



The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. Box 5786, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

November 1987

265th Meeting

Vol. 9 #3

DATE: Tuesday, November 10, 1987

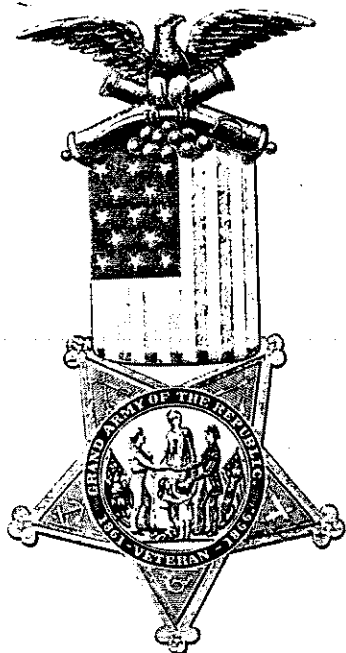
PLACE: Hermit Club

SUBJECT: "Forgotten Heroes: Black Recipients of the
United States Congressional Medal of Honor
in the American Civil War 1863-1865"

SPEAKER: William C. Stark

TIME: Cocktails at 6:00 PM Dinner at 7:00 PM

RESERVATIONS: Please call 371-0260 Reservations are a MUST!



Medal of Honor

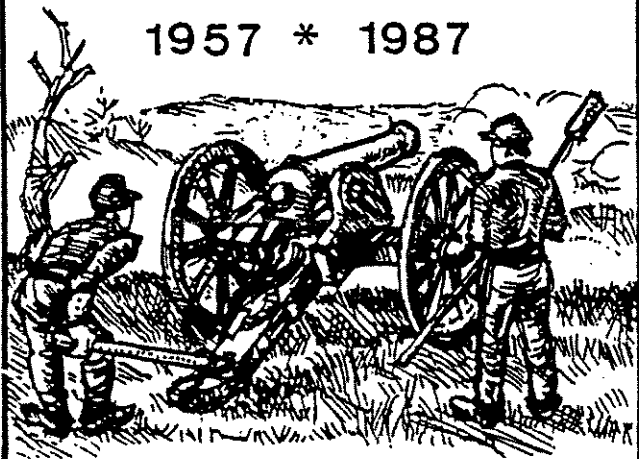


Sgt. Maj. Christian A. Fleetwood

Last Month's Meeting

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

1957 * 1987



1987 - 1988

President - Marty Graham
Vice Pres. - Neil Glaser
Secretary - Ken Callahan, Jr.
Treasurer - Doug Baldwin
Editor of the Charger:
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CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. Box 5786, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

During the stalemated investment of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Confederate General Braxton Bragg and Lt. Gen. James Longstreet quarreled. At President Davis' recommendation, to ease command tensions and divert Federal attention from Chattanooga, Longstreet led two divisions of infantry, two artillery battalions and Wheeler's cavalry to attack Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside in east Tennessee.

Last month's speaker, John Stancheck, editor of "Civil War Times Illustrated" magazine, told the story of Longstreet's campaign—from his race with the Federals to Campbell's Station (a strategic intersection on the Kingston Rd to Knoxville) to his ill-fated attack on Ft. Sanders.

Normally a fine soldier and leader, Longstreet's campaign was ill-conceived and lacked positive results. In fact, it is widely held to be the Confederates' worst campaign and Longstreet's performance far from his best. His troops suffered greatly due to exposure and lack of food. Morale was low. The poor condition of his army forced Longstreet to attack instead of invest Knoxville. As a result he was defeated and his absence weakened Bragg who in turn was defeated at Chattanooga.

Before Mr. Stancheck's presentation Marty Graham, our President, recognized and honored our club's founding fathers with a cake and a few words of appreciation. Two of the founding fathers were present—Jack Cullen and Dr. Bill Schlesinger—who briefly told the circumstances that led to the formation of our Round Table.

