



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXVI, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October, 1965

Dr. Kevin McCann - 'James Shields, Illinois General' - Wednesday, Oct. 6

Our 244th regular meeting on Wednesday, October 6, will be a major production, topped off with a talk by Dr. Kevin McCann, administrative assistant to former President Eisenhower. Dr. McCann will speak on "James Shields: General and Senator from Illinois."



James Shields

The meeting is on Wednesday, rather than the usual Friday, to fit in with the schedules of some of the persons on the program and to accommodate the many Round Table members who will be going to the annual meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society at Dixon, October 8 to 10.

Our program begins at 4 p.m. at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop at 18 East Chestnut Street. There the 14 by 20 foot plot of greensward that President Brooks Davis has given such tender loving care will be dedicated as Centennial Park - now that the centennial is over. An appropriate marker will be installed. There will be plenty of dignitaries on hand - as there will be all through the evening.

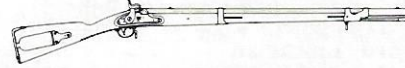
After the ceremonies, the company will repair to the second floor reception rooms of Ralph Newman's shop and the third floor apartment of the Davises for cocktails.

The usual cocktail hour at the St. Clair hotel will begin at 5:30 p.m. for those who can't make the 18 East Chestnut ceremonies, followed by dinner, special events and the speaking.

Edmund Gass, executive director of the national Civil War Centennial commission, will be with us to make presentations. Ed was assistant director when the commission began in 1958. When James (Buddy) Robertson, Jr. resigned last June, Ed took over for the windup year. Ed will draft the final report to Congress of the commission's eight-year activities.

At our meeting, Ed will present seven awards of the national commission. The centennial medal, the highest award, will go to our members Gov. Otto Kerner and Ralph Newman, a founder of the Civil War Round Table. A certificate, the award of distinction, also goes to Newman. The Round Table will receive a certificate of achievement. A similar award will go to the Ulysses S. Grant association, of which Paul Y. Simon is the executive director. Two other awards are to Clyde Walton, secretary of the Illinois commission, and to Adlai Stevenson III in behalf of his late father.

Kevin McCann was editor of the South Suburban News, a weekly newspaper published in Chicago Heights. Then he became president of Defiance college in Ohio. In 1952 he wrote "Man From Abilene", a biography of Gen. Eisenhower. In 1953 Dr. McCann was granted leave by Defiance college to join President Eisenhower's



244th REGULAR MEETING

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Dr. Kevin McCann

on

"James Shields: General and
Senator from Illinois"

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1965

(See Main Story and Bulletin Board for other events)

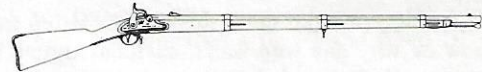
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St. Clair Hotel

Cocktails at 5:30

162 East Ohio Street

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



staff, on which he was a principal speech writer. He continued his work with the general after the presidency.

Dr. McCann long has been intrigued by James Shields and says the full title of his speech could be, "History; and the Mystery of James Shields; or How to Disappear from Memory by Being Too Much a Controversial Public Figure."

Shields, born in Altmore, Ireland, came to America in 1823. He settled at Kaskaskia where he taught school and studied law. He was elected to the Illinois legislature in 1834, once challenged Abraham Lincoln to a duel, and served in the Mexican war, with mention for gallantry. Shields was Senator from Illinois, 1849-1855; from Minnesota, 1858-1859, and from Missouri, 1879.

Letters and manuscripts relating to Shields have been elusive, but Dr. McCann has assembled a considerable amount of material and is looking for more. Of his subject, he says:

"Because Shields was for a quarter of a century an Illinoisan, through all of his adult life a frequent Chicago visitor, he may mean something to those interested in local history. His Civil War role - for a brigadier general - was minimal and, in the murk of Washington politics through the hard months of 1862, not well handled by himself.

