



News Letter

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

February 14, 1959

FEBRUARY MEETING:

Topic: "A Small Battle, But Not a Forgotten One" - Battle of New Market in the Shenandoah Valley, May 15, 1864.

Speaker: Neville Bayless.

Time: February 24, Tuesday. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. (Note this change in the dinner hour.)

Place: The University Club, 3813 Euclid Avenue.

Price: \$3.25 per plate.

Neville Bayless, a thorough student of the Civil War, has given especial attention to the battle of New Market. He will give us the benefit of his researches, which have included a careful survey of the battlefield and environs. The major points which he will cover include: how this action fitted into the general strategy of the Union in the east at that time; the struggle itself; some opinions of its importance; and the participation of the cadets of V.M.I.

The talk will be accompanied by colored slides and maps. Neville says, "Since this was the only time I operated a color camera, the views are decidedly amateurish. However, their number will permit the room to be darkened during all of my remarks. This should be conducive to after-dinner dozing if desired." Whether it is dark or light, there are no dozers in a Cleveland C.W.R.T. audience, Neville, and certainly there will be none this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS. The April meeting will be on Monday, April 6, at the University Club. Our guest will be Hubert W. Hawkins, Secretary of the Indiana Historical Society. He will speak on "Morgan's Raid Across the Ohio."

The March meeting will be announced later.

ANOTHER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLES is announced by the Civil War Centennial Commission. It will be held in Richmond, Virginia, next April 16 and 17, with headquarters at the Jefferson Hotel. Members of the National Committee, State Commissions and many civic, patriotic and historical groups will be in attendance. Apparently the meetings will be devoted to planning for the Civil War Centennial.

Our Round Table certainly should be represented. Anyone interested in attending should inform the Civil War Centennial Commission, 700 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington 25, D.C., or call our Secretary, Ned Downer, at CEDar 1-7700.

LADIES NIGHT - JANUARY 16 - A GRAND OCCASION. Some seventy odd members, their wives and guests fought their way through a northern Ohio blizzard to attend the third ladies night meeting. After a delightful social hour, all sat down to a fine dinner in the comfortably-appointed women's dining room of the University Club. The evening was made especially enjoyable by the hospitality of member Fred Kopf, Jr., Secretary of the University Club, and his competent staff.

The speaker was Bell I. Wiley, noted Civil War authority, well-known to all Civil War buffs. In a talk rich in anecdotes and quotations drawn from his intimate acquaintance with Confederate leaders, military and political, Dr. Wiley discussed the causes which brought about the defeat of the Confederacy.

After pointing out the Northern superiority in manpower, naval strength, manufacturing, transportation and technical skills, he discussed the Confederate failures in leadership, judgment, organization and cooperation. The dissension which frustrated the war effort grew out of years of denunciation of the Federal Government until denunciation of authority had become a habit. The result was strife and quarreling: Davis with Congress and the Governors, Davis with his Generals, and the Generals among themselves. The nature of Southern society developed individualists, especially among the planter class, who found it difficult to work as a team.

Southern judgments were faulty in overstressing the importance of cotton in the European economy and overestimating Southern military prowess. Above all, they failed to realize the devotion of the Northern people to the Union and their determination to preserve it.

Interesting company and good food, climaxed by Professor Wiley's scholarly and entertaining talk, all added up to a splendid, worthwhile occasion.

SEVENTH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, famous Western Reserve Regiment is being activated, 95 years after it was mustered out. It will become a Cleveland unit in the North-South Shoot Association. Already 10 members have enlisted, and muskets, uniforms and accoutrement are being collected. D. A. HECKAMAN, Adjutant, 7th O.V.I. tells us they need more recruits, also muskets (U.S. Springfields, Cal 58-1861-1865 models). Those interested in joining or who can help in obtaining muskets should call or write D. A. Heckaman, 2500 Greenvale Drive, Cleveland 21, Ohio - telephone business, EX 1-5522 or home, KE 1-3731. Let's send a Cleveland regiment to the now famous North-South shooting contests.

WE STAND CORRECTED. Tom Waddell of Marysville, Michigan, challenges our statement in a recent News-Letter that corps insignia were the brain-child of Joe Hooker. He reminds us that earlier Phil Kearney "had his men use a red patch which became a red diamond (The Red Badge of Courage)" which created such a group spirit that it caught on all through the forces by 1863.

