THE CHARGER

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

January 2023 **Vol. 47, No. 5**

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MEETING: Wednesday, January 11, 2023

SPEAKER: Brian D. Kowell

PROGRAM: "The Magnificent Seven: Pook's Turtles in the Civil War"

LOCATION: The Holiday Inn Independence at 6001 Rockside Road, Independence, Ohio 44131, off US Interstate 77

TIME: Social Hour at 6:00 PM and Presentation at 7:00 PM

THE PROGRAM WILL BE IN PERSON AND STREAMED ONLINE SO MANY CIVIL WAR ENTHUSIASTS CAN ENJOY OUR PROGRAM.

For reservations email:

ccwrtreserve@gmail.com or call 440-449-9311. To ensure a dinner is reserved for you, the reservation must be made by Wednesday, January 4, 2023, a week before the meeting.

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President's Message

Happy New Year! Hard to believe it is 2023 already. I hope everyone survived the bitter cold, snowy weather, and assorted travel nightmares that surrounded the Christmas holiday weekend, and is ready and raring to go for our January meeting, no matter how cold it gets. (And remember, if any of you got any good Civil War-related books for Christmas, "The Charger" accepts book reviews!)

We heard about a notable Ohioan at last month's meeting--Rutherford B. Hayes--from author Eric Ebinger, who has written a book on Hayes. Before he was president, he served as an officer in the U.S. Army on the side of the Union, much like several other Ohioans who became president during the latter part of the 19th century. Hayes' military career was full of great danger and excitement, as excerpts from his diary and letters demonstrated. A highlight of the presentation for me was learning that much of this primary source material, like Hayes' diary, was freely available online--as if I needed even more things to read and resources to look through! While Rutherford Hayes' military career is not considered particularly controversial, the issue of how he became president is a source of continued debate, as is the role of his election in the ending of Reconstruction in the South, and some lively discussion on these topics ensued in the Q&A portion of the evening, with Ebinger defending Hayes on both counts.

Our January meeting will see one of our own members gracing the podium, which is technically what we would have had in January anyway, given that it is traditionally the month in which the annual debate is held. (The debate will still happen, but it is instead happening next month.) Brian Kowell will be discussing "Pook's Turtles", gunboats in use on the Mississippi River. We have not had any presentations with a naval focus yet this year, so this should be worth attending for those of you interested in lesser-known vessels of the Civil War. Please email ccwrtreserve@gmail.com to RSVP for the meeting at least a week in advance, and indicate whether you would like the vegetarian meal option or not. I have been trying to rotate out the entree on a monthly basis to introduce a little more variety to the dinners, so let me know if any of them are significantly better or worse than the meals before, so that we can adjust our meal requests accordingly. If you are unable to make it to the meeting in person, you may attend the Zoom meeting to view the presentation, typically starting sometime after 7:00 pm. There is a possibility the Zoom option may be getting phased out in the near future, as it makes meeting setup significantly more complicated. I know we still have some members who are only attending meetings via Zoom, so this will be discussed in more detail later.

See you all in 2023!

--Lily Korte

The Editor's Desk

I recently acquired for my library a set of twenty-eight volumes published by Time-Life Books titled "The Collector's Library of the Civil War." The books are all classic eyewitness accounts of various topics of the war's history. The set includes Thomas Wentworth Higginson's *Army Life in a Black Regiment*, Horace Porter's *Campaigning with Grant*, John Wilkinson's *The Narrative of a Blockade Runner*, John D. Billings' *Hardtack and Coffee*, Edward A. More *The Story of a Cannoneer under Stonewall Jackson*, and other similar works.

One book was written by an Ohio clergyman, William Pittinger, who served in the war with the 2nd Ohio Volunteers. In the summer of 1862, Pittinger, not yet a minister, volunteered to serve with a group of men, led by a civilian scout, John J. Andrews, to steal a Confederate train in Big Shanty, Georgia, and run it up the rails of the Western and Atlantic Railroad toward Chattanooga, tearing up tracks and destroying bridges along the way. The event became known as "The Great Locomotive Chase," and many of us remember the Disney film based on the story starring Fess Parker as John Andrews. One thing I learned was that the operation was primarily an Ohio effort. Of the twenty-two Raiders who made their way deep into enemy territory that summer, two were Kentucky civilians, but all the rest were men from the 2nd, the 21st, and the 33rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry regiments

One additional thought—as we start a new year, I encourage all our members to send in contributions to "The Charger." There is still so much to research and write about the history of the American Civil War. I know many of you have varying topics that we all would like to read about.

The Dick Crews Annual Debate, February 8, 2023

Our topic this year is "Who was the best political general of the Civil War?" William Vodrey will again be our moderator. Debaters will be able to pick their own general (first come, first served); possible candidates include John A. Logan, Richard Taylor, Ben Butler and John C. Breckinridge, among many others. Debaters should expect to speak for five minutes, then take questions from the membership for another five, and finally to take part in a general discussion/rebuttal opportunity with the other debaters. It's a lot of fun, and expertise is neither required nor expected. Younger and newer members of the Roundtable are particularly encouraged to take part. The debate winner, chosen by vote of the membership, will, as always, receive fabulous prizes.

Cheney and the 21st OVI

By Dennis Keating

At the final hearing of the Congressional Committee investigating the January 6 insurrection, Congresswoman Liz Cheney began by invoking the memory of her great-great grandfather, who joined the 21st OVI to save the Union. At the end of the war, Captain Cheney commanded the regiment.

The 21st OVI was recruited from Northwest Ohio. It fought in the battle of Stone's River, served in the Tullahoma, Chattanooga (including the assault on Missionary Ridge), Atlanta, and Carolina campaigns. It fought at Chickamauga and finally at the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina. Overall, it lost 172 killed and another 220 dead from disease and other causes. During its service, two events especially stand out.

