

# THE CHARGER

September 2013

498th Meeting

Vol. 35, #1

*Tonight's Program:*

## A Species of Legal Fiction: The Wheeling Conventions and the Creation of West Virginia



OBVERSE (FRONT)



REVERSE (BACK)

Opposing their state's vote to secede and join the CSA, western Virginians held two conventions at Wheeling to plan a secession of their own from the Old Dominion. Why did these Unionists choose Wheeling, how and why did they create a Reorganized Virginia, and how did a new state evolve from the deliberations at Wheeling's Custom House?



*Tonight's Speaker:*

## Dr. David T. Javersak

A native West Virginian, Dr. David T. Javersak grew up in Weirton. He earned his bachelor's degree in history from West Liberty State College, master's in American history and Pacific Island history from the University of Hawaii, and doctorate from West Virginia University in American history and African history. Dr. Javersak is the author of numerous articles, essays, reviews, and books about West Virginia. In 1997, he was named a West Virginia History Hero. In 2010 Governor Joe Manchin appointed him to serve on the West Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission. During 2012, he presented five programs for the series, "Making Sense of the American Civil War," a joint venture of National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association. He and his wife Alice, have two adult children and four grandchildren.

*Date:* **Wednesday,  
September 11, 2013**

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

*Time:* **Drinks 6 pm  
Dinner 6:45 pm**

*Reservations:* Please send an email to [ccwrt1956@yahoo.com](mailto:ccwrt1956@yahoo.com) with your reservation, or call Dan Zeiser at (440) 449-9311 by 9 pm the Sunday before the meeting.

*Meal:* **Entree, vegetable, salad, and dessert.**

**CLEVELAND  
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE  
FOUNDED 1957**

*President:* **Jim Heflich** (216) 381-8833  
*Vice President:* **Patrick Bray** (216) 407-7878  
*Treasurer:* **Chris Fortunato** [learnedhand@live.com](mailto:learnedhand@live.com)  
*Secretary:* **Jean Rhodes** (440) 739-0579

**Directors:**

Paul Burkholder                      Mike Wells  
C. Ellen Connally                  Howard Besser

**Historian - Dave Carrino**

website: [www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com](http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com)

email: [pkburkholder@gmail.com](mailto:pkburkholder@gmail.com)

**Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser**

email: [danzeiser@aol.com](mailto:danzeiser@aol.com)

## Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Past Presidents

2013 **Mike Wells**  
2012 **Paul Burkholder**  
2011 **Lisa Kempfer**  
2010 **Dennis Keating**  
2009 **Jon Thompson**  
2008 **Terry Koozer**  
2007 **John Fazio**  
2006 **Dave Carrino**  
2005 **Mel Maurer**  
2004 **Warren McClelland**  
2003 **Maynard Bauer**  
2002 **Bill McGrath**  
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

Midway through the Civil War Sesquicentennial and the Roundtable begins its 58th year of presenting programs and field trips to further our interest and understanding of the Civil War. I hope you enjoy the programs lined up from September to May. Our annual field trip to South Mountain and Antietam at the end of September generated a great response - and is "sold out."

We will take a new look at a familiar battle in Virginia, learn about a less well known battle farther south, and hear a historian's take on the most colorful troops from both sides of the War. Expert talks from Roundtable members will explore armaments and naval warfare off the South Carolina coast. How did Ohio's neighbor obtain statehood amidst the turmoil of the War and a scholarly discussion of race and the Confederacy help round out the year. We will end with a program that explores differing views of the War between Indiana soldiers and their home towns. To whet your interest, here is a link to a wonderful *New York Times* "Disunion" essay by our May speaker - <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/09/the-two-civil-wars/>

Our January meeting is the annual Dick Crews Debate - topic yet to be determined. This is the one program that offers Roundtable members the best opportunity to directly participate - please send me your ideas for this season's debate topic. The format can vary from formal debate teams to individual arguments supporting a particular opinion - as was done for last season's wonderful debate on Lincoln's biggest mistake. Fire away!

