

THE CHARGER

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

DECEMBER 1994

329TH MEETING

VOL. 16 #4

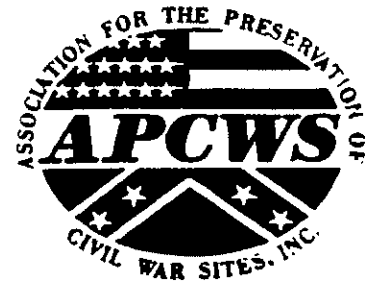
DATE: Wednesday, December 14, 1994

PLACE: The Hermit Club

SUBJECT: "The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and its role in battlefield preservation."

SPEAKER: A. WILSON GREENE

A. Wilson "Will" Greene is the President of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites. He is a native of Chicago, Illinois and received degrees in history from Florida State University and Louisiana State University. He served as a historian and manager for the National Park Service for 16 years before assuming his present position in 1990. Greene is the author of more than 15 published articles on Civil War topics. He is the author of Whatever You Resolve to Be: Essays on Stonewall Jackson and co-author of National Geographic's Guide to Civil War Battlefield Parks. He has taught American History at Mary Washington College and Germanna Community College and the Marine Corps Staff and Command College in Quantico, Virginia. Greene is often a tour leader and is a permanent faculty member at the Penn State Mont Alto Conferences. Greene is married to the former Margret Harm and makes his home in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

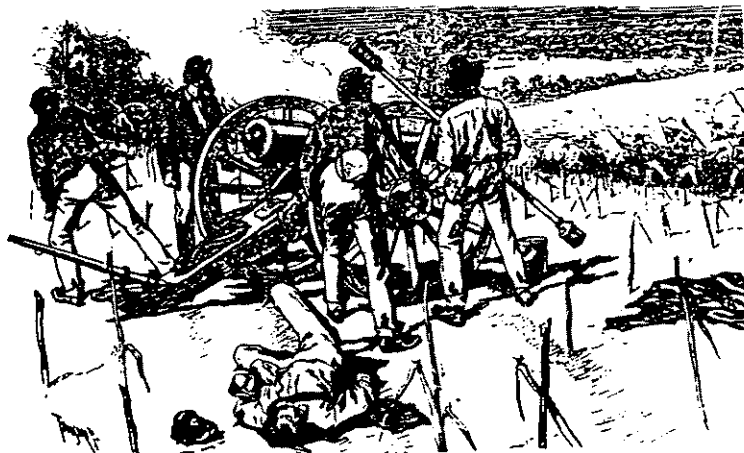


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CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

1957 * 1994



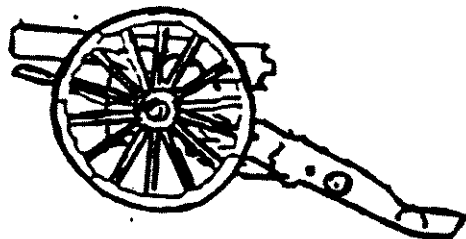
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Preserve Your Battlefields!

THIS YEAR'S SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

Dec.	A. Wilson Green
Jan.	Civil War Debates
Feb.	Michael Dory TBA
March	Kevin Casey Battle of Monococy
April	Robert Krick TBA
May	TBA

Serious Accident at Parma--Two Young Ladies Accidentally Shot while View- ing a Military Drill.

Parma, like most other towns in Ohio, has a military company. They have frequent drills with such arms as they can procure,—old muskets, shot guns, rifles, &c. On Saturday afternoon last they had a drill on the Square which was witnessed by a number of citizens. Among the arms were two muskets that had been loaded for nearly a year as it appears, the loading consisting of slugs of lead and buckshot. The men who brought them knew they were loaded but took the precaution to remove the caps supposing that they would then be harmless. Some of the explosive portion of the cap must have remained on the nipple of one of the guns for during the drill in firing the gun was discharged.

Two young ladies named Miss ELLEN BIGELOW and Miss — CLARK were watching the movements of the company, from a position in front of them, and received a portion of the contents of the musket. Miss CLARK was shot in the arm, and Miss BIGELOW received one of the slugs in her right side, just above the hip joint, the slug passing quite through, leaving a large, ghastly wound. Dr. THAYER, of this city, is attending them, and it is believed neither accident will prove fatal. Miss BIGELOW was formerly a teacher in one of our public schools, and is well known here.

I saw this in the PLAIN DEALER of July 7, 1861
It might be of local interest historically in
reference to the bit on Parma Heights and the



A Mid-Nineteenth Century Christmas

by Barbara Hughett

The observance of Christmas in mid-nineteenth century America was not the huge celebration it has become today. It was instead a gentler, more introspective time—a time for drawing together with friends and family. New Year's Day was marked by the custom of calling and receiving. In homes—in large cities and small communities—buffets were set up with such treats as hot oysters, cake, and ice cream. Mary Lincoln referred to this annual "receiving day" in a January 1, 1860 letter to Hannah Shearer. New Year's Day public receptions were held in the Lincoln White House. It was following such a reception on January 1, 1863, that President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Holiday traditions brought to this country by European immigrants include the Christmas tree, which was introduced by the Germans in the 1830s. By the time of the Civil War, if a family had a Christmas tree, it was a small one which would stand on a table top. More frequently, there might be a community tree in a centrally-located church or public building. Trimming it—with such ornaments as nuts, fruits, strings of cranberries, and

pieces of cards or calendars—was a communal activity. Small, personal gifts were customarily exchanged.

