

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXVII, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June, 1967

J. Robert Smith - 'General Mike Lawler' of Illinois - Friday, June 23

J. Robert Smith of Carmi, Ill., president of the Illinois State Historical Society will speak to our last meeting of the 1966-67 year, Friday, June 23, on "General Mike Lawler." Officers for the 1967-68 year will be installed.



J. Robert Smith

Smith is no stranger to Civil War Round Tables. He has spoken to the CWRT of Vanderburgh Court House, Evansville, Ind., and has joined that rollicking group in some of its meetings and picnics.

Among Civil War generals, Mike Lawler was what might be known as "a character." John Allen, historian of southern Illinois, says, "A pause at the Lawler monument in Equality brings to mind the story of a picturesque, strident and daring man."

Our member Ezra (Bud) Warner, in his "Generals in Blue", writes: "Early in 1861 he (Lawler) and his regiment, the 18th Illinois, were mustered into service by U. S. Grant, then a captain on the staff of the adjutant general of Illinois. Lawler enforced discipline on his regiment by knocking down recalcitrants with his fists, by feeding emetics to drunks in the guardhouse, and by threats of violence to officers and men alike. Brought before a court martial for these alleged 'offenses,' he was handsomely acquitted by Henry W. Halleck, then the department commander."

Smith says, "General Michael Kelly Lawler has too long been unrecognized as a great fighting general of the Civil War."

"He was a fighting Irishman, 'the shirtsleeve hero of Equality, Illinois,'" Smith says. "General Grant saw him lead an assault before Vicksburg and said, 'When it comes to just plain, hard fighting, I would rather trust old Mike Lawler than any of them.'"

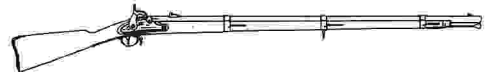
Lawler fought as a captain in the Mexican War, started as a colonel in the Civil War, and was promoted eventually to major general.

Smith says, "He was excessively fat, heavily bearded, strictly temperate, a devout Catholic, and jovial. His Falstaffian girth was so great he could not make a sword belt go about his waist, so he hung a strap from a shoulder and on that he hung his sword."

He married the daughter of John Crenshaw who operated the salt works in Gallatin county, in the early days a slave operation.

Lawler lived in sight of the Crenshaw mansion on Hickory Hill. The mansion still stands today, a tourist attraction for those who want to see where slaves were held in chains.

"My address is thoroughly researched, but the best part comes from interviews with Lawler's grandchildren," Smith says.



262nd REGULAR MEETING

J. Robert Smith

on

"General Mike Lawler"

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1967

Furniture Club in Furniture Mart Cocktails at 5:30
666 North Lake Shore Drive Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Officers, Trustees, Past Presidents)

meets at 4:45 p.m. in Furniture Club



E. B. (Pete) LONG will spend the fall and spring quarters at University of California, Riverside, as a lecturer in history and Civil War Reconstruction, with seminars. He will also continue research work for Allan Nevins.

The Rev. Armin Weng is trying to organize a Civil War Round Table at Oregon, Ill., and will appreciate help from members elsewhere.

Smith was born in Ohio and educated in the schools and college at Evansville, Ind. He has long been interested in history, politics, public affairs, flower gardening, and livestock raising. He is manager of family farms and oil interests.

He has been president of the White County Historical Society, the Carmi Sesquicentennial commission, the Lincoln Heritage Trail foundation, and the Carmi Public library. He is district lay leader of the Methodist church, Harrisburg district.

For 35 years Smith was editor and writer for newspapers in Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, and Illinois, and still writes for the Evansville Sunday Courier and Press. He is a researcher and writer for Reader's Digest magazine. He was state chairman for the March of Dimes for two years (1959-1961) raising over 3 million dollars to fight polio and birth defects.

He has been an officer of service clubs and speaker to many groups. His published works include a magazine series on Lincoln's life in Indiana, the Sesquicentennial History of Evansville, Carmi Sesquicentennial history, and "Our Methodist Heritage."

