

The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O.Box 444, Vermilion, Ohio 44089

JULY 1983

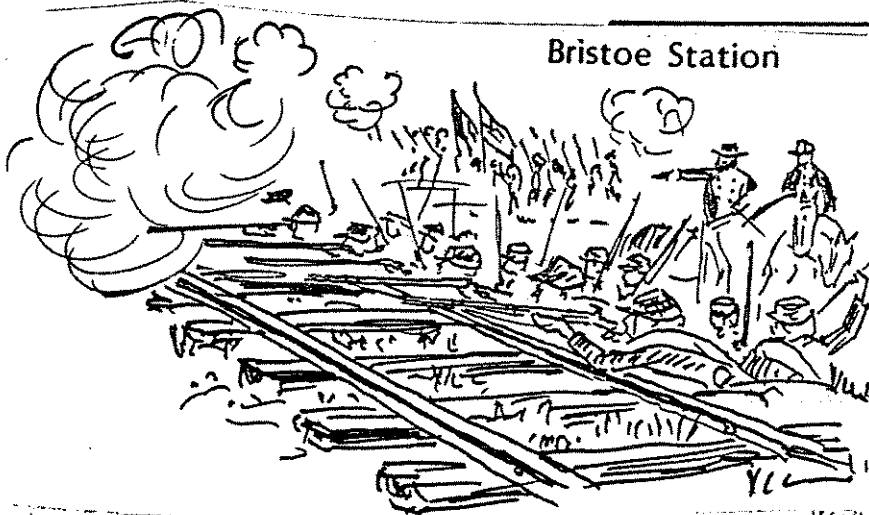
VOLUME 6 NO. 7

Summer Extra

1983 Field Trip Oct. 1st & 2nd All Set Ed Bearss to be Tour Guide

Step back in time and trod the very ground hallowed by those men in butternut and blue. Scenes of skirmishes and battles will be brought to life for you by the incomparable field trip guide, Ed Bearss, Chief Historian of the National Park Service, from Washington. In the past twenty-five years The Cleveland Civil War Round Table has visited every major battlefield, some more than once. This year Neville Bayless and Brian Kowell have lined up what promises to be something different - a tour of important minor battles fought in Virginia - all within easy driving distance of one another.

Only those who have been on field trips with Ed Bearss as the guide can appreciate how much he contributes to the reality of the experience, and those members who will be taking their first trip are in for a great treat.



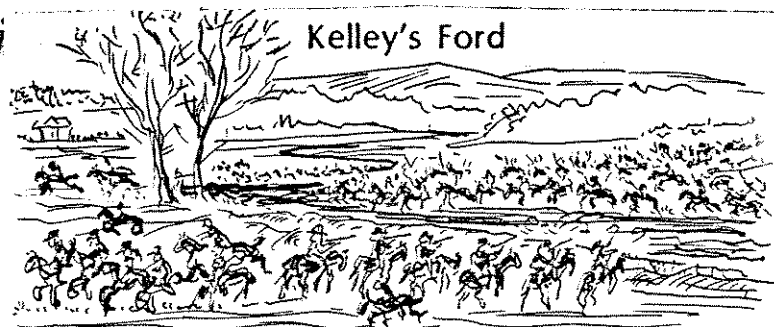
Bristoe Station

In Oct. 1863, three months after Gettysburg, Lee tried to move between Meade's Army stationed around Culpepper and Washington. In what Dr. D.S. Freeman termed "as badly managed a battle as had been fought under the flag of the Army of Northern Va., the 4-day campaign was climaxed at Bristoe Station, where A.P. Hill was repulsed by Gen. Warren, losing some 1900 men

* * *

Scene of many skirmishes and army crossings during the 4 years. One especially lively cavalry action took place on Feb. 25, 1863, when Gen. Averell was surprised by 400 of Stuart's rebel troopers, who came splashing across the Rappahannock.

