



THE CHARGER

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

JANUARY, 1995

330TH MEETING

VOL. 16 #5

DATE:

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

PLACE:

The Hermit Club

SUBJECT:

North/South Civil War "Brigade Shoot-out"

SPEAKER:

Neil K. Evans, Chief of Staff, has enlisted four "Brigadiers" to expound on the merits of their chosen units:

Brigadier Bob Baucher - The Iron Brigade
Brigadier Dan Zeiser - The Stonewall Brigade
Brigadier Tim Moran - The Irish Brigade
Brigadier Dick Crews - Hood's Texas Brigade

Each "Brigadier" will present a brief history of his brigade and arguments why his unit was the best in the war. After each has made his case, the audience will have a chance to ask questions and then vote as to which brigade was the most outstanding.

TIME:

Drinks 6PM Dinner 7PM

RESERVATIONS:

Please call JAC Buisness Communications at 861-5588 and make your reservations.
RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!



PLEASE NOTE

All members present will be presented with a ballot to vote on four proposed amendments to the constitution of the Cleveland Civil War Round-Table. REMEMBER YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO VOTE.
CALL YOUR RESERVATIONS IN EARLY - 861-5588!!!

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

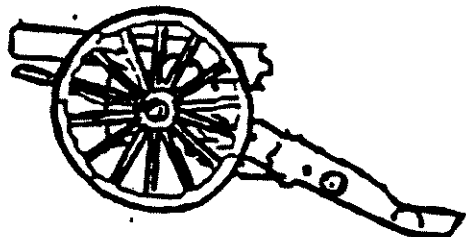
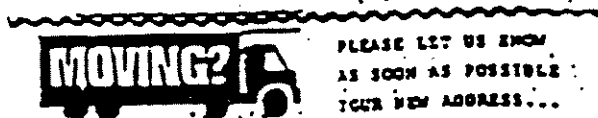
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Preserve Your Battlefields!

THIS YEAR'S SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| Jan. | Civil War Debates |
| Feb. | Michael Dory TBA |
| March | Kevin Casey Battle of Monococy |
| April | Robert Krick TBA |
| May | TBA |

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

A. Wilson Greene, President of APCW, gave an insightful talk on battlefield preservation. Reviewing its history, what is currently being done, and what needs to be accomplished in the future Wil's talk was eye opening.

The first sites preserved were during the Civil War when veterans of Hazen's Brigade erected the 1st battlefield monument at Stones River. The U.S. Government did not get involved until pressure from veterans in 1895 resulted in the first National Military Park at Chickamauga. Wil chronicled the expansion of National Parks up to the present.

Wil clarified the 1992 Civil War Site Advisory Committee study which identified 384 sites worth preserving. With limited Government funds, 90% of these sites are in danger. Using Brandy Station as an example, Wil pointed out that these historically significant tracts of land to be saved in an escalating market will not be easy. Local groups (Round-Tables, historical societies, state governments, ect.) bear the burden of preservation. In spite of Disney's defeat, Wil said that without sponsorship and funds from the private sector, the future of preservation looks bleak.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE!



At this month's meeting, members will vote on four constitutional amendments. The most controversial is the first. This amendment deals with accepting female members. A vote for the change accepts women if passed by a 2/3 majority. REMEMBER YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO VOTE. CALL YOUR RESERVATIONS IN EARLY!!!

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER 1:

Article II, Section 1 currently limits membership to "males only." The proposed amendment would change this language to "The members shall consist of four classes."

___ For the amendment

___ Against the amendment

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER 2:

Article II, Section 6 limits the number of active members to 75 and requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership to change the number of active members. The proposed amendment would increase the number of active members to 100 and gives authority to the Executive Committee to change the number of members by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Committee.

___ For the amendment

___ Against the amendment

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER 3:

Article IV, Section 1 states that "the President shall appoint a nominating committee, who shall meet and agree upon nominees for the various officers." The proposed amendment provides that a member of the nominating committee shall not be a member of the Executive Committee.

