

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

DEC., 2019

VOL. 42 # 3

Executive Committee 2019/2020

President - C. Ellen Connally

Vice President - Steve Pettyjohn

Treasurer - Mark Porter

Secretary - Lily Korte

Hans Kuenzi - Director

Michael Wells - Director

Dan Zeiser—Director

Paul Burkholder - Webmaster

Dan Ursu—Historian

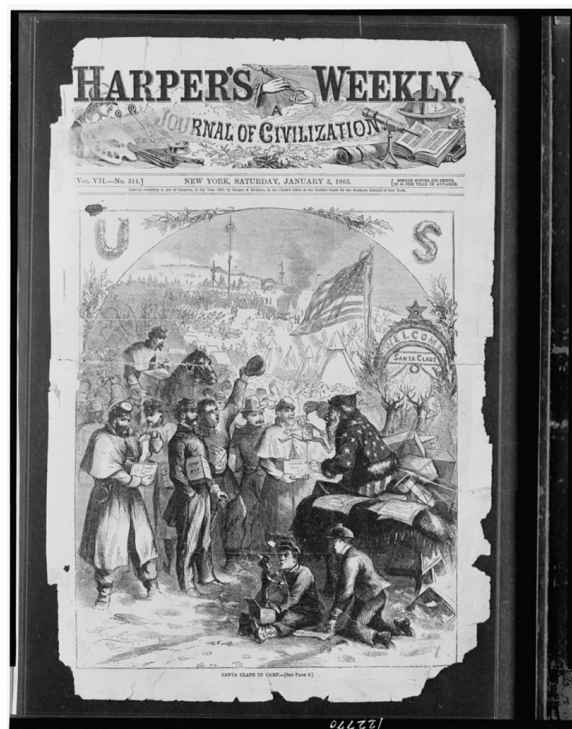
Website : clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com

E-mail: m.wells@csuohio.edu or w.keating@csuohio.edu

Editors: Dennis Keating, Michael Wells

Newsletter Design: Catherine Wells

*Happy Holidays to
all from the Execu-
tive Committee and
the editors of The
Charger*



Santa Claus in Camp <https://lcn.loc.gov/99400321>

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

DEC... 2019

VOL. 42 #3

Robert Smalls and the Theft of the “Planter”

One of the most inspiring episodes of the Civil War was the the daring raid by Robert Smalls and the theft of the CSS “Planter” on May 12, 1862. On visiting Charleston S. C. last year I was surprised to run across a state historic plaque describing the episode and the aftermath on the Charleston waterfront. Not knowing much about the theft I decided to look into it further. Here is what I learned.

Robert Smalls was an African American born into slavery in Beaufort, South Carolina on April 5, 1839. He was taught to read and write and although it was against the law in South Carolina this made him much more likely to be hired out for a sizable sum. By 1862 he was owned by one Henry McKee and was hired out to serve on the 140 ft paddle-wheeler “Planter” a cargo ship owned by one John Ferguson and chartered by the Confederacy for \$125 a day. The “Planter” eventually became the flagship of General Roswell Ripley, second in command of the Confederate defenses at Charleston. The actual captain of the ship was Captain J. Relyea. Smalls was extremely literate and so Henry McKee hired him out to Relyea for \$18.00 a day, of which Smalls was only allowed to keep \$1.00! Smalls showed his aptitude for things mechanical and it was shortly afterwards that he was promoted to wheelsman the highest rank allowed to an African American. He soon became familiar with the defenses of Charleston, the forts, their strengths and weaknesses, torpedo positions and the positions of the Rebel ships. Smalls soon realized he could use this information and his position to his advantage in an attempt to gain his freedom and that of the other members of his family. So on the night of May 11, 1862 he escorted a group of civilians including Capt. Relyea over to Fort Sumpter for a for an evening of music and dancing designed to shore up morale in the Confederate held fort.



THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

DEC... 2019

VOL. 42 # 3

He waited until around 3 A.M when he had a full head of steam in the boilers slowly and silently backed out of the moorings and headed for the Cooper River to pick up his family. Once there he picked up eight people including his wife Hannah and his baby daughter, Elizabeth. Then he headed again for Fort Sumter and the U.S. fleet three miles beyond. As they steamed past the fortifications he pulled the captain's hat down over his face and from a distance he looked remarkably like Captain Relyea. On they steamed past Ft. Johnston, past Morris Island and finally met the USS "Onward." Questions were exchanged across the water, and the men of the "Onward" couldn't believe their ears. An officer went aboard the Planter to investigate. Smalls was standing at attention "Sir I bring you the "Planter" and we have come to join the U.S. fleet." Smalls and his ship did go on to join the Union fleet and Mr. Smalls, (he was no longer called boy) went on to live another fifty three years. When he died in 1915, he had served in the U.S. Congress and in the South Carolina Legislature doing much to enhance race relations in the state and helping to make us one country undivided and reunited. U.S. history seems to be filled with stories of daring and courage and lesser known actions and folks that after the conflict ended faded back into their lives of good citizens. It is to folks such as Robert Smalls and others that we owe much of what we are today for they contributed just as much as did the generals and politicians that we hear so much about.

By Paul Siedel





THE CHARGER

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

DEC... 2019

VOL. 42 #3.

HISTORY BRIEF – CCWRT – DANIEL J. URSU, HISTORIAN – copyright 11/13/19 “The Second Battle of Corinth and the Start of the Vicksburg Campaign”

We pick up from my September 11, 2019 History brief, with Confederate General Price maneuvering away from Iuka on September 19, 1862. His movement was in a wide southwestwardly arc. (Follow map) He first went to Baldwyn, Mississippi; then northwest toward Ripley where he was joined by Van Dorn and together they headed due north to Pocahontas, Tennessee. Van Dorn assumed command of what was now known as the 22,000 man Confederate Army of Western Tennessee. Positioned thusly, he threatened both Corinth and the Mobile & Ohio Railroad providing a supply line to the Union troops to the south.

In the meanwhile, Union General Grant set up his Headquarters in Jackson, Tennessee which was roughly equidistant to the components of his command: 6,000 troops with him; 12,000 under Hurlbut at Bolivar, Tennessee; Rosecrans' 23,000 dispersed around Corinth in what was known as the Army of the Mississippi; and lastly Sherman's 7,000 at Memphis.

In Grant's mind, Van Dorn was heading for Corinth, but Rosecrans thought that Van Dorn would be foolish to strike the important fortified rail junction when he could maneuver the Union out of Corinth by cutting the Mobile & Ohio Railroad north of town. Accordingly, Rosecrans was somewhat mentally unprepared for an assault but tactically lucky since he pulled in all of his command in anticipation of moving north to aid the expected thrust at Hurlbut (see top map) – thereby giving him his full 23,000 troops outnumbering his foe by 1,000 - when Van Dorn struck on October 3rd. Unknown or uncomprehended by Van Dorn, the text book 3:1 preponderance of troops to defeat a prepared position was now clearly to the Union advantage at a 1:1 ratio.

However, the initial first day assault was so successful that it carried Rosecran's first line of defenses – that being Beareguards old rifle pits built for the confederate's previous defense of Corinth (see bottom map); they were overwhelmed within a matter of hours and the Confederate command thought that they could take the town but for the descent of nightfall.