See you on September 11th.

Respectfully,  
Jim Heflich  
[laureldoc@gmail.com](mailto:laureldoc@gmail.com)

# CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

## 2013-2014 SCHEDULE

January 8, 2014

### *The Dick Crews Annual Debate* *Topic TBA*

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

February 12, 2014

### *The U.S. Navy* *and the* *Naval Battles of* *Charleston 1863*


**Syd Overall**



September 11, 2013

*A Species of Legal Fiction:  
The Wheeling Conventions and the  
Creation of West Virginia*

**Dr. David T. Javersak**



October 9, 2013

### *Slaves to Contradictions: Patrick Cleburne's Emancipation Proposal*

**Wilson R. Huhn**



March 12, 2014

### *The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain*

**Dan Vermilya**



November 13, 2013

### *Zouaves: America's Forgotten Soldiers*

**Patrick Schroeder**



April 9, 2014

### *Materials and Processes in the Manufacture of Civil War Small Arms*


**John Harkness**



December 11, 2013

*"It was a terribly grand  
scene..."*  
*The Slaughter Pen and  
Prospect Hill  
at Fredericksburg*

**Kristopher White**



May 14, 2014

### *Soldiers and the Homefront: A Northern Community Confronts the Civil War*

**Nicole Etcheson**



# Ohio's Civil War Generals: Some Lesser Known

by Dennis Keating © 2013

During the Civil War, 134 Ohioans (either born or living in Ohio at the war's outbreak) were generals in the Union army. Three comprised the triumvirate of the Union's pantheon of military heroes: U.S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, and Phil Sheridan. Four became U.S. presidents: James Garfield, Grant, Benjamin Harrison, and Rutherford B. Hayes. Sherman famously declined to be a presidential candidate. Other notable Ohio Union generals (both good and bad) included Don Carlos Buell, George Crook, George Armstrong Custer, Joe Hooker, George McClellan, the seven Fighting McCooks (Alexander, Anson, Daniel, Edward, Edwin, George, and Robert), Irvin McDowell, James McPherson, John Pope, and William Rosecrans.

Among the rest, there are some very interesting Ohioans who may not be very familiar to most. This article will profile thirteen lesser known Ohio generals. Their biographies may be found in Stewart Sifakis's *Who Was Who in the Civil War* (1988).

## Jacob Cox

Born in Montreal, Canada, Cox attended Oberlin College and married a daughter of its president. He became a lawyer and Warren Ohio's school superintendent. An abolitionist and ally of James Garfield and Salmon Chase, he was an organizer of the Ohio Republican Party and elected to the state legislature in 1860. He became commander of the Kanawha Brigade in West Virginia. After Jessie Reno's death at South Mountain, Cox became commander of the IX Corps of the Army of the Potomac, which fought at Burnside's Bridge at Antietam. In 1864, Cox served as a division commander in the Army of the Ohio under Schofield in the Atlanta, Franklin, and Nashville battles, and in the Carolinas. Postwar, he was elected Ohio's 28<sup>th</sup> governor and served as Grant's Secretary of the Interior until he resigned to protest patronage appointments. He later served one term in Congress, then as Dean of the University of Cincinnati's law school and later as University President. He published five books on the Civil War.

## The Ewings

Thomas Ewing was a prominent Ohio lawyer and national politician who served in President Zachary Taylor's cabinet. Though three of his sons became Civil War generals, they were not as well known as his adopted son William Tecumseh Sherman, who married his daughter Ellen.

Oldest son Hugh was a lawyer who took part in the California gold rush. He led the 30<sup>th</sup> OVI in West Virginia, commanded a brigade at South Mountain and Antietam, and participated in the Vicksburg, Chattanooga, and Carolinas campaigns. Postwar, he served as U.S. Minister to Holland.

