

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

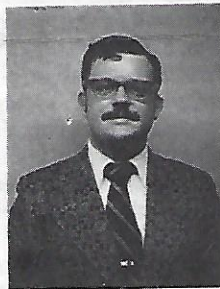
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Chicago, Illinois

January, 1976

WILLIAM J. SULLIVAN ON THE CIVIL WAR ON THE GREAT PLAINS AND IN THE FAR WEST—JANUARY 9, 1976

The Civil War west of the trans-Mississippi region has received scant attention compared to the more publicized campaigns and battles which occurred east of the river. Bill Sullivan, of our Round Table, has found this area of Civil War scholarship one of great interest and his remarks on January 9, 1976 will provide much neglected and provocative information.



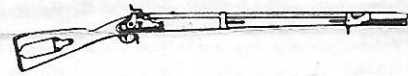
William Sullivan

Bill has been interested in the Civil War since age twelve and has been an active member of the Round Table during the last five years, currently serving as our Secretary. He is a science instructor at Simmons Junior High School in Oak Lawn where he resides. A graduate of Culver Military Academy, Bill holds a Masters Degree in History from Northwestern University and a Bachelor's Degree from the same institution. As a side-line he participates in Revolutionary War Re-enactments in a reconstructed Virginian regiment of the Continental Army. He is also a member of the Company of Military Historians and a prize winning poet.

Bill's remarks will cover a broad geographic vista, beginning with the Confederate invasion of New Mexico. Brig. General Henry H. Sibley was ordered to Texas in late summer 1861 to lead the southern efforts to expel Union forces from west Texas and New Mexico. On February 21, 1862 he met Canby's Union force at Valverde, defeating the Federal volunteers and thus occupying Albuquerque and Santa Fe. By the spring of 1862 Canby was reinforced by Colorado volunteers, but in a series of running fights the Confederates were driven back to Ft. Bliss where Sibley's army disintegrated. With it evaporated the Southern dream of a California conquest.

Bill will also highlight additional Union support to the Arizona-New Mexico area in describing the episode of the "California Column." This Federal expedition left southern California during April of 1862 under the command of James Carleton. Its mission was to secure the trade and gold routes for the Union in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

Another major area of discussion will be the relationships of the Indian tribes with the Union and the Confederacy. At the close of the Buchanan administration most of the United States Indian Agents were secessionists and, the moment the Southern states commenced passing ordinances of secession, these men exerted their influence to get the main tribes committed to the Confederacy. The South was primarily interested in controlling the Indian Territory south of the Arkansas River in order to protect the routes from the Mississippi River west towards Texas, New Mexico and California.



347th REGULAR MEETING

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William Sullivan

on

The Civil War On The Plains

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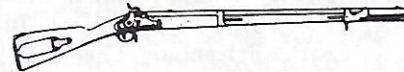
Friday, January 9, 1976

* * *

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



The Creek nation was split in two; the larger faction, under the old Chief Hopoeithleyohola, was driven into Kansas by the Confederates during late 1861. In the spring of 1862 the U.S. government sent an expedition of five thousand men, under Col. William Weer of the 10th Kansas Infantry, to drive out the Confederate Indian forces of Pike and Cooper and to restore the refugee Creek Indians to their homes. By mid 1862 all of the Confederates were driven out of the Indian country north of the Arkansas River. The loyal Cherokee, Creek and Seminole nations were organized into three regiments for the defense of their territory. They were brigaded under Col. William Phillips of Kansas.

With Federal troops sent east for war duty many areas of White settlements were left unprotected. During mid-1862 the Sioux revolted in southwest Minnesota. Numerous settlers were murdered and a series of vicious depredations were conducted on both sides. Troops finally stopped the Sioux uprising at Wood Lake on September 23rd.

A notorious blot on American history was committed at Sand Creek Colorado territory on November 29, 1864. Citizenry of the Denver area had complained of the numerous Indian raids. Col. J. M. Chivington with nine hundred volunteers moved on the Sand Creek Indian camp located forty miles south of Fort Lyon. More than five hundred Arapahoes and Cheyennes were slaughtered. While westerners approved of the action, much of the east was taken aghast.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago Illinois 60611
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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.



from the Editor's pen



No one needs reminding of the rich Civil War heritage associated with the City of Atlanta. The battles which raged around it in the summer of 1864 were among the most epic of the War, providing a fitting conclusion to a campaign which is best known for the controversy it created. The eventual surrender of the city paved the way for the re-election of Abraham Lincoln, thus assuring that the war would go on until Northern success would be achieved.

