

# ***THE CHARGER***



## **The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable**

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**May 2023**

**Vol. 47, No. 9**

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**PROGRAM:** “When Women Do Military Service: The Civil War and Woman Suffrage”

**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](mailto:ccwrtreserve@gmail.com) or call 440-449-9311. To ensure a dinner is reserved for you, the reservation must be made by Wednesday, May 3, 2023, a week before the meeting.

**Website:**

<http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com>

**MEETING:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023

**SPEAKER:** Dr. Nicole Etcheson,  
Alexander M. Bracken Professor of History  
at Ball State University

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## *President's Message*

It's May at last, and that means that this is my final message as Roundtable President. It's been roughly as challenging as it has been rewarding, but I am glad I accepted the offer to become Secretary that put me on this path four years ago this month. Still, I would be lying if I said I wasn't looking forward to being able to kick back and relax at meetings again! Someone has to be the one to do the "un-fun" jobs of putting the meetings and field trips and meals and announcements together—speaking of which, two people outside of the traditional officer and exec positions who I would like to recognize for all their hard work are Dan Zeiser, who has been sending the email announcements out for as long as I have been a member of this Roundtable, and Dave Carrino, who has helped out tremendously with keeping the website and Facebook page updated. Dan will be stepping down from his role after this month, so we are hoping everything goes smoothly with the transfer of the email list.

Last month's presentation from Cory M. Pfarr was a deep dive into a seemingly cut and dried topic—conventional wisdom states that Lafayette McLaws hated James Longstreet and blamed him for his actions at Gettysburg that helped cost the Confederates their chance at victory above the Mason-Dixon. But were McLaws' feelings more complicated than that? Cory Pfarr brought in additional testimony from McLaws at later points in time, in which he was less harsh on Longstreet and offered a more rounded perspective, contrasting the vastly different ways McLaws framed the same issue at

different times and in different contexts. Civil War historiography has always been highly dependent on the motivations of the authors writing it, and Longstreet was certainly someone whose reputation suffered primarily due to the way his fellow ex-Confederates wrote about him after the war, particularly after Robert E. Lee's death. McLaws could have joined the Lost Cause club in bashing Longstreet, so his decision not to do so at that time is indeed intriguing. Pfarr suggested this was due to McLaws' personality, and general reluctance to join any sort of faction.

Speaking of Roundtable events in April, a small group of us went down to the Harding Home and Museum in Marion, Ohio, on April 22. After a breakfast of waffles, made using Mrs. Harding's own recipe (and featuring President Harding's favorite topping—chipped beef and gravy—as well as more traditional toppings like syrup and blueberries), we toured the home, starting with its famous front porch. The house has been handsomely restored to match its appearance in 1920 as closely as possible, complete with a large number of original artifacts from the family, ranging from walking sticks to marble sculptures to sheet music. The museum was new, having opened in 2021. Although Warren G. Harding is better remembered by most people today for the political and personal scandals associated with him and his administration, it was nice to get a fuller picture of the President and First Lady and the world they came from, even if the museum seemed to devote less space to his political accomplishments than it could

have. I have to thank William Vodrey for organizing the trip, and hope that many more local mini-field trips can happen.

Warren Harding was famously the first president elected after women had gained the right to vote across the United States, and coincidentally, women's suffrage will be the topic of our May meeting. Dr. Nicole Etcheson, Alexander M. Bracken Professor of History at Ball State University, will be presenting on the impact of the Civil War on the suffrage movement. The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the development of several movements devoted to extending voting rights to adults who currently lacked them due to their race or sex. While the Civil War's aftermath saw the vote being granted to African American males, women of all races remained disenfranchised for decades afterward. Dr. Etcheson will look at why this happened, and the extent to which recognition of military service by the United States Colored Troops during the war strengthened the case for extending suffrage to previously excluded groups of men, but not to any women.

We may have a new system rolling out for dinner reservations next year, but for this meeting, we are still using the same system as we have in the previous months: email [ccwrtreserve@gmail.com](mailto:ccwrtreserve@gmail.com) to RSVP for the meeting by May 3 to guarantee your meal for May 10. Our dinner options this month are pork loin (something new, so let me know if it's good or bad!), parmesan-encrusted whitefish (also new), and pasta primavera (an old favorite). A reminder again that if you do not want a dinner, you

are still welcome to attend the meeting too, but please let us know you are coming.

Hoping to see everyone in May—enjoy your summer vacation!

- Lily Korte

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### *The Editor's Desk*



There are numerous ways to learn about the American Civil War. Books and articles are one. Another way is to watch the various documentaries that have been done over the years, including Ken Burns' "The Civil War" and History channel's "Civil War Journal," so popular thirty years ago. Another method that comes to mind is the hobby of board wargaming. Years ago, I was captivated by an advertisement in *Boys Life* magazine for a board game developed by a company, Avalon Hill, from Baltimore, titled "Gettysburg." The ad featured a drawing of a grizzled Confederate soldier proclaiming how "realistic" the game could be. Alas, I did not have funds to invest in such a game and no store in my area carried it. I never forgot it, however, and when a new department store displayed the game at

its opening, I had the opportunity to finally purchase it. I was a junior in high school, and soon a group of us from school would crowd around the game board every Friday or Saturday night, eating home-made pizza and discussing Civil War history as we played numerous games reconstructing the battle. employing various alternative strategies and tactics. By modern standards in the wargaming industry, I suppose the game was simplistic. The playing board was a map of the Gettysburg battlefield with a grid of squares superimposed over it. There, however, displayed before us each week were the roads, streams, town blocks, hills, and ridges of Gettysburg and its vicinity. Cardboard counters were supplied for each army. Each counter contained a symbol designating the unit as infantry, cavalry, artillery, and horse artillery. Then a name inscribed on the counter indicated the name of its historic commander, its movement ability, and combat strength. In that early game, originally published about 1960, the infantry units were division strength, the artillery was battalion strength, and the cavalry were all brigade strength. Units arrived on the board according to an "order of appearance" that approximated when the historic units arrived at Gettysburg in July 1863. Combat between units was resolved by a throw of a die, and combat strength was adjusted beforehand according to various terrain rules and positioning of the attacking unit. A division occupying a hilltop, for example, had its combat value doubled. An attacking unit striking from a flank position was tripled in strength. Of course, cavalry and horse artillery units moved faster than infantry and light artillery. All-in-all, the game was realistic enough, yet easy to play, so that it held our interest throughout our high school years.



More than providing us with amusement, however, the game stimulated our curiosity about the battle, and sent many of us to the library to search out books to explain its history and the original strategy and tactics employed by Lee, Meade, and their generals. As we played, we talked, and joked and laughed; but often the talk was serious. Through the game we became familiar with the names of division and brigade commanders in the two armies in 1863. As we moved units across the board, we developed an appreciation for terrain features and field tactics. Let me be clear, the weekly games did not make any of us into experts on the Civil War, but still it furthered our education. Not only did we learn a lot of history, but we also learned something about geography and the mathematical calculation of odds. Times and wargaming have changed since then, but there are still Gettysburg and Civil War games out there that can be used to introduce another generation to the history of the war. I still have my copy of "Gettysburg." The box is deteriorated, but the board and counters remain intact. The game came with a turn record card to keep track of each turn, and the card has various comments made by the players at the end of numerous games. Every now and then it is fun to pull out the old, battered, game and just remember.





