

# THE CHARGER

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. BOX 18900, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118

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DECEMBER 1995

338TH MEETING

VOL. 17 #4

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DATE: Wednesday, December 13, 1995

PLACE: The Hermit Club

SUBJECT: "The Fight Between the USS Monitor and CSS Virginia"

## William R. McGrath

**SPEAKER:** Bill McGrath was born and educated along the shores of Lake Erie in Cleveland, Ohio, where his love of art and history began. He graduated from Kent State University with a Fine and Professional Arts degree and then joined the U.S. Coast Guard, graduating from Officer's Training School at Yorktown, Virginia in 1969. After leaving the Coast Guard, McGrath spent the next seventeen years as a free-lance commercial artist and illustrator. Seven years ago, he began painting historical marine scenes from the Great Lakes area. This initial work brought him induction into the nationally known American Society of Marine Artists (ASMA) as an artist member.

For the last five years he has concentrated his efforts on Civil War naval subjects. His work depicts cities, harbor scenes, battles, and ships as no other artist has. "Both the Union and the Confederate navies had a tremendous impact on strategy and outcome of land campaigns and engagements throughout the war," explains McGrath. "My paintings accurately portray naval scenes that influenced many of these Civil War engagements."

He spends many hours meticulously researching the details that go into his canvases making sure they are historically correct. Since all the ships and most of the harbor scenes from the Civil War period no longer exist, it takes months and even years of preparation before his subjects appear on canvas. He talks with prominent authors and historians, visits nationally known museums and libraries, and gathers photographic and written reference material from a network of Civil War naval experts throughout the United States. A detail on a recent painting shows how research can change a finished work. McGrath states, "The reference photos I used showed a small building in the background. Due to the lack of detail, I made an educated guess that it was made of brick. Later microfilm research of an old newspaper stated the building was made of gray limestone. Although most people would never have noticed the painting was incorrect, I did, so I changed it." It is this dedication to detail and accuracy that make his paintings special. Because of his uncompromising authenticity and artistic skills, he was recently elected, by its members, to the prestigious Society of American Historical Artists (SAHA), an organization dedicated to presenting historical truth through art.

McGrath's work is in the permanent collections of the Alabama Department of Archives & History, Civil War Library Museum, Coastal Heritage Society, Ethyl Corporation, North Carolina Maritime Museum, Onondaga Historical Society, Richmond National Battlefield Park, The Confederate Naval Historical Society, Inc., The Confederate Naval Museum, The David Taylor Research Center, The Georgia Historical Society, The Great Lakes Historical Society, The Hampton Roads Naval Museum, The Museum of American History - Smithsonian Institution, The Museum of the Confederacy, The Naval War College Museum, The Fort-O-Plymouth Museum, The Portsmouth Museums, The U.S. Army Military History Institute, The Western Reserve Historical Society, and Vicksburg National Military Park.

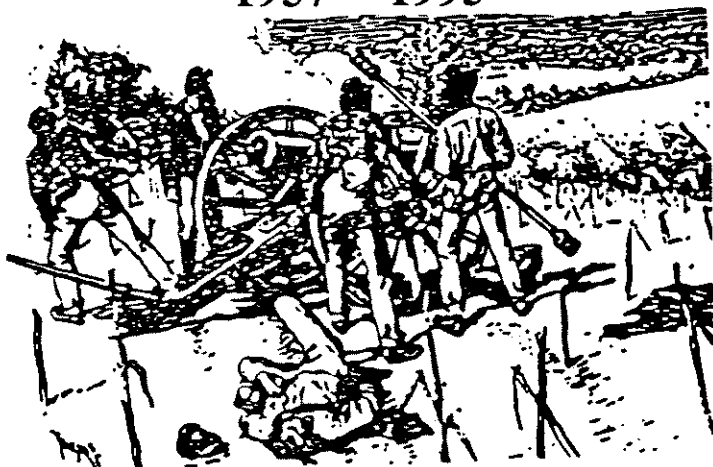
With so many respected Civil War naval authors, historians, institutions, and museums appreciating and collecting his work, it is certain that Bill McGrath will continue to portray our naval heritage with vivid color, unquestionable honesty, and historical accuracy.

TIME: Drinks 6PM Dinner 7PM

RESERVATIONS: Please call JAC Business Communications  
at 861-5588. RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!

# CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

1957 \* 1995



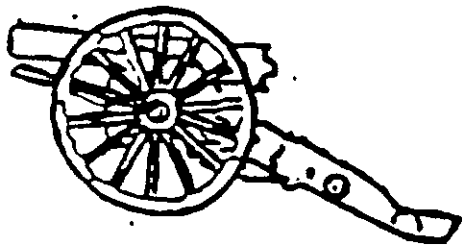
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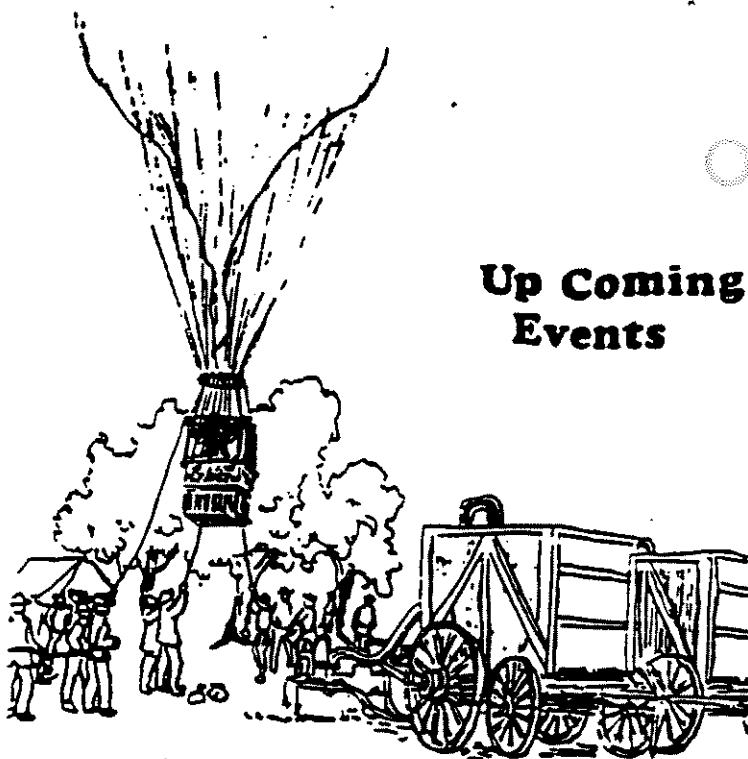


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YOUR NEW ADDRESS...



## Preserve Your Battlefields

## Up Coming Events



## NEXT YEAR'S SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

- January 10 - Quiz - prepared by  
Kevin Casey
- February 14 - Hugh Ernhardt -  
"Lincoln"
- March 13 - Panel Discussion -  
"Opportunities Lost"  
Bob Boyda moderator
- April 10 - Jeffery Wert -  
"Custer"
- May 8 - Ladies Night -  
William A. Young, Jr.  
"Rev. Findley at  
Pickett's Charge"

## John Cullen, CCWRT Founder, Turns 90

Most of us in The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable have never met John Cullen, yet we benefit from his vision of this venerable group as he foresaw it 39 years ago. Along with nine other prominent men in the Cleveland community, including Charles Clarke, Jr. and Dr. William Schlesinger, they first discussed the idea of a Roundtable in 1956. The idea was simple: organize a group of people who have a common interest in The Civil War, have a monthly dinner meeting, followed by a speaker, and hold it all together with a lot of fellowship. There would be evolving leadership, meaning that by tacit agreement, the presidency would be a one term position. There was also an agreement that there would not really be elections per se, as no member would be a winner or a loser to another.

So, what does John Cullen think of what we are doing now, and how is he personally doing? First of all, he lives on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, so I guess that in making a decision about where to retire he did pretty well! I called him recently to get an update. John was born October 28, 1905, "One day after Teddy Roosevelt's birthday", as John put it. He is doing reasonably well physically, except that in September of 1994, he broke his hip, which put him out of commission for several weeks. Now he is doing better and is back to driving his car. His attempt to organize a Roundtable on Hilton Head, which he told me about in the spring of 1994, was put on hold due to his injury. I am sure that he will get back to the idea soon. Who else on Hilton Head would have the experience to do it?

John still keeps in touch with Dr. Schlesinger regularly, as they were "Movers and shakers" of The CCWRT for many years. Their friendship is one of the memories they treasure most and attribute their activity in this group as one of the reasons for this bond. John asked me how things were going currently. I told him about our most recent meeting, the good-natured kidding, the fieldtrip to Vicksburg, the talk by General "Jet" on R.E. Lee and the ensuing discussion. John's reply? Sounds like things are going well, pretty much the way we've always done it.

At the last meeting, General "JET" spoke to the integrity of Robert E. Lee. Great movements usually have great leaders with integrity. One of the reasons why The CCWRT was successful from the beginning and is still strong to this day was, the integrity of John Cullen. I can attest to John's integrity, as can Dr. Schlesinger and Mr. Clarke, when I tell you why he could not attend our "Founders Night" in 1994. Of course, John wanted to be here. I discussed the program with him and he had his input. But he could not attend because he was a care-giver to his wife. So, even though he couldn't be here in person, we had his heart and mind with us; I can think of at least two of his ideas I incorporated into the program. I guess that's one definition of integrity.

So, John as you read this article, keep in mind, that while most of us have not met you, we feel that we know you. Best wishes and happy birthday. Bob Battisti

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE!



At last month's meeting I informed the Round-table of an exciting offer from Ryan Place Publishers. They are offering a 20% discount on their Civil War Campaigns and Commanders series of books. These books are paperbound, @ 130 pages, and authored by Civil War historians from across the country. This is a good series and well worth the price. Your editor is going to send in one order for the whole group to qualify for the discount. If you are interested in ordering any or all of the books listed on the brochure in this issue of the "Charger", please tear out or copy the order form, fill it out completely, and bring it along with your check (minus the 20% discount) to the next meeting. Please make the checks payable to : Brian D. Kowell. I will deposit them and cut just one check to cover all the orders. I will wait until after the January meeting to send in the order so you have a month to decide. I will have a copy of one of the books at the next meeting for your perusal.

