



THE CHARGER

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE
P.O. BOX 18900, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118

NOVEMBER 1994

328TH MEETING

VOL. 16 #3

DATE:

WEDNESDAY, November 9, 1994

PLACE:

The Hermit Club

SUBJECT:

The Cavalry in the
Chancellorsville Campaign

SPEAKER:

Mr. Marshall D. Krolick

A native of Chicago, Mr. Krolick received his B.A. degree from Drake University in 1959 and a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law in 1962. He is a partner in the Chicago law firm of Deutsch, Levy & Engel, Chd. He resides in Northbrook, Ill., with his wife and three children.



Marshall D. Krolick

TIME:

Cocktails 6PM
Dinner 7PM

RESERVATIONS:

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RESERVATIONS
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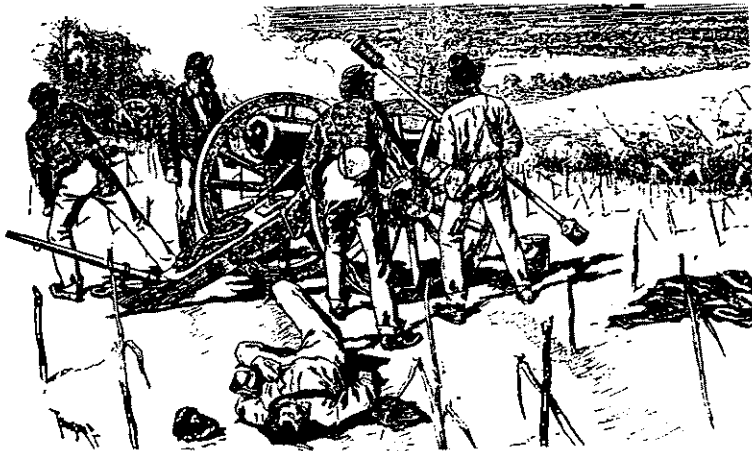
Mr. Krolick is Past President of Congregation B'Nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim in Glenview, Ill., and current serves as Executive Vice President of the Les Turner Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Foundation, Ltd., as a member of the National Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Federation of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Village of Northbrook.

A member of the Civil War round Table of Chicago since 1961, Mr. Krolick has served that organization in several capacities including President, 1971-1972, and Editor of its newsletter from 1974 to 1979. In addition to speaking regularly on 1861-65 topics to schools and civic organizations in the Chicago area, he has also addressed Civil War organizations and symposiums in Chicago, Gettysburg, St. Louis, Kansas City, Atlanta, Louisville, Madison, Minneapolis, Harrisburg, Cincinnati, Lynchburg as well as the Milwaukee CWRT. He has also served as a guide for tours of Gettysburg and other Civil War battlefields.

His published works include several articles which have appeared in Virginia Country Magazine's *Civil War Quarterly*; the introduction to Morningside Bookshop's reprint edition of the *History of the Eighth Cavalry Regiment, Illinois Volunteers*; and, for several years, a regular column in *Civil War Times Illustrated*. Among his current projects are a study of the First Day at Gettysburg, a history of the First Virginia Cavalry, and the editing of the papers of William Brooke-Rawl, an officer of the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry.

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

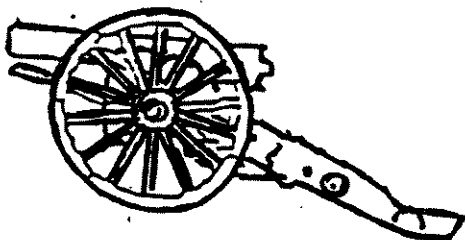
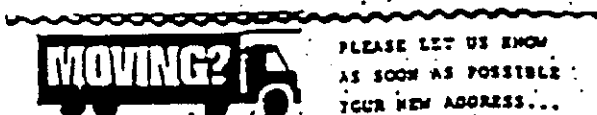
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Preserve Your Battlefields!

