

The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. BOX 5028 • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

DECEMBER 1985

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 6

247th Meeting



DATE: DECEMBER 10th

PLACE: GRAY'S ARMORY 1234 Bolivar Street
in Downtown Cleveland.

TIME: Cocktails at 6:00 P.M.
Buffet at 7:00 P.M.

SPEAKER: Dr. Jay Luvaas

SUBJECT: "The Battle Behind the Signs."

Our speaker Professor Jay Luvaas is from the Army War College at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. His talk, "The Battle Behind the Signs," will deal with the establishment of Civil War battlefields as national parks by the United States Army. In the course of his presentation Professor Luvaas will explain how the parks were developed in the late 19th century not only to commemorate the dead of the Civil War but also to serve as outdoor textbooks for army officers. He will relate some interesting accounts of how veterans' groups got involved in "refighting" some of these battles as the parks were being established. Our speaker is well-suited to deliver this talk as his current position at the Army War College has him conducting terrain walks for general officers as the modern army still tries to learn lessons from the Civil War.



**RESERVATIONS A MUST
CALL TIM BEATTY AT 243-7509**

November Meeting

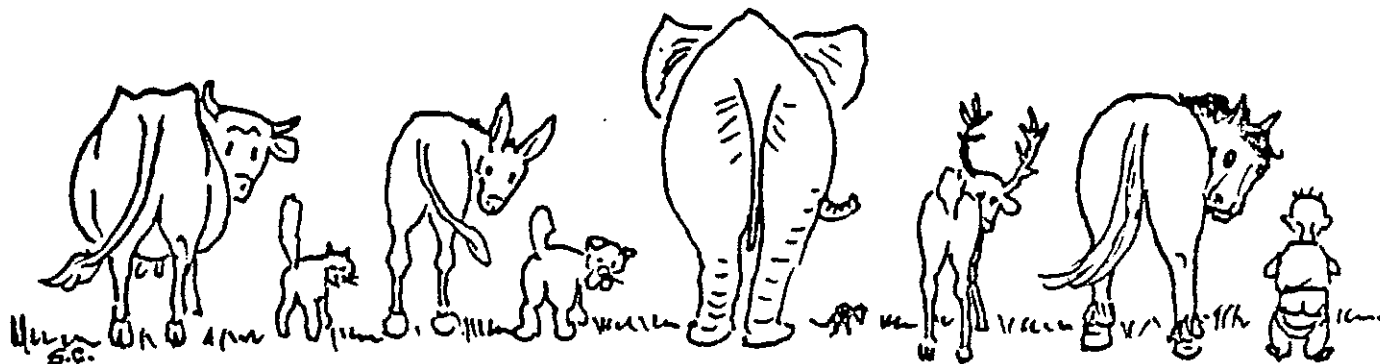
From the many members who have expressed themselves, if a vote were taken, Dr. Ken Callahan's talk on the World War I Western Front at the November meeting was one of the all-time best.

Ken provided a masterful presentation utilizing a multimedia approach, interspersing a lucid narrative with vintage background music, slides, and a visual support from a large magnetic map of the front. He regaled his audience even when he wasn't speaking as he graciously provided liqueurs at a "drink break." The talk was well-researched and obviously well-rehearsed. It proved that our own members are capable of presenting outstanding programs. This is one to shoot for!

