

# THE CHARGER

January, 1999

366 Meeting

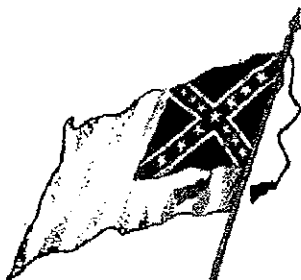
Vol.20 #5

## *Tonight's Program:*

### *The Great Debate*

## HOW COULD THE SOUTH HAVE WON?

Efforts to explain why the South lost the Civil War started within months of the Confederate surrender at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Richmond journalist Edward Pollock in 1866 wrote *The Lost Cause*. He blamed Jefferson Davis.



Many have stayed with the theory that God always favors the side with the heaviest Battalions. However, Bell I. Wiley's book, *The Road to Appomattox*, deftly explores the reasons for Confederate defeat that allots minimal attention to the impact of military campaigns.

*The Southern Apologists* will point out that the North had an advantage of 4 to 1 in white population. The North had ten times the manufacturing base of the South. And the list can go on --comparative banking facilities, the railroad network, value of food crops and so on.

However these material bases are by themselves insufficient explanations for Union victory. Pulitzer prize Civil War author James McPhearson points out that things could have gone differently, on the battlefield and elsewhere, and those differences could have produced a Confederate victory.

McPhearson along with many historians agree that the odds were with the North but a Union victory was **not inevitable**.

## *Tonight's Debaters:*

Tonight is the annual debate of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. Five of our members debate the question picked for this debate and the high school essay contest.

*The question is:*

**"HOW COULD THE SOUTH HAVE WON?"**

Our moderator is **Bob Battisti**.

Our five member panel:

**Lou Braman   George George  
Neil Glazer   Eddie Myers  
Dale Thomas**

**Date: January 13, 1999**

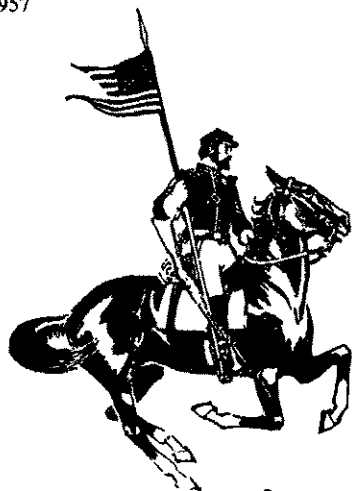
**Place: The Hermit Club**

**Time: Drinks 6 PM  
Dinner 7 PM**

**Reservations: Please Call  
JAC Communications  
at (216) 861-5588**

**February Meeting changed to Wednesday, February 17, 1999**

Founded 1957



THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE  
PO BOX 1500 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115

**President: Dick Crews**

**Vice President: Bob Boyda**

**Secretary: William Vodrey**

**Treasurer: Peter Holman**

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Bill Doty, John Howard, Bill McGrath.**

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**Anne & John Caputo**

*About the*

## ***Cleveland Civil War Roundtable***

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable is open to all who have an interest in the American Civil War and its time period in American history.

Dinner meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. The Roundtable meets at the *Hermit Club*. The *Hermit Club* is a historic private club in the Playhouse Square area of downtown Cleveland. Dinner is \$20.00. Club dues are \$35.00 per year.

Visit our new web site:

<http://members.aol.com/RCrews5369/>

January 13, 1999

*The Great Debate*

## **How Could the South have Won?**

MODERATOR: ROBERT E. BATTISTI

February 17, 1999 (Note the date change)



