

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXX, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1970

John Simon on 'Grant at Belmont,' Friday, April 10

Early in November 1861, Ulysses S. Grant participated in making "demonstrations" on both sides of the Mississippi south of Cairo as a diversionary tactic to aid a Union attack on Paducah. In the midst of the operation, Grant turned the demonstration into an attack on Confederate forces at Belmont, Mo.



JOHN Y. SIMON

Chicago Civil War Round Tablers on Friday, April 10, will hear John Y. Simon discuss "Grant at Belmont: Victory or Blunder?" Simon, a long-time member of CWRT, is executive director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association in Carbondale and editor of the Grant papers.

"Belmont," says Simon, "was Grant's first and most controversial battle. The key question is whether he was under orders at the time. Why did he attack?"

Our April speaker calls Belmont "a funny battle."

For example, the day before he arrived at Belmont, Grant sent a message to a subordinate that said, "Communicate with me at Belmont," a place he was not expected to stop.

Grant later gave two different reports of the battle in official reports.

Confederate guns on the other side of the river could have driven Grant out, Simon points out, and Confederate reinforcements were sent across the river. "Grant didn't do anything about the ferry boats," according to Simon.

The one-day battle ended with Grant withdrawing with some prisoners, six captured guns and several horses in the wake of action that cost Union and Confederate forces more than 600 men each out of more than 7,000 engaged.

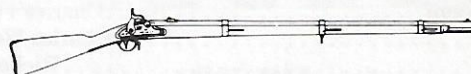
Simon says that he will respond to a request by "Pete" Long that he tell something about the Confederate side of the battle.

Whatever the Confederate side of the story, Simon says, "Belmont was not one of Grant's sterling battles."

Known to many members of the Chicago Civil War Round Table, John Y. Simon holds a special distinction in our club, having joined it at the age of 18, the youngest member ever admitted.

John Simon's career since his admission to membership justifies the CWRT decision. He received his bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College in 1955 and took a master's at Harvard University the following year. In 1961, he was awarded a Ph.D. by Harvard.

From 1957 to 1960, he was a teaching fellow at Harvard and served as an instructor in history at Ohio State University from 1960 to 1962, when he was named executive director and managing editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Association in Carbondale, Ill. An instructor on leave from Ohio State until 1964, Simon in that year was named associate professor of his-



290th REGULAR MEETING

John Y. Simon

on

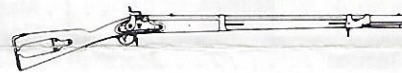
"Grant at Belmont: Victory or Blunder?"

Friday, April 10, 1970

Chicago Bar Association
29 S. LaSalle St.
11th Floor

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



tory at Southern Illinois University, also in Carbondale, a position he now holds.

His books include "Ulysses S. Grant Chronology," published by the association and the Ohio Civil War Centennial Commission in 1963, "General Grant by Matthew Arnold with a Rejoinder by Mark Twain," published by Southern Illinois University Press in 1966, and "The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant," Vol 1, 1837-61 and Vol. 2, Apr.-Sept., 1961, both published by the Southern Illinois University Press.

Simon said that the material from Grant on Belmont will be included in Vol. 3 of the Grant papers to be published later this year. This volume will include Grant's papers from Oct. 1, 1861, to Jan. 7, 1862. The material on Belmont will include maps drawn by Barbara Long that will be available at the April meeting. Grant's papers, when all are published, will reach "at least 15 volumes," according to the editor.

In addition to the Grant papers and his other books, Simon has written more than 20 magazine articles, most of them on Civil War subjects. Directors of the U.S. Grant Association he serves include several members of our Round Table.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Battlefield Tour	Hal Hixon Ned Julian
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Nominating	Brooks Davis
Membership and Hospitality	Marshall Krolick
Speakers Bureau	Gordon Whitney
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Chicago CWRT members are encouraged to contribute material to this Newsletter regularly. Contributions should be sent to Dick Bjorklund, Editor, Chicago Civil War Round Table Newsletter, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Suggestions for material include book reviews, photos of Civil War relics and sites, travel items on Civil War battlefields and monuments, comments on current events involving Civil War history and personal notes.

