

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

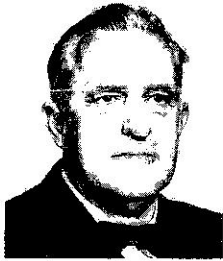
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Dr. William M. Lamers Speaks on Gen. William S. Rosecrans, Mar. 16

"Rediscovering a Lost Hero," is the title of Dr. William M. Lamers speech to our meeting Friday, March 16, and the man he refers to is Gen. William S. Rosecrans, U.S.A. Dr. Lamers titled his recently published biography of the general, **THE EDGE OF GLORY**, "because Rosecrans came very close to being the top man both in the armed forces and in politics at the end of the war."



Dr. William M. Lamers
Milwaukee Journal
Photo

"At that, he skinned very close in spite of the fact that enmities of persons highly placed, and considerable plain hard luck dogged him," Dr. Lamers argues. "He made McClellan, and alienated him; he saved Grant, and frightened him by possessing such knowledge about Grant that apparently fed Grant's insecurity."

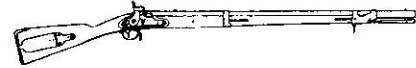
"Stanton hated Rosecrans because Rosecrans suggested the great movement that would have made the fall of Richmond inevitable in the Peninsula Campaign. Of course, Rosecrans himself was partially to blame for the enemies he made. A perfectionist himself, he was impatient with slipshod performance, and incredibly outspoken."

Commenting on reviews of **THE EDGE OF GLORY**, Dr. Lamers said, "I think they overemphasized the bluntness of Rosecrans, to the exclusion of his tremendous military contributions and to the whole portrait of a great general, the brilliance of whose strategic concepts were matched only by his personal heroism on the field of battle. In this latter regard, he was probably the outstanding great leader of the Civil War."

With such high views of Rosecrans, Dr. Lamers is bound to stir discussion and argument from our members who do not hold the general so highly.

Dr. Lamers is assistant superintendent of the Milwaukee Public Schools. He is the author of ten books; seventeen published plays; 200 major articles, as well as pamphlets and verse. One of the books was "The Thunder Maker: Gen. Thomas Francis Meagher."

Dr. Lamers is president of the Milwaukee Municipal Art commission, president of the board of trustees of the Milwaukee Public Museum, a member of the board of trustees of the Public Library, and a member of the board of curators of the Wisconsin State Historical society. He is a native and lifetime resident of Milwaukee. He attended Marquette university and later taught there. He has spoken to several Civil War Round Tables on the subject of Rosecrans.



209th REGULAR MEETING

Dr. William M. Lamers

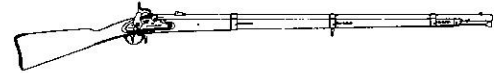
on

"Rediscovering a Lost Hero - Gen. Rosecrans"

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1962

St. Clair Hotel
162 East Ohio Street

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



"LOCOMOTIVE CHASE" EXCURSION

An Iron Horse Tour will operate out of Chicago and return, April 13-15, to follow the "Great Locomotive Chase" which will be reenacted in Georgia. On April 14, The General, one of the locomotives of the Andrews Raid will run under its own power, retracing the original route from Big Shanty to a point near Ringgold. The 1855 locomotive, which long was on exhibit in the station at Chattanooga, has been rebuilt by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad to participate in the Centennial reenactment. Through coach and pullman equipment will operate from Chicago on Friday, April 13, over the C. & E. I. and L. & N. streamliner, The Georgian, returning on Sunday, April 15. Reservations can be made with a deposit at the L. & N. passenger department, 105 W. Adams St., Chicago 3. Full information leaflets can be obtained from James A. Neubauer, excursion chairman, The Railroad Club of Chicago, Inc., 3320 N. Sacramento Ave., Chicago 18.

of the society, termed the collection "the largest Lincoln find in recent years." The items were discovered among the papers of a retired semi-recluse, Oscar A. Kershner, who died a year ago in Greenville, Ill. Kershner had been a government clerk and bookkeeper in Washington, D.C., where he had collected the materials. One Lincoln letter was dated March 27, 1858, and was addressed to Jackson Grimshaw, an attorney of Pittsfield, Ill. Another, July 29, 1863, was to Postmaster Montgomery Blair. The Lincoln items have been on display at the Historical Library in Springfield.

