

THE CHARGER

November, 2002

400 Meeting

Vol. 24 #3

Tonight's Program:

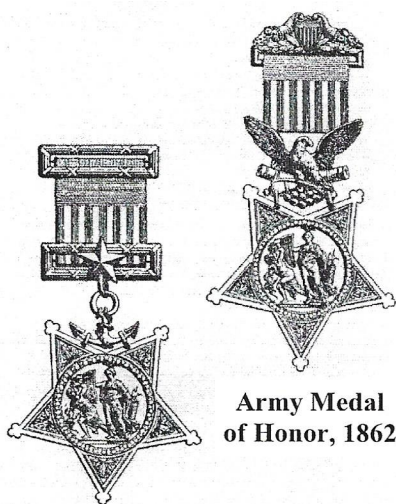
James Madison Cutts

"Hero of the Republic"

James Madison Cutts was a Civil War soldier who was awarded the Medal of Honor three times.

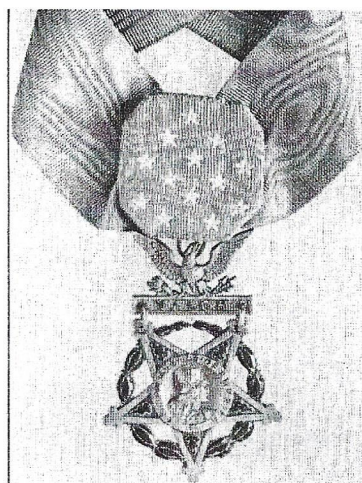
The Medal of Honor medal was approved by the Army and Navy in 1862. It was the only battlefield medal of the day and was not held in high esteem as is true today. The medal was strongly supported by Navy Secretary Gideon Welles. Secretary Welles contracted with a silversmith in Philadelphia after the U.S. Mint produced very poor quality samples. Welles choose bronze as the metal because it was much cheaper than gold or silver.

Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, however, had a low opinion of the medal. Because of this, he and Lincoln very liberally gave out the medal during the Civil War.



Navy Medal of Honor, 1862

Army Medal of Honor, 1862



Present day Army Medal of Honor

Note: Each service has its own medal of honor. The newest Medal of Honor is for the Air Force, adopted in 1965.

Tonight's speaker:

Bing Spitler

Bing G. Spitler is from the northside of Cincinnati. He has been a student of American history for most of his life. In 1992, he developed a passion for learning more about James Madison Cutts, Jr., as a result of reading a short passage in Carl Sandburg's *Abraham Lincoln*. Spitler is a graduate of Ball State University with a bachelor of science degree in philosophy and Pennsylvania State University where he earned a master's of education degree.

**Date: Wednesday,
November 13, 2002**

**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: Pork Chops or Lasagna

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

President: **Maynard Bauer** - (440) 835-3081

Vice President: **Warren McClelland** - (216) 751-8564

Secretary: **Mel Maurer** - (440) 808-1249

Treasurer: **Maureen Goodyear** - (440) 888-3814

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

Trustees

Marilyn DeBaltzo

Jean Solyan

Ty Sommershield

William F.B. Vodrey

Kirk Hinman

Bill McGrath

Website: **SEARCH** Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

email: rcrews5369@aol.com

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable is open to anyone with an interest in the American Civil War. The 120 members of the Roundtable, who's membership varies from 12 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.

Yearly Dues: \$40.00

Dinner: \$20.00

Dues: Maureen Goodyear

5906 Hodgman Drive

Parma Hts., OH 44130

(440)888-3814

Check to: Cleveland CWRT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE NOVEMBER, 2002

I was very pleased that the organization approved our new policy for using our year end excess balances for funding Civil War preservation projects. It should give our organization a sense of purpose beyond our own pleasure in learning more about our history.

The timing for our donation of \$500 to the Friends of Johnson Island came at a good time as the organization has just purchased. They have just arranged the purchase of 17.1 acres that will protect some of the area on the island where the prisoners were housed. Arranging the purchase does not mean they have it completely financed. They will still need to raise \$300,000 over the next two years to complete the purchase.

