



News Letter

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

1002 Citizens Building
Cleveland 14, Ohio

February 5, 1960

YOU CAN'T FORGET THE DATE -

It's the 98th Anniversary of the "Unconditional Surrender"

DON'T FORGET THE CARD -- MAIL IT NOW!

TUESDAY, February 16, at the University Club, "Brandy Station: Prelude to an Invasion" will be the subject of Colonel J. Gay Seabourne. The speaker has an enviable reputation with Round Tables as a thorough-going historian and an interesting speaker. Colonel Seabourne illustrates his talk with numerous slides and speaks from an intensive study of the subject.

MARCH MEETING ADVANCED

In order to take advantage of the opportunity to secure an especially interesting speaker, the March meeting was advanced approximately one week.

On March 8, at the University Club, Dr. James I. Robertson, of Iowa University, will speak on "James Longstreet - The Man Without a Country." Dr. Robertson is Editor of "The Civil War Quarterly" and is much in demand by CWRTs. March 8 coincides with a speaking tour which will include Chicago, Milwaukee and Madison.

Cleveland Round Tablers can't afford to miss this one.

LADIES' NIGHT

On Annual Ladies' Night, Monday, January 18, our ladies were offered a varied program for their entertainment.

The speaker, Colin Montis, avoided the conventional discussion of battles, stratagems, and famous personalities, and covered many of the little known but interesting Ohioans who played an interesting role in the drama of the Civil War.

Members of the 7th OVI and the president of the North-South Skirmish Association attended in uniform, the latter in the authentic uniform of a Confederate Cavalryman. They contributed a display of authentic weapons, from the Percussion Musket first used in the Mexican War to breech loading Sharps and Spencer carbine. A number of the ladies gave a style show of the latest in Civil War gowns.

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WHAT PRICE SCHOLASTIC GLORY?

General William Starke Rosecrans, West Point class of 1842, was born in Kingston, Delaware County, Ohio. Delaware County also produced Rutherford Birchard Hayes; the Delaware grape; and, the editor of CWRT News Letter!

Other members of the West Point class of 1842 and their class ratings were Newton 2, Rains 3, "Old Rosey" Rosecrans 5, Smith 8, Lovell 9, Pope 17, Abner ("48 hours") Doubleday 24, Anderson 40, Van Dorn 52, and, two spots removed from last place, was "Old Pete" Longstreet, who ranked 54 out of 56.

OHIO IN THE WAR

From the News Letter of The Civil War Centennial Commission: "A recent statement in this news letter that 'what is believed to be the first (Civil War Monument),' dedicated July 28, 1863, has brought a letter from George F. Emery, acting superintendent of the Colonial National Historical Park at Yorktown, Virginia. He cites a National Park Service leaflet that states that the Hazen Brigade Monument, located just south of the Stone's River Cemetery was erected early in 1863 and is thought to be the oldest memorial of the war."

William Babcock Hazen, Bvt. Major General, U.S.A. was born in New York, but was appointed to West Point from Ohio. He was commissioned Colonel of the 41st Ohio, and was promoted to Brigadier U.S.V. on November 29, 1862. At Stone's River he commanded the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, Left Wing, XIV Corps., Army of the Cumberland. The 41st Ohio was one of the four regiments in the Hazen Brigade, which suffered 409 casualties at Stone's River (Murfreesboro).

THE STORY OF ROUND TABLES

The Wisconsin Magazine of History, published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, summer 1959 issue, contains an article by Stephen Ambrose on the history and growth of the Civil War Round Table movement. The following quotes indicate the interesting highlights.

"The Round Table movement dates from the late 1930's when a group ... in Chicago began meeting informally to discuss their common hobby ... On December 3, 1940, they held their first meeting at the Bismarck Hotel. That evening fifteen Civil War aficionados heard Percival G. Hart speak on 'Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign.' The Civil War Round Table was born ..."

(Other groups following Chicago in the years indicated were Birmingham, 1946; Milwaukee, 1947; Atlanta and New York, 1950; Washington, D.C., 1951; and Douglas, Arizona in the West).

"In June 1952, at Gettysburg, the Round Tablers scouted the possibility of formally federating the branches of the Civil War Round Tables for mutual benefit, exchange of program ideas and speakers ..." The representatives of the local Round Tables rejected the centralization scheme; they would continue to fight their own war in their own way."

