

THE CHARGER

May, 1998

361 Meeting

Vol.19#9

The War begins

April 12, 1861, Confederate Forces of the State of South Carolina attacked the United States Army's Fort Sumter located in Charleston, South Carolina. The American Civil War had begun. The United States commander was Major Robert Anderson. The Confederate forces were commanded by a former West Point student of Anderson, General P.T. Beauregard.

no casualties
after 4,000 Shots

Surprisingly, even though over 4,000 cannon balls were fired, no one was killed. However, these were the first shots in the the bloodiest war in American history.



Robert Anderson
U.S. commander at
Fort Sumter

Tonight's Speaker:

David Ruth

David Ruth received his B.A. in history from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.. His National Park Service career began at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Military Park in 1973, under the direction of Bob Krick. Dave's career since then has included stops at Philadelphia, Manassas and Fort Sumter, where he served as Chief historian for ten years. He transferred to Richmond in 1991, where he is currently serving as the Park's Chief Historian/Chief of Interpretation. He has written several articles, essays and book reviews and served as an on-camera commentator for the Fort Sumter Segment of the Arts and Entertainment network's *Civil War Journal* television series.

Date: May 13, 1998

Place: The Hermit Club

Time: Drinks 6 PM

Dinner 7 PM

THE SPRING FIELD
TRIP HAS CHANGED
FROM MAY 9 TO MAY
23, SEE PAGE 10.

Guest Night

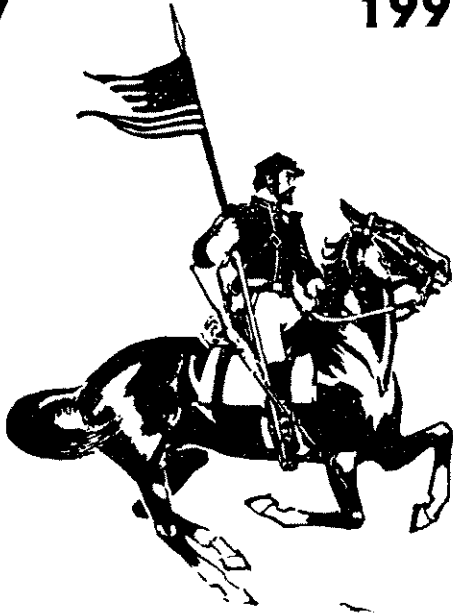
Remember to specify Salmon or Strip
Steak when making reservations.

Reservations: Please Call
JAC Communications
at (216) 861-5588

GUEST NIGHT
BRING A SPECIAL FRIEND

1957

1998



THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE PO Box 1800 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118

President: John Moore

Vice President: Dick Crews

Secretary: Bob Boyda

Treasurer: Peter Holman

The Cleveland Civil War Round Table meets normally on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. Dues are \$35.00 per year.

EDITOR OF THE CHARGER:

Dick Crews
3673 Traver Rd.
Shaker Heights, OH 44122
(W) (800) 800-8310
(H) (216) 752-9961

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(216) 861-5588
Anne & John Caputo

Calender of Events

May 13, 1998 *Guest Night*

Fort Sumter

David Ruth

Spring Field Trip
Western Reserve Historical Society
May 23, 1998

Fall Field Trip
Antietam
September 24 -28, 1998

**I salute the
Confederate flag . . .**



**. . . with affection, reverence
and undying devotion to the Cause
for which it stands.**

AGRICULTURALIST AND REBEL

by Sid Sidlo

We remember Edmund Ruffin of Virginia as the rabid secessionist who fired the first shot at Fort Sumter, and when the war was over committed suicide rather than return to life under the Yankee' rule that he hated, Yet during most of his 71 years he was a brilliant agriculturist who contributed immeasurably to the prosperity of the South. Let's look here at some highlights of his life.

Ruffin was born to a farming family in Tidewater Virginia on January 5, 1794. After a brief stint at The College of William and Mary that ended with his expulsion for neglecting his studies, he served as a private during the War of 1812, but saw no action. His father died soon after and at the age of 19 Ruffin became responsible for the rundown family farm, primarily a tobacco plantation. Here his life changed forever when he took an interest in scientific farming, then a new field of endeavor.

In the early nineteenth century, farming methods in Virginia, as anywhere else, were unsophisticated. Practices of constant planting of the same crop on the same land, and plowing techniques that exhausted the soil, had ruined many planters and thousands of farmers to move westward for 'better' land. Ruffin's active and intelligent mind led him to search for a remedy. He noted that poor lands were marked by soil lacking in lime. He began fertilizing his fields with marl - a crumbly mixture of calcium and other nutritious elements - in various quantities and observing the results. He also experimented with crop rotation, effective drainage of swamps, and better plowing methods. His innovative efforts caused the farm to prosper into a magnificent estate. He eventually became quite wealthy, bought other plantations, and owned over a hundred slaves.

In 1818 Ruffin began speaking and writing about his theories, and three years later put his

thoughts into his principal book, *An Essay on Calcareous Materials*, which ran through five editions. An indefatigable speaker and writer, he later wrote other books that were invaluable resources for Southern farmers, and published a very useful journal, the *Farmer's Register*, which contained his own articles and the best from other sources.

