



The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. Box 18900, Cleveland, Ohio 44118

DECEMBER 1992

31st MEETING

VOL. 14 #4

DATE: Wednesday, December 9, 1992

PLACE: The Hermit Club

SUBJECT: "Joshua L. Chamberlain: The Fighting Professor"

SPEAKER: Eric J. Wittenburg. Mr. Wittenburg is an attorney with the firm of McGrath, Kaufman & Hatcher of Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Wittenburg earned his B.A. from Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Law. He is a past president of and charter member of the Central Ohio Civil War Roundtable and is the author of numerous articles and book reviews in such magazines as Civil War and Civil War Times Illustrated.

TIME: Drinks 6PM Dinner 7PM

RESERVATIONS: Please call Kevin Callahan at 321-2004 or **591-1920**.
RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!



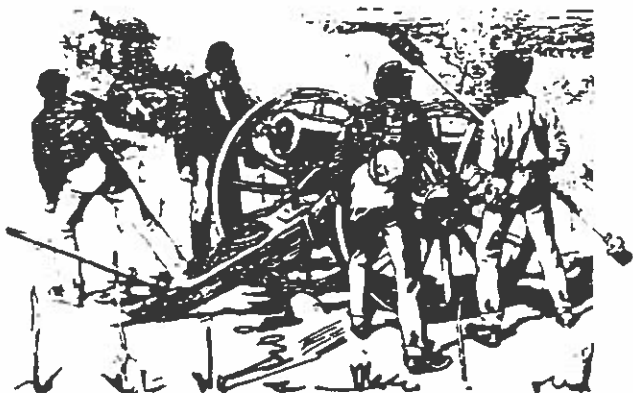
**Joshua L.
Chamberlain**

1828-
1914



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

1957 * 1992



President - Kevin R. Callahan
Vice Pres. - Bob Batisti
Secretary - Gerry Porter
Treasurer - John Sutula
Editor of the Charger -
Brian Kowell

Editorial Office

10065 N. Church Dr.
Parma Hgts., Ohio 44130
(216) 888-1879



PLEASE LET US KNOW
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
YOUR NEW ADDRESS...



Preserve Your Battlefields!

Last Month's Meeting

At last month's meeting, fellow member George Woodling put on an excellent movie presentation of post re-enactment. The first movie showed the 200th re-enactment of the surrender of Cornwallis to Washington at Yorktown, Virginia, and the second showing was the 125th re-enactment of Gettysburg.

Both films were in color and included footage of actual cannonade and rifle engagements. The Gettysburg film had an excellent cavalry charge, with real casualties.

It was particularly enjoyable to have a presentation to the group from a fellow member.

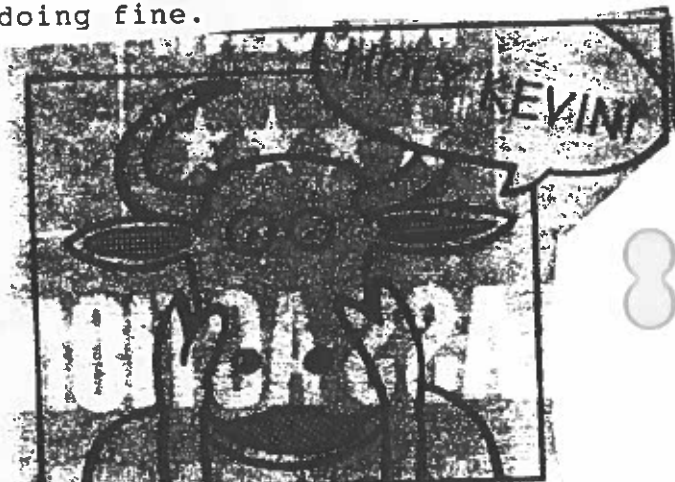
submitted by Kevin Callahan

GOOD NEWS!

Word from the law offices of fellow member Lynn Lazzaro is that the law suit filed by Mr. David Bush (case no. 226660) against the Cleveland Civil War Round Table has been dismissed. Our hearty and heartfelt congratulations and thanks to Lynn for his time and effort on our behalf.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes to the Kevin Callahan family. Mrs. Callahan delivered a healthy 7.2 pound baby boy, Kevin Downing Callahan, on 11-23-92. Mrs. Callahan informs us son and father are doing fine.



SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



General Grant was known to have liked his liquor; but when there was business and plans to be done, or when his Chief of Staff and friend, temperate John Rawlins, was watching, he would forsake the potion. His final plan in the Vicksburg Campaign, to cross his army below the city and cut loose from his supply line, was worked out by him in the saloon of his headquarter's ship. In the saloon was assembled a lively gathering of officers and ladies. "Cards and music were the order of the evening." All this tumult surrounded Grant as he worked out his plans. His powers of concentration were extraordinary and a "tin-ear" helped to filter out the distracting music.

In this gay turmoil, General McPherson came up to Grant and offered him a glass of liquor. Looking up and smiling, Grant said:

"Mac, you know your whiskey won't help me to think; give me a dozen of the best cigars you can find.... and I think by the time I have finished them I shall have this job pretty nearly planned."

I would have liked to have seen Grant, in these surroundings, refusing McPherson's offer and seated alone at his table puffing his cigars and working out his orders.

from Grant and Lee: A Study in Personality and Generalship
by Major General J.F.C. Fuller pp 74-75
Illustrated by Stu Cramer



PRESERVATION REPORT by BILL STARK

APCWS COMPLETES SURVEY OF BATTLEFIELDS

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites recently completed a survey of 45 Civil War battlefields in nine southern states. The survey rate parcels of land for purposes of preservation. APCWS researchers Thomas A. Loz and Blake A. Magner investigated more than 5,000 individual tracts of land, eventually including some 1,300 in the survey. They rated each parcel on its historical significance, integrity, physical historical features, endangerment, and management considerations. The combined ratings provide a measure of each property's importance to preservationists. The work resulted in a set of historical maps overlaid on county tax maps or aerial photos showing property information obtained from local records. "This survey will allow the APCWS to evaluate purchase opportunities more professionally," said APCWS Executive Director A. Wilson Greene. "In this way we can be sure to spend our preservation dollars where they will do the most good." The Gilder Foundation of New York funded the study with a grant of \$46,000. Loz prepared a handbook that will guide volunteer researchers through the survey process.

BATTLEFIELDS vs. DEVELOPMENTS ON PUBLIC TV



Michael Boatman of *China Beach* fame will act as host for *The Vanishing Civil War*, a public-television examination of the issues of historic preservation.

The complex issues involved in the drive to preserve Civil War battlefields in the face of suburban — and rural — sprawl will be examined in a television program titled *The Vanishing Civil War*, to be aired on local public television stations this fall. The program, produced in University Park, Pennsylvania by WPSX-TV at Penn State, will feature such figures as Joel Garreau of the *Washington Post*, author of the book *Edge Cities*, and northern Virginia developer John T. "Til" Hazel. Producer Dave Faries told *The Almanack* that he was grateful for the extensive back-

ground information provided by The Civil War Society. "I was amazed to discover how many people are grappling with this struggle," he said. **"It goes beyond the typical developer-versus-preservationist conflict, and comes close to the crux of the matter: How should we, as Americans, behave towards our own past?"**

Actor Michael Boatman, star of the TV drama *China Beach*, will act as host for the program. Call your local public TV station for program dates and times. *

GETTYSBURG SUIT DISMISSED

A federal judge has dismissed a suit filed against the National Park Service and Gettysburg College. The suit concerned a 1990 exchange of land between the Gettysburg National Military Park and the college, and the subsequent relocation of a railroad.

Federal judge Sylvia H. Rambo issued the order dismissing the suit brought by the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association which asked for a reversal of the land exchange under the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. The acts do not apply in this case, said Rambo, because the federal government does not retain control of the property in question. The judge also dismissed the plaintiffs' claim that the exchange caused emotional distress for Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association President Walter Powell and others. Citing the "sovereign immunity" of the federal government from state and local laws, the judge dismissed the claim.

Guerrilla's Bones Get a Confederate Soldier's Funeral

By WILLIAM ROBBINS

Special to The New York Times

HIGGINSVILLE, Mo., Oct. 24 — With military honors and the smoke of powder and musket balls, a smattering of remains of the Civil War's most notorious bushwhacker were given a Confederate warrior's burial today.

After a macabre dispersal, a grim odyssey and long years of exile in the land of his enemies, five bones and a vial of hair of William Clarke Quantrill found a final resting place in a sprawling Confederate cemetery here among the green hills he haunted 130 years ago.

