



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

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APRIL 1973

Vol. 16 No. 8

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## 135th Meeting

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DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1973

SPEAKER: Dr. JAMES I. ROBERTSON JR.

SUBJECT: "PADRES OF THE CIVIL WAR"

PLACE: THE HERMIT CLUB, DODGE COURT

PRELIMINARIES: 6:00 PM DINNER: 7:00 PM

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### RELIGION IN THE CIVIL WAR

Since this is the month of Easter and our excellent speaker Dr. James I. Robertson will be speaking on chaplains, it is appropriate to set the scene with a brief look at one of the major religions during the Civil War. Member Guy Di Carlo Jr. recently gave a talk before the Knights of Columbus concerning Catholics in the Civil War and many fascinating details were learned of this one religious group.

As we know there were approximately 30 million population in 1860 of which 10% were Catholic by religion. Of this 3 million fully 1,600,000 were of Irish decent. To guide this flock there were 44 shepards, 7 Archbishops and 37 Bishops. Of these 44, fully three-quarters lived north and east of the Mississippi leaving very few for Dixie. As can be seen by reading some of the Catholic papers of the day, that all the Archbishops and Bishops were not in complete agreement about the cause each side fought and died for.

The Confederate States had 11 dioceses which had Bishops not one of which was born on Confederate soil. Only 3 were American by birth, Richard Whelan of Wheeling, McGill of Richmond and Elder of Natchez. The remaining eight were evenly split, 4 French and 4 Irish. All eleven of the dioceses put together did not equal one large diocese of the north. As an example the city of Nashville which was also a diocese had 13,000 Catholics with 14 churches, 11 priests and 10 parish schools. Charleston, S.C., had only 10,000 Catholics. The Little Rock diocese had 11 churches and 5 priests.

Basically the Bishops of the south accepted and defended states rights, and saw slavery as compatible with Christianity. They recommended the elimination of all abuses and in goodly part ascribed the war guilt to the Protestant Clergy in the north.

There was one Bishop, Bishop James Whelan of Nashville, who did not go along with his brother Bishops. He was no relation to Bishop Richard Whelan of Wheeling who was pro-South. His sympathies were with the North and remained as such throughout the War.

Bishop Verot of Savannah was especially disliked as a rebel Bishop. He maintained that slavery was compatible with Christianity. One incident which Bishop

(cont on page 12)

## FORT CRAIG

All Civil War "buffs" will be interested to know that steps have been taken to make a park out of the area around Fort Craig and the Confederate cemetery grounds at Mumfordsville, Kentucky, commemorating the battles that took place there.

Contributions are being solicited to purchase the ground where most of the action occurred. A non-profit organization has been formed and shares are being sold. The initial response has been gratifying.

One share of stock is selling at \$10.00. If you are interested make your check payable to "The Mumfordsville Battlefield Assn. Inc.", and mail to Colonel H. Engerud, USA RET'D, P. O. Box 11, Mumfordsville, Kentucky, 42765.

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## THE UNENDING FIGHT

## THE GREAT AMERICA PROJECT

When we last left Stonewall and the regiment the Marriott Corporation was in the process of only "informally" discussing a proposed \$35 million amusement park and light industrial park for a 537 acre tract five miles west of Manassas. The "Great America" timetable calls for a mid-1976 opening.

To pinpoint the area in terms of Civil War History use a map of the Second Manassas, August 29, 1862 from 2 to 5 pm for reference. The area to be used is bounded by the Warrenton Turnpike on the north stoping at the Dogan House; Lewis Lane on the east boundry; What is now Highway 66 on the southern boundry and Pageland Lane on the western side. Highway 66 lies just north of the Old Warrenton-Alexandria Road and the Manassas Gap Railroad.

In more modern terms the proposed "Great America" park site is about two miles south of the Manassas National Battlefield Park along Interstate 66; To the north th boundry will be Rt. 29-211; The eastern boundry is Groveton Road and the western boundry is Pageland Lane

Inside the "planned area" the following history took place and will be lost: (1) Lee's Headquarters - Here on Stuart's Hill Gneral Lee had his headquarters on August 29th and 30th 1862. During the Battle of Second Manassas; (2) Brawner's House - Around this house the Battle of Groveton was fought on August 28, 1862. Many people feel this is a wartime house. However, it has not been documented. It was also here on the afternoon of August 28, 1862 that the 2nd, 6th and 17th Wisconsin and the 19th Indiana Regiments got their baptism of fire. They were later known as the famous Iron Brigade; and finally the site that Longstreet's Corp formed into battle lines to kick off the famous counter attack that sent General Pope's army retreating in defeat toward Centreville.

## 'THIRD MANASSAS' IS SHAPING UP

A proposal by the Marriott Corp for an "Eiffel Tower" type of ediface for sight-seers at the proposed Great America Theme Park near Manassas has drawn a good deal of flak from opponents of the park, particularly Civil War buffs.

George E. Hill II, president of the District of Columbia CWRT, has sent a letter to the Prince William County Board of Supervisors saying that his organization has hired a lawyer to help fight the Marriott proposal and its observation tower. Hill said his organization and the Alexandria CWRT are opposed to the park because "it is absolutely certain that an important portion of the Manassas battlefields would be altered."

