



# THE CHARGER

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE  
P.O. BOX 18900, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118

JANUARY, 1994

321TH MEETING

VOL. 15 #5

**DATE:**

Wednesday, January 12, 1994

**PLACE:**

The Hermit Club

**SUBJECT:**

Annual Civil War Quiz and Auction/Raffle

**SPEAKER:**

George Vourlojianis & Tim Beatty - Quizmasters  
Bob Baucher - Auctioneer

**TIME:**

Drinks 6PM      Dinner 7PM      Answers ???

**RESERVATIONS:**

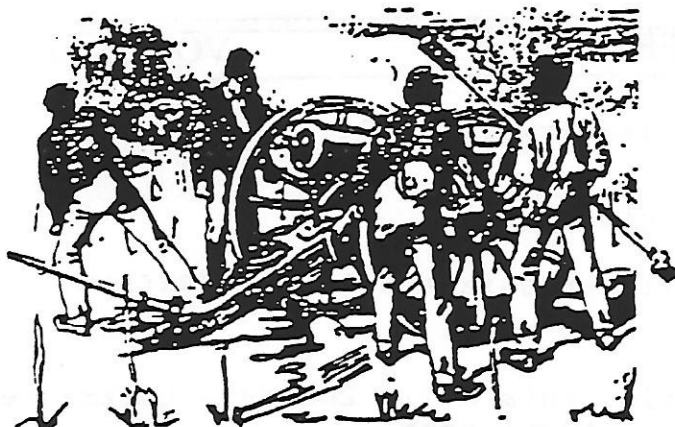
Please call Dr. Robert Battisti at 831-2700 and  
leave your reservations with the answering  
service. RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!





# CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

1957 \* 1994



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Our thanks to Travel Services Unlimited of Chesterland and Patricia Safran for making the travel arrangements for our speakers who will arrive aboard Delta Air Lines, our exclusive partners in this venture. We are declaring Delta Air Lines as the official carrier of The Civil War Round-Table of Cleveland.

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## THIS YEAR'S SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

January 12	Annual Civil War Quiz
February 9	Dr. G. L. Mears Antietam
March 9	Dr. David Vantassel European View of the Civil War
April 13	Mr. Edwin Bearss TBA
May 11	Special Program Narrated by Mr. Joe Tirpak

Our thanks to Ms. Anne Caputo at J.A.C. Business Communications Inc. for the professionally looking letterheads and format for our newsletter and for all her valuable time and service in mailing "The Charger" to our membership. If you are in need of any office support services please call Anne or John Caputo.

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# LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Mr. Alan Kurnat presented an informative overview with accompanying slides about the U.S. Navy in the Civil War. A history teacher in the Mentor school system, Mr. Kurnat was sponsored by the Great Lakes Historical Society.

At the outbreak of the Civil War Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles faced a formidable task. Welles was a Connecticut lawyer, journalist, editor, and, above all, a shrewd and honest politician. His strength was organization. When Welles took office the Union Navy had 42 operational vessels and 9,000 officers and enlisted men. Most of the vessels were obsolete - only three were proper warships. The officer ranks were depleted by the defection to the South of 237 officers. Ironically, almost all did not surrender their vessels to the South. They proved to be men of honor.

Under Welles orders went out to purchase any vessel that would float and carry a gun as well as orders for the construction of new vessels. The North possessed an abundance of industry, raw materials, and skilled workers that by the war's end the U.S. Navy would increase its annual expenditures tenfold, topping \$123 million and boast 670 ships, 8,700 officers, and 51,500 seamen.

The Navy had three major objectives during the Civil War: (1) to enforce Lincoln's proclaimed blockade of Southern ports, (2) to implement coastal operations in an effort to seize ports, disrupt enemy communications, and cut enemy supply lines, and (3) to assist the army in combined operations by supplying river and ocean transport, supply, and combat support.

