

Since 1957

THE CHARGER

February, 2001

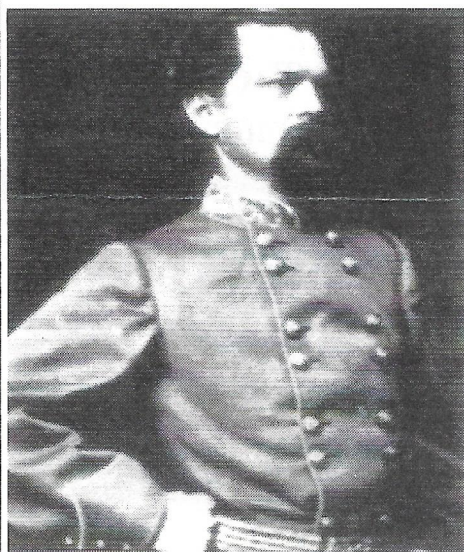
385 Meeting

Vol.22 #6

Tonight's Topic:

JOHN B. GORDON

The son of a primitive Baptist minister, John B. Gordon was born in 1832 just a few miles Southwest of Thomaston, Georgia. At an early age Gordon moved from Upson County with his parents to northwest Georgia.



In 1845, Gordon moved to Atlanta where he pursued a career in law. After passing the bar exam, he joined Overby and Bleckley's law firm. This association led to his meeting Mrs. Overby's younger sister, Fanny Rebecca Haralson of La Grange, Georgia. They married in 1854.

His law practice having not improved, the Gordons moved to Milledgeville, Georgia; where he became a newspaper reporter in 1855-1856. In March of 1856, Gordon and his wife returned to northwestern Georgia and joined his father in a coal-mining enterprise.

Although initially a political Whig, John B. Gordon became a Democrat in the mid-1850's and rose to some political prominence in Northeast Alabama politics.

After the war, he moved back to Georgia and entered politics. he was elected to the United States Senate in 1873 and in the 1880's served as Georgia's Governor.

Tonight's Speaker:

Bob Boyda

Past Cleveland Roundtable President Bob Boyda is tonight's speaker. Bob is a unreformed Southern sympathizer.

Tonight Bob discusses Confederate general **John B. Gordon**. Gordon was severely wounded at Bloody Lane, Sharpsburg (Antietam). A straight back six foot tall major general, an excellent division commander, served Robert E. Lee well.

His critics however, claimed Gordon was a *wind bag*. He served for years after the War in the U.S. Senate and Governor of Georgia. He would tell anyone who would listen how he almost single handedly won the War for the South.

**Date: Wednesday,
February 14, 2001**

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

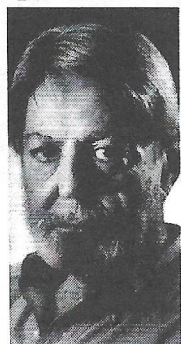
**Time: Drinks 6 PM
Dinner 7 PM**

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

Meal choice: Grilled Marlin or Lamb

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
2000/2001 SCHEDULE**

September 13, 2000



**The Novelist
as Historian**

Shelby Foote

October 11, 2000



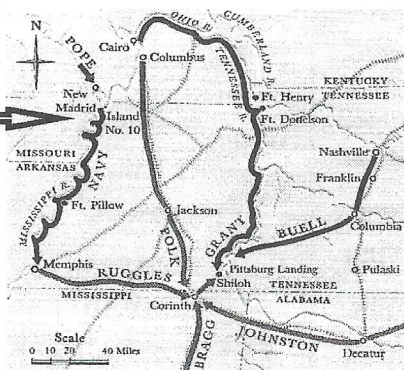
**African-American
Troops in the
Civil War**

Noah Andre Trudeau

November 8, 2000

**Island No.
10**

**Brian
Kowell**



December 6, 2000



The Battle of Shiloh

Ed Bearss

January 10, 2001

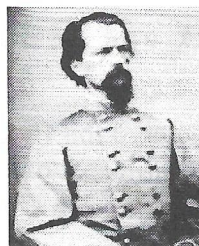
**The Great Debate:
*The absolutely worst general of the War***

Moderator: Dick Crews



(Some good candidates from a long list of prospects)

