

THE CHARGER



The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

March 2023

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MEETING: Wednesday, March 8, 2023

**SPEAKER: Christian McWhirter, with
Hannah and Ben Holbrook, musicians**

PROGRAM: “Music 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

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, March 1, 2023, a week before
the meeting.

Website:
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President’s Message

Greetings, everyone! I'd like to start
this month's message off with a
note about a couple recent topics
affecting the Roundtable. First, the topic of
Zoom--we are scheduled to have live Zoom
broadcasts of meetings resume for the final
three meetings of the year, starting with this

month's meeting. (Just three meetings left to go this season?) It is not yet known whether this will continue during the next year, because in the absence of volunteers, the current proposal has been to hire someone to run it, similar to what the organization had done the year before. It will likely be put to a vote by the membership, so expect that to happen either at the end of this season or at the beginning of the next.

Secondly, on the topic of meals, I have been experimenting with swapping the entrees out at the meetings each month. Most of what is on offer within our budget at our current location is chicken meals but there are a couple beef, pork, and fish entrees that we could try as well--I selected one of the beef options last month. For the last three meetings of the year, I will try and get these menus out in advance of the meeting announcement to help people make a more informed decision, in case they have any strong preferences or aversions one way or another. And if you had anything that you thought was really good, or really bad, please let me know. We'll have three different options available this month, so please be sure to select which one you want when RSVPing.

February's Dick Crews Memorial Debate was a rollicking good time, as always, with four members making their cases for who the best political general of the Civil War was, while William Vodrey ably moderated. The debaters had clearly done their research, and came armed to address the weak points of their opponents. (Bob Pence even came brandishing pages of "opposition research"

during the rebuttal period!) Perhaps because of the nature of the topic, debaters had to devise creative approaches for defending generals who, in many cases, did not exactly have sterling military records. Paul Burkholder made the bold move of selecting Benjamin Butler, and knew better than to try to defend his military performance, choosing instead to highlight his non-combat initiatives such as using creative interpretations of "contraband" to confiscate and liberate slaves from secessionists, and stemming infectious disease outbreaks and improving public health in the city of New Orleans. Burkholder admitted he partly chose Butler out of contrariness; given that Butler was famously inadequate on the battlefield, it would force him to make his argument via alternate methods. Kent Fonner similarly admitted to a "contrary" reason for choosing his political general; given that the other three debaters had all selected Union generals, Fonner decided to give himself the challenge of selecting a Confederate, and cited John Breckinridge's performance both on and off the battlefield as proof of his effectiveness on both military and political fronts. Charles Patton chose the unlikeliest officer of all--Edward Ferrero, a man who had been a dance instructor prior to the outbreak of war! Ferrero drilled militia troops and raised a regiment, and was well-liked by his men; harder to defend was his hiding out in a bunker with a bottle of rum while the USCT division under his command suffered in their attack at the Crater. Bob Pence argued on behalf of John Logan, a man who straddled the political and military fields, but who, unlike many political generals, actually had a good track

record for the latter. Pence ultimately made the strongest case to the largest number of the people in attendance, and thus won this year's debate (and the fabulous prizes that come with it!), but all four debaters are to be congratulated for the effort they put into developing their arguments. Given that Bob Pence will be next year's president, I am looking forward to seeing what topic he selects for debate during his presidential year.

The March meeting will be something of a departure from military topics, in some ways. Our speaker, Christian McWhirter, is the Lincoln Historian at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, but he is also the author of a book and numerous articles on the topic of music in the Civil War. Our March meeting will look at the role of music in the Civil War, and how it reflected and shaped the times people lived through, both on and off the battlefield. We should have some musicians present as well to perform renditions of some of these songs, so you can get the full experience.

Please email ccwrtreserve@gmail.com to RSVP for the meeting at least a week in advance--as mentioned previously, we will have three entree options for dinner this month, those options being chicken, vegetarian, and, that old Lenten classic, fish.

Here's looking forward to a musical March meeting!

- Lily Korte

The Editor's Desk



I had a professor in graduate school who said that to become an expert in any topic of history all a scholar needs to do is read twenty books and twenty articles on the subject. Presumably, he/she should then share that new-found expertise by writing a twenty-first book and/or a twenty-first article. I do not know if the participants in the Dick Crews Annual Debate qualified themselves as experts, but we all certainly had fun sharing what knowledge we acquired on political generals with the CCWRT members at our February meeting. A synopsis of each of our various arguments on behalf of our chosen generals will be published on the CCWRT website. Please take time to review our efforts.

In the meantime, I again encourage every member of the CCWRT to share with us the expertise you have gained in Civil War history in the pages of *The Charger*. Your articles and book reviews do not have to be long. In fact I ask that you try to keep submissions under 2000 to 3000 words so more varied material can be published. In fact, submissions of 1000 words or so are probably best. I look forward to reviewing your efforts. Also, if you have any primary documents, letters, etc., that you would like to share with us, please do so.

Missionary Ridge: “On Wisconsin” and Two Modern Songs

by Dennis Keating

There are two modern Civil War songs related to the November 25, 1863, battle of Missionary Ridge in which the Army of the Cumberland troops charged unordered to its top and routed Braxton Bragg’s Army of Tennessee.

“Missionary Ridge” is by bluegrass musician Claire Lynch:

<https://www.invubu.com/music/show/song/Claire-Lynch/Missionary-Ridge.html>

A second “Missionary Ridge” song is by the duo of Shovel & Rope (Michael Trent and Carry Ann Hearst): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhMZ961Hbcs>

There is a third post-Civil War song whose origin comes from the battle. It’s “On Wisconsin”, the football fight song of the University of Wisconsin, Madison adopted in 1909, as well as the official Wisconsin state song. As the 24th Wisconsin ascended the ridge, its color bearer was killed and its banner fell to the ground. Eighteen-year-old First Lieutenant Arthur MacArthur, Jr. picked it up and shouting “On Wisconsin” led the regiment to the top of Missionary Ridge. For this gallantry, he was promoted to major, command of the regiment, and awarded the Medal of Honor.

At the battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864, MacArthur was wounded twice. After the war, he served in the army campaigning against Geronimo and during the Spanish-American war against the Filipino rebels. He retired as a lieutenant general. Addressing a re-union of the 24th Wisconsin in 1912, he collapsed and died. In addition to his military service, he is also remembered as the father of General Douglas MacArthur.

References:

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Emily Hamer. “Did ‘On Wisconsin’ originate as a Civil War battle cry” *University of Wisconsin-Madison News* (November 21, 2017): <https://news.wisc.edu/on-wisconsin-origin-story-the-forward-looking-phrase-was-used-as-a-civil-war-battle-cry>.

Melissa Sartore. “14 Modern Songs About The Civil War” *Ranker* (December 23, 2019): <https://www.ranker.com/list/best-modern-civil-war-songs/melissa-sartore>

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Pig-ett's Charge: George Pickett's Pre-Civil War Service in a Porcine-Provoked Conflict

(Part 2 of 2)

by David A. Carrino

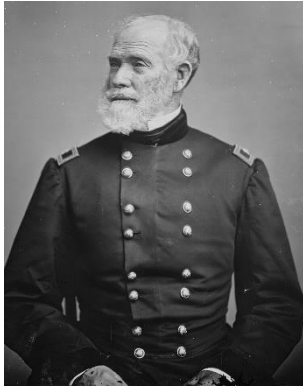
To establish the border between British North America (i.e., present-day Canada) and the U.S., Britain and the U.S. signed two treaties, one in 1818 and one in 1846. The latter treaty, the Oregon Treaty, was negotiated on behalf of the U.S. by then-Secretary of State James Buchanan, and this treaty had an important flaw. The flaw involved a group of islands, the San Juan Islands, that lie between the mainland and Vancouver Island, which was part of British North America. The Oregon Treaty stipulated that the boundary between Vancouver Island (i.e., British North America) and the mainland (i.e., the U.S.) is "the middle of the channel which separates" them. The problem is that, because of the San Juan Islands, there is more than one channel: Haro Strait, which is west of the islands, and Rosario Strait, which is east of the islands. Placing the boundary in one or the other of these straits determines which country possesses the San Juan Islands, and the Oregon Treaty failed to specify the exact placement of the boundary. This led to tension in the region, because Brits and Americans living there insisted that the San Juan Islands belonged to their country.

