

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT./OCT. 2018

VOL. 40 # 1/2

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Message From the President

American Civil War historians – I am looking forward to this coming year as your Cleveland Civil War Round Table President! Further, as you know, I will be ably assisted by Ellen Connally, VP, Steve Pettyjohn as Treasurer and Mark Porter, Secretary.

To make our organization even better and stronger than it is, it would be wise for us to increase the size of our membership. Immediate Past President Hans Kuenzi made some good headway in adding members through social media; you can now follow our Round Table on Twitter or Facebook; also the “Lecture Series” placards were printed and distributed throughout the county. All of this we are continuing and will augment. It also occurs to me that a more “grass roots” effort could help add new members – let’s call it “Each Member adds a Member”. In other words, if each current member over the course of the coming year could identify somebody they know who has an interest in the Civil War to attend a meeting and later join, or perhaps a past member who has fallen away to rejoin; we would double the size of our membership. Let’s make a deliberate effort in this regard!

As some of you already know, I have chosen a theme for this year to provide a common thread that unites the various speakers’ presentations, i.e. “Southern Invasions and Raids of the North”. I have also attempted to align the presentations in chronological order and mostly achieved that goal. It is my hope that from month to month this will engender discussions amongst our members and spur Q & A with our speakers in a unique and compounded way as we maneuver through the year!

That said, the first speaker is an exception to the theme. I had an opportunity that I just could not pass up given his notoriety; to invite him in conjunction with some other Ohio Roundtables where he will also be speaking during his trip to our

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Message cont.

state. I believe that it is a first for our group to have an artist present – that being Keith Rocco on the topic of “Historical Art – Capturing the Past”. I’m certain that many of you are familiar with his work as his paintings are pervasive throughout Civil War and other military related publications A to Z. He is particularly noted for his works regarding the Napoleonic Era as well. So, dust off the art related books and other printed materials that you have lying about your abode, bone up on the topic and come prepared for what I am sure will be a fascinating evening! Also, check out Dennis Keating’s article in this issue to gain further background on similar artists. Lastly, hop on our website for more information on Keith.

As this issue of the Charger is meant to cover September and October, I will also fill you in on October’s speaker. Be it resolved that we will have recently returned from our Antietam/Harper’s Ferry Field Trip at the time of this presentation, I am sincerely excited that our speaker will address an important aspect of the 1862 Antietam Campaign. With the so called “missing orders” having been placed in his lap, not to mention fine cigars, why didn’t General McClellan secure a more decisive victory over Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia? Victory enough though it was since it was the spring board for President Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, arguably one of the most important documents in American & World history. But wouldn’t it have been great for the Union if the ANV was instead completely vanquished? Could it have been command confusion amongst McClellan and his staff that prevented the “knock out blow” that would have ended the war in the Fall of 1862? Our October speaker Gene Schmiel returns to our round table to present the topic “The Controversy over the Union Command in the Maryland Campaign: McClellan, Burnside, Porter, and the Role(s) of Jacob D. Cox”.

I am honored and thrilled to be your President during the coming year!!!

A Visit to the Infamous Andersonville Prison

One of the most sobering locations that one may visit having to do with the Civil War is the notorious prison stockade and Andersonville National Cemetery at Andersonville Ga. Located just north of Americus and just off I. 75 at exit 127 it is an easy detour for anyone going to or from Florida, and I would highly recommend it for any Civil War or history buff.

The prison itself was carved out of the Georgia pine woods and the first prisoners arrived in February 1864. There they found no housing, and no sanitary facilities but simply a huge corral in which they were confined. Originally built for 6,000 prisoners, the facility eventually came to confine more than three times that number. As the fortunes of the Confederacy began to fade and General Grant ended the practice of exchanging prisoners the camp eventually came to house over 23,000 men. Conditions were “hellish” to put it mildly. Corn meal was ground as to also include the cob, meat was never included in the diet and vegetables were almost unheard of. The small stream that ran through the prison quickly became fetid as it was used as a latrine and a washing facility. Today one can see the marker and the actual stream that formed Providence Spring which broke through the side of the hill after a violent thunderstorm one afternoon. Many prisoners considered this a sign from heaven that they would soon be released.

