



The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. Box 18900, Cleveland, Ohio 44118

MAY 1993

316th MEETING

VOL. 14 #9

DATE: Wednesday, May 12, 1993

PLACE: The Hermit Club

SPECIAL EVENT:

LADIES NIGHT

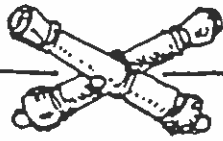
SUBJECT: "Civil War Primer for Non-Zealots and Indifferent Historians"

SPEAKER: Dr. Kenneth Callahan

TIME: Drinks 6PM Dinner 7PM

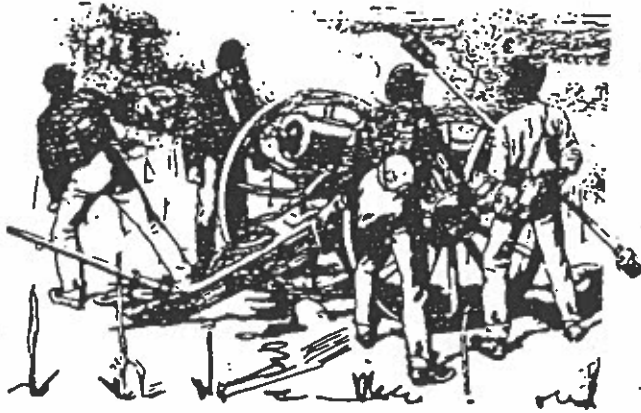
RESERVATIONS: Please call Kevin Callahan at 321-3004 or 591-1920.
RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!





CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

1957 * 1993



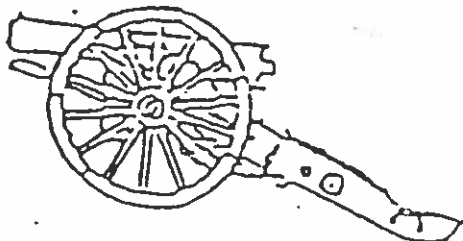
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Preserve Your Battlefields!

Last Month's Meeting

Dr. Richard J. Sommers, the Chief Archivist and Historian at the U.S. Military Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania spoke on the generalship of Grant and Lee at Petersburg.

Justifying his examination of these two generals at Petersburg because it was the war's longest campaign (9 1/2 months) he contended that tactically the campaign was a Confederate success because it prolonged the war and strategically it was a Union success because they ultimately broke the seige, captured the Southern army and Capitol, and ended the war. It was in this campaign that the two foremost generals were pitted against one another and both displayed qualities of greatness.

After a brief overview of the campaign, Dr. Sommers concluded that Lee was successful in forestalling Grant's efforts and if not for the Western Union victories, Lincoln would not have been re-elected and the war might have been ended with Southern independence. He also contended that Grant was the more obvious success by remaining flexible in his methods but fixed in his purpose to defeat Lee. Grant was able to maintain the Tactical offensive and by constant one-two punches north and south of the James River was able to keep the Confederates on the defensive and stretch their lines to the breaking point.

Dr. Sommers talk was support by sound and well researched data and was delivered clearly and in a lively style.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

At the conclusion of last month's meeting the Executive Committee held a brief meeting to discuss the Round Table's financial situation and also to present it's slate of officers for next year. They are as follows:

President - Bob Batisti
Vice-President - Norton London
Secretary - Gerry Porter
Treasurer - John Sutula



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PRESERVATION REPORT

Island developer gets OK

But opponents say
they'll fight homes
near cemetery

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHNSON'S ISLAND, O.

A Cleveland developer has won federal approval to build luxury homes near a Civil War cemetery and prison on this Lake Erie island.

But opponents said yesterday that their fight to stop the project isn't over.

"We've not ceased at all. It's a setback, but the fight goes on," said Roger Long, president of the Johnson's Island Historical Society.

The Army Corps of Engineers has approved Carl Zipfel's plans to build luxury homes, docks and a sewer line and widen a causeway that connects the island with Ottawa County, agency spokesman John Derbyshire said yesterday.

