



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

---

JANUARY 1969

Vol. 12 No. 4

---

---

## 98th Meeting

---

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1969

SPEAKER: William B. Haines

SUBJECT: OHIO BATTLE FLAG RESTORATION PROJECT

PLACE: THE HERMIT CLUB, DODGE COURT

PRELIMINARIES: 6 PM DINNER 7 PM

---

### WILLIAM B. HAINES

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Mr. Haines was raised in the Cleveland area, graduating from Fairview Park school and receiving his BBA from Baldwin Wallace College. During World War II he served with General Patton. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps in 1942 and served in the European and African theatres for 3 years. Upon returning he joined the Air National Guard and was recalled for the Korean War and served as a major for 2 years. He was then assigned as Staff Communications officer for the Ohio Air National Guard. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel on December 1, 1966. He is now Chief of The Division of Soldiers Claims of The Ohio Adjutant General's Department. He and his wife, Billie May Rose, and two children live in Columbus, Ohio. He is currently serving as Chairman of the Ohio Battle Flag Commission.

### PRESERVATION OF OHIO'S MILITARY FLAGS AND COLORS

The officers and men of the Ohio National Guard are sponsoring a project to restore, preserve, and display the flags and colors carried by Ohio soldiers, sailors, and marines in four great wars.

Five hundred and twenty-eight military flags, colors, and guidons, have long been displayed in the State House rotunda. Of this total, 4 were carried in battle during the Mexican War, 419 in the Civil War, 32 in the Spanish-American War, and 73 by Ohio units in WW I.

All the flags are in varying stages of deterioration and decomposition. In May 1960, one Mexican War flag and two Civil War flags, were removed from their cases for study to determine what steps could be taken to preserve them. The Mexican War flag, of painted canvas, was remarkably well preserved; one Civil War flag had disintegrated into mere shreds; and the second Civil War flag was later partially restored. This study was conducted under the supervision of a conservator from the National Park Service. He estimated, in speaking of the 419 Civil War flags, that 343 silk flags which are in relatively good condition, can be successfully restored; 61 silk flags are beyond restoration, and the remaining 13 cotton flags should be restored with little difficulty.

## CLEVELAND BULLETIN BOARD

### MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

Francis F. Wilshin, superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park, urgently called the attention of the Chicago CWRT and its sister organizations throughout the world to the introduction of two bills in Congress that threaten Manassas National Battlefield Park. They are:

HR 12556 authored by Rep. Robert O. Tiernan (D., R.I.) "to permit burial of qualified veterans in suitable and appropriate portions of the nation's memorial battlefield."

HR 18116 introduced by Rep. William Lloyd Scott (R., Va.) which would open the lands of Manassas National Battlefield Park to expand Arlington National Cemetery. "Virtually unlimited expansion of Arlington into the Manassas battlefield park would be permitted under the Scott bill," Wilshin warned. "And it would set up an untenable dual jurisdiction over the area."

Wilshin recalled that more than 80 Civil War Round Tables came to the rescue of Manassas battlefield park once before when the Virginia highway department wanted a 660-foot right-of-way through the park. Response from CWRT groups was so overwhelming that the project was dropped within a week.

"Now we call upon Civil War Round Tables again to respond by writing their own Congressmen to protest the invasion of battlefield parks by veterans' cemeteries," Wilshin said. "It is best to refer to the resolutions by number so that your representatives know what bills you oppose."

Rep. Scott's plan for arlington expansion, Wilshin warned, would keep Henry Hill and the picnic area and allow all else to be used as cemetery land. "Most of the Manassas battlefield area is actually unsuited for burial," he observed.

Wilshin suggested that there are many more suitable places "where we can find places to bury the veterans of today with the heroes of yesterday."

### JANUARY BOOK SALE

Our book sale in December was a semi-success. Many of the books were sold and many good volumes remained unsold. The reason being the limited number of members in attendance because of the Hong Kong Flu. Therefore, we are holding another book sale before our January meeting. Please feel free to bring more books for the sale. However, please contact Guy at 771-7900 to let him know and give you the details.

### FLAGS OF THE CONFEDERACY

THE STARS AND BARS OR FIRST NATIONAL FLAG to be adopted by the Confederate States of America was the Stars and Bars, with seven white stars in the blue field, one for each Confederate State at the time of adoption. This flag was raised over the Capitol Building in Montgomery, Alabama, at sunrise on March 4, 1861; being unfurled by a grand-daughter of President Tyler of Virginia. It is now used with 13 stars in the blue field by the United Daughters of the Confederacy as their flag.

