

# THE CHARGER

May, 2000

379 Meeting

Vol.21 #9



**PATRICK R. CLEBURNE**

Patrick Cleburne was born in Ireland. He served in the British army before emigrating to the United States in 1849.

At the beginning of the Civil War, he organized a group called the *Yell Rifles*. He led the *Yell Rifles* in seizing the U.S. Arsenal in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1861.

After an excellent performance at the battle of Shiloh, he was promoted to Brigadier General. He led Confederate forces at Perryville, Stones River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and Atlanta but met his death with five other Confederate Generals in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

*Tonight's Speaker:*

## Craig Symonds

Craig L. Symonds is professor of history at the United States Naval Academy where he has taught naval history and Civil War history since 1976. The only person ever to win both the Naval Academy's "Excellence in Teaching" Award (1988) and its "Excellence in Research" Award (1998), he also served as history department chair from 1988 to 1992. He is the author of eight books including *Joseph E. Johnston, A Civil War Biography* (1992) [see Page 7], *Stonewall of the West: Patrick Cleburne and the Civil War* (1997), and *A Year on a Monitor* (1987).

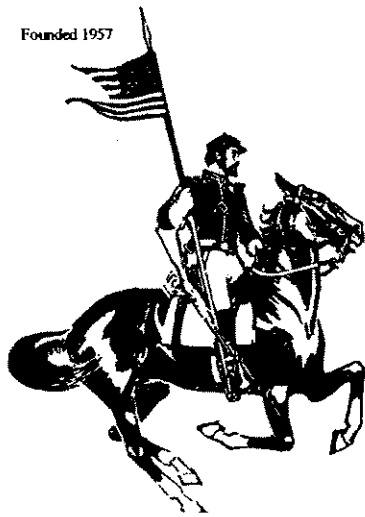
**Date: May 10, 2000**

**Place: The Hermit Club**

**Time: Drinks 6 PM  
Dinner 7 PM**

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

Founded 1957



The Cleveland Civil War Round Table PO Box 1809 Cleveland, Ohio 44118  
(800)808-8310 email RCrews5369@aol.com

About the

### Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

The 127 men and women of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable reflect the ethnic, racial, and religious diversity of Greater Cleveland. Members range in age from 16 to 93 years old. The common bond is the belief that the American Civil War was the *defining* event in United States history.

Dinner meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. The Roundtable meets at a historic private club in the Playhouse Square area of downtown Cleveland.

Dinner is \$20.00. Club dues are \$40.00 per year.

#### PAST CLEVELAND C.W.R.T. PRESIDENTS

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1999 Dick Crews          | 1977 James Chapman       |
| 1998 John Moore          | 1976 Milton Holmes       |
| 1997 Dan Zeiser          | 1975 Thomas Gretter      |
| 1996 John Sutula         | 1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh   |
| 1995 Norton London       | 1973 Arthur Jordan       |
| 1994 Robert E. Battisti  | 1972 Bernard Drews       |
| 1993 Kevin Callahan      | 1971 Kenneth Callahan    |
| 1992 Bob Baucher         | 1970 Frank Schuble       |
| 1991 Joe Tirpak          | 1969 Donald Heckaman     |
| 1990 Ken Callahan Jr.    | 1968 Frank Moran         |
| 1989 Neil Glaser         | 1967 William Schlesinger |
| 1988 Martin Graham       | 1966 Donald Hamill       |
| 1987 George Vourlojianis | 1965 Lester L. Swift     |
| 1986 Tim Beatty          | 1964 Guy DiCarlo, Jr.    |
| 1985 Brian Kowell        | 1963 Paul Guenther       |
| 1984 Neil Evans          | 1962 Edward Downer       |
| 1983 William Victory     | 1961 Charles Clarke      |
| 1982 John Harkness       | 1960 Howard Preston      |
| 1981 Thomas Geschke      | 1959 John Cullen, Jr     |
| 1980 Charles Spiegle     | 1958 George Farr, Jr.    |
| 1979 William Bates       | 1957 Kenneth Grant       |
| 1978 Richard McCrae      |                          |