February 14, 2001



Gen. John B. Gordon

Warrior & Survivor

Bob Boyda

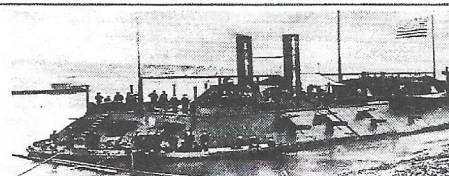
March 14, 2001



**The Life
of the Common Soldier**

**The 51st Ohio Volunteer
Infantry, Co. B**

April 11, 2001



**"Infernal Machines"
and the sinking of the USS Cairo**

Bill McGrath

May 9, 2001



**An Evening
with General
William T. Sherman**

E. Chris Evans

Membership in the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable: Call (800) 800-8310

Visit our web site <http://members.aol.com/rcrews5369>.

Three Generations of MacArthur

Judge Arthur MacArthur (1817-1896)

As great as his accomplishments were, **Douglas** MacArthur would have been quick to state that he represented merely the third generation of highly successful MacArthur's in America. Always proud of his Scottish heritage, Douglas MacArthur cherished the man who established the venerable clan here, his grandfather, **Judge Arthur MacArthur Sr.**

A Milwaukee Judge for many years. He was also Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin for a short time.

In 1870 President Grant appointed him a judge in the District of Columbia. In Washington he could spend time playing with his Grandson **Douglas**.



Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, Jr. (1845-1912)



Arthur MacArthur Jr. was a Civil War **Congressional Metal of Honor** winner as then a lieutenant of the Wisconsin 24th regiment. He carried the shot up regimental colors of the 24th to the top of Missionary Ridge. A year later **Arthur MacArthur Jr.** was seriously wounded leading his men at the Battle of Franklin. His wounds from Franklin forced him to convalesce in Milwaukee for the balance of the War.

His son **Douglas** MacArthur's remarkable career was fueled by his desire to live up to the shining example of his father. From his exploits as a teen-aged hero in the Union Army until his death at a reunion of his Wisconsin regiment, **Arthur MacArthur, Jr.** was a dedicated soldier who was in many ways the archetype of the 19th century U.S. Army officer.

Gen. (Five Star) Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964)

Douglas MacArthur is the most controversial American general of our time, probably of all time. My mother hated Douglas MacArthur because of his attack on the World War I veterans camped out in Washington in 1932. The vets had come to receive a promised war bonus. MacArthur was ordered by President Hoover to clean out the camps. He sent tanks against the veterans.

A friend I use to work with was part of MacArthur's Army that retook the Philippines in World War II. He claimed that after the U.S. Army took Manila, for the victory parade, live ammunition was taken away. My friend said this was done so the American troops wouldn't shoot the *Son of a Bitch*.



THE HERO OF MISSIONARY RIDGE

By James Gallen

Born on June 2, 1845 in Chicopee, Massachusetts, **Arthur MacArthur Jr.** moved to Milwaukee, the city which he would call home, in 1849. There his father, Arthur MacArthur, Sr., a Scottish immigrant, achieved success as a lawyer, politician and judge. His father was a Union Democrat who served for a time as Lt. Governor of Wisconsin before beginning a long judicial career. Throughout his life, Arthur, Sr. would use his political influence to assist his son in his military career.

As the nation drifted toward Civil War, Arthur was advancing his education at a military academy in Illinois. As war raged, Arthur was determined to play his part, despite his father's efforts to protect him. Arthur Sr. withheld permission for Junior to enlist until a compromise was reached. Arthur, Jr. agreed to return to the military academy while his father attempted to secure him an appointment to West Point. When the earliest appointment available was for entry in 1863, Arthur, Jr. could no longer be denied permission to enlist.

The 24th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry was being formed and Judge MacArthur's influence and a lie about his age combined to obtain Arthur's appointment as adjutant. Arthur's youthful appearance and juvenile mistakes made his training period a rocky start to his military career. Eventually the 24th did get into action. After early encounters at Perryville, Kentucky and Murfreesboro, Tennessee, the 24th moved on to Chattanooga where Arthur would win glory at Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863.

The scene was set for MacArthur's first moment in the sun. The Union Army, driven back into Chattanooga by the defeat at Chickamagua, prepared another attack to the south under new command. MacArthur, on sick leave in Milwaukee, hurried by train to rejoin the 24th Wisconsin. Moving with the attack, the 24th spent November 24 at the base of Missionary Ridge, from which it watched the nearby assault on Lookout Mountain.

