

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT. 2019

VOL. 41 # 1

Executive Committee 2019/2020

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Treasurer - Mark Porter

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President's Message – Cleveland Civil War Roundtable - Welcome to the 63rd Season

By

C. Ellen Connally

Our September 11, 2019 meeting will mark the 552nd meeting of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable and the beginning of our 63rd year. My fellow officers, Vice President Steve Pettyjohn, Treasurer Mark Porter and Secretary Lily Korte, and I look forward to another great season of lectures and learning about the American Civil War and enjoying the camaraderie and friendship with our fellow members.

Hopefully, many of you will join us on our field trip to Springfield, Illinois and the Land of Lincoln. This trip will be a change from our traditional battlefield adventures and will give a different insight into the Civil War and the man that saved the Union.

We have an outstanding array of speakers for our 2019 – 2020 season. Our first speaker, Henry “Hank” Elliot, who will speak on Stonewall Jackson and Second Manassas. He comes to us by virtue of a collaborative effort with The Northeast Ohio Civil War Roundtable and the Mahoning Valley Roundtables. This collaboration allowed us to split the cost of travel for the speaker and reduce the overall cost of the speaker for each organization.

Our October meeting will mark a new departure for the Roundtable as we will be hosting our meeting at the Western Reserve Historical Society. Many thanks to former President Kevin Callahan whose generous contribution made this event possible. This meeting is labeled a “white glove” tour. The Historical Society Staff will display their collection of Civil War memorabilia, books and items of interest for members touch and feel. Staff will be available to give detailed information about the materials. Attendees will be required to wear white gloves, provided by the Historical Society. Members will also have an opportunity to view other parts of the Society’s wide collection of items, including vintage automobiles.

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Message cont.

Note the change in location – Western Reserve Historical Society is located at 10825 East Blvd. Cleveland, Ohio – Next to the Louis Stokes VA Hospital – free parking in the rear – off 108th Street.

Doors will open at 5:00 PM – In order to give members ample opportunity to view the materials, the doors will open at 5:00 PM. Dinner and a presentation by the Historical Society Staff describing the Society's mission and their Civil War Collection will begin at our usual time of 6:30.

Members and Guests must RSVP by September 30. – The caterer will only prepare the number of meals ordered. You **MUST RSVP for this event by September 30, 2019 at Midnight.** We must notify the Historical Society as to the number of guests that we anticipate. We encourage you to bring guests to this meeting and experience this unique opportunity, but we must have an exact count of attendees for both the caterer and the Historical Society.

Last year I addressed the membership in an article in *The Charger* in which I discussed the declining interest in the Civil War and the resultant decline in roundtables across the country. As we can all see at our meetings, the average age of our membership continues to increase. We encourage all members to bring a guest and spread the word about the unique learning opportunities available at our meetings.

For the last several years the Roundtable has produced a flyer with our schedule of speakers and meetings. We encourage members to pick up some flyers at the registration desk of our meetings so that they can help the officers disseminate them – especially your local public library. Please share them with friends and coworkers who have an interest in American History and the Civil War. The flyers have brought in new members and help get the word out about our organization.

The Roundtable must deal with several challenges in the next year including the increase in the cost of meals at Judson; probable increase in our dues; members who have not paid dues and the growing expense of bringing in worthwhile speakers. While our treasury is currently sound, we continue to dip into our reserves as expenses increase. I plan some serious discussions with the organization about our future dues and cost.

There are many behind the scenes efforts by our members to keep the organization going. Those who come to the meeting and enjoy the meal and the lecture may not be aware of the effort that goes in to scheduling the speakers, planning the meetings, planning of the field trip, getting out *The Charger*, maintaining the website and a myriad of other tasks. These are tasks performed by the unsung heroes of our organization. We continue to thank them for their efforts.

Traditionally, the Roundtable guest speakers have been given a bottle of wine, cleverly renamed by Dave Carrino, in appreciation for their remarks. This year's speakers will be given an American Flag that has been flown over the Cuyahoga County Soldiers and Sailors Monument along with a certificate of authentication. This will give our speakers a unique link to our community and to the 9,000 citizens of this county who served in the Civil War and whose names are recognized on the walls of one of the largest Civil War Monuments in the country.

I look forward to an interesting and productive year for the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable! We are planning a special birthday party on February 12, 2020 when we will celebrate the 210th Birthday of the Great Emancipator with a nationally known Lincoln scholar. Let's make this a dress up affair - bring a friend and your Lincoln memorabilia to decorate the tables and honor our greatest president.

Looking forward to a great year.

