Friday, June 7, T. Harry Williams Speaks on 'A Yank at Oxford'

A Yank at Oxford or 'Teaching the Civil War to the English' is the title and subtitle of T. Harry Williams talk to our Round Table on Friday, June 7, at the Furniture Club. For the 1966-67 academic year, T. Harry held the Harold Vyvyan Harmsworth professorship (the American history chair) at Oxford university in England, a high tribute to an American historian. That year provides the material for his talk here.

T. Harry has been one of the most frequent and popular speakers to our group, and this year his wife, Estelle, will speak to the Camp Followers. As a preliminary, Past President Brooks Davis, and wife, Betsy, will honor the Williamses, outgoing President Ver Lynn Sprague and incoming President Jerry Warsaw at a cocktail party.

Members of the Round Table, Camp Followers, husbands and wives, are invited to a cocktail party at 4:30 p.m. in the second floor rooms of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 East Chestnut St., and the Brooks Davis apartment on the third floor. At the Furniture Mart, members can obtain cocktails at the club bar.

About his speech, T. Harry said:

'It's really about my year at Oxford, the Oxford system, the interest in the Civil War there, etc. I'm also going to describe the social customs of the colleges, the traditions of Oxford and its ceremony, with some interesting bits on drinking customs. I'll also describe my Inaugural Lecture, which was on Huey Long and a memorable occasion. Somewhere along the line I'll compare the English and American educational systems and students.'

T. Harry's wit, flare for the unusual, and eagerness for an argument are well known to us. At our 131st meeting, March 18, 1954, he spoke on "The Pattern of an Historian;" 142nd, May 6, 1955, "Beauregard the Man;" 191st, May 27, 1960, "The Generalship North and South;" 230th, April 17, 1964, "The Civil War in Louisiana;" and 242nd, June 11, 1965, "The Valley Campaign of 1864."

He has spoken to us on other occasions - at Jackson, Tenn., in 1954 on our battlefield tour to Tennessee and Mississippi; at Baton Rouge and New Orleans in 1964 on our tour to Louisiana, and at symposiums in Chicago and Springfield. In 1964 the Williamses were hosts to our touring group at their home, "Lincoln And . . ." in Baton Rouge.

The name of the Williams home was invented after the success of his books, "Lincoln and the Radicals" (1941) and "Lincoln and His Generals" (1952). Other books include "P.G.T. Beauregard, Napoleon in Gray" (1955), "Americans at War" (1966), and "Hayes of the Twenty-Third" (1965).

Williams was born at Vinegar Hill in northwestern Illinois, just about as close as you can get to the Wisconsin border. So, he crossed over and grew up at Hazel Green, Wisconsin. He attended Wisconsin State Teachers college, then took his master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Wisconsin. He taught there, then at West Virginia and Omaha before going to Louisiana State University in 1941. He has been the Boyd Professor of History there since 1953.

Dr. Williams has served as editor of the Southern Biography Series published by the L.S.U. Press and has contributed articles to American Heritage and many historical periodicals. He was president of the Southern Historical association in 1959. He has various honorary degrees and, was a foremost figure on the Louisiana Civil War Centennial commission. He is an Honorary Award Life Member of our Round Table, and has received the Harry S Truman award of the Kansas City CWRT.
LeRoy Fischer recalled his first speech to the Round Table 23 years ago when he addressed our May 10 meeting. Using the subject, “The Civil War in Today’s Perspective,” LeRoy said, “The Civil War captures the imagination. It was the climax of American history, a major spiritual resource. The Federal government emerged supreme. The Federal Union became the American nation during the course of the war. The Emancipation Proclamation set in motion a chain of events that resulted in freeing the slaves. There came a new concept of freedom—a freedom for all men, for all generations.”

LeRoy cited the mountain of publications based on the Civil War—“Fine scholarly books, but also much trash... There is still a field for research and reinterpretation in terms of today’s perspective... Some of the best fiction is based on Civil War themes... The war is still a major source of tourist income in the South... It is the only war that has regular periodicals devoted to it; Civil War Times Illustrated, Civil War History, Lincoln Herald, and Lincoln Lore, with a combined circulation of 26,500.”

In the discussion period, Reuben Flacks, Jerry Warshaw, Warren Reeder, Miner Coburn, and Lloyd Miller rose to do battle with LeRoy.

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Dick Bjorklund was hospitality chairman for the evening and supervised the introduction of guests among the sixty-three persons present.

