot at Shiloh. In 1869 he turned up in Indiana in the Greene County Poor Farm, claiming to have been shot at Shiloh and to be the Crazy Jack of Andersonville. Convicted of horse stealing in 1877 he spent 12 years in prison. He was identified as both Newby as Rickety Dan, and as using the name Allen Lewis. McBride took Newby to the prison, where the warden identified him as Benton. Newby was then arrested for fraud. At the trial in Springfield, 150 witnesses appeared from the Carmi area in Newby's behalf. A long list of witnesses testified that Newby was Allen Lewis or Dan Benton. The jury found Newby guilty and appeals to the Supreme Court failed, and Newby was imprisoned at Chester. However he had many supporters, and G. J. George, who had been a lieutenant of Newby's company, wrote a book in his defense, pledging its proceeds to aid Newby's case. But the Commissioner of Pensions in his 1893 report cited it as a typical case of fraud. Mystery still surrounds the identity of the man who was able to convince so many of his neighbors that he was not killed at Shiloh.

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TO ALL CWRT MEMBERS: Your womenfolk always qualify as Camp Followers 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.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Don Sikorski, chairman of the Speakers Bureau, calls for volunteers to represent the Civil War Round Table with talks either to local groups or to Civil War Round Tables of other localities. Address: Don Sikorski, 41 West 55th Place, Westmont, Ill., 60091. phone WO 9-5604.

THE NEW BOOKS

(compiled by Dick Clark)



Allen, Walter. *Governor Chamberlain's Administration in South Carolina: A Chapter of Reconstruction in the Southern States*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1971. Original of 1888. \$16.75

Aitken, Hugh G.J., compiler. *Did Slavery Pay? Readings in the Economics of Black Slavery in the United States*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin [1971]. Paper \$3.95

Carnahan, J.W., compiler. *4000 Civil War Battles from Official Records*. Fort Davis, Texas: Frontier Books, 1971. Paper, \$3.00. Facsimile of work published 1899.

Carroll, Daniel B. *Henri Mercier and the American Civil War*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1971. \$12.50

Casler, John O. *Four Years in the Stonewall Brigade* . . . Fourth edition, revised, corrected and improved by Maj. Jed Hotchkiss. With notes and index by Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1971. \$10.00

Chase, Salmon Portland. *Diary and Correspondence of Salmon P. Chase*. N.Y.: Da Capo, 1971. Reprint of 1923 ed. \$22.50

Coulter, Ellis Merton. *William G. Brownlow, Fighting Parson of the Southern Highlands*. Introd. by James W. Patton. Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press [1971]. \$6.50

Evans, W. McKee. *To Die Game. The Story of the Lowry Band, Indian Guerillas of Reconstruction*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1971. \$8.95

Ewing, Cortez Arthur Milton. *Presidential Elections from Abraham Lincoln to Franklin D. Roosevelt*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1971. Original of 1940. \$14.25

Harris, Alexander. *A Review of the Political Conflict in America, from the Commencement of the Anti-Slavery Agitation to the Close of Southern Reconstruction* . . . Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1971. Original of 1876. \$17.75

Hopley, Catherine Cooper. *Life in the South; from the Commencement of the War*. N.Y.: A.M. Kelley, 1971. \$32.50 2 vols.

Lincoln, Abraham. *The Essential Lincoln*. Ed. by Keith W. Jennison. N.Y.: Watts [1971]. Watts Ultratype Edition. Grades 7-up. \$4.50

Macartney, Clarence Edward Noble. *Grant and His Generals*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries [1971]. Original of 1953. \$13.50

Nevins, Allan. *The War for the Union. Vol. III: The Organized War 1863-1864*. N.Y.: Scribner's [1971]. \$15.00

Nevins, Allan. *The War for the Union. Vol. IV: The Organized War to Victory 1864-1865*. N.Y.: Scribner's [1971]. \$15.00 Final volume of a great series.

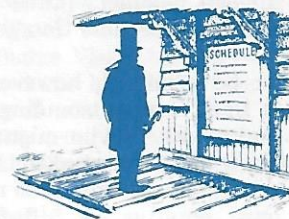
BOOK BY RALPH HAPPEL

Ralph Happel, Park Historian at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, has written a new book covering the last days of Stonewall Jackson. Entitled simply JACKSON, the book, or booklet, covers the period April 20, to May 10, 1863, the day of his death. This compact sixty-three page book combines good historical writing and excellent typographical composition.

Mr. Happel, a native Virginian, has been associated with the National Park Service since 1936 spending most of that time in the Fredericksburg area, the scene of Jackson's final days. Taking the story from the time of the arrival of Jackson's wife Mary Anna and their baby daughter Julia at Guiney's Station on April 20, 1863, Mr. Happel skillfully traces the events through the Chancellorsville Campaign right on to the death of Jackson at the Chandler office on May 10, 1863.

Unlike the usual paper back, this booklet is printed on fine paper and is illustrated with excellent maps, artistic drawings

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle Street, 11th floor, second Friday in each month except as noted.

October 8: Jerry Schober, "Mary Ann Pitman, Rebel Soldier, United States Citizen, and Patriot."

October 20: Special Ladies Night meeting at Goodman Theatre, world premiere preview, "Assassination, 1865" by Stuart Vaughan.

November 12: Charles Wesselhoeft on "Civil War Railroads."

December 10: E. B. (Pete) Long

January 14: James I (Bud) Robertson

February 11: Jay Luvaas

March 10: Alan Nolan

April 14: Robert Fowler

Late April or early May: Battlefield Tour, Vicksburg Campaign.

May 12: Damon Wells, Jr.

June 14: To be announced.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Chodash Brothers Restaurant, 213 West Randolph Street; all members invited.



and good photographs. It is available from the Eastern National Park Monument Association, P.O. Box 679, Fredericksburg, Va. 22401. The price is \$1.70 including postage and handling.
Dan Lapinski

"The Civil War Round Table of New York—Its History and Membership, 1971" is a 24-page pamphlet, including by-laws, lists of past officers and directors, a list of Civil War Round Tables with addresses, and much other information. We counted 138, among them the American Civil War Research Group of Australia, the Confederate Historical Society of Essex, England, and the American Civil War Round Table, United Kingdom, of Middlesex. There is one illustration, showing the New York tour to Chickamauga in 1967. The New York CWRT was founded in 1950. Carl Haverlin was first president.

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"The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee—Its History, Programs and Membership, 1946-1971" is edited by Phillip J. Hohlweck and celebrates 25 years of our neighbor CWRT. Its 24 pages include a list of speakers, subjects, and dates for all meetings, and account of the editorship, necrology, and an article by Arnold Gates, "This Enduring Interest."

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Decatur CWRT's wondering if Amelia (Mrs. Raymond E.) Mulrooney is the only woman CWRT president sent us to the records. Mrs. Mulrooney recently took over when Vincent Lennen resigned because of illness. Then we recalled that Peoria CWRT was headed by Mrs. D. L. Burhans, wife of Dr. Burhans, a Chicago CWRT member. Checking out New York's list of organizations we find that you must address eight women to find out about as many CWRT groups, but whether they are president or secretary is not stated.