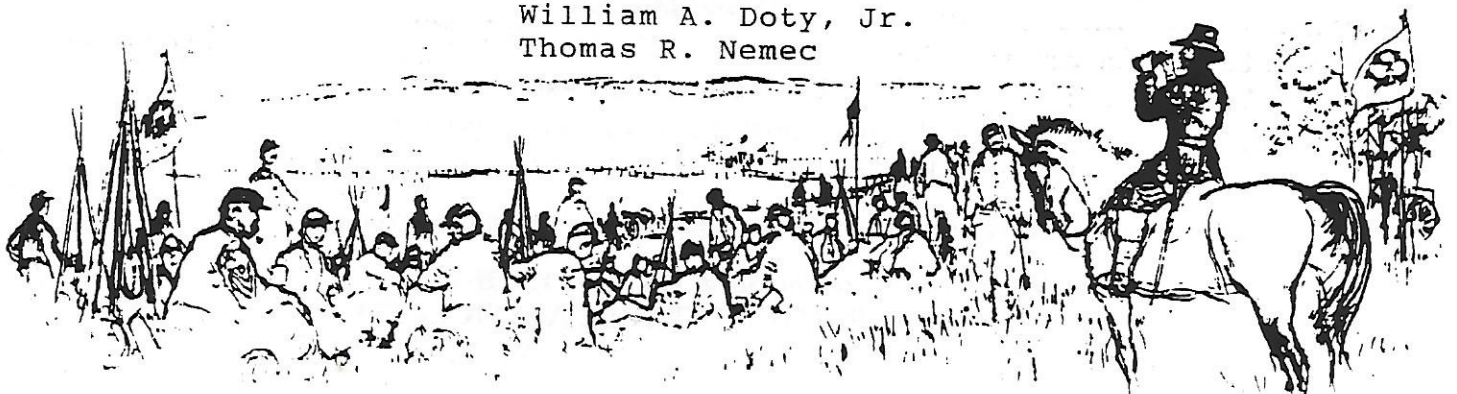
The U.S. merchant fleet was second in tonnage only to Great Britain and was vulnerable to hard-hitting, lone-wolf raiders such as the "Alabama" and "Florida". The U.S. Navy had to protect this fleet with mixed results. The success of these Confederate raiders setback the U.S. Merchant Marine until WWI due to the resultant high insurance rates.

Welles' Department boasted many technological developments that revolutionized naval warfare such as the development of ironclad warships, the practical use of motorized gun turrets, the screw propeller, rifled guns and armor piercing shells, and torpedoes.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Welcome New Members

James R. Lawson  
Timothy Moran  
Paul D. Basar  
William A. Doty, Jr.  
Thomas R. Nemec





# IS YOUR NUMBER UP?



Don't miss this month's Auction & Raffle and see if your number is a winner. There are many fine books and prints to win. Among the prints is fellow-member William R. McGrath's "Returning Fire" depicting the battle between the Monitor and Merrimac and Dale Gallon's print of Col. Joshua Chamberlin on the slopes of Little Round-top. Our auctioneer Bob Baucher assures that raffle tickets can be purchased the night of the meeting. All proceeds go to a worthy cause - our depleted treasury - so please bring your check books for those auction items.

## We Invite You To Join



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# PRESERVATION REPORT

## APCWS Buys Interest At Cedar Mountain

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites took a major step toward protecting Cedar Mountain Battlefield in Culpeper County, Virginia by purchasing an undivided interest in 152 acres at the heart of the battlefield. This acquisition makes the APCWS part owners of the entire parcel known as the Taylor Wiseman Estate.

The Wiseman Estate is familiar to students of the August 9, 1862 engagement, exhaustively chronicled by APCWS Advisory Board member Robert K. Krick in his 1990 book, *Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain*, as the site of the Gate, brushy field, wheatfield, and Orange-Culpeper Road—all major landmarks on the battlefield. Since Mr. Wiseman's death several years ago, the Estate has been owned by a number of Wiseman heirs who have carefully maintained the farm's historical integrity.

The Association reached an agreement with one of the heirs to purchase her 1/12 interest in the land for \$29,000. This purchase proportionately bestows the same rights and responsibilities for the entire parcel as enjoyed by the remaining owners. Thus, changes to the property, such as development inconsistent with the preservation of Cedar Mountain's historical significance, cannot occur without the Association's consent.

"This transaction is an innovative and cost-effective way to protect key ground at Cedar Mountain," said APCWS Real Estate Coordinator Bob Edmiston. Edmiston and APCWS Executive Director Will Greene have been negotiating with the Wiseman family for more than a year to find a solution to what is always a challenging situation when land is held by multiple owners. This is an interim phase in the preservation story at Cedar Mountain, according to Greene. "The APCWS will continue to cooperate with the Wiseman heirs to manage the land responsibly as partners and

leave the door open for purchasing a greater interest in the estate."

