

Since 1957

THE CHARGER

May, 2001

388 Meeting

Vol.22 #9

Tonight's Topic:

William T. Sherman



William Tecumseh "Cump" Sherman, was born February 8, 1820, in Lancaster, Ohio, one of eleven children. When his father, a justice of the Ohio supreme court, died suddenly in 1829, the family was taken in by various friends and relatives. Young Sherman found a home with Thomas Ewing, United States Senator and cabinet officer, whose daughter he later married.

Notwithstanding Cump's brilliant qualifications, it must be acknowledged that this

imposing array of relatives and political connections did nothing to retard his rise from impecunious ex-officer in 1861 to full general commanding the army in 1869. Senator Ewing obtained for Sherman an appointment to West Point, where he was graduated sixth in the class of 1840. His army career for the next thirteen years was unexceptionable. In 1853 Sherman resigned his commission to enter the banking business in San Francisco. The bank failed, forcing Sherman to turn to the practice of law, also unsuccessfully, in Leavenworth, Kansas. In 1859 he secured the superintendency of the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy at Pineville (now Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge). In January, 1861, Sherman was required to receipt for a portion of the arms surrendered by the United States arsenal in Baton Rouge a few days before; promptly he submitted his resignation to the governor with the ringing declaration, "On no earthly account will I do any act or think any thought hostile to the United States."

Tonight's Speaker:

E. Chris Evans

Chris Evans is a Civil War scholar, collector, and amateur historian, who since 1990 has given a one-man presentation as Lancaster, Ohio native, General William Tecumseh Sherman.

Chris serves on the Civil War in Ohio Advisory Board of the Ohio Bicentennial Commission, and is a Board member of the Civil War Institute of the Ohio Historical Society. Evans has had feature articles published in both *Blue & Gray* and *Civil War Times* magazines. In 1997 he was honored by the Granville, Ohio Historical Society as "Licking County Historian of the Year."

Date: Wednesday,
May 9, 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: chicken or sirloin

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

About the

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

The 121 men and women of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable reflect the ethic, racial, and religious diversity of Greater Cleveland. Members range in age from 17 to 94 years old. The common bond is the belief that the American Civil War was the *defining* event in United States history.

Dinner meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. The Roundtable meets at a private club of the Cleveland Playhouse 8501 Carnegie Ave. near the Cleveland Clinic.

Dinner is \$20.00. Club dues are \$40.00 per year.

Membership information can be obtained from
Dick Crews, daytime phone (800) 800-8310.

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1999 Dick Crews	1977 James Chapman
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CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
PO Box 18900 CLEVELAND, OH 44118

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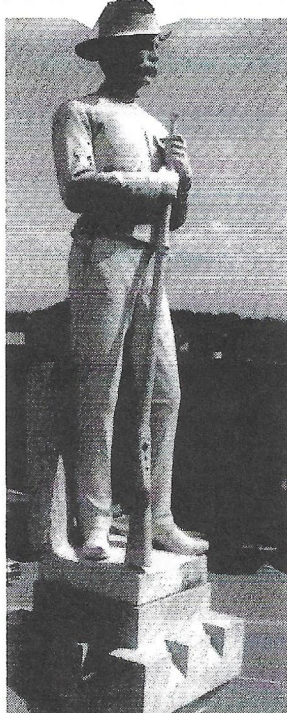
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*Confederate soldiers
monument
Franklin, Tennessee*

Behind the Lines

My life as a Yankee in Franklin, Tennessee

Part II

By Mel Maurer

As I'm sure you'll realize if you stay with these articles I came to be very fond of Franklin as one of its residents after moving there late in 1991. In fact, although born in East Cleveland and having spent most of my life in the greater Cleveland area, I never felt more at home living anywhere else. If I believed in reincarnation, and I don't, I might have thought I either once lived there in a former life or maybe fought there wearing blue. While I never doubted what side I would have been on in the Civil War, I did come to have a much better understanding of those who fought the war defending their land.

Shortly after moving into our home in the shadow of Roper's Knob, Elaine and I enrolled in a class at the Franklin Recreation Center entitled, "The Civil War In Williamson County." A local historian – a professional genealogist – who grew up in the area taught this class. He prided himself on being a contrarian – hence "Civil War" and not "War Between the

States" in the title for his class. He deemed his role, in terms of history, to debunk what is called in the south, "Moonlight and Magnolias" – the romantic -view of its history to the point of mythology. At the time of the class he was working on a book to be called "The Counterfeit Confederacy" which was to provide truth where there was myth. (He had already written a book tracing the genealogy of Elvis Presley.)

We were pleased to learn the enrollment for the class included locals as well as newcomers like us – making it more of a discussion group than a class. Some of the locals had taken the class several times and functioned as assistant instructors, adding stories of their own about their families experiences living in the area.

One particularly interesting man was a doctor in his early sixties who told the story of Franklin's headless corpse. On Christmas Eve, 1977 the body of a headless young man was found near an open grave dressed in a tuxedo with a ruffled shirt. The police initially thought the open grave near the victim was dug to bury and hide the body. The medical examiner estimated the deceased, measured at five feet eleven inches, weighing 175 pounds and in his mid twenties, to have recently died. The head found nearby the grave told them the victim had died from severe trauma to the head. Enough evidence was found to lead the Chief Deputy to declare, "It looks like we have a homicide on our hands." (The doctor in our class was one of those who examined the body.)

