

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXIII, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

February, 1963

## Dr. David C. Mearns on Manuscripts of Gettysburg Address - Feb. 28

An outstanding speaker and an absorbing subject headline our February meeting.



Dr. David C. Mearns

Dr. David Chambers Mearns is chief of the manuscript division and holder of the Chair of American History of the Library of Congress. Thus, he has been in ideal position to assemble the data of his talk, "The Gettysburg Address: The Mysteries of the Manuscripts".

"As to my paper," Dr. Mearns said, "it will be primarily concerned with the five surviving holographs of the Gettysburg Address, with particular emphasis upon their provenance and the bizarre behavior of some of those who have been, from time to time, their keepers."

"The Address has, of course, inspired a vast literature, produced by ladies and gentlemen of established probity and incorruptible honor, but everything that has so far appeared in print is characterized by error, stemming from two causes: (1) fraudulent memory, and (2) guileless acceptance of 'authorities'.

"In this, the centennial year, I propose to interrogate the witnesses in the hope of resolving some of the mysteries and elucidating the others".

The subject is most appropriate in the month of Lincoln's birth and the centennial year of delivery of the address.

Dr. Mearns spoke to our 76th meeting, on October 22, 1948, on "The Robert Todd Lincoln Papers".

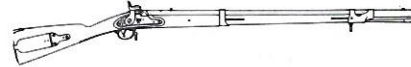
He is a native of Washington D.C., attended George Washington university there, and the University of Virginia. He has been on the staff of the Library of Congress since 1918 and has held such positions as superintendent of reading rooms, chief reference librarian, director of reference department, and assistant librarian. He has held his present position since 1951.

Among books Dr. Mearns has written are "The Lincoln Papers" (1948), "The Declaration of Independence: the Story of a Parchment" (1950), "Lincoln and the Image of America" (1953), "Historical Manuscripts (1957), and "Largely Lincoln" (1961). He has contributed numerous articles and book reviews to newspapers and magazines.

He is a past president of the Manuscript Society and has been a member of many societies, commissions, and committees dealing with the Civil War, Lincoln, historic personages, manuscripts, and bibliography. He was Windsor lecturer at the University of Illinois in 1953 and has lectured at other colleges and universities. He has received honors from several universities.

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A bonus awaits members who attend the February 28 meeting. The John Morrell company, meat packers, commissioned 12 new oil paintings dealing with the life



218th REGULAR MEETING

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Dr. David C. Mearns

on

"The Gettysburg Address:

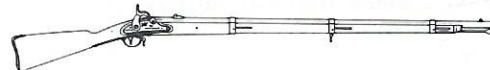
The Mysteries of the Manuscripts"

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1963

St. Clair Hotel  
162 East Ohio Street

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



FRED SCHWENGEL, Congressman for Iowa, member of our CWRT and of the national Civil War Centennial Commission, speaks at the Lincoln banquet, at 6:30 p.m., February 11, in the Abraham Lincoln hotel, Springfield, Ill. The event is sponsored by the Sangamon County Historical Society and the Springfield CWRT. The two groups expect to make it an annual event. For late reversations, call hotel.

SIX PANEL DISCUSSIONS on the theme, "The Far-Reaching War", will be featured at the sixth annual assembly of the National Civil War Centennial Commission March 22-24 at the Parker House in Boston. The subjects are: "Civil War Medicine", "The Role of New England Governors in the Civil War", "Outstanding State Contributions to the Centennial", "Civil War Women", "A Civil War Book: from Conception to Consumption", and "Music of the 1960's". Dinners will be held on the opening and closing nights.

of Lincoln for its calendar this year. The paintings are by Ira Barnett and text accompanying the pictures by Ralph G. Newman. The Morrell company is kindly providing a portfolio of prints of the paintings for members of the Round Table who attend the meeting. The prints are suitable for framing or retaining in the portfolio.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

## OFFICERS

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PEA RIDGE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION is well along with a program of markers, but needs new funds to complete it. Markers placed to date are at Potts Hill, Dunagin's farm, Eagle Hotel, Elm Springs, McKissick Springs, Camp Stephens, War Eagle Mills, and on March 10, one will be placed at Cross Hollows. This leaves three, at Camp Walker, the Battle of Maysville, and Osage Mills (Smith's Mill), to be placed before the dedication of Pea Ridge National Military Park on May 31.

