

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXVIII, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March, 1968

Shelby Foote - 'Grant Comes to Washington' - Friday, March 8

A standout of the Civil War history field and of our program for the year is the speaker at our March 8 meeting. He is Shelby Foote, author of "The Civil War: A Narrative," with two books issued and one to come. He is author of other general and fiction works.



Shelby Foote

The subject, "Grant Comes to Washington," is right on the button because it was on March 8, 1864, that Ulysses S. Grant arrived in Washington to receive his commission as lieutenant general at the White House, meeting President Abraham Lincoln for the first time. Grant explained his plan for the campaign that opened east and west, in early May of 1864. Four years later he was back in Illinois, nominated for the Presidency in Chicago, and waiting it out in Galena while a successful campaign was in progress.

Foote said his talk will cover the meeting with Lincoln "and a little more." There was an inspection of the Army of the Potomac, and a conference with Gen. George Gordon Meade, "all in preparation for designing the campaign whereby he intended to end the war."

"That is the scene that opens my Volume III," Foote said, "I will start out with a 20 or 30 minute reading, followed by an informal talk and, I hope, discussion. As you know, my work is mainly narrative, but in this instance I go into considerable detail about Grant's plan, a real buster."

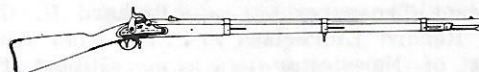
Foote spoke at our 225th meeting, November 15, 1963, on "Grant's Seven Failures Above Vicksburg" to ninety members and guests. The appearance was coincident with publication of his second volume on the Civil War. The first, "Fort Sumter to Perryville," came out in 1958. The second was "From Fredericksburg to Meridian."

In a review, Ralph Newman commented: "Foote was a creative writer before he turned to history....but never does the author abandon the obligation of the historian for the imaginative freedom of the novelist.... He accepted the historian's standards without his paraphernalia, the novelist's methods without his license."

In another review, Richard Harwell said: "The author achieves a wonderful breadth of coverage and recounts the events of the war with an impressive depth of understanding."

When asked about the long time between volumes, Foote said: "I'm a perfectionist. I write, look it over, and write it again until I am satisfied. I am in no hurry." Most readers will agree that his books have shown that quality.

Foote makes his home in Memphis, but comes from a long line of Mississippians. He was born in Greenville,



269th REGULAR MEETING

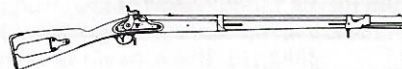
Shelby Foote

on

"Grant Comes to Washington"

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1968

Furniture Club in Furniture Mart Cocktails at 5:30
666 North Lake Shore Drive Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



THE CIVIL WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY and the American Historical Philatelic society joined in honoring the 150th anniversary of Illinois statehood by issuing a set of three covers at Shawneetown on February 12. The covers together show a map of the state with a superimposed likeness of Abraham Lincoln. Each cover bears the Illinois Sesquicentennial stamp, and on one cover there is a 1-cent Lincoln stamp and on another the 4-cent Lincoln-Douglas debate stamp. The group of three is priced at \$1 plus a large stamped and addressed envelope sent to Ernest F. Krulick, 723 Ocean pkwy., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230.

Miss., and went to school there until he entered the University of North Carolina. During World War II he served in the European theater as a captain of artillery. In the period since the war, besides the Civil War narrative, he has written five novels: "Tournament," "Follow Me Down," "Love in a Dry Season," "Shiloh," and "Jourdan County." He was been awarded three Guggenheim fellowships.

In the years since 1963 he has been mostly in Washington D.C., on fellowship grants and working on Volume III of the Civil War. Presently he is writer-in-residence at Hollins College, Roanoke, Va.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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GEORGE A DONDERO, a founder and former president of the Abraham Lincoln-Civil War Round Table of Michigan, died January 29. He was 84. He served in Congress from 1932 to 1957, was chairman of the House public works committee and authored the bill in the House for the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Letter to Wilson Smith:
Dear Mr. Smith:

Please convey my sincere thanks to Joe's friends of the Round Table for their expression of sympathy. I find it very comforting to know Joe had so many good friends. Sincerely, Helen Pratt (Mrs. Joe).

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF ARKANSAS is anxious to join the exchange list of other Round Tables. The address is: Jerry L. Russell, secretary, P.O. Box 3281, Little Rock, Ark., 72207.

MRS. EVA DAVIS formally retired as director of the Old Court House Museum at Vicksburg, Miss., on January 21, and was succeeded by Wm. Edward Finane. In twenty years Miss Eva had built the museum from a historic court house, but bare and run down, to one of the finest attractions in the South.

