



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XX, Number 6

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February, 1960

## ROBERT L. KINCAID: "Memorable Moments Along the Lincoln Trail"

DR. ROBERT LEE KINCAID, a revered honorary member of our Round Table, will speak to a joint meeting of the Abraham Lincoln Heritage and the Civil War Round Table at the St. Clair hotel, Friday, February 19.



Robert Lee Kincaid

Using the subject, "Memorable Moments Along the Lincoln Trail," Dr. Kincaid will tell of some of the high moments he has experienced in fifty years of following the trail. It will be a casual, informal, reminiscent talk built around three or four major events in the Lincoln field in which Dr. Kincaid has participated or been an observer. He plans to give some appraisals or vignettes of some of the more important and interesting characters he has met along the way.

Dr. Kincaid was the third speaker to the newly born Civil War Round Table when on February 14, 1941, his subject was "Cumberland Gap in the Civil War." He spoke October 18, 1945, on "Kentucky in the Civil War". On May 11, 1951, his subject was "General Oliver Otis Howard, Soldier in Peace and War". On October 23, 1953, he spoke on "Joshua Fry Speed, Lincoln's Confederate Agent in Kentucky".

Dr. Kincaid was host to the Round Table's first Battlefield tour at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn., on June 2 and 3, 1951. He has been with us on other battlefield tours and has attended many meetings. In fact, he has been as closely identified with our Round Table as most anyone.

Much of Dr. Kincaid's life has been devoted to Lincoln Memorial University. He was graduated from LMU in 1915, returned as executive vice president, 1937 to 1947, was president, 1947 to 1958, and now is president emeritus. Much of the university's advancement came during his tenure.

Along the way, Dr. Kincaid studied journalism at the University of Missouri (1915-16), participated in World War I, became editor and manager of the Middlesboro (Ky.) Daily News (1923-37), and is now president of the publishing company.

As a newspaperman, Dr. Kincaid discovered that history essentially is a good story. He pursued this belief to write "Wilderness Road", the story of the westward movement of pioneers through the Cumberland Gap, and "Joshua Speed - Lincoln's Most Intimate Friend." He has written numerous historical monographs and has been a frequent contributor to historical magazines. He was editor of the Lincoln Herald, publication of LMU which continuously has recorded the rise of the Civil War Round Table.

Dr. Kincaid has been president of the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park association since 1937; vice chairman of Kentucky National Park Service; a member of the Tennessee Historical commission; a past national president

JOINT MEETING

of

ABRAHAM LINCOLN HERITAGE

and

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
(188th Regular Meeting)

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DR. ROBERT LEE KINCAID

on

"Memorable Moments Along the Lincoln Trail"

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1960

Meeting open to Ladies. Early reservations urged due to limitation of size of meeting room.

St. Clair Hotel

162 East Ohio Street

Cocktails at 5:30 P.M.

Dinner at 6:30

of the Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin, and an honorary member of the National Commandery of the Loyal Legion, one of the few Confederate descendants to have that honor.

Though this will be a joint meeting, many members of the Abraham Lincoln Heritage also are members of our group. Officers of the Heritage are Dr. Edward Stulken, president; Capt. Kenneth A. Plummer, secretary-treasurer; and trustees, William Herzog, Harry E. Rice, Ralph G. Newman, Harry G. Hershenson, and Philip R. Davis.

Women are members of the Abraham Lincoln Heritage. Accordingly, the meeting also has been opened to the Civil War Round Table members' ladies.

### 10TH BATTLEFIELD TOUR, APRIL 27 - MAY 1

The committee is progressing steadily on plans for the 10th annual Battlefield Tour to Richmond, Petersburg, Appomattox and Manassas. One highlight is that Francis Wilshin will be speaker at Charlottesville, Va., on the night of April 29 and the next afternoon will be guide and lecturer on the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas). He is superintendent of the Manassas Military park. He conducted us on previous tours in the Fredericksburg area and at Manassas.

Tour leaflets will be in the mail about mid-March and early reservations with \$25 deposit are urged in order to pin down plane space and the proper bus accommodations.





# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,  
Chicago 11, Illinois  
Phone: Whitehall 4-3085

*from the  
Editor's pen*



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C. Robert Douglas (left) and Alan T. Nolan  
(The identical ties are purely coincidental)

Photo by Al Meyer



## ILLINOIS COMMISSION PLANS MEETINGS

The Illinois Civil War Centennial commission is planning a series of meetings at various cities to acquaint interested persons with plans and to learn their views. The first such meeting was held at Carbondale on Monday, January 11. Ralph G. Newman, president of the Illinois State Historical society, announced that the Robert R. McCormick Charitable Trust had given the society \$25,000 for a Historymobile to tour Illinois with significant items of American and Illinois history.

