



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXIV, Number 10

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June, 1964

Friday, June 12, Dr. Grady McWhiney Speaks on "Confederate Defeat"

Dr. Grady McWhiney, professor of history at Northwestern University and an active member of our Civil War Round Table, will speak Friday, June 12, on "Confederate Defeat". He plans to question some of the usual explanations of Union victory offered by Civil War writers, and suggest a new thesis which he has derived from a study of tactics and battles.



Dr. Grady McWhiney

"My talk will consider the strategy and tactics adopted by both sides, and I will illustrate my conclusions by a discussion of various campaigns as well as an appraisal of generalship," Grady says. "I think some of the things I intend to say will arouse some spirited disagreement; in fact, I expect to be given a hard time."

Grady knows whereof he speaks because he has been a participant in questioning at other meetings and was on the podium at our 207th meeting, January 12, 1962 with his talk on "Braxton Bragg: Misplaced General".

Grady was born in Shreveport, La., and grew up there. After two years in the marines near the end of World War II, he returned to Louisiana and took an undergraduate degree from Centenary College, Shreveport, in 1950, and a master's degree from Louisiana State University in 1951. There he studied Civil War history under T. Harry Williams. He received his doctor's degree from Columbia University and wrote his dissertation on Braxton Bragg under the direction of Dr. David Donald.

Grady's teaching career began in 1952 at Alabama State College, Troy. Then he taught at Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss., 1956-59; the University of California, Berkeley, 1959-60, and at Northwestern since 1960.

His books include: co-authorship of "The Southerner as American" (1960); co-editorship of "Lee's Dispatches to Jefferson Davis" (1957); and "Historical Vistas" (2 vols., 1963-64); editorship of "Reconstruction and the Freedman" (1963), and authorship of forthcoming volumes on "Civil War Generalship" and "Braxton Bragg".

He has had articles in Civil War History, The Journal of Southern History, The Encyclopedia Americana, The Tennessee Historical Quarterly, and other scholarly publications.

The meeting is the last for the 1963-64 year and officers for 1964-65 will be installed.



232nd REGULAR MEETING

* * *

Dr. Grady McWhiney

on

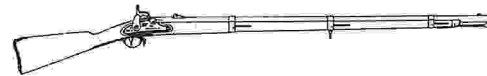
"Confederate Defeat"

* * *

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1964

St. Clair Hotel
162 East Ohio Street

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



OKLAHOMA Civil War Centennial commission is sponsoring ceremonies June 15 commemorating the Confederate capture of an armed Union Steamboat at Tamaha. The commission is applying a cachet to all outgoing mail dispatched on that day from the site. Covers may be sent to the commission, 1108 Colcord Bldg., Oklahoma City for handling and mailing.

On June 15, 1864, the Union steamboat, the J. R. Williams, making its way up the Arkansas River with supplies for Fort Gibson, was captured by Col. Stand Watie at Pleasant Bluff. Under Confederate gunfire the boat was crippled and beached. The Confederates began unloading the 150 barrels of flour, 16,000 pounds of bacon, other stores and sutler's supplies. But they were harassed by Union gunfire and a rise of the river. The next day the high water washed the boat downstream with some supplies still aboard. This is believed to be the most inland operation of the Civil War involving a military vessel.

VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR COMMISSION has presented the films "The Character of Lee" and "Stonewall Jackson's Way" to the nuclear submarines named for the beloved generals.

CWRT of KENTUCKY members have suggested purchase of the Mary Todd home in Lexington to preserve it as a shrine. The residence of Robert S. Todd, father of Mary Todd Lincoln, now is a business place. The house, which Abraham Lincoln and his family visited frequently, was described by William H. Townsend as a place rich in history. The house now is identified only by a plaque on the front wall and a historical marker at the curb.

RICHMOND Civil War Centennial Committee, with the co-operation of the National Park Service and the Richmond Department of Public Works, is preparing a folio of 16 map pages of the day-by-day troop movements of the Battle of Cold Harbor, which will show those movements almost by the hour. Publication is planned to precede the centenary of the battle, May 31-June 7.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,
Chicago 11, Illinois
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CHARLES K. MERCER of Spencer, Ind., is the present owner of the remains of the famous Libby prison barn which stood near LaPorte, Ind. But he emphasizes that he did not remove, nor know the whereabouts of, the historical marker which identified the previous site in Starke county, Ind. Mercer has about 90 beams (which look firm enough to last another 100 years) plus many heavy planks which came from the original prison. He is aware of the historical significance of the material and plans to make a suitable structure with it.

