

# THE CHARGER



## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

MAY 2018

VOL. 39 # 8

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### **Message From the President**

Now that the calendar has turned to May, I write all friends and members of our Roundtable for the final time as your president. My time in office has been most rewarding, and I encourage all members to consider stepping forward to serve in leadership of our organization. It has been great fun selecting speakers to present talks, and making the necessary arrangement for our annual field trip. Although a measure of thought and creativity is required, there are plenty of members and past presidents available to provide whatever help is needed. In particular, Vice President Dan Ursu has been very helpful in serving as my sounding board and a voice of reason when it became necessary for me to make executive decisions. Ellen Connally and Steve Pettyjohn have done a great job in fulfilling their roles as valued officers, who I have been able count on without exception. As my quiz master, Paul Siedel has worked hard to keep our meetings entertaining with interesting challenges. Paul Burkholder continues to do a wonderful job maintaining our website, which has done much to keep our organization relevant in the digital world. Mike Wells and Dennis Keating work hard to keep *The Charger* interesting and in publication. Dan Zeiser has been very helpful in keeping the Roundtable informed and proving sage advise when requested. Bob Boyda continues to serve a valuable role in managing our system of meeting reservations. And Dave Carrino has been so helpful in ensuring that our meetings run smoothly by attending to details that I never knew even existed until I began my presidential year. I know I have failed to mention by name several other members who also do the little things to make each meeting so special. Suffice it to say that they do their jobs so well that I have had no need to worry about such things. The Roundtable is comprised of such able members that I conclude my presidential year knowing that we are in great hands as we look toward the future.

It has been my pleasure serving you as President of the Roundtable. It has been one of the greatest achievements of my life. I believe we have accomplished much in my years as an officer to bring the Roundtable into the digital age and to maintain its relevance in this changing world.

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As the final speaker of our dynamic lineup this year, the Roundtable presents David Dixon, who will tell us the fascinating tale of the Lost Gettysburg Address. Focusing on Charles Anderson, the lieutenant governor-elect of Ohio, Mr. Dixon will relate how this obscure figure ended up presenting a speech at Gettysburg, profound in context to President Lincoln's greatest address, which became lost to history, only to be found again in modern times. Please join us for this entertaining talk, and final meeting of this exciting year!

Hans Kuenzi

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### **America, Love it or Leave it by David A. Carrino**

This history brief was presented at the April 2018 meeting of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. The following longer version of the history brief contains some additional information that was not included in the version that was presented at the meeting.

America, love it or leave it. People who lived during the 1960s are familiar with this expression, because it became popular during the Vietnam War as a way of declaring unwavering, even unquestioning support for the United States in the face of strong anti-war protests. But this expression can, in a sense, also be applied to those who joined the secessionist movement that culminated in the Civil War. The secessionists of the mid-19th Century were dissatisfied with America, and they chose to leave it, but in a way that involved taking some of the country's territory with them. The secessionists no longer loved America, and their goal was to leave America by forming a separate country from land that was part of the United States. With the defeat of the secessionists, their attempt to separate from the U.S. ended in failure, and shortly thereafter some former Confederates decided that their hatred of America was still so intense that they would leave America in the more typical sense, that is, by departing from the United States without taking any U.S. territory with them. Of all the former Confederates who chose this course, the most successful ones were those who followed the example of William Hutchinson Norris.

Norris was born on September 25, 1800 in Georgia, but he later lived in Alabama, where he served in the 1830s and 1840s as a member of the state legislature, both as a member of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Norris also served in the Mexican-American War. In late 1866 Norris, who had become embittered with the reunified United States, left the state of Alabama and emigrated to the state of São Paulo in Brazil. Norris purchased several hundred acres of land located 80 miles northwest of the city of São Paulo, and a short time later his family joined him in Brazil. The settlement that was begun by the disgruntled former Confederate grew into a thriving community, due to the fact that other former citizens of the Confederate States of America followed Norris to the place that he chose as his post-Civil War residence. Estimates of the number of former Confederates who migrated to the area range from a few thousand to 20,000. Eventually the community that Norris established came to be known as Americana, and its residents were called Confederado.

