



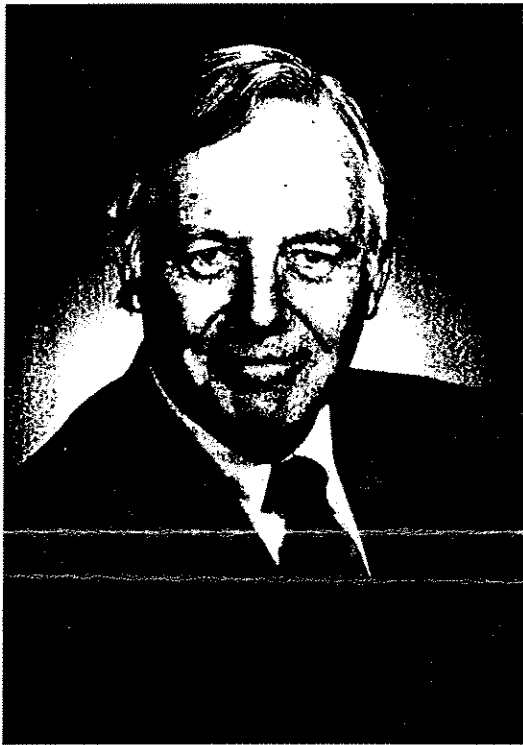
The Cleveland Civil War Round-Table  
P.O. Box 18900, Cleveland, Ohio 44118

# THE CHARGER

Vol. 18 #3

346th Meeting

NOVEMBER, 1996



**Brigadier General William A. Tidwell** is author of *April '65* and *Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln* (1988). He has served in the U.S. intelligence community since World War II, including 23 years with the Central Intelligence Agency and lengthy service with military intelligence.

## ***"Confederate Covert Action"***

**William A. Tidwell** establishes the existence of the Confederate Secret Service and clarifies the Confederate decision making process to show the role played by Jefferson Davis in clandestine operations. While his book, *April '65* focuses on the Confederate Secret Service's involvement with the Lincoln assassination, the information has implications for various other aspects of the Civil War.

***Date:* November 13, 1996**

***Place:* The Hermit Club**

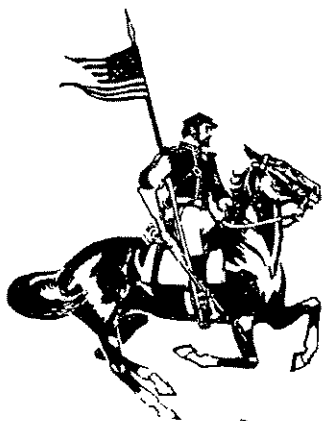
***Time:* Drinks 6 PM**

**Dinner 7 PM**

***Reservations:* Please call  
JAC Business Communications  
at 861-5588.**

**RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!**

# The Cleveland Civil War Round-Table 1957 \* 1996



**President:** Dan Zeiser  
**Vice President:** John Moore  
**Secretary:** Dick Crews  
**Treasurer:** Bob Boyda

Editor of the **THE CHARGER**  
Dick Crews  
3673 Traver Rd.  
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122  
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(216) 861-5588  
John & Anne Caputo

The Cleveland Civil War Round-Table meets normally on the second Wednesday of each month from September through May. The Round-Table also sponsors a Fall field trip each year to a selected Civil War site.

*Dues are \$35.00 per year.*

Membership information can be obtained from Secretary Dick Crews: (216) 752-9961 or (800) 800-8310

## Calendar of Events

November 13, 1996

**General William A. Tidwell**  
"Confederate Covert Action"

December 11, 1996

**Professor Mark Grimsley**  
Ohio State University  
"The Hard Hand of War"

January 8, 1997

**"The Decisive Battle of the War"**  
Al Enlow, Matt Slattery, Mike Hardy  
Tim Brulport, Scott Maybaum, William Vodrey

February 12, 1997

**Dr. John Hubbell**  
Kent State University  
"Lincoln"

March 12, 1997

**John Taylor**  
"Bloody Valverde, New Mexico"

April 9, 1997

**Jay Ruoff**  
Peninsula Roundtable  
"Vallandigham & The Copperheads"

Joe Tirpak is preparing the 1996-1997 Cleveland CWRT Membership Roster. To be included your dues must be paid by the November meeting.

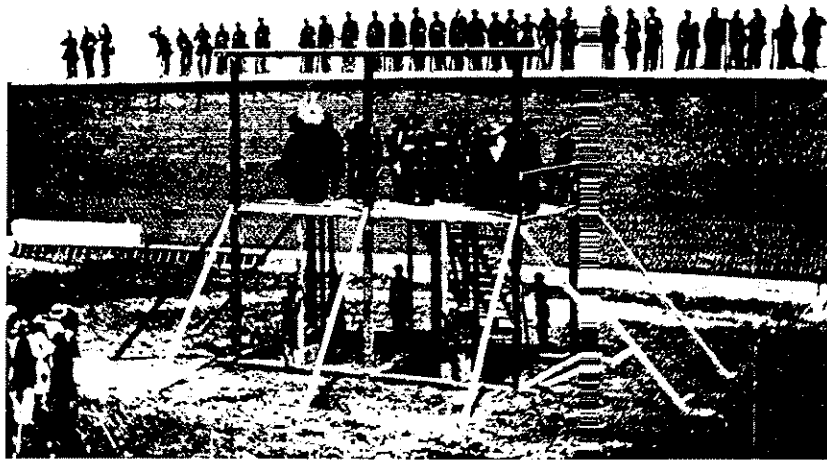
### Past Cleveland C.W.R.T. Presidents

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

*John Wilkes Booth*



**Reservations are a must ! Call (216) 861-5588.**



# The Four Lincoln conspirators

who were hanged in Washington, D.C., July 7, 1865



*Lewis Paine*



*George Atzerodt*



*Mary Surratt*



*David Herold*

## Lefauchaux Revolver



### Specifications

Length: 11.5"

Weight: 2 lbs., 6 oz.

Caliber: 12mm (.44)

## ◆ SIDE ARMS ◆ of the Civil War

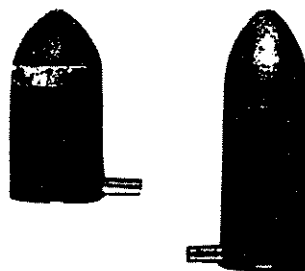
The French Lefauchaux revolver was one of the few foreign handguns imported by the United States government during the war. The substantial number purchased, nearly 12,000, rank it as one of the more significant handguns issued to Union troops. Most Lefauchaux's purchased by the North went to arm troops serving in the western theater.

The purchase of the Lefauchaux was at the same time important and remarkable. The importance lies in the fact that this was the only non-percussion revolver purchased for issue by either government. Equally important was that this was the first handgun issued to the U.S. Army that used internally primed ammunition. The Lefauchaux required a unique pin-fire cartridge which was difficult to manufacture and was used only by this arm.

Very few, if any, Lefauchauxs were purchased by the Confederacy. It is well known, however, that some were carried by southern officers. No less a person than General T.J. "Stonewall" Jackson had an elaborately engraved Lefauchaux presented to him by his men.

