

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXII, Number 8

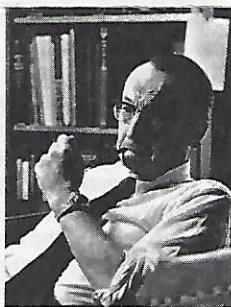
Chicago, Illinois

April, 1972

Grant's 150th Birthday and Ladies Night, Friday, April 21

T. Harry Williams, Speaker, at Chicago Public Library

Commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ulysses S. Grant (the actual date is April 27) offered opportunity for a Ladies' Night of The Civil War Round Table and to join with three other organizations in a special dinner observance, Friday, April 21, 1972, in the Chicago Public Library's Grand Army of the Republic room, rotunda, and auditorium. The other organizations are the Ulysses S. Grant Association, sponsored by Southern Illinois University, the Illinois Special Events Commission, honoring a distinguished Illinoisan, and the Friends of the Chicago Public Library.



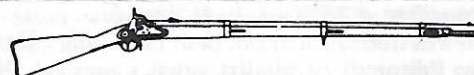
T. Harry Williams

Ulysses S. Grant was born in Ohio in 1822, was graduated from the Military Academy at West Point, and after several years of army service came to Illinois and was resident of Galena when the Civil War began. He went to the front as colonel of the 21st Illinois Volunteer Infantry. In 1864 he became commander in chief with the rank of lieutenant general, and in 1866 became the first after Washington to be commissioned general of the army and first to wear four stars. (His rank is considered equivalent to the five-star rank of World War II.) In 1869 he took office as 18th President of the United States, serving eight years. He died in New York in 1885 and is buried in New York City.

Our speaker, T. Harry Williams of Louisiana State University, has written much on Grant and is currently at work on a book on Grant as President, which will complete the biography of which previous volumes have been written by Lloyd Lewis and Bruce Catton. His subject, "Grant as President" will give us a preview of his findings.

T. Harry Williams was born in Vinegar Hill, Illinois, was graduated from Platteville State Teachers College in 1931 and received a Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1931. He taught at West Virginia University and Municipal University of Omaha before going to Louisiana State University in 1941 where he is Boyd Professor of History.

His books include: "Lincoln and the Radicals," 1941; "Lincoln and His Generals," 1952 (Book of the Month selection); "P. G. T. Beauregard," 1955; with Richard N. Current and Frank Freidel, "A History of the United States," 1959, and "American History: A Survey," 1961; "Americans at War," 1960; "Romance and Realism in Southern Politics," 1961; "McClellan, Sherman, and Grant," 1962; "The Union Sundered," 1963; Volumes V and VI of "Life History of the United States;" "Hayes of the Twenty-third," 1965; and



310th REGULAR MEETING

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

joining with

THE ULYSSES S. GRANT ASSOCIATION
THE ILLINOIS SPECIAL EVENTS COMMISSION
THE FRIENDS OF THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

in inviting you and your lady to a dinner commemorating the 150th birthday of Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885)

to be followed by an address by
T. Harry Williams
of Louisiana State University
on "Grant as President"

* * *

Friday, April 21, 1972

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Grand Army of the Republic Room,
Rotunda and Auditorium
Chicago Public Library

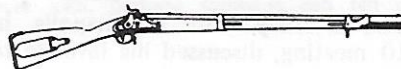
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Reception at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7:30 p.m.

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NOTE: No return card is included with this issue of the Bulletin. Your special invitation includes form for reservation. As the rooms will only accommodate 200, mail checks and reservations promptly.



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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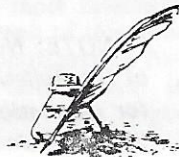


"Huey Long," 1969 (National Book Award, Pulitzer Prize, History Book of the Month Club selection, January, 1970.)