At about 10 a.m. on the 25th, the 150 men of the 24th were ordered to move forward a quarter mile to the edge of the woods forming the no-man's land separating the two armies. The 24th found itself in the center of a 2 mile line running between two rivers. In their front the ridge rose almost 600 feet, broken by ravines, gullies and enemy rifle pits. At about three o'clock, the siege guns signaled the advance. After moving out, the 24th charged $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the Confederate rifle pits at the base of the ridge. Despite the enemy rifle and artillery fire, the Union line overran the lightly defended Confederate pits. After routing the enemy, the victorious Union troops found themselves in an exposed position. Realizing the danger of their position, and unwilling to retreat, the 24th Wisconsin opened another charge up the ridge. Lead by Captain Edwin B. Parsons and MacArthur, the 24th led the Union line up the ridge. Seeing the charge, Gen. Grant demanded to know "Who ordered those men up the ridge?" Learning that they were advancing without orders, he had no choice but to watch the battle. Using natural cover, the second line of Confederate rifle pits were overtaken. Halfway up the ridge the color sergeant faltered.

**"Who Ordered
those men up the
Ridge?" Barked
Ulysses S. Grant**

MacArthur grabbed the collars, waved them high, shouted "**24th Wisconsin**" and led the entire Union line up the hill. After a canister explosion blew MacArthur's hat away and tore the flag, MacArthur again waived the flag and led his men further up the hill. MacArthur, pistol in one hand and flag in the other, was the first Union soldier to reach the top of Missionary Ridge, as the Confederate defenders were breaking into retreat.

After taking the ridge, MacArthur and the regiment were complimented by General Sherman who complied with the men's request for food.



Drawing by our member from San Paulo, Brazil, Joao Casari.

The regiment's commander, Major Baumbach, included in his official report of the battle:

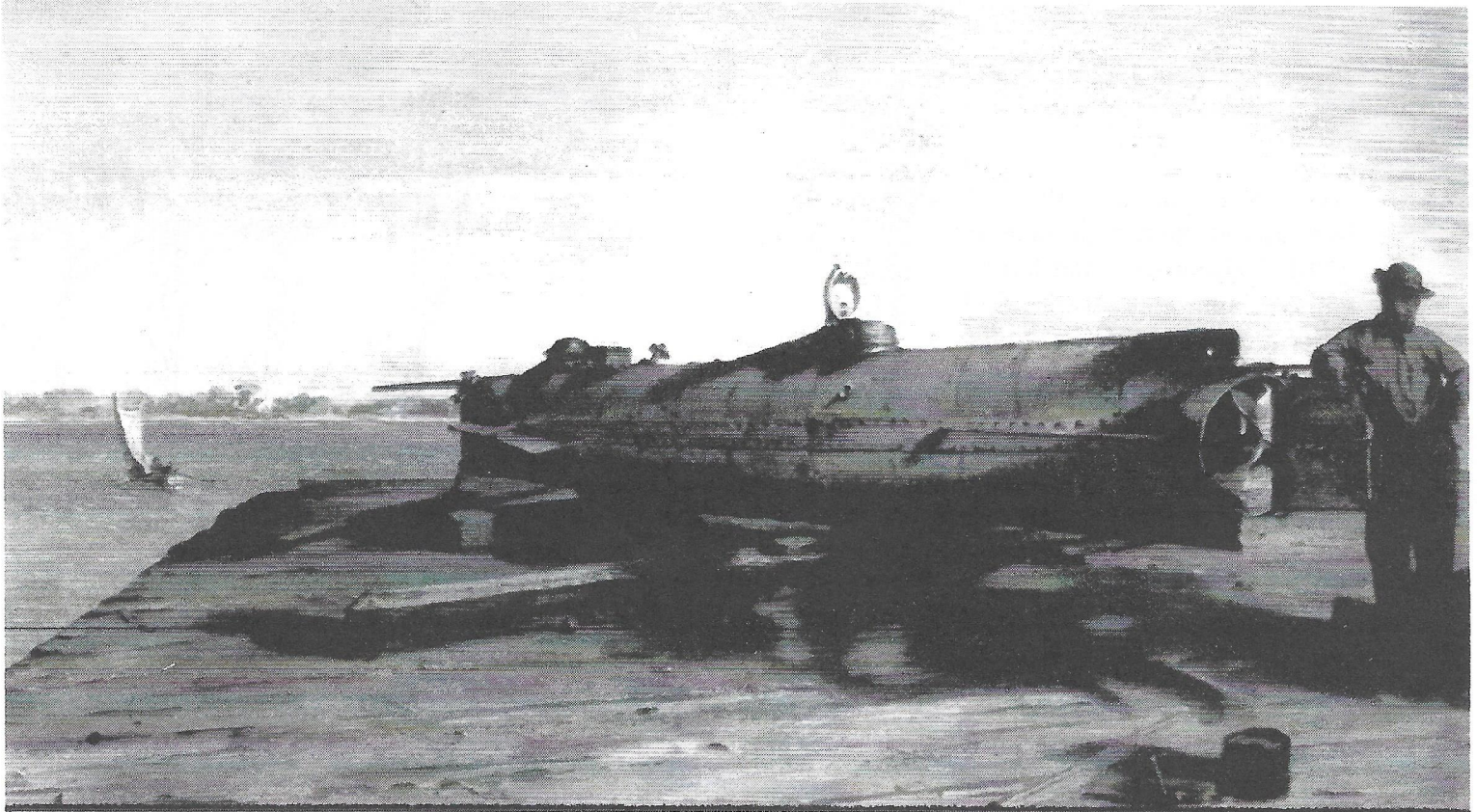
Among the many acts of personal intrepidity on that memorable occasion, none are worthy of higher commendation than that of young MacArthur, who seizing the Colors of his regiment at a critical moment, contributed materially to the general result. He was the most distinguished in action on a field where many in the regiment displayed conspicuous gallantry, worthy of highest praise.

