

The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. Box 444, Vermilion, Ohio 44089

JULY 1985

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 3

SUMMER EXTRA

HOW GOOD IT IS -

After a long, hot, dusty march.



NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th, at the HERMIT CLUB

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

On June 11th the officers and committeemen met at Kiefer's Restaurant. It was decided that members in arrears will be sent a final notice and that non-payment by September will end their membership.

All meetings this year will be held at the Hermit Club except (1) October at Dr. Callahan's, (2) December at Gray's Armory, and (3) April at (tentative) the University Club.

There was a brief discussion of the agenda for the coming year. Our September speaker will be member William Van Aken, whose subject is to be Lincoln's relationship to Ohio. A full list of future speakers will hopefully be published in the next (September) Charger.

A new roster has been prepared by George Vourlojianis and is being duplicated by Doug Baldwin for distribution in the near future.

NO FIELD TRIP

There will be no fall field trip for want of a leader. An attempt will be made to find a chairman for a spring trip. This event (the annual fall field trip) was always a highlight of the season, but it seems that the old "regulars" have already visited all the battlefields and have learned what a task it is to make the arrangements. It is up to the younger members who have not made these fascinating trips to carry on the tradition.



1985 - 1986

President - Tim Beatty
Vice-Pres.- Geo. Vourlojianis
Secretary - Marty Graham
Treasurer - Doug Baldwin
Sgt.at-Arms - Ken Callahan

Executive Committee:
Dr. Vansickle, Jack Allison,
Jock Collins, Dave Wood.

Editor and Illustrator of the
Charger - Stuart Cramer,
Assistant Editor - Hazel Cramer.
216-967-5971.

Dues - September to September
\$20. Non-resident - \$10.

MAY MEETING

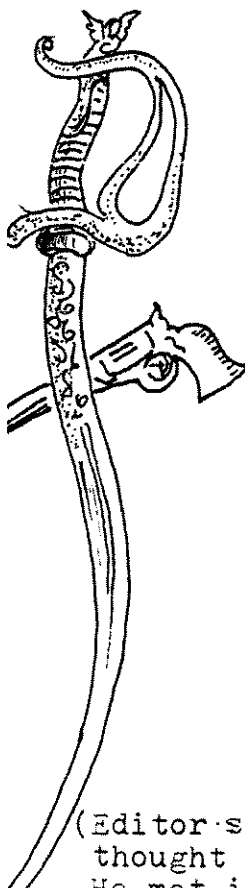
Your editor, erstwhile purveyor of "Mirthful Magical Mysteries," wishes to thank members who wrote expressing their pleasure at his "Now You See It" program at the May Ladies' Night meeting. It was gratifying to see the 65 members and ladies who attended and seemed to enjoy the same old tricks. It was a pleasant experience for me.

FRED GILL'S BOOK REVIEW

Civil War Sword and Revolver Presentations (As reported in the Boston Daily Evening Transcript 1861-1865.) Edited by David F. Stroud. Picecrest Publishing Company, Kilgore, Texas.

People will collect anything: thimbles, Indian head pennies, circus posters, John McCormack records, first editions, pancake recipes, barbed wire samples, triangular postage stamps, old light bulbs. Almost anything can mollify someone's collecting itch. Civil War enthusiasts, of course, are no exception. Just look around at our brothers who collect military detritus - guns, swords, uniforms, badges, horse furniture, pictures of Joshua Chamberlain- to say nothing of Civil War books. And do not overlook that strange bunch who not only collect lead soldiers but actually make and paint them! (Ed: All right, all right, Freddie.)

Some collections plainly have meaning. They add to our understanding of art or literature or history. Perhaps even a collection of barbed wire samples says something about the development of the Great Plains. Collections, it seems, are a kind of totem. A collection of anything sets its collector apart from the undistinguished multitude. A collection is not quite like a blood totem, but it binds the collector in a sure way to the brotherhood of collectors of like things.

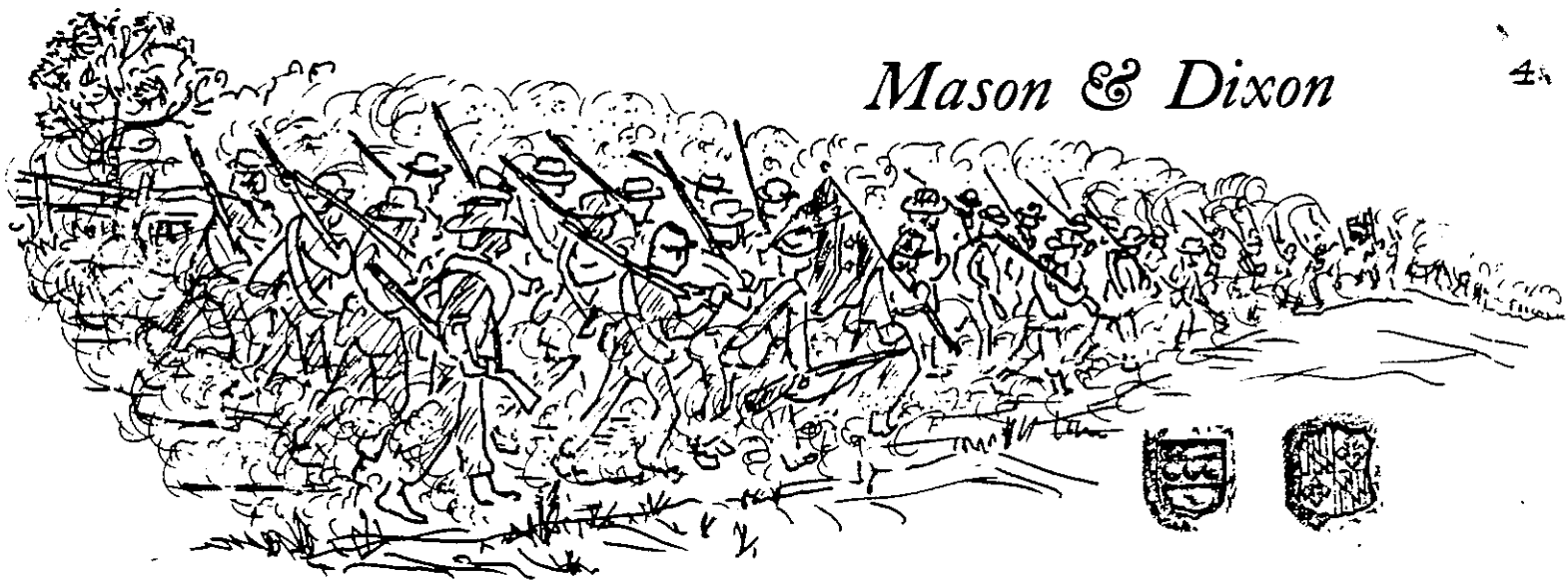


But now comes along a collector who does not collect anything tangible. This odd book spells out what this collector has collected: reports. Just that: a collection of reports, the purpose of which eludes me. In his introduction the editor says this: "The columns of this journal (the Boston Daily Evening Transcript) provide the historian and collector with tremendous documentation and social insight of Civil War Boston." The only social insight apparent to me is that the literary style accompanying the presentations is endlessly windy. Maybe that says something about Boston in the 1860's.

You cannot help, however, admiring the editor's devotion to the subject, a devotion strong enough for him to pay for publishing the book. The gold-stamped cover, in addition to the ponderous title, proudly declares "1 of 300."

I doubt if even you who collect swords and revolvers would want this daringly useless book.

(Editor's Note: This "vanity" book was given to me by the publisher, and I thought it was so inane I passed it on to Fred as sort of a gag-challenge. He met it very well!)



In late June, 1863, two armies clogged the roads leading towards Gettysburg, their separate corps and divisions coming from all points of the compass. They all kicked up enormous eruptions of dust.

One such unit, about two miles long, composed of lean, ragged, poorly clad, unkempt individuals was headed north. Over it hung a canopy of dust, with the sun smacking down. Suddenly away up forward was the thin sound of cheering. The men looked at one another wondering, "What's going on?"

The cheering grew louder as the column reached a certain point; some of the men waved their hats and yelled, and pointed to the side of the road. "There it is!" The marker. It was green with age and looked like a small tombstone. Someone fired a shot in the air and there was more cheering. The Army of Northern Virginia was now in Pennsylvania. Now for the first time, they were in Yankee territory!