On 1983 Field Trip Itinerary



Kelley's Ford



President Neil Evans
 Vice Pres. Brian Kowell
 Secretary Tim Beatty
 Treasurer George Vourljianis
 Sgt.-at-Arms Jack Allison
 Executive Committeemen:
 Tom Vansickles
 Ray Channock

Editor and Illustrator
 of the Charger Stuart
 Cramer
 Assistant Editor Hazel
 Cramer
 Editorial Office 967-
 5971, Box 444, Vermilion,
 Ohio 44089

Dues: \$20 Sept. to Sept.
 Non-resident members \$10

APRIL 10 ... Open

MAY 10 ... LADIES NIGHT...
 BUD ROBERTSON
 MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN
 IN Westlake, or GRAY'S
 ARMORY.

For the open dates we are
 hoping to get Guy DiCarlo
 and Dennis Frye, Park Hist-
 orian at Harper's Ferry.

New Roster

Secretary Tim Beatty
 reports a new roster
 is in preparation and
 will be distributed
 this summer.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We start our 1983-84 season in great shape. A roster of enthusiastic members, both old and new...all 1982-83 dues paid and past due amounts paid up...a line-up of interesting programs coming up and more.

This year I hope will be marked by more membership participation in club affairs. Your contributions in time, effort and thought can greatly enrich the quality of our club. Not only in helping provide programs, but by sending in your own articles or clippings to the Charger; supporting the field trip, and of course, improving your attendance.

We couldn't start our season in a better way than having the September 13th meeting at the home of Past President Ken Callahan. All who attended the last meeting that was held there will recall what a wonderful party it turned out to be.

Neil Evans

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 13 ... 1812 Schooners. Speaker from the Canadian group that discovered the intact schooners at the bottom of Lake Ontario. This find was published in National Geographic.

MEETING TO BE HELD AT KEN CALLAHAN'S HOME

OCTOBER 1&2 ... Field Trip, more details to come in special bulletin

OCTOBER 11 ... Civil War Humorous Anecdotes. Bill Victory and Brian Kowell.

MEETING AT THE HERMIT CLUB

NOVEMBER 8 ... Emancipation Proclamation. Mel Driver, Professor of History at Cleveland State Univ.

MEETING AT THE HERMIT CLUB

DECEMBER 13 ... Open

JANUARY 10 ... Book and Artifacts Sale and annual Quiz. Quizmasters Tim Beatty and George Vourljianis.

MEETING AT THE HERMIT CLUB

FEBRUARY 14 ... Lincoln Magic. Stu Cramer

MEETING AT THE HERMIT CLUB

MARCH 15 ... War On the Rivers/Civil War Navy. Jim Chapman

MEETING AT THE HERMIT CLUB

Fred Gill's Book Review

A BASIC BOOK

Luvaas, Jay. The Military Legacy of the Civil War, University of Chicago Press, 1959.

Did you ever wonder what that motley assortment of European soldiers was doing with the Union and Confederate armies during the war? This thoughtful and scholarly book tells what they were doing and describes the effect of their observations on three generations of military historians and teachers in European military schools.



And a motley bunch they were. There was the Falstaffian Heros von Borcke with his huge Damascus saber and the English officer Freemantle, who spent three months traveling through the South and who climbed a tree near Lee's headquarters at Gettysburg and watched the grotesqueris of the furious third day. Then there were the royal Frenchmen, the Duc de Chartres and the Comte de Paris, who actually enlisted in the Union army, and the Germans, the very bright Captain Justus Schliebert and the Prussian Lieutenant Colonel with the thunderous name of Viktor Ernst Rudolph von Schelia who became chief engineer of the Confederate Department of the Gulf.



Some of these characters were soldiers of fortune types who hoped to turn a buck writing about their adventures, some were official observers appointed to discover useful things about the American war. This quaint practise of using military observers was still accepted by all sides. Remember McClellan was an official observer with the British in the Crimea. (Imagine today American and British observers with the Soviet army in Afghanistan or the slippery Cubans in Angola!)