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,
Chicago 11, Illinois
Phone: Whitehall 4-3035

OFFICERS

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Terms expiring in 1968: Elmer C. Brinkman,
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Terms expiring in 1969: Maurice Fisher,
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CWRT Golf Outing September 8

The second annual golf outing and semi-serious Civil War Round Table meeting will be held at Lacon, Illinois, Country Club on Friday, September 8, beginning at noon. The golf course is interesting and challenging, the club house is perfect for a dinner and meeting. Many citizens of Lacon are interested in Civil War history and will be among those attending.

Lacon's "Old Settlers' Day," September 9, will feature art exhibits, flower show, kids' parade, and antique displays in store windows. The adult parade featuring bands, floats, and local celebrities will be led by the 104th regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry (reactivated). The 104th will give a demonstration of drills, volley firing, and hold memorial services in the cemetery at the Piper monument erected to honor unknown Civil War dead. There will be an air show, Sunday, September 10.

Lacon is 135 miles from Chicago and easy to reach over I-55 (Route 66) to Dwight and turn right on Illinois 17 to Lacon.

Wilson Smith, chairman of the outing, says, "We are lining up a group to prepare the dinner and quarters for those who wish to stay overnight. It will be necessary to let us know by August 10 so we can make all arrangements for quarters, dinner, and golf. The costs will be below \$25 per person. Please mail check for reservations to Wilson A. Smith, 428 Clinton Ave., Oak Park, Ill. 60302."

The auction June 4 for the benefit of the Graduate Fellowship fund grossed \$962 and had a net of \$568.27 after expenses and 50% payments to some donors. Ralph Newman, Mike Lerner, Wilson Smith, and Pete Long served as auctioneers. Auction Chairman Marshall Krolick, Dick Cohen, and Henry Pomeranz served as clerks.

*from the
Editor's pen*



Henry E. Simmons read a well-researched, solid and highly informative paper on "Northern Censorship of the Press: Necessary or Needless?" to the May 25 Meeting. In the Civil War some newspapers exercised self-censorship, but did not follow through. The papers printed much anti-administration material. There was a division of pro- and anti-war papers. Some were accused of printing military information of value to the enemy - there was even some information in want ads. Some printed rumors and speculation - almost anything that came into the office. Generals blamed the press for tipping off movements. Western generals exercised the greater measure of control over the press. There was managed news. The link between Lincoln and the press was poor. There were 300 to 400 instances of suppression of northern papers - one day, two days, or a week. The number suppressed for military censorship was small, for anti-administration complaints much larger. There was no censorship of soldiers' mail. Though their letters contained much information, it did not constitute a military danger because of the slowness of delivery. The forty-five members and guests present responded with a lively discussion period.

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At the beginning of the meeting, President Mike Lerner reported that Southern Illinois University Press was highly pleased with the party that was held preceding the April meeting introducing volume one of the Ulysses S. Grant letters. Ralph Newman called attention to the excellent article on Illinois in the June National Geographic. Arnold Alexander, acting for the nominating committee, read the slate of officers and they were unanimously elected and will be installed at the June meeting. At the trustees' meeting, the secretary was instructed to write a letter to Potomac Edison company voicing our Round Table's protest of the high tower electric transmission line scheduled to be erected near Antietam battlefield.

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BOO-BOO - Your editor takes all the blame for the listing of the last meeting as Tuesday, May 25, instead of Thursday. That recalls two other boners - one giving the wrong meeting number, and another calling Bill Reinhardt of Jazz Ltd. Mary.

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FRED G. BENTON, Jr., speaker on Port Hudson at our April meeting, wrote: "The opportunity to speak to the Chicago Round Table will always be remembered by me as one of the most memorable experiences I have ever had. I guess it is always a great privilege to find a number of other people interested and informed on the subject in which one is vitally interested."

