



# *THE CHARGER*

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. BOX 18900, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118

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FEBRUARY 1994

322ND MEETING

VOL. 15 #6

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DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 1994

PLACE: The Hermit Club

SUBJECT: Antietam

SPEAKER: Dr. G. L. Mears

Dr. Mears is the Executive Vice President of Youngstown State University. He is a graduate of Louisiana Tech and earned his Doctorate from the University of Mississippi. He has worked in higher education since 1971.

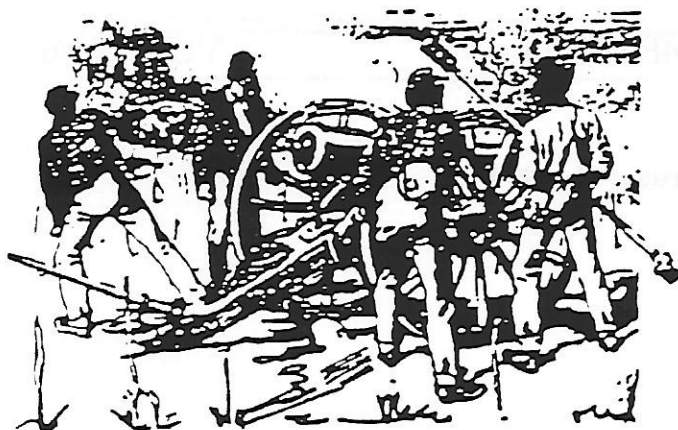
TIME: Drinks 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Answers ???

RESERVATIONS: Please call Dr. Robert Battisti at 831-2700 and leave your reservation with the answering service.  
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# CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

1957 \* 1994



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## THIS YEAR'S SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

February 9	Dr. G. L. Mears Antietam
March 9	Dr. David Vantassel European View of the Civil War
April 13	Mr. Edwin Bearss TBA
May 11	Special Program Narrated by Mr. Joe Tirpak

Our thanks to Ms. Anne Caputo at J.A.C. Business Communications Inc. for the professionally looking letterheads and format for our newsletter and for all her valuable time and service in mailing "The Charger" to our membership. If you are in need of any office support services please call Anne or John Caputo.

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# Page is thought to be Lincoln copy

By **CHRISTOPHER WILLS**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A Dayton scholar on Abraham Lincoln may have a "lost" copy of the Gettysburg Address that experts say might solve a small mystery about Lincoln's greatest speech if the copy is authentic.

Lloyd Ostendorf unveiled a single handwritten page this week, saying he thought it was part of a copy of the address that historians have long speculated about.

But he and other experts said the document, roughly the last third of the short speech, must be thoroughly studied to determine whether it and the Lincoln signature it bears are authentic. One expert said the work could take a year.

Historians know that Lincoln's host in Gettysburg, Judge David Wills, later wrote to the 16th president, asking for the original copy of his speech.

There was no record that Lincoln replied, but he did make copies for other people. That raised the question of whether Lincoln sent a copy to Wills that was somehow lost.

Ostendorf, a Dayton painter and author of several books on Lincoln, said he thought his page was part of that copy. He said the document was found folded inside a book at an Ohio antique fair late last year.

Daniel Weinberg, owner of a Chicago store dedicated to Lincoln books and documents, said the copy, if authenticated, was "extremely important, although tinged with a bit of sadness because it's only a portion."

But, he said, the document probably won't reveal anything new about Lincoln or the address.

Lincoln delivered his famous speech Nov. 19, 1863, at the dedication of a cemetery for the 7,000 soldiers killed during a Civil War battle of Gettysburg.

Five copies in Lincoln's handwriting are known to exist. Of the five, two are in the Library of Congress, and the rest are divided among the White House, Cornell University and the former Illinois state capitol, now a museum, where Lincoln served as a legislator.

Ralph Newman of Chicago, a well-known dealer in Lincoln documents, said he hadn't seen the new-found page itself. But he said a copy provided by Ostendorf had all the earmarks of being legitimate.

Newman said verifying the document would require tracing its history and studying the handwriting, paper and ink. If the document is authenticated, it could be worth roughly \$200,000, Newman and others said.

Ostendorf wouldn't say how much he paid for the copy. He said he planned to keep the document for now and eventually sell it to a collector or museum.

It is the second Lincoln-related document to come to light recently. The Illinois State Historical Library was recently given a 100-page transcript of an 1859 Springfield murder trial in which Lincoln served as defense lawyer.

Although the transcript, donated by a woman from Fresno, Calif., was not in Lincoln's handwriting, experts said it was the only word-by-word record of his courtroom work.





**T**he day after Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (it was delivered 121 years ago last Monday) most Americans learned more about another speech - that of the main speaker, Edward Everett. In time, however, Everett's words were forgotten and Lincoln's brief remarks became the most famous and often quoted speech in American history.

Why are we now almost unaware of what Everett said at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery on Nov. 19, 1883? He was, after all, the nation's leading orator at the time.

Both speakers addressed the same audience on the same subject from the same platform, but their approaches were vastly different.

Everett delivered a 15,000-word speech which required two hours and covered a dozen subjects, ranging from causes of the Civil War to the history of wars fought in Europe and England in previous centuries. In contrast, Lincoln delivered a superbly organized 275-word, 10-sentence speech which lasted approximately two minutes.

Everett arrived in Gettysburg with a solid reputation as an orator. After serving as a Unitarian clergyman, teacher and statesman, he had aided in the purchase and preservation of Mount Vernon as a national monument by delivering a lecture on the character of George Washington. The proceeds were donated to Mount Vernon.

A willing traveler, Everett journeyed across the country, addressing large audiences everywhere. He delivered the lecture 129 times and raised more than \$69,000.

After the attack on Fort Sumter, he gave his full support to the Union. Though he was 67 years old, his ability as an orator had not failed and his name could still draw large crowds.

He made it his war service to travel everywhere in the North, describing the issues of conflict and urging his listeners to give their support to the cause. In the first year of the war, for

# Everett was as long as the battle

a period of several months, he spoke twice a week or more often. His speech at Gettysburg was one of more than 20 wartime speeches he delivered.

Everett's Gettysburg Address, however, had little impact on the audience. Today, it is difficult to find a copy of the speech. It isn't noted for any memorable sentences or phrases. Books of quotations show no excerpts. In the historical record, he finished a distant second to Lincoln.

A couple of comparisons show why. Consider their openers:

Lincoln: "Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation con-

ceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Everett: "Standing beneath this serene sky, overlooking these broad fields now reposing from the labors of the waning year, the mighty Alleghenies dimly towering before us, the graves of our brethren beneath our feet, it is with hesitation that I raise my poor voice to break the eloquent silence of God and Nature. But the duty to which you have called me must be performed; grant me, I pray you, your indulgence and your sympathy."

Everett's opening sentence has 52 words. Many sentences of his address are as long or longer, ranging from 50 words to 180 words. Half of Lincoln's sentences are 10 to 21 words. Others range from 24 to 29 words. Even though his last sentence is 82 words, it is soundly constructed, easily understood and forceful. Lincoln's language was simple but powerful. Seventy per cent of his words are one syllable.

Wordy sentences weakened Everett's effort. One of his main objectives was to recount the Battle of Gettysburg. His detailed description required 4,000 words and consumed approximately a half hour. Still, he felt as if he had done an inadequate job.

Everett's conclusion ran 450 words, considerably longer than Lincoln's entire address. Although his conclusion wasn't memorable, it is safe to assume that after two hours it was a welcome relief to the audience.

Everett's speech lacked a unifying idea, contained modifiers in abundance, used stilted and flowery language, covered too many subjects and frequently bogged down in details.

Even Everett, however, realized the superiority of Lincoln's speech. The day after the Gettysburg ceremony, he wrote to Lincoln, "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes."

*Sparks is a free-lance writer in York, Pa.*

BALTIMORE SUN



Waiting his turn.

When young Abraham Lincoln enlisted in the 1832 Black Hawk War, the U.S. Army officer who accepted his enlistment was Lieutenant Robert Anderson - the officer who would accept President Lincoln's orders three decades later as the commander of besieged Fort Sumter.



THE PLAIN DEALER, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1993

# Civil War battlefield preservation hobbled by blue, gray rivalries

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIDDLETOWN, Md.

A preservation group selling parcels of a Civil War battlefield resolved a North-South conflict that was impeding its fund-raising campaign.

The group had been selling honorary square-foot plots of a field where the 1862 Battle of South Mountain was fought.

"What we found out with selling the first plots is that people who are sympathetic to the Confederacy wouldn't buy them," said George Brigham Jr., president of the Central Maryland Heritage League Inc. "The deed says Union and some people want something that says Confederate."

So in October the group paid \$123,000 for a 9-acre site at nearby Fox's Gap, where the South suffered its heaviest casualties. It is next to a monument to Union Gen.

Jesse Lee Reno, who died there along with Confederate Gen. Samuel Garland.

The league's 22-acre Union site is in Turner's Gap, where union troops launched their major assault of the battle. It was there that the soldiers guided by Union Gen. John Gibbon earned the nickname the "Iron Brigade." The site was purchased in 1991 for \$325,000.

The Battle of South Mountain, on Sept. 14, 1862, has been overshadowed by the Battle of Antietam, which occurred three days later at nearby Sharpsburg and marked the bloodiest single day of fighting during the Civil War.

But historians estimate that 4,300 blue and grey soldiers died at South Mountain.

So far, more than 1,350 people have bought Battle of South Mountain plots.

Each parcel costs \$25, "but some

people have contributed as much as \$5,000," Brigham said. People as far away as Tokyo have bought plots.

Dr. Gordon Dammann, a self-described Civil War buff from Lena, Ill., said yesterday that he bought a parcel "so some of these areas aren't chewed up by the bulldozer and forgotten forever."

Former Maryland Congresswoman Beverly Byron was the first purchaser, buying six parcels, some for her grandchildren.

"She physically came up and went up to the site and said 'This is my 6 feet,'" Brigham said. "She planted a stake."

Gov. William Donald Schaefer was the 1,000th property owner, writing in the league's record book that it was a "great day in the history of preservation."

The non-profit land trust still owes about \$227,000 on the two sites.



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A. Lincoln:

- lost his job in 1832
- was defeated for the legislature in 1832
- failed in business in 1833
- suffered a nervous breakdown in 1836
- was defeated for speaker of the Illinois state legislature in 1838
- was defeated for nomination for Congress in 1843
- lost renomination to Congress in 1848
- was rejected for land office in 1849
- was defeated for the Senate in 1854
- was defeated for nomination for Vice-President in 1856
- was defeated for the Senate in 1858
- became the 16th President of the U.S. in 1861



# All Ears—and That's the Problem

**A** gentleman with whom I've been doing a bit of work in the building trades took a look the other day at the elderly edifice now under renovation and said, "It's structurally sound, but they sure as hell Mickey Moused the rest of it." A few days later I had to wonder: Was he talking about the little house on which we are working, or was he talking about the great big country in which it happens to be situated?

Okay. "Structurally sound" may or may not be the way to describe a building with as many cracks in its foundation as this country has developed. Its Constitution is sabotaged by fanatics of leftist orthodoxy and mocked by firearms lunatics on the right; the old assumption that one's house is his castle is now a farce as crime rages out of control and the new technology finds ever more ingenious ways to invade the privacy of that castle; the alienation that citizens feel from their elected government seems to multiply exponentially by the day, if not the hour.

So "structurally sound" is at least open to argument. But "Mickey Moused"? Sorry, that's not even open to cavil. As if we hadn't enough evidence of being Mickey Moused to death—for starters, what about Robert Packwood and Ross Perot and Howard Stern and Rush Limbaugh?—last week Ol' Mick hammered the last nail into the coffin. Last week the Mickster declared that having subjugated the rest of the country, he is now on the verge of total victory.

You've read all about it. Five years from now, unless through the grace of some higher power we manage to come to our senses, the Disneyfication of America will be complete. The pestilence of mice and other cartoon creeps with which the nation's outer fringe has been afflicted will be visited upon its very heart. The ultimate in lowest common denominators will be achieved: The country's capital will be reduced to the level of the fruit and nut regions of California and Florida.

This is because in five years the same people who have given us Disneyland and Disney World are going to give us Disney's America, this being the presumptuous name of the theme park the entertainment conglomerate plans to build 30 miles southwest of Washington. At Disney's America the nation's history will be reduced—as is everything else subjected to Disneyfication—to the stuff of entertainment and fantasy. According to one Bob Weis, who is vice president of something called Walt Disney Imagineering, the park will not present "a Pollyanna view of America"—yes, and the check is in the mail too—but "it has to be fun, it has to be entertaining and it has to be exciting."

Naturally the Old Dominion is ecstatic about it. The soon-to-be ex-governor of Virginia, Douglas Wilder, who failed in his effort to steal the Redskins from Washington, is gloating, since Mickey Mouse himself is considerably less Mickey Mouse than this year's incarnation of that football team. Prince William County, which has managed to retain at least a shred of its rural character in the face of unchecked suburbanization, will be the host for this billion-dollar bonanza; it just can't wait to tear down all those trees and roll out all that asphalt, in the hope that soon some of its more fortunate citizens will be employed to wear mouse costumes or operate roller coasters.

Ah yes, roller coasters. Disney being Disney and history being history, one of the two at this park won't be just any old roller coaster. Instead, according to the Baltimore Sun, it will be called—are you ready for this?—"the Industrial Revolution [and] will hurtle passengers through a fantasy steel mill, with a narrow escape from a spilling vat of stimulated molten steel." Not far away will be a water ride called "The Lewis and Clark Expedition"; an ersatz Crossroads USA village replete with quaint characters from the Civil War era; and a hall of wax museum "audioanimatronic" presidents whose voices will sound so authentic that, according to the redoubtable Bob Weis, "for the first time, you will think that President Lincoln is speaking to you, that he is a real person."

It's difficult to say what's more astonishing: the gall of the show biz creeps at Disney who think that everything from the Industrial Revolution to Abraham Lincoln is fit for sanitizing and exploitation, or the millions of saps out there who just can't wait to be fed this pabulum masquerading as "history." A pox on both your houses, it's tempting to say, and then book the next flight for Australia. But there's no running away from it; we now live in a country the national anthem of which is "That's Entertainment," and the Disney park is merely the predictable and logical next step down the road to terminal gaga.

None of which seems to bother anyone around here in the least, save the odd—odd's the word, all right—preservation freak or eco nut. To be sure a soul or two has weighed in with the observation that a theme park seems just a trifle out of place hard alongside the Manassas National Battlefield Park, where two of the most traumatic American military engagements were fought, but cooler heads quickly prevailed. Yesterday's Bull Run, after all, was nothing but a dress rehearsal for today's bullfeathers.

Nor does it seem to bother anyone that the District of Columbia already has enough history to fill several dozen theme parks. Trouble is, it's the wrong kind of history; it's *real* history, and if there's one thing that Mr. and Mrs. America have too much of, it's reality. Yes, some of the historic relics here in Washington already have been prettied up in hopes of making them look just like show business, but the curators of Washington are amateurs by contrast with the slick pros of Disney.

So we'd just as well forget the Lincoln Memorial, forget the Smithsonian, forget the Washington Monument, forget the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. They're all nice places, but in the world of Disney they're strictly old hat. Why bother with real history in a real nation's capital when only 30 miles away you can find the whole thing faker than fake? Who needs granite monuments when only 30 miles away you can talk hoops with an "audioanimatronic" Abe Lincoln? Who needs the Air and Space Museum when only 30 miles away you can ride the "Industrial Revolution"?

Speaking of Abe Lincoln, it is rumored in the history books that on election night, 1860, as it became apparent that the presidency was his, he said to a few friends, "Well, boys, your troubles are over now, but mine have just begun." Bullfeathers. What Abe said was, "I'm going to Disney World!"

WASHINGTON POST / December 1993





## OLLAPODRIDA

### MUSINGS DURING LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The recent discovery of John Wilkes Booth's diatribe on the North in general and Lincoln in particular puts us in mind of how unjust and far-reaching the actions of one individual can be on those around him. The name, Booth, will always be linked with the adjective despicable. Yet not everyone knows that on one occasion, Lincoln was on a train platform with members of his staff and his son, Robert. Two cars of a train were to be coupled and had started to move toward each other. Suddenly Robert fell between the two moving cars. No one on Lincoln's staff was near enough to do anything and Robert was sure to be crushed when a hand came from nowhere and pulled Robert to safety. The hand belonged to Edwin Booth. As fate would have it, Robert is the only Lincoln son who survived to manhood. He became a lawyer and was a founding member of the prestigious Isham, Lincoln and Beale law firm in Chicago which remained in existence until the late 1980s. It is also not well known that Edwin Booth paid for the fire damage to the Garrett barn where his brother, John Wilkes, had been cornered.

Abraham Lincoln's humorous remarks during the stresses of the Civil War have been recorded in many Springfield, Ill. newspapers of the period.

For example in a newspaper called "The Illinois State Journal of Springfield," a writer signing himself as "Honorable Jeremiah Jones" told these tales: Lincoln was asked to give a brief account of what he did during the day, and his reply was "Well, my friend, I eat my breakfast and then I go to headquarters and hear the latest news from the army, then I eat my dinner and then go to headquarters and hear the latest news from the army, and then I drink my tea and go to headquarters and hear the latest news from the army, and then I go to my chamber and make ready for bed, and I look under my bed to see see if Jerry is there, and if not I thank God and bounce in."

A Chicago paper called "The Chicago Inter-Ocean" published excerpts including this: it was noted that Lincoln wrote out his speeches before delivering them. Lincoln explained: "The last time I made an off-hand speech I used the phrase, as applied to rebels, (turned tail and ran.) Some very nice Boston folks, I am grieved to hear, were very much outraged by that phrase, which they thought improper, so I resolved to make no more impromptu speeches if I could help it.

Before becoming President, Lincoln remarked about his family's numerous moves: "Whenever we'd move, we'd tie up the chickens' legs with some string and load them and the furniture into the wagon and move off to our next farm. It got so we moved so many times that when the chickens would see us load the furniture in the wagon, they'd lay on their backs and cross their legs."

MARY Todd Lincoln was tried for insanity before a jury after her husband's assassination. Her son Robert attempted to have her declared legally incompetent when she began suffering hallucinations and phobias, but the law required a trial before a person could be institutionalized. Mrs. Lincoln attempted suicide after she was judged insane by the court, and was taken to a sanitarium, where she received treatment. She improved to the point that another court reversed the insanity verdict in 1876.



# *From The President's Desk*

President's Comments About President Lincoln, February 9, 1994

Approaching February 12, 1994, 185 years after Abraham Lincoln's birth, it's still interesting to tell stories about "Abe". I drew from Sandburg's Abraham Lincoln, The Prairie Years and the '92 ABC TV special on Lincoln in preparing these comments.

"Abe" was named after his grandfather Abraham Lincoln. His first recollection of where he lived was Knob Hill, Kentucky, near the famous Cumberland Trail. Concerning his attitude toward work, one man that Lincoln worked for said, "Abe didn't like work half as much as he loved his pay." Abe told the man that his father taught him how to work, but he didn't teach him to love it! The stories about how he handled the ax were apparently true. At age 18 he could take the ax at the end of the handle and hold it at a straight horizontal line, easy and steady. A neighbor said that he could make his ax flash into a sugar maple. "He could sink an ax deeper than any man I ever saw!"

Maybe we get a glimpse of how Lincoln would handle complex problems as a president when we look at how he handled simpler problems as a young man. He was on a boat once that was loaded with a cargo of barreled pork, corn, and live hogs when the boat got stuck on a milldam, and hung one-third of her slanted downward over the edge of the dam and filling slowly with water, while the cargo of pork barrels was sliding slowly so as to overweight one end. She hung there a day while all the local town people came down to look. Then they saw Lincoln getting part of the cargo unloaded to the riverbank, boring a hole in the flatboat end as it hung over the dam to let the water out, plugging the hole, then dropping the boat over the dam and reloading. As the boat headed toward the Mississippi, the onlookers talked about the long-shanked man with the cool head and a ready wit.

As president, he faced as many crises both presidential and personally as any leader in history. Today we would call it stress! We all know that he faced multiple problems in fighting the war. The Republicans in the senate asked him not to run for re-election because he could not win! On a personal level, he faced two of the most serious problems a person could face. His wife had mental problems and his son Willie died of Typhoid Fever, probably contracted from the water which came from the Potomac River. He told his secretary Nicolay: "My boy is gone, my boy is gone," as he broke down in tears. For a period of time he felt trapped in his grief. To eventually get himself out of these feelings he said the following to himself: "It is the unalienable right of man to be happy or miserable at his own decision, and I for one make a choice of the former." Obviously we can learn a lot from studying the personal side of Lincoln's life.

Last month's meeting was a lot of fun. Generals Tirpak and Baucher conducted a very successful raffle and auction. I can't say enough positives about George Vourlojianis and Tim Beatty's quiz. I can only guess at the amount of time they put into developing the questions. You will not want to miss this month's meeting, Dr. G.L. Mears' talk on Antietam. I guarantee a 4-star presentation. He will bring slides and tell you about the 8th Louisiana Infantry. "K" Minden Blues, from his hometown. Mark your calendar for the fall fieldtrip to middle Tenn., Sept. 22-25.