



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

NOVEMBER 1966

Vol. 10 No. 2

80th Meeting

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1966

SPEAKER: JUDGE EARL R. HOOVER

SUBJECT: "BENJAMIN R. HANBY-THE STEPHEN FOSTER
OF OHIO

PLACE: HERMIT CLUB, DODGE COURT

PRELIMINARIES: 6 PM DINNER 7 PM

JUDGE EARL R. HOOVER

Our November speaker is a native of Dayton, Ohio. He received his A.B. Degree from Otterbein College and L.L.B. from the Harvard Law School. He is now serving his 16 th year on the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.

Our speaker comes highly praised..."Of Judge Hoover, Russell Bacon, the 'Forum and Fellowship' columnist of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, wrote: 'One of the most widely heard speakers before Greater Cleveland organizations...well known...orator..For years he has been in demand throughout the nation as a speaker.'

Judge Hoover's subject for the evening is "Benjamin R. Hanby-The Stephen Foster of Ohio." Hanby was a young native Buckeye who lived on Ohio cross-roads during the turbulent War Between The States and hurled his songs at the day's big problems with unbelievable history-swerving effect--an inspirational, gripping drama of big names and big events as affected by the stirring music of Ben Hanby whose songs are new among America's old favorites.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

The following appeared in the Waco, Texas, "Rebel Yell," as adapted from the Milwaukee publication: A couple of years ago the Air Force accidentally dropped a high explosive bomb near a dilapidated farm house outside the perimeter of the its bombing range in South Carolina. When the smoke and dust settled, an old Confederate soldier was seen walking down the road--his beard singed, his hat askew, his gray trousers in tatters, leaning heavily on his cane. He was heard to mutter, "To hell with Bobbie Lee--I'm surrendering."

THE CLEVELAND BULLETIN BOARD

DINNER RESERVATIONS

Again we are using the stamped envelope to forward your dinner reservations for the November meeting. Last month not many availed themselves of this opportunity. PLEASE DO SO FOR THIS MEETING.....

We are still maintaining the system of \$5.00 by check or \$6.00 at the door by cash. Many members were a bit miffed by this procedure until they heard the explanation of the circumstances involved. Needless to say they were all for the new procedure. Why don't you come and hear our Secretary explain the circumstances.

If your decision to attend can be made only at a time too late for mailing your check, please don't hesitate to come on this account. Just call our Secretary, GUY DI CARLO at 771-7900. He'll cover for you.

TENNESSEE FIELD TRIP

What a great field trip. Not enough adjectives or what ever your suppose to use can really cover the field trip experienced by those of the membership who went South to Tennessee. Under the able and over worked fieldtrip chairman Bernie Drews we proceeded to Murfreesboro via Lexington, Kentucky and our favorite stop over THE BEAUMONT INN.

When we all assembled there were twelve of us for Joe Nunley and Dr. Homer Pittard to sheppard around. Let's see there was our leader Bernie, and Schlesinger, Swift, Smith, Bayless, Clarke, Ramsey, Tatum (yep Gordon drove up from Florida to be with us), two guests, Al Norwald and Bill Chamberlain, and the irrepressable John Stevning who came quite a long way also. Bye the Bye, John's been promoted and is now the plant manager for Clevite of their St. Clairesville, Ohio plant. His address is now: 117 Park Drive, St. Clairesville, Ohio. Before John gets mad the plant is actually located in Bridgeport, Ohio. The last member of the group --who else but Di Carlo.

Nunley and Pittard did not spare us when we started the actual march. Especially Joe Nunley with his tour of the Bushwacker country. We must have travelled at least 300 miles that day never being more than 40 miles from home base. It's perfect bushwacker country. Joe took us to his father's farm where we mounted the family haywagon to be pulled by tractor up the mountain to a old line building built just before _____ (I missed the year, the tractor made too much noise). Anyway it was quite old. Joe's family still use it when hunting in the mountains. From here we headed back to McMinnville only to be met by the local sheriff and escorted into town with siren and red lite going full tilt. We pulled up in front of the courthouse where a rather motly group of Confederates made us dismount our vechiles and braced us on the courthouse steps. Upstairs the local judge heard the charges made by the Rebs, something to the effect "Crossing the Mason Dixon Line without a visa". Pleading "no contest" we were then all made welcome by the Mayor and presiding judge. Afterwards President Bill ran into a little difficulty (little-Ha) but manage with his usual adeptness to side step any real clamity. Nevertheless it was a trip that will live long in our memories. The trouble that they put themselves through down there was magnificent. On the way back we stopped at the Hermitage. It was beautiful. Gentlemen, those of you who have never joined us---you don't know what wild, enjoyable times can be had. Believe me when I say that the Vienna Boy's Choir never had a repertoire as that enjoyed by our roundtable...Right Roy?

