

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume L, Number 7

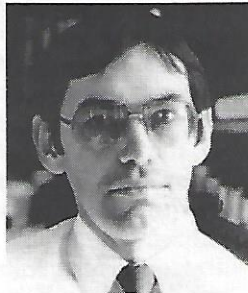
Chicago, Illinois

March 1990

Michael Andrus on General Edward "Allegheny" Johnson

by Barbara Hughett

One of the more colorful individuals in the cast of characters distinguishing themselves in the American Civil War, Edward "Allegheny" Johnson enjoyed a long and notable military career. A graduate of the West Point class of 1838, he served conspicuously in the Mexican War where he was twice breveted. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he resigned from the United States Army and accepted a command as colonel of the 12th Georgia Infantry. He spent the first year of the war operating in the Allegheny Mountains, successfully defending against Union thrusts from western Virginia into the Shenandoah Valley and thus acquiring his sobriquet. In May 1862, he and Stonewall Jackson collaborated against the Federals at the battle of McDowell. Allegheny's wounding at McDowell, however, interrupted their promising partnership. Johnson would spend a year convalescing in Richmond.



Michael Andrus

He returned to active duty in June 1863 as a major general commanding the Stonewall division in the 2nd Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. In his first battle at Winchester that June, he was instrumental in the defeat of an old nemesis—General Robert Milroy. At Gettysburg, Johnson's division suffered over 1,800 casualties in repeated attacks against Culp's Hill.

The climax of Allegheny Johnson's military service came on May 12, 1864. That foggy, misty morning found the Stonewall division defending the mule shoe salient at Spotsylvania. Johnson and some 2,500 of his men were captured by General Winfield Scott Hancock's Second Corps during the Union Army's initial assault. After a brief imprisonment, he was exchanged and given a divisional command under General Stephen D. Lee. He was captured for the second time after the battle of Nashville, and spent the last year of the war in a Union prison.

Johnson's personal appearance and mannerisms attracted attention and elicited comments everywhere he went. Forty-five years old when the war began and a life-long bachelor, he was six feet tall and weighed over 200 pounds. His most distinguishing feature was an oddly shaped head, which Mary Chestnut compared to "the Pope's tiara." It is said that he winked constantly and uncontrollably when excited and that his ears wiggled when he was angry. His booming voice was an asset on the battlefield, but not in the parlor. Casual about his dress, he



489th Regular Meeting

Michael Andrus

on

"General Edward 'Allegheny' Johnson"

Friday, March 9, 1990

Quality Inn

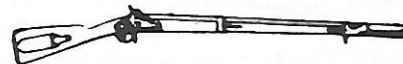
Halsted and Madison

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

\$15.00 per person

Entree: Sauteed Pepper Steak,
Baked Fish with Lemon, or Fruit Plate

Please note: In order to guarantee a meal, reservations must be made by noon the Thursday before the meeting.



wielded a club in battle rather than a sword. These and other peculiarities didn't seem to detract from his performance. He gained the respect of both his subordinates and his superiors with his demonstrations of capability and courage. Three horses were shot out from under him during the war.

"General Edward 'Allegheny' Johnson" will be the subject of Michael Andrus' address to The Civil War Round Table on March 9th. A native of Syracuse, New York, Mr. Andrus graduated from the State University of New York at Cortland with a BA in history. He served as park ranger at Manassas National Battlefield Park from 1980-1985 and at Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park from 1985-1986. Since 1986, he has been supervisory park ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park.

He has written articles for professional journals and has co-authored, with John Hennessy, a history of the Alexandria, Brooke, Loudoun, and Fauquier artilleries, which will be published this month as part of the Virginia Regimental History series. He has spoken to Round Tables

(continued on page 2)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Phone: (312) 944-3085

Officers

President Richard W. McAdoo
Senior Vice President David R. Richert
Vice President Joseph L. Wisheart
Vice President Mary Munsell Abroe
Secretary Marlan H. Polhemus
Treasurer Hal Ardell
Assistant Secretary Kurt Carlson
Assistant Treasurer Keith Rocco
Inspector General James Soens
Registrar Dale Weitman
Newsletter Editor Barbara Hughett
Contributing Editors Mary Munsell Abroe,
C. Robert Douglas, David Richert
Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

Board of Trustees

Terms expiring in 1990: Wayne Anderson, Luann Elvey, L. Bradford Gregg, Robert J. Schell
Terms expiring in 1991: John M. Coverick, Sr., Robert Girardi, Steven Horton, Dale Weitman

Committee Chairmen

Battlefield Tour Mary Munsell Abroe
William J. Sullivan
Nevins-Freeman Margaret April
Membership Daniel R. Weinberg
Hospitality Robert Schell, Barbara Hughett
Nominating William J. Sullivan
Publications/Archives Jerry Warshaw, Glen Wiche
Honors Don Anderson
Battlefield Preservation Robert Girardi
Tape Record Librarian Hal Ardell
Fiftieth Anniversary Paul Klinger
House Steve Horton
Picnic Paul Kleckner

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.



