

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXI, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October, 1970

## Edwin C. Bearss on Grant's Assaults on Vicksburg, October 16

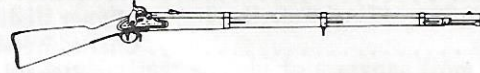
Edwin C. Bearss, historian, National Park Service, will be with us again Friday October 16, 1970, his subject this time being "Grant's Assaults on Vicksburg, May 19-22, 1863." Ed Bearss is thoroughly familiar with his subject—he addressed us March 12, 1959, on "Crisis in Movement, the Battle of Champion's Hill," which occurred only a few days earlier, and his long service at Vicksburg National Military Park has made him an authority on the terrain. Ed's more recent appearance before CWR'T was Jan. 15, 1965, when he spoke on the raising of "The Ironclad Gunboat Cairo," a recovery operation that took more than eight years.

Grant's final Vicksburg campaign, with which we are concerned, opened April 16, 1863, when the gunboats of the river fleet ran past the Vicksburg batteries. Grant then crossed the river with three corps below Vicksburg at Grand Gulf. He first struck east toward Jackson, driving off the forces of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, then turned back against Gen. John C. Pemberton's army in front of Vicksburg. The battles of Champion's Hill and Big Black River followed, and Pemberton retreated within the intrenchments surrounding Vicksburg. Before settling down to a siege, Grant ordered two assaults on the Vicksburg lines, our immediate subject.

Major General J. F. C. Fuller, British military expert, in his "The Generalship of Ulysses S. Grant," calls the campaign, up to this point, "an amazing success, the greatest in Grant's life, and from a purely strategical point of view one of the greatest in military history." Of the attacks he says, "Though the assault failed, there was every excuse for it, but on the 21st, Grant determined to make a second which was less excusable in spite of the fact that his reasons for it were well considered." And at this point we turn the discussion to Ed Bearss.

Ed has been interested in the Civil War since he was a boy in Montana. His battle experience includes the invasions of Guadalcanal and New Britain as member of a Marine raider battalion. He was wounded and spent 26 months in hospitals. He studied at Georgetown University and received an M.A. in history at Indiana University. He is author of "Decision in Mississippi," 1962; "Rebel Victory at Vicksburg," 1963; "Hardluck Ironclad Cairo," 1966; "Steele's Retreat from Camden," 1967; and, with Arrell M. Gibson, "Fort Smith, Little Gibraltar on the Arkansas," 1969.

He was an organizer of the Civil War Round Table of Mississippi, and is known to many Chicago members through our battlefield tours.



294th REGULAR MEETING

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Edwin C. Bearss  
Historian, National Park Service  
on  
Grant's Assaults on Vicksburg, May 19-22, 1863

\* \* \*

Friday, October 16, 1970

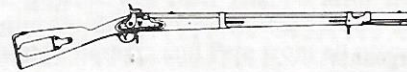
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Chicago Bar Association  
29 South LaSalle Street

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Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



"An Author and Subject Index to the Southern Historical Society Papers, Vols. 1-38," compiled by Mrs. Kate Pleasants Minor in 1913 as a double issue of the Virginia State Library Bulletin, has been reproduced in facsimile so close that it takes a sharp look to tell it from the original. The present assistant state librarian Ray O. Hummel, Jr., points out that even 60 years later this is the only guide to the indispensable papers in the First Series. It consists of 139 pages of index. The new printing is obtainable from Robert J. Younger, Morningside Bookshop, P. O. Box 336, Forest Park Station, Dayton, Ohio 45405.

\* \* \*

The 104th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, reactivated, is seeking recruits, able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 65, willing to supply their own uniform and musket. Gordon Whitney and Bob Walters are beating the drum. Parent organization is the North-South Skirmish Association, which sponsors shooting events with the .58 caliber Springfield. At Galena September 26 and 27 a series of open house events were scheduled to be climaxed with an artillery meet, with De Gracie's 1st Illinois Light Artillery, Loomis' 4th Michigan Battery, and the 11th Ohio Volunteer Artillery taking part.