President Tim Beatty



LOTS ARREARS



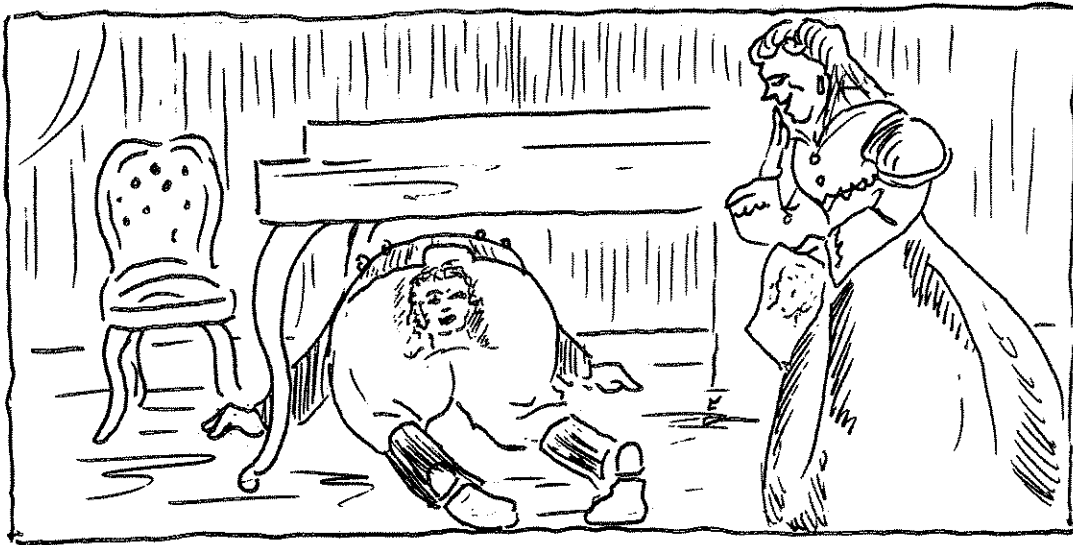
It's hard to believe but there are still over a half dozen who have not sent in their current dues, and you'd be surprised to know who they are! C'mon you guys - it's only a couple of saw-bucks - send your checks to Doug Baldwin, 4797 White Oaks Drive, Brunswick, Ohio 44017.

1985-1986

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Dues \$20 September
 to September. Non-
 resident - \$10.00.



After the Battle of Chancellorsville, Stuart's Cavalry encamped at Orange Court House. The wife of General W.H.F. Lee visited her husband there. Mrs. Lee fancied herself a painter and when she found out that a Captain Sheibert of the Prussian Army was visiting Stuart's headquarters and that the captain had some skill in painting, she invited him to touch up an oil sketch of a small-sized female head she had painted.

For the occasion Sheibert dressed in his finest uniform - a very short jacket and white trousers in which his fat person looked as if it had been melted and poured in, so tight was the fit. After working for some time touching up the painting, the job was accomplished and the wet canvas put upon a chair to dry.

Sheibert and Mrs. Lee then entered into a lively conversation. One of Sheibert's odd ways was that when he became interested in conversation he would rise to his feet, walk about the room wildly gesticulating his point of view, and then plop down on any chair that happened to be nearest him. Unfortunately for Mrs. Lee's work of art, Captain Sheibert, in one of these fits of enthusiasms, sat upon the wet picture unobserved by either himself or Mrs. Lee.

When the time came for him to go, Mrs. Lee thanked him cordially and turned to get the picture.

"Where was the picture?" she asked.

"Bless my soul," said the Captain. "I laid it down on one of the chairs, but I don't see it now."

They looked and looked.

"Oh!" said Sheibert, "the wind must have blown it under the piano."

So down on his hands and knees he fell to crawl under the piano.

"Here it is," said Mrs. Lee, screaming with laughter, as she peeled the unfortunate painting from the broad seat of Sheibert's white trousers, leaving the lovely face transferred most conspicuously. His backside was quite a sight and was the focus of spirited conversation around Stuart's mess that night.

War Years With JEB Stuart, by W.W.Blackford.
Thanks Brian Kowell.

Few Were the Tender Offers in Erie Takeover

By MAURY R. WOLFF

Scarcely a day passes without news of a hostile takeover attempt. The headlines report the latest sorties of T. Boone Pickens, Carl Icahn or some other corporate raider trying to seize control of a major corporation. The New York Legislature determined that the situation had reached epidemic proportions and crafted a bill to stanch takeovers, only to be derailed by Gov. Mario Cuomo's veto.

From all the feverish rhetoric hostile takeovers have inspired, one would think that some new menace was besieging capitalism. Actually, modern versions pale by comparison with takeovers of the past. Back then, things really got hostile.

