

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXIII, Battlefield Tour Number

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1963

## 13th TOUR - TO RICHMOND BATTLEFIELDS - APRIL 24 TO 28



J. Ambler Johnston Outlining 1953 Tour

By HAL HIXSON and BROOKS DAVIS

In 1953 the Chicago Civil War Round Table flew by charter plane to Richmond and had a memorable tour in and around that mecca for students of the Civil War.

The tour was significant since it marked our acquaintance with Mr. J. Ambler Johnston, recognized authority on the "Seven Days Battles". And we were delightfully entertained by his friend Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman, Lee biographer and dean of Southern historians, whose busy and productive life came to an end only five weeks later.

Appropriately, our 1963 tour is to Richmond, where again we shall rely on the good offices of our friend and Honorary Award member, Ambler Johnston, to guide us over the area. A visit to the grave will honor the memory of Dr. Freeman, whose works continue to be a source of pleasure and inspiration.

The tour will start Wednesday, April 24, with a non-stop jet flight to Baltimore with the final leg by prop plane. Arrival in Richmond will be in time to check-in at the Mark Monroe Motor Hotel before proceeding to the Commonwealth Club for cocktails with our hosts, the Richmond Civil War Round Table.

At dinner at the hotel, Ambler Johnston will outline the "Plan of Battle" for the next four days.

Thursday, April 25, will be devoted to the 1862 campaign east of Richmond known as the "Seven Days Battles".

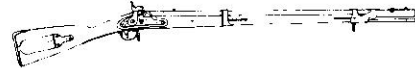
Command Post will be established at the hotel, with dinner following. Speaker of the evening is C. Hobson Goddin, Richmond CWRT, who was local chairman of our 1960 tour to Richmond, Petersburg, Appomattox, and Manassas.

Friday, April 26, will be largely in the hands of our Richmond hosts, touring the city, visiting the principal shrines of the Confederacy and the Centennial. At Hollywood cemetery, after the ceremony at the Freeman grave, there will be time to visit the graves of some Confederate leaders.

Speaker of the evening is Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas. The Senator is an avid Civil War student, a brilliant speaker, and effervescent personality.

Later, our group will go to headquarters of the Richmond Civil War Centennial Committee, of which Ambler

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### COST OF TOUR

\$195.00 - INCLUDES: Plane and bus fares, hotel (\*two to a room), all meals except breakfasts, admission charges where required, tour literature, taxes and tips.

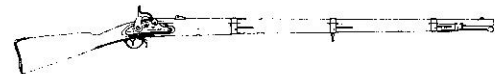
\$206.00 - Same as above with single occupancy hotel room.

Join En-Route - Actual costs prorated to portion of trip. Apply to Registrar.

(\*) Indicate person with whom you wish to share room when making reservation.

Write or phone Registrar Margaret April, 18 East Chestnut street, Chicago 11, Illinois, Whitehall 4-3085.

NOTE: A SPECIAL DISCOUNT OF \$15 WILL BE ALLOWED THOSE MAKING THE ENTIRE TRIP IF FULL PAYMENT IS MADE BY MARCH 25.



### Lee, McClellan, and Grant

BY J. AMBLER JOHNSTON

By the spring of 1862 the Federal navy had gained control of the whole of Chesapeake bay, its southernmost harbor, Hampton Roads, and Fort Monroe at the extreme tip of a peninsula formed by the York and James rivers, with gunboat protection from both sides.

Under Gen. George B. McClellan, troops 105,000 strong went by water to Fort Monroe. The Federals proceeded up the peninsula. The Pamunkey, an affluent of the York, became their right flank, and the sluggish, swampy Chickahominy, affluent of the James, their left flank.

About 15 miles east of Richmond, the Federals crossed the Chickahominy at Bottoms bridge, leaving a portion of their forces on the north bank of the river. The latter were to extend up the north bank and meet McDowell from Fredericksburg north of Richmond and envelop the city.

The Federals who crossed the bridge were met by Confederates under Joseph E. Johnston on May 31, 1862, about 7 miles east of Richmond in the engagements known as Seven Pines and Fair Oaks. The results were indecisive, except that Johnston was severely wounded.

