

THE CHARGER

April, 2003

405 Meeting

Vol. 24 #8

Tonight's Topic:

The Long Lost Journal of Confederate General James Johnston Pettigrew

The Long Lost Journal of Confederate General James Johnston Pettigrew, is a historical novel written from the perspective of a young gentleman of the antebellum South. Written in journal form, the book follows Pettigrew from the just before the 1860 Presidential Election to his untimely death during the retreat from Gettysburg.



J. Johnston Pettigrew

A native North Carolinian, James Johnston Pettigrew was the true Southern Renaissance man. Born July 4, 1828, to wealth and station at the family plantation, *Bonarva*, he entered the University of North Carolina at the age of 14 and graduated as Valedictorian of his class in 1843. The 18 year old graduate was then appointed to a professorship at the U. S. Naval Observatory. However, he soon left to study in Europe, which included law and military studies and becoming an accomplished pianist. Returning to the United States and Charleston, South Carolina, he turned to the practice of law with his uncle. Elected to the South Carolina Legislature, he was voted out of office after he exposed his anti-slavery sentiments by introducing legislation to abolish slavery.

Johnston Pettigrew was severely wounded and taken prisoner, later exchanged in the Peninsula campaign.

A year later he was killed by Union cavalry while waiting to cross the Potomac River in the retreat from Gettysburg.

Tonight's Speaker:

Dan Bauer

Dan Bauer is a Wisconsin school administrator. He is also the author of many articles on military history that have appeared in various national magazines, such as: Civil War Times Illustrated, World War II Magazine, Civil War Magazine, Military History Magazine and Air Classics Magazine.

The Long Lost Journal of Confederate General James Johnson Pettigrew is his first novel.

**Date: Wednesday,
April 9, 2003**

**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: Rib Eye Steak
or Trout**

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

President: **Maynard Bauer** - (440) 835-3081
Vice President: **Warren McClelland** - (216) 751-8564
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Ty Sommershield	William F.B. Vodrey
Kirk Hinman	Bill McGrath

Website: **www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com**
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CHARGER editor—Dick Crews (800) 800-8310

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable is open to anyone with an interest in the American Civil War. The 131 members of the Roundtable, who's membership varies from 13 to 90 years old, share a belief that the American Civil War was the **defining** event in United States history.

- Shiloh -

Cleveland CWRT Annual Field Trip
September 25-28, 2003
..Mark your calendar !!

April 9, 2003



General Pettigrew's Journal

The story of North Carolina General Johnston Pettigrew. He led the confederate left in Pickett's Charge and died in the retreat from Gettysburg.

Dan Bauer

May 14, 2003 "Guest Night"



During the Civil War, Canada was a British Colony

Canada and the American Civil War

Mark Vinet

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE APRIL , 2003

Our March meeting was a successful meeting with a vintage Ed Bearss presentation and our largest attendance of the year. We had over 100 in attendance and the Playhouse graciously provided us the use of the main dining room. Four new members joined the Roundtable and one former member paid this year's dues. Our membership now totals 133.

We were particularly appreciative of Dave Carrino's willingness to assist Maureen Goodyear, our treasurer, in what she terms our "name tag drill". This involves securing the reservation list from the restaurant (who receive it from JAC), sorting out the name tags for those attending and then coding them for the correct meal selected and then placing them in alphabetical order. The treasurer arrives at 4:30 P.M. to set this process in motion to be ready for members who start arriving about 5:45 P.M. Dave's help was particularly appreciated for the large crowd at this meeting. Maureen has done an excellent job with our financial records this year.

At our April meeting our nominating committee will announce a list of candidates for our next program year. If you are interested in serving please contact the nominating committee of Dick Crews, Dan Zeiser and Joyce McGrath.

Maynard

Abraham Lincoln

There's nothing trivial about him

By Mel Maurer

This April marks the 138th anniversary of the assassination of our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln. Here are some random facts and figures in the life of this great American guaranteed to tell you something about him you didn't know before.

