



11111

A Fire + Tapes

The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. Box 18900, Cleveland, Ohio 44118

FEBRUARY 1993

313th MEETING

VOL. 14 #6

DATE: Wednesday, February 10, 1993

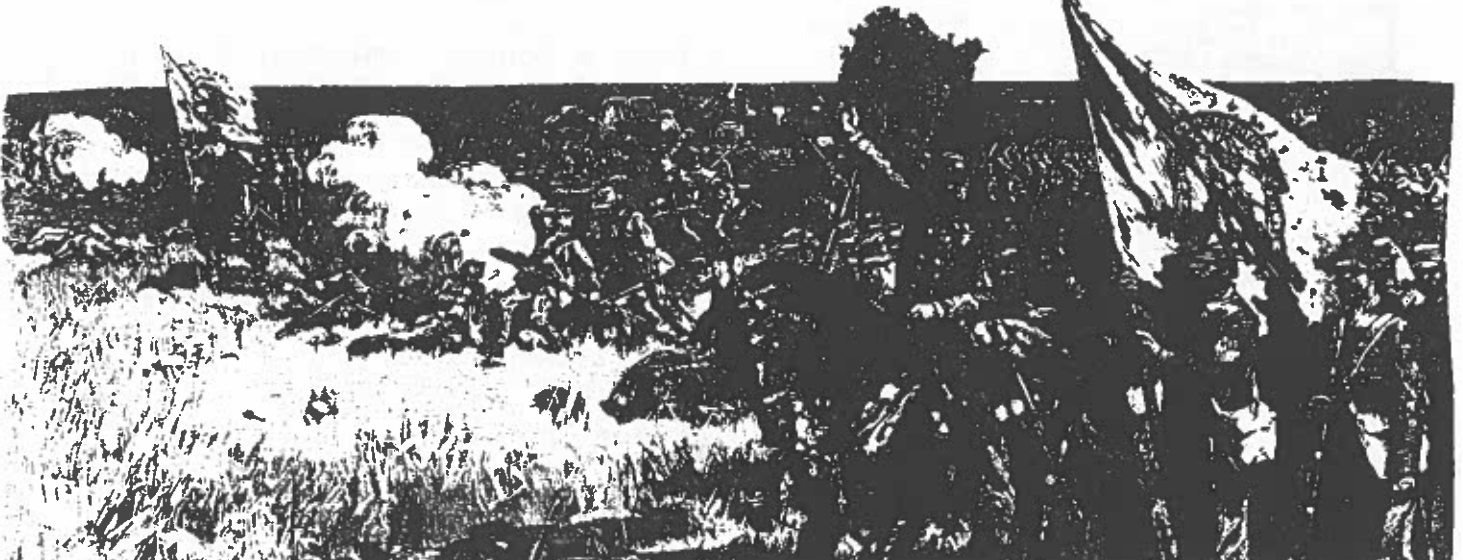
PLACE: The Hermit Club

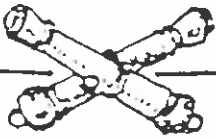
SUBJECT: "James K. O'Reilly of the 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry"

SPEAKER: Kenneth R. Callahan, Jr. Ken is a native Cleveland, the son of long-time member Dr. Ken Callahan Sr. Raised in Shaker Heights and influenced early by his father in the study of the Civil War, Ken Jr. has been a regular member of our Round-Table since 1975 and was President in 1989. He currently practices law and is involved with politics. I believe that James K. O'Reilly was a relative of his on his mother's side of the family.

TIME: Drinks 6PM Dinner 7PM

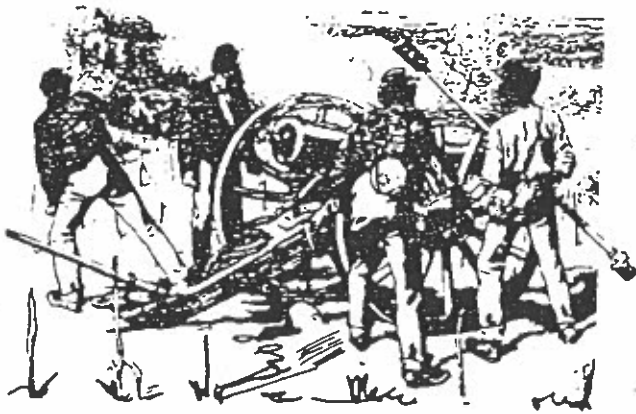
RESERVATIONS: Please call Kevin Callahan at 321-3004 or 861-3393. RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!





CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

1957 * 1993



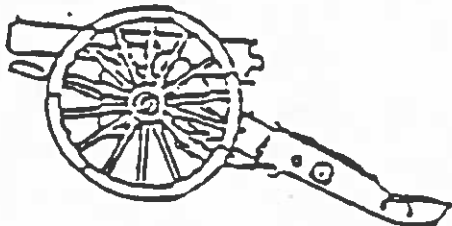
President - Kevin R. Callahan
Vice Pres. - Bob Batisti
Secretary - Gerry Porter
Treasurer - John Sutula
Editor of the Charter -
Brian Kowell

Editorial Office

10065 N. Church Dr.
Parma Hgts., Ohio 44130
(216) 888-1879



PLEASE LET US KNOW
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
YOUR NEW ADDRESS...



Preserve Your Battlefields!

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting once again saw our intrepid quizmaster George Vourlojianis puzzle and perplex the assembled throng at our annual Civil War quiz night. After dividing the room in half and enlisting the services of our President as score-keeper and judge, George brought forth a battery of questions to stupefy and stump the most erudite Civil War scholar. A spirited battle of answers ensued between the two teams of Blue and Gray contestants. The pace was fast and furious and no prisoners were taken. When the smoke cleared the Blue team prevailed. Thanks again, George, for a job well done.

16th ANNUAL OHIO CIVIL WAR RELIC & COLLECTOR'S SHOW

May 1-2, 1993

Saturday 9-5 Sunday 9-3

NEW LOCATION

Richland County Fairgrounds
US-30 & Trimble Road Exit
Mansfield, Ohio

7 miles west of Exit 176 (US-30) on I-71
550 tables of Military and Related Items
from 1776-1898 in three buildings
one admission \$3.00 Adults - under 12 free
Free parking - Handicapped Facilities
Living history encampments by the 64th
O.V.I. & 10th Va. Infantry

1993 Midwest Civil War Conference

Monroe, Michigan

April 15-18, 1993

Monroe County Community College

1555 S. Rainsville Rd., Monroe, Mi. 48161
For information call (313) 242-7300 ext.
227

Cost for Conference: \$135.00 includes
2 breakfasts & 2 lunches, & banquet

Meet The New Members

TOM HAGEDORN

4427 Rocky River Dr.

Cleveland, Ohio 44135

Troops salute Civil War commander

By LOU MIO

DAILY DEALER REPORTER

NORWALK, O.

The thin blue line marched slowly behind two flags. One had 34 stars for the number of states. The other bore the name of the regiment, the 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

The flags, snapping in a cold wintry breeze, were a stark contrast to the naked trees and what remained of a recent snowfall. The column moved along narrow gravel roads and through rows of tombstones. They carried Enfield rifles upside down under their left arms, the proper procedure for a funeral service.

These Civil War soldiers gathered yesterday at Woodlawn Cemetery in Norwalk to honor their colonel, a man who died in 1892.

Mark Imburgia, with an historian's determination, had wandered among the stones and markers of Woodlawn Cemetery last summer. He was searching for the grave of a Civil War soldier from Co. D, 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Imburgia was disappointed. He had been there most of the day and accidentally found about 10 tombstones from the Ohio regiment but failed to locate the one for Cpl. Charles Fisher, the reason for his trip.

Imburgia was about to leave when he noticed a small, half-round gravestone. The lettering was barely legible, and the weather-beaten surface was obscured by a moldy, bluish-green film.

He could make out the number "8." He ran a hand over the stone and felt an "L", then a "T". Imburgia completed a Braille-like examination, letting his fingers read the inscription. He was stunned.

Imburgia had accidentally found the final resting place of Lt. Col. Franklin Sawyer, regimental commander of the 8th Ohio at Gettysburg, the most famous battle ground of a bloody four-year war.

On July 3, 1863, the under-strength regiment, with orders to hold its position, was 200 yards in front of the main Union line dug in on Cemetery Ridge. Confederates attacked the ridge that afternoon. The entire Union position opened fire as the Ohioans poured a withering barrage of mini balls into the flank and rear of a disastrous Southern onslaught now known as Pickett's charge.

Sawyer described the carnage in his official report:

"The whole mass gave way, some fleeing to the front, some to the rear, and some through our lines, until the whole plain was covered with unarmed rebels, waving coats, hats, and handkerchiefs in a token of a wish to surrender."

The 8th Ohio captured three Confederate flags and 300 prisoners. It was the regiment's finest hour and came at a turning point in the Civil War.

Imburgia felt like Indiana Jones.

"I wanted to do a rubbing of the stone," said Imburgia, 40, a computer illustrator from Cuyahoga Falls. "But I didn't have any paper or pencil. I was going out of my mind. It was exciting . . . really wonderful."

He had good reason to be sky high. Imburgia had not only found Cpl. Fisher's regimental commander, but, in a way, he had found his own.

Imburgia is a sergeant in Co. B of the 8th Ohio Volunteers, a group of about 35 Civil War buffs, mostly from Greater Cleveland. During the Civil War, Co. B was formed from Clevelanders who belonged to the Hibernian Guards, an Irish social club.

