



News Letter

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

2060 Illuminating Building
Cleveland 13, Ohio

April 1, 1961

"LEGEND INTO HISTORY - GEORGE A. CUSTER"

Time: 6:30 P.M. - April 11, 1961
Place: University Club, 3813 Euclid Avenue
Speakers: William West and Samuel Wang

This promises to be a double-barreled approach to the legendary and controversial figure of George Armstrong Custer. Bill West and Sam Wang are presenting both sides of the story of the man who is referred to by admirers as the "Great Cavalryman" and by his hostile critics as "The Glory Hunter." Bill and Sam have over one hundred slides with which to illustrate their talk.

ADDED ATTRACTION

FREE - A CONCISE HISTORY

The Stackpole Company, publishers specializing in historical books, have sent a supply of their "Concise History of The Civil War." The pamphlet of 32 pages is, as the name implies, a condensed history. It contains 13 Civil War maps which make it a valuable addition to a Civil War library. Copies will be distributed at the meeting on April 11th.

"A CIVIL WAR DIARY"

Emphasizing the important part Ohioans played in the Civil War, Halle Bros. Co. will hold a Centennial Commemoration for two weeks beginning April 3. Ned Downer of the CWRT, recognized authority on Ohio troops in the War, is special consultant and other members of the Round Table, together with members of the 7th OVI, have assisted.

The commemoration will be opened at 12 Noon, April 3, by Bruce Catton with a color guard from the 7th OVI.

The seventh floor lounge at Halle's will be a Battle Theatre with an exhibit area, a Civil War Curio Shop and a Lincoln Room.

The tea room will feature meals typical of the 1860's. After the two week period, the store will periodically commemorate historical events of the War.

(Over)

HONORARY MEMBERS

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee two prominent citizens of Cleveland were added to the list of Honorary Members. The Right Reverend Beverly D. Tucker, D.D., and Welles K. Stanley, long time member of the Ohio bar, were elected to join with Dr. Ralph G. Newman and Bruce Catton as honorary members of The Cleveland Civil War Round Table. Both of these men have had contacts with noted Civil War personalities.

Welles K. Stanley's name combines two names prominent in Civil War history. On the distaff side he is related to "Father Neptune," Gedeon Welles, secretary of the Navy in the cabinet of Abraham Lincoln throughout the war years. Timothy R. Stanley, Bvt. Brigadier General of Volunteers, and Colonel of the 18 OVI was his grandfather. At Stones River and at Chickamauga Col. Stanley commanded the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 14th Corps (Thomas). He was mentioned in reports for his service at Chickamauga, where he was wounded, by Generals Rosecrans, Thomas and Negley. (30 O.R. part 1, pages 80-83). General Stanley had a prominent part, under Generals Hazen and W. F. Smith, in the operation at Browns Ferry which opened the "Cracker Line" to Chattanooga. (31 O.R. part 1, page 84).

Bishop Beverly D. Tucker, D.D., is one of Ohio's best known and best beloved churchmen. He is a native of Virginia whose family tree has roots deep in the Old Dominion. His mother, the daughter of John Augustin Washington, was born at Mt. Vernon. John Washington was the last owner of Mt. Vernon before the war. He was an-aid-de-camp on the staff of Robert E. Lee and was killed at Cheat Mountain.

Bishop Tucker's grandfather was U.S. Counsel at Liverpool when the war began. He, with his brother, returned to the Confederacy by swimming through the Union blockade. The father of Bishop Tucker was a private in the Army of Virginia. The Bishop insists that his father had the unusual distinction of being the only Virginian who served throughout the war as a private.

Bishop Tucker's grandfather was one of the citizens of Richmond wrongfully alleged to have had a part in the conspiracy to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. For a time he was in exile in Canada with a price on his head.

The Executive Committee felt that it was fitting, in the first centennial year, that distinguished citizens from the Union and the Confederacy should be added to our honorary memberships.

WHO WON THE WAR?

The Western Reserve Historical Society announces a special lecture at 3 P.M., Sunday, May 7th at the Museum, 10825 East Blvd. Professor Harvey Wish, of the Western Reserve University history department will talk on the causes and effects of the Civil War using as a title "Who Won The War?" Mr. Meredith Colket, Jr., Society Director, extends a special invitation to members of the CWRT and their families.

