

# *The Charger*



## *The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable*

*May 2021*

*vol. 44 # 7*

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***Editors: Dennis Keating, Michael Wells, Newsletter Design: Catherine Wells***

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAY 2021**

#### **MAY MEETING MECHANICS**

Our May 12 meeting will be our first “live” presentation since March 2020! It will be at our new home – The Holiday Inn Independence at Rockside Road just off I-77 and south of I-480. We have been sending notices about the new location and the new reservation system that uses our [clecwrt@gmail.com](mailto:clecwrt@gmail.com) which you should use to make reservations.

As in the past, the social hour will start at 6:00 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm and the program will start at 7:00 pm. The first order of business will be election of new officers with the nominating committee sending us their recommendations of:

Mark Porter – President

Lily Korte – Vice – President

Bob Pence – Treasurer

Jimmy Menkhaus – Secretary

#### **NEW WAY TO VIEW REMOTE ON INTERNET**

We will be “live streaming” the meeting over the internet using our YouTube Channel. This is slightly different than the Zoom process. We will be sending an email with an internet link that you can use to access the meeting which will be broadcast starting at 7:00 pm.



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### MAY SPEAKER

Our May 12 speaker will be Terry Winschel, perhaps the leading living historian regarding the Vicksburg campaign. The title of Terry's presentation is "Shut Up as in a Trap: Citizens Under Siege at Vicksburg." Terry's presentation focuses on the plight of the civilians in Vicksburg during the Union siege of the city. Most works on the Vicksburg campaign focus almost exclusively on the military operations centered on the fortress city and fail to address a key element in the equation – namely the civilian population of Vicksburg who experienced war in all its horrors during the long 47 days of siege. Who were these people and what is their story? In his presentation Terry recounts the hardships of these men, women, and children who experienced the most terrifying ordeal of their lives in a struggle to survive. Tapping on period letters, diaries, and memoirs, Terry weaves a moving account of life in the beleaguered city. His program paints a vivid portrait of life underground where citizens sought shelter from the storm of lead and iron that rained upon their city and details the suffering and death of Vicksburg's gallant residents. His words are brought to life by slides featuring scores of faces of the citizens of Vicksburg who stood firm in the midst of conflict. Their lives directly impacted by the cruelty of war more so than people in any other American city, North or South, the people of Vicksburg have left a legacy of courage and fortitude that will inspire all who hear their story.

I am very excited that Terry Winschel is our May speaker. He is an outstanding historian and a true gentleman. I had the opportunity to meet and talk with Terry on some of my trips to Vicksburg. He was always patient, polite and helpful in answering my many questions. Terry, a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and also holds M.S.S. (Master of Social Science) and Ed.S. (Education Specialist) degrees from Mississippi College. Terry retired in 2012 following a 35-year career with the National Park Service, most of which time he served as Historian at Vicksburg National Military Park. In 2016 Terry returned to work in a part-time capacity with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as Historian at the Engineer Research and Development Center. Terry has written 100 articles on the Civil War and is author of several books including *Triumph & Defeat: The Vicksburg Campaign, Volume I and Volume II*, *The Civil War Diary of a Common Soldier: William Wiley of the 77th Illinois Infantry*, and *Vicksburg: Fall of the Confederate Gibraltar* and co-authored (with William Shea) *Vicksburg is the Key: The Struggle for the Mississippi River*.

I can't think of a better way to complete this program year than with Terry Winschel!



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### PETERSBURG FIELD TRIP

The long-awaited Petersburg Field Trip was completed April 30 – May 1. There were 13 hardy members and guests who spent two informative and interesting days on the battlefield supplemented by two evenings with getting to know each other at dinner. Pamplin Park did a wonderful job of hosting us. Tim Talbott, Director of Education, was our guide for the two days on the battlefield and did an excellent job of guiding us through this long and complex campaign. Amanda Powell, our coordinator for the event, also did a wonderful job in setting up our lunches, dinner at Pamplin Park, and a night at the Museum of the Civil War Soldier which is located at Pamplin Park.

I have heard nothing except positive feedback by those who attended and we are all looking forward to Mark Porter's planned trip to Chickamauga and Chattanooga in September!

