

September, 2006

434th Meeting

Vol. 28 #1

Tonight's

Program: **The 13th Tennessee**

In the fall of 1863, somewhere between 500 and 600 men from Johnson and Carter counties in eastern Tennessee met at Strawberry Plains and formed the Thirteenth Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry Regiment. These men had one thing in common, besides being from eastern Tennessee - to preserve the Union. To this end they gave their labor, their worldly goods, and, many, their lives.

The 13th Tennessee is famous for cornering and killing Confederate General John Hunt Morgan - the Grey Ghost - in Greeneville, Tennessee in September of 1864. Tonight, our speaker will regale us with the hunt and death of Morgan.

The regiment fought at Lick Creek in Morristown and Bull's Gap, as well as many other skirmishes. In December of 1864, when General George Stoneman stormed Fort Breckenridge and captured the salt works at Saltville, Virginia, he stated that "the Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry is due the credit of having acted the most conspicuous part." In 1865, as the war was closing, the 13th arrested General Robert Toombs, the Confederate Secretary of War, in Athens, Georgia. It then arrested Alexander Stephens, the Confederate Vice President, in Crawfordsville. Having fought in the war less than two years, the regiment accomplished much.

Come join us in welcoming back one of our own as he tells us the illustrious history of perhaps his favorite regiment, the Thirteenth Tennessee.

Dick Crews

Our 2006-7 year begins with a bang. The speaker for September is none other than one of our own, Dick Crews. Dick is a former President of the Roundtable and editor extraordinaire of the Charger. Under his guidance for eight years, the Charger informed and entertained us. Dick left us last year for warmer climes when he retired to North Carolina, but has remained a member and returns from time to time. Tonight he will teach us about one of his favorite subjects, the Thirteenth Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry Regiment.

Date: **Wednesday,
September 13, 2006**

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: **Grilled Sirloin
or Vegetarian Dinner**

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

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Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser

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1982 John Harkness	1957 Kenneth Grant

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER, 2006

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome back to Dick Crews, our speaker at the first meeting. Dick's presentation on the 13th Tennessee (Union) promises to be very interesting. The oddity of Tennessee men fighting for the Union reminds us that there were a lot of oddities in the war. For example, it is not generally known that Ulysses S. Grant had an Italian half-brother with the same initials. This was Umberto Salvatore Grant, who taught home economics, with a specialty in strudel making, at Hiram College in Ohio. In September, 1863, he was invited to lecture at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. He came and so charmed the faculty, students and populace that the next day's *Richmond Sentinel's* headline read "U. S. GRANT TAKES RICHMOND." The Governor of Indiana, who was something of a dolt, read it and assumed the war was over. He immediately telegraphed Generals Rosecrans and Thomas, who, at the time, had the Army of the Cumberland in motion against General Bragg's Army of Tennessee and General Longstreet's detachment from the Army of Northern Virginia at Chickamauga. The governor ordered Rosecrans to send all the Indiana troops home on the No.10 train out of Chattanooga, adding that he would meet them at the station in Indianapolis. Rosecrans, not wishing to add political problems to his military ones, complied. At Chickamauga, Longstreet noticed a huge gap in the Federal line where the Indiana troops had been. He sent thousands of graybacks through it and thereby won the battle. I asked Dick Crews if he had heard the story. He said he had not, but he doubted its veracity. Asked why, he said that as far as he knew the No.10 train did not go to Indianapolis.

John 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 Bickerdyke (1817-1901), Botanical Physician, "Cyclone in Calico," and Don Allen portrays a U.S. Sanitary Commission Inspector, singing songs of the Union 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 Vodrey

February 14, 2007

**Ohio's Civil War
Generals**



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

**Letters From the
Front**

Jon Thompson



Visiting the new Lincoln Library & Museum

By William F. B. Vodrey

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Last summer, I visited the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum in Springfield, Ill. My companions on the trip were Mel Maurer and his grandson, Eric. We had a great time and hope to go back again. Anyone interested in Lincoln will find Springfield and its many Lincoln-related sites well worth the trip, but the museum is the center of it all. It strikes a nice balance between mass-market appeal and scholarly discussion of the Civil War president.