First, on April 12, 1862, a band of volunteer under cover Union Soldiers, including nine from the 21st OVI, hijacked the "General" train at the Kennesaw station at Big Shanty, Georgia, with the aim of taking it North to assist in a Union assault on Chattanooga. Unfortunately, the raid (known as "the Great Locomotive Chase") led by James Andrews failed and most of the raiders were captured and tried as spies. Andrews and seven other raiders (including one from the 21st OVI) were hung. All of the nine volunteers from the 21st OVI received the Medal of Honor.

Sidney Brewster, Co. C, 21st OVI
Holding a Colt Revolving Rifle

Second, at the battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863, the 21st OVI retreated after the Confederate breakthrough to join George Thomas' left wing of the Army of the Cumberland on

Snodgrass Hill. There, it joined the stubborn resistance against numerous Confederate assaults that saved that part of the army. Running out of ammunition, it was among the last of the defenders to retreat. Its commander was mortally wounded and his successor and 120 men were captured, among the regiment's 205 casualties.

Notably, two of its members served in the postwar 7th Cavalry regiment commanded by Ohioan George Armstrong Custer. His brother Tom Custer, a two time Medal of Honor winner, died with him at the 1876 battle of Little Big Horn. Edward Godfrey, who became a Brigadier General and also won the Medal of Honor, survived that battle.

References:

Cozzens, Peter. *The Battle of Chickamauga: This Terrible Sound* (1992: University of Illinois Press)

Rowland, Tim. "The Great Train Chase of 1862." History Net (September 5, 2017)

Ursu, Daniel J. "The Battle of Chickamauga: The 21st Ohio at Snodgrass Hill" History Brief, Cleveland Civil War Roundtable (November 3, 2021)

[EDITOR'S NOTE: *According to William Pittinger, a participant in the Great Locomotive Chase, of the nine men from the 21st Ohio who served as part of the Raiders, one (John Scott, Co. K) was executed along with seven other Raiders, including their leader, John Andrews. Of the remainder of the men from the 21st Ohio, five (Wilson Brown, Co. F, William Knight, Co. E, J.R. Porter, Mark Wood, and J.A. Wilson, all of Co. C) escaped prison in October 1862 and returned safely to the Union lines, and three (Robert Buffum, Co. H, William Bensinger, Co. G, and E.H. Mason, Co. K) were paroled and exchanged as POWs in March 1863. All nine men were among the first United States soldiers to be awarded the Medal of Honor.*]

TOP ROW: John Scott, Wilson Brown, John Wilson, John Porter, Mark Wood
BOTTOM ROW: Robert Buffum, Elihu Mason, William Bensinger, William Knight

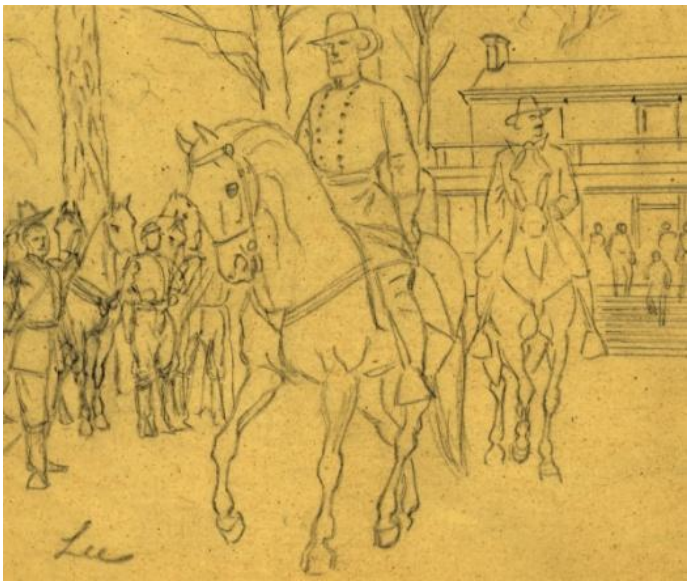
The Colt Revolving Rifle

By Kent Fonner

At the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863, the majority of the companies of the 21st Ohio Volunteer Infantry were armed with Colt Revolving Rifles. The Model 1855 Colt Rifle went into production in 1857, and it was the first repeating rifle adopted by the United States military. The most popular weapon was a .56 caliber, five-shot model. Like Colt's famous handgun, the rifle's chambers were contained in a revolving cylinder that advanced a fresh round to the hammer with each pull of the trigger. Berdan's U.S. Sharp Shooter regiment was armed with a thousand Colt Revolving Rifles before the Peninsular Campaign in the late Spring of 1862. Berdan declared the rifle a "very superior weapon," especially in skirmishes. His men, however, preferred the Sharps Rifle which soon replaced the Colts. When being fired, the man holding the weapon often experienced an uncomfortable flash in the face from the exploding chamber. In addition, the weapon was subject to "chain fire" as a spark or gas from one chamber set off the round in one or more additional chambers. This resulted in a very heavy recoil and was dangerous to anyone steadying the weight of the rifle by holding the forward stock. When used in continuous fire, moreover, the cylinder and chambers rapidly heated. Still, the rifle could be more rapidly fired than the standard infantry Springfield or Enfield single-shot rifle-musket. Most users also favorably commented on the weapon's accuracy. The 21st OVI made good use of the rifle at Chickamauga. One Rebel was said to have exclaimed, "My God, we thought you had a division here!" The Colt Revolving Rifle, however, never really caught on. During the Civil War, Colt sold over 386,000 revolver handguns. The U.S. government only purchased about 4000 of the Revolving Rifles; and total sales, including those made to private individuals and state military units, was only 7000 rifles.

Sources: William B. Edwards. *Civil War Guns: The complete story of Federal and Confederate small arms –design, manufacture, identification, procurement, issue, employment, effectiveness, and postwar disposal* (The Stackpole Company: Harrisburg, PA, 1962).

Francis A. Lord. *Civil War Collector's Encyclopedia: Arms, Uniforms, and Equipment of the Union and Confederacy* (Castle Books: NY, 1965).