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) is having a membership drive. This is an outstanding preservation organization headed by Dennis E. Frye, Historian at Harper's Ferry National Military Park. The membership fee is \$30.00 and is tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law. Your editor will have a sign up sheet available at the December and January meetings for those who wish to join. You can pay by check (made payable to APCWS) or charge it to your VISA/MASTERCARD. If you care at all about preserving Civil War Battlefields then this is the organization to support. Please see Brian Kowell at the next meeting and the flyer on the following page.

Please note the enclosed flyer from John Moore concerning our Annual High School Civil War Essay contest. If you know any high school administrator or history teachers please copy this flyer and make the aware of this opportunity for their students. Your support at your local school level help to make this program a success. Thank you.

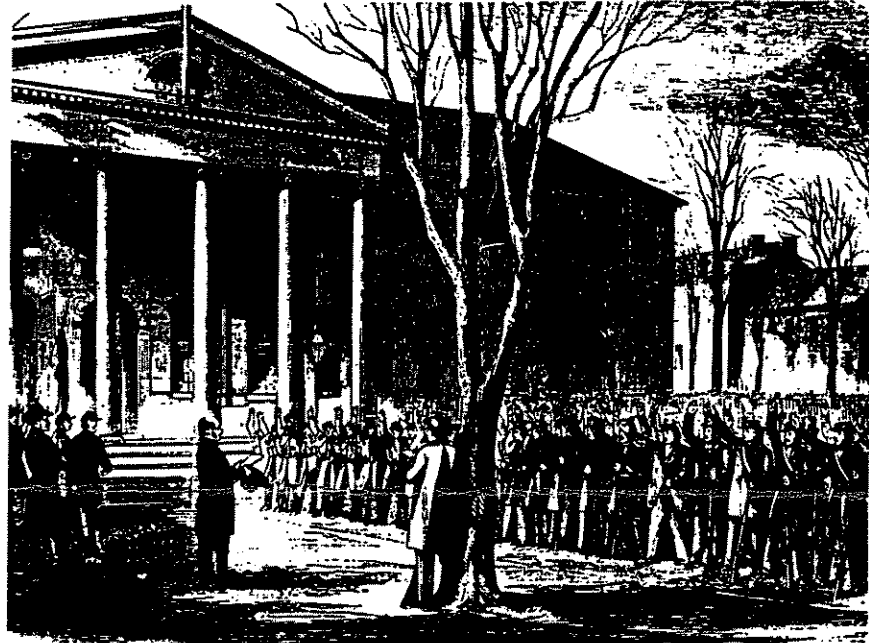
# NOW IS THE TIME TO ENLIST IN THE CAUSE!



**Actively Recruiting those Able-bodied Persons who seek to  
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Your service is needed to swell the ranks of membership in the APCWS, the country's oldest and largest Civil War Land Preservation Trust.

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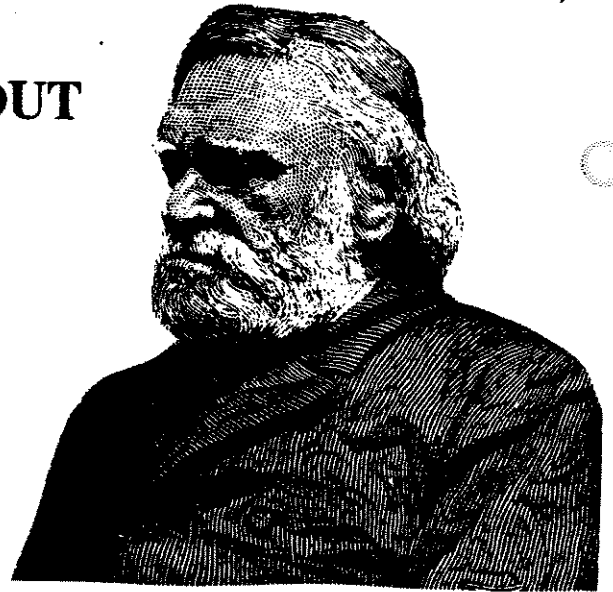
All who wish to receive the munificent bounties offered through APCWS, can have the opportunity by contacting Recruiting Officer:

**Dennis E. Frye  
Col. Commanding**

# MORE THAN YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT

## Josiah Tattnall

1795-1871



Born near Savannah in 1795 and educated in England, Josiah Tattnall went to sea in 1812 as a midshipman in the United States Navy. His service included participation in the War of 1812, in the action against Algiers, and in the Mexican War. In 1859 he generated a minor diplomatic incident by assisting a British fleet in China and thus violating American neutrality.