Lincoln, six feet, four inches tall weighed 180 pounds – much taller and slightly heavier wearing his stovepipe hat. His hat size was seven and one eighth - his shoe size, fourteen.... **He did not** like the names Abraham, Abe or Old Abe, preferring simply to be called “Lincoln.”.... **He had an older sister**, Sarah, and a younger brother, Thomas, who died in infancy. Sarah died at age 19.... **The first town** named after him was the capital of Logan County in Illinois in 1853. He warned the townspeople that, “Nothing named Lincoln ever amounted to much.” (This may be why Ford doesn't use Lincoln as a spokesman in its ads.).... **Lawyer Lincoln** made 300 appearances before the Illinois Supreme Court.... **He was once challenged** to a duel but the challenger accepted his apology when the much taller and smarter Lincoln chose broad swords as the weapons for the duel.... **Lincoln first spoke** out against slavery in a speech to the Illinois State Legislature in Vandalia in 1837. In his second inaugural, he said that slavery was the cause of the war. He was right.... **Molly, Puss, Little Woman, Child Wife and Mother** were pet names Lincoln had for his wife Mary. He was born in 1809 and she in 1818, marrying him November 4, 1842 – inside her wedding band were the words, “Love is eternal.”.... **Lincoln's secretaries** called Mary “The Hell-cat.” They affectionately called him, “The Tycoon” and “The Ancient.”.... **In their days as lawyers**, Secretary of War Stanton once called the president, “A long armed ape.”.... **The Lincolns** had four children: Robert, Edward (Eddie) who died at age 4, William (Willie) who died at age 12 and Thomas (Tad) who died at age 17.... **Robert was a lawyer**, a Secretary of War, a minister to England and president of the Pullman Railroad Car Company.... **Robert had three children**, Abraham, Mary and Jessie. He died in 1926, his wife, Mary, in 1937.... **Robert's Abraham** died at age 17 of blood poisoning. His grandson Robert Lincoln Beckwith, the last direct descendant of the president died in 1985....

It took 233 votes to win the Republican nomination in 1860. **Lincoln** was second to William H. Seward on the first and second ballots. He pulled ahead on the third ballot with 231 votes and then won the nomination when D.K Cartter switched four Ohio votes from Ohio's Salmon Chase to Lincoln.... **He earned \$25,000** a year as president. His secretary, Nicolay earned \$900 a year.... **Lincoln** rarely used profane language although he would occasionally use it in a joke.... **He used humor** to cope with melancholia and depression – he called these afflictions, “The Hypo,” for hypochondria.... **He is the only president** to hold a patent – no. 6649 – for a device to lift boats over shoals....



Nicolay and Hay are the best known Lincoln secretaries but he had four more - but never more than two or three at one time (no West Wing).... **Lincoln was well versed** on the bible and Shakespeare.... **Robert said he never** named a favorite song but he was known have liked "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "The Marseillaise," "Your Mission" and "The Soldier's Chorus. The president also said that "Dixie," was one of the best tunes he ever heard.... **The famous "Bixby Letter,"** in which Lincoln is said to have written his condolences to the widow Bixby who lost five sons in the war, may have been written by Hay.... **The letter, despite** the copies you may have seen or bought on crinkly brown paper, does not exist today – you may want to request a refund.... **It may be just as well** it doesn't exist. Of her five sons, Mrs. Bixby actually had two die in combat, one was dishonorable discharged, one was a deserter and one was unaccounted for....

