



THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

NOVEMBER, 1977

VOL. 21 NO. 3

----- 175th Meeting -----

Date: Tuesday, November 8, 1977

Speaker: Robert David Dawson

Subject: Generalship of W. T. Sherman

Place: The Hermit Club, Dodge Court

Preliminaries: 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Dawson's talk will begin with a brief biographical sketch of General Sherman, and will include the battles of Shiloh, Vicksburg, Collierville, Meridian Campaign, and the Atlanta Campaign. The Battle of Allatoona, the March to the Sea, the Burning of Columbia, included in the Carolinas Campaign, and the Washington Review; also the General's personal characteristics. He will furnish maps of the Battle of Allatoona, plus pictures, letters and so forth.

Mr. Dawson is planning to write a biography of General John Murry Corse.

REPORT ON 21rst ANNUAL FIELD TRIP, SEPTEMBER, 1977

Seventeen members and two guests debouched from Ohio and Vermont into Lexington, Virginia on Thursday, September 22 to begin the Round Table's 21rst Annual Field Trip. Members reporting for duty were: Auwerter, Bates, N. Bayless, R. Bayless, Chamberlin, Cramer, Drews, Gill, Harkness, Heidelbaugh, Hoover, Jordan, McCrea, Riel, Schlesinger, Spiegle and Thum. The guests were Reynolds and Shoaff who plan a Field Trip to Europe early next year (see last article for details). After being overwhelmed by the Southern hospitality at the check-in desk and the gourmet Southern cooking at the Keydet General motel, the Cleveland Civil War Round Table, Marching, Singing and Bourbon Society performed on the motel grounds. The high point of their efforts may have been a parade featuring "Onward Christian Soldiers."

Friday, after a walking tour of downtown Lexington, a visit was made to the Washington and Lee campus. Here most members were impressed by the sun-drenched white facade and columns of the early college buildings. Next came a tour of the always impressive Lee Chapel. Moving on to the Virginia Military Institute, the men inspected the parade grounds, barracks, museum, Jackson Hall and the George C. Marshall Building.

In the afternoon a stop was made in Harrisonburg to see the large electric map of Jackson's Valley Campaign, followed by a visit to the New Market battlefield to see the terrain, the interior of the Bushong house and the interesting museum. After dinner that night the greasy Greek restaurant operator in Kernstown described his collection of military items collected from Valley battlefields, but clammed up when some members indicated a desire to see his collection.

Saturday was a full day on a chartered bus under the guidance of Ed Bearss, covering in geographical but not chronological order the battlefields of Front Royal, Cedar Creek, Fishers Hill, Kernstown and 1rst, 2nd and 3rd Winchester. Ed maintained his reputation as "back road Bearss", hitting such esoteric super-highways as the Gooney Manor road, the Tumbling Run road, the Sand Ridge, Mountain road, Pughtown road, Redbud Run road, etc. That evening Stu Cramer entertained with his always professional slight-of-hand.

When asked his opinion of the trip, the Newsletter editor replied, "Deja Vu." To which the Dartmouth flash responded, "Fabulous*." (*Translation on request; please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.) Everyone was high in his praise of Bill Bates who ran a well organized trip that reflected much careful planning on his part.

DECEMBER MEETING IS LADIES NIGHT WITH CHANGE OF DATE

The annual Ladies Night meeting is planned for December 7th. Please note this is a Wednesday. Details will be in the December Newsletter.

ERRATUM

A computer error in last month's Newsletter caused last year's officers to be listed. The current officers are listed in this issue.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 19, 1957

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER

RICHARD McCREA
WILLIAM BATES
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 1977: RAY SWANSON
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1978: PAUL SCHILDT
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NEWSLETTER

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

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REPORT ON THE THIRD NATIONAL CONGRESS

By fellow member Charles Spiegle

The Third National Congress of Civil War Round Tables assembled in Jackson, Mississippi on October 6th. One hundred seventeen people attended from twenty-six states representing twenty-five Round Tables.

