

THE CHARGER

March 2009

458th Meeting

Vol. 30 #7

Tonight's Program:

Meet Me at the Fair: The Northern Ohio Sanitary Fair of the Cleveland Chapter of the United States Sanitary Commission

The **NORTHERN OHIO SANITARY FAIR** (22 Feb.-10 Mar. 1864) was organized by women of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio to raise funds to assist soldiers during the Civil War. It was patterned after a similar event that had been staged in Chicago. The widely advertised Cleveland fair was housed in a specially constructed building on Public Square. In the shape of a Greek cross, the building housed exhibits, including floral, artistic, and war-souvenir displays. Single admission tickets cost \$.25. No free passes were issued, even visiting dignitaries were required to contribute. Local railroads cooperated with the Soldiers' Aid Society by selling tickets at their stations and promising free return rail fare to any visitor purchasing more than \$1 worth of admission tickets. They also lifted freight charges for goods consigned to the fair. The fair, opened formally by Major General James A. Garfield, was more popular than expected and extended longer than planned. All unsold goods were auctioned off, and the lumber and other building materials were also sold, bringing more than \$10,000 in profit. Total proceeds were over \$78,000.

(From the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History).

Tonight's Speaker:

Tim Daley

Tim is the new Executive Director of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument. A graduate of CSU, he earned his BA in 1990 with a major in Political Science and a minor in history. In May 2008, he was awarded his Masters Degree in History from John Carroll University. In addition to the Cleveland Roundtable, he is an active member and officer in numerous historical organizations. He is the current Treasurer for the Society for Women and the Civil War and the Executive Director of the Cleveland Masonic Library and Museum. His wife, Mary Louise is also a member of the Roundtable.

**Date: Wednesday,
March 11, 2009**

**Place: Judson Manor NEW!
1890 E. 107th Street
Cleveland, Ohio**

**Time: Drinks 6 PM
Dinner 7 PM**

**Reservations: Please Call NEW!
Dan Zeiser (440) 449-9311
Or email ccwrt1956@yahoo.com
By 8 pm Tuesday before meeting**

**Meal choice: Buffet includes
entree, vegetable, potato/rice,
salad, and dessert**

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

President: **Jon Thompson** (440) 871-6439
Vice President: **Dennis Keating** (216) 397-0188
Secretary: **Marge Wilson** (216) 932-6558
Treasurer: **Lisa Kempfer** (440) 526-1318
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Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser

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 1994 Robert Battisti
 1993 Kevin Callahan
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 1967 William Schlesinger
 1966 Donald Hamill
 1965 Lester Swift
 1964 Guy DiCarlo, Jr.
 1963 Paul Guenther
 1962 Edward Downer
 1961 Charles Clarke
 1960 Howard Preston
 1959 John Cullen, Jr.
 1958 George Farr, Jr.
 1957 Kenneth Grant

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH 2009

Greetings,

Among the 75 letters my great-great grandfather wrote to his wife during the Civil War is a missive he penned on July 9, 1864 from Hospital #14 in Nashville, Tennessee. This particular letter is unique not only for its personal content, but also because its embossed letterhead reads: The United States Sanitary Commission. Realizing this sheet of stationery had been provided to my ancestor, wounded 14 days earlier at Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia, I turned to *The Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War* for some additional background information on The United States Sanitary Commission:

"The Sanitary Commission was organized by civilians in June, 1861 to assist the army, specifically to provide care for sick and wounded soldiers and to protect their dependent families...The organization would attempt to do those things to improve life for soldiers that the government felt unable to do...The Sanitary Commission became involved in aid that ranged from field ambulances, nursing, and hospital services to the care and protection of discharged soldiers. The Commission supplied more than 1 million night's lodgings during the war. It not only maintained convalescence camps offering soldiers special diets and attention, but also furnished paper and stamps, had letters written home for the men, and telegraphed relatives of the very sick...All this was financed by donations and sanitary fairs. The first sanitary fair was held in Chicago in the fall of 1863. Lavish, popular, and profitable, the Chicago Fair set the tone for those that followed...the sanitary fairs spread east, with every larger city in the North and many smaller communities staging their own shows during 1864...In all, the sanitary fairs for which there are records raised approximately \$4.8 million dollars. More important, the fairs provided a public expression of unity and patriotism at a time when war weariness and disappointments on the battlefield weighed heavily on national morale."

