

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXV, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December, 1974

## DOUBLEHEADER EVENING--DECEMBER 13TH SHELBY FOOTE AUTOGRAPHING PARTY & PROGRAM

### COCKTAIL & AUTOGRAPHING PARTY

To Honor  
SHELBY FOOTE

Celebrating the Publication  
of A Monumental Civil War Book

**THE CIVIL WAR: A NARRATIVE  
RED RIVER TO APPOMATTOX**

The Third & Final Volume of  
An American History Classic

"An unparalleled achievement, an American Iliad, a unique book uniting the scholarship of the historian and the high readability of the first-class novelist."

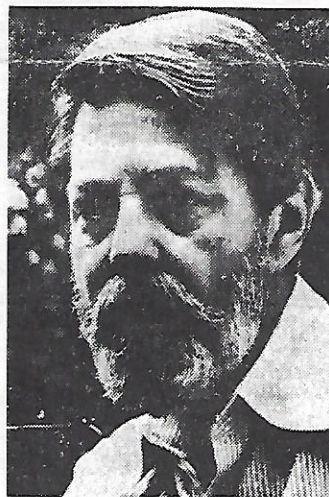
Walker Percy

Friday, December 13, 1974

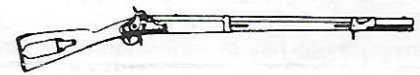
Abraham Lincoln Book Shop

4:00 p.m.

18 East Chestnut Street



Shelby Foote



### 336th REGULAR MEETING

\* \* \*

Shelby Foote

on

Writing Civil War History

Friday, December 13, 1974

\* \* \*

Chicago Bar Association

29 South LaSalle Street

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



It is here at last, the final volume of Shelby Foote's magnificent narrative trilogy on the history of the Civil War. To commemorate this brilliant achievement we have invited Mr. Foote to join with us on December 13, 1974 for what should be a most memorable evening. He will be here in a dual capacity, first as the guest of honor at a cocktail and autographing party, and then as the speaker at our 336th regular meeting. The festivities begin with the party at 4:00 p.m. in the warm and friendly confines of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 East Chestnut. Our hosts, Ralph Newman and Dan Weinberg, have assured us that both the spirits and the conversation will be lively and flowing. And what's even better, the ladies will most certainly be welcome. Then, at 6:30 p.m., the gentlemen will repair to the Bar Association for dinner and the meeting, featuring Mr. Foote's remarks.

Shelby Foote was born in Greenville, Mississippi in 1916 and later attended the University of North Carolina. During World War II, he served as an artillery captain in Europe. Following his return to the United States, he became a successful novelist. His first novel, published in 1948, was soon followed by one a year for the next four years. Then, in 1954, a request from his publisher, Bennett Cerf of Random House, changed the course of his life. Cerf asked Foote if he would write a short history of the Civil War for an historical series Random House was planning. However, once he began, Foote realized that he could not write a short history. Before long, he knew it would have to run three volumes. The first, covering the period from Fort Sumter to Perryville, took five years, as did the second which related the events from Fredericksburg to Meridian. Each received tremendous criti-

cal acclaim upon publication. The final book has taken ten years to complete, partly because it is longer than the others and partly because the author has taken time out during its preparation for other tasks. Among these was a year spent as playwright in residence at the Arena Stage in Washington and another year as writer in residence at the University of Virginia. All in all, it has taken twenty years to complete the project. As Foote has noted, when he began he was two years younger than Grant was at the outbreak of the War and now, when it is done, he is a year older than Lincoln was when he was killed.

