

THE CHARGER

December, 1998

365 Meeting

Vol.20 #4

Tonight's Program:

LEE AND LONGSTREET AT GETTYSBURG

The Questions

The Questions

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Did Lee have a heart attack?

Why didn't Lee go around to the right as Longstreet kept insisting?

Did Lee order Pickett's Charge as punishment for poor performance on the second day?



At Gettysburg did Longstreet disobey Lee's orders or did he just suffer from the slows?

Why didn't Longstreet, until many years later, complain about the fact that most Southerners blamed him for the Confederate loss at Gettysburg?

Tonight's Speaker:

Ed Bearss

Ed Bearss

Ed Bearss

Ed Bearss is the retired Chief Historian of the National Park Service. Before his duty in Washington, Ed was chief historian of the Vicksburg Military Park.

Ed has authored several books on the Civil War and appeared on the Ken Burn's television special about the American Civil War.

Ed Bearss has spoken to our Roundtable more than any other speaker. He is a lifetime member and long time friend of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable.

Date: December 9, 1998

Place: The Hermit Club

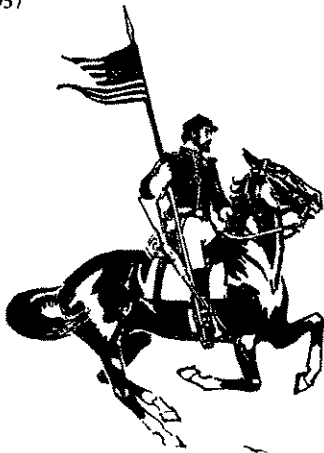
Time: Drinks 6 PM

Dinner 7 PM

Reservations: Please Call

**JAC Communications
at (216) 861-5588**

Founded 1957



THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
PO BOX 1580 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118

President: Dick Crews

Vice President: Bob Boyda

Secretary: William Vodrey

Treasurer: Peter Holman

Executive Committee:

**Bob Battisti, Dan Zeiser, John Moore,
Bill Doty, John Howard, Bill McGrath.**

Editor of THE CHARGER

Dick Crews

3673 Traver Rd.

Shaker Heights, OH 44122

(W) (800) 800-8310

(H) (216) 752-9961

Publisher: J A C Communications

(216) 861-5588

Anne & John Caputo

About the

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable is open to all who have an interest in the American Civil War and its time period in American history.

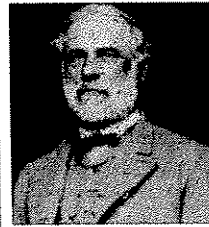
Dinner meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. The Roundtable meets at the *Hermit Club*.

The *Hermit Club* is a historic private club in the Playhouse Square area of downtown Cleveland.

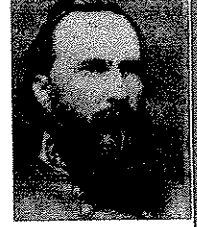
Dinner is \$20.00. Club dues are \$35.00 per year.

Membership information can be obtained from
Dick Crews, daytime phone (800) 800-8310.

December 9, 1998



**Lee
&
Longstreet
at
Gettysburg**
ED BEARSS



January 13, 1999

The Great Debate

How Could the South have Won?

MODERATOR: ROBERT E. BATTISTI

February 10, 1999



Abraham Lincoln

Reelection of 1864

JOHN C. WAUGH

March 10, 1999



William T. Sherman

The Most Hated man in the South

SCOTT MAYBAUM

April 7, 1999



John Hunt Morgan

*The confederate who almost
attacked Cleveland*

LESTER V. HORWITZ

May 12 1999



Rosy O'Neal Greenhow

Confederate Spy

DIANNE KAUFFMAN

GREATER CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST
WINNER PRESENTED AT THE MAY MEETING

Visit our new web site:

<http://members.aol.com/RCrews5369/>



First Page

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable of 126 members was formed in 1957. The Roundtable is open to all with an interest in the American Civil War.