Robert E. Lee took command early in June, 1862, with about half as many men as McClellan, and planned and executed what became known as the Seven Days campaign.

Lee, not knowing the disposition of the Federal forces, on June 12 sent a cavalry detachment, 1,200 strong, under J. E. B. Stuart to ascertain the Federal position. Stuart's ride around McClellan's army is one of the spectacular episodes of the war.

Learning that McClellan's 4th corps under Fitz-John Porter was on the north bank and his other three corps

BATTLES (Continued on Page 2)

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

## OFFICERS

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## BATTLEFIELD TOUR COMMITTEE

Hal Hixson and Brooks Davis, co-chairmen; J. Ambler Johnston, co-chairman in Richmond; Pete Long, Jerry Slechta, Ralph G. Newman, Gilbert Twiss; H. George Donovan and Al Meyer, marshals; Margaret April, registrar, and off officers.

RICHMOND COMMITTEE: W. W. Mallory, chairman; C. Hobson Goddin, and Jack Stinson.



## TOUR (Continued from Page 1)

Johnston is chairman. From there we will proceed to "Vignettes of the Civil War." This feature includes presentation of wartime Richmond, visit to historic shrines, and musical and dramatic entertainment.

The tour on Saturday, April 27, will follow the route of Gen. U. S. Grant's 1864 campaign from the Pamunkey river to the James, across the James river through Butler's Bottleneck to Fort Darling, and back to Richmond. Part of this is a hitherto unmapped route. Prison Civil War Round Table of Richmond has prepared a map especially for the Chicago CWRT visit.

Saturday is the traditional "Fun Night". The serious speaker of the evening is the Hon. Joseph W. Croveny who will be with us on part of our tour. His grandfather wrote one of the most illuminating books of the war, a volume which is now extremely rare (see reading list).

Sunday morning is left free for church and visiting individual points of interest not previously covered. The return to Baltimore will be by bus, with stops at shrines along the way, as time permits. One will be the house at Guiney station where "Stonewall" Jackson died eight days after Chancellorsville. The house has been renewed for this year's centennial.

The return from Baltimore to Chicago will be by jet plane.

During 1861, Arkansas whites and Negroes gave "Secession Balls" to raise money to buy uniforms for Confederate volunteers. At Pine Bluff the Negroes made more money from their entertainment than the whites did.

*from the  
Editor's pen*



Much planning and work goes into a Battlefield Tour, and for due credit, we cite the whole committee - Chicago and Richmond.

Previous tours to the area have centered on Richmond in 1953 and 1960. Many members of our party will be renewing acquaintances.

Particularly memorable was 1953 when Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman spoke and directed our attention to uncharted fields of study in the Civil War. The address later was put in printed form. On the final Sunday, Dr. Freeman was our host at a party in his garden. Five weeks later his busy life ended.

Mrs. Freeman was our guest at some events of the 1960 tour and will be with us again on some parts of the 1963 tour.

\* \* \*

Byrd Airport, where we land at Richmond, occupies part of the Seven Pines-Fair Oaks battlefield. Markers call attention to some of the events, positions, and Confederate trenches. The remainder of the battlefield is covered by houses.

\* \* \*

A friend who will be missed on this tour is Chester F. Gannon, who died in Sacramento, Cal., on January 17, at 75 years. He was a founder of the CWRT there and a member of ours. He was a renowned athlete, lawyer, state assemblyman, and lover of life. Our sympathy to his wife Ruth, who accompanied him on our previous battlefield tours.

## BATTLES (Continued from Page 1)

were on the south bank, Lee sent to the Shenandoah valley for "Stonewall" Jackson to join in this plan:

A. P. Hill to cross the river north of Richmond, turn to his right eastward downstream, and sweep the Federals back and east of the Mechanicsville turnpike, north-east of Richmond.

On A. P. Hill reaching Mechanicsville, D. H. Hill was to cross the Chickahominy and go northwardly to join Jackson.

