



# The Charger

## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. Box 5786, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

January 1989

276th Meeting

Vol.10 #5

Date: Tuesday, January 10, 1989

Place: The Hermit Club

Subject: Annual Civil War Quiz  
Once again, Tim Beatty, Quizmaster par excellence, has gleaned thousands of tomes and compiled a battery of questions to test those scholars of Civil War lore. This years format will not have set teams but instead offer everyone-veterans and fresh fish-a chance to test their knowledge. Some have compared this to being in combat. Our annual quiz-night usually provides light-hearted fun for all so make your reservations early.

Time: Drinks 6PM Dinner 7PM Questions 8PM Answers ?

Reservations: Please call Neil Glaser at 283-0262 ASAP.  
Reservations are a MUST!

**IMPORTANT!**



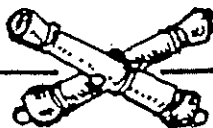
### TREASURER'S REPORT

40% of our current members have yet to pay their 1988-89 dues. Funds in our depleted treasury are needed to cover expenses for our speakers and for printing and mailing. Please pay your dues NOW. Make checks payable to the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. The amount is \$30.00 (\$15.00 for out of town members). Your dues are expected before January 1, 1989. A list of delinquent members will be posted in the "Charger" after the January meeting.

mail to: P.O. Box 5786,  
Cleveland, Ohio 44101

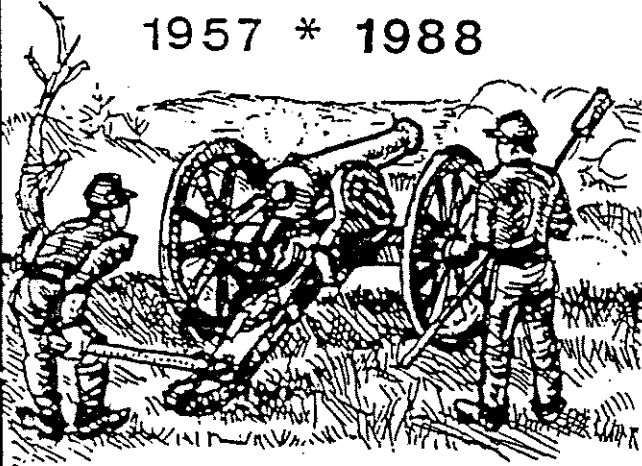
**DO IT TODAY!!**





# CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

1957 \* 1988



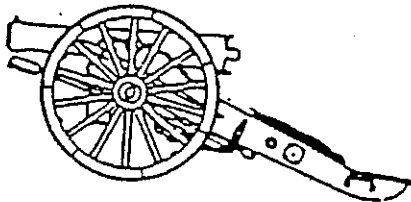
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PLEASE LET US KNOW  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE  
YOUR NEW ADDRESS...



**Preserve Your Battlefields!**

## Last Month's Meeting

It was a pleasure to welcome back to our Round-table our old friend and a favorite fieldtrip guide Ed Bearss. Ed's talk last month centered on the largest cavalry battle to take place in the Civil War - the battle of Brandy Station.

Fought on June 9, 1863, the battle pitted JEB Stuart's invincibles against the much improved troopers of Alfred Pleasonton. Unlike most cavalry battles that were later fought during the war, most of the fighting done on Fleetwood Heights was done from horseback and not dismounted.

The Federal's two-pronged attack completely surprised the over-confident Stuart and was the turning point in his career. The battle was a draw but as one trooper later said, "... it made the Union cavalry." The negative publicity he received in the newspapers rankled the vain Stuart and probably led him to make the unfortunate decision to ride around the Union army during the Gettysburg campaign in a fruitless attempt to regain some lost glory.

**NEW MEMBER**

**GEORGE  
ROBINSON**

# Events of 125 Years Ago

JANUARY 1864

- JAN 1 New Year's Day ceremonies took place at the White House in Washington and Richmond.
- JAN 2 In New York the price of gold rose steadily.
- JAN 4 President Davis, endeavoring to obtain food supplies for the Army of Northern Virginia, said to Gen. Lee, "the emergency justifies impressment..."
- JAN 5 President Lincoln urged Congress to continue the payment of \$300 bounty on volunteers.
- JAN 8 In Richmond a reception honored Gen. John Hunt Morgan.
- JAN 10 Federal cavalry under Gen. William Sooy Smith operated from Memphis to Meridan, Miss. until Jan. 25, when they were finally driven back by Gen. Forrest.
- JAN 11 Senator John B. Henderson of Missouri proposed a joint resolution in the US Senate abolishing slavery throughout the United States by amendment (the thirteenth) to the Constitution.
- JAN 18 Opposition to the Confederate Conscription law continued to develop in Western North Carolina.
- JAN 21 Distillation of whiskey was forbidden in the Federal Department of the Ohio, due to the scarcity of grain.
- JAN 25 Fire destroyed Confederate hospital buildings at Camp Winder near Richmond.

