

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXV, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

February, 1965

Ladies' Night, Feb. 19, at Racquet Club and Chicago Historical Society



Replica of room where Lincoln died in Peterson house in Washington, D.C. Original furniture and bed in which Lincoln died. In gallery of Chicago Historical Society.

Ladies' Night, 1965, will be a many-featured attraction. Dinner, with roast beef and lobster Newburg as the entrees, will be at the Racquet Club, 1363 North Dearborn St., one of Chicago's famed gathering places. The bar will open at 5:45 p.m. and dinner will be at 7.

Then there is a short walk or drive to the Chicago Historical Society building at North Avenue and Clark street. At 9 p.m. there will be a showing in the auditorium of Stephen Crane's "Red Badge of Courage", the film that perhaps more than all others epitomizes the Civil War.

Our hosts there will be Paul Angle, director of the society and Honorary Award Life Member of the Civil War Round Table, and Clement Silvestro, associate director. Clem is chief arranger, and with Al Meyer, co-chairman of the Ladies' Night program.

Before and after the film, CWRT members and their ladies and guests, will have the opportunity to see some Chicago Historical Society exhibits put into special condition for this meeting, since it is soon after Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Lincoln hall recently was repainted and it is expected that the new lighting will be installed in the gallery in time for the meeting. The display of Lincoln memorabilia is rich. There is the watch that the State Journal at Springfield presented to Lincoln when he became President, his watch chain, spectacles, pocket knife, waistcoat, umbrella, walking stick, and shawl. There is the hat with the label "George Hall, Springfield, Illinois", that he wore when he left Springfield February 11, 1861, for Washington.

For the ladies, there are a number of Mrs. Lincoln items including the grand piano she selected in Philadelphia and placed in the White House, several chairs the Lincoln family used in the White House, and china and glassware. There is the bonnet she wore at Ford's theater February 14, 1865, the night Lincoln was as-



LADIES' NIGHT

238th REGULAR MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1965

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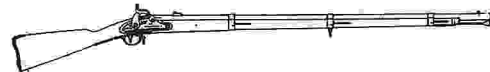
At the Racquet Club
1363 North Dearborn Street
5:45 p.m., Cocktails, Cash Bar.
7 p.m., Dinner, \$7 per person.

* * *

At the Chicago Historical Society
North Avenue at Clark Street
Visit Lincoln and Civil War rooms.
"Red Badge of Courage", film, at 9 p.m.

* * *

At the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop
18 East Chestnut Street
3:30 p.m., Autographing Party
"A Tour Guide to the Civil War"
by Alice Hamilton Cromie



Lincoln room at Chicago Historical Society with piano which Mrs. Lincoln selected for White House.

sassinated, as well as earrings and mourning jewelry. There are the replica rooms, the parlor of the Springfield house and the Peterson bedroom where Lincoln died in Washington. In it is the bed on which he died on April 15, 1865.

The Civil War gallery will be open with its excellent material. A feature is a wall from the famous- or infamous- Libby prison of Richmond, Va. Perhaps the most

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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valuable piece is the table from the MacLean house on which the surrender was signed by Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. U.S. Grant on April 9, 1865.

Afterward, those who want to "live it up" can walk over two blocks to Old Town on Wells street.

All persons attending Ladies' Night are also invited to an autographing and cocktail party at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 East Chestnut street, at 3:30 p.m. Alice Hamilton Cromie will be the honored guest and autograph her new book, "A Tour Guide to the Civil War". Alice, one of the most knowledgeable women in the country about our war, is the wife of Bob Cromie, literary editor of The Chicago Tribune. Under the name Alice Hamilton she has contributed many poems to the Saturday Evening Post, she is a writer of greeting card sentiments, and a book reviewer. She has been a guest at our Ladies' nights.

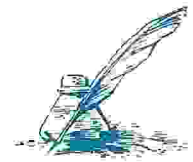
Treasurer Bill Krone and assistant Marshall Krolick request that reservation cards carry the given name of spouse, lady friend, or guests so that the evening's identification card-tickets can be made out properly.