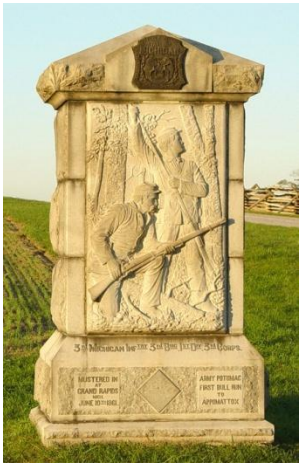


A Bit of Robert E. Lee in That State Up North

Part II

By David A. Carrin

With Byron Pierce as its new commander, the 3rd Michigan, still part of the III corps (which was now under the command of Daniel Sickles), took part in the disastrous Battle of Chancellorsville. It was at this battle that Pierce received his first two wounds of the Civil War, one in his left hand and one in his right arm, although both wounds were slight. The division commander, David Birney, noted in his report that Pierce distinguished himself for gallantry in the battle. Two months later Pierce and the 3rd Michigan participated in the Battle of Gettysburg [monument pictured here]. At this battle, the regiment fought in the Peach Orchard on the battle's second day, and Byron Pierce was seriously wounded in his left leg. His brother, Edwin, replaced him as the regiment's commander, but by late August 1863 Byron had recovered from his wound and returned to command of the regiment. After returning to the regiment, Byron Pierce was placed in command of a detachment consisting of two infantry regiments (the 3rd Michigan and the 5th Michigan) and a battery (the 2nd Connecticut) that was sent to Troy, New York to deter any violence associated with the draft.



Pierce and the detachment that he commanded rejoined the Army of the Potomac in October 1863 and took part in the Bristoe Campaign and the Mine Run Campaign. The following spring, the 3rd Michigan, with Byron Pierce still in command, participated in the Battle of the Wilderness and the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse. Prior to the Battle of the Wilderness, the Army of the Potomac was reorganized, part of which involved the dissolution of the III corps

and assimilation of its units into other corps. As a result of this reorganization, the 3rd Michigan became part of the II corps. At the Battle of the Wilderness, the 3rd Michigan was in the thick of the action and was, as Pierce wrote in a letter to his father after the battle, "considerably cut up." Likewise, at the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, the 3rd Michigan was actively engaged and took part in the assault on the mule shoe salient on May 12, 1864. During the battle Byron Pierce was wounded once more in the left leg.

Pierce was officially promoted to Brigadier General on June 3, 1864, but according to a story that was told after the war, he was verbally notified of his promotion a month earlier at the Battle of the Wilderness under breathtaking circumstances. Reputedly, Pierce "led a fierce charge and captured a bridge held by the enemy. The charge was witnessed by Gen. U. S. Grant, Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock and Gen. Birney, who from an eminence watched the battle. Shortly after the success of Col. Pierce's charge, and while the battle still raged, an Adjutant attached to Gen. Grant's staff approached Col. Pierce and told him he had been promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. 'Can you give me the oath of office here? I'd like to die a brig. gen.', Col. Pierce said. Stepping behind a great tree which stood there, he took the oath as bullets whizzed about their heads, and then dashed back into battle." On June 4, 1864, the day after Pierce was officially promoted to brigadier general, he was given command of a brigade, the 1st brigade in the 2nd division (John Gibbons' division) of the II corps.

Pierce continued to serve in this capacity throughout the remainder of the Overland Campaign. On June 18, 1864 at Petersburg, he led his brigade in a charge as part of an all-out Union assault on the Confederate lines. Pierce was wounded in the right shoulder during this assault, the fifth and last of his Civil War wounds. A Grand Rapids newspaper reported on June 20 that Pierce received the official document of his brigadier general commission just before that assault, and, as written in that newspaper report, "he was mounted and about to lead his command in a charge on the enemy. Taking the paper he stuffed it into his pocket and dashed off to the front, and in some 15 minutes thereafter, returned wounded in the shoulder. His wound was no sooner dressed, than he was ready mounted and again on duty." On June 30, 1864 Pierce was placed in command of the 2nd brigade, 3rd division of the II corps, and he remained in this capacity for the Appomattox Campaign until the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse.

It was during the Appomattox Campaign at the Battle of Sailor's Creek that Byron Pierce

acquired the sash that is displayed in the Grand Rapids Public Museum. A postwar report states that Pierce's unit "was following Lee's army just before surrender. At 6 o'clock on the evening of April 5, his command suddenly came up with a Confederate division which was convoying the headquarters train of Lee's army. Charges and countercharges were made, muskets rattled, sabers flashed. With overturned wagons, frantic mules and horses, the Blue and Grey mingled in the strife. The result was a victory for Gen. Pierce's troops

and the rich supply train fell to the federal forces. The members of Gen. Pierce's staff divided the spoils, and to him fell a rich silk sash, the personal property of Gen. Robert E. Lee. This sash, which was of heavy yellow silk, the ends trimmed with cream-colored tassels, was long cherished by the general, but later given to the Kent Scientific Museum."

A soldier in Pierce's brigade described the capture of the baggage train as follows. "The enemy now has fallen back and taken up a position near a brick house where they fight very wickedly as they are trying to get a large wagon train away from our reach. The rebels are posted at every window and keep up a vigorous fire on us. On the crest of a hill beyond they have a very wicked battery which they use right lively. Now we are exposed too much for nothing, and would much rather charge on them than stand their fire. So the order is given to forward and inside of two minutes the brick house is ours. The Johnnies who fired at us are pulled out of the windows and taken prisoners. The enemy's battery still holds its position and pours in shell thick and fast, but we have good shelter now and wait for the rest of our lines to come up, which they do in a few minutes. All is ready now to go for the train and the order 'forward' is given once more; the rebel battery makes a hasty retreat, leaving about 250 wagons in our hands." In one of those wagons was the sash that elevated Byron Pierce to a unique Civil War distinction. For his actions at the Battle of Sailor's Creek, Pierce was promoted to brevet major general.