The next dramatic stand for the 24th would be at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee. On November 30, 1864, the 24th was assigned to a resting area behind the front lines, secure in the belief that no attack would be coming that day. From a distance of 300 yards, the 24th heard increased fire, but paid it no heed until retreating Union troops ran through the campgrounds, followed by the sound of the Rebel Yell. MacArthur was soon in the saddle, giving the order "Stand fast 24th!" 7 regiments, without orders, drew up into a battle line. MacArthur was in front of them with a pistol in one hand and a saber in the other yelling "Give them hell, 24th!" The line stopped the Confederate charge, threw the attackers back and saved the Union army from disaster. Before the battle was over, MacArthur would be hit by a musket balls just below the left knee and in the shoulder near the clavicle. After the fighting stopped, the men found the wounded MacArthur and took him to a field hospital where he was treated. After two weeks of treatment in a Nashville hospital, MacArthur was returned to Milwaukee for further recuperation.

After the Civil War, **Arthur MacArthur Jr.** stayed in the U.S. Army for 50 years and led American forces in the Philippines during the Spanish American War. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant General.

He died while addressing a reunion of his beloved Wisconsin 24th in 1912.

James Gallen



The Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley was named for its designer, Alabama lawyer Horace L. Hunley. It is shown in this painting by Conrad Wise Chapman on a wharf at Mt. Pleasant, near Charleston harbor. Twenty-five volunteers, including Hunley, died in test runs. The Hunley did, however, prove successful on February 17, 1864, when it sank the USS Housatonic. This encounter is regarded by historians as the first successful submarine attack in history, though the Hunley was only partially submerged at the time. Unfortunately, the Hunley sank as well, killing its final crew.

Scientists start cleaning out Confederate submarine Hunley

By BRUCE SMITH Associated Press Writer—Wednesday, January 24, 2001

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Reaching through a hole in the ballast tank, scientists began cleaning silt out of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley on Tuesday — the first step toward exploring the vessel and removing the remains of its nine-man crew.

The Hunley, the first submarine to sink an enemy ship, rammed a black-powder charge into the Union ship Housatonic off nearby Sullivans Island on Feb. 17, 1864. The Housatonic sank, but so did the submarine, which was fashioned from locomotive boilers.

The Hunley was raised last August and has since rested in a tank of cold water at the former Charleston Navy base. On Tuesday, the water level was lowered and the scientists were suspended alongside the sub to do their work.

It will take about a week to remove sediment from the ballast tank. Scientists then will have a better idea of how the hand-cranked sub is put together, said Kellen Butler, a spokeswoman for Friends of the Hunley.

"They will start finding how solid everything is and that will determine which hull plates they take off to get access to the rest of the vessel, she said.