Thomas was a lawyer in Cincinnati before moving to Leavenworth, Kansas during the Bloody Kansas conflicts over its status. He was a Free Soil advocate. He enjoyed military success in 1863 in Kansas and helped foil Sterling Price's invasion of Missouri in 1864. He is best known for issuing Order No. 11 commanding pro-Southern civilians in several Missouri counties be expelled if they did not leave voluntarily. This order was retaliation for William Quantrill's deadly raid on Lawrence, Kansas. Postwar, Thomas was a Washington, D.C. lawyer. He represented three of the Lincoln assassination conspirators, including Dr. Samuel Mudd, whom he helped later obtain a pardon. He influenced his friend Senator Edmund Ross of Kansas to cast the key vote in defeating the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson. He served two terms in Congress, but was defeated in 1880 for election as Ohio's governor.

Charles was a St. Louis lawyer who was commissioned as an officer in William Tecumseh Sherman's 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry. At Vicksburg, he was severely wounded. Under Sherman, he also served at



Chattanooga, and in the Atlanta Campaign, the March to the Sea, and the Carolinas Campaign. Postwar, he, too, was a lawyer in Washington, D.C.

[Reference: Kenneth J. Heineman, *Civil War Dynasty: The Ewing Family of Ohio* (2012).]

### **Charles Griffin**

A graduate of Kenyon College and the U.S. Military Academy, Griffin served in the Mexican War and then the Southwest frontier. Commanding a battery of the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Artillery, he fought at First Bull Run and in the Peninsula campaign. Promoted to brigade and then division command at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, respectively, he served in Grant's Overland Campaign. Griffin was named commander of the V Corps at Five Forks on April 1, 1865, when Phil Sheridan relieved Gouverneur Warren of command. Postwar, he commanded the Department of Texas during Reconstruction, but died in Galveston in 1867 during a yellow fever epidemic.

### **William Hazen**

Born in Vermont, Hazen's family moved to Hiram, Ohio where Hazen became a friend of James Garfield. After graduating from West Point, Hazen served in the Pacific Northwest and Texas (where he was wounded fighting Comanches). He became colonel of the 41<sup>st</sup> OVI and commanded a brigade in Buell's Army of the Ohio at Shiloh and Perryville. Transferred to the Army of the Cumberland, Hazen's best known action was his dogged defense of the Round Forest (also known as Hell's Half Acre) at Stones River. His troops served in the Tullahoma Campaign, at Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge, and in the Atlanta Campaign and the March to the Sea, where his division captured Fort McAllister leading to the capture of Savannah. Postwar, Hazen commanded the 38<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry (a Buffalo Soldier regiment). He was appointed Chief Signal Officer of the U.S. Army by President Hayes. Known for his disputes with fellow officers Phil Sheridan, David Stanley, George Custer, and Sherman, Hazen's criticism of Secretary of War Robert Todd Lincoln resulted in his court martial in 1885.

### **Mortimer Leggett**

Born in Ithaca, New York, Leggett moved to Geauga County. He became a lawyer (and partner of Jacob Cox), school teacher, and superintendent of Akron and Zanesville schools. He volunteered on McClellan's staff in West Virginia and then became colonel of the 78<sup>th</sup> OVI. It fought at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, and Corinth. Leggett was wounded during the Vicksburg Campaign. After his recovery, he was a division commander in the Atlanta Campaign (where Leggett's Hill was named for his defense against a Hood assault), the March to the Sea, and the Carolinas. Postwar, he was a lawyer, U.S. Commissioner of Patents, and businessman. He died in Cleveland in 1896 and is buried in Lakeview cemetery.

### **William Lytle**

Born to a prominent Cincinnati family, Lytle was a lawyer and renowned poet. He served in the Mexican War. He became colonel of the 10<sup>th</sup> OVI (the Fighting Tenth) and was twice wounded - at Carnifex Ferry in West Virginia and the battle of Perrysville - where he was taken prisoner. He was killed at Chickamauga trying to stem the Longstreet breakthrough. The hill where he died on the battlefield is known as Lytle Hill.