However some weeks later after extensive laboratory tests, the body was identified and the mystery was solved – it was Lt. Colonel William M. Shy of the Confederate army. He was embalmed so well that 113 years after his death some of his skin was still pinkish. (Our class' doctor told us the chemical content of the body was almost all arsenic which was used for embalming in those days. The arsenic content even had the examiners considering poisoning at one point.

Mel Maurer is retired and has been a member of the Cleveland CWRT since 1997



Stones River Cemetery

Established in 1865 to bury Union dead from Stones River and other battles in middle Tennessee including Franklin.

After the Battle of Franklin Confederates buried Union dead in mass graves. All of these men were later buried in Nashville or Stones River National Cemeteries.

Of the more than 6,100 graves at Stones River, 2562 are unknown.

The skin was as pliable as if Shy had just died, the doctor said.) Apparently pranksters or grave robbers looking for relics had dug up Shy's cast iron casket, breaking it open and pulling him out before abandoning their work that Christmas Eve. The good Colonel was reburied in a new casket in January 1978. His original casket, which looks like some of those barrels people used to use to go over Niagara Falls, was on display in the museum at the Carter House where we were able to see it. However it was no longer on display the last time I was there.

Colonel Shy, commanding six Tennessee regiments died defending a tree covered hill south of Nashville the second day of that battle December 16, 1864. Refusing to surrender as the hill was being over run with blue coats, the 26 year old colonel was shot at point blank range with the slug entering the front of his head just above his right eye and exiting with a large piece of his skull and other matter at the rear. (The medical examiner did get the severe head trauma part right.) The colonel was a hero. That hill became known as Shy's Hill - still somewhat wooded but also filled with houses today. (This story was also briefly included in Wiley Sword's book, "The Confederacy's Last Hurrah," originally published sometime in 1992 as "Embrace an Angry Wind." Mr. Sword spoke at the Carter House that year. Sword quotes the "Shy" medical examiner, who had to be embarrassed at his initial assessments, as saying when the facts were finally known, "I got the age, sex, weight and height right, but I was off on the time of death by 113 years." At least it didn't hurt his sense of humor. I wonder too if Colonel Shy believed in reincarnation? (The "Blue and Gray" magazine in its December 1993 article on the Battle of Nashville features the Shy story including pictures on page 49.)

Colonel Shy, buried in the back yard of his parents' home in Franklin was of course not the casualty of the war to be buried in Williamson County. Almost all of the rebels killed in the battle of Franklin were originally buried on the battlefield immediately after the battle. In April 1866, John and Caroline (called Carrie) McGavock donated two acres of their Carnton Plantation land just outside town for a cemetery. Carrie (the notion of fragile southern belles is one of those myths) led the work that would see the disinterment and reburied of 1481 bodies within sight of her home where they still rest with honor today. She documented the work in a small book identifying wherever possible each body and its grave. This book is on display at Carnton which is open to the public.



Carnton Plantation

Built 1826

Late afternoon November 30, 1864, saw the Confederate right wing pass to the left of the house. The grounds were soon filled with wounded. At one time the bodies of General Adams, Cleburne, Granbury, and Stahl were placed on the back porch.

The Carnton mansion was built in 1826 by Randal McGavock, father of John, the year after he ended his term as mayor of Nashville. In its day it was one of the finest estates in the area, noted for fine horses and political gatherings. Andrew Jackson, James Polk and Sam Houston are said to have enjoyed the hospitality of Carnton. In 1864, Hood's forces crossed its land to engage the federals to the east of Columbia Road. After the battle, it became a hospital with John and Carrie turning over all but one room of the house to the wounded. Surgery was performed by candlelight and then daylight near upstairs windows. Stories are told of amputated limbs stacked near the home. Reddish spots near these windows today are said to be blood from these operations. And it's at Carnton where many believe the bodies of the five confederate generals killed in the battle were said to have been laid on its rear porch. Our contrarian instructor claims that story is a myth, claiming through his research to have traced what happened to the body of each dead general proving their remains never visited the home.

The house and land were not treated well in the last century even to the point of being used to house animals until in the 1970s until a corporation was formed to save and then restore the home and its surroundings. That work was well along when we first visited the home but it has advanced at a much more rapid rate since that time. It was interesting to see it while many rooms were in a somewhat raw or unfinished state but even more so now that most of the home has been restored so well. This was always one of the first places we would take visitors, passing the cemetery as we drove unto the property and then along its dirt road leading to the mansion "up the road a piece." Unlike some other fine homes in the area, Carnton with open land around it gives one the best feel for what it was like in those antebellum days to visit a fine estate.

I'll tell you the story of Franklin's Hanging Tree in the next installment.

Mel Maurer

Fall Field Trip Charleston, S.C.



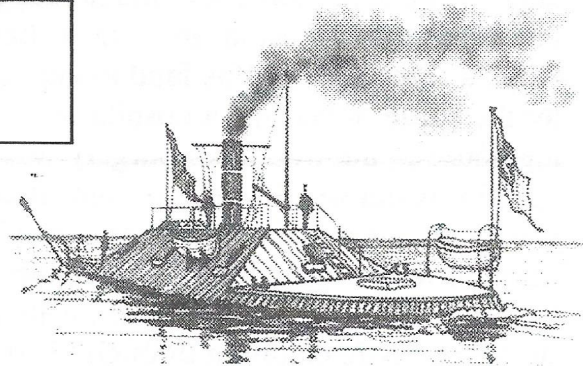
"CHARLESTON AT SUNRISE, 1863"

C.S.S. CHICORA Leaving for Duty Near Fort Sumter

by *Bill McGrath*

REMARQUES

A remarque is an original pencil drawing done by the artist on the lower portion of the print next to the title. Remarques are limited to the first 50 S/N prints of each regular and artists proof edition.



