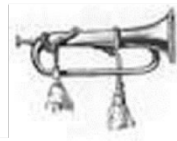




BORDER



BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

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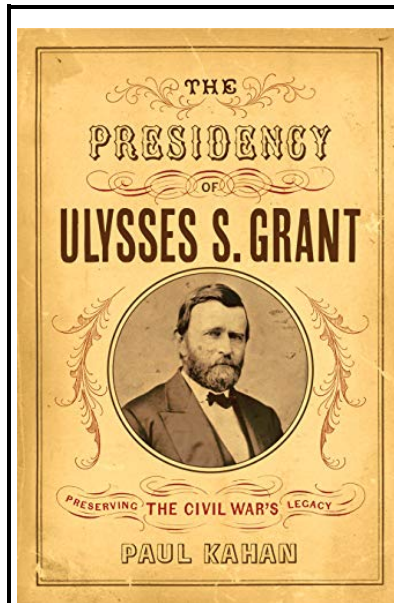
Daniel L. Smith

Civil War Round Table of
Kansas City
P.O. Box 6202
Overland Park, KS 66207

An IRC 501(c)(3)
Charitable Organization
Website- <http://cwrtkc.org/>
Join us on Facebook!

Due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic,
the CWRT dinner meeting scheduled for
May 26, 2020 has been cancelled.

Our monthly dinner meetings will
resume when it is safe to do so.



May Speaker

Historian **Dr. Paul Kahan** was scheduled to give a program about his latest book: *The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant*. His program has been rescheduled for October of 2021.

Dr. Kahan was the speaker at our Round Table dinner meeting in November of 2016. He gave a program about his book titled: *Amiable Scoundrel: Simon Cameron, Lincoln's Scandalous Secretary of War*.

Letter from our Round Table's President

The following letter was issued by Dan Dooley, president of our Civil War Round Table, on April 14, 2020:

To: All Round Table Members,

With an extended hiatus from our monthly meetings, many of us miss the regular opportunities to visit with other members, socialize and get caught up on events in the lives of those we have come to know and care for. It seems likely now that we will not meet in May. We will leave June on the table for now, realizing that simply because the hotel may be open for business does not mean that we will necessarily meet. That decision will be made later when we have a better picture of the general conditions in the area regarding the pandemic.

In the meantime, let me offer a simple suggestion. All of us received in the past month (thanks to Dave Pattison) an updated membership roster, complete with phone numbers and email addresses. I encourage you to reach out to those you normally visit with at our monthly meetings, see how they are faring, how they are coping, and see if there is anything you can do to make their lives easier. A short phone call, or just a note of inquiry and encouragement via email may be a welcome respite from the frustration of sitting at home. By now many of us are coming close to exhausting our backlog of books, watched all the videos and movies we care to watch, and are looking for mental stimulation. An easy way to brighten your day, as well as the day of a fellow member, is to make contact and share experiences.

I, for one, am looking forward to meeting again sooner than later. We can't control the events that created this situation, but we can make the situation more bearable for each other. If any of you have comments or thoughts regarding our Round Table or the current situation, or if you would simply like to chat, my cell number is 913-620-4477.

We will get through this, and we still have a great slate of speakers for the remainder of this year, whenever we are able to resume meeting. Stay strong, stay safe, and stay at home!

Regards,

Dan Dooley,

President, Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

This Month's Program Cancelled

Dr. Paul Kahan, the scheduled speaker in May, earned a Ph.D. in U.S. history from Temple University, where he worked with William W. Cutler, III. Prior to that, Dr. Kahan earned his M.A. in Modern American History & Literature from Drew University and B. A. degrees in history and English (with minors in medieval/Renaissance studies and music) from Alfred University.

The following summary of Dr. Kahan's book titled: *The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant* is from the Amazon website:

A Short History of the Politics of Reconstruction in a Changing America

On December 5, 1876, President Ulysses S. Grant transmitted his eighth and final message to Congress. In reviewing his tenure as president, Grant proclaimed, "Mistakes have been made," though he assured Congress, his administration's "failures have been errors of judgment, not of intent." Until recently, scholars have portrayed Grant as among the country's worst chief executives. Though the scholarly consensus about Grant's presidency is changing, the general public knows little, if anything, about his two terms, other than their outsized reputation for corruption. While scandals are undoubtedly part of the story, there is more to Grant's presidency: Grant faced the Panic of 1873, the severest economic depression in U.S. history, defeated the powerful Senator Charles Sumner on the annexation of Cuba, and deftly avoided war with Spain while laying the groundwork for the "special relationship" between Great Britain and the United States. Grant's efforts to ensure justice for African Americans and American Indians, however, were undercut by his own decisions and by the contradictory demands of the various constituencies that made up the Republican Party.