Steve Pettyjohn, President

### **Last Train from Atlanta"**

Book Review by Paul Siedel



Perhaps one of the best non fiction Civil War narratives I've ever read is

A.A. Hoehling's "Last Train from Atlanta". Very well researched and written in a format that is not found very often. Hoehling sets out to do a basic narrative but soon goes into excerpts from newspapers of the day both north and south and what they had to say about Sherman's progress down through Georgia, and finally the siege of Atlanta itself. It is interesting to see the difference in reporting contrasted in the northern and southern papers. He also chooses several individuals from Atlanta who experienced the siege and takes excerpts from their diaries and narratives. The author also takes excerpts from the diaries of several volunteer nurses who administered to the wounded in villages around Atlanta. They convey the hellish conditions in hospitals in Newnan, Covington, Social Circle, and Madison, Georgia. A very touching incident that is mentioned is the death of a man and his little girl killed as one of Sherman's artillery shells exploded near them as they walked near the intersection of Ivy and Ellis Streets. Several U.S. soldiers are quoted as their diaries have been preserved in various institutions, and it's interesting to observe the differences between the way U.S. and Confederate soldiers see the bombardment of the city.

well and I never got bored. Many pages of maps are included but one would do well to have maps of metro Atlanta nearby as they read. Many photos portray the destruction of the City during the siege and as Sherman prepared to leave for his March to the Sea. The book is well researched and the bibliography looks like a library itself. Diaries, letters, newspaper articles, and government documents are all listed and were consulted.



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The book was published in 1958 and interestingly enough contains quotes from several at that time elderly folks who actually knew the people mentioned in the book. One old man the author interviewed recalled Miss Mary Gay who confronted U.S. troops in Decatur, Georgia and hid Confederate General Granbury's uniform in her house. When the book was published her home was actually still standing in Decatur, Georgia but according to Google Maps has been replaced by a parking garage. Since the book was published in 1958 there is little chance a book store would have it, however The American Book Exchange or Amazon would probably have it in stock.

All in all the book is a valuable source when studying the psychology behind what people went through during the Civil War and how they reacted to various situations, specifically the siege of Atlanta. Many people had been fed a diet of lies which included rape, plunder, children being torn from the arms of their mothers and sent north to work in coal mines. As the bombardment increased and the fighting around Jonesboro gave way to Hood's retreat panic, set in and it is amazing to see what people would do to secure a spot on the last train from Atlanta. Excerpts from "Last Train from Atlanta"

Columbus, Georgia Times (for August 25, 1864)

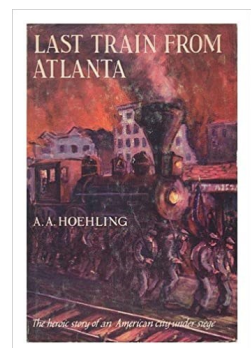
"On Wednesday night a large 42 pound shell entered the Presbyterian Church on Marietta street and after passing through the pulpit exploded in the basement of the Sunday School"

New York Times (for August 25, 1864)

"Life in the trenches is growing monotonous. The men are getting rest from the fatigue of the active three months campaign, and yet it is not rest that they need, for there is a constant state of expectancy, which is tiresome to the mind and, through sympathy, prevents the thorough recuperation of the physical energies so much needed."

Autumn 1864

After Sherman's order to evacuate the civilian population everyone had to go. A family called the Braumullers proceeded to New York via Pittsburgh. "We were considered curiosities all along the line, for we wore clothes that had been made before the war, and they were now four years out of style. New styles hadn't penetrated into the Confederacy" Dwellings, such as those vacated by the Braumullers, were now "home" to Federal officers, settled in as though they had always lived in them.





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### **The Reverse Underground Railroad; The Untold Story By C. Ellen Connally**

On May 14, Amazon Prime will premiere a new mini-series entitled *The Underground Railroad*. Based on Colson Whitehead's award-winning book of the same name, the mini-series will bring to life Whitehead's fictionalized saga of slaves who escaped bondage in pre-Civil War America. The story is a work of alternative history, or perhaps better described as a sci-fi thriller in which Whitehead creates a mythical world that includes an actual underground train to transport his passengers through time and space to freedom. He intersperses this fantasy world with the real system of safe houses, conductors and danger along the road to freedom that we have come to know as the Underground Railroad.

