



The Cleveland Civil War Round-Table
P.O. Box 18900, Cleveland, Ohio 44118

THE CHARGER

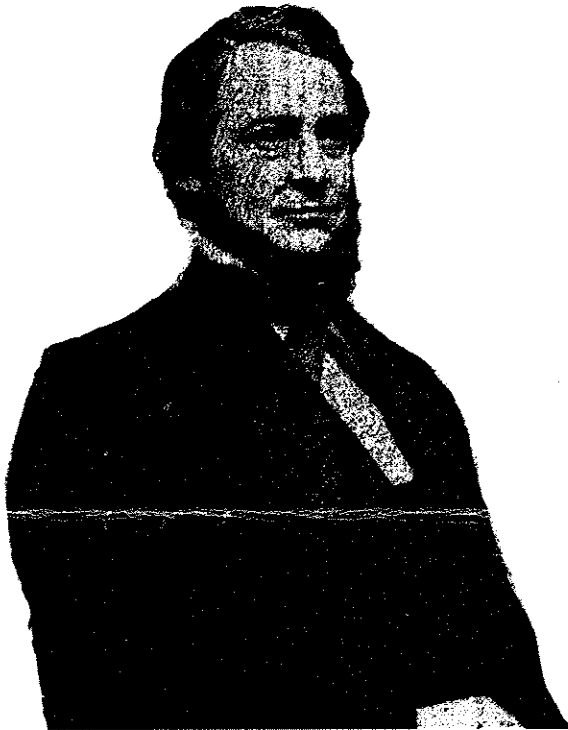
Vol. 18 #8

351th Meeting

April, 1997

Tonight's Speaker

Jay Ruoff



**Clement Laird
Vallandigham**

He was a Ohio Lawyer, journalist and Democratic Politician who strenuously opposed the war.

He was prominent among the *Copperheads* or peace Democrats, and tried to obstruct war - related legislation.

Jay comes from the Cuyahoga Valley Roundtable. He was mayor of Peninsula, Ohio for eight years. He is originally from Cincinnati and graduated from Ohio University. He served with the Marine Corps in WWII. Following the War he spent over twenty with the State Department. He wrote *Death Throes of A Dynasty*, about China. He also wrote *The Crossings* about John Hunt Morgan raids into Ohio during the American Civil War.

Date: April 9, 1997

Place: The Hermit Club

Time: Drinks 6 PM

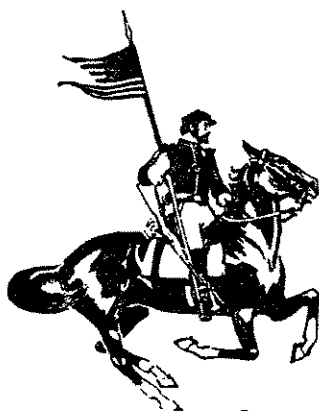
Dinner 7 PM

**Reservations: Please call
JAC Business Communications
at 861-5588.**

Happy Fortieth Birthday, Cleveland Round-Table

The Cleveland Civil War Round-Table 1957 1997

40
years



President: Dan Zeiser
Vice President: John Moore
Secretary: Dick Crews
Treasurer: Bob Boyda

Editor of the **THE CHARGER**
Dick Crews
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Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122
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John & Anne Caputo

The Cleveland Civil War Round-Table meets normally on the second Wednesday of each month from September through May. The Round-Table also sponsors a Fall field trip each year to a selected Civil War site.

Dues are \$35.00 per year.

Membership information can be obtained from Secretary:
Dick Crews (216) 752-9961 or (800) 800-8310

Past Cleveland C.W.R.T. Presidents

1986	John Sutula	1978	Milton Holmes
1985	Norton London	1975	Thomas Gretter
1984	Robert E. Battisti	1974	Nolan Heidelbaugh
1983	Kevin Callahan	1973	Arthur Jordan
1982	Bob Beucher	1972	Bernard Drews
1981	Joe Tirpek	1971	Kenneth Callahan
1980	Ken Callahan Jr.	1970	Frank Schuhle
1988	Neil Gleser	1969	Donald Heckamen
1988	Martin Graham	1968	Frank Moran
1987	George Vourlojanis	1967	William Schleeinger
1986	Tim Beatty	1966	Donald Hamill
1985	Brian Kowell	1965	Lester L. Swift
1984	Neil Evans	1964	Guy DiCarlo, Jr.
1983	William Victory	1963	Paul Guenther
1982	William Harkness	1962	Edward Downer
1981	Thomas Gaeche	1961	Charles Clarke
1980	Charles Spiegle	1960	Howard Preston
1979	William Bates	1959	John Cullen, Jr.
1978	Richard McCrea	1958	George Farr, Jr.
1977	James Chapman	1957	Kenneth Grant