During the secession crisis Tattnall resigned his United States commission on February 20, 1861 and accepted appointment as senior flag officer in the Georgia navy. Soon after, Tattnall became a captain in the Confederate service and assumed the duties of defending the Georgia-South Carolina coast. Lacking ships, guns, and men, Tattnall could manage only feeble resistance before the Union capture of Port Royal in November 1861.

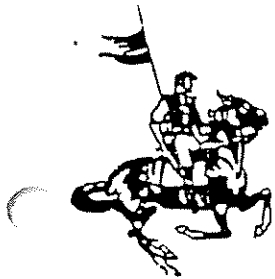
Tattnall, in March of 1862, succeeded the wounded Franklin Buchanan in command of the naval defenses of Virginia and of the ironclad *Virginia* (*Merrimack*). During April 1862 he attempted to lure the Union ironclad *Monitor* into combat under circumstances favorable to the *Virginia*. The result was a long-range sparring match in which neither vessel renewed the duel of March 9. When Norfolk fell to Federal forces on May 9, the *Virginia* became a ship without a port. Trying unsuccessfully to lighten the ship enough to retire up the James River, Tattnall on May 11 ordered the ironclad blown up to prevent her capture.

Eventually exonerated by a court-martial for his decision to destroy the *Virginia*, Tattnall returned to command in Savannah. There he was able to deny the Savannah River to the Federals, but little else.

Tattnall left Savannah when the city fell to William T. Sherman's army in December 1864 and served in Joseph E. Johnston's army until Johnston surrendered.

After the war Tattnall lived in Nova Scotia for four years, then returned to Savannah as inspector of the port. He died in 1871.

by Emory M. Thomas



## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

TO: Northeast Ohio:

Social Studies Teachers Grades 9-12

Social Studies Department Heads

High School Principals

FR: John W. Moore

RE: Civil War essay contest

DA: November 3, 1995

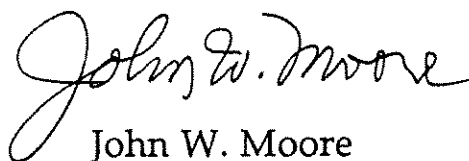
As you can see from the flyer on the reverse side of this sheet, the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable is sponsoring its Third Annual essay contest to promote interest in the American Civil War.

Last year's contest brought forth many excellent entries. The winner was Nicholas Mamone of Chanel High School. His excellent essay, along with those of the other entries, established the fact that the students of today are knowledgeable and capable of performing at outstanding levels. As leaders in your high school, please encourage your students to take part in this year's contest.

I have enclosed three copies of the rules and encourage you to publicize the contest widely.

In closing, let me thank you for last year's contest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W. Moore".

John W. Moore

JWM/bt  
Enc.



## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

TO: Social Studies Teachers Grades 9-12  
TOPIC: Essay Contest

The Roundtable is sponsoring its Third Annual Essay Contest to promote interest in the Civil War. Teachers, please encourage your students to take part. Contestants should do the following:

1. Write an original essay of 500 to 1,000 words addressing the topic of, "Causes of the Civil War."
2. Attach a cover sheet which states the student's name, address, home phone number, high school, social studies teacher's name, and work phone number.
3. Send essays to John W. Moore, Mayfield City Schools, 784 SOM Center Road, Mayfield Village, Ohio 44143, by March 1, 1996.

All entries will be judged on the basis of content and form by members of the Roundtable. The winner, his/her teacher, and parents will be honored at a dinner on April 10, 1996. The winner will also receive a plaque and a \$100 Savings Bond.

Civil War Roundtables are formed to study the American Civil War. The Cleveland Roundtable, founded in 1957, is made up of approximately 100 members from Northeast Ohio who meet monthly from September through June to conduct their study. The study includes sharing, listening to speakers, and an annual field trip to one of the Civil War battlefields.

Feel free to produce additional copies of this notice.



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## BATTLE IN THE WILDERNESS: GRANT MEETS LEE

Spring, 1864...the Civil War's two greatest generals face each other in the field of battle. Ulysses S. Grant spurs his Army of the Potomac across the Rapidan River as part of a grand offensive plan designed to crush the Confederacy in a single blow. Awaiting Grant and his Federals is the Army of Northern Virginia under the command of Robert E. Lee. For two days the great armies wrestle amid the nightmare landscape that would give this bloody battle its name.

An absorbing and detailed account of one of the greatest battles between Grant and Lee, vividly depicted by a distinguished historian.

Grady McWhiney is the author of a dozen books and more than eighty articles. Dr. McWhiney is Lyndon Baines Johnson Professor of History at Texas Christian University.

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## TEXANS IN THE CONFEDERATE CAVALRY

Texas military heritage, born in a revolution and maturing in the Mexican-American War, shaped all who lived there. Years later, a handful of veterans and a generation raised in this heritage would make a colorful and heroic contribution as unique and independent "horse soldiers." This is the story of their battles and skirmishes where the often outnumbered cavalry, through bravado or sheer madness, frequently helped turned the tide of battle...from Colonel Parsons' assault on the Federal Navy during the Red River Campaign of 1864, to Terry's Rangers fighting against the superior Union Forces with the Army of Tennessee, it's all here.

