



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

February 1974

Vol. 17 No. 6

142nd Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 12, 1974

Speaker: James Chapman

Subject: The Boston Tea Party

Place: The Hermit Club, Dodge Court

Preliminaries: 6:30 PM Dinner 7 PM

Reminiscences of the Tea Party c. 1821
by
Hezekiah Niles

". . . There was a body meeting on this 16th of December, 1773. The matter of the tea was the occasion of the meeting. The meeting began at Faneuil Hall, but that place not being large enough it was adjourned to the Old South, and even that place could not contain all who came. Jonathan Williams was moderator. Among the spectators was John Rowe...among other things, he said,--"Who knows how tea will mingle with salt water" and this suggestion was received with great applause. Governor Hutchinson was at this time at the house on Milton Hill....A committee was sent from the meeting, to request him to order the ships to depart.--While they were gone, speeches were made, for the purpose of keeping the people together. The committee returned about sunset with his answer, that he could not interfere. At this moment the Indian yell was heard from the street. Mr. Samuel Adams cried out that it was a trick of their enemies to disturb their meeting, and requested the people to keep their places--but the people rushed out, and accompanied the Indians to the ships. The number of persons disguised as Indians is variously stated --none put it lower than 60, none higher than 80. It is said by persons who were present, that nothing was destroyed but tea--and this was not done with noise and tumult, little or nothing being said by the agents or the multitude--who looked on. The impression was that of solemnity, rather than of riot and confusion. The destruction was effected by disguised persons, and some young men who volunteered; one of the latter collected the tea which fell into the shoes of himself and companions, and put it into a phial and sealed it up; which phial is now in his possession,--containing the same tea. The contrivers of this measure, and those who carried it into effect, will never be known; some few persons have been mentioned as being among the disguised; but there are many obvious reasons why secrecy, then, and concealment since, were necessary. None of those persons who were confidently said to have been of the party, (except some who were then minors or very young men), have ever admitted that they were so. The persons who appeared (continued on p.

CLEVELAND CWRT BULLETIN BOARD

DUES

Treasurer Jim Chapman reports that we are only slightly over 50% in the return of 1974 dues. Please do not wait for us to come after you--surprise both yourself and us by doing it now!

New Name Badges

After 10+ years our supply of name badges is growing thin and it is time to renew and replace our existing badges. However, the cost makes it necessary for membership to be present and vote on the amount of a one-time assessment for the badges.

MARRIOTT PARK OK OVERTURNED BY BOARD

Washington D.C. Star-News 1-17-74

by Lance G. y & Lee Flor

In an unexpected development, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors has overturned its previous approval of the rezoning for Marriott's Great America theme park because of a possible legal error, and ruled that the company has to make a new application for rezoning.

"It means that we will have to start over from scratch," said Supervisor Charles Colgan after last night's 4-2 vote asking Marriott to submit a new application for rezoning 513 acres of land near the Manassas battlefield for the controversial park.

Marriott will have to begin again with applications to the county planning board, which must hold public hearings on the proposal. It makes recommendations to the county's Board of Supervisors, which then also must hold public hearings on the rezoning before taking any action. It took almost five months for the hotel and restaurant chain to cross these hurdles before receiving the supervisors' approval of the project last April. "We are disappointed with what's happened, naturally," said Thomas Burke, a Marriott spokesman, last night. "However, we're sure this is only a brief little matter." But some groups in the county who have been vigorously opposing the project are expected to emerge in full force once again as the rezoning through county agencies and public hearings.

The county is currently being sued in Prince William County Circuit Court by the Prince William League for the Protection of Natural Resources and Mr. & Mrs. B. Oswald Robinson, who live near the proposed park site. What effect the supervisors' actions last night will have on the suit was not immediately clear.

The mistake by the supervisors resulted when they held a public hearing on the project only 15 days after it was advertised in local newspapers. The county requires five days notice be given of hearing, but Virginia law requires "two weeks" notice on top of that. Thus the supervisors should have waited a total of 19 days.

