

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. box 444, Vermilion, Ohio 44089

MARCH 1983

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 4

232rd Meeting

DATE : MARCH 8th
 PLACE: THE HERMIT CLUB
 SPEAKERS: CHARLES CLARKE and JAMES CHAPMAN
 SUBJECT: DEBATE, SEE BELOW
 TIME: Social Hour 6:00 P.M., Dinner 7:00 P.M.

JAMES LONGSTREET TO STAND TRIAL

Messrs. Clarke and Chapman, both members of the Cleveland Civil War Round Table from its beginning, will participate in a debate regarding the merits of the question:

RESOLVED: THAT GENERAL LONGSTREET SHOULD BE (OR HAVE BEEN) CONVICTED ON TRIAL BY A MILITARY COURT FOR HIS CONDUCT DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG.

Mr. Clarke will advocate the affirmative of the question. Mr. Chapman will defend the accused. Each of the gentlemen will have thirty minutes of time. Mr. Clarke will proceed first. The time shall be divided as each participant sees fit.

The Bill of Specifications shall include the following:

- (1) Failure to obey orders;
- (2) Dilatory compliance with orders;
- (3) Failure to accomplish effective command;
- (4) Failure to coordinate attack;
- (5) Failure to marshal command effectively;
- (6) Failure to meet enemy action; and
- (7) Failure to support forces committed to action.

The judge advocate and counsel for the accused will be happy to respond to any reasonable questions. This program is the brain child of member Ed Troxell, retired lawyer, whose programs in the past have been outstanding. This one should be a real highlight. Consider the qualifications of the two participants:

Continued on page 3

Club Hears Cushing's Other Side

February 8th Meeting.

Vice-President Neil Evans presented a well-prepared and interesting biography of Lt. William Cushing, whose heroic exploits have been chronicled in the past couple of Chargers.

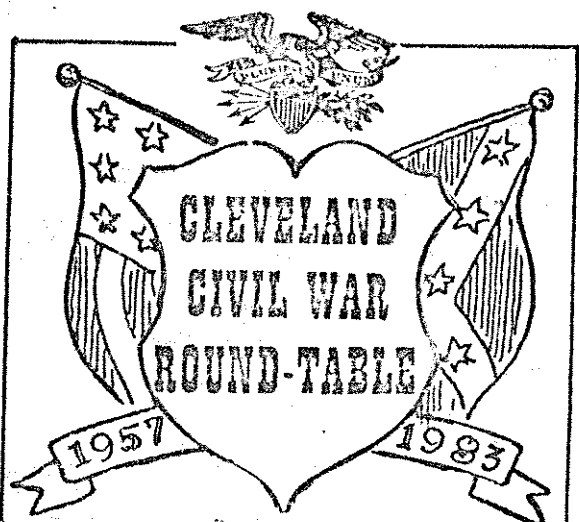
Admitting the young naval officer's gallant role in the history of the Civil War, Neil gave "the other side of the coin" - Cushing's violent character and his less heroic adventures.

Starting with the family background and an examination of the man's boyhood, the speaker pointed out how young Cushing was prone to let his quick temper flare and settle all disputes with his fists. He was big and strong for his age and was a bully with a will of his own.

The hero was educated in a public school in Fredonia, Ohio, his father having died when William was $3\frac{1}{2}$ and brought up under hard circumstances. At the age of 14 he became a page in the House of Representatives through the influence of an uncle. That same year, 1856, Will Cushing met a cousin of his mother, Commodore Joseph Smith, who obtained his appointment as a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy. Smith was Chief of the Bureau of Navy Yards and Docks in Washington, D.C..

While he lasted four years at the Naval Academy, Cushing built up such a pile of

(Continued on page 6)



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Dues: \$20 Sept. to Sept.
Non-resident members \$10

FIFTH ANNUAL CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE - "CAMPAIGNING WITH LEE"

This year's seven day seminar will focus on the war in and around Richmond. In addition, two all-day bus tours will cover the Petersburg area and Lee's retreat to Appomattox. Serving again as program director will be Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson Jr., who is C.P. Miles Professor of History at Virginia Tech. Dr. W. Harrison Daniel and Dr. Daniel Jordan head an impressive list of guest speakers for the program.

The seminar will be based on the campus of the University of Richmond, which has made available a dormitory, dining hall, and classroom building for the group's exclusive use. Registration and check-in will be Saturday, June 18, starting in the afternoon. Fees are \$295 per person, double occupancy, and \$330 for a single room. Please contact Dr. Linda Leffel, Donaldson Brown Center, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061 or phone 703-961-4848.

Dr. James "Bud" Robertson, one of the country's most popular CWRT speakers and a well-known author, will be our featured speaker at the April 12th meeting.

