

# *THE CHARGER*

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

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SEPTEMBER 1994

326TH MEETING

VOL. 16 #1

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## **PLEASE NOTE DAY CHANGE**

**DATE:** TUESDAY, September 13, 1994

**PLACE:** The Hermit Club

**SUBJECT:** "Letters from the Iron Brigade - George Washington Partridge, Jr., 1839-1863 - Civil War Letters to his Sister"

**SPEAKER:** Hugh L. Whitehouse. The title of this month's talk is also the title of Mr. Whitehouse's new book. George Washington Partridge, Jr. enlisted in the 7th Wisconsin Volunteers and fought with the Iron Brigade. He was killed at Gettysburg in the first days fighting, July 1, 1863, at age 23. The letters are to his sisters in Erie, Pa., and in Waukegan, Ill. His letters are direct, colloquial, honest, and surprisingly humorous. Mr. Whitehouse is a native of Erie, Pennsylvania who now resides in Cleveland, Ohio. He is a graduate of Harvard College and of the Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, with a degree in music. He was the founder and President of Stanley Air Tools, Division of the Stanley Works.

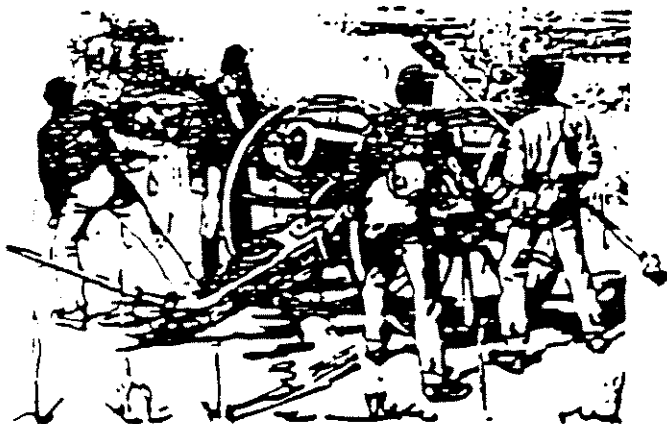
**TIME:** Cocktails 6PM      Dinner 7PM

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



# CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

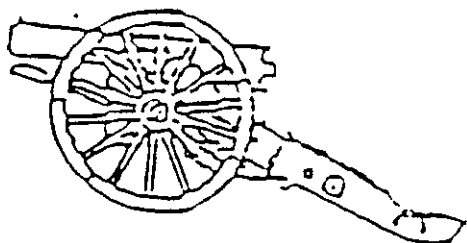
1957 \* 1994



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Preserve Your Battlefields!

# THIS YEAR'S SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

Sept.	Hugh L. Whitehouse Letters From the Iron Brigade
Oct.	Michael Dory TBA
Nov.	Marshall Krolick Calvary Fight During Chancellorsville
Dec.	A. Wilson Green
Jan.	Civil War Debates
Feb.	Brian Kowell Kilpatrick's Shirttail Skedaddle
March	Kevin Casey Battle of Monococy
April	Robert Krick TBA
May	TBA



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**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.

# ***EARLY ALERT***

## **CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE**

### **FALL 1994 FIELDTRIP**

### **NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**SEPTEMBER 22-25, 1994**

<b>ITINERARY:</b>	Thursday, Sept. 22nd	Dinner & Lecture
	Friday, Sept. 23rd	Battle of Stone River
	Saturday, Sept. 24th	Battles of Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville
	Sunday, Sept. 25th	Leave by Noon

**FEATURING:** James Ogden, III  
Historian, National Park Services

**RESERVATION** \$65.00  
**COST:** Motel accommodations being investigated  
by Jim Ogden.

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### **RESERVATION FORM**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

