

THE CHARGER

January, 2000

375 Meeting

Vol.21 #5



What were Southern options after the fall of Atlanta?

- ◆ Surround Sherman in Atlanta as the Russians did at Stalingrad.
- ◆ Attack Chattanooga and cut off Sherman's supply lines.
- ◆ Hood's Army moved to Virginia and attack Grant at Petersburg.
- ◆ Hood's Army sent up the Shenandoah Valley and attack Washington, D.C.

Tonight's panel:

Al Enlow

Maynard Bauer

Joyce McGrath

Bob Boyda

Date: **January 12, 2000**

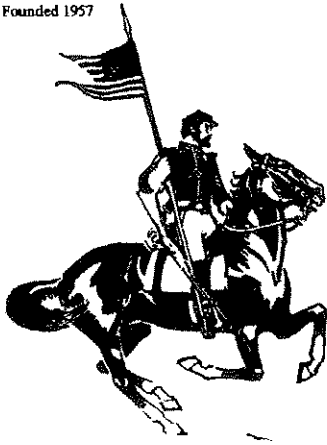
Place: **The Hermit Club**

Time: **Drinks 6 PM**

Dinner 7 PM

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

Founded 1957



The Cleveland Civil War Round Table PO Box 1800 Cleveland, Ohio 44118

About the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

The 127 men and women of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable reflect the ethnic, racial, and religious diversity of Greater Cleveland. Members range in age from 16 to 93 years old. The common bond is the belief that the American Civil War was the *defining* event in United States history.

Dinner meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. The Roundtable meets at a historic private club in the Playhouse Square area of downtown Cleveland.

Dinner is \$20.00. Club dues are \$40.00 per year.

PAST CLEVELAND C.W.R.T. PRESIDENTS

1999 Dick Crews	1977 James Chapman
1998 John Moore	1976 Milton Holmes
1997 Dan Zeiser	1975 Thomas Gretter
1996 John Sutula	1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh
1995 Norton London	1973 Arthur Jordan
1994 Robert E. Battisti	1972 Bernard Drews
1993 Kevin Callahan	1971 Kenneth Callahan
1992 Bob Baucher	1970 Frank Schuhle
1991 Joe Tirpak	1969 Donald Heckaman
1990 Ken Callahan Jr.	1968 Frank Moran
1989 Neil Glaser	1967 William Schlesinger
1988 Martin Graham	1966 Donald Hamill
1987 George Vourlojianis	1965 Lester L. Swift
1986 Tim Beatty	1964 Guy DiCarlo, Jr.
1985 Brian Kowell	1963 Paul Guenther
1984 Neil Evans	1962 Edward Dowber
1983 William Victory	1961 Charles Clarke
1982 John Harkness	1960 Howard Preston
1981 Thomas Geschke	1959 John Cullen, Jr
1980 Charles Spiegle	1958 George Farr, Jr.
1979 William Bates	1957 Kenneth Grant
1978 Richard McCrae	

January 12, 2000



The Great Debate Confederate options after the fall of Atlanta

MODERATOR: DICK CREWS

February 9, 2000



Ulysses S. Grant From The Wilderness to Cold Harbor

NORTON LONDON

March 8, 2000



Braxton Bragg

Was he really that bad?

DAVE SMITH

April 12, 2000



THE SONS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

DAVE WOOD

MAY 10, 2000



PATRICK CLEBURNE

CRAIG SYMONDS

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President: Bob Boyda
Vice President: William Vodrey
Secretary: Bill McGrath
Treasurer: Bill Doty

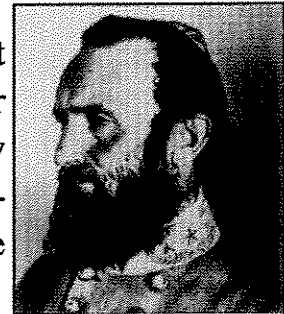
Executive Committee:
Lou Braman
Dick Crews
John Moore
Ty Somersfield
Dale Thomas
Dan Zeiser

What is a victory?

