

* It's finally here...!
 You've been holding Oct. 14 for the
ALCWRT Anniversary Party at the GAR
 * See the last page for details *



ABOUT the ALCWRT

- The Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table is the oldest Civil War Round Table in Michigan, founded in 1952. Our **JUBILEE** (65th) anniversary was September, 2017.
- Meetings are each 3rd Thursday, September through May (except December), **7:30 pm**, at the Charter Township of Plymouth City Offices, 9955 N. Haggerty, in the Chamber Council Room.
- For more information, contact ALCWRT President Liz Stringer at stringerL@aol.com
- Our web site is **ALCWRT.org**
- Like us on **FACEBOOK**...!
 "Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION:

General Trimble at Gettysburg ... p.1

ALCWRT ANNIVERSARY EVENT ... p.1

THANKS to Dr. Curt Fields ... p.1

HOW HE SPENT HIS

SUMMER VACATIONS ... p.2

UPCOMING EVENTS ... p.4

THIS and THAT ... p.4

ALCWRT ANNIVERSARY

INVITATION & RSVP INFO ... p.5

DAVE JORDAN will be the featured speaker for the
SEPT 19th meeting of the Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table.

GENERAL TRIMBLE at GETTYSBURG

Dave Jordan became interested in Isaac Trimble after seeing the scene in the movie *Gettysburg* in which Trimble tells Lee on the night of July 1st he pleaded with Ewell to give him just one good regiment and he would take Culp's Hill.

Did this really happen? Who was this old guy?

Join us on September 19th to learn this, and more!

DAVE JORDAN was born in Atlanta, GA during the Eisenhower administration. He has served as President of the KCWRT since 1999, as newsletter editor since 2000 and Program Director since (he thinks) 2001. He is in the process of retiring from those positions.

In the real world, Dave is an engineer with the Hydraulics System Division of Parker Hannifin in Kalamazoo. He received his Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering degree from Georgia Tech in 1977 and a Masters in Engineering from Purdue University in 1995. He lives in Texas Township with his wife Tina, two worthless cats and a Golden Retriever named Ginger. He has two daughters who are now attending Calvin College in Grand Rapids.

ALCWRT ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION with special guest Will Greene

Please join us on **Monday October 14th** at the beautifully renovated **GAR Building** in Detroit to celebrate ALCWRT's sixty-seven year history. Drinks & dinner at 6pm followed by a presentation by A. Wilson Greene, author of the highly acclaimed new book (volume 1 of 3),

"A Campaign of Giants: The Battle for Petersburg".

RSVP by Oct. 04 at the latest. * Invitation & details are on page 5 *

The Oct. 14th celebration at the GAR takes the place of our regularly-scheduled meeting in Plymouth for October.

THANKS to Dr. CURT FIELDS for his entertaining presentation in May: "ULYSSES GRANT: The Man Behind the Uniform".

HOW HE SPENT HIS SUMMER VACATIONS

Welcome back from our summer hiatus.

Here's a story about how a Swedish immigrant used his summer vacations to learn about the history of his adopted country.

STUDYING THE HISTORY OF HIS ADOPTED LAND

Carl "Hal" Hjalmar Seaberg immigrated to the United States around 1923 and found work in a steel plant in Midland, PA. That was a seven day a week job in the blast furnaces, with two weeks off for a vacation in the summers. Seaberg used his vacations to learn about his adopted country. Here's how he put it:

After I had learned to master the new language well enough and could absorb the news and other contemporary things from papers and magazines I set out to find out all I could about America. But I worked seven days a week at the blast furnaces and the only time I had for that purpose was my yearly two weeks vacation. I used them well.

Hal Seaberg believed that in order to know a nation, one must study its history and its great men. This led him to Abraham Lincoln, who Seaberg felt embodied his vision of the American Dream. He wrote:

I needed someone who could give me a full compensation for all that I voluntarily left behind when I swore allegiance to the United States of America. I found it in Abraham Lincoln.

IN LINCOLN'S FOOTSTEPS

It was while making a scrapbook about Gettysburg that Seaberg decided to focus his travels on sites with ties to Lincoln. He sought out Dr. Harry E. Pratt, then the Executive Secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association in Springfield, IL. Pratt provided Seaberg a list of Lincoln scholars and collectors, and suggested an itinerary. These helped Seaberg to plan his Lincoln-inspired travels.

One of Seaberg's first stops on his Lincoln-inspired travels was a visit to Steubenville, Ohio, to see the statue of Lincoln's Secretary of War, Edwin McMasters Stanton. On another occasion, Seaberg met with William H. Townsend in Lexington, KY, to see his collection of Lincoln-related books, original letters, oil paintings, and statues. Here's how Seaberg described this visit:

When he brought out some of his most treasured items, take for instance the book "The Revised Statutes of Indiana", I found it kept in a specially made black box, lettered in gold outside, lined with black velvet inside. This was the very book which Mr. Lincoln as a lad of 16 borrowed from David Turnham, the Constable at Gentryville. Mr. Townsend opened the book where the Constitution of the United States was printed. "Your eyes" he said "are looking at the same page, where Mr. Lincoln for the first time read the Constitution of the United States". Quite a thrill to be sure.

... continued ...