### **Emerson Opdycke**

Opdycke's ancestors served in the Revolutionary and 1812 wars. Failing to find a fortune in the California gold rush, Opdycke became a merchant in his hometown of Warren. He enlisted in the 41<sup>st</sup> OVI

commanded by William Hazen. Wounded at Shiloh, he then recruited the 125<sup>th</sup> OVI (known as Opdycke's Tigers). It fought in the Tullahoma Campaign, defended Horseshoe Ridge under George Thomas at Chickamauga, and stormed Missionary Ridge. Opdycke led a brigade in the Atlanta campaign, was wounded at Resaca, and nevertheless participated in the fruitless attack at Kennesaw Mountain. Opdycke and his Tigers are best known for their countercharge at Franklin, where they stopped the Confederate breakthrough. Postwar, he moved to New York, where he accidentally shot himself and died in 1884.

### **James Steedman**

Born in Pennsylvania, Steedman joined Sam Houston's Republic of Texas army in 1835. He then moved to Ohio. He, too, sought fortune in the California Gold Rush. He was variously a newspaper publisher, public works contractor, printer, lawyer, and member of the Ohio General Assembly. He became colonel of the 14<sup>th</sup> OVI, fighting at Philippi, West Virginia, Mill Springs, Kentucky, and the siege of Corinth. He commanded a brigade in Buell's Army of the Ohio at Shiloh and Perrysville. He then led a brigade in the Army of the Cumberland at Stones River and Chickamauga. As part of Gordon Granger's Reserve Corps, Steedman's timely arrival at Horseshoe Ridge was crucial to Thomas's defense. Wounded there, Steedman participated in the victory at Missionary Ridge and then the Atlanta Campaign. At Nashville, Steedman commanded a division that included U.S. Colored Troops who helped defeat Hood's decimated Army of Tennessee. Postwar, he lived in Toledo, where he was a newspaper publisher and police chief and served in the Ohio Senate.

### **William H.L. Wallace**

Wallace left Ohio for a law practice in Illinois. He served in the Mexican war and was elected colonel of the 11<sup>th</sup> Illinois. It fought at Fort Donelson, after which he was promoted to brigade command. At Shiloh, he commanded the division of Charles Ferguson Smith, who had injured his leg. Wallace held out for several hours next to the Hornet's Nest until forced to withdraw. He was mortally wounded in the retreat, dying in his wife's arms days later, saying that "We meet in heaven."

### **Godfrey Weitzel**

Weitzel was born in Bavaria, Germany and emigrated to Cincinnati. He graduated from West Point as an engineer. He served under McClellan and then Ben Butler in New Orleans. He then commanded a division under Nathaniel Banks in the siege and capture of Port Hudson. He then became chief engineer of the Army of the James and commander of its XVIII Corps, which captured Fort Harrison. It participated in the unsuccessful attack on Fort Fisher, North Carolina. Named by Grant to command troops in and around Richmond, Weitzel greeted President Abraham Lincoln when he arrived in Richmond after its capture. Asking the president how its residents should be treated, Lincoln told Weitzel "Let them down easy." Postwar, he commanded the District of Rio Grande and then served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers until he died of typhoid fever in Philadelphia in 1884.

### **August Willich**

Willich was an aristocratic Prussian military officer who became a dedicated Communist (known as the "reddest of the red"). In the revolutionary conflicts of 1848 in Europe, Willich's adjutant was Friedrich Engels. After the defeat of the revolutionaries, Willich fled to England and then emigrated to Cincinnati, where he edited a socialist newspaper. Enlisting as a private in the 9<sup>th</sup> OVI, he fought in West Virginia. He then raised the all-German 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana, which fought at Shiloh. Willich was promoted to brigadier and was captured at Stones River. Returning to the Army of the Cumberland after his

repatriation from captivity in Libby Prison, his command fought at Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge. Willich was wounded at Resaca. He advocated an innovative military formation known as "advance firing." Postwar, he returned to Europe and then settled in St. Marys Ohio, where he died in 1878.

