

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXII, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June, 1972

## Robert H. Fowler on New Discoveries about the Civil War

Robert H. Fowler, general manager of "Civil War Times Illustrated," will be speaker at the June 9, 1972, meeting of the Civil War Round Table at the Chicago Bar Association on "New Discoveries about the Civil War" as he has observed them since he founded the magazine in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1959. Since then it has grown to a circulation of 32,000, besides expanding into the National Historical Society, publishing "American History Illustrated" with a membership of 70,000, and recently a third magazine, "Early American Life," has been added, with a circulation of 28,000.



Robert H. Fowler

In outlining the subject matter of his talk, Mr. Fowler writes:

"The Civil War was settled in 1865 at Appomattox, and with the publication of various Generals' memoirs and the OFFICIAL RECORDS all the information that means anything was in print . . . or was it?"

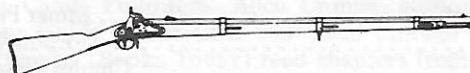
"I thought so when I started CIVIL WAR TIMES in 1959 as a part-time project, but every year of publication further convinced me that my original assumption was wrong. New discoveries are constantly popping out about the Civil War.

"For instance, Lee's early feeling that Negroes should be used as Confederate soldiers; a first-person account by Billy Mahone about the retreat to Appomattox; a Union Colonel's description of the Battle of Fredericksburg as seen from a balloon; some unpublished photographs of Grant and his family; even the true story of General Schimmelfennig's hiding place in Gettysburg while the battle raged . . . these are just a few of the items CIVIL WAR TIMES Illustrated has published in recent years, not to mention the full story of the massacre of Negro soldiers at Saltville, Va. in October 1864 and the truth about what happened to several hundred thousand dollars in Confederate funds in Canada.

"I also will talk about a few goodies we are checking on now for future publication."

Robert Howard Fowler was born July 2, 1926, in Monroe, North Carolina, where his father, James, was a livestock dealer and father of ten children by two marriages. In 1934 the family moved to Charlotte, where Bob grew up. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve, 1945-46, entered Guilford College in 1947, and received an A. B. at the University of North Carolina in 1950, and an M.A. in journalism at Columbia University in 1954.

He was reporter for the Reidsville Review and the Greensboro Daily News before leaving North Carolina for Florida in 1955 to become city editor of the St. Petersburg Times. In 1956 he became editorial writer for the Harrisburg Patriot-



312th REGULAR MEETING

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Robert H. Fowler

general manager

Civil War Times Illustrated

on

New Discoveries about the Civil War

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Friday, June 9, 1972

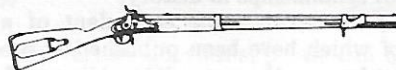
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Chicago Bar Association  
29 South LaSalle Street

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Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



News where he received prizes for editorials and public service from the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association. A series of newspaper articles for the 94th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1957 led to his magazine career. The following year he teamed with L. E. Smith to get out a tabloid-style publication devoted to the battle. It proved successful, so they followed it with another on Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. This led to the first issue of "Civil War Times" in April, 1959. It was published monthly except March and September, a schedule still continued. At the end of a year it had 3,600 subscribers, and was still a part-time project.

CIVIL WAR TOUR OF CHICAGO—Sunday, June 25, open to everyone at \$8.50 each, including brunch—details on page 3.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Phone: Whitehall 4-3085

## OFFICERS

President	Marshall Krolick
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Vice President	Henry Kennedy
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Contributing Editor	Dick Clark
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Leader of the Band	Miles Janousek

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Executive Committee)

Terms expiring in 1972: Ward Smidl, Francis Geigle, Norman Toberman.

Terms expiring in 1973: Richard Cohen, George Fleming, Don Sikorski.

Founding Newsletter editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968



The partners then enlisted the aid of Lt. Gen. E. J. Stackpole, author and publisher, in organizing Historical Times, Incorporated. The publication was changed from tabloid to magazine format, and in 1962 the word "Illustrated" was added to the title, along with colored covers and a generous use of pictures. The Civil War Centennial gave impetus to the publication, but circulation continued to increase after the observance was over. In 1966 "American History Illustrated" was started and in 1969 the National Historical Society was organized. The society conducts tours and seminars, offers discounts on books of history, and has set up a program of scholarships in history.

Bob Fowler has written the equivalent of a number of books, most of which have been published as special issues of the magazines. Among these are "An Album of the Lincoln Murder," 1965, also separately published in soft and hardback, and a life of Matt Henson, Negro who went to the North Pole with Admiral Peary. A special on Gettysburg in 1963 was printed in 102,000 copies, but its early sale failed to pay the printing bill. However it eventually sold out, and a second printing of 50,000 was added in 1968.

