



# THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

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NOVEMBER, 1976

Vol. 20 No. 3

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----- 166th Meeting -----

Date: Tuesday, November 9  
Speaker: The Blue vs. The Gray  
Subject: Civil War Quiz Show  
Place: The Hermit Club, Dodge Court  
Preliminaries: 6:00 P.M.      Dinner: 7:00 P.M.

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NOBODY LIKES A SMART A-- unless he is a Civil War Smart A--.  
Our November meeting will feature the latter type so we can all  
look forward to education and edification.

Participants are Bill Bates, Fred Gill, new member Tom Geschke,  
Bill Schlesinger, Don Heckaman, and Dick McCrea. They will be  
divided into two teams of three men, one outfit being the Blue  
and the other the Gray. Interlocutor and head honcho will be  
Bernie Drews.

Bernie promises some sharp questions and will have several Civil  
War subjects on slides to further enliven the proceedings.

You can privately score yourself and see how you stack up against  
the wise guys. PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS, call Charlie Spiegle  
during the day at 464-5335, or at his home phone -- 461-9096.

## LADIES NIGHT IS IN DECEMBER

We will welcome the ladies to our December meeting, the date of  
which has been advanced to Tuesday, December 7th. Full details  
will be in the December Newsletter, but set aside December 7th  
right now.

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new members Kenneth Callahan, Jr. and Thomas Geschke to the Round Table.

Ken Jr. is, of course, son of longtime member Dr. Ken Callahan. Ken Jr. is a student at John Carroll University and is especially knowledgeable about Ohio in the War, including the 8th Ohio Vol. Inf. and Col. Franklin Sawyer of Cleveland.

Tom is a product manager at Parr Inc. and his major interest is Civil War arms and uniforms.

### IS FEM LIB BEING SHAFTED?

Dr. Mary E. Walker, a 19th century feminist and the only woman to ever have been awarded the Medal of Honor, seems destined to remain controversial even in death.

Dr. Walker received the nation's highest military honor from President A. Johnson on November 11, 1865, because of her work as a surgeon during the Civil War. Fifty-three years later - shortly after her death at 85 - the honor was revoked by congressional action.

Now Dr. Walker's great grandneice, Anne Walker of the District of Columbia, has mounted a campaign to restore the award to her ancestor on the ground that the revocation was the product of sex bias.

Rep. Peter A. Peyser (R-NY) is preparing a resolution asking Congress to restore the Medal of Honor Citation to Dr. Walker. The Senate Veteran Affairs Committee is conducting an investigation. The New York State Senate has approved a resolution asking Congress to reinstate Dr. Walker.

Dr. Walker has not always enjoyed so much popular support.

"She irritated many people because of her espousal of women's rights at a time when women kept in petticoats.... She irritated people because of her opposition to smoking, drinking, and other things she perceived as the vices of the day", the grandniece said.

Dr. Walker's entree into medical practice did not alleviate ill-feeling toward her nor did her penchant for wearing male attire.

In 1855 at the age of 22, she graduated from Syracuse, New York Medical College, the only woman in her class. Seven years later she joined the Union Army as an unsalaried physician. Her tenure in the military was marked by harrassment from her male counterparts, four month's imprisonment by the Confederate Army, and "untiring service on the field of duty."

THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 19, 1957

PRESIDENT	MILTON HOLMES
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NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Neville Bayless, Ray Swanson  
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It was for that service that President Lincoln recommended her for the Medal of Honor shortly before his death. President Johnson endorsed the recommendation and presented the award to her "for bravery and valuable service in the field."

But a military panel ruled on February 15, 1917, that there "was insufficient reason indicated in the available record to warrant the presentation to Dr. Walker." The board's action also stripped 910 other Civil War recipients of the medal.

Jerry White, national director of the New York based Medal of Honor Historical Roundtable - a nonprofit group engaged in documenting the achievements of Medal of Honor winners - said ... that in most cases the revocation appeared justified. The guidelines call for a man in combat with a gun to receive the award. Anne Walker says this is discriminatory, "It means no women are eligible because women are not in combat. It's also a pile of crap because there are men like Charles Lindbergh who got the medal without picking up a gun." Dr. Walker refused to return the medal. It is in the possession of the Osego County (NY) Historical Society.

- "The Bugle Call", Hagerstown CWRT

HAD A WEAK BENCH, TOO

Red Smith, in his book, "Strawberries in the Wintertime," reports that Garry Schumacher, the former baseball writer, is an avid student of the American Civil War. Schumacher, who greatly admires the fighting quality of the Southern soldier, once wrote in baseball parlance of the Confederate Army: "A real good club. But couldn't win on the Road."

- Newsletter, Frankfort Ky. CWRT

### ORIGINS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION - PART III

(This is the last of an interesting series of articles on the above subject prepared by member Ray Sanson for our Newsletter during the Bicentennial year.)

#### Origins of the American Revolution. Part III

In previous news letter issues, the influence of early events such as the English Civil War, the colonial transportation system, and the newspapers and postal system have been discussed. Decisive in effect was the gradual growth in feeling by most colonials that they were in fact different from Europeans. Closely attached to this feeling was a deep sense of love and pride in their own land.

