

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXVI, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

February, 1966

J. Ambler Johnston - 'Grant and Lee - Clairvoyants' - Thursday, Feb. 10

J. Ambler Johnston, an Honorary Award Life Member of our Round Table, speaks on "Grant and Lee—Clairvoyants" at our meeting Thursday, February 10.



Ambler Johnston

The meeting was moved forward a day from its original scheduling. This was to avoid a conflict with the first annual Lincoln ball and the second annual convocation of the Lincoln academy on February 11. Some of our members will be attending those events.

The meeting place is a return to our old quarters, the mezzanine floor dining room of the St. Clair hotel.

Though Ambler Johnston lives in Richmond, Va., he has been much a part of our organization since our third battlefield tour to Virginia in 1953. He was our guide then and again on our return trips in 1960 and 1963. He joined others of our tours as a companion and campaigner. He came to Chicago to speak to us Jan. 17, 1957, on "Lee and Freeman."

Ambler was the companion of Douglas Southall Freeman on searches of the Richmond countryside to study the background terrain for Freeman's books. Through this friendship, Dr. Freeman was our featured speaker on the 1953 tour and then our host at a garden party at his home. He died only five weeks later.

Ambler long has been immersed in Virginia history, the career of Lee, and just recently concluded his work as chairman of the Richmond Civil War Centennial Committee.

Regarding his talk on Lee and Grant, Ambler says:

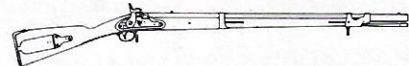
"In a general way, the subject matter of the talk will be their ability to read the minds of their opponents—that neither of them had met his equal prior to May 1864—that while they were supreme military commanders, they were both poor in their press relations."

At the 99th annual meeting of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce on January 13, Ambler was honored for his chairmanship of the Richmond Civil War Centennial Committee. Mayor Morrill M. Crowe presented an award.

In addition to our Round Table, the CWRTs of Richmond, New York, Louisville, and Kansas City have made Ambler an honorary or life member.

One of the shining accomplishments in Ambler's career, is sponsorship of the Prison Civil War Round Table in the state penitentiary at Richmond. He spoke to the group, obtained outstanding speakers for it, helped its book drive, and assisted it in other ways. It has been one of the liveliest of Round Tables.

Ambler's father at the age of 19 was among those surrendered at Appomattox. Ambler was born in 1885 near Natural Bridge, Va. He is a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and of Cornell university. Of this he says, "Education consisted of cold mechanical engineering course at V.P.I. and Cornell and never had any pro-



248th REGULAR MEETING

J. Ambler Johnston

on

"Grant and Lee - Clairvoyants"

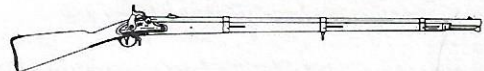
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1966

St. Clair Hotel

Cocktails at 5:30

162 East Ohio Street

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



THE DEADLINE for applications in the \$3,000 Civil War Round Table History Fellowship Award has been extended from February 12 to April 1. Lloyd Miller again has provided the major portion of the scholarship fund, but donations are welcomed from individuals and other Round Tables. Donations are income tax deductible. This is the second year for the Fellowship Award. Round Tables and college history professors of the midwest are urged to submit the names of students who are majoring in American history, and have a leaning toward Civil War history and a goal of teaching. Applications, donations, or nominations may be sent to the Fellowship Award Committee, 18 East Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

THE NEWSLETTER, Volume III, Number 2, of the Ulysses S. Grant Association has a detailed account of the differences of Grant and Benjamin M. Prentiss over their relative ranks. The account is from a letter Gen. Benjamin H. Grierson who was present when Grant and Prentiss met in September, 1861, at Cape Girardeau, Mo. Grierson says the meeting "resulted in a wide breach between the two officers." Futher, he says, "I did my utmost to maintain peace between these gallant and ambitious officers. I believed that my friend and commander, General Prentiss, to a certain extent justifiable in his cause, but could not be insensible to the intemperance with which he urged his claims." The Grierson letter is part of the material that Managing Editor John Y. Simon is assembling for printing in the collected works of Grant.

fessional instruction in either history or public speaking." He has had a distinguished business career as a partner in a Richmond engineering firm.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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BATTLEFIELD TOUR COMMITTEE: Co-
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Lester Joseph, Richard Cohen, Pete Johnson. Tour
Bulletin: Gilbert Twiss. Book List: E. B. (Pete)
Long.



