

THE CHARGER

November, 1998

364 Meeting

Vol.20 #3

Tonight's Program:

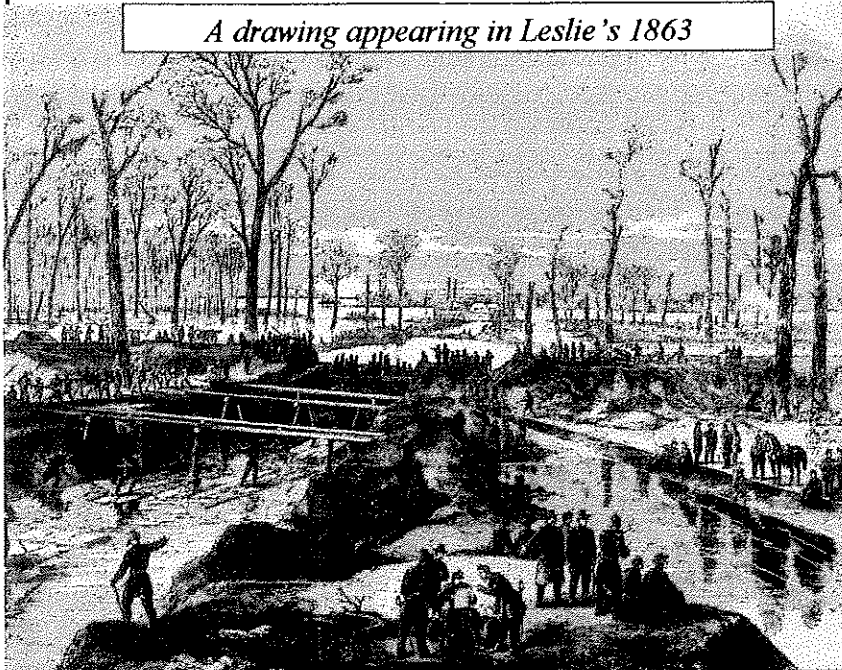
Grant's Canal

The Union attempt to bypass Vicksburg

Grant's Canal was built by Union forces next to the Mississippi River in the State of Louisiana across the river from the Confederate strong hold of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

General Grant did not come up with the idea nor was he responsible for the canal in it's early stages. However like everything at Vicksburg in 1863, the canal was named after the victor, Ulysses S. Grant.

A drawing appearing in Leslie's 1863

*Tonight's Speaker:*

David Bastian

David Bastian is a hydrologist for the Army Corps of Engineers in Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr. Bastian will discuss Union engineers efforts, in 1862-63, to divert the Mississippi River around the confederate fortress of Vicksburg. Specializing in canals, Bastian is able to look at the effort to dig this waterway with a different perspective than a military historian.

If the plan had worked --and Bastian argues it could have--the Vicksburg Campaign would have ended much sooner.

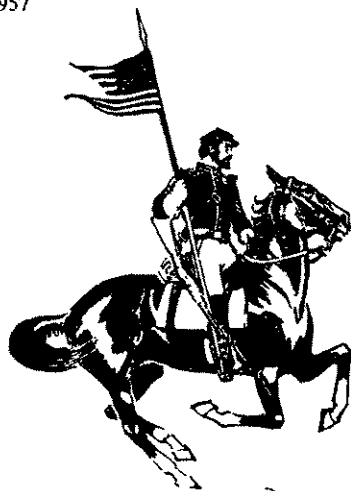
Date: November 11, 1998

Place: The Hermit Club

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

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

Founded 1957



THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
PO BOX 1800 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115

President: **Dick Crews**

Vice President: **Bob Boyda**

Secretary: **William Vodrey**

Treasurer: **Peter Holman**

Executive Committee:

**Bob Battisti, Dan Zeiser, John Moore,
Bill Doty, John Howard, Bill McGrath.**

Editor of **THE CHARGER**

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3673 Traver Rd.
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(W) (800) 800-8310
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Publisher: **J A C Communications**

**(216) 861-5588
Anne & John Caputo**

About the

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable is open to all who have an interest in the American Civil War and its time period in American history.

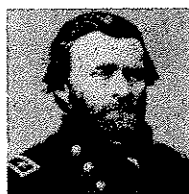
Dinner meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. The Roundtable meets at the *Hermit Club*.

The *Hermit Club* is a historic private club in the Playhouse Square area of downtown Cleveland.

