

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXIV, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

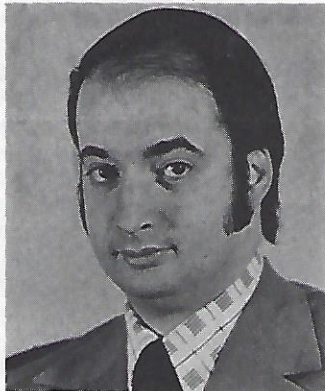
March, 1974

## MARCH 8, 1974- MARSHALL D. KROLICK ON "LEE & LONGSTREET AT GETTYSBURG"

By Ralph G. Newman  
"Guest" Meeting Announcement Writer

*(With uncharacteristic modesty, our editor reluctantly passes up an opportunity to "blow his own horn." Thus, thirty years after it happened to me the first time, I have been "drafted" into military service again. Cautioned by our sterling editor that I was to conceal as many of the true personal facts about him as possible, I offer, with apologies to our members, the following announcement of our next meeting.)*

At our regular meeting on March 8, 1974, our speaker will be Marshall D. Krolick, past president of the Round Table. The subject of his talk will be one of the Civil War's most controversial topics, "Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg."

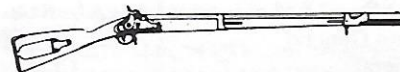


Marshall D. Krolick

Even before the Army of Northern Virginia had completed its retreat back across the Potomac after Gettysburg, the debate had already started as to the cause for Southern defeat on Cemetery Ridge, Culp's Hill and Little Round Top. Now, over a hundred years later, the argument is still not resolved, but the center of the storm remains the same, James Longstreet. The root of the criticism of Longstreet's conduct at Gettysburg was a series of articles written after the War by the so-called "Virginia" generals, principally Early and Pendleton. These literary attacks concentrated on alleged delays by Longstreet in launching his attack on July 2, 1863. Whether the authors seriously believed what they wrote, or whether their search for a scapegoat found a convenient target in the recently-converted Republican, Longstreet, is not known.

In an attempt to clear his name, Longstreet also took up the pen and wrote several articles in response. However, his efforts only succeeded in bringing more abuse upon his head. In defending himself, he, impliedly at first, and later directly, criticized Lee's handling of the battle. To Southern patriots, and especially Virginians, this was blasphemy and only resulted in increased attacks upon Longstreet.

It is this post-war rhetoric, which because of its prejudices, cannot be relied upon, that Marshall hopes to clear away in his examination of the controversy. He plans to present to us the facts as they actually occurred at Gettysburg in July of 1863. By focusing on the states of mind and the actions of Lee and



328th REGULAR MEETING

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Marshall D. Krolick  
on

Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg

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Friday, March 8, 1974

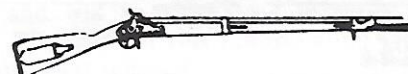
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Chicago Bar Association  
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Send in your reservation.



Longstreet, both before and during the battle, as well as the relationship which existed between them, Marshall hopes to build a foundation upon which we can draw our own conclusions and can compare them to his as to the right and wrong of the Confederate defeat. It all promises to lead to a most lively question and answer period following the conclusion of his talk.

Active in the Round Table since 1961, Marshall has served as Treasurer, Vice-President and Tour Chairman, in addition to his term as President in 1971-72. In January of this year, he assumed the duties of editor of this Newsletter. Prior to accepting that post, he had also been our quizmaster for many years, a task which led to his authorship of the "Civil War Quiz," a column which has appeared on a regular basis in Civil War Times Illustrated since 1970.

Marshall received his B.A. degree from Drake University in 1959 and a J.D. degree from the Northwestern University School of Law in 1962. He is a partner in the Chicago law firm of Panter, Nelson & Bernfield, which firm he joined in 1965 after serving as an Assistant State's Attorney of Cook County, Illinois. He and his wife, Roberta, an ardent member of the Camp Followers, reside with their three children in Northbrook, Illinois.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Phone: WHitehall 4-3085

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The only requirement for membership is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Donald E. Jensen, 335 East Woodland Road, Lake Bluff, Ill. 60044.



