



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XX, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May, 1960

## AN EVALUATION OF CIVIL WAR GENERALS By T. HARRY WILLIAMS

Members with firm views on Civil War generals have an exciting prospect when historian T. Harry Williams speaks at our meeting Friday, May 27, on "The Generalship of North and South". This talk follows the line of Dr. Williams' paper at the November, 1958, Gettysburg Civil War Conference. It was so provocative that it drew a

bristling rebuttal from Clifford Dowdey, stout defender of the South.

Dr. Williams, Boyd professor of American history at Louisiana State University since 1953, is author of "Lincoln and the Radicals" (1941), "Lincoln and His Generals" (1952), "Napoleon in Gray: P. G. T. Beauregard" (1955), "With Beauregard in Mexico" (1956), and "Abraham Lincoln - Selected Speeches, Messages and Letters" (1957). Dr.



T. Harry Williams speaking at Jackson, Tenn., in 1954

Williams' stationery is headed "Lincolnannd", the name of his home in Baton Rouge.

In his talk here Dr. Williams will refer to the number of West Point generals on both sides in the Civil War. The military thinking of the time was dominated by the writings of Napoleon's Swiss marshal, Antoine Henri Jomini ("Summary of the Art of War").

The influence entered West Point directly in the person of Dennis Hart Mahan who began teaching in 1824. In 1848 his "Outpost" became an official text. Jomini's thinking also entered the war manuals of Hardee and Halleck.

But, Jomini's ideas were based on 18th century warfare. Dr. Williams will discuss the generals who followed Jomini closely and those who were able to adapt themselves to the new conditions of "the first modern war".

Age and health were factors, too. Youth and health were on the side of the Union. Mind, character, and will to win were other decisive factors.

Dr. Williams will give his estimation of the competence of various generals. No doubt the ranking will please some hearers, but will stir others to the defense of their favorites.

Lincoln's hand in conducting the war, the effect of industrialization in the North, and public support of the war will enter the discussion.

Dr. Williams is just barely a native of Illinois. He was born at Vinegar Hill in Jo Daviess county near Galena and the Wisconsin border. He grew up in Hazel Green, Wisconsin. He received his undergraduate degree at Platteville State Teachers College.

He worked for his master's and doctor's degrees at University of Wisconsin, where he was a student of Dr. William Hesselstine. He taught in the extension division of Wisconsin and at University of West Virginia and Omaha

190th REGULAR MEETING

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Dr. T. Harry Williams

on

"The Generalship of North and South"

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FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1960

St. Clair Hotel  
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

162 East Ohio Street  
Dinner at 6:30

before going to Louisiana State in 1941. His duties and honors there and elsewhere have been numerous. His book reviews and writings for periodicals are many. He was president of the Southern Historical association in 1959.

Dr. Williams was our speaker at Jackson, Tenn., on our 1954 battlefield tour, reading a chapter of his "Napoleon in Gray". He has spoken to Round Tables at Milwaukee, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Atlanta, Houston, Kansas City, New Orleans, Kentucky (Lexington), and Washington, D. C.

The evening before coming to Chicago Dr. Williams will speak to the Madison CWRT at their annual spring outing at the Meadow Springs golf club at Jefferson, Wisconsin. The meeting will be open to our members.

Tennessee was the site of more Civil War battles, engagements or skirmishes than any other state except Virginia.

Tennessee is the only state in which piecemeal secession is known to have taken place. In February or March, 1861, Franklin county, taking notice of the secession of Alabama, seceded from Tennessee and petitioned Alabama to annex it. Tennessee, last of the states to join the Confederacy, separated itself from the Union by a legislative act, ratified by a vote of the people. This happened only a few weeks after a state convention had voted against secession.

Chillicothe (Ohio) CWRT has admitted its 50th member, filling its list.



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

## OFFICERS

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## REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee submits the following slate of officers for the 1960-61 year:

President . . . . . C. Robert Douglas  
 Vice President . . . . . Gerhard P. Clausius  
 No change in other offices.

Members of Executive Committee, terms expiring in 1962: Frank J. Kinst, Allen Meyer, John F. Wilhelm.

Members of Nominating Committee  
 Warren A. Reeder, Jr., chairman  
 Clyde C. Walton  
 Harold B. Hixson



## SAVE THE BATTLEFIELDS!

In recent months there have been reports from various places of commercial developments nibbling away at Civil War battlefields. Cases in point have been Antietam, Gettysburg, and Kennesaw Mountain. Local groups have been formed to fight for preservation of historic ground. Some have been receiving contributions for that purpose. For persons not close to the battlefields, it is to their interest to write their senators and representatives and appeal (1) for legislative action to purchase ground needed to save famed sites, and (2) vigilance to prevent further encroachments.