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President Ver Lynn Sprague called for a vote on the report of the nominating committee. The slate was adopted unanimously. (See column 1.) Incoming President Jerry Warshaw has announced appointive offices. One change was Philip R. Davis as new judge advocate general. One addition was Miles Janousek as “leader of the band”—a reward for his great piano work at Fun Night on the battlefield tour. New officers will be installed at the June meeting. Warshaw stated that Lloyd Miller has agreed to open the 1968-69 program with “Second Day at Gettysburg” at the September meeting. Details of participation in the Aug. 23–26 Sesquicentennial events at Springfield will be given in a special letter in mid-summer.

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Sprague announced the Fellowship Award winner (see page 3).

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Dan J. Lapinski and Clyde C. Walton were announced as co-chairmen of the 1969 battlefield tour. Edwin C. Bean has consented to be field co-ordinator. The tour will be to Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Tupelo, Brice’s Cross Roads, and other places in that area.

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Members expressed sympathy to Morton Feigen on the death of his wife, Kay, on April 18. She was an active member of the Camp Followers and participated in many ladies’ events of the Round Table.

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OKLAHOMA dedicated a marker to the Battle of Chustenahlah (Dec. 25, 1861) four miles west of Skiatook, Okla. It was the last of three battles between Confederate troops and the Union Creeks under the leadership of Opheleyaholo. The marker was erected by the Osage County Historical society. The area of the battle site is known as Patriot’s Hill.
Graduate Fellowship Award

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1965 - David Edward Meere, Ogallala, Neb.,
University of Illinois.
1966 - Richard William Iobst, Allentown, Pa.,
University of North Carolina.
1967 - Stuart Loren Bernath, Goleta, Cal. (native
of Detroit), University of California, Santa Barbara.

The Civil War Round Table Fellowship Award for
1968-69 goes to

Thomas David Schoonover who will pursue
his doctoral research in
the diplomatic history of the
Civil War period, 1850-1877.

The one-year fellowship is for
$3,000 derived from a major contribution by
Lloyd D. Miller and additional
donations by members of the
Round Table and some from other
Round Tables.

Schoonover, 22, a native of
Winona, Minn., lives at 3224
Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis with his
wife and baby son. He received his B.A.
degree at University of Minnesota in 1959 and master's
at Louisiana State University in 1961 on the thesis, "The
Military Thought of William T. Sherman and Thomas
Jackson."

His application for our fellowship award was supported
by Prof. Linley Brauer, his Ph.D. supervisor at
the University of Minnesota, by Rodney C. Loehr, of the
Minnesota history department, and T. Harry Williams
of Louisiana State history department.

Schoonover's articles written for scholarly publications include: "Manpower-North and South-in 1860,
"Lee's Losses at Gettysburg and "Confederate Casualties
in the Eastern and Confederate Armies from 1861-1863
and Their Effect on the Command Systems."

Schoonover had to work his way through college.
After receiving his master's under the direction of Dr.
Williams he returned to Minnesota as a teaching assistant.
After a stint of teaching in Wisconsin he joined the
University of Maryland work abroad for our servicemen
and while in Europe he became proficient in German and
Spanish.

The fellowship will allow him to go to Mexico to study
diplomatic relations between Mexico and the United
States, 1861-67, our efforts to get the French out of
Mexico after the Civil War, relations with Juarez, and
the story of the struggle at the border, especially around
Brownsville and Matamoros, to stop Confederate trade
with Europe. In the story are undercover activities on
both sides, complete with guerrillas and Mexican bandit-patriots.

Schoonover will study the Juarez papers at the
Biblioteca Nacional de Mexico, the archives of the
Ministry of Foreign Relations, the Archivo Historical del
Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia, and the
Matias Romero papers.

Schoonover said that as long range projects, beyond
the dissertation, he is interested in studying the United
States-South American diplomatic relations during the
Civil War, and perhaps diplomatic history of the Civil
War. He intends to continue college teaching, concen-
trating on United States diplomatic history courses,
rather than doing the wide variety of course instruction
that the University of Maryland's European Division re-
quired.

Clement Silvestro, chairman of the Round Table's
committee, announced the award of the fellowship to
Schoonover. Other members of the committee are Lloyd

TO THE LADIES -
One of the Camp Followers' greatest events is
the meeting Friday, June 7. T. Harry Williams
of Louisiana State University is speaker to the
Round Table on "A Yank at Oxford"- his year of
attending there- and his wife, Estelle, will speak to
the Camp Followers on "A Reb at Oxford,"
the woman's point of view. She will have less on
the college aspect and more on the problems of
living in another country and something about the
Williamses' trips to Europe. A cocktail party for
the Williamses will precede the meetings (see
story on page 1). For reservations to party, talk,
and catered dinner, call 944-5082 or write 18
East Chestnut street-
- Betty Davis, program chairman

Betty Walter's absorbing talk May 10 on the
Charleston riots stemmed from her observations at
the recent re-enactment in which her husband,
Bob, and the 164th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, re-
activated, took an important part against the Cop-
perheads. The question period from the Camp
Followers was fast and furious, prompted by the
interesting and colorful talk.

