



The COURIER OF THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

FEBRUARY, 1965

Vol. 8, No. 5

—67th Meeting—

DATE:	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1965		
SPEAKER:	EFFLOE A. PLAZER		
SUBJECT:	GEN. GEORGE H. "PAP" THOMAS		
PLACE:	HERMIT CLUB - DODGE COURT		
PRELIMINARIES:	6:00 p.m.	DINNER:	7:00 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

68th Meeting

MARCH 9, 1965

J. Stuart Torrey
"The Lincoln Assassination"

* * * * *

69th Meeting

APRIL 13, 1965 - "Ladies Night"

Miss Maggie Davis, popular novelist
Subject to be announced.

* * * * *

DINNER RESERVATIONS

Please use the enclosed, stamped envelope to forward your dinner reservations for the February 9 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.

* * * * *

COMING MEETING

The Lincoln assassination - its effect on The War and its bearings on history. This will be the subject of our March 9th meeting. J. Stuart Torrey, Circulation Manager of Hardware Age Magazine, will be the speaker.

Mr. Torrey was editor of the book "Lincoln and Men of Civil War Times" by Alexander McClure, a contemporary of Lincoln's. He also assisted in the editing of James Montgomery's book "Gettysburg - or the Shaping of a Battle." This volume is interesting in that it compares the fighting at Gettysburg with some of the statistics and techniques of World War II.

Mr. Torrey will also discuss how the Lincoln assassination is regarded 100 years later. He will bring along some documentation for his talk which should be of interest to members.

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

TERMS EXPIRING:

1965: Donald MacDowell
Edward S. Wells
1966: David C. Humphrey
Frank A. Moran

EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER . . Theodore I. Adams
REPUBLIC STEEL CORPORATION, CLEVELAND, OHIO

* * * * *

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Thus ended the great American Civil War, which must upon the whole be considered the noblest and least avoidable of all the great mass-conflicts of which till then there was a record. Three quarters of a million men had fallen on the battlefield. The North was plunged in debt; the South was ruined. The material advance of the United States was cast back for a spell. But as John Bright said to his audience of English working folk, 'At last after the smoke of the battlefield had cleared away, the horrid shape which had cast its shadow over the whole continent had vanished and was gone forever.'"

With the passing of Sir Winston Churchill, it is fitting that we recall the above passage from his "History of the English Speaking Peoples." His mastery of words was superb and he well deserved the Nobel Prize for Literature. Here are other passages from this same writing:

"Yet thoughtful men and travelers had for some years observed the approach of a convulsion which would grip not only the body but the soul of the United States.

"The planters of the South, and the slaves they owned, had both grown up in wide, unkempt lands without ever having known any other relationship. Now, suddenly, in the midst of the 19th Century, dire challenge was hurled at the whole system and the society in which it was engrained.

"A considerable, strongly characterized and slowly matured community found itself subjected to the baleful and scandalized glare of the Christian world, itself engaged in vigorous and self-confident progress. The southern planters had long dwelt comfortably upon the fertile slopes of a volcano. Now began the rumblings, tremors, and exhalations which portended a frightful eruption."

LESTER SWIFT

* * * * *

PAST MEETING AND SPEAKER

The three-way debate became a two-way affair when Guy DiCarlo, in researching General Ben Butler, found enough material for an entire evening's presentation! He stepped aside, giving Messrs. Ramsey and Stevning a few more minutes to present their cases.

And so they did. Armed with impressive volumes by their sides, the two proceeded to attack a few established myths about Jeb Stuart and Dan Sickles. The anticipated fireworks at Jim Ramsey's remarks did not materialize, however, other than a challenge to a duel from another member of southern proclivities. On the other hand, John Stevning was forced to bring up his reserves to withstand a sharp assault from the hardened veterans in the audience.

FEBRUARY, 1865
OHIO IN THE CAROLINAS

At this time in February, 1865, Sherman's soldiers were sloshing through the swampy country of southern South Carolina. In the four army corps were forty-six infantry and four cavalry regiments from Ohio. These Ohioans were on the long, toilsome march from Savannah to Goldsboro, North Carolina, leaving destruction and devastation in their wake. They pushed their way through supposedly impassable swamps, forded swollen streams and crossed five great rivers. They laid down miles of corduroy roads and on bottomless trails strained and tugged at wagons and gun carriages mired hub deep. They foraged for their food and in the process appropriated to themselves anything of value that could be moved.

In the division commanded by Mortimer D. Leggett, later to become a Clevelander, were the 20th, 68th, and 78th Ohio regiments. Leggett's division marched 432 miles of road, built 300 yards of bridgework, and destroyed fourteen miles of railroad track. At last, they staggered into Goldsboro hungry and ragged, half of them barefooted and as many dressed in rebel clothing.

The army reached Columbia, capital of South Carolina on February 17. Present that night were all of the ingredients for a horrible holocaust. Burning in the streets, fired by retiring Rebel troops, were vast quantities of loose cotton being wafted into trees and onto roof tops by winds of gale force. But, an even greater danger were the hundreds of Union soldiers and stragglers roaming the streets apparently unrestrained by the provost guards. Many were drunk, having been too generously provided with liquor by the local citizens. Bitter toward this "cradle of secession," many sought to wreak their personal vengeance. As usual, their weapon was the torch, aided this time by high winds. Whatever the cause, practically the entire city soon became a lurid, awesome inferno beyond all control.

Ned Downer

THE GRAND ARMY BADGE

Member Frank Gillen has prepared a very interesting monograph on The Grand Army Badge. While it is a short treatise on a single subject, it is too long to be included unabridged in one newsletter. Reproductions of the treatise in typewriter composition are being prepared for handout distribution to the membership at one of the meetings. It is planned to include a copy with the mailing of the newsletter to our "editors exchange list" reaching other roundtables.

A "collectors' collector," Frank has researched the badge once worn proudly by many thousands of Union Veterans. Now dusty mementoes found in the effects of our ancestors, Frank breathes life into these medals again by explaining the symbolism of the badge and its development and distribution.

PAUL M. ANKA (?) OUTSTANDING
CIVIL WAR HISTORIAN -
DECISIVE BATTLES OF THE CW -
1-ATLANTA 2-NASHVILLE 3-APPOMATOX -
A-GREAT RAILWAY STRATEGIST.
B-Kept Politicians off train
C-Set up mobile shops (Rwy).
GRANT DOWNGRADED THOMAS
TO REMOVE HIM AS POSSIBLE
PRESIDENTIAL MATERIAL!