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



Concerning P.H. Bradford's tombstone, your Editor received a kind letter with the correct answer from Ms Zetna Andrews of the Jackson, Mississippi Round-table. She related in her letter the tale of why Union stones are rounded at the top and Confederate stones come to a point. At the war's end a controversy arose whether to make all the stones alike with rounded tops. One unreconstructed Rebel was heard to have said, "Hell, no! Keep 'em pointed on top so no damn Yankee can sit on them."

# 4 Area men locate Civil War burial site

In mid-August the Smithsonian Institute and the National Parks Service announced the extraordinary discovery of long forgotten graves of four Union soldiers killed in 1862 at Antietam—the war's bloodiest single day. The discovery was made by three local relic collectors, Dave Bebenroth and Mal Brooker of Strongsville and George Rees of Middleburg Heights.

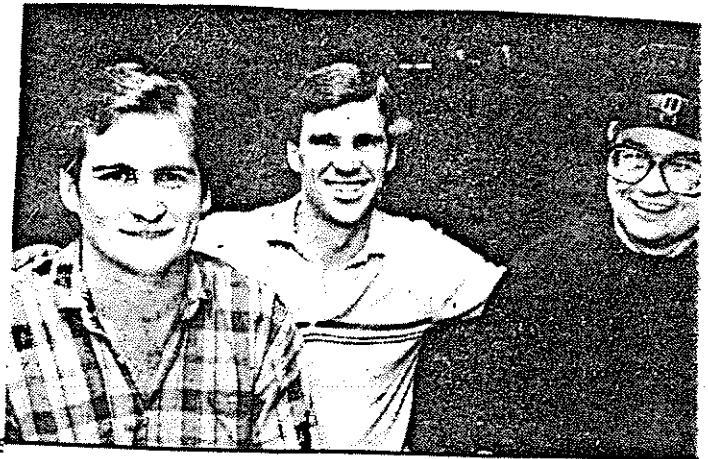
George Rees contacted Dennis Frye after he spoke before our Roundtable last April and Dennis was influential in getting Stephen Potter, an archeologist for the Park Service and Douglas Owsley, an anthropologist for the Smithsonian to confirm the discovery.

Evidence found in the graves (located near the Bloody Lane) indicates the four soldiers were members of the Irish Brigade (the 63rd, 69th, 88th New York and 29th Massachusetts regiments) led by Brig. Gen. Thomas F. Meagher. Potter guessed that all four soldiers were privates in the 63rd or 69th New York, which suffered more than 60 percent casualties at Antietam.

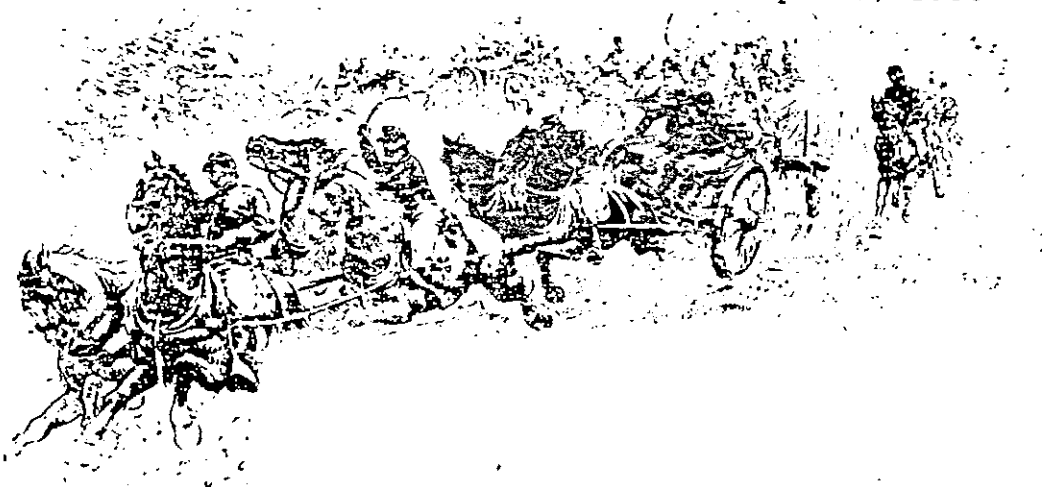
During this segment of the battle, the Irish tried to smash through the 2nd, 4th, 14th and 30th North Carolina regiments which were posted in the sunken road. The Tarheels destroyed the Irish with massed volleys at 80 yards.

