

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

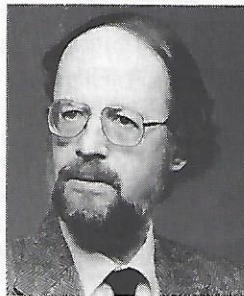
April 1990

Richard M. McMurry on Confederate Journalism

by Barbara Hughett

Most Americans in mid-nineteenth century America lived in small communities or rural areas. Without telephones, radios, or television, people relied on their local newspapers to provide them with information about the outside world. Local newspapers, however, were more than a medium to transmit information. Often they were also the personal or political instrument of the editor or the voice of a political party.

Nearly a thousand different newspapers were published in the Confederate States of America during the four years of its existence. Among these were the dailies of the larger cities, such as the *Charleston Mercury*, the *New Orleans Picayune*, the *Memphis Appeal*, and the *Richmond Whig*. But most people in the Confederacy read the "country papers" which were printed once a week in small towns scattered across the South. Examples of these are the *Southern Watchman* in Athens, Georgia; the *Spirit of the South* in Eufaula, Alabama; the *Telegraph* in Washington, Arkansas; and the *Advocate* in Victoria, Texas.



Richard M. McMurry

Some of these newspapers continued to publish throughout the war, ceasing to exist—at least as Confederate publications—only when their cities fell to Union forces. Others printed only a few issues before their employees went off to war, or they ran out of ink or paper, or their press wore out, or other vicissitudes of wartime publishing drove them out of business. A few managed to flee their occupied hometowns and flit about the Confederacy, maintaining a precarious vagabond existence as they published first in one town and then in another. Such was the case with a popular paper, originally published in Memphis, which became known as "the moving *Appeal*." Whatever their circulation or longevity, the newspapers of the wartime South give us the opportunity to enter the world of the Confederacy and to view that world in much the same way that the Southern people themselves experienced it in the early 1860s.

"Confederate Journalism" will be the topic of Richard M. McMurry's address to The Civil War Round Table on April 13th. A native of Georgia, Dr. McMurry received his bachelor's degree from VMI and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Emory University. His dissertation at Emory was under the guidance of Bell I. Wiley, recipient of our



490th Regular Meeting

Richard M. McMurry
on
"Confederate Journalism"

Friday, April 13, 1990

Quality Inn
Halsted and Madison
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$15.00 per person
Entree: Roast Sirloin of Beef Bordelaise,
Baked White Fish, or Fruit Plate

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



The address of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, and thus the mailing address of The Civil War Round Table, has changed. The new address is 357 West Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60610. The telephone number remains the same—(312) 944-3085.

1978 Nevins-Freeman Award. Currently an adjunct professor of history at North Carolina State University, Dr. McMurry has also taught at Valdosta State College and Emory University. He has written numerous articles for professional journals and several books. *John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence* (1982) was a History Book Club selection and received the 1982 U.D.C. award for the best book in the field of Southern history. His most recent book, *Two Great Rebel Armies: An Essay in Confederate Military History* (1988), is one in a series he is writing on the history of the Civil War in the West. Dr. McMurry last appeared before The Round Table six years ago (coincidentally on April 13th) when the subject of his address was "John Bell Hood."

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
 357 West Chicago Avenue
 Chicago, Illinois 60610
 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, 357 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60610.



A reminder: Several people were recently disappointed to find that the 1990 battlefield tour is sold-out. They had waited too long to register. Don't make this mistake for the 50th Anniversary celebration (October 12-14). There are currently only around 100 seats remaining. If you plan to attend, please submit your \$35 deposit to Richard McAdoo (638 Douglas Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120), registrar for the 50th Anniversary celebration. Further information and a reservation form are enclosed with this newsletter.

Gold-plated Round Table lapel pins are available for \$6 each. To purchase a pin, call Jerry Warshaw at (708) 866-6667, or see him at the next meeting.

Battlefield Preservation Report

by Mary Munsell Abroe

It seems that every time we turn around those of us who are committed to preservation are confronted by dire predictions concerning the fate of unprotected land on or near our historic battlefields. Yet the outlook need not be grim if we are willing to join the ranks of those who are truly activists in the fight to save these vulnerable national treasures. Genuine personal activism does not require large financial contributions nor spending every waking minute "doing something" to advance the cause; all it requires is a conviction that these places matter, a decision to do whatever one is able for their protection, and then actually doing it!