(Again in 1958 at the Assembly at Fredericksburg the assembled visitors from Round Tables shouted down an attempt at federation and centralization through a proposed national organization).

"... by 1959 there were sixty-eight Round Tables, representing over 6,000 members throughout the United States, Canada, England, and Germany. More than forty of these have been organized since 1955. They are without exception healthy, vibrant groups, charging an average of \$6 a year dues, and with more than 70 percent of their members attending meetings ..."

"The absence of any central governing body has led to a wide divergency among groups. New Albany, Indiana, is a serious study group ... 'not in the Civil War Round Table to be entertained' while in Lexington, Kentucky, the members 'attend to enjoy' ..." Membership ranges from 550 (Washington, D.C.) to twelve (LaFollette, Tennessee), and dues from \$1 to \$15 ...

"Each Round Table has its own unique feature ... Hagerstown, Maryland, owns the 'only completely equipped and uniformed Confederate Artillery Unit' in the country ... Evansville, Indiana, which takes a 'rather light-hearted, enthusiastic view of the recent unpleasantness' has an annual 'Appomattox Day Jubilation, Barn Burnmen' and Surrender Party' for which the meal for the cornbread served is obtained direct from Lee and Gordon's Mill in Chickamauga, Georgia... Denver has added a quiz program. The promoter asks each member in turn a question from a prepared list -- if he cannot answer, he sits down. The last man still standing receives a prize. Minneapolis holds an occasional 'free-for-all' meeting in which all the members contribute to such discussions as 'The Best General of the Civil War' or 'The Decisive Battle of the Civil War' ..."

"There is another organization for the ladies. Mrs. Lloyd Lewis, wife of the late Civil War author, once remarked during the lifetime of her husband, that she had lost him in the Civil War. Mrs. William F. Hesseltine, wife of the noted Lincoln authority, rejoined that she had not lost her man, she had followed him to camp. The remark prompted her to have cards printed with the heading 'The Camp Followers of the Civil War' and she distributed them to Round Table widows. They read: "The bearer is entitled to draw rations, solid and liquid, and to accompany her man on Encampments, Round Table Bivouacs and Battlefield Visitations so long as she performs the time honored and traditional duties of a camp follower ..."

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"Although the majority of members are business and professional men it is not unusual to find cab drivers, factory workers, and mill hands arguing the merits of Pickett's charge with retired army officers, TV executives, and chemists...Almost every Round Table lists a Governor, Representative or Senator in its ranks, although only Kansas City can boast of an ex-President: Harry Truman is an active member and has spoken to the Civil War Round Table in that city..."

"Most Civil War fans admit that their interest springs basically from the 'escape' motive -- they find it relaxes them to leave the stress of the modern world for a time. It is also comforting to know that our problems are not new, and that the old ones have been solved without blowing up the world..."

"...Round Tablers share a deep and abiding belief that the Civil War is the central theme in American History. Their feelings are well expressed in the opening statement of the 1956-1957 Washington Round Table yearbook: 'The great conflict sounded only the opening chords in the prologue to the dramatic events of the Sixties.' The Round Tables are another evidence that the quiver has not yet subsided, and that a catastrophe which divided the nation 100 years ago is, today, through the Civil War Round Tables, helping to unite it."

FROM OTHER NEWS LETTERS

"Richmond Spring Assembly of Round Tables (1959) ... greeted representatives from twenty-one visiting Round Tables ... from thirteen states, the District of Columbia and England. Registration ... totalled 125. From England ... John Bailey ... expresses his enthusiastic anticipation of a return visit with a group of his fellow-countrymen." (Richmond)

"Civil War Buff:(n) a screwball looking for a Minie ball. A man whose wife lost her husband in the war between the states 92 years after it was over." (Evansville, Indiana)

BASEBALL AND THE WAR

"Doubleday, as everyone knows, was a general in the Union Army. What many do not know is that Harmon Killebrew, whose ability with the bat has made him the 1959 hero of the battles of Griffiths Stadium, had a grandfather who was considered the Union Army's finest physical specimen from the State of Illinois." From The Civil War Centennial Commission Bulletin.