As time wore on and Sherman’s Army approached from the northeast and Confederate fortunes began to collapse, prisoners were eventually exchanged or transferred to Camp Lawton near Millan Ga. The Andersonville facility was finally closed in March 1865.

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Andersonville cont.

During their time of confinement at Andersonville, a group of prisoners from New York began to prey on other men confined within. As members of gangs and criminal elements from Manhattan, they stole from, beat, and sometimes murdered other prisoners for their possessions. The commander Capt. Henry Wirz did nothing to alleviate this. Finally the prisoners prevailed on Wirz to let them hold a trial, the “Raiders” or “Marauders” as they were called were tried, found guilty and hanged by the rest of the prisoners. Today one can see their tombstones there in the cemetery but they are separated from the others as testimony of their misdeeds.

After the War, Capt. Wirz was arrested there in Americus and taken to Washington D. C. Where he stood trial. (Some of us may have attended the mock trial of Wirz performed here by members of the Stark Co. legal community last year.) Wirz tried to act in his own defense but was unsuccessful and in November 1865 he was hanged, and buried in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington D.C. He was the only man executed for crimes committed during the War.

In his Pulitzer Prize winning novel “Andersonville”, McKinley Cantor follows the life of Ira Claffey whose plantation was commandeered for the prison site. Today the Hodges Plantation which actually was taken for the stockade is not far from the prison and is lived in by descendants of the Hodges who lived there during the Civil War.

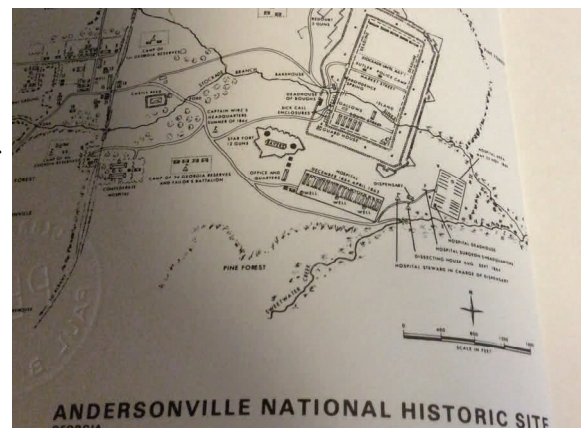
Today one can also visit the National Prisoner of War Memorial Museum and the Andersonville National Cemetery located on the grounds. There stands the Ohio Monument to her fallen soldiers along with monuments from the other states who lost men there at Andersonville. One can see the mysterious Andersonville Dove which appeared mysteriously one day on a Maine soldier’s tombstone. To this day no one knows where it came from or who put it there.

I remember blocking out an entire day for my visit, but still didn’t have time enough to explore all the sites I’d read about. All in all Andersonville National Historic Park and Prisoner of War National Memorial is well worth the time to jog off I 75 and explore. Also not far away is the Jefferson Davis Memorial, the site where he and his escorts were finally captured by U.S. troops in 1865, but that is fodder for another article some other time.

Paul Siedel



Trench Grave



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2018-2019

Lecture Series

Series Theme: "Southern Invasions & Raids of the North"

September 12, 2018

"Historical Art - Capturing the Past"

Speaker: Keith Rocco

October 10, 2018

"The Controversy over the Union Command in the Maryland Campaign:
McClellan, Burnside, Porter, and the Role(s) of Jacob D. Cox"

Speaker: Gene Schmiel

November 14, 2018

"Perryville: Battle for Kentucky"

Speaker: Christopher L. Kolakowski

December 12, 2018

"Nathan Bedford Forrest Vanquishes Union Cavalry-
While Allowing Sherman to Capture Atlanta"

Speaker: Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service

January 9, 2019- Dick Crews Annual Debate

"If Lee had won at Gettysburg, could he have gone on to capture
Washington D.C.?"

Moderator: William Vodrey

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Program cont.

