

THE CHARGER

May, 1999

370 Meeting

Vol.20 #9



Belle Boyd

Confederate Spy

Belle Boyd was only seventeen years old when the civil war began. She came to national attention when she killed a Union soldier in her Shenandoah home. During the Federal occupation of the Valley she served as a spy for Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. She socialized with the Yankees and reported what she heard to the Rebels. Eventually she was caught and sent to prison.

After the War she tried to capitalize on her wartime exploits as an actress.

Eventually her fame faded but her legend never dimmed.

Guest Night
Cleveland Civil War Roundtable
42 years old

Tonight's Speaker:

Dianne Kauffman

Diane Kauffman has been the President of the Cuyahoga Valley Roundtable for two years.

She is a school principal in Kent, Ohio. A graduate of Bowling Green University, she received her Masters and Doctorate from the University of Akron.

She has been a Civil War buff since the fourth grade. Her fourth grade teacher required each student to read a biography. Dianne chose a man on a horse named Traveler.. Robert E. Lee.

Date: May 12, 1999

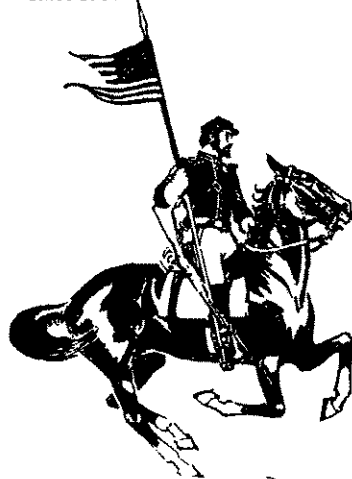
Place: The Hermit Club

**Time: Drinks 6 PM
Dinner 7 PM**

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THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
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About the

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

The 127 men and women of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable reflect the ethnic, racial, and religious diversity of Greater Cleveland. Members range in age from 16 to 93 years old. The common bond is the belief that the American Civil War was the *defining* event in United States history.

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

May 12, 1999 "Guest Night"



CONFEDERATE WOMEN AS SPIES

DIANNE KAUFFMAN

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

Fall Field Trip ON TO RICHMOND

Richmond, Virginia
September 16-19, 1999

PAST CLEVELAND C.W.R.T. PRESIDENTS

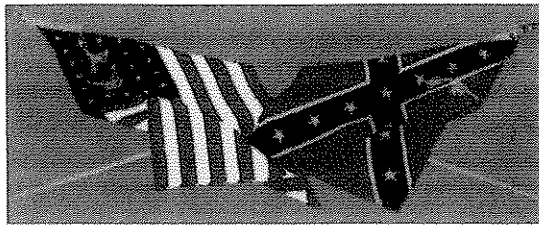
1998 John Moore	1977 James Chapman
1997 Dan Zeiser	1976 Milton Holmes
1996 John Sutula	1975 Thomas Gretter
1995 Norton London	1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh
1994 Robert E. Battisti	1973 Arthur Jordan
1993 Kevin Callahan	1972 Bernard Drews
1992 Bob Baucher	1971 Kenneth Callahan
1991 Joe Tirpak	1970 Frank Schuhle
1990 Ken Callahan Jr.	1969 Donald Heckaman
1989 Neil Glaser	1968 Frank Moran
1988 Martin Graham	1967 William Schlesinger
1987 George Vourlojianis	1966 Donald Hamill
1986 Tim Beatty	1965 Lester L. Swift
1985 Brian Kowell	1964 Guy DiCarlo, Jr.
1984 Neil Evans	1963 Paul Guenther
1983 William Victory	1962 Edward Downer
1982 John Harkness	1961 Charles Clarke
1981 Thomas Geschke	1960 Howard Preston
1980 Charles Spiegle	1959 John Cullen, Jr.
1979 William Bates	1958 George Farr, Jr.
1978 Richard McCrae	1957 Kenneth Grant

THE GREAT DEBATE HOW COULD THE SOUTH HAVE WON?

***By David Thomas
3642 Sutherland Road
Shaker Heights, OH 44122
(216) 491-0442***

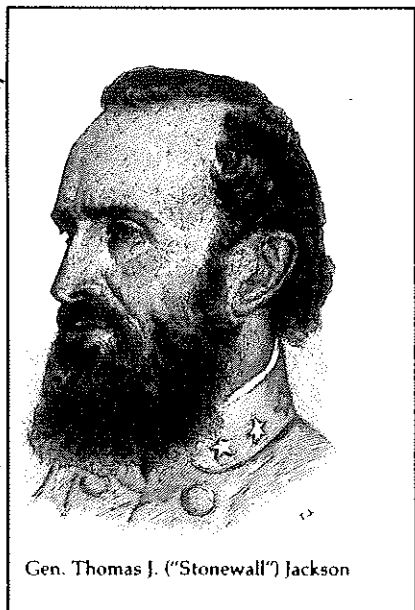
***Shaker Heights High School
Diana Jones, US History Teacher
(216) 295-4200***

