

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

SEPTEMBER 1985

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 4

Meeting

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th

PLACE: THE HERMIT CLUB

SPEAKER: **THOMAS VAN AKEN TO SPEAK**

SUBJECT: **ON LINCOLN'S RELATIONSHIP TO OHIO**

TIME: GEMUTLICHKEIT 6:00 P.M. DINNER 7:00 P.M.

Our speaker to start the new season will be Thomas Van Aken, son of the well-known mayor of Shaker Heights. He graduated from Western Reserve University and has his own law firm. He is the former President of the Ohio Bar Association and served two years in the Ohio House of Representatives.



The talk Mr. Van Aken will present is one that he has been giving for thirty years. He will deal with Ohioans who played a role both in Lincoln's developing career and during his presidency. Van Aken's interest in Abraham Lincoln began years ago when he was impressed by his grandmother's impressions of the Great Emancipator.

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The October meeting will be held at the home of Ken Callahan.

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**RESERVATIONS A MUST
CALL TIM BEATTY AT 243-7509**

THIS YEAR'S SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

OCTOBER 8

Dr. David Skagg of Bowling Green University will speak on The 20th Maine. This meeting will be held at the home of Ken Callahan.

NOVEMBER 12

Ken Callahan will speak on The Western Front of World War I. Meeting at the Hermit Club.

DECEMBER 10

Mr. Jay Luvaas of the Army War College will present a talk on the founding of National Parks at Civil War battle sites. Meeting to be held at Grays Armory.

JANUARY 14

Annual Quiz and Book Sale. At the Hermit Club.

FEBRUARY 11

Brian Kowell will talk on General Kilpatrick. Meeting at the Hermit Club.

MARCH 11

Bob Monroe will speak on Johnson's Island and present plans for development there.

APRIL 8

Colonel James G. Bogle of Atlanta will talk on the Andrews Raid. This is Ladies Night at the Hermit Club.

May 13th

James M. McPherson, of Princeton University. Topic and place coming.



1985 - 1986

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Jock Collins, Dave Wood.

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Charger - Stuart Cramer,
Assistant Editor - Hazel Cramer.
216-967-5971.

Dues - September to September
\$20. Non-resident - \$10.

BOB THUM OFFERS FIELD TRIP PLAN

When he read in the summer issue that there was to be no field trip, member Bob Thum immediately wrote suggesting a trip to New England. He said he would line up the itinerary for visits to Hildene (Rt. Todd Lincoln's Home), Bennington Battlefield and Museum, Ticonderoga, Sarasota and points between. President Tim is trying to line up a group at this writing.

FRED GILL'S BOOK REVIEW

The Long Surrender, by Burke Davis.
Random House, New York, 1985.

Here is another twenty dollar Civil War book that plows anew ground already well-plowed. Maybe I have read too many Civil War books, for sliding through this one I had the rising feeling I had been here before. This is not to say it is a bad book. It is a good book. It is passably well-written, reasonably well-organized, exhibits the author's firm grasp of the history of our favorite war, and, of course, in common with perhaps all writers of history, exhibits his pet prejudices. Somehow the book seemed a little trivial. Maybe this is because I kept running upon bits of trivia I had never encountered before.



Here are some of these irresistible nuggets:

"It was not their (Jeff Davis and Joe Johnston's) first quarrel, for they had become enemies as West Point cadets when they staged a fist fight over the affections of a tavern keeper's daughter. Johnston, the heavier of the two, won the fight, and their relationship had been strained ever since." (Wonder how the tavern keeper's daughter made out.)

"When Clement Clay returned from his abortive Canadian venture, his blockade runner ran aground in Charleston harbor and was set afire by Union guns. Clay got into a lifeboat, which also grounded, forcing him to wade ashore in chin deep waters. Miraculously, he managed to salvage not only a trunk of valuables meant for Judah Benjamin but also a large Newfoundland dog that had been stolen from Robert E. Lee by a Union soldier who sold him in Canada, where Clay found him." (Can't you see Clay wading ashore towing a trunk and encouraging the dog?)



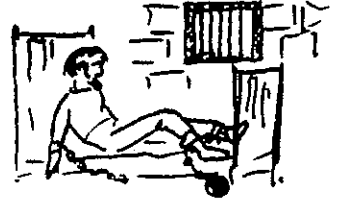
When Virginia Clay was on a ship and wondering how she could get letters to people who might help her husband out of prison "... a Federal soldier tossed a note into her cabin: 'I will mail your letters. Trust me.' She passed the letters to the soldier and when the ship made a way stop, her appeals went into the mail without the knowledge of Federal authorities." (Wonder who the guy was and what he got out of it.)

