

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXIX, Number 6

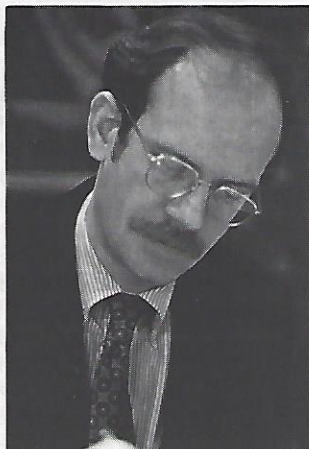
Chicago, Illinois

February, 1979

DR. MARK E. NEELY ON LINCOLN'S IMAGE: PHOTOS, PRINTS AND CARTOONS OF THE 1860'S

Abraham Lincoln has been one of the most intensely studied figures in American history, and yet there are still aspects of the man and his era, as well as sources of information, that have not been thoroughly examined. However, at The Round Table meeting on February 9, the director of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum intends to help fill in one of those gaps. That evening, Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr., will examine "Lincoln's Image: Photographs, Prints and Cartoons of the 1860's".

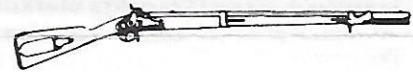
Dr. Neely feels that although we are conscious of Presidential image-making today, we have neglected the sources of that image-making in the past. Too often, he maintains, pictorial materials are the neglected stepchildren of historical research. If used at all in serious books, they appear as illustrations in the center slick-paper section. Authors, if they think of pictorial materials, do so only as afterthoughts. In fact, Dr. Neely suspects that their choice is often left to the publisher. "Yet," he says, "graphic sources provide unforgettable clues to the anxieties, hopes and fears of the mass of people at whom print-makers aimed their materials." In his remarks, which will be illustrated with slides, Dr. Neely will try to show that cartoons, lithographs, engravings, and even the lowly patriotic envelope are legitimate sources of historical knowledge, fully on a par with books, manuscripts and newspapers.



Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr.

Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr., received his B.A. in 1966 and a Ph.D. in 1973, both from Yale University. He taught American history at Iowa State University before coming to Fort Wayne, Indiana to head the Lincoln Library and Museum. In addition to his many speaking engagements, Dr. Neely edits "Lincoln Lore," which discusses the acquisitions of the Library and Museum, reviews new books in the Lincoln field, and in general attempts to keep the reader abreast of the latest historical scholarship on America's middle period.

Dr. Neely is the author of a number of articles, including: "Abraham Lincoln's Nationalism Reconsidered," "American Nationalism in the Image of Henry Clay: Abraham Lincoln's Eulogy on Clay in Context," "Richard W. Thompson: The Persistent Know Nothing," "Romanicism, Nationalism, and the New Economics: Elisha Mulford and the Organic Theory of the State," and



378th REGULAR MEETING

* * *

Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr.

on

Lincoln's Image:

Photo's Prints and Cartoons of the 1860's

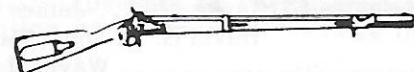
Friday, February 9, 1979

* * *

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



"Lincoln and the Mexican War: An Argument by Analogy." He has also written *What Hath Professionalism Wrought? The Lincoln Theme Since Randall's Call*, and at present is preparing a Lincoln encyclopedia to be published in 1980. Dr. Neely last addressed The Round Table in February, 1977 on "Lincoln and the Mexican War".

The Lincoln National Life Foundation was established in 1928 to further historical research on the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. The Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum, the institutional embodiment of the Foundation, houses a collection of over 17,000 books and pamphlets on the mid-nineteenth century, including approximately 10,000 on Lincoln alone. It also contains an ever-growing collection of Lincoln manuscripts and letters written by Lincoln's contemporaries and associates. From these materials, the staff attempts to answer questions from researchers and the interested public on Abraham Lincoln's life and times. The Foundation also displays a large exhibition of Lincoln relics, manuscripts, pictures and memorabilia. In addition to supplying on request photographs and copies of rare pamphlets and manuscripts, the Foundation publishes "Lincoln Lore."

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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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.



A purchaser has finally been found for the 62-foot fiberglass and steel statue of Abraham Lincoln erected near Charleston, Illinois in 1969. The statue was originally planned to be a feature of a national park which the citizens of Charleston hoped to have developed. However, the park was never approved, and the statue was left in the middle of the vacant site, soon becoming victim to vandals and the ravages of time. However, Bud Scott, a basketball coach at a local Charleston college, has purchased the statue and will move it to his nearby campground, recreation area and Christian retreat.

