

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXVIII, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May, 1968

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

Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer, professor of history at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, speaks Friday, May 10, on "The Civil War in Today's Perspective." He was one of the early members of our Round Table and this will be his third speech before the group - his first was in January, 1943. Through the years he has kept up his connection, has joined in battlefield tours, organized the first collegiate Round Table in the United States at O.S.U., helped form the Oklahoma City CWRT and served as its president, and has spoken to other Round Tables.



LeRoy H. Fischer

LeRoy was born near Centralia, Ill., was a history honor graduate of the high school there, and attended the University of Illinois. He was research graduate assistant of the late Prof. James G. Randall, noted Lincoln and Civil War authority. Fischer received his Ph.D. at Illinois in 1943.

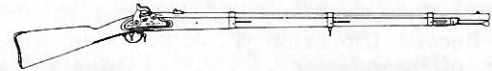
"This will be a kind of sentimental return for me," LeRoy said. "The initial talk was January 19, 1943 (meeting No. 19) on 'Lincoln's Gadfly, Adam Gurowski,' the first talk I ever gave before an adult audience; the second, after years of lecturing to students, was September 17, 1964 (meeting No. 233) on 'Another View of Adam Gurowski.'"

In the intervening years, LeRoy had pursued the Gurowski theme to the ultimate. He was winner of the \$5,000 Civil War Centennial Literary award of the Loyal Legion of the United States (at Gettysburg) for the best book-length manuscript on Civil War biography and history - the title, "Lincoln's Gadfly, Adam Gurowski" (University of Oklahoma Press, 1964).

Of his forthcoming speech, LeRoy comments:

"The impact of the Civil War on today's generations has far reaching implications, and I will take up a number of these in such areas as psychology, economics, sociology, and history. The thinking of the American public is today inextricably tied to the Civil War, and for that reason this conflict touches our lives at innumerable points. The Civil War has captured the imagination and interest of the people of the United States with an impact and force not matched by any other war or event in the American past."

LeRoy served overseas in World War II and took short courses at Oxford and Cambridge before returning to an assistant professorship in history at Ithaca College, Ithaca, N.Y. In 1946 he joined the history department at O.S.U. and has been there since, a full professor since 1960. He has been instructor in courses and seminars, and director of theses and dissertations in Civil War and Reconstruction history. The research of his students has been widely published in historical



271st REGULAR MEETING

* * * * *

Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer

on

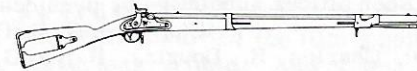
"The Civil War in Today's Perspective"

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FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1968

Furniture Club in Furniture Mart Cocktails at 5:30

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



SOME MEMBERS of the Oklahoma City and Arkansas Round Tables will join New York CWRT on the Vicksburg battlefield tour May 16-19. The New Yorkers are flying to the site the evening of May 16 and headquarters will be at the new Downtowner motel (across the street from Hotel Vicksburg). Edwin Bearss is returning to Vicksburg as chief guide and lecturer for the group. The tour will take in Grand Gulf park. Fred P. Benton, Jr., of Baton Rouge will be an evening speaker. There will be a river trip and cocktail party on the stern-wheeler Kanawha. Col. Henry Hanisee will talk in the evening on "Saga of the Rattler." Manager of the Downtowner is Warren Asher who was head of the Old Southern Tea Room and our caterer on The Sprague on our last trip to Vicksburg. This is New York's first battlefield tour by plane. Baton Rouge CWRT is going on a battlefield tour to the Mobile area.

journals and his students have addressed Civil War Round Tables.

LeRoy is a member of professional and honor societies and author of 25 scholarly articles and many book reviews in professional journals.

He served by appointment of three governors as a member of the Oklahoma Civil War Centennial commission (1958-1965), on the Chisholm Trail Centennial commission (1966-67), the Fort Towson commission, and has been a member of the board of directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society since 1966.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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Report of nominating committee, slate to be voted
on at May meeting:

President Jerry Warshaw
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(Other offices appointive by president)

Chairman G. P. Clausius

Committee: Charles R. Douglas, Ralph G. Newman,
Brooks Davis, and (ex-officio) Ver Lynn Sprague.