The modern-day Co. B members dress in historically accurate uniforms, tend Civil War gravesites, set up encampments and re-enact battles scenes. Their goal is to keep alive the memory of the soldiers and a war that ended in 1865.

No one in Co. B knew Col. Sawyer was in Woodlawn Cemetery. Imburgia was looking for Fisher because he discovered some of his military background and a charcoal portrait at a Civil War collector's show.

Bob Szabo, a Co. B member who had moved from Hudson Village to Manassas, Va., volunteered to check out Fisher at the National Archives. The records showed that Fisher was buried in Norwalk, his home town. Many of the 8th Ohio's recruits came from Northwest Ohio.

Now that Imburgia had stumbled on Sawyer's grave, it bothered him that the government-issued stone was in such bad shape. So Co. B de-

cided to ask the government for another.

"All he had to do was order a new one (through the cemetery)," said Tom Downes, 42, of Clinton Ave., Cleveland. He is the company's commanding officer and co-founder of the unit with his wife, Nancy, 41. Both are college history majors who got hooked on the Civil War.

"Mark got the ball rolling," said Downes, a screw-machine operator. "Sawyer died in 1892, and we were hoping the stone would come in last year so we could have it for the centennial year."

The stone didn't arrive until just before Christmas. Co. B decided to pay its respects and dedicate the new stone yesterday.

"We feel we are really Civil War soldiers," said Nancy Downes. "Re-enactors are soldiers. It is our duty to take care of our Lt. Colonel. As far as we know, he has no family, or none we've been able to contact."

Tom Downes, with an interest in the Civil War that started when he was 7 years old, put it in another way:

"If we don't remember, he becomes nothing. Not even a memory."

Capt. Downes stood near Col. Sawyer's new marble stone yesterday, facing his 19 troopers and two of their young sons dressed like soldiers.

"Why are we here on this cold January day, looking at a headstone of man who has been dead over 100 years . . . and whose deeds we try to emulate took place over 130 years ago?"

He told them a story of a group of Confederate veterans who fought with Stonewall Jackson. Long after the war was over, the aging soldiers had come to Richmond, Va., for the unveiling of a statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee. And they decided one night to sleep outside near the statue of Jackson, their beloved commander.

Civil War Leadership Seminar

Presented by the Central Pennsylvania
Civil War Round Table
to benefit
The Association for the Preservation
of Civil War Sites

Program Schedule
Saturday, March 13, 1993

Cost: \$50.00

Make checks or money orders payable to:

Central PA CWRT

Mail to:

**Central PA CWRT
c/o Everett McLaughlin
719 S. Garner St.
State College, PA 16801**

**For additional information, call Russell
Ruhf at (814) 234-4619.**



In the morning, they began to walk away. One turned around, waved his hat and cried out: "Good-bye, old man, goodbye. We've done all we could for you."

Downes said that soldier's sentiment summed up why they were standing in the cold on a bleak, overcast day.

"We don't know much about the man," Downes said of Sawyer, a lawyer from Norwalk. "We do know about the regiment he led and what they did 130 years ago. And we try to keep that memory alive as best we can."

And he added, "We never knew the old man, but this is all we can do for him."

Downes called his unit to attention. The men raised their rifles and fired three volleys to honor their colonel.

"Ten-hut!", Downes commanded. "Shoulder arms."

Co. B. turned and marched down the road.

Interim office of 19th-century president restored

By Sarah Booth Conroy
Washington Post

On April 15, 1865, Mary Todd Lincoln, having lost her husband to an assassin's bullet, was in no condition to lose her home as well.

Ten days later, her son Robert Todd Lincoln wrote to "His Excellency the President-U.S.," saying she needed at least 2½ weeks more to leave the White House. In all, Mary Todd Lincoln took until June 9, 1865, to get herself together.

In the interim, Treasury Secretary Hugh McCulloch gave his reception room to President Andrew Johnson for his office. The room is on the west side of the Treasury Building, so Johnson could keep an eye on the White House.

In the office Johnson held Cabinet meetings to plan Abraham Lincoln's funeral, signed a proclamation granting amnesty to the Confederate military and offered a \$100,000 reward for Confederate President Jefferson Davis' capture.

Now, because of its historic interest and original High Renaissance revival period design, Andrew Johnson's onetime office has been restored at a cost of \$500,000 in donated funds. David Mulford, assistant secretary of the Treasury for international affairs, and his staff are the lucky new occupants.

The reception room and an adjoining office have been meticulously brought back to their 19th-century glory under the careful eye of Treasury Chief Curator Jane Barton.