"Although his was one of the more extraordinary careers of the 19th century, Shields himself seems to have been a very ordinary person who would rather split rails and putter around a garden while feeling sorry for himself and his misfortunes, even as he loved to brag about his wounds and glories, than deliberately and

(Continued on next page)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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

OFFICERS

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Continued from Page One

seriously think out his position on a public problem and present it in the Senate of the United States or on a platform in front of Chicago's City Hall. That may be the reason he made no evident imprint on American history.

"My interest in him is an attempt to solve the mystery of how or why one who was a national figure through a long generation could become so lost to memory a relatively few years after his death."

From Chicago, Dr. and Mrs. McCann will go to Defiance, Ohio, for the dedication of a College Study Center named for them.

Our member Everett Lewy was the speaker on "One Hundred Years of Military Justice from Lincoln and Davis to Lyndon B. Johnson" at the first fall meeting of Madison (Wis.) CWRT.

Stephen Ambrose, now on the faculty of Johns Hopkins university, Baltimore, was speaker on "Cadets of West Point in the Civil War" for the first fall meeting of New York CWRT. New York is considering a plane tour to the Chickamauga-Chattanooga battlefields next May 19-22.

H. L. HOOVER writes in Buck and Ball: "We are in the last quarter, sixth year, of CWRT of the Ozarks. While the Civil War Centennial is officially over and the campaigns and battles have been re-evaluated and re-fought, the aftermath of the Civil War is still with us and has influenced the history of the United States for the past one hundred years. We still have much territory to cover - there are many subjects to discuss: Westward Expansion Following the War; Economic and Sociological Changes; Emerging Leaders Following the Civil War; Constitutional Problems; Opening of the South to Industry; Causes of Industrial Shift; Effects of the War on Religion, and many other topics."

*from the
Editor's pen*



At the meeting in the Union League Club on September 10, Clement Silvestro, director of Chicago Historical Society, made a fine presentation of "None But Patriots: The Union Leagues in the Civil War." The Union League had its beginnings in St. Louis and Pekin, Ill., but had its greatest growth elsewhere. By early 1863 there were more than one million members. The organization was the arbiter of patriotism and stood opposed to such dissident outfits as the Knights of the Golden Circle and the Copperheads. The Union Leagues had rituals, codes, symbols, and oaths of allegiance. They strongly backed the Republican party. The party suffered reverses in 1862 and the Democrats got control in some states. The Union Leagues were a threat to the rising peace movement in the Democratic party and waged a propaganda campaign against the Democrats. They staged great mass rallies for the Republican cause and the key states were won in the 1863 elections. The leagues were a great strength in the election of 1864 that returned Lincoln to office.

* * *

Silvestro noted that the Union League Clubs of Philadelphia, Boston, and New York have been in continuous operation. The Chicago club has a continuous existence since 1880, officers of the club who were present said. The organization had vigilante committees which operated against southern sympathizers. The leagues continued as a political power after the Civil War. The discussion period brought out other facets of the league operations. Eighty members and guests were present.

* * *

President Brooks Davis thanked Raymond Dooley, president of Lincoln College and member of the Union League Club, for securing the facilities of the club for the meeting. New members and guests were introduced. Hal Hixson gave a resume of plans for the battlefield tour.

Charles Shields of Park Forest CWRT told of plans for its battlefield tour to Pea Ridge and Wilson's Creek on Sept. 30-Oct. 3 and invited any of our members to join their group. Al Harris, co-chairman of the special events committee, announced that Gen. Mark W. Clark will be the speaker for the 25th Anniversary meeting Tuesday, December 14.