THE CHARGER



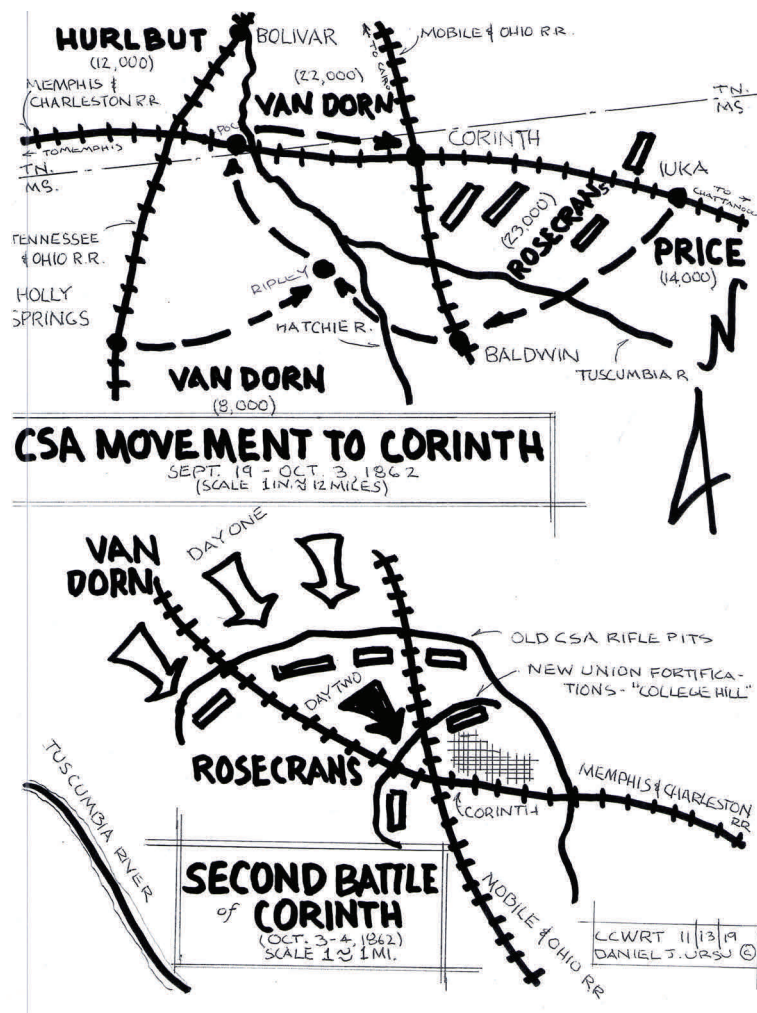
CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

DEC... 2019

VOL. 42 #3.

The following day October 4th, a heavy line of breastworks and prepared batteries at "College Hill" met the Confederate early morning advance (see map). Temperatures in the mid 90's and scarcity of water created extreme hardship on both sides but the batteries in the middle of the Union line were briefly overcome and some Confederates even advanced into the town itself. Recall Chris Kolakowski's presentation last November on the Battle of Perryville in eastern Kentucky taking place at roughly the same time, the severe heat and draught also greatly influenced that battle. Ultimately, flanking artillery fire and a Union infantry counterattack succeeded in driving the confederates out. Van Dorn now realizing the strength of numbers on the Union side, saw as his only option a retreat to the west.

Grant states in his memoirs that he ordered Rosecrans to immediately pursue but he waited until the following day and as such, allowed Van Dorn to essentially depart unmolested eventually reaching Holly Springs, Mississippi. The losses had been about 4200 for the Confederates and about 2500 for the Union. As a result of the destruction of about 20% of his force and accusations of drunkenness during the battle, Van Dorn was swiftly replaced with Pemberton who would lead the defense of Vicksburg. On the Union side, Grant comments in his memoirs that the failure to pursue coupled with the Iuka debacle greatly diminished the value of Rosecrans in Grant's eyes.



THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

DEC... 2019

VOL. 42 #3.

Medical Care During the Civil War: Women and Cleveland

by Dennis Keating

Female nurses would play a critical role in the treatment of Union soldiers. In June, 1861 Dorothea Dix was named the first superintendent of the U.S. Army nurses. She was over shadowed by Clara Barton, who served at several major battles of the Eastern war theater. She became the postwar first president of the American Red Cross.

A major contribution to the medical care of the sick, wounded and injured of the Union Army during the Civil War was also the U.S. Sanitary Commission (USSC). It had ten branches, including one in Cleveland.

The officers of the Cleveland branch included its president Rebecca Rouse, who first organized a Ladies' Aid Society on April 20, 1861, and Ellen Terry. Rouse and her husband moved to Cleveland from the East in 1830. In 1850, she helped to form the Cleveland Ladies Temperance Union. She and her husband are buried in Lake View Cemetery. To honor her service, Rouse's figure is reproduced in one of the bronze panels of the Soldiers & Sailors' Monument.

The USSC had a competitor in the United States Christian Commission (USCC) organized in November, 1861 by the YMCA. Both organizations relied heavily on women.