## *Who Won the Battle of Franklin?*

**By Dennis Keating**

**T**he battle of Franklin , Tennessee on November 30, 1864 was one of the most savage in the Civil War. Frustrated by the escape of John Schofield's fleeing Army of the Ohio after the short engagement previously at Spring Hill, John Bell Hood sent his army (without its lagging artillery) over two miles of open plain against the entrenched Union force anchored behind the formidable fortifications – except for troops under George Wagner stationed out in front of the Union lines, who quickly retreated in the face of the desperate Confederate attack. The result was the decimation of much of the Army of Tennessee, which lost a third of its number as casualties. This included several generals who were killed, most notably Patrick Cleburne.

Despite massive losses, Confederates did penetrate part of the Union line around the Carter house. It was here that they were met with the resistance involving three Ohioans – the brigades led by Jack Casement (former commander of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Ohio) and Emerson Opdycke (former commander of the 125th Ohio "Tigers"), and Jacob Dolson Cox, overall commander of the Union defenders.

Civil War historian Gene Schmiel imagined a conversation among the three about who won this battle as they met on June 8, 1866, after Cox was inaugurated as Governor of Ohio.

Casement said that his soldiers repelled more than six Rebel charges. He remembered:

“[M]en did as much as any in wiping out any rebel thought of dividing us through the center. We placed hellfire itself into their ranks here and beyond, and I know they all regretted being subject to our venom.”

In his actual history of the battle, Cox wrote this about Casement:

“At once impetuous and clear-headed, he was everywhere present, his ringing voice heard above the din.

Opdyke recollected:

“[We] acted on our own...I knew that everything depended on the courage and valor of the First Brigade. I ordered our bayonets fixed and screamed out ‘First Brigade forward!’ The bayonets glistened in the twilight as they came down to a charge, one of the grandest which I have ever seen as we moved down to the main line. Thank God our First Brigade proved irresistible. I never worked as hard since I was born as I did trying to force the stampeded men back to the works to help my own invincible brigade. I broke my pistol hitting them with it, and then got off my horse, took a musket and absolutely drove two regiments up to the works.”

Cox credited Opdyke: “Opdyke’s charge saved the day though all of the rest of the line stood firm.” But Opdyke insisted:

“My men and I saved the day, and I will not allow anyone, even the esteemed new Governor of our state to say otherwise.”

In actuality, Cox responded to Opdyke in a letter to him in December 1881:

“I am sorry that you have been angry at me for 17 years about Franklin and credit for that battle, your role in it, and under whose command you were operating. We all agree that your act [counterattack] saved the day; your error is assuming little or nothing was done by others. You must give others their roles.”

In writing to John Schofield in 1882, Cox said:

“Opdyke and I were friends for a very long time, and there was no break in our relations until years ago when he took me to task for not giving him full credit at Franklin in my report. This led to a painful and long controversy.”

Schmiel is a biographer of Cox: *Citizen-General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era*. Ohio University Press: 2014.

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Winston Groom. *Shrouds of Glory: From Atlanta to Nashville: The Last Great Campaign of the Civil War*. Pocket Books: 1995.

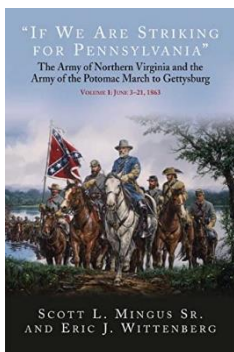
Dennis Keating. *Jacob Dolson Cox*. The Charger: Cleveland Civil War Roundtable [Archives] (2014)

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Gene Schmiel. *Ohio Heroes of the Battle of Franklin* [How Generals Jacob Cox, Emerson Opdycke, and Jack Casement ‘saved the day’ at the last major Civil War Battle in the West] (2019)

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## Snakes Alive



In reading *If We Are Striking for Pennsylvania: The Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac, Volume 1, June 3-21, 1863*, authors Scott L. Mingus Sr. and Eric J. Wittenberg included a passage from Major St. Clair A. Mulholland. The passage was from Mulholland’s regimental history – *The Story of the 116<sup>th</sup> Regiment Pennsylvania Infantry*. Part of the fabled Irish Brigade, Mulholland wrote of his regiment’s long day’s march in the stifling heat along dusty Virginia roads and about their finally reaching camp near the Occoquan River after sunset.

“While the coffee brewed, most of the men stripped and took baths despite the darkness. Several officers joined them, piling their clothes on the riverbank. When someone yelled that he felt something moving around his feet, a match was struck, and, to the horror of everyone within its glow, they were standing amid a large congregation of squirming snakes. ‘Snakes of all sizes, short and long, thick and lean, in groups and tied in knots’, marveled Mulholland. ‘Snakes single and by the dozen. Snakes by the hundreds, countless and innumerable. What a scramble for clothes before the match went out! What an embarrassing predicament when it did! Dark as pitch and a fellow’s garments all tangled up with knots and rolls of serpents. How everyone got back to camp with enough clothes to cover their nakedness is a mystery.’”

The Yankees weren’t the only ones that had to deal with snakes. “The 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina was marching near Chester Gap when the soldiers heard the telltale noise of rattlesnakes. By nightfall, the Tar Heels had killed at least six large serpents, including a 16-rattle monster near the tent of Col. Henry K. Burgwyn.”

--Brian D. Kowell

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## *The Most Osseous War in U.S. History*

by David A. Carrino

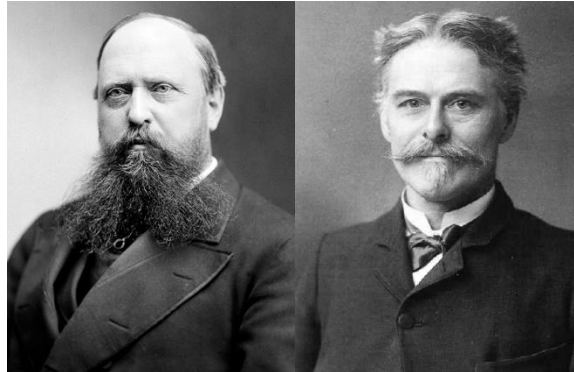
The movie *Rocky III* includes the song "Eye of the Tiger," which was written by Frankie Sullivan and Jim Peterik and was performed in the soundtrack by the band Survivor. The lyrics of this song focus on the necessity for dedication, tenacity, and effort to achieve an ardently sought goal. A line from "Eye of the Tiger" describes a change that sometimes occurs when a person is pursuing a strongly desired ambition. This line is "So many times it happens too fast, you trade your passion for glory." This line conveys the transformation that people sometimes undergo in which the passion that drew them into the pursuit of a goal becomes a quest for fame. A person may initially desire to achieve a worthwhile objective for pure and honorable reasons, that is, to accomplish something simply because it is worth accomplishing and simply for the sake of accomplishing it. But the quest later becomes tarnished by a shift in the primary goal from the accomplishment, itself, to the less noble things that come with the accomplishment, such as public acclaim and financial riches. In this way, the person trades the passion of focusing on a worthwhile achievement and exchanges that passion for a pursuit of fame and fortune or some other less noble goals. The worthwhile goal may still be achieved even when the motives are less honorable, but the quest and the person making it become less admirable.