The corps studied the impact the project would have on the area before making a decision, Derbyshire said. It began reviewing the project three years ago.

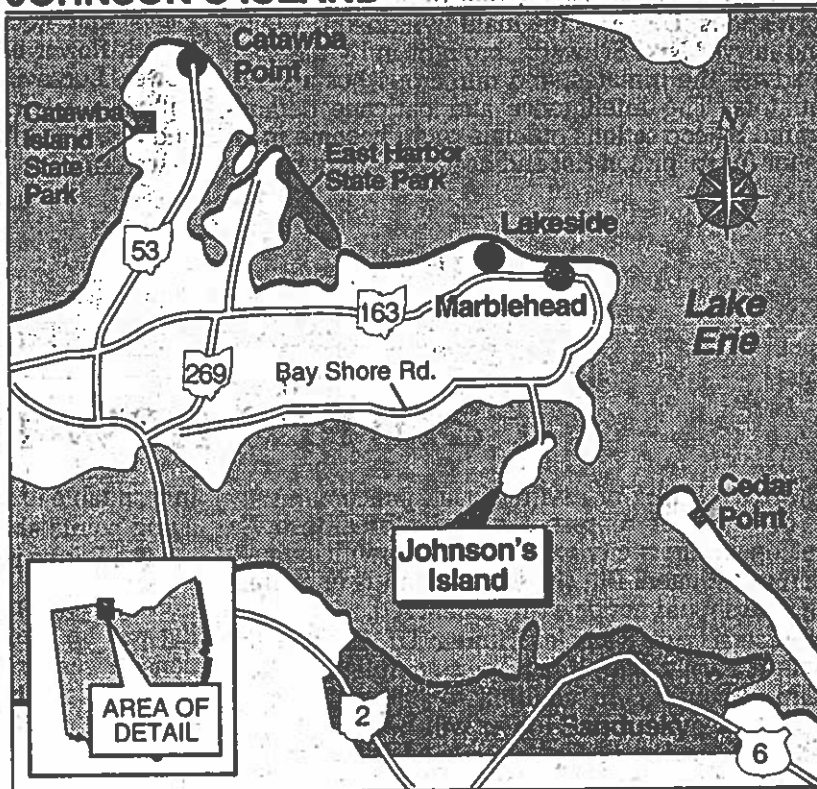
"As of today, we now have all of our permits," said Zipfel, president of Baycliffs, the real estate company overseeing the development.

He said he hopes to begin construction on 28 homes within the next 60 days. The homes will cost as much as \$250,000 each.

It is the first phase of Baycliffs' plans to build more than 88 homes and a marina on the island.

A coalition of residents and historians has opposed the project since it was announced in 1988. They contend that the project would interfere with 22 acres where a Union prison stood. Most of the prison's buildings have been torn down or destroyed by fire.

JOHNSON'S ISLAND



The opponents also say the development would increase traffic and spoil the lifestyles of the 30 to 35 people who live on the island year-round. The population increases to about 300 during the summer.

Zipfel has said the development would not disturb the prison grounds or a federally controlled cemetery where 206 Confederate soldiers are buried.

Plans for the project were approved in June by the Ottawa County Regional Planning Commission, which oversees zoning issues on the island.

The commission set conditions

that Zipfel had to meet by June 16, 1993, to begin construction. They include establishing escrow accounts to cover costs of road, sewer and water improvements.

Zipfel said the improvements will cost about \$300,000. He said he will meet the commission's deadline.

But Long said there are legal roadblocks Zipfel must overcome.

The Johnson's Island Property Owners Association has filed a lawsuit in Ottawa County Common Pleas Court to stop the project. A trial is scheduled for January.

Long said the group could ask a judge for an order to stop the project until the lawsuit is resolved.