Evergreen branches served as popular household decorations. They were used to deck mantels, chandeliers, and door and window frames. Both the yule log and the Christmas candle, surrounded by evergreens, were part of holiday celebrations in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

In 1836, Alabama became the first state to acknowledge Christmas as a legal holiday. Until the outbreak of the Civil War, only seventeen states had followed suit. During the war years, thirteen additional states legalized the holiday. (Christmas became a legal holiday in Illinois, by statutory act, on February 22, 1861.)

Little information has been found to shed light on the Lincolns' observance of Christmas during their years in Springfield. Business letters, dated December 25 of four different years, bear Abraham Lincoln's signature. This suggests that he worked at least part of those particular Christmases. Account records from a Springfield general store indicate the

Lincolns purchased eleven handkerchiefs on Christmas Eve in 1860. Some have presumed that the purchases were intended for distribution as Christmas presents.

The most famous gift of Civil War Christmases was the one received by President Lincoln in 1864. On Christmas Day, Lincoln received a telegram from General William T. Sherman which said: "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah." This gift—paid for by the lives of men, and of women and children—was a gift of hope; soon the war might be over.

Writing about her Christmas in 1864, the wife of Union General John A. Logan said that, for the first time in three years, her community had a Christmas tree. She mentioned the exchange of gifts that year and noted that, although the usual slippers and mittens were there, so were pinafores—and there were sleds and toys under the tree for the children.

Artist Thomas Nast and his contemporaries in the mid-to-late-nineteenth century played a significant role in the commercialization of Christmas by expanding the role of St. Nicholas, said to be a patron saint who loved and cared for children. Drawing on the characterization of Clement Moore's 1822 "A Visit From St. Nicholas," the first popular Christmas story or poem that did not mention the nativity of Christ, Nast began his series of engravings which led to the Santa Claus we recognize today.

* * *

Illustration: This wood engraving by artist and political cartoonist Thomas Nast appeared in the Christmas 1862 issue of Harpers Weekly. Print courtesy of John Michael

(Sources included "Christmas and New Year's Observances During the 1850s," an article by George L. Painter; "A Civil War Christmas," a paper delivered by Karen K. Osborne, The Civil War Round Table, December 9, 1989; and Public Laws of the State of Illinois, 1861.)

The Sinking of the USS Cairo

The USS Cairo is the only remaining Ironclad from the Union navy's river fleet. For 102 years the ironclad rested deep in the mud of the Yazoo River. In 1964 with the help of our friend Ed Bearss the ship was raised from its mucky grave.

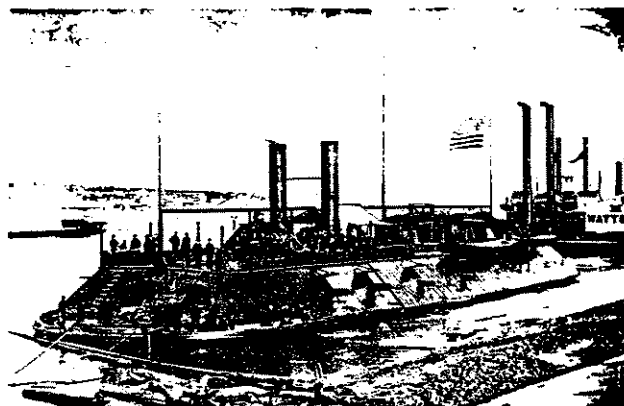
Now the USS Cairo is one of the premier exhibits at the Vicksburg National Military Park. This historic vessel, its entire cargo of weapons and personal effects are on display sparking the imagination of Civil War buffs and the thousand of tourists who visit the ship each year.

The USS Cairo was sunk in December of 1862 by a team from the Confederate Secret Service. In one the South's most amazing secret operations, a confederate team, using newly invented explosive mines, blew up the USS Cairo, one of the Union's most feared ironclad boats.

The Cairo was a new breed of ship for a new kind of war. The wooden sailing ships that made up the United States fleet before 1861 were designed to fight in open seas against other wooden ships. Combat on inland waterways required powered vessels that could withstand close fire from land-based positions and move in shallow waters. A Ironclad could run close in and deliver withering fire without significant concern about return fire. The ironclad had a draft of six feet and speed of about six miles per hour.

Torpedoes or mines as they are known today were crudely constructed using jugs or large jars of gunpowder. The fuses used were controlled by batteries or friction fuses which were also used for cannons.

They used putty or gum to make the torpedoes waterproof. In general however, the torpedoes (mines) did not work well. After a short time in the water the seals leaked and the gunpowder became wet. Many times in the Mississippi River, Mobile Bay or Charleston, S.C. Harbor, Union ships struck mines which did not detonate.



USS Cairo (Courtesy Library of Congress)

The confederate team was lead by Zeke McDaniel, a confederate officer from Kentucky, an inventive Southern renaissance man. He patented one invention in 1860 and two others during the War.

About 8AM, December 12, 1862, a five ship Union flotilla started up the Yazoo River just north of Vicksburg. In the lead was the "tinclad" Marmora which had encountered mines the previous day in the River. When the Marmora reached the spot where it found torpedoes the previous day it put out a cutter in front with riflemen to shoot and set off the mines.

The Cairo heard the shooting and came up quickly thinking the Marmora was engaged in hostile action. The Cairo moved almost even with the Marmora when she snagged the trigger wires of two torpedoes on the left side of the bow and the right side midships. Being that the bottom of a ironclad was a large storage area for coal; the crew escaped with minor injuries. Within twelve minutes by most accounts, the Cairo slid under the chocolate-colored waters of the Yazoo into thirty-six feet of water to rest for 100 years. *The first warship ever sunk by mine.*

Vicksburg
Field Trip 1995

THE JOHNSON'S ISLAND SITUATION, which we have written about before, continues to simmer.