The realities of the dangers of the Underground Railroad will not be new to most viewers. The 2019 award winning movie, *Harriet* – the story of Harriet Tubman's journey to freedom and her exploits in rescuing others – brought the story into theaters and later living rooms and classrooms

But there is another, darker and often untold story about black people who traveled an underground highway in antebellum America. They made the reverse trip from freedom in the north to slavery in the south. Americans caught a glimpse of this tragic aspect of 19<sup>th</sup> America in the 2013 Hollywood adaptation of the slave narrative *Twelve Years A Slave*. It tells the story of Solomon Northup, a free black man from New York who was kidnapped in 1841 and held as a slave until his rescue in 1853.

But Northup's story is atypical. While adult men and women were kidnap victims, especially when any free black person were labeled a fugitives and transported south, the vast majority were children and teenagers. Historians believe that the number of victims are in the tens of thousands, starting from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century until the end of the Civil War. They have named this trail of tears the Reverse Underground Railroad.

It was America's middle passage made up of a criminal network of human traffickers and slave traders operated in a sub rosa world of slave markets, fugitive slave hunters and law enforcement officers who often gave a wink and a nod to the crimes that were committed in plain sight.

The traffickers were frequently poor whites who lived on the fringe of society, trading It was America's middle passage made up of a criminal network of human traffickers and slave their human cargo to buyers of slaves, desperate for workers and who asked no questions. Their prime targets were young boys and some girls and women because they were easier to dupe and subdue and less likely to escape or overcome their capturers.

When Congress enacted legislation in 1808 that ended the importation of slaves from Africa and the Caribbean, there was at the same time an increased demand for slaves in the deep south. This made conditions ripe for unscrupulous individuals to fill the demand for slave labor and make enormous profits at the same time.



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Young boys – generally from the age of 10 – 16 - in cities such as Philadelphia and Baltimore, where there were large numbers of free blacks and escaped slaves, were especially vulnerable. Usually, victims were enticed through offers of work. Escaped slaves were especially susceptible with offers of food or lodging by kidnappers posing as abolitionist offering aid. An offer of employment to work unloading a ship, often resulted in the child being locked in the hold of the ship and sent South.

Other kidnap victims made the months long overland journey south in coffles, chained together without shoes or proper clothing on starvation diets, being whipped and beaten into submission along the way. Any attempt at escape or make a claim of freedom would bring more severe punishment. Many did not survive the trek.

A kidnapped boy transported to the deep south could be sold for thousands of dollars, with girls being sold for a little less. Except for the cost of transportation, the money was clear profit. And in an age before photography, fingerprints, and faces on milk cartons, it was extremely difficult to identify or locate a missing child. The kidnap victim and their parents had little or no recourse with law enforcement, many of whom saw free blacks as a curse on their society.

University of Maryland Richard Bell has brought this tragic practice to light in his 2019 book, *Stolen – Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slave and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home* – a book that should be read by every student of American history.

Professor Bell tells the story of the capture of five such victims and how they managed, against all odds, to regain their freedom. But it is also the well-documented account of brutality, greed, and man's inhumanity to man and the thousands of other kidnapped blacks who never returned home, living out their lives as slaves.

The story of the Reverse Underground Railroad should be more widely told. These stories will tug at your heart strings and reveal just another aspect of the cruelty inflicted on enslaved Africans and their descents in pre-Civil War America. For those who want the whole story, *Stolen* is available at your local library, bookstore or on line. It is well worth the read.



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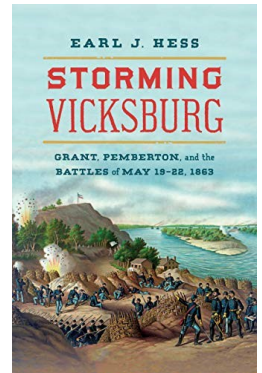
### Book Note: May Charger by Dennis Keating

A new book on Grant's assault on Vicksburg has been published:

Earl J. Hess. *Storming Vicksburg: Grant, Pemberton, and the Battles of May 19-22, 1863* (University of North Carolina Press)

It follows Timothy B. Smith's *The Union Assaults at Vicksburg: Grant Attacks Pemberton, May 17-22, 1863*, published last year by the University Press of Kansas.

The experience of the German-American 37th OVI from Cleveland in Ohioan Hugh Ewing's brigade is recounted.



### The Union Offensives at Petersburg By Brian D. Kowell 2021

The Petersburg Campaign was the longest campaign during the American Civil War. While not a true siege, it encompassed 292 days of combat, maneuver and trench warfare that took place from June 15, 1864 until April 2, 1865. Losses were high on both sides with some estimates being 42,000 on the Union side and 28,000 on the Confederate side.