Although the Association's action guarantees legal access to the farm, APCWS members should be sensitive to the rights of our co-owners. Members wishing to visit the farm should check with APCWS headquarters in Fredericksburg first so that the staff can provide the proper courtesies to the Wiseman family. There are no plans to install interpretive amenities on the parcel, although the Association will produce a Site Bulletin for public distribution.

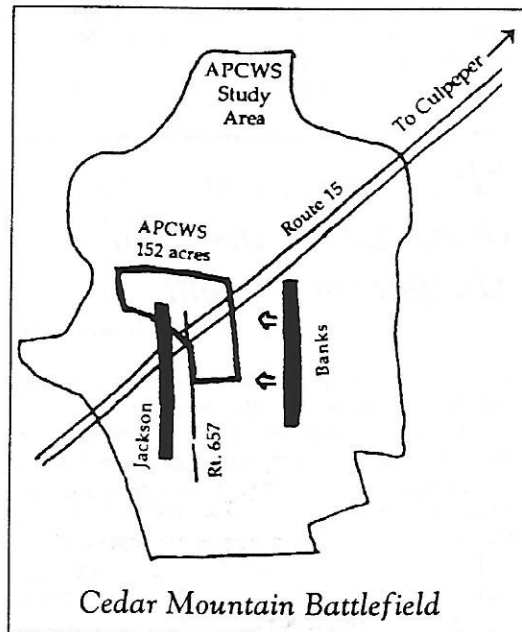
The estate is currently leased to neighboring farmers. The Wiseman home sits on high ground near the scene of the Stonewall Brigade's rout during the battle's opening action. Brig. Gen. Charles S. Winder, commander of Jackson's old division, fell mortally wounded at a spot marked by a monument near the entrance drive. The trace of the Culpeper-Orange road, the axis of the battlefield (not present-day U.S. 15)

courses across what is now pastureland, discernable to the alert eye.

The Battle of Cedar Mountain marked the opening combat of the Second Manassas Campaign. Jackson's wing of the Army of Northern Virginia sought to strike Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks' corps of Maj. Gen. John Pope's Army of Virginia before Pope could concentrate his forces. Jackson moved north from Orange on a particularly steamy Virginia day but allowed his lead divisions to deploy carelessly and without support from Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill's seven brigades. Banks unexpectedly seized the initiative and drove a portion of Jackson's left flank from the battlefield, threatening to break the center of the Confederate line as well. Hill's timely arrival and Jackson's personal leadership turned the tide of battle and Banks' corps eventually retreated toward Culpeper. This vicious engagement cost more than 3,600 casualties.

Cedar Mountain Battlefield lies six miles south of Culpeper on U.S. 15. The Wiseman Farm and most of the surrounding landscape remain rural and Cedar Mountain looms over the woods and fields as it did 131 years ago. Culpeper County, of course, is also home to Brandy Station Battlefield which survives as one of the nation's most threatened Civil War sites. "Sooner or later, most of Culpeper County will feel the pressure from an urbanizing northern Virginia," said APCWS Secretary Daniel Beattie. "Now is the time to protect Cedar Mountain before it reaches the crisis point confronting Brandy Station just up the road."

Cedar Mountain is the sixth battlefield protected by APCWS in 1993. Earlier this year the Association contributed to the acquisition of 173 acres at Prairie Grove, Arkansas, purchased 134 acres at Mansfield, Louisiana, granted \$25,000 to the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation in Virginia, assisted the Conservation Fund in buying 256 acres at Port Hudson, Louisiana, and obtained options on 750 acres at Malvern Hill and Glendale battlefields near Richmond. Since 1988 the APCWS has preserved land at nineteen Civil War sites nationwide.







BY FRANK JOHNSTON—THE WASHINGTON POST

An Army honor guard carries a coffin bearing the remains of Alexander Asboth to a burial site in Arlington.

# *Patriot Finally Comes Home*

## Hungarian Hero of Civil War Is Buried in Arlington

By Stephanie Griffith  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Alexander Asboth fought the monarchy in his native Hungary, battled the Confederacy in his adopted homeland, helped design New York's Central Park and served as U.S. ambassador to Argentina. And when he died 122 years ago, his last wish was to be buried in American soil.

