



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

OCTOBER 1966

Vol. 10, No. 1

79th Meeting

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1966

SPEAKER: MR. RALPH W. DONNELLY

SUBJECT: "SIDE-LIGHTS OF THE
CONFEDERATE NAVY"

PLACE: HERMIT CLUB, DODGE COURT

PRELIMINARIES: 6 PM DINNER: 7 PM

MR. RALPH W. DONNELLY

Our October speaker was born in Washington, D.C. almost 53 years ago; graduated from the Wilson Teachers College where he majored in history and geography, and secured his M.A. degree in political science from the Catholic University of America. He taught in the junior high school field for twelve years (mathematics, of course) and has been in life insurance work for the past nineteen years. Is currently the Vice President--Operations for the Stonewall Jackson life insurance company of Huntington, West Virginia.

He belonged to the Civil War Round Table of Washington, D.C. and helped get one started in Charlotte, N.C. a few years ago. He has been a member of the American Military Institute for some years, and was formerly on the Editorial Board and is currently their Treasurer.

As for his writings his MS. history of the Confederate States Marine Corps is still looking for an eager publisher. He has had various articles published in MILITARY AFFAIRS, CIVIL WAR HISTORY, AND ORDNANCE. His research has been on the work of the Confederate Nitre and Mining Bureau, the C.S. Navy and Marine Corps, and on Rocket Batteries in the Civil War.

Our speaker wishes to cover topics which are rarely talked about. Discussion of such topics as the part played by the Virginia (or Merrimack) in the Peninsula Campaign, personnel of the Navy, enlisted and officer, the effect of conditions on the health of the men, the influence of "sea worms," and something on the sources of information on the Confederate States Navy.

THE CLEVELAND BULLETIN BOARD

ROBERT E. WARREN SR.

IN MEMORIAM

For the fourth time in our ten years death has claimed a member of the roundtable. In this case it took more than just a member but a man beloved by all of us who knew him well. Bob was a charter member and most vigorous in our activities until recent years when the pressures of business and health forced him to slow down. A gallant student of the war in the west he championed many times to have more speakers on the subject. Our sincerest wishes and condolences to his family.

DINNER RESERVATIONS

We are again returning to the enclosed, stamped envelope to forward your dinner reservations for the October 11th meeting. We fervently hope that this year the newsletter will reach you in more than sufficient time to return your check.

To insure the newsletter reaching you in plenty of time so you may return your check, a penalty will be imposed for paying at the meeting because of forgetfulness. It will be \$5.00 by check or \$6.00 at the door.

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. Just call our secretary, GUY DI CARLO at 771-7900. He'll cover for you.

NEW MEMBERS

The roundtable wishes to announce the acceptance of the following men as regular and junior members. Congratulations and welcome.

Mr. George M. Donihi, Eagle Road RD #3, Waite Hill, Willoughby, Ohio
Mr. Nolan F. Heidlebaugh, 1280 Overlook Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44107

JUNIOR MEMBERS

Mr. Mark Holmes, 26836 Hilliard Road, Westlake, Ohio
Mr. James E. Minarik, 21480 North Park Drive, Fairview Park, Ohio

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

At one time during the war Union soldiers were cautioned against robbing civilians and the excuses offered were varied and many when reproached. Probably one of the most amusing is that one offered by a soldier when confronted by an officer concerning the "goose and hen" in his possession. Here is the glib reply--"Oh, bedad Sir, this goose came out as I was wending my way along and hissed at the American Flag, and bajebez I shot him on the spot....and I found this hen laying eggs for the Rebel Army I hit her a whack that stopped that act of treason on the spot, too." (TRUE PATROITISM..VERDICT: PROBABLY, NOT GUILTY).

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from your thoroughly nominated never elected President. My acceptance made it binding although I would have appreciated an actual vote (it was by acclamation).

A too short summer brings us back to serious business for fall and winter---such as "The War". As we receive this newsletter the trip to Nashville (10th Annual) will be past history. Planning this movement has given time for some pleasant comradeship with Les Swift, Bernie Drews, Jim Ramsey, Roy Smith and Guy Di Carlo.

Pat Moran has been busy arranging the programs for the year. The results will soon be obvious. Just wait until he brings up his "big guns".

