



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXV, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1965

Victor Searcher - 'Lincoln's Last Journey' - Friday, April 9

One hundred years ago the funeral train of Abraham Lincoln made its way from Washington, D.C., to Springfield, Ill. Thus, the subject, "Lincoln's Last Journey", will be most appropriate for our meeting Friday, April 9 - which is also Appomattox Surrender day and will be duly noted.



Victor Searcher

Our speaker, Victor Searcher, in 1960 wrote a volume on Lincoln's inaugural trip from Springfield to Washington, "Lincoln's Journey to Greatness" (Holt, Rinehart and Winston). To complete the circle, Mr. Searcher's new book, "The Farewell to Mr. Lincoln", was published by Abingdon Press of Nashville and New York on February 12.

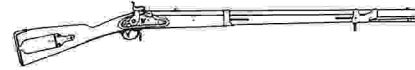
Of this work, the Springfield (Ill.) State Journal and Register said in a review: "He takes the reader from the moment of death in Washington, on Lincoln's 12 day journey to his resting place in Oak Ridge Cemetery, reversing the route Mr. Lincoln followed four years before when he first made his way from Springfield to the White House. But this time the journey is different. This time there are hundreds of thousands who come to pay final tribute in the dozens of little and big towns through which the funeral cortege in the stately, crepe-draped train passes. Thousands who on that first journey criticized and ridiculed this man of destiny now virtually crawled back on hands and knees and wept as they viewed the marble face, discolored by violent death.

"At last the cortege reached Springfield after traveling for 12 days and 1,654 miles. Once there the author dramatically pictures the city of 12,000 as the 'eyes of the whole nation' were turned on it, said the Illinois State Journal of the day. There at the cemetery, thousands crowded into its confines, many of them were ancestors of our city's present generation, to bury their president. Then it was all over."

The stops along the way were April 21, Baltimore and Harrisburg; April 22, Philadelphia; April 24, New York; April 25, Albany; April 27, Buffalo; April 28, Cleveland; April 29, Columbus and Indianapolis; May 1, Chicago, and May 3, Springfield.

Victor Searcher was born in Buffalo, N. Y., and received his education there. He soldiered in Gen. Pershing's Mexican border campaign against Pancho Villa. He emerged a first lieutenant after officers' training camp and served in World War I in the air service "Aviation Section, Signal Corps". This was unique for the corps was mounted and boots and spurs were regulation dress, even though the horse's reins had miraculously turned into a joy stick.

Back in civilian life, Searcher joined the Art Metal Construction company of Jamestown, N. Y., then the world's largest maker of steel files and office furniture, and eventually became advertising manager. Next he spent twenty years with the Howe Scale company in



240th REGULAR MEETING

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Victor Searcher

on

"Lincoln's Last Journey"

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DePaul University Reception to members of

The Civil War Round Table

in appreciation for the gift to the University Library

of the Otto Eisenschiml Collection.

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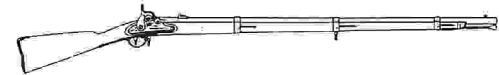
FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1965

St. Clair Hotel

Reception 5 to 6:30 p.m.

162 East Ohio Street

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



Eisenschiml Books to DePaul

The Eisenschiml family will make formal presentation of the Otto Eisenschiml collection of Lincolniana and Civil War material to the DePaul University library at a reception which will precede our meeting of April 9. The reception will be held in the Chicago Room, adjoining our meeting room at the St. Clair hotel, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Ralph Newman and E. B. (Pete) Long, who collaborated with the late Dr. Eisenschiml in some of his works, will respond to DePaul's acceptance of the gift. All members of the Round Table are invited to attend the reception. Ladies may attend the reception, but not the dinner.

charge of the distributing subsidiaries in New York and Chicago. He resigned to enter the writing field. Among other media, his feature articles have appeared in the Chicago Sunday Tribune, covering historical, medical, and psychological subjects. One of his recent articles was "Mr. Lincoln's Birthday Gifts", on the President's interviews and executive actions on his last living birthday, which appeared in the Miami Herald Sunday Magazine, February 7.