One other aspect of Byron Pierce's Civil War career that should be gratifying to the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable is the horse that he used for a large part of the war. This horse bore the name Charger, the same name as the newsletter of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. When Pierce was in command of the detachment that was sent to Troy, New York, a local newspaper wrote about Charger and stated, "Ten or twelve horses, belonging to the officers of the regiment, reached here by Vanderbilt this morning. Among them is 'Charger', owned by Col. Pierce, who shared with him the dangers of the Peninsular and Potomac campaigns. Together with his rider, 'Charger' received honorable scars at Gettysburg, but they have not damped his spirit. He does not allow the approach of any other man than his groom, besides his gallant owner. 'Charger' is an institution."

After his outstanding service in the Civil War, Pierce returned to Grand Rapids on July 27, 1865. A report about the returning hero praised him by saying, "The general has won the stars ornamenting his shoulders, and he can wear them in the proud consciousness that they have a meaning and are emblematic of glorious work done in behalf of freedom and the Union." In 1866 Pierce moved to Mobile, Alabama and early in the following year became a planter in Wilcox County. Rather than being perceived as a carpetbagger, the *Mobile Times* wrote kindly of him and said, "General Pierce, at the close of the war, determined to share the fate of the Southern people, and settled in the midst of us, after having resigned the insignia of his official rank, and went to work as a planter in Wilcox County, in this state, where his modest, conciliating and courteous manners soon endeared him to his neighbors, who ceased to look on him as a former antagonist, and accepted him as one of the honest artisans of a reconstructed country and reviving prosperity." But the

newspaper evidently was not able to resist a nod to the Lost Cause by also writing, "General Byron R. Pierce has been a Federal officer of distinction, and although he has done all in his power to put down what we considered, and still consider, a just and righteous cause, his sole aim was the full restoration of the Union which the past had given such bright promises of becoming a blessing to future generations. If the end which he and many others had in view is today ignored, the fault is not with them, but with the fanatical fury which is now obscuring the bright sun of our national existence."

Byron Pierce returned to Grand Rapids sometime during the 1870s and joined in a clothing business with two of his brothers, Edwin and Silas. Byron married Abbie Evans Jarvis on October 12, 1881. From 1880 to 1882, he was the commander for the Grand Army of the Republic's department of Michigan. He later became actively involved in the creation of a soldiers' home in Michigan, and he was instrumental in the home being located in Grand Rapids. The home was opened in 1887 with Pierce as its first commandant, a position that Pierce held until 1891. After this he became the proprietor of a hotel.

Pierce was also very active in the Old Third Michigan Infantry Association, a group dedicated to the veterans of the regiment in which Pierce first served in the Civil War. He was a regular attendee at reunions of the regiment, and on June 13, 1911, the 50th anniversary of the Third Michigan's departure from Grand Rapids to fight in the Civil War, Pierce spoke at the unveiling of a monument to the regiment in Grand Rapids. Pierce said, "Crowded with memories mingled with pleasure and sadness. As we stand here among the vast assembly, to the survivors of the Third Michigan Infantry we seem to tread upon hallowed ground – it is indeed a sacred spot. Here in our young manhood, many of you had not attained that, with the spirit born of patriotism that roused us to avenge the nation's traitorous blow, we swore allegiance in that flag whose every star retains its luster and place upon its azure field...50 years ago this morning we responded to that call, each with knapsack and musket, we marched from here amid the waving of banners and plaudits of citizens, to the old D & M station, where the last farewells were spoken, and we left home and loved ones to share the dangers and horrors of war. Think you this day is not replete with memories to this little group of men, the remnant of the 1,040 who then formed this Regiment and went forth to do or die? Are they not a link between the past and the present?...I look with reverence upon every veteran before me, for they have been tried and proven true, their valor tested on every battlefield, their loyalty to the cause they represented, as steadfast then as now...May this memorial stand as long as time shall endure, telling present and future generations whence came the Regiments and companies that helped make a bright page in Michigan's record in the Civil War."

Byron Pierce died at the age of 94 on July 10, 1924. He was the last Michigan Civil War officer to die. Pierce was given a funeral befitting the local hero that he was, and the service was closed with the singing of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." One of Pierce's obituaries declared that he lived "a life which played its full part in keeping the nation one." Pierce is interred in the Fulton Street Cemetery in Grand Rapids.

Of all the courageous and consequential acts in the Civil War career of Byron Pierce, the capture of Lee's sash is the act for which he gained a distinctive place in history. Yet he should be remembered for more than this one act. He should also be remembered for the valiant officer that he was. When a Grand Rapids newspaper reported the incident about Pierce leading a charge at Petersburg just after receiving his brigadier general commission, the newspaper said of him, "Glorious General Pierce; he is the kind of officer for the times." Similarly, the soldier in Pierce's brigade who described the capture of the baggage train at Sailor's Creek said that Pierce "is as cool under fire as on parade and nothing daunted he leads his men in the midst of the battle and all are proud of our gallant general."

Byron Root Pierce deserves to be remembered for more than the capture of Robert E. Lee's sword sash. Nevertheless, the sash serves a valuable purpose which is articulated in the text in the sash's display case. This text reads, "During the period following the Civil War, local veterans wanted future generations to remember their sacrifices. Many veterans donated objects to the Museum that symbolized their efforts. Confederate (Southern) General Robert E. Lee's sword sash is one of the more remarkable items given." As the text in the display case intimates, the items donated by Civil War veterans are tangible objects that aid "future generations" in remembering the sacrifices of those who fought in the war. We are those "future generations" who are mentioned in that text, the "future generations" who are being asked by the veterans of the Civil War to remember "their sacrifices," the "future generations" to whom the veterans of the Civil War are speaking through the items that they donated for display. What better memento to remind us of "their sacrifices" than a relic of the indisputably most prominent and most important leader of the military effort to sever the United States, the man who personifies that heinous military effort? When we "future generations" look at Lee's sword sash, we must not only keep in mind "their sacrifices," but in these divisive and turbulent times that are so disturbingly reminiscent of the divisive and turbulent times that preceded the Civil War, we must also dedicate ourselves to ensure that the cause for which they sacrificed "shall not perish from the earth."

