

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXI, Number 5

Chicago, Illinois

January, 1961

"McClellan and the Peninsula Campaign of 1862" - JOSEPH P. CULLEN

Joseph P. Cullen, historian of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, will deal with Gen. George Brinton McClellan and "The Peninsula Campaign" when he speaks to our meeting Friday, January 13 at the St. Clair hotel.



Joseph P. Cullen

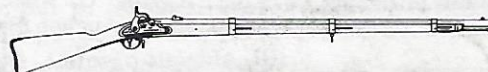
"To understand McClellan's Peninsula Campaign, we must start with McClellan in Washington after First Manassas," Cullen said. "McClellan was then the hero of the hour, the 'Man on Horseback', who would save the country. In other words, everyone believed in him, had faith in his ability and determination to end the war. He did bring order out of chaos after Manassas -- he did organize and train the Army of the Potomac; but because of his political activities and his dilatory tactics, he soon lost the confidence of Lincoln and the Congress and the people generally -- and this was before he even started for the peninsula.

"I believe that the ageless controversy about the so-called interference from Lincoln and Washington causing the failure of the campaign is pure nonsense," Cullen continued. "McClellan's own letters and reports and actions leave little doubt that the failure was his own. From my study of McClellan I am slowly coming to the conclusion that McClellan was an egomaniac with delusions of grandeur, suffering from a persecution complex bordering on the psycho-neurotic. Not a pretty picture, is it? But then, war seldom is."

Cullen has talked on various Civil War subjects to the Round Tables of Washington, Toledo, Hagerstown, and Richmond. The Richmond newsletter said: "Cullen displays no partisanship in his discussion of personalities, campaigns or battles, and his very impartiality is an invitation to hero-worshipers, and others with fixed notions, to engage in debate. Well, we had plenty of discussion!"

Members of a Chicago CWRT battlefield tour party got that same impression last spring in Richmond when Cullen spoke to us on Grant's campaign from the Wilderness to Petersburg. The reaction was spirited. Cullen was invited to come to Chicago to speak at a meeting.

Cullen was born in New York and lived and traveled in Europe for eight years before World War II. He served four years with the army air forces, with service in the South Pacific. He received his B. A. and M. A. degrees in history from Syracuse University and was an instructor in the history department there for two years. Then he was in the college textbook division of Prentice-Hall Publishing company before becoming a historian with the National Park Service.



MEETING NOTICE

197th REGULAR MEETING

Joseph P. Cullen

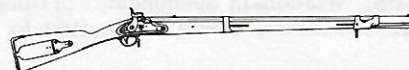
on

"The Peninsula Campaign of 1862"

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1961

St. Clair Hotel
162 East Ohio Street

Cocktails at 5:30
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



He has written historical articles for various magazines and the park service, and scripts for audio-visual programs in several historical parks. At present he is writing a book on the Seven Days' Campaign and another on the Confederate Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond.

IKE'S CENTENNIAL APPEAL

In a proclamation on December 7, President Eisenhower asked the American people to take a direct and active part in the centennial of the Civil War and commemorate a conflict he called the United States' most tragic experience. He requested all federal, state and local government agencies "to encourage, foster and participate" in the centennial observance.

He said he particularly wanted schools and colleges, libraries and museums, churches and patriotic, civic and service organizations to carry out appropriate centennial observances for the "purpose of enriching the knowledge and appreciation of the war" and "of making this memorable period truly a centennial for all Americans."

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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CENTENNIAL PLANS IN WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Civil War Centennial commission will ask the legislature for \$40,000 to finance a five year program. The funds would be used primarily to buy manuscripts, establish a publication program, and set up a scholarship exchange program for Wisconsin and southern students.

Gov. Gaylord Nelson will be asked to address a joint session of the legislature in February to mark the start of the program. Wisconsin descendants of Congressional Medal of Honor winners would be invited to attend the session.

The commission approved a plaque for Camp Randall in Madison and suggested that it be unveiled next fall. Camp Randall, now the site of the University of Wisconsin football stadium, was the main training ground for Wisconsin troops in the Civil War.

PLANS OF KENTUCKY COMMISSION

Observances of the Kentucky Civil War Centennial commission by years include: 1961 - peace plans, neutrality and beginning of the conflict; 1962 - Bragg's invasion and Battle of Perryville; 1963 - Morgan's Indiana and Ohio raid; 1964 - Guerrillas and politics.

The Louisville Courier-Journal on Sunday, November 20, published a rotogravure magazine section, 112 pages, titled "The Civil War in Kentucky." It was issued as a co-operative effort with the Kentucky Civil War Centennial commission.

