



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

FEBRUARY, 1977

Vol. 20 No. 6

----- 169th Meeting -----

Date: Tuesday, February 8th
Speaker: Mark E. Neely, Jr.
Subject: "Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Union"
Place: The Hermit Club, Dodge Court
Preliminaries: 6:00 P.M. Dinner: 7:00 P.M.

WAS "HONEST ABE" A "FACIST PIG" ??? No way says our speaker who says he will prick the balloon of Lincoln's alleged "dictatorship". Mr. Neely believes that constitutional questions are the important ones about every presidency. So he will address the question of whether Lincoln was more a nationalist than a humanitarian. Neely will also discuss the "civil libertarian" anti-Lincoln rhetoric, and compare Lincoln to Jefferson Davis on a constitutional basis rather than the usual analysis of their relative military abilities.

Mark E. Neely, Jr. received his B.A. and his Ph.D at Yale. He is Director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation's library and museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It houses one of the world's leading collections of books, manuscripts, letters and memorabilia about our 16th President.

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Nota Bene: If you are unable to attend the dinners, you are always welcome to be present for the talk which starts at 8PM.

We just learned of the death this past week of Al Narwold. He was a long time member of the Roundtable and, until recently, a regular and enthusiastic participant in Roundtable affairs. We will miss him.

CLEVELAND CWRT NO LONGER A TEENAGER

This month marks the twentieth birthday of our Roundtable as it was founded on February 19, 1957. Of the charter members, the following are still members: Neville Bayless, Charles H. Brown, Raymond Channock, Charles Clarke, John Cullen, Harrison Frost, George Hoagland, William Hughes, Howard Preston, William Schlesinger, Nick Stuffer and Gordon Tatum. (The last two are now out of town members.)

PEN PORTRAIT OF LINCOLN BY A BOSTON BRAHMIN

"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. . . ."

-from Mead's Headquarters, The Letters of Theodore Lyman

DREWS NAMED OUR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION CHAIRMAN

At the recent Congress of the Civil War Round Tables in Carlisle, Penna. it was requested that each Round Table name a Battlefield Preservation Chairman so that efforts in this important area can be coordinated. Protection of battlefield sites from commercial and other encroachment is a never ending struggle, and frequently the Round Tables have been effective in stopping further despoilation. As our Chairman, Bernie Drews will maintain, liaison with other Round Tables and advise us who to write and when as preservation efforts are indicated.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 19, 1957

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NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Neville Bayless, Ray Swanson
P. O. Box 5028, Cleveland, OH
44101

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PROGRESS MADE ON "PROJECT CHAMPION HILL"

Senator Eastland received a letter from the National Park Service, Washington, D.C., which reads:

".....we have scheduled Champion Hill for review of its historical significance. The resultant study will then be presented to the Secretary of the Interior's Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments for its evaluation. After its review and evaluation, the Advisory Board will make its recommendation to the Secretary, who has the authority to designate sites of national significance as landmarks. The study will be presented to the Advisory Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting in the early spring of 1977.".....

BIG PRY BURN-OFF

On October 23, 1976, the Pry House, General McClellan's headquarters during the Battle of Antietam, was gutted by fire. The house, which is situated on a high bluff on the East bank of Antietam Creek, was recently acquired by the National Park Service which had hoped to restore it to its condition at the time of the battle.

STILL SUCKING AT THE GOVERNMENT TEAT

"The Hardtack" of the Indianapolis CWRT recently contained this interesting article:

The past is slowly sinking deeper and deeper into obscurity. Recently it was learned that the state of Louisiana has closed its benefits file for the Civil War veterans in June of 1976.

With the death of Rebecca Traylor, 100, there was no more need for the program, which had served only Mrs. Traylor for the last several years.

Mrs. Traylor, who died May 7, 1976, at Beaumont, Texas, was the widow of Jerry R. Traylor, a Confederate veteran from Grant Parish who died in 1917.

During their lifetimes, both received Confederate pensions under a program created by the legislature in 1898. Mrs. Traylor's last monthly check of \$60 had been received just a few days prior to her death.

Several wives of departed Civil War veterans are still reported on the Federal records yet no one is ambitious enough to speculate which one will be the last. Interestingly to know, the last veterans and widows of other wars was recorded many years ago and are reported for general information as follows:

REVOLUTIONARY WAR:

Daniel F. Bakeman, died April 5, 1869, at Freedom, N.Y. He was 109.