Exactly 145 years ago, from February 22 to March 10, 1864, a sanitary fair was held on Public Square in downtown Cleveland. At our next roundtable meeting, Timothy Daley, Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument and CCWRT member, will present: *Meet Me at the Fair: The Northern Ohio Sanitary Fair of the Cleveland Chapter of the United States Sanitary Commission*. The topic is the subject of Tim's Masters Thesis, presented at Cleveland State University last spring. Come learn how thousands of civilians supported their soldiers who were fighting for Freedom and Union.

Please join us on March 11 as Timothy Daley presents on The Northern Ohio Sanitary Fair of 1864.

Respectfully, Jon Thompson

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
2008/2009 SCHEDULE**

September 10, 2008

**Varina Davis:
First Lady of the
Confederacy**

Dr. Joan Cashin



October 8, 2008



**The Supreme Court
During the
Civil War**

Chris Fortunato

November 12, 2008

**Blood, Tears, and Glory:
How Ohioans Won the
Civil War**

Dr. James Bissland

December 10, 2008

**Restoring
the
USS
Monitor**



Dr. Sean Brossia

January 14, 2009

**The Dick Crews Annual
Debate**

*The Hitherto Unknown Meeting
Of Abraham Lincoln and
Jefferson Davis at Hampton Roads in January, 1865
Lincoln will be portrayed by Mel Maurer
Jefferson Davis will be portrayed by John C. Fazio*

Moderator: William F. B. Vodrey

February 11, 2009

**The Great
Emancipator
As Lawyer
Dr. Paul Finkelman**



March 11, 2009

**Meet Me at the Fair: The Northern
Ohio Sanitary Fair of the Cleveland
Chapter of the United States Sani-
tary Commission
Tim Daley**

April 8, 2009

**The Fight for Money:
The Income Tax Laws
Of the Civil War**

Donald Korb

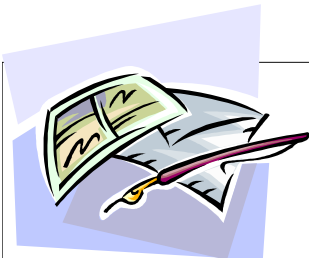
May 13, 2009

The Fighting McCooks



**Barbara
Whalen**

Letters from the Front



The following letters were given to one of our members by a kindly fellow from Tallmadge, Ohio, named Bob Lowry, after the member addressed a group there. They appear to have been written in 1862 from Ft. Scott, Kansas, by a Union soldier named George C. Ashmun, who was from Tallmadge, though some of his letters were addressed to West Virginia and Indiana, too. Interestingly, there are still Ashmuns living in Tallmadge. Additionally, a Google search revealed a publication in Ohio Mollus - Sketches of War History, Vol. Two, transcribed by Larry Stevens, titled "Recollections of a Peculiar Service," by Second Lieutenant George C. Ashmun. This may or may not be our Ashmun, though an intelligent guess is that it is.

This is what is known about Ashmun. He was born on January 31, 1841, in Tallmadge, Ohio. During the Civil War, he served as a musician in the 2nd Ohio Volunteer Cavalry and was then recruited into a special Ohio unit charged with providing personal bodyguard services to President Lincoln. He was a lieutenant in this unit and took part in Lincoln's second inauguration. After the war, he became a physician, described as an "allopath," specializing in public health. He was educated at Tallmadge Academy and Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine, graduating in 1873, and was affiliated with St. Vincent's Hospital. He taught at the University of Wooster Medical Department, Charity Hospital Medical College, CWRU School of Medicine, and Cleveland Medical College. He later served as a surgeon in the Spanish-American War with the 5th Ohio Infantry. During World War I, he served with the Case School unit of the Students Army Training Corps. He died on June 25, 1929 in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Provided by John C. Fazio



Fort Scott, Kansas

Fort Scott was named in honor of General Winfield Scott and established on May 30, 1842 at the Marmoton crossing of the Fort Leavenworth - Fort Gibson military road. It was among nine forts originally planned to line the area between the Great Lakes and New Orleans to separate proposed Indian lands and white settlements. Normal daily activities included the general construction of the fort and drill by Dragoons (horse soldiers). On occasion, map-making expeditions were made. The post was virtually abandoned in April 1853 when the garrison was transferred to Fort Riley and other western posts. The buildings were sold at public auction on May 16, 1855 as the government did not own the land. After the outbreak of the Civil War, Fort Scott was reactivated in March 1862 and again assumed importance as a military outpost. In 1865, the fort was once again abandoned.

