

# THE CHARGER

October 2010

471st Meeting

Vol. 32, #2

*Tonight's Program:*

## **An Evening with William Tecumseh Sherman and the Battle of Shiloh**

William Tecumseh Sherman is one of Ohio's famous sons who helped to win the Civil War. He was born on February 8, 1820 in Lancaster, Ohio and was called Cump by his siblings. At the age of nine, Cump's world turned upside-down due to the untimely death of his father. For financial reasons, his mother sent several of the children to live with friends and relatives. Cump was sent to live with the Ewing family whom he knew quite well, but life would never be the same. Having been a foster child herself, Mrs. Ewing was very sensitive to his needs and the trauma surrounding his family at this time. Cump adjusted to the Ewing family and, although he saw his mother frequently, he remained conscience of his awkward situation.

Tall for his age but very thin and wiry, at thirteen years old he got his first job working on the lateral canal being dug through Lancaster. Another summer he spent with his foster brother, Phil Ewing, on the farm of a Ewing relative outside of town. Although farm work was hard, he learned how and why things grow and looked at land differently for the rest of his life.

Thomas Ewing had become a powerful United States Senator and had a West Point Academy appointment at his disposal. He felt Cump would do well at West Point and had the makings of a soldier. Also, understanding the value of an education, he told Cump to bone up on math, Latin, and foreign languages to prepare himself for schooling at the academy. Of Cump's youth, Ewing wrote, "I never knew so young a lad who would do an errand so correctly and promptly as he did. He was transparently honest, faithful and reliable, studious and correct in habits."

Even as a youngster, Cump appreciated all the things the Ewings had done for him, but it was imperative that he prove to himself, Thomas Ewing, and the world that he could succeed on his own. Even though he had two families, neither was in a position to satisfy all of his needs. At the age of sixteen, Cump left home carrying many unmet needs and insecurities with him to the Military Academy at West Point. This was his first step toward independence! Taken from the website of the Sherman House.

*Tonight's Speaker:*

## **Frank Bullock**

Frank Bullock is a lifelong central Ohioan. A graduate of Rio Grande University, he obtained his master's degree from Xavier University. He has been a student of the Civil War since 1989 and a volunteer at the Sherman House in Lancaster since 2000. Mr. Bullock has been portraying General Sherman since 2003.

Mr. Bullock has also been involved in the drive to save the three inch Parrott Rifle cannon that Sherman donated to the Ben Butterfield Post of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1882.

**Date: Wednesday,  
October 13, 2010**

**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: Turkey breast,  
whipped sweet potatoes, corn  
pudding, 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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**Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser**

## Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Past Presidents

2010 Dennis Keating  
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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

### OCTOBER 2010

Greetings,

One of the reasons why the Civil War fascinates me is because it is the demarcation between Colonial and Modern America. Technology—the Industrial Revolution—was the difference. Its output changed the way we lived and fought wars. It still does. The Industrial Revolution was happening at the same time in Western Europe. Why did it flourish here? Freedom and opportunity. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. In America you have the opportunity to succeed, fail, and try again. Our list of successful failures is long, and includes Grant, Sherman, and Lincoln, who understood the uniqueness of our nation and fought to preserve it.

At Shiloh, the classic American traits of using technology to get the job done and overcoming personal failure were played out. In March of 1862, Maj. General Halleck sent Generals Grant and Buell south to sever Confederate rail lines. Grant used steamboats, rail, and the telegraph to position the Army of Tennessee on a plateau west of the Tennessee River. His forward camps were posted two miles inland around a log church called Shiloh Meeting House.

On the battlefield, Sherman led the Army's 5th Division, his first command after his infamous "breakdown." People called him crazy. On April 5, Sherman and other commanders ignored intelligence that Confederates were coming. The next day, the Confederates overpowered the Union forces. Sherman led an organized retreat that enabled him to come back the next day and win the battle and a promotion. Vicksburg was next.

By the end of the war, technology—ironclads, submarines, Gatling guns, repeating rifles, and even civil engineering—had inaugurated modern warfare. Just think, 38 years after the Civil War ended, on December 17, 1903, the first successful plane flight took place at Kitty Hawk. Technology is a game changer.