___ For the amendment

___ Against the amendment

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER 4:

This amendment deals with various technical and grammatical amendments to clarify and update the document.

___ For the amendment

___ Against the amendment

The Defender of Vicksburg

A strange irony of fate caused Northern born Yankee John C. Pemberton to be commanding general of the Confederate forces at Vicksburg. Through a Quaker he entered West Point and graduated in 1837. He served firstly in the Seminole Indian War then in the Mexican War.

Through he was a Northerner, Pemberton developed close ties with the South. He was a supporter of states rights, and several close friends from the South while at West Point. His frequent military duty in the South also created sympathy to Southern Interests. His marriage in 1848 to Martha Thompson of Virginia cemented his devotion to the South.

In 1861 Winfield Scott, Commander of the Union Army, aware Pemberton's allegiance was wavering, offered him a promotion to Colonel. Pemberton refused the promotion and resigned from the Union Army.

Pemberton loyalty to the South was not questioned initially. In two months he rose to brigadier general although he did little of note. In January, 1862 after very little activity he was promoted to major general in command of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Here Pemberton showed himself to be a able administrator. But again without combat, he was promoted to lieutenant general in October 1862 in command of the Department of Mississippi, Tennessee, and East Louisiana.

Pemberton managed to hold Grant off for several months, but was totally fuddled and outmaneuvered by Grant's final drive on the City in April, 1863. Pemberton was further confused when he received conflicting orders as to what to do when Grant was closing in on Vicksburg.

His immediate superior J. E. Johnston ordered him to evacuate with his army. President Jefferson Davis ordered him to hold Vicksburg at all costs.

