

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

OCT./NOV. 2019

VOL. 42 # 2

Executive Committee 2019/2020

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Message from the President October 31, 2019 By C. Ellen Connally

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable started the year with Park Ranger Hank Eliot, who spoke on Stonewall Jackson and Second Manassas. His presentation was extremely informative and very well received by our membership. His visit was made possible through a collaborative effort between our roundtable and two other local roundtables who split his expenses and made his trip possible.

The field trip to Springfield, Illinois was a great success with 40 members visiting the Land of Lincoln. Our opening event featured a visit from Mary Todd Lincoln (portrayed by Pam Brown). At our closing event, we were honored with the presence of President Lincoln (portrayed by George Buss). For our November meeting, Dave Carrino has prepared a slide show of photos from the trip which will be shown during dinner. I hope the photos will encourage everyone to plan on going on the field trip next September to Petersburg, which is being planned by our Vice President, Steve Pettyjohn.

Our October meeting was an outstanding event at the Western Reserve Historical Society where members had a “white glove” tour of the Society’s Civil War Collection. We had 80 members and guests for one of our largest gatherings. We hope to have another “Night at the Museum” in the coming years.

I hope that many of you will be able to join us on November 13 – back at Judson Manor – to hear local historian Paul Huff talk about the connection between Summit County and the Sultana Disaster of April 21, 1865. Nine residents of Cuyahoga County lost their lives in this tragic event. Their names are listed among the 9,000 names listed on the walls of the Cuyahoga County Soldiers and Sailors Monument and we will read their names and have a moment of silence for them during the meeting.

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As I have mentioned at our last meeting, Judson Manor has increased the costs for meals. Therefore, we are compelled to increase the cost of dinner from \$30 to \$35. Be sure and RSVP if you plan to attend.

As a result of a decision made by the officers, we will stop our monthly book raffle. In lieu of the book raffle we look forward to offering a 50/50 raffle which will increase revenue and give members a chance to try their luck at winning some cash.

In January we will be hosting our Annual Debate and are planning a book sale. So, if you have books to donate, please bring them to the next meeting so that we can have them available.

The structure of the organization has always been that there is no profit in the cost of the meals. We use the money raised through dues to pay for the cost of our speakers. With increasing cost for transportation for speakers and fees and the overall operation of the organization, I am proposing an increase in dues, that will be discussed at the January meeting.

We are anticipating a significant outlay of cash to upgrade our website. Paul Burkholder has done a yeoman's job for many years in maintaining the website. We thank him for his service. Although he wishes to continue managing the website, changes in technology require a major overhaul which he admits is above his pay grade. Paul is also looking for tech savvy members who would be willing to assist with the website. Therefore, it is time to hire a professional to do the necessary changes to keep our website current. We are also looking to increase our social media presence to keep our members informed and encourage new members. Hopefully, this will include an improved manner of submitting your RSVP for meetings.

At our next meeting we will be asking for volunteers for several on-going committees. If we wish to continue to exist, I feel that it is necessary to have members involved and sharing some of the responsibility and the tasks that keep the organization running.

Don't forget that our February meeting falls on the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln. We will be joined by Judge Frank Williams, former Chief Judge of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, former president of the Lincoln Forum and a noted Lincoln Scholar. We plan to make this a special event to honor the birthday of our 16th President. Plan on bringing anything Lincoln to the meeting so that we can decorate the tables and truly honor the President who saved the Union.

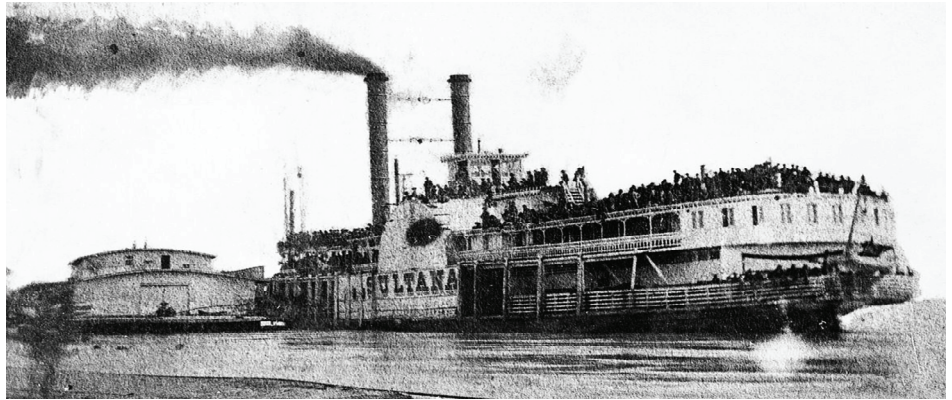
I look forward to another year of fascinating and informative lectures and most importantly fellowship among the members of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable.