HASKELL M. MONROE, Jr., reports that the pursuit of Jefferson Davis papers for publication has been fruitful. "Last summer I dug up almost 3,000 items in North Carolina and Virginia, and most of them have not been published as far as I know," he said. He is anxious to hear from persons who have Jefferson Davis material which is not usually available to the public. Write him in care of Box 1892, Rice University, Houston, Texas 77006.

President Brooks Davis was a guest at the meeting of Louisville CWRT on January 19 to introduce the speaker, J. Ambler Johnson, on Robert E. Lee's birthday. Brooks presented two Distinguished Service Awards of our Round Table to Louisville CWRT for its fine work with the Perryville Battlefield and to Frank Rankin, founder of Louisville CWRT and head of the Perryville Restoration group.

PRISON CWRT of Richmond, Va., has made further improvements in its newsletter. It is now a 4-column print job on two sides of a letter page. The boys sent Christmas cards to other newsletter editors and friends.

Arnold Gates, president of New York CWRT, recently has become a staff writer for American Metal Market, a daily newspaper of the trade.

from the
Editor's pen



"Grierson's Raid" was a successful book because it was a journey, and journeys make good reading, the book's author, Dee Alexander Brown told 80 members and guests at our meeting January 14 in Chicago Press Club dining room. Other factors for success were good soldier diaries, including that of Col. Ben Grierson.

"The raid was a continuous military deception and aided in the capture of Vicksburg," Brown said. As for Grierson, he had been a music teacher in Jacksonville, Ill., and among his efforts was the "Song of Jubilee"; hailing Lincoln's election in 1860. On the raid, he was armed with a Jew's harp—and a good map of Mississippi.

Brown traced the course of the raid from La Grange, Tenn., April 17, 1863, down through Mississippi and into Baton Rouge, La., 17 days later. The cavalrymen destroyed military supplies as they went along—particularly at Newton station—and picked up good Confederate horses wherever they found them. The soldiers were a tattered lot as they moved into Baton Rouge, May 2. The road was lined with wondering spectators. "The men had concluded the most brilliant expedition of the war," Brown said.

In the question and answer period, Brown credited Generals Grant and Sherman with planning the raid as a diversion to the Vicksburg campaign. He said the raid and five or six other diversions had Gen. John Pemberton, Vicksburg's defender, confused.

After the raid, "Grierson fought Forrest quite a bit," Brown said, "and after the war he fought Indians with the 10th cavalry, a Negro unit."

"The Civil War is always filled with wonder—which, I suppose, is why we are all here," Brown concluded.

Al Meyer duplicated the endpaper maps from "Grierson's Raid" and the chronology and they were available to those at the meeting.

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While men were at the meeting, about a dozen ladies gathered at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop to hear the tape recording of Shelby Foote's speech on Vicksburg, then had dinner at Armando's restaurant, and finally joined the men at the Press Club.

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By oversight, the names of four of the organizers of the Civil War Round Table were not included in the muster roll of the 25th anniversary and did not get mention at the dinner. The four who participated in the planning of the Round Table, but were unable to attend the first meeting, Dec. 3, 1940, are listed in the 1956 Year Book history as John W. Curran, Harry G. Hershenson, Craig R. Johnson, and Otto Rentner.

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The muster roll had misspellings in the listing of Founder Perc Hart. Correctly, his middle initial is G. and his street is Spalding.

