

January, 2004

411 Meeting

Vol. 25 #5

*Tonight's Debate:*

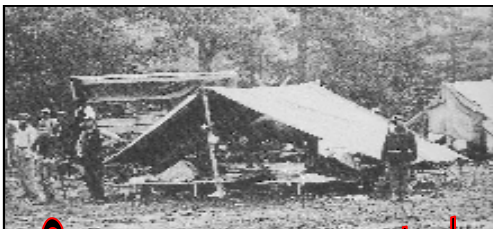
**“What equipment or innovation had the most effect on the Civil War?”**



**Total War**



**The Draft**



**Care for the wounded**



**Railroads**



**Rifled Musket**

*Tonight's Debaters:*

**Tim Daley**

**“Care for the Wounded”**

**Mike Dory**

**“Rifled Musket”**

**Michelle Hoca**

**“Railroads”**

**Lynn Loritts**

**“The Draft”**

**David Nowak**

**“Total War”**

*Date:* Wednesday,  
January 14, 2004

*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:* Flat Iron Steak  
or Norwegian Salmon

# CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

*President:* **Warren McClelland** (216) 751-4477

*Vice President:* **Mel Maurer** (440) 808-1249

*Secretary:* **Evelyn Hayes** (216) 381-3878

*Treasurer:* **Dave Carrino** (440) 843-9088

*Historian:* **Dale Thomas** (440) 779-6454

## Trustees:

Maynard Bauer

Bill McGrath

Kathleen Platt

Lou Braman

Terry Koozer

George George

website: clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com

email: a-bell@adelphia.net

**Editor\_ THE CHARGER– Dick Crews**

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable is open to anyone with an interest in the American Civil War. The 133 members of the Roundtable, who's membership varies from 14 to 90 years old, share a belief that the American Civil War was the **defining** event in United States history.

The Roundtable normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, at a private club of the Cleveland Playhouse, 8501 Carnegie, next to the Cleveland Clinic.

Dues: \$40.00 per year

c/o David Carrino

4470 Coral Gables Dr.

Parma, OH 44134

Check: *Cleveland CWRT*

## Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Past Presidents

2003 Maynard Bauer	1980 Charles Spiegle
2002 Bill McGrath	1979 William Bates
2001 William Vodrey	1978 Richard McCrae
2000 Bob Boyda	1977 James Chapman
1999 Dick Crews	1976 Milton Holmes
1998 John Moore	1975 Thomas Gretter
1997 Dan Zeiser	1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh
1996 John Sutula	1973 Arthur Jordan
1995 Norton London	1972 Bernard Drews
1994 Robert Battisti	1971 Kenneth Callahan
1993 Kevin Callahan	1970 Frank Schuhle
1992 Bob Baucher	1969 Donald Heckaman
1991 Joe Tirpak	1968 Frank Moran
1990 Ken Callahan Jr.	1967 William Schlesinger
1989 Neil Glaser	1966 Donald Hamill
1988 Martin Graham	1965 Lester Swift
1987 George Vourlojianis	1964 Guy DiCarlo, Jr.
1986 Tim Beatty	1963 Paul Guenther
1985 Brian Kowell	1962 Edward Downer
1984 Neil Evans	1961 Charles Clarke
1983 William Victory	1960 Howard Preston
1982 John Harkness	1959 John Cullen, Jr.
1981 Thomas Geschke	1958 George Farr, Jr.
	1957 Kenneth Grant

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JANUARY, 2004

It is hard to believe but 2004 is upon us and I hope that each of you have happy and healthy year. Our year at the roundtable ended on a fine note as we had a well attended and excellent program at the December meeting. Carol Starre-Kmiecik's portrayal of Clara Barton was very enjoyable and was well received by those in attendance.

We are ready to begin the new year with a roundtable tradition, the annual "Great Debate". Dick Crews has again come up with an interesting topic for the members to sink their teeth into. I am sure that our participants will be up to the task, will vigorously advocate their position and give us all something to think about.

Again this month we will be selling raffle tickets for the Johnson's Island print. We will continue to sell tickets through the February meeting and will draw the winning ticket at the close of the February meeting. Please see George George or myself if you would like to purchase tickets. I will again have the print at the meeting so you can see it.

Once again, please make your dinner reservations with JAC Communications by the Monday before the meeting and I look forward to seeing you all there.

I remain, with great respect, your obt. servt.

