

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXII, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December, 1971

Pete Long on "War Beyond the River," December 10 A Double-header Evening!

AUTOGRAPH AND COCKTAIL PARTY

honoring

PETE and BARBARA LONG

in celebration of the publication
of their great new book

THE CIVIL WAR DAY BY DAY
AN ALMANAC, 1861-1865

"In all the vast collection of books on the American Civil War
there is no book like this one"—Bruce Catton

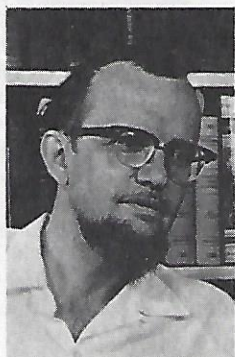
Friday, December 10, 1971

THE BOOK & THE BOTTLE
(across from the
Abraham Lincoln Book Shop)

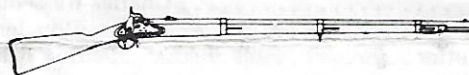
4:00 p.m.

17 East Chestnut Street

E. B. (Pete) Long returns to us from the University of Wyoming, Laramie, for the Civil War Round Table meeting Friday, December 10, 1971, at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle Street. To introduce him as former president of The Civil War Round Table is of course inadequate, for he was also the Nestor of the organization during much of its existence. To say that no one anywhere knows more about the Civil War than does Pete Long is no exaggeration, for who else has devoted to that subject a decade of full-time research? And for the rest of his lifetime it has been either avocation or vocation. His subject is "War Beyond the River: The Trans-Mississippi in the Civil War and the



E. B. Long



306th REGULAR MEETING

E. B. (Pete) Long of the University of Wyoming, former president, The Civil War Round Table

on

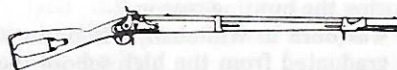
War Beyond the River: The Trans-Mississippi in the Civil War
and the Influence of the War on the West

Friday, December 10, 1971

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:45 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



Influence of the War on the West." That points toward his next book, although his talk will be preceded by an autographing and cocktail party celebrating publication of "The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac, 1861-1865," (written with the collaboration of his wife Barbara.) That book has been selected by the History Book Club, and as an alternate by the Military Book Club.

Pete Long's most recent subjects in talks to us were "Reappraisal of the Mississippi Valley Campaigns" and "The Lost Six Months in Virginia." In explaining his present topic he writes, "While I am in the midst of major research on "War Beyond the River," I have the audacity to present some of my preliminary viewpoints to my old friends in the Chicago Round Table. Naturally I look forward to visiting THE Round Table again."

His present assignment is Associate Professor of American Studies, teaching in the History Department and consultant to the Archives, University of Wyoming, Laramie, and on this he

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



reports, "While Wyoming wasn't even known by that name during the Civil War, I am finding the place was alive with excitement, at least by Wyoming standards. Even then a few people felt it was God's country—nobody else wanted it. However, we feel that the University of Wyoming with its splendid Archives is truly a great place, and one of the few universities where real cowboys are in your classes, where we get more people for a football game than there are in the whole county, where we may be snowed in but not snowed on, where the deer and the antelope and elk do truly play—except during the hunting season."

E. B. Long was born in Whitehall, Wisconsin, October 24, 1919, and was graduated from the high school there in 1937. He attended Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and Northwestern University, Evanston. He was married to Barbara Ann Conzelman June 25, 1942. Pete was financial reporter for the Chicago Tribune and editor of the Morris (Illinois) Herald before joining the Chicago Bureau of the Associated Press where he worked 1944-52, much of the time as radio news editor. He was associate editor, American Peoples Encyclopedia, 1952-55, and then became director of research for the Centennial History of the Civil War by Bruce Catton. For that work he collected, analyzed, and arranged more than nine million words of research notes on 26,000 pages while visiting some 125 university and historical libraries. A set of these notes was presented by Doubleday & Company to the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.

He has been visiting lecturer in history at the University of California, Riverside, 1967-68; University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Spring, 1968, and University of Chicago, Chicago Circle, 1968-69. He was awarded an honorary degree

as Doctor of Literature by Lincoln College, Lincoln, Illinois, in 1961.

Other honors include Harry S. Truman Award for Civil War History, 1961; award of merit, Illinois Civil War Centennial Commission, 1963 and 1965; award of commendation, Oklahoma Civil War Centennial Commission, 1965; award of distinction and bronze medallion, U. S. Civil War Centennial Commission, 1966; gold medal, District of Columbia Civil War Round Table, 1967.