Calendar of Events

April 9, 1997

Jay Ruoff
Peninsula Roundtable
"Vallandigham & The Copperheads"

May 15, 1997 - (Note this is a Thursday)

40th Birthday Celebration

Gettysburg
Fall Field Trip 1997
Sept 25 - 28

Spring Field Trip
May 10, 1997
Lakeview Cemetery



Elisha Hunt Rhodes
1842-1917

A sea captain's son, he quit his job as a clerk for a harness maker to enlist in the Union's 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers in 1861. He is remembered for the detailed and eloquent diary he kept of his war service, during which he fought at Bull Run, on the Virginia peninsula and at Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Petersburg, and Appomattox.

Reservations are a must ! Call (216) 861- 5588.

Norman A. Fuerst, long Cleveland CWRT member and Judge, addressed our Round-Table on February 10, 1987, on Vallandigham and the Copperheads. This 1987 meeting was the Club's 258th meeting this April, 1997 meeting will be our 351st. Besides serving this community as a Judge, Norman served as a State legislator in Columbus, Ohio ninety years after C. L. Vallandigham served there.

Norm was kind enough to give us his notes from his 1987 presentation. The following are some of his highlights.

Clement. L. Vallandigham

by

Norman A. Fuerst

Clement L. Vallandigham (called Val) was born in New Lisbon, Ohio (Colombiana) on July 29, 1820, the fifth of seven children. His father was a minister of the local Presbyterian church. A brother James also became a minister. He later wrote a biography of Val. The roots were deep. His ancestors had come from Flanders to Virginia in 1690 and a grandfather had been a colonel in the Revolutionary War. At 8 he was studying Latin, At 12, Greek. Interestingly, two other Ohioans, James Garfield and Clarence Darrow, born just north, also learned the classical languages in the home. At 17 he was in college, Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pa. Taught and left college and began the study of law. In 1842 he was elected to the legislature and was it's youngest member. He was paid \$2.00 a day. Today they make \$100.00 (1987). He married (Louisa A. McMahon) in 1846 and in December, 1846 he was elected speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives. I have not researched the laws he may have sponsored. They can't be much, however, because speakers seldom put their names on Bills.



C. L. Vallandigham(center) and friends

Val had higher sights, however, and he moved to Dayton, Ohio and bought part of a Democratic newspaper, The Western Empire. (\$150.00) He worked as editor, ran unsuccessfully until he won a congressional seat in 1856.

He and most of the Copperheads thought themselves conservatives; they believed that the wheel of revolution (namely, abolition) had turned too fast and too far. Their slogan was; "**The Constitution as it is, the Union as it was.**"

Lincoln dealt with dissenters on July 4, 1861. (Lincoln seemed to do lots of things on July 4th). He suspended Habeas Corpus which allowed the war department to arrest dissenters and make them subject to military rather than civilian law. Some historians place the arrests as high as 13,000. Most were immediately released.

Ironically, Val spoke out as early as 1850 that slavery was a moral social and political evil. But, he considered slavery a local institution which could be erased within the states' borders only if the state so willed. In Congress Val suggested some bold amendments, one of which would have provided for two presidents. All, he said, for the purpose of saving the country from war.

The problem for Vallandigham was the limits of dissent. He insisted upon practicing the same rights in war that he exercised in times of peace. The limits of dissent were never made clear by the U.S. Supreme court. They dodged the issue and even agreed with the suspension of Habeas Corpus.

It was not until 1919 (*Schenck v. U.S.*) that a court defined it, saying that an actual obstruction of recruiting services would be a violation. Like Edmund Burke, Val believed that change should be evolutionary rather than revolutionary.

Vallandigham's death prevented his writing his autobiography. His brother James undertook the task and published a glowing portrait of him in 1872. Other authors and historians have not been kind in their characterizations. They said he was cold, calculating, vain, arrogant, an exhibitionist and supercilious and those were his virtues. He was also brilliant, an orator and scholarly. Many leaders whom we admire have these same traits. This makes for the fascination of this man, to some he was a true peacemaker-to others a traitor

And like so many others from the civil war, even Lincoln himself, Val was somewhat of an enigma.



