

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXIX, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June, 1969

## C.L. 'Pie' Dufour on 'The Blue and the Gray in Mexico,' June 6



Charles L. Dufour

Col. Jefferson Davis, Capt. Robert E. Lee, Capt. George B. McClellan and Lt. U. S. Grant. These familiar names with unfamiliar ranks played relatively minor roles in the Mexican War of 1846-47. Each was to be a major character in the Civil War that began 13 years later.

At the meeting of the Chicago Civil War Round Table on Friday, June 6, the drama of the Mexican War and the parts played in it by Civil War figures will be unfolded by the colorful New Orleans newspaperman Charles L. "Pie" Dufour. No stranger to our club, Dufour is

making his third appearance at our rostrum to discuss "The Blue and the Gray in Mexico."

"The Mexican War was fought at a time when West Point was subject to great criticism and there was some sentiment in Congress for closing the academy," Dufour relates. His review of the Civil War figures who played a part in the Mexican conflict will show why Gen. Winfield Scott, the general-in-chief in Mexico, said: "Without the skill of young West Pointers it would have taken considerably more force to win the Mexican War and the loss of life would have been greater."

Dufour points out that there were 166 West Pointers in Mexico and that many became Civil War generals. Of one group of 18 officers, 5 died before the Civil War and the other 13 all were general officers in the later conflict.

Under Winfield Scott, who played a fleeting Civil War role, were such young Mexican War officers as George G. Meade, James Longstreet, Ambrose P. Hill, Daniel H. Hill, Stonewall Jackson, Richard S. Ewell, William J. Hardee, George Thomas, Ambrose Burnside, Joe Hooker and J. C. Pemberton. In the Civil War, these young officers confronted each other as some became Union commanders and others Confederate general officers.

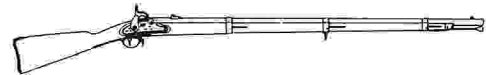
Dufour tells that the young officers served in Mexico with varying degrees of distinction, but Braxton Bragg, in one crucial battle peppered the Mexicans with artillery fire and was commanded by Gen. Zachary Taylor: "A little more grape, Mr. Bragg."

Among the unusual encounters in the war was the first amphibious landing by a U. S. military force at Vera Cruz where 10,000 men were put on the beaches without a single casualty.

"We will talk," Dufour promised, "about the Blue and the Gray as they were in the Mexican War, and we will bring the Mexican training ground into better focus by reflecting on how some of the lessons there were applied in various Civil War conflicts by the young officers who learned their trade fighting Santa Ana."

"Pie" Dufour is a legitimate Civil War scholar as well as the author of "A La Mode," a popular column in New Orleans States-Item. In a previous appearance before the Chicago Civil War Round Table, Dufour recounted the "Battle of New Orleans" that settled the Civil War fate of his native city.

Born and educated in New Orleans and a graduate of Tulane University, "Pie" Dufour has been a newspaperman, with the exception of a few intervals, since 1924.



282d REGULAR MEETING

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Charles L. "Pie" Dufour

on

"The Blue and the Gray in Mexico"

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Friday, June 6, 1969

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Furniture Club in Furniture Mart

Executive Committee at 4:45 p.m.

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6 p.m.



From 1924 until 1940 he served as reporter, music critic and sportswriter for the New Orleans Item. From 1940 until 1942 he handled a sports radio program.

Drafted in 1942, he was first an air mechanic at Keesler Field and then an officer candidate at the infantry school at Fort Benning. Commissioned in August, 1943, he served in Washington in the military intelligence division and later as assistant military attache' to Syria and Lebanon.

Upon his return from service, Dufour spent almost three years in the advertising department of New Orleans Public Service before joining the New Orleans States in 1949 to write his "A La Mode" column and double as music critic. He is instructor in American history at Tulane University.

He is the author of "Ten Flags in the Wind," a history of Louisiana published in 1967, and he provided the text for a picture book on New Orleans, published in January, 1968. He is the author of three Civil War books: "Gentle Tiger," published in 1957 by the LSU Press; "The Night the War Was Lost," the story of the fall of New Orleans in 1862, published in 1960 by Doubleday; and "Nine Men in Gray," profiles of forgotten or less-known Confederates, published by Doubleday in April, 1963.