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THE NEWSLETTER of Kansas City CWRT said: "In spite of three rainy days out of four - a record for these tours - the fine group from the Chicago Round Table missed none of their stops on their rather extensive Ark-Mo excursion and reports generally indicated most enjoyed the change of pace from their more traditional trips. This provided a welcome opportunity for many of us to renew old contacts with friends that would not have been possible otherwise. We are also proud to report that some of our own members - Howard Monnett, "Shorty" Seymour, Jim Murray and "Dick" Byrne - were on hand at the proper time and place to do their bit as guides and commentators.

1967-68 Fellowship Winner

Stuart Loren Bernath, 28, of Goleta, Cal., is the winner of the 1967-68 Civil War Round Table Graduate Fellowship Award. He is a native of Detroit, earned his B.A. degree at University of California, Santa Barbara, and M.A. at Humboldt State College. He is working for his Ph.D at Santa Barbara. He is single.



Stuart L. Bernath

In the coming year, Bernath will devote research to his dissertation, "American Civil War Prize Cases and Diplomacy." Study of source material will take him to National Archives, the Library of Congress, the British Museum, the Public Rec-

ord Office, the National Maritime Museum, and various other public and private collections in the United States and England.

The study will encompass the relation of naval and military strategy to foreign policy and the connection between these matters and prize court decisions. To ascertain the significance of these cases, he will examine the relevant diplomacy, the response of public opinion and special interests in the United States and abroad, and the positions taken by contemporary and later legal specialists. He hopes to determine the impact of the Civil War on international maritime law and of the prize cases in American foreign relations. It is a topic not hitherto dealt with extensively.

Bernath's publications in periodicals include: "Squall Across the Atlantic: the Peterhof Episode" and "Blockade-Running at Charleston, S.C., 1861-1865." His "Shipwrecks of the Humboldt Bay Region," in 1963 won the Barnham prize for writing of local history.

His studies in history include American Diplomatic and Colonial history, seminars in both and in American relations with the far east. Other courses in history have been European, Renaissance and Reformation, French Revolution and 19th Century Europe, Europe Since 1870, Modern European, Russia, Mexico, China, Modern Japan, and Modern Far East.

In political science he has studied Foreign Policy of the Great Powers, Contemporary World Politics, Latin America in World Affairs, Chinese Government and Politics, and Readings in International Organization. He has had teaching experience at Humboldt State College, Eureka (Cal.) Senior High school, and at Santa Barbara.

Recommending Bernath and supervising his doctoral thesis is Dr. Alexander DeConde, chairman of the Santa Barbara history department. Supporting letters were sent by Dr. Wilbur Jacobs, Santa Barbara, and Jay Monaghan, Santa Barbara.

Monaghan said Bernath's dissertation is on "a very important subject which has been overlooked in Civil War studies."

When Bernath took his preliminary oral examinations for the Ph.D. degree in history, Dr. DeConde wrote: "The members of the examining committee agreed unanimously that his was a distinguished performance.... All that remains is for Mr. Bernath to complete his research and write his dissertation, which he plans to do all of next year. I have every hope that his dissertation will be a distinguished one and one that will merit publication."

Lloyd Miller has donated the major portion of the \$3,000 fellowship and is co-chairman of the award committee with Clement Silvestro. Other members of the committee are Arnold Alexander, Newton Farr, Brooks Davis, C. Robert Douglas, Harold Hyman, E. B. (Pete) Long, Ralph Newman, and Clyde C. Walton.

TO THE LADIES —

The "fabulous fearless furious" Nathan Bedford Forrest will be the protagonist of the Camp Followers' program Friday, June 23 at 18 East Chestnut street. Marguerite (Mrs. E. A.) Bringer will come from Decatur, Ill., to share with us her enthusiasm for this dashing genius of the Confederacy. "I will not talk about battles," she assures us, "but will leave them to the gentlemen." We know she will bring us the color and excitement of Forrest's career, grounded in extensive knowledge of her subject. For reservations, please call Eleanor Fisher, ARdmore 1-0966.