Scientists will open the crew compartment and remove artifacts and any remains, perhaps as early as the middle of next month. The entire project is expected to take about three months.

The crew's remains are expected to be buried later this year in the Hunley plot in Charleston's Magnolia Cemetery next to two earlier ill-fated crews.

After the excavation, conservation of the hull is expected to take several years. The Hunley will then go on display at the Charleston Museum.

Family Reminiscences of the Confederacy

By Bishop Beverly Tucker

My father surrendered with General Lee at Appomattox. My father never got tired of talking about it. My two grandfathers also fought in the Civil War. Now I've been a Yankee for 21 years, but tonight I speak to you as the son of a confederate veteran. My talk is not about of military strategy. I've read most of the books about the confederacy. I used to belong to a group called "The Current Events Club of Richmond" led by Douglas South-hall Freeman.

It was really a Civil War Roundtable that looked at the war from one side. It's good today that both sides can sit around the table and have something to contribute. The North was fighting for the preservation of the Union. The South was fighting for the sovereignty of the states.

Tonight I would like to talk to you from the point of view of family reminiscences because I was brought up in the atmosphere of the confederacy. I was born in northern Virginia between the Rappahannock and the Potomac rivers, in a little village called Warsam. My father was a country minister there that was full of history.

Later we moved to Norfolk where my father was appointed director of Old St. Paul's, a colonial church. In the walls of that church is a cannon ball shot by Lord Dunmore during the Revolutionary War. It was used by the Union troops at the end of "The War Between the States," the title used by Virginians in those days. When I was a boy there was a desire to build a confederate monument. I helped raise \$2.96 by having a children's circus. I took the money to a confederate banker. He gave me a receipt on the back of a \$10.00 confederate note, which I still treasure to this day.

In Norfolk everyone had an army title, usually general or colonel, but not less than a captain. My father said he was the only private left in the confederate army! You have seen the picture of Lee and Jackson at Chancellorsville where Lee and Jackson planned the battle. We were intimately involved with as born at Mt. Vernon. Her father was the last private owner of Mt. Vernon. He and General Lee were neighbors and were intimate friends. General Lee asked my grandfather to be part of his inner corp. They went to West Virginia. Serving under Lee, my grandfather was killed in an ambush in 1861. There is a granite monument on the hillside there. Upon his death, my grandmother and the family were left paupers. They moved to Charlestown to live with relatives. They watched Stonewall Jackson go up and down the Shenandoah Valley. So my grandmother and her children grew up in hardships of war. One of the homes where they lived was burned down during the war. During those "times" families always took in other families. In their second home, an uncle took in my mother and her seven children, resulting in 16 children in one house.



This was a talk given to The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable October 19, 1959. It was recorded on a reel to reel tape recorder. Dr. William Schlesinger, one of our founders, had the talk transferred to a cassette tape in 1994 and given to me for our records. The speaker was The Rt. Reverend Beverly Tucker, Ph. D., Bishop of the Episcopal Church of North East Ohio.

When my grandfather was killed, General Lee wrote a beautiful letter to my mother's older sister, dated September 16, 1861. Excerpts: Dear Liza:

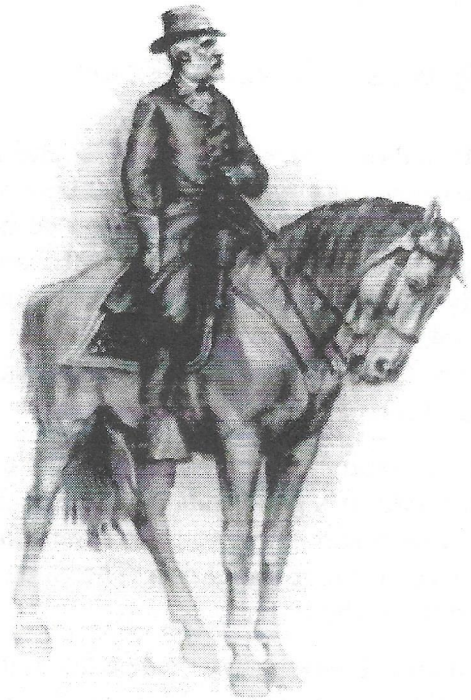
"With a heart full of grief I communicate the saddest tidings you have ever heard. Your father, who is in heaven, will enable you to bear it. My own grief is also so heavy. Your father was trusted so much on earth. God will sustain you and your brothers and sisters who are under this heavy affliction. Your Friend, Robert E. Lee." (This letter is published in one of Douglas Southall Freeman's books).