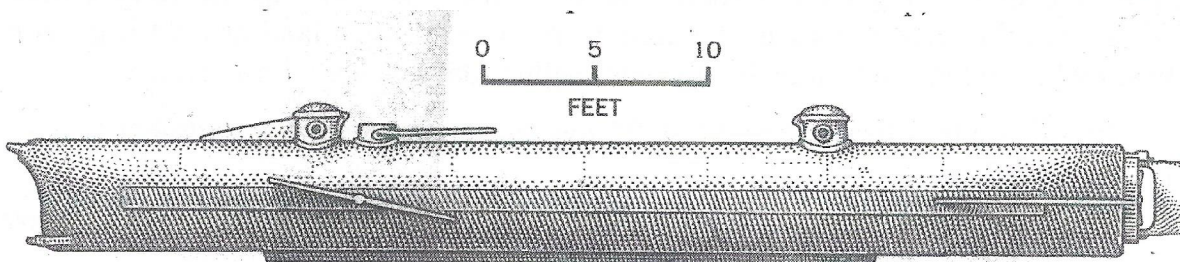
C.S.S. Chicora

Remarque for "CHARLESTON AT SUNRISE, 1863"

\$100.00 deposit, which will be used for expenses on the trip.

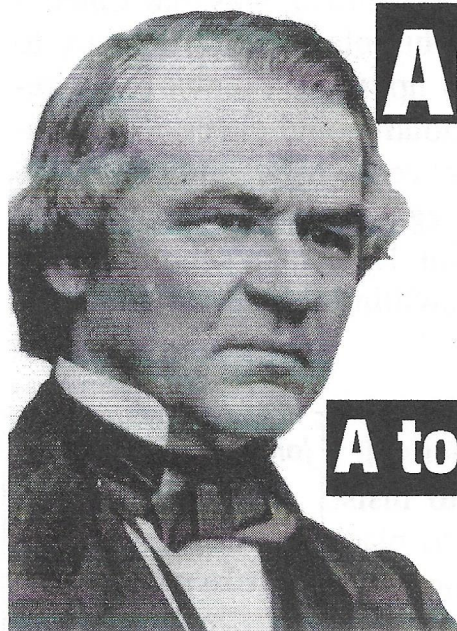
Checks made out to Cleveland CWRT.

Send to: Bill McGrath
3667 Traver Road
Shaker Heights, OH 44122



Up-to-date drawing of the CSS Hunley from current information.

Source: Wall Street Journal



Andrew Johnson



17th President

A tough man for tough times

By Dick Crews

“The History of mankind,” said the old Scotsman Thomas Carlyle, “is a history of its great men; to find out these, clean the dirt from them, and place them on their proper pedestal is the true function of a historian.”

When it comes to Andrew Johnson, 17th President of the United States, you would need the largest caterpillar bulldozer to move the dirt piled on him by historians. The picture painted by historians is very unjust to Johnson.

Andrew Johnson was first an American and second a southerner. He had been the Governor of Tennessee and was a Tennessee Senator when the Civil War broke out. Many of his southern Senate colleagues were packing to return South after the election of Abraham Lincoln, when on December 18, 1860 Johnson told the Senate that whatever were the fears and grievances of the slave States, the one place their redress was within the Union itself. “If this doctrine secession is to be carried out upon the mere whim of a State,” he declared, “this government is at an end.” Then he burst forth into an eloquent apostrophe:

I intend to stand by the Constitution as it is, insisting upon a compliance with all its guaranties. I intend to stand by it as the sheet-anchor of the Government; and I trust and hope, though it seems to be now in the very vortex of ruin, though it seems to be running between Charybdis and Scylla, the rock on the one hand and the whirlpool on the other, that it will be preserved, and will remain a beacon to guide, and an example to be imitated by all the nations of the earth. Yes, I intend to hold on to it as the chief ark of our safety, as the palladium of our civil and our religious liberty. I intend to cling to it as the ship-wrecked mariner clings to the last plank, when the night and the tempest close around him. It is the last hope of human freedom.

Dick Crews is editor of the Cleveland CWRT newsletter's THE CHARGER.

The **only grievance** advanced by the South, Johnson continued, was that Lincoln had been elected. But Johnson intended to maintain his place in the Senate, to “put down Mr. Lincoln and drive back his advances upon the Southern institutions, if he designs to make any.” In the Senate, the South could check-mate Lincoln completely. “Let South Carolina and her Senators come back, and on the 4th of March we shall have a majority of six in this body against him. Lincoln cannot make his Cabinet . . . unless the Senate will permit him. He cannot send a foreign minister, or even a consul, abroad, if the Senate be unwilling. He cannot even appoint a first-class postmaster. . .

“I voted against him,” Johnson exclaimed dramatically.

“I spoke against him; I spent money to defeat him; but still I love my country; I love the Constitution; I intend to insist upon its guaranties. There, and there alone I intend to plant myself.” Concluding, he expressed again his abiding faith, his unshaken confidence, in man’s capacity to govern himself. He would stand by the Republic, and he entreated “every man throughout the nation who is a Patriot” to come forward, and rally around the altar of our common country, . . . that the Constitution shall be saved and the Union preserved.”

