

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

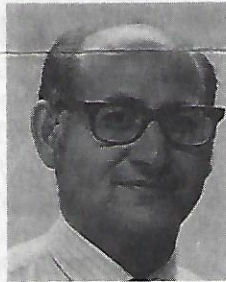
Volume XXXVI, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October, 1975

## DR. ALFRED C. RAPHELSON ON ALEXANDER SCHIMMELFENNIG

Ever since the 1969 Battlefield Tour the name of Brigadier-General Alexander Schimmelfennig has become almost a household word to the veterans of The Round Table. His initial introduction to us as one of the bus pictures on that trip led to further remembrances at subsequent meetings and on other excursions. For example, his prolonged stay in the Garlach family's pig sty during the Battle of Gettysburg inspired the famed memorial service held on the site of the Garlach home during our 1973 visit to the historic Pennsylvania town. It was during those ceremonies that your editor was compelled to decline the gift of a direct descendant of the original occupants of the sty, a refusal caused by the young porker's obvious suffering from a case of the "Tennessee Quick Step".

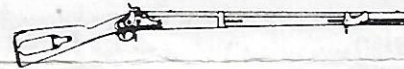


Dr. Alfred C. Raphelson

However, our preoccupation with the lighter side of the career of Alexander Schimmelfennig does not do justice to a brave soldier. His dedication to his adopted cause is symbolic of the contribution to the Union and Confederate armies made by over two hundred thousand German immigrants. Thus it is most fitting that on October 10, 1975 we will be privileged to have as our principal speaker Professor Alfred C. Raphelson of the University of Michigan at Flint, author of a manuscript biography of General Schimmelfennig. Professor Raphelson intends to present to us a more balanced outline of the General's life.

Schimmelfennig was born in Prussia in 1824. Receiving primarily a military education, he graduated from the Prussian Army Staff School in Berlin in 1842. After serving as an officer of engineers in the Schleswig-Holstein War, he joined the revolutionary army of the Palatinate which was defeated by the Prussians in 1848. Fleeing his homeland, he travelled first to London and then in 1853 immigrated to America with his young wife. Residing first in Philadelphia and then Washington, he worked as an engineer and part of the time prior to 1861 was employed by the government.

Upon the outbreak of hostilities, he accepted the colonelcy of the Seventy-Fourth Pennsylvania, a regiment from the Pittsburgh area comprised mainly of recruits from the German communities in the western part of the state. Early in the war his activities were greatly limited first by injuries suffered in a fall by his horse and then by a severe case of smallpox. Seeing his first Civil War combat in the Second Bull Run Campaign, he soon rose to brigade command in the XI Corps. The poor performance of the corps in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg soured him on further service with the Army of the Potomac. His request for transfer to South Carolina was granted, but sickness in the form of malaria again interrupted



344th REGULAR MEETING

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Dr. Alfred C. Raphelson

on

General Alexander Schimmelfennig

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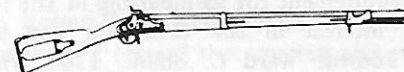
Friday, October 10, 1975

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Chicago Bar Association  
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



his service. However, after the fall of Charleston in early 1865, he was in command of the city until he contracted tuberculosis, the disease which was to cause his premature death later that same year. As an epilogue, our speaker will also describe for us the subsequent near destitution suffered by the General's family.

Dr. Alfred C. Raphelson, a native of Washington, D.C., has earned the degrees of B.A., M.A. and Ph.D., all from the University of Michigan and all in the field of Psychology. First serving in the Psychology Department of the University of Illinois, he returned to his alma mater in 1956. Rising to the chair of full Professor, he currently holds the position of head of the Psychology Department at the Flint campus of the University. Dr. Raphelson is a member of several professional associations and societies, as well as Phi Beta Kappa. He has authored and delivered over twenty-five papers and articles in the field of Psychology.

In addition to his manuscript biography, Dr. Raphelson has also written three articles on General Schimmelfennig for historical periodicals. He is credited by Bud Warner for providing most of the material on the General which is included in "Generals in Blue".



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

SEPTEMBER MEETING



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street  
Chicago Illinois 60611  
Phone: (312) 944-3085

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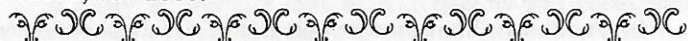
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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Ward C. Smidl, 1104 Whippoorwill Lane, Palatine, Illinois 60067.



## TO THE CAMPFOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Nineteen ladies, including three guests, were present to enjoy our first meeting of the season. Our guest speaker, Mr. William Sullivan, of The Round Table, provided us with a most delightful and entertaining talk on "The Spirits of the Sixties". The next meeting will feature two of our own members, Kathy Carr and Roberta Krolick, who are preparing a presentation entitled "Civil War I.Q.". The meeting will be held on October 10 at Stouffer's Restaurant, 32 East Randolph Street, Chicago. The cash bar will be open at 5:30 p.m., the program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. To make your reservation, please call or write Mrs. Margaret April, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601, 787-1860.