## NEW FORM FOR CIVIL WAR TIMES

CIVIL WAR TIMES has come out in its new format. Volume II, Number 1, is 24 pages in newsmagazine size. There are leading articles on The Crater at Petersburg, the Fight to Save Civil War Battlefields, the North-South Skirmish Association, and a number of shorter articles and departments. The periodical is published ten times a year at 114 N. Stratton St., Gettysburg, Pa., \$4.95.

The May cover article will deal with the capture of New Orleans and the center spread piece with the burning of Chambersburg, Pa., in 1864. Also, beginning with May issue the magazine will be on heavier paper stock.

*from the  
Editor's pen*



The 10th annual battlefield tour, April 27 to May 1, was pleasant and successful, with 70 campaigners. After a flight to Washington and bus to Richmond there were visits to Battle Abbey with its Confederate relics and then to the White House of the Confederacy.

At a dinner in the Hotel John Marshall, Joseph Patrick Cullen, of Richmond district, National Park Service, outlined the campaign which started when Gen. U.S. Grant took charge. Thomas J. Harrison, Sr., historian of Petersburg battlefield park showed slides in outlining the Petersburg campaign. The next day, Harrison, Historian John Bond, and Park Superintendent Chester Brooks led our party at Petersburg and then to the Five Forks battlefield. Mrs. J. P. Gilliam conducted us through her house. It bears marks of the battle and still has portraits which were slashed by sabers.

Some Richmond Round Table members joined us for a banquet in the Marshall Hotel. W. G. Beane spoke on portions of his book, "Sandie Pendleton." Chairman Newton Farr of the awards committee presented our honorary membership award to J. Ambler Johnston of Richmond. It was dated May, 1953, when Mr. Johnston guided us on a tour of the Richmond battlefields. Mrs. Douglas Southall Freeman was a guest at the banquet.

On April 29, C. Hobson Goddin, president of Richmond CWRT, who aided greatly in setting up our tour, led us to Amelia Court House. There County Judge Valentine W. Southall took over with an orientation talk. Then at the Hillsman house he gave a detailed story of the Saylor's Creek battle.

At Farmville we were met by James Haskett, historian, and at Appomattox by Supt. Hubert Guerney of the historical park. After a box lunch - a feature each day - we toured the historical park and inspected the McLean house - home of Wilmer McLean who lived at Bull Run at the start of the war and at Appomattox at the finish.

At Charlottesville, in the Town and Country motor lodge, Awards Chairman Farr made presentations to Col. Allen P. Julian, director of Atlanta Historical Society, who guided our 1956 study of the Chattanooga-Atlanta campaigns and in 1959 to Charleston and Savannah, and to Francis F. Wilshin, superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park. Mr. Wilshin gave a slide lecture on the Second Manassas campaign.

Early the morning of April 30 about half of our party visited Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson. With the tour under way again, Mr. Wilshin gave the battle background on short stops at Gordonsville, Orange, Cedar Mountain, Culpeper and Brandy Station. After lunch he led us on a selected detail tour of Second Manassas. This concluded with a woods hike along the Deep Cut Trail and a stop at Stone Bridge.

Marriott-Key Bridge motor hotel was the overnight stop at Washington, D. C. The feature was a battle film, "Shiloh", provided by Dr. J. Walter Coleman of the National Park Service who was present, along with Edwin Gass of the Civil War Centennial commission.

In behalf of the CWRT membership, Ralph G. Newman presented to retiring President Jerry Slechta, a student's record signed by Robert E. Lee while president of Washington (and Lee) college.

On the final day the tour party divided. One group made a trip to Ball's Bluff, where Chester Gannon made the talk, and the other group visited the shrines of Washington, D.C. The party then flew home.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)



## MEETINGS IN ENGLAND

For those who might contemplate a trip to Europe and attendance at a Civil War Round Table (Confederate Research Club) meeting in London, here is the data: All meetings at the Eccleston hotel, Gillingham street, Victoria, London, S. W. 1. Secretary Hon. Patrick C. Courtney, 34 Highclere ave., Leigh Park, Havant, Hampshire, England, U. K. Phone: Havant 977.

May 28 - H. M. Bradmore, "The Medical Care of the Confederate Army".

Aug. 20 - Thomas M. Glaser, "The Railroads of the Confederacy".

Meetings are on Saturdays and future dates are Nov. 19, 1960; Feb. 18 and May 20, 1961. On Aug. 19, 1961, John A. Bailey will talk on "The Battle of Franklin". A Civil War Centennial dinner will be held on Nov. 18, 1961.