To review: Johnson's Island, in Ohio's Sandusky Bay, at the western end of Lake Erie, consists of about 300 acres; 200 acres are owned by individuals, a developer presently owns the remaining 100 acres.

About six or seven years ago, he indicated that he was going to "develop" his part of the island. His plans called for several thousand condominiums, a large marina with gas dock and up to 500 dock spaces, and also a number of "dockaminiums." He also hinted that numerous home sites would be developed on whatever open land remained.

Our Ohio member William C. Stark of Fairview Park led the fight then, and kept us informed.

The Johnson's Island Property Owners Association has also consistently opposed the project, with legal fees mounting to over a quarter-million dollars.

The Johnson's Island Preservation Society has now been established to preserve and protect this unique Civil War site, notable for the following:

*Its location on a tiny, scenic island in Sandusky Bay was home to a Confederate prison (mostly for officers) during The War, and is still home to one of the few Confederate cemeteries in the North. It was designated a national monument in 1932.

*Treatment of the prisoners at this facility was quite humane, for the time; of the 10,000-15,000 prisoners confined on Johnson's Island, including 26 Confederate generals, only 245 died there. The cemetery has the graves of 206 prisoners.

One suggestion is that the Johnson's Island Prison Site and Confederate Cemetery be developed into a tiny gem of a National Park for an extremely low cost. It could be a miniature Andersonville, but with its own unique historical perspective.

Archaeological students from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland have held summer "digs" on the island. They have found, among other things that other, private "diggers" were there before them and many significant artifacts have been removed.

This area needs protection.

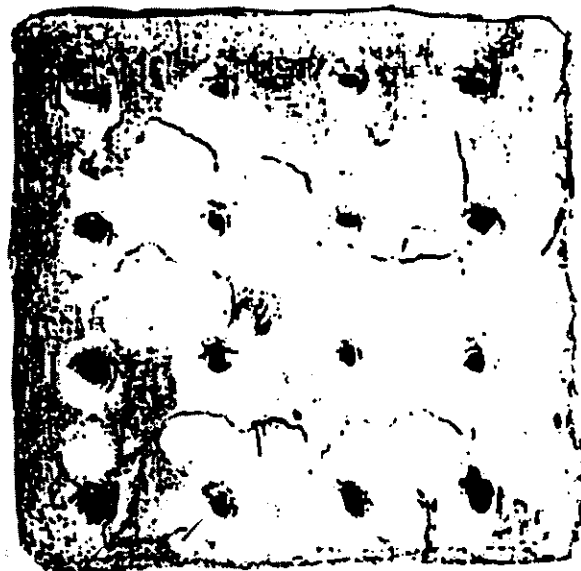
As best I can tell, Rep. Paul E. Gillmor (R) represents the district which includes Johnson's Island.

If you'd like to help preserve this site of a Confederate officers' prison, please contact Rep. Gillmor (c/o House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515), William C. Stark (3937 W. 224th St., Fairview Park OH 44126), the Johnson's Island Preservation Society (Box 1865, Johnson's Island OH 43440), and a gentleman named Michael Marvett, a Johnson's Island property owner and one of the founders of the Johnson's Island Preservation Society (435 Eagles Nest Lane, Sarasota FL 34343). Mr. Marvett has written me most recently about the situation.

Jerry L. Russell,

CWRT DIGEST

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1994-

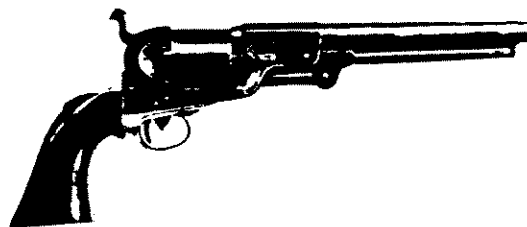


A Hardtack Recipe (Tooth duller)

Use one part water to six parts flour. Mix and bread. Roll dough flat and score into cracker shapes. Bake 20-25 minutes and cool off until completely dry before storing in canisters.

The crackers should be hard as bricks and indestructibly unappetizing. If not consumed by hungry soldiers, the crackers might last at least until the Lord returns.

**From UNION ARMY CAMP COOKING, 1861-1865
by Patricia B. Mitchell**



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PRESERVATION REPORT



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

This photograph, taken on April 26, 1865, shows the steamboat Sultana in Helena, Ark., one day before its boiler exploded, killing as many as 1,800 people. The ship was launched in January 1863 from Cincinnati.

Steamboat blast still a mystery

By JOHN NOLAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — An 1865 steamboat explosion that killed many as 1,800 people still ranks as the nation's worst maritime disaster and one of its greatest maritime mysteries.

The sinking of the Sultana killed at least 1,200 Union soldiers returning home from the Civil War and shattered the lives of those who survived.

By most accounts, more people died in the boiler explosion that destroyed the Cincinnati-built steamboat on April 27, 1865, in the Mississippi River north of Memphis, Tenn., than were killed when the Titanic sank in 1912.

But the Sultana's destruction — overshadowed by the end of the Civil War and the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln — received scant coverage in the newspapers of 1865, particularly in the prominent East Coast papers. There has been little mention since then in the nation's history books.

About 1,200 Union soldiers returning home from the Civil War in 1865 were killed when the overloaded Sultana exploded.

