

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLII, Number 6

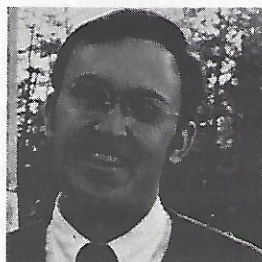
Chicago, Illinois

February, 1982

## DAVID LILLEY ON EZRA AYERS CARMAN — THE UNHERALDED HISTORIAN OF ANTIETAM

The name Ezra Ayers Carman is hardly a familiar one to even the most serious students of the Civil War. And yet it was the painstaking work of this man in collecting first-hand accounts and other material about the Battle of Antietam that has provided a wealth of information about this important action. Carman, and the work he did, will be the subject of our speaker, David Lilley, at The Round Table meeting of February 12. Lilley, park historian at Fredericksburg, has researched his topic in depth and we are assured of an interesting, informative evening.

Of his talk Lilley says, "Until Gettysburg, Sharpsburg was the most important battle of the Civil War in the minds of contemporary Americans. The battle at Antietam was fought at a time when Confederate fortunes were brightest, for rebel armies were enjoying success on all fronts in the fall of 1862. Although Lee would regird his army for a second invasion of the North the following summer, urgently sought European recognition would never be so close to the Southerners' grasp as it was in 1862.

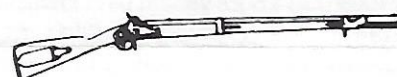


DAVID LILLEY

"The critical importance of the first rebel thrust into Yankeedom was forgotten with the unfolding of the events of July 1-3, 1863. As with international implications of the 1862 campaign, the military details of the battle of Sharpsburg have also been eclipsed by modern recollection of Federal stubbornness at Little Round Top and Confederate valor during the assault on the third day in the Pennsylvania battle.

"Many students are also familiar with the work of John Bachelder, as introduced in Edwin Coddington's *Gettysburg Campaign*, a veteran who almost immediately began to collect information about the 1863 clash from survivors. Although the process of gathering first-hand accounts and other material about Antietam did not start until many years later, the results of this effort cannot be ignored. Literally hundreds of letters from veterans and dozens of notes about aspects of the 1862 Maryland campaign were collected and a marvelous atlas depicting the battle was constructed from the material. Other important but virtually unknown information was also assembled by the commission which was initiated to mark the battlefield.

Ezra Ayers Carman, a veteran of the war himself, spearheaded this operation and his effort will receive the lion's share of my attention. A truly vast storehouse of information about the battle was collected by Carman and the Antietam Battlefield



408th REGULAR MEETING

\*\*\*\*\*

DAVID LILLEY  
ON  
EZRA AYERS CARMAN — THE UNHERALDED  
HISTORIAN OF ANTIETAM

\*\*\*\*\*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1982

\*\*\*\*\*

Como Inn  
546 N. Milwaukee  
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



Board. It is my aim to acquaint you with an important source of information, which should not be ignored, about America's bloodiest day?"

When he comes to Chicago Lilley will, almost, be coming home (he was born in Aurora). He received his B.A. in American History from Gettysburg College in 1973 and is currently working on an M.A. in American History at George Mason University. His thesis examines the history of cartography in this country from 1800 to 1865 with special emphasis on the work of Northern mappers in Virginia, 1861-1864.

Lilley is the compiler of the *Obituary Index to Confederate Veterans* (1978) and is the author of "The Antietam Battlefield Board and Its Atlas: or the Genesis of the Carman-Cope Maps" which appeared in *The Lincoln Herald* in the summer of 1980. He is currently editing the papers of General E.A. Carman.