## **Abraham Lincoln**

*Reelection of 1864*

JOHN C. WAUGH

March 10, 1999



## **William T. Sherman**

*The Most Hated man in the South*

SCOTT MAYBAUM

April 7, 1999



## **John Hunt Morgan**

*The confederate who almost  
attached Cleveland*

LESTER V. HORWITZ

May 12 1999



## **Rosy O'Neal Greenhow**

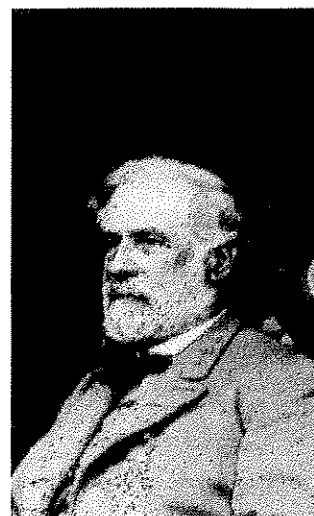
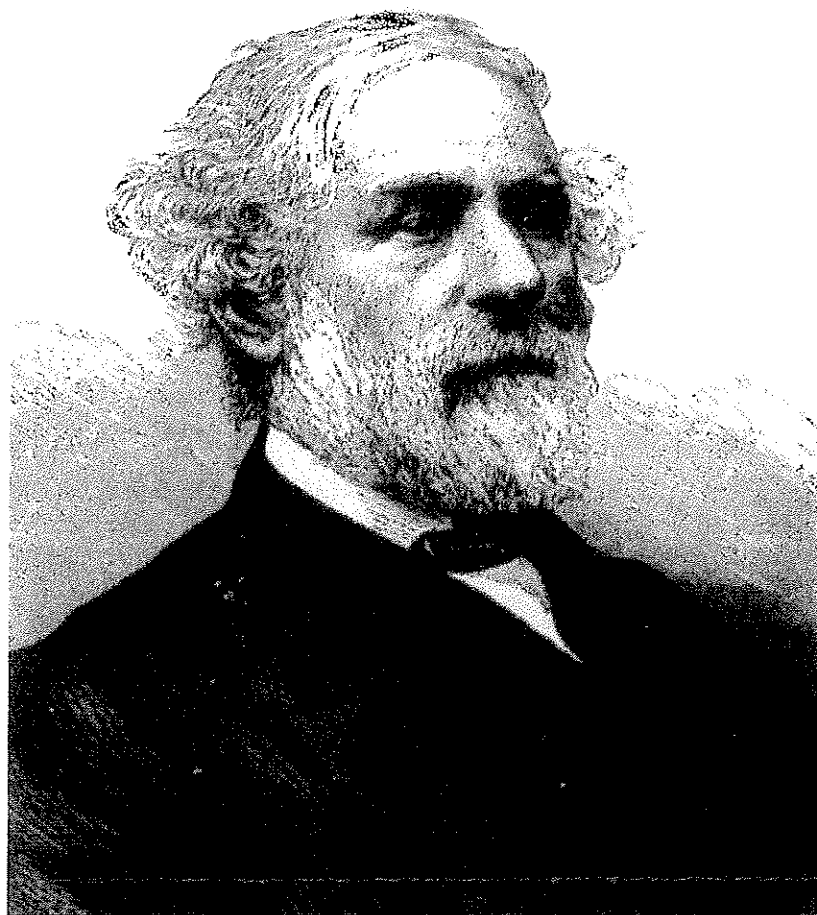
*Confederate Spy*

DIANNE KAUFFMAN

GREATER CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST  
WINNER PRESENTED AT THE MAY MEETING

# **Fall Field Trip ON TO RICHMOND**

**Note date change of the February meeting to Wednesday, February 17, 1999**



# The Night Ride of Robert E. Lee

By Gary Norman

*I am haunted by the campaigns of recent yesteryear, while I ride my aging out loyal companion named Spirit through the moon lit Virginia countryside. Just another night ride to escape the painful truth that I lost the War of Independence for the South.*

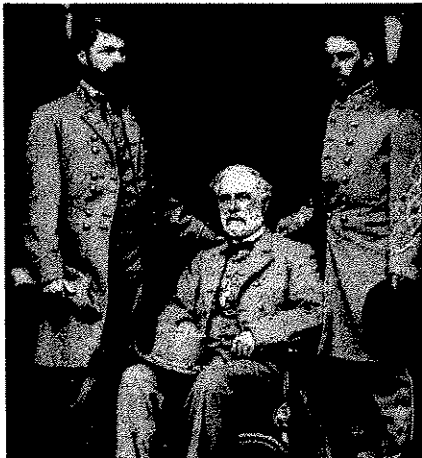
*I am riding to the former capitol of the Confederacy for a honor ceremony. What a strange fate that I am going to be honored by a group of exconfederates, when I am the one who lost the war. A war that was fought so that men can breath free from the interference of the federal government. It is my sincerest prayer that these brave sons of Virginia can forgive me for my stupidities of the past, such as: the fatal decision to charge a division of Confederate soldiers into a line of well entrenched Yankees at the battle of Gettysburg. The sun is beginning to break over the horizon of the pristine mountain landscape. Alas, a new day has broken just so that I can bare more pain whenever I contemplate the number of Virginia sons who died under my command. Indeed, I have nothing to be honored for and neither does General Grant.*