Historian Earl Hess likened Grant's attempts to defeat Lee by cutting Lee's supply lines and stretching his defenses as a "Bite and hold tactic." The different Union offensive movements can be, according to Hess, thought of as nine separate Union offensives.

First Union Offensive: June 15-18, 1864. The 18<sup>th</sup> Corps attacks the Dimmock Line.

Second Union Offensive: June 22-23, 1864. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps and the 6<sup>th</sup> Corps strike at the Weldon & Petersburg railroad west of the Jerusalem Plank Road.

Third Union Offensive: July 26-30, 1864. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps attacks Deep Bottom (1<sup>st</sup> Deep bottom) while Sheridan's cavalry goes to Trevelian Station and Burnside's explodes the mine initiating the Battle of the Crater.

Fourth Union Offensive: August 14-25, 1864. A one-two punch on both flanks of Lee's line at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Deep Bottom and Warren's 5<sup>th</sup> Corps' attack west which culminates at the Battle of Globe Tavern.

Fifth Union Offensive: September 29-October 2, 1864. In another one-two punch, the Army of the James attacks New market Heights and Fort Harrison while the 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Corps attack west at Peebles' Farm.



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Union Offensive cont.

Sixth Union Offensive: October 27, 1864. Another one-two punch, the Army of the James tries to find the Confederate left flank and fails as Hancock's 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps attacks the Boydton Plank Road at Burgess' Mill.

Seventh Union Offensive: February 5-7, 1865. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps seizes and holds the crossing at Hatcher's Run near Armstrong's Mill and is reinforced by the 5<sup>th</sup> Corps to try to reach the Southside railroad but is stopped at Dabney's Saw Mill.

Eighth Union Offensive: March 28-April 1, 1865. Sheridan's cavalry and the 5<sup>th</sup> Corps try to reach the Southside railroad but are stopped at the Battles of White Oak Road and Dinwiddie Court House.

Ninth Union Offensive: April 2, 1865. The 9<sup>th</sup> Corps attacks the Jerusalem Plank Road, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps battles at Sutherland Station, while the 6<sup>th</sup> Corps attacks and breaks through the Confederate line to Fort Gregg, and Sheridan's cavalry along with Warren's 5<sup>th</sup> Corps routes the Confederates at Five Forks.

**The Pemberton Who Succeeded**

**by David A. Carrino**



This history brief was presented at the May 2012 meeting of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. The following longer version of the history brief, which has never before appeared in *The Charger*, contains additional information that was not included in the version that was presented at the meeting.

Raise a glass of the bubbly to toast the bubbly. Not champagne, but America's beverage: Coca-Cola, which was invented and first sold 135 years ago this month in 1886. After all, isn't it always a good time to toast "the real thing"? Another good reason to toast Coca-Cola is because there are some connections between Coca-Cola and the Civil War.

One of those connections is the inventor of Coca-Cola, John Pemberton. No, not that John Pemberton, the other John Pemberton. Coca-Cola was not invented by John C. (for Clifford) Pemberton, the Confederate general who led the army that defended Vicksburg against Ulysses S. Grant and his army. Coca-Cola was invented by John S. (for Stith) Pemberton. This Pemberton also served in the Confederate army, and John S. Pemberton was the nephew of John C. Pemberton. It may be that if Unionists know that Coke was invented by a Confederate, they will be motivated to drink Pepsi. Nonetheless, it is easier to understand why John S. Pemberton served with the Confederacy than why his uncle did. At least John S. Pemberton was a Southerner, but John C. Pemberton was a Northerner who served with the Confederacy.



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John S. Pemberton was born in Knoxville, Georgia on July 8, 1831. When Pemberton was a young child, his family moved to Rome, Georgia, where he grew up. He was educated in medicine and pharmacy, and in 1850, when he was 19, he was licensed to practice a type of medicine that was based on herbal remedies. Pemberton and his wife moved to Columbus, Georgia in 1855, where Pemberton established a drug business and practiced as a druggist. In 1862 Pemberton enlisted in the Confederate army as a first lieutenant and organized a cavalry unit which operated primarily in the protection of the locale around Columbus. He was almost killed in April 1865 during fighting around Columbus. Had he died, his death prior to inventing Coca-Cola most likely would have had a future beneficial effect on sales of Pepsi-Cola.

