



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

DECEMBER 1966

Vol. 10 No. 3

81st Meeting

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1966

SPEAKER: HOWARD K. PRESTON

SUBJECT: "CIVIL WAR HUMOR & POST WAR HUMOR"

PLACE: HERMIT CLUB, DODGE COURT

PRELIMINARIES: 6 PM DINNER: 7 PM

HOWARD K. PRESTON

Our December speaker is one of our own. Howard is a feature writer for the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Many of us have in the past enjoyed Howard's column and will do so in the future.

Howard is one of our charter members and a Past-President of our Roundtable. It is with great pleasure that we finally get this honored member to give us a talk.

Howard's subject is "Civil War Humor & Post War Humor" but I understand it also had another title which might give us an insight into exactly what sort of evening we can expect...The title? This could only be Howard's...."Why I gave up the stage by John Wilkes Booth" In his presentation Howard will be ably assisted by our Program Chairman-Vice President Frank "Pat" Moran and member William Victory. Have a ball fellas.

82nd Meeting

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1967

SPEAKER: RT. REV EDWARD J. O'BRIEN, S.J.

SUBJECT: "CINCINNATI DURING THE CIVIL WAR"

THE CLEVELAND BULLETIN BOARD

DINNER RESERVATIONS

Nothing like beating a subject to death...however we want to impress on the membership the importance of mailing in your dinner reservations. We're improving...the scorebeard...October 11, and November 18...each month's actual attendance was between 35-40 men. It takes but a moment when you get the newsletter to write the check and use the stamped envelope.

There is still some confusion as to the \$5 or \$6 cost..Very very simply it is this...If you pay by check it is \$5.00....If you have no check and pay by cash it will cost you \$6.00. We are trying to get everyone to give us checks..not cash..but checks. So you can pay at the door by check and pay only \$5.00.

If your decision to attend can be made only at a time too late for mailing your check, please do not hesitate to come on this account. Call Don Heckaman at 486-2179.

CIVIL WAR HISTORY QUARTERLY

This is an out and out public attempt to get the membership to subscribe and for many of us to renew our subscriptions to the CIVIL WAR HISTORY QUARTERLY. For the benefit of our new members this is a publication from the University of Iowa that is fantastic reading. It is a must for Civil War buffs. Under a special arrangement for all Civil War Roundtables the cost is \$4.00 per year. An application blank will be enclosed soliciting your dues and subscription. Please avail yourself of the opportunity.

NEW MEMBERS

The roundtable wishes to announce the acceptance of the following men as regular members. Congratulations and welcome.

Judge Earl R. Hoover, 3356 Grenway Rd., Cleveland Ohio
Mr. Meredith B. Colket, 2263 Lamberton Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44118
Mr. Alan J. Kline, 1423 Lorimer Road, Parma, Ohio

As you will note Judge Hoover was our speaker for October, and his son Richard at one time was a junior member of the Roundtable. Mr. Colket is a director of the Western Reserve Historical Society. Last but not least we have Al Kline another member of the Cleveland Plain Dealer. The boys from the Plain Dealer are becoming as numerous as the attorneys and physicians. Welcome anyhow Al.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING

It can be said without objection that the members added greatly to their store of knowledge. A moving and most eloquent address on the life of one of Ohio's greatest sons, Benjamin R. Hanby, often called the Stephen Foster of Ohio, held the audience enthralled.

"...the life of this young Ohio composer was one of the vital, exciting ones that challenged the American scene a hundred years ago. ...I challenge you to listen and not be inspired by this amazing life." We excepted the challenge and listened and were inspired by his exploits and accomplishments. Thank you Judge Hoover.

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

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SILENT NIGHT

Silent Night, Shadowy Night	Silent Night, Mystical Night
Purple Dew, Starry Light	Kings and seers sought the Light.
Pouring splendor of centuries down	Where the watch of the shepherd is kept.
Gold and purple, a glorious Crown.	Heavenly Hosts through the stillnes have swept.
Where the Manger so rude and wild	Clear, proclaiming a Savior born,
Cradled a sleeping Child	Singing on Christmas morn.

