

THE CHARGER

October, 2003

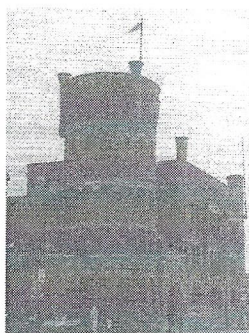
408 Meeting

Vol. 25 #2

Tonight's Program:

The Cleveland Grays

An independent militia company formed in 1837 during ongoing tensions between the United States and British Canada, the Grays was from its birth considered a special military and social organization. Its membership came almost exclusively from Cleveland's elite commercial and political class.



The Grays' footprint upon the social and military history of Cleveland was large. Throughout the nineteenth and into the early twentieth century, the Grays provided support for the city's leadership.

The Grays served, in nearly all of America's major military conflicts from the Civil War through World War I. One of its officers, Lieutenant Albert Baesel, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions at Meuse-Argonne in September 1917.

While the nature of the organization has changed, the Grays still maintain a proud tradition of service to their city. Primarily a social group with strong philanthropic and educational interests, the expanded membership of the modern Grays continues to add to and participate in the rich, colorful history of Cleveland.

Tonight's Speaker:

George Vourlojianis

George Vourlojianis is a long time friend of the Roundtable. He also served for many years as Historian of the Cleveland Grays. Kent State Press has just published George's book, *"The Cleveland Grays, An Urban Military Company 1837—1919."*

George is currently Director of Social Studies at Lorain Community College.

George was a member of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument Commission and President of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable in 1987.

**Date: Wednesday,
October 8, 2003**

**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: Broccolini or
Chicken Champignon-en'Croute**

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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OCTOBER, 2003

We had a fine turn out for our first meeting of the year and those in attendance were treated to a marvelous presentation by Frank O'Reilly of the Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania Military Park. Mr. O'Reilly discussed the Fredericksburg Campaign, pointing out the combination of miscommunication, logistical failures, faulty assumptions and even imprecise maps that doomed the Federal efforts as much as the formidable Confederate defensive position did.

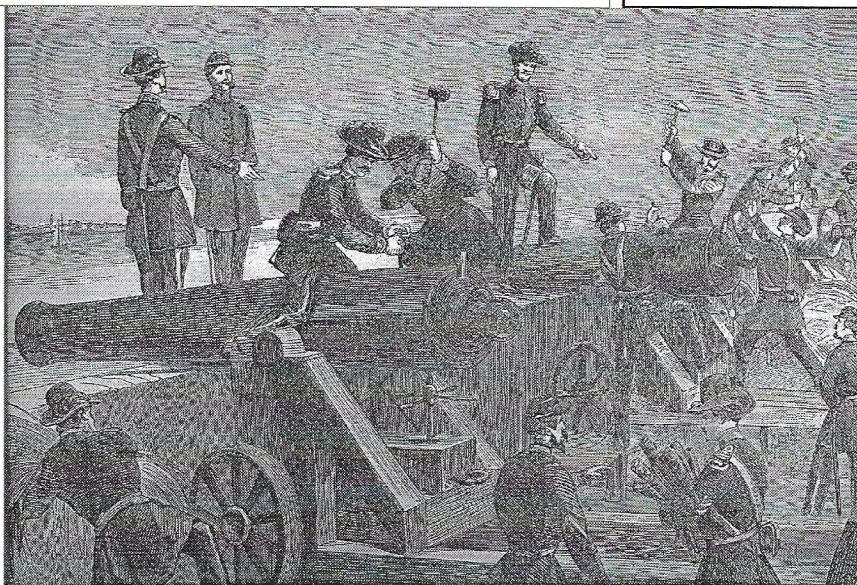
This month's speaker presents a topic of local interest. Dr. George Vourlojianis, a past president of our organization, and currently the Interim Director of the Social Sciences/Human Services Division of Lorain County Community College, will be speaking about the Cleveland Grays. Most of us are very familiar with the landmark Armory, but are unfamiliar with the fascinating history of the Grays. I am looking forward to an informative evening with Dr. Vourlojianis.

I hope to see many of you Wednesday evening.

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

Warren L. McClelland, Jr.