Defour's sixth book, "The Mexican War" was published in November, 1968 by Hawthorn Books.



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

## OFFICERS

President .....	Jerry Warshaw
Vice President .....	Clyde C. Walton
Secretary .....	Elmer Underwood
Treasurer .....	Marshall Krolick
Assistant Treasurer .....	Richard B. Cohen
Tape Record Librarian .....	Alan Aimone
Editor of Newsletter .....	Dick Bjorklund
Contributing Editor .....	Dick Clark
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Judge Advocate General .....	Philip B. Davis
Balladeer .....	Win Stracke
Leader of the Band .....	Miles Janousek

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Executive Committee)

Terms expiring in 1969: Maurice Fisher, Dan J. Lapinski,  
Charles Wesselhoeft.

Terms expiring in 1970: S. J. Kearney, James Coulter, James  
Henry.

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968



PRESIDENT WARSHAW asks all members to volunteer to work on appropriate committees of the CWRT. Chairmen appointed by the president for 1968-1969 are:

Membership: Maurice Fisher  
Awards: Chuck Falkenberg  
House and Meals: Dick Cohen  
Sickness and Memorials: Jim Coulter  
Fellowship Co-Chairmen: Arnold Alexander, Pete Long  
Auditing: Charley Wesselhoeft  
Nominating: Brooks Davis  
Publicity: Dick Bjorklund  
Battlefield Tour: Dan Lapinski and Clyde Walton  
Speakers Bureau: Don Pfeuffer  
Stand-by Speaker: Miner T. Coburn  
Special Events: Ver Lynn Sprague and Warren Reeder

Applications for CWRT fellowships are now available from Arnold Alexander, chairman of the CWRT fellowship committee, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Chairman Alexander reminds all CWRT members and friends that they may make tax-deductible contributions to the CWRT Fellowship Fund for Civil War research and education. Contributions may be sent to Alexander at the address above.

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Club members who know of the death or illness of anyone associated with the Chicago CWRT are encouraged to promptly contact President Warshaw or the CWRT through the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop.

## from the Editor's pen



William K. Alderfer, our Illinois state historian, presented an exciting talk at the May meeting on the Civil War role of the old Illinois capitol building. In addition to reviewing roles played in the building by Lincoln, Douglas, Grant and others, Alderfer presented slides showing the reconstruction of the building that will be opened to the public next fall.

Some slides used by Alderfer were prepared by the late Oliver Keller, who until his death was president of the Abraham Lincoln Association.

A number of members questioned Alderfer about the capitol restoration program and the building's place in the Civil War era in Illinois

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Members jokingly cheered when Chuck Falkenberg, our esteemed awards chairman, presented his "next to last" award to Alderfer. Some of the survivors of this year's battlefield tour told the Newsletter editor that Chicago Civil War Round Table Awards were handed out with reckless abandon in Tennessee, Mississippi and even aboard the plane. If you enter a washroom in Memphis and the attendant displays a small bust of Abraham Lincoln, you'll know that our awards committee preceded you.

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Member Miner Coburn presented his Sesquicentennial talk on "Illinois Past and Present" at the 33rd annual meeting of the Ravenswood-Lake View Historical Association on May 14. Member Dick Bjorklund, editor of this Newsletter, was elected president of the association succeeding Member Maurice Fisher, who held the post for two years. During Fisher's term the Ravenswood community marked its centennial. Fisher pointed out at various centennial meetings in Ravenswood that the community was founded by Martin Van Allen and other members of the Chicago Spartacus Society, a group organized to defend the city against a rumored attack by Copperheads and Confederate prisoners in Camp Douglas. Ravenswood and Lake View have other Civil War connections, including many monuments on Civil War veterans' graves in Graceland, Rosehill and St. Boniface cemeteries.