MAY 10, 2000

"GUEST NIGHT"



**PATRICK CLEBURNE**  
CRAIG SYMONDS

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE**  
OFFICERS & TRUSTEES  
1999/2000

*President:* **Bob Boyda**  
*Vice President:* **William Vodrey**  
*Secretary:* **Bill McGrath**  
*Treasurer:* **Bill Doty**

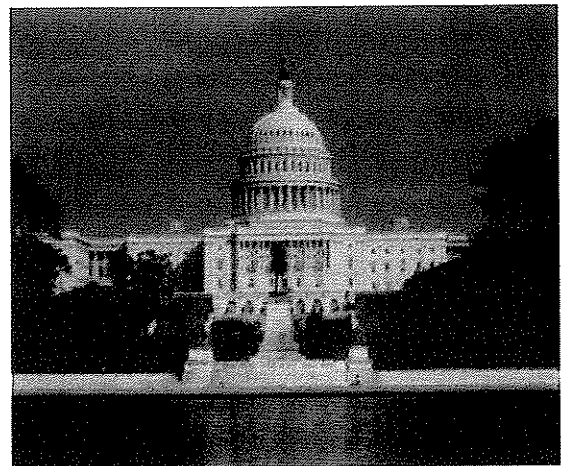
*Executive Committee:*

**Lou Braman**  
**Dick Crews**  
**John Moore**  
**Ty Somersshield**  
**Dale Thomas**  
**Dan Zeiser**

2000 Field Trip

## Washington, D.C.

*September 28, to Oct. 1, 2000*



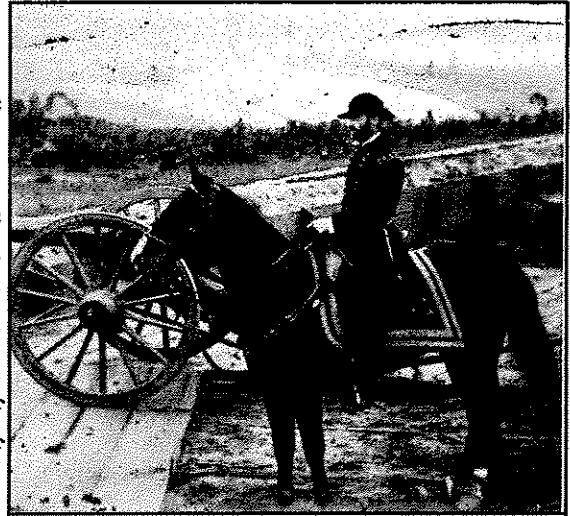
# *Sherman's little known failure:* **The 36th State**

**By Dick Crews**

The reason the United States doesn't have 51 states is due to the failure of General William T. Sherman to act adding the 36th State. What State is missing? **The State of Franklin.**

We were taught in school that at its founding the United States had thirteen colonies. This is nonsense. The Continental Congress would only recognize 13, but there were more. One colony not included was Franklin. This is an outrage considering the people of Franklin were one of the keys to the United States winning the War of Independence against the British.

The men of Franklin were the main fighting force against the British at the battle of King's Mountain, North Carolina. King's Mountain was one of the few victories for the colonies against the British.



*William T. Sherman,  
failed the people of Franklin.*

Again in the Civil War the people of Franklin were ready for Statehood. They voted 3 to 1 against succession from the Union. They sent representatives to Washington to discuss the situation with President Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was anxious to help and promised Union troops if the people of Franklin would rise up against the Confederacy.

Believing the President, the people of Franklin started their rebellion on November 8, 1861. Eight railroad bridges on the main line between Atlanta, Georgia and Richmond, Virginia were burned. Franklin men then waited in camps for the Union Army. A Union Army which did not come. General William T. Sherman told President Lincoln it was not possible for the Union Army to launch an attack from Kentucky. Sherman became depressed and returned to his home in Lancaster, Ohio.