CLYDE C. WALTON spoke on "Mr. Lincoln Opens His Mail," at the February 13 meeting of New York CWRT. It was New York's Benjamin Barondess Award dinner. Gerhard P. Clausius spoke February 16 at Salt Creek CWRT on "Mary Todd Lincoln." Elmer Brinkman spoke February 6 to the Loop Sertoma Club on John A. Logan.

*from the
Editor's pen*



As background for a display of slides of Abraham Lincoln pictures, Lloyd Ostendorf began his talk at our February 9 meeting with an outline of Lincoln's life and a selection of anecdotes and quotations. "He drew people to him in his day and now," Lloyd said. "There were so many sides to his makeup. Nicknames (Honest Abe, Father Abraham, etc.) reveal the feelings of the people about him. He had fewer faults than most other Presidents. He had a magnetism of personality."

Selecting an odd note, Lloyd said that Lincoln's eyes were known to be blue-gray, but that in portraits artists had made them brown. Lloyd's book, "Lincoln in Photographs, An Album of Every Known Pose," (with Charles Hamilton), had 119 photographs taken at 62 sittings. Now there are 120. No. 120 was found at Richmond, Va., but was made at one of the known sittings.

Then followed a showing of slides of Lincoln pictures, managed by Al Meyer, and with comments by Ostendorf. They ranged from the replica of Lincoln's birthplace, the first known picture in 1846 when Lincoln was 37 years old, through the Illinois photographers, then Gardner and Brady. Pictures of various members of the Hanks family were shown to indicate Lincoln's physical leaning to that side of the family. There was Thomas Lincoln and the portrait that Ostendorf simulated of Nancy Hanks. There were pictures of people associated with Lincoln, Stanton and Grant, for example. Then there were pictures of the home in Springfield, camp scenes, Antietam, the Washington Soldiers' Home, steamboats, a string band, a brass band, and a studio portrait of a sailor. Lloyd commented that studio portraits of service men are hard to find and that the search for Lincoln pictures turned up many others that were almost equally interesting.

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Joseph Eisendrath was hospitality chairman for the evening and conducted the introductions of guests among the 56 present for the meeting. Members present from a distance included President Herbert Y. Livesay of Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn., and Dr. Stewart McClelland of Indianapolis.

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Don Sikorski, president of Salt Creek CWRT, announced that Dr. Gerhard Clausius was their next speaker, with Dan Lapinski and Ver Lynn Sprague at future meetings, and invited our members to join in the meetings at Glen Ellyn library.

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From Illinois Sesquicentennial commission director, Ver Lynn Sprague, our president, members present received an advance printed copy of the speech of Senator Paul Simon on "Lincoln, the Postmaster," at the issuance of the Illinois 150th anniversary stamp at Shawneetown on February 12.

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Sesquicentennial Chairman Ralph Newman was present and someone quipped: "All Illinois history is divided into two parts: Before Newman and after."

DR. SYLVESTER K. STEVENS, author and historian, received the annual Lincoln bronze plaque award of the Lincoln-Civil War Society of Philadelphia. Dr. Stevens taught at Penn State, became state historian, and then director of the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical commission. Among his books was "Pennsylvania, Birthplace of a Nation."

Lincoln Academy Awards

The third annual Lincoln Academy of Illinois assembly was held in Springfield on February 3. Awards for outstanding achievements in their fields were made to United Nations Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg, government; Edward L. Ryerson, commerce and industry; John B. (Jack) Brickhouse, communications; Ivan L. Albright, creative arts and crafts; The Most Rev. William E. McManus, education (superintendent of schools for the archdiocese of Chicago); Katherine Dunham, performing arts, and Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, religion. A special regents' laureate award went to the speaker, Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The same day there was an exhibit in the Capitol rotunda of paintings depicting high points of the Illinois history since it was first traversed in 1673 by Jolliet and Marquette. The 12 paintings were commissioned by Illinois Bell Telephone company as a contribution to the state's sesquicentennial. Artists are Robert Thom, George I. Parrish, Jr., and Douglas M. Parrish. Copies of the paintings, in color, are published by the University of Illinois Press at \$2.75 for sets of four. A leaflet by Robert Sutton gives a commentary on the pictures.

The 12 scenes are these: (1) Jolliet and Marquette visiting Illinois, (2) the British occupying Fort de Chartres, 1765, (3) George Rogers Clark raiding Fort Sackville (Vincennes), 1779, (4) Building the first Fort Dearborn, 1803, (5) Inauguration of Shadrach Bond as first governor of Illinois, 1818, (6) John Deere manufacturing the first steel plow, 1843, (7) Building the Illinois Central Railroad, 1856, (8) Last of the Lincoln-Douglas debates, 1858, (9) Repeal of the Illinois "Black Laws", 1865, (10) W.L.B. Jenney building the first steel skeleton skyscraper, 1884, (11) Jane Addams founding Hull House, 1889, and (12) The first demonstration of nuclear fission at the University of Chicago, 1942. The paintings will be exhibited around the state in the Sesquicentennial year.

