

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXIV Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

November, 1963

## Shelby Foote - "Grant's Seven Failures Above Vicksburg" - Nov. 15

A high point in Civil War Round Table annals comes with the 225th regular meeting and the appearance of the distinguished author, Shelby Foote. He will speak on "Grant's Seven Failures Above Vicksburg." The place is the St. Clair hotel and the date, Friday, November 15.



Shelby Foote

Foote's appearance here is coincident with publication of the second volume of his THE CIVIL WAR: A NARRATIVE. It has been a long time since the first volume, "Fort Sumter to Perryville" came out in 1958. In that one, our member Rick Harwell said "the author achieves

a wonderful breadth of coverage and recounts the events of the war with an impressive depth of understanding." Our founder member Ralph Newman said, "Foote was a creative writer before he turned to history. . .but never in the course of this third-of-a-million word book does the author abandon the obligation of the historian for the imaginative freedom of the novelist. . .He accepted the historian's standards without his paraphernalia, the novelist's methods without his license." Civil War fans were enthusiastic about the book.

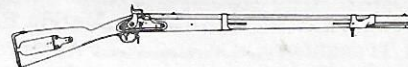
Foote's new book carries the war from Fredericksburg to Meridian and there is a third volume to come.

In the second volume, the publisher says, "The scope and power, the lively portrayal of exciting personalities and the masterful recreation of events have continued unmistakably. It covers many of the greatest and bloodiest battles of history - Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge . . .the courses of Lincoln and Davis, the elections of 1863, the conscription riots."

As for his talk in Chicago, Foote says it will be "an account of U.S. Grant's trials and errors in seeking to bypass Vicksburg or come upon it from the rear during the six-month period leading up to the launching of his successful campaign in early May of 1863." That is, "the seven failures above Vicksburg, before he got on the track that took him roundabout to victory there."

Although he now makes his home in Memphis, Shelby Foote comes from a long line of Mississippians. He was born in Greenville, Miss., and attended school there until he entered the University of North Carolina. During World War II he served in the European theater as a captain of field artillery. In the period since the war, he has written five novels: "Tournament", "Follow Me Down", "Love in a Dry Season", "Shiloh", and "Jordan County". He has been awarded three Guggenheim fellowships.

BEVERLY M. DUBOSE, Jr., a founder of Atlanta CWRT, has been appointed chairman of the Georgia Civil War Centennial commission by Gov. Carl E. Sanders. Du Bose was one of our hosts on the 1956 Battlefield tour to Atlanta.



225th REGULAR MEETING

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Shelby Foote

on

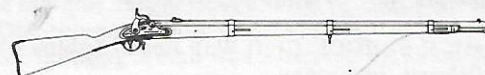
"Grant's Seven Failures Above Vicksburg"

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1963

St. Clair Hotel  
162 East Ohio Street

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



THE JEFFERSON DAVIS ASSOCIATION, a nonprofit corporation is soliciting tax deductible donations to carry on the collecting, compiling, editing, and publication of a complete edition of the papers and correspondence of the Confederate president. Dr. Frank E. Vandiver is chief of the project under a distinguished board of directors and advisory board of editors. Rice Institute of Houston is the sponsoring agency, supported by the national Civil War Centennial commission. Some state centennial commissions have made contributions. The minimum budget estimate is \$88,500 for publication of eight or nine volumes by University of Texas Press. Fees of \$25 regular member, \$100 sustaining member, or \$1,000 endowment member may be sent to Secretary-Treasurer Cooper K. Ragan, 1910 Chamber of Commerce Building, Houston 2, Texas.

THE GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN STATUE in Grant park at Michigan Ave., and 11th St., has been rehabilitated by the Chicago Park district. The equestrian statue by Augustus Saint-Gaudens originally was dedicated on July 22, 1897. It's renovation was hailed November 3 in a ceremony participated in by the Civil War Centennial commissions of Illinois and Chicago, the state historical society, the Civil War Round Table, and the Sons and Daughters of Union veterans. Logan was a lawyer in Murphysboro, Carbondale, and Marion, Illinois, and then represented the district in Congress. He was a fighting Civil War officer all the way from Manassas to the Carolinas, reaching his greatest height at Atlanta. After the war he was an Illinois senator and commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is credited with the start of general acceptance of May 30 as Memorial day.

