



The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. Box 5786, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

JANUARY 1991

294th MEETING

VOL. 12 #5

DATE: Tuesday, January 8, 1991

PLACE: The Hermit Club

SUBJECT:

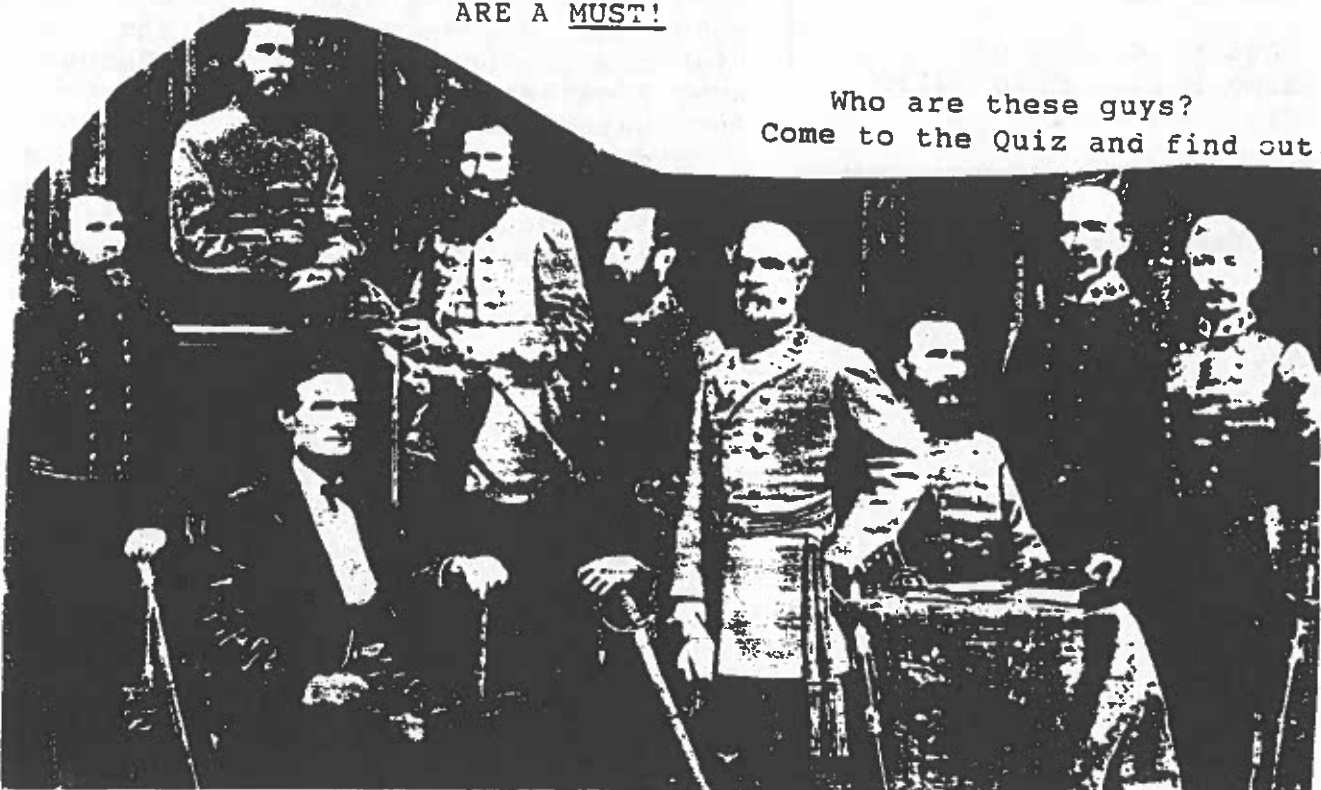
ANNUAL CIVIL WAR QUIZ

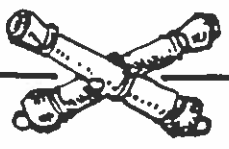
Quizmasters Tim Beatty and George Vourlojianis will once again try to stump the Civil War experts in our Round-table with a battery of questions guaranteed to baffle, mystify, and enlighten. Our annual quiz-night usually provides light-hearted fun for all so make your reservations early.