And you can't miss the Eccleston hotel - it flies the Confederate flag!

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EDITOR'S PEN - Continued from Page 2

Credits for success of the tour go to Edward Waterbury and Don Gerlinger, co-chairmen, Hal Hixson, Pete Long, Jerry Bork, Al Meyer, George Donovan, Margaret April, and many others.

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Among guests at our April 8 regular meeting was Sayyid Mazharali Shah, president of the law college at Sukkur, West Pakistan. He vowed that he would establish a Civil War Round Table in Pakistan.

Due to a conflicting engagement, Dr. Otto Eisenschiml had to forego appearance in the program. With Ralph G. Newman as chairman, E. B. (Pete) Long and John Patrick Hunter carried the ball. They gave a keen analysis of the complicated campaign and battle of Second Manassas.

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### "NO GLORY ROAD FOR THE HORSE"

Mort R. Lewis read to the CWRT of Southern California a paper on "No Glory Road for the Horse". It concerned the descendants of the horses, mules, "etc." who gave their all for their country. Mr. Lewis envisioned a Civil War Round Stable meeting at which the neglect of the true glory of the horses, etc., was discussed. Among the conclusions of this meeting was that there had been no books written by a horse, and, just think of the impact on history if a book had been written entitled, "Traveler's Lieutenants, or Ordeal for the Equine!"

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### WALTON, EISENSCHIML AT DECATUR

The fledgling Decatur CWRT has scheduled Clyde C. Walton on "Illinois Part in the Civil War", for May 12, and Dr. Otto Eisenschiml on "Some Civil War Generals" for June 9. Decatur holds its meetings in the Public Library, starting at 8 p.m.

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Harper's magazine for April had an excellent article by D. W. Brogan on "A Fresh Appraisal of the Civil War".

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## BULLETIN BOARD

A LONG RANGE planning committee has been appointed to draw up a battlefield tour schedule for the next few years. E. B. (Pete) Long is chairman, with Hal Hixson, Al Meyer, and Warren Reeder as members. Give them your ideas.

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### NEW MEMBERS of the Civil War Round Table:

Robert W. Larkin  
304 N. Taylor St.  
Oak Park, Ill.

Volney B. Leister  
2614 Lincolnwood Dr.  
Evanston, Ill.

H. K. Story  
167 Fellows Ct.  
Elmhurst, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: David Gottlieb, to 1720 Monroe St., Evanston, Ill.; Miles Janousek, to 7 Maple Lane, Naperville, Ill; Thomas C. Kelleghan, to 220 Main St., West Chicago, Ill.; Dr. Dan E. Pickle, to Veterans Administration Hospital, Salt Lake City, Utah.

DECEASED: Elmer E. Gordon, April 14, 1960, transportation expert of tour committees.

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AVAILABLE - at meetings: Gold finished CWRT lapel pin, \$1; Cloth patch of emblem, 50 cents.

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The Indiana Civil War Centennial commission has asked each circuit judge to name a local committee to include mayors, representatives of schools, libraries, historical societies, patriotic organizations, and Civil War Round Tables to join in centennial activities.

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Ohio's Civil War Centennial commission is planning for the permanent preservation of the flags of the 230 Ohio fighting units. Furled on their staves, they are presently in the rotunda of the capitol.

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Atlanta CWRT has issued its historical yearbook for 1959-60. The group was founded in 1949 at a gathering in the home of Richard B. Harwell. Bell I. Wiley, current president, was one of the founders. The first meeting was held Dec. 10, 1949, with Monroe Cockrell, a founder of the Chicago CWRT as speaker. Harwell is also a member of Chicago CWRT.

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Sample copies of a 16 page pamphlet, "Lincoln in Hartford", by J. Doyle DeWitt, have been received. Persons interested in obtaining a copy may write William J. Lowry, Hartford (Conn.) National Bank and Trust Co.

## THE NEW BOOKS



LINCOLN'S JOURNEY TO GREATNESS, by Victor Searcher (279pp, Winston, \$4.50). Re-creation of Lincoln's 12 day inaugural trip from Springfield to Washington.

LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, by William Dean Howells, with an introduction by Clyde C. Walton (116pp, Indiana U., \$6). Facsimile reproduction with Lincoln's corrections, noted in pencil in the margins, for Samuel C. Parks during the summer of 1860. Issued by the Abraham Lincoln Association privately in 1938.

THREE AGAINST LINCOLN: Murat Halstead Reports the Caucuses of 1860 (320pp, Louisiana State U., \$6).