The graves contained part of the soldier's skeletons, a substantial number of Catholic artifacts—a crucifix, part of a rosary and religious medals—an Irish clay tobacco pipe and the unique buck-and-ball ammunition that the Irish brigade used. The uniforms had completely disintegrated, except for buttons worn only by New York regiments.

—Sun Star Sept. 8, 1988



Nationally recognized for their historic find are (from left) Mal Brooker, Dave Bebenroth and Dave Rees.



# More Than You Ever Wanted To Know About

## CSS David

Captain Francis D. Lee, Corps of Engineers, CSA was an early advocate of use of torpedo rams to break the Federal blockade. Lee so favorably impressed General PGT Beauregard, commander at Charleston, S.C. that in November 1862 Beauregard gave his endorsement for their construction.

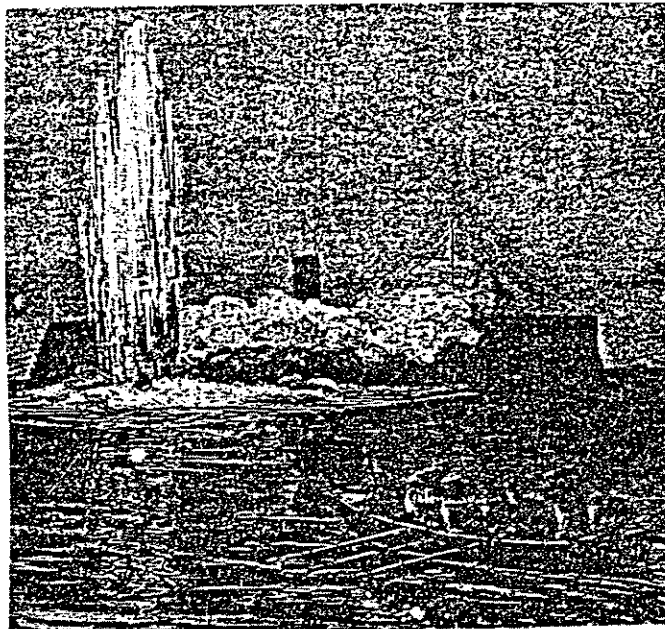
One such torpedo ram was the CSS David. It was privately funded and built at Stony landing, 30 miles up the Cooper River from Charleston. It was designed by Dr. St. Julien Ravenel and built with the help of D.C. Ebaugh, head mechanic, Samuel Easterby, master carpenter and John Chaulk in charge of installation of machinery. The labor was done by Negro plantation heads.

The 54 foot long, 5 6/10 feet wide cigar-shaped iron hulled steamer was operated by a crew of four and capable of a maximum speed of seven knots. The boiler was forward and the engine, taken from the Northeastern Railroad, was aft. Her armament consisted of a torpedo (with up to 190 pounds of explosives) connected to a ten foot span at the bow. When ready for action it was so well submerged that nothing was visible except her stunt smoke stack and hatch.

When ready for action the David was taken to Charleston on flatcars and launched at Atlantic Wharf at the east end of Broad St. She floated as designed—deeply submerged, with only her funnel and a few inches amidships showing. At the suggestion of his wife, Dr. Ravenel named her "David."

The David was placed under command of Lt. W.T. Glassell and James H. Tomb volunteered as assistant engineer. James Sullivan was the fireman and J.W. Cannon was assistant pilot who joined the crew.

