

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLVI, Number 10

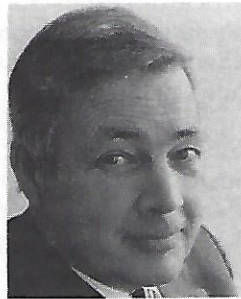
Chicago, Illinois

June, 1986

## James I. Robertson, Jr. on General A. P. Hill: Symbol of the Confederacy

Among his last words, Robert E. Lee called out: "Tell Hill he must come up!" During his last hours at the little house at Guiney's Station, "Stonewall" Jackson said: "Order A. P. Hill to prepare for action! Pass the infantry to the front!" Until his own death on April 2, 1865 at Petersburg, Hill had participated in every major battle fought by the Army of Northern Virginia. On June 6th, Dr. James I. 'Bud' Robertson, professor of history at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia, will share with us his insights into the life and character of this fierce Confederate commander. "Bud" is currently at work on a comprehensive biography of the general which is due for publication later this year.

Although A. P. Hill was one of the central figures of the Civil War, he is still one of the least known. In 'Bud's' view, the dominant qualities of Hill—fighting prowess, pride, sensitivity, sacrifice—were also the salient characteristics of the short-lived nation that he served and for which he gave his life. He was, and remains, the "symbol of the Confederacy."



James I. Robertson, Jr.

"Little Powell" was a man of several self-contradictions. A professional soldier, he disdained uniforms and showy insignia of rank, preferring to wear a bright red shirt in battle. Though he was recognized as the hardest fighter among Lee's lieutenants, no general evidenced more concern for the welfare of his men. He was a "stickler" for military protocol and obedience to duty; on the other hand, he almost fought a duel with Longstreet, and his eighteen-month feud with Jackson almost shattered the command structure of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Rapid promotion marked the Civil War career of this magnificent combat officer. Commissioned Colonel of the 13th Virginia infantry on May 9, 1861, he was appointed a brigadier general in Longstreet's division on February 26, 1862. A distinguished performance at Williamsburg and in the Peninsula campaign would earn him promotion to major general on May 26, 1862. When Jackson fell mortally wounded in the woods of Chancellorsville, Hill succeeded to command of the Second Corps, but was wounded himself and had to be replaced by "Jeb" Stuart. When Lee reorganized the Army of Northern Virginia after Jackson's death, Hill was given command of the newly created Third



452nd Regular Meeting

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James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr.  
on  
General A. P. Hill:  
Symbol of the Confederacy

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Friday, June 6, 1986

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Quality Inn  
Halsted and Madison  
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
\$13.00 per person  
Entree: Roast Pork, Fish or Fruit Plate



### Please Note

The June meeting is being held the first Friday of the month, *not* the second. Dinner will be served in the Bounty Table Restaurant on the first floor of the Quality Inn. We will then adjourn to the Monroe A & B Rooms on the second floor for Bud Robertson's talk.

Corps and promoted to lieutenant general on May 24, 1863.

The eighth recipient of our Nevins-Freeman award in June, 1981, "Bud" Robertson is a native of the Old Dominion, born at Danville. He received his B.A. degree from Randolph-Macon College. Under the tutelage of Bell I. Wiley, he secured both his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Emory University. His contributions to Civil War literature are most substantial, as he has written and edited 22 books and more than 150 articles on this period of our nation's history. His books include *The Stonewall Brigade* (1963); *Civil War Sites in Virginia* (1982); and *Tenting Tonight: The*

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# 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 Dan Weinberg, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.



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*Soldier's Life* (1984). Works he has edited include: Sarah Morgan Dawson's *A Confederate Girl's Diary* (1960); James Longstreet's *From Manassas to Appomattox* (1960); *The Concise Illustrated History of the Civil War* (1961); *Virginia: Iron Gate to the Confederacy* (1961); Walter H. Taylor's *Four Years with General Lee* (1962); John H. Worsham's *One of Jackson's Foot Cavalry* (1964); *The Civil War Letters of General Robert McAllister* (1965); *Civil War Books: A Critical Bibliography* (Vol. I-1967, Vol. II-1969); and *An Index-Guide to the Southern Historical Society Papers* (in two volumes-1980). For many years, the pages of *Civil War Times Illustrated* have included his column, *The War in Words*, in which he has profiled the best writings in Civil War literature.

