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LAST MEETING

Tim Moran Reports To Congress



"Commander" Tim Moran as a Naval Aide to President Lincoln, wearing an authentic 1861 naval officer's uniform, presented a succinct summary to the Congress

(members of the CCWRT present) of the naval actions preceding Vicksburg and the joint Army-Navy operations that resulted in the surrender of that citadel. He used slide projections to illustrate the report with both maps and pictures. Very good, Commander.

* * *

Frank Gillen

Before the speaker, President Evans announced the passing of long-time member Frank Gillen. This was followed by a solemn round table of stories and information about Frank. One member read John Donne's Eulogy, another member, among those who had attended Frank's memorial service, mentioned the impressive singing of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

1957 CLEVELAND 1984



CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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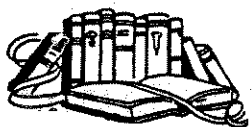
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NEW OFFICERS

At the April meeting the following were unanimously (how else) elected to serve from September, 1984 to September, 1985:

President: Brian Kowell
Vice-Pres.: Tim Beatty
Secretary: George Vourlojianis
Treasurer: Martin Graham
Sgt.-at-Arms: Joseph Tirpak



FRED GILL'S BOOK REVIEW

FOR LADIES' NIGHT - A LADY

Maurois, Andre. Adrienne, the Life of Marquise de la Fayette,
New York: McGraw Hill, 1961.

Revolutions seem to produce squads of viragoes, females with guns and unruly hags with loud voices but, as history attests, revolutions produce very few ladies, particularly ladies with brains and talent. Our own Revolution produced one or two great ones; Abigail Adams, who was certainly as smart as her influential husband and surely Martha Washington, who by force of personality sustained her extraordinary husband and strengthened his strengths.

Well, here is a lady who lived through two revolutions, a lady who did not and should not forfeit her superior gifts in support of her strong-minded but impulsive husband in his strange role as Hero of Two Worlds, France and the United States.

This great lady's story is well told by Andre Maurois, one of the "immortals" of the French Academy, author among other things of respectable histories of both France and The United States.

And what a story Adrienne's is! Had it been written for a pulp romance magazine it would not have been wholly believed. It has all the elements of romantic fiction. Here she is, a high-born, immensely wealthy French girl, married at fourteen to a poor, unattractive, less high-born kid of sixteen. It was not, of course, a marriage as we think of marriage today. Rather it was more like a treaty between two petty states or a merger of a couple of small businesses. Any other arrangement was inconceivable in Adrienne and Gilbert's tightly circumscribed world.



Despite this cold-blooded deal the child couple fell in love, a love that flourished in spite of differences with semi-royal in-laws and the displeasure of the king upon young Lafayette's adventure in America, where he proved his worth as a slightly ridiculous major general, thanks to Silas Deane's peculiar way of enlisting French support for the rising of Britain's American colonies. In this time of separation a woman less ladylike, even one in love with a turbulent husband, might well have resorted to the fripperies of the French court.

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Later, at the height of the Terror in France, Adrienne saw her mother, grandmother and a sister taken to the guillotine with herself as the next victim. She was saved the blade by the American minister in France but spent the next three years in prison. When she was released and Lafayette was captured by the counter-revolutionary Allies and imprisoned in Austria she appealed to the Austrian emperor. This character would not release her husband but in his benevolence permitted Adrienne and her two small daughters to join him in the grim dungeon of Olmutz. Here again is the pulp romance touch.

What a harrowing two years it must have been for this indomitable lady in this medieval place. It was small, damp, dark and without water and toilets, but she was with her love in his extremity, and her family was together. She did not have to do this, for her estates



were being restored, and only by her personality and managerial grip was she able to have money and influence to survive this strange and romantic ordeal which ended only when Napoleon defeated the Austrians.

Then came Lafayette's virtual house arrest in a gloomy chateau in the Auvergne because of his intransigence with Napoleon's ambition. In this time of alternating peace and peril it was the determined Adrienne who kept the family together, and, who, when the heat from the rising Napoleon got too close, through her charm and aristocratic connections, cooled things off.

The letters between Adrienne and Lafayette are proof of their love for each other at all times in their lives, of their complete devotion to each other's well-being. You can only wonder at the great force that kept these so dissimilar people bound so closely. Even Adrienne's last words to her Gilbert - "Je suis toute a vous," are in the tradition of romance and of a great lady. And now a last romantic note: over the tombs of these remarkable people in Paris the American flag has flown every day for about 150 years, and during the Nazi occupation it was the only American flag to wave anywhere in Europe.

Read the book. It will do your heart good.



SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN

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On March 6, 1865, it was obvious to even the most patriotic Southerner that the Confederacy was facing the end. All across the southern battlefields the ragged rebels were being soundly defeated. General Lee's tattered remnants were fighting a stubborn rear guard action headed for Appomattox.

Far removed from the fighting stood the Capital of Florida, still flying the Stars and Bars, its only contact with the war through infrequent dispatches and dreary accounts in the newspapers.