*Our favorite member from Youngstown, Ohio, Frank Yannucci provided a recent gun catalogue which featured this hand gun.*

**RELIC FROM KENTUCKY!** From the old collection of the Bardstown Civil War Museum, this LeFauchaux pinfire revolver has strong Provenance to *Basil Duke*, and has name inscribed in the grip. Plus a nice script "CS"! A choice item with solid Kentucky Provenance! **\$4,500**



# Bohemian Brigade

THE AMERICAN reporter is a comparatively young species. Today's well-combed specimens are but three or so generations removed in the line of descent from the ragtag crew portrayed in *Bohemian Brigade*. Those journalists of the Civil War were of the first reportorial generation, the one that demonstrated that American journalism was destined to be primarily news-the work of reporters, rather than of editorial writers or of political essayists or of scissors-and-paste artists. The "news revolution" that Louis M. Starr saw as taking place during the Civil War was a reporter revolution as well. By the end of the War, the reporter rather than the editor;



was the prototypical figure of American journalism and has remained so ever since. Today, even those who anchor television news desks feel the need to style themselves reporters, although their legwork has long since atrophied.

How did this new creature, the reporter; come upon the American scene? There is a myth that the reporter rose from humble origins, sometimes shedding an ink-stained apron and leaving the printer's's case for the beat. As can be seen in the gallery of figures on display herein, such examples were comparatively rare. The generation of the Bohemian Brigade was more often drawn from the crowd of semi-genteel litterateurs who, not having another way to earn a steady income, turned to journalism. The press of 1860, Henry Adams remarked in his *Education*, was "the nearest approach to a career for the literary survivor of a wrecked education."

They flocked to New York, the hub of journalism, to lay siege to the newspaper offices. Well before the war; even the stuffy old commercial papers of New York had thrown themselves into the competition for news, trying to emulate the agility of James Gordon Bennett's *Herald* and the sweep of [Horace Greeley's *Tribune*. Although they had first come aboard in the 1830s, not until the 1850's were reporters in quantity demanded by the growing news machine. A demand for quality came much later; for the time being, newspapers made do with the journalism they could obtain at minimum and irregular pay. What they got was a pool of uneven talent: even the best of these reporters for the most part lacked formal training or apprenticeship; the worst of them were not above fabricating news if facts did not come readily to hand.

They were commonly called **Bohemian-dirty of shirt, rank of breath, free of spirit**-and they stamped this brand upon journalism ever after.

[Does not appear much has changed..Editors Note]

# The Drummer Boy

Abraham Lincoln made a call for 75,000 volunteers in 1861 following the bombardment of Fort Sumter, 300,000 as the war dragged deeper in 1863. By the time peace was reached, 2,778,204 loyal Northerners had enlisted, of these, close to 20% were sixteen or younger. This made for a total of 428,000; 2,785 age 16, 1,203 below, with a vast majority, 133,475, at eighteen.

Military regulation prevented enlistment at ages beneath eighteen. So many enthusiastic and energetic youth reported to recruiters for service, though, that a special "non-combat" role was established for them. The military needed 40,000 musicians for the Union Armies, and this position, considered relatively safe, was opened as a way of handling the patriotic youngsters.

Duties were thought to be of comparative ease. Confined to camp, rattling the drum at reveille, tapping out lunchtime, and sounding curfew at night. The job was boring, routine, and repetitive, they wondered if it was worth signing up. It wasn't long, however, after learning the proper sounds and striking order of various battle conditions and commands that the "drummer boy" discovered his non-combat role was anything but.

It was the drums who led the troops onto the field. As the first in line, along with the color guard, they stood at great risk. Frequent reports would be made of "awakened" boys watching the cannon ball skip on the ground and hearing the bullet shell whistling by. This was as close as you could get to war without bearing arms. But the drums, themselves, were an important weapon in defeat of the enemy. When the air grew thick with blanketing smoke, it was the tone of the drums that told the regiment where to march. Once again, the Boys in Blue at the front line, leading the way.

Returning to camp from the incarnation they had just witnessed, there was very little praise for their service. Instead, each tended to their encampment duties which included carrying water, assistant cook, or, even groomsman for the regiments' horses. A further responsibility also came to them, undoubtedly regretfully, on days of heavy fighting. It was the drummer boys who, the soldiers drilling or too tired for exsertive

activity, loaded the wounded onto wagons, shipping them to make-shift infirmaries on battlesite. Those for whom it was too late for a hospital were also tended by the same impressionable minds as they dug the shallow graves and returned the soil to the top of many they had come to know in too short of friendships.

The drummer boy's actions never ending, it was



then time to tap out curfew for the troops, sending them into retirement for the night. Eight hours later, a quiet din progressed louder and louder and, unable to avoid it, the half asleep occupants of the camp's tents would start another day. Another day much like the one before it.

A second day of battle. In it, the leading lads would once again fearlessly make the way for the brothers in arms not far behind. This day may be a little more intense than the one previous, and additional friends and comrades will be found lying next to others who gave their life for cause. Your drum sustains a rifle shot through its skin and becomes useless. Seeing the gun of a departed soldier, you pick it up, and, with so many of your regiment gone, you begin firing. Finally, after so long and as many anxious moments, that title, that opportunity, you've been awaiting arrives, you're a "fighting man"



A grave of Newport News

## *In the Civil War what did the ladies wear?*

Most young women sought to imitate the styles of ladies of Europe and the larger American cities, but all that was available to women on farms and the frontier were black-and-white drawings in magazines and written descriptions. Rural women needed practical dresses for work on the farm and often had only one or two. There were no hoops or bustles, and they came down to just above the ankle on grown women. The dresses were made in two pieces, and the bodice separated from the skirt. The waist was covered with a sash or belt.

For the townswoman, however, nothing was so typical of the mid- nineteenth century as the hooped skirt. The hooped skirt was an innovation that freed women from the bustle and its many petticoats. Before the hooped skirt, women wore several layers of petticoats under the dress, sometimes as many as fourteen. These were hot and heavy, and caused many a wrinkle in the skirt. At parties, women wouldn't sit down because the skirt would be crumpled against the layers of petticoats, ruining the shape of the dress until it was ironed again.

The hooped skirt draped over a crinoline, a set of hoops much like a cage, connected to each other by tapes. This allowed the dress to fall away from the body in the accepted form, without the need of so many petticoats. Sometimes a single petticoat was worn under the crinoline for modesty reasons, and another petticoat might be draped over the crinoline to smooth away the lines of the hoops.

A tightly laced and narrow midriff was considered desirable in the mid- to late-nineteenth century. The great advantage of the crinoline was that even a thicker waist looked narrower in the wide skirts. There were two great trials in clothing during this century: tight collars and ties for men, and tight waists for women. During the first part of the 1860s, both sexes got a little relief. The men's stocks and cravats became looser, and the celluloid collar was still to come. Women could relax a bit from the tight corsets in crinoline, since the wide skirts could hide many an extra inch of waistline.

