



## *News Letter*

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

2060 The Illuminating Building  
Cleveland 13, Ohio

January 6, 1961

### "UNION WOMEN UNDER THE GUNS"

Ladies' Night, January 17, 6:30 P.M.

The University Club

Mrs. Sylvia Dannett, one of the outstanding women authorities on the War, will address our Annual Ladies' Night. Mrs. Dannett's latest book, "She Rode with the Generals" is the biography of Sarah Emma Edmonds, published by Thomas Nelson and Sons. Posing as Franklin Thompson, Miss Edmonds enlisted at the outbreak of hostilities and became the only woman member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mrs. Dannett is also the author of "Noble Women of the North."

Our speaker is a graduate of New Jersey College for Women and has earned a reputation as an interesting speaker, particularly on the part women played in the Civil War. She will autograph copies of her book for our members and guests.

### NEVILLE BAYLESS and STUART

At our meeting on December 13, Neville Bayless took those in attendance on a tour of the scenes of Stuart's Pamunkey Expedition in 1862. His slides were especially interesting and informative and his talk gave rise to a lively discussion period.

### PLEASE SEND THE CARD

Because of the enlarged attendance expected for Ladies' Night it is especially important that the Committee be notified in ample time to prepare suitable seating. PLEASE RETURN THE CARD IMMEDIATELY.

### MAIL YOUR DUES!

The annual membership fee of \$10 is now due and payable. Checks should be mailed to Guy Di Carlo, 21491 So. Lake Shore Blvd., Euclid 23, Ohio. Under the constitution, members whose dues are not paid by February 1, must be dropped from the rolls. The waiting list for new members allows the committee no leeway on extensions.

(over)



## PORTRAIT OF A GENERAL

"Our camp was this morning taken by assault by a cavalcade which turned out to be Abou Ben Butler and a portion of his staff. He is the strangest sight on a horse you ever saw: it is hard to keep your eyes off him. With his head set immediately on a stout shapeless body, his very squinting eyes, and a set of legs and arms that look as if made for somebody else, and hastily glued to him by mistake, he presents a combination of Victor Emmanuel, AEsop, and Richard III, which is very confusing to the mind. Add to this a horse with a kind of rapid, ambling trot that shakes about the arms, legs, etc., till you don't feel quite sure whether it is a centaur, or what it is, and you have a picture of this celebrated General. Celebrated he surely is, and a man of untiring industry and activity. Woe to those who stand up against him in the way of diplomacy!" From "Meade's Headquarters" - The Letters of Theodore Lyman.

## OHIO IN THE CIVIL WAR

Few institutions in Ohio shared sympathies as nearly equally between the North and the South as did Miami University. The president of Miami in 1861 was John W. Hall, a native of North Carolina and an outspoken advocate of states' rights. The enrollment at Miami included students from five southern states. A former president was president of Washington College and the father-in-law of Stonewall Jackson. J. J. McRae, Miami University '34, was a former governor of Mississippi, and in 1861, he resigned from the House of Congress, to become a member of the Confederate Congress.

The same train which carried the University Rifles from Oxford (see Newsletter of December 2, 1960) transported a group of Confederate students leaving to join the Confederate ranks. The Union and Confederate groups separated at Hamilton, Ohio, where they shook hands in farewell.

Typical of the fratricidal character of the war was an experience of Miami men at Shiloh. During the fighting on April 7, 1862, the 81st Ohio drove back the 20th Tennessee and captured its Colonel. Upon learning that his captors included men from Miami, he asked that they try to find the body of his son and adjutant, Joel Allen Battle, Miami '59, who had been killed in action earlier in the day. The next morning John Lewis, Captain 41st Illinois, and Cliff Rass, 31st Indiana, found the body and, assisted by John R. Chamberlain, they buried their Miami classmate, Joel Battle. John Lewis and Joe Battle were not only classmates but fraternity brothers at Miami. ("The Miami Years" by Haveghurst).

1961 DUES - DON'T FORGET THEM



## TIME FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO "CIVIL WAR HISTORY"

Subscriptions to "Civil War History," published by State University of Iowa, will expire December 31. Those who subscribe through the Round Table get this quarterly publication at a discount of 20%. Regular price is \$5 but to our members it is \$4. Anyone who is not getting this magazine is missing the biggest \$4 worth of Civil War History now available. Our Treasurer, Guy Di Carlo will take your subscription which must be sent in by the CWRT if you are to get the discount.