A special exhibition honoring the 107th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birthday will open at The Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, 78 East Washington Street on Saturday, February 10. The exhibit, entitled "Mr. Lincoln, of Illinois," will feature over one hundred autograph letters, legal documents, scarce imprints, photographs, graphics and personal effects of Lincoln and his family. The items are on loan from the extensive Lincoln Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield. Most of them have never before been publicly displayed. The exhibition and accompanying catalog, prepared by the Special Collections Division of the Chicago Public Library, focuses on Lincoln's life and career in Illinois prior to his election to the Presidency in 1860. The display will emphasize Lincoln's family life, early public service, law practice, and political experience in the state and national legislatures. Lincoln's senate race against Stephen A. Douglas and his subsequent Presidential campaign are also extensively represented. The exhibit will remain on display through Sunday, May 20, in the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Memorial Hall. The catalog will be on sale at \$3.00 per copy (\$3.50 if ordered by mail) in the Special Collections Division at the Cultural Center.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute is offering a summer civil war seminar entitled, "Campaigning with Lee." The seminar, which will be held from June 17 through the 23, 1979, at Fredericksburg, Virginia, will be under the direction of Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., who is professor of history at Virginia Tech. Assisting him in the program will be Robert K. Krick, historian at the Fredericksburg National Park and Edwin C. Bearss, research historian for the National Park Service. In addition to classroom sessions which will discuss such topics as the causes of the war, surveys of military campaigns, civilian personalities, military leaders, and home front activities, there will also be field trips to the battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, Manassas, Harpers Ferry, Sharpsburg, Brandy Station, Clark's Mountain, Cedar Mountain, and others. The fee for the seminar, which will utilize the facilities of Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, is \$150.00. This charge includes registration, class material, all field trips, all breakfasts, most luncheons and dinners, and 7 nights' lodging, double occupancy. Registrations must be received by March 15, 1979, and participation will be limited to 110. To register or obtain further information, contact the Adult Registrar, Donaldson Brown Center for Continuing Education, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061.

The Abraham Lincoln Association, in cooperation with the Illinois State Historical Society, has planned a full day of activities to be held on Lincoln's Birthday, February 12, 1979 in Springfield, Illinois. Included will be the Sixth Annual Abraham Lincoln Symposium, which will be presented in the Hall of Representatives of the Old State Capitol. Among the topics to be discussed at the Symposium will be "Psychohistorical Reflections on Lincoln and His Father" and "Lincoln: Democracy's Touchstone." That evening, the Abraham Lincoln Association will hold its annual reception and dinner, which will feature, as the principal speaker, Judge William H. Webster, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For further information or reservations, contact Richard McCord, Illinois National Bank, One North Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

JANUARY MEETING

Who were the Confederacy's "best" generals? That was the question Dr. Grady McWhiney raised when he addressed 107 members and guests at The Round Table meeting on January 12. Although he did not attempt to provide any definitive answers, he did offer some criteria to consider and suggested how some of the generals measured up.

Dr. McWhiney began by noting the results of a survey conducted in 1907 by U.S. Senator Charles A. Culberson. Culberson asked surviving Confederate generals who, in their opinion, was the greatest Confederate general. He received replies from 40 of the 45 then alive and 34 of them selected Robert E. Lee. In doing so they stressed Lee's ability to inspire troops, his aggressiveness and his successes against heavy odds. Their statements, Dr. McWhiney noted, suggested total devotion to the man. Some even called him the greatest general ever. The other six votes were divided among Joe Johnston, Stonewall Jackson and J.E.B. Stuart.

As Dr. McWhiney explained, the question about who were the best has been an enduring theme among Civil War historians. All of the important, and even some of the less important, Confederate generals have had biographers. However, Lee has had by far more pages devoted to him than have all the others combined. Before the early 1950s, the definitive text on Lee was the work of Douglas Southall Freeman. He was authoritatively received. All other authors worked in his shadow, as no American historian dared challenge either the author or his subject. In 1955, however, T. Harry Williams did suggest some critical comments about Lee, and in 1959 Allan Nevins called Lee a parochial type who lacked largeness of view. Nevins and Williams were denounced, and even today, although Lee has been subject to some further criticism, he remains the consensus choice among scholars as the Confederacy's best general. As Dr. McWhiney pointed out, however, no objective reasons are offered for that evaluation.

Dr. McWhiney then turned his attention to some of the generally agreed upon necessary characteristics of a good general. Among those he listed were: intelligence, courage, patience, resolution, leadership, initiative, character, ability to inspire confidence, moral courage, excellent physical and mental health, the will to win, and enjoyment of the challenge of war. He also discussed the six basic principles of warfare and generalship: deception, security, mobility, economy, intelligence, and flexibility. These, he feels, are the timeless military standards against which any general can be measured.