1863 cartoon showing "liberty" being attacked by the Copperheads

Norman Fuerst

Rockets & Grenades

By Lou Braman¹

The results of the test would have been a joke had they not verged on disaster. So reported Lieutenant Commander William Mitchell to the Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance. The device being tested was a "rocket" which was equipped with a shell at its head designed to explode by a time fuse. In its center of gravity were perforations which it was hoped would impart a rotary motion to the rocket.

The Bureau Chief, Captain J. A. Dahgren, was not surprised by Mitchell's report. He had observed the fiasco himself, along with three very distinguished witnesses, including the President of the United States and the Secretaries of State and Treasury. On the fifteenth of November, 1862, these gentlemen and others watched as Mitchell ordered the firing of one of the rockets by a percussion cap from a perforated iron cylinder. The result was an explosion in the spectator's stand, an experience still quite vivid in the Bureau Chiefs memory.



Captain John A. Dahlgren

¹*Lou Braman is a history teacher at Cleveland Heights High School, Cleveland Heights, Ohio.*

Two days later they tried it again. The rocket's weight (seventeen pounds and one ounce), length (two feet three inches) and diameter (three inches), were journalled before it was fired off by a "quick" match. Then, almost immediately, the rocket whirled into the air ninety degrees to the line of fire, crashing into the roof of a neighboring blacksmith shop and, according to Mitchell, "hence to the ground." Mr. Hird, the rocket's inventor, then stopped the exhibition and the Navy, its interest in Mr. Hird's invention.

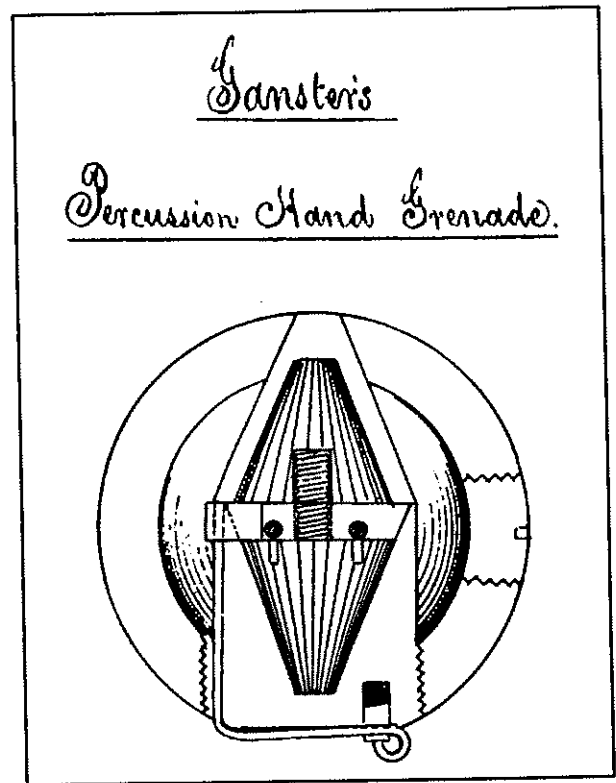
It found George P. Ganster's newly designed percussion hand grenade as startling as Hird's rocket. On October first, 1864, Ganster threw eight of these two-pound spherical balls, each measuring two and three-quarter inches in diameter, thirty yards in various directions. Each ball had two holes, one for the percussion apparatus and one, plugged by a brass screw, for filling it. The percussion apparatus consisted of a spiral spring separating two cones. The heads of three "parlor" matches were stuck in the base of one of these cones.

Ganster and Jeffers, the Inspector of Ordnance for the Navy who was standing beside him, assumed that they were protected by the "bomb proof" in front of them but the exploding shrapnel struck back at them with such enormous force that one was seriously wounded.

The rest of the experiment, when it continued, was more gratifying as several unlocked grenades were thrown without exploding, which demonstrated that they were perfectly safe for transport. Unimpressed, in his summary letter to the Inspector in charge of the Navy Experimental Department, Jeffers quoted a French writer;

"Grenades are detestable projectiles, which are more likely to damage those who use them than those against whom they are employed."

The Union Navy, unhesitatingly concurring, deep sixed the grenades down with the rockets.



Lou Braman

The Standard Federal Cannon. The Union Army had over 1,000.

3-INCH ORDNANCE RIFLE

The 3-inch Ordnance Rifle was developed by one John Griffen, who secured a patent for it in 1855. Most of these weapons were produced by the Phoenix Iron Company of Phoenixville, Pa. The president of Phoenix, Samuel J. Reeves, made improvements to the wrought iron forging and welding process and was issued his own patent in 1862.

