



The COURIER OF THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

NOVEMBER, 1965

Vol. 9, No. 2

72nd Meeting

DATE:	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1965
SPEAKER:	CHARLES F. CLARKE, JR.
SUBJECT:	THADDEUS STEVENS, VILLAIN OR HERO?
PLACE:	HERMIT CLUB - DODGE COURT
PRELIMINARIES:	6:00 p.m. DINNER: 7:00 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

73rd Meeting

DECEMBER 14, 1965

Jim Hulse
"LINCOLN, the Paradox"

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74th Meeting

JANUARY 11, 1966

James Barnett
"Germans in the Civil War"

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DINNER RESERVATIONS

Please use the enclosed, stamped envelope to forward your dinner reservations for the November 9 meeting (\$4.75 per person) for you and your guests. This will help greatly to reduce the usual confusion caused by at-the-table collection.

If your decision to attend can be made only at a time too late for mailing your

check, please do not hesitate to come on this account. You can pay JOHN STEVNING on arrival.

You will note at the coming meeting the meal will be \$4.75, for steak. Some of the members were getting tired of pot roast.

If you have any definite opinions on this as a matter of policy, please be ready to voice them at the meeting.

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PAST MEETING & SPEAKER

For the first meeting of the 1965-66 "winter quarters" of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable, the returning veterans, fresh from the field trip, and the other, less battle-fatigued members, were treated to an interesting lecture on the training grounds of the majority of the well known generals on the Northern and Southern sides of the late unpleasantness.

Dr. Steven Ambrose in his talk on the founding and early history of the West Point Military Academy pointed out that our country is indebted to this institution for an early proficiency in civil engineering

THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 20, 1957

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REPUBLIC STEEL CORPORATION, CLEVELAND, OHIO

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PAST MEETING & SPEAKER (Con't.)

as well as for leaders in the military establishment. Many of these ex-officers were recalled, or persuaded to return, from engineering careers to don blue or gray uniforms in the War.

If the influence of this unique institution has been overlooked in our study of our country's history, Dr. Ambrose's discourse, I am sure, gave us all a better perspective about it.

"HISTORIC FORD'S THEATER REBUILT"

Members who travel to the Eastern Theater of the Civil War will soon have an additional point of interest to add to their itinerary - a theater where the War's greatest tragedy occurred. Herewith an excerpt from an article in the Engineering News Record:

"A brand new theater is being built in Washington - to 1863 specifications.

At an estimated cost of \$2 million, Ford's Theater, where President Lincoln was shot, is being restored by the National Park Service. The Park Service has gutted the original structure in midtown Washington and is now excavating a basement for a museum.

Eventually, the theater will be completely rebuilt to restore its appearance on April 14, 1865, when John Wilkes Booth shot the President as he was watching a performance of "Our American Cousin."

After the assassination, the War Department seized the theater and converted it into an office building. Only the roof timbers and walls remain, along with some of the foundation of the inner theater walls.

The existing walls were built on the foundation of the First Baptist Church, built in 1833 and acquired by Ford in 1861. He renovated it, with the help of James J. Gifford, chief carpenter of Ford's "Old Drury" Holiday Street Theater in Baltimore.

Initial excavations heartened the historians when they discovered the foundation of a curved section of the rear wall of the auditorium. Its location and curvature matched within inches the reconstituted plans."

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IN TENNESSEE, TOO, CLEVELAND'S "TROOP A"
IS STILL BEING DISCUSSED!

"The old Cleveland, Ohio National Guard outfit that sloshed into Camp Forrest in 1941 had their problems. It seems that this bunch was the last of the cavalry outfits. They went into Tullahoma with boots and saddles gleaming. Many of them brought their own polo ponies and on week-ends local folks were treated to a darn strange game on the barrens of Coffee County.

Mules were very numerous in this outfit too, so when it became mechanized in 1942, the leftovers presented a problem. It was solved by sending the horses back to Ohio and shooting the mules. Of course, dead mules also presented a problem, so burial trenches were dug. It took two days to dig them during which time the mules petrified with rigor mortis and would not fit into the narrow trenches. So what did they do??? They took hand saws and sawed the legs off the mules and then buried them."

From Nathan Bedford Forrest Newsletter of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Roundtable.