CSS David was involved in at least three recorded attempts to break the blockade. On the hazy night of October 5, 1863, the David launched a surprise attack on the USS New Ironsides—the pride of the Federal blockading squadron. The David approached unseen to within 50 yards from its target when they were discovered. Glassell rammed the David's spar torpedo under the Federal ship's starboard quarter and set off his explosive. The explosion rocked the New Ironsides but she remained afloat. A column of water drenched the David, drowning its fires. Now helpless in the water and under fire, Glassell and Sullivan abandoned ship. Cannon, who could not swim, stayed with the ship. Tomb seeing Cannon returned and together, under fire, got the David's boiler fire relit and returned to Charleston. Glassell and Sullivan were captured by the Federals and imprisoned at Ft. Lafayette and Ft. Warren and later exchanged. While the New Ironsides did not sink, she had been damaged enough to necessitate a long, costly overhaul.

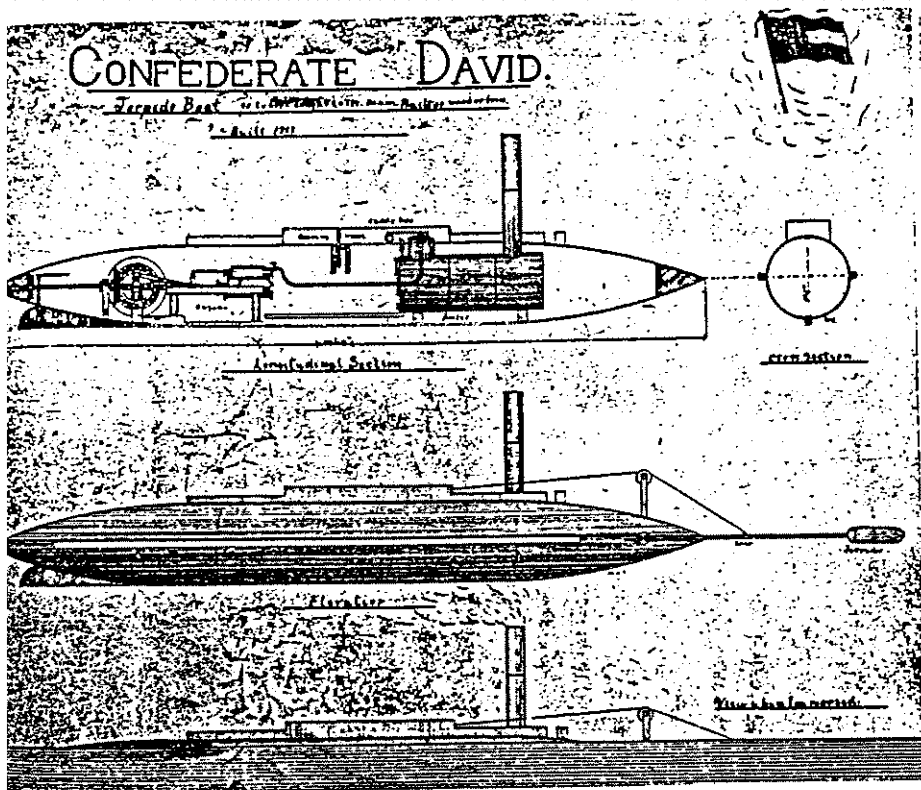


CSS DAVID ATTACKS USS NEW IRONSIDES  
OCTOBER 5, 1863

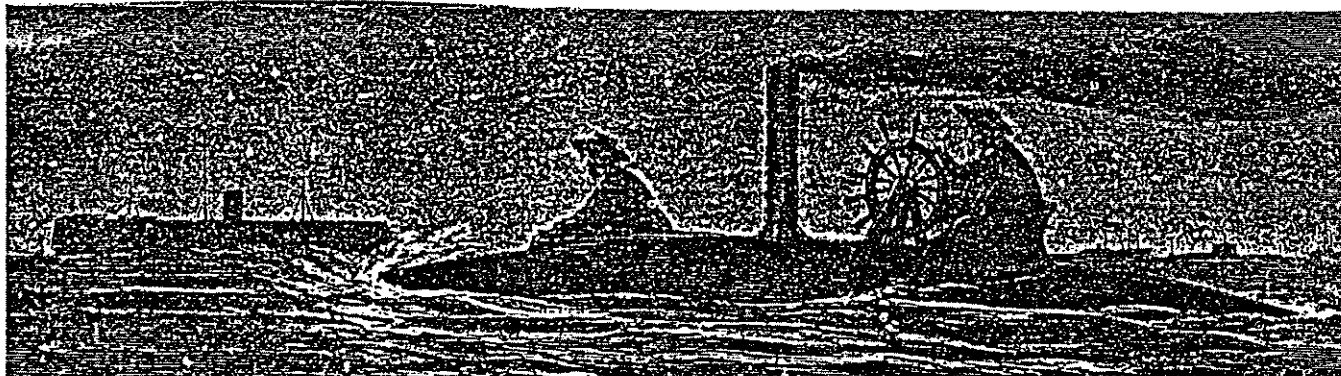
On March 6, 1864, David, now commanded by Tomb, struck the blockader USS Memphis. Despite two hits with a 95-pound load of explosives, no detonation occurred, and David was compelled to withdraw under heavy fire. On April 18 Tomb attacked the USS Wabash but was forced to withdraw David after being detected and fired upon.