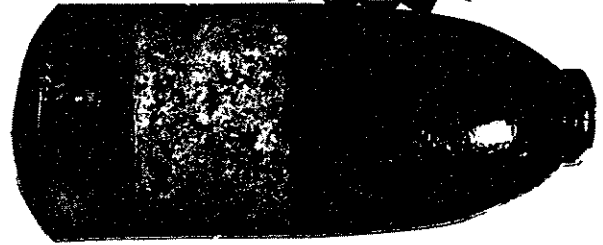
Tests with four experimental wrought iron cannons in early 1861 led to their adoption by the Federal Ordnance Department. The Ordnance Rifle is distinctive with its sleek lines and lack of external decoration. Over 1,000 were purchased by the North. These weapons were sturdy, accurate, and superior to the 10-pounder Parrott. At Gettysburg, 146 or 41 percent of Meade's 360 guns were 3-inch Ordnance Rifles. Many captured guns with their projectiles were used by the South.

The 3-inch Ordnance Rifle usually fired Hotchkiss or Schenkl patented shells or case shot. It could shoot 10-pounder Parrott ammunition in a pinch, and like the Parrott it was less effective with canister than a smooth-bore.

Bore Diameter	3.0"
Tube Material	Wrought Iron
Length of Tube	73"
Weight of Tube	816 lbs.
Powder Charge	1 lb.
Range at 5° Elevation	1,835 yards



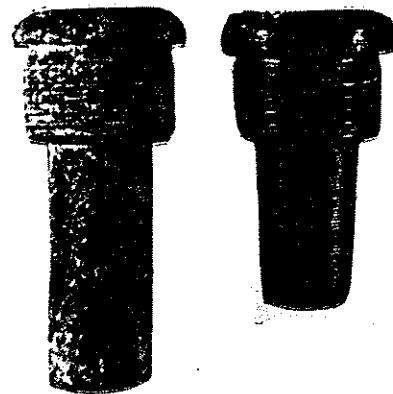
3-inch Ordnance rifle



3-inch Hotchkiss shell, percussion fuse
Weight — 8 lbs.
Diameter — 2.88"
Length — 6.5"



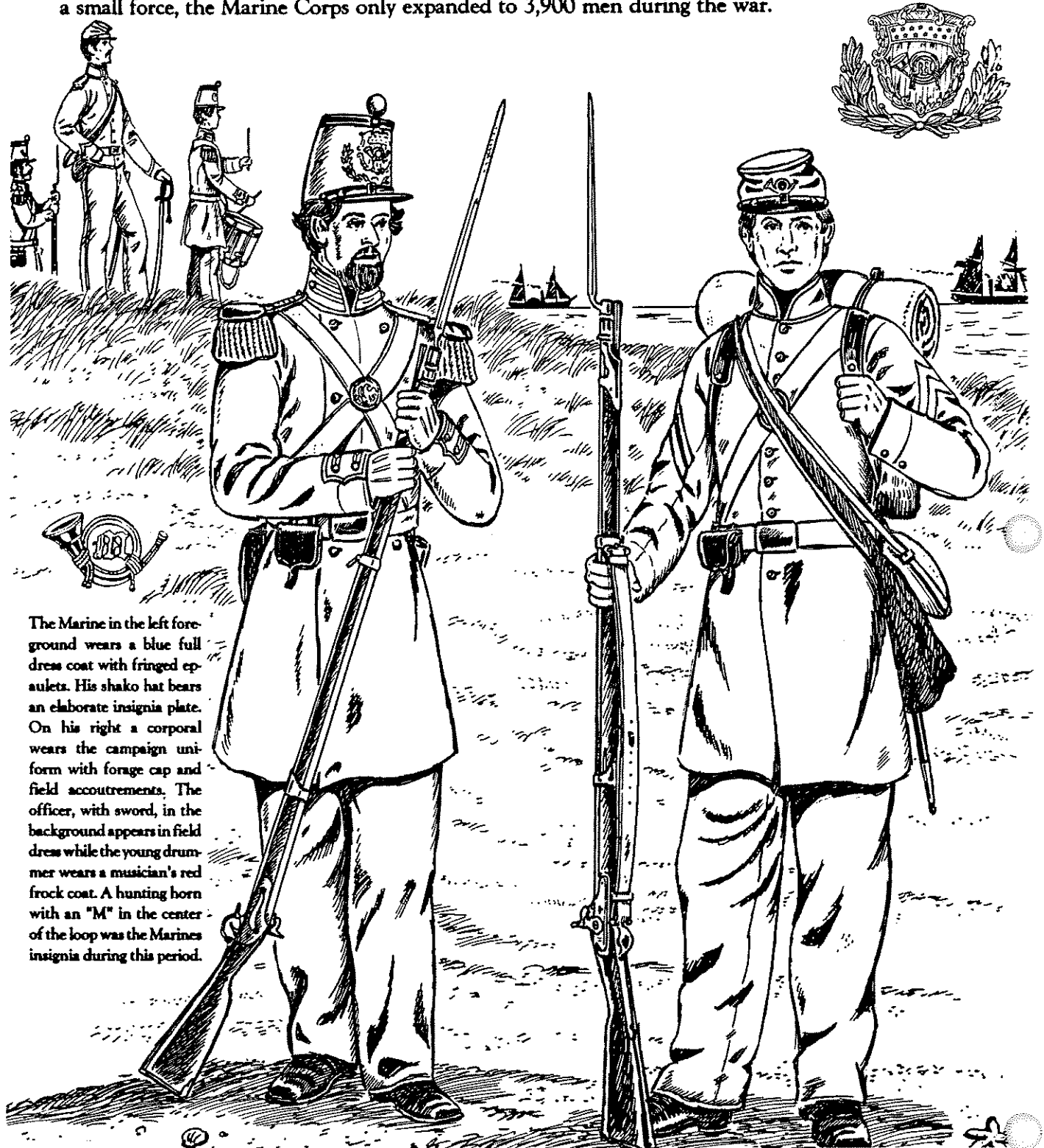
3-inch Hotchkiss case, time fuse
Weight — 9 lbs.
Diameter — 2.88"
Length — 6.75"