Ruffin was a tireless educator and organizer. He helped establish county agricultural societies, became a member of the state Board of Agriculture, conducted and wrote about a landmark survey of the agriculture of South Carolina and was in 1852 elected president of the Virginia State Agricultural Society. His efforts on behalf of agricultural education and experimental farms were especially notable. Year after year he strained his frail body to educate and inspire the Southern farmer. The *Richmond Whig* wrote that thousands were indebted to him for their prosperity, and the *Petersburg News* declared that he had done more for Virginia than any man living. He was the leading Southern agriculturist of his era.

From an early age Ruffin put as much energy into politics as he did into agriculture. In the 1840s he became a convert to the cause of secession as the answer of the agrarian South to the dominance of the industrial North. He defended slavery ardently, not only believing that it was necessary for the economic welfare of the South, but that Negroes were incapable of taking responsibility for their own lives their well-being depended upon their protective masters. He wrote extensively on these subjects to newspapers and in his own pamphlets and books. In 1855 he turned management of his plantations over to his sons and daughters and devoted himself exclusively to the cause of Southern independence.

White Ruffin believed that slaves loved and were grateful to their masters, he feared the effect of abolitionists on the innocent and trusting blacks. Following John Brown's failed raid on Harper's Ferry in 1859, Ruffin obtained several of the spears with which Brown had planned to arm the slaves. He sent one to each Southern governor as an object lesson, and carried one with him wherever he went to show Southern citizens how Brown had wanted slaves to use it.

Following Lincoln's election in 1860, Ruffin set out for South Carolina as the state most likely to be the earliest to secede. There he was treated as a hero. As a 67-year old volunteer with the Palmetto Guard of Charleston, Ruffin pulled the lanyard to fire the first shot at Fort Sumter. He was an honorary private in a South Carolina regiment at the first battle of Manassas and fired the cannon shot that blocked the bridge over Cub Run. When he returned to his plantation he found that Yankee invaders had ravaged and looted his home, destroying his library and collections. He hated Northerners with every ounce of his being.

Lee's surrender and the end of the war finally drove Ruffin over the edge. As Allan Nevins puts it, Ruffin was "a man who would break but not bend, a Puritan who had shown grim in watching John Brown die the asked for and received special permission to attend the hanging, and took his own life when the spirit of John Brown triumphed." On June 18, 1865, Edmund Ruffin wrote in his diary of his "unmitigated hatred to Yankee rule - to all political, social, & business connection with Yankees, & to the perfidious, malignant, & vile Yankee race."

A few moments later he put the barrel of a silver-trimmed rifle in his mouth, and using forked stick pulled the trigger, an unrepentant firebrand to the very end.



Edmund Ruffin

Sid Sidlo



LEGISLATIVE RECORD OF SECESSION

by Matt Slattery

With our tendency to condense history we too easily assume that, back there in 1860, states-righters rose en bloc and then there was war. The following chronology shows that this was not a political explosion but that secession evolved over a considerable period of time. Merely pursuing these dates should give us pause to consider the fierce debates, the wrenching decisions, and in many cases the downright despair involved. Note that even among the political leaders the decisions are not unanimous and that, in the instances of popular vote, the margin for secession is surprisingly narrow.

11/6/1860 **Lincoln elected.**

12/20 South Carolina Convention adopted a secession ordinance -unanimous

1/5/1861 Mississippi Convention passed a secession ordinance by a vote of 84-15.

1/10 Florida Convention passed a secession ordinance 62-7.

1/19 Georgia adopted a secession ordinance 208-89.

1/26 Louisiana legislature passed a secession ordinance 113-17.

2/1 Texas convention voted to submit an ordinance to popular vote 166-7

3/4 Texas vote gave secession a majority of 40,000.

3/28 Louisiana voted secession 20,448 to 17,026.

3/30 Mississippi Convention ratified Confederate Constitution 78-70

4/3 South Carolina Convention ratified Constitution 114-16.

4/12 Bombardment of Fort Sumpter.

4/17 Virginia Convention adopted secession ordinance 60-53.

4/25 Governor Letcher proclaimed Virginia a member of the Confederacy.

4/29 Maryland legislature voted against secession 63-13.

Matt Slattery is retired and a member of the Cleveland CWRT for 15 years.

5/1/1861 Tennessee legislature (in secret session) authorized governor to a line with the Confederacy.

5/6 Arkansas Convention passed secession ordinance 69-1.

5/20 North Carolina secession ordinance was adopted.

5/20 Governor Magoffin proclaimed Kentucky's neutrality.

5/26 Western Virginia voted in favor of the Union by a large Majority.

