

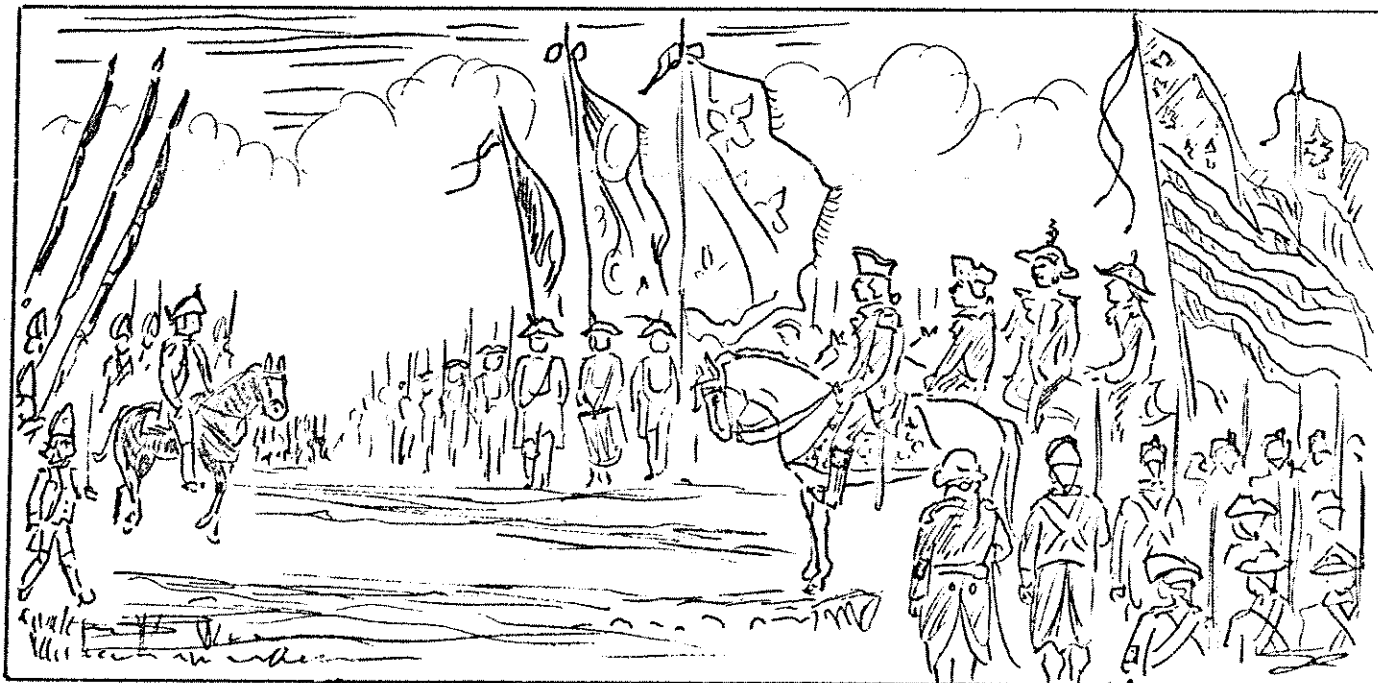
The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

MID-SUMMER EXTRA

JULY, 1980

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 4



Yorktown

How can words or pen depict the drama of the scene that occurred on the battlefield of Yorktown that 19th day of October, 1781?

After six long arduous years of toil, fighting and suffering, General Washington's ragged loyal troops with their French allies had finally squeezed the British into surrendering here after a sixteen-day siege.

Just beyond the trenches the Allied Armies formed two long lines, the French on one side in glittering white and gold uniforms, the Americans in worn buff and blue on the other. Washington and Rochambeau with their staffs stood mounted at one end.

About one o'clock, the British marched out between the lines, bright in newly issued scarlet uniforms, their colors cased, their bands playing a mournful march. General Cornwallis feigned illness and sent his chief of staff, General Charles O'Hara to surrender. The redcoats were sullen and wouldn't look at the Americans. O'Hara, maintaining this attitude, tried to surrender to Rochambeau instead of Washington. But a French aide blocked him with his horse and pointed to the American commanders.

When O'Hara explained that Cornwallis was "indisposed," Washington directed him to take his orders from Washington's second in command, General Benjamin Lincoln. He could play the protocol game, too.

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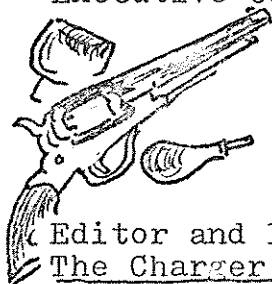


CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

Founded Nov. 19, 1957

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LAST MEETING (MAY)

On May 13th The Club was addressed by Dr. Louis A. Barone, professor and Chairman of the Department of History at Baldwin-Wallace College.