On the Virginia Tech campus, he teaches the largest Civil War history course in the United States, with over 500 students enrolled per quarter. He also serves as that university's Faculty Chairman of Athletics, as well as Chairman of Faculty Representatives for the College Football Association. He also serves as a varsity football official for games in the Atlantic Coast Conference and has officiated at three post-season bowl games.

**Fellow member and Battlefield Tour companion Gordon Dammann** of Lena, Illinois, was the subject of an article in the March-April issue of *Illinois Magazine*. The article discussed Gordon's collection of Civil War medical equipment, his appearances in the schools portraying a Civil War surgeon, and his work with the Lena Historical Society.

On April 19, Gordon presented a lecture for the Smithsonian Institution on "Civil War Instruments and Instrumentation," and on June 12 he will address the "Old Baldy" Round Table in Philadelphia "In Defense of the Civil War Surgeon."

**The third annual reenactment of the first day's battle at Gettysburg** will be held at Harrogate (Cumberland Gap), Tennessee August 29-31. There will also be uniform and drill competition, a formal period ball with original instruments and music, and a live fire competition for infantry and artillery. For further information, contact Capt. Edgar G. Archer, Director, Abraham Lincoln Museum, Harrogate, TN 37752 (615) 869-3511.

**Ford's Theatre has announced a campaign** to replace the theatre's existing chairs, which are replicas of the original seatings from Lincoln's time. The theatre plans to install new, historically correct, more comfortable chairs. The existing chairs are available for a tax-deductible contribution of \$500 each; each will have a plaque denoting its historical authenticity and importance. For further information, contact the development office at Ford's Theatre, 202-638-2941.

**Construction workers in Charleston, South Carolina**, recently unearthed a Civil War artillery shell. A local authority on Civil War armaments identified it as a 6.4 inch diameter Parrott. It could have been fired at the city by Union forces at Morris Island sometime during the bombardment of Charleston that began in September 1863 and ended in February, 1865. The shell was removed by a Navy Explosive Ordnance Demolition team.



### May meeting

On May 9, 93 members and guests attended the 451st regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table to hear fellow member Gordon Whitney discuss Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

During the first two and one half years of his administration, Lincoln faced frustration and disappointment in carrying out his office. He struggled with a war he did not want, and a war that was fostering political unrest. In the fall elections of 1862, the Democrats gained control of the House. Lincoln faced opposition from his own party; the Radical Republicans felt he was not vigorously conducting the North's war effort.

The war and its repercussions brought a self-imposed exile for Lincoln. He made few public appearances because he was involved strictly with military affairs. However, in July of 1863, Grant and Meade's victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg brought new hope to the war-weary north. These victories gave political strength to Lincoln's administration.

The intense fighting at Gettysburg had left little time to bury the thousands of dead; the majority were buried in temporary graves. In 1861, the Secretary of War had ordered that records of deceased soldiers be kept and that the Quartermaster Department place a registered headboard over each grave. However, these services were not performed on a regular basis. A significant by-product of Gettysburg was the country's desire to show humane consideration for its dead soldiers.

Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania toured the Gettysburg battlefield and appointed David Wills, a local attorney, to the task of re-interring Pennsylvania's soldiers who were killed in the battle. However, soldiers from 17 other Northern states had also fallen. The only solution to this was the establishment of a proper cemetery. Governor Curtin acted quickly with the creation of a non-profit corporation entitled "The National Cemetery," which, in turn, purchased 17 acres of land on Cemetery Hill. Invitations were sent to the other Northern states inviting them to join the project and to pay their allocated share of the expense.

By late August the work of re-interring the dead was progressing well. Plans were made to properly dedicate the cemetery with a day of music, parades, receptions, and a solemn oration. Edward Everett was asked to be the main speaker. Seventy years of age, a past governor of Massachusetts and a former president of Harvard, Everett was the greatest orator in America. The event was scheduled for October 23, but Everett requested November 19, citing travel time and the need for time to study the campaign.

The invitation to President Lincoln was vague and confusing; the first invitation contained no request for Lincoln to speak. On November 2, Wills sent a formal invitation to Lincoln, requesting that he attend the dedication and asking the President if he would "formally set apart these grounds to their sacred use by a few appropriate remarks." The President quickly accepted the invitation. He arrived at Gettysburg on November 18 and spent the evening at the home of David Wills, where a dinner and reception was held. Lincoln then went to his room saying he was putting a few thoughts on paper.

