

THE CHARGER



The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

March 2024

Vol. 48, No. 8

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President – Bob Pence
Vice President – Jimmy Menkhaus
Past President – Lily Korte
Treasurer – Gene Claridge
Secretary – Charles Patton
Historian - Dan Ursu
Director – Mark Porter
Director - Richard Hronek
Director - Hans Kuenzi
Director – Steve Pettyjohn
Director – Dave Carrino

Webmaster - Paul Burkholder

Website:

<http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com>

Editor – Kent Fonner

E-mail Editor at dkfonner@gmail.com

MEETING – March 13, 2024

PROGRAM – “Edgerton’s Battery at Stones River”



SPEAKER – Dan Masters, Civil War historian and author of several books, including *Echoes of Battle: Annals of Ohio’s Soldiers in the Civil War*

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

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

For reservations email:

ccwrtreserve@gmail.com. To ensure a dinner is reserved for you, the reservation must be made by Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Website:

<http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com>

Like us on Facebook!

President's Message

Fellow Roundtable Members:

March 2nd was the Region 3 Ohio History Day at the Cleveland History Center and Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable was well represented as a supporter of the event. That day's competition was the first step in the National History Day competition with winners advancing to the state competition next and then possibly the national competition near Washington DC. This year's theme is "Turning Points in History". Below is a description of the competition from their website.

"Founded in Cleveland in 1974, National History Day is a project-based learning experience for students in grades 6-12 that builds college and career skills for the 21st century by making the historical past relevant to the present and the future. To participate, students choose topics in relation to the yearly theme, conduct research, and present their findings as a **paper, exhibit, documentary, website, or performance**. In the process, students learn critical thinking skills through finding and evaluating primary and secondary sources, and they hone their creativity in building arguments and presenting their findings in one of the five formats. History Day projects, which may be done in the classroom, after school, or independently, empower students to become true scholars. Student projects are evaluated by volunteer judges, and the top projects advance to represent Region 3 (Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit counties) in a state-wide competition. Winners at state go on to compete at the national competition, where

the top prize remains a 4-year scholarship to Case Western Reserve University."

This year, through the leadership of Steve Pettyjohn, our Roundtable participated as a special prize sponsor for Civil War related presentations. We awarded prizes in the following three categories; documentary, junior division exhibit, and senior division exhibit. All participants of the winners of each of these categories received a medal which read:



In addition to the medal, each prize category was awarded an American flag which flew over the Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on Presidents Day this year. As with the flags that we present to our speakers each month, these flags were in a display case and accompanied by a certificate. The flags are intended to go back to the schools to be displayed in their history classrooms. Lastly each category was presented with a portrait of Ulysses S. Grant (on a \$50 bill).

Frank O'Grady, a teacher at St. Brendan School, has been a long-time participant in National History Day and he's had some of his students bring their presentations to our meetings in the past. I'm happy to say that as in prior years, two

of the Civil War special prize winners will attend our March meeting along with their presentations and will join us for dinner.

The winners of the Civil War special prizes and their topics were as follows:

Documentary

Stephen Toth (A 6th grader at St. Brendan School)

Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg: The Turning Point of the Civil War

Exhibit (Junior Division)

Landon Adams and Scarlet Davis (8th graders at St. Brendan School)

Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg: The Turning Point of the Civil War

Exhibit (Senior Division)

Charting Sojourner's Legacy

Alexa Adams, Alicia Kiefer, and Mariah Horvath (Sophomores at Lutheran High School West)

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who came to help judge the Civil War projects. These volunteers were Steve Pettyjohn, Dennis Keating, Gary Taylor, John Syrone, Jake Collens and myself. Kent Fonner also volunteered to help with the Civil War presentations, but on arrival was called up to the big leagues to be a judge in Region 3. Other judges from the Roundtable that participated in the Region 3 judging were Rich Hronek, Ed Chuhna, William Vodrey and Garry Regan. Ellen Connally was also in attendance and Frank O'Grady was there supporting his students. It was a very nice event and the students did a fabulous job. Thank you again to Steve Pettyjohn for championing our participation in this event.

This month's speaker is Dan Masters whose topic is "Edgerton's Battery at Stones River". Dan is a last-minute change from our original speaker Dan Welch, who had to cancel due to a conflict with his new job, however, Dan Masters comes highly recommended. Dan is a descendant of five Union veterans of the Civil War and has been deeply involved in the study of that conflict since the late 1990s. He has written ten books, numerous articles, and more than 800 blog posts about the Civil War, much of his work focusing on the western theater. His third book, *Sherman's Praetorian Guard*, won a local history publication award in 2018. In 2022 he released the first in a three-volume trilogy entitled *Echoes of Battle: Annals of Ohio's Soldiers in the Civil War*, the second volume of which was released in February 2024. Dan will have copies of his books available for sale at the meeting.

In line with our theme of Ohio in the Civil War, "Edgerton's Battery at Stones River" tells the tale of how Battery E, of the 1st Ohio Light Artillery was captured in the opening moments of the Battle of Stones River. Many members of Battery E hailed from the Cleveland area including the battery commander Captain Warren P. Edgerton. It's a strong program with a great local tie-in.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting on March 13th.