THIS YEAR'S SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

Nov.	Marshall Krolick Calvary Fight During Chancellorsville
Dec.	A. Wilson Green
Jan.	Civil War Debates
Feb.	Michael Dory TBA
March	Kevin Casey Battle of Monococy
April	Robert Krick TBA
May	TBA

THE CAVALRY IN THE CHANCELLORSVILLE CAMPAIGN

As part of his strategy for the Chancellorsville Campaign, Joseph Hooker ordered George Stoneman's recently created cavalry corps to proceed the infantry movement by moving around Robert E. Lee's army. Once in the Confederate rear, Stoneman was to disrupt Southern communications and supply lines. Then he was to place himself in position along the line of retreat Lee would be expected to take after he had been forced out of position by Hooker. Hooker ordered Stoneman, who had approximately 10,000 men, to march in two columns. one under Averell, toward Gordonsville, and the other, under Buford, to move toward the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad. Only one small cavalry brigade, under Pleasonton, was to remain with the Federal army. In his remarks, Mr. Krolick will describe the progress and results of Stoneman's march and, more importantly, its effect on the Chancellorsville Campaign. Also, he will review the Confederate reaction to the Federal movement, as well as Pleasonton's actions, both claimed and actual, during the battle itself.

Vicksburg

"Gibraltar of the Mississippi"

The capture of Vicksburg, Mississippi on July 4, 1863 was the most important northern strategic victory of the war, perhaps meriting Grant's later assertion, that "the fate of the confederacy was sealed when Vicksburg fell." However, it started out very poorly for the North and Grant in the Fall of 1862.

Despite the taking of New Orleans and Baton Rouge by Admiral Farragut in April, 1862; the Mississippi River was still controlled by the Confederacy because of the forts at Vicksburg and Port Hudson. The 200 foot cliffs at Vicksburg made the taking of this strong point impossible for the fleet. The job of taking Vicksburg by land was given to Major General Ulysses S. Grant who needed to prove himself after he was surprised at Shiloh.

Grant launched his first invasion along the Mississippi Central Railroad in October of 1862. Grant with 40,000 men advanced to Oxford, Mississippi by early December.

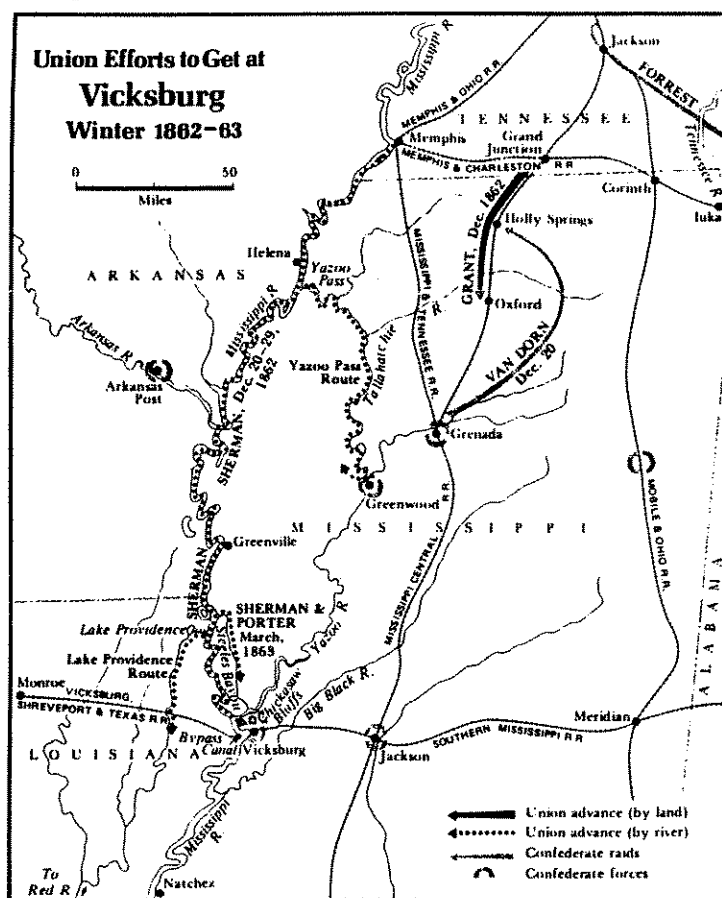
In Front, General Pemberton with 20,000 confederate troops, behind was 150 miles of railroad offering a tempting target for confederate cavalry.