Such was the case for two men who engaged in a very contentious competition that began three years after the Civil War, took place during Reconstruction, and continued even after the official end of Reconstruction. Civil War enthusiasts are certainly familiar with Reconstruction, but the contentious competition that began in 1868 was happening at that same time. This competition was so contentious that it is named a war, although it was not a war in the literal sense of armed conflict. This 'war' is called the Bone Wars, and it was a lengthy series of incidents that extended over many years and encompassed a number of deliberate actions that were part of a single mean-spirited and counter-productive competition between two scientific adversaries. The two adversaries traded their passion toward scientific discovery in exchange for a malicious rivalry. Their competition had the added unsavory element that each man employed unethical and vindictive methods to try to ruin his rival. The name of the Bone Wars comes from the fact that this event involved two of America's leading paleontologists of the late 19th century actively and destructively engaging in spiteful acts to thwart and discredit his nemesis. At the center of the Bone Wars was one of the largest amounts of dinosaur bones ever unearthed. Because of that, this event can truly be called the most osseous war in U.S. history.

The story of the Bone Wars is a saga with no protagonist and only antagonists, two of them: Othniel Charles Marsh and Edward Drinker Cope (left and right, respectively, in the two-panel image below). Marsh was born in 1831 in upstate New York into a family that made its modest living by farming. Marsh's eventual bitter rival, Cope, was of much different means. Cope was born nine years later in 1840 to a wealthy Quaker family in Philadelphia. Although Marsh's family was not nearly as well-off as Cope's, Marsh had a large source of financial support due to the serendipity and good fortune (no pun intended) of his father's choice for a



spouse. Marsh's mother, who died when Marsh was not yet three years old, was the younger sister of wealthy financier and philanthropist George Peabody.



Perhaps because of the premature death of his sister and its effect on her husband and children, the philanthropic Peabody financed the education of his nephew, Othniel Marsh. This included four years at Yale College, from which Marsh graduated with honors in 1861. In contrast, Edward Cope did not need financial help from outside his immediate family for his education. Cope's parents, whose wealth was derived from Cope's father's shipping business, began educating Cope at an early age and then in 1849 sent him to an excellent (and expensive) day school, where Cope received a strong education in mathematics, science, Latin, and other subjects. During this time, Cope began to take an interest in biology and expressed a desire to pursue a career in this field, although Cope's father did not approve of this career choice and instead envisioned his son in a more rustic and unassuming livelihood as a farmer. In 1858 Cope was able to further his education in biology by working at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, where he catalogued specimens and subsequently published his results at the young age of 18.

Meanwhile, Marsh received a post-graduate scholarship from Yale to study chemistry, geology, and mineralogy, and he obtained a master's degree in 1863. After that, with financial backing from his uncle George Peabody, Marsh went to Germany to study in the field of paleontology. Around this same time, Cope's father acceded to his son's wishes for a college education and paid for Cope to attend the University of Pennsylvania, where Cope studied anatomy and paleontology under Joseph Leidy, the leading American paleontologist of that time. However, during 1863 and 1864, Cope left college and went to Europe ostensibly to study paleontology, but some historians surmise that Cope's father sent him to Europe to avoid the draft that was in place in the Civil War. While Cope was in Germany, he met his future rival, Marsh. At the time that they met, the two men were contrasts in educational background. Marsh had an extensive formal education and possessed two college degrees, while Cope, who had attended an excellent school during his youth and had some education in college, lacked a college degree.

Marsh, who had developed a strong reputation in the field of paleontology by this time, returned to the U.S. in 1866 and was appointed to the position of professor of vertebrate paleontology at Yale, which made him the first such professor in America. Later that year, at Marsh's urging, George Peabody made a sizable donation to Yale to found the Peabody Museum

of Natural History with Marsh named as a trustee. Cope returned to the U.S. in 1864, and his influential family was able to secure him a teaching appointment at Haverford College, a Quaker college near Philadelphia, although the college had to award Cope an honorary master's degree in order for Cope to satisfy the criteria for the position. The following year Cope married Annie Pim, and their marriage produced a single child, daughter Julia, who was born in 1866. Marsh, on the other hand, never married.

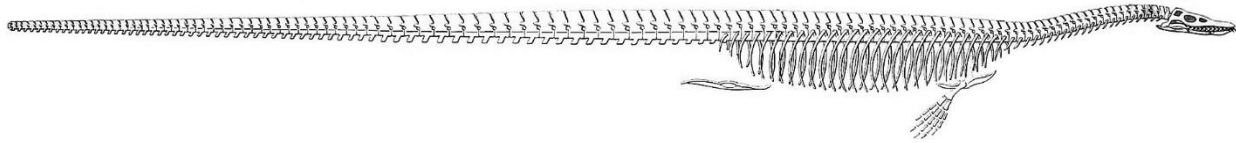
The two men were now positioned to begin their careers in paleontology, and the Bone Wars were about to commence. Interestingly, the two rivals at one time had a cordial but perhaps not amicable relationship. For instance, each of them named a fossil after the other one. Cope named an amphibian fossil *Pytonius marshii* after Marsh, while Marsh named an aquatic reptilian fossil *Mosasaurus copeanus* after Cope. But starting in 1868 the relationship deteriorated, and the Bone Wars began. Ironically this came about because Cope shared information with Marsh. Some years before this time, Joseph Leidy, an important piece of Cope's mentor at the University of Pennsylvania, had reconstructed the skeleton of a bipedal dinosaur from bones found in a quarry in Haddonfield, New Jersey. This *Hadrosaurus* (pictured), was the first public display, and this was done at the Academy of Natural Sciences, where Cope still had an affiliation after working there ten years earlier. In response to a request in a letter from Marsh, Cope gave Marsh a tour of the quarry where the *Hadrosaurus* bones had been found. During their time in the quarry, the two men even found fossils of three new species.



Marsh was awed by what he saw in the quarry, and he lusted to have control over it. Unbeknownst to Cope, shortly after Marsh was given a tour of the quarry, he struck a deal with the quarry's owner to send any new fossil finds to Marsh at Yale in return for monetary payments. As Cope later stated, "Soon after, in endeavoring to obtain fossils from those localities, I found everything closed to me and pledged to Marsh for money." This turned out to be the first shot of the Bone Wars.

Not surprisingly, Cope was irate when he learned what Marsh had done. For Cope, Marsh's actions were a breach of scientific etiquette. This is because Cope was one of the gentlemen naturalists typical of that and preceding times, who worked in a spirit of collegiality. In contrast, Marsh did not embrace this philosophy and, given his social status, was an outsider to it. To Marsh's way of thinking, making a deal with the owner of the quarry, while perhaps devious, was not unscrupulous or outside the boundaries of scientific decorum. It was simply a legitimate means to take advantage of an opportunity for personal advancement. It is not far-fetched that Marsh may have justified his actions by thinking that he, with the resources available to him at Yale, was better able to utilize the ancient materials that were waiting to be found in the quarry and to thereby more effectively unearth the scientific knowledge that was concealed in the quarry. In light of his beginnings in rural upstate New York, Marsh may have even rationalized his actions as a justifiable tactic toward a triumph of the farm boy over the high-society scientists. Whatever Marsh's thinking was, by making a deal with the quarry's

owner, he maneuvered himself into an advantageous position to the detriment of Cope.