Frank Vandiver, who had been scheduled for April 9, requested cancellation because of the illness of his father. Fortunately, Mr. Searcher was available, with a most timely subject.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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Appomattox Commemoration

Commemoration of the surrender of Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia to Union General Ulysses S. Grant will be held at the restored Appomattox Court House on April 9. Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant III of New York and Robert E. Lee IV of San Francisco will cut the ribbon dedicating the court house.

The United States Marine band from Quantico will provide music beginning at 1:40 p.m. The principal address, at 2 p.m., will be by Bruce Catton, whose "A Stillness at Appomattox" was a Pulitzer prize winner and one of the finest books of the Civil War Centennial period.

After the program, the National Park Service will conduct the dedication of the restored court house and there will be tours of the reconstructed village.

The United States Post Office will issue the Appomattox Stamp - last of a series of five Civil War Centennial commemorative stamps.

Lloyd M. Pierson is the new superintendent of the Appomattox Court House National Historical park. Virginia Civil War Commission, of which James J. Geary is the executive director, is supervising the Appomattox observance.

LISTED IN THE PUBLISHED REPORTS of the Confederate Commissioner of Patents is #50, a patent to John Schley, Savannah, Ga., for horsepower. No explanation or modification is given Patent #1 was issued Aug. 1, 1861, for a breech-loading gun. The last, March 21, 1865, was for an improvement of a pile-driver. In all, 274 inventions or discoveries were patented. The records are in the Confederate Museum at Richmond, Va.

TEXAS became the second former Confederate state to erect a new monument during the Centennial on the Antietam battlefield. The marker was formally presented to the National Park Service in a speech by Cooper A. Ragan of the Texas Civil War Centennial commission and commemorates the valor of the 1st, 4th, and 5th Texas Infantry Regiments in the battle.

from the
Editor's pen



With some detail and frequent humor, Jim Dan Hill told our March 12 meeting of the divisions and command structure of the Union navy. The time required for this precluded similar detail on the Confederate structure, the inland waters, and operations on the seven seas.

In contrast to common belief, Gen. Hill said, America was better prepared to fight on the water in 1861 than she had ever been before. There were new steamships, ironclads were on the way in, and in 1862 the United States was behind only Britain and France in ships afloat. Ships were scattered all over the world, but most were used in policing against piracy in the Caribbean. But soon the main forces were divided into Atlantic and Gulf squadrons, and then subdivided.

With Gideon Welles at the top as secretary of the navy, a number of notable commanders emerged, such as David Farragut, Samuel du Pont, Andrew Foote, D. D. Porter, John A. Dahlgren, and others. In the navy, there was very little movement of top men from the North to the South. Though blockading was a principal duty, there were notable actions at New Orleans, Vicksburg, Mobile, Pensacola, Charleston, Port Royal, and Wilmington. And, said Gen. Hill, the Union navy never lost the initiative.

The discussion period was spirited and amusing for the 65 members and guests present.

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President Arnold Alexander called for introduction of guests. Newton C. Farr and Michael Lerner, co-chairmen, made announcements concerning the Springfield trip April 30-May 4. Ver Lynn Sprague urged members to attend the Conference on Reconstruction Scholarship managed by member Harold Hyman at the University of Illinois April 15-16. Brooks Davis announced that some members of Park Forest CWRT are planning to attend the surrender centennial commemoration at Appomattox April 9 and invited any Chicago CWRT members interested in going along to get in touch with him.

THE NEWSLETTER of Prison CWRT, Richmond, Va., lags several weeks behind meetings, but J. F. Featherston, sponsor of the group, wrote us a special letter to give us a timely report of one meeting: "On February 16, the Prison CWRT was visited by Mr. Edwin Bearss of Vicksburg. Mr. Bearss treated the men to an hour long program of slides on the raising of the Cairo. The members missed the 4 p.m. mess call rather than cut short the program. We like to see people get the credit to which they are due."

ST. LOUIS CWRT is having its Ladies' Night on April 9, Appomattox day, in the historic and attractive Old Court House on the St. Louis river front.

