



THE CHARGER

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. BOX 18900, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118

MARCH 1995

332ND MEETING

VOL. 16 #7

DATE:

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

PLACE:

The Hermit Club

SUBJECT:

"The Battle of Monocacy"

SPEAKER:

Kevin Casey

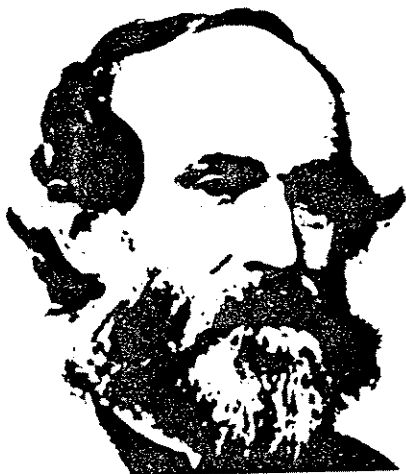
TIME:

Drinks 6PM

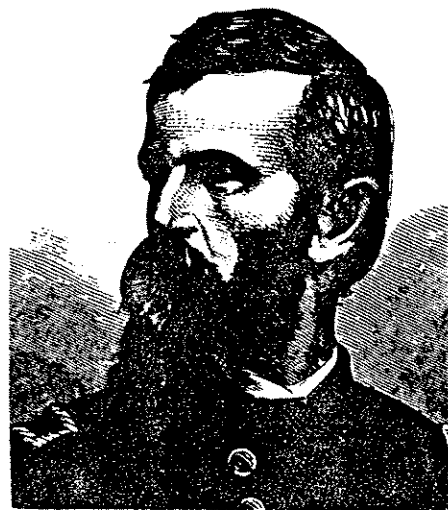
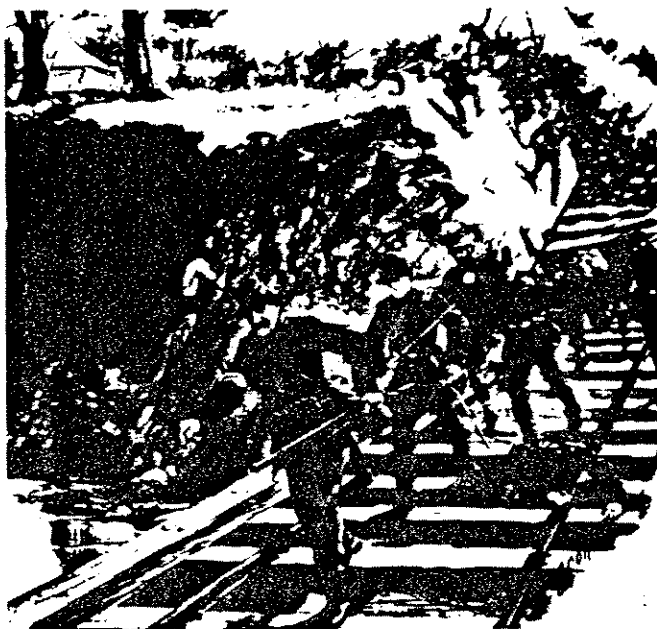
Dinner 7PM

RESERVATIONS:

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



Jubal A. Early



Lewis Wallace

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

1957 * 1995



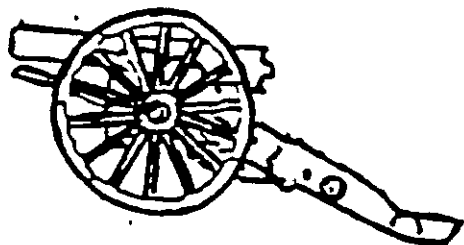
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PLEASE LET US KNOW
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YOUR NEW ADDRESS...



Preserve Your Battlefields

Last month's speaker, Michael Dory, spoke before our Round-table about the campaign for Fort Fisher, North Carolina. Fort Fisher, the mightiest fort in the Confederacy, was an earthen bastion that guarded the South's last major seaport of Wilmington. Forty-four cannon lined its L-shaped walls and land mines protected its land approaches.

The first attempt to capture the fort occurred on Christmas Day 1864. A poorly planned attempt dreamt up by Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler which featured a Union ship loaded with 200 tons of powder, run aground and exploded near the fort in an attempt to level its walls, resulted in failure and Butler's dismissal.