Treasurer Myron Cohn has announced that 1975-1976 dues are now delinquent. All of those whose dues are not paid by October 31 will unfortunately have to be dropped from the membership roster and mailing list.

The 1975-1976 year of The Round Table got off to a most successful beginning as ninety members and guests assembled on September 12. The presence of many new faces indicated that our efforts to increase the membership roster have not been in vain. Among the items on the agenda was a presentation by Brooks Davis, co-chairman of the Research Center Fund, of a check for five thousand dollars to David L. Reich, Chief Librarian of the Chicago Public Library. This sum represented the initial installment of our commitment to secure the establishment of the Research Center, as is described elsewhere in this Newsletter. Mr. Reich, in acknowledging receipt of the funds, displayed for us an artist's rendering of the proposed facility which will also serve as a permanent home for The Round Table.

Our speaker for the evening was Wiley Sword, author of the recent and acclaimed book, "Shiloh: Bloody April". Mr. Sword soon demonstrated that he is as captivating with the spoken word as he is with the pen. His description of the conflict between myth and historical record surrounding the Battle of Shiloh provided us with one of the more memorable talks in Round Table history. Beginning with the issue of whether the Union Army was actually surprised on April 6, 1862, he pointed out that after the battle both Grant and Sherman claimed they had expected the attack. However, our speaker quoted from correspondence written by these same two generals on April 5 which clearly indicated that a Confederate assault the next day was the farthest thing from their minds.

Wiley then went on to debunk the traditional theory that General Prentiss was the discoverer of the rebel approach. Rather it was the independent actions, at times against orders, of an Illinois colonel and a Missouri major which actually sounded the alarm. In fact, the colonel was severely chastised by Prentiss for his conduct. As both the colonel and the major were killed in the battle, for many years there was no one to dispute Prentiss' unfounded claim to credit.

Another instance of unjustifiable praise is that given to Beauregard for allegedly devising the strategy of the Confederate advance. The record shows that when the Creole suggested to Johnston that they march on Pittsburgh Landing, he was acting under the influence of erroneous information. He had based his conclusion on a misinterpretation of the purpose and size of a Federal advance which, in turn, had been ordered as a result of a misinterpretation of the intentions of a Southern patrol. Furthermore, it was actually Beauregard's aide, Colonel Jordan, whose arguments, while the former was asleep, persuaded Johnston to go forward.

Probably the most confusing aspect of the battle is the role of Lew Wallace. In putting this situation in perspective Wiley explained that the problem was created by the fact that there were two roads to the battlefield from Wallace's position at Crump's Landing. One led to the right of the federal camp line which was inland from the river, while the other led to the landing. Upon receiving Grant's orders to move, while the battle was in progress, to the Union right flank, Wallace chose the inland route, apparently not contemplating that the Northern forces could have already been forced back to the landing which was, of course, the actual fact. Moreover, Wallace compounded his errors by first stopping for lunch and then, when advised of the true situation, doubling back his column, rather than simply reversing his order of march. The general explained this latter move by saying he wanted certain troops in the front, a poor excuse when the fate of the army hinges on speed. Thus it can be seen that Wallace's performance was not creditable and he was not, as Grant's critics have propounded, merely a scapegoat.

Wiley concluded his excellent remarks with the details of the death of A.S. Johnston and a moving description of the tragic experiences during the battle suffered by Ann Wallace, the wife of Federal General W.H.L. Wallace, who travelled to Tennessee to surprise her husband only to find him in the whirlpool of combat mortally wounded.



**THE CIVIL WAR AND AMERICAN HISTORY RESEARCH COLLECTION  
SPONSORED BY THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AT THE  
CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY CULTURAL CENTER**

The Civil War Round Table was founded in Chicago in 1940. Since that time the movement has expanded, and there are now Round Tables in almost every state in the Union as well as in many foreign countries, including Australia, Germany, and Great Britain. During the more than thirty-five years of existence, many Round Table members have made major contributions to the literature of the Civil War and its era. In addition, our annual Civil War Round Table Fellowships have encouraged talented young people to make the 1861-65 phase of American history their specialty. However, in our desire to further assist the development of Civil War scholarship, we have always realized the great benefits that could be derived from a permanent home for the research and study phase of The Civil War Round Table's activities. Many of our members have indicated that they would be happy to bequeath their libraries to The Round Table and to provide modest cash bequests to help establish and stock such a facility. This headquarters might also provide a site for the annual Nevins-Freeman Award Dinners and other special occasions, as, for example, the assembly we held marking the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ulysses S. Grant.