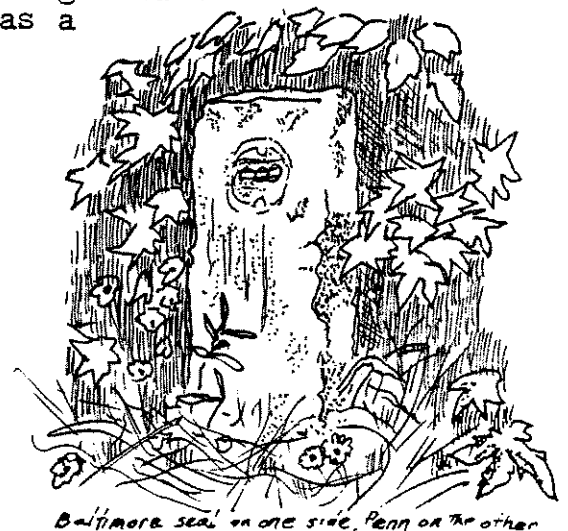
What was this magic marker that has always symbolized the line between North and South? It was a line laid out for a total of about 332 miles by two English astronomer-scientists between 1763 and 1767, to settle a dispute between the Penns and the Baltimores. For more than eighty years these two powerful proprietaries had contended over the precise location of their common border. They finally settled upon two scientists, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, to direct an impersonal, mathematically dependable survey. Markers were erected every fifth of a mile, dividing Maryland from Pennsylvania, and later Delaware.

The Mason and Dixon line eventually became a figurative division of the North from the South, thought of as a jagged extension of the border to some vaguely defined point on the Missouri-Kansas border.

Is this where the name of "Dixie" came from? Probably not, because it just as well might have been "Masie." Uncle Dan Emmett copywrote his song "I Wish I Was in Dixie Land" in 1859, but some say parts of the tune were much older.

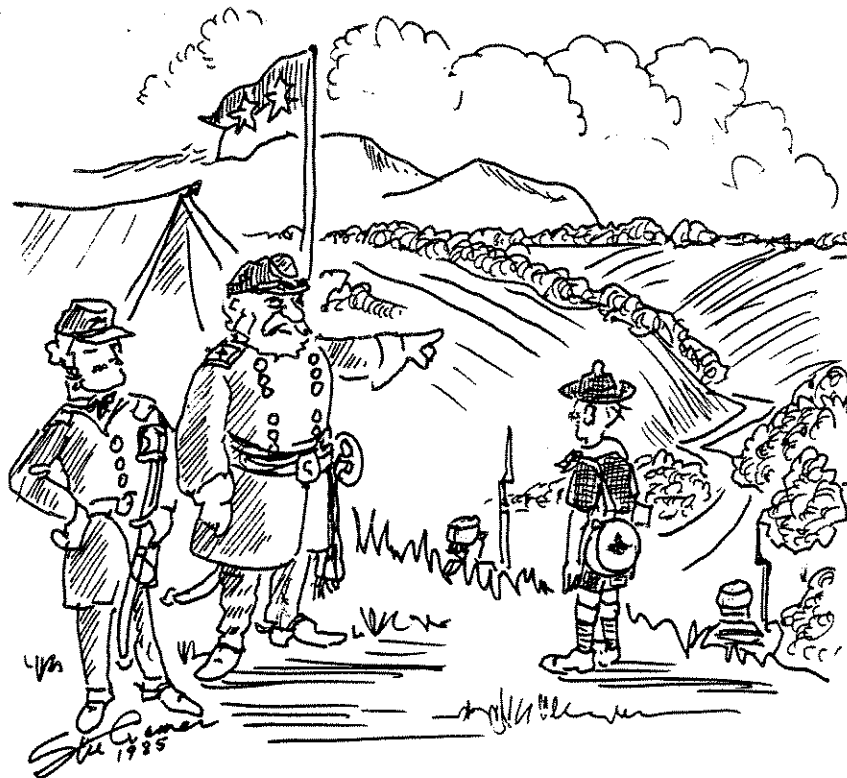
At Jefferson Davis's inauguration in 1861, one German-born music teacher arranged the melody as a march, and from then on it was the South's theme song.