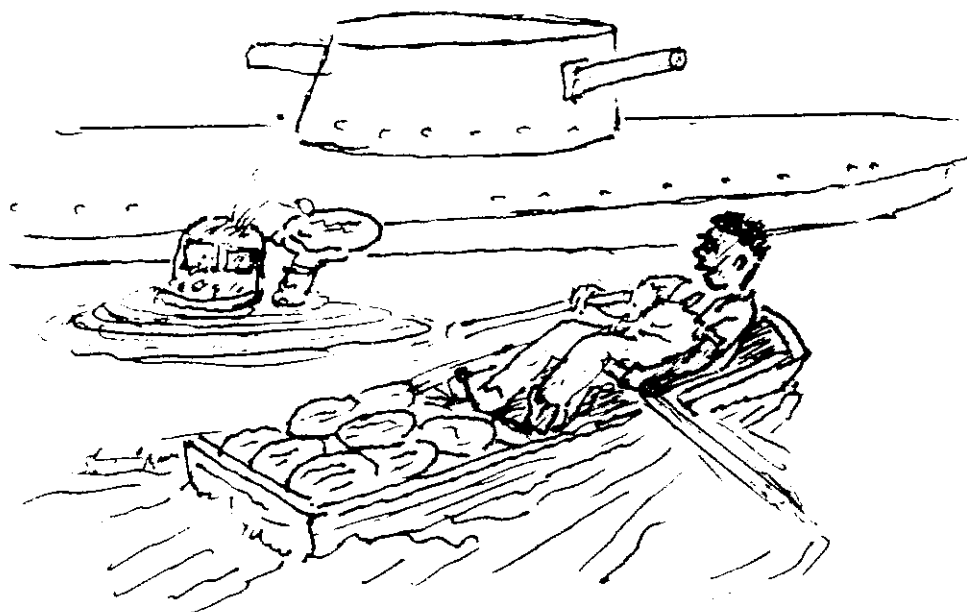
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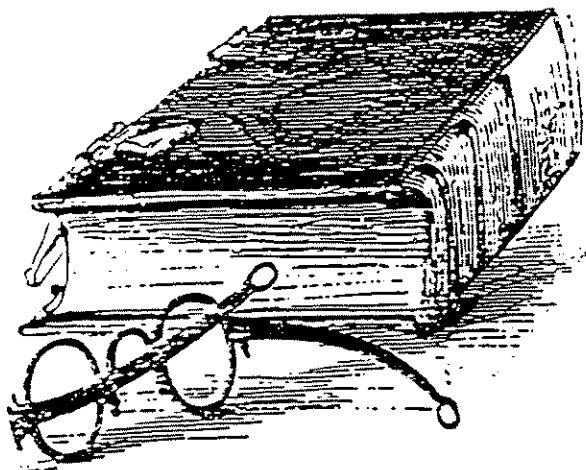
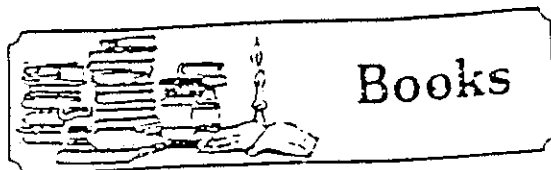
**GIVE YOUR RESERVATION TO:** General JET or Bob Battisti

## SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



The principal diver employed at Port Royal, South Carolina, for cleaning the bottoms of the monitors, was named - and quite appropriately - Waters. A man of Herculean strength and proportions, he became, when clad in his submarine armor, positively monstrous in size and appearance. A more singular sight than to see him roll or tumble into the water and disappear from sight or popping up, blowing, as the air escaped from his helmet, like a young whale, could scarcely be imagined. Remaining five or six hours at a time under water, he had become almost amphibious.

Waters had his own ideas of a joke and when a curious audience was around he would wave his scrapper about as he bobbed around on the water with the air of a veritable river god. One summer day while he was employed scrapping the hull of a monitor, a Negro from one of the up-river plantations came alongside with a boatload of watermelons. While busy selling his melons to the hungry sailors, the diver came up and rested himself on the side of the boat. The Negro stared at the extraordinary appearance thus suddenly coming out of the water, with alarmed wonder. When the diver, with a gigantic motion, seized one of the plumpest melons in his boat and disappeared under the water with the gurgling of the air from his helmet mixed with his muffled laughter, the fright of the Negro reached a climax. Hastily seizing his oars, without a thought being paid to his melons, he put off at his best speed, nor was he ever seen in the vicinity of Station Creek again. Believing that the Yankees had brought river-devils to aid them in carrying on their war, no persuasion could tempt him again beyond the bounds of the plantation.



# Local Civil War vet recorded exploits

## Norwalk native leads Ohio regiment in the Battle of Gettysburg

By KATHY ROOT  
Reflector Staff Writer

NORWALK REFLECTOR, TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1994

NORWALK — Many local residents have spent hours this summer watching Ted Turner's epic, "Gettysburg," on TV, but few here realize that a pivotal unit in that battle was commanded by a Norwalk native.

A book recently re-published by Blue Acorn Press is a 200-page account of the exploits of the 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Army of the Potomac, led by Franklin Sawyer, a Norwalk attorney.

Sawyer kept a journal of his war experiences and, at the urging of members of his regiment, published the narrative in 1881. Blue Acorn, a publishing firm in West Virginia, has reissued the rare book and added photographs and rosters of the 8th Ohio's personnel and leaders.

At the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, Sawyer commanded the Norwalk Light Guards, which were ordered into service at Camp Taylor in Cleveland, where they became Company D of the 8th Ohio, one of the best fighting units in the Army of the Potomac.

Quickly promoted to lieutenant colonel, Sawyer commanded the regiment through most of its service, seeing action at Antietam, Fredericksburg, the Wilderness Campaign and Spotsylvania.

At Gettysburg, where Sawyer was wounded in the head, the 8th Ohio lost nearly 50 percent of its strength to casualties.

On July 8th, 1861, the regiment was ready to leave Camp Dennison by train, destined for battle.

"We had heard of the rout of Garnett's army by McClellan, of the brilliant dash of Lander and Kelly at Phillippi, and every man was anxious to push forward and, at least, 'be in at the death.' Phineas P. Merwin had been elected sutler of the regiment, and was aboard with a stock of goods ... S.B. Fuller, of Norwalk, commonly known as

"Jonathan", was made wagon-master, and he was on hand with his transportation and cargo of

quartermaster and commissary stores," Sawyer wrote.