# 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  
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## COMMITTEES

BATTLEFIELD TOUR, April 29-May 3, 1964,  
to Baton Rouge and New Orleans - C. Robert  
Douglas and Ralph G. Newman, co-chairmen; all  
officers are members; Al Meyer and Brooks  
Davis, marshals; Baton Rouge - Robert M. Reilly,  
chairman, T. Harry Williams and Edward Cun-  
ningham; New Orleans - Charles L. Dufour, chair-  
man.

HIGH SCHOOL Civil War Round Tables - Miner  
T. Coburn, chairman.

DONATIONS - Vernon W. Schick, chairman.

LIAISON GROUP on CWRT History - Ralph  
Newman, chairman.

AWARDS - Hal Hixson, chairman.



THE SEVENTH ANNUAL Robert Fortenbaugh Memo-  
rial Lecture will be presented on the Gettysburg College  
campus on Sunday, November 17, at 8 p.m. The lectures  
are offered as the college's observance each year of the  
anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Professor  
David Donald of Johns Hopkins University will speak on  
"Abraham Lincoln and American Nationalism." On Nov-  
ember 19, the national commemoration of the Lincoln  
Address centennial will be held at the Gettysburg cem-  
etery.

SALT CREEK CWRT, of the Glen Ellyn-Lombard-  
Maywood-Elmhurst neighborhood, has started the year  
with newsletter announcement of its speakers for the year.  
Among them are Clyde C. Walton, Willard L. King, and  
Otto Eisenschiml. On March 20, Lavern M. Hammand,  
dean of the graduate school of Eastern Illinois University  
will speak on "Lincoln's Particular Friend".

THE LIFE OF JEB STUART will be commemorated  
Sunday, May 10, 1964 at Stuart, Va. After ceremonies  
by the Patrick County Civil War Centennial committee  
at the county court house and at the Stuart statue, there  
will be a pilgrimage to Laurel Hill, Stuart's birthplace.

*from the  
Editor's pen*



Gilbert E. Govan gave a fine character study of Jef-  
ferson Davis and Joseph E. Johnston in his talk "The  
President and the General" at our October 25 meeting.  
"Both were sincerely patriotic and both wanted the South  
to win, but something in their makeups prevented their  
working together," Govan said. Govan cited the Vicksburg  
situation in which Pemberton was dealing directly with  
Richmond, rather than with Johnston, his superior. Re-  
ferring to the Tennessee theater, Govan said, "Bragg  
gave up as much territory as Johnston ever did" on the  
road to Atlanta. Referring to the battles from Chatta-  
nooga to Atlanta, Govan pointed out that the Cherokees  
had held the territory until 1838 and that whites had held  
it only 25 years. Much of the wonder of the Snake Creek  
gap maneuver is dispelled "when one considers that it is  
an open valley," Govan said. Johnston's troubles in-  
creased when Bragg became advisor to Davis and John  
B. Hood had the ears of Bragg and Davis. All considered,  
Johnston "comes off better than Davis, Bragg, and Hood"  
who were "careless with the truth," Govan said. After  
Chickamauga, "Johnston was against the Yankee first  
team, Grant and Sherman." Johnston had weaknesses,  
"his secretiveness and sensitiveness." Still unexplained  
is Mrs. Johnston's remark in 1861 about Davis, "He hates  
you, he has power, and he will destroy you." The discus-  
sion period aroused a pointed remark by Govan: "You  
can't put any faith in Davis - he lies."

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President H. George Donovan mentioned that Dr.  
William Hazlett is still ill at his home, 1428 N. State St.,  
and would like to hear from friends. Donovan stated that  
Clyde Walton will be speaker in March and T. Harry  
Williams in April, with dates to be set. Ralph Newman  
announced plans for the Logan statue rededication in Chi-  
cago November 3 and the Lincoln Gettysburg address  
commemoration in Springfield, November 19. Sixty mem-  
bers and guests were present at the meeting.