Dinner is \$20.00. Club dues are \$35.00 per year.

**Membership information can be obtained from
Dick Crews, daytime phone (800) 800-8310.**

November 11, 1998

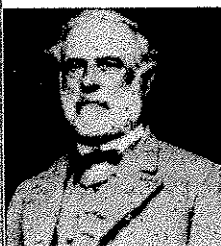


Grant's Canal

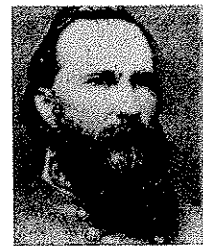
Vicksburg

DAVID F. BASTIAN

December 9, 1998



**Lee
&
Longstreet
at**



Gettysburg

ED BEARSS

January 13, 1999

The Great Debate

How Could the South have Won?

MODERATOR: ROBERT E. BATTISTI

February 10, 1999



Abraham Lincoln

Reelection of 1864

JOHN C. WAUGH

March 10, 1999



William T. Sherman

The Most Hated man in the South

SCOTT MAYBAUM

April 7, 1999



John Hunt Morgan

*The confederate who almost
attached Cleveland*

LESTER V. HORWITZ

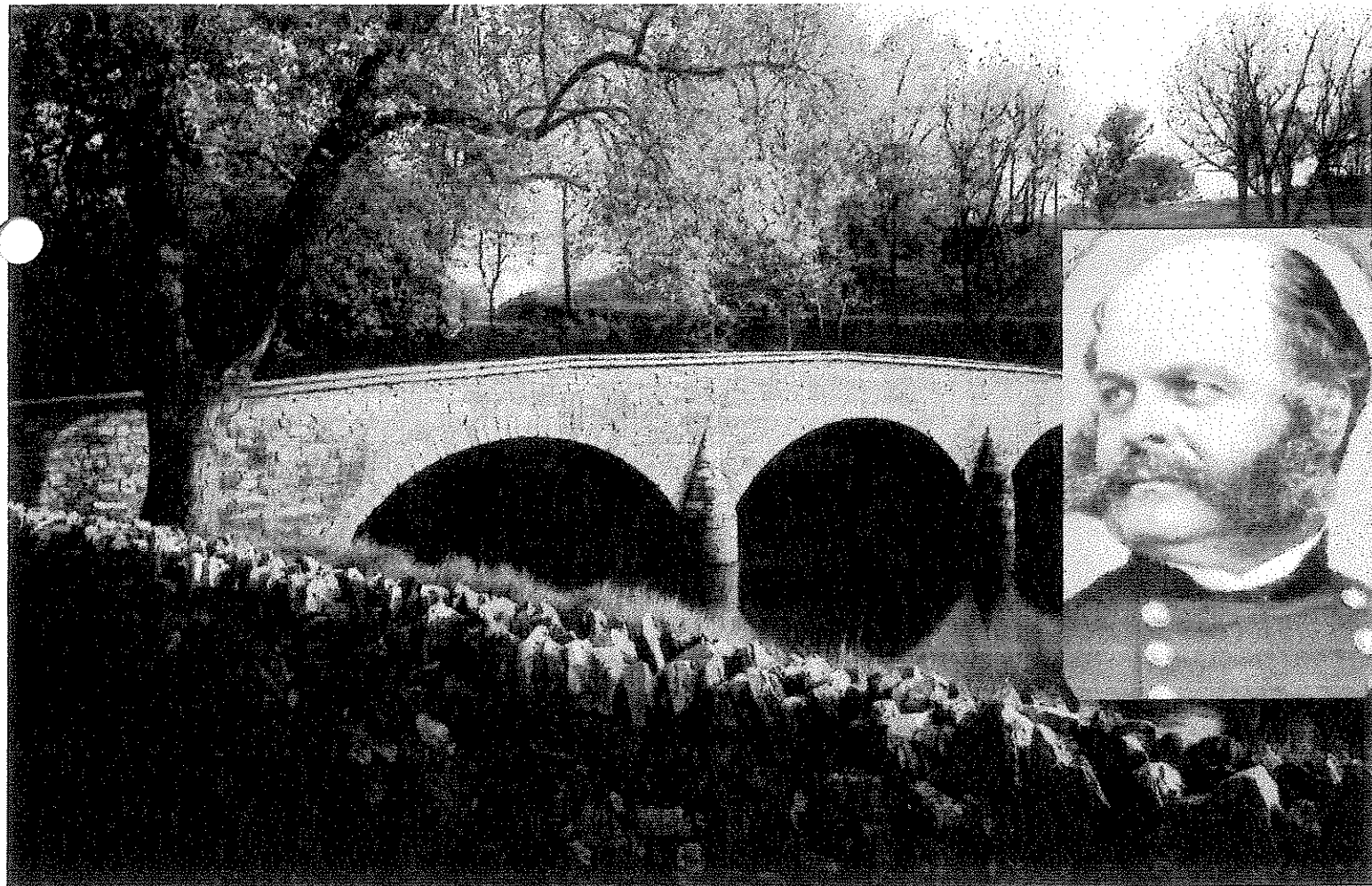
May 12 1999



Rosy O'Neal Greenhow

Confederate Spy

DIANNE KAUFFMAN



Burnside Bridge

Courage or Stupidity?

By Matt Slattery

The bridge over Antietam Creek at Sharpsburg was built in 1839 and is still standing 160 years later. Its name comes from the one day in its long life, September 17, 1862, when General Ambrose E. Burnside displayed his incompetence on and about it. Its importance comes from the essential tactic of the battle of Antietam. In a desperate effort to equalize the odds that gambler, Robert E. Lee, massed all his outnumbered army on the left and center, leaving only a token force on his right.

The battle opened at dawn when Gen. Joseph Hooker's 1st Corps slammed into Stonewall Jackson's men in the infamous cornfield and the bloodiest day in American military history began. General Edwin V. Sumner's 2nd Corps followed and the battle spread to the center and the gruesome Sunken Road. On the left Burnside's 9th Corps as relatively unopposed to sweep across the creek, turn the rebel wing and possibly annihilate Lee's army.

The 9th Corps, 13,800 strong, had the 60 foot wide creek to cross with the choice of the stone bridge and two fords above and below the bridge less than a mile apart. They were opposed by one undermanned Georgia rifle brigade of 600 men and three batteries commanded by Gen. Robert A. Toombs who had lost the Confederate presidency to Jefferson Davis by a whisker. Leisurely approaching his task, at about ten o'clock when the carnage on the Union right and center was dying down, Burnside sent one regiment at the bridge. The few Confederates could concentrate their fire on this narrow target and easily repulsed it. No effort was made to cross the fords and, after awhile, another regiment was thrown at the bridge and mowed down.

