



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

OCTOBER 1974

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147th Meeting

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1974

SPEAKER: MR. HOWARD C. ELLIS

SUBJECT: SLAVERY

PLACE: THE HERMIT CLUB, DODGE COURT

PRELIMINARIES: 7:00 PM DINNER: 7:30 PM

MR. HOWARD C. ELLIS

Our speaker for the lead-off meeting at the Hermit Club is Mr. Howard C. Ellis, Assistant Professor at Lorain County Community College. Mr. Ellis taught at the University of Maryland for one year before coming to Lorain County Community College where he has been teaching for the past seven years. Both his B.A. and Master's degree are from the University of Maryland. His thesis work was entitled "Travelers' Views of the Negro, 1790-1824" which he wrote in 1967. He has done further graduate work at Kent State and Akron Universities. He has also written "Moral Persuasion and Martyr Spirit" and "Historians' Views of Slave Insurrections." His main area of work has been on Southern and Afro-American History, with emphasis on slavery. He is presently writing a book comparing slave systems at different times and in different places, for example Romans and Greeks compared to the Africans and Europeans.

Be sure to join us for an interesting and informative evening.

SLAVERY

From: "The Rattling Chains"

By: Nicholas Halasz

"The substance of North-South animosity (1860) continued to focus on slavery as the most spectacular difference between the two ways of life. Yet the large majority of the population of the South had no economic interest in it. Six million whites inhabited the slave holding states; only about 350,000 of them owned slaves, and most of these had only less than 10 each. Not more than 1400 white men owned over 100 slaves each, and only 400 could be considered plantation aristocrats. However, the latter succeeded in having their own social and political vision accepted by the entire southern population as own. In all even the southerner could not now give up that vision, for his identity had been established in it. 'We are two peoples,' Nathaniel Hawthorne said of the two ways of life."

CWRT of CLEVELAND BULLETIN BOARD

REASONS FOR NOT BEING DRAFTED

by Petroleum V. Nasby

(Editor's note: Petroleum V. Nasby was the pseudonym of David Ross Locke, a printer and journalist who worked mainly in Ohio, where he achieved fame as a humorist during the Civil War. After the war he was owner and editor of the Toledo Blade. The piece which follows was written by Nasby in August, 1862.)

"I see in the papers last nite that the Government hez insti-tooted a draft, and that in a few weeks sun hundreds uv thousands uv peeceable citizens will be dragged to the tented field. I know not wat uthers may do, but ez for me, I cant go. Upon a rigid eggsamina-shun uv my fizzleckle man, I find it wood be wus nor madnis for me to undertake a campane, to-wit:

"I'm bald-headid, and hev bin oblized to wear a wig these 22 year I hev dandruff in wat scanty hair still hangs around my venerable temples. I hev a kronic katarr. I hev lost, sence Stanton's order to draft, the use uv wun eye entirely, and hev kronic inflammashen in the other.

"My teeth is all unsound, my palit aint eggsactly rite, and I hev hed bronkeetis 31 yeres last Joon. At present I hev a koff, the paroxisms uv wich is friteful to behold. I'm holler-chestid, am short winded, and hev alluz hed pains in my back and side. I am afflictid with kronic diarrear and kostivniss. The money I hev paid (or promist to pay) for Jayneses karminnytiv balsam and pills wood astonish almost enny body.

"Iam rupchered in nine places, and am entirely enveloped with trusses. I hev verrykose vanes, hev a white swellin on wun leg and a fever sore on the uthar; also wun leg is shorter than tother, though I handle it so expert that nobody never noticed it. I hev korns and bunyons on both feet, wich wood prevent me from marchin.

"I don't suppose that my political opinions, wich are against the prossekooshn uv this unconstooshnel war, wood hev any wate with a draftin orfiser; but the above reasons why I cant go, will, I make no doubt, be suffishent."

EDITOR'S NOTE: My thanks to the CWRT of Kentucky newsletter who used this excellent piece first so I could find it for you.

NOTABLE DEATH

It was with deep regret that we learned of the passing of Ezra J. "Bud" Warner, renowned author of "Generals in Blue" and "Generals in Grey", died in California on May 30, 1974.

