



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

MAY 1967

Vol. 10 No. 8

86th Meeting

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 9, 1967
SUBJECT: "THE FIGHTING MCCOOKS"
SPEAKER: MRS. VILMA GRIFFIN
PLACE: HERMIT CLUB, DODGE COURT
PRELIMINARIES: 6 PM DINNER 7 PM

THE FIGHTING MCCOOKS

"While lying ill in an ambulance near Salem, Alabama, August, 1862, Brigadier General Robert McCook was shot to death by Confederate guerillas. His brother Charles was killed at Bull Run. Col. Daniel, Jr., another brother, was mortally wounded leading an attack on Kenesaw Mountain. The eldest brother, Latimer, a major, died in 1869 of Civil War wounds. Another brother, John James, an Annapolis graduate, had died of fever on a naval vessel off South America in 1842. Their father, Major Daniel McCook, died of wounds received fighting Morgan's Raiders. Six casualties in this single family from the little village of Carrollton, Ohio. The four other McCook brothers served their country and survived. George was a brigadier general. Alexander, a West Pointer, and Edwin, an Annapolis graduate, both attained the rank of major general. John James, enlisting at seventeen, left the army as brevet colonel. John McCook, brother of Daniel, Sr., settled in Steubenville and reared a family of five more "Fighting McCooks," including two generals. The home of the "Tribe of Dan," erected in 1837, stands on Carrollton's public square. It contains period furnishings and a display of Civil War and McCook family memorabilia. Open to the public, it is administered by the Ohio Historical Society."

JOHN BROWN AND THE HARPER'S FERRY RAID

Our April meeting was a rousing success due to the fine efforts of our speaker and fellow roundtable member, Dr. Kenneth Callahan. Ken started his talk by acquainting the membership with the background of John Brown and his association with the Western Reserve. This in itself would have made a fascinating talk. Ken's taped talk was beautifully accompanied by slides of the areas, places and personalities given in the text of the talk. A fine job Ken.

THE CLEVELAND BULLETIN BOARD

OUR ROUNDTABLE DECADE

I thought our membership might enjoy reviewing with me some of the past programs. The new members because they are unfamiliar with them and the charter members might enjoy a bit of neuralgia.

1957-58 President: Ken S. Grant (died April, 1957)
George Farr Jr.

*JAN 8	CIVIL LAW IN SOUTHERN COURTS.	GEORGE FARR JR.
*FEB 19	PEA PATCH ISLAND.	PRESTON RUTTER
MAR 21	CIVIL WAR INFLUENCE ON THE SOCIAL & POLITICAL OUTLOOK	BRUCE CATTON
*APR 18	STONEWALL JACKSON'S SHENANDOAH VALLEY CAMPAIGN.	EDWARD T. DOWNER
*MAY 27	CIVIL WAR IN BRONZE & STONE	WILLIAM CARLIN
*SEP 18	DRED SCOTT - AGENT OF DECISION. . .	ALBERT WOLDMAN
OCT 8	SUNDRY EXPERIENCES IN REFIGHTING THE CIVIL WAR	RALPH NEWMAN
NOV 2	THE GALLANT MRS. STONEWALL.	HARNETT KANE
DEC 3	LETTERS OF BILLY YANK & JOHNNY REB	BELL I. WILEY
*JAN 20	GETTYSBURG-I'D HAVE SACKED THEM BOTH.	HARRISON FROST
*FEB 17	LAST HOME OF JEFFERSON DAVIS. . . .	GUY DI CARLO JR.
*MAR 18	I REMEMBER MOSBY.	WILLIAM A. RALLS
APR 15	MOVIES: "ROBERT E. LEE" & "TRUE STORY OF CIVIL WAR"	
JUN 4	WHY THE CIVIL WAR?	OTTO EISENSCHIML

FIELDTRIP: ANTIETAM, HARPERS FERRY & WINCHESTER - SEP 12-14, '57
* TALKS BY MEMBERS

MORE IN FUTURE NEWS LETTERS - EDITOR

OUR PRESIDENT - DR. WILLIAM SCHLESINGER

It is most fitting that Bill has been our President during the celebration of our tenth year of existence. It's members like Bill who form the hard core of our organization. We might call him "Iron Man" for our President has made 85 out of 86 meetings, providing he shows up for this one coming up, a fantastic record. And we have the attendance records to back it up. Also, Bill has made every one of our fieldtrips. As a matter of fact he's been very instrumental in organizing several. A tireless worker on the telephone getting out the troops for the annual outing. Certainly no one enjoys them more than he does.

There isn't a man in the roundtable who isn't proud to call him friend and walk a little taller in knowing him. Many of our meetings have been made more enjoyable after the talk by just sitting around afterwards listening to Bill and Charlie Clarke "have a go at it." Bill won't admit to the goodly store of Civil War knowledge that he hides behind that disarming demeanor.

I leave you with this one thought--What would a roundtable meeting or a fieldtrip be without Schlesinger around? Damn Dull, that's what!

