



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXVI, Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

November, 1965

## Col. Wilbur S. Nye Speaks on 'Milroy Is Gobbled Up,' Friday, Nov. 5

Colonel Wilbur Sturtevant Nye, author and editor, will speak at our meeting on Friday, November 5, on "Milroy Is Gobbled Up."



Wilbur S. Nye

The meeting will be held in the main dining room of the Chicago Press Club on the 22nd floor of the St. Clair hotel. It recently was renovated and has a fine view of the Michigan Avenue area.

Col. Nye is best known to many of us as managing editor and writer for CIVIL WAR TIMES Illustrated and for his recent book, **HERE COME THE REBELS**. The book is the story of Gen. Robert E. Lee's

June 1863 move toward Pennsylvania and is the background in detail of the approach to Gettysburg.

"Milroy Is Gobbled Up," of course, is part of the story, a fate which happened to General Milroy at Winchester, Va., on June 15, 1863.

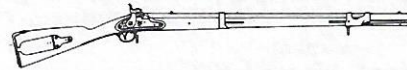
Col. Nye says the pre-Gettysburg campaign "is General Ewell's zenith, in my opinion. Actually, I will describe the actions on June 13, 14, and 15, if time doesn't run out on me. The story forms a whole, and it is better to present it that way."

He will use the 3 by 4 feet detailed maps which he has made. He will describe the action around Winchester from the Confederate and Federal viewpoints. He has traveled extensively over the countryside. He also researched the civilian behavior in the face of the invasion and found it at times less than admirable.

Col. Nye is a native of Canton, Ohio, and both grandfathers fought in Ohio Volunteer units during the Civil War. His family moved to California and he was raised in the orange growing district of Covina. He was graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1920 and commissioned in field artillery. He took a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1931 and was graduated from the Army's Command and General Staff College in 1938. He was an instructor at the Field Artillery School. He was editor of the Field Artillery Journal, 1939-42, and had duty at the office of the chief of field artillery during the same period.

In World War II, Col. Nye commanded the 173d Field Artillery Group, XV Corps in Europe. He won five battle stars, the Legion of Merit, bronze star, soldier's commendation ribbon, and the French Croix de Guerre with palm. After the war he was G3 of the Berlin command. In 1947-48 he was on the general staff in the Pentagon as chief, field artillery branch, officers' assignment. He was back in Europe in 1950-51 as chief, historical division, headquarters U.S. Army. He became acquainted with many former German officers who were writing their memoirs for the United States.

Col. Nye retired in September, 1954, after 34 years' commissioned service and was employed as an editor with Military Service Publishing Co., now Stackpole, of



245th REGULAR MEETING  
\* \* \* \* \*

Col. Wilbur S. Nye

on

"Milroy Is Gobbled Up"

\* \* \* \* \*

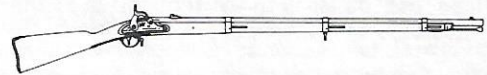
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1965

Chicago Press Club

Cocktails at 5:30

162 East Ohio Street

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



## 25th Anniversary Observance

The Civil War Round Table, founded in Chicago on December 3, 1940, will observe its silver anniversary with the 246th regular meeting on December 14. The date was selected to fit the schedules of the principal participants.

General Mark W. Clark, commander of an army in World War II, a hero, and after the war superintendent of the Citadel military school at Charleston, S.C., will be the speaker.

Founders of the Round Table will be honored. There will be audio-visual features of some of the notable events during the 25 years.

It will be Ladies' Night, with formal dress optional. The brilliant affair will be at the Knickerbocker Hotel, on Walton Street just east of Michigan Avenue.

A diorama of the Battle of Mobile Bay, showing Farragut's fleet approaching Fort Morgan, can now be seen in the museum at Fort Gaines on Dauphin island.

Harrisburg, Pa. In 1960 he shifted to associate editor of CIVIL WAR TIMES, which latter added Illustrated to its title and made him managing editor, at Gettysburg.

