1957 Since

THE CHARGER

Stones River

Chickamauga

Resaca

Kennesaw

Jonesboro

Spring Hill

Nashville

Lookout Mountain

March, 2001

386 Meeting

Vol.22 #7

Tonight's Topic:

51 st Ohio

The 51st Ohio Volunteer Infantry was Battles of the 51st formed from the Dover/New Philadelphia area of Ohio in October of After training, the unit was sent to Louisville, Kentucky. Their first casualty was a private who fell off the steamboat and drowned in the Ohio River. The 51st was at the Battle of Perryville but saw no action.

On November 9, 1862, the regiment and its brigade, under Colonel Stanley Mathews, were sent out on a foraging expedition, and at Dobson's Ferry, Stones River, met and defeated Wheeler's Rebel cavalry, who had by some means got in their rear. The fight was made by five companies of the 51st Ohio, and five companies of the 35th Indiana, led by Colonel Stanley Mathews. The 51st lost thirteen men wounded, three of whom subsequently died; and the 35th Indiana lost its Lieutenant-Colonel (severely wounded), its Adjutant (killed), and a number of men. Colonel Mathews, while in the thickest of the fight, was thrown from his horse and severely injured, but kept the field and command until the troops arrived safely in camp.

On December 26, 1862 the regiment moved out on the Murfreesboro Turnpike, with Brigadier-General Van Clove's division of the Twenty-First Army Corps, marching toward Stones River. Nothing of interest occurred until the 31st of December, when the regiment, having been thrown across Stones River on a reconnaissance, found the enemy in force.

(Continued on Page 9)

Tonight's Speakers:

Company B 51st Ohio Volunteer Infantry

Our speakers this evening are six members of the re-enactor group of the 51st Ohio Volunteer Infantry regiment Company B. Unit members are coming from all over eastern Ohio. 51st OVI guests:

> Mark Gaynor George Baumgardner John Pierson Jim Bouscher Lance Williams Chuck Jones

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2001

Place: The Cleveland Playhouse Club 8501 Carnegie Ave.

Time: Drinks 6 PM Dinner 7 PM

Reservations: Please Call JAC Communications (216) 861-5588

Meal choice: Chicken or Lasagna

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE 2000/2001 SCHEDULE

September 13, 2000



The Novelist as Historian

Shelby Foote

October 11, 2000



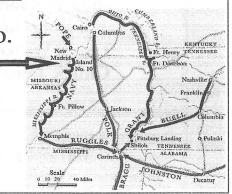
African-American
Troops in the
Civil War

Noah Andre Trudeau

November 8, 2000

Island No.

Brian Kowell



December 6, 2000



The Battle of Shiloh

Ed Bearss

January 10, 2001

The Great Debate:

The absolutely worst general of the War

Moderator: Dick Crews







(Some good candidates from a long list of prospects)

February 14, 2001



Gen. John B. Gordon

Warrior & Survivor

Bob Boyda

March 14, 2001



The Life of the Common Soldier

The 51st Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Co. B

April 11, 2001



"Infernal Machines" and the sinking of the USS Cairo

Bill McGrath

May 9, 2001



An Evening with General William T. Sherman

E. Chris Evans

Membership in the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable: Call (800) 800-8310 or visit our web site.

In AOL or Yahoo: internet > cleveland civil war roundtable | Search



This soldier in the New York 5th regiment wore a uniform with bright reds and blues. Each Zouave unit used it's own color combination which was a American version of the original Zouaves in the French Army.

The Zouaves By Dick Grews

A strange sight on a Civil War battlefield was the Zouaves. In the Civil War, where a marksman could drop a soldier from a 1000 yards away, the Zouaves were dressed in gaudy reds and blues.

There were Zouave regiments in Southern as well as the Northern Army. The famous units were the 5th New York, 114th Pennsylvania, 14th Brooklyn, and 1st Louisiana.

The 1st Louisiana "Wheat's Tigers" was the most famous Confederate Zouaves. "Wheat Tigers" were recruited from the docks of New Orleans by soldier of fortune Roberdeau Wheat. This unit has been described as being full of adventurous wharf rats, thieves, and cutthroats.

Who were the Zouaves and where did they come from? The names comes from the Zouaouas, a fierce tribe living in the rocky hills of Algeria and Morocco. In 1830, the tribe tendered their services to the French Army and proved their valor in dozens of bloody desert battles. Over time the Zouave units became filled with native Frenchman but the uniforms did not change.

A young Army Captain George B. McClellan observing the Zouaves in 1855, praised them, "as the finest light infantry that Europe can produce..the beau-ideal of a soldier." American militia units soon began to adopt the baggy trousers, braided jacket, and tasseled fez of Zouave uniform.

Most historians give Elmer Ellsworth credit for the American Zouave craze. Ellsworth was the first Union officer to die in the Civil War. He being a friend of President Lincoln, his body was placed in state in the East Room of the White House. "Avenge Ellsworth!" became the North's cry.

Ellsworth toured the United States, including Cleveland, in 1860 to show off his Chicago Zouaves as the best drill team in the country. He outfitted his Cadets in a Zouave uniform of his design and drilled them using tactics from French manuals.

In 1861, Ellsworth traveled to Washington, D.C. to watch his friend Abraham Lincoln inaugurated as President. He then traveled to New York City to raise a regiment of Zouaves. He recruited from the City's volunteer fire department. In two weeks he formed the 11th New York Infantry.



I doubt whether it had an equal, and certainly no superior among all the regiments of the Army of the Potomac.

- General George Sykes, speaking of the 5th New York Infantry

After a parade down Broadway on April 29, 1861, the New York 11th headed for Washington. The unit receive a personal welcome from President Lincoln. The President's Secretary John Hay described them as, "a jolly, gay set of Blackguards"

In fact Ellsworth had his hands full trying to control the hard drinking New York fireman. Because of this contacts with Lincoln, he was able to get his unit to be part of the raiding party to take Alexandria, Virginia across the Potomac River from Washington.

In Alexandria he spotted a Confederate flag flying from a local hotel. After taking down the flag Ellsworth was shot dead. The shooter, the hotel owner, was quickly killed by Ellsworth's troops but now the North had a martyr, Elmer Ellsworth.

The connection with volunteer fire departments spread and soon more New York and Philadelphia Zouave units were formed. The most famous of these units was the New York 5th, mostly fireman, mostly Irish. "Duryee's Zouaves as they were called were originally under the command of Colonel Abram Duryee. The New York 5th fought at Big Bethal, Yorktown, Gaines Mill, Second Manassas, in which the unit took it's highest causalities, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville.

Following Chancellorsville their two year enlistment was up and they returned to New York with a Parade down Broadway.

In general the Zouaves in the Civil War were good troops but not exceptional. These American volunteers selected to be dressed in Zouave uniforms. In the French Army soldiers were selected for the elite Zouave Units.

The Zouaves were part of the French Army until World War I. The first charge of one Zouave unit in 1914 resulted in 80% causalities. By 1915, all French soldiers were in helmets and uniforms of army green.

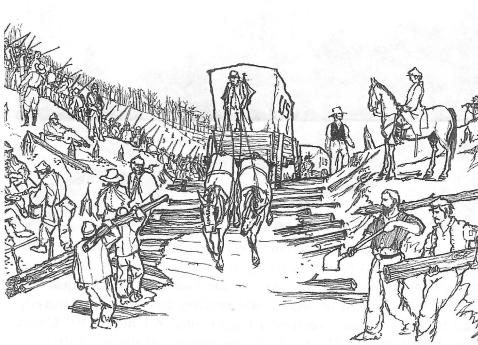
The Zouaves confronting machine guns with chivalry, faded into history in 1914.

Dick Grews

Roads of the Civil War

By Sid Sidlo

During the Civil War, almost all roads were of dirt that became quagmires of mud after heavy rains. Only a few hard-surface all-weather roads existed. These were called "macadamized" roads after their inventor, Scottish civil engineer John Loudon McAdam, who in turn was indebted to the road builders of the ancient Roman empire. The pavement (from Latin *pavinientum*) was made of compressed layers of gravel set on a cement bed with limestone shoulders. Ditches at the sides of the road provided necessary drainage. After the advent of the automobile, it became standard to bind the gravel with tar or asphalt for greater durability and to reduce dust.



Drawn by our member from San Paulo, Brasil, Jano Casari

Such a paved road was the Shenandoah Valley turnpike, put to good use by Stonewall Jackson in the 1862 campaign. The road was opened in 1840 and ran for 80 miles from Winchester to Staunton. But during the war such roads were rarities, and armies had to move their men and dequipment over the ubiquitous dirt roads, as they had since war began. Also dating from ancient times was the technique of

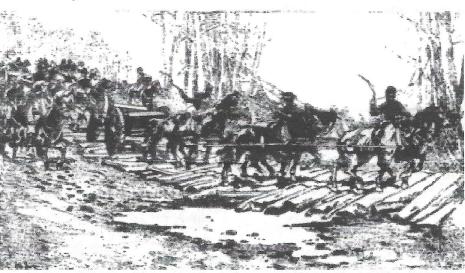
surfacing muddy roads with branches and small tree trunks laid crosswise to allow passage of wagon trains and artillery over mud. From its appearance, this was called "corduroy road." (Larger logs were used for military bridges and other semi-permanent structures.)

Because the felling and cutting of saplings and branches large enough to sustain heavy loads required considerable labor, fence rails were used if these were available. Union army chief engineer Brig. Gen. Orlando Poe, reporting on the engineering achievements during the Carolinas campaign, noted that corduroying was a very simple affair when there were plenty of fence rails, but involved the severest labor in their absence. Engineer officers found that two good fences would furnish enough rails to corduroy a strip of road as long as one of the fences so as to make it passable.'

A plank road, corduroy surfaced with heavy planking, was a permanent and more sophisticated road used over swamps and boggy areas. The (Winston-)Salem and Fayetteville plank road in North Carolina was the longest in the United States, being 120 miles long. ²

Corduroying of military roads during the Civil War seems to have been exclusively a Yankee technique. Writing from Virginia in the winter of 186 1-62, an anonymous rebel comments on ". . .the incredible quantity and tenacity of the mud. Locomotion in rainy or damp weather baffles all description; and to say that I have seen whole wagon trains fast in the road, with mud up to the axles, would afford but a faint idea of the reality. If timber had been plentiful, the roads might have been 'corduroyed' according to the Yankee plan, viz., of piling logs across the road, filling the interstices with small limbs, and covering with mud; but timber was not to be procured for such a purpose; what little there might be was economically served out for fuel."

Surely rebel armies must have corduroyed roads for passage of their equipment, but I have been unable to come up with any specific mention in Confederate records or correspondence. Can any of our readers help with this?



It was the Pioneer corps, moving behind the main body of infantry and ahead of the heavy trains, that carried the burden of constructing corduroy roads, but other units would be drafted if circumstances required. In addition the Pioneers built bridges and chopped "side roads" for the movement of wagon and artillery trains through heavily wooded terrain. The last two chores were frequently bigger jobs. A Union XVII Corps report for the months of February and March, 1865, mentions that the third division [Leggett's] laid down 24,753 yards of corduroy road, but built 303 bridges and cut 53,386 yards of side road. ⁴

Sid Sidlo

^{1.} Official Records, Vol. 47, Part I, p. 173

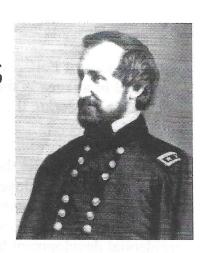
Official Records, Vol. 47, Part I, p. 1084

^{3.} Richard Harwell (ed.), *The Confederate Reader* (Dorset Press, 1992), p. 59

Official Records, Vol. 47, Part I, p. 384



Bragg vs. Rosecrans at Stones River, Murfreesboro, Tennessee By Dale Thomas



The Battle of Stones River took place between December 31, 1862 and January 2, 1863. The fighting started as it had at Shiloh, the previous spring, and the casualties were similar. On the morning of New Year's Eve, the Confederate attack surprised the Federals who were still eating breakfast. The map shows the course of the fighting during that first, bloody day. The next day saw little significant fighting, but there was no celebrating of New Year's Day. The two armies held their ground and tended to the wounded and dead.

On the third day, Thomas and McCrook remained in position, while Crittenden was now across the river, occupying the high ground in front of Breckinridge. Hardee and Polk were approximately where they had been at the end of fighting on the first day. Surprised that Rosecrans had not withdrawn, Bragg ordered Breckinridge to attack Crittenden. Overwhelmed and out numbered, Crittenden's forces retreated back across the river, but Federal artillery, high above the western bank, fired shot, shell, and canister on the Confederates who fell back after suffering heavy losses. The three day battle ended with the Federals reoccupying the heights on the east side of Stones River.

Although tactically indecisive, the Battle of Stones River was strategically a victory for the Union. The casualties on both sides totaled over 23,000 wounded, missing and dead. After Bragg's withdrawal from Murfreesboro, Rosecrans' army was now in control of middle Tennessee. In need of good news after the defeat at Fredericksburg, Lincoln wrote to Rosecrans:

"(Y) ou gave us a hard-earned victory, which had there been a defeat instead, the nation could scarcely have lived over."

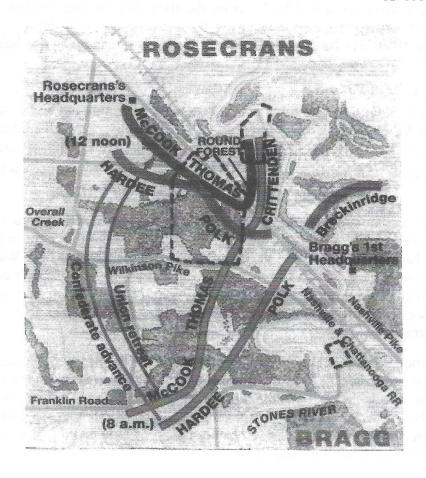
In the Preface of his book, *Stones River, Bloody Winter in Tennessee*, James Lee McDonough wrote: "I was born, raised, and have lived most of my life within thirty miles of Stones River. Nevertheless, I had visited many of the famous battlefields of the Civil War before I ever tramped around the lines at Murfreesboro." An understanding of the author's comments can be most appreciated if you visit the battlefield today. Unlike Shiloh, where the isolation from urbanization has preserved the natural terrain, the diminutive site of Stones River has lost most of its historic topography.

Stones River National Battlefield contains only 570 acres of the nearly 4,000 acres that make up the original battle grounds. The land within the National Park is traced on the map with broken lines. The largest area includes the National Cemetery, where nearly half of the 6,000 dead are unknown, and the site where Thomas, commanding the Federal Center, stopped the Confederate attack on the first day. To the northeast, a smaller parcel of land contains the site of the Federal artillery that was so decisive on the last day.

What remains of Fortress Rosecrans, constructed after the battle to guard supply lines, is preserved in an area in the southeastern portion of the map. It was the largest earthen fortification built during the Civil War, but today only a remnant of the 14,000 foot wall has survived.

Almost 140 years after the battle, the land immediately to the west of the National Park is gradually being developed. The region to the south is still relatively empty, but if you travel east on the Wilkinson (Manson) Pike, the "Battleground Estates" occupy the position held by Polk at the start of fighting on the first day. Murfreeboro's commercial and residential development has claimed a large portion of the battlefield east of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad tracks (CSX Transportation). Beneath the urban sprawl lays much of the ground where Breckinridge lost 1,800 dead and wounded soldiers to Federal artillery. The Hazen Monument, oldest intact memorial of the Civil War, stands near the Round Forest and along side railroad tracks that divide past from the present -- gas stations, car dealerships, and fast food restaurants. The Battle of Stones River was tactically a draw. Nevertheless, in August of 2000, urbanization, the result of Yankee commercial and industrialization since Reconstruction, appears to be the clear winner as you leave the National Park and drive north to Interstate Highway 24.

Dale Thomas



(continued from Page 1)

51 st Ohio On January 1, 1863, the 51st O.V.I. again crossed the Stones River and took position, four companies being thrown out as skirmishers. Advancing half a mile, they met the enemy and skirmished all that day and night, and part of the next day. On the afternoon of the 2d of January, Gen. John C. Breckinridge's Rebel division made a charge, and flanking right, swept it to the west side of Stones River. The 51st left thirty-two of its number dead on the field, one hundred and five wounded, and fortysix captured. It was at this juncture that Union General William Rosecrans massed his artillery, and settled the fortunes of the day by almost literally blowing the Rebel column of attack into and across Stones River.

On the morning of the 4th of January, 1863, the enemy having disappeared, the army marched into and took possession of Murfreesboro. The army lay in Murfreesboro until the 24th of June, 1863, when it moved on the Tullahoma campaign. The route of the 51st O.V.I. and its division was by the way of McMinnville, crossing the Cumberland Mountains into the Sequatchie Valley; thence to Point Lookout, near Chattanooga, and from there to Ringgold. At the latter place, on September 11th, Wheeler's Rebel cavalry was met, defeated, and driven to Tunnel Hill (Chattanooga).

On the 12th the regiment marched to Lee & Gordon's Mills; on the 13th it made a reconnaissance to Shield's Gap, and on the 14th went into position at Crawfish Springs. From that time until the opening of the Battle of Chickamauga the members of the regiment feasted on roasting-ears and sweet potatoes.

On the evening of the 18th of September the 51st O.V.I., being relieved by the 6th Ohio, marched back to Lee & Gordon's Mills (Chickamauga), where it went into position, and lay upon its arms all that night. On the morning of the 10th the regiment met the enemy and drove him back a quarter of a mile; but in doing so lost eight men killed, twenty-five wounded, and as many captured. The enemy, receiving re-enforcements, in turn drove the regiment back to its former position, where it lay on its arms for the night.

On September 20th the regiment was marched to the left to re-enforce General George H. Thomas's (Chickamauga) column, and on arriving at its position it took part in the effort to stay the enemy in his attempt to get into the rear of the Federal forces, through a gap left in the lines. The regiment struck the Rebel General Adams's division, wounded and captured its commander, and drove it pell-mell. The 51st was then brought back and again formed on the extreme left of General Thomas's command.

In this Battle of Chickamauga the 51st lost twelve men and one officer wounded, and thirty captured, including Colonel B. W. McLain (commander of the 51st), Lieutenants Rittelley, McNeil, and James Weatherbee and Assistant-Surgeon Wing.

On September 21st the Union army retired behind entrenchments to Chattanooga, and was there besieged by rebel forces until the latter part of the following November, when the siege was raised.

On November 24th of 1863, the regiment participated in the storming of Lookout Mountain, and on the 25th took part in the taking of Rossville Gap, through Mission Ridge. Its loss in these two affairs was On January 1, 1864, the 51st Ohio re-enlisted, and on February 10th arrived at Columbus on veteran furlough of thirty days. During the Atlanta campaign. Gaining the distinction of becoming the 51st Ohio Veterans Volunteer It was engaged at Resaca, and on the 20th of June at Kennesaw. At the first-named place it lost one officer and ten men wounded and one man killed. At Kennesaw it lost two officers (Captain Samuel Stephens and Lieutenant Workman) killed, and ten men killed and thirty wounded. From this time until Atlanta was taken the regiment was almost hourly engaged with the enemy.

On September 1st of 1863 the regiment was at Jonesboro, Georgia, and took part in that engagement; and on the 2d pursued the enemy to Lovejoy's Station. Here it lost ten men wounded. It then fell back to Atlanta, and on the 8th of September entered that city.

The 51st remained in Atlanta until the 3d of October, 1864. Then it marched toward Chattanooga, passing through Cassville, Kingston, Rome, Resaca, and Snake Creek Gap. This march was made in consequence of the Rebel General John Bell Hood's movement to the rear of Atlanta, and the consequent return of General Hood's army. At this time a series of arduous marches were made in pursuit of the enemy through Tennessee and Alabama.

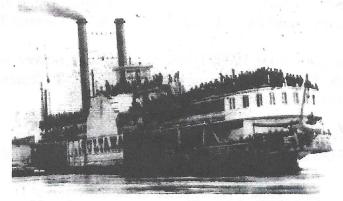
The 51st O.V.V.I was falling back with General Thomas's command to Columbia, Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville. It was engaged at Spring Hill, but in the battle of Franklin it occupied a position not involved in the fight. A number of its men were, however, engaged as skirmishers.

On December 14th and 15th of 1865 the regiment took part in the battle of Nashville, with **one man killed** and fifteen wounded. It joined in the pursuit of the enemy up to Alabama. This march was difficult in the extreme, the roads being almost knee-deep in mud and water.

After Nashville the 51st O.V.V.I. as with many other regiments, was so small it was combined with three other Ohio regiments. Following the conclusion of the Civil War, the 51st was sent to Texas under the command of Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan to watch the French in Mexico.

On October 3, 1865, the regiment was mustered out at Victoria, Texas by Captain Wm. Nicholas, Commissary of Musters of the Central District of Texas, and on the 4th was on its way to Victoria, Texas where it arrived on November 1, 1865. It was discharged at Camp Chase, near Columbus, Ohio, after a long and faithful term of arduous service honorably performed.

A sad sidelight on the 51st was that several men captured at Chickamauga were released from confederate prison camps at the end of the War, only to die on the SULTANA steaming up the Mississippi to Ohio.



Note the extreme overcrowding on the SULTANA. The explosion on the SULTANA remains the largest ship disaster in United States history, with 1,600 dead.

(Titanic-1,500 dead—Lusitania-1,198 dead)

Fall Field Trip Charleston, S.C.



"CHARLESTON AT SUNRISE, 1863"

C.S.S. CHICORA Leaving for Duty Near Fort Sumter

by Bill McGrath

REMARQUES

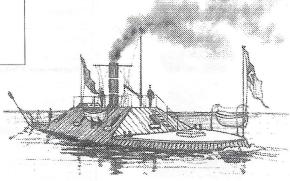
A remarque is an original pencil drawing done by the artist on the lower portion of the print next to the title. Remarques are limited to the first 50 S/N prints of each regular and artists proof edition.

Leave:

Thursday, (Early AM) September 27, 2001

Return:

Monday, (Early AM) October 1, 2001



C.S.S. Chicora

Remarque for "CHARLESTON AT SUNRISE, 1863"

Request for Assistance:

Dear Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Members:

The Lee Burneson Middle School PTA in Westlake could use your help. We are sponsoring a Civil War encampment reenactment on May 16, 2001 from 6-11 PM in conjunction with a Blue and Gray Civil War Ball on May 18, 2001. This will be our year to commemorate the most perilous time in our nation's history. This is a voluntary extracurricular activity that most students elect to take advantage of. In order to attend the ball they must participate in some way, either by dancing, acting, learning military drills, writing an essay or producing a special project.

We would like to have re-enactors to attend the encampment to mingle with 8th grade students and share anecdotes. We will also have stationary activity centers where students can learn games, hear about life in the battlefield or listen to musicians play. We would love to hear from any member interested in assisting in this worthwhile learning experience by sharing their talents. The more learning stations we can man the more students we can accommodate.



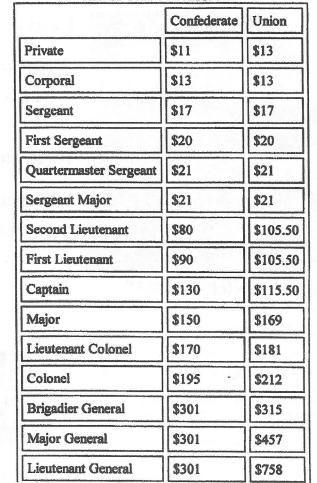


Civil War Pay

ARMY PAY PER MONTH



Confederate Private





1st Massachuse at Bull Run



Gen. Abner Doubleday



Gen. Jubal A. Early

NOTES

Officer Allowances: When you notice the discrepancy between the enlisted ranks and the officer ranks, remember that the officer pay included certain allowances, such as additional rations, forage, and fuel allowances. So, for instance, the Union infantry colonel's pay included the cash value for six human and three horse rations a day, which came to \$78 a month.

Confederate General Salaries: The Confederate generals' salaries do not reflect allowances. All ranks of Confederate generals received the same base pay because the Confederate army regulations recognized only one grade above colonel. Generals holding different commands, however, earned additional allowances for additional rations, fodder, fuel, quarters, and seniority. In addition, generals commanding an army in the field received \$100. Therefore, in 1864 Robert E. Lee's monthly salary totaled \$604 a month. This amount included \$301 base pay, \$108 rations (for 12 rations a day), \$32 fodder allowance (for four horse rations a day), \$63 seniority pay (for \$9 per month for each five years in the service, including those years he served in the United States Army), and \$100 as an army commander.

Colored Troops: Colored Troops received \$10 a month for most of the war, of which \$3 was deducted for clothing allowance. This deduction was abolished in September, 1864.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Roundtable's officers and Executive Committee met on February 7 and discussed a number of issues. We reviewed possible nominations for officers for the 2001-2002 term, and prepared a draft slate of candidates. If you're interested in serving as an officer or on the Executive Committee, please let me know.



Although our longstanding custom is to have an endorsed slate of officers announced in the April issue of THE CHARGER, the floor will be open for nominations at the May meeting, when the election will be held.

We'll also be amending the Roundtable's constitution to add the post of Historian to our list of officers, and making some other amendments to bring the constitution more into line with how the Roundtable actually operates these days.

As Treasurer Bill Doty announced at our February 14 meeting, the Roundtable is doing very well this year, both in terms of new memberships and on our financial bottom line. Bill has suggested donating between \$1000 and \$1500 to one or more worthy causes after the May meeting. This would be a very generous donation, while still leaving the Roundtable with a healthy bank balance to begin our next season. The Executive Committee endorsed the idea in principle, but made no decision as to the recipient (s) of our donation. Some possibilities we discussed include: the Civil War Preservation Trust; the Soldiers and Sailors Monument here in Cleveland; battlefield preservation at Gettysburg, Antietam or some western battlefield; increasing the prize for our annual high school essay contest; or creating a Roundtable book prize. My own preference would be to spend the entire sum in one place, to maximize its impact, but there's something to be said for spreading our largesse around, too. Please give this some thought; we'll have a vote on the proposal in April or May.

For this month's program, we welcome members of the 51st Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Co. B, a Civil War living history unit. I spent five years with the 51st OVI, attending reenactments as far away as the Wilderness, Mill Springs and Antietam before fatherhood and other commitments led me in other directions. In our membership survey last year, many Roundtable members said they'd like to see more demonstrations and reenactments at our meetings, and I think you'll be very pleased by what the 51st OVI is going to show us.

WILLIAM VODREY
PRESIDENT, CCWRT



Life of the common soldier

Company 8
51st Ohio

Wednesday, March 14, 2001