We are fortunate to have General Sherman, as portrayed by Frank Bullock, share his recollections of the Battle of Shiloh at our October 13 meeting. Mr. Bulloch is involved with raising funds to restore the "Sherman" or "Shiloh" cannon given to Lancaster's Civil War veterans in 1882 by General Sherman. To learn more about this project, visit [www.savethecannon.com](http://www.savethecannon.com).

Let freedom ring!

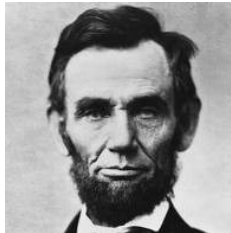
Respectfully,

Lisa Kempfer

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

September 8, 2010

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

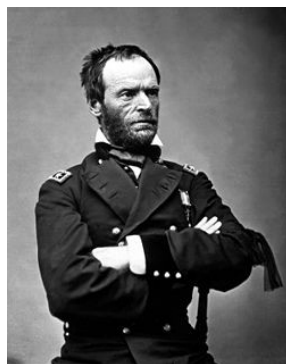


**Wilson Huhn**

October 13, 2010

***William Tecumseh  
Sherman***

**Frank  
Bullock**



November 10, 2010



Dr. Mary Walker

***Civil War Female  
Spies***

December 8, 2010

***General James A. and  
Lucretia Garfield  
Reading their Civil War  
Letters***

January 12, 2011

**The Dick Crews Annual  
Debate**

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

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

February 9, 2011

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

**William Vodrey**



March 9, 2011



***Garfield's battles in  
Eastern Kentucky***

**Scott Longren**

April 13, 2011

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

**Donald Korb**

May 11, 2011



***Ulysses Grant***

**John Marszalek**

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

## THE ESSENTIAL LINCOLN BOOKSHELF

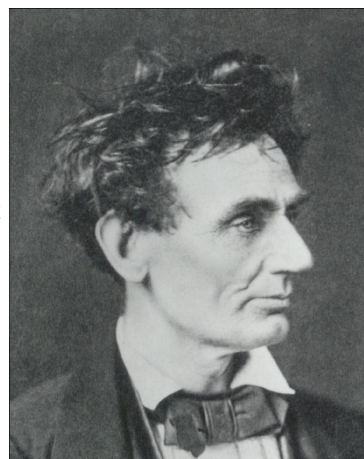
By Mel Maurer and William Vodrey

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"Fools!" we hear you cry. "With at least 16,000 books on Abraham Lincoln written over the years, how could anyone hope to boil them all down to a mere handful?" A fair question, but throwing caution to the winds, here is our idiosyncratic list of favorites. Disagree? Have at it:

### ***Lincoln* by David Herbert Donald (Simon & Schuster 1996)**

Probably the best recent, detailed, one-volume biography of Lincoln. When busy people ask us what single book to read on Lincoln, this is the book we always recommend. In less-skilled hands, this would be a three-volume work, but in Donald's, it is just one – giving us virtually everything we need to know about the 16<sup>th</sup> President in readable, highly engaging prose.



### ***Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin (Simon & Schuster 2005)**

Doris is not the Lincoln scholar that Donald is, as she would readily admit, but she has done an excellent job of essentially combining, in one very readable book, five biographies woven together in the Lincoln Cabinet. It is a very good overview of Lincoln in the White House, as he manages both the talents and the egos of his disputatious Cabinet secretaries, some of whom thought - at least at first - that they would make a better President than their boss.

### ***Lincoln: Speeches and Writings 1832-1858* ed. by Don E. Fehrenbacher (Library of America 1989)**

Here is Lincoln in his own words, from his earliest days in public life to his failed 1858 campaign against Stephen Douglas for the U.S. Senate. It is not enough just to read about Lincoln, you also have to read Lincoln himself – a master thinker and wordsmith. To get the full effect, many of his pieces really need to be read aloud.

