



News Letter

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

1002 Citizens Building
Cleveland 14, Ohio

February 26, 1960

"LONGSTREET - THE MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY"

MARCH 8 - THE UNIVERSITY CLUB - 6:30 P.M.

Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., Editor of "Civil War History," will be the speaker. He is a recognized authority on one of the most controversial figures in the Confederate Army.

SEND YOUR CARD NOW & WIN A PRIZE!

"Grant Goes South" by Bruce Catton, is the door prize to be awarded to a member who returns the reservation card promptly. This book has received excellent reviews. Don't miss the chance to be a winner.

"RAILROADS IN THE CIVIL WAR"

The program committee has been fortunate in securing Charles Hickox for the April meeting. An authority on railroads, he will present a phase of military operations that is unique and interesting.

NEW MEMBERS

Because of resignations and lapses, there were four vacancies in the membership. These vacancies were filled by the following new members: Henry A. Skilton, 18409 Newell Road, Shaker Heights; John Breckling, 3650 Atherstone Road, Cleveland Heights; Robert Gravatt, 20060 Frazier Drive, Rocky River; and, Carl Martin, 3671 Latimore Road, Shaker Heights.

THE PLAIN DEALER COVERS A MEETING

In the February 23 issue of The Plain Dealer, Wes Lawrence reported our meeting of February 16 and gave a review of the activities of CWRTables. As announced at the last meeting, Mr. Lawrence is to make a tour of important battlefields of the Civil War and report on his experience in The Plain Dealer.

(over)

ECHOES OF MORGAN'S RAID

"The Old Brown Mare She Ain't What She Used To Be!"

The following letter is in the collection of our own Frank Gillen. Frank advises that the S. B. Shotwell to whom it was addressed was at one time a law partner of Stanton and was head of the Military Committee of Harrison County, Ohio:

"Short Creek, O, 1st mo. 30, 1864

"S. B. Shotwell, Cadiz, O, Esteemed Friend: I have thought from time to time I would say more to you concerning my Brown Mare you folks used at the time of the great "Morgan's Raid." I tried to believe she was not injured and have not used her much since as I would have done if she had not been so badly abused at that time. She was young and good stock, that I valued her my friends will not deny, that she was the best young mare in Short Creek Township I was not alone in believing. And that she was the best young mare in Harrison Co. many claim to be a fact. And now Gentlemen I have the stubborn fact before me that she was injured in your hands and will never be the mare she would have been. Ought I not have something for the use of her, I fear she is injured in the shoulders. Perhaps it was done between Mt. Pleasant and Warrenton. Now I don't want you to think I would have run her if I had been in your place for I would, But as I said before I think if it can be Got off of the people I ought to have an order for a heavy bill.

Your friend, Lindley Branson"

HE HELPED REPEL MORGAN WHILE ON LEAVE

The following quotes are from a letter dated August 2, 1863, to the Assistant Adjutant General, Department of the Cumberland, by Colonel T. R. Stanley, 18 OVI:

"Decherd, August 2, 1863 On the 20th of June 1863 I received leave of absence, on surgeon's certificate, for 20 days.... Before the time fixed upon, however, and before I was able for duty, John H. Morgan, with his command, was heading for that part of the state where I lived, and a large number of undisciplined militia were called out by the governor to repel the invasion.... Governor Tod ... telegraphed Major-General Rosecrans ... under the date of July 18th: 'I have pressed Colonel Stanley, of the 18 Ohio Vol. Infantry into State service for a few days to help catch Morgan. Please excuse him. David Tod, Governor.' ... I should have reported for duty 10 days since had it not been for Morgan ... There was no time to correspond; action, prompt action was wanted."

COLONEL STANLEY'S SON PREACHED TO MORGAN IN CAPTIVITY

Rev. T. W. Stanley, son of Colonel T. R. Stanley, preached at the Ohio Penitentiary. The following is from The Advocate and Journal of Columbus, Ohio: "The Rev. T. W. Stanley and lady, with their little babe, were in the dining-hall by our side when Morgan and his company passed out. The guard soon after returned with a request from Morgan to see the baby. The mother at first refused, but the father obtained her consent and took the young child. The General seemed moved, and tried to please the little one and entice it to his arms, but it clung with strong grasp to the father. What a touch of human nature! What a civilizer is a babe!"

