



# The Charger

## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 444  
VERMILION, OHIO - 44089

MAY, 1981

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 1

207th MEETING

DATE: MAY 12th  
PROGRAM: "WHAT IF?"

Featuring members Jim Chapman (What if Admiral Farragut had...?) Don Hamill (What if Gen'l McClellan had...?) Stu Cramer (What if the Army of Tennessee had...?) With questions, comments and rebuttals by the audience.

PLACE: Residence of member Ken Callahan, with 2½ acres to roam, 19101 South Park Boulevard, Shaker Heights.

TIME: Cocktails at 6:00 P.M. Dinner (catered) at 7:00 P.M.

## A WORD FROM OUR HOST

The May meeting of the Round Table promises to be an epoch in our Club's history. Members in their later years will reminisce about the event, perhaps in the same wistful spirit of reflectiveness that Hood's Army reminisced about Franklin and Spring Hill.

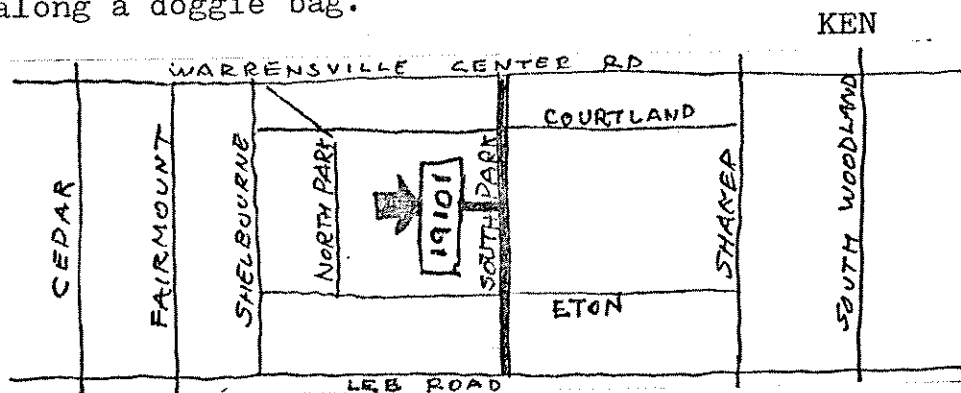
There will be horse-drawn carriages, Union and Confederate music, and free draft beer.


A genuine spirit of nostalgia for the Civil War will descend upon the membership during the cocktail hour, at which time selected members will be recruited and forced to dig latrines.

To preserve the flavor of the war years, canapes will include hogjowls, hardtack, and a delicious, pre-cooked, Honey-Baked Sow Belly.

There isn't need to divulge the main course. It will be authentic, however. Suffice it to say that the recipe was used by several of the gourmet chefs at Andersonville.

No more hints, except...well...perhaps it might be appropriate to bring along a doggie bag.



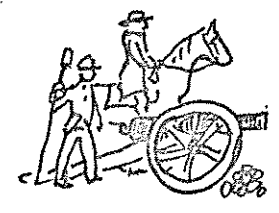


**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR  
ROUND-TABLE**

FOUNDED 1957

President: Tom Geshke  
Vice Pres: John Harkness  
Secretary: Jim Englehart  
Treasurer: Tim Moran

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Committee



Bob Bayless  
John Tormey  
Tom Koehl  
Jim Chapman

Editor and Illustrator of  
The Charger: Stu Cramer  
Assist. Ed.: Hazel Cramer  
Box 444, Vermilion, Ohio  
44089...CCWRT P.O. Box 5786  
Cleveland, Ohio 44101

## FRENCH and INDIAN WAR

### SUBJECT of MINI FIELD TRIP

This year's "mini-field trip," under the direction of Bernie Drews and Don Heckaman, is slanted at the French and Indian War. Dates are tentatively set for May 29th and 30th.

The car caravan of stag members will set out Friday late afternoon and take in Jumonville's Glen, Fort Necessity, and Dunbar's Camp. Overnight accommodations will probably be at The Holiday Inn, at Uniontown, Pa..

Three times, beginning in 1690, warfare flamed in the no man's land between New France and New England. Each nation regarded the Ohio Valley as its own. For seventy years they fought, off and on; settlements were destroyed and armies clashed in the wilderness. In 1754 a mere skirmish occurred there, but it touched off a war that spread to Europe, then to Africa, Asia, and even to islands in the Atlantic and Pacific. It was fought with bitter determination for nine years on land and sea, and the fate of North America hung in the balance. This conflict, the Great War for the Empire, was touched off by none other than George Washington.