Our member Kenneth J. Sayce who moved from Lisle, Ill., to Montreal writes, "I find that Montreal played quite a part in the Civil War; this I must investigate."

BROOKS DAVIS is speaker on "Murfreesboro to Atlanta" at a meeting of Salt Creek CWRT in the public library at Glen Ellyn at 8 p.m. Friday, February 26. "Pete" Long spoke to the group on January 22. Member Harold Hyman spoke to Kansas City CWRT on January 26. Gerald McMurtry will speak at Kansas City on February 23.

ANTIETAM CWRT, at the Maryland Correctional Institution, with about 40 members, was host to an equal number from the Hagerstown CWRT at a dinner meeting. The prison group is proceeding with its project of a large relief model of the Antietam battlefield. Civil War books are needed for the group's library and may be sent to Antietam CWRT, c/o Maryland Correctional Institution, Box 2000, Route 3, Hagerstown, Md., 21741.

*from the
Editor's pen*



Edwin C. Bearss was made an Honorary Award Life Member of The Civil War Round Table when he spoke to our meeting January 15. C. Robert Douglas, chairman of the awards committee, made the presentation. Ed is regional research historian of the National Park Service at Vicksburg. He was our guide on a tour of the Vicksburg battlefield tour in 1961.

Ed began his talk on "The Ironclad Gunboat Cairo" by tracing the development of mines (or torpedoes) and of ironclad gunboats. He noted that the Monitor was an iron hulled ship rather than an ironclad. The ironclads built by James B. Eads at Mound City, Ill., and Carondelet, Mo., were new in the western hemisphere.

Then Ed traced the history of the Cairo, which was a hard luck ship. It was disabled or just wasn't on the spot when its sister ships were in big battles. Nevertheless, the Cairo made its mark at Fort Pillow, Plum Point, and Memphis. The start of Grant's campaign against Vicksburg was the Cairo's date with oblivion on December 12, 1862 - sunk by two mines in the Yazoo river north of Vicksburg.

Ed related the fascinating story of the rediscovery of the Cairo by himself, Warren Grabau, and Ken Parks (also with us on the 1961 battlefield tour). When some money was available for raising the hulk, the equipment used was too light. But, over the months, the pilot house, a gun, and many artifacts were brought up - Parks and Skeeter Hart were the most frequent divers.

Full scale recovery efforts began last August when Capt. W. A. Bisso Jr. brought heavy salvaging equipment to the site. At this point, Ed began showing color slides of the progressive stages of the operation. The sad stage was when the Cairo broke in two, and then in three parts. Salvage work was terminated on December 26 when the parts had been placed on two barges and floated to the Vicksburg riverfront.

Artifacts such as guns, ship fittings, a hand printing press, medical supplies, and equipment recovered from the Cairo are invaluable Ed said. He had some with him, such as a double-edge sword, mess dishes, and a 102-year old candle which he lighted.

Ed said the next step is future possession and maintenance of the Cairo skeleton. The bow section is pretty much intact and can be displayed. But the favored plan is to make a partial reconstruction of the boat on land - near Fort Hill and the military cemetery at Vicksburg, with an adjoining museum displaying the artifacts.

The Bearss talk drew 75 on a snowy, blustery night and his speech and later discussion held the audience rapt for about 30 minutes longer than our usual meetings.

* * * *

President Arnold Alexander revived the custom of having guests introduced. Announcements were made by Mike Lerner of the Springfield trip committee and Elmer Pendarvis of the membership committee.

* * * *

At a meeting of the publicity and promotion committee co-chaired by George Barclay and Julian Jackson it was decided to begin planning early for the 25th anniversary of The Civil War Round Table which comes December 3, 1965. For remaining meetings this year members are urged to invite friends with a view to membership.

JOHN W. BARRIGER, our member recently retired as president of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie railroad, presented a paper, "Railroads in the Civil War", at the Los Angeles County Museum on Nov. 24, 1964.

