



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLIX, Number 3

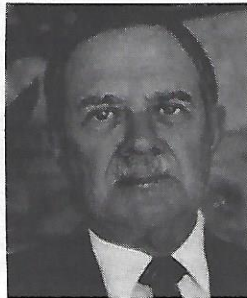
Chicago, Illinois

November, 1988

Gordon Whitney on "Sherman and His Lieutenants"

by Barbara Hughett

General William Tecumseh Sherman, to be sure, was a strange and unusual man. His pre-Civil War life had been filled with failures and disappointments, all of which was reflected in his character and personality. His military career in the Civil War, up to possibly Vicksburg, was almost the same. Charges of incompetency and insanity had severely depressed him, causing him to become a harsh and hard man who trusted very few people. But to his soldiers, his "boys," he was the caring and compassionate "Uncle Billy." Yet, the selection of his lieutenants was one of question and perplexity. All were extremely different in personality, thought, and behavior. Sherman's talent in being able to get the most out of each of them was a key factor in his success.



Gordon Whitney

While Sherman's hatred for politicians was legendary, two of his lieutenants, Logan and Blair, were extremely active politically, even leaving the army to campaign. Sherman liked the commanders who came out of the West. However, for the "March to the Sea," his selection for wing commanders were Howard and Slocum, both from the Army of the Potomac. Each subordinate had a profound effect on the commander. Some who failed felt his wrath, while others continued in his good graces. Although he had his favorites, by the end of the war, most of his men had the highest respect for him.

On November 11th, former Round Table president Gordon Whitney will address The Civil War Round Table on the subject of "Sherman and His Lieutenants." He will talk about General Sherman, as well as give thumb-nail sketches of each of his lieutenants: Thomas, Howard, Davis, Slocum, Schofield, Logan, Hazen, Blair, Dodge, Mower, and McPherson. Additionally, he will explore the kind of relationship each of these men had with his commander.

Although born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Gordon Whitney spent many years as a resident of Hammond, Indiana. He served that city for 23 years as a member of its fire department, rising to the rank of senior captain. While a member of the department, he authored a history of it and instituted its archives. Since retiring from municipal service and moving to Madison, Indiana, his pursuits have been many and varied, including activities in private business and farming. Currently, he is safety director for a new



475th Regular Meeting

Gordon Whitney
on
Sherman and His Lieutenants

Friday, November 11, 1988

Quality Inn
Halsted and Madison

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$15.00 per person

Entree: Sauteed Pepper Steak, White Fish,
or Fruit Plate



construction project being undertaken by Dow-Corning. Gordon was president of The Round Table in 1973-74, served as president of the Louisville Round Table in 1976-77, and organized the Jefferson County Civil War Round Table in 1985. He has also been president of the Hammond Historical Society and is an honorary life member of the Civil War Round Table of the United Kingdom.

Gordon's ties to the Civil War are strong, as he had relatives in both the 1st Michigan Cavalry and the 22nd Michigan Infantry. His interest in the latter regiment and his resulting study of the western theater of the war in which it served has led to his becoming one of our foremost authorities on the campaigns of the Army of the Cumberland. He presented a program on "The Battle of Nashville" at the Civil War Round Table Associates seminar in Nashville, Tennessee in early October. He is presently working with the Indiana Historical Society, putting together a cassette program on Union General Jeff C. Davis. Gordon last spoke to us in March 1986 at the Grant Symposium. His topic then was "Grant at Chattanooga."

Round Table treasurer Mary Abroe reminds members that 1988-89 dues must be paid by December 1. Persons not paid by that date will be dropped from the rolls.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
 18 East Chestnut Street
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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 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, IL 60611.



The White House of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia has reopened to the public after about 10 years of painstaking restoration. The house features Southern taste of 125 years ago and illustrates daily life in the executive mansion from August 1861 to April 1865. About 80 percent of the Davises' furnishings have been recovered and are in the museum.

After the confederacy collapsed, the Union Army used the house as headquarters until the end of Reconstruction. It was used as a school from 1870-1890, and was then purchased by the Confederate Memorial Literary Society which reopened it in 1896 as a Confederate museum.

Battlefield Preservation Report

by Dan Josephs

In the last newsletter it was reported that legislation concerning the Manassas National Battlefield Park was being considered in the U.S. Senate. The U.S. House approved in August a legislative taking of 542 acres of land, known as the William Center Tract. Other provisions of this House bill included a study to be done of the relocation of Highways 29 and 34 which run through the Park.

