



The Cleveland Civil War Round-Table  
P.O. Box 18900, Cleveland, Ohio 44118

# THE CHARGER

Vol. 19#7

359th Meeting

March, 1998

*Tonight's Topic*

## John Buford

The Kentucky-born soldier had moved to Illinois before being appointed to West Point. Graduating in 1848 he was posted to the dragoons and saw some action along the frontier and in the expedition against Mormon Utah in 1857-1858. During the Civil War, after staff duty in the Washington defenses he obtained a position on Pope's staff in northern Virginia. He was rewarded with a brigadier's star and command of a brigade of cavalry. While leading this at 2nd Bull Run he suffered a wound. The next spring he was commanding the Reserve Brigade, which was



**John Buford**  
1826 - 1863

composed mainly of regular army units, and took part in Stoneman's raid during the Chancellorsville Campaign. He directed the division at Brandy Station, Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville. It was two of his brigades that initiated the fighting at Gettysburg northwest of the town. He was able to hold off the Confederate assaults until the arrival of Union infantry and enabled Meade to make a stand south and east of the town on the next two days.

He was struck down by typhoid and had to relinquish his command on November 21, 1863. On his death bed he received his commission as major general. he died on December 16, 1863.

*Tonight's Speaker*

## BOB BAUCHER

Bob Baucher is a long time member of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. He was Roundtable President in 1992. He retired two years ago after a long career in Personnel. Bob can now devote his time to his two favorite hobbies: The Civil War and baseball statistics. Bob, has talked to the Roundtable previously about one of his favorite Civil War personalities, Union railroad genius Hermann Haupt. Tonight Bob gets to talk about another of his other Civil War favorites, John Buford.

*Date:* **March 11, 1998**

*Place:* **The Hermit Club**

*Time:* **Drinks 6 PM**

**Dinner 7 PM**

*Reservations:* **Please call  
JAC Business Communications  
at 861-5588.**

# CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE 1957-1998



*President:* **John Moore**  
*Vice President:* **Dick Crews**  
*Secretary:* **Bob Boyda**  
*Treasurer:* **Peter Holman**

Editor of the THE CHARGER  
Dick Crews  
3673 Traver Rd.  
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122  
(216) 752-9961 (800) 800-8310

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(216) 861-5588  
John & Anne Caputo

The Cleveland Civil War Round-Table meets normally on the second Wednesday of each month from September through May. The Round-Table also sponsors a Fall field trip each year to a selected Civil War site.

*Dues are \$35.00 per year.*

Membership information: call Dick Crews  
(216) 752-9961 or (800) 800-8310

## New Members 1997/1998

David A. Beal	Lee Monnens
Lou Braman	John Peduzzi
Pat Browne	Michael Pohl
Ray Cornelius	Jim Powers
George M. George	Michael Slinger
Ron James	Tom Stratton-Crooke
Bill Kenneweg	Tyler Somersfield
Warren McClelland	Cheryl Starnes
Devin Monnens	Lea Thomas

