



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

DECEMBER 1972

Vol. 16 No. 4

131st

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1972

SPEAKER: MR. IRVING C. PORTMAN

SUBJECT: "NEWSPAPERS, NEWSMEN AND THEIR
INFLUENCE DURING THE CIVIL WAR"

PLACE: THE HERMIT CLUB, DODGE COURT

PRELIMINARIES: 6 PM DINNER 7 PM

IRVING C. PORTMAN

Mr. Portman is a native Clevelander. Born on October 4, 1924, he received his primary education in the Cleveland Public School System. Upon his graduation from Glenville High School in 1942, he volunteered for military service and served with the United States Army Engineers and the United States Army Air Forces in North Africa and in Europe until 1945, when he was honorably discharged.

Most of his military service was in overseas assignments. After leaving the service in 1945 he spent nine months on a hitch-hiking tour of the United States, Canada, Alaska, Mexico and Central America. After completing this trip, he took advantage of the G.I. Bill and enrolled as a student at Kent State in 1946 and received his Degree in 1949. After a brief tenure with the KSU Library, he joined the staff of the Cleveland Public Library on May 31, 1949, as Head of the Newspaper Reading Room. He served in this position until May 1, 1966, when he was promoted to his present post as Head of the Book Repair Department.

During his tenure as Head of the Newspaper Reading Room, he acquired a wide and extensive knowledge of the Newspaper Field. He has lectured before High School and College classes. His talks on this subject have been beneficial to clubs and other interested groups.

Mr. Portman is a member of the American and Ohio Library Associations. He serves on the Euclid Library Board of Trustees and is a long time member of the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honorary Society. His favorite past time activities include politics, newspapers, music, travel and people.

He has traveled in Europe, Asia and the Pacific area in addition to North America and Central America. He recently toured Greece and Israel.

He has been married for 23 years and resides in the City of Euclid. An avid reader of newspapers, he uses his travels to acquire as much historical data from this important source of information. He feels that newspapers are a composite daily account of society and its environment, particularly in the political spectrum of a community.

CLEVELAND CWRT BULLETIN BOARD

DELTA QUEEN MAY GET LIFE EXTENDED

by JAMES GROHL, Press Washington Writer

WASHINGTON -- The chief opponent of the Riverboat Delta Queen will be missing when Congress convenes in January, which means the Cincinnati-based sternwheeler could have its life extended again.

By a 1970 act of Congress, the 45-year old cruise vessel was exempted from the Safety at Sea Act until November 1973.

Opponents said the Delta Queen is a floating fire trap because of its wooded structure, and should be banned from overnight excursions because of that hazard.

Cong. Edward A. Garmatz (D-Md.), chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, was a staunch opponent of the exemption.

But Garmatz is retiring at the end of the year, and the committee leadership is being turned over to Cong. Leonor K. Sullivan (D-Mo.), who in the past has been a good friend of the Delta Queen.

Those familiar with her position on the sternwheeler predicted she would make no effort to block future exemptions, and may even offer the necessary legislation, which would logically involve from her committee.

There is sentiment among congressmen that three or five-year extensions are preferable, since the ship's owners--Green Line Steamers Inc.--would then have additional incentive to guard against safety hazards.

* * * * *

WILLIAM CLARK

This meeting will be a little darker than usual as one of our steady lights has gone out. Death came to Bill on November 28, 1972. No longer will we be able to enjoy his smiling face or robust humor. Those who knew him as a friend and companion will sorrow the more at all our future meetings. Sleep well, FRIEND.

* * * * *

GETTYSBURG CEMETERY

Gettysburg, Pa., Nov. 4 (UPI) --Almost 109 years after Abraham Lincoln dedicated it as a final resting place for the Union dead, the national cemetery here has been closed to burials for lack of available grave sites.

The cemetery, run by the Interior Department, is the resting place for more than 5,000 honorably discharged servicemen and their dependents. Michael Strock, assistant chief of visitor services, said no more burials were being permitted as of last week because all allotted grave sites had been taken. The cemetery averaged 50 burials a month last year. He said an executive order issued during the Kennedy Administration barred using any more land of the battlefield for a cemetery.

The cemetery was created out of 17 acres of land donated to the Union by a farmer. A landscape architect designed the cemetery so that each Union state would have an equal plot of ground on which to bury its dead. No pitched battles were fought on the burial site, called Cemetery Hill before the war. On Nov. 19, 1863, President Lincoln came to dedicate the cemetery and deliver his famous Gettysburg Address.

Mr. Strock said that up until 1967 veterans, dependents and Civil War dead were buried in the same areas, but that was stopped after the Bethlehem Steel Corporation donated three acres for use as an annex. Of those buried in the historical part, 979 were unknown soldiers from the Civil War, he said. (New York Times, Nov. 5, 1972).

* * * * *

HE DIDN'T KNOW THE CANNONBALL WAS LOADED

Washington --(UPI) --For two days this week, welder Clifford Lewin went around with what he thought to be a harmless Civil War cannonball--letting it roll about in his car trunk, kicking it and even accidentally touching it with his blowtorch.