Pete Long has supplied this Bulletin with many a bibliography, so it is only proper that we should offer one of his work. (Turn to back page.)

*from the
Editor's pen*



Charles Wesselhoeft assembled interesting data in discussing railroads during the Civil War at the November meeting. He pointed out that the railroad was only 30 years old at the time the war began. Lines had been laid out for various profit motives, most of which concerned tapping back country to bring business to one city—hence few of them connected with any other important city. However, in 1850 the concept of trunk lines began to take hold. Erastus Corning combined 10 short lines into the New York Central. When the B. & O. proposed a line to Pittsburgh, the roads in Pennsylvania united as the Pennsylvania Lines.

Standard gauge was opposed. The roads adopted 4 foot, 8½ inches, 5 foot, or 5 foot, 6 inches, and many others in hope of keeping their rolling stock from going onto other lines. Innkeepers, draymen, and others opposed connections that would interfere with their business. The "Erie War" started in Erie, Pennsylvania, when deputy sheriffs tore up connecting tracks.

Equipment was primitive. T-rail was 35 to 70 pounds to the yard as compared with 100 pounds and up today. Some used U-rail, or strap iron spiked to wooden stringers. Most lines were single track, with few sidings. The American Standard locomotive was a wood-burner, weighing about 10 tons. Freight trains were of 10 to 15 cars of small capacity.

Stonewall Jackson's seizure of 56 locomotives and rolling stock of the B. & O. emphasized its importance and made its management pro-Union. Many raids, such as Grierson's, were made specifically to destroy railroads. Bragg used railroads to flank Buell out of attacking Chattanooga. The first large movements by rail were those of Longstreet to Chickamauga and the Union answer, sending two small corps under Hooker by a round-about route accomplished in 14 days. The Atlanta campaign depended entirely on railroads.

In the South there was no labor and no equipment. The Piedmont Railroad, 28 miles of track, was built during the war, but that was an exception. When war started, railroads were idled and many men laid off. As war traffic increased, labor was in short supply, as most of the men had joined the army. In the South slave labor ran off, and such free labor as was recruited was threatened by the draft. Most Southern roads were destroyed or badly deteriorated by the end of the war. However, rebuilding was rapid. Few had any outstanding debt. Some were rebuilt by 1866. There was a surplus of 5-foot gauge equipment in the North and many Southern roads were 5-foot gauge. Many men who were eminent during the war were notable in railroad building in the postwar era—Grenville Dodge, Dan Casement, Tom Rosser, Ambrose Burnside, W. J. Palmer, Henry Villard for example.

TAPS

Robert L. Huttner, one of the veteran members of the Civil War Round Table, died September 30, 1971, at the age of 83, at Columbus Hospital after a long illness. He was an attorney

in Chicago for 60 years and was a former law professor. His home was at 2440 Lakeview Avenue. Until illness slowed him down he was a regular attendant at CWRT meetings and took an active part in discussions. He is survived by his widow Sara, two daughters, Mrs. Beverly Hayden and Mrs. Constance Robin, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

* * *

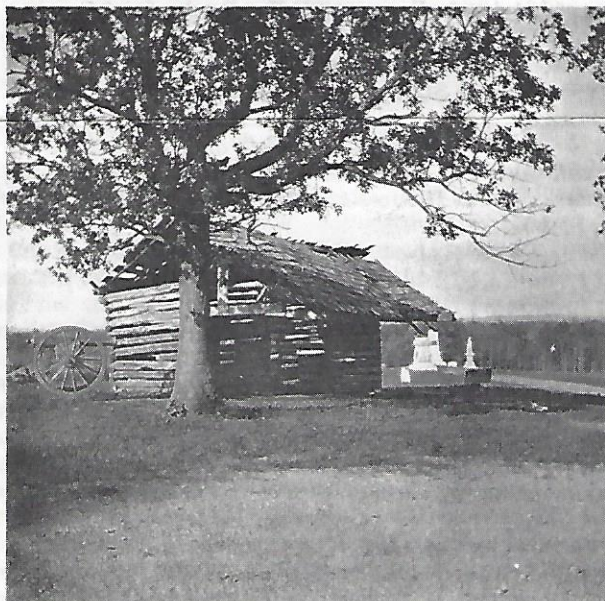
Roscoe C. Mathis, honorary award life member, died in Prophetstown October 19, 1971, at the age of 84. He attended many battlefield tours and is remembered for his hill-pitched voice, his humor and great outlook, and his wife Georgie. They celebrated the 60th anniversary of their wedding November 15, 1970. A member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War since 1914, he was department commander in 1946, 1958, and 1959 and a member of J. D. Beardslee Camp No. 48 at Prophetstown. He was president of the H. Y. & T. Railroad, a grain-hauling local line connecting Hooppole, Yorktown, and Tampico. He was a member of Mathis Bros. Lumber and Grain Co., later Rock River Lumber and Grain Co., and retired 12 years ago. He had lived at 202 Locust Street, Prophetstown, since 1927. He is survived by his widow, five children, 11 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. A niece, Dorothy Schemon of California attended several recent battlefield tours. Memorials should be sent to the Prophetstown River-view Center or the United Methodist Church of Prophetstown.

