



The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. Box 5786, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

APRIL 1989

279th MEETING

VOL 10 #8

DATE: Tuesday, April 11, 1989

PLACE: The Hermit Club

SUBJECT: Civil War Prisons-Myth and Reality

SPEAKER: Dr. Frank L. Byrne. Dr. Byrne is no stranger to the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. An entertaining as well as knowledgeable speaker, Dr. Byrne is currently on the faculty at Kent State University. He has been at Kent State since 1966. Originally from New Jersey, he received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Wisconsin in 1957. He taught at Louisiana State and Creighton University before coming to Kent State. He has published extensively on the Civil War having edited Your True Marcus; The Civil War Letters of Colonel Marcus Spiegel and The View from Headquarters; The Civil War Letters of H. Reid. He authored the chapter on Civil War Prisons in the National Historical Society's Image of the War Vol. IV.

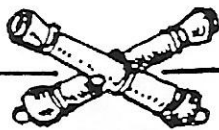
TIME: Drinks 6 PM Dinner 7 PM

RESERVATIONS: Please call Neil Glaser at 283-0262 ASAP! Reservations are a MUST!

Walton Taber
COLD QUARTERS, JOHNSON'S ISLAND

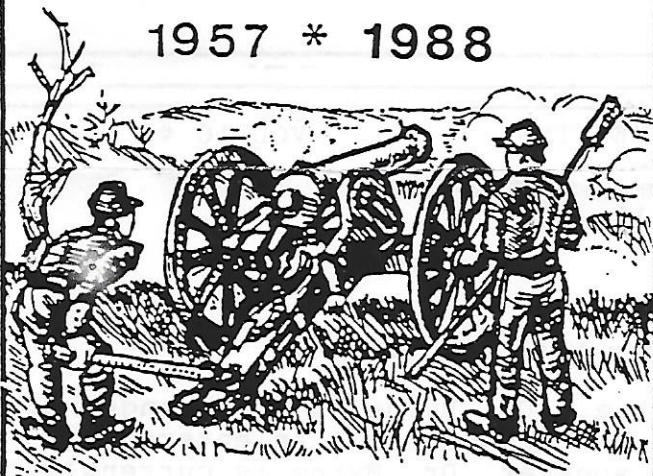


Walton Taber THE DEADLINE, JOHNSON'S ISLAND



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

1957 * 1988



President - Neil Glaser
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(216) 572-1287

MOVING?

PLEASE LET US KNOW
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
YOUR NEW ADDRESS...

CIVIL WAR SHOW

12 TH ANNUAL OHIO CIVIL WAR
SHOW, Ashland College Convocation
Center, Ashland, OH, April 29 & April 30,
1988. Featuring 300 tables of Buy-Trade-
Sell memorabilia from the period of
1776 through 1898. A special display on
the Confederate Prison, Johnson's
Island, Sandusky, OH is featured. For
additional details, contact Don
Williams, 1083 Oakhill Circle, Ash-
land, OH 44805. Phone (419) 289-3120.

ANNOUNCING THE SPRING CAMPAIGN

THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FIELDTRIP - April 28 - 30

Winchester, Virginia

PROPOSED ITINERARY

Kernstown Battlefield

Historic Downtown Winchester

1st Battle of Winchester

2nd Battle of Winchester

3rd Battle of Winchester

Star Fort

The Hasting's Marker

The National Cemetery

The Stonewall Cemetery

Stonewall Jackson Headquarters

Optional Self Tours

New Market Battlefield

Cedar Creek Battlefield

Tour Guide and Speaker -

WILLIAM W. HASSLER

Those interested

Send \$25.00 Deposit to:

Dick Velker

20142 Albion Rd.

Strongsville, Ohio 44136

More New Members

JOHN S. SCHIER
STEPHEN J. ZYZANSKI

Events of 125 Years Ago

APRIL 1864

- APRIL 4 Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan was named cavalry commander of the Army of the Potomac. U.S. House of Representatives passed a joint resolution saying that the U.S. would not permit the establishment of a monarchy in Mexico.
- APRIL 7 Longstreet's Corps, which had spent the winter in east Tennessee, was ordered to return to Lee's Army.
- APRIL 8 Battle of Sabine Crossroads or Mansfield, Louisiana.
- APRIL 9 Engagement of Pleasant Hills, Louisiana. Gen. Grant issued the spring campaign orders to Meade, Sherman and Butler.
- APRIL 12 Gen. Forrest captured Fort Pillow, Tennessee.
- APRIL 17 Gen. Grant ordered no further exchange of prisoners.
- APRIL 18-20 Confederate forces under Gen. Hoke with the C.S.S. Albemarle attacked and captured Plymouth, N.C.
- APRIL 26 Rapidly falling water in the Red River trapped Admiral Porter's gunboat fleet at Alexandria, La.
- APRIL 27 Pres. Davis sent Jacob Thompson and C.C. Clay to Canada as special commissioners.