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Former President Truman's message to the anniversary meeting was:

"I am highly pleased to extend greetings to the Civil War Round Table on the occasion of its Twenty-fifth Anniversary, and my hope that you will continue your deliberations and studies in depth, of this historic turning point in the evolution of this nation. Now, that we have begun to put into practice some of the high-sounding pronouncements of former years, we should go about the business of putting our house in order with 'all deliberate speed.'"

Brogan and Vandiver Speakers

The meeting schedule has been filled with two outstanding speakers. There will be Sir Denis Brogan for April 6 and Frank Vandiver for June 10. Brogan is professor of political science at Cambridge university, England, and a fellow of Peterhouse. He will be an exchange lecturer at the University of Chicago from March 15 to April 20.

Sir Denis' books are signed D. W. Brogan and include "Abraham Lincoln" published in 1935 and reprinted in 1963, "The American Character," "The Price of Revolution," and many others. Probably he is best known to us for his penetrating article in the April, 1960, Harper's magazine, "A Fresh Appraisal of the Civil War."

April 6 is the centennial of the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic and the meeting will be our 250th. Our special events committee is collaborating with officials of Chicago Public Library and the meeting will be held in the G.A.R. hall and auditorium there. It will be a meeting open to ladies and the public. Chairman Mal Hoffmann and the committee are arranging for a dinner at a restaurant in the neighborhood and then the program at the library will begin about 8 p.m. President Brooks Davis and Jerry Warshaw are working on a short visual program to illustrate the history of our Round Table. Persons who have movies of CWRT events are asked to get in touch with Brooks or Jerry.

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A special meeting and auction is planned for late April, with Marshall Krolick and Joe Eisendrath in charge. Start thinking now about contributing surplus or duplicate books, secondary work on a subject replaced by a better one, relics, and artifacts. These will be auctioned for the benefit of the Fellowship Award fund. The donor will be credited with half the sale price and may take it in cash or give it to the fund. The donations will be income tax deductible.

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Elmer Brinkman reports that the work of setting up the Speakers' Bureau is steadily going forward. Volunteers' dossiers are coming in. Other Round Tables and colleges in the midwest have been circularized. Walter Tatsch already is a repeater as a speaker. He spoke at New Trier on "Ships and Vessels of the Civil War," and is scheduled March 28 in Peoria on "Some Naval Actions of the Civil War."

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Wilson Smith, battlefield tour co-chairman, reports that efforts are being made to charter a private air liner for the trip to Washington and return, May 26 to 30. Efforts also are being made for a special tour of the White House and a lunch or dinner in the Senate dining room. Wilson is even looking farther ahead. Lacon, Ill., is his favorite town and he is hoping to arrange a CWRT golf meeting there Sept. 9.

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE is now in the year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary with the high point on Aug. 25, the date it came into being in 1916. The Mission '66 program which has been in progress for almost a decade has reached fruition and the NPS seeks to acquaint all Americans and visitors with the many and varied kinds of areas set aside for use in the National Park System. The nearly 26 million acres in the system, extending from Maine to Hawaii and from the Virgin Islands to Alaska, contain 226 units of prime natural, historical, and recreational value.

CONFEDERATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of London will hold meetings at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, March 2, May 4, June 15, July 20, August 31, October 5, November 2, and December 7. Meetings are in the dining room above Ordnance Arms, 75 York Road, London S.E.1, out of Waterloo Station.

Generals in Blue and Gray



Charles H. Morgan



John B. Grayson

Our member Ezra J. (Bud) Warner of La Jolla, Calif., sends us two pictures which we are pleased to print and which you may wish to clip and paste in where they belong in Bud's books "Generals in Blue" and "Generals in Gray".

"The picture of Morgan which I used in 'Generals in Blue' is in reality a picture of Innis L. Palmer," Bud writes. "In other words: the pictures of Palmer and Morgan in G. in B. are both poses of Palmer."