A second attack on January 13, 1865 led by Maj. Gen. Alfred H. Terry was better organized and co-ordinated with Admiral David Dixon Porter of the navy. Porter's 44 ships conducted the heaviest bombardment of the war sending tons of steel onto and into the fort while Terry's soldiers landed five miles from the fort and deployed for the assault. The Confederates, under the command of 26 year-old Col. William Lamb, were unable to get re-enforcements due to the timidity of Department commander, Gen. Braxton Bragg.

Terry's troops attacked on January 15. The outnumbered Confederates fought valiantly but after bloody, hand-to-hand fighting were forced off the northern land-faced wall. The fort was doomed and the wounded Col. Lamb was forced to surrender his command. With his surrender the port of Wilmington was closed and supplies to Johnson's and Lee's armies were cut.



MISSISSIPPI CAPITAL FALLS

..... Grant's Union Army attacks Jackson

Union Major General U.S. Grant in the spring of 1863 faced two armies in attacking Vicksburg, Mississippi; Confederate General Pemberton at Vicksburg and General Joseph E. Johnston forces at the state capital Jackson forty miles to the east.

Grant decided to deal with Jackson first. He ordered Major General Sherman to attack Jackson from the South and Major General James McPherson to attack from the west. That night as the Federals were poised to strike at Jackson, Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston arrived in the capital. President Jefferson Davis had ordered him to salvage the rapidly deteriorating situation in Mississippi. General Johnston learned of the troop strength and condition of fortifications around Jackson.

Immediately wired Richmond, "I am too late." He ordered the city evacuated while Brigadier General John Gregg fought a delaying action.

During the morning of May 14, 1863, Sherman's and McPherson's troops sloshed through pouring rain and mud to storm the city. The confederates were driven back into the city, with the loss of 17 cannons, then retreating to six miles north of the city. As soon as the road was cleared, Sylvanus Cadwallader with Grant's son Freddy started for the Capital at full speed to capture the large confederate flag flying from the roof. Reaching the building they ran up the stairs leading to the garret, only to meet "a ragged, muddy, begrimed cavalryman descending with the coveted prize.