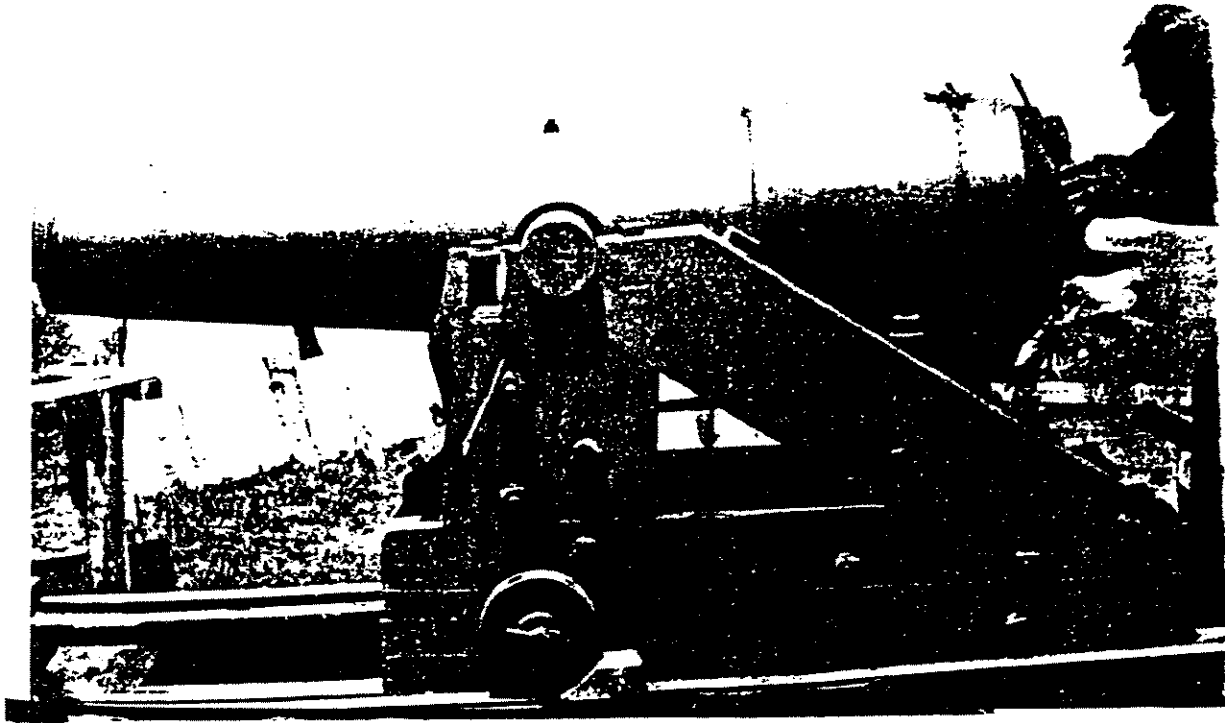


The loss of Vicksburg was a permanent stain on Pemberton's Career and life. The surrender of Vicksburg caused many Southerners to suspect Pemberton's loyalty; not a few called him a traitor because of his Northern birth.

After his surrender he was imprisoned at Mackinaw Island, Michigan. He was exchanged in April 1864. However, there was no job for Lieutenant General so he consented to accept an appointment as a Colonel of the artillery.

After the war he farmed in Virginia then moved back to Pennsylvania, where he died in 1881. He was buried in Philadelphia. Today he is remembered solely as the Pennsylvania Confederate general who lost Vicksburg.

Vicksburg
1995 Field Trip



"The Whistling Dick"

The most famous cannon of the siege of Vicksburg and the deadliest in the Confederate arsenal was named the "Whistling Dick." The ammunition of this 18-pound rifled smoothbore gave a distinct screech when fired, hence the name.

Whistling Dick caused the Yankees great annoyance during the siege of Vicksburg, most notably when it sank the gunboat *Cincinnati*.

After the war a cannon thought to be the "Whistling Dick" was sent to West Point.

In the 1950's it was proved not to be the real "Whistling Dick, but instead the "Widow Blakely" another famous Confederate cannon from the siege of Vicksburg.

The "Widow Blakely" was a 7.44-inch rifled, so named because it was the only piece of its type in the Vicksburg defenses. This cannon lost

the tip of its barrel when one of its own shells burst prematurely during a fight with Union gunboats.

The barrel was then trimmed at the break, and the piece was used as a mortar for the rest of the battle. Apparently, its Union captors were confused about its name, and mislabeled it was taken to West Point after the war. When the piece was properly recognized as the "Widow Blakey" in the 1950's, it was returned to Vicksburg Military Park, where it can be seen today.

Vicksburg
Field Trip 1995

PRESERVATION REPORT

HERITAGE PAC

A National Lobbying Group Dedicated To Preservation of American Battlefields.

P.O. Box 7281, Little Rock, AR 72217

WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMEN ON BEHALF OF PRESERVATION!!!

The results of the November 1994 Congressional elections have shifted the control of the House of Representatives and the Senate from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party. This moves some of our friends OUT of positions of power, and puts other friends IN positions of power. The key is to contact legislators early and often with LETTERS (letters are SO MUCH more effective than phone calls or FAXs that it's not even close).

Please take 20-30 minutes of your time in the next several days to send as many letters as possible to carry the message of Civil War Battlefield Preservation. With over half of the 104th Congress being elected since 1990, there is a real need for developing an awareness of Battlefield Preservation issues!

✓ The first point you should make it that we are NOT asking the government to appropriate tax dollars to purchase battlefield land. (They just won't do it!) The Civil War Commemorative Coins are scheduled to bring in literally millions of dollars for that very purpose. Make it clear--WE'RE NOT AFTER TAX DOLLARS!

What we DO want from them is:

a. An inquiry as to whether the Civil War Trust is the best organization to be administering the Coin money--this can be accomplished by asking for a Congressional hearing on the stability and ability of The Civil War Trust (a good argument can be made, for instance, to turn administration of the Coin money over to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in view of The Civil War Trust's past performance in the preservation area, but this is something a Congressional hearing could decide).

b. A close scrutiny of the National Park Service's stewardship of the battlefields that are already in government hands--another hearing is probably in order here: the NPS is proposing a "downsizing" reorganization plan which appears to have the potential of being very detrimental to the preservation and interpretation of history in the National Park System. Let's have a look, with the Park Service on hold till this can be done.

c. A good deal of legislation will be coming before the 104th Congress as the result of recommendations made by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. We need help and support for that legislation. (We'll be telling YOU about specifics on this later...)

d. Finally, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields bill passed the House in the current Congress, but didn't make it through the Senate. So, the process will have to start all over. Urge serious consideration of this bill when it comes up again.

