

THE CHARGER

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

OCTOBER 1994

327TH MEETING

VOL. 16 #2

DATE: WEDNESDAY, October 12, 1994

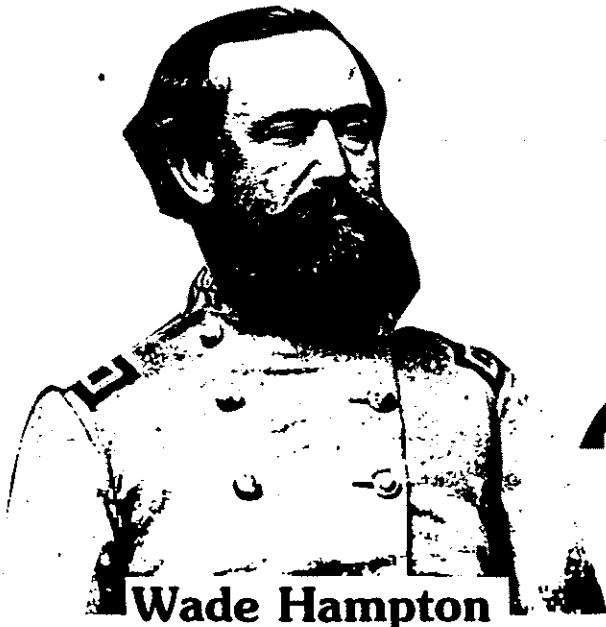
PLACE: The Hermit Club

SUBJECT: "Kilpatrick's Shirt-tale Skedaddle"

SPEAKER: Brian D. Kowell. Brian is a 20-year member of the Cleveland Civil War Round-Table, a past-president, and editor of "The Charger". He is a native Clevelander, graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College, and is employed by 3M Pharmaceuticals.

TIME: Cocktails 6PM Dinner 7PM

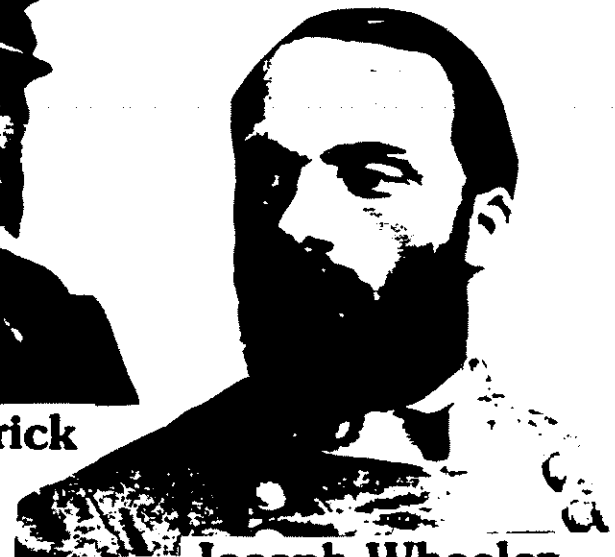
RESERVATIONS: Please call Mrs. Ann Caputo at JAC Buisness Communications at 861-5588 and make your reservations. RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!



Wade Hampton



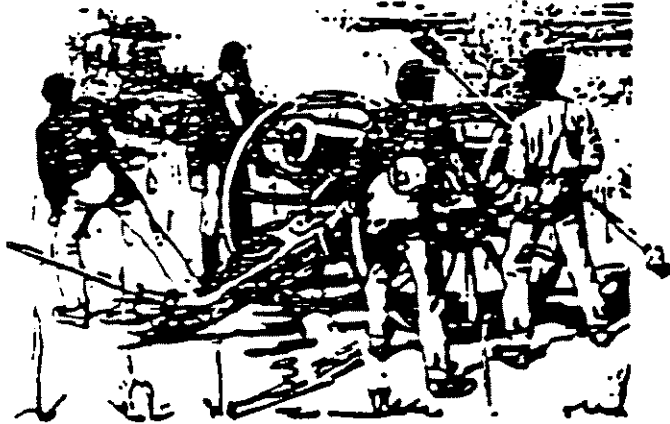
Hugh J. Kilpatrick



Joseph Wheeler

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

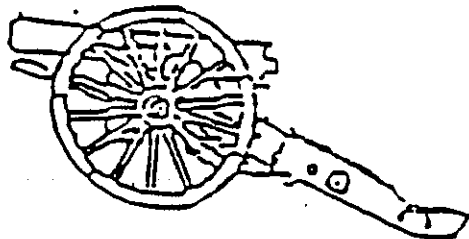
1957 * 1994



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Editor of the Charger -
Brian Kowell

Editorial Office

2389 Babcock Road
Hinckley, Ohio 44233
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Preserve Your Battlefields!

THIS YEAR'S SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

Oct.	Brian Kowell Kilpatrick's Shirttail Skedaddle
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



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\$ 35.00

Make your check payable to:
Cleveland Civil War Round-Table

and mail to: P.O. Box 18900
Cleveland, Ohio 44118-0900

**OR, even better yet, bring it to this
coming meeting.**

Funds in our depleted treasury are needed
to cover expenses for our speakers and for
printing and mailing.

REPORT ON FIELD TRIP



1861; Washington Artillery of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Murfreesboro Spring Hill Franklin Nashville
September 22 thru September 25
by Robert E. Battisti
Field Trip Chairman

Sixteen Civil War enthusiasts "weathered" the rain the first day. After a brief stop at Wal Mart to purchase rain gear, the trip proceeded smoothly under the direction of James Ogden III. We studied the Battle of Stones River near Murfreesboro, where Braxton Bragg and William Starke Rosecrans fought Dec. 31, 1862 through Jan. 2, 1863. One highlight was standing at the location where Gen. Bragg ordered Gen. John Breckenridge to charge across an open field where his attack would be vulnerable to Union artillery. The assault was halted after great loss, as Breckenridge had predicted, thus ending this indecisive battle.