*Warren McClelland*

## Lee Burneson Middle School

Our friend Jon Thompson at Lee Burneson Middle school in Westlake has convinced the school's PTA to change the date for their Civil War days.

We were unable to participate last year because the date conflicted with our May meeting.

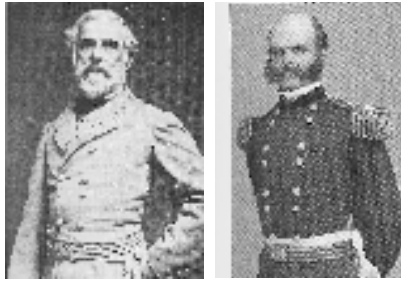
Part of our mission in the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable is educated others about the American Civil War.

If you can help explain the Civil War to 8th grade students on May 13, 2004 contact Mel Maurer.

**melmaurer@aol.com**

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE  
2003/2004 SCHEDULE**

September 10, 2003



*Lee vs. Burnside*

**Fredericks  
-burg**

**Frank  
O'Reilly**

October 8, 2003



Grays  
on  
Public Square  
1839

Painting by Joseph Parker  
Courtesy of the Western Reserve  
Historical Society

**The Cleveland Grays  
George Vourlojanis**

November 12, 2003

**New York  
Draft Riots**

**William  
Vodrey**



December 10, 2003



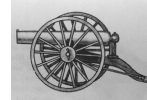
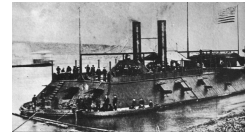
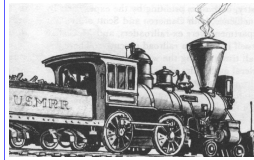
**Clara Barton**

**Carol  
Starre-Kmiecik**

January 14, 2004

**The Great Debate: What equipment or innovation had the most effect on the Civil War?**

**Moderator: Dick Crews**



February 11, 2004

**Johnson's Island**

**David Bush**



March 10, 2004

**Irish  
in the  
Army of Northern Virginia**

**Kelly O'Grady**



April 14, 2004

**George B.  
McClellan**

**Thomas Rowland**



May 12, 2004



**Lincoln  
and His Generals**

**Norty London**

**For membership in the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable: Call (800) 800-8310 or visit our web site.  
<http://clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com>**

# Spotsylvania: The True Turning Point in the War

By John Fazio



Brigadier General  
**Francis Barlow**



Major General  
**David Birney**  
Birney and Barlow swept  
the confederates from the  
field and captured 4,000  
prisoners

The battle of Spotsylvania started with Union troops from Barlow's and Birney's divisions, stormed out of the fog and misty rain, bayonets bristling, and attacked the apex of the Mule Shoe at the center of Lee's lines. A Southerner later recalled that they overran the lines "like a swollen torrent through a broken mill dam." The Federals captured 20 guns and thousands of prisoners, perhaps as many as 4,000, their work made easier because of the absence of 22 of Ewell's 30 field guns, which Lee, shortly before the attack, had ordered to be moved a mile and a half to the rear, anticipating that they would be needed there if Grant moved eastward. Into the breach rode Confederate General John B. Gordon, helped by troops under the command of Jubal Early and Robert Rodes, whose spirited counter-attack not only arrested the Federal flood, but drove it back to the first line of captured trenches. Then began approximately 20 hours of unbelievably savage hand-to-hand fighting, particularly at a bend in the salient's western face, known forever after as "The Bloody Angle." (Another Bloody Angle! We had one at Gettysburg too — the focal point of Pickett's Charge.) Altogether, 24 Federal brigades attacked only a few hundred yards of entrenchment. To understand the savagery of the fighting one must appreciate the mindset of the combatants. They were sick and tired of the war. This war, after all, was to have been over in 90 days. But it wasn't over in 90 days or even 900 days. It was now in its fourth year. The novelty had long since worn *off*. The men were tired of killing and maiming the enemy, tired of seeing their comrades killed and maimed, tired of the din of battle, tired of the stench of rotting corpses, tired of acrid smoke, tired of marching and drilling, tired of discipline, tired of sleeplessness, tired of sickness, tired of lousy food, or no food, tired of the whole nasty business. They wanted to go home. They wanted to have done with it. But what could they do? They couldn't desert their flag, their country, their comrades in arms. It was unthinkable. No, there was only one way out of it,

and that was simply to bludgeon the enemy into submission, to so decimate his ranks as to make it, not difficult, but impossible, for him to continue.