THROUGH the generosity of the Kirkpatrick
Foundation, Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma Historical society has
acquired the site of old Fort Towsen. It was founded
in May, 1824, just a month after Fort Gibson. Now the
society needs money to finance cleaning, restoring, and
marking the locations of buildings. One of the site's 77
acres has been put on record as a Memorial Survey. The
acre is being sold for $1 per square foot to raise
money to start the project. An attractive deed bearing
a picture of the fort has been prepared. There is no
limit to the number of $1 deeds a person can buy. A
museum is planned for the fort grounds. In it will be
records of all the lot owners. Send your $1 or more to
Walter B. Hall, chairman, Fort Towsen commission,
Oklahoma Historical Society, Fort Towsen, Okla., 74373.

D. Miller, Arnold Alexander, C. Robert Douglas, Ralph
Newman, Harold Hyman, Clyde C. Walton, and Ver Lynn
Sprague.

Stuart L. Bernath, winner of the 1967-68 fellowship
award, wrote thanking the Civil War Round Table and
saying: "This award has proved invaluable to me and
played a most substantial role in supporting my research
in English and American manuscript repositories.

"I am completing my thesis, 'Storms Across the At-
tlantic: American Civil War Prize Cases and Diplomacy.'
Dr. Alexander DeConde, chairman of my dissertation
committee, after reading the first draft of the paper,
suggested that I submit the final draft to one of the
major university presses for publication. If and when
the paper is published, I will of course give due credit
to the Civil War Round Table for its generous financial
support.

"One section of the dissertation probably will appear
in the August issue of the Journal of Southern History."

Bernath will be teaching American diplomatic history
at California State College, Long Beach, next fall. He
plans to attend a meeting of the Round Table when the
opportunity arises.
HARPER'S PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE GREAT REBELLION, by Alfred H. Guernsey and Henry M. Alden (The Baron Press, Box 1103 SSS, Springfield, Mo., 65805, two volumes, $1 1/2 x 11, 886pp, $30). Reprint, 500 sets, of 1866 work.

THE FRONTIER AGAINST SLAVERY: Western Anti-Negro Prejudice and the Slavery Extension Controversy, by Eugene H. Berwanger (Iowa, 176pp, $5.95).


HOOD’S TEXAS BRIGADE IN POETRY AND SONG, compiled and edited by Harold B. Simpson, intro by William E. Bard, poet laureate of Texas (Hill Junior College Press, Hillsboro, Texas, 76645, 300pp, $7).


THE NATIONAL PARKS OF AMERICA, by Stewart L. Udall (Country Beautiful, 2419 W. Bluemound Rd., Waukesha, Wis. 53186, 9 x 12, 200 photos, $15.55, additional or gift copies $12.50).

LINCOLN TODAY, by Victor Searcher (Yoseloff, $7.50). Compounds listing nearly 350 literary works on the life of Abraham Lincoln with descriptions and comments.


THE COURT MARTIAL OF GENERAL GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER, by Lawrence A. Frost (Oklahoma, $5.95).

THE CONFEDERATE IRONCLADS, by Maurice Melton (Yoseloff, 319pp, $7.50).


PRESIDENTIAL RECONSTRUCTION IN MISSISSIPPI, by William C. Harris (Louisiana State, 296pp, $8).

CAPITAL AND THE COTTON INDUSTRY IN THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, by Seymour Shapiro (Cornell, 309pp, 51 tables, $9).


BOOK NOTES

W. T. Gregory, of the Baron Press, Springfield, Mo., relates that the reprinting of the two-volume “Harper's Pictorial History of the Great Rebellion” was a personal undertaking resulting from a legacy from a great aunt. Only 500 sets were reprinted. The original work was by Alfred H. Guernsey and Henry M. Alden (Harper's 1866, second copyright 1894). During the progress of the Civil War, Harper's Weekly was the leading illustrated paper in bringing war scenes home in pictorial sketches by artists on the spot. When the war ended, the material was selected, connected, and properly edited. The result was two volumes of current narrative and illustration of the period—the entire war, by month, place, and battle, a complete history of the war while it was happening.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Meeting dates for 1968-69, all at Furniture Club on Fridays:

September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13, January 10, February 14 (Ladies' Night), March 14, April 11, May 9, June 6.

