



The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. Box 5786, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

DECEMBER 1988

275th MEETING

VOL 10 #4

DATE: December 13, 1988

PLACE: The Hermit Club

SUBJECT: The Battles of Kelly's Ford and
Brandy Station

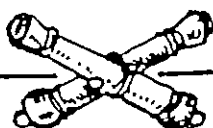
SPEAKER: EDWIN COLE BEARSS, Chief Historian of the National Park Service. Ed is one of the best known and most knowledgeable speakers on the subject of the Civil War. He has led many of our Roundtable's fieldtrips where his expertise is unmatched. Ed was born in Billings, Montana in 1923 and raised on a ranch (where he named the cattle after Civil War generals). During WWII he served in the Marine Corps in the Third Raider Battalion on Guadalcanal and New Britian. Ed was badly wounded and spent over two years in various hospitals. After the war, Ed received a B.S. degree in Foreign Service at Georgetown University. After three years work at the Navy office near Washington, he went on to Indiana University and earned a M.A. The subject of his thesis was Pat Cleburne. Ed began his National Park Service career as Park Historian at Vicksburg in 1955, helping to find and recover the Union gunboat "Cairo." He is an author of over one hundred historical publications, his most recent being the three-volume history of the Vicksburg Campaign considered by many to be the definitive work on that subject.

TIME: Grog 6 PM

Grub 7 PM

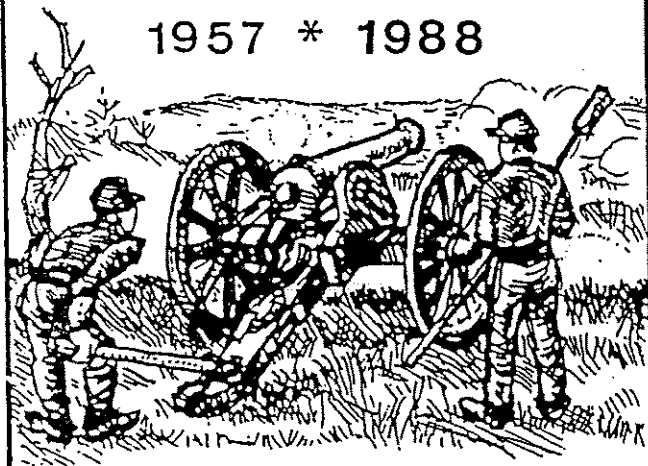
RESERVATIONS: Please call 283-0262 ASAP
Reservations are a MUST!!!





CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

1957 * 1988



President - Neil Glaser
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Brian Kowell
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Last Month's Meeting

Fellow member Ted Bowinkleman, provided the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable with an insiders view of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Ted spent 22 years with the FBI serving as a special agent assigned to counter-intelligence work in New York, Washington, and Cleveland. His talk traced the early development of the FBI up through its present status as a multi-disciplined organization. Ted sprinkled in several humorous incidents to temper some of the more serious aspects of his job. The membership had an entertaining evening and we all thank Ted for his willingness to share some of his experiences with the FBI.

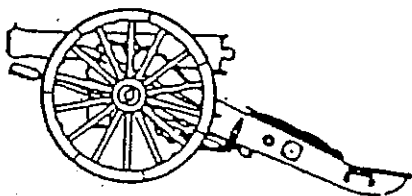
PROGRAM CHANGE

Chris Calkins, Chief Historian at Petersburg National Battlefield, has had to cancel his visit to Cleveland to address the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable in March. Brian Kowell, fellow member and editor of the Charger, has volunteered to speak in March. We look forward to Brian's talk.

MOVING?



PLEASE LET US KNOW
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YOUR NEW ADDRESS...



Preserve Your Battlefields!

NEW MEMBER

Robert French

Events of 125 Years Ago

DECEMBER 1863

- Dec 1 Meade's Army of the Potomac recrossed the Rapidan and went into winter quarters. Belle Boyd, Confederate spy, was released from prison in Washington.
- Dec 3 Longstreet began moving his army away from Knoxville east toward Greenville.
- Dec 7 In Washington the first session of the Thirty-eighth Congress convened and in Richmond the fourth session of the First Congress.
- Dec 8 Lincoln issued his Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction. Gen. Averell began a cavalry raid on the railroads of southwestern Virginia.
- Dec 14 Gen. Longstreet attacked Federal troops at Bean's Station, Tennessee.
- Dec 16 Gen. Joseph E. Johnston appointed to the command of the Army of Tennessee.
- Dec 25 Confederate's seige guns damaged the U.S.S. Marblehead on the Stono River, South Carolina.
- Dec 27 President Lincoln and Sec. of War Stanton visited Confederate prisoners at Pt. Lookout, Maryland.