In *The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant: Preserving the Civil War's Legacy*, historian Paul Kahan focuses on the unique political, economic, and cultural forces unleashed by the Civil War and how Grant addressed these issues during his tumultuous two terms as chief executive. A timely reassessment, *The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant* sheds new light on the business of politics in the decade after the Civil War and portrays an energetic and even progressive executive whose legacy has been overshadowed by both his wartime service and his administration's many scandals.

Upcoming Speaker Schedule for 2020-2021

- **June 23, 2020:** **Jeffry D. Wert** from Centerville PA is scheduled to speak about his new book titled: Civil War Barons.
- **July 28, 2020:** **Matt Spruill** is scheduled to give a program about the battle of Chickamauga GA.
- **August 25, 2020:** **David T. Dixon** is scheduled to speak about his new book titled: The Lost Gettysburg Address.
- **September 22, 2020:** **Dennis E. Frye** is scheduled to give a program about Harpers Ferry.
- **October 27, 2020:** **Judy Cook** is scheduled to give a program dressed in period attire titled: "Life on the Home Front."
- **November 17, 2020:** **Wayne Motts**, CEO of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg PA is scheduled to be our speaker.
- **December 15, 2020:** Round Table member **Deb Buckner** is scheduled to give a program about Libby Custer, wife of George Armstrong Custer.
- **January 26, 2021:** **Dr. Harry Laver** with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth will be our speaker. He will give a program about the relationship between General Ulysses S. Grant and General Robert E. Lee.
- **February 23, 2021:** **James S. Martin**, Dean of Academics at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth will be our speaker. He will give a program titled: "Black Military Heroes of the Civil War."
- **March 23, 2021:** **Dr. Jeff Gentsch**, Professor of Military History at the University of West Alabama will give a program titled: "The Battle of Shiloh and the Evolution of Artillery, 1861-1870."
- **April 27, 2021:** **Dr. Chris Phillips** will give a program about Missouri in the Civil War.
- **May 25, 2021:** Speaker to be determined.
- **June 22, 2021:** **Teresa Roane**, archivist for the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Richmond VA, will be our speaker. She will address the role of minorities in the logistical operations of the Confederate Army.
- **July 27, 2021:** **Ron Coddington**, publisher of *Military Images*, a full color magazine published quarterly, will be our speaker. He will present photographic images of the Civil War.
- **August 24, 2021:** **Dr. Ginnette Aley**, Professor of History at Kansas State University, will give a program about the Civil War on the home front. She has co-edited a book titled: Union Heartland: The Midwestern Home Front during the Civil War.
- **September 28, 2021:** **Dr. Joseph M. Beilein Jr.**, assistant professor of history at Penn State University, Erie PA will be our speaker. He will be speaking about bushwhackers in Missouri. Dr. Beilein is the author of the book titled: Bushwhackers: Guerrilla Warfare, Manhood, and the Household in Civil War Missouri.
- **October 26, 2021:** **Dr. Paul Kahan** will give a program about his book titled: The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant.
- **November 16, 2021:** Speaker to be determined.
- **December 21, 2021:** **Arnold Schofield** will be discussing the book written by Robert E. May titled: Yuletide in Dixie: Slavery, Christmas, and Southern Memory.

Member News

- In retirement, **Hibberd V. Kline III** has been a docent at the Arabia Steamboat Museum. Along with everything else, the museum is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hibberd has started a blog about the Arabia steamboat and some of the items in the museum. The blogs are being e-mailed to our members. Thank you, Hibberd!
- **Mike Epstein** has a collection of 90 Civil War magazines that he would like to give away for free. Mike's collection includes the following:
 - *Civil War Times Magazine*: 1973-1975, 1977-1985, 1997-2010, plus six special issues from 1965-1973.
 - *Civil War Trust Magazine Hallowed Ground*: 2009-2015
 You can pick the magazines up at Mike's house in Prairie Village KS. Call 913-831-6225.
- **Gary and Bonnie Christy** have been doing some fishing in their spare time. Gary sent the following e-mail on April 22nd:

"Bonnie and I have a humble cabin at Cole Camp Creek, the backwaters of the Lake of The Ozarks. It doesn't have running water, so there is no indoor plumbing. There's an old fashioned wood stove to keep us warm. The fish (see photo below) is a small mouth bass. In all the years fishing there, I had never caught one big enough to keep. It was 16 inches long and I gave it to

my son's family, along with the crappie and white bass that Bonnie and I caught. We had enough left for a fish dinner for us.



