



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXVI, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September, 1965

Clement Silvestro - The Union Leagues in the Civil War - Friday, Sept. 10

Clement M. Silvestro, a member of our Civil War Round Table and director of the Chicago Historical Society, will speak at our meeting Friday, September 10, opening the 1965-66 year. He will speak on "None But Patriots; The Union Leagues in the Civil War."



Clement Silvestro

And, appropriately, the meeting will be held at the Union League Club, 65 West Jackson Blvd. This club was one of the earliest and longest continuing in the organization.

Though Silvestro succeeded Paul Angle as director of Chicago Historical only this year, he had previously been a longtime member of the Civil War Round Table of Madison, Wis. He has researched the Union Leagues for some time.

The Union Leagues were quasi-secret political societies formed during the second year of the Civil War to promote patriotism, nationalism, emancipation, and rally support for the Republican party. Causes were growing opposition to the administration's war objectives, resurgence of the Democratic party, and development of a peace movement. The leagues claimed to be non-partisan, but were controlled by hard-core leaders of the Republican party.

League organization was on a local, state, and national basis. A primary function was to enlist voters to pledge support to the Union and the Lincoln administration's policies. League vigilanti committees kept close watch on individuals suspected of sympathizing with the South. Some leagues secretly armed members as a precaution against real or imagined threats of insurrection from the Knights of the Golden Circle or other pro-southern sympathizers.

The leagues became the self-appointed guardians of loyalty in the North; they set the standards for patriotism on the home front, labelled all critics of the administration "disloyal", and all those who favored a peaceful solution of the crisis "traitors". Cleverly mixing patriotism with partisan politics, league-sponsored mass war meetings were aimed to stir up enthusiasm for the war, and muster support for Republican and Union party candidates at election time.

Silvestro is a native of New Haven, Conn. He was graduated from Central Connecticut State College in 1949, then took graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin, specializing in the Civil War and the Post-war reconstruction period. He received his M.S. in 1951 and his Ph. D. in 1959.

In 1957, Clem became director of the American Association of State and Local History. He edited the association's publication, History News. He conducted for the association a survey on the role of historical societies and agencies in the United States and Canada, the results of which were presented in "A Look at Our-



243rd REGULAR MEETING

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Clement M. Silvestro

on

"None But Patriots;

The Union Leagues in the Civil War"

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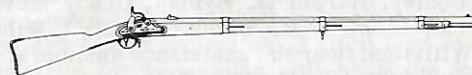
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1965

Union League Club

Cocktails at 5:30

65 West Jackson Blvd.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



MARGIE BEARSS writes in the CWRT of Mississippi newsletter that the limber and caisson lost by Reynolds' Confederates as they retreated in haste across the Big Black river after the battle of Champion Hill in 1863 have been recovered. They were found by Michael Palermo of Vickburg, and with the help of Robert Lum, and William Tate the parts were recovered and are being treated at Grand Gulf Park, near Port Gibson, Miss. They will be put on display at the park. Col. A. W. Reynolds in his official report said, "In attempting to throw over a caisson, the bridge gave way, carrying down the caisson." Mrs. Bearss is supervising constant additions to the Grand Gulf museum and beginning plans for a new museum — from Indian days to the Civil War. She also notes that the Shirley house in the National Military Park at Vicksburg is being restored.

selfes", published in 1962. He inaugurated the association's technical leaflet series and broadened its work with local historical societies.

In 1964 he became associate director of the Chicago Historical Society and was appointed director in 1965.

Silvestro was lecturer at the annual summer seminars at Colonial Williamsburg and the New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown. During World War II he was with the 5th Air Force in the Pacific theater and received the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters. He is married and has one child.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

*from the
Editor's pen*



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BATTLEFIELD TOUR — Hal B. Hixson, chairman; Michael S. Lerner, assistant chairman; Beverly DuBose

Note well the meeting place for our opener of the 1965-66 year. It is at the Union League club, 65 West Jackson Blvd. The place was chosen because the speech of the evening is on the Union Leagues in the Civil War. Members of the club have been invited to join us at the meeting and it is expected that quite a number will. Parking is available in the neighborhood at the south end of the Loop.