By Matt Slattery

Through four long years the war in the east was marked by a succession of extremely close fought battles. In all the casualties were about even and victory is traditionally marked by which side left the field, though even in such decisive battles as Antietam and Gettysburg the Confederates did not retreat until days after the fighting stopped. The victories and defeats were narrow indeed.

However, one of these bloody encounters takes a bizarre twist and is worth reviewing in that light. The Battle of Cedar Mountain has gone into the record as a Confederate victory and another jewel in the crown of the revered Stonewall Jackson. Not that we will have deny it. The Union casualties were disproportionate. But let us look at the whole event.



General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson

McClellan had pulled away (was driven away) from Richmond and was holed up at Harrison's Landing with Lee in close attendance. Pope was collecting an army in western Virginia to take advantage of this impasse. His headquarters were at Sperryville. Seeing this, Lee detached Jackson's Corps and sent it to Gordonsville.

From there Jackson's troops marched north and stopped at a good tactical position at Cedar Mountain. Simultaneously Pope was marching south. Now here is the key to what follows. Keep in mind that this is 1862. Movement is by foot. A 25,000 man army in column (as this one was) is strung out over fifteen miles of roadway, its head a days march from its rear.

Pope's army had Banks division in advance and it came up to Cedar Mountain where, in view of the established rebel position it should properly deploy and await the following Sigel and McDowell divisions. But a pot-valiant Colonel Roberts of Pope's Staff countermanded the orders and sent Banks undermanned troops into the Jackson army. They were not up to it and took heavy casualties in the effort. But they were not beaten. They simply ceased their attack and waited for the rest of the army.

Sigel and McDowell continued to come up, filed into positions to the right and left of Banks, and the two forces dug in. General John Buford's cavalry was superbly handled and prevented Jeb Stuart from gaining the advantage Jackson sought. Thus the armies remained in their fixed positions for several days by which time Stonewall realized he was outnumbered could gain nothing by staying, and retreated to Gordonsville. So whose victory was it?

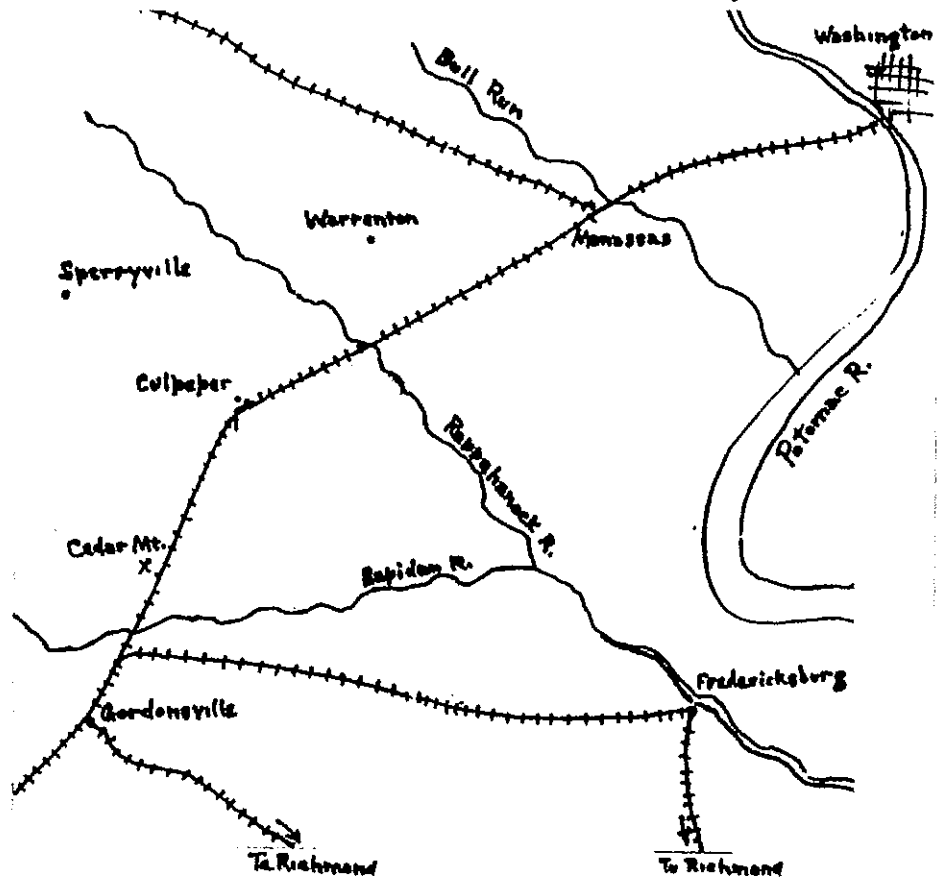


General Irwin McDowell

Meanwhile Lee saw that McClellan was abandoning his Richmond adventure and was shipping his soldier's back to Washington. Not one to lose an advantage he left only a screening force in front of Richmond and sent his army northwest to overwhelm Pope before McClellan could circuitously reinforce him. Buford's horsemen detected this move and warned Pope whom properly and quickly abandoned the Cedar Mountain position. So whose victory was it?

You can only say that the Battle of Cedar Mountain is a classic example of warfare; of the ebb and flow of armies; of well-laid plans being blown away by unforeseen winds.

Matt Slattery



January President's Letter

Welcome to the year 2000. The January meeting will be the first of the year 2000. I hope it will be start of a great century for the Cleveland Civil War Round Table.

One of the things that makes our Round Table such a great success is the availability of the Hermit Club as a meeting site. One of the obligations we assume by using the Hermit Club is a commitment to provide the Hermit Club an accurate estimate of the number of dinners that will be required each night. This estimate is generated by reservations phoned into JAC Communications at 216-861-5588. JAC compiles the reservations into a list and calls it into the Hermit Club the day before. The Hermit Club uses this information to procure the proper quantities of food for our dinners with a little extra. For each reservation we pay \$20.00 - for each dinner over \$20.00 we pay \$25.00. Typically we come very close and the club has paid for any extras. However, at the last meeting we did not come close. As a result there was not sufficient food procured and some people who made reservations were not properly served. So, not only did we incur a financial penalty, more importantly we made what should have been a great night of Civil War history an unpleasant experience for some. As a result we must become more stringent in enforcing the reservation requirement. Please note that unless you make a reservation by the Tuesday before the meeting you will have to pay the full \$25.00 fee that the club has to pay. In addition, we cannot guarantee that a proper dinner will be available. In order to make this policy work we will aggressively work with JAC to insure that a roster of reservations is available in a timely manner to insure that those who do properly phone in their reservations are treated appropriately. Please help us make this system work in the new year.

Now, since we have addressed our current problems, let us consider the situation faced by the Confederacy after the fall of Atlanta in September of 1864. Needless to say it did not take rocket science for the leadership of the Confederacy to realize they were between a rock and hard spot. Lee was entrenched at Richmond. Sherman was firmly in control of Atlanta. What to do? History tells us the ploy was to have the remnant of the Army of Tennessee move north. History further tells us the move as implemented failed miserably. So what were the options? Four members of our club will present their ideas for us to consider at our annual debate. The presenters will be:

- Maynard Bauer
- Joyce McGrath
- Al Enlow
- Bob Boyda

I am personally looking forward to what I am sure will be a lively discussion. Please remember to phone in your reservations early. I look forward to seeing you all in January.

