

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

April, 1968

Rodney Loehr - 'Blitzkrieg! Wilson's Selma Cavalry Operations' - April 5



Rodney C. Loehr examining a Civil War rifle that is being explained by a youngster in uniform. The incident was part of a television series with Loehr as host and dealing with Civil War subjects. As guests he featured members of the Twin Cities Civil War Round Table.

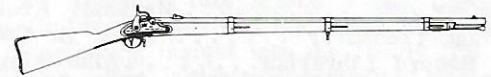
James Harrison Wilson, a general who is a favorite of many of our members, is the chief character of our meeting Friday, April 5. Dr. Rodney C. Loehr, professor of history at the University of Minnesota, is speaker. His subject is "Civil War Blitzkrieg: Cavalry Operations of J. H. Wilson Around Selma."

This is Dr. Loehr's first visit here, but he has had a strong connection through his friend, our member E. B. (Pete) Long. "Pete is one of my favorite people and the one who introduced me to the mysteries of short wave radio," Dr. Loehr said. Loehr is a member of the Twin Cities Civil War Round Table (Minneapolis-St. Paul).

"In dealing with the Wilson story, Dr. Loehr said, "I take Wilson and give his biography and background, his experiences in the Civil War and then the story of his organization the cavalry force that marched 525 miles in 28 days, captured five fortified cities and towns with cavalry, and proved that his troops mounted or on foot, could go anywhere with the use of his 'blitzkrieg.'"

"I show his plans, his diversions to fool the enemy, his movements towards Selma, and battles along the way, the events at Selma, and the continuation of the raid into Georgia. Then I sum up the damage that Wilson did.

"What I will emphasize is that Wilson's raid had been neglected by the overshadowing events of Lee's surrender, and Lincoln's assassination, but that the raid was an augury of wars to come," Loehr said. "My thesis is that Wilson organized a fast-moving force of all arms that was hard-hitting and that was one of the few operations that accomplished all that had been expected. In



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Rodney C. Loehr

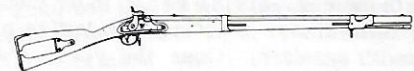
on

"Civil War Blitzkrieg: Cavalry Operations
of J. H. Wilson Around Selma."

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1968

Furniture Club in Furniture Mart Cocktails at 5:30

666 North Lake Shore Drive Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



With the January 1968 meeting, the CWRT of Kansas City began its 12th year.

the force was Wilson, one of the outstanding 'boy generals' of the Civil War, and that other great 'boy general', Emory Upton. Wilson met and defeated the redoubtable Nathan Bedford Forrest, which was quite an accomplishment even that late in the war (Spring, 1865). Wilson's raid did enormous damage to the Southern war potential and ended all hope of further resistance."

Dr. Loehr is a native of Minnesota, received his doctorate at the university, and has taught at the University of Minnesota since 1936, with time out for World War II and some state department service.

In the war he spent most of the time with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and was an assistant secretary of the Committee of Combined Boards. Later he organized the historical section of the J.C.S. and was historical officer. From 1951 to 1953 he was special historian in the office of the United States High Commissioner in Germany.

Dr. Loehr has 136 students - juniors, seniors, and graduate - in his University of Minnesota course that covers the Civil War, Reconstruction, and continues through the Spanish-American war. He reviews books on military history and foreign affairs for the Minneapolis Star and Tribune.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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PARK FOREST CWRT was represented by eight members at our March 8 meeting. The south suburban group was founded by Malcolm Macht, a member of our Round Table. It is headed now by Charles Shields, program chairman, also in our group, with James Gallegar, secretary. The Park Foresters meet eight times a year in one another's homes, featuring their own speakers. Then there is a dinner meeting with ladies present and an "imported" speaker. Over the years the speakers have been Russell Slater, Otto Eisenschiml, Pete Long, Clyde Walton, Ralph Newman, Elmer Brinkman, Richard Harwell, and Alice Cromie. Clement Silvestro is to be the speaker in June this year.

WARREN REEDER and ROBERT ELLSWORTH have been appointed co-chairmen of the Round Table visit to Springfield Aug. 23-26 for the rededication of the Old State House. Hal Hixson requested to be relieved of the chairmanship, but will continue to assist the committee. Ellsworth is director of the state division of tourism in Springfield and will be on the ground for arrangements there. Other Round Tables will be invited to join our group in Springfield.