Provided by John C. Fazio

Ft. Scott, Ka
March 9th/62

Dear Mother,

Here we are camped near Ft. Scott with the rest of our brigade the ninth and twelfth Wisconsin. We got here last night about five o'clock & have had another tough time for both men & horses. We left Kansas City Tuesday morning marching about twenty five miles a day in it - it is about one hundred & twenty five miles - but one can't tell exactly for the road lies across the prairie almost all of the way I tell you what it is L[]. These prairies make one think of Lake Superior every time I look across them - You can't imagine what a country this is for land. (next page)

We saw prairies on fire everyday & one or two nights. Friday night we camped within two miles of "Kansas Third" & a son of T. H. Batoford came over to see us - he is in that regiment When we left - Kansas City - it was the blustering kind of March weather & continued so until

Thursday morn When it cleared off pleasant & staid so until last night, although it was anything but pleasant riding yesterday for the dust was so thick we could scarcely see & last night you wouldn't have recognized any of us for we were as black as niggers. The wind blew furiously all day yesterday & last night it rained all night. Men & horses can have only half rations & no chance to forage.

Marble was unwell & staid in K. City - we expect him along in a day or two. My old horn got bruised some coming thro but have fixed it up this morning all except the cap to the middle valve which is out on the prairie. (next page) We are to stay here but a short time & then go on to Ft. Smith & try our hand with the rebels - I don't suppose we'll see much more cold weather this season as we are getting south pretty fast - the frost is all out of the ground here.

I got your letters & one from Hit Brooks Wed night while we were camped in the woods 9& they did me lots of good) & suppose there is another for me some where on the route. The mail goes three times a week from here but I guess when we leave here the mail will be scarce. Ft. Scott is no post at all, only in name & as a military post - there are about five thousand men encamped here. We haven't seen a newspaper of any account since the 23rd of Feb. - The war may end & peace be declared & we not know anything about it. It is evident that we are bound for Texas or some other place & shall go immediately - I don't care where (This next part is written along the side and top of the first page.) they send us but wish they would hurry up & then let us go home. I have got over my cold almost entirely & except being tired from the march, am [](well?) I rec. a letter from H[] but I don't know when I can answer it. If "Hunter" gets back from Washington in a day or so we shant stay here more than three or four days - I will write again at any rate before we leave. Give my love to all the folks. Write soon to your own

George
Direct to Ft. Leavenworth

Ft. Scott, Ka
March 14th 1862

Dear Son

I have wanted to hear from you before writing you again but the mail came in last night & brot nothing for me so I concluded to write again - all of the Band boys excepting me got letters & a paper I know there must be a letter for me somewhere & should be not a bit sorry to get it - I saw a paper this morning with an account of the burning of Columbus, Ky. It is reported here that "Curtiss" & [] have shipped "Price" again. (next page)

Ed Ingersoll got a letter this morning dated the 6th of Mar. from Hudson saying it was reported that McClellan had advanced on M[] gap We are all speculating on how long we are to remain here & how long it will be before we will be discharged - our Quartermaster offered to bet fifty dollars we would be discharged in sixty days & Capt. Burnett who has just come from Ohio says Gen. [Governor?] Tod told him that we would be back by the first of July but I can't believe it will be so. I expect they will send us off into some part of the country, I don't see what is to hinder our from going down to New Orleans immediately & I can't imagine where we are to operate. Doubleday told the officers this morning that we should leave here just as soon as we are paid again which would be in a few days. (next page)