William Vodrey visits with the First Family.

There was already a line when we arrived, and an even longer one when we took a lunch break. A staffer told us that the site has been very busy ever since it opened. As you enter the museum, you find yourself in a large lobby with a replica of Lincoln's Kentucky childhood log cabin to your left. This is where you should begin your tour. The cabin is set in a grove of (artificial) trees, with birdsong and forest sounds playing from hidden speakers. A strikingly lifelike mannequin of young Lincoln sits on a log stump, looking off into the future. As you enter the cabin, you see a snoring family in bed, while a teenage Lincoln reads by firelight, nuzzled by a dog (all of the mannequins throughout the museum were very lifelike and convincing; you almost expect to see them move, breathe and speak to you). A few more steps brings you to a dry goods store where a much taller and craggier Lincoln is chatting with a pretty girl.

Farther along, in an emotional and powerful display on slavery, a demonic-looking auctioneer splits up a slave family. There is an exhibit on Lincoln's varied legal practice (his two boys bat inkwells around the office, much to the displeasure of his law partner, William Herndon), and his unsuccessful but celebrated 1858 campaign against Stephen Douglass for a U.S. Senate seat.

In a mock control room, Tim Russert hosts a clever "Campaign 1860" video, showing competing TV ads which might almost have been aired by the political combatants that year. A somber display then shows Lincoln leaving Springfield for the last time after winning the Presidency.

Your next stop will be the White House, a scaled-down facade of which opens onto the same lobby through which you entered. There are replicas of Lincoln, Mary and their three boys standing in front, well-placed for a photo opportunity with your friends or family. Arrayed near the White House's south portico are simulacra of Gens. George McClellan and Ulysses S. Grant, Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass, and John Wilkes Booth. (You could easily

throttle or spit upon Booth, but I doubt the museum staff would appreciate it). The first White House room is dedicated to the First Lady and her many dresses, and replicas of other prominent society women's dresses of the 1860s. This contrasts well with a somber display about the First Lady's all-consuming grief after the death of her son Willie in February 1862.

You then pass through a funhouse-style display of anti-Lincoln cartoons and editorials, including video displays of a torrent of criticism of Lincoln. Just about everyone piled onto the President at one time or another, including abolitionists, Southerners, border staters, slaves and free blacks, East Coast elitists, Democrats, and Radical Republicans.

My favorite part of the whole museum was a wonderfully-detailed replica Cabinet Room, showing Lincoln and his senior advisors in a spirited discussion of the Emancipation Proclamation. You get a distinct sense of the personalities involved and the difficulties Lincoln had in exerting leadership.

There is, as you might expect, a large exhibit space on the Civil War itself. Three soldiers from each side are profiled, and their military careers and ultimate fates are described. An interesting computerized map of "The Civil War in Four Minutes" shows the ebb and flow of Union and Confederate military operations; the steady pressure maintained by Federal forces in the West is particularly noticeable.

Several specially-commissioned paintings reveal highlights of Lincoln's administration, including a terrific (and accurate) image of the Second Inaugural on March 4, 1865, as the clouds part and sunlight dramatically strikes the President. All too soon, however, we enter a chamber depicting Ford's Theater and hear the fateful dialogue of "Our American Cousin" before we see the martyred President's coffin lying in state in the Illinois Capitol. All these years later, it is still a sobering experience.

There are many other small exhibit spaces throughout the museum, and you do not have to follow a chronological path through the 16th Chief Executive's life. One exhibit area displays various treasures of Lincolniana - one of his stovepipe hats, an autographed copy of the Gettysburg Address, Willie Lincoln's battered scrapbook, and some of the First Lady's gaudy jewelry. There are also several multimedia presentations. We saw "Ghosts of the Library," about the value and usefulness of history today, and "Lincoln's Eyes," on what the great man's eyes show about his lively personality, inner strength, and long suffering. An interactive kiosk with taped interview excerpts with noted Lincoln scholars is called "Ask Mr. Lincoln." My favorite was the anecdote that Lincoln preferred a lively church service; he once told a friend that he liked preachers "to look as if they're fighting bees."



