

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

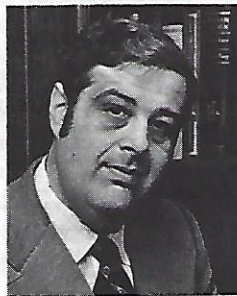
Volume XLVI, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September, 1985

## John Y. Simon To Receive Nevins-Freeman Award

Since 1974, The Civil War Round Table of Chicago annually has bestowed its Nevins-Freeman award upon an individual who has made substantial contributions to our understanding of the history and heritage of our nation's past, focusing most particularly on the events of the Civil War. For 1985, the Awards Committee has selected as the 12th recipient of our Round Table's most prestigious award John Y. Simon, professor of history at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale and editor of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, with 14 volumes of a projected total of 25 now published. The 13th and 14th volumes, both published in July, 1985, take Grant's writings through the conclusion of the Civil War. The Round Table is proud to honor Dr. Simon at the first regular meeting of our 1985-1986 term on September 20, 1985, at the Quality Inn, Halsted and Madison.



John Y. Simon

For his acceptance address, Dr. Simon has selected as his theme, "Editing the Papers of Ulysses S. Grant". His intent is to approach Grant's Civil War career and qualities as a military commander in terms of his correspondence. He will discuss what the letters and dispatches reveal about the techniques he used to approach and solve problems. Here, he will focus on Grant's choice of words, his ability to communicate and his administrative style. The two-volume *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant* is considered to be one of the greatest autobiographies of the English language, and Dr. Simon feels that Grant is but one of the few Civil War commanders who can claim consideration as a man of letters. In the belief that the style is the man, Simon wants to approach Grant from this perspective.

A native of Highland Park, Dr. Simon received his bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College in 1955, his master's from Harvard University in 1956 and his doctorate from Harvard in 1961. In 1983 Lincoln College honored him as Doctor of Humane Letters. There are those among us who will remember that during his undergraduate years, John was a stock clerk at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, working for our founder, Ralph Newman.

He was a teaching fellow at Harvard from 1957 to 1960, and an instructor at Ohio State University from 1960 to 1962. Since 1962 he has served as executive director and managing editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Association. He became associate professor of history at Southern Illinois University in 1964 and was appointed a full professor in 1971.



443rd Regular Meeting

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Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner

Honoring

Dr. John Y. Simon

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Friday, September 20, 1985

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Quality Inn

Halsted and Madison

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$13.00 per person



### Note

This month's meeting is being held on the third Friday of the month, September 20. We will return to our regular schedule, the second Friday of the month, in October.

Dr. Simon has served on the Historians' Advisory Committee of the Illinois Sesquicentennial Commission (1965-68); was vice president of the Illinois State Historical Society (1966-67, 1980-83) and a director of the Society (1967-70); was president of the Illinois Association for the Advancement of History (1983-84), and currently serves as a director of the Association for the term, 1984-87. In 1980, he served as a consultant on the *Papers of Jefferson Davis*, and has been a member of the Editorial Board for those papers from 1980 to the present. Since 1980, he has also been a member of the Editorial Board for the *Documentary History of the First Federal Elections*. He has delivered addresses to 17 different Civil War Round Tables, including our own, most recently in January, 1980 on "Grant as Historian: The *Memoirs* Revisited". He also participated as a panel member discussing the subject, "Civil Rights and the Civil War" at our first Nevins-Freeman Assembly in June, 1983.

In addition to *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, books published by Dr. Simon include *Ulysses S. Grant Chronology*

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# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



**Founded December 3, 1940**  
 18 East Chestnut Street  
 Chicago, Illinois 60611  
 Phone: (312) 944-3085

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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Dan Weinberg, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.



(continued from page 1)

(1963) and *General Grant* by Matthew Arnold with a Rejoinder by Mark Twain (1966). Articles published include "A Lieutenant's View of Shiloh", *Confederate Historical Society Journal* (1964); "From Galena to Appomattox: Grant and Washburne", *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* (1965); "An Illinois Soldier at Vicksburg", *Manuscripts* (1967); "The Facts of the Civil War", *Manuscripts* (1972); "That Obnoxious Order", *Civil War Times Illustrated* (1984); and "Chattanooga Campaign" and "Battle of the Crater", *Encyclopedia of Southern History* (1979).