Gary Norman is a law student at Cleveland State University and a new member of the Cleveland CWRT.

*My Southern brethren and I did not promote the existence of our unique civilization but only destroyed it. My former American brethren did not defend their Constitution but abrogated it. I fought in the Second American Revolution as a member of the Confederacy, so that I could promote and save the rights of my native State, but I accomplished little in that regard.*

*Americans shall never again be as free as they were prior to the war. As I come upon the last leg of my journey to the old capitol of the Confederacy, I am overwhelmed by the scarred landscape left behind by the Yankee devils. Scars abound everywhere; from the once populated town to the smoking remains of once prosperous farms and from the once lush green foliage of the fruit trees to the scarred ground where crops shall never grow again. I would rather die a thousand dishonorable deaths than ever glance upon scars in the Virginia countryside again.*

*How can I still show my face in the State of Virginia? Oh! What a harvest you use to produce from your fertile soil. A harvest that never shall be reaped again. A war fought for a nation that will never be again.*



*Robert E. Lee*

The above writing is a short story which concerns how Robert E. Lee felt about losing the war to the North. I realize it is highly imaginative, because General Lee never talked much about the war in later life.

*Gary Norman*

# THE COST OF WAR

by Sid Sidlo

The real cost of any war is measured not in cold and bloodless money but in the tragically shortened lives of the soldiers and civilians who died in the war and the sufferings of those whose wounds, both physical and psychological, continued long after. But here are some interesting data about the monetary cost of the Civil War.

From 1861 to 1865 it cost the federal government about 2.3 billion dollars to prosecute the war. From that time to 1996 (the latest year for which figures are available) our nation experienced an inflation rate of 1877% in 1996 dollars, the wartime cost to the Union of the Civil War was forty-three billion dollars. When postwar pensions and other veterans benefits are figured in, the United States spent 216 billion of today's dollars on the war. The cost to the Confederacy is harder to come by, but appears to be (again in 1996 dollars) at least 75 billion dollars including post-war benefits.

During the war about half of Union expenditures went to pay the troops. Another quarter was spent on food and clothing. The remainder was used for transportation of troops and supplies, purchase of horses for the cavalry and artillery, arms and ammunition, and providing prisons for Confederate captives. Surprisingly, only about 3% of all expenditures were required to purchase weapons and ammunition.



*One Half of Union expenditures went to pay the troops*

The Civil War was a bargain, as these things go, in terms of today's dollars. By comparison, World War I, lasting half as long (for America), cost about 3/4 of a trillion dollars in 1996 dollars, or more than three times the cost of the Late Unpleasantness. World War II, a few months shorter than the Civil War, cost about 4.75 trillion dollars, again in 1996 dollars, or about 22 times the cost of our earlier conflict. The principal reasons, no doubt, have to do with soldiers' pay and technology. Compared to twentieth century wars, the Civil War was highly labor-intensive (as were earlier wars), and soldiers were poorly paid by today's standards (a private's pay was then \$13 a month, or \$244/month in today's dollars, about a quarter of present pay).

