



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXIV Number 5

Chicago, Illinois

January, 1964

John Y. Simon on "General Grant and Congressman Washburne"-Fri., Jan. 17

The January 17 meeting will be an all-Illinois show - speaker and subject. John Y. Simon was born in Highland Park and during several vacations from college worked in the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop. He was a member of our Civil War Round Table before he went east for further study and then to become executive director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association.



John Y. Simon

John's subject is "From Galena to Appomattox: Elihu B. Washburne and Ulysses S. Grant During the Civil War."

In the December newsletter the "e" was left off Washburne's name and John reminded us that "this is an extremely common error; in fact, that is the way Grant always spelled it. In his book review of the original printing of Grant's letters to Washburne, Henry James pointed out that Washburne's name was also 'curtailed of what he appeared to think the nonsense of the final e.' "

John's paper will deal with the relationship of Grant and Washburne during the Civil War and will try to discover just what it was that Congressman Washburne did to advance the military career of his protegee, Grant.

"Washburne, a Republican Congressman from Illinois, had two brothers who had served in Congress from other states, a firm friendship with President Lincoln, and valuable seniority. By the end of the Civil War, Galena, Illinois, had probably produced more generals per capita than any other community in the nation," John says.

So, John's paper will be "the story of how Washburne discovered Grant, how Grant became a general before he had an opportunity to engage the enemy, how Grant survived despite public outcry after Shiloh and during the early months of the Vicksburg campaign, and how, when Grant's military career became a political issue after his successes in the west, Grant and Washburne steered a course which permitted Grant to retain his effectiveness in the field."

"The purpose of the paper," John says, "is to decide whether Grant's military career was the result of the assistance of the powerful Congressman or achieved in spite of this political entanglement."

And that seems to provide the elements of some stiff discussion!

John was graduated from Swarthmore College, got his masters and doctorate at Harvard, and then taught at Ohio State University. When the state centennial commissions of Illinois, New York, and Ohio decided to collect and publish all of Grant's papers, a board of directors which includes some of the nation's most distinguished Civil War scholars chose John Simon as executive director of the project. As the first step, John compiled the "Ulysses S. Grant Chronology" which may be obtained from the Ohio Historical Society, Ohio State Museum, Columbus 10,



227th REGULAR MEETING

* * *

John Y. Simon

on

"From Galena to Appomattox:

Elihu B. Washburne and Ulysses S. Grant

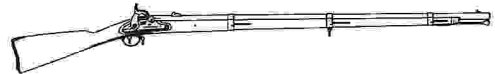
During the Civil War"

* * *

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1963

St. Clair Hotel
162 East Ohio Street

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



CARTHAGE COLLEGE, Kenosha, Wis., announces thru Librarian Jim Bishop a drive to build up its library of Civil War volumes to be one of the best in the country. College students and Civil War historians will be invited to use the books. The first large purchase is the 750 volume collection of the late Abe E. Geldhof of Skokie, Ill., Civil War Round Table member and newspaperman. He built the collection over many years and his well-balanced library will be the nucleus around which the college will build. The library augments a large Civil War relic and print collection put on permanent public view at Carthage by our CWRT member Frank Palumbo. The Geldhof library was purchased by a Milwaukee manufacturer and presented to Carthage in behalf of his father as a memorial. Palumbo had much to do with directing the Geldhof collection toward Carthage.

NEW YORK CWRT's December program was a symposium, "If Not Grant and Lee. . .Who?" With E. P. Leddy of Hartford CWRT as guest moderator, two pairs, pro and con, debated the merits of William T. Sherman and Joseph E. Johnston, with the membership participating in the discussion.

for \$1.50. Dues in the Grant association are \$10 annually. Grant papers and photostats are solicited and may be sent to the same address.

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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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.

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AWARDS - Hal Hixson, chairman.



