



# The COURIER OF THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

DECEMBER, 1964

Vol. 8, No. 3

## 65th Meeting

DATE:	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1964
SPEAKER:	MR. STEPHEN Z. STARR
SUBJECT:	THE NORTHWEST CONSPIRACY
PLACE:	HERMIT CLUB - DODGE COURT
PRELIMINARIES:	6:00 P.M.                      DINNER: 7:00 P.M.

### PAST MEETING & SPEAKER

Mr. Millard K. Bushong's talk on "Old Jube" moved at the pace of a Rebel cavalryman, and when it was finished everyone present at the last meeting felt that it was good to have been along. Bushong is the author of one of the very few books about Jubal A. Early, and, unlike some "authorities," didn't get bogged down in irrelevant details.

Gen. Early was not a secessionist, according to the speaker, and was even an outspoken opponent. When finally confronted with the fact of the State of Virginia's separation from the Old Union, however, he made the decision made by the majority of Virginia's citizens, in the eastern portion of the state at least, and then gave his unstinting efforts to the common cause. The efforts of the one Confederate General to fight his army to the very gates of Washington were no mean efforts, by any standard.

There were those in the Confederate hierarchy who seemed to think that "small" miracles were not enough, apparently, and he came under a cloud in the closing months of the war because of his inability to continue to hold the Shenandoah Valley in the face of crushing enemy superiority. In retrospect, Early's record of military resourcefulness is matched only by that of T. J. Jackson.

Those who were absent at the last meeting should resolve to attend all future meetings, lest their loss be compounded by missing another talk of the large caliber of this one.

### COMING MEETING - JANUARY 12, 1965

At January's meeting, members will have the opportunity to challenge a panel of three of our own members who have their own ideas about certain personalities of The War. The panel will consist of John Stevning, Jim Ramsey, and Guy DiCarlo. Here are their subjects:

John Stevning: Sickles - the Hero of the Wheatfield

Jim Ramsey: Jeb Stuart - Glorified Incompetence

Guy DiCarlo: Ben Butler's Blunder Extends War Nine Months

Each panel member will talk for ten minutes. At the conclusion of all three talks, the panelists will answer questions from the floor.

Here is your chance to bone up on any or all three of the topics so you can move in with a frontal assault for a lively skirmish.

## THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 20, 1957

### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT. . . . . Lester L. Swift  
VICE PRESIDENT . . . . . Donald W. Hamill  
SECRETARY. . . . . Guy Di Carlo, Jr.  
TREASURER . . . . . James K. Ramsey

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#### TERMS EXPIRING:

1965: Donald MacDowell  
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EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER . . Theodore I. Adams  
REPUBLIC STEEL CORPORATION, CLEVELAND, OHIO

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the beginning of our year, or season, we were able to add six new buffs to our ranks. It seems fit and proper that the members-at-large should know who these latest additions are and also be told a little about them. Here they are:

WILLIAM FRANCE is an Assistant Vice President at the Society National Bank and he is interested in the campaigns and military phases of the war.

FRANK GUNTHER is a sales engineer with the Boston Insulated Wire & Cable Co. He seems to be fascinated by individual commanders, especially the Casanova of the Union Army, General Sickles.

JOE PAGE is retired and likes to read up on strategy and soldier life.

EFFLO PLAZER, an attorney, used to attend G.A.R. meetings with his grandfather. He has spent much time at the Western Reserve Historical Society cataloging their Ms. collection of Civil War letters. It is entirely possible that we may take him up on his offer to give a talk on the Rock of Chickamauga.

THOMAS H. B. BOOTH, JR. draws a pay check from Bethlehem Steel Company and is a salesman. His special interest is the political influences on the military conduct of the war.

JOHN DRINKO, another attorney, is a West Virginian and is reputed to be a "semi-Rebel." An interesting status, to say the least. John likes delving into strategy and historical impact.

Come to think of it, these lawyer fellows exert a distinctly leavening influence. If you don't believe that, just go on a field trip with one of them.