Grant at the same time sent General William T. Sherman down river with 32,000 troops on naval gun boats to attack Vicksburg from the River. This two pronged drive if successful, would force Pemberton to divide his outnumbered force and enable the federal pincers to close on Vicksburg by land and by river.

Cavalry raids by Confederate raiders Nathan Bedford Forrest and Van Dorn destroyed much of Grants supplies and railroad supply line forcing Grant to retreat back to Memphis.

Sherman who was unaware that Grant had turned back to Memphis assaulted the bluffs

at Vicksburg. The 14,000 defenders knocked down the Union troop like tenpins. The first campaign against Vicksburg ended in complete failure.



Vicksburg
1995 Field Trip

SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



When General Braxton Bragg's defense line was broken in the center on Missionary Ridge, the rebel army began to break up. As one eyewitness wrote, "such confusion and disorder I never beheld before amongst the[men]." Bragg vainly tried to rally his demoralized troops. "He got down off his horse," one soldier wrote, "and as the men ran past him, he called out to them not to disgrace themselves, but stop and [save] their country - fight for your families &c. and says, I (your General) am here." During Bragg's harangue, a large soldier "stepped up behind Genl Bragg and carried him around the waist and says, 'and here's your mule' and went on." Unsurprisingly, the commander lost his temper and "was cursing like a sailor." As the routed army retreated, all along the line when Bragg would pass, the soldiers would raise the yell 'Here's your mule; Bully for Bragg, he's Hell on retreat.'

from Braxton Bragg and Confederate Defeat, Vol. II by
Judith Lee Hallock pp 141-142
illustrated by Stu Cramer

MORE THAN YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT

George Stoneman

1822-
1894

George Stoneman was born in the western New York hamlet of Busti on August 22, 1822. After attending nearby Jamestown Academy, he procured an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point and was graduated 33rd in 1846. Although commissioned into the 1st Dragoons, he was detailed as quartermaster of the celebrated "Mormon Battalion" which marched from Leavenworth, Kansas to San Diego during the Mexican War. He then served on the frontier in the Southwest fighting Indians until the outbreak of the Civil War.



A Captain at the outbreak of hostilities, he was soon promoted to major on the staff of his West Point classmate George B. McClellan serving with him in West Virginia. On August 13, 1861, he went east with McClellan, promoted a brigadier general and successively commanded a cavalry division and an infantry division (1st Div., 2nd Corps) in the Army of the Potomac seeing action on the Peninsula. He was promoted to major general, to rank from November 29, 1862 and led the 3rd Corps at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

When Joseph Hooker took command of the Army of the Potomac, he organized the first full scale cavalry corps - over ten thousand troopers - and separated it from the jurisdiction of the other Corps leaders. To command it he placed the now 40 year old George Stoneman. As one historian has noted, Stoneman had a "celebrated reputation as a pre-War dragoon, dignified in appearance and deportment, old-army to the core, a good organizer and efficient in handling paperwork, contained boundless self-confidence, a decent human being - and a lackluster field commander."

During the Chancellorsville campaign Stoneman was ordered to operate in Lee's rear while the infantry attacked the front. As Captain Hartwell Osborn of the cavalry observed: "General Hooker had committed a most serious blunder in the part assigned to his cavalry. Instead of utilizing it to observe the movements of the enemy, he retained only a small division under General Alfred Pleasonton, the rest of the force under General George Stoneman, being directed to make a raid upon the communications of the enemy." Stoneman's Raid, as it was called, caused great consternation in Richmond but effected nothing concrete, As a result (and needing a scapegoat for his own failings) Hooker relieved Stoneman.

