Dr. Francis A. Lord on 'Weapons & Tactics,' Friday, December 13

Dr. Francis A. Lord, director of the Lancaster campus of the University of South Carolina and a distinguished Civil War writer and scholar, will discuss “Weapons and Their Effect on Tactics” at our CWRT meeting on Friday, Dec. 13.

The theme of Dr. Lord’s presentation will be the comparative unawareness of responsible Civil War commanders of the radical changes in weapons which should have resulted in new tactical concepts. The result he concludes, was unnecessarily high casualties and undue prolongation of the war.

“The great anachronism was that Union troops used muzzle-loaded Springfield model 1861 rifles as their major infantry weapon throughout the war despite the fact that the Henry repeating rifle was patented and available as was the Spencer seven-shot. It was as if the North was polite enough to fight the Southerners with the obsolete weapons available to the South,” Dr. Lord comments.

Dr. Lord will discuss the effect of the Union use of muzzle-loaded rifles generally and in such specific battles as Antietam and Cold Harbor where the use of repeaters by the Union might have brought about different results.

“Repeating rifles were used by Union troops in some battles in the West,” Dr. Lord relates, “and the result was not a fight but a murder. Yet even after the Civil War the Army adopted not repeaters but breech loaders which were used up until the Spanish-American War. There is at least a suggestion here that influence was used to govern the selection of standard weapons.

“The very nice thing that can be said is that they were infatuated with guns that were 30 to 40 years behind their time,” Dr. Lord adds.

Examples of the weapons to be discussed by Dr. Lord will be provided for the December meeting by our member Arnold Chernoff. Ammunition used in the rifles will be displayed by Dr. Lord.

In addition to discussing the use and effect of Union use of muzzle-loaded rifles, Dr. Lord will review the tactical effect of greater range of Civil War rifles. Some Union commanders, following an effective ploy used initially by Napoleon, drew their artillery up to their infantry lines with the result that gun crews were mowed down. What the commanders forgot was that between the Mexican War and the Civil War the effective range of rifles increased from about 170 yards to as much as 800 to 1000 yards.

Our December speaker, who holds a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Michigan, has been director of the Lancaster Regional Campus of the University of South Carolina since 1965. For 14 years prior to his university appointment, Dr. Lord was a research analyst of science in the Soviet Union for the Central Intelligence Agency. In 1963, he was a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations conference on technical aid in Geneva.

Dr. Lord headed the U.S. Army’s German-speaking prisoner-of-war interrogation unit during World War II and attended British intelligence school at Cambridge University. His wartime service earned him the commendation medal of the Office of Strategic Services and the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Our December speaker is a fellow of the Society of Military Historians, an advisor to the national headquarters of the Civil War Centennial Commission, a consulting editor of Civil War Times and a member of the American Historical Assn.

His publications include “They Fought for the Union,” “Civil War Collector's Encyclopedia,” and “Civil War Bands and Drummer Boys.” This year Dr. Lord’s publishers will bring out his “Uniforms of the Union and Confederate Armies,” “Civil War Butlers,” and “Herman Haupt, Lincoln’s Railroad Man.”
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Terms expiring in 1969: Maurice Fisher,
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PRESIDENT WARSHAW asks all members to volunteer to work on appropriate committees of the CWRT. Chairman appointed by the president for 1968-69 are:

Membership and Hospitality: Wilson Smith
Awards: Chuck Falkenberg
House and Meals: Dick Cohen
Sickness and Memorials: Jim Coulter
Fellowship Co-Chairmen: Arnold Alexander, Pete Long
Auditing; Charley Wesselhoeft
Nominating: Brooks Davis
Publicity: Dick Bjorklund
Battlefield Tour: Dan Lapinski and Clyde Walton
Speakers Bureau: Don Pfeifer
Stand-by Speaker: Miner T. Coburn
Special Events: Ver Lynn Sprague and Warren Reeder

CWRT OF KENTUCKY observed its 15th anniversary (Nov. 4, 1953) at the November 18 meeting when Dr. Philip D. Jordan of the University of Minnesota spoke on “Bayonet, Bowie Knife and Bloody Jack.” Members of the Round Table received a brochure recounting the history of the organization, listing officers, members, and speakers and highlights of the 15 years.

Doctors William B. Gallagher and Ed Perry of LaCrosse, Wis. (312 State street), are open for speaking engagements. They have a slide talk, “Medicine and Surgery in the Civil War.” An audio tape accompanies scores of slides made from photographs and drawings. Gallagher and Perry appeared before the Milwaukee CWRT in June.

from the
Editor's pen

Francis F. Wilshin, superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park, made a spirited presentation at our November meeting not only of newly discovered maps that clarify the action at First Bull Run but of the clear danger to the continued existence of Manassas park and others as battlefield memorials.

Wilshin urgently called the attention of the Chicago CWRT and its sister organizations throughout the world to the introduction of two bills in Congress that threaten Manassas National Battlefield Park. They are:

**HR 12556** authored by Rep. Robert O. Tierman (D., R.I.) “to permit burial of qualified veterans in suitable and appropriate portions of the nation’s memorial battlefields.”