Longstreet Trial Continued

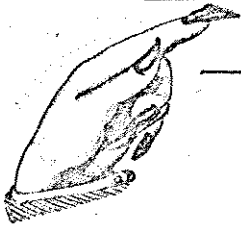
Fellow members all recognize the fact that Charlie Clarke and Jim Chapman are both well enough versed in the history of the Civil War to be classified as experts. This has been demonstrated time and again by the talks they have given before the club and in informal arguments and on field trips. They have many interests outside the club's particular concern, but it is enough to note that each has achieved eminence in the legal field.

Chapman: Partner, Baker and Hostetler.
B.S. in Business Administration cum laude, Ohio State Univ..
Juris Doctor, cum laude, College of Law, Ohio State Univ..
Director many Cleveland corporations.
Order of Coif.
Court of Nisi Prius.
United States Army, 1945-1947.

Clarke: Partner, Squire, Sanders and Dempsey.
A.B. Washington and Lee Univ. summa cum laude.
L.L.B. University of Michigan Law School.
Honorary L.L.D. Cleveland State Univ.
Order of Coif.
Fellow American College of Trial Lawyers.
United States Army, 1942-1946.

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There is always one
in every Company -
any army - any war -
who seems to know
where to find 'em.

* * * * *



Whale Missing From Men's Room

For at least 30 years one of the amusing pictures that decorated the MENS at the Hermit Club was the one of a beached whale surrounded by medieval people watching while one of them measured the male part of the beast. Sometime between Monday morning and Wednesday night last month this picture was wrenched from the wall and carried away. We have been asked by the club if any member remembers seeing it the night of our last meeting, or can throw any light on this deplorable theft?

FRED GILL'S BOOK REVIEW

4.

AN ABIDING PRESENCE

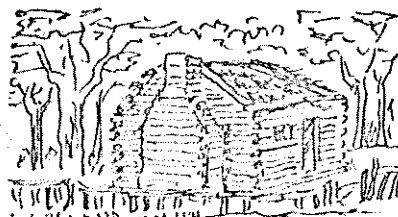
Fleming, Thomas. The Living Land of Lincoln, New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, 1980.

This is a sort of coffee table book, but a quiet one. Coffee table books are generally large and heavy with subjects ranging from the glories of Periclean Greece, African elephants, the art of the Mayas to quasi-scientific descriptions of the cosmos. All are heavily sprinkled with arcane tidbits, interesting enough but mostly without significance and easily forgotten. They are all beautifully printed on lush paper and contain scores of highly professional photographs, many almost too slick. These coffee table books are loud and, it seems to me, to be produced mainly for show and the fancy prices for which they sell.

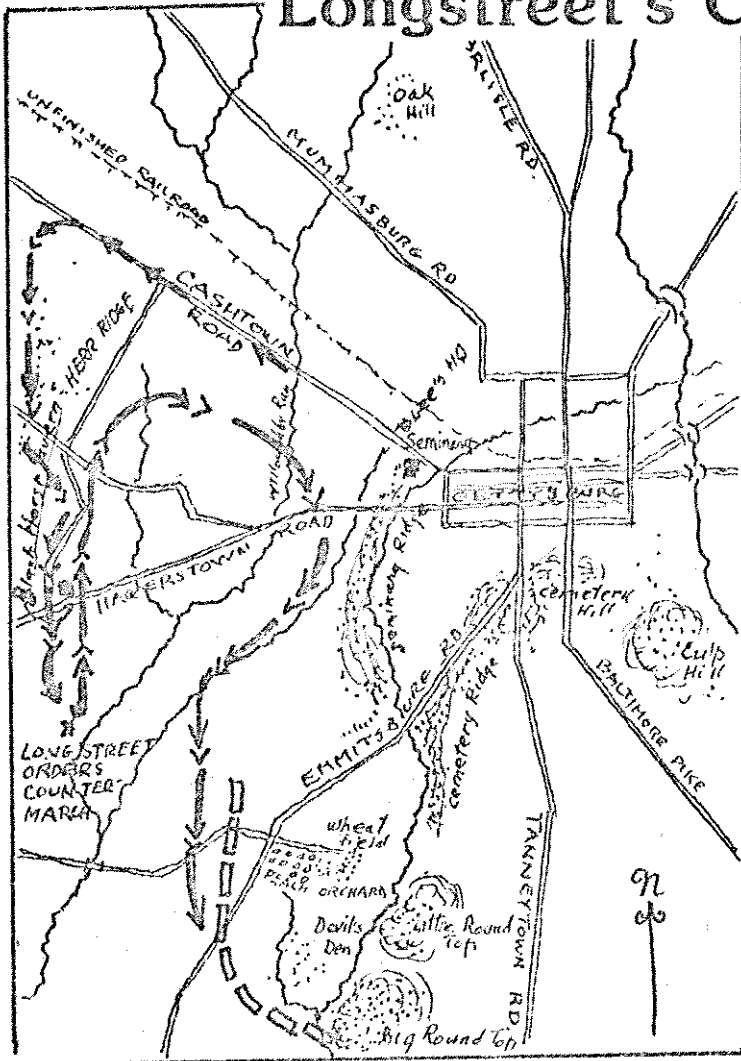
This little book qualifies for the coffee table group in part because the shape - a horizontal rectangle - does not fit handily into a normal bookshelf - and it is beautifully printed. But it is a quiet book. It is as its subtitle says "A celebration of our 16th President and his abiding presence. And that says it. Here there are no opinions of history professors, no cockeyed analyses by the psychohistorians, no political or military dramas detailed. What is here are some nicely selected and documented quotations about Lincoln by people who knew him from his boyhood until his death.