SECOND GETTYSBURG BATTLE: AN EXPANDING TOWN vs. HISTORIANS is the headline of an article in The Wall Street Journal of January 9, 1959, sent us by Neville Bayless. It points up the conflict between maintaining and expanding Civil War battlefield areas and urban growth.

At Gettysburg, for example, the National Park Service is desirous of acquiring 680 additional acres for the Battlefield Park. This acquisition will "doom a string of taverns, gas stations and motels crowded along historic Emmitsburg Road." "A gas station and candy shop mark the line of Confederate General Longstreet's assault on Union troops." Frederick Tilberg, Park Historian, says, "The Civil War groups are pretty vocal when they come here and see what's going on."

A similar situation exists at Antietam (Sharpsburg) where a proposed housing project in Piper's Cornfield stands in the way of preserving this hallowed ground. The C.W.R.T. of Alexandria, Virginia has presented a resolution on the subject to Virginia and Maryland Senators and Congressmen.

Let's rally in support of the National Park Service. Write to your Congressmen, either as individuals or as an organization. The voices of some seventy or more Civil War Round Tables from all parts of the country should be heard on Capital Hill.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

We find our DR. CHARLIE BROWN, with a short biography and pictures (then and now) among the 1933-58 Men of Achievement, a selected group of 25 football players of 25 years ago, listed in Sports Illustrated for December 22. Charlie was football captain, Connecticut Wesleyan, which in 1933 won the championship of the Little Three. Today he is a distinguished internist and Professor of Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic. We know him better as an enthusiastic Civil War buff and genial field-trip comrade.

DICK HOUSE talked recently to the Middleburg Heights Lions Club on "Sidelights of the Civil War."

FRANK GILLEN reports that he has access to some interesting war letters written by a Wallace Munn, Captain in the 41st Ohio V.I. (a Geauga County regiment). Captain Munn was killed at Missionary Ridge. Also, Frank has sent us the following "Did You Know?" facts:

Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) was in the Confederate Army - got mixed up in a fracas and high-tailed it to the Golden West. He became a "scalawag" who helped the Yankees.

Guiseppe Garibaldi, famous Italian freedom fighter, refused a commission as Major-General in the Union Army.

Jefferson Davis's cabinet had in it a conglomeration of nationalities: Juda P. Benjamin, a Jew, born in the West Indies; Christopher Memminger, born in Germany; Stephen R. Mallory, born in Trinidad, son of a Connecticut Yankee.

NEW MEMBERS. In case you have not become acquainted with them, the following have recently been elected to membership:

Theodore I. Adams	R.F.D. - Eagle Road Willoughby, Ohio	Advertising Copy Writer
Oren E. Hopkins, Jr.	4885 Oster Road Sheffield Lake, Ohio	Sales Representative Sharples Corporation
Allen Prymmer	2217 Northland Avenue Lakewood 7, Ohio	Hardware Retailer
Ray F. Williams	2058 Staunton Road Cleveland Heights, Ohio	Advertising Artist

This brought our membership for the year 1958 up to the constitutional limit of 67 active members.

DUES FOR 1959. Rex Corfield, Treasurer, informs us that thus far he has received dues for 29 members for the year 1959. The Executive Committee will assume that members who have not paid their dues by March 1, 1959 do not wish to wish to continue their membership. The vacancies thus created will be filled from a waiting list of applicants.

LINCOLN'S HOME SPUN SIMILES ON MILITARY MATTERS - unmilitary but expressive:

On McClellan and the "slows":

"He is an admirable engineer, but he seems to have a special talent for a stationary engineer."

On reinforcements for McClellan:

"Sending men to that army is like shoveling fleas across a barnyard - not half of them get there."

On a brigadier who was captured with some horses and mules:

"I don't care so much for brigadiers; I can make them. But horses and mules cost money."

On Meade's cautious pursuit of Lee after Gettysburg:

"I'll be hanged if I could think of anything else than an old woman trying to shoo her geese across a creek."

On Rosecrans after Chickamauga:

He acted "confused and stunned like a duck hit on the head."

Advice to Grant at Petersburg:

"Hold on with a bull-dog grip, and chew and choke as much as possible."

On Grant's statement that troops not fighting could help by advancing:

"Those not skinning could hold a leg."