WINNER
CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
William L. Schlesinger
GREATER CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST



In the beginning of the War, the Confederacy was winning many decisive victories. As the war continued, however, the Confederacy weakened. In the end, the Union was the victor. **How could the South have won?** There are five main reasons that could have allowed the South to win. First, had Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson not died, he would have been of great importance to the Confederacy in future battles. Second, had cavalry commander J.E.B. Stuart been at Gettysburg, the South might have had a decisive northern victory and won the War. Third, had England come into the War as the Confederacy’s ally, the Northern blockade could have been broken, allowing the South to sell *its* cotton to England and be resupplied. Fourth, had the railroad system not fallen into Union hands, the Confederacy would have been able to transport supplies and men to the army. Finally, the Mississippi River was of great importance to the Confederacy. Had Grant not captured it, the Confederacy would have still been able to use it for transportation. These were the reasons that *could* have allowed the South to win the war.

When Jackson died near Guiney’s Station in Virginia on May 10, 1863, Lee was devastated. Jackson had been of great importance to the army and made many indispensable contributions. It was at the First Battle of Manassas on July 21, 1861 that *Jackson* earned his legendary nickname “**Stonewall.**” It was Confederate General Bernard Bee who said, “There stands Jackson like a stonewall, rally behind the Virginians!” Jackson had also been vital during 1862 when he made his famous Shenandoah Valley Campaign,

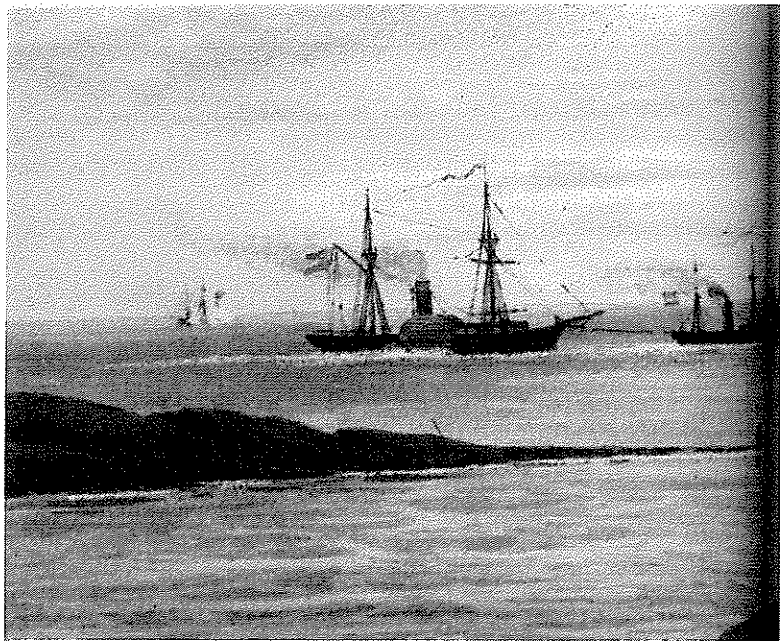


Gen. Thomas J. (“Stonewall”) Jackson

which kept the valley in Confederate control. Jackson had also produced a high sense of morale among his troops, which strengthened the army even more.

On May 3, 1863 during the Battle of Chancellorsville, Jackson was wounded by North Carolina infantrymen who mistook him for Union cavalry. Jackson would have his left arm amputated. It looked like Jackson would recover and be back in the saddle. But pneumonia set in and he died a week later on May 10, 1863. It was Lee who stated after Jackson's arm was amputated, "General, you have lost your left arm, and I have lost my right." Jackson's corps would be split in two and given to Ambrose Powell Hill and Richard Stoddart Ewell. Had Jackson not died, he probably would have been at Gettysburg with Lee and produced a Southern victory due to his superior strategies and tactics.

When Lee made his first invasion of the North in September 1862, he hoped to achieve a decisive victory. With this victory, the Confederacy hoped to have England enter the war as their ally because of the cotton the South could trade with England. Unfortunately, Lee's army would lose what would become the bloody Battle of Antietam. The British lost interest in supporting the South, and looked to Egypt to get their cotton. Had the Confederacy won a decisive northern victory and had England allied with them, they would have an overpowering army and navy.