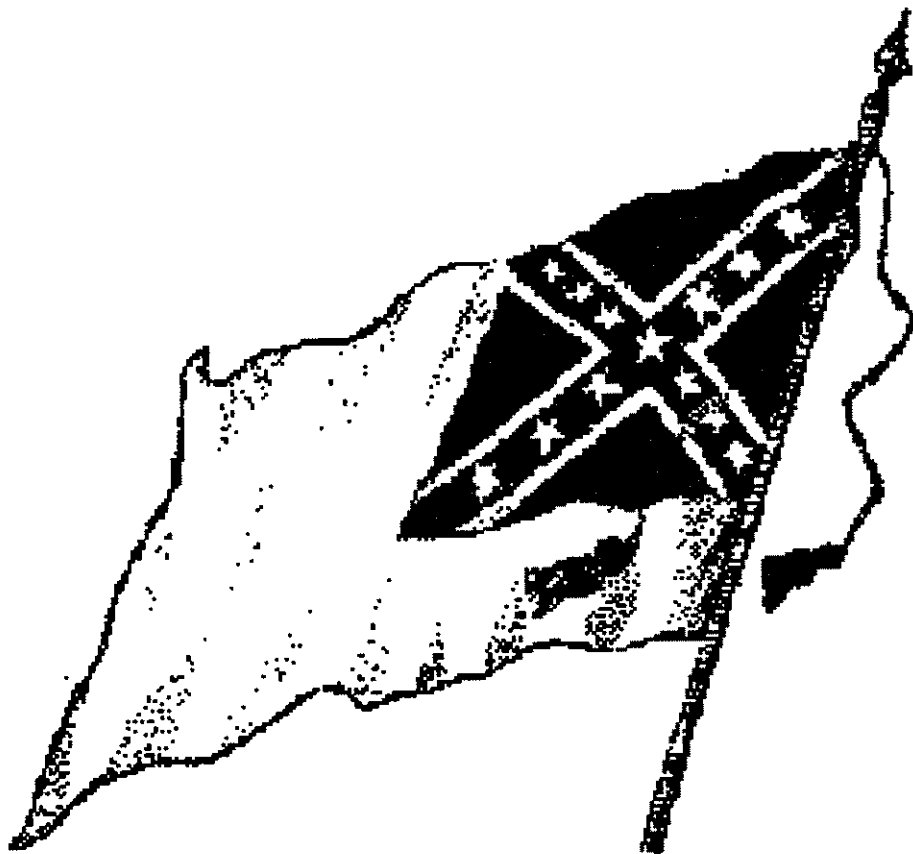
6/17 Wheeling Convention unanimously voted to secede from Virginia.

7/21 Battle of Bull Run.

9/1 Kentucky legislature gave the Union a majority of 52,
in the Senate a majority of 16.

12/9 Confederate Congress admitted Kentucky to the Confederacy.

Matt Slattery



Guy DiCarlo donates Cleveland Civil War Round Table records to Western Reserve Historical Society.



Guy DiCarlo(right) and wife with the late Bill Schlesinger and wife.

Guy Dicarlo is one of the great all-time members of The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. During his nineteen years of active membership, he recorded virtually everything important that happened from the founding of The CCWRT in 1957 through his departure in 1976. Guy was accorded the highest honor that our Roundtable can give, that of Honorary Lifetime Membership. Who is Guy Dicarlo and why are his records so important?

In November of 1956, Guy wrote a letter to John Cullen, one of the founders of The CCWRT, inquiring about an article he read in the Cleveland News. The article was written about the starting of a Civil War Roundtable in Cleveland. At the time Guy was serving in the United States Air Force in Mississippi. But, Guy was being discharged at about the time the new Roundtable was starting. Given that there would be a limited membership. Guy was hoping that they would include him, John Cullen wrote. -" ... We'll look forward to having you join our group when you return to Cleveland early next year." That was the beginning of Guy's love affair with The CCWRT. He was an active member from 1957 through 1976 when he was transferred to New York City. He was active in The New York Roundtable. When I last talked to him, he was organizing a Roundtable in Ponte Verde, Florida, where he is living in retirement.

At first, partly because he was only 24 years old and one of the two youngest members, Guy learned from the leaders of the new group. Legendary members like John Cullen,

Charlie Clarke, Jr., Dr. Bill Schlesinger, and Ken Grant, were leaders who gave a firm direction to the group. The fact that their second speaker was Bruce Catton was just one of their accomplishments. John Cullen, as the first secretary, wrote a note to Guy: "Your enthusiasm is contagious. It's not that I need to have my Civil War interest revived, it's just that whenever I run across anyone who is devoted to the subject I get the fever all over again." Guy had that affect on people, so immediately he was appointed as an assistant secretary. From that office he worked his way up to president in 1964.

More important than being an officer and leader for many years, was the contribution Guy made to our own history. From the first day, Guy chronicled the history of The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable until he left for his new job in New York in 1976. He literally kept every letter, every newsletter, and any other item of importance generated by the CCWRT. He took pictures of every fieldtrip and to this day he can tell you in detail about all the major events that took place from 1957 through 1976. Perhaps because he was so good at recording history, he was appointed newsletter editor in 1959, a position he held until the day he left.

The spring 1998 fieldtrip being organized by President John Moore and long time member Tim Beatty to The Western Reserve Historical Library, will include the formal presentation of Guy's records to the other records we have that are permanently placed at the library. Guy's records are neatly organized and hardbound in four volumes, each about four inches thick.

When this writer was escorted to the library in 1994 by Dr. William Schlesinger for the placement of his records, the head librarian told us that The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable is the number one institution/organization in the Cleveland area for the quantity and quality of speakers on the topic of the Civil War. For the first half of our distinguished 40 years, thanks is extended to Guy DiCarlo for recording these events. Although Guy is no longer an active member in The Cleveland Civil War Round-table, he is still a member who is respected for the historical contribution he made.