Asboth came home yesterday to full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. His remains were exhumed recently in Argentina after a campaign by Hungarian Americans, who regard him as a hero.

"It's a tremendously symbolic Civil War story," said Edward J. Derwinski, secretary of veterans affairs. "Particularly now, when there's so much interest in the Civil War, it's symbolic that the group of people who fled the communists in Hungary can have one of their heroes back here among them, someone who fought for freedom of people in this country."

Born in 1811, Asboth fought in the unsuccessful revolutionary war of 1848 against the Hapsburg empire. Exiled to this country, Asboth settled in New York, working as an engineer and architect.

"If he could not live freely in Hungary, he said, then he would live freely in the United States," said Istven Gereben, executive director of the Hungarian Freedom Fighters Federation.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Asboth joined the Union forces, serving in Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky and Florida. After a decorated military career, he retired from active service with the rank of major general.

President Andrew Johnson then named Asboth ambassador to Argentina, where he died in 1868 at the age of 57.

"Originally he wanted to be buried along the banks of the Hudson in New York, which is where he owned property and where he felt at

home," said Sandor Asboth, 22, a great-great-grand-nephew and a member of the Virginia National Guard. "But I think having the ceremony here is a great solution. He would have been quite happy with it."

On behalf of family members who are spread throughout Canada, Romania, Hungary and the United States, Sandor Asboth received the folded American flag that draped the coffin. The family is spread throughout Canada, Romania, Hungary and the United States.

Asboth was accorded a caisson drawn by a

*"It gives inspiration to those Americans ... of Hungarian descent ....*

— Istven Gereben

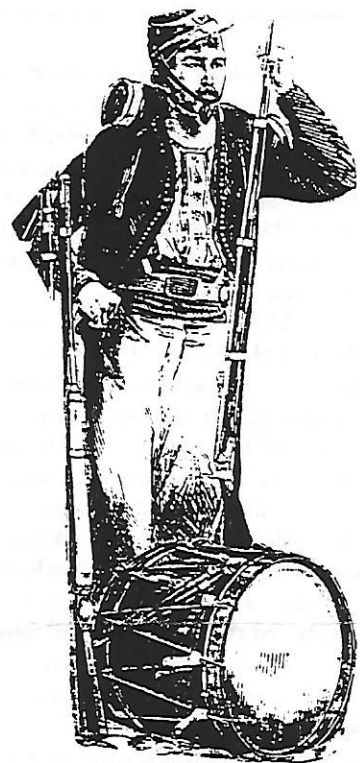
white horse, the playing of taps and a riderless horse, the symbol of a fallen military hero.

"In his homeland, the winds of freedom are blowing," said Bela Bernhardt, a pastor and friend of the Asboth family. "What he fought for and what he lived for in an indirect way bears fruit in this land, and now bears fruit in his homeland."

The date of the burial coincided with the Hungarian uprising of Oct. 23, 1956, which was crushed by Soviet troops.

The Washington area has only a small Hungarian population, probably numbering no more than a few hundred, Gereben said. But Asboth's reburial is symbolic for them, he said.

"It gives inspiration to those Americans in the U.S. of Hungarian descent, of how to be committed to this country and still remain concerned for and committed to the old country," he said.





# MORE THAN YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT

## ☆ *Felix Kirk Zollicoffer* ☆

Felix Kirk Zollicoffer, the son of John Jacob and Martha Kirk Zollicoffer, was born on May 19, 1812, at Bigbyville, Maury County, Tennessee. Of Swiss descent on his father's side, his grandfather, a revolutionary war soldier from North Carolina, had received a land grant in Tennessee.

After working on the family plantation, Felix attended Jackson College at Columbia for one year. At sixteen he went to work for a Paris, Tennessee, newspaper. In 1830, aged eighteen, he became a journeyman printer in Knoxville, and four years later was part owner and editor of the *Columbia Observer*. He also contributed to the *Southern Agriculturist* and the Huntsville, Alabama, *Mercury*. In 1835 he was named Tennessee State Printer. That year he also married Louisa Pocahontas Gordon, by whom he fathered eleven children. In 1836 Zollicoffer volunteered for the military and served a one-year enlistment as a lieutenant in the Second Seminole War.