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A recent visit to Grand Gulf (Miss.) Military Park  
showed that it is beautifully set up. The museum, in a  
century old house, has fine dioramas and paintings by  
Margie Bearss. There is a caretaker of the museum and  
park. There are adequate markers to tell the story of en-  
gagements there and point out the features and gun em-  
placements of Fort Coburn and Fort Wade. The grounds  
and cemetery are well kept. Persons in near by Port Gib-  
son, Miss., who had a big hand in creating the park in-  
clude Mrs. Elizabeth McLendon, William Lum, Mayor Ed  
Davis, and Editor Edgar Crisler.

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At Vicksburg, Al Banton, historian of the National  
Military park, is one of the sparkplugs of the operation to  
raise the ironclad gunboat Cairo. Al watches over the ar-  
tifacts brought up like a mother hen and cringes every  
time century old ammunition and shells are set off, even  
for safety's sake.

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Many of our members are also members of the Illinois  
State Historical Society. Your editor has been elected  
president of the society and solicits an even larger rep-  
resentation.

Old Main of Knox College, Galesburg, has been desig-  
nated a National Historic Landmark. Abraham Lincoln  
and Stephen A. Douglas debated there on October 7, 1858.

## Progress on Operation Cairo



Equipment and crews operating above the sunken ironclad gunboat Cairo in Yazoo River 12 miles north of Vicksburg. Cairo is below the open water in the foreground.

(Gilbert Twiss photo)

Beginning in mid-September intensive work began toward raising the Union ironclad gunboat Cairo which was sunk December 12, 1862, in the Yazoo river. The sinking was by a Confederate galvanic mine set in the river - the first such action. No lives were lost in the sinking, but the finding of a human upper arm bone bore out reports that there were dead on the Cairo from an earlier engagement.

Work was carried on with a lot of contributed equipment—a pontoon barge by Dr. Walter Johnston, a barge by the army corps of engineers, the river tug Porterfield by Anderson Tully company, the coast guard buoy tender Dogwood, two small barges by Warren county, and men and equipment by the United States navy. Russell Light, a civilian diver, was in charge for the Collins Marine Divers, a salvage company of Crowley, La.

An 8-inch, and then a 12-inch, air lift was used to suck silt and mud from on top, around the sides, and from the interior of the gunboat, leaving only a pedestal of mud under its slanting keel. A navy crew of six skin diving ordnance disposal experts began removing ammunition from magazines on October 8. Lt. Frank Talarico, in charge of the crew, said the wooden boxes and their brass hinges and hasps were in good condition. Each box had nine 12-pounder shells. The navy men took them to a pit in a field and, using a plastic charge, exploded them. Talarico said the 100 year old powder exploded with the charge. Later some of the boxes were saved and deactivated by the much slower method of drilling. Later removals also included larger shells.

The plan for raising the Cairo was to place two barges alongside, slip thirty 1-1/4-inch cables under the Cairo's hull, sink the barges and snug the cables to them, then draw the water out of the barges to float them and the Cairo. Then the Cairo was to be positioned over another sunken barge and raised in the same manner. The barge bearing the Cairo was to be moved to the Vicksburg waterfront and renovated as a living museum of the Civil War.

Chicago Civil War Round Table made a \$500 contribution to the Operation Cairo funds at the time of our battlefield tour to Vicksburg in 1961. Edwin Bearss, who was our guide on that tour, won \$10,000 for the project when he appeared on the 100 Grand television program September 29. His opponent that night was William Neill of Waterloo, Wis., who had been a member of the battlefield tour. Pete Long and Hal Hixson of our CWRT were judges on the TV show. A part of the Operation Cairo, including the lifting of a gun, was shown in a CBS television program October 22.

## BULLETIN BOARD

An autographing party will be held for Shelby Foote, our speaker, at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 E. Chestnut St., at 3 p.m., Friday, November 15.

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NEW MEMBERS: G. Edward Hiscox, Walston & Co., 111 W. Jackson blvd., Chicago 60604; Alistair Napier, Canadian Consulate General, 310 S. Michigan Ave., Rm. 2000, Chicago 60604.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: LeRoy G. Andrews to: 4442 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago 60640; Lee Feldman to: 3950 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago 60613; William M. Grier to: 9900 Northlawn, Detroit, Mich.