The August, 1970, issue of Civil War Times Illustrated is a Special Souvenir Album on "The Siege of Petersburg," The entire 50 pages is given to the one subject, with text by Joseph P. Cullen, maps by William C. Davis, and design by Frederic Ray. The cover, extending front and back, reproduces John Adams Elder's painting of "The Battle of the Crater," and there is generous illustration throughout.



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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Raymond N. Dooley, a veteran member of the Civil War Round Table, has announced his retirement as president of Lincoln College, Lincoln, Illinois, effective Sept. 1, 1971. Dr. Dooley has been president of Lincoln College since 1948, during which time the student body increased 600 per cent and is now limited to 700. He had served previously at Illinois Wesleyan and at Stephens College. He has been senior vice president of the Illinois Historical Society and chairman of the board of the State Historical Library.

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Collector's World is a new magazine this year and the July-August, 1970, issue (Vol. I, No. 4) contains an illustrated article "Relics of Fort Blakely, CSA," by Pat D. Fulks with much data on what can be found on a Civil War battlefield with the aid of a metal detector. Another of Civil War interest is "A Mark to Watch for: John Rogers, New York," with illustrations of Rogers' groups from the collection of Herschel C. Logan.

*from the  
Editor's pen*



"If the South had not had Robert E. Lee, it would have been better off," Albert Castel concluded sardonically in his talk on "Lee and His Critics" at the September 11 meeting. "The war would have been shorter, with fewer casualties and less suffering." He agreed that the North probably won the war and the South lost it in the West, "but was not this in large part because Lee, against battlefield odds greater than those usually faced by the southern generals in the West, was able to hold back the North so long and so well in the East?" He doubted if the generals in the West "would have suffered fewer defeats had they commanded more men."

A professor of history at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Dr. Castel pointed out weaknesses in the arguments of Lee's critics including Thomas L. Connolly, whom we heard on the other side in March, 1970. Castel decried the idolatry of Lee, noting that some opinion would not regard as saintly a man who was responsible as a killer of men, and who admitted enjoying warfare, if it were not so terrible, paralleling Gen. George S. Patton.

It was a well documented thesis, but of course all could not agree, provoking a lively discussion that extended far beyond the usual time. Attendance was the largest in many months, including 12 new members, also a record not equalled in a long time. A part of this new interest resulted from the actions of Marshall Krolick, who arranged the mailing of copies of the Newsletter to subscribers to "Civil War Times Illustrated."

## TAPS

Colonel Wilbur Sturtevant Nye, managing editor of Civil War Times Illustrated, and of American History Illustrated, died June 1, 1970, at his home in Wormleysburg, Pa., near Harrisburg, at the age of 71. Members of the Civil War Round Table will remember his talk Nov. 5, 1965, on "Milroy Is Gobbled Up" based on his book "Here Come the Rebels," a study of the Gettysburg campaign. He was also author, with the late Gen. E. J. Stackpole, of "Gettysburg, a Guided Tour." Besides his work on Civil War subjects, he was an authority on the Indian wars. His books included "Carbine and Lance: The Story of Old Fort Sill," "I Fought with Geronimo," with Jason Betzinez; "Bad Medicine and Good: Tales of the Kiowas," and "Plains Indian Raiders," with original photographs by William S. Soule.

Nye was born in Canton, Ohio, and was graduated from West Point in 1920. He served 34 years in the Army, commanding the 173rd Field Artillery Group, XV Corps, in World War II. He was editor of the Field Artillery Journal, 1939-42.

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Robert Selph Henry, an honorary award life member of the Civil War Round Table, died August 19, 1970, at his home in Alexandria, Virginia, at the age of 80. Author and historian, he was a retired vice president of the Association of American Railroads and a life member of the Vanderbilt University board of trustees. At a Gala Dinner Oct. 18, 1944, the Round Table celebrated publication of Bob Henry's "First with the Most' Forrest." He had given a talk on that subject Nov. 17, 1943. Later he edited "As They Saw Forrest: Some Recollections and Comments of Contemporaries." His "The Story of the Confederacy," which has gone through two important revisions, is rated as one of the best one-volume books on the Civil War. His Round Table talk in 1951 on "Rehearsal in Mexico: Trial by Battle of Civil War Leaders" preceded his book "The Story of the Mexican War." Reflecting his long service with the Association of American Railroads was his



book, "This Fascinating Railroad Business" and, with Frank P. Donovan, Jr., "Headlights and Markers: An Anthology of Railroad Stories," a most delightful collection. One of Bob's campaigns for the Association was to point out the error in maps, often in school texts, showing land grants to railroads. As the maps showed all the land from which alternate sections could be chosen, it greatly exaggerated the amount actually awarded.