* * * * *

Lee F. Miller, a member of the CWRT for 15 years,
died February 17 of a heart attack. He had been with
the Armstrong Paint and Varnish company for 45 years
and was a member of the Societies for Paint Technology
for 25 years. He is survived by his widow and a daughter,
Mrs. Marlene Tegmeyer of Elmhurst, who wrote,
"My dad enjoyed belonging to the club and reading the
Civil War Times and books on the war."



THE JOURNAL of the Confederate Historical Society
(London, Vol. 5 No. 4, Winter 1967) has two comprehensive
articles by Edwin C. Bearss, "Operation Cairo,
Local History in Action," and "Captain Bisso Raises
the Cairo." Other Journal articles include, "Some Observations
on the Enlisted Grade Structure of the United States Army
During the Civil War, 1861-1865," by B. F. Cooling, III, and
"British Born Generals of the Confederacy," by Col. Harry M. Campbell.
Confederate Historical Society's membership at the beginning of this
year was 311, with 139 in Britain, 148 in the United States,
and 24 elsewhere overseas.

Rick Harwell is moving from the librarian's job at
Bowdoin college at Brunswick, Me., to librarian at
Smith College, Northampton, Mass.

*from the
Editor's pen*



Dr. Rodney C. Loehr gave an overall picture of James
Harrison Wilson and a detailed account of his raid on
Selma to the 270th meeting on April 5. He credited Wilson
with developing the cavalry blitzkrieg. In comparative
military skill he brought in the names of Ranald Mackenzie
and Emory Upton.

Wilson was an Illinoisan born near Shawneetown. He
was graduated from West Point and became one of the
"boy wonders" of the Civil War. After the war he
served in many parts of the world and was a great
traveler and prolific writer - superior books that have
been overlooked in the reprinting era of the centennial
and today, Dr. Loehr said.

The number of Wilson's services in the Civil War
exceeded that of many others. He served with Thomas
Sherman, David Hunter, and George McClellan before
fighting under Grant in the Vicksburg campaign. He was
at Missionary Ridge and Knoxville. He headed the cavalry
bureau and saw to it that his force was armed with
the Spencer carbine. He fought at Spotsylvania, around
Petersburg, and in the Shenandoah valley.

Grant sent Wilson to William T. Sherman with high
praise and Sherman assigned him to Nashville. Wilson
fought with distinction at Franklin and Nashville. Then
came the famous Selma 28-day campaign, pushing Nathan
Bedford Forrest. "Velocity was the essence of his
strategy," Dr. Loehr said. "Wilson was so fast the
Confederates didn't have time to get horses. He showed
them what a mounted army could do."

The question period took an unusual turn when Lloyd
Miller was the questioner and Dr. Loehr turned on him
and asked, "Could Forrest have handled an army?"

* * * * *

Because of the tension in Chicago after the assassination
of Dr. Martin Luther King, only fifty-three
members and guests attended the meeting. Membership
chairman James Coulter conducted the introduction of
guests. Among them were Dr. James R. Connor, assistant
provost of Northern Illinois University, DeKalb;
Frasas Welch of Sycamore, and Bill Buckingham, pilot
of the charter plane for the battlefield tour.

* * * * *

Jerry Warshaw, tour co-chairman, announced that the
check-in time had been moved up to 8 a.m., Thursday,
May 2. The plane departs at 9 a.m. and will arrive at
National airport, Washington, D.C., to gain full advantage
of the afternoon inspection of the Fredericksburg battlefield.

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Ralph Newman announced the April 23 birthday memorial
service at the Stephen A. Douglas tomb on Chicago's south side.

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Brooks Davis reported for the nominating committee
(see column 1).

* * * * *

President Ver Lynn Sprague announced that Lloyd
Miller had received \$100 in donations to the Graduate
Fellowship Award fund when he spoke on the "Second
Day at Gettysburg" to the Kansas City, St. Louis, and
Fort Wayne Round Tables. Lloyd still had a remaining
engagement at Indianapolis.

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In introducing Dr. Loehr, Sprague read a telegram
from Pete and Barbara Long, welcoming the professor
who had been their host when Pete spoke in Minneapolis.

