

THE CHARGER

October, 2007

445th Meeting

Vol. 29 #2

Tonight's Program:

Brig. Gen. James B. Barnett and the 1st Cleveland Light Artillery

James Barnett was among the first settlers of the new city of Cleveland. He recruited the 1st Ohio Volunteer Light Artillery and, on April 22, 1861, he led the first armed regiment from Cleveland. In 1907, Barnett was proclaimed "First citizen of Cleveland."

Barnett's letters from the front and his privately published "Reminiscences" reveal the trials and frustrations of a civilian struggling to provide for his men during those 90 days which included the early West Virginia campaign

The program also includes the history of the 1st Ohio Volunteer Light Artillery, from its birth in 1839 to its present day transformation. This is an illustrated program with early Cleveland photographs, portraits, diary entries and historic telegrams.



Tonight's Speaker:

Marge Wilson

Marge Wilson is a one of the newest members of the Roundtable as well as an Executive Committee member, where she has led the Roundtable into its new relationship with National History Day. Ms. Wilson grew up in 'the East' and is an honors graduate of Cornell University where she majored in nutrition and biochemistry; her early professional years involved writing, teaching and public speaking in these fields. She was bitten late in life with the Civil War bug, while acting as a Guide at Lake View Cemetery.

Ms. Wilson has two grown daughters, both of whom live in California, where she recently found some rich Civil War archives in the glorious surroundings of Santa Barbara.

Date: **Wednesday,
October 10, 2007**

Place: **The Cleveland
Playhouse Club
8501 Carnegie Ave.**

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

Reservations: **Please Call
JAC Communications
(216) 861-5588**

Meal choice:

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

President: **Terry Koozer** (216) 226-7527
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Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Past Presidents

2007 John Fazio	1981 Thomas Geschke
2006 Dave Carrino	1980 Charles Spiegle
2005 Mel Maurer	1979 William Bates
2004 Warren McClelland	1978 Richard McCrae
2003 Maynard Bauer	1977 James Chapman
2002 Bill McGrath	1976 Milton Holmes
2001 William Vodrey	1975 Thomas Gretter
2000 Bob Boyda	1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh
1999 Dick Crews	1973 Arthur Jordan
1998 John Moore	1972 Bernard Drews
1997 Dan Zeiser	1971 Kenneth Callahan
1996 John Sutula	1970 Frank Schuhle
1995 Norton London	1969 Donald Heckaman
1994 Robert Battisti	1968 Frank Moran
1993 Kevin Callahan	1967 William Schlesinger
1992 Bob Baucher	1966 Donald Hamill
1991 Joe Tirpak	1965 Lester Swift
1990 Ken Callahan Jr.	1964 Guy DiCarlo, Jr.
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1988 Martin Graham	1962 Edward Downer
1987 George Vourlojianis	1961 Charles Clarke
1986 Tim Beatty	1960 Howard Preston
1985 Brian Kowell	1959 John Cullen, Jr.
1984 Neil Evans	1958 George Farr, Jr.
1983 William Victory	1957 Kenneth Grant
1982 John Harkness	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER, 2007

The kick-off meeting of the 2007-08 season with the Lincoln - Douglas Debate was a great experience for me and, I hope, for everyone else. George Buss as Lincoln and Tim Connors as Douglas were so in character that even our critical and learned members suspended disbelief for a time and were taken back to the debates of 1858. I also enjoyed learning of the personal friendship between Lincoln and Douglas, as I was not aware of it. Thanks to Mel Maurer and Jon Thompson for their assistance at this meeting. I am sure we will learn much more, beginning with Marge Wilson's presentation on General Barnett on October 10.

By the time of the October 10 meeting, we will have returned from our field trip to Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Lookout Mountain and we can discuss it and next year's trip. The field trip will tie in with Dan Zeiser's November 14 presentation on his hero General George Thomas at the Battle of Chickamauga

As mentioned before, our big project this year is to publish The Charger online to eliminate the costly expense of mailing it. Besides being more economical, it is much faster.

Finally, we would appreciate it if more members would donate books and items of interest to the raffle and the quiz. The raffle is an important fund raiser.

See you on the field trip or at the October meeting.

Sincerely,

Terry Koozer

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
2007/2008 SCHEDULE**

September 12, 2007

**The Lincoln-Douglas Debates:
A Reenactment**



**George
Buss**

October 10, 2007

**Brevet Brigadier General James B.
Barnett of the 1st Cleveland Light Ar-
tillery and the Firing of the First Land
Canon Shots of the War**

Marge Wilson

November 14, 20067

**George Thomas at
the Battle of
Chickamauga**

Dan Zeiser



December 12, 2007



**Nathan Bedford
Forrest:
Napoleonic
Cavalryman**

Greg Briggs

January 9, 2008

**The Annual Dick Crews
Debate**

*The Confederate Victory of 1865:
Was the Confederacy a Viable
State*

Moderator: William F. B. Vodrey

February 13, 2008

A Civil War Quiz

**Presented by
Brian Kowell**



March 12, 2008

**Raid!: The Confed-
eracy Comes to St.
Albans, Vermont**



William F. B. Vodrey

April 9, 2008

**Jesse James: The
Last Rebel**

Mel Maurer



May 14, 2008

**The USS Kearsarge vs.
the CSS
Alabama
John Fazio**



THE PROCLAMATION THAT SAVED A NATION

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Ed. Note: In last month's installment, John examined the genesis of the Emancipation Proclamation. It ended with Lincoln's authority to issue it as a war measure.]

