

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLI, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June, 1981

## JAMES I. ROBERTSON, JR. TO RECEIVE NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD

by Karl Sundstrom

When it was first established in 1974, the Nevins-Freeman Award was designed by The Civil War Round Table to honor those select individuals who have made important and valuable contributions to the knowledge of the history and heritage of our American past. Specifically to be acknowledged were the efforts these individuals directed to the promotion of scholarship and interest in the events of 1861-1865. Over the years the award has been conferred upon seven men who truly deserved the acclaim shown them. They are Bruce Catton, Ralph Newman, T. Harry Williams, Lloyd Miller, Bell Wiley, E.B. "Pete" Long and, most recently, Ed Bearss. Joining this august body is the recipient of this year's Nevins-Freeman Award, Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr. of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia.

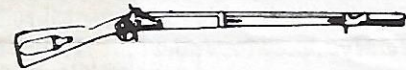


JAMES I. ROBERTSON, JR.

For those of us who have read any of his scholarly and concisely written works on Civil War history, listened to him as he has spoken about the events of those four years of civil strife, or attended any of his excellently presented Civil War Summer Institute programs, the name James I. Robertson evokes both respect and deep admiration. A prolific writer who has added immeasurably to the knowledge and enjoyment of Civil War history for more than 20 years, Bud Robertson has distinguished himself on countless occasions as an author, educator and public servant. For his efforts he will formally receive his well deserved recognition at the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner on the evening of Friday, June 5.

A native of Danville, Virginia, Bud attended Randolph-Macon College where he recieved his B.A. As a graduate student at Emory University in Atlanta, he completed work earning him both an M.A. and a Ph.D. He then taught at Montana, George Washington and Pennsylvania State University. From 1959 to 1961 he was editor of the quarterly journal *Civil War History*, and in 1961 was appointed by President Kennedy as Executive Director of the Civil War Centennial Commission, a post he held until the end of the centennial in 1965.

Bud is also the author or editor of 18 books, including *An Index-Guide to the Southern Historical Society Papers* (in two volumes), *The Stonewall Brigade*, *The Concise Illustrated History of the Civil War*, *Civil War Books: A Critical Bibliography* (in two volumes) and *The Civil War Letters of* (Continued on page 4)



402nd REGULAR MEETING

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NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD DINNER  
HONORING  
JAMES I. ROBERTSON, JR.

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INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

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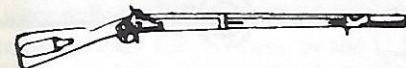
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1981

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Stouffer's Restaurant, Gibraltar Room  
Main Lobby, Prudential Building  
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

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Grand Army of the Republic Rooms  
The Chicago Public Library Cultural Center  
Randolph at Michigan  
Program at 8:00 p.m.



### SPECIAL NOTICE

Special reservation forms for the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner are enclosed with this Newsletter. Please send in reservations promptly with a check for \$18.50 per person—remittance must accompany reservations. No cancellations will be accepted after June 2. Guests are welcome; be sure to include their names on the reservation card.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chesnut 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.



## SUMMER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President-elect Robert Franke has announced that the summer Executive Committee meeting will be held on Saturday, July 11, at 11 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Prospect; Route 12 (Rand Road just south of Ill. 83). The agenda will include many important topics such as the budget, a new meeting site, the future of Battlefield Tours, and termination of the Oral History Committee. Therefore, all officers, trustees, and committee chairmen, and all past presidents are urged to attend. Further details will be mailed to executive committee members.

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The following message from Clyde C. Walton, who served as president in 1969-70 and who now lives in Boulder, Colorado, arrived too late to be read at the 400th meeting (and we were unable to include it in the May newsletter).

"I can hardly believe that I joined the Chicago Civil War Round Table nearly 30 years ago. I then lived in Iowa City, Iowa, and commuted back and forth on the Rock Island Railroad. Among the first people I met were Ralph Newman, Pete Long, Otto Eisenschiml, Lloyd Miller and Elmer Gertz. The meetings were exciting, the discussions (to say the least) spirited and the battlefield tours great fun, although exhausting. The least pleasant years were those when contemporary social problems collided with the past and Ralph will remember with me tense and emotional meetings in Charleston and Vicksburg. It has been, I believe, not only the war itself, but all of the members of the Round Table, past and present, that made the experience of being not only a member but also being President so rewarding.