* * * * *



**Battlefield
Preservation
Is Your Problem
Too!**

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN
CIVIL WAR HISTORY, THEN YOU
MUST BE INTERESTED IN
BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION.

OUR SPEAKER

This month's speaker is fellow member Bill Stark. Bill was raised in Cleveland and currently makes his home in Fairview Park. He attended the University of Toledo and earned his M.A. at Cleveland State University doing his thesis on the 103rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was the curator and past president of the 103rd OVI Memorial Foundation as well as past president of the Western Reserve CWRT. He is currently our club's archivist and has spoken before on the Civil War camps of Cleveland. He has authored numerous articles including the topic of this talk which appeared in four parts in the Lincoln Herald (LXXVII & LXXVIII 1985-86). Bill is married and currently employed as a ranger for the Cleveland Metroparks.

Black Recipients of the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor in the American Civil War

ARMY

1. Sgt. William Harvey Carney, Co. C, 54th Massachusetts Volunteers, 7/18/63, Ft. Wagner, S.C.
2. Sgt. Maj. Christian A. Fleetwood, 4th Regt., U.S.C.T., 9/29/64, New Market Hts. (Va.)
3. Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton, Co. H, 4th Regt., U.S.C.T., 9/29/64, New Market Hts. (Va.)
4. Corp. Charles Veal, Co. D, 4th Regt., U.S.C.T., " " "
5. Sgt. Milton M. Holland, Co. C, 5th Regt., U.S.C.T., " " "
6. 1st Sgt. James E. Bronson, Co. D, 5th Regt., U.S.C.T., 9/29/64 " "
7. 1st Sgt. Powhatan Beatty, Co. G, 5th " " " "
8. 1st Sgt. Robert A. Pinn, Co. I, 5th " " " "
9. Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Hawkins, 6th Regt., U.S.C.T., " " "
10. Sgt. Alexander Kelly, Co. F, 6th " " " "
11. Corp. Miles James, Co. B, 36th Regt., " " " "
12. Pvt. James Gardiner, Co. I, 36th " " " "
13. 1st Sgt. Edward Ratcliffe, Co. C, 38th Regt., U.S.C.T., " " "
14. Sgt. James H. Harris, Co. B, 38th Regt., U.S.C.T., " " "
15. Pvt. William H. Barnes, Co. C, 38th " " " "
16. Sgt. Decatur Dorsey, Co. B, 39th " " , 7/30/64, Battle of the Crater (Va.)

NAVY

17. Robert Blake, Contraband, U.S.S. Marblehead, 12/25/63, Stono River (S.C.)
18. Joachim Pease, Seaman, U.S.S. KEARSARGE, 6/19/64, off Cherbourg, France
19. John H. Lawson, landsman, U.S.S. Hartford, 8/5/64, Mobile Bay (Ala.)
20. Aaron Anderson, landsman, U.S.S. Wyandank, March 17, 1865, Mattox Ck. (Va.)
21. Clement Dees, seaman, U.S.S. Pontoosuc, 12/24/64-2/22/65, Cape Fear River, N.C. (deserted)*
22. William H. Brown, landsman, U.S.S. Brooklyn, 8/5/64, Mobile Bay (Ala.)
23. Wilson Brown, landsman, U.S.S. Hartford, 8/5/64, Mobile Bay (Ala.)
24. James Mifflin, engineer's cook, U.S.S. Brooklyn, 8/5/64, Mobile Bay (Ala.)

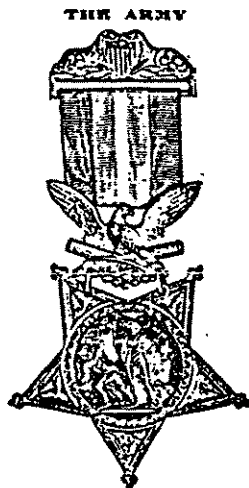
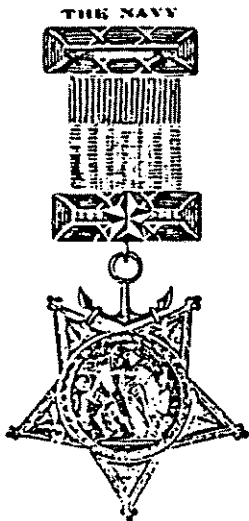
*Medal of Honor revoked, 5/1/66

Note: Sketches or photographs have been published of 1,2,5,8,10,19.
Burial places have been recorded for 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,14,16.