Bob Boyda

Battle Hymn of the Republic

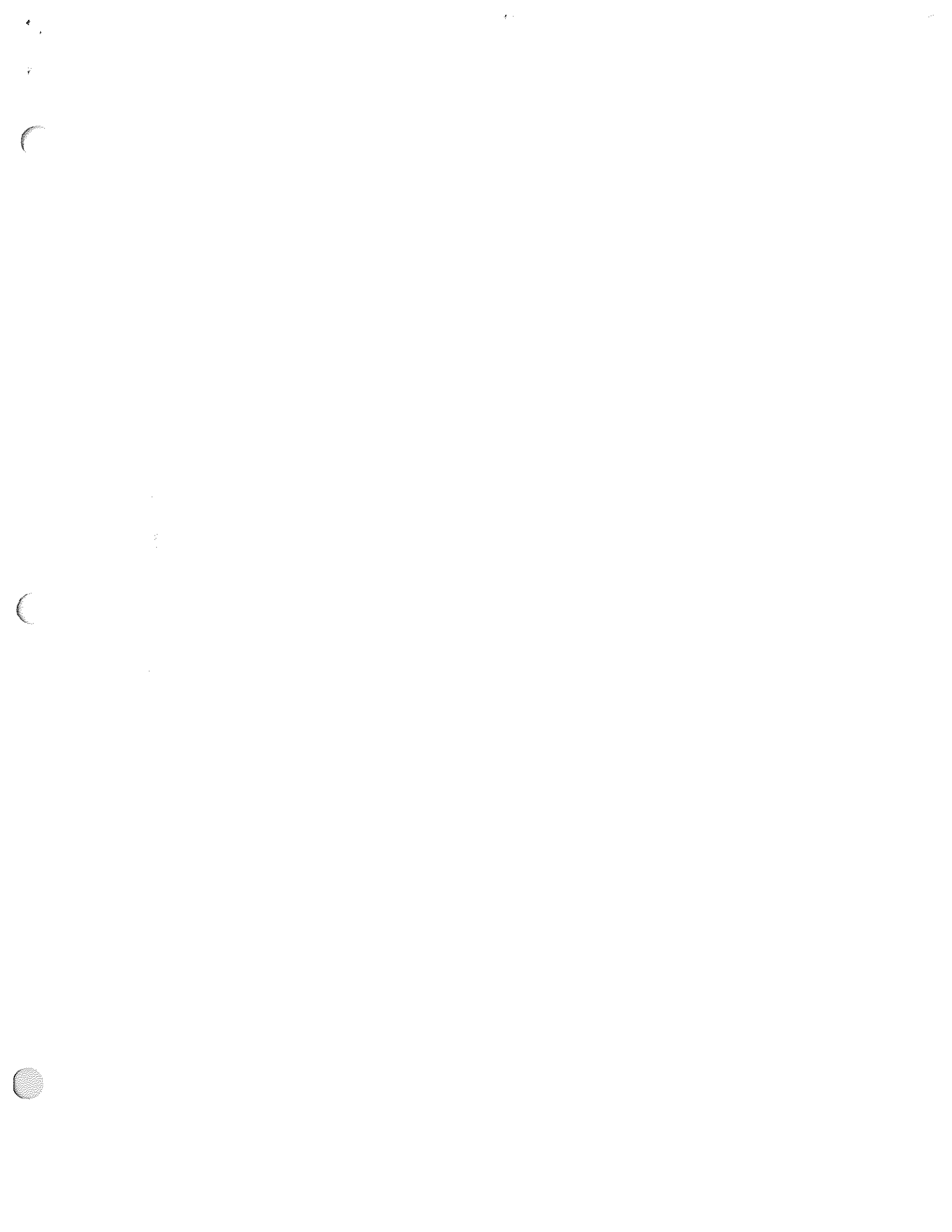


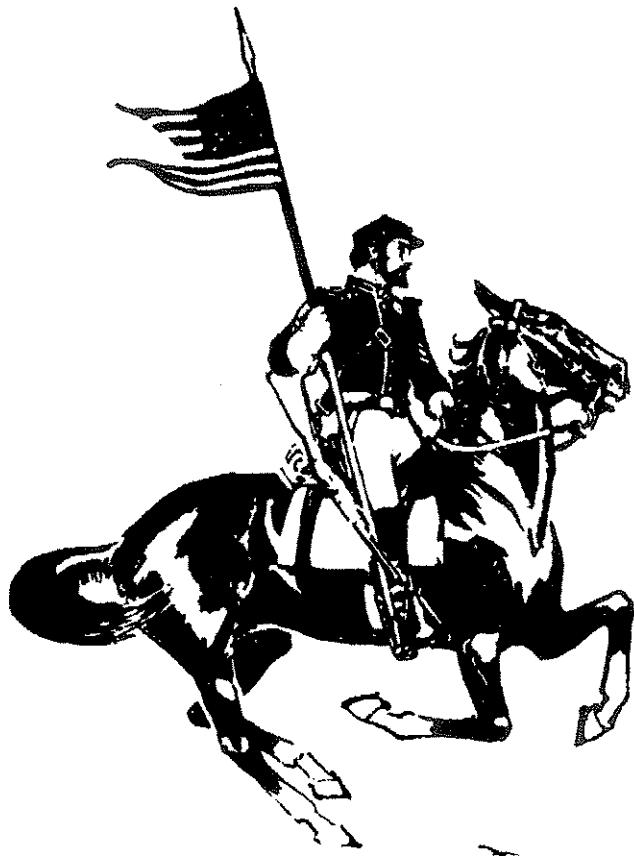
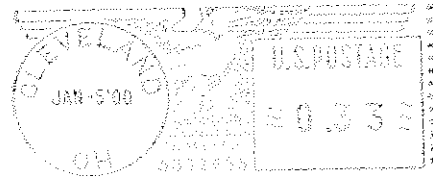
Everyone knows that the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” was written during the War Between the States, but not everyone is familiar with the circumstances surrounding its composition.

In the early days of the War, the song “John Brown’s Body” was wildly popular. Although in its original incarnation it had nothing to do with the notorious abolitionist leader hanged at Harper’s Ferry on December 2, 1859, it became inextricably identified with him and acquired new verses that were sung by Federal troops and Union sympathizers alike. The tune was borrowed from an old Methodist hymn, “Say, Brothers, Will You Meet Us?,” by William Steffe.

In November of 1861, Julia Ward Howe was touring Union army camps in the vicinity of Washington, D.C., with her husband, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, a member of President Lincoln’s Military Sanitary Commission. With them was Reverend James Freeman Clarke. During the course of their visit, the group