*Johnson on Abraham Lincoln in 1860:
I voted against him,
I spoke against him,
I spent money to
defeat him.*

On March 2, 1861, two days before Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the 16th President of United States, Andrew Johnson rose again to address the Senate on succession from the Union,

“Were I President of the United States, I would do as Thomas Jefferson did in 1806 with Aaron Burr, who was charged with treason. I would have them arrested and tried for treason; and if convicted, by the Eternal God, I would see that he suffer the penalty of law at the hands of the executioner.”

A southern senator who was chairman of the Senate at the time, ordered the galleries be cleared and that Johnson risked arrest for such talk. Johnson screamed out, “arrest and be damned.”

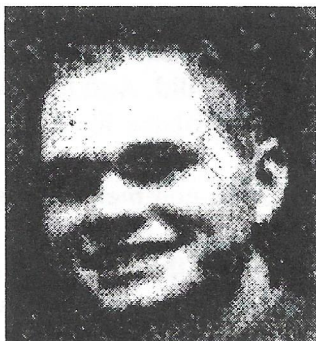
A strange twist to this story happened seven years later. Andrew Johnson the 17th President did not execute these traitors but pardoned all of them in one his last acts as President of the United States.

Dick Crews

Below is an article from The Carroll News, February 8, 2001. This is the newspaper of John Carroll University. Our fearless leader William Vodrey relied in the same publication to this student's attack on Abraham Lincoln. Vodrey's reply is on the following pages.

Abraham Lincoln: The Great Emancipator?

By Josh Beck



Josh Beck
Senior

Here's a little American trivia. See if you can guess who said the following. "What I would most desire would be the separation of the white and black races." Aren't sure? How about this line. "There is a natural disgust in the minds of nearly all *Senior* white people, to the idea of an indiscriminate amalgamation of the white and black races." Still aren't sure? Allow me to help. The author of those two phrases, as well as countless others exactly like them, was none other than Abraham Lincoln.

Considering February is Black History Month, and considering Abraham Lincoln's birthday is also celebrated at this time, I thought it would be fitting to illuminate a deeply shadowed part of America's historical record. I thought it would be appropriate to quell the nonsensical and absurd notion that Abraham Lincoln was the Great Emancipator, that he desired and strove for racial equality with all his might, and that he was the uncompromising, unbending, and steadfast foe of America's peculiar institution -the institution of slavery.

Lincoln is *wrongly* credited with the reconciliation of that great American paradox -- that incongruity between what was expressed in the Declaration of Independence (all men are created equal) and what was practiced in reality (all white, properly-'owning' tunics are created equal). In fact, he exacerbated this paradox more than he ever served to reconcile it.

Yes, believe it or not, Abraham Lincoln is not what he is reputed to be, and the facts are there to reveal the truth. All one has to do is go to the library and peruse the historical record. Prepare to be completely dumbfounded. Public and private letters to friends and colleagues. State of the Union Addresses, messages to Congress, acceptance speeches, and debate transcripts all provide irrefutable proof that Lincoln, contrary to conventional wisdom, was the embodiment of the American racist tradition. He represented *racism, par excellence*. Still not 'convinced, read on.

In a speech in Columbus, Ohio in 1859 Lincoln said,".. I am not, nor ever have been in favor of making voters or jurors of Negroes, nor of qualified them to hold office, or intermarry with white people." in a speech on the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, he said the following, "What next? Free-them, and make them politically and socially, our equals? My own feelings will not admit of this; and if mine would, we well know that those of the great mass of white people will not. ..we can riot, then, make them equals."

In 1858 during a famous Senate debate with Stephen Douglas, Lincoln adamantly defended himself against the accusation by Douglas that he favored equality between the races. He said, "I have no purpose to introduce political and social equality between the white and black races. There is a physical difference between the two in my judgment."

He proposed the deportation and colonization of ALL African-Americans out of the country to Haiti, Central America or Liberia. These lands were just as foreign to them as they were to Lincoln or any other American, but I guess that didn't matter. "They" were the problem, so "they" had to leave.

Wow, what a mastermind Lincoln was. As one Lincoln scholar aptly put it, the Proclamation is document "everybody praises and nobody reads," and whose language "any first-year law student could have ripped to shreds."

In conclusion, Lincoln admitted, time slier time after time, for anyone who wanted to listen, that he was opposed to equality between the races. lie never intended the ending of slavery to been prelude to equality, to confer the right to vote upon blacks, to allow theta to hold political office, or allow them to be jurors of their peers.

In a speech on the infamous Dred Scott decision of 1857, Lincoln discussed his plan for separating the races. He said, "Such separation, if ever effected at all, must be effected by colonization.. The enterprise is a difficult one, but where there is a will there is way, and what colonization needs most is a hearty will..." I recall being taught Lincoln was a man of strong will, but I never knew that was the purpose for which it was intended. In August of 1862 he called a meeting of free "colored men" at the White House to tell them of his proposal. The honorable Frederick Douglass, a true American hero, was one of the "colored men" in attendance. Lincoln told them, "You and we are different races. We have between us a broader difference than exists between almost any other two races, Whether it is right or wrong I need not discuss, but this physical difference is a great disadvantage to us both.. But even when you cease to be slaves, you are yet far removed from being placed on an equality with the white race..., not a single man of your race is made the equal of a single man of ours. Go where you are treated best."