Franklin men became very depressed at the end of hangman's rope. Confederate troops quickly arrived to put down the rebellion and hang the bridge burners. Even though let down by President Lincoln and Union Army General William T. Sherman, the people of Franklin continued to fight and die for their beloved Union. They formed a *white underground railroad* to smuggle men North to join the Union Army. These men if caught could be hanged. Indeed, the Confederacy hung scores of men from Franklin caught sneaking North.

Franklin provided **more troops** for the Union Army than any other Southern area including West Virginia.

Franklin units in the Union Army were almost all cavalry units. One unit, 2nd Tennessee Mounted Infantry, was even involved in the chase throughout Ohio after confederate raider John Hunt Morgan. Fourteen months later, the 13th Tennessee (Union) killed John Hunt Morgan in Franklin (Greeneville, Tennessee) on September 4, 1864.

Confederate troops would occupy Franklin until late 1864 when Union troops, mostly Franklin men from the *white underground railroad*, liberated their homeland from the Rebels in November, 1864.

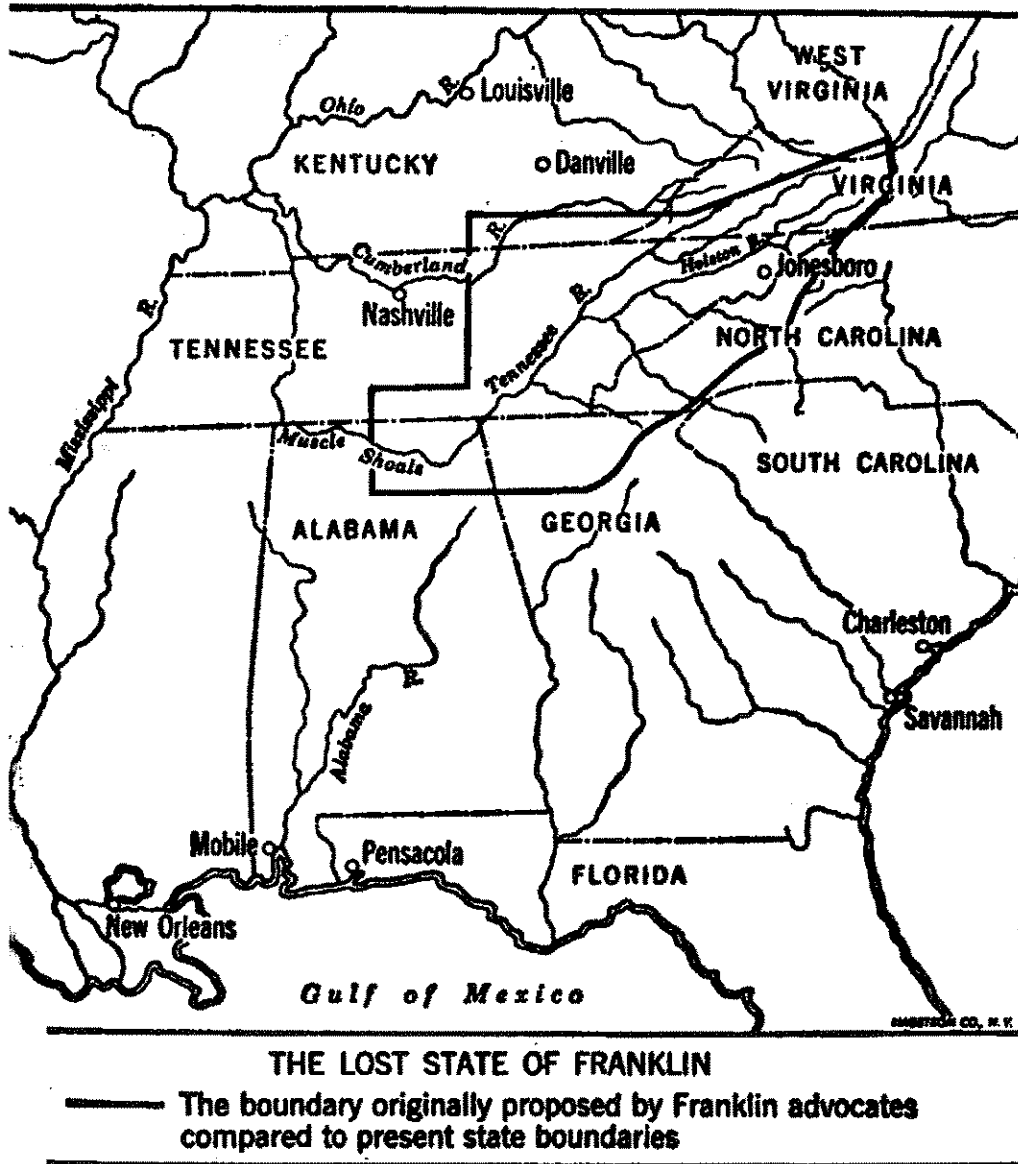
The men of Franklin were involved in a final campaign of the war under the command of General George Stoneman. They were part of a force sent to capture North Carolina from the West. The Franklin men were horrified to hear the North Carolina girls call them "*Yankee boys*". They never considered themselves *Yankees*.