By the early 1840s, Zollicoffer was exercising considerable political clout statewide and was named editor of the *Nashville Republican Banner*. His mission was to champion the cause of Whig candidate James C. Jones in his forthcoming governor's canvass against Governor James Knox Polk. Zollicoffer headed Jones' successful campaign although plagued by an aneurysm. Following his inauguration as Tennessee's chief executive, Jones named Zollicoffer state comptroller and adjutant general, positions he held between 1845 and 1849. He was elected to the state senate in 1850 and held this office until his 1852



election to the 33d Congress to represent the 8th District.

Zollicoffer was a kingmaker and political czar, as he demonstrated in 1850 upon his return to the editorship of the *Banner*, where he plugged for first the nomination by the Whigs and then the election of William Bate Campbell as governor. In 1852 he was a delegate to the Whig National Convention. Although he opposed Major General Winfield Scott's nomination for president of the United States, afterward he toiled loyally for the Scott-Graham ticket. The campaign was bitter and led to a duel between Zollicoffer and John Leake Marling, editor of the rival *Nashville Union*. Zollicoffer was shot in his pistol hand and

Martin was seriously injured by a shot in the head. Subsequently, the two editors became friends. Zollicoffer's efforts enabled General Scott to carry Tennessee.

Upon taking his seat in Congress, Zollicoffer resigned as editor of the *Banner*. A states rights Whig, he sought to calm sectional passions and, in 1856, supported Millard Fillmore and the American party "Know-Nothings". Four years later, he stumped for fellow Tennessean John Bell's candidacy for the presidency on the constitutional union party ticket. He had declined to stand for reelection to the 36th Congress in 1858, and in 1861 was a member of the Washington Peace Convention. He was addressing a rally called to

The uniform in this portrait of Zollicoffer is almost certainly an artist's addition. No other genuine uniformed photo has been found. (Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas, Austin)



oppose his state's secession when he learned of President Abraham Lincoln's April 15 call for seventy-five thousand volunteers. Soon thereafter, Governor Isham G. Harris tendered Zollicoffer the command of the Tennessee state troops, with the rank of major general. He declined, citing lack of experience, but soon changed his mind. On July 9 he was commissioned a brigadier general in the Confederate states army. On the 26th, he was ordered by the War Department to proceed to Knoxville, assume command of the District of East Tennessee, "preserve the peace, protect the railroad, and repel invasion." Some five weeks after Zollicoffer reached Knoxville, he was notified by the War Department that "The neutrality of Kentucky has been broken by the [Union] occupation of Paducah..." and he was directed to take action to hold Cumberland Gap.

To achieve his mission, Zollicoffer ordered three regiments to cross into Kentucky and, on the 17th, he departed Knoxville en route to Cumberland Ford (present-day Pineville). He reached Cumberland Ford on the 19th, and learned that only that morning an eight hundred-man column from his command had advanced to Barbourville, destroyed Camp Andrew Johnson, and killed twelve Yankees. An expedition sent out by Zollicoffer in late September scored more successes—a pro-Union Home Guard camp was broken up at Laurel Bridge and two hundred barrels of salt were secured at the Goose Creek Salt Works. These actions were followed by a rebuff when Zollicoffer, with forty-five thousand men, advanced to attack a Union force led by Brigadier General Albin Schoepf at Camp Wildcat, on the Rockcastle River. There was sharp fighting on October 21, and the Confederates fell back, first to Cumberland Ford and then to Cumberland Gap.

Zollicoffer was concerned about the threat of a Union advance into East Tennessee from Kentucky by way of Jacksboro or Jamestown. After strengthening the Cumberland Gap earthworks, he marched south and then west with five infantry regiments, a company of artillery, a large baggage train, and several companies of cavalry. The column, traveling by way of Clinton and Wartburg, reached Jamestown on November 22, and Mill Springs on the Cumberland River on the 29th, having marched 250 miles since leaving Cumberland Ford.