By May 1863, his unit was waiting and ready at Chancellorsville, where the men had the opportunity to engage Gen. Robert E. Lee's troops.

Union troops, under the command of Gen. "Fighting Joe" Hooker, who replaced Gen. Ambrose Burnside, were cheered on May 2 when their new leader sent them a message, Sawyer said.

"During the early afternoon, Gen. Hooker's famous document, 'that the enemy must either ingloriously fly or come out from behind his defenses and give us battle on our own ground

where certain destruction awaits him,' was read to the troops," Sawyer recorded. "The bands struck up 'Hail to the Chief,' flags waved, men shouted and cheered at the top of their voices."

But Hooker's message was not enough, as the Confederates won the the four-day battle at Chancellorsville, splitting the Union troops in two and forcing Hooker to flee. More than 16,000 Yankee troops were killed, while the rebels suffered nearly 13,000 casualties, including Stonewall Jackson.



FRANKLIN SAWYER

Two months later at Gettysburg, his unit was dug in near Emmitsburg Pike, waiting for the battle to commence. Orders came on the afternoon of July 2 to take a ridge behind the road that was occupied by rebel troops. They were, he wrote, "to take this point and hold it to the last man, which ... we were instantly ready to perform."

As they went forward, he said, "the balls came thick and spitefully among us, the men began to fall, some killed, some wounded, but on we swept until we came to the fence along the Emmitsburg road, from which the rebels decamped in great haste. ... The rebels fled from the road. The next fence was scaled, which brought us hand to hand with the rebels."

Sawyer's regiment held its exposed position, through Pickett's Charge, for 26 hours just west of Emmitsburg Pike. Of the 209 in the unit, 102 were wounded or killed.

In his account of the battle at Gettysburg, Sawyer tells of his own wounding.

"The writer, with Co. B, moved forward from the road on a run and, as we came over the crest, received a ball through his hat, which tore out the hair and made an ugly wound ... the ball, fortunately, only struck a glancing blow, and the only ill-effect was a hallucination of stars."

When the battle was at last over, Sawyer noted "the field was covered with the slain and wounded, and everywhere were to be seen white handkerchiefs held up, asking for quarter. The rebel loss had been terrible, the victory to the Union army complete."



## Sawyer's book important part of Civil War history

Norwalk native Franklin Sawyer's Company D of the 8th Ohio Regiment played an important role in the Battle of Gettysburg, says Blue Acorn Press publisher Rick Baumgartner.

"Unique is not too strong a word for it," Baumgartner said. "They were stuck out there for 26 hours like a little island, and they held their position. If the Confederates had drifted any farther to the left, the 8th Ohio would have been completely swallowed."

The former newspaper editor who now publishes historical narratives said the Ohio soldiers' place in history has been commemorated by two monuments at Gettysburg, one of which is quite near the position they defended.

"One of the two monuments is right in the front yard of the Home Sweet Home Motel, just west of Emmitsburg Pike," he said.

Baumgartner said he and his partner, Larry Strayer of Dayton, had success two years ago with books about the 4th Ohio Regiment and the 72nd Indiana Regiment from Lafayette. Sales of both those books were strong, leading them to consider re-issuing Sawyer's 1881 account of his Civil War command, and adding photographs to the narrative.

"Most Ohio regiments did not serve in the Army of the Potomac," Baumgartner said. "The 8th Ohio had a good battle record and a good complete account by Sawyer, and we thought it would be interesting."

He said Sawyer's original book is one of few Civil War accounts on the antique book market and would be an expensive acquisition.

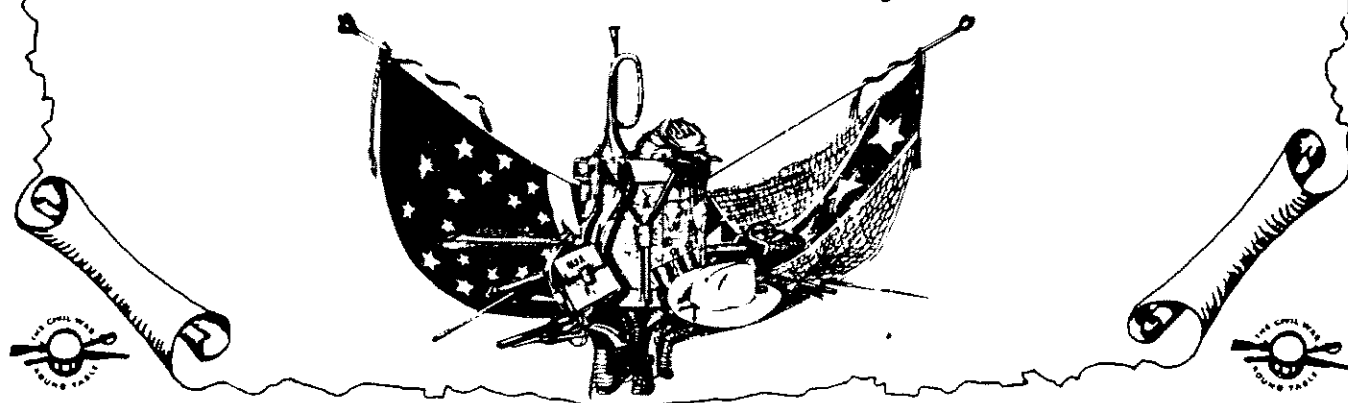
"It has long been out of print," he said. "It's one of the rarer ones on the antique book market. If you could find one, you'd have to pay \$200 to \$250."