However, when the original flag hung limp or in the smoke of battle, this flag was easily mistaken for the "Stars and Stripes." Accordingly, after the first battle of Manassas, the "Stars and Bars" flag was replaced by the now familiar "Battle Flag" whose red field is bordered in white and ornamented by a Greek cross of blue edged in white upon which are thirteen white stars. On May 1, 1863 the Confederate Congress gave the Battle Flag official recognition by incorporating it in the second national flag. This second national flag was first used to enfold the body of Stonewall Jackson and is for that reason often referred to as the "Jackson Flag." The last national flag had a red bar across the end as the "Stainless" or Jackson Flag could be construed as a flag of truce when hanging limp.

THE COURIER  
OF  
THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO  
FOUNDED FEBRUARY 19, 1957

MEMBER  
OF  
THE  
CIVIL  
WAR  
ROUNDTABLE

PRESIDENT  
VICE PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER

DONALD A HECKAMAN  
FRANK SCHULE JR.  
GUY DI CARLO JR.  
KENNETH R. CALAHAN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

1969: William Victory  
Paul Geunther  
1970: Bernard Drews  
Neville Bayless

EDITOR, GUY DI CARLO JR., P.O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO

OHIO TROOPS IN THE MARYLAND CAMPAIGN  
SOUTH MOUNTAIN - ANTIETAM

By

Edward T. Downer

OHIO REGIMENTS AT ANTIETAM

Ten Ohio infantry regiments and a battery marched with McClellan to Frederick City, Maryland, in pursuit of Lee. One regiment, the 8th, in the Second Army Corps (Sumner) had come with the Army of the Potomac from Harrison's Landing. Three regiments, the 5th, 7th and 66th in the Twelfth Army Corps (Mansfield) had been with Pope's Army of Virginia. The others six and the battery made up the Kanawha Division (Cox) which had been campaigning in West Virginia. The Kanawha Division was attached to the Ninth Army Corps (Reno, Cox).

AT SOUTH MOUNTAIN

As the Union Army approached the South Mountain it found the mountain range occupied by the Confederates. These were the troops of Daniel Harvey Hill which had returned from Boonsboro to hold the mountain passes until Lee could unite his scattered army. Upon reaching Boliver P. O., about a mile from the base of the range, at 7:00 a.m., the Kanawha division, commanded by Ohioan Jacob D. Cox and consisting of two Ohio brigades, was marched to the left and southerly from the Boonsboro pike. In the lead was the First Brigade (12th, 23rd, 30th and the 1st Independent Battery) followed by the Second Brigade (11th, 28th and 36th). At the head of the column was the 23rd under the command of Rutherford B. Hayes.

At Foxe's Gap, about a mile south of the turnpike, they encountered the enemy on the crest of the slope. Behind stone fences at the edge of a wood stood Samuel Garland's North Carolina troops prepared to defend the gap. The 23rd was given orders to find and turn the Confederate right flank, the 12th to assault the stone fence and the 30th to charge an annoying battery. Upon the arrival of the Second Brigade, the 11th was sent to support the 23rd and the 36th to fill a gap in the line.

The Ohio boys charged up the slope over rocks, into woods and through tangled laurel thickets in the face of heavy musketry, grape and canister at close range. The North Carolina lads put up a stout resistance against superior numbers. They counter-charged repeatedly, bringing the contending lines into close contact. Thrice the 23rd engaged in fierce bayonet charges. The men fought hand-to-hand

over the stone fences using bayonets and clubbed rifles. Finally Garland was killed and his brigade demoralized. By noon the Buckeye troops held the summit of the range on the Confederate right, but were unable to advance further. After dark, Hill withdrew down the western side of the mountain and joined Lee and Longstreet at Sharpsburg.

The casualties among the two Ohio brigades totalled 80 killed, 265 wounded and 11 missing, the heaviest of these losses falling on the 23rd. This regiment sent 350 men into the battle and brought out 220 - a loss of 130 men or 37 per cent. Hayes had an arm shattered, but insisted on remaining with his regiment until loss of blood forced his retirement.

#### ANTIETAM - AT THE DUNKER CHURCH

The three Ohio regiments (5th, 7th, 66th) in the Twelfth Army Corps (Mansfield) did not reach South Mountain in time to participate in the battle. They crossed the gap on September 15, encamped near Keedysville and at midnight on the 16th, received orders to move into position. Silently they crossed the upper bridge of the Antietam and after a three-hour march took up their position in the rear and partly to the left of the First Army Corps (Hooker).