**HR 18116** introduced by Rep. William Lloyd Scott (R., Va.) which would open the lands of Manassas National Battlefield Park to expand Arlington National Cemetery.

“Virtually unlimited expansion of Arlington into the Manassas battlefield park would be permitted under the Scott bill,” Wilshin warned. “And it would set up an untenable dual jurisdiction over the area.”

Wilshin recalled that more than 80 Civil War Round Tables came to the rescue of Manassas battlefield park once before when the Virginia highway department wanted a 660-foot right-of-way through the park. Response from CWRT group was so overwhelming that the project was dropped within a week.

“Now we call upon Civil War Round Tables again to respond by writing their own Congressmen to protest the invasion of battlefield parks by veterans’ cemeteries,” Wilson said. “It is best to refer to the resolutions by number so that your representatives know what bills you oppose.”

Rep. Scott’s plan for Arlington expansion, Wilshin warned, would keep Henry Hill and the picnic area and allow all else to be used as cemetery land. “Most of the Manassas battlefield area is actually unsuited for burial,” he observed.

Wilshin suggested that there are many more suitable places “where we can find places to bury the veterans of today with the heroes of yesterday.”

Minor Coburn’s table, to nobody’s surprise, won Krolick’s Kwack Kwiz for the third consecutive month at the November meeting.

Brooks Davis announced to the November executive committee meeting that the Lexington (Ky.) CWRT is attempting to restore Whitehall, the home of Cassius Clay, and would appreciate financial aid. A committee was appointed to explore the possibility of a fall tour of Whitehall and the nearby Perryville battlefield.

Applications for CWRT fellowships are now available from Arnold Alexander, chairman of the CWRT fellowship committee, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Chairman Alexander reminds all CWRT members and friends that they may make tax-deductible contributions to the CWRT fellowship Fund for Civil War research and education. Contributions may be sent to Alexander at the address above.

All CWRT members and their guests are welcome to attend meetings of the Unofficial CWRT Board of Directors and Chowder and Marching Society held each Monday at noon in our CWRT meeting room in Chodash Restaurant, 312 W. Randolph St.
The following individuals and organizations have contributed this fall to the Fellowship Program:

* Lloyd Miller
* Zion Chamber of Commerce, Zion, Illinois (through Ver Lynn Sprague)
* Brooks Davis
* Charles Wesselhoft
* Wilson Smith
* Arnold Alexander
* Alastair Napier
* Francis R. Geigle, De Kalb, Ill.

Henry Bass’s newsletter, “Dear Everybody”—The people of Springfield, Missouri have finally succeeded in reviving interest in the Wilson Creek Battlefield. He was present as the Governor turned over the battlefield to the National Park Service. The last two Missouri Administrations appropriated a total of $700,000 for land purchase.

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Confederate Historical Society of England newsletter—The United Daughters of the Confederacy expect to rededicate the headstone on the grave of James Dunwoody Bulloch in Toxteth Cemetery, Liverpool, England this winter. They have arranged with the cemetery director to clean and add a further informative inscription to the monument. The society recently played our Douglas Southall Freeman tape, “Difficulties Encountered by the Civil War Historian.” The recording was made during our 1953 tour to Richmond.

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Wilbur Sauer was recently honored by the I.S.H.S. for his work in founding the Ford County Historical Society. Brooks Davis will speak at the society’s Nov. 15 meeting on the Civil War in general and the 78th Illinois Infantry specifically.

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The Illinois Department of the Sons of Union Veterans in cooperation with the Illinois Sesquicentennial Commission and the 104th Illinois Infantry, (Reactivated) joined with the Chicago Park District in rededicating the St. Gaudens Lincoln in Lincoln Park. The program, held Sunday, October 20, featured a Lincoln talk by Past President Ver Lynn Sprague, and was organized by Ron Persence. Past President Brooks Davis presided and President Jerry Warshaw laid the first wreath. The statue had been damaged by last winter's wrath and the S.U.V. thought that the restoration by the Park district should be publicized.

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TO THE LADIES—

The Christmas meeting of the Camp Followers, on Friday, December 13, at 5:30 p.m. at 18 East Chestnut, will include a combination of Civil War lore and festivity. In addition to the surprise program and activities, there will be a Suiter's Christmas wagon. Everyone is asked to bring a $1 gift for exchange which you consider an appropriate present for a Camp Follower.

The November program was one of the highlights of the women’s programs with Margaret April sharing most informative and amusing reminiscences of people she has met in her years in the book selling business.

Reservations for the December meeting should be made by December 12 with Betty Walter, 681-0588.