Baumgartner said that Blue Acorn Press's books on the Civil War are often purchased by descendants of those named in their pages. "The 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry," the formal name of Sawyer's book, contains dozens of rosters of men who served with the unit.

The company has also published a half-dozen other Civil War titles, including "Echoes of Battle: The Atlanta Campaign," "Yankee Tigers: Through the Civil War with the 125th Ohio," and "The 55th Illinois, 1861-1865."

"The 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry" is available in hardcover for \$30 postpaid from Blue Acorn Press, P.O. Box 2684, Huntington, W.Va. 25726.

# Civil War Round Table Associates



JERRY L. RUSSELL, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, P.O. BOX 7388, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72217 / (501) 225-3996

May 1994

Dear Civil War Buff:

Now, more than ever, Civil War Round Table Associates needs your support.

Founded in 1968, Civil War Round Table Associates is the oldest national battlefield preservation organization. It has been in the forefront of battlefield preservation, when there were few others who were concerned. It has received many, many awards for its leadership in the preservation effort.

Among our accomplishments have been preservation victories at Manassas, Antietam, Pea Ridge, Chickamauga-Chattanooga, Wilderness-Spotsylvania, Prairie Grove, Wilsons Creek, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Fredericksburg-Chancellorsville...even Saratoga and the Little Big Horn. We continue to be engaged in struggles at Gettysburg (again), Olustee, Brandy Station, Manassas (again), and other battlefield sites.

In 1989, we established HERITAGEPAC, the only political action committee registered with the Federal Election Commission which lobbies for battlefield preservation.

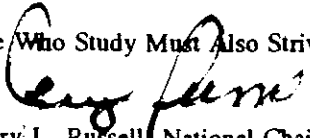
Both Civil War Round Table Associates and HERITAGEPAC were heavily involved in efforts to pass the legislation which established the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. If you haven't seen a copy of the Commission's report, released last year, be sure to write your U.S. Senators (c/o U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510) and ask them to send you a copy. (That way you'll have two copies--one to pass along to a friend--and both your Senators will know they have a constituent who is interested in Civil War history.)

We also helped with passage of the Civil War Commemorative Coins Act, which promises to produce millions of (non-tax) dollars for battlefield preservation beginning in 1995. We have successfully lobbied for Civil War postage stamps which will also be released next year, and for the designation of April as Civil War History Month (a symbolic gesture to impress upon the Congress of the United States the breadth of support for Civil War history).

Plus, Civil War Round Table Associates acts as the watchdog of the Civil War preservation movement: reporting on activities involving the National Park Service, other preservation organizations, and current happenings in the area of battlefield preservation.

For these and many other reasons, we ask your support. A membership application form is on the back of this letter. Please fill it out and join us in our efforts to preserve and protect our Civil War heritage.

We Who Study Must Also Strive To Save!

  
Jerry L. Russell, National Chairman

# CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATES

## THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO JOIN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATES

What is Civil War Round Table Associates?

It is a national "umbrella" organization, formed in 1968 to provide an informational clearing house for all Civil War Round Table groups, individual buffs, and related organizations, *anyone* interested in contemporary events inspired by the study of Civil War history.

The first "Civil War Round Table" was formed in Chicago, Illinois, in 1940; it remains *The Civil War Round Table* and celebrated its 50th anniversary in October, 1990. During the Centennial years, 1961-65, there were around 200 Round Tables, but that number dropped off to around 60 at the beginning of the 1970's. Within the past half dozen years or so, there has been a rebirth of interest; there are now nearly 200 RT's again, nearly three dozen of those formed with the advice, assistance, and inspiration of **CWRT Associates**. *All RT's are locally autonomous and run their own affairs; most belong to our group.*

**Civil War Round Table Associates** publishes a newsletter, *CWRT Digest*, devoted to news of RT's and historic preservation; it was the **first** publication to be concerned with the protection and preservation of Civil War historic sites and contemporary Civil War activities. We have won significant preservation battles at Manassas, Shiloh, Fredericksburg, Chickamauga-Chattanooga, Stones River, Gettysburg, Petersburg, Prairie Grove, Champion Hill, Antietam, Vicksburg, Kennesaw Mountain, and others, including the Saratoga battlefield of Revolutionary War interest and Little Big Horn National Battlefield. And we continue to fight! *But the more members we have, the more effectively we fight.*

We believe that interested citizens' groups *must* become more involved in historic preservation battles or much of our past and our heritage will be irretrievably lost. The history of the Civil War is a vital part of our national heritage and it *must* be preserved and studied. In 1989, a national lobbying group, **HERITAGEPAC**, was formed to help preserve and protect Civil War battlefields through its informational efforts.