Deception, he explained, is probably the most important since all warfare is deception. The most likely way to win is to do the unexpected and surprise the enemy. Security, on the other hand, means being on guard at all times and never deceiving yourself, nor getting caught by surprise. As to mobility, Dr. McWhiney noted that speed is the essence of war, enabling a general to take advantage of the enemy's unpreparedness. Economy (of force) Dr. McWhiney explained, means that the good general wins with the fewest casualties and gives battle only when he has reason to hope for a decisive effect. Intelligence, he said, involves obtaining reliable information to determine the enemy's plans. It requires powers of discrimination to avoid false information. And, finally, flexibility implies the ability to alter plans in accordance with the situation. It is the opposite of obstinacy, which can lead only to destruction.

Dr. McWhiney also discussed the basic tactic used by both sides throughout much of the War, the tactic which resulted in the heavy casualties sustained. It was, he explained, the frontal assault, a stratagem that had always worked well against the inaccurate smoothbore rifle. However, with the development of the minie ball and

ROUND TABLE RESEARCH EXCHANGE

A Resource Exchange, which will make information about the Civil War interests and expertise of our members available to other members, and also will serve as the basis for a speaker's bureau, is being developed by The Round Table. According to co-chairman of the Exchange, Paul Klinger, it is designed to create a closer bond among members, enabling them to learn about the interests of others. It should be particularly useful to new members and also will help The Round Table fulfill the numerous requests we receive for speakers. The master file will be kept at the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop and the data will also be available at meetings. The enclosed information forms, which were also passed out at the January meeting, and which will be available at future meetings, can be filled out and returned with meeting reservation cards or given to Paul Klinger, Jim Girman, or Dave St. John.

CIVIL WAR FILM AFTERNOON

An afternoon of Civil War silent films of the early twentieth-century is being planned for Sunday, March 18, at the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center. Commentary will be provided by fellow member and film enthusiast Jerry Warshaw. The film program will be preceded by luncheon at a nearby restaurant and there will be a command post and reception in the Cultural Center's Rotunda afterwards. In addition, the Research Center and G.A.R. Civil War Collections will be open. Additional details and reservation information will be in the March Newsletter.



Paul H. Buck, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, died December 23, 1978 at the age of 79. Mr. Buck was associated with Harvard University for more than 50 years. During that time, he served as Professor of History, University Provost, Faculty Dean, and Library Director. He received his Pulitzer Prize in 1938 for the book, "The Road to Reunion," a study of the Reconstruction.

Dr. William E. Parrish, who addressed The Round Table on March 11, 1977 on the topic of "The Bohemian Brigade", has joined the faculty of the Department of History at Mississippi State University. Dr. Parrish previously held a similar position at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri.

the single shot muzzle loading rifle in the 1850s, frontal assaults with bayonets fixed were no longer effective. A few entrenched men could hold off an attack. Unfortunately, it took the leaders a long time to realize that the old tactics were outmoded. In fact, Dr. McWhiney said, it was not until the closing days of the War that they did so. In his opinion, if the armies had still been armed with smoothbores, the Confederates might have won for they loved to attack and were aggressive. Unfortunately, the bold frontal assaults used by the Confederate generals resulted in their troops being mowed down.

In an effort to provide an objective way of measuring "the best" generals, Dr. McWhiney passed out a chart comparing the casualties inflicted and sustained, both in total numbers and percentages of men engaged, by some of the leading generals of the War. It showed, for example, that Lee managed to inflict more damage than any other Confederate general, but that his percentage losses were greater. He incurred a casualty ratio of 18.9 per cent of his men as opposed to an enemy loss of 14 per cent of men engaged against him. What this objective measure really means, Dr. McWhiney noted, remains unclear, however, thus leading him to conclude his remarks by wondering where does all of this really leave us?

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Baird, John A., Jr. *Profile of a Hero: Absalom Baird His Family and the American Military Tradition*. Philadelphia, Pa.: Dorrance & Co., 1977. \$7.95.

Brock, William Ranulf. *Conflict and Transformation: The United States, 1844-1877*. New York: Penguin Books, 1978. Paper \$3.95. Vol. 3 in the Pelican history of the U.S.

Caba, G. Craig. *United States Military Drums, 1845-1865*. A Pictorial Survey. Harrisburg, Pa.: Civil War Antiquities, Ltd., 1977. \$7.50.

Catton, Bruce. *A Stillness at Appomattox*. Ill. by Bob Dacey. Franklin Center, Pa.: Franklin Library, 1977.

Current, Richard N. *Unity, Ethnicity, & Abraham Lincoln*. Fort Wayne, Indiana: Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum, 1978. Paper. 24 p.