A PROPHECY COME TRUE

(from the Kansas City Newsletter, March 1961)

John Esten Cooke, who was one of Jeb Stuart's famous cavalrymen and author of the Civil War classic, "Wearing of the Gray," made the following prophecy more than ninety years ago:

"I think those dear, coming grandchildren will take an interest in my adventures. They will belong to the fresh, new generation, and all the jealousies, hatreds, and corroding passions of the present epoch will have disappeared by that time. Simple curiosity will replace the old hatred; the bitter antagonism of the partisan will yield to the philosophic interest of the student, and the events and personages of this agitated period will be calmly discussed by the winter fireside. How Lee looked, and Stuart spoke - how Jackson lived that wonderous life of his, and Ashby charged upon his milk-white steed -- of this the coming generations will talk, and I think they will take more interest in such things than in the most brilliant arguments about secession."

CURRENT EVENTS

Lester Swift edited an article in the March Civil War History "Letters from a Sailor on a Tinclad." The letters were written by Lester's grandfather who served in the River Fleet as a Paymasters Steward. The article presented a side of the Civil War about which too little has been said. Lester's article presented the facts about how the men lived, fought, and died on the Mississippi.

On February 28, Bell Wiley addressed the Western Reserve Historical Society on the Civil War. A representative group from the CWRT heard the talk.

Members are being called upon with increasing frequency to give talks on the Civil War. Recent appearances have been before the SAR, the American Legion and various school and church groups.

Bell Wiley writes, relative to the recent Newsletter: "I enjoyed your humorous treatment of the balloon affair ... In my notes I have other Civil War innovations, or near innovations, were flame throwers, land mines and observation balloons."

PORTRAIT OF A GENERAL

"Lee was Caesar without his crimes, Bonaparte without his ambition, and George Washington without his crown of success; and it is my firm conviction that when his campaigns and his character are both understood, such will be the verdict of Christendom." Reminiscences of The Civil War, John B. Gordon, Scribners 1903.

MAY MEETING

On Tuesday, May 9, we will hear Colonel Allen P. (Ned) Julian. Although Director of the Atlanta Historical Society, Colonel Julian is a staunch Union man. He was referred to by Margaret Mitchell ("Gone With The Wind") Marsh as "commanding officer of the last Federal Garrison in Georgia."

(Over)

OHIO IN THE CIVIL WAR

Not all Ohioans who served with distinction in the Union Army served with Ohio troops. Rufus R. Dawes, originally from Marietta, Ohio, and a member of a family prominent in Ohio and the nation for many years was Captain, Major, Lieut. Colonel and Colonel of the 6th Wisconsin Volunteers, and served with that famous regiment throughout the war. The 6th Wisconsin was part of the famous black-hatted Iron Brigade (of the West) which rendered distinguished service in the eastern theatre. It was originally commanded by General John Gibbon.

In the corn-field at Antietam, the battalion commanded by Dawes, who was slightly wounded, was in the thick of the fighting. In his "Service with 6th Wisconsin Volunteers," published in Marietta in 1890, Dawes says: "Of two hundred and eighty men who were in the corn-field and turnpike, one hundred and fifty were killed or wounded ... (When ordered to retire) We were joined in the woods by Captain Ely, who reported to me as the senior officer present, with the colors and eighteen men of the second Wisconsin. They represented what remained for duty of that gallant regiment."

On the first day at Gettysburg, the brigade lost two-thirds of its effectives and the 24th Michigan lost 399 out of 496, or eighty percent. Dawes retired at the end of the war as Brevet Brig. General of Volunteers.

NEWS OF OTHER ROUNDTABLES

Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner, who surrendered Fort Donelson was a pall-bearer at Grant's funeral. Springfield, Illinois ... The Civil War Times, Gettysburg, Pa. has issued a "Civil War Round Table Guide" by Dr. W. H. Stauffer, Richmond, and John J. Cobaugh, Harrisburg, Pa. It offers suggestions for forming Round Tables, organizing programs, and publishing News Letters ... A member of the Monmouth County, N. J. CWRT reports a statue of U. S. Grant in Tokyo. It commemorates the first visit of a U. S. President to Japan ... The Chicago CWRT lists the cost of its forthcoming field trip at \$208 for a train bedroom to \$185 for less expensive accommodations. The trip covers the Vicksburg area.

FOURTH NATIONAL CONCLAVE

The Civil War Round Table of Atlanta is completing its plans for the entertainment of Round Table members from around the world on May 19 to 21. Field trips to Kenesaw National Battlefield Park and the three battlefields at Atlanta are on the program. Among the speakers already scheduled are Bell Wiley and Allen P. Julian. Colonel Julian will address our May meeting.