At the sound of Hooker's guns at 5:30 a.m., opening the battle, they were ordered to fall in. They marched in column down the Smoketown road toward a little white church on the Hagerstown turnpike. George S. Greene's division which included the Ohio regiments (Tyndale's brigade) guided its left by the cloud of smoke from the burning Mumma House. Upon advancing about a mile they reached a belt of woods (the East Woods) which was defended by Confederate troops drawn up along a fence on deployed and drove the enemy through the woods and into open fields partly covered with corn. They found this now famous cornfield strewn with the dead and wounded from the deadly struggle between Hooker's troops and those of Jackson and Hood, which was about over when the Twelfth Corps arrived.

In these fields between the Dunker Church and the East Woods, Greene's two brigades ran into stiff resistance from Georgian and Alabama regiments, probably from the division of D. H. Hill. A fierce encounter at close range developed, in which the men fought hand-to-hand with bayonets and clubbed rifles. In the fight, Captain Joseph B. Molyneaux, a Cleveland in the 7th, was the victor in a sword duel with a Confederate officer. Greene's regiments finally drove the Southerners for about a half mile into the woods about the church.

With their ammunition exhausted, the Ohio regiments retired with the rest of the division to a position behind an elevation in front of the Dunker Church. As they were replenishing their cartridge boxes, they could see the Confederates organizing for an attack from the woods. The Ohioans were ordered to lie down behind the knoll to await the attack. Coolly they watched the oncoming foe. Then quickly they were thrown forward to the top of the ridge and with the enemy not more than seventy yards distant they poured out a scathing volley followed by more. The results were devastating. Orrin Crane of the 7th reported that the enemy lines were "cut down like grass from a mower."

The Union brigades pushed on into the wooded and rocky ravines behind the church. They drove the disordered enemy troops through the woods, and then took up a position near the church. In the face of heavy musketry fire from the front and shelling from the Confederate artillery on the right they defended this line for two hours until about 1:30 p.m. With their supports retiring on both flanks, they were forced to abandon their hard-fought gains, and withdrew to the west side of the East Woods. This position they held for the rest of the day.

These Buckeye regiments had been in action for seven hours. Three times they had refilled their cartridge boxes, each man having fired no less than one hundred shots. They sent into the battle an estimated 500 men of whom 108 had been killed and wounded and two were missing. The 5th lost 48 out of 180; the 66th, 24 out of 120; and the 7th lost 38. The heaviest losses in Tyndale's brigade were suffered by the 28th Pennsylvania, the only regiment in the brigade not from Ohio. The Pennsylvanians had 268 men killed, wounded and missing.

## AT BLOODY LANE

The one Ohio regiment (8th) in the Second Corps (Sumner) forded the Antietam, waist deep, on the morning of September 17. The head of Sumner's column reached the battle field at 9:00 a.m. The advance division (Sedgwick's) charged westward toward the Dunker Church, but for some unaccountable reason the division of William H. French, "Old Wikey" to his men, swung to the left in a southwesterly direction toward the Confederate left-center. The 8th Ohio in the brigade of Nathan Kimball in French's division formed the third line in the advance. The division struck the Confederate line at the buildings on the Roulette farm. The two front brigades were repulsed and Kimball's veteran brigade was rushed double-quick to the front. They dislodge the enemy and gained the crest of a ridge south of the Roulette house.

The Confederates retired to a sunken road five hundred yards to the south. This road, long since abandoned, is the historically-famous "Bloody Lane." It was at the time a crooked, narrow, washed down ditch which furnished a natural rifle pit, and ran at this point almost parallel with the line of Kimball's brigade. Higher ground behind added to the strong defensive position which the road provided.

With French's troops on the ridge and D. H. Hill's Confederates in the ditch and in a cornfield back of it, a furious fight raged incessantly for nearly four hours. With stubborn courage and determination both sides heroically stood their ground. At one time the 8th Ohio was exchanging volleys with the enemy at a range of twenty rods. When their ammunition was exhausted they replenished their cartridge belts and gathered up new muskets from the bodies of the dead and wounded. The Confederates attempted to turn the right flank of French's line, but the 8th Ohio and the 14th Indiana were pulled from the line, changed position and gallantly met the threat. They succeeded in driving the attackers back "with great slaughter" according to French's report.

With the arrival of the division of Israel B. Richardson, also of the Second Corps, the Confederates were driven from the sunken road back to the cornfield beyond. Their heroic stand is graphically attested to by Kimball who the next day wrote, "in the ditch first occupied by them (Confederates) the bodies are so numerous that they seem to have fallen dead in line of battle." The official reports, however, all indicate that this furious and costly struggle made no decisive change in the outcome at Antietam. The Union troops were withdrawn back to the ridge north of the sunken road and the Confederates returned to a position west of the Hagerstown turnpike.