Lewin found the baseball sized missile 24' underground while working on Washington's new subway system. He finally mentioned it to a passing patrolman and a police bomb unit carried it to an open field and detonated it. BOOM (Cleveland Press, 11-5-72)

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

PRESIDENT	ARTHUR K. JORDAN
VICE PRESIDENT	NOLAN HEIDLEBAUGH
SECRETARY	GUY DI CARLO JR.
TREASURER	THOMAS GRETTER

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 1972: LEIGH TANGER
WILLIAM VICTORY
1973: BILL KISER
JACK AuWERTER

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

THE MILITARY HISTORY BUFFS:
POPULARIZING THE UNPOPULAR

By Brooke Nihart

Popular Military History is not exactly a growth industry in the United States, however in a country that always had anti-militarism and which now is plagued by a particularly virulent strain of the germ, it shows amazing vitality.

Perhaps this is inevitable given four big wars and 25-million men having been in uniform during the lifetimes of people still living. A few thousands of these millions were bound permanently to become captivated by the history of warfare beyond their own small parts in their own particular wars.

The history of battles, tactics, weapons, uniforms, and equipment can both fascinate and evoke nostalgia. The acquisition of arms, insignia, artifacts, and military art, satisfies the collector's instinct which lies at the core of many hobbies. Painting military miniatures (the serious hobbyist's term for toy soldiers) in correct period uniform or dressing up in Civil War or American Revolution uniforms and re-enacting old battles and tactical drills appeals to the artistic and participatory tendencies of many.

One measure of interest in popular military history is the number of books being published. For the past five years or so, axioms in the publishing business have been "don't touch a manuscript on the Vietnam War" and "military books don't sell." Nevertheless a number of fine books on details of the Vietnam War have come out, such as the several battle histories by Brig Gen S.L.A. Marshall and *THE VILLAGE* by F.J. West ("Poopdeck" February *Armed Forces Journal*) which attests to the courage of the publishers involved.

Books in Print, a 25-pound, 6-inch thick index to available publications, lists 246 military titles published generally during the Vietnam War period suggesting that past wars and military panoply hold a fatal fascination to be profitable to publishers.

Perhaps the greatest success story in sufficiently popularizing military history is the 60 volumes of BALLANTINE'S ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF WORLD WAR II. A British publication, it is also published in the United States, and American subjects are written about by American historians. Each volume covers a battle, a campaign, a noteworthy organization such as the Commandos, or an important weapon system. Selling for \$1.00 per paperback volume, they are marketed from special racks at drug stores and are usually sold out. Over 3,000,000 copies have been sold. All of which serve to quantify the appeal and to demonstrate how difficult market forecasting is for publishers.

The focal point of various military history interest groups that have wider than local appeal is a periodic journal of some sort. Most are the organ of a formal organization which may be regional, national, or international although some publications are merely subscribed to. Members or subscribers vary widely in background and

are unified only in their mutually shared interests. They include many active and retired military men and almost all have had some military service. In civilian careers all walks of life are represented including many professional historians, museum curators, and historical writers and artists.

In the belief that many AFJ readers will be interested in the varied opportunities offered for the enjoyment of the popular history of their chosen profession, we offer the following directory of organizations and publications:

AMERICAN MILITARY INSTITUTE was founded in 1933 by a group of military scholars and serving officers interested in the history--past and current--of their profession. For years membership was strong in active and retired officers and government historians, mainly in the Washington area. In the past 20 years this has changed, however, with more and more members being professional academic historians involved with the growing number of defense studies programs in the universities. AMI publishes with the cooperation of the Eisenhower Chair of Military History at Kansas State University, Military Affairs, a scholarly journal format quarterly of serious military history. A prize program recognizes outstanding articles and a small number of members who have made significant contributions to the field are recognized as Fellows. Annual membership is \$7.50. Inquiries should be made and addressed to Military Affairs, Dept. of History, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, 66502.

AIR FORCE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, in cooperation with the Endowment Association of Kansas State University, publishes Aerospace Historian, a quarterly journal containing articles, book reviews, museum news, photographs, and other material emphasizing Air Force and aviation history. Annual membership for students, lieutenants and enlisted men is \$5.00; others \$8.00. Address inquiries to Aerospace Historian, Department of History, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, 66502.

SOCIETY OF WORLD WAR I AVIATION HISTORIANS numbers over 2000 members and publishes a heavily illustrated quarterly journal, Cross and Cockade. Membership is \$7.00 a year. Write the society at 10443 South Memphis Ave., Whittier, California. 90604.

AMERICAN AVIATION HISTORIANS also numbers over 2000. It publishes the AAH JOURNAL, a quarterly. Membership is \$10.00 a year. Write PO Box 966, Ojai, California. 90323.

