

THE CHARGER



The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

August 2023

Vol. 48, No. 1

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Editor: D. Kent Fonner
E-mail Editor at dkfonner@gmail.com

September 13, 2023 – “An Evening with President Lincoln (Lincoln Speaks at Ford’s Theatre)”

SPEAKER: Past CCWRT President Mel Maurer as President Abraham Lincoln

October 9-11, 2023 – “Three Nights with General Grant” (In cooperation with Quincy Gilmore CWRT and Northeast Ohio CWRT). CCWRT will host General Grant on Wednesday, October 11, 2023.

SPEAKER: Dr. Curt Fields as Ulysses Grant

November 8, 2023 – “Sherman—Man or Monster”

SPEAKER: Derek Maxfield

December 13, 2023 – “Salmon P. Chase: The Ambitious Ohioan”

SPEAKER: Judge William F. B. Vodrey

January 10, 2024 – The Annual Dick Crews Memorial Debate

2023-2024 MEETING PROGRAMS

TOPIC: “Was Meade aggressive enough in chasing Lee after Gettysburg?”

MODERATOR: Judge William F. B. Vodrey

February 14, 2024 – “The 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment after the Battle of Fort Wagner”
SPEAKER: Dr. Michael Dory

March 13, 2024 – “Ohio at Antietam”
SPEAKER: Dan Welch

April 10, 2024 – “Hardships and Dangers Will Bind Men as Brothers: The Ohio National Guard in 1864”
SPEAKER: John-Eric Gilot

May 8, 2024 – “Cleveland and the Civil War”

SPEAKER: Dennis Keating

LOCATION OF ALL CCWRT MEETINGS: 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. To ensure a dinner is reserved for you, the reservation must be made by Wednesday, seven days before the meeting.

Website:

<http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com>

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September 21-24, 2023

Annual Field Trip – Manassas, Virginia: First and Second Battles of Bull Run

The 2023 field trip is to Manassas, Virginia where we will study the Battles of First and Second Manassas (Bull Run), Kettle Run, and, as a bonus, Bristoe Station. Dates include travel time.

More information about the 2023 field trip is available on the Roundtable's website as a [downloadable PDF](#).

President's Message

Fellow Roundtable Members:

“Three score and seven years ago our founders brought forth in this city, a new roundtable, conceived in Knowledge, and dedicated to the proposition that Civil War history is worth preserving.

Now we are facing an aging membership and a divided society, testing whether that roundtable, or any roundtable so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great periodical of that roundtable. We have come to dedicate a portion of that periodical to explain to you what we have in plan for the year. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense, we cannot forget our own history. The hardworking members, living and dead, who participated here, have created a legacy far above our poor power to add or detract. The city will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they created here. It is for us the current members, rather, to be dedicated here to the sustainability of the organization they so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from those who went before us we take increased devotion to that organization for which they gave their full measure of devotion - and that a roundtable of the members, by the members, for the members, shall not perish from this city.”

Too much? I saw that we are in our 67th year and it all flowed from there.

We are publishing an August Charger this year to get everybody thinking about the

upcoming program year, but before we get to that, the above statement on sustainability is unfortunately a real issue for Civil War Roundtables around the country. Many are shutting down. Steve Pettyjohn and I are attending a sustainability conference in Gettysburg at the end of August presented by the CWRT Congress. We hope to get some good ideas on how to make our roundtable stronger. More to come...

We are excited about the program that we've put together this year and hope you will find it interesting, educational, and entertaining. The theme for the year is **“Union Leaders and Ohio in the War”**. We will finish off 2023 hearing about four of those leaders, both political and military, three of whom were from Ohio. We will end the season in 2024 with stories about units and soldiers from Ohio.

Our first two speakers of the year are living historians with our very own Mel Maurer starting off the season with his portrayal of President Lincoln in September, followed by the preeminent US Grant living historian, Dr. Curt Fields, in October. In October, we've joined with our sister roundtables here in Cleveland to have three nights with General Grant. The topic each night will be different with General Grant progressing chronologically through the war from night to night. On Monday, October 9th he will be at Quincy Gilmore CWRT. Tuesday, October 10th will be at the Northeast Ohio CWRT and then concluding on Wednesday, October 11th at our roundtable meeting. Please mark your calendar for all three nights and let's have a good showing all three nights.