On the other side, my grandfather Tucker was given an appointment in Liverpool by President Buchanan before the war came. When the war came, my grandmother wrote that her husband was opposed to the war. He wanted the union to stay together. There were other Tucker brothers from Boston who were in England at the time. They put up an American flag, so my grandfather put up a confederate flag. Ultimately, they all went to war, but kept up a friendship throughout life. After the war, my father visited them in Boston; they visited him in Virginia.

My grandfather Tucker felt he had to fight for the "cause" right or wrong and had to prevent Union troops from coming into Virginia. He fought under Fitzhugh Lee in the cavalry and was a flag bearer. My father, who was 16 years old when the war started, was too young to join the army so he went to school. When he became of age, he joined the army and was assigned to the Battle of Petersburg, and then retreated to Appomattox. One story he told was a time when General Lee rode by when my father and some other men were trying to get a gun out of the mud. He gave them some inspiration. After the war, my father was sitting on the courthouse steps when General Lee came by. My father had just kissed his pretty young woman. He looked at General Lee and said: "Don't you wish you could do this?"

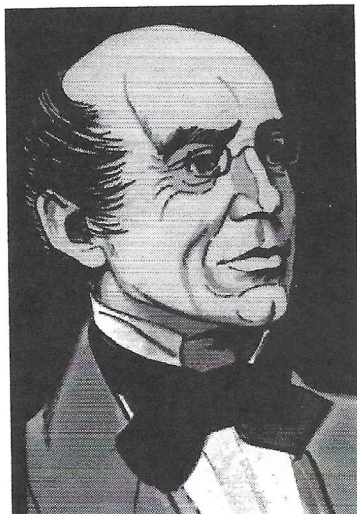
Now I would like to tell you about the aftermath of the war. There was an Englishman who owed money to the confederacy. He did not want to pay it to the federal government so he set up scholarships. My father was able to obtain one of the grants and continue with his education. Later in life, as an older and wiser man, he gave a speech in Norfolk during World War I. He said: "I fought against that flag at one time. Now I have sons serving in the U.S. army under that flag, that's my flag too!"

In conclusion, I want to share some personal thoughts. I represent what this country is, a united country. We need the contributions from all sections. We don't need a great divide. We need to pull together for the great pull ahead! Thank you.



Transcribed by Robert E. Battisti.
(“Bishop Tucker was my confirmation minister in 1949”)

Robert E. Battisti is a long time member and past President of the Cleveland CWRT



The Angry Abolitionist

William Lloyd Garrison

By Dick Crews

Prior to the Civil War, and indeed during the War, people continually talked about the **Abolitionists**. Southerners of course hated them and made it clear if they caught one he would be hanged. It is less well known that a majority of people in the North did not like them either.

However, it's strange that for all the reference to abolitionists even students of the Civil War could not name one. Yes, they might say John Brown. However, before the take over of the Arsenal at Harpers Ferry most Americans never heard of John Brown. John Brown was financed by abolitionist's money but was never accepted as a leader.

The abolitionist that most people knew in 1860 was **William Lloyd Garrison**.

Garrison was born when Thomas Jefferson was President in 1805. He was born and raised in the Massachusetts seaport town of Newburyport. His father was a seaman who favored strong drink. After one drunken episode his wife threw his drinking buddies out of the house. Garrison's father soon followed and the family would never see him again. William was then three years old.

His mother could not raise the family and Lloyd was sent to live with the family of the local church deacon. He received a grammar school education. However, young Lloyd grew up in poverty and lonely.

At thirteen he got a job as a *printer's devil* for a semi weekly newspaper. This was a seven year apprentice program. He also had some success writing articles for the paper. At twenty when his apprenticeship was completed he decided to start his own newspaper. His newspaper would fight injustice. Something he felt had been done to him all his life. The big injustice he saw in the world was **Slavery**.

His first newspaper the *Free Press*, failed. He worked at print shops for two years before he was made editor of a Quaker owned newspaper *Genius* in slave owning Baltimore. He wrote a story of terrible conditions on a certain slave ship. The owner went to court and had Lloyd sentenced to six months in jail for slander. Lloyd could have paid the fine instead, as a abolitionist offered him the money, but he refused.