Robert H. Fowler and Beverly Jeanne Utley were married June 30, 1950. Mrs. Fowler was associate editor and secretary during the magazine's beginnings and she is a popular lecturer for clubs and other groups. They have four children, Wade, Alyce Mundy, Robert Howard, Jr., and Susanna Jeanne. Their home is in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

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The National Park Service has named Al Banton to head the Lincoln Home area, Springfield, Illinois.

*from the  
Editor's pen*



The 150th birthday of Ulysses S. Grant, April 27, 1972, was celebrated April 21 at the Chicago Public Library by The Civil War Round Table in conjunction with the Ulysses S. Grant Association, the Illinois Special Events Commission, the Friends of the Library, guests and wives, with due and ancient ceremony, including a look at the famed collections of the G.A.R. Room. The collation, to borrow a term from Grant's day, was pronounced excellent. Jazz Limited, admitting it had never before played "Lorena," did it very well, along with "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and other period pieces.

T. Harry Williams, at work on "Grant as President," did not limit his talk to that aspect, but did emphasize that a re-evaluation of Grant as President might be in order. Grant's life was marked by failures before the war, and in business after the Presidency. While his personal integrity is not assailed, his administration was marked by scandals. Bruce Catton sees him as great only as soldier, a view in which Gen. J. F. C. Fuller concurred. Senator Wayne Morse once stated that in comparison with another soldier-president, Eisenhower, Grant was made to look like a statesman. Both were inarticulate. Henry Adams saw Grant as dull, unimaginative, and unlearned. Yet Grant's "Memoirs" is regarded as one of the great works of Civil War and military history, praised by such varied critics as Matthew Arnold, William Dean Howells, and Gertrude Stein.

Taylor, Grant, and Eisenhower, the three professional soldiers who became President, all looked upon that office as above politics. Both Grant and Eisenhower saw it as an administrative office to execute the will of the people, that will being expressed by Congress. Both, recognizing the fear of the "man on horseback" used too little power. Grant expressed it as "having no policy of my own; my duty to enforce the will of the people." Grant was not devoid of originality; during the panic of 1873 he proposed a program of employment on public works, an idea not accepted until 60 years later. Nor was he devoid of humor. When it was remarked that Senator Charles Sumner "did not believe the Bible" Grant snapped "Of course not. He did not write it."

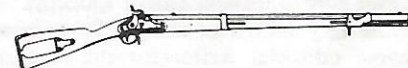
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While attendance at the Grant party was strictly limited, and late-comers were denied a reservation, invasion by a gate crasher, was narrowly averted by the quick action of Ward and Edie Smidl. Appropriately named Sara Grant Smidl, all 6 pounds, 4 ounces of her, agreed to make her appearance at a nearby hospital at 11 p.m. the night of the party.

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## WELLS ON DOUGLAS

Damon Wells, Jr., speaking on Stephen A. Douglas May 12, gave a talk that will be long remembered, according to all reports that reached your editor who was unfortunately temporarily incapacitated that evening and thus unable to give the customary account. "A very personable and obviously very bright young man," was the verdict on Wells by one of our veteran members, who continues, "I marvel, wondering whether it's history or investment business that is his avocation." Our inability to give a summary of the talk is the less regretted because of the publication of Wells's book, "Stephen A. Douglas: The Last Years, 1857-1861" where you can get it all and much more accurately than might appear in these columns.



CIVIL WAR TOUR OF CHICAGO  
SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 1972

9:00-10:00 A.M.—Pickle Barrel Restaurant, Howard and Western. (Park your car and lock it. . . free parking.)

Civil War Lox and Bagel Breakfast . . . LoX-Smoked Fish-Cheese-Tomatoes-Onions-Olives-Bagels-Hard Rolls-Sweet Rolls and 2 Eggs any style-Coffee-Tea or Milk. All you can eat. Then air conditioned buses leave.

10:00 A.M.—Calvary Cemetery, Evanston, Illinois. The Mulligan Chicago Irish Brigade monument. Brief talk on the Battle of Lexington, Missouri.

10:30 A.M.—Leave for Rosehill Cemetery, Rosehill Drive and Ravenswood to Rosehill Cemetery where we disembark to visit the Leonard Wells Volk monument, the Long John Wentworth Memorial, the Ezra Taylor battery, General Thomas E. G. Ransom grave, the George Thomas G.A.R. Memorial marker for the Chicago veterans of the Chickamauga campaign.