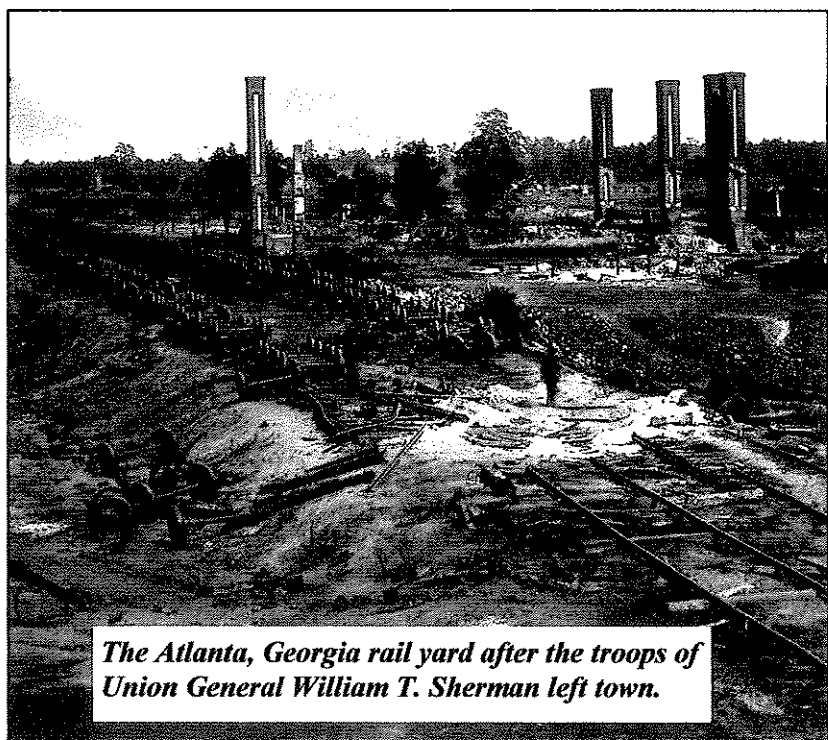


The Union Navy patrolling the Southern coast.

More important, key supply lines could have been kept open and the British Navy could have diverted Northern military energy.

When Lee made his second invasion of the North in June 1863, he did not have his “eyes” which was J.E.B. Stuart and his renowned cavalry. Stuart was off joy riding in the North and would not return until July 2, 1863. Lee was thrown into battle “blind” with Meade’s Army of the Potomac at the sleepy little crossroads town of Pennsylvania. Since Stuart was absent, Lee had no knowledge of the enemy’s strengths or movement. The army might have been destroyed had it not been for General James Longstreet’s scout Harrison. He had spotted the Union army while on reconnaissance and reported it to Longstreet who informed Lee. Lee was furious with Stuart’s unnecessary absence when he needed him most. Stuart’s tardiness may have cost Lee the Battle of Gettysburg. Had Stuart been there when Lee needed him, the Confederacy would probably have been aware of the Union positions and crushed them.

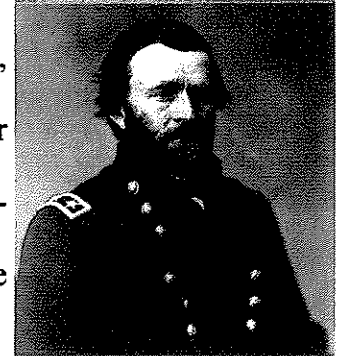
The railroads were of great importance to Lee’s army. They allowed the army to be resupplied with provisions, ammunition and men. But because the Union army captured the railroads, the Confederacy could not send supplies to the army. Thus it began to starve and decrease in



The Atlanta, Georgia rail yard after the troops of Union General William T. Sherman left town.

numbers, until it finally had to give up. Never was this more apparent than at Petersburg where railroads at City Point provided Union soldiers a never ending supply of food, uniforms, ammunition, and arms, while the Confederate troops received no resupply.

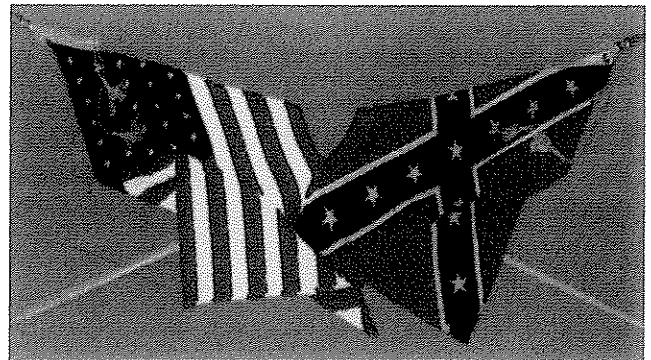
When Ulysses S. Grant captured Vicksburg, Mississippi on July 4, 1863, the Union army gained full control of the Mississippi River and split the Confederacy in two. This event weakened the Confederate Army. This allowed the Union to focus their entire efforts on the East.



Ulysses S. Grant

It is not hard to picture the following scenario. Jackson survives, and continues to lead a superior force against poorly lead Union troops. At Gettysburg, Stuart warns Lee of Union troop movements, allowing Lee to capture the high ground. The British break the Union blockade, allowing the Southern economy to flourish and the troops to be resupplied. Key railroads remain in Southern hands, allowing for troop movement and provisioning. And the Mississippi River stays in Southern hands, forcing the Union to fight on two fronts. Had the Confederacy achieved these five goals, they most likely would have won the war. The Confederacy would probably become their own country. The United States would consist of thirty-nine states instead of fifty.