The markers on historic sites outside the national park proper are closely connected with the maneuvering of the armies just before and just after the battle of Pea Ridge. Money for the markers has been raised by dollar memberships in the association and by gifts from friends and organizations.

Checks for gifts or dollars for memberships should be made payable to Miss Eva Patterson, Chairman of the Board, PRMA. They should be mailed to Mrs. W. W. Vaught, 853 Jackson Drive, Fayetteville, Ark., who will issue and mail membership cards and acknowledgements.

A CIVIL WAR THEME, with emphasis on stamps of the war period, has been chosen for the International Stamp Exhibition at the Statler-Hilton hotel in New York City, March 22-24, in cooperation with the Civil War Philatelic Society. In addition to stamps, exhibits will include cannon, flags, rifles, tents, historical documents, maps, and letters.

THE LINCOLN GROUP OF BOSTON observes its 25th anniversary on February 10, 1963, by making addition to the F. Lauriston Bullard scholarship fund at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn. The fund was established in 1952 by the Boston group and other friends of Dr. Bullard, founder of the Boston group, author, and great contributor to Lincoln scholarship. Dr. Bullard has since passed away. Persons who wish to contribute to the fund may do so by sending their checks to our former member, Milton F. Beecher, 50 Woodland Road, Holden, Mass.

*from the  
Editor's pen*



EDWARD M. COFFMAN, of the University of Wisconsin history department, gave a thorough review of the career of "The Notorious Captain Thomas Henry Hines" at our January 18 meeting. He dealt particularly with Hines' association with John Hunt Morgan's raiders across Indiana and Ohio and escape from Ohio state prison at Columbus. Coffman followed up with Hines' activities as military leader of the "Northwest Conspiracy". This extended to Canada and many places along the lakes and links with Copperheads. One segment of the plot was to release prisoners at Camp Douglas in Chicago, but nothing happened. Hines also had a colorful post-war career and lived until 1898.

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In spite of frigid weather, 76 persons attended the January meeting. President Warren A. Reeder acknowledged the merit award to our CWRT by the Civil War Centennial Commission of Illinois. Frank Rankin, president of Louisville CWRT was present. He announced that in July, 1963, Louisville CWRT will sponsor a commemoration of the John Hunt Morgan raid. Interested persons from all neighboring states will be invited to attend. One feature will be a river boat to accommodate 1,000 persons on a tour.

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The "Firearms of the World" special meeting at Lincoln Federal Savings and Loan association on Sunday, January 13, attracted more than 70 persons to view Arnold Chernoff's collection and hear his speech. Host Frank Kinst provided sandwiches and other goodies. Frank was presented the CWRT's Distinguished Service Award - not just for the meeting and refreshments, but for that and numerous other good deeds he has done for our organization.

Other recent recipients of the Distinguished Service Award were Art Thorsen and John Mies for their radio programs dealing with the Civil War.

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Our member Leon Stolz and our friend, Cartoonist Carey Orr, were honored in the Chicago Tribune December 28 with a front page color cartoon drawn by our former member Joe Parrish. It was the occasion of Mr. Stolz's retirement as chief editorial writer of the Tribune.... Founding member Newton C. Farr was honored with several parties and mention in the Chicago press of his many civic services on the occasion of his 75th birthday, Christmas day.... Founding member Monroe F. Cockrell has sent files of correspondence, documents, and printed items to the West Virginia library which recently installed the great Stonewall Jackson collection assembled by the late Dr. Roy Bird Cook, of Charleston, W. Va.

Miss India Thomas has retired as executive director of The Confederate Memorial Literary Society, whose building in Richmond, Va., was once the White House of the Confederacy.