During the invasion they captured the notorious Confederate prison at Salisbury, North Carolina; although all the prisoners had already been sent elsewhere. They were 100 miles west of Raleigh when the North Carolina capital fell to the Union Army of W.T. Sherman.

The last war effort of the regiments from Franklin was the chase to capture Confederate President Jefferson Davis. The major problem with pursuing Jefferson Davis was the crossing of South Carolina. Franklin people always felt South Carolina was the cause of the War. Troops were kept moving night and day so they would not have time to burn and loot South Carolina. Although missing out on the Jefferson Davis capture, and the reward money, they did bring Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens and Confederate General and Cabinet member Robert Toombs to prison.

**Franklin** provided the United States with a much needed victory in the Revolutionary War, the 17th President of the United States, and 31,000 Union troops in the Civil war but never achieved Statehood. Clearly, William T. Sherman had the best chance to make Franklin a State in the Fall of 1861, but failed to act. It would have been great to see Franklin become the 36th State following West Virginia in July of 1864.

*Dick Crews*



Today the only monument to Franklin is **The State of Franklin Boulevard**, a major highway, in Johnson City, Tennessee.

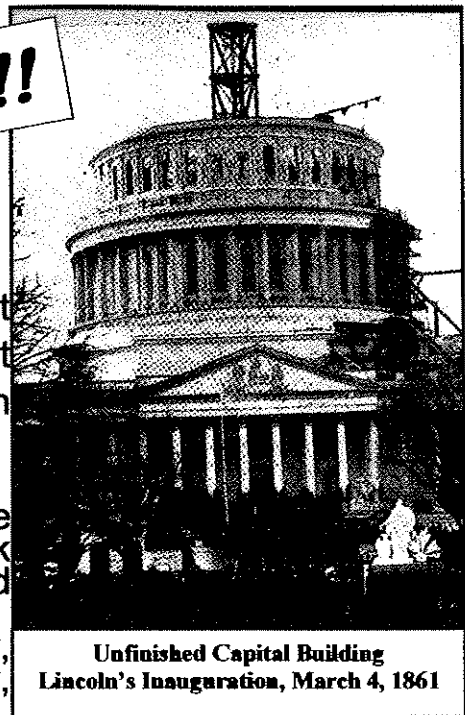
In 1784 the people of an area known as Holston, named for the Holston River, met in present day Jonesboro, Tennessee. Cut off from their State capitals in North Carolina and Virginia by the mountains they voted to establish a new state and call it **Franklin**.\* They elected a governor, adopted a temporary constitution, and sent petitions to Virginia and North Carolina demanding recognition as an independent state.

*\*The name comes from the word Frankland which means land of free men.*

# On to Washington !!!

Having visited that (former) nest of secessionist vipers known as Richmond last fall, I thought it was high time we visited the capital city - then and now - of the United States, this fall.

I'm already in touch with representatives of the White House Visitors Office, the National Park Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Army about our trip to Washington, D.C. We'll leave on the morning of Thursday, Sept. 28 and return on the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 1, 2000.