Wm Stark
1987

BLACK MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS, CIVIL WAR

Wm Stark 8/87



John H. Lawson, Landsman, U.S. Navy

The Navy Congressional Medal of Honor(enacted by Congress December 21, 1861) and the Army Congressional Medal of Honor(enacted July 12, 1862) as awarded to Civil War recipients. The design of the Medal would be changed in 1904.



ALEXANDER KELLY.
First Sergeant, Co. F, Sixth U. S.
Colored Troops.
Born in Indiana Co., Pa., April
7, 1846.



First Sergeant Robert A. Pinn



WILLIAM H. CARNEY.
Private, 5th Massachusetts Infantry.
Born at Norfolk, Va., Feb. 29, 1840.



Sergeant Major Milton M. Holland



Sergeant Major Christian A. Fleetwood

More Than You Ever Wanted To Know About

MARY E. WALKER

MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER

The only woman to receive the Medal of Honor was Dr. Mary E. Walker for her brave work in helping to save lives during the Civil War.

In 1917 when federal authorities told Dr. Walker that the Medal of Honor she had won had been revoked, she replied sharply, "you can have it over my dead body."

New York born Dr. Walker had worked against prejudice and criticism in the 1840's and 1850's to become a physician but after graduating from Syracuse Medical College she found little acceptance for a female physician even among her own sex. Her struggling Cincinnati, Ohio practice was interrupted by the desperate need for medical personnel during the Civil War, but she welcomed the chance to use her training where it was needed. She spent three years working as a nurse for the Union Army before an Ohio regiment hired her as a contract surgeon for six months in 1864. In a position to move back and forth across Union and Confederate lines, she became active as a spy. That October the army commissioned Walker as an assistant surgeon, a position she held until her resignation in June 1865. On many occasions she administered to wounded soldiers indifferent to whether they wore blue or gray. Her four months spent in a Confederate prison came after she was captured treating a rebel soldier on the battlefield.

During her army career, Walker adopted the uniform of her fellow officers and she continued wearing male clothing in civilian life. But with strong pride in her own sex, she wore her hair in curls, so that people would remember she was a woman.

Although she actively supported several reform movements, including the popular election of senators, most of Walker's energies went into the women's rights movement. She went so far as to establish a colony for women in 1897, calling it "Adamless Eden." Because she rejected the boundaries set for women in her day, women scorned her and even her family shunned her as a militant.

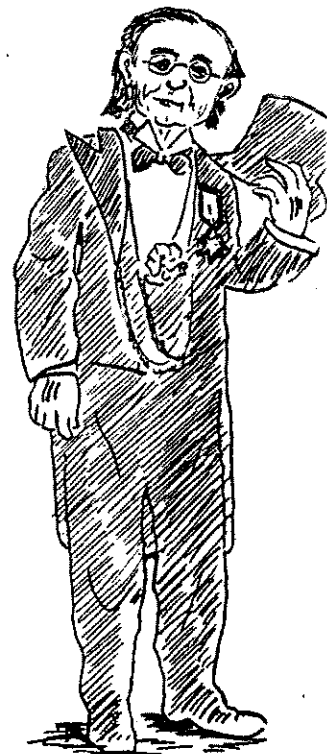
Walker died poor and alone near Oswego, New York on February 21, 1919. Her Medal was officially returned to her in 1977.