Early in December, General Schoepf took position at Somerset with orders to keep Zollicoffer south of the river. He failed in his mission, for Zollicoffer, in the face of orders to the contrary, crossed the Cumberland and

occupied and fortified a bridgehead at Beech Grove. On December 10, Brigadier General William H. Carroll (then at Knoxville) was ordered to reinforce Zollicoffer with his brigade, but did not reach Beech Grove until January 15, 1862. Meanwhile, President Jefferson Davis had directed Major General George B. Crittenden, the hard-drinking son of Kentucky U.S. Senator John A. Crittenden, to proceed to the Bluegrass State and take command of Zollicoffer's and Carroll's brigades. Crittenden reached Mill Springs on January 3, and was surprised to find Zollicoffer and his troops still north of the Cumberland River, which was at flood stage because of heavy rains.

By the night of January 17, a second Union column, led by Brigadier General George H. Thomas, had arrived in the area and had gone into camp at Logan's Cross Roads, eight miles north of Beech Grove. The Confederate generals, with their backs to the river, determined to attack Thomas at dawn on Sunday the 19th, and rout him before Schoepf, marching from Somerset, could intervene.

Zollicoffer's brigade led as the Confederates took up the march at midnight. Soon thereafter a cold rain set in. The first shots were fired at daybreak and the Confederates deployed and pressed ahead, gaining about four hundred yards. Union resistance stiffened, to be followed by a lull as both sides called up reserves. General Zollicoffer, very nearsighted and clad in a raincoat without insignia, had ridden out in front to reconnoiter, but lost his bearings. He called out to the 4th Kentucky Union and commanded its leader, Colonel Speed Fry, to order his people to cease fire. Fry, satisfied that the stranger was a brother officer, obeyed. Zollicoffer was about to turn and ride off when his aide galloped out of the woods, and, shooting at Fry shouted, "It is the enemy, General!" Fry pulled his revolver and shot at Zollicoffer, while calling to his soldiers to resume fire. Zollicoffer fell from his horse, pierced by several balls, one of which struck him in the chest near the heart and killed him. The Battle of Mill Springs lasted another three hours before the Confederates abandoned the field and retreated. Zollicoffer's body fell into the hands of the Federals, but was turned over to the Confederates at Bowling Green. After lying in state in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the Tennessee state capitol, he was buried on February 2 in the Nashville City Cemetery.

*Edwin C. Bearss*

Myers, Raymond E., *The Zollicoffer Tree* (Louisville, 1964).

Porter, James, *Tennessee*, Vol. VIII in Evans, *Confederate Military History*.

from Confederate General vol.6





## OLLAPODRIDA

In 1863 the Draft was in full swing in the North. Enrolling officers were sent out to enroll all eligible males. One enrolling officer went to a house in the country. Finding none of the male members at home he asked the old woman of the house the names and ages of the males of the family. After the old woman named several he asked her if there were any more, to which she replied, "No, none except Billy Bray."

Where is he?" inquired the officer.

"He was at the barn a moment ago," said the old lady.

Out went the officer, but he could not find the man. Coming back, he questioned the old lady as to the age of Billy, and went away, enrolling his name among those to be drafted.

The time of the Draft came and among those names pulled was Billy Bray. When he failed to show up the provost guard, along with the enrolling officer, went to get him. At the country house they discovered that their new conscript was a jackass!

--- Civil War in Song and Story by Frank Moore pp427

When Stonewall Jackson was ordered from the Valley to take part in the operations of General Lee against the National troops threatening Richmond, General Whiting's Division was sent to join him. In this Division was the celebrated Texas Brigade of General Hood. These men had never seen Jackson and knew him only by reputation. As the movement was of the highest importance, it was necessary to keep it as secret as possible. Orders were accordingly issued to the men to refuse to give information of any kind to civilians on the route, and to answer all questions with "I don't know."

On the second day of the march, General Jackson saw two of Hood's men leave the ranks and start for a cherry tree in the neighboring field. Riding up to them he demanded sternly: "Where are you going?"

"I don't know." replied one of the men coolly, not knowing to whom he was speaking.

"What is your name?"

"I don't know."

"What regiment do you belong to?"

"I don't know."

"What does this mean?" asked the General turning to the other man who stood by silently.

"Why you see," replied the soldier, "Old Stonewall gave orders yesterday that we are not to know anything until after the next fight, and we mean to obey him."

The General smiled - he rarely laughed - and sent the men back to their regiment.

--- Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain by Robert K. Krick  
pp 375