All of them wrote. Some wrote books, others articles and many wrote reports to their governments. Some of the writing was just buck-turning fluff but much was well done and attention was paid to it in Europe. Von Borcke's Memoires became the best known of the German works and among the detritus of the last days of World War II an American in France found a copy of this book which had been borrowed from the Wurtemberg Military Library and never returned by the borrower, who had inscribed it as his own - Erwin Rommel. Schiebert, a capable writer, wrote more about the Civil War than anyone else and von Schelia wrote the most authoritative study of the war of the time. The Comte de Paris started but never finished a bright and informative History of the Civil War in America.



All this miscellany of information was read, studied and commented on by military writers and teachers in the years following the Civil War, through all of Europe's wars up to the present. The writer with the widest influence of military thought was a young British captain G. F. R. Henderson, who in the 1880's wrote a detailed account of the Fredericksburg Campaign. This revealing work was used as the basis for training British Territorial or Volunteer officers who in coming wars would face the same problems as the Americans on both sides of the Civil War. Henderson saw plainly that future armies would be like Civil War armies. He wrote.. "our men will not be regulars. They will come from civil life and to civil life they will return. Officers will have to recognize that troops without the traditions, instincts and training of regular soldiers require a handling different from that which they have been accustomed to employ."

continued on page 4

Henderson, with this and later acute writings, influenced all military writers and thinkers, not only on his observation of civilian armies but on tactics, strategy, and command right up to the present. A French officer wrote in 1945 "We have seen in Antietam a battle of the Marne, in Gettysburg, a Verdun; and a generation later Antietam and Gettysburg were played at El Alamein and Stalingrad."

It is tragic, however, how the encrustation of tradition and pure human cussedness many time ignores Henderson and the other thinkers. Consider Liddell-Hart's note that sabers, swords and lances were abolished for British Yeomanry regiments in 1901, except for the ceremonial sword. But at least one, the Northumberland Yeomanry, arrived in France in 1914 equipped with lances. Great protection against machine guns.

After 1918 the lessons of history became clearer to many military men. It became recognized as obvious that the Civil War was not unique but was a forecast of World War I and as Luvaas shows so plainly many prescient men saw it as a precursor of all wars until Hiroshima changed everything. A reading and rereading of this unique book would deepen our viewing of our very own war.

* * * *

Civil War Smiles by STU CRAMER

"Password? You Silly,
General Hooker
invited us!"