The archetype was the ouster of Jay Gould from the presidency of the Erie Railroad in 1872. Wrestling control of the Erie from Gould took 3½ years, culminating in the combined efforts of three retired major generals, more than 100 police officers, and a posse comitatus of more than 300. The takeover also provided Gould the opportunity to make a fortune by divesting himself of his holdings.

Gould assumed control of the Erie in 1868. To acquire it, he bought both the New York and New Jersey state legislatures and used their regulatory powers.

Once in command, Gould appointed Boss Tweed of Tammany Hall to the board and gave him stock. Gould also took care of state Judge George J. Barnard, one of Tweed's cohorts. His political flank covered, Gould set to working on the railroad.

During his first 15 months, Gould raised the Erie's capitalization \$64 million, primarily using convertible bonds because they could be issued without shareholder approval. Little of that money found its way into the railroad, however. The track

and rolling stock were so poorly maintained that the Erie was a deathtrap. Forty died in one 1868 accident. Shareholders were similarly ignored; no dividends were paid while Gould was in charge.

Gould bought the ritzy Grand Opera House in Manhattan as a new corporate headquarters. He paid for the building with advance rentals from the railroad and took title for himself. The railroad bought houses for Jim Fisk, Gould's business partner and the managing director of the Erie, and for Fisk's mistress.

Boss Tweed was given a special account so he could make his "distributions."

An irate stockholder sued to demand an accounting of the Erie's expenditures and found himself before Judge Barnard, who fined him for contempt of court.

English stockholders became frustrated with the Gould management. The stockholders granted power of attorney over 60,000 shares to two lawyers, who sent the stock to the Erie to have it registered. Gould refused to recognize the transfer to the lawyers, went to Judge Barnard and had himself appointed receiver, registered the stock, and appropriated 30,000 of the shares for his own use.

The New York Times characterized the Gould team's managerial style as the "prominent robberies of this brotherhood of banditti."

The English stockholders wearied of Gould's depredations and hired the formidable Gen. Dan Sickles to take him on. Sickles had started out as a Tammany Hall politician, so he was adept at the rough-and-tumble of New York politics. And Sickles' record after leaving Tammany Hall suggested that he was not a man to be trifled with.

In 1859, while serving his second term in Congress, Sickles ended an affair be-

tween his wife and Phillip Barton Key, son of Francis Scott Key, by shooting the unarmed Key in front of the White House. Sickles then won an acquittal on the murder charge by using a temporary-insanity defense, the first time that defense was ever invoked in the U.S.

During the Civil War, Sickles, then a Union general, lost a leg and nearly a battle at Gettysburg by insubordinately advancing his troops half a mile in front of the Union line. Sickles claimed he had to force Commanding Gen. George Meade to fight it out and styled himself Gettysburg's hero.

When the dissident stockholders hired him, Sickles was serving as President Grant's minister to Spain, where he was fomenting a rebellion against the Spanish government and engaging in a dalliance with the deposed Queen Isabella.

Sickles had a shrewd sense of timing, and waited for cracks to develop in Gould's organization before instigating his takeover bid. The first break came in 1871 when the public, in a fit of recalcitrance, ousted Boss Tweed and Judge Barnard. Then, Jim Fisk became entangled in an imbroglio with his mistress and another of her lovers that ended with Fisk shot dead. Fisk's replacement on the board, O.H.P. Archer, became Sickles's point man.

On March 11, 1872, Archer convened a meeting of the board without Gould's approval. Archer brought along a detachment of 300 Erie workers. Sickles assembled an army of over 100 policemen to ensure the meeting proceeded unhindered.

Gould had a smaller group of police officers on hand and about 80 members of his own security force, the "Tommy Lynch Gang." The New York Times frowned upon these citizens, stating that a "more ruffianly-looking gang could not be gath-

ered together in this Metropolis. They were armed to the teeth, and strolled around the building as if they had as much right there as the police."