Foote's style differs from that of other Civil War authors in that his books are narratives, thus written in the manner of the novelist. And it is this very distinction that he has selected as his topic when he addresses us at our meeting. As he discusses "Writing Civil War History", he will be explaining his theory that the basic requirement for the writing of history is that one be true to the facts, something a novelist can do just as well as the professional or academic historian. Mr. Foote suggests that organizing and following the facts, or "plot", of a novel is no different than setting forth the actual events which occurred in prior decades or even centuries. Certainly the best example of the validity of this concept is Shelby Foote himself, for the quality of his historical writing has made his books required reading for every Civil War student. As an added bonus, Mr. Foote has promised that when he completes his talk, he plans to throw the meeting open for an extensive period of discussion on any Civil War subjects members of the audience may request. This will be an evening not to be missed, so make your reservation early.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

## OFFICERS

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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



With this issue of the Newsletter, we mark the end of our first year as its editor. Looking back, we see a lot of enjoyment, some aggravation, quite a few mistakes, but, most of all, a learning process that leaves us with an even deeper appreciation of the ability of people like Gil Twiss and Don Russell. Fortunately, while we were undergoing our on-the-job training, we had the guidance and assistance of many wonderful people without whom the task can't be done. The publication of this Newsletter is a little bit like the proverbial iceberg, for there are numerous unsung heroes who contribute so much to whatever pleasure you may have derived from reading these pages each month.

The first pat on the back should go to you, the membership, for your suggestions and bits of information upon which articles can be based. Without your help the well would soon run dry and there would be a lot of empty space

between the lines. Next, there are Assistant Editor Bob Franke and Contributing Editor Dick Clark, neither of whom has ever missed a deadline. Brooks Davis has spent many hours keeping the mailing list up to date and, with the help of Treasurers Jerry Edelstein and Glen Wiche, providing us with the information on new members and address changes. The unique art work and column headings are the results of the gifted pen of past president Jerry Warshaw, who has never failed to donate his time and considerable talent whenever it has been needed.

Finally, no matter how well all of us do our jobs, there would be no finished product without typesetting, printing and mailing. Those tasks are the province of Edith Davidson of Mimeocrafters letter service. But Edith is more than just a person we do business with, for she is also our teacher and adviser. Her value and services to The Round Table over the years have gone far beyond any amounts included in her company's bills to us. In all the millions of words of copy she has processed for us, we believe this is the first time they have included an acknowledgment of our appreciation to her. It is long overdue.

Perhaps the most fitting and proper way to end this last editor's column of the year would be to wish everyone, on behalf of the entire Newsletter staff, a most happy and healthy Holiday Season and New Year. And, as we write those traditional words of greeting, we cannot help but think that we, who have adopted as a hobby the study of a war, should know better than anyone the horrors that war brings to mankind. Therefore, as each of us turns our thoughts to our faith at this time of year, regardless of which faith we may follow, we especially should pray and work for that greatest of blessings, peace throughout the world and good will toward all men.



## 1975 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

Co-Chairmen Brooks Davis, Bob Walter and Terry Carr have announced tentative plans for our 1975 Battlefield Tour to the Richmond area. Because of the many points of interest which we would like to include on the agenda, an important change from our normal procedure is being scheduled. We will probably be departing from Chicago on Wednesday afternoon (April 30th) rather than on Thursday morning, as is customary. In this way, a full day's events can be programmed for Thursday, rather than a half-day or less.

The preliminary itinerary for that first day is a complete review of the 1864 campaign from Spotsylvania to Cold Harbor, including a stop at the North Anna which we have not visited before. On Friday, the subject will be the Seven Days Campaign, while Saturday will take us to Petersburg and Drury's Bluff. The entire day on Sunday will be spent in Richmond visiting the many beautiful museums and prominent sites of 1861-1865. Among the possible special events being discussed are a side trip to Williamsburg, a special program honoring J. Ambler Johnston, a joint meeting with the Richmond Round Table, and cocktail parties at a James River plantation and one of the museums.

All in all, this tour promises to be the finest we have ever had. More specific details will be announced as they are confirmed, but in the meantime mark your calendars to reserve the dates, April 30th and May 1st through May 4th.