The president was ill with "varoloid" a mild form of small pox when he delivered the Gettysburg Address and would spend three weeks in quarantine when he returned to the White House.... **His favorite recreations** as president were taking carriage rides with Mary and attending the theater.... **As a congressman in Washington,** Lincoln enjoyed bowling – no record as to whether he wore a bowling shirt or bought beers for the boys.... **The last written** words of Lincoln exactly as he wrote them were, "Allow Mr. Ashum & friend to come in at 9. A. M. to-morrow.".... **The president** told Mary he considered April 14th to be the day the war ended.... **That night** he was shot in the back of his head, above and behind his left ear, at Ford's Theater with a single shot derringer between 10:15 and 10:20 PM.... **Unfortunately his assassin,** John Wilkes Booth, broke his ankle and not his neck in making his escape.... **"Wilkes" as he preferred** to be called was shot the morning of April 26th by cavalryman Thomas Corbitt.... **Initially crippled** from the neck down, he soon died.... **Corbitt was later** committed to an insane asylum.... **Booth was first buried** at the Washington Arsenal and later at Green Mount Cemetery in Baltimore – where I like to think his grave attracts dogs in need of relief.... **Fourteen doctors attended Lincoln** before he died April 15th at 7:22 AM lying diagonally across a bed in a back bedroom of the Peterson House across from the theater.... **He never regained consciousness** – "He is gone," said a Dr. Barnes.... **Stanton asked** the Reverend Gurly to say a prayer which was not recorded.... **Stanton then spoke** the words that were later slightly edited to, "Now he belongs to the ages." He was right.... **The contents of Lincoln's pockets** the night he was shot were two pairs of spectacles and cases, a lens polisher, a cuff button, a pocketknife, a watch fob, a linen handkerchief, a brown leather wallet containing a five dollar Confederate note and nine newspaper clippings....

Lincoln died without a will. Supreme Court Justice David Davis, who took no money for his work, handled his estate.... **Judge Davis did his work well,** raising the value of Lincoln's estate from \$83,343.70 to \$110,974.62 in two years before it was divided equally between Mary, Robert and Tad.... **Mary did not drive** her husband to the poor house – his net worth increased by some \$66,000 while he was president.... **She did overspend** some public money. Congress appropriated \$20,000 to be spent over four years to refurbish the Lincoln White House. Mary spent \$26,700 the first year. Congress covered the deficit.... **The first Lincoln penny** was issued August 2, 1909. It was controversial because it was the first coin to have the likeness of an American on it - some thought that to be a monarchical practice.... **The Lincoln Memorial** in Washington, D. C. was dedicated on May 30, 1922 – it cost three million dollars or three hundred million Lincoln pennies.... **It's 36 columns** represent the 36 states in the union at the time of Lincoln's death.... **Lincoln is buried** in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois.... **His remains were buried** six times before being permanently entombed – ultimately in concrete to prevent further attempts to steal his body. **May he rest in peace.**



1930 bronze sculpture of Captain Lincoln in the Black Hawk war

Note: The above is based on many sources with particular attention paid to "A. Lincoln: His Last Days" and "Abraham Lincoln: The Complete Book of Facts, Quizzes and Trivia." M.M.

“HYSTERIA, DEMOCRACY AND TERRORISM”

BY WILLIAM F.B. VODREY

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On July 7, 1865, Mary B. Surratt was hanged in the Arsenal grounds at Washington's Old-Penitentiary Building, having been convicted of conspiracy in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Also executed were Lewis Payne, George A. Atzerodt and David Herold. Mrs. Surratt's execution was perhaps the most extreme example of how the American rule of law was put to the severest test — and in some ways failed — in the cauldron of the Civil War.



*Clement Vallandigham,
Ohio Copperhead*

President Lincoln took extraordinary measures to maintain order in the North during the war. He ordered the arrest of treasonous Maryland legislators, exiled Copperhead leader Clement Vallandigham of Ohio, and widely suspended the writ of habeas corpus, even where Federal and state courts were open for business. Lincoln defended his actions, saying “Are all the laws but one to go unexecuted, and the government itself go to pieces, lest that one be violated?” The Lincoln administration claimed the right to take into military custody anyone who demonstrated “substantial and unmistakable complicity with those in armed rebellion,” and between 12,000 and 18,000 citizens were held without trial. Secretary of State William H. Seward relished his authority to arrest those whom he saw as enemies of the United States, telling a visitor, “If I tap that little bell, I can send you to a place where you will never hear the dogs bark.” In the case of *Ex parte Merryman*, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney ordered the

release of such prisoners, but Lincoln ignored the order.