See Next Page for More information on the Sultana.

The *Sultana* Tragedy

On April 21, 1865 the *Sultana* left New Orleans. About ten hours south of Vicksburg, one of the *Sultana's* four boilers sprang a leak. Under reduced pressure, the steamboat limped into Vicksburg to get the boiler repaired and to pick up her promised load of prisoners.

While the paroled prisoners, most of whom were former Union POWs and survivors of Andersonville and



Cahaba Prison camps, were brought to the *Sultana*, a mechanic was brought down to work on the leaky boiler. Although the mechanic wanted to cut out and replace a ruptured seam, the ship's Captain knew that such a job would take a few days and cost him his precious load of prisoners, rather only a temporary repair was made to the boiler.

Although the *Sultana* had a legal capacity of only 376, by the time she backed away from Vicksburg on the night of April 24, 1865 she was severely overcrowded with 1,961 paroled prisoners, 22 guards from the 58th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 70 paying cabin passengers, and 85 crew members.

Near 2:00 A.M. on April 27, 1865 when the *Sultana* was just seven miles north of Memphis, her boilers suddenly exploded. The official cause of the *Sultana* disaster was determined to be mismanagement of water levels in the boiler, exacerbated by the fact that the vessel was severely overcrowded and top heavy. *Sultana* Historian Gene Eric Salecker figures the death toll ran between 1700 and 1750.

Passengers who survived the initial explosion had to risk their lives in the icy spring runoff of the Mississippi or burn with the boat. Many died of drowning or hypothermia. Some survivors were plucked from the tops of semi-submerged trees along the Arkansas shore. Bodies of victims continued to be found downriver for months, some as far as Vicksburg. Many bodies were never recovered. Most of the *Sultana's* officers, including Captain Mason, were among those who perished.

Our Honored Dead of Cuyahoga County who died on the *Sultana*

Name	Rank	Regiment	Company	Tablet
Gilbert G. Field	Private	23 rd OVI	D	4
James K. Clary	Private	41 st OVI	F	7
George Kens	Private	58 th OVI	B	9
Thomas Kelly	Private	65 th OVI	E	10
Charles H. Nickerson	Private	65 th OVI	E	10
Delos Shaw	Private	103 rd OVI	E	14
John Jarrett	Private	103 rd OVI	H	15
James C. Cook	Private	115 th OVI	C	16
Christopher Maley	Private	115 th OVI	C	16
James C. Cook	Private	115 th OVI	C	16
Christopher Maley	Private	115 th OVI	C	16

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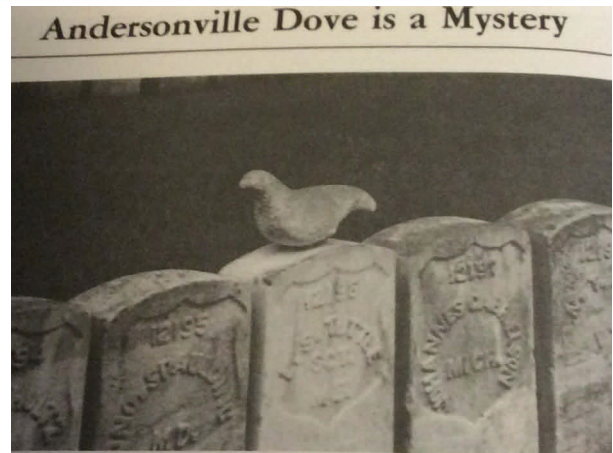
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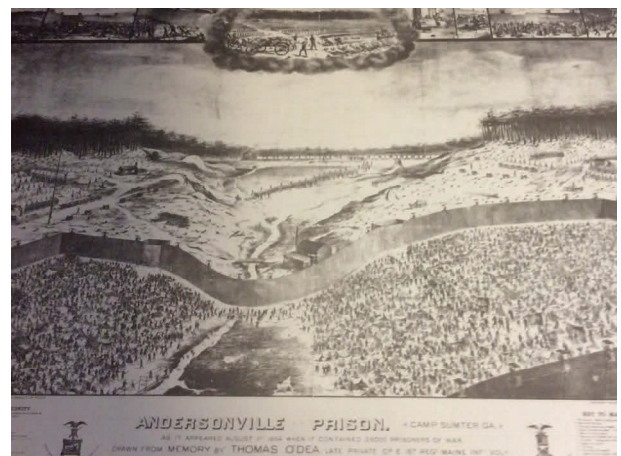
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The Mystery of the Andersonville Dove Paul Siedel