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With the end of the Civil War centennial, the number of special events has decreased. Therefore, our Future Meetings and Bulletin Board sections have now been combined under the latter title.

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In his usual vigorous style, T. Harry Williams outlined the "Valley Campaign of 1864" to our meeting of June 11. He emphasized the leadership of Phil Sheridan and Jubal Early and the battle of Cedar Creek. Then he brought in Rutherford Hayes and his leadership of the 23rd Ohio regiment — the subject of his new book. Harry had come to meeting without the map Robert Reilly had drawn for him and a volunteer, Joe Kelly, chalked out one on the blackboard. Harry estimated that the Federals had 31,000 infantry and 6,000 cavalry and the Confederates 11,000 infantry and 4,000 cavalry. Harry touched on the battles of Opequon and Fisher's hill. "Cedar Creek for three hours after its beginning was one of the most fluid battles of the war," Harry said. The Confederates then were almost fought out and "Early at the critical point lost his resolution." At that point Sheridan came on the scene, rallying his retreating men with, "Turn around, we must go back." It was called one of the "most dramatic examples in the war of leadership." The participation of Hayes' regiment was given in considerable detail.

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At the conclusion of the address, Ralph Newman, on behalf of the Round Table, presented Harry with a muster roll of Company G, 23rd Ohio, and officer roll signed by Rutherford Hayes and William B. McKinley, both of them later presidents.

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The meeting attracted ninety-eight members and guests. Arnold Alexander presented the gavel to J. Brooks Davis as incoming president and received a picture and Civil War reprints as outgoing chief.

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At an afternoon party at Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Williams autographed his new book, "Hayes of the Twenty-Third". Guests were treated to cocktails. Davis and four members of the 104th Illinois infantry (reactivated) stood guard, as they did at the meeting. Davis presented Williams with a special award, a cane with five alcoholic compartments.

CHARLES "PIE" DUFOUR will speak to Decatur CWRT on Thursday, Sept. 9. It is a dinner meeting (6 p.m.) at the Blue Mill, 1099 W. Wood St., near the Millikin university campus. Members of Chicago and other CWRT's are invited. Contact Dr. R. E. Mulrooney, 3 Kenwood Place, Decatur, phone 3-6215.

and Allen P. Julian, Atlanta co-chairmen; Gilbert Govan, Chattanooga chairman; Win Stracke, entertainment; Margaret April, registrar.

President's Message

This is the year of our 25th anniversary meeting — in December — and of our 250th meeting. The exciting plans for these affairs alone should make it a year to remember. A 25-year history will be published. Membership will increase (especially in the younger brackets). New speakers and topics will stimulate you. The Fellowship Award must expand and become self-supporting. New places of meeting are being explored. A fine battlefield tour awaits you. Special events and tours are contemplated.

In my mind The Civil War Round Table stands for three things: leadership, scholarship, and fellowship. We have secured this reputation by many methods, but the word WORK stands out. We shall continue our proud traditions if all committee members and officers actively participate in our work and if the membership backs them up.

The Round Table is recreation and at the same time, your responsibility. The more you put into it, the more you get out of it.

Brooks Davis, President

OUR TOWN column in the Thursday neighborhood sections of the Chicago Tribune had an inquiry from Bill Chaveriat, Chicago: "I have been interested in the Civil war for a long time. Are there Civil war clubs in the Chicago area, and where could I write for Civil war memorabilia?" Sue Avery, who conducts the column, replied: "Write the Civil War Round Table, c/o Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago. The Round Table, open to men only, meets once a month. The members and the bookshop can advise you on collecting." Thank you, Sue. Men and some women made inquiries. The men have been placed on the courtesy mailing list of the newsletter and have been invited to visit meetings.

THE VIRGINIA Civil War Commission has issued its 75th and final newsletter. The commission, with James J. Geary as executive director, was perhaps the most successful of the various state efforts promoting the centennial. In October, 1961, the Centennial Center was opened in Richmond and through the years presented exhibits of Virginia's part in the Civil War. In July, 1965, visitors to the center had rolled up a total attendance of 575,000. The center will remain open through November 30. Then the exhibits and fixtures will be disposed of and the building will become part of the state medical college.