PETE LONG proved successful and popular in his semester of teaching at University of California, Riverside, and was invited to extend his work. He is now temporary visiting lecturer in Civil War History at the University of California, San Diego, which is actually at La Jolla, the hometown of Ezra (Bud) Warner, a fellow Round Table member. Pete was invited to make six Lincoln and Civil War speeches to various organizations this year. Barbara Long writes that she and Pete have a little house right near the beach at 7405 Monte Vista, La Jolla, and visitors are welcome. The Longs expect to be back in Oak Park about July 1.

*from the
Editor's pen*



The largest gathering of the year (90) for a regular meeting greeted Shelby Foote for his talk March 8 on "Grant Comes to Washington." It was the anniversary of the day in 1864 when Grant went to the White House, met Mr. Lincoln for the first time, and received his commission as lieutenant general and commander of all the Union armies.

Foote read from the manuscript he is preparing for the third volume of his "The Civil War - A Narrative" and which will be in print in about three years. He told of Grant's meeting with the President and reporting to him the plan that eventually won the war. Grant was at the time 41 years old.

Grant went back to Cincinnati and told Sherman, "I'll go for Lee, you go for Joe Johnston." Mobile, too, was an objective, but that prong of the plan fizzled until the last days of the war. Elements in Grant's plan were using the greatest number of forces, hammering forward in attrition, massing troops to use speed, and giving up unnecessary operations.

Foote was not easy on Grant, saying, "He would blame his mistakes on somebody else. He was a very tough man, but also a very tender man. He was whipped in The Wilderness. It was a good thing that Grant and Meade got along so well." The discussion period brought out additional characterizations of Grant.

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Ralph Newman introduced Foote as "a skillful practitioner of the art of the Civil War." At the conclusion, Brooks Davis, awards chairman, presented Foote with a Volk life mask bust of Lincoln and the Round Table's distinguished service award certificate.

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Jim Coulter was hospitality chairman for the evening and conducted the introduction of new members and guests. Jerry Warshaw, co-chairman of the battlefield tour, May 2-5, disclosed that our charter plane will be the White Sox DC-7. We will have a special tour of Ford's theater in Washington.

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President Ver Lynn Sprague disclosed that Don Russell has been this year's standby speaker - available if the scheduled speaker can't appear at the last minute. Don played the role once before and it happened that he and Robert Browne conducted a two-man panel on Custer. Phil Davis was last year's standby speaker and appeared on this year's program.

KANSAS CITY CWRT, which has conferred its Harry S Truman award on a number of men famed in the Civil War field, now has honored one of its own. He is Dr. Howard N. Monnett. He is a charter member of the group, a former president, and author of "Action Before Westport," considered the authoritative book on that engagement. Dr. Monnett was the chief guide and lecturer on our battlefield tour of the Kansas City area last year. He has long been a teacher and administrator in the Kansas City schools.

NEW YORK CWRT's Benjamin Barondess Award for the outstanding contribution to Lincoln scholarship during 1967 was made to Prof. Richard Allen Heckman of Berea College, Kentucky.

LINCOLN COLLEGE invited Lloyd Ostendorf, our February speaker, to deliver the fourth annual Lincoln Memorial lecture on the campus March 28.

Stonewall's Watch



J. Ambler Johnston (center) at location where Stonewall Jackson came out of the woods, looked at his watch, and was felled by a fusilade from his own soldiers.

A dramatic incident of our 1955 tour of Chancellorsville (most of it in the rain) came at the site where Stonewall Jackson came out of the woods and was mortally wounded. J. Ambler Johnston, of Richmond, had Jackson's watch, lent by the Virginia Historical society, and at almost the exact moment, drew it from his pocket, as Stonewall had, and checked the time. Ambler is our honorary chairman on this tour.

The 1955 tour also was a charter flight. Ezra J. (Bud) Warner was a speaker and introduced much of the material that was to become his book, "Generals in Gray," followed by "Generals in Blue." Dr. A. M. Giddings was host at a barbecue on the Tapp's farm portion of the battlefield that he owned. Carl Haverlin was chairman of one of the liveliest of Fun Nights ever -- music and dancers from John Marshall High school of Richmond with Richard Bales as conductor. Francis Wilshin, one of our Honorary Life Award members was chief guide and lecturer. Headquarters was at the Princess Anne hotel.

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Sunday morning, May 5, is set aside for a tour of Fredericksburg's historic places. It may be necessary to assign one bus to some of the places and the other to the remainder. This will be announced. Here are the principal places:

THE RISING SUN TAVERN, Fredericksburg - Colonial story and a half frame building built in 1760 by Charles Washington, youngest brother of George. Became tavern and stage coach stop as early as 1775. Visited by notable personages during the Revolution. Meeting place of the Virginia Society of Cincinnati. Washington's Masonic lodge met there from 1813 to 1815. Furnishings and accessories, of the late 18th century, are of English and American origin.

