

September, 2005

425th Meeting

Vol. 27 #1

Tonight's

Program: **They Had Navies, Too???**

For those with a deep interest in the Civil War, the battles evoke images of vast armies clashing in places with rustic names where the troops fought at sites known thereafter by the grisly labels that can only be conceived by those who have experienced combat. Remarkable feats of rapid marching over great distances, gallantry and sacrifice, and tactical brilliance or ineptitude can be found almost everywhere the armies of North and South came together. But the Civil War did not end where the land did. While much attention continues to be focused on the places where Union and Confederate armies battled, there is another equally intriguing aspect of the Civil War, and this took place on water. Just as innovations in land warfare made the Civil War a kind never before experienced, innovations in naval warfare brought novelty to this aspect of the Civil War. Clashes between impervious ironclad vessels, large scale naval transport of soldiers or even amphibious assaults, the stealth of underwater vessels, and other advances in naval warfare contributed to making the Civil War a conflict unlike any that had preceded it. It should also be remembered that the last Confederate entity to fly the Southern flag in opposition to the United States was a warship, the CSS *Shenandoah*, a member of whose crew can claim the distinction of firing the final shot of the Civil War. Perhaps in our rapture with the grand armies and historic generals of the Civil War, we pay too little homage to the Civil War on water. However, our speaker for September will fill the gaps in our knowledge about this part of the Civil War and prevent us from ever again remarking in surprise, "They Had Navies, Too???"

Bruce Smith

Our speaker for September is Bruce Smith, Executive Director of the National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Georgia. The Museum has recently added a valuable collection of Civil War navy flags. Included in the collection are flags from two of the most famous Confederate Navy ironclad ships: the CSS *Atlanta* and the CSS *Tennessee*, captured by Admiral David G. Farragut's fleet following his famous "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" exclamation at Mobile Bay in Alabama. Plans now call for a September 17, 2005 exhibit opening.

Date: **Wednesday,
September 14, 2005**

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: **Texas Roast Sirloin
or Vegetarian Dinner**

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

President: **Dave Carrino** (440) 843-9088
Vice President: **John Fazio** (330) 867-1535
Secretary: **Marilyn DeBaltzo** (440) 461-6804
Treasurer: **Lynn Loritts** (216) 491-9853
Historian: **Dale Thomas** (440) 779-6454

Directors:

Mel Maurer
Warren McClelland
Hans Kuenzi

Lisa Kempfer
Eddie Myers
Jon Thompson

website: clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com

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Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Past Presidents

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 Vourlojanis	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
1981 Thomas Geschke	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER, 2005

Hdqrs. ClvInd. Civil War Rtbl.

When the nominating committee of the Roundtable asked me about accepting the nomination for Vice President, with the inherent commitment to serve the following session as President, I instantly knew how Ambrose Burnside felt when the messenger from Lincoln informed Burnside that he had been chosen as the next commander of the Army of the Potomac. According to accounts I have read, Burnside's preference was to decline, because he believed that he was not qualified for the position, and this was also my first inclination. However, I did not know at that time how much help would be offered by members of the Roundtable, and I am extremely grateful to everyone who has provided assistance in the preparations for the 2005-2006 session. If Burnside had received as much help, he would have triumphed at Fredericksburg.

I have attempted to have topics not often addressed or even unconventional out of a desire and hope for fresh perspectives, and I thank everyone for your suggestions. However, all of those suggested but not scheduled will be forwarded to John Fazio, Vice President. I thank John for agreeing to serve as VP and look forward to the schedule he organizes for 2006-2007. Thanks, also, to the other officers and directors for agreeing to serve, especially our historian, Dale Thomas. Check out our website to see the many improvements he has made. It is a valuable resource.

Lastly, I both commend and reprove last session's President, Mel Maurer. I commend Mel for the superb job he did, while, at the same time, I regret that Mel set such a high standard as President that I cannot hope to approach his lofty performance. With this in mind, my primary goal in the 2005-2006 session is to live up to the standards set by those Presidents who have held the office during my five years as a member of the Roundtable. If I accomplish only this, then the 2005-2006 session will be a successful one.