Thanks,

Bob Pence

The Editor's Desk

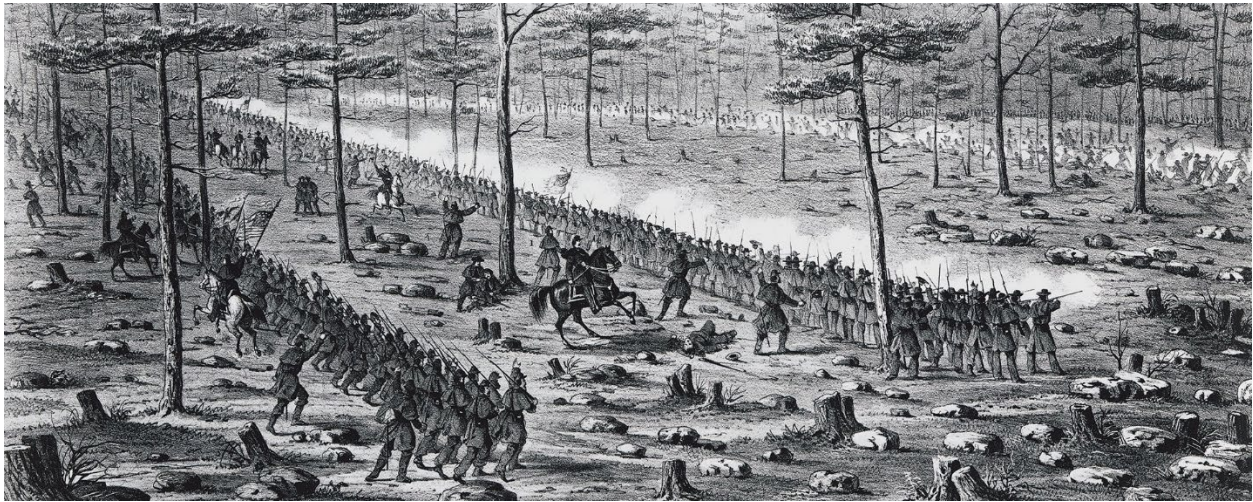


I recently learned of the demise of two of my favorite print magazines on Civil War history—*Civil War Times Illustrated* (CWTI) and *America's Civil War* (ACW). Presumably, popular interest in the history of the conflict, and history in general, has slipped to the point that publications such as these have become too expensive to maintain. I will miss both. Bigger is not always better, and I must confess that I felt some trepidation when HistoryNet, LLC, acquired CWTI and I saw the rise of a monopoly on popular history magazines. Of the two journals, CWTI was by far the oldest and most respected in its day. I had the premier issue of *America's Civil War*, first published by Empire Press, Leesburg, VA, I believe, around 1988. My first Civil War article, a short piece on the trial of Andersonville commandant, Henry Wirz, was published in ACW in November of 1988. Although I submitted several articles to CWTI, I did not break into its pages until a couple years ago when a letter I wrote to the editor appeared in one issue.

CWTI began originally in Gettysburg around 1959 as a newspaper format for tourists at the battlefield called *Civil War Times*. The first articles were written as “on-the-spot” reports of Civil War events in a style like the old TV show, “You Are There.” In 1962, the publishers, Historical

Times, Inc. (later Cowles Magazines in 1987), revamped the old format and issued *Civil War Times Illustrated* as a premier historical publication with articles written by noted Civil War historians and scholars, lavishly illustrated by period photographs, engravings, and paintings. In addition to articles on battles and leaders, CWTI also published material on military arms and equipment, soldier life, home life, politics, foreign affairs, CW finance, naval history, and biographies. Various columns over the years included “Mail Call” (letters to the editor), “The War in Words” (commentary on historical books written about the Civil War in the first hundred years after Appomattox), “Book Reviews,” and a page or so of classified ads. At its best, CWTI provided quality historical writing and a fantastic networking medium for those people seriously interested in the war.

Moreover, CWTI and its editors over the years made their own contributions to Civil War research and writing. Editors, like Robert Fowler and William C. Davis, became recognized scholars in the field. CWTI often published original letters and diaries from the period. About forty years ago, CWTI and its publisher, Historical Times, through cooperation with the National Historical Society, did a great service by reprinting and making available to the wider public the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*. Of course, this was all before the advent of the internet, and I suppose it can be argued that such contributions are no longer necessary. Still, I like the feel of paper and physical books. In my heart, there will always be a place for these two old friends.



Ohio at Stones River

By Dennis Keating

The battle of Stones River, Tennessee took place December 31, 1862-January 2, 1863. The Union Army of the Cumberland sustained over 13,000 casualties while Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee had over 10,000 casualties, before it retreated.

Ohio units played an important role in the Union army. Ohio was represented by 36 infantry regiments, 8 batteries of the 1st Ohio Light Artillery and the 6th Ohio Light Artillery, and three cavalry regiments. Four Union commanders from Ohio played prominent roles in the battle: Army commander William Rosecrans, once colonel of the 23rd OVI), Corps Commander Alexander McCook, one of the Fighting McCook family, Division commander Phil Sheridan, and Brigade commander William Hazen. Rosecrans was named army commander in Fall, 1862, and was pushed by the Lincoln administration to attack Bragg's army south of Nashville. During the battle he acted erratically when his left-wing attack plan was undercut by Bragg's prior attack on his right wing. Bragg's attack nearly succeeded as McCook failed to rally his troops. Instead, it was Sheridan who led his division in successive defense lines that halted the Confederate advance. Hazen's brigade, which included the 41st Ohio, and some other Federal units, held the Round Forest position against numerous Confederate assaults. The 41st OVI, organized in Cleveland, went into the battle with 413 officers and men, lost 14 killed and 106 wounded, plus 4 missing, for a total of 124 casualties.

References

Cozzens, Peter. *The Battle of Stones River: No Better Place to Die* (1991)

History Net (staff) *Battle of Stones River: Philip Sheridan's Rise to Military Fame* (June 2006)

Kimberly, Robert L., and Ephraim S. Holloway. *The Forty-First Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry in the War of the Rebellion. 1861-1865* (1897)[Chapter VI]

Masters, Dan. *Hell by the Acre: A Narrative History of the Stones River Campaign* (forthcoming)

Whalen, Charles and Barbara. *The Fighting McCooks – America's Famous Fighting Family* (May, 2006)



Actress Pauline Cushman

A Civil War Actress' Most Daring Role

by David A. Carrino

It's been said that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and this is most definitely true in war. Knowledge of things such as troop strength and position can be very dangerous for the side whose troop strength and position become known to the enemy, and the Civil War provides a

number of examples of this. For instance, the fortuitous finding of Robert E. Lee's Special Orders No. 191, which are now known as Lee's lost orders, prompted even the glacially slow and agonizingly cautious George McClellan to step out of character and boost his coefficient of aggressiveness, at least until the time that he came to battle. Because of the critical importance of knowledge about the enemy, the Civil War has some instances when clever ruses were employed to deceive the enemy with fake information, such as John Magruder on the York-James Peninsula and Nathan Bedford Forrest at Cedar Bluff, Alabama (and elsewhere).

Knowledge is power, and military knowledge about the enemy makes an army more powerful. Consequently, protecting military information from the enemy is extremely important. In the Civil War, acquiring useful and accurate information about the enemy in a clandestine way was often a dangerous and potentially life-threatening endeavor. Those who engaged in wartime spying were constantly at risk, and if their espionage activities were discovered, they might very likely pay the ultimate price. Thus it was for a woman who lived part of her life in Cleveland, Ohio. This woman, who worked as an actress, took on the hazardous role of a Union spy and nearly lost her life because of it.

Some people's life story is lost to history because they lived lives of obscurity with the result that so little was recorded about them (if anything at all) that their life story cannot be told. But for some people, their life story was so highly embellished that it is no longer possible to separate fact from myth, and this makes their truthful life story lost to history. Harriet Wood falls into the latter category. In fact, it has been said of her, "The record of her life still remains more fiction than truth." As a result, when her life story is told, the word "reputedly" must be used frequently.

Harriet Wood was born on June 10, 1833 in New Orleans, Louisiana. When she was ten years old, her father, a merchant whose formerly successful business was failing, moved the family to Grand Rapids, Michigan in order to set up a Native American trading post. The only girl in a family with eight children, Harriet became disenchanted in Grand Rapids, which at the time was a small town of about 1,500 population. Harriet aspired to be an actress and moved to New York City at the age of 18 to pursue her dream. She changed her name to Pauline Cushman and achieved modest success in her acting career. In 1853 she married Charles Dickinson, a musician. A few years later, Pauline left acting after she became pregnant. The couple moved to Cleveland, Ohio, which was Charles' hometown, and it was there that their two children were born, a son named Charles in 1858 and a daughter named Ida in 1860. (Because of discrepancies between different accounts of Pauline's life story, there are uncertainties in some of the details, such as the year of her marriage to Charles and the year of Ida's birth. Intriguingly, a biography of Pauline written during her lifetime mentions nothing about Charles or the two children that Pauline had with him.)