[Author's note: *A particularly useful source for this article was a short but detailed biography of Byron Root Pierce, which was written by Steve Soper and posted on The 3rd Michigan Infantry blog (http://thirdmichigan.blogspot.com/2010/04/byron-root-pierce.html).*]

Three Ohio Political Generals

By Dennis Keating

During the Civil War, Ohio had numerous generals, both those who were West Pointers (e.g., Grant, Sherman, Sheridan) and also many who were just civilian volunteers. Of the latter category, this article profiles three who were politicians before becoming Union generals – James A. Garfield, Jacob Dolson Cox, and Robert C. Schenck.

James A. Garfield

Best known of Ohio's political generals was James Garfield. After a varied career in law and education, in 1859, Garfield was elected to the Ohio State Senate. In Columbus, Garfield roomed with another neighboring new Republican state senator – Jacob Dolson Cox.

With the outbreak of the war, Garfield assisted Ohio Governor William Dennison in obtaining arms from the state of Illinois. Garfield then expected to be elected colonel of the 7th OVI, only to lose to Erasmus Tyler. Subsequently, he accepted an offer to join the 42nd OVI and he became its commander in September, 1861.

During December, 1861-January, 1862, Garfield had his only experience as a field commander in combat. Teaching himself military tactics, Garfield led a brigade which included the 42nd OVI to drive a small Confederate force out of the Big Sandy Valley in eastern Kentucky.

On January 10, 1862, Cox led his units in the Battle of Middle Creek, defeating the Confederates under General Humphrey Marshall. Garfield was promoted to Brigadier General and assigned to lead a brigade in General Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio. It joined the army of Ulysses Grant at Shiloh, Tennessee during that bloody battle. But, Garfield's brigade only arrived after the battle had ended on April 7, 1862.

In October, 1862, Garfield was elected to Congress but could stay in the army until it next met in 1863. He participated in the court martial of General Fitz John Porter, which concluded with his conviction in January, 1863. Instead of another combat command, Garfield joined the Army of the Cumberland, commanded by fellow Ohioan William Rosecrans, who had once commanded the 23rd OVI. Rosecrans chose Garfield to be his Chief of Staff, replacing his predecessor who was killed at the battle of Stone's River on December 31, 1862.

Prodded by Lincoln to pursue the defeated Army of Tennessee led by Braxton Bragg, it was Garfield who also persuaded Rosecrans to launch his successful Tullahoma campaign in 1863 which drove Bragg's army out of central Tennessee without a major battle and captured the city of Chattanooga.

As Rosecrans' divided army followed Bragg into northern Georgia, it had to quickly unite in the face of a reinforced Confederate army. The two armies clashed on September 19, 1863, at Chickamauga Creek with heavy fighting. The following day, due to a terrible mistaken order by Rosecrans, late arriving troops from Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia under James Longstreet broke through the federal lines and routed the right wing of the Army of the Cumberland.

Rosecrans, Garfield and other headquarters staff left the field, believing that the entire army was in retreat. However, fighting could still be heard from Horseshoe Ridge and Snodgrass Hill, where Union troops under General George Thomas held out against repeated assaults by Confederates. In a life-changing decision, Garfield decided to ride to join Thomas, while Rosecrans headed for Chattanooga. Arriving after a 6-mile ride, Garfield was with Thomas and his heroic defenders until they were finally forced to retreat. Thomas became the hero for his stubborn defense which saved the army, while Garfield's ride became legendary.

In mid-October, Rosecrans sent Garfield to Washington to report on his besieged army's condition. Before Garfield arrived to report, Rosecrans was replaced by Thomas by Grant, who had arrived in Chattanooga to take charge. Garfield stayed to take his seat in Congress; in Congress, he served on the Military Affairs Committee chaired by Robert Schenck.

Garfield biographer Daniel Vermilya wrote (p. 153):

"This moment marked a significant turning point for James Garfield. He set aside his uniform and said goodbye to the battlefields of the Civil War; for the rest of his life, Garfield would be a politician. His military career in the Union Army had taken him to [five states]. Along the way, he had fought in battles ranging from Middle Creek, with fewer than one hundred casualties, to helping oversee the Army of the Cumberland at the horrific Battle of Chickamauga. He made friends and allies who would support his political career and his

ambitions for the rest of his life. His path crossed with those of Lincoln, Grant, Sherman, Thomas, Rosecrans, Halleck, and many others, all of whom influenced Garfield along the way. Without his service during the war, James Garfield would never have enjoyed the postwar political career that he did. His status as a leading Republican in the later 1860s and 1870s was based on his military record above all else."

Garfield became an influential Republican Congressman, including his membership on the Congressional election commission that awarded the presidency to fellow Ohioan and Civil War general Rutherford B. Hayes after the contested presidential election of 1876. Then, Garfield unexpectedly won the Republican presidential nomination himself and narrowly defeated former Civil War General Winfield Scott Hancock in the 1880 election. Sadly, shortly after taking office, he was shot by a frustrated Republican office seeker and died in September, 1881. His Memorial stands in Cleveland's Lakeview Cemetery.

Jacob Dolson Cox

Cox was a lawyer and a founder of Ohio's Republican Party and a protégé of Salmon Chase. In 1859, Cox was elected to the Ohio State Senate in a district adjoining Garfield's Senate district. With the outbreak of the war, Cox became Ohio Governor William Dennison's military chief of staff. Cox was then appointed a Brigadier General of volunteers and was first assigned to train volunteer recruits at Camp Dennison near Cincinnati.