Unfinished Capital Building  
Lincoln's Inauguration, March 4, 1861

I've requested a tour of the White House's first floor public rooms, as well as some of the rooms on the second floor of the Residence (particularly the Lincoln Bedroom) not usually shown to the public. I'm also optimistic that we'll be able to visit Blair House, including the room where Robert E. Lee turned down command of the Union Army. Due to the unpredictability of the President's schedule this far in advance, and for security reasons, we won't have the specifics of our tour confirmed until about Sept. 14 (two weeks before).

We'll also be visiting other Civil War-related sites in the Washington metropolitan area such as Ft. McNair, Ft. Stevens, Ford's Theatre and the Peterson House, the Navy Yard and Naval Historical Center, the Soldier's Home (President Lincoln's summertime retreat), the Old Patent Office, Clara Barton's recently-opened apartment, Arlington Hall and the National Cemetery, and the Monocacy battlefield. We'll arrange for a bus to comfortably get us around D.C. traffic.

At both the White House and Ft. McNair, we'll need to let the Secret Service know sixty days in advance of our visit who is coming, and provide everyone's Social Security numbers and dates of birth. Everyone visiting Ft. McNair will also need to bring a photo ID.

So save the weekend of Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2000 in your calendar, and make plans now to join us for this fall's Roundtable field trip.

*William Vodrey*

*Editor's Note:* Prior to Craig Symond's book on Patrick Cleburne he wrote a book on Joseph E. Johnston. The following is a interview done on that book in 1996.

## **Interview with Dr. Craig Symonds**

***By Dori McCann***

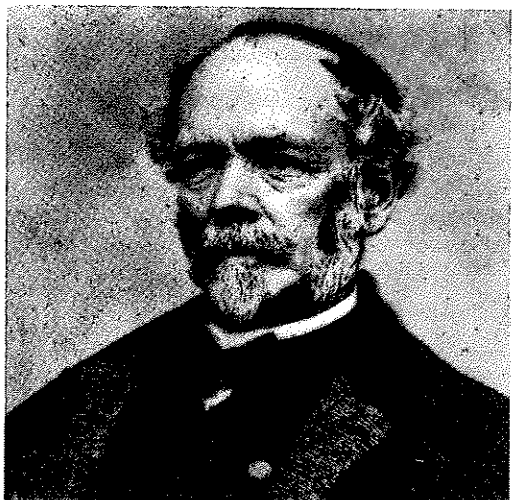
Dr. Symonds is Professor of History at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. He is the author of *Joseph E. Johnston—A Civil War Biography*, 1992, W W Norton and Company, 450 pages, maps and illustrations and author of *A Battlefield Atlas of the Civil War*.

**Question: Dr. Symonds, how did you get interested in Joe Johnston?**

I first became interested in Joe Johnston because he seemed such a lightning rod for historians. It seemed that to some he was an utter failure and to others he was an unappreciated and long-suffering hero. What was it about this man, I wondered, that attracted such bitterness as well as such adulation? The only existing biography—the one by Govan and Livingood published in 1956 was a passionate defense of Johnston. There seemed to be no impartial account of his life, so I tried to write one.

**Question: Johnston was considered by both Grant and Sherman to be a highly competent general. Sherman said of Johnston during Vicksburg “The ability of General Johnston was recognized, and General Grant told me that he was about the only general on that side whom he feared.” That’s a high compliment from your enemy! So, why do you think Johnston is not as admired or respected or even as well-known as other Confederate generals like Lee, Stonewall, even J.E.B. Stuart or Nathan B. Forrest?**

It is, indeed, very interesting that Union generals almost to a man compliment Johnston's strategic and tactical skill, while southerners, both at the time and since, have not included him in their pantheon of heroes. I think the reasons are two-fold. First, Johnston was unlikely to make the kind of mistakes that men like Sherman and Grant could exploit. Johnston would not give away any battles. That compelled Grant and Sherman to be cautious in their campaigns against him. But caution is not a characteristic much admired by the champions of the Lost Cause. And this explains why southerners did not (and do not) admire him as much as they do Lee or Stuart or Forrest. Johnston had not audacity about him—no dash, no devil-may-care, charge with the drawn sword, heroism. Even Hood, in retrospect, seems heroic: leading the Army of Tennessee in a hopeless invasion of Nashville where it was destroyed. The guardians of the Confederate myth much prefer this kind of quixotic and dramatic death in the face of long odds, than they do the cautious and pragmatic approach taken by Johnston.