PRESERVATION REPORT by
Bill Stark

If you missed the WVIZ Channel 25 PBS broadcast of "The Vanishing Civil War," produced by WPSX-TV at Penn. State Univ. The video is one hour in length and explores the divergences in opinion on Civil War battlefield preservation between developers, property rights advocates, and preservationists. The subject matter revolves around the Manassas preservation effort and the crisis pending at Brandy Station, Va. Send a check or money order payable to "The Pennsylvania State University" which includes shipping and handling. Send your order to: The Pennsylvania State Univ, Audio-Visual Services, Special Services Building, University Park, PA 16801-9976. For additional information, phone Thomas McKenna, Audio-Visual Services at (814) 863-3102.

PLEASE NOTE

The Genealogical Committee of the Western Reserve Historical Society is sponsoring a Civil War Genealogical Seminar, Sunday afternoon, June 20, 1993. The seminar will be held in the Napoleon Room at the Western Reserve Historical Society. Registration is at 12:30 pm; program 1:15 - 4:30 pm.

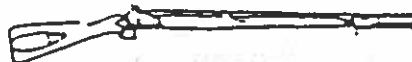
Speaker is Dr. George K. Schweitzer, Phi Beta Kappa, holder of three PhDs, one of which is in history. This nationally known speaker has lectured at over 400 universities, genealogical and historical societies on various scientific, historical and genealogical topics. He is also the author of a number of publications, including a series of books about various genealogical subjects.

Dr. Schweitzer will present information on the North and South relating to how to trace and find information about your Civil War ancestors. His lectures are both entertaining and informative. Dr. Schweitzer, attired in appropriate Civil War military uniforms, will give two lectures which will be separated by a refreshment break.

If you are not on the Genealogical Committee mailing list, or wish some further information regarding this seminar, contact: Gina Hamister, 871-2955 or Ellie Brucken, 526-6595.

Price: WRHS Members \$20
Non-members \$25

Make checks payable to Western Reserve Historical Society Genealogical Committee. Send to: Gina Hamister
c/o WRHS Library
10825 East Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio 44106



Please Make Reservation

Please call Kevin Callahan at 321-3004
or 591-1920. ASAP! RESERVATIONS ARE A
MUST!



More Than You Ever Wanted To Know About

PAULINE CUSHMAN

(1833-1893)



She had the rich, dark complexion of her French mother and Spanish father. Her dark hair and heavy-lidded eyes made her look like a professional temptress. Her mother was from Bordeaux and her father was a Madrid merchant before they had eloped and immigrated to New Orleans. She was born to these parents on June 10, 1833 and was given the name of Harriet Wood, but the world would come to know her as Pauline Cushman.

When Pauline was young, the Woods moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan. This had been precipitated by her father's failed business speculations. In Michigan, which was still an untamed area Mr. Wood found work as an Indian trader. Many of Pauline's early friends were Indians. She grew up as a tomboy and enjoyed hunting and horseback riding. Her Indian friends named her "Laughing Breeze".

As Pauline grew she became restless. By the time she was 19, she decided to set out for New York City to become an actress. With only a few dollars and a burning ambition she went in search of the footlights. In New York she met Thomas Placide, a theatrical manager, with connections in the South. Despite her lack of training, he was impressed by her obvious charms and offered her a job in New Orleans.

Pauline soon found herself on stage in the Crescent City. As one newspaper wrote, "Her form is perfect - so perfect that the sculptor's imagination would fail to add a single point or banish a single blemish." Her act consisted of singing a song or two, prancing around the stage and taking a few clothes off. These were not many by 1860 standards, but enough to make Pauline unforgettable. Any hidden talents Pauline had possessed were soon revealed.

Pauline traveled the theater circuit throughout the Southwest and along the way fell in love. Falling in love came easy to Pauline. She soon married Charles Dickinson, a fellow Northerner and a fellow actor who doubled as a musician in the orchestra. Pauline had two children by him but they both died at a young age. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Charles enlisted as a musician in the Union Army but died shortly thereafter of "camp fever".