Mutterings from the ranks--to which we are acutely sensitive--again suggest that widening of our field of interest to include all North American Wars should be seriously considered. The constitution as it now stands would allow for such an expansion of study. All American history is fascinating and it has sometimes seemed in the past few years that "we have been here before too often".

As you all know we have lost two members during this past year to death. Colorful Bob Warren Sr. and Welles Stanley, an Honorary member, Mr. Stanley was in his 90's. His grandfather, Brig General Timothy R. Stanly, a civilian volunteer from souther Ohio entered as Colonel of the 18th Ohio and was in the worst of the action at Stone's River and Chickamauga. See Ned Downer for biographic sketch.

We will miss John Stevning this year through his promotion and transfer out of the city. We'll miss his succinct and pointed comments and performance at the box office. Through these losses there should be some new openings for membership. We plan to fill these with other persons with a geniune contribution to make.

So close up men---drive in the stragglers and see where this campaign takes us.

WLS

MORE CIVIL WAR HUMOR

We are indebted to the Waco newsletter for this one...The 11th Mississippi was noted for being a rough, tough fighting unit that asked and gave no quarter. Being backwoodsmen, they were also famous marksmen. A farmer reported the loss of a pig to Gen Whiting testifying that a shot had been heard followed by a squeal. The General replied soberly, When the 11th shoots a hog, it don't squeal."

THE FIRST CALL TO ARMS

On April 15, 1861, Lincoln issued a proclamation for 75,000 militia for three months. Under this call there were furnished by the loyal states some 91,816 men....They came as follows:

STATES	QUOTA	MEN FURNISHED
MAINE	780	771
NEW HAMPSHIRE	780	779
VERMONT	780	782
MASSACHUSETTS	1,560	3,736
RHODE ISLAND	780	3,147
CONNECTICUT	780	2,402
NEW YORK	13,280	13,906
NEW JERSEY	3,123	3,123
PENNSYLVANIA	12,500	20,175
DELAWARE	780	775
MARYLAND	3,123	---
WEST VIRGINIA (NOT YET A STATE)	2,340	900
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	---	4,720
OHIO	10,153	12,357
INDIANA	4,683	4,686
ILLINOIS	4,683	4,820
MICHIGAN	780	781
WISCONSIN	780	817
MINNESOTA	780	980
IOWA	780	968
MISSOURI	3,123	10,591
KENTUCKY	3,123	---
KANSAS	---	650
TENNESSEE	1,560	---
ARKANSAS	1,560	---
NORTH CAROLINA	1,560	---
TOTALS	73,891	91,816

BRAVO BEN BUTLER

Butler, newly appointed Brig General, commanding the Massachusetts Militia in the field, was on his way to Washington with the 8th Mass Reg., to defend the threatened Capital City in April, 1861.

At Philadelphia he learned there might be trouble as the 6th Mass had been attacked by a Baltimore mob while passing through the city. He proceeded to Perryville and seized the ferry steamer "Maryland" upon which he put aboard his troops, and rushed to Annapolis. Here he learned from the Naval Academy officials that Secessionists were threatening to seize the "Constitution," the historic "Old Ironsides," a crewless ship occasionally used in the training of midshipmen of the Academy. Butler, with volunteers from his regiment, manned this historic old warship. With the aid of a tug, he got the warship out of the harbor and under the protection of the "R.R. Cyler" which took the old warship to New York and out of danger of capture.

look for more of the deeds of Ben Butler

GENERAL JAMES BIRDSEYE McPHERSON

McPHERSON, JAMES BIRDSEYE (Nov. 14, 1828-July 22, 1864), Union soldier, was born in Green Creek township, Sandusky County, Ohio, near the present town of Clyde. He was the son of William and Cynthia (Russell) McPherson. Appointed cadet at the United States Military Academy in 1849, he graduated in 1853 at the head of his class, and was assigned to the corps of engineers as brevet second lieutenant. For a year he was retained at the Academy as assistant instructor in practical engineering, and was then assigned to duty in connection with river and harbor improvement and seacoast fortification. Upon duty of this nature he continued, first on the Atlantic and then on the Pacific coast until 1861; meanwhile, he was promoted second lieutenant, Dec. 18, 1854, and first lieutenant Dec 13, 1858.