Sometime after noon, with still no action at the fords, Burnside massed Ferraro's brigade at the bridge and by one o'clock they fought their way to the west bank. Again lethargy took over. Of course the 600 Georgians fought a courageous defensive battle, but now the whole 14,000 man Union corps was across the creek, the fords belatedly being utilized. Unaccountably it took them until three o'clock before they advanced the one mile to within sight of Sharpsburg whose possession would have cut off the exhausted left and center of Lee's army. Then at four o'clock Gen. A. P. Hill's division reached the scene by a forced march from Harpers Ferry and though only 2,500 strong and weary from their trek, they launched a counter attack which put the immense 9th Corps on the defensive. Night fell, the position was stabilized and after a day of sniping the Confederates staged an orderly retreat across the Potomac.

For courage top honors go to the 2nd, 20th, and 50th Georgia regiments which refused to collapse in the face of overwhelming odds. And to the 11th Connecticut which made the first costly attempt at the bridge; and the 51st Pennsylvania, the 51st New York, and the 21st and 35th Massachusetts which took heavy casualties in forcing the bridge. The stupidity award goes to General Burnside whose prize for this contretemps was command of the Army of the Potomac when General McClellan was sacked for failure to follow up his victory.



Matt Slattery



Civil War Medicine

Who were the Doctors?

*By Gary Norman**

The average doctor of the Civil War was usually a surgeon. The doctor of the Civil War received his or her (emphasis added) knowledge through both training and apprenticeship. Where most older doctors of the Civil War were likely to have received their knowledge through apprenticeship, the younger doctors of the Civil War were likely to have received their training through a degree program at a college like the University of Pennsylvania and an office internship. Although many doctors of the Civil War may have had a degree, it did not really mean much considering the state of medicine during the nineteenth century. Medical degrees could usually be purchased by attending a one week seminar. Most States did not permit the dissection and study of dead human bodies.