CONGRATULATIONS AND A FINE JOB, MR. PRESIDENT

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

PRESIDENT Dr. WM. SCHLESINGER
VICE PRESIDENT. FRANK A. MORAN
SECRETARY GUY DI CARLO JR.
TREASURER DONALD A. HECKAMAN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TERMS EXPIRING 1967: WM. HUGHES
PIERCE O'CONNOR
1968: JOHN W. CULLEN JR.
FRANK SAXTON

EDITOR, NEWSLETTER. .GUY DI CARLO JR...BOX %)"', CLEVELAND, OHIO
* * * * *

ARTILLERY OF THE CIVIL WAR

Categories for artillery were and still are far from rigid in their uses. "The Swamp Angel," a 200-pounder Parrot rifle was used by Union forces in their siege of Fort Sumter. At Petersburg, "The Dictator," a 13-inch seacoast mortar, blasted at the Confederate defenses. At First Manassas two Dahlgren howitzers, naval guns, served as regimental field pieces.

Civil War artillery can be broken down into three principal classifications: (1) Field, the light tactical weapons used in the field;(2) Siege and Garrison, larger and heavier weapons than field pieces whose main uses were to defend fixed field positions or land faces of permanent forts, and to level enemy forts; (3) Seacoast, huge weapons designed for use in large permanent fortifications, particularly for defense against ships.

FIELD ARTILLERY

Field guns and howitzers generally received their name according to the weight of the solid shot they threw. The most popular field-piece of the war is conceded to be the 12-pounder gun-howitzer smoothbore, commonly known as the Napoleon. A crew of five or six men were the usual compliment for a Napoleon as per most fieldpieces. A competent crew could fire two aimed shots a minute with shells or solid shot or four charges of canister at point-blank range. Howitzers customarily fired shell and spherical case, more commonly known as "shrapnel." Canister was used as anti-personnel to effectively stop infantry and cavarly charges at short range.

Smoothbore guns fired spherical shells with time fuzes and could be set for air or ground bursts. Rifle projectiles sometimes were equipped with either time fuzes, or contact fuzes that would explode upon impact or after penetration. In field artillery, most smoothbores used fixed ammunition whereas the rifles used semi-fixed ammunition with the powder bags separate from the projectile.

The introduction of rifled cannon as a standard weapon was the great innovation of the Civil War. Rifles were designated generally by the diameter of their bores. The greater range and accuracy of rifled pieces gave it the decided advantage. The masonry fortifications came to their end because of the greater penetration of rifled projectiles. True to human failings, many artillerist preferred the smoothly functioning Napoleons to the difficulties they had to face with the various rifled projectiles. The favorite rifles were the Parrott or Ordnance (Rodman) rifle.

As most artillerist would attest there was a decided difference between the maximum range and the effective range. Normally the target had to be seen by the gunner because they seldom used indirect firing. The extreme range of most fieldpieces was set arbitrarily at 3000 yards, a six-pounder was not thought effective beyond 1700 yards, or a twelve-pounder beyond 2100 yards.

Breech-loading cannon made their appearance during the Civil War, notably the British-made Armstrong, Blakely, and Whitworth. They were excellent weapons, and the Whitworth had exceptional range and accuracy. Their ultimate effect on the outcome of the war was negligible because of the small number imported and the difficulty of procuring ammunition.

SIEGE AND GARRISON ARTILLERY

The use of this type of artillery depended greatly on the operations. The guns were used for battering outer defenses and fortifications, howitzers for ricochet firing, and mortars for high-trajectory fire to reach behind the walls. Because of their larger size and weight, five to seven men were needed to service a siege gun or howitzer. A mortar required a compliment of three to five men depending on the size of the piece and type of carriage.

Rate of fire varied again with the weapon used. By all means it was much slower than field artillery. Siege guns and mortars could get off from 12 to 20 shots per hour as opposed to 8 shots per hour for the howitzer. Generally speaking the largest piece that could be moved by men and horses was the 24-pounder siege gun. The others required either rail or water transportation.

Ammunition was normally semi-fixed for all heavy guns, and projectiles were generally the same as those for field artillery. Only the addition of grape shot for these heavy guns marks a departure. Like canister, grape shot is anti-personnel, with the exception that it has a greater effective range.

SEACOAST ARTILLERY

Seacoast artillery was used mainly as coastal batteries for the defense of harbors against ships. Needless to say these were the largest and heaviest cannon made at the time. Size and weight of the piece were not at task, but the weight of projectile they fired. It was all that two men could handle when lifting a ten or eleven inch shell. Block and tackle and other levering devices were used for the 15-inch columbiads.

Rate of fire again slows because of size and weight. A seven man crew could load and fire the 15-inch columbiad within 70 seconds. This is not record time nor slow afoot. However, there remained the problem of bringing the gun to bear. Aiming time depended on the changes in elevation and deflection. Traversing the gun through 90 degrees took 140 seconds. Therefore, gunners had to be accurate with their first shot because in the case of fast vessels, it was the only shot.