Longstreet to follow behind D. H. Hill, crossing the Chickahominy and turn right, thus presenting a Confederate force facing eastward - extreme left D. H. Hill, then Jackson and A. P. Hill, and on the right Longstreet. All this was to take place on the morning of June 26.

The first day, Confederate staff work went awry. Jackson did not come in. A. P. Hill attacked alone, and Fitz-John Porter made a splendid stand behind Beaver Dam creek.

Porter learned during the night that Jackson was on his rear right and fell back eastwardly 7 or 8 miles near a crossroad called Cold Harbor, and also a mill belonging to a Dr. Gaines. Porter took up a position along the left side of Boatswain creek.

Late afternoon of June 27, the Confederates followed through, joined by Jackson, and overwhelmed Porter at Gaines' mill.

McClellan started moving his base of supplies from the White House on the Pamunkey to a point on the James river. So Porter fell back across the Chickahominy to join McClellan's main army, instead of falling back toward the White House to protect it, as Lee probably expected him to do.

This resulted in June 28 being spent entirely in maneuver without serious fighting, the Federals moving

BATTLES (Continued on Page 4)

## TOUR SCHEDULE

(Any schedule changes will be announced on tour.)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1963

12:30 p.m. (CST) - Check in with Registrar at TWA ticket station, O'Hare Airport.

1:30 p.m. - Depart on TWA Flight 168, jet nonstop to Baltimore Friendship Airport, Luncheon en route.

4:01 p.m. (EST) - Arrive Baltimore. Transfer to EAL Flight 337 with departure at 4:50 p.m.

5:31 p.m. - Arrive Byrd Airport, Richmond. Bus to Mark Monroe Motor Hotel at Belvidere and Franklin streets.

6:45 p.m. - Cocktails, courtesy Richmond Civil War Round Table at Commonwealth Club, 1-1/2 blocks from hotel.

8:00 p.m. - Dinner at hotel. Speaker J. Ambler Johnston, to outline area to be visited next day.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

7:30 a.m. - Breakfast at hotel (paid for individually, each day).

8:30 a.m. - Board buses for tour to Seven Days battlefields.

Noon - Box lunch at Byrd Airport.

Afternoon - Continuation of "Seven Days"

6:30 p.m. - Command Post, followed by dinner at hotel. Speaker, Mr. C. Hobson Goddin, "Richmond of 1861-1865".

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

9:00 a.m. - Board buses to visit points of interest in Richmond under guidance of Richmond CWRT.

12:30 p.m. - Lunch (at hotel, unless announced otherwise).

2:00 p.m. - Bus to Hollywood Cemetery and placing wreath on grave of Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman.

3:00 p.m. - Resume Richmond tour.

5:30 p.m. - Command Post, followed by dinner at hotel. Speaker, Senator Ralph W. Yarborough of Texas.

9:00 p.m. - Bus to headquarters, Richmond Civil War Centennial Committee, for "Vignettes of the Civil War".

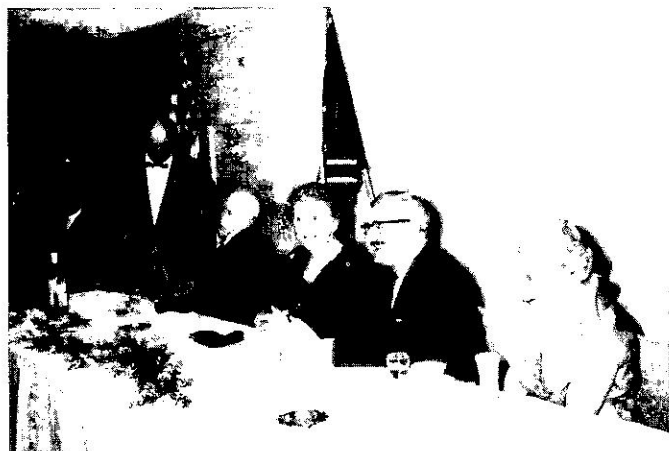
SATURDAY, APRIL 27

8:30 a.m. - Board Buses for tour of Grant's 1864 Campaign.

Noon - Box lunch in field.

Afternoon - Resume tour. Part is hitherto unmapped route, for which Prison Civil War Round Table has prepared a map especially for Chicago CWRT visit.

