Col. Allen P. Julian on 'Gallant John Hood' - Tuesday, November 15

Ned Julian (center) talking to Hal Hixson (left) and Dr. A. V. Bergquist at Atlanta.

Again we have the pleasure of welcoming Col. Allen P. Julian of Atlanta as a speaker. Ned, an Honorary Award Life Member of our CWRT, will speak on "Gallant John Hood." The meeting is on Tuesday, November 15, in the Furniture Club of the Furniture Mart and will be preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee.

Ned has sharp views on some aspects of the Civil War and one of them is on Hood's appointment to command in place of Joseph E. Johnston at the Battle of Atlanta. Col. Julian loves a verbal tussle with those who disagree.

Ned will touch on Hood's West Point influences, junior officer experiences, and his rapid rise in the Confederate service to regimental, brigade, and division command. "His talents were fully equal to the responsibilities he bore in those grades, and he enjoyed physical and mental health," Ned says.

"The loss of the use of his left arm at Gettysburg does not appear to have affected him, but the loss of his right leg at Chickamauga changed him from a gallant, popular Richmond beau, to a cripple on crutches."

Recovering in Richmond, Hood became a favorite of President Jefferson Davis and a confidant of Davis and Braxton Bragg. He was promoted to lieutenant general and sent to the Army of Tennessee.

"No longer the frank, loyal Hood of the preceding years, his behavior under Johnston, and the circumstances of the latter's relief from command at Atlanta, lead to the suspicion that Hood had been sent to the army with the understanding that he would become its commander when Davis could risk public opinion to make the change," Ned says.

Col. Julian's speech will trace the psychological changes in Hood after Chickamauga to account for his cut-of-character behavior in 1864.

Ned comments: "In order to clarify the reasons for John B. Hood's failures as an army commander, it must be considered that generals come in all sizes, temperaments and degrees of usefulness. Only the best of them rise to the top (as in civil endeavors) and become responsible for the conduct of large military operations unless, as in Hood's case, one is elevated to such status because of friendship, politics or reason other than pure professional competence. Many a top flight brigade, division or even corps commander is unsuited for independent command, as in Hood's case."

Ned Julian first spoke to our group at the 151st meeting on May 4, 1956 on "The Atlanta Campaign." Since then he has appeared several more times, been our companion on battlefield tours, been host and guide on tours to Atlanta, and major domo of the memorable tour to Charleston and Savannah.

Ned was born in Dixon, Nebraska, but consider himself a Hoosier since he grew up there and his parents were natives of Indiana and spent most of their lives there. Both his grandfathers were in Indiana units in the Civil War. Ned entered the Indiana National Guard in 1921 and was in military activity until 1956 when he became director of the Atlanta Historical Society, the position he holds now. The society's building houses the (Continued on Pg. 2 Col. 1)
from the Editor's pen

Ralph Newman gave some novel and humorous turns to the Ben Butler story when he addressed eighty-three members and guests at the October 12 meeting.

Butler was a master of words, Ralph said. He had a ready flow of language — more evident in his writings than in his speaking, but he understood an audience and knew how to take advantage of every favorable turn.

Comparing Butler with Lincoln, Ralph said both came from the people, both understood the people, both appealed to the people, both knew the value of humor. The difference was in character and what words with character will do, the character of Lincoln showed.

Butler was calm, though, and all the worthwhile pro- and anti-Butler material is in his autobiography, "Butler's Book." Butler said, "All my life I have done nothing but good." But the historian John Ford Rhodes called him "a spoilman of the lowest order."

Butler couldn't get an appointment to West Point and he bore lifelong hatred of the academy — even though his youngest son went there and had a good record. At Watertown (Mo.) college (now Colby) Butler saw the merits of a legal profession and from then on became a master of every angle. He was often accused of sharp practice.

Butler was a delegate to every national Democratic convention from 1848 until 1860. At the 1860 convention in Charleston, S.C., he voted 57 times for Jefferson Davis. In the election he supported Breckinridge and ran for governor of Massachusetts on the same ticket. He got 6,000 votes out of 169,000 cast. A campaign gibe was: "Of all the bad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these, we might have Ben."