Most medical schools like the University of South Carolina and Harvard Medical School did not possess basic medical equipment such as stethoscopes, microscopes, and thermometers. Most doctors of the Civil War also treated animals such as the very important horse! Doctors often spent hours on end hacking limbs off, for they knew no better remedy for mangled arms and legs than the hacksaw. The average doctor's medical kit consisted of among other things saws. Most soldiers carried pistols with them into the medical tent so that they could save their limbs. Doctors were often considered as drunks and butchers by their patients. There were however many good doctors for both the North and the South. They included the following: John Bellings whose writings are still studied by doctors today, William Kean who helped found the New York Public Library and extracted a cancerous tumor from the mouth of President Cleveland, Sam Preston More,

*Gary Norman is a law student at Cleveland State University and a new member of the Cleveland CWRT.



Mary Edwards Walker (1831 – 1919)

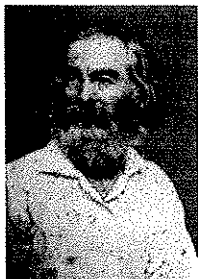
She was a New Yorker certified by the Syracuse medical College in 1855. For the first three years of the Civil War she was a nurse. In 1864 commissioned the first woman assistant surgeon in the U.S. Army.

and Mary Williams Walker who was the first woman to be commissioned as an Assistant Surgeon in the army. Walt Whitman said it best when he said "all but a few of them are good men." By the close of the war some thirteen thousand surgeons would serve in the army for the North three thousand surgeons would serve in the army for the South. There were several levels of surgeons, they included men and women anywhere from the title, rank, and pay of Surgeon, Major, and one hundred and seventy dollars per month to Contract Surgeon, no rank, and whatever money the army offered them. We can best describe the average doctor of the Civil War as a middle-aged man hunched over an operating table, covered from head to toe in blood, and chopping

away on poor Johnny Reb or Bill Yank. One bloody Union doctor while holding a bloody knife in his mouth and standing in the midst of discarded arms and legs commented "*Oh look how I am getting along.*"

Gary Norman

"A March in the ranks Hard-Prest"



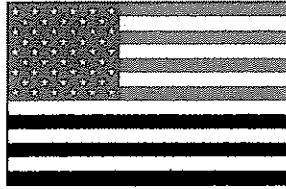
Poet Walt Whitman was a nurse during the Civil War.

*Faces, varieties, postures beyond
description, most in obscurity, some of
them dead,
Surgeons operating, attendants holding
lights, the smell of ether, the odor of blood,
The crowd, O the crowd of bloody
forms, the yard outside also fill'd,
Some on the bare ground, some on planks or stretchers,
some in the death-spasm sweating . . .*

Walt Whitman

(written following the battle of Chancellorsville, May, 1863)

A Proud Heritage



**DID
YOUR ANCESTOR
HELP SAVE THE FLAG**
In the Civil War of 1861-1865?

DAUGHTERS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865

Allied with the Grand Army of the Republic

**Organized Memorial Day,
May 30th, 1885**
Incorporated December 12th, 1885

U.S. Charter December 9, 1955

FORMS OF MEMBERSHIP:

National Member-at-Large, State Member-at-Large or affiliation with a local group (called a tent) in cities and towns where they are organized. Members will register their Civil War Heritage with the National Headquarters through any form of membership. Affiliation with a local tent affords one the privilege of knowing and associating with women of common heritage. Tents meet regularly, carry out various interesting activities. Members in tents may hold office, and qualify to serve as a delegate at the annual State and National Conventions.

If you, as a daughter, granddaughter, or lineal descendant are proud of your heritage, you cannot afford to stay out of the only order that is composed of strictly direct lineal descendants of those brave soldiers in BLUE who preserved the Union and kept every star intact in the field of blue of the Flag we love -- "Flag our Fathers Saved".

This publicity circular is issued by the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865, and sent out in the hope of inspiring eligible women to join our ranks.

For further information, see any member of your local tent or write to:

**DUV National Headquarters
503 South Walnut
Springfield, Illinois 62704**



"Children of the Battlefield." A carte-de-viste photograph found in the pocket of a sergeant of the 134th New York Volunteer Infantry, killed at Gettysburg. The photograph was sold for the benefit of the children.

DAUGHTERS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865

MISSION:

To spread widely the teachings of patriotism, that those who dwell in this broad land of ours will so live that, in peace or in war, there shall be no stain on "The Flag Our Fathers Saved."