## CURRENT CIVIL WAR ITEMS

The Cleveland Plain Dealer, December 2, presented an interesting review of "Pie" DuFour's, "The Night the War was Lost" published by Doubleday. DuFour, a New Orleans newspaperman, has presented the story of the fall of the city. The review was contained in Wes Lawrence's, "Breakfast Commentator" column.

Living History, Inc., Box 446, Shenandoah, Iowa, will reissue on a weekly basis, the Civil War issues of "Harper's Weekly." Subscription rates are \$12 for 52 issues. Subscribers will also receive a commentary edited by Dr. James Robertson, who spoke to one of our meetings on James Longstreet.

The State of Maryland will restore the Dunkard Church at Sharpsburg. The National Park Service will be in charge and will maintain the structure and surrounding grounds.

Steps are being taken to raise the gunboat "Cairo" after nearly a century under water. To date, much of the equipment has been recovered by divers. This equipment includes a 6100 pound navy gun.

## NEWS OF OTHER ROUND TABLES

Susquehanna (Lewisburg, Pa.) instituted a program of endeavoring to establish Junior Branches in all the high schools of the surrounding area ... Waco, Texas on a program sponsored by the Junior League and the Board of Education, three members of the CWRT composed a panel to discuss "The Gettysburg Campaign" over KWTX-TV ... Washington, D.C. is sponsoring a charter flight to England to visit parts of that country connected with the family of Robert E. Lee. The tour starts on April 28, 1961. Fare of plane is \$265 and the five day tour \$60 ... Bloomington, Illinois, is a recent addition to the list of Round Tables. It's first meeting on November 30, featured an address by Prof. A. W. Crandall of DePauw University on the Battle of Gettysburg ... Nathan Beford Forest Round Table, Murfreesboro, Tenn., started publication of a Newsletter in December, titled "Gaus' Bugle", it is a welcome addition to our exchange list. The unique title honors Forest's bugler who was the cavalry leaders constant companion. The first issue carries the information that recently "On the face of a bluff, fifty yards south of Stone's River bridge ... this chiseled inscription was found: Dan Miller, 115th OVI, August 1864."

(over)



### IF YOU'RE A BUFF WHAT ARE YOU?

The foregoing is not the title of a poem by Gertrude Stein. It is query inspired by an exercise in semantics by the CWRT of Kansas City. As a result of an article on the subject the Casey Newsletter received several theories as to the origin of the term "Civil War Buff."

Henry Bass of Enid, Oklahoma, says it may derive from a poem entitled "The Private of the Buffs" by Sir Francis Doyle. The poem commemorated a famous British regiment, the Third, now the East Kent. The uniforms of this regiment were buff and its members were known as the Buffs. Bass himself admits that he sees no connection between the Third and devotees of the history of the Civil War.

Gus Edwards for his explanation, turns to "The American Language" by H. L. Mencken which gives "Buff a fire fan." There is no doubt that fire fans were referred to as "Buffs." It is suggested that the term originated because the early fire fans wore buffalo skin coats.

The New York Sun, November 16, 1937, says "Other authorities say that it originated in the fact that many of the early firemen wore buff (color) uniforms."

Our own research leads us to believe that the source of the term "buff" makes it somewhat less flattering. Look up "buffo," "buffoon," and "opera bouffe" in your unabridged. True the "buff" is pronounced "boof" rather than "buff" but the connotations are inescapable. A "buffo" is a "bass singer of comic roles in opera; a comic..." Conventionally, a pompous individual, comically impressed with his own importance, was referred to as an "opera bouffe mayor," an "opera bouffe general," or an "opera bouffe banker" according to his pose.

Take your pick. You are either a throw-back to a buff-uniformed British Tommy, a pyromaniac, or a comic. If you are a devotee or genuine student of Civil War History you probably won't like to be referred to as a buff. Admittedly, some of us who affect beards, and handle-bar mustaches; who out-general Lee, out-smart Lincoln, out-ride Forrest, and out-drink the army luses are comics. But so far there is no noticeable connection with the East Kent regiment and, fortunately, there have been no convictions for arson.

### PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION

In a proclamation on December 7, President Eisenhower asked the American people to take a direct and active part in the centennial of the Civil War and commemorate a conflict he called the United States' most tragic experience.

The proclamation urged schools and colleges, libraries and museums, churches and patriotic, civic and service organizations to carry out appropriate centennial observances for the "purpose of enriching the knowledge and appreciation of the war" and "of making this memorable period truly a centennial for all Americans."