Two different Hotchkiss time fuse plugs made of brass.

The U. S. Marines

True to their heritage, the United States Marine Corps saw service in the Civil War on both land and sea. Marines fought in several land engagements, including First Bull Run, but most of their service was aboard U. S. warships. Marines acted as sharpshooters, repelled boarders, and served the ship's guns in action. They also formed landing parties and guarded naval installations throughout the war. Always a small force, the Marine Corps only expanded to 3,900 men during the war.



The Marine in the left foreground wears a blue full dress coat with fringed epaulettes. His shako hat bears an elaborate insignia plate. On his right a corporal wears the campaign uniform with forage cap and field accoutrements. The officer, with sword, in the background appears in field dress while the young drummer wears a musician's red frock coat. A hunting horn with an "M" in the center of the loop was the Marines insignia during this period.



Tales from Gettysburg

"I Am the Man, Sir"

RETURNING from the banks of the Susquehanna, and meeting at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863, the advance of Lee's forces, my command was thrown quickly and squarely on the right flank of the Union army. A more timely arrival never occurred. The battle had been raging for four or five hours. The Confederate General (James J.) Archer, with a large portion of his brigade, had been captured. [Henry] Heth and [Alfred M.] Scales, Confederate generals, had been wounded. The ranking Union commander on the field, General [John F.] Reynolds, had been killed, and [Winfield Scott] Hancock was assigned to command. The battle, upon the issue of which hung, perhaps, the fate of the Confederacy, was in full blast. The Union forces, at first driven back, now re-enforced, were again advancing and pressing back Lee's left and threatening to envelop it. The Confederates were stubbornly contesting every foot of ground, but the Southern left was slowly yielding. A few moments more and the day's battle might have been ended by the complete turning of Lee's flank. I was ordered to move at once to the aid of the heavily pressed Confederates. With a ringing yell, my command rushed upon the line posted to protect the Union right. Here occurred a hand-to-hand struggle. That protecting Union line once broke' left my command not only on the right flank, but obliquely in rear of it. Any troops that were ever marshalled would, under like conditions, have been as surely and swiftly shattered. There was no alternative for Howard's men except to break and fly, or to throw down their arms and surrender. Under the concentrated fire from front and flank, the marvel is that any escaped. In the midst of the wild disorder in his ranks, and through a storm of bullets, a Union officer was seeking to rally his men for a final stand. He, too, went down, pierced by a Minie ball. Riding forward with my rapidly advancing lines, I discovered that brave officer lying upon his back, with the July sun pouring its rays into his pale face. He was surrounded by the Union dead, and his own life seemed to be rapidly ebbing out. Quickly dismounting and lifting his head, I gave him water from my canteen, asked his name and the character of his wounds. He was Major General Francis C. Barlow, of New York, and of [Oliver O.] Howard's corps. The ball had entered his body in front and passed out near the spinal cord, paralyzing him in legs and arms. Neither of us had the remotest thought that he could possibly survive many hours. I summoned several soldiers who were looking after the wounded, and directed them to place him upon a litter and carry him to the shade in the rear. Before parting, he asked

