

The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. Box 444, Vermilion, Ohio 44089

APRIL 1985

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 1

242nd Meeting

DATE: April 9

PLACE: The Hermit Club

SPEAKER: Dennis E. Frye (Returns by Popular Request)

SUBJECT: Cows' Tails Mystery

TIME: Get-together 6:00 P.M. Dinner 7:00 P.M. Reservations-MUST

Dennis E. Frye on The Siege and Capture of Harpers Ferry

The largest capitulation of American forces in history prior to the fall of the Philippines in W.W. II occurred at Harpers Ferry on September 15, 1862.

The Army of Northern Virginia had started its first invasion of the North, and General Lee realized that the 14,000 Federals emplaced at Harpers Ferry could disrupt his communication lines and impede the army's freedom of movement in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Something had to be done. So Lee gambled and divided his forces, sending half to capture the Federal garrison there.

Hauling its artillery to the tops of the three mountains surrounding the Ferry, the encircling Confederates commenced a ferocious bombardment. U.S. Colonel Dixon S. Miles, the Federal Commander, had been told to hold the Maryland Heights "until the cows' tails drop off." But he surrendered the entire garrison with its huge stores of materiel.

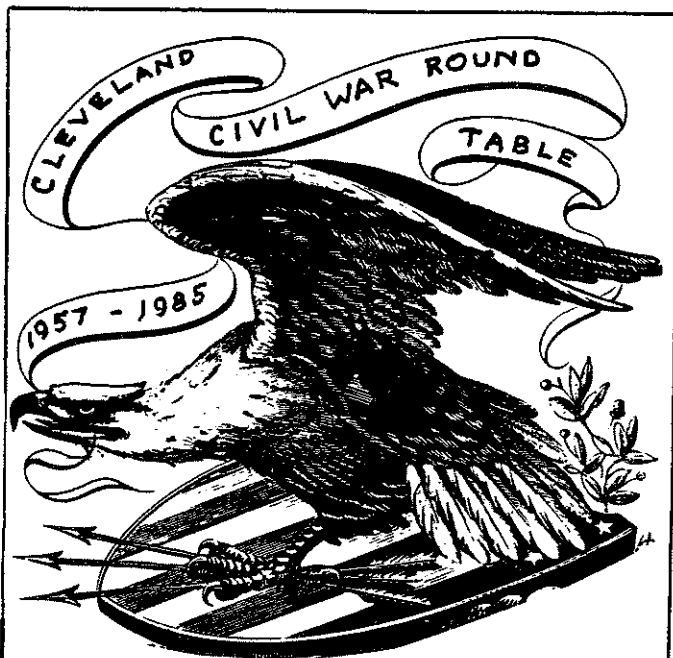
Suspense and intrigue clouded this humiliating Union disaster. Endless questions were asked. Why didn't



Miles hold the mountains? Why were the Federal defenses almost non-existent? Was escape possible? (You may recall the thrilling story of how the Union cavalry did get out.) Was Col. Miles drunk? Is it possible that he was a traitor? Was McClellan to blame in failing to send relief to Harpers Ferry?

These are some of the perplexing questions that Dennis Frye will address in his talk at this meeting.

Mr. Frye is well qualified. He has lived most of his life in or near Harpers Ferry and has been a full-time historian at the National Park there since 1979. He entered the National Park Service at the age of 13 in 1973 as a volunteer at Antietam and Harpers Ferry. He graduated summa cum laude at Shepherd College in West Virginia.



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KRICK SCORES AGAIN

We had a large turn-out for the March 9th meeting to hear Historian Robert Krick speak on the Battle of Cedar Mountain. It was an excellent talk, informative, entertaining; filled with illuminating facts and amusing anecdotes. It gave this listener an entirely different concept from previous notions about the battle derived from reading Battles and Leaders and The Stonewall Brigade. The fine map provided by the speaker helped clarify the details as he developed the battle.

The 8,000 Yankees under Banks came close to stopping Jackson's 22,000, and at one point of a reckless at-

tack, the Federal forces flanked the Confederate left so badly there was almost a rout.

One of the delightful word pictures painted by Bob Krick was of Stonewall rallying his men, a flag in one hand and waving his sword in the other. It was the only time in the war where Jackson was seen brandishing his sword, and in this instance it was still encased in its scabbard because it had rusted and couldn't be drawn out.



Using letters and orders, Krick revealed how the staff and other officers so disliked the Union Commander John Pope that one would think the writings to be those of the enemy. It was pointed out that at the time of this engagement the temperatures ranged from 80 degrees at 7:30 A.M. to well into the 90's during the afternoon and evening; that the dust was so thick it got under the eyelids of the men and horses. This might have accounted for Jackson's famous "foot cavalry" making only a mile and a half a day on its march to the battle.

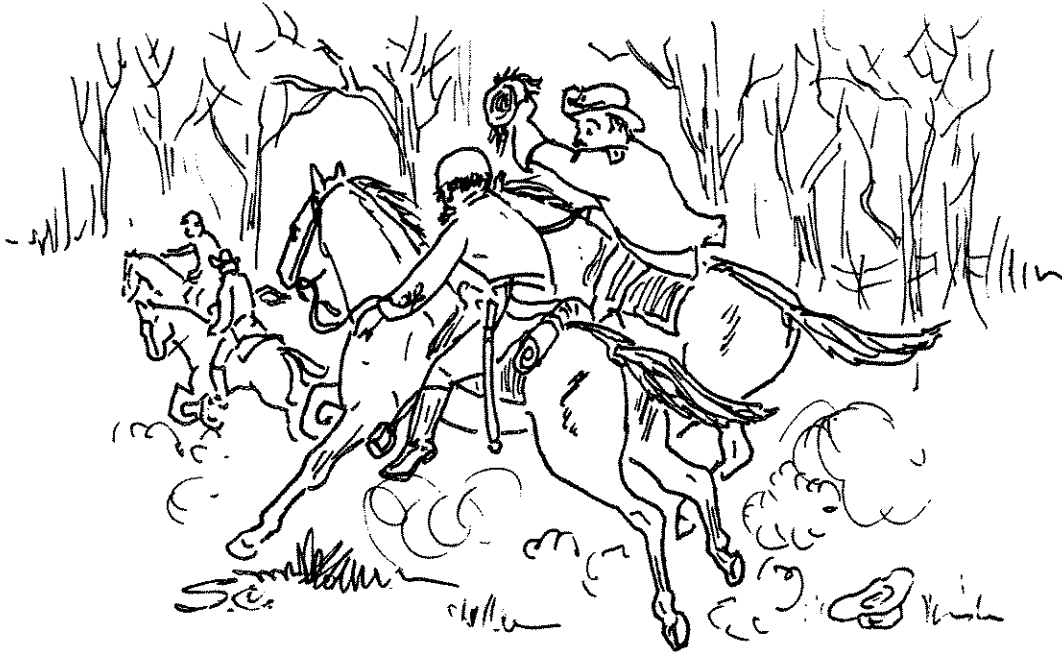
After darkness had ended the battle in which approximately 2400 Federals and 1500 Confederates were lost, General Banks and his staff arrived at the place where the Union army had stopped after withdrawing from the battlefield. It was pitch dark, and Banks and his officers dismounted. Suddenly a troop of rebel cavalry that had circled the retreating army burst upon the officers, not knowing who they were. Amidst the flashing of sabers and crashing of pistolfire, General Banks went down.

It was found afterwards that he was not shot - his frightened horse had bolted and kicked him in the stomach. (His biographer mentioned that "he had received a slight injury...was confined to his bed in Washington during the Battle of Antietam").

These and many other interesting highlights made this an outstanding program.

Bob Krick was presented with an original miniature figure of "The Death of Maxy Gregg" created by member George Skoch.

SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



During the last day at Shiloh when the Confederate Army was streaming back towards Corinth, three rebel officers went galloping past the 28th Illinois Regiment. Colonel A. K. Johnson instantly took off in pursuit, bent on a capture. Riding up beside one, the colonel grabbed the fellow by the hair meaning to drag him off his horse. Much to his astonishment Johnson had a handful of wig.

The humor ends there. The fleeing rebel was brought down by the colonel's pistol shot.

* * * *

As Mah Grammpappy 'Tol It

Gen'ral Lee rode up an' ast mah grammpappy, "Cap'm, how's owah rations holdin' out?"

Mah grammpappy said, "Gen'rl, suh, we got one spoonful grits an' foah goobah peas fer each 'n every man."

The Gen'ral said "Good, then we can commence this ma'ch on full stummicks."

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The Slate

Bill Schlesinger reported for the Nominating Committee the following list of candidates for our 1985-1986 officers:

President: Tim Beatty
Vice Pres. George Vourlojianis
Secretary: Marty Graham
Treasurer: Doug Baldwin
Sgt-at-Arms: Ken Callahan, Jr.

Executive Comm.: One Year -
Tom VanSickle, Jack Collins
Two Years - Jack Allison
David Wood

Marching Through Georgia

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A long and interesting article appeared in the January 28th, 1985, issue of The New Yorker by James Reston, Jr. Surprisingly, the subject was General William Tecumseh Sherman, starting with his peace conference with General Joseph Johnston at Bennett Place, near Durham, N.C. and then going back to retrace the path of the Union Army from Chattanooga-Atlanta-Savannah.

The author was seeking information about the Sherman myth as the ogre of all southerners: of his military ethics and his possible place in our history as the "spiritual father of our Vietnam War." So the article is a chronicle of Reston's travels along the route of the "bummers," with accounts of visits to authors, history professors, town libraries, museums and historic sites. It is filled with many (too many) side stories about individuals, local accounts and diaries. He found most of the latter dominated by the horrors experienced by civilians, but stories of slave loyalty to old masters running a close second. In this regard, a portion clipped and sent along by Neville Bayless is re-



produced on the right.

Proessional accounts differ - Sherman's armies were followed by thousands of liberated slaves, happy to leave their beloved white folks.

The author's conclusion of his study of the hated general was that he sincerely wanted to follow President Lincoln's impulse toward generosity and to help "bind up the nation's wounds," which led to his fall from grace when his lenient terms at Bennett Place hit Washington. Stanton went into a rage and demanded that Sherman be sacked.

It was also a foregone conclusion that this author would imply that Sherman was not the hobgoblin the myth makes him out to be.

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ABOUT THOSE DUES



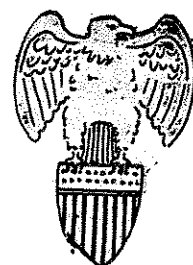
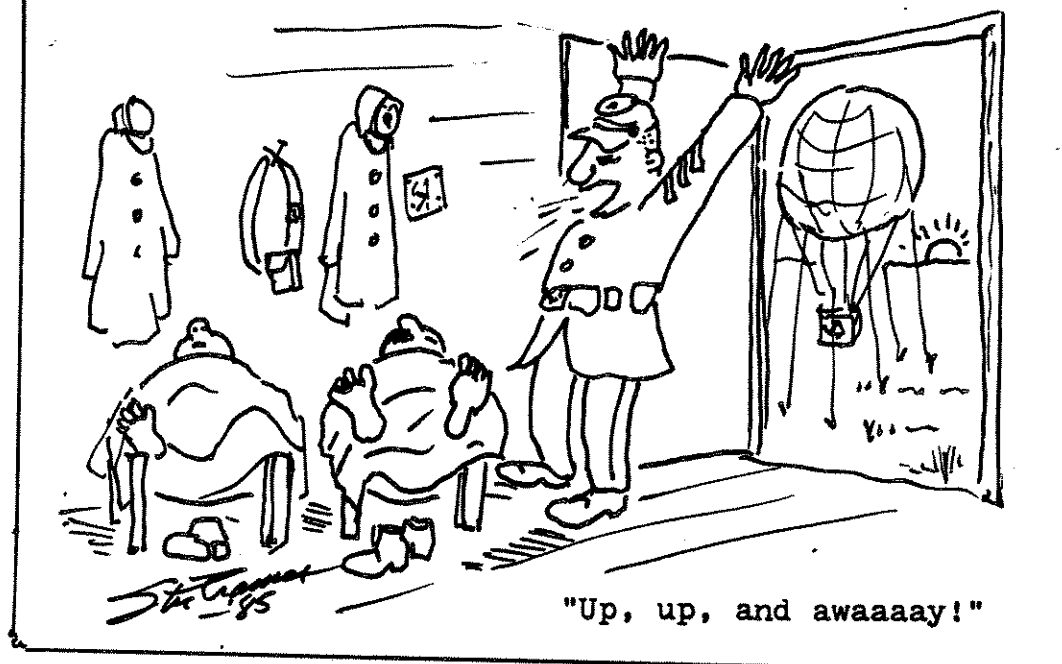
We have an unlucky 13 members who are SEVEN MONTHS in ARREARS on their dues. The Executive Committee is examining their membership status. THIS ISSUE OF THE CHARGER IS THE LAST THEY WILL RECEIVE UNLESS DUES ARE PAID IMMEDIATELY!!

Send your check to
Treasurer Marty Graham
1957 Revere Rd.
Cleveland Heights, Ohio
44118

I acquired for six dollars and fifty cents a handsome volume entitled "Eneas Africanus," by Harry Stillwell Edwards, which was written in 1919 and privately reprinted in 1973 on pastel paper. It continues to have a brisk sale. Eneas, a slave and a "fast-vanishing type... dear to the hearts of the Southerners, young and old," was entrusted with the family silver, particularly a bride's cup, and was dispatched, with a bag of Confederate money, onto the open road in a rickety wagon pulled by a flea-bitten mare called Lady Chain, before the invaders could arrive. Eneas

wandered the South for eight years, from Mississippi to North Carolina, in search of his master, the Major. He finally made his way back to Louisville, Georgia, in 1872, somewhat the richer—he was wearing a silk hat and a flapping linen duster—and there he found the Major. The reunion was warm, and so pleased was the Major to get back his silver and the bride's cup that he let Eneas keep the bagful of Confederate money. The author refers to Southerners who are "so kind of heart, tolerant, and appreciative of the humor and pathos of the Negro's life," and goes on, "Eneas would have been arrested in any country other than the South. In the South he could have traveled his life out as the guest of his 'white folks.' Is the story true? Everybody says it is."

Civil War Smiles by STU CRAMER



COMING EVENTS

APRIL 27-28. Book and artifacts show at Convocation Hall, Ashland College, Ashland, Ohio. 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Always a good show, often attended by several of our members.

MAY 4th. Fourth Annual CWRT Conference, Hilton Hotel, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Top speakers and museum-quality artifacts.

MAY 11 and 12. Re-enactment, relic displays and sales, Ohio Valley and Southeastern Ohio CWRT's, at Cambridge, Ohio.

MAY 23-26. Seminar on Jackson Shenandoah Valley Campaign, at Winchester, Virginia. Noted speakers, local field trips. Holiday Inn.

OCT. FIRST WEEK. National Congress of CWRT Associates, Fredericksburg, Va. Nationally-known speakers and conducted field trip.

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CHANGE OF MAY DATE

A conflict with the Hermit Club's spring schedule necessitates our changing the date of the LADIES' NIGHT MAY MEETING to TUESDAY, MAY 21st. Stuart Cramer to present his farewell performance of "Now You See It" stage magic show.

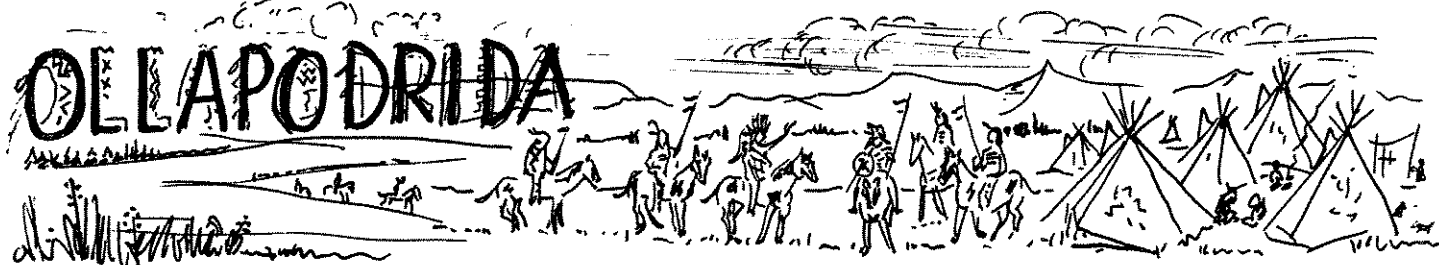
LAST CHANCE

In 1866 the West Virginia legislature struck 26,099 medals for distribution to Union soldiers who fought in West Virginia regiments. 5200 medals remain waiting to be claimed by heirs of the soldiers, many of whom came from neighboring states.

A list of all unclaimed medals is included in the current West Virginia History, Vol. 45, which is available for \$8 from the Dept. of Culture and History, Cultural Center, Capitol Complex, Charleston, W.V. 25305. Claims will be accepted until April 12, 1985.

Thanks to member Pat Moran

OLLAPODRIDA



General William Nelson Pendleton was an Episcopal minister, and when Virginia seceded he was elected Captain of the Rockbridge Artillery - later to become Lee's Chief of Artillery. The story is told of Pendleton during the Valley Campaign that he stood among his guns directed upon the enemy, devoutly raised his hand in benediction and shouting above the din of conflict, "May God have mercy upon their poor souls." The upraised hand swept downward, "Fire!"

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In 1856 attempts were made to make the Kingdom of Monaco a gambling center. Francois Blanc, a Parisian financier, in 1863 built an elaborate casino and luxury hotel there, the Hotel de Paris and built a town around the casino. Prince Charles named the area "Monte Carlo" in 1866. The American Civil War had no impact upon this European enterprise.

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Nor did another Pendleton, a young man from the Yorkshire district of England, an early settler in the Pacific Northwest, give any thought to the war raging in the east. Trained in the textile industry in his youth, he helped establish one of Oregon's first woolen mills in 1863. The exclusive Pendleton woolen products are sold throughout the United States and Canada to this day.

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The American Indians were the real losers after the Civil War - those who sided with the South had their lands confiscated and had to keep on fighting the Union. Those who fought for the North ditto.

WANTED

Enterprising intrepid member to choose a destination, research it, write and phone enquiries, make schedule, secure arrangements, beg for commitments....lots of glory and headaches... MARSHAL OF 1985 FALL FIELD TRIP. Guaranteed lots of advice but little help. Here is the challenge of a lifetime. Contact Brian Kowell.

After Second Bull Run, Secretary of War Stanton sent out a call for civilian volunteers to help nurse the wounded on the battlefield. Against the protests of Col. Haupt, who claimed they would be more hindrance than help, a train was ordered to Washington. When the train arrived in Alexandria, it was packed with 800 men and women volunteers in varying stages of drunkenness whooping it up on a grand spree. Haupt was aghast, halted it and unloaded the lot. He then refused them transportation back to Washington, insisting that they would displace the wounded men being evacuated.

From That Man Haupt by James A. Ward

