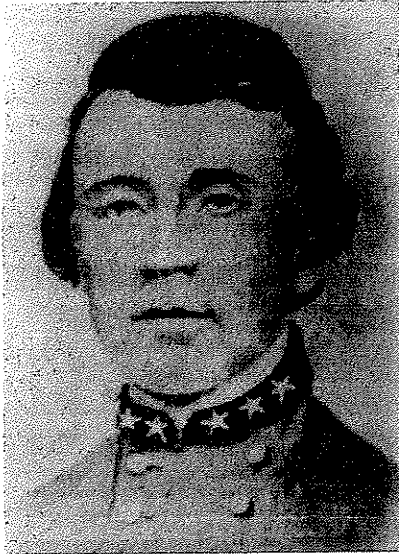


# THE CHARGER

November, 1999

373 Meeting

Vol.21 #3



**William Clarke Quantrill**

The best-known Bushwhacker of the Civil War was William Clarke Quantrill, a transplanted Ohioan and one-time schoolteacher who began his wartime career as a Jayhawker, switched sides, and won a captaincy from the Confederacy for helping to capture Independence, Missouri, for the South in 1861. He then gathered together a band of wild young men, most of them more interested in excitement and plunder than States' Rights, and began to raid northern sympathizers wherever they could be found. Jim Lane, Quantrill vowed, would be burned at the stake.

On the morning of August 21, waving one of the four Colt revolvers he carried in his waistband, he led 450 men into the sleeping antislavery town of Lawrence, Kansas shouting, "Kill! Kill! Lawrence must be cleansed, and the only way to cleanse it is to kill, kill!"

Kill they did. While Quantrill himself savored a big breakfast at a hotel, his men systematically butchered at least 150 men and boys, most of them unarmed, while their mothers, wives, and daughters were made to watch.

*Tonight's Speaker:*

## Thomas Goodrich

Thomas Goodrich is a professional writer from Kansas City with a focus on the American Civil War and Indian warfare of the same era.

His books include: *Bloody Bill Anderson, The shot, savage life of a Civil War Guerrilla; Black Flag, Guerilla Warfare on the Western border, 1861-1865; War to the knife, bleeding Kansas, 1854-1861.*

Goodrich's book's *Bloody Dawn, The story of the Lawrence massacre* is a History Book Club selection.

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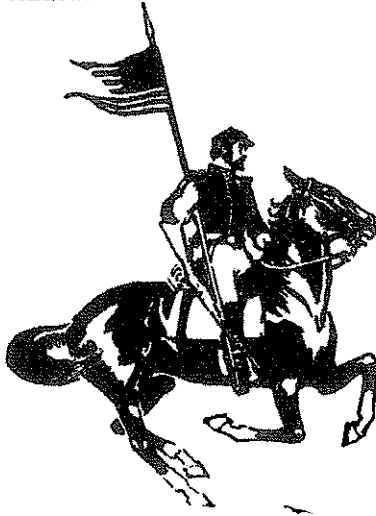
**Date: November 10, 1999**

**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 Roundtable PO Box 1800 Cleveland, Ohio 44118

### 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.

November 10, 1999



**William Quantrill**  
*Confederate Raider – Outlaw*  
THOMAS GOODRICH

December 8, 1999



**Union Soldier**  
*An Ohio Soldier*  
DON ALLISON

JANUARY 12, 2000

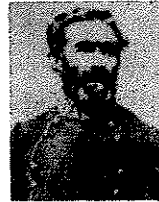
**The Great Debate**  
*Confederate options after the fall of Atlanta*  
MODERATOR: DICK CREWS

February 9, 2000



**Ulysses S. Grant**  
*From The Wilderness to Cold Harbor*  
NORTON LONDON

March 8, 2000



**Braxton Bragg**  
*Was he really that bad?*  
DAVE SMITH

April 12, 2000



**THE SONS  
OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN**  
DAVE WOOD

MAY 10, 2000



**PATRICK CLEBURNE**  
CRAIG SYMONDS

# UNSUNG HERO

By Matt Slattery



CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Major General Henry W. Halleck. Called to Washington from the West in 1862, and given the title of general in chief, he never succeeded in making himself more than Lincoln's military adviser.*