***Joseph E. Johnston***  
***1807—1891***

Reprinted from *CUMP and COMPANY*, August, 1996.  
Dori McCann and Doris Walker co-editors

**Question: Did Johnston decide to join the Confederate Army to stay loyal to Virginia, like Lee did, or were there other reasons?**

Yes, I think Johnston and Lee both felt that their primary obligation was to Virginia. Each man hesitated and agonized over the decision, but in the end they each went South, though not with any enthusiasm.

**Question: President Hayes, who was a close friend of Sherman, seriously considered Johnston for Secretary of War. Sherman respected Johnston but opposed any former Confederate officer holding such a high office. What did Johnston know of Sherman's feelings on this? Did it effect their friendship?**

I'm not sure if Hayes seriously considered Johnston for Secretary of War. I suspect he may have floated the idea in the expectation that giving a southerner a cabinet office would help heal the wounds of the disputed 1876 election. Johnston was a prominent name, and the War Office seemed a place for which he was qualified, but Sherman was only being realistic in throwing cold water on the idea. It was too prominent a post much too soon after the war. Much later, when the Democrats captured the White House, President Cleveland DID seriously consider Johnston for a cabinet post, including that of Secretary of War. But even then it was too soon. Johnston did get a government job, as commissioner of U.S. Railroads.

**Question: You say in your book that Johnston was always sure that Sherman was up to something. I am sure that Sherman felt the same way about Johnston! Johnston seemed to feel it was better to lose some territory than to lose your army in a battle. Land could always be conquered again at some other time, but lives lost were gone forever. Sherman's way of waging war was similar in that he didn't like to lose his men in bloody battles either. But his choice was to march through Georgia and the Carolinas, destroying arsenals, railroads, cutting off Confederate supply lines, resulting in a lot of property damage but very little loss of life. What did Johnston think of Sherman's March, from a military standpoint?**

Johnston and Sherman engaged in a lot of post-war mutual admiration. For Johnston, at least, some of this was because any evidence that Sherman was a brilliant campaigner only made him (that is, Johnston) look better. Curiously, you had a situation after the war where Johnston praised Sherman in order to prove how wrong-headed Davis was! Some of this attitude may have affected Johnston's observations on the famous March to the Sea. Johnston thought it was the correct military move, and even predicted it before the fall of Atlanta. He attributed Sherman's success in the March in large part to Hood's decision to take the Army of Tennessee northward. Sherman would not have had the freedom of movement he enjoyed in Georgia if Hood's army had been in the state to harass and threaten him.



**Question: I am intrigued with Sherman's and Johnston's friendship after the war. Sherman mentions that Johnston admired the way Sherman's troops were able to rebuild bridges so quickly. I can easily picture the two of them with maps of the South spread out on a table, talking about the war; Johnston saying: "Now, just what were you thinking about at Kennesaw?!" If Sherman and Johnston could become such good friends, why is it so hard for many southerners today to "forgive" Sherman, 130 years after the war?**

Well, as I noted above, for both men, the post-war love fest was partly designed to quiet their own critics at "home." The mutual respect was genuine, but they were never together long enough to construct a genuine friendship. Southerners today have a hard time forgiving Sherman largely, I think, because *Cump* was demonized in the years after Radical Reconstruction and made the personification of all the evil that befell the South in the late 19th and early 20th century. That tradition, once established, became hard to break. More realistic appraisals of Sherman, now available in a number of excellent works, may eventually alter this view.

