



## News Letter

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

May 14, 1958

NEXT MEETING - OTTO EISENSCHIML ON "WHY THE CIVIL WAR?" - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, -  
KIEFER'S RESTAURANT

Otto Eisenschiml, nationally known authority on many Civil War subjects, will bring to us his challenging explanation of the Civil War, which he has set forth in a new book entitled, Why the Civil War?

By profession, Dr. Eisenschiml is a chemist of distinction, but is better known as a prolific Civil War writer. He is the co-author of The American Iliad; author of Why Lincoln Was Murdered, The Celebrated Case of FitzJohn Porter, and now Why the Civil War? He likes to deal with controversial issues; his conclusions are ever provocative of serious thought, and, hence, he is always a popular speaker at Civil War Round Tables. He writes that he is "hoping for a lively discussion" in Cleveland.

So send in your reservation card now. This will be our last meeting until fall. Dinner as usual at 7 o'clock.

*Reservation card mailing to*

MEETING ON APRIL 15 WAS "MOVIE NIGHT"

*Edward T. DOWNER  
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE*

All enjoyed an evening of motion pictures - one titled "Robert E. Lee" and the main one, "A True Story of the Civil War." The latter told the story of the War through a skillful arrangement of the Brady pictures with Raymond Massey as narrator. The comments which followed were generally favorable, although a few errors in fact were discovered.

The informal period devoted to questions and the exchange of opinions covered the waterfront as usual; from a definition of the word "shebang" as used in Civil War parlance to what might have happened if Lincoln had lived.

Twenty-four members and six guests sat down to dinner.

### NEW MEMBERS

A. B. Denison, M.D.

3100 Woodbury Road  
Shaker Heights, Ohio

Physician  
Director, Health Service  
Western Reserve University

Frank C. Gillen

R. D. No. 1, Pekin Road  
Newbury, Ohio

Tool Maker  
The Clark Controller Co.

17830  
DILLEW  
RO.  
CLEVE  
19  
61410



NEVILLE BAYLESS sends us Dr. Otto Eisenschiml's ratings on Civil War generals, as he gave them to the Washington, D.C. Civil War Round Table. His remarks were reported as follows:

Using results which the generals achieved in relation to the forces at their command and considering the opposition with which they were confronted, Dr. Eisenschiml gave this as his own lineup:

Four stars:	Union, none; Confederate, Nathan B. Forrest.
Three stars:	Union, none; Confederate, Stonewall Jackson.
Two stars:	Union, George H. Thomas and FitzJohn Porter; Confederate, James Longstreet and Joseph E. Johnston.
One star:	Union, George B. McClellan and Ulysses S. Grant; Confederate, Robert E. Lee and Pierre Beauregard.
Minus one star:	Union, Ambrose Burnside and Henry W. Halleck; Confederate, Braxton Bragg.

Forrest, his mind unsullied by education, with a superior native intelligence, did more with the forces at his command than any other general, Confederate or Union, the speaker said. Grant may have been a great general, but we have no way of knowing, he said, because except at Belmont and on the first day at Shiloh he never had to face the enemy on even terms. Lee's great fault he cited as the fact that he never knew when to stop fighting.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

That a Cuyahoga County "Yankee" served as the Adjutant of the Second Louisiana Brigade, C.S.A. (Hays' Brigade). He was Captain Henry E. Handerson, born and reared in Orange Township. In later years he became a prominent Cleveland physician; was President of the Cleveland Academy of Medicine. Handerson was wounded at Chancellorsville, was captured at the Wilderness, and was a prisoner at Fort Delaware, Morris Island, and Fort Pulaski. He was one of the "Immortal Six Hundred."

That there was a Union fort on Cedar Point, erected to control the harbor approach to Johnson's Island.

That Major-General James Birdseye McPherson, Commander of the Army of the Tennessee, is buried at Clyde, Ohio, his home town. The monument can be seen from Route 20, east of the city.

That the site of the capture of John Hunt Morgan is marked by a large boulder just off Route 30 between Lisbon and East Liverpool. The inscription on the boulder reminds us that it marks the most northerly point reached by any organized Confederate troops.

That the bugle call "Taps" was a creation of the Civil War. It was composed by Dan Butterfield, commanding a brigade at Harrison's Landing after the Peninsular Campaign. He whistled it to his buglar and commanded that it be used instead of the regulation "lights out." He said "he wanted one which would somehow express the idea of a darkening camp ground with tired men snuggling down to a peaceful sleep." The call spread through the Army of the Potomac and later to the Western armies.



# CORPS INSIGNIA WERE THE BRAIN-CHILD OF JOE HOOKER

By Guy DiCarlo, Jr.

When he succeeded Burnside as commander of the Army of the Potomac, Joe Hooker reorganized the Army into seven corps. To each corps he gave a badge, and to each division a color: red, white and blue. The corps insignia were as follows:

1st Corps (Reynolds)	Disk
2nd Corps (Couch)	Trefoil or Shamrock
3rd Corps (Sickles)	Four-sided Diamond
5th Corps (Meade)	Maltese Cross
6th Corps (Sedgwick)	Plain Cross
11th Corps (Howard)	Crescent
12th Corps (Slocum)	Five-pointed Star

The badges were worn on the top of the cap, which tipped forward enough to be seen in front.

Each division headquarters also had its own square flag which bore its insignia: thus the 1st Division, 1st Corps, had a white flag with a red disk; 2nd Division, 1st Corps, a blue flag with a white disk; and the 3rd Division, 1st Corps, a white flag with a blue disk.

These insignia are carved in stone on the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Public Square in Cleveland.

## COURIER NEWS FROM OTHER ROUND TABLES

By Guy DiCarlo, Jr.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA. Virginia General Assembly enacted a bill creating a Virginia Civil War Centennial Commission, to be comprised of legislative and other citizen members. The act appropriates \$50,000 for the biennium beginning July 1, 1958. Membership of the Commission has not yet been announced.

The General Assembly has also appropriated \$50,000 for a Stonewall Jackson Memorial to be used for the acquisition of historic sites in the area of Jackson's Valley operations.

Richmond Round Table extends the "open door" on any occasion you may be able to attend its meetings. They meet on the second Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Branch House, 2501 Monument Avenue.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA. Leaving for their field trip to Vicksburg battlefield on June 5th and returning on the 9th.

WASHINGTON, D.C. Gold Medal Dinner held on April 8th. John C. Pemberton, grandson of the Confederate general at Vicksburg, presented the Gold Medal to Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant III. Main address was presented by U. S. Secretary of the Army, the honorable Wilbur Brucker.

CHILLICOTHE, OHIO. Mr. J. A. Smith will give a talk on Admiral Walke and Commander Franklin at the meeting on May 18th.

NOTE: - Visitors to Virginia will want to see the new outdoor drama, "The Confederacy," written by Paul Green. This will be staged at Virginia Beach evenings, except Mondays, July 1 to September 1.