"We began by going all through the building, looking for original furniture," she said. "Some of the pieces we used in the rooms were actually made in Treasury's cabinet shop — we can tell by the stamp." Barton's job was made easier by finding the original invoices and floor plans from the New York decorating firm of Pottier & Stymus. When Johnson moved in, the company had just redecorated the suite.

All the furniture in the rooms now is of the period. Some pieces were actually used by

Johnson — a sofa, three chairs and two paintings were identified from newspaper engravings of the time that clearly showed a shuck the back of the sofa and armchairs, as well chromolithographs of Abraham Lincoln Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

Other pieces, designed by the same decorators, are on a renewable 20-year loan from Barnum Museum in Bridgeport, Conn.

The furniture is fanciful. Some chairs have "ears" — protuberances of cupids or bears or pictures painted in circles embellishing arms. The upholstery and curtains were thematically reworked by Scalamandre in gland. Jefferson Davis' teapot, made to and whistle like a train, is displayed — in its usual accompanying cigars. It was from the Confederate White House sent to Johnson.

The restored rooms are open for touring every other Saturday. Reservations must be made a week ahead by calling 1-202-343-9134. photo ID is necessary for admittance.

Lincoln needed electric writer

By MIKE ROYKO

The ad caught my eye and intrigued me. It was for a computer program and it said: "Write better in 30 days or your money back!"

I'm not a computer nut, but I'm familiar with computer programs that correct spelling and have built-in dictionaries.

But the ad for this program said that it would correct "stylistic errors." Style. That's a big part of what writing is about.

So I decided to check it out. I stopped by the computer store to give it a test run. I wanted to see what the program would say about the style of a short piece of writing that has always been one of my favorites.

I typed it into the computer just as the author is said to have written and delivered it.

Then the computer printed out its critique. Here's the final product, with the computer's comments in parentheses.

"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

(Long sentences can be difficult to read and understand. Consider revising so that no more than one complete thought is expressed in each sentence. Passive voice: "are created." Consider revising, using active. See Help for more information. Usually a paragraph should have more than one sentence.)

"Now we are engaged (Passive voice: "are engaged." Consider revising using active voice. See Help for more information.) in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met (Passive voice: "are met." Consider revising using active voice. See Help for more information.) on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who gave their lives that that (Delete doubled word or punctuation mark.) nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

"But, (Use "But" sparingly to start a sentence.) in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world

will little note nor long remember (An adjective "long" is usually not followed by a verb "remember." You may need to use an adverbial form of "long" (e.g. "quickly" instead of "quick"), or you may need a comma before "remember.") what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

"It is for us the living rather (This word usually adds little and should be omitted.) to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which (That is almost always preferred to which in this situation. If you really mean "which," then it usually needs to be preceded by a comma. See Help key for more information.) they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. (Long sentences can be difficult to read and understand. Consider revising so that no more than one complete thought is expressed in each sentence.)

"It is rather (This word usually adds little and should be omitted.) for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead (Usually "these" should be followed by a plural noun.) shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth. (Problems marked/detected: 13/13.)"

That's something. As often as I've read this speech, getting a lump in my throat every time, I didn't detect even one stylistic problem, much less 13. Shows how little I know.

But I suppose we really shouldn't expect anything better from someone who grew up in a log cabin, hoofed to a one-room schoolhouse and never made it to college.

We might remember, though, that Abe Lincoln was at a stylistic disadvantage when he wrote what has become known as his Gettysburg Address. The poor guy didn't have a "Help Key" to push.

And even with his 13 stylistic flaws, we can say more one thing in Abe's behalf: He sure as hell wasn't a computer nerd. So run that through your program and spit it out.

Royko is a Chicago Tribune columnist.

Museum seeks stolen bronze Lincoln casts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO

Rare bronze casts of Abraham Lincoln's head and hands by Augustus Saint-Gaudens were stolen. Police and museum officials said yesterday they suspected the theft was an inside job.

"In theory, we just don't know how anyone could have gotten in and done this since the house was closed to the public at the time" and security alarms weren't tripped, said Carol Callahan, curator of the Glessner House Museum on the city's South Side.

Callahan wouldn't give the value of the set, though she estimated it previously in the tens of thousands of dollars. The set was insured, she said.

Police questioned everyone who was in the museum Thursday but no charges have been filed, police Sgt. Kenneth Januszyk said.

"We have no evidence that anyone actually forced their way in," Januszyk said. "We have to assume that if it was a burglary, someone had to have a key."

The sculpture, made from a plaster cast taken of Lincoln shortly after he was elected president, was last seen an hour before the museum closed Thursday. It was discovered missing early Friday by a guide making rounds before the museum opened, Callahan said.

The tightly guarded museum has an electronic security system, and visitors must phone from the front door to be escorted in. They are escorted out when they leave. The sculpture was displayed on a desk behind ropes.