It's also not too late to sign up for the field trip to Manassas. We currently have 36

people participating in the field trip. As I write this, I am looking at the list of past roundtable field trips on our website and we have not been to Manassas in over 30 years. The impressive thing about the Manassas National Battlefield Park is that you don't see hardly any development as you stand on Henry Hill where Thomas Jackson stood like a Stonewall and the railroad cut where he hid his troops before the 2nd battle is still there. It is a very well-preserved battlefield in a populated part of Virginia. I just read an article where Prince William County approved a resolution to allow land that was part of the battlefield to be sold to build data centers as part of a Gateway Bridge. Come see it before its gone...

As noted in my previous email, it is not too early to send in your dues for the year. Thank you to the nine people who have already paid. If you want to pay now, you can send your check made out to "Cleveland Civil War Roundtable" to:

Bob Pence

1419 Honeygold Lane

Broadview Heights, OH 44147

As also mentioned in one of my previous emails, we've set a goal to increase our membership over the next two years to 100 paying members. As mentioned in the address above, we owe it to those that came before us in this organization to make sure that it long endures. Any ideas you have to help us achieve that goal are welcome. I would like to set a goal that we each bring a friend to the October meeting. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

I am excited about the upcoming year and look forward to learning history with you.

Thanks,

Bob Pence

The Editor's Desk



As we begin a new volume/year of *The Charger*, I want to take time to remind and encourage all the members of CCWRT that this is your publication to share research, books, pictures, documents, and your thoughts with the other members. The Roundtable has adopted guidelines for submissions for publication. These can be found on the CCWRT website, but for convenience's sake, I am posting them here:

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Guidelines for Publication in *The Charger*

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable has established the following guidelines for articles to be considered for publication in its monthly newsletter, *The Charger*.

1. Any and all topics on the Civil War or Civil War-related articles are welcome (battles, leaders, politics, Reconstruction, etc.)

2. All work must be original by the submitting author. Any other authors or works should be cited.
3. Articles should be written to be enjoyed by the general audience of Civil War enthusiasts.
4. Article submissions should include a brief biographical sketch of the author. A few simple sentences should suffice.
5. Previously published work is acceptable so long as the author owns the copyright. Previously published submissions must be identified as such at the time of submission.
6. Any photos should be identified and include captions and photo credits.
7. Submissions must be professional in nature. No inflammatory, derogatory, or incendiary language will be permitted. Any foul language, unless a direct quote, will be edited out.
8. While articles on political topics are encouraged, articles should not promote any particular political viewpoint.
9. Submissions or posts are the viewpoint of the author or authors only. They do not reflect the opinion of the Cleveland Civil War

Roundtable.

10. The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable does not pay for article submissions, nor does it pay when articles are published in *The Charger*.
11. Submissions or posts are subject to modification and editorial board review, with the editors having final approval. The Roundtable reserves the right to make any and all editorial decisions.

Editorial Board Guidelines Publications and Posts

1. Any topics related to the Civil War or Civil War-related articles should be considered — e.g., battles, leaders, politics, Reconstruction, etc.
2. All work must be original work of the author. Any other authors or works are to be cited by the author submitting the article, the Facebook or Twitter posts, or posts onto any other platform used by the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. Should the editorial board learn that a submission or a substantial portion of a submission has been plagiarized, it will not be published or posted.
3. Articles or posts should appeal to a broad audience of Civil War enthusiasts. Articles for *The Charger* should not be of such a narrow scope or subject that they appeal to a small readership of Civil

War enthusiasts.

4. Submissions or posts must be written in a professional manner. No inflammatory, derogatory, or incendiary language is permitted. Any foul language, unless a direct quote, should be edited out.
5. Articles or posts that are written solely to promote a particular political viewpoint or position, or solely to inflame, insult, or incite will not be published.
6. Submissions or posts are the opinion of the author or authors only and do not reflect the opinion of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable.

(These publication guidelines were adopted March 24, 2021.)