Stoneman then served as chief of the cavalry bureau in Washington until 1864 when he was sent to Major General William T. Sherman to head a division of cavalry in the Atlanta campaign. During a raid to free the prisoners at Andersonville, Stoneman, along with 700 of his men, was cut off and captured by Wheeler's cavalry. He was exchanged in October, 1864, and returned to a command of cavalry that successfully raided through Southwestern Virginia destroying the Confederate salt works and lead mines. In March 1865, he raided across Virginia and western North Carolina. In this last raid he was brevetted a brigadier general of regulars for his capture of Salisbury, North Carolina.

After the war, Stoneman remained in the army, reverting to his regular army rank of colonel, and commanded the 21st Infantry in Arizona until his retirement in 1871 for a disability. He then settled on an estate which he owned in the heart of present San Marino, California. He served as Railroad Commissioner of California and in 1882 was elected governor of that state for a 4-year term.

George Stoneman died in Buffalo, New York on September 5, 1894 and was buried in Lakewood, New York, a few miles from his birthplace.

- Generals in Blue by Ezra J. Warner
- Who Was Who in the Civil War by Stewart Sifakis
- Encyclopedia of the Civil War by Patricia Faust
- Mounted Raids of the Civil War by Edward Longacre
- The Civil War: An American Illiad by Newman & Eisenshiml

HOMEFRONT

Today Parma Heights is just another of Cleveland's western suburbs--quiet, clean, unpretentious. You take a No. 51 bus out Pearl Road from Public Square, you're there in about a half hour. In 1861 it wasn't there, in name that is. That didn't occur until 1911. But it was there -- two inns, a mill, a blacksmith shop, a one room school, farmhouses -- a half day's wagon ride on the dirt road that came out from Cleveland and stretched to the state capital and beyond.

Three fourths of the village's families sent over forty sons and fathers to the bloody battlefields and the sorry camps and hospitals of the war. Their names are on the record but we will here only recall those who gave their lives that the nation might live: Captain George Emerson died of battle wounds in a Washington hospital, William E. Burnham was captured by Mosby and died eleven months later in Andersonville, Harrison F. Henry was killed at Chickamauga, Erastus Norton died in service, David Hodgman died of typhoid in a Nashville hospital, Levi Bartholomew died of typhoid in Cumberland, Md.

