

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVIII, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March 1978

JAMES I. (BUD) ROBERTSON, JR., ON CIVIL WAR CHAPLAINS

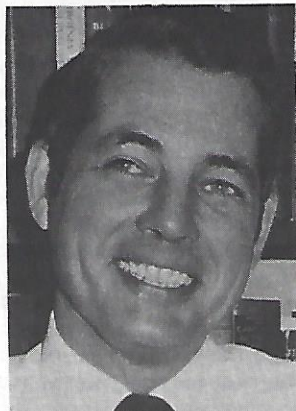
The problems, exploits, and contributions of an unsung battalion of patriots, men of the chaplaincy service, will be the subject of remarks by Dr. James I. (Bud) Robertson, Jr., when he addresses The Round Table on March 10. The title of his talk is "Holy Joes of the 1860s: Civil War Chaplains."

Those who are acquainted with Bud Robertson's works, or who have heard this distinguished Civil War historian speak before, know they are in for an interesting evening. His visit to Chicago on this occasion is even more eagerly anticipated since his last scheduled appearance before us in January, 1977, was cancelled due to bad weather in the east.

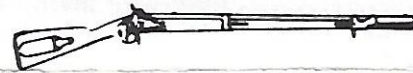
Dr. Robertson intends to begin his discussion with an overview and general remarks about the chaplaincy service in the 1860's. He will also make some comparisons between Northern and Southern chaplains, comment on representation by the various denominations, and underscore the host of problems faced by chaplains of that era. The remainder of his talk will concentrate on the exploits and contributions of individual chaplains. In his closing remarks, Bud will demonstrate that, as he puts it, "although those devoted men sometimes left much to be desired, the group as a whole comprises an unsung battalion of patriots."

Bud Robertson has contributed immeasurably to the scholarship of Civil War history, having authored or edited fourteen books, including *The Stonewall Brigade*, *The Concise Illustrated History of the Civil War*, *Civil War Books: A Critical Bibliography* (two volumes), *The Civil War Letters of General Robert McAllister*, as well as the annotated editions of the memoirs of General James Longstreet, Colonel Walter H. Taylor, Privates John H. Worsham and John O. Casler, and Sarah Morgan Dawson. He has also written more than fifty articles in encyclopedias and historical periodicals and journals. From 1959 to 1961 he was editor of the quarterly journal, *Civil War History*, and in December, 1961, was appointed by President John F. Kennedy as Executive Director of the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission. He served in that capacity throughout the centennial period.

Bud is currently C. P. Miles Professor of History and head of the History Department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia. He



Thomas Buckley



369th REGULAR MEETING

DR. JAMES I. "BUD" ROBERTSON

on

Civil War Chaplains

Friday, March 10, 1978

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



Once again at the February meeting we had a serious problem because of more than twenty people who attended the meeting without making a prior reservation. This obviously creates a severe strain on the Bar Association, especially with regard to food preparation. While last minute changes of plans are sometimes unavoidable, all members are urged to make reservations for themselves and their guests, whenever possible, by returning the reservation card or, if time will not permit mailing, by calling the Book Shop.

is also a member of the board of directors of the Virginia Historical Society, Jefferson Davis Papers, *Civil War History*, and the New Market Battlefield Park. For his brilliant efforts he has deservedly received many awards. These include the Harry S. Truman Historical Award, The Mrs. Simon Baruch University Award, and commendations from several governors. He has also twice been awarded certificates for teaching excellence at Virginia Tech.