This tension was most keen on San Juan Island, the island from which the island group takes its name. San Juan Island lies close to Vancouver Island, on which was located the seat of government for the British colony in that region. In addition, the British Hudson's Bay Company had established a very profitable sheep farm on San Juan Island. For these reasons, James Douglas, the British colonial governor, was adamant that San Juan Island was a British possession. However, a number of Americans settled on San Juan Island, including a man named Lyman Cutlar. Cutlar set up a farm on the island and did so close to the British sheep farm, which was named Belle Vue Farm. In June 1859 Cutlar saw a pig from Belle Vue Farm rooting in his potato patch, and he shot and killed the pig. Not surprisingly, the farm's manager, Charles Griffin, was angry about the loss of the pig, in particular because the British viewed the American settlers on San Juan Island as squatters in British territory. Governor Douglas was especially upset, because he was concerned that an influx of American settlers would eventually lead to absorption of San Juan Island into the U.S., and he was determined not to let that happen. As a result of these tense circumstances, the pig incident led to a confrontation between Britain and the U.S. regarding possession of the San Juan Islands.

Confrontation: "a squabble about a pig"

Because of the already strong tensions regarding San Juan Island, the killing of the pig by Lyman Cutlar set in motion a series of events that led to a confrontation between Britain and the U.S. If Cutlar was the catalyst for this confrontation, its driving force was William Harney. It is hard to imagine a combination of traits more unfit to handle the situation than those possessed by William Harney. At the time of the killing of the pig, Harney was the U.S. Army's departmental commander in the Pacific Northwest. Harney, 58 years of age and a career army officer, was irascible, vulgar, impetuous, staunchly anti-British, reviled by many who served under him, and had a troublesome tendency to ignore the chain of command. Because of his connections, the ambitious Harney was able to rise through the ranks and escape the consequences of his atrocious actions. While Harney's bravery was indisputable, so was his reputation for mistreating subordinates. For example, Harney once became enraged at two enlisted men who refused to dig a latrine. He beat one of the enlisted men so severely that the man spent a week in the infirmary. Harney had the other enlisted man do hard labor for nearly a month, all while wearing a spiked

collar and a ball and chain. Moreover, Harney did not limit his cruel treatment to *Homo sapiens*. When Harney was stationed at a military post, he saw a dog rooting in the post's vegetable patch, and he responded by brutally beating the dog. The Harney anecdote about the dog suggests that Harney may have reacted exactly as Cutlar did to the pig's intrusion into Cutlar's potato patch.



Harney's despicable character is further revealed by the fact that he harbored racist feelings toward Native Americans and oversaw the commission of atrocities against them. In one such episode, Harney had his men go into a Seminole camp and hang eight Native American men. While Harney was cheering during the execution, the wives and children of the hanged men were forced to watch. In another incident, Harney had his men surround a Native American village of 250 people. The tribal leaders, under a white flag, met with Harney, who refused to come to any agreement with those leaders. Just after the tribal leaders returned to the village, Harney, whose troops were positioned to block any escape, ordered an attack, and the Native Americans were massacred. After the massacre, Harney ordered that the dead be left unburied so that their remains would be eaten by animals. Harney reputedly

later said in response to criticism of his actions, "I have come to kill Indians, and believe it is right and honorable to use any means under God's heaven to kill Indians."

In the Mexican-American War, Harney was placed in command of a unit of troops, but he went across the Rio Grande River on his own authority and occupied a town in Mexico. In so doing, Harney endangered the men under his command by entering enemy territory without support. The situation worsened when Mexican forces attacked Harney's unit and Harney's men performed poorly. Harney was removed from command, court-martialed, and convicted of disobedience. But just like when he had previously been court-martialed, he suffered no serious consequences because of his connections. In the more recent court-martial, Harney, a Tennessean, was helped by the connections between his family and the family of President James K. Polk. After Harney was transferred to the army that was under the command of Winfield Scott, Scott had some run-ins with Harney for similarly rash actions that Harney undertook, and Harney's recklessness caused Scott to doubt Harney's judgement.

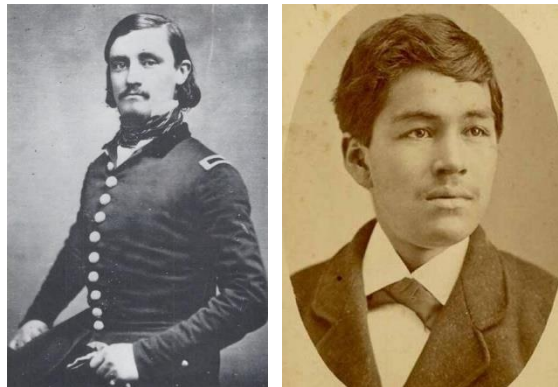
Late in the war, Harney was directed to take charge of executing some prisoners. The prisoners were members of a truly unusual unit: the San Patricio Battalion (sometimes called the San Patricio Brigade). This unit consisted primarily of Irish immigrants to the U.S. who disagreed with the decision by the U.S. to make war against Mexico, an opinion which they shared with then-Congressman Abraham Lincoln (who called the war "from beginning to end, the sheerest deception") and Ulysses Grant (who, in his *Memoirs*, called the war "one of the most unjust ever waged"). The San Patricio Battalion included Americans of other ethnicities in addition to Irish, but their unifying characteristic was their opposition to the war against Mexico, and most were deserters who formed a unit that fought against U.S. forces, specifically the army led by Winfield Scott.

The San Patricio Battalion fought courageously in a number of battles and eventually was among the Mexican forces fighting near Mexico City. At the Battle of Churubusco, the Mexican forces were overwhelmed, and about 80 members of the San Patricio Battalion were forced to surrender. All of them were tried as deserters in hurried mass trials. In what amounted to summary judgements, around 50 were sentenced to death. William Harney was tasked with executing the majority of these men, and he did so in a carefully orchestrated and cruel way. Harney had the captured men stand on wagons under a gallows with their hands tied and with nooses around their necks while they watched the Battle of Chapultepec. The men had to stand for hours while the battle took place. This included one man whose legs had been

amputated, about whom Harney reputedly said, "Bring the damned son of a bitch out! My order was to hang 30 and by God, I'll do it." As the U.S. flag was raised over the castle, the convicted men were hung. Harney then left the corpses hanging on the gallows as a warning to Mexicans not to resist the Americans. To this day, there is a plaque honoring the San Patricio Battalion in San Jacinto Plaza in Mexico City.

As if all those episodes from Harney's life were not enough to establish his questionable character, there is also an appalling incident that occurred in 1834, when Harney was a 33-year-old major. This hateful act demonstrates Harney's vicious racist feelings toward African Americans. Harney had been assigned to St. Louis, and he and his wife planned to live in the house of Harney's in-laws while the in-laws were out of the country. When Harney arrived at the house, a slave there, a woman named Hannah, was unable to locate the keys. Harney became so enraged that he beat Hannah with a rawhide strap. The beating continued for three days until Hannah, the mother of an eight-year-old child, died. This and the other incidents show that William Harney was an odious person and an unfit officer. But due to unfortunate timing, this same William Harney was the U.S. military commander in the region where Lyman Cutlar touched off a serious confrontation with Britain.