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

PORT HUDSON battlefield is as close to a "virgin" battlefield as any in the country and will be a real treat for Chicago CWRT battlefield tour next April 30, Robert M. Reilly writes from Baton Rouge. "Breastworks, rifle-pits, and artillery emplacements abound and the possibility of picking up a Minie ball or two is a long way from impossible," Bob says. "Besides that, the area overlooking the old river bluffs is beautiful." Bob says that he, and T. Harry Williams and Edward Cunningham "accept readily our appointments to the tour committee." They will collaborate with Charles L. (Pie) Dufour of New Orleans on the itinerary.

About the new Baton Rouge CWRT, Bob says the Chicago CWRT telegram of good wishes was read at the organization meeting which was attended by 40 on September 19. Dufour was speaker for the second meeting, on Oct. 17, on "The Civil War - Exclusively American". Edison Allen of Tulane is to speak on Chickamauga at the third meeting on November 21. The December meeting will be a Ladies' Night. The group is scouting for speakers for next year. Volunteers can reach Robert M. Reilly at 376 Magnolia Wood Drive, Baton Rouge, La., 70808.

CONRAD L. WIRTH has retired as director of the National Park Service. He had served since December, 1951. He was head of all national parks and as such gave much attention to the rehabilitation of military parks. He succeeded as director by George B. Hartzog, Jr., associate director, who began his career with the park service office in Chicago in 1946 as an attorney. Hartzog has been superintendent of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis and executive director of Downtown St. Louis, Inc.

INDIANA was host to a midwestern regional meeting of Civil War Centennial Commissions at the Claypool hotel, Indianapolis, November 1 and 2. There was an informal reception and dinner the first evening with Lawyer-Author Alan Nolan as speaker. November 2, morning, had the premiere of a new film on Indiana in the Civil War, plus a panel discussion on teaching military history in high schools. Admiral E.M. Eller, Chief of Navy History, spoke at the luncheon. In the afternoon there was a symposium on the Civil War in the Ohio valley.

## THE NEW BOOKS



**THE CIVIL WAR: A NARRATIVE:** Fredericksburg to Meridian, by Shelby Foote (Random House, 988pp, \$12.50).

**THE GALVANIZED YANKEES**, by D. Alexander Brown (U. of Illinois, 264pp, \$5.50). Account of 6,000 Confederate soldiers recruited from Union prison camps to fight Indians in the west and for railroad guard duty.

**THE UNIFORMS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY**, by James C. Tily (Barnes-Yoseloff, \$15).

**THE LOUISIANA ELECTIONS OF 1860**, by William C. Harvard, Rudolf Heberle, and Perry B. Howard (Louisiana State, 135pp, \$3).

**I JESSIE**, by Ruth Painter Randall (Little, Brown, 223pp, \$3.95).

**BLACK UTOPIA: Negro Communal Experiments in America**, by William H. and Jane H. Pease (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 220pp, \$4).

**LINCOLN'S FAVORITE POETS**, by David J. Harkness and R. Gerald McMurtry (U. of Tennessee, 108pp, \$3.50).

**THUNDER ON THE CHESAPEAKE**, by David Divine (MacMillan, \$4.95). Fiction based on the Monitor and Merrimack fight.

**CIVIL WAR STUDIES**, by John A. Carpenter and others (Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, Pa., 71pp, \$1).

**LINCOLN AND THE FIRST SHOT**, by Richard N. Current (Lippincott, 223pp, \$3.95). Analysis of Lincoln's dilemma in the face of war.

**THE VATICAN AND THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY**, by Father Jerome (Abbey Press, St. Leo, Fla., 39 pp, \$1).

**FROCK COATS AND EPAULETS**, by Alf J. Mapp, Jr. (Yoseloff, 501pp, \$10). Character studies of Davis, Lee, Jackson, Benjamin, Johnston, and Stuart).