That in itself is a tragedy, said author Jerry Potter, who spent 13 years researching the disaster for his 1992 book, "The Sultana Tragedy."

"Not only has very little been written about it, but today, almost nothing is known about it," said Potter, who became intrigued by the story in the 1970s after seeing a painting depicting the Sultana's destruction.

"Nobody knew about it. That's what compelled me to write the book," the Memphis lawyer, 43, said in a telephone interview. "These were young men who survived horrible situations during the war ... then, to be killed on the way home and for the nation not to know about it, it was appalling to me."

"The government more or less swept the disaster under the rug."

Potter went to the National Archives and obtained records of the two military inquiries convened to investigate the disaster. He reviewed newspaper accounts and Army correspondence. He has obtained diaries of some of the Sultana's victims and interviewed descendants of survivors.

Most of those who died were paroled Union prisoners. They were being transported home to resume their lives after enduring disease and malnutrition in the Confederacy's most brutal prison camps, Andersonville and Cahaba.

Union Army officers loading the men onto the Sultana in Vicksburg, Miss., jammed at least 1,800 people onto a boat designed to carry only 376, according to Potter's book and "Transport to Disaster," a 1962 book by James W. Elliott, grandson of Sultana survivor J. Walter Elliott.

The men — mostly from Ohio, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky — were bound for Camp Chase near Columbus, to reunite with families and resume their lives.

During the inquiries, Union Army officers accused colleagues of accepting bribes from steamboat captains to transport as many soldiers as possible upriver. But investigators ignored the charges and shifted the blame elsewhere, Potter and Elliott wrote.

Potter found evidence that showed Army officers allowed two other steamers to leave Vicksburg hours before the Sultana, with no soldiers aboard.

But only one officer, Capt. Frederic Speed, was court-martialed. The Army's top legal officer later reversed Speed's conviction.

Nathan Wintringer, the Sultana's chief engineer, knew a leak in one of the ship's boilers was not repaired properly but said nothing for fear it would keep the ship from sailing, Potter wrote.

Wintringer was never charged, even though he was required by law to ensure the steamboat's safe operation.

The Sultana's captain, J. Cass Mason, pressured Army officers to give him as many passengers as possible and stood to be paid \$10,000 by the government for his standing-room-only haul, according to records. Mason died in the explosion.

Historians said the Army never investigated the bribe allegations. Lt. Col. James Sullivan, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon, said the modern-day Army has no comment on the Sultana disaster.

John T. Hubbell, editor of the quarterly journal *Civil War History*, said he found Potter's analysis sound.

"They overloaded it, knowing it was well beyond the capacity," Hubbell said. "The ship itself probably shouldn't have been out on the water, but those poor devils wanted to get home."

The Army's chief investigator at the time, Brig. Gen. William Hoffman, estimated the death toll at 1,238. The U.S. Customs office in Memphis put it at 1,547, a figure Potter said is generally accepted as the official estimate.

Civil War historian Shelby Foote wrote that estimates ran as high as 1,800. By comparison, 1,522 died when the ocean liner *Titanic* sank.

Potter found records showing the Sultana carried about 2,300 soldiers, 100 civilian passengers and 85 crew members.

Bodies of Sultana passengers popped to the Mississippi River's surface for weeks after the explosion. Because the Army kept poor records at Vicksburg, it will never be known for sure how many died, Potter wrote.

Several hundred survivors were pulled from the river by rescue boats. But as many as 300 died within days from exposure. Many were buried in unmarked graves.

Some survivors applied for special military pensions because of the disaster, but the government refused to pay for lack of witnesses. The last survivors, still bitter that the nation had forgotten them, died in the 1930s.

Parts of the Sultana were salvaged in June 1865. The river has changed course since then. Potter believes the unburned part of the hull is now under a bean field near Marion, Ark.



Andersonville site to honor all U.S. prisoners of war

By RONALD SMOTHERS
NEW YORK TIMES

ANDERSONVILLE, Ga. — What was once a field rank with pools of fetid water and odors of gangrene and death now gently rolls with hillocks of fluffy broom sage and gold and purple asters.

One hundred and thirty years ago, when it was encircled by stockade walls and strewn with sway-backed tents, the field was Andersonville, the infamous Confederate camp where 45,000 Union troops were imprisoned, and where 13,000 died.

It is a haunting place whose name over time became synonymous with the horror, privations, disease and thwarted escapes common to all prisoners of war. Now, with President Clinton's signing of an appropriations bill last month, Andersonville will also become the site of the nation's only museum dedicated to American POWs from the Revolution to Somalia.

"It won't be just some show-place on a hill," declared James B. Stockdale, the retired Navy admiral who was the highest ranking American prisoner of war in the Vietnam War and who is serving, with his wife, Sybil, as honorary chairmen of Friends of An-

dersonville, the private group supporting the museum.

"You will be in the trenches, trodding the ground that men agonized over then, just as you yourself did in your time," Stockdale said. "There is a lot of drama that went on in that prison."

The planned museum, which is expected to be completed by 1996, will be part of the Andersonville National Historic Site in southwestern Georgia. Andersonville, a village of 260 people, is about 25 miles northeast of former President Carter's home in Plains, Ga.

In addition to the grassy expanse that once was the prison stockade, the 475-acre site includes two small brick buildings and a national cemetery holding the remains of the 13,000 Union troops who died in the prison, as well as the remains of 2,000 other veterans from the Spanish-American War to the Vietnam War.

