

# ∞ *The Shako* ∞

*The Official Newsletter of 'The Cleveland Grays'*

The Cleveland Grays Armory Museum  
1234 Bolivar Road ~ Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
(216) 621-5938 [www.GraysArmoryMuseum.org](http://www.GraysArmoryMuseum.org)



Editor - Katrina Farnan, *Executive Director*

December 2006

## *Ringling In the New Year ~*

The Annual New Years Day reception takes place on Monday January 1, 2007 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 p.m. Please plan to attend our traditional ceremony in compliment to the nation. You can RSVP by calling the Armory at (216) 621-5938, please leave a message in voice mailbox one.

**2007 MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Our first membership meeting for 2007 will take place on Monday, January 29 – (**Note** this is the last Monday of the month due to the CAVs Home Game). Our guest speaker will be our own member, Major Michael McCall who will give a presentation on operations in Afghanistan. SSG Lebowitz who was a tank commander in Iraq will join him. This is your chance to hear what the media doesn't report and get a first hand account on the current conflict. As always, there will be libations available at 5:30PM and a light fare at 6:00PM. Please make sure you stop by and sign in, so we can have a good indication of our annual membership participation. The Adjutant once again exhorts the entire company to call ahead to make meal reservations whenever you and your guest(s) will be joining in the light fare.

## **ANNUAL DUES**

Attached you will find the form for payment of your 2007 annual dues. Please fill out the form and send in your payment as soon as possible so that we can keep our programming going. For those of you that have already paid, thank you. *The Cleveland Grays take great pleasure*

*in congratulating our newest life member Mr. Michael Lavrenchik-!*

## **Christmas Party**

We were pleased to have 70 people attend our annual Christmas party. Everyone present enjoyed a great-catered meal by A-Man-N-A-Pan and a program of "Christmas in the Trenches" by Mary Louise Daley. Thank you to Mr. Bill Smrekar for graciously providing this engaging program by Mary Louise.

## **A Bit of Historical Trivia**

**BURIAL GROUND** – Montgomery Meigs had reason to be angry with Robert E. Lee. Meigs and Lee had been fellow officers before the Civil War. Both were southerners, West Point graduates, and engineers. They had worked closely together.

But while Lee resigned his commission to lead the armies of the Confederacy, Meigs stayed loyal to the Union, becoming quartermaster general of the Union Army. He watched in anger as Lee's armies filled up Union cemeteries with dead and every day he could see Lee's prewar mansion mocking him from a hillside high above Washington.



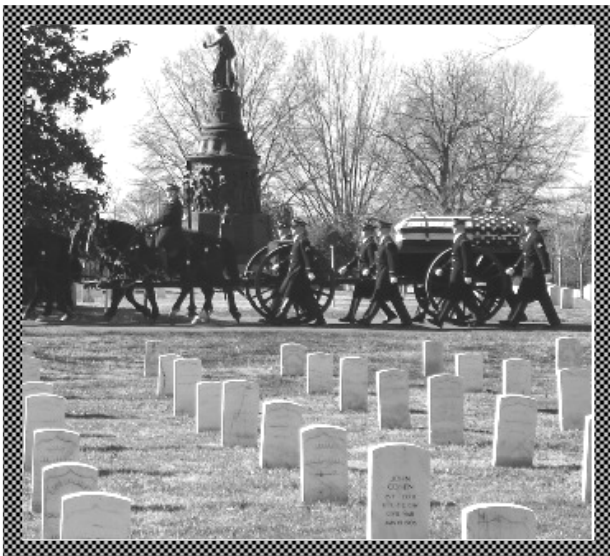
## A bit of History (continued)

Meigs found the perfect way to punish the Confederate commander. He recommended that Lee's longtime home be turned into a national cemetery.

Meigs wanted to fill the beautiful grounds with Union dead. When bodies weren't buried close enough to the house, he came out to personally supervise the burial of twenty-six soldiers in Mary Lee's beloved rose garden. He wanted bodies to ring the house so that the Lees could never return.

Northerners approved wholeheartedly. One Washington paper thought it "a righteous use of the estate of the rebel General Lee." And by the end of 1864, more than seven thousand soldiers were buried there. Mary Lee was devastated to find that the house was now "surrounded by the graves of those who aided to bring all this ruin on the children and the country."

**Today Arlington Cemetery** is the closest thing there is to hallowed ground in America, and it might not exist but for a soldier's anger at an old comrade.



*THE ROMANS SOWED THE FIELDS OF THEIR ENEMIES WITH SALT; LET US MAKE IT A FIELD OF HONOR*

*-Gen. Montgomery Meigs to Abraham Lincoln.*

## Local Trivia

**The Central Armory** – When prominent Cleveland and Chief Grays Armory Architect Fenimore C. Bate completed his work in 1893, his structural vision would provide an impressive home for the oldest militia company west of the Allegheny Mountains. As an independent company of militia since 1837, *The Grays* had traditionally shared facilities with other volunteer companies of foot, horse and even light artillery.



Also constructed in 1893 was another equally impressive military fortress would arise and tower over the shores of Lake Erie for next seven decades. The Cleveland Central Armory—designed by Lehman and Schmitt and constructed at the southeast corner of Bond and Lake Street (now East Ninth)—was sadly destined to be one of the many historical Cleveland armory buildings lost to the fog of distant memory. The Cleveland Central Armory was the home of the State Militia—the precursor to the National Guard. No longer of practical use as a government building, it was demolished in 1965 in order to make way for the Anthony J. Celebreeze Federal Office Building.

*The next time you're in the clubrooms, take a look at the photo of The Central Armory and notice its late Victorian Gothic features. You will find that its southwest tower looks strikingly similar to the Grays Armory entrance, but this armory building was more than 2/3 larger than Grays ~ occupying the entire city block!*