The Prince William supervisors signed a contract with Marriott on Feb 15 which contained a reference to county permission for "one special-purpose structure" which could be as tall as 350 feet. The Civil War buffs are particularly concerned because they are afraid the tower will ruin the aesthetics and view of Manassas National Battlefield Park. The Feb 15 contract with Marriott has one escape clause directly relating to the observation tower. The contract provides that Marriott will have to make "a showing that it is in the best interests of the county" before the tower can be built. MORE NEXT MONTH AMUSEMENT PARK FANS.....

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of  
THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO  
FOUNDED FEBRUARY 19, 1957

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GUY DI CARLO JR., EDITOR, P.O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

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ELMER ELLSWORTH

ELLSWORTH WAS 'GOLDEN BOY'  
DEATH MADE HIM A MARTYR  
OF THE NORTH

Ephraim Ellsworth of Mechanicville, N.Y., was uneasy and he took to haunting the telegraph office for news. It was May 24, 1861, and the invasion of Virginia had begun early that morning. Among the first units across the Potomac, he knew, were Ellsworth's Fire Zouaves (the 11th New York Infantry), commanded by his son, Elmer, and assigned to occupy Alexandria.

The day wore on and the instrument clicked spasmodically. After awhile, Ephraim Ellsworth noticed that the operator had tears in his eyes. He knew then, without asking, that Elmer was dead, and he went sadly home to his wife. This was the second son they had lost within the year, and there were no more.

In the near city of Troy at about the same time, a messenger was delivering a telegram to Charles Brownell, Rensselaer County's superintendent of the poor, who also had a son in the Fire Zouaves. It said: "Father: Colonel Ellsworth was shot dead this morning. I killed his murderer.--FRANK."

And in Washington, President Lincoln stood a long time gazing out a White House window. With an effort, he turned at last to receive visitors, and they saw that he had been weeping. Apologetically, he explained that he had just heard of Ellsworth's death, and added: "Poor fellow, it was undoubtedly an act of rashness, but it only shows the heroic spirit that animates our soldiers."

People of the North were still waving flags, expecting the war to be a brief, romantic, dress-parade sort of carnival. The depressing idea that a great many fine young men must die before it was done had not yet dawned. Now it was brought home in a particularly shocking way. Not only was Col. Elmer Ellsworth the first officer killed in the Civil War, he was a national idol of the moment; the heart-throb of crinolined young ladies who framed his picture on their walls; a paragon of virtue and self-discipline whom parents cited as a model to their sons. To cap the climax, he was almost an adopted member of the Lincoln family, to whom the White House doors opened wide.

The violent death of hardly any other man in uniform right then could have sent such a wave of outraged grief compounded with hot anger surging across the North. Recruiting stations were swamped. Perhaps this was the mission fate had in mind for Elmer Ellsworth, after all: to be the first martyr of the Civil War. It is singular to reflect that his great and good friend, Abraham Lincoln, was to be the martyr of its

ending, and that both were the victims of civilian zealots.

At any rate, a tall granite shaft with a bronze eagle perched atop stands in Hudson View Cemetery, Mechanicville, to the memory of Ellsworth; a glass case is devoted to his mementos in the Flag Room of the New York State Capitol; and now the Town of Malta, Saratoga County, is about to take its due credit as his birthplace, with a marker.

There was irony in the fact that Ellsworth, who from earliest boyhood 'knew that God had made him a soldier', came to his death not amid the panoply of battle but on the narrow stairway of a dingy hotel before any battle was fought. Impulsively, he dashed to the roof of the Marshall House in Alexandria to capture a huge Secessionist flag that was flying there. Coming back downstairs while folding it against his chest, he was felled with a shotgun slug through the heart by the enraged hotel proprietor, James W. Jackson. Corporal Francis E. Brownell, of his bodyguard, instantly shot Jackson full in the face, bayoneted him for good measure, and was a sudden hero as 'Ellsworth's Avenger.' (Jackson, it is worth remarking, was heroized in the Confederacy as 'the first martyr in the cause of Southern Independence', and a pamphlet biography of him was printed in Richmond).

Lincoln, who wept and then commanded that Ellsworth's remains lie in state at the White House, had called him "the greatest little man I ever met." Elmer was undersized, standing five feet, six. But he was markedly handsome, spirited, magnetic, and more than a mite theatrical. He was described as possessing "dark-brown hair that fell in careless, clinging curls about his neck, eyes of dark hazel that flashed and sparkled, a face smooth and fair as a maiden's, lips full and red, teeth of dazzling whiteness." A news report on the appearance of his Chicago Zouaves in Syracuse said he had "a voice like a young thunderbolt." The trim moustache was doubtless intended to counteract his almost girlish good looks.

And so this golden-boy flamed like a meteor across the skies of America on the eve of the Civil War and was gone. It all happened to him within the space of ten months, and he had just passed his 24th birthday when it ended.

The brief life of Elmer Ellsworth had begun on April 11, 1837, in the crossroads hamlet of Dunning Street (now the Malta Corners on RTE 9, a few miles south of Saratoga Springs). Ephraim D. Ellsworth had learned the tailor's trade, and, after wedding Phebe Denton, settled there. They christened their firstborn Ephraim Elmer (as he grew up he dropped the Ephraim). A second son, Charles, came along three years later.