President



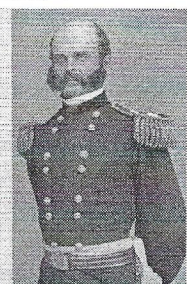
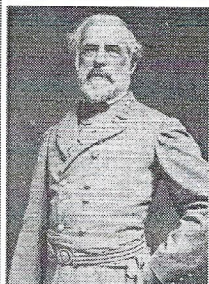
Spiking the guns before the
withdrawal from Fort Moultrie
to Fort Sumter.

Charleston, South Carolina

December 26, 1860

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

September 10, 2003

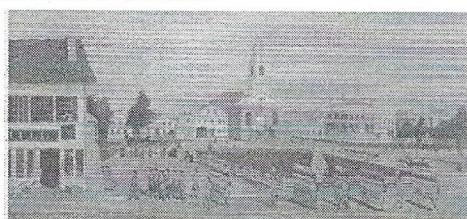


**Fredericks-
burg**

**Frank
O'Reilly**

Lee vs. Burnside

October 8, 2003



Grays
on
Public Square
1839

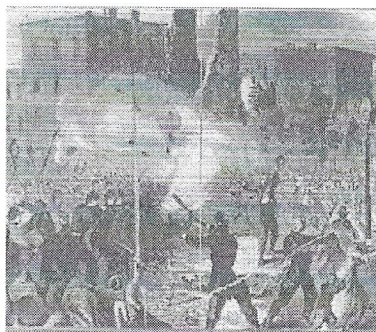
Painting by Joseph Parker
Courtesy of the Western Reserve
Historical Society

**The Cleveland Grays
George Vourlojianis**

November 12, 2003

**New York
Draft Riots**

**William
Vodrey**



December 10, 2003



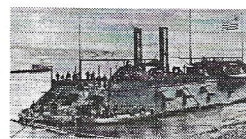
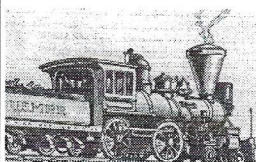
Clara Barton