The author gives just enough of his book to the generals and cabinet officers to justify the title. The bulk of the book is given over to Jefferson Davis, the travails of his flight, the indignities of his imprisonment, the oddness of his rising from the ashes and the extensive gossip about him and Virginia Clay, especially the juicy scenario of the upper and lower Pullman berths.

Davis certainly was a disagreeable man, but he was just as certainly attractive to women, not only the vivacious Mrs. Clay but also Sarah Ann Dorsey, a widow who sheltered him in his last years and willed all her property to him. The author frequently notes Davis' predilection for kissing all the pretty girls when occasions offered. Now I have

nothing against kissing pretty girls, but it seems the Confederate President seldom let the dignity of his office deter him. Maybe that is just the Southern gentleman's way, but can you imagine Lee, the quintessential of Southern gentleman, doing it?

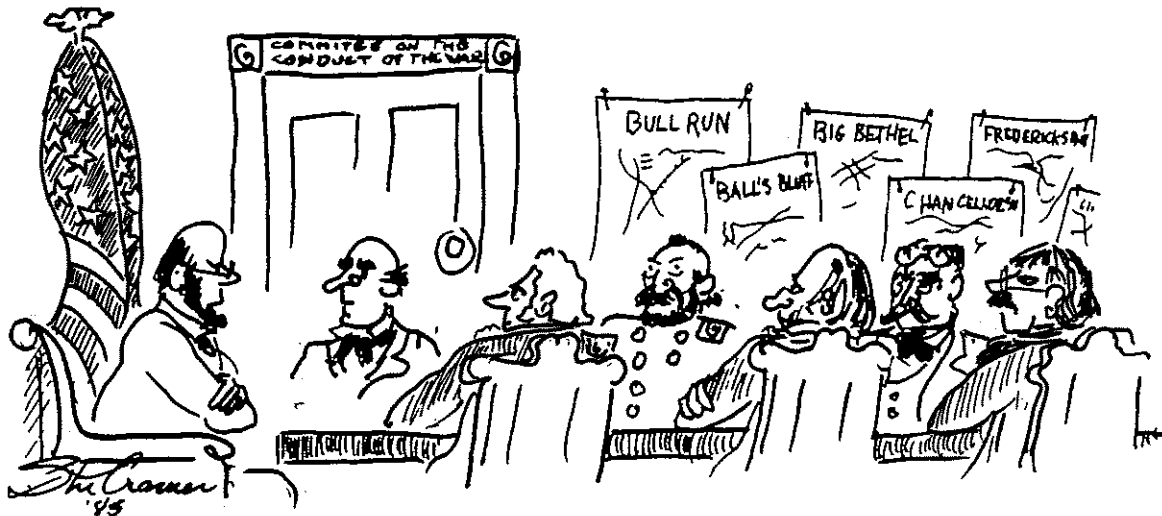
The author's pet prejudice shines in his treatment of Nelson Miles, the crockery clerk who rose eventually to Lieutenant General and Commander-in-Chief of the Army, may not have been the paragon of virtue, but there is ample evidence elsewhere that he was unjustly accused of shameful treatment of Davis at Fort Monroe. The author makes no effort to show Miles as anything but an unfeeling boor. Stanton was the real villain in the situation. Miles, remember, was a twenty-six year old brigadier general when he commanded Fort Monroe and you can hardly blame him for being careful not to incense that crazy Stanton, Secretary of War.



The author emphasizes the penury of Davis. After his release from imprisonment, Davis, his wife, and children went to Canada; then there were trips to Mississippi and Louisiana, to Richmond for Lee's funeral, and Varina went to England and back. The author never explains where the money for all this activity came from. Much has been made of the Confederate treasury gold that followed Davis on that creaking wagon trip from Richmond. The amount of the treasure never was firmly established, but a lot of it went the way of all unaccountable funds. Some apparently was recovered by the Federals but there must have been sticky fingers there in the Carolinas as the caravan disintegrated. However, it is reasonably certain none of these fingers belonged to Davis. So where did the traveling money come from? Finding out would be a great project for some ambitious graduate student.