Yet a visitor to modern Atlanta would be hard-pressed to find visual evidence that the men of 1861-1865 had preceded him one hundred and eleven years ago. Today those walking the fields bordering Peachtree Creek carry not muskets but five irons, for this storied battlefield is now a golf course set

among a fine neighborhood of lovely but unhistorical homes. If one wishes to tour Leggett's Hill, focal point of the Battle of Atlanta, he must stand smack in the middle of a clover-leaf interchange of the interstate expressway system. Anyone doing so would have an excellent chance of being the first to receive the Confederate Purple Heart because of wounds inflicted by an automobile.

Thus it is that probably the only site within the city, which a Civil War student might find of interest, is located in Grant Park (not, of course, named in honor of the general). There, in a gray, dreary building, filled with the aura of decay, is to be found the famed Cyclorama of The Battle of Atlanta. Although not a great work of art, it is nevertheless a marvel of three dimensional military reproduction. Measuring fifty feet in height by four hundred feet in circumference, the painting portion was completed in 1886. While it is not a battlefield or even an artifact of the war itself, it is still something to be treasured and protected, for it is a link with the past, a reminder of the way it was.

Yet this great work too, like the battlefields across the country, is threatened with imminent destruction. Its enemy is the ravages of time which have attacked not only the Cyclorama, but the building in which it is housed. The roof leaks and the resulting water streaks have defaced the work. Serious cracks have appeared throughout the canvas, raising the possibility of total collapse. A lack of air conditioning and climate control have created a musty, humid atmosphere within the structure, harmful to the painting and unpleasant to its viewers. Can it be any wonder, in light of these conditions, that attendance has been steadily declining over the past several years?

The only antidote for the problems of the Cyclorama is that same old bugaboo of those who care about preserving our national heritage—money. The display does generate income, about \$130,000.00 a year. However, that is just barely enough to provide minimal daily upkeep. Entrance fees cannot even begin to supply the amounts required for the repairs and remodeling. Estimates indicate that at least 2.3 million dollars would be necessary to perform the work. The only question is where to get it.

The director of Atlanta's parks and recreation system says his budget can spare, at most, \$350,000. It was hoped that an additional 1.5 million could be obtained as part of a municipal bond referendum, but that dream has been in vain. As Rhett Butler said to Scarlett in "Gone With The Wind", the voters of Atlanta declared loud and clear, on December 9, "I don't give a damn" and the referendum was defeated. It would be easy to criticize the electorate for ignoring the value of this national landmark, but stop and think for a moment. How did you vote the last time your school board or park district attempted to raise funds? Everyone is sick and tired of ever-raising taxes.

So what is the answer? Destroy the Cyclorama? Of course not, no one is in favor of that. Thousands of citizens and newspapers across the nation have lifted their voices in support of its preservation. Yet editorials alone don't pay for air conditioning ducts. Meanwhile, the Cyclorama is rapidly self-destructing. Move it to another location? What good would that do, as it will cost at least ten million dollars to build a suitable building in which to house it. Federal aid? Certainly it would be a proper addition to the guardianship of the National Park Service. But their budget doesn't have nearly enough money to even provide for the desperately needed battlefield preservation, so how can funds be diverted to the Cyclorama?

That appears to leave only private donations. A non-profit corporation, Cyclorama Restoration, Inc. has been formed to coordinate the campaign. Since its organization last August contributions have been received, but only at the rate of approximately four hundred dollars a month. Unfortunately such small amounts can do little to alleviate the problems. However, anyone wishing to make a donation can do so by

(Continued on page 4)

DECEMBER MEETING

"The First Day at Gettysburg" was the topic as a fine gathering of eighty-nine members and guests were on hand to greet Harry Pfanz, the Chief Historian of the National Park Service. Harry, who was formerly the historian at the Gettysburg National Military Park, began his excellent remarks by pointing out that the fighting on July 1, 1863 brought no laurels to many of the commanders on the field that day. Instead, clouds would ever after cast shadows upon the careers of Doubleday, Howard, Ewell, Hill, Heth and Rodes. Only the slain Reynolds and the soon-to-die Buford would be praised by historians for the actions north and west of the little Pennsylvania town.

The conflict on that first day began when Heth, with Hill's permission, marched eastward to scout the Federal force encountered on June 30 by Pettigrew. Those Union troops, two brigades of cavalry under Buford, resisted the Confederate advance until reinforced by Reynolds' I Corps. The leading infantry element, Wadsworth's division, which included the famous Iron Brigade, took position astride the Chambersburg Pike. It was as they advanced into McPherson's Woods that Reynolds received his mortal wound. By a strange coincidence, in the initial clash each line outflanked the other's right. On the Federal left, Archer's Confederate Brigade was routed and its commander captured. On the other end, the Southerners of Davis pushed back the federals until themselves struck in the flank by elements moved over from the victorious Union left. As Davis' men recoiled, they took refuge in the now-famous railroad cut which ran parallel to the road. Here they were trapped as the 6th Wisconsin crossed the cut, enfilading its length. Heth pulled back all along the line, reporting, in a masterpiece of understatement, that he had felt the enemy and found them in strength.