* * * * *

A LOGICAL CONFEDERATE ANSWER

To Major General Early:

General: General Jackson desires to know why he saw so many of your stragglers in the rear of your division to-day?

(Signed) A.S. Tendleton
A.A.G.

Dear General Jackson:

In answer to your note I would state that I think it is probable that the reason you saw so many of my stragglers on the march today is due to the fact that you rode in the rear of division,

Respectfully, Jubal Early, J. Gen.

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PLAN OF THE TENNESSEE CAMPAIGN

Anna Ella Carroll.

Not long after the extra session of Congress was called to meet in July, 1861, Senator Breckenridge was promptly on the ground and took his seat. This was in exact accordance with the purpose for which he was sent--not at that time fully understood. But when he gave utterance to his secession views, and made his speech in aid of the disunion movement, and support of the Southern Confederacy, the entire animus of the movement was disclosed. I wrote a reply to that speech, intending it for publication, as a citizen of Maryland, and of the United States. It referred to every point he had made in favor of disunion; defended the President, as supreme ruler of the nation and its armies, in every action he had taken to save the Union; and showed the design of the conspirators against the Government in all they had done, to the first drop of blood shed to unite the South, and, as they vauntingly thought, to cut off the North, and establish their own independence as The Nation. As soon as it was printed, I sent a copy to the President through Attorney General Bates. Mr. Lincoln returned his grateful thanks, saying it was the best defense of his rule that any one had ever made. Mr. Hamlin, the Vice President, also expressed his gratification, as also did the various members of the Cabinet. This paper was largely circulated by the War Department as a "war measure."

Colonel Scott showed me a paper from the President concerning this and other articles that I might write which would be valuable to the country.

During all the summer months of 1861 my time was mostly given to the preparation of writings to put the people in possession of the true theory of our Government and to define and defend the war powers it possesses.

In the fall, in compliance with an understanding from the Assistant Secretary of War, Col. Thomas A. Scott, indorsed by Mr. Lincoln, I concluded to go West and inform myself as to the military and political situation in that quarter. I promised to write anything valuable I obtained, and also to submit my writings for the Government to the Department (meaning Mr. Lincoln), in advance of their publication: Which was done. I soon found that, in the West, the cause of the Union was deemed hopeless, even by its strongest adherents.

Some of my recent articles had been copied into newspapers in the West, so that as I visited the various military camps I received a cordial welcome from the officers in command. I visited them all. It was a matter of much surprise to me to find so many people in that section impressed with the Southern doctrine of States Rights. Every now and then some one would say: "I am not surprised, Miss Carroll, that you are a Union woman, because your State is in the Union; but would you

be if this were not the case?" It struck me there was danger then in the great North-west. Leaving Chicago, I went to St. Louis, where I remained for some weeks.

While prosecuting my writing I was also diligently inquiring as to the best means of averting the dangers which threatened the Union.

At the Mercantile Library in St. Louis, where I went to search of books that I wanted, I met the brother of General Albert Sydney Johnson who happened to be the librarian, and had read some of my papers in the press. Being the brother of the most famous soldier in that section of country, I gained from him a great deal of information as to what was expected to be accomplished. He had once lived in my vicinity, and readily told me his views on the prospect. This led to a very warm discussion, and drew many into the library to listen. He expressed astonishment that I, a Southern woman, should be working so vigorously against my section, and after all it would amount to nothing; that, by spring, the whole thing would be at an end; Price would have redeemed Missouri, and Buckner the whole of Kentucky; and, before spring, even, the party of peace would be at the front, and demand concessions from your Government or strike for independence." "Independence, indeed!" said I, "before spring your boasted independence as a nation will be at an end." "How," said he, "are you going to reduce the Mississippi?" I looked him in the face, surrounded by his friends, and said, "yes; before spring all the strongholds in your Mississippi will have vanished as thin air." They all sneered, and thought me, no doubt, a very foolish calculator. However, Mr. Johnston continued to lend me books, and treated me with due attention. As the brother of General A.S. Johnston I took note of all he said. I also took notice of the opinions I heard expressed by the various persons whom I met. I went to General Fremont's. He was absent on one of his expeditions. His wife was in command in St. Louis.