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President Warshaw declared the nominated slate of officers elected unanimously "by a secret show of hands." New officers for 1969-70 are:

President .....	Clyde Walton
Senior Vice President .....	Dan Lapinski
Vice President .....	Don Russell
Vice President .....	Charles Falkenberg
Secretary .....	Charles Wesselhoeft
Treasurer .....	Richard Cohen
Assistant Treasurer .....	Don Jensen

Directors (for terms expiring in 1971): Don Pfeuffer, Elmer Underwood and Marshall Krolick.

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At the end of a year of editing the Chicago Civil War Round Table Newsletter, the editor must express thanks to Dick Clark, our dependable contributing editor who unflinchingly prepared complete lists of newly published books on the Civil War era; to President Jerry Warshaw, who is as good a newsman as he is an artist; to Brooks Davis, who made some outstanding contributions during the year, and to Dan Lapinski, who contributed a solid write-up of the battlefield tour. Many of those who should have helped didn't. In the year to come the success of this Newsletter will depend upon the cooperation of all members, particularly committee chairmen, who must contribute items regularly. We now know the full extent of the contribution made to the Chicago CWRT by the late Gil Twiss. Making up for his diligent work takes the best efforts of all of us.

## MEET OUR PRESIDENT



Clyde C. Walton

Clyde C. Walton became director of libraries at Northern Illinois University at DeKalb in July, 1967. With seventeen years of varied library experience behind him, he joined the university to administer the expanding library services of an emerging state university.

Clyde Walton was born in Chicago in 1925. He graduated from Hyde Park High School in June, 1942, and enlisted in the U. S. Army shortly thereafter. He served with the 10th Mountain Infantry Division in Italy where he received the Purple Heart and the combat infantry badge. Following World War II, he entered Cornell College and was graduated in August, 1948. He next matriculated at the graduate library school of the University of Chicago and was awarded the M. A. degree in January, 1950.

From 1950 until 1956, Walton was employed in the library at the State University of Iowa, Iowa City. He served successively as assistant in the serials-reserve library, in a dual capacity as university archivist and curator of rare books and simultaneously as head of the reference department and curator of rare books.

While at Iowa, Walton demonstrated high administrative ability and talent as an organizer of scholarly projects. In 1955, he founded Civil War History, a quarterly magazine which he edited until 1959; helped develop a field program for collecting manuscripts; assisted in planning a new library building, and still had time to teach freshman English and courses in bibliography.

In September, 1956, Walton became Illinois State Historian, head of the Illinois State Historical Library and executive director of the Illinois State Historical Society. He functioned in this triple capacity at Springfield until his recent resignation to accept the position at Northern Illinois.

Walton's accomplishments during his nearly 11 years in Springfield are numerous. As the chief officer responsible for administering both the Historical Library and the Historical Society, he reorganized and rejuvenated old programs and launched new ones that enabled the library and the society to serve an even larger segment of the population of Illinois. A few of the more noteworthy programs should be mentioned. In 1957, he established a school service department for teachers and students in primary and secondary schools. Materials and services relating to local history are made available on request for use in schools. This service has been acclaimed as one of the best in the country.

In 1959 a field service department was established for systematic collection of Illinois manuscripts and as an advisory service to local historical societies and museums. In addition Walton expanded the editorial department, enlarged the flow of scholarly and useful publications, increased the membership of the Historical Society to an all-time high and extended the historical markers program with the cooperation of the Division of Highways.

The reconstructed and restored old State Capitol in Springfield, scheduled for completion in the fall of 1969, will stand as a unique example of Walton's ability as a building expert. He has been principally responsible for the development of plans for the new building with underground parking, other facilities and housing for the Historical Library.

Walton has been editor of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society since 1956, contributed articles to professional journals and has edited "Indian War of 1864," "Private Smith's Journal," "John Francis Snyder: Selected Writings" and "Behind the Guns". He is presently doing research for a monograph on the Lincoln theme.

Walton is a member of the American and Illinois Library Associations, the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the American Association for State and Local History, the Chicago and Sangamo Civil War Round Tables and the Caxton Club of Chicago. In 1962 he was executive director of National Library Week for Illinois.