SANG GIFT OF LINCOLN ITEMS

Our member Philip D. Sang and his wife, Elsie O. Sang, have given the Illinois State Historical Society 29 previously unknown original letters, notes and papers written by Abraham Lincoln. Clyde C. Walton, director

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18-East Chestnut Street,
Chicago 11, Illinois
Phone: Whitehall 4-3085

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Nevins Sets Centennial Course

A program to reach people of the grass roots and those of aesthetic inclination - authors, painters, poets, sculptors, musicians, philosophers - was suggested at the Jan. 31-Feb. 1 series of meetings called by the National Civil War Centennial commission to acquire a "sense of solidarity" in the commemoration now in its second year.

Seventy-five delegates from 31 states attended. Chairman Allan Nevins stressed the need for unity and for close contact between the states and national commission. It was announced that James I. Robertson, Jr., executive secretary, will make a tour of all state commissions that would like counsel over their individual problems.

The national commission announced that is pursuing as one of its objectives the publication of a series of scholarly volumes of 300 or more pages showing the impact of the Civil War on various phases of American life, such as agriculture, business, medicine, literature, and labor. A publisher (Knopf) has been obtained, and several authors have consented to participate. Among them are Harold Hyman, California, and Merle Curti, Wisconsin.

Dr. Nevins urged delegates to be realistic about their problems. He called on them to interpret the war in such a way as to deepen the patriotism of all Americans, North and South, despite a variety of conceptions as to proper commemoration.

"We shall need courtesy and tact," he said, "all our tact, and all the forbearance of which men of differing views are capable."

As for the national commission's role, he stressed that it would never condone an affront to any of the national groups which make up the American public. "But that is all," he said. "Beyond that line we have no authority, and we will realize that a proper commemoration of events a century ago might suffer irretrievable damage from entanglement with controversial issues of today."

from the
Editor's pen



Defying inclement weather, 60 members attended the meeting Thursday, February 15, to hear Rev. Landry Genosky of Quincy (Ill.) College discuss his research into the two year residence of Gen. George E. Pickett in Quincy, beginning in 1840. The key question was who backed Pickett for appointment to West Point. The most solid conclusion was that it was two of Pickett's uncles, John Symington, a military man of St. Louis, and Andrew Johnston, in whose Quincy law office Pickett studied. Linking Pickett to Abraham Lincoln was tenuous. Lincoln knew and did business with Quincy lawyers and Pickett might have met him in Springfield, or elsewhere, but that was the extent of the conjecture. Father Landry pointed out that Lincoln's visits to Quincy were in 1854 and 1858. Father Landry gave many sidelights of Pickett's career.

* * *

President G. P. Clausius introduced our member Ver Lynn Sprague, of the Illinois Board of Economic Development (160 N. LaSalle St., Chicago), who appealed for speakers to promote tourism in Illinois to service clubs and other groups. Chairman H. George Donovan told of progress on battlefield tour plans. Dr. A. V. Bergquist urged members to join the Illinois State Historical Society.

* * *

To conform with changes caused mainly by the last assembly election, the Illinois Civil War Centennial commission has been reorganized. Sen. Hudson R. Sours, Peoria, is the new chairman. Ralph G. Newman, Chicago, and Rep. J. W. (Bill) Scott, Bloomington, are vice chairman. Clyde C. Walton, Springfield, state historian, remains secretary and executive director. Other members from the Senate are James O. Monroe, Collinsville, and Everett E. Laughlin, Freeport. Other members from the House of Representatives are Lycurgus J. Conner, Chicago, and Walter E. Hill, Canton. Public members besides Newman are Newton C. Farr, Chicago; George P. Johns, Decatur; Philip D. Sang, Chicago; Dr. Glenn H. Seymour, Charleston, and Alexander Summers, Mattoon. Walton, Newman, Farr, Monroe, and Johns are holdovers from the old commission, of which Johns was chairman.