-The Civil War: Day by Day E.B. Long



Answer: P.H. Bradford was a Federal cavalryman but lies buried beneath a Confederate headstone at Woodland Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio, Grave 10-25.

Why?: Bradford died of pneumonia at the U.S. General Hospital at Cleveland. He is listed as P.W. Bradford, died March 25, 1864 in the U.S.G.H.C. records. He was originally buried at Monroe Street Cemetery (called West Side Cemetery during the Civil War) and reinterred at Woodland Cemetery after the war. Two years ago a car plowed through the Woodland Cemetery and knocked over and/or damaged three or four Civil War headstones in the government section along East 66th Street side. It took two years to have the headstones replaced. The replacements were completed in 1987 but one headstone (Bradford's) was incorrectly sent on a Confederate headstone. The snafu probably occurred because a computer operator pushed the wrong key and ordered a Confederate rather than a Federal marker. Since both headstones cost the same amount of money, the error slipped through the fingers of bureaucracy. During the summer of 1988, Bill Stark of the roundtable submitted the proper information to the Cuyahoga County Soldiers and Sailors Commission so that the Federal replacement stone could be ordered from the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C. The Bradford headstone should be in place by the end of 1989 if all goes well.

Note: There will be more on the condition of the Civil War soldiers' sections at Woodland in a later issue.

From the previous issue—What's wrong with this photo?

Scenes I'd Like to Have Seen



Scene I'd Like to Have Seen

A Texas regiment of Wheeler's cavalry came into Rome, Ga. and halted in front of the hotel. The officers and many of the men scattered around town but the majority of them remained mounted, taking the easiest positions they could in the saddles, some of them sitting sideways with one leg thrown across the pommel. It was about dinner time and a negro waiter came out with one of those Chinese copper gongs to announce dinner. The servant gave it one tremendous rap that made it rattle with nreve-splitting noise. The result was fearful! Horses reared, plunged, and turned like goats, stampeded in all directions leaving many riders on the ground, and creating more excitement then the fire of a Federal battery of six guns would have done. As is well known, the Texas cavalry were superb riders and to throw them was no easy matter; but that Chinese gong dismounted more of them then a charge of infantry would have done. As for the negro, he safely hid until the Texans left town.

-Campfires of the Confederacy by W.A. Campbell

-Campaigns of Wheeler & his Cavalry by

W.C. Dodson

Illustrated by Stu Cramer



After Civil War, the biggest battle of all

RECONSTRUCTION: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1883-1877.
By Eric Foner. Harper & Row, 690 pp., \$29.95.

By ALLAN PESKIN

Recently, publishing history reportedly was made by the frantic bidding for reprint rights to James McPherson's epic retelling of the Civil War, *Battle Cry of Freedom*. The nearly simultaneous appearance of Eric Foner's masterly synthesis of the war's aftermath — the tangled, bittersweet Reconstruction era — made scarcely a ripple. Peace may be more blessed than war, but it makes for less interesting reading. The Civil War may be our great national obsession, but Reconstruction is our national embarrassment. Consequently, it is doubtful whether 1 out of 100 readers of McPherson's twice-told tale will follow up with Foner's *Reconstruction*.

Among professional historians, the interest runs quite the other way. To many of them the Civil War is virtually played out as a fresh topic, but an entire generation of scholars has been busy turning the old, conventional picture of Recon-

struction upside down. Those general readers who have not had a college course in U.S. history lately may be surprised at what they find in this volume. There are no more tears shed over poor Scarlett forced to work for a living now that Tara has gone with the wind. Instead, Foner, along with most current historians, focuses his concern on the plight of her former slaves — free but not yet equal.

Until about 20 years ago, Reconstruction history was told with a Southern accent. In that version the South lay prostrate at the war's end, so devastated that 20% of Mississippi's budget in 1865 was spent for artificial limbs for Confederate veterans. To add to its woes, the South had to endure a plague of venal Northern carpetbaggers and traitorous native scalawags who masqueraded as philanthropists but whose real aim was to use their alleged concern for the ignorant blacks as a cynical smokescreen to cover their corrupt plunder.