C. Foreign Intervention.

1. England

In England's case, the ruling class was, not surprisingly, pro-Southern. It easily identified with the planter aristocracy and had been, for many years, close to the South economically (cotton) and socially. *The Times of London*, its major mouthpiece, was strongly pro-Southern. The Confederacy, of course, made a concerted effort to tap into the veins of support for its cause. In March, 1861, i.e., even before the war began, it sent William L. Yancey, Pierre A. Rost, and A. Dudley Mann to England, France, Russia, and Belgium for this purpose. Later, other missions were sent to Ireland, Spain, the Vatican, Mexico, and West Indian colonies. These missions failed largely because the countries solicited were chary of committing themselves to one side or the other in the conflict at such an early date. They failed, further, because of the efforts of the energetic and superbly able American Minister, Charles Francis Adams. It has been said that ultimate Union success owes as much or more to the work of this man than to all the battlefield victories.

Nevertheless, in the late summer of 1862, after Confederate successes on the battlefield (the Peninsular Campaign, Second Bull Run) gave the distinct impression that the Confederacy might indeed prevail, Adams warned Seward that a British offer to mediate the conflict was imminent. Such an offer would be tantamount to formal recognition of the Confederacy, because after it was rejected by the Administration, as it surely would be, the rejection would be taken by the British as justification for recognition and intervention. Earl Russell, the British Foreign Secretary, and Lord Palmerston, the Prime Minister, agreed that in late summer or early fall they would call a meeting of Palmerston's Cabinet and ask for their approval of the offer of mediation. They agreed, further, however, to condition the calling of the meeting on the outcome of Lee's invasion of the North in Maryland. If Lee were successful, they would go ahead with it. If not, they would postpone it and wait to see what developed. In a very real sense, then, the one in a million chance of Lee's losing his battle plans and McClellan's finding them changed the entire course of history by assuring the continuation of the United States as one country. After Antietam, the threat receded. After the Emancipation Proclamation, it was almost gone. After the twin Federal victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, it disappeared completely.

There was still another reason that mitigated against the British recognition and intervention. By chance, in the years leading up to the war, Europe had had poor grain harvests. Productivity in the United States remained high, despite the war, due to the use of new reapers and binders. American exports of grain went a long way toward relieving Britain's food shortage. Bad as it wanted cotton, it wanted American wheat even more, and it was unlikely, therefore, to do anything that would jeopardize those imports.

2. France

As for France, she, like Britain, was a monarchy and therefore suspicious if not hostile to democracy. Napoleon III, her monarch, did not give a fig about the Union either and would have been only too happy to see the experiment on the other side of the Atlantic fail, but he would not do anything unilaterally, i.e., without the backing of England. France's real interest was Mexico, where she had taken advantage of the war to set up a puppet government under Maximilian as Emperor. After Appomattox, Phil Sheridan was sent to the border with 50,000 troops. France got the message and pulled its troops out. The natives took over and Maximilian was executed.

3. Russia

Russia, the other major power, presented an interesting case. Because of her distance from the United

States, intervention would have been much more difficult for her than for the other two major powers. Regardless, it now appears that St. Petersburg had no inclination to support the Southern cause, though elements of its ruling class may have been sympathetic. The economic ties that bound the United States to England and France were all but nonexistent in the case of Russia. That two Russian fleets dropped anchor in the fall of 1863 in American waters, one at San Francisco and the other at New York, had nothing to do with supporting the North. Their purpose was to prevent them from being icebound in their own waters in the event of war with England and France, which, at the time and due to the imperial ambitions of all three countries, notably in Central Asia, was a distinct possibility.

II. THE PROCLAMATION

Lincoln's state of mind in July, 1862, is best described in his own words. In a conversation with the painter, Frank Carpenter, who painted the famous illustration of the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, he said:

It had got to be midsummer, 1862. Things had gone on from bad to worse, until I felt that we had reached the end of our rope on the plan of operations we had been pursuing; that we had about played our last card, and must change our tactics or lose the game. I now determined upon the adoption of the emancipation policy; and without consultation with, or knowledge of, the cabinet, I prepared the original draft of the proclamation, and after much anxious thought called a cabinet meeting upon the subject... I said to the cabinet that I had resolved upon this step, and had not called them together to ask their advice, but to lay the subject-matter of a proclamation before them, suggestions as to which would be in order after they had heard it read.