It was chiefly a savage hand to hand fight across the breastworks. Rank after rank was riddled by shot and shell and bayonet-thrusts, and finally sank, a mass of mutilated corpses; then fresh troops rushed madly forward to replace the dead, and so the murderous work went on. Guns were run up close to the parapet, and double charges of canister played their part in the bloody work. The fence-rails and logs in the breastworks were shattered into splinters, and trees over a foot and a half in diameter were cut completely in two by the incessant musketry fire."

"Men fired at one another through chinks in the logs, or stabbed through the chinks with their bayonets, or reached over the top to swing clubbed muskets. There was no victory in all of this and there was no defeat. There was just fighting, as if that had become an end in itself.

*John Fazio is an Attorney and a member of the Cleveland CWRT since 1999*

A man in the Iron Brigade probably spoke for every man in the army when he called this fight at the Bloody Angle “the most terrible twenty-four hours of our service in the war.” An officer in the VI Corps, trying to describe the fight afterward, wrote that he had only confused memories of “bloodshed surpassing all former experiences, a desperation in the struggle never before witnessed.” Trying to sum up, he concluded: “I had only confused memories of “bloodshed surpassing all former experiences, a desperation in the struggle never before witnessed.” Trying to sum up, he concluded: “I never expect to be fully believed when I tell what I saw of the horrors of Spotsylvania, because I should be loath to believe it myself were the case reversed.

The fighting went on all day long and it continued after dark. .there were men on the firing line who said they had fired more than four hundred cartridges apiece, from start to finish. The region around the Bloody Angle offered the most horrible sights of the war. In places, the trenches held corpses piled four and five deep, and sometimes at the bottom of such a pile a living wounded man would be found. The firing had been so intense that many bodies had been hit over and over again and were mutilated beyond any chance of identification.

Sometime after midnight, the fighting died down. At dawn, the Federals awoke to find nothing but dead bodies in the square mile of useless ground that they had won and for which 12,000 men had fallen. In one part of the Bloody Angle, not more than 12 feet by 15 feet, they found 150 bodies. Grant had won a victory of sorts, but as Pyrrhus had said 2000 years earlier –“One more such victory and I am undone.” Low-intensity fighting continued in the area without result, until May 19, 1864. Confederate losses for the entire 12-day battle were put at 10,000 killed, wounded and missing. Union losses were 18,000.

Grant resumed his sidling to the southeast looking for and not finding a weak spot in Lee’s lines. This movement would take him to more and dreadful fighting on the North Anna River, Cold Harbor and Petersburg, and, finally, war’s end at Appomattox. But nothing that followed May 12, 1864, would equal the carnage that had taken place on that day at Spotsylvania. May 12 was a disaster for both sides, but it was particularly black for the Confederates, because they could not replace their losses, whereas Grant could and did replace his. This was the terrible arithmetic that Grant was counting on to end the war. And it was working.

Grant’s turn to the south after the fight in the Wilderness, together with the battle that followed at Spotsylvania, represents, in my judgment, the true turning point in the war



Lt. General  
Ulysses S. Grant

*John C. Fazio*

# **Jews**

## **in the**

# **Civil War**

Jews in the American Civil War is largely an untold story. One reason for this was that there were only 150,000 Jews in the United States at the start of the War. In addition, most Jews had just come to the United States in the previous 10 years.

Congress when it established chaplains for the Union Army did not even make provisions for Rabbis to serve the spiritual needs of Jewish soldiers. It wasn't a case of anti-Semitism, just not thinking in terms of Jews at all.

Jews however, were involved in the war. They died for both the Union and Confederacy. Jews were also the main player in the biggest political mistake General Ulysses Grant made during the War, the banning of Jewish Sutlers from the Union Army in the West. Jews however, did have an important friend in the White House, Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln quickly reversed the orders of General Grant.

Although only 25,000 in numbers, Jews in the South generally were strong supporters of the Confederacy. Every major battle included Jews who died for the Confederate cause.

The most famous Jew, on either side, was Confederate Secretary of State Judah Benjamin. Critics of Confederate President Jefferson Davis called him, "Davis's Jew."

Following the fall of Richmond Judah Benjamin escaped to Cuba then on to England. Benjamin became a successful English Barrister, never returning to the United States, and is buried in London.