In October 1861, Charles enlisted in the 41st Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, which was organized at Camp Wood in Cleveland. Charles fell ill during the Shiloh Campaign, was discharged in June 1862, and returned to Cleveland. In December 1862, Charles became one of the more than 220,000 Union soldiers who died of disease. Now a widow, Pauline left her two young children with Charles' family and resumed her career in acting. Sadly, both of these children died in childhood, and it is not known if Pauline ever had any more contact with them prior to their deaths.

The year after her husband's death, Pauline Cushman was performing in a play. Cushman obtained a part in a play titled *The Seven Sisters*, which was being performed in Louisville, Kentucky in April 1863, and it was here that fate led her into her most daring role. Louisville, at that time, was under Union occupation. A large number of Louisville's residents harbored strong Confederate sympathies, and it was known that there was a network that smuggled medical supplies and other necessities to the South. One Confederate sympathizer in Louisville was the landlady of the boardinghouse in which Cushman was staying. This led to Cushman coming into contact with quite a few Confederate sympathizers who frequented the place. Among these were two paroled Confederate officers who learned of Cushman's role in *The Seven Sisters*.

In one scene of the play, Cushman's character offers a toast. The two paroled Confederate officers, reputedly a Colonel Spear and a Captain Blincoe, approached Cushman and proposed to pay her if she changed the play's wording of the toast and instead offered a toast to Jefferson Davis and the Confederacy. (For what it's worth, a search of the National Park Service Soldiers and Sailors Database revealed both a Colonel Spear and a Captain Blincoe listed among the Confederate personnel.) Spear and Blincoe reputedly offered to pay Cushman \$300 to do this. Not clear is how \$300 (\$7,500 in 2024 value) came to be possessed by two paroled Confederate officers who decided that the best use for the money was to squander it on a flamboyant stunt. Cushman resisted by saying that she would certainly be dismissed from the cast of the play, but she said that she would consider the offer.

Subsequently, Cushman, who was staunchly pro-Union, went to the provost marshal of Louisville, Colonel Orlando Moore. Moore instructed Cushman to accept the offer, which surprised Cushman. But because of Cushman's incipient relationship with Confederate sympathizers, Moore cleverly envisioned a long-range plan for the actress in which she would be an informant against those sympathizers. Moore also assured Cushman that she would be protected from the expected hostile reaction among Louisville's Unionists. At the next performance of the play, Cushman did as she was instructed, and there nearly was a riot. Cushman was fired from the cast almost immediately because of her on-stage outburst of feigned loyalty to the Confederate cause, and this cemented her place in the confidence of Confederate sympathizers. Her acting career in the theater now ended, Cushman embarked on a different and much more dangerous acting career of infiltrating the network of Confederate sympathizers.

Her first success in her new endeavor involved the secessionist landlady of the boardinghouse where Cushman was staying. Cushman discovered that the landlady was poisoning sick and wounded Union soldiers housed there. According to the aforementioned biography of Cushman, late one night Cushman noticed a light coming from the landlady's room. When Cushman went to investigate, she reputedly saw the landlady mixing white powder with ground coffee. Cushman faked illness as an excuse for her late-night visit and knocked on the door of the room, "which was stealthily opened; though not before the powdered coffee had been hastily put out of sight." Cushman asked the landlady "what mysterious brewing were you at when I knocked?" The landlady, confident about Cushman's sympathies thanks to the ruse at the theater, explained her plot to poison Union soldiers and even showed Cushman the package of poison. Cushman later reported this to Union authorities, and no more Union soldiers were housed at that place.

The landlady was not immediately arrested in order to protect Cushman's cover, but the landlady was arrested after Cushman moved on to another spy mission. While the story about the landlady and the poisoning is likely true, some details about Cushman's discovery of the plot seem difficult to comprehend. Specifically, if Cushman saw that the landlady "was engaged mixing some white powder with some ground coffee" and then "knocked gently at the door, which was stealthily opened," how was Cushman able to see the landlady mixing the poison with the coffee if the door to the room was closed? It is inconsistencies like this which cloud Cushman's exploits with uncertainty.

Cushman's next and greatest espionage mission began in Nashville, Tennessee, which, like Louisville, was under Union occupation at the time. After Cushman's dismissal from the cast in Louisville, she was hired as a member of the cast for a play in Nashville. To maintain her ruse as a Confederate sympathizer, the Union authorities impeded Cushman's departure from Louisville with several feigned obstacles, which, by pre-arrangement, Cushman was able to evade. The pro-secessionists in Nashville, who knew about Cushman's pro-Confederacy toast in Louisville, became aware of Cushman's arrival and were elated to learn that she was able to slip out of Louisville without either a pass or swearing an oath of allegiance. This set up Cushman well with the Confederate sympathizers in her new city of residence.

Unknown to those sympathizers, it had been arranged for Cushman to meet with William Truesdail, who was the chief of military police in Nashville and an intelligence officer for the Union's Army of the Cumberland. Truesdail devised a scheme in which Cushman was to travel behind enemy lines to obtain information about the Confederate's Army of Tennessee under the hoax that she was searching for her brother. Truesdail instructed Cushman to commit to memory all that she learned about Confederate dispositions and not to write down anything or pilfer any written material. Cushman's mission was progressing well, and she was able to gather important

information about the Army of Tennessee's fortifications and troop positions. However, in disobedience of her instructions, Cushman made sketches and, according to the aforementioned biography of Cushman, hid the sketches "in her boot, between the inner and outer sole."

On her trek back to Union lines, Cushman was apprehended by rebel scouts, who reputedly brought her to John Hunt Morgan for questioning. Morgan then reputedly sent her to Nathan Bedford Forrest for questioning, and Forrest reputedly sent her to Braxton Bragg, the Army of Tennessee's commander. As related in the biography, Bragg questioned Cushman and became convinced that she was a spy. Bragg then had Cushman questioned by Alexander McKinstry, the Army of Tennessee's provost marshal, who showed Cushman the sketches that were hidden in her boot. The drawings were presumably discovered after a search of the boot, which had been found among the contents of Cushman's saddle bag. This quickly led to a military trial, at which Cushman was convicted of spying and sentenced to death by hanging. (It should be noted that the biography of Cushman also indicates that the sketches were hidden "under the cork soles of her gaiters," which differs from the statement in the same biography that the drawings were concealed in the sole of her boot. This is another example of the kind of inconsistencies that cloud Cushman's exploits with uncertainty.)