me to take from his pocket a package of letters and destroy them. They were from his wife. He had but one request to make of me. That request was that if I should live to the end of the war and should ever meet Mrs. Barlow, I would tell her of our meeting on the field of Gettysburg and of his thoughts of her in his last moments. He wished me to assure her that he died doing his duty at the front, that he was willing to give his life for his country, and that his deepest regret was that he must die without looking upon her face again. I learned that Mrs. Barlow was with the Union army, and near the battle-field. When it is remembered how closely Mrs. Gordon followed me, it will not be difficult to realize that my sympathies were especially stirred by the announcement that his wife was so near him.

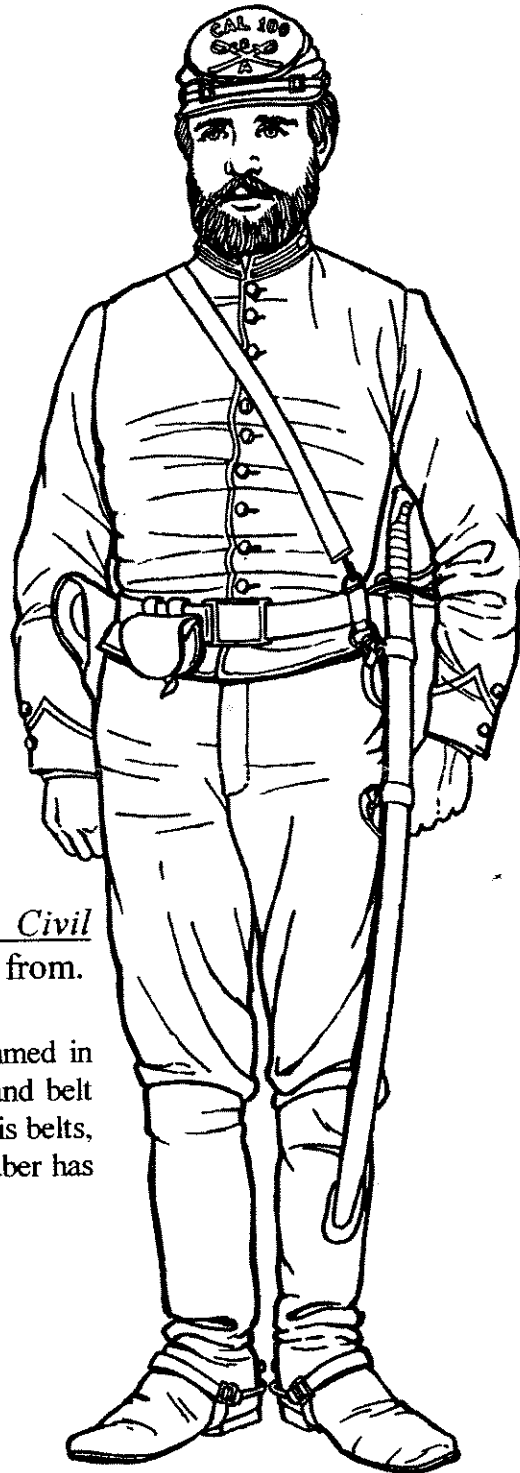
Passing through the day's battle unhurt, I despatched at its close, under flag of truce, the promised message to Mrs. Barlow. I assured her that if she wished to come through the lines she should have safe escort to her husband's side.

In the desperate encounters of the two succeeding days, and the retreat of Lee's army, I thought no more of Barlow, except to number him among the noble dead of the two armies who had so gloriously met their fate. The ball, however, had struck no vital point, and Barlow slowly recovered, though this fact was wholly unknown to me. The following summer, in battle near Richmond, my kinsman with the same initials, General J.B. Gordon of North Carolina, was killed. Barlow, who had recovered, saw the announcement of his death, and entertained no doubt that he was the Gordon whom he had met on the field of Gettysburg. To me, therefore, Barlow was dead; to Barlow, I was dead. Nearly fifteen years passed before either of us was undeceived. During my second term in the United States Senate, the Honorable Clarkson Potter, of New York, was a member of the House of Representatives. He invited me to dinner in Washington to meet a General Barlow who had served in the Union army. Potter knew nothing of the Gettysburg incident. I had heard that there was another Barlow in the Union army, and supposed, of course, that it was this Barlow with whom I was to dine. Barlow had a similar reflection as to the Gordon he was to meet. Seated at Clarkson Potter's table, I asked Barlow: "General, are you related to the Barlow who was killed at Gettysburg?" He replied: "Why, I am the man, sir. Are you related to the Gordon who killed me?" I am the man, sir," I responded.