Authors of articles included: J. Winston Coleman, Jr., Thomas D. Clark, John P. Dyer, Clement Eaton, Holman Hamilton, Albert D. Kirwan, Hudson Strode, Hambleton Tapp, William H. Townsend, Bennett H. Wall, and T. Harry Williams.

Copies may be obtained for 25 cents each from the Courier-Journal, Louisville 2, Ky.

from the
Editor's pen



Speaker Charles L. Dufour (left), Mrs. Donald Burhans, Peoria, guest and Dr. Otto Eisenschiml.

- Photo by Hardy Weiting, Chicago Tribune

Ladies' Night at the Kungsholm restaurant drew an attendance of 185 members and guests to our December meeting. Accordionist Richard Phillips played during the cocktail hour. Win Stracke, strumming his guitar, sang a program of humorous and Civil War ballads.

Charles L. (Pie) Dufour, columnist of the New Orleans States-Item and author, spoke on the subject of his new book, "The Night the War was Lost." That was April 24, 1862, when David Farragut took his warships up the Mississippi to New Orleans. The Confederacy was cut off from Texas beef and Louisiana salt. The blockade brought on a coffee shortage. The South was deprived of the warships Louisiana and Mississippi which were not ready in time to meet Farragut. Step by step Dufour detailed the operations at New Orleans.

* * *

Announcement was made of a project undertaken by Past President Jos. L. Eisendrath, Jr. He recalled that on our battlefield tour to Richmond in 1953, Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman addressed our group only a few weeks before he died. Dr. Freeman said that one of the things lacking in the study of Civil War history was a report of weather conditions. He challenged our Round Table or any group to research such a report, with a view to determining their effect on the outcome of battles, the economic situations and the incidence of disease.

In a preliminary study, Eisendrath has concluded that for compiling a Civil War weather report the main sources will be letters, diaries, journals and narratives that already have been printed.

Such a task is tremendous. So, Joe is asking Round Table members to make note of such data they find and communicate it to him at 17 N. Desplaines St., Chicago 6, Ill. Joe will compile the data received.

Of course, aid in this project is not limited to Chicago CWRT members; interested persons anywhere are invited to assist.

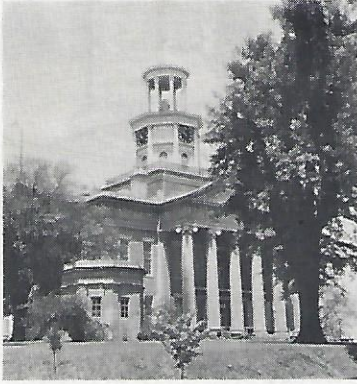
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Another project is suggested by our member John G. Oien. It is to move the Grant statue from Lincoln park and the Logan statue from the south end of Grant park to the central plaza in Grant park. The plaza is halfway between the Buckingham fountain and Michigan avenue at Congress street. The plaza already has the seated statue of Abraham Lincoln by Augustus Saint Gaudens.

The Grant statue is on a tremendous masonry base, but the plan envisages moving only the bronze statue to a new suitable base in Grant park. The Logan statue, by Gutzon Borglum, is in an isolated area of the park and the approach to it has been criticized as being in poor repair.

Vicksburg Old Courthouse

On our battlefield tour to Vicksburg April 26 to May 1, one of principal visits will be to the Old Court House



Museum, the home of the Vicksburg and Warren County Historical Society. Director Mrs. Eva Davis will be our hostess again, as she was with coffee and cakes in the court room on our visit there in 1954.

The court house was new in 1860 and was the principal landmark of the city during the siege of 1863. The museum houses many mementos of the siege and among

them copies of the famed wallpaper newspaper.

When the Federals got into the city, they found the forms of the Vicksburg Citizen of July 2 still made up. At the bottom of column 2 was this item:

"ON DIT. - That the great Ulysses - the Yankee generalissimo, surnamed Grant - has expressed his intention of dining in Vicksburg on Saturday next, and celebrating the 4th of July by a grand dinner and so forth. When asked if he would invite Gen. Jo. Pemberton to join he said, "No! for fear there will be a row at the table." Ulysses must get into the city before he dines in it. The way to cook a rabbit is "first catch the rabbit," &c."

Printers among the Federals set up an item, made room for it at the bottom of column 4 and printed the paper with this:

NOTE

JULY 4th, 1863

Two days bring about great changes. The Banner of the Union floats over Vicksburg. Gen Grant has "caught the rabbit;" he has dined in Vicksburg, and he did bring his dinner with him. The "Citizen" lives to see it. For the last time it appears on "Wall-paper." No more will it eulogize the luxury of mulemeat and fricassed kitten - urge Southern warriors to such diet no more. This is the last wall-paper edition, and is, excepting this note, from the types as we found them. It will be valuable hereafter as a curiosity.