David Thomas



CIVIL WAR HISTORY

MODERN CONCEPTS OF RIGHT AND WRONG

BY GARY NORMAN

The twenty-first century and the next millennium are just around the corner. The fact that there are discussion societies like the Civil War Round Table of Cleveland which debate historical issues of approximately one hundred and thirty-eight years ago is proof that a particular period of history can continue to affect the present. In light of this nation's continuing dialogue upon race relations, the Civil War is often a focal point for this serious discussion because of its interplay with



race issues. When the Civil War comes up in this context, it is a fitting moment for the parties involved in the conversation to ask themselves whether they are utilizing the history of the Civil War to illustrate facts of the nineteenth century or to promote modern concepts of right and wrong.

At the forefront of history is the historian who has the societal obligation of researching, studying, and describing the facts, events, and stories of previous generations. If the historian's role in society is indeed to be a reporter of the past, then one must inquire as to how the historian is to go about complying with this vital obligation. There are a group of historians named **revisionists**, who would answer this inquiry by declaring that the historian's obligation can be satisfactorily complied with by utilizing history to demonstrate the way in which the American people have evolved over time. This author contends that such **revisionists** are fatally flawed when they advocate this methodology for historians. The historian is no more than a reporter of the past. Indeed, this author's argument is most aptly sum-

Gary Norman is a law student at Cleveland State University and a new member of the Cleveland CWRT.

marized in the words of two detectives from a famous Cold War television program named Dragnet, "Just the facts Madam!"

The infamous writer Girda once wrote, "Genius is knowing where to stop." This aforementioned quotation is demonstrative of the line up to which a historian may step when acting in her capacity as a reporter of the past. Historians ought know where the factual record of previous generations ends and where their personal opinions commence. Although, this imperative is surely rigorous to uphold, it is vital that the historian strive to do so; for when, the historian strays down the meandering path of personal opinion the historian always ends up falling of the precipice of historical revisionism. The best example of overt historical revisionism can be attained from a study of the history of the Stalin regime, when historians revised the factual record of the Russian people on a frequent basis either to conform to the whims of Stalin or just to assure themselves that they lived in a "great Communist republic." The Civil War is also a popular period of history which often falls under the gaze of revisionist historians.



Stalin in 1917

This author recently read an extremely interesting book by a historian named William Davis, which focused on the myths and realities of the Confederate States of America. In his volume on the Civil War, William Davis penned a term relevant to this article. He penned the term presentism. This term can be defined as the mentality of that conclave of historians who would describe the facts, events, and stories of previous generations in relation to currently prevailing mores and public opinion. This is not an appropriate manner by which the historian is to go about complying with her solemn obligation on behalf of the American people, because ultimately the public does not care for the opinions of academics. The American people only desire to know what occurred in the past and not whether some particular doctrine or practice was either moral or immoral. This issue is best exemplified in the continuing debate upon the topic of slavery. A presentist would describe the American tradition of slavery as a tragic wrong perpetrated upon "African Americans." It does not matter whether this aforementioned more is right or wrong, for the obligation of a historian is only to report upon the facts of the past.