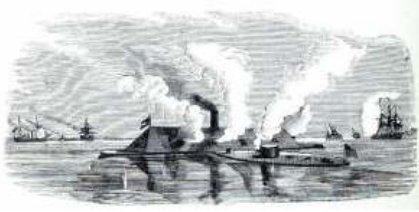
Very respy. your obt. srvt.

D.A. Carrino

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
2004/2005 SCHEDULE**

September 14, 2005

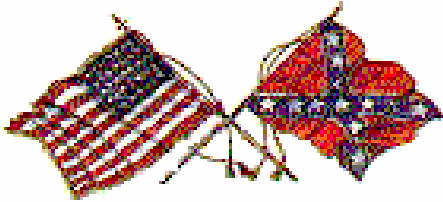
**T h e y
H a d
N a v i e s,
T o o???**



Bruce Smith

October 12, 2005

How the Civil War Still Lives



James I. Robertson Jr.

November 9, 2005

**The Transformation of
Abolitionism in War and
Peace: Oberlin, Ohio as a Case
Study**

**Carol Lasser and Gary J.
Kornblith, Oberlin College**

December 14, 2005

**The Supply for Tomorrow
Must Not Fail: The Civil War of
Captain Simon J. Perkins Jr., a
Civil War Quartermaster**

**Lennette Taylor
Summit County Historical Society**

January 11, 20056

The Great Debate

*The Most Overrated Leader
(Military or Political) of the
Civil War*

Moderator: William Vodrey

February 8, 2006

**Joshua Lawrence
Chamberlain:
Scholar, Citizen,
Soldier
William F. B. Vodrey**



March 8, 2006

**The Trial of Henry
Wirz
A Play by
Dale Thomas**



April 12, 2006

**A New Framework for Civil
War Military History**

Richard McMurry

May 10, 2006

**Union Jacks:
Yankee Sailors
In the Civil
War**

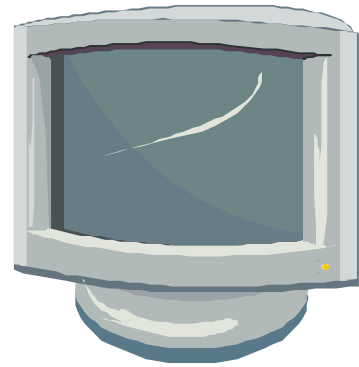


Michael Bennett

NEW CIVIL WAR DATABASE GOES ONLINE

by William F.B. Vodrey

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The National Park Service has announced that the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS) website is now up and running. It features basic information on the service records of 6.3 million Civil War soldiers, and may be found at www.civilwar.nps.gov. Due to the sometimes erratic and duplicative record-keeping of the day, as well as reenlistments, the number of entries is greater than the number of those who actually served. The website also lists Federal and Confederate regiments and their battles.

NPS project manager John Peterson told *The Civil War News* that the 11-year project would have cost millions more had it not been for the committed volunteer work of the Mormons, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and amateur genealogists across the country. The NPS soon hopes to work with the National Geographic Society to provide online maps for all major battles, with additional information and even “interpretive sound bites.”

I recently tried out the new website, and was impressed. I soon found two lineal ancestors who served in the Civil War, my great-great-grandfather, Col. William H. Vodrey of the 143rd Ohio, and his brother, Pvt. John W. Vodrey of the 46th Pennsylvania, Co. F. The website has citations to the Army’s official microfilmed records, as well as Union or Confederate designations, regiment and company, and often a notation of rank at both enlistment and at discharge. You may search by last name only, by first and last name, by state, or by unit. Alternate names are also provided in some cases, as are Medal of Honor citations.