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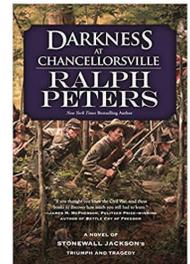
Ralph Peters/Chancellorsville
by Dennis Keating

Military historian Ralph Peters says: “After studying our Civil War and visiting its battlefields since my centennial-era childhood. I’ve spent the better part of a decade attempting to portray the war in the eastern theatre, from Gettysburg to Appomattox, with realism...I wanted to give the reader a glimpse of the war’s terrible grandeur—a vision not of false romance and sanitized gallantry, but of the haunting reality, the great devouring...It remains our greatest and most tragic war, the central event of our history. It forged the nation we know and echoes today. If we don’t understand it, we won’t understand ourselves”. This resulted in the five books of the “Battle Hymn Cycle Series”: <https://www.goodreads.com/series/210258-battle-hymn-cycle>

Peters has now published an additional volume: *Darkness at Chancellorsville* (2019). He has also published eight Civil War novels under his pen name Owen Parry. Three of his Civil War novels have won W.Y. Boyd Literary Awards for Excellence in Military Fiction.

Book Review

Peters provides an engaging narrative of the battle of Chancellorsville. All of the major military characters are portrayed: Hooker, Lee, Jackson, Meade, Stuart, Howard, Sickles, Butterfield, and Sedgewick, as are some of the division commanders. Peters gives special praise to the German émigré Carl Schurz: “I am a pronounced admirer” (p. 383). Peters defends the Germans of Howard’s Eleventh Corps who unsuccessfully warned Howard of Jackson’s impending flank attack. Peters also portrays some Confederate soldiers from the 5th Alabama, 6th Louisiana, and 12th Virginia. He also praises the rearguard actions of the 1st Ohio Light Artillery under Hubert Dilger and the 61st OVI against the Confederate attack waves (pp. 188-189, 191-194, 273).



Peters highlights other key aspects of the battle – Hooker’s plan and his retreat into defense as he was temporarily stunned by a Confederate hit on his HQ, Jackson’s mistaken wounding by North Carolina troops and Stuart’s assumption of command of his wing, Hooker’s abandonment of Hazel Grove over Sickles’ objection, the Union’s failure to communicate well with Sedgewick’s Sixth Corps advancing from Fredericksburg, and the disgust of Meade and Reynolds when Hooker refused to resume an attack on Lee’s outnumbered army and instead withdrew back across the Rappahannock River.

The narrative is accompanied by excellent maps. Peters provides a list of key references including Stephen W. Sears’ *Chancellorsville*. In an Epilogue, Peters provides profiles of what happened to the key figures later during and after the war, including Jackson’s death.

References

Mackowski, Chris and Kristopher White. *That Furious Struggle: Chancellorsville and the High Tide of the Confederacy, May 1-4, 1863*. 2014.

Peters, Ralph. *Darkness at Chancellorsville: A Novel of Stonewall Jackson’s Triumph and Tragedy*. 2019.

Sears, Stephen W. *Chancellorsville*. 1996.

Videos

Ralph Peters. *Darkness at Chancellorsville* (Gettysburg Heritage Center, June 30, 2019): <https://www.c-span.org/video/?462049-3/darkness-chancellorsville>

Battle of Chancellorsville: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?401574-1/battle-chancellorsville> (December 9, 2015)

Ralph Peters Explains How He Brings Civil War History to Life Through His Characters: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncwZ0ZlgdpA#action=share> (February 9, 2017)



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The Amazing Story of Chang and Eng, An Aside to the Civil War by Paul Siedel



Sometimes it is by sheer happenstance or just by chance that one learns some of the most amazing things not just about the Civil War but about life in general. That happened to me recently when I picked up a book in front of a local bookstore entitled “Inseparable” the story of Chang and Eng. The story at first didn’t hold my interest but as I moved along it began to fascinate me. It is the story of a pair of Siamese twins born in 1811 and how they were taken from The Kingdom of Siam and exhibited throughout the U.S. and Europe during the years before the Civil War. They were discovered and taken from their mother in Siam by way of India to escape a Cholera epidemic. Their mother freely gave permission for them to leave as she knew they would probably die if they stayed in Southeast Asia at that time. During the next several decades they traveled around and were exhibited in all parts of the U.S. and Europe. They were joined at the side of their stomachs and in 2019 could have probably been separated but they both shared the same liver and separation back then was impossible. After a dispute with their manager P.T. Barnum they decided to travel through the U.S. themselves. In doing so they covered much of the South and New England and became very wealthy eventually owning and managing a small circus of their own. Later in life they decided to settle down and eventually chose Mt. Airy, North Carolina as their place of residence. On October 12, 1839 they filed a petition to become U.S. citizens and the request was granted in 1840. They continued to live on their farm in North Carolina adding acres and purchasing several slaves to help them run the large cotton and tobacco plantation that eventually took shape. In 1843 the two Siamese twins married two local sisters and eventually had a total of fifteen children. By 1860 Chang and Eng had become wealthy North Carolina planters and devoted secessionists. Since the 1840s their life had taken on a decidedly southern character and it was to the south that they devoted their resources, loyalty and manpower so as slaveholding landed gentry they sided steadfastly with the Confederacy. As the war progressed and their children came of age several of the young men enlisted in the Confederate Cavalry. The twins had taken Bunker for their last name after becoming citizens and it was in 1863 that eighteen year old Christopher Bunker son of Chang joined the Confederate Cavalry to defend the Shenandoah Valley against David Hunter. He was captured and sent to Camp Chase, Ohio. His brother Stephen Bunker, son of Eng, was captured near Winchester, Va. During Stoneman’s raid into North Carolina in March of 1865 the Union Cavalry officer had heard of the famous Siamese twins and their families and orders were given to leave them alone. The war ended shortly after that and life settled down to normal at the Bunker home. Then in 1873 they decided to take a trip to Europe and visit some of the prominent people they met on their first tour back in the 1830s. They were welcomed by such personages as Queen Victoria, Bismarck, Prince Napoleon in France and Leopold King of the Belgians and they were on their way home aboard the “Palmyra” when Chang had a slight stroke.