Cushman was held in Shelbyville, Tennessee until the sentence could be carried out. During this time, Cushman either fell ill or feigned illness, and the sentence was delayed. To Cushman's good fortune, William Rosecrans began his Tullahoma Campaign, which led to Bragg withdrawing southeastward and evacuating, among other places, Shelbyville. When Shelbyville was evacuated, Cushman was considered too ill to be moved, so she was left behind, which spared her from the gallows. After the Army of the Cumberland occupied Shelbyville, Cushman returned to Union hands.

Cushman received such acclaim from the Army of the Cumberland that the honorary rank of major was bestowed on her by, among others, James Garfield. Because Cushman's identity was now known among the enemy, her spying career was at an end. But she was able to return to the theater, because her exploits became so renowned that she began a performance tour consisting of grandiose portrayals of her espionage adventures staged for paying customers. Some of Cushman's performances were done under the auspices of P.T. Barnum, including some at Barnum's American Museum in New York City. Cushman, who was billed as the Spy of the Cumberland, typically appeared in a military uniform and regaled audiences with exaggerated accounts of her spy missions.

After several years, people tired of Cushman's repeated stories, and she once again found her stage career over. From that point until her death, her life became unsettled. In 1872 she moved to San Francisco and married a man named August Fichtner. Fichtner died less than a year later,

and Cushman worked for a few years in logging camps and also operated a hotel. In 1879 Cushman married Jere Fryer, and they operated a hotel in Arizona territory. Their marriage became strained after the death of their adopted daughter in 1890, and they separated. Cushman then moved back to San Francisco where she lived for the last three years of her life, which were very difficult. Impoverished, she applied for and received a meager pension based on her first husband's military service. The total was less than \$1,000. To support herself, Cushman worked as a seamstress and a charwoman. Afflicted with rheumatism and arthritis, she became addicted to painkillers.

On December 2, 1893, life's end came to the woman who began her earthly stay as Harriet Wood, who reached maturity in a remote town in western Michigan and later achieved her dream of being an actress, who served her country in a dangerous capacity, and who in her later years scratched out a peripatetic existence. On the morning of the day she died, Cushman was found unconscious in her bed. Doctors were summoned but were not able to revive her, and she died that afternoon at the age of 60. Having outlived two of her husbands, separated from her third husband, and having also outlived all of her children, Cushman had no family to enrich her final years, during which she lived a subsistence existence alone in a San Francisco boardinghouse. The cause of death was an overdose of painkiller, perhaps morphine, laudanum, or opium, although there is evidence that she used all three. There were even rumors of suicide.



Of Cushman's death, *The San Francisco Call* reported, "A childless, gray-haired, penniless, broken woman, almost without friends, died a lonely death in a Market-street lodging-house yesterday." This was a truly tragic end for someone who endangered her life in service to her country. However, there was one bit of gratification and deserved recognition associated with Cushman's passing. The article in the *Call* about Cushman's death indicated that she was to be buried in a pauper's cemetery unless funds could be made available "to defray the expense of more decent interment." The *Call* also noted that Cushman's "services to the nation in time of great peril merit military honors when her body is laid to rest." Fortunately, the Grand Army of the Republic and the Women's Relief Corps stepped in and gave Cushman a large funeral, and Cushman's remains were interred in San Francisco National Cemetery in the Presidio. Her grave is in Officer's Circle and has a tombstone that bears her name as Pauline Fryer, her married name with her third husband. Her tombstone also notes her service as a Union spy.

Pauline Cushman may not be as well-known as other woman spies of the Civil War, such as Belle Boyd, Rose O'Neal Greenhow, Elizabeth Van Lew, Harriet Tubman, or Mary Bowser. But Cushman's story is every bit as compelling as those of other woman spies. One person who has studied Cushman posed the question of "whether Cushman deserves her legendary reputation" and answered with "a qualified yes." While there is some uncertainty regarding the details of Cushman's exploits, Cushman unequivocally did espionage for the Union army. Hence, because she put her life in danger to assist the Union cause, she earned her place in history. As an actress, if Cushman were alive today, she could probably appreciate that sometimes when a movie advertises that it features its lead actress in her most daring role, the inference is that the role is risqué. This is a not-so-subtle technique to entice moviegoers by titillating them. But Pauline Cushman's most daring role was not a risqué one; it was a risky one, so risky that it almost cost Cushman her life.

Sources

A number of sources were used for this article. The most useful sources are as follows:

Life of Pauline Cushman, the Celebrated Union Spy and Scout by Ferdinand L. Sarmiento (1865)

The Actress Who Left the Stage to Become a Civil War Spy by Emily Toomey, At the Smithsonian, August 12, 2019, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/actress-who-left-stage-become-civil-war-spy-180972821/>.

Pauline Cushman, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

<https://www.nps.gov/people/paulinecushman.htm>.

Pauline Cushman, American Battlefield Trust

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/pauline-cushman>.

Pauline Cushman: Civil War Spy and Theater Actress, History of American Women

<https://www.womenhistoryblog.com/2008/01/pauline-cushman.html>.

Pauline Cushman, Actress and Union Spy by Ciaran Conliffe

<https://headstuff.org/culture/history/terrible-people-from-history/pauline-cushman-actress-union-spy-american-civil-war/>.

The San Francisco Call, volume 75, number 2, December 3, 1893, page 8

Cushman, Pauline (1833-1893), Santa Cruz Public Libraries, Local History

<https://history.santacruzpl.org/omeka/items/show/133214#?c=0&m=0&s=0&cv=0&xywh=-164%2C-2%2C477%2C200>.

'Union Spy': The Forgotten Tale Behind the Presidio's Most Intriguing Grave by Katie Dowd

<https://www.sfgate.com/sfhistory/article/UNION-SPY-Pauline-Cushman-Presidio-SF-16175456.php>.

Pauline Cushman Fryer, Find a Grave

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6333443/pauline-cushman>.

Larson on Christen, 'Pauline Cushman: Spy of the Cumberland' by C. Kay Larson

<https://networks.h-net.org/node/4113/reviews/4854/larson-christen-pauline-cushman-spy-cumberland>.

Two Women Who Spied during the American Civil War: Going Undercover with Belle Boyd and Pauline Cushman in the Archive of Americana by Bruce Roberts

<https://www.readex.com/readex-report/issues/volume-12-issue-2/two-women-who-spied-during-american-civil-war-going>.

Profile and Biography of Pauline Cushman by Jone Johnson Lewis

<https://www.thoughtco.com/pauline-cushman-biography-3530812>.