Round Table Member Gary Christy holding a 16" small mouth bass.

We Still Need Another Assistant Treasurer

Susan Keipp has done an excellent job as treasurer of our Round Table, since taking over for **Paul Gault** in April of 2015. Due to other commitments, Susan would like to cut back on her workload as treasurer. We are looking for two people to serve as assistant treasurers. **Sam Rabicoff** has volunteered to be one of the assistant treasurers. He has been helping Susan by collecting money from the Civil War book sales. Susan also needs someone to take dinner reservations, coordinate with the Holiday Inn, and manage the sign-in table during the dinner meetings. Susan has offered to continue doing the bookkeeping and handing all of our corporate paperwork. If you would be interested in serving with Sam as one of the co-assistant treasurers, please let Susan, Sam, or **Dan Dooley** know.

CWRT Executive Committee Meeting

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Civil War Round Table that was scheduled for Saturday, March 21st was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. President **Dan Dooley** and members of the Executive Committee have been finalizing speakers for 2021 and have been reviewing the Round Table's by-laws.

Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #615 Memorial Day

May 25, 2020 is the 152nd Anniversary of Memorial Day, which was originally called Decoration Day and was first celebrated on May 30, 1868. This day was originally established to remember the Union soldiers who died during the Civil War by decorating their graves with flowers and conducting programs of remembrance. However, some years ago, the politicians in Washington, D. C. decided in their "infinite wisdom" to change the date of Memorial Day to the fourth Monday of May to create a three day holiday weekend each year, with which to celebrate the beginning of summer with all of its recreational activities commensurate with boating, swimming, sailing, picnics, camping, hiking, etc. That is why May 25th will be celebrated as Memorial Day and not May 30th.

However, the original reason for Memorial Day is not forgotten, because each year at our National Cemetery, other National Cemeteries, and at cemeteries throughout our country there are programs of remembrance keeping the tradition of the original Decoration Day alive and well. Today not just Union soldiers are remembered, but so are all veterans who died in all of our wars and times of peace and their families. Also, various former Confederate states celebrate a different day to honor their Confederate soldiers who died in the "War Between the States" or the "War of Northern Aggression" as the Civil War is often described south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

The following order was issued on May 5, 1868, by Commander John A Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, which designated May 30th as Decoration Day. Commander Logan was a veteran of the Mexican-American War and the Civil War, who also helped found The Grand Army of the Republic, which eventually became the largest Union/Northern veteran's organization in the United States.

"General orders No. 11.
Headquarters, Grand Army of the Republic,
Washington D. C., May 5, 1868.

The 30th day of May 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating, the grave of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, hamlet, and churchyard in the land. In this observance, no form or ceremony is prescribed, but Posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose, among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors and marines, who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than by cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of a free and undivided republic.

If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well, as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us then, at the time appointed, gather around the sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us, in this solemn presence, renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us, as sacred charges upon the nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance, with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to call attention to this order and let its friendly aid in bringing it to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country, in time for simultaneous compliance herewith.

Department commanders will use every effort to make this effective.

By order of:
JOHN A. LOGAN, Commander-in-Chief.
N. P. CHIPMAN, Adjutant General"

Now then, there is a small group of Civil War historians that would like to see May 30th be restored and recognized as Memorial Day. The fourth Monday of May could still be recognized as the beginning of the "summer" season" with a different name and let May 30th be recognized as Memorial Day. However, the politicians in their "infinite wisdom" have not and probably never will do this, but I, and my fellow Civil War historians, can still hope for this to happen.

Article regarding U. S. Grant's Reputation

The following article, written by Marty Schladen, appeared in the *Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch* on January 2, 2020:

Ohio's Ulysses S. Grant Finally Getting his Due From History

GEORGETOWN — It's taken awhile — nearly a century and a half — but Ulysses S. Grant's reputation is on the rise.

The quiet tanner's son from southwestern Ohio had been rated by most historians as a poor-to-middling president who ran a corrupt administration from 1869 to 1877.

As a Union general, he has been cast as a butcher who relied on superior manpower and sheer slaughter to defeat more-skilled Confederate commanders in the Civil War.

But Grant has been reconsidered by historians in recent years, rising 11 spots — to No. 22 — in the C-SPAN historians poll between 2000 and 2017. Major, sympathetic biographies of Grant have been published by H.W. Brands, Ron Chernow, and Ronald C. White since 2012.

In 2017, a new Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library opened on the campus of Mississippi State University — in the heart of the former Confederacy that Grant helped to defeat as a general and worked to reconstruct as president.

Then, in April, a statue of Grant was dedicated at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York. This at a time when statues of Confederate generals are coming down, including one of Robert E. Lee. That

removal led to white-supremacist rioting and murder in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017.