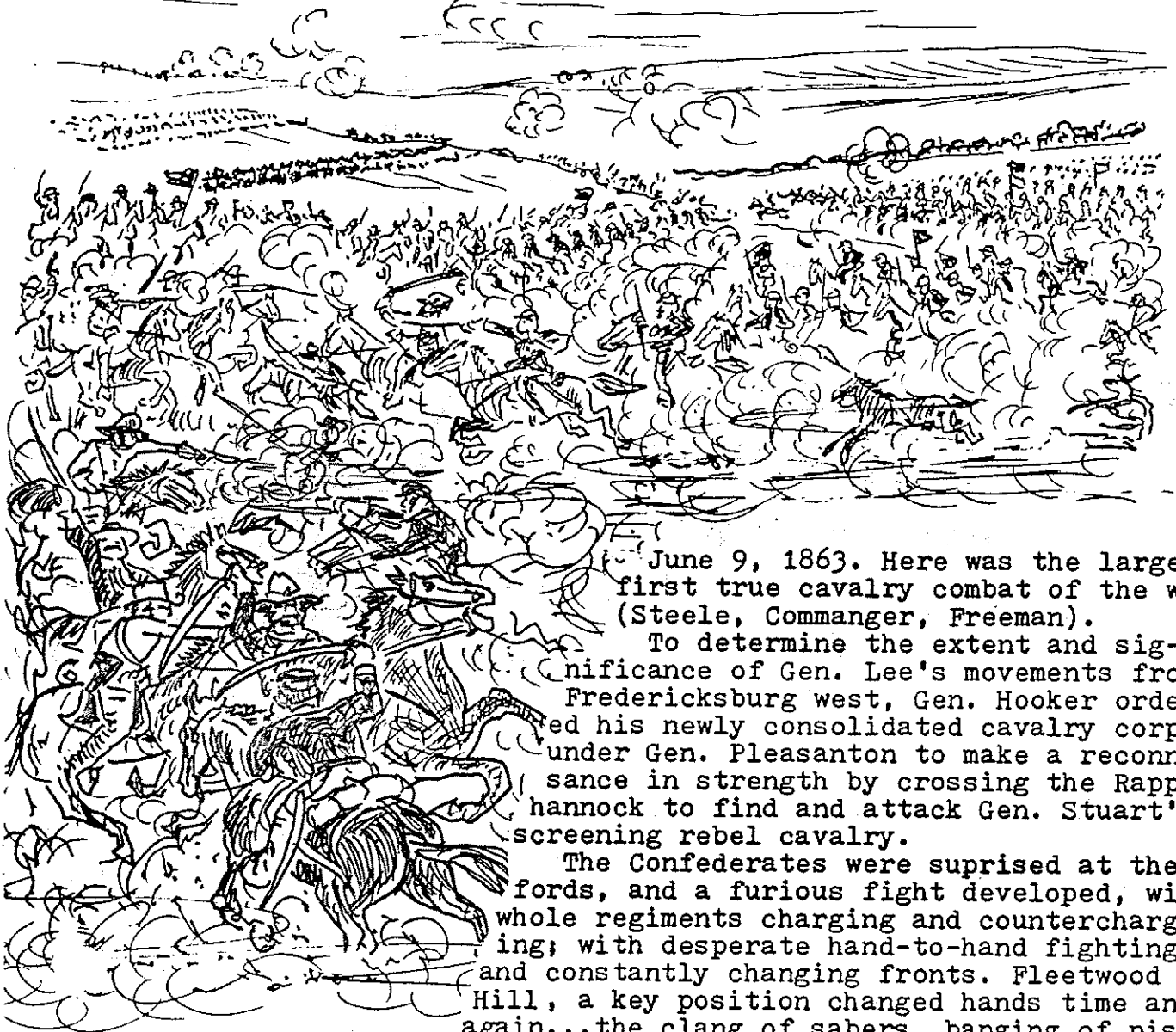
1983 FIELD TRIP

Make your reservation for the 27th Annual Field Trip by writing or calling Brian Kowell, 20566 Williamsburg Court, Middleburg Heights, 44130...216-243-7404.

Articles and maps will be provided so you may familiarize yourself with the places to be visited, to wit: Kelley's Ford. Brandy Station, Cedar Mountain, Clarke's Mountain, Mine Run, Bristoe Station and Jackson's march around Pope at Second Manassas.

SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN

The Clash of Cavalry at Brandy Station



June 9, 1863. Here was the largest, first true cavalry combat of the war (Steele, Commanger, Freeman).

To determine the extent and significance of Gen. Lee's movements from Fredericksburg west, Gen. Hooker ordered his newly consolidated cavalry corps under Gen. Pleasanton to make a reconnaissance in strength by crossing the Rappahannock to find and attack Gen. Stuart's screening rebel cavalry.