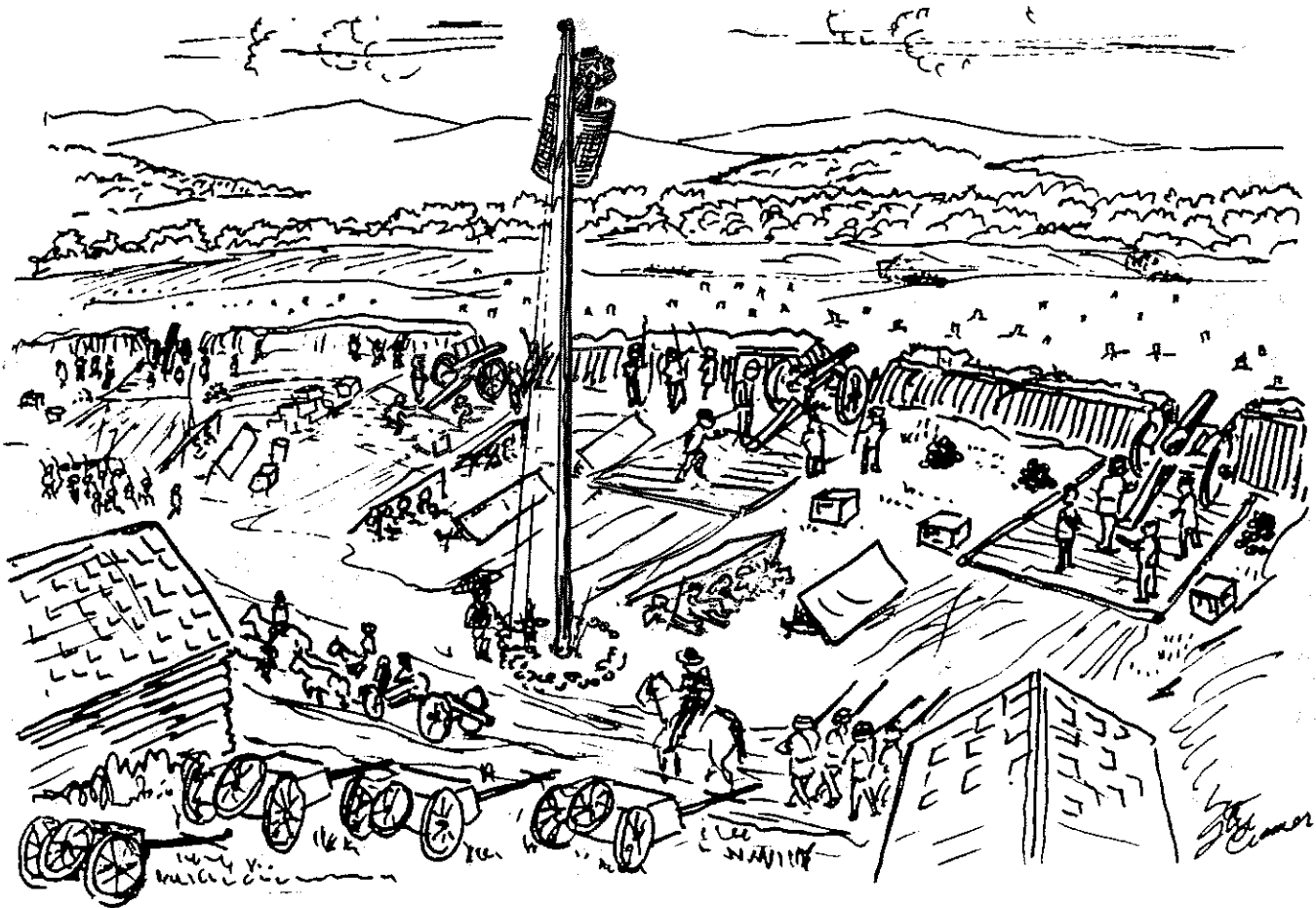
It is part of the greater tragedy that Davis could not have surrendered with the grace and good sense of Lee instead of pursuing the chimera of continued resistance. Could it be that Lee was the greater statesman?

CIVIL WAR SMILES - by STU CRAMER



"All those who prefer to view the current situation with increasing alarm please signify by saying 'Aye.' "

SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



On June 14, 1863, General Ewell's II Corps were surrounding the Union garrison at Winchester, Virginia. The Union forces, numbering approximately 6000 men, were under the command of Major General Robert Milroy.

Milroy had been warned by Halleck of the approaching Rebels but insisted that he could hold Winchester "against any force the Rebels could afford to bring against it." On the 13th the Confederates had made their presence known. While skirmishing, they moved behind the screen of hills for a better position from which to attack.