✓ Four points: a hearing on the stewardship of the coin money, a hearing on the stewardship of the National Park Service focusing on the proposed "downsizing," support for the legislation produced by the recommendations of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and serious consideration of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields bill.

Can you handle that??? Sure you can! Please write the following legislators SOON (the Representatives c/o House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515, and the Senators c/o U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510) and ask for their consideration and support:

Sen. Robert Dole (R-KS), new Senate Majority leader; military history buff.

Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-OR), probable chairman Appropriations Committee.

Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-AK), possible chairman, Energy & Natural Resources Committee.

Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID), possible chairman, Senate Parks Subcommittee.

Sen. Robert Bennett (UT), possible chairman, Senate Parks Subcommittee.

And, of course, you should write Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-AR) to thank him for his past leadership; ask him to share your letter with his Parks Subcommittee successor.

Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA), new Speaker-of-the-House-to-be, former history professor.

Rep. Don Young (R-AK), probable chairman of Natural Resources Committee.

Rep. James Hansen (R-UT), probable chairman of Parks Subcommittee.

Rep. Bud Schuster (R-PA), probable chairman of Public Works.

Rep. Bob Livingston (R-LA), probable chairman of Appropriations.

Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), friend, author of Shenandoah Valley Battlefields bill.

Rep. Charles Taylor (R-NC), friend, member of CW Sites Advisory Commission.

Rep. Clay Shaw (R-FL), friend, sponsored Civil War History Month resolution in '94.

Rep. Thomas Bliley (R-VA), friend, ranking member Energy & Commerce Committee.

✓ That's 15 letters (the same letter to all 15, of course)(surely there's a copying machine around). Then, send the letter to YOUR Representative and Senators.

We're counting on you--and so are all those Civil War veterans whose memory we honor!

Exploring A Civil War Sidewheeler

by Lawrence E. Babits

Divers probe a troopship torpedoed near Jacksonville, Florida.

A Civil War transport ship that sank in the St. Johns River in northern Florida in April of 1864 is yielding evidence of the military and personal lives of three regiments of Union soldiers. The regiments had been shipped aboard another vessel from an encampment on Folly Island, South Carolina, to Union-occupied Jacksonville. Their equipment had been sent separately on a sidewheeler known as the *Maple Leaf*. Before the cargo could be unloaded, however, the vessel was ordered to take 70 cavalymen and their horses farther south to Union-occupied Palatka. On its return to Jacksonville the *Maple Leaf* struck a Confederate mine and sank. Two deckhands and two firemen were killed. Army records show that ten soldiers had been left aboard to guard the regiments' belongings; three muskets found in main deck cabins suggest that off-duty guards abandoned their weapons in the rush to escape the sinking ship. While millions of Civil War artifacts have been recovered over the years, few have the precise context of this cargo, anaerobically preserved for 130 years in the muddy river bottom.

The *Maple Leaf* began its sea days as a 500-ton luxury steamer. Launched in the early 1850s at Kingston, Ontario, it carried passengers between Toronto, Montreal, and Rochester, New York. Its 130-foot-long salon had a dining table that could seat 100 guests and was, as one passenger

wrote, "richly decorated [with] white and gold cornices and paneling, [and] chairs and settees cushioned with crimson plush." In 1862 it was converted into a transport ship and leased to the Union; 181 feet long, 26.5 feet amidships, with an 11-foot hold, it carried mail, troops and their gear, and cavalry for two years.