HAL SEABERG's TRAVELOGUES

How is it that we know about Hal Seaberg's travels?
He documented his travels in two travelogues.

"Twice a Pilgrim through the Lincoln Country" is a 65-page typed manuscript in which he described his travels in 1939 and 1940 through Ohio, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. In this document he described the allure of studying Lincoln:

*Really what I have learned about Mr. Lincoln is not very much yet but I am increasing my knowledge every day and I am happy and forever grateful for that privilege. Governor Horner [Governor of Illinois, 1933-1940] says:
"No man can know Lincoln too well and no man can know him at all without becoming better for that knowledge." Therein lies the inestimable value of America's greatest treasure, a hope for all time to come, a gift for all humanity.*

"On the Lincoln Ancestral Trail" is a 20-page account of his travel in 1941 from Massachusetts to Virginia. Both travelogues include photographs of Seaberg and the sites he visited.

Seaberg continued his Lincoln-inspired travels through 1942 in the hope of visiting all the sites recommended to him.

THE HAL SEABERG TRAVELOGUES and CORRESPONDENCE

The Hal Seaberg Travelogues and Correspondence, 1939-1942 (MS 1013)

is in the Illinois History & Lincoln Collections of the University of Illinois Library in Urbana, Illinois.

Besides the two travelogues, the Seaberg collection includes nine letters from Seaberg to Pratt. These help current readers track the progression of his planning and enthusiasm for his Lincoln-inspired travel project. Seaberg relates in these how thrilled he was with kindnesses he received from people during his research and travels. We learn, too, of a group trip in 1940 with other Lincoln enthusiasts that Seaberg called the "Pilgrimage Party".

THE ILLINOIS HISTORY & LINCOLN COLLECTIONS

Information for this newsletter article about Hal Seaberg came from the IHLC blog site:

<https://publish.illinois.edu/ihlc-blog/2019/02/15/a-lincoln-pilgrimage-the-hal-seaberg-travelogues-and-correspondence/> -or- just do a search on "Hal Seaberg" and you'll find it.

The Illinois History & Lincoln Collections also houses the research work of Seaberg's mentor in the **Harry E. Pratt Papers, 1840-1965 (MS 202)**.

Want to learn more? Per the IHLC web site:

"The IHLC preserves and provides access to both print and manuscript materials documenting the history of Illinois as well as Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy. Approximately 35,000 printed volumes and 1,000 manuscript collections as well as numerous maps, photographs, ephemera, and other materials provide rich resources for researchers..."

The IHLC's collection is searchable online at <https://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALCWRT ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: OCTOBER 14, 2019

**** DETAILS and RSVP INFO are on page 5 ****

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

OCT 14:	* ALCWRT ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION at the GAR Building in Detroit <u>Note:</u> <i>This takes the place of our regularly-scheduled October meeting in Plymouth.</i>
NOV 21:	* Ron Carley as (who else?) Abe Lincoln..!
JAN 16:	* tba
FEB 20:	* Liz Stringer on insights from Elmira Hancock's diary
MAR 19:	* Roy Finkenbine on "Much Apu about Nothing: What Caused the Civil War"
APR 16:	* Bob Allen on "The Assassination & Booth's Escape and Killing: Sifting Fact from Myth"
MAY 21:	* -- tba
SEPT 17:	* Jerry Eising on "Untold Stories of the Civil War"

THIS and THAT ...

* THE FALL TRIP FELL THROUGH –

Liz reports that we didn't get enough people to sign up for the planned trip to Kentucky in September, so unfortunately the trip was cancelled. Thanks to all who signed up. Sorry we couldn't make it happen.

* PRE-MEETING DINNER at STELLA's TRACKSIDE in Plymouth –

Yes, the group meets for dinner at 5:30pm prior to the monthly meetings... Hope to can join us!
(STELLA's is formerly Station 885 ... same location)

* ANNUAL DUES –

Worley's always happy to collect dues: ~ \$20/single ~ \$30/couple ~ Payable by calendar year

* WEBSITES for other nearby roundtables are posted on ALCWRT.org.



*The Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table, founded in 1952, is celebrating its
"Jubilee Plus Two" Anniversary
with a dinner and presentation at the beautifully restored GAR Building in Detroit.
Please join us for this special evening...!*

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We'll congregate in the GAR Building's  
**Castle Hall & Republic Tavern**  
for the Chef's Tasting Dinner and open bar  
(wine & beer).

Following dinner, our special guest will be  
**A. Wilson Greene**  
author of the highly acclaimed new book  
*"A Campaign of Giants:  
The Battle for Petersburg"*



**WHEN:** Monday evening, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

**WHERE:** The GAR Building is located at  
1942 W. Grand River Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226

**COST:** ALCWRT Members: \$90      Non-Members: \$100

**RSVP by** To reserve your space for this special evening,  
**Oct 4th** please mail a check payable to ALCWRT by October 4<sup>th</sup> to:  
\* Liz Stringer, 23959 Brookplace Court, Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
\* Questions or for further information, contact Liz at 248.561.1368

**PARKING:** Surface lot adjacent to the building \$7  
\* If there is sufficient interest, Liz may be able to arrange bus  
transportation from Plymouth. Let her know right away, please.