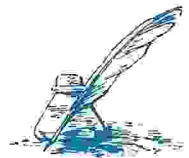
--Indianapolis CWRT Hardtack

VALLEY OF HISTORY, a 26 minute, 16mm sound, color film is offered for showing by the Washington County Economic Development Commission, Court House Annex, Hagerstown, Md. 21740. The professionally produced film portrays the historical and scenic areas in the Cumberland Valley of Washington county, Md. Areas shown include Antietam battlefield, Harper's Ferry, the Mason-Dixon line, Chesapeake and Ohio canal locks, the Gathland War Correspondents' arch, the Revolutionary Fort Frederick State park, the first monument to George Washington at Boonsboro, and views of Hagertown. Stuart Finley is narrator.

MOBILE is making plans for a week's observance of the centennial of the Battle of Mobile Bay in August. Tentative plans call for ayacht parade up the bay from Fort Morgan to Mobile, possible a downtown parade, opening of a submarine museum in the old building where the Confederate submarine Hunley was built, and the unveiling of a monument in Bienville square. Reactivated artillery men are making plans for a skirmish at Fort Morgan during the week. Stamp enthusiasts are signing petitions to the post office department for a commemorative stamp.

A CONTRACT for the restoration of Derwent, the Powhatan (Va.) county farm home where Gen. Robert E. Lee and his family spent the summer of 1865, has been let by the Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc., of Lexington, Va.

from the
Editor's pen



The May 15 meeting turned into one of the liveliest in recent years. In the feature of the evening, Dr. Harold Hyman spoke on "Lincoln's Wartime Education". The subject was an apt supplement to Sen. Paul Simon's recent speech on "Lincoln the State Legislator". Hyman, with wit and the trained historian's skill, made an astute analysis of President Lincoln's political activities. He made comparisons of actions by presidents of recent days - Truman and MacArthur as with Lincoln and McClellan. Hyman quoted a prophetic remark by James G. Randall 20 years ago that "we are just learning about this man" (Lincoln). More light has been cast by recent studies. The question and answer period was sharp and instructive.

The going was hot and heavy after Mike Lerner proposed that a committee be appointed to draft a letter to Secretary of Interior Udall protesting his decision forbidding the flying of the Confederate flag over Fort Sumter at a commemorative ceremony. This drew strong sentiments for and against. The vote was 27 for Lerner's proposal, 11 against, and the remainder of 54 present abstaining. President H. George Donovan appointed Lerner chairman to name his own committee to draft the letter.

Donovan presented to the Round Table the proclamation of honorary citizenship and the key to the city of Baton Rouge that had been presented on behalf of Mayor-President John Christian on the occasion of our battlefield tour of Louisiana. We are indebted to Brooks Davis for the meeting reports.

* * *

Battlefield tours are made extra pleasant by the special efforts of local persons. So it was with the Louisiana tour. As a measure of appreciation, our Distinguished Service Award was presented to Charles L. (Pie) Dufour, co-chairman at New Orleans; Robert M. Reilly, co-chairman and president of the Baton Rouge CWRT; T. Harry Williams as co-chairman at Baton Rouge and as vice-chairman of the Louisiana Civil War Centennial commission; Fred Benton, Jr., as guide and as chairman of the Committee for the Preservation of the Port Hudson battlefield; Edward Cunningham, as guide at Port Hudson battlefield; Dr. Charles P. Roland, speaker at the May 1 dinner; Verdun Daste, public relations officer representing President W. J. Amos of the Port of New Orleans commission; Tom Born, assistant to the vice president of Freeport Sulpur company; Kenneth T. Urquhart, executive director of the Louisiana Historical association, and James Hughes, president of the Civil War Round Table of New Orleans. A check for \$100 was presented to Benton for the Port Hudson fund. A check for \$50 was sent to Capt. Wesley Goldthwaite for the treasury of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Beauregard Camp No. 130.