Sitting in his headquarters at the time was the Union Commander of the District of Key West and Dry Tortugas, one Brigadier General John Newton. He had noted that the people of Florida were disheartened from the daily news of Confederate defeats, and he also knew most of the fighting men had left for regular army service. His biggest concern was that time was running out for his own personal advancement.

To share in the victories of other Union armies he must do something to call attention to himself - like capturing the only Confederate state capital that had not been taken. Promotion for such a bold and easy victory would certainly follow.

His excuse for the plan would be to take the railroad linking Tallahassee with St. Marks, a small port 40 miles south of the Capital. Not that he really needed an excuse; the authorities in Washington were not concerned with a low-ranking officer tucked away with a small army of colored troops in an unimportant theatre.

Newton planned carefully. His scheme called for the midnight landing of half his men, who would capture the East River Bridge before daylight. The rest of his troops would then land at dawn to march on and surprise the towns of Newport and St. Marks. They would destroy the railroad and bridges over the Ochlockonee and Ancilla rivers, then march on unopposed to Tallahassee. His colored soldiers with their white officers were inexperienced, but this did not seem to worry the excited general - he

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VICTORY AT TALLAHASSEE

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would be faced only by a ragtag bunch of civilians and untried militiamen.

On the night of March 1st, 1865, General Newton and 500 men set sail from Key West and rendezvoused with other Union ships in the Gulf. On March 4th the invading hero foolishly tried his night landing in the middle of a severe storm. The small boats carrying the landing force tossed on the Gulf for more than five hours, finally running aground on a hidden sand bar, where they floundered around not making the shore until after noon.

Surprise was gone. Alarms were sounded all along the railroad and in Tallahassee. Every man and boy who could bear arms assembled, and the scattered militia units were advised to move to the danger points. One company marched 60 miles in 24 hours.

By the time Newton reached the East River Bridge cadets from the West Florida Seminary (now Florida State University) had formed a skirmish line to block the bridge's capture. The 13-to-15-year-old boys took potshots at the black blueclads for several hours, winning valuable time for the assembly of the militia.



Finally capturing the bridge, the Union forces moved to take the St. Mark's River Bridge, but again met stout resistance, the Confederates now holding their ground from trenches. Next Newton withdrew and started marching through a woods toward what was called "Natural Bridge," but once again the defenders had anticipated his move and had thrown up breastworks of palmetto roots and pine logs. Seeing this formidable defensive line, the frustrated commander decided to rest his troops and attack the next morning. About 100 yards separated the two antagonists. They were 15 miles from Tallahassee.

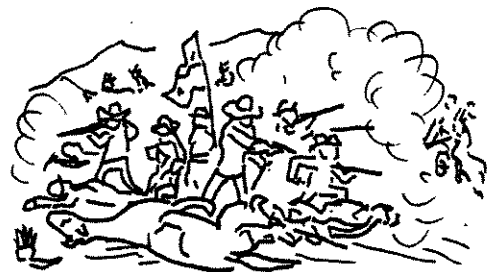
The Confederates, by then under the command of General William Miller, organized the defenders as they poured in from all over North Florida. Old men, wounded veterans and boys too young to serve in the regular Southern army came with their squirrel rifles and shotguns.

At 4:00 A.M. on March 6th, the Union assault began. Three times they were repulsed by a withering fire. At 2:00 P.M. Newton was organizing a fourth attempt, when he saw arriving elements of Colonel Caraway Smith's experienced Second Florida Cavalry. This sight evaporated all ambition on the part of the Northern Brigadier, and it was only by felling trees and fighting a brave rear guard action that he got most of his troops back on the ships and headed ingloriously for Key West.

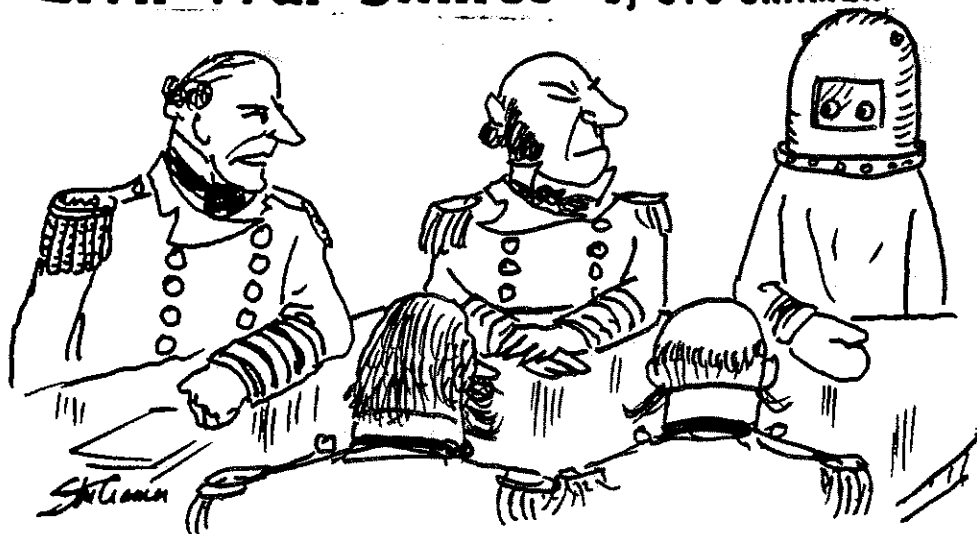
Tallahassee went wild, and for the moment forgot the Cause was Lost. Florida's Governor John Milton addressed all who had participated as saviors of the Capital; they had done what no other capital east of the Mississippi had been able to accomplish. This joy lasted only about a month - until Lee surrendered on April 9th.