COMPANY OF MILITARY HISTORIANS was founded in 1949 by a small group of professional historians and museum curators, serving officers, military artists, and collectors of military artifacts. It publishes Military Collector & Historian, a scholarly format, 4--page quarterly journal devoted to American military antiquities and unit history; Military Uniforms in America, a series of hand-colored military prints at the rate of four per quarter with the series now totalling nearly 400; and Military Music in America, a series of 33rpm LP records of military music of America's different wars played in the original manner by various musical organizations. Membership is over 2000 and international in scope although concentrated in the United States. Annual meetings are held with a program of visitations to historical sites and museums, exhibits, presentation of papers, etc. Outstanding contributors to the field are recognized as Fellows. Annual membership is \$10.00 which includes a subscription to MC & H. Annual subscription to the 16 hand-colored prints of MUIA is an additional \$20.00. Address inquiries to Company of Military Historians, 287 Thayer Street, Providence, R.I. 02906.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY INSIGNIA COLLECTORS was founded in 1937 to promote the collecting of military insignia, further the understanding of military heraldry, and to advance historical knowledge of military institutions through both. Membership is now over 1450. ASMIC publishes an 88-page, heavily-illustrated quarterly journal containing information on world-wide insignia, medals, and military heraldry with emphasis on the United States. It conducts national and regional meetings. Annual dues are \$10.00. Address inquiries to Ira L. Duncan, Secretary, ASMIC, 744 Warfield Ave, Oakland, California. 94610.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF MILITARY COLLECTORS was founded in 1967 in London where monthly meetings are held. Interests include units, uniforms, weapons, equipment, insignia, battles and campaigns, and model soldiers of all countries. A 40-page, slick paper monthly magazine, Tradition, is published. It is well illustrated with the cover and six inside pages in full color. Membership and subscription to six issues of Tradition, Belmont-Maitland Publishers, Ltd. 188 Piccadilly, London, W. 1, England.

MILITARY COLLECTOR'S NEWS is a 24-page, monthly, illustrated and typewriter-set offset printed pamphlet. Its stated purpose is to perpetuate military collecting of all types, although editorial content is heavily weighted toward militaria of the Third Reich. MCN is five years old and its circulation is about 2500. Annual subscription is \$4.50; a sample copy \$.25. Address, MCN, P.O. Box 7582, Tulsa, Oklahoma. 74105.

COUNCIL ON ABANDONED MILITARY POSTS (CAMP) is interested in identifying, locating, memorializing, preserving, and recounting the history and traditions of old military installations. CAMP was founded in 1966 and now numbers over 500 in six regional departments. Annual assemblies are held--the next is at West Point 26-27 April 1973. CAMP has two illustrated offset reproduced publications--HEADQUARTERS HELIOGRAM, eight pages and monthly, and a 24-to-36 page quarterly. Membership is \$8.50 per year (\$3.50 for student associate members) or \$16.00 for two years. Write CAMP, Box 194, Quantico, Va. 22134.

NAVAL RECORDS CLUB is an international organization of warship enthusiasts numbering about 1200. NRC publishes WARSHIP INTERNATIONAL, a quarterly magazine of 75 to 100 pages covering past and present naval ships of all types and nation and illustrated with rare photographs and drawings. Membership is \$6.00 Write NRC, 726 North Reynolds Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615.

MUSKET & PIKE is a recently started, 50-page quarterly journal for the serious military history buff integrating institutional and unit history with a study of military dress, weapons, and equipment. Two full-color uniform plates are included in each issue. Annual subscription is \$10.00; a sample copy, \$3.00. Write M & P, Drawer P, Williamsburg, Va. 23185.

CANNON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION OF SEATTLE (CHAOS) is a very informal worldwide organization. Founded in 1949, it is dedicated to the preservation and identification of old cannon on display in the public domain. There are no dues, however an irregular bulletin is published when enough articles are in hand and enough contributions--an occasional "dishonest dollar"--are available to pay for printing and mailing. Write to Donald R. Clark, Head-Hunter, Cannon House, 1520 N.E. 62nd st. Seattle, Washington 98115.

NORTH-SOUTH SKIRMISH ASSOCIATION was founded shortly before the Civil War Centennial observances began in 1961, and is still going strong. It consists of about 2000 members in about 100 units. Members dress themselves authentically in the uniform of their particular Civil War units and are skilled in the use of small arms and cannon of the period which they use in competitive shooting matches--or skirmishes--with other units. Two annual regional skirmishes are held in each association region plus an annual national skirmish. A bi-monthly magazine, THE SKIRMISH LINE, goes to members only. Write Charles Hunter, 6214 29th St., N.W., /Washington, D.C. 20015.

BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION is a group of several hundred in 30 units ranging from Massachusetts to Georgia and west to Michigan with the main concentration from southern New York to Philadelphia. With a strong emphasis on authenticity, members make and wear uniforms and equipment of the American Revolution in reenacting battles, drills, camp life, and flintlock firing of the period. Interest is steadily on the up swing as the bicentennial of the American Revolution approaches. One joins a unit which in turn is a member of the

Brigade. THE BRIGADE DISPATCH, a 12-page, bi-monthly journal is published. Annual subscription is \$5.00; P.R.N. Katcher, 2411 Olive St., Philadelphia, Pa., 19130.