The Panic of 1837 arrived in the same year Elmer did, and the hard times that ensued were bad for tailoring. The Ellsworths moved down into the Hudson River village of Mechanicville (the census of 1840 listed them there), and the father tried his hand at a variety of things to scabble a living, such as netting passenger pigeons and pddling oysters by the keg. Early in life, Elmer knew poverty, and the experience had a lasting effect on him. Taking after-school jobs to help out, he then promised his mother that some day he would earn money enough so she could "ride in a carriage and be as big a lady as any of them."

The resolution to ease things for his parents runs like a leit-motif through his wanderings after he left home, Alger-style, to seek his fortune. He never quite got around to doing it, but what he did obtain for them was a measure of reflected glory, plus a consolatory letter from the President and a government job, evenuating in a full-pay pension, which Lincoln arranged for the bereaved father.

Elmer's goal of attaining wealth was in conflict with his passion for things military. Almost from the cradle, he adored playing soldier. At school, he was an apt pupil, and galloped through his lessons in order to devour battle histories and manuals of arms. The nearness of the Saratoga battlefield, plus the fact that a grandfather had been a Revolutionary soldier, probably influenced this bent. He drew precoci-

ous sketches of uniforms and fighting men. Later on, in nearby Stillwater, he commanded a drill-company of adolescents who called themselves the Black-Plumed Riflemen.

Not surprisingly, the lad's heart was set on West Point, but the curricular scope of the Mechanicville school did not permit him to meet the entrance requirements. Therefore he must content himself with being an amateur soldier--a thing he proceeded to do with éclat.

The world widened for Elmer when he rode the trains between Mechanicville and Troy as a newsboy. At the age of 15, he landed as an apprentice clerk in a Troy linen-goods shop. Any town worth its salt had a fancy drill-team in those days. Troy's was the Washington Volunteers, and the boy with the military itch surely would not have missed its sessions. One member of the Washington Volunteers was Francis E. Brownell.

The Troy job led to another in a New York City store, and Ellsworth was a faithful spectator at drills of the famed 7th Regiment. Before long he was employed with a crew of engineers ("submarine divers") improving the Hell Gate channel. When the engineers moved on to Chicago, they took him along. Now he began to study of law in his spare time, took an ill-fated fling at patent soliciting and sometimes--far from helping his parents--he didn't eat too well.

His interest in the smart uniform and the martial step never flagged. Chicago had its quota of drill-teams and Ellsworth hovered on their fringes. Meanwhile, the Crimean War had popularized the French Zouaves. The flamboyance and gymnastic style of the Zouave system especially appealed to Ellsworth, and he made an intensive study of it. Then in the forepart of 1859 an opportunity presented for him to put it into practice. A debt-ridden drill team had disbanded. Ellsworth stepped in and reorganized a nucleus of its ex-members, renamed the outfit the United States Zouave Cadets, obtained use of an armory, and rapidly drilled it into a state of perfection that began attracting audiences.

So spectacular was the rise of the Ellsworth Zouaves that Governor William H. Bissell, in January of 1860, designated them as the Governor's Guard of Illinois; at the same time giving Ellsworth the rank of Colonel in the Illinois National Guard and appointing him assistant adjutant-general of the state.

At Springfield, the Chicago Zouaves drilled in the public square, and a spectator was Abraham Lincoln. Afterwards, he introduced himself to Ellsworth on the street, invited him up to his law office for a talk, and was much taken by the young man's ability and winning personality. Hearing that Ellsworth had read some law, Lincoln urged him, if he should decide upon it as a profession, to settle in Springfield and study in his office. Ellsworth did not forget this offer.

When he drilled at Rockford, he met a vivacious girl who was a banker's daughter--Caroline (Kitty) Spafford. They fell in love and were engaged to marry. The future of Elmer Ellsworth began to look very rosy indeed.

The fame of the Ellsworth Zouaves spread with the winning of a championship title at a fair of the National Agricultural Society in Chicago, and this led to the project of a grand tour of the East in the summer of 1860. To point for it, the men drilled five nights a week, began living in the armory and leading a Spartan existence. Total abstinence was cardinal rule Ellsworth imposed upon them (he had taken a temperance pledge at the age of nine and never violated it). To toughen themselves, they "slept in blankets on the hard side of a plank."

Meanwhile, Elmer had taken his brother, Charley, under his wing, brought him out to Chicago and inducted him into the Zouaves. This proved an unfortunate thing for Charley. In the spring of 1860, he caught typhoid. Elmer nursed him through it, but he was scarcely recovered when he was stricken with smallpox. This time Elmer's nursing

was of no avail. Charles Ellsworth died on June 16, 1860. Elmer took the body home to the heartbroken parents.

June 20 was the date for the eastern tour to begin. On that day Ellsworth watched his brother's coffin lowered into the grave. Fearful that he might have contracted smallpox himself, and wishing not to expose his parents, Ellsworth went down to the Astor House in New York to wait out the incubation period. From there he wrote to Kitty Spafford: "If I have the disease, you must no longer consider yourself under obligations to act other than your own pleasure in regard to our intercourse in case I recover."

But he escaped smallpox, went back to Chicago, and started his Zouaves on the tour July 2. They fared forth on a shoestring, a railroad giving them free passage for the first leg, and relied upon receipts in one place to carry them on to the next. Thebrash plan worked out. It was a triumphal journey that generated publicity as it went along, and when it was over the name of Ellsworth was a household word all over America. (John Hay wrote that he was "the most talked-of man in the country").