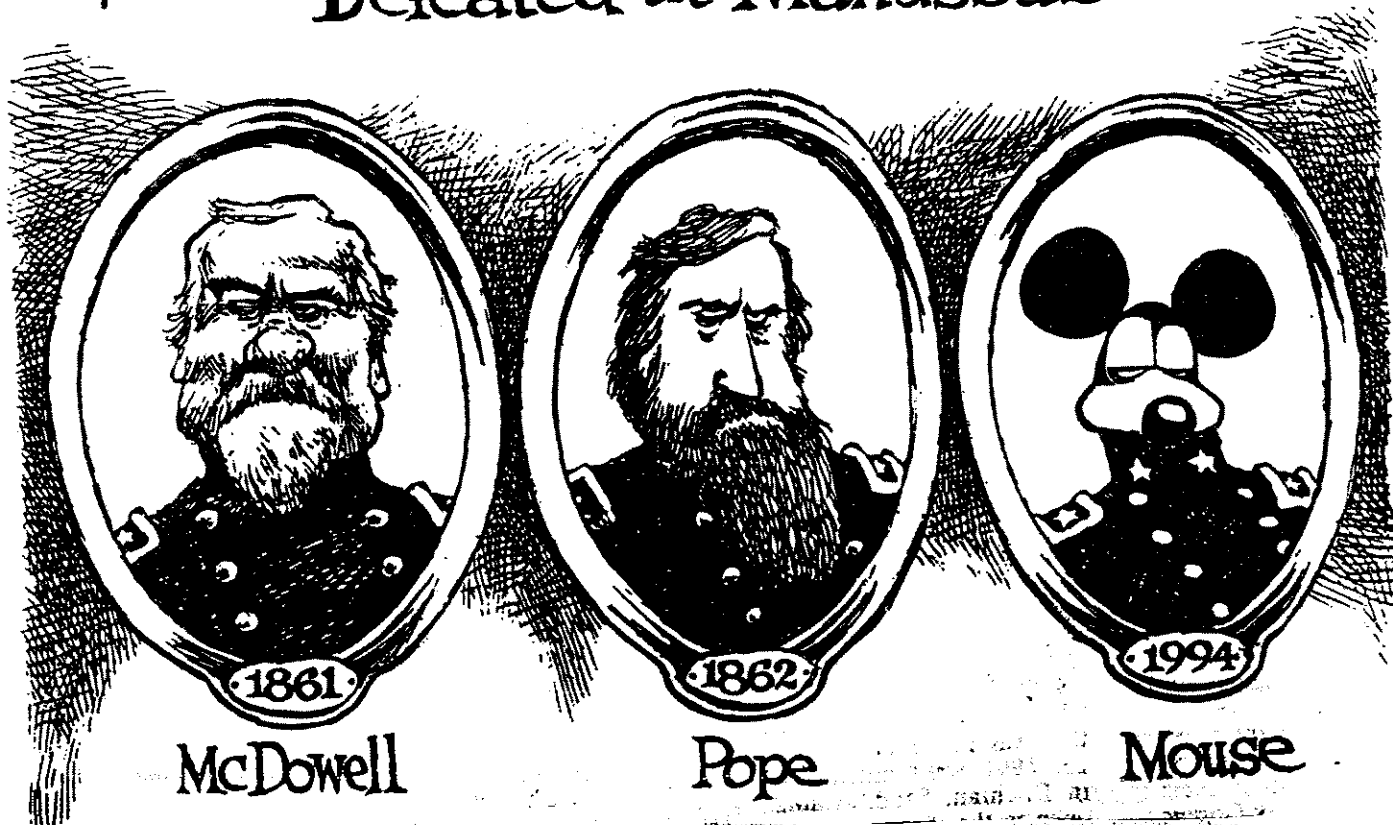
So distant, so different, but not unlike the communities in which the Roundtable members now live. Please send in your local history to Brian Kowell, editor of The Charger, 2389 Babcock Rd., Hinckley, Ohio 44233

submitted by Matt Slattery

PRESERVATION REPORT

MAILED 11/10/94
Chicago Tribune

Defeated at Manassas:



Disney vows to find another spot for theme park

NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES — After stunning state and local politicians on Wednesday with its decision to abandon plans for a \$650-million theme park on historic land in rural Virginia, the Walt Disney Co. yesterday pledged to search for another site in the state and to work closely with the opposition.

"We are now in the site location business," said John F. Cooke, president of the Disney Channel, who was named on Wednesday to

the additional role of chairman of Disney's America, the name of the theme park. "We are starting afresh and are reaching out to historians who have opposed us to make sure our portrayal of the American experience is responsible."

Cooke said the company had decided to change the site from Haymarket, in Prince William County, in the last several days, because of environmentalists' lawsuits and other obstacles that could have delayed the opening well beyond the

scheduled date in 1998.

Despite Disney's commitment to proceed, some Wall Street analysts yesterday questioned the merits of the company's building a third theme park in this country when attendance at its other parks is declining. One analyst said Disney, in addition to worrying about its public image and the cost of a lengthy court battle, may have acted this week because its option on the 3,000-acre site expires next week. "They had to renew their option or buy the land," said the anal-

yst who refused to be named.

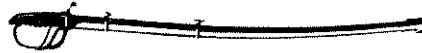
Cooke said he was unaware of any option.

Some opponents of the project expressed doubt about whether Disney would be able to find another site in Virginia as attractive as the 3,000 acres it had optioned in Haymarket, 35 miles southwest of Washington. There, in addition to the theme park, the company had planned to build as many as 2,281 homes, 1,340 hotel rooms and 1.96 million square feet of retail and commercial space.

Disney's announcement last November of its plans to build a theme park in Prince William County unleashed a firestorm of opposition from local residents, historians and Washington politicians. The Piedmont Environmental Council, a coalition of 70 organizations and 5,000 families from the northern Virginia area, was among the first to sue Disney, alleging that the project would bring crowding, road congestion and smog to the area.