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Anne J. Bailey, author of *Between the Enemy and Texas: Parson's Texas Cavalry in the Civil War*, serves as Editor of the *Newsletter of the Society of Civil War Historians*. Dr. Bailey is Professor of History at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

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## THE BATTLE OF THE CRATER

July, 1864. Grant's siege of Petersburg is at a standstill. A Federal engineering corps made up mostly of Pennsylvania coal miners, under the command of Lt. Colonel Henry Pleasants, secures the reluctant approval of Generals Burnside, Meade, and ultimately, Grant to pursue an outrageous strategy: tunnel under the Confederate trenches, and blow up the Confederate troops. The 586 foot tunnel is completed in a month. Four tons of powder explode in a devastating surprise attack, killing hundreds of Confederate soldiers. Burnside, fearing bad publicity, substitutes white soldiers for the division of black troops specially trained for the assault. Ill prepared, and without leadership, they charge through Confederate lines and swarm around and incredibly, into the 170 foot crater, only to be trapped and slaughtered in a furious counter charge.

An absorbing story of extraordinary bravery and incompetent leadership based on first-person accounts.

Jeff Kinard has taught at Elon College, Guilford Community College, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Texas Christian University, where he is a doctoral candidate.

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## LONGSTREET AND THE WEST: A MONUMENTAL FAILURE

It is September, 1863. General James Longstreet and his Corps ride the rails westward to join General Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee in its efforts to halt the advance of the Union Army. Longstreet, a favorite of General Robert E. Lee, fully expects to replace Bragg as commander of the Western Army. Despite assurances to Longstreet from prominent Confederates, President Davis does not remove Bragg to make way for Longstreet. Longstreet's keen disappointment and unsoldierly behavior lead to disaster for the Army itself. Upon separation from Bragg's Army, he fails spectacularly at Knoxville, proving to all his inability to function in an independent command.

An objective and realistic look at a Confederate commander by a respected historian.

Dr. Judith Hallock has been an educator for 33 years and is the author of *Braxton Bragg and the Confederate Defeat, Volume II* and numerous journal articles. She has contributed to the *Encyclopedia of the Confederacy* and to *The American Civil War: Handbook of Research and Literature*. She holds a Ph.D. in history from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

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## DEATH IN SEPTEMBER: THE ANTIETAM CAMPAIGN

Early September, 1862... General Robert E. Lee crosses the Potomac and invades the North for the first time during the Civil War. Major General George B. McClellan moves northwest through Maryland in pursuit of the Confederates. To capture the Union garrison at Harper's Ferry, the Confederate commander boldly divides his army. Meanwhile is one of the greatest intelligence coups of the war, two Federal soldiers find a copy of Lee's orders. Lee's men are badly outnumbered, but McClellan fritters away his advantage in a series of piecemeal attacks. Both sides suffer horrific casualties, and the Battle of Antietam ends in a gruesome stalemate.

A momentous battle, artfully recreated by an important military historian.

Perry D. Jamieson is author of *Crossing the Deadly Ground: United States Army Tactics 1865-1899*. Dr. Jamieson is an historian for the Air Force History Support Office in Washington, D.C.

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Maps & Photographs

## SAM BELL MAXEY AND THE CONFEDERATE INDIANS

General Maxey, dignified, articulate, and confident, arrives in Indian Territory in 1863 to assume command of a diverse and motley army of Indians. The troops are in disarray; discouraged by a series of battlefield setbacks. Maxey calls upon all of his leadership skills to win the confidence of these soldiers. Desperately he fights to secure munitions and provisions. All the while he struggles with his own field commander, the able and ambitious Douglas Cooper, who is eager to supplant him. Yet, Maxey succeeds in molding this "army without infantry" into an effective fighting force that plays an important role in the Red River and Arkansas Campaigns.

A little known story, dramatically told by a distinguished author.

A distinguished journalist and editor, John C. Waugh's most recent book, *The Class of 1846: From West Point to Appomattox* was a History Book Club Main Selection and a Book-Of-The-Month Club Alternate Selection in 1994.

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## THE SALTVILLE MASSACRE

In October 1864, in the mountains of southwest Virginia, one of the most brutal acts of the Civil War occurs. Brigadier General Stephen Burbridge launches a raid to capture Saltville. Included among his forces is the 5th U.S. Colored Cavalry. Repeated Federal attacks are repulsed by Confederate forces under the command of General John S. Williams. As the sun begins to set, Burbridge pulls his troops from the field, leaving many wounded. In the morning, Confederate troops, including a company of ruffians under the command of Captain Champ Ferguson, advance over the battleground seeking out and killing the wounded black soldiers. What starts as a small but intense mountain battle degenerates into a no-quarter, racial massacre.

A detailed account from eyewitness reports of the most blatant battlefield atrocity of the war.

Thomas Mays holds an M.A. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He has taught at Roanoke College, New River Community College, and Texas Christian University, where he is a doctoral candidate.