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable meets the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, at a private club in the Playhouse Square area of downtown Cleveland. Yearly dues are \$35.00

Above is part of the site that appears on the World Wide Web

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable comes to the World Wide Web

[Http://members.aol.com/RCrews5369/](http://members.aol.com/RCrews5369/)

Starting in mid November the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable went on line on the web. The first page is about the Roundtable and its activities (If you have a computer with sound the site opens with a cavalry skirmish). The second page is the 1998 –1999 schedule. The last page is a membership application.

In addition to our individual listing, we are listed with the Ohio Civil War Roundtables with an interlock so that when you press Cleveland, our site appears. We will also be listed with all the United States Roundtables on the site maintained by LSU (Louisiana State University).

Give the Gift of Women's History

Who Wore What Women's Wear, 1861-65

By Juanita Leitch. Very popular in Hollywood and with reenactors, this book explains what was worn, by whom, and in what combinations. More than 300 photographs provide valuable information on the dress styles and designs of women's clothing in the 18th century. It also includes descriptions of accessories and construction tips for those involved with reenactments and living history.
128 pages \$29.95



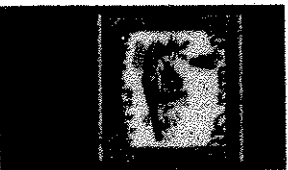
The Jennie Wade Story

By Cindy Small. The story of the only Christian killed in the Battle of Gettysburg. Jennie was killed instantly when a Confederate soldier's bullet penetrated two doors of the house in which she was hiding bread for Union soldiers outside.
88 pages \$4.95



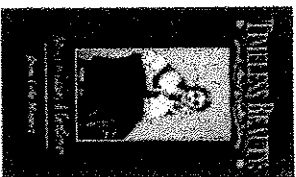
Blue & Gray Roses of Intrigue

By Rebecca D. Larson. A fascinating compilation of female spies who were active during the Civil War, this book illustrates the motivational forces and acts of deception of great personal risk to women who chose to take action and protect their beliefs.
72 pages \$6.95



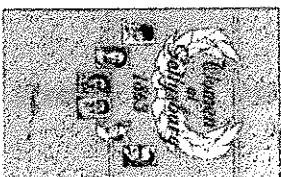
Timeless Beauty: Advice to Ladies & Gentlemen from Lola Montez

Edited by Juanita Leitch. In the middle of the 1800s, Lola Montez, danced 'The Spider Dance', a scandalous exhibition complete with costume. But, she never became as famous as a dancer as she did when she had an affair with a powerful politician—in fact, a head of state. This relationship with King Ludwig of Bavaria, and her popular book in 1856, *The Art of Beauty: Secrets of A Ladies Toilette* resulted her to worldwide fame. That book, as well as her *Hints to Gentlemen on the Art of Fascinating* is re-published here along with another 19th century gem. *The Young Girl's Book of Healthful Amusements and Exercises*. These pages will amuse and fascinate modern readers with chapters such as, "How to Obtain a Hardcore Form," "Importance of Hair as an Ornament," and "Fifty Rules in the Art of Fascinating."
164 pages \$12.00



Women at Gettysburg, 1863

By Eileen F. Conklin. Biographies of 40 women who served, nursed, or aided the soldiers after the Battle of Gettysburg. Participation of women during the war was critical, if not essential to the survival of many men. Without them the number of casualties from the war would have been much greater.
430 pages \$22.95/\$29.95



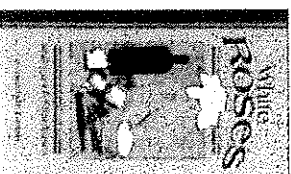
The Tie of the Past The Gettysburg Diaries of Salome Myers Stewart, 1854-1922

By Sarah Sites Rodgers. "Salie" Myers, a schoolteacher in Gettysburg when the battle began, found herself drawn into nursing the wounded soldiers in her own home and in the field hospitals. Previously unpublished diaries document a life changed forever in the summer of 1863.
288 pages \$14.95