Painting and collecting miniature soldiers in the thousands of different historical uniforms represents a large sector of the military history buff business. Groups tend to be local, and there are many. Some of the leading ones are:

MINIATURE FIGURE COLLECTORS OF AMERICA was founded in 1941 and is probably the dean of like groups. World-wide in its membership, 400 plus, it is centered in the Philadelphia area. The organization publishes a monthly, two-page, mimeographed newsletter and a quarterly, 24-page offset printed journal, THE GUIDON. Monthly meetings are held in Philadelphia as is the annual exhibition and banquet in the spring which is attended by collectors from all over the United States and Canada. Subscription to the newsletter and THE GUIDON is \$6.00; membership for those in the Philadelphia area is \$8.50. Write P.O. Box 8, Rutledge, Pa. 19070

NATIONAL CAPITOL MILITARY COLLECTORS is another leading miniature soldier group. It publishes a journal, THE VEDETTE; holds monthly meetings; and has an annual exhibition and banquet in the fall. Write Aram Bakshian, jr. P.O. Box 20003, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

MICHIGAN MILITARY COLLECTORS--Write James Stone, 187 Lantern Drive, Comstock, Park, Michigan 49921.

MILITARY COLLECTORS CLUB OF CANADA--Write Wally West, 4 Abercorn Grove, Winnipeg 20, Manitoba, Canada.

TEXAS MILITARY MINIATURE COLLECTORS--Write Matt Weeks, 3602 Georgetown, Houston, Texas 77005.

NEW ENGLAND MILITARY COLLECTORS--Write Valentine Bean, 137 Freeman St., Brookline, Mass. 02146.

MILITARY MINIATURE SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS--Write Dick Pielin, 5542 W. Leland Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60630. Publishes a 12-page monthly journal, THE SCABBARD, and holds monthly meetings.

Interest in military history, traditions, and antiquities is not limited to Americans. There are national and local societies world-wide and many concentrated in Europe and the United Kingdom. The British groups and publications are of interest to many Americans because of shared military traditions and language. Principal ones are:

SOCIETY FOR ARMY HISTORICAL RESEARCH was founded in 1921 to foster interest in the history and traditions of the British Army and Empire and Commonwealth land forces. Interest include Army and regimental history, dress, arms, equipment, customs, and traditions. A quarterly, professional format, 64-page illustrated journal is published. Annual subscription is \$5.50, c/o The Library, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.

MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY was founded in 1948 and has interests similar to SAHR but is aimed more toward the collector of militaria. A 32-page, slick paper monthly bulletin is published. Annual subscription is \$4.00; J.W.F. Gaylor, 7 East Woodside, Bexley, Kent, DA 53PG.

BRITISH MODEL SOLDIER SOCIETY holds monthly meetings and competitions in London and publishes a monthly, 48-page, illustrated slick paper bulletin. Local

branches throughout U.K. hold meetings as well. Annual subscription is \$5.50; Hon. Secretary, J. Ruddle, 22 Priory Gardens, Hampton, Middlesex.

MILITARY MODELLING is a monthly, 48-page, well-illustrated, slick paper magazine devoted to the hobby of making and collecting model soldiers, ordnance, and vehicles. Often a great deal of detailed information on the original modern full scale ordnance and vehicles is given. Annual subscription is \$6.00; Model & Allied Publications Ltd., 13-35 Bridge Street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above article was featured in the ARMED FORCES JOURNAL, August, 1972, and was written by Colonel Brooke Nihart, USMC, Ret., Managing Editor. Our thanks to Colonel Nihart and ARMED FORCES JOURNAL for the use of the article.

* * * * *

"OLD ST. LEGER" SOLDIER OF FORTUNE
by E. A. DIECKMANN, JR.

On the night of March 7, 1868, at Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas 65 miles off Key West, four prisoners escaped. Slipping away in a small fishing boat, while a violent storm raged, it seemed that they would never get beyond the wind-lashed waves into smoother seas. Finally they made it, a curtain of rain hiding them from the fort, and the white-haired Englishman at the tiller took a deep breath, for freedom seemed certain. None of them, not even the boat they sailed in, was ever seen again.

Such was the last appearance of one of the strangest, most fascinating characters of our Civil War--an Englishman, sympathetic, as were many, to the Confederate Cause, but who, unlike those that gave their fortunes and good will, gave instead his life, his brain, his sacred honor. There was no one else, on either side, quite like George St. Leger Grenfel. (Though the family itself spells the name "Grenfell," St. Leger preferred "Grenfel.") For even if he had never ridden with Morgan's Raiders--or been convicted, at the last, as a secret agent, his life was like something from the Arabian Nights--a perfect example of Byron's observation: "Tis strange, but true; for truth is always strange--stranger than fiction."

Born in 1800, of an aristocratic English family, Grenfel ran away from "house and garden" at the age of 17, enlisting in the French CHASSEURS d'AFRIQUE to fight the Moors in Algeria. In 1819, barely four years since Waterloo, the lean Englishman gained a field commission under General McMahon. Then, in 1822, with his enlistment up, he settled in Tangiers, learned the language, took a mistress, and became in short "a well-known figure in the city."

Just slightly under six feet, with face darkened by the winds of the Sahara, St. Leger Grenfel was an enigma almost from the start.

When the French attacked Tangiers, St. Leger joined them; they were his former comrades, were they not? But the French did not trust a man who had "gone native." Grenfel, undismayed, joined the Moorish chieftain, Abd-el-Kader, serving under him as a cavalry leader. He next received a commission from the Governor of Gibraltar to clean out the Riff pirates infesting the coasts of Morocco.

