



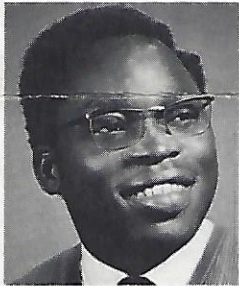
THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXX, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December, 1969

Okon E. Uya on 'Robert Smalls of South Carolina'--Dec. 12



Okon E. Uya

Another "first" in the history of the Chicago Civil War Round Table will be marked Friday, Dec. 12, when our speaker will be the current holder of the Chicago CWRT Fellowship, Okon E. Uya.

Professor Uya, now teaching in the department of history of the University of Wisconsin, will speak on the career of Robert Smalls, a one-time slave who became a distinguished figure in the Civil War and Reconstruction periods.

Smalls at the beginning of the Civil War had already gained a reputation as the pilot of a trading vessel, the Planter, out of Charleston. At the outbreak of the war the ship was taken over by the Confederates as an ammunition carrier and Smalls was ordered to remain aboard as the pilot.

"For a time, then, Robert Smalls actually fought on the Confederate side in the war," Uya explains, "because the Planter was armed and doing important service for the Confederacy."

In May, 1862, the Planter was loaded with ammunition which Smalls believed would be valuable to the Union forces that held sea islands near Charleston. Moreover, Smalls knew that Union forces holding the islands had given freedom to slaves and he coveted free status for himself.

"For these two reasons," Uya relates, "Smalls undertook one of the most daring individual exploits of the Civil War. He took over the ammunition-laden ship and steered it, as only he could, over seven miles and past five Confederate fortifications to Union forces on the sea islands."

This daring exploit, however, was only the beginning of Smalls' valuable service to the Union in the war. Because he had fought on the Confederate side and knew the fortifications around Charleston, he became a guide, to Union forces attacking the port city.

He fought in 17 different battles of the war, according to Uya, who will detail Smalls' Union military career in the Dec. 12 talk.

"In 1863," the professor tells, "Smalls was invaluable to the Union when ironclads attacking Charleston were hemmed in by Confederate ships. Smalls used his intimate knowledge of the inlets in the harbor to guide Union ships to safety."

After the war Smalls became a kind of romantic figure to the sea islanders and built a substantial political base among the blacks of South Carolina. He was elected to the state legislature and later to Congress where he served 12 years until 1888. In Congress he was looked upon as a key spokesman for blacks and participated in numerous debates.

In 1888 Smalls was rewarded for his campaign services to the Republican party by an appointment as customs collector, a post he held until 1913, two years before his death. Smalls



286th REGULAR MEETING

Okon E. Uya

on

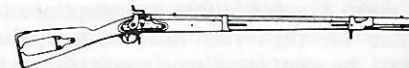
"Robert Smalls of South Carolina"

Friday, December 12, 1969

Furniture Club in Furniture Mart

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



was also a key figure in the adoption of South Carolina's new constitution in 1895 when he was the chief spokesman for black people in the drafting of the document.

Professor Uya, a native of Nigeria, has been teaching and researching in the United States for more than two years. A summa cum laude graduate of the University of Ibadan in his home country, Uya holds a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin and will receive his PH.D. from that university in January of next year.

Robert Smalls, whose career was unknown to Uya until the professor came here to study, will be the subject of a biography by Uya titled "From Slavery to Public Service: Robert Smalls, 1839-1915" to be published next year by Oxford University Press. This will be the first serious biographical work on Smalls whose exploits are now recounted only in a children's book titled "Captain of the Planter."

In a letter to our Round Table, Uya said "I am very delighted to have this opportunity to speak to a group whose financial help is enabling me not only to complete my studies but also to revise my manuscript for publication." He intends to return to Nigeria with his wife and two daughters to teach American history.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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Terms expiring in 1971: Don Pfeuffer, Elmer Underwood, Marshall Krolick.

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968



Applications for Civil War Round Table fellowships are available from the CWRT fellowship committee, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill., 60611. Round Table members and friends may make tax-deductible contributions to the CWRT fellowship fund for Civil War research and education. Contributions may be sent to the committee at the Chestnut Street address.

Club members who know of the death or illness of anyone associated with the Chicago CWRT are urged to promptly contact President Clyde Walton or the CWRT through the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Treasurer Dick Cohen announced that all dues notices have been mailed and that \$20 dues for 1969-70 is owed by each CWRT member. Send your dues in now and note the meeting dates for the year published in the Bulletin Board on the back page of this Newsletter.

Chicago CWRT members are encouraged to contribute material to this Newsletter regularly. Contributions should be sent to Dick Bjorklund, Editor, Chicago Civil War Round Table Newsletter, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Suggestions for material include book reviews, photos of Civil War relics and sites, travel items on Civil War battlefields and monuments, comments on current events involving Civil War history and personal notes.