A statewide meeting of the Centennial commission will be held Sunday and Monday, April 3 and 4, at Starved Rock state park, near Ottawa and LaSalle. It is planned to have two noted speakers.

Clyde C. Walton, secretary of the state commission, is in charge of the meeting. Dr. Russell C. Slater of the LaSalle (Ill.) Civil War Round Table is chairman of local arrangements.

A western Illinois meeting will be held Wednesday, May 4, in East St. Louis. This is just the day before the meeting of the national commission begins in St. Louis.

Besides the nine members of the Illinois Civil War commission, there will be an advisory council. Ralph Newman, a member of the commission, is chairman of the council.

The Ohio centennial commission is in operation at the state museum in Columbus. Dr. William S. Carlson, president of the University of Toledo, is chairman of the commission, and Erwin C. Zepp is executive officer.

January 1, 1961 will be suggested as the target date for the official opening of the nationwide Civil War centennial program. On January 9, the "Star of the West" incident in Charleston harbor will be commemorated. A complete program, including an address by Gen. Mark Clark, superintendent of The Citadel academy, has been arranged. Cadets from the academy fired on the vessel in 1861.



The baptism under fire of the Iron Brigade at Brawner farm on August 28, 1862 was recounted to 80 members and guests at our January 15 meeting by Alan T. Nolan, a founder-member of the Indianapolis CWRT. His military history of the Iron Brigade is to be published by Macmillan this year.

Nolan provided sketch maps of the general area and of the detail at Brawner farm, and a list of the forces opposed. Then he gave a detailed account of the late evening engagement of Gibbon's Iron Brigade against "Stonewall" Jackson's men on the eve of Second Manassas. The account was intently received and drew a barrage of cross-questioning.

President Jerry Slechta got ditched in Wisconsin's snow so Vice President C. Robert Douglas conducted the meeting. Arnold Alexander was welcomed back after a bout of illness.

Newton C. Farr told of plans of the Illinois Civil War Centennial Commission. Ed Waterbury gave an outline of the 10th Battlefield Tour, April 27 - May 1.

## MC CONAGHIE AT RICHMOND

At the January 14 meeting of Richmond CWRT James L. McConaghie will discuss the Siege of Vicksburg. He was superintendent of Vicksburg military park for nine years and now is landscape consultant with the National Park Regional Office No. 1 at Richmond. He was host to the Chicago CWRT battlefield tour to Vicksburg in 1954.

## SURVEY OF THESIS SUBJECTS

State Historian Clyde C. Walton, who made a survey of 187 doctoral dissertations and thesis, found that 99 were from universities within the geographical boundaries of the Confederacy; next in order were middle west, east, and far west. Almost one-third of the subjects were concerned with biographies, narratives, and personal memoirs. Less than 5 per cent of the topics dealt with bibliography and historiography, naval operations, weapons, logistics, transportation and causes of the war.



## ORGANIZE DECATUR CWRT

A Civil War Round Table has been organized at Decatur, Ill. David Cramers, 1480 West Macon Street, Decatur, a member of Chicago CWRT, made the preliminary call. State Historian Clyde C. Walton, member of Chicago and Springfield (Ill.) CWRT's, assisted in the first meeting, December 10.

The second Thursday of each month was chosen for meeting night and the first regular meeting was held January 14 in the Lincoln room of Decatur Public Library. Dr. Daniel J. Gage of Millikin University spoke on "A General Survey of the Civil War."

The group becomes active at a time that will see Decatur prominent on the Civil War Centennial scene. State Senator George P. Johns (R., Decatur) is chairman of the Illinois commission. Decatur plans to mark the centennial of the Illinois Republican convention of 1860 which chose Abraham Lincoln and sent his name to Chicago with the word that Illinois would vote for no other.

The Decatur convention, too, saw the birth of the "Rail-splitter" campaign tag. The Lincoln family arrived in Decatur in 1830 when Abe was 21. He helped build the family cabin and did a lot of railsplitting in Macon county before moving on a year later to New Salem. His first political speech was said to have been made on the ground that is now Decatur's Lincoln Square.

### CWRT OF THE OZARKS FORMED

The Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks was formed at a meeting of 60 men from southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas in Springfield, Mo., on January 13. Ralph R. Rea, of Harrison, Ark., author of "Sterling Price - the Lee of the West" was the speaker.