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Harry E. Rice, long-time member of the Civil War Round Table, died August 20, 1970, at the age of 78. His home was at 1130 S. Michigan Ave. He was a stockbroker with Hayden, Stone & Co., 141 W. Jackson Blvd. He had been newspaperman with the Chicago American and Chicago Daily News. In World War I he served as captain and was past commander, American Legion, and of Chicago Chapter, Military Order of the World Wars. He was a member of the Union League Club. Services were at St. Mary's Catholic Church. He is survived by his widow Elizabeth Condon, and a sister, Mrs. Theresa de Kruif.

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Prison Civil War Round Table of Richmond, Virginia, mourns Stewart W. Newsom, program director emeritus, who died May 31, 1970. Services at the Prison Chapel were attended by members of the Richmond CWRT. Newsom, who had spent half his life in prison, was a founder and active spirit in the Prison CWRT.

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A Civil War history section in the Park Forest Public Library was unanimously approved as a memorial to the late Leo H. Jacobson at a meeting of the Park Forest village board May 25, 1970. Jacobson, a village trustee, was a member of the Civil War Round Table of Park Forest, which will co-operate in the collection of books for the memorial, to be added to Jacobson's books donated by his heirs. He died in November, 1969.

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A new publication is the News Letter of the Civil War Round Table of Northern New Jersey, which starts with the May, 1970, issue and will be published bi-monthly at Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey. Russ Gogel was speaker at the May 9 meeting, and an outline of his talk on "History, a Discouraging Art" is given by Richard F. Lemal, recording secretary. The News Letter editor is Harry E. Sawyer.



## TO THE LADIES —

Next Meeting: New time, new place, all-new program. The time: Friday, October 16 (third Friday, not second), 5:30 p.m. assembly. The place: Chances R, at Wabash and Chestnut streets, a half-block from the book store; the place for hamburger on black bread and peanut hulls on the floor.

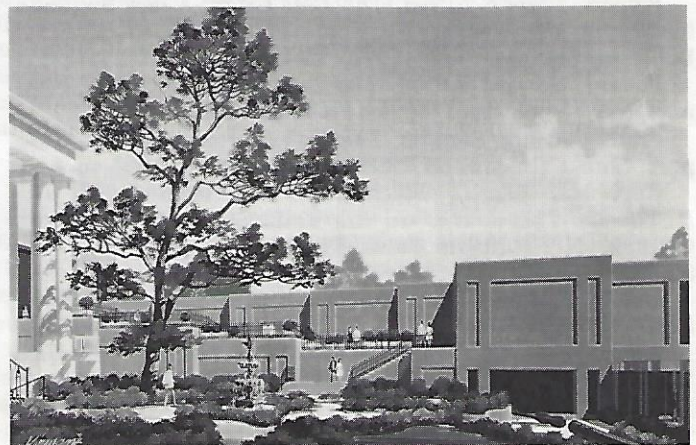
The program: Buster Keaton in "The General," one of the best and funniest of all silent motion pictures; certainly the funniest on the Civil War, and yet based on actual events of the Andrews Raid and the stealing of the locomotive "The General." Papa saw it May 8 at CWRT; here's your chance to catch up. (But we are planning to scoop Papa on a couple of programs this year, so keep watching.)

The girl to call for reservations is Joyce Warshaw, 1319 Crain Street, Evanston, Ill. 60202; phone 866-6667.

Last Meeting: Howdy to everyone from Pete and Barbara Long came from Laramie, Wyoming, by tape recording, telling in detail the story of their horrendous move of 250 cartons of books and 150 cartons of household goods (Barbara seems to come up short on this showing). It took Mayflower's largest (25,000 pounds) van to start the move and some neighborhood junior vandal started a forest fire among the debris left over, endangering the mulberry tree. However, Pete, Barbara, and the cat finally got on their way, arriving just in time for Laramie Days and the rodeo—and Pete admits a look at the sexy cowgirls filling the streets for that event was worth the trip and made it mandatory to take part in the street dance that night. Pete cut in to report a great welcome at the university, with time for research as well as work with eager Civil War students.