Robert E. Battisti



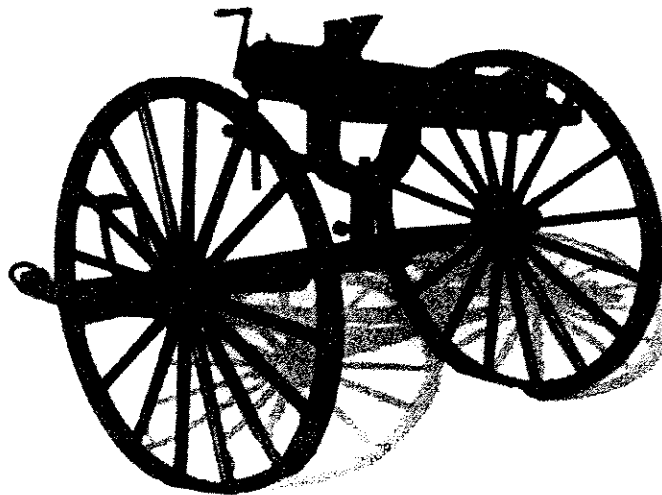
The Gatling Gun

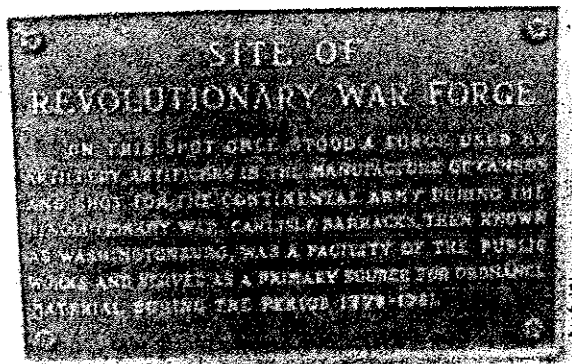
From the windows of the *New York Tribune*, two machine guns faced the mob storming through the streets below. Publisher Horace Greeley had received the Gatlings as a promotion, and while the New York Draft Riots raged he used them to discourage any rabble advancing in his direction.

Improving on the technology provided by the 1852 Ager Union gun and the 1856 Barnes Machine Cannon, Dr. Richard Jordan Gatling patented his "revolving gun battery" in November, 1862. Like the discredited Ager, the Gatling used .58-caliber charges fired by a crank-operated action. But unlike the Union gun, the Gatling's six rotating barrels had time to cool during firing, enabling them to discharge faster and for a greater time.

As stated in a letter to President Lincoln, Gatling believed that use of his gun was "just the thing needed to aid in crushing the present rebellion"-but efforts to sell the army on his repeater met with bureaucratic stonewalling. This may have been because the doctor hailed from North Carolina, a circumstance that created some suspicion in U.S. government circles. Gatling nevertheless persisted. On one of his many trips to Washington, the doctor called on Brigadier General J.W. Ripley, Chief of Ordnance, to ask that the weapon be tested, but Ripley flatly refused to consider it. So when a representative of Gatling's approached Gen. Benjamin F. Butler in Baltimore asking to demonstrate the weapon, he was careful to omit word of Ripley's response. It didn't matter though, for "Spoons" Butler (so characterized for allegedly stealing the silver during his occupation of New Orleans) was so enthusiastic about the gun's performance he plunked down a grand of his own for each of twelve Gatlings, and directed their use during the siege of Petersburg, Virginia.

The U.S. Army did not adopt the Gatling gun until 1866, following Lee's surrender. But for generations thereafter, the weapon was used in every major conflict-including the Franco-Prussian and Spanish-American War-throughout the world.





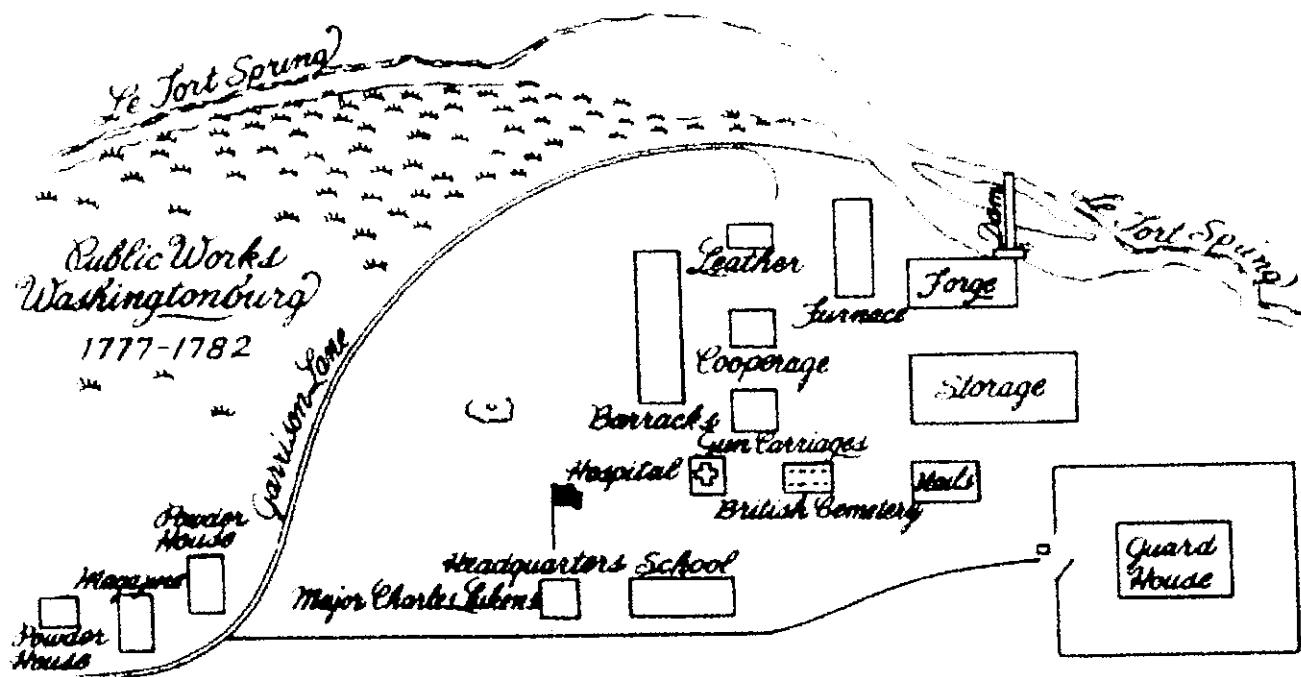
forge used by artillery officers in manufacturing cannons and shot for the Continental Army.