My only request as editor, in addition to compliance with these guidelines, is that authors of articles keep the length of submissions reasonable. I would like to be able to include a variety of material in *The Charger*, but that is difficult if someone submits a *magnus opus* that requires ten to fifteen pages, or more, for printing in one issue. Try to shorten the article in question or break it into no more than two parts. Articles, book reviews, etc., limited to 2000 words are best.

Be that as it may, please do not hesitate to submit your thoughts and research for inclusion in future issues. I look forward to hearing from everyone this year.



John (Klem) Clem was born in Newark, OH, August 13, 1851, the son of Roman and Magdalene Klem. In May 1861, after the death of his mother in a train accident, the nine-year-old ran away from home and tried to join the 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry as a drummer boy. Rejected because of his age and his size, he eventually found a home as the mascot and unofficial drummer for the 22nd Michigan Infantry. According to legend, he became known as “Johnny Shiloh” after shrapnel destroyed his drum at the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862. The legend can be disproved, however, by the fact that the 22nd Michigan was not mustered into service until August 1862, four months after the battle.

In 1863, Clem was permitted to officially enlist as a drummer in the 22nd Michigan. At Chickamauga, in September 1863, he shot a Confederate Colonel who had demanded his surrender. It was reported he used a musket cut down to fit his size. After the battle, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Captured in Georgia in October 1863 while serving on a train guard detail, he was quickly exchanged and returned to his comrades in the 22nd Michigan. Clem was wounded twice before his discharge in September 1864. After the war, in 1871, he returned to the army, retiring as a Major General right before World War I.



The Irish at the Battle of First Bull Run

By Dennis Keating

The forerunner of the Irish Brigade of the Union Army of the Potomac was the 69th New York, commanded by Fenian revolutionary, Michael Corcoran. In Fall, 1860, Corcoran refused to allow his militia unit to participate in a parade to honor Queen Victoria's oldest son, Edward, Prince of Wales, during his visit to New York City. Corcoran was arrested and threatened with a court martial.

After the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter, however, the charges against Corcoran were dropped, and he was reinstated as commander of the 69th. Along with New York's Catholic Archbishop John Hughes, Corcoran called for the Irish to defend the Union. He recruited hundreds of Irish volunteers to join the 69th. On April 23, 1861, the 69th marched through Manhattan to receive Archbishop Hughes' blessing enroute to embarking for Washington City.

On May 23, 1861, the 69th crossed the Potomac to enter Northern Virginia, where they built Fort Corcoran. On July 21, 1861, the 69th's 1,000 men were part of Ohioan Irvin McDowell's army at Centreville that attacked the Confederate army along Bull Run creek. The 69th was part of the

command of Ohioan William Tecumseh Sherman. Late in the day, the 69th was ordered to assault the Confederates holding Henry House Hill. The 69th made two assaults before the collapse of the Union's right flank. The 69th had to retreat but it was among the last to leave the field, with a wounded Corcoran captured. It suffered about 300 casualties but saved its flag:

"The standard bearer of the green flag of the Sixty-ninth was shot down, but the flag was instantly raised again. The second man [John D. Keefe of the Zouaves] was shot, and a rebel tore the flag from his grasp. Exerting himself, he shot down the rebel, rescuing the flag, and seized a rebel color; but he was soon overpowered by numbers and the trophy taken from him, besides being taken prisoner with his own flag. He had concealed a revolver and shot the two men in charge of him, and captured a captain's sword and a prisoner."

Irish Brigade historian David Conyngham wrote of the Zouaves:

"[They] suffered desperately, their red dress making them a conspicuous mark for the enemy. When Meagher's horse was torn from under him by a rifled cannon ball, he jumped up, waved his sword, and exclaimed, 'Boys, look at that flag [of the 69th]-remember Ireland.'"

Thomas Francis Meagher, who led the Zouave unit, paid this tribute to the Irish dead of the 69th:

"They lie there in rich sunshine, discolored, and cold in death. All of them were from Ireland, and as the tide of life rushed out, the last thought that left their hearts was for the liberty of Ireland."

Meagher replaced Corcoran as the leader not only of the 69th but also of what became the Irish Brigade in December, 1861, comprised also of the 63rd and 88th New York Volunteer Infantry regiments (later joined by the 28th Massachusetts and the 116th Pennsylvania).

