



The COURIER OF THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

MARCH, 1964

Vol. 7, No. 6

60th Meeting

DATE:	TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1964
SPEAKER:	MR. JOHN SIMON
SUBJECT:	"FROM GALENA TO APPOMATTOX: WASHEURN & GRANT DURING THE CIVIL WAR"
PLACE:	HERMIT CLUB - DODGE COURT
PRELIMINARIES:	6:00 P.M. DINNER: 7:00 P.M.

FUTURE MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

61st Meeting - April 14, 1964

Mrs. Robert Morris

"From Battlefield to Bedroom" - LADIES NIGHT

62nd Meeting - May 12, 1964

Glenn Tucker - "Battle of Chickamauga"

PAST MEETING & SPEAKER

Without an axe to grind, without a "controversial" presentation of his subject, the speaker for the February meeting, Dr. Joseph Nunley, was nevertheless able to hold everyone's attention to his talk on one of the most interesting military figures in American history, Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. Dr. Nunley's fund of information about Forrest is seemingly inexhaustible. Unlike the way in which some of our previous speakers treated their subjects, he had no disposition to present a picture of Forrest that might be contrary to the usual historical picture of him. In some instances, it seemed as if Dr. Nunley was recounting neighborhood tales about an unusual man who was raised in the same local area in which the speaker himself has his roots.

Except for the Fort Pillow "massacre" and General Forrest's postwar connections with the Klu Klux Klan, both of which were brought up during the question period, General Forrest's career was not muddled by incidents that raise questions as to his competence, or his motives. His obvious ability to carve success out of the circumstances in which he was thrust, using the means at hand to the greatest advantage, is granted by friend and foe alike. His military achievements are still worthy of study by serious students of military subjects, but competence does not usually breed controversy. It is difficult to argue against success.

It might be surmised that the condition of the Confederate Western Theater of War was such that it created a great vacuum wherein any real talent, such as Forrest possessed in abundance, could be put to work at once. He had the native ability, the resourcefulness, the quality of leadership to enable him to develop rapidly under the conditions that existed. His lack of traditional military training was as much an asset as a liability in achieving tactical success. He had nothing to unlearn. In his relations to his superiors, it probably was a hindrance, and may have put a ceiling to his rise to greater rank.

A large group of members stayed long after the meeting was formally dismissed to carry on further discussion with Dr. Nunley.

THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 20, 1957

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Guy Di Carlo Jr.
 VICE PRESIDENT Lester L. Swift
 SECRETARY Carroll Prosser
 TREASURER T. Knickerbocker

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

TERMS EXPIRING:

1964: Dr. Paul Schildt
 Gordon J. Berry
 1965: Donald MacDowell
 Edward S. Wells

EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER . . Theodore I. Adams

OHIO TROOPS IN THE FIELD Edward T. Downer

Chronology of Ohio Troops

March, 1864

"Veteranize or take your discharge?" This was a hot topic around the camp fire of Ohio troops in March of 1864. The three-year enlistment periods would soon be terminated. Discharges in such quantities would seriously deplete the armies. To reduce the numbers, the government offered the soldier an alternative. If he veteranized or re-enlisted for the duration of the war, he would be given a thirty-day furlough and \$400.

The offer presented the soldier with a grim decision. To accept would mean further fighting and hardships for unknown months or even years. What were the chances of escaping death in these months? By waiting for an honorable discharge at the end of the regular enlistment term, the soldier would soon return to home, friends and safety.

Many Ohio regiments and batteries chose to re-enlist and were designated, "Ohio Veteran Volunteer Regiments (O.V.V.I.)". One of the many was the 15th Ohio, hence, they served for four years and eight months. Many men of the 15th Ohio were from Richland County, Ohio.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gentlemen, we are fast arriving at a most embarrassing situation.

The popularity of Civil War study and our group is spreading too rapidly. There is fear that soon our waiting list for membership will be too crowded to accommodate anyone.

As you are all aware we have a limited membership of 75 active members. Membership is made available only by the leaving of a present member. Normal attrition in the organization is approximately 4-6 members a year. Our waiting list has grown to almost three times this size.

The officers of the roundtable do not wish to embarrass the organization or individual members who have submitted very worthwhile candidates for membership, but we must plead with you that for the time being you not encourage any more candidates.

This is not to say that you cannot invite them to meetings as your guests. This we most heartily advocate. However, tread lightly on the prospect of them becoming members in the near future. You only raise their hopes to a point where we must possibly bring disappointment because of our constitutional provisions on membership.

Gentlemen, we ask you to place yourselves in the position of the officers and executive committee in having to say to individual members, yea, dear friends of many years, we can not do anything for your candidate at this time.

LADIES NIGHT --- APRIL 14, 1964

Next month is our Ladies' meeting. This is the meeting in which we pass in proud review before our loved ones (be they wives, sweethearts, or otherwise). We have an excellent program prepared and a dinner which we believe will please everyone. Please send your reservation in early. Also limit yourself to one other couple as guests if possible (otherwise check with John Stevning). We will be asking for reservations for this dinner within the next 2 weeks, so be prepared. It's more expensive too. "From Battlefield to Bedroom" should provoke something--if not at the meeting, certainly at home afterwards.