**Carol
Starre-Kmiecik**

January 14, 2004

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

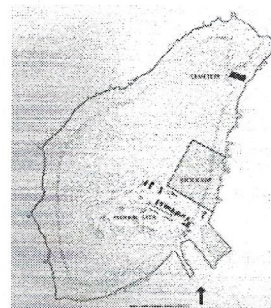
Moderator: Dick Crews



February 11, 2004

Johnson's Island

David Bush



March 10, 2004

**Irish
in the
Army of Northern Virginia**

Kelly O'Grady



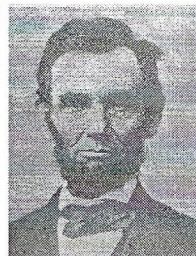
April 14, 2004

**George B.
McClellan**

Thomas Rowland



May 12, 2004



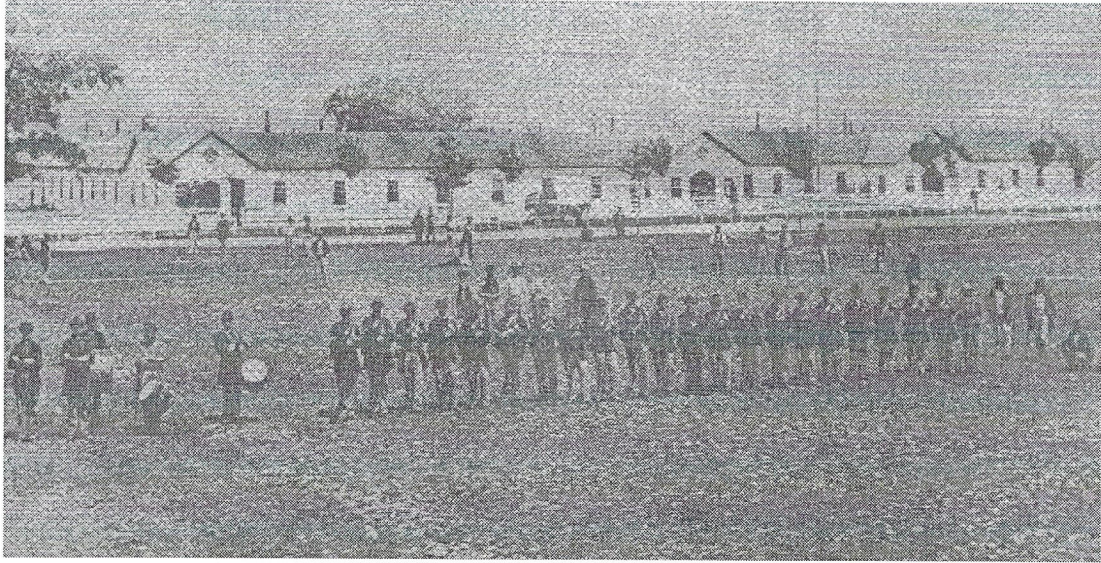
**Lincoln
and His Generals**

Norty London

CAMP CLEVELAND

1862 -1865

BY DALE THOMAS ©



Soldiers march and play baseball at camp Cleveland

Six military camps were located in or near Cleveland during the Civil War, but only two were in use for more than a year, Cleveland and Taylor. Camps Wade, Brown, Tod, and Wood were only used in 1861. Camp Cuyahoga existed for one month, September of 1863. Tod was located on Kinsman (Woodland) near Perry (E. 22nd) and Brown on Forest (E. 37th) north of Kinsman. The site of Camp Cuyahoga was in a grove on Willson (E. 55th), and Brown on land owned by Leonard Case at Euclid and Case (E. 46th).

On April 20, 1861, Brigadier General J.W. Fitch issued an order that "Camp Taylor will be organized at the Cuyahoga County Fair Grounds, corner of Kinsman and Hudson [E. 37th] streets, in the city of Cleveland..." The 7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, first regiment organized in Cleveland was mustered into federal service for three months in late April of 1861. James A. Garfield had wanted to lead the 7th Regiment, but the recruits elected a different commander, and he went on to organize and command the 42nd at Camp Chase in Columbus. (While stationed in Cincinnati, the 7th was reorganized in July for three-year enlistments.) From the start of the Civil War to May of 1864, Camp Taylor was the birth place of twelve volunteer infantry regiments (7th, 8th, 19th, 21st, 105th, 107th, 124th, 125th, 129th, 150th, 164th, and 169th), the 10th and 12th Cavalry besides the 19th and 20th Battery. In April of 1864, the 60th O.V.I. was the only regiment ever reorganized at the camp. Two miles across the Cuyahoga Valley in Brooklyn Township, the 41st O.V.I and 2nd Cavalry were organized at Camp Wade during late summer and early autumn of 1861. (Nowadays the site is located in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, but at the time, the region was called University Heights because of a college that had operated there in the early 1850's.)

Dale Thomas is a retired history teacher and Historian of the Cleveland CWRT.

In August of the following year, the military installation was enlarged and renamed Camp Cleveland. Silas S. Stone leased thirty-five acres to the government, which today, lies between W. 5th and 7th from Railway across Literary and Jefferson to Marquandt. Largest and most developed of any local garrison, Camp Cleveland would eventually train over fifteen thousand troops. Confederate prisoners in transit were also confined at the camp. Colonel George B. Senter, former mayor of Cleveland, took command of the base and served for two years.

Sixty by twenty feet, the first barracks were built of unfinished pine and ready for recruits by the second week of August. The *Daily Herald* reported the barracks were "well built [and] sanitary arrangements excellent..." Enlisted men bedded down at night using knapsack pillows on straw over bunks of rough wood. And they ate standing up since there were no chairs or tables. While some complained about the accommodations, others felt, perhaps as an alternative from farm work, they were on one long picnic. Running on a regular schedule, horse drawn omnibuses connected the base with the civilian community. Residents from local townships (including Rockport, Brooklyn, Dover, and Olmsted), supplied food and drink for "regimental picnics." A local newspaper reporter interviewed a recruit who was bored with the "feasting and flirting" at Camp Cleveland.

Leisure activities included the playing of a game that was gaining popularity in the northern United States. According to Albert Spalding, "Base Ball had been born in the brain of an American soldier," Abner Doubleday, twenty-two years before the war. "No human mind may measure the blessing conferred by the game...on a soldier of the Civil War." The parade ground on University Heights was the precursor of the baseball diamonds at League Park, Municipal Stadium, and Jacob's Field.

Discipline at first was lacking, and some recruits left post without passes and drank at nearby taverns. After hearing complaints of drunken disorder, Colonel Senter asked tavern owners to stop serving recruits, and the Sons of Temperance applauded the commander's request. But camp life was more than a frolic in the late summer of 1862. At first without rifles, the daily routine included drilling in squads, companies, and battalions. Armed with old muskets, soldiers on guard duty were responsible for securing movement on and off the post.