In addition to the standard guns, howitzers, and mortars, seacoast artillery also contained another classification of weapon--the columbiads. The columbiad combined the qualities of both howitzers and guns. The columbiad could fire both solid shot and shell with heavy charges of powder at high elevations. It was well suited for the defense of narrow harbors.

These are the highlights as gleaned by your editor from Mr. Harold L. Peterson's work NOTES ON ORDNANCE OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865, appearing as a special edition of THE AMERICAN ORDNANCE ASSOCIATION, 1959.

THE ARTILLERY AT FORT GREGG

by
SAM PRUETT

THE BUGLE CALL
APRIL, 1964

HAGERSTOWN
NEWSLETTER

One hundred years have passed, yet arguments continue to develop concerning various phases of the Civil War. Some discussions center about which unit fired the last shot at Appomattox, did John Wilkes Booth commit suicide or was he shot by a Union soldier, and are those counties south of the Kanawha River legally part of the state of W.Va.

There was a disagreement, not often touched upon these days, which once caused tempers to flare, blood pressures to rise, and letters to be written to the editor. This was the defense of Fort Gregg. The specific question was: whose artillery helped to defend the fort; was it the Washington Artillery of New Orleans, the Chesapeake Artillery (of Md), or elements of both.

The events of 2 April 1865 were never vague in the minds of the spokesmen for the Washington Artillery. Lt. Col. W.M. Owens apparently possessed the faculty for remembering virtually every activity of every day for the length of the war. No mean feat, I'm sure. He recalled Pollard's claim that Capt. Chew of the Chesapeake Artillery was in command of the work. He countered by saying, "If Chew was in charge, it is strange that we (W.A. of N.O) did not know it." He further stated, "If Chew was in the fort at all, he was simply there as a volunteer or a spectator." Owens summed up Pollard's writings by mentioning that Pollard showed but little disposition to waste compliments on the troops from the Gulf States. In his, Army of the Potomac, Swinton did not mention the Washington Artillery in the fort. Owens commented that Swinton also erred in putting the number of Mississippians at 250 while General Harris had stated there were 150. Owens should have been familiar with the Chesapeake Artillery. He certified as present the lone 12 members of the battery which were paroled at Appomattox.

In his The Long Arm of Lee, Wise states, "It (Battery Gregg) was defended by two guns of the Washington Artillery, under Lt. McElroy, and the 12th and 16th Miss., 214 men in all." From the Vicksburg Times, "The artillery in the fort was a section of 3rd Co. Washington Artillery, commanded by Lt. Frank McElroy." When queried, Lt. D.M. Rigler, 37th N.C. regt., was unable to recall which battery manned the two pieces in the fort.

The National Park Service conclusion is that there were many units of different sizes engaged in the defense of Fort Gregg and that a conglomeration of men under Capt. Chew and Lt. McElroy manned the two pieces. They assume that both guns belonged to the La. unit but that they manned one of them and the Md. unit manned the other one.

Lt. F.B. Craige, 33rd N.C. regt.: "there were but two 6-pdr. guns in the fort, conducted by a few Marylanders or Virginians, under command of Capt. Chew and a few Louisianians from Washington Artillery, under Lt. Mackelroy."

In his, To Appomattox, Burke Davis recounts the activities within the fort in graphic detail. He lists elements of both the Washington Artillery and Chew's battery as being present. He even quotes some of the conversation but fails again to document specific sources of some of his quotations. This would have been helpful.

Lt. George H. Snow, 33rd N.C. regt.: "The artillerists fought bravely, resorting to small arms after being unable to use their cannon, and appeared to me as if commanding themselves; they were of Capt Chew's battery."

From a letter by Gen. James H. Lane: "The honor of the gallant defense of Fort Gregg is due to my brigade, Chew's Battery and Walker's supernumerary artillerists, Chew's Battery behaved splendidly; My men were on the right and centre, the supernumerary artillerists on the left, and Chew's battery was in the centre,"

From Life & Campaigns of Gen. R.E. Lee by James D. McCabe, Jr.: "The garrison of Fort Gregg consisted of the 4th Md. Bty. with two 3-inch rifles and 30 men, a body of dismounted artillery drivers - - Virginians and Louisianians - - who had been armed with muskets, part of Harris' Miss. brigade, and some North Carolinians - - in all 250 men; the whole being under the command of Capt. Chew of the Md. battery."

Lt. A.B. Howard, 33rd N.C. regt.: "The three pieces of artillery belonged to Chew's Battery. He was captured and taken with us to Johnson's Island."

Union Army files in the National Archives record that nine members of the Chesapeake Artillery were captured at Petersburg on 2 April 1865. The record of one capture specifically states it was at Fort Gregg.

As far as is presently known, no member of the 4th Md. Battery - Chesapeake Artillery ever published anything on the unit. No separate work has even been published. Perhaps the closest thing to it were the some nine pages allotted by W.W. Goldsborough in his The Md. Line in the Confederate Army. He noted that, "At Fort Gregg our battery made a most determined defense after all hope had been abandoned. After exhausting our ammunition Lt. Chew's gray coat was pressed into service, and we loaded our pieces with such projectiles as could be picked up."