The outbreak of the Civil War found him in San Francisco. He was ordered East, and employed on fortification work in Boston. Upon the enlargement of the regular army, May 14, 1861, he was offered a commission as captain in the new 19th Infantry, but declined it, and on Aug 6th reached the grade of captain in his own corps. When Gen Halleck assumed command in Missouri, he took the new captain with him as an aide-de-camp, with the rank of lieutenant colonel and later of colonel. He served first as assistant engineer, Department of Missouri, but when General Grant opened his Tennessee campaign in February 1862, he accompanied the expedition as chief engineer, and from that time on was constantly in the field. While before Corinth, May 15, 1862, he was promoted brigadier-general of volunteers; and after the occupation of that place he was made military superintendent of railways in the district of Western Tennessee. Of his services at this period, General Sherman said: "McPherson... was one of the most useful staff-officers in the whole army--riding night and day.... I think he knew more of the lay...of the country around Corinth than any officer of the army"(HOURS AT HOME, APRIL 1866, pp. 485-86). His first command, small but unusual in character resulted naturally from this employment. On Oct. 2, Rosecrans, at Corinth, was heavily attacked by Van Dorn; the situation seemed critical, and Grant, at Jackson, Tenn., made efforts to reinforce him. McPherson, then at Jackson was directed to collect four regiments stationed along the railway between there and Corinth, and report with them to Rosecrans. He moved by rail to within ten miles of Corinth, detrained, and marched the rest of the way, arriving too late to assist in the repulse of Van Dorn, but in time to lead the pursuit. For his conduct in this affair he was made major-general of volunteers, Oct. 8, 1862, and was assigned to command the 2nd Division, Department of the Tennessee; which command, on Nov 24, became the 2nd Division, XIII Army Corps. Later, Jan. 18, 1863, the army, having been reinforced, was reorganized, and McPherson received command of the XVII Army Corps. He was actively employed throughout the entire Vicksburg campaign, and after the surrender (July 4, 1863) remained in command of the District of Vicksburg until the following March, participating meanwhile in Sherman's raid to Meridian. In recognition of his services before Vicksburg, he was made, Aug. 1 1863, brigadier-general in the regular army.

On Mar. 18, 1864, Grant went east to assume direction of all the armies; Sherman succeeded him in command of the Military Division of the Mississippi, and began preparations for his Atlanta campaign. McPherson took over Sherman's Army of the Tennessee,

assuming command at Huntsville, Mar. 26. At the head of this army he fought the entire campaign, up to the fortifications of Atlanta. At Kenesaw Mountain, the rapid and decisive movements of his force won for it the soldier nickname "the whiplash of the army." On July 22, the armies of the Cumberland and the Ohio were well established north and east of Atlanta. The Army of the Tennessee was directed to connect with the Army of the Ohio on its right, and extend its left to the south. While this movement was in progress, a Confederate turning movement against the left and rear developed. Gen McPherson was at Sherman's headquarters, receiving his orders, and at once started to join his troops. Passing, with a single orderly, through a wood road which had been previously reconnoitered and found clear, he suddenly encountered hostile skirmishers who had penetrated between his XVI and XVII Corps, and was killed.

His death was one of the heaviest individual losses ever suffered by the Union forces. By his superiors, he was recognized as one of the ablest generals in the army. Energetic and ambitious, he welcomed responsibility and active service, but loyally and with no spirit of self-seeking. Grant in a letter written upon leaving the western army, coupled Sherman and McPherson together as "the men to whom, above all others, I feel indebted for whatever I have had of success" (MEMOIRS OF GEN WILLIAM T. SHERMAN, POST, I, 399). Sherman seemed to fully recognize McPherson's talents and was equally emphatic in his praise. In the army at large his talents seemed to be fully recognized, and his advancement to corps and army command gave rise to little or no jealousy. A man of striking and pleasing appearance - over six feet in height, erect and well-proportioned - and possessed in a high degree of the faculty of command, he was able to gain the confidence and loyalty of his subordinates. Young and vigorous, he lived in close association with his troops, and bore his full share of hardship and exposure.

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