



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

FEBRUARY 1968

Vol. 11 No. 5

91st Meeting

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1968
SPEAKER: EDWIN C. BEARSS
SUBJECT: "THE CAIRO"
PLACE: HERMIT CLUB, DODGE COURT
PRELIMINARIES: 6 PM DINNER: 7 PM

EDWIN C. BEARSS

A happy combination of circumstances found Edwin C. Bearss stationed at the Vicksburg Mississippi National Military Park as Regional Research Historian of Region I of the National Park Service when the Civil War Centennial began. His contributions to the efforts of those engaged in the commemoration in Mississippi, and in Vicksburg, and especially his work for the Vicksburg Centennial Commemoration Commission, has been invaluable.

He began a life long romance with the Civil War when as a boy of ten, he named cows on his father's ranch after Civil War generals. He studied at Georgetown University and later, at Indiana University, where he received his M.A. in history. During WW II, he was with a Marine raider battalion in the invasions of Guadalcanal and New Britain.

His wife, the former Margie Riddle, is a native of Mississippi. Their daughter Sara, now three years old, has probably played on more Civil War battlefields than any other child her age. The "Littlest Rebel," Edwin Cole II, was born in September, 1962.

Mr. Bearss was organizer of the Civil War Roundtable of Mississippi. He has made an intensive study of the Vicksburg campaign, and the wide area of activities related thereto, and has made a number of discoveries that add to the general knowledge of the subject and incidentally, refute some historians.

He has also made intensive studies of Stones River, Five Forks, Wilson's Creek and Fort Donelson operations. He made an historical survey of Pea Ridge National Military Park at Rogers, Arkansas, and of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield for the National Park Service. He, and Vicksburg companions, located the sunken Union gunboat, Cairo, in the Yazoo River.

Mr. Bearss received the Harry Truman Award for Meritorious Service in the Field of Civil War history. Previous Truman awards were given to Bruce Catton, editor of AMERICAN HERITAGE, and to Dr. Allan Nevins, Chairman of the National Civil War Centennial Commission and Pulitzer Prize winning historian.

THE CLEVELAND BULLETIN BOARD
NEW MEMBER

The roundtable wishes to announce the acceptance of the following as a regular member. Congratulations and welcome.

Dr. William B. Chamberlin

STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL, INC.

In our last newsletter mention was made of funds needed to help purchase the boyhood home of Robert L. Lee. I am most happy to report that through generous donations from those in attendance at the last meeting and matching funds from the treasury we will be sending the Stonewall Jackson Memorial a substantial check. Thank you very much!

VALLEY CAMPAIGN STRATEGY

We have been challenged by members of the Western Reserve Roundtable to a game of strategy played with Civil War minatures. Robert Will, member of the Western Reserve group, has the game at his home in Brunswick, Ohio. It will take the better part of a Sunday afternoon. We need 5 or 6 volunteers who are master strategists. See Guy Di Carlo for more details.

DINNER RESERVATIONS

As per SOP, call Guy Di Carlo, 771-7900 to make your reservations. You can call up to and including the meeting date.

DUES

By the time you have read this your dues should have been sent to Frank Schuhle. They were due on February 1st.

WESTERN RESERVE COLLEGE

PATRIOTISM :

It is a noticeable fact, witnessing to the ardent patriotism of all concerned that the entire body of students in Western Reserve College, with scarcely an exception volunteered for three months, at the late call of the President after Bank's retreat, and have been accepted by Governor Tod. They number about seventy, and are ready for service, having been thoroughly drilled for a year past as one of the regular exercises of the College. Professors Young and Cutler go with them to Camp Chase, the former acting as Captain until a Company election has been held. Their term of service will close at the beginning of the new college year.

from the REBELLION RECORD
Volume IV - 1862

Thanks to member George Hoagland for passing the above on to us. It's quite a different picture than the one some College students are presenting to us now. Perhaps "Patriotism" is a dirty word?