Pauline continued her acting and in March, 1863, while appearing in John E. McDonough's production of "The Seven Sisters" at Wood's Theater in Louisville, Kentucky, two paroled Confederate officers befriended her and offered her \$300 in Yankee greenbacks if, during

her performance, she would offer a toast to Jefferson Davis. Pauline told them that she would think it over. Louisville, while under Union occupation, was still a hotbed of Southern sympathy. Soon rumors rapidly spread through the city of Pauline's proposition.

That night's performance saw the theater packed to the rafters. During the course of her performance, Pauline appeared alone on stage, dressed in a tight fitting man's costume with a painted mustache across her olive cheeks. She looked out over the footlights and lifted a champaign glass with the toast: "Here's to Jefferson Davis and the Southern Confederacy. May the South always maintain her honor and her rights." Union sympathizers in the audience sat stunned while Confederate hearts skipped a beat. The curtain was quickly brought down and she was arrested. Pauline was hurriedly taken to the Provost office and subsequently released with a stern warning. It was then that Pauline Cushman became a spy for the North.

Pauline's toast had been a dramatic ruse devised by Colonel Moore, the Federal Provost Marshal of Louisville. Pauline had told the Colonel of the proposal of the two Confederate officers and with Pauline's willing consent, decided to play along to establish her credibility among the Southerners so she could root out those sympathizers. Upon her release she was inundated with messages from Southern "friends".

Pauline was soon involved with listing names and passing information concerning contraband supply shipments and guerilla activities. When the theater troupe moved on to Nashville, Colonel Moore alerted the Provost Marshal of the Army of the Cumberland, Colonel William Truesdail, of Pauline's usefulness. It was Truesdail who came up with the idea of sending Pauline into the camps of Braxton Bragg's army to spy. Bragg, one of the most spy-conscious Civil War generals, had made it extremely difficult for Truesdail to gather information. With her willingness to participate in his scheme and with explicit instructions not to write any of her observations down, Pauline rode South in late May, 1863.

Pauline's good looks, charms, and supposed Southern sympathies allowed her access to many Confederate officers and camps. She even was entertained at the headquarters of John Hunt Morgan.

After weeks of gathering information, Pauline decided to return to Federal lines. In her attempt she was stopped and taken to General Forrest's headquarters and arrested for trying to pass through the lines without a proper pass. Forrest sent her on to Bragg's headquarters where, much to her misfortune, Bragg's Provost Marshal discovered incriminating papers in a false heel of her shoe. Pauline had not heeded Truesdail's advice and was now caught as a spy.

During the Civil War many females on both sides had been arrested as spies. In nineteenth century standards, a lady was still a lady and women, while found to be spies, might be briefly imprisoned but were soon set free hoping they had learned their lesson. Pauline was under house arrest and a June military trial date was set to commence in Shelbyville. Before the scheduled date Pauline was taken ill. Despite her illness, she was tried in absentia, found guilty, and, to her shock, was sentenced by Bragg to hang. Before the



SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



During the Third Battle of Winchester, September 19, 1864, General Jubal Early's Confederate army was badly beaten. During the battle some of his cavalry units behaved badly and contributed to the success of the Union attack on Early's left flank. A number of General Imboden's cavalry rushed pell mell through the streets of Winchester, greatly demoralized and far in advance of all other fugitives of the battlefield. A large number of ladies joined hands and formed a line across the principal street; telling the cowardly cavalymen that they should not go any further unless they ran their horses over their bodies.

from The Civil War Memoirs of Captain William J. Seymour
ed. by Terry L. Jones pp 142
illustrated by Stu Cramer



sentence could be carried out, General Rosecrans, through a series of brilliant maneuvers, forced Bragg's army to retreat to Georgia. Confederate authorities decided to leave the still sick Pauline behind. Incoming Union soldiers, hearing of her exploits, showered her with flowers, candy, and wine. An ambulance was made available to transport her back to Nashville. Upon her recovery, she was visited by General Rosecrans. In appreciation of her efforts he commissioned her a major of cavalry.