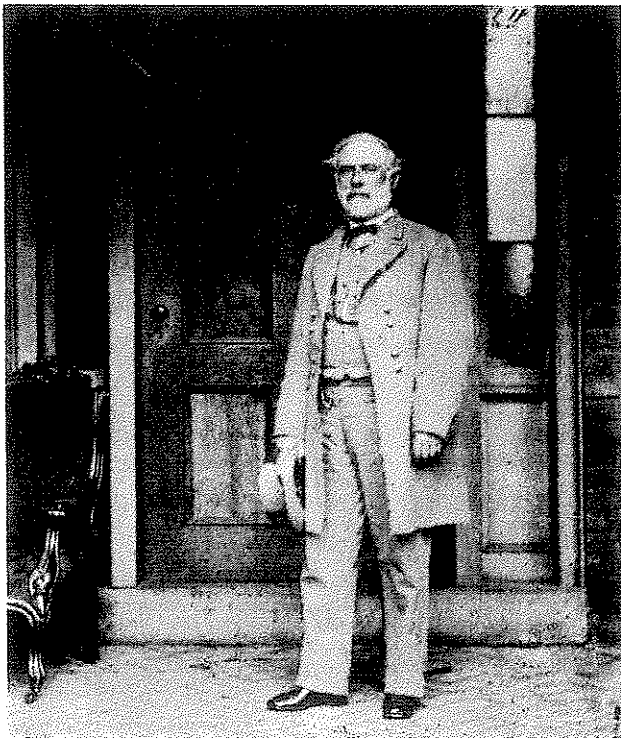


Slave Market in Richmond, Virginia
By Eyre Crowe oil on canvas 1853

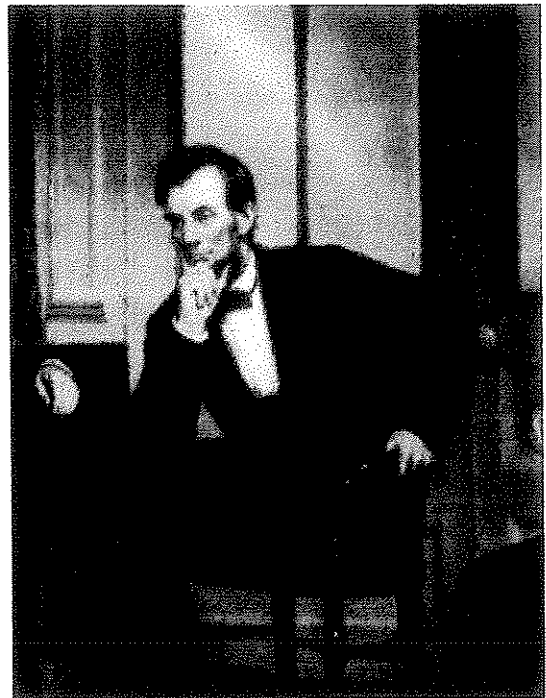
The historian should never couch their writings in subjective language such as the South's use of blacks as equipment in the cotton trade was immoral. Rather, the historian should endeavor to write prose which utilizes language such as there were Americans at the time of the Civil War who thought it was immoral to hold blacks in the status of involuntary servitude.

Was General Robert E. Lee an immoral man because he commanded an Army dedicated to preserving the practice of slavery? Was President Lincoln a moral man because he eventually signed a piece of paper that emancipated the slaves? These are queries best left up to the robust debates of discussion societies like the Civil War Round Table of Cleveland. The historian is only a reporter of the past whose mission ought be conveying the tableaux of history to the average man. Moral judgments as to a particular practice of the past is the province of ethicists.

Gary Norman



Was Robert E. Lee an immoral man?



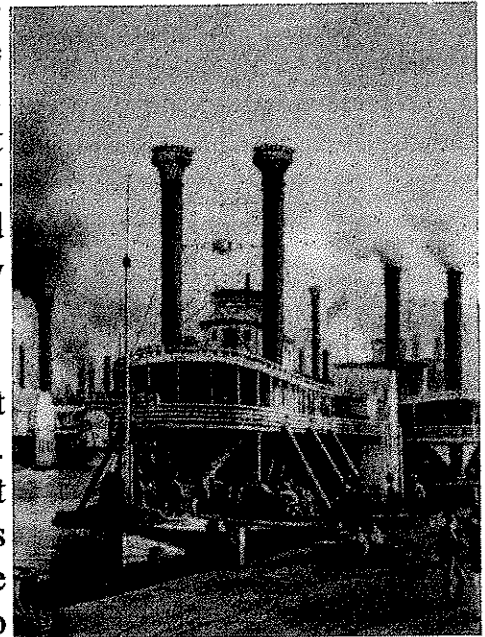
Was Abraham Lincoln a moral man?

BEHIND THE LINES

By Matt Slattery

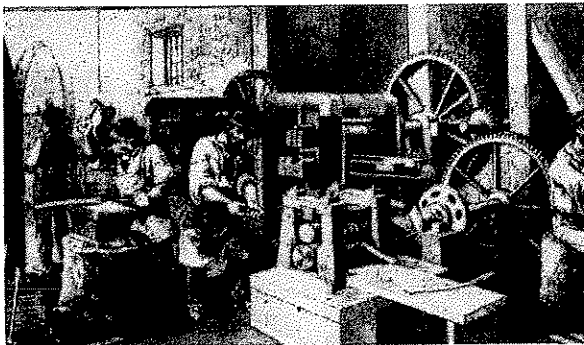
Until 1861 the United States staggered along precariously under the burden of states rights and, to a large extent, this applied to both the North and the South. After the split the North became a nation. For the next four years it engaged the Confederacy on the battlefield with wavering and eventual success. But behind the lines it grew immeasurably in power and in unity and became a nation.

Early in 1861 there was apprehension. Cotton that kept the New England mills busy fell off precipitously. Numerous banks with financial ties to the South went bankrupt. The immense grain and lumber shipments that went down the Mississippi and to Europe were stopped. And there was a war to be fought with no army, no navy, and no established means of supplying them.



unloading cotton in New Orleans.

What transpired? Many capable men, in and out of government, put their heads and their hands to it. And the people as a whole showed that they had previously uncalled-for skills and the willingness to apply them. Along with these two elements came Organization. Organization as never before seen in the history of the world. These would not only carry through to military victory, but would firmly establish the United States as a great world power.



Northern industry working at full capacity.

In 1860 Chicago shipped 31,000,000 bushels of grain. In 1863 56,000,000. St. Louis shipped 447,000 barrels of flour in 1861. In 1863, 689,000 barrels. Cincinnati meat packers broke all records in shipments to Europe. Initiated by military demands the iron industry boomed. Mining was expanded. New steel mills opened in Pittsburgh, Allentown, Bethlehem, and in New

York and New Jersey. Their products did not go exclusively to the military. The demands of the railroads were great. East-West railroads were booming and expanding. New connecting lines were built to make trunk lines of established roads.

