



Prosser

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

NOVEMBER, 1963

Vol. 7, No. 2

56th Meeting

DATE:	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1963
SPEAKER:	WILLIAM M. LAMERS
SUBJECT:	GENERAL WILLIAM S. ROSECRANS
PLACE:	HERMIT CLUB - DODGE COURT
PRELIMINARIES:	6:00 P.M. DINNER: 7:00 P.M.

FUTURE MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

57th Meeting

DECEMBER 10, 1963

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
"Zollicoffer & Battle of Mill Spring"

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58th Meeting

JANUARY 14, 1964

Mr. Robert S. Dykstra
"COUNTERINTELLIGENCE"

PAST MEETING & SPEAKER

The October 8 meeting of the Roundtable saw the rousing start of the new year. It was a memorable occasion because the speaker completely captivated his audience for the better part of two hours. Our speaker, General S.L.A. Marshall, is a man of small physical stature, but of giant proportions in his knowledge and convictions. It was extremely

interesting to hear his theories on Garfield in his relationship with Rosecrans.

The General put forth the idea that Gen. Rosecrans was suffering from a sort of battle fatigue in seeing so many of his command die. That he tried to find solace in his conversion to Catholicism, which happened at West Point, but was not that successful. When Garfield was assigned to Rosecrans' command he was immediately taken to by Rosecrans, and the two discussed religion by the hour. Rosecrans made Garfield his Chief of Staff not for his ability, but to continue these sessions which Rosecrans felt so stimulating.

The General's main point about Garfield was that he was the ideal civilian soldier. A more perfect model could not be found. He went on to support this contention, but it would take too long to convey this in the newsletter.

The balance of the meeting was given to questions concerning Garfield, and in soliciting the General's opinions on WWII commanders and the theaters of operations.

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
 REPUBLIC STEEL CORPORATION, CLEVELAND, OHIO

OHIO TROOPS IN THE FIELD Edward T. Downer

Chronology of Ohio Troops

November, 1863

On November 25, 1863, thirty-two Ohio regiments advanced toward the Confederate rifle-pits at the base of Missionary Ridge--thirty-six per cent of the eighty-eight regiments which made up General George H. Thomas' long line of battle.

Many explanations have been offered to account for this spontaneous assault, without orders, against a seemingly impregnable position on the crest of Missionary Ridge. Mr. Charles A. Dana called it, "a visible interposition of God". But, an Ohio soldier who took part in the charge saw no providential intervention and offered a more worldly explanation, for he wrote, "It was destruction to remain, it was impossible to withdraw".

Among the regiments from north-eastern Ohio which were engaged in this famous charge were the Forty-first from Cuyahoga and Geauga Counties, the Hundred and Fifth from Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, and Mahoning Counties; the Hundred and Twenty-fourth from Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Medina counties; and the Hundred and Twenty-fifth from Trumbull county.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In our seven years of existence we have set quite an enviable record of membership. Many of our original members are still with us. We feel this attests individual devotion to the Civil War and the many ramifications of that particular period which fascinate us. Also much in the way of wonderful comradeship.

Since February 20, 1963 a total of 130 men have been listed as members of our Round Table. A breakdown follows:

CLUB COMPOSITION
 (Thru 1963-64 roster)

Active Regular Members	75
Out of Town Members	5
Honorary Members	4

Total presently on roster	84
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Resignation, Transfers, Drop-Outs	43
Deaths	3

Total Men Listed since 1957	130
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We began the organization with fifty charter members. We still have twenty-six of these members with us representing fifty-two per cent of the original group. After seven years--this is devotion and companionship.

Of the eighty men who joined us during the past seven years we have retained fifty-eight or seventy-three per cent. Again we can point with pride and speak highly of devotion and companionship.

Age has never been a barrier to our organization. We range from yours truly at thirty to a fine gentleman we all hold in the highest regard, Mr. Welles Stanley, who is in his eighties.

When the Round Table was organized it was decided wisely to keep the membership limited so as to know one another beyond the normal expectations of a social group. This we have done--and it might be added--extremely well.

Gentlemen, we wish this organization to endure long after the Civil War Centennial has been completed. We will continue the policy of close cooperation and comradeship.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

A meeting of the executive committee was held on October 8.

It was noted at the meeting that we had two letters from members explaining their reasons for non-attendance at our early meetings for this year. We wish to thank these gentlemen for their letters, and that they are duly noted.

This subject of membership was taken up at the meeting and it was decided that all men who are sponsored by a regular member of the round table will attend at least one (1) meeting before filing a membership application.

The sponsor will introduce the prospective applicant to the officers and members of the executive committee who might be present at the meeting. This introduction does not preclude membership but only a further consideration for action by the officers and executive committee.

Any requests made by those with no sponsor will also be invited to attend a meeting to be further considered for membership. If a person should contact any member of our round table seeking information regarding our membership please refer them to CARROLL PROSSER.

Member Jack AuWerter's letter regarding the re-visiting of previous fieldtrip sites was discussed and held over to be further discussed by the fieldtrip committee for 1964.

The fieldtrip committee for 1964 will be chosen at the November meeting. Those members selected to serve, at their convenience, will be notified.

A small bulletin board will now be available at each meeting for any notes or offers of Civil War material to be sold or exchanged.

Any member who has a private collection of Civil War material who wishes to display any part or all may do so at our meetings. Please contact LESTER SWIFT to make arrangements. If the collection is not so portable and the person wishes it to be seen, he may make notice in the newsletter that the collection may be seen at his home on a certain date or dates. We urge all to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Regular Executive Committee meeting prior to our next meeting. Time will be 5:30 sharp!