Its about time to rehabilitate General Henry W. Halleck. Not that he has been vilified--there was no cause for that. Instead he has been belittled by some of his contemporaries and by too many subsequent writers. Let us put it down to the fact that Americans demand heroes and Halleck never led troops into battle. He sought only to win the war. He never deviated and in the doing he tramped on

many feet in the political and military rivalries of Washington in the 1860's. Halleck after acquiring a Phi Beta Kappa at Union College, graduated from West Point in 1839. He published several widely read books on military tactics and when the Mexican War broke out he was sent to California. There was no large scale fighting there. He organized the military and subsequently organized the territory to become a state, became a lawyer and wrote its constitution.

As a friend of Gen. Winfield Scott, when the Civil War broke out he was immediately made a major general, ranked only by Scott, McClellan, and Fremont. The latter was overall commander in the west but by early 1862 had so displayed his incompetence that he had to be relieved. Lincoln named Halleck and almost immediately things turned around. Though he did not lead them he organized, equipped and dispatched the armies that won Pea Ridge and Shiloh, radically changing the course of the war.

Northern success was not being attained in the East. The organizer McClellan was showing himself to be a poor field commander and though his popularity prohibited dismissal it was felt that inasmuch as he refused to take orders from a politician (i. e. Lincoln or Stanton) it would be well to have his orders come down from a general. And so once more Halleck was designated. Not that he has been vilified--there was no broke out he was sent to California. There was no large scale fighting there. He organized the military and subsequently organized the territory to become a state, became a lawyer and wrote its constitution.

**Matt Slattery is retired and has been a member of the Cleveland CWRT since 1984**

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He was in fact, by all military definition, by his continuing status, and in his own mind not the general in chief but the chief of staff. Not for nothing had he acquired the sobriquet of "Old Brains". He saw immediately that Lincoln and Stanton were running the war. To control the ego driven, over-confident military they needed military man. He played the role. To their credit they thence made no military decisions without consulting with him and military orders were issued only by him.

Halleck got off to a bad start with the defeat at Second Bull Run, but the battle might not have been lost, possibly not fought, if McClellan had not defied his orders to promptly bring his troops from the peninsula to join Pope's army. And when McClellan's refusal to follow orders to pursue Lee after Antietam led to his dismissal, this sacrifice of the darling of the troops and northern democrats did nothing for Halleck's public relations.

By the end of 1863 this undercurrent--not ever a refusal to take orders but a reluctance to do so (particularly by Gen. George Meade) together with the public's perception of the need for a fighting general led to the appointment of Grant as commander in chief, and Halleck officially (finally) as chief of staff. Nothing changed. Critics at the time and since have quibbled about Halleck's demeaning of Grant, the hero of Shiloh, after that battle. But it was Halleck, not Grant, who won Shiloh by his coordinating Buell's army to join Grant's on the second day of the battle. It was Halleck who had named Grant to command at Shiloh, who subsequently named him to overall command in the west, and who approved his appointment as general in chief. They cooperated in full and friendly fashion to the end of the war.

But here is the catch that has led to criticism of his "leadership". Halleck was never "general in chief". Burnside, Hooker, Meade. amid Grant in the east; Buell, Rosecrans, Grant, Sherman, and Thomas in the west never went into battle deficient in soldiers or supplies. Halleck saw to it and in addition gave them good advice without ever interfering in their operations. He made few friends by insisting (correctly) that the war as to be won in the west; by opposing political appointees as generals; and by fighting a losing fight against the recruiting of new regiments instead of refilling battle-tried old ones. He deserves much more praise the he has ever received.

*Matt Slattery*

# President's Letter

November, 1999

Thunder and lightning - wind and storm - all precursors to last months wonderful talk by William Vordrey about the exploits of Union officer William B. Cushing and the sinking of the Albermarle. The history presented by William once again shows the difference that determined individuals can make. The story presented that evening was truly amazing. While the Civil War was in many ways a battle of economies - the accomplishments of the individual soldier continue to fascinate me. My most sincere thanks to William for his fine presentation.