On October 7, the U.S. Senate considered, and voted on the legislation. While the House passed a separate bill, the Senate legislation concerning Manassas was in the nature of an amendment to a tax bill entitled "The Technical Corrections Act of 1988." Senator Bumpers, sponsor of the Senate bill, reportedly felt the President would be less likely to veto the tax bill and therefore it was an advantage to have the legislation as an amendment to it.

The "Technical Corrections Act of 1988," including the amendment regarding Manassas, went to the President October 21. You are encouraged to call the White House at (202) 456-1414 and urge him to sign the legislation.

Another battlefield in the path of commercial development in the Washington, D.C. area, Cedar Creek, is also being threatened. Cedar Creek, located approximately 75 miles west of Washington, D.C., was the scene of a major battle in the Shenandoah campaign in the fall of 1864. The National Trust For Historical Preservation owns the Belle Grove Plantation House, an 18th century structure which served as headquarters for Union General Philip Sheridan. Once surrounded by 1,000 acres of land, the area has been reduced to about 100 acres, according to the Decatur, IL CWRT newsletter. There are certain preserved fortifications to the west of the plantation which are in danger of extinction. The developer who owns the property has held off construction, but the future of Cedar Creek Battlefield remains uncertain.

The 125th anniversary observation of the Gettysburg Address will be held in Gettysburg November 19. "Abraham Lincoln" will be escorted by 3,000 uniformed troops from the train station to the cemetery, where he will deliver the address. Chief Justice of the U.S. William H. Rehnquist will preside over the observation.

According to a recent report by the Bradley Commission on History in the Schools, the history curriculums in American schools are "seriously inadequate." The Commission said that more than half of today's students did not take a basic history course in high school. Their report was based on a yearlong survey.

Commission members said history has been increasingly neglected in recent years as such new fields as computer science and health education have gained prominence. History lessons in elementary schools have been replaced almost entirely by social studies, a loose term describing geography, history and civics.

"We knew it was bad, and we're glad to have this factual documentation," said Samuel Gammon, executive director of the American Historical Association. "Our citizens are in danger of becoming amnesiacs if you maintain that history is collective memory."

The commission recommended that schools require all students to take at least two years of American history and two years of a combination of world and Western history during the 7th through 12th grades.

October Meeting

by Barbara Hughett

"The Charge on the Railroad Cut at Gettysburg" was the subject of a presentation on October 14th by Lance Herdegen and William J.K. Beaudot before 82 members and guests at the 474th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Mr. Herdegen, United Press International Regional Director for eight midwestern states, is secretary of the Milwaukee CWRT and editor of its newsletter, "General Orders." Mr. Beaudot, also a member of the Milwaukee CWRT, is a management librarian with the Milwaukee Public Library. Both men have published a wide variety of articles on Wisconsin Civil War topics and are currently working on a book about the 6th Wisconsin volunteers, tentatively titled *Gather Up The Deeds*. In the process of doing research for their book, Mr. Herdegen and Mr. Beaudot have come upon a number of previously unearthed sources. Among these is a newspaper, *The Milwaukee Sunday Telegraph*, which came into being in 1878 and continued to be published for 20 years. It was taken over, soon after its inception, by a former 6th Wisconsin adjutant who elicited from old veterans their reminiscences. This newspaper, Mr. Beaudot remarked, has proved to be "a gold mine of information, which has been lying dormant and untouched for almost a century."

"125 years ago last July," Mr. Herdegen noted, "the 'Calico Boys' of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry went to Pennsylvania and fought at a place called Gettysburg. They made a great charge on an unfinished railroad cut, captured the flag of the 2nd Mississippi Infantry, and took off 225 Confederate prisoners." Though this was a great accomplishment, in the weeks and months after the fighting, and even fifty years later, the Wisconsin veterans always felt that what they had done on that first morning at Gettysburg had been overlooked in the hundreds of accounts of the battle, most of which were written by Eastern writers and Eastern officers. As he went through the various letters and accounts of the Wisconsin men, Mr. Herdegen said that it became clear that there was a great, lingering resentment. They spent a lot of time trying to set the record straight concerning what they felt was their highest, brightest moment in four years of service, but they were not very successful at it.