Professor Barone's subject was "Keeping the Home Fires Burning," concentrating his remarks on the financing, economics and attitudes in the South during the War.

During the question-and-answer period things got a little heated up, but no harm came to anyone.

\$

While our dues are not immediately due, our finances could sure use some early birds. Send your \$17.00 to Treasurer Tim Moran and make him feel like he is getting off to a good start. His address is 3105 West 146th St., Cleveland, 44111.



SEPTEMBER 9th

Hermit Club. Speaker
to be announced in
September Charger

Field Trip, Thursday, September 25
Rendezvous place that evening to
be announced. Friday, September 26,
Fort Monroe, Virginia, Tour of
Hampton Roads and harbor by boat,
Saturday, September 27, Yorktown
Battlefield, museums, etc., and
Mariners Museum. Sunday, Sept. 28
for travel homeward.

OCTOBER 14.....Grays' Armory
George Janovis, "The Cleveland
Grays, First From Cleveland in the
Civil War."

NOVEMBER 11th....BOOK AND ARTIFACTS
SALE. Jim Englehart, Bernie Drews,
Don Heckaman, BLUE/GRAY QUIZZ.
Hermit Club.

DECEMBER 9th.... Hermit Club
Bob Frick, "The Army of Northern
Virginia."

JANUARY 13th, 1981....The Hermit Club
John Tormay, "The Civil War in the
Southwest."

FEBRUARY 10th....The Hermit Club
John Harkness, "Ordnance in the
Civil War."

MARCH 10th...The Hermit Club. Speaker
to be announced.

APRIL 14th...The Hermit Club. LADIES
NIGHT...speaker to be announced.

MAY 12....PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED

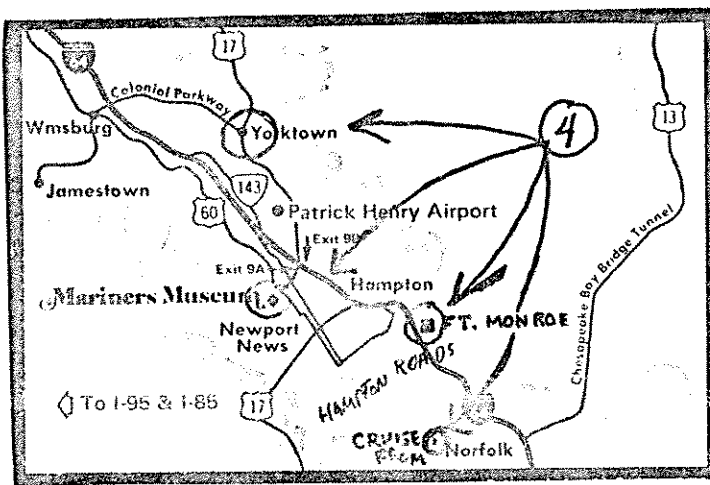
"WHAT IF?"....a great subject, panel
to be picked.

This line-up, while not complete at
this date, looks like a great year
coming up. Let's all try to do a
little better on attendance and dues
paying...you've got a dedicated group
of guys working for you!

1980 Field Trip ★

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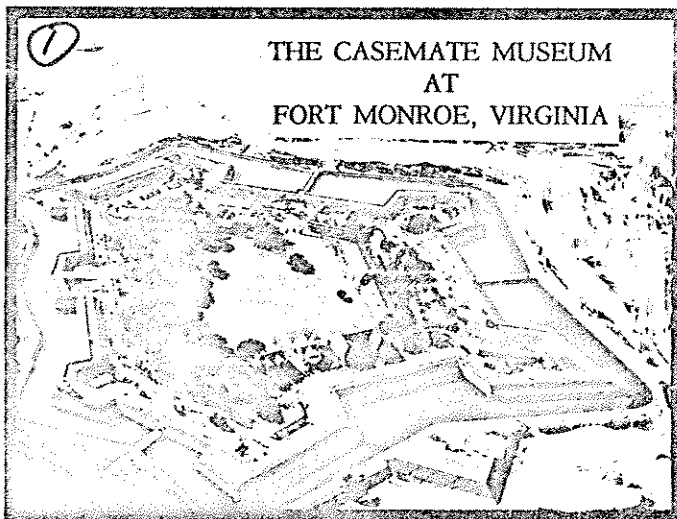
Sept. *25-26-27*28



*travel days

This field trip embraces four exciting destinations: Fort Monroe, its ramparts and museums; a visit to the battlefield at Yorktown; a boatride around the historic harbour; The Mariner's Museum, one of the greatest in the world.

The old fort looks out over historic Hampton Roads, where the Civil War ironclads *Monitor* and *Merrimack* fought their famous duel



FORT MONROE
HOME OF

THE U.S. ARMY'S COAST ARTILLERY MUSEUM

③ Relive the beginning of a nation.