The fate of the statues says a lot about why Grant is slowly rising in historians' esteem, White, the author of "American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant," wrote last spring in *The Washington Post*. Many of the Confederate statues went up decades after the Civil War, at a time when white supremacy was government policy and the statues were a stark reminder of that. Grant saw his reputation suffer accordingly.

Listen to local news updates from the Columbus Dispatch:

"A chief insight in the reappraisal of Grant is the recognition that, at the beginning of the post-Civil War period of oppression, he acted courageously to protect the rights of freed men and women," White wrote. "As a Republican president, when states refused to act, Grant used the power of the federal government to battle domestic terrorist organizations, particularly the Ku Klux Klan, even as his own party was growing tired of the struggle."

The new thinking about Grant is welcomed in his old stomping grounds of Point Pleasant and Bethel in Clermont County and Georgetown in Brown County.

E.C. Fields, who has an uncanny likeness to the 18th president, impersonates him at the Ulysses S. Grant Boyhood Home in Georgetown. Standing in his top hat and broadcloth suit, Fields described Grant's love of animals, his dislike of hunting and the "ghastly" work he had to do in the tannery of his father, Jesse Grant, across the street.

Those characteristics — and the fact the Grant had never wanted to go into the military — contradict descriptions of him as a cold-blooded killer, Fields said.

"Grant was anything but a butcher. That was a criticism heaped upon him by the Confederates," Fields said, explaining that while Grant had no love of killing, he understood the need to act decisively in war. "His feeling is, 'We're pussy-footing around and not doing what we need to do to defeat the Confederacy.'"

During the Civil War, Grant provided President Abraham Lincoln with invaluable strategic military victories, showing that the "administration and the war were on the right track," said Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, who, like many others, has taken an interest in Grant. Husted said that one reason Lincoln's reputation later soared while Grant's suffered is because Lincoln was martyred before the nation went through the painful process of reunification.

"It was a messy period," Husted said. "Winning the war and then being assassinated, Lincoln is remembered up to that moment. You wonder how, if Lincoln went through the messy process of reunification, how that

would have reflected on his own legacy. Anytime you're dealing with a mess, it's not a celebrated role."

Perhaps one reason that Grant is rising in public esteem is that, by all accounts, he was humble, well-read and of an outlook held more widely now than in his day. He rode off to the Mexican-American War more than a decade before the Civil War and quickly came to see the invasion as a mistake. While in Mexico, he learned some Spanish, made friends and took an interest in the southern neighbor that he would maintain throughout his life.

Back in the states, in a lonely outpost in the Oregon Territory, Grant rode out and befriended nearby Indians. And although Ohio generals and soldiers under his command such as William Tecumseh Sherman, Philip Sheridan, and George Armstrong Custer would act harshly against the Plains Indians, Grant was the first American president to speak consistently for Indian rights.

As with Indian rights, Grant stood more forthrightly for the rights of African Americans than any of his predecessors had. Grant worked hard to put down white-supremacist terrorism in the South while pushing to enforce the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments, which had been created to free the slaves and secure their voting rights.

"Grant is our first civil rights president," Fields said.

Upcoming Events and Programs

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri has cancelled their membership meeting that was scheduled for May 13th. **Beverly Shaw**, treasurer of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, will e-mail our *Border Bugle* newsletter to members of their Round Table. Likewise, we will e-mail their *Border Star* newsletter to our members.

The Civil War Round Table Congress announced that there will be a live video presentation by Michael K. Shaffer about his book titled: *In Memory of Self and Comrades: Thomas Wallace Colley's Recollections of Civil War Service in the 1st Virginia Cavalry*. The presentation will take place on Monday, May 11 at 6:00 p.m. CDT. To register for this event, please visit their website at: <http://www.cwrtcongress.org>

There will be a three night miniseries about Ulysses S. Grant on the History Channel, beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, May 25th. To learn more, visit their website at: <http://www.history.com>

The Kansas City Public Library has several library programs available on line. Visit: <http://www.kclibrary.org/calendar>

The Mid-Continent Public Library is offering free access to *Ancestry Library Edition* from home through the month of May. This is a great opportunity to research your family history. Visit their website at: <http://www.mymcpl.org>

The National WWI Museum and Memorial remains "open" digitally with free resources to facilitate learning and understanding about World War I. Visit: <http://www.theworldwar.org/online> You can also RSVP and learn more about upcoming events at <http://www.theworldwar.org>

The State Historical Society of Missouri has several upcoming virtual events including an Introduction to Personal Digital Archives and the 1918 Flu Epidemic in Missouri. Visit their website at <http://www.shsmo.org>

Civil War Trivia Questions

The following trivia questions are based on the book titled: *2,000 Questions and Answers About the Civil War* and the chapter titled: "Places Small and Large, Obscure and Famous." The answers to the trivia questions are shown on page 8.