EIGHT WERE ASSASSINATED

As we said before, Confederate Generals were a poor risk. There were 425 who received appointments from Jeff Davis. Of this total, 77 (18%) were casualties in the war. In addition, one committed suicide, one was killed in a duel, one slain by a jealous husband and one shot down in an argument.

AFTER APPOMATTOX - 8 were murdered

WILLIAM WIRT ADAMS was killed in 1888 in a street encounter in Jackson, Mississippi by a newspaper editor with whom he had quarrelled.

WILLIAM FELIX BRANTLEY was shot while riding in his buggy near Winona, Mississippi. This was the result of a feud in which several on both sides were murdered.

JAMES HOLT CLANTON was shot down by a drunken ex-Federal officer who was the son of an East Tennessee Union Congressman. This occurred in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1871.

BRYAN GRIMES was killed in 1880 by a hired assassin who was employed by certain parties that Grimes was trying to expel from Pitt County, North Carolina.

THOMAS C. HINDMAN was shot down in his home in Helena, Arkansas by an unknown assailant. Probably because of "Hindman's determined and outspoken stand in opposition to the existing carpetbag regime".

JOHN R. LIDDELL quarrelled with a neighbor, Charles Jones, who had been a Lt. Col. in the 17th Louisiana Infantry. In 1870 Jones and his two sons murdered Liddell on a Black River Steamboat.

ROBERT VINKLER RICHARDSON was interested in railroad building after the war. In 1870, while staying at a tavern in Clarkton, Missouri he was mortally wounded by a discharge of buckshot from behind a wagon in the yard of the inn. His murderer remains unknown.

WILLIAM FEIMSITER TUCKER, an attorney, was handling a case involving misappropriation of guardianship funds in 1881 in Okalona, Mississippi. Here he was shot down by assassins hired by one Shaw, who was the party being sued.

OUR THANKS TO LES SWIFT FOR THIS ARTICLE....

"CHICKAMAUGA"

Excerpt from book by Glenn Tucker

"There at the mill in Lookout Valley (in McLemore's Cove) began a series of incidents that were to have a profound bearing on the war and influence the Northern cause perhaps as much as a battle victory. The ground was low and damp and while the Pennsylvanians were grinding their flour and rounding up beef, a number grew ill. Sixteen were unable to march when the division moved toward Stevens Gap. Since there were no ambulances, an improvised hospital was set up in tents on a hillside. Food and medicine were provided and a private of Company G who happened to be a physician, Dr. W. S. Hosack, was left in charge. The regiment went on in what was believed to be hot pursuit of Bragg; they became involved in the Battle of Chickamauga and never got back to Lookout Valley to pick up Hosack and his hospital. Bragg's army overran the territory and made them all prisoners. Hosack was sent to Libby Prison.

In the prison he met a fellow Pennsylvanian, Major Henry White, who had been captured in Virginia, and to whom the prison command and guards were devoting the most solicitous attention. While he was serving in the army, Major White had been elected to the Pennsylvania state senate on war votes. Thus the State of Pennsylvania was rendered impotent at a critical moment in the struggle when it should have been appropriating money, raising troops and making provisions for the vigorous prosecution of the war. Major White could not be replaced in the Senate because there was no way by which his resignation could be obtained from Libby Prison. The Confederate officials, knowing the situation, took especial pains to prevent him from communicating with anyone outside.

Then Hosack was exchanged. This seems to have been because he was a surgeon. Major White wrote his resignation from the Senate on tissue paper; Hosack cut a back button from his coat, took out the stuffing, inserted the resignation and then sewed the button on again. When exchanged Hosack made for his home in Dayton, Pennsylvania, but stopped at Indiana, Pennsylvania to hand the button to Thomas White, the major's father. The father hurried to Governor Curtin. The Governor was thus enabled to declare the seat vacant and order a special election; a candidate staunch in his support of the war and the Union was elected and the deadlock that had rendered the state government of Pennsylvania powerless was broken".

"THE EVACUATION OF CORINTH"

Excerpt from the book written by our November speaker, Mr. Wm. M. Lamers: THE EDGE OF GLORY, A BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM S. ROSECRANS, U.S.A.

"By mid-June 'General Summer' commanded at Corinth. Dust settled six inches deep or rose in dense clouds. Daytime temperatures hovered around 100 degrees. 'Terrible weather for marching', Sherman wrote, 'dust and heat insufferable'. Empty stream beds cracked under the fierce sun, and buckets hung useless in dug wells. Iuka Spring went dry, one of three times in a century. A half-million men and their horses, mules, beef cattle, and other food animals had so polluted the ground that drinking water stank, and was even unfit for stock. Confederate fleas and body lice now made easy transfer to Union underwear. Flies tormented men and animals and the high whine or mosquitoes promised fever. Stronger than the familiar smell of horses and sweat was the acid, all-pervading stench of 'squitters' or 'Mississippi quickstep'. Diarrhea and dysentery had no respect for rank. Halleck was confined to quarters in the high-ceilinged Curles mansion with what he called 'the evacuation of Corinth'. Pope was sick and Sherman 'quite unwell'. Surgeons surmised that diet or exposure to cold was at fault and recommended the wearing of a flannel 'belly band'".

CIVIL WAR LITERATURE

A 32-page guide of 24 of the major battle areas is available from the newspaper THE EVENING STAR, WASHINGTON, D.C. The cost is 40¢.

A document listing uniforms and insignia of the Civil War is available from:

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATIONS DIVISION
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20025

The title is: UNIFORM REGULATIONS FOR THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES IN 1861. (\$1.00)

A pamphlet entitled: ILLINOIS ROLE IN THE CIVIL WAR is available from the Illinois Civil War Centennial Commission. Please address your requests to MR. CLYDE C. WALTON, STATE HISTORIAN, ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.