A decision-making process now underway at Antietam National Battlefield affords us the chance to participate actively in safeguarding that historic landscape. The National Park Service recently released a scoping document which outlines three alternatives for Antietam's future management, operation, and utilization; this document is the result of careful study by the NPS, with input from the public throughout the course of the study. One of the alternatives will be chosen ultimately as the basis for a General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement that will determine Antietam's course for the next 20-25 years. The period for public comment on the three plans ends on April 20. Superintendent Richard Rambur indicates that a draft GMP/EIS will be ready for further public review this fall.

The legislation which established Antietam National Battlefield Site in August 1890 called for the marking of battle lines and command positions on the field. In 1960 Congress acknowledged the Antietam landscape as a crucial cultural resource, and broadened the enabling legislation's mandate by authorizing the restoration of the field to its appearance in September 1862. One of the noted alternatives does propose to implement the 1960 mandate, while the other two chart different paths to the common goal of all three—preservation of the battlefield and education of the visiting public.

Alternative A represents a continuation of the "status quo." Under this plan the NPS would keep on maintaining the park in its present, largely historic condition and providing for visitor use; no new actions would be taken to restore the battlefield's historic appearance. It is Alternative B which proposes maximum restoration of the 1862 cultural landscape, thereby fulfilling the 1960 congressional dictate. This plan includes the reestablishment of historic vegetation patterns and a recommendation for expansion of the park in the Grove Farm, the Conservation Fund property near the park entrance, and the Confederate portion of either Shepherdstown or Hagerstown Cemetery. The most substantial change under Plan B would involve the current road system. Wherever feasible, roads which did not exist in September 1862 and which are not crucial for visitor access would be eliminated, and the scenes restored to their look at the time of the battle; road segments which are on historic alignments and are not needed for visitor or resident access also would be returned to their 1862 appearance. New road alignments and parking areas would be located carefully so they would not encroach on the historic scene.

Alternative C is a scaled-down version of Plan B; it would restore elements of the field's historic appearance, but would basically keep the current road system with

(continued on page 4)

March Meeting

by Barbara Hughett

A young soldier from Georgia recounted his first meeting with Edward Johnson: "This fellow carried his fiddle with him," he wrote. "General Johnson and two of his men were examining the outposts. When they walked up to this soldier, he was playing on his fiddle. His gun was resting against a tree. Johnson was very indignant. He asked the fellow who the devil he was. The soldier, never ceasing his music, replied, 'Well, sir, I suppose I am sort of a picket. Who the hell are you?' 'Well,' said the general, who was a rough, seedy-looking individual without any insignia of rank, 'I suppose I am sort of a general.' 'Well,' said the Georgian, 'wait till I get my gun; I'll give you sort of a salute.'" On March 9th, Michael Andrus addressed 88 members and guests at the 489th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. His topic was "General Edward 'Allegheny' Johnson." Mr. Andrus, currently supervisory park ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park, has served as park ranger at Manassas National Battlefield Park and Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park. He is the co-author of a history of the Alexandria, Brooke, Loudoun, and Farquier artilleries, which will soon be published as part of the Virginia Regimental History series.

Johnson was born in Chesterfield County, Virginia. His father, a physician, moved the family to Kentucky when Johnson was a small boy. He graduated in the upper half of the West Point class of 1838 and was twice brevited during the Mexican War. After resigning his command in the United States Army in June of 1861, he accepted a Confederate command as colonel of the 12th Georgia Infantry. His responsibility was to guard the approaches from western Virginia through the Allegheny Mountains into the Shenandoah Valley.

On December 13, 1861, Johnson led an attack on Union forces under General Robert Milroy in what was known as the Battle of Allegheny Mountain. One soldier recorded his recollection of General Johnson in that battle: "Johnson acted so differently from all my preconceived ideas of how a commander should act on a field of battle. He appeared in citizen's dress. He gave his commands in a most emphatic manner and he led the fierce charges in person. He was always in the thickest of the fight—sometimes with a club, but generally with a musket in his hand." The Federals were pushed back and Johnson was recognized as a hero. He received a resolution of thanks from the Confederate Congress and was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. It was also at this time that he received the nickname "Allegheny."