Dr. Williams has also edited: "Hayes: The Diary of a President," 1964; "Every Man a King," by Huey P. Long," 1964; "Military Memoirs of a Confederate," by E. P. Alexander, 1962; "Abraham Lincoln: Selected Speeches, Messages, and Letters," 1957; "With Beauregard in Mexico," 1956; and "Selected Writings and Speeches of Abraham Lincoln," 1943.

He was Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University, England, 1966-67; was president of the Southern Historical Association, 1958-59; vice president, Ulysses S. Grant Association, 1963, and advisory editor, "Papers of Jefferson Davis," 1964. He received the honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws from Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin, 1953, and Doctor of Letters from Bradley University, 1959. He received the Lincoln Diploma of Honor from Lincoln Memorial University, 1956; the Harry S. Truman Award in Civil War History, 1964; and was named Delta Zeta "Man of the Year," in 1965. His "Huey Long" received the Louisiana Literary Award of the Louisiana Library Association, and was named one of 12 outstanding books of 1969 by New York Times Book Review.

*from the
Editor's pen*



Alan T. Nolan, attorney from Indianapolis, in his talk at the March 10 meeting, discussed his favorite topic "The

Iron Brigade"—he is author of the book with that title—then took off from there into a consideration of changing attitudes toward the war and its causes. The Iron Brigade was the only all-Western brigade in the Army of the Potomac. Originally it consisted of three Wisconsin regiments and one from Indiana. Before Gettysburg, the 24th Michigan was added. Commanded through much of its service by Gen. John Gibbon, it won acclaim at Groveton, South Mountain, and the Antietam, and took part in Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. Its finest hour came at the first day of Gettysburg. Backing up John Buford's cavalry, which opened the action, the Iron Brigade held off and delayed the assembling Confederate Army. Commanded by Gen. Abner Doubleday to hold at all costs, it withstood converging and enfilading fire, sometimes at 20 paces, and the withdrawals were made in military formations. The brigade entered the fight with 1,883 men; of these 1,212 were casualties, nearly all killed and wounded; very few prisoners. The 24th Michigan had the highest total losses of any regiment at Gettysburg. (The 1st Minnesota had the highest percentage of losses. Lloyd Miller disputed this; the authority cited was Fox, "Regimental Losses." Pete Long's Almanac does not include the 24th Michigan among the heavy losers.)

This was heroic, but it was also horror. In the then state of medicine, treatment of the wounded was wholly inadequate. Amputations were numerous and nothing was known of sanitation. There was no psychology, no sociology. Families were left to fend for themselves, with no machinery for aiding them—a frequent cause of desertion.

What were they fighting for? In the late 19th century an interpretation arose that eliminated slavery as a primary cause of the war. The war was for the Union—or for Southern independence. Later the economic interpretation became dominant, and our present-day radicals would relate all of the dispute to the power structure.

Pre-war attitudes, North and South, toward the Negro were much the same. Abolitionists were a minority, considered meddling and troublesome. The free Negro had no vote, no opportunity for education, and several Northern states banned the migration of free negroes into the state. Yet in the North slavery was considered a moral wrong. The denial of free speech in the South, the censorship of books and articles that were anti-slavery made it appear that due process and slavery could not exist side by side. The North, with its almost fanatical belief in education and Bible reading was outraged that laws should be enforced denying slaves all education, and all books, including the Bible. The Republican victory in 1860 made all concession to slavery impossible, and that was where the Crittendon compromise and all the others failed. The North was willing to allow slavery to exist where it was, but opposed its expansion. The choice was war or concession to slavery. The rebellion triggered the war, but it was slavery that caused the rebellion.

YOUNG MEMBERS

At the March meeting of the executive board it was noted that no age limit being specified in the CWRT Constitution, all young male persons are invited to attend CWRT meetings and by resolution it was voted that they are eligible for membership.

Taps

Charles Norton Owen, an Honorary Award Life Member of The Civil War Round Table, died February 20, 1972, in Evanston Hospital at the age of 77. He was a long-time resident of Glencoe, his home being at 456 Ida Place. He was a retired manufacturers' representative. As an avocation he taught chess in Glencoe elementary schools. He is survived by a brother.

TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

Meeting: April 21, 1972. Watch for your invitation, and remember, this is the third Friday.

GAR Room, Chicago Public Library, T. Harry Williams speaking on U.S. Grant as President, dinner there with the Round Table. Reservations are limited.

March 10th meeting:

Ralph Newman, founder of the Civil War Round Table, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ford's Theatre Society and Commander-in-Chief of the Camp Followers, honored them with his "Lights go on Again at Ford's Theatre" and his stirring "Lincoln Train".

Ford's Theatre, attended by Abraham Lincoln 10 times during his presidency, is undoubtedly the most famous in the country.

Originally a Baptist Church, the building was purchased in 1861 by John T. Ford, who converted it into a theatre over the strong objections of many church trustees. Within a year, the building burned to the ground.

Undaunted, Ford rebuilt a "New Ford's Theatre" on the same site, and booked in the finest entertainment, minstrel shows, melodramas and Shakesperian revivals, which Lincoln especially appreciated.

Then came Booth . . .

After the assassination, April 14, 1865 (Good Friday) Secretary of War Edwin Stanton had the building closed and guarded by federal troops until after the hanging of the conspirators in July, 1865. Only Mathew Brady was permitted to enter and take detailed pictures of the interior.

In 1866, Ford's Theatre was purchased by an Act of Congress, and became the office of the Adjutant General, with an Army Medical Museum on the third floor.

In 1893, the overloaded interior of the old structure caused a wall to collapse, killing 22 federal employees and wounding 65. Congress closed the building, but in 1932, the National Park Service opened the first Lincoln Museum.

The rebirth of Ford's as a living showplace was sparked in 1954 when President Eisenhower signed a Congressional act, allocating funds for restoration of the building. Ten years later, as part of the Civil War Centennial Celebration, the National Park Service began "Mission 66", the actual reconstruction; working largely from those photographs of Mathew Brady's.

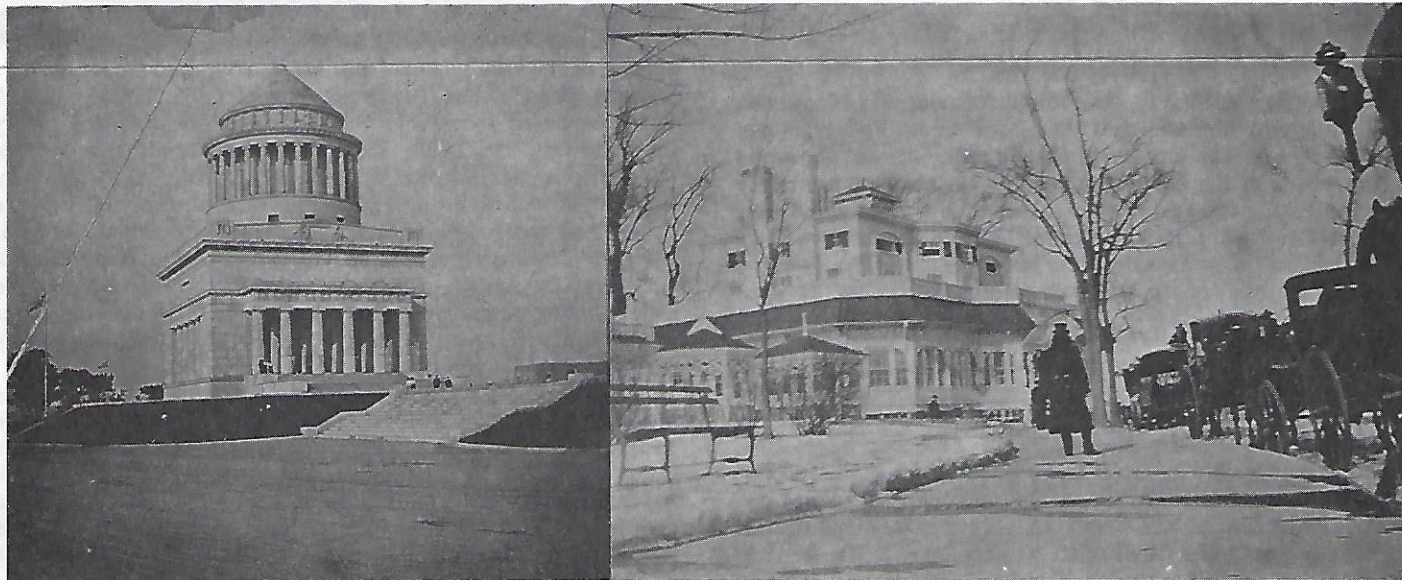
The painstaking task took 3 years and close to 3 million dollars, but on Jan. 30, 1968, a galaxy of stars, on stage at Ford's, were telecast on CBS.