In Foner's version, the carpetbaggers and scalawags are a mixed lot but their intentions are generally noble. His real heroes are four million newly freed slaves trying to make the momentous transi-

tion to citizenship with dignity and courage, harassed at every step by murderous former rebels desperate to shove their one-time chattel back into subordination.

For a few brief years these blacks and their Republican allies

managed to create the most enlightened governments the South had known, establishing public schools and manhood suffrage, abolishing the whipping post and imprisonment for debt. Then fickle Northern public opinion grew

bored with the Negro and allowed Southern white Democrats to regain control of their states by wholesale, coldblooded butchery, leaving Southern blacks disenfranchised and impoverished for three quarters of a century until a Second Reconstruction in our own day took up the unfinished revolution and carried it forward.

This version is a familiar and accepted story to historians, but until now it has only been told in bits and pieces. Foner brings all the strands together and makes it accessible to the general reader. It is not always an easy story to follow, nor is it a particularly pretty one. Foner's grim account of hopes deferred may lack the visceral excitement of the umpteenth retelling of Civil War battle stories, but the function of history is to instruct as well as to entertain.

"It seems our fate never to get rid of the Negro question," lamented a post-Civil War observer. This comprehensive new study of Reconstruction helps explain why.

Peskin teaches history at Cleveland State University.

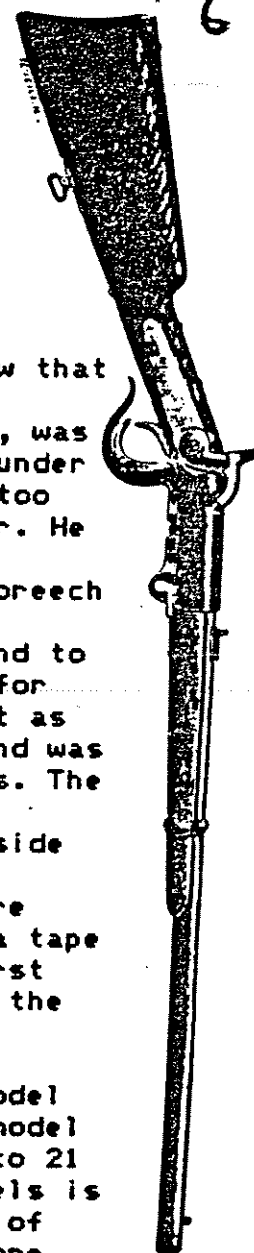
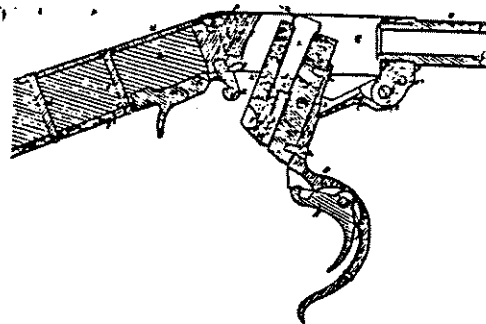


TUSCALOOSA INDEPENDENT MONITOR, SEPT. 1, 1868

A newspaper illustration shown in "Reconstruction" predicts the fate of Ohio carpetbagger A.S. Lakin and scalawag Noah B. Cloud in the event of a Democratic victory in the 1868 Presidential election.

More Than You Ever Wanted To Know About

THE BURNSIDE CARBINE W C GOBLE



Even the greenest hay-foot in Civil War studies will probably know that Ambrose Burnside led the Army of the Potomac to the disaster at Fredricksburg, commanded the Ninth Corps along the Carolina coast, was immobile at Antietam, moved west with the Ninth Corps and fought under Grant, and held his own against Longstreet at Knoxville. But not too many know that Burnside made another contribution to the Civil War. He invented a breech loading carbine which saw considerable use.

During the Mexican War, he had an idea for a metallic cartridge breech loading rifle. The idea so intrigued him that he resigned his commission and started the Bristol Firearms Company in Rhode Island to manufacture his weapon. The government bought about 200 in 1858 for trial and in 1860 announced that the Burnside was good but but not as good as others tested. During this time, Burnside went bankrupt and was forced to turn over his company and patent rights to his creditors. The advent of the Civil War caused the War Department to seek out all sources of arms. The Bristol Firearms Company was renamed the Burnside Rifle Company and the orders began to roll in.

