

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXIV, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1964

## T. Harry Williams on 'The Civil War in Louisiana' - Friday, April 17



T. Harry Williams

T. Harry Williams, who received our honorary award life membership on Oct. 19, 1961, will be with us Friday, April 17, to speak on "The Civil War in Louisiana".

This will be a warm-up for our 14th Annual Battlefield Tour which will take off for Louisiana just 12 days later, on April 29. During that tour, Dr. and Mrs. Williams will be hosts to our group at a cocktail party in their home at Baton Rouge, La., on Thursday, April 30.

At the meeting here, T. Harry will give a general summary of the war in Louisiana and the work of the Louisiana Civil War Centennial commission, of which he is vice-chairman. He will also delve into other related subjects.

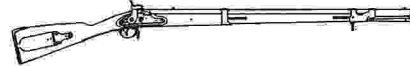
Though always living away from us, T. Harry has been closely associated with our Round Table over many years. He spoke at our battlefield tour meeting in Jackson, Tenn., in 1954. He spoke at our 190th regular meeting in Chicago, May 27, 1960, on "The Generalship of North and South". He was a member of the panel along with Bruce Catton, David Donald, and Charles Roland at the Northwestern University symposium on the Civil War, October 18-19, 1961.

T. Harry was born at Vinegar Hill, over in the northwestern corner of Illinois, but grew up in Hazel Green, Wis. He received his undergraduate degree from Wisconsin State Teachers college, and then earned his master's and doctor's degrees at the University of Wisconsin, where he was a student of the late Dr. William B. Hesseltine. He taught at Wisconsin, then West Virginia and Omaha before going to Louisiana State University in 1941. He has been Boyd Professor of American History at L.S.U. since 1953.

Among Dr. Williams' books are "Lincoln and the Radicals" (1941), "Lincoln and His Generals" (1952), a Book-of-the-Month Club selection, "P.G.T. Beauregard: Napoleon in Gray" (1955), "With Beauregard in Mexico" (1956), "Americans at War" (1960), "Romance and Realism in Southern Politics" (1961), "Sherman, McClellan, and Grant" (1962), and now is working on a biography of Huey P. Long.

He has served as editor of the Southern Biography Series published by the L.S.U. Press, and has contributed articles to American Heritage, Mississippi Valley Historical Review, Journal of Southern History, Civil War History, and other scholarly publications.

On February 25 this year, Dr. Williams received the Harry S. Truman award for meritorious service in the field of Civil War history presented by the Kansas City Civil War Round Table. He has received honorary degrees from Northland college, Bradley university, and the Lincoln Diploma of Honor from Lincoln Memorial university. He was president of the Southern Historical Association in 1959.



230th REGULAR MEETING

T. Harry Williams

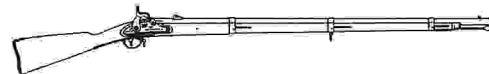
on

"The Civil War in Louisiana"

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1964

St. Clair Hotel  
162 East Ohio Street

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



A JEB STUART exhibit has opened at the Centennial Center in Richmond. The dashing young Confederate cavalry officer was mortally wounded a century ago at Yellow Tavern, just north of Richmond and died in the Confederate capital the next day. The exhibit features a full size model of a horse and a manikin in an authentic uniform of a cavalry officer. Items owned or used by Stuart or closely associated with him are displayed - saddle and bridle, pistol, diary, prayer book, sword, boots, headquarters flag and contemporary photographs. There is a saber attachment invented and patented by Stuart, along with the patent papers. Beginning May 9, ceremonies will be held at the J.E.B. Stuart memorial in Henrico county, May 10 on the courthouse lawn at Stuart, Va., where there is a statue, and May 11 the death of Stuart. At Stuart, Va., there will be a speaker, a band, the reading of a letter sent to Stuart's widow, a pilgrimage and a reception. Five of Stuart's grandchildren will be present.

JOHN R. (REBEL) PEACOCK, who has been the guiding light of the North Carolina CWRT since he founded it ten years ago, has stepped down as "chief cook and bottle-washer", asking that the responsibilities and duties incident to the organization be divided.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CWRT marked its 14th birthday in January. Its organization meeting was in January, 1951. Kansas City CWRT began its 7th year in January with its 50th meeting.