NEVADA

EFFIE MONA MACK, a Nevada historian, calls attention to her state's part in the Civil War: "Thirteen forts and camps were there, soldiers keeping open the only transcontinental road and guarding gold and silver from local mines going forward to the U.S. Treasury-and-Nevada's premature assumption of statehood to give President Lincoln three congressional votes needed to adopt the 13th amendment." (Chicago CWRT)

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

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EDITOR, NEWSLETTER. . GUY DI CARLO JR...BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, O.

CIVIL WAR ENTHUSIAST

Many of us have been asked to explain our interest in the Civil War. What has been your answer? Tucked away in my files was an article that appeared in the Cleveland News on September 8, 1958 entitled "THE WHY OF CIVIL WAR FANS." Now nearly ten years later its worth repeating.

...Yet there are enthusiasms that--for some of us, at least--will never fade. Take, for example, the Civil War. There never was anything like it and there never will be anything like it.

It is the Great American Drama, filled with more legends, more untruths, more heroism, more gallant humanitarianism, more stupidity and more villains than any other epoch in our history.

It is the dying Stonewall Jackson saying: "Let us cross the river and rest in the shade of the trees." It is Ambrose E. Burnside weeping after his stupidity has led to the calamitous defeat at Fredericksburg. The man actually wept and he was a major general. It is a matter of record. It is Sherman telling the people of Georgia that he didn't bring the war, that they brought the war to themselves, that destruction was a logical byproduct of war--in short, that war was hell. It is Fighting Joe Hooker sitting tall and splendid on his great white horse, sitting there taking brandy and water and listening to the cheers of his men.

And most of all, it is the men who fought the war. Farmerboys from Illinois, from Mississippi, from Wisconsin, New York, South Carolina, Irish immigrant men from New York, German immigrant men from Boston, clerks from Pennsylvania. Men--men who advanced into the mist and confusion of the great combat and didn't really know why they fought, who cheered their generals and jeered their generals but who fought. More men were killed in the American Civil War than in any war in this country's history.

And remember this: It was a CIVIL war. Men fought other men who worshiped in the same churches, spoke the same language and in most matters had the same attitudes. This wasn't a case of fighting foreigners. These men all were Americans. They fought each other for four years, and then they all were Americans again.

They were gallant and they were cowardly and they were ridiculous and they died not pleasantly. And they all were Americans.

This is why there is such a thing as a Civil War enthusiast.

MATHEW BRADY

Until 1839 the world was blind, and then a Frenchman named Louis Daguerre invented and showed pictures etched on copper plates. Daguerre was given an annuity by the French government and his process was given to the world. Samuel F.B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph, visiting France at that time, had one of the new cameras built there and was the first man to bring the art of photography to the new world. Morse, at this time in financial straits because of his financing of his electromagnet invention, opened the first school of photography and among his four pupils (at \$50.00 a course) were Mathew Brady, who was to become the foremost photographer of his time, and Edward Anthony, who started the first photographic supply store. Alexander Wolcott, a manufacturer of dental equipment, was the first photographer to use a conclave reflector to reduce exposure time and given the first patent on a camera made in the United States. This was May 8, 1840.

Mathew Brady was born in Warren County, New York, about 1823-24. Little is known of his early years, but he came to New York City about 1839 where he became a clerk in A.T. Steward's store. His taste ran to art and he associated with aspiring young artists, one of them William Page, famous in later years for his paintings, who somehow was a friend of Samuel Morse and was instrumental in introducing Brady to Morse.

Brady opened his first gallery in 1844 and being industrious as well as keeping abreast of the latest inventions in photography, he soon was known as the ablest man with a camera. He took many prizes at photographic exhibitions. He opened galleries in Washington, D.C., as well as more studios in New York; he prospered and had many men working under him. The great men and women of that day were all captured on prints for posterity, among them President Andrew Jackson as he lay dying, and the Prince of Wales, who was later to become the King of England. The notation "by Brady" at the bottom of a daguerrotype was taken to mean the best to be had.