Actually, Lincoln omitted to say that on July 13, 1862, the day after his last meeting with representatives of the border states and nine days before the cabinet meeting to which he refers, he discussed emancipation with the two cabinet members who were closest to him, Gideon Welles and William Seward. He read a draft of the Proclamation to them. They were left nearly speechless, but what they did manage to say was generally favorable. Encouraged, Lincoln, at a regularly scheduled meeting on July 22, 1862, presented his entire cabinet with what he called his "preliminary" Emancipation Proclamation, advising them that he wished to issue it immediately. Their reaction, not surprisingly, was mixed, but Lincoln had taken the precaution of telling them in advance that he was asking for their advice only as to the form of the document, not its substance. The latter, he said, he was firmly committed to. Seward suggested that because of recent military reversals in the eastern theater (the Peninsular Campaign), immediate issuance would be construed as an act of desperation (which, in a sense, it was) and that it would be better, therefore, to wait for a more propitious time, i.e., after a Union victory, to issue it. This was sage advice and Lincoln accepted it. Assured that foreign intervention was not imminent (though it remained a serious threat), he would wait for a Union victory. Thanks to the loss of Lee's battle plans during his invasion of Maryland, McClellan gave Lincoln his victory at Antietam on September 17. Again, in Lincoln's own words:

When Lee came over the river, I made a resolution that if McClellan drove him back I would send the proclamation after him. The battle of Antietam was fought Wednesday, and until Saturday I could not find out whether we had gained a victory or lost a battle. It was then too late to issue the proclamation that day; and the fact is I fixed it up a little Sunday, and Monday I let them have it.

This was September 22. After reading a second draft to the Cabinet, he issued his preliminary Proclamation, which announced that emancipation would become effective on January 1, 1863, in those states "in rebellion" that had not, during the interim period, ceased hostilities. He issued and signed the supplementary or real Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. It is not a particularly long document, so here it is in full:

Whereas, on the September 22, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be, in good faith, represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days, from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans), Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth), and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defense; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

Abraham Lincoln

Just before affixing his signature, Lincoln said to the few friends who were with him in his study, "I never, in my

life, felt more certain that I was doing right than I do in signing this paper."

III. INTERPRETATIONS

A. Background

In truth, the Emancipation Proclamation was both an end and a beginning. It was the capstone on all the measures that had until then been taken to prohibit slavery or to free slaves and that had therefore seriously eroded the institution and prepared the nation for the Thirteenth Amendment. These included the Northwest Ordinances of 1784, 1785, and 1787, wherein Congress prohibited slavery in the area north of the Ohio River to the Great Lakes and west of Pennsylvania to the Mississippi River; Article I, Section 9 (I), of the Constitution, which authorized Congress to prohibit the importation of slaves after 1807, a clear signal that the framers - most of them - found the institution to be loathsome and planned for its eventual extinction; Lincoln's order of March 13, 1862, forbidding all Union officers to return fugitive slaves, thus in effect annulling the fugitive slave laws despite that they were enacted pursuant to Art. IV, Section 2, of the Constitution; Congress's abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia (by the Senate on April 3, 1862; by the House on April 11, 1862; signed into law by the President of April 16, 1862); Congress's declaration on April 10, 1862, that the Federal Government would compensate slaveowners who freed their slaves; Congress's prohibition of slavery in United States territories, on June 19, 1862, thus nullifying the Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision and putting to rest the question that had set region against region since 1847, i.e., would the territories acquired from Mexico be slave or free?; the Second Confiscation Act (signed into law on July 17, 1862), which provided for the liberation of the slaves (in addition to other penalties) of persons convicted of rebelling or in any way aiding and abetting the rebellion against the authority of the United States, as well as those slaves who escaped from such persons and sought refuge within Union lines, or who were captured by Union forces or deserted by their masters and came under control of the United States Government, or who were in places occupied by rebel forces that were afterwards occupied by Union forces. Some observers felt that this Act made the Emancipation Proclamation superfluous, but it was not so: the former was much more limited than the latter. It did not, for example, apply to loyal slaveholders. Further, by its language slaves could be freed only on a case by case basis in Federal courts. The Proclamation, by contrast, freed all slaves, of loyal slaveholders and of disloyal ones, in all areas of the country in rebellion against the national authority, i.e., its duly elected government - all 4,000,000 of them in one fell swoop. At the same time that it was the capstone of all the piecemeal measures that had preceded it and that had eroded the peculiar institution, it represented the beginning of the end of the Confederacy, made possible the freedom of slaves everywhere in the country, *de jure and de facto*, and paved the way for the Thirteenth Amendment, which guaranteed that the institution would never reappear within our borders.

There are basically three interpretations of the Proclamation, all three of them true or substantially true.

In the next installment, John will examine the three interpretations of the Proclamation and its effects.

Bring a Book!

We are always in need of books or prints for the monthly raffles and quiz. Perhaps each of us has a book or two that we have read and no longer need or want. If so, please bring it (or them) to the October meeting.



NEXT MONTH

**GEORGE H. THOMAS
AT
THE BATTLE OF
CHICKAMAUGA**

DAN ZEISER

Please join us for this month's meeting.

If you have not already done so, please send
your dues for the 2007-8 year to

**Dennis Keating
2191 Middlefield Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106**

Or you can bring them to the October meeting.
See you there.