On Feb. 12, 1968, the 158th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the stage at Ford's reverberated with the excitement of actors meeting audiences, and what had been a grim reminder of violence became a living tribute to the spirit of the man who had found within its walls joy, laughter and courage. The lights were on again at Ford's Theatre!

The Ford's Theatre Society is the non-profit organization that raises money, books attractions and commissions new work under mandate of the Department of the Interior. The National Park Service administers the building as a national historical site, and conducts daily tours of the theatre, museum and the Petersen house where Lincoln died.

Ralph read his "Lincoln Train" over NBC in 1965 at the close of the Centennial. He says it is his first attempt at blank verse, but the 22 thrilled Camp Followers who heard it hope it is not his last!

This meeting was held in a private dining room at Stouffer's Restaurant, followed by a delicious dinner—all planned, as usual, by Margaret April.



GRANT'S TOMB, NEW YORK. The photograph at left was probably taken in the 1890s. To right, "The Claremont, near Grant's tomb," is the identification of a photograph taken at about the same time,

showing cabs and horse-drawn vehicles alongside. And to continue our puzzle picture idea, perhaps someone can tell us all about The Claremont.



THE NEW BOOKS

(compiled by Dick Clark)

Alexander, Thomas Benjamin and Richard E. Beringer. *The Anatomy of the Confederate Congress, a Study of the Influences of Member Characteristics on Legislative Voting Behavior, 1861-1865*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1972. \$10.00

Criswell, Grover. *The Official Guide to Confederate Money and Civil War Tokens, Tradesmen and Patriotic*. By Grover Criswell and Herb Romerstien. Hal L. Cohen, design and editorial. [New York] NC Publications [1971]. Paper \$1.00

Denman, Clarence Phillips. *The Secession Movement in Alabama*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. \$10.75. Revision of the author's thesis, University of Michigan 1930. Reprint of the 1933 edition.

Grant, Ulysses Simpson. *Letters of Ulysses S. Grant to His Father and His Youngest Sister, 1857-78*. Edited by his nephew, Jesse Grant Cramer. N.Y.: Kraus Reprint, 1972. \$6.50. Reprint of 1912 edition.

Howard, Oliver Otis. *Autobiography of Oliver Otis Howard, Major General, United States Army*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1971. 2 vols. \$46.50. Reprint of 1907 edition.

Nicolay, Helen. *Lincoln's Secretary; a Biography of John G. Nicolay*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press [1971, c1949]. \$15.25

Robertson, James I., Jr. *The Concise Illustrated History of the Civil War*. Art selected by Frederic Ray. Harrisburg, Pa.: Stackpole, 1971. \$4.95

Sherman, William Tecumseh. *The Sherman Letters; Correspondence between General Sherman and Senator Sherman from 1836 to 1891*. Edited by Rachel Sherman Thorndike. [New York: AMS Press, 1971]. \$20.50.