The final fate of David is unknown. She was probably one of several "David"-type vessels that fell into Federal hands after the capture of Charleston. Federal concern over the "Davids" is illustrated well by a suggestion of Admiral John A. Dahlgren, early in 1864: Dahlgren proposed a reward of up to \$30,000 be offered for the capture or destruction of every "David."

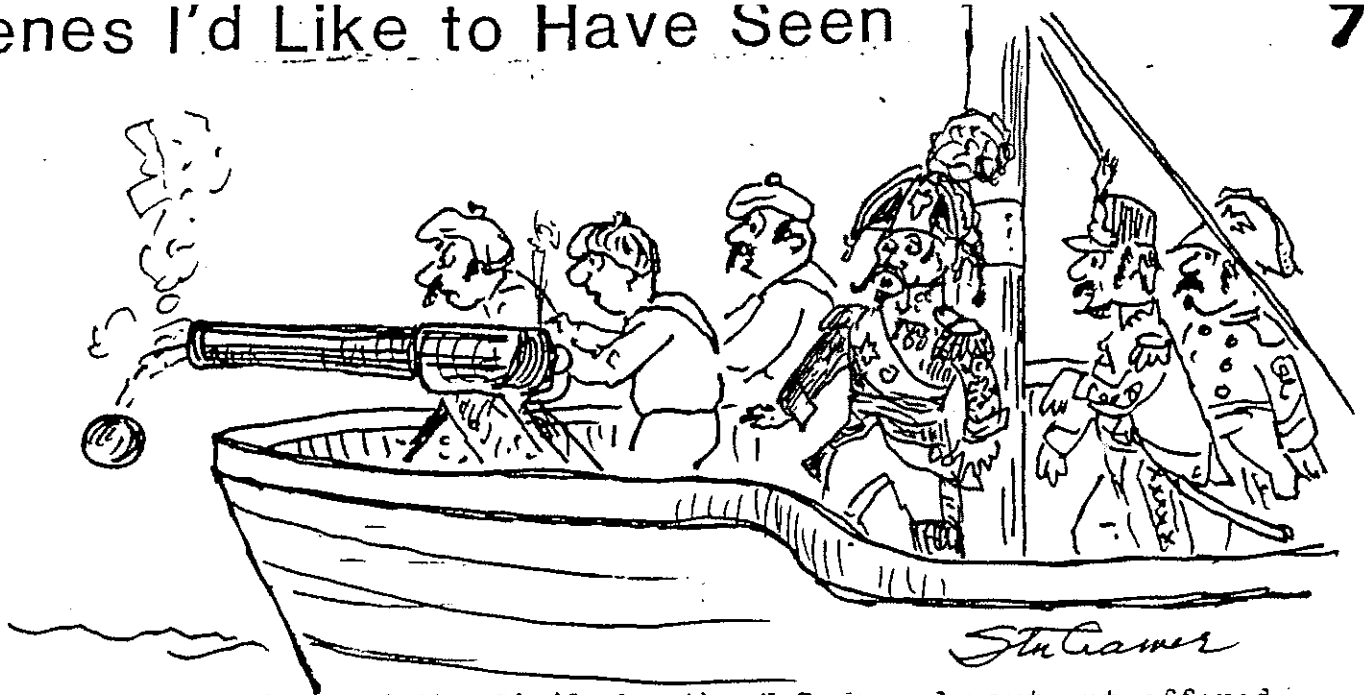
- History of the Confederate Navy by J. Thomas Sharf pp 758-760
- The Siege of Charleston by E. Mibly Burton pp 218-225
- Encyclopedia of the Civil War by Patricia Faust



While men at Fort Moultrie and with Battery Bee on Sullivan's Island stood guard, other defenders of Charleston were planning ways of retaliating by water against the large fleet of Union warships that stood off the harbor. Confederate defense ideas and machines of war were often unorthodox. If scarcities necessitated the makeshift, they also stimulated the imagination. Blueprints are shown of the torpedo ship *David* with which the defenders hoped to make up for their inferiority in many conventional ways. The *David* may be considered one of the first torpedo boats; its explosive charge was attached to a long spar fitted into the prow. But Confederate naval authorities placed so little faith in what one of them called an "absurd" vessel that the *David* had to be built on funds from private citizens.



