



THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

SEPTEMBER 1977

Vol. 21 No. 1

----173rd Meeting----

Date: Tuesday, September 13, 1977

Speaker: David Chollet

Subject: Hood's Tennessee Campaign and
Confederate "Victory"

Place: The G A R Hall, Peninsula, Ohio (Route 303)

Preliminaries: 6:00 p.m. etc. Dinner: 8:00 p.m. Buffet

IMPORTANT : This is our annual meeting in conjunction with the Western Reserve Round Table. Please note the location. Reservations are a MUST. To reserve call Charles Spiegle at his new office number, 241-1800 or his residence, 461-9096.

Have all of us been HOODwinked?

Opinion is nearly unanimous that John Bell Hood was a superb leader at the brigade or division level, but most savants think that as a commander of a corps or an army Hood was a failure. Our speaker is a revisionist on the subject of Hood, with a different view of the man's performance.

Chollet will describe Hood's invasion of middle Tennessee in the autumn of 1864 and will discuss the events at Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville from a different point of View.

This first meeting of the Fall promises to be a controversial one. Members who wish may bring bouquets to toss to the speaker, but ripe tomatoes, rotten eggs, and dead cats will be frowned on.

Chollet is a 1971 graduate of Princeton University where he was a member of the Russian Studies program. He taught for two years at University School.

A GOODIE FOR OPENERS

Thomas Carlyle, the Scottish historian, observed of the American Civil War: "There they are, cutting each other's throats, because one half of them prefer hiring their servants for life, and the other by the hour." - Kentucky CWRT

LAST CALL FOR THE 1977 FIELD TRIP

Thursday, September 22nd will mark the start of this year's field trip to the scenic, historic and nearby Shenandoah Valley. Have you made your reservation?

The trip will begin with assembly early that evening in the historic town of Lexington, Va. Friday. The many sites of this area will be visited including Lee's tomb and office, the campus of Washington & Lee, the museum at the Virginia Military Institute and many other places at this unique military and engineering school. Harrisonburg, Cross Keys, and Port Republic are on the agenda as is a stop at the unusual New Market museum and battlefield.

Saturday will be under the guidance of Ed Bearss, "than whom there is no than whomer." Major stops include Winchester, Front Royal, Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill. Those on the trip will ride or tread in the horseprints or footsteps of Jackson, Early, Sheridan, Breckenridge and Sigel. One evening is expected to be devoted to a song fest in the uncensored vernacular.

Our vice President, Bill Bates, has devoted much time and effort to arranging this trip which promises to be a dandy. Reservations are necessary - call Bates at 579-6833. If you need a ride he can probably find you one.

Don't delay -- call right away!

REPORT ON 1977 "MINI" FIELD TRIP

On a pleasant summer day, last July 30th, thirteen members, and guests made the one-day trip to Spiegel Grove and Johnson's Island. Members reporting for duty were Bill Schlesinger, Bill Chamberlin, Fred Gill, Stuart Cramer, Abel Robertson, John Wilson, Charlie Spiegle, Neville Bayless, Tom Koehl and Art Jordan. First stop was the beautifully situated Victorian home of President Rutherford B. Hayes. After a short visit to the president's tomb, the group spent a fascinating hour at the Haye's museum on the same grounds. Besides the Civil War and Presidential material, the museum contains a wealth of other memorabilia. A pleasant luncheon was enjoyed in a private room of the Island House in Port Clinton, Ohio. Finally, the caravan of autos drove to Johnson's Island where the visit centered around the peaceful, and well maintained cemetery for Confederate officers. Upon departure everyone agreed it was an interesting day, and thanked Charlie Spiegle for arranging the trip.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 19, 1957

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PUTTING ON THE GLOVES ---- RHETORICALLY SPEAKING

One of the most fascinating meetings in the annals of our Round table took place on April 18, 1960. A panel of five members, each of whom spoke for 12 minutes, gave their selections of the best and worst Union generals and briefed the facts and conclusions upon which their selections were based. The speaker and their selections were:

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Best</u>	<u>Worst</u>
Henry Berry	Meade	Hooker
Don Hamill	McClellan	McClellan
Tom Knickerbocker	Thomas	Grant
Les Swift	Thomas	Burnside
Bill West	Grant	Burnside

The talks displayed a dispassionate and thorough going knowledge of the strength and shortcomings of the various commanders. Each of the speakers avoided the mistakes of basing their ratings on any one battle or campaign and of comparing performances under varying circumstances. There was disagreement between the speakers, and between the speakers and the audience, on the conclusions arrived at, but everyone had a great time. Of the speakers only Don Hamill is still a member.

If you have other candidates for the BEST and the WORST let the powers that be know. You may wind up as a speaker or a contributor to this Newsletter! The pay will not be high but your fame will be considerable. To paraphrase Huey Long: "Every man an expert!"

We recommend for reading or re-reading Mark Twain's Innocents Abroad, first published in 1869, which is not a children's book. After visiting Pompeii, Mark philosophizes as follows:

"After browsing among the stately ruins of Rome, of Baiae, of Pompeii, and after glancing down the long marble ranks of battered and nameless imperial heads that stretch down the corridors of the Vatican, one thing strikes me with a force it never had before: the unsubstantial, unlasting character of fame. Men lived long lives, in the olden time, and struggled feverishly through them, toiling like slaves, in oratory, in generalship, or in literature, and then laid them down and died, happy in the possession of an enduring history and a deathless name. Well, twenty little centuries flutter away, and what is left of these things? A crazy inscription on a block of stone, which snuffy antiquaries bother over and tangle up and make nothing of but a bare name (which they spell wrong) - no history, no tradition, no poetry - nothing that can give it even a passing interest. What may be left of General Grant's great name forty centuries hence? This - in the Encyclopedia for A.D. 5868, possibly.

URIAH S. (or Z.) GRAUNT - popular poet of ancient times in the Aztec provinces of the United States of British America. Some authors say flourished about A.D. 742; but the learned Ah-ah Foo-foo states that he was a contemporary of Scharkspyre, the English poet, and flourished about A.D. 1327, some three centuries after the Trojan War instead of before it. He wrote 'Rock me to sleep, Mother'.

These thoughts sadden me. I will to bed."

--Newsletter, District of Columbia CWRT

FUN & FACTS FEST -- THE FIRST TWENTY FIELD TRIPS

Anyone who has gone on a Cleveland Civil War Round Table Field Trip knows that they combine delightful camaradie with a splendid opportunity to understand campaigns and battles of the War. A list of the trips since 1957 follows. Naturally Antietam, Fredricksburg and Gettysburg have been visited most often. While no records of attendance have been kept, it is believed that Bill Schlesinger has been on more trips than any other member.

- 1957 Antietam, Harper's Ferry and Winchester
- 1958 The Fredricksburg battlefield area
- 1959 The Shenandoah Valley
- 1960 Brandy Station and Second Manassas
- 1961 Gettysburg
- 1962 Richmond battlefield area
- 1963 Central Kentucky
- 1964 Antietam and South Mountain
- 1965 Chattanooga and Chickamauga
- 1966 Nashville and Stones River
- 1967 Fredricksburg battlefield area
- 1968 West Point Academy and Saratoga
- 1969 West Virginia battlefields
- 1970 Washington, D. C. area
- 1971 Sherman's campaign to Atlanta

1972 Vicksburg
1973 Richmond, Appomattox, etc.
1974 Gettysburg
1975 Saratoga, Ticonderoga, etc.
1976 Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam

It appears the only major battlefield we have not visited is Shiloh. There's a good destination for a future trip.