Over 10,000 different prisoners were on Johnson's Island during the war. The island has been archaeological site and much has been learned about life in the prison. A great learning experience has been provided for elementary students to be involved in the ongoing archaeological studies. If you want to personally help the Friends of Johnson Island, their address is 3272 County Road 175, Clyde, OH 43410.

We are up to 95 paid members for the year and we have several old members who have not paid yet. If you haven't paid yet Maureen Goodyear would be happy to get your check.

Maynard



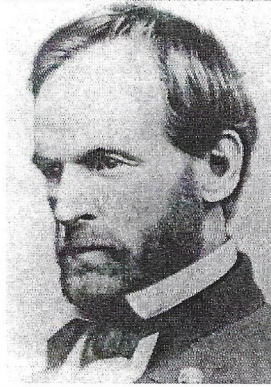
The Cleveland CWRT gang on the field trip in Winchester, Virginia, September 29, 2002. The man in the middle is our bag man Kirk Hinman.

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
2002/2003 SCHEDULE**

September 11, 2002

**Sherman on Trial
A Military Court of Inquiry**

E. Chris Evans
as Gen. William T. Sherman



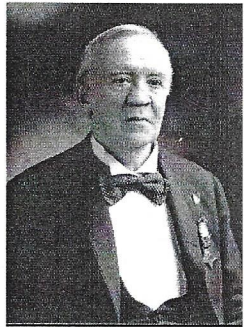
October 9, 2002

**Union General Nathaniel Lyon
killed at the ..
Battle of Wilson Creek**

**“Ranger Rick”
Richard Hatcher**



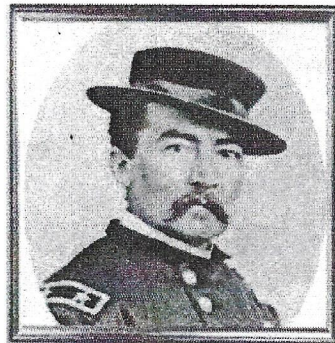
November 13, 2002 **400th meeting, Cleveland Civil War Roundtable**



James Madison Cutts
“Hero of the Republic”
Civil War Triple Medal of Honor Winner
Sex scandal court-martial

Bing Spitler

December 11, 2002

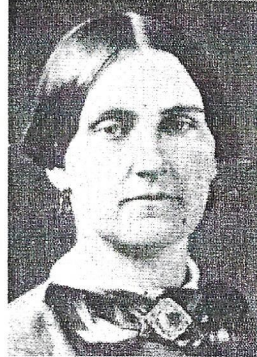


Philip Sheridan

**Little Phil:
A Critical Appraisal
of Civil War Generalship**

Eric Wittenberg

January 8, 2003



The Great Debate

*Cleveland Roundtable members
will debate: Was Mary Surratt*

1. Guilty?
2. Should she, a civilian, have been tried by a military tribunal?
3. Should she have been hanged?

Moderator: Dick Crews

February 12, 2003

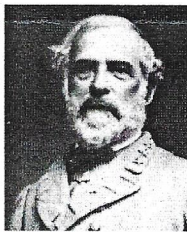


Major John Pelham

Pelham was famous for his “flying artillery”. Robert E. Lee called him, “gallant and courageous,” at the Battle of Fredericksburg. He was killed five months later.

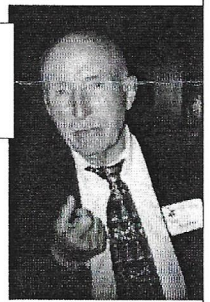
Peggy Vogtsberger

March 12, 2003



Ed Bearss
*“Mister Civil War”
discusses*

**Robert E. Lee
At
Chancellorsville**



April 9, 2003



**General Pettigrew’s
Journal**

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

Dan Bauer

May 14, 2003 “Guest Night”



During the Civil War, Canada was a British Colony

**Canada
and the
American
Civil War**

Mark Vinet

Membership information: Call 800-800-8310

email: rcrews5369@aol.com

Web site: use [search](#) Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

Taps is 140 years Old

By Dick Crews

“Taps”, the bugle call of only 24 notes is 140 years old this year. The call is always the highest honor given to those who served our country. The melody is both eloquent and haunting. These 24 notes are heard around the world each day from Pearl Harbor to Normandy, France.