At the meeting, a majority of the board resigned and was replaced by the Sickles group, which included Gen. George McClellan, the Union commander in 1862, and Gen. John Dix, another Civil War com-patriot of Sickles, who was elected president of the Erie.

After the election, a U.S. marshal attempted to serve notice on Gould that he had been removed, but found that Gould had barricaded himself in the president's office. Unsuccessful attempts were made to break down the door. These were the real days of advocacy journalism; a New York Tribune reporter joined in the assault. The door was finally opened, whereupon Gould retreated to another office, slamming the door in the marshal's face.

A Gould aide urged him to retake the headquarters by storm, but Gould realized he was outmanned and entered negotiations. When Sickles convinced him that he would make a fortune from the stock run-up that would surely follow his resignation, Gould gave in. The takeover had succeeded.

The stock rose from \$36.75 to \$47.25 within a week and to \$62 in 15 days. It was still around \$62 nine months later. Gould may have cleared as much as \$3 million taking his profits.

Gould also realized a bit of oblique revenge against the new management. He had taken out a well-secured loan from a friendly bank for \$4 million. Once Gould was gone, the bank called in that loan and made life a mile uncomfortable for the new executives. Like hostile takeovers, poison pills aren't anything new.

In 1872, the hostile takeover was the stockholders' best weapon against a predatory management. Gould's principal ally in his plundering of the Erie stockholders was the New York political establishment.

Circumstances have changed, and hostile takeovers are not what they used to be, but they still serve to bring about higher prices for stockholders. And once again, the politicians are stepping in to protect the interests of existing managements. Sometimes, it seems, history does repeat.

Here's a very interesting story sent in by member Dr. Bill Chamberlin, from the Wall Street Journal. It involves several Civil War generals and one of America's all-time crooks.

Thanks, Bill.

Mr. Wolff, who studied economics at the University of Chicago, lives in Alexandria, Va.

FORT WARREN

by Bud Livingston

Fort Warren, located in Boston harbor is a forty minute boat ride from the piers of the city itself. It served during the Civil War as a prison for Confederates and housed several of the more prominent rebels over a four year period. Its most famous guest arrived after the war, none other than Alexander Stevens, the diminutive vice-president of the Confederacy.

Two other V.I.P.'s were James Murray Mason and John Slidell, the Confederate commissioners en route to England on the mailship Trent when they were intercepted and removed as prisoners by Commander Wilkes of the sloop-of-war San Jacinto. This incident almost caused war with England.

In the fort the John Brown Chapel has murals depicting various scenes concerning the writing of the famous marching song, "John Brown's Body", which was composed there in 1861.

Two prisoners, Henry M. Warfield and S.T. Wallis, made a pact during the war. If they survived, they agreed to name their children after each other. This is how Wallis Warfield got her name. She later married the abdicated King of England.

Other "guests" included General Simon Bolivar Buckner (after the surrender of Fort Donelson), General Lloyd Tilghman (related to General Washington's secretary), General Isaac R. Trimble (after Gettysburg), General John S. Marmaduke, General Richard S. Ewell and General Eppa Hunter.

During the boat ride, the guide said the famous Confederate "spies", Mason and Slidell, were incarcerated there. I pointed out to him they were not spies but, rather, envoys. He turned slowly and said, "Well, I guess their description just depends on who won the war".

True! True!

From the New York CWRT Dispatch

Preservation

This month's "mailing request" is a simple one.

Please write three letters, one to each of your United States Senators (c/o U. S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510), and one to your United States Representative (c/o U. S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515), expressing YOUR philosophy that national historic parks belong to the whole nation—to every citizen, and not just to the local citizens who find it convenient to use them for recreational and relaxational purposes. Urge your elected Senators and Representatives to be both zealous and jealous in guarding and protecting our heritage, and to be very supportive of the National Park Service in its efforts to resist local pressures.

If you're feeling ambitious, you might also want to write a similar letter to William Penn Mott, Jr., Director, National Park Service, Washington DC 20240, and to Donald P. Hodel, Secretary of the Interior, Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

Letters from everybody DO help, and *your letters can make a difference!*

Please do more than just READ about our Civil War heritage.