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## THE CIVIL WAR CROSSWORD PUZZLE BOOK

Devoted solely to Civil War topics, the puzzles cover all of the major Civil War battles from Fort Sumter to Appomattox Court House, and related topics such as Civil War naval action, camp life and Lincoln's assassination. Answers are derived not only from battles and leaders, but from terrain features, equipment, nicknames, and strategies. Clues are sufficiently rigorous to challenge the enthusiast as well as the general reader.

A fascinating book that will both challenge and entertain.

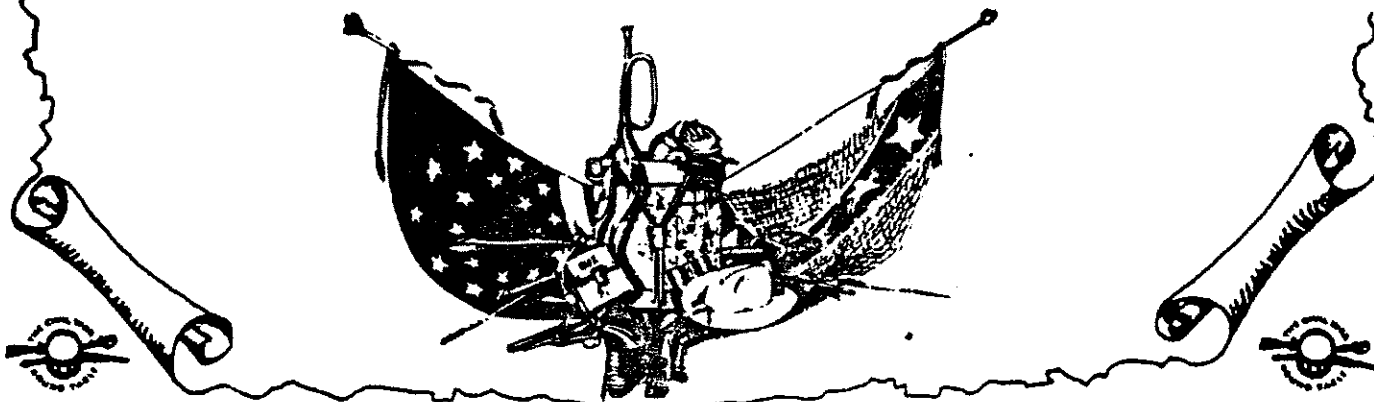
Tim Beady is a history instructor and a game designer. His books include *Leaders in American History: Fifty Biographical Crossword Puzzles* (1985), *Crossword Puzzle Maps in U.S. History* (1987), and *American History Silhouette Puzzles* (1994); he also developed two card games based on U.S. Presidents, which were published by the Smithsonian in 1991.

1-886661-08-1 100 pages Paperback \$9.95 Illustrations

# PRESERVATION REPORT

*This is Your Invitation to Join Civil War Round Table Associates—*

## *Civil War Round Table Associates*



Jerry L. Russell, National Chairman, P.O. Box 7388 (AC 501/225-3996), Little Rock, Arkansas 72217

### What is Civil War Round Table Associates?

It is a national "umbrella" organization, formed in 1968 to provide an informational clearing house for all Civil War Round Table groups, individual buffs, and related organizations, anyone interested in contemporary events inspired by the study of Civil War history.

The first "Civil War Round Table" was formed in Chicago, Illinois, in 1940; it remains The Civil War Round Table. During the Centennial years, 1961-65, there were around 200 Round Tables, but that number dropped off to around 60 at the beginning of the 1970's. Within the past half dozen years or so, there has been a rebirth of interest; there are now over 100 RT's, at least a couple of dozen of those formed with the advice, assistance, and inspiration of this organization. All RT's are locally autonomous and run their own affairs; most belong to our group.

Civil War Round Table Associates publishes a newsletter, *CWRT Digest*, devoted to news of RT's and historic preservation; it is, in fact, the only publication that we know of concerned with the protection and preservation of Civil War historic sites. We have won significant preservation battles at Manassas, Chickamauga-Chattanooga, Gettysburg, Petersburg, Prairie Grove, Champion Hill, Antietam, Ken-  
saw Mountain, and others, including the Saratoga battlefield of Revolutionary War interest. And we continue to fight! But the more members we have, the more effectively we fight.

We believe that interested citizens' groups must become more involved in historic preservation battles or much of our past and our heritage will be irretrievably lost. The history of the Civil War is a vital part of our national heritage and it must be preserved and studied.

Each year, our organization holds a national meeting, the annual Congress of Civil War Round Tables. Our 13th annual National Congress will be held October 1-3, 1987, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. This meeting will offer an array of outstanding speakers and two days of battlefield tours, covering this, the Civil War's most famous battle, led by Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian of the National Park Service.

Delegates come from all over the U.S. (and even overseas) for a memorable (and fun) weekend. And over 50% come back year after year.

We also sponsor other Civil War—study gatherings in different locations throughout the year.

Battlefield preservation is an important part of our Congress agenda. Our National Battlefield Preservation Chairman, Dr. Robert Meinhard, now retired as a history professor from Winona State (MN) University, is a nationally recognized authority on Civil War historic site preservation, who also serves in that capacity for the National Parks & Conservation Association. He helps us keep our members informed about threats to sites, and what we as individuals can do to help.