We have a small, but flourishing Civil War Round Table here in Boulder and our members join with me in sending congratulations on your 400th meeting and our best wishes to the original Civil War Round Table."

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A \$125,000 fund raising campaign to save the Shaw/54th Regiment memorial in Boston was launched recently by a committee composed in part of descendants of the original committee which had the memorial built. The monument memorializes Col. Robert Gould Shaw and the men of his 54th Regiment, the North's first black volunteers. Shaw and many of his men were killed in July, 1863, in their attempt to take Fort Wagner in South Carolina. The memorial, executed by Augustus Saint-Gaudens over a period of 14 years, was unveiled on May 31, 1897. Because of the ravages of time and vandals, the monument is in desperate need of repairs. Tax deductible contributions can be sent to: Richard G. Scheide, Executive Vice President, New England Merchants National Bank, 28 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02106. Make checks payable to Save The Shaw.

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The Jackson Civil War Round Table is in the process of publishing accounts of the four falls of Jackson, Mississippi, 1863-1865. The first volume, written by Ed Bearss and former Vicksburg resident Warren Grabau, covers the two 1863 occupations of Jackson. It is expected to be available later this year. The second volume will contain an account of Sherman's Meridian Campaign by Ed's wife, Margie Riddle Bearss, as well as Ed's account of the fourth occupation of Jackson and related actions. Further information will be forthcoming.

The following message has been received from Arnold Gates of Garden City, New York: "I want to join with Ralph Newman in a salute to the memory of a truly wonderful friend — Pete Long. I knew Pete for close to 30 years. He never wrote a letter without including some praise and needed encouragement. I had lunch with him in his book-filled home last summer. It was a reunion I will always remember. Pete and Barbara were very gracious and always interesting. There were no dull conversations when Pete was around. We lost one of the stalwarts in the field?"

## MAY MEETING

The life and times of Stonewall Jackson's map-maker, Jedediah Hotchkiss, was Dr. Archie P. McDonald's subject when he addressed 82 members and guests at The Round Table meeting on May 8. Dr. McDonald not only detailed Hotchkiss's duties as a topographical engineer, but his personal life before, during and after the war as well. The result was a well-rounded picture of the Yankee who served the Confederacy so faithfully.

As Dr. McDonald explained, Hotchkiss has been a somewhat anonymous man since his papers remained locked away by his family until the 1930's. They were first used by Douglass Southall Freeman and are now in the Library of Congress. Freeman felt there was a three-prong test for historical witnesses: 1) that the witness be in a position to see what happened; 2) that he be in a position to understand what he saw; and 3) the character of the witness himself. Freeman was very demanding but, according to McDonald, he felt Hotchkiss was an admirable historical witness. Thus, his papers can be considered a valuable primary source of information.

Hotchkiss, bent over his sketchbook making maps, was a familiar sight to the Confederate soldier. He became a confidant of Jackson and the man responsible for his knowledge of the terrain. Hotchkiss was not a native southerner, having been born and raised in New York. He taught for a year in Pennsylvania and then, while on a walking tour in Virginia, was offered a position as a tutor in Mossy Creek. In 1852 a school was built there and he became principal. He also joined the church and married — he was, as Dr. McDonald explained, now a southerner.

In 1859 Hotchkiss, with his brother, started the Loch Willow Academy which proved quite successful. He concerned himself little with national affairs, but, after the war started, his pupils began enlisting and Jed finally joined up too (although he remained a civilian throughout the war). Hotchkiss began work in July, 1861, as a map-maker; most of the time he had to start from scratch since existing maps were very poor. He served under Lee for awhile but then succumbed to typhoid and returned home to recuperate.

In March, 1862, he was again fit for service and left with a militia unit for Jackson's camp. Jackson immediately appointed him to engineering duties and then, on March 26, summoned Hotchkiss to his headquarters where he issued his famous order, "make me a map of the Valley." Provided with a wagon and an assistant, Hotchkiss was able to provide very accurate sketches in a short time — to facilitate Jackson's understanding he used different colored pencils to highlight certain features. Although Hotchkiss was not with Jackson when he was shot at Chancellorsville, he arrived on the scene shortly thereafter and went for Jackson's doctor, Hunter McGuire; he was also dispatched to inform Lee. Hotchkiss was much shaken by Jackson's death; although he served under all the subsequent Second Corps commanders — A.P. Hill, Ewell and Early — Hotchkiss always missed Jackson.