There are striking photographs of the places where he lived, places he visited, courtrooms where he made his lawyer's reputation; of the immortal Gettysburg scene. Both the text and the photographs are oddly evocative of the boy and the man and the places and times truly hallowed by his genius. In reading slowly through the book you get a building feeling for Lincoln's essential humanness, a feeling I have never had in reading that stack of other books about him.

It seems doubtful that history professors or historians or even biographers will find this an essential source, but if you want to get a firmer grasp on Abe Lincoln the man, this book is for you. It is unique.



Longstreet's Counter-March



It was noon when Longstreet, after hearing that Law had joined Hood, got his Corps under weigh with McLaws' leading. But a traffic snarl developed when McLaws' and Hood's men became intermingled. To untangle the snarl men had to trudge over dusty lanes and sunbaked fields at the cost of extra minutes and miles.

Longstreet insisted that Johnson lead and guide the head of the column. They marched south to the Black Horse Tavern where it branched off in a southeasterly direction toward Willoughby Run.

Shortly after the turnoff they came to a rise from which it was obvious that they could be observed by the enemy from the vicinity of Little Round Top. At 1:00 P.M. Longstreet, remembering Lee's admonition not to reveal his movements, turned the column around and took a circuitous route, going through fields and knocking down fences. At first there was some confusion when Hood's men overran McLaws', but by 4:00 P.M. the Corps was in position.

About daybreak on July 2nd, General Lee sent for Captain S. R. Johnson, an engineer at Lee's headquarters and gave him instructions to reconnoiter along the enemy's left and bring the information back as soon as possible. Shortly before sunrise Johnson and three others rode down the valley of Willoughby Run, crossed the Emmitsburg road near the Peach Orchard, and followed the ridge leading to Little Round Top.

When they reached the height, Johnson and Major J.J. Clarke of Longstreet's engineers, climbed Little Round Top and looked over the ground very carefully. They could see no one. Looking north they could not have seen Birney's division massed behind the lower rise of Cemetery Ridge because of the heavy foliage in the woods. Johnson did not go in that direction to determine precisely where the Union left flank resided. Satisfied with having found no one on Little Round Top, they turned south and rode considerably beyond Big Round Top before galloping back to the Confederate lines. Johnson reported to General Lee at 9:00 A.M. who expressed surprise and pleasure at the extent to which the captain had penetrated the enemy position.

About this time Lee learned from Pendleton that General Sickles' three brigades had arrived near the Peach Orchard and then moved east in the direction of the upper valley of Plum Run. These movements evidently did not make Lee suspect that the Union line extended farther than he thought.

A slight argument broke out between Lee and Longstreet about the placement of McLaws' division, but Lee overlooked his senior lieutenant's ill temper and assigned Captain Johnson to him, presumably to act as guide for the First Corps columns to their point of attack. Lee then went to inspect the Second Corps. Longstreet decided to wait until Law's division had arrived. When Lee returned at 11:00 A.M. he gave a direct order to start.

demerits that he was compelled to resign. Next, through the influence of friends, relatives and the need for sailors, he was given a commission as an Acting Master's Mate, but after several exploits was again forced to resign. Cushing during his active participation in naval affairs, wrote some bloodthirsty, distorted and misleading letters to his mother which were printed in his hometown newspaper, The Fredonia Censor, as well as in some other northern papers. We have seen how Cushing kept getting commissioned and through his bold actions and exploits finally got his own ship, in which he caused an international incident by holding up and searching a British ship. But he was absolved by none other than Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy. His career went on to his famous blowing up of the Albatross, and his heroics at Fort Fisher. But after the war he embarrassed the Fleet while in command of the U.S.S. Maumee in Rio de Janeiro, Cape Town and Hong Kong.

Neil Evans delineated the failings in Cushing's character and explained the motivations of his actions, such as the desire for revenge for the death of his beloved brother Alonzo, killed at Gettysburg.