So, above is a picture of Morgan to place where his name appears in the book.

In "Generals in Gray", the article on John B. Grayson appears with a gray rectangle. A picture now has become available. It was not in the first two printings of G. in G., but is in the third printing which came out just before Christmas and is boxed with G. in B.

"The Grayson photo was unearthed as a result of the researches of our good friend, Ed Barthell, unquestionably Ludington, Mich.'s most illustrious son," Bud writes. "The original of the full-length portrait exhibits Grayson in uniform and hangs in Detroit's Masonic Temple."

"The discrepancy in the Palmer vs. Morgan catastrophe was pointed out to me by a reader, Mr. Glen Pettit, of Gold Hill, Ore."

CIVIL WAR TIMES Illustrated December issue was a special number on the Battle of Fredericksburg. Text is by Edward J. Stackpole, maps by Wilbur S. Nye, and special research by Ralph Happel. Stackpole, publisher of CWTI and author of a book on Fredericksburg was our speaker at Gettysburg in 1962. Col. Nye, managing editor of CWTI was our speaker here in November. Happel is historian for the Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park and was one of our guides on the tour there in 1955. The issue is a good one to study in preparation for our tour to Fredericksburg and Washington, May 26 to 30.

A TALE of the latter days of Civil War vets has a reporter interviewing a Confederate: "You and two others are the sole survivors of the Confederate army, and there is only one Union soldier still alive."

"Now's the time to attack," snapped the Rebel.

Gov. Warren P. Knowles of Wisconsin has presented the sword his grandfather, Capt. Warren P. Knowles, of Company G, 4th Wisconsin cavalry, to the restored G. A. R. Memorial hall in the capitol at Madison. Capt. Knowles served throughout the Civil War.

THE NEW BOOKS



THE INNER CIVIL WAR: Northern Intellectuals and the Crisis of the Union, by George M. Frederickson (Harper & Row, 277pp, \$6.95).

HINTON ROWAN HELPER: Abolitionist-Racist, by Hugh C. Bailey (U. of Alabama, 256pp, \$6.95). Analysis of "The Impending Crisis" and its author.

THE CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF ROBERT McALLISTER, edited by James I. Robertson, Jr. (Rutgers, 638pp, \$10). Letters of a soldier who went all through the war in the Army of the Potomac and also happened to be a gifted writer.

ONE OF JACKSON'S FOOT CAVALRY, by John H. Worsham, edited by James I. Robertson, Jr. (McCowat-Mercer, Jackson, Tenn., 215pp, \$5). Reissue of a stand-by long out of print.

THE SOUTH TO POSTERITY, by Douglas Southall Freeman (Reprint, \$6.50).

THE GATLING GUN, by Paul Wahl and Donald R. Toppel (Arco Pub. Co., Inc., 168pp, illus. \$12.50).

A PICTURE STORY OF THE CONFEDERACY, by Harnett Kane, illus. by William Lohse (Lothrop, 128pp, \$3.50). More than 80 drawings of events in the South during the Civil War.

TENNESSEE'S WAR 1861-1865, Described by Participants, compiled and edited by Stanley F. Horn (Tennessee Civil War Centennial commission, 364pp, \$5.95).

OCCUPIED CITY: New Orleans Under the Federals, 1862-1865, by Gerald M. Capers (University of Kentucky Press).

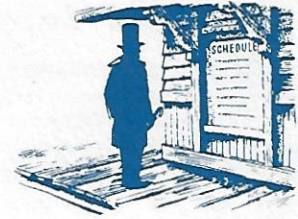
WHEN LINCOLN DIED, by Ralph Borreson (Appleton, 231pp, \$8.95). The assassination, funeral journey, pursuit and trial of the conspirators.