While assuming great confidence in the Union cause, I must confess my apprehension of danger grew daily more intense, and my determination to find some solution for the difficulties of the situation grew stronger.

President Lincoln was relying on the great Mississippi to defeat the armed power of the South, and all with whom I talked said it never could be opened, and that there was no possible way to turn that strongly fortified river, impregnable to any advance on it from Columbus to Memphis.

When I saw that battle-torn regiment, 7th Iowa, as it fled into Benton Barracks, that memorable autumn morning after the battle of Belmont, it sickened my heart, and a conviction fastened upon me that there was a way of escape; that either the Tennessee or Cumberland River might afford the needed depth of water for the passage of the gun-boats into the heart of the South. I meant to find out, if I had to remain in St. Louis a month longer. It struck me the river pilots ought to be able to satisfy me as to the depth and width of all the Western rivers. I resolved to seek them, and inquire, for I knew the high military men would never inquire of them, as I told General Grant long after. I heard that the wife of one was in the hotel where I stopped. Her husband was a pilot on one of the transports at the battle of Belmont. I went to her room, and made many inquiries, and gained some information. She was then anxious as to her husband's fate, but promised to send him to me as soon as he should return to the city.

As soon as I heard of his return from Belmont, I sent for him myself, when he came, and I learned what I wanted to know, and found that the water in the Cumberland River was deep enough for the gun-boats at some seasons, and the Tennessee River at all seasons, the thought flashed on me in an instant, that here was the true way to the solution of the military problem, that here we could do all that here we could do all that it had been designed to do on the Mississippi, with none of the difficulties which that river

Judge Evans, of Texas, Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of that State, had fortunately called at that moment. I was greatly excited at this thought, and, meeting him in the hall, I inquired of him if such a movement could not be made. He was a Western man, born near the Tennessee River, and had lived near the foot of the Muscle Shoals most of his life. He concurred, after a little reflection, that the right way would be as I proposed, to transfer the national armies from the Mississippi to the Tennessee River. I said, "It shall be done; I will have it done with some emphasis, and I then asked him to come and join me in obtaining from the pilot, Mr. Scott, information as to his special knowledge of the matter. He told us that every one of the pilots believed it certain destruction to attempt to reduce the fortifications on the water of the Mississippi River. I wrote at once to the Hon. Edward Bates, Attorney-General, who had been the one first to suggest the gun-boats for the Mississippi expedition, and to Assistant Secretary of War Col. Scott, and then to President Lincoln. I next proceeded to Ohio, and then to Covington, Kentucky. On every hand the talk was only of storming the impregnable Mississippi. Stopping in Buffalo, on my way to Washington, I met there, among other friends, ex-President Fillmore. He seemed anxious to learn my opinion of the dark look of things, and what I thought would be the result. He expressed his faith in the discovery I revealed to him, and asked if President Lincoln had heard from me, and advised me to lose no time in submitting my views to the Cabinet in Washington. Soon after arriving in Washington City, I took the papers which I had prepared, and called with them at the War Department on the 30th day of November, 1861. There I saw Colonel T.A. Scott, Assistant Secretary of War. He said he had received my letter from St. Louis, and had showed it to the President, who was anxious to see me, and hear what I had to say. I then opened the paper with maps and diagrams, and read slowly, explaining to Colonel Scott. He was a good deal excited, and said earnestly, "Will you give me this?" I said, "It is for the use of the Government I have prepared it. Will you take it to the President? If you have this fully executed you will not only save this Union but cover yourself with glory." Then I left him, without a thought of myself, thinking only of the plan, and feeling conscious that it would in Colonel Scott's hands be faithfully executed as I had advised, to the salvation of the Union. And it was.

Early the same evening it was in the hands of President Lincoln, and fully understood as coming direct from me. Colonel Scott said to me afterward, and spoke of it again not long before his death, that he never saw a greater manifestation of pleasure than Mr. Lincoln expressed as soon as he saw my solution of the great problem of the war.

