



News Letter

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

July 5, 1958

VISIT TO JOHNSON'S ISLAND. The field-trip committee is planning a one-day jaunt to Johnson's Island on Saturday, September 6. The plan is to leave Cleveland sometime in the morning by chartered bus, have lunch together in Sandusky, and take chartered boat to Johnson's Island, returning home in the evening. At the luncheon a qualified speaker will talk about the Johnson's Island prison.

This outing will serve as an opportunity to get better acquainted with your fellow-members, as well as a chance to see and learn more about this famous Civil War prison. Guy DiCarlo, Jr. is in charge of arrangements. You will receive more details later. For the time being, just keep Saturday, September 6 open, and try to save up \$10 which should more than cover your expenses.

PARTY TO FREDERICKSBURG - SPOTSYLVANIA BATTLEFIELDS. Neville Bayless is organizing a party to visit Fredericksburg battle area on September 12, 13 and 14. Besides Neville, Chuck Cullen, Bill Schlesinger and Ned Downer have already signed up. If you want to join the group call Neville Bayless (MAIN 1-0648) or Ned Downer (CEDAR 1-7700, ext. 298).

The schedule as at present proposed is as follows: --

Friday, September 12

1:35 p.m.	Leave Cleveland - Hopkins Airport
3:00 p.m.	Arrive Washington
5:00 p.m.	Arrive Fredericksburg by rented cars
7:00 p.m.	Dinner at Fredericksburg - Speaker

Saturday, September 13

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Tour Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville battlefields with National Park Service guides
6:00 p.m.	Dinner at Fredericksburg - Speaker

Sunday, September 14

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Tour Wilderness and Spotsylvania battlefields
10:30 p.m.	Arrive back in Cleveland

The estimated cost by plane will be between \$90 and \$100, including plane fare, hotel, rented cars and meals. Those who can spare the time to drive can save the plane fare which is \$47 for the round trip.

MEETING OF JUNE 4. Otto Eisenschiml spoke on the subject of Why the Civil War? He said that Lincoln's basic objective was to avoid civil war, and to that end he was prepared to swap Fort Sumter for Fort Pickens which could be easily strengthened and held by the Federal forces. It was the miscarriage of his plans which brought on the war. A confidential message to Major Anderson failed to reach its destination. An expedition to supply Fort Pickens was delayed by a storm; before it could reach Pensacola, the bombardment of Sumter had taken place.

He called the expedition to provision Fort Sumter a "phoney." Secret instructions had been given to Gustavus Fox, commanding the expedition, not to fight to save the fort. Lincoln, he said, had never contemplated a conflict of such magnitude, and many of the Southern states had seceded only to strengthen their bargaining positions in negotiations with the Federal government. The situation got completely out of hand.

To explain Lincoln's acts from the time of his inauguration to the call for 75,000 men, the speaker arranged the known facts in chronological order, filled in some of the gaps by newly-acquired evidence and others by hypothetical reasoning. He compared the procedure with the principle of Mendelyeev's period of chemical elements.

Dr. Eisenschiml was most generous in answering questions, but explained that detailed evidence to support his conclusions was printed in his book entitled, "Why the Civil War?" He was given a standing ovation at the conclusion of his talk. Thirty-nine members and ten guests enjoyed this provocative discussion.

MEMBERSHIP LIST. Enclosed is the complete up-to-date list of our members. The list contains 68 names including our honorary, junior and absentee members, which brings us up to the limit fixed by the Executive Committee. However, one or two more applicants could still be considered.

THE OHIO CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION has been appointed by Governor O'Neill. Members are Dr. Earl W. Wiley, Wooster College; William N. Coffin, Cincinnati; Mrs. Marcus W. Crocker, Columbus; John A. Staker, Portsmouth; Judge Hehr Fess, Toledo; Richard A. Blackburn and Wm. J. Oertel, Columbus; Dr. Walter Havighurst, Miami University; Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler, Worthington; John W. Cullen, Jr., Cleveland; and Col. Warfield W. Dorsey, Mount Vernon.

Congratulations, Jack! Keep us informed.

Thirty states to date have appointed Centennial Commissions.

"CIVIL WAR HISTORY." If you are a subscriber to this valuable quarterly (it has become a sort of official journal for Civil War "buffs"), but have not received your September, 1957, December, 1957, March, 1958, or June, 1958 issues, get in touch with Jack Cullen (EXpress 1-7940). He may have some extra copies.

JOHN HUNT MORGAN IN GUERNSEY COUNTY. Dr. Milton N. Thompson, our Dentist from Cambridge, Ohio, has sent us a copy of the History of Guernsey County which contains an article from the Cambridge "Times" on Morgan's Ohio raid in Guernsey County. The article is dated July 30, 1863, which was four days after Morgan's capture. From the account one gathers that Morgan and his men were not popular heroes in Ohio in '63. The writer alludes to them as "the most villainous cutthroats and scoundrels, the sweepings and accumulations of two years of murdering and plundering among helpless people," "John and his

thieves," "blood-stained wretches," "vile, black-hearted cutthroats" and "land pirate gang."