Madison (Wis.) CWRT has a membership of 76. The roster limit is 100 and Madison is open to volunteers, but adds, "no draftees, please".

## Bargain for Early Birds

Hal Hixson and Brooks Davis, Battlefield Tour chairmen, announce a considerable saving for early birds. Persons who make their reservation for the April 24-28 tour and pay the full amount before March 25 can make the trip for a basic price of \$180. This is made possible by the air line's granting of group rate fare, subject to a minimum party of 25 persons. The tour base price package after March 25 will be \$195.

It is planned to issue the tour leaflet early in March, but persons who wish to enter their reservations right away may do so by communicating with Mrs. Margaret April, registrar, at 18 East Chestnut St.

Only a few details remain to pin down the tour program, such as speakers and some timing. Our CWRT's first tour to Richmond was in 1953 and at the time Douglas Southall Freeman was a speaker and our host at a garden party. He passed away five weeks later. Since ten years have passed, one event will be to pay honor to his grave.

J. Ambler Johnston, our tour co-chairman at Richmond, is writing a brief of the "Seven Days' Battles" and "Grant's 1864 Campaign" for the tour leaflet and also collaborating with E. B. (Pete) Long on the Reading List. For those who want to get started early, recommended reading is the appropriate sections of "Battles and Leaders" and Miller's Photographic History of the Civil War. For the Seven Days some good volumes are "The Peninsula", by Webb; Freeman's "Lee", Volume II, starting at page 108, and Henderson's "Jackson", Volume II. For the 1864 campaign, see "The Virginia Campaign", by Humphrey. Many other titles will appear in the leaflet reading list.

U. S. F. SALT ARMY, the newsletter of the University of South Florida CWRT explains its name. A great deal of the Confederacy's salt came from west Florida in the last years of the war. The militia units which were established among the salt makers to defend them against northern raiding parties was called the Salt Army. The years 1863 and 1864 were hard ones for the Confederacy, badly in need of food and clothing, and she turned to Florida for salt and beef. There were only 40 guns to protect more than 200 salt works and the Union forces had every river blockaded. When a Union landing party wrecked a salt works, the Salt Army rebuilt it. University of South Florida at Tampa opened its doors in 1960 and the CWRT formed in March, 1962, was the first club on the campus dealing with any kind of history. Douglas Santini is president and Charles W. Montford is editor of the newsletter, U.S.F. Box 2395, Tampa, Fla.

THE U. S. GRANT ASSOCIATION has decided to collect all of the papers of the Civil War general and post-war president and then make selective use of them for publication. The work is proceeding under the direction of John Simon, a former member of Chicago CWRT. In the South, the Jefferson Davis Association has decided to follow the same plan. Frank Vandiver is in charge of the work on the Davis papers.

THE TAGS, NAME CARDS, AND RIBBONS worn by Confederate veterans for reunions are sought by Riley W. Gunter, historian of the Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp No. 215, Sons of Confederate Veterans, 3364 Berea Road, Memphis, Tenn. He is also seeking one of the Southern Crosses of Honor awarded veterans by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Items will be added to a public collection that already has been shown at many centennial gatherings.

## BULLETIN BOARD

NEW YORK CWRT has a few Civil War Round Table medals remaining and would prefer to see them in the hands of fellow Round Table members. Considering the cost of production, there will not be too many such medals issued and it is believed the New York piece will become a collectors' item. It was made by the company that made the official Civil War Centennial medal and is a handsome piece in bronze. The medals can be obtained for \$2.85 each from Arnold Gates, 289 Hyde Park Road, Garden City, N. Y.

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NEW MEMBER: Donald F. Pfeuffer, 8239 New-castle St., Niles 48, Ill.

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DECEASED: D. L. Chambers, Indianapolis, Jan. 12.

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AVAILABLE at meetings: Gold filled lapel pin, \$1; Cloth patch of emblem, 50¢.