The ceremonies began at 7 a.m. on the 19th with an artillery salute, followed by a parade. By 11:20 a.m., when Lincoln arrived at the cemetery, a crowd of 15,000 had gathered. The ceremonies opened with a prayer and the Marine Band played a soft dirge. Then, Everett arose and

began his two hour oration. After he completed his speech, a glee club sang a song composed for the occasion and then Lincoln was introduced. The President stood at the podium and waited for the crowd to become quiet. In his left hand he held his manuscript and uttered those few words which are now immortal.

When Lincoln finished, he sat down feeling disappointed. Everett turned to him and said, "Mr. President, allow me to congratulate you on those noble sentiments," to which Lincoln replied, "I am sorry I could say so little, I had only 20 lines." "Yes, Mr. Lincoln," continued Everett, "but there was more in your 20 lines than in my 20 pages."

**The Third Annual Gettysburg Civil War Book Fair** will be held at the Gettysburg Holiday Inn July 5 and 6. For further information, contact C. Batson, Box 143X, Centerville, VA 22020 (703) 631-0884.

**To commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Civil War**, the Friends of Virginia Civil War Parks is sponsoring special ceremonies at each of the five Civil War parks in Virginia, beginning with Manassas July 18-20. Succeeding ceremonies will be held in Richmond in 1987, Fredericksburg in 1988, Petersburg in 1989, and Appomattox in 1990.

The activities in Manassas will begin on Friday, July 18 at 7 p.m. with a Civil War concert and Twilight Tattoo by the U.S. Army Band. There will be another concert by the U.S. Army Band at 9 a.m. Saturday, preceding the 11 a.m. ceremony to which President Reagan, Virginia Senator Warner and Park Director Mott have been invited. There will also be artillery demonstrations, living history presentations and tours of the battlefield.

Starting at 1 p.m. on Saturday a Civil War seminar will be held at the Holiday Inn. The focus will be Manassas and among the speakers are Bob Kirck, Harold Howard and James I. Robertson. The cost of the seminar and banquet that evening is \$35. For further information, contact Vickie Heilig, 11843 Summer Oak Drive, Germantown, Maryland 20874 (301) 972-3496.

**Fellow member and president-elect Pat Sumner** addressed the Ft. Wayne Round Table on May 12. Her topic was "Fighting Lady: The Woman in Uniform."

**A seminar on the Harper's Ferry campaigns** will be held at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania June 29-July 5. Among the speakers will be Ed Bearss, William Frassanito, Gabor Boritt, Harold Holzer, Mark Neely, Jr., and Tom Wicker. The cost is \$306 per person. For further information, contact Gabor Boritt, Box 442, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

**Ceremonies commemorating the 125th anniversary of the death of Stephen A. Douglas** will be held at the Douglas Tomb, 636 East 35th Street, Chicago, on Sunday, June 1 at 11 a.m. The 10th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, will participate. The ceremonies will be followed by a brunch buffet at 12:15 at the Hyde Park Hilton, 4900 S. Lake Shore Drive. Dr. Roger D. Bridges, head of the Illinois State Historical Library, will discuss "The Compromise of Stephen A. Douglas." The cost of the brunch is \$15. To make a reservation, call Ralph Newman at (312) 787-1860.



# The New Books

compiled by Dick Clark



## BULLETIN BOARD

*Above and Beyond: A History of the Medal of Honor from the Civil War to Vietnam.* By the editors of Boston Publishing Company; produced in cooperation with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society of the United States of America. Boston: Boston Pub. Co., 1985. 346 p., illus. \$39.95.

Barber, James G. *U.S. Grant: The Man and the Image.* With an essay by John Y. Simon. Published by the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington City in association with Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, and Edwardsville, 1985. 79 p., illus., 28cm. stiff paper cover. \$10.00.

Bassler, J.H. *The Color Episode of the 149th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, in the First Day's Fight at Gettysburg July 1, 1863.* Paper read before The Lebanon County Historical Society, October 18, 1907... Baltimore: Butternut and Blue, 1985. 34 p. \$6.00.