Brady's eyesight was failing fast by 1850, and many if not all of the pictures were taken by his assistants, among them, George S. Cook, who was to become the official photographer for the Confederacy, just as Mathew Brady was the official photographer for the Union. Brady, when he received permission to photograph the war scenes, battlefields, etc., financed the whole project himself, as the government refused to pay for the services rendered, for money was scarce in the Union at that time. His pictures, from Fort Sumpter through Appomattox, captured the horror of war for history. His collection of history-making men and events in pictures have given us an insight of what the past century was like with its customs and dress.

We can all see what great work Mathew Brady turned out with his camera by looking at one of our five dollar bills. The picture of Lincoln was taken by him in 1860 and imposed on our currency. Note the clarity; it is a wonderful achievement for the times and equipment.

One strange thing.... It is believed that Brady was unable to write, though it is known he could read. There is not one letter or diary left by this great man in his own handwriting. Only his signature remains.

from the Western Reserve CURT Newsletter
...Charles Andrews, Secretary

Editor's Note: The priceless collection of photographs narrowly escaped becoming the property of his creditors who held them as security for his debts. Major General Benjamin F. Butler was in Congress at the time and he became interested in the collection. He secured \$25,000, the amount needed to purchase the collection, and included it in the Sundry appropriations bill. Thus the collection of some 2,000 negatives was preserved in such fashion as to be publicly available.

NEWSPAPER MEN IN THE WAR

GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND

He was the Ernie Pyle of his day, he covered Grant and Lee. He built a monstrosity of a monument on a lonesome hillside to the memory of war correspondents. His name was George Alfred Townsend but his readers knew him simply as Gath. This was the way he signed his dispatches.

Recently dignitaries climbed a small knoll near South Mountain, in Western Maryland to dedicate Townsends' run down estate and monument as a public park. (Editor's Note: This happened in 1959).

At nineteen Gath began work on the Philadelphia Inquirer to report about the Pennsylvania Reserves Camps. A year later he switched to the New York Herald which promptly sent him off to cover the war on the Virginia peninsula. A few days after his arrival he was under a military arrest for violating General McClelland's Order #123, prohibiting correspondents from venturing beyond headquarters. He covered the second Battle of Bull Run, then came down with Chickahominy Fever and returned to New York. He went on a lecture tour in England but returned to cover the closing battles and Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

At the age of twenty-four in 1866, he wrote his war experience for a book called "Campaigns of a Non-Combatant" (reissued in 1950 as "Rustics in Rebellion.")

After the war he hit pay dirt as a political reporter and his income was reported at \$100,000 per year. He bought himself half a mountain and begun building an enormous stone home, then an elaborate study, then guest cottages. The climax was a monument for war correspondents like himself. On one side of the tower is a stone plaque listing 134 reporters who covered the war between the states.

Among them are Charles Carlton Coffin of the Boston Journal who scooped them all on the Battle of Gettysburg; Mathew B. Brady who took most of the photographs of the war; Victor Lawson one of the founders of the Associated Press.

In 1905 Gath's health begun to fail and his earning power decreased. He planned to be buried at his mountain retreat in a vault with the epitaph, "Good night Gath." He didn't make it for he died in 1914 in New York City and was buried there.

from "Hardtack" - Indianapolis CWRT
March 1959

* * * * *

SECURITY vs NEWS

"Not long since, General Sherman, in conversation, alluded to a correspondent of the New York Herald who he had threatened to hang, declaring that had he done so his 'death would have saved ten thousand lives.' It seems that one of our Signal officers had succeeded in reading the code of the enemy, and had communicated the same to his fellow-officers. With this code in their possession, the corps was enabled to furnish valuable information directly from Rebel headquarters, by reading the Rebel signals, continuing to do so during the Chattanooga and much of the Atlanta campaign, when the enemy's signal flags were seen.