Each year, our organization holds a national meeting, the prestigious annual **Congress of Civil War Round Tables**. Our 20th national Congress will be held October 6-9, 1994, in Alexandria LA. This meeting will offer an array of outstanding speakers and two days of battlefield tours led by Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian of the National Park Service and noted Civil War author. The 1994 field trips will focus on the Red River Campaign. Delegates come from all over the United States (and even overseas) for a memorable weekend--and nearly two-thirds are repeaters.

We also sponsor other Civil War study gatherings in different locations throughout the year, including the **Confederate Historical Institute** annual conference in the spring, and the **Society of Civil War Historians** meeting each November. There is also an annual **Southeast Civil War Conference** in the spring and the **West Coast Civil War Conference** held each November. Other regional conferences are held by various RT groups.

Battlefield preservation is *the most important* part of our agenda. Our National Battlefield Preservation Chairman, Dr. Robert Meinhard, now retired as a history professor from Winona State (MN) University, is a nationally recognized authority on Civil War historic site preservation, and also serves in that capacity for the National Parks & Conservation Association. He helps us keep our members informed about threats to sites, and what we as individuals can do to help, and **HERITAGEPAC** provides a vehicle for coordinating and focusing our lobbying efforts in behalf of battlefield preservation.

A membership application is at the bottom of this sheet. We hope you will join our efforts to promote the study of Civil War history and preserve its significant sites.

**WE WHO STUDY MUST ALSO STRIVE TO SAVE!!!**

.....  
**Civil War Round Table Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock AR 72217**  
**(FOUNDED 1968. Jerry L. Russell, National Chairman)**

Yes, I want to join the national fight for battlefield preservation. Enclosed find my check or money order to pay for a one year membership in **Civil War Round Table Associates**, which entitles me to a one-year subscription to *Civil War Round Table Digest*, a listing of CWRT's in my area, and reduced registration fees at CWRTA meetings. And, I can run free classified advertising in the *Digest*.

**WE WHO STUDY MUST ALSO STRIVE TO SAVE!**

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: ☐ Individual, \$12.50; ☐ Sustaining, \$20; ☐ Contributing, \$50; ☐ Life Member, \$100.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL

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CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I AM A MEMBER OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ ROUND TABLE.

I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ☐ JOINING OR ☐ FORMING A ROUND TABLE IN OR NEAR \_\_\_\_\_.



# PRESERVATION REPORT

## Escape tunnel found on Johnson's Island

JOHNSON'S ISLAND — Archaeologists have discovered evidence of an escape tunnel built by Confederate prisoners at the excavation site of an historic Civil War prison here.

The excavation, a summer field school project, is a joint effort of Heidelberg College and the Center for Cultural Resource Research at the University of Pittsburgh. Students, faculty members and volunteers have been working at the site since May 23.

The tunnel began from a prison-yard latrine — called a "sink." Archaeologists have not yet determined whether the tunnel actually was completed beyond the stockade walls.

"There were many references to tunnels in letters and reports from prison," said Dr. David R. Bush, of the Center for Cultural Research.

"The unusual aspect of this tunnel is that it doesn't appear to lead straight toward the prison walls. This probably indicates that the prisoners were trying to avoid detection by the guards, who are known to have probed to search the sinks for tunnels."

The prison — located on 300-acre Johnson's Island in western Lake Erie's Sandusky Bay — functioned as the main Union depot for Confederate officers from 1862-65. Although it was designed to hold about 2,500 prisoners, as many as 3,200 were located there in the latter part of the

war. The overcrowding resulted in the construction of new sinks and an expansion of the compound.

The excavations have revealed information about the human condition in the prison yard, as well as yielded several personal possessions of the inmates. Additional excavations are being conducted at the sites of two other sinks.

Bush has directed investigations at the island since 1989. Through historical documentation and field research, he has located the prison stockade, its dock and the forts that guarded the prison.

About 10 college students, representing Heidelberg College and two other universities, three states and two foreign countries, are working at the site.

"These students are taking advantage of a unique opportunity to work on a National Historic Landmark site," said Dr. Michael Pratt of Marysburg, associate professor of anthropology at Heidelberg and director of the field school. "This work has presented them with a real opportunity for excellent archaeological learning experience."

Students are gaining expertise in basic excavation techniques, site photography, archaeological site identifications and record keeping and historical cultural material conservation. The project will continue through June 24.

Page 6, Peninsula News, July 1, 1990



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**RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!!**



# Proposed Union Monument Meets Confederate Resistance

By LARRY BINGHAM

The Fayetteville Observer-Times

BENTONVILLE, N.C. — Some Southerners believed that Gen. William T. Sherman was the devil — meaner than Ivan the Terrible, nastier than Genghis Khan.

They blame Sherman for burning Atlanta and Columbia, S.C., for destroying the Fayetteville Arsenal and for leaving a path of destruction on his march through the South during the Civil War.

Almost 130 years after the South lost, it seems that old times are not forgotten.

Efforts to build a monument to Sherman's troops have run up against Confederate resistance.