The itinerary brought them across New York State, and Ellsworth made certain of an appearance in Troy. A scheduled drill in Buffalo was cancelled because of belated arrival, and the cadets went to see Niagara Falls instead. On to Rochester, where they befuddled the committee by refusing the hotel rooms that had been reserved, insisting on bedding down on the armory floor. Huge crowds cheered their exhibitions in Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, Albany.

At Troy it was a case of hometown boy makes good. The Zouaves marched to the home of Major General John E. Wool, commander of the Army's Department of the East, who showed them his collection of swords. The exhibition drill was given on a parade ground named Camp Wool (can it be doubted that Frank Brownell was in the crowd?) General Wool himself drove up in his carriage, and when it was over declared he had "never seen their skill equalled at West Point." A Troy paper, going into detail about the flashy uniforms, added a sobering thought: "We hope their red trousers may never be made more ...by the trade of war."

New York City was the consummation. Ellsworth took it by storm. Advance notice had been rather skimpy, but after the first drill--on Saturday, July 14, in Madison Square Park -- the metropolis couldn't get enough of the Chicago Zouaves. They stayed on and on. The Times headlined their reception as "The Military Furore": described Ellsworth conduct as "a coup d'etat in military tactics"; and explained: "Some of our dignified kid-gloved soldiers would look quite funny in the performance of such maneuvers...The company seemed to move like a collection of electric clocks. . . Their assumed ferocity and horrid yells at the charge set even the military scattering helter-skelter."

A repeat show was given Monday at Madison Square. Next day they drilled at Fort Greene in Brooklyn. The Zouaves were the darlings of New York. They were guests at the theaters -- Laura Keane's and Niblo's where the audiences craned to see them, and actors coined ad libs about their presence.

Then they got a stage of their own. At the urging of army officers who wanted a closer look at the intricate maneuvers, the sacrosanct New York Academy of Music was leased for an evening, and the cream of society turned out. Nobody ever again could ignore Elmer Ellsworth whose father had once peddled oysters. The boxoffice receipts of \$1700 were turned over to the Zouaves, whose finances at that moment were perilously low.

An urgent invitation came from Boston, and Ellsworth extended his itinerary into New England, performing there and at Salem. Back in New York he found another bid waiting -- one that caused his heart to leap. The United States Military Academy at West Point (whose entrance requirements he had been unable to meet) wanted to see his Zouaves drill! And the crack company of New Hork's 7th Regiment, whose maneu-



vers he had watched in the past as an unknown, went along as escort on the boat trip up the Hudson to West Point.

The show on the Academy grounds was presented under the most critical of eyes. In attendance were General Winfield Scott, commander of the Army; and Major William J. Hardee, commandant of cadets at West Point and author of the Army's official manual of light-infantry tactics. At the end, Major Hardee (so soon to defect to the Confederacy) remarked: "It is only showy and not at all practical." Where-upon Ellsworth put his men through Hardee's own drill. Major Hardee admitted it was done well, but was suspicious that they had been watching one another's movements in order to keep such perfect timing. Ellsworth ordered them to repeat that part of the drill with their eyes shut. "Old Tactics" Hardee conceded that it was "most wonderful."

The tour went on to Philadelphia and Washington. The Zouaves were formally received by President Buchanan and drilled on the White House lawn. They circled back to Chicago by way of Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Springfield. In their wake was left a swell of military ardor. Local Zouave companies sprang up in many of the cities visited, including Albany and New York.

It appears that Ellsworth had made up his mind about his future before leaving on the tour. If Lincoln's nomination for the presidency that May was not a factor in his decision, certainly it did not dissuade him. Back in Chicago, he resigned from the Zouaves when they were at the pinnacle of success (without him, they soon disbanded). He went to Springfield and reported at the office of Lincoln & Herndon, ostensibly to study law, but actually to become a campaign speaker for Lincoln. Someone among Lincoln's campaign managers must have realized the magic of Ellsworth's name as an asset and put him on the stump. He proved a likely speaker. He didn't do much law-reading, but he quickly became a favorite of the Lincoln family and romped with the boys.

As plans developed for the presidential train journey to Washington, Lincoln invited his young protege to accompany them, and put him in charge of security aboard the train. The instruction sheet sent ahead to local reception committees emphasized: "The President-elect will under no circumstances attempt to pass through any crowd until such arrangements are made as will meet with the approval of Col. Ellsworth."

Thus it came about that Elmer Ellsworth made a second notable excursion across his home state, seven months after the first. The Lincoln special stopped at all the same cities in New York where the Zouaves had staged their exercises.

And what was Ellsworth to do in Washington? He had his own ideas and Lincoln was willing to further them. Ellsworth had evolved a scheme for a Bureau of Militia within the War Department. Lincoln got Secretary of War Simon Cameron to commission him in the regular army as a Lieutenant of dragoons, and recommended that he be detailed "for special duty as Adjutant and Inspector General of Militia."

Before this worked out, war came. Ellsworth then wanted no desk job. He obtained Lincoln's permission to go to New York and recruit a regiment of Zouaves from among that city's volunteer firemen. He told a reporter: "I want the New York firemen, for there are no more effective men in the country, and none with whom I can do so much. They are sleeping on a volcano at Washington, and I want men who can go in and fight now."