William R. Holloman is the new superintendent of Richmond National Battlefield Park, replacing Wallace T. Stephens who retired.

WHEN MOUNT CAROLL, ILL., a county seat town of 2,000 sought a way to honor Civil War veterans, the county board authorized a granite and marble monument. At the base, flat surfaces were to contain the names of all from the county who served in the Union army. The carving went along and there was a long list of names left over. Then about 20 feet from the monument an archway of similar stone was erected with the words on the arch, "Annex to the Monument." On the pillars were carved the remaining names. Perhaps the only monument with an annex. (Tom Adair, Line o' Type, Chicago Tribune.)

Lincoln Funeral Centennial

The four year Civil War centennial observance will culminate April 30-May 4 in Springfield, Ill., with commemoration of the Abraham Lincoln funeral. Centennial commissions, Civil War Round Tables, and the Illinois State Historical Society will participate. Speakers of national note will appear.

The detailed program - too long to print here - will be mailed soon to members of the participating groups. For members of our Civil War Round Table, the procedure is simple. Mark the form with the events you wish to take part in, add up the cost, and send with check to Mrs. Margaret April, 18 East Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. These will be forwarded to Springfield and tickets may be picked up upon registration at the 2nd floor headquarters in the Leland hotel.

Members may make hotel reservations for the Leland immediately by notifying Mrs. April by mail or phone (Whitehall 4-3085) of dates and accommodations desired. This is a family affair, and ladies and children may attend. In brief, the program is this:

Friday, April 30 - Reception by Franklin Life Insurance company; Southern Illinois University players, "The Last Days of Lincoln".

Saturday, May 1 - Open house, Illinois State Historical Library; Illinois State Historical Society luncheon, President William Pitkin, presiding; Glenn H. Seymour, speaker. Tour of Lincoln shrines. Meeting: Papers by T. Harry Williams and Paul Angle. Civil War Round Table reception. Banquet at Holiday Inn East, with welcomes by Gov. Otto Kerner and others. Musical interlude with Win Stracke leading; special poem by Gwendolyn Brooks. "Poetry of the Civil War", by playwright Mark Van Doren.

Sunday, May 2 - Brunch at Elks Club: Speaker: Vice President Hubert Humphrey; introduction by Sen. Ralph W. Yarborough of Texas; Presiding, Bell I. Wiley. Buses to tour of New Salem State park. Box supper. Folk singing in Kelso hollow. Speaker: Sen. Paul H. Douglas of Illinois, "Lincoln: World Symbol of Freedom." Musical performance, "The Lonesome Train," led by Norman Luboff and Ray Tate.

Monday, May 3 - Panel Discussion: "The Civil War: Causative Factors", Harold M. Hyman, Avery Craven, Richard N. Current. "Civil War Fiction," Shelby Foote. Luncheon: Speaker: Gov. Otto Kerner; presentation to Robert Lincoln Beckwith. Meeting: The Ulysses S. Grant and Jefferson Davis collections, John Y. Simon and Haskell Monroe; Frank Vandiver presiding. Discussion of major projects of Civil War Centennial. Governor's reception at mansion. Banquet at St. Nicholas hotel: Speaker: Bruce Catton, "The End of the Centennial".

Tuesday, May 4 - Joint session of the Illinois General Assembly in Old State House. Ceremonies at Lincoln tomb in Oak Ridge cemetery, Van Hefflin reading Carl Sandburg's, "There Was a Funeral." Final luncheon meeting: James I. Robertson, Jr., executive director of the national Civil War Centennial commission, "The Last Bivouac".

This is the eighth and final meeting of the national Civil War Centennial commission and Chairman Allan Nevins will participate in various stages of the program.

Civil War Round Table members may be connected with other groups, but are requested to make reservations only through Mrs. April.

THE CWRT OF NEW YORK has issued its 1964-65 yearbook of history, programs, and membership. The front cover has a drawing of the McLean house at Appomattox. The preparation of the booklet was largely in the hands of Secretary Arnold Gates. There is a listing of Civil War Round Tables.