### SEEK TO FORM SOUTHEASTERN CWRT

PENSACOLA CWRT is trying to stimulate interest in a SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLES primarily for lining up speakers and inter-CWRT activities. Earle Bowden, president of Pensacola CWRT, reports that the CWRT movement along the Gulf Coast is gaining speed, now including Mobile, Gulfport, and New Orleans. The group looks also for support from the CWRT's of Atlanta and Mississippi. Mobile and Pensacola already have had exchange meetings and members attend each other's programs.

Bowden, telegraph editor of the Pensacola News Telegraph, has been stimulating interest there with a weekly feature on the Civil War accompanied by his own illustrations. A CWRT project is a hard cover book on Pensacola in the war with emphasis on the Fort Pickens Truce, a deal between Stephen Mallory and James Buchanan which kept the war out of Pensacola harbor three months before Sumter. Pensacola is laying plans for a centennial commemoration in 1964 with an assembly of southern CWRT's and a simulation of the battle of Santa Rosa island.

Mobile CWRT is trying to save the old building, still in use, where Hunley's submarine was built.

Anyone who can give aid on the Southeastern CWRT project is urged to write Earle Bowden, 215 Hart Drive, Pensacola, Fla.

CIVIL WAR TIMES for January has feature articles on "The Year of American Decision: 1963", by Glenn Tucker; "The 'Trent' Affair", by Jay H. Schmidt, "Mother Bickerdyke - a Personality Profile", by Jean Getman O'Brien, and "Wilson's Selma Raid", by Jerry Keenan.

INFORMATION on Volunteer Regiments raised and credited to Brooklyn, N. Y., in the Civil War is sought by Prison CWRT, c/o J. F. Featherston-Education Dept., 500 Spring St., Richmond 19, Va.

## THE NEW BOOKS



**FRONT RANK**, by Glenn Tucker (85pp, 8-1/2x11, \$3, North Carolina Confederate Corp. Box 1881, Raleigh, N. C.) The story of North Carolina in the Civil War.

**THE LIFE OF DR. SAMUEL A. MUDD**, by Nettie Mudd (3rd Edition, publisher Dr. Richard D. Mudd, 1001 Hoyt St., Saginaw, Mich., 1962, 363pp, \$5).

**THE AMERICAN JEW IN THE CIVIL WAR**, edited by Isidore S. Meyer (American Jewish Historical Society, 167pp, \$5).

**THE HOUSE DIVIDED: The Story of Lincoln and the Civil War**, by Harvey Holman (Exposition Press, 80pp, \$2.75).

**FOUR YEARS ON THE FIRING LINE**, by James Cooper Nisbet, edited by Bell Irvin Wiley (McCowat-Mercer, \$5). Reissue of 1914 book.

**HISTORY OF THE 1st COLORADO**, by O. J. Hollister, edited by Richard Harwell Donnelly, (Lakeside Classic).

**BRASS-POUNDERS**, by Alvin F. Harlow (Sage Books). Fiction, Civil War Telegraphers.

**DIARY OF DOLLY LUNT BERGE**, edited by James I. Robertson, Jr. (University of Georgia).

**THE SECESSION CONVENTIONS OF THE SOUTH**, by Ralph A. Wooster (Princeton, 294pp, \$6.50).

**A PETITION REGARDING THE CONDITIONS IN THE C.S.M. PRISON AT COLUMBIA, S.C.**, Addressed to the Confederate Authorities, by John Fraser, edited by George L. Anderson (U. of Kansas Libraries, 57pp, \$1.50).

**FALLEN GUIDON**, by Edwin A. Davis (Stagecoach Press, Santa Fe, 175pp, \$5). The Odyssey of Gen. Jo Shelby.

**DICK DOWLING AT SABINE PASS**, by Frank X. Tolbert (McGraw-Hill, 150pp, \$3.95).

**DELAWARE'S ROLE IN THE CIVIL WAR**, edited by W. Emerson Wilson (48pp, Delaware Centennial Commission).

**MAP of two Manassas Campaigns**, \$1.50 (or \$2.50 if autographed by artist, Harry J. Bausili, Boy Scout Troop 670, Box 329, Manassas, Va.) Proceeds are for a projected trip to Scout ranch in New Mexico.

