

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVII, Number 7

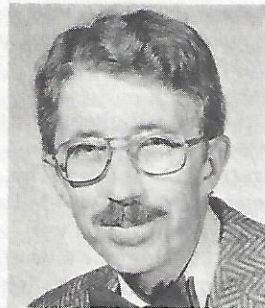
Chicago, Illinois

March, 1977

## DR. WILLIAM E. PARRISH on "THE BOHEMIAN BRIGADE: THE EASTERN PRESS COVERS THE WAR IN MISSOURI IN 1861"

Our featured speaker on March 11, 1977 will be Dr. William E. Parrish, Professor of History at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Dr. Parrish, an expert on the history of Missouri, will be visiting The Round Table for the first time. His topic on this occasion will be "The Bohemian Brigade: The Eastern Press Covers The War In Missouri In 1861", a description of the early activities in that state by the Eastern journalists, particularly those assigned to the New York papers.

Dr. Parrish received his B.S. degree, with honors, from Kansas State University in 1952, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in 1953 and 1955 respectively. He has served on the faculty at Westminster, in the department of history, since 1955, occupying the positions of Chairman in 1966-69 and 1972-76, College Historian since 1965, and Dean of the College, 1973-75. Dr.

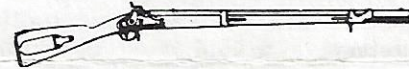


Dr. William E. Parrish

Parrish received the Association Award as Most Outstanding Professor at Westminster College in 1972, by vote of the student body. He also was awarded the 1974 Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History for his research and publication in the field of Missouri Civil War — Reconstruction history. The many publications he has authored include "Turbulent Partnership: Missouri and the Union, 1861-65" and "Missouri Under Radical Rule, 1865-70". He also was the editor of "The Union: State and Local Studies", in Allen Nevins', et al "Civil War Books: A Critical Bibliography, Vol. 2", and of "The Civil War: A Second American Revolution". Dr. Parrish has spoken before the St. Louis Round Table, and will also speak to the Louisville R.T. on March 12th following his visit to Chicago.

His remarks to us will be based primarily on the later memoirs and the contemporary news dispatches of those of the country's top reporters who had journeyed to Missouri to cover the story there because action was minimal in the East, except for Bull Run. The period of time he will cover begins after Camp Jackson in May and through Fremont's 100 days campaign in the fall. While following Fremont's expedition into southwest Missouri, the journalists shared so many colorful escapades and experiences that they began to call themselves "The Bohemian Brigade."

Missouri was a state which was divided into factions fighting against each other. In May 1861, Nathaniel Lyon, in an effort to save Missouri for the Union, had driven the secessionist-minded governor, Claiborne Jackson, toward the Ozarks. Lyon then occupied the state capital at Jefferson City. General Fremont arrived in Missouri on July 25, 1861 to organize, equip and lead an army down the Mississippi to



359th REGULAR MEETING

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WILLIAM E. PARRISH

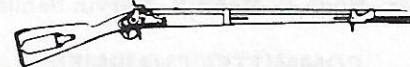
on

The Bohemian Brigade: The Eastern Press  
Covers the War in Missouri in 1861

Friday, March 11, 1977

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Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle Street  
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



New Orleans. If the Federals were to make war in the west with any success, they had to secure Missouri and the mouth of the Ohio. At the time of Fremont's arrival, Lyon was in a desperate situation in southwest Missouri near Springfield. Opposed by twice his number, he had requested reinforcements. Fremont knew Lyon needed help, but he did not think he could do much for him. He had little manpower to spare, as he was trying to guard the railroads which ran to St. Louis, while also holding Jefferson City. Thus Lyon fought without reinforcements at Wilson's Creek on August 10th, and was killed.

One important contribution Fremont made during this period was the appointment of Brigadier General U. S. Grant to the command of southeast Missouri. History records the accomplishments of the soon to be famous general.

On August 30th Fremont issued a proclamation, which he felt was a legitimate war measure, extending martial law over the state of Missouri. By this proclamation, the property of persons in rebellion could be confiscated and their slaves declared free. President Lincoln disapproved of the measure because Fremont, a military figure, had no business dictating political policy. Lincoln also wished to avoid possible negative reactions from the neighboring state of Kentucky.

Fremont later moved his troops to Springfield in southwest Missouri, and planned to battle General Price. During this time an agreement was made between the two men which provided for an exchange of prisoners, previously not allowed by the Government, and also that guerrilla fighting be stopped, warfare being thus confined to the organized armies in the field. On November 2nd, as battle plans were being completed, Fremont was relieved from command by General Scott and replaced by David Hunter who withdrew from the position without a fight.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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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.