Day two brought better weather. With umbrellas packed away, we saw where Gen. Schofield eluded Gen. John Bell Hood at Spring Hill as the Union forces raced toward Nashville. Destined to "Square-off" at some point, the two armies clashed at Franklin. Hood ordered his men to attack the well entrenched Schofield on Nov. 30, 1864. "At some of the earthworks the press of men was so great that the dead, having no place to fall, remained 'upright'". The group was charmed by the enthusiasm of the curator/historian, Thomas Cartwright, at the Carter House, where the fighting was especially fierce. After Hood's army was defeated at Franklin, the Confederates all but ceased to be a viable force in the West.

Your fellow Round-Table members distinguished themselves in many ways. The Bayless Boys were led to "no where" by Biff Staley. A search party found them. This was the first time members got lost since Clarke and Cramer got lost in the Wilderness 30 years ago! Hands down, Baucher claimed the best joke teller award! Too bad most can't be told at the meetings. Due to the crossing of time zones, half of the group were on Eastern time while others were on Central time. General Tirpak was on Rocky Mountain time. Rookie of the year award went to James Lawson, a welcomed addition. John Moore and Dan Zeiser won good driving awards from AAA.

The trip proved to be, despite the weather, a great time. We met the two main criteria of belonging to the Cleveland CWRT: good fellowship combined with learning more about our Civil War.



LAST MONTH'S MEETING

George Washington Partridge was 22 years old when the Civil War broke out. He was one of eight children (all the rest were girls) living in Grand Rapids, Wisconsin at the time. His parents had migrated from Connecticut via Erie, Pa. and Waukeegan, Ill.

George enlisted on August 15, 1861, in Company G, 7th Wisconsin Infantry of the famous Iron Brigade. He fought in all of its battles until his death on the fields of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863.

Mr. Hugh Whitehouse, last month's speaker and a descendent of George Partridge, recently published a book - Letters from the Iron Brigade - of his ancestor's letters to his sisters in Erie and Waukeegan. Mr. Whitehouse read excerpts from these letters. They provide an intimate and informative picture of Civil War soldiering. They were family heirlooms and tell of George's experiences in a direct, honest, and surprisingly humorous manner.

For those interested, the book can be purchased directly from Mr. Whitehouse. The price including tax and shipping is \$22.00. The proceeds will be donated to the Western Reserve Historical Society Library, with the hope that the money will be used in the cataloging of its Civil War Collections. You can send your orders to:

Hugh L. Whitehouse
4896 Middledale Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44124

SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



Mid-afternoon on August 10, 1862, while relaxing on the road from Cedar Mountain to Mitchell's Station, Elijah V. White's independent cavalry company who styled themselves "the Comanches", were surprised by a squadron of Yankee cavalry charging at them at full tilt. The Confederates scrambled to their feet and jumped into the saddle and eventually repulsed the Yankee attack. Before the tide turned, the Comanches were amazed and amused to see one of their number, Thomas Spates, escape the threat "by literally out-running his horse, a thing until then entirely unheard of."

from Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain
by Robert K. Krick pp 330
illustrated by Stu Cramer



Please Make Reservations

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RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!!



Happy birthday to a treasure

More than 1,500
gather to mark
monument's 100th

By BRIAN GRAVES

PLAIN DEALER REPORTER

CLEVELAND

Some came to remember, some came to act, and others were there to pay their respects yesterday at ceremonies marking the 100th birthday of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

'I was really honored to be invited to do this because I think this is one of the most important Civil War monuments in the country.'

— James McPherson,
historian

According to Cleveland police, more than 1,500 people gathered on the grounds and steps surrounding the 125-foot granite shaft with a 15-foot statue of "Liberty" at the top.

Men in Civil War uniforms stood shoulder to shoulder at the base portraying the soldiers honored by the monument.

The base has four bronze castings outside and four more on inside walls that represent various themes, according to Princeton University professor and Pulitzer Prize-winning author James McPherson.

"They aren't just soldiers or statesmen posing in some sort of formal position," said McPherson, a historian who was the featured speaker at the ceremony. "But each one of them represents an event, either a battle or some type of typical action during battle."

McPherson spoke about the history of the monument and its stature as an American treasure.

"I was really honored to be invited to do this because I think this is one of the most important Civil War monuments in the country," he said. "It's certainly one of the largest and most impressive."

That's one of the things Douglas Franklin Scofield remembers hearing his family say when they talked of the monument.

Scofield is the great-grandson of Levi Scofield, the architect of the monument. "This is something very important to the family," he said. "We've been planning for it for over a year. The monument has always been part of our lives."

Scofield said he was always reminded of how proud the family was of the historic monument while growing up.

Soldiers & Sailors Monument



J. PACE

"I remember years ago when I used to go into my father's office he used to have miniatures of each of the four statues around the base," said Scofield, of Pittsburgh.

The ceremony ended with an exclamation point, as gunpowder-charged cannons from the Civil War shot with thundering force.

While covering her ears, one child said, "I thought they were only acting, I didn't know it was real."

Her mother looked at her and said, "It's all real, honey, it's all real."

Centennial Committee

Timothy Beatty
Kenneth R. Callahan
James E. Cogan
Richard Karberg
Jerome M. McKeever
Robert E. Taylor
George N. Vourlojianis

The idea for a memorial to the 10,000 Civil War soldiers and sailors from Cuyahoga County was introduced in 1879 by Major William J. Gleason at a reunion for veterans held in Cleveland. A committee was formed and selected Major Gleason as chairman. The recommended location was in Public Square, then called Monumental Park. Fifteen years later, the monument was dedicated.