Kenton, OH, Burial Place of “Great Locomotive Chase” Raider, Jacob Parrott (Photo by Paul Siedel)

In Search of Jacob Parrott:

A Civil War Day Trip

By Paul Siedel

We all have projects and grand plans with which we intend to proceed but somehow can never get the time or motivation to bring them to fruition. Such was the case when I looked out at a cloudy, rainy day and decided there was nothing really to do but to drive to Kenton, Ohio a town about seventy miles southwest of Mansfield and pick up some data on an individual in whom I have become extremely interested. It all began when after reading the book by Russell Bonds “Stealing the General” I recently picked up another book by J. North Conway “Soldier Parrott”. All of which created a desire to learn more about Andrew’s Raid and the Great Locomotive

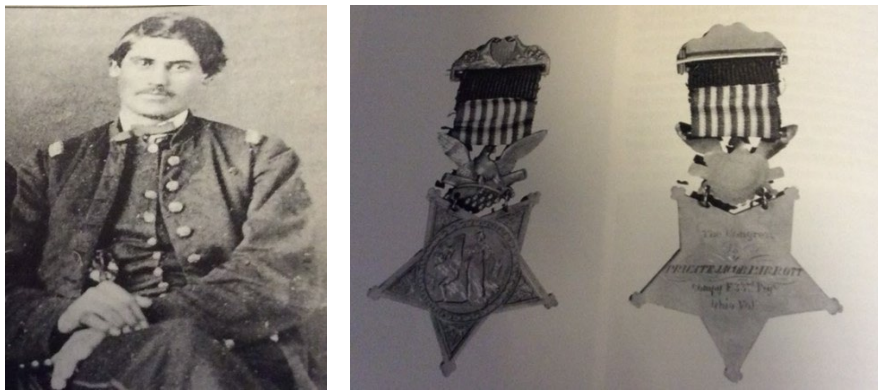
Chase. I was especially interested in the fact that the men who partook were all Ohio soldiers and one in particular drew my interest. His name was Jacob Parrott and I wanted to visit the Parrott grave, find out more about him, his life and what he did after he came back from the war. So, who was Jacob Parrott? In short, he was the first person to win the Medal of Honor for bravery in combat. The story begins in April of 1862 when General Ormsby Mitchell formed a contingent of Ohio soldiers headed by a civilian James Andrews. Their purpose was to infiltrate the Confederate lines at Chattanooga, Tennessee and proceed southward to Marietta, Georgia, there they would board and then hijack a northbound train on the Western & Atlantic Railroad burning bridges and tearing up tracks as they went. The Confederate Army under General Beauregard at Corinth, Mississippi depended on the Western & Atlantic for supplies, arms and ammunition. So it went that twenty-two men all from Ohio donned civilian clothes and headed for Chattanooga. Only eighteen proceeded to steal the locomotive, two were captured on their way to Chattanooga and two missed the outbound morning train that they were to take from Marietta. The story is a fascinating one of true adventure. Pursued by conductor William Fuller they were unprepared for what they would eventually confront and the raiders after leaving several railroad cars behind and never doing much damage to the rail line eventually ran out of fuel and had to abandon the “General” just short of Chattanooga. A large stone marker commemorates the spot today. The men scattered into the woods and all were eventually captured. Parrott and another raider Samuel Robertson fled through the Georgia forest together until they were captured by a posse of locals. Robertson was shot and wounded in his leg while Parrott was stripped naked and severely beaten with a strip of cowhide, the marks of which he would take to his grave. The raiders were imprisoned in Chattanooga and later moved to Atlanta. Seven including Robertson were eventually tried and hung while the rest languished in prison. Several escape attempts were made, and several men were successful and made it up through the Appalachian Mountains to the Federal lines in Kentucky, another pair made it down the Chattahoochee River and were eventually picked up by the U.S. Navy in the Gulf of Mexico. Parrott and five others were taken to Castle Thunder in Richmond and eventually exchanged in March of 1863 almost a year after their daunting adventure. A quote from the New York Tribune dated March 26, 1863, states: “The party of Ohio soldiers recently returned from the Southern barbarians, and whose depositions have been taken by Judge-Advocate General Holt were today by appointment introduced to the Secretary of War by General Hitchcock. After complimenting them upon their fortitude and devotion to the Union, the Secretary presented to private Jacob Parrott, the boy who received a hundred lashes on his back without flinching, received the first medal given under the recent act of Congress authorizing the presentation of medals to soldiers for meritorious services.” So it was that the Medal of Honor was created and exists today for those in the U.S. Military that performed meritorious service above and beyond the call of duty and Ohio’s Jacob Parrott was the first to receive it.



“The General”

Subject of “Great Locomotive Chase”

For the remainder of the War Jacob Parrott served in the U.S. Army at Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, and the Atlanta Campaign, he was finally discharge in January 1865. According to J. North Conway in his book *Soldier Parrott* Jacob seldom spoke about Andrew's Raid. He was evidently anxious to move on with his life and did so, just as the country as a whole was anxious to move on after the War. He eventually moved to Hardin County Ohio and resided in the village of Kenton. He died on December 12, 1908, of a heart attack. He was, however, not the last Andrew's Raider to survive. The last of them John R. Porter died in Dayton, Ohio on October 15, 1923. According to Mr. Conway the Ohio General Assembly in 1888 allocated \$5,000 to erect a monument at the National Cemetery in Chattanooga to commemorate the famous Andrew's raid. In 1906 Jacob Parrott and other surviving members of the Andrew's Raid gathered in Chattanooga, Tennessee for a reunion and to have their pictures taken in front of the monument which stands today as one enters the Cemetery.



Lt. Jacob Parrott and the Front and Reverse of his Medal of Honor

So, this is how I became interested in the Great Locomotive Chase and in Jacob Parrott. It was a gradual thing, spurred on by the reading of several great books such as Russell S. Bond's fantastic account of the adventure "Stealing the General" I then signed up for a Blue & Gray Education Society's tour of the route of the raid. What an adventure, I felt as though I was truly reliving history. Many of the landmarks are still there strung out along what used to be the Western & Atlantic Railroad. We stopped at the museum in what is now Kennesaw, Georgia but used to be the town of Big Shanty from which the raiders stole the locomotive after the passengers and crew disembarked to eat breakfast which is where one will see the "General". So after immersing myself in the topic for years I finally made the two hour trip to Kenton, Ohio to visit the grave of Jacob Parrott. For those wishing to study the adventure I would like to recommend: The Blue & Gray Education Society's fantastic two-day tour of the route of the General. Several books have been written which I would recommend: *Soldier Parrott*, by J. North Conway, *Stealing the General*, by Russell Bonds and *The General & The Texas* by Stan Cohen and James G. Bogle. They are all great reading. Walt Disney Studios put out a good movie starring Fess Parker called what else: "The Great Locomotive Chase"! The movie dates from the 1950s and can probably be ordered from your local public library although I don't know how historically accurate it may be.



Jacob Parrott's Gravesite in Kenton, OH (Paul Siedel)

This is a great part of Civil War history , a fantastic adventure story and a great piece of Ohio history . Once one delves into it ; the men involved, where they lived, and their fates, I am sure you won't be disappointed and you may even be motivated to take the two and a half hour drive to Kenton, Ohio and meet Jacob Parrott for yourself.