French, in his report described the performance of Kimball's brigade as a "brilliant display of courage never surpassed" and Sumner dubbed it the "Gibraltar Brigade." Nearly half of the brigade lay dead and wounded on the battlefield--121 killed, 510 wounded and eight missing, for a total of 639. The 8th had sent 341 men into the fight, but only 180 answered to roll call at sundown; 161 lay dead or suffering between the Roulette house and the sunken road.

## AT BURNSIDE'S BRIDGE

On the morning of the battle the Ohio regiments in the Ninth Army Corps (Burnside, Cox) Kanawha Division (Eliakim Scammon) occupied the left of the Union line. They stood on the hills east of the lower bridge across Antietam creek, since called Burnside's Bridge. George Crook's brigade (11th, 28th, 36th) was posted on the slope above the bridge. Hugh Ewing's brigade (12th, 23rd, 30th) was on their left in support of James R. McMullin's battery in which position they were under artillery fire for nearly two hours.

At 10 o'clock the order came to attack and cross the bridge, which was defended by Confederate troops along the hills on the west side of the creek. Crook's brigade advanced in the direction of the bridge, the 11th in a skirmish line, the 28th to reconnoiter the enemy's position and the 36th in reserve prepared to charge the bridge. In some way, however, they missed the bridge and reached the creek upstream, where they were halted by enemy fire. In this false position, they engaged in a futile exchange of fire with the troops on the other side of the stream until

their ammunition was exhausted. Upon this failure of Crook's attempt, the division of Samuel Sturgis was sent to attack the bridge, but this disjointed assault was repulsed.

Soon after noon, McClellan sent Burnside an urgent order to cross the bridge at all hazards. A storming party led by two regiments from Sturgis's division was organized. The two regiments, each in column of fours, rushed side by side across the bridge, followed by the rest of Sturgis's men. At the same time Crook managed to bring up two howitzers which were able to play on the end of the bridge. Crook's brigade followed in support of Sturgis, some of the companies of the 28th fording the stream. Lieutenant-Colonel Augustus H. Coleman, commanding the 11th, was killed; the regiment wavered but pushed on. The 36th which followed was able to cross without firing a shot. By one o'clock the bridge was in Union hands.

During this time Hugh Ewing's brigade in support of Isaac P. Rodman's division was marching down the hills on the east side under orders to ford the creek further down stream. After some difficulty they found the ford a mile south of the bridge and crossed under artillery fire from the hills above. They moved up the bank of the creek toward the bridge. This threat against the Confederate right flank assisted in the frontal attack on the bridge and the gray-clad troops retired to the ridges some six hundred yards from the creek bank.

The Union line was formed on and below the hills and rested for two hours while the positions of the brigades were shifted and an ammunition train was brought across the bridge to replenish the troops. At 3 o'clock the advance toward Sharpsburg was ordered. Crook's brigade, behind the division of Orlando B. Wilcox, hurried forward on the double-quick through ploughed fields and over post and rail fences across rolling and ascending ground. While ordering his men to lie down below a ridge, Colonel Melvin Clark, in command of the 36th was struck by a shell and fell dying on the field. The brigade advanced to a stone fence where they were halted, the men exhausted by the dash across the rough and hilly ground. From here they witnessed the fighting at the left of their position.

On the left of the Union line Ewing's brigade was advancing behind Rodman's division. The 23rd was on the right, the 30th in the center and the 12th on the left of the brigade. They double-quickened through furrowed fields for about a third of a mile, driving the enemy before them, until they reached a stone fence. A column was discovered moving up on their left. The men were wearing blue uniforms and at first were thought to be Union troops. But the mistake became suddenly evident when they opened fire. Enemy columns grew heavier in front and on the flank. More and more batteries unlimbered and opened up. A. P. Hill's light division had reached the field from Harper's Ferry.

Rodman's division was in advance and to the right of Ewing's. Rodman was endeavoring to shift the position of his troops to meet this unexpected attack from the left. At this critical moment, he was pierced by a ball and fell mortally wounded. One of his brigades became demoralized and broke for the rear. Ewing's brigade changed front to the left to face the charge, the 12th and 23rd being perpendicular to the Union line. The 30th attempted the manoeuvre but was thrown into confusion. In an exposed position these regiments stood firm in the face of a withering fire until they were withdrawn to the hill above the bridge. The colors of the 30th had been torn in fourteen places and both color-bearers killed. McClellan reported that the change of front by Ewing's brigade had "saved the left from being driven completely in."

The casualties of the six Ohio regiments and the one battery totaled 249. Their losses and those of the other brigades engaged, seem slight in comparison with the slaughter at other points on this ghastly field. The figures raise some doubts as to whether the most effective use had been made of these Ohio regiments and their comrades of the Ninth Corps. It would seem that the eight brigades at hand, properly directed with determination, should have been sufficient to repel A. P. Hill's 2,000 men, weary and footsore after a seventeen-mile march, and to drive back the meager 2,000 others, all the troops that there were on the Confederate right. To turn the right flank of Lee's army and cut off his only line of retreat were objectives worthy of the maximum effort, even at the risk of heavy losses.