ALLAN NEVINS, historian and chairman of the national Civil War Centennial Commission, has endowed a chair of history at Columbia university with a gift of \$500,000. Columbia officials said that to their knowledge this was the first time in the school's 211-year history that one of its former professors had established a faculty chair at the university. The newly created post, as yet unfilled, will be known as the "Allan Nevins Professorship of Economic History."

100 YEARS AFTER, the monthly leaflet of the National Civil War Centennial commission, ceased publication with its June issue, Vol. 8, No. 6. Since May, 1958, eighty-six bulletins were issued. V. C. "Pat" Jones was first editor, and for all numbers compiled the monthly chronology of events. James Robertson served as editor from July, 1963, to the finish. The national commission plans to collect all of the monthly chronologies, edit and print them in booklet form.

Tour to Chattanooga and Atlanta



Members on 1956 tour conversing at Lee and Gordon's mill on Chickamauga battlefield.

Full details of Chicago CWRT 15th Annual Battlefield tour, October 13 to 17, to Chattanooga and Atlanta will be given in a special leaflet to be issued within 10 days or two weeks after this newsletter. However, a reservation form is included with this newsletter for the convenience of those who already are planning to go on the tour.

Briefly, the tour will leave Chicago by plane on Wednesday, October 13. There will be time for some preliminary touring after arrival in Chattanooga. Our guides there will be Gilbert E. Govan and James Livingood. Headquarters will be at the Read House motel for two nights. Tours will include Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and other features.

October 15, departure will be by bus along the route of Sherman's march from Chattanooga to Atlanta. First stop in Atlanta will be at the home of Beverly M. Dubose to view his famed collection of Civil War relics. Then, headquarters for two nights will be at the Stone Mountain motel. In touring of Atlanta, Dubose and Col. Allen P. (Ned) Julian will be our principal guides. The installations at Stone Mountain will be part of the entertainment. And, there will be speakers at evening functions, and the traditional Command Posts.

The tour returns to Chicago by plane from Atlanta on Sunday, October 17. Members who wish to do so, may arrange to fly to New York for the closing day events at the Illinois pavilion at the World's fair. Ralph Newman is chairman of the Illinois commission for the fair.

E. B. LONG and wife, Barbara, will spend September and October at the Huntington Library, San Marino, Cal. Since the completion of research for Bruce Catton's Centennial History of the Civil War, Pete has been working on two books of his own — THE CIVIL WAR ALMANAC, now in the final rewrite and checking stage, and WAR BEYOND THE RIVER, the conflict in the trans-Mississippi and the effect of the entire Civil War on western development. The latter work and some research with Allan Nevins for the remaining volumes of ORDEAL OF THE UNION will occupy most of Pete's time at Huntington. He will also do some research for Bruce Catton on his biography of Grant.

LLOYD MILLER has engagements at Kansas City, Sept. 28; the next day at St. Louis, in October speaks to inmates at Cook County Jail, and in December at Fort Wayne CWRT. This will make 43 speeches he has made on the Battle of Franklin, using his magnetic map board.

THE NEW BOOKS



NEVER CALL RETREAT, by Bruce Catton; E. B. Long, director of research (Doubleday, 555pp, \$5.95 pre-pub, then \$7.50). Vol. III of The Centennial History of the Civil War; first two volumes, THE COMING FURY and TERRIBLE SWIFT SWORD.

HERE COME THE REBELS, by Wilbur S. Nye (Louisiana State U., 448pp, \$7.95). Lee's advance on Gettysburg, with emphasis on Ewell's 2nd Corps, full accounts of engagements at Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville.

GENERAL WILLIAM J. HARDEE: Old Reliable, by Nathaniel C. Hughes, Jr. (L.S.U., 376pp, \$7.50). A full treatment biography.

DOCUMENTS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE HISTORY OF THE SLAVE TRADE IN AMERICA, compiled by Elizabeth Donnan (Octagon Books, 4 volumes, \$75).

THE BUGLE SOFTLY BLOWS: The Diary of Benjamin M. Seaton, edited by Harold B. Simpson (Waco, 117pp). A partial history of the 10th Texas Infantry.

THE END OF AN ERA, by John Sergeant Wise, edited by Curtis Carroll Davis (Yoseloff, 498pp, \$8.50). New issue of an old work.