New York had by no means forgotten Ellsworth. A notice in the papers said: "To the Citizens of New York -- A Regiment of Volunteers, to be composed of members of the New York Fire Department, and to be commanded by Col. Ellsworth (late of Chicago Zouaves) is now forming to aid the General Government in the suppression of the rebellion, and the citizens of New York are earnestly requested to aid them by advancing the necessary funds to complete the arrangements and to provide the necessary uniforms, equipment, & etc. (Ellsworth was well aware that the state would be caught off-balance for gear).

This notice and a few pep-talks around at the fire-houses got fast results. In three days he had 2,200 volunteers. Regulation size for a regiment was 770 men. Ellsworth solved the problem (to quote Brownell) "by placing the companies opposite each other and selecting those who he wished to go from the appearance of the men." Even so, he still had an oversize regiment of 1,100, and this would cause difficulty.

Five of his former comrades of the Chicago Zouaves sped east and he made them captains. Down from Troy came Frank Brownell with "two or three other" youths to enlist. (A Troy paper said that Brownell left "a lucrative situation" to join Ellsworth. He signed as a private but was mustered in as a corporal).

These, then, were the 11th New York Volunteer Infantry, popularly dubbed the Fire Zouaves. They were a hell-bent, roisterous crew that would tax Ellsworth's disciplinary talents severely. On April 26, Brig Gen Charles G. Tes wrote to Governor Morgan his opinion that no more recruits should be shipped at present unless fully armed and equipped, but added: "I will except...Col. Ellsworth's regiment...because it is composed of many enthusiastic, restless spirits who will be governed much better out of the city of New York than in it."

Money for uniforms was readily raised among Ellsworth's admirers. Governor Morgan ordered an issue of old-fashioned muskets for his regiment but Ellsworth was "unwilling to receive such arms." When the muskets arrived, the firemen refused to unpack and clean them. Chester A. Arthur, then assistant quartermaster-general at New York, went among them with policemen and put the ringleaders under arrest. The muskets were unpacked, but not used. Ellsworth's monied friends again came to the rescue, and \$60,000 worth of Sharpe's rifles were delivered in time for the sailing.

Mrs. Phebe Ellsworth came down from Mechanicville, kissed her son goodbye, and said: "I hope God will take care of you, Elmer." And Elmer replied: "He had led me in this work, and He will take care of me"

Departure date was April 29, and the steamer BALTIC waited at the foot of Canal Street. The untrained regiment lined up in its gaudy uniforms and received a white silk flag from the President of the New York Fire Department, W.H. Wickham, who said: "You are now called to quench the flames of rebellion." Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Jr. drove up in her carriage and bestowed upon Ellsworth a queenly smile and a crimson silk flag. (After his death, Mrs. Astor asked for, and got a souvenir piece of the Secession flag for which he gave his life).

The dashing little colonel was in his full glory. He mounted a horse and rode at the head of his troops in a march up Broadway, as New Yorkers turned out en masse to give them a tumultuous send-off. The parade paused at the Astor Hotel to receive two more stands of colors: one from Laura Keane; the other from "Ladies of the Astor House"

Ellsworth was about to give the command to resume march when he was handed a message. It was an order countermanding the sailing. He was thunderstruck. Some functionary of the War Department had discovered that the regiment had too many men in it. This was against regulations. A telegram went to Governor Edwin Morgan in Albany, and he relayed it to Major General Charles W. Sandford, commander of the State Militia. Sandford was on the staff of General Wool, who had moved his headquarters from Troy down to the St. Nicholas Hotel in New York, from a balcony of which he had just reviewed the parade of the Fire Zouaves.

While the Zouaves stood at ease in the street, a three-man committee of them hurried with a protest to General Sandford. Sandford sided with Ellsworth and urged General Wool to ignore the order ("no part would go unless all were included"). General Wool's later account said: "The order of the Governor produced intense excitement. I replied to the General (Sandford) that I would not be the first to check the noble and patriotic enthusiasm of the citizens of New York."



The regiment as it was should embark. This announcement caused the most enthusiastic cheering of the regiment, the firemen, and the tens of thousands of spectators."

The procession happily resumed, escorted by 5,000 civilian firemen who carried a banner saying: "If our country calls, the rest are ready." The Zouaves boarded the *BALTIC*. The *BALTIC* steamed down the harbor, bound for Annapolis -- but their troubles were not yet over. They had nothing to eat aboard!

An hour after the sailing, an officer strolled into Chester Arthur's office and commented that the Fire Zouaves had got off at last.

"Got off?" Arthur shouted. "Got off? That's impossible! Orders came from Washington forbidding their departure. There isn't a pound of food of any sort on their ship. I countermanded my earlier order."

Off to an army contractor dashed Arthur to order rations. He obtained five days provisions, at premium prices, and collected tugs to go in pursuit of the *BALTIC*. They found her at anchor in The Narrows and put the food aboard.

At first the Zouaves were quartered in the South Wing of the Capitol at Washington. They were mustered into the army at a ceremony in front of the Capitol on May 7, with President Lincoln and his son, Tad, looking on.