In his R.E. Lee, Douglas S. Freeman likens Fort Gregg to a Homeric defense and calls it one of the most dramatic incidents of an overwhelming day. He cites a reference stating that Lee called his staff around him, pointed to Fort Gregg, and asked them to witness a most gallant defense. It is therefore understandable that participating units were equally proud and jealous of their distinction.

* * * * *

PERFECT OCCLUSION

"The military feat of biting through a cartridge casing of about wrapping-paper thickness apparently left a lasting impression on the soldierly medical mind. The U.S. services persisted in demanding good dental occlusion, especially of front teeth, well into World War II. At some point in 1943, the services suddenly realized that it was no longer necessary to bite cartridges or hard tack. They lowered their dental requirements in time to defeat the Axis without perfect occlusion." (THE BUSHWHACKER, OCTOBER, 1965).

RAMRODS

"At the siege of Petersburg, Union infantry, enjoying a surplus of ramrods, fired them arrowlike out of the muzzles of their muskets into Confederate lines."

BAEHR NAMES FIVE TOP CONFEDERATE ARTILLERYMEN

By Scott Hart

From the Washington, D.C. newsletter, 1959

Every student can line up his favorite fighters, certainly in his branch of the service. Our esteemed Brig. Gen. Carl A. Baehr, distinguished artillerist, herewith makes known his selections--looking toward the Confederate batteries:

1. PORTER ALEXANDER --USMA, 1857. He early saw the need for a better battlefield communication; at First Manassas served as signal officer, though ordinarily assigned as acting chief of ordnance, ANV. His reputation rose at Fredericksburg, and at Chancellorsville, where his 30 massed guns roared. History lights his harassed face at Gettysburg, echoes his realistic words to Pickett across the silence of Longstreet. Later he became one of the respected voices from out of the war.
2. STAPLETON CRUTCHFIELD --VMI. He won Stonewall Jackson's approval, perhaps enough to say. At Frayser's Farm his 23 guns overwhelmed a Union assault at 1000 yards. Once, he used artillery horses to mount extemporized calvary. Captured at Port Republic on June 8, 1862, he was rescued in the fire of his own batteries on the unguarded Union flank. Wounded later, he returned to duty with the heavy artillery guarding Richmond. He died at Saylor's Creek, April 6, 1865, leading his artillerists--turned-infantrymen.
3. JOHN PELHAM --USMA, resigned before graduation to serve the South. Lee called him "gallant"--perhaps enough to say. Pelham shared with Jackson, Stuart, others, a genius for terrain. His boy-like eyes would remember First Manassas, the Ride Around McClellan, Gaines Mill, Sharpsburg, Stuart's Raid into Maryland Fredericksburg--sixty battles, Benet counted, without the loss of a gun. Usually his few guns raged with the rushes of cavalry. He shared the spirit and youth-like dash of Stuart, with Jackson-like devotion to Cause beneath. He died of battle wounds received at Kelly's Ford, March 17, 1863.
4. WILLIAM NELSON PENDLETON --USMA 1830, resigned 1833. Clergyman-soldier, Lee kept him from 1862 to the end. He was keen at appraising subordinates, useful in the unspectacular role of obtaining supplies and, ammunition. Such pre-occupations resulted sometimes in the neglect of battlefield leadership, which devolved upon juniors lacking needed rank and prestige. Nevertheless, his advices, untainted by partialities, served well in battle-loss readjustments of command.
5. J.B. WALTON --Although born in New Jersey, he became "The Spirit of the Washington Artillery." He saved the famed New Orleans gunners from extinction in the Mexican War, brought a well-equipped and trained unit up in time for First Manassas. Top eschelons liked him, used him in various positions. Alexander took his place at Gettysburg. Walton resigned but not for good--after the War he reorganized and built up the Washington Artillery in New Orleans whose descendent units served with distinction in two World Wars.

SOME BAEHR STORIES ON THE WASHINGTON ARTILLERY (CSA)

From the Washington, D.C. Newsletter, 1959

General Baehr, long-time member of the Washington roundtable, and former member of their Executive Committee. The General is an authority on artillery, for he commanded this arm at Anzio Beachhead in WW II and took his forces through Rome to the Siegfried Line in Germany.

WASHINGTON ARTILLERY (CSA)

One story is of Gen James Longstreet whose pride was his Washington Artillery. At Antietam, Longstreet personally placed the guns of Capt. Merritt B. Miller to bolster the Confederate line under heavy attack. Miller had only men enough to man one gun. Longstreet, wearing a carpet slipper on an injured foot and a bandage on an injured hand, held the reins of the horses for his aides so that they could serve Miller's man-scarce guns. While the Washington artillery was breaking up the Union attack, somebody passing handed Longstreet a flask of brandy. General Baehr still marvels at Longstreet's dexterity, for the Confederate general drank his brandy neat without the loss of a horse or a pain in the injured hand.

The other story was on "The White Horse Battery," the 5th Company of the Washington Artillery, which fought separately in the West.

