

THE CHARGER

February 2014

503rd Meeting

Vol. 35, #6

Tonight's Program:

The U.S. Navy and the Naval Battles for Charleston 1863

One week after the bombardment of Fort Sumter, President Abraham Lincoln tasked the U. S. Navy to blockade the Confederacy. In short order, the Navy undertook that blockade. While not airtight, that blockade was effective in disrupting the Confederate economy during the war. When seeking additional funds to build monitor warships, the Secretary of the Navy pledged to capture the blockaded Confederate ports. Charleston was the second Confederate seaport targeted, but this endeavor failed, revealing the limitations of monitors and a conflict of naval capabilities between the civil leadership of the U. S. Navy and Admiral Samuel Du Pont in particular.



Tonight's Debaters:

Syd Overall

Syd Overall has been a member of CCWRT for seven years and hosted two discussion groups in 2013. He is repeating his presentation given to the Cuyahoga Valley Civil War Roundtable in May 2013.

Date: **Wednesday, January 8, 2014**

Place: **Judson Manor
1890 E. 107th Street
Cleveland, Ohio**

Time: **Drinks 6 pm
Dinner 6:45 pm**

Reservations: **Please send an email to ccwrt1956@yahoo.com with your reservation, or call Dan Zeiser at (440) 449-9311 by 9 pm the Sunday before the meeting.**

Meal: **Entree, vegetable, salad, and dessert.**

**CLEVELAND
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
FOUNDED 1957**

President: **Jim Heflich** (216) 381-8833
Vice President: **Patrick Bray** (216) 407-7878
Treasurer: **Chris Fortunato** learnedhand@live.com
Secretary: **Jean Rhodes** (440) 739-0579

Directors:

Paul Burkholder Mike Wells
C. Ellen Connally Howard Besser

Historian - Dave Carrino

website: www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com

email: pkburkholder@gmail.com

Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser

email: danzeiser@aol.com

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Past Presidents

2013 **Mike Wells**
2012 **Paul Burkholder**
2011 **Lisa Kempfer**
2010 **Dennis Keating**
2009 **Jon Thompson**
2008 **Terry Koozer**
2007 **John Fazio**
2006 **Dave Carrino**
2005 **Mel Maurer**
2004 **Warren McClelland**
2003 **Maynard Bauer**
2002 **Bill McGrath**
2001 **William Vodrey**
2000 **Bob Boyda**
1999 **Dick Crews**
1998 **John Moore**
1997 **Dan Zeiser**
1996 **John Sutula**
1995 **Norton London**
1994 **Robert Battisti**
1993 **Kevin Callahan**
1992 **Bob Baucher**
1991 **Joe Tirpak**
1990 **Ken Callahan Jr.**
1989 **Neil Glaser**
1988 **Martin Graham**
1987 **George Vourlojianis**
1986 **Tim Beatty**
1985 **Brian Kowell**

1984 **Neil Evans**
1983 **William Victory**
1982 **John Harkness**
1981 **Thomas Geschke**
1980 **Charles Spiegle**
1979 **William Bates**
1978 **Richard McCrae**
1977 **James Chapman**
1976 **Milton Holmes**
1975 **Thomas Gretter**
1974 **Nolan Heidelbaugh**
1973 **Arthur Jordan**
1972 **Bernard Drews**
1971 **Kenneth Callahan**
1970 **Frank Schuhle**
1969 **Donald Heckaman**
1968 **Frank Moran**
1967 **William Schlesinger**
1966 **Donald Hamill**
1965 **Lester Swift**
1964 **Guy DiCarlo Jr.**
1963 **Paul Guenther**
1962 **Edward Downer**
1961 **Charles Clarke**
1960 **Howard Preston**
1959 **John Cullen Jr.**
1958 **George Farr Jr.**
1957 **Kenneth Grant**

President's Message

[Editor's note: There is no President's Message this month. For those of you who could not attend last month's Annual Dick Crews Debate, you missed perhaps the best one ever. (Not counting, of course, those in which I have participated.) Each of the debater's gave well reasoned arguments for his or her particular battle and answered some difficult questions. Vicksburg split the Confederacy and deprived it of Texas, Arkansas, and much of Louisiana. Atlanta allowed Lincoln to be re-elected. Antietam led to the Emancipation Proclamation. Chattanooga left Tennessee out of the Confederacy, led to the Atlanta Campaign, and helped re-elect Lincoln. Spotsylvania was the beginning of the end of the Army of Northern Virginia. All worthy candidates, all well debated. In the end, Steve Pettyjohn and Vicksburg were the winners. The real winners, though, were the attendees, who enjoyed an evening of fun and intellectual entertainment.]