We now know that there were indeed some Confederate spies and plotters in the North, and many Copperhead sympathizers, but they never posed a threat that was remotely proportional to the Lincoln administration's internal-security policies. With the benefit of hindsight, it's clear that these were some of Lincoln's worst mistakes, both legally and politically. The President did the best he could under very trying circumstances, but he badly overreached, and freedom suffered.

After Lincoln's tragic death on April 15, 1865, hysteria swept through the North. Coming so soon after Lee's surrender at Appomattox, while Jefferson Davis and many top Confederate officials were still at large, John Wilkes Booth's crime was thought by many to be a last murderous stab of the Richmond government-in-exile. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton seized virtually dictatorial power in the hours after Lincoln's shooting, setting up a command post in the front parlor of the Peterson House, opposite Ford's Theatre, even as Lincoln fought for life in a small back room. Stanton issued a flurry of orders, offering a reward for the capture of the Lincoln conspirators, and seeing to it that a military tribunal was established to try the conspirators when they were arrested.

Whether Mary Surratt should have been prosecuted before a military tribunal was ably debated at the Roundtable's meeting in January; I have grave doubts that she should have been. However, the evidence as to her guilt was certainly less than overwhelming. It's quite possible that she would have been acquitted, or at least pardoned by the new President, in a less grief-stricken and vengeful time.

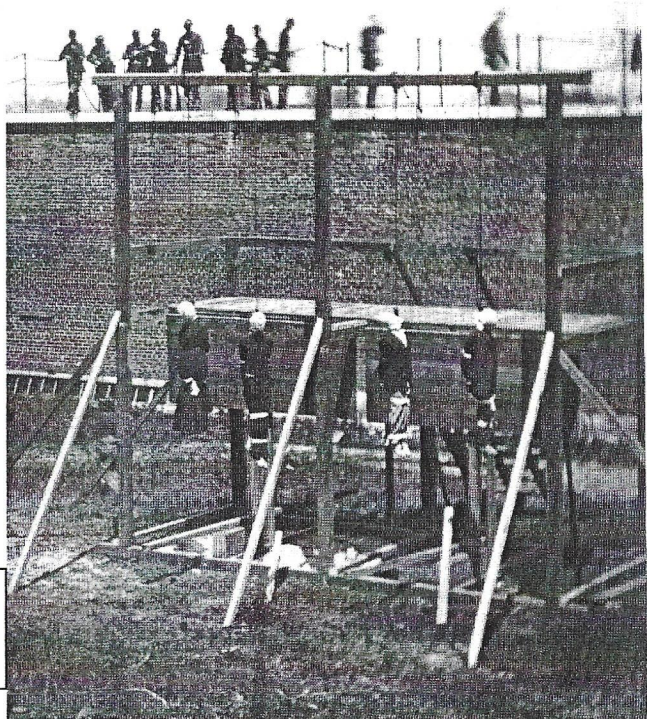
Mary Surratt was, to some degree, a victim of one of those periods of constitutional crisis that often follow a great national calamity. She found herself in a time, such as we are now in, when public opinion is at its most inflamed, and when constitutional rights and the rule of law — bedrock principles of American democracy — are seen by some as costly luxuries in the face of a mortal threat to the nation. After Ft. Sumter, Lincoln took actions which severely curtailed constitutional freedoms in the North. After World War I and widespread anarchists' bombing attacks, hundreds of suspected radicals and revolutionaries were arrested or deported in the Palmer Raids, sometimes just because they "looked" like enemies of the state. After Pearl Harbor, thousands of Japanese-Americans were herded into internment camps just because of their ethnic background, even though no charges of sabotage or spying were brought against them. After World War II, McCarthyism and anticommunist paranoia ruined many lives.