Harney, who happened to be near San Juan Island on an inspection tour at the time that Cutlar shot the pig, went to the island and met with the American settlers who were living there. Harney suggested to the settlers that they submit a petition for military protection, ostensibly to protect them from Native Americans, but in reality to justify a U.S. military presence to oppose the British. Once the petition was written and signed, Harney, without waiting for or even requesting proper authorization, ordered U.S. troops into disputed territory. The troops that Harney sent to San Juan Island consisted of a company of infantry, company D of the 9th U.S. infantry under the command of Captain George Pickett. Pickett and his men landed on San Juan Island on July 27, 1859 and set up camp. Current accounts vary, but Pickett's unit numbered around 65 men with three cannons.



George Pickett at 21 years old and his son, James Pickett,
Whose mother, "Morning Mist" was a Native American

Pickett and his men were on hand in the Pacific Northwest prior to the Pig War crisis because the U.S. had established a military presence there to protect settlers from raids by Native Americans, mostly originating from Russian Alaska. This military presence was initially implemented and overseen by General John Wool, who was Harney's predecessor as commander in the Pacific Northwest. During the Civil War, Wool, who fought in the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War, commanded the Union forces that dealt with the New York City draft riots of 1863. Pickett's unit was sent to the Pacific Northwest in late 1855 as part of a larger force stationed throughout the area. During his time after being sent to the Pacific Northwest, Pickett met a Native American woman named Sâkis Tiigang, which translates as "Mist Lying Down" or simply "Morning Mist." It is not certain, but Pickett may have taken

Morning Mist as his second wife, or perhaps she was simply his concubine, which was not unusual for members of the army in such regions of the country. Whatever their relationship, Pickett fathered a child with Morning Mist, a son who was born on December 31, 1857 and was named James Pickett. Morning Mist died within a year of James' birth, and when George Pickett left the Pacific Northwest in 1861 to serve in the Confederate army, he left James with a couple who raised him. James never saw his father again and only once saw any other member of the Pickett family, James' half-brother, whom James met as an adult, but the meeting was not cordial. It is thought that the Pickett family did not accept James because of his Native American ancestry. James, who at a young age showed talent for drawing, died at the age of 31 after working his adult life as an artist for a newspaper in the Pacific Northwest.

When George Pickett and his men set up camp on San Juan Island, they did so near the Hudson's Bay Company's Belle Vue Farm. The camp that Pickett and his men set up came to be called American Camp. Pickett also posted an order, although he had absolutely no authorization to do so. Pickett's order included the confrontational statement, "This being United States' territory, no laws other than those of the United States, nor Courts, except such as are held by virtue of said laws, will be recognized or allowed on this island." Perhaps Pickett chose his camp's location and issued his order as a way of intimidating the British. But James Douglas, the British governor of the region, was not intimidated. He was infuriated. Douglas dispatched the British warship HMS *Tribune* to San Juan Island. The *Tribune* was a 31-gun warship commanded by Geoffrey Phipps Hornby, who was the maternal grandson of British Revolutionary War General John Burgoyne and who, years later, entertained Ulysses Grant when Grant visited Gibraltar. The *Tribune* was soon joined by two other Royal Navy warships: the HMS *Plumper*, commanded by George Richards, and the HMS *Satellite*, commanded by James Prevost, the person who in 1857 headed the British delegation for the unsuccessful boundary commission. The British naval force was under the overall command of Hornby. In total, the British naval force had 62 cannons to Pickett's three and outnumbered Pickett in men by more than 15 to 1.



Third American Camp

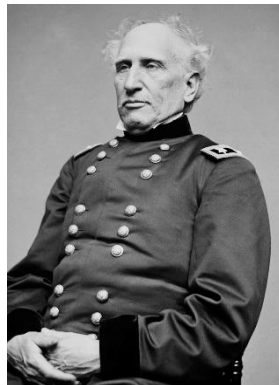
Initially Douglas wanted the Royal Navy to land marines on the island and remove the Americans. But Douglas was persuaded by the naval officers not to precipitate an armed clash at that time. Moreover, unlike William Harney, Hornby was reluctant to escalate an already tense situation until his superior, R. Lambert Baynes, the Royal Navy's commander in chief of the Pacific Ocean, was apprised of the situation. While Hornby was waiting for that to happen, he arranged a meeting with Pickett. At the meeting, Hornby urged Pickett to remove the U.S. troops from San Juan Island and told Pickett that the Royal Navy had been ordered by Governor Douglas to land marines to bring this about. Pickett refused to remove his troops from the island and insisted that he was acting on orders from his government, although this was not true, because Harney's message about the situation did not arrive in the U.S. capital

until a month later due to the long distance and also because Harney did not even send a message to the War Department until more than a week after issuing the order to Pickett. Hornby then showed Pickett a letter sent by Douglas to Harney in which Douglas protested the landing of U.S. troops on the island, but Pickett replied that he was required to follow the orders of his superior officer, not the dictates of a British governor. Pickett also made clear that he would resist any attempt by the British military to occupy San Juan Island. At that, the meeting ended.

Hornby remained on his ship for a while near American Camp and then returned to Vancouver Island, where he had to deal with a very irate James Douglas, who was thoroughly dissatisfied that nothing was being done to remove the U.S. military from San Juan Island. In contrast, Pickett's superior, Harney, was pleased when he read Pickett's report, because Pickett had not backed down against the British. However, the report made Harney worried about the very large disparity between the U.S. and British forces. In the meantime, Hornby's superior, Admiral Baynes, who had fought in the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812, arrived at Vancouver Island aboard his ship, the HMS *Ganges*, and met with Douglas, but Baynes proved to be no more inclined to escalate the situation than Hornby was. When Baynes was initially informed of the situation, he reputedly uttered a response that sounds stereotypically British, "Tut, tut, no, no, the damn fools." At his meeting with Douglas, Baynes agreed with Hornby's decision not to escalate the situation. To drive home this point, Baynes declared emphatically that he was not about to "involve two great nations in a war over a squabble about a pig."

Baynes' sarcastic comment intimated that Douglas was overreacting to the pig incident. But the killing of the pig was merely an effect of a larger and serious problem, namely the boundary dispute, which, if left unresolved, could lead to casualties involving individuals who were higher on the evolutionary scale than a pig. The perceived seriousness of the situation from the British perspective is evident in a statement by William Fitzwilliam (Viscount Milton), a British nobleman and explorer, who asserted, "On a just and equitable solution of the so-called San Juan Water Boundary Question depends the future...of the entire British possessions in North America." Thus, although Baynes had calmed the situation for now, with U.S. troops still on San Juan Island, the situation remained tense. Nevertheless, Baynes was unwilling to initiate military action without consulting with the British government in London, and Baynes made this clear to Douglas. Accordingly, Baynes sent messages to the appropriate officials and awaited responses before taking any further action.

Unlike Baynes, William Harney did not await instructions from his superiors before taking further action. In response to Pickett's report, in which Pickett made clear the disparity in U.S. and British forces on San Juan Island, Harney ordered more U.S. troops to the island, an action that could very well obliterate the temporary calm that Baynes and situation. Harney also issued orders troops on the island was to be sent three more companies, totaling Silas Casey (pictured here). Casey, Pig War, had fought in the Mexican-the Battle of Chapultepec, the battle Casey's most significant moment in Seven Pines when George McClellan that battle, Casey was in command of and was the smallest division in the positioned Casey's division in a with its flanks exposed. When the Confederates launched their attack, it was Casey's division that took



