



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

2060 Illuminating Building
Cleveland 13, Ohio

January 5, 1963

"LITTLE MAC"

Time: TUESDAY, January 15 - 6:30 P. M.

Place: UNIVERSITY CLUB, 3813 Euclid Avenue

Speaker: DON HAMILL

Our own Don Hamill has heroically volunteered to talk on one of the most controversial figures in American History. Hero - patriot - traitor - victim of political intrigue? General George B. McClellan's rise and fall can be the subject of more debates than a session of the UN. Tuesday, January 15, should go down in our annals as one of our most turbulent.

SEND BACK THE CARDS **** THIS IS LADIES NIGHT **** BRING THE GALS

THE JOINT WILL JUMP WITH DON'S TALK ON THE NAPOLEON OF THE WEST. IT'S ABOUT TIME THE WOMEN SAW US IN ACTION. COME ONE ** COME ALL.

CIVIL WAR HISTORY

With notice of time for payment of dues, came the opportunity to subscribe to the Civil War History, the magazine devoted entirely to Civil War subjects. Our members get a bargain rate of \$4 per year if they subscribe through the Round Table. Members can help our Treasurer Doc Knickerbocker, by sending their dues and subscriptions in promptly.

IN MEMORIAM

News of the death of Robert S. Harper came as a severe shock to his many friends, especially among Civil War Round Tables. Mr. Harper died in Washington, C. H., Ohio of a heart attack. He was staff executive of the Ohio Civil War Centennial Commission and a life long student of Civil War History. Cleveland CWRT members had the privilege on February 20, 1962, of hearing his talk on Lincoln's eventful trip to the inauguration.

FORGOTTEN MAN OF THE CONFEDERACY

Poets, unlike prophets, are without honor not only at home but abroad. In the effusion of biographies, anecdotes, and memoirs during the Civil War Centennial, no mention appears to have been given to a Georgia Confederate Veteran who added lustre to American letters.

It is not strange that Yankee tourists traveling Route 17 should hurry past the tree in Brunswick under which one of the great American poems was written. It is understandable that our own Wes Lawrence, when deep in the "Marshes of Glynn," should have been reminded of a Yankee poet and should have forgotten that the locale was immortalized by a native Georgian. What is surprising is that Georgia in particular and the South in general has failed to commemorate the work of a poet who served it so well in war and immortalized it in verse in times of peace. Indeed one of the finest tributes to Stonewall Jackson appears to have been overlooked even in the Shenandoah Valley:

THE DYING WORDS OF STONEWALL JACKSON

"Order A.P. Hill to prepare for battle"
"Tell Major Hawks to advance the Commissary train"
"Let us cross the river and rest in the shade"

O hero life that lit us like the sun
O hero words that glittered like the stars
And stood and shone above the gloomy wars
When hero life was done!

The phantoms of a battle came to dwell
I' the fitful vision of his dying eyes --
Yet even in battle-dreams, he sends supplies
To those he loved so well.

His army stands in battle-line arrayed:
His couriers fly: all's done: now God decide!
--And not till then saw he the other side
Or would accept the shade.

Thou land whose sun is gone, thy stars remain!
Still shine the words that minature his deeds,
O thrice-beloved, where'er thy great heart bleeds,
Solace hast thou for pain.

Sidney Lanier, who should be, if he isn't, the poet - laureate of Georgia, was born at Macon in 1842. In April, 1861, he enlisted in the Macon Volunteers, Second Georgia battalion. He saw action in the Peninsula campaign, including Seven Pines, Drewy's Bluff and the Seven Days. After Malvern Hill, he was transferred to the signal service. In 1863 he was assigned to duty on a blockade runner.

(continued)

STONEWALL WARMS UP
(Chicago CWRT News Letter)

WILLIAM H. STAUFFER, editor of the Richmond (Va.) CWRT newsletter quotes a member, Archibald Robertson, for this heretofore unpublished anecdote having come down through his family relating to "Stonewall" Jackson: "Jackson and other members of his staff stopped by a home on a bitter winter night. They were offered a drink of whiskey by their host before resuming their way. Jackson, reputedly a teetotaler, asked Dr. Hunter McGuire if he should indulge in the drink, and when reassured that it would act as a preventive against the near zero weather, poured himself an unusually healthy drink. The march was resumed and presently Jackson was seen to unbutton his greatcoat. A little later he opened his blouse and finally his inner shirt. Thus exposed, McGuire protested to the general that in such bitter weather it was extremely hazardous to do this and did the general not realize how cold it actually was. "You are wrong, sir," replied Jackson. "Can you not feel that the weather has considerably moderated?"