Other books he has written are: "Carbine and Lance: The Story of Old Fort Sill," "I Fought with Geronimo" (with Jason Betzinez), "Gettysburg, a Guided Tour" (with E. J. Stackpole), and "Bad Medicine and Good, Tales of the Kiowas". He is now researching for a book dealing with frontier wars in Kansas in 1866-70, featuring the photos of W. S. Soule.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

## OFFICERS

President . . . . . Brooks Davis  
 Vice President . . . . . Michael S. Lerner  
 Secretary . . . . . Elmer Underwood  
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 Assistant Treasurer . . . . . Marshall Krolick  
 Tape Record Librarian . . . . . August Payne  
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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Executive Committee)

Terms expiring in 1966: Arthur V. Bergquist, Elmer R. Pendarvis, Ver Lynn Sprague.  
 Terms expiring in 1967: Earl F. Bartholomew, Charles V. Falkenberg, Jr., Jerry Warshaw.



THE MISSISSIPPI Historic Foundation, dedicated to the conservation and restoration of landmarks, has raised by contributions a sum sufficient for a down payment on the Gov. Alexander McNutt house in Vicksburg which was built in 1826. The purchase price is \$12,750 and the property will be rented while further funds are raised. Donations can be sent to the foundation at the Old Court House museum in Vicksburg, Miss.

A MEMORIAL has been placed at Hampton Roads to mark the Civil War clash of the Monitor and Merrimack (Virginia), March 8-9, 1862. One installation in a downtown park of Newport News, Va., features a 4 by 8 foot outdoor oil painting of the easy destruction by the Merrimack of the Cumberland the the Congress. The painting is situated so visitors can look beyond it to the scene of the battle. A recording, started by pushbutton, gives a description and commentary. There is a small section of Cumberland anchor chain and a series of plaques. A second installation is a few miles downstream where much of the battle took place. A painting of the battle, with recording and plaques, overlooks an actual shape of the hull of the Monitor. A full-size model of the vessel's turret is mounted on the memorial

Now that the Centennial is over and the hucksters have left the scene, the real Civil War buffs can settle down to enjoy their hobby. Our Round Table was a successful organization for several years before the Centennial began and we expect it to become more so.

W. J. Lowry, Hartford (Conn.) CWRT newsletter.

CORNELIUS W. HEINE, a native of Streator, Ill., has been named Chief of Information of the National Park Service. He wrote the booklet, "A History of the National Capital Parks."

RICHMOND CWRT has a strong schedule of member and National Park Service speakers for its monthly meetings. For its annual dinner, December 8, it has Glenn Tucker.

*from the  
Editor's pen*



The 244th regular meeting Wednesday, October 6, was one of the finest ever. Democrats and Republicans, the 42nd ward, and Wells Street and Old Town of the 44th ward were well represented, and there was lots of political banter. Eighty-three were present.

President Brooks Davis persuaded Win Stracke to sing the song he had composed for the dedication of Centennial Park (see page 3). This time Gov. Otto Kerner held the song sheet for him, and Win invited him to join in a chorus.

Guests included a representative from the Canadian CWRT, one from New York, and David Meerse, Round Table fellowship award winner.

Fred Schwengel, vice chairman of the United States Civil War Centennial commission, presented the commission's medallion and certificates. The face of the medallion has the quotations: "Let Us Have Peace" and "Consciousness of Duty Faithfully Performed" circling reliefs of Grant and Lee. Davis received a medallion and certificate for Chicago CWRT. Newton C. Farr accepted a medallion and certificate for the Ulysses S. Grant Association, remarking that he was sorry the general could not be present.

In receiving a certificate of merit, Ralph Newman said, "The Civil War was a wonderful experience to all of us. We could enjoy it because we did not have to fight," Adlai Stevenson, Jr., received a certificate for his late father, and recalled one of his father's sayings, "Flattery is all right as long as you don't inhale."

Gov. Kerner accepted a medallion for the Illinois Civil War Centennial commission and received a certificate of merit for himself. Dr. Morley McNeal, chairman of the CWRT awards committee, presented member Kerner with an honorary life membership award, and President Davis presented a lapel emblem. The governor responded with delightful speeches.

Speaker of the evening was Dr. Kevin McCann, one-time Chicago newspaperman, president emeritus of Defiance College (Ohio), and administrative assistant to former President Eisenhower at his Gettysburg, Pa., office. He was the general's speech writer during the Presidency.

Dr. McCann said he was born in the old Bachelor's Grove settlement of Cook county and grew up in the 30th ward of Chicago. In his speech, "James Shields, Illinois General and Senator," McCann drew parallels of Kerner's administration and that of Gustav Koerner who taught Shields the military art as he had learned it in Prussia.