Clinton's signature approving federal financing for the \$9 million museum comes 24 years after the grounds of Andersonville were first taken over by the National Park Service and designated by Congress as the Andersonville National Historic Site. But only in the last 10 years did

private groups and the Park Service begin to push for a museum as a memorial to POWs throughout the nation's history.

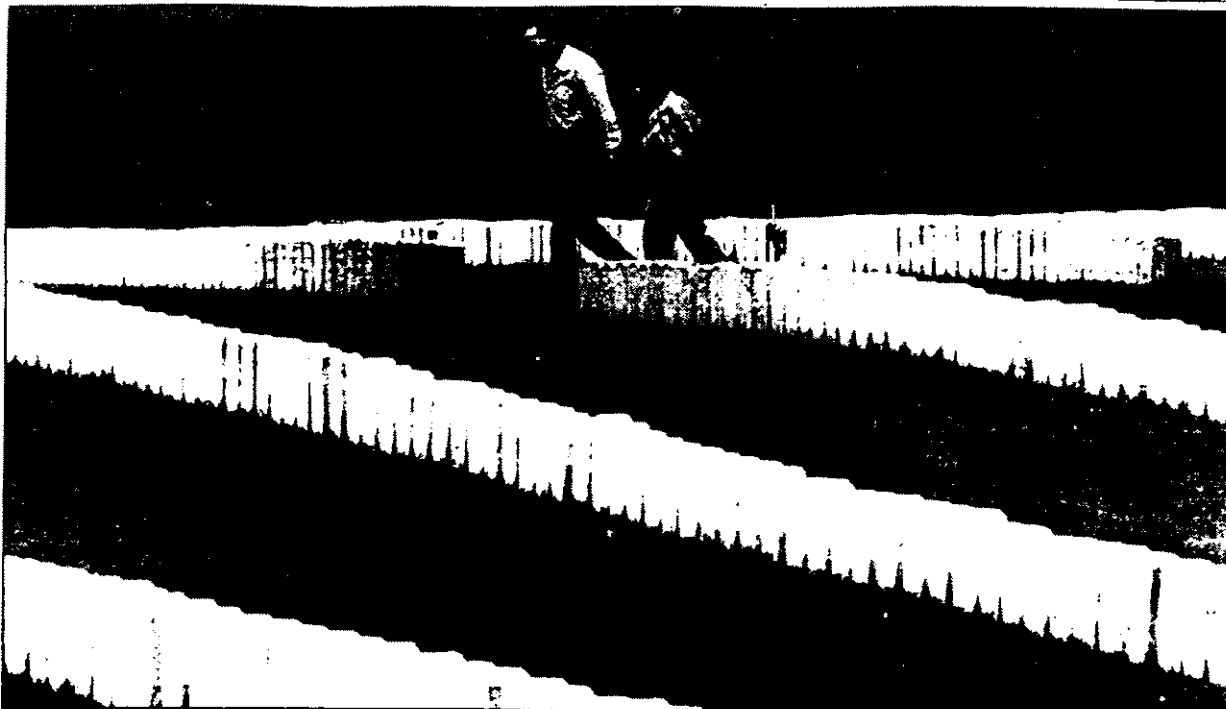
For the estimated 70,000 surviving Americans who were once prisoners of war, most of them from World War II, the approval of federal financing comes just as time is running out, members of veterans groups said.

William Bearisto, 70, is president of the 30,000-member American Ex-Prisoners of War, which helped raise more than \$3 million in private funds for the museum.

"It will bring back a lot of hurtful feelings for some of us and it may bring back some of the shame that many of us were made to feel, as if it was our fault that we were captured," he said. "But this is our No. 1 priority, and we are 40 years late in getting this memorial."

Although the Andersonville military prison operated for only 14 months in the Civil War, it came to symbolize much about that conflict. In earlier wars there was little need for large, permanent prisons because prisoners of war were usually exchanged quickly after signing a pledge not to fight again.

That ended in the Civil War,



NEW YORK TIMES

The national cemetery at Andersonville National Historic Site in Georgia.

when Union commanders, tired of capturing and recapturing the same Confederates, refused to make the exchanges. And Confederate commanders refused to exchange black prisoners of war, saying they were fugitive slaves.

After the war, Union forces changed the camp's commandant, Capt. Henry Wirtz, making him the only person executed for war crimes in the Civil War.

The historic importance of the former prison camp was never much appreciated by some Southerners. Many were quick to note that no one had bothered to preserve Camp Douglas in Chicago, a Union stockade where 15 percent of the 30,000 Confederates imprisoned there died, or a camp in Elmira, N.Y., where 32 percent of the 12,000 Confederate prisoners died.

Fred Boyles, Andersonville's superintendent, said the museum's design will recall that of a prison.

Inside will be diaries and oral histories and a concrete cross erected by prisoners at Camp O'Donnell, the terminus of the 1942 Bataan death march, which some POWs in World War II called "the Andersonville of the Pacific."

Civil war buff dreams up honor for veteran

By LOU MIO

PLAIN DEALER REPORTER

CLEVELAND — The honor guard, carrying muskets, stood at attention as the names were read: "William Delaney ... John Hennessey ... Charles McCartney ... Richard O'Rourke ... James K. O'Reilly."

These were some of the men who served in Company B, 8th Ohio Infantry Regiment. Many were Irish immigrants who settled in Cleveland and rushed to enlist in the Hibernian Guards (later Company B) when President Lincoln called for volunteers in 1861. The Civil War was on.