OHIO SETS DATES OF OBSERVANCES

Ohio CWC commission has set some of its dates for observances in 1961: February 13, Dedication of plaque in State House marking President-Elect Lincoln's address to the general assembly while en route to Washington; February 15, Dedication of plaque in Cleveland on site of Weddell House where Lincoln spent his last night in Ohio; May 27 or 28 (tentative), "Muster Day" at Gallipolis to commemorate invasion of western Virginia by Ohio troops and first battle of the Civil War at Philippi a week later; July 21, Commemoration of Columbus born General Irwin McDowell's efforts at the Battle of Bull Run in Virginia.

Galena, Illinois, had eight generals in the Civil War. They were U. S. Grant, John A. Rawlins, August L. Chetlain, Ely S. Parker, William Rowley, John E. Smith, John C. Smith, Jasper Maltby, and John Duer. All except Duer attained some prominence after the war. Duer was an officer of the "Illinois Lead Mine Regiment".

BULLETIN BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, Friday, January 13, 4 p.m. at 18 East Chestnut street. This is notice to all officers and members of the Board of Trustees (named on page 2) to attend. Discussion of 1961 Battlefield Tour plans and other business.

* * *

NEW MEMBERS of the Civil War Round Table: Stephen J. Coombs, 6829 Northwest hwy., Chicago 31. Arnold Marcus Chernoff, 1401 N. Mayfield Ave., Chicago 51. Keith L. Davidson, 2440 Lakeview Ave., Chicago 14. Henry W. Kennedy, 10224 S. Seeley Ave., Chicago 43. T.M. Sabin, 615 E. Chicago Ave., Palatine, Ill. Dr. Melvin E. Schainis, 6030 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago 40. Dr. Saul L. Silver, 208 N. Central Ave., Chicago 44, Ill. Irving C. Stein, 2300 Lincoln Park West, Chicago 14. Dr. Sol S. Strauss, 1816 N. Nashville Ave., Chicago 35. Fred Warren, 235 Constance Lane, Chicago Heights, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Fred D. Mitchell to: 401 N. Tomahawk St., Wheaton, Ill.

* * *

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

CENTENNIAL PLANS IN ARKANSAS

Arkansas will begin centennial observances with the opening of the gallery of original Confederate battle flags at the Old State House, Little Rock. The secession convention will be re-enacted.

The 100th anniversary of the surrender of the U. S. Arsenal at Little Rock will be commemorated February 8 with special exhibits at the Museum of Natural History and Antiquities which is housed in the restored arsenal. Gen. Douglas MacArthur was born in this building while his father was in charge of Federal occupation troops.

GETTYSBURG PRESERVATION REPORT

At the first annual membership meeting of the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation association, Executive Director Marshall F. Allen reported that the association "has managed to save two of the most important sites on the Gettysburg Battlefield from commercialization." These sites include the 55 acre Wolf tract adjoining Devil's Den and the 118 acre Meals farm where GBPA stopped a large housing development.

The 118 acres is in an area between Oak Ridge and Barlow's knoll which was the scene of a Confederate breakthrough on the afternoon of July 1, 1863. In the fighting there, Gen. Jubal Early's troops routed the Union 11th corps.

Contributions to further the work of the GBPA may be sent to director Allen at Gettysburg, Pa. Donors will receive a token deed to a square foot of the preserved land.

The War Library and Museum and Pennsylvania Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion have purchased 11 acres in the heart of the Gettysburg Battlefield area. The tract will be presented to the United States government as a part of the park during the commemorative exercises at Gettysburg in July, 1963.

THE NEW BOOKS



THE IRON BRIGADE, by Alan T. Nolan, (Macmillan, \$7). The story of the famed brigade composed of men of Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan. Written by a founder of Indianapolis CWRT and speaker at our January, 1960, meeting.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA, by W. Alan Barker (A. C. Black, London, \$2). By an English headmaster at Cambridge, with maps and bibliographical guide.

INDIANA IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION, reprint edition of the Report of Adjutant General W. H. H. Terrell, Volume I, 1869 (Indiana Historical Society).

PERSONNEL OF THE CIVIL WAR, introduction by William Amann (2 vols. boxed, Yoseloff, \$10). Listing of regiments, companies, and other fighting groups of both armies.

CONFEDERATE CITY, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, 1860-1865, by Florence Fleming Corley (152pp, letter size, U. of South Carolina).

IN RICHMOND DURING THE CONFEDERACY, by "A Lady of Richmond" (Sallie A. Putnam) (McBride, \$3.95).

NO COMPROMISE, by Arnold Whitridge (212pp, New York, \$4). The story of the fanatics who paved the way to the Civil War.