Special awards of books from the library of Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard were made to Dufour, Reilly, Williams, Cunningham, and to C. Robert Douglas, Chicago co-chairman of the tour. Ralph G. Newman, Chicago co-chairman, made the presentations.

* * *

The query by Col. R. D. Heintz, Jr., of Washington, D.C., concerning the quotation "Lay me down and save the flag" drew immediate response. The first was from Earl F. Bartholomew and Timothy J. O'Connor. They informed Col. Heintz that the quote was by Col. James Mulligan, leader of Chicago's Irish Brigade who is buried in Calvary cemetery and is honored by a monument there. Mulligan was best known for the battle of Lexington, Mo., but the quote was when he was fatally wounded at Winchester, Va., July 24, 1864.

Battlefields of Louisiana

Each battlefield tour has special features that set it apart from others, and so it was with the 14th tour, April 29 to May 4, to battlefields of Louisiana.

The trip southward on the Panama Limited was a get-acquainted party for some and a reunion for others. Hammond, La., provided its specialty, strawberries, for breakfast at the Casa de Fresa hotel.

Robert M. Reilly, our former member who is president of the Baton Rouge CWRT and tour co-chairman, had with him Edward Cunningham, author of "The Port Hudson Campaign", and Fred Benton, Jr., chairman of the Committee for the Preservation of the Port Hudson Battlefield, as guides. Benton provided a set of large scale maps for each campaigner and also a booklet based on the diary of an officer.

The Port Hudson terrain was as rugged as Reilly had promised. Dr. Ray Mulrooney of Decatur learned that when he slipped into the water at Fort Desperate. Cunningham, too, had a muddy pratfall. But all campaigners had a cleanup at the Oak Manor motor hotel and then attended a large and most pleasant cocktail and snack party at the home of T. Harry and Mrs. Williams in Baton Rouge, there meeting members of the Baton Rouge CWRT.

Buses for the day had been provided by the Louisiana Civil War Centennial commission and carried the party on into New Orleans to headquarters at the Royal Orleans hotel. Groups went to dinner at various choice New Orleans restaurants.

It was early-to-rise on May 1 and by bus down the Mississippi delta to Venice. Charles L. (Pie) Dufour, New Orleans co-chairman, was the chief guide and had made all the splendid arrangements. At Venice we boarded the Good Neighbor, the V.I.P yacht of the board of commissioners of the Port of New Orleans. Goodwin Broggie was present to welcome us for the port board. The yacht proceeded to the Head of the Passes where Flag Officer David Farragut had assembled his fleet for the successful campaign against Forts Jackson and St. Philip and New Orleans in 1862. After the cruise we landed at the Garden Island headquarters of the Freeport Sulphur company. Tom Born and other officials showed us the unique operation that brings melted sulphur up from a mine deep below water surface.

As guests at Freeport Sulphur's dining hall, we had a luncheon of plain and fancy foods that was the equal of the famed New Orleans restaurants. The Good Neighbor took us back to Venice and buses to an inspection of the renovated Fort Jackson. A joy there was the guidance of Stewart Niles, 17, a student of Buras High school.

A feature of the dinner that night at the Royal Orleans was a series of presentations (see From the Editor's pen). Peggy Lebold was given a special Belle Boyd award. The water at Fort Desperate was renamed Mulrooney's Ford. Twelve states were represented in the gathering which included newlyweds Brooks and Betsy Davis and the engaged pair B. J. Ross and Ralph Newman. Dufour introduced Dr. Charles P. Roland who spoke on Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, the subject of his new book. Roland dwelt on Johnston's military career which was ended by a bullet at Shiloh and on what might have been his role had he lived.

Saturday, May 2, was taken up with tours to historic points of New Orleans - Dufour lecturing on one bus and Historian Kenneth Urquhart on the other. At the New Orleans Powder Magazine Bernard Eble was narrator. Luncheon was at Fitzgerald's on Lake Pontchartrain. Afterward, on the green of West End park, Capt. Wesley Goldthwaite directed members of Beauregard Camp No. 130 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in shoulder arms and cannon firing. There were ample cannon rounds, so many members of the party were privileged to pull the lanyard on one shot.