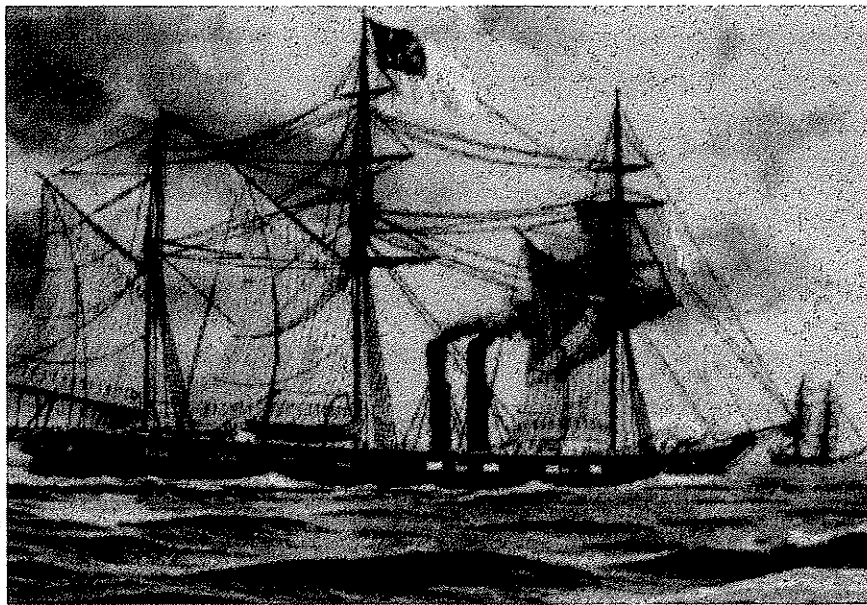
Further, military technology made remarkable strides in the mid-nineteenth century under the spur of the Industrial Revolution, but compared to later wars was still in its infancy.

We should note that both the Korean War (\$437 billion) and war in Vietnam (\$715 billion) also exceeded the cost of the Civil War in terms of today's dollars. And again for the same reasons - higher military pay and the cost of advanced technology.

Sid Sidlo is the Editor of the North Carolina CWRT's RAMROD and a long time friend of the Cleveland CWRT.

The public debt, which stood at a mere \$92,400,000 in 1860, rose to 2-1/2 billion dollars by war's end, or \$75 per capita then (\$1,408 in 1996 dollars). [By comparison, at the end of 1996 the public debt stood at 5.2 TRILLION dollars or \$19,805 for every one of us. Today the daily interest on the national debt is \$942 million!]

After the war the United States made a claim against Great Britain for compensation for the predations of commerce raiders, mainly the *Alabama*, *Shenandoah*, and *Florida*, that had been built in England. The *Alabama* alone captured, sank, or burned 69 Union vessels, the *Shenandoah* 38, and the *Florida* 37. In 1872 an international tribunal made up of Italy, Switzerland, and Bra-



CSS Florida by Bill McGrath

zil, met in Geneva, Switzerland, to arbitrate the controversy. The tribunal set the damages at 15.5 million dollars in gold (\$281 million today), that was paid off over the next twenty-five years. Great Britain, in turn, was awarded \$1,929,819 (\$36 million today) for losses to its subjects.

As a parting shot, it might interest you to know that the pursuit and capture of Jefferson Davis cost the United States \$1,821,283.51 in 1996 dollars.

*Sid Sidlo*

**SOURCES:**

Patricia Faust, *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War*, 1986.

John J. McCusker, *How Much Is That in Real Money? A Historical Price Index for Use as a Deflator of Money Values in the Economy of the United States*, 1992

William Price, *The Civil War Handbook*, 1961

*United States Statistical Abstract*, 1997

*World Almanac and Book of Facts*, 1997

## NEWS FROM OUR PROSPECTIVE MEMBER IN BRAZIL

**SAN PAULO, BRASIL\*, NOV. 9<sup>TH</sup>, 1998**

Dear Mr. Crews,

First of all, thank you very much for your nice letter, along with some issues of **THE CHARGER**, and information on the Cleveland Civil War Round Table. I was also surprised (and pleased!) to see one of my drawings printed among some fine illustrations, and hope to see some others printed again in the future.

Regarding your remark that it might seem a little odd to have someone from Brazil interested on the subject (and perhaps it is a little odd after all...), I find amazing that so many people outside the U.S. have at least some general knowledge of that particular period in History, mostly through movies such as *Glory*, and, of course, *Gone With the Wind*, also because it is an interesting fact in itself, but also because it is so carefully researched, and painted, and drawn, and discussed, to this day.