The 6th Wisconsin was part of the famous Iron Brigade of the Army of the Potomac. Though the brigade itself won much honor and distinction, it was at Gettysburg that the 6th Wisconsin made an individual reputation. In that initial clash of infantry on July 1, 1863, the regiment fought, not with their famous brigade, but unattached and on their own. In the very beginning of the battle, with the whole Union position threatened, the Wisconsin regiment, which had been held in reserve, "double-quickened" 400 yards and then attacked the flank of the advancing Confederate brigade, commanded by Joseph R. Davis. The fighting occurred around an unfinished railroad cut, north of the Chambersburg Pike and west of Gettysburg. It was at this spot that the 6th Wisconsin restored the Union line. That morning, the right flank of the Union line was crumbling. Though the Iron Brigade had been unsuccessful in its attack on Confederate forces under Archer, Davis' brigade was in the process of swinging around the right flank and was in a position to come into the rear and to the right flank of the Iron Brigade. At that point, the 6th Wisconsin was ordered from its reserve position by a staff officer who told them to "Go to the right and go like hell!" And that's what they did.

They ran to the right, came up to the Chambersburg Pike, which had a split rail fence on either side of it, crossed the fence, and charged Davis' Confederate forces, who had run to the cover of the unfinished railroad cut. The charge was successful, but it came at a great cost. Of the 346 Wisconsin soldiers who started from the Chambersburg Pike, 160 were killed or wounded in a very short period of time, probably no longer than 15-20 minutes. The men of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry always believed that this charge was a key factor, not only in victory at Gettysburg, but perhaps in the whole Civil War.

Mr. Herdegen and Mr. Beaudot read excerpts from accounts written by some of the "Calico Boys" many years after the battle. Among these writings were those of "Mickey" Sullivan, the farmer turned soldier who carried a canteen of fresh milk into the battle and received his third battle wound that morning. Writing in 1883, the former high private made this observation about the charge: "It is forgotten by all, except by a few veterans and cripples and the wives and mothers who lost all they held dear... forgotten by all." There is a postscript, which Mr. Herdegen related, to this story. Last summer, the 125th Anniversary reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg was staged, with 12,000 reenactors and living history people on the field. To represent the Iron Brigade in depicting the fighting on the first day of battle, the regiments selected were the 19th Indiana and the 24th Michigan. Overlooked yet again were the roles played by the 2nd Wisconsin, the 7th Wisconsin, and the 6th Wisconsin on that first day of the Battle of Gettysburg.

The *New York Times* reported recently on the increased security measures being taken by various libraries to protect priceless documents while still allowing access to researchers and scholars. Archivists report a steady increase in thefts recently. "It is due in part to the increasingly high price paid for rare papers," said Edmund Berkeley, Jr., curator of special collections at the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia.

Both the Library of Congress and the National Archives are reviewing their security practices as a result of the F.B.I.'s arrest last year of Charles Merrill Mount, a Washington writer and artist, and the subsequent discovery that scores of historical documents were missing from the two repositories. (A safe deposit box belonging to Mount contained over 200 Civil War era documents.) The Library of Congress is considering a reconfiguration of its manuscript reading room to allow closer observation of researchers. Claudine Weiher, acting deputy archivist at the National Archives, said, "About a year ago, over the loud objections of many of our researchers, we took some steps to change procedures to minimize risk. We have now what we call a 'clean' reading room, which means you can't take anything in with you but a pencil." The Archives, which serves 100,000 researchers a year, is considering a bolstered and better-trained security force and the installation of closed-circuit television cameras. (The above item appeared in The Philadelphia Round Table newsletter.)

Twenty-five years ago, Fairfax County, Virginia, published a 70-page booklet entitled, "Fairfax County and the War Between the States." Due to renewed interest, the County has reprinted the booklet. It is available for \$5.22 from Fairfax County Publication Sales, 4100 Chain Bridge Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030.



The New Books

Compiled by Robert Douglas

Editor's note: Beginning with this issue, Bob Douglas will prepare the monthly list of new books. The Round Table extends its sincere thanks to Dick Clark who faithfully compiled "The New Books" for the last approximately 20 years.

Brown, Varina Davis. *A Colonel at Gettysburg and Spotsylvania: The Life of Colonel Joseph Newton Brown*. Baltimore, MD: Butternut and Blue. 1988. \$25.00. Original of 1931.

Bruce, Brevet Lt. Col. George. *The Twentieth Regiment of Massachusetts Vol. Inf. 1861-1865*. Baltimore, MD: Butternut and Blue. 1988. \$32.50. Original of 1906.