A Memory Preserved

by Jessie Raynor

It was just an old glass jar of cherries sitting atop a kitchen cupboard in the Saltbox House at Hale Farm and Village in Bath. The tour guide, dressed in a nineteenth-century-style, homespun dress and long white apron, overlooked it as she explained the room's contents. Her talk focused on herbs that hung in bunches on a free-standing drying rack: how they were used in the 1830s for cooking, medicines and dyeing wool.

A precocious preschooler, who'd been tugging ferociously on his mother's arm and announcing his hunger in loud whispers, pointed at the jar and interrupted, "Are those real?" The guide smiled as the mother scooped the child into her arms, admonishing him with a *hush*.

"Actually those are real cherries, young man," the guide said, turning back to the group to explain. "But they don't really belong in this house. That's one of the first self-sealing canning jars which came on the market in 1860—thirty years after the time this kitchen represents. But we keep it here since it's a nice example of handblown glass."

"Can you eat 'em?" the little boy asked, squirming in his mother's arms.

"The jar hasn't been opened since 1862—that's over 130 years ago—so I don't think you'd want to eat them," the guide patiently explained. "The cherries were put in there by a man right before he went to fight in the Civil War. When he never came home the jar became a family heirloom, which was passed down through three generations before being donated to Hale Farm by the grandson." She then invited the group to move into the parlor.

I stayed behind to get a closer look at that cherry jar, thinking about the strawberry jam my grandmother canned every summer. She proudly lined up her jars in straight, parade-ground rows along the very front of the shelves in her basement pantry. When sun shone through a small window near the ceiling, the jars would sparkle like giant rubies with golden caps. As a young girl I loved to hide in that small room and pretend those jars were treasure. Now, as an adult, I realize that they really were. I stood there, in the Saltbox House, wondering what happened to those jam jars after my grandmother died in 1964. I wished I'd thought to keep one.

Perhaps it was my nostalgia that spurred me to find out more about the cherry jar. Part of the tale I learned from the assistant curator Laurie Redfern at Hale Farm. Still not satisfied, I tracked down more of the story with the help of archivist Jim Caccamo at the Hudson Library and Historical Society:

Gideon Harrington, known to his family as



Gidding, was thirty-two years old in the summer of 1862. For two years the cherries his wife had canned in the new self-sealing jars had spoiled. He was sure she was doing it wrong, so that season he canned the fruit himself.

On August 8th, Harrington enlisted in the United States Army and joined Company H of the 102nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. His regiment moved by train from Mansfield to Covington, Kentucky, just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati. Martial law had been declared in these cities; Confederate armies commanded by Generals Braxton Bragg and E. Kirby Smith were driving north at a vigorous pace.

According to the remembrances of Otto Barndon, who enlisted in Company H on the same date as Harrington, the regiment arrived just in time to keep Smith's forces from attacking Cincinnati. For the next two years, the Ohio soldiers fought Confederates throughout Kentucky and Tennessee. They spent two cold winters in "cornstalk camps": Having no tents, the men fashioned crude huts from stalks left standing in the fields.

By the fall of 1864, Harrington's company had driven deep into the South, to Decatur, Alabama. At 1 a.m. on September 24th, 250 soldiers of the 102nd Ohio and 150 of the 18th Michigan were sent to reinforce a fort at Athens, Alabama. On the way, they ran into an entire rebel brigade under the command of Major-General Nathan Bedford Forrest, the great Confederate cavalry leader. After three hours of bitter fighting, the Union troops had lost their best officers, were surrounded and out of ammunition. Harrington and the other survivors surrendered and were packed off to a prison camp at Cahaba, Alabama.

According to the diary of Lieutenant Edmund Ryan, a Pennsylvanian held at Cahaba with Harrington, the prison was "nothing more than an old cotton warehouse." In October 1864, more than 2,000 Union soldiers were caged in this stockaded, only partially roofed facility, the men infested with vermin and drinking polluted water. The ragged prisoners were rationed one quart of meal and a quarter pound of meat per day. "Sometimes we receive a few cow peas which are not fit for man to eat," wrote Ryan. "It is a hard disagreeable life for a human being to live."

Harrington survived the prison camp, including an outbreak of malaria. He was paroled in a prisoner exchange on April 22, 1865—thirteen days after Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox.

The war over, Harrington could now think of home, of spring planting and perhaps canning more summer cherries. During the years he was away, his jars of fruit had been opened and eaten. None had spoiled. But there was one jar so tightly sealed it couldn't be opened. It was left sitting on a cellar shelf.

At Vicksburg, Mississippi, Harrington boarded onto the paddlewheel steamer *Sultana*, headed north to the Ohio River. More than 2,000 returning veterans, 100 horses and mules, a few hogs and one crated alligator were packed onto the boat, the largest passenger load since men began traveling the Mississippi River.