The Camp Followers nearly missed all this, for the tape was with Joyce and Jerry and their car developed a flat tire before it got out of Evanston. Joyce and Jerry had blank tape and recorder with them and started a recording of their tale of woe in trying to carry the good news from halls of ivy to Book and Bottle. So fast was their mission after the recovery from tire trouble that room was left on the tape for greetings to Barbara and Pete from all present.

THE WHITE HOUSE OF THE CONFEDERACY, left, will celebrate its 75th anniversary as a museum in 1971, and as The Museum of the Confederacy plans a new exhibits building and expanded garden as shown in an artist's rendering, below. The White House is to be completely restored to the period 1861-65 when it was occupied by President Jefferson Davis. Those interested in supporting this program of historic preservation should become members of The Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 East Clay Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.





## THE NEW BOOKS



Abel, Annie Heloise. *The American Indian under Reconstruction*. N.Y.: Johnson Reprint, 1970. Original of 1925. \$12.50.

Bakeless, John. *Spies of the Confederacy*. N.Y.: Lippincott, 1970. \$7.95.

Beauregard, Pierre Gustave Toutant. *With Beauregard in Mexico*, (his) Mexican War Reminiscences, ed. by T. Harry Williams. N.Y.: Da Capo Press, 1969. Reprint 1956 ed. \$10.

Blassingame, Wyatt. *William Tecumseh Sherman, Defender of the Union*. Illus. by Ron Lesser. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall (1970). A juvenile. \$4.50.

Clay, Cassius Marcellus. *The Life of Cassius Marcellus Clay; Memoirs, Writings, and Speeches...* N.Y.: Negro Universities Press, (1969). \$10. Reprint 1886 ed.

Clay-Clopton, Virginia. *A Belle of the Fifties; Memoirs of Mrs. Clay of Alabama...* N.Y.: Da Capo Press, 1969. Reprint 1905 ed. \$15.

Coleman, John Winston. *Slavery Times in Kentucky*. N.Y.: Johnson Reprint, 1970. Reprint 1940 ed. \$12.

Cruden, Robert. *The Negro in Reconstruction*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1969. \$5.95; paper \$2.45.

Fehrenbacher, Don E., compiler. *The Leadership of Abraham Lincoln*. N.Y.: Wiley (1970). \$6.95; paper \$2.95.

Fessenden, Francis. *Life and Public Services of William Pitt Fessenden*. N.Y.: Da Capo, 1970. 2 vols. Reprint 1907 ed. \$37.50.

Freeman, Douglas Southall. *A Calendar of Confederate Papers...* N.Y.: Kraus Reprint, 1970. Original edition of 1908 limited to 1,000 copies. \$27.50.

Hesseltine, William Best. *Confederate Leaders in the New South*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, (1970) Original of 1950. \$8.25.

Higginson, Thomas Wentworth. *Army Life in a Black Regiment*. Ed. & abridged by Genevieve S. Gray. N.Y.: Grosset, (1970). \$3.95.

Knight, Edgar Wallace. *The Influence of Reconstruction on Education in the South*. N.Y.: Arno, 1969. \$4. Reprint 1913 ed.

Merrill, James M. *Battle Flags South: The Story of the Civil War Navies on Western Waters*. Rutherford (N.J.), Fairleigh Dickinson University Press (1970). \$10.

Pearce, Thilbert Howard. *They Fought; the Story of Franklin County Men in the Years 1861-1865*. Chicago: The Adams Press, 1970. \$6.95.

Plowden, David., editor. *Lincoln and his America, 1809-1865*. With the words of Abraham Lincoln arranged by David Plowden and the editors of The Viking Press. Foreword by John Gunther. N.Y.: Viking, 1970. To Dec. 31, 1970 \$19.95; thereafter \$22.50.

Pollard, Edward Alfred. *The Lost Cause; a new Southern history of the War of the Confederates...* Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries Press, (1970). \$24.50

Pollard, Edward Alfred. *The Lost Cause Regained*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries Press, (1970). \$24.50.