The fashion of wearing the crinoline began around 1854. Over the next ten years, the shape of the skirt changed from a dome shape to a triangle.

From about 1863, the crinoline started to become flatter in front, and the skirt was gored so that the bulk of the cloth hung behind. The walking dress of this year and the next revealed both feet and ankles. In 1865, a bit of red flannel petticoat was often seen, along with evidence of female anatomy.

The open fires of the period could pose a hazard to women in hoop skirts. At reenactments, women wearing hoop skirts need to beware of open fire pits in camps. In addition to the risk of fire and smoke, soot and ashes can soil the long skirts.



*Southern women seeing their men off to War*

Young girls' dresses had higher hems, but women's dresses brushed the floor. The dresses had special trains attached that could be easily removed and either washed or replaced. Particularly for those fashions that touched the ground, keeping clean could be exasperating. Women working as nurses during the Civil War often raised their skirts off the floor to keep the trains clean.

Since bleaches and brighteners were not available in the nineteenth century, whites were not as "snowy" as they are today. Bluing and cleaning agents were available, but most women used ordinary soap and scrubbed the clothes by hand. Clothing was worn until it wore out, so stains, wear, and repairs accumulated over time. They weren't thought unusual-everybody had them. To say women were less clean than today is to do them a great injustice, however. Women would study each stain and run through a whole arsenal of methods for removing or hiding any spots. Their clothes had to last a long time, and the women took great pride in the way their families looked and suffered great shame for any evidence of uncleanness.

Women tried to protect their clothing as much as possible from the wear and tear of daily use. Their clothing was protected by many layers of underclothes and suffered very little from body dirt. In *Crinolines and Crimping Irons*, Christina Walkley and Vanda Foster state: "A dress worn over a chemise, a camisole and several petticoats, was effectively protected from contact with the body. Vulnerable points such as neck and wrists were safeguarded by detachable collars, cuffs and undersleeves which were removed for frequent washing."

Bonnets were in fashion between 1861 and 1865 and were the customary headpieces for women. During this period, bonnets underwent radical changes, and styles went in and out of fashion, including the Bibi, a cap like bonnet; the spoon bonnet; and the fanchon, composed almost entirely of flowers.

Hats for women were just coming into fashion. Straw hats had been worn for a number of years, especially in the South, and had developed out of the bonnet. In the larger cities like New York, however, hats for ladies were just becoming accepted.

During most of this period, a suntan indicated a common woman who worked outdoors, and ladies sought to protect themselves from the sun. The sunbonnet, which later underwent many fashion changes, was originally intended to protect the face from the solar rays. Straw hats with incredibly wide brims also were worn, particularly in the South and Southwest.

Aprons of all sorts were worn. Most middle- and working-class women wore aprons to protect their clothing. Working women tied or pinned aprons to their dresses and would even wear special aprons to church. Not only did they protect the clothing from stains, but they were in many ways fashion statements themselves. The aprons were often of materials and colors that complemented the dresses. Aprons ~ could be as simple as a towel worn over the hips to elegant, coat like contraptions that buttoned in the back and covered the whole dress. They were often frilly and sometimes almost baroque in the use of pleats, layers of cloth, and other frills. Domestic aprons, however, were almost universally made of white cloth and were of a traditional cut, and helped distinguish servants from their mistresses.

Women of all classes tried to keep their hands soft and milky white, and few went out in public without wearing gloves of some type. These ranged from heavy leather gloves for work in the garden to almost nonexistent gloves of silken threads for evening wear.



Woman wearing the Stars and Bars of the Confederacy



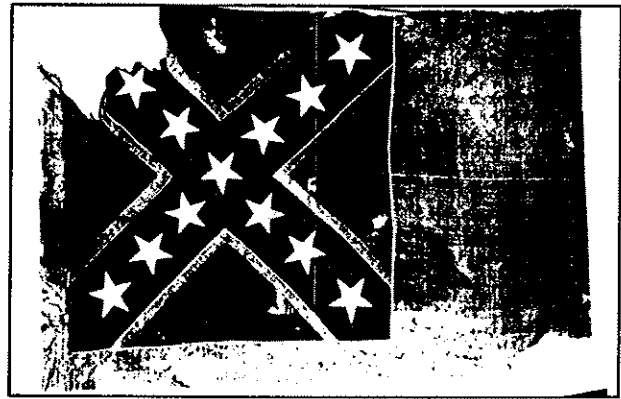
# CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG HAS AN HONORABLE TRADITION

by David E. Long\*

A great deal of controversy has arisen in recent years over the subject of the Confederate battle flag. The blue St. Andrew's Cross containing 13 white stars superimposed on a red field has in the "politically correct" 1990s come to be identified as a symbol of slavery, the Ku Klux Klan, and rednecks who drive around in old flatbed trucks with gun racks mounted in the rear window. It is none of these things; nor was it the national emblem of the Confederate States of America, a misperception shared by most people today.

It was the battle flag of the Confederate Army. Roughly a million men went to war beneath that banner, serving what they regarded as their nation and defending their homes from armies that were defeated armies that were invariably larger than theirs, and which were supported by vastly superior resources. In doing so, they compiled a record of achievement that is unequally in American history, and ranks among the most impressive ever compiled by any military force in recorded history. Very few soldiers in that army regarded their service as defending slavery; the overwhelming majority of them owned no slaves. They fought for family, home, and nation, and their patriotism inspired them to do their duty with as much valor and courage as any fighting force in our history.

My great-great grandfather served in that army. At Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, he marched across approximately three-quarters of a mile of open field while a hailstorm of lead was directed at him and his comrades by thousands of Union soldiers. As he passed through that crucible of battle, his



Remains of Confederate battle flag. Many southern units refused to surrender their banners but burned or buried them.

guidon and inspiration was the banner under discussion. He reached the stone wall along with a few others of the nearly 15,000 who had begun Pickett's Charge, and was then swallowed up by a multitude of soldiers in blue and taken prisoner. He did not fight for slavery. He owned no slaves. He was conscripted into the army a year after the war had begun. He was a small yeoman farmer from Yalobusba County, Mississippi, and when his nation ordered him to go to war in its defense he did his duty. He received bullet wounds through both hands, making it impossible to care for his farm as he had before the war. Therefore he spent the rest of his life as a Baptist preacher and was reported to have been a very eloquent and conscientious pastor to his congregation. He probably felt great pride in what he and his comrades had accomplished under conditions more horrific than we can begin to imagine today. Undoubtedly the Confederate battle flag would have aroused strong emotional feelings in him as

\*Dr. David E. Long is an assistant professor of history at Eastern Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina and a writer and lecturer on the War. His Book on the 1864 election, *The Jewel of Liberty*, received laudatory reviews last year. David joined the North Carolina CWRT in 1995. He is currently working on a book about Dahlgren's raid.