Cope's Mistaken Drawing which Marsh used to humiliate Cope

It was not long afterward that Marsh fired another shot, and this one hit Cope hard. Cope had earlier published his findings about the fossils of an aquatic dinosaur that he named *Elasmosaurus*, which was a type of plesiosaur. In that article Cope included a drawing of the reconstructed skeleton of *Elasmosaurus*, but the skeleton had a glaring and comical error. In the drawing of the reconstruction of the *Elasmosaurus* skeleton, Cope placed the skull at the end of the tail rather than at the end of the long neck. Marsh could see from the anatomy and orientation of the vertebrae that Cope had put the skull on the wrong end of the dinosaur, which was an embarrassing and truly boneheaded error (pun absolutely intended). Marsh made sure to point out Cope's blunder, and according to some accounts he did so in a very public fashion to ensure that others in the field of paleontology would learn of Cope's error. Cope was so humiliated that he attempted to purchase all the copies of the erroneous article, but in this he was unsuccessful.

In the early 1870s the competition between Marsh and Cope shifted into the American West, which became the next front in the Bone Wars. As railroads began to expand into the West, the construction of those railroads revealed large fossil fields. As it happens, parts of the American West, because of the climatic history of that region, are ideal locations for the preservation of fossilized remains that extend well back into prehistoric times. In 1870, after Marsh had received word of the fossil bonanza that lay waiting to be gathered by someone with the financial means to retrieve it, Marsh organized and led an expedition to those fossil fields. Even though Marsh had to be careful to limit his explorations to areas close to military forts for provisions and also for protection from possible attacks by Native Americans, Marsh's expedition was enormously successful, and he recovered an immense number of fossils. Marsh made certain to publish his findings as quickly as he could to further cement his status in the field of paleontology.

Marsh's rival, Cope, also became aware that the West was an incredible source of fossils, and he wanted to join the hunt. But while Marsh, because of his affiliation with Yale, had access to financial resources to outfit an expedition, Cope could not count on that from his institution, the Academy of Natural Sciences, which was not in the habit of financing such operations. Instead Cope, in 1872, used his personal finances for an expedition to fossil fields in Wyoming, which was one of the locations that Marsh had prospected during his expedition. After arriving there, Cope soon learned why rugged areas like that are called badlands, which had to be a jolt for the gentleman scientist from the East. Cope and the men that he hired endured gnats, fever, and excruciating weather. But they managed to unearth a wealth of fossils.



Marsh learned of Cope's trek, and Marsh, who a few years earlier had made an underhanded financial deal to close Cope out from a fossil field in New Jersey, was not at all happy that Cope had turned the tables on him and ventured into fossil fields in the West that Marsh considered his own. Marsh organized another expedition into the region, and soon both Cope and Marsh were hunting for fossils near each other. Both men hurried to publish their findings, and this resulted in flawed publications with different names being given to the same species. In the months after Marsh and Cope returned from their fossil-finding expeditions, the two men worked to discredit the other's findings. This disparaging of scientific results escalated into personal attacks that horrified others in the scientific community.

For over ten years afterward, Marsh and Cope organized fossil hunts in the West. One particularly intriguing one came in 1876. By this time Cope had received a sizable inheritance after the death of his father. This gave Cope much greater financial resources to fund his fossil expeditions, and he once more departed from his wife and then ten-year-old daughter to go on an expedition to Montana only weeks after George Armstrong Custer's get-together with Lakota and other Native Americans at the Little Bighorn. When Cope arrived in Montana and tried to hire men to assist him, he found no one willing to join him. The locals warned him against his excursion and told him to arm himself if he did go. But Cope, a Quaker, could not bring himself to carry a gun. Eventually Cope was able to recruit a crew and undertake the expedition. At one point during the expedition, Cope wrote to his daughter Julia that it rained so hard "the high, bare badlands bluffs got slippery as soap so that we could hardly hunt for fossils." But the expedition proved to be very successful.

The following year Marsh received a letter from a man named Arthur Lake, a schoolteacher in Colorado. While were larger than any ever before the bones and their location. Marsh with Lake, but Lake had also let Cope thereafter, Marsh received a letter from a fossil field that the railroad workers was extremely rich in fossils. Marsh arrangement for the place, but Cope Soon both men set up quarries and fossils were unlike anything ever whose hind bones are pictured here) were from creatures that were among the largest to ever walk the Earth.



hiking, Lake saw fossilized bones that observed, and he notified Marsh about quickly made a financial arrangement know about this find. Very soon two railroad workers in Wyoming about claimed extended for seven miles and again tried to make an exclusive also learned about this fossil field. were recovering fossils, and these found. These bones (from a *diplodocus*,

The proximity of the rivals' quarries led to an intensification of the already intense competition. The workers that Marsh and Cope hired to work for them became actively involved in the competition, not just as diggers of fossils, but also as belligerents. Workers for both Marsh and Cope acted as spies to gather intelligence on the other one's findings. At times on digs, some fossils were destroyed rather than risk them falling into the hands of the adversary. When



workers were finished with a site and thought that there were no more fossils to be found, the site was dynamited to deprive the other side from finding any fossils that still might be buried there. One worker who was aligned with Marsh once observed two unidentified men in a quarry, and because he suspected them to be Cope's workers, he climbed to a point above them and pelted them with rocks to drive them away. Marsh and Cope also coaxed men who worked for their rival to change sides and reputedly used bribes to advance their own scientific progress. One especially noteworthy such incident came when Cope convinced one of Marsh's workers to change sides, and just at the time that this man began to work with Cope, Cope coincidentally came into possession of some of Marsh's fossil specimens, which suggests that Cope's new worker brought more than his digging skills to his new employment.

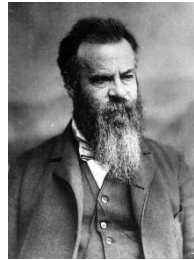
Continuing into the 1880s, Marsh and Cope followed a schedule of summer expeditions to the fossil fields of the West and winters of analyzing the fossils and publishing their findings. Along with publishing their own findings, Marsh and Cope publicly disparaged their rival's findings and even their rival, himself. For example, Marsh insisted that Cope had backdated his results so he could claim to be the discoverer, and Marsh also asserted that Cope's errors were "without parallel in the annals of science." Marsh went on to state that those errors were not worth correcting, because Cope's "blunders are hydra-headed, and life is really too short to spend valuable time in such an ungracious task." Cope called Marsh's allegations falsehoods by branding them "systematic innovations" and also said that some of Marsh's statements "are either criminally ambiguous or untrue." Cope declared that responding to Marsh was "unnecessary" because of Marsh's "recklessness of assertion," "erroneousness of statement," and "incapacity of comprehending." Cope also accused Marsh of being a poor practitioner of the scientific process and of plagiarizing his ideas from Cope's publications.

The sniping between Marsh and Cope became so bitter that the scientific journal *The American Naturalist*, the journal in which Marsh and Cope published many of their results, refused to publish their articles anymore. In an editorial in the journal, its editors stated, "We regret that Professors Marsh and Cope have considered it necessary to carry their controversy to the extent that they have. Wishing to maintain the perfect independence of the *Naturalist* in all matters involving scientific criticism, we have allowed both parties to have their full say, but feeling that now the controversy between the authors in question has come to be a personal one and that the *Naturalist* is not called upon to devote further space to its consideration, the continuance of the subject will be allowed only in the form of an appendix at the expense of the author." This policy decision by the editors, particularly because it was directed at the two leading paleontologists of their time, is so out of the ordinary that it qualifies as something that can rightly be characterized with the hyperbolic and redundant phrase exceptionally, extraordinarily, uncommonly rare. That said, this decision is easily justified by the egregious and unprofessional behavior of Marsh and Cope.