And this makes possible for a foreigner such as myself to get in contact and learn more about it. Another fact that might explain this interest on the subject, which I'm not sure if many people know, is that after the war, during the reconstruction years, there was some immigration, mostly from the deep southern states, to Brazil. It was the only known immigration movement from the U.S. to another country (besides perhaps to Liberia), headed mostly by former confederate officers and soldiers and their families.

Brazil in the early 1870's offered the perfect conditions, from a climate similar to Georgia, still held slaves (it would free them by 1880's), plenty of land and a government willing to accept immigrants.

They founded two small villages (there were about 800 families in all) which have grown into middle size cities ever since, and are located about 100 KM northwest of Sao Paulo. They still have some farmhouses built in southern style, and a protestant cemetery (they were not allowed to be buried on catholic ones at the time) and a small museum, with some weapons and tools they brought along.

There are two books that I know about the subject, one of them written by Eugene C. Hart called, "*The lost Colony of the Confederacy*", released in the early 1980's, and one by Judith M. Jones, a granddaughter of a Confederate officer, called "*Soldier Rest*", with a limited edition of about 100 copies in Portuguese (Printed in 1960), and which I'm the proud keeper of an autographed copy.

\* People from Brazil spell the country Brasil using an S not a Z.

I also enjoyed very much Mr. William McGrath's drawings, for besides being excellent on both trace and color, brought my attention to naval affairs, for most modern artists major theme (including myself) are the land campaign. Like Mr. MCGrath, I'm also an Architect, and although working with construction, I try to devote as much free time as possible reading and drawing about Civil War, so I thank you again the opportunity to share my love and interest on the subject.

Cordially,

*Joao Casari*



The latest drawing from Joao Casari



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# Battlefield Profile

## Rich Mountain, (West) Virginia

One of the earliest clashes of the war, the Battle of Rich Mountain gave the Union control of much of then-northwestern Virginia providing the stability necessary for this region to later form the state of West Virginia. The victory by Gen. McClellan over Confederate Lt. Col. John Pegram helped establish McClellan's reputation as a "winning general" and secure his appointment as commander of the Army of the Potomac.

In June 1861, Confederate forces withdrew after being overrun by Federal troops at Philippi, thwarting attempts by the Confederates to hold Virginia's northwest counties. Under the command of Col. Robert S. Garnett, the Confederates took up two positions astride critical roads. The first of these was Laurel Hill, outside of Belington, which controlled the road running north-south from Grafton to Lewisburg. The second was at Camp Garnett, located at the western base of Rich Mountain, about 6 miles west of Beverly, which was then the county seat of Randolph County. Camp Garnett controlled the Staunton-Parkersburg turnpike, an east-west highway and one of the few overland routes connecting the Shenandoah Valley with Ohio. Pegram was in command at Camp Garnett with forces numbering about 1,300 men and four pieces of artillery. Confederate forces fortified their position with log and earth

entrenchments overlooking the turnpike.

Major General George B. McClellan, with more than 5,000 troops and eight cannon, had been given responsibility for securing the counties of western Virginia and protecting vital railroad lines. Early



in the morning of July 11, 1861, four regiments of infantry and one company of cavalry under the command of Brig. Gen. William Rosecrans set out up the mountain. Confederate officers anticipated the pending attack, but misjudged the direction. Expecting the Federals to attack from their right flank, they were caught off guard when Rosecrans' troops took a longer route around the left side of Pegram's position.