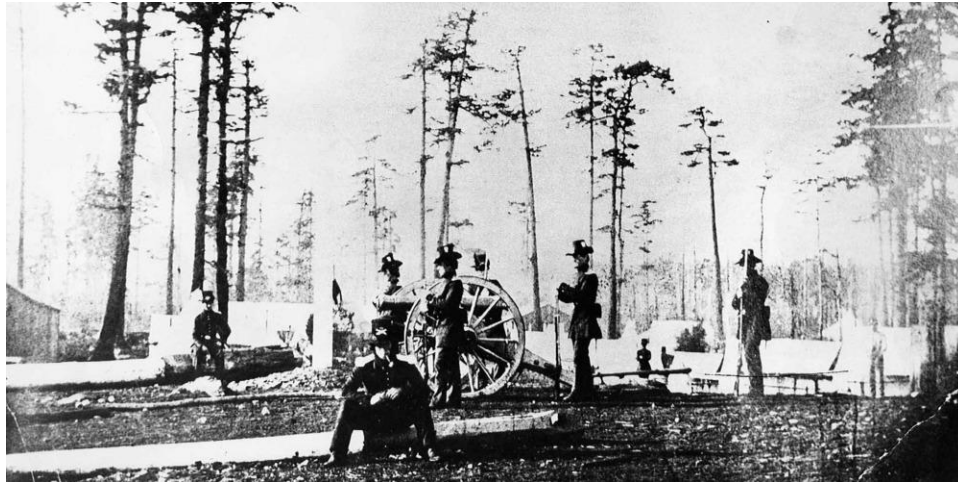
the brunt of it, and the division was unable to hold its position. McClellan later claimed that Casey's division performed poorly and did not offer sufficient resistance, which thereby caused the Union collapse. In reality, Casey's men, and Casey himself, fought hard and bravely before their position became untenable. McClellan's accusations resulted in Casey no longer serving in a prominent role during the Civil War. (An article assessing the performance of Silas Casey and his division at the Battle of Seven Pines is on the internet (<https://www.historynet.com/brigadier-general-silas-casey-at-the-battle-of-seven-pines/>).) Casey later was on the board that convicted Fitz John Porter for Porter's actions at the Second Battle of Bull Run. Following the Civil War, Silas Casey's son, Thomas Lincoln Casey, supervised the completion of the Washington Monument.

After Casey and the reinforcements arrived on San Juan Island, Casey, as the ranking officer, assumed command of the U.S. troops on the island. Casey was a more experienced and competent officer than Pickett, and he set about improving the dispositions of the U.S. force. Even with the reinforcements that accompanied him, Casey was concerned that the U.S. force was not adequate, so he requested more troops, which the bellicose Harney was only too willing to provide. By the end of August 1859, the U.S. force exceeded 450 men and was supported by 22 cannons. Casey also moved American Camp from the relatively exposed position that Pickett had chosen and relocated it further from the shore and near the crest of a ridge. In addition, Casey directed that a redoubt be built, in which some of the guns were positioned such that they could fire on the harbor below. Construction of the redoubt was supervised by a young (pictured), who graduated from West the Class of 1857, a class that included E.P. Alexander and Marcus Reno, both of whom had roles in military history. At the Battle of James Longstreet about a shortage of issuing the order for Pickett to launch under George Armstrong Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Henry Martyn Robert, E.P. Alexander's and also made an important contribution that was of much more significance than the redoubt he built on San Juan Island, but that important contribution was not of a military nature. During the Civil War, Robert was stationed in New Bedford, Massachusetts, where he once had to chair a local church meeting. The meeting quickly grew unruly, and Robert was unable to control the proceedings. From then on into the 1870s Robert collected information about conducting meetings and made notes about his experiences doing so. In 1876 Robert compiled his notes into a book, published at his own expense, that he titled *Pocket Manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies*, which is more commonly known as *Robert's Rules of Order*.



Word of events on San Juan Island finally reached the capitals of the U.S. and Britain in early September 1859. When President James Buchanan first became aware of the situation, it was not due to a message from William Harney. Lord Lyons, the British minister to the U.S., sent a message to Buchanan asking for an explanation regarding the aggressive military action by the U.S. on San Juan Island. Lyons, two years later, found himself in a similar position when he asked Abraham Lincoln and William Seward for an explanation for an aggressive military action by the U.S., this time at sea when two Confederate envoys were removed from a British vessel. It was probably difficult for Buchanan to provide an explanation to Lyons for the U.S. military's actions on San Juan Island, since Buchanan had not yet been informed of those actions by the person who ordered them. At the time, Buchanan certainly did not need an international crisis on his hands, because he was already dealing with a serious sectional crisis that intensified a month later at Harpers Ferry. But whether Buchanan wanted it or not, the San Juan Island

situation was upon him. Harney's message to Buchanan arrived soon after the message from Lyons. Buchanan sent a reply to Harney in which he told Harney that he "was not prepared to learn that you had ordered military possession to be taken of the Island of San Juan." Buchanan also indicated in his reply that he believed that Haro Strait was "the true boundary between Great Britain and the United States, under the Treaty of June 15, 1846." Perhaps Buchanan should have made this clear 13 years earlier when he helped to negotiate that treaty. Buchanan then rebuked Harney for the decision to send troops to San Juan Island by stating that he "had not anticipated that so decided a step would have been resorted to without instructions." In addition, a message was sent to Lord Lyons to assure him that Harney had acted on his own and not in response to orders from the U.S. government.



Battery of Artillery at the Second American Camp

To resolve the San Juan Island crisis, Buchanan decided to send someone to the trouble zone to negotiate with the British, and that someone was Winfield Scott. While Scott may seem an odd choice for this responsibility, there were good reasons to entrust him with this task. In the 1830s, Scott had successfully defused border issues with the British in western New York state and in Maine. Moreover, Scott was the commanding general of the U.S. Army, which meant that his authority superseded all others in the army (although, as events played out, this did not matter to William Harney). On the other hand, Scott was 73 years old, terribly overweight, and not in the best of health. The trip to the Pacific Northwest was an arduous month-long journey, which included a trek across the Isthmus of Panama. In spite of this, Old Fuss and Feathers made it to his destination, and he was not at all pleased with the performance of his subordinates prior to his arrival. Scott wrote afterward that the only reason there had not been "a collision of arms" was "due to the forbearance of the British authorities." Scott also wrote, "I found both Brigadier General Harney and Captain Pickett proud of their *conquest* of the island, and quite jealous of any interference therewith on the part of higher authority."

During his stay at the San Juan Islands, Scott did not come ashore at any time. Negotiating by mail with Governor Douglas and Admiral Baynes while remaining aboard ship, Scott was able to reach an agreement that remained in place until the governments of both countries were able to come to a final resolution about the boundary between Vancouver Island and the mainland. Scott's agreement stipulated that both countries would maintain a small military presence on San Juan Island, the British would keep only one warship in the area, and neither side would enforce civil authority over citizens of the other country. To further mollify Douglas, Scott agreed to replace Pickett, whose confrontational order and hostile attitude had angered Douglas. With that, Scott's work was done, and he made the return journey, having successfully defused another border issue with Britain.

But not everyone was pleased with Scott's agreement. The territorial government was unhappy with the stipulation that it did not have jurisdiction over British citizens on San Juan Island. U.S. citizens living in the region were upset about what local newspapers called the "recent deserting of our rights to the island." And Douglas and Baynes were not enthusiastic about stationing British troops on the island. At least for the time being, the situation had been calmed. But it was unclear if everyone who was directly affected by Scott's agreement would allow that calm to persist until a final resolution of the boundary issue.