Some such similar thought must have been in the mind of Sergeant True of the 36th Ohio when he remarked: "It was while we lay behind the fence that the battle on the left was lost."

- - - - -

Of an estimated 2,500 Ohioans who participated in the battle of Antietam or Sharpsburg, 85 had been killed, 406 wounded and 29 were missing for a total of 520 casualties--about 20 per cent. These losses made up a very small part of the enormous 12,410 Union casualties. However, they were from only ten infantry regiments out of the more than two hundred in McClellan's army.

#### OHIO REGIMENTS IN THE MARYLAND CAMPAIGN \* SEPTEMBER 1862

5th O.V.I. - In the Twelfth Army Corps (Joseph K. Mansfield - Alpheus Williams).  
2nd Division (George S. Greene); 1st Brigade (Hector Tyndale, Orrin Crane).  
Recruited at Cincinnati, organized at Camp Harrison, Cincinnati, April 20, 1861. First commanded by Colonel S.H. Dunning.  
Previous campaigns and engagements: West Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Cedar Mountain.  
Commanded at Antietam by Major John Collins.

7th O.V.I. - In the Twelfth Army Corps (Joseph K. Mansfield - Alpheus Williams), 2nd Division (George S. Greene), 1st Brigade (Hector, Tyndale, Orrin Crane).  
Recruited from Western Reserve counties: three companies from Cleveland and one each from Oberlin, Painesville, Huron, Ravenna, Warren, Franklin Mills and Youngstown.  
First commanded by Col. Erastus B. Tyler, Lt. Col. W.R. Creighton, Major John S. Casement.  
Previous campaigns and engagements: West Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Cedar Mountain.  
Commanded at Antietam by Major Orrin J. Crane.

8th O.V.I. - In the Second Army Corps (Edwin V. Sumner); 3rd Division (William H. French); 1st Brigade (Nathan Kimball).  
Recruited from northern Ohio, companies from Tiffin, Cleveland, Bucyrus, Norwalk, Sandusky, Fremont, Elyria, and Lorain and Medina counties. The Cleveland company was from the "Hibernian Guards." Rendezvoused at Camp Taylor, Cleveland, in April 1861.  
First commanded by Colonel H. J. Depuy, Lt. Col. F. E. Franklin, Major Henry F. Wilson.  
Previous campaigns and engagements: West Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, joined McClellan at Harrison's Landing.  
Commanded at Antietam by Lieut. Col. Franklin Sawyer.

11th O.V.I. - In Ninth Army Corps (Ambrose Burnside), Kanawha Division (Jacob D. Cox).  
2nd Brigade (George Crook).  
Recruited from all parts of the state, companies from Dayton, Troy, Piqua, Salem, Cincinnati and Wilmington. Rendezvoused at Camp Jackson, Columbus.  
First commanded by Colonel J. Finley Harrison.  
Previous engagements: West Virginia, South Mountain.  
Commanded at Antietam by Lieut. Col. Augustus H. Coleman, killed and succeeded by Major Lyman I. Jackson.

1st Ohio Independent Battery - In Ninth Army Corps (Ambrose Burnside), Kanawha Division (Jacob D. Cox), 1st Brigade (Hugh Ewing).  
Recruited from Richland, Huron, Crawford, Clermont and Montgomery counties.  
First commanded by Captain James R. McMullin of Mansfield.  
Previous campaigns and engagements: West Virginia (Carnifex Ferry), South Mountain  
Commanded at Antietam by Captain James R. McMullin.