But not even these final rites could lay to rest all vestiges of the horror and controversy spawned by Quantrill — hero to supporters but, to millions of others, monster of the Lawrence massacre in Kansas in 1863, when 150 civilians were slain. And traces of tensions 130 years old prevented complete satisfaction among partisans who had also wanted to bury Quantrill's skull with the bones and would have done so but for the adamant owners in Quantrill's birthplace, Dover, Ohio.

"We do not wish him buried where people are ashamed of him, where no one remembers or cares to recall the brutality of a partisan warfare that created men like Captain Quantrill and those who rode with him," said Robert L. Hawkins 3d of Jefferson City, delivering a eulogy in a Roman Catholic ceremony.

'He Belongs Here'

"He belongs here," Mr. Hawkins continued, addressing an audience faced with Civil War buffs in gray uniforms that packed a small chapel,

Some recall a massacre and see a monster; others, a hero.

"here with those who were truly his people.

"Here in a chapel where men worshiped, who revered his memory as the symbol of an unrepentant resistance to military occupation of this state which was brutally harsh in all its aspects."

As the ceremony ended, pallbearers, who included descendants of Quantrill's men, bore a small wooden casket containing the bones to a grave waiting in a cemetery where row on row of Confederate flags stood beside headstones.

"He did what he had to do," said one pallbearer, Don Yoder, a descendant of a Quantrill lieutenant, shortly before a salute of musketballs shattered the solemn air and the casket was lowered into the grave.

"But," he added, "I believe he should be buried solid, with all his bones right there."

Failure to Reunite All Relics

Mr. Hawkins said in an interview that he was disappointed that all the relics had not been reunited; they were dispersed to sites from Kentucky to Ohio to Kansas. "We made a written request to the Dover Historical Society, which owns the skull," he said, but the hometown group showed no interest in cooperating.

"We are not ashamed of Quantrill," said Mr. Hawkins, a Jefferson City lawyer who is commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, which organized today's ceremonies. "He doesn't wear the mantle of gentlemanly warfare of a Robert E. Lee, but we view these people in the context of their time and circumstances."

In Dover, however, Earl P. Olmstead, a trustee of the Tuscarawas County Historical Society, said, "They treat Quantrill as a hero, and of course we don't."

And Les Williams, chairman of the Dover Historical Society, which owns the skull, added: "I think they are going overboard in Missouri, with 200 people and a big ceremony over a hank of hair and five bones. I think all the bones should be buried in one place,



William Clarke Quantrill

and the largest part of the Quantrill bones are here."

Actually, more than 300 people attended today's rites, including the burial in the Confederate Memorial State Park here, organized by the Confederate Sons group. Among others attending were members of the Quantrill Society, many of them descendants of Quantrill followers.

Mr. Hawkins's remarks recalled one of the most brutal periods and places in American history, when Abolitionists from the East struggled with slavery supporters from Missouri before the Civil War to keep the Kansas Territory free. They fought so bitterly that "bleeding Kansas" became a byword. When the war erupted, they fought with added ferocity.

Jayhawkers, as abolitionist raiders were called, attacked from Kansas and pillaged the border communities of Missouri near Kansas City, and pro-slavery raiders struck Kansas towns. When Union forces suppressed rebellion in Missouri, many pro-slavers took to the brush as guerrillas and became known as bushwhackers.

The border warfare spawned fear-



The New York Times

Higginsville got a piece of the man who burned Lawrence.

some names. Bloody Bill Anderson, Frank James and Cole Younger rode as guerrillas with Quantrill in the Lawrence massacre, and Jesse James later rode with Anderson.

But none of the names sowed such fear as that of Quantrill, a young man who left his Ohio home in 1857 to move to Kansas, where, some historians say, he was turned against his own heritage by what he regarded as excesses committed by Jayhawkers and Abolitionists.

In his most fearsome act, Quantrill led about 350 raiders on Aug. 21, 1863, in the Lawrence massacre, one of the most savage acts of the war. At dawn, the raiders stormed into the town of 3,000 people and began to slaughter, pillage and burn.

Quantrill himself became one of the last victims of the war. He was wounded on May 10, 1865, a month after Gen. Robert E. Lee had surrendered, and died on June 6. He was 27 years old.