# 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.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

C. Robert Douglas, chairman, Dr. G. P. Clausius,  
Warren A. Reeder, Jr., and Hal B. Hixson.



## Operation Cairo Mishap

Because of a mishap, operations to raise the ironclad gunboat Cairo have been suspended during the rising period of the Yazoo river and will be resumed in June or July when the river begins its annual fall.

On Thursday, March 5, between midnight and 3 a.m. the two 235-foot lifting barges pulled from their mooring points on the river bank. The 15 cables under the Cairo parted, dropping the gunboat about 60 feet farther out in the river, but still in the trench dredged for it. The lift barges floated downriver, coming to rest on the Vicksburg waterfront.

Beginning March 1, the Yazoo rose 12 feet while the Mississippi was falling. This created a 7-8 mile an hour current in the tributary Yazoo. An accumulated one-quarter mile of drift was another cause of the barges breaking away.

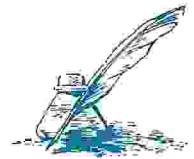
Russell Light, diver in charge of the Cairo salvage operation, stated that the new situation would not present any new problems, that most of the actual salvage work had been completed, and that only a few weeks would be needed to get the operation back in full swing. Light said only a few planks were torn from the Cairo and no major damage was done.

One of the major difficulties encountered during the entire operation was cutting through a 6-foot layer of thick, hard clay and removing a matted network of trees and debris which had formed around the Cairo since it was sunk by a Confederate mine on Dec. 12, 1862. This clearing will not have to be repeated.

The mishap was only eight weeks after Dr. Walter Johnston, one of the principal workers for Operation Cairo, was drowned in the Yazoo while going from the site to his river lodge.

Though delayed, Operation Cairo has been highly successful from a recovery standpoint. Edwin C. Bearss, National Park Service regional research historian esti-

from the  
Editor's pen



The United States army had about 16,000 officers and men when the Civil War began and about one-third of the officers went to the Confederacy, thus, training a huge new army was a great task. Clyde C. Walton, executive director of the Illinois State Historical Society and the Civil War Centennial commission, dealt with this subject in his speech to the Round Table on March 20.

Speaking on "Battles by the Book: Training of the Civil War Soldier", Walton pointed out that "Hardee's Tactics" was the principal book used on both sides. Copies of the book were soon exhausted and other editions were brought out. Scott's Tactics and a U.S. Army approved version of tactics also were used. Then there were French modifications. The men taught close-order maneuvers which were used on parade ground and battlefield. Many formations were long and cumbersome. Most of them were the same as used by Napoleon.

Walton devoted the larger portion of his presentation to slides dealing with various editions of the tactics, men performing maneuvers, and sketches from the texts and histories.

Ralph Newman told of the possibility of a special tour to the New York World's Fair. President H. George Donovan announced the nominating committee. Our thanks to C. Robert Douglas and Mal Hoffmann for a report of the meeting which had an attendance of 65 members and guests.

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William H. Townsend, of Lexington, Ky., a revered Honorary Award life member of our Round Table, has brought out a new book, "Hundred Proof, Salt River Sketches and Memoirs of the Bluegrass." It includes excerpts from his famous address on Cassius Marcellus Clay before the Chicago CWRT on October 17, 1952, and stories many of his friends have heard and long urged him to put into writing. Bill also is author of "Lincoln and his Wife's Home Town" (1929), "Lincoln and the Bluegrass" (1955), and the widely distributed recording of the Clay talk. The new book, "Hundred Proof" was introduced at a reception March 16, sponsored by Stitzel-Weller distillery of Louisville, maker of Old Fitzgerald and Rebel Yell.