Pratt, Fletcher. *Stanton, Lincoln's Secretary of War*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, (1970). Reprint 1953 ed. \$18.

Reynolds, Elhanan Winchester. *The True Story Of The Barons Of The South: or, the Rationale of the American Conflict*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr., 1970. Reprint 1862 ed. \$9.50.

Reynolds, John Schreiner. *Reconstruction In South Carolina, 1865-1877*. Reprint 1905 ed. N.Y.: Negro Pr., 1969. \$16.

Ripley, Warren. *Artillery And Ammunition Of The Civil War*. N.Y.: Van Nostrand-Reinhold. 1970. \$22.50.

Roche, A. K., ed. *...even the Promise of Freedom*. in the words of Abraham Lincoln. Edited and designed by A. K.

## BULLETIN BOARD



### FUTURE MEETINGS

All regular meetings are scheduled for the second Friday in each month (except July and August) at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle Street, 11th floor.

October 16: Ed Bearss on "Grant's Assaults on Vicksburg."

November 13: To be announced

Change of Address: Arnold Marcus Chernoff, 29 Londonderry Lane, Lincolnshire, Deerfield, Ill. 60015 (office)

Margo Twiss (Mrs. J. W.) Heegeman, 344 Gainesborough Road, Carolanne Farms, Virginia Beach, Va. 23462

Cincinnati CWRT Newsletter, Jim Blount, 1744 Sunset Drive, Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Death. Word has been received of the death of A. P. Andrews, our speaker last June 5 on "Gen. Earl Van Dorn."

Roche. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, (1970). \$4.75.

Scherer, James Augustin Brown. *Cotton As A World Power: A Study in the Economic Interpretation of History*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr., 1969. Reprint 1916 ed. \$14.75.

Schurz, Carl. *Intimate Letters Of Carl Schurz, 1841-1869*.

N.Y.: Da Capo, 1970. Copyright orig. 1929. \$17.50.

Schurz, Carl. *Speeches, Correspondence and Political Papers of Carl Schurz*. Selected & ed. by Frederic Bancroft... N.Y.: Negro Universities Press, (1969). 6 vols. Reprint 1913 ed. \$87.00.

Scott, Winfield. *Memoirs of Lieut.-General Scott, LLD*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries (1970). Reprint 1864 ed. \$27.50.

Seitz, Don Carlos. *Horace Greeley: Founder of the New York Tribune*. Reprint 1926 ed. N.Y.: AMS Press, 1970. \$11.50.

Sherman, Henry. *Slavery In The United States Of America: Its National Recognition and Relations, from the Establishment of the Confederacy to the Present Time. A Word to the North and the South*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Press, 1969. Reprint 1860 ed. \$8.50.

Smith, Edward Conrad. *The Borderland in the Civil War*. N.Y.: AMS Press, (1970). Reprint 1927 ed. \$13.00.

Starobin, Robert S. *Industrial Slavery In The Old South*. N.Y.: Oxford Univ. Press, 1970. \$7.95.

Still, William. *The Underground Railroad*. Foreword by Benjamin Quarles. Chicago: Johnson Pub. Co., 1970. \$10.50.

Storey, Moorfield. *Charles Sumner*. N.Y.: Russell & Russell, 1970. Reprint 1900 ed. \$13.50.

Sunderland, Glenn W. *Five Days to Glory*. South Brunswick (N.J.), (1970). Personal narrative of Tighlman Jones, 1846-1864. \$6.50.

Tatum, Georgia Lee. *Disloyalty in the Confederacy*. N.Y.: AMS Press, (1970). \$8.50. Original of 1934.

Thomason, John W. *Jeb Stuart*. N.Y.: Scribner's, 1970. \$9.95. Back in print.

Thompson, Henry Tazewell. *Ousting The Carpetbagger From South Carolina*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Press, 1969. Reprint 1926 ed. \$9.

Trefousse, Hans L. *Background for Radical Reconstruction; Testimony taken from the hearings of the Joint Committee on Reconstruction, the Select Committee on the Memphis Riots and Massacres, and the Select Committee on the New Orleans Riots, 1866 and 1867*. Edited by... Boston: Little, Brown (1970). Paper \$3.50.