Resolution: the Teutonic arbitration team

After Admiral Baynes received word from the British government in London concurring with Winfield Scott's agreement, the British dispatched a force of about 90 men to San Juan Island, and they set up their camp, which came to be known as English Camp, on the northern part of the island. This British force was under the command of Captain George Bazalgette. The U.S. force on the island remained in American Camp, which was on the southern part of the island. The U.S. force was reduced to about 90 men and placed under the command of company had come to the island as part Casey. Hunt graduated in the West Point George Pickett's class. Unlike Pickett, class, but he was close, sixth from the was occupied by one of Pickett's was also Pickett's cousin. The West Hill, Ambrose Burnside, and a future commander named Charles Griffin, manager of Belle Vue Farm. Lewis Hunt Civil War and rose to the rank of

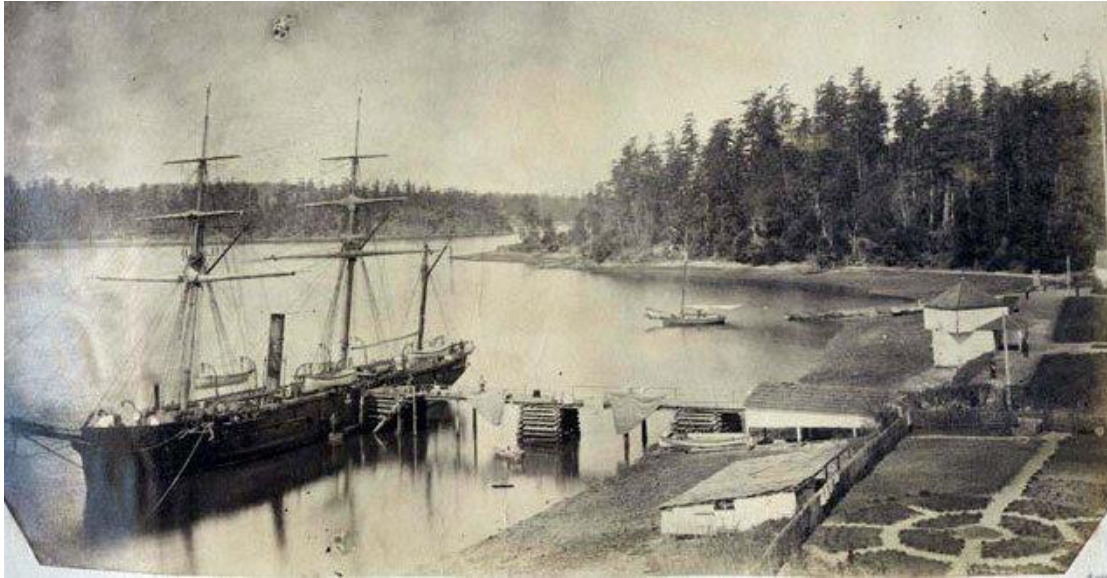


prominent role in the war. Perhaps what is most noteworthy about Lewis Hunt is that he was the younger brother of Henry Hunt, the Army of the Potomac's chief of artillery, whose guns played an important role at the Battle of Gettysburg in devastating the assault led by the man whom Lewis Hunt was replacing on San Juan Island. Two letters written by Lewis Hunt while he was in command on San Juan Island demonstrate the low regard he had for his commander, William Harney. In just two letters, Lewis Hunt used all of the following to refer to Harney: silly stupid Commander Harney; foolish and indeed disreputable; a dull animal; reckless, stupid old goose; our unscrupulous department commander.

Lewis Cass Hunt (pictured), whose of the reinforcements brought by Silas Class of 1847, the class following Hunt did not finish at the bottom of his bottom. The bottom of the Class of 1847 Gettysburg comrades, Henry Heth, who Point Class of 1847 also included A.P. Army of the Potomac division and corps coincidentally the same name as the saw combat for the Union army in the brigadier general, but he did not have a

Lewis Hunt's opinion of Harney was evidently shared by Winfield Scott, because during Scott's return trip from San Juan Island, he sent a letter to Harney in which Scott chastised Harney over his handling of the San Juan Island situation. Scott also made the truly unusual suggestion to Harney that he relinquish his command in the Pacific Northwest. Harney did not do this, and furthermore, six months later, in April 1860, Harney countermanded the commanding general of the U.S. Army and restored Pickett to command on San Juan Island. The territorial government and the American settlers in the Pacific Northwest were pleased with this move, because they had approved of Pickett's handling of the situation when Pickett was in command on the island. However, Scott had a far less favorable reaction to Harney's decision to countermand the order. Scott had had problems with Harney during the Mexican-American War, and when Scott learned that Harney had restored Pickett to command, it was the breaking point for Scott. This time Scott did not merely suggest to Harney that he relinquish his departmental command. This time Scott decided that he no longer wanted to deal with the insubordinate Harney, and he had Harney removed. Scott wrote to the secretary of war that it was unwise to leave the troops in the Pacific Northwest "subject to the ignorance, passion, and caprice, of the present headquarters of that Department." Harney was relieved of command and ordered "to repair to Washington City without

delay." Pickett, however, was left in command on San Juan Island. As for Harney, by the beginning of the Civil War, he was again in command of a military department, but because of uncertainty about his loyalty, he was removed and then served in some administrative positions. When Harney realized that he would not receive a field command, he retired from the army in 1863, which brought an end to his turbulent and troubling military career.



English Encampment

With Harney gone as department commander in the Pacific Northwest, the joint U.S.-British military occupation on San Juan Island was not only peaceful, but downright friendly. The U.S. and British troops frequently fraternized and even shared holiday celebrations. As the joint occupation dragged on, the new British commander, William Delacombe, who replaced George Bazalgette in 1867, had a Victorian house built in which he and his family lived, and he also had a formal garden built. At the time that Scott and the British negotiated their agreement, no one expected the joint occupation to go on as long as it did. But the American Civil War intervened, and this conflict, not surprisingly, became a higher priority for the U.S. government than a border dispute involving some islands in the Pacific Northwest. When the sectional crisis in the U.S. erupted into civil war, U.S. officers who had taken part in the Pig War, such as George Pickett, Silas Casey, Lewis Hunt, and Henry Robert, left the Pacific Northwest to participate in something much bloodier and tragic. After the Civil War, the U.S. and Britain revisited the border issue. In 1871, the two countries signed a treaty, the Treaty of Washington, which addressed a number of issues, including the Pig War boundary dispute. The Treaty of Washington also addressed claims by the U.S. for financial losses suffered during the Civil War due to British-built commerce raiders, such as the CSS *Alabama*.

To settle the boundary dispute, the Treaty of Washington stipulated that the issue would be submitted for arbitration, with Kaiser Wilhelm I named as arbitrator. The terms of the arbitration required that the arbitrator choose only between the two boundaries that each country recognized, namely Haro Strait (U.S.) and Rosario Strait (Britain). The treaty did not permit a compromise boundary, such as San Juan Channel, which would give San Juan Island to the British and the other main islands in the group to the U.S. The case for Britain was presented by James Prevost, the Royal Navy captain who led the British delegation for the boundary commission of 1857 and who also was the commander of one of the three British warships that James Douglas sent to San Juan Island in 1859 at the height of the confrontation.

The case for the U.S. was presented by George Bancroft. At the time, Bancroft was the U.S. minister to Germany, which, because of his familiarity with German officials, may have given him an advantage. Over ten years earlier, when Abraham Lincoln was elected president for the first time, Bancroft was not at all sanguine that the incoming president was up to the task of handling the dire situation in which the country found itself. Bancroft called Lincoln "ignorant," "without brains," and "a man who is incompetent." Evidently Lincoln's superb performance during the Civil War changed Bancroft's opinion, because in 1866, on the first birthdate of Abraham Lincoln after his assassination, Bancroft, at the invitation of both houses of Congress, delivered an address to Congress in commemoration of Lincoln. In that 1866 address to Congress, Bancroft wisely did not use any of the words to describe Lincoln that he had used at the time of Lincoln's election to the presidency. Interestingly, Bancroft was Congress' second choice to give the address. Congress first invited Edwin Stanton, but Stanton declined. (A web page is available from which Bancroft's February 12, 1866 address to Congress can be downloaded as a PDF (<https://rememberinglincoln.fords.org/node/813>).)



Pig War Boundaries

To help in rendering a decision on the boundary dispute, Kaiser Wilhelm appointed a commission of three men to analyze the issue. The three men, Heinrich Kiepert, Levin Goldschmidt, and Ferdinand Grimm, had expertise in geography and commerce. The commissioners met in Geneva, Switzerland to study the issue and come to a decision. The commissioners must have enjoyed their sojourn in Geneva, because it took them a year to make their decision, and even after all that time, it was a split decision. Goldschmidt decided in favor of a compromise border between San Juan Island and the rest of the island group, in spite of the fact that a compromise border was not permitted by the terms of the Treaty of Washington. The other two commissioners decided in favor of Haro Strait, the border claimed by the U.S. On October 21, 1872, Kaiser Wilhelm made the final decision in accordance with the majority opinion of the commissioners and thereby placed the boundary along Haro Strait, which gave all of the San Juan Islands to the U.S. Thanks to the kaiser, when U.S. tourists visit the San Juan Islands, it is not necessary for those tourists to leave the country. This is useful, because the San Juan Islands have become a popular destination for orca whale watching.