"Not on my watch," is how Betty McCain describes chances of the memorial being built while she is secretary of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

McCain gets the final say on whether a monument is built at the Bentonville Battleground in Johnston County, but supporters say they'll fight for recognition that they believe is 101 years overdue.

"I'm Southern to the bone and to me, the South was right," Bob Tolar, president of the Cape Fear Living History Society, told the Fayetteville Observer-Times. "But I don't think the Northerners were down here because Confederates were in season. I believe they were fighting for what they believed in."

His group of Civil War reenactors has run into trouble since it proposed the monument last month to the state's Historic Resources Commission.

The idea to honor Union dead comes a century after the Goldsboro Rifles history club built a monument in 1893 to honor the 360 Confederates buried in a mass grave at Bentonville.

The proposed Union monument, 11 feet tall and shorter than the Confederate one, would be the sixth at the site but the first to Northern troops.

That's enough to make founders of the Goldsboro Rifles roll over in their graves, Glenn Fields, commander of the modern group, said.

"If all we were talking about was the Battle of Bentonville, I would say yes, they deserve a memorial," Fields said. "But it's hard to accept honoring Union troops at Bentonville, knowing what was the prelude to that."

Opponents say a memorial would make heroes of soldiers they believe raped, burned and pillaged a South already on its knees and losing the war.

But supporters contend that Sherman's troops were kinder to North Carolina than most folks remember. They say the tales of atrocities lack the firmness of historical fact.

Fact is what William Price, archives and history director for the Department of Cultural Resources, will try to find this summer.

Though Sherman's name wouldn't appear on the monument, Price's job is to trace Sherman's march through North Carolina and deliver his findings to the Historic Resources Commission in November.

The commission wants to know just what Sherman's 60,000 soldiers did as they marched through North Carolina in 1865 during the waning days of the war.

Bentonville was the South's last major offensive and the largest Civil War battle in the state.

As the smoke from cannons and rifles dispersed after the battle ended on March 21, 1865, the Confederates counted 244 men dead, 1,691 wounded and 528 missing. Union casualties were 194 killed, 1,112 injured and 221 missing.

John Goode believes that some of those dead Union soldiers were hastily buried on the 125 acres that make up today's Bentonville Battleground, a state park about 45 miles northeast of Fayetteville.

Many of the 25,000 visitors to the park last year asked Goode, the site manager, why the park doesn't include a monument to the Union dead.

Visitors see five monuments to Confederate troops, erected by groups from the United Daughters of the Confederacy to the Sons of Confederate Veterans to the state of Texas.

Goode expects to hear more about a Union monument as the number of visitors grows and the park gains national attention for being one of few remaining sites where little has changed since the battle was fought.

Park officials will know this year whether Bentonville will become a national historic landmark, making it eligible for federal money.

Supporters of the Union monument worry that the lack of memorials to both sides could hurt the park's chances. The park was ranked sixth among 384 Civil War sites nationwide in need of further preservation.

"It's not just history vs. heritage. There's the bigger issue of Bentonville," said Lauren Burgess, secretary for the Bentonville Battle-

ground Historical Association, a preservation group in favor of a monument.

"It's the fact Bentonville has national significance and, as such, it is appropriate to have monuments to both sides who fought there and to tell both sides," she said.

Tolar worries that the one-sided park will be an embarrassment for North Carolina.

"If the veterans of the blue and gray who survived this terrible war could put aside their differences — as they did — and come to respect and care for one another — as they did — I think it's only appropriate that their descendants do the same," Burgess said.

But that doesn't seem likely.