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Dr. Francis R. (Bud) Geigle, for the past two years a vice president of The Round Table, passed away on November 16, 1974. Bud, who was sixty-eight years old at the time of his death, had just recently retired from his position as vice president for development and alumni relations at Northern Illinois University. He had been at NIU since 1951 and in that time had also served as chairman of the department of

(Continued on page 4)

On hand at our last meeting to greet our guest speaker, Wilbur G. Kurtz, Jr. of Atlanta, were seventy-one members and their guests. Among those present were three long-time members who had not been able to be with us in recent months, Lloyd Miller, Maurice Fisher and Mike Lerner.

As his topic, Mr. Kurtz, grandson of Captain Fuller, the conductor who pursued the Andrews Raiders, examined for us the writings of Lloyd Lewis. His interest in the noted Chicago journalist turned Civil War author and biographer was first aroused by his famous artist father, Wilbur Kurtz, Sr., who, like Lewis, was an historian by avocation. Lewis' first book, "Myths After Lincoln", had fascinated the elder Mr. Kurtz. Despite a lack of critical praise, the book became a successful bestseller after its publication in 1929. As our speaker pointed out, in that work Lewis was very candid about Lincoln, an unusual attitude for a Northern writer at that time. The author devoted a major portion of the book to the assassination and its impact on the American people. In addition to describing the events in Washington in April, 1865, as well as the funeral and burial, Lewis spent many pages tearing down the outpouring of deitism heaped upon Lincoln by the Northern clergy after his death.

Turning then to what is probably Lewis' most noted book, his brilliant biography of William Tecumseh Sherman, Mr. Kurtz called our attention to the author's rare emotional approach and unique style in his passages relating to scenes of battle. The reader is almost placed in the center of the arena of combat as Lewis' vivid words paint a picture of warfare in bloody technicolor. Another Lewis trademark was to be found in the book's summary of the Atlanta campaign. Here geographical detail was often ignored in favor of a masterful study of life in the Union Army as the troops marched through Georgia. In his description of Sherman, the man, Lewis again filled his pen with the ink of emotion. Thus the general emerged from the printed page a human being instead of a two-dimensional table of statistics. Despite the fact that the book was never reviewed in a leading historical journal, it has long been considered the definitive work on Sherman.

In evaluating Lewis as an historian, Mr. Kurtz felt that his greatest asset was his refusal to follow the tradition of writing lifeless chronicles of events and facts. He felt that history was people and his lucid pen centered on them, making them come alive for future generations. Because of this, he was never truly accepted by professional historians, but he didn't care. Lewis probably realized that their attitude toward him was based on jealousy, so he treated them politely, reviewing their books with fairness. However, he was ever critical of the tedium produced by their constant recital of dry facts.

Mr. Kurtz also called our attention to the meticulous research Lewis engaged in, producing voluminous notes in triplicate, all cross-referenced. Often fifteen pages of these notes would, when boiled down, result in only one paragraph of text. When Lewis died on April 21, 1949, he had already completed much of the necessary research for the second, and third volumes of his biography of Ulysses S. Grant. Mrs. Katherine Lewis permitted Bruce Catton to use these notes when he subsequently wrote those books. She then gave them to the Grant Association.

At the conclusion of Mr. Kurtz' excellent remarks, the evening's enjoyment was prolonged by a most entertaining question and answer period. Don Russell, who had the pleasure of working with Lloyd Lewis on the staff of the Chicago Daily News, recalled several anecdotes which gave additional insight into the author's personality. Then, at the request of Jerry Edelstein, our speaker described several incidents which his late father had been witness to during the filming of "Gone With The Wind". Mr. Kurtz, Sr., who had been selected by Margaret Mitchell to be the film's historical adviser, had, until his death, maintained a close friendship with the film's sole surviving star, Olivia De Havilland.



## TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

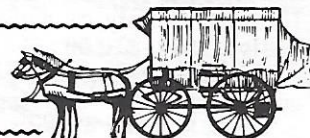
At our November meeting George Fleming provided us with a very interesting program. His talk on "Illinois on the Eve of Civil War" revealed to us that our state was quite divided in its sympathies (the southern parts leaning toward pro slavery feeling, the northern people for the most part determined that the territories should remain free of slavery). It appears that ante bellum Illinois was anything but united. George gave us a stimulating and thoroughly enjoyable evening, to be sure!