- 12th O.V.I. - In the Ninth Army Corps (Ambrose Burnside), Kanawha Division (Jacob D. Cox), 1st Brigade (Eliakim Scammon, Hugh Ewing). Recruited from southern Ohio counties, companies from Morrowtown, Wilmington, New Richmond, Xenia, Newark, Lebanon, Middletown, Ripley, Dayton, and Hillsboro. Mustered in U.S. service in April 20-25, 1861. First commanded by Colonel John W. Lowe from Xenia, killed at Canifex Ferry, West Virginia; later by Jacob Ammen. Previous campaigns and engagements: West Virginia (Carnifex Ferry), Bull Run Bridge (August 27, 1862), South Mountain. Commanded at Antietam by Col. Carr B. White.
- 23rd O.V.I. - In Ninth Army Corps (Ambrose Burnside), Kanawha Division (Jacob D. Cox), 1st Brigade (Eliakim Scammon; Hugh Ewing). Recruited from all parts of the state. Mustered in at Camp Chase, Columbus. First commanded by Colonel William S. Rosecrans, Colonel E.P. Scammon, Major Rutherford B. Hayes. Previous campaigns and engagements: West Virginia (Carnifex Ferry), and South Mountain. Commanded at Antietam by Major James M. Comly; Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes had been wounded at South Mountain.
- 28th O.V.I. - In Ninth Army Corps (Ambrose Burnside), Kanawha Division (Jacob D. Cox), 2nd Brigade (George Crook). Recruited at Cincinnati from the Turnverein. Organized at Turner Hall on June 13, 1861. Was called the "Second German Ohio Regiment." First commanded by Colonel August Moore. Previous campaigns and engagements: West Virginia (Carnifex Ferry) and South Mountain. Commanded at Antietam by Lieut. Col. Gottfried Becker, Col. Moore having been captured at South Mountain.
- 30th O.V.I. - In Ninth Army Corps (Ambrose Burnside), Kanawha Division (Jacob D. Cox), 1st Brigade (Eliakim Scammon, Hugh Ewing). Organized at Camp Chase, Columbus, August 28, 1861. First commanded by John Groesbeck, Hugh Ewing. Previous campaigns and engagements: West Virginia (Carnifex Ferry), and South Mountain. Commanded at Antietam by Lieut. Col. Theodore Jones until he was captured, later by Major George H. Hildt.
- 36th O.V.I. - In Ninth Army Corps (Ambrose Burnside), Kanawha Division (Jacob D. Cox), 2nd Brigade (George Crook). Organized at Marietta, August 17, 1861. First Commanded by Lieut. Col. Melvin Clarke, Marietta attorney; later by Colonel George Crook, who had been captain, 4th U.S. Infantry. Previous campaigns and engagements: Lewisburg, Va., Second Manassas, South Mountain. Commanded at Antietam by Col. Melvin Clarke until killed in action.
- 66th O.V.I. - In Twelfth Army Corps (Joseph K. Mansfield, Alpheus Williams). 2nd Division (George S. Greene); 1st Brigade (Hector Tyndale, Orrin J. Crane). Recruited at Urbana, October 1, 1861; companies from Champaigne, Delaware, Union and Logan counties. First commanded by Colonel Charles Candy. Previous campaigns: Shenandoah Valley, Cedar Mountain. Commanded at Antietam by Lieut. Col. Eugene Powell.

\*\*\*\*\*

EDITOR'S NOTE: The foregoing material on Ohio Troops with McClellan in the Antietam-South Mountain-Maryland Campaign is of interest. I found them among Ned's papers. There is more that I believe are of interest to the membership and all serious Civil War historical buffs.



## SO MANY BARBARA FRITCHIES

by

Lester L. Swift

A generation ago, every schoolboy was familiar with John Greenleaf Whittier's Civil War poem about Barbara Fritchie. But few of them know that the story told in the poem was false and that in his later years, Whittier wrote an alibi, tacitly admitting that he was probably mistaken.

The poem has a rousing swing that makes it easy to recite. There is nothing fancy or high-flown in its well-rhymed couplets and most of us older folks knew a few lines by heart, such as the part where Barbara Fritchie said:

"Shoot if you must this old gray head,  
But spare your country's flag," she said.

Some of us also remembered Stonewall Jackson's answer which was hard-boiled enough and sounded just like a stern Rebel general:

"Who touches a hair of yon gray head  
Dies like a dog! March on!" he said.

We all remembered the story, in a hazy sort of way. The Confederate army came marching into Frederick, Maryland, in September, and they were marching down the village street. The poem began:

Up from the meadows rich with corn,  
Clear in the cool September morn,  
  
The clustered spires of Frederick stand  
Green-walled by the hills of Maryland.  
  
Round about them the orchards sweep,  
Apple and peachtree fruited deep,  
  
Fair as the garden of the Lord  
To the eyes of the famished rebel horde  
  
On that pleasant morn of the early fall  
When Lee marched over the mountain-wall;  
  
Over the mountains, winding down,  
Horse and foot into Frederick town.

We never knew, nor cared, how they happened to be marching through Frederick but we knew Stonewall Jackson was with them. An elderly lady name Barbara Fritchie waved a flag out of an upstairs window and old Stonewall didn't like it a bit, according to the poem. Then the Rebs fired a volley at Barbara but, luckily enough, she wasn't hit:

"Halt!" --the dust brown ranks stood fast.  
"Fire!" --out blazed the rifle blast.

It shivered the window, pane and sash;  
It rent the banner with seam and gash.