Respectfully,

Jim Heflich

laureldoc@gmail.com

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

2013-2014 SCHEDULE

September 11, 2013



*A Species of Legal Fiction:
The Wheeling Conventions and the Creation of West Virginia*

Dr. David T. Javersak

January 8, 2014

The Dick Crews Annual Debate
What Was the Most Important Battle of the Civil War?

Moderator: William F. B. Vodrey

February 12, 2014

The U.S. Navy and the Naval Battles of Charleston 1863

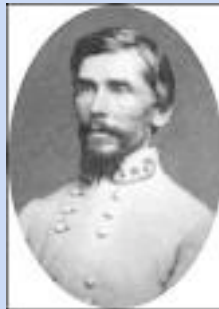
Syd Overall



October 9, 2013

***Slaves to Contradictions:
Patrick Cleburne's Emancipation Proposal***

Wilson R. Huhn



March 12, 2014

The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain

Dan Vermilya



November 13, 2013

***Zouaves:
America's Forgotten Soldiers***
Patrick Schroeder



April 9, 2014

Materials and Processes in the Manufacture of Civil War Small Arms

John Harkness



December 11, 2013

"It was a terribly grand scene..."
The Slaughter Pen and Prospect Hill at Fredericksburg

Kristopher White



May 14, 2014

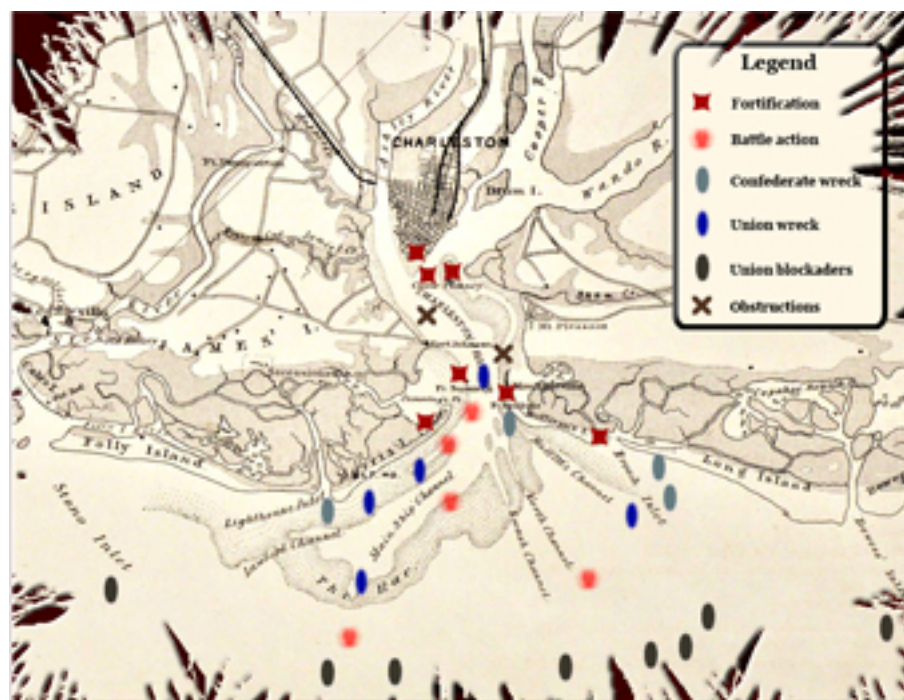
***Soldiers and the Homefront:
A Northern Community Confronts the Civil War***

Nicole Etcheson



CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA AND ITS DEFENSES DURING THE CIVIL WAR