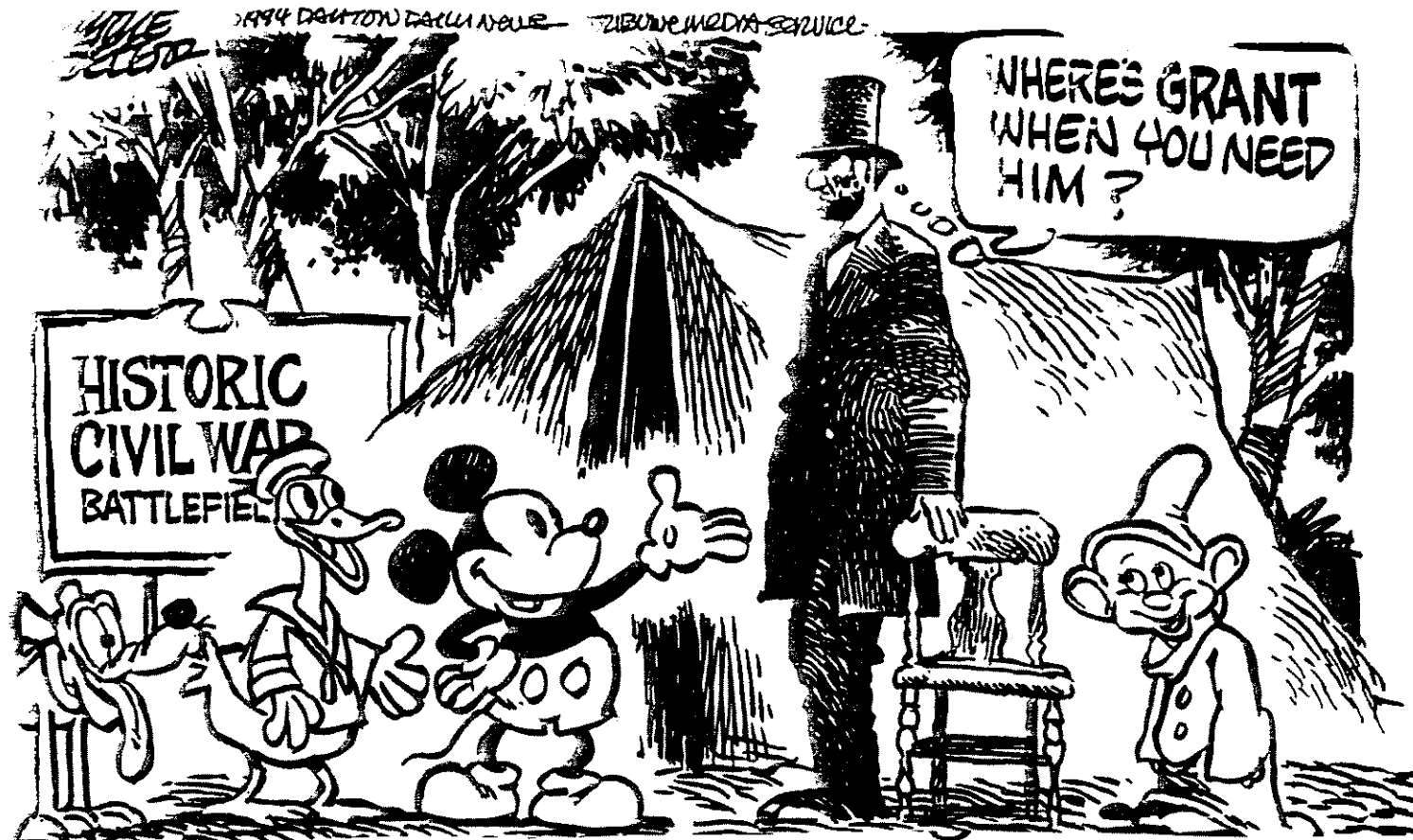
"I don't believe in putting up memorials for anybody who brought war on civilians," McCain said. "The way Sherman made war was not to be condoned — then or now."

She said Sherman's troops tried three times to burn down her great-grandmother's house in Faison. Burgess said two of her ancestors picked up the Union cause.

Tolar believes that if veterans were alive, they'd side with him.

"We thought (a monument) would show people that down here we still aren't fighting the war, that we're willing to respect your ancestors if you respect ours. But we had no idea it would blow up like this."





By JOHN KANELIS

**BEAUMONT, Texas**

It warms my heart to see American historians up in arms over Disney's plans to build a theme park near the sites of some of our nation's bloodiest conflicts.

And some in Congress want to help.

U.S. Rep. Mike Andrews has introduced legislation to block plans calling for the construction of Disney's America, a 3,000-acre park just four miles from Manassas National Battlefield Park where thousands of troops lost their lives during two famous battles at Bull Run.

"It's not just a Virginia issue," said Andrews, a Texas Democrat, in introducing his bill.

Indeed, it is not.

Sen. Dale Bumpers, an Arkansas Democrat and chairman of a subcommittee of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, conducted a hearing to gather information on the matter last Tuesday, declaring that the federal government "has a duty to consider the potential impact, if any, this project will have on the battlefield."

Some senators, however, joined Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, D-Colo., in protesting that "the Senate has no business refereeing every Mickey Mouse dispute around the country."

Virginia's Sen. Charles Robb said he personally opposes Disney's America but cannot support federal intervention. "This is a states'-rights issue," he declared.

That Disney would put a theme park virtually on the site of Civil War battlefields is just too much.

Virginia's Gov. George Allen, noting that the state has voted for road improvements and other incentives to support Disney's \$650 million investment, boasted the legislators had "struck a good deal for Virginia."

It is clear that the New York Times had it right in a recent editorial, saying the debate over the northern Virginia project has produced a positive result: It has "inspired something rare in these shallow times: impassioned debate among intellectuals and a surge of preservationist zeal in Congress. Hooray!"

Historians — including such notables as C. Vann Woodward, Shelby Foote and Barbara Fields — have formed a group called Protect Historic America to oppose the Disney theme park.

"Already the ugly urban sprawl of the metropolitan Washington area has crept almost to the eastern and southern borders of the battlefield park," said James McPherson, a Civil War author and professor of history at Princeton University.

"This part of northern Virginia has soaked up more of the blood, sweat and tears of American history than any other area of the country," said Woodward, quoted in the Times. "It has bred more founding fathers, inspired more soaring hopes and ideals and witnessed more triumphs and failures, victories and lost causes than any other place in the country. If such a past can render a soil 'sacred,' this sliver is the perfect venue."

What makes the ground sacred?

It is the human sacrifice that occurred there during the two battles of Bull Run, where Confederate forces scored decisive victories over Federal soldiers.