Americana was not the only destination for former Confederates, but it was the most successful. Former Confederates migrated to other countries in addition to Brazil, such as Mexico, and to other locations in Brazil, including along the Amazon River. But for the most part, none of these settlements met with success. Moreover, a large



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Number of former Confederates who left the post-war U.S., including some who settled in Americana, became so disenchanted with their new places of residence that they returned to the U.S. However, Americana not only survived, but thrived, and it became the only settlement that persisted as a separate community of former Confederates. As such, William Norris and those who followed him to Americana chose their post-war home well. One factor that may have led them to Brazil was the fact that slavery still existed in Brazil after the Civil War, and it was not until over 20 years later that slavery was abolished in Brazil. A major factor that drew former Confederates to Brazil was the incentives that Brazil's leader, Emperor Dom Pedro II, put in place to attract Americans to his country. Dom Pedro actively sought migration of former Confederates to Brazil, because he felt that they would bring superior agricultural techniques and better crops, including cotton, which the Brazilian emperor hoped to use to make his country a major supplier for textile mills in England. To induce former Confederates to move to Brazil, ads were placed in newspapers across the South, agents were sent to the states of the former Confederacy to recruit people to move to Brazil, the cost of travel to Brazil was subsidized by the Brazilian government, and land was sold at an inexpensive price to the new immigrants from the southern U.S. There were some in Brazil who were wary of attracting a large number of American settlers, because they recalled what had happened to Mexico after Americans were allowed to settle in Texas and California. But perhaps Brazil's greater distance from the U.S. allayed those fears, and as it turned out Dom Pedro received much of what he had hoped for. Although cotton did not do well in Brazil, the former Confederates established some important crops, such as pecans, peaches, watermelons, and some better strains of rice, and also introduced some technological advances, such as better plows and improved methods for managing draft animals.

The village of Americana remained quite insular for a few generations. One reason for this was the religious difference of the Protestant Confederates and the Catholic Brazilians. This resulted in the residents of Americana constructing their own cemetery, because burial of their deceased in Catholic cemeteries was not permitted. The Americana cemetery still exists, and in the middle of that cemetery is an obelisk monument containing plaques of the Confederate battle flag and the surnames of the original inhabitants of Americana. One grave in the Americana cemetery is that of a person named W.S. Wise, who is the great-uncle of Rosalynn Carter. In 1972 Rosalynn Carter visited Americana with her husband, Jimmy, who was governor of Georgia at the time. Visitors to Americana as recently as the 1970s wrote about residents speaking in English with a southern drawl. More recently the city of Americana, which has a population of over 220,000, has become almost fully integrated into Brazil. Where residents of Americana used to marry almost exclusively among themselves, many if not most current residents are of mixed ethnicity, and for the most part Americana has been assimilated almost entirely into Brazilian culture. In spite of this, there is one trace of the Confederacy that can still be found in Americana, and that is the annual Festa Confederada, a celebration of the Confederate origin of Americana in which the men dress in Confederate uniforms and the women dress in hoop skirts. Confederate battle flags are displayed throughout the festival, including on the large dance floor. The residents of Americana insist that there is nothing political associated with the Confederate battle flag, nor does it have any significance with regard to slavery or racism. According to the residents of Americana, the Confederate battle flag represents only the city's heritage of its founding by former Confederates, but the prominent displaying of the battle flag at the Festa Confederada would be problematic nowadays in the U.S.

Shelby Foote ends his three-volume narrative of the Civil War with a quote from Jefferson Davis. According to this anecdote, Jefferson Davis was being interviewed many years after the Civil War, and he was asked why he had led the movement that had as its goal the dissolution of the United States. Davis' reply was simply, "Tell the world that I only loved America." Although the expression "America, love it or leave it" did not come into vogue until more than three-quarters of a century after Davis' death, Jefferson Davis, by his own words, was on the love-it side of that expression. Perhaps this explains why Davis did not do like many of his former C.S.A. countrymen

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and leave the reunified U.S. to live elsewhere, although for the first two years after the Civil War, [Davis had some help in selecting his post-war residence, because](#) he received mandatory input from the U.S. government regarding any inclination he may have had to depart from the United States. In fact, visitors to Fort Monroe can see the petite lodgings where Davis spent part of the all-expenses-paid sojourn that he received courtesy of the U.S. government. In contrast to Jefferson Davis, there were many former Confederates who opted for the leave-it side of the love-it-or-leave-it expression, and these include William Hutchinson Norris and all those who followed him to Americana in Brazil. Fortunately for these former Confederates, they chose a South American location that they found desirable, unlike Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, who ended up in Bolivia, which reputedly was fatally unpleasant for them. The former Confederates who went to Americana decided to leave the country that they no longer loved, and they were able to establish a life for themselves and for their descendants in which they did not have to live under the rule of their Yankee conquerors. Although these former Confederates did not achieve the Confederacy's goal of leaving the U.S. by forming a separate country, they nevertheless were able to set up a community outside the U.S. that still exists today.

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### Handicapping the Civil War

By Mel Maurer

We often hear, and may be even say from time to time, how much more the North had, in terms of overall resources, than did the South at the beginning of the Civil War – but exactly how much advantage over the South did the north have?

An article in the magazine, published by The Monitor: “The Civil War from A to Z” lays out the North’s superiority in detail. The differences in the ability to produce what was needed to make war were staggering. The South led the North only in its production of cotton, 5.3 million bales to 43,000 bales but no one was ever killed with cotton balls.