When Governor David Tod came to inspect Camp Cleveland in late August, the number of recruits totaled over three thousand. Until transferred to the Federal Government, the regiments were controlled and mostly financed by the state. Mustering into Federal service took place when an officer from the regular army administered an oath of allegiance. Standing in formation with headgear removed, the men would raise their right hands: "I do solemnly swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America...that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and of the officers appointed over me...so help me God!" Although organized at Camp Taylor, the 105th O.V.I took the oath on the parade grounds of Camp Cleveland on August 20, 1862 and departed two days later by train to Kentucky.

The 103rd Regiment, however, was raised at the camp but still under state control in early September when it marched to Union Depot and headed for Cincinnati.

Some of the other units organized at Camp Taylor that spent time on University Heights included the 107th and 125th infantry regiments along with the 19th and 20th Batteries. Recruit replacements for the 7th and 41st infantry regiments also trained on the base. From December of 1862 to February of the next year, three Independent Companies of Sharpshooters (5th, 6th, and 7th) were organized at Camp Cleveland. Originally raised at Camp Chase in June of 1862, the 86th Infantry Regiment was reorganized at Camp Cleveland on July 17, 1863. Six companies were raised for guard duty in late 1863 and then transferred to the 128th Infantry Regiment at the prison on Johnson's Island. A year later, the 2nd Light Artillery Battery (National Guard) was raised for 177th O.V.I. was the last regiment organized and trained at Camp Cleveland.

Over looking the Cuyahoga Valley, a military hospital had been built opposite Camp Cleveland in 1862. (The site today is near the southeast corner of W. 5th and Jefferson.) The United States Army General Hospital often accommodated more patients, including Confederate prisoners, than it had beds. Although not experiencing the rioting of New York City, Cleveland was swept by threats from draft protesters in 1863. Since the hospital guard helped U.S. Marshals at the drafting booths, a mob threaten to raid and burn the hospital. Union patients were armed to defend against an attack that never materialized.

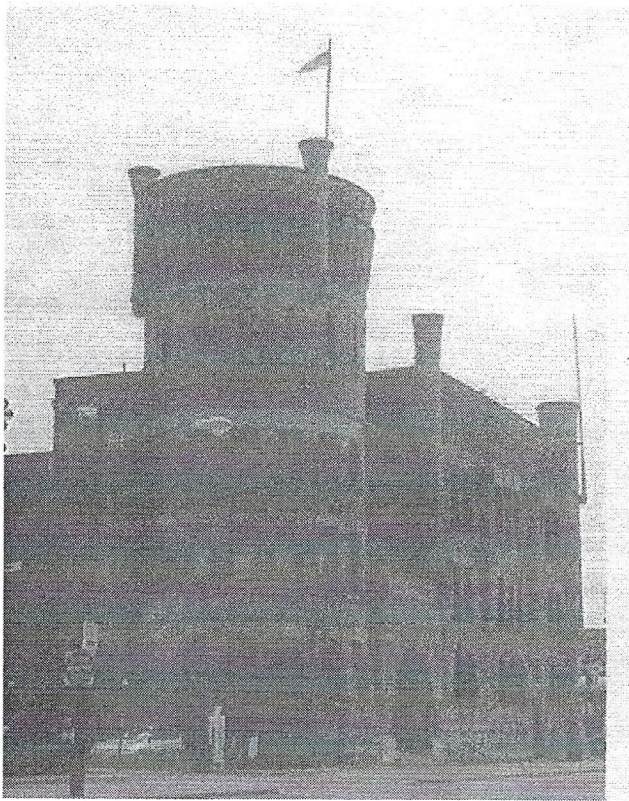
After suffering 271 dead from combat and disease, the 7th O.V.I. was mustered out at Camp Cleveland during the first week of July in 1864. Members of the regiment marched to Erie Street Cemetery across the street from where Jacob's Field now stands. They stood at attention as the remains of Colonels Creighton and Crane were taken from a vault and then escorted the cortege to Woodland Cemetery. On June 22, 1865, the 103rd Regiment, which had lost 240 men, marched one final time on the parade ground of Camp Cleveland where the men had first trained three years earlier. Veterans of the regiment began to hold reunions in 1867, and today, their descendants continue this tradition on a campground in Sheffield Lake, Ohio.