ANDREW JOHNSON AND RECONSTRUCTION, by Eric L. McKittrick (560pp, U. of Chicago, \$8.50). Reinterpretation of Johnson and his role in thwarting the post-war reunion of North and South.

COPPERHEADS IN THE MIDDLE WEST, by Frank L. Klement (384pp, U. of Chicago, \$7.50). The bases, course and fate of the movement during and after the Civil War.

HANCOCK THE SUPERB, by Glenn Tucker (384pp, Bobbs-Merrill, \$5). The story of Winfield Scott Hancock who won his title at Gettysburg and his later career.

THE SINGING SIXTIES: The Spirit of Civil War Days Drawn from the Music of the Times, by Willard A. and Porter W. Heaps (442pp, U. of Oklahoma, \$8.95). Review of published songs showing how they reflected all facets of civilian and military life.

THE WILDERNESS CAMPAIGN, by Edward Steere (480pp, Stackpole, \$7.50). The struggle that opened the final campaign leading to Appomattox.

THE HASKELL MEMOIRS: The Personal Narrative of a Confederate Officer, by John Haskell, edited by Gilbert E. Govan and James W. Livingood (Putnam, \$3.95).

RARE GUNS, Catalog, Thomas Woroniecki, Corp., 149 W. 44th St., New York 36.

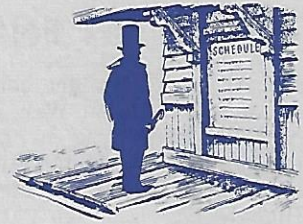
There are now CWRTs in the three counties of Delaware - New Castle (Wilmington), Sussex (Georgetown), and Kent (Felton, Willis H. Duff, president). Wilmington is planning a field tour to the Richmond area April 23-24.

Georgia is setting up a Confederate museum at Washington, Ga., where Jefferson Davis joined his family, where the Confederate cabinet held its last meeting, and where supposedly the last Confederate treasury gold was buried.

The Gatling Gun, invented by Dr. R. J. Gatling, Indianapolis, was first fired in combat by the Federals at the battle of Richmond, Kentucky. It was never in general use during the war.

The National Park Service is planning a visitor's center at Fort Jefferson, Fla., national monument. Fort Jefferson will have a memorial plaque to Dr. Samuel A. Mudd honoring his service to yellow fever victims in an 1867 epidemic at the fort. Dr. Mudd was imprisoned there for giving medical aid to John Wilkes Booth.

## FUTURE MEETINGS



FRIDAY, June 24 - Paul M. Angle, "The Civil War Collection of the Chicago Historical Society". Part of collection will be displayed at society's building, Northave. and Clark St. Preceded by dinner at North Park hotel, 1931 Lincoln Park West.

### MIDWEST CWRT CALENDAR

MILWAUKEE, June 4 - Dewey Short, "The Civil War, A Lesson for All America."

INDIANAPOLIS, May 7 - Bell I. Wiley, "The Civil War Centennial".

PARK FOREST (Ill.), May 12 - Debate.

DECATUR (Ill.), May 12, - Clyde C. Walton, "Illinois' Part in the Civil War".

MOLINE (Ill.), (QUAD CITIES), May 18 - William S. Davis, "Patriotic Envelopes of the Civil War Period".

SPRINGFIELD (Ill.), May 20 - Harlington Wood, Jr., "The Battle of Pea Ridge or Elkhorn Tavern."

MADISON (Wis.), May 26 - T. Harry Williams, dinner meeting at Jefferson, Wis., country club, ladies invited.

MILWAUKEE, May 31 - Sam M. Fleming, "The Battle of Franklin".

### SPECIAL EVENTS

May 14-15 - Fort Lee, Petersburg, Va., National Shoot of the North-South Skirmish association.

May 14-15 - St. Louis CWRT, field trip to Lexington, Mo., battlefield.

May 19-22 - New York CWRT, 3rd Battlefield Tour, to Fredericksburg and Richmond, Va.

May 21 - Washington D.C. CWRT, field tour of Second Manassas.

May 21 - Cincinnati CWRT, to cavalry battlefields around Augusta and Cynthia, Ky.



The Federal arsenal at Little Rock, Ark., seized by Confederates at the start of the war, will be featured in a special program planned by the Little Rock museum, which now occupies the arsenal. The surrender took place on February 8, 1861. Little Rock will hold the commemoration in the better weather of May, 1961.

The District of Columbia CWRT (Washington) has named a five year committee to study the field of subjects and battlefield tours desired for the centennial years.

Maryland has decided on a re-enactment of the battle of Antietam. The commemorative program will begin Sept. 6, 1962, and wind up on the 17th with a restaging of that part of the fight along Bloody Lane and around the Dunkard church.