Treasurer Irwin Levin reminds all members who included a subscription to Civil War History with their 1976-1977 dues payment, that such subscriptions are on a calendar year basis. Therefore, the first issue to be received pursuant to the subscription will be the Spring, 1977 issue which should be mailed in March or April. Any members who included the cost of a subscription in their dues payment and have subsequently received a cancellation or renewal notice from the publishers, should disregard same as they will be receiving future issues.

*from the  
Editor's pen*



The pet project of our good friend and Honorary Life Member, Edwin C. Bearss, is taking another slow step forward. Funds have been obtained to move the U.S.S. Cairo from its temporary home in a gulf coast shipyard to the National Military Park at Vicksburg. The Cairo, sunk by a Confederate torpedo (mine) on December 12, 1862, was located by Ed in 1955. State and local officials subsequently provided the financing for the raising of the ship in 1964. Since that time it has been stored in the shipyard where, despite preservation efforts, exposure to the open air has added to the deterioration process.

The problem, of course, as it is so often in the case of our National heritage, has been lack of funds to accomplish the necessary restoration work. A bill authorizing the National Park Service to restore and exhibit the vessel was finally passed and signed by President Nixon in 1972. However, in yet another example of Congressional disregard, no funds were ever appropriated with which to complete the project. All efforts to provide the necessary money, both on the state and national level, have, in the past five years, resulted in only enough to pay for the costs of moving the gunboat to Vicksburg. This will be done in March, with the ship's ironwork, engine, and armament transported by truck. The wooden portions will be brought up the Mississippi River by barge.

Once at Vicksburg, the ship will be assembled as much as possible in its present condition and exhibited behind a protective fence. The ironwork will have to be kept separately under shelter until the day when, hopefully, restoration funds will be available. At that time, plans call for preparing one side of the gunboat in a "cutaway" manner to show the interior, while the other side will be an exterior view illustrating the damage caused by the torpedo. It is also hoped that a Museum can be built next to the ship, in which to display the many artifacts found aboard the Cairo.

We all know that when it comes to historical preservation, money is in short supply. So many worthy projects call upon both governmental and private sources for every available dollar. However, no Civil War-related endeavor can be more deserving of Congressional support than the restoration of the Cairo. Once completed, this would be a truly unique living reminder of the days of 1861-1865, in and of itself as much a "battlefield" as Shiloh or Antietam. Therefore, we urge each of you to take a few moments to write your Senators and Representatives seeking their support and assistance in the introduction and swift passage of the necessary appropriation legislation.

The Second Annual Paul M. Angle lecture was delivered in the auditorium of the Chicago Historical Society on February 16, 1977 by past president E. B. "Pete" Long, professor of history at the University of Wyoming. Pete's topic on this occasion was "What is an Historian?" The lecture series is, of course, a living memorial to the late former director of the Historical Society, who was himself an eminent historian and the author of many works on the Civil War.

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Our own member and oft-times speaker, Frank Rankin is currently seeking information on Eli Metcalf Bruce, a member of the Confederate Congress from Kentucky. Anyone who can assist Frank with documentation or other materials, should please contact him by writing to 1816 Spring Drive, Louisville, Kentucky 40205.

## FEBRUARY MEETING

Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr., director of the Lincoln Library and Museum of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, was greeted by sixty-nine members and guests, as he presented an in-depth study of Abraham Lincoln's term as Congressman from Illinois during the period of the Mexican War.

Dr. Neely opened his remarks by pointing out that most writers feel Lincoln, dazzled by the powerful Eastern Whigs, adopted the party line against the Mexican War, thus going against the views of his constituents back in Illinois. Dr. Neely's research has led him to the conclusion that in fact the only local outcry against Lincoln's position was voiced by the Democratic press.

Lincoln's law partner, William Herndon, later claimed he wrote to Lincoln about the danger of opposing the War, warning the first-term representative that such a move would be political suicide. Lincoln was the only Wig in the Illinois delegation in the 30th Congress and Herndon felt that the position Lincoln had taken would adversely affect his political future in the years to come. The existing correspondence from Lincoln to Herndon indicates that Lincoln felt that opposition to the war was spreading among the voters. However, the results of the Indiana elections of August, 1847 do not reflect that view. The Whigs carried only four out of ten seats, two of those coming from safe Whig districts and the other two attributable to the incompetence of the Democratic candidates.

Lincoln's opposition to the war was manifested in three well thought-out actions. First, he introduced a resolution in Congress that demanded President Polk point out the spot American blood was shed by Mexico, an act which Polk claimed to have been the cause of the war. Second, he voted for the Aschman amendment which stated the war was unconstitutional. Finally, on the floor of Congress Lincoln delivered a strong anti-war speech. Many other Mid-Western Whigs, especially those from the neighboring state of Indiana, followed a similar course of conduct without suffering political reprisals at home.