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WRITE AND FIGHT

DID YOU WRITE ABOUT KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NBP??? It is not too late, if you haven't written already. Write and request an investigation into the problems at Kennesaw (just outside Atlanta); the recreationists are literally destroying the historic integrity of this park. Please write (TODAY) Sen. Dale Bumpers and Sen. David Pryor (c/o U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510), Rep. Ed Bethune and Rep. John Seiberling (c/o U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515), and Russell Dickenson, Director, National Park Service, Washington DC 20240. It won't take you 20 minutes and a dollar's worth of postage, and it will be a real service to the memory of those men on both sides who fought and died at that battlefield.

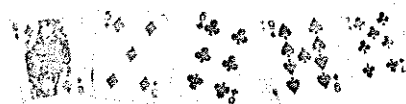
Ohio In The War

Member Frank Gillen recently acquired the two volume set of Ohio in the War, by Whitlaw Reid, published in 1868, after trying for twenty-five years to find any for sale. Among many other interesting items Frank sent in was the one about the independent companies of sharpshooters. Company "G" left Dayton for Benton Barracks, Missouri, in October 1861; was armed with the American target rifle and equipped with bearskinshot-pouch, scraped powder horn, squirrel-tail cap, blue coat and gray pantaloons.

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St. Patrick's Day Parade

Again member Bill Stark urges us to try to avert a recurrence of the last year's disgraceful desecration of the Cuyahoga Soldier's and Sailor's Monument on Cleveland's Public Square by the drunken celebrants in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. He hopes that we will call the sheriff, chief of police, councilmen, mayor, etc., to request that preventative measures be taken to keep the unruly mob off the monument. Call City Hall.



SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



At the Battle of Payne's Farm during the Mine Run Campaign on November 27, 1863, the 50th Virginia Regiment was positioned near a hill engaging the enemy.

The regiment was led by a Captain Johnson, who was about 50 years of age and very large and stout. Thinking that some of his men were not fighting as well as they ought to, due to fear, Captain Johnson waddled to the brow of the hill and stretched out. He then called down to his men that those who were afraid could come up and use him as a breastwork.

Several of the men promptly accepted his challenge, lying down behind him, resting their guns on his portly frame, and firing steadily from this position until the fight was over. Happily, the Captain, a formidable breastwork, was not injured.

-Worsham, John H.. One of Jackson's Foot Cavalry; New York: Neale Publishing Co., 1912. Thanks to Brian Kowell.



In 1861 the Confederate States authorized Robert Lovett of Philadelphia to produce a 1¢ piece. Lovett produced dies and struck a few samples but then realized he faced possible arrest for aiding the enemy. Lovett decided against delivering the coins to the Confederates.

After the War's end, John Haseltine purchased the dies and produced 55 copper restrikes (now listed at \$1,500 each) after which the die broke. The broken dies were repaired and a second series of restrikes were produced, after which, the dies were presented to Smithsonian Institution.

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Winston Churchill once observed that in his opinion Robert E. Lee was one of the greatest men in American history and one of the best generals of all time. He said that somebody ought to catch up a tapestry or paint the memorable scene of Lee riding back across the Potomac after he had turned down the command of the Union armies in order to stay with the Southern side.

Churchill, speaking to an informal group, said, "One of the Civil War's greatest moments came at the end, at Appomattox. Lee pointed out to Gen. Grant that his officers owned their own horses as personal property and asked that they be allowed to keep them. Grant said, 'Have all of them take their horses, the enlisted men and officers as well; they will need them to plow their fields.'" Churchill's eyes glistened as he looked around the spellbound group, then said, "In the squalor of life and war, what a magnificent act!" Nixon, Richard. Leaders, New York; Warner Books, 1982.

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Perhaps the answer why McClellan failed to take the Confederate capital is furnished in the following conversation reputed to have occurred between President Lincoln and Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott. According to the story, Lincoln once asked Scott, "Why is it that you were once able to take Mexico City in three months with 5,000 men, and we have been unable to take Richmond with 100,000 men?" "I will tell you," said Gen. Scott, "the men who took us into the city of Mexico then, are the same men who are keeping us out of Richmond now."

* * * * * Thanks to The Montgomery County CWRT

General Lee often played chess, and his favorite opponent was his aide Col. Charles Marshall. Their board was a pine slab, marked into squares with a knife by some headquarter's artisan, the black squares inked in.

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St. Patrick's Day, 1863, in the lull between the Chancellorsville-Gettysburg campaign, the Irish brigade of the Union army staged a celebration worthy of the occasion. Quartermasters imported liquors and meat from Washington. They served 35 hams, half an ox, chicken, duck and small game... eight buckets of champagne, ten gallons of rum and twenty-two gallons of whiskey.

This was a very sad day for the South; young John Pelham, "the gallant Pelham," was killed at Kelly's Ford, where the Confederates repulsed a Federal cavalry attack under Gen. Averell.