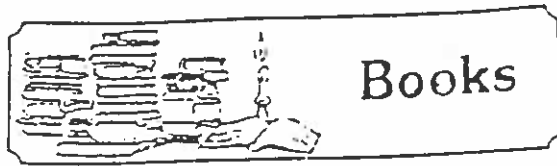
Callahan said no tours were conducted Thursday; the only people at the museum that day were officials of the Chicago Architecture Foundation, which owns and administers Glessner House, and office delivery workers, she said.

Saint-Gaudens, an Irish-born American sculptor famed for his memorial statues, made the bronzes in 1886 from plaster casts taken of the president-elect in 1860, Callahan said. Of 33 bronze casts made, only 17 are known still to exist, she said.

The museum acquired its set in 1968 from the granddaughter of John Jacob Glessner, for whom the museum is named.



BOOK REVIEW:



Gettysburg Address: We'll forever note it

Reflects artful design

LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG: The Words that Remade America. By Garry Wills. Simon & Schuster, 317 pp., \$23.

By ALLAN PESKIN

A 317-page analysis of a 272-word speech might normally seem excessive. But if the speech is Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the best known piece of rhetoric in American letters, and if the analyst is Garry Wills, whose masterly exegesis of the "Checkers" speech in his "Nixon Agonistes" demonstrated critical talents of a high order, then such lavish attention seems altogether fitting and proper.

Admittedly, this essay has to be padded out with seven appendices, three indexes and copious footnotes in order to make a respectable sized volume but, as Lincoln himself demonstrated, brevity can be a virtue rather than a flaw. (Though it should also be noted that the hefty price tag does not reflect the slim page count.)

What is the power of this brief speech and what is the secret source of its ability to move us even after so many repetitions?

To answer these questions, Wills must first sweep aside some common misperceptions.

For one thing, this was not an artless, spur-of-the-moment improvisation jotted (as in one endearing bit of folk nonsense) on the back of an envelope. Wills shows how Lincoln gave this speech and its setting even more careful preparation than was his usual habit in order to fashion a deliberate product of conscious art.

Wills also demonstrates, in an analytic tour de force, how closely the Gettysburg Address follows the classical model of the Greek funeral oration from beginning to end. "Plain speech," Wills concludes, "was never less artless." Those who think of Lincoln as an untutored son of the soil, or an amiable jokester, are in for a shock.

But Lincoln was certainly not a pedant following ancient formulae. His speech was a compendium of the best of con-

temporary American thought, drawing upon ideas advanced by Daniel Webster, Justice Joseph Story and the transcendentalist philosopher Theodore Parker (who had earlier praised government of, by and for the people).

Out of all these influences, Lincoln forged first "a new lean language" that anticipated the prose of Mark Twain and Ernest Hemingway, and then boldly created a new vision of America itself. In so doing he perpetrated, according to Wills, "one of the most daring acts of open-air sleight-of-hand ever witnessed."

He conjured away the Constitution as the basic American framework and substituted instead the Declaration of Independence with its faith in human equality. Through eloquence, Lincoln imposed his view of the meaning of the Civil War upon his listeners and upon us, an achievement which amply justifies Wills' seemingly extravagant subtitle.

Peskin teaches history at Cleveland State University. He is the author of a biography of President Garfield and the editor of "Volunteers" (Kent State University Press), a set of Mexican War memoirs.

