

January, 2007

438th Meeting

Vol. 28 #5

*Tonight's Program:*

## THE GREAT DEBATE

Resolved: "That the institution of Slavery was the cause of the Civil War."

The Dick Crews Annual Debate will follow a more collegiate format than in years past. Our four debaters may not use audiovisual aids, but may provide hand-outs. William Vodrey will again moderate the debate.

Each team will have the opportunity for opening statements, rebuttals, and closing statements. After asking questions of the debaters, the Roundtable membership will vote on the winning team, the members of which will receive amazing prizes. Let the debate begin!



*Tonight's Debaters:*

The tradition continues, though slightly different. This month's meeting will pit two teams of two members against each other in another stirring round of THE GREAT DEBATE. And the contestants are:

In favor of the resolution:

**Howard Besser and  
Terry Koozer**

Against the resolution:

**Brian Kowell and  
Norty London**

*Date:* **Wednesday,  
January 10, 2007**

*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:* **Mexican Style  
Chicken or Eggplant Involtini**

# CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

*President:*       **John Fazio**           (330) 867-1535  
*Vice President:* **Terry Koozer**       (216) 226-7527  
*Secretary:*       **Marilyn DeBaltzo** (440) 461-6804  
*Treasurer:*       **Jon Thompson**     (440) 871-6439  
*Historian:*       **Dale Thomas**       (440) 779-6454

### Directors:

Mel Maurer                      Dave Carrino  
Rick Maurer                     Marge Wilson  
Dennis Keating                 Phil DiBianca

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Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser

## Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Past Presidents

2006 Dave Carrino	1981 Thomas Geschke
2005 Mel Maurer	1980 Charles Spiegle
2004 Warren McClelland	1979 William Bates
2003 Maynard Bauer	1978 Richard McCrae
2002 Bill McGrath	1977 James Chapman
2001 William Vodrey	1976 Milton Holmes
2000 Bob Boyda	1975 Thomas Gretter
1999 Dick Crews	1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh
1998 John Moore	1973 Arthur Jordan
1997 Dan Zeiser	1972 Bernard Drews
1996 John Sutula	1971 Kenneth Callahan
1995 Norton London	1970 Frank Schuhle
1994 Robert Battisti	1969 Donald Heckaman
1993 Kevin Callahan	1968 Frank Moran
1992 Bob Baucher	1967 William Schlesinger
1991 Joe Tirpak	1966 Donald Hamill
1990 Ken Callahan Jr.	1965 Lester Swift
1989 Neil Glaser	1964 Guy DiCarlo, Jr.
1988 Martin Graham	1963 Paul Guenther
1987 George Vourlojianis	1962 Edward Downer
1986 Tim Beatty	1961 Charles Clarke
1985 Brian Kowell	1960 Howard Preston
1984 Neil Evans	1959 John Cullen, Jr.
1983 William Victory	1958 George Farr, Jr.
1982 John Harkness	1957 Kenneth Grant

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### JANUARY, 2007

This year the debate will be conducted in an inter-collegiate format, i.e., two persons on each side of the resolution: That the Institution of Slavery Was the Cause of the Civil War. Some will think this question hardly worth debating. Respectfully, I disagree. The cause or causes of the war have perplexed scholars and students since the guns have been silent. Many theories have been advanced and each has its passionate devotees. The most often defended are:

1. The economic theory, i.e., the war of the two capitalisms;
  2. The social theory, i.e., southern whites could not abide living side by side with blacks on terms of equality;
  3. The political theory, i.e., the failure of the two-party system in the South and Southern refusal to accept the results of a national election;
  4. The cultural theory, i.e., the regions had grown so far apart culturally that they could no longer exist as one nation;
  5. The states' rights theory, i.e., the relative power of the states and the Federal Government;
  6. The secession theory, i.e., the right of states to leave a compact once joined;
- and, of course, combinations of some or all of the above.