His first field command was under George McClellan in (West) Virginia, where he helped McClellan and William Rosecrans push Confederate forces out of what would become later the state of West Virginia.

In 1862, Cox was transferred to a division command in the Ninth Corps of the Army of the Potomac. In September, 1862, his "Kanawha" Division led the attack on Confederate forces at South Mountain, Maryland. After the corps commander Jessie Reno was killed, Cox became the leader of the Ninth Corps and then led it in battle at Antietam under Ambrose Burnside's left wing of McClellan's assault against Lee's army on September 17. Cox's troops were engaged in the bloody effort to cross the Burnside Bridge and were finally driven back by the arrival of A.P. Hill's division from Harper's Ferry.

After further service in 1863 in West Virginia and military administration in Ohio, in 1864, Cox joined Sherman's forces in the campaign to capture Atlanta. His division served in the Army of Ohio (XXIII Corps) commanded by John Schofield. Cox's division's most significant achievement was on August 31, 1864, when it cut John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee's last supply line, forcing him to evacuate Atlanta. Cox later wrote a history of Sherman's Atlanta campaign.

When Hood decided to invade Tennessee, Cox remained with Schofield's army. On the fateful day of November 30, 1864, Schofield left Cox in command of the Union forces defending the town of Franklin, Tennessee in the path of Hood's desperate attempt to destroy Schofield's army before it could escape to Nashville. While Cox in his book on the battle which wrecked Hood's army in its frontal assault took credit for the victory, after the war Cox became embroiled in disputes with David Stanley and Emerson Opdycke (commander of the 125th OVI), both of whom claimed primary credit for the Union victory.

Cox finished the war with Sherman's forces in North Carolina that culminated with Joseph Johnston's surrender of Confederate forces there in April, 1865. While Sherman in recognition of his service offered Cox a commission in the regular post-war army, he declined and returned to civilian life.

In 1866, Cox was elected governor of Ohio. He then became President Grant's Secretary of the Interior. However, his advocacy of civil service reforms led to conflict with Grant's administration and Cox resigned. In 1872, Cox became a leader in the unsuccessful Liberal Republican attempt to deny Grant a nomination for a second presidential term. Cox did return to Washington to serve one term in Congress (1877-1879). In addition to his writings on the Civil War, Cox served as president of the Toledo Wabash Railway, Dean of the Cincinnati Law School, and President of the University of Cincinnati.

Robert C. Schenck

Schenck was a Dayton lawyer first elected as a Whig to the Ohio Legislature in 1841. He was elected to Congress in 1843 and re-elected in 1845. He (like Grant and Lincoln) opposed the Mexican War. In 1859, he supported former Whig Abraham Lincoln for the Republican presidential nomination.

After the outbreak of the war, Lincoln appointed Schenck a Brigadier General of volunteers despite his lack of military experience. On June 17, 1861, Schenck and the 1st OVI were sent by train into Fairfax County, Virginia. Near Vienna, much of this regiment was ambushed by a South Carolina regiment led by Maxcy Gregg. At the first battle of Bull Run, the brigade commanded by Schenck retreated in good order despite the Union rout.

Schenck then served under William Rosecrans and John Fremont in (West) Virginia. On May 8, 1862, Schenck's brigade fought Stonewall Jackson's command at McDowell, Virginia and then again during Jackson's Shenandoah Valley campaign. At the battle of Cross Keys on June 8, 1862, Schenck's brigade of Ohio regiments was not engaged as Fremont failed against Richard Ewell (and Jackson)'s forces.

At the second battle of Bull Run in August, 1862, Schenck's Division again faced Stonewall Jackson's command of Lee's army. On the second day, Schenck was badly wounded in his right arm. After his recovery, he took command of the VIII Corps in Maryland. In December, 1863, Schenck resigned from the army to take the Ohio seat in Congress formerly occupied by Peace Democrat Clement Vallandigham (after he had been arrested and tried and convicted for treason and then deported to the South by Lincoln). Schenck became Chair of the Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. Schenck served four terms in Congress before being

barely defeated in 1870. Under President Grant, he served as Minister to the United Kingdom from 1871-1876.

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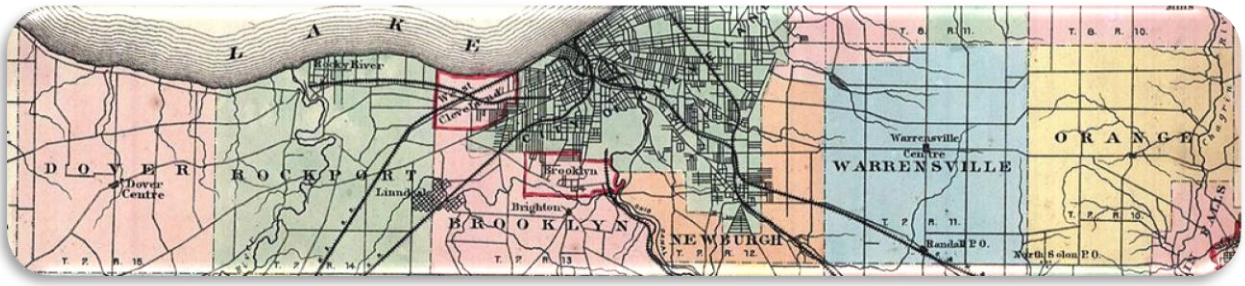
Ohio Confederate Describes Lee's Army in Winter Camp

[*Edmund DeWitt Patterson was born March 20, 1842 in Lorain County, Ohio. His parents were a farmer and a teacher. After his mother died in 1852, Patterson was raised by his Grandfather and an uncle. He attended local schools until he turned seventeen. At that time he took a job selling books and magazines in Tennessee and Alabama. When the Civil War erupted he was a school teacher and store clerk in Waterloo, Alabama. In May 1861 he enlisted in Co. D, 9th*

Alabama Infantry. Wounded during the Peninsula Campaign, he returned to the regiment in November 1862 with the rank of Lieutenant. He was captured at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863, and was held at Johnson's Island, Ohio, until he was exchanged in March 1865. In his diary entry for January 20, 1863, Patterson described how the Alabama boys and their fellow soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia spent their leisure time in winter camp.]

