

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXIV, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September, 1963

Bruce Catton to Open 1963-64 Year; Speaks Thursday, September 26

Our Honorary Award Life Member Bruce Catton, Pulitzer prize winning author on the Civil War, and senior editor of American Heritage, will be the opening speaker of our 1963-64 year on Thursday, September 26. He chose "Politics and the Army of the Potomac" as the shortest title he could think of for his subject matter - the command problem in the Army of the Potomac.



BRUCE CATTON

"In general terms," Bruce said, "my feeling is that the army was held in Washington too long, that it got hopelessly enmeshed in politics, that McClellan as well as his Republican opponents were playing politics, and that even after his departure, the political coloring which had been given the army was a factor affecting his subsequent career."

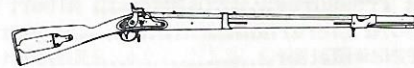
That is just about where Bruce started in the Civil War book writing business - "Mr. Lincoln's Army" and "Glory Road," then on to prize winner "A Stillness at Appomattox," "This Hallowed Ground," "Grant Moves South," "The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War," "The Coming Fury," "Terrible Swift Sword," and others.

The first official Catton speech to our group was during the battlefield tour to Gettysburg in 1952. The next year, in the new Lincoln room at the Pick-Congress hotel, he spoke to one of our largest meetings on "Sheridan and Warren in the Battle of Five Forks." We were guests of the Lincoln National Life Foundation in Fort Wayne, Ind., when he spoke on "Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief," on April 12, 1957. Round Table members attended the Northwestern University Civil War Conference when Bruce was a speaker-panelist.

Thus, Bruce is known to many of us. A warm view of the man is contained in the account that our member Henry Bass, of Enid, Okla., wrote in his circular letter, "Dear Everybody." Henry tells of Bruce's talk to the National assembly of Civil War Centennial commissions in Boston last May when Bruce detailed his first book writing efforts. Henry wrote: "After working as a reporter until he had passed the age of 50 (Cleveland News, Boston American, Cleveland Plain Dealer, and feature writer for the Newspaper Enterprise Association), he (Catton) developed a yearning to write a novel based on the Army of the Potomac.

"After writing 120 pages, he re-read his work, and, deciding it was worthless, consigned it to the wastebasket. But the inspiration the story of that heroic army creates had taken hold, so he began writing its story. Mr. Catton declared that if he had realized the tremendous amount of research required to write history, he would have never started. But he finally finished the manuscript of 'Mr. Lincoln's Army' and submitted it to two book publishers.

"His work was promptly rejected. This was in 1950 and one informed him no book on the Civil War could be



223rd REGULAR MEETING

* * *

Bruce Catton

on

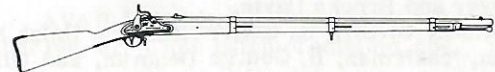
"Politics and the Army of the Potomac"

* * *

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1963

St. Clair Hotel
162 East Ohio Street

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



sold. The other returned his manuscript unread because already there had been published a book on the Civil War that year.

"The peerless Civil War writer returned to his reporting. One day he chanced to tell a friend about his manuscript gathering dust in a desk drawer. Shortly afterward this friend told him to call Lee Barker at Doubleday. This firm took a chance and published it. After its indifferent reception, the publisher hesitated, but finally told the aspiring author to go ahead on 'Glory Road.' It took a lot more persuading for the firm to publish 'A Stillness at Appomattox.' But from then on there was no hesitation.

"The next speaker, Samuel Vaughan, senior editor of Doubleday, pointed out that three of Bruce Catton's books in a row had been selected by the Book of the Month Club - an unheard of record."

Bruce was born at Petoskey, Mich., when his father was principal of Benzonia Academy, nearby. Bruce attended Oberlin College in Ohio and though he has spent most of this time in recent years in Washington and New York, he has maintained close links with the middle west.

LEE CHAPEL at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va., is open after extensive restoration. The chapel was built in 1867 when Gen. R.E. Lee was president of the institution then known as Washington College. Lee is buried in a wing of the chapel, which also contains the famous Valentine recumbent statue of Lee. Lee's office and the museum also have been restored. The restoration was made possible by a grant of \$370,000 from the Ford Motor Company Fund.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

OFFICERS

President.....H. George Donovan
Vice President.....Fred D. Mitchell
Secretary.....Arnold Alexander
Treasurer.....Malvin Hoffman
Assistant Treasurer.....Albert Harris
Tape Record Librarian.....August Payne
Editor of Newsletter.....Gilbert Twiss

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Executive Committee)

Terms expiring in 1964: Morton B. Feigen,
Robert J. Jensen, Walter K. Tatsch.
Terms expiring in 1965: Everett Lewy,
Frank A. Palumbo, Wilson A. Smith.