- Barbara Long, program chairman
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Alice Hamilton Cromie talked to the May 25th meeting about Dr. A. S. Heath and his service during the naval blockade. She gave a vivid picture of life at sea and life at home. She displayed and quoted from an unusual and complete collection of letters. It was a brilliant and witty presentation. The meeting was in the Marina Towers apartment of Mrs. Lloyd Lewis, a charming and exciting experience in itself.

CWRT of NEW YORK presented its annual Fletcher Pratt Award, for the best book of nonfiction dealing with the Civil War, to Charles B. Dew for his book "Ironmaker of the Confederacy: Joseph R. Anderson and the Tredegar Iron Works." Dew is assistant professor of history at Louisiana State University.

PUBLIC USE of National Parks in 1966 totaled 133,081,100, an 11.5 per cent increase over 1965. Among the National Military Parks the figures were: Gettysburg 3,589,100, Chickamauga-Chattanooga 1,201,100, Petersburg 1,162,500, Harpers Ferry 898,000, Vicksburg 798,600, Fort Donelson 766,200, Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania 719,700, Manassas 464,700, Shiloh 443,200, Kennesaw Mountain 428,900, Richmond 386,900, Cumberland Gap 234,000, Fort Sumter 162,000, Arkansas Post 159,800, Antietam 147,700, Fort Davis (Tex.) 135,800, Appomattox 129,900, Pea Ridge 104,100, Stones River 71,900, Fort Union (N.M.) 15,000, Brices Cross Roads 2,500, and Tupelo 800.

A NEW STREET SIGN was posted in a subdivision in the area of U. S. Grant's farm in St. Louis county (Mo.) reading "Hardscrapple Farm." A telephone caller to the real estate development office was informed, "Yes, that's right, that was named for General Grant's Hardscrapple farm." The caller explained that scrapple is a food made by boiling scraps of meat with chopped herbs and flour or Indian meal, and that Grant's farm was named "Hardscrabble" meaning to scrape, paw, or scratch, to struggle. "Well, we invested \$50 in the signs, we won't change it," came the reply.

Winner of the first award, for 1965-66, was David E. Meerse, who completed his doctoral studies at the University of Illinois and now is an instructor in history in the New York State University division at Fredonia, N. Y. A special prize of \$500 also was given in that year to Mary Frances Berry a graduate student at the University of Michigan. The 1966-67 winner was Richard W. Iobst, whose doctoral project at the University of North Carolina is "North Carolina Raises an Army, 1861-1862."

THE NEW BOOKS



CIVIL WAR BOOKS (Volume 1): A Critical Bibliography, edited by Allan Nevins, James I. Robertson, Jr., Bell L. Wiley (Louisiana State University Press, 278pp, \$11.50). Sections and compilers: Military Organization, Archer Jones; Campaigns, Warren W. Hassler; Soldier Life, James I. Robertson, Jr.; Prisons and Prisoners of War, Frank Byrne; The Negro, Dudley D. Cornish; The Navies, Thomas Wells, and Diplomacy, Norman Ferris. Nearly 6,000 books are listed with commentaries and evaluation. The book is printed under the auspices of the United States Civil War Centennial Commission.

Volume II will include: General Works, E. B. Long; Biographies, Memoirs and Collected Works, Robert W. Johannsen; The Confederacy, Government and Politics, Martin Abbott; The Confederacy: State and Local Studies, Malcolm C. McMillan; The Confederacy: Social and Economic Studies, May S. Ringold; The Union: Government and Politics, Rodney C. Loehr; The Union: State and Local Studies, William E. Parrish; The Union: Economic and Social Conditions, John T. Hubbell.

CIVIL WAR SITES IN OKLAHOMA, by Muriel H. Wright and LeRoy H. Fischer (Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Okla., 73105, 59pp, \$1.75).

MR. LINCOLN'S WASHINGTON, Correspondence of Noah Brooks, edited by P. J. Staudenraus (Yoseloff, 481pp, \$10).

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR, by Roy P. Basler (Basic Books, New York, \$5.95).

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE COMPROMISE OF 1850, by James Ford Rhodes, abridged and edited by Allan Nevins (U. of Chicago, 576pp, \$10). Until final restoration of home rule in the south in 1877.