Yorktown Battlefield!

Through the twentieth century magic of light and sound, the Yorktown Victory Center opens the door on a young America struggling to be free. A dramatic film, diorama displays and dozens of historic artifacts from private collections and museums recreate the revolutionary ideas and events that led to American victory on the nearby battlefield of Yorktown.

④ Mariners Museum

SINCE 1930, The Mariners Museum in Newport News has committed itself to preserving and interpreting the heritage of ships and the lore of seafaring cultures. Its achievements over the years have been a great source of pride to the people of this shipbuilding community, and it is the purpose of the Museum to share these accomplishments with visitors from all over the world. The galleries provide an in-depth look at how man has adapted to life on Earth's oceans and waterways:

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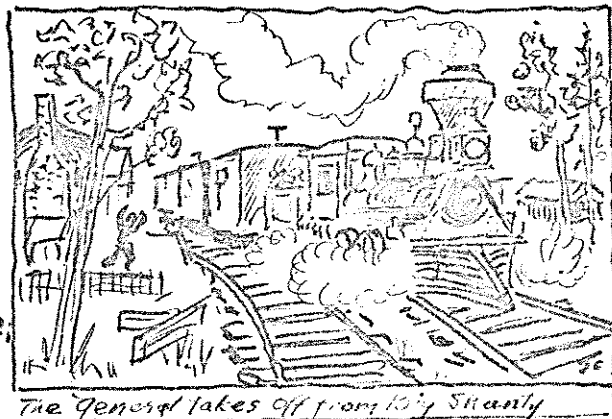
OF RAIDERS, PRAYERS AND SHARPSHOOTERS

Your editor is most grateful that readers are beginning to respond to calls for clippings, suggestions, etc. they think others will find of interest. The three following items are the result of such cooperation.

From Charlie Clarke came a letter and enclosure concerning the latest news about the Great Andrews Railroad Raid: In a conversation with Federal Judge William K. Thomas, Charlie learned that the Judge, his son and some other relatives had been instrumental in erecting a last marker, a handsome granite stone with a bronze plaque in memory of the eight raiders who had been hanged at that spot in Atlanta, Georgia. Some of the Judge's family were descendants of Marion Ross, one of those who paid the supreme penalty.

We all know the dramatic story of this daring raid by twenty-two Unionists, most of them from Ohio, and none in uniform, and how they stole the now famous locomotive "The General," and were chased 87 miles north before being caught. That was on June 18, 1862.

Some of the raiders made their escape and found their way back to the Union line; others who were caught were eventually exchanged; but the first eight, including Andrews, the leader, were condemned to death in the excitement of the time. All of them, some personally and others posthumously, were awarded the first issues of the newly created Congressional Medal of Honor.



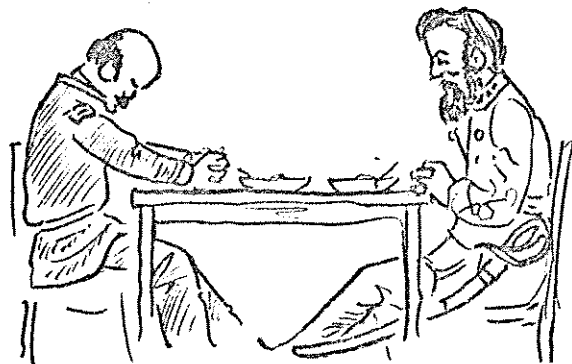
The General takes off from Big Shanty

The article describing the dedication of this historic marker on February 15, 1980, appeared in Jim Comstock's (my old Navy buddy) West Virginia Hillbilly on March 29, 1980.

* * * * *

Some time ago Leigh Tangier gave me an anecdote from a book review in the Arkansas Gazette. The review was of Samuel Carter III's The Last Cavaliers, which prompted me to purchase same and have found it a fascinating book. Here's the incident described:

"When Gen. Bedford Forrest captured a Yankee chaplain on one of his raids, he invited the man of God to join him at dinner and invoke the



blessing on the meal. Later, before releasing the chaplain to the Union Army, Forrest told him, "Parson, I would keep you here to preach to me if you were not needed so much more by them sinners on the other side."

* * * *

My third letter was from our good friend Bob Thum (one of the field trip regulars) who writes a popular column in The Bennington Banner. I would like

to reproduce all of these articles that Bob sends because they are so

Berdan Sharpshooters



well written and of such historic interest, but space only permits a sample now and then. I had asked Bob, who is somewhat of an authority, about the Berdan Sharpshooters, and here I quote his reply:

"In the fall of 1861 three companies of sharpshooters were formed and attached to Colonel Berdan's regiment. The 1st company of 125 men was mustered in October 31, 1861, the second company of 91 men November 9, 1861, and the 3rd company of 94 men, December 31, 1861. (These, of course, were the Vermont companies.)