TIME: Drinks 6PM Dinner 7PM

RESERVATIONS: Please call Joe Tirpak at 255-8140. RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!

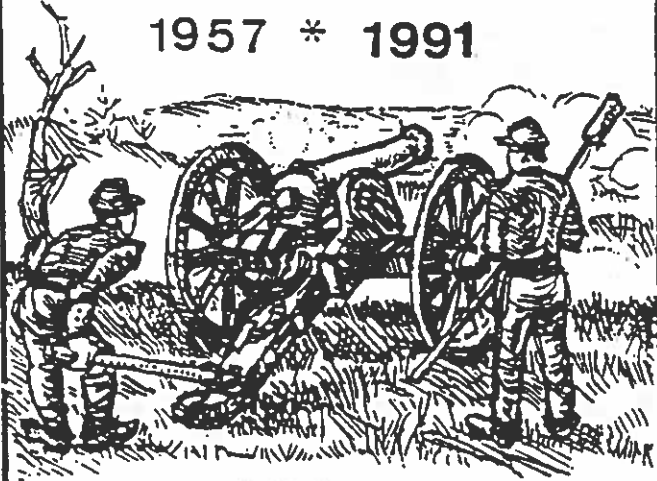
Who are these guys?
Come to the Quiz and find out.





CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

1957 * 1991



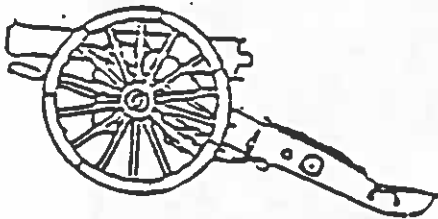
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Preserve Your Battlefields!



Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting was a resounding success primarily due to fellow member Charlie Clark. A Founding Father of our club and the Father of our Constitution & By-laws, the senior partner of Squires, Sanders, & Dempsey filled in for Bud Hall (absent due to illness in his family) and repeated in grandiose style his talk of yesteryear: "Thaddeus Stevens: One of the Most Hated Men in America."

Born into poverty in Vermont, Stevens learned early to depise class distinction. He was hated by the privledged and the moneyed few. A lawyer, Stevens moved to Gettysburg, Pa., in 1816. He founded an ironworks and was a successful buisnessman. Outraged by slavery, he soon began defending runaways at no charge. He was hated by the slave owners.

Stevens was a strong advocate of public education and protective tariffs. Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1848 as a Whig, he soon left their ranks and helped form the Republican party. As a supporter of Lincoln and because of his sharp tongue and blatant anti-Southern position, he was hated by his Southern constituents.

He was bitter and uncompromising and agitated for the enlistment of black troops and uncompensated emancipation. He was the most unrelenting Radical Republican and was hated by the Northern moderates. Stevens championed the Civil Rights Bill and the Freedman's Bureau over President Andrew Johnson's veto. Andy hated him too.

Stevens died in Washington D.C., in 1868 and was buried in a racially mixed cemetary becuse he hated seggregation in any form, even death. Charlie, maybe you'r right; Thaddeus Stevens was one of the most hated men in America.