He served on the Mayor's Commission for Mass Transportation, the Springfield Area Development

## TO THE LADIES —

Mrs. Brooks Davis presented an entertaining program of Civil War book reviews at our May meeting in a talk entitled "The Camp Followers' Book Shelf—Or Don't Clutter Up My Mind With Facts."

At the June meeting of the Camp Followers, newly elected CWRT Vice President Don Russell will present a special talk on "General and Mrs. George Armstrong Custer." Russell, former editorial page editor of the Chicago Daily News and Custer authority, will review the relationship between the general and his lady the effect of that relationship on his performance in the Civil War and the Indian Campaigns.

Reservations for a catered dinner at the June meeting may be made with Lillian Jacobs at the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop, WH 4-3085.

Association and the Capitol City Planning Commission and was long associated with the Lincoln Home Area Advisory Commission.

Clyde Walton is married to the former Anne Hoover. They have three children, aged 15, 13, and 11.

Our apologies to Percival G. Hart for a grievous typographical error in his letter published in the May issue of the Newsletter. His is erroneously quoted as saying "Ralph Newman was a slouch . . ." In truth, Mr. Hart wrote: "Ralph Newman was no slouch—after all he knew the answer to every question in the war except how much Lincoln offered to slave holders per head for their chattel (see: the History of the \$64,000 Question)."

It would seem that we were taking unfair pot shots at Brother Ralph while he was away in Japan escorting the Abraham Lincoln exhibit that attracted much favorable comment in the Orient. Another Illinoisan, Member Win Stracke, has proved highly popular in Japan. We wonder how Win sings "Forty Third Ward" in Japanese. Our information is that the Abraham Lincoln exhibit will tour other countries of Asia and Australia later this year and in 1970.

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Members may wish to join the Civil War Round Table Associates, P. O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Ark. 72207, which publishes the Civil War Round Table Digest. Memberships, which include subscriptions to the Digest, are \$7.50 per year.

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Let me take this occasion to congratulate you on your successful visit to the Shiloh battlefield and to thank you for the hospitality shown me there. I am sorry I could not accept your invitation to speak at your dinner in Corinth that evening, but that was not possible.

Stanley F. Horn  
Southern Lumberman  
Nashville, Tenn.

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James J. Geary, director of the New Market Battlefield Memorial in New Market, Va., announced that the new building at the battlefield park will be dedicated May 14, 1970, the day preceding the 106th anniversary of the battle.

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To thank each and all of the splendid and generous Round Tablers for their many courtesies and kindnesses in the last few days would be impossible, so this old wreck of a tramp thus expresses his appreciation to the Privy Council in hopes that it will be conveyed to everyone.

Blessings on every one.

J. Ambler Johnston  
Richmond, Va.



## THE NEW BOOKS



Edelstein, Tilden G. **STRANGE ENTHUSIASMS: A Life of Thomas Wentworth Higginson.** 425p. New Haven: Yale, 1968. \$11.00

Ferrell, Robert H., comp. **FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY, 1775-1872.** Columbia, S. C.: Univ. S. Carolina, 1968. 284p. \$7.95

Gavronsky, Serge. **THE FRENCH LIBERAL OPPOSITION AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.** N. Y.: Humanities Press, 1968. 304p. \$6.50

Hayes, John D., ed. **SAMUEL FRANCIS DU PONT: Selection of His Civil War Letters.** 3 vols. Cornell U. Press, 1969. \$45.00

Keeler, William F. **ABOARD THE USS FLORIDA, 1863-65: The Letters of Paymaster William Frederick Keeler, U.S. Navy, to His Wife, Anna.** Annapolis: U. S. Naval Institute, 1968

Mahan, Alfred Thayer. **ADMIRAL FARRAGUT.** N.Y.: Greenwood Press, 1968. Reprint of 1895 ed. \$13.50

Miller, Carl, comp. **MARCHES OF THE PRESIDENTS, 1789-1909.** Authentic marches and campaign songs, arr. for piano. N.Y.: Chappell 1968, \$3.95

Nathans, Elizabeth Studley. **LOSING THE PEACE: GEORGIA REPUBLICANS AND RECONSTRUCTION, 1865-1871.** Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Univ., 1968. \$8.00

Nevins, Allan, James I. Robertson, Jr., Bell I. Wiley, eds. **CIVIL WAR BOOKS: A CRITICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY, vol. II.** Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Univ., 1969. \$11.50. The two volumes together, \$20.00.