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George H. Shirk, president of the Oklahoma Historical Society, has sent to everybody on the mailing list of our member Henry Bass's "Dear Everybody" letters a reprint from the Lincoln Herald of LeRoy H. Fischer's article "Henry Bass's Collection of Lincoln Poetry" (Lincoln Herald, Vol. 65, No. 3 - Fall, 1963). The reprint is 8 pages in a hard paper cover. Fischer, a former member of our CWRT, is professor of history at Oklahoma State university, specializing in Civil War history and the reconstruction.

mated that the twelve cannon lifted from the Cairo are worth \$120,000. The cannon carriages and large wooden artifacts are being treated in a large tank containing water and pylethylene-glycol. More than 1,000 artifacts have been recovered. Among them are leg irons and rare ordnance tools; U.S. Army Colt .44 revolvers (still loaded), artillery swords, mess chests with cups and plates and medicine bottles complete with original contents. One of the unusual finds was an English Wedgwood china dinner plate.

Michael's Jewelers at Vicksburg has created as a charm tiny replicas of the Cairo. These can be ordered from Michael's Jewelers, 1404 Washington St., Vicksburg, Miss. Send \$2.50 plus 25 cents for postage. Specify rhodium (silver colored) or gold filled. Mention that 10% of the amount is to be given to Operation Cairo.

## Roland Speaker on Tour

Charles P. Roland, professor of American history at Tulane university, will be our speaker on Friday, May 1, at the battlefield tour dinner in the Royal Orleans hotel, New Orleans. Roland will speak on "Albert Sidney Johnston: Soldier of Three Republics," the title of his book which will be issued in May. Members who attended the Civil War symposium on the Civil War at Northwestern University on October 18 and 19, 1961, will remember Roland as a panelist with Bruce Catton, David Donald and T. Harry Williams. Roland is also author of "Louisiana Sugar Plantations During the Civil War" and "The Confederacy", a volume in the Chicago History of American Civilization Series.

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OLD FORT MACOMB, once named Fort Chef Menteur, is now hidden by wild growth. It was built by Gen. Andy Jackson, the winner of the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. Fort Macomb saw no action in the Civil War, but was occupied and manned by both sides. It had 300 men and 49 guns.

INCH BY INCH, levee by levee, canal by canal, New Orleans forced back the swamp and won the battle over mosquitoes and plagues. It has 108 miles of canals and ditches that you can't see. Drainage must be lifted into Lake Pontchartrain. Eight pumping stations on the east bank and two on the west, with a combined total of 17.5 billion gallons per day, do the job. New Orleans had great fires in 1788 and 1794.

BATON ROUGE has four main attractions: The skyscraper new state capitol; the old capitol, where secessions from the Union was enacted; Magnolia cemetery where the main battle of Baton Rouge was fought in the spring of 1862, and the old arsenal, which is now a museum. Gen. N. P. Banks occupied the city with 10,000 men. It was the terminus of the Grierson raid in 1863.

CREOLES: The descendants of the French and Spanish conquerors, whose allegiance was to New Orleans rather than the mother country. Creole cuisine: that unique and fantastic blend of culinary art from France, Spain and the West Indies, with a secret or two borrowed from the Choctaw Indians who once manned a trading post where the French Market now stands. New Orleans gave jambalaya, seafood gumbo, and shrimp remoulade to the world.

JACKSON SQUARE, originally the Place d'Armes, or public square, was laid out in 1720 by Bienville, founder of Nouvelle Orleans. It was the civic center and scene of historical events. It's name was changed and a statue of Andrew Jackson by Sculptor Clark Mills erected to honor the winner of the battle of New Orleans. St. Louis cathedral, facing the square, is one of the most famous churches in North America. It was built and given in 1794 by Don Andres Almonester y Roxas.

THE CABILDO was the seat of the early government and the scene of the final signing of the Louisiana purchase in 1803. It was built during the Spanish domination. A typically French third story was added later.

HAMMOND, LA., where we leave the train and have breakfast is called the strawberry capital of America. It is the home of Southeastern college.

NEW ORLEANS is the United States' second busiest port and world's first port in mechanized cargo-handling efficiency.

## BULLETIN BOARD

BROOKS DAVIS will be host at a cocktail party in his new apartment, third floor of 18 East Chestnut street, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 17. T. Harry Williams, speaker at the meeting that evening will be the honored guest. CWRT members and persons who plan to attend the meeting are welcome.