More Than You Ever Wanted To Know About

GEORGE A. "LIGHTNING" ELLSWORTH (1834-1899)

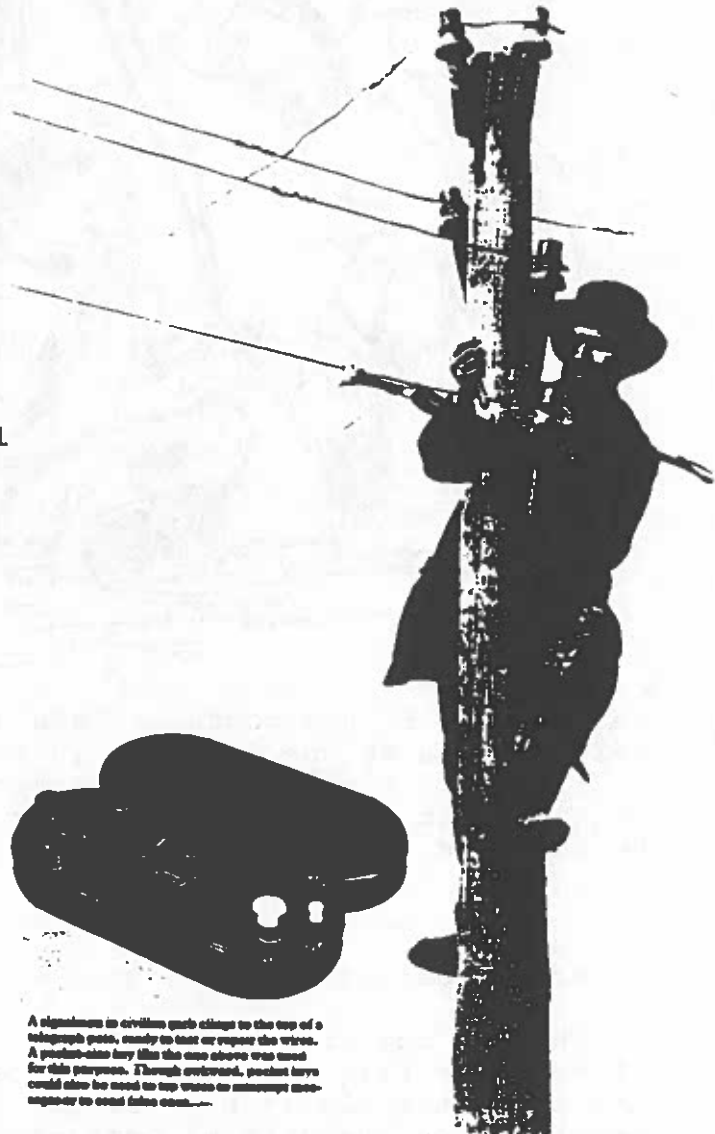
The star wire-tapper of the whole Civil War was George A. Ellsworth. Born in Canada, Ellsworth's early career is obscure. Working in Texas at the outbreak of hostilities, he enlisted in a local regiment but was not allowed to go to the front, his services being considered too valuable at home. He served as Assistant Superintendent of the Texas Telegraph Company until June 1, 1862, when he left Texas to enlist in Company A, 2nd Kentucky Cavalry (Basil Duke's) which was part of General John Hunt Morgan's Cavalry. Ellsworth said he personally sought out Morgan and met him in Mobile, Alabama where he offered the flamboyant General his services. Some sources say Ellsworth was introduced to Morgan by General Beauregard in New Orleans.

General Morgan soon put Ellsworth's peculiar abilities to use. On July 1, 1862, he was detached as a telegraphic operator, promoted to captain on Morgan's staff, and accompanied the General on his Kentucky Raid.

A large part of Morgan's success was due to Ellsworth's shameless telegraphic fabrications. When the Confederates found intact abandoned telegraph stations, Ellsworth took over the keys. He even had a pocket-sized key that could be used to tap directly into the lines anywhere. Ellsworth's efforts served two vital military purposes: (1) it caused alarm, confusion, and delay among the Yankees, and (2) it provided Morgan with valuable information of the whereabouts and size of the forces sent against him.

Ellsworth's experience and ability on the wire were the keys to his success. He had the ability to mimic almost any operator's style. After capturing a telegraph office, he would force the operator to send an innocent telegram asking for the correct time. This gave him a chance to study the other's style before he took his place. In the field he would tape in and study the style before he would cut the line and begin transmitting his own messages.