At Gettysburg Hotchkiss engaged in reconnaissance activities and then drew the maps for the retreat. By this time, McDonald explained, Hotchkiss was longing for the quiet of home. Although he requested leave, he finally only received emergency medical leave — he had severe dysentery. Hotchkiss came back to duty in the fall and, early in 1864, was ordered to report to Early and accompanied that commander on his raids near Washington, D.C.

Hotchkiss was home for Christmas that year, as he had been every year of the war. He went back on duty early in 1865 and was used more frequently for reconnaissance work. When the end came he went back to Loch Willow and was paroled in late April. After the war he became a developer of the Virginia coal fields,

an educator, and a collector and publisher of Confederate military history. As he had been during the war, Hotchkiss remained a man of determination, earning exaltation by his hard work. But nowhere, Dr. McDonald concluded, did he work any harder than as Jackson's map-maker.

## 1982 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

At its meeting on May 8, just prior to the regularly scheduled meeting, the Executive Committee selected Gettysburg as the locale of our 1982 Battlefield Tour. It will be held May 5-9. Co-chairman for the Tour will be Dan Weinberg and Bob Ziegler. Further arrangements and details will be announced as they become available.

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The National Archives has published the final two works in the five volume "Military Operations of the Civil War: A Guide-Index to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-1865." The series is a guide to an earlier 127-volume War Department publication of documents about the war, and an index to the thousands of military operations described in that publication.

Volume IV covers operations in the main western theatre and Volume V operations in the Trans-Mississippi and Pacific Coast theatre. Volume II, covering operations in the main eastern theatre, was published in five parts from 1968-1972. Volume III, covering operations in the lower seaboard theatre and Gulf appeared in 1977. Volume I serves as a general guide. For further information, write Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Volumes IV and V are \$6 each. The stock number for Volume IV is 022-002-00074-1; for Volume V, 022-002-00073-2.

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The proposed development plan for Mine Creek Historical park, near Mound City, Kansas, has been presented to the Kansas Historical Society and reviewed with the majority leader of the Kansas Senate. The plan will have to undergo further review in the state legislature before being voted on for funding approval. It was developed by Betty Gentry, Superintendent of the Pea Ridge National Military Park, with assistance from the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City.

One of the recommendations is to change the name of the park to the Mine Creek Battlefield Park. It also calls for walking tour paths with appropriate historical markers, location of the sites of most Confederate graves and the Palmer house which was standing at the time of the battle, removal of existing farm buildings and restoration of the terrain to its appearance in 1864.

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The state of Oregon is seeking \$1.3 million from the federal government — in payment of a Civil War debt. The money is owed to Oregon for providing state troops to guard Oregon forts, the Oregon Trail, and to protect miners and settlers after Union troops were pulled out of the state during the War. The debt was approved in 1909 for payment by the U.S. Court of Claims, but Congress never appropriated the money. Four subsequent attempts to obtain reimbursement have also failed. Oregon Senator Bob Packwood is "somewhat optimistic" that Oregon will get its money.

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An auction of the books from Ver Lynn Sprague's library will be held June 6 at 11:00 a.m. in front of the Book Shop at 18 E. Chestnut. Ver Lynn, a long-time member and past president who passed away January 6, left his collection to The Round Table which will receive all proceeds from the auction.



## THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Ashby, Thomas A. *Life of Turner Ashby*. Dayton: Morningside Bookshop, 1981. \$17.50. Original of 1914.

Austin, Anne L. *The Woolsey Sisters of New York: A Family's Involvement in the Civil War and a New Profession (1860-1900)*. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1980. Pbk \$4.00

Catton, Bruce. *The Civil War*. New York: Crown, 1980. Original of 1971. A Fairfax Press Book.

Granger, J.T. *A Brief Biographical Sketch of the Life of Major-General Greenville M. Dodge*. New York: Arno Press, 1981. \$15.00. Reprint of the edition done in 1893 for private distribution.

Haupt, Herman. *Reminiscences of General Herman Haupt*. New York: Arno Press, 1981. \$30.00. Reprint of the edition of 1901 that was limited to 900 copies.