In December the Campfollowers will join The Round Table at an autograph cocktail party for Shelby Foote, celebrating the completion of his three volume work on the Civil War. The festivities will be at The Abraham Lincoln Book Shop at 4:00 p.m. When the men depart for their meeting at the Bar Association, we gals will round out our evening with a catered supper at the Davis apartment (Betsy most generously offered her home for our use).

Girls, do make a special effort to come along with your husbands. If you plan to sup with us afterwards reservations must be made no later than December 11. To do this write or call Mary Ellen Wehler, 244 So. Elmwood, Aurora, Illinois 60506, 896-0169.



## The SUTLER'S WAGON



*(With this issue of the Newsletter we are inaugurating a new department, one which we hope will become a regular feature each month. It will be, as its name implies, a sort of trading post, but, unlike its predecessor of the 1860's, the services of the sutler will be free. Its customers will be anyone who has a Civil War item or book to buy or sell or who needs information on a Civil War subject. However, keep in mind that its inventory and its success depend on you, for without your ads and your response to the ads of others, the wagon will soon go out of business and its horses be put out to pasture. So let us hear from you because what you don't want, someone else does, and what you need, someone else has.)*

**WANTED:** Any information on the Mississippi Marine Brigade. Contact Brooks Davis, 18 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, Ill. 60611.

**FOR SALE:** Book entitled "The Vermont Brigade in the Shenandoah Valley", written by the brigade's commander at Cedar Creek. \$10.00. Contact Don McCluskey, 1630 Walnut, Wilmette, Ill. 60091.

**WANTED:** Advice on sources to consult in researching the life and military service of Union General John Basil Turchin. Contact Glen Wiche, 655 Thornwood, Naperville, Ill. 60540.

**FOR SALE:** Books entitled "Their Tattered Flags" by Frank Vandiver, \$10.00; "Catalogue of the Confederate Museum" (1898), \$22.50; "Michigan at Chattanooga, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge" by Charles Belknap, \$25.00. Contact Warren Reeder, 260-165th Street, Hammond, Indiana 46324.

**WANTED:** Any information, diaries, letters, articles, etc. pertaining to the service and campaigns of the 8th Illinois Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac, and to the careers of its officers, including John Farnsworth, Elon Farnsworth, David Clendennin, John Beveridge and Abner Hard. Contact Marshall Krollick, 3126 Violet Lane, Northbrook, Illinois 60062.

**WANTED:** Any information on or obituaries of Drs. Charles D. Brown and Joseph B. Alexander, embalming surgeons who prepared the bodies of Abraham Lincoln, Willie Lincoln and thousands of soldiers. Contact Edward Johnson, 813 W. Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Ill. 60614.

## THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Bensell, Royal A. *All Quiet on the Yamhill: The Civil War in Oregon*. Edited by Gunter Barth. Eugene: University of Oregon Books, 1959.

Brown, Joseph Willard. *The Signal Corps, U.S.A., in the War of the Rebellion*. Introduction by Paul J. Scheips. New York: Arno Press, 1974 [c1896]. \$43.00. Reprint, without part 3 (Roster of Signal Corps, 1861-1865), of the edition published by U.S. Veteran Signal Corps Association.

Daniels, Jonathan. *Prince of Carpetbaggers*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1974. \$14.00. Reprint of the Lipincott edition of 1958. Concerns Milton Smith Littlefield.

Douglas, Henry Kyd. *The Douglas Diary: Student Days at Franklin and Marshall College, 1856-1858*. Edited by Frederic Shriver Klein and John Howard Carrill. Lancaster, Pa.: Franklin and Marshall College, 1973. \$7.95

Grossman, Julian. *Echo of a Distant Drum: Winslow Homer and the Civil War*. New York: H.N. Abrams, 1974. \$25.00

Horton, Louise. *Samuel Bell Maxey: A Biography*. Austin and London: University of Texas Press, 1974. \$10.00

Merk, Frederick. *Economic History of Wisconsin During the Civil War Decade*. With new preface. Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin. First edition, 1916; second edition, 1971. \$10.00

Ofari, Earl. *"Let Your Motto Be Resistance": The Life and Thought of Henry Highland Garnet*.