The answers have relevance to our time because, though African-Americans have made enormous strides since Emancipation, particularly since 1954, much remains to be done to, for, and by them to achieve the praiseworthy goal of equality of opportunity and equality before the law, and also because the regions - North and South - are still not fully reconciled. Witness the use of pejoratives like "Yankee," "redneck," "cracker," etc., the uproar that occurred when a statue of Lincoln and one of his sons was erected in Richmond, the recent desecration of Union monuments at Gettysburg, and the hatred expressed by residents of both regions in the literature and on the Internet. The struggle continues, but by different means.

John C. Fazio

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE  
2006/2007 SCHEDULE**

September 13, 2006

**The 13th Tennessee (Union),  
The Men Who Killed  
The Invader of Ohio,  
John Hunt Morgan**

**Dick Crews**

October 11, 2006

**Images**

**Karen Thyer portrays Mother Bick-  
erdyke (1817-1901), Botanical Physi-  
cian, "Cyclone in Calico," and Don Al-  
len portrays a U.S. Sanitary Commis-  
sion Inspector, singing songs of the Un-  
ion and Confederacy**

November 8, 2006

**Cleveland CWRT  
50th Anniversary Celebration**



**Lincoln at Gettysburg**

**Mel Maurer**

December 13, 2006

**The Confederacy's New  
Mexico Campaign  
The Battles of Valverde and  
Glorieta Pass**

**Dan Zeiser**

January 10, 2007

**The Annual Dick Crews  
Debate**

*Resolved: That the Institution of  
slavery was the cause of the Civil  
War*

**Moderator: William F. B. Vodrey**

February 14, 2007

**Ohio's Civil War Governors**



**William F. B.  
Vodrey**



March 14, 2007

**Custer's Last  
Stand**

**Harold A. George**



April 11, 2007

**The Lincoln-Baldwin  
Conference**

**James Epperson**

May 9, 2007

**The Civil War Letters  
of Private Alfred Wee-  
don, 26th Ohio Volun-  
teer Infantry - A  
Hands-on Lesson in  
History**  
**Jon Thompson**



## WEAPONS OF THE CIVIL WAR REVOLVERS

The Adams revolver had the unique distinction of being a British patent arm that was also manufactured in the United States. In England, Adams revolvers were produced by the London Armoury Company. In the United States, they were manufactured by the Massachusetts Arms Company. Prior to the war, about 600 Adams revolvers were purchased on a trial basis by the U. S. Army, but the arm was not adopted. Numerous other Adams revolvers were brought into this country by commercial firearms dealers. These pistols were privately purchased and were carried by a few officers and enlisted men in both the Union and Confederate armies. The Adams was a double-action, five shot percussion revolver of very high quality.



Adams Revolver

Specifications:

Length: 11.5" Weight: 2 lbs., 9 oz.  
Caliber: .36

Colt revolvers in calibers .44 and .36 were the most famous and widely used handguns to see service during the Civil War. These arms had gained reputations as effective and reliable weapons well before 1861. The prominence of Colt revolvers in the years prior to the war meant that many could be found in private homes. Most of those in southern hands were carried to war by Confederate volunteers. Those in northern homes often went into service as the personal sidearms of Union officers.

Federal government purchases of Colt "Army" and "Navy" revolvers amounted to 38% of the total revolvers acquired for war use. Most of these went to arm Union cavalrymen. All Colt "Army" and "Navy" pistols used during the war were six shot, single-action, percussion revolvers. Colts were present on every field of battle from 1861-1865. They were prized and well liked by all whose lives depended upon them.



Model 1860 Colt Army Revolver

Specifications:

Length: 14" Weight: 2 lbs., 11 oz.  
Caliber: .44

Confederate copies of pre-war Colt revolvers are among the most interesting and rarest Civil War pistols. There were no less than seven different arms makers who produced these much needed sidearms for the South. Like the Confederacy itself, none of the southern companies producing copies lasted more than a few years. The combined output of these companies was less than 7,000. Most of these were look alike copies of the .44 caliber Colt "Dragoon" that had been produced in the 1850s. A few were a close duplication of the .36 caliber 1851 Colt "Navy." Like their northern counterparts, all were



Model 1851 Colt Navy Revolver

Specifications:

Length: 13"  
Weight: 2 lbs., 10 oz.  
Caliber: .36

six shot, single-action, percussion revolvers. The very existence of these weapons spoke well for the popularity of Colt revolvers in the pre-war South. It also spoke well for the determination of the Confederate government to provide her sons with the best available arms.