The carbine is a percussion, 54 caliber, breech loader. There are four distinct models of the Burnside. The first is equipped with a tape primer device, similar to that used on the 1855 musket. In the first model, the breech is opened by pulling down the trigger guard and the breech pivots down on a hinge. The second model improved this by placing a curved spring mechanism inside the trigger guard, which produced a more positive latch. Some breechblocks on the second model are marked "G P FOSTER PAT/ APRIL 10TH 1860". Also in the second model the tape primer was omitted and the barrel was shortened from 22 to 21 inches. The most distinctive feature of the first and second models is the absence of a forestock. It was during the manufacture of the of the second model that the name of the company was changed. Therefore, second models are found marked "BRISTOL FIREARMS CO" or "BURNSIDE RIFLE Co/ PROVIDENCE=R.I." The barrel is stamped "CAST STEEL 1861"

The third model brought on the addition of a forestock (which makes the hot gun much easier to hold) and a slight change in hammer shape. The third model quickly yielded to the fourth, and most common, model. The most notable feature of the fourth model is the addition of a pivoting center section on the breechblock to allow for easier insertion of the cartridge. Markings on the third and fourth models are much the same (except for varying dates) as the second. The top of the frame of the fourth model model is marked " BURNSIDES PATENT/ MODEL OF 1864"

The government purchased 53031 Burnsidess during the war and the majority of users considered it at least good. The 13th, 14th and 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry were equipped with Burnsidess. It was the first U.S. purchased small arm to use a metallic cartridge, but the development of the self contained cartridge (primer included) doomed it to rapid obsolescence and the Burnside Rifle Company went out of business after the war.

Ambrose Burnside, the inventor, went on to become to become governor of Rhode Island after the war and to be treated roughly by some historians and many of his contemporaries. But perhaps the toughest blow of all was that although the government bought more than 50,000 of his carbines at an average price of more than \$20.00 each, Burnside never made a dime.

SHILOH

Johnston, Beauregard, Bragg, Grant, Sherman, McPherson, Prentiss, The Bloody Pool, The Hornet's Nest--all indications of one two-day, bloody battle--SHILOH. Two green armies meeting for the first time on the field of battle. A battle where command and control were exchanged for gallantry and courage. A place where 10,000 men lay in a field a mile by a half mile. We've all heard of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862.