Thompson, Clara Mildred. *Reconstruction in Georgia: Economic, Social, Political, 1865-1872*. N.Y.: Books for Libraries [1971]. \$14.75. Reprint of 1915 edition.

Thompson, Henry Yates. *An Englishman in the American Civil War; the Diaries of Henry Yates Thompson, 1863*. Edited by Sir Christopher Chancellor. N.Y.: New York University Press [1971]. \$14.50.



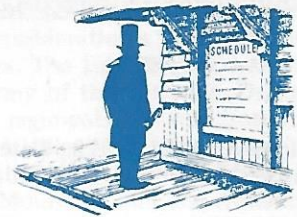
TOUR PICTURE

Our thanks to Dr. Ray Mulrooney for sending Al Meyer an excellent group picture from the Shenandoah Valley tour in response to a recent request in the Bulletin. Almost everyone on the trip is in the picture and an 8" x 10" color print may be obtained for \$5. Send order to the Civil War Round Table, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Ill. 60611 and it will be mailed.

SNODGRASS HOUSE PICTURE

Donald K. Guiton, superintendent, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, writes: "We found the photograph of the Snodgrass House on page 3 of the December issue of the Newsletter to be most interesting. Would it be possible to acquire the photograph of this scene? We would like to have it for our historical photographic file."

The photograph was sent to Supt. Guiton with the compliments of The Civil War Round Table. The original caption identified the site as "Lookout Mountain." Gordon Whitney noted that Snodgrass Hill was the site of Gen. Thomas's stand in the Battle of Chickamauga, a long way from Lookout Mountain and with no relation to the Battle of Lookout Mountain.



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.

April 21: U.S. Grant sesquicentennial at G.A.R. Room, Chicago Public Library, T. Harry Williams, speaker on Grant as President.

May 4-7: Battlefield Tour, Vicksburg Campaign.

May 12: Damon Wells, Jr., on Stephen A. Douglas.

June 14: Robert Fowler

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

William E. McBride, 3525 West Carmen Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60625



HERE AND THERE

CWRT members may have been startled at seeing a smiling Ralph G. Newman peeking from a corner of the Feminique section of the Chicago Tribune, February 14, 1972, but the subject matter proved congruous. "Ralph G. Newman is a man who lives with Lincoln and is happy about it," said the heading of an article concerned with the problem of applying principles of interior decorating to a collection of relics, memorabilia, antiques, and, mainly, books. Betsy Ross Davis was the problem-fixer and Don James wrote the piece.

The Origin of Taps

Taps, the Army call that is last of the day, signifying "Lights Out," hence used symbolically at military funerals, was composed in July, 1862, at Harrison's Landing by Brig Gen. Daniel Butterfield of Morell's division, Fitz-John Porter's corps, Army of the Potomac. Warren A. Reeder sends us a clipping from "The American Cemetery," January, 1872, telling some of the story. Gustav Kobbe, writing in Century magazine, August, 1898, said that he had been unable to trace the call. He heard from Maj. O. W. Norton who said Gen. Butterfield had asked him to sound some notes written on the back of an envelope, and between them they had worked out the call. To this Gen. Butterfield responded that he did not write out the music, and could not, but that he could sound calls on the bugle. "I called in some one who could write music, and produced a change in the call of Taps ... and arranged it as Norton describes."

This story has been told frequently, but it raises the question: When was it officially adopted? The old call, which the general refers to as Taps appears in Hardee's Tactics, and in Casey's Tactics as "To Extinguish Lights." The same call appears in Upton's Infantry Tactics adopted in 1867, but in the 1873 revision the present call appears, still headed "Extinguish Lights." That is still the title in 1883 Artillery Tactics, but it is "Taps" in 1891 Infantry Drill Regulations and also in Cavalry and Light Artillery D.R. of that year. Was "Taps" army slang for the call in 1862, as Gen. Butterfield's use of it might imply, or was he using "Taps" as official since 1891?