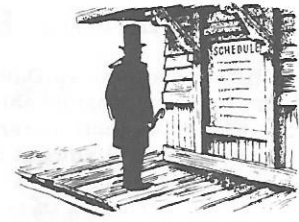
**FORT UNION, N. M.**, booklet, Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 30¢.

**LINCOLN HERALD ANALYTICAL INDEX, 1950-1960**, compiled by Wayne C. Temple and Glenna A. Rice (\$5, Lincoln Memorial U. Press, Harrogate, Tenn.) has just been published. It complements the 1954 index in which Helen Hart Metz indexed 1938 through 1949. The new index covers Volumes 52 through 62. Volumes 54 through 62 carried Civil War Round Table reports, now eliminated because so many CWRT's have newsletters. Now that LINCOLN HERALD is indexed from its beginning through 1960, yearly indexes will be issued and will be inserted loose in an issue.

**A LIST OF CIVIL WAR PLAYS - 19 full length and 17 short plays -** has been compiled by the Virginia Civil War Commission, Centennial Center, Richmond 19. The list will be sent upon request. After that any dealing should be direct with author or his agent.

**CROSSED FLAGS**, the newsletter of the CWRT of Northern New Jersey, is now under the editorship of Freeman Cleaves, author of **MEADE OF GETTYSBURG** and **ROCK OF CHICKAMAUGA**. Crossed Flags, which was steadily a notable literary production under Dean Ritzman, continues so under Cleaves.

## FUTURE MEETINGS



Friday, March 22 - "Snake Creek Gap: The Historians and the Principles of War", Col. Allen P. (Ned) Julian, director of Atlanta Historical Society.

Thursday, April 11 - "Sin and the Civil War, on The Kinsey Report of the War", Robert W. Waitt, Jr., executive secretary, Richmond Civil War Centennial Committee.

April 24-28 - 13th Annual Battlefield Tour of Chicago CWRT, to Richmond, Va., "Seven Days Battles" and Grant's 1964 Campaign.

Friday, May 17 - "Antietam", James V. Murfin, business manager, Civil War Times Illustrated.

June - Day, Speaker, and Subject to be announced.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

February-March - United States Marine Corps Civil War exhibit in Centennial Center, Richmond, Va.

February 11 - Springfield, Ill., Abraham Lincoln hotel, Lincoln Day dinner, Fred Schwengel speaker.

March 22-24 - Boston, Mass., Parker House, 6th National Assembly of Civil War Centennial commissions.

March 22-24 - New York, Statler-Hilton hotel, International Stamp Exhibition, with Civil War theme.

April 7 - Mansfield, La., Commemoration of the Battle; living sons and daughters of Confederate and Union veterans will be honored.

April 18 - Fayetteville, Ark., Centennial of the Battle.

April 27 - Columbus, Ohio, U. S. Grant Birthday dinner, Ohio Historical society and U. S. Grant association.

May 1 - Port Gibson, Miss., Centennial of the Battle.



Kenneth M. Broughton and Nicholas L. Clarke of the Confederate Historical Society of England recently visited Civil War battlefields of the eastern United States. The Society has a membership of 86, scattered throughout Britain and overseas; its members also include some from the American Civil War Round Table, United Kingdom. The Society holds bi-monthly meetings in London with an average attendance of 25, and publishes a quarterly JOURNAL. Mr. Broughton's address is 2 Fairleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, England.

**CIVIL WAR HISTORY** for June will be a special number devoted to the navies of the Civil War and guest edited by Virgil Carrington (Pat) Jones.

**JAMES I. (BUD) Robertson**, executive director of the national Civil War Centennial commission will speak on Kansas City CWRT February 26 and receive the Harry S. Truman Award for Meritorious Service in the Field of Civil War History.