February 13, 2019

"A Last Roll of the Dice: The Third Confederate Invasion-1864"

Speaker: Matt Borders

March 13, 2019

"How Did They Get Here?-The Gettysburg Campaign"

Speaker: Daniel Welch

April 10, 2019

"Trust in God and Fear Nothing: Confederate General Lewis A. Armistead"

Speaker: Wayne Motts

May 8, 2019

"The Capture of the St. Nicholas"

Speaker: John Quarstein

Meeting Times/ Location:

Judson Manor

1890 East 107th St.

Cleveland, Ohio 44106

6:00pm-Drinks/ 6:30pm-Dinner

7:30pm-9:00pm Meeting & Presentation

Payment at the door, cash or check

Dinner and lecture are \$30 per person.

**Reservations must be made no
later than five days prior to the meeting you
plan to attend.**

**Reserve your spot via
email: ccwrt1956@yahoo.com**

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Civil War Artists: Present and Past

by Dennis Keating

Our September speaker **Keith Rocco** is one of a distinguished group of contemporary artists known for their works on the Civil War. <http://www.keithrocco.com>

References

Peter Cozzens. *On Campaign: The Civil War Art of Keith Rocco* (2008)

Robert Girardi.

The Soldier's View: The Civil War Art of Keith Rocco (2004)

The Civil War Art of Keith Rocco (2009)

A few more are profiled next, along with a few of the best known artists during the Civil War.

Present Artists

Dale Gallon

<http://www.gallon.com>

Dale Gallon released his first Civil War print in 1980. He and his family moved to Gettysburg in 1984.

Mort Kunstler

<https://www.mortkunstler.com>

In 1982, doing a commission from CBS-TV to do a painting for the mini-series "The Blue and the Gray" drew Mort Kunstler's interest toward the Civil War. Civil War historian James Robertson has stated that Kunstler "is the foremost Civil War artist of our time". His battle of Gettysburg painting titled "High Water Mark" was unveiled at the 125th anniversary of the battle.

References

Gettysburg: The Paintings of Mort Kunstler (1993)

Images of the Civil War: the Paintings of Mort Kunstler (1992)

Jackson and Lee: Legends in Gray (1995)

The Civil War Paintings of Mort Kunstler (2006)

John Paul Strain

John Paul Strain began painting about the Civil War in 1991. Strain is a Civil War re-enactor. <http://johnpaulstrain.com/>

Reference

John Paul Strain. *Witness to the Civil War: The Art of John Paul Strain* (2002)

Don Troiani

<http://www.dontroiani.com>

References

Don Troiani's Civil War (1995)

Don Troiani's Regiments and Uniforms of the Civil War (2002)

Past Artists

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While photography emerged widely during the Civil War as I have written in a past *Charger* article, there were many artists/journalists who sketched the armies. A few of the better known follow.

Winslow Homer

Winslow Homer was hired by *Harper's Weekly* to illustrate President Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address and then became one of its Civil War artists. He accompanied Duryee's Zouaves (5th New York) and then the Army of the Potomac.

References

Amy Athey McDonald. "As embedded artist with the Union army, Winslow Homer captured life at the front of the Civil War" *Yale News* (April 20, 2015): <https://news.yale.edu/2015/04/20>

Marc Simpson. *Winslow Homer: Paintings of the Civil War* (1988)

Frank Vizetelly

Frank Vizetelly became one of the first war correspondents, working for his brother's paper *The Illustrated London News*. By 1860, he had covered European conflicts in Austria, France and Italy. He came to the United States to cover the Civil War for the paper and accompanied Elmer Ellsworth's Fire Zouaves from New York City to Washington City and was with them when Ellsworth was killed in Alexandria on May 24, 1861.

He was at First Bull Run in July, 1861 and sketched the chaotic Union retreat. This drew the wrath of General-in-Chief Winfield Scott and Secretary of War Cameron (and his successor Edwin Stanton) who denied him a pass to accompany the Union army outside Washington.

So, Vizetelly joined Robert E. Lee's Confederate army and became a close friend of J.E.B. Stuart. He went West with Joe Johnston and witnessed the siege of Vicksburg and the battle of Chickamauga. He left Johnston's force in North Carolina in April, 1865 as the Confederacy was collapsing. He joined fleeing President Jefferson Davis' party on April 15 and accompanied them until May 9, leaving the remaining group shortly before their capture.