Still more controversy was soon to come, this time over Quantrill's remains. His body was buried in an unmarked grave in Louisville, Ky., but in 1887 a newspaperman from Dover by the name of W. W. Scott arrived to dig up the bones at the behest of Quantrill's mother.

A Local Legend

Though some historical society members dispute it, local legend holds that some of Quantrill's remains are buried in the family plot in Dover's Fourth Street Cemetery. A grave marker was placed on the supposed site about 10 years ago.

The legend is supported by Edward Leslie of Massillon, Ohio, the author of a forthcoming Quantrill biography. For documentation he cites notes left by Scott about "a funeral in the family plot in 1888 or 1889."

But Scott kept some of the bones, including the skull, and in 1888, apparently in need of money, he began trying to peddle them. The Kansas Historical Society wound up first with two shin-bones and later, after Scott's death in 1902, with three more bones, all of which it has now given up for today's burial. But Scott was never able to sell the skull.

Now it is to be buried in the family plot, but society members refuse to disclose when.

"Our intention is just to get it over with," said Jim Nixon, the society's president. "Some like me could not care less; it's way down my list of priorities."



Grant's sword slashes record

By The Associated Press

Los Angeles

A jeweled silver sword belonging to U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant sold for \$330,000, a price auctioneers called a world record.

The buyer did not want to be identified.

The ceremonial sword given to Grant by friends when he took command of Union forces in 1864 during the Civil War brought the highest price ever for such a weapon.



Please Make Reservation

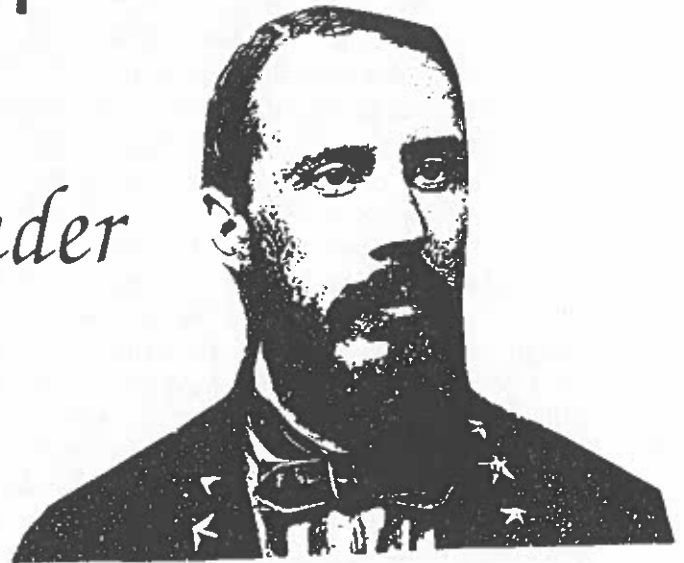
Please call Kevin Callahan at 321-3004 or 591-1920. ASAP! RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!



MORE THAN YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW
ABOUT

Edward Porter Alexander

★ 1835-
1910 ★



Edward Porter Alexander, whose remarkably varied Confederate career extended literally from Manassas to Appomattox, was born in Washington, Georgia, on May 26, 1835. Afforded all the advantages available to members of Georgia's wealthy planting elite, Alexander received excellent instruction from private tutors before entering West Point in 1853. He graduated third in the class of 1857, took a commission as brevet 2d lieutenant of engineers, and immediately joined the faculty at the Academy. Marked from the beginning as an officer of great promise, he interrupted his teaching duties in the spring of 1858 to accompany an expedition to reinforce Albert Sidney Johnston's column sent against the Mormons in Utah the previous year. He returned to West Point in October 1858, received promotion to 2d lieutenant on the tenth of that month, and in the fall and winter of 1859-60 assisted Surgeon Albert J. Myer in developing the "wig-wag" system of motion telegraphy. Ordered to the west coast in the summer of 1860, he spent several pleasant months at Fort Steilacoom, Washington Territory. "I had a position for life," he later wrote of his time at Steilacoom, "and an assured support in the profession I loved, and I had only to get the most pleasure that I could out of my surroundings."

Sectional tensions soon intruded in Alexander's world. Although not a secessionist, he was determined to follow Georgia's lead. He learned in February 1861 that his home state had left the Union on January 19; shortly thereafter, he sailed to San Francisco, where his friend Lieutenant James B. McPherson attempted to talk him out of resigning. Alexander replied that he had to go with his own people; "If I don't come and bear my part, they will believe me to be a coward." He resigned from the U.S. Army and traveled to Richmond, Virginia; arriving on June 1, 1861, he found waiting for him a commission as captain of engineers in the Confederate service dated March 16 (the day of his resignation).