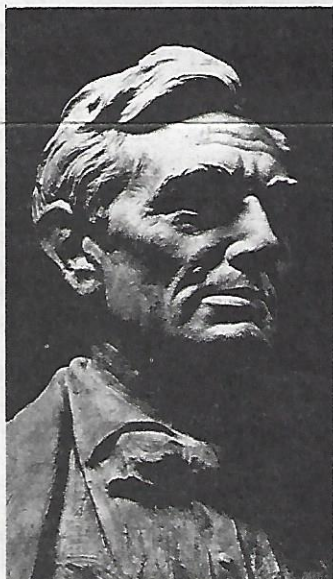
11:00 A.M.—Leave for Graceland Cemetery, on the way we will pass the Germans' statue to their Civil War dead at St. Boniface Cemetery. At 11:30 we arrive at Graceland Cemetery, Irving Park and Clark Street. Here we will visit the Allan Pinkerton grave, the Timmy Webster marker, and Katy Warren grave. Webster was executed by the confederacy—master Federal spy and Pinkerton operative.

Katy Warren was the first lady detective. Pinkerton protected Lincoln on his way to Washington, D.C. and was also the first Chicago Plain Clothes Detective.

12:30 P.M.—Arrive at the new addition to the Chicago Historical Society which contains the Lincoln Furniture, the Painters and Sculptors exhibit of Illinois from 1820-1945, and a special Chicago Fire show.

2:00 P.M.—South to Grant Park viewing two more important Lincoln statues.

3:00 P.M.—Arrive at the Stephen A. Douglas tomb and Memorial 35th Street and Illinois Central tracks.



A CHICAGO LINCOLN STATUE, by Dr. Avarad Fairbanks, sculptor, stands at Lincoln, Lawrence, and Western avenues.



STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS TOMB AND MONUMENT is on a tract that was once his home at 35th Street near Lake Michigan.

TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Meeting: Friday, June 9, 1972 at 5:30 p.m.

Place: Stouffers Restaurant, 32 East Randolph, private dining room.

Program: A real party to end another rewarding year as the Civil War Round Table's *only* unauthorized personnel," and to welcome long time, faithful member, Betty Walter (Mrs. Robert) as the new president. It will be a gala, fun evening—and there may be some surprises!

Reservations: Must be made by Wednesday, June 7, by calling Joyce Warshaw at 866-6667, or writing her (Mrs. Jerry) at 1319 Crain St, Evanston, 60202.

The last meeting, May 12, was a fabulous first for the Camp Followers. Alice Cromie, author of "A Tour Guide to the Civil War", and Chicago Tribune columnist (Books Today) read chapters from her yet unpublished new novel "To See the Elephant". The ladies felt duly honored by Alice's generosity, and hearing her own "asides" over some of the saucier bits will long be cherished.

While it isn't fair to tell more about "To See the Elephant", we can say that it is written in first person by "Si", supposedly one of the most honest and faithful of Civil War correspondents. The dialogue is wickedly witty, and to follow Si through his reporting of varied and amazing experiences is so fast moving it must be classified as downright racy.

"To See the Elephant" will be a sell out; best get in line for your copy! Congratulations to Camp Follower Cromie!

4:00 P.M.—Arrive at Oak Woods Cemetery for a visit to the largest confederate cemetery in the North.

5:30 P.M.—Return to our cars at Howard and Western.

Total cost of the trip: \$8.50 per person . . . including brunch.

Reservations can be made by sending the checks made out to Civil War Round Table, addressed to the Chairman of the Tour, Michael S. Lerner, 1647 W. Belmont Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60657.

If there are any further questions, please call Mike Lerner or his secretary, Miss Virginia Randolph, at Bu 1-7500.

The tour is limited to 120 people, and the first 120 who sign up will make it. Others unfortunately be left out. The buses will be air conditioned. Fun will be guaranteed and children as well as grown ups are invited.

There will be cold drinks, cold pop, and beer on the buses. Take along a picnic lunch if you like. Eat your sandwiches on the way and we are going to try to have an industrial catering truck meet us along the way for sandwiches and refreshments.

The Pickle Barrel will have sandwiches available for anyone who wants to have them to take along to eat on the bus.

We will return about 5:30 or 6:00 P.M. to Howard and Western.

## THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Anderson, Ephraim McDowell. *Memoirs: Historical and Personal; Including the Campaigns of the First Missouri Confederate Brigade*. Second edition. Notes and Foreword by Edwin C. Bearss, Index by Margie Riddle Bearss. Endpaper maps by Barbara Long. Dayton: Morningside Bookshop, [1972]. Limited to 1000 copies. \$15.00

Baringer, William Eldon. *Lincoln's Rise to Power*. St. Clair Shores, Mich.: Scholarly Press, 1971. \$18.50. Originally issued by Little, Brown in 1937.