NEWS OF OTHER ROUNDTABLES

HARTFORD, reports that five of the delegates to the first Provisional (Confederate) Congress were killed in action. They were Francis S. Bartow (1st Bull Run); T. R. Cobb (Fredericksburg); John Gregg (Wilderness); Stephen Hale (Gaines Mill); and Lawrence Krett (Cold Harbor) ... WACO announces a new Texas history quarterly "Texana" by Texian Press, subscriptions \$3 per year ... MADISON, Wisconsin has published a roster of 73 members ... SPRINGFIELD, Ill., has a new member, Fleetwood Lindley, alleged to be "the only living man who has looked upon the face of Abraham Lincoln" ... DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA states that the C. W. Centennial is also the Centennial of the railroad postal car. It happened because Confederate guerrillas and partisans in the west harassed the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad in Missouri. As a result, several days' mail was dumped at St. Joseph, jumping off point for the entire west. The local post office staff was unable to sort it quickly enough to get it aboard the next overland stage. The assistant postmaster at St. Joseph suggested to the Dept. in Washington that special railroad cars be designated in which mail could be sorted en route, thus speeding service and ending bottlenecks in sorting. The idea was accepted. Thus the War contributed a key factor in today's mail system ... TOLEDO heard former Cleveland Sam Wang's talk on Custer at the December meeting ... NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, increased annual dues to \$1.50! ... CHICAGO announces that Lee Chapel, at Lexington, Va., will be closed for a major operation until May 15, 1963 ... KANSAS CITY reports that a new road to the William McKinley monument at Antietam has been opened to visitors ... WINCHESTER commemorated the battle of Fredericksburg, December 6-15 and hosted a statewide assembly of Round Tables December 13-15 ... COLUMBUS, Indiana, "Crossed Sabers," states that 2189 Congressional Medals of Honor have been awarded, 1200 during the Civil War.

His vessel was captured and he spent the remainder of the war as prisoner in Point Lockout prison. His servitude contributed to his death from tuberculosis in 1881.

Lanier's military service, like that of the unknown soldier, was not spectacular. In war he served the South well and faithfully. Delicate physically and sensitive spiritually, his tribute to Jackson is the only direct reference in his work to military events. But in peace he found inspiration in his native Georgia. His "Song of the Chattahoochee" for technical beauty and rhythm rates with the best; his "The Crystal" and "Ballad of Trees and the Master" are not excelled in reverential poetry; and his "The Stirrup Cup," though less well-known, is at least on a par, with Tennyson's dauntless challenge to Death - Lanier wrote:

'Death thou'rt a cordial old and rare:
Look how compounded, with what care!
Time got his wrinkles reaping thee:
Sweet herbs from all antiquity.

Then, time, let not a drop be split;
Hand me the cup whene'er thou wilt;
'Tis a rich stirrup-cup to me;
I'll drink it down right smilingly.

PORTRAIT OF AN ADMIRAL

"He (D. D. 'Black Dave' Porter) has stirring and positive qualities, is fertile in resources, has great energy, excessive and sometimes not over-scrupulous ambition, is impressed with and boastful of his own powers, given to exaggeration in relation to himself -- a Porter infirmity, -- is not generous to older and superior living officers, whom he is too ready to traduce, but is kind and patronizing to favorites who are juniors, and generally to official inferiors. Is given to cliquism but is brave and daring like all his family." Diary of Gideon Welles, Vol. 1, 157.

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

This one is currently making the rounds of the CWRT newsletters: A Federal squad of Volunteers came upon a lonely mountain cabin whose only occupant was an elderly mountain woman. After the usual salutations, one of the men asked her, "Well old woman you a Secesh?" "No" was the reply. "Are you Union?" "No" again. "Well what are you then?" She replied tartly, "A Baptist, an' always have been...." (Hardtack, Indianapolis CWRT Newsletter).