PRINCIPLES:

We firmly believe in Almighty God, and fully realize that it was under His beneficent Providence that the free institutions of our land, consecrated to us by the service and blood of our Fathers, have been preserved and the integrity and life of the Nation maintained.

True loyalty to the government of the United States of America based upon respect for, and devotion and fidelity to its Constitution and Laws, made evident by our disapproval of anything that is disloyal, treasonable or rebellious, or anything that will in any manner impair the efficiency and permanency of our National Union.

OBJECT:

To perpetuate the memory, deeds and loyalty of those ancestors who sacrificed so much in the struggle to preserve the Union and establish freedom for everyone; to cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; to foster true patriotism and love of country and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty; to maintain at our Museum and Headquarters in Springfield, Illinois, genealogical files and records of members, their Civil War ancestors, and their descendants, for coming generations; to operate a free, public museum containing Civil War artifacts and relics of Union Veterans, a library of Civil War histories, military and regimental records, Adjutant General Reports for the various states, and historical records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic; to promote interest in Civil War History; to cooperate in movements relating to veteran, civic, and welfare projects; to promote equal rights and universal liberty for everyone; to hallow the name of the Grand Army of the Republic on Memorial Day since Memorial Day, today, hallows the memory of veterans of all wars.

ELIGIBILITY:

All daughters, (grand-daughters, etc., direct descendants), of honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines who served in the Union Army or Navy during the Rebellion of 1861-1865, including those who died or were killed during their term of service, whether members of the Grand Army of the Republic or not, who have attained the age of eight years, are eligible for membership.

Eligibility is through **lineal descent only** and not through adoption. The eligibility can never be changed. You must furnish a complete war record of your ancestor.

The Daughters of Union Veterans of Civil War, 1861 -1865, is the only Civil War lineal descent women's organization recognized and endorsed by the Grand Army of the Republic. It is the oldest and largest of all Civil War American Women's organization genealogically based on lineal descent.

Every woman, descended from a Union Veteran will welcome the opportunity to preserve her Civil War Heritage for posterity, while honoring and revering her Civil War ancestry by affiliating with this Order.

ORGANIZATION:

Local groups, called Tents, are named for Army Nurses who served in the Civil War or any loyal woman of the Civil War era whose patriotic deeds during the years 1861-1865 were recorded.

States with three or more tents have a State Department and may have Members-at-Large.

The National Organization consists of all the State Departments and also National Members-at-Large and Detached Tents.

Detached tents are tents in states with less than three tents.

WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Projects are designed to perpetuate the memories and aspirations of our Civil War ancestors -- genealogical, historical, patriotic, and service and community projects. Some of the genealogical projects include recording Civil War discharge papers, recording ancestors' war and personal records for the Headquarters file, recording history of members known descendants, maintaining and up-dating index files, recording personal records of organization members, locating Civil War burial records of various counties and towns.

The historical projects include maintaining our beautiful museum and headquarters in Springfield, Illinois; collecting Civil War artifacts and mementos; placing commemorative plaques and markers at appropriate universities, public buildings, parks and battlefields; Patriotic projects include flag presentations, participation in patriotic ceremonies on national holidays, and cooperating with other patriotic and genealogical societies.



Trimming the Christmas Tree, 1865
Courtesy of the Allison-Shelly Collection,
Pennsylvania State University Library

In community and service projects our organization is highly rated for its outstanding work at the Veteran Hospitals and Veteran Homes throughout the country. This is our outstanding service program and we are proud of the many hours of volunteer service for our veterans by so many of our members. The members also work at State homes and hospitals, nursing homes, children's' homes and with many other community groups.

Educationally we maintain a college scholarship program for worthy descendants of Union Veterans, and present special awards at the United States Service Academies -- United States Military Academy, West Point, New York; United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland; United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado; and United States Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut. In addition we have established scholarship funds at the following colleges: Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee; Mount Union College, Alliance, Ohio; Institute of Logopedics, Wichita, Kansas; University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska; and Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. An annual award is presented to Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.-- the only university in the United States for the deaf and chartered by Abraham Lincoln.

Our state departments and local tents engage in local historical studies in their own communities and render assistance to schools, colleges and adult learning centers, when called upon to do so. Awards and scholarships are given for excellence in historical studies. Patriotic and flag etiquette programs are presented in the schools each year. Flags are presented to organizations in need of a flag.