The American Civil War is the one of which we are most familiar mainly because it is fortunately our one domestic war which was fought solely by Americans. We alone were involved. Victory at Gettysburg, The Emancipation Proclamation, and the final surrender at Appomattox are all facts of which most Americans should be familiar. However if we take the time to look into the conflict more deeply we can come across many lesser known facts, conflicts and occurrences which still have a sense of mystery about them. Bones are still discovered on battlefields, and we have to ask ourselves, “who were these men, where did they come from and how did they die?” When artillery shells are uncovered at construction sites and along beaches, we sometimes ask ourselves “how did they happen to get there?” When a long lost diary is discovered in a long lost attic or in the stacks of some university library we sometimes ask ourselves “who wrote these and what is the story behind their lives?” One mystery which has fascinated me over the years and which still has not been resolved is the mystery of the Andersonville Dove. The Andersonville Dove was placed on the tombstone of one Lewis Tuttle of the 32 Maine Regiment, Company F. When it was placed there and by whom remains a mystery. Corporal Tuttle died on November 30, 1864 of diarrhea while confined in the Andersonville stockade. He was only 29. Why is Tuttle’s headstone the only one ornamented in this way and what does it signify?



Corporal Tuttle was born in Saco, Maine. Records show he was a cooper. He had two brothers in his same regiment and company. Tuttle and his brother David (who also died of scurvy at Andersonville and is buried there) were captured in the contested crossing of the North Anna River in Virginia in May of 1864. Their other brother Loren was wounded and put on the disabled list. He never returned to active duty. Records only show a limited amount of what happened to Loren after the War. According to the records at Andersonville National Historic Site, Lewis Tuttle’s military record indicates that he was six feet tall, fair skinned, and had light hair and gray eyes. He had a wife named Lydia Ann and two daughters, Clara Ella and Addie Cora. Many people over the years have tried to find out more about Corporal Tuttle, and his family background. None so far have been successful. His daughters either died or were married and subsequently their names changed, the same fate probably befell his wife. There is no record of any other family members located in Saco, Maine. There is some information on his brother Loren who after the War moved west and farmed for a while in Nebraska, but disap-





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- **Andersonville cont.**

but disappeared from the census records in the 1870s

The cemetery at Andersonville began on February 27, 1864, with the internment of Adam Swarner. He was the first prisoner to die there. Over the next 14 months (February 1864-April 1865), 12,912 prisoners would die. Their bodies were carried to the cemetery by mule and wagon. There they were buried in 3 foot deep trenches the length of a man, shoulder to shoulder without a coffin. In July of 1865, Andersonville National Cemetery was established.

So for years, people have been curious about the dove. The National Park Service continues their search in trying to find the answer. The dove has been on the marker for many years, but, again, no one knows exactly when it first appeared. There have been many theories as to who put it there and why, but the dove is still a mystery. This could be any researcher's dream project or nightmare! However if anyone can add any information at all to the mystery behind the Andersonville Dove, the National Park Service would like to hear from you.



Recruiting in the Vanished Village of Newburg Paul Siedel

As the Civil War recedes farther into history many of the once prominent landmarks of that time have become inconsequential or obscure having been absorbed by much larger cities or have become moribund and abandoned. Such was the fate of the once prominent village of Newburgh here in Cuyahoga County. Today one can locate the old village on the map just where Broadway Ave., Warner Rd., Turney Rd., Miles Rd., and E. 93 St. all come together. The village was founded in 1799 with grist mills founded on the falls at Mill Creek. Later a stage road, today's Broadway was cut through the area and quarrying and milling became the dominant economic forces sustaining the village.