During the period from 1778 to 1781 Carlisle Barracks, then known as Washingtonburg, was a facility to the public works and served as a primary source for ordnance materials. The installation was one of the key supply points for General Washington's Continental Army throughout the Revolutionary War. On the corner of Ashburn Drive and Lovell Avenue stood a

HISTORY OF CARLISLE BARRACKS

Founded by Colonel John Stanwix of the British Army on May 30, 1757, Carlisle Barracks has figured prominently in the education of members of the Armed Forces since Colonel Henry Bouquet arrived here in 1758 to conduct instruction for British and Provincial troops in Indian fighting tactics.

Because of its favorable location at the juncture of the north-south, east-west supply routes, and the availability of iron works and skilled labor, Carlisle Barracks served as an arsenal during the War for Independence. The main magazine, erected in 1777, still stands. It is now maintained as the Hessian Powder Magazine Museum.



GROUND PLAN OF PUBLIC WORKS AT WASHINGTONBURG.

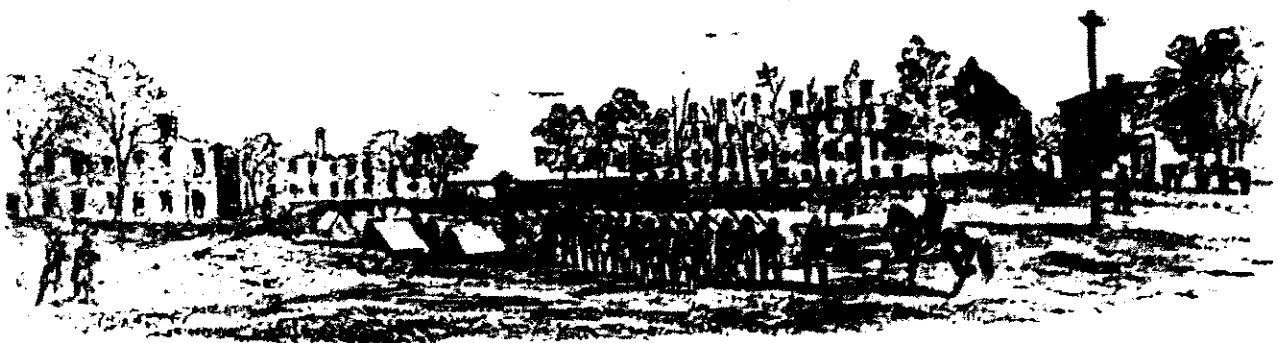


SHELLING OF CARLISLE, JULY 1, 1863
(From an old print)

A school for artillerists, which is believed to be the United States Army's first educational institution, was established at Carlisle Barracks in 1778 by Captain Isaac Coren. This was the first of ten different Army schools located at this installation.

Originally known simply as "the camp near Carlisle," the post was named Washingtonburg for General George Washington during the Revolutionary War. However, it was not until 1801 that the old post actually became federal property when it was purchased from the heirs of William Penn. The post gained its current name about 1807.

With the outbreak of trouble in western Pennsylvania over the new whiskey taxes, General Washington personally assembled at Carlisle the largest force ever



CARLISLE BARRACKS AFTER DESTRUCTION BY FIRE, JULY 1, 1863
(From a sketch made at the time by Henderson)



J.E.B. Stuart

under his command, about 14,000 men, to quell the so-called "Whiskey Rebellion" of 1794.

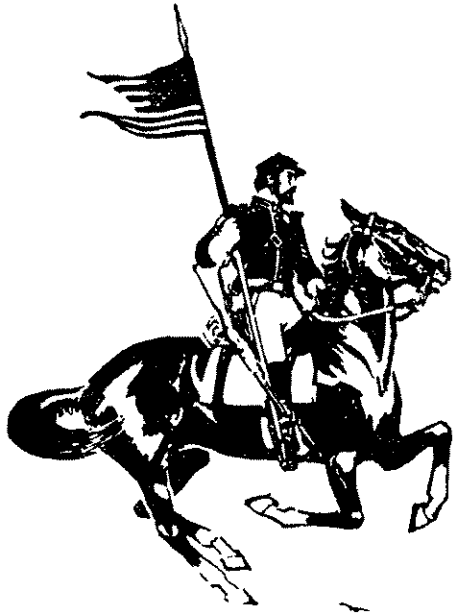
The forerunner of the Armor School, The School of Cavalry Practice, was established here in 1838 and remained at this location until 1861.