CIVIL WAR TIMES Illustrated, January, 1966, features an article, "Joseph E. Johnston—A Reappraisal," by Jay Luvaas. Two new names have been added to the list of CWTI staff members, Stephen Ambrose as an associate editor and D. Alexander Brown as a regular contributor. CWTI, going into its fifth year, gives a prospectus of articles to come. Among them are a survivor's account of the Great Locomotive Chase, by Wilbur G. Kurtz; a profile of George H. Thomas, by Glenn Tucker, and a piece by Wilbur S. Nye on how a poker game figured in the battle of Lafayette, Ga.

FORT DAVIS National Historic Site, Texas, has a newly completed visitor center which will be dedicated this spring. The center is the first part of a five-year preservation and restoration program at Fort Davis, a key post on the West Texas frontier from 1854 to 1891, and one of the largest and most important of a chain of forts established in Texas during the Indian wars. The visitor center, housed in one of the original barracks made of adobe and with a roofed porch extending around it, has been restored to its historic appearance, so that a soldier once stationed there in the 1870's—if he could return—would easily recognize it. Only the interior of the building is modern in appearance and function. It was named for Jefferson Davis, at the time secretary of war. The location is north of the Big Bend of the Rio Grande, at the junction of trails from San Antonio to El Paso and Santa Fe.

DR. FREDERICK TILBERG, Honorary Award Life Member of our CWRT, retired November 30 as chief historian of the Gettysburg National Military park. He will continue research work.

BULLETIN BOARD



PERSONS who have been on the courtesy mailing list of the newsletter are invited to apply for membership in the Civil War Round Table. Requests for a membership application form may be sent to Civil War Round Table, 18 East Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Dues for the remaining half-year to June 30 are \$7.50 and are income tax deductible.

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NEW MEMBERS: John E. Christen, 222 Wisner St., Park Ridge, Ill. 60068; Robert Charles Ellsworth, 1132 Camille Ave., Deerfield, Ill. 60015; Donald G. Jensen, 209 E. Sheridan Rd., Lake Bluff, Ill. 60044; L. B. Paul, Jr., 236 Early St., Park Forest, Ill. 60466; Seymour Wasserman, 7801 S. Crandon Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60649; Roger F. Wilhelm, 61 S. Lodge Lane, Lombard, Ill. 60148.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: A. Conrad Aimone to: 904 Seventh St., Charleston, Ill; Kenneth J. Millikan to: 10844 W. Fairway Ct. West, Apt. 224, Sun City, Ariz. 85351; Fred Schwengel to: 3311 West Locust St., Davenport, Ia.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

Friday, March 11 — E. B. (Pete) Long, "A Reappraisal of the War in the Mississippi Valley."

Wednesday, April 6 — Sir Denis Brogan; program at Chicago Public Library observing centennial of the Grand Army of the Republic.

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

Friday, June 10 — Frank Vandiver.

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 15-16 — Decatur, Ill., Centennial of the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic.

May 13-15 — Illinois State Historical Society at Carmi, Ill.

May 26-30 — CWRT 16th Annual Battlefield Tour to Fredericksburg, Va., and Washington, D.C.

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AVAILABLE at meetings: Gold filled lapel pin, \$1; Cloth patch of emblem, 50¢. By mail or at meetings: Muster roll program of 25th Anniversary meeting, \$2; File of CWRT newsletter, September, 1959 to June 1964, \$5.



THE BATTLEFIELD OF OLUSTEE is a spot to visit in Florida. Member Malcolm Mach says easy access is from the Interstate highway and Macon, Ga., into the Sunshine State Parkway. The site is southwest of Jacksonville on the road to Lake City. The battlefield is keyed to Feb. 20, 1864 just before the Confederates turned the northwestern flank of the Federals, forcing their withdrawal. Paths have been cut through the woods along the battle lines and markers installed showing the locations of various units of the opposing forces. Distance of a walking tour, starting from the museum, is less than one mile. On sale at the museum is "The Federal Campaign of 1864 in East Florida," by Mark F. Boyd (20¢). An interpretive museum exhibit was designed and installed by the Florida State Museum of Gainesville and the Florida Park Service.