Marvin E. Tong, Jr., 404 E. Walnut St., Springfield, Mo., member of the steering committee that brought the group together said: "Fifty per cent of the persons at the meeting indicated that they would be willing to put on a program and also named the subject. We were amazed!"

Dr. H. Lee Hoover was chairman of the meeting and appointed a constitution and by-laws committee and a nominating committee. The "farthest south" representative at the meeting was Dr. Allen Bailey, a native of Australia, chief surgical resident at the Missouri State Sanatorium.

Another present was Richard (Dixie) O'Connor, who resides in the middle of Wilson's Creek battlefield and is an expert on the battle. Another nearby battlefield is that of Pea Ridge, Ark.

### SEEK ADDED BATTLEFIELD LAND

The Interior Department asked Congress on January 19 for authority to buy additional land for the National Monument at Harper's Ferry, W. Va.

The bill would permit the government to acquire the Storer College properties and other land. The Interior Department said the additions would not increase the park beyond a 1,500 acre limit set in 1944, and would not cost more than \$300,000.

Conrad L. Wirth, director of the National Park Service, said the land should be acquired now before it is put to some uses that would destroy the setting.

The land involved is high ground above Harper's Ferry, which was part of Virginia in 1859 when John Brown and a small party raided the federal arsenal. The Park Service said the John Brown "Fort" and other historic buildings were intact on the Storer College grounds. Storer College was a Negro college until a few years ago. The Park Service said it could use some of the existing buildings as an eastern training center.

## BULLETIN BOARD

THE VISUAL MATERIALS CENTER of Chicago Public Library is presenting a series of Civil War films. Ruth Parrington, assistant in charge, has mailed programs to Civil War Round Table members and extended a special invitation to attend. The programs are each on Friday, February 5, 19 and 26. The showings are free, in the assembly hall (seating 250) on the second floor at the Randolph-Michigan entrance to the library. Doors will be open at 6:30 p.m. and showings begin at 7:15.

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"SHADOW OF A SOLDIER", the story of Ulysses S. Grant's last days spent in writing his memoirs, will be presented on "Our American Heritage," Sunday, February 21, 7-8 p.m. on NBC-TV network (Channel 5). Stars of the drama include James Whitmore as Grant, Melvyn Douglas as Mark Twain, Teresa Wright as Mrs. Grant, and John Baragrey as Robert E. Lee.

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### NEW MEMBERS of the Civil War Round Table:

I. M. Fixman  
1010 Fair Oaks  
Oak Park, Ill.

John A. Hamm  
761 N. Broadway  
Milwaukee, Wis.

Irving E. Meyerhoff  
120 S. LaSalle St.  
Chicago 3, Ill.

John A. Jansson  
2916 Pine Grove Ave.  
Chicago 14, Ill.

John J. Riordan  
29 S. LaSalle St.  
Chicago 3, Ill.

Paul E. Gerst  
1220 S. Knight Ave.  
Park Ridge, Ill.

Robert W. Olson  
7437 W. Gregory St.  
Chicago 31, Ill.

Joseph A. Washburn  
6547 Greenview Ave.  
Chicago 26, Ill.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Irving Birnbaum to 77 W. Washington St., Room 1420, Chicago; Charles B. Cunningham to 720 Wilson Lane, Hinsdale, Ill.; George B. Dermody to 515 Warren Lane, Key Biscayne, Miami 49, Fla.; Larry Klein to 11 E. Walton St., Chicago 11.

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AVAILABLE - At Meetings: Picture (8x10) of group on 9th Battlefield Tour, \$1; Gold finished CWRT lapel pin, \$1; cloth patch of emblem, 50 cents.

The Big Creek Gap Bugle of the LaFollette, Tenn., CWRT, printed this account of "Naming of the Iron Brigade":

"From a vantage point overlooking the Battle of South Mountain (Maryland) in September, 1862, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan watched an attack by black-hatted troopers from Wisconsin and Indiana. He turned to a fellow officer to ask whose troops they were. He learned they were Gibbon's Brigade. Gen. McClellan commented that they were made of iron. The name stuck and Gibbon's brigade became the Iron Brigade of the West."



## THE NEW BOOKS



FOREMOST of the new publications is GRANT MOVES SOUTH, by Bruce Catton (Little, Brown, 564 pp. \$6.50). This is the sequel to CAPTAIN SAM GRANT, by Lloyd Lewis, 1950. Lewis died before he could continue his work, but left copious notes which were made available to Catton. From the summer of 1861, when Grant became a general, this volume covers the two years of warfare to the success at Vicksburg and the development of a man.