-Historical Times Encyclopedia of the Civil War by Patricia L. Faust



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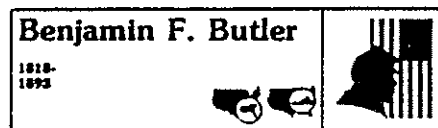


Events of 125 Years Ago

NOVEMBER 1862

- Nov 5 Lincoln orders McClellan replaced by Burnside. McClellan was notified of the orders two days later at 11:30 PM and turned the command over to Burnside.
- Nov 7 Maj. Gen. Banks replaced Maj. Gen. Butler in New Orleans.
- Nov 13 Grant's troops took possession of Holly Springs, Miss.
- Nov 15 President Davis accepted the resignation of Secretary of War George W. Randolph.
- Nov 17 Sumner's Right Grand Division of the Army of the Potomac arrived at Falmouth across the Rappahannock from Fredericksburg, Va.
- Nov 19 Longstreet's corps took position on Marye's Heights.
- Nov 21 Davis appoints James A. Seddon as Secretary of War. Bragg sends Forrest to cut Grant's line of communications.
- Nov 24 Gen. Joseph E. Johnston Assigned overall command in the West.
- Nov 26 Lincoln visited Burnside at Belle Plain, Va.

- The Civil War Day by Day by E.B. Long



Was there a curse of bad luck on Union Generals whose last names began with the letter "B"?



In December 1861, eight months after the start of the Civil War, a bill was passed by Congress and approved by President Lincoln that established a Medal of Honor to be awarded by the Secretary of the Navy to enlisted men. On July 12, 1862 the Army Congressional Medal of Honor was authorized for enlisted men and amended in March 1863 to include army officers. (The medal was not authorized for Navy officers until the eve of World War II) The Medal was designed by Christian Schussel and engraved by Anthony C. Paquet.

There were 2,438 Medals of Honor awarded during the Civil War, more than five times as many as for any other war. The first Medal of Honor recipients were six enlisted men who received their awards on March 25, 1863 for their part in the Andrews Raid in Georgia.

The youngest boy to receive the Medal of Honor was William H. Horsfall, drummer boy of Co. G, 1st Kentucky Infantry for gallantry in action at Corinth, Mississippi

on May 21, 1862. Horsfall rescued his wounded captain who fell in a charge and was left between the opposing lines. Horsfall dropped his drum and ignoring the whizzing bullets from both sides, dragged his wounded captain to safety. Horsfall was only 14 years old.

The last act of the Civil War for which a Medal of Honor was awarded was at Sayler's Creek, Virginia on April 6, 1865. General George A. Custer ordered his cavalry to charge the Confederate breastworks. In the charge was Sergeant Francis Cunningham, Co. H, 1st West Virginia regiment.

Custer's horsemen presented grand targets and one trooper after another of Co. H went down until only five men were left, crouched behind the bodies of their dead horses for shelter. Cunningham, one of these five, spotted a Confederate mule running around the battlefield, mad with excitement. As the mule dashed past, Cunningham grabbed his bridle, swung on his back and turned his head toward the Confederate line. The crazed animal galloped straight for the enemy works and scrambled up the breastworks in front of the Confederate flag. Cunningham tore the flag from the hands of the Confederate color sergeant, wrenched the mules head around and galloped back to his own lines untouched by the hail of bullets that followed him.

Three days later Custer sent Cunningham to Washington to present the last Confederate flag captured in battle to Secretary of War Stanton. On the spot Stanton awarded Cunningham the Medal of Honor.

The Union Navy had 327 Medal of Honor winners. Fourteen of these were awarded to the crew of Lieutenant William Cushing for sinking the Albemarle. Cushing and one other seaman escaped to safety, two were drowned and the other ten captured.