While in school Lilley worked summers at Gettysburg National Military Park, cutting grass in the National Cemetery and on the field of Pickett's Charge. In the fall of 1973 he went to

(continued on page 2)



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

## OFFICERS

President . . . . .	Robert H. Franke
Senior Vice President . . . . .	Marvin Sanderman
Vice President . . . . .	Donald E. Anderson
Vice President . . . . .	J. Robert Ziegler
Secretary . . . . .	Marvin Goldsher
Treasurer . . . . .	Nathan Yellen
Assistant Secretary . . . . .	William Margeson
Assistant Treasurer . . . . .	Daniel R. Weinberg
Inspector General . . . . .	Ted Eberly
Commissary General . . . . .	William J. Sullivan
Aide de Camp . . . . .	Merlin Sumner
Newsletter Editor . . . . .	David R. Richert
Contributing Editors . . . . .	Richard E. Clark Marshall D. Krolick

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terms expiring in 1982: Margaret April, Robert C. Grossman, Karl Sundstrom, Helmut Waedt.

Terms expiring in 1983: Betsy Davis, J. William Gimbel, Jr., Matthias Lorenz, James Vlazney.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Membership-Hospitality . . . . .	Ward C. Smidl, Matt Lorenz
Publicity . . . . .	Betsy Davis, Bill Hanlon
Nominating . . . . .	Robert G. Walter
Battlefield Tour . . . . .	Daniel R. Weinberg, J. Robert Ziegler
Research Center . . . . .	Nathan Yellen
Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner . . . . .	Paul Klinger
Battlefield Preservation . . . . .	Wayne J. Anderson
Members' Resource Exchange . . . . .	Paul Klinger
House . . . . .	Ted Eberly, David St. John
Oral History . . . . .	Pat Krelle
Tape Record Librarian . . . . .	J. William Gimbel, Jr.

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.



(continued from page 1)

St. Augustine, Florida to work at Fort Marion. He also worked at Fort Matanzas there and at Fort Pulaski, Georgia. He arrived at Fredericksburg in June 1975 and reached his current position as park historian in 1977.

\*\*\*\*\*

We record with sorrow the passing, on January 3, of long-time member Verne T. Miners. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family.

The preservation and restoration of houses with ties to the Civil War is in the news this month. The Associated Press reports that the cabin used by U.S. Grant and his wife for the last ten months of the war is being returned to its original home at Appomattox Manor in the City Point section of Hopewell, Virginia. The cabin had been brought to Philadelphia in 1865 but in recent years had fallen prey to vandals and termites. The 25-by-27 foot, T-shaped cabin is being dismantled piece-by-piece by the National Park Service for the trip back to Virginia.

Grant had the cabin built in 1864. After he took Richmond and Lee surrendered, the cabin was abandoned by the Army and given to George Stuart, a Philadelphian who was then president of the U.S. Sanitary Commission. Stuart took the cabin to Philadelphia's Fairmount Park where it was used, off and on, as a tourist attraction. According to Henry Magaziner, a historical architect who is supervising the dismantling and will direct the reconstruction, "there were hundreds of thousands of log cabins built by the Army during the Civil War, and this is the only one known to have survived."

United Press International reports that the Brown House (or Kennedy Farm) in western Maryland, where John Brown and his men prepared for their raid on Harper's Ferry, has undergone extensive restoration. The present owner spent eight years researching the house's past and having it designated a national historic landmark. Now that the exterior work is complete, plans are to furnish the house with period furniture and open it to the public.

Somewhat closer to home, in Saunemin, Illinois (about 75 miles southwest of Chicago, near Pontiac), a group, which includes the Dwight Civil War Round Table, has been formed for the purpose of restoring the house of a female Civil War soldier and returning it from Pontiac to Saunemin. The house was occupied by Albert D.J. Cashier, the only woman to receive a pension for serving in combat in the Civil War. Cashier was really Jennie Rodgers, who disguised her sex throughout the war and for almost half a century after it.

The house was scheduled to be destroyed in the early 1960s, but the Central States Threshermen's Reunion asked for it to restore and use at the annual reunion in Pontiac. It was moved there in 1962 and served as a tourist attraction for several years. However, upkeep became too much for the Threshermen's group and the house has deteriorated.

