

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXVIII, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September, 1967

Elmer Gertz on 'Lincoln and Kennedy and Jack Ruby' - Friday, Sept. 15

The Civil War Round Table's 28th year begins with the 263rd regular meeting and a man who was speaker at meeting No. 2. The man is Elmer Gertz and his subject will be, "The Assassinations of Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy as Seen by Jack Ruby's Lawyer."



Elmer Gertz

The date is Friday, September 15, and the place is the Furniture Club. Ver Lynn Sprague is at the helm and will outline the program for the year.

Elmer Gertz is a founder of the Round Table and an Honorary Award Life Member. His subject at meeting No. 2 was "Wilber F. Storey and the Chicago Times in the Civil War." Since then he has spoken on "Some Aspects of Civil War Journalism," "Charles Dana: the Eyes of the Government at the Front," and "Gen. James Harrison Wilson."

He has participated in panels or symposiums on "George Brinton McClellan," "Lincoln the Lover" (articles in Atlantic monthly), "The Diary of a Public Man," "Jefferson Davis," "Has the Lincoln Theme Been Exhausted: a Reappraisal," and "Legal Aspects of the Civil War."

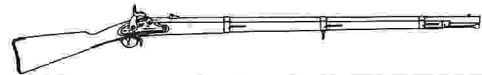
Elmer says that for his new appearance, "I will deal with certain aspects of Lincoln's assassination suggested largely by Otto Eisenschiml, emphasizing the mysteries, the unresolved questions. I will do this to show that it is not unusual, even when an assassination takes place in the presence of witnesses, for there to be doubts that can persist for a century.

"With this as a background, I will then deal more fully with the Kennedy assassination and the aftermath. I hope to dispose of many things said by Mark Lane and other critics of the Warren Report."

Elmer was an attorney for Jack Ruby, slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald, and is doing a book on the Ruby case. "The talk will thus be an advance view of some of the material in the book," Elmer said.

Elmer is a past president of the Round Table and long has been active on the Chicago scene. He received his bachelor's degree from University of Chicago in economics and then his law degree. He has taught at the Jewish People's Institute and Chicago, Roosevelt, Northwestern, and Wisconsin universities.

He was president of the Adult Education Council of Chicago and the Decalogue Society of Lawyers. He was chairman of the legal education committee of the Decalogue and has been a member of various committees of the Chicago and American Bar associations. He was a founder and president of the George Bernard Shaw Society of Chicago and has written and spoken on Shaw and related subjects.



263rd REGULAR MEETING

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Elmer Gertz

"The Assassinations of Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy as Seen by Jack Ruby's Lawyer."

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1967

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

(Executive Committee meeting, 4:45 p.m.)



Elmer has been absorbed in all aspects of human relations, particularly in the field of housing. He was a founder and president of the Public Housing association, legislative chairman of Mayor Kelly's Emergency Housing committee, chairman of the veterans' housing committee, and counsel for various building projects and cooperative housing groups. He has received mail addressed to "Mr. Housing."

He received two awards of the Chicago Council Against Discrimination. He has been connected with the Commission on Human Relations of Chicago since it began. He is a member of the National Advisory Board of the Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress. He has been active in the American Civil Liberties Union, Illinois division, and has received an award.

Elmer has made a special study of Lincoln as a lawyer. He has contributed material about Clarence Darrow to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. He is a collector of material about Harry S Truman and a fellow of the Truman library. His writings have been many. "A Handful of Clients" is a book dealing with some of his cases.

The papers are full of U. S. Grants these days, resulting in some odd headlines. Perhaps this one is the prize-winner: "Hospital Gets U. S. Grant for Mental Care."

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

OFFICERS

President Ver Lynn Sprague
Vice President Arthur V. Bergquist
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Terms expiring in 1968; Elmer C. Brinkman,
Henry W. Kennedy, William C. Krone.

Terms expiring in 1969; Maurice Fisher,
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COMMITTEES

(Where full committee is not named,
members will be notified.)