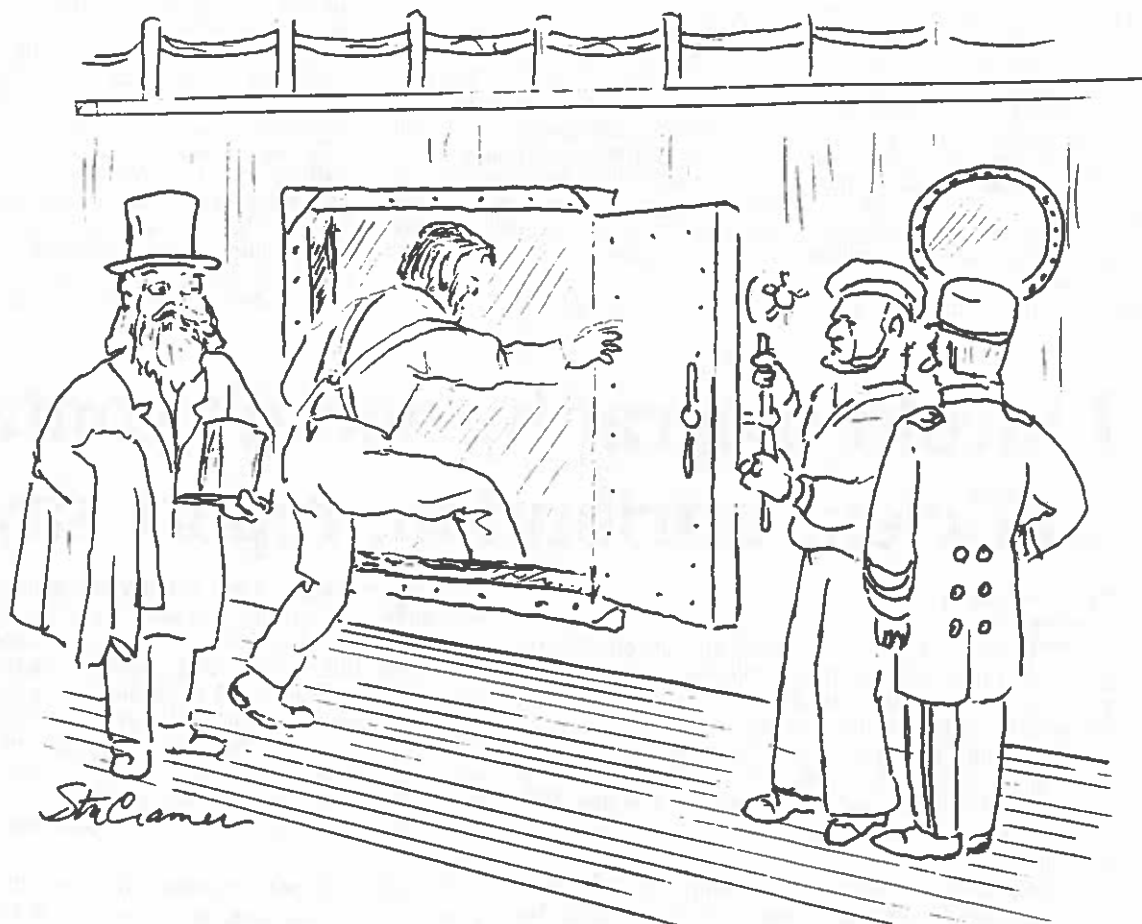


Please Make Reservation

Please call Kevin Callahan at 321-3004
or 861-5393. ASAP! RESERVATIONS ARE A
MUST!



SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



On one of Abraham Lincoln's excursions on the steamboat Hartford, in 1863, his attention was directed to a narrow door bound with iron. Upon inquiry he learned that it was the "sweatbox". It was used for refractory and insubordinate seamen. A man in there was subjected to steam heat and there was very little ventilation. As thousands of American seamen were thus disciplined, the President decided to see what it was really like. Taking off his hat and coat, he entered the enclosure and signaled the door to be closed and the steam turned on.

Lincoln was only in about 3 minutes before he signaled to come out. His short exposure to the hot and humid air had almost suffocated him. Turning to Secretary of Navy Welles, the President ordered that no such treatment should ever after be allowed on an American vessel. The effect of the order was most remarkable on the older sailors, many of whom had experienced the punishment. As soon as the European countries heard the sweatbox had been abolished as inhuman, one and all civilized nations followed the U.S. Navy's ban.

from Civil Treasury of Legends and Folklore by B.A. Botkin
submitted and illustrated by Stu Cramer



Delay urged in study of Lincoln's genes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

A study of Abraham Lincoln's genes, using bits of bone, hair and blood preserved from his autopsy, to determine if he had a rare disorder should be delayed until scientific techniques have improved, a committee of experts said yesterday.

The committee, convened by the National Museum of Health and Medicine, was asked to review technical issues involved in plans to search among Lincoln's genes for evidence of a disorder called Marfan's syndrome.

Marfan's is an inherited disorder that affects connective tissue, blood vessels and eyes, and can produce fatal abnormalities of major arteries.

Marfan's patients often have unusual height, elongated fingers, toes and limbs, all characteristics of Lincoln. As a result, historians have suggested that the 16th U.S. president may have had the disorder.

About 40,000 Americans have Marfan's.

The experts said yesterday that there now is not enough known about the genetic basis for Marfan's and that "improvements in the ability to recover and analyze DNA from historic materials are anticipated."

As a result, the committee said in a statement, "it is premature to go forward with testing of Lincoln material for the Marfan syndrome at this time."

The committee added: "It is likely

that testing Lincoln material will become feasible in the near future."

Because the authenticated samples of Lincoln material held by the museum may be inadequate to determine the presence of the Marfan gene, the committee suggested a special test to determine if other genuine specimens exist. A method of verifying other specimens could be developed by analyzing the mitochondrial DNA contained in strands of Lincoln's hair, the committee said.

Dr. Marc S. Micozzi, director of the NMHM, said that other collections hold at least six biological specimens that may have come from Lincoln. If these could be authenticated, then scientists later would have more material to use in genetic testing.