A heroine of nurses who served during the Civil War was Mary Bickerdyke, born in Mount Vernon, Ohio in July, 1817. A widowed nurse living in Galesburg, Illinois at the outbreak of the war, she traveled with Union armies throughout the war, establishing more than three hundred field hospitals. She was present at 19 major battles and accompanied Sherman's armies during the Atlanta campaign and the March to the Sea. She was admired by Generals Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman and revered by Union soldiers who called her "Mother Bickerdyke". At the Grand Review in Washington at war's end she rode at the head of Sherman's XV Corps. After the war, she became an attorney and helped secure pensions for veterans and female nurses. There are monuments to her in Mount Vernon and Galesburg.

In Cleveland, Camp Cleveland was established in the University Heights (now Tremont) neighborhood to train soldiers. From its creation in July, 1862 to its closing in July, 1865, 15,230

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

DEC... 2019

VOL. 42 #3.

soldiers were trained there. It also had a U.S. General Hospital which treated more than 3,000 Union soldiers during its existence.

In addition, in December, 1862, a Soldiers' Home was established in Cleveland, located at the Union Depot at a lakefront pier. Until its closing in June, 1866, it aided 56,645 Union soldiers. It was managed by Ellen Terry.

Fearing, Heidi and Chris Roy. *Camp Cleveland* (<https://clevelandhistorical.org/items/show/314>)

Richard, Patricia. *The US Sanitary Commission* (Essential Civil War Curriculum (<https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.org>))

Schultz, Jane. *Women at the Front: Hospital Workers in Civil War America* (2007)

Van Tassel, David with John Vacha. *Behind Bayonets: The Civil War in Northern Ohio* (2006)[pp. 72-78]

Wajda, Shirley. "Mobilizing the Home Front" (New York Times, October 13, 2012)

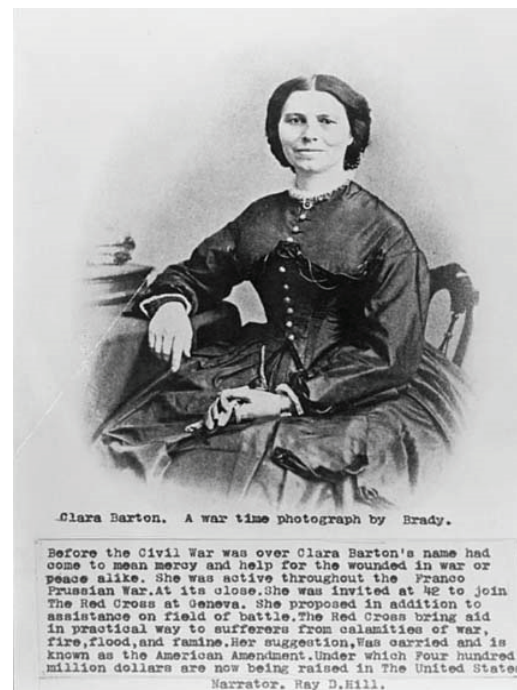
Take Note: From Dennis Keating

Clara Barton Papers

The Library of Congress has digitized the letters, diaries, journals, speeches, and other files of Clara Barton:

[loc.gov/collections/clara-barton-papers/](https://www.loc.gov/collections/clara-barton-papers/)

Clara Barton. A war time photograph by Brady. , ca. 1890. [Between and 1910] Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/93513625/>.



Clara Barton. A war time photograph by Brady.

Before the Civil War was over Clara Barton's name had come to mean mercy and help for the wounded in war or peace alike. She was active throughout the Franco Prussian War. At its close she was invited to join the Red Cross at Geneva. She proposed in addition to assistance on field of battle. The Red Cross bring aid in practical way to sufferers from calamities of war, fire, flood, and famine. Her suggestion was carried and is known as the American Amendment. Under which four hundred million dollars are now being raised in the United States.

Narrator. Ray D. Hill.

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

DEC... 2019

VOL. 42 #3.

Program: Medical Advancements of the Civil War

Presented by Peter J. D'Onofrio

December 11, 2019

JUDSON MANOR Drinks 6pm Dinner 6:30

Drinks @ 6 pm, Dinner @ 6:30

Judson Manor , East 303th St. & Chester

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

clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com/

Follow us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/>



Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/>

