



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

DECEMBER, 1963

Vol. 7, No. 3

57th Meeting

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1963
SPEAKER: DR. R. GERALD MCMURTRY
SUBJECT: "ZOLLIFFER & BATTLE OF MILL SPRING"
PLACE: HERMIT CLUB - DODGE COURT
PRELIMINARIES: 6:00 P.M. DINNER: 7:00 P.M.
Please return your reservation slip and check (\$4.25)

FUTURE MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

58th Meeting

JANUARY 14, 1964

Mr. Robert S. Dykstra
"COUNTERINTELLIGENCE"

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59th Meeting

FEBRUARY 11, 1964

Dr. Joseph Nunley
"GENERAL NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST"

RECALLING THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Anyone who believes that the lore of the Civil War is a cut-and-dried thing should have attended our last two meetings. At the meeting of November 12, Dr. William M. Lamers in effect called "Right about face!" to the group's thinking as regards Union General William S. Rosecrans. It would seem that Dr. Lamers'

PhD's pen sent Gen. S.L.A. Marshall's sword a-clattering in the battle of words. (Gen. Marshall, to remind those who couldn't attend both of this season's meetings, spoke at the October affair).

No battle-fatigued warrior was General Rosecrans at all, according to Dr. Lamers, but, to the contrary, was one of the war's most underrated, and by the Civil War buff most neglected, good generals who ever personally turned the tide in a stricken field. He was a man of parts and his interest in religion, the subject of long talks with President-to-be James A. Garfield, was but one facet of a knowledge that spread into many fields.

And if battles go to the side with the big guns, then Lamers will defeat Marshall in any future go-round. The wealth of Rosecrans' personal papers which Dr. Lamers has studied over a period of 13 years, and which other students of the war didn't have, including, presumably, General Marshall, are quite convincing ordnance. From a paucity of information that heretofore was available, the six filing cases of papers that Dr. Lamers brought to light gave the serious student a goldmine of material on General Rosecrans.

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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
TREASURER T. Knickerbocker

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TERMS EXPIRING:

1964: Dr. Paul Schildt
Gordon J. Berry
1965: Donald MacDowell
Edward S. Wells

EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER . . . Theodore I. Adams
REPUBLIC STEEL CORPORATION, CLEVELAND, OHIO

OHIO TROOPS IN THE FIELD Edward T. Downer

Chronology of Ohio Troops

December, 1863

CLEVELAND PAYS TRIBUTE TO TWO WAR HEROES

On December 8, one hundred years ago, all Cleveland was in mourning. Flags flew at half mast, business places were closed and the downtown streets were crowded with sorrowing people. The occasion was the double funeral of William R. Creighton and Orrin J. Crane, Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel respectively of the Seventh Ohio regiment, both Clevelanders.

The two officers has been killed at Ringgold, Georgia in a charge which had cost the Seventh Ohio regiment nearly forty per cent of the men engaged.

The funeral services were held in the Old Stone Church, following which a solemn military procession marched slowly out Euclid Avenue to Erie Street Cemetery. The Cleveland Herald called it "the grandest and most mournful pageant that has passed through the streets of Cleveland for many a year".

The caskets were temporarily placed in a vault, but soon after the remains were interred in Woodland Cemetery. The graves side by side.

Through presidential prerogative and in the name of organized procedure, the post of Sergeant-at-Arms has been created. Mr. JOHN STEVNING has been assigned to the position. John is with Clevite and a valued new member of our organization. We feel confident that John will fulfill the responsibilities of the post with great credit to himself and to the Roundtable.

Do to the circumstances involved in our new meeting place, THE HERMIT CLUB, we have changed our procedures concerning the making of reservations.

We are now asking that all members please return the reservation slip and their check in the enclosed, self-addressed stamped envelope. In this way JOHN STEVNING can continue to get a good approximation of the number of members and guests that will attend each meeting.

If you should find at the last minute that you can attend or that you had forgotten to mail your reservation slip and check PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO COME ANYHOW. You can pay John the money for the meal at that time.

With this system we are simply trying to omit the collection of a large sum of money in which mistakes could be made and the other possibilities attached to making such a collection.