Abraham Lincoln did, however, compromise on expansionism. Before he became a Congressman, Lincoln termed Tylor's annexation policy toward Texas in 1844 as inexpedient. In 1845, the future president stated he didn't feel very strongly either way towards Texas annexation, but was mildly against it, feeling that slavery would be extended to Texas whether it was annexed or not. Lincoln was in a learning experience during this time, but he never feared expansionism per se, as did many Eastern Whigs. He did oppose expansion which would help slavery, but never stated that the Mexican War was a conspiracy to extend slave territory, although he realized that might be a result of the war. Lincoln developed basically an anti-expansion, anti-war policy as a result of his own developing political maturity. He favored improving the country internally, but realized that expansion was probably inevitable. However, he opposed President Polk's method of using war as a means to expand and felt that the way the war came about was unconstitutional. Lincoln did attempt to appease expansionist constituents by stating he might support expansion based on the defensive line policy, which was to stop where we were, hold what we have, and if attacked and victorious, push forward.

Dr. Neely also brought up the question as to why, if Lincoln was doing what other Whigs did and came from a safe Whig district, didn't he run for re-election. The first reason was that his district was the only safe Whig district in Illinois. As a result the Whig members would take turns at running for office in that district and Lincoln had already had his turn. The second reason, and probably the most important, was that he didn't like serving in Congress. He did not take his seat in Congress until a year after his election, which was normal policy in Illinois, and this could have taken the edge off of victory. Lincoln found life lonely

## TO THE CAMPFOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Our last meeting was enhanced by the presence of several members who had not been with us recently because of illness, cold weather, or poor driving conditions. We heard an intriguing talk by Civil War Round Table member Merlin Sumner. His remarks focused upon little known aspects of the life of Ulysses S. Grant, especially those which occurred in his pre-Civil War and post-presidential years. A lively question and answer period followed.

The speaker for the March meeting will be Melissa Johnson Boffey, daughter of Civil War Round Table member Edward C. Johnson, who will discuss for us the Civil War origin of the Medal of Honor. Like both of her parents, Mrs. Boffey is a licensed funeral director and embalmer. She has also assisted her father in historical research. Her remarks, which will cover facts about the first recipients of the Medal and their deeds, promises to be one of our most interesting talks and all ladies are urged to attend. We will gather at Stouffer's Restaurant, Wabash and Randolph Streets in Chicago, for cocktails at 5:30 P.M. with dinner and the program to follow at 6:30 P.M. Add your reservation to your husband's card or call Margaret April, 787-1860.

Our own member Jim Girman has announced the formation of a Lake and Porter County Civil War Round Table. The new group will meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of Kulper Funeral Home in Highland, Indiana. Anyone interested in joining or anyone who has information regarding possible future speakers should please contact Jim at (219) 365-4154 or can write to him at 12321 Forrest Drive, St. John, Indiana 46373.

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As is indicated in the Bulletin Board, many of our members whose offices are located in the downtown area have, for several years, met informally for lunch each Monday. A similar idea has been proposed by several members whose place of business is located in the western and northwestern portion of the city and suburbs. Plans are presently being formulated for them to gather for lunch at a convenient restaurant on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Anyone interested in joining them should contact Ward Smidl, 766-7230. Of course, all those in the downtown area are always welcome to become a part of the existing luncheon group which meets in the Men's Grill of Wieboldt's.

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It is with regret that we have learned of the recent death of Stewart W. McClelland, of Indianapolis. Mr. McClelland, a longtime member of The Round Table, was a most entertaining and knowledgeable speaker on Civil War subjects and had been scheduled for upcoming appearances before the Round Tables of Louisville and Milwaukee. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family and many friends.

in Washington, since his wife, Mary, and the children went back to Kentucky after only four months. Finally, the routine of a Congressman from the Mid-west, with no power in a Democratic administration and Congress was, to him, boring and tedious. In conclusion Dr. Neely said Lincoln tried to distinguish himself in Congress, but was discouraged, as he felt his constituents knew nothing of his labors, despite his efforts to advise them. He also felt that possibly they didn't even care.

# THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

*Battles of the Civil War 1861-1865. Narratives.* The Kurz and Allison lithos in duotone reproduction with brief narratives of the thirty-six battles involved. 12 x 12 in. Oxmoor House, 1977. \$14.95

Aaron, Daniel. *The Unwritten War; American Writers and the Civil War.* London: Oxford University Press, 1975. \$7.50. Soft-cover version of the Knopf publication of 1973.