HELP SOUGHT . . . The Custer Battlefield near Crow Agency, Montana, is threatened by commercial development and a preservation committee has been formed to protect it. The present Custer Battlefield National Monument contains only 760 acres — less than a tenth of the area associated with the battle. Some 9,000 acres surrounding the Monument are available for purchase. Contributions may be sent to the Custer Battlefield Preservation Committee, Inc., Box 7, Hardin, Montana 59034.



Civil War Smiles by STU GRAMER



"Commodore, I don't care if you are the head of our new Submarine Department. You must wear a regulation uniform!"

Report on 1984 Field Trip

Tim Beatty and Marty Graham are still working out the details of our Fall Field Trip. It will definitely be held on September 28-30. The first full day will be spent at Chancellorsville, the second day at Fredericksburg. The guide for the trip will be Robert Krick, Chief Historian at the Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park. Speaker for the Saturday night dinner has been lined up, but at this writing we do not have his name. A package, including motel, etc., will be prepared same as last year. Contact Tim Beatty, 221 Best Street, Berea, Ohio 44017, or Marty Graham, 1957 Revere Rd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118 later for details.

Summer Extra

This is the last issue of the Charger until the Summer Extra, which will come along some lazy day in July. In it we hope to have all the details of the field trip, but don't hold back on making your plans or reservations...don't miss this most important event of the year.

Our next regular issue will be in your hands before the September meeting, when the new officers take over. That is also when our dues will be dated for payment. If you want to send in your \$20 before that, the new treasurer will be delighted with such a vote of confidence!



The report which follows is taken from a news dispatch datelined Nairobi, Kenya:

"The Central Bank of Kenya has warned Kenyans not to accept Confederate money from American tourists. A large number of bills, marked as issued by the Confederate States of America, and used as payment in various nightclubs and businesses of this African city, were passed recently.

"To add insult to injury, the money wasn't real Confederate money. It was counterfeit."
Thanks Kentucky CWRT

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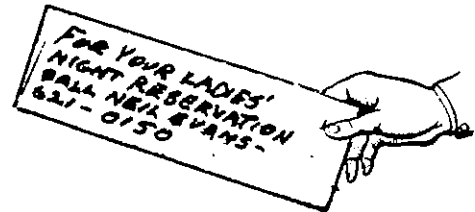
As a follow-up of last month's squib about the words of "My Maryland" we received a note and some newspaper clips from Vicki Heidi, editor of The Maryland Line, the newsletter of the Montgomery County Civil War Round Table. A music teacher, Jeanne Klender wrote new lyrics to the State's official song and both versions received a public airing in the form of a hearing before the Senate Constitutional and Public Law Committee on a bill sponsored by a state Senator. The committee voted the new version down, so the old belligerent rebel words still stand. Vicki also sent a clip from the Washington Post we got a big kick out of....it seems that paper conducted a survey (so the writer asserted) on what the REAL lyrics were when:

"Maryland, My Maryland" was sung at patriotic occasions. Result:

"Maryland, my Maryland
La de ad de dum-ti-dum,
Nuh nuh nuh nuh
Nuh nuh nuh nuh,
Hm Hm Hm Hm Hm Hm Hm
La na na naaah, na na na na
La la la la la dum-ti-da
O, na na na, o na na na
Maryland, my Maryland."

To Tune of "Tannenbaum."

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Billy Yank sometimes advertised for correspondents through the personal columns of the newspapers. Some of these notices are obviously the work of mischief makers. The Chattanooga Gazette of March 6, 1864, for example, carried this advertisement: "Any young lady not sufficiently homely to frighten a dog out of a butcher shop nor sufficiently beautiful to bewitch idle shoulder straps about town, can get up considerable fun by commencing a correspondence with Aaron, Chattanooga Post Office.

Bell Wiley, Civil War Times Ill., thanks Brian Kowell

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Voices out of the past - Lum and Abner were discussing the War Between the States:

Lum: "Supposing the Southern States had won and the Confederacy became an independent country....What would Washington have been father of then?"

Abner: "Twins."

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**U.S. Civil War letter brings
\$17,000 at London auction**

LONDON (AP) — A letter that crossed the lines in the U.S. Civil War and reached Paris, France, only three weeks later, was sold in London yesterday for 11,500 pounds (\$17,000), Sotheby's auction house said.