Battlefield Tour

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Instead of time scheduled in Battlefield Tour leaflet, Check-In Time has been advanced half an hour to 8 a.m. Thursday, May 2, at Butler Aviation building, O'Hare airport. The charter plane departs for Washington at 9 a.m.

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The tour party, as of date this newsletter goes to press, follows (*persons joining in east, others on plane):

CHICAGO - Mrs. Frances D. Ames, Mrs. Alan R. April, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Davis, H. George Donovan, Charles W. Falkenberg, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Fisher, James T. Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Joseph, Henry W. Kennedy, Mrs. Foreman W. Lebold, William Leonard, Miss Mary Lynn McCree, Ralph G. Newman, Dr. and Mrs. Vernon W. Schick, Mr. and Mrs. Ver Lynn Sprague, Edward R. Stroh, *Gilbert G. Twiss, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Warsaw.

SUBURBS - Alan Aimone, Raymond J. Aimone, West Chicago; Mrs. Lynne Babcock, Glenview; Paul C. Behanna, Highland Park; *Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Brinkman, Skokie; Miner T. Coburn, Wilmette; Mrs. Robert Cromie, Grayslake; Robert Havey, Oak Brook; James L. Henry, LaGrange Park; H. B. Hixson, Hinsdale; Miles Janousek, Naperville; Marshall D. Krolick, Niles; Dan J. Lapinski, Elmhurst; Gordon L. Nelson, Park Ridge; James S. Offutt, LaGrange; Donald F. Pfeuffer, Niles; Mr. and Mrs. Wilson A. Smith, Oak Park; Elmer Underwood, Forest Park; Robert G. Walter, Broadview; Charles D. Wesselhoeft, Lake Bluff; Norman Wiche, Naperville.

ILLINOIS - *James L. Capel, Champaign; *Dr. and Mrs. G. P. Clausius, Belvidere; Dr. R. E. Mulrooney, Decatur.

INDIANA - Sidney L. Pachter and son, Sidney; Warren Reeder and son, Roger; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Whitney, and Mr. and Mrs. John Wilhelm, all of Hammond; *Frank J. Welcher, Indianapolis.

WISCONSIN - John P. Hunter, Madison; Herman W. Pfeil, Milwaukee.

MISSOURI - *Watson Green and *Walker W. Means, Kansas City; Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Margreiter, Jr., St. Louis.

TEXAS - *Albert V. Jernigan, Dallas; *William C. Krone, Richardson.

NEW YORK - *Mr. and Mrs. Will Plank, Marlboro; *Joseph Richter, New York City.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - *Claire E. Graham, *Edward S. Waterbury.

ELSEWHERE - *Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bass, Enid, Okla.; *Dr. and Mrs. A. M. Giddings, Battle Creek, Mich.; Peter H. Johnson, Phoenix, Ariz.; *J. Ambler Johnston, Richmond, Va.; *Alan K. Keay, Sr. & Jr., Narberth, Pa.; *Malcolm Macht, Chatham, N.J.

* * * * *

DR. A. M. GIDDINGS, of Battle Creek, Mich., who will be with us on our 18th Battlefield tour of the Fredericksburg area, has this recollection of the 1955 tour:

"J. Ambler Johnston's thrilling contribution to the tour of the Chancellorsville battlefield in 1955 was made at the point on the Germanna plank road where Gen. Jackson gave Gen. Rodes the order to launch the attack on the 11th Corps. Jackson's wounding took place several hours later near the spot where the Jackson monument now stands.

"We were grouped around Francis Wilshin who had conducted the tour when he announced that Mr. Johnston had something to tell us. J. A. began by complimenting Wilshin for the way he had conducted the tour, leaving little that he could add. He recalled that it was on this spot that Gen. Rodes approached his commander and the well remembered dialogue took place:

TO THE LADIES -

The rioting of Copperheads against Union soldiers at Charleston, Ill., will be the exciting story Betty (Mrs. Robert) Walter will tell to the May 10 Camp Followers meeting. This is a little publicized episode in Illinois Civil War history. Betty obtained background notes on a visit to a re-enactment of the riots last month in Charleston. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. followed by buffet dinner. For reservations, call 944-5082 (evenings) or write program chairman,

-Mrs. Brooks Davis, 18 E. Chestnut St.,
Chicago, Ill. 60611

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Camp Followers gave close attention to Brooks Davis' talk April 5 on the Battle of Perryville. It was their first talk on a battle. Brooks made the going easy by explaining the battle in layman's English and defining battle terms. With that the Battle of Perryville came through clearly.