Mr. Lincoln had unbounded confidence in Colonel Scott's knowledge of the railroad system of the South, and its use in war. He at once understood the plan in all its bearings. President Lincoln had reserved to himself, as supreme commander of the army and navy, control of the Mississippi expedition, and had been waiting for the building of the gun-boats which were in progress when I was in St. Louis. His order was to let him know when they were completed. I knew all that was going on pretty well, but I thought no more of myself than if I had had no connection with the military operations, and in conversation generally made no allusion to the probability of a change of plans in the department of the West, knowing all the time, however, that it had been my great privilege to have placed in the hands of the Government the plan for the transfer of the national armies from the Mississippi River to a new base in North Mississippi and Alabama, on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad and being assured by those who received it that it was the first and only idea of such action that had ever been presented, then or afterward. Of this fact there never was, and never can be, the shadow of a doubt.

Mr. Lincoln's terms of approval were intensely strong. The army and gun-boats had gone up the Tennessee River, carrying astonishment

and consternation to the South, and had demonstrated the wisdom of the plan of advancing upon that line.

When the news reached the Capitol at Washington, of victory in Tennessee, Judge Evans, of Texas, hastened to my lodgings, and exclaimed "You have accomplished your work. The army is on the march upon the Tennessee, and the decisive point is gained." I cannot express my joy at that eventful moment. But in my heart I ascribed it all to the Providence of my Almighty Father, who had so ordered it all, and endowed me with ability to do this work for the safety and glory of my country.

I went to the War Department and saw Mr. Tucker, Assistant Secretary in place of Colonel Scott, who was then in the West. Mr. Tucker said to me: "I know from Colonel Scott, who told me before he left, Miss Carroll, that you were the one who had designed this plan, and that he himself was going West to assist in having it executed." I had a letter from Mr. Tucker, expressing his interest in my claim, just before my last terrible illness.

Hon. Elisha Whittlesey, First Comptroller of the Treasury, and a valued friend of mine, requested a copy of my plan soon after the great victory for the Union had been achieved and all hearts were being cheered by the blessing. He said he wished to leave the copy of the draft as a legacy to his children to remember me. Some years after Mr. Whittlesey's death, his son sent it to me from Mansfield, Ohio.

In the House of Representatives, February 24, 1862, when Mr. Rosco Conkling introduced his resolution to find out, and award merit to those who planned these military movements, I was present, and heard the names of one and another military man spoken of as the probable author of the plans.

Several, both in the House and in the Senate, knew all the facts of the matter, but kept silent from prudential motives. The desirability of silence occurred to my own mind, and was also suggested by Mr. Lincoln and the War Department, so that no expression was then given to the true facts of the case. Some however, who knew about it, thought it wrong to have no proclamation of the facts at that time, and could scarcely be restrained from saying so. The discussion being continued some time, one claiming the honor for his military preference, and one for another, a member from New York, a Mr. Olin, said, "Let the Secretary of War be requested to give us the information." Then Mr. Thaddeus Stevens made a motion to reconsider, and the original resolution was referred to committee on military affairs, February 25, 1862.

There it slept.

ANNA ELLA CARROLL

EDITOR'S NOTE: Miss Carroll's article appeared in the NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, 1886. Digging back into my files I found this article that appeared in the May, 1970 issue of the Washington, D.C. CWRT concerning one of their members, Cash Keller, who became interested in her activities. He wrote that he "became convinced Miss Carroll needing money in her old age, began pushing her cause after the War, when conveniently, those who could refute her claim out of hand either were dead or their memories had faded. Of course, Miss Carroll had much precedent for her attempt to mulct the U.S. Treasury, but she never was able to convince the financial purse-strings committees in the Congress of the justice of her claim." A pair of writers, the late Sydney Greenbie and Marjorie Barstow Greenbie, long after the fact, took up Anna's cause, and published books which even credited the Maryland Amazon with authoring Winfield Scott's "Anaconda Plan". Member Cash rallied unimpeachable sources to show that the Greenbies were 'way overboard.' Historians at the Centennial Commission rejected the Carroll claims as unfounded after Cash Keller had shot Anna Ella's case full of holes.

EDITOR'S NOTE: - From an article by the Greenbie's: "She sleeps today in the graveyard of Old Trinity Church, near Cambridge--the unhonored general of the Civil War." (Can't trust women...at least when it comes to historic facts.Editor)