Alexander joined P. G. T. Beauregard's army near Manassas Junction at the end of June. As chief signal officer on the general's staff, he rapidly erected a series of observation towers in the area, from one of which he detected the approach of the Union flanking column during the battle of First Manassas. Beauregard praised Alexander in his report and, recognizing his versatility and skill at organization, made him chief of ordnance for the army. From the summer of 1861 until the end of the 1862 Maryland Campaign, Alexander served successively on the staffs of Beauregard, Joseph E. Johnston, and R. E. Lee as chief of ordnance and chief signal officer. He brought great efficiency to the daunting task of supplying arms and ammunition to the army during the Peninsula Campaign, the Seven Days, Second Manassas, and the raid into Maryland. Numerous other projects also came his way; he drilled various artillery units and recommended reorganizing the Southern "Long arm" into battalions; coordinated extensive secret service work; carried out engineering and reconnaissance assignments for a number of general officers; oversaw the use of a balloon that Lee acquired during the Seven Days (Alexander himself was aloft in the balloon during the battle of Gaines' Mill), and participated in the testing of various new weapons. In the course of these activities, Alexander was promoted to major of artillery on April 18, 1862, and to lieutenant colonel of artillery on July 17, 1862.

Lee recognized Alexander's manifold gifts, especially his theoretical and practical skill as an artillerist. When Stephen D. Lee, who commanded a battalion of artillery in James Longstreet's wing, was promoted and sent west in November 1862, the commanding general selected Alexander to replace him. Lee and Artillery Chief William Nelson Pendleton reorganized the army's artillery in twelve battalions during the winter of 1863, placing six in each of Longstreet's and Jackson's corps. "We have no more accomplished officer," stated

Pendleton in recommending Alexander for promotion to colonel and command of one of Longstreet's battalions. The colonelcy came through on March 3, 1863, and Alexander could take pride in the army's adoption of many organizational changes he had advocated in 1861.

Alexander vindicated Lee's confidence in him during the campaigns of 1862-63. At Fredericksburg he deployed Longstreet's artillery so that it could fire into attacking Federals, rather than in positions to duel with Union guns across the Rappahannock. Lee disagreed with Alexander's disposition but did not insist on a change. When Ambrose E. Burnside launched his assaults against Longstreet's corps on December 13, Alexander's guns wreaked havoc among the attackers. After the battle, Alexander commented within earshot of Lee that "it was a mighty good thing those guns...were located on the brows of the hills when the Yankees charged them!" Lee overlooked this impertinent remark (if, indeed, he heard it) in light of the excellent results. At Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863, Alexander discerned that high ground at Hazel Grove dominated the battlefield, hurried artillery to that plateau, and directed the fire that drove Union defenders away from Fairview Cemetery and enabled Lee's wings to reunite.

Gettysburg offered Alexander his most famous stage. On July 2, his guns ably supported Longstreet's powerful offensive against the Federal left, while on July 3 he orchestrated the massive bombardment that preceded the Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble assault. In all of these battles Alexander functioned as tactical chief of artillery in the 1st Corps, despite the fact that Colonel John B. Walton officially held that post. Longstreet clearly considered Alexander his best gunner and wanted him in control on the battlefield. This awkward arrangement sometimes upset Walton, as when he watched helplessly at Gettysburg while his subordinate carried out tasks logically reserved for the corps chief of artillery.

Alexander and his battalion accompanied Longstreet's Corps to north Georgia in September 1863, arriving too late for Chickamauga but taking part in the siege of Chattanooga and the bitterly disappointing Knoxville Campaign. With Walton on detached duty, Alexander again functioned as corps chief of artillery. Returning to Virginia in the spring of 1864, he learned that Joseph E. Johnston had requested that he be made brigadier general and chief of artillery in the Army of Tennessee. Lee refused to let

him go, however, and Jefferson Davis commented that Alexander was "one of a very few whom Gen. Lee would not give to anybody." Lee arranged Alexander's promotion to brigadier general on March 1, 1864 (to rank from February 26) and his elevation to chief of artillery in the 1st Corps on March 19.