Specifically, the North led in manufacturing facilities almost by a factor of 10 – 115,000 to 18,000 and in value of manufactured goods, \$1.7 billion to \$156 billion, Maybe the South thought it could out knit the North.

The North had bank deposits of \$207 million versus a mere \$47 million. Although not noted, The South probably led in gallons of Mint Julips – and they would need them. The South may have had more Surreys with the Fringe on Top but the North had far more railroad track mileage – 22,000 to 9,000 but the South could still “tote those barges” on the Ole Miss.

The South could produce 650,000 tons of coal while the North was producing 13.7 million tons – and burning cotton was just not the same as burning coal, as Sherman’s men could tell you. The North’s shipping tonnage was 4.6 million and the South’s, 290,000, much less after the blockades by the North.

And finally, what’s a war without firearms? The value of the North’s firearm production was \$2.3 million and the South’s only \$73,000. And of, course, the North’s supply of men to fight the war far outnumbered those in the South.

Given these staggering differences in favor of the North, it’s unlikely, any good handicapper would have bet against the North, even with consideration given to the military and political leadership experience of the South’s leader versus the North’s man in the Executive Mansion. And, it’s apparent that the leaders in the South led in arrogance in taking on the North. It’s not surprising the North won, but it is that it took so long to do so. It’s not enough to have the goods, you have to know how to use them and use them well.

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### A Visit to "Crawfish Springs" by Paul Siedel

Some time ago while visiting the Chattanooga area I ran upon a wonderful Civil War era home that played a huge part in the Battle of Chickamauga and the Civil War in northern Georgia. In 1842 James Gordon, a distant relation of John Brown Gordon, purchased 2,500 acres in what would become Walker Co. Georgia, on land formerly belonging to the Cherokee Nation. On his property he found a huge spring forming a waterway eventually emptying into Chickamauga Creek. Above the spring he built a log house and later on a milling operation known on battlefield maps as The Lee's and Gordon's Mill.



As the mill prospered he built the iconic Greek Revival mansion known today as "Crawfish Springs". For many years the house stood strong and solid being the center of Gordon's farming and milling business. That is until June 1863 when James died and the house passed to his wife Elizabeth. She resided in the home along with several servants and her daughter also called Elizabeth when the Civil War broke upon the Gordon property. As the Confederates abandoned the location Union troops moved in and several days before the Battle of Chickamauga General William S. Rosecrans established his field headquarters in the mansion. Elizabeth Gordon along with her family were moved into an outbuilding and from the home along with James A. Garfield, Rosecrans directed officers such as George Thomas, Alexander McCook and Gordon Granger during the battle of Chickamauga. It also served as the main field hospital for the right wing of the Union Army. During the restoration of the house many artifacts were uncovered between the walls and in the yard. These can be seen today when one visits the mansion.

The War was not kind to the Gordon estate. The house was heavily vandalized and the mill burned in 1865. The property eventually ended up in the hands of the Gordon's daughter Elizabeth and her husband James Lee and they operated the mill well into the 20th Century. One day during the hog killing season old Mr. Lee related to his grandchildren the horrors of life on the plantation during the War. "One day", he said "they started bringing those Yankees to the house here, all bleeding and shot up. Some of them were crying with pain, and I remember one cussing Ole Longstreet, whoever he was. Anyway, I guess I'm remembering all this because hog killing is pretty much the same ... bloody."

Another story related by Mr. Lee is one of a distraught woman from the Midwest who approached the house in the 1890s. Her son had died during the battle. and was buried in an unmarked grave. Finding no information at the battlefield she walked to Crawfish Springs. She heard that he had died of wounds received while languishing in a field hospital. She asked the folks on the porch of the house if they knew anything, they said they didn't but that she was welcome to look around the place. With the help of Mr. Lee's daughters they began looking around the home and outbuildings which had served as hospitals during the battle. All at once the family was startled by her screams coming from the old horse barn. They rushed to the building where they found her on her knees before a door on which had been scrawled the name of her son, his home address, and company.

Although the Lee's have long departed, the home today is in the hands of a local organization called Friends of the Gordon Lee Mansion who do a wonderful job of maintaining the property. It is open for weddings and celebrations.

Today the house and grounds are the center of the small village of Chickamauga, Ga. A very peaceful and quaint place. It at one time was operated as a bed and breakfast by Dr. Francis Green and his family. Here one can walk the grounds and sit by the springs. You can see the room where James Garfield slept and see the bloodstains on the hardwood floors. All in all there is not much to remind one of the terrible carnage the swept across the estate back in those turbulent days in 1863.