Have we learned anything from these gross violations of the Constitution? I fear not. Since the monstrous terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Federal government has laid claim to sweeping new powers. The government has gone so far as to designate two U.S. citizens, Jose Padilla and Yaser Hamdi, as "enemy combatants," asserting the power to hold them indefinitely, without charges and without access to counsel. This is a power found nowhere in the Constitution, breathtaking in its implications and, in my view, repugnant to American ideals of freedom and justice. No one wants terrorists to strike again, but we must be mindful of the Constitution that sets our nation apart from all others. As we fight the very real threat of terrorism, we should remember Benjamin Franklin's warning: "They that give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Our rights are never more endangered than during a national crisis. Now more than ever, we must do all we can to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution, that structure of ordered liberty that has seen us through so many crises: a civil war, a great depression, two world wars, a cold war. This nation will endure and prevail, if we each decide that it shall be so, and if we are true to the principles on which it was founded.

That's the least we can do for ourselves, for our country, and for the memory of Mary Surratt—whether she was guilty or innocent.

**The execution of the Lincoln
assassination conspirators,
July 7, 1865.**



HISTORY THAT NEVER WAS

By William F.B. Vodrey

*Executive Mansion
Washington*

July 6, 1865.

Regarding *United States v. Mrs. Mary E. Surratt*.

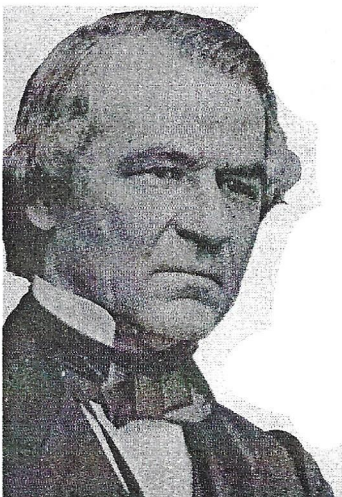
The defendant was duly convicted of conspiracy to murder Abraham Lincoln, the late martyred President of the United States, and was sentenced to death by hanging. I have reviewed the transcript of the proceedings before the Military Commission, and have consulted with the Attorney General and the Judge Advocate General. I have also been made aware of the recommendation, by a majority of the Commission, that the harshness and finality of defendant's sentence be modified in some measure, as is the constitutional prerogative of the Chief Executive.

Defendant kept the nest from which treacherous vipers sprang. Nevertheless, upon careful consideration, I believe that it would be both lawful and appropriate to intercede. No one regrets our beloved late President's death, or mourns his untimely passing, more deeply than his successor. The Nation is properly outraged by the monstrous crime which struck the President down at the very moment of his triumph, after four years of fratricidal war. However, in light of genuine and lingering uncertainty about the actual extent of the defendant's role in, and knowledge of, the conspiracy, and my concern as to the propriety of executing a member of the gentler sex, I have decided to temper justice with mercy in this case.

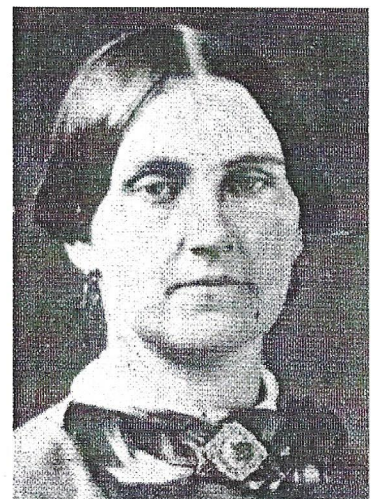
NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDREW JOHNSON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, pursuant to my authority under the United States Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 2, cl.1, do hereby commute the defendant's sentence to that of imprisonment for life. The defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal for the District of Columbia.

s/ Andrew Johnson

ATTEST: William H. Seward, Secretary of State



17th President of the United States
Andrew Johnson



The only woman ever executed by
the U.S. Military, Mary Surratt

J. JOHNSTON PETTIGREW

The general who lead the confederate left
in Pickett's charge at Gettysburg.

WEDNESDAY,

APRIL 9, 2003