During the Overland Campaign of 1864, the Siege of Petersburg, and the retreat to Appomattox, Alexander continued his distinguished service. He helped design significant portions of the defensive works around Richmond; eventually commanded all the artillery between the James and Appomattox rivers, and drew the Army of Northern Virginia's last line of battle at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. He surrendered with the rest of Lee's army, closing a remarkable military career as the South's premier artillerist and one of the most versatile soldiers in American history.

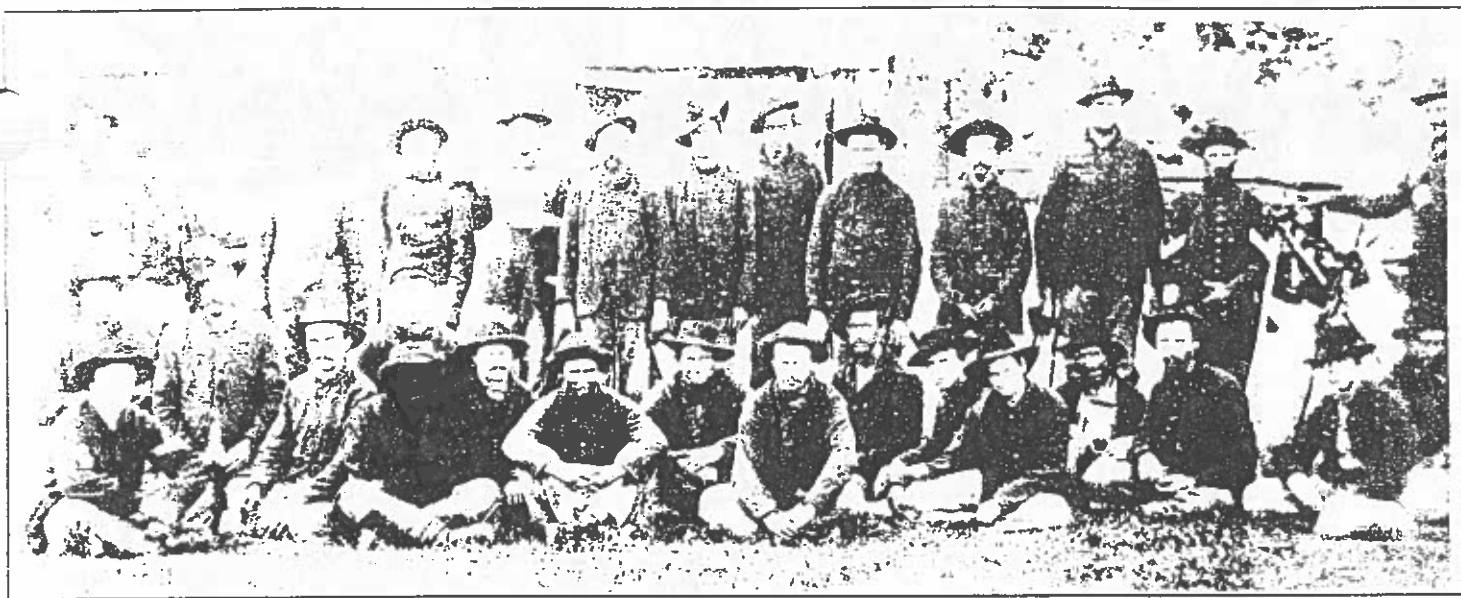
Alexander's postwar life was varied and successful. He taught for a time at the University of South Carolina, invested in cottonseed production, and ultimately entered the railroad business. Within a decade, he compiled a record that prompted one contemporary to call him "the young Napoleon of the Railways." Retiring from railroading in 1892, he acted, at the request of his friend President Grover Cleveland, as arbitrator of a boundary dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua during 1897-1900. He wrote a long personal memoir for his family while in Nicaragua (published eighty years after his death as *Fighting for the Confederacy*), revising it extensively over the next six years into *Military Memoirs of a Confederate*. His writings, like his career as a soldier, set him apart from his contemporaries. Brilliantly analytical, impartial, and filled with telling anecdotes, they rank among the best sources on the war in Virginia. Alexander died on April 28, 1910, in Savannah, and was buried at the City Cemetery in Augusta, Georgia.

Gary W. Gallagher

from The Confederate General
Vol. 1



THROUGH THE CIVIL WAR WITH THE 125th OHIO



Company B of the 125th Ohio, photographed at Nashville in 1865.