Shields came to Illinois in 1832 and held various state positions leading up to the United States senatorship. He had a generalship in the Mexican war. McCann said Shields had great influence with Abraham Lincoln in the early days and had original and sound military ideas. In the Civil War when he was finally assigned to a division he became a strict disciplinarian. He was the victor over Stonewall Jackson at Kernstown. After a later loss to Stonewall, his military career went downhill.

After the war, Shields was back in politics, fighting again. He was elected a representative from Missouri, but the election was declared void on the issue of loyalty oaths. In noting that Shields was a senator from three states—Illinois, Minnesota, and Missouri—McCann remarked that he was "a carpetbagger before Bobby Kennedy". He lived only five months after gaining the Missouri senatorship. McCann said Shields was one of six men from Illinois who were outstanding leaders during the war, and only one grew along with it - Lincoln.

The meeting and Centennial Park dedication had good coverage by the press, radio, and television.

## Centennial Park Dedicated

The 14 by 20 foot plot of ground in front of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop at 18 East Chestnut street was dedicated on Wednesday, October 6, as Centennial Park. A 400-pound marker of gray granite bearing the inscription Centennial 1865-1965 was placed near the center facing the sidewalk. There is one sturdy tree, a scraggly one, and a bush in the railed-in park.

Ver Lynn Sprague, of the Illinois Department of Tourism and Development, was master of ceremonies. He was flanked by a large sign of the Lincoln Heritage Trail with the additional wording "Unofficial Tour Detour."

Sprague introduced the landlord, Ralph G. Newman, who said the park was in answer to Mayor Daley's plea for more small parks. A neighbor, County Commissioner George Dunne, requested permission to name his adjoining lawn Centennial Park West. Gov. Otto Kerner unveiled the marker and said it was the zenith in his career of dedications, but that this was the last Civil War centennial activity he expected to be connected with. Milton Pikarsky, Chicago public works commissioner was present to see that all things were properly done and blocked off parking meters of the street for the occasion.

Sgt. Ron Persenico of the reactivated 104th Illinois Infantry was in command of a one-man squad and ordered the firing of a volley over the stone—a one-gun salute.

Sprague called on Round Table President Brooks Davis to plant a symbolic Abraham Lincoln tulip, adding to the 49 he had already planted. He also planted two Abraham Lincoln roses donated by Peggy Lebold. Davis was introduced as caretaker and night watchman of the park.

Win Stracke capped the ceremonies by singing "Centennial Park" which he had composed for the occasion. Newman held the song sheet for him. It goes:

### Verse I

There's Tivoli Park in old Copenhagen  
The Bois de Boulogne is close to Paree  
Golden Gate Park is in gay San Francisco  
In London there's Hyde Park to see.  
But we have a park in the heart of Chicago  
With flowers well tended and lawn kept so neat;  
Other parks boast of their size and attractions  
But by God, our park is petite.

(Chorus (with martial tempo))

Oh, Centennial Park on Chest-nut Street  
The biggest little park in the world  
Centennial Park on Chest-nut Street  
May its flag that waves so proudly  
Never be furled.  
As the years go by it will grow in repute  
Even schnausers and poodles raise a leg in salute  
To Centennial Park on Chest-nut Street  
The biggest little park in the world.

### Verse II

Central Park is famous for muggings  
Lincoln Park has its share of rape  
Brookfield is plagued by the illegal feedings  
of elephant, dolphin, and ape  
Bug-house square once echoed with Wobblers  
With deviate blossoms it's now in full bloom  
But the park that I sing of has no sin at all  
There simply is not enough room. (and chorus)

Then the whole assembly trouped to the second floor of the book shop and the third floor apartment of the Davises for cocktails served by a goodly number of camp followers.

## On Battlefield Tour

Following are the members and guests who went on the 15th Annual Battlefield tour to Chattanooga and Atlanta, October 13 to 17:

CHICAGO and Suburbs: Arnold Alexander, Mrs. Frances D. Ames, Mrs. Margaret H. April, Paul C. Behanna, Dr. Arthur V. Bergquist, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Brinkman, Miner Coburn, Richard B. Cohen, Brooks Davis, Mr. and Mrs. H. George Donovan, C. Robert Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Falkenberg, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Fisher, James T. Goodman, H. B. Hixson, Miles Janousek, Peter H. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Lester J. Joseph, Stanley J. Kearney, Henry W. Kennedy, Frank J. Kinst, Dan Lapinski, Mrs. Peggy Lebold, Harold G. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Al Meyer, Dr. Morley D. McNeal, Ralph G. Newman, Dr. and Mrs. Vernon W. Schick, Ward C. Smidl, Wilson A. Smith, Win Stracke, Gilbert Twiss, Elmer R. Underwood, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Warshaw, Bradford A. Wignot, and H. Oliver Skogland.