SEPTEMBER ECHOES: The Maryland Campaign of 1862, the Places, the Battles, the Results, by John W. Schmidt (140pp, Middletown, Md., \$3).

AFTER THE CIVIL WAR, a Pictorial Profile of America from 1865 to 1900, by John S. Blay (312pp, letter size, Crowell, \$12).

THE PRISON LIFE OF JEFFERSON DAVIS, by Bvt. Lt. Col. John J. Craven (377pp, Souvenir Shop, Biloxi, Miss., \$5).

ROUND TABLE TOUR TO EUROPE

The newsletter of District of Columbia CWRT tells of a flight to England open to the Washington group and members in other cities.

There is a five day tour for \$60 including lodging, transportation, and some meals to visit London, Oxford, Stratford on Avon, Windsor, and mansions, inns, churches, and other shrines associated with the ancestors of Gen. Robert E. Lee, and the Washington ancestral home, Sulgrave Manor. There are two weeks after that tour to visit other parts of Britain and Europe.

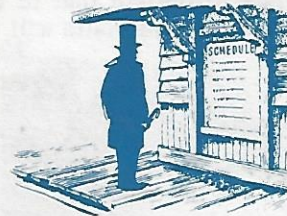
Air fare is \$265 for a round trip charter flight in a BOAC Britannia jet-prop plane leaving MATS airport, Washington, on April 28, 1961, and returning May 19, 1961. Only 90 passengers can be accommodated, and the charter will be cancelled if the number is not filled by February 1. Reservations, accompanied by check, can be made with Lansear, attention Civil War Round Table, 1026 17th St., Washington 6, D. C.

The flight is available only to CWRT members of 6 months standing and immediate families.

CIVIL WAR TIMES for December has two fine battle articles. Glenn Tucker writes on "Brandy Station: Jeb Stuart Learned on Fleetwood Hill Federals Could Fight on Horseback, Too." Under "Lesser Known Actions", William W. Hassler writes on the Battle of Philippi.

Abraham Lincoln supplied a substitute for himself in the Union army. J. Summerfield Staples, 18, became a member of the 2d regiment, D. C. Volunteers. He is buried in Stroudsburg, Pa.

FUTURE MEETINGS



Friday, Feb. 10 - Dr. Glenn H. Seymour, president Illinois State Historical Society, "Stephen A. Douglas".

Friday, March 10 - Richard N. Current, author, "The Continuing War, 1865-1877".

Friday, April 7 - 200th Regular Meeting, Frank E. Vandiver, professor, Rice University, and author.

Friday, May 12 - Dr. Robert D. Meade, author, chairman of history department, Randolph-Macon, Lynchburg, Pa.

MIDWEST CWRT CALENDAR

LASALLE (Ill.), Jan. 6 - Dr. R. C. Slater, "Knights of the Golden Circle".

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 9 - George L. Cashman, "The Battle of Shiloh".

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 12 - Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant III, "Development of Military Law During the Civil War".

MADISON (Wis.), Jan. 12 - George Webber, "Foreign Soldiers of Fortune in the Civil War".

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 22-23, 1961 - Spring tour of Illinois State Historical Society to Cairo, Mound City, and Columbus, Ky.

April 26-May 1 - Chicago CWRT battlefield tour to Vicksburg and Jackson, Miss.

CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL EVENTS

Secession Observances: Jan. 9, Jackson, Miss.; Jan. 11, Montgomery, Ala.; Jan. 26, Baton Rouge, La.; Feb. 4, Confederate Constitutional convention, Montgomery, Ala.

Jan. 8 - Official Centennial Opening observances in churches and service academies at West Point, Annapolis, Colorado Springs, and New London.

Jan. 7-9 - Star of the West commemoration at Charleston, S. C.

Jan. 19-21 - Secession re-enactment at Milledgeville, Ga.

Feb. 4 - Peace Convention commemoration, Richmond and Washington.

Feb. 12-18 - Election and inauguration of Jefferson Davis.



RICHMOND TO PUBLISH RECORD

One of Richmond's plans for the centennial is to publish the Civil War minutes of the city council. A Richmond city map has been completed showing all important buildings and sites during the war and fortifications around Richmond and Petersburg.

Harrisonburg museum will house an electronic map of Stonewall Jackson's Valley campaign with recorded sound track. The Virginia highway department is building a road to the Turner Ashby monument at Port Republic. A road has been constructed by Chesterfield county to open up Fort Darling for restoration by the National Park Service.

Newport News is establishing a Monitor-Virginia (Merrimack) memorial, Hampton a Big Bethel memorial park, and Alexandria a Fort Ward park.

Mar 18, 1861 - Lexington, Va