Gerhard Clausius on "Lincoln's Friend, Steve Hurlbut"

Stephen A. Hurlbut was a Civil War general from Illinois; certainly not the greatest produced by our state, but an interesting person, a friend of Abraham Lincoln, and the hero of Hatchie River. Our fellow member Dr. Gerhard P. Clausius, practices his profession in General Hurlbut's home town of Belvidere, and will tell us about him at the Civil War Round Table meeting at the Chicago Bar Association, Friday, October 19, 1973. (Note that this is the third Friday in the month, set a week later because of the Lincoln Country Tour, October 12 to 14).

Dr. Clausius has written a brief autobiography, in which he explains how he became interested in the Civil War and eventually in General Hurlbut. It follows:

I was born in Chicago, and received my early education in its schools. My parents were both immigrants, so I have no ancestral connection with the Civil War. I think I first became interested in the Civil War when my parents—who, like many naturalized Americans, were extremely patriotic—took me to the annual "Decoration Day" parades on Michigan Avenue. The sight of the old soldiers, and the music of their fife and drum corps, thrilled me and aroused my curiosity as to what kind of war they had fought in. At first I thought it was called the "Silver War" and had something to do with money, a scarce commodity in our home.

Even in grade school, history fascinated me, and I usually read the history text book from cover to cover within the first week it was issued to the class. I managed to work my way through Oberlin College, and although my time was then taken up with learning my profession, I still held the little spark in my mind concerning Lincoln, Grant, Lee, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Appomattox, and so forth. Whenever I had time to spare from anatomy, physiology, and other scientific subjects, I would sit in some library and lose myself in the period of history I enjoyed most. I owned very few books at the time, and the libraries filled my yearning to gain information on the "great war".

When I came to Belvidere, Illinois, to practice my profession, I soon visited the local library, and mentioned to the librarian my interest in Lincoln and the Civil War. She told me that this town had its own Civil War hero: Major General Stephen A. Hurlbut. This was my first introduction to this man, one of the lesser known generals of the Civil War. I once mentioned his name to Bruce Catton, who said that he "stumbled over him occasionally".

Hurlbut was born in Charleston, South Carolina, a fact (continued on page 4)
re-invented the wheel. He had studied Epaninondas at West Point and he never gave up trying to repeat the strategy. He became President because he was everyone's second choice, but when he accepted the Confederate Constitution as the supreme law of the land, he blew states' rights and slavery. He fought the war for Confederate independence.

He got by with conscription in 1862, but he never solved the treasury problem. Income tax, use tax and other ideas were advanced, but the Congress would not tax land, cotton, or slaves. And it never set up a Supreme Court. The interference of Davis in military affairs was based on lack of confidence in those with whom he interfered. Davis devised the strategy of the offensive-defensive, and the idea of Theater command, but neither worked. Davis grew with his office. He was an exemplary Confederate. He became one of the first Southern pragmatists. He attempted to modernize the South away from its Sir Walter Scott romanticism. And finally he was the man who made Lincoln famous.

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For those who worry about such matters, and there are some, this is, indeed, Volume XXXIV, Number 2, of The Civil War Round Table Bulletin, and that indicates that we are into our 54th year. There was a fallout that resulted in issues dated from January, 1973, to April being designated XXXIV, but in May we reverted to XXXIII. It may have happened because printers often assume that volume numbers coincide with the calendar year; at all events it was overlooked for four months, for which no excuse can be offered.

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Dan Lapinski, former CWRT president, was first speaker at the newly organized Civil War Round Table of Fort Myers, Florida, in August. His subject was Island No. 10. Dean Richmond heads the new group.

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Elmer Brinkman spoke on General Sibley's New Mexico Campaign at the May 15, 1973, meeting of Salt Creek Civil War Round Table at Glen Ellyn Public Library.

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Malcolm Machen writes, asking for reinstatement and volunteering to co-chairman a tour of New Mexico and Colorado. He has just finished a shoe selling swing through this area and found an amazing number of Civil War sites.