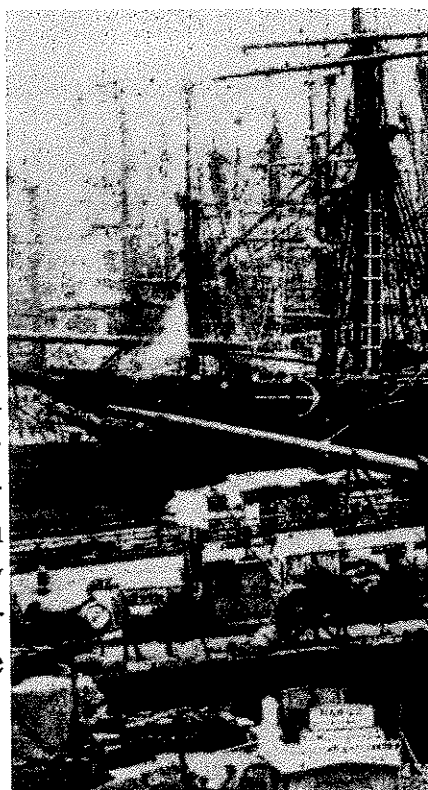
The transportation demands were immense. Products which had been going by steamboat down the Mississippi were now moving by boat across the Great Lakes and by barge through the Erie Canal; but primarily by rail to satisfy the demands of the East and of Europe.

Innovation came to the fore. New machinery enabled cotton mills to become woolen mills. Shoes had been semi hand crafted. New machinery made them a factory product and they were turned out at a greatly accelerated rate. The oil market boomed. Oil City, Pennsylvania became a metropolis and fortunes were made overnight. Illumination was demanded and everywhere oil lamps replaced candles. Again the railroads were taxed to transport 10,000,000 barrels of oil and kerosene. Oil exports were second only to grain and brought in immense quantities of foreign gold.

All of this engendered a rise in a new finance and security capitalism. New York had always been the money market but it was an organization without a head. In 1861 cash reserves were cut in half to \$30,000,000 and the nations total bank circulation was \$132,000,000, totally inadequate for the need of government and industry. In March 1863 Congress authorized the printing of \$450,000,000 greenbacks. This provided the capital needed for new industries. The New York clearing house totals for 1860 were \$6,000,000,000. In 1864 they were 26,000,000,000.

The result of all this inevitably produced some negative effects. There were scandals in speculation-- in rails, in oil, in gold. But prosperity steadily rose on industry, innovation, and consolidation. What had previously been an individualistic society floundering in states rights became a federal juggernaut that not only fought and won a war but also became a world power in trade and immensely enriched and improved the standard of living of its people.

Matt Slattery



Ships cram New York harbor.

Civil War history stars come to N.E. Ohio

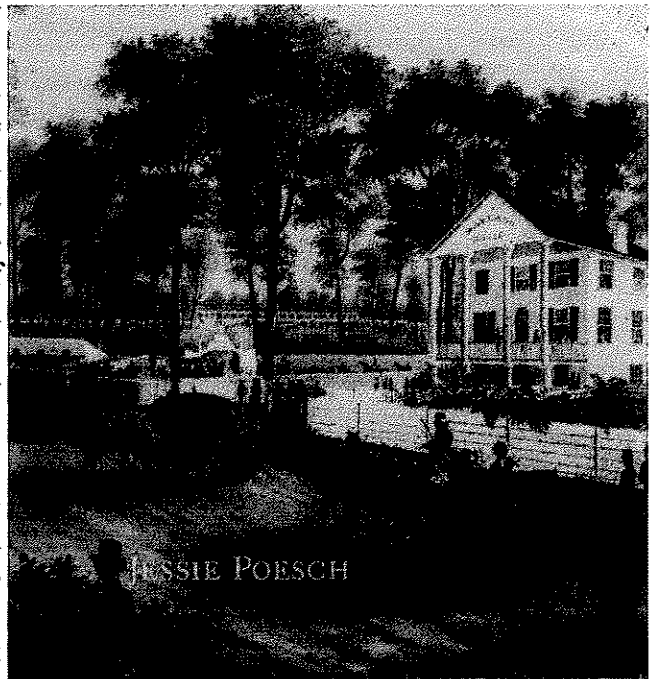
by William F.B. Vodrey

We've been lucky in the past few months, as three prominent Civil War historians have spoken in the region. Rarely in recent years have so many leading lights of Civil War history visited here in such a short time. On December 9, 1998, Edwin C. Bearss, former chief historian of the National Park Service, spoke on "Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg" to our members, much to everyone's enjoyment. Even more recently, James McPherson and Shelby Foote have made their way to Northeast Ohio.