A membership application can be found at the bottom of this sheet. We hope you will join our efforts to promote the study of Civil War history and preserve its significant sites.

**WE WHO STUDY MUST ALSO STRIVE TO SAVE!!!**

## *Civil War Round Table Associates*

(FOUNDED 1968/Jerry L. Russell, National Chairman)

Yes, I want to join the national fight for battlefield preservation. Enclosed find my check or money order to pay for a one-year membership in Civil War Round Table Associates, which entitles me to a one-year subscriptions to *Civil War Round Table Digest*, plus a free Roster of CWRT's & Related Organization. And, I can run free classified advertising in the *Digest*.

**WE WHO STUDY MUST ALSO STRIVE TO SAVE!**

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP DESIRED: \_\_\_\_\_ Individual, \$12.50/ \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining, \$20/ \_\_\_\_\_ Contributing, \$50/ \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member, \$100/New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

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CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATES, POST OFFICE BOX 7388, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72217

# OSU law building named in Cleveland lawyer's honor

PLAIN DEALER BUREAU

COLUMBUS — Fifty-one years after he graduated, Cleveland lawyer John Deaver Drinko was honored yesterday with a permanent namesake at Ohio State University.

The law building was named in honor of Drinko, a partner in Baker & Hostetler, during a dedication ceremony.

Drinko received his law degree from Ohio State's College of Law in 1944. He joined Baker & Hostetler in 1945 and rose quickly through the ranks to managing partner.

"We are very pleased to join Ohio State in recognizing John Drinko for his outstanding contributions to higher learning and his extraordinary commitment to legal education," said John Burlingame, executive partner of Baker & Hostetler.

Drinko established the first endowed chair at Marshall University in West Virginia, where he received his undergraduate de-

gree.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, have established 15 endowed chairs at various colleges and universities, including two at Ohio State.

OSU officials attribute much of the success of the college's \$15 million Centennial Campaign to his efforts and personal contributions.

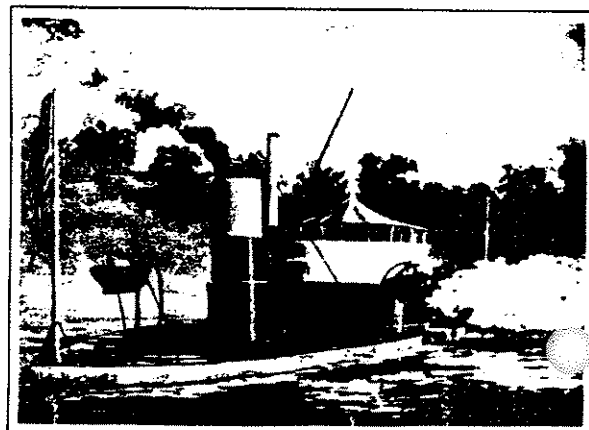
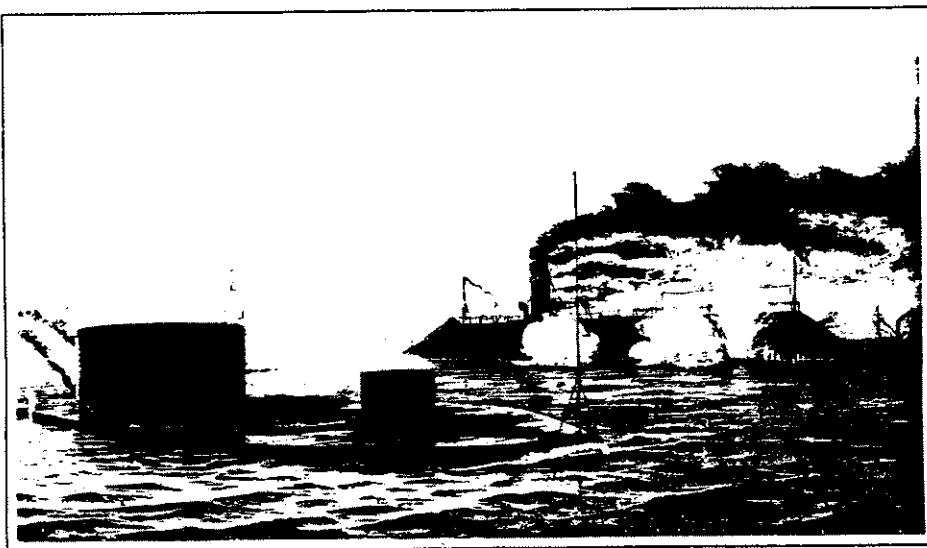
Of the \$15 million raised, Drinko was responsible for \$6 million through both his personal contributions and support he secured from other sources.

"John Drinko embodies the values, dreams, and aspirations of this university and the College of Law — a college that he helped make one of the nation's finest," said Gregory Williams, dean of the College of Law. "We are doing more than putting a plaque on a building. We are telling the world what we stand for through the fine example set by Mr. Drinko."