Bud is a native of Danville, Virginia, and received his Ph.D. from Emory University. Prior to joining the faculty at Virginia Tech, he taught at Montana, George Washington, and Pennsylvania State universities.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago Illinois 60611
312 WH. 4-3085

OFFICERS

President Myron Cohn
 Senior Vice President Glen N. Wiche
 Vice President Irwin Levin
 Vice President Robert G. Walter
 Secretary Merlin E. Sumner
 Treasurer James H. Huber
 Assistant Secretary James R. Girman
 Assistant Treasurer Daniel R. Weinberg
 Editor of Newsletter Marshall D. Krolick
 Assistant Editor David R. Richert
 Contributing Editor Richard E. Clark
 Inspector General Charles D. Wesselhoeft
 Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terms expiring in 1978: John E. Comerford, Raymond J. Jankovich, Jr., Hugh P. McAniff, Marvin Sanderman.
 Terms expiring in 1979: Donald E. Anderson, Henry Pomerantz, William J. Sullivan, J. Robert Ziegler.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership Ward C. Smidl
 Publicity Marvin Sanderman
 House James R. Girman
 Nominating Terry Carr
 By-Laws Robert C. Grossman
 Battlefield Tour Merlin E. Sumner, Glen N. Wiche
 Research Center Brooks Davis
 Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner Irwin Levin
 Battlefield Preservation Henry Pomerantz

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.



Through the efforts of an anonymous donor, whose identity is unknown even to Park officials, the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park has a new memorial marker. Recently discovered near the Twentieth Maine regimental monument is a newly installed small bronze marker, bearing the inscription:

“There is on earth no worthier grave
 To hold the bodies of the brave
 Than that place of pain and pride
 Where they nobly fought and nobly died. J.K.”

Much speculation is presently occurring with regard to the meaning of the initials “J.K.” and as to who provided the marker and why. If anyone has any theories, the Park Service Staff would welcome them.

from the Editor's pen



(Probably no single issue is of greater importance today to students of the Civil War than that of battlefield preservation. For this reason, we devote our column this month to reprinting an announcement from the editors of Civil War Times Illustrated. We earnestly call your attention to this vital message which appeared in the December, 1978 issue of that fine publication. Please take the time to read it and then reach into your pocket as deeply as you can. Neither you nor your children will ever be sorry.)

“Back in September 1973, CWTI, in conjunction with the National Park Foundation, established the Civil War Sites Fund and made an opening donation of \$1,000. In an editorial a few months later, our readers were told of the creation of the fund and urged to contribute to it to help save Civil War battlefield sites within the National Park System from anachronistic commercial development and similar depredations. But the response has been woefully meager. In the 4 years that have elapsed since the fund was started, only \$4,000.00 has been contributed—and that includes our initial contribution.

Still we receive dozens of letters each month deploring the desecration of battlefield land by bulldozers and neon signs. And I am reliably informed that members of the House and Senate Interior Committees are swamped each year with letters from citizens outraged by the condition of national battlefield parks. Yet if this multitude of letterwriters would invest some of their money in contributions to the Civil War Sites Fund as well as in stationery and stamps, the causes for many of their complaints would be eliminated far more quickly.

Even with the small amount of money available from the fund, the National Park Foundation has done commendable work. An important tract along Bloody Lane at Antietam was purchased with money from the Sites Fund; an option for property at the entrance to Fort Donelson National Military Park was also acquired. And the beauty of the fund is that while the land is purchased as it is made available, by-passing the lengthy Congressional authorization and appropriation process which often leads to higher prices or loss of the land to private developers, the money used is replenished when appropriations are finally made, thus it is essentially a revolving fund. None of the money contributed is eaten up by administrative costs since the National Park Foundation donates its staff time and office space to administer the fund. And, of course, contributions are tax-deductible.

A single dollar from each of our readers would be a far more effective weapon in the fight for battlefield preservation than a dozen letters to Congressmen and Senators. And that's what we are asking each of you to do; to contribute just \$1.00 to the Civil War Sites Fund. But we won't ask you to do something that we wouldn't. We will match your contributions for the first \$1,000. In addition, each month we will publish a Roll of Honor listing those who have contributed \$25.00 or more.

We care about our past and its preservation, and we will put our money where our mouth is. The battlefields of the Civil War are an ever-present inspiration, and a reminder of the heritage that belongs to us all. Do you care? If you do, send your contributions to The Civil War Sites Fund, c/o National Park Foundation, Washington, D.C. 20240.”