(continued from page 1)

and civic organizations throughout the country and has guided numerous groups through Virginia's Civil War battlefields. He describes himself as a "disappointed, but faithful follower of the Boston Red Sox."

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and the National Park Service will present "Confederate Military Leadership," a Civil War seminar and field trip, in Fredericksburg, Virginia on May 5-6. Speakers will include Gary Gallagher, Herman Hattaway, Robert Krick, Richard McMurry, and Alan Nolan. For information, write the APCWS, 613 Caroline Street, Suite E, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

Battlefield Preservation Report

by Mary Munsell Abroe

At the outset, I would like to correct a misprint in last month's report. In my discussion of the possible awarding of National Historic Landmark status to Johnson's Island, Ohio, site of a Civil War prison that currently is threatened by development, I was quoted as saying that such landmark status "is not itself warranted"; the statement *as written* read differently: "the granting of NHL status... is not itself *guaranteed*." Johnson's Island tells the story of a signal tragedy in a tragic conflict; moreover, it is *one-of-a-kind*—the prison site encompasses intact Civil War earthworks north of the Ohio River. It will be *our shame* if the island is not named a National Historic Landmark and if such designation does not lead to the site's perpetual protection—either by the federal government or by local governmental bodies.

The February issue of *Preservation News* updated the continuing effort at Manassas to repair the scars of aborted development on the William Center tract, site of a proposed shopping mall on historically relevant land bordering the battlefield. The article also discussed the process of fixing a price to be paid to Hazel-Peterson Company for the government's legislative taking of the 558-acre parcel in November 1988. Lawsuits accusing the government of "dragging its feet" in settling the matter have been filed in U.S. Claims Court by developer John T. Hazel, NV Homes Limited Partnership (which constructed three model homes on the tract), and William Center Limited Partnership (which intended to build a residential development there). The U.S. Justice Department's Land Acquisition Section is the government's agent for negotiating the purchase and repaying developers. In response to the complaints of Hazel and the other developers, Justice Department spokeswoman Amy Casner states that "each case (handled by the department) is done on its own merit" and that there is no established timetable for the procedure.

Concerning restoration work on the tract, Manassas Superintendent Kenneth Apschnikat indicates that currently NPS employees "are trying to stabilize and improve the overall appearance with the minimal funds" available. Three model homes were torn down in January and negotiations are underway with owners of several tenant houses for their relocation. No master plan has been devised yet for the property, nor does the Park Service have congressional funding for this massive reclamation project. Water and sewer lines and other "improvements" had been built prior to the federal taking of the land and, according to Apschnikat, "the cost to repair this will be astronomical."

The nationally publicized peril to Manassas did have certain positive results. Not only did it force preservationists to unify and to "get their act together"; it also cast contemporary difficulties facing Civil War battlefields into the limelight. *Preservation News* notes that one outcome of this attention is a recent \$25,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Critical Issues Fund to the Maryland Environmental Trust. The award is to be used for a rural village protection plan. Although the plan is intended to benefit a number of Maryland towns, a chief focus will be the village of Sharpsburg, where the integrity of Antietam National Battlefield remains a matter of great concern. In the meantime, the proposed construction of a new American Legion hall on the historic Grove Farm near Sharpsburg appears to be on hold—at least for the present—as the Save Historic Antietam Foundation works to assist the Legion in finding an alternative site.

February Meeting

by Barbara Hughett

"A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln" is the most extensive exhibition in the Chicago Historical Society's 133-year history. The 488th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table was held at the Society, located on Clark Street at North Avenue, on February 9th, when 163 members and guests were given a private viewing of the exhibit. In his introductory remarks, Ellsworth Brown, the Society's president and director, noted that the 600 objects from 1820-1870 on display in the exhibit represent only one-third of the artifacts from this period owned by the Society. It cost over \$1 million to put the exhibition on the floor. "A House Divided," he emphasized, "has a point of view," which is, briefly stated: "The cause of the Civil War was slavery and the war did two things: it kept the Union together and it ended slavery." He added that this was the point of view of the historians who assembled the exhibition. Co-curators of "A House Divided" are Eric Foner, DeWitt Clinton Professor of American History at Columbia University, and Olivia Mahoney, the Society's associate curator of decorative and industrial arts.