White Roses Stories of Civil War Nurses

By Rebecca D. Larson. More than 40 short biographies of women who served as nurses during the Civil War. From the author of *Blue and Gray Roses of Intrigue*.
40 pages \$6.95



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Gifts for the Civil War Widow

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION PROFILE

CEDAR CREEK, VIRGINIA

Throughout the Civil War, Union and Confederate forces campaigned for Control of the Shenandoah Valley, a north-south transportation corridor and fertile agricultural region in Virginia. In 1864, Union Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan was ordered to destroy Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early's army defending the valley. After a series of Union victories in September and early October 1864, Sheridan believed Early's army was no longer a threat. He moved his troops to Middletown, Virginia, where his men rested near Cedar Creek. On October 19, 1864, Early ordered a surprise attack on the Union troops as they recuperated. Initially, the attack succeeded. Sheridan, however, attacked the flank of his opponent's outstretched line and compelled the Confederates to retreat in defeat. This Union victory marked the end of effective Confederate resistance in the Shenandoah Valley; the South would never again launch an offensive in the region.



Phil Sheridan

The outcome of the battle also boosted President Lincoln's popularity, helping him win re-election that November.

Preservation activity at this site began in 1964 when the owner of Belle Grove an 18th century mansion located on the battlefield, donated the home and an adjacent 100 acres to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In 1969 the National Park Service prepared a study of the site and designated Belle Grove and 900 acres of the Cedar Creek battlefield a National Historic Landmark. Local residents established the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation (CCBF) in 1988 after developers proposed building an office and light industrial park on part of the site. By 1989, CCBF, with assistance from the National Trust and The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS), had negotiated with the developer and financed the acquisition of 158 acres.



Jubal A. Early

In 1990, the Secretary of the Interior established the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), and Congress and the Secretary appointed the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission to study and rank the nation's Civil War Battlefields. Cedar Creek was designated among the nation's top 50 most important Civil War sites. Since that time, preservation activity at the battlefield has increased. The Hupp's Hill Battlefield Museum, a private enterprise featuring segments of U.S. entrenchment's, opened in 1992. Later that same year, the National Trust sponsored archaeological digs on the battlefield.

Several groups actively protected the site in 1995: the CCBF, with funds provided by the Summerlee Foundation in Dallas, began restoring the Heater House, a structure located on the site at the time of the battle; the ABPP provided funding for a wayside exhibit; the CCBF opened a visitor center and book shop; the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board rejected a proposal for a four-lane highway that would have bisected the battlefield; and the Civil War Trust added the site to their Civil War Discovery Trail. In February 1996, the CCBF board voted to acquire an additional 3.2 acre site adjacent to the protected battlefield land. The CCBF began renovating a building on that site for use as an interpretation center and museum. That same year, the CCBF, with grants from APCWS and Civil War commemorative coin revenues awarded by The Civil War Trust, paid off the debt on its 158 acres and placed the site under a perpetual conservation easement held by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Today 261 acres of this 6,273 acre battlefield-as determined by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission in 1993-are protected. Civil War resources beyond the boundaries of protected battlefield land include Union and Confederate earthworks, remnants of fords crossed by Confederate infantry, and several homes and structures that stood at the time of the battle.

For more information about this site, contact the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 229, Middletown, VA, 22645, (540) 869-1438.