The Confederates were surprised at the fords, and a furious fight developed, with whole regiments charging and countercharging; with desperate hand-to-hand fighting and constantly changing fronts. Fleetwood Hill, a key position changed hands time and again...the clang of sabers, banging of pistols - shouts of angry men and the screams of wounded

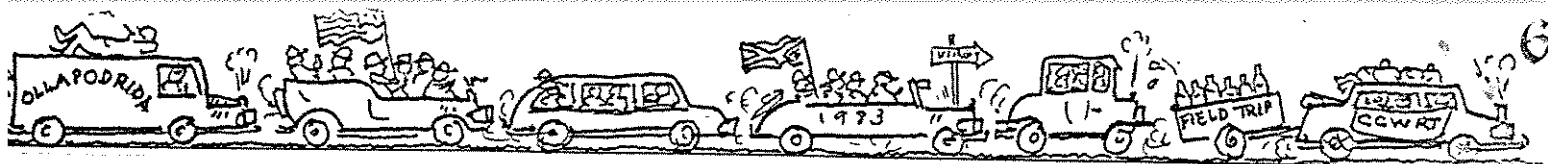
animals, with occasional booming of artillery could be heard for miles. The dust churned up by thousands of hoofs (about 11,000 Federals had attacked) was thicker than the smoke of battle. Dust choked men and horses, and coated all the combatants in gray garb. The saber was the pre-eminent weapon, and unlike other battles, most of the dead, strewn over Fleetwood, were found to have perished by the sword.

Finally Gen. Stuart was able to gain possession of the battlefield, but he had learned that the Yankee cavalymen could fight. It was the most significant result...a new confidence had been born in the ranks of the blue horsemen that was reflected in their accomplishments for the rest of the war. And the original objective of the big raid had been achieved... Hooker now knew that the Army of Northern Virginia was headed north.

Cedar Mountain

On 1983 Field Trip Itinerary

Clarke's Mountain
Mine Run



The historian for the 4th Rhode Island Regiment became so bitter about the food that was given to the sick and wounded of his unit that he decided to reveal the recipe for their "mainstay" food.

"Get a large kettle of water boiling, hang a chicken so its shadow falls on the water, boil the shadow for 30 minutes, add salt, pepper and serve."

-From Bruce Catton's Mr. Lincoln's Army

* * * *

The Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond recently marked the 175th anniversary of the birth of Confederate President Jefferson Davis by bestowing a literary award on, of all people, Ulysses S. Grant.

General Grant, 18th President, was cited for two volumes of papers edited by John Y. Simon. On hand to accept the honor for Simon was Grant's great-great-grandson, John Grant Griffiths of Petersburg. Griffiths, 44, works for the federal government. Where? At Fort Lee, of course!

-Sent in by reader Dr. Hazel Cramer, of Ithaca, N.Y..

* * * *

The Cleveland Plain Dealer reported that it had been discovered that the Exhibits at the Chalmette National Historical Park commemorating the Battle of New Orleans would have to be moved because it had been built on the wrong spot. Fred Gill's comment: "What the hell, it was fought at the wrong time anyway!" The battle was fought two weeks after the War of 1812 ended.

* * * *

A correspondent at Brandy Station, Va., recorded the following: "On our late reconnaissance, a new recruit, belonging to the Third Michigan, and who had not been in any 'foreward movement' before, asked one of his veteran comrades, "Where are we going?"

'Out reconnoitring,' was the reply.

'Out raking oysters? Good heavens, what does the General want to take the whole corps out to rake oysters for? I should think a brigade could rake all the oysters he wanted to eat!'

Later the recruit found the shells around them pretty thick, and he had a taste of them for the first time."

* * * *

One of the 14th New York Artillery, a Seneca Indian, undertook on a wager, to bring in alive a rebel sharpshooter who was perched in a tree in front of the Union lines at Petersburg. Procuring a quantity of pine boughs, the Seneca enveloped himself with them from head to foot, attaching them to a branch, which he lashed lengthwise of his body. Thus prepared, and with concealed musket in hand, he stole by almost imperceptible movements to beneath the tree where the sharpshooter was lodged. Here he patiently awaited until his prey had emptied his gun, when he suddenly brought his musket to bear on the reb, giving him no time to reload. The latter readily assented to come down, and the Indian marched his prisoner back and collected the wager.