* * *

Club members who know of the death or illness of anyone associated with the Chicago CWRT are urged to promptly contact President Clyde Walton or the CWRT through the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

from the Editor's pen



Thomas L. Connelly proved at our March meeting that Civil War scholarship is alive and well and living in Civil War Round Table presentations by men as young and vital as he is.

Douglas Southall Freeman and other romanticists may not agree with half of the information and conclusions presented by Connelly about the Civil War career of Robert E. Lee. But Connelly's thesis about Lee was well presented.

Some of Connelly's suggestions:

- There is lots to be done in studying the career of Lee, particularly regarding his use of cavalry in the war.

- There is a need for more scholarly study of the relationship between Lee and the War in the West. Much study of the Civil War, our speaker pointed out, concentrates on battles in Virginia and its environs because of the interest in Robert E. Lee.

He added that the historiographical development tended to concentrate on Lee because he was the only Confederate general alive after the war who was generally popular in the South.

Robert E. Lee, he said, was often compared with Washington; he became a Christ symbol and was generally regarded in the South as the second father of his country.

Despite this, Lee never developed a grand strategy plan, though he was military advisor to the Confederate government from the summer of 1862 until the spring of 1865.

Lee, Connelly feels, had a "localistic view" of the Civil War that shortchanged the Western threat. Lee was generally convinced that the war zone was in Virginia and confined to that area.

Some spirited questioning indicated that most members of the Chicago Civil War Round Table felt that a new assessment of Lee was somewhat overdue.

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Krolick's Kwick Kwiz was won by Miner Coburn's table, apparently without the help of the Civil War Dictionary or any other reference book. The proud author of the Kwiz pointed out that there were no perfect papers.

* * *

Hal Hixon reported on the Battlefield Tour, April 30 to May 3, in Savannah, Charleston and Fort Sumter. "Weather in that part of the country in April and May is delightful," the tour co-chairman said, and more than 30 persons have already signed up for the tour. Reservations may be made with Margaret April, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Cost of the tour ranges from \$230 to \$245, depending upon whether tour participants have single or double rooms. Newsletters of a number of other Round Tables have reported on the Battlefield Tour and a number of outside participants are expected on this Chicago CWRT excursion.

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Collections of the past five years of this newsletter may be purchased for \$7.50 a set from Elmer Underwood at Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. A limited number of the collections is available for sale.

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Speakers Bureau Chairman Gordon Whitney announced that all members are encouraged to pass along to civic, service and other clubs the news that speakers are available from the Chicago Civil War Round Table. Those who are interested may obtain application blanks from Gordon for registration with the speakers bureau. If you have a special Civil War topic that you are willing to discuss at public meetings, contact Gordon Whitney.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Brooks Davis, past president and chairman of the nominating committee, announced that his group will make its report at the April 10 meeting. At the May meeting the slate will be voted upon, and the new officers will take their posts at the close of the June meeting.

Lincoln Day speakers in Ravenswood were Civil War Round Tablers. Warren Reeder spoke on "Lincoln and His Sons" at the Ravenswood Kiwanis Club. Editor Dick Bjorklund spoke on "Lincoln on the North Side" at a meeting of the Northcenter Lions Club.

Brooks Davis, at the urging of his wife Betsy, has started work on the reseeding and fertilizing of world-famous Centennial Park in front of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 E. Chestnut. Centennial Park no longer has its commemorative stone, stolen by midnight prowlers, but it is still the smallest—and in some ways one of the most significant—of Civil War memorials.

Speakers Bureau chairman Gordon Whitney announced that Elmer Brinkman will speak to the Milwaukee CWRT on April 14 on "John A. Logan." Three days later, on April 17, Elmer will speak to the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table on "Benjamin M. Prentiss."

Robert Sterling of Charleston, Ill., a former CWRT member who wants to become a member again (Note that, Marshall Krolick), offers this gambit:

"While watching a rerun of the 'Horse Soldiers' the other afternoon, I started to check through the personnel of Grierson's 6th Illinois Cavalry Regiment. Some of your people probably have discovered this, but the 6th's surgeon was Archibald AGNEW and his second assistant surgeon was Madison NIXON. I'm sure some wag can do something with this."

Miner Coburn, reporting on his winter trip to Southland Civil War sites, tells that he visited Hodgenville, Lincoln's birthplace; battlefields of Stone's River (Murfreesboro) and Franklin, Tenn. At Montgomery, Ala., he visited the first capital of the Confederacy and the first "White House" of the C.S.A. where Jeff Davis lived all of three months.