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE - Chairman
James Coulter, B. H. Bartfield, Richard J. Bjorklund,
Elmer C. Brinkman, Maurice Fisher, George Elrick,
Joseph Eisendrath, Morton Feigen, Joseph Pratt,
Wilson Smith, Gilbert Twiss.

BATTLEFIELD TOUR - Honorary Chairman J. Ambler Johnston,
Richmond, Va.; Co-Chairmen Edward S. Waterbury,
Washington, D.C. and Jerry Warshaw, Chicago.

Speakers' Bureau and Liaison with Round Tables -
Chairman Elmer C. Brinkman.

Illinois Sesquicentennial Observance - Chairman Hal B. Hixson.

Sickness and Memorials - Chairman H. George Donovan.

Ladies' Night - Chairman Mal Hoffmann.

Honorary Awards - Chairman Brooks Davis.

Nominating - Chairman Gerhard P. Clausius.

Auditing - Chairman Arnold Alexander.

Legal - Chairman Charles V. Falkenberg, Jr.

Publicity - Chairman Don Russell.

Graduate Fellowship Award - To be named.

Vice President Arthur V. Bergquist is an ex-officio co-chairman of all committees.

The Ulysses S. Grant Association elected E. B. Long and William K. Alderfer to its board to replace two retiring directors, James I. Robertson, Jr., and Erwin C. Zepp. Though Alderfer replaced Clyde C. Walton as Illinois State Historian, Walton remained on the Grant board in his new position as director of libraries at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.

*from the
Editor's pen*



The Civil War Round Table begins its 28th year with Ver Lynn Sprague wielding the president's gavel and with a meeting program partially filled in, but well advanced for this time of year. The dates for the 18th annual Battlefield Tour have been set, the locale will be the Fredericksburg area of Virginia, and a good start has been made on the program. The Graduate Fellowship Award program has grown stronger each year. A spontaneous happening is the monthly meetings of the Camp Followers who sometimes have programs that are envied by attendants at the regular CWRT meetings.

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For special events, many members of the CWRT will join with the Illinois State Historical Society in its fall meeting at Benton and spring meeting in Chicago. Ver Lynn is executive director of the Illinois Sesquicentennial observance and our group will back him with attendance at December 3-4 dinners in Chicago and Springfield and a reception at Chicago Historical Society, of which our member Clement Silvestro is the director. We will join the state historical society and the Sesquicentennial commission in Old Capitol Days at Springfield August 25 and 26, 1968, when the restored Old State House will be rededicated. On October 4 to 6 will be the state historical society's celebration of the state's 150th birthday at Chester and old Kaskaskia. The actual birthday, December 3, will be observed widely over the state.

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There had been a fear that our membership would suffer a major drop in numbers after the Civil War centennial was over, but it never happened. The number is only a little bit below average, and young, enthusiastic and active members have replaced those who have left the roll. During the summer death claimed Carl Sandburg, our most notable Honorary Award member. Another who passed away was M. Kenneth MacIntyre, CWRT president in 1953-54.

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The 1966-67 year closed with the meeting Friday, May 25. President Michael Lerner presented Ver Lynn Sprague with the gavel of office. On behalf of the membership, Ver Lynn presented Mike with a framed copy of an old edition of the Chicago Evening Post. Speaker of the evening was J. Robert Smith of Carmi, Ill., president of the Illinois State Historical Society.

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Smith spoke on one of his favorite topics, Gen. Michael Kelly Lawler. Lawler, an immigrant from Ireland, married a daughter of John Hart Crenshaw who was the biggest slave operator in Illinois at the salt works in Saline county near Equality. Lawler fought with Illinois volunteers in the Mexican war. In the Civil War, his 18th Illinois regiment was mustered into service at Anna by Brig. Gen. U. S. Grant. Lawler was such a stern disciplinarian that it resulted in his court martial. He was acquitted and proved to be a valiant fighter at Vicksburg and in Tennessee. He went back to farming after the war and died in 1882 at 68 years. A monument was erected to him in Equality in 1913. "He was a hard working farmer who loved his country," Smith said.

