



News Letter

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

2060 Illuminating Building
Cleveland 13, Ohio

February 3, 1961

"SURGERY AND MEDICINE IN THE CIVIL WAR"

Time: 6:30 P.M. - February 14, 1961
Place: University Club, 3813 Euclid Avenue
Speakers: Dr. W. L. Schlesinger and Dr. Paul Schildt

Bill Schlesinger and Paul Schildt will present some of the facts about the Surgeons and the Sanitary Commission in the Civil War. In our obsession with the campaigns and battles, it is easy to overlook this important phase of a war in which disease caused more casualties than did minie balls and canister. As active members of the medical profession, our two medicos are well qualified to present this subject.

ADDED FEATURE

"THE BATTLE OF PUCKERBUSH SWAMP"

Ray Williams, the international authority on this conflict, has unearthed new and startling data which throws additional light on its logistics, strategy and tactics. He is prepared to prove that "history is the story of an event that never happened by a man who wasn't there."

LADIES NIGHT

The annual ladies night for 1961 was featured by the address of Mrs. Sylvia Dannett, author of "She Rode with the Generals," and "Noble Women of the North." Mrs. Dannett's talk was especially interesting to our guests and developed an active discussion period relative to the little known activities of women whose part in the war has received inadequate notice.

CIVIL WAR MAP

Available to members is a Civil War Historical Sites map published by the American Automobile Association. The map shows most important points of historical interest and their location relative to highways. Editorial comment is by Bruce Catton.

(Over)

PORTRAITS OF UNION GENERALS

By a British Military Authority

"The practical limitations of his (Jomini's) teachings were illustrated in the American Civil War. The most studious general in either army was Halleck, whose mind had been nourished on Jomini. Yet in practice Halleck proved the most ineffective pedant who ever commanded armies, a general whose paralyzing hand produced stalemate wherever he directed. Another pupil was Sherman, and it can be seen that his knowledge of textbook lore at first handicapped him in comparison with Grant, a man of unlettered and unfettered common sense. Sherman's development was delayed until he gradually freed his mind from theoretical bonds, and learned from experience to pursue the unexpected instead of the orthodox.* Then, his superior intellect enabled him to produce and practice a theory of his own which decided the war, and in which, significantly, his strategic aim was to place the enemy 'on the horns of a dilemma' by having alternative objectives." Lidell Hart, Lees Knowles Lectures, Trinity College, Cambridge, 1932-3, "The Movement of Military Thought from the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Century."

* Editor's Note: Students of the western campaigns will note that Sherman "freed his mind" after his experience at Chickasaw Bluffs (mass against a single objective) and in Grant's famous "eighteen days" (movement and alternative objectives).

PRESTON ON THE WAR

The Plain Dealer's "American Civil War" brochure has had such an enthusiastic reception by the public and by historians, educators, and students that the original printing of 80,000 copies is almost exhausted. Howard Preston, our ex-president and member of the executive committee was responsible for the editorial comments. His five thousand word story of the Civil War is a masterpiece of condensation that left nothing vital unsaid. It is a real contribution to the literature of the Centennial.

CIVIL WAR PUBLICATIONS

Throughout Ohio, newspapers are noting the Centennial with special features. Cleveland saw the publication by the Plain Dealer of a special brochure, edited by Howard Preston, CWRT. The Press carries a daily story "The Civil War 100 Years Ago." Painesville News-Journal announces a Civil War photo contest. Cambridge, The Jeffersonian is printing a diary of John R. Boyer. Elyria, The Chronicle Telegram has a series on "Elyria in the Civil War". Columbus, The Dispatch Magazine of January 8 was devoted to the Centennial and the Dispatch is running a series "Columbus in Civil War Days."

CIVIL WAR FILMS

The Cleveland Public Library has a list of ten 16 mm films on Civil War subjects. These films portray varied subjects including Lincolniana, military activities, and events of historical significance. They are available on loan to responsible individuals and organizations. A descriptive list of the films can be obtained by calling the Film Bureau, CHerry 1-1020.