For the year Grenfel was back with the French, serving in the artillery and bombarding his former friends. He was that strange animal, now, that has fascinated sedentary, "well-adjusted" men since history began: the soldier of fortune.

Later, while fighting with the French against the Austrians, he was badly wounded at the Battle of Magenta, shortly after being chosen as aid to Marshal Bazaine. When he recovered, his "demon" drove him to enlist in the Turkish army as a private. Only when war broke out between China and England in 1840 did he finally join the army of his own nation--a lieutenant of cavalry.

"Proud as a prince," he was then, a good shot, a born horseman, a fighter through and through. For when the British and French met the Russians in the Crimea he was there, at the same time as that bloody disaster, THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE, a captain of cavalry.

It was then, in the best romantic tradition, that Grenfel returned to the damp and misty England where tweeds could be worn with comfort. Before his hearth he settled down, with the former Hortense Wyatt, a wife he had somehow found time to marry, and their three daughters. He liked to sit before the fire, this handsome

blue-eyed man, a glass of brandy in his hand, a dog at his side, and let the heat of hearth drive the malarial chill from his bones.

For a time he must have mellowed. The only known photograph of Grenfel was taken at this period. He's not gray yet; he's pleased with himself. But the old restlessness was there, for next he accepted a colonel's commission with the forces of Garibaldi's South American Legion. And then? India and the Sepoy Rebellion--1858

When the Civil War broke out Grenfel was, strangely enough, raising sheep in Argentina. Perhaps it was the life of the Vaquero that appealed to him, and not the mere raising of mutton. He left his sheep soon enough to cross over to Charleston, South Carolina. "If England is not at war," he explained it, "I go elsewhere to find one."

From Charleston he hurried to Richmond to offer his services in the "Southern States' struggle for independence." Lee sent him to Braxton Bragg, who commissioned him colonel and inspector-general. His hair white now, and shoulder length, his body bearing the scars of fifteen different wounds, the 62-year-old Grenfel yearned for action.

In late June, 1862, he joined that dashing cavalry raider, John Hunt Morgan. The impact he made on that command of "Alligator Horse-soldiers" was like that of a battering ram, for with him he brought the iron discipline and tactics of the desert riders of Africa--against whom he had fought--and under whom he had served.

Morgan's chief of staff he was, a strict disciplinarian with a temper that put the fear of St. George into the Rebel cavaliers, farmers, and backwoodsmen. They thought him mad when he charged, wearing a bright red forage cap into battle, daring the Yankees to hit him. But they followed, cursing "Old St. Leger" and fighting their hearts out for him at one and the same time.

To the Bluegrass boys, nurtured on Sir Walter Scott, he seemed something straight out of IVANHOE. One of Morgan's men, Basil Duke, said that George St. Leger Grenfel, "with his bold aquiline features scorched by the sun," looked like Scott's description of Brian de Bois-Guilbert, 'Handsome, defiant, sometimes fierce....'

Hour after hour he drilled them in the hot sun, teaching them British cavalry tactics, showing them the fine points of pistol shooting from the saddle.

At a fierce skirmish with Lt. Col. John J. Landrum's Kentucky infantry near Cynthia, "Old St. Leger," as his men now called him, led a mounted charge against the last enemy stronghold, the railroad depot. His saber slashing right and left, his clothes pierced by no less than eleven bullets, he was bleeding but essentially unhurt, "the talismanic luck of a Crusader" seeing him through.

Of this action Basil Duke wrote: "I cannot too highly compliment Colonel St. Leger Grenfel for the execution of an order which did more than anything else to gain the battle. His example gave new courage to everyone who witnessed it."

He trained the men hard, never letting up, pounding the tactics of irregular fighting into them, so that they could fight on foot or horseback, live off the land, cut loose from bases, drive hard and far into enemy territory--all a brilliant forecast of 20th Century blitzkrieg and guerrilla tactics.

Mobility and striking power and a bewildered enemy, not knowing where the next blow would fall, these were the ingredients. And praise.

At a later action with Federal forces under General Richard W. Johnson, Grenfel's men executed the command "Dismount and form for attack!" with such cool precision that the old warrior, in the midst of combat, raised his cap and saluted them with a resounding "Bravo!"

On December 14, 1862, John Hunt Morgan, in a gala affair at Murfreesboro, married Martha Ready in the Ready home just off the square. Jefferson Davis was there, as well as the high-ranking generals of the Army of the Tennessee, Bragg, Hardee, Breckinridge and Polk.

It was the beginning of the end of Grenfel's service with the Second Kentucky Regiment. For he had opposed the wedding, at least at that time. It would make the general less daring, Grenfel was sure, remembering his own wife and daughters, the eldest, Caroline, married now, and with children of her own in a faraway England.

This did not stop him from rising to the occasion. He was in good form, offering toasts to the bride and groom, then entertaining the company with Moorish songs in a French accent to English airs!

As Basil Duke recorded in his HISTORY OF MORGAN'S CAVALRY: "the Britisher was as mild and agreeable as if some one was going to be killed."

On December 20th Grenfel took his leave of the men he had trained so faithfully and well. Wearing his blue English staff coat and red cap, mounted on his best horse, and with his hunting dogs behind him, he left as he had come, an apparition. Morgan's men would never forget him.