\* \* \*

NEW MEMBERS: Landry Genosky, O.F.M., Quincy College, Quincy, Ill.; C. R. Howell, 130 S. Church Rd., Bensenville, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: William C. Krone to: 14321 Lowe Ave., Riverdale 27, Ill.; Joseph Sample to: Garryowen Broadcasting System, P.O. Box 2557, Billings, Mont. 59101.

National Civil War Centennial Commission to: 1815 H Street N.W., Washington 25, D.C. Phone: 202 (area) 382-1225.

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

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FOURSCORE AND NINETEEN YEARS AGO President Lincoln was assassinated. This April 15 at 11 a.m. the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, assisted by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, will make the annual pilgrimage to the Lincoln tomb in Oak Ridge cemetery, Springfield, Ill. Representatives of veteran, fraternal, civic and patriotic orders, state and national, will attend. In 1963 these groups placed wreaths numbering 63 on the tomb. After the ceremonies, a luncheon will be held at the Hotel Leland. Luncheon reservations can be made with George L. Cashman, Lincoln Tomb, Springfield, Ill.

THE WILDERNESS commemorative stamp will be issued May 5 at Fredericksburg, Va. The winning artist was Bernard H. Christenson, New Jersey illustrator. The Fredericksburg Civil War Centennial committee is making arrangements for a program in connection with issuance of the stamp. On Sunday, May 3, there will be a tour of the Wilderness battlefield with members of Fredericksburg CWRT stationed as guides. During the week of May 3-9 there will be an exhibit of manuscripts and books at nearby Mary Washington college. In 1965, an Appomattox stamp will complete the Civil War series. Previous issues were for Fort Sumter, Shiloh, and Gettysburg.

THE SOUTHERN COMPANY'S affiliates, the Alabama, Georgia, Gulf, and Mississippi power companies have given \$20,000 toward publication of the Jefferson Davis papers as a part of the Civil War Centennial observance. Dr. Frank E. Vandiver, Rice University historian and president of the Jefferson Davis Association, is editing the papers. While Vandiver is spending a year at Oxford University in England as Harmsworth professor of American history, Prof. Haskell Monroe, Texas A&M historian, is conferring with librarians and historians, and searching for unpublished Davis papers. It is estimated that \$88,000 or more will be needed for publication. Cooper T. Ragan, 1910 Chamber of Commerce building, Houston, Texas, 77002, attorney, is secretary-treasurer of the association.

A Confederate Museum has been opened in St. George, Bermuda, which was a main base for blockade running during the war.

## THE NEW BOOKS



**RECOLLECTIONS OF A CIVIL WAR QUARTERMASTER:** The Autobiography of William G. LeDuc (St. Paul, Minn., 167pp, \$3.75). Memoirs preserved in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.

**THE UNION VS. DR. MUDD,** by Hal Higdon (Follett, 320pp, \$5.95). An effort to answer questions about proofs and justice.

**THE IDEA OF THE SOUTH:** Pursuit of a Central Theme, edited by Frank E. Vandiver (U. of Chicago, 120pp, \$3.95). Contributors: Richard B. Harwell, Hugh B. Patterson Jr., Louis D. Rubin Jr., George B. Tindall, Frank E. Vandiver, Walter Prescott Webb, and T. Harry Williams. Rice University Centennial Series.

**THE CONFEDERATE QUARTERMASTER IN THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI,** By James L. Nichols (U. of Texas, \$4.50). A study of two relatively undeveloped areas of Confederate history: logistics and the area west of the Mississippi river.

**LEE'S COMMAND:** A Poetic History of the War Between the States, with a Southern Exposure, by Albert J. Russon (Exposition Press, \$4). The War in poetry.

**THE JOURNAL OF A MILLEDGEVILLE GIRL, 1861-1867,** edited by James C. Bonner (U. of Georgia, paper \$3). Observations and feelings of a young Georgia girl who was both emotional and meditative.

**FOUR YEARS IN THE CONFEDERATE NAVY:** The Career of Captain John Low, by William Stanley Hoole (U. of Georgia, \$5). Service on the Alabama, the Tuscaloosa, the Florida, and others, and the intrigues involved in their construction in British yards and their commissioning and exploits.

**T. BUTLER KING OF GEORGIA,** by Edward M. Steel (U. of Georgia, \$5). Biography of a planter-tycoon from the sea islands area.