We still have a small waiting list. If you have friends who are interested, it would be advisable to have them get their applications on file.

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### WRITING WHAT IS REALLY WRITING

My favorite ink-slinger is John N. Edwards, who was adjutant (and a major) to Gen. Jo Shelby, CSA. If you don't believe me, look up some of his reports in the Official Records that he wrote for Shelby. And if you can find a copy, read his SHELBY'S EXPEDITION TO MEXICO.

Edwards was the self-appointed champion of the James Boys and when Frank James walked into the Governor of Missouri's office and unstrapped his six-guns, Edwards was beside him. When Jesse was shot by the "dirty little coward," Edwards, as editor of the Sedalia Democrat, wrote a red-hot editorial. He said, in part:

"Tear the two bears from the flag of Missouri. Put thereon, in place of them, as more appropriate, a thief blowing out the brains of an unarmed victim, and a brazen harlot, naked to the waist and splashed to the brows in blood.

Lester Swift

## OHIO TROOPS IN THE WAR . . .

December, 1864

Fort McAllister, December 13, 1864

"Boys, see that pile of dirt off yonder? When we capture that we'll get something to eat," shouted the colonel of the 70th Ohio regiment to his men. That "pile of dirt" was Fort McAllister at the mouth of the Ogeechee River and the last obstacle in Sherman's approach to Savannah. Beyond the fort, in Ossabaw Sound, was a Union fleet bringing food to Sherman's army. For more than a week Sherman's soldiers had been marching through piney forests and dismal cedar swamps, living on a diet of unhulled rice.

William B. Hazen from Portage county, Ohio, had been ordered with his division to reduce the fort, a formidable redoubt rising from the river's edge. On the land side it was protected by a deep ditch, a palisade and an excellent abatis. Beyond these entanglements a row of eight-inch shells had been planted close together so as to explode when trodden upon. On the parapet were twenty-two heavy guns mounted in barbette.

Hazen formed an assault line around the fort about six hundred yards from it. The storming party consisted of nine regiments, among them the 30th, 47th, 54th, and 70th Ohio regiments. Skirmishers were sent forward and from positions close to the fort were able to pick off the Rebel artillerymen serving their guns on the exposed parapets. The charge was sounded and the line crossed over the torpedoes, pushed through the abatis into the ditch and the men climbed to the parapets. Within a few minutes they were in the fort fighting hand-to-hand with the defenders. The brave little garrison refused to surrender and had to be overcome man-by-man.

Hazen's losses totaled only 134 men, many from the exploding torpedoes. He did not regard the capture of Fort McAllister as a great feat of arms, but it was widely acclaimed. Contact with the naval vessels brought to the worried people of the North their first assurance that Sherman's army had arrived safely. To the soldiers it meant full rations and, at long last, mail from home.

## Ohio Regiments Which Stormed Fort McAllister

30th - Organized at Camp Chase - Hugh Ewing's regiment

47th - Organized at Cincinnati. Thirteen nationalities, half Germans.

54th - Organized at Camp Dennison. Companies from all parts of the state, one from Cuyahoga.

70th - Recruited in Adams County.

Ned Downer

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## Little Known Sayings of the Civil War

Nathan Bedford Forrest

"War means fightin and fightin means killin -- so I quit."

"I git thare fustus with the mostus and leave lastus with the leastus."

David Farragut

"Damn it, look out for the torpedoes, full speed and head out of here."

Unknown Confederate Major to Captured Young Union Captain Fresh From West Point

"My compliments, too--let's cut this war jazz, split the gold, and invest in Florida real estate."

Neville Bayless

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## DINNER RESERVATIONS

Please use the enclosed, stamped envelope to forward your dinner reservations for the December 8 meeting (\$3.75 per person) for you and your guests. This will help greatly to reduce the usual confusion caused by at-the-table collection.

If your decision to attend can be made only at a time too late for mailing your check, please do not hesitate to come on this account. You can pay JOHN STEVNING on arrival.