YANKEE TIGERS

RALSA C. RICE

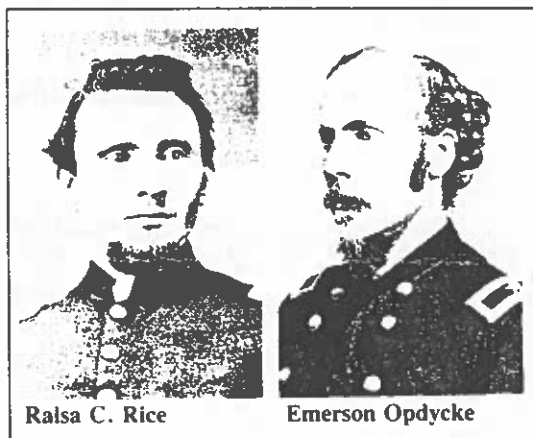
Edited by

Richard A. Baumgartner & Larry M. Strayer

For nearly three years Ralsa C. Rice served in one of the most celebrated Union regiments of the American Civil War — the fighting Tigers of the 125th Ohio. Under the disciplined command of Colonel Emerson Opdycke, Rice and his comrades learned the grim realities of war on such battlefields as Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Kennesaw Mountain and Peachtree Creek.

Promoted to lieutenant in 1864, the author fought the war's final year as commander of Company B and led his men with special distinction in the veritable bloodbath at Franklin, Tennessee. Rice's descriptions of his service with Opdycke's Tigers flow in lucid detail in a new edition of his narrative originally published in *The National Tribune Scrap Book* about 1905.

Featuring the addition of five maps and 67 wartime photographs — many from Rice's personal photograph album — **Yankee Tigers** is the first book-length



Ralsa C. Rice

Emerson Opdycke

account published on Opdycke's famous regiment in nearly a century. It is a significant contribution toward understanding the common soldier of the Civil War.

YANKEE TIGERS

Clothbound, 240 pages, dust jacket, five maps, 67 wartime photographs, endnotes, appendices, bibliography and index.

ISBN 0-9628866-2-9

\$20



Add \$2.50 per copy for shipping and handling. Payment by check, money order, Visa or Mastercard.



BLUE ACORN PRESS

P.O. Box 2684 5589 Shawnee Drive
Huntington, West Virginia 25726
(304) 733-3917



At Petersburg in early 1865, at a point where the left of A.P. Hill's Corps touched the right of John Gordon's Corps, a threatened attack brought together for counsel a number of officers from each of these commands. After a conference as to the proper disposition of troops for resisting the expected assault, one of the officers asked for a united prayer to Almighty God for His guidance. Another Confederate general was noticed riding within hailing distance and General Henry Heth of Hill's Corps called to him to come in and unite with the others in prayer. The officer did not understand the nature of General Heth's invitation and replied, "No, thank you, General, no more at present; I've just had some." With that he rode off.

--- Witness to Appomattox by Richard Wheeler pp56

During the seige operations at Petersburg, Confederate General A.P. Hill was riding through one of the camps of his Corps when he saw Chaplain J. William Jones distributing religious tracts to the soldiers. Hill reined his horse, shouted hello to the Chaplain, an old friend from Culpeper, and then added good naturedly: " Jones, don't you think the boys would prefer hardtack to soft tracts?"

--- General A.P. Hill: The Story of a Confederate Warrior
by James I. Robertson, Jr. pp 303



The spirit
of Christmas...

Best wishes
Brian

From The President's Desk



Gentlemen,

I am delighted to announce that the lawsuit against The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable regarding Johnsons island has been dismissed. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Lynn Lazzarro for all his efforts in this regard.

I am saddened to report the passing of another of our members, Mr. Jim Chapman. I have sent a letter to the family in the name of The Roundtable with our condolences.

I must remind everyone that 50% of the dues have been sent in. Please drop the dues in the mail or bring a check to the next meeting. Also, please remember to call for a reservation (591-1920) and call if you cannot attend.

We have an excellent speaker for December, Mr. Eric Wittenburg, who will speak on Joshua Chamberlain.

I hope to see everyone at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Kevin R. Callahan



THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
P.O. BOX 18900
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118



Kevin Callahan
21149 Colby Rd.
Snaker Hts., OH 44122