COMMITTEES

BATTLEFIELD TOUR, April 29-May 3, 1964, to
Baton Rouge and New Orleans - C. Robert Douglas
and Ralph G. Newman, co-chairmen; Charles L.
Dufour, co-chairman, New Orleans. Marshals: Al
Meyer and Brooks Davis. All officers members.
HIGH SCHOOL Civil War Round Tables - Miner T.
Coburn, chairman; E.B. Long, Morton B. Feigen,
William McBride, and Frank Palumbo.
DONATIONS - Vernon W. Schick, chairman, Al
Meyer and Brooks Davis.
LIAISON GROUP on CWRT History - Ralph New-
man, chairman, H. George Donovan, and Gilbert
Twiss.
AWARDS - Hal Hixson, chairman.



"Write a Letter to Mr. Lincoln"

Chicago Civil War Round Table sponsored a "Write a Letter to Mr. Lincoln" contest for admirers of Abraham Lincoln under 15 years of age living in Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky. The contest was part of the dedication program of the Lincoln Heritage Trail at New Salem State park on August 3.

In letters of 250 words or less addressed, "Dear Mr. Lincoln," the writer described an imaginary meeting with him or a subject of his own choice. Members Clyde C. Walton and Ver Lyn Sprague were two of the judges. President H. George Donovan administered the contest.

First prize went to Charles Bizarri, 12, of Coal Valley, Ill. He received an all-expense week-end at the Leland hotel in Springfield, with tours of Lincoln shrines. John M. Fellonneau, 14, Louisville, Ky, received a Lincoln library for second. A Centennial History of the Civil War went to David A. Bussard, Fort Wayne, Ind., for third. Nancy Ingram of Tremont, Ill., 7, received metal book ends for fourth. Keven Koski, 14, DeKalb, Ill., received a reproduction of a Civil War cannon for fifth.

The next ten winners each received a copy of "Lincoln for the Ages." They were:

Nancy Cropa, Glenview, Ill.; Joyce Thomas, Elizabethtown, Ky.; David L. Bullock, Mount Prospect, Ill.;

(Continued on Page 3)

*from the
Editor's pen*



Two summertime meetings of the executive committee were held, one June 12, at the Illinois Athletic Club, and another, August 22, at the Wrigley building restaurant. Some of the principal subjects of discussion are contained in other stories in this issue. It was decided that special events shall be handled separately from the regular speaker program. The committee on high school Civil War Round Table interests will hold further meetings on the subject of seeking out students who have a great interest in the Civil War and having them as guests at our meetings. An effort will be made to supply speakers for high school groups desiring to hold a Civil War Round Table meeting. A rotation plan is being developed for seating at the head table at meetings. Greater efforts will be made to greet and introduce new and recent members and guests at meetings. Al Meyer was appointed to redesign the membership application form.

* * *

Otto C. Rentner, a founder of the Civil War Round Table, died June 27 at Appleton, Wis., at the age of 75. He was chairman of the Board of Aid Association for Lutherans, fraternal insurance. He was a native of Chicago and had been a partner in the law firm of Rentner and Meyer and master-in-chancery in the Circuit court.

* * *

Our round table has occasional requests from others, particularly nearby in Illinois, for speakers. There are a number of our CWRT members who speak frequently to large groups. Perhaps there are others ready and willing who are not known at present to our officers. If you are available, please write to the secretary and the information will be kept on file pending requests.

* * *

Forty members and guests attended the "Abner Doubleday's Greatest Day" at Comiskey Park on July 1. The Cubs beat the White Sox 4 to 2. The party had a buffet dinner at the St. Clair Hotel before taking a charter bus to the game.