The cost was heavy, with the North suffering 418 battle deaths, the South, 387 during the first battle on July 21, 1861. The second battle, fought on Aug. 29-30, 1862, resulted in 1,481 Confederate and 1,724 Federal deaths.

The Andrews resolution demands that Disney find another site for its theme park. Surely the company can find an appropriate location in the 3.6 million square miles that comprise the United States of America. In fact, neighboring states to Virginia are clamoring to be considered.

Instead, Disney wants to build the park near Manassas, where company officials promise to make history come to life and make it a fun thing.

Well, touring some of our nation's battlefields already is "fun," but not in the way the Disney moguls envision.

It is fun to stand among the trees at Vicksburg, Miss., to look along the ridges that separated Union and Confederate soldiers and to imagine the sound of cannon fire.

It is fun to walk on the Montana prairie along the trail where 7th Cavalry soldiers last laid eyes on Gen. George Custer as he and his men fought against overwhelming forces led by Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull.

It is fun to stand in front of the Alamo at night and feel the spiritual presence of the small band of Texans who tried in vain to fend off Gen. Santa Anna's legions.

These grounds help us to think deeply about hardship and horror, duty and honor, pain and sacrifice.

Are there to be theme parks on these other hallowed grounds?

Congressional leaders of the stop-Disney movement want the federal government to create a new designation, a National Historic Region, which would protect designated historic sites and the surrounding areas.

No doubt, Disney's America would be a wonderful addition to the country's growing roster of theme parks. However, Mike Andrews is right: We don't need one at a site consecrated by the blood of young American warriors.

Kanelis is editorial page editor of the Beaumont Enterprise.  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

# *From The President's Desk*

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Now that fall is nearly upon us, I hope each of you has had an enjoyable summer. The Executive Board met in June for lively discussions on the future direction of our Round Table. The Board took a vote on their opinion of the wording in our constitution and opening up membership. Because the vote was evenly divided I felt it necessary to put the question before all the membership. A committee to draft amendments for a vote by the members was formed consisting of Neil Evans, John Sutula and Dan Zeiser.

The Board agreed to continue our regular meetings at the Hermit Club. It was also unanimous that the dues remain the same. We will hold mini auctions at each meeting rather than a large auction in January. The January Quiz will be replaced with a debate program chaired by Neil Evans. This year's officers and board members have already put in time and effort to improve our past successful programming. I want each of them to know that I sincerely appreciate all their assistance. I want to single out Rob Battisti, who, as out-going President, has helped me in numerous ways to make the transition of the Presidency so smooth. A very special thanks goes to Lynn Lazzaro who has successfully kept us out of the Johnson Island law suit.

In closing, I would encourage everyone to send in their dues as soon as possible. Without sufficient money on time it would not be possible to provide the quality of programs we expect. I look forward to seeing each of you on Tuesday, September 13th. (This Tuesday meeting is a one-time only change of meetings. All other meetings will be at the Hermit Club on the second Wednesday of the month.)

Norton London  
President



## OLLAPODRIDA

Confederate Brigadier-General Issac Trimble's brigade repulsed a Federal attack during the opening phase of the Battle of Cross Keys of Jackson's Valley Campaign. Seizing the moment, Trimble ordered his men forward. With bayonets fixed they rushed triumphantly after the rapidly retreating Federals. Uncertain of support, Trimble wisely chose not to continue the pursuit and pulled his men back to their original position.

During the Federal's retreat, the eyes of private Moses Maybin of the 15th Alabama's Company G were drawn amidst the carnage that lay before them, to the full haversack on a dead Yankee. "Boys, I'm going to take that haversack," he told his comrades as he dashed forward amid the flying bullets. But after Maybin safely reached his destination and began pulling on the coveted prize, the "big Dutchman" it belonged to opened his eyes and cried, "Nein, nein!" With the best battlefield etiquette, Maybin dropped the haversack, respectfully stepped back, and, apparently unmindful of the danger around him, raised his hat politely and said, "I beg your pardon, sir, I thought you were dead."

--- The Battle of Cross Keys and Port Republic  
by Darrel L. Collins pp 58

An Illinois Colonel felt it his duty to praise the outdated, heavy, double-acting Belgian muskets his new troops were issued. Said he, "In platoon firing with the Belgian musket, I can tell what I cannot with any other arm, and that is, how many pieces have been fired."

"How can you tell that?" he was asked.

"Oh, I count the number of men on the ground. It never deceives me. It is 'fire and fall back' flat."

--- "National Tribune" Vol.1 #15, Jan. 9, 1897

The economies of the two warring nations in the American Civil War were vastly different. While the Confederacy scrimped and starved, the Northern states prospered. New York City had only three millionaires when the war began and hundreds when it ended. The women and children slaving in factories were paid less than the men they replaced and, squeezed by inflation and price-gouging merchants, were forced to live in squalid shantytowns and tenements, often within sight of some of New York's finest mansions. A Southern victory in battle would send the price of gold soaring on Wall Street. Traders at the Gold Exchange who had gambled against the Union would sing "Dixie" and cheer the South on receiving news of a Northern defeat.

--- written by Stephen T Foster Atlas Edition.



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