It was during this period of the Bone Wars that Marsh one-upped Cope's *Elasmosaurus* error with a spectacular blunder of his own. Cope's mistake of putting the skull on the wrong end of a dinosaur is the stuff of comedy sketches. But Marsh's error is probably the most well-known paleontological error and shows how the competition between the two men resulted in overly hasty work that led to erroneous results. In 1877 Marsh and his team found the fossils of a very large, long-necked quadrupedal dinosaur that Marsh named *Apatosaurus*. But this

*Apatosaurus* skeleton was only a partial skeleton. Two years later Marsh and his team found another partial skeleton of a very large, long-necked quadrupedal dinosaur, which was nearly completely unearthed by 1883. Marsh concluded that the new find was that of a different creature, and Marsh gave it a different name: *Brontosaurus*. In 1903, four years after Marsh's death, more careful analysis indicated that the two creatures are the same. Because scientific protocol is that the earlier name takes precedence, the name *Brontosaurus* was eliminated. (Recent analysis suggests that *Brontosaurus* and *Apatosaurus* may be distinct dinosaurs. If this conclusion can be definitively established, then the name *Brontosaurus* could be reinstated (<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-brontosaurus-is-back1/>). However, there are some experts in paleontology who are not convinced that *Brontosaurus* should be considered a separate dinosaur (e.g., <https://cupblog.org/2015/08/26/is-brontosaurus-back-not-so-fast-donald-prothero/> and <https://time.com/3810104/not-so-fast-brontosaurus/>).

The Bone Wars reached their climax in the 1880s and early 1890s. As settlement of the West was expanding, the federal government wanted to consolidate all the surveys that were being done there into one entity: the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), which was created in 1879. In 1882, when John Wesley Powell (pictured here) was director of the USGS, Powell named Marsh to be the head paleontologist. With his new political government funding of Cope's connections, Marsh was able to have much of his work with his work terminated. Cope had been funding his funds gone, he needed to find a personal fortune, but with the government way to supplement his available revenue for some aspects of his work. Accordingly, Cope invested in silver mines in the Southwest. The mines did well initially, but by the mid-1880s their production dwindled, and Cope was forced to deplete most of his own funds to support his fossil work.



In addition to bringing about an end to Cope's government funding, Marsh also used his political influence to try to strike a truly hurtful blow. Marsh convinced Powell that any fossils that had been discovered with government support should reside at the Smithsonian Institution (although Marsh cunningly created an exception for his own fossils, which could remain with Marsh at Yale). This meant that Cope would have to turn over to the Smithsonian Institution all the fossils that he had found on expeditions that were supported by government funds. But Cope produced very detailed financial records to prove that his fossil hunts had been specifically supported by his personal funds. However, Marsh's attempt to deprive Cope of his fossil collection was such a cruel ploy that Cope struck back hard.



Marsh's Mansion

For quite a few years, Cope had kept incredibly meticulous records detailing misdeeds, financial and otherwise, by Marsh and by Powell. Cope, who around this time described Marsh as "the most consummate fraud in the country," collaborated with a newspaper reporter to have a story published in the *New York Herald* in 1890 detailing multiple incidents of plagiarism and financial mismanagement by Marsh and misspending of federal revenues by Powell. This scandalous story was of some interest to the public, but the interest in this story was, not surprisingly, much greater in Congress, which in 1892 curtailed the funds for the USGS. Marsh was forced to relinquish his USGS position, which was the start of his financial downfall. Marsh lost his government funding and his staff, and not long thereafter he had to mortgage his mansion to support his work. Now both Marsh and Cope found themselves in financial peril, and eventually both men became financially devastated. But the worst for Marsh came when the fate that Marsh had planned to inflict on Cope befell Marsh. Marsh was told in a message from the government to send his fossils to the Smithsonian Institution.

Cope also suffered a serious loss around this time in that Cope and his wife, Annie, separated in 1894. Their marriage had been strained for years by Cope's long absences on expeditions and by his make matters worse, by to fail, perhaps as a result to the West on fossil hunts. debilitating health an apartment in centerpiece of that (pictured here), and in the stereotypically cluttered desk of a very dedicated but somewhat disorganized scientist. In the lower right drawer of that desk were the meticulous records that Cope had made about Marsh and Powell. During this time, Cope treated himself with morphine and belladonna, and his health continued to spiral downward until he died in 1897 at the age of 56 with most of his fortune gone. Cope's death fulfilled a wish that Marsh had made two decades earlier. On a day in 1877 when Marsh was particularly incensed about his nemesis, one of Marsh's workers happened to enter Marsh's laboratory just after Marsh had finished reading a recent article by Cope. Filled with rage, Marsh grasped the article in his hand and exclaimed, "Gad. Gad! Godamnit! I wish the Lord would take him!"



Cope specified in his will that his body be given to science, and in so doing he issued a challenge to Marsh for a post-mortem competition. Cope stipulated that his brain be examined to determine its size. At that time, brain size and weight were thought to correlate with intelligence. Cope's rationale was that his brain was larger than Marsh's brain, and perhaps Marsh would accept the challenge and have his brain size and weight determined after his death. But even if Marsh accepted the challenge, neither man would know who triumphed in this final competition, unless the two rivals had some way to access the results from the afterlife. Marsh survived for two years after Cope's death and died in 1899 at the age of 67. Marsh, who never married, had no wife to be separated from and no immediate family to warm his old age. The man who once had a sizable fortune due to his wealthy uncle died with \$186 in his bank account. Marsh, who has been described as living "a stunted life," did not accept Cope's challenge to

compare the size of their brains. But even without that one final face-off comparing their cranial contents, the acrimonious competition between Marsh and Cope is so spellbinding that a movie about their paleontological competition was going to be made. Marsh was to be played by James Gandolfini, and Cope was to be played by Steve Carell. However, after Gandolfini's untimely death in 2013, the movie was never made.

A movie about the Bone Wars would be compelling not only because of the captivating story of the rivalry, but also because the two main characters, Othniel Marsh and Edward Cope, had personalities that make it seem like they were fashioned in the mind of a writer of fiction specifically for the story. Cope has been described as impetuous, temperamental, and quarrelsome, and Marsh as glacial, self-directed, and unloved. Marsh was notorious for taking credit for the work of others and for being late in paying his workers, while Cope, though generally affable, could be snarky, which was exemplified well when he named an extinct mammal *Anisonchus cophater* (i.e., cope-hater) in recognition of Marsh's animosity toward him. William Berryman Scott, a paleontologist who was a contemporary of Cope and Marsh and knew them both, said that Cope was "pugnacious" and "made many enemies." Berryman was even more harshly critical of Marsh and said of Marsh, "I came nearer to hating him than any other human being that I have known." Clearly, both Marsh and Cope were fascinating individuals who, without any embellishment, would make intriguing characters for a movie.

Despite their flaws, Marsh and Cope added an enormous amount of valuable information to paleontology. By the typical standards for assessing scientific productivity, both Marsh and Cope were extremely productive scientists. Marsh is credited with the discovery of 80 dinosaurs and Cope with 56. The dinosaurs discovered by Marsh and Cope include some of the most well-known, such as *Allosaurus*, *Triceratops*, *Stegosaurus*, *Apatosaurus*, and *Diplodocus*. But the accomplishments and the legacies of these two men are forever tainted by their malicious competition. Although competitions are useful in driving progress, and the Bone Wars competition certainly did this, the ruthlessness of the competition caused the work to be done far too hastily so that too many of the conclusions made by Marsh and Cope were deprived of the carefulness and thoroughness that are required to give scientific conclusions their usual soundness and validity.