*from the
Editor's pen*



Somebody said, "If the Cubs had a pinch-hitter like that, they would have won the National League pennant."

Somebody else said, "Clyde, if you have more speakers like that, we'd fill this hall at every meeting. That's the kind of stuff the members like."

Both comments were in praise of E.B. "Pete" Long's last-minute substitute presentation of "The Lost Six Months of Armies in Virginia." Pete stepped in on nine hours' notice after Thomas L. Connelly, our scheduled November speaker, was confined to bed with flu.

Pete spoke of the "Gettysburg Hangover," the period from July to December, 1863, the time between Lee's withdrawal from the North and the northward crossing of the Rapidan by the Army of the Potomac.

"What happened to two of the greatest armies in history during the six-month intermission?" Pete asked. By detailing the actions of the armies, Long answered his own question: Nothing happened to those armies. The action of the "lost months" set up the campaigns of 1864 and 1865 that determined the outcome of the Civil War.

"Don't try to tell these grimy veterans of the Virginia actions that is was all for naught," Pete cautioned.

The October meeting of the Decatur CWRT heard Leland J. Glazebrook of Sullivan, Ill., discuss "The Copperheads," who were numerous in central and southern Illinois during the Civil War. Glazebrook included a discussion of the Charleston Riots which occurred near Decatur.

Don Pfeuffer won Krolick's Kwick Kwiz and a copy of "Will Success Spoil Jeff Davis?" written by our scheduled November speaker. Marshall Krolick proudly announced that his quiz will be a regular monthly feature of Civil War Times Illustrated for at least one year. Now we'll find out whether other Civil War students can match trivia with our distinguished member.

Collections of the past five years of this newsletter may be purchased for \$7.50 a set from Elmer Underwood at Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. A limited number of the collections is available for sale.

Gordon Whitney is the new chairman of the speakers' bureau, replacing Don Pfeuffer who is moving south.

President Clyde Walton got a Mexican standoff when he polled the membership about its wishes for Ladies' Night to be held in February. Choices were a catered dinner and unusual program in the GAR Hall of the Chicago Public Library or a trip to Washington to visit little-known Civil War sites there on a three-day excursion. The house was about evenly divided between the two.

President Walton announced that Thomas Connelly, who put his paper on a plane for reading at the November meeting, will be rescheduled for a talk later in the year.

At the September meeting of the Indianapolis CWRT, our E. B. "Pete" Long discussed "War Beyond the River, the Trans-Mississippi West in the War," the subject of his forthcoming book.

A POSTWAR MYSTERY

A post-Civil War mystery was cleared up not long ago when the descendents of an Earlville, Illinois, merchant wrote to the Earlville Leader to confess what their ancestors had done with a Civil War cannon that formerly stood in the town's Railroad Park.

"The cannon was a relic of the Civil War and was placed in Railroad Park some time after the war," the letter related. "It was customary on election nights for some men, wanting to celebrate a victory, to shoot off the cannon. Each time this was done many plate glass windows in the business district were broken by the impact."

Ancestors of the letter writer owned a store on Main Street near the cannon and hence suffered major damage every time the old weapon was fired.

"One dark night," the confession went on, "our grandfather and uncle, together with some employes at the store, loaded the cannon into the delivery wagon and hauled it to the store where it was kept in a secluded place for many years."

On another dark night, the story continues, the cannon was loaded onto the delivery truck again and taken to the railroad bridge. "We feel quite sure that the cannon was lugged up the embankment to the railroad trestle over Big Indian Creek and then dropped in the creek. As far as we know it is still there," the writer said.

Some Earlville citizens expressed interest in finding the old artillery piece, but others felt it had been fired so often that it would be hazardous to life and limb.

Okon E. Uya, winner of the Chicago CWRT Fellowship for 1969-70 and our December speaker, spoke on Robert Smalls before the Madison CWRT in September.

Joseph L. Eisendrath, a longtime member of Chicago CWRT, has been named winner of the Richard S. Bohn award for distinguished service to aero-philately by the board of directors of Aero Philatelists. He is editor of Airport Journal, a monthly publication of the American Air Mail Society and is past president of that group.

June Pyskacek, director of the Kingston Mines Theater, announced to the Newsletter the world premiere production of Robert Hivnor's comedy "The Assault Upon Charles Sumner," beginning Jan. 9 at the Kingston Mines Theater, 2356 N. Lincoln Ave., 525-9893. The production will run on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights for 10 weeks.