ILLINOIS: Dr. and Mrs. Donald L. Burhans and Clarence L. Johnson, Peoria; James L. Capel, Champaign; Dr. G. P. Clausius, Belvidere; Mr. and Mrs. Carl M. Crowder, Bethany; Roscoe C. Mathis, Prophetstown; Dr. R. E. Mulrooney, Decatur, and Mr. and Mrs. Ver Lynn Sprague, Cherry Valley.

INDIANA: Dr. and Mrs. L. P. Ramsdell, LaPorte; Warren A. Reeder, Jr., and John Wilhelm, Hammond.

ELSEWHERE: Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Bass, Enid, Okla.; James Caplow, Englewood, N.J.; Albert V. Jernigan, Dallas, Tex.; Mrs. Charlotte Madsen, Miami, Fla.; Mr. and Mrs. Will Plank, Marlboro, N.Y.; Joseph Richter, New York City; Mrs. Dorothy Scheman, Lakewood, Cal.; Jerry M. Slechta, Jefferson, Wis., Edward S. Waterbury, Washington, D.C., and Claire E. Graham, D.C.

Publication schedule did not permit a story of the tour in this issue, but it will be included in the December issue.

AT INGALLS SHIPYARDS, Pascagoula, Miss., armor has been partially removed from the ironclad gunboat CAIRO and each piece match-marked for reassembly. Every metal part is being treated for rust and the rust and corrosion are gone. The wood has been cleaned of mud and thousands of fine sprays of water play over the wood constantly. Sagging timbers and broken timbers have been braced with steel beams. . . . A man plowing a field at the old Warrenton batteries unearthed a 42-pounder Sawyer cannon shell with lead cover, fuze, and rifling perfect. It is on display at the Grand Gulf park . . . . Artifacts from the Cairo are on display at Vicksburg Military park. One is a black leather cap with a lovely insignia of a wreath, stars, a bugle, and a large M. It has been identified as a Marine Corps emblem on a corps cap for officers, stirring a mystery of how it came on the Cairo. . . . Hank Hanisee of the Vicksburg staff found a .58 caliber Confederate explosive bullet on the field. . . . The Buck double-loghouse which stood on the edge of the Port Gibson battlefield has been torn down.

Margie Bearss in CWRT of Mississippi newsletter.

WASHINGTON & LEE University launched a centennial of its own on October 2, the date Robert E. Lee was inaugurated president of Washington College in 1865. He contributed greatly to building the college until his death on October 12, 1870. The next year the grateful college changed its name to Washington and Lee.

The History and Travel department on the 4th floor, Washington street side of Chicago Public Library, has a large Civil War and history collection for research or browsing.

## THE NEW BOOKS



**THE VIEW FROM HEADQUARTERS:** Civil War Letters of Harvey Reid, edited by Frank L. Byrne (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 256pp, \$6). A soldier of the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry.

**THE CIVIL WAR IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE,** compiled by Ed Huddleston (Nashville Banner Books, 1100 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn. 37202, 159pp, illus. \$5).

**THE OLD REPUBLICANS:** Southern Conservatism in the Age of Jefferson, by Norman K. Risfold (Columbia U., 340pp, \$7.95).

**BITTER STRENGTH:** A History of the Chinese in the United States, 1850-1870, by Gunther Barth (Harvard, 305pp, \$5.95).