"Suddenly this source of information was completely cut off by the ambition of the correspondent to publish all the news, and the natural result was the enemy changed the code. This took place just before Sherman's attack on Kencsaw Mountain, and it is to the hundreds slaughtered there that he probably refers. Gen. Thomas was ordered to arrest the reporter and have him hanged as a spy; but old 'Pap' Thomas' kind heart banished him to the north of the Ohio for the remainder of the war instead."

From "Hardtack and Coffee" - John D. Billings
1887

LETTERS OF THEODORE LYMAN

One of the rarer joys of the Civil War fan is to find contemporary accounts that are really well written. A prime example are the Letters of Theodore Lyman. He served on Meade's staff from the Wilderness to Appomattox. Lyman was a wealthy, well educated, widely traveled Yankee who could write with sophistication. These quotations indicate the flavor of the book:

ON CONFEDERATES

"... yesterday was a quiet Sunday. Many officers went to hear the Rebs preach, but 'don't believe in the varmint.' They ingeniously prayed for 'all established magistrates'; though; had we not been there, they would have roared for the safety of Jeff Davis and Uncle Bob Lee."

"Also I consider them more daring and sudden in their movements; and I fancy they shoot a man when he ought to be shot, and we do not."

"These Rebels are not half-starved and ready to give up --a more sinewy, tawny, formidable-looking set of men could not be. In education they are certainly inferior to our native-born people; but they are usually very quick-witted within their own sphere of comprehension; and they know enough to handle weapons with terrible effect. Their great characteristic is their stoical manliness; they never beg, or whimper, or complain; but look you straight in the face, with as little animosity as if they had never heard a gun."

"I was much struck with something that (Confederate) Major Wooten said, when we were waiting together, by night, at Coal Arbor. (On the Rebel picket line, with a flag of truce.) After listening to the tremendous noise of cannon and musketry that suddenly had burst forth, he said: 'There they are, firing away: and it is Sunday night, too.' The great thing that troubles me is, that it is not a gain to kill off these people --now under a delusion that amounts to a national insanity. They are a valuable people, capable of a heroism that is too rare to be lost

"Really these men possess a capacity for looking 'rough' beyond any people I ever saw, except the townsmen of Signor Fra Diavolo. They grew rougher and rougher. They looked brown and athletic, but had the most matted hair, tangled beards, and slouched hats, and the most astounding carpets, horse-sheets and transmogrified shelter-tents for blankets, that you ever imagined.

ON LEE

"From him and from other sources I judge that the reports of Lee's humble mode of living are true. He has only corn bread and bacon for the 'chief of his diet,' and this sets an example to all his men. There can be no doubt that Lee is a man of very high character (which you may reconcile as you may with his treacherous abandonment of the flag). He carries on war in a merciful and civilized way, his correspondence is dignified and courteous, and his despatches are commonly (not always) frank and not exaggerated."

ON GENERAL CUSTER

"This officer is one of the funniest-looking beings you ever saw, and looks like a circus rider gone mad! He wears a huzzar jacket and tight trousers, of faded black velvet trimmed with tarnished gold lace."

ON GRANT

"Grant is a man of a good deal of rough dignity; rather taciturn; quick and decided in speech. He habitually wears an expression as if he had determined to drive his head through a brick wall, and was about to do it. I have much confidence in him."

"As General Grant sat under a pine tree, stoically smoking his briar-wood pipe, I heard him say: 'To-night Lee will be retreating south.' Ah! General, Robert Lee is not Pemberton; he will retreat South, but only far enough to get across your path, and then he will retreat no more, if he can help it. In fact, orders were out for the whole army to move at dark on Spotsylvania Court House. But Lee knew it all: he could see the waggon moving, and had scouts besides. As night fell, his troops left their works and were crowding down the Parker's store road, towards Spotsylvania -- each moment worth untold gold to them! Grant had no longer a Pemberton! 'His best friend,' as he calls him. And we marched also"

The day before, "Grant told Meade that Joe Johnston would have retreated after two such days' punishment. He recognized the difference of the Western Rebel fighting."