Go where you are treated best? I'm sorry, but did Abraham Lincoln, purportedly America's greatest leader, actually tell them to leave America so they ~would go where they were treated best? Yes, he did. And he made no provision for his reluctance as President to deal with the real problem, nor did he accept any blame for either himself or other white men who refused to live out the true meaning of our nation's creed.

I think it's about time America finds someone else to commemorate, or at least stops commemorating Lincoln for beliefs he never, ever espoused and ideas he never, ever entertained.

What about the Emancipation Proclamation? Didn't Lincoln manumit legions of slaves with the simple stroke of his pen? The answer is no. The Proclamation was nothing more than a war document whose text and writ would become void as soon as the hostilities of war ended. And once again, the best witness is Lincoln himself when he said, "The original proclamation has no constitutional or legal justification, except as a military measure. ~"

In addition, the Proclamation only applied to territories in rebellion, meaning ALL slaves in the northern states, or in border states, or in southern states under Union military rule were NEVER freed under the terms of the document. These exempted localities included the counties of Berkeley, Potomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, all -in Virginia, and the forty-eight counties of West Virginia. The slave owners of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri and Tennessee also were free to keep their "property." That's quite an emancipation, isn't it? There was also a provision allowing for slave states in "rebellion" really sucks, but if you throw down your arms and come back to the Union we'll let you keep your slaves."

Luther King Jr., Maya Angelou, Aretha Franklin, Michael Jackson, Michael Jordan, Denzel Washington, or Halle Berry. They all would have been deported and expatriated to Liberia, Haiti or Central America. Lincoln's Secretary of State said, "...we show our sympathy for the slaves by emancipating the In short, Lincoln never, ever intended for blacks to become full citizens. Given his opposition to political and social equality, promulgated forcefully throughout his *entire* lifetime, one has to conclude that he wouldn't have supported the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, which gave to blacks precisely those rights of citizenship and suffrage that Lincoln opposed proof is in our past. All one has to do is visit a library and read... and be amazed (and by no means is the evidence presented in this short article exhaustive). If Lincoln had his way, America would have never seen the likes of George Washington Carver, Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, Ella Fitzgerald, Martin Luther King Jr., abolitionists, Congressman, the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, the Civil Rights Acts and Voting Rights Acts of the 1960's, and the resolve and determination of ordinary black and white men and women had to do what Lincoln utterly failed to do.

Lincoln was but a prelude to a segregated America, Jim Crow Laws, grandfather clauses, and the infamous separate-but-equal doctrine. We assume he chiseled away our massive edifice of slavery, but in reality he never even picked up a chisel.

A famous person, while speaking on the subject of slavery, once said the following. "I will be as harsh as truth and as uncompromising as justice. On this subject, I do not wish to think, to speak, or write with moderation.... I am in earnest — I will not equivocate—I will not excuse— and I will not retreat a single inch — and I will be heard." This person was the abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, the type of person America should be commemorating. He was *not* Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln was not as harsh as truth, he was always compromising with justice, and he thought, spoke, and wrote in moderation. He was not in earnest, he equivocated, he excused, and he retreated more than one could ever imagine. But will *he* be heard?

Some people will want to call efforts such as this iconoclasm or liberal revisionist history.

Josh Beck

LINCOLN DEFENDED

by William F.B. Vodrey

Josh Beck attacks the sixteenth President as a racist and a hypocrite in his recent guest commentary, "Abraham Lincoln: The Great Emancipator?" (The Carroll News, February 8, 2001). I commend Mr. Beck for his research. However, he doesn't go far enough in developing a complete picture of Lincoln's views on race, and I strongly disagree with Mr. Beck's conclusions.

Lincoln, by the standards of his day, was neither a racist nor a hypocrite. He'd seen the horrors of slavery firsthand while traveling down the Mississippi River in his youth, and he was a progressive on racial issues from the very start of his political career. When he was just 28, Lincoln was one of only two Illinois state representatives to go on the record denouncing slavery as

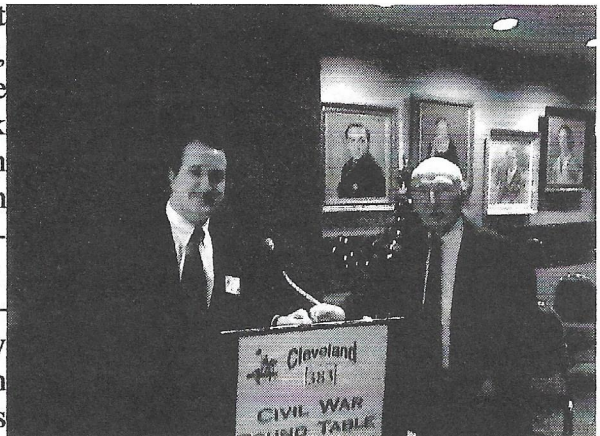
"an injustice" and condemning the practice of lynching. In his sole term as a U.S. congressman (1847-49), Lincoln introduced a bill which would have banned slavery in the District of Columbia, but there wasn't enough support in Congress for even that modest proposal.

Unfortunately, many whites in 19th century America spoke or wrote about blacks in ways we now consider demeaning and offensive. Lincoln said some things in his youth that, from our 21st century perspective, make us wince. Several of the quotations which Mr. Beck cites are from the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858, when Lincoln was running for the U.S. Senate in Illinois and was speaking to voters deeply suspicious of abolitionism and any notion of black social or legal equality. Had Lincoln forcefully endorsed the idea of black equality, his would have been a very brief political career, and he would thus never have had the opportunity to become President, preserve the Constitution, win the Civil War, and save the Union.