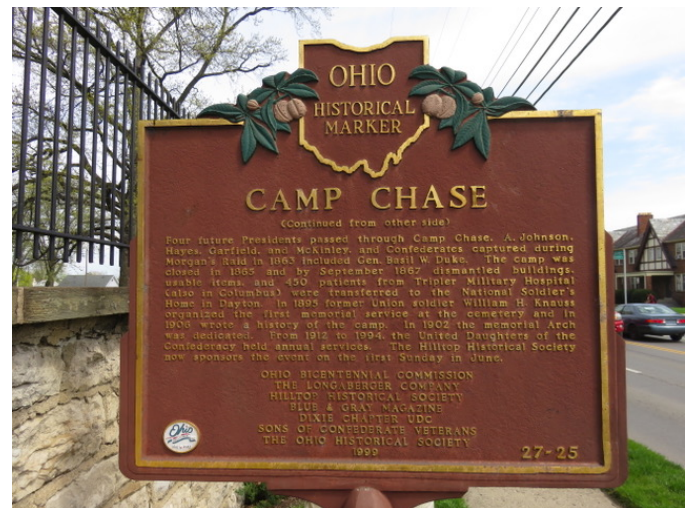
1. In what vast, uninhabited, marshy area of tangled forest and underbrush, west of Chancellorsville VA, did Grant propose to fight it out "if it takes all summer"?
2. Jefferson Davis regarded what site in his home state as "the Gibraltar of the West"?
3. What city held the only gas works of the Confederacy capable of inflating observation balloons?
4. In what city was Lincoln nominated for the presidency in 1860?
5. What two rivers contributed to the strategic importance of Harpers Ferry VA, now WV?
6. The Baltimore Riots, April 19, 1861, angered the South and inspired the poet James Ryder Randall to write what song?
7. In what state did Henry Halleck, U.S.A., lead troops without authorization?
8. At what Virginia fort were runaway slaves first designated "contraband of war" when the Union commander discovered they had been used in building Confederate fortifications?
9. What city was the scene of purported plots to kill Lincoln as he journeyed to his inauguration?
10. Where were the first soldiers deployed to defend Washington D.C. housed?

Photographs of Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery, Columbus OH

The following is from Wikipedia: Camp Chase was a military staging and training camp established in Columbus, Ohio in May 1861 after the start of the Civil War. It also included a large Union-operated prison camp for Confederate prisoners during the Civil War.

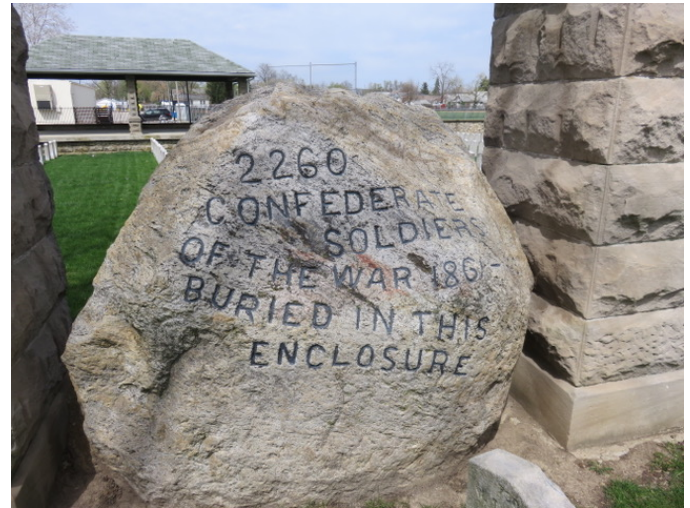
The camp was closed and dismantled after the war and the site has been redeveloped for residential and commercial use, except for the Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery, which contains 2,260 graves of Confederates who died in captivity both in Camp Chase and in Camp Dennison near Cincinnati. Camp Chase was located in what is now the Hilltop neighborhood of Columbus, Ohio. Camp Chase is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The following photos were taken on April 13, 2017:





Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery, Columbus OH



Answers to Civil War Trivia Questions:

1. The Wilderness.
2. Vicksburg MS.
3. Richmond VA.
4. Chicago IL.
5. The Potomac and Shenandoah.
6. "My Maryland, My Maryland."
7. Maryland, to defend Washington in Sept. 1862.
8. Fort Monroe.
9. Baltimore MD.
10. In the chambers of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

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