At Jackson, Mississippi its men recovered a grand piano from a house they had to burn to clear the field of fire and took it to their trenches.

While the Union Army was driving in the infantry skirmishers, a Washington Artilleryman played the piano while the gunners sang "You can't Have Any of My Peanuts."

When ordered to fire, the chorus sprang from the piano and opened a devastating fire on the attacking Federals. They beat off the attack.

At "cease fire," the Artillerymen rushed to their grand piano in the trenches, Private Swain at the stool.

Observed a passing Union prisoner: "These Frenchmen have got a piano on the battlefield and sing 'Let Us Be Joyful' while the battle is going on."

As a footnote to General Baehr's stories, most of the top officers of the Washington Artillery were Northern born: Col. John B. Walton, New Jersey; Lieut. Col. B.F. Eshleman, Pennsylvania; Captains William Miller Owen and Edward Owen, brothers, Ohio; and Captain Merritt B. Miller, New York. Even Pvt. Andrew Swain who played the piano on the battlefield was a native of Ohio. One Southern born officer, Capt. Charles Squires of Alabama, served part of his prisoner-of-war days in the Old Capitol prison here, across the street from the Library of Congress and at the corner of the block upon which stands the U.S. Supreme Court today.

Another footnote: Lieut. Frank E. Sidman, resigned his commission while serving with the 13th U.S. Cavalry to join the staff of the Washington Artillery commanded by Major Allison Owen in WW I. Their fathers had met in battle at Fredericksburg, for Owen's battery had shot down the flag of and slightly wounded Lieut. Sidman's father, Col. George D. Sidman, 16th Michigan. A descendant battalion of the Washington Artillery served under General Baehr in World War II.

"Supply of artillery in the North was never an acute problem. 'There were only 7,892 cannon issued to the army during the period of over five years, from 1861 to 1866...' (Shannon, I 126.)From Mark M. Boatner's THE CIVIL WAR DICTIONARY, McKay Co., 1959.

ARTILLERY UNITS HAD EXTREMELY ROUGH
TIME ON MARCH TO CUMBERLAND GAP
from THE BIG CREEK GAP BUGLE
LAFOLLETTE, TENN.

Captain Jacob T. Foster of the First Wisconsin Battery, and General Morgan's chief of artillery, made his report of operations from June 6 to June 18, the time of arrival at Cumberland Gap, on June 21, 1862. His report in substance follows:

According to General Orders 39, the line of march was taken up for Cumberland Gap by the siege guns, two 20 and two 30 pounder Parrotts on Friday, June 6, in command of Lt. Webster. Preparations were made for the march, but it was difficult to find machinery of any kind to aid in the movement, and doubly difficult to move the heavy wagon trains and the Parrott Rifled guns, because they had to move them over steep rugged ascents and descents of the Cumberland Mountains. The Battery had 800 feet of one-inch rope and 100 feet of one and a half inch rope, two large and two small snatch bars and one double and one single tackle-block. These had to be moved forty miles through the Cumberlands, over roads considered impassible by the enemy for light artillery, and it seemed a Herculean task.

Many of the ascents were of thirty degrees with corresponding descents. On June 7, Foster's First Wisconsin, Lt. John D. Anderson in command, moved and had little difficulty for a few miles. The 9th Ohio Battery, Lt. Barrows in command, followed with the same success. Two hundred infantrymen were detailed to assist. The ropes and pulleys were in constant use, or ready. The ascents were not only steep, but sideling, where if the gun carriages were overturned they'd fall 100 to 500 feet over precipitous rocks. There were turns in the roads more than right angles and these were almost impossible with teams. There were times when the whole force of men and horses was used on the same rope.

On arriving at the top of Cumberland Mountain (at Rogers Gap) the men and horses were exhausted, and many horses were entirely broken down and worthless thereafter. The outfit was short of rations and forage, as it was impossible for the trains to follow closely. There was nothing on the overland route to California to compare with this route. On June 10 the march was made ten miles and the siege battery began the descent of the mountain into Cumberland Gap, by way of Rogers Gap. This gap had been blockaded by Zollicoffer's troops and cut out by De Courcay's 26th Brigade. The trail was a mere bridle path, and credit should be given to DeCourcay's troops for hard labor.

The 9th Ohio Battery, Captain Wetmore, followed and had much difficulty in ascending the steep declivity. It can be called nothing else although it is called a gap. At 6 p.m. the first piece of siege battery arrived on top of the mountain, halted for closing up of remaining pieces. Later all closed up and Wetmore passed and made the descent in advance. The 30 pounders were heavy, weighting 8,000 pounds, and were left on top of the mountain, the descent being too difficult to move them down in the night. The 20 pounders were taken into the valley at night, by constant care and tugging on ropes.

Foster's First Wisconsin waited for the ammunition train to proceed it up the mountain and started at 5 p.m. It worked hard through the night, which saw an eclipse of the moon. There were no rations or forage for 18 hours. This battery arrived in Powell Valley at 3:30 a.m. June 12. The road was winding, narrow, steep, stony and sideling, and the whole movement was constantly in danger.