YANKEE FROM SWEDEN, by Ruth White (Holt, 299 pp. \$4.50), biography of the Swedish-American engineering genius John Ericsson, whose greatest fame rests with his designing and building the Monitor, although this was only one of his achievements.

VICKSBURG: A PEOPLE AT WAR, 1860-65, by Peter F. Walker (North Carolina U., 235 pp, \$5). An account from first hand sources of the city and its people as they moved from peace to secession and then were caught in events that moved from civil war to siege and to final submission.

THE PRESIDENT TAKES A WIFE, by J. J. Perling (Denlinger's, Middleburg, Va., 368 pp, \$4.95). An historical novel of Julia Gardiner, second wife of John Taylor, 10th president of the United States and member of Confederate congress.

A. LINCOLN: PRAIRIE LAWYER, by John C. Duff (Rinehart, 433 pp., \$7.50). This is the first extensive treatment in 20 years of Lincoln's law career, especially of the Eighth Judicial circuit of Illinois and notable cases and personalities.

THE REBEL SONGSTER, commentary and illustrations by Manly Wade Wellman, music scores by Frances Wellman (Heritage House, Charlotte, N. C., 53 pp, \$2). Two score Confederate melodies.

### TEXAS 38th STATE WITH COMMISSION

Texas has appointed a state Civil War Centennial commission. This brings to 38 the number of states with commissions. Included is every southern state.

Texas already has been active: Restoration of Confederate historical markers and erection of new state tourist markers; microfilming in the National Archives the records of more than 100,000 Texans who served in the Confederate forces.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy, Texas division, plans observances beginning in 1961 at Sabine Pass, Galveston, Palmetto Ranch, and other battlefield sites in Texas.

A Texas monument at Vicksburg has been assured by a \$100,000 appropriation of the legislature. The new state supreme court building has been dedicated as a Texas Confederate memorial. The state is building a \$2,500,000 archives building. Records of the Civil War period will be an important part of the exhibits. The state Confederate Museum is being restored.

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The Virginia centennial commission plans to commemorate the "Peace Convention" of 1861 which was called by Virginia and was a last ditch effort to preserve the Union and prevent the Civil War. All 34 states then in the Union were invited and 21 sent delegates. It is planned to dedicate a memorial in Washington at ceremonies on the 100th anniversary, February 4, 1961.

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## FUTURE MEETINGS



FRIDAY, March 11 - Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., editor of Civil War History, "Jackson's Stone Wall: The Stonewall Brigade".

FRIDAY, April 18 - Symposium on sites to be visited in 10th Battlefield Tour, April 27 to May 1. Panelists to be announced.

FRIDAY, May 27 - Dr. T. Harry Williams, Boyd professor of American History, Louisiana State University, a new presentation of the generalship in the Civil War.

JUNE - Date and program to be announced.

### MIDWEST CWRT CALENDAR

LA SALLE, Ill., Feb. 5 - Prof. Lloyd Hoshaw, "The Fugitive Slave Act."

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 8 - "The Turning Point of the Civil War", group discussion, led by A. W. Crandall, Antietam; Ed. Seitz, Jr., Gettysburg; Dick Groome, Vicksburg.

PARK FOREST, Ill., Feb. 11 - Discussion of Antietam (Continued).

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 11 - Maxwell Herriott, "Lincoln, the Commander-in-chief".

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 15 - Ladies' Night (black tie), Richard Bales, "Music of the Civil War."

MOLINE, ILL. (Quad Cities CWRT), Feb. 17 - Donald Wills, "Submarine Warfare in the Civil War."

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 19 - Panel Discussion: "Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief".



### FIRST SHOT BY AN ILLINOISAN

George L. Cashman, editor of the Springfield (Ill.) CWRT newsletter writes:

"There seems to be considerable weight of evidence to support the claim that the first rifle shot at the Battle of Gettysburg was fired by a native of Illinois, Marcellus E. Jones of Milton township, DuPage county, a member of Company E, 8th Illinois cavalry. We also award to Michael Hayes, a member of Battery A, 2nd U. S. Artillery, a native of Springfield, the honor of having fired the first artillery piece at Gettysburg."

### TO "THE LAST FORAGER"

The Monmouth County (N.J.) CWRT, whose newsletter is The Forager, dedicated its December number to "The Last Forager", Walter S. Williams, C.S.A. Editor Jeanne Predham's editorial, "The Ranks Are Closed", was reprinted in a number of CWRT newsletters.