The Federals attacked and regrouped several times as Confederate forces held their position in spite of being outnumbered. Finally overwhelmed by the superior troop strength, Pegram's forces fell back in disorder. By early evening,

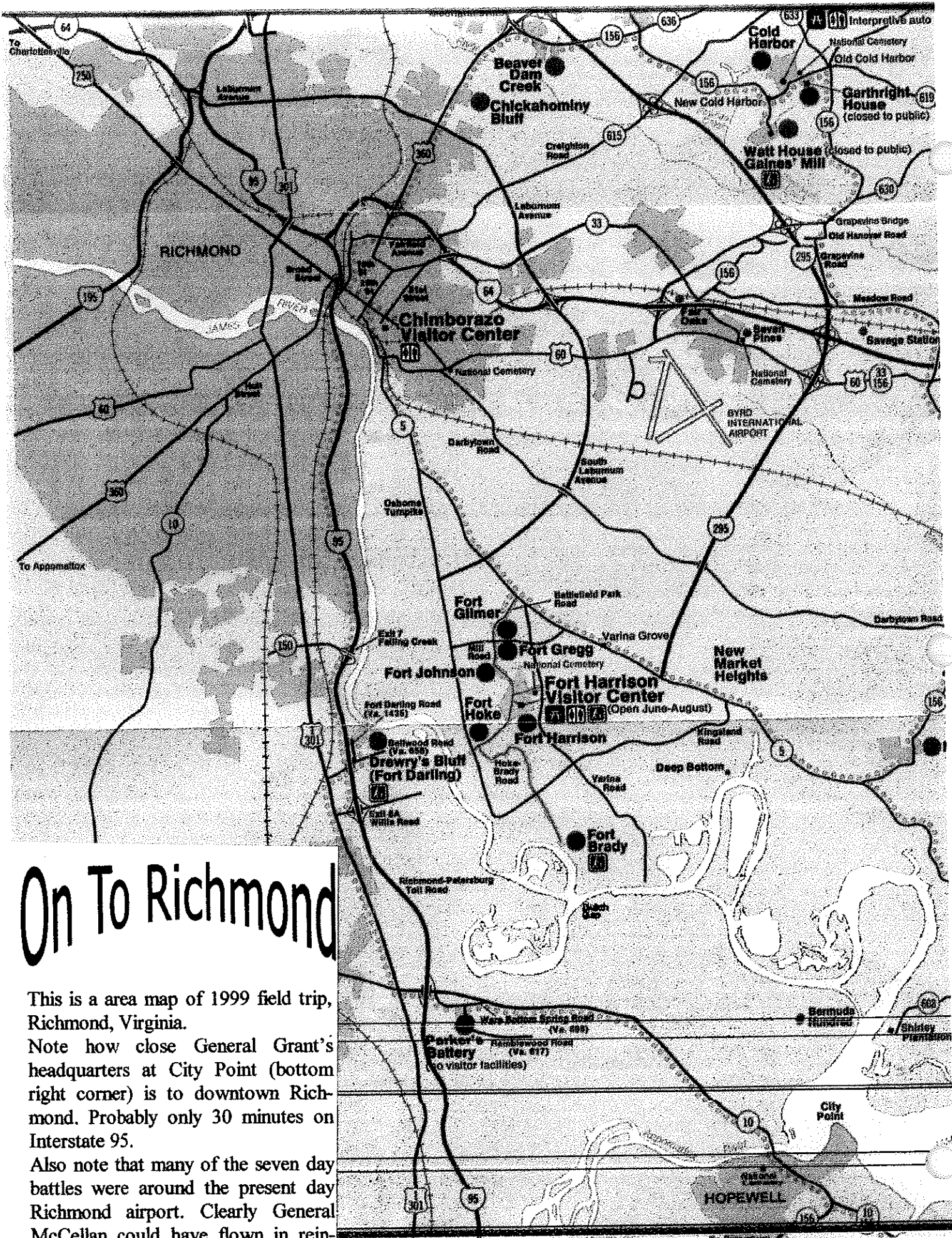
Rosecrans seized control of the field. Col. Pegram, believing his column was cut off, surrendered his troops.

In 1992, the APCWS purchased 40 acres at Rich Mountain, insuring the protection of virtually all of the combat area. Managed in cooperation with the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation, under the direction of RMBF executive director Phyllis Baxter, the Rich Mountain Battlefield stands out as an example of ways in which the APCWS encourages practical partnerships that work to protect Civil War sites in perpetuity. In addition, the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation is working to purchase the Camp Garnett properties and other nearby tracts of land that will enhance and preserve the entire historic

district at Rich Mountain.