Cashier lived in the house in Saunemin from 1869 until a leg injury forced her to move to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in Quincy in 1911. There her secret became public and she had to live the last year of her life as a woman. However, her tombstone simply states her regiment, the 95th Illinois, and the name she fought by—Albert D.J. Cashier.

\* \* \*

According to a report in the Harrisburg Round Table newsletter, Elmo Williams, who has made such films as "The Longest Day," "Tora, Tora, Tora," and "The Blue Max" is exploring the possibility of producing a film on the Battle of Gettysburg. The project apparently hinges on the outcome of a Harris Poll to measure public interest in such a film, and on the cooperation of the National Park Service in allowing the use of the actual battlefield locations.

If the project goes ahead, it is hoped that any incidents such as occurred during the filming of "The Blue and the Gray" at Prairie Grove Battlefield Park can be avoided. There, park administrators gave the film crew permission to build an additional room on the historic Borden House and then blow it up. However, things went awry and more than the "new" room was damaged by the explosion. This incident was reported in the Civil War Round Table of Arkansas newsletter.



## JANUARY MEETING

The siege of Charleston, South Carolina, which lasted from 1861-1865, is regarded as the longest investment of the Civil War. And yet, the city never suffered a single day of siege in the common military definition of the term. Telling the interesting and often ironic story of the "siege" of Charleston at The Round Table meeting on January 8 was William C. "Jack" Davis. He included in his talk fascinating glimpses of some of the personalities involved in the siege, both Union and Confederate.

Jack began the story with the arrival of Major Robert Anderson at Fort Sumter in November, 1860. When the Confederates began their bombardment, Anderson and his men did their duty but were finally forced to surrender. Ironically, although no one was killed during the bombardment, a powder charge exploded during the surrender ceremony, killing two of Anderson's men.

Following the fall of the Fort, the Confederates, under P.G.T. Beauregard, believed they must consolidate the defenses of the city. While no ships could sail past Sumter and the three other forts protecting the harbor, it would have been possible to attack by land. Beauregard foresaw this and built extensive fortifications. Fortunately for the Confederates, Jack noted, Charleston was not a high federal priority at this time, giving the Confederates plenty of time to complete their work.

The attack in November by Admiral Samuel Du Pont on Port Royale Sound, which the north saw as a good base for their blockaders, awakened the Confederates to the fact that the federals might be interested in Charleston. However, the federal attack did not come until June, 1862. Then, Union General David Hunter landed on James Island in an attempt to attack Charleston by land. Defending James was Nathan G. Evans who, as Jack pointed out, was a heavy drinker and a braggart. The Union forces were defeated at Secessionville and Charleston remained safe.

But now a definite decision had been made in Washington to take Charleston and Admiral Du Pont began preparing for attack. As Jack noted, an extensive program of Monitor (ironclad) building had begun and it was expected that these ships would be able to take the city. In April, 1863, Du Pont launched his attack but the Confederates, using previously placed buoys as markers, directed a deadly fire that disabled five of his ships. Du Pont was relieved of command and replaced by Admiral John Dahlgren when he opposed further fleet attacks on Charleston. Ironically, as Jack noted, the Du Pont family supplied much of the powder used in the war and Samuel could have added to the family fortune by continuing to attack. However, he saw it was futile.

It soon became the army's turn to try to take the city. General Quincy Gilmore took James Island and planned to capture Battery Wagner, leaving the fleet under Dahlgren free to sail in. But Wagner withstood heavy bombardment and the assault led by the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry under Colonel Robert Shaw failed with considerable Federal casualties. Gilmore finally took Wagner and then turned his attention to Sumter. But once again Sumter survived. As Jack noted Sumter always managed to survive even when, as in 1864, its total armament consisted of four shoulder rifles.

Gilmore decided to bombard Charleston itself with a long range siege gun and incendiary shells. This sporadic bombardment lasted one and one-half years, but again the Federals failed to take the city. Gilmore finally asked for a transfer.