It was during the 1862 Kentucky Raid that Ellsworth acquired the nickname



A signaller in civilian garb clings to the top of a telegraph pole, ready to tap or repair the wires. A pocket-size key like the one above was used for this purpose. Though awkward, pocket keys could also be used to tap wires to intercept messages or to send false ones.





"Lightning" which clung to him for the rest of the war. A thunderstorm broke out not long after he had tapped into a wire by the roadside. He sat at his instrument in the darkness, water up to his knees, with lightning playing around him as he worked. A scout named Ben Drake also said that a suspicious Federal operator, who found Ellsworth's touch unfamiliar, queried "Who are you? And what's the matter with your office?" to which Ellsworth nonchalantly replied, "O.K., lightning". Another said it was because of Ellsworth's fondness for a drink of the same name. A fourth version has it was because of the sparks that were visible when Ellsworth tested a wire by

touching it to his tongue. (This was a traditional method used among oldtime telegraphers as the currents in those days were weak.)

Ellsworth was a kind of military Puck. He liked to send misleading, jocular or sarcastic telegrams to leaders on the other side. At Somerset, Kentucky, he sent the following dispatch to Union Officials:

Headquarters, Telegraph Dept. of Ky
Confederate States of America

General Order No.1

When an operator is positively informed that the enemy is marching on his station, he will immediately proceed to destroy the telegraphic instruments and all materials in his charge. Such instances of carelessness as were exhibited on the part of operators at Lebanon, Midway, and Georgetown (ed. note: all towns captured by Morgan) will be severely dealt with. By order of

G.A.Ellsworth
General Military Supt. C.S. Telegraphic Dept.

Morgan once used Ellsworth to play a trick on an old acquaintance of Union leanings. He had Ellsworth send a telegram to a man named Hunter in Lexington asking to rush two barrels of whiskey to Nashville. Hunter complied only to discover it a hoax at his own expense.

One of Ellsworth's dispatches to Union General Boyle began: "Good morning, Jerry. All your dispatches since the 10th of July on file. Do you wish copies? G.A.Ellsworth".

"Lightning" played his usual tricks a second time in August, 1862 on Morgan's 2nd Raid. He missed Morgan's Christmas Raid due to a wound in the ankle he sustained on an unsuccessful one man scout. He recuperated in McMinneville until June, 1863, when Morgan ordered his return for his Ohio Raid. He was subsequently captured along with his commander and after his exchange served on Simon Buckner's staff until he was again wounded at Chickamauga.



Ellsworth was only a success at the keys. When he tried other military ventures he usually failed miserably. On one hair-brained scout he borrowed Colonel St. Leger Grenfell's prized thoroughbred and saddle without telling the Colonel. When confronted by the enemy he was routed and lost both horse and saddle. On the saddle, unbeknownst to Ellsworth, was Grenfell's buff duster into whose lining was sewn all of the Colonel's gold. St. Leger was as excited as a volcano and swore to kill Ellsworth when he discovered what happened. Three days were required to pacify the Colonel during which time "Lightning" had to keep out of sight.

In April, 1864, Ellsworth left the army and fled to Canada. After the war he returned to the U.S. He was unsuccessful in marketing a plan to telegraph companies to prevent just such tricks as he practiced during the war. He always found work as an operator but also managed to get in and out of trouble with the law and the drink until his death in 1899.

from: History of Morgan's Cavalry by Basil Duke
Spies of the Confederacy by John Bakeless pp 260
 28!
Who was Who in the Civil War by Stewart Sifakis