**Question: Is there anything you would like to add?**

Readers, as well as authors, of biographers should be careful not to reduce their subjects to one-dimensional cardboard cutouts. Sherman was not the slaving and mean-spirited merchant of terror remembered by some southerners; Johnston was not the passive, timid, and contrary foil to Sherman's maneuvers that his critics claim. Both men were complex individuals with both strengths and weaknesses and need to be assessed as such.

*Thanks Dr. Symonds,*

*Dori McCann*

# PRESIDENTS LETTER    MAY, 2000

## April Meeting:

Thanks from myself and all of those who attended the March meeting to Dr. David Woods. His talk on the sons of Lincoln was most informative. I for one learned new information - even that a DNA test today could prove a living descendent of the great president may still be with us - but no comfortably settled into silence.

Once again we were forced into the basement and out of our regular meeting room. With the good turnout we had things were really cramped. My thanks to everyone for their patience with the less than comfortable arrangements. As we discussed in the last President's letter and at the April meeting plans are underway to relocate to a site that will appreciate our business.

## May Meeting —May 10, 2000

The May meeting will be busy. We will have our annual guests night (no longer ladies night) where everyone is urged to bring their spouse or other acquaintance. We will elect our officers for next year and we will have a guest speaker, Dr. Craig Symonds, from the U.S. Naval Academy.

## **Officers and Trustees:**

The nominees for club officers are:

- President:        William Vodrey
- Vice President: Bill McGrath
- Secretary:        Lou Braman
- Treasurer:        Bill Doty

Nominees for the trustees for next year are: Maynard Baurer, Dan Zeiser, Ty Somersfield, Dick Crews, Dale Thomas and myself.

## **Guests:**

I am assured that we have the great room for our meeting. That means we have room for a large gathering. That said we also have the need to have a good reservation count on Monday. Please call in your reservations to JAC at 216-861-5588.

## Speaker:

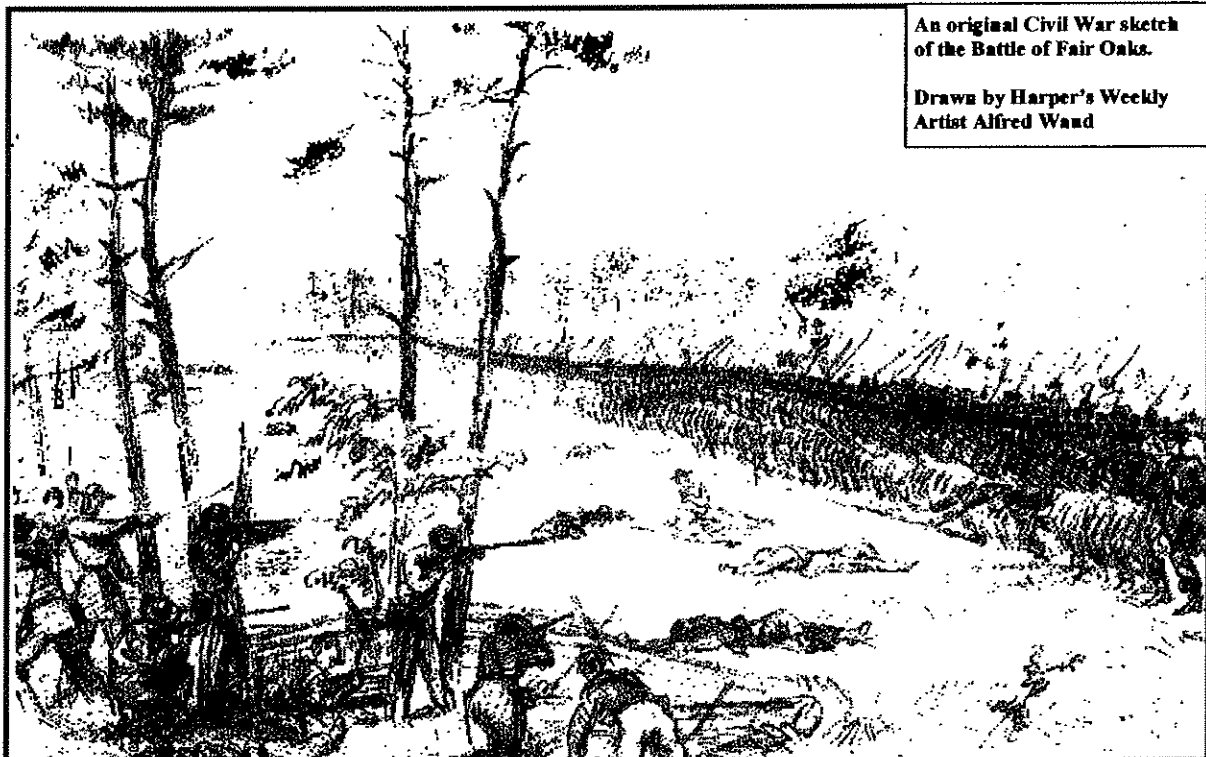
Throughout this year I have spoken about the privilege of picking speakers with topics with a special interest to myself. At the May meeting Dr. Craig Symonds of the United States Naval Academy will be our speaker. He is the author of a book on Confederate Major General Patrick Cleburne titled *Stonewall of the West: Patrick Cleburne and the Civil War*. I am excited about his coming to our meeting. I hope everyone else shares my excitement and will make plans to attend.

