



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

APRIL 1976

Vol 19 No 8

----- 162nd Meeting -----

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 1976

Speaker: Major Thomas I. Pieper

Subject: "The British Soldier"

Place: The Hermit Club, Dodge Court

Preliminaries: 6:00 PM Dinner: 7:00 PM

TO ARMS! TO ARMS! THE BRITISH ARE COMING!Fear not, members, Americans (and Irishmen), for our speaker is a native of the U.S., born, raised and resident in the Buckeye state. Tom Pieper is the commander of the 23rd Regiment of the Foot (The Royal Welsh Fusiliers in America). His group is authorized by the Royal Welch Fusiliers of the British Army as their official representatives for the Bicentennial. The British regiment was raised in 1689 by William III and first saw action in the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. Coming to America in 1773, the Royal Welch Fusiliers saw action in every major campaign of the Revolution from Concord and Lexington through Yorktown, with the exception of the Burgoyne Campaign.

Major Pieper's program will include putting a lowly private soldier (our fellow member, John Harkness) through the 35-count drill of 1764. In the drill, a Short Land Puttom musket with a 42" barrel and an 18" bayonet will be used. Since this requires 9 to 10 feet of headroom, the Hermit Club may require a replastering job.

Born in Canton, Ohio, Tom Pieper graduated from Heidelberg College and obtained his Master's degree at Kent State. His thesis there was about Ohio and the American Revolution with special emphasis on Fort Laurens. Tom serves on the Committee for the Preservation of Historic Sites and Structures in Stark County and the Fort Laurens Research and Restoration Committee.

Major Pieper's unit will appear in two local American Revolution events:

April 24-25 at the Berea Fair Grounds
 July 17-18 at Hale Farm Village

CHICAGO CWRT BATTLEFIELD TOUR

The Chicago Round Table will soon have its 26th annual field trip. This year they will be going to Manassas-Antietam, May 5-9, 1976. The Chicago trips are well organized and attract a large group. Anyone interested in going should contact for full information: Margaret April, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

VANDALIZATION OF TOMB OF "HANCOCK THE SUPERB"

Camp No. 200 of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War have found that the family mausoleum in Norristown, Pa. containing the remains of General Winfield Scott Hancock has been badly vandalized. The S.U.V.C.W., Camp #200 are raising a national fund to have the tomb restored and protected against future damage. For further information or to make tax deductible contributions, write: GENERAL W. S. HANCOCK FUND, 4278 Griscom Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19124.

HOW THE RAILROADS HELPED DESTROY SECTIONALISM

(Member R. F. Swanson gave an interesting talk last October before our Round Table on Civil War Railroads. Now Ray contributes the following article based on reading "Victory Rode The Rails," by George Edward Turner.)

Twenty years before the Civil War, sectionalism was weakening the ties of a Union seemingly overgrown from its small beginnings along the Eastern seaboard. Within the highly industrialized Northeast, with its vast merchandising and ocean interests, the integration of a social and economic unit had been accomplished. All essential elements of a separate and independent nation were contained. It is not at all surprising that this area should show a certain superiority and claim title to political preference in national administrative affairs. These claims were hotly disputed by the lower belt of states known as the South. This section also had matured its own economy and social structure but along totally different lines from those of the Northeast. The institution of slavery had driven a wedge between the two sections and the confidence of the South in its self-sufficiency ultimately found expression in secession.

The less mature and wholly different Northwest presented still another problem in national unity. It stood firmly on a spirit of political independence, devotion to the rich soil wrested from the forest and a disposition to make what it wished in an area free from economic restrictions. It would have none of either slavery or the inferior position assigned it by the two older sections. In the fierce struggle to build its own agricultural economy, the Northwest suffered from forbidding natural handicaps. Shut off from the Northeast by the Alleghanies, with no markets in the Far West and little means to employ the great fresh water lake area, the Mississippi river system offered the best outlets for its products and towards a controlling tie with South. Political and

THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 19, 1957

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NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Neville Bayless, Ray Swanson
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economic stresses ran counter to the establishment of close relations with the Northeast.

At first it seemed that the establishment of the canal systems in the 1820's would bind the Northeast to the Northwest. Had not steam come to the rivers as the canals came to the lakes, this might have occurred. With steam, the Ohio and Mississippi rivers were no longer one way traffic lines. The Northwest could now float its products down stream, sell them or exchange them for goods needed and driven up river by steam against the current. As it was, the canal and river boats had a stand off against the other.

In the 1840's Southern railroad construction was early in the field, but in the main, the railroads were used to transport cotton from the back country to its port cities. The early Southern railroads formed no new links with other sections of the country.

By 1850, no more than 1400 miles of track had been laid in the Northwest. This was only a beginning and, as in the South, the early effect was more in the direction of confirming sectionalism than of destroying it. In the Northeast, the large commercial interests realized the importance of the railroads for transportation and were prepared to spend millions of dollars to reach the rapidly developing markets of the Northwest. During the ten-year period preceding the war, events moved with an incredible swiftness cementing the relations between the Northeast and the Northwest and thus made certain the ultimate miracle of union which is America.

Four railroad companies armed only with pick and shovel, crowbar and black powder, began their assaults on the stubborn mountains. They had no dynamite or bull-dozers. But in the space of three years, just as time was running out, all four companies reached the Great Lakes, and more important, rail connections with the Northwest. Transportation with the East was not an accomplished fact. That this occurred before secession began is a thing that all Americans can be forever grateful. In the nick of time, the railroads brought an awakening of national interest, an awareness that the states were in fact united, and an abrupt end of the potential danger of sectionalism in the Northwest.