“Taps” has now it’s own exhibit, the Taps project at Arlington National Cemetery. Organized by MSG Jari A. Villanueva, USAF. It was he who did the research on the bugle call we know as “Taps.”

According to Master Sergeant Villanueva the history of Taps’ origin is interesting and somewhat clouded in controversy. In the British Army, a similar call known as Last Post has been sounded over soldiers’ graves since 1885, but the use of Taps is unique with the United States military, since the call is sounded at funerals, wreath-laying and memorial services.

“Taps” is a product of the American Civil War. The man given credit for this famous bugle call is General Daniel Butterfield. The first time it was played was after the battle of Gaines Mills in Virginia in July of 1862.



Daniel Butterfield
1831—1901

There has always been controversy about whether Butterfield or his staff of buglers wrote it. The tune itself is a variation of a standard bugle call “tattoo”, played at night to put the troops to sleep.

Dan Butterfield was not a musician so some have said he couldn’t have written the call. Maybe so, but even a dummy in music could rearrange only 24 notes until he heard what sounded good to him. He must be given credit because even if a staff bugler wrote the call the General would have to approve him playing it.

The troops of Joseph Hooker took "Taps" to the western Union armies when they were sent to the battle of Chattanooga in November, 1863.

The Army officially adopted "Taps" in 1874 .

Daniel Adams Butterfield was born in Utica, New York and graduated from Union College at Schenectady. He was the eastern superintendent of the American Express Company in New York when the Civil War broke out. Despite his lack of military experience, he rose quickly in rank. A Colonel in the 12th Regiment of the New York State Militia, he was promoted to Brigadier General and given command of a brigade of the V Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

During the Peninsular campaign Butterfield served prominently when during the Battle of Gaines Mill, despite an injury, he seized the colors of the 3rd Pennsylvania and rallied the regiment at a critical time in the battle. Years later, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for that act of heroism.

When Hooker was given command of the army, Butterfield, by now a major general, was made his chief of staff. It was during this period that the army headquarters was termed "a combination of bar-room and brothel. " Most officers considered the culprits to be Hooker, Daniel E. Sickles, and Butterfield. With Meade's taking command of the army, a few days before Gettysburg, he reluctantly kept Butterfield as his staff chief, preferring not to replace him during active campaigning. The problem was finally solved when Butterfield was struck by a spent piece of shell on the third day of the battle.

Returning to duty in the fall of 1863, he joined Hooker again at Chattanooga and was his chief of staff in the battle. With the formation of the 20th Corps he, was given a division, which he commanded in the Atlanta Campaign. Illness forced him to leave the field before its conclusion. After the war he returned to his business interests.

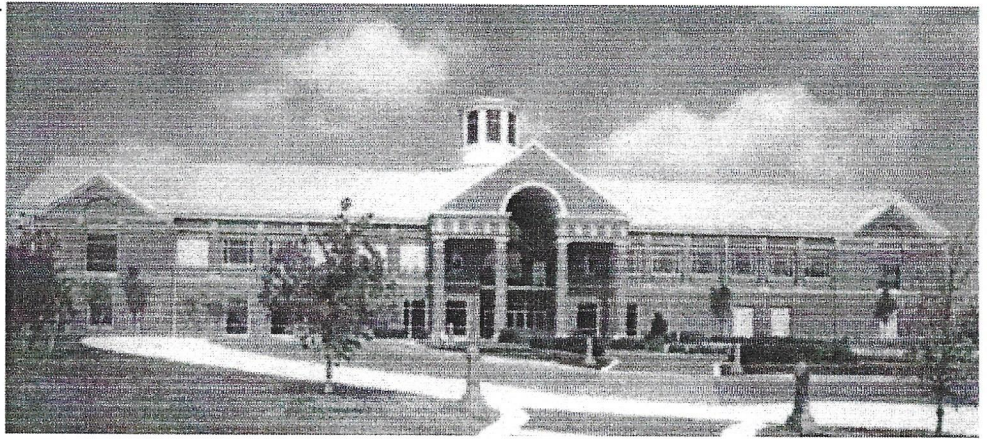
Besides "Taps" another surprising thing to note about Dan Butterfield is he is buried at West Point under a very ornate monument. This in spite of the fact that he never attended West Point and was a political general.