The behavior of the former fire-laddies was hardly conventional. Washington citizens were appalled to look up and see Zouaves walking the parapets of the Capitol sometimes "hanging like monkeys from the outer edges of the dome." Their antics gave them a rather unsavory reputation. But then they got a chance to redeem themselves. Fire broke out in a small hotel two doors from Willard's Hotel. The flames got out of control, threatening to spread to Willard's. Ellsworth's entire regiment turned out, seized fire-fighting equipment out of the very hands of Washington firemen, and put out the fire. In gratitude, the proprietor of Willard's had them all in for breakfast, and presented a \$500 check to Ellsworth, which he turned over to the New York Fire Department.

Presently the Zouaves went into training camp beside the Potomac midway between Washington and Alexandria. Four miles away, across the river, they could see daily an enormous Secessionist flag flaunting itself from a 40-foot flagstaff on the three story Marshall House. On Ellsworth's visits to the White House, he learned that the offending banner could be seen from there; that Lincoln and his secretaries had examined it with a spyglass. He was told that Lincoln considered it "an insult." (The biographer of James W. Jackson left no doubt that it was intended as such. The hotel man had made it abnormally large so it could be seen in the capital. "Flying, as it did, in the very face of the Government at Washington," the booklet says, "it of course attracted the attention of the Northern public, and many a gallant editor, of the word-fighting school, waxed eloquent over the indignity, and lustily called upon the sons of thunder. . . to remove the foul insult from the offended sight of the majesty of Abraham Lincoln and Cabinet." The writer cited a report that Ellsworth promised Mrs. Lincoln to present her with it on the evening of the 24th of May, which we have every reason to believe to be true").

True or not, it seems plausible that Ellsworth would have worked up a special animus against that flag; and that what he did later in regard to it would not have been merely a sudden deed of bravado.

The voters of Virginia ratified the ordinance of secession on May 23. This meant that the first federal troops would cross the Potomac before the next daybreak. The Fire Zouaves were assigned to occupy Alexandria. Ellsworth told his men: "Prepare yourself for a nice little sail, and, at the end of it, a skirmish." Then he wrote letters to his parents and his fiancée.

There would be no skirmish. A rebel detachment of 500 men in the town evacuated it upon warning from a Union gunboat. The regiment landed without opposition. After detailing his men, Ellsworth set out for the telegraph office to cut the wires, accompanied by a group of eight, among them Corporal Frank Brownell. As they passed the Marshall House, Ellsworth looked up at the flag and said: "Boys, we must have that down before we return." A few steps further on, he turned abruptly and went into the hotel, followed by the rest. The most reliable eye-witness account was that written by Edward H. House, the New York Tribune correspondent who was with him:

"On entering the open door, the Colonel met a man in his shirt and trousers, of whom he demanded what sort of a flag it was that hung above the roof. The stranger, who seemed greatly alarmed, declared he knew nothing of it, and that he was only a boarder there. Without questioning him further the Colonel sprang up stairs, and we

all followed him to the topmost story, whence, by means of a ladder, he clambered to the roof, cut down the flag with Winsor's knife (i.e. Lieut. Henry J. Winsor, military secretary of the regiment), and brought it from its staff. . .

"We at once turned to descend, Private Brownell leading the way, and Colonel Ellsworth immediately following him with the flag. As Brownell reached the first landing-place, or entry, after a descent of some dozen steps, a man jumped from a dark passage, and hardly noticing the private, leveled a double-barreled gun at Colonel's breast. Brownell made a quick pass to turn the weapon aside, but the fellow's hand was firm, and he discharged one barrel straight to its aim, the slugs or buckshot with which it was loaded entering the Colonel's heart, and killing him at the instant. I think my hand was resting on poor Ellsworth's shoulder at the moment. At any rate, he seemed to fall almost from my own grasp. He was on the second or third step from the landing, and he dropped forward with that heavy, horrible, headlong weight which always comes of sudden death inflicted in this manner.

"His assailant had turned like a flash to give the contents of the other barrel to Brownell, but either he could not command his aim or the Zouave was too quick with him, for the slugs went over his head and passed through the panels and wainscot of a door which sheltered some sleeping lodgers. Simultaneously with this second shot, and sounding like the echo of the first, Brownell's rifle was heard, and the assassin staggered backward. He was hit exactly in the middle of the face, and the wound, as I afterward saw it, was the most frightful I ever witnessed. Of course Brownell did not know how fatal his shot had been, and so, before the man dropped, he thrust his sabre bayonet through and through the body, the force of the blow sending the dead man violently down the upper section of the second flight of stairs, at the foot of which he lay with his face to the floor."

Colonel Ellsworth was laid out in an iron casket painted to imitate rosewood, the upper half of its lid being an oval glass window for viewing. He was in full-dress Zouave uniform. His cap, sword, and gloves were laid on top. Folded across the foot of the coffin, at the White House and subsequent obsequies, was the captured flag, punctured by the bullet-holes and darkened by his blood.

The official funeral in the East Room of the White House was attended by the Lincoln family, members of the cabinet, other government dignitaries, and General Winfield Scott. Motionless at the head of the casket stood Brownell, shouldering the rifle and bayonet with which he had "avenged" his friend.

Brownell was promoted to sergeant on May 26, giving him a bit more status for his assignment as honor guard to the remains all the way to the grave at Mechanicville (Brownell's deed assured him a military career. Lincoln awarded him the Medal of Honor "for shooting the murderer of Colonel Ellsworth." A bit later, Lincoln wrote, in a letter of recommendations to the War Department: "I also wish Francis E. Brownell, who stood by Col. Ellsworth at his death, to be 2nd Lieutenant in this Corps." He was upgraded to 1st Lieutenant in October, 1861; served several years in the regular army after the war; went on the retired list and became a U.S. pension examiner.)