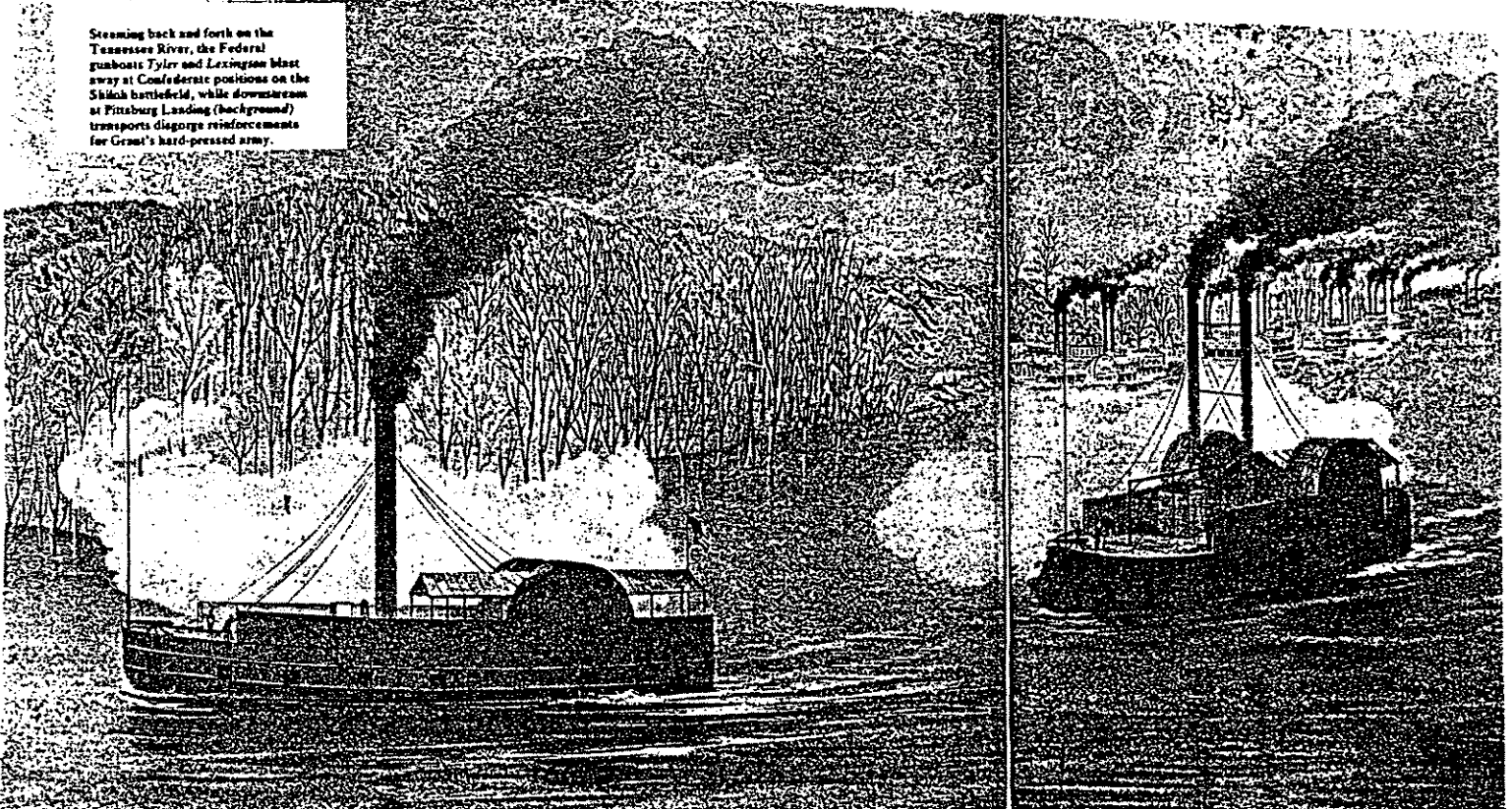
But have you heard of Gwin on the TYLER and Shirk on the LEXINGTON? These were the participants on the Tennessee River on those bloody two days. The TYLER and LEXINGTON were two gunboats provided to General Grant by Commodore Foote to support the Army. The boats carried 'four 20 pound Parrott guns and a battery of rifled guns.'

Not having specific orders upon arrival, Commander Gwin posted the TYLER near the left wing of Grant's forces. After waiting four hours for orders, Gwin sent an officer to General Hurlbut for orders. Hurlbut was ecstatic to find two batteries on the enemy flank. Gwin commenced firing and continued for an hour. He then went back down river (about a mile) to converse with General Grant about 4 o'clock. Grant's response was, 'use your own judgement.'

The LEXINGTON had reappeared and Gwin led both back up river to the fighting. Both ships opened fire at the Confederate right flank about 5:30 PM and continued until 6. Deliberate fire (one round every so often) was started into the Confederate positions and lasted until 6:30. At 9 PM it opened again at 10 minute intervals. At 1 AM on April 7th, the LEXINGTON began the Deliberate Fire at 15 minute intervals and continued until 5 AM when the Union infantry attacked. At 7 AM Gwin was ordered by Grant to break off further action.

Continued on next page

Steaming back and forth on the Tennessee River, the Federal gunboats Tyler and Lexington blast away at Confederate positions on the Shiloh battlefield, while downstream at Pittsburg Landing (background) transports discharge reinforcements for Grant's hard-pressed army.



They spent the remainder of the day in assisting the wounded that found their way to the river. The wounded were recovered, treated and transported to hospital ships at Pittsburg Landing.

It is difficult to assess the physical importance of these two ships on the overall battle. There are some who believed the left wing of the Union Army was saved by the two boats. There is no question that their guns did signal execution during several Confederate charges nor that the counter battery fire of the two ships was a significant factor in silencing several Confederate artillery batteries. There is also no question that the continual bombardment of the Confederate camp all night long by the two ships was unnerving and detrimental to morale.

In the words of Secretary of the (Union) Navy about the engagement, "This is another evidence of the gallant and invaluable service rendered by the Navy on the Western waters."