Historians, including David

McCullough and James McPherson, a history professor at Princeton, waged a campaign against the project through Protect Historic America. They argued that the project, which was to include virtual-reality battles and a Lewis and Clark raft ride, would not only destroy important Civil War sites but would trivialize and sanitize American history. Haymarket is about six miles from Manassas National Battlefield Park, where the First and Second Battles of Bull Run were fought.



• The U.S. Mint, in Spring 1995, will be issuing a set of Civil War Battlefield Commemorative Coins. This important set will be an ideal addition to any Civil War collection. This limited-mintage offer by the U.S. Mint will be the first commemorative coin issue dedicated to the Civil War and the preservation of its battlefields. Surcharges from the sale of the coins will go to the Civil War Trust to help protect endangered Civil War battlefields.

For more information and a reservation form, contact Customer Service, United States Mint, 10001 Aerospace Road, Lanham MD 20706, or call (301) 436-7400.



Jefferson Davis letters go to Mississippi museum

SCRIPPS HOWARD

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Descendants of Confederate President Jefferson Davis have turned

over two large collections of Davis' personal letters to a Mississippi museum.

"They are very, very significant," said Michael Hennen, cura-

tor of manuscripts for the Mississippi Department of Archives. "There are many letters written by Davis himself to members of his family."



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Professor David Bush, left, and Jim Bowers investigate excavation site.

Dig uncovers Civil War tunnel

BY ROCCA MARIA BALICE
BLADE STAFF WRITER

JOHNSON ISLAND, O. — When Clint Eastwood tried to make a daring escape from an island jail in *Escape from Alcatraz*, it bore a resemblance to Civil War prisoners who attempted a disappearing act more than 130 years ago.

Two professors, one from Heidelberg College in Tiffin and the other from the University of Pittsburgh, have discovered a tunnel they believe was dug by prisoners seeking an escape route from a Confederate prison site on Johnson Island.

The island is in Sandusky Bay, about 45 miles east of Toledo.

Dr. Michael Pratt, an archaeologist and Heidelberg anthropology professor, said the tunnel was unearthed during a recent summer field project with the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Cultural Resource Research.

Ten students helped with the project, which began in mid-May, Dr. Pratt said. The excavation began by looking at sinks, a military term for outhouses, and then the researchers discovered the tunnel, he said.

The researchers think it was dug by prisoners seeking to flee a Confederate prison on Johnson Island.

Although tunnels have previously been found, the recent discovery is unusual because it does not lead directly to the prison walls, said Dr. David Bush, a University of Pittsburgh anthropology professor and center director.

The tunnel "went parallel to the wall. We suspect it will veer off toward the stockade," Dr. Bush said.

Dr. Pratt said prisoners probably dug part of the tunnel away from the wall to confuse guards.

"We'd like to trace this one to see how far it goes before it goes to the wall," Dr. Pratt said, adding that there were no successful escapes from Johnson's Island by tunnel.

But some prisoners did escape from the facility, which held more than 9,000 Confederate officers from 1862 to 1865, according to Dr. Bush. He said about a dozen people fled, probably by disguising themselves or trying to cross the lake in the winter.

Many tunnel escape attempts, and other such events, were chronicled in prisoners' diaries and letters, said Dr. Pratt, who described the captured soldiers as "very literate."

The tunnels were not the only discoveries made on the island this summer, Dr. Pratt said. Examinations of the latrines have "given us a snapshot of the prisoners' lives."

Among the items found: uniform buttons and chicken, fish, and rat bones.

Prisoners talked in their diaries about eating rats and other animals to supplement government rations, Dr. Pratt said.

The findings on Johnson Island have helped to bring the prisoners' correspondence and facts in history books to life, he said.

"It really brings you close to having an understanding of what was going on here. It helps prove the historical record," he said.

Island escape tunnel highly unlikely

Dr. David Bush's claim that he has discovered an escape tunnel on Johnson's Island (News Herald, June 25) is most unlikely, and if he was quoted accurately in the story, it may be based upon false information, "letters from the prison."