On the return trip, Coburn visited Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis's last home that was hit by Hurricane Camille last year. He also stopped at Tupelo (Brice's Cross Roads and the Natchez Trace), Shiloh and the area roamed by Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Here is the solution to August Payne's crossword puzzle in the March newsletter.

1	S	2	H	I	3	L	O	4	H
5	L	M			E			O	
	O		6	R	E	7	N	O	
	C		L			8	G	K	
9	U	10	M				11	E	E
12	M	I	L	13	L				R
		N		14	S	15	E		
	16	E	A	R	L	Y			

TO THE LADIES —

April's meeting of the Camp Followers will be the Spring Surprise with no speaker announced. Members are encouraged to bring friends to the April 10 meeting.

The March meeting of the Camp Followers heard CWRT member George Fleming give fresh insights into the military and public career of Illinois' Gen. John A. Logan, founder of the Grand Army of the Republic.

On April 10 cocktails will be served at 5:30 p.m. at 18 E. Chestnut St. Make reservations with Lenore Fleming, 11146 S. Vernon Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60628, 928-8977. Do not make reservations with the Book Store.

CIVIL WAR CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Here is another Civil War crossword puzzle created by August Payne and prepared for the Newsletter by Jerry Warshaw:

1	2		3	4
5			6	
7				
8				
9			10	11
		12		
		13		
14				15

ACROSS

1. CSA Sec'y of State
3. President of CSA
5. 19th Indiana part of the _____ Bridge
7. Union Gen captured Fredericksburg
8. Lt Gen CSA killed at Petersburg
9. ?
10. ?
12. Drill Sgt S Term for Recruits Hay & Straw _____
13. Place in squares
14. Issued American Flag John A
15. English Arm

DOWN

1. Mc Cellan failed to capture in 1862
2. Used by CSA Gen Johnston to bring troops to 1st Manassas
4. The Petersburg Express
6. Union Gen killed by J C Davis
11. Lee's old _____ horse
12. Lee called the gray _____ by Burke Davis

THE NEW BOOKS



Bernath, Stuart L. **SQUALL ACROSS THE ATLANTIC:** American Civil War Prize Cases and Diplomacy. 229p. Univ. California Press, 1970. \$6.50. Mr. Bernath was the 1967-68 winner of the Civil War Round Table Graduate Fellowship Award.

Crenshaw, Ollinger. **THE SLAVE STATES IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1860.** 332p. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1969. \$5.75. Reprint of the 1945 Johns Hopkins Univ. Studies in Hist. & Pol. Sci., ser. 63. no 3.

Catton, Bruce. **PREFACES TO HISTORY.** 230p. N.Y.: Doubleday, 1970. \$6.00

Corder, Eric. **PRELUDE TO CIVIL WAR: KANSAS-MISSOURI, 1854-61.** 168p. N.Y.: Crowell-Collier, 1970. \$4.95.

Helper, Hinton Rowan. **THE IMPENDING CRISIS OF THE SOUTH: How to Meet it.** Reprint 1860 ed. Miami, Fla.: Mnemosyne, 1969. \$8.25

Hoehling, Adolph A. **VICKSBURG: 47 DAYS OF SIEGE . . .** And with the editors of the Army Times Publishing Co. 386p. Day-by-day account of the siege. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice (1969). \$9.95.

Kelly, Dayton. **GENERAL LEE AND HOOD'S TEXAS BRIGADE AT THE BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS.** Hillsboro, Texas: Hill Junior College Press. 250 paper \$3.00; 250 cloth \$5.00. In the Monograph Series in Texas and Confederate History.

Kurtz, Wilbur G. **ATLANTA AND THE OLD SOUTH: Paintings & Drawings by Wilbur G. Kurtz.** Atlanta: American Lithograph Co., 1969. 64p. Paper \$2.98; cloth \$5.98. Intro. by Annie Pye Kurtz and biography by Charlotte Hale Smith; five chapter introductions by five others. A delightful and handsome memorial to the Old South and to our old Friend Wilbur Kurtz, who captured it so well. Color and black and white.

Nash, Howard P. **STORMY PETREL: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF GENERAL BENJAMIN F. BUTLER, 1818-1893.** 335p. Rutherford, N.J.: Fairleigh Dickinson Univ. Pr. (1969). \$10.00.