The morning of the first day was spent discussing battlefield preservation. The infamous Tower at Gettysburg was discussed as was the fine work done at Prairie Grove. The work at Nashville and Franklin has not been as successful. The Nashville battlefield is covered with houses and a baseball park is to go up on the site of Fort Negley. Franklin has nothing left. At Manassas the National Park Service wants to purchase a tract between the present park boundaries and Interstate 66. Both Senators Byrd and Scott of Virginia have been indifferent. If you want to stop the encroachment onto this field I heartily suggest you write to Senators Glenn, Metzenbaum, and Byrd as there is currently a House-passed bill before the Senate that needs to be passed.

The highpoint of the day Friday was a visit to the Old Capitol Museum, a beautiful building well worth visiting if you are in the area, and a reception at the Governor's Mansion. Governor Finch personally greeted us and the reception was enjoyable.

Saturday, October 8th was a truly historic day. We were a part of history for this was the day when Champion Hill was dedicated as a National Historic site. The Civil War Congress attended the ceremony at which Mrs. Champion, the wife of the great grandson of the Sid Champion, who was there during the Civil War, was present. A monument was erected and Mrs. Champion received a scroll.

After lunch we toured the Vicksburg National Park guided by Al Scheller and Ed Bearss (who else). We suffered through a torrential downpour and truly appreciated what the troops went through. However, we did not go to Magnolia Church!

They saved the best speaker for last. James P. Coleman, former Governor of Mississippi spoke on "Mississippi's involvement in the Civil War".

The Congress was established primarily for the purpose of battlefield preservation. It is about time that those of us interested in maintaining our battlefields and more important our national heritage take a stand in this regard. If there is much more encroachment we won't have to worry about field trips unless you like to visit towers, bowling alleys, housing developments and shopping centers.

I encourage all of you to join the Civil War Round Table Associates. The cost is \$7.50 per year and the address is: Civil War Round Table Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72207.

My personal thanks go to Jerry Russell who has done an outstanding job in organizing these Congresses and to the guiding light in the Civil War Round Table Associates.

Next year's meeting will be held in Richmond and I feel that the Civil War Round Table of Cleveland should have more than one representative. "On to Richmond".

ALL ABOUT HORSES

By fellow member Stuart Cramer

One of the many interesting trivia uncovered during our recent field trip to the scenes of Jackson's Shenandoah Valley campaign was the fact that Lee's horse, "Traveler" has finally been buried. His skeleton had been exhibited for years, and many had objected to this rather macabre display. This still leaves General Jackson's "Little Sorrel", stuffed and saddled, and slightly moth-eaten at the museum at the Virginia Military Institute. Two items about these famous chargers struck the writer, who has had some experience with horse furniture.

First was the bridle and bit that General Lee used on "Traveler" that was also displayed. The bit was extraordinary because of the extremely high curb - that inverted "U" in the center of the bit. This type is only used for very fractious and hard-to-handle animals, the usual curb being only a slight rise in the bit's center. From his pictures, "Traveler" never struck me as being a wild or even spirited type. The other observation was "Little Sorrel's" thin neck, short head, and rather ungainly configuration. It must have been true that Old Jack presented a loose, unmilitary appearance (especially if he was holding a lemon up in the air).

These recall some favorite Civil War horse stories. At the unveiling of the magnificent equestrian statue of General John Hunt Morgan, at Lexington, Kentucky, shortly after the war, it is written that one of General Hunt's veterans shouted, "Good God, they put balls on the General's old mare." Years ago on my first visit to Lexington, when I viewed the statue some college wag had painted the above famous testicles a bright red. Last time there I noticed they'd raised the statue to a very high base. The paint had been removed.

The second story concerns Nathan Bedford Forrest's favorite stallion, which he had taught to hate Yankees. You will recall that on several

occasions General Forrest rode right into the enemy ranks, where both he and his horse engaged in furious personal combat, Old Bedford slashing with his mighty sword, his mount kicking and biting. One time in Memphis, where Forrest lived and died, his wife had the old warhorse hitched up to a buggy and drove into town to market.

A squad of policemen happened to be marching along the sidewalk to their various duty stations when they were spotted by the horse. Blue-coats! Up over the curb dashed the steed, scattering the cops, almost upsetting the buggy before by-standers could get him under control.