Most of the adults and children reading the original company roster yesterday were descendants of Capt. James Kelly O'Reilly. They had come to St. John's Cemetery on Woodland Ave. to honor O'Reilly because Friday was Veterans Day. And because John C. Sullivan had a dream.

Two years ago, Sullivan, an insurance adjustor, met a fellow Civil War historian, Dr. Kenneth Callahan, at an education seminar in Cleveland. Sullivan, 52, learned that Capt. O'Reilly was the great-grandfather of Callahan's wife, Joan.

"That's how I met the Callahan family," said Sullivan, of Northfield. "One day I had a dream about James O'Reilly. I did. And I was supposed to do something. What, I don't know. I called Dr. Callahan. He said to call his son Ken."

Sullivan contacted Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Kenneth Callahan Jr., also a Civil War historian. The result was yesterday's ceremony.

"It was John's idea to put this together," said Judge Callahan. "He went through the archives to find where all the family members were. This was his way to commemorate the 8th Ohio. What these guys did at Gettysburg had a pivotal role in terms of repelling Pickett's charge.

That charge, by General George Pickett on July 3, 1863, has been called the high-water mark of the Confederacy. It was broken by Union infantry and artillery firing from behind a stone wall on Cemetery Ridge outside the small college town of Gettysburg, Pa.

The Ohioans, ordered to occupy a smaller ridge between the two

armies, poured deadly rifle fire into the flank of the southern assault. O'Reilly, hospitalized with sun stroke, had rushed to rejoin the unit. Before the day ended, 100 percent of the 8th Ohio was dead or wounded.

O'Reilly survived the Civil War, but his decision to leave a field hospital for the battle left him a virtual invalid until he died in 1900.

"Winston Churchill called it the last gentleman's war," Dr. Kenneth Callahan told the crowd gathered in front of O'Reilly's headstone. "Gentleman, indeed. It was a holiday for butchers. It left a young country with 631,000 dead. . . . It left our grandfather's generation with the haunting sound of blind canes and wooden legs tapping down the streets and byways of this country for half a century."

Thomas Downes, commanding officer of yesterday's 16 Civil War re-enactors, placed a wreath on O'Reilly's stone. "He was an original member of the unit which we portray," said Downes. "It's significant that we are gathered in this cemetery, in this neighborhood, to pay homage to a man none of us has ever met."

O'Reilly grew up not far from

the cemetery and was chief stonemason on the construction of St. Edward's Church on Woodland Ave. He joined the Army on April 16, 1861, with two friends, Jim Butler and Thomas Galwey.

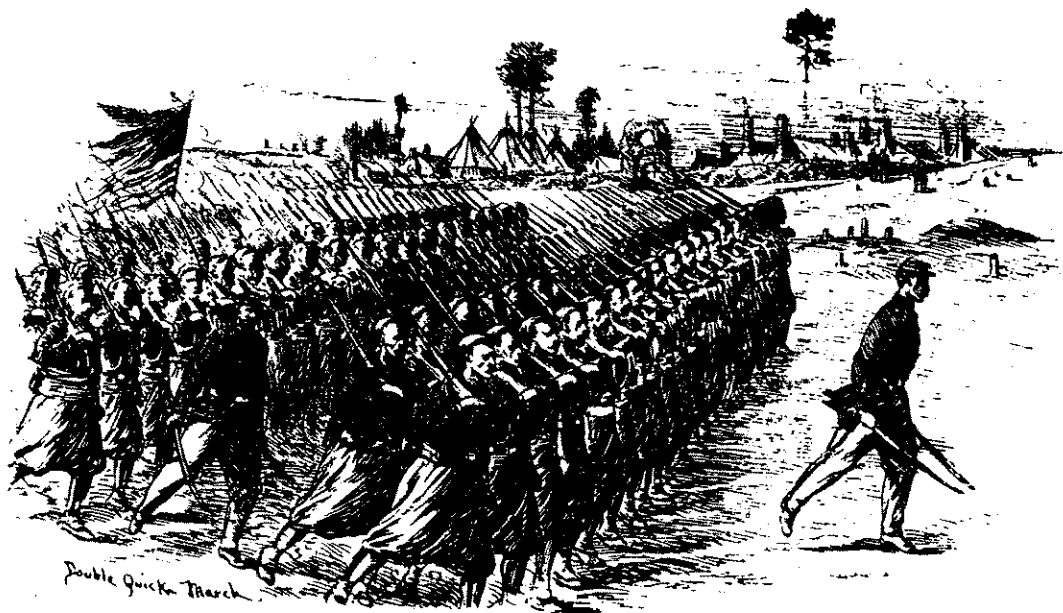
A few weeks after O'Reilly died, Galwey wrote a letter to The Plain Dealer. Sullivan read part of it yesterday.

"Cleveland is not today the quiet little city it was on the 16th of April . . ." Galwey wrote. "But, big and bustling as Cleveland has become, it will not, I imagine, forget the honor done to its name in the Civil War by such men as O'Reilly."

The ceremony concluded when the soldiers of Company B raised their muskets and fired three volleys.

Pat McNea, a retired Cleveland firefighter and bagpiper, played "Danny Boy." As the soldiers and accompanying color guard marched off, he followed, piping "Wearing of the Green" and "The Minstrel Boy."

Thomas Galwey's plea was answered. Cleveland had not forgotten the immigrant kid from County Cork.