* * *

JOHN BROWN FORT PHOTO

The picture of the John Brown Fort in the October issue of the Newsletter was taken about 1890. The building was boarded up for two reasons. First, to keep people from taking souvenir bricks from the building and secondly, to keep people from entering the building. This protection for the Fort, to protect it from relic hunters, was probably installed by Mr. Thomas H. Savery who owned the Fort at that time.

Raymond L. Ives
Chief, Interpretation and Resources
Management, Harpers Ferry National
Historical Park



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN. Near General Thomas's Headquarters on Snodgrass Hill—another of our series of battlefield pictures from the long ago; probably the 1890's.

TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Time: Friday, December 10, 1971, 5:30 p.m.

Place: The Book and Bottle, 17 East Chestnut

Program: An historical and hysterical skit "An End to Bugling", with a cast of four Round Table luminaries: Brooks Davis, Al Meyer, Marshall Krolick and Bob Douglas.

Edmund G. Love wrote "An End to Bugling" to tie in with the centennial of the Battle of Gettysburg, and the skit was adapted from his book.

The premiere performance of this outstanding cast was given in Harrisonburg, Virginia, during the annual CWRT battlefield tour last spring.

The supreme confusion and interchange of hats, plus a few "ad libs" from the actors, made "An End to Bugling" a resounding success.

The cast, now seasoned performers, have graciously consented to give the skit to the Camp Followers—and hit the big time!

Ladies are invited to the autographing party, honoring Pete and Barbara Long, beginning at 4 p.m. at the same place. The skit will positively be performed as soon as the premises can be cleared of excess men.

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

Last meeting: The November meeting, with Gail Johnson's (Mrs. Edward) talk on the "Surgeon Embalmers of the Civil War" was an amazing account of this little known side of the war. Gail's knowledge of her subject gave us a clear, concise story, and in addition she had slides of the embalmers, their own advertising posters, their equipment, and two of the 'embalmed' lying in state.

The first of these was not Lincoln, but Col. Elmer Ellsworth of Illinois. He had been one of Lincoln's law clerks, gone to Washington with him, entered the Union army, and was killed near Alexandria, Virginia. He laid in state in both Washington and New York. Lincoln's was shown in Washington, both the White House and the Capital, and the City Hall in New York.

The first famous embalming surgeons, who fortunately kept diaries, were Dr. Holmes and Dr. Bunnell. They were licensed by the government to do this work, but the families of the dead paid for it, the casket and the transportation back to their homes for burial.

We are the only nation that returns its war dead from any continent for burial—an outgrowth of the Civil War.

It was later that funeral directors were licensed as embalmers—at that time, it was always a doctor who performed this service.

Blunder: Amy Leslie used to say, "Never review a play unless you were there when the curtain went up." She had once made a blunder similar to ours in reporting the October meeting. Gordon Whitney was there, as reported. It was the audience that failed to show up. The four ladies present agreed to call it off, and Gordon graciously consented to reappear in January.

* * *

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.

THE NEW BOOKS



Long, E. B., with Barbara Long. *The Civil War Day by Day; An Almanac, 1861-1965*. Foreword by Bruce Catton. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1971; xiii, 1135 pages; maps, bibliography. \$17.50

Here is a book that is packed full of facts—battles and events, places, names, and dates—and such a book has been a longed-for necessity for Civil War study. Its value as reference work is of course immense, yet it should not to be overlooked that it is also a book for reading. This is no bare-faced chronology. The day by day events are presented in narrative form, and with sufficient background to explain what they are all about. Thus you are brought back into the war as if you were reading about it in a daily newspaper—except that any contemporary newspaper would have been full of rumors and unconfirmed reports. Here you see what happened this day, not only on a Virginia battlefield, but also in Washington and Richmond, in Missouri and Mississippi and off the Florida coast; perhaps even in Pete Long's Wyoming, which hadn't even happened yet as a name on the map. You will see clearly that the war was not fought one campaign at a time, but several of them, simultaneously.