James McPherson is a professor of American history at Princeton University, and the 1989 Pulitzer Prize-winning writer of *Battle Cry of freedom*, one of the finest one-volume histories of the war. He is frequently a featured commentator on A&E's *Civil War Journal*. He spoke on February 11 at Kent State University's Stark County campus; Roundtable members George George, Warren McClelland and I drove down to hear him. McPherson's topic before a standing-room-only crowd: "Was Blood Thicker Than Water? Ethnic and Civic Nationalism in the Civil War." McPherson distinguished between ethnic nationalism (pride in one's own ethnic or racial group, and belligerence towards those not members of the group, regardless of national boundaries) and civic nationalism (pride in one's own nation or civic institutions, regardless of differences of color or ethnicity among fellow citizens).

McPherson's central argument was that Southern intellectuals and leaders in the generation before the outbreak of the Civil War came to define themselves as a distinct racial group, different not only from Southern blacks but also, oddly enough, from Northern whites.

Southerners drew upon the novels of Sir Walter Scott and others in developing a romanticized view of themselves as pure-bred descendants of English cavaliers and aristocrats, as opposed to mongrelized, Puritan-descended or unwashed-immigrant Northerners. McPherson cited many antebellum Southern newspapers, literary journals and books to show that, even though their view of history and ethnic identity had little basis in reality, it soon became part of the social fabric and a commonly-accepted "truth" throughout the South. It was enough that *they* believed it, and this laid the foundation for a natural split. When regional tensions boiled over following the



election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860, Southern leaders were intellectually prepared to accept secession and the destruction of the Union, in large part because they had already convinced themselves they had life or nothing in common with Northerners.



Belle Grove, built in 1857 on the
Mississippi River at Donaldson, Louisiana

McPherson, who spoke in a very earnest and methodical manner, noted that ethnic tensions and violence this century in Bosnia between Serbs, Muslims, and Croats), Rwanda (between Hutus and Tutsis) and Nazi Germany between "Aryans" and Jews) have followed a similar pattern, with hatred blooming among one group against another perceived as "outsiders," even when third-party observers cannot discern any obvious racial differences. Those who love their own group all too often find reason to hate another group, and to define themselves in opposition to them. In answering his own question, McPherson reluctantly concluded that blood is indeed thicker than water; that is, ethnic ties usually have greater power over individuals than ties to a nation or to civic institutions. Until this ancient tendency is changed, he said, the world is probably in for even more bloodshed. America's civil war was remarkable for its rabid closure and finality when compared to other nations', but we still live with its racially-charged aftermath, he said.

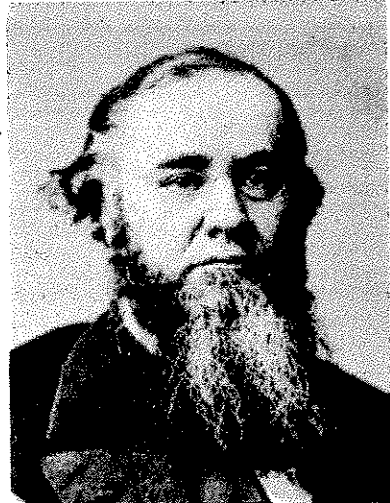
Shelby Foote, novelist and historian, author of the monumental and authoritative three-volume *The Civil War: A Narrative*, and a central figure in Ken Burns's 1990 series *The Civil War*, spoke at B.J. Thomas Hall on the University of Akron campus on March 15. Roundtable members Warren McClelland and I attended his talk, which was billed simply as "An Evening with Shelby Foote."* We saw Roundtable President emeritus Dan Zeiser there, too.

Foote had the same Mississippi drawl, and dry and witty style so many enjoyed from his appearances on *The Civil War*. In a speech sprinkled with offhand references to Plato, Proust and Catton, he talked about the responsibilities of a novelist and a historian, and how each has much to learn from the other. The novelist of historical fiction needs the grounding in the facts which a historian enjoys, while historians need to understand that writing a good book requires a grasp of technique and plot, and the ability to tell a story. Too many historians, Foote said to the appreciative chuckles of the large audience, just can't write in an interesting way. For the readers of such unreadable histories, tie footnotes come as a relief and not an interruption."

Foote talked about how much he learned "when I wrote the War." Of the great Union commander-in-chief, he said, "I admired Lincoln, but never knew how much there was to admire until I began writing about him;" Lincoln had "an ability to stand outside and look at himself that was almost spooky," and everything he did was for the paramount goal of reunited the nation. Foote repeated his often-quoted opinion that "the two authentic geniuses of the Civil War" were

Lincoln and Confederate cavalry leader Sen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. He recalled sharing this view with Forrest's elderly granddaughter, who accepted his praise of Forrest but coolly replied, "Well, you know, my family has never held a very high opinion of Mr. Lincoln."

Part of the historian's flu' is writing about "the scoundrels," such as U.S. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, Foote said. "Stanton gave me the same pleasure that Bill Sikes gave Dickens" in writing *Oliver Twist*, Foote said; Stanton was so wonderfully screening and unpleasant that it was "a joy" to explore his character. Foote restated his admiration of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, however, and said he was "a saint."