NEW CAVALRY TACTICS

By Matt Slattery*

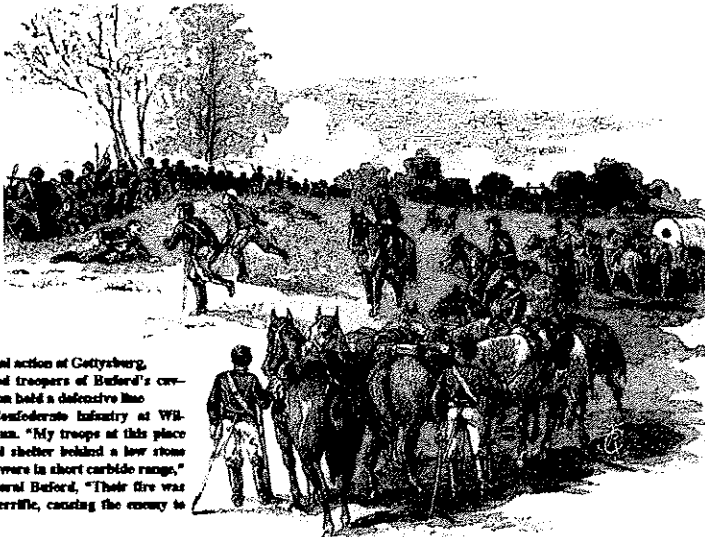
The strategic and tactical key to the battle of Gettysburg is that it was fought at Gettysburg. No, this is not a conundrum. It evidences the competency and skill, the generalship of one man, General John Buford.

Robert E. Lee had defeated the Union at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and at the second Bull Run. Now, with the support of Jefferson Davis, he was leading the largest and best equipped army he ever had across the Potomac once again. He was seeking a show down battle on northern soil. If victorious the north would cease its opposition to secession; the Europeans would finally acknowledge the Confederate flag.

Gettysburg was an important road junction and A. P. Hill's rebel corps was closing on it from the west. Union General John F. Reynolds' First Corps was the advance element of Meade's army coming up from the south. But it was Buford's rapidly moving cavalry division which got to the junction first. When his scouts observed Hill's approach, Buford immediately deployed his troops across McPherson's Ridge and sent riders to Reynolds to ask him to close up quickly.

Buford deployed his troops? Hey! These were cavalymen. Their job was to draw their sabers and make a thunderous rush on the enemy. That was how they all did it. Except Buford. Here at Gettysburg he inaugurated a new tactic in warfare for

which he had trained and equipped his men. No heroic and foolish charges for him. What he commanded was mounted infantry, and they had served their planned purpose by getting to the critical point ahead of the enemy. So his troops now dismounted and deployed across McPherson's farm, with the town and Cemetery Ridge behind them -- an excellent defensive position as he saw it.



In the initial action at Gettysburg, Dismounted troopers of Buford's cavalry division held a defensive line against Confederate infantry at Williamsburg Run. "My troops at this place had partial shelter behind a low stone fence, and were in short carbide range," wrote General Buford. "Their fire was perfectly terrific, causing the enemy to break."

* Matt Slattery, a frequent contributor, is retired and a Cleveland CWRT member since 1984

The position was not of Robert E. Lee's choosing. His own cavalry under Jeb Stuart might have warned him but they were off to the east capturing Union baggage trains. However, as Buford's and Hill's men opened fire Lee knew that he had attained his objective, to draw the Union army into a battle which he meant to be decisive and he ordered his several corps to consolidate on Gettysburg.

We all know what transpired. Reynolds came up, entered the *fray*, and got himself killed. But Early's Confederates marched out of the north, flanking Buford and the First Corps, driving them back through the town and onto Cemetery Ridge which Mead's army was now filling up. So the Union had the high ground, the good defensive position. And if Lee was to have his decisive battle, and he meant to have it, he would be starting from a tactically inferior position.

Buford's new cavalry organization plus his keen topographical eye for the best possible fighting field fore ordained the almost inevitable consequence, and the Union victory was the turning point of the war.

Matt Slattery



Union Cavalry general John Buford sits surrounded by his staff officers, whose performance in the Gettysburg Campaign, he wrote, cannot be excelled in this Army." Standing at the left is Captain Myles W. Keogh, a dashing Irish soldier of fortune who was Buford's favorite aide.

New Civil War Institute

The last several years have witnessed an ever-increasing interest in the American Civil War an interest that has spread well beyond Civil War enthusiasts and the academic community to the public at large. This interest has led the Ohio Historical Society to create the OHS Civil War Institute at the Ohio Historical Society.