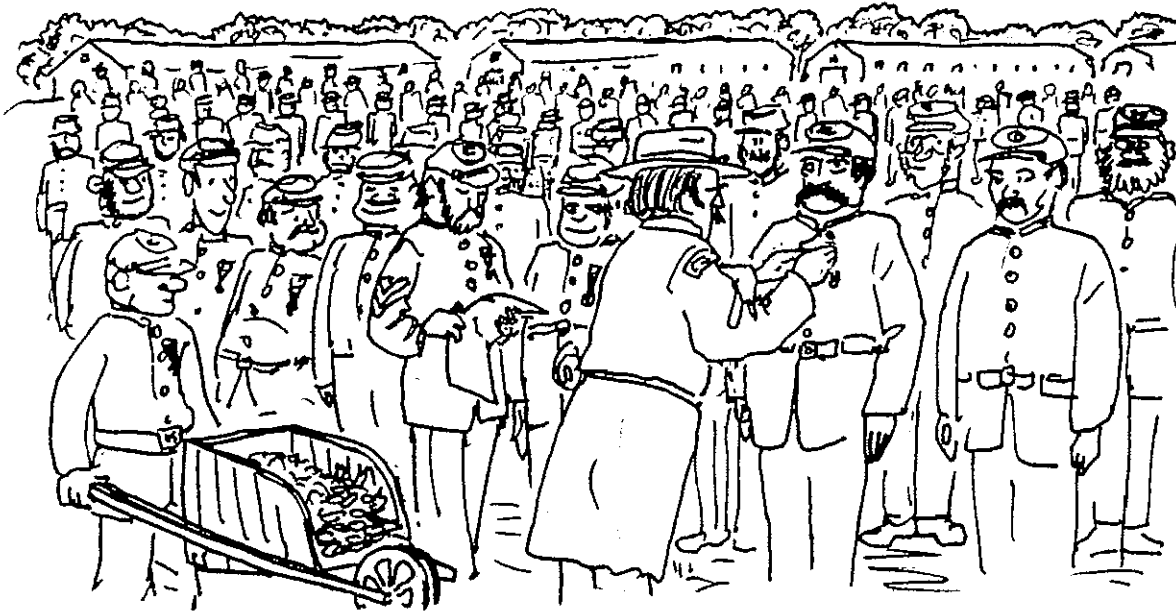
On February 15, 1917 a Committee of Congress, after reviewing the awards, cancelled 911 because they deemed the deeds were not of heroic enough nature to warrant the Medal. 864 of these recalled Medals were from members of the 27th Maine Infantry. They originally received their Medals as a unit for its part in the defense of Washington in June 1863. The fact was, however, most of the regiment had seen no action at that time. Only about 300 of its officers and men had stayed on to defend the capitol while the rest went home to Maine to be mustered out.

-Above & Beyond: The Congressional Medal of Honor
Boston Publishing

-The Medal: The Story of the Medal of Honor by
Frank Donovan

-American War Medals & Decorations by
Evan E. Kerrigan

-Historical Times Civil War Encyclopedia by
Patricia L. Faust



Medals awarded to the 27th Maine, Drawing courtesy of Stu Cramer.



Archivist's Report by Bill Stark

It was decided at the June Executive Board meeting that the archivist should gather all programs and papers of the Roundtable and deposit them in the Western Reserve Historical Society, adding to the five issues of the CHARGER already deposited there. The Society had the April, 1958, Dec., 1958, and the Sept., Oct., and Nov. 1970 CHARGERS on file. As archivist, I separated the newsletters and CHARGERS from 1957 through 1986 from the several containers of papers for deposit. Other papers have been filed under the headings of Addresses and Programs, By-laws, Correspondence and Miscellaneous Papers, Fieldtrips, and Rosters.

The following newsletters and CHARGERS are missing. If any member has them, please copy them or send the originals to me at 3937 W. 224th St., Fairview Park, OH 44126 so that they can be included upon delivery of the collection to the WRHS.