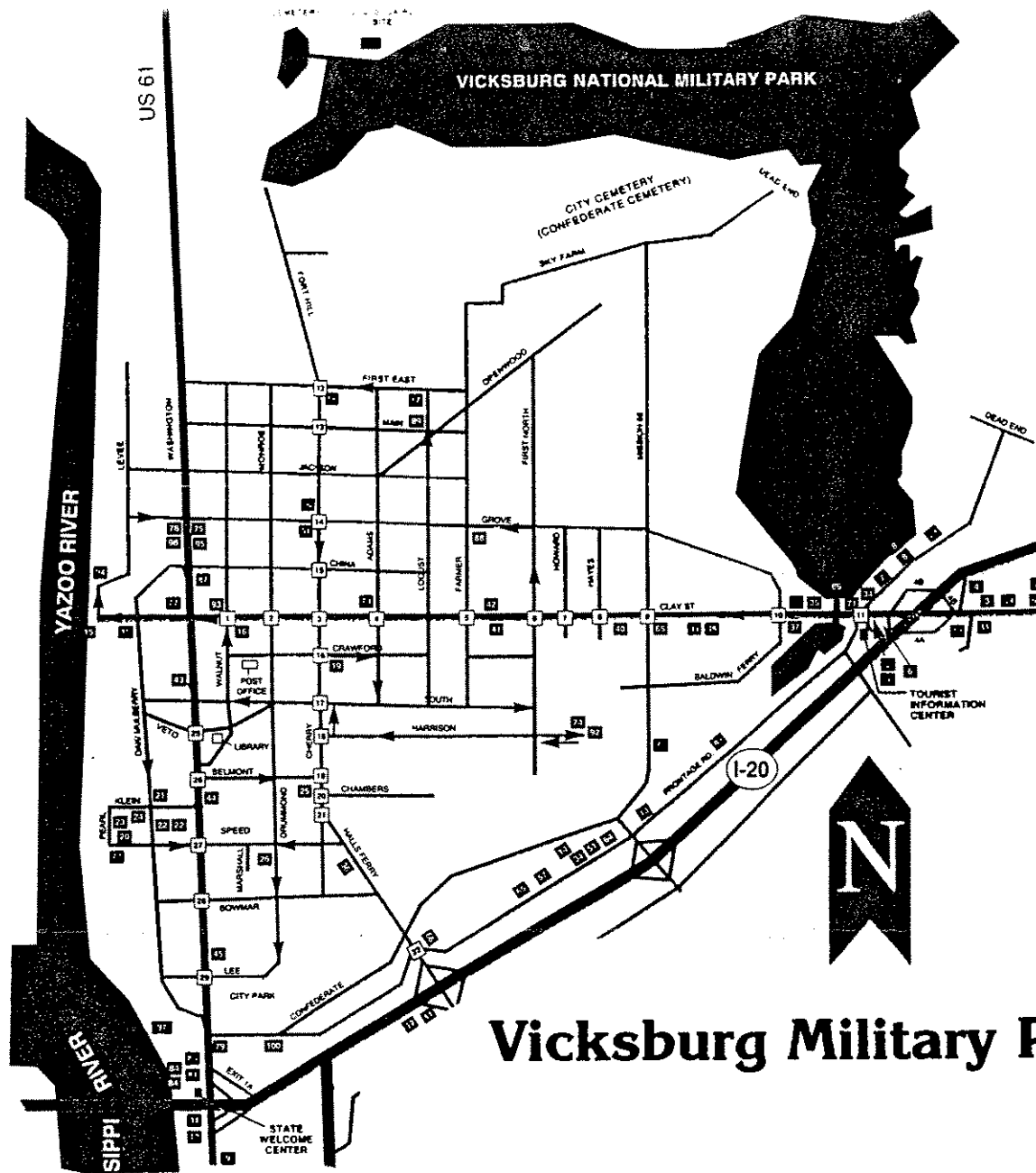


General Joseph Eggleston Johnston, C.S.A., tried but failed to lead reinforcements to the aid of Pemberton at Vicksburg. Photo by Matthew Brady (National Archives)

If there ever was a jubilant army it was Grant's Army that night in Jackson. Grant himself stopped at the city's finest hotel. He slept in the same bed that confederate general Johnston had occupied the night before.

The next morning Grant ordered Sherman to burn the city to the ground and started toward Vicksburg 40 miles to the West.

Vicksburg
Field Trip 1995



Vicksburg Military Park

Vicksburg Military Park was created in 1899 under the auspices of the War Department. In 1933 it was transferred along with other battlefields to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Today it contains about 1800 acres of land located along the siege lines, running in a crescent for nine miles from Fort Hill north of Vicksburg to the bluffs south of town. Most of the Park lands are in the northern and central parts of battle area; holdings in the southern part are limited to key points and connecting roadways. In a controversial move, the park in recent years has traded parcels on the southern portion of the field in order to consolidate its holdings farther north. Since the park completely embraces Vicksburg on its eastern (landward side), there has been constant pressure on the Park from civic development and other needs. The Park includes 30 miles of Avenues and 130 cannons. Fortified lines are clearly marked and

their defending units identified. Remains of forts and trenches are clearly visible, though visitors are permitted to enter them all due to erosion problems. The only wartime building still standing within the park is the Shirley House, located outside the Great Redoubt near the Jackson Road. The park has statues to Jefferson Davis and General Grant, Pemberton and Tilghman. Impressive state memorials have been erected by Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Alabama, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. The park museum is located near the center of the lines (at US 80). A second museum housing the **USS Calro** and its artifacts is located near Fort Hill and the Vicksburg National Cemetery. The cemetery, established in 1866, contains the graves of about 17,000 Union soldiers, of whom some 13,000 are unknown.

minutes later the orderly was back - without troops. Instead he carried an armload of spades. General Ames had personally sent the shovels.

Curtis was enraged. He grabbed the spades from the startled orderly, stomped to the crest of the traverse where the battle was raging, and threw the shovels over the top of the big mound toward the Confederates below, yelling to the enemy that he would be back soon and would fall on them just like those spades.

Curtis sent his orderly directly to Terry to request more men, then went directly to confront Ames. Upon meeting, Curtis refused to obey Ames, confident Terry would consent to his request, and stretched the truth that Terry had authorized the assault. Curtis told Ames that Fort Fisher must be taken now or it could not be taken at all. He said that he was going to make the assault even if he had to do it with no more than fifty men. Ames said nothing and Curtis set about rounding up officers and men.

Terry later received Curtis' orderly and did order Abbott's Brigade to join Curtis in the assault. These re-enforcements carried the traverse and won the day. Unfortunately for Curtis, he was wounded by a shell fragment and was carried from the field before the success he was so sure of occurred.

from Confederate Goliath: The Battle of Fort Fisher
by Rod Gragg pp 209-213
Illustrated by Stu Cramer



Monument at Vicksburg

Charles Corcoran was an Irishman who joined the British Army and fought in the Crimean War. At its conclusion, he emigrated to the United States and settled in Newburgh, Ohio, now a part of Cleveland. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted, at the age of 31, in the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry on October 4, 1861.