Moreover, the motives that drove Marsh and Cope were not at all noble or scientifically altruistic. The advancement of paleontology may initially have been a significant motive that spurred Marsh and Cope into their fierce competition, but this was eventually joined by the equally significant motives of impeding and discrediting their rival. The goal of the competition was not just to add to scientific knowledge but to enhance personal acclaim, and for both men there was also an objective of adding to scientific knowledge in a way that denied that opportunity to their rival. The end result of their competition was unquestionably worthwhile for paleontology, but the warped motives of both Marsh and Cope rightly make these two men seem small and selfish. In that sense, both men exchanged their goal of scientific accomplishments for a vindictive rivalry. They traded their passion toward paleontology and scientific knowledge for a quest that sought not just personal glory, but exclusive glory, a monopoly on glory that would deprive their rival of any acclaim or even of any achievements.

By making this trade, Marsh and Cope underwent the transformation that is described in



the aforementioned line from the song "Eye of the Tiger," and they also showed the need for a recognition that is expressed well in a line from the song "Africa," which was recorded by the rock band Toto. This recognition is experienced by some people who live for too long in a self-imposed dark place, and the line is, "I seek to cure what's deep inside, frightened of this thing that I've become." It is interesting to wonder if Marsh and Cope, in the quiet solitude of their reflective moments, ever questioned the atrocious deeds they had done, or if their hatred had so permeated and possessed their being that they came to feel that the thing they had become was the way they ought to be.

While it is indisputable that both Marsh and Cope made immense contributions to the field of paleontology, the venomous rivalry that consumed them was counter-productive and ultimately destroyed both of them. Both of these men have strong legacies as paleontologists, but their legacies are also defined by their unethical actions that were designed and intended to deprive their rival from making scientific contributions. Because of that, these two men are known to history as much for their perverse rivalry as they are for their accomplishments in paleontology. The relationship between Marsh and Cope was one that screamed for a collaborative arrangement wherein both men would receive credit for the discoveries. But neither man was willing to share credit, and for both of them, making discoveries became less about advancing the field of paleontology and more about preventing the other man from making scientific contributions. Who can say if the field of paleontology would have advanced more if Marsh and Cope had worked together instead of against each other? But for certain, their legacies would be much more admirable and honorable had they not engaged in their selfish, spiteful, and unprofessional competition. In the end, the most enduring legacy of the Bone Wars is that this was a war that had no winner. Othniel Charles Marsh and Edward Drinker Cope, the Bone War's two antagonists, both lost the war.

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### *Singing the Blues*

In the latest issue of the *Smithsonian Magazine* (Vol. 53, No. 08, March 2023) there was a question in the “Ask Smithsonian” column:

“Where did the Union Army get the blue to dye its uniforms during the Civil War?”

According to Frank Blazich, Curator of Military History in the National Museum of American History, “The Union Army dyed its fabric with indigo, a plant that once grew abundantly in South Carolina but declined steeply by the late 1700s. During the Civil War, the Union Army had to import indigo, primarily from India by way of Great Britain. As demand for uniforms went up, the Army began using cheaper dyes for the thread that held the fabric together. Prussian blue was synthetic and manufactured domestically. Logwood, a natural dye, came from tropical plants and was easy to obtain in the Western Hemisphere.”

The blue uniform predates the Civil War and was used in the Revolutionary War as well as in the Mexican War and by U.S. troops on the Western frontier. At First Bull Run there were all sorts of Union uniform in the Civil War was not started until General George B. McClellan came to Washington. American military minds thought that blue or gray uniforms would not stand out at a distance, and as the Union chose blue, the Confederates, by default, were stuck with gray. Because of the blockade, gray cloth soon was in short supply. The Confederates used captured dark blue uniforms and boiled them in a solution with walnuts, acorns, and lye, which resulted in “butternut,” approximating the grayish hue.

--Brian D. Kowell

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## *A Sojourn into the Second Battle of Winchester and Celebrating the new Ohio Monument*

By Paul Siedel

Last week the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation held its annual conference in Winchester Virginia. It ran from the twentieth to the twenty-second of April and was held at the George Washington Hotel in Winchester. One of the main reasons I attended was that on Thursday they were dedicating the new Ohio Monument on the battlefield of Third Winchester. What a grand celebration! Over one hundred people were there from Ohio and from all over the country to celebrate the dedication of the new monument. Scott Patchan a native Clevelander gave a run down on what the third Winchester was all about, sponsors and donors discussed the monument and the place Ohio's troops played in winning the Third battle of Winchester. Afterwards we drove into Winchester itself and checked in at the conference headquarters at the four-star George Washington Hotel. The Old Courthouse Museum (now called the Winchester Civil War Museum) was open and several of us walked over to the exhibit. There, besides the normal exhibits, were sections of the walls exposed to pre-renovation level and on which one can see the writings and pictures the soldiers drew on the walls of the old Courthouse. After that we had a walking tour of the old city of Winchester which was very interesting in itself. The second day was filled with lectures and a banquet and awards ceremony in the evening. The third day we were treated to a bus excursion of the land saved on which the fighting took place between Richard Ewell and Robert Milroy which, after the surrender of the U.S. troops, cleared the way for The Army of Northern Virginia to move up the Shenandoah Valley and into Pennsylvania. A wonderful three-day experience and one in which one does not have to be a member of the Shenandoah Battlefields Foundation to enjoy.

The food was fantastic! The buffet breakfast consisted of among other tempting things, scrambled eggs with cheese, honey grits, cheese grits, stewed apples, biscuits and gravy, ham, French toast and hot syrup, coffee, tea, and juices. I think I gained about ten lbs., but it was well worth it. During the lectures we had lunch of sandwiches, pastas, salads, lunch meats and cheeses, cakes, and ice cream. Friday and Saturday all meals were provided in the price of the conference. I met old friends, and made new ones from all over the U.S. I gained a new understanding of the Second Battle of Winchester and what it meant to the successful drive into Pennsylvania and although that drive was successful the overall campaign ended in failure for the Army of Northern Virginia. I saw how the several organizations working together are saving thousands of acres over which men fought and died.

On Friday we spent the day listening to lectures by noted authors which included:

Jonathan Noyalas who spoke on : "Considering the Uncertainty of War and the Certainty of Slavery". The story of how the Emancipation Proclamation was enforced throughout the Valley area and what the reactions of some of the people were regarding this.

Our old friend William J. Miller spoke on: "The Race to Staunton: The Wagon Train of Wounded and the Confederate Hospital System."



These were just two of several lectures which were presented on Friday. I would highly recommend anyone interested in American History to partake of one of these conferences which are held each year by the various battlefield preservation foundations. All in all I spent a wonderful three days as I said meeting old friends and making new ones, enjoying some of the best food I've had in a longtime and enjoying some fantastic speakers. A short vacation I am looking forward to going on sometime soon and would encourage any Civil War or American History buff to do the same.