February Meeting

Seventy members and guests were in attendance on February 10 to welcome Thomas Buckley, Professor of History at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, as he spoke to us on "The Civil War and the Modernization of the Navy". He began his remarks and slide presentation by defining the "modern warship" as one which possessed most of the following characteristics: steam powered; fueled by land resources; propeller driven; metal hull; metal armour; relatively small number of powerful guns, rather than numerous smaller weapons; guns housed in a central location, rather than broadsided; guns which fired from the center line of the vessel; revolving turret or turrets; ram bow (this feature was eventually eliminated prior to World War II); and a high seas capability.

In comparing the Monitor and Merrimac to the above definition, Professor Buckley pointed out that, while these famed Civil War ships fit into the general classification, each was lacking a few of the required characteristics. For example, the Merrimac did not possess a revolving turret and did not house its guns in a central location. Although the Monitor did have a propeller, its poor location and design resulted in extremely low speed potential. Neither vessel had a high seas capability, a factor which eventually led to the loss of the Monitor. More importantly, however, while the combat between the Monitor and the Merrimac focused the attention of the world on this new concept of naval warfare, the development of the concept of the "Modern Warship" had been proceeding steadily prior to the Civil War.

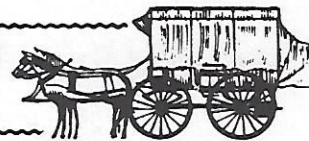
Even before Fulton's completion of the Clermont in 1807, John Fitch of Philadelphia had experimented with a steam powered ship at the time of the Constitutional Convention. In the later stages of the War of 1812, Fulton developed the first steam powered warship which he hoped would defeat the British blockade of New York harbor. The British, learning of the project, denounced it as an infernal machine and promised no quarter to its crew if they were captured. However, the war ended before the ship was completed and ready to sail.

During the 1820's and early 1830's, the United States Navy was extremely reluctant to gamble the necessary expenditure on steam power experimentation. Rather it sat back and waited for civilians to perfect the concept. Finally, however, prompted by international tensions between the United States and England, France, and Mexico, over such issues as Oregon, Texas, and Canada, our Navy entered the field of steam construction in the 1840's. In this period, numerous original concepts were attempted. The first iron hulled vessel began operations on the Great Lakes in 1843, commencing a career that was to last until 1923. Horizontal paddlewheels, less vulnerable to opposing fire than the normal vertical design, were experimented with, but proved unsuccessful. The Stevens family, a long line of prominent inventors, began, in 1842, the construction of a coastal defense ship, named the Stevens Battery, which was to include an iron hull and two propellers. By the Civil War, over \$700,000.00, of which \$500,000.00 was government funds, had been invested in this project and the ship was still not completed. After the war, Gen. McClellan was put in charge of the project. Characteristically, he spent a large amount of additional money and finished nothing. Finally, in 1874, the whole idea was scrapped.

The first screw propeller warship had been completed in 1843. However, during a test run with President Tyler and other government dignitaries on board, a gun exploded killing the Secretaries of State and War. This incident and the concurrent easing of international tensions in the 1850's again slowed naval experimentation and construc-

Continued

The SUTLER'S WAGON



WANTED: To buy or borrow any books or articles pertaining to telegraphy in the Civil War. Contact Myron Cohn, 850 N. DeWitt, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

WANTED: Downey's *Clash of Cavalry*. Contact Karl Sundstrom, 119 Groveland, Apt. 3, Riverside, Illinois 60546.

WANTED: Bearss' *Decision In Mississippi*. Contact Robert Grossman, 120 W. Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

WANTED: Information on the career of Powell Clayton, Union Brigadier General and post-war Governor of Arkansas, Senator, and Ambassador to Mexico. Contact Howard C. Westwood, Covington & Burling, 888 - 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

February Meeting Continued

tion. Thus, the stage was set for the startling revelations of the abilities of the Monitor and the Merrimac.