A Confederate trooper heading out.

he remembered in disbelief the things that he and his compatriots had actually accomplished during the great conflict of American history. I feel certain that my great-great-grandfather honored that flag for all the remaining days of his life after the Civil War. And in paying honor to that flag today, I honor the memory of my forefather and the sacrifice he made on behalf of his country. I also had a great-grandfather from the other side of my family who served in the 46th Ohio Volunteer Infantry under William T. Sherman. He enlisted in 1861, and when his enlistment was

up in 1864 he reenlisted for the duration of the war. I honor, respect, and admire him just as much as I do my Confederate forefather. I doubt that he fought to end slavery any more than my great-great-grandfather fought to defend it. Their motivations, were simpler than that; their country called to them in its hour of peril, and they answered the call. Period. For that I regard them both as unstained heroes.

Why it is that we have allowed the purveyors of political correctness to subject historical figures from well over a century ago to evaluation under the microscope of current morality, I will never understand. I do know that a nation which has no respect for its past likewise has no hope for the future. I resent people who attempt to rewrite history to suit their personal political agenda. They believe their peculiar sensitivities are the only sensitivities that we are supposed to respect. For some reason the media have chosen to give them banner coverage whenever they initiate a "flag flap" such as those witnessed the past few years in Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama. They

would take your right of free expression and destroy it, just as they have attempted to demean our past by measuring it with their own moral barometer. And when they determine that it doesn't measure up to their standards, they consign it to the trash heap of history. Then they rewrite the textbooks emphasizing the lives of politically correct individuals, regardless of the insignificance they may have had in their own era, and attempt to pass it off as historical truth.

It has reached the point that a hero of the modern civil rights movement, James Meredith, the man who endured the open hostility of thousands of hostile whites in order to end segregation at the University of Mississippi, cannot speak on a college campus without a flock of students showing up to taunt, shout, and disrupt. sometimes they even throw rotten fruit, as they did at Florida State when Meredith attempted to speak. Why? Because today James Meredith is a political conservative, employed on the staff of North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms.

This is not what American fighting men, white and black, have fought and died to protect. The people who would tell you how you are supposed to think today would destroy in a heartbeat everything that is good and decent about this nation and its history. Today it is the Confederate battle flag. Who knows but tomorrow it might be the stars and stripes. After all, is that not the flag of a country which stole this land from the Indians while committing virtual genocide against those Native Americans? Our most cherished symbols and institutions are under attack. If we are not careful, our lack of vigilance may result in the loss of valuable national treasures. We need to raise our voices in protest against those few who would wrest from us our virtue and our heritage. Let us cling desperately to our past, that we might have a standard to follow into the future.

*David E. Long*

This is the first of many articles about the "most wanted man in Ohio," John Hunt Morgan. Whether you think of him as a dashing cavalier or shameless horse thief, John Hunt Morgan was one of the most fascinating figures of the Civil War. His life in many ways mirrors the rise and fall of the Confederacy, the beginning filled with hope and success then three years later gloom and despair. He was born to a prominent Kentucky family, rose to be considered with the great Confederate cavalry officers J.E.B. Stuart and Bedford Forrest. Then like J.E.B. Stuart was shot and killed in late 1864 when the fortunes of the war had turned against the South.

*"The most wanted man in Ohio"*



# ***John Hunt Morgan***

## **The Funeral**

*by Dick Crews*

John Hunt Morgan was shot and killed by Private Andrew Campbell of the 13th Tennessee Cavalry (Union) on September 4, 1864 in Greeneville, Tennessee. That we know. What is still controversial is how the Union forces were lead to General Morgan and if he surrendered before being shot down.

Originally John Hunt Morgan was buried in Abingdon, Virginia. However, many thought Morgan should get a Hero's funeral like J.E.B. Stuart. The body was bought to Richmond on September 17, 1864 for burial in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery with other heroes of the Confederacy.

Two year's earlier John Hunt Morgan wedding had been attended by the leaders of the Confederacy including Jefferson Davis. Now things had changed and Confederate leaders avoided Morgan's burial parade.

John Hunt Morgan's reputation had suffered badly because his June, 1864 cavalry raid into Kentucky had supposedly not been authorized by the high command. The raid itself was also a disaster. Morgan's troops robbed banks, homes, and stole hundreds of horses. This late in the War, Union Cavalry was not as inept as during earlier raids. Union Cavalry caught up to and soundly defeated Morgan's raiding party. In fact John Hunt Morgan was awaiting his replacement when he was killed.

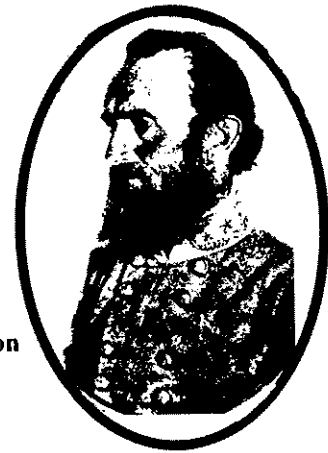
The Confederate troops for the burial parade were from Ewell's command. During the parade the Union Army surrounding Richmond made an attack on Ewell's positions so these troops were pulled from the parade and hurried to the defense lines. The parade continued with only civilian marchers.

A week later the Confederate Army was presented a bill for \$1,500.00 for the funeral. The Army refused to pay. John Hunt Morgan had died, the Confederacy was dying.

# Southern Icon Attacked !!

By Dick Crews

Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson



The men of the Cleveland Civil War Round-Table were shocked to hear Bull Run tour guide Kevin Leahy bad mouth one of the South's great **icons** Confederate Major General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

During the Civil War, the Memphis *Daily Appeal* said about Jackson, "Stonewall Jackson is the destined deliverer of his country", The Macon (Georgia) *Daily Telegraph* writing about Jackson announced that "we have found at last a military Cyclops". The Richmond *Whig* declared, "Glorious Old Stonewall is fast becoming the *Hero of the War*."

Being from the North, the problem of **icons** does not come up. Our heroes have been called *Crazy* or *Drunkards*. We hear about Kennesaw Mountain or Cold Harbor. Our heroes were considered incompetent, only winning the War because of superior resources.

Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was like Nathan Bedford Forest, and John Hunt Morgan; in that they all worked brilliantly as independents but often did poorly when part of a larger army.

Certainly Jackson was slow at *Mechanicsville* and *White Oak* in the Seven Days War. He also acted confused at *Second Bull Run*.

However, his performance was outstanding in the Valley Campaign. In June of 1862, with never more than 16,000 men, he completely frustrated the designs of 64,000 Federals, whose generals were assigned the simple, solitary tasks of accomplishing his destruction. In forty eight days Jackson fought four battles and six large skirmishes, and countless minor actions despite the fact that his army was outnumbered 4 to 1. Jackson continually concentrated in battle more manpower than his adversaries, when superiors numbers of federals were always just beyond the horizon.

The Federals suffered 3,500 casualties, over 3,000 captured, lost 9 cannons and 10,000 muskets. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson suffered less than 2,500 casualties.

Such results could only come from a military genius.

# MANASSAS FIELD TRIP

## 1996

Our adventure to Manassas, Virginia began at Thursday, Sept. 26 at 0600. With everyone piled into one van, the trip was full of jokes and commentary. We drove to Washington and Arlington Cemetery. We toured the Robert E. Lee home, the JFK monument and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. After watching the changing of the guard, it was on to Manassas. Once we settled into our weekend quarters, it was off to dinner and a short presentation of what we would be experiencing over the next two days. Ranger James Phelps gave an entertaining overview of the events leading up to the first battle.