Lincoln biography doesn't contain sufficient attribution, report says

By Tom Strong
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — An Abraham Lincoln biographer didn't plagiarize from an earlier work but failed to give it sufficient attribution, the American Historical Association said in a report obtained Thursday.

The group "strongly recommends" that any future editions of Stephen B. Oates' book, "With Malice Toward None" include an acknowledgment of the 1952 book, "Abraham Lincoln," by the late Benjamin Thomas.

Oates, a history professor at the University of Massachusetts, said he was delighted with the finding, because the association "has not hesitated to use the term 'plagiarism' when it found that such existed."

Oates has said his biography was aimed in part at the popular audience, and that such works don't need copious attribution throughout.

"There are no guidelines for what is sufficient acknowledgment of sources in popular biographies and histories," he said in a statement Thursday. "Thousands of such works, including a great many on Lincoln, have been published with no footnotes and no bibliographies at all."

The report hasn't been publicly released, but a copy was obtained Thursday. The association's deputy executive director, James Gardner, refused to comment.

In 1990, Robert Bray, an English professor at Illinois Wesleyan University, told a meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society that he believed Oates lifted portions of Thomas' work without acknowledgment. Thomas, who died in 1956, was executive secretary of Springfield's Abraham Lincoln Association.

On Thursday, Bray said the report supported his case.

"I find it almost impossible to think that it could have been unconscious, as opposed to a sin of omission," he said.

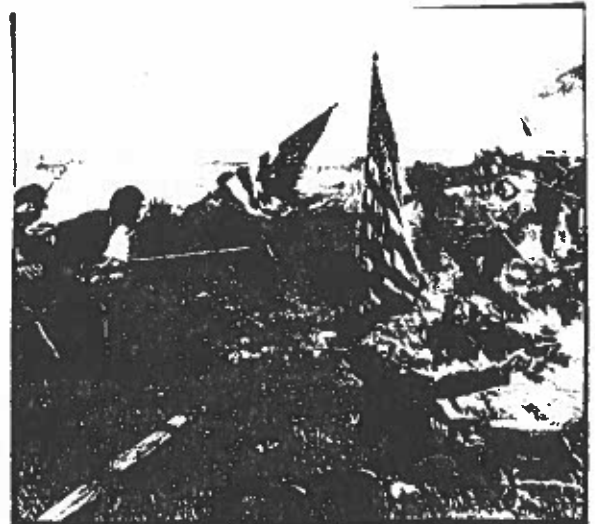
The report from the historical association, a Washington-based professional group, said it "recognizes Mr. Oates' original contributions and style but concludes that he failed to give Mr. Thomas sufficient attribution for the material he used."

The association "reaffirms the necessity of appropriate attribution of sources in biographies and other publications written for general audiences as well as in scholarly writing," the report said.

LINCOLN'S WORDS

On the secessionist view of the Union:
"No regular marriage, but rather a sort of free-love arrangement to be maintained on passion attraction."

On the Army of the Potomac in 1862:
"... it is only McClellan's body-guard. If he is not using the army I should like to borrow it for a while."



Lincoln's reputation as a storyteller has given rise to a mass of old jokes and yarns that have come down to us as "Lincoln stories." All are heresay, but the fact was that his repertoire seemed to be endless.

In his The Humerous Mr. Lincoln (1965) Jennison aptly pointed out that in his youth Lincoln told jokes because they came naturally to him. When he practised law, he employed them as a tool of the trade, and when he entered politics, he wielded them as a weapon for satire and ridicule. In his Presidency he used them to say "no" and relieve the tensions. That many of the stories were of the barnyard and bawdy nature there is no doubt. Most of these were suppressed. My favorite follows:

Abraham Lincoln represented a Mississippi barge owner in a suit brought by the railroads for damages that had occurred when the owner's barge had hit the abutment of a newly constructed railroad bridge. The importance of the case hinged upon the fact that the railroad was accused of interfering with river navigation, this at a time when the railroads pushing west were threatening the freight business of water transportation. A battery of high-priced Eastern lawyers were sent out to try the case.

The trial was long and tedious, evidence piled on evidence, until the time finally came for summations. Those representing the railroads spoke eloquently, advancing airtight arguments. Finally it came Lincoln's turn. He rose, winked to the jury box, smiled and made a single statement: "My learned opponents," he said, "have presented an impressive case. There is no question that they have their facts absolutely right. But they have drawn completely wrong conclusions." The jury laughed uproariously, adjourned and quickly came back with a verdict favoring Lincoln's Client.

After the trial the railroad attorneys besieged Lincoln with questions. "We had the case won," they said, "but you simply told them we had our facts right but came to the wrong conclusions and they decided in your favor. Why? What did you do to them?"

"Well, boys," Lincoln replied, "during the noon break today I happened into the saloon where the jurors were eating and told them a little story." (Court rules were much looser in those days.)