The David that attacked the *New Ironsides*, drawn by a Harper's Weekly artist from description.



At the close of the Civil War the U.S. Navy Department offered for sale many of the old war ships. A story is told of unprincipled speculators who bought one of the old ships and sold it to a South American government. On arrival of the ship at its destination, it was arranged to give the President of that Republic a grand salute, so the large 15 inch gun was loaded with 30 pounds of powder and 450 pounds of solid shot.

When El Predisento and his party of dignitaries arrived on the deck of his new purchase the lanyard was pulled. The primer cracked out its report, but instead of the charge that should have blazed out and rent the air, only a sputtering was heard, and the ball merely rolled out of the barrel. All were surprised, but the President alone was equal to the occasion, when he said to the Yankee crew in broken English, "Must have usa afore."

Bannerman's 1927 Military Goods Catalog.

## PRESERVATION REPORT by BILL STARK

A BATTLE IS WON... BUT THE WAR CONTINUES

Battlefield Fate Settled by President

A bitter 10-month feud between historic preservationists and a developer ended yesterday as the White House announced that President Reagan had signed a bill to buy the site of a planned shopping mall at Manassas battlefield.

Washington Post  
November 12, 1988

Preservation Fight Looms at Brandy Station

Fresh from their victory at Manassas, historians and preservationists are now preparing to fight at Brandy Station to prevent commercial development on that Civil War site.

The Preservation Committee (Bill Stark, Chairman; Marty Graham, Joe Tirpak, Frazier Webb, members) wishes to thank the membership of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable for the \$250 donation to the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites. Word from Ed Bearss on December 13, 1988, indicated that the goal of \$50,000 will be met and matched by the Gilder Foundation of New York. Thus, our \$250 donation will be doubled to \$500.

In addition to the above, the Committee will endeavor to zero in on five other developing situations which need the attention of preservationists: (1) Development on Johnson's Island in Sandusky Bay, OH; (2) Impending commercial development and destruction of the Brandy Station, VA battlefield site; (3) continued deterioration of the large Civil War soldiers' section of graves at Woodland Cemetery in Cleveland, OH; (4) reported abuse of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on Public Square, Cleveland, OH by parade watchers and political rally demonstrators; (5) Commercial development at Harper's Ferry, W. VA. National Historic Park. Projects 1, 2, and 5 will require your support in the form of letter writing. The problem is one of education. Most developers and politicians know nothing about the Civil War and consequently have no appreciation or concern about the properties which they are or are planning to "bulldoze for dollars." Senator Dale Bumpers, for instance, is the Arkansas Senator who was instrumental in introducing and passing the Manassas Bill which saved 500 acres of the battlefield outside of NPS jurisdiction. Bumpers admits that one thing that influenced his position was the reading of James M. McPherson's history of the Civil War, *BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM*. To enumerate:

- (1) Johnson's Island. The J. I. Development Company, presumably of Cleveland (Carl Zipfel, President) plans to build a 1,100 slip marina and 500 condominium units on the Island. Roger LONG, formerly of *BLUE AND GRAY MAGAZINE*, is trying to form a Johnson's Island Historical Society. It is he who attends zoning board commission meetings to argue against development because it would destroy the most important Civil War site in Ohio. Johnson's Island, you remember, was the site of a Federal prison for Confederate officers. The cemetery contains 206 graves and it owned by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior. The star fort, however, a short distance away could be destroyed as well as the remains of a smaller fort. To bone up on Johnson's Island, read the following: Frohman, Charles E. *REBELS ON LAKE ERIE: THE PIRACY, THE CONSPIRACY, PRISON LIFE*. Columbus, OH, The Ohio Historical Society, ca. 1965; Alan Kurnat, "Historic Preservation Study for Johnson's Island, Ohio." M.A. Thesis, Cleveland State, 1978 (available at CSU and Fairview Park Regional County Library); Don Breen, "The History of the Federal Prison on Johnson's Island, Ohio 1862-1865." M.A. Thesis, Kent State, 1962 (available through inter-library loan).
- (A) Write to ROGER LONG, 478 NE Catawba Rd., Port Clinton, OH 43452. Offer your support and ask what you can do to stop the development. He needs encouragement to keep on hammering away at the board of commissioners.
- (B) Write to the Danbury Township Zoning Commission, Danbury Township Hall, 5972 E. Port Clinton Eastern Road, Marblehead, OH 43440. Explain to them that it is not in the best interests of historical preservation to destroy the prison site, including the star fort and the second fort. We must preserve the most important Civil War site in Ohio!
- (C) Write letters to the editors of the following newspapers, expressing your concerns: Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1801 Superior, Cleveland, OH 44114; The Journal, 105 W. Market St., Sandusky, OH 44870; Erie County Reporter, 615-B Main, Huron, OH 44839; Sandusky Register, 314 W. Market St., Sandusky, OH 44870.



- 7
- (2) Brandy Station, VA. This was the site of the largest cavalry battle on the North American Continent, fought June 9, 1863. The site has been purchased by a developer who plans to build a luxury community. Please write to:
- (A) Lee C. Sammis, The Sammis Company 17922 Fitch Ave., #100, Irvine, Calif. 92714. Advise Sammis that commercial development would not serve the best interests of historical preservation. Ask him to build elsewhere.
- (B) W.C. Chase, 135 Cameron St., Culpepper, VA 22701. Chase is supervisor for the county district. Ask him to vote to halt any construction on the Brandy Station site!
- (3) The main soldiers' section in Woodland Cemetery, Cleveland, OH contains the graves of perhaps 100 Civil soldiers exclusively. It is in need of restoration. The first task will be to take an inventory of the individual headstones, and construct a list of each man buried in the section. After this has been completed, we can lobby to have worn headstones replaced and other reset or adjusted. The listings should be placed in the Western Reserve Historical Society for research purposes. Costs should be covered by the City of Cleveland and the Veterans' Administration. Note: In one of the four Civil War soldier's sections, a Medal of Honor headstone will be placed, hopefully by the end of 1989. More on that later. Another headstone will be placed at Riverside Cemetery this year.
- (4) No one should be allowed on the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument during any downtown event. In the past, parade observers and political activists have and are still abusing the Monument. The Monument Commissioner should see to it that police are posted on it during each event. The Preservation Committee needs more evidence that the Monument is being abused before suggesting action. If anyone in the CCWRT happens to be downtown during a parade or otherwise, and you have a camera with you, photograph the abuse of the Monument and submit the photos to the Committee so that we can act on it!
- (5) Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, W. VA. The park could be in for trouble in the area where General Stonewall Jackson led Confederate troops in the three-day siege of that town. The area is prime for development, but local people and the National Park Service want it protected. Write to Miles Moris, Jefferson County Citizens Coalition, P.O. Box 1038, Harpers Ferry, W. VA. 25425 if you want to help.

Note: If any member has any suggestions on the above or has additional projects to consider please let us know. Also, if any other members wish to serve on the Preservation Committee, feel free to do so!

Submitted,

Bill Stark, Chmn.,  
CCWRT Preservation Committee



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**NEIL GIASER**

call **283-0262**



PHOTO BY CHRIS STEPHENS

George N. Vourlojianis, Cleveland Grays president, wears the traditional Gray uniform in the new American military history library.

## Grays dedicate military library today

WILLIAM F. MILLER

WRITER

The Cleveland Grays, the oldest organization of veterans in Greater Cleveland, today will dedicate a library of American military history for Veterans Day.

The Grays parade dress in the distinctive tall Russian bearskin hats and gray uniforms on Presidents Day and other special holidays.

The Grays were founded in 1837 as one of the first private militias of the Alleghenies and served their country up to and including World War II.

*The first 600 books of military history for the library have been donated by former Lt. Col. Lyle Thoburn to honor his comrades in the 107th Cavalry Regiment.*

The library is on the second floor of the Grays' fortress-like armory at 1234 Bolivar Rd., near Playhouse Square, said George N. Vourlojianis, Grays' president.

Vourlojianis said the library would be the first step toward the Grays' goal of turning the armory

into an educational center and museum.