Dick Crews

VISITING THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

By William F.B. Vodrey
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On May 11, Roundtable members Chris Fortunate, Jimmy Menkhaus and I drove to Harrisburg, Pa. for a visit to the National Civil War Museum. Although worth the trip, the museum could certainly stand improvement. The longtime Civil War buff will probably find the museum a bit superficial in its coverage of the momentous events of 1861-1865, but it gives a good overview and has some particularly interesting artifacts of the war.



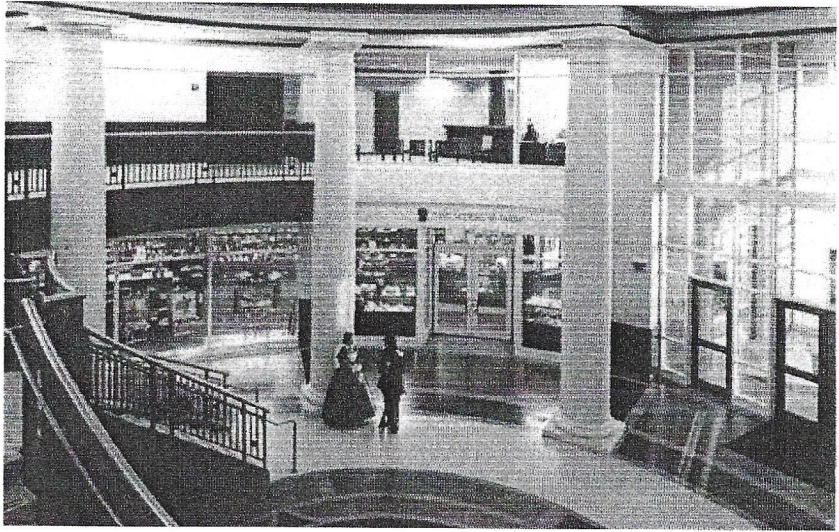
The museum, which opened on Lincoln's Birthday last year, is in a large brick building of neoclassical design. A giant American flag flies near the Walk of Valor, a walkway divided by states, for which you may buy paving bricks bearing the names of ancestors or personal heroes (Lincoln and Robert E. Lee have already been so honored). Several months before our visit, I'd made arrangements for payvers bearing the name of two ancestors who served in the Union army, Col. William H. Vodrey of the 143rd Ohio and John W. Vodrey of the 46th Pennsylvania, and I was pleased to see both already in place. A large statue of a Confederate soldier providing water to a wounded Union soldier is just outside the museum. You enter the building through a spacious lobby, with a gift shop to your right and a curving staircase to the second floor. Chris, Jimmy and I had lunch at the "Monitor and Merrimac Café," on the second floor. Try as we might, we saw no artifacts or pictures indicating why the snack bar was named after the two famous ironclads.

The museum's exhibits are laid out in roughly chronological order, beginning with slavery, conditions in the country just before the war, and the firing on Ft. Sumter. The dozen-plus galleries, covering over 27,000 square feet across two floors, are roomy and comfortable. Signage for the weapons, clothes, personal effects and other artifacts is generally clear and understandable, but was missing in several places on the day of our visit. Signs bearing the caption "A War of Firsts" are sprinkled throughout the museum, discussing the military, social and technological innovations of the Civil War.

The museum focuses on the common soldier of both North and South, and not so much on particular battles or leaders. With the exception of Gettysburg, most battles are only briefly described in individual plaques of text without maps. Video monitors and large maps describe the broader strategic issues of the war. There are also several short films which illustrate topics such as the use of artillery and infantry drill. Actors on film show the reactions of various members of American society to the war - a freed black man in the North, a slave woman, a young Southern cavalryman, an older Southern farmer, a Northern editor, a Northern woman, and a Union infantry officer. You may also listen to samples of Civil War-era music near a display of period drums and instruments. Downstairs, interactive kiosks provided by the Civil War Preservation Trust allow one to check military records and look up various Civil War historical information. The records are by no means complete; neither of my ancestors in blue were listed, but the CWPT hopes to have all Civil War military service records completely online in the next three years.