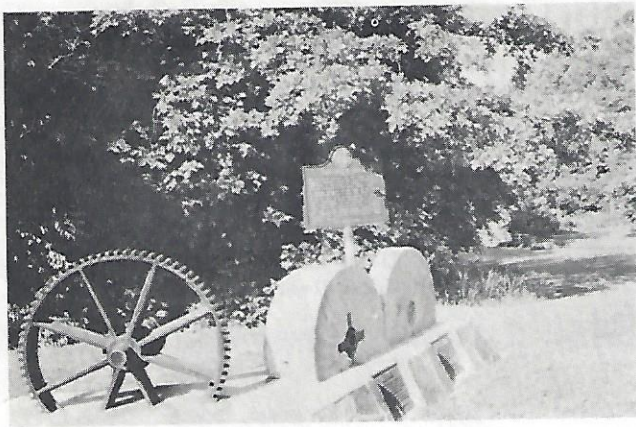
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Awards to be presented by the United States Civil War Centennial commission at our October 6 meeting are topped by the Centennial medal which go to Gov. Otto Kerner and Ralph G. Newman. The medal has the faces of Grant and Lee. The reverse side has the seal of the commission.

Newman also will receive a citation, which reads: "AWARD OF DISTINCTION: In Recognition of Distinguished and Extraordinary Contributions to the Observance of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Civil War this award is Bestowed Upon Ralph G. Newman by the CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION". (Signed) Allan Nevins, Chairman, and David C. Mearns, Chairman, Committee on Awards.

Our Round Table will receive an award, which reads: "The United States Civil War Centennial Commission, In recognition of outstanding accomplishments in preserving the history of the Civil War and furthering the spirit of the Centennial, under the authority of Section 2 of Public Law 85-305, confers its highest award on Chicago Civil War Round Table".

Battlefield Tour Variations



Site of Collyer's Mill, Peachtree Creek, Atlanta

Reservations for the 15th Annual Battlefield Tour to Chattanooga and Atlanta, October 13 to 17, had a fast start and expectations are that the final number will compare well with previous tours.

In spite of the tight schedule between Chattanooga and Atlanta, it may be possible to pay a brief call at the new visitor center at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, near Marietta. Richard H. Boyer has succeeded B. C. Yates as superintendent. The center has attractive new displays.

Wilbur G. Kurtz, Sr., the "Grand Old Man" of Atlanta will join our party part of the time if his health permits. He is author of the booklet "The Atlanta Cyclorama and the Battle of Atlanta." He had much to do with preserving the cyclorama and presenting it in its own building in Grant park there. He was historical adviser and confidant of Margaret Mitchell in the writing of "Gone With The Wind" and was technical adviser for that movie and "The Great Locomotive Chase." He married Annie Laurie Fuller, daughter of the conductor of The General. Mr. Kurtz was born in Illinois and went to DePauw university in Indiana before going to Atlanta.

The definite times of our visits to the Cyclorama and the Atlanta Historical Society will be announced when we are in Atlanta.

INDIANAPOLIS CWRT began the year with its 104th meeting. Speakers on the year's program include Glenn Tucker, Alan T. Nolan, Edwin Bearss, and James V. Murfin.

Rex Magee, past president of District of Columbia CWRT, longtime member, secretary, and editor of the newsletter, died July 11 at Falls Church, Va.

George L. Cashman, longtime editor of the newsletter of Springfield (Ill.) CWRT, is president of the group for the coming year.

Toledo CWRT on December 20 will have a panel discussion on "The Worst Union General" and "The Worst Confederate General".

THE JOURNAL of the Confederate Historical Society, London, Vol. 3, No. 2, has articles on "Southern Cadet Corps in the Civil War," "Personnel Administration in the Confederate States Navy," and an amusing poem, "I'll Take Joe Johnston".

State Historical Society Meets

The annual meeting and fall tour of the Illinois State Historical Society will be held Oct. 8 to 10 at Dixon, Sterling, and Rock Falls. Headquarters will be in Nachusa house, Dixon. Nachusa's foundation was laid in 1837.

The first evening there will have a display of antiques and historic mementoes by members of the Lee county Historical society in Loveland Community hall, Dixon, and a slide-illustrated talk about historic buildings, people and events in the area.

The annual business meeting will be held Saturday morning, Oct. 9. Prof. William Pitkin of Carbondale, Ill., is president and our member Newton C. Farr is senior vice-president.