Turning to Confederate efforts to break the blockade, Jack said they too tried to use ironclads. In addition, they used mines and in 1863 designed a torpedo steamer to take mines out to the blockaders. But the most unique effort was the use of the submarine, C.S.S. Hunley. The Hunley, which was hand

operated and which, Jack said, resembled a floating coffin, sank several times during tests, killing a total of 33 men. Finally, early in 1864 it managed to sink the Housatonic but also sank itself.

And so the siege went on with the Federals unable to take the city and the Confederates unable to break the blockade. The people of Charleston, soldiers and civilians alike, were determined not to surrender at any cost. Scarcity and disease made this more and more difficult. But, even to the end, they kept up a semblance of normal life, including holding balls.

Not until Sherman approached the city from inland did the city fall; the people of Charleston had no choice but to evacuate. Many of the Union soldiers vandalized the city (Jack said even Sherman was appalled). The war soon ended, however, and Major Anderson came back to the place he had left four years before to once again raise the stars and stripes.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Illinois State Historical Society is seeking proposals for papers, or sessions, to be delivered at the Third Annual Symposium on Illinois History, December 3-4, 1982. Papers, or sessions, will be considered on any aspect of the history, literature, art and culture, politics, geography, archeology, anthropology, and related fields of Illinois and/or the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys. The Symposium will be held in Springfield.

Individuals who wish to submit proposals should send a three hundred to six hundred word summary, along with resumes of intended participants. Proposals must be received by April 15, 1982. Individuals will be notified of the Committee's decision by June 1, 1982. For further information, contact Roger D. Bridges, Director of Research, Illinois State Historical Library, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois 62706 (217) 782-4836.

\*\*\*\*\*

The 1982 Battlefield Tour committee has set up a program to assist all those who are interested in driving to Gettysburg. If you need a ride, or if you are driving and have room in your car, please contact either Dan Weinberg at the Book Shop (944-3085) or Margaret April (787-1860). It appears there will be no bus to Gettysburg since very few members expressed any interest in taking it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Why was it that Robert E. Lee never achieved total victory over the north, and particularly why did his genius seem to lay dormant at Gettysburg? The answer, according to a new psychoanalytic biography of Lee, is that Lee was simply a gentle person who never wanted total victory.

The author, Pierre Illiez, maintains that although Lee was not a secessionist and felt slavery was a calamity for both blacks and whites, he felt obligated to offer his services to Virginia. However, he adopted an attitude of do nothing, or rather, do nothing beyond that absolutely vital to the defense of Virginia. This, says Illiez, explains Lee's wins as well as his defeats; when he was fighting on his own soil, defending against the invader, he was invincible. On the other hand, on the only two occasions he ventured into enemy territory, he was defeated.

If you plan on reading this book, you had better brush up on your French first. Its title—*L'Autorite discrete de Robert Lee, ou les victoires manquees de la guerre de Secession*, 205 pages, Librairie Academique Perrin.



## THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Bleser, Carol, editor. *The Hammonds of Redcliffe*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1981, \$19.95.

Jenkins, Brian. *Britain and the War for the Union*. vol. 2. Montreal: McGill-Queens University Press, 1981. 470 p. \$26.50. Vol. 1 appeared in 1974.

Ripley, William. *Vermont Riflemen in the War: A History of Company F, First United States (Berdan's) Sharpshooters*. Rochester, Michigan: G and Army Press, 1981. 256 p., illus. \$20.00. Reprint of the original of 1883.

Roller, David C. and Robert W. Twyman, editors. *The Encyclopedia of Southern History*. Baton Rouge and London: Louisiana State University Press, 1979. 1421 p. \$75.00

Starr, John W. *Lincoln and the Railroads*. New York: Arno Press, 1981. 325 p., illus. Original of 1927.

---

On October 13, 1862, the Congress of the Confederate States of America authorized the awarding of the Confederate Medal of Honor to those Confederate military personnel who demonstrated "uncommon valor and bravery involving risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in defense of their homeland and its noble ideals." As none of the Medals of Honor were ever actually awarded, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the national organization of descendants of Confederate veterans, has established a program to recognize outstanding performance by Confederate military personnel and award the Medal of Honor posthumously to those who it is felt would have received it had it been possible.