Charleston Harbor

■ Confederate fort or battery

1. Position of New Ironclads, near Charleston torpedo
2. Wreck of Rodak
3. Battery Wagner
4. Battery Gregg
5. Battery Bee
6. Battery Mason
7. Battery Rutledge
8. Fort Moultrie
9. Battery Beauregard
10. Battery Ramsey
11. Charleston Pinckney



Photo # NE 1429 "Panoramic View of Charleston Harbor - Advance of Ironclads to the Attack, April 7th 1863"



Photo # NE 1429 "Panoramic View of Charleston Harbor - Advance of Ironclads to the Attack, April 7th 1863"



The Battles for Charleston

The First Battle of Charleston Harbor was an engagement near [Charleston, South Carolina](#) that took place April 7, 1863, during the [American Civil War](#). The striking force was a fleet of nine ironclad warships of the [Union Navy](#), including seven monitors that were improved versions of the original [USS Monitor](#). A [Union Army](#) contingent associated with the attack took no active part in the battle. The ships, under command of Rear Admiral [Samuel Francis Du Pont](#), attacked the Confederate defenses near the entrance to Charleston Harbor. Navy Department officials in Washington hoped for a stunning success that would validate a new form of warfare, with armored warships mounting heavy guns reducing traditional forts.

Du Pont had been given seven of the [Passaic class monitors](#), the powerful [New Ironsides](#), and the experimental ironclad [Keokuk](#). Other naval operations were sidetracked as their resources were diverted to the attack on Charleston. After a long period of preparation, conditions of tide and visibility allowed the attack to proceed. The slow monitors got into position rather late in the afternoon, and when the tide turned, Du Pont had to suspend the operation. Firing had occupied less than two hours, and the ships had been unable to penetrate even the first line of harbor defense. The fleet retired with one in a sinking condition and most of the others damaged. One sailor in the fleet was killed and twenty-one were wounded, while five Confederate soldiers were killed and eight wounded. After consulting with his captains, Du Pont concluded that his fleet had little chance to succeed. He therefore declined to renew the battle the next morning.

For more information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Army
<http://northagainsouth.com/the-first-battle-of-charleston-harbor/>

The Second Battle of Charleston Harbor, also known as the Siege of Charleston Harbor, Siege of Fort Wagner, or Battle of Morris Island, took place during the [American Civil War](#) in the late summer of 1863 between a combined [Union Army/Navy](#) force and the [Confederate](#) defenses of [Charleston, South Carolina](#).

For more information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Battle_of_Charleston_Harbor
http://blueandgraytrail.com/event/Siege_of_Charleston
<http://www.battleatcharleston.com/civil-war-map.htm>
<http://www.civilwar-online.com/2013/04/april-7-1863-first-battle-of-charleston.html>

The Confederate Navy

The links below provide information on the Confederate Navy.

Ships of the Confederate Navy: <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-us-cs/csa-sh/csa-name.htm>

The Confederate Navy: <http://www.csnavy.org>

The Confederate Navy: <http://www.confederatenavy.com>

The Confederate Navy: Too Little, Too Late. Presented to the Cincinnati CWRT, February, 1959:
http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org/data/ccwrt_history/talks_text/krausser_csa_navy.html

The Navies of the Civil War:
<http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/warfare-and-logistics/warfare/navy.html>

A History of the Confederate Navy, Texas Christian University:
<http://personal.tcu.edu/swoodworth/Luraghi-HOTCN.htm>

Uniform and Dress of the Navy of the Confederate States:
http://www.history.navy.mil/library/online/uniform_confed.htm.

Confederate Uniforms for Officers, NCOs, and Enlisted Men:
http://www.ushist.com/american_civil-war_uniforms_confederate_cs_f.shtml

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies, Cornell University Library:
<http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/ofre.html>

The National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus: <http://www.portcolumbus.org>

The Confederate Ironclad Navy:
<http://www.usni.org/magazines/navalhistory/2014-01/confederate-ironclad-navy>



NEXT MONTH

THE BATTLE OF KENNESAW MOUNTAIN

DAN VERMILYA