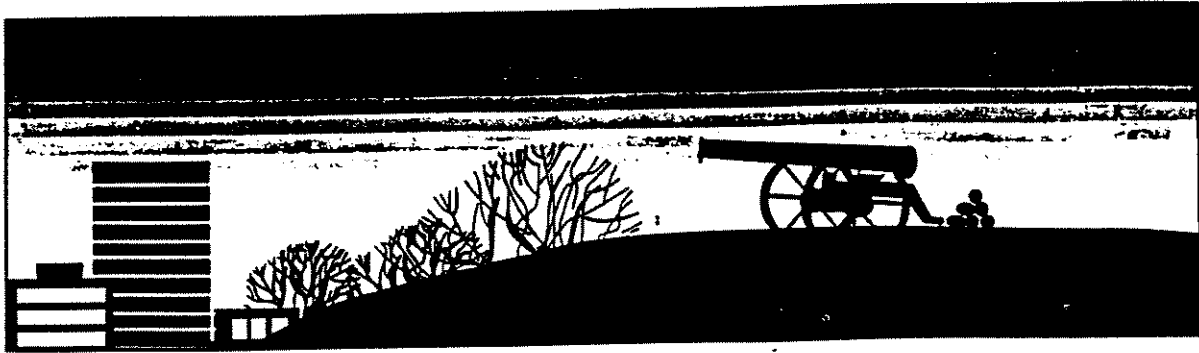
At 2 a.m. on April 27th, near the Hens and Chickens Islands just past Memphis, a tremendous blast ripped a hole in the *Sultana's* side. An overheated boiler was blown up through the hurricane deck, where many of the Ohio veterans had been ordered. Timber, steel and men were hurled into the night sky. According to the U.S. Customs Service, 1,547 persons died in the tragedy; Gidding Harrington was one of them.

Harrington's widow left the jar of cherries unopened in memory of her husband. Their daughter took it with her when she married years later; she often brought it out to share its story with her own children. When she died in 1910, her husband kept the cherries, passing them on to his blind son, Glenn H. Hoffman, in 1942.

In 1979, age and illness forced Hoffman and his wife into a nursing home. "I do not have any near relatives interested in the jar of cherries and I do not have the heart to destroy it," he told the Hale Farm curators when he turned the cherry jar over to them for safekeeping.

If you visit Hale Farm this summer, don't forget to look for the old glass jar of cherries atop the kitchen cupboard in the Saltbox House. It may jar some memories of your own.

Jessie Raynor is a free-lance writer living in Silver Lake.



TV documentarian's advice to Disney: scrap your theme park

By KEN BURNS

Five years ago, when I was filming in Virginia for my series on the Civil War, I found myself standing in front of a shopping center called the Spotsylvania Mall.

One hundred and twenty-five years before that moment, Americans had murdered one another on that ground in a maul of a different kind, in what many believe was the most relentless exchange of life in the history of warfare up to that time.

Some men were hit by so many bullets that their bodies fell apart. A Union veteran remembered Spotsylvania as simply "the most terrible day I have ever lived."

But the busy preoccupation of the shoppers that morning gave no indication that they were aware of the events that had taken place there on a similarly glorious May day in 1864.

I will never forget the emotions that realization sponsored in me: the chilling irony, the sickening dread that forgetfulness always engenders, and the powerful sense that the meaning of our freedom as Americans is the freedom of memory, which is also an obligation not to forget.

Because I am afraid that the Walt Disney Company's proposed theme park in the middle of the fragile historical environment of Virginia's Piedmont will, in fact, distract people from an appreciation of the events that took place there in

the last century, I must come out in opposition to Disney's America.

This is more than a case of carrying coals to Newcastle, by which I mean, the area doesn't need any more history superimposed on it, especially of the intoxicatingly distilled kind Disney is proposing.

This project has the possibility of not only sanitizing and making "enjoyable" a hugely tragic moment of our past, but of physically destroying.

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through subsequent development, the exquisite landscape where the ghosts of our collective past still have the power to mesmerize us with the palpable fact of our often sad history.

Let me stress that I have no objections to the Disney Company's desire to do popular history. I am in the same business and, in fact, am working with Disney on another unrelated history project. Indeed, many in my generation have been drawn to history in part

through the films of Walt Disney.

Further, I am distressed by the high level of rhetoric this conflict has promoted. Critics of the theme park have ascribed the worst and, at times, most ridiculous personal motives to Disney in searching for points of disagreement — something I find unnecessary.

This park is simply not needed here. It is in the wrong place. It will distract visitors from the real places of history, and it will damage the beauty and character of the area. (It is distressing to note that Gov. Allen, in announcing his package of \$163 million in incentives, failed to note that he was proposing to cut the budget for historical restoration in the nearby parks he is so confident will not be affected by Disney's America. How utterly hypocritical.)

I always think that if I were in a position to advise the Disney Company, which has traditionally guarded its image carefully, I would strongly advise it to abandon this project because of the long-term damage that Disney's America will ultimately do to the pristine image of the corporation.

For all these reasons and more, I am taking this stand against the theme park and look forward to working with Protect Historic America to stop the needless mauling of Northern Virginia — again.

■ Burns, a New Hampshire resident whose latest TV documentary is "Baseball," produced PBS' acclaimed 1990 series on the American Civil War.



SAVE THE BATTLEFIELD COALITION

P. O. BOX 110, CATHARPIN, VIRGINIA 22018

DISNEY DON'T MAUL THE BATTLEFIELDS !

PROMINENT CITIZENS WHO OPPOSE DISNEY'S "HISTORIC AMERICA"

ROBERT E. LEE STONEWALL JACKSON FITZ JOHN PORTER GEORGE B. MC CLELLAN JOHN POPE
PVT. WM. BLUE, 33rd Va Regmnt. Decsd July 21, 1861 PVT. EDW DILLON, New York Vol. Decsd Aug 30, 1862

In 1988 when we undertook our battle against the "malling" of Manassas Battlefield, a Washington Post columnist admonished us by writing "The United States belongs not to the people, but to those with the cash and the clout, and . . . those lucky few are the developers." You proved that it still belongs to "We, the people". Join us again - we need all the help you can give.

DISNEY'S HISTORIC AMERICA: UNPLANNED, UNNEEDED, UNWANTED!