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Newburgh cont.

Many Irish immigrants came into the area with the building of the Ohio and Erie Canal. Later the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad (Now The Pennsylvania Railroad) came through and made it much easier to ship goods out of the area.

The village at one time was actually larger than Cleveland whose development was stymied by the mosquitos which plagued the area. Newburgh was on higher ground and therefore escaped the large amounts of standing water. The water however is what eventually made Cleveland the County seat with easy access to Lake Erie and shipping on the Ohio and Erie Canals. Thus began the demise of the village of Newburgh. Much of Newburgh Township was taken in by the City of Cleveland in wave after wave of annexation just after the Civil War. The village center itself was annexed in 1893, and today is the area around E. 93 and Broadway. The old village green however is still very much visible, and today is partly occupied by Miles Park Elementary School. The remainder today is a grassy area bounded by E. 91 St, E. 93 St. and Miles Park Ave. One can clearly see the center of the old village still visible today.

During the Civil War Newburgh was a bustling industrial village just to the south of Cleveland and was the location of a large recruiting station located on the village green. Recruiters were sent out from the various training camps located along Woodland Ave. between E 55 and Ontario St. According to the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History men flocked into Newburgh and Cleveland to sign up and be taken to the training camps in Cleveland. As the Civil War progressed the Mills of Newburgh turned out steel rails from the factories located along Mill Creek and owned by such early entrepreneurs as Henry Chisholm, David and John Jones and others. After the War many southern soldiers came north to work in the mills of Newburgh having realized there was nothing left for them to earn a living within the devastated south. They seemed to blend well with the folks already there and one may imagine the old vets sitting around and listening to tales of what they did at Gettysburg, Spottsylvania, or Chickamauga. Names of vets such as Warner, Breck, Corlett, Jones, and Chandler who are today listed in the Soldiers and Sailors Monument were all residents of Old Newburgh.

Today the old village of Newburgh is almost forgotten except for the suburb of Newburgh Hts. Which occupies some of the old township. The old heavy industrial mills have closed and the last of them the Worsted Mills burned in a gigantic fire in the 1990s. Today the old village has been totally swallowed up by the growth of Cleveland and the old township has been given over to Cuyahoga Hts. There is however evidence of renewed growth. New housing has been built on the site of the old asylum on Turney Rd and Cleveland Metro Parks has started a new reservation at the falls of Mill Creek. The Newburgh area has much potential, and someday it may be realized giving new life to the once prominent village which did much to fuel the Union's effort in the Civil War.

By Paul Siedel

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John Pope

by Dennis Keating

The defeated adversary of Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Second Manassas in August, 1862 was John Pope. Pope had been sent east after his successes in the Western theater and soon became much hated for his arrogance by his peers in the new Army of Virginia.

Pope was a career soldier. His father was an Illinois judge who was a friend of Abraham Lincoln. Pope was one of the officers chosen to accompany Lincoln to Washington City after his election. In the Mexican War, Pope had served under Zachary Taylor at the battles of Monterrey and Buena Vista.

Pope blamed his defeat by the Confederates at Manassas on the failure of Fitz John Porter (a McClellan confidante). While Porter was found guilty by court martial, in 1879 a Board of Inquiry convened under President Rutherford B. Hayes reversed that decision and exonerated Porter of cowardice and disobedience of orders at Second Manassas.

Shortly after the Second Manassas defeat, Pope was sent to Minnesota, where he put down a Sioux revolt. After the Civil War, he fought Indian tribes, including the Apaches, in the West. He also served as governor of the Reconstruction military district headquartered in Atlanta until President Andrew Johnson removed him in December, 1867.

Pope died on September 23, 1892 at the Ohio Soldiers' Home near Sandusky, Ohio. He was buried in a St. Louis cemetery beside his wife Clara, the daughter of an Ohio Republican Congressman

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- Peter Cozzens*. General John Pope: A Life for the Nation. 2000.
- Peter Cozzens. John Pope's Manassas Misery: <https://www.history.net.com/john-popes-manassas-misery.htm>
- *Cozzens was co-editor of Pope's Civil War Military Memoirs.