Nichols, Charles H. **MANY THOUSANDS GONE: the ex-slaves' account of their bondage and freedom.** (Original by Brill, Netherlands, 1963) Bloomington, Indiana Univ. Pr., 1969. Paper \$2.45

Pierce, Edward Lillie. **MEMOIR AND LETTERS OF CHARLES SUMNER.** 2 vols. Miami, Fla.: Mnemosyne (1969). vol. 1 1811-1838, \$11.00; vol. 2 1838-1845, \$12.00. Reprint ed. of 1881.

Pollard, Edward A. **SOUTHERN HISTORY OF THE WAR.** 2 vols. Reprint what ed? \$45.00!

Quarles, Benjamin. **THE NEGRO IN THE CIVIL WAR.** Reprint 1953 ed. with new foreword by the author. N.Y.: Little, Brown, 1969. Paper, \$2.65

Randall, James G. **THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION,** with David Donald. 2d ed. rev. with enlgd. bibl. Lexington, Mass.: D.C. Heath, 1969. \$10.95

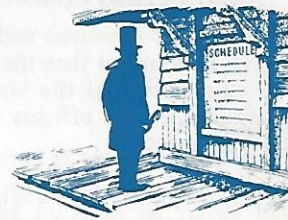
Stevens, Phillip H. **SEARCH OUT THE LAND: A History of American Military Scouts.** Chicago: Rand McNally, 1969. \$4.95

Tate, Allen, **JEFFERSON DAVIS: His Rise and Fall, a Biographical Narrative.** N.Y.: Kraus, 1969. Original of 1929. \$12.00

Thayer, William Roscoe. **THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF JOHN HAY.** 2 vols. N.Y.: Kraus, 1969. \$35.00. Original of 1915

Tower, Philo. **SLAVERY UNMASKED: Being a truthful Narrative of a Three Years' Residence and Journeying in Eleven Southern States. . .** N.Y. Negro Univs. Press, 1969.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

All at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 So. LaSalle St., 11th Floor.

April 10: John Y. Simon on "Grant at Belmont: Victory or Blunder."

May 8: Civil War Film Night with Jerry Warshaw.

June 5: Al Andrews on "Van Dorn"



Stonewall Jackson Memorial Inc., Charlottesville, Va., invites CWRT members to visit seven Jackson Shrines the organization maintains in Virginia. Among them are Jackson's home in Lexington, his military headquarters in Winchester, and Robert E. Lee's boyhood home in Alexandria. More information may be obtained from Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc., 532 Park Street, Charlottesville, Va. 22901. J.W. Johns, president of the memorial, said the group will gladly send literature to CWRT members.

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Members may wish to join the Civil War Round Table Associates, P. O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Ark. 72207, which publishes the Civil War Round Table Digest. Memberships, which include subscriptions to the digest, are \$7.50 per year.

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Jim Adams, editor of the Midwest Railway Historical Society Inc., is interested in knowing of any member of the Chicago CWRT who may be interested in that group through a special interest in railroads in the Civil War. If anyone is interested, contact the society's secretary: Paul Mika, 2942 Belle Plaine, Chicago, Ill. 60618.

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A Civil War note cropped up in the coverage of the threatened destruction of the Germania Club on Germania Place near Clark St. adjacent to Sandburg Village. One news account of the see-saw battle over the club's location pointed out that it was first organized by the Germans who sang at Abraham Lincoln's bier at the County Building in April, 1865.

Reprint 1856 ed. \$14.50

Utey, Robert M.—**FRONTIERSMEN IN BLUE: The United States Army and the Indian, 1848-1865.** N.Y.: Macmillan, 1967. \$9.95

Van Deusen, Glyndon G. **THURLOW WEED, WIZARD OF THE LOBBY.** N.Y.: Da Capo, 1969. Original of 1947—\$15.00

Vandiver, Frank E. **THEIR TATTERED FLAGS: The Epic of the Confederacy.** N.Y.: Harper's Magazine Press, 1970. \$10.00

Welles, Gideon. **LINCOLN AND SEWARD: Remarks upon the Memorial Address of Chas. Francis Adams, on the Late William H. Seward. . .** Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libs. Pr., 1969. Reprint 1874 ed. \$12.50