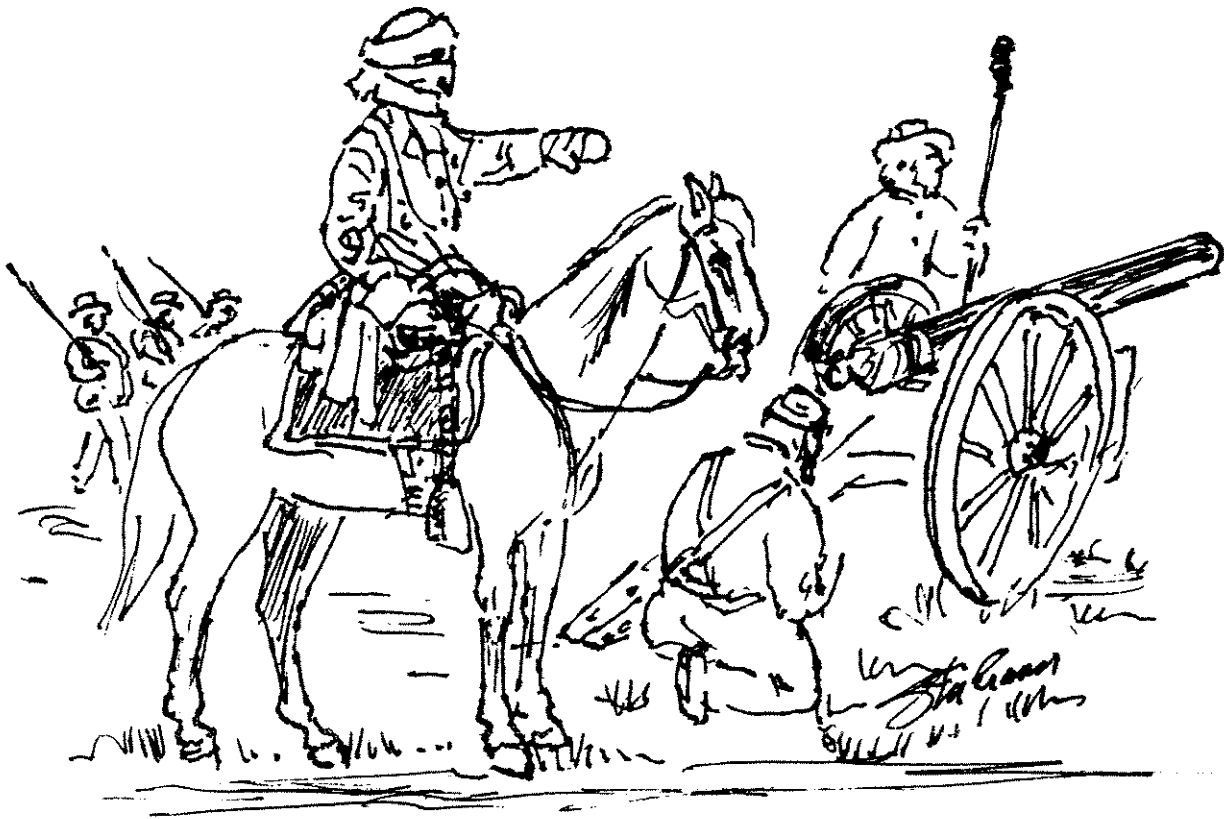


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SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



Lieutenant General Richard Stoddert Ewell lost a leg at Groveton and, after the actions along the North Anna River in 1864, he was forced to temporarily relinquish his command of the 2nd Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia due to illness. General Lee made this permanent and Ewell was given command of the inner line of defenses about Richmond.

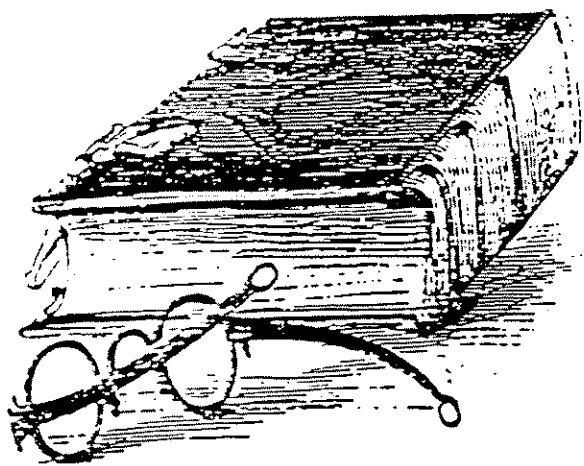
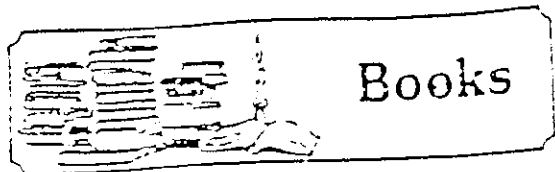
During the investment of that city and Petersburg by General Grant, General Lee, with Ewell, Anderson and a number of other officers and their staffs, were examining a new line of defense. Ewell, riding by Lee's side, was so good a horseman that his one leg was equal to most rider's two. Unfortunately his horse stumbled and down came both in an awful crash.

Ewell was picked up and despite no broken bones, was severely scratched, bruised, torn, and bloody, especially around the head and face. Lee instantly ordered him back to Richmond and to stay there until completely well.