- Frances Ames

"Are you ready, Gen. Rodes?"

"Yes, sir," Rodes answered.

"Jackson looked at his watch and said, 'You may go forward, sir.'

"At this point J. Ambler reached into his pocket and said, 'My contribution is the watch that Stonewall Jackson held in his hand when he gave the order to launch the attack.'

"Those of us who were there will never forget the thrill engendered by Mr. Johnston's contribution."

* * * * *

The motion picture, "New Market - A Field of Honor," which is featured at New Market Battlefield park, Virginia, and which will be shown at our Fun Night program in Fredericksburg, on May 4, has won two international awards. The International Film and TV Festival of New York awarded the film a gold medal in the historic documentary field. And it was a premier award winner at the Atlanta International Film Festival. J. Hunter Todd, executive producer of the Atlanta festival, said it received "highest honors in attainment of goal, photography, editing, script, and imagination." The 12 minute picture depicts the participation of the corps of cadets of Virginia Military Institute in the 1864 battle of New Market.

Col. Joseph B. Mitchell has invited members of the tour party who can to visit Fort Ward Park while in Virginia. Col. Mitchell, author of "Decisive Battles of the Civil War," is curator of Fort Ward, one of Washington's restored outer defenses.

A PROPOSAL has been submitted to Congress to establish a 67,000-acre Potomac National River park, to extend 195 miles along the Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia sides of the river from the District of Columbia line to Cumberland, Md. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Monument in Maryland-West Virginia and other riverside lands and islands would become part of the National River.

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When Bill Hackett began his talk to the CWRT of Arkansas on "Arkansas During the War," his nose began to bleed. Then it continued through the night. He was taken to a hospital the next morning and was there several days before he was well again.

THE NEW BOOKS



CUSTER'S LAST, by Don Russell (Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas, 67pp, \$6.95). Reproductions of paintings of Little Big Horn with text by our member Don Russell.

FAVOR THE BOLD. CUSTER: The Civil War Years, by D. A. Kinsley (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 308pp, (\$6.95). First of a two volume life of Custer.

FIELD ARTILLERY PROJECTILES OF THE CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865, by Sydney C. Kerksis and Thomas S. Dickey (Phoenix Press, P.O. Box 9736, Atlanta, Ga., 300pp, \$13.50). Every known projectile of both sides discussed and illustrated. Limited edition of 500 copies.

DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN PORTRAITS, edited by Hayward and Blanche Cirker (Dover Publications, New York, 756pp, 4,000 illus., \$30).

A DICTIONARY OF BATTLES, by David Eggenberger (Crowell, 526pp, \$12.50).

UNION PAMPHLETS OF THE CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865, edited by Frank Freidel (Harvard, 2 volume set, \$20).

ESSAYS ON THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, edited by William F. Holmes and Harold M. Hollingsworth (U. of Texas, 107pp, \$3.95). Walter Prescott Webb memorial lectures by Frank E. Vandiver, Martin Hardwick Hall, and Homer L. Kerr, plus a Webb bibliography.

THE GREAT FRONTIER, by Walter Prescott Webb (Texas, \$6). New edition.

CONFEDERATE Soldiers, Sailors, and Civilians Who Died as Prisoners of War at Camp Douglas, Chicago, Ill. 1862-1865 (Edgar Gray Publications, Kalamazoo, Mich. 58pp, \$6).

THE SINGING SOLDIERS: A History of the Civil War in Song, compiled with commentary by Paul Glass, arrangements by Louis Singer (Grosset & Dunlap, 320pp, \$6.95).

WEST OF THE WEST, by Robert Kirsch and William S. Murphy (Dutton, 526 pp, \$10). With a chapter on California in the Civil War.