A bus tour will visit Sterling, Rock Falls, and Grand Detour, returning through White Pines State park. The annual banquet will be held in the community center at Rock Falls.

On Sunday, Oct. 10, there will be a bus tour to Hazelwood, the 250-acre estate of Mrs. Charles R. Walgreen on the Rock river. The place is famed for its rolling ground, great variety of flowers, and trees. Three old dwellings there are the Lincoln cabin, built in 1837 by Alexander Charter and visited later by Lincoln; a guest house built on century-old foundations of the original barn, and Cliff house, a wide-winged rustic family home overlooking the river.

There will be a visit to Cook's Flowers and Gifts, Dixon. At Luncheon in Lincoln Manor, Dixon, Mrs. Ellen Whitney will speak on "The Black Hawk War". The Leonard Crunelle statue of Abraham Lincoln depicting him at the time of the war in 1832 stands near the place where he was mustered in.

Nachusa, meaning "long-hair-white", was the Indian name for John Dixon who settled there in 1830. He was the contractor for carrying mail over the route from Peoria to Galena, the lead mining boom town. To aid his business he operated a ferry and from Dixon's ferry grew Dixon.

FORT WAYNE CWRT has its program lined up for its sixth year: Oct. 4, George A. Dondero, "Personal Recollections of Lincoln"; Nov. 1, R. H. Caldemeyer, "The Copperhead Movement in Indiana"; Dec. 6, Lloyd Miller, "The Battle of Franklin"; Jan. 3, R. W. Sundstrum, "When Bugles Blew"; Feb. 7, Robert Bahney, "The Education of Negroes by the Union Army"; March 15, Ladies' Night program; April 13, Edwin C. Bearss, "The Cairo Story"; May 2, Arthur Hendricks, "The Third Day at Gettysburg". Secretary Alan McMahan states that meetings will be at the Chamber of Commerce with elbow bending at 6 p.m., dinner at 7, and speaking at 8. To stimulate membership, the group will pay half the dinner cost of guests at the first meeting.

GEORGIA Civil War Centennial Commission sent us a nearly complete set "Georgia Civil War Centennial News," tape recordings. Stanley Rowland Smith, director of the commission, expressed the hope that the tapes will be informational and entertaining. They were played on Georgia radio stations and in schools during the centennial years.

JOHN T. HUBBELL became editor of CIVIL WAR HISTORY on September 1, succeeding Robert R. Dykstra who now joins the faculty of the University of New Mexico. Dykstra joins the Editorial Advisory Board of CWH along with two other former editors, Clyde C. Walton and James I. Robertson, Jr.

THE NEW BOOKS



TWENTY DAYS, by Dorothy Meserve Kunhardt and Philip Kunhardt (Harper, \$9.95 pre-pub, then \$11.95). The assassination of Lincoln and the 20 days and nights that followed until the funeral; by daughter and grandson of Frederick Hill Meserve.

THE POLITICS OF RECONSTRUCTION, 1863-1867, by David Donald (Louisiana State, 128pp, \$4).

THE STORY OF ILLINOIS, by Theodore Calvin Pease, third edition, revised by Marguerite Jenison Pease (U. of Chicago, \$5.95).

GENERALS OF THE CIVIL WAR, Lives of the Union and Confederate Commanders, by Ezra J. Warner (L.S.U., 1155 pp, two volumes boxed, \$19.95).

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF THE NATION: A Centennial Anthology, edited by Henry M. Christman; Abraham Feldman, poetry editor (Macmillan, 383pp, \$7.95). From *The Nation*, founded in 1865.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY VANGUARD: New Essays on the Abolitionists, edited by Martin Duberman, (Princeton U., 508pp, \$10).

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE: The Known and the Unknown, by Edward Wagenknecht (Oxford, 267pp, \$6).

WHEN THE GUNS ROARED: World Aspects of the Civil War, by Philip Van Doren Stern (Doubleday, 385pp, \$6.50).