**RUN ME A RIVER,** by Janice Holt Giles (Houghton, Mifflin, \$4.95). Young river pilot who wanted no part of the Civil War. Fiction.

**THE ZOLLIE TREE,** by Raymond E. Myers (The Filson Club, 118 W. Breckinridge, Louisville, Ky., 232pp, \$6, plus 35¢ postage). The story of Gen. Felix K. Zollicoffer and the Battle of Mill Springs.

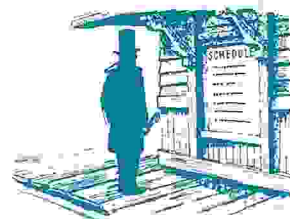
**THE FORREST-STREIGHT RAID,** has been published by the Blount County, Ala., Historical Society in pamphlet form. It gives a clear and authentic picture of the spring, 1863, campaign in northern Alabama; it also clarifies the mystery of the "two barefoot country girls" who gave assistance to Nathan Bedford Forrest in his successful raid. A commemorative program honoring the girls - the Murphree sisters - will be held May 3, under the auspices of the Blount County society. Funds are being collected for a marker.

**VOICE OF ANTIETAM** has been published as the first newsletter of Antietam CWRT at the Maryland Institute for Men. It is an 8-page mimeograph leaflet with blue paper cover and artwork title. It states that the prison group will make a three-dimensional 5 by 7 feet map table of the Antietam Battlefield Site. Robert L. Lagemann, National Park Service historian at Antietam will give technical advice.

**COPIES** of the special issue of **SMOKE SIGNALS**, treating entirely of the Civil War in the southwest, may be obtained by writing Lewis D. Hall, co-chairman, Arizona Civil War Centennial commission, 1765 W. Los Altos Rd., Tucson, Ariz.

**THE DIARY OF CAPTAIN GEORGE W. O'BRIEN,** 1863, edited by Cooper K. Ragan of Houston, has been reprinted from the Southwestern Historical Quarterly in a 61 page booklet.

## FUTURE MEETINGS



April 29-May 4 - 14th Annual Battlefield Tour to Port Hudson, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Forts Jackson and St. Philip, and Biloxi.

Friday, May 15 - Harold M. Hyman, University of Illinois, on "Lincoln's Wartime Education". Election of Officers.

Friday, June 12 - Grady McWhiney, Northwestern University, subject to be announced. Installation of officers.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

April 4-5 - Mansfield, La., Battle of Sabine Crossroads commemoration.

April 15 - Springfield, Ill., Sons of Union Veterans and other organizations, memorial at Lincoln's tomb; luncheon at Leland hotel.

April 22 - New York, Opening of Illinois' Land of Lincoln exhibit at World's fair.

May 3-9 - Fredericksburg, Va., and battlefield, centennial of Wilderness campaign; issue of commemorative stamp, May 5.

May 9-11 - Memorial to J.E.B. Stuart in Henrico county, Stuart, Yellow Tavern, and Richmond, Va. Continuing exhibit in Centennial Center, Richmond.

May 14-16 - Lexington and New Market, Va., commemoration of battle in which V.M.I. cadets went into action against Federals.

May 21-24 - Winchester, Va., New York CWRT on Stonewall Jackson's valley battlefield tour.

May 31-June 7 - Richmond, Va., second battle of Cold Harbor centennial.

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

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.

July 12 - Washington, D.C., Fort Stevens, centennial of Gen. Early's attack upon the capital.

August 2-23 - Battle of Mobile Bay commemoration.

October 25 - Mound City, Kansas, Battle of Mine Creek near Fort Scott.



The CWRT of Vanderburgh Court House, Evansville, Ind., will have its annual Appomattox Day meeting on April 9, on the 99th anniversary of the event.

JAMES V. MURFIN's definitive book on the Battle of Antietam will be released by Yoseloff in September under the title **THE GLEAM OF BAYONETS**.

NEW YORK CWRT made its Benjamin Barondess award for a contribution to Lincolniana to Charles Hamilton and Lloyd Ostendorf for their book, "Lincoln in Photographs". The award is a reproduction of the Leonard Volk bust of Lincoln.