References

Susan Provost Beller. *Never Were Men So Brave: The Irish Brigade During the Civil War*. Margaret McElderry Books, 1998.

Thomas J. Craughwell. *The Greatest Brigade: How the Irish Brigade Cleared the Way to Victory in the American Civil War*. Fair Winds Press, 2011.

"The Men Who Led the 69th New York on the Bull Run Battlefield," *Irishamerican Civil War* (April 9, 2019)

"A Gallant But Futile Charge," *The Wild Geese* (January 18, 2013)



Irvin McDowell

A Man of Gargantuan Appetites

© Brian D. Kowell July 2023

Irvin McDowell was 43 years old when the Civil War erupted. He was a major in the adjutant general's office in Washington City. With General Winfield Scott too infirm to take to the field, McDowell was soon promoted over others to brigadier general to lead the fledgling Union army against the rebels at Bull Run.

Standing a little over six feet tall, he was a large man with a large appetite. British correspondent William Howard Russell described him as "square and powerfully built, but with a rather stout and clumsy figure." Others described him as "robustly built."ⁱ

This was for a good reason. While McDowell neither smoke nor drank spirits, he was a gourmand. As a young topographical engineer, James Harrison Wilson dined with McDowell. He was shocked and impressed by the general's vigor at his well-stocked dinner table. Wilson

noted that McDowell gobbled up every dish within reach in short order. After the full meal he polished off himself a whole watermelon for dessert and pronounced it “monstrously fine.”ⁱⁱ

After unsuccessfully trying to bag General Stonewall Jackson’s “Foot Cavalry” in the Shenandoah Valley in 1862, McDowell returned in June to the Bull Run battlefield and established his headquarters at “Liberia.” The house was built in 1825 by William and Harriett Weir and had been used by General P.G.T. Beauregard as his headquarters during the First Battle of Bull Run. McDowell’s headquarters was close to Manassas Junction where the railroad connected to Washington. As a result, his headquarters larder was well stocked with delicacies. It helped that a member of his staff was co-owner of Willard’s Hotel in Washington.

Being a gourmand comes with a price – weight gain. On June 18, while reviewing the 1st Rhode Island Cavalry, McDowell’s horse, “Ohio,” reared and fell backwards on top of him. Why the horse reared is a mystery, but McDowell’s large size may have contributed to the fall. However, the extra adipose layer the general sported might have saved him from a more serious injury. Just the same, he was incapacitated for a few days.ⁱⁱⁱ

While recuperating, McDowell was visited by President Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton at “Liberia.” A few days later his patron, Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase, also paid the general a call. Chase found the corpulent general on the back steps of his headquarters eating ice cream. Seems McDowell had a fondness for the “expensive and exotic treat.” He offered some to Chase. It is possible that the President and Stanton could have enjoyed ice cream on their visit, but there is no proof. It is not clear where McDowell got his ice cream, but a “Mr. Devereaux from the Alexandria railroad depot would not permit any more ice to be given to McDowell until his bill was paid.”^{iv}

After the war McDowell remained in the army until 1882 when he resigned and settled in San Francisco. He died on May 4, 1885, due to pyloric disease of the stomach.^v

ⁱ Russell, William Howard, *My Diary North and South*, Boston, 1863. Pp. 423-424. Leech, Margaret, *Reveille in Washington, 1860-1865*, Time Reading Program, Special edition, Time Incorporated, New York. Reprinted by arrangement with Harper & Brothers, New York, 1941. P.101