No words of mine can convey any conception of the emotions awakened by those startling announcements. Nothing short of an actual resurrection from the dead could have amazed either of us more. Thence forward, until his untimely death in 1896, the friendship between us which was born amidst the thunders of Gettysburg was greatly cherished by both.

---GENERAL JOHN B. GORDON

This Union private was a member of what regiment?

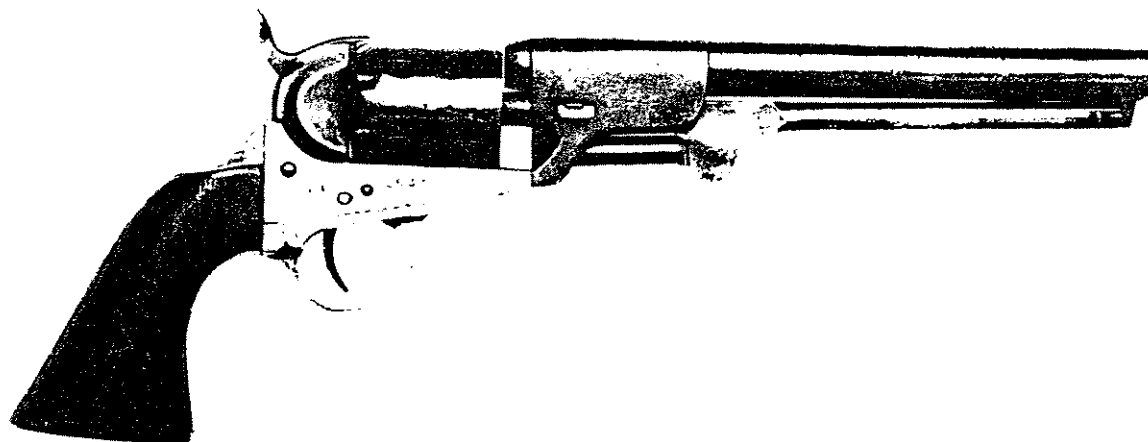


Win the Book, *The Town that started the Civil War*, by naming what regiment this private is from.

This private would have had a dark blue coat trimmed in cavalry yellow with brass buttons. His sword hilt and belt plate also are brass. His trousers are light blue and his belts, cap box, holster, and boots are black leather. His saber has a white metal scabbard, his spurs are of brass.

Bring your answer to the April 9, 1997 meeting.
Ties will be decided by a drawing.

Confederate "Colt" Revolvers



Specifications

Griswold & Gunnison

Length: 13.25"

Caliber: .36

Leech & Rigdon

Length: 13"

Caliber: .36

Griswold & Gunnison.

◆ SIDE ARMS ◆ of the Civil War

Confederate copies of pre-war Colt revolvers are among the most interesting and rarest Civil War pistols. There were no less than seven different arms makers who produced these much needed side-arms for the South. Like the Confederacy itself, none of the southern companies producing Colt copies lasted more than a few years. The combined total output of all these firms was less than 7,000 arms. Most of these were look alike copies of the .44 caliber Colt "Dragon" that had been produced in the 1850s. A few were a close duplication of the .36 caliber 1851 Colt "Navy." Like their northern counterparts, all were six-shot, single-action, percussion revolvers.

The very existence of these weapons spoke well for the popularity of Colt revolvers in the pre-war south. It also spoke well for the determination of the Confederate government to provide her sons with the best available arms.

All Confederate Colts were reliable, well made arms. None, however, achieved the fine quality and finish of the original product produced by the well established Colt factory in Hartford, Connecticut.

The most widely produced Confederate Colts were the work of the firm of Griswold and Gunnison, located in Griswoldville, Georgia. These revolvers had a distinctive brass frame (body) mounted with a steel cylinder and barrel.

The following companies are known to have manufactured Colt style revolvers for the Confederacy.