Lincoln long believed that the differences between blacks and whites in America were so profound that we would never be able to live together in peace. Early in his career, he supported "colonization" proposals, under which freed blacks would be helped to establish colonies, or westernized nations of their own, overseas. Liberia is one example of such a colony (and, recently, not an encouraging one). Lincoln was not alone in his views; many abolitionists of the day shared them (as did Marcus Garvey, later). Their paramount concern was to stop the horrible suffering under the system of American slavery. What would happen to blacks after they were freed from the chains of slavery was hotly debated, and there was no consensus on the issue. In later life, Lincoln became disenchanted with colonization proposals.

It's true that Lincoln didn't come to the White House with a policy of banning slavery. He believed, correctly under the law at the time, that slavery was protected by the Constitution, which he had sworn to uphold. (Slavery wasn't abolished until the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, eight months after Lincoln's death). What Lincoln intended to do, and what the nascent Republican Party's platform committed him to do, was to stop the spread of slavery into the western territories. Even this was regarded as an affront by the slaveholding Southern states, which began seceding - splitting from the United States - on the news of his election as President in November 1860.

The Civil War broke out in April 1861. As President, Lincoln had sound military reasons to move cautiously on slavery. If he acted too quickly, the key border slave states of Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware and Missouri might join the Confederacy, dealing a fatal blow to the Union war effort.



*Cleveland CWRT President William Vodrey
with Ed Bearss*

In time, however, Lincoln came to see that slavery *was* a key issue of the war, and he fought it vigorously. After the Union semi-victory at the Battle of Antietam in September 1862, he issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Mr. Beck is correct in writing that the Proclamation did not free slaves throughout the country, but that was beyond Lincoln's legal authority as President and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. In his proclamation, Lincoln freed the slaves still in Confederate territory, where war and rebellion continued. Far from being an empty gesture, however, the Emancipation Proclamation had an enormous impact. It redefined the Union's war goals, and probably staved off British or French entry into the war on the side of the Confederacy (both European nations were anti-slavery, and could not politically risk backing the pro-slavery side). The Emancipation Proclamation emboldened thousands of slaves to flee their Southern masters, badly damaging the Confederate economy and supplying many black troops for the Union army. By the end of the war, about ten percent of the United States army was black, and most of them were former slaves. They made an invaluable contribution to the eventual defeat of the Confederacy.

Abraham Lincoln may have said everything that Mr. Beck said he did, but that's not the complete picture. Lincoln also said:

* "Our progress in degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As a nation we began by declaring that 'All men are create equal.' We now practically read it, 'All men are created equal, except Negroes.' When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read, 'All men are created equal, except Negroes and foreigners and Catholics.' When it comes to this, I shall prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty - to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy." (August 24, 1855)

* "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half free." (June 16, 1858)

* "As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy; whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy." (August 1, 1858)

* "No matter in what shape it comes, whether from the mouth of a king who seeks to bestride his people and live by the fruit of their labor, or from one race of men as an apology for enslaving another race, it is the same tyrannical principle." (October 15, 1858)

* "He who would be no slave must consent to have no slave. Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and, under a just God, cannot long retain it." (April 6, 1859)

* "My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union... If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that... [but] I intend no modification of my oft-expressed personal wish that all men everywhere could be free." (August 22, 1862)

* "We cannot escape history... The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down to honor or dishonor to the last generation. We say we are for the Union ... [and] in giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free - honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last, best hope of earth." (December 1, 1862) "Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally." (March 17, 1865)

Was Lincoln perfect? No, of course not. His tragic assassination at the end of the Civil War and his virtual martyrdom afterwards have, to some degree, kept us from seeing him as he truly was, warts and all. But we should look at Lincoln's deeds, and not just his words. For all his flaws, Abraham Lincoln did more than any of his predecessors to destroy slavery, to protect freedom, and to ensure a free and honorable place in society for black Americans.

American historians today routinely - and correctly - rank Lincoln as one of our finest Presidents; many believe he is the best ever. Born 192 years ago in February, Abraham Lincoln is still deserving of our respect and admiration.

William F.B. Vodrey

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF JEFFERSON DAVIS



June 3, 1808

Born at Fairview, Kentucky. Moved to Woodville, Mississippi when a small child. Educated at Jefferson College, Washington, Mississippi, near Natchez, and at Transylvania College, Lexington, Kentucky.

1828

Graduated from USMA at the age of twenty.

1835

Married Sarah Knox Taylor, daughter of General Zachary Taylor.

Resigned from U.S. Army to become a planter

September 17, 1835

Mrs. Davis died of malarial fever.

February 26, 1845

Married Varina Anne Banks Howell. Settled on plantation, Brierfield.

November, 1845

Elected as a Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives from Mississippi.

July 21, 1846. December 6, 1847

As Colonel of Mississippi Volunteers, he commanded the First Mississippi Regiment at the Battles of Monterey and Buena Vista and was hailed as a war hero in the Mexican War.

Elected to the U.S. Senate from Mississippi.

1853-1857

Appointed Secretary of War by President Franklin Pierce.

February 18, 1861

Inaugurated President of the Confederate States of America at Montgomery, Alabama.