The story tells of a skirmish with Union cavalry at Old Washington in which three of Morgan's men were killed. Thompson writes that "a monument has been erected at the Old Washington cemetery in honor of these three unknown rebel raiders."

OLUSTEE. Robert E. Warren, Sr. recently visited the Olustee Battlefield Historical Memorial in Florida, the site of the Battle of Olustee (February 20, 1864). With this battle the Federal attempt to invade Florida came to a disastrous end. The Union expedition (5,550 men) under the command of Brigadier-General Truman Seymour was defeated by a Confederate force (5,400 men) commanded by Brigadier-General Joseph Finegan.

The battlefield park is located on U.S. Highway 90, forty-five miles west of Jacksonville. Warren has a detailed account of the battle, published by the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials.

SOME CIVIL WAR FACTS ABOUT CLEVELAND

TWO CLEVELAND HEROES. Near the entrance to Woodland Cemetery are two conspicuous tombstones, which mark the graves of Colonel William R. Creighton and Lieutenant-Colonel Orrin J. Crane, commanding officers of the Seventh Ohio. The Seventh was a Cleveland regiment which fought Stonewall Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley and was at Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and Look-Out Mountain.

Both officers were killed at Taylor's Ridge near Ringgold, Georgia, on November 27, 1863 in the pursuit of Bragg's army after the battle of Missionary Ridge. The regiment was badly cut up in a charge against a formidable position. Practically all of its officers were either killed or wounded and it retired under the command of a lieutenant.

On the roster of the Seventh Ohio appears the name of Franklin G. Rockefeller, Private, Company A. He enlisted at the age of 18 years and served the full three years. "Frank" Rockefeller was a brother of "John D."

THE CLEVELAND GRAYS responded promptly to Lincoln's April 15 call for 75,000 men. On April 18, 1861, they assembled at their armory and, between cheering crowds, marched to the depot. The next day, along with 19 other military companies from various parts of the state, they entrained at Columbus for Washington to defend the capital. En route, they became the First Company of the First Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under the command of Colonel Alexander McDowell McCook.

They were first under fire when a masked battery opened on their train at Vienna, Virginia, on June 17, 1861. At Bull Run they were a part of Daniel Tyler's division near the Stone Bridge. Although not seriously engaged, they retired in good order and covered the retreating army in the evening. Upon completion of their three-months' service they were mustered out.

Some well-known Cleveland names appear on the company roster, including James Pickands, 3rd Sergt., H. S. Pickands, 5th Corp., and Pvt. J. W. Severance.

THE HIBERNIAN GUARDS was another Cleveland militia company which left with the "Grays" on the same day. It was an Irish company of long standing and is said to have organized and led the first St. Patrick's Day parade in this part of the country, in 1853. Later in the war it became Company B of the Eighth O.V.I. and fought at Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor.

COURIER NEWS FROM OTHER ROUND TABLES

By Guy DiCarlo, Jr.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA. The Hunt Room of the Hotel Raleigh was the setting for the Richmond Round Table meeting which saw the installation of new officers for the coming year, and a very interesting speaker.

The highlight of the meeting was a talk by Mr. George Gordon Meade III, great grandson of the famous Union General. Mr. Meade, who is an industrial designer, used as the theme of his talk, the character of General Meade. After the talk the members asked questions to draw out more of the general's personal and military life. The talk was an excellent one and should Mr. Meade find himself in Cleveland it would be our honor to have him speak to our group.

In a previous newsletter it was reported in this section that the Richmond Round Table has an "OPEN DOOR POLICY". Well, your reporter took his own advice and found that Southern Cordiality and Hospitality are still very much in evidence with the members of the Richmond Round Table. Our sincere thanks to Mrs. M. Lorraine Wiatt, hostess, for her kindness to visiting "Bufs."

FREEPORT, ILLINOIS. Lincoln-Douglas Debate to be Re-enacted. The Lincoln-Douglas Society of Freeport is holding the Centennial Observance of the famous debate that took place in that city. The observance will be from August 24 - 31, 1958, and we strongly urge our members who are or will be in that area not to miss this Centennial.

The program includes a pageant of the debates, museum displays, street decorations, flower show, parade, centennial balls, band and choral concert and others too numerous to mention. Senator Dirksen, Senator Douglas and Governor Stratton will be among the many distinguished speakers appearing during the Centennial. This should be a must for all.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT. Congratulations are in order for the C.W.R.T. of Hartford for their splendid attendance of about 50 people at their evenings, which are without dinner. (We understand, however, that hardtack is available at the door - original issue, too.) Again congratulations.

DENVER, COLORADO. We have just started receiving courier news from the C.W.R.T. of Colorado in the form of their newsletter, "The Ramrod." This is a small intimate group of 20 meeting at the homes of their members.

WASHINGTON, D.C. Headquarters for the Civil War Centennial are open at 700 Jackson Place, N.W. in Washington. Karl S. Betts, veteran promoter, is the executive director.