Holy Night, Hearalding Dawn
Far and Near breaks the morn,
Breaks the day when the Savior of Men,
Bringing pardon and healing again;
Holy, Harmless, and Undefined,
Cometh a little Child.

Brought home from the Civil War by Jones McCormick of Clarion, Pennsylvania. He learned these verses when he was a prisoner in Andersonville prison during the war. He weighed only 80 pounds when he came home, but he lived to be 85 years old. He was also a prisoner in Libby prison. Mr. McCormick was an Uncle of Mrs. George J. Urban, 4518 Ardendale Road, South Euclid, Ohio.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

Fredericksburg, Va.
December 13, 1862

A wounded Union soldier being carried off the field was asked by the regimental chaplain, "Was it not a consolation in the midst of perils encompassing you to know that thee were supported by Divine Grace?" To which the soldier replied, "I don't know about Divine Grace, but we got good support from the Irish Brigade."

"CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS DURING THE WAR"

Christmas during the Civil War was celebrated according to the circumstances and the resources at hand, of course. As the war dragged on, spirits and resources dragged correspondingly, and towards the end, privations and near-starvation in the South, precluded any thoughts of celebration.

But in the first years of the war, soldiers and citizens alike sought to mark the holidays with as much gaiety and traditional ceremony as possible. Soldiers in winter quarters decorated regimental streets and tents with evergreens, in the form of arches and wreaths, etc. Sometimes competitive shooting matches, mock dress parades, horse races and other sports were used to observe Christmas, as well as other holidays. There were snowball fights (sometimes drawn up into actual battle order) which quite often developed into such realistic fights as to require the services of the camp doctor. And there were "sprees" often consisting of drinking bouts which inevitably turned into fighting bouts.

Many soldiers in camp knelt in prayer, rather than indulge in the roistering, and those fortunate enough to be at home during Christmas, celebrated with their families and friends. The families at home tried to keep Christmas the same joyous occasion as it had been before the war, and many a festive table was set with ersatz foods....one veteran remarked that, one Christmas during the war,nothing on the table was what it appeared to be.

As the war lengthened, each succeeding Christmas saw lines of new converts in the armies, and crowded churches at home. But, not all celebrated the holidays religiously or joyously....many lonesome soldiers in wartime cities such as Richmond, Mobile, Atlanta, and New Orleans and Washington, took solace in the forgetfulness of the bottle. These men shocked the enemy and their own people alike, by fighting in the saloons, and reeling around the cities.

There seems to be more known about the holidays during the war from the Southern aspect, because of the privations suffered by the people at large, rich and poor. But of course there was also much suffering in many Northern families; in those that were bereaved, and in those for whom the loss of the man in the family meant the difference between security and uncertainty....and in many cases, deprivation of the worst sort.

In the South, wherever and whenever possible, the citizens did their utmost to provide some good food and cheer for the soldiers....they hoarded hams, turkeys, ducks and chickens, bacon and vegetables, and in the later years, of course, this meant "doing without" of the very highest order, as the citizens themselves were suffering. During the Christmas season of 1864, a story is told of how the people in Richmond cooked great quantities of turkeys, hams, and vegetables and sent them in barrels to Petersburg, for the soldiers. And the story also relates how General Lee admired his barrel of food, and then ordered it sent to the soldiers in the Petersburg hospital. Most of his officers followed his example, undoubtedly with many regrets and struggles of conscience.

For the children in the Confederacy, there was the ultimate tragedy....No Santa Claus. Many families, reduced to near starvation, had no candies, nuts, and fruits to fill their children's stockings, and even the more fortunate families had nothing to give....for many children, Christmas in 1863-1865 must have been very bitter and heart-breaking. The adults tried to lessen the disappointment and ease the little hearts by explaining that Santa must have been captured by the Yankees, or stopped by the blockade.

For many Southerners, Christmas must have barely been noted, in cities such as Fredericksburg in 1862, (recovering from the battle two weeks before) or in New Orleans, in 1862 (smarting under Federal occupation of Ben Butler's troops) or in Savannah in 1864, (Sherman's Christmas gift to Lincoln); or in Petersburg in 1864, (under seige).