"The story was about a farmer who was working in his barnyard one day when his ten year old boy came rushing up to him, all excited. "Paw," said the boy, "Come quick, the hired man and Sis are up in the hayloft, and he's a-pullin' down his pants an' she's a liftin' up her skirts an', an', they're gone to piss all over our hay!"

"Son," said the farmer, "you've got your facts absolutely right, but you've drawn a completely wrong conclusion."



Lincoln Love

LINCOLN WIT

President Abraham Lincoln's love of funny stories was well known to his contemporaries, and his biographers have passed along accounts of his sense of humor. So often did Lincoln interject humorous tales into conversations that some of his cabinet members and generals, who fancied themselves more sophisticated than the president, became quite irritated with him. Following are some examples of Lincoln wit, which you may want to use to gauge your level of sophistication. They are printed as they appeared in *The Picket Line*, a postwar anthology of Civil War tales.

"The President has been perpetrating one of his pungent sayings about that luckless wight, Brigadier-General Stoughton, who was so unceremoniously picked up by guerillas. 'Pretty serious business, this, Mr. President,' said a visitor, 'to have a Brigadier-General captured at Fairfax Court House!' 'Oh, that doesn't trouble me,' was the response, 'I can make a better Brigadier any time in five minutes; but it did worry me to have all those horses taken. Why, sir, these horses cost us a hundred and twenty-five dollars a head!'

A gentleman called upon the President, and solicited a pass for Richmond. 'Well,' said the President, 'I would be very happy to oblige, if my passes were respected; but the fact is, sir, I have, within the past two years, given passes to two hundred and fifty thousand men to go to Richmond, and not one has got there yet.' The applicant quietly and respectfully withdrew on his tip-toes.

'Hurrah for Abe Lincoln!' shouted a little patriot on Cedar street, the other day. 'Hurrah for the Devil?' rejoined an indignant Southern sympathiser. 'All right,' said the juvenile; 'you hurrah for your man, and I'll hurrah for mine.'

Old Abe being questioned one day in regard to some of his reputed 'mistakes,' replied, 'That reminds me of a minister and lawyer who were riding together; says the minister to the lawyer --

'Sir, do you ever make mistakes in pleading?'

'I do,' says the lawyer.

'And what do you do with mistakes?' inquired the minister.

'Why sir, if large ones, I mend them; if small ones, I let them go,' said the lawyer. 'And pray, sir,' continued he, 'do you ever make mistakes in preaching?'

'Yes, sir, I have.'

'And what do you do with mistakes?' said the lawyer.

'Why sir, I dispose of them in the same manner that you do. Not long since,' continued he, 'as I was preaching, I meant to observe that the devil was the father of liars, but made a mistake, and said the father of lawyers. The mistake was so small that I let it go.' "

from the Frankfort Ky.
CWRT

- Nicky Hughes
Newsletter Editor

In February, 1865, President Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward met with three Confederate commissioners at Hampton Roads, Virginia, to discuss peace. Since Jefferson Davis insisted on the recognition of southern independence, Lincoln had no real hope for the meeting, but he did not want to overlook any chance for peace. At the conference Lincoln made it clear he would make no bargains with armed forces warring against his government. One of the Confederates pointed out that Charles had negotiated with people in arms against his government. Lincoln said wryly: "Upon questions of history, I must refer you to Mr. Seward, for he is posted in such things; but my only distinct recollection of the matter is that Charles lost his head."

From The President's Desk



Gentlemen,

The annual January meeting with The Quiz was a great success, with The North winning big over The South, 51-39. The losers were graciously allowed to keep their horses and their guns and sent home to start over. Actually, it was really a contest between Neil Evans/Kevin Casey for The South versus Brian Kowell of The North. It was interesting to see their ability to recall often obscure names and dates.

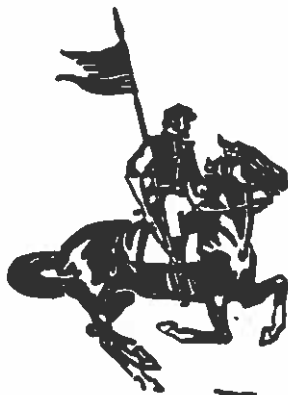
President-elect Dr. Robert Battiste has an excellent agenda lined up for next year's program, with many nationally renowned names. I'm excited Bob's been able to draw such a great list for next year.

Finally, we have the distinct pleasure of having the newly appointed judge of the common pleas court, Kenneth R. Callahan, Jr., address The Roundtable in February on The 8th Ohio.

I hope to see everyone at The Hermit Club in February.

Sincerely,

Kevin R. Callahan



THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
P.O. BOX 18900
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118



Kevin Callahan
21149 Colby Rd.
Shaker Hts., OH 44122