THE SOUTH SINCE APPOMATOX: A Century of Regional Change, by Thomas D. Clark and Albert D. Kirwan (Oxford, 438pp, \$7.50).

NORTH INTO FREEDOM: The Autobiography of John Malvin, Free Negro, 1795-1880, edited by Allan Peskin (Western Reserve, 87pp, \$4).

Bruce Catton's Civil War Centennial History is being put into paperbacks by Pocket Books. The first of the trilogy, "The Coming Fury," is available now at 95 cents. "Terrible Swift Sword" and "Never Call Retreat" will be issued later.

BOOK NOTES

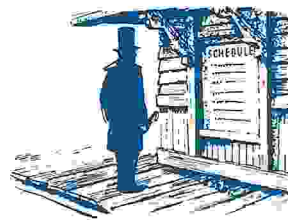
For our members who mix the Civil War with Western history, two maps are available, West-Southwest (30" x 50") and West-Northwest (21" x 50"). They show old forts, military roads, emigrant and pioneer roads, traces and trails (man and cattle), stage lines, early rail routes, Indian tribe areas, and fur posts. Historical data is on the maps, related to present day cities. The price is \$2 each, folded, \$3 in tubes, postpaid, Perry C. Van Arsdale, Box 56, Tijeras, New Mexico, 87059.

At a dinner held in Fraunces Tavern, New York, the American Revolution Round Table's annual award was presented to Col. Mark M. Boatner, 3rd, author of "Encyclopedia of the American Revolution."

CIVIL WAR HISTORY has adopted the subtitle: *A Journal of the Middle Period.*

Kansas with 8,498 casualties suffered the highest mortality rate of any state in the Civil War.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS —

The 1967-68 meeting dates have been set for Fridays (except Ladies' Night in November) as follows: September 15, October 13, December 15, January 12, February 9, March 8, April 5, May 10, and June 7.

All regular meetings will be in the Furniture Club. Date of Battlefield Tour to be set.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sept. 8 - at Lacon, Ill., Civil War Round Table golf (beginning at noon); Sept. 9, Old Settlers' Day; Sept. 10, Air Show.

Sept. 29-Oct. 1 - at Benton, Ill., Fall tour and annual meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society.

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NEW MEMBER: George R. Jones, 910 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago 60611.

CHANGE of Address: Paul H. Douglas to: 2909 Davenport, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008; Steven M. Shoff to: 391 Ridgeland, Elmhurst, Ill. 60126.

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AVAILABLE at meetings: Lapel pin, \$2; Key Chain with CWRT Emblem 50¢; Cloth patch of Emblem, 50¢.



THE ADVISORY BOARD on National Parks, Historic Sites, Building and Monuments has indorsed the proposal to preserve Appomattox Manor in Hopewell, Va., as a detached unit of Petersburg National Battlefield. The 18th century manor house, on one of the oldest English colonial grants in the United States to continue in the same family, served as headquarters of the armies of the United States during the last eight months of the Civil War.

ANDERSONVILLE Military Prison-National Cemetery is to become a National Historical Landmark, the department of Interior has announced with a development project to cost an anticipated \$750,000. The Andersonville story will be told through a background film and automatic tape recordings and part of the prison stockade will be rebuilt. A museum will house artifacts relating to the prison. A four-lane highway leading to the development area near Americus, Ga., is planned and historical roadside markets will be erected throughout the area.

MADISON (Wis.) CWRT scheduled its annual picnic at the Jefferson (Wis.) Country Club on Thursday, June 8.

The Lincoln-Civil War Society of Philadelphia scheduled a field trip June 10 to the new William Penn Museum in Harrisburg, Pa.

PROF. DEAN F. RITZMAN, founder of the CWRT of Northern New Jersey and first editor of its newsletter, *Crossed Flags*, assumes his new post as director of the Upsala College library, East Orange, N.J., on July 1. Ritzman received his master's degree at University of Chicago and took advanced studies under David Donald at Columbia University