| | | | | |
|---------|------|--|---------|-------------------|
| No. 4 | 1957 | STONEWALL JACKSON'S SHENANDOAH VALLEY CAMPAIGN | Apr. 18 | Edward Downer |
| No. 81 | 1966 | CIVIL WAR HUMOR & POST WAR HUMOR | | Howard K. Preston |
| No. 104 | | | | |

| | | | |
|---------|---------------|--|-------------------------------|
| No. 4 | Apr. 18, 1957 | STONEWALL JACKSON'S SHENANDOAH VALLEY CAMPAIGN | Edward Downer |
| No. 39 | Oct. 10, 1961 | LAFAYETTE C. BAKER & THE SECRET SERVICE | Guy Di Carlo Jr. |
| No. 81 | Dec. 13, 1966 | CIVIL WAR HUMOR & POST WAR HUMOR | Howard K. Preston |
| No. 104 | Nov. 11, 1969 | BENEDICT ARNOLD | John D. Drinko |
| No. 129 | Oct. 10, 1972 | LINCOLN AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF | Eldon Josh Billings |
| No. 150 | Jan. 14, 1975 | HOOD & THE SIEGE OF ATLANTA | David G. Chollit |
| No. 158 | Dec. 9, 1975 | HON. EDWARD M. STANTON PERSONIFIED | Dr. David N. Wood |
| No. 165 | Oct. 12, 1976 | BIGGEST LITTLE RIVER & MONSTROUS DECADE | William D. Ellis |
| No. 166 | Nov. 9, 1976 | SHOW 'N' TELL: BLUE VS. GRAY | B. Drews, D. Heckaman, et al. |

Nos. 186 through 208 on blue attached sheet PAGE 10

| | | | |
|---------|---------------|--|----------------|
| No. 209 | Sept. 8, 1981 | THE YORKTOWN CAMPAIGN | Craig Schermer |
| No. 210 | Oct. 13, 1981 | SUPPLYING SHERMAN'S ARMY | Earl J. Coates |
| No. 213 | Jan. 12, 1982 | MOVIE NIGHT "SHE WORE A YELLOW RIBBON" | |

1978 - 1979

President: William Bates

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 182 | September | 12 | Unusual Incidents of Vicksburg | Albert P. Scheller |
| 183 | October | 10 | *Teddy Roosevelt | Tom Geschke |
| 184 | November | 14 | Custer & His Wolverines | Gregory J. W. Urwin |
| 185 | December | 12 | Confederate States Through Philately | Morris Everett |
| 186 | January | 9 | Cleveland Grays (at Armory) | Henry Morgan |
| 187 | February | 13 | *General Lew Wallace (Book Sale - Stu Cramer) | Bill Bates |
| 188 | March | 13 | Theodore Parker Returns (Actor) | Rev. Dwight Brown |
| 189 | April | 10 | *Civil War Songs | Bernie Drews & Performers |
| 190 | May | 8 | Impact of the War on James A. Garfield/Dr. John Strassburger | |

Field trip: Sept. 21-24, 1978 - Columbia & Charleston, S.C.

Mini trip: July - Southern Ohio

1979 - 1980

President: Charles Spiegle

| | | | | |
|-----|-----------|----|--|---|
| 191 | September | 11 | Battlefield Preservation | Robert Meinhard |
| 192 | October | 9 | *"Monitor" & "Merrimac" | Jim Chapman |
| 193 | November | 13 | Quiz & Book Sale | Bernie Drews & Don Heckaman |
| 194 | December | 11 | *Rodger Atkinson Pryor - Study in Extremes | Ed Troxell |
| 195 | January | 8 | *Benjamin Butler | Stu Cramer |
| 196 | February | 12 | *Uniforms & Equipment Of U.S. Soldier: 1855-1950 | Don Heckaman |
| 197 | March | 11 | *Medicine & Surgery in the Civil War | Dr. Bill Schlesinger & Dr. Paul Schildt |
| 198 | April | 8 | "The Lincoln Conspiracy" Debunked | William C. Davis |
| 199 | May | 13 | Keep the Home Fires Burning | Dr. Louis A. Barone |

Field trip: Sept. 20-23, 1979 - Shiloh, Tenn., & Corinth, Iuka, Tupelo, Miss.