Garrison returned to Boston to start the weekly newspaper the *Liberator* for which he is famous. A big event in came in 1831 that would change his life. The Nat Turner slave insurrection in Virginia.

Slave owners, looking for scapegoats, blamed Garrison's newspaper the *Liberator* as "hatching" the slave violence. There is no evidence that Nat Turner ever read Garrison's paper and the paper was not sold to slaves for the simple reason that slaves could not read. Southern newspapers however accused the *Liberator* as the evil propaganda behind the uprising.



Sales of Garrison rag tag publication soon tripled. Garrison himself became well known as Southern newspapers were making death threats on his life. Far from being intimidated by threats of stabbing, poisoning, and abduction, Garrison was delighted. His life as a abolitionist was set.

Undaunted Garrison flooded both North and South with anti-slavery propaganda. A Massachusetts bible salesman traveling in Tennessee was caught with a copy of the *Liberator*. He was tied to a post in the public square of Nashville and flogged. In 1835, a mob of 3,000 broke into the Charleston, S.C. post office and seized all abolition publications including the *Liberator*.

Garrison was not safe in Boston, either. A angry mob came to anti-slavery lecture and proceed to lynch him. He was dragged through the streets his clothes being torn off. He was finally rescued by the Boston Police who took him to jail. The crowd followed and demanded he be turned over to them. The police were finally able to sneak Garrison out of town.

Riots followed him and his fellow abolitionists everywhere: New York, Philadelphia, Utica, Albany, and Providence, Rhode Island.

He had a strange relationship with Abraham Lincoln. First, he was the only abolitionist leader to support Lincoln. Second, Lincoln rejected his support as Garrison was in favor of letting the Southern States leave the Union. "Let them go," he said. Third, when other abolitionists condemned the Emancipation Proclamation, he supported it.

One of the great highlights of his life was when his oldest son George an officer of the Massachusetts 55th, a black regiment, lead the regiment through Charleston, South Carolina in March of 1865.

William Lloyd Garrison died quietly in 1879. His life was spent convincing Americans that the same chains that bound their slaves would imprison their conscience until they were removed.

Dick Crews

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My thanks to everyone who participated in the debate last month, and to Dick Crews for organizing it. Everyone had fun and we broke our previous January meeting attendance record.

This month we honor all those who have served as President of the United States. By coincidence, the birthdays of two of the republic's great early leaders, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, both fall in February. Unfortunately, what were once distinct holidays are now one, the rather generic "Presidents' Day."



Not surprisingly, though, of all the presidents, it's Lincoln who's captured the imagination of many of us in the Roundtable. What can one write about Lincoln that hasn't already been written, somewhere among the millions of words already set down about him? Nobody could have predicted the greatness that lay ahead for this tall, homely, ungainly man, born to a poor frontier family in Kentucky on February 12, 1809. Nobody could have foreseen that he would guide the nation through its most difficult and perilous time, bringing two warring regions back into a republic that would not only survive but prevail in the years to come. Lincoln's legacy to us is a nation at peace, prosperous and strong, united from sea to sea and from north to south.

I've always liked the Thomas Nast illustration which appears above, as it has since I became the Roundtable's president in September. I first saw it when I was very young, in a book belonging to my grandfather. Drawn just days before Lincoln's assassination, the sketch shows the President in repose, thoughtful and calm, wielding the pen which was always his greatest weapon against injustice and rebellion. His makeshift table is a military drum, stilled for the moment as he writes words of unequaled power and durability. Lincoln was a man of peace, yet he led in a time of unparalleled bloodshed, and it's all there in that picture.

Today we may remember Lincoln as a leader, a patriot, a father, a lawyer, a warrior, an emancipator, a writer, an orator, and so many other things, too. Lincoln was greater than the sum of his parts, neither the martyr-saint of early writings, nor the passive politician of more recent scholarship. As we celebrate the 192nd anniversary of his birth, and as we study the conflict that defined and ennobled his presidency, we can remember Lincoln however we wish to.

Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton said at the moment of Lincoln's death, "Now he belongs to the ages." To the ages, and to every one of us.

WILLIAM VODREY
PRESIDENT, CCWRT



John B. Gordon

Warrior

&

Survivor

**Wednesday,
February 14, 2001**