Grenfel himself did not dwell on any particular reason for leaving, but later said: "Morgan and I had a conflict on a point of duty, in which he got exceedingly angry so I left him and reported to General Bragg, who made me inspector of cavalry."

Whatever the reason, Morgan's "warm marriage bed" did not have the effect Grenfel feared. If anything, Morgan fought more daringly, right up to the time of his death, September, 1864. Perhaps it was the stimulus of that book: *RAIDS AND ROMANCE OF MORGAN AND HIS MEN*, by Southern novelist Sally Rochester Ford, that prodded him to live up to his reputation. For the novel made Morgan a sort of Richard the Lion-Hearted, surrounded by knights and armed men like that gallant "Templar." George St. Leger Grenfel.

As for the Colonel, he was glad to be in Richmond, far from field and battle cry. At last his age was making itself felt, though his malarial attacks and "campaign rheumatism" certainly contributed.

In January, 1864, after Morgan's bold raid deep into Ohio territory, and his capture and return, Grenfel met him again--at the reception given Morgan in Richmond.

This time Morgan persuaded the Englishman to become his agent or go-between with the Confederate War Department. For the next few months, while Morgan was in the field with his new command, Grenfel was his liason with Braxton Bragg--and Morgan needed him badly. Bragg had not approved of Morgan's Raid, nor of the men and equipment it had lost. He was not Morgan's king of man--nor was he Grenfel's.

In August, just as the heat of summer rose with the heat of Southern reverses, Grenfel got a new command himself--Desperation.

Fitting indeed it was that the soldier of fortune should become part of the most desperate Confederate plot to turn the tide of war--the Northwest Conspiracy. Thomas Hines, ex-Morgan raider, approached Grenfel on the subject in Toronto, August, 1864.

For the last few months, since leaving Richmond, Grenfel had traveled to Cuba, then to New York and Washington, where he had taken an oath of amnesty from Secretary of War Stanton, then decided to visit Canada for an excursion on Georgian Bay before his return to London.

The excursion he did make was a far different thing--and wild and bold enough to suit his temperament and talents. Jacob Thompson, formerly of Buchanan's cabinet is credited with the idea. With Grant driving on Richmond, and Sherman, after the capture of Atlanta, plunging north to converge his forces on the Rebel capital, the South was on the brink of defeat. Something had to be done--something bold, desperate

Thompson's plan was simple: send a select group of officers under cover into Indiana and Illinois, have them contact Southern sympathizers in those states, thousands of them, and lead them on an assault of the Federal prisons. After the initial assault at Camp Douglas, Chicago, and the freeing of the 9000 prisoners there, the nearby Rock Island Arsenal would be captured and a force of 50,000 men, including the members of the secret society, "The Sons of Liberty," loosed deep in Union territory.

With the Camp Douglas assault followed by attacks on Camp Morton, Indianapolis and Camp Chase, Ohio, Chicago would be burned to the ground, the Rebel forces would rendezvous with Nathan Bedford Forrest on the Ohio, and the Union armies in Virginia and Georgia would be diverted to a second front extending from Missouri, Kentucky and Ohio, to Indiana and Illinois. The South, on her knees at the moment, would be able to sue for a conditional peace. Keeping both the "peculiar institution" and her independence, the South would, in effect, win the war.

Captain Thomas H. Hines, a cool Kentuckian of daring courage who had escaped from the supposedly "escape-proof" Federal prison at Columbus, would direct operations in the field, while Jacob Thompson, Clement C. Clay, and James P. Holcombe (the latter two ex-senator from Alabama, and former congressman from Virginia, respectively) would direct the over-all operations from their headquarters in Toronto.

Colonel St. Leger Grenfel fell in with the plot immediately, as did another ex-Morgan raider, Captain John B. Castleman.

The time for the assault on the Camp, with Grenfel leading 1500 men against the main fence, was set for August 29, the day after the Democratic National Convention.

Grenfel, feeling his 64 years, wrote his daughter in London: "Two years and a half of excitement and hard work have told on me....I shall rusticate a month or so--

I hope--before I again get into the saddle..."

But "rusticate" he did not. Not until it was discovered that the plot had leaked and that they would have to postpone it until the day after the election itself, Nov. 9--with either McClellan or Lincoln the new president of the "United" States.

Then, still wearing his gray uniform, memento of an English battalion he had once belonged to, carrying his English papers, with his gun, his dog, Grenfel went down to Carlyle, Illinois, there to try some quail shooting with a countryman named Baxter.

On November 1, he was back, registering at Chicago's Richmond House, boldly signing himself "George St. Leger Grenfel--Great Britain."

There, in a room marked "Missouri Delegation," he wrote a letter to a business associate in London: "We are now on the even of great events...the Northwest is ready for revolt." Then, after instruction as to how his estate was to be handled in the event of his death, he gives us a glimpse of the essential loneliness of the soldier of fortune:

"I have not heard from all of you for a long time; I was going to say from home, but I forget I have no home..."