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***The Reverend Thomas S. Major:  
From the Army to the Altar***

by  
Roger Futrell

**T**he Reverend Thomas Smith Major (1844-1911)<sup>i</sup> was a Morgan's raider and a Catholic priest. He enlisted as a partisan ranger in General John Hunt Morgan's legendary Confederate cavalry division; converted to Roman Catholicism after the Civil War; studied for the priesthood; and became a nationally known orator. A native of Paris, Kentucky, Major's father was a physician. His mother died weeks before his third birthday.<sup>ii</sup> Dr. Major moved the family to Covington, Kentucky, where he hired Irish immigrants to care for Thomas and his younger brother.<sup>iii</sup> Thomas Major enrolled at Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky, shortly after Fort Sumter. He soon dropped out and mustered into the Confederate States Army.<sup>iv</sup>

Thomas S. Major served in Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan's cavalry division. He enlisted as a private in Captain Bowles' Company C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kentucky Cavalry (Basil Duke's), at Lexington on September 5, 1862.<sup>v</sup> Basil Duke was John Hunt Morgan's second in command. Duke and Morgan were brothers-in-law. John Hunt Morgan, the "Thunderbolt of the Confederacy," was infamous for his brazen expeditions. He frequently staged lightning-like strikes into Union territory. He was a role model for the Confederacy's Partisan Ranger Act which authorized the use of guerilla tactics.

General Braxton Bragg sent John Hunt Morgan on a raid in the summer of 1863, stipulating that Morgan and his cavalry stay south of the Ohio River. Defying Bragg's order, Morgan and 2462 raiders turned Bragg's plan into the legendary, one-thousand-mile, "Great Raid" through Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio in June-July 1863. Morgan out on the twenty-four-day journey from McMinnville in Middle Tennessee on June 11, 1863. They traveled north across Central Kentucky, crossed the Ohio River at Brandenburg, and entered Indiana. They then followed the north bank of the Ohio and snaked across the Hoosier state into southern Ohio. They were the only uniformed Confederate force to penetrate so far north. Along the way, Morgan's Raiders taunted federal forces; captured and paroled several thousand Union soldiers; destroyed millions of dollars in U.S. property; burned local courthouses; stole residents' horses; and lived off the land.<sup>vi</sup>

Union patrols surrounded General Morgan at Buffington Island, Ohio, on July 19, 1863. Most of the men surrendered, but Morgan and four hundred of his soldiers including, Thomas Major, escaped and headed northeast hoping to cross the Ohio and head back into Kentucky at another point. General Morgan was captured at Salineville, Ohio, on July 26, 1863. He and his staff officers were imprisoned at the Ohio State Penitentiary at Columbus while most of the enlistees were taken to Camp Douglas in Chicago, Illinois.

Major suffered a gunshot wound to his arm during the Salineville skirmish. He was captured at Salineville and held at Wellsville, Ohio, for a few days. He was sent to Camp Chase at Columbus, Ohio, on July 28, 1863.<sup>vii</sup> He was only at Camp Chase for a few weeks. On August 22, 1863, he was transferred from Camp Chase to Chicago's Camp Douglas Prison and remained there for seven months.<sup>viii</sup> Prison ledgers confirmed Major escaped from the Camp Douglas Prison's dungeon on March 23, 1864.<sup>ix</sup> He sought treatment for his septic wound and fled to Canada.<sup>x</sup>

Historical writers have differed on where Thomas Major was imprisoned. Some indicated he escaped from a Federal prison in Chicago while others claimed he tunneled out of the Ohio State Penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio, and recuperated in Cincinnati. Frankfort historian, L.F. Johnson, who likely knew Father Major, wrote, in 1912, that Major was jailed at Chicago; fell ill; was nursed back to health by the Sisters of Charity in Chicago; and that the nuns' compassion prompted him to convert to their faith.<sup>xi</sup> Military records support Mr. Johnson's claim that Major was in Chicago and escaped from the Illinois prison.<sup>xii</sup> Some researchers repeated a story that had circulated around Frankfort for years that claimed Father Major was imprisoned at Columbus, Ohio, and escaped from the Ohio State Penitentiary.<sup>xiii</sup>

Thomas Major returned from Canada and joined a Confederate brigade in Texas shortly before the close of the war.<sup>xiv</sup> He was discharged on May 26, 1865.<sup>xv</sup> He, no doubt, was with General Edmund Kirby Smith when Smith surrendered at Galveston, Texas.<sup>xvi</sup> Smith was the last Rebel commander of note to surrender.

Thomas Major converted to Roman Catholicism after his encounter with the “good sisters” whom he credited with saving his life. The Reverend Richard Gilmour, also a convert, and later Bishop of Cleveland, was Major’s baptismal sponsor and long-time spiritual advisor.<sup>xvii</sup>



Major struggled with plans for his future when he returned to Covington following the war. He contemplated studying medicine and pondered entering the ministry. He initially studied medicine at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama.<sup>xviii</sup> In the end, however, he became a man of the cloth. He was enrolled at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West, at Cincinnati, in 1870;<sup>xix</sup> and he was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Covington at St. Mary’s Cathedral by Bishop Toebe, on November 14, 1875.<sup>xx</sup>

Following ordination, Father Major (pictured) worked in the Dioceses of San Antonio, Chicago, Peoria, and Cleveland before returning to the Diocese of Covington where he pastored Frankfort’s Good Shepherd Church, at 306 Wapping Street, from 1895 to 1911.<sup>xxi</sup> Good Shepherd afforded him a diverse congregation, including established Frankfortians, Italian immigrants, and previously enslaved African Americans.

Father Major was the perfect ambassador for the Roman Catholic Church. He was a distinguished looking man with an unmistakable military bearing. He took an active role in Frankfort’s civic affairs. He was a frequent soloist for The Capital Theatre Orchestra;<sup>xxii</sup> participated in Governor William S. Taylor’s disputed inaugural ceremony in 1899;<sup>xxiii</sup> and refurbished Good Shepherd Church.<sup>xxiv</sup> The rank-and-file of Frankfort loved him. Most of his local friends were Protestant.<sup>xxv</sup>

The soft-spoken rector never shied away from his past. He participated in United Confederate Veteran (UCV) activities while at Frankfort. He was chief chaplain of the Kentucky Division, UCV in 1900.<sup>xxvi</sup> He treasured a Southern Cross of Honor that the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) gave him. He asked that it be given to a nephew when he died.<sup>xxvii</sup>

Major was a gifted speaker. He perfected a two-hour autobiographical sketch, titled *From the Army to the Altar*, that he presented on travels around the country.<sup>xxviii</sup> The speech outlined his rationale for becoming a Confederate; for becoming a Catholic; and for becoming a Priest.<sup>xxix</sup> *From the Army to the Altar* provided him national acclaim. However, no known copy of the talk exists today.

Father Major died at dawn, Tuesday, August 22, 1911.<sup>xxx</sup> He was sixty-seven years old. Good Shepherd’s bell tolled his passing. The cause of death was uremic poisoning. An article in the

next day's *New-York Tribune* touted both his service with John Hunt Morgan and the Roman Catholic Church.<sup>xxxix</sup>

Major's body was moved from Rogers Undertaking Company in downtown Frankfort to Good Shepherd Church on Thursday morning, August 24. Several of his former comrades from Morgan's Raiders walked alongside his coffin. When they arrived at the church, the elderly veterans presented Major's Cross of Honor to teenage nephew Stuart Auld.<sup>xxxix</sup> Ironically, Stuart's father had served in the Union Army artillery during the Civil War.<sup>xxxix</sup> The local Knights of Columbus kept vigil while Father Major's casket lay in state through the night.