BULLETIN BOARD

DR. JAMES I. ROBERTSON, JR., executive director of the national Civil War Centennial Commission, has announced that the Chicago Civil War Round Table has been selected to receive the commission's highest award, The Centennial Medallion, for "extraordinary contributions in furthering both the study of the Civil War and the observance of its centenary."

Dr. Robertson wrote: "This award is made by unanimous vote of our Subcommittee on Awards, and with the full concurrence of the Commission's Executive Committee. I need not emphasize that during the Centennial the National Commission has selected only a small number of recipients for the Centennial Medallion. Please accept my personal and sincere congratulations on an honor well-deserved."

An appropriate time and place for presentation of the award will be announced.

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NEW MEMBERS: Theodore R. Hudson, 910 Fair Oaks Ave., Oak Park, Ill.; George M. Hughes, 350 Bloom St., Highland Park, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: A. L. Harris to: 4916 W. 31st St., Cicero 50, Ill.; Edward S. Waterbury to: 2401 Calvert St., N. W., Apt. 726, Washington, D. C. 20008.

DECEASED: Leo Lerner, March 5.

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

JOHN W. BARRIER, our member who recently retired as president of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie railroad and became a special consultant for the St. Louis-San Francisco railway, has now bounced back into the thick of the railroad business as elected chairman and chief executive officer of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas railway. He told reporters that he planned to improve the financial and traffic operations of "the Katy", based in Dallas, "in hopes of eventually effecting a favorable merger with a major railroad system."

GRADY McWHINEY will be leaving Northwestern University about June 1 for Vancouver, B. C., where he has accepted an appointment at the University of British Columbia to direct Ph.D. work in its new American history program. Grady admitted it is hard for him to leave N.U. and the Round Table, but the offer at U.B.C. was too much for him to ignore.

A TRACT OF 660 ACRES in the Port Hudson Battlefield area has been offered for sale and the Committee for Preservation of the Port Hudson Battlefield is pressing efforts to have the tract purchased by the state of Louisiana or by other sources. The land is offered at \$400 an acre - a total of \$264,000 - a price that is considered good. The tract has about two miles of Confederate fortifications including Fort Desperate, Commissary Hill, and the portion of the Confederate defense line held by the 39th Mississippi. The trenches, breastworks, camp sites and pits along the line are in excellent state of preservation. Very few visitors to Port Hudson have seen this portion of the battlefield because of its isolated location. This was the site of the 1964 Battlefield tour of the Chicago CWRT. Our guide on that occasion was Fred Benton, Jr., chairman of the preservation committee. Anyone wishing to assist Fred in the project may write him at 114 St. Louis St., Baton Rouge, La.

THE NEW BOOKS



THE CRISIS OF THE UNION: 1860-1861, edited by George Harmon Knoles (Louisiana State, 120 pp, \$3.50). Articles: "Why the Republican Party Came to Power", by Glyndon G. Van Deusen; "Why the Democratic Party Divided", by Roy F. Nichols; "Why the Southern States Seceded," by Avery O. Craven; and, "Why the Republican Party Rejected Both Compromise and Secession", by David M. Potter.

HERITAGE OF VALOR: The Picture Story of Louisiana in the Confederacy, 200 illustrations, text by Dr. Edwin A. Davis (Louisiana State Archives and Records Commission, P. O. Box 4222, Capitol Station, Baton Rouge, La., \$3 softbound).

POLIGNAC'S TEXAS BRIGADE, by Alwyn Barr (Texas Gulf Coast Historical Association, U. of Houston, November, 1964, \$3). The story of Prince Camille de Polignac, the only foreign citizen to become a Confederate general, and a brigade of Texans which had almost disappeared from the history of the conflict.

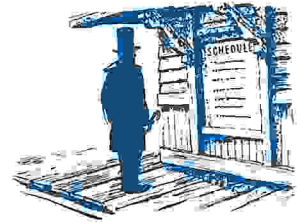
THE HISTORY OF RHODE ISLAND COMBAT UNITS IN THE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865, by Brig. Gen. Harold R. Barker, edited by Alfred H. Gurney (446pp, 253 illus., 59 maps, \$7.50), Harold R. Barker, R. F. D. 1, Pascoag, R. I.)