Beringer, Richard E., Herman Hattaway, Archer Jones, William N. Still, Jr. *Why the South Lost the Civil War.* Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1986. 582 p., maps, illus., plates, bibliog., index. \$29.95.

Books at Brown. Volumes xxxi-xxxii, 1984-1985. *Lincoln and Lincolniana.* Providence, RI: The Friends of the Library of Brown University, 1985. xiv, 126 p., illus., folding plate. Stiff-paper wraps.

Brown, Dee Alexander. *The Galvanized Yankees.* Lincoln: The University of Nebraska Press, 1986. pbk \$7.95. Original of 1963.

Cleaves, Freeman. *Rock of Chickamauga: The Life of General George H. Thomas.* Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986. 340 p., illus., maps, bibliog., index. Pbk \$11.95. Original of 1948.

Crook, George. *General George Crook: His Autobiography.* Edited and annotated by Martin F. Schmitt. With a new forward by Joseph C. Porter. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986. Original of 1946. 368 p., illus., maps, bibliog., index. pbk \$9.95.

*Dictionary of American Military Biography.* Edited by Roger J. Spiller, Joseph G. Dawson, III and T. Harry Williams. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1984. 3 vols. \$145.00.

Eckenrode, H.J. and Bryan Conrad. *James Longstreet, Lee's War Horse.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina. 1986. 399 p., maps, index. \$19.95. With a few forward by Gary W. Gallagher.

Fleming, Francis P. *Memoirs of Captain C. Seton Fleming of the Second Florida Infantry, C.S.A.* Illustrative of the History of the Florida Troops in Virginia During the War Between the States, with an Appendix of Casualties. New Introduction by Rodney Dillon. Alexandria, VA: Stone-wall House, 1984. Original of 1884. 155 p., illus., index. \$20.00.

Spiegel, Marcus. *Your True Marcus: The Civil War Letters of a Jewish Colonel.* Edited by Frank Byrne and Jean Powers Soman. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1986. 364 p., pbk \$11.95. The hard-cover format still available at \$19.95.

### Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Quality Inn, Halsted and Madison, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

June 6: James I. "Bud" Robertson on "General A. P. Hill: Symbol of the Confederacy." **Note:** This is the first Friday of the month.

July 12: Summer Executive Committee Meeting

July 27: Picnic

September 12: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner. Recipient of Award, Dr. Harold M. Hyman.

October 10: Michael Chesson on "The Day Richmond Died."

November 14: Sherman Lavigna on "Benjamin Butler."

December 12: Howard McManus on "The Battle of Cloyd's Mountain."

January 9, 1987: Alan Nolan on "A Northerner's View of Robert E. Lee."

February 13: Ralph G. Newman on "A Look at Robert Todd Lincoln."

March 13: Richard Selcer on "The Relationship of Lee and Pickett at Gettysburg."

April 10: To be announced.

April 30-May 3: Annual Battlefield Tour: The Trans-Mississippi.

May 8: Betty Otto on "Antietam."

### Changes of address

Peter E. Gutzmer, 533 W. Roscoe, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

Hon. Neil F. Hartigan, 100 W. Randolph, 12th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

Paul Klekner, 7309 Ryan Rd., Harvard, Illinois 60033.

John Krelle, 445 S. Elmhurst Rd., Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056 (312) 259-7045.

Richard F. Lemal, 606 Crescent Ave., Apt. 3A, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060.

Merlin and Pat Sumner, 445 S. Elmhurst Rd., Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056 (312) 259-7045.

### 1987 Battlefield Tour

The Executive Committee, at its meeting May 9, selected the Trans-Mississippi as the site of the 1987 Battlefield Tour, to be held April 30-May 3. Among the places to be visited are Wilson's Creek, Newtonia, Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove. Bill Sullivan will serve as chairman of the tour committee.

**Gettysburg National Military Park is offering a \$100 reward** for information leading to the recovery of the Henry O. Merwin marker stolen from the park last fall. It is a granite "tombstonelike" marker 18 inches high, 14 inches wide and 4¾ inches thick, inscribed "In Memory of/Lt. Col./Henry O. Merwin/27th C.V./Who Fell Mortally/Wounded Where/This Monument of His/Regiment Stands." Anyone with information should call (717) 334-1124.