His awards include the Award of Merit from the Illinois State Historical Society (1970); the Harry S. Truman Award from the Kansas City Civil War Round Table (1972); the Fletcher Pratt Award from the Civil War Round Table of New York (1973); and the Distinguished Service Award from the Association for Documentary Editing (1983).

Dr. Simon's educational career to date and his various literary works certainly fulfill the criteria for eligibility for the Nevins-Freeman Award—scholarship, literary achievement and contributions to the study of Civil War History; The Round Table is pleased and proud to honor him as the 12th recipient of its most prestigious award.

## Ulysses S. Grant Association

The presentation of the Nevins-Freeman Award to John Simon this month, and the fact that 1985 is the centenary of Grant's death, makes this an appropriate time to remind members about The Ulysses S. Grant Association. The Association was established by the Civil War Centennial Commissions of Illinois, New York and Ohio in 1962 to collect and edit the works of Grant, and John Y. Simon was appointed editor. To date, over 200,000 documents relating to Grant have been collected, making possible for the first time an evaluation of his career based on documentary evidence.

A lifetime membership in the Association is only \$100 (tax-deductible). Members receive a 20 per cent discount on volumes of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, the first 14 volumes of which (through April 30, 1985) have now been published. In addition, new members will receive copies of *Ulysses S. Grant: Essays and Documents* and *Ulysses S. Grant: The Man and the Image*.

To become a life member, send a check for \$100, payable to The Ulysses S. Grant Association, Morris Library, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois 62901.

**The Third Annual Midwest Civil War Collectors Show** will be held on Saturday, September 14 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the DuPage County Fair Grounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois. The show will feature over 150 tables for buying, selling, trading and displaying military items and related memorabilia from the periods of 1776 to 1898. Reproduction items will be permitted if so marked. General admission to the show is \$2. For further information and table reservations, contact Robert Nowak, 3238 N. Central Park, Chicago, Illinois 60618 (312) 539-8432.

Fellow member **Marshall Krolick** addressed a meeting of the American Civil War Round Table of the United Kingdom in London on June 22. His topic was "Stuart's Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign."

### June meeting

"Lincoln's Political Rise in Central Illinois" was the topic of Lincoln scholar and fellow member Paul Beaver when he addressed The Round Table meeting June 14. In his early adult life, Paul explained, Lincoln worked at a variety of jobs to support himself. He was a land surveyor, postmaster, store clerk, and a captain in the Illinois militia during the Black Hawk War. After the war Lincoln campaigned for the state legislature and was elected as a Whig. During his election campaign, John Stuart, a man of influential family and prominent in Whig circles, urged Lincoln to study law.

Lincoln took Stuart's advice, borrowed and studied law books, and in 1836 received his license to practice law. The next year he moved to Springfield from Salem and became the junior partner in the law firm of Stuart and Lincoln. It was his entrance into the legal profession that became the base for Lincoln's political career.

The practice of law in the 19th century was different from its practice today. In the 1830s and 40s lawyers and judges "rode the circuit", travelling to the small county seats and holding court during the spring and fall sessions. Lincoln rode the circuit in the 8th Judicial District, which was located in central Illinois and which included the towns of Danville, Pontiac, and Taylorville in addition to Springfield. He did this for 23 years, trying cases in all the District's county seats. In turn, Lincoln was able to meet individuals who would help him with his political career.

During the 1840s, central Illinois was becoming a "melting pot" for various groups who were migrating there. This included descendants of New England farmers, Kentuckians, and recently arrived German immigrants. With this diverse background of the population, it was thought that a great deal of political tension would exist, but it never formed. People depended on their neighbors, and political and religious differences were set aside in order to survive.

It was in this atmosphere that Lincoln practiced. New concepts of law were being formed, and as a lawyer Lincoln was an active participant in shaping these new legal precedents. Lincoln appeared before the Illinois Supreme Court in 300 cases, and won 75 per cent of them. This was in addition to trying cases in the lower courts.

However, it was "riding the circuit" that Lincoln the lawyer enjoyed best. In the small county seats of central Illinois court sessions were big events. Normally, there were two sessions, one in the spring and one in the fall. People came from the surrounding area to watch the lawyers perform and see their neighbors suing each other. On the circuit, Lincoln met hundreds of people who either watched him try cases or listened to him in the informal discussions with other lawyers that followed court sessions.