Frank Rankin has advised that Whitehall, the home of Cassius Marcellus Clay near Richmond, Kentucky has been purchased by the State. Miss Esther Bennett and her brother, Warfield Bennett, great-grandchildren of the Lion of Whitehall gave the house and outbuildings, the state purchasing the 15 acres. The house had been vandalized in recent years, so a 24 hour guard has been set up by the Commonwealth. Whitehall was built in 1798 by Clay's father, Gen. Green Clay, a slave owner. Cassius promptly freed the slaves when the property became his. The house was added to in 1860 by Mrs. Clay who was the general in Russia as United States Minister. The architecture is a mixture of Grecian, Italian Villa and Charles Adams.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE DIGEST has made its bow. An opening statement says it marks an effort to provide some means of communication among Civil War buffs. Civil War Round Tables are urged to place the Digest on their mailing lists so their news can be carried in the Digest. Items from a number of newsletters are contained in the first issue of the Digest. Subscription price is $7.50 and the publisher is Civil War Round Table Associates, P. O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Ark. 72207.

The Civil War Round Table of San Francisco, Inc., would like to exchange newsletters with other groups. Contact Secretary-Treasurer Les Poe, 1220 Ellis St., Suite 1, San Francisco, Cal. 94109. The group started in May 1967 with 7 members, now has 36 and is looking for more. Meetings usually are at San Francisco Press Club. One outside meeting was at Fort Point, at the Presidio, a fort built before the Civil war and guardian of the Golden Gate.

Cincinnati CWRT is planning a two-day plane-bus tour to the Fredericksburg, Va., battlefields next spring. Our Don Russell spoke to Milwaukee CWRT on November 7 on Custer's First Charge.

New Market Battlefield park in Virginia had 8,607 visitors from July 1 through October—twice the number of the same period a year ago, its first year.

The Civil War Round Table “Day at the Races” at Arlington Park had a turnout of 101 persons on August 21. Eighty-four of the number turned up at the Chuck Frances’s home in Palatine for cocktails before the races. The group saw the races from the Classic Club, atop the grandstand at Arlington. The main race was the Illinois Sesquicentennial purse. Ver Lynn Sprague, executive director of the sesquicentennial, presented medals to the winning jockey, owner, and trainer.
THE NEW BOOKS


YANKEE ADMIRAL: A Biography of David Dixon Porter, Father of the Modern U.S. Navy, by Paul Lewis McKay. $4.95.


VIA WESTERN EXPRESS AND STAGECOACH: California's Transportation Links with the Nation. 158 p., wrappers. Univ. of Nebraska, Reissue. $1.65.

CIVIL WAR HISTORY, vol. 14, No. 3 (Sept. 1968). With this issue Kent State University assumes publication. John T. Hubbell remains the editor and may be addressed at the Department of History, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio 44240.

BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS

President Warshaw proudly announces the complete program for the Chicago CWRT for 1968-69:

JANUARY 10: Don Russell on "Custer in the Civil War."

FEBRUARY 14: Ladies Night with the 1st Brigade Band and historian-craftsman Eugene Kupjack.

MARCH 14: Brooks Davis on "The Battle of Perryville."

APRIL 11: Warren W. Hassler Jr. on "McClellan."

MAY 9: William K. Alderfer "Illinois' Wartime Capitol."

JUNE 6: Frank G. Rankin on "John Hunt Morgan."

All meetings are held on Friday nights in the Furniture Club of the Furniture Mart.

This year's battlefield tour will visit Shiloh, Corinth, Brice's Crossroads, Holly Springs and Memphis on May 1-4.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Dr. Charles Hartman, 500 Lawrence Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60630; Malvin K. Hoffmann, 401 Fullerton Pkwy., Apt 809E, Chicago, Ill. 60614; Robert J. Jensen, 776 Green Bay Rd., Winnetka, Ill. 60093; Allen Meyer, 7061 N. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60645.

Members of Quad-Cities CWRT (Rock Island-Moline) heard reports by "Civil War Era" students at a regular classroom session in Palmer Junior college in Davenport, Iowa. After the classroom session, members and students adjourned to the school cafeteria for discussion of the session.

E.B. (Pete) Long spoke at the 200th meeting of Milwaukee CWRT on "The Generals and their Ladies." Two of our members were speakers to the Kansas City CWRT—Elmer Brinkman on "General John A. Logan" and Gerhard Clausius on "Lincoln at Gettysburg."

Hamilton (Ohio) Civil War Round Table is in its second year. Its newsletter is the Hamilton Telegraph, 1744 Sunset Drive, Hamilton, O. 45013. In the same neighborhood are the Cincinnati, Dayton, Richmond, Ind., and the Blue and Gray Club, College Hill, Ohio.

Publishers' Weekly gave an excellent review to "The Badge of Gallantry" by Joseph B. Mitchell of Alexandria, Va., a longtime friend of the Chicago CWRT. Macmillan is the publisher of Mitchell's new book.

Our founding member Elmer Gertz is author of "Moment of Madness" The People vs. Jack Ruby." Elmer was called in to act as attorney for Ruby, and we recall the good discussion of the Lincoln and Kennedy assassinations he gave us a year back, a preview to the book.