OHIO IN THE CIVIL WAR - THE EWINGS

Among Ohio families which contributed generously to the Union in war and to the nation in peace, the Ewings of Lancaster rank high. It is fairly well known that Senator Thomas Ewing and his wife raised William T. Sherman after the death of his father. The other members of the family stood in the shadow of General Sherman and were not given the fame they deserved. The roll of public servants from the Lancaster home is:

Thomas Ewing (the father) U. S. Senator and Secretary of the Interior;
William T. Sherman, Lt. General, U.S.A.;
Hugh Boyle Ewing, Bvt. Major Gen'l USV, Minister to Holland;
Charles Ewing, Brig. General USV; and
Thomas Ewing, Jr. Bvt. Major General USV.

None of the Ewing's was a swivel chair general. Charles led his battalion in an assault on Vicksburg and was severely wounded while planting its flag on the rampart. Hugh, Colonel of the 30th OVI, led a charge at South Mountain and was on the left at Antietam. He commanded the 4 Division XV Corps at Missionary Ridge. Thomas Jr. was best known for his Order No. 11, depopulating the Missouri border counties in the battle against the guerillas. He was breveted for Pilot Knob.

The younger Ewings were members of a law firm in Leavenworth, Kansas and at one time, General Sherman was a member of the firm. In April '61 Daniel McCook, "of the house of Daniel, of the Fighting McCooks," a brigadier fatally wounded at Kenesaw Mountain, was a member of the firm. After Sumter the partners closed their law office and entered the Union Army.

General Sherman married his foster sister, Ellen Ewing.

DON'T BE A "MUTE INGLORIOUS MILTON"..

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWS LETTER

Now in his second year in the harness, your News Letter Editor asks for, solicits and pleads for articles, long or short, from the membership. Don't be timid--Forrest said every time he saw a pen he thought of a snake, and ol' Bedford could not spell very well, but he was an authentic military genius.

Possible material is almost endless. Have you visited a military site recently, and seen anything new or different? Obtained any new memorabilia? Seen an interesting article? Then send us the

clipping or a xerox. Have you read a new book (or a lesser-known old one) that you would be willing to review?

Almost every member of our Round Table has his own specialized interest in our field. How about preparing a two or three-page article on some phase of your specialty?

Most importantly with regard to subject matter, please remember that our group's field of interest is not confined to the Civil War. Our membership has a wide interest in all American military history and American history in general.

Now is the time for all good "Round Tablers" to come to the aid of their Newsletter!

Those who have contributed during the new regime include: Ray Swanson, Al DeWald, Jack Cullen, Bill Schlesinger, Stuart Cramer, Bernie Drews, Tim Moran, Fred Gill, Leigh Tanger. Sincere thanks to them. (And if you were overlooked, scream like hell!)

THIRD ANNUAL CONGRESS OF CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLES

Will be held Oct. 6-8, 1977 at the Downtown Holiday Inn in Jackson, Mississippi. Cleveland has had members at the last Two Congresses. Here is the tentative program:

Thursday, October 6

Registration, 1:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Optional Tour to Vicksburg at extra charge

Banquet: "Personalities at Vicksburg"

Friday, October 7

Film on "Raising the U.S.S. Cairo"

Battlefield Preservation Seminar

Luncheon: "The Ram Arkansas"

History Seminar: "Significance of Vicksburg From Union and Confederate Viewpoints"

Tour of Historic Buildings

Banquet: "The Vicksburg Campaign"

Saturday, October 8

"The Significance of Champion Hill"

Bus Tour to Champion Hill, the Big Black, Vicksburg National Military Park, etc.

Banquet: "To Be Announced"

Speakers, October 6-8

Dr. O.E. Cunningham, Tulane University

Don Garrett, Jackson CWRT
Dr. W.D. McCain, President Emeritus, Univ. of So. Missi.
Ed Bearss, Senior Historian National Park Service

(For further details or reservations, write to CWRT Associates, P. O. Box 7388, Little Rock Arkansas 72217.)