Robert Andrew Brown, renewing his dues, wrote: "It has been a great joy to be a member of the Civil War Round Table and I only regret being unable to attend some of your tours in recent years. Here's hoping that we can be together on the next tour."

President's Message



Ver Lynn Sprague

The principal responsibility of the officers of the Civil War Round Table is a simple one. It is to arrange ten fine meetings and a good battlefield tour.

The early responses to our invitations to speakers would seem to assure us of good meetings and Co-Chairmen Warshaw and Waterbury are on top of their job in arranging the battlefield tour back to the highly popular Virginia area.

There are two special projects which we have adopted for the year in connection with the celebration of the Illinois Sesquicentennial:

1. Following through on a job started last year, a committee of your president with Pete Long and Win Stracke to prepare a record album of "The Best Nights with the Round Table."
2. Under Hal Hixson's chairmanship, begin organization of a National Civil War Round Table convocation to be held in Springfield in August, 1968, in connection with the rededication of the Old State House.

Your cooperation, starting with your attendance at a great meeting on September 15 can make 1967-1968 another good year.

Ver Lynn Sprague

GOLF OUTING AT LACON

There's still time to get in on the CWRT golf outing at Lacon, Ill., Friday, September 8, if you act quickly. Call Chairman Wilson Smith at EUclid 3-1400. Lacon is 135 miles from Chicago over I-55 (Route 66) to Dwight and turn right on Illinois 17 to Lacon. Golf begins at noon at the Lacon Country club and afterward there is a dinner and get-together. Saturday is Old Settlers' Day with the 104th Illinois Volunteer Infantry (reactivated) participating. Sunday there will be an air show. If you can't join in the golf, come along for the dinner, the speaking, refreshments, and cheer.

AS PART of the commemoration of the 175th anniversary of Kentucky's statehood, the Jefferson Davis monument at Fairview will be rededicated on Saturday, September 16. Ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. in Russellville at the old home. There will be a walking tour of historic old homes. There will be a picnic lunch at Fairview. Rededication speakers will include Haskell M. Monroe, Jr., editor of the "Jefferson Davis Papers," and Gov. E. T. Breathitt of Kentucky. Our Louisville member Frank G. Rankin is chairman of the affair.

BELLE GROVE, headquarters of Gen. Phil Sheridan in the battle of Cedar Creek, Oct. 19, 1864, has been dedicated to public use. Near Middletown, Va., the house, of native limestone and more than 100 feet long, was built by Maj. Isaac Hite in 1787. The house was bequeathed to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1964 by Francis Welles Humewell of Wellesley, Mass. Sheridan was in Winchester, Va., when word reached him that Confederate troops under Gen. Jubal Early were attacking to the south. Sheridan began his gallop to the front, told by Thomas Buchanan Read's poem, "Sheridan's Ride." When he neared Belle Grove, Sheridan rallied his northern troops and turned defeat into victory.

TO THE LADIES -

The Camp Followers have scored a coup! Their first speaker will be Ralph G. Newman, president of the Chicago Library board, chairman of the Illinois Sesquicentennial commission - to name just two of his many duties and honors. His topic will be, "Civil War Characters I have Known." The talk will be at 5:30 p.m. so Ralph can attend the regular meeting of the Civil War Round Table later. Cocktails and supper will be served after the talk.

Barbara Long, last year's program chairman, reporting the June 25 meeting, said; "The speaker, Mrs. Marguerite Bringer of Decatur, proved herself to be a dynamic, bright and charming person. Her talk on 'Magnificent Forrest' was a really professional profile of his natural genius. She analyzed his business life and how this was in her opinion applied to the business of war. She showed an infectious interest in her subject."

For reservations to the September 15 meeting, please call Rita Coulter, TE 2-4582.