Disney's America is on the fast track for county zoning approval. You will recall that the Warrenton Pike (Route 29) through the battlefields played a critical role in both First and Second Manassas (Bull Run). Already the two lane pike is backed up morning and night by commuters trying to avoid total gridlock on parallel I-66. If Disney comes it will be bumper to bumper traffic all day, every day, making it impossible for battlefield visitors to stop at key sites along the historic route. Regional commuters are demanding the Pike be widened to accomodate the massive traffic that Disney will generate. If it is widened, it will gut the heart of the battlefields, destroy or seriously compromise Stone Bridge, Stone House, Groveton Cemetery, the New York Monument, Dogan House and historic areas on both sides of the Pike where crucial actions and engagements took place.

Disney's "America" will also destroy the viewshed from the battlefields. Anything over five stories high either on the Disney site or anywhere along routes 15 and 29 would be visible from the park. In addition to Disney's fireworks, the night time glow from all the collateral development attracted by Disney along route 15 and parcels of land already being offered for sale adjacent to the battlefield boundaries, will be plainly visible from many areas of the park.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. **Write or call Disney's President Michael Eisner**, The Walt Disney Co., 500 S. Buena Vista, Burbank, CA 91521-1000. Phone 818/955-8214. Tell him we don't want Disney's America destroying real America. Let him know you will **Boycott Disney**. Drop any family plans you may have to visit existing Disney theme parks, boycott Disney videos and movies, don't buy Disney products, and tell your public school system you don't want your children subjected to the Disney curriculum the corporation plans to market to them, dissuade any organization of which you are a part from holding conventions at Disney parks.
2. **Send postcards to** : Your Senators, U.S. Senate, Wash. DC 20510 and to your Congressman, US Congress, Wash. D.C. 20515. Ask them to stop Federal approval of an I-66 interchange for Disney. Tell them you don't want to pay 49 million to fund and maintain an interchange for a private multibillion dollar corporation and their silent multi billion dollar partner Exxon.
3. **Circulate the enclosed petition** and send to us- we'll deliver it to Disney and copies to your representatives on Capitol Hill.
4. **Write letters protesting Disney's America in Haymarket, Virginia** to the Editors of your local newspapers and to ours: Potomac News, 14010 Smoketown Rd., Woodbridge, VA 22192, The Journal Messenger, 9009 Church St., Manassas, Va. 22110; The Prince William Journal, 13199 CentrePoint Way, Dale City, VA 22193 ;USA Today, PO Box 500, Washington, DC, 20044.
5. **Join the Coalition** by notifying us of your support or that of your association or club. Make a contribution to the war chest if you can but it's not as important as a contribution of time and effort spent on items 1, 2, 3, and 4 above.

Yes, I want to sign up- (no dues required)

Name (please print) _____

Address: _____

Send to Save the Battlefield Coalition, POBox 110, Catharpin, Va. 22018 Attention Annie Snyder

MORE THAN YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT

★ Joseph Wheeler 7

Joseph Wheeler, soldier and politician, was born September 10, 1836, near Augusta, Georgia. His parents were Joseph and Julia Hull Wheeler, of New England ancestry. Joseph received his primary education in the Connecticut and New York common schools as his family moved about. He was appointed to the United States Military Academy from New York, reported as a cadet on July 1, 1854, and graduated nineteenth in the class of 1859. Among his classmates were William E. Merrill (first), Samuel H. Lockett (second), Robert F. Beckham (sixth), Norman J. Hall (thirteenth), and Edwin H. Stoughton (seventeenth).

Commissioned a brevet 2d lieutenant in the 1st U.S. Dragoons, Wheeler reported for duty at the Carlisle Barracks cavalry school. He transferred to the Mounted Rifles, then posted at Fort Craig, New Mexico Territory, on June 26, 1860, and was promoted 2d lieutenant on September 1 of that year. On March 14, 1861, he was commissioned a 1st lieutenant in the Confederate artillery and ordered on April 16 to Pensacola, where he reported to Major General Braxton Bragg. It was one week later, on April 22, that the War Department in Washington accepted his resignation from the U.S. Army. On September 4 Wheeler was promoted colonel and named to command the 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment, then encamped near Huntsville, Alabama. Wheeler and his regiment were sent to Mobile on November 11 and assigned to Brigadier General Jones M. Withers' command. Following the mid-February 1862 disaster at Fort Donelson and the evacuation of Nashville, General Bragg stripped the defenses of Mobile, Pensacola, and New Orleans and concentrated his six-brigade corps at Corinth.

On April 6 Wheeler and his 19th Alabama, one of four infantry regiments and an artillery company constituting the brigade led by Brigadier General John K. Jackson, attacked the Union army at Shiloh. By late afternoon Wheeler and his people had been in three distinct engagements when they closed on the foe in the thickets west of Wicker field. Those Yanks who had been hiding the Hornets' Nest since mid-morning had finally been isolated, and Wheeler and his Alabamans were there when Brigadier General B.M. Prentiss and his twenty-two hundred men grounded arms and raised white flags. Wheeler was told by General Bragg to take charge of the prisoners and escort them to the rear. He, however, was relieved of



this responsibility by the 18th Alabama. On Monday the 7th, Wheeler first supported Brigadier General James R. Chalmers' Mississippians and late in the day screened the Confederate retreat.

Wheeler was an activist during the siege of Corinth (April 28–May 30). For four days—May 6–10—Wheeler and his pickets north of the state line clashed repeatedly with Union patrols; then, on May 28–29, while he was an acting brigade commander, there was bitter skirmishing along the picket line east of Bridge Creek, as soldiers of the Army of the Ohio inched their way nearer to the Rebel rifle-pits. On the night of the 29th, Wheeler helped cover the evacuation of Corinth and the march south to Tupelo by destroying the Tuscumbia River bridges.