SEEK TO RESTORE DERWENT

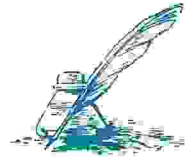
A drive is underway to restore Derwent, which was
briefly the home of Gen. and Mrs. Robert E. Lee in 1865.
The Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc., sparked by Jay
Johns, president, has taken title to the dilapidated two
story house and its 85 acres in Powhatan county, Virginia.

After Appomattox, Lee returned to the familiar Frank-
lin street home in Richmond which the family had occupied
in 1864-65. An endless file of visitors climbed the same
steps that now admit to the Lee House. Lee was not an
escapist, but was in need of a season of quiet, wrote the
late Douglas Southall Freeman.

Mrs. Elizabeth Randolph Cocke sensed the situation
and offered Mrs. Lee, the general, and their unmarried
daughters, the use of a vacant "cottage" on her Powhatan
property. The cottage was furnished, Mrs. Cocke ex-
plained, and the adjacent ground could be cultivated. The
Lees accepted the invitation and went to the place early
in July 1865.

Freeman said: "Under the simple roof of Derwent he
(Lee) penned some of the letters in which he urged South-
erners to take such work as they could find, to participate
in elections and to labor without needless repining for
the rebuilding of their wasted land. These letters written
in the quiet of the country, are among the noblest of the

*from the
Editor's pen*



The Ladies' Night program December 8 at Chicago
Press Club was saddened by the deaths within the pre-
vious 24 hours of Otto Eisenschiml and William Hesseltine.
Ralph Newman made the announcement which many per-
sons had not known until that time. The shock was appar-
ent from the buzz of voices. Win Stracke called for a
moment of silence and then sang "Tenting Tonight" as
a memorial to both men.

The musical program of the evening was credited by
our reporters, Marda Alexander and Margaret April as
being the finest of any Ladies' Night. The entire pro-
gram was arranged by our member, Win Stracke, with his
friends contributing their talents. Win was master of
ceremonies.

Ginni Clemmens and Ray Tate sang to their own ac-
companiment of banjos and guitars and when they joined
with Win, the whole audience responded to the idea of a
Hootenany.

Marda says: "Beverly Younger - Grace of the well-
beloved 'Studs' Place' brought down the house with her
satirical sketches, especially the second which dealt
with the awful dilemma of a woman who finds that her
martially-oriented CWRT member husband will be at
home that evening instead of at the Round Table meeting.
She has counted on his absence to invite the ladies of the
Peace Group to her home, and gets terribly involved
trying to get him to leave."

Win sang several series of songs with his own accom-
paniment. A feature was his adaptation of "John Harrel-
son" to music and song.

Ninety-two members, guests, and their ladies attended
the cocktail hour and dinner in the Press Club rooms on
the 22nd floor of the St. Clair hotel with beautiful views
of the city and Lake Michigan.

* * * * *

University of Oklahoma will publish LINCOLN'S
GADFLY: ADAM GUROWSKI, by Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer.
The manuscript won the \$5,000 prize at the Gettysburg
centennial. Dr. David Donald said that was the largest
prize ever given to a Civil War book in manuscript. Dr.
Fischer, an early member of our CWRT, spoke with the
same subject at meeting No. 19 on January 19, 1943.
Also at Gettysburg, our member Dr. Louis A. Warren won
an honorable mention for his manuscript, "Lincoln's
Gettysburg Declaration: A New Birth of Freedom."

* * * * *

In assembling our NEW BOOKS column, we acknow-
ledge an indebtedness to two comprehensive works. One
is The Continuing War, by Robert Dykstra, editor, in
CIVIL WAR HISTORY (\$5 annually). The other is In The
Literary Field, Book News Digest, by Arnold Gates in
the Lincoln Herald (\$4 annually). Arnold, secretary-
treasurer of New York CWRT, covers books, articles,
and events.