William Vodrey is a Cleveland Magistrate and past president of the Cleveland CWRT.

Unfortunately; the museum gives short shrift to the naval war, and especially to the river warfare of the Western theater. The best exhibits are those on the weaponry of the Civil War (one large gallery is dedicated to rifles, swords, daggers, pistols and various accoutrements); the experience of black Americans before, during and just after the Civil War; the grisly practice of battlefield medicine; and the efforts of both North and South to come to terms with the war afterwards through Recon-



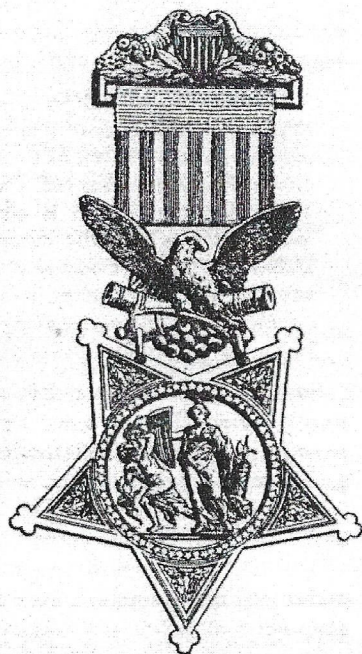
struction, revisionism and selective memory. Frederick Douglass is prominently quoted: “We are sometimes asked in the name of patriotism to forget the merits of this fearful struggle, and to remember with equal admiration those who struck at the nation’s life, and those who strove to save it — those who fought for slavery and those who fought for liberty and justice.” Even today, the debate continues. Although the museum strives for balance, and generally succeeds, Southern partisans will be displeased to see that the very first exhibit is on the importance of slavery as a cause of the Civil War. Jefferson Davis also doesn’t get nearly as much attention as Abraham Lincoln.

Among the most interesting items on display are the pen used by Gov. Henry Wise of Virginia to sign John Brown’s execution order; Abraham Lincoln’s leather hatbox; slave collars and identity tags; Gen. George Pickett’s commissioning papers as a Confederate general; the only known U.S. field ambulance still in existence; Gen. George B. McClellan’s saddle; Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock’s field desk and writing set; Cmdr. William Cushing’s 1851 Navy Colt revolver (which he carried during the daring nighttime raid in which he sank the rebel ironclad *Albemarle*); Gen. Robert E. Lee’s hat band and 1847 Bible, both captured by Union troops during Lee’s retreat to Appomattox; leather gauntlets from both Pickett and Lee; a scrap of fabric from the dress worn by Mary Todd Lincoln the night her husband was shot; and a piece of wallpaper from the Petersen House, to which the mortally-wounded President was carried from Ford’s Theatre.

The National Civil War Museum is about six hours’ drive from Cleveland, in the Reservoir Park neighborhood on the eastern edge of Harrisburg. Allow yourself three to four hours to see all of the exhibits, although you could easily spend more time there. The museum is open from 9am-5pm weekdays, 10am-5pm on weekends, and is closed on New Year’s Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Upcoming special events at the museum include; a lunch with noted Lincoln impersonator James Getty, Nov. 26; a Victorian holiday gala, Nov. 30; and a visit by a Civil War-era Santa Claus, Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 20.

Directions: Take the Pa. Turnpike to Exit 19, and follow Route 283 North to Interstate 83 North. At Exit 30, go about 2.5 miles west on Route 22/Walnut Street, staying on Walnut Street when Route 22 bears to the right. Turn left at the Parkside Café into Reservoir Park. Follow the signs; the museum is at the top of the hill. Parking is free. Admission: \$7/adults, \$6/seniors, and \$5/students and children. A family pass is \$25. For more information, call toll-free (866) BLU-GRAY, which is 258-4729. The Museum’s website is www.nationalcivilwar museum .org.

ARMY METAL
OF HONOR
1862



JAMES MADISON CUTTS

**CIVIL WAR - TRIPLE
MEDAL OF HONOR
WINNER**

Sex Scandal, Court Marital - oh my, oh my,

**WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 13, 2002**