On June 12 the battery was ordered to countermarch, recross the mountains and go to Williamsburg, Kentucky. The men desired to shed their blood in Tennessee and leave their bones bleaching in Powell Valley rather than retrace their steps over the mountain. But like

good soldiers they put their shoulders to the wheel literally, and commenced the ascent of the Southern side of the mountain, the 20-pound Parrotts in advance, started at 10 a.m. The road was more worn, rutted and loose stones made it almost impossible for the horses to get a foothold. After eleven hours of struggling, the outfit camped at the foot of the mountain on the north side on June 13.

At daylight the siege battery was on the march. It marched seven miles and halted for further orders. Foster's battery followed and arrived at the summit at midnight, halted. Then orders to remain there came. Wetmore's 9th Ohio on June 12, was ordered to accompany a forage train into Powell Valley. It did not return in time to go over the mountain again and was ordered to remain in Powell Valley.

In the evening of June 13, orders came to march back into Powell Valley. The soldiers yelled with delight and seemed anxious to return. They could hardly wait for morning to come. Foster's battery on top, descended again. Wetmore's in the valley, had only to wait, the siege battery, twelve miles on the road to Williamsburg, had both to climb and descend. This battery reached the foot of the north side of the mountain at 3 p.m. June 14, and remained there the rest of the day shoeing horses.

At 10 o'clock, June 15, the siege battery was up the hill and at 9:15 in the evening reported all down safe in Powell Valley. Men and teams were completely exhausted. The men didn't eat supper. They were too fatigued to cook it. If obliged to move two miles further, many would have perished by the roadside.

Lanphere's Michigan battery took up the line of march with Carter's brigade June 11, and following the same route a part of the way, had the same difficulties to overcome. On June 13 it crossed Pine Mountain and broke one caisson trail and two caisson wheels. It camped that night at Boston. On June 15 it passed Big Creek Gap and rested. On June 15 it passed Big Creek Gap and rested. On June 16 it reached Rogers Gap camp.

At 1:30 June 18. Foster's Battery and Siege Battery took up the line of march with the 26th Brigade to Cumberland Gap. Wetmore's battery marched with Baird's 27th Brigade, Lanphere's battery with Carter's 24th Brigade. The army marched up the valley from Rogers Gap 8 miles and camped the considerable force which had occupied Cumberland Gap had fled in "great rapidity." Reaching Cumberland Gap, the army found it had been evacuated a few hours previously. Captain Foster gave favorable notice in his report to Lt. Anderson, C. B. Kimball, Lt. Webster, Lt. Barrows and Captain Lanphere.

* * * * *

LAND MINES

. . . During General G. B. McClellan's 1862 campaign against Richmond, a Union cavalry detachment was trotting along a country road when suddenly the leading files were blown apart in a whirlwind of dirt, flame and smoke. They had touched off some land mines planted by Brig. Geneneral Gabriel J. Rains. Confederate General James Longstreet was as incensed as the northern press at this "inhuman" device and he sharply ordered Rains to stop. But Confederate President Jefferson Davis took a less queasy view of the matter and Rains was encouraged to continue his experiments with the mines. He eventually planted whole fields of them along the approaches to Richmond during the final days of the war.

The above passage was highlighted from Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin's article GREAT ADVANCES THAT CHANGED WAR, appearing in LIFE magazine series CIVIL WAR PART IV, 1961.

THE GATLING GUN

by

R.U. DARBY II

BUGLE CALL NEWSLETTER

HAGERSTOWN, MD.

Dr. Gatling, the inventor of the famous Gatling gun, was born in Hertford, county, North Carolina, on September 12, 1818, and throughout his life he disliked war and disease. He became a physician after suffering a severe case of smallpox and his spare time, invented many useful farm implements. Gatling's name has been carved in history by only one invention; the incomparable Gatling Gun, for almost one hundred years the parent of all rapid fire weapons. The slang term "gat" was derived by gangsters from this creation and was coined to mean any hand gun, revolver or automatic.

The Gatling was reliable as well as efficient and was made in every caliber from the original .58 to 1 inch; including the 30-06 and 30-40 and 6 mm Navy. From 1861 to 1865 it was continually confused with the Union battery gun, the "Coffee Mill." Since no machine gun mechanism could or would digest paper internally and still function, both the Gatling and the Coffee Mill used preloaded steel cylinders open at one end and with a nipple at the other end. These steel cartridge cases were individually loaded by the deft fingers of small boys and women. These were complete miniature barrels which were packed in individual cartons with the percussion caps on the nipples. Both guns had successful mechanisms and were fed from a hopper. The Gatling was the better designed weapon since it utilized multiple barrels instead of one barrel. The "Coffee Mill" gun, with a single barrel, was inoperative sooner than the multi-barrelled Gatling. There was a considerable heat problem accentuated by rapid fire and the Gatling had this solved because only one in four or more barrels was fired during each complete revolution. This meant less heat and less fouling than produced by the "Coffee Mill" gun with an equal or greater rate of fire.

Why so much interest in an antiquated piece of machinery? Because the most modern aircraft now use a machine gun named the Vulcan which is nothing more than Dr. Gatling's 1862 hand cranked Civil War weapon only now powered by electric motors. The Gatling was not officially adopted during the Civil War but was "demonstrated" by Gatling's staff at several engagements; name, the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky, September, 1862, and at famous Gettysburg. Unfortunately, the gun was never employed in the job for which it had been developed, close support against massed charges which were a sign of the times and tactics. General Ben Butler personally purchased eight Gatlings and used them on his gunboats. Thus, as is so often the rule, the U.S. Army overlooked what could readily have been the turning point in the early stages of the War, proving the old adage that hind sight is much better and more convenient than foresight.

* * * * *

BOOBY TRAPS

. . . Rains was a genius at devising new and deadly ways to blow up Northerners. One of his masterpieces looked like a lump of coal. It was a cast iron bomb, designed to be tossed into navy coal piles and, eventually, to find its way into the furnaces of warships. . . orders were issued to shoot on sight anybody seen carrying a lump of coal in the vicinity of a ship. . . "Perfection!" exclaimed Jeff Davis when he saw it. "Perfection itself!"

The above passage was highlighted from Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin's article GREAT ADVANCES THAT CHANGED WAR, appearing in LIFE magazine series, CIVIL WAR PART IV, 1961.

CONFEDERATE MUNITIONS

As one can see from the gunpowder formula of seventy-five pounds of saltpeter, fifteen pounds of charcoal, and ten pounds of sulfur per one hundred pounds of explosive which the Confederate Ordnance Bureau used, the saltpeter requirement was by far the greatest. The only native source of saltpeter was the earth of limestone caves. Bat guano and other organic material, the wastes of the cave's inhabitants for countless ages, accumulated on the floor and underwent bacterial decomposition forming nitric acid, which reacted with the limestone to form calcium nitrate. In making saltpeter, the workers removed the cave soil and leached out the calcium nitrate. This solution was first concentrated and then percolated through wood ashes, where it reacted with potassium carbonate, potash, to form potassium nitrate, much the same as the primitive method for making lye.

Saltpeter caves were not the only source of nitrates; the Bureau dug up the dirt floors of tobacco warehouses and old cellars and processed the soil in the same manner as the soil from caves. It is interesting that the most productive area, that with headquarters at Greensboro, North Carolina, had no saltpeter caves at all. The niter was obtained from the earth dug from under old barns, houses, and other buildings.

To increase the amount of saltpeter, the Bureau started niter beds near several large cities. The beds consisted of pits two feet deep and filled with manure, carcasses and decaying vegetable matter loosely piled in contact with wood ashes derived from oak trees; and while decomposition progressed, putrid water and organic liquids collected from the cities were sprinkled over the beds. Sheds protected the beds from rain but allowed the circulation of air, while bacterial action converted the wastes to nitrates as in the natural formation in caves.

Human urine was one of the components of the process, and advertisements for it taxed Victorian tact to the utmost. John Haralson, the agent in Selma, Alabama, created a great sensation among the troops by his request for the ladies to save their "chamber lye" for the use of the department.

After eighteen months and occasional mixing, the soil was put into hoppers and water was drained through it. The saltpeter was recovered from the drainage. Stray dogs led a dangerous life in the Confederacy. The tanneries sought their skins while the Nitre Bureau wanted their carcasses. Their frequent use for this purpose is probably the reason for the "dogged resistance" of Confederate troops. By the end of 1864 there was almost a million cubic feet of beds in the South, the largest of which was at Richmond. Although these beds gave the Confederacy an almost unlimited potential for saltpeter, the war ended before much could be extracted.

From a paper VULCAN AND THE CONFEDERACY
by David L. Miller

* * * * *

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

During the Peninsula Campaign "Prince John Magruder's men were fighting a rear guard action. During one such stand, a British volunteer asked his troop commander: "I beg pardon, Captain, but may I inquire why we are staying here so long?" "To save this gun," the captain replied. "We can't afford to leave it." "How much do think it is worth" replied the Britisher. "I suggest about a thousand dollars." The Englishman deliberately readjusted his eyeglass and regarded the enemy advancing and now firing on the troops and made a nonchalant offer to his commander. "Well, Captain, let's move on. I'll give you my check for it at once."

COLONEL ELY S. PARKER

PARKER, ELY SAMUEL (1828-Aug 31, 1894), Seneca sachem, engineer and soldier, was born at Indian Falls, Town of Pembroke, Genesee County, N.Y., the son of William and Elizabeth Parker. The English patronymic was adopted from a white friend, but the father known as Jo-no-es-do-wa to the Seneca, was a Tonawanda Seneca chief and a veteran of the War of 1812. The mother, Ga-ont-gwut-twus, was descended from Skaniadario, a great Iroquois prophet.