While the fighting lulled, Howard and the XI Corps arrived on the field. As they formed at right angles to the existing Union line, Rodes' Confederate division moved in to oppose them. Barlow, on the right of the new Northern position, then ordered his division forward from where it had originally been posted, not realizing his right flank would be in the air. Rodes, thinking Barlow's action an advance, construed it as annulling Lee's order not to bring on a general engagement. Rodes attacked but, because of his misunderstanding of the situation and the incompetence of some of his brigadiers, he was repulsed with heavy losses.

However, the Federal success was short-lived, as Early, marching in from the northeast, hit the exposed flank like a thunderbolt. At this same time, the crush of overwhelming numbers finally overcame the stout defense of the I Corps. As Rodes had attacked, Heth had sought permission to renew his assault. Lee, still fearful of a full scale battle, at first denied the request. However, as Early moved in, Lee saw the obvious opportunity and consented to a forward movement by both Heth and Pender. Outmanned, shot to pieces, and low on ammunition, the I Corps was forced to pull back as the XI Corps gave way on their right.

While the retreat through the town was disorderly and confused, principally because of the convergence of the two Federal corps in the streets, it was not accompanied by the panic that has become a popular misconception. For example, as they moved toward Cemetery Hill, the survivors of the valiant 6th Wisconsin paused in the town to give a cheer for their regiment and its cause. As the Union troops streamed up the heights, the fighting for the day came to an end, its ferocity evidenced by the many regiments which had suffered casualties in excess of seventy per cent.

Harry then briefly discussed the great controversy which has existed since July 1, 1863; that is, of course, the failure of the Confederates to follow up their initial success by attacking the heights late in the afternoon. It is Harry's opinion that Ewell was correct in not ordering the assault. He feels that Heth, Pender and Rodes were all too badly cut up and disorganized to attempt the movement. This left only Early,

TO THE CAMPFOLLOWERS (LADIES)

The meeting of December 12 was enhanced by the presence of out-of-town guests and the entire group thoroughly enjoyed Dan Lapinski's interesting, well-researched and graphically presented talk on "The Black Hawk War". Many of the audience, although residents of the state of Illinois, were not aware that some of their own suburbs, such as Palatine, were involved in this conflict. We were privileged to examine several original documents from Dan's outstanding collection and were treated to the sight of his handsome young son, wearing an original officer's coat of the period. This was carefully scrutinized, the hand stitching examined, and the original dress buttons exclaimed over.

On January 9 our speaker will be our Betsy Davis, who will present "Kate Chase and the Ten Commandments". As you know, Betsy is a charming, witty speaker. Let's have a big turn-out for her presentation! The meeting will begin at 5:30 P.M. at Stouffer's Restaurant, Randolph at Wabash. For reservations call or write Roberta Krolick, 3126 Violet Lane, Northbrook, Illinois 60062, 498-3126.



Again, as has repeatedly occurred in recent months, "The Sutler's Wagon" finds itself totally without inventory and thus unable to carry on business. When it was begun by your Newsletter staff, it was hoped that this column would provide a valuable service to the members of The Round Table. However, from the inception interest among the readers has been very poor. Few requests have been received for the placing of ads, and we are advised by those who did post notices that they received little or no response. Therefore, it is with regret that we must advise you that, "The Sutler's Wagon" will temporarily be forced to go out of business. As our intrepid predecessors of 1861-1865 attempted to do after a raid by Stuart's cavalry, we shall look forward in the future to a replenishing of our stock so that a reopening can be held. However, our ability to acquire new inventory depends on you. We await your pleasure.

but he had only two brigades at this time as his other two, Gordon and Smith, had moved to the east to guard against a reported Federal column. Also, Harry pointed out that Ewell had no knowledge of the Union strength on the heights and, in making the assault, would have had to form his troops on an open plain under the guns of the Federal artillery.

In the course of his remarks, our speaker also raised several interesting questions for which he has been able to locate no definite answers. For example, despite the popular belief that Buford's troopers were armed with Spencers, there is no evidence in the ordinance records to support this. Also, there are several instances of decisions on the field which would appear to invite criticism, but for which none was received at the time. The initial Confederate repulse can be directly attributed to Heth's failure to support his right with either or both of the brigades he kept in reserve. Barlow's advance, which presented the opportunity for Early's decisive flank attack, was even more disastrous than Sickles' similar move the next day. Slocum, despite his proximity to the battle and Howard's repeated calls for assistance, failed to move promptly and did not arrive until after nightfall.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Brooks, William E. *Lee of Virginia: A Biography*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1975. \$18.50. Reprint of edition done in 1932 by Bobbs Merrill.