References

Bonds, Russell S. *Stealing the General*. Yardley, Pennsylvania: Westholme publishing, LLC, 2007.

ISBN 10: I -594I6-033-3

Conway, J. North, *Soldier Parrott*. Lanham, Maryland: The Roman & Littlefield Publishing Group Inc. 2021

ISBN 978149304432



Hardin County GAR Soldier Memorial in Kenton, Ohio (Photo by Paul Siedel)



THE REHABILITATION OF GENERAL JOSEPH HOOKER

By John Fazio

I am here to speak about General Joseph Hooker. More specifically, I am here to rehabilitate him, or to try to, because he has gotten an undeserved bad rap for 156 years---the most unfairly and unjustifiably maligned officer in the Union army.

We are all familiar with his alleged deficiencies, especially his failure, at Chancellorsville, to defeat General Robert E. Lee, who commanded an army about half the size of his. That failure, we are told, can be attributed to the fact that he had too much to drink before the battle, that he was therefore drunk on the field, or that he didn't have enough to drink, needing a belt or two to brace his nerve and not getting it.

In addition to his fondness for John Barleycorn, we are told that he was a gambler and a ladies' man. The first charge has an odor about it: a straw grasped by an enemy or rival who had nothing more damning to talk about than the fact that Hooker played cards for money in California after the Mexican War and found pleasure and excitement in games of chance, as countless millions---billions in fact---have found throughout history. The second charge probably has something to do with the myth that the slang term for a prostitute comes from his name. Not so; the word "hooker" was in use long before the Civil War and is probably related to means employed by ladies of the night to obtain clients, i.e. to "hook" them. Further, I'm not sure what a ladies' man

is. Is this a man who is smitten by ladies or a man whom ladies are smitten by? I don't know, but I hear things. It seems to me that too much negativity is laid on the smiting business. After all, if it didn't exist, neither would we, so let us be grateful for it. The truth is that he patronized prostitutes, which was common enough for bachelor's during the Victorian era, because the supply of free stuff was not equal to the demand. When has it ever been? There's a reason it is called the world's oldest profession. We read in Jeremiah 5:8 that the Israelite men "were as fed horses in the morning: everyone neighed after his neighbor's wife". In any case, all the men and many of the women in this room have been drawn to the Devil's workshop at one time or another in their lives, usually in times of great tedium, stress, disappointment, or loss. The lawyers like to say *de minimis non curat lex*, which is to say that the law does not concern itself with trifles. And neither should we. I am quite aware, of course, of excess, and of the ruination of lives that excessive drinking, gambling, and sex cause, but there is no evidence that Hooker did any of these excessively or ruined anyone's life because of it. Indeed, there is much eyewitness commentary on Hooker's sobriety. Let us not judge men by what their enemies say and write about them

Hooker picked up the nickname "Fighting Joe" from a journalist's clerical error, rather than because of his performance in combat. He said he didn't like it, but I suspect he did. There are few things that men like more than recognition. The truth is that he gained a reputation as a fierce fighter in the Second Seminole War and in the Mexican War, receiving three brevet promotions in the latter war for staff leadership and gallantry in the battles of Monterrey, National Bridge and Chapultepec, before resigning. In the Civil War he solidified his reputation by distinguishing himself at Williamsburg, Seven Pines, South Mountain, Second Bull Run, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. At Antietam, he left the battlefield early with a foot wound after fighting Stonewall Jackson to a standstill. He just might be the only Union general who ever fought Stonewall Jackson to a standstill. If you know of another, I'd like to hear of it. The foot wound was the first of his chance misfortunes that might well have determined the outcome of a battle that would have been more favorable to the Union had it not occurred. He thought so. He said that if he had not been forced to leave the battlefield prematurely because of his wound, Antietam would have been a decisive Union victory rather than the draw that it is commonly regarded as. His record as a soldier to that time suggests that he knew what he was talking about.

Because of General Ambrose Burnside's terrible blunders at Fredericksburg and the Mud March that followed, Lincoln appointed Hooker to replace him as Commander of the Army of the Potomac in January, 1863. Hooker had opposed all 14 of the failed frontal assaults that Burnside ordered against Marye's Heights. As Commander of the Army of the Potomac, Hooker had now reached the highest rank in the Union armies, a height which his performance in battle, his administrative skills and his popularity with the men under his command, was fully deserved by him and a height from which he was soon to fall for reasons not clearly identified then nor at any time since.

Along the way, and perhaps inevitably, he got on the wrong side of people who could hurt him, and did, such as Winfield Scott, General-in-Chief of the Army, Henry Halleck, his successor, and Generals Ambrose Burnside and George McClellan, Commanders of the Army of the

Potomac. Here, too, we should not make too much of internecine conflict. It plagued both sides in our war and doubtless every war ever fought. Conflict and polarization are, after all, what we humans do. Asked by a frog, who was carrying a scorpion across a river to safety, why the scorpion had stung him, thus causing the drowning of both, the scorpion answered, "I couldn't help it; it's my nature".

In addition to his reputation as a spirited and dogged combatant, Hooker acquired a reputation as a Commander who cared as much or more about the welfare and morale of his men as he cared about his own. His men loved him for it. He took command of the Army of the Potomac when its morale was at its lowest, following Burnside's debacles. By the time he was done reforming it, he could say, and did say, that:

"I have the finest army on the planet. I have the finest army the sun ever shone on.... If the enemy does not run, God help them. May God have mercy on General Lee, for I will have none".

At Chancellorsville (April 30-May 6, 1863), Hooker's plan made eminently good sense. If properly executed and barring intervention of a freakish happening or happenings, for which no one could be held responsible, it would almost certainly have resulted in a Union victory. Indeed, if it had then been followed by a successful attack on Richmond, which seems likely, it would have ended the war. The operative word in all this is, of course, "if", because, as most of us know, the plan *wasn't* properly executed and there was a freakish happening, both of which made defeat a near certainty.

The plan called for Brigadier General George Stoneman's cavalry corps to raid the Confederate rear, behind Lee's lines, for the purpose of disrupting supply lines and keeping the enemy off balance. The raid was ineffective; the cautious Stoneman was no JEB Stuart, Nathan Bedford Forrest or Phil Sheridan. None of its objectives was achieved and Lee was therefore free to formulate his main attack, being more interested in how to deal with Hooker than in his supply lines.