The next day brought warm and partly sunny conditions. We went to the visitor center and browsed the exhibits and bookstore (they were glad when we left so they could replenish their shelves). Ranger Phelps became involved in another muddy project, so our guide for the day would be Kevin Leahy. Kevin was a recent college grad and had worked at the park as a summer employee. We started the battlefield at the Stone Bridge. Kevin passed the test when he answered a question from Brian Kowell. Some of the highlights from the first battle included the Van Pelt house site, the Henry house, ground where Stonewall Jackson made his stand with his

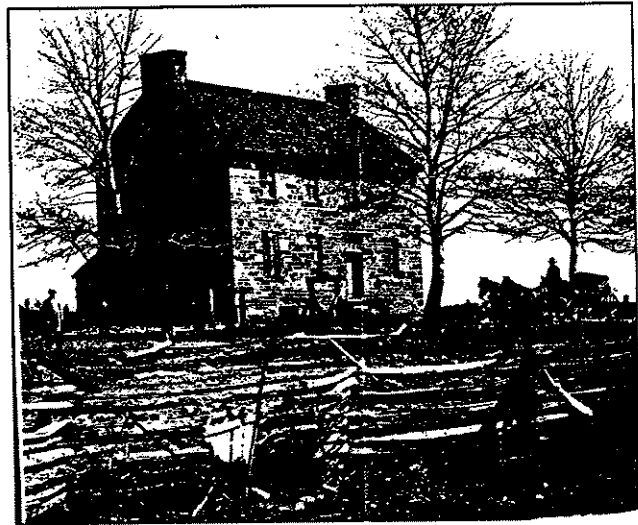


Virginians and the current controversial positioning of Griffin's guns. Perhaps the single highlight was when Kevin made the statement that Jackson was an inefficient tactical commander. Dick Crews was astonished at this remark and thus the verbal argument commenced, with Bob Battisiti recording it all on audio. Both participants made excellent points and counterpoints. The day ended with a tour of the Stone house and seeing the initials left by wounded soldiers still engraved in the floor and baseboard of the house. We went to the old part of town for dinner and had an enjoyable meal. We were in such a banter, that we left Jim Lawson at the restaurant and no one noticed he was gone until we returned to the hotel. Who was his roommate??!!

The second day began very early picking up Kevin at the visitor center. Traveling by van, we went to several places of importance during the second battle. These included the Throughfare Gap, the Brawner farm, Stuart's Hill, Sudley Church, the unfinished railroad and 'Deep Cut', and Chinn ridge. Memorable moments from this day included the ongoing verbal battle between Dick and Kevin, the hike through 6 foot weeds to see burial sites, meeting Civil War enthusiasts from Youngstown and still trying to remove "hitchhikers" from our clothes. We ended the day back at the visitor center and Henry Hill. The second battle, was Kevin's favorite topic and his research and expertise shone through. This was the last day for Kevin since his employment was ending. He was really grateful being able to lead a group of Civil War roundtablers around on his last day.

We left back for Cleveland early on Sunday trying to keep Crews from driving us to Antitiem. We arrived back home in good fashion and said our goodbyes. Another good field trip completed successfully.

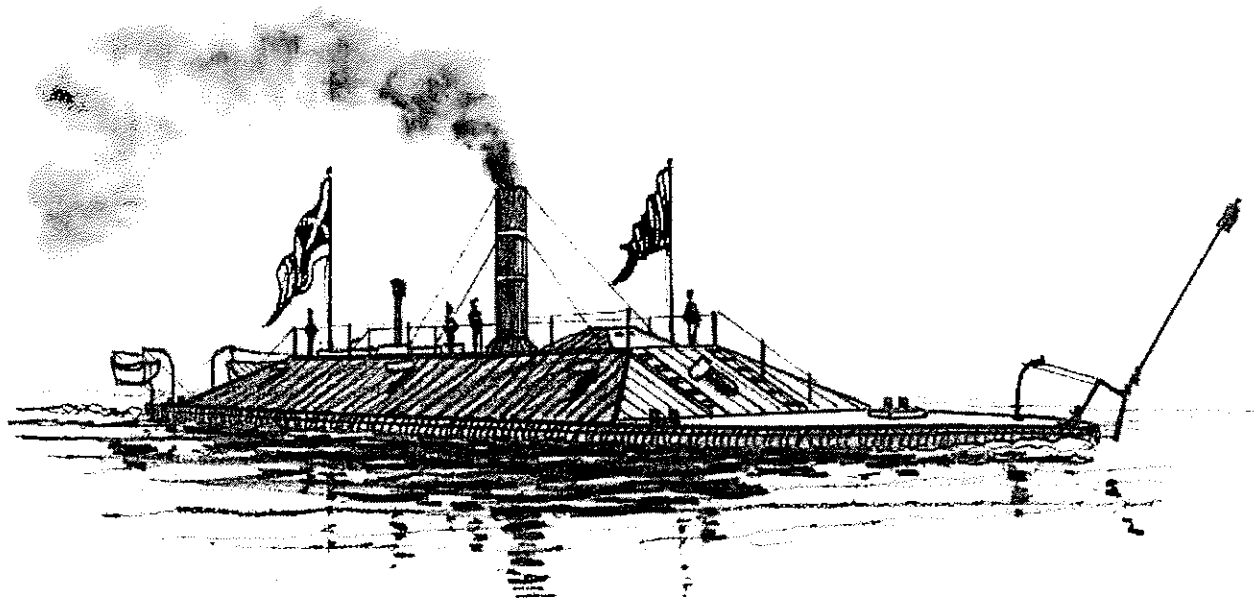
I wish to thank all the members attending this field trip; Bob Battisti, John Moore, Dick Crews, Brian Kowell, Peter Holman, Frank Yannucci, Dan Zeiser, Jim Lawson, Bob Bayless and John Howard. The friendly comradery and insights keep the trip interesting and fun. I would encourage other members to attend just one field trip in the future. The good times and first hand information you receive will make you want to attend another.



Throughout the battle, men of both sides sought shelter in and around the walls of the **Stone House**. An area landmark since the 1820's.

*Jim Mauck*

# C.S.S. ATLANTA



**William R. McGrath<sup>1</sup>**

The C.S.S. Atlanta was originally a merchant steamer built in Glasgow, Scotland. She was purchased in September, 1861, by the Confederate Navy and put into service as the blockade runner Fingal. In November 1861, she eluded the Union fleet and entered Savannah, Georgia. When the Fingal could no longer leave port due to increased blockade pressure, it was decided to turn her into an ironclad ram.

The Fingal, cut down to her main deck, had an ironclad deck, ram, and casemate added. She had a contact torpedo mounted on her bow and carried four large caliber Brooke cannon. The bow and stern guns were pivoted to allow fire from any of three ports.