In the remainder of the decade before the Civil War, the Northwest developed at a remarkable rate. Railroads were expanded as rapidly as men could be hired from the farms. Sentiment for separation, widely felt in 1852, slowly withered away. The attempt during the Civil War to revive it through the Copperhead movement and the Northwest Conspiracy came too late and failed. The Northwest would fight for the Union.

FOR SALE: Miller's Photo. Hist.

All ten volumes in good condition of Miller's Photographic History of the Civil War. If interested, call Chuck Spiegle at 687-2805.

WHY NOT ASK BUDWEISER?

The Cyclorama Building in Boston originally housed the giant cycloramic painting of the battle of Gettysburg by Paul Philippoteaux, now shown at the Visitors' Center at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It is, of course, one of the great artistic recreations of an historic event. We understand that, in Boston, the Gettysburg painting was succeeded by another cycloramic painting, "Custer's Last Stand." Whatever became of that?

--from March, 1976 "Recall," Boston CWRT

"OLD DOUGLAS"

J. W. Cook of Helena, Arkansas, who belonged to Company A, 43rd Mississippi Regiment, writes of an interesting attache of the regiment who could not speak for himself even had he survived the carnage of war.

"Old Douglas," according to Mr. Cook, was an African camel which belonged to the 43rd. He was given to Col. William M. Moore of the regiment by Lt. Hargrove of Company B. Colonel Moore assigned Douglas to the regimental band for whom he carried instruments and knapsacks. The camel's first active service was with General Price in the Iuka campaign. He was sent to the wagon train and stampeded all the teams. There was only one horse in Little's Division that would face Douglas at first and that was Pompey, the little bay stallion belonging to Colonel Moore, but it was not long till he was on intimate terms with all.

His keeper would chain him to keep him from wandering off, but Douglas would sit back and snap any kind of chain, then proceed to graze at leisure, though never leaving the regiment nor interfering with anything that did not interrupt him. When the regiment was ready to start, Douglas would be led up to the pile of things he was to carry, and his leader would say "Pushay, Douglas"; and he would drop gracefully to his knees and haunches and remain so till his load was adjusted and he was told to get up. His long, swinging gait was soon familiar to the entire command, and ours was called the "Camel Regiment."

Douglas was in the engagements of Price and Van Dorn in Mississippi, and went with us to Pemberton at Vicksburg, where he was killed by a skirmisher during the siege. His gallant owner had fallen in the second day's fight at Corinth. Douglas was a faithful, patient animal, and his service merits record in The Veteran.

--from March, 1976 Newsletter, Frankfort, Ky. CWRT

YOUNGEST RECIPIENT OF CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

In September, 1862 on the eve of the bloody battle of Sharpsburg (or Antietam), Maryland, a fourteen year old lad by the name of Johnny Cook arrived on the beautiful western Maryland countryside as a bugler for Battery B of the Fourth U.S. Artillery attached to the "Iron Brigade" of Abner Doubleday's division. (Wasn't there a song about this kid recently recorded by Bette Midler?) As the fortunes of war would have it, this young lad found himself in the thick of the fiercest fighting near the Miller farmhouse and forced to come to the aid of his fallen captain, who had been struck repeatedly by enemy fire. After assisting this officer from the field, young Cook returned to combat only to find his battery completely disorganized as a result of its sustaining a withering crossfire. Resourceful well beyond his years, Cook spied a dead cannoneer nearby with his leather pouch containing an unfired round still strapped to him. The heroic bugler picked up the pouch, stepped across the body of his fallen comrade and ran to the nearest gun. He proceeded to man this piece with great efficiency for the remainder of the engagement. Johnny Cook's heroism and initiative during the Battle of Sharpsburg earned for him the newly instituted Congressional Medal of Honor, the youngest recipient of the medal in our nation's history to this very day.

--from March, 1976 "Battles Lines," Atlanta CWRT

USEFUL CHAPLAINS

One of our members has contributed the following anecdote from Orville Thomson's 7th Indiana in the War for the Union.

In September '61 when a train carrying the 7th to Virginia approached a long-span river bridge near Parkersburg, it was necessary to lighten the load to assure a safe crossing. The tedious work of unloading and ferrying 1,000 men, their baggage, camp equipment, 30 wagons and twice that many horses consumed a day and a half of effort. As the reloading activity progressed, the regimental chaplain made repeated and unsuccessful pleas to the quartermaster to have his baggage loaded. The chaplain impatiently guarded his enormous quantity of baggage until he felt he must appeal to the commander, whereupon Colonel DuMont was heard to caustically reply, "I think if we had a little more chaplain and not so d__ned much baggage, we would get along better."

It seems the chaplain was not always a detriment. As the war continued, the troops discovered the Chaplain Kiger provided one valuable service. His rare appearances in camp would consistently signal that the "long-looked-and-much-prayed-for" paymaster was not far behind.

--from Newsletter, District of Columbia CWRT

"BIGGIES"

The biggest naval bombardment during the war was on Christmas Eve, 1864 at Fort Fisher, North Carolina. Fifty-seven vessels with a total of 670 guns were engaged--the largest fleet ever assembled by the U.S. Navy up to that time. The Army, Navy and Marines combined in a joint operation to reduce and capture the fort.

The biggest cavalry battle in the history of the Western Hemisphere was fought at Brandy Station, Virginia, on June 9, 1863. Nearly 20,000 cavalymen were engaged for more than twelve hours. The battlefield covers 40 square miles. At the height of the battle, along Fleetwood Hill, charges and countercharges were made continuously for almost three hours.

--from "The Lone Star Banner" Texas CWRT

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

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWS LETTER

Now that Guy DiCarlo has gone to Big Apple, your News Letter Editorial Committee 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!