The Civil War: *A House Divided Cannot Stand.* Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin: Home Library Pub. Co., 1976. \$5.00

*Confederate States Medical and Surgical Journal.* With an introduction by William D. Sharpe; published under the auspices of the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine. (History of Medicine Series no. 47). Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1977. \$22.50

Holzman, Robert S. *Adapt or Perish. The Life of General Roger A. Pryor, C.S.A.* Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1976. \$13.50

And now, note the following put out by Kraus Reprint Co., taken from *Report of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War* in its several volumes and from other House and Senate Documents of 1861-1863.

*Army of the Potomac. Part 1.* Washington, D.C. 1863. cloth \$41.00; paper \$35.00

*Army of the Potomac. Part 2.* Washington, D.C. 1865. cloth \$34.00; paper \$28.00

*The Battle of Bull Run.* Washington, D.C. 1863. cloth \$19.00; paper \$13.00

*The Battle of Ball's Bluff,* Washington, D.C. 1863. cloth \$19.00; paper \$13.00

*The War in the West.* Washington, D.C. 1863. cloth \$36.00; paper \$30.00

*The Battle of Petersburg.* Washington, D.C. 1865. cloth \$18.00; paper \$12.00

*Red River Expedition.* Washington, D.C. 1865. cloth \$25.00; paper \$19.00

*Rosecrans's Campaigns.* Washington, D.C. 1865. cloth \$13.00; paper \$7.00

*Fort Fisher Expedition.* Washington, D.C. 1865. cloth \$19.00; paper \$13.00

*Report of Major-General William T. Sherman.* Washington, D.C. 1866. cloth \$25.00; paper \$19.00

*Report of Major-General George H. Thomas.* Washington, D.C. 1866. cloth \$28.00; paper \$22.00

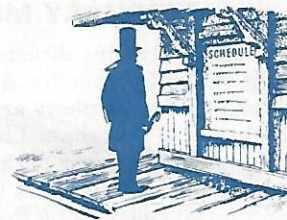
*Report of Major-General John Pope. Part 1.* Washington, D.C. 1866. cloth \$26.00; paper \$20.00

*Report of Major-General John Pope. Part 2.* Washington, D.C. 1863. cloth \$23.00; paper \$17.00

*Reports of Officers in Relation to Recent Battles at Pittsburg Landing.* Washington, D.C. 1862. cloth \$20.00; paper \$14.00

A spokesman for the National Park Service has announced that acquisition and a master development plan for the Monocacy Battlefield Park is expected to begin after October 1, 1977. The Congressional bill authorizing this action provides for the acquisition of approximately 650 acres of land near Frederick, Maryland. The battle was waged by a patchwork Union force, under the command of General Lew Wallace against the Confederate army of Jubal Early. Although heavily outnumbered and eventually driven from the field, Wallace was able to delay Early sufficiently so that reinforcements from the Army of the Potomac could reach the Washington defenses before Early's arrival, thus possibly preventing the Confederates from entering the National capital.

## 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 11: Dr. William E. Parrish on "The Bohemian Brigade: The Eastern Press Covers the War in Missouri in 1861."

April 15: Elden E. (Josh) Billings on "Sherman: A Critical Character Sketch."

May 4-8: Annual Battlefield Tour to Middle Tennessee.

May 13: Dr. Richard J. Sommers on "Petersburg."

June 10: Ladies night, Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers. Recipient of Award — Lloyd Miller.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Wieboldt's Men's Grill, 9th Floor, State and Madison; all members welcome.

### NEW MEMBER

Alfred Levin, 8242 N. Ridgeway, Skokie, Illinois 60076.

In ceremonies held on Lincoln's birthday at the Chicago Historical Society, Mrs. Ellie Weir, of Chicago, donated to the society a copy of a life mask of the sixteenth president. The mask, which was made in 1865, portrays a gaunt, war-weary man, thus vividly illustrating the effect of the conflict upon Lincoln. The new exhibit will be on display in the Society's Lincoln gallery.

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An Evanston, Illinois artist has discovered that the photograph he purchased two years ago for \$25.00 at an auction in Chicago is a rare photograph of John Wilkes Booth worth approximately \$2,000.00. The picture, probably taken in 1864, shows a full frontal view of Booth, dressed in a colonial costume, with long hair and his moustache twisted up at the ends. A copy of this photograph, which was probably taken to publicize a play in which Booth was appearing, appears in Carl Sandburg's "Abraham Lincoln, The War Years". The present owner of the photograph has been able to trace it back to the large Lincoln collection previously owned by Oliver R. Barrett, a Chicago attorney who died in 1952. This picture was apparently removed from the collection and sold several years later when Barrett's son died.

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The staff of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, in cooperation with the Eastern National Park and Monument Association, has commenced publication of an excellent quarterly newsletter entitled, "Chimborazo." Available at the Park Headquarters, it includes historical notes, news of Park Service activities and programs, and information for visitors. This project is another example of the fine contribution being made by the Park Service and we encourage other battlefield park personnel to follow suit.