## IT'S A FACT ABOUT CLEVELAND

**T**he Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Public Square honors 6,000 Union troops from Cuyahoga County who served in the Civil War. The square base is topped by a 125-foot granite shaft and a 15-foot statue of Liberty. Heroic bronze sculptures on each side represent the infantry, artillery, cavalry and navy. A memorial room in the base has relief panels depicting war-time events. President McKinley spoke at the dedication in 1894.



**"U.S.S. SAUGUS"**  
Firing on Confederate Ironclads  
in the James River, June 21, 1864

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS

PLEASE CALL 861-5588

## SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



Captain Edward C. Culp of the 25th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, a member of the staff of Brigadier General Adelbert Ames, was one of the many men of the Army of the Potomac's First and Eleventh Corps to find themselves retreating through the streets of Gettysburg on the afternoon of July 1, 1863. Culp found himself in a street between a jam of troops blocking the street in his front and the Confederates pressing him from the rear. Not wishing to abandon his horse and flee on foot, he rode onto the porch of a house, pushed open the front door, and rode into the sitting room, where a frightened family sat. He asked them if there was an alley that he could reach, and a teenaged girl beckoned for him to follow her. She led Culp and his horse through the house to a back door and out into a fenced yard. When she started to remove some bars to let him out, he told her to hurry back into the house, jumped his horse over the fence, and saved himself "a trip to Libby Prison".

from Gettysburg: Culps Hill and Cemetary Hill by Harry  
W. Pfanz pp 48  
illustrated by Stu Cramer



Confederate Admiral Franklin Buchanan constantly desired combat service. "Old Buck", as he was known, once said about the new ironclad Confederate warships that "Everybody has taken it into their heads that one ship can whip a dozen, and if the trial is not made, we who are in her are damned for life." Buchanan engaged in battle only two days during the Civil War and was wounded both times; once while commanding the C.S.S. Virginia and once at Mobile Bay commanding the C.S.S. Tennessee.

Lieutenant Isaac N. Brown commanded the Arkansas, and on July 14, 1862, he and his 200-man crew set out to steam down the Yazoo to the Mississippi and blast their way through 23 Yankee warships to join the Confederates defending Vicksburg. While running the gauntlet, a careless Rebel gunner on board the Arkansas stuck his head out a gun port to view the action, and had it taken off by a Yankee cannonball. The gunner's body fell back into the ship at the feet of his brother.

On February 27, 1863, the C.S.S. Nashville ran aground in the Ogeechee River near Fort McAllister, Georgia. Upon discovering this fact the Union blockading fleet sent the brand-new monitor Montauk to destroy the stranded Confederate vessel. The next day the Montauk came upon the Nashville still aground and in only 20 minutes set the Nashville on fire. As the Confederate vessel burned, the Montauk turned in smug triumph and promptly struck a torpedo. She was saved only by being quickly beached.

The U.S.S. Michigan, a side-wheel steamer, was the U.S. Navy's first iron-hulled warship. Constructed in 1843 in Pittsburgh, Pa., she was taken apart to be shipped to Erie, Pa., where she was re-assembled and put into service patrolling for smugglers on the Great Lakes. The 163-foot-long warship had a beam of 27 feet and a draft of 9 feet, carried a crew of 88 men, and was powered by a 365-horsepower engine that could produce 8 knots. The three-masted steamer could also be powered by wind and at different times in her career was rigged as a bark or a schooner. With the outbreak of the Civil War the Michigan was the only Union warship on the Great Lakes. In November, 1862, the 14-gun Michigan was hastily called to Lake Erie's Johnson's Island prison camp where her presence helped to thwart a Rebel naval officer's plot to free the prisoners. The Michigan's was commanded by Captain John C. Carter at the time. In 1905 the ship's name was changed to the U.S.S. Wolverine so that a new warship could be named the Michigan. She was decommissioned in 1912 and then served with the Pennsylvania Naval Militia until 1923. In 1949, 106 years after construction, she was sold for scrap.

# *From The President's Desk*

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Season's greetings to all. We will be meeting on Wednesday the 13th to hear one of our own, Bill McGrath, speak about the naval aspects of the Civil War. Bill is, as all of us know, an accomplished Civil War artist and will bring to his presentation his years of research from his work.

Also, Bill has donated a print to be raffled off at the May, 1996, meeting. There will be a separate collection for this print each month until the May meeting with the winner being drawn in May. You may purchase tickets each month for the print. Of course, the more tickets you buy the better your chances are. I purchased a Civil War print of Bill's at the auction we had a couple years ago, the Monitor and the Merrimack, and I have had it matted and framed and it is a wonderful addition to my office.

We need to get everyone's dues in so that we may produce an updated roster to be distributed in January. We are going to close off the roster as of the middle of this month so that we can have it prepared and published by JAC Business Communications.

Please get your diner reservations (prime rib) in by December 11 to Ann Caputo at 861-5588 to hear Bill and I look forward to seeing everybody on the 13th.

John D. Sutula



**The Cleveland Civil War Round-Table**  
**P.O. Box 18900**  
**Cleveland, Ohio 44118-0900**



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