Many families of 1776 had lived in America for three, four, five and in some cases six generations. They had come to love it as their own land. The American Revolution occurred not at the beginning but in the middle of American history. Nationalism, a complex mixture of sentiments and loyalties, takes a very long time to form. The long period from 1607 to 1690 was the origin of the growth of an American spirit. By 1690 many of the second and third generations knew no other homeland.

Two conditions guaranteed a new kind of society. The first was the natural environment. North America was separated from the British Isles by three thousand miles which interposed a time-distance barrier and ensured isolation. The savage and harsh nature of the new country threatened their very survival until they learned how to become woodsmen and hunters. The need to clear land and learn how to deal with the Indians were experiences common to all the colonists.

The second condition related to the people themselves. Although overwhelmingly English before 1690, they were never truly representative of society in Britain. None of the upper classes emigrated. Migration was by the middle and lower classes. They were mainly people who were disenchanted with things at home. These emigrants were closely knit together by religion and a willingness to work hard to better their conditions. The results were an economic miracle which provided material comforts for the great majority of people which in turn reflected a deep love for their land.

English authorities had allowed every colony a representative assembly. These assemblies constantly encroached upon the authority of the royal governor getting more and more rights until several of the colonies were almost self-governing. This occurred prior to 1763.

Although the emotions of most people remained unspoken, not a few men were beginning to use with pride the words America and American. A special feature of the exhilarating effect of the new broadened

patriotism was a conviction about the strength of the colonies as a whole. At the very time that the colonials were becoming aware of their power there occurred a series of confrontations with the English which caused bitter resentments and frustrations. More and more colonials questioned the callous indifference of the English government toward colonial trade requirements.

Two other forces tended to unify the colonists. War between England and France and Spain culminating in the cession of Canada to England resulted in the use of colonial forces, e.g. the capture of Louis-berg fortress by New England seamen. The end result was the removal of France as a bar to colonial expansion after 1760.

The second force was a religious awakening which occurred after 1739 among all the colonies and which created a feeling of unity throughout the eastern seaboard.

The end result of these various events and forces, which extended over a period of 160 years, was the creation of a new body of people, intensely self-reliant, with a willingness to work to obtain for themselves not merely the necessities but the better things of life. Having a deep pride in their country they were also extremely jealous of any infringements on their rights to govern themselves locally. This, then was the basis for the growth of feeling necessary for the American Revolution to occur.

#### CHICKAMAUGA BATTLE VAULT LOOTED

Last July, workmen labored mightily for four hours, cutting a hole in the steel door of a long-sealed vault. The hole was finally cut, the crowd stood hushed and anxious eyes peered in. Nothing. It was empty.

Vandals, said Edward E. Tinney, chief historian of the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park, after the National Park Service had opened the vault with appropriate pomp and ceremony. He said scratch marks inside the vault indicated the theft probably occurred in the early part of this century, not long after the vault was sealed in 1899. He said the contents were taken by someone who either picked the lock or knew the safe's combination.

The vault was in Wilder Tower, which resembles a thin steeple and is named for Union General John Thomas Wilder, whose Indiana regiment counterattacked the Confederate forces led by Lt. Gen. James Longstreet in the Battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863. Wilder, who later became mayor of Chattanooga, presided over the dedication of the battlefield on September 20, 1899. Civil War relics were placed in the vault and its handle and combination dial were removed.

### BESIDES CHILI DOGS THERE IS A CHILE RAM

The Laird Rams, for which Confederate agents contracted with Lairds of Liverpool in 1862 or 1863 and which were intended to break the Union Blockade, were, for their time, sophisticated 230 foot twin-turreted armored ships with ram-type prows. Ostensibly first for France and later for Egypt, eventually they were incorporated into the British Navy as Scorpion and Wivern. On pages 260 and 261 of the American Heritage "Picture History of the Civil War" are drawings of these ships.

In 1865 Laird built for the Peruvian Navy a monitor, named Huascar for an Inca emperor. In 1879, during the War of the Pacific in which Chile defeated Bolivia and Peru, Huascar was captured and incorporated into the Chilean Navy. She remains at anchor at the Chilean Navy base of Talcahuano and is the oldest armored ship still afloat. Except for being 30 feet shorter and having only one turret, she is almost a duplicate of the Laird Rams and probably was modeled after them.

- Newsletter, Washington, D.C. CWRT

### ONE THREESIE IS ACTUALLY A FOURSIE

In the last Newsletter one of the threesies mentioned was the fact that three Confederate generals - Fitzhugh Lee, Joe Wheeler and Tom Rosser, all became United States generals in the Spanish American War. That walking encyclopedia of the Civil War, Ed Bearss, points out that Confederate General Mathew C. Butler is also a member of this unusual group. Sorry about that!

### ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IN WEST VIRGINIA

Near Philippi an Indiana company, almost worn out with marching, was straggling along with very little regard to order. Hurrying up to his men, the Captain shouted, "Close up, boys! Damn you, close up! If the enemy were to fire on you when you're straggling along that way they couldn't hit a damn one of you! Close up!" And the boys closed up immediately.

- Michigan Regimental CWRT