Sears, Stephen W., editor. *The American Heritage Century Collection of Civil War Art*. Forward by Bruce Catton. New York: American Heritage Publication Co. \$35.00. The illustrations that originally appeared in *Battles and Leaders*, from the original art, recently uncovered.

Sword, Wiley. *Shiloh: Bloody April*. Foreword by Brig. Gen. S.L.A. Marshall. New York: Morrow, 1974. \$15.00

Weddle, Robert S. *Plow-horse Cavalry: The Caney Creek Boys of the Thirty-fourth Texas*. Austin, Texas: Madrona Press, 1974. \$9.00

Zinn, Jack. *R.E. Lee's Cheat Mountain Campaign*. Parson, West Virginia: McClain Printing Co., 1974. \$9.75



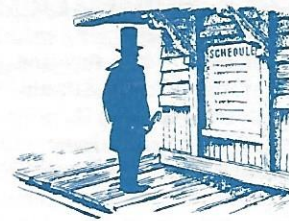
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business education, administrative assistant to the president, provost, and co-ordinator of executive activities. During the 1970-71 academic year, he took a leave from NIU to serve as acting president of Illinois State University in Normal. Bud received his masters and doctoral degrees from New York University and also served on the faculties of Lycoming College and Montclair State College prior to coming to NIU. An ardent supporter of The Round Table, he never missed a regular meeting or executive committee meeting, despite the long drive from De Kalb. His leadership and guidance on the executive committee and, more recently, on the research center committee, will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathies go to Bud's widow Helen and to the other members of his family.

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Final notices for payment of 1974-75 dues have been mailed. Treasurer Glen Wiche advises that anyone whose dues are not received by the December meeting will be dropped from the membership rolls and mailing list effective that date. Also, in order to qualify as deductions on your 1974 income tax, contributions to the Research Center Fund must be mailed by December 31st.

## BULLETIN BOARD



### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

December 13: Shelby Foote on "Writing Civil War History."

January 10: William C. "Jack" Davis on "The Battle of New Market." Executive Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

February 14: Gordon Whitney on "The Battle of Nashville."

March 14: Frank Rankin on "The Orphan Brigade."

April 11: Harold Simpson on "The Texas Brigade, Lee's Grenadier Guard."

April 30, May 1-4: Annual Battlefield Tour to Richmond.

May 9: Ralph G. Newman on "The Last Full Measure of Devotion - Abraham Lincoln's Incredible Funeral."

June 13: Ladies Night, Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner, and Installation of Officers.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at LaSalle Hotel Coffee Shop; all members welcome.

### NEW MEMBERS

E. D. Corcoran, Jr., 6337 North Natoma, Chicago, Illinois 60630

Stephen R. Jones, 1505 E. Central Road, Apt. 106A, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

Vincent E. McMichael, 4351 West 76th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60652

Henry Pomerantz, 11503 Hearthstone Court, Reston, Virginia 22091

Denis F. Robison, 17 West 220 Oaklane Drive, Bensenville, Illinois 60106

A. Raymond Schwaller, 9817 Kilbourn, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

Carl D. Ward, 280 North Westgate Road, Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Dr. Gordon E. Dammann, 500 Butternut Drive, Lena, Illinois 61048

Dr. James E. Gleichert, 2634 Devonshire, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Ira L. Wallis, 3630 S. Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90034

Sidney L. Pachter, Jr., 504 East High Rise, Logan, Utah 84321

The yearly membership roster is now being prepared by Brooks Davis for mailing after the first of the year. In response to popular request, Brooks will attempt to include members' phone numbers wherever possible. To do so, he needs your cooperation. Please drop us a line immediately advising us of your phone number, including area code. A convenient way to do so would be to utilize the meeting reservations card and envelope enclosed with the Newsletter.