A sesquicentennial feature March 23 to 31 is the World Flower and Garden show at the International Amphitheater in Chicago. Many of the exhibits will reflect the 150th Anniversary theme.

THE HISTORY OF ILLINOIS since 1673 is depicted on a Sesquicentennial map which has been commissioned by the Jewel Companies, food suppliers. A free copy of the map will be provided to every school, library, and village office in the state.



VISITORS CENTER at Fredericksburg National Military Park, focal point of our 18th annual Battlefield Tour, May 2 to 5. Host is Supt. William Hollman and Historian Ralph Happel will be our chief guide and lecturer. Park headquarters houses a notable museum of the four battlefields around Fredericksburg.

TO THE LADIES -

For their March 8 meeting, the Camp Followers have captured Warren Reeder, 1963 president of the Civil War Round Table and second generation Civil War descendant. He will speak on "Lincoln and His Children," a common problem Lincoln shared with all of us. Warren traces his interest in the Civil War to stories told by his grandfather in Dwight, Ill., who watched Confederate prisoners in cattle cars go through town on the Chicago and Alton bound for Camp Douglas in Chicago. His interest in the Civil War encompasses many subjects and his large collection includes the Bibles of Stonewall Jackson and John Brown. The meeting will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. with Warren's talk, so he can then proceed to the Round Table meeting. Cocktails and a catered buffet dinner will follow the talk. For reservations call Betty Walter 681-0588.

- Betsy Ross Davis, program chairman
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February 9 being the birthday of Gen. John A. Logan, the Camp Followers sang "Happy Birthday, Dear John." Then, Lenore Fleming did a thoroughly professional job in her talk on "The General's Lady." The girls said her talk was a smash and they could recommend her for a speaker at any Round Table meeting. The dinner, prepared by Camp Followers, was composed of recipes from Eleanor Sprague's Sesquicentennial Cook Book. Included were pickled lamb's tongue, smoked fish, dark olive delight, baked ham, heavenly cabbage, corn bread with bacon, poached pears, frugal bean loaf, cannoli, and Indian pudding. It was delicious and fattening!

FORD'S THEATER REOPENED

Two events marked the reopening of the restored Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. On January 21 Secretary of Interior Stewart L. Udall was host at a "cabinet night" when many noted performers appeared in the first public performance since President Lincoln was assassinated there April 14, 1865.

On Tuesday, January 30, a number of members and ladies of our Civil War Round Table were in the audience when Ford's was opened to the public. Performers included Helen Hayes, Harry Belafonte, Nina Foch, Andy Williams, Frederic March, Henry Fonda, Robert Ryan, Richard Crenna, Odetta, Carmen de LaVallade, and Geoffrey Holder. Secretary Udall, Senator Percy, Chief Justice Warren, and Vice President Humphrey were present. Chairman Ralph Newman led a delegation of the Illinois Sesquicentennial commission. The evening's performance was taped and later shown over the CBS national television network.

A 14-week season of repertory theater began February 12 and ends May 18.

An exhibition hall in the basement of the theater contains the museum items that were displayed on the first floor of the theater before the restoration. A newly added display is the clothes that Lincoln wore the night of the assassination. A gift of \$25,000 from the American Trucking association made possible the purchase of the clothes from Mrs. J. Marvin Smith of North Carolina. Her grandfather, Alphonse Donn, one of the President's bodyguards, received the clothes from Mrs. Lincoln.

IVAN LIGHT, Bloomington, Ill., attorney, who founded the McLean County Civil War Round Table, is chairman of the organization which has been reactivated with the title of McLean County History Round Table.

THE NEW BOOKS



THE NEW BOOKS

LEE AND LONGSTREET AT GETTYSBURG, by Glenn Tucker (Bobbs-Merrill, 286pp, \$6).

ESSAYS IN ILLINOIS HISTORY, by members of History Department of Eastern Illinois University, edited by Donald F. Tingley (Southern Illinois University Press). Book in honor of Glenn H. Seymour, soon to retire after many years of teaching history at E.I.U.

THE PAPERS OF JOHN C. CALHOUN, Vol. iii: 1818-1819, edited by W. Edwin Hemphill (U. of South Carolina, 772pp, \$10).

RESEARCH MATERIALS IN SOUTH CAROLINA, A Guide, by John Hammond Moore (U. of South Carolina, 346pp, \$5.95).

THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU IN SOUTH CAROLINA, 1865-1872, by Martin Abbott (North Carolina, 162pp, \$5).

AMERICAN LIFE IN THE 1840s, edited by Carl Bode (New York U., 368pp, \$7.50). Documents in American Civilization Series.