1980 - 1981

President: Tom Geschke

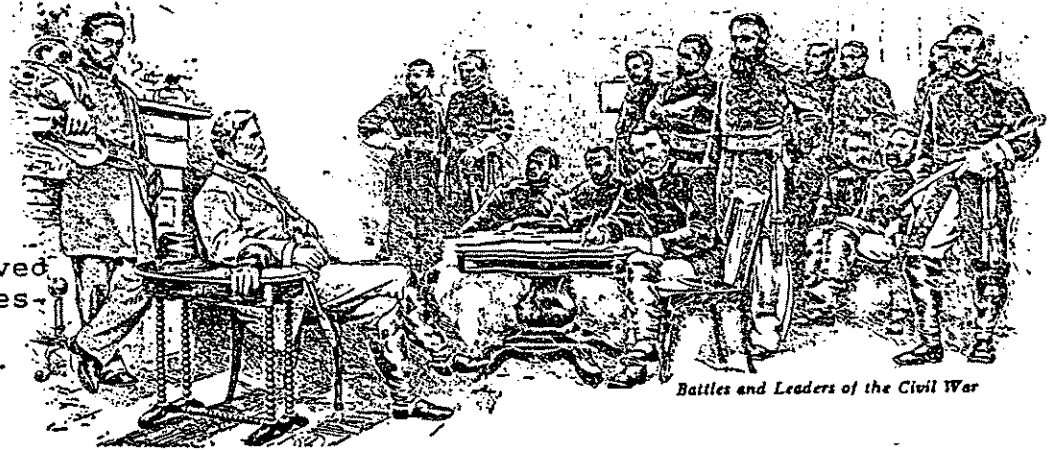
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|-----|-----------|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 200 | September | 9 | Federal Telegraph Service | Guy DiCarlo, Jr. |
| 201 | October | 12 | *History of the Cleveland Group | George Vourlojianis |
| 202 | November | 11 | Quiz & Book Sale | Bernie Drews & Jim Engelhart |
| 203 | December | 9 | Adventures of Gen. E.P. Alexander | Robert Krick |
| 204 | January | 13 | *The War in the Southwest | John Tormey |
| 205 | February | 10 | *Civil War Arms--Materials & Manufacture | John Harkness |
| 206 | March | 10 | *Movie Night - "The General" & Resume of Andrews Raid | Tom Geschke |
| 207 | April | 14 | Spies in War | Dan Tyler Moore |
| 208 | May | 12 | *What if . . . | Jim Chapman, Don Hamill, Stu Cramer |

Field trip: Sept. 18-21, 1980 - Fort Monroe, Yorktown, Norfolk, Va.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

11

I have always believed that one builds his present and future on the foundation of the past. It is for that reason that I have placed a great deal of emphasis



on the accomplishments and programs of our organization over the past thirty years. Many of our fellow members have worked very hard over the years to ensure that the programs they worked so hard on during their tenure as presidents were both interesting and thought provoking.

It is still relatively early in my term as president, but I am already sensing future trouble for the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. We have over one hundred local members and yet very little commitment from most of you to carry on the tradition of our organization by volunteering to serve as officers. We presently have an opening as sergeant-at-arms which we have been unable to fill. That does not bode well, for every position we leave unfilled will create an ever larger gap in future administrations.

We cannot continue to depend on the same individuals year in and year out to come through and take the time to plan programs which will be enjoyed by all. The only way an organization remains fresh and viable is by establishing a conduit to new, exciting ideas.