--Lyman's Journal, May 6.

ON LINCOLN

"The President is, I think, the ugliest man I ever put my eyes on; there is also an expression of plebeian vulgarity in his face that is offensive (you recognize the recounter of coarse stories). On the other hand he has the look of sense and wonderful shrewdness, while the heavy eyelids give him a mark almost of genius. He strikes me, too, as a very honest and kindly man; and, with all his vulgarity, I see no trace of low passions in his face. On the whole, he is such a mixture of all sorts, as only America brings forth. He is as much like a highly intellectual and benevolent Satyr as anything I can think of. I never wish to see him again, but, as humanity runs, I am well content to have him at the head of affairs."

ON GENERAL BUTLER

"Our camp was this morning taken by assault by a cavalcade which turned out to be Abou Ben Butler and a portion of his Staff. He is the strangest sight on a horse you ever saw: it is hard to keep your eyes off him. With his head set immediately on a stout shapeless body, his very squinting eyes, and a set of legs and arms that look as if made for somebody else, and hastily glued to him by mistake, he presents a combination of Victor Emmanuel, AEsop, and Richard III, which is very confusing to the mind. Add to this a horse with a kind of rapid, ambling trot that shakes about the arms, legs, etc., till you don't feel quite sure whether it is a centaur, or what it is, and you have a picture of this celebrated General. Celebrated he surely is, and a man of untiring industry and activity. Woe to those who stand up against him in the way of diplomacy!"

ON "MARYLAND" STEUART

"Not so a little creature, (captured) General Steuart, who insulted everybody who came near him, and was rewarded by being sent on foot to Fredericksburg, where there was plenty of mud and one stream up to his waist."

ON GENERAL SHERIDAN

"There comes a Staff officer with a despatch. "I attacked with two divisions of the 6th Corps. I captured many thousand prisoners, etc., etc. P. H. Sheridan."

"'Oh,' said Meade, 'so General Wright wasn't there.'"

"'Oh, yes!' cried the Staff officer, as if speaking of some worthy man who had commanded a battalion, 'Oh, yes, General Wright was there.' Meade turned on his heel without a word, and Cavalry Sheridan's dispatch proceeded -- to the newspapers!"

ON FOREIGN BORN TROOPS

"Really it is surprising how poorly the Germans show, out of their own country, where they are an honest and clever, though rather slow people. But here they seem almost idiotic, and, what is worse, they will plunder and they won't fight. Really, as soldiers, they are miserable. Actually, a Yankee regiment would drive a brigade of them. They have no grit as a rule. The Paddies, on the contrary, will go in finely, and if well officered, stand to it through everything."

"There came down (to headquarters) an elephant of a young Englishman, who, if there be brains in his skull, they are so well concealed that nobody has found them herabout."

GENERAL WARREN SAYS

"For thirty days now, it has been one funeral procession, past me; and it is too much! To-day I saw a man burying a comrade, and, within half an hour, he himself was brought in and buried beside him. The men need some rest." . . .

ON GENERAL SICKLES

"General Sickles, people would say, is too much of a Bowery boy."

* * * * *

WOODEN SHOE MANUFACTURING

A correspondent of the newspaper gives the following account of a visit to the Messers: Thuim and Fraps Co., manufacturers of Wooden Shoes. We had heard frequently of this establishment, but we had no idea until our visit to it, that it was so thorough and interesting. The enterprising manufacturers have in their employ some forty hands, and are turning out about on hundred pairs of shoes per day. The shape and size of the shoes are first marked and sawed out and then bored and scooped out and fashioned at the bottom. Then sand papered and lined, and painted and topped with leather, and thus finished in various rooms in the same building. Much of this work is done by machinery driven by steam.