The plan also called for Hooker to pin down Lee's army before Fredericksburg, using John Sedgewick's VI Corps for the purpose, and then take the greater part of the Army of the Potomac westward to flank Lee from that direction. He posted General Dan Sickles's III Corps to command the Union center and General Oliver Otis Howard's XI Corps to anchor the extreme right of his line with orders to hold the line against any Confederate move to flank it. The XI Corps was made up of many German regiments, called "Dutchmen" and not highly regarded by the rest of the army. Not surprisingly, their Commander---the pious Howard---was not highly regarded by them. It was an unhealthy mix and boded ill for the outcome of the battle. Sickles attacked those elements of Jackson's force that were in front of him, accomplishing nothing more than creating a big gap in the Union line and isolating the Union right and thereby putting it "in the air", a fact quickly noted by JEB Stuart, who chose not to follow Stoneman's cavalry on their pointless raid, but to stay close to Lee at all times, to give him the eyes and ears he needed. Sickles's call for reinforcements was met by a brigade sent to him by Howard, which further weakened the XI Corps. Howard---the so-called Christian Warrior, because of his high moral standards-- utterly failed Hooker. When Jackson threw his 26,000 man force against Howard, at about 5:00 pm on May 2, he was not only totally isolated because of Sickles's move, but also

totally unprepared for such a hammer-blow, with his men at ease and preparing supper, many with their arms stacked. Indeed, they were all facing south when Jackson struck from the west and northwest, his men roaring and crashing out of the woods. Not surprisingly, the XI Corps collapsed utterly, taking the Union center with it. So now we have three subordinates--- Stoneman, Sickles and Howard-- who failed Fighting Joe. But that wasn't the end of it.

Recall that Hooker posted Sedgwick before Fredericksburg to keep Lee in place. Sedgwick had 47,000 men under his command. When Lee realized that Sedgwick wasn't going to attack him, he left 10,000 men under Jubal Early to deal with Sedgwick and then took the main part of his force westward to deal with the main part of Hooker's force. Sedgwick thus had Early outnumbered by almost 5 to 1 and could, therefore, but did not, make minced meat of him and come to the rescue of his Commander. When ordered to move, Sedgwick did push Early aside, true (finally carrying Marye's Heights with the order: "You will start at double-quick, you will not fire a gun, and you will not stop until you get the order to halt. You will never get that order"), but then got bogged down at Salem Church, six miles from Hooker and the rest of the Army of the Potomac, losing an encounter there with elements of Lee's army and being forced, therefore, to retreat across the Rappahannock rather than saving his Commander's fortunes. The failure of Hooker's subordinate officers was now complete.

And now the freakish happening. While leaning against a porch pillar of the Chancellor house, which was his headquarters, a cannonball struck it, split it lengthwise and hurled half of it against Hooker, striking him in an erect position from his head to his feet. He lay unconscious for about 30 or 40 minutes and was assumed to be dead. When it was discovered that he still lived, Dr. Jonathan Letterman, his medical director, expressed doubt that he would survive. When he had regained consciousness, he tried to mount his horse, to reassure his troops, but collapsed and vomited. Clearly, he was very seriously injured, and it was not the kind of injury that incapacitates a man physically, which would not have impeded Hooker that day in a way that mattered much, but an injury, rather, that incapacitates a man in the worst possible way, in the circumstances, namely mentally. In a word, he was knocked senseless, spending the rest of the day in a comatose condition most of the time, having to be woken to communicate, or wandering, without a clear head, according to the records of those who were around him. He was, from the moment the cannonball struck, hardly a man in a position to command an army of 133,000 men.

What else could have gone wrong for Hooker that day? Not much. Four ineffective subordinate officers and a blow from a missile that almost killed him were quite enough to sink him, as they would sink any Commander, regardless of the numbers of opposing forces. Yet he still wears the jacket of blame for the defeat. Why? Believe it or not, because of nothing worse than a footnote. It appeared in a book titled *The Campaign of Chancellorsville*, by John Bigelow, Jr., a highly regarded author and a highly regarded work, which proves, if proof were needed, that even the masters go astray sometimes. The footnote recounts an alleged conversation between Hooker and First Corps division commander Abner Doubleday on the march to Gettysburg a couple of months after Chancellorsville. In response to Doubleday's asking what was wrong with him at Chancellorsville, Hooker allegedly said: "Doubleday, I was not hurt by a shell, and I was not

drunk. For once, I lost confidence in Hooker, and that is all there is to it.” Because of Bigelow’s reputation, this quote, or some variation or derivative thereof, has found its way into the works of almost every historian of Chancellorsville, Hooker, or the change of command before Gettysburg. That the exchange never occurred and is not even a flagrant corruption of one that did occur, is immediately manifest from the fact that we know with certainty that Hooker was seriously injured by the shell, from his own statements as well as those made by men who were with him at the time, a fact wildly inconsistent with the alleged confession that he was not so injured. Further, in the weeks following the battle, Hooker had said often that he attributed the defeat not only to the injury caused by the shell, but also to the failures of his lieutenants. Still further, a tracking of the movements of Hooker’s headquarters and of the First Corps headquarters during this period shows that they were dozens of miles apart and that Hooker and Doubleday could therefore not have met at any time between the march north from the Rappahannock and the date of Hooker’s resignation. The source of the footnote was one Major E. P. Halstead, one of Doubleday’s wartime staff, who included it in a letter written 40 years after the event, a letter which was unfortunately acquired by Bigelow as part of his research, and which is replete with inaccuracies pertaining to the First Corps actions at Chancellorsville.

So, Lee scored a major victory, said to be his greatest in the war. Or was it? Here is Lee’s summary of it:

At Chancellorsville we gained another victory; our people were wild with delight. I, on the contrary, was more depressed than after Fredericksburg; our loss was severe, and again we gained not an inch of ground and the enemy could not be pursued.

And here is Hooker’s:

You would like to know my opinion of the battle of Chancellorsville. I won greater success on many fields in the war, but nowhere did I deserve it half so much...

The rest is almost anti-climactic. Hooker remained in command of the Army of the Potomac for almost two months. Lincoln, apparently, had a clearer view of what had happened at Chancellorsville than many of his contemporaries did, and certainly a clearer one than future historians would have, owing to the fabricated meeting between Hooker and Doubleday in a letter written 40 years after the battle and its inclusion in a major work on the battle by a highly regarded author. Hooker and Henry Halleck, however, were like oil and water, and this led, inevitably, to Hooker’s resignation, prompted by Halleck’s refusal to give Hooker the garrison at Harper’s Ferry. It needs to be said, however, that the army that Hooker handed over to General George Gordon Meade, and that triumphed at Gettysburg three days later, was not the demoralized and disorganized one that had been handed over to him by Burnside, but “...the finest army on the planet...the finest army the sun ever shone on.” Hooker therefore deserves much of the credit for what happened at Gettysburg.

Though he accepted Hooker’s resignation, Lincoln considered him too valuable a commodity to retire him or to give him a desk job. He said, “I have not thrown General Hooker away”. To placate those who opposed a fighting role for Hooker in the east, and still put his skills and talents to the service and benefit of the country, Lincoln, in October, 1863, sent Hooker west, as

Commander of the XI and XII Corps of the Army of the Potomac, to reinforce General William Rosecrans, then in command of the Army of the Cumberland, which was heavily engaged in and near Chattanooga. Hooker's spirited taking of Lookout Mountain (the "Battle Above the Clouds") contributed greatly to General Ulysses S. Grant's victory at the battle of Chattanooga, but here, too, he was short-changed, because Grant, in his official report, gave greater credit to Sherman for the victory than he gave to Hooker. Nevertheless, for his success, Hooker was brevetted to the rank of Major General in the regular army.