Union gunboats had been patrolling the St. Johns River for three years, raiding river towns and plantations and assisting Union sympathizers and collaborators as well as escaped slaves and Confederate deserters. The Confederacy retaliated by mining the river with a newly developed weapon called the "submarine torpedo," which was held below the surface by moorings and detonated on impact. The *Maple Leaf's* captain, Henry Dale, testified before an Army Board of Survey that "the steamer immediately sank, so as to leave about three feet of water in the [main deck] salon. I judge that it opened the vessel about 30 feet from the stem, right under her bottom."

Divers from St. Johns Archaeological Expeditions, Incorporated (SJA EI), a group of history buffs led by Jacksonville dentist Keith Holland and commercial diver Lee Manley, located and identified the *Maple Leaf* in 1984. Four years lapsed before permits were obtained to excavate the ship. In Florida, abandoned property of historical importance falls under state authority. The *Maple Leaf*, however, having been leased to the Union, fell under federal jurisdiction. Claiming ownership, SJA EI sued in Admiralty Court and, in an out-of-court settlement, was granted the right to excavate the ship and keep 80 percent of the artifacts. The federal government would keep the other 20 percent. SJA EI later relinquished its claim to the artifacts so as to keep the collection intact and in the public trust. The federal government has contracted with the group to curate its 20 percent.

Using radios to communicate with each other and with support vessel personnel, divers plumbed the murky depths of the river, which is clouded by fine silt and tannic acids from decomposing oak trees and other vegetation of the Florida lowlands. Initial inexperience led to crude excavation techniques. Unable to find the cargo hatch, they enlarged a small hole in the deck with a hand saw, and entered the hold. They found it filled with crates, barrels, and trunks of mess and camp equipment; medical supplies; officers' dress swords; belt buckles; spare gun parts; personal items such as shoe blacking, candles, pens, pencils, water-purifiers, perfume, daguerreotypes, pipes, tobacco, checker pieces, and sea shells presumably collected during the encampment on Folly Island; and civilian dishware, cutlery, door knobs, and window panes presumably from looted plantations. The regiments—the 112th New York Volunteers, from Chautauqua County; the 169th New York Volunteers, from Troy and New York City; and the 13th Indiana, from Indianapolis—were part of Brigadier General Robert S. Foster's Brigade. Most of the artifacts that have been recovered belonged to the

ARCHAEOLOGY

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1994

13th Indiana. As excavation continues, divers hope to reach sections of the hold containing the gear of the other regiments, allowing comparison of the belongings of soldiers from urban and rural areas.

Initially, SJAIE opted to recover only what could be immediately conserved—less than half of one percent of the total cargo—but enough to convince the government and professional archaeologists of the importance of their discovery. Since then the group has received more than \$400,000 in Florida state preservation grants, awarded with the proviso that it seek professional advice and assistance. The group chose to work closely with the Program in Maritime History and Nautical Archaeology at East Carolina University. The school has also offered students as project assistants during three years of excavations.

The most intriguing find from the *Maple Leaf* was two crates filled with hundreds of minie balls, the bullets of the period. Minie balls were hand loaded into a rifled musket barrel. A space between bullet exterior and barrel interior was supposed to make loading easier, but as the barrels became fouled with powder residue during repeated firing, loading became more difficult. In 1863, bullets were downsized to eliminate the problem. Diaries written prior to 1863 by a chaplain and a surgeon from the 13th Indiana describe how rocks were used to pound bullets into muskets. Many unfired minie balls have been found on Civil War battlefields. Some have suggested they were dropped in haste. More likely, they were too big for the musket barrel, and discarded. The rate of defective bullet production during the Civil War has been difficult to determine from such random samples. In what may have been the first quality control study of Civil War ammunition, Richard Mannesto, a graduate student at East Carolina University, found nearly five percent of the

Maple Leaf bullets to be defective in diameter. If each man in Foster's Brigade had been issued 40 cartridges containing minie balls and powder, chances are each would also have been issued two defective minie balls. A cartridge box, worn on the belt, held up to 40 minie balls with powder. One such box with 20 bullets still in its top tray was found with a soldier's gear. An analysis of the bullets showed that at least two and possibly four of them either would not have gone down the barrel, or would have jammed after the gun had been fired repeatedly. It is conceivable that a fourth of the brigade might have had to stop shooting at one point or another because of a jammed musket from an oversized ball. Complaints about defective ammunition were less frequent after the Union downsized its minie balls.