Hayden, Frederick Stansbury. *Aeronautics in the Union & Confederate Armies. With a Survey of Military Aeronautics Prior to 1861*. Vol. I. New York: Arno Press, 1979. \$38.00. Original of 1941. Vol. I is all that appeared.

Krick, Robert. *The Confederate Dead at Gettysburg*. Dayton: Morningside Bookshop, 1981. \$10.00

Peddy, George Washington. *Saddle Bag and Spinning Wheel*. Edited by George Peddy Cuttino. Macon: Mercer University Press, 1980. \$18.95. Letters exchanged between a Confederate surgeon and his wife, 1861-1865.

Thomas, Henry Walter. *History of the Doles-Cook Brigade. Army of Northern Virginia, C.S.A.*; containing muster roles of each company of the Fourth, Twelfth, Twenty-first and Forty-fourth Georgia regiments, with a short sketch of the services of each member, and a complete history of each regiment ... Dayton: Morningside Bookshop, 1981. \$35.00. The original is of 1903.

(Continued from page 1)

*General McAllister*. He has produced annotated editions of the memoirs of General James Longstreet, Colonel Walter H. Taylor, Privates John H. Worsham and John D. Casler, and Sarah Morgan Dawson. He has also written 75 articles for historical journals and other periodicals. For these and other superlative efforts Bud has received many other awards, including the Harry S. Truman Historical Award and the Mrs. Simon Baruch University Award. His achievements have brought him commendations from several governors and he has five times been awarded certificates for teaching excellence at Virginia Tech.

Currently Bud is C.P. Miles Professor of History and Faculty Chairman for Athletics at Virginia Tech. Besides attending to his academic duties Bud is a varsity football official for the Atlantic Coast Conference and is a veteran of three post season bowl games. Additionally, he is active in his religious community and serves as a Lay Reader in the Anglican Church.

The Award evening's activities will begin at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails at the Gibraltar Room of the Stouffers Restaurant in the Prudential Building, to be followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. At 7:45 p.m. members and guests will adjourn to the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center at Michigan and Washington Streets where they are invited to visit the Special Collections Division. Civil War manuscripts, arms, artifacts, and other



## BULLETIN BOARD

### FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Como Inn, 546 N. Milwaukee Avenue, the second Friday in each month except as noted.

June 5: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and installation of officers. Recipient of award: James I. Robertson, Jr.

June 6: Book auction at 11:00 a.m.

July 11: Summer Executive Committee meeting.

September 11: Albert Castel. Subject to be announced.

October 9: Ken Haffendorfer on "The Battle of Perryville?"

November 13: Lowell Reidenbaugh on "Jackson at White Oak Swamp?"

May 5-9, 1982: Annual Battlefield Tour: Gettysburg.

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

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The Antietam Civil War Round Table, a self-help group made up of inmates at the Maryland Correctional Training Center, is seeking donations of books, stamps and money (in the form of money orders or bank checks). The Antietam Round Table is quite active in battlefield preservation. During the struggle to secure more acreage for Manassas, for example, they wrote over 400 letters to senators, representatives and others. The group receives no financial support from the Maryland Correctional Training System. Donations can be sent to: Mr. James T. Nolan, Program Director, The Antietam Civil War Round Table, Maryland Correctional Center, Route 3, Box 3333, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740.

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*Soldiers*, the official U.S. Army magazine, reports that Army reservists from the 282d Supply and Service Company in Montgomery, Alabama, are putting new marble over the graves of some 800 Confederate soldiers. About seven members of the 282d are working on the project at Montgomery's Oakwood Cemetery in conjunction with the Alabama American Legion. Worn headstones are being replaced with fresh, 200-pound blocks of marble, many of them marked "Unknown."

In addition, according to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, marking of the graves of some 1,600 Confederate dead at Vicksburg City Cemetery is now underway. The headstones were furnished by the Veterans Administration.

materials will be on display in the G.A.R. Memorial Hall, and Special Collections staff will be on hand to show members the Reading Room and discuss recent additions and other news of the Civil War and American History Research Collection. At 8:30 p.m. the installation of the new officers will take place followed by the ceremonies honoring Bud. Bud will then present his remarks concerning his life and interest in the Civil War. We look forward to an enjoyable and most informative evening.