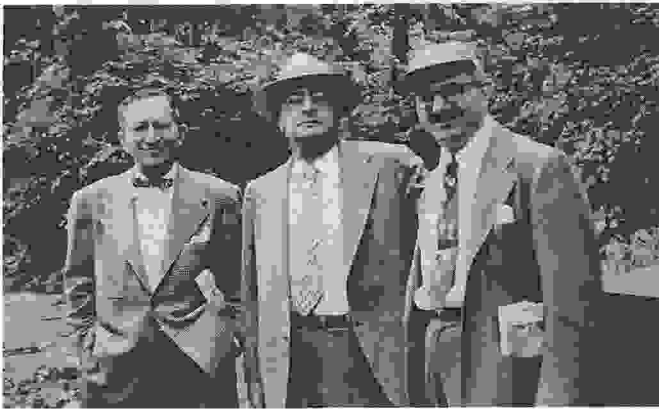
monuments of the great southern demigod."

Judge Brockenbrough rode up the lane one day in
August and brought the news that Lee had been elected
president of Washington College. Lee, on August 24,
wrote his letter of acceptance and later moved to the
college at Lexington, Va.

Though Derwent is dilapidated, the framework remains
sound enough to permit its rehabilitation.

Funds are solicited and may be sent in care of Jay
Johns to the Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc., Lexington,
Va.

Eisenschiml and Hesseltine Die



At Gettysburg, 1952: Elmer Gertz (left), Otto Eisenschiml, and Ralph Newman.



At Stones River, 1958: Mrs. Hesseltine, William Hesseltine, Jerry Slechta, and John Hunter. (Gilbert Twiss Photos)

Two great men of the Civil War Round Tables died after heart attacks within hours of each other, Dr. Otto Eisenschiml, in Chicago on December 7 at 83 years, and Dr. William Best Hesseltine, at his home in Madison, Wisconsin, on December 8 at 61 years. Dr. Eisenschiml had returned to his home after surgery and seemed to be recovering until he was stricken. Each man was a founder member of his own Round Table and both were Honorary Award members of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Both were widely known for their books and for their many speaking engagements at Round Tables throughout the country.

Dr. Eisenschiml was eminent in two careers, chemistry and Lincoln and Civil War study and writing. He was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1880, the son of a Civil War Union army officer. He began his American career with the Carnegie Steel company in Pittsburgh in 1901-04 and then moved to Chicago. He was active as a member and officer of chemical societies and in writings on chemical subjects. He built up his own company, Scientific Chemicals, Inc.

"OE" was an intense researcher and for his books examined the documents and physical evidence and tramped the terrain. Among his most widely known books - some with co-authors - were "Why Was Lincoln Murdered", "In the Shadow of Lincoln's Death", "Chicago Murders", "The American Iliad", "The Celebrated Case of Fitz John Porter", "The Hidden Face of the Civil War", and "OE, Historian Without an Arm Chair".

OE was outspoken with challenging views on his chief interests and loved an argument. His friends loved him for it and rallied everytime he was to speak. OE received honors in chemistry, literature, from colleges, and in public service with government and civilian agencies.

BULLETIN BOARD

A RESEARCH LIBRARY on Jefferson Davis is being assembled at Beauvoir, the Confederate president's home facing the Gulf of Mexico at Biloxi, Miss. Persons wishing to donate or loan books on Davis and the Confederacy to the library should contact the shrine manager, W. W. Blackledge at Beauvoir.

* * *

NEW MEMBER: Thornton W. Snead, 2424 Lincolnwood Dr., Evanston, Ill.

DECEASED: Otto Eisenschiml, Dec. 7; William B. Hesseltine, Dec. 8; Leon Wheeler, Oct. 13.

* * *

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

MILITARY AFFAIRS, Summer, 1963, contains an article, "Karl S. Betts and the Civil War Centennial Commission," by Victor Gondos, Jr., editor. The 20-page article also has been issued as a separate pamphlet. It is a tribute to Betts, who died June 10, 1962, while delivering an address at Lutherville, Md. The article has mention of Betts' part in the founding of the District of Columbia CWRT and of the efforts of Betts and Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant III in getting the national Civil War Centennial commission started.

There were still 1,873 widows and 650 children of Civil War veterans on Veterans Administration pension rolls as of June, 1963.

One of the chief project of OE's late years was "Ethics and the Civil War Historian: A Code for Historical Writers." A number of Civil War Round Tables endorsed it. In his last weeks, OE spoke to Civil War Round Tables at Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Dayton, and Atlanta, and to history classes at Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and Bradley University, Peoria. Pittsburgh and Dayton CWRT's made OE an honorary member.

OE's ashes were scattered on the Shiloh battlefield near the monument of the 55th Illinois with which his father fought.

"Bill" Hesseltine, too, had challenging views on Lincoln and the Civil War and a unique and forceful speaking style with his gravelly voice. This selection of his works is typical of his interests: "U. S. Grant: Politician", "Lincoln and the Civil War Governors", and "Civil War Prisons". He was president of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin at the time of his death and had contributed to many society works, one of them "Pioneer Mission, the Story of Lyman C. Draper," early director of the historical society who set it on the path to become one of the great ones.

Dr. Hesseltine was born in Brucetown, Virginia, and had degrees from Washington and Lee, University of Virginia, and Ohio State University. He taught at the universities of Arkansas and Chattanooga before going to the University of Wisconsin in 1932 to teach American history. He was called upon frequently by the state department to lecture overseas on American history. These assignments and other leaves and studies took him to England, Germany, Egypt and elsewhere. In 1960-61 he was president of the Southern Historical association. He was a most active member of the Wisconsin Civil War Centennial commission. He and his wife, "Miss Kate" joined our Round Table on a number of battlefield tours.

THE NEW BOOKS



NANCY HANKS, By Adin Baber (Arthur H. Clark Co., Box 230, Glendale, Cal., \$15). Prototype portrait of Nancy Hanks painted by Lloyd Ostendorf from photos of Hanks people and Abraham Lincoln.

THE UNDYING PROCESSION: (Iowa's Civil War Regiments, by Edith Wasson McElroy \$1), and **IOWA WILL LONG REMEMBER THE CIVIL WAR** (free) (Iowa Civil War Centennial Commission, State Capitol, Des Moines 19, Iowa).

AN INQUIRY INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, by Emmett McLoughlin (Lyle Stuart Inc., New York, 190pp, \$4.95).

LINCOLN AND THE MUSIC OF THE CIVIL WAR, 1862, by Kenneth A. Bernard (reprint from Lincoln Herald).

HOFFMAN'S ROW, by Walter H. Carnahan (Bobbs-Merrill). Novel dealing with Lincoln as a young lawyer in Springfield's Hoffman's Row.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865, prepared by War Department (Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.)

CONFEDERATE GRAY: The Story of Traveller, General Robert E. Lee's Favorite Horse, by Harriet Hinsdale (R. R. Smith, Peterborough, N.H., 102pp, \$3).

THE STATESMANSHIP OF THE CIVIL WAR, by Allan Nevins (Collier, 158pp, paper, 95¢). New enlarged edition.

STORIES OF LINCOLN (Sterling-Rock Falls, Ill., Historical Society, 31pp, 50¢).

THE COMPACT HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR, by R. Ernest and Trevor N. Dupuy (Collier, paper, \$1.50).

THE HIDDEN FACE OF THE CIVIL WAR, by Otto Eisenschiml (Bobbs-Merrill-Charter, paper \$1.95). **GETTYSBURG**, edited by Earl S. Miers and Richard A. Brown (Collier, paper, 95¢).

DIPLOMAT IN CARPET SLIPPERS, by Jay Monaghan (Bobbs-Merrill-Charter, paper, \$2.85).

LINCOLN AND HIS PARTY IN THE SECESSION CRISIS, by David M. Potter (Yale, paper, \$1.95).