After the closed-door session, the supervisors moved into open session at which they debated what they were going to do. Mauller and Supervisor Roy Doggett argued that they should do nothing, but wait for a court to settle the matter. However, Colgan and the majority of the board argued that the rezoning application had to be rejected in order to avoid county taxpayers' having to foot the bill for prolonged litigation.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The fight is far from over and your further assistance is sorely needed. Continue to send your letters and petitions to Mrs. Memory Porter, PWLFNR, Box 125, Manassas, Va. 22110. Copies to Editor, The Piedmont Virginian, The Plains, Virginia 22171, and Editor, The Potomac News, Box 128, Dumfries, Va. 22026. Legal battles are expensive please send any contributions (tax free) to Mrs. Porter made out to THE PRINCE WILLIAM LEAGUE FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER

NOLAN HEIDLEBAUGH
THOMAS GREITER
GUY DI CARLO JR
JAMES CHAPMAN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 1973: WILLIAM KISER
JACK AUWERTER
1974: WILLIAM CHAMBERLIN
MILTON HOLMES

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

LINCOLN AND CLEVELAND
SHARED NEW PROMINENCE

by
Wayne Jordan
THE CLEVELANDER MAGAZINE
February 1960

For Cleveland (the burgeoning Ohio municipality) and for Abraham Lincoln (the ambitious Illinois lawyer-politician) 1860 was a big year.

In February of 1860, however, neither Cleveland nor Lincoln had any way of knowing how much history had in store for them. At the same time, understandably, they knew almost nothing about each other.

In Springfield, Ill., on Feb. 12 -- the day he was 51 years old -- Lincoln was working on a speech that he would deliver in New York on February 27. Cleveland, Ohio, was on the same date being apprised by the Plain Dealer of the newest offering at the Academy of Music:

"Lucretia Borgia will be played this evening with Miss Flunkett as Lucretia. The remainder of the cast is good..."

Under the Plain Dealer's masthead was a heading, "For President in 1860," and under it was the name of Stephen A. Douglas, "Subject to the decision of the Charleston Convention."

To Senator Douglas, the wealthy Chicagoan, Lincoln owed much of whatever prominence he had, for their debates of 1858 had been widely reported. At this juncture neither the Plain Dealer nor any other newspaper could be expected to know that the Democrats would split so thoroughly (in a series of conventions) that Douglas would end up heading northern splinter party ticket. As for Lincoln on the Republican side, he rarely figured in any predicting until after his New York speech, the one known as the Cooper Institute address.

That speech of Feb 27 -- which many later thought actually made Lincoln President of the United States -- resulted from arrangements made by James A. Briggs, a Cleveland lawyer and civic leader. Briggs was then living in New York as the financial agent of the State of Ohio. A telegram from him in October of 1859 had opened the negotiation for Lincoln's appearance. The Cooper Institute address, delivered under the auspices of New York's Young Men's Central Republican Union, was the one in which Lincoln said:

"Wrong as we think slavery is, we can yet afford to let it alone where it is, because that much is due to necessity arising from its actual presence in the nation; but can we, while our votes will prevent it, allow it to spread into the national Territories and to overrun us here in the free states? If our sense of duty forbids this, then let us stand by our duty fearlessly and effectively."

It was the speech that Lincoln concluded with the now familiar words:

"Let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."

Two days later Cleveland's Mr. Briggs wrote from New York office:

"Hon A. Lincoln,

"Enclosed please find 'check' for \$200. I would that it were \$200,000 for you are worthy of it. You hit the nail on the head here, and long, very long will your speech be remembered in this City. It did great good. It was so inlaid and linked with truth...."

Back in Cleveland, meanwhile, performances of the "The Octoroon, or Life in Louisiana," had been drawing \$100-a-night houses. Rather obviously tailored to the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" pattern, the play seemed headed for a long run until a court fight over the copyright removed it from the Academy of Music stage.

The Cleveland of early 1860, however, had other things to think about besides politics and the theater. Mainly, the city was preoccupied with its almost breathtaking growth. This was the year the census would show a population of 43,417 in the corporate limits.