BULLETIN BOARD

PLEASE: In the interest of economical operation, the mailing list will be reduced before the 1964-65 year begins. The current courtesy list will be dropped. Persons who have been on it are invited to make application for membership. Mailings to other Round Tables will be continued on an exchange newsletter basis. Special requests will be honored where there is no newsletter. Library mailings will be continued. Speakers are continued on the mailing list for one year. National Park Service personnel will favor us if a correction is needed in the recipient's address.

* * *

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: George J. Fleming to: 11146 South Vernon, Chicago, Ill. 60628.

* * *

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

MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE has acquired a 200 foot frontage along the sunken road that figured in the Battle of Fredericksburg. It is behind the stone wall that runs along the road where 5 to 7 thousand Confederates stood off several attacks by 27,000 Federals, resulting in a 9,000 loss to Union troops. The college is expected to cooperate with the National Park Service which long has hoped to have the full length of the wall restored.

--from Prison CWRT

WILLIAM C. EVERHART has been appointed chief of the newly established division of interpretation and visitor services of the National Park Service, with headquarters in Washington. He will direct and establish standards for the park service's programs, including development of publications, museums, exhibits, audio-visual devices, and other interpretive media. A native of Gettysburg, Everhart wrote the Park Service's Vicksburg Historical Handbook and was one of our guides on the battlefield tour to Vicksburg in 1954.

ST. LOUIS CWRT had its Ladies' Night May 20 at the Jefferson Barracks Powder magazine museum. Ernest Kirschten was speaker and the evening was topped off with a fireworks display.

Urquhart was host to the whole party at the Confederate museum. Then the tour went to Gallier hall - the old city hall - for cocktails and seemingly endless and delicious hors d'oeuvres.

Dinner that evening was at world famed Antoine's. An early and longtime member who joined us for cocktails and dinner was Joe Parrish and wife. The program was informal, but the repartee was fast. Dr. Mulrooney hoped Mrs. Williams was not put out by his wet clothes. She assured him he had a standing invitation to come back to Baton Rouge. Then Mulrooney insisted the ford should really be named Cunningham's Bottom. Betsy Davis threw her bridal bouquet to Newton Farr. Then the party sampled the night life of Bourbon street - as some had done the previous two nights.

Sunday was given over to two tours. Dufour led one group to plantations along River road north of the city. The second bus went to Beauvoir, the last home of Jefferson Davis at Biloxi. Both parties joined on the Panama Limited to live over the many good events of the crammed four days.

THE NEW BOOKS



REHEARSAL FOR RECONSTRUCTION: The Port Royal Experiment, by Willie Lee Rose (Bobbs-Merrill, 384pp, \$6.50). Winner of the 1963 Allan Nevins Prize award by the Society of American Historians. Port Royal during wartime occupation.

THE EMPTY SLEEVE: A Biography of Lucius Fairchild, by Sam Ross (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 270pp, \$5.50). Wisconsin's one-arm general.

ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON: Soldier of Three Republics, by Charles F. Roland (U. of Texas, \$6.50). Served United States, the Confederacy, and Texas.

THE UNITED STATES ON THE EVE OF THE CIVIL WAR, by Joseph Camp Griffith Kennedy (National Civil War Centennial commission, 73pp, 35¢, Supt. of Documents, Washington, D.C.). A descriptive report based on the 1860 census.

PROLOGUE TO CONFLICT, by Holman Hamilton (U. of Kentucky). The compromise of 1850 and national affairs during the decade prior to the Civil War.

A GUIDE TO VIRGINIA MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS, 1861-1865, compiled by Lee A. Wallace, Jr. (Virginia Civil War Commission, Centennial Center, Richmond, Va., \$3).

WAR YEARS OF 1861-1865, by A. W. Bohannon (Surry County, Va., Civil War Centennial Committee).

WEST VIRGINIA IN THE CIVIL WAR, by Boyd B. Stutler (Education Foundation, Inc.)

MR. LINCOLN'S PROCLAMATION: The Story Behind the Emancipation Proclamation, by Frank Donovan (Dodd-Mead, \$4).