AMERICANS INTERPRET THEIR CIVIL WAR, by Thomas J. Pressly (Collier, paper, \$1.50).

THE TWENTIETH MAINE, by John J. Pullen (Fawcett-Premier, paper, 75¢).

LINCOLN: The Liberal Statesman, by J. G. Randall (Apollo, paper, \$1.95).

SHERMAN'S CIVIL WAR, selected and edited from his Personal Memoirs by Earl S. Miers (Collier, paper, \$1.50).

"CO. AYTCH", by Sam R. Watkins, intro by Roy P. Basler (Collier, paper, 95¢).

DIRECTORY OF MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS IN TENNESSEE, 93pp, with pictures and inscriptions, may be obtained for \$1, postpaid, from Tennessee Civil War Centennial Commission, Library and Archives building, Nashville 3, Tenn.

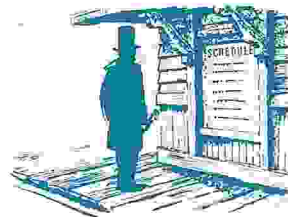
THE MUDDY ROAD TO GLORY, by Stephen W. Meader, illus. by George Hughes (Harcourt, Brace & World, \$3.50). The 20th Maine.

THE HORSE HUNTERS, by Lee McGiffin (Dutton, \$3.25). Two Texas mustangers on Virginia battlefields.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, by Patricia Miles Martin, illus. by Gustave Schrotter (Putnam, 64pp, \$1.95).

BATTLEFIELDS OF TENNESSEE, 1861-1865, a 16mm film in color, was shot on or near the anniversary dates of the battles to show the seasonal background. The narrator is David Cobb and there is background music.

FUTURE MEETINGS



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

Friday, March 20 - Clyde C. Walton, Secretary, Civil War Centennial Commission of Illinois, on "Battles by the Book: Training of the Civil War Soldier", illustrated with slides.

Friday, April 17 - T. Harry Williams, Louisiana State University. Subject to be announced.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Jan. 22 - Old Tucson, Ariz., commemoration of establishment of first territorial capitol at Fort Whipple.

Feb. 5 - Colorcast by Hall of Fame of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois", with Jason Robards Jr., and Kate Reid.

April 8 - Mansfield, La., Battle of Sabine Crossroads commemoration.

May 10 - Stuart, Va., commemoration and pilgrimage to Laurel Hill, birthplace of J. E. B. Stuart.

June 10 - Baldwyn, Miss., Battle of Brice's Crossroads commemoration.

June 10-12 - Atlanta, Americana Motor Hotel, 7th National Assembly of Civil War Centennial commissions.

June 11-13 - Atlanta, 6th National Assembly of Civil War Round Tables.



THE LINCOLN ADDRESS centennial issue of the Gettysburg Times had advertisements of a number of Civil War Round Tables. Ours was given Number 1 position and read:

"The first Civil War Round Table was founded in Chicago on December 3, 1940, by 15 men with a common interest in the Civil War and all its battles, causes, and personalities. Membership has grown to more than 300 as the quarter century anniversary nears.

"Similar interests prompted the founding of Round Tables in other places, large and small, and now there are more than 150. An effort was made at Gettysburg in 1952 to form a national organization. The choice was to remain independent. Thus, the Civil War Round Table remains a unique institution - many units of similar interests, but no national organization.

"Of Chicago Civil War Round Table's 225 meetings since the founding, many have been devoted to Lincoln. We join all other groups in paying homage to the great thoughts expressed in Lincoln's Gettysburg Address."

GUY EASTERLY, editor and publisher of the BIG CREEK GAP BUGLE, newsletter of the CWRT at LaFollette, Tenn., died November 28. He was a leading figure in Tennessee journalism, publisher of the LaFollette Press and the Jellico Advance-Sentinel, weekly newspapers, former president of the National Editorial association and of the Tennessee Press association.