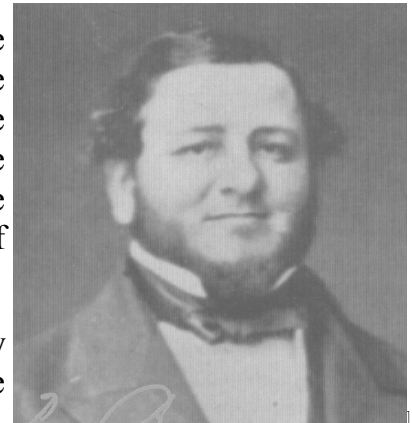
Unfortunately for us amateur historians Judah Benjamin never wrote about his experiences in the Civil War. He is also the only high ranking Confederate official never to return to the United States after amnesty in 1868.

**Why?** I believe he knew too much. Remember Judah Benjamin was in charge of the Confederate Secret Service. I believe there were high ranking United States Army officers, government officials, and possibility Congressman on the pay roll of the Confederate Secret Service.

They would have killed Benjamin before he could ruin their reputation.



**Colonel Marcus Spiegel**  
The highest ranking Jew in the Union Army. He served in the Ohio 120th



**Judah Benjamin**  
The most well known Jew in the Civil War. He was the confederate Secretary of State.

*Dick Crews*



**Cleveland Civil War Roundtable**  
**Roster and Name Tag Update**

Since assuming the duties of Treasurer, it has become clear to me, particularly after corresponding with JAC, that the Roundtable is in need of a complete update of our roster. And it is also evident from the mish-mash collection of name tags which are used at our monthly meetings that it is time to redo our meeting name tags. I hope to accomplish both of these tasks this year, but to do so I will need the assistance of each and every Roundtable member. In an attempt to update our organization's roster, please provide the following information. Provide your name as you would like it to appear on the roster. For those with family memberships, please provide the name of each person in your family who is a member of the Roundtable. I realize that each person prefers a particular level of formality with regard to the format of his or her name. Hence, if you prefer a more formal format for your name (e.g., Robert E. Lee), then indicate your name in this format. If you prefer a less formal format (e.g., Bobby Lee), then indicate your name in this format. Since some individuals are justifiably proud of their titles (e.g., General Robert E. Lee), provide your title, if you want it to appear on the roster with your name. I appreciate that some individuals are best known by their full name (e.g., William Tecumseh Sherman), but, due to space considerations, only middle initials will be used. Also, even if your nickname is so widely known as to positively identify you (e.g., the Rock of Chickamauga), please refrain from using nicknames for the Roundtable roster. In addition to the roster, I hope to replace all of the meeting name tags, especially the handwritten ones, with printed versions which are of a standard format. Since some individuals prefer a less formal version of their name in everyday usage, but a more formal version otherwise, please provide the format in which you would like your name to appear on the name tag. Note that titles will not be used on the name tags, since titles may detract from the camaraderie of the meetings. What's more, during the time that I have been a member of the Roundtable, I have come to learn that each and every member of our group is deserving of the utmost respect irrespective of his or her title. Please also provide the complete address (street address, city, zip code) to which your Charger should be mailed, and provide home and work phone numbers (including area code) and e-mail address; if you prefer that either or both of your phone numbers and/or your e-mail address not appear in the roster (or if you do not use e-mail), write "suppress" in the appropriate space. Lastly, since everyone is interested to see something of the background of our members, please provide a word or few to indicate your profession.

***Dave Carrino***

**Roster and Name Tag Update**

Roster name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name tag name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers:

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to Dave Carrino at the monthly meeting.  
Or mail to Dave Carrino, 4470 Coral Gables Drive, Parma, Ohio 44134  
Or fax this form to 216-368-4077. Or e-mail the information to [dac5@po.cwru.edu](mailto:dac5@po.cwru.edu).

# The Great Debate:

## January 14, 2004

What Invention or innovation had the most effect on the Civil War?



Total War



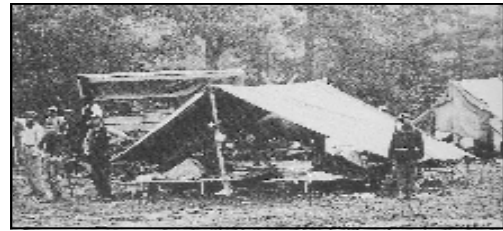
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Care for the wounded