SPECIAL EVENTS

June 1 - Salt Creek CWRT tour to Galena, Ill.; Opening of Tycoon museum, 19-room house of 1850 vintage at Charleston, Ill.; Opening of DuPage County historical museum and Sesquicentennial month at Wheaton, Ill.

June 8-9 - Galena, Spring tour of historic homes.

June 9 - Shelbyville, Chautauqua.

June 10 - Springfield, Lincoln Memorial Gardens, “Plants of Illinois’ 150 Years.”

June 15 - Perryville, Kentucky, 10 a.m., symposium on Battle of Perryville; Philadelphia Lincoln-Civil War Society Battlefielld Tour to Gettysburg.

June 15-22 and Aug. 25-31 - CIVIL WAR TIMES Illustrated battlefield tours to Gettysburg, Antietam, Harpers Ferry, Winchester, Appomattox, Richmond, Fredericksburg, guided by Prof. Frederick A. Klein.

June 22 - Vandalia, Ill., Early Illinois publishers and writers, grand levee at second Illinois State Capitol.


July 4 - Randolph County, Kaskaskia State Park, “Illinois Under Five Flags,” drama, orations, musical programs, fireworks display.


Aug. 23-26 - Springfield, Ill., state constitution day and rededication of Old State House; gathering of Civil War Round Tables.

(Special letter will be issued for latter event. See Sesquicentennial calendar for other events of the summer.)

NEW MEMBER: Edward J. Williams, 468 High Crest Drive, Wilmette, Ill. 60091.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: H. K. MacCorkle to: P.O. Box 10803, Midwest City, Okla. 73110; Win Stracke to: 1936 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. 60614.

AVAILABLE at meetings: Lapel pin, $2; Key chain with CWRT emblem, 50¢; Cigarette lighter, $2.
18th BATTLEFIELD TOUR, May 2-5, 1968 to FREDERICKSBURG, Va. area.

The 18th battlefield tour, May 2 to 5, was one of the finest, blessed with good weather, and everything running smoothly throughout. Registration for all events was nearly 100. Sixty persons rode the chartered White Sox DC-7; others joined the party in Washington, D.C., and Fredericksburg, Va.

Two Greyhound scenicruiser buses, used in the field touring, made the first stop at Sheraton-Fredericksburg Motor Inn headquarters. Supt. William Homan welcomed the party at the Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania Military park visitor center for a look at the museum and an orientation lecture. Historian Ralph Happel and Ranger Ralph Bullard joined as guides and lecturers for the tour that began at the stone wall and sunken road of Mary's heights and continued through the Fredericksburg battlefield. For the campaign, the buses were named Alexander Schimmelpennig and Carnot Posey. Marshall Krollick, Richard Cohen, Charles Wesselhoeft, and H. George Donovan were the bus marshals.

The new motor inn was a hit from the beginning. The first Command Post was a bus trip to a pavilion beside a lake for cocktails. Then back to the inn for dinner with 100 seated. President Ver Lynn Sprague conducted introduction of guests. Brooks Davis, awards chairman, presented a Distinguished Service certificate to J. Ambler Johnston of Richmond, honorary chairman of the tour. Ambler told of helping to form the Virginia Prison Civil War Round Table, "a project that proved to be a great morale builder." He noted that it is the only prison group permitted to have speakers from the outside.


Lee won the battle, but lost Jackson. That was a crucial turn of the Civil War. In the discussion period, Cullen refused to be drawn into "historical ifs" of the war, but he replied to questioners on about everything else.

Edwin Bearss, research historian of the National Park Service, joined Happel as a bus guide on the second day. Buses stopped at all important points of the Lee and Hooker troop dispositions, the Jackson flank march, and the point where Stonewall was mortally wounded. One stop was at the Caroline furnace. After a box lunch, the party viewed the slide orientation program in the Chancellorsville visitor center. The tour continued to the site of the Chancellor house and the house where Stonewall died.

At dinner, introductions included Col. Joseph Mitchell, author whose battle maps were used on the tour, and Francis Wilsin, who was chief guide on our 1955 tour to Fredericksburg. He is an Honorary Award Life member of the Round Table and presently is superintendent of the Manassas battlefield. A distinguished service award and miniature banner of Lincoln were given to Wilson Smith for service on the tour committee.