CENTENNIAL RITES AT PEA RIDGE

The centennial observance of the battle of Pea Ridge, near Rogers, Ark., will be held in the newly established national military park on March 7 and 8. Round Table members from everywhere are invited to attend. A park headquarters has been established on the battlefield and a permanent staff - Supt. John T. Willett, historians, rangers, and clerical staff - is in residence. Roads are being reconstructed and surfaced; some have been obliterated and others returned to historic trace status; access roads and parking areas at interpretive points and overlooks are being constructed. A visitors center will be built as soon as possible. Pea Ridge National Military park will be one of the largest in the nation. Chicago CWRT members will recall that we will be represented at Pea Ridge. A set of OFFICIAL RECORDS which Marshall Rissman contributed for a drawing among members, was yielded and delivered to Pea Ridge.

ARIZONA held ceremonies Feb. 14-15 to mark the 50th anniversary of its admission to the Union as a state and 100th anniversary of its admission to the Confederacy as a territory.

"Antietam Free for All"



The Charge Across Burnside Bridge

Offers of co-operation from persons in the Gettysburg, Antietam, and Harpers Ferry area have flowed to H. George Donovan, chairman of the 12th Chicago CWRT battlefield Tour April 25-29.

E. B. (Pete) Long, moderator of "Antietam Free for All" the night of April 27 reports that the lineup of his panel will be Maj. Gen. Edward J. Stackpole, author and publisher of Harrisburg, Pa.; Brig. Gen. Willard Webb, Washington, D.C., who edited CRUCIAL MOMENTS OF THE CIVIL WAR, and our own Lloyd Miller, an Antietam expert. Park service historians will be on hand to give criticisms of the 15 minute speeches. Then discussion will be open, "free for all."

Gen. Stackpole is publisher of CIVIL WAR TIMES and two members of the staff will be on hand to give any help they can to the tour. They are Col. Wilbur S. Nye, associate editor, and James V. Murfin, director of advertising and promotion. LeRoy E. Smith, president of the CWT company, Gettysburg, and Bob Fowler, editor, have voiced interest in the tour. Murfin is also president of Hagerstown (Md.) CWRT which has been most active in all affairs in the area.

Ladies of St. Paul's Lutheran church will serve the lunch at Keedysville, Md., near the Antietam battlefield. Harrisburg CWRT members plan to tour Antietam the same day we do.

Ken MacIntyre, former president of our CWRT, has arranged for our flight which will be from O'Hare field to Washington, the afternoon of April 25, and return the following Sunday on a United Air Lines plane. Campaign touring will be by bus.

Basic cost of the tour will be \$197.50 (two to a room) and \$207.50 single. Headquarters will be at Hotel Gettysburg. Full details will be given in a special tour leaflet to be in the mail late in March.

DR. CHARLES WESLEY OLSEN, an early member of our Round Table disposed of most of his Lincoln collection through a New York auction gallery on February 6. Among the items were early legal papers of Lincoln, the John Brown family Bible, and papers and signatures of other historic Americans. Dr. Olsen retained 23 pieces of Lincoln's furniture from New Salem which he will give to the state of Illinois. "At the age of 70, I'm not getting any younger," said Dr. Olsen. "I can't take it with me. Really, it's like cutting out a part of my heart, but I might as well let somebody else have the fun of getting them, just as I did." He had spent 30 years assembling his collection.

MISSISSIPPI has opened its newest Civil War museum at Baldwyn, site of the battle of Brice's Crossroads.

BULLETIN BOARD

ACCEPTANCES of Dr. Otto Eisenschiml's ethical code for historical writers have been registered by several CWRT's in recent weeks. Dayton CWRT adopted the code at its meeting January 2. Allan Lowe, president of Bethesda (Md.) Civil War society, voiced approval on January 16. John R. Peacock, treasurer of the North Carolina CWRT (High Point, N.C.) sent a copy of a resolution which gave unanimous approval to the code. Bert Maybee of Kansas City CWRT reported that a meeting of the directors unanimously passed a resolution in favor of the code.