In two or three hours Ewell was again on the lines, and such a sight! Painfully comical it was. He had gone to the hospital, where the bald head and face were dressed. He returned swathed in bandages from the crown of his head to his shoulders. Two little apertures for his piercing eyes and two small breathing spaces were all that was left open for the Lieutenant-General. Quite indifferent, however, to such mishaps, he was sharp about his work and lisping out directions as usual.

from Recollections of a Confederate Staff Officer
by G.Moxley Sorrel pp225
Illustrated by Stu Cramer

BOOK REVIEW



THE TOP TWENTY SONGS OF THE CIVIL WAR

1. "The Last Rose of Summer"
2. "Home, Sweet Home"
3. "Annie Laurie"
4. "Listen to the Mockingbird"
5. "Lorena"
6. "Dixie"
7. "The Bonnie Blue Flag"
8. "Glory, Hallelujah" and "John Brown's Body"
9. "God Save the South"
10. "Maryland, My Maryland"
11. "The Battle Cry of Freedom"
12. "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"
13. "We Are Coming, Father Abraham"
14. "All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight"
15. "The Vacant Chair"
16. "Weeping, Sad and Lonely or When This Cruel War is Over"
17. "Just Before the Battle Mother"
18. "Somebody's Darling"
19. "Tenting Tonight On the Old Camp Ground"
20. "Tramp! Tramp! Tramp! or the Prisoner's Hope"



Cover photo of Ulysses S. Grant from "Unconditional Surrender."

Good, unblinking look at the life of U.S. Grant

UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER: U.S. Grant and the Civil War. By Albert Marrin. Atheneum. 200 pp., \$19.95. Ages 8 & up.

By MARK GAMIN

"Unconditional Surrender" is a fine biography of the great soldier, poor president and good man, Ulysses S. Grant. Writer Albert Marrin delivers on both halves of his subtitle, and the book is also a good short history of the Civil War, at least of those parts in which Grant fought.

Grant was born in southwestern Ohio (Point Pleasant) in 1822. His father was a tanner.

Grant detested the bloody cowhides and rotting flesh of that occupation so, despite misgivings about a military career, he accepted appointment to West Point. There, through bureaucratic error, his name was transformed forever from "Hiram Ulysses" to "Ulysses S."

Grant served with distinction in the Mexican War, but later resigned from the Army under the disgrace of drunkenness. As Marrin shows, Grant was an abject failure in every nonmilitary endeavor he tried, with the one great exception of his marriage to Julia Dent. It was a perfect match.

With the onset of the Civil War, Grant volunteered. Early on, Union victories were few. When Grant took Forts Henry and Donelson in Tennessee in February 1862, he became a national hero, with the unconditional surrender he demanded at the latter quickly transformed into a nickname.

Grant was not a saint, and Marrin doesn't sugarcoat his flaws. His attitudes toward "the Jews as a class" and blacks, slaves and free, were in accord with common prejudices of the time. His generalship was sometimes flawed but he got the job done.

As Abraham Lincoln, after having suffered the timidity and lethargy of a series of incompetent Union generals, said of Grant, "He's the quietest little fellow you ever saw . . . The only evidence you have that he's in any place is that he makes things git!"

Marrin liberally supplements the text of his oversized picture book with black-and-white maps, engravings, photographs and paintings. Such illustrations help to convey a sense of the horrors of battles like Shiloh where, as one officer reported, "I heard a thud and some dark object whizzed over my shoulder. It was Captain Carson's head."

And the nature of the country's excruciating debate over slavery, and of the "peculiar institution" itself, are described intelligently and with sensitivity.

Grant Elementary School in Lakewood celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Perhaps it's hard to imagine naming a school after Grant today — we have more contemporary heroes now — but there are few more worthy. He was true, brave and quiet, with the fortitude to overcome bad fortune and his own defects. Those are qualities that anyone, young or old, can well emulate.

Gamin is a Cleveland lawyer and the father of a Grant School student.



OLLAPODRIDA

The lack of manpower in the Confederacy was becoming a vital issue by 1864. The Confederate Congress had passed a law forcing all able-bodied men up to the age of fifty to bear arms. This decree, together with the definition of able bodied men, led to some queer incidents under what was commonly called the Cradle and Grave Law. J.B. Jones, that Rebel War Clerk in Richmond, recorded in his diary that guards were everywhere on the streets of Richmond arresting pedestrians who, if they have no passes, are confined until they are marched to the front or released upon verification of exemption. His entry of September 30 records that "Today the guards arrested Judges John H. Regan and George C. Davis, Postmaster General and Attorney General, because neither of them were over fifty years old. Judge Regan grew angry and stormed" a bit until both were released on examination of their indentifications.

--- Rebel War Clerk's Diary by J.B. Jones

Upon reaching the crest of Missionary Ridge, Colonel Henry J. Angelbeck of the Forty-first Ohio saw a blazing Confederate caisson which he found to be filled with ammunition. He cut loose the wounded team of horses and pushed the fiery vehicle down the east slope after the retreating Confederates where it exploded.

--- Paths to Glory by Jim Miles pp95

General John Bell Hood's favorite horse, a roan named Jeff Davis, had been wounded in the leg early in the decisive battle at Gettysburg on the second day. The General was riding a different mount when he was wounded during that battle. Hood's wound cost him the use of his arm. Both he and his roan were again fit enough to fight that following September at Chickamauga. On the first day at Chickamauga, Jeff Davis was again wounded, and Hood borrowed another horse for the following day's battle. Riding into the fierce fight that next day, Hood was wounded in the right leg, which had to be amputated. Hood's troops became convinced that he was only safe when riding his own horse. The amputation was performed by Dr. T.G. Richardson, later president of the American Medical Association.

--- Paths to Glory by Jim Miles pp58



*The spirit
of Christmas...
Best wishes
Brian*



The Cleveland Civil War Round-Table
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