



The COURIER OF THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

APRIL, 1964

Vol. 7, No. 7

61st Meeting

DATE:	TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1964
SPEAKER:	MRS. ROBERT MORRIS
SUBJECT:	GENERAL DANIEL EDGAR SICKLES "From Battlefield to Bedroom"
PLACE:	HERMIT CLUB - DODGE COURT
PROCEDURE:	SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS & RESERVATIONS

FUTURE MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

62nd Meeting

MAY 12, 1964

GLENN TUCKER

"Battle of Chickamauga"

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DONALD W. HAMILL

Congratulations to Don on his fine article "Following an Arid Civil War Trail" which appeared in the Cleveland Plain Dealer Sunday section, March 15, 1964.

PAST MEETING & SPEAKER

In seven years of organization never has the Roundtable been pleased to hear such a yeoman performance on one of the most renowned men of the Civil War, U.S. Grant, and one of the least renowned but most active, Elihu Washburne.

John Y. Simon, Executive Director of the U.S. Grant Association, certainly provided one of the most enjoyable and informative evenings we have known.

So well versed in his subject, he left the impression that the few questions he did not answer were those for which there is no definite answer. We urge the membership to buy his U.S. Grant Chronology from the Ohio Historical Society.

Mr. John Stevning:

Please make _____ reservations in my name for the Ladies Night Meeting, April 14th.

The cost per reservation will be \$6.00 (Husband and wife = 2 reservations - \$12.00).

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____.

(Please print name clearly)

THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 20, 1957

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT. Guy Di Carlo Jr.
 VICE PRESIDENT Lester L. Swift
 SECRETARY. Carroll Prosser
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

TERMS EXPIRING:

1964: Dr. Paul Schildt
 Gordon J. Berry
 1965: Donald MacDowell
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EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER. . . . Theodore I. Adams

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OHIO TROOPS IN THE FIELD. . Edward T. Downer

Chronology of Ohio Troops

April, 1864

"Battle of Sabine Cross-roads, April 8, 1864"

Thousands of Civil War Soldiers died at Gettysburg and the world, "can never forget what they did here". But, many more thousands suffered and died ingloriously in remote spots while fighting in useless, stupid engagements. Such was the fate of the 48th, 56th, 83rd and 96th Ohio regiments, some of the men from Delaware County. In the dismal forests of Northwestern Louisiana, scores of them were killed, hundreds were left wounded on the field, and many more were marched off to vile prisons.

These regiments constituted a part of the vanguard of Nathaniel P. Banks' column advancing up the Red River Valley to capture Shreveport, La. Near the town of Mansfield, they were attacked by two divisions of Dick Taylor's command. Overwhelmed by double their number, and without support, they retreated in confusion. Surrounded on all sides, the 48th Ohio was forced to surrender. Banks had ordered up additional troops, but with the only passage through dense woods clogged by wagons and fugitives, they were too late.

With this battle the Federal campaign to invade Texas came to a sorry end.

At the March meeting an order form was distributed to those present. It was from the Ohio State Historical Society. It presented the 14 pamphlets and booklets concerning Ohio during the Civil War. The complete set of booklets is being offered for \$8.50. This is a wonderful bargain, as the booklets bought separately would cost \$12.00. Here are the titles available:

1. Ohio Handbook of the Civil War
2. Ulysses S. Grant Chronology
3. Ohio Troops in the Field
4. Ohio Press in the Civil War
5. Ohio Politics on the Eve of Conflict
6. Ohio Forms an Army
7. Ohio Negroes in the Civil War
8. Ohio Agriculture During the Civil War
9. Civil War Letters of Petroleum V. Nasby
10. Cincinnati During the Civil War
11. Cleveland During the Civil War
12. Ohio's Civil War Governors
13. Columbus During the Civil War
14. Ohio's Bounty System During the Civil War

The booklets are very highly recommended for every Civil War Buff living in Ohio. Even those who do not live in Ohio. If you are interested, please call me at AN 1-0577 or contact me at the next meeting.

At present I am working on a project with the Cleveland School Board. The project involves holding seminars on the Civil War for teachers in the Cleveland school system. The plans are still in the formulative stages, but are almost to the place where concrete action can be taken. If you are interested in knowing more about this project and wish to participate, please feel free to contact me so I may explain more about what is being attempted.

I cannot stress too greatly my feelings in encouraging broader coverage of Civil War study. Not only broader coverage but correct coverage with emphasis to be given to areas too little understood and glossed over by the average social studies teacher. My May, 1964 message will be devoted to a detailed coverage of what has been accomplished and what is trying to be accomplished.

DANIEL EDGAR SICKLES

Daniel Edgar Sickles (October 20, 1825 - May 3, 1914), congressman, Union soldier, diplomat, was born in New York City, the son of George Garrett and Susan (Marsh) Sickles, and a descendent of Zachariah Sickles, of Vienna, Austria, who entered the service of the Dutch West India Company and settled in America about 1656. Sickles attended the University of the City of New York, and later engaged in the printing trade, changing to study law under Benjamin Franklin Butler, 1795-1858. Admitted to the bar in 1846, he was elected to the state legislature in 1847. He was married to Theresa Bagioli, the 17 year old daughter of an Italian music teacher, in 1853. The same year he was appointed corporation counsel for the city of New York, but resigned to become secretary of the United States legation at London. He held this position for two years, and then he was elected to the state Senate. He served as a Democrat in Congress from 1857 to 1861, residing with his wife and little daughter in Washington, D.C. On February 27, 1859, he shot and killed Philip Barton Key, the son of Francis Scott Key, on account of an affair with Mrs. Sickles. In a celebrated trial in which, for the first time, the defense pleaded temporary aberration of mind, Sickles was acquitted. Sickles subsequently forgave his young wife, who died a few years later, a suicide.