The City of Chicago is now in the process of refurbishing and modernizing the Central Building of the Chicago Public Library, which is located on Michigan Avenue between Washington and Randolph Streets. The cost of this major project will be twelve million dollars. The remodeled structure, which will become the Cultural Center of the entire Public Library system, will be air conditioned, have new heating and lighting facilities, new elevators, rest rooms on each floor, additional safety features, new furniture (where needed) and better accessibility to all areas of the building.

In this Central Building there is located the magnificent Grand Army of the Republic Room and Memorial Hall. These rooms, and the adjacent Rotunda with its magnificent Tiffany dome, comprise one of the most beautiful settings in any public building in the United States. Unfortunately, they have not been used to full advantage in recent years as the membership of the G.A.R. dwindled until finally the founding fathers had all passed away. Their descendants and auxiliary groups have carried on the traditions and goals of those founders, but their work needs additional help, financing, and ideas. How appropriate it would be if The Civil War Round Table, the ideological and cultural heir of the G.A.R. and its colleagues North and South, could establish its permanent home in these hallowed halls. We would thus continue the traditions of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Sons of Confederate Veterans by helping to maintain, in perpetuity, a living monument to those gallant Americans of principle who, more than a century ago, fought to maintain and reaffirm their devotion to a concept of freedom and liberty for which they were willing to offer "The last full and measure of devotion". Here, in this noble edifice in the heart of the nation, we could have a lasting memorial to what our great fellow member, the late Allan Nevins, once characterized as "The Ordeal of the Union".

With the donation of a modest contribution and the establishment of an endowment fund by The Round Table, this dream can become a reality by the time the remodeled Library building is opened to the public in the year of the United States Bicentennial, 1976. The members of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library have indicated that they would welcome participation in this project by The Civil War Round Table and the agencies now involved in the activities of the G.A.R. Just imagine the use that can be made of this inspiring area. The beautiful auditorium, meeting and dining facilities can accommodate as many as four hundred persons. In addition, a fine room plus a working and storage facility, adjacent to the G.A.R. Rooms, will be set aside for our use. There we can set up a new Special Collections-Rare Book Room to house Civil War and American History books, manuscripts, maps and artifacts. A special collections-rare books librarian will be assigned by the Library to supervise the collections and to assure security and preservation of all of the materials, whether they originate with the Chicago Public Library, the G.A.R., or The Civil War Round Table. The material will be non-circulating, thus insuring preservation.

To bring all of this about, the Executive Committee has created The Civil War Round Table Research Center and Endowment Fund. Through it each of us has a unique opportunity to make a significant contribution toward the creation and assured future existence of this grand enterprise. This means money. Not a tremendous sum, but a significant amount for our comparatively small organization. We have committed ourselves to raise sufficient funds to establish The Civil War and American History Research Collection and, in addition, to found an endowment fund sufficient to assure all future users of this facility that we will always have the sums necessary to acquire new works automatically as they are issued. In this way the Center will also be able to purchase needed out-of-print and rare books and special equipment, such as a map projector, map cases and other needed items. The Special Collections-Rare Book Room will be tastefully furnished and will thus provide a comfortable place for The Civil War Round Table members and others to pursue their study and research.

We know how dear to your heart our organization is. The Round Table now asks you to assure its future existence in a manner which will enable it to make a significant contribution to our favorite period in American history. Each of our members and friends is requested, to the best of his ability and resources, to make a pledge over the next three years, thus becoming a part of the financial support needed by this most rewarding program. We also urge you to seriously consider making The Civil War Round Table the beneficiary of all or part of your library and collection, whether during your lifetime or as a part of your estate. We invite other patriotic organizations to join with us in the project and we particularly hope that those groups and individuals who have been so dedicated to the G.A.R. Room in the past will participate in this venture.

Several gifts of collections and many cash contributions and pledges have already been received, but many more are needed. All contributions are tax deductible. Please complete the enclosed pledge form today and return it to us along with the first installment of your donation.

Help encourage the expansion of Civil War and American history study, research, and fellowship. Make an investment in yourself, your avocation and your country's heritage by participating in the establishment and maintenance of a superb Civil War and American History Research Collection in one of the most beautiful and historic buildings in the United States.



# THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Anders, Leslie. *The Twenty-first Missouri; From Home Guard to Union Regiment*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1975. \$18.50

Breeden, James. *Joseph Jones, M.D.: Scientist of the Old South*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1975. \$13.25

Burney, Eugenia. *The Story of Fort Sumter*. Illus. by Chuck Mitchell. Chicago: Children's Press, 1975. \$5.65

Cromie, Alice Hamilton. *A Tour Guide to the Civil War*. Introduction by Bell Irvin Wiley. Second edition, revised and updated. New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., 1975. \$12.95; paper \$4.95

Hodgson, Joseph. *The Cradle of the Confederacy: or, The Times of Troup, Quitman, and Yancey: A Sketch of South-western Political History from the Formation of the Federal Government to A.D. 1861*. Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 1975. \$21.00. Reprint of 1876 edition done in Mobile.