Early on June 17, 1862 under the command of William A. Webb, the ironclad left Savannah and headed down the Wilmington River into Wassaw Sound. At 5:00 a.m., while steaming full speed down the channel towards the three Union ships, she ran aground on a sandbar.

The print shows the Atlanta "hard aground" in the channel, firing her stern gun at the approaching monitors, Weehawken and Nahant. Getting under way in the distance is the double-ended wooden gunboat Cimmarone. The Weehawken is returning fire with her 15" Dahlgren gun. The cored shot struck the Atlanta's starboard side, injuring 30 men, one of whom later died. In less than 15 minutes the battle was over. The Atlanta fired 7 shots, none of which struck. The Weehawken fired only 5 shots, but four hit with devastating effect. With most of his gun crew disabled, Commander Webb surrendered his ship. Twenty-one officers and 124 men were taken prisoner.

The loss of the most powerful ironclad in the Confederate Navy ended forever the dream of breaking the blockade between Savannah and Charleston.

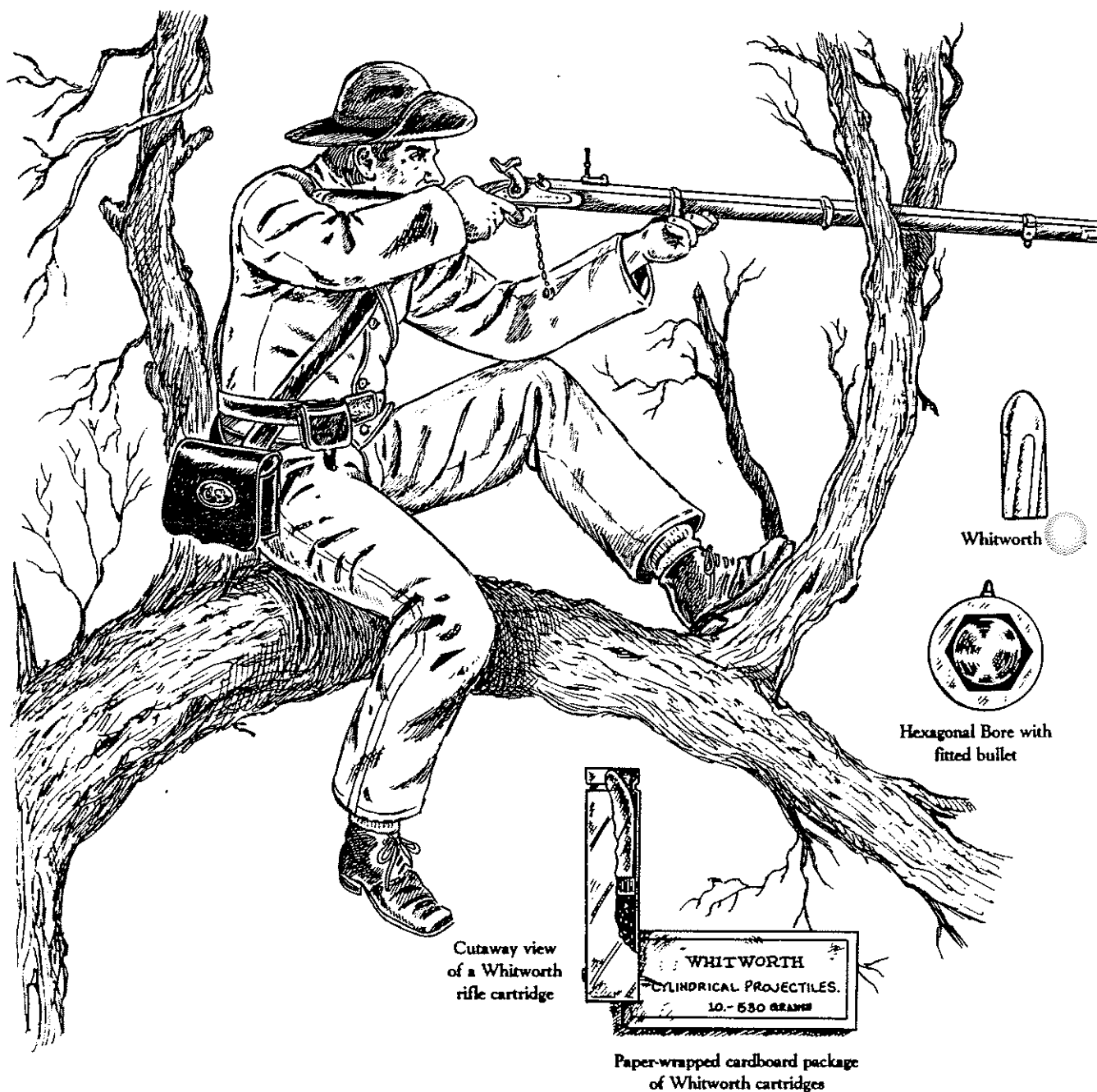
The ship was sent to the Philadelphia Navy Yard for repairs. In 1864, the U.S.S. Atlanta became part of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron and finished her career patrolling the James River.

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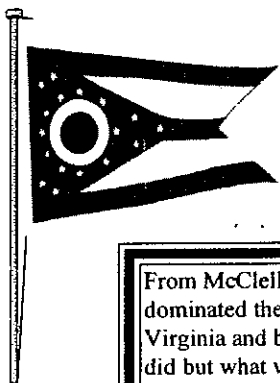
<sup>1</sup>William R. McGrath is a nationally known Civil War artist and a member of the Cleveland CWRT.

## Confederate Sharpshooters

Throughout the war Confederate sharpshooters took their toll of their Union foes earning their respect and fear. Sharpshooters were selected from the crack shots of individual Confederate infantry units. These marksmen were usually exempted from most camp duties but spent their time learning to judge distances and in target practice. The favorite weapon of the Southern sharpshooter was the Whitworth Rifle imported from Manchester, England. The rifle had a twisting hexagonal bore and fired a .45 caliber bullet with great accuracy. For long-range sniping the Whitworth could be fitted with a telescopic sight allowing the marksman to hit targets up to 1500 yards away.







# Ohio Generals

From McClellan and McDowell, to Custer, to Grant and Sherman; during the Civil War Ohio Generals dominated the Union Army. Our General this month is George Crook. Crook served the Army well in West Virginia and battles at South Mountain, Sharpsburg, and Chickamauga. However, he is known not for what he did but what was **done to him** by the Confederates and then the Apache leader **Geronimo**.