With her spying days over, Pauline was soon traveling throughout the North speaking of her adventures and calling herself Major Cushman. She even took to wearing a Union officer's uniform. Once again she was a celebrity and even Matthew Brady had her pose for a series of portraits. With each lecture of her experiences, the embellishments grew and she subsequently had published a book entitled Life of Pauline containing them. This was written from her notes by Ferdinand Sarmiento in 1865. During her travels lecturing, Pauline was constantly falling in and out of love. Most of these loves were unwisely entered into but all of them were entered into with zest. Cushman tried acting again but as her looks began to fade so did her popularity.

Pauline retired to San Francisco where she worked as a seamstress. Widowed by a second husband and permanently separated from a third, she slipped into obscurity. Eventually her first husband's military service won her a small pension. Pauline once again became ill and she started to take opium to relieve the pain. She died alone and with little money of an intentional overdose on December 2, 1893. The San Francisco chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic donated Pauline a military funeral. It was quite a spectacle with a big white coffin, thousands of flowers and flags and even an honor guard. Pauline would have loved it.

Spies for the Blue and Gray by Harnett T. Kane pp127-138

Encyclopedia of the Civil War by Patricia Faust

IMPORTANT MESSAGE!



Don't forget the Annual Cleveland Civil War Round-table fieldtrip scheduled for September 30 - October 1, 2, 3, 1993 to the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National military parks. Our guide will be the Park's historian, Mr. James Ogden. To reserve your room for the trip please send a \$65.00 deposit to :

Mr. Norton London
3664 Blanche Road, Cleveland Heights,
Ohio 44118

If you have any addition questions please call Norton at 696-1030



OLLAPODRIDA

Early on the afternoon of May 22, 1864, General Grant and his staff halted to rest at the Tyler house that commanded a fine view of the Mattaponi valley. The general went on to the porch of the house when the ladies of the house appeared. Grant bowed and announced, "with your permission, I will spend a few hours here." The ladies agreed but requested a guard. The lady of the house had a husband serving with Joe Johnston's army in North Georgia. When Grant received a dispatch and announced that it was from Sherman and it concerned a Union victory, Mrs. Tyler burst into tears. She gained her composure and retorted, "I came from Richmond not long ago, where I lived in a house on the James River which overlooks Belle Isle, and I had the satisfaction of looking down on the Yankee prisoners. I saw thousands of them and before this campaign is over, I want to see the whole of the Yankee army in Southern prisons." General Burnside then rode into the yard and joined the group on the porch, unaware of the tense situation. He hoisted his hat, made a momentous bow to the ladies, and said gently, "I don't suppose, madam, that you ever saw so many Yankee soldiers before." Mrs. Tyler instantly shot back with, "Not at liberty, sir." Remembered Horace Porter, "This was such a good shot that everyone was greatly amused and General Grant joined heartily in the laugh that followed at Burnside's expense.

--- Bloody Roads South by Noah Andre Trudeau pp223

--- Blue & Gray Magazine Vol.X #4 pp20

Mrs. John Gordon, wife of the Confederate General, accompanied her husband through all the arduous marches and perilous scenes of the Valley Campaign of 1864. During the rout of Early's army at Winchester, Mrs. Gordon, in the rear of the army in the city's streets, saw the panicked rebel soldiers rushing through the streets. She seized the bridle of one cowardly cavalryman's horse and led it down Main Street to the edge of town. There she told him to either return to the battlefield and do his duty or dismount and surrender to her his horse and gun so that she might take his place in the fight. It is needless to say that the man returned to his post of duty. Mrs. Gordon was apparently a busy woman. Another account claimed that she grabbed the divisional headquarters flag of her husband's Division, called for the retreating Division to rally, and led two hundred men back to the front.