A similar award was made to Supt. William Holoman of Fredericksburg.

Ralph Happel was speaker on "The Chancellors of Chancellorsville." He traced them from 1816 to post-war. They included Sue and Melzai and many others. Ralph detailed the life and foibles of the family. The climax was the escape of the sixteen members of the family in the house when the battle was raging. Ralph's talk was wry, subtle, and at times hilarious. The talk ranks as unique among the long list of Round Table addresses.

The May 4 morning included a stop at the Lacy house where Mr. and Mrs. Leo Jones, the owners, graciously showed the place. On the Wilderness battlefield there was a stop at the Widow Tapp farm where Happel introduced Dr. A. M. Giddings who owned the farm and gave it to the National Park Service. Also introduced was William Longstreet, a grandson of the general. After a box lunch at the visitor center, the battlefield of Spotsylvania was surveyed. Campaigners hastened back to the motor inn to see the Kentucky derby on television and also learned that Fredericksburg water supply had become impaired by a crossing of water and sewer pipes.

After Command Post, James Geary, executive director of the New Market Battlefield memorial, showed a prize-winning film of simulated action of the 1864 battle in which the cadets of Virginia Military Institute took part. Geary invited the Round Table to make its 1970 tour to New Market and the Shenandoah valley.

It was Fun Night and Lloyd Miller led off by presenting a rubber chicken to Frances Ames. Among introductions were Wilbur Thomas, Washington author, and Col. James D. Bowly of the Alexandria, Va., Round Table, President Sprague and tour co-chairman Jerry Warshaw and Edward Waterbury thanked all who had made the tour a success, among them Registrar Margaret April, Alan Aimone, tape recorder, and the bus marshals. Brooks Davis announced Lincoln bust and Distinguished Service awards to Ralph Happel, Joseph Cullen, and Edwin Bearss.

For those hanging on to their drinks awaiting announcement of the BAAFFART carousing award, Ralph Newman announced that the pig trophy will be retired to a display case at Round Table headquarters. Newman and Hal Hixson were present as the only members who had been on all 18 battlefield tours. Illinois Sesquicentennial flags decorated each table and were awarded to people at the tables.

There were humorous responses to assigned subjects: "Weeds of the Confederacy," John Hunter; "Carnot Posey," Alice Cromie; "Alexander Schimmelpennig," Marshall Krollick; "If Bob Kennedy Had Replaced Jeff Davis," Lloyd Miller; and "How I Would Have Advised Burnside," Glenn Wiche. For the remainder of the evening, Miles Janousek sat at the piano and played endlessly for song and entertainment.

Sunday morning, the buses went to James Monroe's law office, the Rising Sun Tavern, Stoner's Store, and Kenmore, the estate of George Washington's sister, one car party went to Kelly's ford and Brandy Station cavalry battle site.

After lunch at the motor inn, the buses sped to Washington and the restored Ford's theater. Park Guide Joseph Geary gave a talk on the theater, then the party inspected the theater and the museum in the basement. Dan Lapinski presented a Lincoln bust to Geary and a Distinguished Service Award to Jerry Schobot, assistant chief of interpretation for the theater.
From the theater, the party crossed the street to the Petersen House where Lincoln died. Then to National airport, the charter plane, and a steak dinner on the way home.

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Persons on tour, but not listed in May newsletter:
David Azareillo, Chicago; Paul Beaver, Lincoln College, Lincoln, Ill.; Dr. and Mrs. Donald Burhans, Peoria, Ill.; Richard B. Cohen, Chicago; Ted Cormoney, Washington, D.C.; Philip J. Kohlweck, Milwaukee; Dr. Paul G. LaBissoniere, Wauwatosa, Wis.; William A. Longstreet, Washington, D.C.; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd D. Miller, Kenilworth, Ill.; James E. Murray, Rogers, Ark.; Helen and Joan Pope, Hartford, Conn.; Wilbur D. Thomas, Washington, D.C.; Norman Toberman, Arlington Heights, Ill.; and Merlo M. Hartzell, Gerald Brinton, and John LaFavre, Harrisburg, Pa.

Previously listed, but not on tour: Mary Lynn McCree, Chicago; Peter H. Johnson, Phoenix, Ariz.

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Round Table officers met and chose the Shiloh, Corinth, Inka, Brice's Cross Roads area for the 19th tour in late April or early May of 1969. Tour co-chairmen are Dan J. Lapinski and Clyde C. Walton with Edwin C. Bearss as co-ordinator.