STONEWALL JACKSON, by John Selby (Van Nostrand, 300 pp, \$8.95). In the Military Commander series.

BELLE BOYD IN CAMP AND PRISON, by Curtis Carroll Davis (Yoseloff, 400pp, \$9.50). Expansion of original 1865 autobiography.

THE BATTLE OF FORT DONELSON, by James Hamilton (Yoseloff, 352pp, \$8.50).

O CAPTAIN! The Death of Abraham Lincoln, by LeRoy Hayman (Four Winds Press, 128pp, \$3.95).

CONFEDERATE MILITARY LAND UNITS, 1861-1865, by William Jere Tancig (Yoseloff, 109pp, \$5).

JACOB N. CARDOZO: Economic Thought in the Antebellum South, by Melvin M. Leiman (Columbia U., 252pp, \$7.50).

FEDERALISM IN THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY, by Curtis Arthur Amlund (Public Affairs Press, Washington, 140pp, \$4.50).

BOOK NOTES

A rare item has been received from J. Ambler Johnston of Richmond, Va. It is a 50 page document and the cover tells part of the story: "The Civil War 1861-1865 in Arkansas and Missouri. Notes on the April, 1967, trip of the Chicago Civil War Round Table. Prepared by J. Ambler Johnston, Honorary Member Virginia Prison Civil War Round Table. Distributed by the Virginia State Penitentiary, July 1967." Ambler tells a bit more in a covering note: "Last June I made a report to the Prison Civil War Round Table resulting in their requesting preparation of a paper which they would send out as a bulletin to their mailing list.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

May 1 - Lincoln, Ill., Law Day at Old Postville Court House, commemorating oldest court site on Lincoln's Eighth Judicial circuit. May 4 - Old Fashioned Court Day at Postville, re-enactment of a trial, beef barbecue.

May 10 - Decatur, Re-enactment of Lincoln's nomination as Republican candidate for President, presented by Community Theater Group.

May 16-19 - New York CWRT Battlefield Tour to Vicksburg.

May 17-19 - Cairo, Ill., Magnolia Festival, parade and ball, centered around Magnolia Manor.

May 18 - Springfield, Old Capitol Art Fair, Lincoln Home Mall.

May 19-31 - Jacksonville, Tours of Gov. Joseph Duncan home, erected in 1834.

May 30 - Carbondale, Memorial Day at Woodlawn cemetery, site of first Memorial day services ordered by Gen. John A. Logan, first commander of the Grand Army of the Republic; parade and historical pageant.

May 30 - June 9 - Belvidere, opening ceremonies of Boone County Historical Society museum.

June 15 - Perryville Battlefield symposium, sponsored by Louisville CWRT.

June 15-22 and Aug. 25-31 - CIVIL WAR TIMES Illustrated battlefield tour to Gettysburg, Antietam, Harpers Ferry, Winchester, Appomattox, Richmond, Fredericksburg, guided by Prof. Frederic A. Klein.

NEW MEMBERS: * * * * *
Rev. Leonard Cochran, O.P., 505 Washington Blvd., Oak Park, Ill. 60302; Meredith Parry, 738 - 9th St., Wilmette, Ill. 60091; Edward B. Stroh, 105 S. LaSalle St., Chicago, 60603.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Ezra J. Warner to: 6281 Avenida Cresta, La Jolla, Cal. 92037; Robert L. Huttner to: 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago 60601.

DECEASED: Lee F. Miller, February 17.

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



"They expected to have it printed by November 1967 and after seeing the advance copy of the cover, I thought of using it as a Christmas card, but alas, it was March 1968 when released.

"It may interest you to know the typing, printing and binding was all done in the penitentiary by inmates, most of whom were members of the Prison Civil War Round Table."

Not only is the booklet a report of the battlefield tour, it has a chronology of Major events, Missouri and Arkansas, 1861-1865, by E. B. (Pete) Long; maps; a report of a trip to a battlefield by P. J. Hohlweck; The Battle of Wilson's Creek, by H. Lee Hoover; summaries of the battles of Lexington, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Lone Jack, and others, along with a bibliography.

It is a prized manuscript for which one can thank Ambler and the Prison CWRT.