began to sing some of the currently popular war songs, among them “John Brown’s Body.” In one of those rare flashes of inspiration that leave their mark on the history of a nation, Reverend Clarke was moved to suggest that Mrs. Howe pen new lyrics to the familiar tune. She replied that she had often thought of doing exactly that. The following morning, as Mrs. Howe later described it; she “awoke...in the gray of the early dawn, and to my astonishment found that the wished-for lines were arranging themselves in my brain. I lay quite still until the last verse had completed itself in my thoughts, then hastily arose, saying to myself, ‘I shall lose this if I don’t write it down immediately.’”

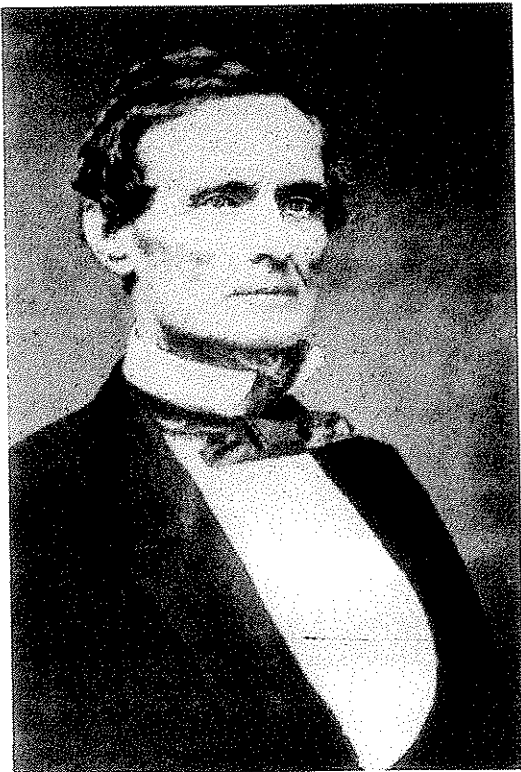
Mrs. Howe’s lyrics first appeared on the front page of the *Atlantic Monthly* in February of 1862. Editor James T. Fields, who paid her \$5 for the piece, is credited with having given the song the name by which it is known today.





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Jefferson Davis

The January Debate

*What were Southern options after
the fall of Atlanta?*

**Wednesday,
January 12, 2000**