For the rest there is the complete bibliography of the Centennial History, some of which got spaced out of those volumes. There are studies of people at war, of men in armies, of economics. There is an index by dates, and if a date is all you want, you can be served quickly. There are maps and facts and figures—not every fact about the Civil War, perhaps, but a good start toward finding any that may be needed.

D.R.

PUBLICATIONS OF E. B. LONG

Director of Research, *The American Iliad*, by Otto Eisenschiml and Ralph G. Newman, Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis, 1946.

Co-Author with Otto Eisenschiml, *As Luck Would Have It*, Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis, 1947.

Editor, *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant*, One Volume edition, the World Publishing Company, Cleveland, 1952.

Co-author with Ralph Newman, *The Civil War*, Vol. II, *The Picture Chronicle*, also issued separately in a revised edition as *The Civil War Digest*, Grosset & Dunlap, Inc., New York, 1956 and 1960.

Introduction, *The Post Reader of Civil War Stories*, Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York, 1960.

"President Lincoln and General Grant," in *Lincoln for the Ages*, edited by Ralph G. Newman, Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York, 1960.

Editor, new edition, James Ford Rhodes, *History of the Civil War*, Frederick Ungar Publishing Co., New York, 1961.

Editor, George F. R. Henderson, *Stonewall Jackson and the American Civil War*, modern abridgment, Fawcett Publications, Inc., Greenwich, Conn., 1962.

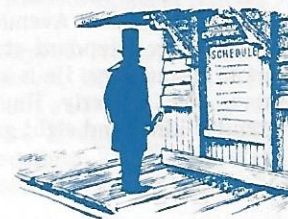
Introduction, Thomas Cooper DeLeon, *Four Years in Rebel Capitals*, Collier Books, New York, 1962.

Director of Research, Bruce Catton's *Centennial History of the Civil War: The Coming Fury: Terrible Swift Sword; Never Call Retreat*, Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, New York, 1961, 1963, 1965.

Compiler and annotator, General Section, *Civil War Books, A Critical Bibliography*, Volume II, edited by James I. Robertson, Jr., U. S. Civil War Centennial Commission, Louisiana University Press, 1969.

Introduction and editorial assistance, Victor Hicken's *Illinois In the Civil War*, University of Illinois Press, 1966.

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.

December 10: E. B. (Pete) Long on "War Beyond the River"

January 14: James I (Bud) Robertson

February 11: Jay Luvaas

March 10: Alan Nolan

April 21: U.S. Grant sesquicentennial at G.A.R. Room, Chicago Public Library, T. Harry Williams, speaker (tentative, planning not completed.)

May 4-7: 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.



THE NEW BOOKS (Compiled by Dick Clark)

Angle, Paul M. *"Here I Have Lived." A History of Lincoln's Springfield 1821-1865*. New edition. Chicago: Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 1971. \$7.95. Paper \$2.95.

Browne, Henry R. and Symmes E. Browne. *From the Fresh-Water Navy 1861-64*. The Letters of Acting Master's Mate Henry R. Browne and Acting Ensign Symmes E. Browne. Edited by John D. Milligan. Annapolis, Md.: U.S. Naval Institute, 197. \$13.50

Cannon, Elizabeth Roberts, editor. *My Beloved Zebulon: The Correspondence of Zebulon Baird Vance and Harriett Newell Espy*. With an introduction by Frances Gray Patton. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1971. \$10.00

Cannon, Le Grand Bouton. *Personal Reminiscences of the Rebellion, 1861-1866*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. \$12.00

Carpenter, John. *Ulysses S. Grant*. N.Y.: Twayne. 1970. Twayne's Rulers and Statesmen of the World series, no. 14. \$4.95

Davis, Jefferson. *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*. Abridged for the modern reader. Foreword by Earl Schenck Miers. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1971 [c1961]. \$7.50

Donovan, Frank Robert. *The Medal; The Story of the Medal of Honor*. Rev. edition. N.Y.: Dodd, Mead [1971]. For young people. \$4.95

Good, John J. Cannon *Smoke: The Letters of Captain John J. Good, Good-Douglas Texas Battery, CSA*. Compiled and edited by Lester Newton Fitzhugh. Hillsboro, Texas: Hill Junior College Press, 1971. \$7.50

Gilmore, James Roberts. *Down in Tennessee*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. Reprint 1864 edition. \$13.00

Hancock, Cornelia. *South after Gettysburg, Letters of Cornelia Hancock from the Army of the Potomac, 1863-1865*. Ed. by Henrietta Stratton Jaquette. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries [1971]. Reprint of the 1937 ed. \$10.00

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.: Negro Universities Press, 1970. Reprint 1919 edition. \$17.50