The last reunion of the blue & Gray at Gettysburg

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:

During the spring of 1934, a building was purchased in Washington, D.C., which was the National Headquarters for sixteen years, until it was sold in 1950. Following the 1951 National Convention in Chicago, a building in Springfield, Illinois was purchased and dedicated in June 1952, as the National Headquarters. In February, 1964, this old building was sold and a new building was erected and dedicated in April 1969 as the new National Headquarters and Museum. The Headquarters and Museum are combined into one building with a resident officer in attendance.

MUSEUM:

The Museum houses many books, mementos, and documented records of the Civil War era which are on display. The Museum is open daily to the members, and free to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Students and the general public interested in Civil War History are welcome to do research there. Arrangements can be made with the resident officer. Members and friends are urged to visit this monument to our Heritage, located in the home city of Abraham Lincoln, that they may see the beauty and efficiency of the new National Headquarters, the result of our continued efforts and interest.

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503 South Walnut
Springfield, Illinois 62704



This stark, simple cross in the wilderness, near Chancellorsville, marks the grave of an unknown Union soldier.



ANTIETAM SOUTH MOUNTAIN HARPERS FERRY

FIELD TRIP REPORT



Gen. George B. McClellan

Last month the troops marched on Antietam to relive the Maryland campaign. Ah, what a glorious scene! We arrived safe and sound Thursday afternoon, save those of us traveling with our fearless President, Dick Crews. After a whirlwind tour of five states, Dick's company dragged into camp at Hagerstown. My what a sorry looking lot.

Fifteen of our brethren (and sistren[sp?]) toured South Mountain and Harpers Ferry on Friday. The morning marching was soggy, as the troops pulled out their rain gear and umbrellas. But the clouds soon parted and march on we did! Al Preston, Ranger at South Mountain State Recreation Area, guided us along the narrow roads of South Mountain, actually more of an extended ridge than a mountain. Given the twists and turns, it's amazing that this was the one time this author didn't miss a turn.

Harpers Ferry filled our afternoon. What a sight! As Stonewall Jackson so correctly put it "I'd rather take Harpers Ferry twenty times than defend it once." How do you defend a bowl. We quickly came to the conclusion that the place truly is indefensible. We were also treated to one of Dick's patented arguments with our guide. Shades of Bull Run! For some reason, Dick will not accept that the Confederate artillery could hit one out of over seven thousand men from less than two miles away. However, please ask him about seeing the Dunkard church from the tower at Antietam.

On Saturday, we were joined by John Sutula as we toured the Cornfield, Bloody Lane, and Burnside's bridge. Bill Adams, our tour guide, did an excellent job as he led the troops around the fields of Antietam. As usual, the trip was enlightening and just plain fun.

The quartermaster department provided the troops with the usual fare of hardtack. Saturday night we dined at the Inn at South Mountain. The highlight of the trip was Friday's dinner at Schmankerl Stube, a Bavarian biergarten. The food was tremendous, the accordion player entertaining, and the liter steins of beer certainly hit the spot. All in all, it was a great trip.