## Calendar of Events

MARCH 11, 1998

**John Buford**

BOB BAUCHER

APRIL 8, 1998

**The Last Naval Duel**

WILLIAM F. B. VODREY

MAY 13, 1998

**Fort Sumter**

DAVID R. RUTH

## **Spring Field Trip**

**May 9, 1998**

**Western Reserve  
Historical Society**

## **Fall Field Trip**

**Shenandoah Valley**

**September 24, 1998**



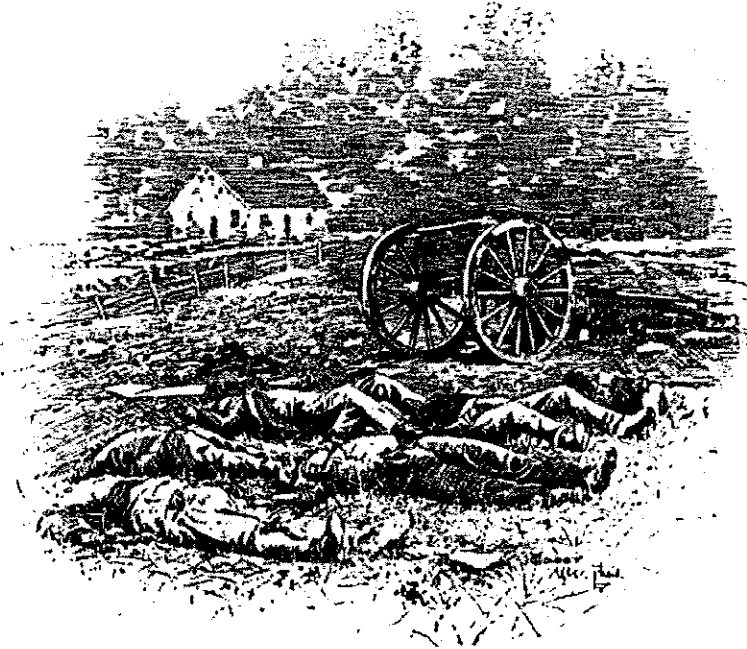
The 31st Ohio

**Reservations are a must ! Call (216) 861- 5588**

# **CIVIL WAR CASUALTIES**

by Matt Slattery<sup>1</sup>

For more than a hundred years Confederate apologists have been attributing their loss to lack of manpower. It is a valid contention. But there is one statistic which is there and has been there and over which generations of historians have stumbled without ever coming to conclusion. That is deaths. 600,000 young men died in the conflict, a slight preponderance of them Northerners. But those writers who treat of casualties are overly impressed by the amputated legs and arms heaped outside the field hospitals.



What is more important and significant is not wounds but disease. . For every Union trooper who was killed or died of wounds, two died of illness. For every Confederate who was killed, three died of illness.

So, without sharpening our pencils too fine, it is readily calculable that an EXCESS of about 40,000 Rebel soldiers died of illness. Give some thought to what that meant to the outcome. What might have transpired if Lee had eight more divisions at Gettysburg, or a year later on the bloody grounds of Wilderness and Spotsylvania. In the West of Johnston had 40,000 more men could he have been out maneuvered down to Atlanta, or could Hood have been saved from elimination at Franklin and Nashville? This was not a problem, of medical care. The south had an array of general hospitals headed by the renowned 8,000 bed Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond which were models for their day, staffed with trained medics and support personnel, supplied with medicines, food and facilities. They sent tens of thousands of injured and ill back to the fighting fronts. No, the problem goes farther back. There were two main causes for these excess deaths, somewhat tied together. A main cause is clearly indicated in the Union army statistics. Regiments were somewhat equally divided between city and rural. The city units showed a marked deficiency in virulent epidemics of such then serious ailments as measles and scarlet fever which ran rampant through the rural recruits. The latter were also highly

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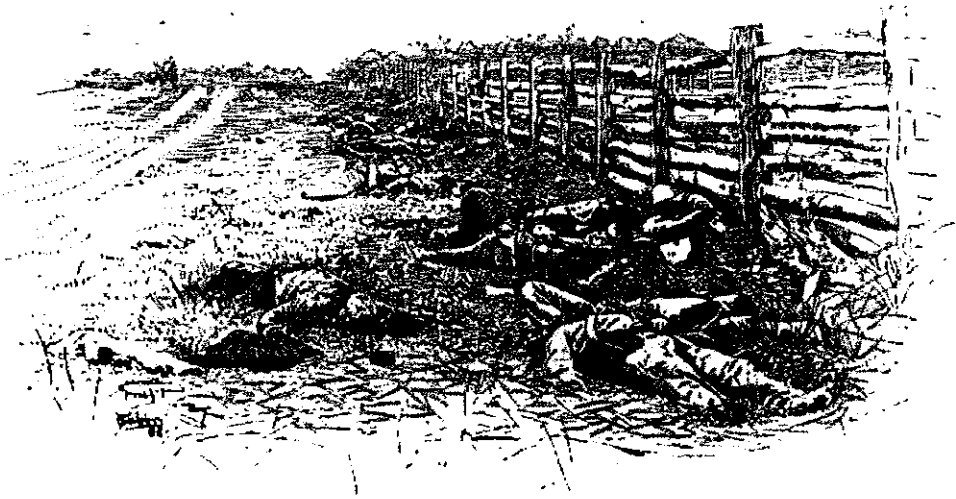
<sup>1</sup> Matt Slattery is retired and has been a Cleveland CWRT member since 1986

susceptible to pneumonia, malaria, and the various deadly forms of enteritis arising out of the use of poor food and bad water. So what of the Confederates? Why, they were almost 100% rural!

he second and supplementary cause of excessive deaths is taken from endlessly repeated complaints of southern officers and particularly medical officers.