The first 600 books of military history for the library have been donated by Lyle Thoburn, a former cavalry officer and World War II Air Force lieutenant colonel, to honor his comrades in the 107th

Cavalry Regiment.


The Grays, who have restored a wing of the armory, will formally accept the gift from Thoburn at tonight at a reception.

The library also contains uniforms, a horse saddle and weapons from the Civil War and World War II.

Vourlojianis said they hoped that by preserving and teaching Cleveland military history that the public would have a greater understanding of the role of hundreds of thousands of men and women who served their nation and the many who died doing so.



# OLLAPODRIDA



Mr. Howard Westwood speaking before the Civil War Roundtable of Washington DC recounted the following fascinating and complex story of Henry N. Hudson, a Shakespearean scholar and Episcopal clergyman, who ran afoul of Major General Benjamin F. Butler, commander of the Army of the James.

In May of 1864 Hudson, the chaplain of a New York regiment under Butler's command and a subrosa correspondent for a New York newspaper, wrote a private letter to the paper's editor (who published it) criticizing Butler's generalship. At first Butler was not aware of who had written the letter but suspected that the source was General Quincy A. Gillmore, commander of the X Corps, and a critic of Butler's handling of the Army of the James. When Butler discovered that Hudson had authored the letter he had him arrested and confined without any formal charges being filed against him (despite an 1862 law which required him to file charges against an officer within 8 days of his arrest and to hold a trial within 48 days). Almost two months after the incarceration (and still without having filed any formal charges) Butler released the Chaplain to his regiment, with the implied threat that Hudson would get an early trial only if he agreed to testify that there was a link between his letter and General Gillmore. Eventually Hudson, with the assistance of a public outcry on the part of the Episcopal clergy of New York, got the ear of General Grant and the Secretary of War. After an investigation, Grant ordered the charges against Hudson dropped and allowed Hudson who was in ill health, as was his wife, to resign from the Army. Neither Hudson nor Butler, however, were willing to let the issue die. The Chaplain published a pamphlet telling his story. The General responded with a pamphlet of his own. Years later Hudson republished his pamphlet. Butler got the last word in - his autobiography was published in the 1890's some six years after Hudson's death.

- Civil War Roundtable of Wash. DC

In 1862 foraging was frowned upon by the Union authorities. A member of the 111th Illinois sent into Kentucky in November 1862 wrote "some of the boys will go out in the woods. They accidentally come across a hog. They order it to halt. It never lets on it hears them. Their guns go off accidentally hits him in the head, all of course done accidentally. He is then stripped of his hide, head, etc. He is then carried to camp and named a bear."

- Illinois in the Civil War  
by Victor Hicken pp 81

"Where did you get that chicken?" asked the Colonel of a Michigan regiment.

"Stole it," was the laconic reply.

"Ah!" said the Colonel to a visitor at camp, "you see my boys may steal, but they won't lie." - W. H. Kite

-National Tribune May 11, 1911  
Submitted by Marty Graham

# From The President's Desk

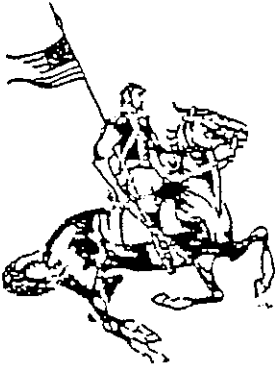
December 27, 1988

As noted earlier in this issue of the "Charger" approximately 60% of our membership have paid their 1988-1989 dues. 40% have not paid. Many of those who have not paid their dues have no doubt lost interest in the organization and no longer want to continue their membership. However, there remains a significant number who, I believe, want to continue their membership and for whatever reason have forgotten or have neglected to pay their dues.

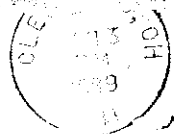
To this latter group, I urge you to pay your dues as soon as possible. When one considers how the money is used, the \$30.00 for dues is a pretty modest price. The "Charger" which is a quality publication compared to many other newsletters, is published and mailed to the membership on a monthly basis. Your dues also cover expenses incurred by our out-of-town speakers. This year part of our dues went toward a matching grant for the preservation of Civil War Battlefield Sites. In order to maintain the quality of programs and to be involved in other Civil War related activities, membership dues must be paid in a timely manner.

As 1988 draws to close, I wish each and every member of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable a happy and prosperous New Year.

Neil Glaser



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