The wood is gum and poplar, which is well steamed before the shoe is made. We understand that these shoes are actually lighter than the leather brogan of the same size, and as for durability, the bottoms will last until the next war. We learned that Messers. Thuim and Fraps have more orders than they can fill. ... but we suppose that this is the first manufactory of this sort, by machinery and steam, which has been established.

Article from THE STANDARD - Raleigh, North Carolina
January 1, 1862

Editor's Note: Thanks to member George Hoagland for the article.....

HOW NEWSPAPERMEN COVERED THE CIVIL WAR

From First Manassas To Appomattox and a few days beyond, newsmen representing the great and some of the lesser dailies of the North were with the armies in the field. It is known that at least 350 reporters were engaged in reporting the war at one time or another.

The transmittal of news from the battlefronts was facilitated by three comparatively infant developments in communication; namely, the railroads, the steamboat, and the telegraph. The competitive effort to be first with the news challenged the ingenuity of more than one correspondent, for neither the telegraph or other means of communication were always conveniently situated where the fighting occurred.

No other war of all history was so extensively covered by the press, nor was any other war so competently reported, despite the fact that the imaginative powers of some reporters and the pressures under which they wrote often led to embarrassing overstatements of the facts.

Much credit is due the war correspondents for their contribution to the record of the war. The more able reporters provided a rich source of information for future historians. Their accounts often spoke more truly than the official reports, an understandable fact considering the natural tendency for commanding officers to minimize their failures or shortcomings.

Life for the newsmen was not always pleasant. Generals were not infrequently quite direct in expressing their aversion to the men of the press, and on occasion invoked their authority to ban them from the field.

At Chancellorsville, General Hooker issued orders that required all correspondents "to publish their communications over their own signatures." Theretofore most stories were published in anonymity of their authorship. In thus requiring identification, Hooker may be credited with having unwittingly created the "by-line"--a requirement which was to win national recognition for many a reporter whose name would otherwise have been lost to posterity.

Among some of the more notable of the war correspondents whose names became famous in fields of endeavor after the war may be cited: Henry M. Stanley, who traveled to Africa to find Livingstone and who carried on after the latter's death in the same work; William Swinton, who became a noted war historian; Walt Whitman, Bayard Taylor and Nathaniel Hawthorne, who became men of letters; J. Whitelaw Reid and Henry Villard, both of whom became publishers of note; and George Alfred Townsend, novelist, columnist and eccentric who established an ostentatious estate at Crampton's Gap, Maryland and there erected a beautiful arched memorial to the war correspondents.

Richmond CWRT Newsletter --The foregoing excerpts from a paper delivered by William H. Stauffer at the February, 1963 meeting of the Richmond Civil War Roundtable.

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HEADLINES

EXPEDITIN PLANNED

West Virginia Named As Imboden's Target

Reports to Lee

Rebels Plan Destruction Of E & O Railroad Bridges
Coordinated Movement

PLANS MOVE IN APRIL

* * * * *

There were 504 photographers in the United States in 1860 according to the census of that year (Chicago CWRT)

THE NASBY LETTERS

In a speech at Cooper Union, New York City, at the close of the Civil War, George S. Boutwell, Secretary of the Treasury under President Lincoln, said that the crushing of the rebellion could be credited to three forces, the Army, the Navy and the Nasby letters.

David Ross Locke, the author of the famous letters, became the owner of the Weekly Jeffersonian in Findlay, Ohio in 1861, having come here from Bucyrus where he also had been a newspaper publisher. The Jeffersonian had been established in the 1850's under the original name of The Home Companion.

Mr. Locke, a native of Broome County, New York, had been born Sept 20, 1833. He learned the printing trade at an early age and in 1852 came to Ohio to establish the Advertiser at Plymouth, a small town north of Mansfield, Ohio. He moved later to Mansfield, Bellefontaine and Bucyrus, engaging in the newspaper business in each city for a time.