Help *protect* our Civil War heritage by writing just a few letters to people who make the important decisions about its preservation and interpretation.

Jerry Russell
National Chairman CWRT Associates
P.O.Box 7388, Little Rock, Ark. 72217

Editor's Note:

If you detect a more-than-usual use of "filler" in this issue, it is because my recent "gut wound" and sojourn in the hospital whacked about three weeks of my time out of this past month. And that ain't all they whacked out!

Bargain

The Lincoln Times, a bi-monthly tabloid devoted to the Civil War.

Subscription rate \$8.00 per year.

Lincoln Times, P.O.Box 208,
Carmel, Indiana 46032

* * * *

The Chicago Civil War Round Table is presenting its Third Annual Assembly Saturday, March 15, 1986, to be devoted to Lt. General U.S. Grant's War Years. To be held at the Holiday Inn, Hillside, Ill., registration \$35, which includes the full day program and luncheon.

Military Parks and Battlefields

CIVIL WAR-RELATED NATIONAL PARK SITES

(NM-National Memorial/NMP-National Military Park/NHS-National Historic Site/NBP-National Battlefield Park/NB-National Battlefield/NBS-National Battlefield Site/NHP-National Historic Park)

AR	Arkansas Post NM, Rte. 1, Box 16, Gillett AR 72055
DC	Pea Ridge NMP, Pea Ridge AR 72751
	Ford's Theatre NHS, 511 10th St. NW,
	Washington DC 20004
	Lincoln Memorial, NCR/NPS, 1100 Ohio Dr. SW,
	Washington DC 20242
FL	Fort Jefferson NM, US Coast Guard Base,
	Key West FL 33040
	Gulf Islands Nat'l Seashore, PO Box 100,
	Gulf Breeze FL 32561
GA	Andersonville NHS, Andersonville GA 31711
	Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP, PO Box 2126,
	Fort Oglethorpe GA 30742
	Fort Pulaski NM, PO Box 98, Tybee Island GA 31328
	Kennesaw Mountain NBP, PO Box 1167, Marietta GA 30061
IL	Lincoln Home NHS, 526 S. 7th St., Springfield IL 62703
IN	Lincoln Boyhood Nat'l Memorial, Lincoln City IN 47552
KY	Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS, RFD 1,
	Hodgenville KY 42748
MD	Antietam NB, PO Box 158, Sharpsburg MD 21782
	Monocacy NB, c/o Antietam NB
MS	Brices Cross Roads NBS, and Tupelo NB, c/o
	Natchez Trace Parkway, RR 1 NT-143, Tupelo MS 38801
	Vicksburg NMP, 3201 Clay St, Vicksburg MS 39180
MO	Wilson's Creek NB, 521 N. Hwy. 60, Republic MO 65738
NY	General Grant Nat'l Memorial, Manhattan Sites, NPS,
	26 Wall Street, NY NY 10005
PA	Gettysburg NMP, Gettysburg PA 17325
SC	Fort Sumter NM, Drawer R, Sullivans Island SC 29482
TN	Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP (See GA)
	Fort Donelson NMP, Box F, Dover TN 37058
	Shiloh NMP, Shiloh TN 38376
	Stones River NB, Rt 10 Box 401, Murfreesboro TN 37130
VA	Appomattox CH NHP, Box 218, Appomattox VA 24522
	Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP, Box 679,
	Fredericksburg VA 22401
	Manassas NBP, Box 1830, Manassas VA 22110
	Petersburg NB, PO Box 549, Petersburg VA 23803
	Richmond NBP, 3215 East Broad St., Richmond VA 23223
WV	Harpers Ferry NHP, PO Box 65, Harpers Ferry WV 25425