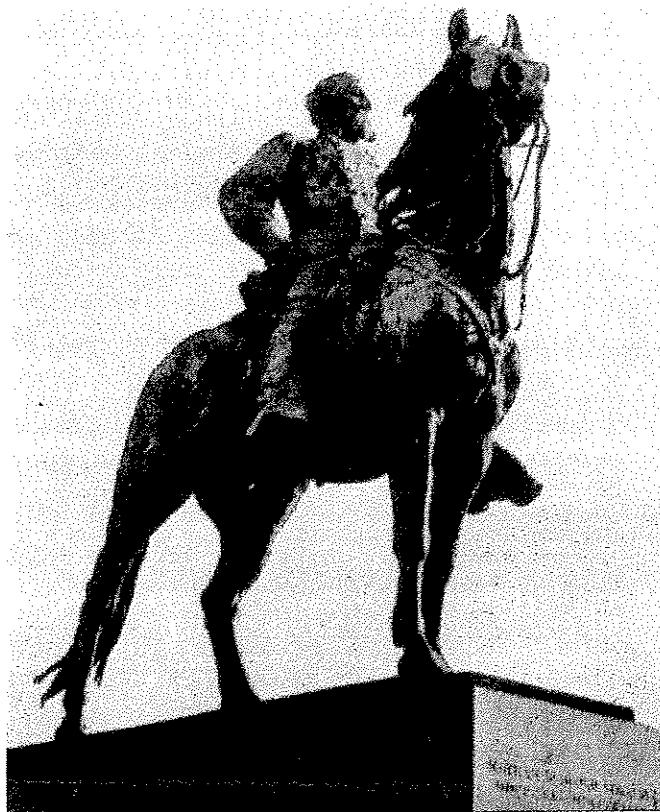
Next year: **ON TO RICHMOND.**

Respectfully,

Dan Zeiser

BRICES CROSS ROADS, MISSISSIPPI BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION PROFILE HISTORY

In the summer of 1864, Union Maj. Gen. William T Sherman's army advanced on Atlanta, Georgia, an industrial and railroad center for the Confederacy. In an effort to thwart the Union advance, Maj. Sen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's roving Confederate army constantly raided the Federal supply lines. To end Forrest's trouble making, Sherman ordered Brig. Gen. Samuel Sturgis to march from Memphis, Tennessee, and locate and destroy Forrest's command. At that time, the Confederate troops were moving toward the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, a vital Union supply line into Georgia. After Sturgis began his expedition, Forrest was recalled and ordered to engage the Federals. The two forces met in northeast Mississippi at Brices Cross Roads on June 10, 1864. Forrest deployed his mounted infantry, a tactic that gave his army great mobility without becoming exhausted. They routed the Federals and forced them to retreat to Memphis, Tennessee. The overwhelming defeat prompted Sherman to order a second and larger expedition against Forrest's army which succeeded in luring it into baffle at Tupelo, Mississippi, where the Federals crippled the Confederate force.

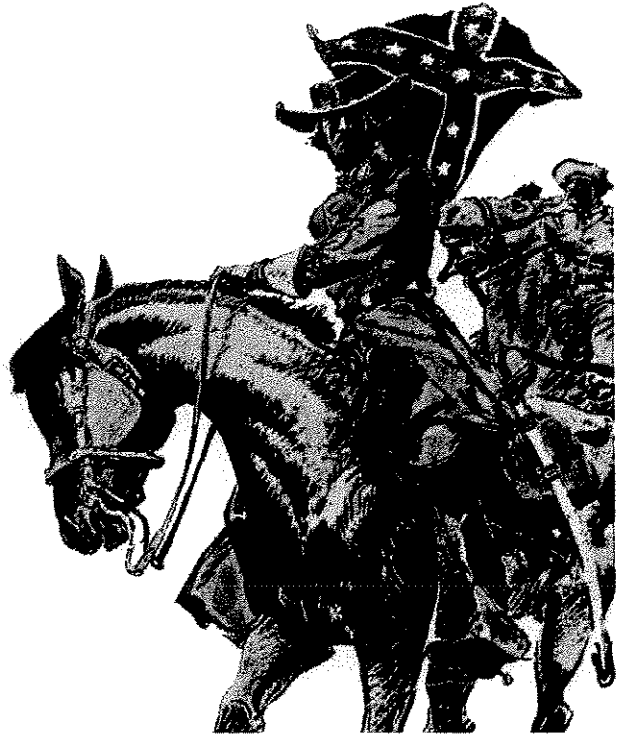


The Equestrian statue in Memphis, Tennessee, beneath which the General and Mrs. Forrest are buried.

Preservation Activity

Preservation activity began at this site when the War Department, as the result of a Congressionally directed study commemorating Civil War battlefields, designated one acre of the site a national battlefield in 1929. The War Department maintained the site until 1933 when it was transferred to the National Park Service (NPS). Beginning in 1938, the NPS administered the site as part of the Natchez Trace Parkway, which runs between Natchez, Mississippi, and Nashville, Tennessee. In 1966, the one-acre site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Efforts to preserve the entire site, more than 2,000 acres, would not occur for another 24 years. In 1990, The Secretary of the Interior established The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). At the same time, Congress and the Secretary appointed the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission to study and rank the nation's Civil War battlefields. The Commission's report, released in 1993, designated Brices Cross Roads one of the 50 most threatened Civil War battlefields in the country. That same year the Governor of Mississippi established a battlefield Commission for the State.