The house and grounds are just off I 75 about twelve miles south of Chattanooga, Tennessee and south of the Chickamauga Battlefield. For more information one can go to their website [FriendsOfTheLeeGordonMansion.org](http://FriendsOfTheLeeGordonMansion.org).

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### In Memoriam

Allan J. Peskin, Civil War historian, professor and best known for his definitive biography of President James A. Garfield, passed away January 19, 2018, at the age of 84.

A 1951 graduate of Cleveland Heights High School, Peskin earned a Bachelors, Masters of Arts and Ph.D. at the University of Chicago and Case Western Reserve University. He was a professor of history at Cleveland State University (originally Fenn College) from 1962 – 2000 and was a frequent speaker at the Cleveland Civil War Round Table and similar forums across the city and the nation.

In addition to his study of President Garfield, (*Garfield*: Kent State University Press – 1978) he edited a 1966 work entitled *North Into Freedom: The Autobiography of John Malvin, Free Negro, 1795 – 1880* published by Case Western Reserve University Press and republished in 1988. In 1991 he authored *Volunteers: The Mexican War Journals of Private Richard Coulter and Sergeant Thomas Barclay, Company E. Second Pennsylvania Infantry* (Kent State University Press) and in 2004 authored a biography of General Winfield Scott (*Winfield Scott and the Profession of Arms*: Kent State University Press).

A widely recognized scholar of the Civil War, Peskin wrote hundreds of book reviews of Civil War works and made numerous contributions to academic and historical journals relating to the Civil War and Reconstruction. His 1973 journal article on the disputed election of 1876, appearing in the *Journal of American History*, started a lengthy academic debate with historian C. Vann Woodward as to whether there was in fact a Compromise of 1877. His article is often cited by students of the subject and is widely recognized among students of Reconstruction for the cogency of its argument.

During the controversy following the disputed election of 2000, Peskin became a frequent commentator and news analyst on the legal and political battles waged as the controversy over the vote count made its way to the United States Supreme Court because of the many similarities between the elections of 1876 and 2000. Author Candice Millard consulted with him on her widely acclaimed 2012 on the death of President Garfield - *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President*.

As a professor at Cleveland State University, Peskin taught a variety of courses dealing with American history, the Civil War, the American Presidency and Reconstruction. His dedication and scholarship to the study of the Civil War and Reconstruction was passed on to generations of students and scholars and the thousands of people who read his works.

On a personal note, I was a student of Professor Peskin in the Master's Program at Cleveland State in the late 1990's. I found him to be an outstanding professor. After completing several classes with him and earning a Masters degree, he became an invaluable resource as I continued my studies in American history, serving as a second reader, editor and constructive critic. For several years, we engaged in a friendly email battle of Presidential trivia, a contest I won only once. His Cleveland Heights home contained a phenomenal collection of presidential memorabilia – the envy of any collector of Americana or the presidency. When he and his wife of 54 years, Barbara, moved to Judson Manor several years ago, he donated his collection to the Presidential Historical Instituted at Hiram College, where future generations of scholars will continue the legacy of Professor Peskin's love of American History, the Civil War and the American Presidency.

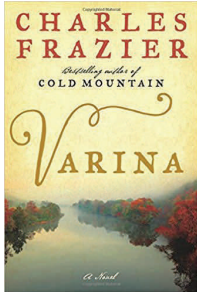
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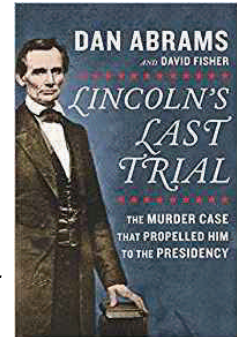
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### New Books:

Charles Frazier, author of *Cold Mountain*, has published- *Varina: A Novel* - about Varina Howell Davis, the wife of the Confederate president.



Dan Abrams, Chief Legal Affairs anchor for ABC News, has published: *Lincoln's Last Trial: The Murder Case that Propelled Him to the Presidency*. Abrams will speak about it at the Cuyahoga County Library's Visiting Authors series at the Parma-Snow Branch on Wednesday, June 27: <http://attend.cuyhocalibrary.org/event/628878>

Fireside Book Shop in Chagrin Falls

Phil Barress announces the sale of a 150-200 volume Civil War Library.

Most are recent titles.

Call Phil at 440-557-5214

### TAKE NOTE

WVIZ/PBS is beginning a "Civil War: The Untold Story" in May. It will air on most Thursday evenings at 10 PM starting on May 3. Battle coverage will include: Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Chickamauga.



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### JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

May 9, 2018

Program: The Lost Gettysburg Address

Speaker: David Dixon

Speaker: Drinks @ 6 pm, Dinner @ 6:40 Judson Manor

East 108th St & Chester

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