I ran searches for some familiar names, and found no fewer than 12 Abraham Lincolns (11 Union, 1 Confederate), and 55 Jefferson Davises (44 Union, 11 Confederate) who served in the ranks. The 84th Iowa Volunteer Infantry had both an Abraham Lincoln *and* a William Sherman. In fact, there were 183 William Shermans serving at all ranks during the Civil War, 20 of whom were from Ohio. Thirteen men named Phil Sheridan also served. The sole Ulysses S. Grant is listed not as lieutenant general and general-in-chief of the armies

of the United States, but as colonel of the 21st Illinois (the future President’s first regimental command). There were 58 Confederate Robert Lees, but 84 Union ones. There were 616 George Thomases: 475 Union (only one of whom would win the nickname “The Rock of Chickamauga” and my and *The Charger* editor’s enduring admiration), and 141 Confederate. Three men named James Longstreet fought in the Civil War: two Union, and one (rather better known) Confederate. There were 309 Thomas Jacksons from the North and 162 from the South, but only one has gone down in history as “Stonewall.”

Just for fun, I also checked on some familiar Cleveland Roundtable names. There are records of 257 Maurers (but none named Mel); 551 Crewses (6 of whom were named Richard); 16 Zeisers (but no Dans), but alas, no Carrinos, Fazios or DeBaltzos. An impressive 886 McClellands served in the war (but none with the first name of Warren), of whom 620 wore blue and 266 wore gray or butternut. There were no Lorittses (Lynn or otherwise), but a whopping 13,792 Thomases, 8,383 U.S. and 5,589 C.S. (none of whom were named Dale). There were 918 Bauers, of whom 863 bore arms for the Union and 55 fought for the Confederacy (none named Maynard, though). There were two Novaks, both of whom fought for the Union, but neither was named David. There was one Kuenzi (a Union soldier, whose first name wasn't Hans), but no Terry Koozer (nine soldiers, all of whom wore blue, were named Koozer). There were 16 Kellons, but none named Anthony (or Tony). There were 2,559 men with the last name George. Of these, 1,554 fought for the Stars and Stripes, and 1,005 fought for the Stars and Bars. Fourteen were named George George - all wore blue, and one is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Civil War sailors' records aren't on the Park Service's website yet, but should be added in the next few years. There are also searchable rosters of those held in the Confederate prison at Andersonville, Ga., and the Union prison at Ft. McHenry, Md. You can also search the burial records of Poplar Grove National Cemetery at Petersburg, Va. The Park Service hopes to someday expand these features to include all Civil War-era prisons and cemeteries.

The next time you're exploring the Internet, be sure to drop by www.civilwar.nps.gov. It's well worth a look.

On August 11, 1880, General William Tecumseh Sherman gave a speech to more than 10,000 people, including over 5000 Civil War veterans at the Ohio State Fairgrounds (now Franklin Park) in Columbus, Ohio. Although the general did not utter the famous words during the speech, the media at the time referred to it as

“War is Hell”

To commemorate the 125th anniversary of the speech, numerous events will be held in Sherman's birthplace, **Lancaster, Ohio** and at **Franklin Park Conservatory**, Columbus, Ohio September 23 - September 25, 2005.

*Please join us to commemorate the anniversary of this historic event!
Go to www.lancaster-oh.com/Sherman to register for tickets, learn about the planned events, the Sherman House Museum, read the speech, or call the Fairfield Heritage Association at **740-654-9923** for more information.*

If you cannot attend, your tax deductible contribution for the preservation of history would be sincerely appreciated.

Fairfield Heritage Association
105 East Wheeling Street
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Battle of South Mountain September 14, 1862

South Mountain is not truly a mountain. Rather, it is a ridge composed mainly of resistant quartzite. However, it posed a formidable obstacle to the armies of Northern Virginia and the Potomac in 1862. The Battle of South Mountain (which was actually two separate battles), broke out on September 14 in the Fox's Gap and Turner's Gap areas of South Mountain after Confederate gunners opened fire on Federal forces moving toward the base of the mountain.

Confederate General Samuel Garland and Federal General Jesse Reno both received mortal wounds during the heavy fighting near Fox's Gap. Here too, future presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley participated in the battle. Hayes, a lieutenant colonel with the 23rd Ohio, was severely wounded. Left on the field until after the battle was over, he was then taken to a house in Middletown to recover. McKinley, a supply sergeant, did not actually take part in the combat; however, it is interesting to note that he was assassinated in office on September 14, 1901, thirty-nine (39) years to the day of the battle.