Mary Todd Lincoln in mourning dress after the death of Willie in 1862.

While we were there, a temporary exhibit called “Blood on the Moon” retold the story of the assassination conspiracy. A highlight was the Landau carriage in which the President and First Lady rode to Ford’s Theater, and the bed in which Lincoln died on April 15, 1865. A series of photos left no doubt that when Steven Spielberg finally makes his long-awaited movie about Lincoln, Leonardo DiCaprio really ought to be cast as Robert Todd Lincoln. The resemblance is striking.

A children’s play area, snack bar and well-stocked gift shop round out the museum experience. At the library across the plaza, there was an interesting display of Lincoln mementos and curios, and a photo exhibit of VIPs who’ve visited his tomb, including Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy.

Mel was sure that this trip would convince me that the sixteenth

President of the United States was the greatest of all. I admire Lincoln more than ever, but pride of place must still, in my humble opinion, go to the first President. Maybe when Mount Vernon opens its new visitors center in a few years, I can take Mel there and bring him around to my (obviously correct) point of view...?

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum is operated by the State of Illinois and officially opened on April 19, 2005.



Museum bust of Lincoln.



Lincoln looking rather lifelike 141 years after his death.

The drive to Springfield takes about eight or nine hours. The restored Lincoln home is nearby, as are his tomb, law office and the old state capitol; each is well worth a visit. You could easily spend all day in the museum and library alone, however, so be sure to leave yourself enough time for a good visit. For more information, go to www.alplm.org.

William Vodrey, a former Roundtable president, is a magistrate of the

Cleveland Municipal Court.

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable 50th Anniversary Commemorative Polo Shirts

As part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable, polo shirts are being offered for sale. The shirts are polo style, navy blue with the Charger logo and text in gold on the left breast. The shirts are available in either men's fit or women's fit. In the spaces below, indicate the number of shirts of each size and style for the order. Price per shirt is \$18.00 for sizes S, M, L, and XL, \$20.00 for size XXL, and \$23.00 for size XXXL. Youth sizes are also available for \$20.00 per shirt (inquire at dac5@case.edu). Checks should be made payable to the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. Orders should be mailed to Dave Carrino (4470 Coral Gables Dr., Parma, OH 44134) or given to Dave at a Roundtable meeting. **Orders must be received by November 8, 2006.**

Number of women's fit, size S	_____	X \$18.00 =
Number of women's fit, size M	_____	X \$18.00 =
Number of women's fit, size L	_____	X \$18.00 =
Number of women's fit, size XL	_____	X \$18.00 =
Number of women's fit, size XXL	_____	X \$20.00 =
Number of women's fit, size XXXL	_____	X \$23.00 =
Number of men's fit, size S	_____	X \$18.00 =
Number of men's fit, size M	_____	X \$18.00 =
Number of men's fit, size L	_____	X \$18.00 =
Number of men's fit, size XL	_____	X \$18.00 =
Number of men's fit, size XXL	_____	X \$20.00 =
Number of men's fit, size XXXL	_____	X \$23.00 =
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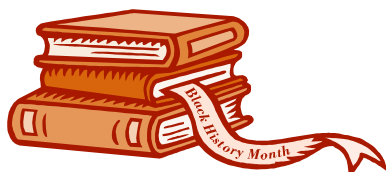
Address:

Email Address:

Home Phone:

Bring a Book!

We are in need of books or prints for the monthly raffles and quiz. Perhaps each of us has a book or two that we have read and no longer need or want. If so, please bring it (or them) to the September meeting.





50th Anniversary Celebration!



At our November meeting, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. On November 20, 1956, the Roundtable met for the first time. Please join us in celebrating this momentous occasion. Bring a guest, particularly one who may be interested in joining the group.

If you have any thoughts as to how to celebrate, please contact John Fazio, President at 330-665-3000 (office), 330-867-1535 (home), or johncfazio@verizon.net. Happy Anniversary!

NEXT MONTH
SONGS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERACY
KAREN THYER, AS MOTHER BICKERDYKE
DON ALLEN, AS U.S. SANITARY COMMISSION INSPECTOR