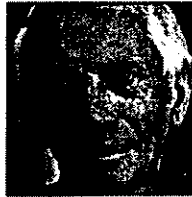
Prisoners did dig tunnels, but only a few Confederate diaries (I have 46) mentioned these particular escape attempts. Memoirs, often written long after the war, made some outrageous claims. But no prisoner letters mentioned tunneling, except for a very few written by "spies" to curry favor with guards. Letters from the prison to the outside were examined by Federal censors. Surely no prisoner would outline his escape attempt when he knew his enemies were going to read the letter. I have thousands of prisoner letters to the folks at home, and not one contains information about a tunnel.

By mid-1864 a deadline ditch had been excavated to bedrock inside the prison fence, precluding further tunneling to the outside. At about the same time, the back fence was moved to expand the "Bull Pen," and sinks were dug in the new area. Before this time the sinks or latrines were almost against the fence and actually within the deadline in some cases. If archaeologists are digging in the latter-day sinks, when the deadline ditch was in place, it is extremely unlikely that an escape tunnel would exist, since it could end only at a deadline ditch.

It stands to reason that tunnels were a prison possibility from before mid-1864. It also stands to reason that prisoners would probably not have dug a tunnel from a sink, which

Guest Column

Roger Long



was a separate "outhouse" somewhat removed from the prison barracks. Anyone who has visited an outdoor privy will know the reasons for eliminating this starting point.

The known tunnels were dug from beneath prison barracks. These buildings were set up on native rocks and had an open foundation. Prisoners could cut a hole in a floor, drop beneath the building and then dig. Unlike the sinks there was plenty of room to put the soil removed from the tunnel beneath a barracks. One tunnel was allegedly dug from the prison hospital dead house, which was not far from the back fence before mid-1864.

If Dr. Bush et al. have found a "tunnel" leading from one of the sinks, it may well have been a drainage channel of some sort. Disposal of sewage was a prevailing difficulty and several solutions were attempted. Bedrock limited the depth to which a sink could be dug. Thus, lateral expansion was the only possibility from an excavation standpoint. Other solutions for disposing of sewage were also tried.

According to a quotation from Dr. Bush in your article, the "tunnel ... doesn't appear to lead straight toward the prison walls." Bush further stated, "This probably indicates that the prisoners were trying to avoid detection by the guards." If so, what an unusual method Confederates used in confusing their captors — actually digging an escape tunnel away from freedom rather than toward it. That just goes to show how devious the Rebels were, one has to suppose.

On the historical evidence, i.e., reliable primary sources, an escape tunnel from a prison sink is extremely illogical. The fact remains that not one of the dozen documented escapes from Johnson's Island was via any tunnel.

□

Roger Long, 219 Hayes Ave., Port Clinton, is a historian, editor of two magazines and is working on a book about Johnson's Island.



OLLAPODRIDA

The officers and men of the 13th Ohio Battery had been mustered into the army only 50 days before they were called into action in the Battle of Shiloh on April 6, 1862. Joining the Union forces at Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River just two days before the Confederates launched their surprise attack, the Ohioans got their first view of the horrors of battle from where their guns were parked in the rear. On this first day of the battle, the Union army was surprised and very nearly destroyed. The Ohioans were in no way prepared for their first experience in war. Their maimed and mangled fellow soldiers were carried past them to surgeons at the Landing, and the demoralized streamed by seeking shelter under the river bank. The nervousness of the men at these sights and sounds was shared by that of their commanding officer, Captain John B. Myers. During the afternoon, only the division of Gen. Benjamin M. Prentiss held back the attacking Rebels in an area of the field called the Hornet's Nest. The 13th Ohio Battery, a part of Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut's division, was ordered forward to add their firepower in Prentiss' defense. The battery went forward, but only with repeated prodding from staff officers did they finally get into position. Then, reported Hurlbut to Department Commander Henry W. Halleck, "A single shot from the enemy's batteries struck... in the battery when officers and men, with a common impulse of disgraceful cowardice, abandoned the entire battery, horses, caissons, and guns, and fled, and I saw no more until Tuesday two days later ." Hurlbut thought Myers had covered under the banks of the river all that time and when Halleck read the report, he ordered the 13th Ohio Battery disbanded and Myers discharged. On April 20, 1862, after only 64 days of service, Myers' military career ended. The men of the 13th were reassigned to three other Ohio batteries and later performed admirably on many battlefields. Ironically, the 13th Ohio Battery was never mentioned in any of its state's official military histories, as though it had never existed.