Early in April, 1754, Governor Dinwiddie, of the Crown Colony of Virginia, sent an expedition under Colonel Joshua Fry to take French Fort Duquesne. Second in command was young Lieutenant Colonel

## DAN TYLER MOORE

### INTRIGUES

More than 50 attended the Annual Ladies' Night on April 16th in the main dining room at the Hermit Club. The animated conversation, the refreshments and the steak made it a most enjoyable evening.

Dan Tyler Moore was in good form. He traced his career as chief of American counter-intelligence in the Middle East with many fascinating anecdotes. He told how his spies had upset the German supply of industrial diamonds; of the dangers of having his car blown up; of derring-do by many interesting "characters," and he demonstrated some of the trick materials used in the covered up world of secret agents. A great evening!

continued on page 7

# FRED GILL'S BOOK REVIEW

3

## A LONG, LONG TRAIL A-WINDING

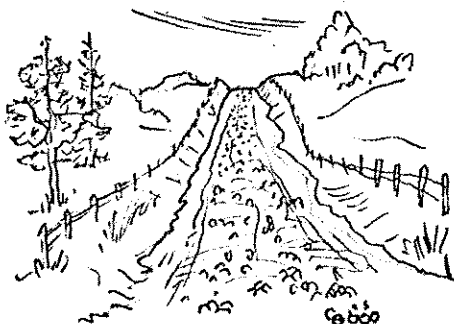
Grierson's Raid by D. Alexander Brown. University of Illinois Press: Urbana, Illinois: 1962

Benjamin Grierson would have liked this book. This Illinois musician who profoundly mistrusted horses but, oddly enough, became one of the great cavalry leaders of the Civil War would have appreciated this lively and unembellished account of, as Sherman, no praiser of cavalymen, said, "The most brilliant expedition of the war."

The raid itself was conceived by Grant as the keystone in his edifice of deception masking his thrust from the south to Vicksburg. He had Sherman making ominous noises north of Vicksburg. He sent Colonel Streight on his curious and ludicrous mule-mounted raid to keep Forrest busy. But the keystone was Grierson's job. After the raid began Grierson's canny moves compounded and compounded again the confusion already beginning to flourish in Mississippi. Until the last day of Grierson's astonishing fifteen day ride, when he was nearing Baton Rouge, did Pemberton or any Confederate unit of significant force really know where the rugged band of Illinois country boys was and where it was going. But Pemberton knew his communications were scrambled, his supplies scorched and his cavalry scattered and soon knew that Grierson had kept his mind off Grant's main thrust. This was precisely Grant's aim when he sent Grierson off.



Your editor, once the proprietor of a riding academy (the horse kind) and I at one time speculated on how could the Confederates have missed over and over the strikingly evident clue to Grierson's whereabouts - the trail of equine effluvia. Based on our editor's observations, a horse produces about two pounds of manure daily. The total quantity, then for the two regiments on this raid came to nearly a ton! That's a lotta! Even spread over one of the longer daily rides, this must have left a beautifully plain trail. How could all those horse-wise Rebs have missed it? It must have been just part of the raiders' phenomenal luck, or Grierson's elegant timing and prescient strategies.



( Continued on page 4 )

This raid is unique in the war because it had a decisive quality about it. It fulfilled exactly its role in a larger campaign that was a decisive part in the ultimate Union victory. Confederate cavalry raids have their places in history but none had the unalloyed military success that Grierson's had. Forrest's masterly actions certainly were irritants to many Union generals but really not much more. Morgan's raids spread panic but had no lasting results. And Stuart's raids, while done with great panache, were little more than posturing, fancy stunts by a fancy horseman, when compared to this, the raid of raids.

The author of this little gem breathes life into the daily routines of riders and the people they met along the way and brings a simple clarity to the military actions. The only blemish in the book is a barely adequate map. This is forgivable because the rest of the book is so good.

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## SAVE PETERSBURG BY UNDERMINING HUD

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET WRITTEN YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AND U.S. SENATORS ABOUT PETERSBURG, please do it TODAY. The situation--which involves the planned construction of a multi-unit, low-income, minority housing project by HUD on the border of the Petersburg park--has gone from bad to worse, with HUD completely ignoring the wishes of the National Park Service and accusing anyone who opposes the project of being racist. The fact is that HUD is building a ghetto of low-income, minority housing away from white Petersburg by locating this project on the boundary of the park, in the same general vicinity of two other similar projects, also on the park boundaries, which have already caused tremendous problems for the park in terms of vandalism, littering, etc., etc.

Be aware that the HUD officials involved are not above a little truth-bending, if not deliberately evasive misrepresentation. For instance, when Virginia Sen. John Warner contacted HUD to inquire about the project, here's the letter he got back: "On October 6 (1980), a meeting was held at HUD headquarters with representatives from our Richmond Area Office, the Petersburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority, the Concerned Citizens Group, Congressman Daniels' office, Senator Byrd's Office, the National Park Service, and the Petersburg National Battlefield Park, to address all concerns including any adverse impact. Our Richmond Area Office advises that a Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by all parties concerned which addresses items of controversy regarding the development of this project. One of the stipulations of the Memorandum of Agreement was that all adverse impact issues that were identified can and will be resolved."

This makes it sound as if, at some point, the National Park Service became a signer of the Memorandum of Agreement, when, in fact, THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HAS NOT SIGNED AND WILL NOT SIGN. The actual case is that HUD does not regard the National Park Service as a full participant (a "parties concerned," that is...), so the NPS signature is considered unnecessary. None of the NPS concerns have been addressed, those having to do with impact on the park.

Please write your Representative and Senators today and ask them to look into this fast shuffle HUD is giving to one of our significant Civil War areas. Write today!

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This is the last Charger until the mid-summer issue, which will bring details about the fall field trip to Chickamauga and Chattanooga. The issue after that will be in September, when our meetings resume.

## JACKSONVILLE, III. HONORS FAVORITE HORSEMAN

Last year member Earl Hoover spoke at the Centennial Celebration at Illinois College, in Jacksonville, Illinois. At that time he visited the grave and monument of General Grierson, and later submitted the accompanying article from the Jacksonville Courier.

The General Benjamin Henry Grierson House, 852 East State St., has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places, according to official notification which reached here yesterday.

The house, one of the most historic landmarks in Jacksonville, is owned and occupied by Mrs. Charlotte Cleeland.

General Grierson was one of the heroes of the Civil War thanks mainly to his famous 1863 raid from LaGrange, Tennessee, through the entire state of Mississippi to Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

President Lincoln recognized Grierson's service by promoting him to brigadier general of volunteers. General Grant, referring to Grierson's raid of 1863, stated, "General Grierson was the first officer to set the example of what might be done in the interior of the enemy's country without a base from which to draw supplies."

Grierson continued his active service for the Union until the end of the Civil War, and on the reorganization of the regular army he was appointed colonel of the Tenth Regiment of U.S. Cavalry, one of four all-black regiments, and he served with it until he retired in 1890.

Grierson gained quite a reputation for the good work he did for nearly a quarter-century with his all-black regiment in scouting, exploring, Indian-fighting and administering throughout the western states and territories at various military posts. At different times he commanded the Districts of Indian Territory and Pecos, Texas; the Department of Texas; the District of New Mexico; and the Department of Arizona, with headquarters at Los Angeles, California, where he received his appointment as brigadier general from the U.S. Army to rank from April 3, 1890. He retired from active service July 8, 1890, and returned to Jacksonville where he remained until his death August 31, 1911.

General Grierson was associated with 852 East State Street from the time he moved with his family to Jacksonville in 1851 until well after the turn of the century. Grierson was a music teacher when he first lived in

the house with his parents. In the mid-1850s he unsuccessfully tried the mercantile business at Meredosia and continued in this line until the Civil War when he volunteered in 1861. He rose rapidly through the ranks and took part in numerous engagements as a cavalry colonel.

Throughout his military career, General Grierson used 852 East State Street as his official residence. In the 1890s, following his retirement, he moved to 729 West State Street and lived there until his death. This house, an ornate Victorian structure in what was then the more fashionable west end of Jacksonville, was destroyed by fire earlier this year, which leaves 852 East State Street as the only tangible reminder of General Grierson's great service to the United States. Even though he moved from 852 East State Street in the 1890s, General Grierson still owned the house at the time of his death in 1911.

Editor's Note: It was the same 10th Regiment that later fell under the command of John J. Pershing, and it was from this connection that he earned the sobriquet of "Black Jack Pershing."

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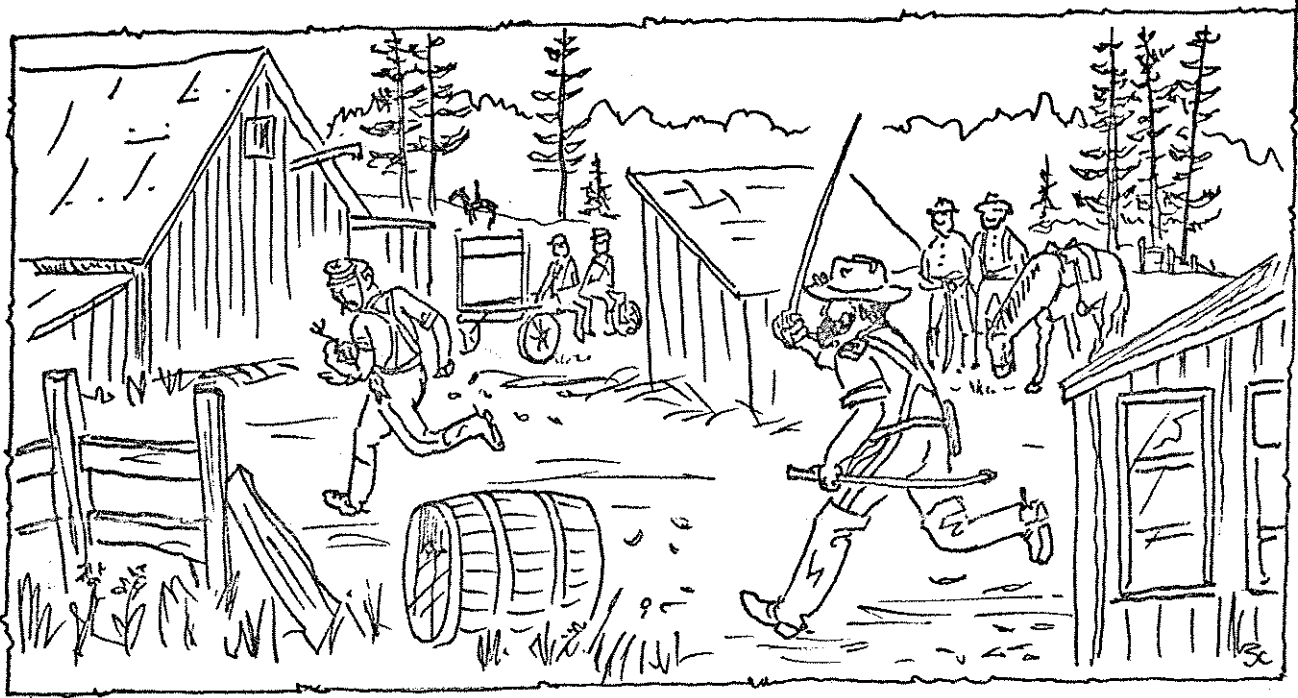
## DOESN'T LIKE EITHER FEDS OR REBS

It has been brought to our attention in the Texas Civil War Round Table's Lone Star Banner that one Representative Wilson of Harris County recently introduced a bill into the Texas Legislature that specifies:

"It would be a first degree felony to participate in a battle reenactment or living historic demonstration....a person commits an offense if he intentionally or knowingly carries a firearm on or about his person while engaged in mock military warfare operation with one or more individuals."

The only two exceptions to prosecution under this bill would be ROTC, Regular Army, Reserve or National Guard Unit. Wilson is another darky politician who is presumably allergic to the re-activation of Confederate and Union units. Others, notably in Atlanta, like to change the names of streets from those honoring Civil War heroes and events to black glory.

# SCENES I LIKE TO IMAGINE



In later years, one of General Grierson's favorite stories of the raid was an incident occurring at Spunlark's Plantation.

"There had been all these fourteen days of hard work and scanty rest and rations, wherein the officers had scarcely fared better than the men; at least the men were always first served. This night I was determined that my staff and I should have a good supper. I accordingly stationed a guard at the well-filled chicken-coop, while the smokehouses and store-houses were opened as usual, and their contents dealt out to the men.

"I was suddenly aware that the men, either by hustling away, or conniving with the guard, were devastating the chicken coop. I looked in, and saw the last chicken, and a hand grasping for it. Saber in hand, I went for that private. Over the hen coop, around the pig-sty, through the stable, behind the smokehouses, between the horses, and under the horses, dodging the trees, and jumping briars, down the steps - the hen squawking, I vociferating, the laughing officers cheering the novel chase, 'til over a picket fence went the soldier, dropping the fowl under my saber. It did not require much picking by this time, but I had earned my fricassee."

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Ed. Note: In my opinion one of the best Civil War novels is The Horse Soldiers by Harold Sinclair, Harper & Bros., New York, 1956. This is a factual novel, based upon the Grierson raid. It was made into a movie, starring John Wayne.

Washington, who assumed command when Colonel Fry died. Hacking a path through the wilderness, sometimes at a rate of only two miles a day, Washington's men <sup>finally</sup> broke out at an open area called the Great Meadows, where they made camp. One evening a message came from a friendly Indian chief, Monacatootha, that a party of Frenchmen were bivouacked in a rocky ravine only six miles away.

At dawn, Washington, with 40 men, followed Monacatootha and a dozen of his warriors to surround the French soldiers. At a signal from the young commander, the paint-smeared Indians and the Virginians attacked the unsuspecting enemy and slaughtered a third of them. The French leader, Sieur de Jumonville was killed. It was the first time George Washington witnessed yowling savages scalping their victims. This is the Jumonville Glen that is on the field trip itinerary.

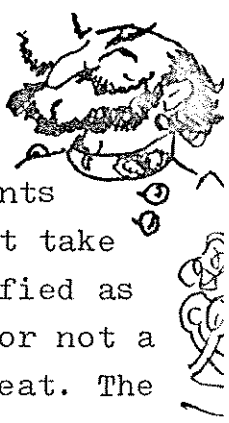
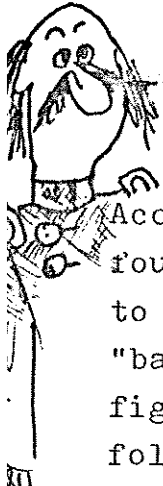
The French sent a large force out from Ft. Duquesne under Coulon de Villiers brother of the slain Jumonville. Learning of the French advance, Washington hastily built a rectangular log fort on a low-lying part of the Great Meadows where his men had dug entrenchments. He called this makeshift stockade Fort Necessity. It was a poor location, overlooked by higher wooded ground on all sides.

First, the young militia commander discovered that a third of his force was sick, next torrential rains came, making the fort a bog; then with the advancing French, the Indians deserted, even Monacatootha...the fort's principal armament, the swivel guns, became useless because they were so wet...then the French began to pick off the Virginians from their superior position. As if this were not enough, a number of the defenders broke into the rum stores and got drunk. There was nothing left for Washington to do but surrender, so he signed the surrender terms in the light of a sputtering candle.

The French were generous. On July 4th, with the honors of war: flags flying, drums beating, rifles slung, the English marched out to return to Virginia. To Washington, who had dreamed of a military career with a royal commission and a scarlet tunic to replace his militia blue, it seemed the end of the road. The French had swept the Ohio Valley clean.

In 1755, two regular regiments, the 44th and 48th Foot, were dispatched from Ireland to Virginia to form the core of a new expedition to take Ft. Duquesne. The commander of this expedition was General Edward Braddock. Colonel Thomas Dunbar commanded the 48th, which was supplemented by Virginia militiamen, of which Colonel Washington was one. The defeat and death of Braddock was just a part of that long world-wide war started at Jumonville Glen.

# OLLAPODRIDA



According to government publications, there were 10,455 engagements fought between the North and South. But just how many men does it take to have an engagement? Of the total number, only 76 were classified as "battles," while 6,377 were labelled "skirmishes." Just whether or not a fight was a battle or a skirmish usually depended upon who got beat. The following definitions should be kept in mind:

Campaign - What a General called a maneuver if it was successful.

Reconnaissance - An unsuccessful maneuver.

Battle - A fight a General wins.

Skirmish - A fight a General loses.

Strategic withdrawal - A fight in which a general gets the stuffing beat out of him.

Raid - A successful attack on a chickenhouse.

Affair - What officers had with lady spies.

Capture - What Confederates did if they took possession of a farmhouse.

Occupation - What Confederates did if the farmer had a daughter.

Combat - What most Generals never saw.

Siege - A successful capture of a distillery.

Operations - Poker games inside a mess tent.

Expedition - A night sortie to a battlefield comfort station.

## Will Success Spoil Jeff Davis

T. L. Connelly

\* \* \* \* \*

Many stayed out of the war simply by buying a substitute for about \$300.

One story survives about a Mrs. Malaprop who answered the question, "Has your husband gone to war?" "Oh no, he couldn't go, but he sent a prostitute."

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The Rebel came  
On the First of May;  
The Yankee Came the  
Very Next Day.  
Nine Months Later  
There Was Hell to Pay.  
Who Fired the Shot?  
The Blue or The Gray?

\* \* \* \* \*

The finest eulogy I have ever read was Benjamin Hill's on Robert E. Lee: "He was Caesar without his ambition, Frederick without his tyranny, Napoleon without his selfishness, and Washington without his reward." (B. H. Hill, 1823-82, was a famous orator. He opposed secession but supported Davis in the Confederate Senate. Elected U.S. Senator (Ga.) in 1877.)

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Father Abraham's Children, by F.B. Woodward, is not about Lincoln's offsprings, but is a compilation of anecdotes about Michiganders during the war