The length of the *Maple Leaf* has now been mapped on the starboard side. Two-thirds of the deck has been cleared of mud, five percent of the cargo has been brought to the surface, and a scale model has been made of the forward section. Diving will be suspended next season to focus on conservation and publication but will resume in 1996. The *Maple Leaf* has been approved at the state level for the National Register of Historic Places, and nominated for National Landmark status by the National Park Service. The city of Jacksonville has appropriated \$100,000 to expand the *Maple Leaf* exhibit at its Museum of Science and History, which will eventually house the conservation lab and research and archive areas. Grant money is being sought to fund a traveling exhibition. SJAIE and East Carolina University hope to work at the site for at least another five years. ■

LAWRENCE E. BABITS is associate professor of nautical archaeology at East Carolina University.

CONGRATULATIONS

DOCTORATE AWARDED
George Vourlojianis, 46, of South Euclid, will receive a doctor of philosophy degree today at Kent State University's winter commencement. Vourlojianis, who teaches American and Civil War history at KSU and Lorain County Community College, wrote his 185-page dissertation on the history of the Cleveland Grays. He also is the current president of the Cleveland Grays.

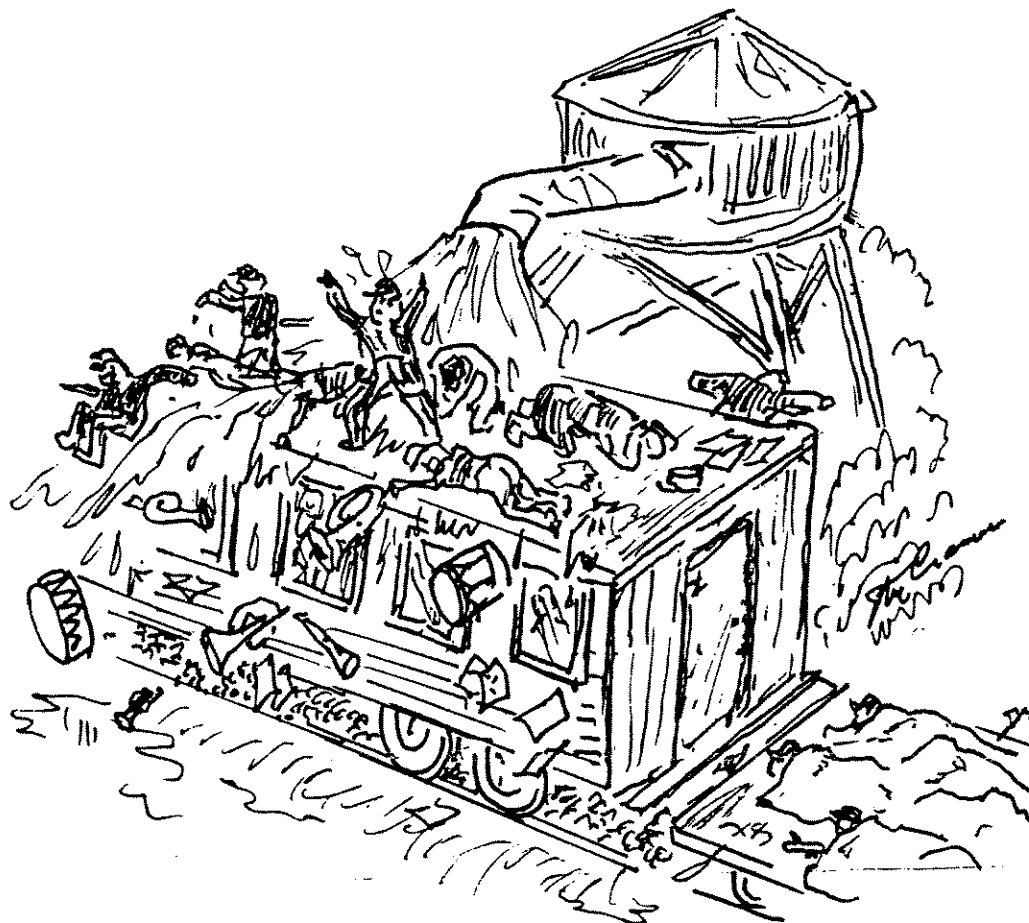
Please Make Reservations

Please call **861-5588**

RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!!



SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



On September 10, 1862, the Orphan Brigade (part of General Breckenridge's Division) was entrained in Central Mississippi and bound for Bragg's army which was then marching north toward their native state - Kentucky. The small train was overflowing with men and material. Many soldiers rode on the roofs of the passenger and freight cars or out in the open on flat cars. The train stopped at Goodman, Mississippi, to take on water. As the train once again got underway and moved past the tank, some fellow on the first car reached up and pulled the water pipe down. This caused a perfect flood of water to drench the train as it passed slowly under its spout. Company "H" of the Ninth Kentucky Infantry was on a flat car and seeing the approaching cascade, rolled up in their blankets and took it. On the next car in line - a passenger car - the regimental band rode on top. As the car passed under the spout the soldiers in the car below soon saw a shower of drums, fifes, drumsticks, and bandsmen come pouring down with the flood. This was great sport to all.

from Diary of a Confederate Soldier by John S. Jackman
ed. by William C. Davis pp 56-57