Company	Number Produced
August Machine Works Augusta, Georgia	100
Columbus Fire Arms Manf. Co. Columbus, Georgia	100
J.H. Dance & Bros. Columbia, Texas	500 (or less)
Griswold and Gunnison Griswoldville, Georgia	3,700
Leech and Rigdon Columbus, Mississippi	1,500
Rigdon, Ansley & Co. Augusta, Georgia	1,000
Schneider and Glassick Memphis, Tennessee	50



James A. Garfield

1831- 1881 Union General and 20th President of the United States

Spring Field Trip Lakeview Cemetery

Spring Field Trip

Date: Saturday, May 10, 1997

Place: *LakeView*, Cleveland's Historic Garden Cemetery
12316 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Time: 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Orientation program starts at 9:30 *Sharp* at the James A. Garfield Memorial

Orientation and history of the Lake View Cemetery

Guided tour of the Garfield Tomb

Guided walking tour of the Cemetery

Gourmet boxed lunch at Garfield Memorial under tent canopy.

Luncheon Speaker

COST: \$ 25.00 Make check payable to CCWRT and send to:

Gen. JET
7239 Maple Street
Mentor, Ohio 44060
Questions: (216) 255-8140

**Cleveland Civil War
Roundtable
Fall 1997 Field Trip
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
September 25, - 28, 1997**

**Fall Field Trip, 1997
Gettysburg**

Guide: *Hugh Earnhart*, retired head of the
History Department Youngstown State University

Reservation Deposit: \$65.00

Hotel: *Holiday Inn* \$95.00 divided by two
Baltimore St.
Gettysburg, Pa.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & ZIP _____

PHONE _____

☐ Will be riding in the Van with the gang.

Please make the Check Payable to:

Frank Yannucci
22 West Heights Ave.
Youngstown, Ohio 44509
(330) 792-3501



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

For those of you who missed the March meeting, you missed a great program. Our speaker, John Taylor, was wonderful. He spoke on the Battle of Valverde, New Mexico. One thing I learned was this -- not only was Valverde the largest civil war battle west of the Mississippi, it is the largest military engagement of any kind in the U.S. west of the Father of Waters. John was very knowledgeable about the battle (heck, he wrote the book), gave a dynamic presentation, and brought along some fabulous slides. He gave an overview of the entire campaign, a detailed accounting of the battle itself, and spoke about the aftereffects and the "what ifs." I enjoyed it immensely. I even saved \$4 in postage and handling on his book! **What a deal!**

This month our speaker is Jay Ruoff of the Cuyahoga Valley Round Table. Jay will speak on one of our own, Clement L. Vallandigham, and the Copperheads. I am looking forward to Jay's presentation with great interest. We tend to overlook the political aspects of the war in our meetings. Like most groups, we like the blood and guts stuff -- battles, generals, etc. Politics tends to take a back seat. I must admit I am rather ignorant here and am eager to hear what Jay has to say. I hope you can join us. Don't forget to make your reservations.

Mea culpa, mea culpa. In my last message, I said our spring field trip was Sunday, May 11. Of course that is Mother's Day and a field trip would not go over well with some of our spouses -- especially mine. The trip is actually on Saturday, May 10. We will be going to Lake View Cemetery for a tour of the Garfield Monument and other notable sites, a presentation, and a gourmet box lunch. Over 20 of us signed up at the meeting; I hope more of you will join us. If you want to come along, call Joe or sign up at the meeting. As always, we will have a good time.

A few of reminders. We will have a book sale at the April meeting. If you have any books on your shelves that you have read and would like to donate, please bring it to the meeting. I have collected a couple of boxes of books and hope to raise a few dollars for the Round Table. There are some rather interesting books: a collection of Mathew Brady photographs, an oral history from former slaves, Elisha Hunt Rhodes's *All For The Union*, *The Civil War Notebook of Daniel Chisholm*, a copy of James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and a number of Catton books. Second, our May meeting has been changed for the second time. It will now be on Thursday, May 15. I apologize for any inconvenience, but the Hermit Club is putting on a performance that weekend and needs the stage for rehearsal. The meeting is a special one. Usually we celebrate the history of our nation; in May we will celebrate our own history. Please join us for a very special meeting. Finally, our annual field trip in September will be to Gettysburg. Frank Yannucci is in charge of the trip this year. Dr. Hugh Earnhart will be our guide. The deposit is \$65. If you are interested, let Frank know.

Daniel G. Zeiser

Daniel G. Zeiser
5877 Williamsburg Drive
Cleveland, OH 44143

The Cleveland
Civil War Round-Table
PO Box 18900
Cleveland, Ohio 44118



IN NEXT MONTH'S
MAY, 1997 CHARGER

40TH
BIRTHDAY