--- The Civil War Memoirs of Captain William J. Seymour
ed. by Terry L. Jones. ppl42

DON'T WAKE UP THE GUNBOAT

In June 1864, before the famous "Missouri Raid", General Jo was playing havoc with the Feds around Clarendon, Arkansas. He was disburbing their supplies and railroad system, causing utter confusion in the Yankee ranks. Not many cavalry officers can claim they shot a boat out of the water, but the Iron Brigade accomplished this feat on the White River in the form of a federal gunboat, Queen City. Here is how the story goes: One of the guns of the battery, before firing on the Queen City at daylight, was stationed just before the door of a huge brick house, and no doubt shook it from top to bottom at every discharge. About the third or fourth round an old lady came tearing out, wringing her hands, her bosom unbuttoned, and the strings of her night-cap flying white in the moonshine, shrieking at every step: "Don't shoot-don't shoot-there is a gunboat right out in the river here and it will kill you every one. Take your gun away, for God's sake, before you wake the gunboat!" Needless to say, the brave Confederates captured the Queen City and set her afire. Many Yankee soldiers lost their lives that night from direct fire from the Confederates or in trying to swim to safety.

*from Some of Confederate Veterans Camp #147
J. T. W. Messy, ed.*

The early days of the Civil War saw many romantic gestures from the women of both the North and South. Mrs. Louis T. Wigfall, wife of the 1st Texas' Regiment's Colonel, in a sacrifice purely Victorian, gave her wedding dress to be made into a Lone Star flag for the regiment. By the time the 1st Texas fought at Gettysburg, romantic gestures had given way to the hard, bitter reality of war, and individual state flags were forbidden to be unfurled, replaced in combat by the Army of Northern Virginia battleflag. On July 2, 1863, as they were about to go into what one of them was to describe as "...the wildest, fiercest struggle of the war..." - the fight for Devil's Den - a Union artillery battery found their range and landed a shot in their midst killing and wounding several comrades. The youthful colorbearer pulled the case off of the Lone Star flag and, regardless of regulations, vowed that he would wave it over the gun that fired the shot, or die trying. The advance by the 1st Texas Regiment and the 15th Georgia Regiment against Smith's Battery holding Devil's Den was part of the battle that crowned what General James Longstreet would call, "the best three hours' fighting ever done by any troops on the battlefield," and Mrs. Wigfall's wedding dress had found a more sanguinary glory. The lone Star waved over the battery.

In December, 1862, at the early stages of the battle of Fredericksburg, it was Gen. Barksdale's brigade which was assigned to dispute the construction of pontoon bridges by the Union engineers and who endured one of the most furious cannonading by Union artillery and infantry fire so furious as had ever been recorded. During the heaviest of the bombardment, one of his staff entered Gen. Barksdale's office to announce that a lady had come to the door and insisted upon seeing the Gen. Gen. Barksdale answered that he could not possibly see her and told the staff officer that he must urge that she run to the nearest cellar. Quickly the staff officer returned with the lady who appeared as calm as if she were entering church on a Sabbath morning in Spring. "For God's sake, Madame, go and seek some place of safety!", said Barksdale. She responded, "Gen. Barksdale, my cow has just been killed in my stable by a shell. She is very fat and I don't want the Yankees to get her. If you will send someone down to butcher her, you are welcome to the meat." The Gen. promised that the cow would be salvaged and consumed to the glory of the Confederacy.

From The President's Desk



Gentlemen,

As my year as President of The Roundtable comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to state that I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and got to know a great many members in the process.

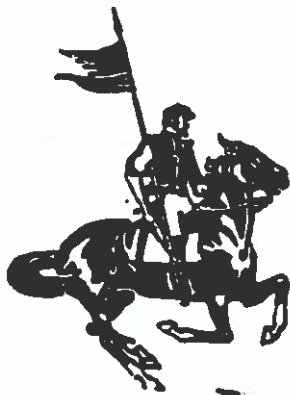
The club is fortunate to have Dr. Bob Battista as our incoming President. Bob has put a great deal of time and effort in arranging the excellent array of speakers for next years agenda.

To wrap up this years' meetings, we have Dr. Kenneth Callahan speaking on Ladies Night on "An Overview of the Civil War". I know that his program will be both interesting and entertaining.

I hope to see everyone at The Hermit Club this month for our final meeting of the year.

Best Regards,

Kevin R. Callahan



THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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