These complaints are substantiated by numerous eye witness reports by Northerners. That is

the deplorable sanitary conditions of rebel encampments. Southern medics attribute this not only to their men coming off farms and with no ext~experience and background in communal living, but also to the high incidence of illiteracy.



One Confederate surgeon said that a company of soldiers who made their signatures to the payroll largely with crossmarks was sure to suffer much from disease." Another observant doctor in grey contended that the ignorant soldier could not be made to comprehend the dangers of dirt and filth or the important of cleanliness. High ranking Confederate surgeon J. Julian Chisholm claimed that soldiers had their first bath only on admission to a hospital. The whole sorry scene is illustrative of a clash of cultures. The one with deficiencies paid the penalty.

*Matt Slattery*

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## ***Why The South lost the WAR***

**This is one of many articles on why the *South lost the War* or next year's theme," *How could the South have won*". Southern apologists say, "we had better soldiers, better generals, and a better cause but were over whelmed by material and manpower superiority."**

***Rubbish!!***

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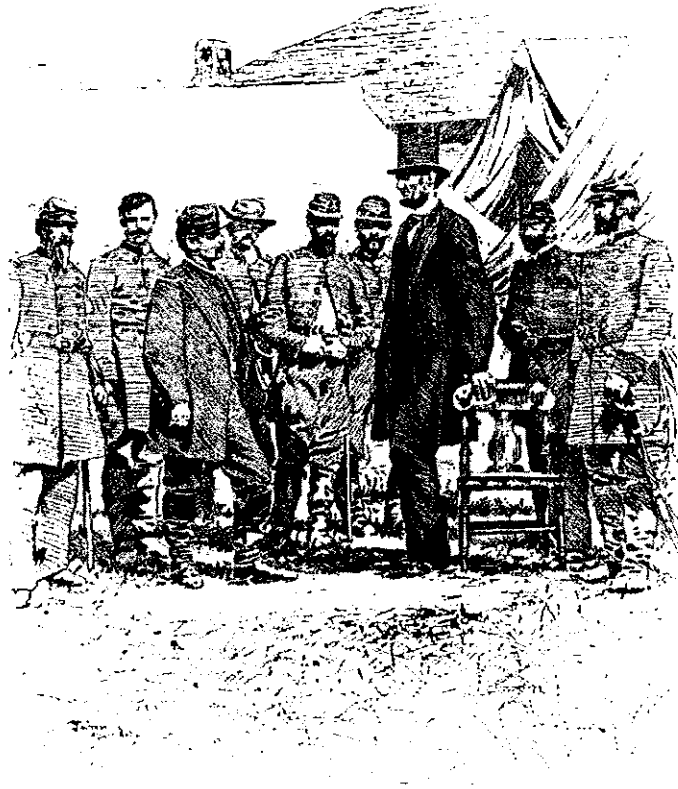
# BOOTH

By  
David Robertson

## Reviewed by Lou Braman

As part of a pre-publication publicity campaign, the Cleveland Round Table was sent an advance copy of *Booth*, a Civil War novel about some of the personalities and events leading to the assassination of President Lincoln.

The tale is told in 1916 by the only alleged conspirator to have been spared the noose, the son of Mary Surratt. Tempted by D.W. Griffith to share his Civil War diaries in one of Griffith's films, John Surratt comes to reread his fifty-year-old journals and is swept back to the exciting days of Washington D.C. at the closing of the war when he, his sister and mother were intoxicated by the charismatic John Wilkes Booth and his surprising interest in them.



The author has smoothly crafted an intriguing story with fascinating Side details of 1865 camera technology, incidentally contending that Gardner, not Brady, was the premier Civil War photographer. Many of his famous shots are included in the book. The reasons for the occasional deviations in the book from the true assassination scenario are explained by Richardson in a special section.