In 1883, while covering the conflict in Sudan, he went missing and was presumed killed there in a November, 1883 battle.

References

Douglas W. Bostick. *The Confederacy's Secret Weapon: The Civil War Illustrations of Frank Vizetelly* (2009)

W. Stanley Hoole. *Vizetelly Covers the Confederacy* (1957)

Alfred R. Waud

Like Vizetelly, Alfred Waud also accompanied the colorful New York City Fire Zouaves and was at First Bull Run. After that battle, he accompanied Ben Butler's amphibious expedition to Cape Hatteras in North Carolina. Beginning in 1862, he worked for *Harper's Weekly*. He witnessed the battles of Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg (where he sketched Pickett's Charge).



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After the Civil War, he travelled through the South and died in Georgia in 1891 while touring Southern battlefields.

References

Frederic R. Ray. *Alfred R. Waud: Civil War Artist* (1974)

Gary W. Gallagher. "Every Sketch Tells a Story" (Vizetelly and Waud) *Civil War Times* (October 2018): 18-19.

Post-Civil War

The "Battle of Gettysburg" Cyclorama

In 1882, the French artist Paul Philippoteaux arrived in Gettysburg to paint a cyclorama of the battle. It opened as a privately-operated exhibit to the public in Chicago in 1883 (and is now owned by Wake Forest University). A second version opened in Boston in 1884.

When it closed after almost two decades, it was purchased privately and moved to Gettysburg, where it was restored and opened in time for the 1913 anniversary of the battle. It was purchased by the National Park Service in the late 1940's and moved to the newly constructed park visitor center in 1962. In 2013, it underwent another rehabilitation. It was then moved to the new Museum and Visitor Center and unveiled on September 26, 2008.

References

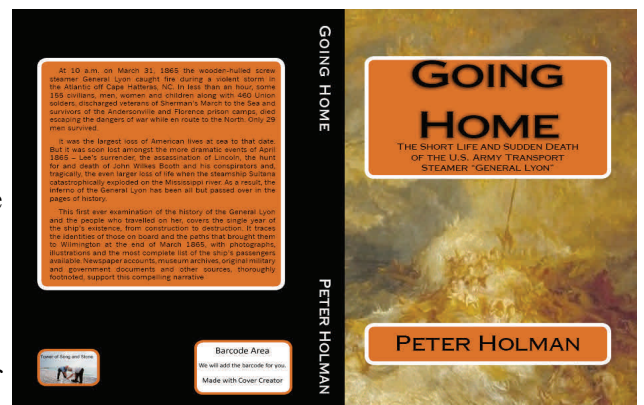
National Park Service. *The Battle of Gettysburg in Art*: <https://www.nps.gov/gett/learn/historyculture/gettysburg-cyclorama.htm>

YouTube. *The Gettysburg Cyclorama 360o*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oM1q-Y9p2-c>

New Books

Peter Holman's new book, *Going Home: The Short Life and Sudden Death of the U.S. Army Transport Steamer "General Lyon"* is now available on Amazon and on Kindle. On March 31, 1865 the vessel caught fire and was destroyed at sea off Cape Hatteras, while transporting almost 600 men, women and children to safety in the north. There were only 29 survivors of the disaster, all men. Most of the killed were Union soldiers – many of them prisoners released from Southern camps while others had reached the end of their enlistments. 201 officers and men of the 56th Illinois infantry lost their lives. The tragedy was overshadowed at the time by the events of April 1865 amongst which was the explosion of the *Sultana* on the Mississippi. The latter event has generated several books, but the story of the propeller *General Lyon* has been neglected until now. Peter is now living in South Africa and contemplating writing a book about the Anglo-Boer war and the preservation of unpopular history in monuments and battle sites in post-colonial and post-apartheid culture.



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JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

Sept. 12 , 2018

Program: "Historical Art -Capturing the Past"

Speaker: Keith Rocco

Speaker: Drinks @ 6 pm, Dinner @ 6:30

Judson Manor

East 108th St & Chester

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