George Crook was born near Dayton, Ohio, September 8, 1828. He graduated from West Point in 1852, ranking thirty-eighth in a class of forty-three, and was commissioned in the 4th Infantry. Until the outbreak of the Civil War, Crook was stationed mainly in northern California. On September 12 1861, he was appointed colonel of the 36th Ohio and with his regiment served in western Virginia. In August, 1862, he was commissioned brigadier general and took part in the Maryland campaign engaging in the battles of South Mountain and Sharpsburg in command of a brigade of three Ohio regiments, including his own. In 1863, Crook commanded a cavalry division of George H. Thomas Army of the Cumberland and took part in the Chickamauga campaign. The following year he was again assigned to the Kanawha District in western Virginia where he defeated and routed the forces of Confederate General A. G. Jenkins at the battle of Cloyd's Mountain. That August he was given command of the Department of Western Virginia and, subsequently, of one of three corps of Sheridan's army in the Shenandoah. He was promoted to Major General of volunteers to rank from October 21, 1864. The following February he returned to the command of his department and made his headquarters at Cumberland, Maryland, at that time a town of some eight thousand inhabitants. Here, one of the most daring feats of the war was performed at Crook's expense. Crook's private rooms were in the Revere House, a hotel operated by Daily (or Dailey), whose daughter Mary later became Crook's wife. Daily's son was a member of Captain Jesse McNeill's Confederate "Partisan Rangers." Early in the morning of February 21 these sixty young men overpowered or deceived the Union

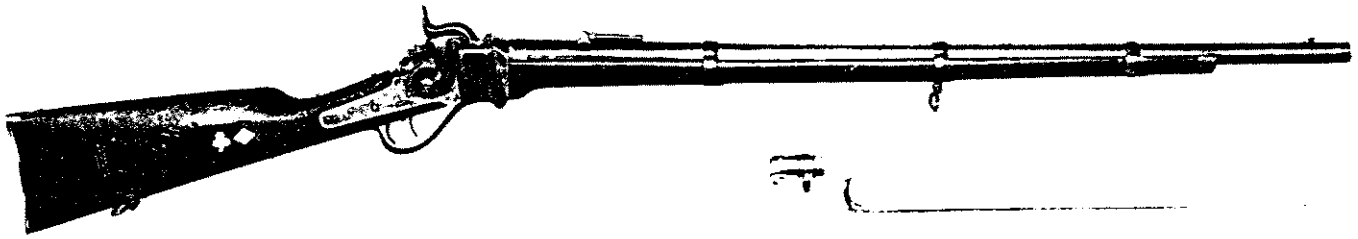


*George Crook*

pickets and, in the face of some ten thousand Union troops, captured and made off with Generals Crook and Benjamin F. Kelley who was also engaged to a Cumberland belle. They were taken to Richmond, where they were paroled and subsequently exchanged-Crook, as March 20, 1865. During the final operations culminating in the surrender at Appomattox, General Crook commanded a division cavalry in the Army of the Potomac and was brevetted major general in the regular service. In the army reorganization of 1866, Crook came lieutenant colonel of the 23rd Infantry. For the next twenty years he enjoyed unusually rapid promotion to the grade of major general and was constantly on the Western frontier, pacifying the various tribes of hostile Indians. One of his few failures was against Geronimo's Southern Chiricahua Apaches; their surrender was engineered by General Nelson A. Miles a few months after Crook's relief. From 1888 his headquarters was in Chicago, where he commanded the Division of the Missouri until his death on March 21, 1890. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

## Civil War Rifles

### Sharps Rifle



#### Specifications

Length: 47"

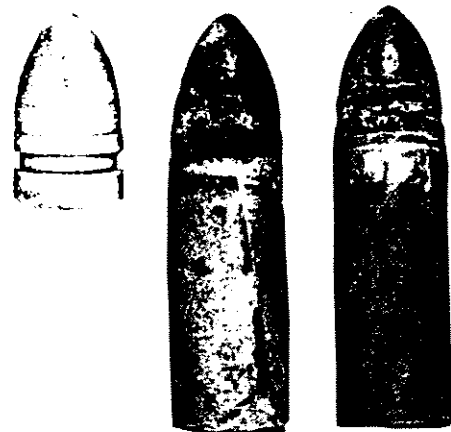
Weight: 8 1/4 lbs.

Caliber: .52

Bayonet: angular or sword

The Sharps rifle is the best known of several breech-loading rifles used during the war. This fame is largely due to the rifle's use by the legendary 1st and 2nd regiments of the United States Sharpshooters. The Sharps is a breech-loading single shot rifle. It was necessary for its user to open the breech and manually insert a cartridge each time he wished to fire. Although this method of loading did not equal the rate of fire of such arms as the Spencer and Henry rifles, it was a significant improvement over the muzzle-loading arms in general use during the war. Breech-loading allowed the user to load and fire with ease while he was laying down or was otherwise concealed from enemy fire. Thus, it was ideally suited to non-conventional uses, such as sharpshooting.

The Sharps used a totally combustible cartridge made of linen or nitrate treated paper. The cartridge was totally consumed by the ignition of the powder charge it contained when the rifle was fired. The cartridge was externally primed, thus it was necessary for the soldier to place a standard musket percussion cap on a nipple found on the rifle's breech which was struck by the rifle's hammer to achieve ignition.



## In Memorium

# *Dr. William Schlesinger*

## Co-Founder, Cleveland Civil War Round-Table

Dr. Schlesinger death recently was a tremendous loss to the Cleveland Civil War Round-Table. This venerable organization and Dr. Schlesinger were synonymous. When the "group of 10" met to discuss such an organization, he was really a student of Lincoln but soon became a civil war enthusiast as he associated with some of Cleveland's best and brightest men of history.

When I introduced him at Founder's Night, I mentioned that he had done it all during his 37 years as a member. He held offices, including president in 1967; he gave a talk on civil war medicine; he went on legendary field trips, but what meant more to him than anything were the friendships he made. I will never forget the tears that came to his eyes when he read co-founder John Cullen's letter at Founders Night. I know many of you received complimentary letters and phone calls from him when you did something special.

I had the pleasure of spending an afternoon with Dr. Schlesinger in 1994 at the Western Reserve Historical Library. He placed all his records from the early years in the CCRWT file. He was proud that he had kept just about everything. The best talk he ever heard was on Mosby. However in his usual form of being straight forward, he told me about one of his biggest disappointments. They had carefully planned the first "ladies night." They were very fortunate to get Bruce Catton. The number of guests was limited because they had more requests than room. **"Catton, a great writer, a lousy speaker,"** said Dr. Schlesinger.

CCRWT member, Charlie Spiegel was one of Dr. Schlesinger's best friends. Charlie picked him up for meetings. I thought that was a great gesture on Charlie's part. I asked him about this recently, Charlie said that Dr. Schlesinger was *his doctor*. He was like the "old-school doctor," who took a keen personal interest in his patients. Once when Charlie was sick, Dr. Schlesinger called him every day. So when Dr. Schlesinger had his stroke, Charlie called him every day. He went on to say that his friend was a person with whom you could have fun, was gentle and caring, and that his human qualities were his best qualities.

I talked with Dr. Schlesinger three days before he died. He was in good spirits, asked about many of you, and read every line in the recent Charger. He was proud of Brian Kowell's work but immediately impressed with Dick Crews' first issues. He felt that the CCRWT was going well and he could see that it had a bright future. You could tell that Dr. Schlesinger had pride in his voice as he talked.

So, the members mourn the loss of Dr. William Schlesinger, but we are grateful that we knew a person who had a multitude of good qualities: a good and loyal friend, a teacher, a person with a high standard of integrity and professionalism - all mixed together with the human touch of **caring**.