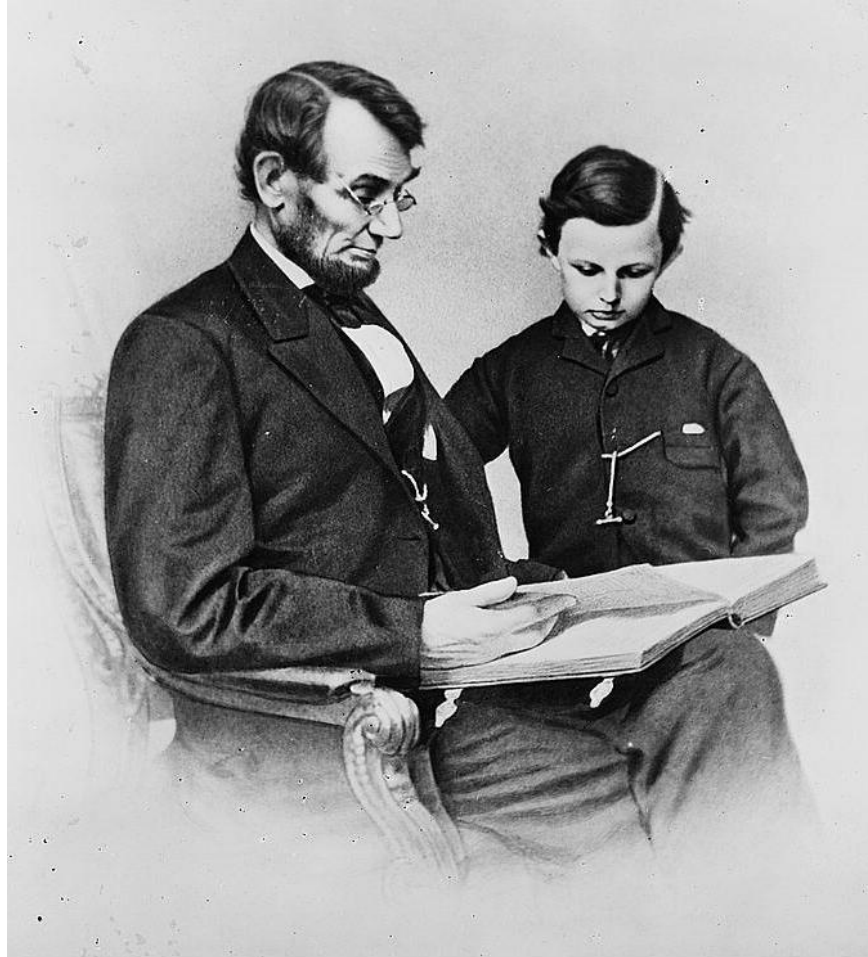
ⁱⁱ Wilson, James Harrison, *Under the Old Flag, volume I*, New York, 1912. P. 66. Foote, Shelby, *The Civil War: A Narrative, Fort Sumter to Perryville*, New York, Random House, 1958. P. 73.

ⁱⁱⁱ Denison, Frederic, *Sabers and Spurs: The First Regiment Rhode Island Cavalry in the Civil War*, published by the First Rhode Island Cavalry Veteran Association, 1876, reprinted in the Army of the Potomac Series by Butternut and Blue, Baltimore, Maryland, 1994. P. 100.

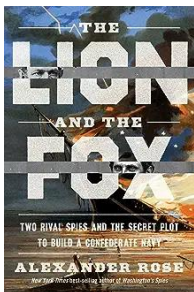
^{iv} Simone, Frank P., Jr. & Gene Schmiel, *Searching for Irvin McDowell: The Civil War’s Forgotten General*, California, Savas & Beatie, 2023. P.202. The authors credit Lisa Sievel-Otten in her book *Sentry of the Ages: Liberia Plantation, Manassas, Virginia*, Manassas Museum System, 2013. Sievel-Otten’s source is from the diary of Joseph C. Willard, aide-de-camp to McDowell and co-owner of Willard’s Hotel in Washington.

^v Cullum, George W. *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy, Vol. 1*, New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1868. P. 711.

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BOOK REVIEWS



The Lion and the Fox: Two Rival Spies and the Secret Plot to Build a Confederate Navy, Alexander Rose (Mariner Books, 2022)

The City of Liverpool, England had two negative connections to the United States (at least in its North) in the 18th and 19th centuries: 1) before the slave trade was abolished, it was the leading English port engaged in the slave trade and 2) during the Civil War its shipyards provided the Confederacy with its sea raiders, most famously the *Alabama* and the *Shenandoah*. Publication of the illustration of the Liverpool slave ship the *Brookes* by a Quaker abolitionist was a galvanizing event in the abolitionist movement. Today, Liverpool is the site of the International Slavery Museum, opened in 2007. And, last year, Alexander Rose (the author of *Washington's Spies*), published a history of the attempt of James Bulloch to build a Confederate navy in Liverpool's shipyards. Bulloch was an uncle of future U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt and U.S. Navy Captain before joining the Confederacy.