Confederate Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest

Local preservation efforts at the site increased with assistance from the APP?. In

1994, the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) completed a protection plan indeed by the AB? P. The ABPP provided funds in 1995 for the APCWS to develop a master plan for Brices Cross Roads. Later that same year, The Civil War Trust (CWT) added the site to its Civil War Discovery Trail, In 1996, the APCWS, the CWT (using funds raised through the sale of Civil War commemorative coins), the State of Mississippi, and Lee and Prentiss Counties contributed funds to acquire more than 830 acres of the battlefield. The ABPP also provided the Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Commission with funds to begin an interpretive project. A National Historic Landmark application for the battlefield is currently pending review by the National Park Service.

Today 831 acres of this 2,085 acre* battlefield are protected.

***This acreage represents the study area of the battlefield defined in a survey completed as part of the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's study.**

To learn more about this site contact: Jim Woodrick, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, P.O, Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205, (601)359-6947

BRAZILIAN SEEKS TO JOIN CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

J. Casari from San Paulo, Brazil has requested information on joining the Cleveland CWRT. He (I assume He) sent his request on the 4th of July of this year and sent along the drawing ➡ on the right.

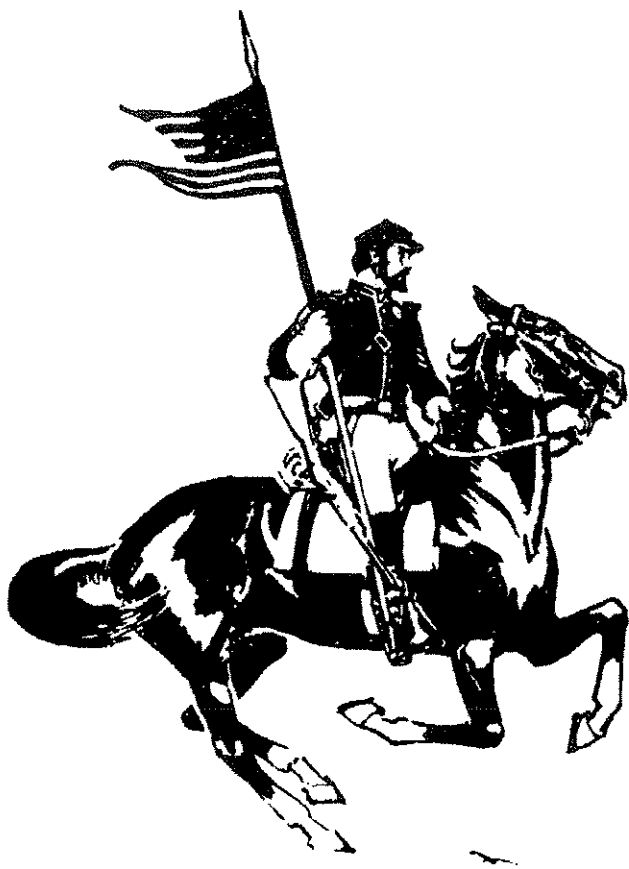
He previously lived in the Cleveland area so it's not a bizarre as it first sounds.

We will send along a current **Charger** and thank him for the excellent drawings and ask him for more.

Even though the Civil War was 135 years ago, the interest in the American Civil War reaches around the world.

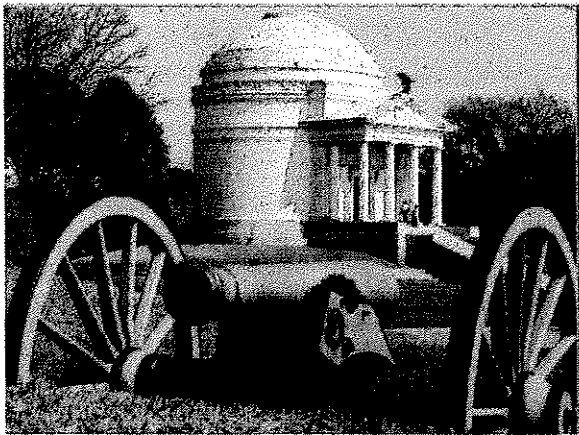
Dick Crews





Dick Crews
3673 Traver Road
Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable PO Box 18900 Cleveland, OH 44118



The Illinois Monument at Vicksburg, Mississippi

Vicksburg

Grant's Canal

The Union's effort to dig around the Mississippi River fortress of Vicksburg.

Wednesday, November 11, 1998