On the afternoon of July 1, 1863, Confederate cavalry commanded by General J.E.B. Stuart and Fitzhugh Lee approached the community of Carlisle attempting to join forces with General Richard S. Ewell, who had briefly occupied the town and barracks June 27-29. Upon arriving at Carlisle, the two cavalry forces found the town held by members of the 21st and 22d New York Militia Regiments. Stuart sent Lee's forces to demand an unconditional surrender or to suffer a bombardment. With the surrender refused, the Confederate forces opened fire with small caliber artillery. After bombarding the area for a short time, another request was issued for the unconditional surrender, which was again refused. A second barrage began and torches were applied to a lumberyard near the military installation. About 10:00 p.m. on this date, the Confederates applied torches simultaneously to the barracks and buildings of Carlisle Barracks attempting to force the surrender of the militia forces. Some time after midnight, Stuart ordered Lee's barrage stopped and the units moved toward Gettysburg to join the main forces of the Confederate Army.

The Carlisle Indian Industrial School was located here from its founding in 1879 until its closing in 1918. From 1920 to 1946, Carlisle Barracks was the home of the Medical Field Service School. The School for Government of Occupied Areas, the Adjutants General School, the Chaplain School, the Military Police School, the Army Security Agency School, and the Armed Forces Information School were located here during the period 1946-1951.

Since 1951, Carlisle Barracks has been the home of the U.S. Army War College. The U.S. Army Combat Developments Command Institute of Advanced Studies was established here in 1962. In February 1973, the Institute was made an integral part of the War College and renamed the Strategic Studies Institute. Its mission of performing comprehensive and in-depth studies of strategic interest for the College and for Department of the Army continues.

In 1967, the U.S. Army Military History Institute was established here, and on May 8, 1970, the General Omar N. Bradley Museum was dedicated as an integral part of the Institute. The Institute is open to the public during duty hours.



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Dr. William L. Schlesinger

High School Essay Contest

THIS YEAR'S ESSAY QUESTION:

"THE THREE MAJOR CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR"

1998 Winner

STUDENT'S NAME: **Kimberly Gennaro**

STUDENT'S ADDRESS: **Parma, Ohio**

STUDENT'S SCHOOL: **Padua Franciscan High School**

STUDENT'S HISTORY TEACHER: **Mr. Larry Pizon**

"The three major causes of the "Civil War" are due to the economic political and social issues between the North and South. The North and South's disagreements included; economic issues centered around the tariffs, political issues concerned with the State's Rights, and social issues focused on the expansion of slavery.

Economically the North favored a high tariff and the South a lower tariff. The imported goods would have a higher price then and the people did not like that idea. A protective tariff would make the goods expensive and also make the American made products more competitive. In 1816 the congress raised the tax on foreign imports by twenty percent. The American industries came out on top by selling more goods. On the other hand, the South wanted a low tariff. The South imported most of the European goods in exchange for cotton and other raw materials. In 1828 there was a tariff that inflated the price of imports, and the Southerners argued that it was an indirect tax on their region. The Southerners called it the Tariff of Abominations. John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina was the country's leading opponent of the Tariff of Abominations. He was defending a state's right to free itself from the control of the national government.

The North and South had their differences concerning the political issues. The Northerners wanted a loose interpretation of the constitution going back to the traditions of Hamilton. On the other hand, the Southerners were for state's rights, going back to Jefferson's interpretation of the constitution. Jefferson had argued that the national government did not have the authority to create a bank because the constitution did not specifically authorize it. The Southerners views later came out in the tariff of Abominations and the Nullification Theory that demonstrated the differences in political views between North and South.

The most important issue between the North and South was not just slavery, but the Expansion of Slavery. As the plantations expanded, the owners found it very difficult to have indentured servants, slaves hired to work for a specific amount of time for a ticket to freedom. The landowners did not want to hire new slaves and have to teach them everything they needed to know from the beginning of how to run the estate



efficiently. The South was expanding in population and also in industry. Landowners needed a sufficient amount of slaves to handle the work that needed to be done. As the South expanded so did the need for slavery. The immigrants tried to stay away from the South because of slavery. The only place to settle was in the North. On May 21, 1856 a mob of Missourians charged into Lawrence, Kansas destroyed and burned several houses, and attacked the Free State Hotel with cannon. On May 22, one day after the attack, Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts delivered a speech announcing the violence of Kansas. Most of the violence and blame was placed on the slave owners. The next day Congressmen Preston Brooks of South Carolina attacked Sumner with a cane as he sat at his desk. The night of May 24, an anti-slavery agitator known as John Brown and some of his men murdered five pro slavery settlers at Pottawatomie Creek, Kansas. In the end, the *Compromise of 1850* had failed. The Fugitive Slave had upset the North and also the Compromise had settled more violently on the battleground of "Bleeding Kansas."



Hudson, Ohio native
John Brown

The stress that was brought upon the states by the political difference, economical difference, and the expansion of slavery are what drove our country into a Civil War. No one factor alone could have done this. The Civil War is an unforgettable event in our history. The North and South did not work together and this fact caused the country to grow further and further apart. As one can see, these irreconcilable differences caused this tragic event in our history known as the **Civil War.**

Kimberly Gennaro



Gen. George B. McClellan

South Mountain Antietam Harper's Ferry

This year's field trip is to Antietam. The battle that Ed Bearss said was the decisive battle of the American Civil War. We will also visit South Mountain and Harper's Ferry.