Butler loved military pageantry and rose to brigadier general in the Massachusetts militia. When the war came he commanded troops which landed at Annapolis and then secured Baltimore, protecting Washington. He was made a major general for it — the senior in the service. In his first field actions he declared Negroes coming into the Union lines "contraband" — a designation that proved useful later.

Butler commanded the army in the New Orleans occupation in April 1862. The people were hungry and he fed them; the streets were filthy and he had them cleaned. Andrew Jackson Butler arrived and people said Ben's brother was his great handler. Women insulted Ben's soldiers, so he issued General Order No. 28, saying they would be treated as "women of the town plying their vocation." This raised a storm, but Ben had order in New Orleans.

Ben commanded the Army of the James and at Bermuda Hundred became "bottled up Butler." Gen. Early Smith said he was as "helpless as a child on the field of battle and as visionary as an opium eater in council." Butler had another failure at Fort Fisher and Grant asked Lincoln to remove him. Perhaps Lincoln had a frightening thought: If anything happened to Grant, Ben was the senior officer in the army and enough of an opportunist to step in.

In the House of Representatives Ben was leader of the impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson. Later he was governor of Massachusetts, the first one who didn't receive a degree from Harvard. His political rival, Sen. George Hoar, was president of the board of trustees. Walking around Harvard yard, Butler noted the names of houses and said, "I know of one senator after whom they won't name a house." Butler died Jan. 11, 1888. Asked if he would attend the funeral, Hoar said, "No, but I approve of it."

We are indebted to Bob Douglas for the report of the meeting.

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Illinois Sesquicentennial

Plans for Illinois 150th anniversary in 1965 are under way, with Ralph G. Newman as chairman of the state sesquicentennial commission and our member Ver Lynn Sprague as vice president. Paul M. Angle, CWRT Honorary Award Life member, is director of publications.

At a meeting in Freeport Oct. 2-3, Newman reviewed the 100th anniversary observance in 1918. Sprague said an effort is being made toward a sesquicentennial committee in every county. Any county that doesn't have one be threatened with a visiting motorcycle brigade.

The sesquicentennial coincides with the 50th anniversary of the end of World War I. The steps toward Illinois statehood were in the making in 1817. Fifty years after that time the University of Illinois was founded. The U. of I. will mark its centennial with an address by Allan Nevins, an illustrious alumnus.

These are some of the Illinois Sesquicentennial publications planned:
- Illinois as seen in the writings of travelers, from 1818 to 1918.
- An anthology of the best writings in state historical society publications.
- A one-volume popular history of Illinois for the general reader (Milburn P. Akers, retired editor of the Sun-Times is doing it).
- A narrative chronology of the state, by Margaret Flint, of the state historical library.
- An Illinois Fact Book and Historical Almanac, by John Clayton.

The 1918 Centennial History of Illinois will be brought up-to-date. "Illinois in 1918" by Solon J. Buck is to be reissued. The first three volumes of the Centennial History will be reprinted with notes by Paul Angle. Volumes IV and V will be replaced by three new volumes—volume 1865 to 1900, another 1900 to 1929, and the third, 1930 to the present.

County histories will be brought up-to-date. The commission will make use of radio and television—which were not available for the 1918 centennial. Historical materials will be provided for children in schools. A calendar of sesquicentennial events will be published. Historical assemblies will be held in various regions of the state. The climax of the sesquicentennial will be the opening of the restored Old State House in Springfield.

Brooks Davis is speaker November 18 to Salt Creek CWRT in Glen Ellyn Public Library. He will discuss "The Seven Days Battles" and show slides.

The DEPARTMENT of INTERIOR asked Congress to authorize acquisition of Appomattox Manor in Hopewell (City Point), Va., on the banks of the Appomattox and James rivers about 5 miles from the Petersburg battlefield. From June 15, 1864 to March 29, 1865, the manor was headquarters of Gen. U.S. Grant. President Lincoln visited there in June 1864 and again in March and April 1865. For two of the last three weeks of his life, Lincoln had his executive office there. The property is part of an original land grant by King Charles I of England to Capt. Frances Eppes in 1635 and has been in the Eppes family for 330 years. Some of the native and exotic trees and shrubs planted before the Civil War survive.

