



The COURIER OF THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

FEBRUARY, 1964

Vol. 7, No. 5

DATE: 59th Meeting
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1964

SPEAKER: DR. JOSEPH NUNLEY

SUBJECT: GENERAL NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST

PLACE: HERMIT CLUB - DODGE COURT

PRELIMINARIES: 6:00 P.M. DINNER: 7:00 P.M.

FUTURE MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

60th Meeting

March 10, 1964

Mr. John Simon

"From Galena to Appomattox
-Washburn & Grant"

61st Meeting

April 14, 1964

Mrs. Robert Morris

"From Battlefield to Bedroom:

LADIES NIGHT

RESERVATIONS & DUES

Please send reservation money (\$4.25) to John Stevning. Dues were due as of February 1st. If you haven't gotten them in - please - send to Dr. T. W. Knickerbocker, Lakewood Hospital Lakewood 7, Ohio. NOW !

PAST MEETING & SPEAKER

The January Meeting of the CWRT was a bit on the confusing side. A word of explanation. Due to aircraft equipment failure our speaker arrived late from Indianapolis.

During the interim Past-President Charlie Clarke very ably filled in by conducting a discussion period. Thanks Charlie.

Our speaker, Mr. Robert Dykstra, Editor of the CIVIL WAR HISTORY, gave us a very edifying evening.

REPORT OF FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

Dr. William L. Schlesinger gave the membership a very comprehensive report on the activities of the field trip committee.

The committee composed of the Doctor, Charles Clarke and Donald Ryan, with Neville Bayless acting in an unofficial advisory capacity have tentatively settled on Sharpsburg or Antietam (if you prefer) as the 1964 site of our annual field trip.

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. W. KNICKERBOCKER

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TERMS EXPIRING:

1964: Dr. Paul Schildt
 Gordon Berry

1965: Donald MacDowell
 Edward S. Wells

EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER . . Theodore I. Adams

OHIO TROOPS IN THE FIELD...Edward T. Downer

CHRONOLOGY OF OHIO TROOPS

FEBRUARY, 1864

"THE UNION LIGHT GUARD"

Early in 1864, Washingtonians were fascinated as they watched a newly arrived cavalry troop drilling in the neighborhood of the White House. The tall troopers mounted on sleek, black horses were all Ohioans.

Designated the Union Light Guard, this Ohio troop escorted President Lincoln's carriage wherever it went. Often they stood at a respectful distance while Lincoln conferred with Secretaries Seward and Stanton in front of their homes. When rumors hinted that Lincoln's life was threatened, the men screened the carriage to stop any missile aimed at the President.

The troop was recruited, mounted and equipped by Ohio Governor David Todd, to guard the White House and adjacent government buildings. It was to be made up of former cavalymen not less than six feet tall. Each Ohio county was to have one representative among the one hundred men.

In searching for ways in which our organization can aid in the better understanding of the Civil War and its tremendous meaning to the United States, there is a situation within our own Cleveland school system that needs attention.

Recently, I was invited to give a talk on the Civil War to a local junior high school group. It occurred to me that those of us so vitally interested could be of great benefit to these teachers.

Beneficial in many ways...Some of us can give of our time to give talks, while others with their collections of books, artifacts, etc. could make these available to the teachers to augment their lessons.

The inadequate time devoted to the Civil War in our schools is appalling. It is natural enough for me to say this, as others would bring up some other phase of our history as being inadequately taught or exposed. However, I believe that much of the sectionalism in our atmosphere today is still a carry-over from that period. A carry-over because the period is not well understood nor is taught in any great depth to our students. Misunderstandings of the personalities and the issues of that day are made strikingly apparent when speaking or questioning the students and/or teachers.

The teachers welcome outside speakers to help them with their students. It lends a note of authority and finality to the students' thinking. Students are really fascinated by the talks and the slides or movies, and artifacts that they see.

If you care to donate of your time or your collection (on a loan basis) to help bring more realism to this period of our history, please contact me. This also extends into the realm of adults through the various service organizations and ladies groups. Please give this some serious consideration for it is most important.

NOTICE: THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE ENTIRE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS AT THE HERMIT CLUB STARTING AT FIVE (5) O'CLOCK. IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT ALL BE IN ATTENDANCE.

Nathan Bedford Forrest and the Mules

(Neville Bayless submitted the following item. Because it ties in with our speaker's topic, your editor reserved it especially for this issue.)

An order went out from General Hood's quartermaster reducing the number of mules in the wagons and ordering all surplus mules to be turned over to the quartermaster of transportation. General Forrest ignored the order. A day later a young officer visited Forrest wanting to know why the mules had not been sent. For awhile the air was blue. Stripped of all of its profanity, Forrest's reply was: "go back to your quarters and don't come here again or send anybody here about mules. The order will not be obeyed; and, moreover, if Major Ewing bothers me further about this matter, I'll come down to his office, tie his long legs into a double bowknot around his neck, and choke him to death with his own shins..."

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Musings by the Editor To Encourage Impromptu Discussions

The Confederacy may have been outproduced, outmanned, outgunned, and ultimately outfought by the Union side, but it was never outranked. Can any member give the number of full generals in the Confederate States Army, as well as the number of lieutenant generals? Was U.S. Grant

given the only Lieutenant General's commission during the war? Had the Confederate States succeeded in breaking away from the U.S., it is not unlikely that the new government would have been dominated by a military junta composed of high ranking officers.

Has any member studied the interesting battle-field reunions that were held after the war--those that were attended simultaneously by veterans of the Blue and the Gray? Your editor has read accounts of reunions that were held at Gettysburg and at Shiloh. It seems that much of the sectional bitterness that persisted after the war, and still persists, was not fomented by the soldiers and by the fighting, as it was by purely political maneuvering on the home fronts.

Soldiers' letters from both sides have frequently suggested the respect that was held for the enemy, and the thought persistently appeared that the individual enemy soldier was not greatly different from the writer (of the letter) and was probably fighting for essentially similar reasons. Much of the bombast that characterized the press of both sides was discredited by the soldiers--and the idea frequently occurred "the quickest way to end the war would be for the soldiers to get together and let the politicians and newspapermen fight it out".

Likewise today, it isn't the Civil War buffs--roundtable members, and North-South skirmishers, etc., who foster the sectional mistrust, as it is the groups whose prejudice is matched only by their ignorance of Civil War history and the basic causes of it. The question--so often heard of late "Why can't we forget the Civil War?" has a hollow ring to it, because those who loudly propound it usually know the least about the subject.