Harry H. Anderson on the Sioux Campaign of 1862

What became of Maj. Gen. John Pope after Second Manassas? If you fail on that question in our quiz program, you will find the answer in our talk scheduled for Friday, February 19, 1971. The speaker will be Harry H. Anderson, executive director of the Milwaukee County Historical Society and his subject "The Sioux Campaign During the Civil War Years."

The Indian problem suffered much neglect in Congress during the early months of the Civil War. The Frontier and its demands seemed remote while Confederate guns boomed a few miles away across the Potomac. Treaties with Indians were forgotten as were appropriations to carry out their promises. The result was an outbreak of the Santee Sioux in Minnesota in 1862. Many settlers in the new state, admitted in 1858, were killed and captured. Troops both federal and state, were diverted to this campaign as the hostiles spread westward to Montana and Wyoming, where the Santee Sioux won support from the Teton Sioux and other relatives and allies. Military action continued from 1862 to 1865, and while it was small scale compared to the campaigns in the East, it required troops, supplies, and equipment that otherwise would have been used against the Confederates.

These campaigns were a prelude to the Indian wars that continued to the end of the 19th century involving many Civil War personalities—Sherman, Sheridan, Crook, Terry, Gibbon, Hancock, Grierson, and of course the one everyone remembers, Custer. Indian policy, or the neglect of it, during the Civil War contributed to the troubles that continued to affect the Frontier.

Harry Anderson has been executive director of the Milwaukee County Historical Society since 1963. He was educated at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, received his M.A. at the University of South Dakota, and his Ph.D. at Northwestern University where he studied under Ray Allen Billington, one of the foremost Western historians. Harry served on the staff of the Chicago Historical Society and on that of the South Dakota Historical Society.

For two years he served as sheriff of Chicago Corral of The Westerners, the only preying officer of that organization whose residence was outside the Chicago area. In 1962 he was called as expert witness before the United States Claims Commission backing a Sioux successful claim for compensation for several million acres of land in the Dakotas.

He is author of more than 60 articles in historical journals and works of reference on such subjects as the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians, the fur trade, Custer, and other studies in the history of the Trans-Mississippi West. He is editor of a volume of correspondence of German immigrants, including their reaction to the outbreak and early years of the Civil War, which is scheduled for early publication.

298th REGULAR MEETING

* * *

Harry H. Anderson
Executive Director
Milwaukee County Historical Society
on
The Sioux Campaign During the Civil War Years

* * *

Friday, February 19, 1971

* * *

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street,
Chicago

* * *

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

HERE AND THERE

Commander Eugene E. Wilson, U.S.N. retired was scheduled to address the Hartford, Connecticut, CWRT November 16 on “Birth of the Carrier Task Force,” in which he will compare Civil War naval tactics with those of the present, including Vietnam. Commander Wilson is a 1908 Naval Academy graduate, and is president of United Aircraft.

* * *

George Extrom gave a slide talk on Gettysburg, Antietam, and Fredericksburg, and John Patrick Hunter and Bill Neill reported on the Chicago CWRT trip to Galveston and Savannah at the Sept. 10, 1970, meeting of Madison, Wis., CWRT at Simon House. Omar N. Kussow is commanding general.
Hobart G. Cawood, superintendent of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, gave us a rundown on the Battle of Cold Harbor that provoked long discussion that no one walked out on. Grant had crossed the Rapidan in May, 1864, with overwhelming numbers: 118,000 against some 61,000 in the Army of Northern Virginia, but took heavy losses in the battles of Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and North Anna. After each of these battles he continued his campaign by a flanking move to his left. Sheridan’s cavalry was first to reach Cold Harbor, and at Grant’s order, held it with the aid of Spencer repeating carbines until the infantry could come up. However, the movement was slower than Grant had hoped, and the delay enabled Lee to man his battle line thinly, but with no reserve. However, he had the advantage of rough ground; the Union forces were in the open. Because of bad ground in their front, three federal corps made divergent attacks. A frontal assault, 28 men deep, resulted in heavy casualties, 7,000 men in 30 minutes. Cawood faulted the corps commanders for not making reconnaissance as they had been ordered, and Meade for ordering the attack renewed, although Grant had authorized him to call it off if it was impracticable. Both Hancock and Baldy Smith refused to continue the attack. In later years Grant admitted the frontal assault as an error.

Cawood posed his own question: Was it worth it? He felt that Grant’s subsequent move to the James and Petersburg justified the campaign as planned, and as ultimately successful.