Before the end of November 1872, just over a month after the kaiser's ruling, the British troops left San Juan Island. However, their camp, English Camp, remains to this day on the island and is now part of the National Park System. Moreover, the Union Jack is regularly raised over English Camp, which makes it

one of the only places in the U.S. without diplomatic status where the flag of a foreign nation is raised by employees of the U.S. government over U.S. soil. The last of the U.S. troops on San Juan Island left in July 1874, but American Camp likewise remains as part of the National Park System. English Camp and American Camp stand as a memorial to a war that never was, but nevertheless is called a war.



Modern View of the English Camp

During the time between the Pig War and the final resolution of the boundary dispute, some of the U.S. officers who played prominent roles in the Pig War took part in the most cataclysmic event in U.S. history. Those officers made places for themselves in history primarily because of what they did during that cataclysmic event. This is especially so for George Pickett. Much happened to Pickett between the time that he was ordered by William Harney to go to San Juan Island in 1859 and the time that the crisis was finally resolved in 1872, and one of those things that happened to Pickett became what he is known for. Just as Dr. Richard Daystrom in the original *Star Trek* was known for only one thing, George Pickett is known almost exclusively for the assault that he led at Gettysburg. But there are other historical events on Pickett's record, and one of those happened on the other side of the country from Pickett's most well-known deed. When Pickett was waiting to lead his men across a field in southern Pennsylvania on a hot July day in 1863, he almost certainly was not thinking about a small island in the Pacific Northwest where he had stood up to a Royal Navy captain during an international incident that could have drawn the U.S. into a war before the nation had a chance to engage in the civil war that now found Pickett about to lead a doomed attack that has, for the most part, become Pickett's sole legacy. But whenever Civil War enthusiasts visit the site of that attack, and whenever they talk about that iconic event, they should remember that before there was the George Pickett who led troops in Pickett's Charge, there was the George Pickett who led troops during an international confrontation that was set off because of a pig.

Author's note

I am indebted to my grandson, AJ Fernandez, for making me aware of the Pig War, which provided the inspiration for this article. AJ, who is currently 12 years old, is already quite interested in history. He very well may someday be a member of a Civil War roundtable.

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The Battle of Bentonville and Second Surrender of a Confederate Army in the East

By Dennis Keating

By the beginning of 1865, the Confederacy's impending doom was becoming apparent with Sherman's forces approaching North Carolina at the beginning of March after its path through Georgia and then South Carolina and Lee's army trapped in the defense of Petersburg and Richmond. On February 22, 1865, Confederate President Davis recalled Joseph Johnston to lead a desperate attempt to stop Sherman before he united with Grant's Army of the Potomac.

Johnston assembled the remnants of Hood's Army of Tennessee, Confederate forces under William J. Hardee scattered through the Southeast, Robert Hoke's division from the Army of Northern Virginia under Braxton Bragg and cavalry commanded by Joseph Wheeler and Wade Hampton. Johnston reorganized this collection of disparate units by consolidating 153 depleted infantry regiments into 32. His approximately 30,000 faced an oncoming veteran Union force of twice that number. After entering North Carolina on March 8, Sherman divided his army into two wings – the left wing commanded by Henry Slocum and a right wing commanded by Oliver Otis Howard – and headed for Goldsboro.

Unexpectedly given Johnston's war record largely on the defense, Johnston decided to attack Sherman's left wing, which was separated from Howard's right wing in their advance. The

Confederates attacked on March 19 at the village of Bentonville, short of Goldsboro. Slocum's forces were driven back into a defensive position. With the arrival of Howard's reinforcements the next day, the now entrenched Confederates were outnumbered. On March 21, Union general Joseph Mower's division of Frank Blair's Seventeenth Corps outflanked the Confederates and Mower prepared to cut off Johnston's escape route only to be ordered by Sherman to halt, allowing Johnston's army to escape. Johnston's army suffered around 2,600 casualties. Among its 239 killed was the 16 year-old son of General William Hardee who had pleaded to join the 8th Texas cavalry. Union casualties were about 1,500.

On April 6, Johnston held a final review of his remaining force. Compared to the status of Johnston's command of the Army of Tennessee during the Atlanta campaign of 1864, before being relieved by Davis in favor of John Bell Hood, these troops were now in terrible condition, most having been defeated at Franklin and Nashville in Tennessee or driven from Georgia and South Carolina by Sherman.

Sherman's force was then joined by John Schofield's and Jacob Dolson Cox's corps coming from Tennessee and Alfred Terry's force in North Carolina, bringing Sherman's total to 88,948 soldiers as he aimed to advance to Raleigh, the state's capitol. It was captured by Judson Kilpatrick's cavalry on April 13, the day after Sherman learned of Lee's surrender of his army in its failed flight to attempt to link with Johnston. On April 14, Johnston then met with Jefferson Davis and his cabinet in Greensboro as it was fleeing South. After Johnston informed him that his much smaller force had no chance of defeating Sherman, Davis authorized Johnston to contact Sherman about terms of surrender. Johnston then promptly informed Sherman that he wanted an armistice while pursuing this issue.

The two commanders met on April 17 at the Bennett farmhouse west of Raleigh. When Sherman informed Johnston of Lincoln's assassination, Johnston feared the worst. But for the intervention of General John Logan, commander of the Union Fifteenth Corps, Union troops enraged by the news of Lincoln's assassination, might have burned Raleigh in retaliation.

Joined by now Confederate Secretary of War and former U.S. Vice President John C. Breckinridge, Sherman and Johnston agreed to a surrender that went far beyond the terms that Grant and Lee had previously signed and were much more favorable to the Confederacy. In the face of immediate repudiation by the federal cabinet, they were then forced to back down and agree to the Grant-Lee surrender terms, although "Johnson balked...He explained the pending starvation of his men and the fact that some lived as far away as Texas and needed help getting home" (Dollar, p. 146). Sherman then provided supplemental terms of 250,000 rations and permitted use of federal trains and boats for paroled Rebels: "This kind act cemented the bond of friendship between the opposing army commanders, an affection that would last through the rest of their lives." (Dollar, p. 147) Reflecting the toll of the war on the Confederate armies, Private Sam R. Watkins of Company "Aytch" [H] of the First Tennessee Infantry Regiment in his 1881 memoir of the Civil War recounted its condition at the surrender:

"On the 26th day of April, 1865, General Joe E. Johnston surrendered his army at Greensboro, North Carolina. The day that we surrendered the regiment it was a pitiful sight to behold. If I remember correctly, there were just sixty-five men in all, including officers, that were paroled on

that day. Now, what became of the total of the original 3,200?...It was indeed a sad sight to look at, the Old First Tennessee regiment. A mere squad of noble and brave men, gathered around the tattered flag that they had followed in every battle through that long war.”

During this period, Dollar describes increasingly lawless conditions including widespread looting fueled by alcohol, food shortages, and the realization of Confederate soldiers that final defeat was near. Johnston’s force’s morale plummeted after learning of Lee’s surrender and suffered massive desertions prior to its final surrender on April 26. Notably, Confederate cavalry commanders Wheeler and Hampton defied the surrender.