Despite the many faults of the Monitor, such as fragile buoyancy, leakage around the turret, inadequate pumps, and poor ventilation, the federal government immediately began the building of several Monitor class ships. Improvements and corrections were added to make the vessels more seaworthy and increase the comfort of the crews. However, even with these changes, wooden hulled steam powered cruisers, with supplementary sails, such as the Kearsarge, continued to be the most popular ocean-going warships during the Civil War. In the post war period, the United States again settled down to let other nations, who were major sea powers, and private sources further experiment with refining steam power and iron construction. Fortunately, no wars developed until after the progressive policies of B. F. Tracy, Secretary of the Navy under President Harrison, had pushed our government into catching up with the rest of the world in warship design and construction.

The James W. Longstreet Camp 1289 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans have embarked upon a campaign to raise the \$800 necessary for the erection of headstones over the previously unmarked graves of seventy-six Confederate soldiers in the Madison, Georgia, City Cemetery. The markers themselves have been obtained from the National Cemetery System of the Veterans Administration, at government expense. The existence of these graves was unknown until about four years ago. At that time, during the remodeling of the Morgan County, Georgia Courthouse, a diagram of the unmarked graves was found beneath the Courthouse's vault flooring. Prior to this discovery, the specified area in the Cemetery had been thought to be merely a civilian family plot. While no exact information has been determined as to the reason why the graves were unmarked, it is believed by officers of the Longstreet Camp that the graves, dug during the War, were hidden to prevent information being leaked to nearby Union troops as to the exact identity of Confederate units in the vicinity. As the location of the graves is alongside the tracks of the Georgia Railroad, it is apparent that the deceased soldiers died while being transported on the trains and were buried in Madison, which was a refueling stop for the railroad. As a result of a research project carried on by several members of the Longstreet Camp, the individual graves have been located and approximately one-third of the soldiers buried there have been identified. Anyone wishing to donate to this most worthy cause can do so by mailing their contribution to the Longstreet Camp 1289, 2452 Hogan Road, East Point, Georgia 30344.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Alexander, Edwin P. *Civil War Railroads and Models*. New York: C.N. Potter, 1977. 9 x 12". \$15.95

Drake, Samuel Adams. *The Battle of Gettysburg*. Saint Clair Shores, Michigan: Scholarly Press, 1977. \$17.00. Reprint of the original of 1892

Grant, Robert W. *The Handbook of Civil War Patriotic Envelopes and Postal History*. Edited by Gordon P. McKinnon. Hanover, Mass.: Grant, 1977. Loose-leaf for updating. \$42.50

Marchand, John B. *Charleston Blockade: The Journals of John B. Marchand, U.S. Navy 1861-1862*. Edited with commentary by Craig L. Symonds. Newport, R.I.: Naval War College Press, 1976. Paper, \$3.00

McBrien, Joe Bennett. *The Tennessee Brigade*. Chattanooga, Tenn.: McBrien. \$9.95

Meyer, Isidore S., editor. *The American Jew in the Civil War: Catalog of the Exhibit of the Civil War Centennial Jewish Historical Commission*. Millwood, NY: Kraus Reprint, 1977. \$8.50; paper \$3.50. Reprint of the Publication of the American Jewish Historical Society Quarterly, vol. 50, no. 4

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. *Mississippi in the Confederacy*. Millwood, NY: Kraus Reprint, 1977. \$36.00. Original of 1961.

Mosby, John Singleton. *Memoirs*. Edited by Charles Wells Russell. Preface by Virgil Carrington Jones. Millwood, NY: Kraus Reprint, 1977. \$22.00. From the Indiana University printing of 1959.

Murray, Alton J. *South George Rebels*. The true wartime experiences of the 26th Regiment Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Lawton-Gordon-Evans Brigade, Confederate States Army 1861-1865. St. Marys, Georgia: Alton J. Murray, 1976. \$20.00

Newman, Harry Wright. *Maryland and the Confederacy*. Privately printed. Deluxe limited edition of 600 signed copies. \$32.35

Philadelphia, Library Company. *American Song Sheets, Slip Ballads, and Poetical Broad-sides, 1850-1870; a Catalogue of the Collection of the Library Company of Philadelphia by Edwin Wolf, 2nd*. Millwood, NY: Kraus Reprint, 1977. \$18.00. Original of 1963.