-The Civil War Day by Day
by E.B. Long

Author finds bearings again in Civil War

PRISONERS OF TWILIGHT. By Don Robertson. Crown, 214 pp., \$16.95.
By JOYCE SLATER

Don Robertson as a writer is difficult to classify. Try to imagine the improbable teaming of Stephen King and John Jakes, and you may approximate his eerie, evocative tone.

A resident of Cleveland Heights, Robertson also is the author of "Praise the Human Season" and "Paradise Falls," which demonstrated his fascination with the Civil War and his considerable skill as a storyteller.

"Prisoners of Twilight," too, has a Civil War setting: April 1865, Richmond, Va., to be exact. By focusing on a 10-day period and a small group of Confederate sol-

BOOKS

diers, Robertson gives us a gritty, intensely personal view of that vast, often romanticized conflict. There are no Ashleys or Rhett's in Robertson's ragged little troop. His soldiers are exhausted, confused, diseased and starving. Most are barefoot, clad in stinking clothes they've taken off enemy corpses. Only eight of the 16 are armed, with fewer than 200 rounds of ammunition among them. These men are not concerned with heroism, only with survival.

The author employs an unusual but effective structure. Each chapter has its own voice and comes from the point of view of a different man. This would seem to be a



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Scenes I'd Like to Have Seen

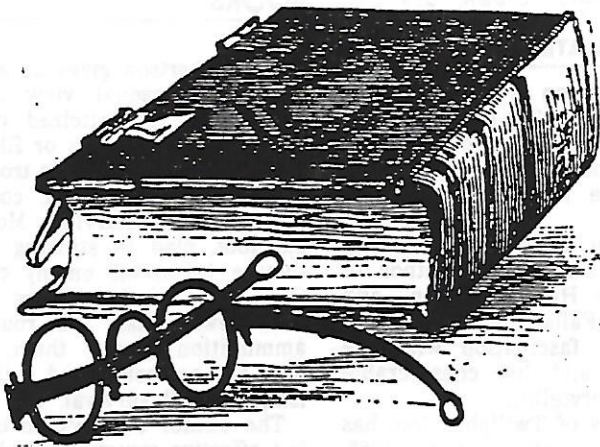
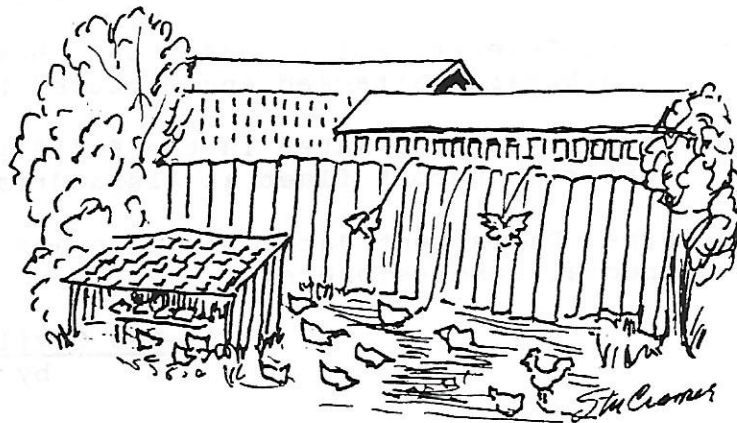
At a Confederate hospital in Georgia a nurse noticed that many of her convalescents in the ward were busy preparing fish-hooks. As often as they went fishing, the nurse was puzzled that the men seldom brought back any fish. They usually showed up at the hospital kitchen with chicken instead.

The puzzle was solved when one day an irate old lady came into the hospital demanding to see the head surgeon. In her hand she held a string on the end of which hung a large chicken. She opened the chicken's mouth to reveal to the surgeon a fish-hook baited with a kernal of corn.