- Betsy Ross Davis, Program chairman

HEAD START FOR BATTLEFIELD TOUR

Co-Chairmen Jerry Warshaw in Chicago and Ed Waterbury in Washington, D.C., have made an early start on our 18th Annual Battlefield tour to the Fredericksburg, Va., area on May 2-5, 1968, Thursday through Sunday. A lunchtime flight will take the party to Washington. Headquarters will be at a modern Fredericksburg motel. The first afternoon will be devoted to the battle of Fredericksburg, the second day to Chancellorsville. Saturday will follow the 1864 campaign. Each evening there will be top notch speakers. Saturday will have fun night. Sunday will have a visit to the newly restored Ford's theater in Washington and an evening flight home. J. Ambler Johnston of Richmond is honorary chairman of the tour and our ambassador in Virginia.

HENRY BASS, of Enid, Okla., a most faithful member of battlefield tour parties, already has been in action for next year's campaign. He's going to meet honorary chairman Ambler Johnston in Richmond next spring and with him reconnoitre the route of Jeb Stuart's 1862 ride around McClellan. He has invited for his guests at Fredericksburg Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith and his secretary Margaret Fristoe.

MRS. EVA DAVIS has retired as director of the Old Court House museum at Vicksburg, Miss. Built in 1858, the court house was the most prominent feature of the landscape during the siege of Vicksburg and was the central point of the surrender of July 4, 1863. It continued as the Warren County Court House until the late 1940s when a new one was built. When the historic place was in danger of falling into disuse and ruin, "Miss Eva" took it over and made it into the historical museum that is now one of the prime tourist attractions of Vicksburg. In recognition of her work, the board of directors added "and Eva Whitaker Davis Memorial" to the name of the museum. William Edward (Ed) Finane will be the new director and "Miss Eva" will continue as an advisor. Our Round Table was entertained at receptions in the Old Court House on two battlefield tour visits to Vicksburg and holds two lifetime group memberships in the museum.

THE NEW BOOKS



A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR YEARS, by Paul M. Angle (Doubleday, 242pp, text and 350 illus., \$6.95).

STEELE'S RETREAT FROM CAMDEN, AND THE BATTLE OF JENKINS' FERRY, by Edwin C. Bearss (Fireside Books, 30 S. Brentwood, St. Louis, 208pp, \$5).

MILITARY BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE CIVIL WAR, Vol. II: Regimental Publications and Personal Narratives: Southern, Border, and Western States and Territories; Federal Troops; Union and Confederate Biographies, compiled by C. E. Dornbusch (New York Public Library, 270pp, \$10).

VAN DORN, The Life and Times of a Confederate General, by Robert G. Hartje (Vanderbilt, 359pp, \$8.95).

THE ARMY OF THE HEARTLAND: The Army of the Tennessee, 1861-1865, by Thomas Lawrence Connelly (Louisiana State U. Press, 305pp, \$8.50).

CIVIL WAR CHRONICLE, by Lt. Col. John W. Keeler, USAF (Warren H. Green, Inc., 10 S. Brentwood, St. Louis, 126pp, 404 illus., paper \$10.50, cloth \$13.50). A chronology written in the style and language of today.

THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS: A Narrative of the Negro Cavalry in the West, by William H. Leckie (U. of Oklahoma, 290pp, \$5.95). The story of the 9th and 10th cavalry.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NATION, by Rembert W. Patrick (Oxford, 324pp, \$7.50).

THEY WENT SOUTH, by Joyce Bennett Stemler (Berlin, Wis., Historical Society, 142pp, \$2.50 plus 25¢ postage). Biographical sketches of Berlin soldiers.

CIVIL WAR SMALL ARMS AND EQUIPMENT OF THE UNION ARMY (Civil War Pictorials, Van Nuys, Calif., 30pp, \$1).

A MAINE TOWN IN THE CIVIL WAR, by Vernal Hutchinson (Bond Wheelwright Co., Freeport, Me., \$3.95).