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

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"DIXIE"

"Dixie," the so-called Marseillaise of the Confederacy, was produced just over a century ago. The exact date of its composition, in 1859, is uncertain but its author and the story of its first public rendition have long been documented. It was not an exclusively Southern Army air, and the Union military bands not infrequently played it within the hearing of the enemy forces opposite them during the years 1861-1865. About fifty years ago the Daughters of the Confederacy found twenty-two versions of the Confederate stanzas set to this famous melody.

POLK AT PERRYVILLE

About dark, Polk, convinced that some Confederate troops were firing into each other, cantered up to the Colonel of the regiment that was firing, and asked him angrily what he meant by shooting his own friends. The Colonel, in a tone of surprise, said: "I don't think there can be any mistake about it. I am sure they are the enemy." "Enemy! Why, I have just left them myself. Cease firing, sir. What is your name?" rejoined the Confederate general. "I am Colonel _____ of the _____ Indiana. And pray, sir, who are you?" Thus made aware that he was with a Federal Regiment and that his only escape was to brazen it out, his dark blouse and the increasing obscurity happily befriending him, the Confederate general shook his fist in the Federal Colonel's face and promptly said: "I will show you who I am, sir. Cease firing at once!" Then, cantering down the line again, he shouted authoritatively to the men "Cease firing!" Then reaching the cover of a small copse, he spurred his horse and was soon back with his own corps, which he immediately ordered to open fire.

(From BATTLES & LEADERS OF THE CIVIL WAR...BRAGG'S ADVANCE & RETREAT
by David Urquhart, Col., C.S.A. a member of Bragg's Staff)

CIVIL WAR SITES

Fort War, one of the 34 mile system of 68 forts and batteries protecting Washington during the Civil War, has been restored in a park-like setting. Visitors welcome--Shirley Highway and Braddock Road, Arlington, Va. Fort Ward was one of the largest. There is much of interest to see. (Thanks to Chicago CWRT for the information).

CIVIL WAR NICKNAMES

We're indebted to the Springfield, Ill CWRT for the following nicknames of general officers both North & South.

George Gordon Meade	"Four Eyed George"
John Pope	"Saddle Bag John"
John A. Logan	"Black Jack"
William T. Sherman	"Cump"
George H. Thomas	"Old Slow Trot"
Henry Halleck	"Old Brains"
Ben Butler	"Cock-eye"
James Longstreet	"Old Pete"
Jubal Early	"Old Jube"
W.W. Loring	"Old Blizzards"

BRADY COLLECTION OF CIVIL PHOTOGRAPHS

The priceless collection of Matthew Brady, distinguished photographer of the Civil War, narrowly escaped becoming the property of his creditors who held them as security for his debts.

Brady had been vainly trying for some time to interest the United States Government in this collection of some 2,000 negatives.

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 was preserved in such fashion as to be publicly available.

WEST VIRGINIA

In 1861 when the Virginia Convention adopted the Ordinance of Secession only 11 of the 47 delegates from the area of the later state of West Virginia, voted to secede. After the ordinance had been ratified, a convention of newly elected trans-Allegheny members of the legislature, and other delegates, met at Wheeling (6-11-61) and declared the Acts of Secession Convention void, and declared vacant the offices of those in the Virginia government which adhered to it. This convention formed the "Reorganized" government of Virginia, chose Francis H. Pierpont as Governor and provided for the election of other officials and a legislature. In August the convention reassembled at Wheeling and adopted an ordinance providing for a popular vote on the formation of a new state. At the subsequent election there were 18,489 votes cast for a new state and only 781 against. A constitution convention (delegates which were elected on October 24) met at Wheeling in November 1861 submitted a constitution which was ratified by the people in April. In May 1862 the legislature of the "Restored Government" voted its consent to the erection of the proposed new state. Application for admission to the Union was then presented to Congress, which granted its permission subject to the insertion of a constitutional provision for the gradual abolition of slavery. On June 20, 1863, following the addition of this provision, the state was admitted.

CIVIL WAR STORY VIVIDLY TOLD BY SONGS

by

Ethel Boros, Cleveland Plain Dealer

February 10, 1959

"The Vacant Chair," "Abraham Lincoln's Funeral March," and "The President's Grave" were just a few of the songs inspired by the martyrdom of Abraham Lincoln in 1865 at the close of the Civil War. No war in American history has ever brought forth such a flood of lyrics. The war was literally fought to music, its events chronicled in song.

Cleveland is fortunate in having the Palmer collection of Civil War mementos, now permanently owned by the Western Reserve Historical Society, which includes 1,000 pieces of original sheet music in addition to 12 large portfolios of broadside songs representing favorites of both the Union and Confederate soldiers. There are probably some 3,500 pieces of material in the music collection.

Publishers in Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland and other cities were besieged with requests for songs and the presses were kept busy day and night supplying the demand.