One sidelight was the explanation of the meaning of the place name. Cold Harbor is an English term for a stagecoach station where there might be rest and refreshment (liquid?) but no hot meals. Lloyd Miller noted that many early accounts made it Coal Harbor, probably a corruption. (Your editor suggests that local or Negro pronunciation Col’ Harbor might have made it come out Coal or Cole.) Another question was whether this was the Second Battle of Cold Harbor. We note that J. Ambler Johnson refers to “Gaines Mill or First Cold Harbor” as one of the Seven Days’ Battles, 1862. Incidentally Cawood brought us greetings from Ambler Johnson who is going strong although nearing 86 years of age, but apologized for not sending us all Christmas cards.

***

This was the first meeting at which Miner Coburn took over the quiz program—and he had to mention his predecessor Marshall Krollick to provoke the customary boos. Miner had a tough quiz, and only the head table was able to muster 8 and a fraction out of 10.

***

Copies of the group picture taken at Fort Sumter on the Battlefield Tour last year are available. If interested, see Al Meyer at the meeting or telephone him at Wa 2-3800.

The Battle Creek, Michigan, CWRT started its 13th year Sept. 21 with a program of films, “The True Story of the Civil War,” and “Robert E. Lee.” Dudley K. Hill is president and Thomas E. Brelsford is vice president and program chairman.

***

As new members—31 to start with—dedicated Civil War enthusiasts who have enlisted for three years or the war and promise to re-enlist as veteran volunteers if they are made welcome—so see that they are. As a conversational starter we list their specific interests when stated. The listing is in alphabetical order, includes mailing address and phone number, and will be continued.

Ivar F. Anderson, 5449 N. Christiana av., Chicago 60625, phone 463-0782; Lincoln, Army of the Potomac, Western campaigns.

William F. Bartelf, Jr., 12340 S. 76th av., Palos Heights 60463, phone 448-0663; Naval history, Ordnance.

John P. Carlin, 6800 S. Madison St., Hinsdale 60521, phone 233-8727; military campaigns.

Terry Carr, 1206 Nordic St., Bensenville 60126, phone 766-8572; Virginia campaigns.

John E. Comerford, 1 S 074 Twin Oaks, Elmhurst 60126, phone 832-8334.

Marlin P. Dutch, 500 N. Clay St., Hinsdale 60521, phone 323-2457; Lincoln, Armies of Northern Virginia and the Potomac.

Clifford L. Emmerling, 906 W. Lincoln, Mount Prospect 60056, phone 253-6753; Grant, Western campaigns, Naval history, Ordnance.

Gerald M. Edelstein, 444 Barton, Evanston 60202, phone UN 9-6599.

Robert H. Franke, 10 University Drive, Buffalo Grove 60090, phone 537-3077; Lincoln, Armies of Northern Virginia and the Potomac, Western campaigns, strategy.

Kenny J. Fromm, 734 Franklin av., River Forest 60305, phone FO 9-7099, sponsored by Elmer Pendarvis.

D. J. Gleason, 257 Vine av., Park Ridge 60068, phone 823-1903; sponsored by Richard Cohen.

John K. Grubbs, Box 293, Hines, IL 60141, phone 345-0757; sponsored by Dick Clark.

John J. Hunnewell, 1232 Elder Road, Homewood 60430, phone 799-7073; Espionage, Naval and Political history, Western campaigns.

Samuel Insull, Jr., 225 S. River St., Geneva 60134, phone 232-0764; Western campaigns, Armies of Northern Virginia and the Potomac, generalship.


Elmer B. Kosta, 3034 S. Central Park av., Chicago 60623, phone 277-7783; interests: all concerning the Civil War.

Hugh P. McAniff, 1329 N. Dunton av., Arlington Heights 60004, phone CL 5-0327; Armies of Northern Virginia and the Potomac, Naval history, Ordnance, Western campaigns.

Gordon C. McNeil, 2034 Brandon Road, Glenview 60025, phone 724-8823; Lincoln, Armies of Northern Virginia and the Potomac, the Iron Brigade, the 16th Wisconsin.

William C. Meyer, M.D., 445 Whittier Lane, Northfield 60093, phone HI 6-6273; Western campaigns.

James E. Murray, Neosho, Wisconsin.

Jerome T. Paul, 3 Woodley Manor, Winnetka 60093, phone HI 6-2044; Confederacy.

Barry S. Pokorny, 744 W. Aldine av., Chicago 60657, phone 348-3620; Lincoln, Grant, Sherman, A. S. Johnston, Western campaigns.

H. D. Richardson, 2311 Hazeltine Drive, Long Beach, Michigan City, Ind. 46360; interests: all concerning the Civil War.

Edward J. Rohrer, 6145 N. Bernard St., Chicago 60645, phone 463-3456; Confederacy, Political history.