Savage, Carlton. *Policy of the United States toward Maritime Commerce in War*. Millwood, NY: Kraus Reprint, 1977. \$40.00. Reprint, 2 vols, Washington/D.C., 1934-36.

Simpson, Harold B. *Hood's Texas Brigade: A Compendium*. Hillsboro, Texas: Hill Junior College Press, 1977. \$12.50. Limited edition, full leather, 50 copies, \$50.00. Fourth and last volume of Simpson's history of Hood's Texas Brigade.

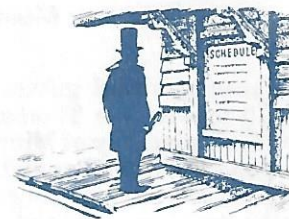
Stephens, Alexander Hamilton. *A Constitutional View of the Late War between the States; Its Causes, Character, Conduct and Results*. Millwood, NY: Kraus Reprint, 1977. \$58.00. Presented in a series of colloquies at Liberty Hall, 2 vols., Philadelphia, 1868-70.

Sturtevant, Josiah H. *Josiah Volunteered*. Kents Hill, Maine, 1978. \$14.95. Diaries, letters, photos of a family.

Upson, Theodore Frelinghuysen. *With Sherman to the Sea*. The Civil War Letters, Diaries, & Reminiscences of Theodore F. Upson. Edited by introduction by Oscar Osburn Winther. Millwood, NY: Kraus Reprint, 1977. \$12.00. From the Indiana University print of 1958.

Vandiver, Frank Everson. *Confederate Blockade Running through Bermuda, 1861-1865: Letters and Cargo Manifests*. Millwood, NY: Kraus Reprint. \$11.00. Original of 1947.

Wheeler, Richard. *We Knew William Tecumseh Sherman*. New York: Crowell, 1977. \$7.95



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 10: Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. on "Civil War Chaplains".

April 14: Marshall D. Krolick on "Brandy Station".

May 3-7: Annual Battlefield Tour to Chancellorsville, Wilderness, Fredericksburg, etc.

May 12: Kenneth Carley on "The Sioux Uprising of 1862".

June 9: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers.

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

Last Tuesday of each month: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Caravelle Motel, River Road and Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont; all members welcome.

NEW MEMBERS

Jacqueline G. Cohn, 850 N. DeWitt, Apt. 17-H, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Betsy Ross Davis, 1120 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Helen V. Dutch, 500 N. Clay Street, Hinsdale, Illinois 60521.

Martin Gaber, 2301 Greenwood Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

George L. Curry, 19 S. Park Street, Westmont, Illinois 60559.

Dr. James E. Gleichert, 3420 W. 16th, Eugene, Oregon 97405.

John P. Wolgamot, 4 Vermillion Park Mall, Danville, Illinois 61832.

We are happy to learn that our long-time member, and fellow battlefield tour companion, Dr. Allan M. Giddings, of Battlecreek, Michigan, has recently been released from the hospital after a long confinement with a broken hip. Dr. Giddings is further convalescing at home. Also on the road to recovery after recent illnesses are Betsy Davis and Elmer Pendarvis.

The Eleventh Annual Reenactment of the Battle of New Market, sponsored by the New Market Battlefield Park, will be held Sunday, May 14, 1978, at 2:00 p.m. Co-hosts with the Battlefield Park for this year's event will be the Army of Northern Virginia (ANV) and the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR). Participants will receive a medal, free Civil War type breakfast rations, free admission to the Hall of Valor museum, and free camping. Unit streamers will be awarded to units with five or more participants. Participation is by pre-registration only and limited to the first 600 troops to register, 400 Confederates and 200 Union. A registration fee of \$2.50 per person should accompany the registration form which must be post-marked no later than midnight April 30, 1978. For registration forms, write to the New Market Battlefield Park, P.O. Box 1864, New Market, Virginia 22844.