At the time the 42nd was commanded by Col. James A. Garfield who later left to become chief of staff to Gen. W.S. Rosecrans at the battle of Chickamauga and after the war President of the United States. Garfield left the unit in late 1862 due to poor health and was succeeded in command by Lt. Col. Don A. Pardee. In the Vicksburg campaign, in which the 42nd was heavily engaged, the regiment was in the 2nd Brigade (Col. Lionel A. Sheldon) of the 9th Division (Brig. Gen. Peter J. Osterhaus). It was part of Major General John A.

McClernand's 13th Army Corps.

Because of Corcoran's British Army background, he was made a corporal and was assigned to Company G. After training, the 42nd was sent to the western theater and was not in combat until Vicksburg. In April 1863, Grant made McClernand's Corps the advance element of his move down the Mississippi's west shore while Admiral Porter's ironclads and supply ships ran the Vicksburg batteries at night.

After two back-breaking weeks of bridging and corduroying roads through the bayous, the troops were ferried to Bruinsburg, on the Confederate side of the River, and immediately struck northeast toward Port Gibson. This risky strategy of Grant's left Confederate General John C. Pemberton in a quandry. Sherman's Corps had been deliberately left north of Vicksburg as a threat from that direction. To oppose the landing downriver, Pemberton had only a force of 9,000 men under Gen. John S. Bowen. This force quickly moved east from Grand Gulf and set up a blockade south of Port Gibson at a key bridge over Bayou Pierre.

Bowen chose his site well. It is an area of small hills and ravines running every which way and covered by a tangle of scrub and vines. On May 1, Osterhaus' Division attacked Bowen. The 42nd OVI was on the right flank and attacked across Centers Creek. The Union troops drove the Confederates back a quarter mile before rebel reinforcements came up and halted their progress. The fighting then became more and more confused in the jungle of canebrakes and gullies. Formations were broken up and at one point in the battle Corcoran found himself with Company A. Shortly after, he was wounded. It was only a flesh wound but he knew from experience that it was serious enough to require attention. Corcoran knew from his Crimean service as well as from camp gossip concerning the competency of the regimental surgeons, that the wound might not be fatal if he could avoid the battlefield dressing station. Ironically, he and the other Union troops may also have known that the only transport which had failed to get past the Vicksburg guns on the night of April 16 was the hospital supply ship "Tigress".

Corporal Corcoran asked permission of Company A commander, Capt. William W. Olds, to go to the rear to seek aid. Olds granted his request. In the rear Corcoran found a farm house where he washed and bandaged his wound. Upon leaving the house he was challenged by the provost guard which was always canvassing the rear for shirkers. Corcoran explained what happened by the provost guard was skeptical. Corcoran knew he had no problem if he could find Capt. Olds to corroborate his story. By this time the fighting had broken off with the Confederates retreating. Corcoran's luck had also run out. Captain Olds had been killed in action and no one else in Company A could vouch for the corporal. He was arrested.

Port Gibson had been a bloody battle. Union losses were officially 130 killed, 718 wounded. the rebel loss was 1,150 total (k,w,m). Osterhaus' Division alone accounted for 37 of the killed, 176 of the wounded. (We don't know if Corcoran was counted among the wounded.)

After the surrender of Vicksburg there was time for such things as court martials. One was convened for Corporal Corcoran and on September 1, 1863, Corcoran was busted in rank to private. Luckily, no other penalty was imposed.

Osterhaus' Division was then attached to Gen. N.P. Banks army on its Red River campaign, but saw little action. Corcoran, along with most of Company G was mustered out on December 2, 1864. He returned to Cleveland and afterward said that he was glad of what he had done as it may have saved his life; and, of his penalty, he held no resentment for people who were only doing their duty.

our thanks to member Matt Slattery for this story

PRESERVATION REPORT

LAKE-SIDE-MARBLEHEAD, OHIO

Peninsula News, February 17, 1995

Trustees to appeal ruling on Zipfel zoning permit

By REBA BISHOFF

An appeal will be filed by the Danbury Township Trustees on Judge Robert Franklin's decision stating the trustees must issue a permit to Johnson's Island developer Carl Zipfel. Under advisement of their legal counsel, the trustees chose to go with the appeal to give themselves more flexibility and provide the opportunity to negotiate a settlement. Trustee Dave Hirt stated it will also give the trustees time to look the project over and make changes.