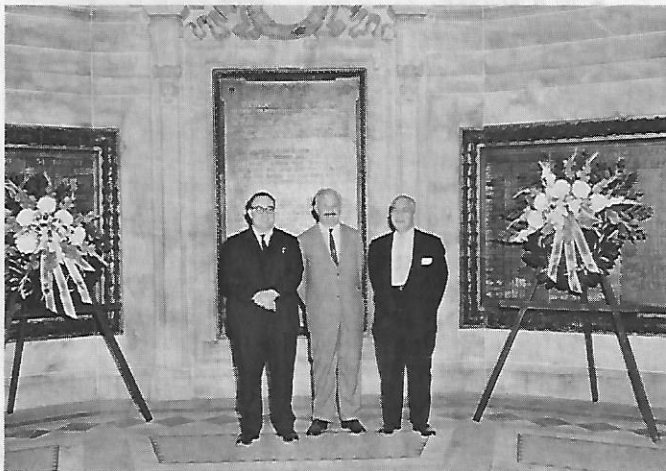
* * *

Miles Janousek was awarded the Baffart Trophy at the June 14 meeting. There are various translations of the name of the traveling trophy awarded for Command Post excellence on the battlefield tour. For the first time this year, previous winners were given a permanent award - a hollow cane fitted with five small bottles of liquid refreshment. These went to Hal Hixson and Wilson Smith. Peggy Lebold received an umbrella instead of a cane.

* * *

Guests at the meeting included "Buddy" Robertson and S.I. Neiman who were authors of new books, as was the speaker Charles L. (Pie) Dufour of New Orleans. "Pie" spoke on "Henry Hotze: Rebel Propagandist," one of the subjects in his new book, "Nine Men in Gray." Hotze was the agent for the Confederacy in England and Dufour classed him as "good enough for Madison Avenue." But he never succeeded in his one big goal, recognition of the Confederacy. His publication, The Index, expired in its 172d issue, Aug. 12, 1865, still saying, "The South Will Be Free."

Vicksburg and Gettysburg Centennials



Clyde C. Walton (left), Ralph G. Newman, and Rep. Corneal Davis, representing the state of Illinois, the state, and Chicago Civil War centennial commissions, and the Negro Emancipation centennial commission, placed wreaths at the Illinois Memorial at Vicksburg on July 4. Photo by Park Historian Albert W. Banton

Chicago CWRT members were representatives of Illinois at the Vicksburg and Gettysburg centennials. Ralph Newman and Clyde C. Walton of the CWRT and State Rep. Corneal Davis participated in a brief but impressive service at the Illinois Memorial in Vicksburg National Military park on July 4. The group placed wreaths. Newman spoke. Mr. Davis offered a prayer. Maj. Gen. U.S. Grant III (ret.) and John C. Pemberton III, grandsons of the opposing generals, were guests at all of the Vicksburg functions.

One of the features was an historical seminar that extended over three days and treated of the military, economic, political and social aspects of the Civil War. Featured lecturers were Edwin C. Bearss, regional research historian of the National Park Service; Clement Eaton, of the University of Kentucky; LeRoy H. Fischer of Oklahoma State University, and James I. Robertson, executive director of the National Civil War Centennial commission. Bearss' new book, "Rebel Victory at Vicksburg," was brought out at the centennial. It is the story of Adm. David Farragut's unsuccessful attempt at taking Vicksburg in 1862.

The Vicksburg Evening Post brought out a 136 page centennial edition with articles by many persons known to our members. It was mailed in wallpaper wrappers. Copies may be obtained for 50 cents to cover the cost of handling and mailing from the Vicksburg (Miss.) Evening Post.

Newton C. Farr represented Illinois at the Gettysburg observance. Eight governors and 18 official representatives of states joined Gov. William Scranton of Pennsylvania in placing wreaths at the Eternal Light Peace Memorial on July 1. The Gettysburg commemorative stamp was issued. Tracts of land were donated to the military park. There was a gigantic parade on July 2. The climax came on July 3, when 600 "Confederate soldiers" and 500 "Federal troops" recreated Pickett's charge. Brooks Davis was there with the 104th Illinois. They had companions from the midwest in the 2d Wisconsin.

Dr. LeRoy Fischer won the \$5,000 prize offered by the American Historical Society for his book-length manuscript, "Abraham Lincoln's Gadfly - Adam Gurowski." Fischer spoke at the presentation ceremony at Gettysburg,

BULLETIN BOARD

THE ULYSSES S. GRANT Association is collecting photographic copies of all manuscript material written by or to Grant and would appreciate information about the Grant materials in private hands or obscure places. Communicate with John Y. Simon, executive director of the association, at Ohio State Museum, Columbus 10, Ohio. This is in preparation for publication of Grant's complete works. Other newsletters please copy.