Parker was reared as a reservation Indian, but received liberal schooling at the Baptist mission school of Tonawanda, and at Yates and Cayuga academies. He quit school at eighteen, and for the next twenty years was frequently the representative of his people in prosecuting Indian claims in Washington, where he was received with interest by the most distinguished, becoming the dinner companion of President Polk. In 1852 he became a sachem of his tribe, with the name Do-ne-ho-ga-wa, or Keeper of the Western Door of the Long House of the Iroquois. Throughout his life he was the champion of his people, defending them from dishonest land schemes of the whites. His association with Lewis H. Morgan was of particular interest, for he gave Morgan important aid in preparing what was perhaps the first scientific study of an Indian tribe, published as LEAGUE OF THE HO-DE-NO-SAU-NEE or IROQUOIS (1851). Parker read law but was refused admission to the bar on the grounds that he was not a citizen. He then turned to civil engineering, taking a course at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. As an engineer he was conspicuously successful, holding various important posts until 1857, when he became superintendent of construction for various government works at Galena, Ill. Here he became the friend of a clerk and ex-soldier, Ulysses S. Grant. During this period he held many high offices in the Masonic Order.

When the Civil War broke out he could not, at first, obtain release from his duties in Galena, but in 1862 he resigned, and in accordance with tribal custom returned to the reservation to secure his father's permission to go to war. Neither the governor of New York nor the secretary of war would commission him on account of his race, and Seward even went so far as to tell him that the war would be won by the whites without the aid of the Indians. Finally, in the early summer of 1863, he succeeded in getting commissioned as captain of engineers, and joined General J.E. Smith as division engineer of the 7th Division, XVII Corps. On Sept 18 he joined his old friend Grant at Vicksburg as a staff officer, on Aug 30, 1864, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel and Grant's military secretary. He was present when Lee surrendered at Appomattox, and his huge swartheness was noted by Lee with uplifted brows, but when it came time to draw up the terms of capitulation, the senior adjutant-general, Col. Theodore S. Bowers, was so nervous he could not write, and it was the Indian, Parker, who at Grant's orders made interlineations in the penciled original and then transcribed in a fair hand the formal official copies of the document that ended the Civil War.

Following the war he remained as Grant's military secretary, being commissioned a brigadier-general of volunteers as of the date of Appomattox. He was appointed first and second lieutenant in the cavalry of the Regular Army, but his most signal military distinctions were his brevet appointments in the Regular Army, as captain, major, lieutenant-colonel, colonel, and brigadier-general, all on March 2, 1867, and all for gallant and meritorious services.

On December 25, 1867, he married Minnie Sackett of Washington, from which marriage a daughter was born. He resigned from the army on April 26, 1869, for by one of Grant's first appointments as president, April 13, 1869, he had been made commissioner of Indian affairs. His many changes in the existing system, designed to give justice to the Indians, earned him enemies, and in February 1871 he was tried by a committee of the House of Representatives for defrauding the government. Although entirely cleared of the charges, he was heartbroken, and resigned soon after to go into business. He made a small fortune on Wall Street, but lost it by paying the bond of a defaulter. Later business ventures likewise proved unfortunate, and in his latter years he held positions with the police department of New York City. He died at his country home at Fairfield, Conn. In 1897, with impressive ceremonies, his remains were reinterred in the Red Jacket lot of Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, N.Y., on land that formerly belonged to his tribe.

(A.C. Parker, THE LIFE OF GENERAL ELY S. PARKER (1919); biog. data, including an unfinished autobiog. in BUFFALO HIST. SOC. PUBS., vol. VIII (1905); PERSONAL MEMOIRS OF US GRANT, vol. II (1886).

* * * * *

THE CIVIL WAR IN INDIAN TERRITORY

One of the most important engagements fought during the Civil War in Indian Territory was commemorated on February 13, 1964, by the Oklahoma Civil War Centennial Commission. Known as the Battle of Middle Boggy, this Union victory marked the farthest advance across Indian Territory towards Texas by any Federal force during the war.

Two regiments of the Union Indian Brigade left Fort Gibson on February 1, 1864, and took up a line of march southwesterly across Indian Territory, with Texas as their intended destination. The expedition, under the command of Colonel W.A. Phillips of Kansas, fought several skirmishes across the Choctow Nation and on February 13 met stubborn resistance on the Middle Boggy River, near Atoka. Fighting continued throughout the day; and the Confederates, under Brig. General D. H. Cooper, finally withdrew because of an ammunition shortage, leaving 40 or 50 dead. Expected Federal reinforcements did not arrive and Phillips returned to Fort Gibson. The site of the battle is owned by the Oklahoma Historical Society and is well-marked and maintained as a Confederate cemetery and memorial.

(Thanks to Howard Monnett, Editor, CWRT of Kansas City)

* * * * *

HORSE HOSPITAL

Toward the end of the second year of the war, a 2650 horse hospital was established at the Giesboro Cavalry Depot in Washington, D.C. Some 170,650 cavalry mounts and 12,000 artillery horses went through this giant hospital.

One source avers that at the outbreak of hostilities there were more than 4,500,000 horses and 450,000 mules in the country. Before the shooting ceased the Federal Government was purchasing draught animals from Canadian dealers.

(Thanks--GAUS' BUGLE)