We will leave Cleveland very early on Thursday, September 24 and return mid afternoon Sunday, September 28, 1998.

Bring your friends and relatives and join us at Antietam.

Deposit is \$65.00 per person

Name _____

Address _____

City/zip _____

Phone - Daytime _____ Evening _____

Mail to: **Dan Zeiser**

5877 Williamsburg Dr.

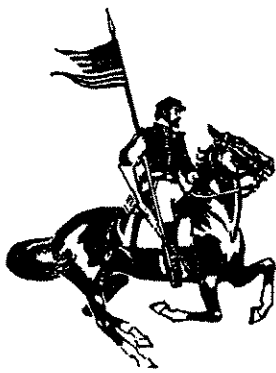
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[H] (440)689-3937



Burnside Bridge



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

1998 - 1999 Schedule

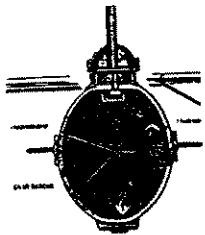
September 9, 1998



Stonewall Jackson

in the Shenandoah Valley

October 14, 1998



CSS Hunley

World's first Submarine

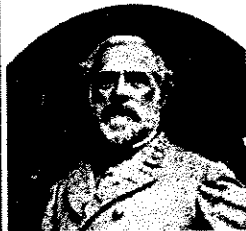
November 11, 1998



Grant's Canal

Vicksburg

December 9, 1998



Lee
&
Longstreet
at
Gettysburg



January 13, 1999

The Great Debate

How Could the South have won?

February 10, 1999



A Lincoln Portrait

March 10, 1999



William T. Sherman

The most hated man in the South

April 14, 1999



John Hunt Morgan

*The confederate who almost
attacked Cleveland*

May 12, 1999



Rosy O'Neal Confederate Spy

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable meets on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, at a private club in the playhouse square area of downtown Cleveland. Dues are \$35.00 per year.

Membership information: Dick Crews (216) 752-9961 or (800) 800-8310

Spring Field Trip

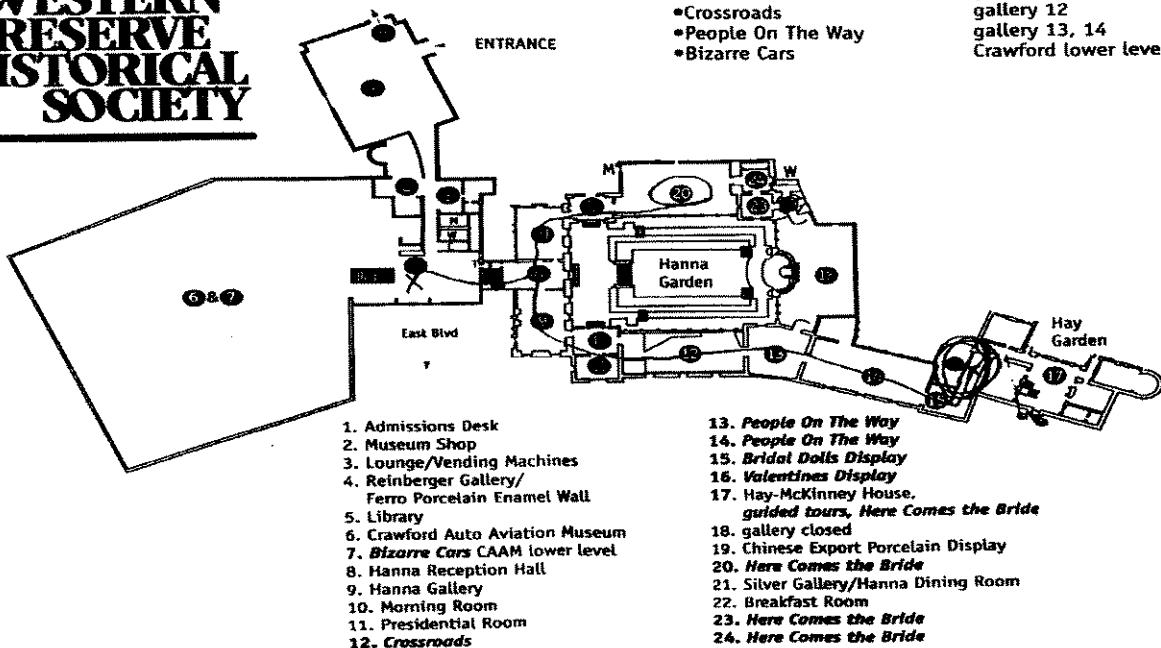
Western Reserve Historical Society

Saturday, May 23, 1998 - 9AM to Noon - No Charge

Lunch optional - The gang is going to: *That Place on Bellflower*

Only 20 places available
Confirm your reservations to John Moore
6967 Gates Road
Gates Mills, Ohio 44040
(440) 442-8339