6:30 p.m. - Command Post, followed by dinner at the hotel. Fun Night. Speaker, Hon. Joseph W. Croveny.



Jerry Slechta, Ambler Johnston, Mrs. Douglas Southall Freeman, Ralph Newman and Miss India Thomas, at Richmond in 1960.



Confederate Trenches at Cold Harbor

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Morning - Open for church attendance or visiting points of interest in and around Richmond. (Those wishing to make their own arrangements by renting cars can do so in advance, by request to Registrar.)

Noon (EDT) - Lunch at hotel.

2:00 p.m. - Board bus for Baltimore Airport. Trip to be made via Interstate 95, with stops at Guiney Station (Jackson Shrine) and Massaponax Church, time permitting.

6:00 p.m. - Depart on TWA Flight 169, jet nonstop to Chicago. Dinner served.

6:47 p.m. (CDT) - Arrive O'Hare Airport, Chicago.

PREVIOUS Chicago CWRT Battlefield Tours have been:

1951 - Nashville, Chattanooga, and Lincoln Memorial University.

1952 - Harpers Ferry, Antietam, and Gettysburg.

1953 - Richmond area.

1954 - Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Jackson.

1955 - Fredericksburg area.

1956 - Chattanooga, Atlanta.

1957 - Lexington, Va., Shenandoah Valley, and Washington, D. C.

1958 - Murfreesboro, Franklin, and Nashville.

1959 - Charleston and Savannah.

1960 - Richmond, Petersburg, Appomattox, Charlottesville, Washington.

1961 - Vicksburg, Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, Jackson.

1962 - Gettysburg area.

PRISON CWRT, Richmond, Va., heard a talk by J. Ambler Johnston on Grant's movements in June of 1864. In response to a request, the group is preparing a "tour guide" map on the Grant campaign. The map will be used for the Chicago CWRT tour of the area.

"In view of the generous attention that the Chicago CWRT has given our small group, we sincerely hope that they will enjoy their visit, and return to Chicago with many fond memories and subjects for discussion," the Prison CWRT newsletter said.

Several members of the Chicago group have been invited to visit a Prison CWRT meeting during the battlefield tour.

READING, Mass., sent 411 men to the Civil War. Miss Emily Ruggles wanted to do her part. Her effort to volunteer was rejected, but she was permitted to provide \$300 and send a substitute. He was Matt Briggs who served in the 5th U. S. Heavy Artillery. The governor of Massachusetts gave Emily a document certifying her as a volunteer.



## READING LIST



BY PETE LONG

Suggested here are a few of the most worthwhile and most available books to study for the Richmond tour:

### GENERAL (1862 and 1864)

Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. II (pp313-438) and Vol. IV (p150 and pp178-239).

Freeman, Douglas Southall, Lee's Lieutenants, Vols. I and III, R. E. Lee, Vols. II and IV.

Memoires d'un Observateur Militaire aux Etats-Unis, by Alaistar de Croveney, edited by L. B. Davis (New York, Neall, 1906).

Military Historical Society of Massachusetts Papers, Vol. I, Campaigns in Virginia, 1861-1862, and Vols. IV & V.

Miller's Photographic History of the Civil War, Vol. I (p112 and 273 et seq.), Vol. III (p79 et seq. and 321 et seq.), and Vol. VIII (370 et seq.).

Official Records, Series I, (1862) Vol. XI three parts, and (1864) Vol. XXXVI three parts.

Steele, Matthew Forney, American Campaigns, and Atlas by Vincent J. Esposito.

Articles on "Drewry's Bluff" in Civil War Times, May, 1961, and Civil War History, June, 1961.

### PENINSULA, 1862

Catton, Bruce, Mr. Lincoln's Army.

Cullen, Joseph P., Richmond National Battlefield Park, Virginia, pamphlet.

Hassler, Warren, W., Jr., General George B. McClellan.

Jackson biographies by Lenoir Chambers, G. F. R. Henderson, and Frank Vandiver.

McClellan, George B., McClellan's Own Story.