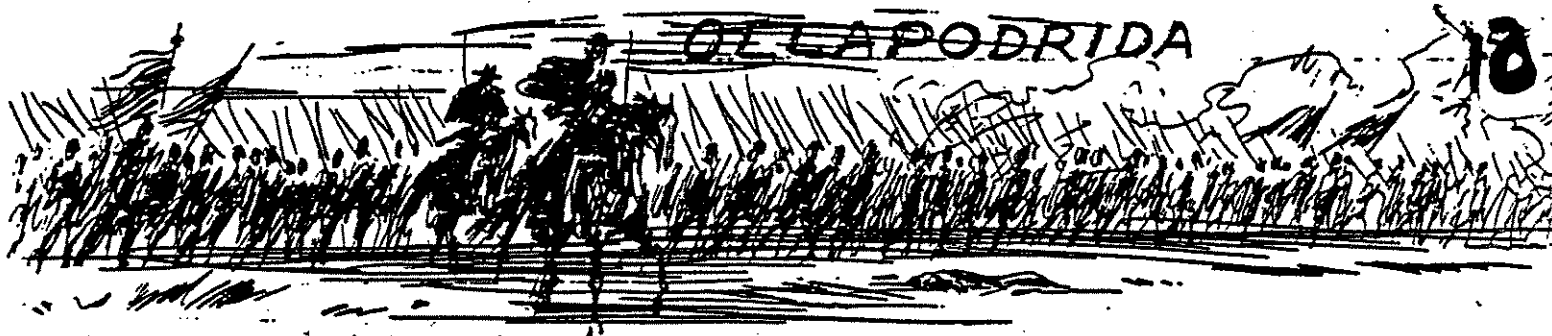
I hope all of you reconsider the extent of your commitment to the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. Not even the president's position requires an unreasonable amount of time.

Give me a call and let me know if you can devote a little time in order to ensure that we will be able to pass the Roundtable on to future generations as it has been passed down to us.

OLLAPODRIDA CONTINUED

Our nation's first decoration for a common soldier dates from the period of the American Revolution and was established by order of Gen. George Washington. This was the "Badge of Military Merit" - a purple heart. It was made of cloth and fashioned of purple silk in the shape of a heart, edged and embroidered with silver braid. The first one awarded went to Sgt. William Brown of Cap. Samuel Comstock's Company of the Fifth Regiment, Connecticut Line. Brown received his award for gallant action at Yorktown in 1781 where he received a bayonet wound in the hand leading his men into Redoubt No. 10.

- "Medal of Honor of the Revolution" by Charles E. Hatch, Jr., "Virginia Cavalcade" Vol XIII #2, Autumn 1963



Kearny Medal

The Kearny Medals and the Kearny Cross were decorations issued to men of the 1st Division, III Corps, Army of the Potomac. Both medals were named for Maj. Gen. Philip Kearny who commanded the division until his death at the Battle of Chantilly, Va. on September 1, 1862. Authorized in his honor after his death, the decorations were official only insofar as Kearny's old division was concerned; they were not recognized officially at any other level of the army. The Kearny Medal was made of gold and was in the form of a Maltese cross under a circle. In the center was a circular gold device with the word Kearny. The medal was suspended by a ribbon and the back of the cross was engraved with the name of the recipient. These medals were issued by officers of Kearny's division to officers who served honorably in battle while Kearny was still in command. The medal was adopted Nov. 29, 1862 and about 317 were distributed. They were manufactured by the New York firm of Ball, Black & Co. The Kearny Cross was designed as a "cross of valor" for enlisted men of the division.

-Civil War Encyclopedia L.D. Jensen

Brig. Gen. George A. Custer had a 19 year old brother, Thomas W. Custer, who served on his staff in the closing campaigns of the Civil War. Tom Custer had the distinction of being the only soldier in the Civil War to receive two Congressional Medals of Honor. The first was awarded for capturing a Confederate battle flag along with fourteen prisoners, three of them officers, at Namozine Church on April 3, 1865. The second was for capturing the colors of the 2nd Va. Reserve Battalion at Saylor's Creek on April 6, 1865.

Favor the Bold-Custer the Civil War Years
D.A. Kingsley pp 277

Custer: The Life of General George A. Custer
Jay Monaghan pp 238

The only known wartime Confederate medal was the Davis Guard Medal, presented by the ladies of Houston, Texas to the 49 members of the Davis Guard, who under the command of Captain Richard W. Dowling had repulsed a Union Naval expedition at Sabine Pass, Texas.

-Civil War Encyclopedia L. D. Jensen

HAPPY



THANKSGIVING