Howard, McHenry. *Recollections of a Maryland Soldier and Staff Officer under Johnston, Jackson and Lee*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1975. \$20.00. Reprint of the 1914 edition.

Lester, Richar I. *Confederate Finance and Purchasing in Great Britain*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1975. \$15.00

McCarty, Burke. *The Suppressed Truth about the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Gordon Press, 1974. \$39.95. Original of 1922.

Reid, J.W. *History of the Fourth Regiment of S.C. Volunteers, from the commencement of the War until Lee's surrender . . .* Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1975. \$12.50. Reprint of the 1891 printing.

Slaughter, Frank Gill. *Stonewall Brigade*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1975. \$8.95. A novel.

Todd, Frederick P. *American Military Equipage, 1851-1872*. A description by word and picture of what the American soldier, sailor and marine of these years wore and carried, with emphasis on the American Civil War. By . . . in collaboration with George Woodbridge, Lee A. Wallace, Jr., and Michael J. McAfee. Original illustrations by George Woodbridge. With additional illustrations by Frederick T. Chapman and others. Volume 1. Providence, R.I.: The Company of Military Historians, c1974. For sale to members.

Trefousse, Hans L. *Ben Butler: The South Called him Beast*. New York: Octagon Books, 1974. \$13.50. Reprint of 1957 issue.

Trefousse, Hans L. *Lincoln's Decision for Emancipation—* Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1975. Paper \$3.25

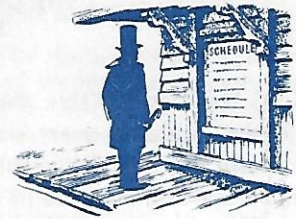
Vaughan, A.J., Brig. Gen. *Personal Record of the Thirteenth Regiment, Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A.* By Its Old Commander. Brentwood, Tennessee: John L. Heflin, Jr. \$10.00



It is with great pleasure that we note the publication of the revised and updated second edition of Alice Hamilton Cromie's "A Tour Guide to the Civil War." Alice is of course our beloved battlefield tour companion and perennial candidate for Round Table membership. Her wit and wisdom are a joy to us all and thus we take pride in her fine work. The book is a city by city and state by state locator and description of every civil war related point of interest across the country. It is an absolute must for every Civil War student, whether he is touring in person in his automobile or vicariously in his armchair. We highly recommend it.

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# BULLETIN BOARD



## FUTURE MEETINGS

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

October 10: Dr. Alfred C. Raphelson on "The Career of General Alexander Schimmelfennig".

November 14: Dr. George Frederickson on "Lincoln and the Race Issue".

December 12: Dr. Harry Pfanz on "The First Day at Gettysburg".

January 9: William Sullivan on "The Civil War on The Plaines".

February 13: James T. Hickey on "Recent Lincoln Document Acquisitions by the Illinois State Historical Library".

March 12: Edward G.A. Kubler on "The Building and Recovery of the Monitor".

April 9: 350th Regular Meeting. Symposium, chaired by E. B. "Pete" Long, on "Is Civil War History Still a Pertinent Subject?".

May 5-9: Annual Battlefield Tour to Manassas and Antietam.

May 14: Albert P. Scheller on "Illinois Regiments and Generals in Mississippi".

June 11: Ladies Night. Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers.

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

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Robert F. Paprocki, 4201 North Lawndale, Chicago, Illinois 60618.

Stephen R. Jones, 4 Villa Verde Drive, #308, Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60090.

Peter H. Johnston, 613 Camino Esplendido, Tubac, Arizona 85640.

Henry Pomerantz, 472 Castlewood Lane, Deerfield, Illinois 60015.

F.T. Brandt, R.R. #2, Lena, Illinois 61048.

Marlow J. Madden, 2970 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

Raymond Jankovich, Sr., 3636 West 23rd Place, Alsip, Illinois 60658.

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Past President Gordon Whitney, who now resides in Madison, Indiana, has been elected Vice-President of the Louisville C.W.R.T. Gord is also active on the speaking trail with upcoming engagements to describe the "Battle of Nashville" in St. Louis, Kansas City, Cincinnati and Michigan. Also on the circuit is Past President Marshall Krolick, who discussed "Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg" before a joint meeting of the Louisville C.W.R.T. and the Fort Knox Officers Club on September 27.

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Jerry Russell reports that reservations for the National Civil War Round Table Congress, to be held in Manassas on October 2, 3 and 4, have been received from over fifty delegates from fifteen states. President Jerry Edelstein has appointed Bill Sullivan to be the delegate from our Round Table. We again urge anyone else who can attend to do so.