Scharf, John Thomas. **HISTORY OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES NAVY FROM ITS ORGANIZATION TO THE SURRENDER OF ITS LAST VESSEL . . .** N.Y.: Books for Libraries Pr., 2 vols. \$24.50. Reprint of ed. of 1887.

Scripps, John Locke. **LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.** N.Y.: Greenwood Press, 1968. \$9.00 Reprint of Indiana Univ. issue of 1961.

Searcher, Victor. **LINCOLN TODAY: An Introduction to Modern Lincolniana.** N.Y.: Yoseloff, 1969. \$7.50

Seitz, Don Carlos. **THE DREADFUL DECADE: Detailing Some Phases in the History of the United States from Reconstruction to Resumption, 1869-1879.** N.Y.: Greenwood Press, 1968. \$13.25 Reprint 1926 ed.

Tanner, James. **WHILE LINCOLN LAY DYING. A Facsimile Reproduction of the First Testimony Taken in Connection with the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln as Recorded by Corporal James Tanner . . .** Phila.: Union League of Philadelphia, 1968. Ltd. ed. for private distr.

Washington, Booker T. **FREDERICK DOUGLASS.** N. Y.: Haskell House, 1968. \$13.95. Reprint of 1907 ed.

Wood, Forrest G. **BLACK SCARE: The Racist Response to Emancipation and Reconstruction.** Berkeley: U. California, 1968. \$6.00

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Please extend my thanks to Dan Lapinski and Margaret April and the others who contributed so much in making the Shiloh trip such a great success. I have been through many of these ventures and know what it takes to make them go, so I am deeply appreciative of your fine work.

Frank G. Rankin  
Louisville Civil War Round Table  
Louisville, Ky.

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Brooks Davis spoke on his specialty, "The Battle of Perryville," at a meeting of the Civil War Roundtable of Decatur on May 8.



## BULLETIN BOARD

### FUTURE MEETINGS

**JUNE 6:** Charles L. Dufour "The Blue and the Gray in Mexico."

All meetings are held on Friday nights in the Furniture Club of the Furniture Mart.



Before 10 this morning Ambler phoned me from his office that he had already written to thank each of you for all you did throughout the 19th annual battlefield tour. And on this same day but at a somewhat later hour I want to thank each of you, and also all those members of the Round Table who made the 19th annual tour, for the many courtesies and kindnesses extended to me; and especially for the cordial welcome and acceptance I received. It was all a heartwarming experience.

Ambler and I have been friends for almost 50 years, and I am deeply devoted to him. During the years of our friendship I have seen him meet many difficult situations, but I have never known his courage to falter. To me it was a delightful experience to see how many of those on the tour had a real affection for Ambler and to watch how they looked out for him in every possible way. He was tremendously gratified by it all.

I have never met a more stimulating group than those who made the 19th annual battlefield tour, and I know I shall never meet anyone like Ed Bearss who is sui generis. And so here's thanking you again for everything and looking forward to our next meeting.

Archibald G. Robertson  
Richmond, Va.

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On behalf of myself, my wife Alice Anne, and Mr. W. M. Hackett, vice president of the Civil War Round Table of Arkansas, may I extend my sincere appreciation for the outstanding hospitality displayed by your members and other guests during the recent Battlefield Tour.

We had a thoroughly enjoyable time, and made many good friends. We will look forward to renewing and maintaining these friendships in the future. If any of you are ever in Little Rock, be sure to give us the opportunity to return your warm hospitality.

Jerry L. Russel  
Civil War Round Table Associates  
Little Rock, Ark.

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President Warshaw appeals to all CWRT members to recruit new members for our group and to bring visitors to meetings whenever possible. "The future of our club depends upon our willingness to bring the work of the Round Table to the attention of others, especially young people, who share our interest in the Civil War." Membership applications are available from Treasurer Marshall Krolick or from the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop.