



The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. Box 5786, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

APRIL 1991

297th MEETING

VOL.12 #8

DATE: April 9, 1991

PLACE: The Hermit Club

SUBJECT: "Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln."

SPEAKER: William A. Tidwell. "Bill" Tidwell is the principal author of Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln. This book, published by the University Press of Mississippi in 1988, has stimulated a large part of the community of professional historians to re-think the conventional interpretation of many aspects of the Civil War. In particular, it has challenged the long-held view of the Civil War as a romantic contest between the aristocratic South and the industrial North.

Bill has had some experiences that have been unusually useful in helping him understand the Confederacy and its activity in the field of clandestine operations. He comes from a Southern family and is a graduate of VMI. He spent 32 years in the U.S. Army Reserve, served in WWII and in Vietnam, and as a Brigadier General held a mobilization assignment as a Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence in the Army. He has had continuous association with the U.S. Intelligence Community for over 50 years, much of it with Army Intelligence and the CIA.

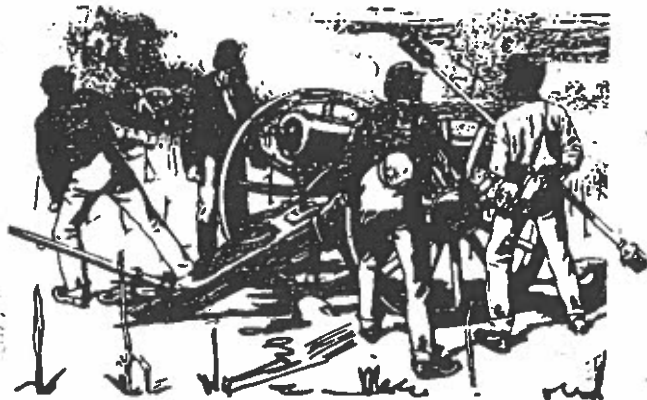
Bill's book was chosen by Civil War Times Illustrated as one of the three best books on the Civil War published in 1988.

TIME: Drinks 6PM Dinner 7PM

RESERVATIONS: Please call Joe Tirpak at 255-8140. RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

1957 * 1991



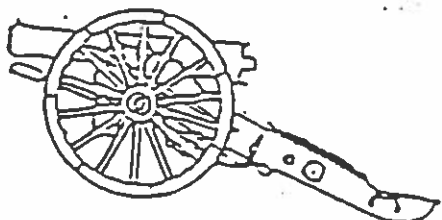
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MOVING?

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YOUR NEW ADDRESS...



Preserve Your Battlefields!



Last Month's Meeting

If enthusiasm could be measured on the Richter scale, last month's speaker, Al De Cola of the Mahoning Valley Civil War Roundtable, would shook the Hermit Club to its foundation.

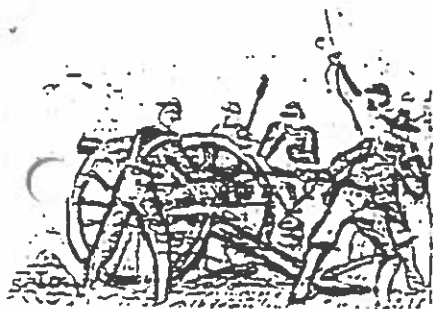
Mr. De Cola spoke of the Battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864, as one of the fiercest engagements of the war. Gen. John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee, moving northward in pursuit of Gen. John Schofield's Federal army found its quarry posted south of Franklin. Schofield had taken the position to delay Hood until his wagons could get across the Harpeth River.

Hood, apparently frustrated by his failure to trap Schofield at Spring Hill the night before, overruled his subordinates and decided to assault the fortified Union position. The attack, which had no artillery support, began about 4p.m.

Two Northern brigades in an advanced position had orders to withdraw to the main line when the Confederates attacked. The advanced units, however, mistakenly held their position. Their resistance slowed Hood's onslaught, but they soon gave way and fled back to the main works with the Rebs on their heels. Union reserves under Ohioian General Opdycke rushed into the melee of the pierced line and a fierce hand-to-hand fight went on until the Rebels were driven back. At other points along the line the Rebels pushed up to the works and fought until long after dark. The firing did not die out until 11p.m. During the night Schofield crossed the river and marched to Nashville.

About 28,000 Federals were on the battlefield; they suffered over 2,300 casualties. Hood had about 27,000 men; he lost over 6,200. A dozen of Hood's generals were killed, wounded, or missing. The battle weakened the Confederates and helped set the stage for their defeat at Nashville two weeks later.





PRESERVATION REPORT by BILL STARK

SNAFU AT GETTYSBURG!

As part of a new General Management Plan, an agreement was made between NPS and Gettysburg College to swap battlefield land for an historic easement on college property. The NPS was to receive an historic easement prohibiting development on more than 40 acres of college land, and the college was to receive an eight-acre strip of park land at the foot of Oak Hill so the college could relocate 3600 feet of railroad track away from its athletic fields.

However, precise maps were never presented, the battlefield history staff was not presented specific information on the location of the 8 acres or the specific plans for relocation of the tracks, and a required environmental review process was ignored and park management knew it!

C bulldozers have already destroyed irreplaceable earthworks and about 20 feet of the historic "Railroad Cut"! The new Superintendent, Jose Cisneros, and his assistant, Bob Davidson, appear guilty of bureaucratic mismanagement. If you agree, please write your Representative (c/o House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515) and both your Senators (c/o U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510). Copies to Senator Dale Bumpers and Representative Bruce Vento would also be helpful.

Let's really raise hell about this one. The Park Service is supposed to be on our side!

DO YOU CARE About Civil War Battlefields???

- * Do you CARE that the National Park Service at Gettysburg signed off on the destruction of earth works and a historic railroad cut west of Willoughby Run?
- * Do you CARE that the same Gettysburg folks are thinking about swapping several acres of Hare Woods to the local Country Club so a golf course can be expanded?
- * Do you CARE that the administration at Antietam National Battlefield plans to invite 20,000 folks in for a 4th of July picnic and fireworks like they did last year, saving the event has no "negative impact" on the battlefield?
- * Do you CARE that the Park Service is about to roll over to the threat of a law suit to force the acceptance of a female re-enactor on a Confederate living history cannon firing crew at Antietam?
- * Do you CARE that the Park Service may be considering a permit for a Gay Pride demonstration at Rock Creek Park in Washington, location of Fort Stevens and several other "inner circle" fortifications built to defend Washington City against Confederate attack?
- * Do you CARE that public picnics, 10K runs, symphony concerts and other "entertainment" activities are routinely allowed at national Civil War battlefields, according to the whim of the superintendent?
- * Do you CARE that a modern stable is being enlarged at Manassas Battlefield to provide for horseback riding activities on the battlefield by VIPs and their families? (The Park Service says they've gotten very few complaints on this.)

IN TOO MANY INSTANCES, WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY
AND THEY ARE THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE!

HERITAGE PAC

P.O. Box 7281 • Little Rock, AR 72217
(501)225-3996 (During Working Hours)

(A Copy of Our Report is on File with the Federal Election Commission)

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The Third Annual Mid-Atlantic Conference of Civil War Round Tables will be held in Philadelphia April 20, 1991. It is sponsored by the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table and the Civil War Library and Museum. The theme will be "The Chancellorsville Campaign." For information: Civil War Library and Museum, 1805 Pin Street, Philadelphia, PA., 19103.

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The Brandy Station Foundation, PO Box 165, Brandy Station, Virginia 22714 is soliciting contributions to support their effort to preserve the battlefield. Unfortunately, the land of the battlefield has been rezoned for an industrial complex. The rezoning must be opposed, and the foundation intends to carry on the litigation necessary. But it cannot do without money, which is where you can help.



NEW CIVIL WAR MOVIE

A new feature-length motion picture, Killer Angels, will be filmed this year for release in fall, 1992. It will be based on the 1975 Pulitzer Prize book by Michael Shaara and will feature many reenactors. The story line "is about the issues of why the war was fought and specifically what happened at Gettysburg and the predicament that the leadership on both sides faced in those three days". Robert Duvall will portray Robert E. Lee.

Let's hope that it is unbiased!

JUNE 15-22: "Campaigning With Lee", Thirteenth Annual Civil War Institute at University of Richmond, by Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson. Registration available for on-campus or commuter. Division of Continuing Education, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061 or call (703)961-5182.

JULY 26-28: Annual Chambersburg, PA Civil War seminar. Lectures by prominent speakers and 4 tours of Chambersburg, Mercersburg, Gettysburg and Harrisburg. (717)264-7101.

MIDWEST CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE: Enclosed with this issue of the Canister is the official flyer for the conference. We have an all-star lineup of speakers, including Will Greene, Alan Nolan, Gordon Dammann, Dave Finney, Dr. William Hassler, and our keynote speaker, Bud Robertson.

On the subject of the conference, it will be Friday and Saturday, April 19 and 20 at the Omni Netherland Hotel in downtown Cincinnati.

Phone Reservations: Kevin Preece (606)491-3757 or Dave Smith (606)331-5558

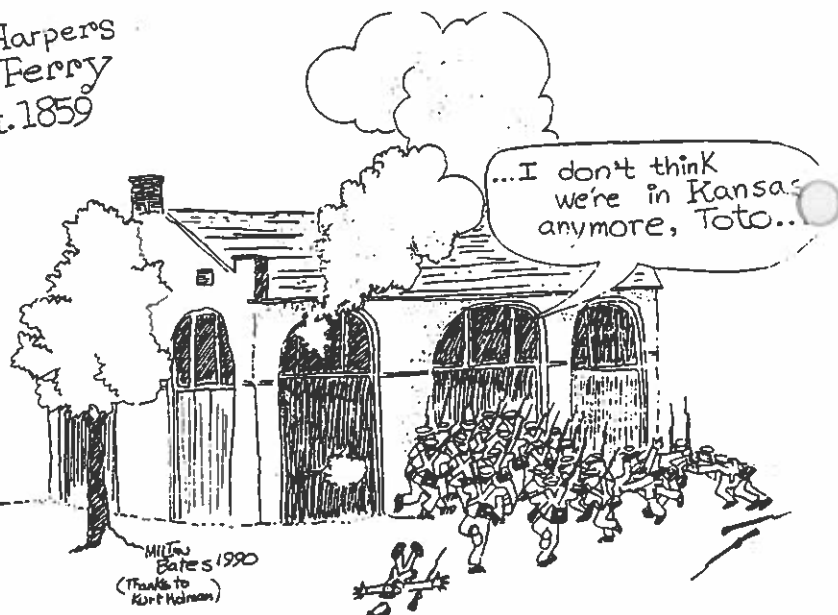
"Pennsylvania and the Civil War" is the theme of the Fourth Annual Chambersburg Civil War Seminar, to be held on July 26-28, 1991. Subjects such as the Gettysburg Campaign, Pennsylvania troops and the battles they fought, draft resistance, partisan warfare and the "Underground Railroad" will be discussed.

For further information contact Martina K. Witmer, 75 South Second St., Chambersburg, PA, 17201, phone 717-264-7101.

Research Assistance Sought

Roger Long, director of the Johnson's Island Historical Society, is preparing a book about the Johnson's Island Prison at Sandusky, Ohio. Most of the inmates were Confederate officers, but some enlisted men and civilians were held there as well. Many of the enlisted men and civilians who died were buried in unmarked, possibly secret graves. Some of them are thought to have been Kentuckians. Mr. Long would appreciate receiving any information about these individuals. He has quite a bit of information about the inmates he will share with anyone interested in the site. Contact him at 219 Hayes Avenue, Port Clinton, Ohio 44860.

Harpers
Ferry
Oct. 1859



More Than You Ever Wanted To Know About



Frank Vizetelly

1830-
1883

Frank Vizetelly was born in London, England in 1830. In his early twenties, Vizetelly became a correspondent and draftsman for the "London Pictorial Times". In 1857, with his brother Henry, he founded "Le Monde Illustré" becoming its editor and covering the war between Austria and Sardinia-Piedmont in 1859. For reasons unknown, he left and as artist-correspondent for the "Illustrated London News" he covered Garibaldi's expedition in Sicily and Italy. He was a huge, red-bearded, laughing man who was filled with ribald tales and songs and lively impromptu dances. It was as a member of the London Press Club that he became friends with Charles Dickens and other English literary luminaries.

In May 1861, Vizetelly arrived in New York City on assignment for the "Illustrated London News" to cover the American Civil War. He sketched in the vicinity of Washington and northern Virginia and was present at the Union disaster at First Bull Run. He spent four years covering the war's campaigns with both the Federal and Confederate armies and would eventually become a Southern sympathizer.

In June, 1862 while on the Mississippi River with the Union gunboat Flotilla, Vizetelly

sketched the Battle of Memphis. Returning to Washington, he became increasingly annoyed by Stanton's official restrictions on his freedom of movement and he secretly passed through Federal lines and made his way to Richmond. There he was warmly treated and became acquainted with Jefferson Davis and members of his cabinet and other socially prominent Richmonders. He enlivened Richmond's wartime social life directing and acting in amateur theatricals for which he also designed sets, painted scenery, and fashioned costumes and wigs.

Vizetelly was at Fredericksburg in December, 1862 and observed the assaults on the Confederate lines in the company of Generals Robert E. Lee and James Longstreet. In 1863 he was in South Carolina with General Beauregard when Rear Admiral Samuel F. Du Pont's ironclads attacked Charleston harbor. He sketched the siege of Vicksburg and was present at the Battle of Chickamauga. It was there, while acting as a volunteer courier, that he was made an "honorary" Captain in the Confederate Army for bravery under fire. By Christmas, 1863, he was back in northern Virginia with Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's command. The gregarious Vizetelly was a great favorite in Stuart's camp - "the most interesting narrator I have ever listened to around a campfire," wrote a Confederate officer.

Early in 1864, Vizetelly sailed for England but was back in the Southern states by June, having run the Union Blockade. He was an observer of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign and in December was present to sketch the bombardment and fall of Fort Fisher, North Carolina. "Never has the world seen aught so fearful as the terrific concentration of fire brought to bear on the luckless sandwork," he wrote. By April, 1865, he had made his way to Greensboro, North Carolina, where he joined President Jefferson Davis' party fleeing south after the fall of Richmond. As the only newsman

in the caravan, he left the sole pictorial record of the epic flight. There were many anxious moments along the journey and many hardships to bear and Vizetelly shared them all from Greensboro to Washington, Georgia. Sudden alarms were frequent and of one stampede he wrote; "...everything went helter-skelter along the road- President, Ministers, cavalrymen, four-muled wagons, and terrified Negro servants, all jumbled up together." During brief halts, Davis conducted business at the side of the road and called Cabinet members to informal discussions of their problems. Vizetelly sketched one such meeting, which he entitled "Government by the Roadside", a homely scene depicting Judah Benjamin as he handed papers to the seated Davis for his signature.

It was at Washington, Georgia that Vizetelly parted ways with the fleeing Confederate President. He made his last sketch of Davis in the town square, hat in hand, saying goodbye to the men of his guard. The English artist, who had become an admirer of Davis, covertly gave Davis a fifty-pound note to help the party on its way. He wrote: "It was there that President Davis determined to continue his flight almost alone. With tears in his eyes he begged the men to seek their own safety and leave him to his fate."

Returning to England the "London Illustrated News" published Vizetelly's series of drawings entitled "Last Days of the Confederacy". Woodcuts of his drawings had appeared throughout the war years and a number of his sketches dispatched to England aboard blockade runners were intercepted by Union warships and pirated by Northern illustrated weeklies. The only existing original drawings are owned by the Harvard College Library; the balance of his work was destroyed in the London Blitz of World War II.

Vizetelly continued to cover battlefronts in Europe and in 1883 he was dispatched to Egypt to cover the uprising of the Mahdist movement against Egyptian rule in the Sudan. An army of 10,000 men led by Colonel William Hicks of the British Army, marched into an ambush at the village of Kashgil in January, 1883, and was annihilated by the Mahdi, except for one man. For months rumors were heard in Egypt and London that the lone survivor of the massacre had been Vizetelly, but the lone white survivor, it developed, was a German scientist. The fate of Vizetelly was unknown, but he was presumed to have died in the butchery at Kashgil.

Five years later, in 1888, the artist was honored as one of seven British correspondents who had lost their lives while following the expansion of the Empire in Africa.

---Encyclopedia of the Civil War by Patricia Faust
 --- The Long Surrender by Burke Davis



Army reconsiders the case of Dr. Mudd

MIAMI, Mich. (AP) — Dr. Samuel Mudd died more than 100 years ago, under the shadow of that dark night in 1865 when he set a broken leg of a man with a severed arm — the man had killed Abraham Lincoln.

Now, thanks to the lifelong efforts of Mudd's 90-year-old grandson, that wrong may be lifted.

In January, the Army's Board of Correction of Military Records took an appeal of Mudd's 1865 conviction on charges that he was an accomplice after the assassination. Expected to act later this year, Mudd never dreamed I'd live long enough to see it happen," said Mudd's grandson, Dr. Richard D.

"If he is found innocent, I don't think I'll be able to survive it," he said. "I get goose bumps just thinking about it."

Samuel Mudd, 32, was arrested April 24, 1865, 10 days after Lincoln was shot at Ford's Theater. He said he had known nothing of the assassination plot — when John Wilkes Booth arrived on horseback at Waldorf, Md., home 30 miles from Washington, D.C.

Mudd was killed by federal troops in the confusion. Mudd and seven other patients were convicted by a military commission. They were sentenced to death and Mudd received a life sentence.

Mudd spent four years in custody at Fort Jefferson in the Gulf of Mexico, winning recognition for his fight to battle a yellow fever outbreak there. In March 1869, lame-limbed President Andrew Johnson granted him a pardon.

Mudd himself had caught yellow fever, which contributed to his death at age 37.

Richard Mudd said his grandfather's case was a painful family secret.

His father — Mudd's son, also a doctor — "was so bitter, he would not talk about it," Mudd said. He read a book on the case written in 1906 by his aunt, Nellie Mudd, which decided to act.

"I thought this thing for 72 years," Mudd said. "I felt that if I would get it anywhere, it was going to be good."

The case never died. It was the subject of a 1934 Hollywood movie, "The Prisoner of Skunk Island," and a television movie in the early 1980s called "The Ordeal of Dr. Mudd" starring Dennis Weaver.

In the process, Richard Mudd became an expert on the Lincoln assassination, compiling more than 100 documents, 700 books and audio tapes on the topic. His office took two rooms in the base-

ment of the seven-bedroom house where he and his wife have lived for 53 years.

Richard Mudd gave speeches. He proposed renaming Fort Jefferson after his grandfather, or naming a bridge after him. He sought to exhume Booth's body. He petitioned Congress to declare his grandfather's innocence.

Over the years, Mudd won some battles. President Eisenhower dedicated a monument to the imprisoned doctor in Key West. Numerous state legislatures passed resolutions proclaiming Samuel Mudd's innocence.

In 1979, President Carter wrote Mudd that he was convinced the conviction was wrong but, "There is no authority under law under which I, as president, could set aside his conviction."

President Reagan wrote a similar letter in 1987. And numerous efforts in Congress, spearheaded for years by the late Sen. Phil Hart and Rep. Bob Traxler, both Michigan Democrats, failed to overturn the conviction.

Mudd, a retired General Motors Corp. doctor and U.S. Air Force colonel, concluded he was at a dead end. He turned his efforts toward having a postage stamp issued in his grandfather's honor.

A break in the case came about a year and a half ago, when a Philadelphia investment banker, George McNamara, began corresponding with Mudd and became interested in the crusade.

"I just did a total bomb of letters to Congress people," said McNamara, an autograph collector and Civil War buff.

"He wrote to all 50 U.S. senators," Mudd said. "It was just a miracle he thought to do it."

In response, Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., asked the Army to consider the Mudd case. The Army's Judge Advocate General office wrote Biden in July 1990, saying the correction board had the authority to overturn the conviction.

Mudd was ecstatic. In October, he and McNamara filed a 100-page appeal.

Jack Matthews, deputy assistant secretary of defense in charge of the correction board, said members would consider the Mudd case but had to put more current cases ahead of it, such as Army reservists appealing negative reports that are keeping them out of the Persian Gulf conflict.

The review probably would take six to 12 months or longer, Matthews said.

"These cases are interesting, they need to be considered, but it doesn't take priority when it comes to Desert Storm," he said.

Collector finds stolen Medal of Honor

VIROQUA, Wis. (AP) — An Ohio collector's close reading of a new book on the Civil War enabled a county museum to recover a Medal of Honor stolen 14 years ago.

The medal had been awarded to Francis A. Wallar, a De Soto farmer, for capturing a Confederate flag during the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863.

Upon Wallar's death in 1911, his family gave the medal, his war diary and other personal effects to the Vernon County Historical Society museum.

The museum was robbed in 1977. Wallar's medal was among the items stolen.

"I had almost given up hope of ever seeing that again," said Constance Stephen, former museum curator. "It was one of our most important artifacts in our Civil War collection."

The museum's quest to recover the medal brightened when Calvin Packard, an Ohio collector, read a just-published book on the 6th Wisconsin Regiment.

Packard had earlier arranged to buy the medal from Hank Ford of Bedford, N.H., an antique dealer handling the dispersal of the military medal collection of the late Joseph Copley of nearby New Castle, N.H.

Before the sale was completed, Packard noticed a footnote in the book, "In the Bloody Railroad Cut at Gettysburg," which told of the medal's theft from the historical society museum. Packard reported his discovery to Ford.

Ford said he talked with Copley family members, who agreed that the medal should be returned to the Vernon County museum. Viroqua police said Ford is trying to determine through Copley's records where the medal was obtained.

It was returned to the museum this month.



Please Make Reservation

Please call Joe Tirpak at 255-8140
ASAP! RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!

ATTENTION! There is a change in
marching orders for the

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE



PLEASE NOTE

"THE CHARGER" has a new address

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address is:

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CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118



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CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE FIELD TRIP



GETTYSBURG SEPTEMBER 20,21,22

- * Meet Friday afternoon in Gettysburg for check-in
- * Dinner at Historical Fairfield Inn on Friday night
- * Tour Battlefield on Saturday
- * Dinner Saturday night at Colonial Dobbin's House
- * Tour Battlefield on Sunday
- * For reservations contact Kevin Callahan 861-7200

Splendid Conduct of the Army of the Potomac.

The Rebel General Armistead Captured.

GENERAL HICKLEY LEG AMPUTATED.

Some of the Results of the Great Victory

OLLAPODRIDA

When asked why his Confederate Division commanded by A.P.Hill was called the Light Division, one of its members remarked wryly, "We are lightly armed, lightly fed, but march rapidly, and fight frequently"

--- Up Came Hill: The Story of the Light Division and its Leaders by Martin Scheneck pp19

One afternoon an aged minister, long white hair and beard blowing in the breeze, walked into the camp of the 7th Virginia Infantry. A member of the unit, spying the old man, hollered out good-naturedly, "Boys! Here is Father Abraham!"

"Young man, you are mistaken," the preacher replied in a calm tone. "I am Saul, the son of Kish, searching for his father's asses, and I have found them!"

--- General A.P. Hill: The Story of a Confederate Warrior by James I. Robertson pp57

With his troops surrounding the Confederate forces in Savannah, Gen. Sherman departed for Hilton Head to confer with Admiral Dahlgren and Gen. Foster about an operation to cut the railroad between Charleston and Savannah. While there, on December 20, 1864, Gen. Hardee evacuated Savannah. That night, as the Confederates were leaving, Sherman boarded a ship for his return to Savannah. The ship soon ran into stormy weather and they were forced to take the inland passage behind the barrier islands where the waters were not as rough. Unfortunately, the ship was caught by low tide and soon grounded fast on a mud bank. During the following day the ships crew struggled to free the vessel. That evening a small tug arrived with word that Savannah had fallen and of Hardee's army's escape. Thus while Sherman's troops were making a triumphant entry into Savannah, the conquering hero had been "stuck in the mud" up a creek.

--- Savannah: Mr. Lincoln's Christmas Present by Roger S. Durham "Blue&Gray Magazine" Vol VIII#3 pp 48



from The President's Desk



Dear Member:

Forty-nine members and guests gathered at the Hermit Club for our March meeting to hear an excellent presentation by Al DeCola on the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

Two new members were recognized and welcomed into our Round-Table:

Tim Weaver - Transfer Express, Inc., Mentor

Bob Cleary - Rex Pipe & Supply Co., Bay Village

In addition, the Officers have approved Thomas J. Dempsey for membership since the March meeting. Tom was sponsored by long-time member, Bill Victory and resides in Lakewood.

We have approved 12 new members since our fall meeting at Dr. Callahan's home. Our goal is 15!

We're looking forward to another large turnout for our April 9th speaker. Bill Tidwell, a retired Brig. General. His subject:

"Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln."

On behalf of the Officers and the Executive Committee our best wishes for a Happy Easter.

See you April 9th!

Regards,

"JET"



THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

P.O. BOX 5786

CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101