Throughout his life, Lincoln enjoyed meeting people and his interest was aroused by their idiosyncrasies. He also participated in the highly partisan political debates with his fellow lawyers and legislators. Lincoln did well in this, using reason to get to the nub of the problem and find a solution. His political hero was Henry Clay, the "great compromiser" and fellow Whig. Both as a lawyer and as a legislator, Lincoln sought to solve political problems by compromise and negotiation. After he was elected President, the political and legal skills that Lincoln acquired as a lawyer in central Illinois served him well during the Civil War.

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We report with sadness the recent death of long-time member Leroy Andrews. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family.

**The Third Annual Michigan Civil War Collectors Show** will be held on Saturday, October 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Oakland University, Oakland Center Building, University Drive, Rochester, Michigan. Display tables will contain guns, bayonets, paper items, swords, buttons, images, books and other Civil War items to buy, sell and trade. General admission to the show is \$2.50. For further information, contact: Dave Parks, 18387 Ash Creek Drive, Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48044 (313) 286-6462.

**The U.S. Government has finally taken possession of the 312-acre Brawner Farm at Manassas**, after paying the owners \$812,000. The farm, which has been abandoned for several years, has fallen into ruin as looters seeking relics have ravaged the area. According to the National Park Service, "Possession will allow us to protect that site and stabilize the land."

Efforts to acquire the Brawner Farm and other land around Manassas began in the mid-70s; the effort was spearheaded by Annie Snyder, who lives adjacent to the battlefield. Although Congress authorized acquisition in 1980, no money was appropriated for several years. Acquisition was also delayed by the death of the principal owner and by heirs who said the price was too low.

**On August 25 Elmira, New York** dedicated a monument to the 3000 Confederate prisoners who died in the prison camp there during the Civil War. The monument is topped with American and Confederate flags and stands on the site of the 30-acre stockade.

**The 11th Annual National Congress of Civil War Round Tables** will be held in Fredericksburg, Virginia October 3-6, 1985. Emphasis will be on the Wilderness and Spotsylvania campaigns of 1864. Among the speakers will be Dennis Frye on "Grant Takes Command;" Dr. Gary Gallagher on "Ramseur at the Wilderness and Spotsylvania;" Bob Krick on "The Spotsylvania Campaign;" and Ed Bearss on "The Wilderness Campaign." Ed and Bob will lead an all-day tour of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania, and there will be an optional tour to Brandy Station.

The registration fee is \$170 per person (\$150 for Civil War Round Table Associates members). There is a \$10 discount if the fee is paid by September 10. The price does not include lodging. The Congress will be headquartered at the Sheraton Inn in Fredericksburg. For further information, or to register, contact CWRT Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 (501) 225-3996.

**Galena, Illinois held a ceremonial celebration** on July 27 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Ulysses S. Grant. The festivities included music by the 1st Brigade Band of Milwaukee and an address by John Y. Simon. Our president, Paul Kliger, was one of the honored guests at the ceremony.

**The Carnton Association in Franklin, Tennessee** is seeking donations to help it acquire 34 undeveloped acres of the Battle of Franklin Battlefield (20 of the 34 acres have been designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as being part of the Battlefield). The owner is offering the land to Carnton for \$250,000, \$25,000 less than it would be offered to the public. Several buyers, including a housing developer, have already offered the \$275,000.

Donations can be sent to The Carnton Association, Inc., Carnton Lane, Franklin, Tennessee 37064.

# THE NEW BOOKS

(compiled by Dick Clark)



Andrews, J. Cutler. *The North Reports the Civil War*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1985. Pbk \$19.95. Original of 1955.

Andrews, J. Cutler. *The South Reports the Civil War*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1985. Pbk \$19.95. Original of 1970.

Angle, Paul M. *A Pictorial History of the Civil War Years*. Introduction by William C. Davis. New York: Doubleday, 1985. Pbk \$12.95. Original of 1967.

Brown, Edmund R. *The Twenty-Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry in the War of the Rebellion, 1861 to 1865. First Division 12th and 20th Corps*. 640 p., illus., plans, ports. Gaithersburg, MD: Butternut Press, 1985. \$40.00. Original of 1899.