During McClellan's march up the Peninsula, strict orders were issued to prevent damage and looting of rebel property. This caused some embarrassment for Corps commander Erasmus Keyes, who was not one of McClellan's favorites. Keyes relates: "At Williamsburg... I was quartered in the house of a prominent rebel who had abandoned it to fight against the Union. General McClellan had issued an order against marauding....The rebel owner of the house had left behind several bottles of brandy. I took for myself one bottle of wine and drank it with my friends, and I gave a bottle to Colonel John J. Astor, A.D.C. (aide-de-camp) to General McClellan....(ed. note: could this be a bribe for silence?) I took several bottles and carried them along for the use of the sick (ed. note: why weren't these turned over to the chief surgeon? Maybe Keyes wasn't feeling so well.) The liquor was safe with me, for I did not drink brandy....On arriving at Roper's Church, two marches from Williamsburg, I received peremptory orders to report in person to the Provost Marshal General of the Army.(ed. note: Brig. Gen. Andrew Porter) By him I was questioned concerning the liquor and directed to return it, in charge of a staff officer, to the place from which it was taken. I suppressed all signs of anger and directed Lieutenant Chetwood, A.D.C., to execute the order without delay. The Provost Marshal General to whom I, a Corps commander, was ordered to report in person was my junior in rank, and the opinions he entertained in regard to the war and its causes were...little in sympathy with my own....I am greatly mistaken if he did not feel happy in the opportunity to insult me grossly in the line of duty."



PRESERVATION REPORT by BILL STARK

Page 11, Peninsula News, November 22, 1990

J.I. decisions appealed

Appeals of two recent court decisions favorable to the Johnson's Island Baycliffs development were filed in Ottawa County Common Pleas Court last week.

— Johnson's Island Property owners Louis Cardinale, Harold Clagg, Joseph Hutman, Charles Maurer and Johnson's Island Property Owners Association, Inc. are appealing the Oct. 16 decision by the Ottawa Regional Planning Commission to approve final plat plans for Phase 1 of Carl Zipfel's Baycliffs

development.

— An appeal to the 6th District Court of Appeals was filed by the Danbury Township Trustees in the common pleas court. The trustees are appealing visiting common pleas judge Robert Franklin's Oct. 15 ruling that a zoning permit to Baycliffs for 100 docks reinstated. The trustees had revoked the permit, which originally was granted by former zoning inspector Paul Dragan in November 1989.



PENINSULA NEWS November 29, 1990

J.I. Dock Permit

The trustees also received a letter from John Brown, Cleveland, attorney for Johnson's Island developer Carl Zipfel, concerning the township zoning permit for 100 docks.

Now that the permit, which had been revoked by the trustees was ordered to be reinstated by Judge Robert Franklin, Brown wrote, he has a few procedural questions.

Baycliffs development will proceed with the docks, he stated, but the developer needs to know when the one year permit period ends.

(See QUESTIONS, Page 13)

Questions raised on permit

(Continued from Page 1)

Is it valid to Oct. 16, 1991, a year from Judge Franklin's decision? Or is it valid to Aug. 10, 1991, the original end date minus the 9-months and 28-days the matter was in court?

Brown also asked how the trustees want to handle the \$1500 zoning permit filing fee, which they returned to the developer when the permit was revoked on Dec. 15, 1989.

The trustees said they turned Brown's letter over to their lawyer, John Jewitt, Cleveland.

Note: Ed Bearss, Chief Historian of the National Park Service announced on November 27 that an NPS historical archaeologist has agreed to review the anthropologist David Bush's Section 106 review report on Johnson's Is. Remember, Bush is working for the developer Zipfel and has negated the historical importance of J.I. so that Zipfel can develop what he wants to. In return, Bush has been given permission to do Earthwatch digs for his own career enhancement. You might want to write to the

NPS archaeologist and ask that he be wary of Bush's designs. He is David Orr, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office: Nat'l Park Service, 143 South 3rd St. Phila. PA 19106.

By the time that you read this another Army Corps of Engineer hearing will have occurred on Dec. 17, 1990.



SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN

One of the Fourteenth New York Artillery - a Seneca Indian - undertook a wager to bring in alive a Rebel sharpshooter who was perched in a tree in front of the Union lines at Petersburg, considerably in advance of his own. His manner of accomplishing this was as ingenious as successful. Procuring a quantity of pine boughs, he enveloped himself with them from head to foot, attaching them securely to a branch which he lashed length-wise to his body. When completed, he was indistinguishable to a casual observer from the surrounding foliage, and resembled a tree as closely as it was possible. Thus prepared and with musket in hand, he stole by almost imperceptible movements to beneath the tree where the sharpshooter was lodged. Here he patiently waited until his prey had emptied his piece when he suddenly brought his musket to bear on the Reb, giving him no time to reload. To the demand to come down the Reb readily assented, and the Indian triumphantly marched him a prisoner into camp and won his wager.



from The Civil War in Song and Story by Frank Moore pp175
Illustrated by Stu Cramer




Please Make Reservation

Please call Joe Tirpak at 255-8140
ASAP! RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!




OLLAPOODRIDA



While on picket-duty in the Winter of 1862-63, members of the 1st Maine Cavalry swapped coffee, sugar, and salt with their Rebel counterparts across the Rappahannock River for tobacco. Of course, as a matter of official policy, fraternization was forbidden. Where it was difficult to cross, to swap merchandise, they fashioned miniature boats powered by sails or carried by the current to transport goods across. When asked by an officer where he had gotten the cigar he was smoking, one member of the 1st Maine replied, "I had a ship come in."

from Horse Soldiers in Blue: 1st Maine Cavalry
by Torlief S. Holmes pp 68



"Joe", said a soldier to a comrade reading the morning paper, "where the devil is Status Quo? I see this paper says our army's in Status Quo."

"Dunno!" replied Joe, "reckon she must be the east bank of the Chickahominy."

from The Civil War in Song and Story by Frank Moo
pp 124

Late one evening an inebriated Lieutenant was returning to camp when he lost his way and came across a recently cleared field toward a German-born sentry. Just as the sentry challenged, "Who goes there?" the Lieutenant struck his shin against a fallen tree and cried out, "The Devil!"

"Corporal of the guard, post number six," cried the sentry adding, "Got in Himmel, here comes der Devil!"

from The Civil War in Song and Story by Frank Moore
pp 127

On the race from the Wilderness to the important crossroads of Spotsylvania, the Army of the Potomac lost two precious hours during the night of May 7 because of an incident between two of their own cavalry regiments. The veteran 3rd Pennsylvania halted beside a fresh regiment which had just reached the front. The battle-hardened Pennsylvanians, enviously eyeing the fresh horses of the newcomers suddenly and spontaneously abandoned their battle-weary horses and took those of the green troopers. The exchange of horses was not accomplished without an hours fistfight between the men of the two regiments which blocked the road and caused the two hour delay. Though the enlisted men initiated the exchange of horses, the next morning the officers of the 3rd Pennsylvania looked their men over and remarked sagely, "The horses look remarkably well after the nights march," and the first sergeant innocently said, "Yes sir."

from How the North Won by Herman Hattaway pp 553

From The President's Desk



Greetings!

Forty-eight members and guests gathered on December 11th for a festive holiday evening to hear one of our own, Charlie Clarke, Jr. speak on Thaddeus Stevens. Not only was it an excellent presentation, but we learned about those Dartmouth grads like Bill Schlesinger!

Four new members were welcomed into our organization. They are:

Richard J. Owens, III - American Greetings

Douglas K. Hardman - M. K. Ferguson

Steve De George - Hahn, Loeser & Parks

Thomas B. Mitchell - Retired

We hope to see each of you on January 8th for a fun filled Quiz Nite!
Do your homework too!

Peace, joy and friendship

Paix, joie et amitié

Paz, júbilo y amistad

Мир, радость и дружба.

和平 快乐 友谊

"JET"



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P.O. BOX 5756
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101