Quick as it fell from the broken staff  
Dame Barbara snatched the silken scarf.

She leaned far out on the window sill,  
And shook it forth with a royal will.

"Shoot if you must, this old gray head,  
But spare your country's flag," she said.

The real truth is that two different women waved flags on two different streets in Frederick--one while Union troops marched by and the other while Confederates were passing. But you can bet your bottom dollar that General Thomas Jonathan Jackson did not order his troops to fire a volley at a member of the fair sex!

Judging by the opening stanzas of the poem, we assume that the Confederate army approached from the south and marched directly through Frederick to some point further north. Toward the end of the poem we are told that it took some time to pass through the town:

All day long through Frederick street  
Sounded the tread of marching feet:

All day long that free flag tost  
Over the heads of the rebel host.

Ever its torn folds rose and fell  
On the loyal winds that loved it so well.

Thus a wrong impression is created. When we learn the true relationship between the citizens of Frederick and the Confederate Army, the incident described in the poem seems even more improbable.

The Confederate Army of Northern Virginia crossed the Potomac River at White's Ford, near Leesburg, Virginia, on September 5th, 1862. Jackson's command was leading and as they waded across the river to the Maryland shore, the regimental bands all struck up "Maryland, My Maryland," a popular Confederate song. The ragged ranks cheered and the first attempt of Rebel forces to invade Northern territory was launched with a jubilant note. The morale of the Southern soldiers was near an all-time high after a long succession of Confederate victories during the spring and summer of 1862. Less than two weeks previously, they had defeated the Army of the Potomac at the Second Battle of Bull Run.

After crossing the Potomac, most of the Rebel army marched ten miles further that same day to Frederick and pitched their tents nearby. They actually occupied Frederick for the next five days and during this interval a number of incidents took place which biographers of Jackson all love to retell because they were so colorful.

Jackson had hardly set foot on Maryland soil when a local citizen presented him with a huge, raw-boned gray mare. But the nag was not accustomed to army life and the first time Jackson mounted her, a band started to play nearby. The frightened mare reared on her hind legs and fell over backwards. Jackson was knocked unconscious and badly bruised.

On Sunday, September 7th, he stayed in his tent most of the day but at the end of the day he decided to go to church. Jackson and two of his staff attended the service at the German Reformed Church in Frederick. Of course the preacher, a Dr. Zacharias, saw the Rebel brass in his audience but he did not depart from his usual ritual and included the customary prayer for the President of the United States. Dr. Zacharias was commended later for his patriotism and courage in offering such a prayer in the presence of the high-ranking Confederate officers. But Jackson never heard the prayer. As was his habit, he went sound asleep at the beginning of the sermon and did not waken until he was aroused by the singing of the closing hymn. It was the Confederate General Ewell who thought that Jackson would have agreed that the prayer was needed to help save the immortal soul of that lanky rail splitter in Washington who had strayed so far from the paths of rectitude.

Strict orders concerning foraging had been issued and the Confederate Quartermaster Corps was paying promptly (in Confederate currency which had already begun to

depreciate) for everything they commandeered --even down to the fence rails the soldiers used to cook their rations. Lee hoped to set an example and demonstrate that Southern soldiers were not as barbaric as the blue-clad Northerners who had pillaged and robbed the people of Virginia. Each night many soldiers eluded the sentries and stole into Frederick to buy whiskey.

The effort to maintain order and not offend civilians was carried to extremes. A complaint was made that certain soldiers had been discourteous to the ladies clerking in a Frederick store. Word of this reached Jackson. There were confused accusations concerning the identity of the culprits and the unit they belong to. There were hot denials and one general was actually put under arrest. (It was General William E. Starke, destined to be killed ten days later at Antietam). Stonewall Jackson was the strictest of disciplinarians.

In Richmond, the Confederate Government thought that the people of Maryland would rise and support the Confederacy if given an opportunity. This was one of the primary reasons back of the decision to invade the North. On Monday, September 8th, Lee issued a proclamation inviting the people to organize and secede from the Union.

But there were few slave-owners in western Maryland. The reception of the Confederates had not been completely hostile (one man did give Jackson that half-broken mare) but it was far short of expectations. Lee saw that the South had misjudged the citizens of Maryland. Furthermore, the countryside had been just about stripped of available rations. Fifty-three thousand men need a lot of food.

However, Lee could still attain another of his primary objectives. He could threaten Baltimore and Washington, also fight the Federal Army on Northern soil. On September 9th Lee issued his orders and on September 10th the army began to move. Longstreet's men started northwest for Boonesboro while Jackson's command moved west toward Harper's Ferry. His columns marched through Frederick and it was at this time that one of the flag-waving incidents occurred which was to be distorted in the retelling before it reached Whittier's ears.