Some lesser known facts about the lesser known Ohio Civil War generals above:

- 9 were lawyers
- 2 were school superintendents
- 3 served in the Mexican War
- 3 joined the California Gold Rush
- 2 were members of the Ohio General Assembly
- 3 were foreign born
- 5 had a Cincinnati connection
- During the war, 2 were killed, 3 were wounded, and 2 were captured
- Postwar, one was elected Ohio governor and one was not.

## Gettysburg 2013

Here in the present, awestruck, we tread this hallowed ground,  
but so do those who fought and died here, a century and a half ago;  
Yankee and rebel, but still Americans, and even now no less than we,  
passing us on the trails, dust on their boots, glancing down to see  
their names etched on row upon row of graves, a last link to mortality  
Look! there, onward, the serried ranks of the gallant dead  
and above, the hum of the locusts and the murmuring of the wind  
through the lofty heights of history-crowned trees  
'neath a brilliant Pennsylvania sun, fiery witness to all wars;  
but it knows that there is something about this place,  
something incalculable, invaluable.

Green fields, gray stones, and enduring memories of the fallen  
the men, both blue-clad and grey, who fought here for three days, struggling  
to define what this broad land was, what it might be, what it would be today  
no mere alliance, no pact, but a republic, once riven but now, for all its faults,  
indivisible, a more perfect union, their sacrifice our birthright,  
a promise fulfilled, a people freed, a nation redeemed under that starry flag,  
a completer domain of liberty for all who now flock to see these hills,  
but my friends, can you not see those soldiers, and know  
that their task is now our own?

*I recently again took part in the Straight Dope ([straightdope.com](http://straightdope.com)) Poetry Sweatshop - we're given one hour to write a poem that includes three randomly-provided words (this time around it was "present," "passing" and "completer"). This poem is the result.*

William Vodrey  
Copyright (c) 2013 All rights reserved.

# LINCOLN AT THE GROVE

In collaboration with the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable, Soldiers & Sailors Monument Commission, and Mayfield Historical Society

**SUNDAY, SEPT 22**

**11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**

## FEATURING

- Displays of Civil War Artifacts by Cleveland Civil War Roundtable, Soldiers & Sailors Monument Commission, James A Garfield Camp No. 142 SUVCW and the Mayfield Township Historical Society
- Civil War-era music
- Living Historians and Re-Enactors
- An afternoon with President Lincoln, President Grant and General & Mrs. Garfield
- Display Materials from Cuyahoga County Public Library



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

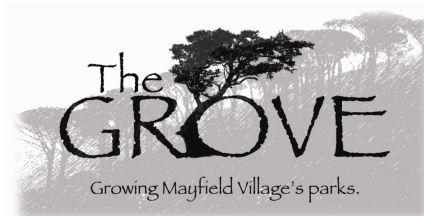
- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 11:00 a.m. | Grounds Open   |
| 12:30 p.m. | "Personal Recollections of the War" - A chat with General and Mrs. James A. Garfield |
| 1:00 p.m.  | "Lincoln at Gettysburg" by William Vodrey  |
| 2:00 p.m.  | Civil War-era music - "The Federal Rebels"   |
| 2:45 p.m.  | "Personal Recollections of the War" - A chat with President Ulysses S. Grant         |
| 3:00 p.m.  | An Afternoon with President Abraham Lincoln  |

**FREE EVENT!**

Donations are welcome.

Help Us "Grow" The Grove!

Questions? Call 440-461-2210 or  
send an e-mail to  
[TheGrove@mayfieldvillage.com](mailto:TheGrove@mayfieldvillage.com).



Bring blankets, lawn chairs and picnic baskets  
and enjoy the day!

425 N. Commons Blvd.  
(at Parkview Pool)  
Mayfield Village, OH 44143

**MAYFIELD  
VILLAGE**  
[www.mayfieldvillage.com](http://www.mayfieldvillage.com)



**NEXT MONTH**

**SLAVES TO CONTRADICTIONS:  
PATRICK CLEBURNE'S EMANCIPATION PROPOSAL**

**WILSON R. HUH**