**COLUMBUS DURING THE CIVIL WAR**, by Francis P. Wisenburger (Ohio Univ. Press, 75¢).

**GENERAL TOM GREEN**, by Odie Faulk (Texian Press, Waco, \$4.95, paper \$2.95).

**EAGLE OF TWO CONTINENTS: Hungarian participants in the Civil War During the Missouri Campaigns**, by Leslie Konnyu (American Hungarian Review, 7421 Rupert Ave., St. Louis 17, Mo., \$1.25).

**MERCURY RECORDS** has released Volume 2 of "The Civil War: Its Music and Its Sounds", produced by Frederick Fennell and the Eastman Wind Ensemble using authentic instruments of the period.

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**THE CIVIL WAR**, a 64 page booklet "to present in simple language a survey of the eleven most popular aspects of the 1861-1865 conflict" has been issued by the national Civil War centennial commission. The writer, James I. Robertson Jr., executive director of the commission, states that it is "intended as a supplement, not a substitute, for American history textbooks" and is designed for the use of students. The eleven divisions are: causes, advantages of North and South, summary of campaigns, losses, navies, diplomacy, prisons and prisoners, arms, leaders, the common soldiers, the war's legacy, and suggested topics for further discussion. After each section is a list of recommended works. The booklet is nicely illustrated and there is an over-all map of the war theater.

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A FULL SCALE MODEL of the Confederate submarine Hunley is on display at the Mariners Museum near Newport News, Va. The model is the property of the South Carolina Confederate Centennial commission.

## FUTURE MEETINGS



Sunday, Dec. 8 - Ladies' Night, at Chicago Press Club, Songs by Win Stracke.

Friday, Jan. 17 - John Y. Simon on "From Galena to Appomattox; Elihu B. Washburne and Ulysses S. Grant During the Civil War."

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

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

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Nov. 3 - Rededication of John A. Logan statue in Grant Park, Chicago.

Nov. 19 - Gettysburg, Lincoln Address centennial. Illinois ceremonies at Springfield.

Nov. 23-25 - Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge centennials.

Jan. 13 - Washington, D.C., Interior Department Auditorium, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address commemorative program.

April 8 - Mansfield, La., centennial of battle. June 10-12 - Atlanta, Seventh Assembly of Civil War Centennial commissions.

June 11-13 - Atlanta, Sixth assembly of Civil War Round Tables.



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THE JOURNAL of the Illinois State Historical Society, Summer 1963, is a special, 312 page Civil War Centennial issue. Among the articles are "Richard Yates" and "Resurgence of Chicago Democracy" under Civil War Politics; "Mulligan and the Irish Brigade", "The 55th Illinois at Shiloh", "The Civil War Years of John Alexander Logan", "Colonel Julian E. Bryant: Champion of the Negro Soldier", and "One Story of the 109th Illinois Volunteer Regiment" under Illinois Soldiers and Their Campaigns, and "The Empire City of the West - a View of Chicago in 1864", "Uncle Dan Emmett's 'Dixie'", and "A Basic Civil War Library" under On The Home Front. Among the authors are Otto Eisenschiml, Edwin C. Bearss, John N. Dickinson, Ralph G. Newman and Pete Long. The issue is profusely illustrated. Copies may be obtained for \$1.25 each from the Illinois State Historical Society, Centennial Building, Springfield, Ill., and some book stores.

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ALEX SUMMERS of Mattoon, Ill., a member of Chicago CWRT, is author of "Gone to Glory at Farmington", a booklet published by the Mattoon Historical Society. The story is a profile of Col. James Monroe of Mattoon, a hero of the 7th and 123rd Illinois Infantry regiments in the Civil War. There is not an ounce of fat in the 36 pages and Alex reports that "60 to 70 per cent of the material comes from original sources such as county records, newspaper files of the day, the Official Records, etc." First printing was limited to 200 copies, but there are a few copies for sale, \$2 each, Mattoon Historical Society, Box 268, Mattoon, Ill.

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ALAN RICK of Pensacola CWRT visited the Dixie Gun Works at Union City, Tenn., and found that it still has a supply of parts for muzzle-loaders - a good source of supply for reactivated Civil War units.