The fifteenth Medal of Honor, and the only one awarded to a group of people, was presented on January 16, 1982 in Louisville, Kentucky to Mrs. Elizabeth Heavey of Tulsa, Oklahoma, daughter of Lt. Bennett Henderson Young, a native of Louisville, who commanded the St. Albans Raiders, a small group of Confederate soldiers who successfully penetrated deep into Union territory and raided the bank at St. Albans, Vermont on October 19, 1864. The Medal of Honor being awarded to the St. Albans Raiders will be on permanent display at the Kentucky Military Museum at Frankfort, along with the citation describing the bravery demonstrated by this small group of men.

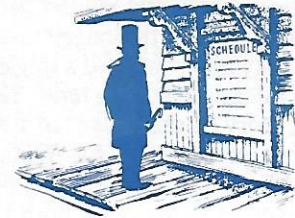
\*\*\*\*\*

The Pat Cleburne Memorial Association is endeavoring to place a bronze bust of General Patrick Cleburne in the Carnton House near Franklin, Tennessee. (After the Battle of Franklin, the Carnton House porch held the bodies of five Confederate generals, including Cleburne). Artist Pat Horan has created an excellent likeness of the general which has been delivered to a foundry for casting in bronze. The dedication will be held sometime this spring.

The cost of the bust is about \$3,300, but the Association is about \$500 short. Anyone interested in contributing should contact Mr. Patrick Horan, 423 South 18th Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901.

Restoration of the Carnton House itself is also reportedly progressing well. Almost in ruins in 1977, the house and ten acres were donated in 1978 to the Carnton Association, Inc. which began the task of restoring and refurbishing it.

## 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.

February 12: David Lilley on "Ezra Ayers Carman—The Unheralded Historian of Antietam"

March 12: Gordon Whitney on "The Mystery of Spring Hill"

April 9: Pat Newman on "Julia Dent Grant"

May 5-9: Annual Battlefield Tour: Gettysburg

May 14: Zenos Hawkinson on "Mr. Lincoln's War and the Immigrant Imagination"

June 11: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and installation of officers, Recipient of award: Frank E. Vandiver.

### NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Richard W. Dyke, 542 W. 83rd Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46260. (317) 251-7985. Dr. Dyke works for Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis and is interested in military aspects of the war as well as Lincoln.

Larry Gibbs, 5704 Independence Avenue, Oak Forest Illinois 60452. (312) 687-6590. Larry, who teaches social studies at Rich South High School in Richton Park, is president of the South Suburban Civil War Round Table in Matteson.

Donald L. Hatch, Jr., 1013 Morningside, Round Lake Beach, Illinois (60073). (312) 546-6815. Mr. Hatch works for Round Lake School District 116 and is interested in military aspects of the war.

Gerald Kallman, 6S305 New Castle Road, Naperville, Illinois 60540. Mr. Kallman works for Oxford University Press. He is interested in Lincoln as well as both military and political aspects of the war.

Randy H. Lusher, P.O. Box 27, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515. (312) 964-3725. Randy works for SSI Industries in Hinsdale and is interested in military aspects of the war.

William R. Wiggins, 3030 Roberts Road, Unit 3, Woodridge, Illinois 60517. (312) 852-4885. Mr. Wiggins is a junior high school social studies teacher at Edison School in Stickney.

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

George and Eileen Curry, 2117 Cedar Road, Homewood, Illinois 60430.

Thomas J. Price, 325 West Lane, Geneva, Illinois 60134.

\*\*\*\*\*

The New Market Battlefield Park will sponsor the 15th annual reenactment of the Battle of New Market, Virginia, on Sunday, May 9, 1982 at 2 p.m. The previous day will feature infantry and artillery competition. Registration is limited to the first 600 Confederates and 600 Union troops; the deadline is April 20. For more information write: New Market Battlefield Park, P.O. Box 1864, New Market, Virginia 22844.