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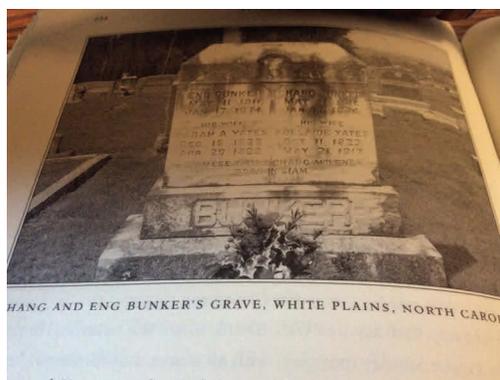
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Chang & Eng cont.

They arrived in New York and went directly to their home in Mt. Airy. There they sat for many hours each day in their double seated chair gazing at the wonderful view of the Blue Ridge Mts. Then one night the family heard a scream come from the bedroom of the twins. Eng's son rushed in and saw the ashen face of Chang. "Uncle Chang is dead he said to his father, Eng's reply was "then it won't be long as I am going also." A funeral service was held but shortly afterwards a request was made by the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia for custody of the body. The family steadfastly refused for obvious reasons. They did however grant the Mutter Museum permission to exhibit the liver which was shared by the twins. Today one can see that on display at the Museum. The bodies of Chang and Eng however were interred in the family plot at the Wilksboro Cemetery in Wilksboro North Carolina.

The story of Chang and Eng is one of the more unusual stories emanating from the Civil War era and is proof of the fact that whenever we think we know it all some little known fact comes to the surface and creates another new story all over again.

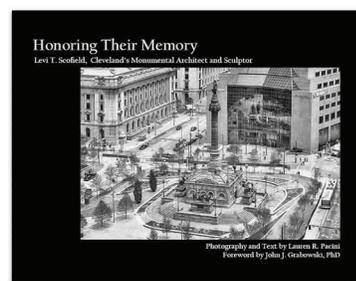


Book Review *Honoring Their Memory* Levi T. Scofield, *Cleveland's Monumental Architect and Sculptor*

Only the glacier that carved Lake Erie had a greater impact on northeast Ohio than the Civil War. Like the ancient ice, that conflict left behind a perpetual reminder, the Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument. Lauren Pacini's new book, "Honoring Their Memory" tells the story of Public Square's crown jewel as it's never been told before. The telling begins with the energies that cascaded upon each other to build the memorial; a crusade for social justice, one generation's commitment to

remember its sacrifice, and a creative genius perfectly suited to such an endeavor.

The heart of the book is its one-hundred photographs. The crispness of every architectural detail, bronze statue, and stained-glass window matches or exceeds what could be seen during a visit to the monument. Pacini puts down his camera to write concisely about the complex legal battle over the monument's location and chronicle both the original construction and multiple restoration projects. Including the images of other historic buildings and statues in downtown Cleveland provides interesting and logical sidebars.



Recipient of the 2019
Ohio Local History Alliance
Outstanding Achievement Award

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Pacini gave his book a subtitle, “Levi Scofield, Cleveland’s Monumental Architect and Sculptor” and provides the reader with nearly all that is known about Scofield’s life, family, and career. For this he deserves high praise. Like the glacier, Scofield’s fame has receded, mostly because his modesty led him to avoid the limelight. Pacini has done more than anyone else to bring him out of the shadows.

Tim Beatty Career-long History Teacher Past President, Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Former Manuscript Processor, Western Reserve Historical Society

**Program: Henry “Hank” Elliot, who will speak on Stonewall Jackson
and Second Manassas.
September 11, 2019**

Reservations: You must make a dinner reservation for any meeting you plan to attend no later than the day prior to that meeting (so we can give a headcount to the caterer). Make your reservation by sending an email to ccwrt1956@yahoo.com.

JUDSON MANOR Drinks 6pm Dinner 6:30

Drinks @ 6 pm, Dinner @ 6:30

Judson Manor , East 101th St. & Chester

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