An impressive military cortege, with muffled drums, escorted the corpse from the White House to a special train, with Ellsworth's riderless horse being led behind the hearse. A picked guard of Zouaves accompanied their little Colonel on his last journey home.

The parents received back their son at the Astor House in New York, where a private service was held in a hotel parlor. Then the casket lay in state in the Governor's Room at City Hall, Sergeant Brownell sitting at its head, while 10,000 filed past. A Hudson River night-boat took the remains up to Albany, getting salutes from passing ships with their flags half-masted. At Albany, church bells tolled and minute-guns boomed as the steamer docked early in the morning of May 27. The Albany Zouaves, organized as a result of Ellsworth's visit the previous summer, were among his escort up the hill to the State Capitol. There the coffin rested in a huge catafalque in the Assembly Chamber while mourners streamed past. Just once did Sergeant Brownell leave his post at the head of the casket, when summoned into the Executive Chamber to tell his story to Governor Morgan.

Another riverboat carried the body on to Troy. There the paths of old General Wool and young Colonel Ellsworth crossed for the last time. The General came home for the funeral, and rode in the procession from the boat-landing to the railroad depot where a train waited to complete the melancholy journey to Mechanicville. Brownell rode on the hearse, his rifle across his lap and the rebel flag draped

from its bayonet.

The Black-Plumed Riflemen of Stillwater were in the mile-long procession to the cemetery on the hill at the south edge of Mechanicville. A severe thunderstorm broke in the middle of it, but then the sky cleared. Mourners filed past the open casket for three solid hours at the cemetery. Brownell sat on the platform, holding the flag. At the request of the crowd, he finally stood up and unrolled it. There were "prolonged groans." Brownell dropped the flag on the platform and stood upon it.

As the coffin was being lowered into the ground at 5 pm the honor guard of Zouaves fired three volleys. Then they put down their rifles, picked up spades, and filled the grave.

Much speculation ensued as to what Ellsworth's future might have been in the long struggle that was to come. Robert E. Lee was quoted, not very authoritatively, as having said, when told of Ellsworth's death, that he might have become commanding general of the Union armies. Colonel Silas Burt, assistant inspector general of the National Guard, wrote that "in the ignorance of the day, he was accounted a military genius"; that Ellsworth was "simply a drill-master, and so far as fame is concerned was fortunate in his early death."

At any rate, he had one thing in common with John Brown: his soul went marching on. Regiments of "Ellsworth Avengers" sprang up all over the North. In his hometown of Mechanicville, news of his death was brought to a group of young men playing baseball in a sandlot. Grimly, they stopped the game and marched to the recruiting station. In Albany a spontaneous mass meeting took place at which was organized the Ellsworth Association of the State of New York, whose purpose was to recruit the People's Ellsworth Regiment.

This became the 44th New York Infantry. The original plan was to get one recruit from every township and every city ward in the state, but it didn't work out quite that way. Later, more than one enlistment was allowed from a locality. Erie and Albany Counties supplied two companies each, Herkimer County one.

Here is a copy of the letter President Lincoln wrote to the parents of Colonel Ellsworth:

Washington, D.C.  
May 25, 1861

To the Father and Mother of Col.  
Elmer E. Ellsworth:

My dear Sir and Madam,

In the untimely loss of your noble son, our affliction here, is scarcely less than you own. So much of promised usefulness to one's country, and of bright hope, for one's self and friends, have rarely been so suddenly dashed, as in his fall. In size, in years, and in youthful appearance, a boy only, his power to command men, was surpassingly great- This power combined with a fine intellect, an indomitable energy, and a taste altogether military, constituted in him, as seemed to me, the best natural talent, in that department, I ever knew. And yet he was singularly modest and deferential in social intercourse- My acquaintance with him began less than two years ago; yet through the latter half of the intervening period it was as intimate as the disparity of our ages, and my engrossing engagements, would permit- To me he appeared to have no indulgences or pastimes; and I never heard him utter a profane, or an intemperate word- What was conclusive of his good heart, he never forgot his parents- The honors he labored for so laudably, and in the sad end, so gallantly gave his life, he meant for them, no less than for himself.

In this hope that it may be no intrusion upon the sacredness of your sorrow, I have ventured to address you this tribute to the memory of my young friend, and your brave and early fallen child.

May God give you that consolation which is beyond all earthly power.

Sincerely your friend  
in a common affliction

Verot protested but with no avail was the use of a cemetery as an army fortification by a Union General.

Bishop Elder was imprisoned for 17 days because he prayed for Southern leaders in Baltimore. It took a release signed by Secretary of War Stanton to free him. Bishop Elder was very much a states rights advocate.

In the Spring of 1864 the Confederacy asked Bishop Pat N. Lynch to go to the Holy See to foster goodwill and to do the same throughout Europe. Pius IX and the Holy See regarded Bishop Lynch as just another Bishop visiting and not as the official delegate of the Confederacy. However Bishop Lynch had to receive special permission to re-enter the United States in 1865.

Pope Pius IX told Rufus King, the U.S. Minister to the Papal States that "As a Christian and the head of the Catholic Church I can not lend any sanction or countenance to the system of African slavery."