---Atlas Editions written by Stephen T. Foster

In the histories of the Civil War a great deal has been written about the preponderance of Northern manpower. However, this arithmetic played no part in the division of Union and Confederate, and only became a factor as the disparity became apparent in the late stages of the war. The division was political and it was by states. What was the count? It will surprise many that they were about even. There were fifteen slave states and eighteen non-slave states. But West Virginia could be added to the one side - it split from Virginia in 1861 but was still a slave state until the 13th Amendment was ratified after the war. California and Oregon could be subtracted from the other side as they were militarily neutral. This would make the score 16 to 16. Of course, four slave states did not secede-- Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri. Another surprising and little publicized statistic is that the AREA of the slave states was 897,815 square miles, while that of the non-slave states was 812,139. Take away California and Oregon and the latter was 556,360 - in which case the slave states were 61% larger.

submitted by Matt Slattery

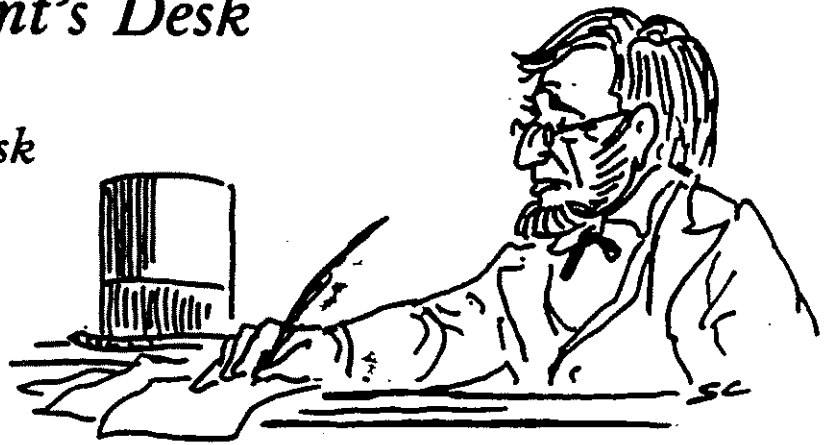
From The President's Desk

From The President's Desk

From The President's Desk

From The President's Desk

From The President's Desk



THANK YOU BRIAN KOWELL "MR. OCTOBER"

In every organization the membership enjoy the benefits from the efforts of the directors or leaders. During the month of October even the directors were given a treat due to the efforts of BRIAN KOWELL. He not only produced the "Charger" but changed his schedule to provide his presentation when the announced speakers' teaching schedule necessitated a change. Brian's subject on Kilpatrick was well researched, his hand-out maps were in great detail and his presentation was well animated to keep everyone's attention. On behalf of the entire membership a very special thanks to BRIAN.

Our mini-raffle held each meeting is going very well. Members have won books, drawings and field trip memorabilia which includes "COMBAT - THE CIVIL WAR" by Congdon, "CHICKAMAUGA" by Tucker, "THE CIVIL WAY - AN AMERICAN ILIAD" by Newman and Eisenschiml, "THE GALLANT HOOD" by Dyer and artists renderings of the battle of Franklin. Some winners are John Smith, John Moore, Brian Kowell and Bill Chamberlin.

One more Plea!! Unless we give the Hermit Club a more exact count on the number of members attending meetings the cost of dinners will be raised. Please call in your reservations EARLY!!!!



Please Make Reservations

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The Cleveland Civil War Round-Table
P.O. Box 18900
Cleveland, Ohio 44118-0900



Daniel G. Zeiser
5877 Williamsburg Drive
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