Shortly before, while in Carlyle, "a hovel of hogs and Hoosiers," he had written his daughter:

"It does not matter much; we all have got to live a certain time and when the time comes, what difference will it make whether I died in a four-post bed with a nurse and phials on the bed table, or whether I died in a ditch?..."

Suffice it to say, the plot was again uncovered, thanks to Colonel Benjamin J. Sweet, commandant of Camp Douglas, and his newly organized secret service, in addition to treachery from within the ranks of the plotters themselves.

Early Sunday evening, November 7th, the day before the assault was to take place the conspirators--with the exception of Hines--who made good his escape, were arrested

When they came for Colonel Grenfel at the Richmond House he was in a deep chair before his fire, a glass of brandy in his hand, his hunting dog at his side. Around his shoulders was a blanket--to help combat an attack of malarial chill. When informed of the charges against him, he stood up.

"I am your prisoner gentlemen," he said.

For two weeks he had been a familiar figure at this hotel where he had stopped, he told the clerk, because it "was the favorite hotel of my friend, His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales." Now, without his spotted hunting dog or the usual bag of birds slung over his shoulder, he left The Richmond House. The leg-irons they had put on him made it difficult to go down the steps to the waiting wagon.

Transferred to McLean Barracks, Cincinnati, to await trial, Grenfel kept that facile pen of his busy. In a letter smuggled to the editor of HARRIER'S MONTHLY he begged him to present his case to the public. "The president of the court-martial described me as the white-haired leader of the conspirators, riding a white charger into Chicago. Nothing can be further from the truth...."

When the editor informed the authorities of the letter, Grenfel refused to name the guard who had smuggled it out. For this he was put into solitary.

On January 9, 1865, the conspirators, Grenfel with them, were brought to trial before Colonel Charles D. Murray, acting for General Hooker.

Strange to say, the wrath of the court was directed from the start at the only two foreigners among the accused, Grenfel and a burly Canadian, Charles Daniel. The attitude was that they had meddled in a family fight where they did not belong.

Grenfel, too sick one morning to stand muster with the ball and chain around his leg, grimly outfaced a brutal sergeant and refused to leave the barracks. He won that battle--but not the big one.

Despite the brilliant defense of his attorney, Roger Hervey of Chicago, who called his client, "...a stranger in a strange land; a man without a friend within thousands of miles..." Grenfel was found guilty. The testimony of a Captain Moore, 104th Illinois Volunteers, had not helped. Moore claimed that, after the Battle of Harts-ville, December, 1862, he had been captured by Morgan's men--and had overheard Grenfel say to another officer: "If I had my way I'd raise the black flag and show no quarter."

Though the Colonel vigorously denied this accusation, the prosecutor said, "He is a citizen of a country with whom we are at peace, yet he tried to overthrow the Republic in the interests of slavery. And this, gentlemen, without provocation or wrong done him!"

At first sentenced to death, he later, July 22, 1865, had his sentence commuted to life imprisonment at Castle-like Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas.

There, as Judge-Advocate Holt had recommended, his punishment was "severe and infamous." Made to labor in the awful heat with a 30-pound ball and chain around his leg, as he wrote his daughter: "...I was working...unloading 450 tons of coal from a vessel under a sun hotter than your hottest July weather..."

Despite sieges of rheumatism, a certain Lt. Robinson insisted that he pile bricks. When Grenfel said he couldn't, Robinson almost drowned him by repeated duckings in the moat in a contest of wills which the sadistic lieutenant lost. "I am dying by inches," Grenfel wrote his daughter, "...the sooner the better..."

He who had, ironically, spurned his home all his life, now yearned for his daughter and his grand-children in the gardens of their home near the Thames, "with its flowers and fruits and your young barbarians at play..."

Brought to charges by complaints, Lt. Robinson as relieved by Major J. Stone, a humane man who made Grenfel head-gardener--but who, in his body, carried the dreaded germ of yellow fever. He and his young son soon died--and Dr. Mudd, a famous prisoner Grenfel had met, had an epidemic on his hands. Dr. Mudd had helped, unwittingly, John Wilkes Booth. Now he would wittingly help the sick and dying on the tropic island.

A week after the epidemic struck, Grenfel walked into the office of the commandant and volunteered his services to help the sick in the prison hospital.

"Why do you do this?" the commandant asked. "Can you think of a better way to die?"

But he did not die. He joined Dr. Mudd, that "murderous physician," in washing their fever-burned lips, feeding them, writing their letters and wills. As he wrote to H.L. Stone, brother of the Major Stone who had been one first to die: "...I, of 'reckless and impestuous temperament--a born revolutionist,' as the court called me, became part of the combination--'Dr. Mudd, Chief Physician; Colonel Grenfel, Chief Nurse'."

So heroic was his service that Surgeon Whitehurst wrote from Key West directly to President Johnson: "By his services to those dreadfully afflicted with yellow fever in the hospital, where night and day he was zealous, careful, I have no doubt he contributed by unwearied and continued service, to the restoration of the health of the troops."

Major Andrews, the new commandant, also sent a commendatory letter. Grenfel was sure now that he would be released and allowed to go home--to England. As he waited, he boasted, in a letter to his daughter, of his "radishes, tomatoes, and peppers in bloom, and peas and beans at maturity. They have turned my sword into a shovel and rake and I am at the head of my profession."