NEWS OF OTHER ROUND TABLES

Kansas City the CWRT, at its February meeting, presents the Harry S. Truman Award for Meritorious Service in the Field of Civil War History to Allan Nevins. Harry S. Truman, honorary president, will present the award ... Waco, Texas proposes a field trip to the site of the Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana, where General Richard Taylor's confederates stopped the advance of General Banks' forces on April 8, 1864 ... Chicago, Joseph P. Cullen, Richmond National Battlefield Park, presented a study of General McClellan at the January meeting ... Springfield Newsletter for January states: "During the four years of the Civil War, 577 officers attained the rank of General in the Union Army. (Elevets not included) Of these 217 were graduates of West Point. 110 were born in New York; 70 in Pennsylvania; 65 in Ohio; 44 in Massachusetts and 43 in Kentucky. 44 were born in foreign countries and 38 were born in those states which made up the Confederacy." Toledo Newsletter. "DID YOU KNOW? That the average age of the Union soldier at the time of his enlistment was 25.8 years and his average height was 5' 7-1/2" (though Ohio troops averaged a little over 5' 8" tall). The tallest man in the army was from Indiana and he measured 6' 10-1/2", while the shortest was from Ohio and stood only 3' 4" tall."

THUMBNAIL REVIEWS

She Rode with The Generals, Sylvia Dannett, "He, She, or It?"

Lee's Last Campaign, Clifford Dowdey, "All God's Chillun's got faults - 'cept Marse Robert."

CIVIL WAR LINGO

(From The Rebel Yell, Waco, Texas)

"FRESH FISH" (New recruits or recently captured prisoners). "GALVANIZED YANKEES" (Deserters from North who enlisted in the Confederate Army). "IRON DONUTS" (Rails that were heated and then twisted into grotesque shapes by Sherman's men). "MAMMA'S PETS OR BABY BOYS" (Newly recruited soldiers). "MOSSBACKS" (Southerners who hid in the woods to escape conscription officers). "MUGGERS" (Prisoners who robbed their fellow prisoners). "UNION SAVERS" (Southerners who opposed secession). "WRACKENSACKERS" (Soldiers from Arkansas). "PLAY-OUTS" (Those soldiers who advanced to the rear when the battle commenced). "QUARTERMASTER HUNTERS" (Shells that went over the battle-line and landed in the rear among the reserve and support elements). "YELLOW DOGS" (Staff officers). "TENNESSEE QUICKSTEP" (A bad case of diarrhea). "KENTUCKY BUTTON" (Wooden peg used to pin up underdrawers). "COMPANY Q" (Cavalrymen who had lost their horses and were forced to fight on foot). "WHITE NIGHTCAPS" (Havelocks made to shade the neck from the sun).

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NEVILLE BAYLESS ON STUART

The talk on Stuart's Pamunkey Raid by Neville Bayless at our December meeting resulted in so many inquiries that a summary with maps will be mailed to all members in the near future. The executive committee believes that this will be a valuable addition to the Civil War library of our members. The maps will be especially valuable to those who may want to follow Stuart's route and visit the many historic sites past which it travels.

OHIO IN THE CIVIL WAR

Ohio did not limit her contribution to the Civil War to the Union Army and cause. She also sent some of her sons to fight for the Confederacy. Among men from the Buckeye state who rose to the rank of General in the Confederate Army was Daniel H. Reynolds. Born in Ohio, he graduated from Ohio Wesleyan and practiced law in Arkansas. Commissioned Captain in the 1st Arkansas Mounted Rifles, he fought at Wilson's Creek, and in other engagements in Missouri and Arkansas. As Major and Colonel he served under Kirby Smith and Bragg in Kentucky. Promoted to Brigadier, he commanded a brigade in the Atlanta Campaign and under Hood in his Tennessee Campaign. As part of Walthal's division his brigade was in the heavy fighting at Franklin and Nashville. After the war, he was active in politics and the state legislature. He died in 1902.

CENTENNIAL NEWS

Vicksburg is planning a musical drama "Gun Boats 'Round the Bend" for presentation the last Friday in March and each Friday night thereafter for 14 weeks. Each date will be dedicated to a state represented by troops who had a part in the siege of Vicksburg. Ohio is one of the states.

The Post Office Department will have a special cancellation calling attention to the battle of Lexington, Mo., on May 18. A re-enactment of the battle will be fought by cadets of Wentworth Military Academy.

Fort Sumter. A Fort Sumter special pullman train, over the R F & P Railroad, will leave Washington, D.C., for Charleston at 8:20 p.m., April 11 and return at 7:20 a.m., April 14th. During the ceremonies, passengers will use their pullmans as headquarters, traveling by bus to points of interest.

Charleston, S. C. On January 14, a memorial service for all Civil War dead was held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Celebrating priests were descendants of men who participated in the siege of the city.

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