The play concerns one of the events preceding the Civil War: the crippling assault on Massachusetts abolitionist Sen. Charles Sumner by Rep. Preston S. Brooks of South Carolina. The assault took place in the Senate chamber on May 22, 1856, after Sumner delivered his "Crime Against Kansas" speech attacking, among others, South Carolina Sen. Andrew P. Butler, the uncle of Brooks.

"The timeliness of the play," said the director, "is found in Hivnor's brilliant representation of the issues over which the Civil War was fought, those issues which were never settled and are still the burning problems of America today."

The play ranges from pre-Civil War days to the funeral of the last slave in Ohio in 1938, moving back and forth in history revealing the exciting events in Charles Sumner's life through a variety of theatrical styles.

Kingston Mines Theater company won its recognition on the Chicago theater scene with the widely acclaimed production of Jean-Claude Van Itallie's "The Serpent," which ran for 14 weeks at the end of 1969.

The building that houses the theater, built in the late 1800's, was originally stable for horse trolleys. Twenty-two young people are members of the company.

TO THE LADIES —

At the Dec. 12 meeting of the Camp Followers, old-time member Eleanor Smith will tell members about Shim, a Civil War character with a very colorful, wild background.

Instead of having a personal grab-bag as in previous years, members have agreed to make donations to the Chicago Civil War Round Table Fellowship Fund.

Members will bring samples of their favorite cookies and recipes for them.

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12, in the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 E. Chestnut St. Make reservations with Betty Walter, 681-0588, not with the bookstore.

At the November meeting of the Camp Followers, Ella Clausius presented an interesting program on the Fremonts and added another woman to the ranks of non-Victorian Victorian women.

Lloyd D. Miller, one of our earliest members and benefactor of the CWRT Fellowship Fund, spoke in November to the Decatur CWRT/ on his favorite subject, "The Union Left, the Second Day at Gettysburg." Lloyd spoke during the same month in his native city, Louisville, before its CWRT on his other favorite subject, "The Battle of Franklin."

At its October meeting the Kansas City CWRT heard our past president Brooks Davis recount the action at the Battle of Perryville, the center point of the Confederate offensive against the North.

From the CWRT News Letter of the District of Columbia: "Three bills have been introduced in the House and Senate to more than double the present site of Antietam National Battlefield. They were put in, appropriately enough, on September 17 by Maryland Reps. J. Glenn Beall Jr. and Gilbert Gude and by Sen. Charles MacMathias. Four hundred acres would be set aside for enlargement of Antietam National Cemetery, an appropriate idea which might take some of the heat out of the proposals to turn Manassas battlefield into a military cemetery—something stoutly resisted by CWRT's everywhere.

The proposed expansion would take in land still used for agriculture, but preserved from development by citizens aware of the areas's significance. Now developers are trying to get in. There are many important areas in the battle, such as Dunkard Church, still not yet owned by the National Park Service. The service does not own the probable location of Clara Barton's field hospital; Union lines opposite the Sunken Road; Bloody Lane, and the fields where A. P. Hill's troops smashed Burnside's fumbling advance across Antietam Creek.

Most of us would probably say "Hurrah for the Free State legislators."

President Clyde C. Walton spoke on "Illinois and the Civil War" at the October meeting of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table in Elmhurst. Our senior vice president, Dan Lapinski, is a member of the Salt Creek CWRT executive committee.

Don Russell, prominent member of Westerners and acknowledged western authority, and E. B. Long attended the Western History Association meeting Oct. 8-11 in Omaha. Russell was chairman of a panel on "The Lawless Guardians of the Law." Russell, author of the outstanding biography of Buffalo Bill, has held many posts with the Western History Assoc. Long is well into research on his book "War Beyond the River: The Transmississippi in the Civil War and the Influence of the Civil War on the West."

THE NEW BOOKS



Adams, Nehemiah. *SOUTH-SIDE VIEW OF SLAVERY: or, Three Months at the South in 1854.* N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr. [1969]. Reprint 1854 ed. \$9.50 (Kennikat Press also has this in 1885 ed. at \$8.50)

Archer, Jules. *ANGRY ABOLITIONIST: WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.* N.Y.: Messner, [1969]. 191p. \$3.50

Donnon, Elizabeth, ed. *DOCUMENTS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE HISTORY OF THE SLAVE TRADE TO AMERICA.* 4 vols. N.Y.: Octagon. \$90.00

Goodell, William. *THE AMERICAN SLAVE CODE IN THEORY AND PRACTICE.* N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr., [1968]. Reprint 1853 ed. \$14.00

Grant, Ulysses S., III. *ULYSSES S. GRANT: WARRIOR AND STATESMAN.* Morrow, 1969. \$12.50

Hart, Albert Bushnell. *SALMON PORTLAND CHASE.* N.Y.: Greenwood Press, [1969. c1899]. \$15.00