Through the partnership of the APCWS and RMBF, the site of the battle is now open to the public. The Rich Mountain Road follows the same historic route of the Staunton-Parkersburg turnpike, the fiercely contested transportation artery. In spite of nearby strip mining activity, the battlefield area is relatively intact and inscriptions carved by veterans of the battle can still be seen on the rocks near the road.

Additional information about visiting the Rich Mountain Battlefield site can be obtained by calling or writing the APCWS headquarters.



# On To Richmond

This is a area map of 1999 field trip, Richmond, Virginia.

Note how close General Grant's headquarters at City Point (bottom right corner) is to downtown Richmond. Probably only 30 minutes on Interstate 95.

Also note that many of the seven day battles were around the present day Richmond airport. Clearly General McCellan could have flown in reinforcements from Washington.

# **Ed Bearss draws record crowd**

The December 9, 1998 meeting featuring retired National Park Service historian Ed Bearss drew 106 members and guests. This was the largest crowd ever for a Cleveland Roundtable meeting.

Ed treated the overflow Hermit club crowd to the four discussions on strategy between General Robert E. Lee and his First Corps. Commander James Longstreet at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Although Ed admitted that we don't have Robert E. Lee's side of the discussions, only what Longstreet said twenty years later. Following his surrender at Appomattox Lee did not discuss the war and died five years later.

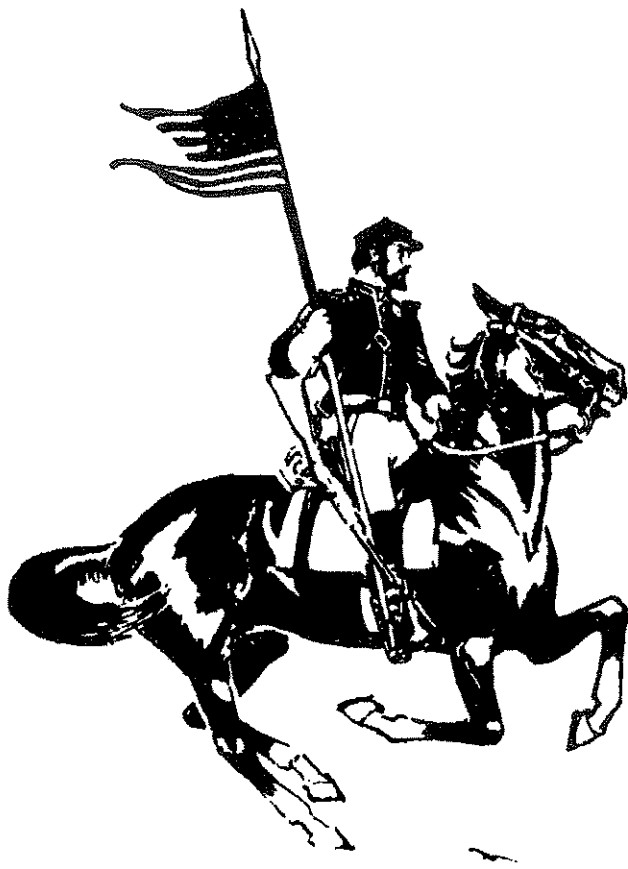
Even though Southerners blamed Longstreet for the defeat at Gettysburg, Ed Bearss felt Longstreet performed well in obeying Lee's orders. He however was critically of Confederate General Ewell and very critical of General A.P. Hill.

Ed gave Union commander George Meade a C+. Meade didn't do anything brilliant but he didn't do anything stupid either. The questions about Meade mostly centered on attacking the Confederates as they withdrew. President Abraham Lincoln was furious that Meade let Lee's army escape across the Potomac River. Ed said Ulysses S. Grant would have attacked.

Even though we had people searching for places to sit and microphone problems, it was a great evening for the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable.



Cleveland CWRT President Dick Crews and Ed Bearss



Cleveland Civil War Roundtable PO Box 18900 Cleveland, OH 44118



# The Great Debate

## How Could the South have won?

*Bob Battisti – Moderator*

Debaters: Lou Braman    George George  
                 Neil Glazer    Eddie Myers  
                 Dale Thomas

# Wednesday, January 13, 1999