If you are not opposed to fictionalized versions of the Civil War, and enjoy studying the wrenching twists that history imposes upon the most modest of lives.

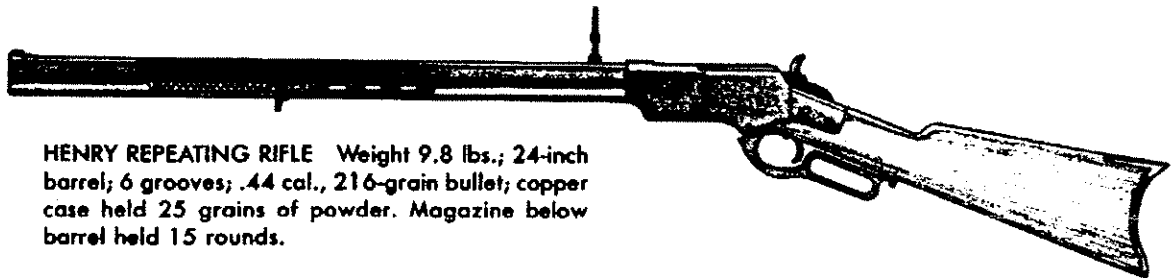
*Lou Braman*

# The Henry Rifle

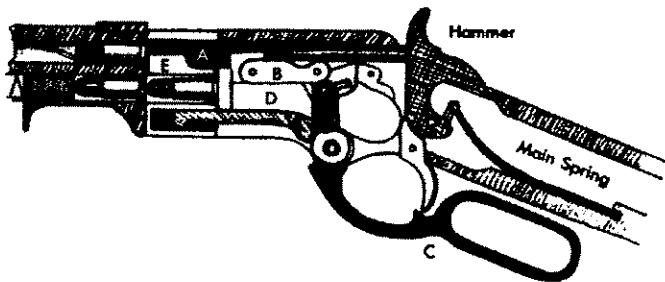
by Dick Crews

The Henry rifle is often talked about in connection with the American Civil War but it was never an effective weapon. Like the Gatling machine gun, the Henry rifle was available in the Civil war but it wasn't perfected until after the war. The rifle was never purchased by the Union Army and only 10,000 were produced during the war years. Compare this to one million Springfield's Muskets, 90,000 breech loading single shot Sharps, and 106,000 seven shot repeating Spencers sold to the Union Army.

After the War the Henry evolved into the the Winchester Repeating Arms Company's famous leverage action, tube-fed, rapid fire, sixteen shot, .44 caliber killing machine.

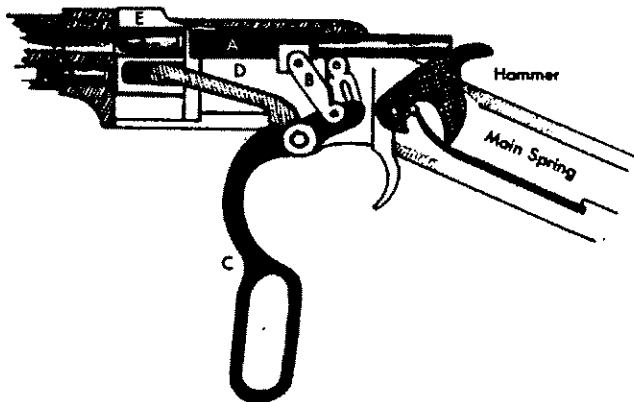


**HENRY REPEATING RIFLE** Weight 9.8 lbs.; 24-inch barrel; 6 grooves; .44 cal., 216-grain bullet; copper case held 25 grains of powder. Magazine below barrel held 15 rounds.



The fast-shooting Henry was in great demand. Federal orders were small, but some 10,000 were bought by state troops. The Spencer was rated less likely to get out of order, but the Henry's rate of fire was higher. The magazine could be emptied in less than 11 seconds; 120 shots were loaded and fired in 5 minutes, 45 seconds.

Simplified diagrams at left show loading system.