Cooke, John Esten. *Wearing of the Gray: Being Personal Portraits, Scenes and Adventures of the War*. Gaithersburg, MD: Olde Soldier Books, Inc. 1988. \$30.00. Original of 1867.

Currie-McDaniel, Ruth. *Carpetbagger of Conscience: A Biography of John Emory Bryant*. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press. 1987. \$30.00.

Daly, Louise P. *Alexander Cheves Haskell*. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publ. Co. 1988. Edited by Lee Wallace, with index. 1988. \$24.95.

Dickert, Augustus. *History of Kershaw's Brigade*. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publ. Co. 1988. Edited by Mac Wyckoff, with new index, maps and introduction. \$29.95. Original of 1899.

Early, Jubal A. *Autobiographical Sketch*. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publ. Co. 1988. New maps, with introduction by Gary Gallagher. \$29.95. Original of 1912.

Grebner, Constantin. *"We Were the Ninth": A History of the Ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry April 17 to June 7, 1864*. Translated and edited by Frederic Trautmann. The Kent University Press, Kent, OH. 1987. \$24.00.

Hyde, Thomas. *Following the Greek Cross or Memories of the Sixth Army Corps*. Gaithersburg, MD: Olde Soldier Books, Inc. 1988. \$25.00. Original of 1894.

Jimerson, Randall C. *The Private Civil War: Popular Thought During the Sectional Conflict*. Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press. 1988. \$24.95.

Jones, Virgil C. *The Civil War at Sea*. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publ. Co. 1988. 3 vols. \$75.00. Original of 1960-62.

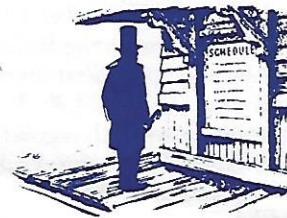
Krick, Robert K. *Parker's Virginia Battery*. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publ. Co. 1988. 2nd edition revised, type reset, corrected and amended. \$29.95.

Lee, Fitzhugh. *General Lee*. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publ. Co. 1988. New introduction by Gary Gallagher. \$24.95. Original of 1894.

Loughborough, Mary Ann. *My Cave Life in Vicksburg*. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publ. Co. 1988. New introduction and notes by Terry Winschel. \$24.95. Original of 1864.

We recently learned of the death of fellow member Charles J. Line. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family.

BULLETIN BOARD



Future meetings

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

November 11: Gordon Whitney on "Sherman and His Lieutenants."

December 9: Karen Osborne & Ed Pierce on "Holiday Music of the Civil War."

January 13, 1989: Bruce Bazelon on "Gettysburg—After the Fight."

February 10: James M. McPherson on "Lincoln."

March 10: Jerry Russell on "Pea Ridge."

April 14: Charles Wesselhoef on "The Army of the Tennessee."

May 4-7: Annual Battlefield Tour—Kennesaw Mountain, Andersonville.

May 12: Brig. Gen. Edwin Simmons, USMC (Ret.) on "The Assault on Fort Fisher."

June 9: John Y. Simon, topic to be announced.

New Members

Richard M. Jaffee, 1418 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60610 (312) 337-7343.

Jerome Pietrowski, 6300 W. Touhy Ave., Niles, IL 60648 (312) 647-1122.

James B. Schroeder, 506 N. Hill St., McHenry, IL 60050 (815) 385-5406.

Changes of Address

Richard H. Frye, 2937 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL 60657.

Ronald Johnson, 948 Nottingham Ln., Crystal Lake, IL 60014 (815) 898-8242.

Charles Jorgensen, 6141 N. West Ave., #132, Fresno, CA 93711 (209) 449-0333.

Hugh Martin, 33 Tuttle, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514 (312) 887-1121.

Dale Weitman, 747 Alice Pl., Elgin, IL 60123.

The National Park Service and the Smithsonian Institution are trying to determine the identity of a Union soldier whose remains were found at Antietam by a relic hunter last March. Recovered were a number of embossed Irish Brigade buttons, religious medals, an arthritic shoulder bone, some well-worn teeth and some pieces of chest bone shattered by three bullets. Based on the buttons, it was determined he was part of the Irish Brigade of New York. The arthritic shoulder and worn teeth indicate the man was 45 or older; the medals mark him as a religious man and the three bullet holes indicate he was felled early in the fight when rebel fire was still concentrated.

The records of the Irish Brigade in the National Archives will be examined. "We'll just have to see how many 45-year-old privates with sore shoulders were in the front rank," said historian Dennis Frye.