Eggleston, George Cary, ed. *American War Ballads and Lyrics*. A Collection of the songs and ballads of the colonial wars, the Revolution, the War of 1812-15, the War with Mexico, and the Civil War. Great Neck, NY: Granger Book Co., 1978. \$24.50. Reprint of the 1889 edition.

Fried, Albert. *John Brown's Journey: Notes and Reflections on His America and Mine*. Garden City, NY: Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1978. \$10.00

Inzer, John Washington. *The Diary of a Confederate Soldier: John Washington Inzer*. Edited by Mattie Lou Teague Crow. Huntsville, Ala.: The Strode Publishers, Inc., 1977. \$7.95.

Kushner, Howard I. and Anne Hymmel Sherrill. *John Milton Hay: The Union of Poetry and Politics*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1977. \$9.95

McCray, Peyton. *Abraham Lincoln and Reconstruction: The Louisiana Experiment*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1978. \$25.00

Meredith, Roy and Arthur Meredith. *Mr. Lincoln's Military Railroads: A Pictorial History of the United States Civil War Railroads*. New York: Norton, 1978. \$18.95

Miller, Randall M., ed. *"Dear Master": Letters of a Slave Family*. Ithaca Cornell University Press, 1978. \$15.00

Osterhout, Charles Hotchkiss. *Stonewall Jackson's Mapmaker* (Jed Hotchkiss). Privately printed, 1977. 128 p., illus., maps.

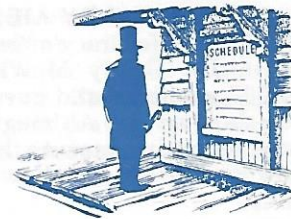
The Rebellion Record: A Diary of American Events. Edited by Frank Moore. New York: Arno Press, 1977. 12 vols. \$250.00. Reprint of the original printed 1861-1868.

Ridley, Bromfield L. *Battles and Sketches of the Army of Tennessee*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1978. \$30.00. Reproduction of the 1906 printing with new introduction by Robert J. Womack.

Ripley, Warren. *The Battle of Chapman's Fort, May 26, 1864*. Privately printed. Ashpoo Plantation, Green Pond, South Carolina, 1978. vi. 108 p. maps, illus. 1500 copies.

Included in the January edition of the Newsletter was an article on the relighting of the Eternal Peace Light Memorial at Gettysburg. Unfortunately, the article contained two errors. Rather than being planned for July 1, 1979, the rekindling ceremony was actually held July 1, 1978, at which time the principal speaker was Cecil Andrus, Secretary of the Interior. Also, it is the cast bronze lantern housing the bulb which actually weighs 800 pounds, not the bulb itself. We express our sincere appreciation to John R. Earnst, superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park for calling these errors to our attention and providing us with the correct information.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

February 9: Dr. Mark E. Neeley on "Lincoln's Image: Photographs, Prints and Cartoons of the 1860's".

March 9: Dr. Herman Hattaway on "Stephen D. Lee".

March 16: An afternoon of Early Civil War Films, including luncheon and reception. G.A.R. Memorial Hall.

April 6: William A. Frassanito on "Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day".

May 2-6: Annual Battlefield Tour—Shiloh and Northern Mississippi.

May 11: Chris Calkins on "The Appomattox Campaign".

June 8: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and installation of officers. Recipient of Award: E.B. "Pete" Long.

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

Arthur Armstrong, 3549 Highway Avenue, Highlar Indiana 46322.

George W. Grant, 8625 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, Illinois 60077.

David Murphy, 233 N. Taylor Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60302.

The Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia has announced that it is inaugurating an Evening Series. The programs will be held on the first Sunday of February, March, and April, 1979 at 6:30 p.m. The first program, to be presented on February 4th, will feature Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., discussing "The Common Soldier in the Civil War." The museum's own director, Kip Campbell, will highlight the second program, to be held on March 4th. Mr. Campbell will examine "The Image of the Old South in American Film." Included will be screening of the 1938 production of "Jezebel." Principal speaker for the last program, on April 1st, will be Louise K. Dooley, who has served as curator and director of the Stonewall Jackson House in Lexington, Virginia. Mrs. Dooley's topic will be, "Thomas J. Jackson, As He Resolved To Be." After each program, the museum's junior board will host a wine and cheese reception. Reservations for these programs are required, as space is limited, and can be made by addressing the Museum, which is located at 1201 E. Clay Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

William Jackson Christian, the Great-Great Grandson of Stonewall Jackson, was born on December 7th, 1978 in Richmond, Virginia. The new baby is the first child of the Reverend and Mrs. William Edmund Christian of Richmond. The proud father, who is related to the Confederate general through his father's family, is a pastoral counselor on the staff of the Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care.