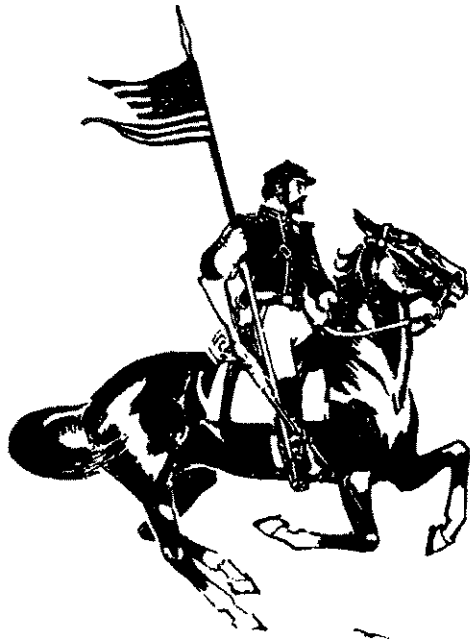
Edwin M. Stanton

Many of the audience questions focused on Foote's views on particular individuals from the Civil War. Foote believes that William Tecumseh Sherman is gaining popularity and appreciation even among Southerners nowadays, who have come to agree with Sherman that he shortened the war. Foote said neither Confederate President Jefferson Davis's reputation as a cold, conniving busybody nor Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's reputation as a butcher are warranted. Grant in the Vicksburg campaign was as brilliant as Confederate Sen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson ever was, Foote insisted, and the Grant of the Vicksburg campaign was not the Grant of the Petersburg campaign." Grant wisely chose, and ably carried out, maneuver warfare in the months leading up to Vicksburg's capitulation; when he came east, however, he correctly chose attrition as the best means of "bringing down Bobby Lee."

Bearss, McPherson and Foote: a trio of Civil War history stars I feel fortunate to have heard these past few months.

William F.B. Vodrey

*The University box office clerks didn't know any more than that about Foote's topic beforehand. Somehow, though, I didn't think he'd be talking about the Spanish Armada or 18th-century Norwegian agriculture.



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

PO Box 18900
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118

Dear Cleveland Civil War Roundtable President:

At our annual meeting on May 12, 1999, we would like to honor you as a President of the Cleveland Roundtable. We have a small gift for you but our real intent is to recognize you in the 42nd year of our Roundtable.

We continue to fight the Civil War each month as we have for 42 years. (The North still wins!) 42 years means 42 men have served as President. Although it is bizarre that the only President to die in office was our first, Ken Grant.

The May meeting is still *guest night*, so bring along a favorite friend. We still conduct the War at the Hermit Club and to quote all 42 Presidents, "**reservations are a must!**" (216) 861-5588

We hope to see you in May to celebrate our 42nd Birthday and the 370th meeting of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable.

Dick Crews

President 1998/1999



Jefferson Davis:

Visit his Home

Visit his office

Visit his Grave

Fall Field Trip Richmond, Virginia
September 16-19, 1999



Deposit \$65.00

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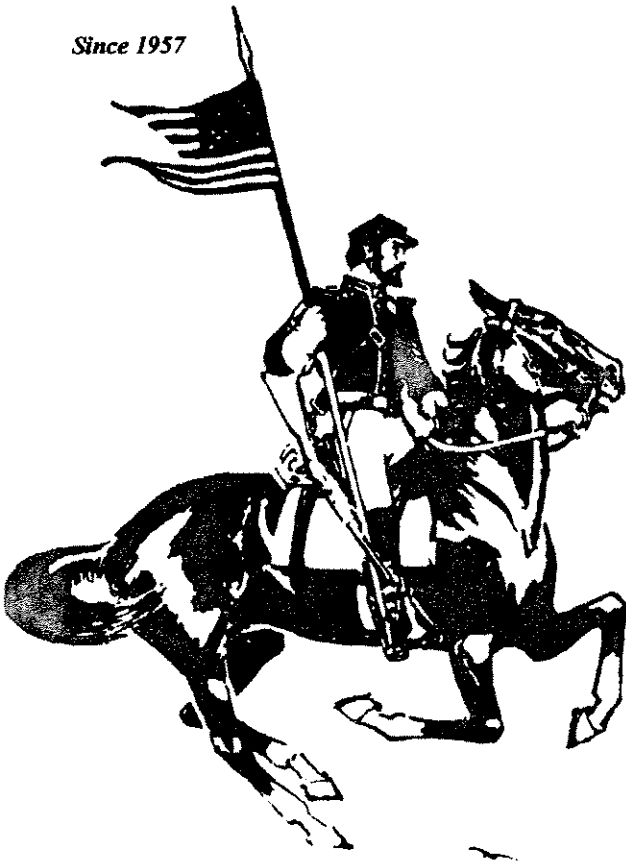
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Since 1957



Cleveland Civil War Roundtable PO Box 18900 Cleveland, OH 44118



Belle Boyd
Confederate Spy

Wednesday,
May 12, 1999