The first Nasby Letter appeared March 21, 1861. Locke wrote all his famous letters under the name of "Petroleum Vesuvius Nasby." The "Nasby" was taken from a famous 17th century battle fought at "Naseby," England in the Civil war during the reign of Charles I, Locke dropping the "e" for some reason. "Petroleum" became the author's Christian name, probably because oil had just been first discovered a few years before in Pennsylvania and "Vesuvius" the middle name for sake of euphony.

The Nasby letters were masterpieces of ridicule. Petroleum Vesuvius Nasby, a red-nosed, hard drinking, self-seeking Copperhead sought to defend the southern cause in his letters. But his defense and his arguments were made so ridiculous by Locke that they rendered the north incalculable benefit, as Locke intended they should do. He made the enemy a definite individual for the boys in blue. He made the southern Confederacy a living entity for the rank and file of the northern soldiery. To create such a character that took such a hold on the north at a time when it was engaged in a titanic struggle for survival was no mean achievement.

Locke added to the force of his letters by the style and spelling used. He wrote all the words just as they sounded. The word "into" became "in2," "of" was "uv" etc.

The letters sprang into an immediate popularity. They were read and commented upon from one end of the country to the other. They became a part of the political literature of the day.

President Lincoln's high appreciation of the wit and humor of Nasby was attested in a letter by an artist who was at the White House for several months painting the great historic canvas "The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation." The artist in his letter wrote:

"The Saturday evening before President Lincoln left Washington to go to the front, just previous to the capture of Richmond, I was with him from 7 o'clock until nearly 12. It had been a very hard day for him. The pressure of office seekers was greater at this juncture than I ever knew it to be and he was almost worn out. Among the callers that evening was a party composed of a Senator, a Representative, an ex-lieutenant-governor of a western state and several private citizens.

"They had business of great importance, involving the necessity of the President's examination of voluminous documents. Fushing everything aside he said to one of the party, 'Have you seen the Nasby papers?' 'No, I have not,' was the answer. 'Who is Nasby?' 'There is a chap out in Ohio,' returned the President, 'who has been writing a series of letters in the newspapers over the signature of Petroleum V. Nasby. Some one sent me a pamphlet collection of them the other day. I am going to write to "petroleum" to come down here and I intend to tell him if he will communicate his talent to me, I will swap places with him!'

"Thereupon he arose, went to a drawer in his desk and taking out

the 'letters,' he sat down and read one of the company, finding in their enjoyment of it the temporary excitement and relief which another man would have found in a glass of grog. The instant he had ceased, the book was thrown aside, his countenance relapsed into its habitual serious expression and the business was entered upon with the utmost seriousness."

Charles Sumner, the noted senator from Massachusetts, in an introduction to a volume of Nasby letters published in 1872, commented similarly on the President's fondness for the Nasby letters.

"Of all publications during the war," wrote Senator Sumner, "None had such charm for Lincoln as the Nasby letters. He read every letter and kept them within reach for refreshment."

It was Senator Sumner who said President Lincoln once remarked in his presence, "for the genius to write these things I would gladly give up my office."

In 1865, Locke decided to leave Findlay and go to Toledo, where he bought the Toledo Blade. In addition to his editorial duties, he became a platform lecturer and toured the United States as a contemporary of Josh Billings and Mark Twain.

He passed away February 15, 1888, in Toledo, at the age of 54. He had been a resident of Toledo from the time of his departure from Findlay in 1865.

WINGERT'S CORNERS SECEDES

(Here is the full text of the first Nasby letter-written March 21, 1861)

Wingert's Corners

March the 21st, 1861

South Carliny and sevrall other uv the trooly southern states hev secesht--gone orf, I may say, onto a journey after ther rites.

Wingert's Corners, ez trooly sympathetic ez any uv em, hez follered soot. A meetin wuz held last nite, uv wich I wuz chairman, to take the matter uv our grievances in2 consideration and it wuz finally resolved that nuthin short uv seceshn wood remedy our woes. Therefore the follerin address wich I rit, wuz adoptid and ordered to be published
TO THE WORLD

In takin a step wich may, possibly, involv the State uv wich we hav bin heretofore a part into blood and convulshuns, a decent respect for the good opinion uv the world requires us to give our reasons for takin thet step.