Collaborating with "Stonewall" Jackson, he was instrumental in repulsing the Federal attack in the Battle of McDowell on March 8, 1862. During this battle, he was severely wounded in the leg and was incapacitated for a year. 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 the Battle of Winchester that June, he played a key role in the defeat of his old nemesis—General Milroy. His division fought less successfully at Gettysburg the next month: 1800 of his men were lost—killed, wounded, or captured.

He and most of his men were captured at Spotsylvania on May 12, 1864 after an attack by the forces of General Winfield Scott Hancock. After a brief imprisonment, Johnson was exchanged and given a divisional command under General Stephen D. Lee. Captured again after the

Battle of Nashville on December 16, 1864, he was sent to Johnson's Island, then to Boston's Fort Warren, and eventually to the Old Capitol Prison in Washington. Released in July 1865, he was a prisoner for twelve of the final fifteen months of the war.

His postwar years were spent as a farmer in Chesterfield County. He was involved in the formation of the Southern Literary Society and the Southern Historical Society. He never married, never wrote memoirs, and survived just eight years after the war. He died in 1873 and was buried in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery with other Confederate officers. Mr. Andrus noted that Johnson had earned "the admiration and certainly the affection of both subordinates and superiors." One of his fellow officers, Colonel Thomas Carter, wrote that "there was no sturdier, truer, braver commander than General Edward Johnson, commonly known as 'Old Allegheny.'"

Moments in Round Table History

April 11, 1952: E.B. (Pete) Long speaks on Ulysses S. Grant: The Man Behind the Memoirs."

April 30, 1953: Bruce Catton speaks on "Phil Sheridan and G.K. Warren and the Battle of Five Forks."

April 12, 1956: 150th meeting, with William B. Hesseltine speaking on "The Prison at Andersonville" and a critique of MacKinlay Kantor's novel *Andersonville*.

April 12, 1957: Special meeting at Lincoln National Life Foundation in Fort Wayne, Indiana, with Bruce Catton speaking on "Lincoln as Commander in Chief."

April 7, 1961: 200th meeting, with Frank Vandiver speaking on "The Confederacy and the New South."

April 11, 1963: Robert W. Waitt, Jr. speaks on "Sin and the Civil War, or The Kinsey Report of the War."

April 6, 1966: 250th meeting and G.A.R. Centennial commemoration, with Sir Denis Brogan speaking on "The War as a War."

April 26, 1967: 260th meeting, celebrating the publication of the first volume of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, edited by John Y. Simon. Fred Benton speaks on "The Battle and Siege of Port Hudson."

April 2, 1971: 300th meeting, with Colonel Allen P. Julian speaking on "Margaret Mitchell and *Gone With The Wind*" and Ralph G. Newman speaking on "The Civil War Round Table—We Point With Pride."

April 21, 1972: Joint meeting with The Ulysses S. Grant Association to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Grant, with T. Harry Williams speaking on "Grant as President."

April 11, 1980: Ralph G. Newman speaks on "The Lights Go On Again at Ford's Theater."

April 10, 1981: 400th meeting, with Ralph G. Newman speaking on "Round Table History" and memorable moments recounted by past presidents.

April 9, 1982: Pat Newman (the first woman to address The Round Table) speaking on "Julia Dent Grant."

April 13, 1984: Richard M. McMurry speaks on "John Bell Hood."

An all Civil War program will be featured on Chuck Shaden's "Those Were The Days" on Saturday, April 7 from 1-5 p.m. The program, on WNIB (97.1FM) will include "The Red Badge of Courage," "Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," and "You are There—Lee and Grant at Appomattox."

The New Books compiled by C. Robert Douglas



Alexander, Ted, ed. *Southern Revenge: Civil War History of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania*. White Mane Publ. Co. 1989. \$28.95.

Cormier, Steven A. *The Siege of Suffolk: The Forgotten Campaign, April 11-May 4, 1863*. H.E. Howard, Inc. 1989. \$19.95.