Milroy moved his men into the protection of three Federal forts - West, Star and Main. Still unaware of the enemy's strength and to better ascertain the enemy's movements, at sunrise on the 14th, General Milroy had himself hoisted in a basket by block and tackle up the flagpole of Main Fort - 50 feet above the ramparts. "All day, under a burning sun, did General Milroy keep his position in the lookout, and with glass anxiously scan for sign of the enemy; but none was manifest," said Captain Palmer in the Official Records.

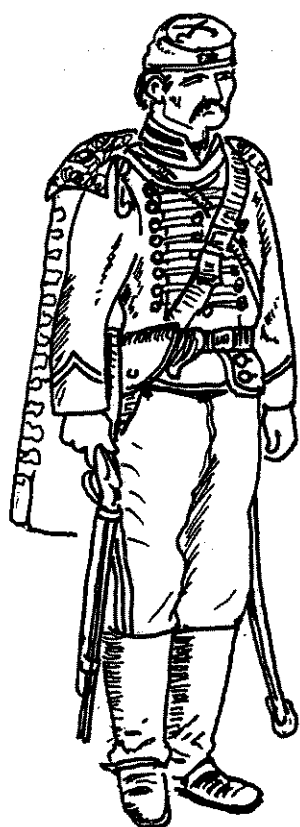
Milroy had courage. He was exposed to sniper fire. What saved him was probably the distance to the nearest Confederate position - too far even for the best weapons of the day. Perhaps it would have been better if Milroy had sought a shady spot where he could have thought more clearly. During the next two days Milroy suffered 443 casualties and 3,358 men captured. He barely escaped himself to Harpers Ferry to later face a court of inquiry for his actions.

From Here Come the Rebels, by Wilbur S. Nye. Thanks, Brian Kowell

1ST UNITED STATES HUSSAR REGIMENT

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1864-1865



On October 17 President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation calling on the loyal states to provide new regiments. New Jersey's quota was three regiments, two infantry and one cavalry. After three years of hard fighting, most Americans were convinced that soldiering could be dangerous to the health; so the New Jersey authorities expected considerable difficulty in securing enough recruits. So they used a bit of Napoleon psychology and outfitted the infantry in fancy Zouave uniforms and designated the cavalry regiment as "The 1st United States Hussar Regiment, basing the design of the uniform on that of the Austrian Hussars.

The chance to become a "Hussar" rather than a mere cavalryman proved to be great recruiting gimmick, and during January, February and March, 1864, the regiment rapidly filled up; as they were raised the twelve companies were mustered into the Federal service for three years, unless sooner if the war ended. On April 5th the 1st Hussars rode out of New Jersey, completely equipped and mounted: 47 officers and 1,131 noncommissioned officers and men. President Lincoln reviewed them as they passed through Washington to join General Ambrose E. Burnside's IX Corps at Annapolis, Maryland. The newspapers commented upon their showy uniforms.

While in the IX the regiment was partially broken up by being employed as patrols, courier details and escort duties. About 400, still intact, were eventually transferred to the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac. The 1st Hussars were eyed with some dubiousness by their new comrades in the Cavalry Corps, and because of the fancy uniforms became known as "the butterflies." However, they soon proved themselves; and after one year of service they had participated in victories at Winchester, Tom's Brook, Cedar Creek, Waynesboro, Five Forks, Saylor's Creek and Appomattox.

So, what did these fellows look like?

Privates wore sky-blue pantaloons with two yellow stripes. Jackets were dark blue with a profusion of yellow cords across the breast and on front of the collar on an orange-colored background. Three rows of large, burnished bell buttons adorned the breast with braiding. The caps were tilted, and without visors (trooper's biggest objection.) Officers wore even gayer outfits with gold cord and trappings. Non-coms had an extra orange stripe on their trousers on either side of the yellow stripe. The most unusual feature of these swanky uniforms was the thigh-length cape, fur-lined, of light blue material, with yellow braid and tassel, similar to the European Hussar's pelisse.

They were armed with Spencer repeating carbines, Whitney revolvers and regular cavalry sabers.

Information from Military Collector and Historian
and the New York CWRT Dispatch

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THOSE NASTY NORTHERN NEWSPAPERS,

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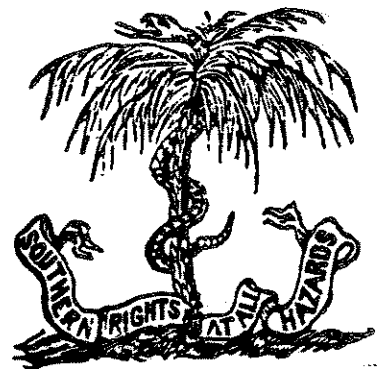
Now, boasting Southron, hold thine own,
No maiden's arms are round thee thrown!
A Northern Freeman holds thee fast—
Yield! or this moment is thy last!