This forenoon I went out & dug a bushel of coal within a few rods of our camp on the bank of a little creek - it comes out so that we can take a pick & dig what we want - I'd like

mighty well to buy about ten acres here & keep it until there is a market for coal here for I know there is any quantity of it easily to be got at here. We have had splendid spring weather until last night when we had another thunder storm & today it has been quite chilly & awful muddy - We had had a good chance to find out what a prairie wind is for March is the same windy month here as in Ohio. Marble hasn't got along yet & we haven't heard from him since we left Kansas City - I'm afraid he's had trouble since we came away for the "Jay Hawkers" have been there. Capt. Burnett went to Ohio to get recruits from the sixth (this next part is written at the top of the first page and is difficult to read) Ohio cavalry and was on his way back with 65 men when about 50 miles from here an order came for them to back to Kansas City - protect the government property there - all the armies [] They had were [] Maj. Willson has resigned & Burnett is [] Charlie got a paper from Mary Br[] saying Dan'l & Den Treat had been to P[] He also had two letters from "Norm & Frank" saying they were doing big times - If we are home by the fourth of July will have a time as big as any of them - Love to all

George
Write often

Ft. Scott
Sunday April 6th/62

Dear ones at home,

Marys letters mailed the 22nd got here this morning on account of the rains, the mail has been behind time it is just a week today since it came in. Not very long, but we "set our hearts" as much on our letters that if the mail doesn't com, as comes & don't bring us a letter we are wary. I suppose by this time you are busy cleaning house this last week, which we do by morning. There's nothing like having plenty of room - on account of the rainy

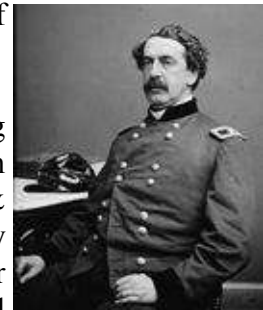
(next page)

weather in camp was getting quite muddy & as warm weather was coming on. The Drs. that we had better change our ground - it also gave the men something to do & helped keep them contented. Thursday we pulled up & moved about a quarter of a mile but the ground was poor so that yesterday we moved again & I've got first rate ground besides being a little nearer town. The first word came to Gen. Doubleday that a large body of rebel Indians were coming to attack this Post & scouts were sent out in search of suspicious individuals but nothing was seen & now we heard that it was a hoax. Gen. Doubleday rec. an order a few days ago for us to reinforce Curtiss & [] but I heard last night that orders had been

(next page)

countermanded Puringtons battalion leave tomorrow for somewhere, but do not yet know where. They are ordered to draw seven days rations & a great many of the boys think we are to start homeward so seven days will take them to Ft. Leavenworth. [] is very sure that unless we can go home before the weather comes we shall never see home again.

He is well enough to do duty but isn't strong & is very homesick Charley looks as fleshy & hearty as I ever say him. I am as well as ever for aught. I know it makes a fellow feel a little "old" sometimes to sleep on damp ground. I have the headache once in a while - about the same as at home. I drink coffee as much as I want & I don't think it hurts me. I've got so that I (next page)



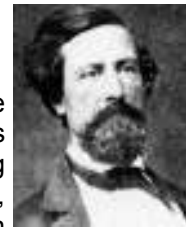
Major General
Abner Doubleday

Like it with hard crackers. We fare very well here, fresh beef every day. I sent a little paper to you the other day, but don't know as it will get there before this does. You will see in the list of advertised letters one from me it was from William Stone he has been in Wyandotte since last July but has been unwell so that he has not been able to perform duty in his company. He wrote that he thot of going home this spring - If I'm not mistaken this war will soon be over & be home, I should like mighty well to farm it this summer with you. I dread the hot weather out in this country. If they would only let us do our [] go home. I should like it much. It is a great deal pleasanter to be on the march when it is pleasant than to be lying still - We have to play for a funeral this afternoon & dress garb the days are all the same here give my love to all the same relatives & tell everybody to write. Kate wrote that Mrs. Gardner wondered why (this next part is written on the top side of the first page in two columns)

she didn't hear from : out our letters, so I guess
 us as she wrote to us : we shall "quit"
 a long time ago. The : I have just heard
 last I heard from : that Purington
 them was before : doesn't leave
 we left camp D— : tomorrow
 & answered it - : write often to
 the same day : your own
 we got a letter from : george
 Charlie Lyman today

Thanks to Bob Lowry for the use of the letters. Two of five were reprinted here. The remaining two will be in next month's Charger. The punctuation and spelling were left as in the originals.