illustrated by Stu Cramer



OLLAPODRIDA

The Black Hat Brigade, so named for the black felt hats the men wore, was composed of Indiana and Wisconsin regiments and was the only all-western brigade in the Army of the Potomac. The name would be changed to the Iron Brigade after the battle of South Mountain.

Hood's Texas Brigade was comprised of the 1st, 4th, and 5th Texas Regiments and were joined with the 18th Georgia for the first half of the war, and then the Georgians were replaced by the 3rd Arkansas. The unit, first known as the Texas Brigade, was commanded by Louis T. Wigfall, a Texas politician. Wigfall resigned after a few months to take his seat in the Confederate senate. The Brigade became known as Hood's Texas Brigade after General John B. Hood took command, and it retained that name even after Hood left the unit.

After the Battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, Brigadier General Thomas F. Meagher, the commander of the Irish Brigade, wrote to division headquarters distraught over the frightful casualties his Brigade had suffered: "I beg most respectfully to tender you...my resignation as Brigadier General commanding what was once known as the Irish Brigade. That Brigade no longer exists." Meagher's resignation was rejected by the War Department. He returned to duty in the western theater until the end of the war, holding only minor commands.

At the First Battle of Bull Run, both its commander and the 1st Virginia Brigade were simultaneously christened with a new name - Stonewall. The Stonewall Brigade became one of the most elite combat units in the Civil War. Only three of the eight men who commanded the brigade survived the war. Of the original 2,611 members of the Stonewall Brigade, only 210 men were left to surrender at Appomattox.

When newly appointed Brig. Gen. Thomas L. Rosser was handed his cavalry command on September 28, 1863, he demonstrated his trademark panache by dubbing his 600 men the "Laurel Brigade" after the flowering bush found throughout the Shenandoah Valley. Formed from units originally under the leadership of the legendary Turner Ashby, the Laurel Brigade consisted of elements from the 7th, 11th, and 12th Virginia Cavalry Regiments plus Lt. Col. Elijah White's 35th Virginia Battalion. Stonewall Jackson said about Turner Ashby, "he has such bad discipline and attaches so little importance to drill, that I would regard it as a calamity to see him promoted." Concerning Rosser, a cavalryman wrote: "he knows no more about putting a command into a fight than a schoolboy." Even so, the men were devoted to both commanders.



The Cleveland Civil War Round-Table
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