The same legislation would authorize conveyance to Virginia of 258 acres of land in the Petersburg National Battlefield, consisting of the Flank and Defense roads. The park tour route does not include the area and the adjacent land has become highly urbanized. The City of Petersburg is willing to annex the 258 acres and retain the tract's parklike character.

Another provision of the legislation would reduce the land acquisition at Five Forks battlefield from 1,200 to 600 acres — the amount needed for the site.

TO THE LADIES —

"A Southern Potpourri," reminiscences of a New Orleans girl, will be the theme of Bobette Burhans' talk to the Camp Followers at 6 p.m., November 15, at 18 East Chestnut street. Bobette owns the manuscripts of many of the delightful stories of Elizabeth Harrison Binford, who recorded her young impressions of life in the Confederacy. Bobette is a veteran of battlefield tours, an experienced and knowledgeable campaigner, and a moving spirit of the Peoria CWRT, the National Blues. If you plan to attend, please call Molly (Mrs. Allen) Meyers, 784-6020.

--Barbara Long, program chairman

Mary Lynn McCree's talk, "Hors de Combat," on October 12 covered the subject of prostitution in the Civil War as related to soldiers in camp and in the cities and towns. Mary Lynn went to manuscript sources to bring an insight into the ubiquitous concomitants of armies, and her liberal quotes from old letters and records added spice to an already spicy subject. The 19 ladies present heard a scholarly and yet lively exposition of "Sin in the Sixties."

CWRT Speakers

Co-Chairmen Elmer C. Brinkman and Brooks Davis report that the CWRT Speakers Bureau is on a firm basis for the coming months. Speaker's dossiers of background and subjects have been received on a wide variety of fields of activity (two are from women). Most of the men are identified with university, college, and high school history departments and some of them historians and students. Others who offer their services as speakers are business men, industrialists, lawyers, physicians, insurance men, realtors, and retired teachers—as well as a legislator and a balladeer.

Some will require a fee for speaking, but most of them only traveling expenses. Some will travel within a short distance of their home base with no charge.

Here is a selection from the many subjects listed in the dossiers:
- "Civil War in Minnesota."
- "Union General Benjamin M. Prentiss."
- "Music and Literature of the Civil War."
- "Civil War Nurses."
- "Harriet Beecher Stone."
- "Women Spies."
- "Civil War in the West: Quantrell and His Bushwhackers."
- "Lincoln and the Boy Scout Laws."
- "Civil War in Missouri and Arkansas."
- "Chattanooga and Atlanta."
- "Foreign Reaction to the Civil War."
- "The Civil War and Reconstruction in the Indian Territory."
- "Civil War Journalism."
- "Many Lincoln subjects."
- "Civil War Logistics."
- "The Irish Brigade (New York)."
- "The Spring Hill Affair."
- "The Papers of Jefferson Davis."
- "The Papers of U.S. Grant."
- "Religion in the Confederacy."
- "Lincoln's Four Terms in the Illinois Legislature."

There are movies on several subjects, talks with weapons and equipment, slide lectures on Lincoln shrines and battlefields, "Songs Lincoln Loved" and "Songs of the Civil War."

For information and assistance, write: Speakers Bureau, Civil War Round Table, 18 East Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

SPRINGFIELD (ILL.), CWRT held its October meeting in the Lincoln Depot Museum, 10th and Monroe streets. This is the station from which Abraham Lincoln departed for Washington on Feb. 11, 1861.
HARDLUCK IRONCLAD: The Sinking and salvage of the Cairo, by Edwin C. Bearss (Louisiana State, 240pp, $5.95). The story of the Cairo, sunk in the Yazoo river on Dec. 12, 1862, and the salvage operations; with 24 pages of pictures.


MUSIC IN NEW ORLEANS 1791-1841, by Henry A. Kemen (Louisiana State, 304pp, $7.50). The musical city of America in its day. To be followed with a book on New Orleans music to 1900.

ROBERT TOOMBS OF GEORGIA, by William Y. Thompson (Louisiana State, 288pp, $7.50).

APOMATTON: The Last Campaign, by Burleigh Cushing Rodick (Philosophical Library, New York, 23 Bank St., 10014, $6.20).