THE FIRST EMANCIPATION: The Abolition of Slavery in the North, by Arthur Zilversmit (U. of Chicago, \$6.95).

BEFORE AND AFTER, Or, the Relations of the Races of the South, by Isaac DuBose Sedbrook, edited by John Hammond Moore (Louisiana, \$5.50).

THE TEXAS ALMANAC, 1857-1873, A Compendium of Texas History, by James M. Day (Texian Press, Waco, \$12).

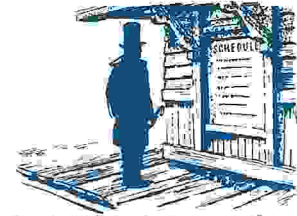
AMERICA'S LINCOLN: A Collection of Poems, by Edna H. Neidelman (Pageant, 135pp, \$3.50).

BOOK NOTES

Volume II of C. E. Dornbusch's "Military Bibliography of the Civil War" is now available (see listing above). Volume I (in seven parts) dealt with the Northern States. A forthcoming Volume III will deal with General References, Armed Forces, Campaigns and Battles, and a comprehensive index.

Lincoln National Life Foundation announces that about November 1 there will be available for sale (price to be announced) a Lincoln Lore index extending from the first copy issued April 15, 1929, to the 1500th copy issued in February, 1963. The index will be a 56 page publication in offset printing of green ink and will measure 11" x 8 1/2" - the same as Lincoln Lore. The index will be in three divisions: titles, subjects, and persons.

BULLETIN BOARD



Treasurer Marshall Krolick issues the reminder that October 1 is the target date for payment of annual dues. If you have been tardy, please send in check.

The Fellowship Fund auction June 4 ran out of time before all donated books were sold. A portion of the remainder will be available for sale at the treasurer's desk at the fall regular meetings. FUTURE MEETINGS (All on Friday Nights) —

October 27 - Dr. Mark Krug, "Lyman Trumbull, Friend of Lincoln."

November (date to be set) - Ladies' Night; Ralph Newman, "Readin', Ritin', and Round Tables."

December (to be announced)

January 12 - Glenn H. Seymour, "Illinois in the '50s".

February and March to be announced.

April 5 - Rodney Loehr, "Cavalry Operations of J. H. Wilson Around Selma."

May 10 - LeRoy H. Fischer, "The Civil War in Today's Perspective."

June 7 - William K. Alderfer, topic to be announced.

SPECIAL EVENTS —

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

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

Oct. 5-8 - Atlanta and Chattanooga, battlefield tour of Vanderburgh Court House CWRT of Evansville, Ind.

December 3-4 - Opening events of Illinois Sesquicentennial, Chicago and Springfield.

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NEW MEMBERS - William K. Alderfer, Historical Library, Centennial Building, Springfield, Ill. 62707; William J. Harte, 510 N. Grove Ave., Oak Park, Ill. 60302; George R. Jones, 910 Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, 60611; D. H. MacDowell, 803 Greenleaf, Glencoe, Ill. 60022; Walker W. Means, 1016 Baltimore, Kansas City, Mo. 64105; Richard H. Moy, 1400 E. 54th St., Chicago 60615; John S. Reinhardt, 627 N. Buttrick, Waukegan, Ill. 60085.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Alan C. Aimone to: 30 High Lake, West Chicago 60185; L. E. Clark to: 640 Thornmeadow Rd., Deerfield, Ill. 60015; Michael D. Hoffman to: 1150 Mohawk Rd., Wilmette, Ill. 60091; Marshall Krolick to: 8622 N. Oleander St., Nilas, Ill. 60648; Theodore Levitt to: Harbour House South #120, 10275 Collins Ave., Bal Harbour, Fla. 33154; James F. Ruddle to: 5492 S. Everett St., Chicago 60615.

DECEASED: Carl Sandburg (July 22); M. Kenneth MacIntyre (July 4).

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