Catton, Bruce. *The Civil War*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1985. 320 p., maps, photos. Pbk \$8.95.

Chaitin, Peter and the editors of Time-Life Books. *The Coastal War: Chesapeake Bay to Rio Grande*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1984. 176 p., illus, maps.

Cox, LaWanda C. *Lincoln and Black Freedom: A Study in Presidential Leadership*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1985. Pbk \$8.95. Original of 1981.

Frassanito, William A. *Grant and Lee: The Virginia Campaigns, 1864-1865*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1983. 442 p. \$24.95.

Fremantle, Arthur. *Three Months in the Southern States*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1984. vii, 316 p., \$19.95. Original of 1863.

Garofalo, Robert and Mark Elrod. *A Pictorial History of Civil War Era Musical Instruments & Military Bands*. Charleston, WV: Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., 1985. viii, 116 p., many illus., some col. 8" flexible LP recording. Pbk \$9.95.

Guttridge, Leonard F. and Jay D. Smith. *The Commodores*. With an introduction by James C. Bradford. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1984. 340 p., \$16.95. Original of 1969.

Holmes, Torlief S. *Horse Soldiers in Blue*. Gaithersburg, MD: Butternut Press, 1985. xiv, 259 p., plates, maps, index. \$36.50. Primarily the story of Gen. Charles H. Smith and the First Maine Cavalry Regt.

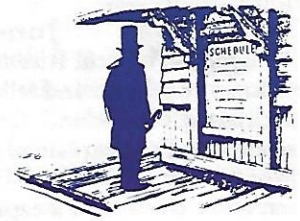
Hotchkiss, Jedediah and William Allan. *The Battlefields of Virginia. Chancellorsville*. New introduction by Jim McLean. Baltimore, MD: Butternut and Blue, (1985?) 152 p., with 5 loose maps. Ltd 600 copies. \$40.00.

Howard, Victor B. *Black Liberation in Kentucky: Emancipation and Freedom, 1862-1864*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1983. vii, 222 p., \$23.00.

Leonard, Thomas C. *Above the Battle: War Making in America from Appomattox to Versailles*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978. Pbk \$12.95.

Longstreet, James. *From Manassas to Appomattox. Memoirs of Civil War in America*. Secaucus, NJ: The Blue and Grey Press, ©1984. \$17.50.

# BULLETIN BOARD



## Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Quality Inn, Halsted and Madison, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

September 20: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner. Recipient of Award, Dr. John Y. Simon. **Note:** This is the third Friday of the month.

October 11: Kent Brown on "Alonzo Cushing and His Battery at Gettysburg."

November 8: Donald C. Pfanz on "Negligence on the Right: The 11th Corps at Chancellorsville."

December 13: Christopher Calkins, subject to be announced.

January 10, 1986: "Our Ethnic Ancestors in the Civil War;" a panel featuring Wayne Anderson, Marshall Krollick, Bill Sullivan, Karl Sundstrom, and Jim Vlazny.

February 14: Mark E. Neeley, Jr., on "Lincoln and Douglas: A Relationship to Consider."

March 15: All day assembly on "Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant: The Civil War Years."

April 11: Edgar Archer on "Orthopedic Surgery in the Civil War."

May 1-4: Annual Battlefield Tour: The 1862 Peninsula Campaign.

May 9: Gordon Whitney on "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address."

June 13: James I. "Bud" Robertson on "A. P. Hill."

## New members

Marvin M. Goldman, 411 Sunset Drive, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

Daniel Pearson, P.O. Box 186, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin 53916.

Joe Lohr, 634 South Edgewood, La Grange, Illinois 60525.

Sandra Quinlivan, 10015 South Hamilton, Chicago, Illinois 60643.

William Marlatt, 1374 Burr Oak, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045.

G. Edward Reed, 517 Hillcrest Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2A 2N1.

## Changes of address

Steven D. Horton, 125 S. Kenilworth Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60302.

Malcolm Macht, 21223 50th Avenue West, Montlake Terrace, Washington 98043.

John C. Murphy, 12926 South Greenwood Avenue, Blue Island, Illinois 60406.

Tom Peters, 2756 Scott, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018.

Barbara (Long) Pleiter, 30 Bosarvey Circle, Ormond Beach, Florida 32074.

Joseph S. Sample, P.O. Box 279, Billings, Montana 59103.