I also like to visualize General Meade's precipitous and embarrassing retreat across the battlefield at Gettysburg when his horse ran away with him. I can just imagine old Meade sawing away at the reins yelling, "Whoa, goddammit, whoa!" while the horse muttered between its teeth, "to hell with this noise."

CROSS KEYS HISTORICAL DISPLAY SITE PLANNED

The battlefield of Cross Keys has been selected by the Directors of the Lee-Jackson Foundation to be the site for a historical display interpreting the next to the last battle in Stonewall Jackson's classic Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862.

Back in the late 50's the Foundation's founder, the late Jay W. Johns, purchased almost one hundred acres of the Cross Keys battlefield together with portions of those at McDowell and Port Republic. This purpose was to perpetuate the name and fame of his hero through preserving and developing Jackson's battlefield. Development never got very far; Jay Johns was diverted to other acquisitions and today the battlefields remain barren fields and woods where only a military historian can identify and locate what took place. Our purpose is to construct permanent outdoor displays which will explain the battlefields to the casual visitor. Cross Keys will be the pilot project with the others to follow.

The site will be located on the prominent terrain known as "Victory Hill" where the Federal forces were turned back. In this pivotal action, Trimble's Brigade composed of North Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama regiments, met and routed Blenker's New York regiments, a part of Fremont's Corps. This prevented Fremont from closing with Shields whom Jackson confronted at Port Republic. Had this occurred, it might have turned Port Republic, the last battle of the series, into a Federal victory and seriously impaired Jackson's effectiveness in the major battles to follow after he joined Lee.

Tentative plans call for a native limestone base or platform of 20 to 30 feet in diameter. The base will be bounded by a knee-high parapet (also of limestone), outside of which will be erected cast aluminum descriptive panels, elevated for easy reading. These panels (about three by five feet in size) will be oriented toward the forces engaged during the battle and will describe and illustrate the various actions which took place. Of the three panels, one will be devoted to the Confederate action, one to the Union while the third will be a map of the entire battlefield.

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF 1978 PROPOSED FIELD TRIP

(On our recent Field Trip, Bill Bates had two guests, Messrs. Reynolds and Shoaff. Here are details on the European Field Trip they are arranging.)

TRIP TO POLAND

Via Air Poland

12 days - 4 nites
January 21 - February 30, 1978
(2-day extension)

ITINERARY

- 1st. Day Leave Cleveland International Airport at 4:35 a.m. All passengers travel First Class aboard Air Poland's Uni-Engine Jumbo Jet
- 2nd. Day In Air
- 3rd. Day In Air
- 4th. Day In Air
- 5th. Day Arrive Warsaw 9:00 p.m. and on to Warsaw Hilton Basement Annex for Box Dinner
- 6th. Day After breakfast, complete city tour of Warsaw, 9:30 - 9:40 a.m. Free time for shoplifting, followed by fabulous 7-course meal. (Polish sausage & 6-pack)
- 7th. Day Tour the country side in the comfort of a rebuilt Polish Army Tank. Some continue on by Jeep to Bangladesh (Optional)
- 8th. Day Back in Warsaw for a tour of the University of Poland (both buildings) Everyone will get to see the book in the War College Library
- 9th. Day Board your waiting Jumbo Jet to the U.S.A. Only three quick stops (2 for fuel and 1 for directions)
- 10th. Day In Air
- 11th. Day In Air
- 12th. Day Arrive Cleveland between 10:00 a.m. and Midnight, depending on weather conditions and fuel leakage.

ONLY \$49.50

Includes all:

Transportation, meals, drugs, tours, transfers, hotel accommodations, first aid, and PARACHUTES.*

*May open only on Impact with solid object

[Please reserve _____ places on
[the "TRIP TO POLAND". Enclosed is
[my check for \$2.98 deposit. (Not
[refundable)

[Please Check:

[☐ Optional Flight Insurance
[(\$400 per Person)

[☐ Optional side trip to
[Bangladesh, \$12.98 per person

DON'T DELAY! NO TICKETS SOLD AFTER TAKEOFF!