The old lady told the following story: She owned a large number of chickens which she kept in her fence-enclosed yard. The fence was quite tall to prevent the birds from escaping. Despite these precautions she noticed that her chickens were gradually diminishing and she was at a loss as to why. That is until the morning she witnessed the baited lines flying over her tall fence. As soon as the baits hit the ground the foolish chickens would swallow them. Those that did were soon flying over the fence into unseen arms. She intercepted one line and was able to trace the culprits to the hospital.

The surgeon, barely able to suppress laughter, compensated the old lady and promised her there would be no more "fishing."

Memories by Mrs. Fannie A. Beers pp115-116



self-limiting technique, since the voices belong, for the most part, to uneducated, frightened, inarticulate people. Still, Robertson does a masterful job of sketching in personalities.

Sgt. Patterson is particularly interesting, a scared 20-year-old who can't understand how he came to be in command of men old enough to be his father. A virgin with an active libido, Patterson also has trouble understanding his feelings for Pendarvis, an effeminate blond 14-year-old. Jasper Tidwell is a hard-working farmer: "There wasn't an awful lot of peace involved when a man had eight children running and whopping and colliding and in general rolling and tumbling underfoot. Which meant that this here war was a sort of relief as far as Tidwell was con-

cerned." Coy is a man who's lost an arm but still prefers the war to the harangues of his hulking wife.

The dramatic tension of "Prisoners of Twilight" stems from a fact the reader knows, but that Patterson's men couldn't possibly suspect: They are headed for a tragic, misbegotten encounter with another contingent of Rebel troops. Brig. Gen. Snell, the commanding officer, and his adjutant, Capt. Pitt, have their own chapters. Snell has lost his mind, "owls and bats and great hooting swans, flying around inside his skull," and Pitt is too weary to challenge him. The final confrontation smacks of the irrational brand of inevitability that characterizes all wars, not just the one that ended in Appomattox in 1865.

WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

Can you identify these Civil War generals? Answers are found elsewhere in "The Charger." We extend our thanks to Judge Norman Fuerst for supplying us with this quiz.

1.



2.



3.



4.



B-2022

5.



More Than You Ever Wanted To Know About

Alfred R. Waud

by Frederic Ray



"Blue-eyed, fair-bearded, strapping and stalwart. . . ." was how a member of the press described the most prolific of the Civil War combat artists, Alfred Rodolph Waud.

Born in England in 1828, Waud migrated to America in 1850, worked as an illustrator of periodicals and books until, at the outbreak of war, he joined the staff of the *New York Illustrated News* as a "special artist." He took to the field to report with pencil and sketchbook the opening months of the war and was present at the First Battle of Bull Run, where he was caught up in the headlong Union rout but brought back his first battle sketches for reproduction as woodcuts in the *News*. In October 1861 he accompanied the Union fleet in its attack on Cape Hatteras.

Early in 1862 Waud joined the staff of *Harper's Weekly* and remained throughout the war as *Harper's* most popular "special," following the Army of the Potomac on all its major campaigns.

Waud was on the field at Antietam, pictured Burnside's debacle at Fredericksburg, and was present at Chancellorsville, the Second Battle of Bull Run, and Gettysburg. After the battle he posed for the now famous photograph made by Alexander Gardner at Devil's Den.

As the war ground on, Waud was ever-present in the thick of battle—in The Wilderness with Grant's army and, with his brother, at the siege of Petersburg, where he was kept busy dodging snipers' bullets. At Appomattox in 1865 he would sketch General Lee leaving the McLean House after the final surrender.

Waud, continuing with *Harper's* as an artist-reporter during the latter 1860's produced an historic series of drawings of the post-war South on a trip down the Mississippi to New Orleans.

While sketching the battlefields on Georgia in 1891 he was stricken by a heart attack and died in Marietta.



Please Make Reservation

283-0262

with NEIL GLASER

Preservation Report by Bill Stark

UPDATE ON JOHNSON'S ISLAND

A meeting of the Danbury Township Zoning Commission was held at Danbury Township Hall at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, March 22, 1989. It was thought that the Commission would have either approved or disapproved the issuing of permits to allow Carl Zipfel, President of Johnson's Island Development Company, to begin construction of his plan to build a condo and duo marina with breakwall development which would destroy the stockade area of the former Civil War prison site for Confederate officers, two earthen forts, a bivouac area, and ruin the historicity of the Confederate Cemetery which contains the remains of 206 southern officers.