General Bragg, now commander of the Army of the Mississippi, named Wheeler his chief of cavalry on July 13. Before the end of the month, Wheeler led his first raid from Holly Springs and struck deep into West Tennessee, destroying several railroad bridges and besting Yankee horse soldiers on eight occasions.

He and his brigade crossed the Tennessee River at Chattanooga on August 27 to become active participants in the Kentucky Campaign. Beginning at Altamont three days later and continuing until he reached London, Kentucky, on October 22, Wheeler and his cavalry were never far from the enemy. During these fifty-seven days, Wheeler was involved in forty-five skirmishes, two actions, two affairs, and

the Battle of Perryville. His abilities as a leader of mounted men were recognized on October 30 when he was made brigadier general. Two weeks before he had been named to the command of all the cavalry in Bragg's army. When he returned to Middle Tennessee, "Little Joe" had become a force to reckon with. However, he had inadvertently aroused the ire of another Rebel cavalry leader—Nathan Bedford Forrest—when Bragg assigned most of Forrest's command to Wheeler in mid-September and sent "Old Bedford" back to Murfreesboro to raise a new brigade.

Little Joe added to his laurels during the Stones' River Campaign (December 26, 1862–January 5, 1863). He and his horse soldiers, in passing around the Union Army of the Cumberland, raised havoc with enemy trains, destroying hundreds of wagons loaded with supplies and capturing more than seven hundred prisoners. Following the army's retreat to the Duck River line, Wheeler struck at the Yankees' Cumberland River lifeline, and at Harpeth Shoals on January 12–13, captured and burned three steamboats and took more than four hundred prisoners. General Bragg, in calling attention to the raid, asked that Wheeler be promoted as a "just reward." Wheeler, with his command reinforced by Forrest's, next attacked Dover (Fort Donelson), where on February 23 they were repulsed by the small Union garrison. This led to hot words between Wheeler and Forrest, in which the latter stated "...there is one thing I want you to put in that report to General Bragg. Tell him that I will be in my coffin before I will fight again under your command." Wheeler was now a major general, having been promoted to that rank effective January 20.

Bragg confronted the bitterness between Wheeler and Forrest by assigning the former to guard the army's right and the latter the left. The Army of the Cumberland moved out on June 23 to begin the Tullahoma Campaign. At Shelbyville on the 27th onrushing Union cavalry overpowered Wheeler and trapped him and fifty of his men on the north side of the Duck River. Wheeler broke through the encirclement, plunged his horse over a fifteen-foot embankment, and escaped across the rain-swollen river.

At Chickamauga on September 18–20, Wheeler and his corps watched Bragg's left. Victorious, the Confederates closed in on Chattanooga and besieged the Army of the Cumberland. Wheeler and three small divisions crossed the Tennessee River on September 30 to interdict the sixty-mile route over which the Union supplied the forty thousand soldiers holed up in Chattanooga. On October 2 he scored the expedition's only major success, at Anderson's Cross Roads in the Sequatchie Valley, when he intercepted and destroyed more than seven hundred wagons and

sabered or shot hundreds of mules. Hotly pursued by Union cavalry, Wheeler pressed on and captured McMinnville with its six-hundred-man garrison. The chase continued with a fight near Murfreesboro on the 5th and at Farmington two days later. Wheeler beat the Yankees to Muscle Shoals, where on October 9 he recrossed the Tennessee with an exhausted and badly used-up command.

In mid-November Wheeler with two divisions marched into East Tennessee with Lieutenant General James Longstreet's columns against Major General Ambrose E. Burnside's army. Wheeler took the lead when the Confederates left Sweetwater on November 13, striking first at Marysville and then at Kingston as Burnside's troops fell back into the Knoxville fortifications. Wheeler on the 24th left Brigadier General Will Martin in charge of his two divisions and accompanied by his escort headed back to Chattanooga. He was too late.

On the 25th, Bragg's army had been routed from Missionary Ridge. In the fight at Ringgold Gap on the 27th, Wheeler was wounded in the foot as his cavalry and Patrick Cleburne's infantry checked the Union pursuit, saved Bragg's trains, and enabled the army to reach Dalton, Georgia, where it regrouped and General Joseph E. Johnston replaced Bragg.

Wheeler used the winter of 1863–64 to reorganize, rest, beef up, and re-equip his cavalry corps as much as possible. On May 7, the day Major General William T. Sherman put his "army group" in motion to begin the four-month Atlanta Campaign, Wheeler's corps numbered seventy-three hundred, organized into three divisions. By June 10—with the addition of Brigadier General William H. Jackson's division which had arrived from Mississippi in mid-May—his corps had increased to twelve thousand, three hundred. Wheeler and his horse soldiers screened the army's flanks, seeing action daily as Sherman employed his superior numbers to maneuver Johnston out of eight successive positions between Rocky Face and the Chattahoochee.

On July 18, with the Yanks at the gates of Atlanta, General John Bell Hood replaced Johnston and the Confederate strategy changed, with the Army of Tennessee coming out from behind its works to carry the fight to Sherman's "army group" on July 20, 22, and 28. Sherman now became cautious, had his troops entrench, and sent two formidable cavalry columns—George Stoneman's to the southeast and Edward McCook's to the southwest—to wreck the railroads over which Hood supplied the defenders of Atlanta. Wheeler had less than five thousand horsemen. Between July 27 and 31, Wheeler checkmated the enemy, turning back and hammering McCook and beating and capturing Stoneman, causing Sherman to comment, "...the cavalry raid was not deemed a success."