True, the figure included the people of Ohio City, on the west bank of the Cuyahoga river, which had been peacefully annexed in 1854. Even so, the census of 1850 had shown only 17,034 for Cleveland and 6,375 for Ohio City. The 1860 enumeration would show, too, that Cuyahoga County had gone from 48,099 to 78,033 in a decade.

The new railroad age, with lines radiating east, west, and south from Cleveland, was having its effect. A local economy that had been predominately commercial was being industrialized at a great rate.

Even a sewing machine--the double-thread "Forest City" priced at \$35 -- was now "being manufactured in Cleveland" and advertised in the newspapers. Yes, this was the year that Lincoln would be nominated and elected President. It was also the year that Cleveland was first served by two competing lines of horsecars. It was the year of the Perry Monument; the year, too, in which Edwin C. Higbee and John G. Hower started Cleveland's first department store.

What was happening in heavy industry was really something to behold. The new railroads already were bringing in coal at a rate never dreamed of before. Add the fact that the first cargo of Lake Superior ore had been brought through the Soo and into Cleveland in 1855. The ore's meeting with the coal which would become an economic catch phrase in the century ahead, was fast becoming one of American history's biggest economic realities.

By May 18, 1860, when the Republican convention in Chicago got around to nominating Lincoln, Cleveland managed to find a conspicuous spot on the bandwagon. Salmon P. Chase of Cincinnati, the ex-governor who was about to return to the United States Senate, aspired to be Ohio's favorite son at Chicago, but he was doomed to disappointment, largely because of Cleveland-area influence.

Even on the first ballot the Ohio delegation gave Lincoln 8 votes to Chase's 34, while Supreme Court Justice John McLean got 4. On the second ballot Lincoln picked up 6 more Buckeye votes.

Apparently Lawyer Briggs had been busy ever since the Cooper Institute speech. On the third ballot at Chicago, before the result could be announced, David F. Cartter of Cleveland gained the floor. Chairman of the Ohio delegation, Cartter had noted that Lincoln was within two and a half votes of victory. He now announced the switch of four more Ohio votes to Lincoln. That turned the tide.

After some more switching, Lincoln's third ballot total was 354 out of 466 votes, and the chairman cried, "Abraham Lincoln of Illinois is selected as your candidate...."

Murat Halstead, the Cincinnati journalist, wrote this version: "I looked up to see who would be the man to give the decisive vote. In about ten ticks of a watch Cartter, of Ohio, was up. I had imagined Ohio would be slippery enough for the crisis, and sure enough!"

The delegates went home, and history moved on. The Cleveland

Leader put a picture of Lincoln on its door while editorializing that "our standard bearer is not remarkable for beauty, as the word goes, but has an air of sturdy independence and manliness which attracts by its very singularity." Cleveland kept on buying and selling and making things, growing by the day, it seemed.

By this time election rolled around John Davison Rockefeller, already an important figure in Cleveland's grain and produce business, was old enough to cast his first vote for Lincoln.

After the election, events moved at a giddy pace. South Carolina seceded; several other southern states followed her. On Feb. 4, 1861--a month before President Lincoln's inauguration--the Confederate State government was organized at Montgomery, Ala.

On his way to the White House in an atmosphere of tension, and wearing the beard he had decided to grow. Abraham Lincoln arrived in Cleveland at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 15, 1861. The itinerary of the President elect had taken his train from Columbus to Pittsburg, where he spent the night, then back into Ohio and finally--after several stops--into the Euclid street depot. (Euclid street still had another 10 years to go before it became an avenue.)

The Plain Dealer of that morning had given a preview of the arrangements, noting that "thousands of strangers" were "in from the country that "people of all parties will extend a hearty greeting."

Under a heading "Preparing for Uncle Abe" the paper reported:

"Flags are flying from the many liberty poles about the city. Numerous buildings are decorated with the stars and stripes and the streets look quite gay. The mud, however, is awful. The rain last night softened it up and some of the streets through which the procession will pass are a perfect mush. A platform has been built out from the balcony of the Weddell House for Mr. Lincoln to speak from."

Just 12 years prior to Lincoln's historical pre-inaugural address from the platform at the Weddell House, the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce was organized as the Board of Trade (1848). The Weddell House is still doing business at 1434 West 6th Street.