Although a Democrat, Sickles offered his services to President Lincoln early in March, 1861, was authorized by him to raise troops for the Federal service. Sickles organized, in New York, the Excelsior Brigade, becoming first a colonel, then brigadier-general. He led it in the Peninsular campaign. He was promoted to the rank of major-general early in 1863, commanding the III Corps, and had an important part in the Chancellorsville campaign. It was the III Corps that, on May 2, discovered the march of Stonewall Jackson around the Federal army. Sickles reported this fact. After some delay he was instructed to attack the enemy cautiously. He did so, but arrived too late, and was surprised by the Confederate attack against the XI Corps, posted on his right, which broke. Falling back with his men well in hand, Sickles attacked the victorious Jackson, and after bloody fighting stopped his advance.

The last campaign of Sickles was Gettysburg. Arriving on July 2, 1863, the second day of the battle, the III Corps was stationed by General George Gordon Meade to cover the Round

Tops, two hills on the left. Sickles decided he could best do this by advancing to the famous peach orchard salient in front of the Round Tops. This decision later aroused bitter controversy. Meade personally examined the new line, which Sickles had assumed without specific orders, and suggested retreat, but the discussion was interrupted by a violent Confederate attack on Sickles' forces led by James Longstreet. By night fall the III Corps had lost one-half of its men, but with belated reinforcements had stopped the enemy after slight loss of ground. At the very end of the battle, Sickles was struck by a shell, which resulted in the hasty amputation of his right leg. Sickles' position would have been advantageous if an offensive battle had been contemplated, but, in the opinion of Meade, the battleground at Gettysburg favored a defensive contest for the Union forces, and he later criticized Sickles in his reports. His military career now at an end, Sickles was sent on a confidential mission to South America in 1865. He returned the same year and was appointed military governor of the Carolinas. President Johnson found him too strenuous in his duties and relieved him in 1867. He was mustered out of the volunteer army on January 1, 1868, reverting to the rank of colonel in the regular army. In 1869 he was retired as a major-general.

In May, 1869 he was appointed minister to Spain where the complications of the Cuban problem and the "Virginus" affair proved too much for him. His actions were so vigorous that he was called the "Yankee King", but they were not diplomatic. He resigned in December, 1873, leaving his successor, Caleb Cushing, the fruits of his efforts. Senorita Carmina Creagh became his second wife on November 28, 1871, at the American legation in Madrid. Sickles then lived abroad for seven years, and upon returning his wife refused to come with him. They were reconciled three decades later at his deathbed, through the efforts of their son. A daughter by this marriage had died in New York City. Sickles became chairman of the New York State monuments commission in 1886, but was relieved in 1912 because of mishandling funds. He served another term in Congress from 1893 to 1895. Separated from his family, the "old irresponsible and cantankerous" gentleman spent his last years in New York City.

WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE WAR?

The Civil War has been called many names, according to William Stauffer, Virginia Civil War Centennial Corporation, who lists some 24 names the war has been called, as follows:

1. War of Northern Aggression
2. War of Southern Independence
3. War for Southern Rights
4. War of the Rebellion
5. War over Slavery
6. War of the Confederacy
7. War of the Sixties
8. War Over States Rights
9. War Between the North & South
10. War for the Preservation of the Union
11. War of Secession
12. War for Southern Freedom
13. War for Emancipation
14. War of the Southrons
15. War of the Southern Planters
16. War of Abolition
17. War of 1861-1865
18. War of the Blue & Gray
19. Mr. Lincoln's War
20. Yankee Invasion
21. The Lost Cause
22. The Recent Unpleasantness
23. The Late Hostilities
24. The Southern Uprising

DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER NAME FOR WHATEVER THE NAME
OF THAT WAR IS?

RESTORATION OF THE RANDOLPH HOUSE

"A famous Civil War landmark, The Randolph House, a hotel built in 1798 in Farmville, Virginia is now being restored and renovated. After the Battle of Saylor's Creek, fought on April 6, 1865, Longstreet's Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia, hastened to Farmville, still hoping to effect a junction with Johnston's army in North Carolina. Early in the morning of April 7, General Lee, after a few hour's rest at a home in Farmville, passed the hotel, then crossed to the north bank of the Appomattox River. The bridges were burned to delay the pursuing Union troops.

General Grant arrived about noon and went straight to the Randolph House, where he established his headquarters for the night. Here Grant composed his famous letter to Lee, calling for an end to the 'effusion of blood', thus beginning the correspondence which led two days later to the surrender at Appomattox.

The same night that Grant penned his historic letter he was on the piazza of the hotel when he was recognized by the passing troops of the Union Sixth Corps, who seized the opportunity to stage for their commander-in-chief an impromptu torchlight procession, a dramatic parade that was long remembered by all who witnessed it.

The older part of the Randolph House is to be preserved as a museum and showpiece, as is the room where Grant wrote his famous letter. Farmville is only 25 miles from Appomattox and 6 miles from the battlefield of Saylor's Creek, and is therefore easily accessible to Civil War enthusiasts. The reopening of the hotel is scheduled for late August or early September."

We are indebted to Mr. Joseph B. Mitchell for sending us the information on the restoration of The Randolph House.

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SIXTH ANNUAL CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE CONCLAVE

If you wish to receive information on the conclave send your name to the ATLANTA CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE, INC. P.O. BOX 1943, ATLANTA, GA. ZIP CODE 30301. No obligation on your part.