### ***Lincoln: An Illustrated Biography* by Philip B. Kunhardt Jr. et al. (Knopf 1997)**

Lincoln's life and times, along with a great collection of pictures. We would also include a second book by the same writing team, *Looking for Lincoln*. They offer valuable perspectives on Lincoln and his times in very readable segments, along with some striking images. These look like coffeetable books but are much more.

### ***Reelecting Lincoln* by Joseph Waugh (Crown 1997)**

A fascinating book about the topsy-turvy 1864 campaign, which pitted Lincoln





against his former top general, George McClellan, to whom the President thought he would almost certainly lose. Waugh is an excellent writer on the tangled, hardball politics of that time.

***Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln* by Douglas L. Wilson (Knopf 1998)**

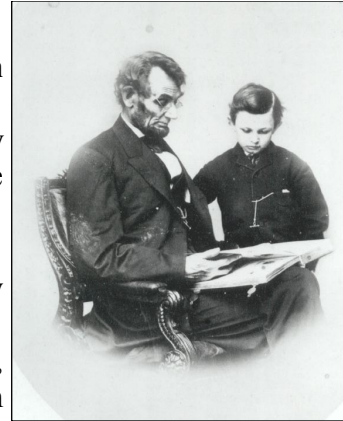
This very well-researched book focuses on the years 1831-42 as Lincoln develops from a store clerk into a skilled politician, overcoming many problems along the way. These were the years that made him the man he was.

***Lincoln at Gettysburg* by Garry Wills (Simon & Schuster 1992)**

A Pulitzer Prize-winning analysis of the Gettysburg Address, taking it apart almost word by word and putting it back together again. Wills is a brilliant thinker and writer. He notes how Lincoln drew from classical Greek funeral oratory in redefining the Constitution, and goes on to rebut the most common misconceptions about the Address. Wills may overanalyze a bit, but overall, this is a fine and very insightful book.

***A Lincoln and Me* by Louise Borden, illustrated by Ted Lewin (Scholastic 1999)**

A great kids' book on the 16<sup>th</sup> President, as told in the present day by a boy who shares Lincoln's birthday and wants to learn more about him. An ideal introduction to Lincoln for younger readers.



***Abraham Lincoln* by James McPherson (Oxford University Press 2009)**

A very short, extremely concise overview of Lincoln's life which, although lacking virtually any humanizing detail, is still well worth a read. This book is a good way to get started on Lincoln. It makes you want to learn more about him, which is probably the highest praise that can be given to any brief biography.

***Lincoln and the Civil War in the Diaries and Letters of John Hay* by John Hay (Greenwood 1972)**

This is an "inside the White House" kind of book which gives us an up-close-and-personal look at Lincoln. This is one of the best; a great way to learn what Lincoln the man was really like.



***Lincoln, A Novel* by Gore Vidal (Random House 1984)**

Yes, a novel, but a very good one that was edited by David Herbert Donald, giving the reader added confidence in its historical accuracy. Vidal is good with politics and the language – this makes for a good read on a great man.

***Lincoln on Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Times* by Donald T. Phil-**

lips (Warner Books 19912)

This management guide may almost be called “Applied Lincoln.” Among other things, it is a good companion book to *Team of Rivals* as we see Lincoln’s unique skills in getting people to do what was needed. (Most of noted Lincoln portrayer Jim Getty’s appearances these days are for corporations with him, as Lincoln, speaking on leadership.)

***Blood on the Moon — The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln* by Edward Steers Jr. (The University Press of Kentucky 2001)**

No library on Lincoln is complete without a book on his tragic and momentous assassination. This very well researched and documented book has become the “go to” source on its subject since its publication.

There, we did it – stuck our necks out on the essential books on Father Abraham. These are our choices for your bookshelf, the table next to your reading chair, your book bag, or your nightstand. Who knows, maybe even ol’ A. Lincoln himself would have enjoyed these books, too?

Well, all right, probably not the Steers book....