THE PROBLEM OF SLAVERY IN WESTERN CULTURE, edited by Hudson Strode (Harcourt, Brace & World, $7.50).


JEFFERSON DAVIS: Private Letters 1823-1889, edited by Hudson Strode (Harcourt, Brace & World, $7.50).

JOHN LETCHER OF VIRGINIA, by F. N. Bonay (U. of Alabama, $6.95), The state's Civil War Governor.

BONNET BRIGADES, by Mary Elizabeth Massey (Knopf, 416pp, $7.95). Impact of Civil War Series.

** BOOK NOTES **

The National Civil War Centennial commission has announced in a prospectus the "Military Operations of the Civil War: A Guide-Index to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-1865," compiled by Dallas Irvine, Senior Specialist in Military Affairs for the National Archives; a five volume work to relieve the cumbersome and inadequate indexing system of the Official Records. Publication date not announced.

Ray Allen Billington, formerly of Northwestern University and now senior research associate of Huntington Library in San Marino, Cal., is author of "America's Frontier Heritage" (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 502pp, $7.95). It is the first in an 18-volume series, The History of the American Frontier, of which he is general editor. Prof. Billington spoke to our 169th meeting, March 7, 1958, on "Frontier Origins of the Civil War."

from the Editor's pen

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Wilson Smith spoke of the encroachment of construction beside the Gettysburg National cemetery. He called on members to write letters of protest to their congressman and senators and the National Park Service. Earl Bartholomew has reported observing encroachments at Antietam and Fredericksburg. Ron Persenico reports that the Sons of Union Veterans is active in opposing encroachments.

It was announced that Ladies' Night at Ivanhoe restaurant will be $15 per couple for dinner and the theater show.

** FUTURE MEETINGS **

Thursday, Dec. 8 - Frank Klement, "Clement L. Vallandigham."


Tuesday, Feb. 14 - Ladies' Night, Speaker Alice Hamilton Crombie; dinner and theater at Ivanhoe restaurant.


April 20-23 - Battlefield tour to Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, and Westport.

Tuesday, May 25 - Henry Simmons, "Northern Censorship of the Press: Necessary or Needless?"

Friday, June 23 - J. Robert Smith, "Gen. Mike Lawler."

** NEW MEMBERS **

David E. Meere, Department of History, State University College, Fredonia, N. Y. 14063; S. L. Neiman, 891 Pleasant St., Ravinia, Highland Park, Ill. 60035; Harry J. Sonneborn, 1332 N. State Pkwy., Chicago, 60610; Bart D. Wolson, 509 Woodvale Ave., Deerfield, Ill. 60015.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Alan G. Almone to: 118 East Highland, Mt. Prospect, Ill. 60056; John E. Christen to: 710 Ohio St., Terre Haute, Ind. 47808; L. E. Clark to: P.O. Box 546, Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii; Robert E. Cleveland to: 11 S. LaSalle St., Chicago 60603; C. Robert Douglas to: 195 Old Farm Road, Northbrook, Ill. 60062; Henry A. Pomerantz to: 2144 N. Fremont St., Chicago 60614.

CORRECTION: Benjamin B. Collins in directory should be George B. Collins.

** THE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP AWARD FUND **

The Graduate Fellowship Award Fund and membership dues are income tax deductible. Members are invited to send contributions to the fund to the treasurer. Another book and relics auction for the fund will be held in the spring. When anyone learns of a good student candidate for a fellowship award, please report to Chairman Clement Silvestro.

** THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY **

At its meeting Oct. 1-2 in Freeport elected as one of its directors our member Dr. W. W. Sauer of Paxton. Newton C. Parr finished his year as president and is chairman of the board for a year. The new president is J. Robert Smith of Carmi, who is our speaker next June. Senior vice president of the society is Philip D. Sang. Among the vice presidents of the society are Brooks Davis and C. G. P. Clausius, CWRT past presidents, and John Y. Simon, editor of the U.S. Grant papers. One of the state society's awards of honor went to State Sen. Paul Simon for his book on "Lincoln's Preparation for Greatness," his legislative years. Sen. Simon addressed our group on that subject.