Hennessy, John. *The Battle of First Manassas: An End to Innocence, July 18-21, 1861*. H.E. Howard, Inc. 1989. \$19.95.

Hess, Earl J. *Liberty, Virtue and Progress: Northerners and Their War for the Union*. New York University Press. 1988. \$35.00.

Inscoc, John C. *Mountain Masters, Slavery and the Sectional Crisis of Western North Carolina*. University of Tennessee Press. 1989. \$29.95.

Miller, J. Michael. *The North Anna Campaign: "Even to Hell Itself", May 21-26, 1864*. H.E. Howard, Inc. \$19.95.

Mitgang, Herbert, ed. *Abraham Lincoln: A Press Portrait*. The Journalist's Lincoln Series. University of Georgia Press. Pbk. \$17.95. Original of 1971.

Mitgang, Herbert, ed. *Spectator of America by Edward Dacey*. The Journalist's Lincoln Series. University of Georgia Press. Pbk. \$14.95. Original of 1971.

Mitgang, Herbert, ed. *Washington, D.C. In Lincoln's Time By Noah Brooks*. The Journalist's Lincoln Series. University of Georgia Press. Pbk. \$14.95. Original of 1971.

Rawley, James A. *Turning Points of the Civil War*. University of Nebraska Press. 1989. Pbk. \$7.95. Original of 1966.

Ruffin, Edmund, *The Diary of Edmund Ruffin. Vol. III, A Dream Shattered: June, 1863-June, 1865*. LSU Press. 1989. \$65.00.

The Houston Civil War Round Table has announced the winner of their Ninth Annual Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit. She is Sara Dunlap Jackson of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission of the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The award honors Dr. Vandiver, noted historian and recipient of this Round Table's Nevins-Freeman Award in 1982.

Historian John Hope Franklin, our Nevins-Freeman honoree in 1983, is one of four people to receive a 1990 Britannica Award. The awards were begun five years ago by Encyclopaedia Britannica to recognize "excellence in the dissemination of learning for the benefit of mankind."

The Fourth Annual Deep Delta Civil War Symposium will be held on June 8-10 at Southern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana. The theme this year is "North and South, Front and Rear—Papers in Honor of the late T. Harry Williams." Participants will include James I. "Bud" Robertson, Richard N. Current, Richard M. McMurry, and Grady McWhiney. For further information, address the Civil War Symposium, P.O. Box 590-SLU, Hammond, LA 70402.

BULLETIN BOARD



Future Meetings

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

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 on "The Invincible Consensus: A Proposal for Protection of Battlefield Parks."

August 12: Annual Round Table Picnic.

September 14: To be announced.

October 12-14: 50th Anniversary Celebration, Sheraton Inn, Northbrook, IL.

New Members

Katsumi Ueno, 140 Main St., Evanston, IL 60202, (708) 328-1971

Clydene Weitman, 747 Alice Place, Elgin, IL 60123, (708) 742-2442

Change of Address

Daniel Weinberg, 1696 Eastwood Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035, (708) 831-0636

(continued from page 2)

traffic patterns somewhat simplified. One of the major differences between "B" and "C" is that Plan B would allow no new monuments on the battlefield; Plan C, while subjecting proposed monuments to strict design guidelines, would allow them if approved by Congress or the NPS director. (In this writer's opinion, Plan B's prohibition of new monuments renders it preferable to Plan C. Existing monuments and memorials, many constructed by veterans of the battle and their contemporaries, have themselves become intrinsic parts of Antietam's history; new ones, however, would intrude on the historic landscape.)

Antietam is currently a well-preserved battlefield, but the changing patterns of modern life threaten its historic integrity. The NPS needs and actively seeks our input in order to chart Antietam's course for the next quarter-century, to protect it adequately, and to help it educate and inspire its visitors. This writer can provide copies of the noted scoping document which details the alternatives for Antietam's future management. Please become informed and express your written opinion before April 20 to Superintendent Richard Rambur, Antietam National Battlefield, P.O. Box 158, Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782. Whichever alternative you support—ACT! Now is precisely the time to fish or cut bait!