



News Letter

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

June 5, 1957

NO. 8

"THE CIVIL WAR IN BRONZE AND STONE" IS EXCELLENT PROGRAM.

Some 30 members and guests were on hand to hear fellow member Bill Carlin address the CWRT at its meeting on Monday, May 27th. Carlin used a collection of colored slides as the basis for his talk and, in doing so, gave a pictorial report on most of the important battlefields and on many of the cities that were prominent during the 1861-65 period. It was a new and different approach to our favorite subject.

President George Farr, Jr. opened the meeting and reported on action taken by the executive committee since the April meeting. A decision to increase the membership to 60 from the original maximum figure was announced. Several new members were taken in under this ruling and shortly a roster of the entire membership will be available for general distribution. Farr named committee chairmen as follows: Richard C. House, Program Committee, and Richard L. Webb, Field Trip Committee.

Our May meeting was the last meeting scheduled for the first half of 1957. There will be no regular get-together now until September but there's still the chance that a field trip will be arranged for late August. Members will be kept advised of developments and adequate time will be given you to make necessary plans.

7TH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

There were few regiments that served more valiantly during the Civil War than the 7th Ohio Infantry. It was Cleveland's own regiment and it suffered all of the hardships that we have heard about, and then some. In consequence, all of us were pleased at the action taken by member William F. Amann in placing a Memorial Day wreath on the graves of two of its officers. Amann's tribute consisted of a floral piece in the form of a white star with a red "7" in its center. It was offered in honor of Col. William R. Creighton and Lt. Col. Orrin J. Crane, both of whom were killed in the battle for Ringold, Georgia late in November, 1863. The tomb is in Woodland Cemetery, Cleveland. Incidentally, the regimental insignia for the "7th" was a silver rooster - do you know anyone who has such an item in his collection?

GAMBLE MANSION - FLORIDA'S ONLY CIVIL WAR MUSEUM.

Florida has an exceptionally worthwhile shrine to the Confederacy. Should any of you be near Bradenton, make it a point to visit the Gamble Mansion on U.S. 41. Its early reputation was as a sugar plantation, it covered 3,000 acres and employed more than 300 slaves. In later years, it acquired Civil War importance as the refuge of Judah P. Benjamin, Secretary of State of the Confederacy. Benjamin hid out there after the

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fall of Richmond, when he heard that a \$50,000 reward was offered for his capture. Later, disguised as a Negro field hand, he escaped to Nassau and in turn to England. The Gamble home is a museum with many items of interest to Civil War students. When the Confederate Old Soldiers' Home at Jacksonville was torn down some years ago its accumulated collection of photographs, regimental flags, etc. were turned over to the state of Florida. The Gamble home, which had been allowed to fall into decay was renovated and now Florida has a museum that does the South much credit.

CWRT OF MISSISSIPPI - A friend of ours recently sent us a copy of the Vicksburg Post of April 14, 1957, in which was recounted an interesting field trip as made by members of the Civil War Round Table of Mississippi. On this occasion, and it was the first field trip for this group, some 50 CWRT members and friends visited the old river town of Grand Gulf where some 94 years ago there was decisive action in the War Between The States. General John S. Bowen and his Mississippi and Arkansas troops were the occupying forces against the invading North. Old earthworks and trenches with gun embrasures are still discernible. This was the defensive line that Admiral D. D. Porter said was the strongest fortification on the river. Another stop was made at Port Gibson, southwest of which a Confederate force of 7,000 troops fought brilliantly holding action against Grant's 23,000 veterans. Final stop-over was at Champion Hill, near where there is located a monument to General Lloyd Tilghman, who was killed on May 16, 1863. Historians rate the Battle of Champion Hill as the decisive battle of the Vicksburg campaign.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS - BY-LAWS.

As of this date, membership cards and copies of the constitution and by-laws have to the best of our knowledge been furnished all members. If anyone has been overlooked it has been through an oversight. If you are short either item, please contact the secretary.

1961-65 CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL.

The pros and cons of H.J. RES. 253 have been debated by local groups and, of course, by the top brass at Washington. This bill, which proposes that the Government spend \$100,000 on a preliminary report to consider ways and means of observing the Civil War Centennial, has both friends and foes among the Civil War groups. As you are probably aware, 4 representatives of the Chicago Civil War Round Table journeyed to Washington and proposed that the formulation of observance plans be entrusted to various Civil War interests around the country without cost to the taxpayer. These were Clyde C. Walton, Director of the Illinois State Historical Library; Ralph Newman, head of the Civil War Book Club; E. L. Long, Civil War Researcher; and, Carl Haverlin, head of Broadcast Music, Inc. Congress showed little interest in this counter proposal and so it looks as though our best bet after all is the one mentioned above. As we see it, the important thing is that the Centennial be properly and adequately observed.