Covington Bishop Camillus Maes presided at the solemn Requiem Mass the following morning. Bishop Maes praised the life and work of the soldier-priest; he described Father Major as "a soldier of God and a soldier of his country."<sup>xxxix</sup> Governor Augustus Willson, a delegation of state officials, and hundreds of Frankfort's townspeople turned out for the funeral.<sup>xxxv</sup>

Father Major was laid to rest atop a mound at the entrance to the Catholic section of the Frankfort Cemetery aka "The Westminster Abbey of Kentucky."<sup>xxxvi</sup> Thirty Confederate veterans who had served with Major conducted military rites at the graveside.<sup>xxxvii</sup> His grave was covered with a ledger-style marble slab which contains a Monstrance; his vital statistics; a Latin cross; and a reference to his service with Morgan's Raiders:<sup>xxxviii</sup>

Rev. Thomas S. Major  
Born July 13, 1844  
Ordained Priest  
November 14, 1875  
Appointed Pastor  
Good Shepherd Church  
August 1895  
Died August 22, 1911  
Requiescat In Pace  
A Member of  
John Morgan's Command  
C.S.A.

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<sup>i</sup> Thomas S. Major, Kentucky death certificate no. 20604 (1911).

<sup>ii</sup> "Mrs. Ann F. Major," death notice, *The Western Citizen* (Paris, Ky.), May 28, 1847.

<sup>iii</sup> 1860 US census, Covington Ward 2, Kenton Co., Ky., 606; 1870 US census, Covington Ward 3, Kenton Co., Ky., 32A; 1870 US census, Butler, Hamilton Co., Ohio, 145A.

<sup>iv</sup> 1890 US census fragment, veterans' schedules: St. Joseph, Williams Co., Ohio, Roll 61, Enumeration district 204, 6; *Ancestry.com*.

[Note: Thomas S. Major was mistakenly listed on the 1890 US census, veterans' schedules, which were designed to tabulate Union veterans.]

<sup>v</sup> Thomas G. [sic] Major, *Compiled Military Service Records...Confederate Soldiers...Kentucky*, (2<sup>nd</sup>. Regiment, Kentucky Cavalry (Duke's), micropublication M377 (Washington: National Archives), Roll 8; *Adjutant General's Report, Confederate Kentucky Volunteers*, (Frankfort, 1915), 1:554; 1890 US census.

<sup>vi</sup> John Kleber, *The Kentucky Encyclopedia* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1992), 650; Brett J. Derbes, "John Hunt Morgan," *Encyclopedia of Alabama*, (Auburn University, 2013).



- vii Thomas G. (sic) Major, 2<sup>nd</sup>. (Duke's) Kentucky Cavalry; NARA-CMSR-Confederate-Kentucky; M377, Roll 8.
- viii Ibid.
- ix Thos. G. (sic) Major, Co. C, 2 Ky. Cav.; Captured at Salineville, Ohio; Escaped Mar. 23, 1864; listed on *Record of Prisoners of War at Camp Douglas, Chicago, Illinois*; NARA M598:109; *Ancestry.com*.
- x Paul F. Meagher, *A Brief History of Catholicity in Frankfort* (Typescript: Kentucky History Center, 1948), 34-35.
- xi L.F. Johnson, B.A., M.A., *History of Franklin County, Ky.* (Frankfort, Ky: 1912), 253; "Life Ends for Soldier-Priest," *Courier-Journal*, August 22, 1911.
- xii Thos. G. (sic) Major, Co. C, 2 Ky., Captured Salineville, Ohio; named on *List of Prisoner's War Escaped, Released & Died Camp Douglas*; NARA M598:109; *Ancestry.com*.
- xiii Frank W. Sower, *Reflections on Frankfort 1751-1900* (Frankfort, Ky: 1994), 108; Russell Hatter & Gene Burch, "Good Shepherd Parish," *A Walking Tour of Historic Frankfort* (2002), 6.
- xiv Meagher, *Brief History of Catholicity in Frankfort*, 34-35.
- xv 1890 US census.
- xvi "May 26, 1865: Kirby Smith Surrenders," *The American Catholic*, May 26, 2020.
- xvii "Life Ends for Soldier-Priest," *Courier-Journal*, August 22, 1911.
- [Note: The writer has not located Father Thomas S. Major's baptismal certificate.]
- xviii Rev. Paul E. Ryan, *History of the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky 1853-1953* (Covington: 1954), 874; "Soldier Priest Answers Last Call," *The Bourbon News* (Paris, Ky.), August 25, 1911.
- xix 1870 US census, Covington Ward 3, Kenton Co., Ky., 32A; "Soldier Priest Answers Last Call," *Bourbon News*, August 25, 1911.
- xx "Rev. Thomas S. Major gravestone," Section F, Frankfort Cemetery, Frankfort, Ky.; Ryan, *History of the Diocese of Covington*, 874.
- xxi "Soldier Priest Answers Last Call," *The Bourbon News*, August 25, 1911.
- xxii "Second Concert," *The Frankfort Roundabout* (Frankfort, Ky.), Nov 24, 1900.
- xxiii *Hopkinsville Kentuckian* (Hopkinsville, Ky.), December 12, 1899.
- xxiv Meagher, *Brief History of Catholicity in Frankfort*, 34-35.
- xxv Johnson, *History of Franklin County, Ky.*, 253.
- xxvi *Confederate Veteran Magazine* 3 (January 1900), 34.
- xxvii "Father Major's Cross Conferred On Nephew," *Frankfort News-Journal* (Frankfort, Ky.), August 25, 1911; *Confederate Veteran Magazine* 11 (Nov 1911), 541.
- xxviii "Life's Work Ended," *Kentucky Irish American* (Louisville, Ky.), August 26, 1911.
- xxix "Life Ends for Soldier-Priest," *Courier-Journal*, August 22, 1911.
- xxx "The Rev. Thomas S. Major," *Macon Daily Telegraph* (Macon, Ga.), August 23, 1911.
- xxxi "The Rev. Thomas S. Major," *New-York Tribune*, August 23, 1911.
- xxxii *Confederate Veteran Magazine* 11 (Nov 1911), 541; "Funeral of Father Major," (photocopy of unidentified obituary, datelined Frankfort, Ky., August 25, 1911); posted on Thomas S. Major link, *Ancestry.com*.
- [Note: Frank Stuart Auld (1894-1985) died at Tulsa, OK.]
- xxxiii "Robert C. Auld, Co L, 2 Ill Arty," tombstone photograph, Chattanooga National Cemetery, *findagrave.com*, memorial #6193664.
- xxxiv *The Catholic Telegraph*, Vol. LXXX, No. 35, 31 Aug 1911.
- xxxv Ibid.
- xxxvi "Body of Loved Priest Rests In His Grave," *Frankfort News-Journal*, August 26, 1911; Russell Hatter, Nicky Hughes, & Gene Burch, *Frankfort Cemetery, The Westminster Abbey of Kentucky* (Frankfort Heritage Press, 2007), 64; Ryan, *History of the Diocese of Covington*, 622-23.
- xxxvii *The Catholic Telegraph*, 31 Aug 1911.
- xxxviii "Rev. Thomas Major gravestone," Frankfort Cemetery.

FINIS!