* * *

DUE to deaths and resignations, memberships are open in the Civil War Round Table. Members are encouraged to present the names of persons desiring to join.

* * *

THERE ARE NEW OFFICERS in many Round Tables and in some the editors of newsletters have changed. Please look at the address on the envelope containing our newsletter. If a change is required, please notify us.

* * *

NEW MEMBERS: Kenley L. Karnak, 1900 N. 77th Ave., Elmwood Park 35, Ill.; Jack B. Krebs, 9705 Cook Ave., Oak Lawn, Ill.; John T. Mahone, 2519 Jarratt Ave., Austin 3, Texas; H. Hoyt Thompson, 220 Warwick Rd., Kenilworth, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Hobart Neff to: 1109 Oak Lane, Ridgewood, Western Springs, Ill.

DECEASED: Otto C. Renter, a founder, June 27, at Appleton, Wis.

* * *

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

then flew to Vicksburg to take part in the seminar there. Fischer is a former member of our CWRT and at the 19th meeting on Jan. 19, 1943, spoke here on the same subject as his prize winner. At Oklahoma State he organized the first CWRT to receive college credit. Our member, Henry Bass, chairman of the Oklahoma centennial commission, said of Fischer, "In him O.S.U. and the entire state has an educator and historian in whose shadow we can bask with pride."

"WRITE A LETTER TO MR. LINCOLN"
(Continued from Page 2)

Felrath E. Griffin, Chicago; Spencer M. Punnett III, Wilmette; Nancy Lawton, Highland Park; Jos. Kearns, Laotto, Ind.; Robert Flint, Divernon, Ill.; Jesse Krueger, Glen Ellyn; and Anne Gillespie, Winchester, Ky. Charles Bizarri received a plaque in recognition of the award to him and a duplicate of it was sent Harold Wiese, principal of his high school at Coal Valley. Charles was the dinner guest of Gov. Otto Kerner of Illinois and Gov. Matthew Welsh of Indiana. Charles told them that his great-grandfather played in Lincoln's backyard in Springfield. Charles' parents and brothers accompanied him to Springfield. Mrs. Bizzari wrote, "It is an honor to meet the fine people who made our trip possible and other wonderful events that came as a result of Charles winning the contest."

Member Win Stracke's folk singing was one of the most appreciated events of the evening's program. Ralph Newman presided over the day's events.

THE NEW BOOKS



REBEL VICTORY AT VICKSBURG, by Edwin C. Bearss (Eastern Monuments, P.O. Box 349, Vicksburg, Miss., 299pp, \$5).

THE PORT HUDSON CAMPAIGN 1862-1863, by Edward Cunningham (Louisiana State, 174pp, \$5).

THE SOUTH AS A CONTINUOUS MINORITY, 1789-1861, by Jesse Thomas Carpenter (315pp, \$6); **RECONSTRUCTION, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC, 1865-1877**, by William Archibald Dunning (378pp, \$4); **LINCOLN'S PLAN OF RECONSTRUCTION**, by William B. Hesseltine (154pp, \$4, all Peter Smith, Gloucester, Mass.)

GETTYSBURG, The Long Encampment, The Battle, The Men, The Memories, by Jack McLaughlin (Appleton-Century, 244pp, \$6.95).

THE FAR SIDE OF HOME by Maggie Davis (Macmillan, 314pp, \$4.95). Civil War fiction.

POLITICS, PRINCIPLE AND PREJUDICE, 1865-1866, by Lawanda and John H. Cox (Macmillan, \$6). The dilemma of reconstruction America.

JOHN BROWN, by W.E. Burghardt DuBois (International Pub., paper, \$2.85). Reprint of 1909 work.

THE SOUTH SINCE 1865, by John Samuel Ezel (Macmillan, \$8.50).

DEAR FOLKS AT HOME: The Civil War Letters of Leo W. and John L. Faller, With an Account of Andersonville, ed. by Milton E. Flower (Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle, Pa., 153pp, \$4.50, in paper \$1.95).

THE PRIVATE WAR OF LIZZIE HARDIN: A Kentucky Confederate Girl's Diary of the Civil War in Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia (Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, 306pp, \$6. Edited by G. Glenn Clift.