November 6, 1861

Elected to a six-year term as President of the Confederate States of America.

May 10, 1865

Captured at Irwinville, Georgia by the Fourth Michigan Cavalry. May 22, 1865

Imprisoned at Fortress Monroe, Virginia.

May 13, 1867

Released from Fortress Monroe prison on a \$100,000 bail bond signed by twenty prominent men, among them Horace Greeley, Cornelius Vanderbilt, and Augustus Schell, each posting \$5,000.

1867, 1877

Visited Canada, England, Wales, Scotland and continental Europe.

Lived in Memphis, Tennessee.

February, 1877

Moved to Beauvoir, Gulfport, Mississippi. He spent the last twelve years of his life on the estate.

December 6, 1889

Died in New Orleans, Louisiana.

December 11, 1889

Buried, Metairie Cemetery, New Orleans, following the largest funeral procession ever held in the South.

May 31, 1893

Final burial, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia.

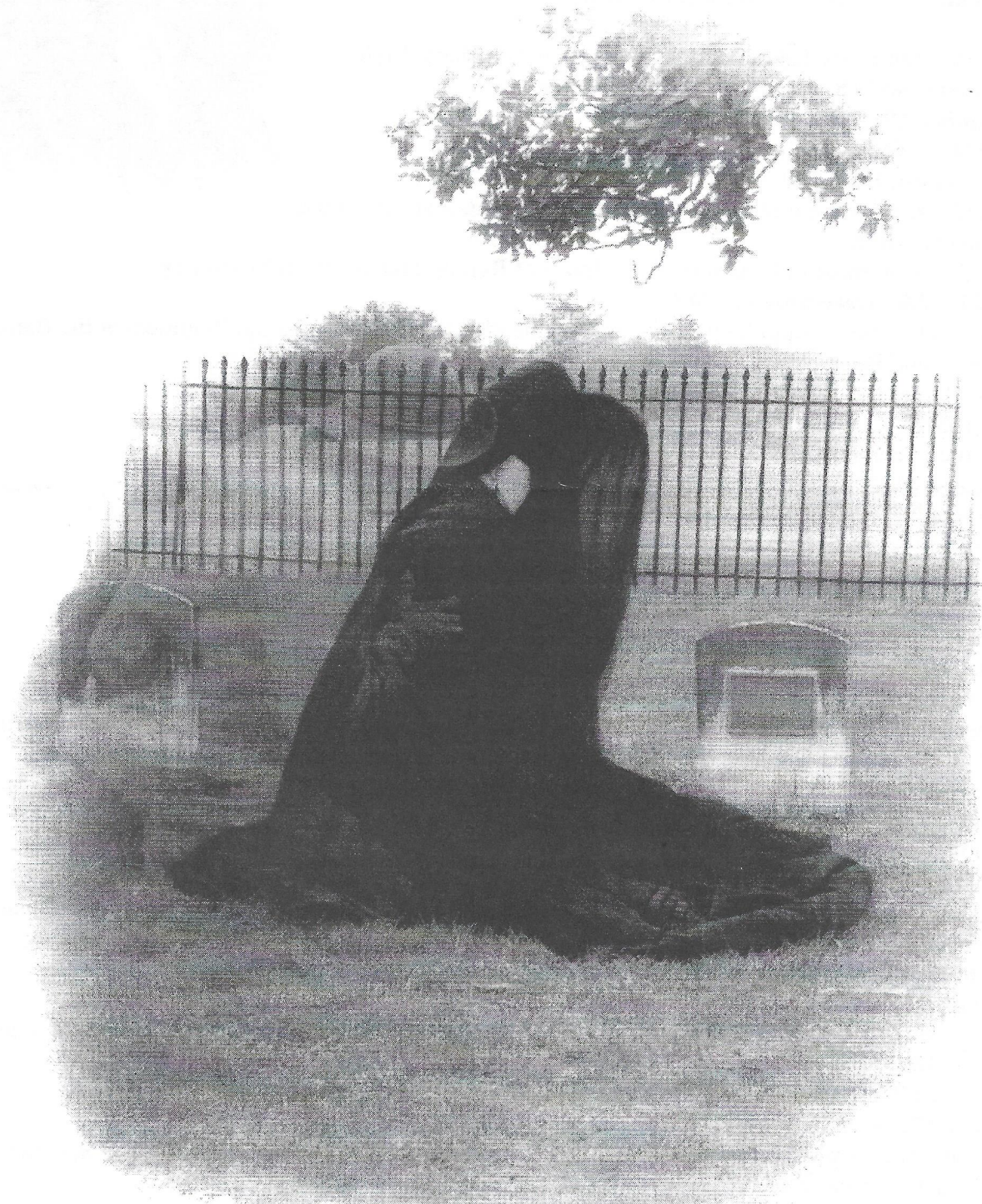
October 17, 1978

President Carter signed bill to restore citizenship to Jefferson Davis which passed the U.S. Congress without a dissenting vote.

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Poetry Contest.

Eighth graders at Lee Burneson Middle School in Westlake entered the Cleveland CWRT poetry contest. The students were shown the classic Civil War picture THE WIDOW then asked to write a poem based on the picture. 228 students entered the contest.

The winner Charlotte Tsui (pronounced swce), along with her Mother, and teacher Jon Thompson will be at our May meeting to read her winning poem and accept her \$100 prize.



The Widow

The Widow

My love,

By Charlotte Tsui

Do you see what I see?
A sky full of dark,
A world with no light,
A day with no tomorrow.