Ohio songwriter, Benjamin Hanby, supplied the era with "Darling Nelly Gray" and a jubilee song called "Ole Shady." It was a favorite of the Northern Army and of General Sherman who learned it from an escaped slave at the siege of Vicksburg, according to Common Pleas Judge Earl R. Hoover, who has made a study of Hanby.

A young minister from Zanesville, H.D.L. Webster, wrote "Lorena," and Dan Emmet of Mount Vernon, originator of the minstrel show, wrote "Dixie."

Bell Irwin Wiley in "The Life of Billy Yank" said: "Yanks went to war with songs on their lips. They sang on the march, in the trenches, on fatigue, in the guardhouse, on the battlefield and especially in the bivouac. The urge to sing was so irrepressible that men on outpost duty sometimes had to be reprimanded for lifting their voices and giving away their positions.

"In response to the enormous demands of soldiers and folks at home, publishers ground out thousands of songs on broadsides, in folding cards much after the fashion of scenic sequences sold in modern tourist centers, in sheet folios and in pocket song books."

Wiley, after checking thousands of letters, diaries and other documents with reference to music drew up a kind of Civil War Hit Parade. No. 1 was "John Brown's Body." "Battle Hymn of the Republic" Julia Ward Howe's words to the same tune, were sung, but according to Wiley never attained the popularity of the original "Battle Cry of Freedom" or "We'll Rally Round the Flag Boys" and "Weeping Sad and Lonely" or "When This Cruel War Is Over," also were extremely popular.

Well liked also were "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp," "Just Before the Battle Mother," "Grafter Into the Army," and "Kingdom Coming."

"Marching Through Georgia," published only three months before the end of the war came to late to achieve real important popularity. Wiley also points out that soldiers sang songs not typical of the Civil War, such as "Yankee Doodle," "The Girl I Left Behind Me," "Home Sweet Home," "Old Hundred," "Auld Lang Syne," "Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming."

In the Palmer collection the sentiments of both North and South come vividly alive by studying the song sheets and broadsides. "The Bonnie Blue Flag" was the most popular Confederate song. The bonnie blue flag of the "single star" mentioned in the song was not the Confederate flag. It was the flag of South Carolina.

"Aura Lee," by Joseph Kelp, "Fairy Bell" by Stephen Foster, "The Battle of Manassas," by Susan Archer Talley, were among the Confederate songs. The song "Beauregard at Shiloh" is inscribed "Lines found on the dead body after the battle of Williamsburg."

"Remember Bull Run," "The Serenade of the 300,000 Federal Ghosts, respectfully submitted to Old Black Abe," and "Virginia's Jewels" by Rebecca Boswell are some of the Confederate song titles in the Palmer Collection.

"TATTOO"

The longest bugle call, comes from the French and British, who in turn adopted it from a German Army call. It is 28 bars long. The first eight bars are the French signal for Lights Out, and used to be our Taps. The next twenty bars are the British Infantry Tattoo. The call is usually sounded at nine o'clock in the evening. Noise and loud talking must cease, and lights in sleeping quarters must be put out within 15 minutes. Back in the 17th Century German Army, Tattoo was called "Zepfenstreich" meaning "bungline". It was the signal to end the soldiers' nightly drinking. Immediately after the call sounded, the provost and his men would go around to the beer-sellers, to insure that the bungs were in the barrels, and draw a chalk line over them. If inspection next morning showed that the chalk line had been tampered with during the night, the merchant would be fined heavily. It is also said that the English version means "taps to", meaning that all beer taps must be turned off.

Our present Taps was adopted during the Civil War. As we have said, the first eight bars of Tattoo are a French call, and were at one time used by us. General Daniel Butterfield of the Army of the Potomac, believed that the French call did not convey a true picture of the peace and quiet of an Army camp at night. Accordingly he composed a new Taps and taught it to Oliver W. Norton, the brigade bugler. It was first played in July, 1862. Taps is perhaps the most beautiful of all bugle calls.

From the Chillicothe News Letter 12-16-58

TAPS

Another version of the origination of Taps is found the CWRT of Indianapolis newsletter "Hardtack" dated March 1959.

After the Seven Days battles, McClellan took up headquarters at Harrison's landing which had served as the private wharf of Berkley, the plantation where President Harrison was born. There where the broad shaded lawns sloped to the river, a young bugler passed the time by improvising notes which were to become a bugle call. This bugle call rather forecast the result of McClellan's effort to the end the war by taking Richmond. What was the name of the bugle call?

TAPS

Here's still another mystery. The Camp Duties of 1861 of Headquarters 1st Regmt Delaware Volunteers dated June 2, 1861 ends the day with TAPS to be played at 10 PM. This is interesting since the first sounding of Taps was at Harrison's Landing in 1862. Anyone care to venture an answer to these varying accounts.