APPOMATTOX: The Last Campaign, by Burrell Cushing Rodick (Philosophical Library, 220pp, \$6).

CONNECTICUT FOR THE UNION: The Role of the State in the Civil War, by John Niven (Yale, 493pp, \$10).

SALT AS A FACTOR IN THE CONFEDERACY, by Ella Lonn (Southern Historical Publications #4, U. of Alabama, 324pp, \$5.95).

BACK HOME IN ONEIDA: Hermon Clarke and His Letters, edited by Harry F. Jackson and Thomas F. O'Donnell (Syracuse U., 212pp, \$6).

MEMORIALS OF A SOUTHERN PLANTER, by Susan Dabney Smedes, edited by Fletcher M. Green (Knopf, \$6.95). Life on a Mississippi plantation, before, during, and after the Civil War, first published in 1887.

THE SOUTHERN STATES SINCE THE WAR, 1870-71, by Robert Somers (U. of Alabama, 314pp, \$5.95).

THE SOUTH AS IT IS, 1865-66, a Report by John Richard Dennett, edited by Henry M. Christman (Viking, 370pp, \$6.95).

LINCOLN AND THE POETS, by William W. Betts, Jr. (U. of Pittsburgh, 140pp, \$2.50).

THIRTEEN DESPERATE DAYS, by John Mason Potter (Obolensky, 200 pp, \$4.50). The pre-inauguration plot against Lincoln.

LINCOLN: His Words and His World, by the Editors of Country Beautiful (96pp, 40 in full color, \$4.95).

ALBUM OF THE LINCOLN MURDER, published by Civil War Times Illustrated, Gettysburg, Pa., \$2.95.

THE BLOODY SIXTH: the 6th North Carolina Regiment, by Richard W. Iobst and Louis H. Manarin (N.C. Confederate Centennial Commission, Raleigh, 493pp).

WAR WITHIN A WAR: The Confederacy Against Itself, by Carleton Beals (Chilton, \$3.95). Resistance by men who rebelled against the Rebels.

JOHN MOSBY: Rebel Raider of the Civil War, by Anne Welsh Guy (Abelard-Schuman, 125pp, \$3.25). For youngsters.

P.G.T. BEAUREGARD: Napoleon in Gray, by T. Harry Williams (L.S.U., \$5). Back in print.

Buyers and sellers of odd volumes of the OFFICIAL RECORDS may list their wants with Col. John R. Hood, 436 E Street, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, O.

Copies of the oval table upon which Grant wrote his surrender terms at Appomattox are being sold by the

BULLETIN BOARD



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Board of Trustees), and all committee chairmen, called to meet at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10, at Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 East Chestnut street. Chairmen will be called on to report as fully as they can for their committees.

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NEW MEMBERS: John Hope Franklin, 1126 E. 59th St., Chicago 60637; David Hammer, 6301 Sheridan Rd., Chicago 60640; Sherman J. Lavigna, 315 Devon Rd., Battle Creek, Mich.; Harvey L. Long, 103 Willow Rd., Elmhurst, Ill. 60127; Leon N. Skan, 218 Heather Lane, Wilmette, Ill.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday Oct. 6 — Kevin McCann, "James Shields, General and Senator from Illinois".

Oct. 13-17 — 15th Annual Battlefield tour to Chattanooga and Atlanta.

November date and speaker to be announced. 25th anniversary meeting, on or near December 3, formal (optional), Ladies' Night.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sept. 29 — Fredericksburg, Va. — Dedication of monument to Sgt. Richard Kirkland, known as "The Angel of Marye's Heights".

Sept. 30-Oct. 3 — Park Forest CWRT battlefield tour to Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove.

Oct. 8-10 — Illinois State Historical Society at Sterling, Rock Falls, and Dixon.

Meetings of the Confederate Historical Society, Ordnance Arms, 75 York Rd., London SE1, Sept. 29, Nov. 3, and Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. Persons wishing to attend may contact Sec. Kenneth M. Broughton, 19 Montague Ave., Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, England.

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



William R. Holloman is the new superintendent of Richmond Battlefield Park, replacing Wallace T. Stephens who retired.

Biggs Antique Co., 792 Peachtree St., N. E., Atlanta 8, Ga.