All Confederate Colts were reliable, well made arms. None, however, achieved the fine quality and finish of the original product produced by the well established Colt factory in Hartford, Connecticut. The most widely produced Confederate Colts were the work of the firm of Griswold and Gunnison, located in Griswoldville, Georgia. These revolvers had a distinctive brass frame mounted with a steel cylinder and barrel.



Griswold & Gunnison Colt  
Specifications:  
Length: 13.25" Caliber: .36

The Kerr revolver was one of the most interesting imported arms to see Civil War service. Kerr revolvers were manufactured by the London Armoury Company. Most, if not all, Kerr revolvers imported during the war years were purchased by the Confederate government, as shown in Confederate ammunition requisitions. The Kerr could be fired either double or single-action. It was a five shot, percussion revolver. There were without a doubt more Kerr revolvers carried by Confederate cavalymen than all Confederate made handguns combined. It was a well made, serviceable arm equal in quality to any revolver used in the war.



Kerr Revolver  
Specifications: Length: 10.8"  
Weight: about 2.5 lbs. Caliber: .44



Lefauchaux Revolver  
Specifications: Length: 11.5"  
Weight: 2 lbs., 6 oz. Caliber: 12 mm (.44)

The French Lefauchaux revolver was one of the few foreign handguns imported by the U. S. government during the war. The substantial number purchased, nearly 12,000, rank it as one of the more significant handguns issued to Union troops. Most Lefauchauxs purchased by the North went to arm troops serving in the western theater. The purchase of the Lefauchaux was at the same time important and remarkable. The importance lies in it being the only non-percussion revolver purchased for issue by either government. Equally important was that his was the first handgun issued to the U. S. Army that used internally primed ammunition.

The Lefauchaux required a unique pinfire cartridge that was difficult to manufacture and was used only by this arm. Very few, if any, Lefauchauxs were purchased by the Confederacy. It is well known, however, that some were carried by southern officers. No less a person than General T. J. "Stonewall" Jackson had an elaborately engraved Lefauchaux presented to him by his men.

Remington revolvers in .44 and .36 caliber were second only to Colts in the number that saw service during the Civil War. Remingtons accounted for nearly 35% of the revolvers purchased by the federal government. Although the Remington Arms Company had been well established prior to the war, they



had produced mostly long arms. For this reason, the number of Remingtons suitable for military use in private hands prior to 1861 was limited. With this in mind, it is clear why Remingtons were primarily a Union sidearm in the early war years. After 1863, Remingtons were also carried by many Southerners, “donated” by Union cavalymen whose luck had run out. Remington revolvers were six shot, single-action, percussion arms. Because they lacked the pre-war reputation of Colts, they were never as popular. Those Civil War soldiers who used them, though, found them a serviceable and reliable weapon.



Remington Model 1861 Army Revolver  
 Specifications: Length 13.75  
 Weight: 2 lbs., 14 oz.      Caliber: .44



Savage Navy Revolver  
 Specifications: Length 14.25”  
 Weight: 3 lbs., 7 oz.      Caliber: .36

The Savage “Navy” revolver was one of the most distinctive looking revolvers to see service in the war. Its appearance was dominated by an unusually large trigger guard containing two triggers. One trigger terminated in a finger-sized ring. This was actually a lever that, when pulled, both rotated the cylinder and cocked the hammer.

About 12,000 Savage revolvers were purchased by the federal government during the war. The majority of these were issued to cavalry in the western theater. Many Savage revolvers were privately purchased and smuggled south. The arm was often seen in the hands of Confederate cavalry serving east of the Allegheny mountains. The Savage “Navy” was a single-action, six shot, percussion revolver. Because of its odd construction, the arm was not well balanced and was therefore difficult to aim. A few Savage revolvers were purchased by Union officers, but they were not a popular weapon.



Spiller and Burr Revolver  
 Specifications:  
 Length: 12”      Caliber: .36

The Spiller and Burr revolver has the distinction of being the only Confederate-made handgun that was produced in quantity, but was not a Colt copy. Manufacturing difficulties had caused the makers to abandon the Colt design. Instead, they produced a cast brass frame .36 caliber revolver with a steel barrel and cylinder that followed the pattern of the all steel U. S. made Whitney “Navy” revolver.

The Spiller and Burr was first manufactured in Atlanta, Georgia. In January of 1864, the firm was purchased by the Confederate government and the operation was moved to the Macon Armory in Macon,

Georgia. The production of Spiller and Burrs continued in Macon until November of 1864. Fearing capture of the valuable machinery by Union forces (Sherman’s march to the sea), the operation was moved to Columbia, South Carolina. The war ended, however, before production could resume. An estimated 1,400 Spiller and Burr revolvers were manufactured from June, 1862 to November, 1864.

The Starr "Army" revolvers were manufactured by Starr Arms Company of Yonkers, New York. They were the only American revolvers produced during the war that appeared in both single-action and double-action models. The majority of Starr revolvers manufactured during the war were purchased by the U. S. government for issue to Union cavalry. This amounted to over 12% of the total revolvers acquired for issue.



Starr 1863 Single Action .44 caliber Army, 1858 Double Action .36 caliber Navy, and 1858 Double Action .44 Army revolvers  
 Specifications:  
 Single-action: Length: 13.75" Weight: 3 lbs. Caliber: .44  
 Double-action: Length: 11.625" Weight: 2 lbs., 12 oz. Caliber: .44

The single and double-action models were six shot, percussion arms. It is interesting to note that while the double-action Starr was the most modern by today's standards, more of the single-action models were actually made. The single-action was both cheaper to produce and more suited to the tastes of the time.

Over 30,000 Whitney "Navy" caliber revolvers were manufactured during the Civil War. Almost half of these were purchased by the U. S. government. These revolvers were nearly all issued to Union volunteer cavalry, with only a few actually seeing service in the U. S. Navy. The Whitney "Navy" was manufactured by the Whitney Arms Company of New Haven, Connecticut. It was a six shot, single-action, percussion revolver. Some Whitney "Navy" revolvers were purchased by the State of New Jersey and many were privately purchased by Union officers. The Whitney was a well made and very serviceable sidearm.



Whitney "Navy" revolver  
 Specifications: Length: 13.125"  
 Weight: 2 lbs., 7 oz. Caliber: .36



Bullet Molds for various Civil War revolvers  
 From left to right:  
 Starr  
 Savage  
 Tranter  
 Massachusetts Arms  
 Manhattan  
 Allen & Wheelock  
 Colt

*“Beyond Bayonets” The Civil War in Northern Ohio*, David Van Tassel and John Vacha  
Kent State University Press 2006

“There is something beyond bayonets...the affections of home – the prayers and blessings of the family circle – the active assistance of the women and children left at home.” Maj. Gen James A Garfield. You may remember the 1998 Western Reserve Historical Society exhibit, “Civil War, for God, Union and Glory.” The program was curated by Cleveland historian, David Van Tassel, who expanded that research to create this book. Van Tassel died before finishing “Beyond Bayonets” and his family asked John Vacha, also a historian, to complete the work.

“Behind Bayonets” goes beyond the heart of Garfield’s quote and reports interesting details of events in wartime Ohio. He discusses Cleveland’s pre-war free black population and strong abolitionist politics, Lincoln’s February 1861 stop in Cleveland en route to the inauguration, personal reports of early enlistment and camp experiences, Rebecca Rouse’s incredibly active and successful Soldier’s Aid Society, the Squirrel Hunter’s March, and activities of Vallandigham, Rockefeller, the Hannas, and other prominent locals, plus a few pages about John W. Booth, who gave one of his last theater performances here in Cleveland in December 1863. Most of what you will read here is not included in other Civil War books.

Vacha brings us a fascinating read, liberally illustrated with more than 100 unusual photos from the Western Reserve Historical Society archives. Without doubt, “Beyond Bayonets” has much to add to the library of Ohio Civil War enthusiasts.

Available at Borders in Beachwood \$35.00.

Marjorie R Wilson

**NEXT MONTH**  
**OHIO’S CIVIL WAR GOVERNORS**

**WILLIAM F. B. VODREY**