Combat: The Civil War The Curtain Rises, by Don Congdon

Lee and Grant: A Dual Biography, by Gene Smith

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, Series I, vol. 22, 1908 & Series II, vol. 3, 1922

The Wars of America Volume I: Quebec to Appomattox, by Robert Leckie

Submitted by Michael J. Dory

FROM THE STAFF OF

The Charger

**MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

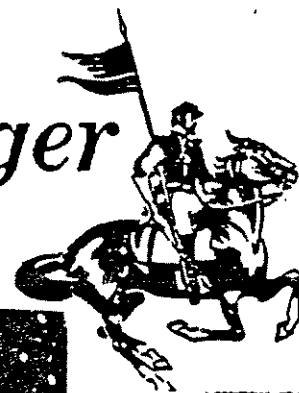



Illustration by
George Skoch

‘Christmas Wrapping’—December 25, 1863



OLLAPODRIDA



Admiral Porter, on June 27, 1863, learned from two deserters that Vicksburg would be surrendered on July 4th. Porter, as an element of psychological warfare to spread these rumors, decided to place this information in the hands of the Vicksburg authorities. Accordingly, on the 29th, he sent the captain of the "General Price" - Commander Selim E. Woodworth - a bundle of forged Confederate letters. Woodworth was to put them inside a shell and hurl them into the city. Woodworth, however, thought of a better way and put his sailors to work fashioning a number of paper kites. These were employed to release the letters so they descended into the city. Perhaps the much quoted letter signed "Many Soldiers" found among General Pemberton's papers and used to justify his surrender by illustrating the low spirit of his besieged soldiers, was introduced into Vicksburg by Woodworth's kites.

-The Vicksburg Campaign: Unvexed to the Sea
Vol III by Ed Bearss pp 1296

While acting as rear guard for G.K. Warren's II Corps, on October 14, 1863, General Gregg's cavalry division found itself hotly engaged with Stuart's horsemen at Auburn, Virginia. One of Gregg's regiments engaged was the 6th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. Back in Ohio the election for governor between John Brough and Clement L. Vallandigham had attracted national attention. The 6th Ohio was "closely beset by the enemy" when the men were called upon to cast their votes. Colonel Hampton Thomas of the 1st Pennsylvania, detailed to supervise the balloting, withdrew the Ohioans from the front a company at a time; as soon as a company had voted, back it went into the firing line, and another moved to the rear to cast its votes. When the votes were tallied, it was found that only three men of the regiment had voted for the peace candidate - Vallandigham.

-Union Cavalry in the Civil War
by Stephen Z. Starr pp 27-28

One of the boys of our regiment brought into camp a newspaper one evening, and as usual he soon had an audience around the campfire to hear the latest.

"Our army's in Statue Quo," he read. "Now, where is Statue Quo?" he asked of his audience. No one knew.

Finally one of the boys said: "I reckon that's the east branch of the Chickamorgy."

-The National Tribune May 4, 1911 by S.J. Moore
Submitted by Marty Graham



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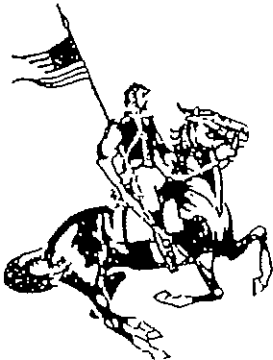
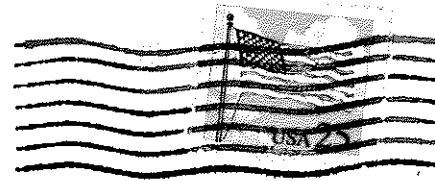
From The President's Desk

A short business meeting was held prior to last months regular meeting to consider a proposal to donate \$125 to the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, Inc. Our donation would be combined with a similar contribution from the Western Reserve Civil War Roundtable for a total of \$250. \$250 is the minimum amount elligible to qualify for a matching grant from the Gilder Foundation. This joint contribution would effectively provide \$500 toward battlefield preservation.

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable membership voted overwhelmingly to contribute the entire \$250 needed for matching funds. Likewise, the Western Reserve Roundtable has elected to contribute \$250. The two roundtables should be congratulated for providing the equivalent of \$1000 toward this important endeavor.

Individual contributions can be made directly to APCWS, P.O. Box 1862, Fredericksburg, VA. 22402. In order to qualify for matching funds the contribution must be a minimum of \$250 and must be received by December 31, 1988.

I hope to see everyone at December's meeting.



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