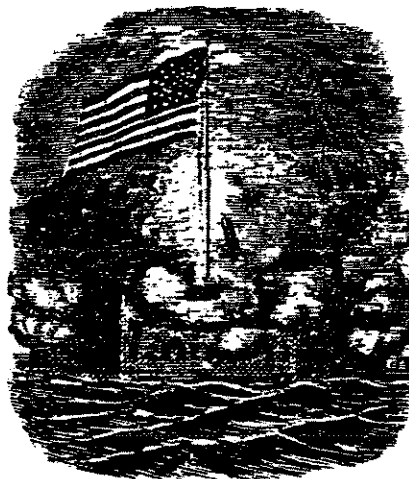
DESIGNS FOR A NEW COIN FOR THE U. S. A.



Three cheers for the Red, White and Blue.



GENERAL BOAR-A-GUARD
ON DUTY



REMEMBER FORT SUMTER!



Poor deluded Miss-Souri takes a
Secession bath, and finds it much
hotter than she expected!

THE PLATFORMS
AS INTERPRETED BY THE SOLDIERS.
McClellan Platform. Union Platform.



"Cessation of Hostilities."



"For a vigorous
prosecution of the War."

Above were taken from
Civil War Heroes and
Their Battles, a 1985
reproduction of a book
issued around 1888 by
the advertisers of "Bull
Durham" tobacco.



The Irrepressible Conflict.

OLLAROODORIDA

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Recently a queen-sized bed supposedly built by Abraham Lincoln in the 1830's was sold for \$2500.00 at an auction. While the auctioneer asked for an opening bid of \$100,000, the only one made was the above. The owner, if he can't sell it, intends to donate the bed to a Lincoln museum, but with no proof of authenticity, it is doubtful if any museum will accept. As the editor of "Lincoln News Digest" in the Lincoln Herald said, "If all the furniture claimed to have been sold by the Lincolns prior to their move to Washington were assembled in one place, there probably would be enough pieces on which to sit, lie, and feed all the people who claimed to have been in Ford's Theatre at the time of the assassination."

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The Confederacy did manage to mint a few gold coins - all stamped "United States of America." This happened in 1861. Confederate troops seized the Dahlonega (Georgia) mint, and the gold dies on hand were used to manufacture one and five dollar gold pieces. The mint had not struck any dollars that year, and so all surviving 1861-D one dollar coins are known as Confederate -made. Today they command up to twenty-three thousand dollars each!

National Heritage Magazine

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General George Gordon Meade was a great lover of military band music. Concert overtures, operatic selections and music of the better class had a great charm for him. When he was not familiar with the selection being played within his camp area, he would send his orderly to be informed of the title of the piece and the name of its composer.

New York CWRT Dispatch

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The presence of music even in the midst of war was remarked by an English observer at the Battle of Gettysburg, who wrote: "When the cannonade was at its height, a Confederate band ...began to play polkas and waltzes, which sounded very curious accompanied by the hissing and bursting of the shells."

New York CWRT Dispatch

A CONFEDERATE DRUMMER.

The picture given on the front page of this Reunion number is that of Martin D. Luther, one of the few surviving drummers of the Confederate army. He was born in Buncombe County, N. C., and at the beginning of the war, in 1861, he enlisted in Company I, 25th North Carolina Infantry Regiment. He took part in the battles of Suffolk, Va., and Plymouth, N. C., and at the latter place was left on the field for dead, but was later taken to the hospital and in ninety days rejoined his regiment. He was also in the battle of the Wilderness and the siege of Petersburg. During this siege the drummer of his company was killed, and Comrade Luther took his place and served as drummer to the end of the war. He had the distinction of beating the last roll call in Lee's army before the surrender at Appomattox. Since the war he has been one of the prominent Confederate veterans of Athens, Tenn., and a member of the U. C. V. Camp at that place.



From The Confederate Veteran, 1911

For Sale

Civil War Times
Illust. magazines
1966-1985..\$200.
Contact Fred Gill
216-283-4371.

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220 Union and Rebel
15 mm lead soldiers
for tabletop war
games. Incl. book
on how to play.
\$100. Contact
Charger. Do YOU
have a bargain
for sale? Send in.