THE FIRST VOLUNTEERS: History of the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Regiment, 1861-1865, by John Quinn Imholte (Ross & Haines, Minneapolis, 238pp, \$6.75).

JUST SOUTH OF GETTYSBURG: Carroll County, Maryland, in the Civil War, ed. Frederic Shriver Klein (Westminster, Md., 247pp, \$3.95).

THE FIRST BOOK EDITION OF THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS and THE SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS, ed. Leonard Everett Fisher, intro. Carl Sandburg (Franklin Watts, New York, 35pp, \$2.50).

THE EVE OF CONFLICT: Stephen A. Douglas and the Needless War, by George Fort Milton (Octagon, 608pp, \$10). Reprint, based largely on Douglas correspondence.

A BANNER IN THE HILLS: History of West Virginia, 1860-1863, by George E. Moore (Appleton, 256pp, \$5).

TURBULENT PARTNERSHIP: Missouri and the Union, by William E. Parrish (U. of Missouri, 242pp, \$5.50).

QUARTERMASTER SUPPORT OF THE ARMY: A History of the Corps, 1775-1939, by Erna Risch (Washington, D.C., 1962, 796pp, \$5.50).

SLAVERY AS A CAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR, by Edwin Charles Rozwenc (Heath, 120pp, \$1.50).

NEGRO SLAVERY IN LOUISIANA, by Joe Gray Taylor (Louisiana State, \$6).

FLORIDA DURING THE CIVIL WAR, by John E. Johns (U. of Florida, \$6).

MISSOURI SKETCH BOOK: Words and Pictures of the Civil War, by Clifton C. Edom (Lucas Bros., Columbia, Mo., 163pp, \$6.50).

DAVID GLASGOW FARRAGUT, Vol. I, Admiral in the Making, 372 pp, \$3.75; Vol. II, Our First Admiral, 513pp,

FUTURE MEETINGS



Friday, Oct. 25 - Gilbert E. Govan on "The President and the General."

Friday, Nov. 15 - Shelby Foote on "Grant's Seven Failures Above Vicksburg."

Friday, Dec. 6 - John Y. Simon on "The U.S. Grant Papers."

January (date to be announced) - Sen. Paul H. Douglas on "Stephen A. Douglas."

Friday, Feb. 7 - Illinois Sen. Paul Simon on "Lincoln the Legislator."

April 29-May 3 - 14th Annual Battlefield tour to Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sept. 19-20 - Tennessee and Georgia days at Battle of Chickamauga Centennial, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

Sept. 27-28 - Annual Seminar of Kennesaw Mountain Historical association, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Ga.

Nov. 11 - Veterans' Day observances, Shiloh National Military Park, Tenn., and nationally.

Nov. 19 - Dedication Day, Gettysburg National Cemetery; Centennial of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, National Military Park.

Nov. 23-25 - Centennial observances of battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.



\$4.50, by Charles Lee Lewis (United States Naval Institute, Annapolis).

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS, Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, by George L. Cashman (Lincoln Center, N. Grand and Monument, Springfield, Ill., \$1).

6TH NORTH CAROLINA INFANTRY BAND (N.C. Confederate Centennial Commission, \$1.50).

CINCINNATI DURING THE CIVIL WAR, by Louis L. Tucker; **OHIO'S CIVIL WAR GOVERNORS**, by Richard H. Abbott, and **CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF PETROLEUM V. NASBY**, by Harvey S. Ford (Ohio Civil War Centennial commission).

WILL SUCCESS SPOIL JEFF DAVIS, by Thomas Connolly and Grant Campbell Grant (McGraw-Hill, 224pp, \$4.95). Spoof, subtitled: The Last Book About the Civil War.

Giant size enlargements of drawing in Frank Leslie's Illustrated History of the Civil War are being produced by Endacom Graphics, Inc., P.O. Box 342, East Hartford 8, Conn. They are suitable for large wall display. Prints \$2.64 by mail.

OUR WOMEN OF THE SIXTIES, by Sylvia G.L. Dannett and Katharine M. Jones (Civil War Centennial Commission, 700 Jackson Pl. N.W., Washington 25, D.C. 44pp, free).

NASSUA COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR, by Arnold Gates (Available from author, 289 Hyde Park Road, Garden City, N.Y., 11 pp, 75¢).