Only one week after the Confederate bombardment of Ft. Sumter beginning the Civil War, President Lincoln announced a blockade of Southern ports. Despite the small size of the then U.S. Navy, this “Anaconda Plan”, mainly devised by General Winfield Scott, was intended to prevent the South from financing its rebellion by shipping its cotton (“white gold”) to England’s mills in return for weapons and other military supplies. To break this blockade, the Confederacy needed ships that it didn’t have and couldn’t manufacture itself.

Enter Bulloch who saw a loophole in England’s Enlistment Act intended to preserve its neutrality. He figured out that he could commission the building of civilian vessels that could later be converted into naval warships. In Liverpool which was sympathetic to the Confederate bid for independence and the preservation of slavery, Bulloch was able to operate secretly to fund the building of ships under disguised ownership, aiming eventually for ironclad rams to attack the U.S. Navy blockaders.

Also operating in Liverpool was the U.S. Consul Thomas Dudley, a Quaker lawyer. He sought to uncover Bulloch’s activities to convince the British government to intervene to prevent Bulloch’s goals. Dudley had the support of U.S. Ambassador Charles Francis Adams, the son and grandson of two American presidents.

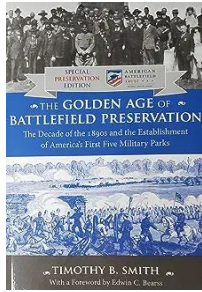
While much has been previously known about this tale, Rose presents it in more detail and as a riveting mystery. Rose writes an intriguing history of the contest between Dudley and Bulloch. The tale includes Bulloch having an aristocratic mole in the British Foreign Office to warn him about possible threats to his actions.

The drama includes Confederate captains persuading Liverpool sailors to continue to serve on Confederate raiders with the promise of financial rewards from the capture of Union shipping. While successful in capturing and destroying many U.S. commercial vessels, the Alabama was sunk on June 19, 1864, by the U.S.S. Kearsage in a battle off the French port of Cherbourg. And on November 6, 1865, the Shenandoah arrived in Liverpool to surrender to the British and finally end the American Civil War.

Eventually, the British government did not side with the Confederacy and Bulloch’s underground activities were uncovered by his intrepid rival Dudley, preventing his plan for those ironclads. The British amended its law to close the loophole that Bulloch had exploited. Dudley stayed on to document Bulloch’s activities for the U.S. claim for reparations from England for allowing Bulloch’s vessels to damage U.S. naval commerce. In 1872, an international tribunal rewarded the U.S. \$15.5 million, after which Dudley resigned as consul and returned to the United States.

Bulloch’s wartime memoir was published with the help of Teddy Roosevelt. Bulloch died in 1901 and was buried in Liverpool.

--Dennis Keating



The Golden Age of Battlefield Preservation, Timothy B. Smith (Forward by Edwin C. Bearss), University of Tennessee Press: Knoxville, 2008 (ISBN # 10:1-57233-622-3, paperback, 13:978-1-57233-622-6).

