

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

March, 1976

## ROGER G. HOLLOWAY ON GREAT BRITAIN AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR—MARCH 12, 1976

Late in 1861, the North Atlantic resounded to the turbulence of the Trent affair. On November 8, the Confederate diplomats James Mason and John Slidell had been arrested and forcibly removed from the British steamer "Trent" by Captain Charles Wilkes of the United States Warship "San Jacinto." In England the ruling Tory party viewed the incident as a deliberate American effort to provoke war. Prime Minister Palmerston took immediate steps to send 8,000 troops and immense war material to Canada. War ships were made ready and officers were ordered to prepare for embarkations.

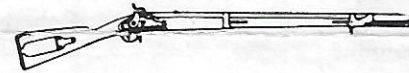


Roger G. Holloway

President Lincoln, who feared the captured diplomats would prove to be "white elephants," wanted to avoid two wars on his hands at one time. Thus, as British politicians and citizens alike called for retribution and Northerners in America treated Wilkes as a hero, the President anxiously sought a peaceful adjudication which would preserve relations with England while not harming American dignity.

The eventual solution to this international dilemma will be one of the areas explored by our featured speaker on March 12, 1976, Roger G. Holloway. Mr. Holloway will disclose that there were cooler heads at work in England also. One of these was Prince Albert, the Royal Consort, and our speaker will describe his personal and little known intervention in the Trent affair. Royal personages in Britain were supposed to be glorified figureheads, but the Trent affair was to prove an important exception. By November 30, the British Cabinet had decided to deliver a stiff ultimatum to Washington demanding surrender of the diplomats. A dispatch instructing Lord Lyons, Great Britain's ambassador in Washington, had been prepared by the Foreign Minister, Lord Russell. With less than two weeks to live, the Prince Consort, who was both advisor and secretary to his wife, the Queen, recast the note in softer language. The Queen herself had remembered American kindness to her son and was also hoping for a peaceful decision by the American Government. The Prince Consort's final draft emphasized the friendly relations between the two countries and assumed that Captain Wilkes had not acted in compliance with his government's orders.

When the United States accepted this conciliatory proposal, the Trent affair ended and with it also fell the hopes of the Confederacy for British intervention. As Mr. Holloway will relate in detail, relations between Great Britain and the Confederacy steadily declined while the United States Ambassador in London, Charles Francis Adams, rendered great service in fostering English neutrality.



349th REGULAR MEETING

\* \* \*

Roger G. Holloway

on

Great Britain and  
The American Civil War

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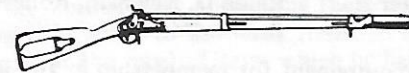
Friday, March 12, 1976

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Chicago Bar Association  
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



Roger G. Holloway, a resident of London, has, since his childhood, been a regular visitor to the United States. His interest in the American Civil War stems from participation in the conflict by one of his paternal great-great uncles, a physician in the Federal army. Until it was lost in the London blitz of 1940, a battered Civil War medical chest which had belonged to that ancestor was a proud possession of his family. Mr. Holloway has been described by his admirers as being "in the best eccentric tradition of amateur historians". His remarks to The Round Table will most certainly reflect the background of Britain's special, but sometimes troubled, relationship with the United States during the mid-19th century.

Mr. Holloway received his M.A. degree in Theology from Selwyn College, Cambridge, graduating in 1961. He is the author of articles in such diverse publications as the London "Times", the "Stock Exchange Gazette", and "Homes and Gardens". He has also published a widely noticed history of "The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment," better known in the days of Wellington as "The Dirty Half-Hundred." Our speaker himself was a second lieutenant in the British infantry regiment known as "The Buffs." He served in Kenya, seeing action against the Mau Mau terrorists during 1953-1954. Presently he is managing director of the international division of Hedges & Butler, the world-famous wine merchants.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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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



On the morning of July 1, 1863, an Illinois calvary officer, as he had no doubt done many times before, raised a weapon to fire at an approaching enemy. It was a basic act of warfare, certainly a part of the everyday task of a trooper on outpost duty. Thus, even as he pulled the trigger on that fateful day, how could he realize that his shot would raise the curtain on one of history's epic struggles, a battle which would change the course of war and bring bloody immortality to a previously peaceful Pennsylvania town.

His name was Marcellus Ephraim Jones and he was serving his country as Second Lieutenant of Company E, Eighth Illinois Calvary. As he sighted along the barrel of the carbine

borrowed from his sergeant a moment before, behind him lay Gettysburg. Its dusty streets were no different than those of a hundred other hamlets which had passed under his horse since the lieutenant had left home to "see the elephant," almost two years before. Yet from this instant and for the rest of his life, as visions of Keedysville, Dumfries, Rockville, and Fal-mouth passed easily from his memory, Gettysburg would be stamped indelibly in his mind, never to be forgotten.

Another two years would pass before Marcellus Jones, now a captain, would return home to DuPage County, Illinois, there to resume civilian life with his wife and young son. The boy would not long survive and, when he was gone, the man and woman would be alone together for the thirty-four more years God would grant them to share. At first those years would be good, prosperous and happy, as the ex-calvaryman succeeded in his contracting and moving business. There were reunions to attend, tales to swap, and always the memory of that "first shot" at Gettysburg. But as time passed and took its toll, his body could no longer wield the tools of his trade with the skill of youth. And so his fortune ebbed. At first there were still enough funds so that he could join with three former comrades-in-arms in the expense of a shaft to mark the site where he had stood with that carbine so many years before.

Then, for a while, there was the less arduous, but also less rewarding, positions of Sheriff of DuPage County and Postmaster of Wheaton, the city of his residence. When those too were ended, there was little left except his pension from a grateful, but not overly-generous, government. Thus it was that when death finally came in 1900, Mrs. Jones had all she could do to provide him a funeral. Certainly she could not spare enough to buy a marker to show where her trooper lay. And so there Marcellus Jones has rested for three-quarters of a century, his very presence unknown to those who pass by.

Why should we concern ourselves with this tale of that forgotten officer. For what he did on that July day so long ago, Lieutenant Jones won no medal, no citation, no lasting immortality. And that is as it should be, for his deed was not one of great heroism nor fearless bravery. In truth, all he did was his duty—but isn't that why we should remember him? Just as that first shot he fired is a symbol of the countless other shots to be heard in those three days of battle, so too is Marcellus Jones a symbol, a symbol of all the others who did their duty when their county, North or South, needed them.

We are proud to say that The Civil War Round Table of Chicago has not forgotten Marcellus Jones and, through him, the thousands of men just like him. On Sunday, April 11, 1976 at 2:00 p.m. in the Wheaton Cemetery, we will bring to him the identity he deserves by erecting a headstone on his grave. It will not be an imposing monument, just a simple marker to tell the world that he is there and that we care. We urge all of you to show that you care too. All you have to do is be present to join in the ceremonies. Together on that day we will remember, and in this small way, honor those whose war we study. From the pages of history their suffering and dedication have given us much. Surely we can spare a few hours to give something back.

Shirley Plantation, which was extensively damaged by a fire just before Christmas, has now been reopened to the public. The James River estate has been the home of the Carter family for nine generations. The fire was confined to the rear of the upper floors and fortunately did not reach the rooms of eighteenth century furnishings on the first floor.

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The famed Lacy House, site of Federal headquarters during the fighting around Fredericksburg, has now become part of the Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park. The house, which was also the site of a field hospital begun by Clara Barton, has for many years been the home of John Lee Pratt, the son of a Confederate soldier. Mr. Pratt, who had renamed the estate "Chatham Manor", bequeathed the property to the Park Service upon his death.

## FEBRUARY MEETING

There is no question that the sixty-nine members and guests who assembled on February 13 expected to be informed as a result of the evening's program. In this they were certainly not disappointed, but, as an added bonus, they were also thoroughly entertained as the team of Hickey and Newman joined forces to provide us with one of our most enjoyable evenings.

Our featured speaker was James T. Hickey, curator of the Lincoln Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library. Jim began his remarks on "Lincolnia In Illinois" by describing the growth of the Lincoln Collection since the Library's inception in 1889. Originally intended as a depository of documents relating to Illinois history in general, in its early years the Library made no systematic attempt to gather Lincoln materials. However, in the early 1900's many documents relating to the sixteenth president were assembled by the staff for display at various patriotic exhibits. Most of these items were loaned to the Library by their owners, rather than being sold. Well into the 1920's, these people would leave the documents in the Library's possession even when they were not part of public shows, as the Library was a safe and convenient depository.

However, when the late Paul Angle took office as the state librarian, the situation changed. Mr. Angle immediately began a program of promoting Lincoln scholarship as an integral part of the Library's function. First, he notified all of the owners of the loaned documents that if they did not claim their items they would be forfeited to the State. While most owners did pick up the Lincolnia, many either did not or agreed to sell them to the Library. Next, with the help of Governor Horner and State Senators Abraham L. Marovitz and Richard J. Daley, all Lincoln students themselves, legislation was passed to provide funds for the further acquisition of documents. Also, the State ordered all courthouses in the Eighth Judicial Circuit, where Lincoln had the bulk of his law practice, to search their files and turn over to the Library any Lincoln items.

The collection grew so rapidly under Mr. Angle and his successors Jay Monaghan, Harry Pratt, and Clyde Walton, that the latter was finally ordered to establish a separate Lincoln department. At last count the collection totaled 1347 Lincoln documents as well as items related to Mary Lincoln and sons Robert and Willie. The collection concentrates on the period of Lincoln's life before 1861. However, in the past five years acquisitions have slowed because rising costs have made it difficult for the Library to compete with private collectors.

Jim then described in detail twelve new additions to the Library, photostatic copies of which had been distributed to all present. Several of these were documents related to important law cases handled by the prairie lawyer, while another was a preliminary to the famed debates of 1858. Some of these items had been gifts to the Library while the purchase price of others ranged from \$1,000 to \$6,875. Of great interest, too, was the source of each. For example, one was allegedly found in a New England garbage dump while another was discovered behind the wall of a Springfield building.

After Jim finished his prepared remarks, he was joined by Round Table founder Ralph Newman, who appeared hale and hearty after recent surgery. The two Lincoln scholars then led the audience in a lively question and answer period, the highlights of which were the highly amusing escapades of two celebrated Lincoln document forgers. Ralph described one of these as being above the reach of the law because he always was careful to tell his victim that he doubted the genuineness of the item. However, his seedy appearance and plausible tale of the discovery of the document often lit the fire of greed within the victim, the latter feeling he was taking advantage of an unsuspecting dolt. In another anecdote we were told how the other forger, in a non-Lincoln caper, signed the name of Remington to a series of Western prints, not realizing they were actually the even more valuable work of the great artist Charles Russell.

## TO THE CAMPFOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Brooks Davis' intriguing talk on the Mississippi Marine Brigade, enhanced by the maps he distributed showing the territory in which they were active, was enjoyed by all present. Our speaker in March will be Joseph L. Eisendrath, a former President of The Civil War Round Table, who will address us on "Myths about Lincoln." We hope all our regular members will be present for what promises to be an exciting evening and urge you to bring a friend who may then join our group. Because the facilities and food were so satisfactory, we will meet again in the Little Corporal, Wacker Drive and State Street, for cocktails at 5:30 p.m., address at 6:00 p.m., and dinner at 7:00 p.m.. Make your reservation early by adding a note to your husband's card or by calling or writing Margaret April at 787-1860, 175 East Delaware Place, #5112, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

### The SUTLER'S WAGON



WANTED: Any information on Brevet Brigadier General Jairus William Hall, U.S.A. and Brevet Brigadier General John A. Hennessy, U.S.A., both of whom resided in Chicago after the War. Contact Jack R. Brown, 167 Park Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45410.

WANTED: Any information or material on the Wide-Awakes, young Republicans who campaigned in support of Lincoln in the election of 1860. Contact Mrs. Thomas Dugan, 21920 W. Cleveland Avenue, New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151.

The Secretary of State of Georgia has announced that at least 183 Confederate documents have been stolen from the State Archives. The missing papers pertain to records of discharge from the Confederate Army. The theft was discovered when an Iowa man wrote to the State Archivist requesting an appraisal of one of the missing items which he had innocently purchased in Kennesaw, Georgia. The Archivist recognized the document as being part of the State collection. To prevent further incidents the State may be forced to limit the hours of public access to the Archives in order to increase security.

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The Fifth Biennial Reunion of the Hood's Texas Brigade Association will take place at Hillsboro, Texas on April 9 and 10, 1976. The principal speaker at the banquet to be held on the 10th will be Dr. Joe Frantz, editor of the Southwestern Historical Quarterly. Additional activities will be a reenacted Civil War battle, featuring infantry and artillery, and the showing of several motion pictures with Civil War themes. The three Round Tables in Texas will also utilize this occasion to hold a statewide meeting in conjunction with the reunion.

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Civil War Round Table Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72207 has made available a limited edition of 2500 full color collectors prints of Robert E. Lee. Each print is signed and numbered by the artist, Robert Karr, of Atlanta, Georgia. The image size is 16 inches by 20 inches, while the overall size is 20 inches by 24 inches. The price for each print is \$30.00, of which \$9.00 will be donated in the purchaser's name to the Civil War Sites Fund. The purpose of the fund, of course, is battlefield preservation.

# THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Coe, Hamlin Alexander. *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: Combat Diaries of Union Sergeant . . .* Edited and with an introduction by David Coe. Rutherford, N.J.: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1975. \$10.00

Dickert, D. Augustus. *History of Kershaw's Brigade*, with complete roll of companies, biographical sketches, incidents, anecdotes, etc. Introduction to new edition by Dr. Wm. Stanley Hoole. Dayton: Morningside Book Shop, 1976. \$20.00. Back in print again.

Haythornthwaite, Philip J. *Uniforms of the Civil War, 1861-65*; illustrated by Mike Chappell. First American edition. New York: Macmillan, 1976. \$6.95

Krick, Robert K. *Parker's Virginia Battery, C.S.A.* Berryville, Va.: Virginia Book Company, 1975. \$15.60

Margraff, William F. *A Civil War Soldier's Last Letters*, written by . . . during the Civil War; compiled by Paul Janeski. 1st ed. New York: Vantage Press, c1975. \$4.50

Paludan, Philip S. *A Covenant with Death: The Constitution, Law, and Equality in the Civil War Era.* Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1975. \$11.50

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. *Guide To The Historical Markers of Pennsylvania.* Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1975. \$1.25

Raskin, Joseph and Edith Raskin. *Spies and Traitors: Tales of the Revolutionary and Civil War.* Illustrated by William Sauts Bock. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co., c1976. For young people. \$5.00



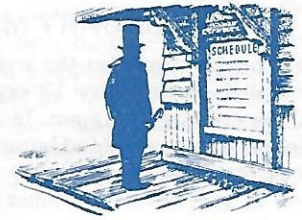
As part of the recent celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 167th birthday anniversary, the Library of Congress opened a small shoebox which contained all of the items found in Mr. Lincoln's pockets after he was shot at Ford's Theater. The sealed shoebox had been given to the Library in 1937 by Lincoln's granddaughter, Mrs. Charles Isham. Although there were no conditions placed upon the gift, the box had remained unopened until this year. Found in the box were a \$5.00 Confederate bill, two pairs of eyeglasses, one with a broken frame, several newspaper clippings concerning the conduct of the war, a penknife, a large handkerchief embroidered "A. Lincoln", and another item which appeared to be a watch fob. All of the items have been placed on display in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress.

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George Cashman, who for the past twenty-five years has served as Curator of the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, has recently retired from that position. During his quarter century there, George estimates that no less than 10 million visitors toured the shrine which is located in Oak Ridge Cemetery in the Illinois capital city. A lecturer and author in his own right, George now plans to devote his time to Masonic work and to writing on subjects related to Lincoln, Indian lore, and the Civil War. His career has been marked by service to the people of Illinois and devotion to the preservation of the Lincoln heritage. He is entitled to our sincere gratitude and we wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

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Jerry Russell, National Chairman of Civil War Round Table Associates, has announced that the Second Annual National Congress of Civil War Round Tables will be held October 14-16, 1976. The Congress, which will be held at Carlisle Bar-



# 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 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?"

April 11: Dedication of headstone for grave of Capt. Marcellus E. Jones, Wheaton Cemetery, Wheaton, Illinois. 2:00 p.m.

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. Recipient of Award: T. Harry Williams.

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

racks, Pennsylvania, will be co-sponsored by the U.S. Army Military History Research Collection. As was reported in an earlier edition of the Newsletter, the First Congress, held last fall, was certainly a success. One hundred seventy-five representatives of over 20 Round Tables attended and an even larger number is expected this year. Further information on details and reservations will be announced in the Newsletter as they become available.

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In the September 1975 issue of the Newsletter, we asked our readers to identify Larkin Skaggs, a genuine Civil War obscurity. It is with regret that we must disclose that not one letter was received detailing the distinction achieved, albeit unwillingly, by this non-immortal nobody. For the answer to this puzzle, we must refer you to page 125 of Richard S. Brownlee's "Gray Ghosts of the Confederacy". In discussing the withdrawal of Quantrill's Guerillas from their infamous Lawrence raid, the author relates "For the most part, however, Quantrill's men were simply berserkers. Only one lost his life, drunken Larkin Skaggs, who stayed behind and was shot by an Indian. A mob tore his body apart later in the day." One can only wonder what would have been the result if President Lincoln would have preferred to supply his generals with the brand of liquor imbibed by Mr. Skaggs, rather than that preferred by General Grant. As we are certain that all Round Table members wish to pay proper homage to the valiant Mr. Skaggs, research continues in an effort to locate the exact site of his grave. As we are sure you realized, the information provided to you in this paragraph is just another example of your Newsletter staff's everlasting dedication to the task of putting before its readership the vital issues of Civil War history.

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W. A. Summerfelt, Route 3, Box 477, Athens, Alabama 35611 has announced the opening of Cotton Hill Works. One of the main functions of the new company will be the restoring and reproduction of Civil War cannon, limbers and caissons.