Prominent Catholic churchmen in the north were Archbishops Hughes of New York, Purcell of Cincinnati, Kenrick of St. Louis, Bishops Spalding of Louisville, Baltimore, Duggan of Chicago, Pappe of Cleveland and Henni of Milwaukee.

Of these men Archbishop Hughes played a very prominent role until his death during the war. He is credited in helping to stop the draft riots in New York on July 13, 1863. Hughes often wrote to Secretary Seward with practical advice and in many letters he made suggestions for military procedure. As early as 1862 he advocated conscription. During those riots Greeley's Tribune reminded the mobs of the good Archbishops' sermons on the subject. To head off even more violence Hughes invited the rioters to his home on Friday, July 17th at 2:00 pm. Because of his age and severe rheumatism he could not go to the people so he bade them come to him. They did--- 5,000 strong showed up to hear his last public address. He was an eloquent speaker giving a speech that was directed at the Irish and avoided all the issues at hand leading to the riots. However the crowd was well pleased and it helped break up the riots. The Philadelphia Press printed "In many of the towns around New York, riots are prevented only by the Catholic priests and they deserve the credit."

The case of Archbishop Richard Kenrick of St. Louis is quite different. He avoided all comments and abstained as much as possible from speaking about the war or politics. He was asked to fly the U.S. flag from his church and he refused the request with the words "No other banner maybe placed there, for already there stands one which alone shall stay, the banner of the church," and then dramatically with his hand he pointed to the cross on the spire. Actually Kenrick was diplomatically silent for his sympathies were more with the South.

Bishop Martin Spalding of Louisville and later Baltimore (he replaced Archbishop Francis Kenrick brother of Richard Kenrick of St. Louis) personally avoided politics. It was said he never voted. In many of his letters to Archbishops Purcell of Cincinnati he wanted to have the Church remain free of war and politics. Because of his attitude toward politics it was said that Secretary of State Seward liked his politics.

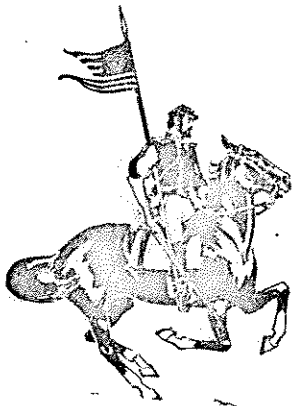
There are many more interesting facts that could be told however, we will direct you to the Cleveland Public Library and a reference book there called "Catholics and the Civil War" by Benjamin J. Blie. One parting note, the United States Navy did not get its first Catholic Chaplain, Rev. Charles Parks until 23 years after the Civil War.

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#### THE BONNIE BLUE FLAG

Did you know that the song "The Bonnie Blue Flag" was first sung January 9, 1861, in Jackson, Mississippi theatre. The song was composed by an Irish actor, Harry McCarthy, who enlisted in the Confederate Army, from Arkansas. Regrettably we know very little of the life of this Southern singer and actor, and we have not record of any other writings by him. He served in the Confederate Army for awhile, was granted a discharge and became a member of a traveling troupe of actors. He died in Arkansas in 1874. (See O.R. 1908, pp 197-198 "Capitol Buildings of Mississippi" - W. Jones

from the REBEL YELL  
Jackson, Mississippi.



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

April 6, 1973

Dear Buff:

Subject: 1973 Field Trip

Your Field Trip Committee has started planning the Trip for next fall and from every advance indication, this Trip is becoming a "must" for you, and you, and you in our Club. We see 2½ days of battlefield visiting taking shape full of gripping interest with extremely knowledgeable guides from the Richmond Round Table, and we have "feclers" out already to line up the most appealing accommodations for eating, sleeping and spare moments of any refreshing sort.

Our basic plan is to spend Friday tracing the exact route of Grant's Army in 1864 from Spotsylvania to the Richmond-Petersburg area, and Saturday following Lee's Army from Petersburg to Appomattox in 1865. Sunday morning will have a more flexible schedule to sight-see in Richmond. Observe that this Trip deals with practically the whole last year of fighting in Virginia, making this Trip somewhat different in emphasis from visiting a single battlefield.

The decision of a member to go or not to go is often influenced by a string of separate questions and your Field Trip Committee wants to handle all of these to make it easy to decide "yes". Our plans are lining up this way:

Conveyance: by car (hope to use a bus on Saturday on the Retreat)

Dates: Sept. 27 - 30

(Arrive Fredericksburg, Va. by 6: PM - or later if necessary -  
leave Richmond around noon Sunday to return)

Nights: Thursday - Fredericksburg

Friday - Richmond

Saturday - Richmond

Many of the members have been "marginal" about Field Trips. More should be availing themselves of these opportunities to broaden their grasp of the War; and, they owe themselves the relaxing and diverting pleasure of the good-fellowship. Your Committee is striving for maximum appeal - minimum time away from Cleveland, and cost, easy touring days, a schedule crammed full of battlefield facts gained at first hand observation and well informed guides on the spot. Fill a car for the Trip, or, preferring to be a passenger, call any of the Committee to make arrangements.

More later. Encircle the dates!

1973 Field Trip Committee

Jack AuWerter, Chairman

Tom Gretter

Al Narwald

Bill Kiser

Art Jordan (ex-officio)