"A House Divided" highlights slavery's pivotal divisive role in the growing sectionalism in mid-nineteenth century America and the resulting civil war. According to co-curator Eric Foner: "We attempted to show the role African-Americans played as independent actors in this drama, to describe the process by which slavery was destroyed, and the problems the Civil War bequeathed to the country—namely the place of African-Americans in the new society." The exhibit examines a number of the major political and social forces of the era and the effects those forces produced.

The exhibit is divided into eight sections: "Lincoln's America," "Slavery," "The Slavery Controversy," "The Impending Crisis," "Raising the Armies," "The First Modern War," "War, Politics, and Society," and "Aftermath." As well as the leading lights of the period—such as Lincoln, Grant, Davis, Lee, Frederick Douglass, and social activist Mary Livermore—less well-known individuals of the time are featured. This provides a human perspective against which the unfolding of events are explored.

The two most prized objects on display are probably the bed from the Petersen home on which Lincoln died and the table on which Grant and Lee signed the terms of surrender at the McLean home in Appomattox Court House. Both are from the Society's single greatest source of artifacts—the Gunther Collection. In the late 1800s, successful Chicago candy manufacturer Charles F. Gunther began to purchase items for a museum he opened above his Loop candy store. He bought Richmond's Libby Prison in 1889, had it dismantled brick by brick and sent to Chicago, and rebuilt it on South Wabash Avenue to house his growing collection. He purchased the Lincoln death bed from collector Andrew Boyd who had bought it from the estate of William Petersen. Union General Edward O.C. Ord paid \$50 for the Appomattox table moments after the surrender papers had been signed. In 1887, Gunther acquired it for \$1,000 from General Ord's widow. Following Gunther's death in 1920, the Chicago Historical Society purchased his entire vast and varied collection for \$150,000.

Also on display at the Society is an exhibit featuring the photography of George N. Barnard. Barnard, one of the most important photographers in American history, served during the last year of the war as the official photographer

of the Union Army's Military Division of the Mississippi, commanded by General William T. Sherman. Many memorable views of the Civil War previously credited to Mathew Brady were in fact made by Barnard. His work on display includes photographs from the 1840s through the 1880s. The Barnard exhibition can be seen through May 30th. "A House Divided" will continue at the Society for the next ten years.

Moments in Round Table History

March 26, 1948: First meeting at which a wire recording was made. Andrew Nelson Lytle speaks on "The Failure of Southern Leadership; The Quality of Southern Failure."

March 16, 1951: 101st meeting, with Lloyd Miller speaking on "The Spring Hill Affair."

March 18, 1954: T. Harry Williams speaks on "The Pattern of an Historian."

March 10, 1961: Richard N. Current speaks on "The Continuing Civil War, 1865-1877."

March 10, 1966: E. B. (Pete) Long speaks on "A Reappraisal of the Mississippi Valley Campaign."

March 18, 1979: "Civil War Film Day" at the Cultural Center.

March 8, 1985: Gary Gallagher speaks on "Stephen Dodson Ramseur: Lee's Gallant General."

March 15, 1986: Assembly on "U.S. Grant: The Civil War Years." Participants include John Y. Simon, Marshall Krolick, Gordon Whitney, and Robert Krick.

The Ninth Annual Midwest Civil War Conference, sponsored by the Jefferson County Civil War Round Table, will be held at the Clifty Inn, Clifty Falls State Park, in Madison, Indiana on April 20-22. Speakers will include three members of The Civil War Round Table: Marshall Krolick, John Y. Simon, and Gordon Whitney. For information, contact Kathy Ayres, (812)265-5284.

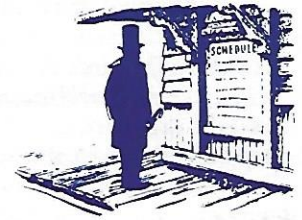
The Lincoln Home National Historic Site is sponsoring a program to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln on April 14th. The program will take place at the Visitors Center, 426 South Seventh Street in Springfield. In the morning, and again in the afternoon, Louis P. Mallow will give his slide presentation on the assassination. At 2:30 p.m., Illinois State University's Dr. Mark Plummer will speak on "The Hainie Diary," which purportedly provides new information on the last day of Lincoln's life, and Dr. John K. Lattimore, professor emeritus, Columbia University School of Medicine, will speak on "Military and Ballistic Aspects of Lincoln's Assassination." For additional information, contact George Painter at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, (217)492-4150.

The Virginia Living History Center will sponsor a week-long program of commemorations, reenactments, and living history interpretations marking the 125th anniversary of the end of the Civil War, on April 7-15. For additional information, contact Napoleonic Tactics Inc., Box 8526, Fredericksburg, VA 22404.