Despite the mud, the procession from the depot to the Weddell House took place as scheduled. Col. James Barnett led the military escort consisting of the Brigade of Light Artillery, the Cleveland Grays, and the Light Dragoons. In the parade, too, were some three score workmen from the Cuyahoga Steam Furnace Company.

Col. Barnett, it should be noted, emerged from the Civil War with the brevet rank of brigadier general. His artillerymen formed the nucleus for the famous First Ohio Regiment of Light Artillery which, through its separate batteries, was represented in most of the war's major battles. At the Weddell House, Lincoln was handicapped by the strain that the trip had put upon his voice. In his remarks, the President-elect said the secession crisis was "altogether artificial." Concerning the disunionists, he asked:

"What is happening to hurt them? Have they not all their rights now as they ever have had? Have they not the same constitution that they have lived under for seventy-odd years?"

That night there was a reception, and the next morning Lincoln was escorted to his special train, with Buffalo as his next objective.

On Feb. 16, J.W. Gray, editor and proprietor of the Plain Dealer, summed up matters rather eloquently with a personal impression.

"After the crowd had left the Weddell last night and the President elect was understood to have 'retired,' we had the good fortune to have a very quiet private interview with Mr. Lincoln and his lady: and we must confess to being most favorably impressed with both. It mistakes do occur in the Executive Government of the country, we are satisfied they will not be chargeable to design. "Let us all hope for the best, and as ever, watch and pray."

The next time Cleveland saw Lincoln was on April 28, 1865 when his body lay in a pavillion on Public Square.

Reminiscences of the Tea Party (cont)

to know more than any one, I ever spoke with, refused to mention names. Mr. Samuel Adams is thought to have been in the counselling of this exploit, and many other men who were leaders in the political affairs of the times;--and the hall council is said to have been in the back room of Edes and Gill's printing office, at the corner of the alley leading to Battle street church from Court street. There are very few alive now, who helped to empty the chests of tea, and these few will probably be as prudent as those who have gone before them.

* * * * *

WAS TOM LINCOLN A ROLLING STONE?

"It is popular to think of Tom Lincoln, the father of the President, as a man to whom finding new places to live was a hobby. Was he really so restless? A cool examination of his migrations may lead us to think otherwise.

He and Nancy Hanks Lincoln kept house in Elizabethtown after their marriage, until he could find a farm. He found the Sinking Spring place, and there Abraham was born. But soon Tom ran into his first difficulty with Kentucky land titles, and discovered that there was a lien on his property, which was supposed to have been clear. He moved to Knob Creek, and there ran into the same difficulties. Kentucky titles at that time were the subject of constant contention, a knot that became tangled when the Kentucky country was separated from Virginia.

So he moved to Indiana. He lived there for fourteen years, lost Nancy through "milk sick", and married again. In 1830 he took his family to the Sangamon River country. Sarah Lincoln attested that the move from Indiana was made at the insistence of Tom's Johnston in-laws, when a recurrence of the milk sickness threatened.

The presence of malaria on the Sangamon bluffs made Indiana look better, and the Lincoln's and Johnstons started back. In Coles County friends persuaded them to settle down. They did move about for a few years in that neighborhood, all in the same township, though. And when Tom built the Goose Nest Prairie home in 1837 he stayed there until he died.

Never a renter, always a landholder and a responsible member of the community, Tom Lincoln actually moved less during his married life than many of us have. He lost two farms. He moved twice from unhealthy country. He never moved for fun.

* * * * *

LINCOLN HUMOR

Anecdote on Lincoln thru Sandburg:

Taken from the Saturday Review of Literature

and by them from Bennett Cerf's column "Trade Winds"

Mr. Sandburg speaks only when the spirit moves him. He once allowed himself to be shown over every inch of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios without uttering a single syllable. His guide finally led him to a Junoesque show girl and implored, "Just think, Mr. Sandburg, this budding star is six foot two!

Mr. Sandburg spoke at last. "Abraham Lincoln," he observed, "was six foot three and half!"

* * * * *