* * *

NEW MEMBER: Peter H. Johnson, 520 Park Plaine Ave., Park Ridge, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: George A. Barclay to: 5459 Everett Ave., Chicago 15.

* * *

AVAILABLE at meetings: Gold finished CWRT lapel pin, \$1; Cloth patch of emblem, 50 cents.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY on February 19 signed legislation to make a national park of Abraham Lincoln's boyhood home in Spencer county, southern Indiana. It will be the first national park in Indiana. The new law carries one million dollars for development of the 200 acre park area and \$75,000 for land acquisition. Indiana owns all save 57 acres of the site and has offered its holding to the government. Lincoln lived in a log cabin on the farm from the age of 7 until at 21 he moved to Illinois. The park will be known as the Lincoln Boyhood National memorial. After President Kennedy signed the legislation, he handed the pen to our member, Rep. Fred Schwengel, Davenport, Ia., who aided in putting the legislation through Congress.

SCORES OF DESCENDANTS of Congressional Medal of Honor winners during the Civil War will gather in Washington, D.C., April 28 as special guests at an all-day ceremony sponsored by the D.C. Civil War Centennial Commission. There will be great-grandchildren of the Andrews Raiders, first winners of the medal, and the widow of one of the original holders. Several of the medals, including the first ever awarded, will be on display. The program is to begin with a visit by the descendants to the White House. There will be a memorial service off Hains Point, at which a naval destroyer will strew flowers on the Potomac. At noon a commemorative ceremony will take place at the Washington Cathedral, after which the special guests will be taken by bus to the Army-Navy Club for a luncheon, during which Civil War songs will be sung by the United States Army chorus.

The D.C. commission has located 169 of the original 1504 Civil War Medals, has contacted 498 descendants of Civil War participants who received them. Five of the original Medals, including the first Medal to be awarded, are expected to be on display. There have been only three changes in the design of the medal. The bill for the medal was approved by Congress and signed by President Lincoln on July 12, 1862.

NEW YORK CWRT has published a Civil War Centennial Edition of its history, programs, and membership. It was edited and illustrated by Arnold Gates, who has been secretary of the group since 1954, eight of its twelve years' existence. The 40 page booklet contains a current list of Civil War Round Tables.

THE NEW BOOKS



STANTON: The Life and Times of Lincoln's Secretary of War, by Benjamin P. Thomas and Harold M. Hyman (Knopf, 642pp, \$8.50). Subject of Dr. Hyman's talk to Chicago CWRT, October 12, 1961.

THE EDGE OF GLORY, by William M. Lamers (Harcourt, 499pp, \$6.95). Biography of Gen. William S. Rosecrans.

THE CIVIL WAR: The Articles' Record, by Hermann Warner Williams Jr. (Beacon Press, Boston, 251pp, illus., \$12.50).

MIRROR OF WAR, by John W. Stepp and I. W. Hill (Prentice-Hall, 378pp, \$12.50).

A HISTORY OF THE HENRY COUNTY (Tenn.) COMMANDS facsimile of 1904 book by Lt. Edwin H. Rennolds (L. D. Thompson, Paris, Tenn., \$7.50).

GENERAL E. KIRBY SMITH, C.S.A., by Joseph H. Parks (Louisiana State U. 545pp, \$7.50). Reissue of a Southern Biography Series standard work.

L.S.U. Press also plans to bring out books on Gen. Henry W. Halleck, by Stephen Ambrose, and Gen. Leonidas Polk, by Joseph H. Parks, and a centennial edition of Stanley Horn's "The Robert E. Lee Reader."

PORT HUDSON COLLECTION, 15 sheets containing 20 etchings of Civil War scenes in Baton Rouge and Port Hudson, La., \$2.25, Arts and Science Center, Old State Capitol, Baton Rouge, La.

RICHARD KEITH CALL: Southern Unionist, by Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., (U. of Florida, \$5.50). Study of Florida territorial governor who fought secession.

THE CONDUCT OF WAR, 1789-1961, by Maj. Gen. J. F. C. Fuller (Rutgers, 343pp, \$6).