The Nashville Banner is sponsoring a book on **THE CIVIL WAR IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE**, touching on the entire war in the west. Information can be obtained from Charles L. Andrews, 1100 Broadway, Nashville.

RICHMOND Civil War Centennial Committee, 407 N. 12th St., is closing out its remainders of centennial publications. Elizabeth S. Bacon, executive secretary, states that these items are available: *Wartime Richmond and Battlefields*, 2 maps, 75¢; *Panoramic Photograph of Richmond*, 5"x19", \$3, 8"x37", \$5.25; and a number of others. A list and items still to be published may be obtained by writing Mrs. Bacon.

VALLEY NEWS ECHO, which was published in 50 monthly issues during the Civil War Centennial, may be reprinted and bound if there are enough requests for a set of loose copies, \$5; the set in fiberboard binder, \$10; and in deluxe leatherette binder, \$15. Each issue had four pages filled with contemporary news of the war. Orders may be sent to *Valley News Echo*, The Potomac Edison Company, 55 E. Washington St., Hagerstown, Md. 21740, publishers of the original issues.

HARVEY L. LONG, secretary of Salt Creek CWRT, states that the group's first fall meeting - a dinner meeting at Elmhurst College's new student center - will be at 6:30 on Friday, October 22. He says that visitors from our Round Table will be welcome - with advance notice if possible.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL Perryville Battlefield Boy Scout Trek will be held on Oct. 9, sponsored by the Louisville Civil War Round Table. Also featured will be the dedication of the new museum and diorama that the commonwealth of Kentucky has built at the battlefield. Gov. Edward T. Breathitt will speak at the dedication. Traders from many states will be on hand for the gun show Oct. 9 and 10. On Sunday, the 10th there will be a picnic at the Perryville battlefield park.

BULLETIN BOARD



DEDICATION OF CENTENNIAL PARK, 18 East Chestnut street, at 4 p.m. Wednesday, October 6. All members invited to attend. Afterward, Ralph Newman and Brooks Davis are hosts at a cocktail party on second and third floors at 18 East Chestnut.

* * *

NEW MEMBER: Gene Graves, 827 S. Douglas St., Springfield, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Brooks Davis to: 18 East Chestnut St.; William Grant to: 1190 Brookridge Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43221; S. L. Lavigna to: 65 Lynwood Dr., Battle Creek, Mich.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

Oct. 13-17 - 15th Annual Battlefield Tour to Chattanooga and Atlanta.

November - Date and Speaker to be announced.

Tuesday, Dec. 14 - 25th Anniversary meeting; Ladies' Night, formal (optional); Speaker: Gen. Mark W. Clark.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Oct. 8-10 - Illinois State Historical Society fall meeting at Dixon, Sterling, and Rock Falls.

Oct. 21-24 - Evansville CWRT battlefield tour to Atlanta, Stone Mountain, and Andersonville.

Nov. 30 - Richmond, Va., Centennial Center closes and becomes part of facilities of the Medical College of Virginia.

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AVAILABLE at meetings: Gold filled lapel pin, \$1; Cloth patch of emblem, 50¢. File of CWRT newsletter, September 1959 to June 1964, by mail or at meetings, \$5.



H. GEORGE DONOVAN, chairman of the Sickness and Memorials committee, requests that members assist the committee by reporting illness that occur. Other members of the committee are Paul Behanna, Richard Clark, and Samuel K. Levin.

CONFEDERATE ROSTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE, P. O. Box 1881, Raleigh, N. C., is urgently in need of donations to continue work on the roster of 180,000 who fought for the cause of the Confederacy. The work was begun four years ago. The first volume, containing all known men who served in artillery units is due off the press in November. The second volume, containing the service records of men who served in the cavalry, is being edited. More than a dozen additional volumes, containing infantry and miscellaneous units, are in the research stage. The 1965 North Carolina assembly voted \$25,000 to continue the project if a like amount is raised from private sources.