OHIO IN THE CIVIL WAR

The McCook family is not the only Ohio family to furnish more than one general officer to the Union Army. Charles Robert and William Burnham Woods, were brothers who became Major Generals, both were born at Newark, Ohio, William Burnham on August 3, 1824, and Charles Robert on February 19, 1827. Both were at different times in command of the 1st Brigade, 1st Division XV Corps Army of the Tennessee; Charles from September 13 to December 14, 1863, William Burnham from January 21 to June 16, 1865.

Charles Robert Woods graduated from West Point, 20th in a class of 43, and was in charge of the attempt of the Star of the West to relieve Fort Sumter. He was breveted a Brigadier USA for Vicksburg, Chattanooga and Atlanta; a Major General USA for Bentonville. He continued in the regular army and retired in 1874 as a Colonel.

William Burnham Woods attended Western Reserve University (class of '45) and Yale. He practised law, was a member of the state legislature, and a leading Democratic politician. He was Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel of the 76th OVI. He was breveted Brigadier USV for Atlanta and Savannah and Major General USV for war service. After the war he was an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

NEWS OF OTHER ROUND TABLES

Decatur, Illinois recently organized a Civil War Round Table.... Chicago is planning its 10th Battlefield Tour for April 27 to May 1. It will cover Richmond, Petersburg, Appomattox and Manassas. ...The Civil War Round Table of The Ozarks was organized at Springfield, Missouri, on January 13.... Col. James L. Whelchal, a grandson of General James Longstreet is chairman of the program committee of the District of Columbia Round Table. From the Hartford, Connecticut "Newsletter." The Hoopskirt Brigade known in history as the Nancy Harts, a homeguard unit of Women organized to defend La Grange, Georgia, during the Civil War is back in action. Their uniform is the flowing hooped skirt - the more colorful, the more appropriate. It is reported that Wilson's Raiders (Union) went through the town in 1865, struck a truce with the girls and stopped for tea. It may be re-enacted.

"VOCALISTS -- FRONT and CENTER"

If our membership can supply the necessary singers, our meetings can be enlivened by the rendition of "The Union Forever," "Lorena," "The Bonnie Blue Flag" and "The Battle Hymn of The Republic." The scores of these songs are available. Howard Preston, our President, has volunteered to undertake the organization of a quartet. If you can sing or are willing to try to sing, get in touch with Howard.

(over)

THIRD ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Hagerstown Round Table announces that over 200 are expected at the Assembly to be held in Hagerstown, May 6 to 8. Representatives from Round Tables in eight states have made reservations. The meeting will feature tours of South Mountain, Harpers Ferry and Antietam.

AMERICA'S BLOODY GROUND

"During the Civil War, one small section of Virginia became America's bloodiest battle ground. In an area of barely 20 square miles and including Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor, more than half a million men fought in deadly combat. Here, more men were killed and wounded during the Civil War than were killed and wounded in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the War with Mexico and all of the Indian wars combined. No fewer than 19 generals - 10 Union and nine Confederate - met death here." Hackensack, New Jersey, Corps Chatter.

A Comment on Careless Writing - From Richmond CWRT Newsletter

Appropos of certain careless tendencies revealed in recent Civil War writings, tendencies doubtless resulting from an urgency on the part of authors to hurry their books into print, we recall two instances in which a Southward movement in the Shenandoah Valley, from the vicinity of Harper's Ferry and Winchester, is referred to as "down the Valley." Since the topography of the Valley is by nature a general slope toward the North, any movement Southward is obviously a movement "up the Valley." While "Down South" is an understandable phrase, when one is in the South it so happens that some of its directional pointers are more correctly referred to as "up."

Another evidence of slipshod writing occurs in reference to battle sites. Weyer's Cave or The Grottoes in Virginia is not on the battlefield of Port Republic, as one writer has recently stated. Nor is the town of Manassas (then Manassas Junction) on the battlefield of First or Second Manassas (Bull Run, if you prefer).

Nor did Thomas Jonathan Jackson or his famous brigade come to be designated "Stonewall" immediately following the utterance of General Bee on the plateau above Bull Run in July 1861, as one recent writer blandly asserts.

We deplore such careless writing. One way to discourage it is to expose it, and this we do with all constructive intent.