"Berdan's Sharpshooter regiments, proudly asserted after the war they had killed more Confederates than any two regiments in the Union army - a statement as yet unchallenged. Hiram Berdan for fifteen years before the war was ranked as the nation's number one rifle shot and at the outbreak of hostilities was permitted to organize a corps of skirmishers. He advertised in the newspapers for the

best marksmen in the country, and so many volunteers came forward that two regiments had ultimately to be formed. They were recruited on a national basis, and the three companies came from Vermont. Entrance examination required that applicants put ten consecutive shots at 200 yards within a five-inch circle.

"Green coats and trousers, cap with black plume, leather leggings, made this group a colorful outfit. Ultimately outfitted with Sharps breech-loading rifles that could fire 8 to 10 shots a minute, they had three times the firepower of an ordinary regiment armed with conventional muzzleloaders.at Malvern Hill their first volley killed every horse and half the men of a Union battery...after the war a rebel officer recalled, "We went in a battery and came out a wreck."

"They performed outstanding work at Antietam and Gettysburg. At the siege of Petersburg a captive southerner remarked that all you had to do to get a medical discharge was to stick your hand in the air above the trench. In February, 1965, what was left was disbanded. Out of 2570 sharpshooters mustered into service, 300 were killed and more than 1000 wounded - a total of 40% casualties."

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robert F. Dalzell, Chagrin Falls; Robert Loose, Cleveland Heights; and Michael Sivak, Jr., also of Cleveland Heights.

* * * * *

Yorktown cont'd

In April, 1862, General George B. McClellan finally settled down to besiege Yorktown, where General Joe Johnson had a small army of defenders. It was to be a siege in the grand manner, with fascines and gabions, zigzag approaches and much shifting and digging of earth. Fifteen ten-gun batteries of 13-inch siege mortars were installed within two miles of the Confederate works. After a month the Little Napoleon still wanted more 30-pound Parrotts from the War Department. On the third of May he was finally ready. On the 4th he wired Washington, "Yorktown is in our possession."

But he hadn't TAKEN Yorktown like the Yankees had 81 years before - he got it by default - because Joe Johnson had slipped away before the big bombardment.



When the Army of the Potomac occupied Arlington as a camping ground, in May, 1861, General Lee's family moved to the "White House on the Pamunkey." E. A. Pollard in his life of Robert E. Lee, says that when McClellan's army advanced up the Peninsula and reached the "White House," Mrs. Lee had fled to Richmond but left a note asking that the property be spared for its historical association. It was in this house that Washington paid court and married Mrs. Martha Custis, the owner of the estate, and it is thought by some that the residence of the President in Washington, D. C. took its name from the fact that Mrs. Washington's old home was so called.

McClellan respected Mrs. Lee's request and protected the property, occupying a tent and forbade any of his soldiers to enter the premises.

Edward A. Pollard, The Early Life, Campaigns and Public Services of Robert E. Lee, 1871

Not much attention has ever been paid to the earliest Federal cavalry raid in the West, carried out by Brigadier General S. P. Carter with three regiments of Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvanian troopers numbering 980 men. It was a sixteen-day affair starting from southern Kentucky, in late December, 1862, slicing deep into Tennessee and southwestern Virginia, and severing the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad connecting Lynchburg with the West. Like Stoneman's raid, this was not of great strategic consequences, but it boosted Union morale at a time when Rosecrans was stalled at Murfreesboro, and Grant and Sherman were frustrated at Vicksburg. Carter's raid demonstrated that Federal cavalry could at last perform effectively.

* * * * *



It is well-documented that Lee's "Traveler" was a rough-riding horse, always going at a jolting trot, never a walk. Lee was not compelled to ride this rough-gaited steed. He had other horses, and also had at his disposal the beautiful private carriage that had been captured during the second Manassas Campaign from Federal General John Pope.

But Lee liked "Traveler" and never used the handsome equipage, even though his staff brought it along as late as the Gettysburg Campaign and kept it parked with the headquarters baggage wagons.

* * * * *

Lee was the first one to suggest a railroad gun - cannon mounted on a rail car. The Civil War, Shelby Foote, Vol. I, page 468.

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In a letter to the War Department from Col. C.A. Waite at Camp Verde, Tex. 20 miles from San Antonio, the colonel who was successor to the turncoat General David E. Twiggs, Commander U.S. Army, Department of Texas, wrote, "...the public property here, the most valuable of which consists of 53 camels, are worth some \$20,000." You may recall that Jefferson Davis, at the time he was Secretary of War, was one of the authors of the camel experiment.

Ed. Note: Use of two anecdotes in this issue about people named Carter do not reflect any endorsement of anyone with same name.