Hart, Albert Bushnell. *SLAVERY AND ABOLITION, 1831-1841.* N.H.: Haskell House, 1968. 360p. Reprint 1906 ed. \$12.95

Jordan, Robert Paul. *THE CIVIL WAR.* [Washington]: National Geographic Society [1969]. 215p., illus., col. maps., bibl. \$4.25

Peterson, Harold L. *ROUND SHOT AND RAMMERS.* Harrisburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 1969. 128p. illus., 9 x 12. \$9.95

Quarles, Benjamin. *BLACK ABOLITIONISTS.* N.Y.: Oxford, 1969. \$6.75

Ruchames, Louis, comp. *JOHN BROWN: THE MAKING OF A REVOLUTIONARY.* The Story of John Brown in his own words and in the words of those who knew him. N.Y.: Grosset [1969]. (The John Brown Reader of 1959) \$6.95. Paper \$2.95

Sanford, George B. *EXPERIENCES IN ARMY LIFE OF COLONEL GEORGE B. SANFORD, 1861-1892.* Edited, and with an introduction, by E.R. Hagemann. Norman, Okla.: Univ. Oklahoma Press, 1969. \$7.95

Smith, Theodore Clarke. *PARTIES AND SLAVERY, 1850-1859.* N.Y.: Negro Univs. Press, [1969]. Reprint 1907 ed. \$12.50

Tourgee, Albion W. *BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW.* Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State U. Press, [1969]. Reprint of a most famous Reconstruction novel that has significant commentary to make. \$10.00

Wooster, Ralph A. *THE PEOPLE IN POWER: Courthouse and Statehouse in the Lower South, 1850-1860.* Knoxville, Tenn.: Univ. Tenn., 1969. \$6.25

From the Jackson (Miss.) Rebel Yell CWRT newsletter: "Lincoln wanted a memorial cemetery in Washinton for the war dead. Arlington was a natural and so it was designated. Oddly enough, the first dead to be buried there were Confederate soldiers. A peaked tombstone was designed for their graves. When the Union dead were interred, a rounded or flat-top stone was designated to distinguish them from the Rebels.

"Along about the time of President Cleveland, there were many efforts made to bind up the wounds of Our War and forget about it all. Part of the effort was to propose that the pointed stones be shaved off and all the honored dead marked with the same type of headstone. This gave rise to a challenging aphorism, which could have come from no place save south of the Mason-Dixon: "keep 'em pointed. We don't want no Dam Yankees a-sittin' on 'em."

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

December 12: Professor Okon Uya (winner of this year's Chicago CWRT fellowship award) on "Robert Smalls of South Carolina."

January 9: Dr. Archer Jones on "Military Leadership, North and South."

February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8 and June 5: Programs to be announced.



A LETTER

Dear Editor:

This will serve in lieu of the postal card reply to assist in the answers to the most interesting questionnaire. Nos. 2 and 3 - Live 500 miles from Chicago, 84 years old and would cost about \$100 and two days time to attend a meeting.

Next to express my regret and inability to hear T. L. Connelly.

Having been friend and chauffeur to Douglas S. Freeman, visiting every field visited by Lee except the West Virginia affair and Gettysburg, I would certainly like to hear Connelly.

The Bulletin says that "Connelly asserts that after Lee's influence began to be felt in the Autumn of 1861 . . ." I did not know he had any influence until Davis put him in command of the Army of Northern Virginia in June '62 after the Battle of Seven Pines and thereafter, and until the dark days of 1864, Lee was simply the Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. In the Summer of 1864 during the Cold Harbor Campaign, he had to apply to the Commander-in-Chief, Mr. Davis, to get some troops sent from the south side of the James River to him on the north side.

It would be most interesting to hear of any documentary evidence that the Commander-in-Chief ever called on Lee for advice about operations in the west before the 1865 period of the legislature overriding the president.

"Lee didn't look so great after he was confronted by the Union's 'first team' in 1864".

Quite true, when he was outnumbered two to one and out-equipped far more.

I am sorry I cannot be at the meeting but to you and other old timers, my high regard.

J. Ambler Johnston
Richmond, Va.

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.

Chicago Today on Nov. 15 carried a bright little feature on Herman Williams, who since 1953 has been the custodian of the Stephen A. Douglas tomb and monument at 636 E. 35th St. Williams, known to many members of the Chicago CWRT, said: "When I first came here the park was run down . . . really a sorry sight . . . and it was eight months before I saw my first visitor." Now the park, on the site of Judge Douglas's estate, draws 30,000 visitors each year. Williams told of how he reads about Stephen Douglas to answer questions like how many wives did Douglas have (two) and what did he die of (typhoid fever).