Wheeler's next major encounter with the foe was a Confederate disaster. On August 10, Wheeler and most of his corps crossed the Chattahoochee. His mission was to wreck the single-track railroad over which Sherman supplied his "army group." Several minor breaks in the railroad were made between Marietta and Calhoun before Wheeler struck Dalton on the 14th. Although he captured the town, most of the garrison holed up and held out in a nearby fort until relieved by a column that advanced from Chattanooga. Wheeler then broke off his attacks on the Western & Atlanta and rode into East Tennessee, crossing the Tennessee River above Knoxville. He then headed west, making minor breaks in the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad near the former city, then heading south and fighting off pursuit at Franklin, Lynnvile, and Campbellsville, and recrossed the Tennessee at Tuscumbia, Alabama, on September 2. Wheeler's raid had cost him two generals and the services of one-half his command. But, far more important, his absence from the army had so blinded and deluded General Hood that Sherman outmaneuvered the Rebel leader, beat him at Jonesboro, and compelled the Army of Tennessee to evacuate Atlanta. Wheeler returned to north Georgia in early October and on the 2d, after threatening Dalton for the second time in six weeks, destroyed the railroad bridge at Resaca and on the 8th rendezvoused with Hood's army at Cedartown.

Hood soon thereafter took his army into northwest Alabama preparatory to his march into Middle Tennessee. Wheeler with most of his cavalry remained in Georgia and beginning on November 15 found himself confronted with a "mission impossible"—opposing Sherman's March to the Sea. Initially, Wheeler sought to slow the progress of Sherman's right wing as it feinted toward Macon. Then, as Union columns converged on Milledgeville, he passed in front of them and took position to cover the approaches to Augusta. Here, near Waynesboro, and along Brier Creek (November 27–28), he clashed with Sherman's cavalry, led by Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick, whom he had known at West Point. The two generals were bitter rivals, fighting as savagely with words as with their swords.

Lax discipline on the part of Wheeler and his principal subordinates caused bitter words on the part of many Confederates, Robert Toombs noting: "...I hope to God he will never get back to Georgia." Another less prominent Georgian wrote to President Davis, calling the cavalry "Wheeler's robbers" and stating that "the people of our state had reached the point where they did not care which army won, as Sherman was not making war any harder on them than our cavalry." Major General D.H. Hill wrote that "the whole of Georgia is full of bitter complaints of Wheeler's cavalry."

Wheeler, in early February 1865, vainly sought to slow Sherman's march into the heart of South

Carolina. On the 11th he and his two thousand men beat Kilpatrick at Aiken. But this did not redeem Wheeler's waning reputation and he was replaced as General P.G.T. Beauregard's cavalry chief by Wade Hampton. Fighting under Hampton, Wheeler saw action on the approaches to Columbia and embarrassed Kilpatrick at Monroe's Cross Roads on March 10, compelling him to abandon his mistress and flee in his nightshirt. Kilpatrick, however, rallied his command and counterattacking compelled Wheeler to withdraw. Wheeler was at Averagesboro (March 17) and under Hampton at Bentonville (March 19–21). He was in his last fight at Chapel Hill on April 15. In the days following the April 26 surrender by General Joseph E. Johnston of his forces, Wheeler took a small command south hoping to join President Jefferson Davis and the presidential party at Cokesbury, South Carolina. The rendezvous occurred, but not as planned. On May 9, Wheeler and his party were intercepted at Conyer's Station, Georgia, and were taken prisoner.

Escorted to Athens, Georgia, he was confined briefly with Davis and his party, who had been captured near Irwinville. The prisoners were taken to Fort Monroe, where they were separated and Wheeler was sent to Fort Delaware. He was held there in solitary confinement until June 8 when he was paroled and released.

Wheeler located in New Orleans and became a commission merchant. On February 8, 1866, he married Daniella Jones Sherrod. Two sons and five daughters were born to the couple. In 1868 the Wheelers moved to the Tennessee Valley of Alabama, settling in a community that was subsequently named Wheeler in his honor. Here he planted cotton and was admitted to the bar. Upon the rise of the Bourbons and the collapse of the reconstruction governments as a result of the 1876 election, Wheeler entered politics. In 1880 he was elected to the 47th Congress to represent the Eighth Alabama District. He served from March 4, 1882, until June 3, 1882, when he was unseated by William M. Lowe, who successfully contested the election. Upon the death of Lowe soon thereafter, he was elected to the same Congress to fill the vacancy and sat from January 15 to March 3, 1883. Elected to the 49th and the seven succeeding Congresses, Wheeler served from March 4, 1885, until April 20, 1900, when he resigned.

In Congress, he was active in military and fiscal affairs. Longevity made him the ranking Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, and he battled the high-tariff Republican majority. He championed raids on the Treasury by Union veterans seeking increased pensions. He took Fitz-John Porter's side in the latter's successful fight to vindicate his name.

In April 1898 the United States declared war against Spain and Wheeler volunteered his services to President William McKinley. On May 4 he was commissioned major general of volunteers. McKinley's action was applauded as a great step to use the crisis to enhance the spirit of reconciliation, of which Wheeler had been a prominent advocate. Wheeler commanded the cavalry division that landed at Daiquiri, thirteen miles east of Santiago-de-Cuba; participated in the fight at Los Guasimas on June 24 despite sickness; was present at San Juan Hill on July 1; and was the ranking member of the commission that negotiated the surrender of Santiago. Upon returning to the States he commanded the Montauk Point, New York, convalescent and mustering-out camp.

Wheeler then rushed across the Pacific and in the fight against the Philippine Insurrectos (July 8, 1899-January 24, 1900), led a brigade in the Tarlac campaign and other operations in central Luzon. After his return to the United States he was commissioned a brigadier general in the U.S. Regular Army on June 16 and retired at age sixty-four on September 14 of that year.