THE FIRST LINCOLN CAMPAIGN, by Dr. Reinhard H. Luthin, has been reissued by Peter Smith of Gloucester, Mass.

THE HISTORY OF THE 24th MICHIGAN, by Donald L. Smith, to be published by the Stackpole Co.

THE CIVIL WAR IN PAPERBACKS:

DOCTORS IN BLUE, by George Washington Adams (Collier, 95 cents).

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA, by Alan Barker (Doubleday-Anchor, 95 cents).

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT, by Jefferson Davis, foreword by Earl S. Miers (Collier, \$1.50). Abridged.

A HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY, by Clement Eaton (Collier, \$1.50).

THE CIVIL WAR, by Harry Hansen (New American Library-Mentor, 95 cents).

SHERMAN: Soldier, Realist, American, by B. H. Lidell Hart (Praeger, \$1.95).

LINCOLN'S WAR CABINET, by Burton J. Hendrick (Doubleday-Dolphin, \$1.45).

STORMY BEN BUTLER, by Robert S. Holzman (Collier, 95 cents).

BLUE AND GRAY, edited by Donald Honig (Avon, 35 cents). Poems, fiction, and non-fiction.

THE GREAT REBELLION: The Emergence of the American Conscience from Sumter to Appomattox, by Earl S. Miers (Collier, 95 cents).

DECISIVE BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR, by Joseph B. Mitchell (Fawcett-Premier, 75 cents).

THE MAN WHO KILLED LINCOLN, by Philip Van Doren Stern (Doubleday-Dolphin, 95 cents).

LINCOLN AND THE RUSSIANS, by Albert A. Woldman (Collier, 95 cents).

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS IN THE CIVIL WAR, by Edward Needles Wright (Barnes-Perpetua, \$1.95).

FUTURE MEETINGS



Wednesday, April 11 - Dr. Richard D. Mudd, "The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the Trial and Imprisonment of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd."

Friday, May 11 - Everett Lewy on "Chickamauga" (and annual meeting and election of officers).

June - Date and speaker to be announced (installation of officers).

SPECIAL EVENTS

March 4-8 - Memorial Service for 100th anniversary of the Battle of Pea Ridge, sponsored by Pea Ridge Memorial Association, at new national military park, Rogers, Ark.

March 7-9 - Norfolk, Va., Naval Amphibious Training Command will reenact battle of Monitor and Merrimack, at Little Creek, Va., using electrically controlled models. (Centennial stamp issue).

March 23 - Dedication of electric map of "Stonewall" Jackson's Valley Campaign, Harandoah Valley Circle Tour.

March 24 - Richmond, Va., Civil War and 19th Century Ballet interpretations of Ballet Impromptu, Lyric Theater.

April 6 - Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., Commemorative Stamp - first day of issue - Battle of Shiloh, with program continuing to following day.

April 10-11 - 100th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Pulaski; flag raising ceremony; Fort Pulaski National Monument, Ga.

April 12-14 - Atlanta to Chattanooga, Andrews Raid commemoration (The Great Locomotive Chase).

April 25-29 - Chicago CWRT, 12th Annual Battlefield Tour, to Gettysburg, Harpers Ferry, and Antietam.



START VISITOR CENTER AT ANTIETAM

A contract for \$128,450 was let by the National Park Service and work was begun in February on the Visitor Center at Antietam National Battlefield Site, Sharpsburg, Md. The center will be a split level building, mostly one story, but with an observation room on an upper level from which one can view the entire battlefield area, and an exhibit room on a lower level. From the observation room park interpretive personnel will give regularly-scheduled talks on the battle to visitors. The building will be constructed largely of native limestone with liberal use of glass in the observation room. The building will contain administrative offices for the park staff. This is the big year for Antietam, the centennial of the battle being September 17. Chicago CWRT battlefield tour will be at the site Saturday, April 28. Hagerstown (Md.) CWRT will host a 1962 Antietam Assembly of Civil War Round Tables September 14-16.

The average age of the Union soldier at the time of his enlistment was 25.8 years and his average height was 5 feet 7 inches. The shortest man was 3 feet 4, from Ohio; the tallest, 6 feet 10 1/2, from Indiana.