A Richmond hotel lists the following prices on its menu, for a date in January, 1864:

Ham and eggs	\$ 3.50
Soup, per plate	1.50
Boiled eggs	2.00
Turkey, chicken, per plate	3.50
Roast beef, per plate	3.00
Bread & butter	1.50
Pure Coffee, per cup	3.00
Fresh milk	2.00
Fried oysters	5.00
Raw oysters	3.00
Cabbage, potatoes	1.00
Bottles of wine sold from	
Claret, to	20.00
Madeira & Champagne	50.00

For the leaders of both causes, the holidays were hardly any cause for celebration; Davis and Lincoln were both depressed by cares and personal bereavements. Mrs. Jefferson Davis, in last years of the war, sacrificed her luxuries, along with her fellow Confederates. In 1864, she disposed of one of her elegant satin gowns, in order to provide Christmas for her children. She and a committee of woman repaired old toys for the orphans in Richmond, and on Christmas night the Davis family attended a party for the orphans at one of the church homes.

For Abraham Lincoln, the Christmas of 1864 was perhaps the best, for with his re-election he knew that his people at last were with him, for the Union, and that the war's end could finally be foreseen.

NOTE: We are deeply indebted to Jeanne Marie Predham who edited the newsletter THE FORAGER published by the Civil War Roundtable of Monmouth County, New Jersey, for this fine article on Christmas during the war. It appeared in the December, 1958 issue of their newsletter.

RELATIVES

Union General Philip St. George Cooke was the father of General John R. Cooke, uncle of John Esten Cooke, and the father-in-law of General Jeb Stuart, all three of whom fought with the Confederacy.

Generals Don Carlos Buell and Braxton Bragg who opposed each other at the battle of Perryville, Ky., were brothers-in-law.

Arthur Mac Arthur Jr., 18, adjutant with the 24th Wisconsin Inf. won his Medal of Honor at Missionary Ridge on Nov 25, 1863. His citation reads: "Seized the colors of his regiment at a critical moment and planted them on the captured works on the crest of Missionary Ridge." His son Douglas followed in the family tradition with his medal on April 1, 1942, at Bataan.

NICE TO KNOW CATEGORY

The railroad mail car came into existence as a result of incidents in the Civil War. Confederate guerillas and partisans in the west harassed the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad in Missouri. Several days' mail was dumped at St. Joseph, jumping off point of the entire west. The local post office staff was unable to sort it quickly and the assistant postmaster suggested to Washington that special railroad cars be designated in which mail could be sorted en route. The idea was adopted. (Chicago CWRT)

ATTENTION SONS OF PRINCETON ...Of the 70 names on the panel honoring Princeton University men in the Civil War, 35 are Union and 35 are Confederate. (Chicago CWRT)

Many of the officers of the Regular army fought for the Southern cause, but only 3% of the enlisted men went over to the South.

WORTHY NEWS ITEMS

A Napoleon 12-pounder which was a monster having a 1,239 pound barrel and is valued at \$1,750, and such was removed from the Chickamauga National Military Park. It was bolted to slabs of stones. F.B.I. agents found it 100 miles away at the Kappa Alpha fraternity house at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Eleven (11) students, nine of them freshmen, faced charges of stealing government property.

This is two years late in the reporting but still a new worthy item attesting to the good sense of members of Civil War Roundtables.

"The Atlanta CWRT decided against re-enactment of the burning of Atlanta. They decided instead to have a commemoration of the March to the Sea."

IT REALLY HAPPENED

In Washington there stands a statue to General George B. McClellan whose lack of aggressiveness in the Civil War made him unpopular with Lincoln. The monument is placed where three streets meet; the general faces down one and the other two are at his back. One day Admiral Winfield Scott Schley of Spanish-American War fame passed by the monument with a friend. The Admiral paused, gazed at the statue reflectively and muttered, "What a perfect location for McClellan! One avenue for advance and two for retreat!"

Howard Monnett-Kansas City CWRT