Abraham Lincoln on his death bed



The last portrait of A. Lincoln

## **The Sherman House Museum**

Lancaster, Ohio

**PROUDLY PRESENTS  
A CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM**



**Gen. William T. Sherman & Gen. Joseph E. Johnston:**

**The Men, the Battles, & the Agreements**

**Guest Speakers will include:**

**John Marszalek & Craig Symonds**

**-----APRIL 16 & 17, 2011-----**

**For information or reservations contact us at:**

**fairfieldheritage@sbcglobal.net**

**or visit: [www.shermanhouse.org](http://www.shermanhouse.org)**





# The Battle of Wilson's Creek

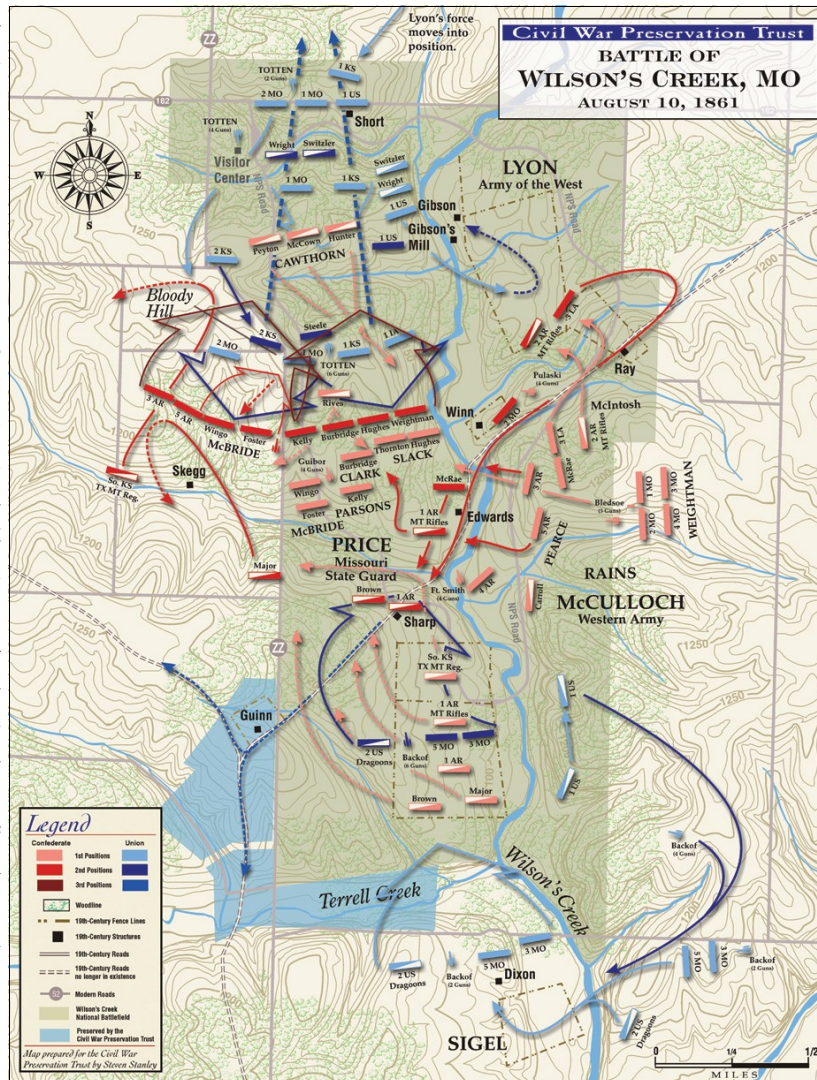
**Date:** August 10, 1861

**Principal Commanders:** Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon and Maj. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis (US); Maj. Gen. Sterling Price, Missouri State Guard, and Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch (CSA)