After the Civil War, Pemberton returned to his profession in pharmacy and to the analytical and manufacturing company that he had founded in 1860. His laboratories were considered state of the art. For example, Pemberton developed a laboratory for the testing of soil and crop chemicals, and this facility still operates as part of the Georgia Department of Agriculture. But Pemberton's obsession was to invent a tonic for use in the home, since such concoctions were in high demand at that time. Initially he developed Pemberton's French Wine Coca, which was a plagiarism of Vin Mariani. Vin Mariani was developed by French chemist Angelo Mariani and was in essence coca leaves extracted in wine. The ethanol in the wine extracted the cocaine from the coca leaves, and the user consumed a mixture of alcohol and cocaine. The popularity of Vin Mariani even extended to the Vatican, where Pope Leo XIII reputedly consumed Vin Mariani "to fortify himself in those moments when prayer was insufficient." Pemberton acknowledged that Mariani's recipe was likewise his formulation and indicated that his formulation also included an extract of kola nuts.

In 1869 Pemberton moved his company from Columbus to Atlanta. This move was instrumental in the invention of Coca-Cola, because Atlanta introduced prohibition in 1886. As a result, Pemberton's French Wine Coca became illegal, not because of the cocaine, but because of the alcohol. Since he could no longer sell his French Wine Coca, Pemberton set about developing a new concoction that lacked alcohol. After numerous attempts that were either too bitter or too sweet, Pemberton arrived at a formulation that met his satisfaction.

In May 1886 he sent a batch to Jacobs' Pharmacy where Willis Venable, who manned the soda fountain, added carbonated water to the syrup and served it to some customers, who pronounced it excellent. It is an urban legend that the addition of carbonated water was an accident. From the beginning the plan was to mix the syrup with cold carbonated water to make the concoction more flavorful. The syrup was sent to the soda fountain because there was no carbonated water in Pemberton's laboratory. Pemberton's bookkeeper, Frank Robinson, suggested the name Coca-Cola to reflect the two main ingredients in the concoction: coca leaves and kola nuts. Robinson also designed the eminently familiar flowing script logo. Eventually the beverage was sold in soda fountains across the U.S. In the summer of 1894 Coca-Cola was first bottled by Joe Biedenharn in Vicksburg, Mississippi, the city that John C. Pemberton was unable to defend against Ulysses S. Grant during the Civil War.

The year after his invention of Coca-Cola, John S. Pemberton was forced to sell two-thirds interest in his company. Later that year he sold his formula to druggist Asa Candler for \$2,300, although the conditions by which Candler obtained controlling interest are murky. It was Candler who oversaw the explosion in popularity of the beverage, and when Candler sold the company in 1919 it was valued at \$25 million. Pemberton died on August 16, 1888, having never benefitted from the immense profits that accrued from the sale of his invention. At the time of his death, he was immensely loved and respected in Atlanta, but he was also broke. Pemberton's only child, son Charles, died in 1893 at the age of 34 of a morphine overdose. Despite the vast fortunes that were made from Pemberton's invention, his wife, Ann, died a pauper in 1909. Today a statue of John S. Pemberton stands outside the World of Coca-Cola Museum to acknowledge him as the inventor of the beverage, but the great tragedy of Coca-Cola is that its inventor and his family never shared in the enormous wealth that that invention generated.



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Of the two Pembertons, John C. and John S., John C. is definitely more widely known, particularly among Civil War enthusiasts. But John C. Pemberton's most well-known legacy is one of the most devastating defeats in the cause that he fought for. In contrast, although John S. Pemberton's life certainly took a tragic turn, his greatest legacy is an achievement of undeniably historic proportions. Through relentless perseverance and focused ingenuity, he brought into existence the invention that he sought to create. John S. Pemberton's legacy exists throughout the world, but few people realize that it is his legacy. While his place in history is assured, his place in history is hardly known. So raise a glass of the bubbly to John S. Pemberton, the Pemberton who succeeded in his task.

**View of the World of Coca-Cola in Atlanta, the capital city of the southern U.S. state of Georgia and the state's largest city.** <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/highsm.44466/>





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**Meeting May 12th**

**Program: “Shut Up as in a Trap: Citizens Under Siege at Vicksburg.”**

**Speaker: . Terry Winschel**

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