Springfield Lincoln Tour

Michael Lerner, co-chairman of the special tour to Springfield April 30 to May 4, has reserved a block of rooms in the Hotel Leland, headquarters for the events commemorating the centennial of the burial of Abraham Lincoln. A show of hands at our January 15 meeting indicated that about 25 of those present planned to make the Springfield trip. Of course, there will be others from among members not present at the meeting. Some are members of the Round Table and also of the Illinois State Historical Society and will be advised to make their reservation with the group of greater interest. The CWRT tour will be set up on the basis of members paying their own hotel bills.

The Historical Society will have its principal events April 30 and May 1, but all will be of interest to CWRT members - a concert performance, "The Last Days of Lincoln," by Southern Illinois University Players; open house at the Historical Library; a slide-lecture on Sangamon county; a talk on "Lincoln's Illinois" by Glenn Seymour; a tour of Lincoln's home and the Old State House; a speech, "New Light on Ulysses S. Grant," by John Y. Simon, and "New Light on Jefferson Davis" by Frank Vandiver. Simon and Vandiver are heading the work of collecting all available material on Grant and Davis.

May 2 will be devoted to a day at New Salem state park. Civil War centennial commissions will head the programs on May 3 and 4. Further details and reservation forms will be printed in forthcoming issues.

GEORGE CASHMAN writes in the Springfield CWRT newsletter: "I see where a former Chief Executive has labeled Robert Todd Lincoln a 'smart aleck.' The reason given, he burned some of his father's papers. Did this alleged 'paper burning' actually take place? Paper burning did take place, but Shelby Cullom was the culprit. He did not want Lincoln to be recorded in history as a politician."

TIMOTHY J. O'CONNOR retired in January after 37 years on the Chicago police force, part of the time serving as commissioner. O'Connor is an avid student of the Civil War, particularly its Chicago connections. He has been our guest at meetings and was speaker at the Douglas monument on Oct. 18, 1959, on our tour of Chicago Civil War spots. He attended our January 15 meeting.

THE HIGH TWELVE CLUB of Oak Park will have Mr. and Mrs. George Cashman of Springfield as speakers Friday noon, March 19, at the Oak Park Arms in Oak Park. Cashman is custodian of Lincoln's tomb. The High Twelve had Col. H. B. Simpson of Hill Junior College, Hillsboro, Tex., on Jan. 22, speaking on his book, "Brawling Brass", and Edwin C. Bearss, Friday noon, Jan. 15, speaking on the "Ironclad Gunboat Cairo".

THE LAST LAND ENGAGEMENT of the Civil War was at Palmetto ranch near Brownsville, Texas, on May 13, 1865. Brig. Gen. James Slaughter, commanding 500 Confederates engaged 250 Federals of the 34th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. The Confederates were mounted and had six field pieces. After a three-hour battle, the Confederates won, only to learn from their prisoners of the South's capitulation a month before. The last man killed in the Civil War fell; he was Recruit John Jefferson Williams, 25, of Company B. A large portrait of Williams is on display in the basement of the Soldiers and Sailors monument in Indianapolis. Crossed Sabers, Columbus, Ind., CWRT.

BULLETIN BOARD

The Membership and Publicity and Promotion committees urge members to recommend for membership persons they know who are more than casually interested in the Civil War. The nominations can be made to any officer or members of the committees.

* * * *

NEW MEMBERS: Cecil Alexander, 120 S. La Salle St., Chicago; Richard B. Cohen, 7130 S. Cyril St., Chicago 60649; Gordon L. Nelson, 545 N. Rose Ave., Park Ridge, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Walter B. Loewenherz to: 568 Hill Terrace, Winnetka, Ill.; Win Stracke to: 333 W. North Ave., Chicago 10; Robert G. Walter to: 3127 S. Harlem Ave., Berwyn, Ill.; Roger F. Wilhelm to: 61 S. Lodge Lane, Lombard, Ill. 60148.

* * * *

AVAILABLE at meetings: Gold filled lapel pin, \$1; Cloth patch of emblem, 50¢. File of CWRT newsletter, September, 1959, to June, 1964, by mail or at meetings \$5.