The Commission, instead, made no decision but called another meeting for April 6. At this meeting, the Commission will question the developer (Zipfel) and his cohorts about his plan. Apparently the decision on the development by the Commission will be postponed until the regular Township meeting on Apr. 26, 1989 at 7:30 P.M.

WHAT YOU MUST DO: Please continue to write in opposition to the development because it will destroy the historicity of the Island. The Commission seems to be of the opinion that a compromise must be reached between developer and preservationist by the creation of a buffer zone between the condos/marina and prison site. Stress in your letters that this can not happen. Developers can not be trusted. This has happened in several cases already--Manassas, Chantilly, now Brandy Station. The only way to preserve the Island is to keep Zipfel off of it! Write to:

Danbury Township Zoning Commission
Danbury Township Hall
5972 Port Clinton Eastern Road
Marblehead, Ohio 43440

YOUR LETTERS HAVE COUNTED! The Commission recognized that they have received 390 letters from 15 states and 3 foreign countries, opposing development. The Commission read and discussed every one of them. Please continue to write and keep up the pressure on the Commission and on Zipfel!

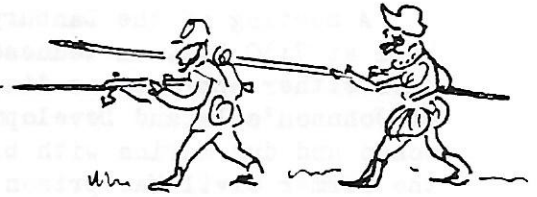


WHO ARE THESE GUYS? ANSWERS.

1. William Mahone
2. Sterling Price
3. Judson Kilpatrick
4. Winfield S. Hancock
5. Braxton Bragg



After General Grant became the Commander-in-Chief of all the Union forces, he received a letter from a civilian explaining that he had a solution to defeating the Confederates. He suggested that Grant equip his men with bayonets three feet long- so the enemy soldiers could not approach his infantrymen. Evidently the writer had never heard of Medieval Pikemen who were armed with spears that were 18 feet long!



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Carrier pigeons were used extensively during the Civil War to convey messages between armies. The use of these trained birds extended even into World War I. Huntsmen on all sides delighted in trying to shoot down the feathered couriers.

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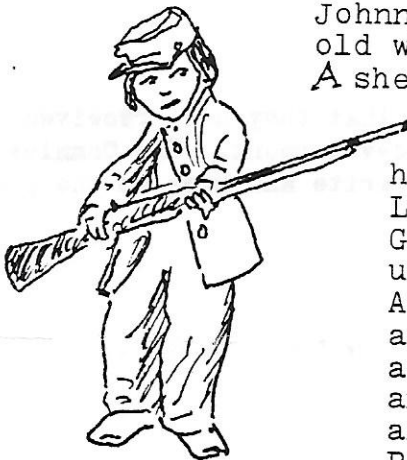
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Confederate One Cent is steeped in mystery. The designer claimed after the war, that a contract for the one cent coin had been made with a Philadelphia jewelry firm. He had cut the dies and struck 12 specimens before he hid them. He did so in fear of what the U.S. authorities might do to him. No copy of this contract has ever been found.



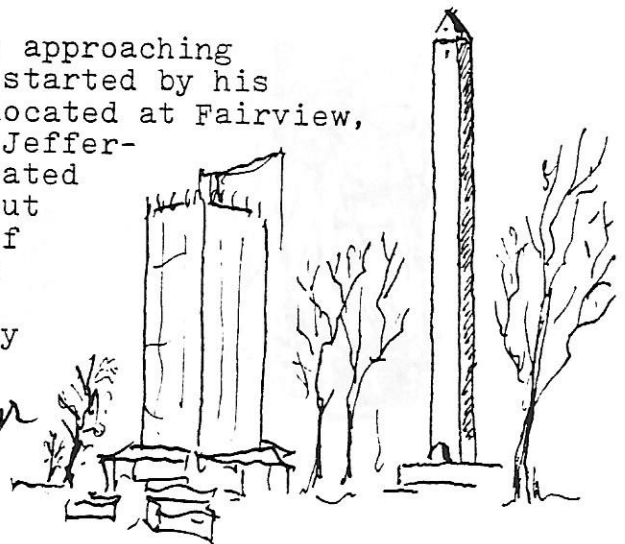
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Johnny Clem, "the drummer boy of Shiloh" was ten years old when he attached himself to the 22nd Michigan. A shell smashed his drum at Pittsburgh Landing, whereupon he took up a rifle and joined the front line. At Chickamauga he shot a rebel officer out of his saddle and was wounded by a shell fragment. Later, at Atlanta he carried dispatches for General Thomas and had his pony shot out from under him, and a bullet shredded one of his ears. Admiring Chicago ladies had sent him a new uniform, and Kate Chase, the Secretary's daughter sent him a silver medal. After the war he was turned down for an appointment to West Point, so he stayed in the army and in 1871 was commissioned a lieutenant by President Grant. By 1916 he had risen to the rank of Major General.