A lady named Mrs. Mary A. Quantrell lived in Frederick and at this time she was thirty-two years of age. As Jackson's men passed her house, Mrs. Quantrell and her daughter stood in the front yard, both of them waving American flags in the faces of the Rebels.

Several soldiers angrily ordered them to stop or go into the house. One lieutenant actually drew his sword and cut a flagstaff in two. Mrs. Quantrell continued to flaunt the Stars and Stripes before the Southern invaders. Finally, the Confederates began to admire her bravery. One officer saluted her and said, "To you, madam, not your flag!"

It is one of those strange quirks of history that Mrs. Quantrell was the aunt of William Clarke Quantrell, the savage Confederate guerrilla who fought in western Missouri. He has been called "the bloodiest man in the annals of America" and made his raids under a black flag, taking no prisoners.

During this same period the Union army assembled in Washington and then moved northwest in pursuit of Lee. By October 12th, Burnside's Ninth Army Corps was approaching Frederick. The folks in that Maryland town would certainly never forget that September of '62. Countless grandchildren in the years to come would hear the story about the two armies. First the ragged, gaunt, poorly-equipped Rebs and then right behind them, too close for comfort, another marching host--with smart blue uniforms underneath the road-dust. "Frederick is a loyal city," wrote General Jacob D. Cox, "and as Hampton's cavalry went out one end of the street and our infantry came in at the other, and whilst the carbine smoke and the smell of powder still lingered, the closed window-sutters of the houses flew open, the sashes went up, the windows were filled with ladies waving their handkerchiefs and national flags, whilst the men came to the column with fruits and refreshments for the marching soldiers as they went by in the hot sunshine of the September afternoon."

Other writers remembered "hundreds of Union banners floated from the roofs and windows" and "one continuous waving of flags, fluttering of handkerchiefs, tossing of bouquets." No wonder Lee's proclamation was such a fiasco!

There actually was an old lady named Barbara Fritchie who took part in this welcome tendered to the Army of the Potomac. She was born in 1766--and so she was 96 years old in September, 1862. When the Union troops marched past her house she stood on the front porch, supporting herself with a cane and waving at the soldiers. Cheer after cheer arose. Some of the men even broke ranks to run up to the porch and shake her hand or pat her on the back. "God bless you, old lady!" they shouted. "Let me take you by the hand." --"May you live long, you dear old soul!"

Two nieces were with Barbara and one of them said, "Auntie ought to have a flag to wave." She went into the house and brought out a small flag that was always kept with the family Bible. And then Barbara Fritchie actually did wave a flag--from the front porch--before Union troops who cheered her more lustily than ever.

John Greenleaf Whittier was one of the leading New England poets of the nineteenth century and he also played a vital part in the Northern crusade against slavery. He wrote nearly seventy antislavery poems and after the war started, penned many patriotic poems which served as propaganda to further the war effort. Twenty years after the close of the war, when the veracity of the Frederick incident was questioned, Whittier offered an explanation. "It has since been the subject of a good deal of conflicting testimony," he wrote, "And the story is probably incorrect in some of its detail. . . It is stated that Mary Quantrell, a brave and loyal lady in another part of the city, did wave her flag in sight of the Confederates. It is possible that there has been a blending of the two incidents."

But what about Stonewall Jackson's conduct in the poem? This is, by far, the most improbable part of the whole story. Let's see just what he is supposed to have done:

Up the street came the rebel tread,  
Stonewall Jackson riding ahead

Under his slouched hat left and right  
He glanced; the old flag met his sight.

"Halt! --the dust-brown stood fast.  
"Fire! --out blazed the rifle-blast.

The very thought of Jackson ordering his men to fire on a woman makes one actually shiver. He was a native Virginian, imbued with all of the chivalrous beliefs of that period--and as we have seen, he even made a major incident out of the discourtesy toward feminine clerks. And then, after Barbara told him to "shoot if you must, etc." this New Englander wrote the crowning sacrilege.

A shade of sadness, a blush of shame  
Over the face of the leader came;

The nobler nature within him stirred  
To life at this woman's deed and word.

Jackson followed a lost cause. But no one ever believed in any cause more firmly, more implicitly than he did. He was a man of faith and simplicity who never doubted the justice of his course. If he thought about the sorrow and suffering wrought by this war of brother against brother, a "shade of sadness" might have passed over his face. But a blush of shame---never!

\* \* \* \* \*

The first Union officer killed in the Civil War was Colonel E.E. Elsworth, who was shot in Alexandria, Va., on 5-24-61. His Confederate counterpart was Captain John C. Marr, killed at Fairfax Court House, Va., on June 1, 1861.