LINCOLN COLLEGE has been honored by the Lincoln Society of Philately with a cachet stamp cover in tribute to the Lincoln College centennial. The cachet cover features Abraham Lincoln, University Hall, and the seal of the college. Enclosed is a brief historical sketch of the college. A 1 cent Lincoln stamp and a 4 cent Higher Education stamp were used for postage and the covers were cancelled at the Lincoln Post Office on Lincoln's birthday. A limited number will be available to stamp collectors by sending 25 cents and a large self-addressed envelope to Mrs. Connie Hildebrandt, 17525 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, Ohio, 44107.

THE JOURNAL of the Confederate Historical Society, London, England, Vol. 2, No. 4, Dec. 1964, has articles on "The Role of German Volunteers in St. Louis, 1861," by Alexander Niven, an article on Forts Henry and Donelson by Richard M. McMurry, and an article on Confederate Postmaster General John Reagan, by John L. Heflin, Jr. Membership is \$3, payable to Hon. Treas. P. J. Whale, 35 Melrose Crescent, Orpington, Kent, England.

THE APOLLO MUSICAL CLUB OF CHICAGO will present on April 27 at Orchestra Hall a concert of two choral numbers regarded as fitting for the conclusion of the Civil War Centennial observance. They are the REQUIEM, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and DONA NOBIS PACEM, by Ralph Vaughan Williams. William J. Peterman is conductor with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Cornelius Vleugel, organist. Soloists are Barbara Garrison, soprano; David Hall-Sundquist, tenor; Elizabeth Vleugel, mezzo-soprano, and Gerald Smith, baritone. The REQUIEM has been used for many memorial concerts. For DONA NOBIS PACEM, Williams used several of Walt Whitman's Civil War poems from the "Drum Taps" portion of "Leaves of Grass" for the greater portion of the text of the cantata. Tickets are scaled from \$1.25 to \$3.50 and may be obtained from the musical club's box office, care of Lyon and Healy's, 243 S. Wabasha Ave.

FUTURE MEETINGS



Friday, May 14 - Glenn Tucker, "Chickamauga".

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

Oct. 13-17 - Chicago CWRT 15th Annual Battlefield Tour to Chattanooga and Cumberland Gap.

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 3 - Ceremony at Logan statue, 9th and Michigan Ave., 11 a.m. Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans luncheon commemorating 99th anniversary of founding of Grand Army of Republic, 12:30 p.m. Palmer House.

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

April 3-10 - Commemoration of the city's role as the "Last Capital of the Confederacy." Displays, costumes of the period, parade, Speaker James I. Robertson.

April 11 - Ceremonies at Grant statue in Lincoln Park, commemorating surrender at Appomattox, Sons of Union Veterans in co-operation with Chicago Park District and Chicago Civil War Centennial commission.

April 15 - Springfield, Ill. - Ceremonies at Lincoln's Tomb in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln.

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 19-25 - Quincy, Ill., Civil War Centennial week observance; talks, display of Civil War and pioneer relics; dinner April 24 with Fred Schwengel speaker; pageant April 25.

April 24 - May 1 - Historic Garden Week in Virginia. For information address the Garden Club of Virginia, Hotel Jefferson, Richmond, Va.

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

April 30 - Commemoration by Chicago Civil War Centennial Commission of the 100th anniversary of Lincoln Corstege at Chicago City Hall.

May 1-2 - Chicago Light Artillery, two demonstrations daily at Des Plaines Outdoor show, Rand park, Des Plaines; Midwest region, North-South Skirmish Association infantry and artillery shoot, Franklin, Ind.

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

May 20-23 - New York CWRT battlefield tour to Petersburg and Appomattox.

May 22-23 - Baton Rouge CWRT battlefield tour to Port Gibson, Grand Gulf, and Vicksburg.

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

June 10 - Jefferson, Wis., meeting of Madison CWRT.