*Robert E. Battisti*



Dear Members:

October's meeting went off without a hitch after a somewhat dicey September gathering. With our speaker bowing out two days before the meeting our current Secretary and all-around good guy, Dick Crews, stepped in on short notice and ably filled in with one of his favorite topics - eastern Tennessee and the 13th Tennessee Regiment (Union). No doubt one of our strengths is the number and variety of quality speakers we have. Dick continues a fine tradition in our group.

I hope everyone enjoyed our October speaker, Professor Bailey gave a fine presentation on Texas cavalry, highlighted by a number of slides of Texans. Putting a face with an unknown name certainly adds another dimension to the War!

November will bring us General William A. Tidwell to speak on Confederate Covert Action. His latest book adds new evidence to the debate over the role of the Confederate government in the assassination of Lincoln. We can expect an interesting talk and a lively debate.

Finally, a word about our annual field trip. We only had eleven on this year's trip, a rather disappointing turnout. Next year we will travel to Gettysburg, guided by Dr. Hugh Earnhardt, I hope to see more of you there. Not only are the field trips a great learning experience, they are great fun. What could be better than four days of traipsing over the battlefield, debating the personalities and events, and getting to know your fellow members? My only regret is we cannot do it more often.

We have had great attendance at both meetings. There were a number of guests in October, several of whom expressed a real interest in joining. Let's keep it going, new members are the life blood of any organization. Invite your friends, family, co-workers, etc.. the more the Merrier. One final word: If you have yet to pay your dues, please do so as soon as possible. We have a number of members who have not paid. If you are one, please send them in. We want to issue a new membership directory at the beginning of the year. If you haven't paid by then, you will not be included. We want **you** in it, so please, let us know *the check is in the mail*.

Hope to see you in November.

*Dan Zeiser*

Bob Baucher experienced a Civil War buffs dream, retire and head for Gettysburg. He camped for three days at Gettysburg. Each day Bob walked each of the three days of the Gettysburg battle. Bob was happy to write an article about his experiences for us working stiffs.

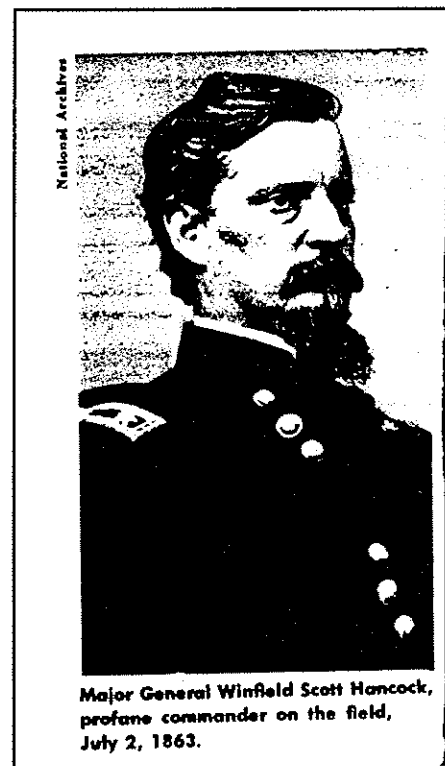
# THE THREE DAYS OF GETTYSBURG

by Bob Baucher\*

One week after retiring I was on my way to Gettysburg with my camping gear, maps, camera, field glasses and reference books. The Gettysburg KOA, located on or near what had been the Confederate 1st Corps bivouac area would be home for the next three days. The "U. S. Army War College Guide to Gettysburg", edited by Jay Luvaas and Harold W. Nelson would also be my guide for the three-day battle.

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Up at 5:30 am., I ate breakfast and then carried on to Taneytown, then Emmitsburg, Md. This covered the Federal approaches of the 1st, 2nd, 11th etc Corps to Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. This part of my tour is seldom seen by visitors to the battlefield. After returning to Gettysburg, I drove to Cashtown and followed the Rebel 3rd Corps on its approach to Herrs and McPhersons Ridges. The guidebook took me step by step through the 1st day's battle in detail. I was most impressed with Buford, Reynolds, Doubleday, Robinson & Hancock.

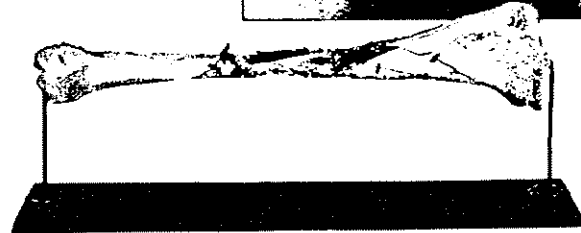


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\*Bob Baucher is a retired personnel executive and past president of the Cleveland CWRT

The 2nd day started with the infamous Longstreet flank march which the guidebook also covers in great detail. The march was long and involved and did not surprise the Union. The South missed great opportunities by not going around Little Roundtop or Culp's Hill which were either uncovered or lightly occupied. Devils Den and Plum Run were a slaughter pen. General Sickles did accomplish one thing--he really got the 2nd day's battle started. General Caldwell saved the Wheatfield and Chamberlain Little Roundtop. On this day Strong Vincent was a real hero thanks to General Warren.

Major General Daniel Sickles, one of the most flamboyant of Union generals, was knocked from his saddle by a cannonball as he was watching his III Corps in battle near the Trostle farm. After his leg was amputated below the knee, he directed that the shattered bones (below) be sent to the Army Medical Museum in Washington, D. C., where he visited them periodically for the rest of his life.



The best place to study the terrain is the dreaded National Tower. The addition of the field glasses really adds a great deal to anyone's understanding of the entire area.

If one wants solitude, visit East Cavalry battlefields off the Hanover Rd. A return to Culp's Hill at dusk also added a great deal of realism to the 2nd day.

The 3rd day started at the Virginia Monument with all the maps in hand and a total review of the terrain and movements of the Confederate Units. Driving up and down Seminary Ridge gave better understanding of Alexander's artillery barrage and Hunt's masterful handling of the Union artillery. Great generalship was displayed by Hunt, Hays, Hancock, Gibbon, Webb, etc. for the Union.

The terrain favored the North greatly. The South ran out of leadership at Gettysburg and never recovered. The loss of General officers was horrendous. The North had greater depth and once the political appointees were weaned out, the pros on the North took over. This truly was Robert E. Lee's low point as leader of the Confederate Army. In addition, Longstreet was proven right though much maligned.

This trip was a different way of viewing the battle. Thanks to the use of the excellent guidebook, all my maps and the field glasses, it was a great trip and I vowed to return to Gettysburg again. As I left for home I covered some of the route of Lee's retreat with the sound of the cannon and musket fire still in my head and the felling that I had been there 132 years ago.

The Battle of Gettysburg happened by chance, but the spot was selected by Divine Guidance.

*Bob Baucher*



**LITTLE ROUND TOP**  
*General Gouverneur Warren's  
Statue stands guard.*

Daniel G. Zeiser  
5877 Williamsburg Drive  
Cleveland, OH 44143

The Cleveland  
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## IN NEXT MONTH'S DECEMBER, 1996 CHARGER

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