Ropes, John Codman, The Story of the Civil War, Part II, the Campaigns of 1862.

Source Book of the Peninsula Campaign, Army General Staff School.

Webb, Alexander S., The Peninsula.

Williams, K. P., Lincoln Finds a General, Vol. I.

### 1864 CAMPAIGN

Catton, Bruce, A Stillness at Appomattox.

Grant, U. S., Personal Memoirs, Vol. II.

Hotchkiss, Maj. Jed., Virginia, Vol. III, Confederate Military History.

Humphreys, Andrew A., The Virginia Campaign of '64 and '65.

### RICHMOND

Chesnut, Mary Boykin, A Diary from Dixie.

DeLeon, Thomas Cooper, Four Years in Rebel Capitals.

Dowdey, Clifford, Experiment in Rebellion.

Goddin, C. Hobson, Richmond, Virginia, 1861-1865, edited by Robert W. Waitt, Jr., pamphlet.

Jones, John B., A Rebel War Clerk's Diary.

Kocher and Dearstyne, Shadows in Silver, A Record of Virginia, 1850-1900 in Contemporary Photographs.

Putnam, Sallie A., In Richmond During the Confederacy.

Richmond in Time of War, Houghton Mifflin Research Series Number 5.

Virginia, A Guide to the Old Dominion, American Guide Series.

## ALL ABOARD! TWA at O'HARE



CHECK-IN-TIME: 12:30 p.m. (CST) at Trans-World Airways terminal, O'Hare airport. Registrar Margaret April will be at TWA ticket station. Tour packets will be handed out.

DEPART: 1:30 p.m., TWA Flight 168.

FROM THE LOOP: Limousines from TWA ticket office at Wabash and Monroe and from principal hotels. One hour running time; 11:30 a.m. bus recommended. Private car parking at O'Hare is by the hour.

ON THE TOUR: Please be prompt at all stated times. Bus Marshals Al Meyer and H. George Donovan will be on hand for guidance. Notify them if leaving your bus for a side excursion.

TIME CHANGES on the final Sunday; set your watches.



BATTLES (Continued from Page 2)

toward the James, and the Confederates attempting to intercept McClellan before he could reach the James.

On June 29, at Savage Station, the Confederates caught up with the rear guard of the Federal army and there ensued a severe engagement of a few hours. The Federals abandoned their hospital with 2,500 wounded, surgeons and all.

One June 30, the Federals had proceeded southwardly and were passing Glendale, when the Confederates attacked severely, but unsuccessfully, in an attempt to cut them off from the James. This is the battle known as Glendale, or Frayser's farm. The Federals, as a rear guard action, held "Stonewall" Jackson from crossing in their rear the White Oak Swamp. McClellan retreated southwardly in the night and took up a strong position on Malvern Hill.

On July 1, the Confederates made heroic, but futile attempts to dislodge McClellan. Federal gunboats on the James supplemented McClellan's artillery. Malvern Hill was virtually a Federal victory, but McClellan withdrew during the night to Harrison's Landing on the James river.

### GRANT'S 1864 CAMPAIGN

In March, 1864, Gen. U. S. Grant took charge of the Federal army and attached himself to the Army of the Potomac, commanded by Gen. George Gordon Meade. In May, Grant crossed the Rapidan through a tangled area known as the Wilderness. He was checked there by Lee and at Spotsylvania Court House, made famous by the Bloody Angle.

Grant extended his left, obliging Lee to extend his right, meeting again on the North Anna river, after which Grant still again moved to the left and crossed the Pamunkey at Hanover town. Then he moved southwardly toward Richmond, but was met by Lee at Cold Harbor, where Lee and McClellan had met two years before.

A bloody engagement took place, which apparently convinced Grant of the near impossibility of penetrating prepared defense positions. So Grant again extended his left, crossing the Chickahominy to the James at Wilcox landing.

Chicago campaigners will follow a hitherto unexploited route from Cold Harbor to Wilcox landing. The tour will go a few miles up river to the present day ferry and pick up Grant's movements on the south of the James. The tour then will proceed up the James to Fort Darling, thence back to Richmond.