**CIVIL WAR PAPERS OF GENERAL ROBERT McALLISTER,** edited by James I. Robertson, Jr., (Rutgers University Press).

**LINCOLN'S ATTORNEY GENERAL,** Edward Bates of Missouri, by Marvin R. Cain (U. of Missouri, 368pp, \$7).

**HONEY SPRINGS DEPOT and THE BATTLE OF CABIN CREEK,** by Jess C. Epple (Hoffman Printing Co., Muskogee, Okla.).

**MISSOURI UNDER RADICAL RULE, 1865-1870,** by William U. Parrish (Missouri).

**HISTORIC KANSAS: A Centenary Sketchbook,** by Margaret Wittemore (U. of Kansas, \$5).

**THE CIVIL WAR IN THE SOUTHWEST,** by Arthur A. Wright (Swallow Press).

**FORT WARD,** one of the 34-mile system of 68 forts and batteries protecting Washington during the Civil War, has been restored in a park-like setting. Col. Joe Williams, the curator, welcomes visitors to the area off Shirley highway and Braddock road at Alexandria, Va. There is a museum and officer's hut. From a viewing platform one can see the restored northwest bastion of the fort. In 1864 Fort Ward was one of the largest units in the defense ring, with a perimeter of 818 yards and 36 gun emplacements. Our member Malcolm Macht, who visited Fort Ward, reports that part of Francis Lord's large Civil War collection is on display in the museum. Macht says, "The portion of the fort restored is the most accurate and fine piece of work I have seen. They took the original earthwork on one portion of the fort and rebuilt it exactly as it was, even using the logs and gabions to reconstruct the wooden firing steps and reinforced earthwork."

**LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY,** Harrogate, Tenn., has received a loan of \$1,950,000 from the federal Housing and Home Finance agency. Plans are for new dormitories and a new building to house the dining hall and college center, and a new heating plant. The board of trustees also has authorized planning for a new library, with space for Lincolniana, the Civil War collection, and rare books. L.M.U. began its 68th academic year in September. Our members David H. Annan, Newton C. Farr, Harold B. Hixson, Stewart W. McClelland, R. Gerald McMurty, and Ralph G. Newman are on the L.M.U. board of trustees.

In an editorial in Newsweek of Sept. 6, 1965, Raymond Moley expressed his approval of efforts to have Jefferson Davis admitted to the Hall of Fame.

## BULLETIN BOARD



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** (Board of Trustees) meeting at 4 p.m., Friday, November 5, at Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 East Chestnut St. Chairmen of membership, special events, and legal committees should hold meetings of their groups before that time and be ready to report. Inquiries may be made of President Brooks Davis at 18 East Chestnut or phone 944-5082.

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**HONORARY AWARD MEMBER:** Otto Kerner, Executive Mansion, Springfield, Ill. (Oct. 6).

**NEW MEMBERS:** Del Burr, 834 Reba Place, Evanston, Ill.; Albert C. Larson, 2547 West 110th Place, Chicago 60655.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** R. B. Cohen to: 5346 S. Cornell Ave. Chicago 60615; Jerry Slechta to: 323 E. North St. Jefferson, Wis.

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### FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday, Dec. 14 - Civil War Round Table 25th anniversary. General Mark W. Clark, speaker. Ladies' Night, formal dress optional. Dinner at Knickerbocker Hotel, Walton St. east of Michigan Ave.

Friday, Jan. 14 - D. Alexander Brown, "Grier-son's Raid."

Friday, Feb. 11 - J. Ambler Johnston, "Grant and Lee - Move and Countermove."

Friday, March 11 - E. B. (Pete) Long, "A Re-appraisal of the War in the Mississippi Valley."

April - 250th regular meeting, date and speaker to be announced.

Friday, May 20 - Dr. Robert W. Johannsen, "Stephen A. Douglas and the South."

June - Date and speaker to be announced.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Nov. 30 - Richmond, Va., Centennial Center closes.

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**AVAILABLE at meetings:** Gold filled lapel pin, \$1. Cloth patch of emblem 50¢. File of CWRT newsletter, September 1959 to June 1964, by mail or at meetings, \$5.



**THE OHIO Civil War Round Table association** was formed when representatives from Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton, and West Richfield met in Columbus on September 18. Capt. Hugh F. Eads, USA, president of Columbus CWRT and instructor in military history at Ohio State U., was elected chairman and George Cohen of West Richfield, secretary. The aim is to promote closer co-ordination and mutual assistance among the groups by providing information, exchange of speakers and programs, and publication of an association directory. There are about fifteen Round Tables in Ohio and it is hoped that all or most of them will be enlisted for the next annual meeting in Columbus. The Ohioans believe they are the first state-wide organization of Round Tables.

A new brick entrance has been built to Fort Pickens at Pensacola, Fla., the two Columbiads mounted, and a Spanish-American War Gatling gun put on display.