MONEY, CLASS, AND PARTY: An Economic Study of Civil War and Reconstruction, by Robert P. Sharkey (Johns Hopkins, 346pp, paper \$2.95). Political and economic controversy over the Greenbacks.

THE SLAVE SHIP WANDERER, by Tom Henderson Wells (U. of Georgia, \$5).

GEORGIA BOYS WITH STONEWALL JACKSON, by Aurelia Austin (U. of Georgia, paper \$3).

BROADAX AND BAYONETS: The Role of the United States Army in the Development of the Northwest, 1815-1860, by Francis Paul Prucha (Nebraska, 263pp, paper \$1.60). Reissue.

POPULAR CULTURE AND INDUSTRIALISM, 1865-1890, by Henry Nash Smith (New York U., 511pp, \$8.50).

SLAVERY IN THE CITIES: The South, 1820-1860, by Richard C. Wade (Galaxy Books, 340pp, paper \$1.95).

THE DIARY OF JAMES A. GARFIELD, by Frederick D. Williams and Harry James Brown (Michigan State, 2 vols. 466pp and 450pp, \$30 per set).

AMERICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH TO 1860, edited by Robert P. Thomas and Douglass C. North (U. of South Carolina, \$7.95).

AMERICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH SINCE 1860, edited by William Greenleaf (U. of South Carolina, \$7.95).

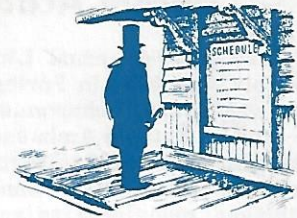
BOURBON DEMOCRACY OF THE MIDDLE WEST, 1865-1896, by Horace Samuel Merrill (U. of Washington, Seattle, 328pp, \$6.95).

CANADA VIEWS THE UNITED STATES: Nineteenth Century Political Attitudes, by S. F. Wise and Robert Craig Brown (U. of Washington, 168pp, \$4.95).

BOOK NOTES

In "Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg," author Glenn Tucker writes: "Longstreet has profited from the popularization of the Civil War. In recent decades the study of Civil War history as a hobby has attracted thousands . . . With this new school the causes of old prejudices have largely disappeared . . . Of some bearing on the increase of public interest in the Civil War was the observance of the centennial from 1961 to 1965, but this in many respects was poorly conducted. Of much greater significance was the founding in Chicago in 1940 of a Civil War Round Table. The round-table idea won favor, and the nucleus in Chicago grew into an institution, extended through northern cities and universities, and soon reached into the South. Flourishing chapters hold regular meetings in Atlanta, Richmond, High Point, Greensboro, and other Southern localities, and conduct frequent excursions, known as 'battlefield stumps,' to the scenes

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS, All on Friday nights:

April 5 - Rodney C. Loehr, "Civil War Blitzkrieg: Cavalry Operations of J. H. Wilson around Selma."

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

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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

March 1 to Dec. 3 - Chicago Historical Society, exhibition, "Early Illinois Up to 1840."

March 2 - Urbana, University Day, marking the Centennial of the University of Illinois.

March 4 - Vandalia, 2d State House, Illinois Cities Charter Day, honoring those cities chartered by the General Assembly while it met at Vandalia, 1820 to 1838.

March 6-31 - Chicago, Sun-Times building, Illinois Arts Council Exhibition, "Chicago and Illinois Artists."

March 17 - Chicago, Illinois Sesquicentennial St. Patrick's Day Parade.

March 23-31 - Chicago, International Amphitheater, Sesquicentennial World Flower and Garden Show.

March 25 - Lincoln, "Lincoln the Student" day at Lincoln College.

March 29 to May 12 - Chicago, Art Institute, "71st Annual Exhibition of Illinois Artists."

April 18-20 - Chicago, Illinois State Historical Society spring tour.

NEW MEMBERS: A. J. Childress, 8308 Langley Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60619; F. R. Geigle, Northern Illinois University, De Kalb, Ill. 60115.

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



of the fighting. Following the establishment of the Round Tables, the appearance of magazines with national circulation devoted wholly to Civil War subjects created a forum for the presentation and exchange of views. The views held by the established and didactic historians, high as may be their repute, have not always withstood the searching analyses of a whole school of ardent Civil War students thoroughly conversant with the literature of the war and with the principal battlefields . . . The magazines brought out an eager new group of Civil War writers; some are gifted in rhetoric, and substantially all are enterprising and persevering in research.

"One of the most ardent of Civil War buffs . . . came to the conclusion . . . that many books had been written on the subject had completely warped the picture of General Longstreet. The picture in my mind changed completely, and the more I study the subject, the more I am convinced that Longstreet was the finest Corps Commander in either army. I have been more or less gratified in recent years to see the picture changing . . . I feel that the increased interest and the many Civil War Round Tables are mainly responsible."