General of the Month



John Pemberton was born on August 10, 1814 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died on July 13, 1881 in Penllyn, Pennsylvania. A member of the West Point class of 1837, he served with the artillery against the Seminoles, the Mexicans (earning two brevets), the Mormons, and on the frontier. He married a Virginia belle and, when secession came, he went with his adopted state. His first positions were with Virginia infantry, but he was back with the artillery by June 1861. In December 1861 he was moved to a more active coastal sector, down in South Carolina. The Union had seized Port Royal Island as a blockading base; it also threatened landings up and down the Atlantic coast. Robert E. Lee organized the whole coastal area, and Pemberton was one of the sector commanders. He took over from Lee in March 1862 and held the position until late September.

He was transferred to Mississippi (commanding the forces there and in Louisiana east of the Mississippi River) in October 1862. This was a much bigger challenge, since it was in the middle of the defense of Vicksburg. Grant was a more energetic commander than Pemberton, and did what was considered impossible. Pemberton had a dual responsibility, garrison Vicksburg and keep his army intact. He split his effort, and did neither well. He sent too few troops to defeat Grant and then withdrew the battered forces into Vicksburg. The result was more prisoners for Grant when Pemberton finally had to surrender.

Pemberton was vilified in the South: he was not Southern by birth and had surrendered an Army rather than fight to the death for glory. The Union eventually exchanged him in May 1864 and Jefferson Davis had to figure out what to do with a competent but unpopular officer. There was no chance of giving him high command, too few trusted him and would not serve under him. He offered to serve as a private, as a way of regaining respect. Pemberton was finally put back into the artillery, as a Lieutenant Colonel (demoted from Lieutenant General) and put in charge of Richmond's artillery during the long siege.

He lived on a Virginia farm after the war, not loved by his adopted country nor his home state.

THE US NAVY IN THE CIVIL WAR



USS *Monadnock*, first of a two ship class of 3295 ton twin-turret monitors, was built at the Boston Navy Yard. Commissioned in October 1864, she was sent to Norfolk, Virginia to begin her Civil War service. In December 1864 and January 1865, she used her four fifteen-inch guns to support the two assaults that finally captured Fort Fisher, North Carolina. After special outfitting at the Philadelphia Navy Yard in October 1865, *Monadnock* began a long voyage to California, the longest cruise that a monitor-type

warship had yet undertaken. After calling at several South American ports and passing through the Strait of Magellan, she arrived at San Francisco in June 1866 and was soon thereafter decommissioned at the Mare Island Navy Yard.



USS *Milwaukee*, the name ship of class of four 1300 ton double-turret ironclad river monitors, was built at Carondelet, Missouri for Civil War service in the western rivers area. USS *Kickapoo*, a 1300 ton *Milwaukee* class double-turret ironclad river monitor, was built at Carondelet, Missouri and commissioned in July 1864. USS *Winnebago*, a 1300 ton *Milwaukee* class twin-turret ironclad river monitor, was built at Carondelet, Missouri. She was commissioned in April 1864 and served with the Mississippi Squadron during the next few months. She was briefly renamed *Tornado* from June to August 1869, but remained laid up until she was sold in September 1874. Reportedly, she later became the Peruvian Navy's warship *Manco Capac*. USS *Chickasaw*, a 1300 ton *Milwaukee* class twin-turret ironclad river monitor built at Carondelet, Missouri, was commissioned in May 1864. USS *Chickasaw* was the last in line of the four monitors that covered Rear Admiral Farragut's fleet as it passed Fort Morgan during the Battle of Mobile Bay [5 August 1864], and was the only one whose performance that day was not flawed by tragedy or mechanical breakdowns. She was converted to a railroad ferry by her civilian owners and later given side-wheel propulsion. Under the name *Gouldsboro*, she was a fixture on the Mississippi at New Orleans for many decades. Following her replacement by a new railroad bridge, the old ship was broken up in 1944.

NEXT MONTH

**THE FIGHT FOR MONEY: THE INCOME TAX LAWS
OF THE CIVIL WAR**
DONALD KORB