HUGH MERCER Apothecary Shop, Fredericksburg - A Virginia shrine to medicine and pharmacy and the American Revolution. Mercer, a Scotsman, met George Washington while both were fighting in the French and Indian War. Washington was a frequent visitor to the shop that Mercer set up in Fredericksburg. Mercer fought in the Revolution and was killed at Princeton. The apothecary shop has many items of a pharmacy of 200 years ago.

KENMORE - Home of Col. Fielding Lewis and his wife, Betty Washington, only sister of George. The mansion (Tidewater Virginia architecture) was built for her

TO THE LADIES -

On April 5 the Camp Followers will go to War! Brooks Davis, former president of the Civil War Round Table will illustrate, explain, and make clear the Battle of Perryville. Ladies will be provided with maps, charts and patience while exploring the various colorful personalities involved in the battle. They will chart each movement and assess the results. This is the first talk the Camp Followers have had on a battle subject. The meeting will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. with Brooks' talk. Cocktails and a catered dinner will follow. For reservations write or call Barbara Krolick, 8622 N. Oleander, Niles, Ill. 60648, phone 966-8144.

Betsy Ross Davis, program chairman

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Warren Reeder's talk March 8 on "Lincoln and His Children" provided the Camp Followers with a fascinating insight into the family life of the Lincolns. The ladies took particular interest in Mr. Lincoln's permissive attitude toward his children.

COL. ALLEN P. (NED) JULIAN, an Honorary Award Life Member, frequent speaker to our CWRT, and often fellow campaigner on battlefield tours, is retiring as director of the Atlanta Historical Society. Ned has acquired an interest in a small book business in Atlanta.

PHILIP R. DAVIS is scheduled to speak to the Jackson, Miss., CWRT on May 17 on "Justice in the Confederacy," the subject of his talk to us on December 15. The talk will be published in the May issue of the *Justinian Law Journal*.

in 1752 on an estate of 863 acres. Many famous persons were guests there. Mary Washington, mother of George, is buried near Meditation Rock on former Kenmore plantation ground. A monument "erected by her country-women" marks her grave. Col. Lewis produced and repaired guns for the Revolution on the estate, many times advancing his own money. No reimbursements were made and Kenmore was lost to the Lewis family.

JAMES MONROE Law Office and Museum, Fredericksburg - Where he began law practice in 1786. Furniture the original pieces from the White House after the Monroes lived there for two terms after the War of 1812, including the desk where he signed the message to Congress, part of which became known as the Monroe doctrine. Many other pieces which the Monroes collected in his service abroad. Behind the law office an old fashioned garden with a century-old mulberry tree at its center.

FORD'S THEATER (Washington) - theater open to visitors 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Saturday and on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Lincoln museum in the basement and (across the street) the House Where Lincoln Died, open daily and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Exhibits in the modern Lincoln Museum in the basement relate to three periods of Lincoln's life - Lincoln the Man; Lincoln the Politician; and Lincoln the President.

In the center display area are Lincoln's life mask by Volk and life models of his hands. Many objects used by the Lincolns in their Springfield, Ill., home and at the White House also can be seen. Speech lounges permit visitors to listen to contemporary recordings of selections from Lincoln's speeches.

THE NEW BOOKS



THE ASTONISHING SABER DUEL OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, by James E. Meyers (Springfield, Ill., 44pp, \$1). The 1842 long sword fiasco with James Shields.

ILLINOIS, Land of Lincoln, by Allan Carpenter (Children Press, \$4.50; paper \$1.95).

STUDENTS' HISTORY OF PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS, by George W. May (George W. May, 319 S. Charlton St., Peoria, Ill., 321pp, \$4). Has much to say about Peoria county in the Civil War.

FOUNDERS AND FRONTIERSMEN: Historic Places Commemorating Early Nationhood and the Westward Movement, 1783-1828, by National Park Service personnel (Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 410pp, \$3).

FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM, A History of Negro Americans, by John Hope Franklin (Knopf, \$10.75). Third edition, with new chapter, "The Negro Revolution," beginning in 1960. Book first issued in 1947 and second edition 1956.

EYEWITNESS: The Negro in American History, by William L. Katz (Pitman, \$9.75).

TWELVE YEARS A SLAVE, by Solomon Northup, edited by Sue Eakin and Joseph Logsdon (Louisiana State Press, 288pp, \$7.50).