One of every six general officers of the Confederate Army was killed or died of wounds received in battle.

A PLAQUE in the Tippecanoe County Historical Society museum in Lafayette, Ind., is inscribed: "Early in April, 1861, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, while visiting his former West Point classmate Gen. Joseph Reynolds, whose home then occupied the ground on which this building stands, was tendered and accepted his first Military Command during the Civil War. The appointment was as Colonel of the 21st Illinois Infantry and was tendered him by Richard Yates, governor of that state."

The plaque was removed in 1955 from the front of the Thieme & Wangerin store on Main street. It had been placed there about 1910 by Col. David N. Foster, previous owner of the store which was situated on the site that the Reynolds home occupied.

This story is related of the Grant visit:

While visiting the Reynolds home, Grant received a telegram from Gov. Yates asking him to accept the appointment and instructing him to answer by wire. Grant, having been so long out of the service, was about to refuse, when Wm. F. Reynolds, elder brother of Joseph, joined the group which engaged in an all-night conference over the matter. William Reynolds, president of the Lafayette, Indianapolis & Madison railroad, challenged Grant in these words:

"Young man, you have been trained at the government school at public expense, and if you don't know how to command, who does? To whom are we to look in such times of peril? Can't you accept? You have got to! What's a thousand men? I give orders to that many myself, and a railroad is not much different from an army. Give me a telegraph blank - I will write your answer."

The answer said Grant would accept and do what he could. Grant coolly signed. Said he, "The cold steel-gray eye of that old railroad president looking into mine seemed to send some of that determined confidence in myself into my spirit."

The story was a Reynolds family tradition, generally known in Lafayette, and was publicized in Washington by Robert R. Hitt, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of Congress, who told Grant's own version of it. Hitt's wife had been an eyewitness to the incident, having been Sally Reynolds, the daughter of William F.

-From: Duneland Notes, Duneland Historical Society, Chesterton, Ind.

THE NEW BOOKS



A TOUR GUIDE TO THE CIVIL WAR, by Alice Hamilton Cromie, Intro. by Bell I. Wiley (Quadrangle Books, 372pp, cloth \$7.95, paper \$2.95).

BEHIND THE GUNS: The History of Battery I, 2nd Regiment, Illinois Light Artillery, edited by Clyde C. Walton (Southern Illinois University Press). From manuscripts in James S. Schoff's collection of Civil War unit histories. \$15.

SAMUEL COLT PRESENTS, preface C. C. Cunningham, foreword John S. duMont, catalog R. L. Wilson (Wesleyan University Press, Middletown, Conn., 293 pp, 200 plates, 8½x10", boxed \$15). Illustrated catalog of the exhibition of presentation percussion Colt firearms held at the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, in 1961-1962.

MICHIGAN LABOR AND THE CIVIL WAR, by Albert A. Blume and Daon Georgakas (Michigan Civil War Centennial commission). A statistical and analytical study of workers.

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: An English View, by Garnet Wolseley, edited with an introduction by James A. Rawley (Charlottesville, Va., 230pp, \$5). Writings by an eminent soldier who became commander-in-chief of the British army.

A CONCISE HISTORY OF WORLD WAR I and A CONCISE HISTORY OF WORLD WAR II, edited by Brg. Gen. Vincent J. Esposito (Praeger, 414 and 434 pp, \$6.95 each; \$2.95 each, paper).

JAMES V. MURFIN's "The Gleam of Bayonets", an intensive study of the Maryland Campaign of 1862, with emphasis on the battle of Antietam, is due for Spring, 1965.

Movie rights to THE BLUE AND GREY ON THE NILE, by the late William B. Hesseltine and Hazel Wolf have been sold to Nelson Gidding, a Hollywood screen writer, Miss Wolf announced.

The January Newsletter of the Ulysses S. Grant Association, Morris Library, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, has a considerable treatment of the relationship of Grant and James Longstreet at West Point, at St. Louis, in the Civil War, and afterward.