"The principal amusement of the troops now-a-days is snowballing. A great many of them never saw any snow, or at least not enough to cover the ground, until last winter, and many of the Florida troops have never seen any at all. Sometimes whole brigades and even divisions, with their officers in command, get into a battle with snowballs. Then the sport becomes exciting, and the balls fly so thick that the opposing forces scarcely distinguish each other. I think this imitation battle is decidedly more pleasant than the real. The health of the company and Regiment is much better than it was last winter. The men have become acclimated and accustomed to exposure, and it would be almost impossible to kill one of them now, by anything except a bullet. About this time last winter, quite a number of our company was sick, several of whom died: McKelvey, Fowler, Irion, Webb, and several others. Thus far our death from disease has been more than from battle. And I believe that the same thing is true with every command in the Army, at least with those from the Gulf states."

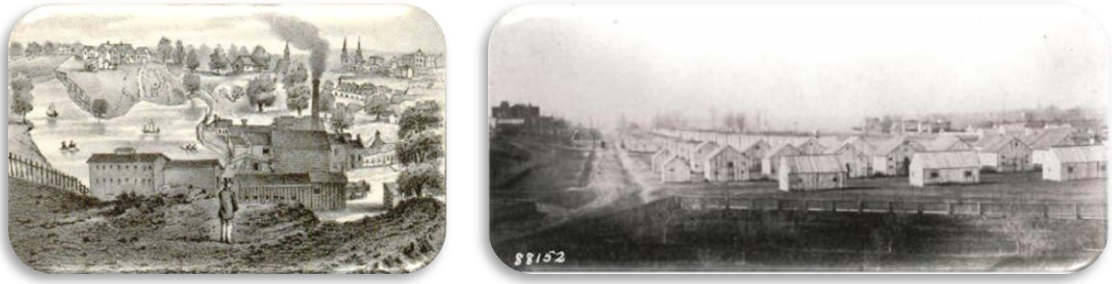
Source: Brooks D. Simpson, Editor. *The Civil War: The Third Year Told by Those Who Lived It*, The Library of America Series (New York, 2013), p. 2.



Some Vanished Villages of Cuyahoga County And Their Civil War

By Paul Siedel

As one looks at a map of Cuyahoga County today it is hard to imagine how it was originally laid out. Cuyahoga County, like all others in northeast Ohio, was laid out on the Township plan. There were nineteen original townships in the County and all except two still exist in one form or another. They and the villages that sprung up within them served as recruiting stations and state militia headquarters during the Civil War. Most of these villages and towns have been swallowed up by the mile after mile of urban sprawl that today constitutes greater Cleveland, but if one looks hard they can identify several of them. These villages usually sprung up around mills, cross roads or railroad junctions. As the City grew many of these small villages and towns incorporated and became suburbs such as Gates Mills, North Olmsted, Warrensville Heights, Independence Center, and Newburg Heights. Others just voted to join the larger city and vanished from the map, including Doans Corners at E. 105 and Euclid, Brooklyn Center at Denison and W. 25, Brighton at the intersection of W. 25 and Memphis, Broadview, and State Roads. Others changed into other communities but still have left their mark on the map. Warrensville Center at Chagrin and Warrensville Center Road was absorbed into Shaker Heights, and the village of Albion at Pearl and Albion Road languished and finally fell victim to big box stores and motels. However a road still bears the name of the long vanished village.

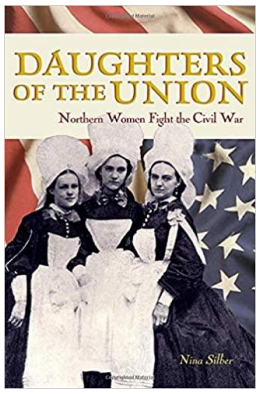


Walworth Run and Camp Cleveland

During the Civil War these small villages throughout the Western Reserve served at recruiting stations and supplied the army with rations and supplies. The old village green of Newburgh at E. 93 and Harvard hosted a large recruiting station and the mills in the village supplied products such as gun barrels and buckets. Coming in closer to downtown the valley of Walworth Run was a haven for small businesses. The spring fed creek provided water for many breweries and railroad equipment manufacturers, and slaughter houses, which gave way to the harness industry which supplied the U. S. Army with leather goods. Soldiers from Camp Cleveland soon popularized the little valley with games of chance, foot races, wrestling matches, rooster fights or anything one could bet on. As time went on several of the original townships changed their names because of mailing issues. Dover became Westlake in the 1940s and Rockport vanished from the map with the incorporation of Fairview Park, Rocky River and Lakewood, the rest of Rockport voted to join Cleveland and became the West Park neighborhood. These are the only two townships of which there is no remaining place on the map, however Dover Center Road still bears the name of the old township. There are still several small villages and towns remaining that have maintained their identity and while not true suburbs they have long since become part of the Cleveland Metro area. Chagrin Falls, Berea, Bedford, and Olmsted Falls, still maintain their identity. Berea has its cherished Civil War soldier proudly standing on the triangle in the center of town.

These small villages and crossroads witnessed men going off to serve in the Union Army, their village greens and town centers were instrumental is supplying the U.S. Army with recruits and supplies which helped win the war. Today when we drive through certain jurisdictions they bear little resemblance to the small farming villages that they once were but many times their names live on and contribute to the rich history that we share here in Cuyahoga County and the Western Reserve.