Most historians agree that Dixie came from the French word for ten, dix, as printed on New Orleans bank notes. Traders from afar honored these banknotes; so it is likely that from Louisiana the term spread until it came to mean the entire south.



Baltimore seal on one side, Penn on the other

Civil War Smiles by STU CRAMER



"Go find out what is happening unbeknownst to me."

Member George Skoch reports that we can help the situation that has developed at Harpers Ferry National Park. For years the traffic problem during the peak visitation in the summer and during spring and fall week-ends has been intolerable, creating a safety hazard for visitors and blatant intrusion into the historic scene. This has occurred because of excessive traffic and inadequate parking facilities.

In 1979 NPS developed a plan calling for the construction of an outlying parking lot and a new road to the current parking facility. This plan was approved in 1980. Funding is available and work can begin this fall. THE PROBLEM, however, is that the town of Harpers Ferry will not agree to close Shenandoah Street as called for in the plan.

Enclosed in this issue is a letter, provided by our friend Bob Krick (one of this year's speakers) which we urge our members to fill out and send (have copies made) to:

Robert C. Byrd	Beverly Byron
U.S. Senate	House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510	Washington, D.C. 20515
Harley Staggers, Jr.	Jay Rockefeller
House of Representatives	U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515	Washington, D.C. 20510

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION YOUR PARTICIPATION NEEDED

Under pressure from a local Congressman there is a proposal to widen U.S. Highway #27 to four lanes through the middle of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in Georgia and Tennessee.

The National Park Service has repeatedly opposed this expansion because it would destroy a core area of the battlefield, as well as exacerbating existing problems of merging visitor traffic with through traffic. Instead of the widening, NPS has supported the construction of a bypass skirting the western boundary of the park. The Georgia Dept. of Trans. has turned this down.

You can help by writing our U.S. Senators to ask SecInterior Model to leave Chick-Chatt alone! (Model is reviewing the proposal to widen.)

IT DOES HELP BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION FOR OURTERS TO SEND CARDS...WITNESS THE SUCCESS AT BULL RUN.

* * * *

COMING EVENTS

With no field trip scheduled this fall, why not consider attending the 11th Annual Congress of Civil War Round Tables, October 3 - 6? This is to be held at the Sheraton Inn, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Many noted speakers have been lined up to participate in the panel discussions, field trips, banquets, etc. during three exciting days.

Contact National Chairman Jerry Russell for more information, registration, etc. You can save \$10 by registering before Sept. 10, 1985.

OLLAPODRIDA

Spring Hill, Tennessee, is back in the news. Here was the scene of Gen'l. Hood's muffed chance to clobber Schofield's Union army on a November night in 1864, as it marched past to join Gen'l. Thomas at Nashville. Hood was enjoying a drinking party given by the same femme fatale who had caused the murder of Gen'l. Van Dorn. Now, according to the Wall Street Journal, another Gen'l. is taking over. GMC has decided to locate a \$3.5 billion Saturn (small car) assembly complex at Spring Hill. The historic sleepy two-cop farm town has already begun its metamorphosis, what with the impending acres upon acres of tract homes, trailer parks, more highways, more schools and shopping centers - property values jumping from \$1500 to \$30,000 per acre!

* * * * *

During the Battle of Sayler's Creek, a company from the 17th Maine captured several Confederate wagons, one of which contained a keg of "fine officer's whiskey." It was then emptied into a small stream, much to the displeasure of the company, nearly all of whom were Maine lumberjacks. Suddenly, as the captain told it, the men disappeared, so he followed down the stream and soon found them all on their stomachs frantically drinking the spiked water.

-From the diary of a Capt. H. F. Round

* * * * *

A 17-year-old lad from Wisconsin was unable to obtain an appointment to West Point: so he joined the 24th Wisconsin. He stayed in the Army, became a general, and had a notable career. Arthur MacArthur also had a notable son.

* * * * *

George Washington was in attendance at the first complete circus presented in America. He enjoyed it so much he went to subsequent circuses.

-Pictorial History of the American Circus

* * * * *

Dan Rice, the first nationally famous clown, had his own circus. He reached the height of his fame, receiving \$1000 a week, in 1960-61.

* * * * *

What they said about Horace: "There goes Greeley, a self-made man who worships his creator."