From the CWRT Digest of the
Civil War Round Table Associates

Civil War Smiles by Stu Cramer

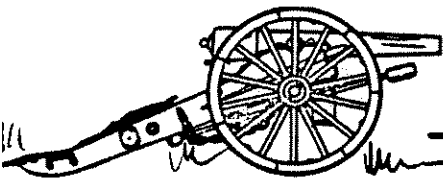


Shot Him Dead

Here's a tid-bit from F.D.R., by Ted Morgan: Sec'y. of State Cordell Hull was continuously upset, irked, and furious with his Assistant Sec'y. Raymond Moley, and finally got F.D.R. to dump the overstepping brain truster. "Hull had a grim tenacity. It was in his blood. His father, as a captured Confederate soldier, had been mistreated by a Union captain in an Illinois prison camp. It took him three years to find the man, and when he did he shot him dead." Might make a story worth digging up. Why don't one of you readers do it?

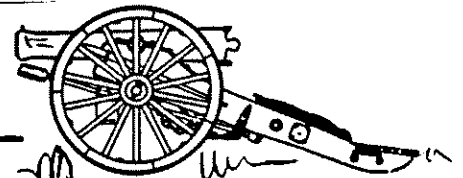
SALE AND QUIZ AT JAN. MEETING

Now is a good time to start going through your library to weed out those books you know you'll never read again, and to look around at the odds and ends of military memorabilia that your wife has been needling you to get rid of. Bernie Drews and Don Heckaman will be glad to help you haul the stuff in to the January book and artifact sale. Bill Kostic and Marty Graham will again devise some brain twisters for our Annual Quiz Contest to be held at the same meeting. Remember that all wars, not just the Civil War, may be the basis for your book or memorabilia offering.



Preserve Your Battlefields!

See Page 5



OLLAPORWA

No one will ever know how many thousands of gallons of ardent spirits were swilled by the armies of the North and South during the four years of the Civil War. There is no doubt that the soldiers drank whatever they could get, and in the states they overran there existed an untold number of distilleries, large and small, legal (licensed by states) and illegal. Far in excess of the established commercial and brand distilleries were those that manufactured potent elixirs that were known by the following names:



"North Carolina corn, corn liquor, white lightning, sugar whiskey, skull cracker, popskull, bush whiskey, stump, stumpole, 'splo, ruckus juice, rotgut, sugarhead, block and tackle, wildcat, panther's breath, pantherpiss, tiger sweat, sweet spirits of cats a-fighting, alley bourbon, city gin, cool water, fire water, happy Sally, deepshaft, jump steady, old horsy, stingo, blue John, Red-eye, pine top, buckeye bark whiskey, and see seven stars. Moonshine made of molasses was called monkey rum." They all had one thing in common - they produced apacrypharic hangovers. And if you don't know what that means, you've never had one.

* * * * *

In 1876 General O.O.Howard, while visiting in Columbia, South Carolina, encountered former Confederate General Wade Hampton at the home of a Major Gibbes. The Major made the introductions and Howard offered the single hand that the war had left him.

Hampton only stared icily. "I cannot take your hand, sir," he said, until you retract the statement you made as to my connection with the burning of this city."

The one-armed hero of the Union was prompt and generous. "I fully admit that I was mistaken in that matter," he replied, "and I hope that you will forgive and forget it."

Again he held out his hand and Hampton seized it. The two became friends at once.

-Giant in Gray, by Manly Wellman, 1949.

* * * * *

General "Fighting Joe" Hooker, after three days of brilliant maneuvering prior to the Battle of Chancellorsville, made these boasts:

"God Almighty will not be able to prevent the destruction of the rebel army!" And, The rebel army is now the legitimate property of the Army of the Potomac. They may as well pack up their haversacks and make for Richmond. I shall be after them," and "God have mercy on General Lee, for I shall have none."

Then when he was finally face-to-face with his formidable foe, "Fighting Joe" went into a fear-inspired trance - and Lee clobbered him.

* * * * *

Parody of the song, "Just Before the Battle Mother," sung by both sides:

"Just before the battle, mother,
I was drinking mountain dew,
When I saw the rebels marching, (or "bluecoats")
To the rear I quickly flew."

* * * * *

Greetings



to y'all