Cottrell, Sue. *Hoof Beats, North and South: Horses and Horsemen of the Civil War*. Illustrated by the author. Hicksville, N.Y.: Exposition Press, 1975. \$7.50

Glass, Paul and Louis Singer. *Singing Soldiers (The Spirit of the Sixties)*. A History of the Civil War in Song. New York: Da Capo, 1975. \$4.95. Reprint of hardcover edition of 1968.

Harrison, Lowell Hayes. *The Civil War in Kentucky*. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 1975. \$3.95

Kreidberg, Marvin A. and Merton G. Henry. *History of the Mobilization in the United States Army, 1775-1945*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1975. \$32.50. Reprint of the 1955 edition published by the Department of the Army.

Hubbell, John T., editor. *Battles Lost and Won*. Essays from Civil War History. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1975. \$13.95

Leonardi, Dell. *The Reincarnation of John Wilkes Booth: A Study in Hypnotic Regression*. Old Greenwich, Conn.: Devin-Adair Co., 1975. \$6.95

Mudd, Nettie. *The Life of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd*, edited by his daughter, Nettie Mudd. Fourth edition. Linden, Tennessee: Continental Book Company, 1975. \$15.00. Facsimile reproduction of original edition of 1906 with additional letters, additional illustration, a current update of the Mudd genealogy.

Russell, Don, editor. *Trails Of The Iron Horse, An Informal History By The Western Writers of America*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Company, 1975. \$7.95

Swierenga, Robert P., editor. *Beyond the Civil War Synthesis*. Political Essays of the Civil War Era. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1975. \$13.50. A collection of articles that originally appeared in *Civil War History*.

Wakelyn, Jon L. *The Politics of a Literary Man: William Gilmore Simms*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1973. \$11.00

Whitman, George Washington. *The Civil War Letters of George Washington Whitman*. Edited by Jerome M. Loving, with a foreword by Gay Wilson Allen. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1975. \$11.75

Wiley, Bell Irvin. *Confederate Women*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1975. \$10.95; paperback \$3.95.



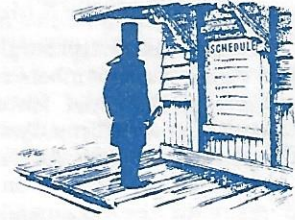
FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

(Continued from page 2)

addressing Cyclorama Restoration, Inc., P. O. Box 1561, Atlanta, Georgia 30301.

Thus, it seems that despite all the good intentions, no positive answer has been found. We, too, must certainly admit that we do not have an easy solution to offer. But one must be found. Without the Cyclorama, the struggle for Atlanta will be remembered only in the pages of the history books and that is not the way it must be. The soldiers who fought there deserve better. The people of this great Southern city and their guests should have a viable, living reminder of what occurred a bare century ago. The Battle of Atlanta has been rekindled, only this time it is not North versus South, it is North and South fighting side by side against the harsh economics that would deprive them both. Working together, we must find a way to victory.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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

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

March 12: Roger G. Holloway on "Great Britain and the American Civil War."

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.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Brooks Davis, 1120 Lake Shore Drive, Apt. 6B, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Sidney L. Pachter, Jr., 8712 East High Rise, Logan, Utah 84321.

John A. Rupp, 5207 Lee Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23226.

Win Stracke, 1043 Webster, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Prior to the regular meeting on December 12, the Executive Committee met, primarily to discuss future plans for the annual Nevins-Freeman Award Dinners. Several suggestions and alternatives were proposed, both with regard to the site and the program. All of these were taken under advisement by Brooks Davis and his Award Committee. They will meet in the near future to arrive at a final decision, as well as the selection of the 1976 recipient.

Also on the agenda of the Executive Committee were reports by the Treasurer and Battlefield Tour Chairman and a decision to sponsor the erection of a marker on the grave of Captain Marcellus E. Jones. More details pertaining to this latter project will be forthcoming in a future issue of the Newsletter.

Doubleday & Company has recently announced the publication of "Trails Of The Iron Horse, An Informal History By The Western Writers Of America". We are proud to note that the editor of this fine volume is our own member, and past editor of this Newsletter, Don Russell. For many years, Don has authored the "Brand Book", the publication of the Westerners, and he is one of the nation's foremost authorities in the field of frontier history. His literary ability and expertise have combined to produce a fine book which will be an outstanding addition to everyone's library.