Henry D. Ross, Jr., 432 E. North St., Peotone, IL 60468, phone 312 258-6101; Grant, Lee, Political history.

Charles J. Seils, 2556 W. 116th St., Chicago 60655, phone 233-2381; Armies of Northern Virginia and the Potomac.

Walter J. Vaters, 6785 W. Ardmore, Chicago 60631, phone 763-0787, sponsored by Lloyd Miller, interests: all concerning the Civil War.

The Program: The Camp Followers Dramatic Combination and Stock Company presents the premiere (and perhaps derriere) performance of an original drama

THE SISTERS

a romantic tragedy written in the style of the 1860's, offering a star-studded cast, and sparing no cost in stupendous production. Declared by critics to be so bad that it is magnificent.

SEE the heartbreak of separation.

WARM to the depiction of sorority love and devotion.

THRILL to the courage and fortitude of the women who can only wait.

SHARE in the enlivening inspiration of Patience and Lenore and the undying steadfastness of handsome, bold, courageous Jonathan as he goes off to the wars.

NOTE: This production will POSITIVELY be staged whether or not the chosen thespians Joyce Warshaw, Lenore Fleming, and George Fleming show up for rehearsals or performances.

The Time: Friday, February 19, 1971.

The Place: The Book and Bottle at 17 East Chestnut Street, across the street from the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop.

And the girl to call for reservations (no Annie Oakleys) is Joyce Warshaw, 1319 Grain Street, Evanston, Ill., 60202, phone 866-6667, who will take the part of Patience, take tickets at the door, and raise the curtain.

Curtain Time: 5:30 p.m., promptly.

Last Meeting: For the record, the meeting of January 8 last was canceled because of bad weather.

Charles H. Vial, 240 Sunset av., LaGrange 60525, phone 352-0187; Army of the Tennessee, Vicksburg.

Theodore R. Wirtz, 145 Grove av., Glen Ellyn 60137, phone 469-9012; Lincoln, Army of Northern Virginia, Confederacy.

Robert Willan, 481 Hill Road, Winnetka 60093, phone 446-7764; Campaigns, Political history.

Thomas A. Young, 8906 Highland St., Highland, Ind. 46322, phone 219 838-5492; Lincoln, Naval and Political history.

MISISSIPPI RIVER GUNBOAT? Your art editor submits this entry for the Civil War quiz program. This picture turned up with no indication of what it is or where it came from. Perhaps some of you can identify it. But it is a good gunboat picture.
THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)


Martin, Christopher. Damn the Torpedoes! N.Y.: Abelard-Schuman, 1970. Popular biography of David Farragut. $6.95


Edwin C. Bearss, our October speaker, opened the fall season for Lexington, Kentucky Civil War Round Table September 21; his subject: "The Attacks at Vicksburg." Dr. Holman Hamilton was re-elected president of the Kentucky CWRT unanimously. He has served since 1984.

BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle Street, 11th floor, second Friday in each month except as noted.

February 19: Harry H. Anderson on "The Sioux Campaign During the Civil War Years."

March 12: Harry Caudill on "The Guerrilla War in Kentucky."

April 2: 300th Meeting and Ladies Night. A special program is being arranged.

April 29-May 2: The annual Battlegrounds Tour: The Shenandoah Valley including the three Winchesters, Cross Keys, Port Republic, Front Royal, Kearns Town, New Market, Cedar Creek, Fisher's Hill. Tour leaves O'Hare Field Thursday morning for Dulles Airport; Thursday and Friday nights at motel in Winchester as headquarters; travel up the Valley Saturday, spending night at Harrisonburg; Sunday we take the Skyline Drive to Second Manassas and back to Dulles Airport, arriving in Chicago Sunday night.

May 14: Frank Rankin on "Morgan's Raid."

June 11: To be announced.


***

Dr. Phillip R. Shriver, president of Miami University, Oxford, spoke on "Ohio's Civil War Prisons" November 11 at the Hamilton, Ohio, CWRT. Scheduled for January 13 was Miss Althea Scholl on "Confederates in South America After the War."

***

Frank L. Klement of Marquette University spoke on "Civil War Dissent and Civil War Dissenters" at the CWRT of New York December 4. Speaker November 18 was Dr. Albert Castel on "Lee and His Critics."

***

Stephen Z. Starr, past president of Cincinnati CWRT and author of "Grenfell's Adventures" to be published by Louisiana State University Press, was scheduled speaker for the December 8 meeting of CWRT of Milwaukee on "St. Leger Grenfell, the Camp Douglas Conspiracy, and the Cincinnati Military Trials." Coming up January 14, Harry H. Anderson of the Milwaukee County Historical Society on the "The Sioux Campaign During the Civil War."