When one visits a Civil War battlefield, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, or any of our national battlefield parks we rarely wonder or speculate how or when they were preserved, who planned them, who administers them and what are their other uses? This book “The Golden Age of Battlefield Preservation” by Timothy B. Smith goes a long way in answering those questions. After all they were just farmland belonging to private individuals when the battles were fought. How they were purchased and brought into the public domain is an interesting story in itself. According to the author it all began in the 1890s when two ex-Union soldiers sat drinking in Chattanooga, Tennessee. They decided to visit the old Chickamauga Battlefield and do some reminiscing. Much to their consternation they could not recognize much of the old field. They decided to form a battlefield conservation organization to preserve the old field of battle. They formed a veteran’s organization and Chickamauga-Chattanooga became the nation’s first battlefield park in 1890 with Antietam following the same year. Likewise, the thought of establishing a park at Shiloh first emerged in 1893 when several Union veterans returned to the battlefield in April of that year. They had heard stories of farmers who had unearthed skeletons of some of the soldiers and were ploughing through fields of shallow graves. The outraged and saddened vets determined to ensure that such horrors would not continue and so Shiloh became a full-blown park like that at Chickamauga, illustrating the fact “that the 1890s era preservationists were not singly tourism minded or even access minded. The desire to honor and preserve was foremost in their minds.” Up until this time several battlefields such as Gettysburg had civilian organizations which were concerned with preservation but there was no concerted effort of preserving them as a whole. During the 1890s according to Smith “Several factors came together to produce a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in which the old battlefields could be properly saved. These factors included veterans returning to the fields to document what had happened, the opportunity to preserve almost pristine fields that had not yet experienced the development that would later come into the second Industrial Revolution and massive government support from Congress and state legislatures dominated by veterans. Under the umbrella of sectional reconciliation, the 1890s saw five battlefields set aside as parks: Chickamauga-Chattanooga, Antietam, Shiloh, Gettysburg, and Vicksburg, today they are considered the biggest and best preserved.” He also states that “The next wave of preservation did not occur until the late 1920s and 1930s, when it was already too late to save the fields of conflict...” The result was a series of much smaller, less monumental, and highly urbanized parks such as Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, Kennesaw Mountain, Petersburg, Stones River and Fort Donelson.

What were the views of the veterans of that time concerning the preservation of these fields? For the most part “These Military Parks, “ the veterans declared” are not designed to commemorate either victory or defeat, but as monuments to the heroism of the American citizen soldier during the most trying period of our Nation’s existence and as object lessons of the struggles for the maintenance of that Union and their cost” “So the 1890s was the best and only real opportunity the nation had to preserve their battlefields effectively. Such a unified movement was not possible before 1890, with all the lingering hatred left over from the war itself and Reconstruction.” When the various veterans organizations who were preserving the fields began

to turn over the responsibility to a National Battlefield preservation entity they did so because of several overriding concerns: 1) In the 1890s the veterans realized that if they did not do it then no one would many of them were dying off and they had to seize the moment before it passed away, 2) During the 1890s the veterans had the opportunity to preserve almost pristine sites several changes had occurred but none of lasting nature. 3) Many legislatures were controlled by Civil War Vets and they would gladly put up the money for battlefield preservation. The Shiloh Battlefield could at this time be purchased for an average of \$10.00 an acre, a bargain even back then. As the author says “These three factors all combined to make the 1890s the optimal time to preserve Civil War battlefields.

The author also goes into the formation of National Cemeteries, how and when they were conceived, Gettysburg being the first and during the War several others were formed and had to be administered. And “Although Congress had preserved several battlefields and cemeteries it had established no formalized process to oversee them. As a result, the different battlefields had their own sponsors and supporters, creating a disjointed group that would eventually be a forerunner of a national battlefield park system.” This system would be responsible for building and maintaining park roads, mowing grass, building visitors centers and general maintenance of the properties. It should be remarked at this point that the placing of monuments was very controversial. It was finally decided that markers would be placed at the point of farthest advancement by a particular unit and that no markers would be placed to honor any individual excepting in cases of outstanding bravery or achievement.

Parks were laid out in different ways Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Shiloh and Chickamauga-Chattanooga were laid out as parks with land being purchased on a massive scale throughout the battlefield. Antietam, Spotsylvania, and Petersburg were laid out on the ribbon pattern where just battle lines were followed by roads and the intervening property remained in the hands of the private owners. This later proved to be problematic as several property owners decided to subdivide and develop the individual plots of land.

It should be noted that several well-known Civil War vets served as commissioners on the governing boards of the battlefield parks. Alexander Stewart, Don Carlos Buell, Steven Dill Lee, Henry Heth among others. Moreover, even complete units such as the Stonewall Brigade visited the Antietam Battlefield and were impressed at the way it had been preserved and offered their opinions on where to place markers and monuments.

All in all, this is a fascinating book and one that should be read before visiting the various battlefields. One will gain a new appreciation of what they were, what happened there and how they became what they are today.

--Paul Seidel

FINIS!