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In 1886, when Jefferson Davis was approaching his 80th birthday, a project was started by his admirers for his memorial to be located at Fairview, Ky., the place of his birth. The Jefferson Davis Memorial Park was dedicated in 1889. A monument was started but work was forced to stop because of World War I. At that time it was 176 feet high. The completed obelisk is located in the Kentucky State Park at Fairview, and is 351 feet high.



From the Notebook of

Stu Cramer

We all know of the terrible attrition of horses during the war. Hundreds of thousands of the beasts were slaughtered, thousands starved, other thousands killed by overwork. How did they dispose of this noisesome carrion? One of the most unpleasant duties of the common soldier was to be put on a burying detail. The noxious gasses usually resulted in the diggers losing their lunches and appetites

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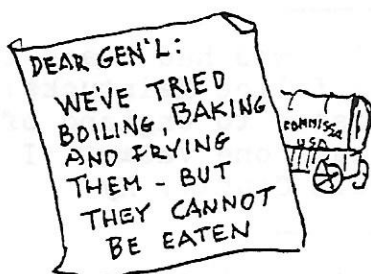


"Hoist by his own petard:" the old expression signifying one's carefully laid plans being exploded. What was a petard? (I never knew.) Nothing more than a bucket of gunpowder. Used in the seventeenth century to blow up gates and doors, like the gateway to cities in France and England. The petardier (not a popular occupation) would simply hang the bucket on the door,

light a fuse at the bottom of the bucket and run like hell.

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In June, 1863, at Miliken's Bend, a former slave, by then a Union soldier, actually captured his one-time owner. Wonder what they said and did?



X X X X X X

Right at the beginning of his ill-fated Red River Expedition, General Banks' wagon train was attacked by a small force of Confederate cavalry. Two of the wagons taken contained paper collars. A couple of days later they were returned with this note...

X X X X X X

Throughout the war there was a third army of vastly superior numbers fighting the soldiers of both north and south. There were constant raids, and very rarely did either the Union or Confederate troops win even a temporary victory over their persistent adversaries. These opponents were generally known as "graybacks" - body bugs that inhabited the seams of all garments and fed upon the bodies of the wearers. Boiling, pounding with rocks and crushing between thumbnails seldom eliminated them for very long. From generals to privates they were irresistible and ever present. Lice, fleas and wood ticks were united.



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After his stroke and during his long illness, President Woodrow Wilson grew a long beard, which the doctors thought should be shaved off. On one occasion, standing around by Wilson's bed, they were discussing this, one of them suggested that a doctor should shave off the beard. "You know," the man said, "in the olden days, doctors were barbers." There was a cry from the bed: "They are barbarous yet!"

X X X X X X

Eighteen fifty-one was the first year a Christmas tree was put in an American church....in Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1865 there were 80,000 soldiers (30,000 Confederates under Joe Johnson and 50,000 under Sherman) camped near the tobacco plantations of James Duke. They became well aware of the Duke Company's "Bull Durham" brand. Mustered out, they generated a national demand, and put the Duke's in business. In 1881 this company began the manufacture and distribution of cigarettes, inventing the cigarette machine in 1883. In 1890 the family formed the American Tobacco Company. Its first "Lucky Strike" was a chewing tobacco, but by 1916, in cigarette form it had become a national habit.