On the Union side:

“As Sherman’s grand army marched away from war, its members experienced a dramatic realization that their soldier lives were ending. The intimate bonds with their mess mates, forged under the very worst of conditions, would soon be torn asunder. Men who once held each other’s lives in their hands would soon disappear. The thought of the dissolution of their powerful brotherhood elicited a deep melancholia.” (Dollar, p. 168)

Dollar concluded:

“The inescapable proof of the war’s impact on survivors was found in the debilitated physical, mental, and moral states that afflicted many veterans. Families both North and South tried to put their own lives back together, while helping old soldiers deal with their maladies.” (Dollar, p. 190)

Dollar recounts the suffering of veterans and the suicides of many. His book draws upon the diaries and accounts of numerous veterans and civilians throughout his day-by-day history of the events in North Carolina.

AUTHOR’S NOTE: At the battle of Bentonville, 45 Ohio infantry regiments, three Ohio cavalry regiments, and Battery C of the 1st Ohio Artillery were among Sherman’s army.

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Governor John Brough, Ohio Governor and Friend of Lincoln

By Paul Siedel

One of the most fascinating characters coming from Ohio during the Civil War was Governor John Brough. A friend of Lincoln, a Democrat, he nevertheless came to the support the president when the chips were down. Brough being a war Democrat helped deliver Ohio for Lincoln in the election of 1864 helping to secure the prosecution of the Civil War to a successful end.

Brough was born in 1811 in Marietta the son of an English immigrant father, his mother was born in Pennsylvania. His parents apprenticed himself to a local reporter for the Athens Mirror while 1833 he purchased his first Republican". In 1835 he won Senate and in 1839 he was elected involved in Jacksonian politics and regulation of the banking industry, He fought those who wished to espoused securing payment for building of internal improvements



canal system and later the railroads. These developments caused land prices in Ohio to skyrocket as farmers were now able to sell their products in the large cities of the eastern seaboard.

died when he was young and he newspaper and served as a attending Ohio University. In newspaper, "The Western election as clerk of the Ohio state auditor. He became heavily espoused such issues as the usury and currency speculation. repudiate the state debt and indebtedness. He supported the such as The National Road, the

In 1841 he and his brother purchased the Cincinnati Advertiser and changed the name to the Cincinnati Enquirer. Later he became president of the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad.

When the Civil War broke out he separated himself from Democratic politics and espoused prosecuting the war to a successful end. Thus becoming a War Democrat. He supported Lincoln and the Republicans on war issues and In 1863 he announced his re-entry into Ohio politics and his intent to run against Clement Vallandigham. In a speech in 1863 he repudiated the Copperhead movement. After his election he secured passage of a bill providing two mills on the dollar for support of servicemen's families, he helped furnish troops for the U.S. Army and sent the state militia (national guard) into federal service, and provided an inspection service for field hospitals.

When Salmon P. Chase (another Ohioan) resigned as secretary of the Treasury Brough was offered the position but turned it down due to what he claimed was failing health. He died in Cleveland four months prior to the expiration of his term as governor.

Brough was especially close to Lincoln and even though they belonged to different political parties they both worked for a successful termination of the war. On April 15, 1865 the news of his assassination reached Cleveland around 12: 30 A.M. According the Scott Trostel in his work "The Lincoln Funeral Train" "Lincoln expired at 7:20 A.M. and at 9:00 the dreaded news reached Cleveland. The sadness hit Brough especially hard He had been a client of the Lincoln law firm in railroad matters and a personal friend for over 15 years. Little did he know that in the

coming hours he would be summoned to Washington D.C. and requested to chair the arrangements committee for the funeral train.” Governor Brough rode the Lincoln funeral train from the Pennsylvania border to the point where it entered Indiana when Governor Morton took over the position. While the train was in Cleveland Governor Brough opened his home on Prospect Ave. to members of the funeral cortège. Lincoln lay in state on Public Square and by the time the casket was closed at 10:00 P.M. more than 100,000 people had seen the fallen president.

Today however the legacy of Governor Brough has dwindled to almost nothing here in Cleveland. There was once a John Brough School which has long since been demolished. The street named in his honor Brough Court in Ohio City has been replaced for a housing development, and probably the most tragic scenario is the fate of the Brough home on Prospect Ave. The house stood taken over by a firm for a Cleveland officials that if extra parking they would demolition permit was the City of Cleveland and Commission. The old firm nevertheless moved and the community was Brough’s image however Sailors Monument and prominently in the center of Woodland Cemetery standing appropriately near one of the four veterans sections.



Thus was the life of one of the prominent but little known Clevelanders during our Civil War.

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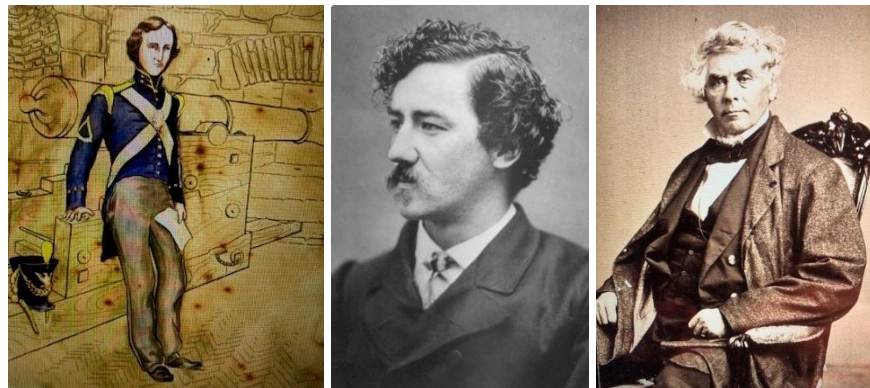
Plebe Release Me, Let Me Go:

Brief Military Portraits of Artists as Young Men

By Brian D. Kowell © 2023

Not every young man admitted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point becomes a soldier. One such was Edgar Allen Poe. He entered West Point in March 1830 at age twenty-one. (Being too old by regulations, he lied about his age to be admitted.) He was well schooled, quick witted and excelled at classwork, especially French, but buckled under the harsh discipline. His fellow cadets knew little of his background. Poe enjoyed fostering an aura

of mystery about himself. Rumors had it that he was the grandson of Benedict Arnold. He did not dispute this. His classmates described him as irritable, morose, “slightly cracked,” and addicted to excessive drinking. Too often, Cadet Poe would sneak out after lights out to visit near-by Benny Haven’s tavern. Another story had him showing up for formation naked. In the Conduct Roll for July-December 1831 he had 44 offenses and 106 demerits. It would appear that Poe was trying very hard to get kicked out of West Point. He was court martialed and dismissed from West Point on March 6, 1831, for repeated acts of misconduct and disobedience of orders. Nevermore to be a soldier, Poe later found fame as the writer of mysteries and gothic stories.



Cadet Edgar Allen Poe, James McNeill Whistler, and Whistler’s art instructor at West Point, Robert W. Weir

Another was James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903). Born in Lowell, Massachusetts, his father had graduated from West Point and had been on the faculty teaching drawing, before leaving to become a successful civil engineer who advised on the construction of railroads. Offered a job constructing a railroad to Moscow, the family moved to Russia when James was young. He was a moody child prone to fits of temper. To calm the child down, he was introduced to drawing and art where he showed some talent. He attended classes at The Imperial Academy of Sciences and was encouraged in his pursuit of art.

Returning to the United States in 1849, through his father’s connections to the Military Academy and the fact that a number of his relatives had attended, James McNeill Whistler was admitted to West Point in July 1851 at the age of sixteen years and eleven months. He suffered from extreme nearsightedness and seemed always to be suffering from some health issue.

He was an indifferent cadet who bucked authority. He disdained uninteresting subjects. His classmates called him “Curly” for his hair which always exceeded regulations in falling over his collar. He began to rack up demerits for making sarcastic comments during classes and his ranking was never very high. He seemed never to quite fit in.