The township's attorney told the trustees they had three options on Judge Franklin's ruling. One was to appeal the decision, another to treat the order as unenforceable as it was written to the wrong entity. The

other option was for the trustees to shift the judge's order to the Board of Zoning Appeals, the group who had denied Zipfel's permit in 1988.

According to Trustee Dennis Coles, their decision to appeal the ruling will "just buy us some time."

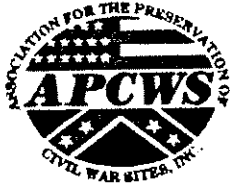
Letters from the Johnson's Island Property Owners Association's president Harold Clagg and from Johnson's Island resident James Redinger were read as part of the communications segment of the trustees meeting Tuesday night. Both letters asked the trustees appeal the judge's ruling.

Clagg was present at Tuesday's meeting and addressed the trustees after their motion to appeal was passed. The JIPOA president ap-

(See Trustees on page 6)

plauded the trustees on their decision to appeal, but, expressed concern about going into negotiations with this developer (Zipfel) or any other. He told the trustees the JIPOA would take legal action against any developer who attempts to cut the road or build seven or more boat slips anywhere on the island. Clagg asked the trustees to remember the property owners of Johnson's Island are their constituents. He asked, "Follow the law and do what you think is right."

A. WILSON GREEN LEAVES A.P.C.W.S.



A. Wilson Greene has stepped down as president of the Association of Civil War Sites. He has taken a position as executive director of Pamplin Park Civil War Site near Petersburg, Virginia. Will has done an outstanding job at A.P.C.W.S. since its beginning and we hope his replacement will continue the fantastic growth of this fine organization. Dennis Frye of Harper's Ferry will serve as interim president.

GETTYSBURG TOWER PURCHASE AND RAZING IS SOUGHT BY GROUP

The National Tower, the controversial 310-foot tall steel tower that looms over the Gettysburg National Military Park, may be demolished by the end of 1995 if a Maryland man succeeds with a plan to purchase it.

Retired executive James Holechek hopes to negotiate the purchase of the two-decade old tower with funds raised through a nonprofit corporation that he is establishing. Holechek spearheaded a \$200,000 campaign to erect a Maryland memorial at Gettysburg. The monument was unveiled in November. Holechek says the new organization will solicit contributions from a variety of funding sources in order to raise the purchase funds for the tower.

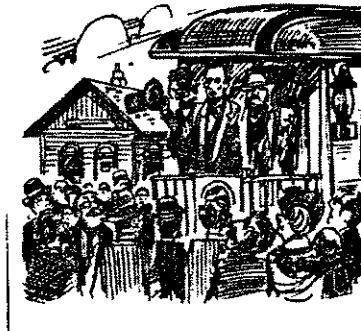
OHIO'S LARGEST CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD THREATENED BY GRAVEL QUARRY

Ohio's largest Civil War battlefield, the Battle of Buffington Island, may become the site of a gravel quarry.

Buffington Island became a part of Civil War history following the July 19, 1863 battle. The Meigs County Historical Society currently is trying to purchase the battle site to preserve it and to prevent the proposed quarry operation. The society also plans to erect markers indicating the path of Confederate Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan's Raid through Meigs County. Further information is available from the historical society, P.O. Box 145, Pomeroy, OH 45769.

Mansfield Show May 6-7, Ohio

18th Annual Ohio Civil War Show and 3rd Annual Ohio Artillery Show. Richland County Fairgrounds, Mansfield. Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9-3. 550 display and sale tables. Three buildings. Encampments by 64th Ohio Volunteers and 3rd Arkansas, Mathew Brady's tent/camera, scenarios by Society of Civil War Surgeons, sutler's row, 9th annual encampment of Civil War Veterans Historical Assn. For information, Donald B. Williams, 1083 Oak Hill Circle, Ashland, OH 44805, (419) 289-3120; Wayne A. Williams, 615 Brandywine Dr., Mansfield, OH 44904, (419) 756-4360.



IT'S A FACT ABOUT PAINESVILLE

En route to his first inauguration, Abraham Lincoln stopped in Painesville on this date in 1861 and spoke to about 4,000 people at the railroad station. The local press covered his 10-minute speech. One paper observed: "This man was not nearly as odd in appearance as previous reports had indicated."