## Our Civil War:

Over the years the Hermit Club has provided a high quality, centrally located site for our meetings. With a minimum disruptions we have enjoyed the Great Hall meeting room. Last month with little notice we were forced to relocate to a smaller room. Fortunately, our attendance was such that we were comfortably accommodated. If we had had a large crowd it would have been a serious problem. In order to avoid such unplanned relocation's William Vodrey has worked to achieve a written confirmation of our dates and our room for next year. As part of this exercise we have been informed that the Hermit Club would like to implement a substantial increase in our dinner costs. Specifically they have asked for a dinner fee of \$27.50 with a fee of \$35.00 for each person above the reservation number. Needless to say this is being negotiated and some flexibility is apparent. In addition, alternate sites are being investigated.

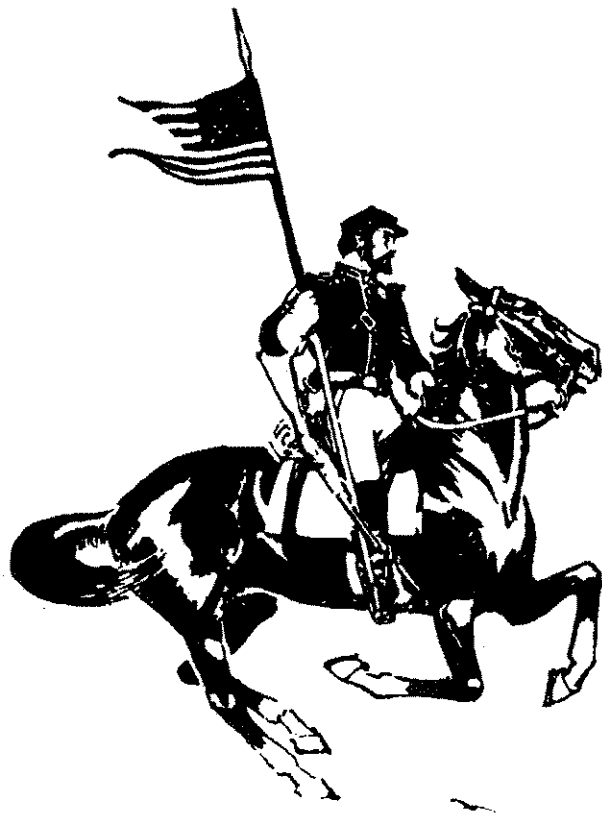
*More on this subject will be presented at our May meeting.*

*Bob Boyda*



An original Civil War sketch  
of the Battle of Fair Oaks.

Drawn by Harper's Weekly  
Artist Alfred Wand



Cleveland Civil War Roundtable PO Box 18900 Cleveland, OH 44118



PATRICK R. CLEBURNE

# *Patrick Cleburne*

*"Stonewall of the West"*

WEDNESDAY  
MAY 10, 2000