HERE COMES THE 12TH JERSEY, by Gloucester County Historical Society, Woodbury, N.J.

COL. LAMB'S STORY OF FORT FISHER (Carolina Beach: The Blockade Runner Museum, 40pp, \$1).

THE IMPEACHMENT AND TRIAL OF ANDREW JOHNSON, by David Miller DeWitt (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 644pp, \$8.50).

BEYOND EQUALITY: Labor and the Radical Republicans, 1862-1872, by David Montgomery (Knopf, \$10).

JAMES K. POLK: Continentalist, 1843-1846, by Charles G. Sellers (Princeton, 513pp, \$12.50). Second volume of three volume study of President Polk.

NEW ORLEANS AND THE RAILROADS: The Struggle for Commercial Empire, 1830-1860, by Merl E. Reed (Louisiana State Press, 172pp, \$5).

SWORD OF PESTILENCE: The New Orleans Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1853, by John Duffy (Louisiana State, 191pp, \$5).

BOOK NOTES

Southern Illinois University Press gave an Author's Tea on February 26 at Eastern Illinois University celebrating the publication of "Essays in Illinois History in Honor of Glenn Huron Seymour. Contributors to the work were associates of Dr. Seymour in the E.I.U. history department. Donald F. Tingley edited the volume.

Ralph W. Donnelly, of Falls Church, Va., historian in the Historical Branch, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, has written a history of the Confederate States Marine Corps.

SALT CREEK CWRT is planning a tour to Galena for late May or early June. Galena this year is observing the centennial of Ulysses S. Grant's first presidential campaign. On April 27, Grant's birthday, Galena will hold the 14th annual U. S. Grant Boy Scout pilgrimage. May 20 will mark the nomination of Grant for the Presidency at the Republican convention in Chicago in 1868. Grant returned to Galena in August, 1868, to occupy the mansion the citizens had given him and wait out the successful campaign. His headquarters were at the DeSoto hotel, still a Galena landmark.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

May 2 to 5 - 18th Annual CWRT Battlefield Tour, to area of Fredericksburg, Va.

Friday, May 10 - LeRoy H. Fischer, "The Civil War in Today's Perspective."

Friday, June 7 - T. Harry Williams, "A Yank at Oxford."

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 1-30 - Chicago Historical Society, Exhibition honoring 40th anniversary of DuSable Memorial Society, special programs on 3rd and 7th.

April 4-7 - Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, Sesquicentennial School Science Fair.

April 5-6 - Lincoln, Logan County History Fair at Lincoln College; 104th Illinois Volunteers, re-activated, will perform on 6th.

April 8-26 - Chicago, Carson Pirie Scott & Co., Exhibition of Illinois Miniature Rooms.

April 18 - Territorial day, commemoration of the act of Congress enabling Illinois Territory to call a constitutional convention for statehood and setting the present boundaries of the state.

April 18-20 - Chicago, Illinois State Historical Society spring tour, headquarters at Pick-Congress hotel. Walter Trohan speaker at annual banquet.

April 19-21 - Special Sesquicentennial services in churches.

April 26 - Lisle, DuPage county, Illinois History Trail featuring native Illinois trees and plants at Morton Arboretum.

April 27 - Galena, 14th annual U. S. Grant Boy Scout pilgrimage.

May 18-19 - Vicksburg, New York CWRT battlefield tour.

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NEW MEMBERS: William Leonard, 168 Eugenie St., Chicago 60614; Stanley C. Nocek, 5129 W. 23rd Pl., Cicero, Ill. 60650; Herbert C. Pettersen, 1116 Ridge Rd., Highland Park, Ill. 60035; Burton Rovens, 1447 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago 60626

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: E. B. Long to: 7405 Monte Vista, La Jolla, Calif. 92037; John F. O'Toole to: 134 S. LaSalle St., Chicago 60603.

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AVAILABLE at meetings: Lapel pin, \$2; Key chain with CWRT emblem, 50¢; Cigaret lighter, \$2.



BATON ROUGE CWRT went "far and wide" for its last two speakers. In February it was Dr. Tom Edwards, head of the history department at Whitman College, Walla Walla, Wash., on "Saving the Far West for the Union," and in March it was Dr. Bell Wiley of Atlanta.

MARY WASHINGTON House, Fredericksburg - The last home (1772-1789) of the mother of George Washington. Furnished with authentic 18th century pieces, some of which belonged to Mary Washington. The mantels and panels are original. Quarter-kitchen near rear of house; English type garden. At 1200 Charles street.