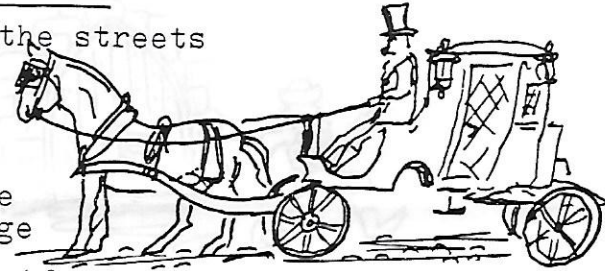
In 1861 many hack andrigs were seen on the streets of Louisville, Kentucky. This was the accepted way for young men to escort their girls. These shiny black and gold carriages were for hire by the Louisville Transfer Company. In 1894 the



Louisville Carriage Co. was formed,

and in 1919 became the the Louisville Taxicab and Transfer Company.

Later it became the Yellow Cab Company and to this day their cabs can be seen on the streets of other cities.



Letter received by Lincoln from a Kentuckian who had heard the rumour that the new President favored his fellow Kaintucks:

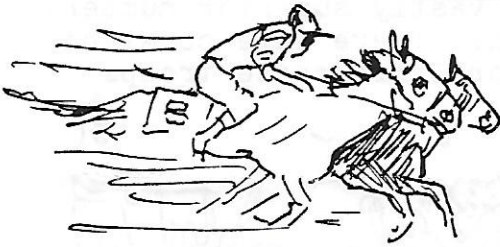
"I feel purfickly qualerfied to be Minister to england of any other forun post, but if you dont have one vacant, I will take the post offis at Buck Short, Hardin County, Ky."

Racing had completely collapsed in the South during the War.

Confederate cavalrymen had to furnish their own horses, and many were thoroughbreds, much sought after by both Southern and Northern officers. John Hunt Morgan's men early in the War almost all rode Kentucky-bred stock.

In 1875 William Clark, grandson of the famous pioneer of the Lewis-Clark expedition into the Northwest Territory, restored Thoroughbred Racing. Among his friends were the Churchills,

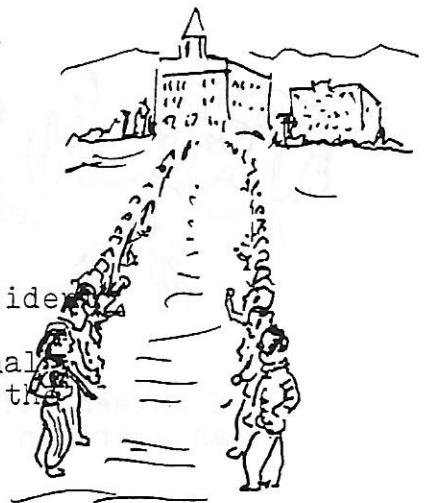
who leased the racing site of the present Churchill Downs to a new racing group, and thus was born the Kentucky Derby.



The night after the fall of Fort Sumter, the pro-southern students of Georgetown College (KY.) hoisted a Confederate flag to the top of Giddings Hall, the main building.

The next day Union-minded students stormed the hall to take down the banner. They were met by the pro-Confederates and a pitched fistfight resulted.

When order was finally restored, the college president lined up the protagonists facing each other - south on one side, north on the other. At a signal the two groups, about 100 each, about-faced, and the entire student body marched off to war.



From The President's Desk



The Danbury Township Board of Zoning Appeals held a public hearing on March 22, 1989 regarding the proposed condominium/marina development on Johnson's Island. Among the 150-plus people attending this hearing were three members of our Roundtable; Bill Stark, Preservation Committee Chairman, George Woodling, and myself. This outpouring of people in opposition to this project is having a significant impact on the Board. The Board voted to postpone making a decision for a least another month. While this delay probably works in our favor, it is imperative that we continue to monitor events taking place regarding Johnson's Island.

All of you who wrote letters to congressmen, newspaper, etc. are to be congratulated. The number of letters received from all over the country and from several foreign countries made quite an impression on the Board.

Last month's meeting at Gray's Armory was most enjoyable. The Roundtable thanks George Vourlojianis for making the Armory available to us and for making most of the arrangements for the March meeting. Brian Kowell's talk on the Bristoe Campaign was well received by those in attendance.

Don't miss the field trip to Winchester, Virginia! Dick Velker is making final arrangements, so if you want to go, you must call him at 238-4116 immediately.

Neil Glaser