BOOK NOTE



Nina Silber. ***Daughters of the Union: Northern Women Fight the Civil War.*** **Harvard University Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2005**

In a letter to her husband, Dr. Edwin Sinet, who was serving as an army surgeon at a camp near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Sarah Sinet of Granville, Ohio, profoundly noted, "We are all well and getting along as well as possible without a steersman of the masculine gender and I don't know but this war will bring out some capabilities of women which otherwise would have forever remained concealed and unthought-of of." Nina Silber examines some of those capabilities in her book, *Daughters of the Union*. While much has been written about Southern women on the home front in the past century and a half, Silber sheds light on what has been termed "some of the worst overlooked and least understood participants in the American Civil War: the women of the North."

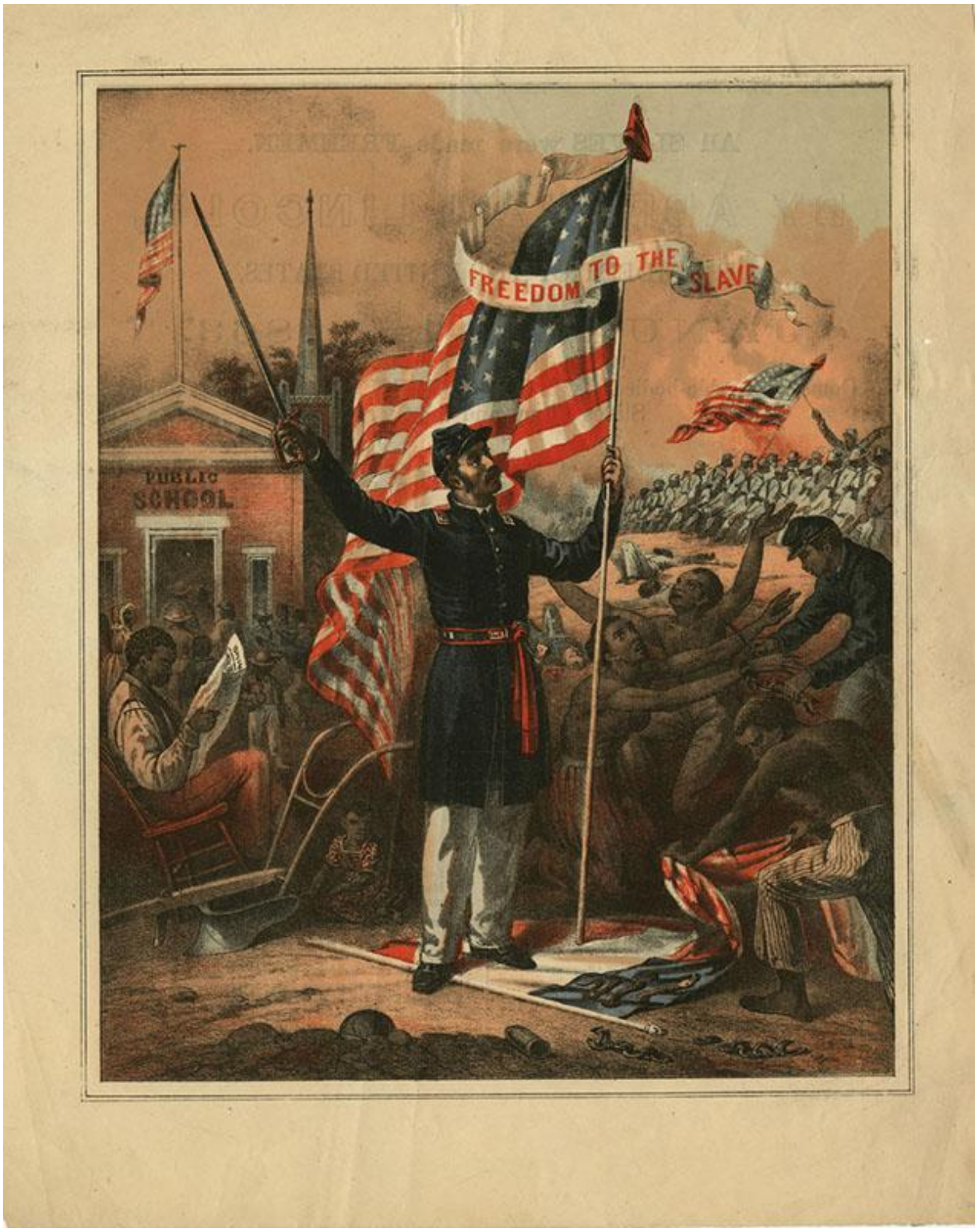
Unlike their southern sisters, Northern women generally remained in cities, towns, villages, and farms far removed from the battlefields, but they provided much-needed support for the Union war effort on the home front. While their men served in the army and navy by the thousands, women in the North found themselves managing businesses and farms. They participated in civic and philanthropic endeavors such as soldier relief societies, religious organizations providing community support for war widows and orphans, and fundraising efforts for beneficial organizations like the U. S. Sanitary Commission. A few, disguised as men, served in the military, but thousands volunteered as nurses in military hospitals and teachers in Freedmen schools established in the Federal occupied regions in the South.

Yet, despite the insistence by some historians that the Civil War heralded the rise of the women's movements of the Gilded and Progressive eras of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Silber sees a much more complex story. While women in the North became more active in partisan politics and community service, they still found their path to unhindered participation as citizens blocked by male-dominated military and government bureaucracies.

Although numbers of women in the North became wage earners, participants in political activities, and active contributors to the war effort, limits placed on their relationship to the nation-state also hindered any advanced feminist agendas. Nurses and teachers in the occupied zones were under masculine control. Widows replaced dependence on husbands with dependence on government pensions. While fraught with possibilities, the war only foreshadowed what the future might bring in the decades to follow.

Well researched and written in an engaging style, Silber's book is a great place to start reading about what Civil War historian, Gary Gallagher, has called a "curiously neglected group in the massive literature of the Civil War."

--Kent Fonner



January 1, 2023 marks the 160th anniversary of the signing of the Final Emancipation Proclamation. Take time to remember.