Wingert's Corners hez too long submitted to the imperious dictates uv a tyranikle government. Our whole histry hez bin wun uv aggresin on the part uv the state and uv meek and pashent endoorunce on ours.

It refoosed to locate the state capitol at the Corners, to the great detriment uv our patriotic owners uv reel estate.

It refoosed to gravel the streets uv the Corners, or even relay the plank road.

It refoosed to locate the Penitenshury at the Corners, notwithstanding we do more towards fillin it than any other town in the state.

It refoosed to locate the State Fair at the Corners, blastin the hopes uv our patriotic groscrys.

It located the canal 100 miles from the Corners.

We never hed a Guverner, notwithstadin the President uv this meetin has lived here for yeers, a waitin to be urged to accept it.

It hez compelled us, yeer after yeer to pay our share uv the taxes.

It hez never appinted any citizen uv the place to any offis wher the ft was possible, thus wilfully keepin capital away from us.

It refoosed to either pay our rale-rode subscripshun or slackwater our river.

Therefor, not being in humor to longer endoor sich outrajes, we declare ourselves Free and Independent uv the state and will maintain our position with arms, if need be.

There wuz a lively time next day. A company uv minut men wuz raised and wun uv 2-minut men. The seceshn flag, muskrat rampant, weasel couchant, on a field d'egg shell, waves from both groserys. Our merchants feel hopeful. Cut orf from the state, direct trade with the Black Swamp follers; releest from indebtedness from Cinsinati, we will again lift our head. Our representative hez agreed to resine--when his term expires.

We are in earnest. Armed with justice and shot-guns, we bid the tyrants defiance.

P. S. --The feelin in intense--the children hev imbibed it. A lad jost past, displayin the sechesn flag. It waved from behind. Disdaining concealment, the lion-hearted boy wore a rounabout. We are firm.

N.B. -- We are still firm

N.B. 2nd -- We are still firm, unyieldin and resoloote.

PETROLEUM V. NASBY

Editor's Note: The above was taken from a pamphlet published by THE FINDLAY PUBLISHING COMPANY, publishers of THE REPUBLICAN-COURIER of Findlay, Ohio. The press that the WEEKLY JEFFERSONIAN, a Findlay newspaper of earlier days, was printed on stands in the lobby of the Findlay Printing and Supply Company's building at 318 West Sandusky Street.

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"WHY SPY"

or

Read all about it in the Valley newspapers

LINCOLN ISSUES ORDER

GENERAL INVASION PLANNED
AGAINST 'INSURGENT FORCES'

FEBRUARY 22 NAMED

Land And Naval Forces Ordered To Readiness

Washington, D.C., Jan 31--Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States has issued an order for all land and naval forces of the United States to move on February 22 "against insurgent forces."

On Jan. 27 Lincoln issued the following order, entitled "President's General War Order No. 1":

"Ordered: That the 22nd day of February 22, 1862, be the day for a general movement of the land and naval forces of the U.S. against the insurgent forces. That especially in and about Fortress Monroe, the Army of the Potomac, the Army of Western Virginia, the army near Mumfordsville, Kentucky, the army and flotilla at Cairo, and a naval force in the Gulf of Mexico, be ready to move that day.

"That all other forces, both land and naval, with their respective commanders, obey existing orders for the time, and be ready to obey additional orders when duly given. The heads of departments and especially the Secretaries of War and of the Navy, with all their subordinates, and the General-in-Chief, with all other commanders of land and naval forces, will severally be held to their strict and full responsibilities for prompt execution of this order."

Editor's Note: The above was taken from the VALLEY NEWS ECHO, Vol 3, No. 1 January, 1862, published by the Potomac Edison Company, 55 East Washington St., Hagerstown, Maryland.