Mrs. Ester S. Damon, Plymouth Union, Vt., a widow, died November 11, 1906, at the age of 92.

WAR OF 1812:

Hiram Cronk, Ava, N.Y., died May 13, 1905, at the age of 105.

Mrs. Ester Ann Hill Morgan (a daughter of a veteran) succumbed at Independence, Ore., March 12, 1946. She was the last dependent to have received a pension.

MEXICAN WAR:

Owen T. Edgar, Washington, D.C., died September 3, 1929 at the age of 98.

In 1949 28 widows and one child were still receiving pensions. The last is not known by this author.

CIVIL WAR:

Walter W. Williams, Franklin, Texas, and Confederate veteran, died December 19, 1959, 117 years of age.

AND THE WIDOWS GO ON ...

LITTLE KNOWN SAYINGS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Nathan Bedford Forrest

"War means fightin and fightin means
killin -- so I quit."

"I git thare fustus with the mostus and
leave lastus with the leastus."

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

(Courtesy of Milwaukee CWRT via St. Louis & Washington CWRTs)

In the late 1800's General D. H. Hill advanced a theory to account for the different names that the North and the South gave to battles. His premise was: Most Northerners were from cities or towns, were familiar with the works of man and therefore were more interested in the works of nature; whereas Southerners came chiefly from rural areas and were more interested in things built by man.

To support his theory, he offered the following list of battles and names given by the two sides:

North

Antietam (stream)
Ball's Bluff (cliff)
Pea Ridge (ridge)
Cedar Mountain (mountain)
Chaplin Hills (terrain)
Beverly Ford (shallows
in river)
Ocean Pond (swamp)
Kennesaw Mountain (mountain)
Pittsburg Landing
(river bank)

South

Sharpsburg (town)
Leesburg (town)
Elkhorn Tavern (inn)
Mitchell's Station (RR station)
Perryville (town)
Brandy Station (RR station)

Olustee (RR station)
Marietta (town)
Shiloh (church)

North

Bull Run
(stream)
Stone's River (stream)

South

Mannassas (RR station
& town)
Murfreesboro (town)

Some cannot subscribe completely to Hill's theory. Why didn't the Federals call Gettysburg Cemetery Ridge? Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville First and Second Rappahannock: or Vicksburg Chickasaw Bluffs? And why didn't the Confederates call Chickamauga Snodgrass House or something of the sort?

Of course neither side followed a completely consistent system. However, in most major battles except in the Seven Days the Federals were attacking initially, and they tended to name them for key terrain features which they had to cross or take, such as Antietam Creek, Bull Run, Ball's Bluff, Pittsburg Landing or Cedar Mountain. Pea Ridge is an apparent exception, but when the Federals counterattacked that ridge was their terrain objective. The Confederates, on the other hand, often used the name of a readily identified feature within or behind their lines, and usually this was a town, railroad station, road junction or building.

SUNDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

The Spencer Repeating Rifle was the first successful breech-loading repeating rifled carbine. By 1864, it was the standard arm of the Union Cavalry and by fall appeared among some Infantry Brigades. The Confederates, however, were unable to use the ones they captured because they lacked the special cartridges or the metal for their manufacture.

The carbine loaded through a tubular magazine which held 7 cartridges. Each man carried 10 magazines giving him 70 rounds of rapid fire. Many Confederate soldiers claimed they loaded on Sunday and fired all week!

- "Canister", Cincinnati CWRT

ITS ALL OBERLIN'S FAULT

Many people say Oberlin College is a hotbed of leftwingers, pinkos, Vietniks and do-gooders. 'Twas always thus. For example, here is what Petroleum V. Nasby said over one hundred years ago: "Oberlin commenst this war. Oberlin wuz the prime cause uv all the trubble... When I say Oberlin understand it ez figgerative fer the entire Ablishn part, uv wich Oberlin is the fountin-hed."

HE-MAN OUTFITS

Mississippi Yankee Hunters, PeeDee Wild Cats, Tyranny Unmasked Artillery, Cherokee Stone Walls, Hell Roaring Horse and the One-Eyed Battalion are just a few of the state militia companies in existence in 1861.

- "The Bushwacker", St. Louis CWRT