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**THREAT TO MANASSAS PARK**

In reply to a letter from Gordon Whitney, CWRT president, Senator Adlai Stevenson forwards correspondence from Charles E. Shedd, Jr., acting director, Virginia State Office, National Park Service, concerning the proposed Marriott development in Prince William County adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park. Mr. Shedd expresses concern about the possible effects the proposal but states that National Park Service officials "so far have been unable to learn sufficient details about the plan" to develop a firm position. The site in question was a staging area for Gen. Longstreet's troops during the Second Battle, from which he launched the decisive counterattack on August 30, 1973. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's headquarters was also on this property. It is not a part of the battlefield park, and there is no authority for acquiring it. Problems include a probably tremendous traffic load through Park property, possible pollution and noise pollution and a theme tower up to 350 feet high, details not specified. Federal assistance would be required for construction of an access highway or for sewer construction. However, until plans can be ascertained, only county officials are at present in position to act.
TO THE CAMP FOLLOWERS (LADIES)

The Camp Followers can't be outdone by the Round Table. We demand equal billing and this month we have scored a 'first'—a husband and wife speaking team.

Ella Clausius, one of our own Camp Followers and the wife of this month's speaker before the Round Table, Dr. Gerhard Clausius, will be our speaker this month and her topic sounds very romantic and interesting. She will be talking about and reading excerpts from the love letters of Corp. J. A. B. Butterfield who was in the Illinois Cavalry.

Ella has probably seen more battlefields than General Lee and deserves a lot of credit being married to such a staunch Civil War buff for forty years.

We will be meeting at the Book and Bottle at 17 East Chestnut Street and our meeting will be held on the third Friday this month, October 19 at 5:30. For reservations call Margaret April at 787-1860.

(from Ambler Johnston)

To the dear
Civil War Round Table of Chicago

This is one of the hardest letters I have ever written, it is intended to cover more than possible to express in words.

The Gettysburg Kit
Signed Roster
Copy of C.W.H. on the battle
The unwritten thoughtfulness and kindness
all of which touch me so deeply.

Please, oh please, each of you take this to yourself as coming from one so proud and grateful to have been remembered by you.

Affectionately,
J. Ambler Johnston

Mr dear Ralph,

Your letter of Friday the 24th and then on Sunday came the kit and THE PLAQUE!

It is well for me they came by mail. Had they been delivered at Gettysburg tears would have come to my eyes, my voice would have broken and I could not have found a word to say.

Believe me Ralph when I tell you nothing has touched me so deeply for many a day.

The Round Table of Chicago has meant so much to me in the (and my) last two decades that I feel as though I had known and admired so many for much longer than twenty years.

From my heart let me thank you and EVERY MEMBER.

Affectionately,
J. Ambler Johnston
THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)


Jones, Robert Hugh. Disrupted Decades; the Civil War and Reconstruction Years... Cartography by Bernhard H. Wagner. New York: Scribner's [1973]. $15.00


BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS

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

October 12, 13, and 14: Fall tour to Springfield, Illinois.

October 19: Dr. Gerhard Clausius on General Hurbut.

November 9: Dr. Frank Klement on Copperheadism in the Midwest.

December 14: Phil Hohlweck on Berdan's Sharpshooters.

January 11: To be scheduled.

February 8: Ladies Night, Richard Blake program, "A Look at Lincoln."

March 8: Marshall Krollick on Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg.

April 12: Robert Womack on the Battle of Murfreesboro.

May 2, 3, 4, and 5: Annual Battlefield Tour to Chattanooga and Chickamauga.

May 10: To be scheduled.

June 14: Annual Award Dinner and Installation of Officers; program details to be announced.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at LaSalle Hotel coffee shop; all members invited.

Change of address

Sam Nowinson
2308 W. 111th St., Apt. E
Chicago, Ill. 60643

Edward S. Waterbury
50 Glenbrook Road, Apt. 11 B
Stamford, Conn. 06902

(continued from page 1)

Lincoln's Friend

which added interest in my mind, as of course Charleston was the very epitome of Southern sentiment and the birthplace of secession.

Stephen A. Hurlbut, a lawyer by profession, was an early political supporter of Lincoln and served in the Illinois State Legislature with him. Lincoln said Hurlbut was one of the best stump speakers in the state, and referred to him as "friend Steve".

(continued from page 1)

Book Auctions

interesting, and profitable. Success, however, is dependent on the quantity and quality of the material. Your response to this notice will, in a large measure, determine whether we will or will not hold these auctions. Please send lists of materials with full descriptions, i.e., book titles, author, publisher, date, condition, whether first edition, and any correspondence or comments to Brooks Davis, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.