**Forces Engaged:** Army of the West (US); Missouri State Guard and McCulloch's Brigade (CSA)

**Estimated Casualties:** 2,330 total (US 1,235; CSA 1,095)

**Description:** Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon's Army of the West was camped at Springfield, Missouri, with Confederate troops under the command of Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch approaching. On August 9, both sides formulated plans to attack the other. About 5:00 a.m. on the 10th, Lyon, in two columns commanded by himself and Col. Franz Sigel, attacked the Confederates on Wilson's Creek about twelve miles south of Springfield. Rebel cavalry received the first blow and fell back away from Bloody Hill. Confederate forces soon rushed up and stabilized their positions. The Confederates attacked the Union forces three times that day, but failed to break through the Union line. Lyon was killed during the battle and Maj. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis replaced him. Meanwhile, the Confederates had routed Sigel's column south of Skegg's Branch. Following the third Confederate attack, which ended at 11:00 a.m., the Confederates withdrew. Sturgis realized, however, that his men were exhausted and his ammunition was low, so he ordered a retreat to Springfield. The Confederates were too disorganized and ill-equipped to pursue. This Confederate victory buoyed southern sympathizers in Missouri and served as a springboard for a bold thrust north that carried Price and his Missouri State Guard as far north as Lexington. In late October, a rump convention, convened by Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson, met in Neosho and passed an ordinance of secession. Wilson's Creek, the most significant 1861 battle in Missouri, gave the Confederates control of southwestern Missouri. The rest of the state would remain in Union hands, however. From [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).



### **October Civil War Events in Ohio**

October 5: Oberlin, "The Republican Party, the Civil War, and the West." 7:15 p.m.  
October 9: Mentor, Kids' Tour of James A. Garfield Home, 12:00 p.m.  
October 16: Mentor, "James A. Garfield and the Civil War" Tour, 11:00 a.m.  
Mentor, Kids' Tour of James A. Garfield Home, 12:00 p.m.  
October 21: Cincinnati, Cincinnati CWRT Lecture, "Colonel Frank Wolford, 1st Kentucky (US) Cavalry, 7:30 p.m.  
October 23: Mentor, Kids' Tour of James A. Garfield Home, 12:00 p.m.  
Fairview Park Regional Library, "Letters from the Front," 12:00 p.m.  
Lancaster, Save the Cannon Fundraising Dinner and Auction, 6:00 p.m.  
October 26: Mechanicsburg, "Picturing America" Program Series, 7:00 p.m.  
October 29: Lancaster, Cemetery Walk, reenactors portray citizens from the past.  
October 30: Wellston, Buckeye Furnace State Memorial Fall Festival, 10:00 a.m.  
Mentor, Kids' Tour of James A. Garfield Home, 12:00 p.m.  
Mentor, An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe at the Garfield NHS, 6:30 p.m.

### **NEXT MONTH**

### **CIVIL WAR FEMALE SPIES**

#### **General Franz Sigel**

Franz Sigel was born in Baden, Germany, on November 18, 1824. When Sigel arrived in the United States in 1852, he brought a reputation as a fighter and liberal. A graduate of Karlsruhe Military Academy, he retired from the German Army in 1847 and was minister of war for the unsuccessful Revolution of 1848 against Prussia. He fled Germany, eventually arriving in St. Louis, Missouri, where he taught school until 1861. In St. Louis, he became an influential leader in the area's large German population. As part of Abraham Lincoln's plan of courting anti-slavery, Unionist immigrants, Sigel was commissioned brigadier general on August 7, 1861.

He served under Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon in the capture of the secessionist Camp Jackson in St. Louis and at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. His finest performance came on March 8, 1862 at the Battle of Pea Ridge where, under Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis, he commanded two divisions and personally directed the Union artillery in the defeat of Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn's Confederates. Sigel was promoted to Maj. Gen. on March 22, 1862. After transferring east, he served in the Shenandoah Valley against Maj. Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and commanded the I Corps in Maj. Gen. John Pope's Army of Virginia at the Second Battle of Bull Run. He also briefly led the XI Corps. But his military usefulness ended when, as commander of the Department of West Virginia, he was defeated at the Battle of New Market on May 15, 1864. This battle is famous for the charge by the Virginia Military Institute cadets. Relieved of field command shortly thereafter, he resigned his commission on May 4, 1865 and re-entered civilian life. He died in New York City on August 11, 1902. Sigel was an odd combination of ineptitude and ability. His military performance, aside from Pea Ridge, was little better than mediocre. But he definitely helped the Union cause by rallying German-Americans to the flag and he held their loyalty to the end.

Taken from [www.usgennet.org/usa/mo/county/stlouis/sigel](http://www.usgennet.org/usa/mo/county/stlouis/sigel)