The fighting in these areas continued most of the day as charges and counter charges were made by both sides. By evening the ends of the Confederate line had been turned and were in danger of being flanked. Recognizing this, General Lee ordered his forces to withdraw during the night.

Further south at Crampton's Gap, General William B. Franklin's Union VI Corps moved into the area from its camp in nearby Jefferson. The fighting did not begin until around noon, as Franklin allowed four (4) crucial hours to pass while devising a battle plan against a thin Confederate line that he outnumbered by as much as ten (10) to one (1).

As the Federal assault began, the Confederate troops broke and retreated back up the mountain and through the gap. Just as these troops reached the gap, Confederate General Howell Cobb's brigade arrived, and in a heroic attempt to stem the flight, his thirteen hundred (1,300) men held their ground, bravely firing on the Federal charge. In a mere fifteen (15) minutes Cobb's legion was nearly decimated. When roll was called the following day only three hundred (300) men answered.

After Crampton's Gap had been cleared of Confederate forces, Franklin ordered his troops into camp for the night. Had his attack not been delayed earlier in the day, he might have continued his pursuit of the Confederates into the valley beyond, driving a wedge between the two parts of Lee's divided and disorganized army, thereby allowing McClellan the opportunity to attack each section separately. The result could have been an early end to the war, as McClellan's troops would likely have overwhelmed each half. However, the attack was not renewed and Harper's Ferry fell to the confederates on September 15.

Taken from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website. You can learn more at www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southmtbattle.html.

**FRIENDS AND DESCENDANTS
OF JOHNSON'S ISLAND
CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION**

DINNER AND FUNDRAISER
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 6:30 PM TO 10 PM

CRYSTAL ARBORS BANQUET HALL
2270 W. HAYES AVENUE
FREMONT, OHIO

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS
CONCERT BY THE 5TH MICHIGAN REGIMENTAL BAND 8 PM
RAFFLES BEFORE AND AFTER THE CONCERT

\$15 ADULTS \$8 CHILDREN

PRE-REGISTRATION IS RECOMMENDED
CALL 419-448-2280
EMAIL mpuffenb@heidelberg.edu

The Hayes Civil War Encampment and Reenactment

More than 700 costumed reenactors spend the weekend of
October 1 & 2, 2005
on the grounds of a presidential estate to help celebrate the
life of Civil War hero and 19th U.S. President Rutherford
B. Hayes.

The two-day
Hayes Civil War Encampment celebrates the Oct. 4,
1822, birth of our 19th President. It re-creates the career
Hayes loved the best - soldier.



Visit www.rbhayes.org/hayes/ for details of the weekend. While you are there, you can check out the exhibit Civil War POWs: Excavating Johnson's Island Prison, on display through October 2.

CALL FOR THESPIANS

The meeting on March 8, 2006 will be a presentation of a play written by Roundtable member Dale Thomas. The play is a dramatization of the trial of Henry Wirz, the Commandant of Andersonville Prison, and the script is based on the actual trial. At the conclusion of the presentation, those members in attendance at the March meeting will vote on the verdict. The cast of the play will consist of Roundtable members, who are interested in participating. If you are so interested, please contact Dale Thomas (e-mail: abell@adelphia.net; home phone: 440-779-6454). Thespians with the insidious motives of the actor pictured need not apply.

Note that we are not casting the role of executioner (at least not at this time, but that is subject to change depending on who fills the role of Henry Wirz).



NEXT MONTH JAMES I. ROBERTSON JR. HOW THE CIVIL WAR STILL LIVES

ANNOUNCEMENT -- "SAVE THE DATE"
John Harkness, President of the Cleveland Branch of the English-Speaking Union of the United States (and Past President of Cleveland CWRT) cordially invites the members of the Cleveland CWRT to an E-SU dinner program that promises to be of interest to both organizations.

Thursday, September 29, 2005
The Hermit Club
Cocktails & Dinner (exact time and pricing to be announced)*
Speaker: Mr. John F. Andrews, OBE
Topic: "Shakespeare's Role in the Lincoln Assassination"

*Call Marguerite Harkness, Cleveland Branch E-SU Program Chairperson, at 216-228-3091 for further details and advance reservations.