If you wish to bring guests just add the cost of their dinners to your check and make the notation of how many guests you are bringing to the meeting.

We will have to continue the procedure of selling tickets to the membership in order to purchase drinks at the club. This is another unavoidable circumstance that must be contended with. Again JOHN STEVNING will handle this detail for the Roundtable. We wish to keep the inconvenience to individual members to the barest of minimums.

NOVEMBER MEETING (continued from page 1)

A reading of Dr. Lamers' book, *THE EDGE OF GLORY*, should give a well-documented picture of Rosecrans' part in the conflict, and your editor plans to read it soon.

You see, after the "tumult and the shouting died", it seemed to this correspondent that Dr. Lamers really didn't have time to quote chapter and verse in his argument. He verbally piled up his evidence, with an obviously sincere gloating, and, from the top of the stack, dared anyone to come and get him. Actually, he had time to do no more than that. The facts, on which judgment can be based, are in the book, we suppose, and it is up to us to read it.

The meeting was a dandy, and if the first two meetings are any indication, this will be the best Winter and Spring Season the Round Table has ever had.

MUSIC OF THE WAR PERIOD

Unlike the sudden rise and sickening plunge that marks the period of popularity of today's popular music, the songs of the Civil War had a more gradual climb to favor, and a far greater lifetime. There was no radio, television, or recorded music to grossly exaggerate the life cycle of a song. But the songs were much the same, from the haunting *Lorena* to the more jaunty, if jingoistic, songs such as *The Battle Cry of Freedom*, or *The Bonny Blue Flag*.

The *John Brown Song* is probably first on the popularity list, at least in the North, of any song of that period. Highlighting this fact, Round Table Past President John Cullen has clipped the following article from the Lincoln Herald:

"When the Twelfth Massachusetts Regiment marched down Broadway, New York, one day in July 1861, singing a song recently put together at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor where the men had been previously stationed, it gave to the North the piece which, above all others, became the musical symbol of the slave set free.

No matter that the original subject of the song was an obscure sergeant in the regiment, that the music was an old camp meeting tune, or that the words were first intended to

poke fun at the lowly sergeant. Soon Sergeant John Brown disappeared, and John Brown of Osawatomie and Harpers Ferry took his place--

John Brown died that the slaves
might be free,
But his soul goes marching on.
The stars above in Heaven now
are looking kindly down
On the grave of old John Brown.

Glory, glory, hallelujah,
Glory, glory, hallelujah,
Glory, glory, hallelujah,
His soul goes marching on.

No matter that Julia Ward Howe's poem fitted the tune so well and that the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" became widely known and sung itself; no matter that John Brown of Osawatomie and Harpers Ferry was the subject of a poem "The President's Proclamation", inspired by the events of January 1, 1863, to be used with the old tune. To the very end of the war-and after-nothing could take the place of the "John Brown Song".

Sometimes it seemed as if the song fairly haunted Harpers Ferry and Charles Town. When the Twelfth Massachusetts reached that area in July, 1861, the men sang "John Brown" with great fervor. That same autumn as a train loaded to capacity with soldiers passed through Harpers Ferry and air rang with "John Brown".

Months later a reporter passing by the engine house where Brown made his final stand heard a boy whistling the tune, and over at Charles Town, in the same jail where Brown was lodged two years before, a Negro prisoner brightened up and grinned as some Union soldier passed by singing "But his soul goes marching on". The Shenandoah Valley echoed with "John Brown" as troops marched to and fro.

It was all very impressive--the "Cromwellian touch" when 1000 men sang "John Brown's Body" at evening parade; the sound to disturb the deep when from the bessels bearing General Banks' expedition to New Orleans the men on board roared the "John Brown Song"; the echoes through a Virginia town when the army ended a songfest of Irish, Scotch, and German songs with "John Brown"; a thousand Negroes singing "But his soul goes marching on" as they worked on the defenses at Baltimore in 1863; Sherman's men leaving the ruined city of Atlanta on their march to the sea singing with great gusto "John Brown's Body". There was something about the song".