THE CUSTER ALBUM, by Lawrence A. Frost (Superior Pub. Co., P.O. Box 1710, Seattle 11, Wash., 192pp, 315 photos, \$10 pre-pub.) The life of Gen. George A. Custer.

THE BATTLE OF PLATTE BRIDGE, by J. W. Vaughn (Oklahoma, 132pp, \$3.95). A little known encounter between U.S. Troops and Indians in July, 1865.

FROM BULL RUN TO BRISTOW STATION, by M. H. Bassett (North Central, \$3.75). The 1st Minnesota Infantry Regiment, letters and diaries of Pvt. Edward H. Bassett.

BUTTONS OF THE CONFEDERACY, by Alphaeus H. Albert (Hightstown, N.J., 93pp, \$5).

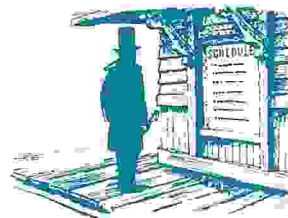
HUNDRED PROOF: Salt River Sketches and Memoirs of the Bluegrass, by William H. Townsend (U. of Kentucky, 155pp, \$3.95).

THE BATTLE OF MINE CREEK, KANSAS, will be commemorated October 25, with Governors John Anderson of Kansas and John M. Dalton of Missouri in the program. Mine Creek is a few miles north of Fort Scott in southeastern Kansas. The battle site is under restoration, to be completed by the centennial date.

DESCENDANTS HAVE PRESENTED the voluminous and enlightening papers of Col. Walter H. Taylor to the Norfolk (Va.) Public Library. Taylor's memoirs, "Four Years with General Lee," recently were reprinted. Taylor was Lee's chief of staff.

TRI-STATE CWRT of Quincy, Ill., has presented a set of the Official Records to the Quincy Public Library. With contribution from Round Table members in cooperation with the Library, the set was purchased from Milo Pearson, Jr., of Pleasant Hill, Ill.

FUTURE MEETINGS



Friday, Nov. 13 - Lloyd D. Miller on "The Battle of Franklin".

(Other dates and speakers to be announced in September newsletter.)

SPECIAL EVENTS

- June 5 Baldwyn, Miss., Battle of Brice's Cross Roads 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 11 Washington D.C., Battle of Fort Stevens commemoration.
- Aug. 2-23 Battle of Mobile Bay commemoration.
- Aug. 21 Forrest's Memphis raid centennial.
- Aug. 29 Raid on St. Albans, Vermont commemoration.
- Oct. 15-18 Evansville (Ind.) CWRT battlefield tour to Vicksburg.
- Oct. 19 Battle of Cedar Creek commemoration.
- Oct. 25 Mound City, Kan., Battle of Mine Creek near Fort Scott.
- Oct. 31 Camden, Tenn., Battle of Johnsonville.
- Nov. 29-30 Battle of Franklin, Tenn.
- Dec. 11-13 Battle of Nashville, Tenn.



THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES has passed a bill authorizing the spending of \$500,000 annually for five years toward collection, preservation, and distribution of historical data and making available documentary source material significant to the history of the United States. This is expected to be especially useful to small and growing universities unable to undertake such work for themselves.

ARTHUR MAC ARTHUR JR., 18, adjutant with the 24th Wisconsin Infantry, won his Medal of Honor at Missionary Ridge on Nov. 25, 1863. His citation reads: "Seized the colors of his regiment at a critical moment and planted them on the captured works on the crest of Missionary Ridge." His son Douglas followed in the family tradition with his medal on April 1, 1942, at Bataan.

FORT McALLISTER, restored, has been opened to the public by the Georgia Historical commission. International Paper company, which owned the property, deeded all land in and around the fort to the state. Funds for the restoration were largely from the state of Georgia and the Ford Foundation. Our 1959 battlefield tour visited the fort near Savannah. It was an obstacle to Sherman in his 1864 March to the Sea.

RICHARD W. FULLER, of the remote Atlantic, volcanic island of Tristan da Cunha, served with a Massachusetts regiment from July 1861 to July 1865. He got to New Bedford on a whaler and enlisted soon after he arrived. He reached the grade of sergeant, was pensioned in 1912 and died in 1915.