



News Letter

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

1002 Citizens Building
Cleveland 14, Ohio

May 6, 1960

"THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD IN THE CIVIL WAR"

MAY 18 - UNIVERSITY CLUB - 6:15 P.M.

Mr. Lawrence W. Sagle, the speaker for the May meeting, is curator of the Transportation Museum of The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. His talk will be illustrated and will present a phase of the Civil War that is novel to our program. Railroads played an important part in the war and none was of greater importance or was the object of more raids than the B and O.

NOTE THE TIME - THE DATE - SEND YOUR CARD!

The May meeting was originally announced for May 17. Due to a conflict with reservations at the University Club, it was found necessary to change to WEDNESDAY, MAY 18.

The time is advanced to 6:15 and dinner will be served promptly. The earlier time is necessitated by the requirement that our speaker make an early train.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOTICE

An important meeting of the Executive Committee has been called for 5:30 P.M., May 18, at the University Club. Members are requested to be prompt because of the advance in the time of the dinner.

OUR PROGRAMS

The current year's program will be concluded with the May meeting. During the current year the program chairman, Jack AuWerter arranged eight programs, the variety of which is indicated by the following list of subjects: Family Reminiscences, Mississippi Campaign, Film of Shiloh, Little Known Facts About Ohio in the Civil War, Brandy Station, Longstreet, Panel on Best and Worst Union Generals, and B & O in the Civil War. The program was organized to present as many phases of the historical era as the number of meetings permitted.

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EVALUATING THE GENERALS

At the meeting on April 18, a panel of five members, each of whom spoke for 12 minutes, gave their selections of the best and worst Union generals and briefed the facts and conclusions upon which their selections were based.

The speaker and their selections were:

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Best</u>	<u>Worst</u>
Henry Berry	Meade	Hooker
Don Hamill	McClelland	McClelland
Knickerbocker	Thomas	Grant
Swift	Thomas	Burnside
West	Grant	Burnside

The talks displayed a dispassionate and thorough going knowledge of the strength and shortcomings of the various commanders. Each of the speakers avoided the mistakes of basing their ratings on any one battle or campaign and of comparing performances under varying circumstances. There was disagreement between the speakers, and between the speakers and the audience, on the conclusions arrived at, but little or none on the method of rating the individual officers.

THE BALLAD OF THE FIGHTING MCCOOKS

(Chet Land 7th O.V.I.)

I

Old Dan McCook cleaned up his gun
"A fight they want," said he,
'A fight they'll get, a bloody one,
"Sure as I'm sixty-three."

II

Up rose his sons, full half a score,
And joined the Union ranks;
They fought & bled & Fought still more
Wherever Rebs fought Yanks.

III

Doc John McCook was a medical man
Who relieved most human ills -
A father of five and brother to Dan -
He knew less about bullets than pills.

IV

"While Danny fights the Rebs," he said,
"I'll work at what I know."
He followed where the battle led
And healed both friend and foe.

V

His Rod was a sailor who fought at sea
Both John and Chris were infantry,
While Ed and Anse joined the cavalry
And earned brevits for gallantry.

VI

Dan's Bob was felled at Mill Springs,
His Charles at first Bull Run,
Young Dan was killed in the thick of
things,
At Kenesaw Mount 'twas done.

VII

In Morgan's Raid Old Dan got his;
Before he died he said:
"There's thirteen left - McCooks that is
"The Union's far from dead."

VIII

Thirteen of the clan lived through the
fight
They lived to fill the hooks,
With tales of strife & the glory bright
Of Ohio's fighting McCooks.

NEWS OF OTHER ROUND TABLES

The Sharpsburg Rifles, Maryland's crack outfit of marksmen, and officials of the National Park Service are working together on plans to reconstruct the Dunkard Church that featured so prominently in the battle of Antietam. (Hartford, Conn., Newsletter)

Charles Coburn, movie and TV star, addressed the Civil War Round Table of Southern California, Los Angeles....

Patrick C. Courtney, 34 Highclere Ave., Havant, Hampshire, England, U.K., secretary-treasurer of the Confederate Research Club of England, lauds Dr. Otto Eisenschiml's suggestion for a CWRT Speakers' Bureau and adds:

"Altho we could not participate in an exchange system at this distance, we could use the service in the following manner. List our meeting dates, namely the last Saturday in February, May, August and November. We would be happy to welcome speakers from the United States who are sometimes in Great Britain. We have in the past met many Civil War students, both professional and amateur, who have been visiting Britain. It has always been our regret that they haven't been able to address or even attend our meetings because the dates were not known to them before they left the United States. Whether they come to our meetings as speakers or guests, they are assured of a welcome." (Chicago CWRT).

Support is suggested by the Richmond CWRT of an appropriation by the Virginia legislature of a simple marker at Fredericksburg commemorating Sergeant Richard Kirkland. On December 13, 1862, Kirkland slipped across the wall and aided Union wounded. He was a South Carolina non-com who won from his enemies the name of the "Angel of Mary's Heights." He was promoted Lieutenant at Gettysburg and was killed in action at Chickamauga.

PORTRAITS OF THE GENERALS

"Sickles was a man who could strut sitting down". Sickles the Incredible. Swanberg.

"In Bragg there was so much that was strong marred by most evident weakness, so many virtues blemished by excess or defect of temper and education, so near an approach to greatness and so manifest a failure to attain it, that his worst enemy ought to find something to admire in him, and his best friend something painful in the attempt to portray him truly". Colonel William Preston Johnston (son of Albert Sidney Johnston in the biography of his father).

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CIVIL WAR PHOTOGRAPHS

Neville Bayless has been advised by the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, that it can supply copies of Civil War pictures at 65¢, 75¢ or \$2.65 each. The price depends upon size and the existence of negatives.

Information, and a catalogue listing some of the pictures can be obtained by writing the Division, Washington, D. C.

OHIO IN THE CIVIL WAR

Major General James William Forsyth, a native of Ohio, was Sheridan's Chief of Staff in the Richmond and Shenandoah campaigns. Graduating 28th out of a class of 49 from West Point in 1856 he was 1st Lieutenant of the 9th US Infantry when the war broke. As a captain he served on McClellan's staff in the Peninsula Campaign. Promoted to Brigadier General USV, he was mustered out of volunteer service in 1865 and was Lieutenant Colonel USA and ADC and military secretary to Sheridan until 1878. He organized the School for Cavalry and Field Artillery at Fort Riley. He was promoted Brigadier USA in 1894 and Major General USA in 1897.

CAN YOU READ HORSES' FEET?

The January Newsletter carried a quotation from the Springfield, Illinois, Newsletter, which gave significance to the position of the horses' feet on equestrian statues located in National Battlefields. It stated "The horse with all four feet on the ground shows that the subject died of natural causes; with one foot raised, death was caused by wounds incurred during battle; with two feet off the ground, the subject was killed during battle." (Underscoring added)

Dr. Frederick Tilberg, Park Historian, Gettysburg, asked for the authority for this statement and questioned its accuracy. Dr. Tilberg obviously assumed that subject in the quotation referred to the rider whereas your editor assumed that it referred to the mount.

Upon inquiry, George L. Cashman, Editor of The Springfield Newsletter, stated that his authority for the statement was "a letter from a gentleman in Gettysburg."

This gives rise to the following questions: Is there any significance to the position of the horses' feet? If so, what is the significance?

In case you know -- even if you don't care -- the information will be newsworthy.