The one class where he excelled was drawing – ranking first. It was taught by Robert W. Weir, a renowned painter of the Hudson River School. Weir was more tolerant of Whistler’s peculiarities due to the boy’s talents. Accurate observation was the emphasis in Weir’s class. Artistic license

was frowned upon and not permitted. As soldiers they would have to draw maps and pictures of forts and bridges to be used in their construction. During one of the assignments to draw a bridge and the surrounding landscape, Whistler drew an excellent sketch of the bridge from which two boys were seen fishing. When ordered to remove the boys, Whistler removed them to the riverbank where they continued to fish. Still not what Weir wanted, he ordered Whistler once again to remove them. Whistler did so but marked their place and passing with two crosses.

Another story was told of Whistler in an examination in history class. When asked the date of a Mexican War battle, Whistler replied he didn't know. "What," said the officer who was his instructor, "you do not know the date of the Battle of Buena Vista? Suppose you were to go out to dinner and the company began to talk of the Mexican War, and you, a West Point man, were asked the date of the battle. What would you do?" "Do?" said Whistler, "Why I should refuse to associate with people who talk of such things at dinner."

Whistler's downfall was Chemistry. When asked to describe silicon, he began by saying, "I am required to discuss the subject of silicon. Silicon is a gas." His professor immediately interrupted with "That will do, Mr. Whistler."

With falling grades, rising demerits, and complaints from his superiors, Whistler found himself before the superintendent of West Point, Colonel Robert E. Lee. Lee had to dismiss him from the academy. Whistler appealed this decision to the Secretary of War, but Lee methodically laid out Whistler's short comings and the dismissal stood.

Whistler bore no grudge towards Lee or West Point as he pursued his love of art and painting. He traveled to Europe and he became an accomplished artist. His most famous work was of his mother. When later asked about his stint at the Academy, he would say, "If silicon were a gas, I would have been a general one day."

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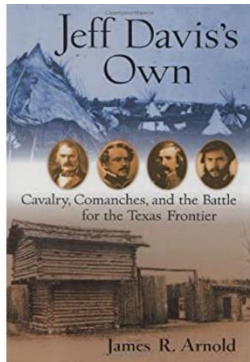
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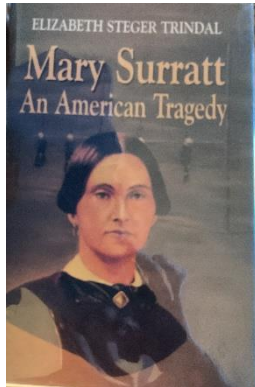
Established in 1855 by U.S. Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, the 2nd United States Cavalry battled Comanches on the Texas frontier and was a crucible for Civil War generals on both sides. Sixteen officers of the elite cavalry regiment became generals during the later conflict. Half of the full generals in the Confederate States army received their spurs in the 2nd Cavalry Regiment. Albert Sidney Johnston, Robert E. Lee, Earl Van Dorn, John Bell Hood, Fitzhugh Lee, Edmund Kirby Smith, and William J. Hardee all experienced the hardships of campaigning against the Comanches. Other officers in the regiment included later Union generals George H. Thomas, George Stoneman, Jr., Richard W. Johnson, and Nathan G. Evans.

Intended as a mobile unit to chase a mobile enemy, the 2nd Cavalry adopted a training manual modeled after French army experiences in Algeria, advocating rapid movement and flexible formations. Davis designated the regiment as an elite military organization. The men were all mounted on thoroughbreds, each company issued horses of a distinct, characteristic color. The regiment was equipped with new style saddles, easier on horses' backs, and armed with six-shot, .36 caliber, Navy Colt revolvers. For a long arm, the men of three squadrons were issued muzzle-loading Springfield rifled carbines. The fourth squadron had breech-loading Perry carbines attached to its shoulder slings. In place of the old-style heavy dragoon sabers of the past, they carried a lighter, new model cavalry saber. Finally, the elite unit wore a new uniform with a bright stripe on the trousers which earned them the nickname, "Yellow Legs."

Jeff Davis' Own is the first in-depth history of the 2nd Cavalry's exploits on the Texas frontier in the late 1850s. Arnold, employing a wealth of military records, archives, newspapers, and personal journals, details the regiment's actions from the 1856 clash at Guadalupe River to Lieutenant John Bell Hood's epic battle at Devil's River in 1857, to the expedition led by Major George H. Thomas escorting a group of Native Americans in an exodus from Texas to Oklahoma during which Major Thomas was forced to defend his charges from vigilante mobs of settlers along the route.

An excellent book, fast-paced and well-written, I believe it is a great read for anyone interested in the history of the United States cavalry, as well as those of us who are curious about the pre-war careers of the American soldiers who fought each other in the 1860s.

--Kent Fonner



Elizabeth Steger Trindel, *Mary Surratt: An American Tragedy*, (Pelican Publishing: Gretna, LA, 1996).

Was Mary Surratt an integral part of the Lincoln assassination plot or was she just an unlucky individual who was in the wrong place at the wrong time? Author Elizabeth Steger Trindel does a wonderful job of breaking down the story of the first woman executed by the U.S. Government.

Mary Elizabeth Jenkins was born in 1823 and raised on a farm in Prince Georges County Maryland. They were an old Maryland family and were in the business of raising tobacco as a cash crop. Mary's father died when she was young but her mother took over the farm and expanded the acreage. She eventually purchased eleven slaves and in addition to enlarging the farm she was able to send Mary to The Academy for Young Ladies in Alexandria, Virginia. The family were devout Catholics and relied much on the help of their church and clergy to keep body and soul together. It was shortly after leaving the Academy that Mary met John Surratt. Mary and John were married in 1840 but the marriage was a stormy one and he passed away from acute alcoholism in 1862. Being from southern Maryland the Surratts were fervent Confederate sympathizers. Mary's youngest son John became involved in a secrete underground movement which moved information and mail up through Maryland to points north. Through her sons affiliation with such people as Dr. Mudd, Thomas Jones and other Confederate sympathizers there in Maryland she became affiliated with Lewis Powell (Paine) and John Wilkes Booth. Her tavern in Surrattsville (Clinton) Maryland became a "Confederate nest" and when she later moved to Washington D.C. her boarding house at Eleventh and H Streets became the headquarters for the Booth assassination plot. It was here she accommodated such notorious guests John Wilkes Booth, Lewis Powell, John Surratt, and George Atzerodt. In her boarding house they planned the kidnapping of President Lincoln when he was on his way to his summer residence at the Soldiers Home in upper D.C. When that failed the assassination plot took shape. All this time Mary was hosting many of the plotters at her townhouse in Washington D.C. So it was when the authorities came to her home on the night of April 17, 1865. Acting on a tip they were in the process of searching the residence when Lewis Powell came to the door looking for Mrs Surratt. He was arrested and was identified as the man who tried to murder Secretary of State William Seward. From then on it was all downhill for Mrs. Surratt. She was tried along with seven others and was convicted and sentenced to death by hanging. As the prosecutors brought to light, "She maintained the nest that hatched the egg" the egg of assassination and most agreed she knew what was going on and was actually part of it. After she was dead much of the generals public felt as though she had been railroaded by the Johnson Administration so when her son John was captured in Egypt and returned to The U.S. he was tried and acquitted on a technicality.

The book is laid out in chapters which lead one through the life of Mary Surratt, her background, her marriage, her affiliation with the assassins, and finally her trial and execution. One feature which stands out is the Epilogue. This part of the book traces the lives and careers of the others who took part but were not prosecuted or were acquitted, It highlights the places which were involved, the Surratt Tavern which is now a museum, the boarding house at 11th and H Streets which is now a Chinese Restaurant, Fords Theater and the house where Lincoln died. All in all

Ms. Elizabeth Trindal does a wonderful job of delineating the plot, the actual assassination, the escape of Booth into lower Maryland, and finally the destruction and ruined lives he left behind. I would highly recommend this book for anyone who wishes to explore the Lincoln assassination and those involved.

--Paul Siedel

Some Suggested Reading for St. Patrick's Day

If you are looking for something to read this month with an Irish theme, you may want to consider the following books. These all come highly recommended and will add to your knowledge of the Civil War:

