

THE CHARGER

March 2011

475th Meeting

Vol. 32, #7

Tonight's Program:

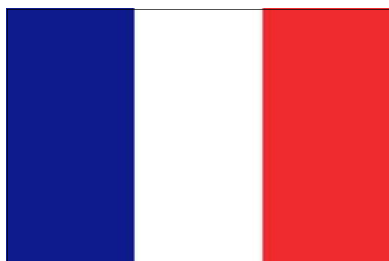
The Dick Crews Annual Debate

*Would foreign intervention have won the
war for the South?*

Moderator: William F. B. Vodrey



Flag of England



The Tricolor of
France



Flag of the Russian
Empire, 1858-1883



Flag of Spain,
Adopted 1785

Tonight's Debaters:

Tom Barnard Steve Wilson

Steve Pettyjohn Dennis Keating

What could be more fun than arguing about the Civil War? This year's topic is one about which we have heard little, if anything. Tom Barnard and Steve Wilson will argue that England, France, Russia, or Spain would have helped the Confederacy become independent. Steve Pettyjohn and Dennis Keating will counter that foreign nations would not have helped the South win the war. It should be a fabulous evening. Come and join in the fun.

**Date: Wednesday,
March 9, 2011**

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

**Time: Drinks 6 PM
Dinner 6:45 PM**

**Reservations: Please Call
Dan Zeiser (440) 449-9311
Or email ccwrt1956@yahoo.com
By 9 pm Sunday before meeting**

**Meal choice: Veal picatta,
whipped potatoes, green beans,
salad, and dessert.**

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

President: **Lisa Kempfer** (440) 526-1318
Vice President: **Paul Burkholder** (440) 918-0222
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Dennis Keating	Jon Thompson
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website: clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com

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Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH, 2011

History Happened Here on March 9th and 10th

Our Annual Dick Crews Debate will take place on March 9, 2011 where we will vote on the question, "Would foreign intervention have won the war for the South?" Arguing for the affirmative are Tom Barnard and Steve Wilson. Steve Pettyjohn and Dennis Keating will argue that foreign nations would not have helped the South win the war. I look forward to listening to the arguments for and against, and I hope you do, too!

The thought struck me as I was reading the March 9 entry in "The American Patriot's Almanac," written by William J. Bennett and John T.E. Cribb, how far our country has progressed. For instance, on March 9, 1847, U.S. forces landed near Vera Cruz and laid siege to the city during the Mexican War. On this day in 1945, U.S. bombers dropped incendiary bombs on Tokyo, engulfing much of the city in a firestorm. On March 9, 1964, the Ford Motor Company produced the first Mustang. March 10 is another important day in U.S. history. In 1785, Jefferson was appointed minister to France, succeeding Benjamin Franklin. Alexander Graham Bell called Watson for the first time in 1876, and in 2000, the Nasdaq Composite closed at 5046.62, an all-time high. Two events also happened on this day in 1862 and 1864 that forever changed naval history and the course of the Civil War. I will let our historian talk about these events at the March meeting.

It never ceases to amaze me that we went from horse-drawn wagons in 1862 to sports cars 102 years later. Protestors during the American Revolution communicated with broadsides printed on presses that had to be set one letter at a time - backwards. Today, the digital press instantly brings the masses together to protest, to shop and, occasionally, topple a dictator. America has taken its hits and is still an exceptional country of by people who came here for freedom and opportunity.

See you March 9! Bring a friend or a family member!

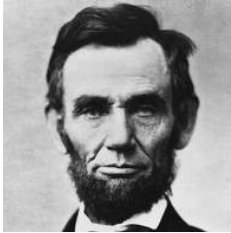
Respectfully,

Lisa

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
2010/2011 SCHEDULE**

September 8, 2010

***Abraham Lincoln's Effect on
Constitutional
Interpretation***

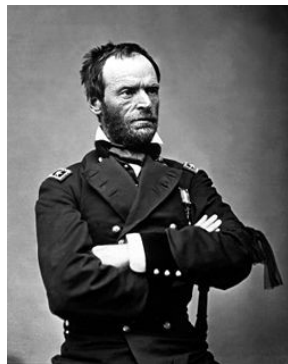


Wilson Huhn

October 13, 2010

***William Tecumseh
Sherman***

**Frank
Bullock**



November 10, 2010



Dr. Mary Walker

***Civil War Female
Spies***

December 8, 2010

***Letters From the Front:
General James A. and
Lucretia Garfield***

**Ed Haney and
Deborah Weinkamer**

February 9, 2011

***Lincoln's
Commando:
William Cushing***

William Vodrey



March 9, 2011

***Dick Crews Annual
Debate***

*Would foreign intervention have won
the war for the South?*

Moderator: William F. B. Vodrey

April 13, 2011

***The Fight for Money:
The Income Tax Laws
Of the Civil War***

Donald Korb

May 11, 2011

Ulysses Grant

John Marszalek



June 8, 2011

James Garfield Night

Garfield's battles in Eastern Kentucky
Scott Longert

*Letters From the Front: General James A.
and Lucretia Garfield*
Ed Haney and Deborah Weinkamer

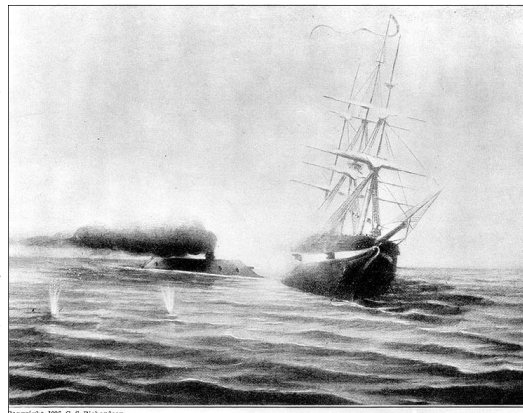
For membership in the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable, please visit our web site:
<http://clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com>

CSS Virginia vs USS Cumberland and USS Congress Civil War Naval Battle

At mid-day on 8 March 1862, CSS *Virginia* (formerly USS *Merrimack*, and persistently misidentified by that name or as "Merrimac") steamed down the Elizabeth River from Norfolk and entered Hampton Roads. It was the newly converted ironclad's trial trip, a short voyage that would deeply influence naval opinion at home and abroad. Anchored on the opposite side of Hampton Roads were five major Union warships: the frigate *Congress* and large sloop of war *Cumberland* off Newport News, and the frigates *St. Lawrence*, *Minnesota*, and *Roanoke* a few miles to the east, off Fortress Monroe. All were powerful conventional wooden men of war. *Minnesota* and *Roanoke*, of the same type as the pre-war *Merrimack*, had auxiliary steam propulsion, but the other three were propelled by sails alone, and thus were at the mercy of wind conditions and the availability of tugs. As *Virginia* crossed the Roads, looking (as one witness described her) "like the roof of a very big barn belching forth smoke as from a chimney on fire," the Union ships called their crews to quarters and prepared for action. Turning west, the Confederate ironclad shrugged off steady fire from ships and shore batteries as she steamed past the *Congress*. Firing her heavy cannon into both ships, she pushed her ram into *Cumberland*'s starboard side. The stricken ship began to sink, though her gun crews kept up a heavy fire as she went down. In the words of one of *Cumberland*'s enemies, "No ship was ever fought more gallantly."

Virginia backed clear, tearing off most of her iron ram, and slowly turned toward the *Congress*, which had gone aground while trying to get underway. Confederate gunners put several raking shells into the frigate's hull, and maintained a relentless fire as they came alongside. After an hour's battle, in which *Congress*' crew suffered heavy casualties, she raised the white flag of surrender. As the Confederates began to take off her crew, several men on both sides were hit by gunfire from ashore, among them the *Virginia*'s Commanding Officer, Captain Franklin Buchanan, who ordered *Congress* set afire with hot shot. She blazed into the night, exploding as the fire reached her powder magazines about two hours after midnight.

Virginia had meanwhile made a brief demonstration in the direction of the big steam frigate *Minnesota*, which had also gone aground. However, with the day's light about to fade, the ironclad turned back toward the southern side of Hampton Roads and anchored. Though two of her guns had their muzzles shot off and most external fittings were swept away or rendered useless, she had dramatically demonstrated the horrible vulnerability of unarmored wooden warships when confronted with a hostile ironclad, and was still battleworthy. Her casualties, less than two dozen, were removed and command passed from the injured Buchanan to Lieutenant Catesby R. Jones, who would take *Virginia* out the next day to deal with the *Minnesota*.



Virginia rams *Cumberland*

Taken from americancivilwar.com



John Hunt Morgan

John Hunt Morgan was born on June 1, 1825, in Huntsville, Alabama. His parents were wealthy slaveholders. In 1830, the family moved to Lexington, Kentucky. Morgan attended Transylvania University in Lexington for two years before he was expelled for dueling. He fought in the U.S. Mexican War and reached the rank of first lieutenant in a cavalry regiment. Following the war, he returned to civilian life.

With the beginning of the American Civil War, Morgan enlisted in the Confederate army. He began his new career as a captain of Kentucky volunteers. He first served under General Simon Buckner and led the Lexington Rifles into battle. Morgan quickly proved to be an able cavalry leader and served under General Braxton Bragg's command during late 1862 and early 1863. Bragg sent Morgan and his command on raids against the Union army's supply depots and transportation lines. Morgan's men destroyed millions of dollars worth of supplies throughout Kentucky and Tennessee. At Hartsville, Tennessee, in December 1862, Morgan succeeded in capturing an entire garrison of Union soldiers. The Confederate government promoted Morgan to brigadier-general after this victory.

Morgan's most famous wartime exploit was his raid into Indiana and Ohio during July 1863. On July 8, 1863, Morgan led approximately two thousand soldiers across the Ohio River into southern Indiana. Morgan's superiors had dispatched the cavalry leader into northern Kentucky to cause disorder among the Union forces in the area. Morgan exceeded these orders by crossing north of the Ohio River, but he did create turmoil for the United States army.

Crossing into Indiana, Morgan's Raiders spread false rumors that the Confederates intended to attack Indianapolis, Indiana. Rather than doing this, the men spent five days in southern Indiana, procuring supplies and horses from Northern civilians. On July 13, as the Indiana militia descended upon Morgan's men, the Confederates entered Ohio, near the Hamilton-Butler County line. Morgan led his men to the outskirts of Cincinnati, where he spent the night of July 13-14, within sight of the Union Army's Camp Dennison. The next day, Morgan divided his men. He sent a small group through Warren, Clinton, Fayette, Ross, and Jackson Counties, while the main force traveled through Clermont, Brown, Highland, Pike, and Jackson Counties. The larger group crossed the Scioto River at Piketon and proceeded to Jackson, where it reunited with the smaller detachment. The reunited Confederates proceeded east through Jackson, Gallia, Vinton, and Meigs Counties, in an effort to reach the Ohio River.

On the night of July 12, Ohio Governor David Tod issued a proclamation, calling out the Ohio militia to protect the southern counties from Morgan's Raiders. Many militiamen did not hear of the proclamation in a timely manner. The Confederates faced little opposition until July 18, when they encountered a small earthwork, defended by Ohio militiamen. Severely outnumbered, the militiamen retreated under the cover of darkness. However, their presence had allowed Union cavalry, under Brigadier-General E.H. Hobson, to catch up to the Confederates. Union General Ambrose Burnside also had sent Northern soldiers and gunboats to patrol the Ohio River. Morgan's men attempted to cross the Ohio River at a ford near Buffington Island. The Confederates succeeded in getting a small number of men across the river before Union gunboats and soldiers under Hobson and General H.M. Judah arrived.

A battle ensued at Buffington Island. The Northern force numbered approximately three

thousand men, while Morgan's Raiders included 1,700 soldiers. Some uncertainty exists about the battle. Morgan hoped to lead his men across the Ohio River, and Union soldiers and gunboats intercepted him. Morgan did not file a battle report, and the Union officers involved left out many details in their final reports. Estimates for the number of wounded or killed Southerners range from fifty-two to 120 men. Union soldiers captured an additional eight hundred to 1,200 men. Among the captured men was Morgan's brother-in-law. Northern soldiers lost twenty-five men in the battle, including Daniel McCook of the Fighting McCooks and patriarch of the Tribe of Dan.



Map of Morgan's route

Morgan's remaining men managed to break through the Union lines and continued in a northerly direction along the Ohio River, hoping to find a place to cross. Twenty miles from Buffington Island, Morgan's Raiders found an unprotected crossing. Several hundred of the Confederates succeeded in crossing the river before Union gunboats arrived. Morgan and his remaining soldiers retreated westward through Meigs and Gallia Counties and then moved in a more northeasterly direction through Vinton, Hocking, Athens, Perry, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Carroll, and Columbiana Counties. At Salineville, in Columbiana County, Union Cavalry under the command of Major W.B. Way and Major G.W. Rue surrounded Morgan's Raiders and succeeded in capturing Morgan and most of his command. Morgan's capture marked the end of his raid of the North.