Do you hear what I hear?
The weeping of the tree,
The tortured silence of the dead,
The mourner's soft laments.

Do you feel what I feel?
Burning wounds I can not heal,
Sadness without escape,
An aching heart with no deliverance.

My love, where art thou?

Here I am, my dearest.
Here I am..

Yes, I see what you see.
But grieve not,
For the sun will come out,
And shine on the blessed Earth,
To give way for tomorrow.

Yes, I hear what you hear.
But grieve not,
For the willow is crying in joy,
And the dead is silent in peace,
The mourners comforted in beloved's memory.

Yes, I feel what you feel.
But fear not,
For the wounds will heal in time,
To ease the sadness with newfound joy,
And you shall find strength, as my heart I gave unto you.

Proposed Slate of Roundtable Officers, 2001-2002

The following candidates are hereby nominated for election to the offices shown, for the term of 2001-2002. The candidates were nominated on March 14, 2001 by a Nominating Committee (Maureen Goodyear, Matt Slattery and Kirk Hinman) which was duly appointed by the President pursuant to the Roundtable Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 1, cl. 2, and in accord with the recommendations of the Executive Committee in its meeting of February 7, 2001.

A majority vote of the members present at the regular May meeting of the Roundtable shall be necessary for the election of these nominees. Any member of the Roundtable may nominate a candidate from the floor at the May meeting before a vote is taken.

PRESIDENT: William R. McGrath

VICE PRESIDENT: Maynard Bauer

TREASURER: Mary Lou Braman

SECRETARY: Warren McClelland

HISTORIAN: Dale Thomas

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Ty Somersfield

Glenna Kimble

Marilyn DeBaltzo

Mel Maurer

William Vodrey (former president, ex officio)

Bob Boyda (former president, ex officio)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to the Constitution of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

Proposed by the President, in compliance with the decision of the Executive Committee in its meeting of February 7, 2001, and pursuant to the Roundtable Constitution, Art. V.

Deletions are shown in *italics*; additions are underlined.

1. Delete all references to an *Assistant Secretary*, throughout the Constitution.

2. Article III, Section 1-Executive Committee

..the control and management of the affairs and property of the association shall be vested in an Executive Committee which shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, *Assistant Secretary (when delegated by and in place of the Secretary)*, a Treasurer, a Historian, and four Directors. Upon the conclusion of the President's last term such person shall serve as an additional member of the Executive Committee for two years next following as a Director ex officio, provided such person remains a member in good standing during said two years. Two All of the other Directors shall be elected at each annual meeting to serve for two years one year, and shall be eligible for reelection.

3. Article IV, Section 1- Election of Officers:

The officers of the association shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, *an Assistant Secretary, and a Treasurer, and a Historian...*

4. Article IV, Section 5(A) Term of Office and Duties of the Historian:

The Historian shall have custody of the archival records and historical materials of the association; shall work closely with the Secretary to ensure the retention of all necessary or significant documents; and shall from time to time turn over to the Western Reserve Historical Society (or such other depository as may be designated by the Executive Committee) the archival records and historical materials of the association, when appropriate. The Historian shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee or the President. The Historian shall be elected for a term of one year and shall be indefinitely eligible for reelection.

These proposed amendments shall be voted upon at the regular May meeting of the Roundtable. Pursuant to the Roundtable Constitution, Art. V, an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those members present shall be necessary for the adoption of the proposed amendments.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I set a few clear goals when I had the honor of becoming the Roundtable's President last fall. I wanted to have good programs for our monthly meetings; to increase our membership; to improve our finances; to get lapel pins for our members; to update the membership directory; and to secure not-for-profit tax-exempt status from the IRS. I'm pleased to report that, thanks to the hard work of many members, we have met or exceeded all of my goals but the last. My biggest piece of unfinished business is obtaining tax-exempt status, but, with the assistance of Treasurer Bill Doty and others, I expect to submit the application and supporting documents to the IRS this summer and get the lengthy approval process underway.



The Roundtable's Executive Committee, meeting immediately after the April 11 general meeting in compliance with the vote of the membership, has approved a grant of \$1000 to the Civil War Preservation Trust for battlefield preservation at Trevilian Station (a personal interest of Ed Bearss, our December speaker, a longtime Roundtable honorary member and National Park Service historian emeritus), and a grant of \$500 to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Public Square in downtown Cleveland, northeast Ohio's foremost memorial to those who went into battle for duty, honor and country during the Civil War. I will call for approval of these grants at our May 9 meeting.

We've got a lot of other business for our last meeting of the season: discussing and voting on the proposed Roundtable constitutional amendments and the nominees for our 2001-2002 officers; the last ticket sales before our raffle drawing of Roundtable Vice President Bill McGrath's striking painting of the March 9, 1862 clash between the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia; and distribution of the new membership directories.

This month we welcome E. Chris Evans of Heath, Ohio, a noted scholar and skilled impersonator of one of the Buckeye State's greatest contributors to the Union war effort, Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman. I encourage you to come learn more about this remarkable and perennially-controversial leader.

WILLIAM VODREY
PRESIDENT, CWRT

* * *

CALLING ALL 25-YEAR ROUNDTABLE VETERANS!!!

Have you been a member of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable for 25 years or more? Know someone who is? If so, let William Vodrey know at (216) 443-7831



E. Chris Evans
presents

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

***Wednesday,
May 9, 2001***