Jane Hoge, not Jane Hull, as stated in the summary of January's meeting in last month's issue, organized the 1863 Sanitary Fair with Mary Livermore.

The New Books

compiled by C. Robert Douglas

BULLETIN BOARD

Chamlee, Roy Z. *Lincoln's Assassins: A Complete Account of Their Capture, Trial and Punishment*. McFarland Press. 1989. \$49.95.

Griffith, Paddy. *Battle Tactics of the Civil War*. Yale University Press. 1989. \$25.00.

Losson, Christopher. *Tennessee's Forgotten Warriors: Frank Cheatham's Confederate Division*. University of Tennessee Press. 1990. \$24.95.

Meade, George G. *The Battle of Gettysburg*. First Capitol Antiquarian Book & Paper Market, 343 W. Market St., York, PA 17401. 1988. Pbk. \$7.95.

Reese, Timothy J. *Sykes' Regular Infantry Division, 1861-1864. A History of Regular U.S. Infantry Operations in the Civil War's Eastern Theater*. McFarland Press. 1989. \$45.00.

Sinclair, Arthur. *Two Years on the Alabama*. Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, MD 21402. 1989. \$23.95. Original of 1895.

Skidmore, Richard S., ed. *The Civil War Journal of Billy Davis From Hopewell, Indiana to Port Republic, Virginia*. The Nugget Publishers, 231 Hillside Ave., Greencastle, IN 46135. \$18.95.

Trotter, William R. *Bushwackers! The Civil War in North Carolina, Vol. 2, The Mountains*. Piedmont Impressions, 300 S. Westgate Dr., Greensboro, NC 27407. 1988. \$19.95.

Tunnell, Ted, ed. *Carpetbagger From Vermont: The Autobiography of Marshall Harvey Twitchell*. LSU Press. 1989. \$29.95.

Von Borcke, Heros & Julius Scheibert. *The Great Cavalry Battle of Brandy Station, 9 June 1863*. Olde Soldier Books, Inc. 1989. \$25.00. Original of 1893.

Fort Sumter, site of the first shots of the Civil War, was a victim of Hurricane Hugo which ravaged the Carolina coast last September. The Fort, which dates back to 1829, was swamped by a 17-foot high wave at the height of the hurricane's fury. Cost of the damage has been estimated as close to \$1 million.

The National Park Service is sponsoring special events on April 6-14 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia in Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Contact the Appomattox Court House National Historic Park for further information.

The Tenth Annual Reenactment of the Battle of Pleasant Hill, the largest battle fought west of the Mississippi River, will take place on April 20-22 in Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. For information, contact the Battle of Pleasant Hill, 8502 Westbrook Place, Shreveport, LA 71108.

The newsletter of The Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table reports that 87-year old Daisy Cove of Sumter, SC, is still drawing a pension from the Civil War. She married a 75-year old veteran in 1919 when she was 17.

Future Meetings

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

March 9: Michael Andrus on "General Edward 'Allegheny' Johnson."

April 13: Richard McMurry on "Confederate Journalism."

May 3-6: Annual Battlefield Tour, The Maryland Campaign of 1862.

May 11: William Parrish on "Confederate Governors."

June 8: Jerry Rodgers, topic to be announced.

New Members

Dr. Calvin Maestro, Jr., 2720 Quinn Place, Dyer, IN 46311, (219)322-5639

Wendy Maestro, 2720 Quinn Place, Dyer, IN 46311, (219)322-5639

Russell T. Paarlberg, 1226 East 16th St., South Holland, IL 60473, (708)339-3367

David Reed Wade, 335 South Fourth St., Aurora, IL 60505, (708)896-4269

Changes of Address

Fred Mittleman, 923 Wayne Ave., Deerfield, IL 60015, (708)945-8706

Tom Trescott, 2634 Montgomery, Chicago, IL 60632, (312)847-5057

"A Nation Divided: The War Between the States, 1861-1865" is on display at the Chicago Public Library's Cultural Center through March 31st. With new and rarely seen material, this exhibit highlights the role of the black soldier, abolitionism, and events during the last year of the war.

"The Lincolns of Springfield, Illinois," a documentary film about the recent restoration of the Lincoln home, has been shown on Springfield's public television station and will be shown on Chicago's WTTW. A date has not yet been set.

The 125th anniversary of the Battle of Selma is being commemorated with a reenactment of the battle, parades, dances, tours of historic homes, and ceremonies at Live Oak Cemetery, on April 2-8, in Selma, Alabama. For information, contact the Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Drawer D, Selma, AL 36702.

A continuing Civil War film festival will be held every Sunday afternoon in April and May at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, North Carolina. For information, call (919)733-5622.