He resided in Brooklyn, New York, until his death on January 25, 1906. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His continuing reputation in the early 20th century was underscored by his selection as one of Alabama's two heroes to have their statues in the nation's capitol.

Edwin C. Bearss

DeLeon, T.C., *Joseph Wheeler: The Man, The Statesman, The Soldier* (Atlanta, 1899).

Dodson, W.C., *Campaigns of Wheeler and His Cavalry* (Atlanta, 1899).

Dyer, John P., *"Fighting Joe" Wheeler* (Baton Rouge, 1941).

Dubose, John W., *General Joseph Wheeler and the Army of Tennessee* (New York, 1912).

--- Confederate Generals Vol.6

IMPORTANT MESSAGE!



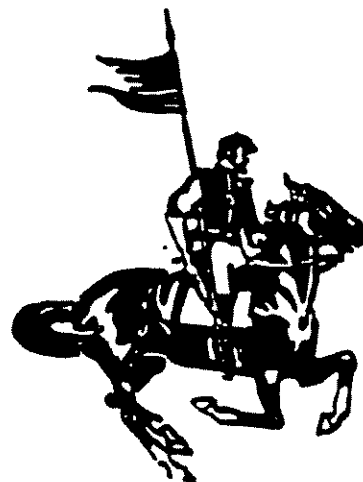
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OLLAPODRIDA

In the Confederate Army a captain was paid \$140 per month, a major \$162 a month, a lieutenant-colonel \$187 a month, and generals \$301. A soldier said that the \$1 was for what they did, the \$300 was just thrown in to please them.

--- Recollections of a Confederate Staff Officer by G. Moxley Sorrel pp14

As McClellan's army moved up the Peninsula, a number of Washingtonians took a holiday trip to look at Yorktown after its evacuation. What happened after their arrival is told with glee by a newspaper reporter:

Several of the sightseers asked the corporal of the guard for a pass on the plea that they were Congressmen. The corporal stated the case to the colonel.

"They are Congressmen, are they?" asked the colonel. "So they say. Well, let them pass. Let them tramp on the torpedoes, go into the magazines, and wherever there is a prospect of their being blown to the devil, for that is the quickest way to end the war."

--- The Civil War: An American Iliad by Newman & Eisenschim pp 89

On the march toward Gettysburg, members of the 66th Ohio Volunteer Infantry of Candy's Brigade found an opportunity for a little spontaneous recreation. William Henry Harrison Tallman remembered stopping at a farm house along the road where he and his comrades "squandered our shin plasters for soft bread, butter, apple butter, and cheese, the likes of which I never smelled before. This cheese was made up in round balls about the size of a regulation baseball and when broken open perfumed the air for rods around us. Then commenced a lively pelting of each other with the cheese balls and the odor in and around our company was dense enough to cut with a knife."

--- The Second Day at Gettysburg, "Henry Slocum and the Twelfth Corps" by A. Wilson Greene pp94 (from the Memoir of William Henry Harrison Tallman)

Capt. George Armstrong Custer to General George B. McClellan, May 6, 1863:

"To say that everything is gloomy and discouraging does not express the state of affairs here. Hooker's career is well exemplified by that of a rocket, he went up like one and came down like a stick. It is reported that at two different times Hooker was wounded or injured by a shell and that this interfered with his success....If anything except his lack of ability interfered or prevented him from succeeding, it was a wound he received from a projectile which requires a cork to be drawn before it is serviceable...."

--- Chancellorsville 1863, by Ernest B. Furgurson reprinted from "Old Baldy" newsletter of the Philadelphia CWRT

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



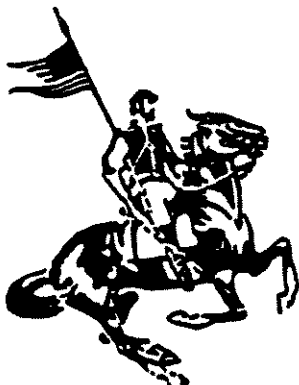
The first meeting of this season's Civil War Round Table introduced a new book and author. Hugh Whitehouse has edited letters his great-great-nephew, George Washington Partridge, wrote to his family prior to his death at Gettysburg. The proceeds of this book are being donated to the Western Reserve Historical Society Library, with hope that the money will be used in the cataloging of their Civil War collection. You can purchase the book at the Western Reserve Historical Society or directly from Mr. Whitehouse at (his address).

There has been much discussion regarding the changes in our constitution before, during and after the September meeting. During the meeting it was announced that a vote on the constitution changes would be tallied at the October meeting. However, this is too soon for all members to review the old and new constitution and make arrangements to attend the next meeting. The constitution requires that any changes are to be voted on at a meeting (no proxy or mail-in voting) and a two-thirds affirmative vote is needed to pass any changes. Since there are several changes, each one must be voted separately. The documents will be mailed to all members and voting will take place, by ballot, at the January 11, 1995 meeting. There will also be some time available at the next three meetings for members to express their opinions. If you cannot attend, please write to me and express your thoughts. (You must be present to cast a vote.)

Please read the Field Trip report to see which members survived. Yes, it is true:

1. The search and rescue team recovered three of our party.
2. One member did arrive after harassment by an airline stewardess.
3. The General will learn the difference between daylight saving time and central time if the breaking and entry incident is discovered.
4. Our beloved editor did arrive safely in Cleveland in spite of the large deposit he left in Nashville.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Jim Ogden III and Joe Terpak and especially to Bob Battisti for their efforts above and way beyond the call of duty.



The Cleveland Civil War Round-Table
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