Then on June 8, 1865, Judge-Advocate General Holt answered: "It has been decided not to extend Executive clemency in your case."

There was only one thing to do. Together with three other prisoners, John Adare, Joseph Holroyd, and James Orr, Grenfel escaped, that stormy night of March 7, 1868. None of them was ever seen again.

The men of Morgan's Raiders never forgot "Old St. Leger."

"Kings, lords, and might warriors," one of them wrote, "have gone down to graves in the briny sea, but the blue waters never closed over a braver heart than of St. Leger Grenfel."

And many years later, at a convention of Confederate Veterans in 1905, Milford Overley, Ninth Kentucky Cavalry, pronounced the long-delayed epitaph of Old St. Leger--Soldier of Fortune:

It was perfect:

"RESTLESS--IN PEACE."

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above article appeared in the December, 1961 issue of TRADITION magazine. I am sorry to say that the magazine is no longer published but from time to time articles will reappear in this newsletter.

* * * * *

Captain: "Why did you desert the Army when I ordered a charge?"

Private: "Well, sir, you said strike for your country and your home, so while them other fellers was strikin for their country, I struck for home!"

(Thanks Hagerstown "Bugle Call")

MARY TODD LINCOLN

Mary Todd Lincoln was the Martha Mitchell of Civil War days, says Linda Levitt Turner, who compiled the latest and the most definitive collection ever of letters written by Abraham Lincoln's wife.

"Martha Mitchell made the midnight telephone calls. Mary Lincoln wrote the midnight letter," said Mrs. Turner, who with her father-in-law, Justin G. Turner, compiled more than 600 letters in the book "Mary Todd Lincoln: Her Life and Letters."

"I think Martha's very, very much like Mrs. Lincoln. Who was the man she wanted to crucify-Fulbright?" said Mrs. Turner, rippling through the pages of her book to find an 1864 letter written by Mrs. Lincoln to her friend Senator Charles Sumner. It was just one example of Mrs. Lincoln's political meddling; she asked him to intercede, to make sure General Banks did not get a certain appointment. "Gen. Banks is considered a weak failure, overrated and a speculator," wrote Mrs. Lincoln without the President's knowledge.

Mrs. Turner adds that Mrs. Lincoln was a warm and deep person who went from "an emotional and exuberant girl who got carried away by everything" to a pathetic widow whose erratic behavior was a combination of "mild mental illness," sorrow at the death of her husband and daily attacks from critics and the press.

Mrs. Turner says the real sorrow was that Mrs. Lincoln had the intelligence, the interest in politics, the "energy and compassion to have been ranked among the outstanding first ladies," but came to the White House at the "most tragic hours in its nations history and was destroyed by the experience."

She says that, among other things, there was not only interest in politics but great physical attraction between the Lincolns. In the countless pages of prose by Mrs. Turner, which tie the letters together and give scope and meaning to them, there are numerous quotes of Lincoln's about how taken he was with Mary Todd and how he never fell out of love with her. "Their first child was born nine months, less four days, after they were married. Now that means nothing necessarily, but remember those were Victorian days when women held off for months and months sometimes before coming near their husbands. And Mary Lincoln also referred to Abraham as her 'lover' as well as her husband."

The book took enormous research and got its start in 1967. At that time, Mrs. Turner's father-in-law, a real estate businessman whose passion was collecting Lincoln memorabilia, thought of compiling her letters. Then, he had only about 15 letters himself..." Her father-in-law's role was to get some letters for Mrs. Turner and to open doors for her. Through his friends--such as Quincy Mumford at the Library of Congress--she was able to find some 300 letters that had never been published in their entirety. There were other times when she went on a frantic search. "Charles Hamilton said he had a letter of Mrs. Lincoln's nobody ever heard of. It accused Andrew Johnson of complicity in her husband's murder. I don't think she really believed it--she was having a bad day (Mrs. Lincoln). ...It was on her absolutely delicate paper and was real--if I know anything, it's her handwriting. I typed all those letters myself." Shortly after her husband's assassination, Mrs. Lincoln wrote a female friend, saying, "as sure as you and I live, Johnson had some hand in all this."

Mrs. Turner is often asked to compare Mrs. Lincoln with other first ladies and she has worked out some similarities. Mrs. Lincoln's incredible obsession with clothes can be compared to the shopping expeditions of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, which Mrs. Turner calls a "serious occupation." "Look at poor Jackie who does nothing but shop. She has a thing about shopping. If you read Women's Wear, she's in and out of Valentino's. Mrs. Lincoln did absolutely the same thing--only she didn't have the money to do it." During the belt-tightening days of the Civil War Mrs. Lincoln was running up huge debts to refurbish both herself and the White House.

She bought \$1,000 cashmere shawls and countless velvet hats and ball gowns, the obsession turned into a mania in her later days--when, for example, she once purchased 84 pairs of gloves.

Now, Mrs. Turner wants to write a biography of Mrs. Lincoln to answer a lot of questions. "There is this whole area of how her debts got paid, what part she played in Washington, why her husband was so atrociously absent-minded and really didn't see the things she was doing." Myra MacPherson WASHINGTON POST NEWSPAPER.