HISTORY BRIEF – CCWRT – DANIEL J. URSU, HISTORIAN – copyright 9/11/19

“The Civil War Was Won in the West” – or so they say.

On September 11, 1862, it could be said that the North was doing well and certainly winning the war in the west. In the east, McClellan had repulsed Lee at Antietam, last year's field trip at which our guide Steve Recker eloquently argued – whether you agreed with him or not - won the war because it paved the way for Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. . Coincidentally, it's Lincoln's hometown, Springfield Illinois,



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that will be the destination of Ellen's field trip at the end of this month. I tend to agree with Steve; the Emancipation Proclamation and the momentum it produced in so many ways, be it in the heart of the slaves who slowly learned of the document, or the morale boost that it gave many of the soldiers in the north and the resultant moral incentive to fight on to victory – and everything in between – that would overwhelm the south by 1865.

But, these historian briefs for the foreseeable future will focus on the “West” and track monthly the Union army's progress or lack thereof, starting in September of 1862, with focus on the campaigns on or near the Mississippi River – not to diminish the real threat being posed in September 1862 by General Bragg's southern offensive into Kentucky, the topic so well covered last November 14th by Chris Kolakowski's presentation “Perryville: Battle for Kentucky “. When Bragg railroaded most of his army to Eastern Kentucky, one of the brilliant strategic redeployments of the entire war, he left about 32,000 troops in Mississippi under Generals Van Dorn and Price to defend the state. Also, in the event that Grant tried to move east in support of General Buell's defense of Kentucky – or even if Grant did not; they could strike north into western Tennessee.

By now, Ohio's U.S. Grant had become the shining star of Union generals through his accumulated victories at Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh and others. And his nemesis at Shiloh, General Albert Sidney Johnston, whom many historians think could have become the most successful southern general in the war, fell with a mortal wound; but for the lack of something so basic even to medical technology of the time – a tourniquet! The strategic Railroad junction at Corinth had also by now fallen into Union hands.

Despite the tragic loss of the General Johnston; the south was by no means without leadership in the west, as evidenced at the time by none other than “That Devil – Nathan Bedford Forrest” whose rearguard action ended the battle of Shiloh.

By September 1862, there was enthusiasm to plan an offensive by Confederate commanders across the Western theater. Near the Mississippi confederate Generals Van Dorn and Price had both been given commands by Bragg - but command confusion over who should take the lead in their northern Mississippi vicinity ensued. Van Dorn appealed to the Secretary of War and received confirmation from Confederate President Jefferson Davis that his rank made him the leader in Mississippi.

Accordingly, Van Dorn messaged Price that their commands should rendezvous, but Price with 15,000 men decided to stay at his current location in the rail town of Iuka in northern Mississippi; after driving out a small Union force, until he heard more specifics – perhaps Price would even move into eastern Kentucky to aid Bragg's offensive.

Sharp eyed, General Grant saw an opportunity to trap Price in Iuka with 8,000 troops under Ord coming from the north in two divisions along the railroad from Corinth and Rosecrans with 9,000 from Jacinto southwest of Iuka, also in two divisions.

Approaching Iuka, in a seemingly humane but false gesture, General Ord offered Price the opportunity to surrender instead of being annihilated, in the supposed spirit of being held only until such time that the “independence of the Confederate States shall have been acknowledged by the United States”.

This ruse was declined by Confederate General Price, and on September 18th Grant ordered Ord's men to begin the envelopment from the north after the sound of battle was heard from Rosecrans assaulting Price in Iuka with from the south. Unfortunately for Grant and the north, Rosecrans was delayed and by nightfall, Ord still remained static. The following day, September 19th, Price wisely maneuvered southward in the direction of Rosecrans and succeeded in pushing him back after correctly analyzing that one of Rosecrans two divisions was faltering. Because of acoustic shadow, Ord heard nothing and stayed put.

This essentially wrapped up the fighting in northern Mississippi for the month of September, 1862

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Program: Paul Huff talks about the connection between Summit County and the Sultana Disaster of April 21, 1865.

November 13, 2019

JUDSON MANOR Drinks 6pm Dinner 6:30

Drinks @ 6 pm, Dinner @ 6:30

Judson Manor , East 202th St. & Chester

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

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