Hooker's two corps, now consolidated as the XX Corps, fought well under Sherman in the advance upon Atlanta from Chattanooga, and this even though Hooker was displeased with Grant and Sherman, justifiably, because that dynamic duo had treated the easterner as a foreigner. Indeed, Hooker's corps did most of the fighting and took most of the casualties. When Oliver Otis Howard was named by Sherman, doubtless with Grant's blessing, to replace General James B. McPherson, Commander of the Army of the Tennessee, who was killed before Atlanta on July 22, 1864, Hooker resigned. He had the most seniority and the most experience and therefore deserved the appointment. Giving it to Howard was therefore a double insult: appointing a man who had less seniority and experience than he and appointing a man whom Hooker blamed more than any other for the defeat at Chancellorsville. There are unverified stories to the effect that Lincoln attempted to persuade Sherman to appoint Hooker to replace McPherson, but that Sherman refused.

After his resignation, Hooker was appointed Commander of the Northern Department, which consisted of the States of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois and which was headquartered in Cincinnati. He held this position from October 1, 1864, through the end of the war. During this period, he married Olivia Groesbeck, who was the sister of Congressman William S. Groesbeck. Presumably, the drunken, high rolling whoremonger from Massachusetts, land of the Puritans, had had enough of the high life. Doubtless his brother-in-law, Congressman Groesbeck, had something to do with taming him.

After the war, Hooker led Lincoln's funeral procession in Springfield, Illinois, on May 4, 1865. He served in command of the Department of the East and the Department of the Lakes. He retired from the U.S. Army on October 15, 1868, with the regular army rank of Major General. He died on October 3, 1879, and is buried in Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery.

Here is an objective summary of the man and the soldier. Contrary to what the wags said---his enemies and rivals---he was not an excessive drinker or gambler and he had no greater libido than the average man had then or has now. He was a great soldier if being one is defined as always being brave, obedient and respectful of his superiors. He was a great general if being one is defined as providing for his men at all times as well or better than he provides for himself, as never losing his sangfroid or his bearing in battle and as always making decisions based upon the facts and circumstances as he knew them to be at the time. His combat record is better than that of any other general in the Army of the Potomac.



Hugh Boyle Ewing

©Brian D. Kowell February 2024

Born on October 31, 1826, Hugh Boyle Ewing was the son of Senator Thomas Ewing of Lancaster, Ohio. His foster-brother was William T. Sherman who later became Hugh's brother-in-law when he married Ellen Ewing, Hugh's sister.

Through his father's influence, Hugh was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Throughout his stay at West Point, Hugh suffered from a number of health maladies, of which inflammatory rheumatism was one.ⁱ He resigned from the Academy in his fourth year

due to insufficiencies in engineering. To fill his vacancy, Hugh's father appointed Phillip Sherdian.

Hugh traveled to California in 1849 and joined an expedition to rescue immigrants trapped in the snows in the Sierra Mountains. When he returned he became a lawyer in St. Louis and later moved to Kansas. In 1858 he married Henrietta Young and moved back to Ohio to run his father's salt mines.

During the Civil War Ewing first served first as a colonel of the 30th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment fighting at Carnifex Ferry on September 10, 1861. After the fighting at South Mountain the following September, he was promoted to command the 1st Brigade of the Kanawha Division at the Battle of Antietam.ⁱⁱ

Hugh Ewing demonstrated throughout his life that he lacked self-control. His father acknowledged that Hugh had a hasty temper. He took offense easily and "was inclined to brood over real or imagined wrongs." Hugh Ewing also had a drinking problem that dated back to his West Point days.ⁱⁱⁱ

A drunken Hugh Ewing manifested his anger the day after the fighting at Antietam. He was angry with his corps commander General Jacob Cox. Colonel George Crook wrote:

"When our division was reassembled . . . Col. Hugh Ewing became full of 'jig water' and ventilated himself on Gen. Cox, abusing him for being a coward and imbecile and declaring he would never obey an order of his again, etc."^{iv}

Ewing followed this up with letters to his father complaining that Cox did not give him proper credit or a recommendation for his promotion. Against his father's advice Hugh also made several requests for a transfer from Cox's command.^v

Hugh's request was granted and he was ordered go west and report to General Ulysses S. Grant near Vicksburg. He was promoted to brigadier general and led a division in his brother-in-law's XVI Corps.^{vi}

Before he left, Ewing tried to boost the morale of his brigade via his favorite vice. One of his captain's wrote that "Col. Ewing's wife treated the regiment to a barrel of whiskey" and as a result "quite a number of the boys were intoxicated" from drinking Hugh's "Old Rye."^{vii}

After the fall of Vicksburg, Ewing's division was responsible for wrecking Fleetwood Plantation, one of President Jefferson Davis' Mississippi plantations. Ewing accidentally came across personal correspondence between Jefferson Davis and former President Franklin Pierce which caused a minor sensation – questioning Pierce's loyalty to the Union. Pierce wrote Davis about "the madness of Northern abolitionism." He went on to say that the North "never justify, sustains, or in any way or to any extent, uphold this cruel, heartless, aimless, unnecessary war" and that "the true purpose of the war was to wipe out the [Southern] states and destroy property."^{viii}

Hugh Ewing continued to serve in the Civil War, eventually being promoted to brevet brigadier general at the war's end. After the war he was appointed U. S. ambassador to Holland. When he

returned to the United States he retired to his farm in Lancaster, Ohio where he died on June 30, 1905 at the age of 78 years.

ⁱ Welsh, Jack D., M.D., *Medical Histories of Union Generals*, Kent, Ohio, Kent State University Press, 1996. P. 111

ⁱⁱ Warner, Ezra, J., Jr., *Generals in Blue: Lives of Union Commanders*, Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1964. P.146

ⁱⁱⁱ Thomas Ewing to Hugh Ewing, October 9 & 12, 1862. *H.B. Ewing Papers*, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus Ohio.

^{iv} *General Crook, George, His Autobiography*, ed. Martin F. Schmitt, Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1986. PP. 100-101.

^v H.B. Ewing Papers, October 9 & 12, 1862.

^{vi} Warner, *Generals in Blue*, P.146

^{vii} Schmiel, Eugene and Schmiel, Gene, *Jacob Cox: Citizen Soldier*, Athens, Ohio, Ohio University Press, 2014. P. 96

^{viii} Allen, Felicity, *Jefferson Davis: Unconquerable Heart*, Columbia & London, University of Missouri Press, 1999. P. 359



Some Unidentified Men of the 1st Ohio Light Artillery (Library of Congress)

FINIS!