*Breechblock was locked by toggle. Pulling trigger-guard lever unlocked toggle, which then pulled breechblock straight back. Hammer cocked by end of block riding over it. Carrier block with round from magazine raised into line with chamber. Raising lever drove round into chamber, dropped carrier block, and locked toggle joint, securing breechblock.*

- A. Breechblock and breech pin piston
- B. Toggle
- C. Trigger guard lever
- D. Carrier lever
- E. Carrier block

THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE of *Fort Wayne*

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**Allen D. Gaff, *The Iron Brigade, Men Behind the Image***

**Richard W. Hatcher III, *Fort Sumter***

**Gerry Prokopowicz, *Mill Springs***

**Stacy D. Allen, *Shiloh***

**John T. Hubbell, *General James Birdseye McPherson***

**James I. Robertson, Jr., *The Stonewall Jackson Nobody Knew***

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Round Table Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be staying at the Hilton-Fort Wayne? \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: Entire Conference ~~\$100~~ \$100.00 per person. Mail check/money order with registration form. **Does not include lodging.**

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Midwest CWRT Conference**



# CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

## President's Message

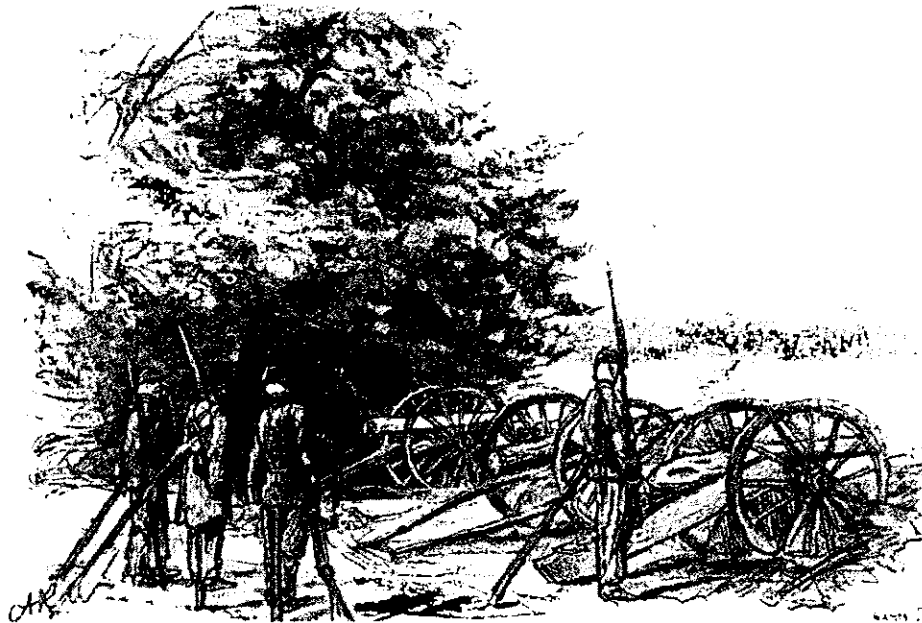
March 1998

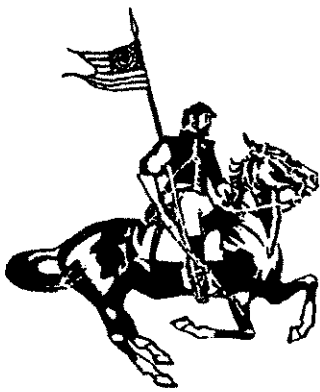
I was back from Florida only a short time when I quickly heard about what a great job Bob Battisti did of presenting at the February meeting. I'm sorry to have missed that great program about Abraham Lincoln. Thanks, Bob!

We also have presentation by members for the next two months. The March 11th meeting will feature Bob Baucher's sharing of John Buford and the April 8, meeting will feature "The Last Naval Duel" by William Vodrey. All of the members who gave presentations this year have done themselves and our club proud.

Attendance at the February meeting was a great 59, another sign that our meetings are great and attendance is growing. March 11 promises to be another highlight of the year, so remember to call your reservations to J.A.C. at 861-5588.

*John Moore*





**THE CLEVELAND  
CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE  
P.O. BOX 18900  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118**

John W. Moore  
6967 Gates Road  
Gates Mills, OH 44040



In Next month's, April Charger

**WAS NEW ORLEANS  
THE KEY?**

**CONFEDERATE NAVY**