**WESTERN
RESERVE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

President's Message May 1998

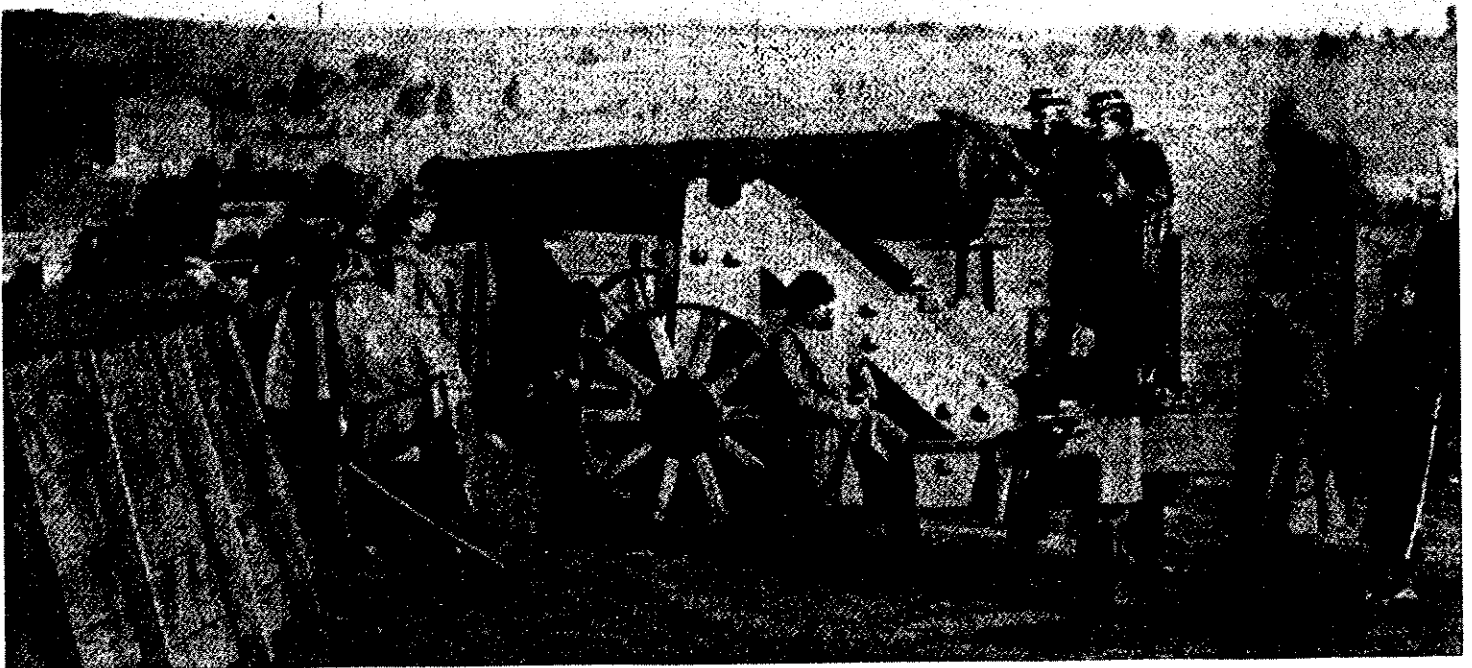
I suppose that a year as president of a group should seem to be an onerous task. Well, let me assure you that my year as president of the C.C.W.R.T. has not been so. Instead, it has been true pleasure to serve as your president and I thank you, each and everyone, for that honor.

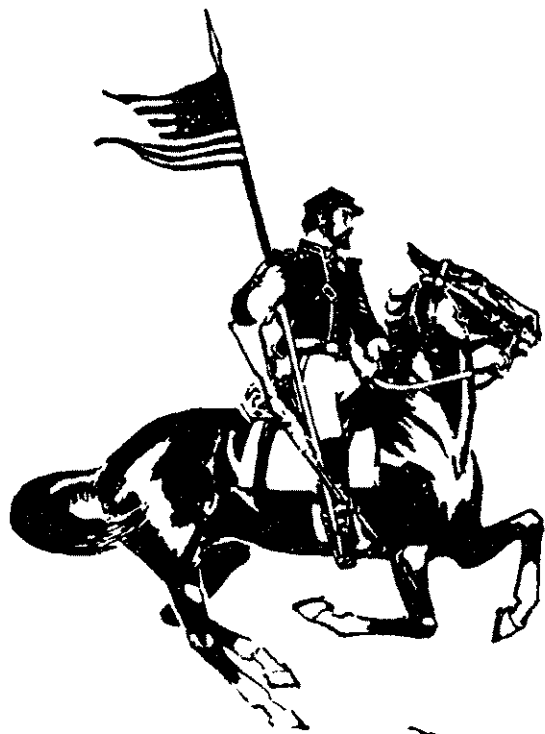
Ninety-seven - ninety-eight was a positive year for C.C.W.R.T. due to our great membership. We have topflight speakers, officers, executive committee members, fieldtrip leaders, and members who attend on a regular basis. We were proud to bring others to visit our fine meetings. The following statement by Patrick Kwiatkowski (teacher of a student who entered our essay contest) summarizes our value: "The most defining moment in American history by far is the Civil War. Your Round Table is a fine institution that preserves this thought."

Our membership is special.

Sincerely,

John Moore





John W. Moore
6967 Gates Road
Gates Mills, OH 44040

THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE PO BOX 18900 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118



Fall Field Trip
Antietam
Sept. 24 -28