By the time Camp Cleveland closed in August of 1865, eleven thousand soldiers had been paid and discharged at the facility: eight infantry regiments (7th, 37th, 41st, 103rd, 107th, 124th, 150th, and 177th) along with the 19th and 20th batteries. No sign of Camp Cleveland or the Civil War remains today in Tremont except a small park that was named in honor of President Lincoln who had called for three-month volunteers on April 15, 1861 to put down the insurrection and preserve the Union. Over the next four years, nearly 10,000 men in Cuyahoga County (two-thirds of eligible males) served in the military and about 1,700 died and another 2,000 crippled.

Dale Thomas

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Survey - Spring 2003
By Mel Maurer then Secretary now Vice President

1. *How long have you been a member of the Roundtable?* Average 6 years as members ranging from 6 months to over 25 years.
 2. *What do you like most about your membership?* Fellowship (20), speakers/talks (15), learning experience (9), food (4) and field trips (3).
 3. *How many meetings did you attend this year?* Average 6 meetings — range from 2 meetings to all.
 4. *How many times did you bring a guest?* Average 1.5 times
 5. *What are your special interests in the Civil War?* Cavalry, generals (4), legal history, reconstruction. Lincoln (3), people, Grant, Custer, Stonewall (2), Sherman, Colored troops, battlefields, western theater, Cleveland Grays, East Tennessee, Strategies, policy, personalities (3), letters, Chamberlain, everything (5), 20th Maine, Naval warfare (2), political issues, woman, social issues, medical, cultural, Scott, Hancock, Thomas, west of Mississippi and economic issues.
 6. *Which speaker did you like the best this year?* Ed Bearss (13), Dick Crews (8), debate (5), Play (3) and “All” (5).
 7. *What topics/speakers would you like to hear talks on at future meetings?* Sherman’s March to the Sea, Lincoln, Western theater, Jackson, Sherman, Tennessee battles, Scott Hartwig, Eric Campbell, Carol; Reardon, Gordon Rhea, Antietam, logistics, Afro Americans, woman in Civil War, tracing particular units, politics, Naval war, foreign influences, foreign players, Museum directors, authors, Life in 1860, personalities (Lincoln, Grant, Lee), Major battle strategies, Naval topics, Lincoln, US and CSA congresses, committee on conduct of war, Medical/death issues, lead up to war, politics, influence of religion in war, causes of war, Lincoln, McPherson, Longstreet, Vicksburg, Shiloh, generals, medical, dogs in war, biographies, Naval blockades, and the Army of Northern Virginia.
 8. *What other activities would you like to see at future meetings?* Living history, more effort to raise money for preservation, North vs. South debate, more debates (4), Civil War dress (soldiers and civilians), music (4), field trips to reenactments, field trip to Ohio sites, and miniature war gaming.
 9. *How do you rate the Playhouse?* A±, excellent (15), very good (10), good (7), alright, adequate, fine, very fine, top notch, great, fair, “food terrible,” “Hermit club better,” drink prices too high.
 10. *Would you like to serve as a trustee or officer?* Yes = 15, No = 16 and one maybe. Those willing to serve are: Terry Koozer, John Moore, Eddie Myers, Anthony Kellon, Kirk Hinman (trustee), David McCrone, Jimmy Menkhaus, Wm. Vodrey, Joyce McGrath, Mel Maurer, John Fazio, Mary Lou Braman, Jim Castanaras, Howard Besser, and others willing to serve did not sign their forms.
 11. *How would you improve the Roundtable?* More academic speakers, “do something to raise money for preservation,” more member talks, better books for raffles, more democracy (4), easier test questions, better prices, panel discussions, more membership participation, more debates, committees, trip to Civil war site, shorter meetings, minutes, better attendance.
 12. *Will you be renewing your membership?* Yes = 44. No = 1.
 13. *Where would you like to go on a future field trip?* West Point, Johnson’s Island, Follow Morgan’s Raid in Ohio, Franklin/Nashville (5), Chattanooga, Shiloh, Murfreesboro, Atlanta, Gettysburg (3), Savannah (3) and Antietam.
 14. *If you’ve gone on a field trip in last three years – (12 replies to one or more of these questions)*
Where did you go? All (4), Richmond (6), DC (3), Charleston (4), Winchester (4), Antietam (3), Gettysburg (2) and Manassas.
- How would you rate the trips, sites?* Excellent (5), very good, great (3) enjoyed, good, “never disappointed,” wonderful.
- How would you rate the cost, accommodations, guides?* Well done, very good (5), good and bad, great (3), all **reasonable, excellent and outstanding.**



WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 8, 2003

Cleveland Grays