The institute's purpose is to further the understanding, interest, and study of the American Civil War. Through lectures, seminars, re-enactment's, and other living history events, the institute will explore the events that have made the Civil War a critical part of the American experience.

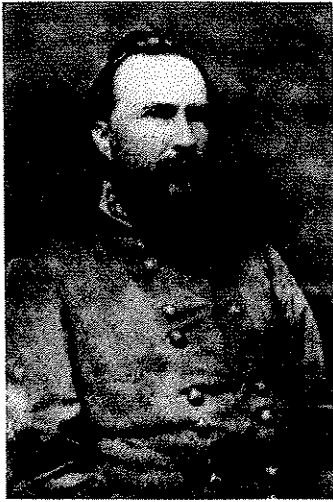
Members of the Civil War Institute receive a number of benefits including:

- > Free admission to the Ohio Village, a re-creation of an 1860-era community, and the Ohio Historical Center.
- > Advance notice of Civil War Institute events.
- > The *Civil War Institute Newsletter*.
- > *Echoes*, the Ohio Historical Society newsletter.
- > Free admission to the Civil War Institute annual meeting.
- > Discounts on other Civil War Institute programs and events.

Annual membership in the (civil War Institute is \$25 for nonmembers of the Ohio Historical Society. OHS members may join the (civil War Institute for \$10 in addition to their OHS membership. Further information about Membership and upcoming mg Civil War Institute events may be obtained by calling 614/297-2679.



A recent Civil War encampment at Ohio Village.

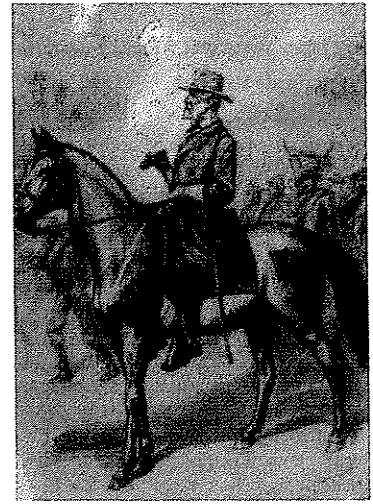


James Longstreet

Gettysburg

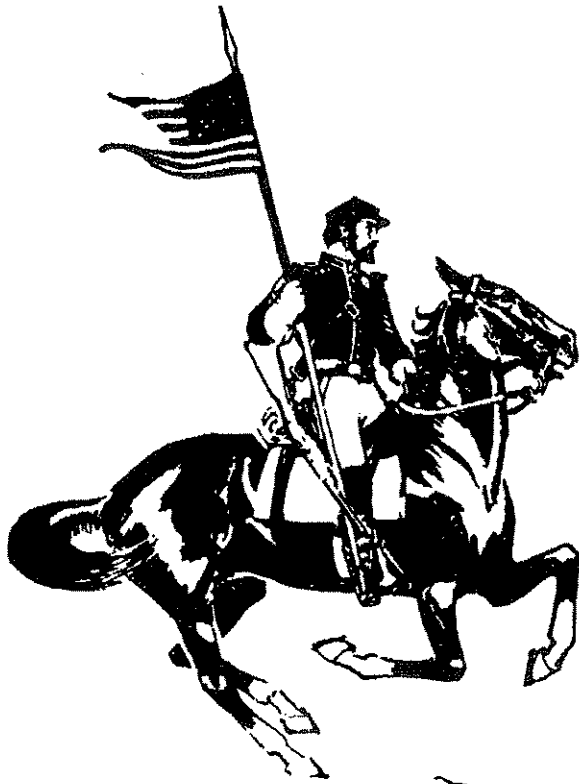
THE QUESTIONS:

Did Lee have a heart attack?
Did Longstreet disobey Lee's orders?
Would "going around to the right", as Longstreet recommended, have worked?
Was "Pickett's Charge" a punishment for poor performance on the second day of Gettysburg?



Robert E. Lee

Wednesday, December 9, 1998



Dick Crews
3673 Traver Road
Shaker Heights, OH 44122