*from the  
Editor's pen*



To many of us in the Round Table the highlight of the year is our annual battlefield tour, those four days in May when we travel to the places where actually occurred the major events of this War we study. Our purpose in making these yearly pilgrimages is to examine the terrain that dictated the military movements, to make three dimensional in our minds the names on the maps in the books we read. In this way, we achieve a better understanding of what the men of 1861-65 did and why they did it. Thus, it is a tragic fact that so often, as we are told by our guides that we are standing on the spot where those gallant soldiers fought and died, we look around to see that we are also standing in the Tastee Freeze parking lot, the service station driveway, or the lobby of the wax museum.

Each year, at the first meeting after the battlefield tour, the Executive Committee meets to decide the site of next year's tour. How disappointing it has been when, at these meetings, as each prospective destination is suggested, someone who has been there is forced to say "We can't go there. There's nothing to see but a factory, a scrap automobile yard and a television

transmitter." How many times has the Round Table been notified by concerned local citizens of new blights scheduled to be erected on the landscape. The Gettysburg Tower, the Manassas amusement park, the Antietam housing development. The list goes on and on. Each time we cluck our tongues, write polite letters of protest to our government officials and sit back to await the news in a few months that the unsightly project has been approved.

When we question why each new desecration cannot be stopped, the answer is always the same. The bulk of the land is in private ownership and the government does not have sufficient available funds to either immediately match the purchase offer of the commercial developer or to fight the propaganda campaign of those who see, not the sense of history being lost, but only the financial gain that the project may bring to themselves and the community. And so up to now, we have turned away, defeated by an inability to act promptly to combat each new intrusion upon the sites of conflict.

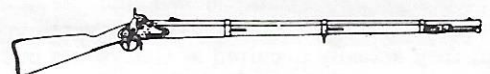
However, through the dedication and ingenuity of the men behind Civil War Times Illustrated, a plan has been formulated that may bring a halt to this spreading wave of encroachment upon Civil War battlefields. As detailed in an Announcement written by Bob Fowler and appearing in the December, 1973 issue of the magazine, the proposed program will involve the National Park Foundation. This body was chartered by Congress in 1967 to utilize private gifts for the benefit of the National Park Service. Through the use of its donated resources the Foundation can step in to buy up significant parcels as they appear on the market. When government funds subsequently become available, the land is resold to the Park Service and the money restored to the Foundation for later reuse in the same manner.

Thus, taking advantage of this opportunity, Civil War Times Illustrated is creating, in cooperation with the Foundation, a Civil War Sites Fund. This will be a special revolving fund to be utilized by the National Park Foundation for the acquisition and conveyance to the Park Service of property in and around Civil War battlefields. Specific parcels to be acquired will be determined by the citizen's board of the Foundation, which is composed of many prominent Americans.

The Foundation has already announced that the early proceeds of the Fund will be used to purchase Scenic Easement Rights on a vital tract at Antietam. To initiate the Fund, Civil War Times Illustrated has made a contribution of one thousand dollars. The balance of the money for this all-important project must come from us and all our fellow Civil War students across the country. And that is the way it should be, for it is we of the Round Tables who must take the lead in the fight to preserve our national heritage.

True, in today's world there are many worthwhile causes asking for donations to further their work and each of us has only so much to spread among them. Even in the Civil War area, such meritorious projects as our own Fellowship Fund and the proposed headquarters facility of our Round Table in the Chicago Public Library demand and deserve our attention and generosity.

Yet, it is the opinion of your Newsletter staff that while these other matters may equal, none can surpass in importance the support we must give to the Civil War Sites Fund. Every person who has stood upon a battlefield, and felt that much closer to those who fought for the Blue and the Grey, must now answer the call with the same enthusiasm they exhibited in 1861. Through our money we can preserve for ourselves and those who follow us the ground which they consecrated with their blood. We urge you to do so today by mailing your tax deductible contribution to "The National Park Foundation Civil War Sites Fund," National Park Foundation, Washington, D.C. 20240.



## LADIES NIGHT 1974

Our Ladies Night, held on February 8, 1974, provided one hundred eighty-five members, their ladies and guests with one of the most entertaining and enjoyable evenings in the history of the Round Table. With the continental decor of The Como Inn restaurant as a backdrop, the multi-course dinner and program of entertainment were truly a delight to all present.

The evening began on a somber note with the sad announcement, just before dinner was served, of the death of our beloved friend, J. Ambler Johnston. Brooks Davis then led us in a moment of silence in memory of Ambler. Our spirits were soon brightened by the festivity of dinner and the challenge of the test presented by our quizmaster, Charles Wesselhoeft. Stating that the questions were for the ladies only, he ruled that any paper bearing a gentleman's handwriting would be disqualified. This probably was a fortunate policy as the knowledge displayed by the ladies would have put the members to shame. After marking the papers, Charlie gave evidence that chivalry is not dead by declaring all the ladies to be winners. As a prize, each of our feminine guests received a beautiful long-stemmed ceramic rose.

After dinner was completed, the program opened with a serenade by The Schimmelfennig Singers, a quartet of members of The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chorus, led by our Senior Vice President, Ward Smidl. Their first selection, Dixie, was dedicated by Ward to his wife, Edie, a native of Virginia. This was followed by such Civil War favorites as Battle Cry of Freedom, Tenting Tonight, Just Before The Battle, Mother, and several others, each unique arrangement presented with the harmony of talented voices. The concluding song, the stirring Battle Hymn of the Republic, came all too soon and cries for more were heard as the singers left the stage.

This brought us to the featured portion of the evening and it was to be a performance that each person in the audience will not soon forget. Dick Blake's "A Look At Lincoln" is as fine an example of professional acting ability combined with historical significance as is to be found anywhere. For that hour that he is on stage, Dick is Mr. Lincoln in every sense of the word. Beginning with Honest Abe's first political speech, Dick skillfully alternates excerpts from Lincoln's writings and addresses with the humorous anecdotes Lincoln is famous for, the latter delivered as if in conversation with the audience. In this way, the listener is made aware of the Great Emancipator's inner feelings and thoughts concerning such varied subjects as the benefits of education, life on the frontier, slavery, the responsibilities of the presidency, disunion, McClellan and Grant, and reconstruction. As the final scene was concluded, it was as if Lincoln's life had actually passed before our eyes as we looked at it from inside the man. Possibly the best critique of Dick Blake's performance came from the audience itself when, as he finished, it rose to give him a very well-deserved standing ovation. It was a most fitting climax to a memorable evening.

Our dear friend and inspiration, James Ambler Johnston died in his sleep Thursday, February 7 following a hip operation. Ambler, who would have been 89 years old May 18, was buried among his friends in Hollywood Cemetery. The Round Table is sending a memorial to the History Department at his beloved Virginia State University, Blackburg, Virginia. Full details of his life and his wonderful relationship with our Round Table will follow in the next newsletter.

We are also saddened to learn of the recent deaths of two long-time members of the Round Table, William E. McBride and C. M. Noethling, and an old friend, William Longstreet. Mr. Longstreet, a resident of Washington, D.C., was the last surviving grandson of the great Confederate general. Those who were on the 1968 battlefield tour to the Fredericksburg-Wilderness area will remember Mr. Longstreet who joined with us on that occasion. He was buried near his illustrious grandfather in the family plot at Gainesville, Georgia.

## TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Once again we are privileged to enjoy a husband and wife speaking team as our speaker on March 8, 1974 will be Roberta Krolick, while her husband, Marshall, addresses the men at the Round Table meeting on that same evening. Roberta, a regular attendant at our meetings, will present to us "When Sherman Came," a description of Sherman's marches to Atlanta and to the Sea as seen through the eyes of the Southern women who lived through them. Using the diaries and letters of these ladies of the Confederacy, Roberta will relate to us their fears and anxieties as they awaited the arrival of the Yankees, their experiences with the "bummers," and their life amid the desolation left behind by the Union soldiers. It promises to be a most interesting topic, so make your reservation early by phoning Margaret April at 787-1860. As usual, the meeting will begin at 5:30 P.M. at the Book and Bottle, 17 East Chestnut Street.

Our last meeting was, of course, when we joined the gentlemen at their annual Ladies Night. A full description of that affair will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter. We certainly wish to thank the members of the Round Table for a most wonderful evening. They are very gracious hosts and a good time was had by all.

## THE NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD

The Civil War Round Table of Chicago is proud to announce the founding of The Nevins-Freeman Award. This award will be given annually to the distinguished personality, as selected by a committee of the Round Table, who has made a noble contribution to the study and popularity of Civil War History. Fittingly, the Award has been named for two of the most eminent Civil War historians, Allan Nevins and Douglas Southall Freeman, each of whom was an Honorary Award Life Member of our Round Table. The design of the award itself is currently being prepared. Presentation of the Award each year will occur at our June meeting, which is also our Installation of Officers Dinner. This event will take place in the G.A.R. rooms of the Chicago Public Library and ladies will be invited.

As the first recipient of the Nevins-Freeman Award, the Committee has selected the Pulitzer Prize winning author, Bruce Catton. Several distinguished speakers will be present to help us pay tribute to Mr. Catton. Final details are now being completed and will be announced in future issues of the Newsletter. The date for this historic event will be June 14, 1974, so mark your calendar.

The January, 1974 issue of Civil War Times Illustrated featured articles by two of our own members. Our ambassador to Laramie, Wyoming, E. B. "Pete" Long authored a fine biography of Grant's chief of staff and unofficial watchdog, John A. Rawlings. Don Russell, past editor of the Newsletter, combined his two loves, the Civil War and the Old West, in an excellent story describing "Jeb Stuart's Other Indian Fight," a little known skirmish against the Kiowas in Nebraska Territory on July 11, 1860.

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Present in Chicago for our Ladies Night were Dr. and Mrs. John Margreiter and Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Reidenbaugh of St. Louis. Both of these couples are regular participants on our annual battlefield tours. John is past president, and Lowell is current president of the St. Louis Round Table and each of them, we are proud to say, is also a member of our Round Table. Their trip to Chicago was possibly a scouting expedition as Dick Blake will present his fine program as the highlight of their Round Table's Ladies Night, scheduled for April 27, 1974. We hope by that time that Lowell will have stopped wearing that St. Louis Cardinal baseball cap or will have at least affixed to it a black mourning badge in recognition of his team's hopeless chances this year.

## THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Bruce, Robert V. *Lincoln and the Tools of War*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press [1974, c1956]. \$15.00. Reprint of the original of 1956.

Caldwell, James F. J. *The History of a Brigade of South Carolinians*, Known first as "Gregg's" and subsequently as "McGowan's Brigade." Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1974. Paper only, \$7.50. Reprint of issue of 1866.

Carter, Hodding. *The Angry Scar; the Story of Reconstruction*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press [1974, c1959]. \$17.25. Reprint.

Carter, Samuel, III. *The Siege of Atlanta, 1864*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1974. \$12.50

Crozier, Emmet. *Yankee Reporters, 1861-65*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press [1974, c1956]. \$16.75. Reprint of issue from Oxford U. Press, 1956.

Cummins, D. Duane and William Gee White. *The Origins of the Civil War*. New York: Benziger [1973, c1972]. Paper, \$2.56. The main work, also issued separately, is preceded by the author's Teacher's Edition with special title page. Teacher's edition: \$1.92

Dunham, Chester Forrester. *The Attitude of the Northern Clergy toward the South, 1860-1865*. Philadelphia: Porcupine Press, 1974. \$13.50. Originally presented as the author's thesis, University of Chicago, 1939. Reprint of 1942 edition published by the Gray Co., Toledo, Ohio.

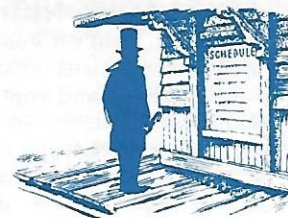
Grant, Matthew G. *Ulysses S. Grant; General and President*. Illustrated by John Nelson. [Mankato, Minn.: Creative Educational Society, 1974]. \$3.95. For young people.

Grimke, Archibald Henry. *William Lloyd Garrison, the Abolitionist*. [New York: AMS Press, 1974]. \$16.00. Reprint of 1891 printing.

Groene, Bertram H. *Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor*. Winston-Salem, North Carolina: John F. Blair, 1973. \$5.95

Hotchkiss, Jedediah. *Make me a Map of the Valley; the Civil War Journal of Stonewall Jackson's Topographer*. Edited by Archie P. McDonald. Foreword by T. Harry Williams. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press [1973]. \$12.50

Johnson, Curtiss S. *Politics and Belly-full; the Journalistic career of William Cullen Bryant, Civil War Editor of the New*



## BULLETIN BOARD

### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

March 8: Marshall Krolick on Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg.

April 12: Robert Womack on the Battle of Murfreesboro. May 2, 3, 4, and 5: Annual Battlefield Tour to Chattanooga and Chickamauga.

May 10: Albert P. Scheller on The Red River Campaign.

June 14: Installation of Officers Dinner and presentation of Nevins-Freeman Award to Bruce Catton — Program details to be announced.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at LaSalle Hotel coffee shop; all members invited.

#### New Members

Mr. John W. (Jack) Welch, 6033 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois 60660

Mr. Edward D. Dooly, 5825 North Kilbourn, Chicago, Illinois 60656

Mr. Thomas L. Jarnowski, U.S. Navy, U.S.S. Brownson (DD 868), F.P.O. New York, New York 09501

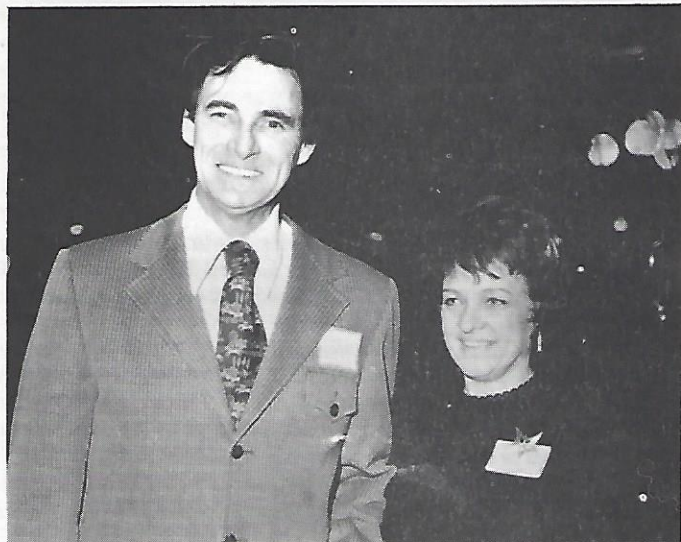
#### Change of Address

Mr. Francis F. Wilshin, 1311 Littlepage Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

York Evening Post. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press [1974, c1962]. \$10.00. Reprint of issue done by Vantage Press in 1962.

Jordan, Thomas and J. P. Pryor. *The Campaigns of Lieut-Gen. N.B. Forrest, and of Forrest's Cavalry*, with portraits, maps and illustrations. [Dayton, O.: Morningside Bookshop, 1973]. \$17.50. Reprint of 1868 issue.

## PARTICIPANTS IN THE LADIES NIGHT PROGRAM



Mr. and Mrs. Dick Blake



The Schimmelfennig Singers