The Northern soldiers took Morgan and most of his captured men to Columbus. The enlisted men were confined in the Camp Chase Confederate prison camp. Morgan and several of his officers were held at the Ohio Penitentiary. Morgan arrived there on October 1. He and several of his men immediately made plans to escape. They tunneled out of a cell into an airshaft on November 13, 1863. They remained in their cells until November 27, when Morgan and six of his soldiers used the airshaft to reach the prison yard. They then fashioned a rope from their prison uniforms and scaled the wall. Utilizing some of the one thousand dollars that his sister had smuggled into the prison inside a Bible, Morgan purchased a train ticket to Cincinnati. He then made his escape across the Ohio River into Kentucky.

Morgan's Raid netted few positive results for the Southern military. It did provide some hope to Confederate civilians that their military could still succeed following the Northern victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg in early July 1863. It also caused fear among Indiana and Ohio residents and cost several of these people some personal property that the raiders had seized. Almost 4,400 Ohioans filed claims for compensation with the federal government for items that they lost to the Confederates during the raid. The claims amounted to 678,915 dollars, with the government authorizing compensation in the amount of 576,225 dollars. While the Confederates succeeded in instilling fear in the civilian population, the raid inspired many of these people to fight even harder to defeat the Confederacy. In addition, the Confederate

military lost an entire division of veteran cavalrymen. Morgan also failed to destroy any railroad tracks, bridges, or supply depots. The raid caused no significant harm to the transportation and communication infrastructure of the North. The raid had as many negative effects as positive ones for the Confederacy.

After his escape, Morgan returned to the Confederate army. He led cavalry forces in Tennessee and Kentucky. On September 4, 1864, Northern soldiers surrounded a farmhouse near Greenville, Tennessee, where Morgan was staying. The Confederate general attempted to escape from the house, but was shot by the Union soldiers. Morgan died from his wounds.

General John Hunt Morgan is buried in Lexington, Kentucky.

References and Suggested Reading

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- Roseboom, Eugene H. *The Civil War Era: 1850-1873.* Columbus: Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society, 1944.
- Senour, Faunt Le Roy. *Morgan and His Captors.* Cincinnati, Ohio: C.F. Vent, 1864.
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Taken from ohiohistorycentral.org



Hopemont, the Hunt-Morgan house built in 1814 in Lexington, Kentucky



John Hunt Morgan Memorial in downtown Lexington, KY

Editor's Note: In response to my brilliant article on Grant in last month's *Charger*, Dick Crews sent me the following email.

I liked your article on the two Grants, one in the west and one in the east. However, you did not mention Grant's most brilliant performance in the east, the surrender at Appomattox. Grant's army of 100,000 had been sitting in trenches for 8 months. He got it organized and on the move in two days. This was an outstanding feat since he did not know Lee's army was leaving or where he was going. Lee had a two day head start, but Grant caught him in a week and forced Lee to surrender at Appomattox. Grant's use of Sheridan's cavalry to get in front of the retreating Confederates was brilliant. In addition, U.S. Grant captured Lee's army while taking very few casualties.

I must make three observations in reply.

First, Dave Carrino must have been pained to read it. Dave is perhaps the Roundtable's most ardent fan of Lee and takes every jab at Lee to heart. He will argue till the cows come home that Lee was the better general and would have licked Grant had the odds been more in Lee's favor. However, Dick is right. This was quite an accomplishment and I was remiss in not mentioning it. Second, as I am certain Dave thought while he read the email, Lee's army was but a shell of its former self. It is one of those great "what ifs" of the war to wonder how Lee's army in its prime would have responded in those circumstances. Had Lee's army been in its prime, though, the siege at Petersburg might not have occurred. Finally, as mentioned above, Dick is correct. Dick is often correct, but I hate to admit it because it only encourages him. We have had some wonderful debates and I sorely miss them, particularly the one at Harper's Ferry. You see, our guide had told us that a Union (I believe) cannoneer had shot at a line of Confederate soldiers and killed a Confederate officer on horseback. Our guide implied that the cannoneer had hit what he aimed at. Dick was adamant that the cannoneer could not have hit the officer from the distance involved. I argued that the cannoneer had indeed hit what he aimed at - a Confederate soldier. After all, he had several thousand to aim at and hit one. But I doubted it was that particular soldier at which he aimed. I am still not sure who won that debate.

Dan Zeiser

NEXT MONTH THE FIGHT FOR MONEY: THE INCOME TAX LAWS OF THE CIVIL WAR

DONALD KORB

Lakeview Cemetery has added a new historical walk!
Visiting Lakeview's Civil War Veterans

Our own Marge Wilson is a docent at Lakeview and will be conducting the walk.

Marge is holding a dress rehearsal Saturday, April 9 at 1:00 p.m.

CWRT members are welcome to attend. If you plan to attend, please let Marge know via email at mrw8107@roadrunner.com