CUSTER ALBUM, A Pictorial History of General George A. Custer, by Lawrence A. Frost (Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, \$12.50).

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

HONEY SPRINGS DEPOT and BATTLE OF CABIN CREEK, by Jess C. Epple (\$2, or pair for \$3.50, Hoffman Printing Co., Muskogee, Okla.)

REBEL BISHOP, by Michael V. Gannon (Bruce, 267 pp, \$4.95). Roman Catholic Bishop Augustin Verot who defended the property rights of slave owners.

SLAVERY IN THE CITIES, THE SOUTH 1820-1860, by Richard C. Wade (Oxford, 340pp.).

CIVIL WAR TIMES Illustrated will have two new features in the present year, a bound-in portfolio of little known photographic material such as soldiers, cities, people, and events of the war, and Famous Fighting Units in pictures and story. Accompanying will be authentic uniform plates. Also planned are two important categories of articles, one group will amplify and clarify the great controversies of the war and the other will concern the little-known history of the war west of the Mississippi. Projected battle stories now under research are Vicksburg, Chickamauga and Chattanooga, Chancellorsville, and the Wilderness.

ROBERT L. LAGEMAN, Park Historian at Antietam National Battlefield Site, Sharpsburg, Md., writes that

FUTURE MEETINGS



Friday, March 12 - Gen. Jim Dan Hill, "Command Structure in the Union and Confederate Navies".

Friday, April 9 - Frank Vandiver, Subject to be announced.

April 30-May 4 - Springfield, Ill., Centennial of Abraham Lincoln funeral; Special meetings of national and state Civil War Centennial commissions, Civil War Round Tables, and Illinois State Historical Society.

Friday, May 14 - Glenn Tucker, "Experiences in writing 'Chickamauga' and 'Gettysburg' - Little Circumstances Which Controlled Big Events".

Friday, June 11 - T. Harry Williams, "The Valley Campaign of 1864."

SPECIAL EVENTS

March 4 - Washington, D.C., Commemoration of President Lincoln's second inauguration.

April 9 - Appomattox Court House, Va., Commemoration of Surrender, Lee to Grant; Tours of reconstructed area.

April 15-16 - Champaign, Ill., Civil War seminar, University of Illinois.

April 16 - Washington, D.C., New York Avenue Presbyterian church; Lincoln assassination memorial service.

April 26 - Durham, N.C., Surrender of Confederate Army at Durham Station, commemoration.

May 11-12 - Brownsville, Tex., Battle of Palmetto Hill, commemoration.

May 15-16 - Baton Rouge CWRT Battlefield tour to Vicksburg.

May 29-31 - Washington, D.C., Commemorative re-enactment of Grand Review and Heroes Day.



The Committee for PRESERVATION OF THE PORT HUDSON BATTLEFIELD is soliciting memberships at \$2 annually to carry on its work, which this year will include publication of a "one-edition" newspaper with many of the historic drawings, photographs, and stories of Port Hudson. The Committee also has available "Among the Cotton Thieves," by Edward Bacon, \$5 (reprint), "Port Hudson from an Internal Point of View", by Howard Wright, \$3 (paper): "Battle of Baton Rouge," by Edward Cunningham, \$4; A Selection of Harper's Weekly and Leslie's Illustrated Prints (the war in Louisiana), \$2; A Collection of Maps of Port Hudson, \$3, and a commemorative decorative plate of Port Hudson scene, \$3 (with hanger). Orders may be sent to the committee at 114 St. Louis St., Baton Rouge, La. Fred Benton, one of our guides on our 1964 battlefield tour, is chairman of the committee.

there is now available for sale an excellent, 40x58 inch map of Sharpsburg and environs, 1862. The map was prepared by Col. James Bowlby, U.S. Army, using the original Antietam Battlefield Board maps as his primary source. No troop positions are shown, but the size and detail of the map make it easy to pinpoint the location of any unit. The maps are \$1, plus the cost of a mailing tube (31¢) and postage (46¢ to Chicago).