*Confederate Veteran Magazine. Index*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1972. \$25.00. This is a facsimile reprint of the forty indexes as issued between 1893 and 1932.

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### THE BATTLEFIELD PARKS

Our good friend and fellow member J. Ambler Johnston writes from Richmond:

"As a member of your Round Table, I write this letter to ask if you think the members of the Civil War Round Table would be interested in a situation which seems to be developing in the Congress against the approval of purchase by the National Park Service of critical sections of land adjacent to present Civil War parks.

"My having been closely identified with a group of Richmond citizens who purchased on our own and at considerable expense the very important lands on which six great battles were fought, 1861-65, and then donated them to the State of Virginia and later to the U.S. Government, causes me to be greatly interested in other lands being saved for posterity.

"In recent months the National Park Service has obtained options on critical parcels of land adjacent to Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park. Before this land can be purchased, however, the transactions must be approved by the appropriate committees in Congress. The committees in the House have approved them, but the Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations and Subcommittee on Interior and Insular Affairs have not. The committees apparently have adopted a policy that no more Civil War land can be acquired unless the land contiguous to it is zoned against commercial development. In the meantime, of course, the land will probably be lost to various developments. Senator Alan Bible (D.-Nevada) is chairman of both subcommittees.

"My question is to ask if you think your members would be interested in approaching your own Senators and Representatives expressing your interest in assisting the Park Service to obtain these lands."

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### BATTLEFIELD TOUR

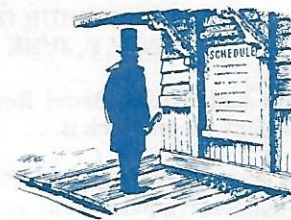
Will Leonard, Chicago Tribune columnist, reported on the battlefield tour in his column in The Tribune of May 13 as follows:

LIKE IT or not, here's our annual report on the Maytime tour of the members of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago to battlefields of a century and more ago down there in Dixie [where the spring is more beautifully advanced than it is up here among us Yankees].

This year the devotees went down to Mississippi, to inspect the terrain covered by General Grant in his campaign to capture Vicksburg in 1863. We didn't learn much we hadn't known before, about the Vicksburg campaign, but we did learn what you do about a guy who asks you if you're a Civil War "buff."

[What a terrible word.] Said Mort Feigen: "Anybody who

## BULLETIN BOARD



### FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle Street, 11th floor, second Friday in each month except as noted.

June 9: Robert H. Fowler on New Discoveries about the Civil War.

June 25: Civil War Tour of Chicago.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Jason's Restaurant (formerly Chodash), 312 West Randolph Street; all members invited.

### NEW MEMBERS

Richard Arthur Busse, 1325 West 45th Avenue, Gary, Ind. 46408.

Robert L. Hamilton, 8 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 2601, Chicago, Ill. 60603.

Sam J. Horner, 22 W 373 Crest Avenue, Medinah, Ill. 60157.

E. Gale Pewitt, 1129 Big Foot Lane, Naperville, Ill. 60540.

Gregory J. Protano. RR 1 Brickville Road, Sycamore, Ill. 60178.

Roy R. Underwood, 3 S 444 Shagbark, Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137.

Frank K. Curtis, 10053 South Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60643.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Dr. Morley McNeal, 675 Carlisle Avenue, Deerfield, Ill. 60015



calls us 'buffs' should get a pie in the face. We call ourselves 'lay historians.'"

A retired colonel, speaking at one of the dinner parties that follows the day's tramping over the battlefields, recalled that once, when applying for a federal job, he was asked: "Do you have any close relatives who advocated the overthrow of the United States government?" He replied: "I had a great-uncle who was a corporal in the Confederate army."

Dan Lapinski recalled the time he went down to Corinth, Miss., a couple of years ago, to do some advance groundwork for a tour of the Civil War Round Table. When he asked a motel owner about booking nearly 100 reservations for some Civil War fans from Chicago, the man angrily ran him out of the place. An hour later Dan was having lunch in a Corinth beanery when the motel owner walked in, still burning, and Dan heard him tell the restaurant owner: "One of them hippies from Chicago wanted to bring a lot of civil rights people into my place. I told him off!"

Golly, the air was nice and tasty and unpolluted down there in Warren County, Mississippi. One Chicagoan growled at us: "Don't just stand there. Breathe deep." We did—and it worked!

We discovered a tombstone in an ancient cemetery at Port Gibson over the grave of one Henry Devine, who died in 1844 at the age of 32. It says, in part: "During the illness which preceded his death he frequently declared that his only wish was to vote for Henry Clay for President. His wish was granted. The last act of his life was to vote the Whig ticket, having done which he declared that he died satisfied."

One heartless Chicagoan cracked: "Good thing he didn't wait for the election returns."