In my opening sentence I referred to the tremendous storm that blew through Cleveland before our October meeting. My predecessors warned of the fear of last minute speaker cancellations - they never brought up the potential of weather problems. While I have worried about weather in January and February, October was not on the weather worry list. It is my fondest hope that we have now had our weather challenges for the year.

Our speaker for November, Mr. Thomas Goodrich, has been in telephone contact with me and has really impressed me with his enthusiasm for history and the Civil War - particularly in the activities that took place in the far west. When we last spoke he was in Hagerstown, Maryland and was on a tour speaking to various Civil War groups. He described he and his wife as traveling vagabond historians. I also learned that they both participate in his presentations. As we spoken my enthusiasm for this months meeting grew. I am looking forward to meeting Mr. Goodrich and his wife and their talk about William Quantrill and the history surrounding Quantrill's exploits.

In addition to being a speaker Mr. Goodrich is an author. He will have copies of some of his books available for sale at our meeting. Titles of Thomas's work include:

**Bloody Bill Anderson : The Short, Savage Life of a Civil War Guerrilla**

**Black Flag : Guerrilla Warfare on the Western Border, 1861-1865**

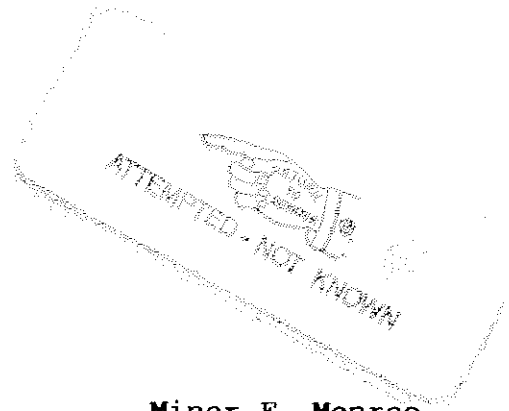
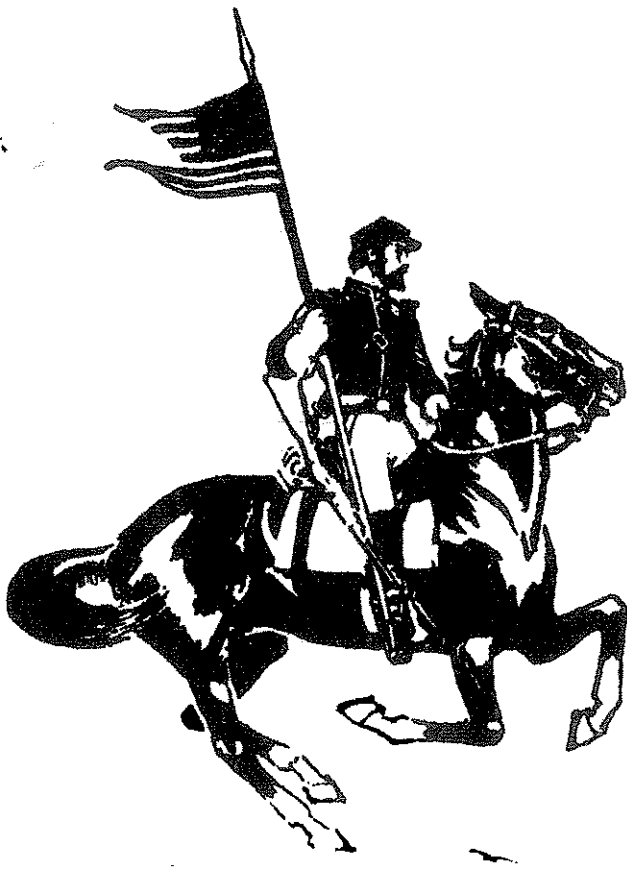
**Bloody Bill Anderson : The Short, Savage Life of a Civil War Guerrilla**

**War to the Knife : Bleeding Kansas, 1854-1861**

**Scalp Dance : Indian Warfare on the High Plains 1865-1879**

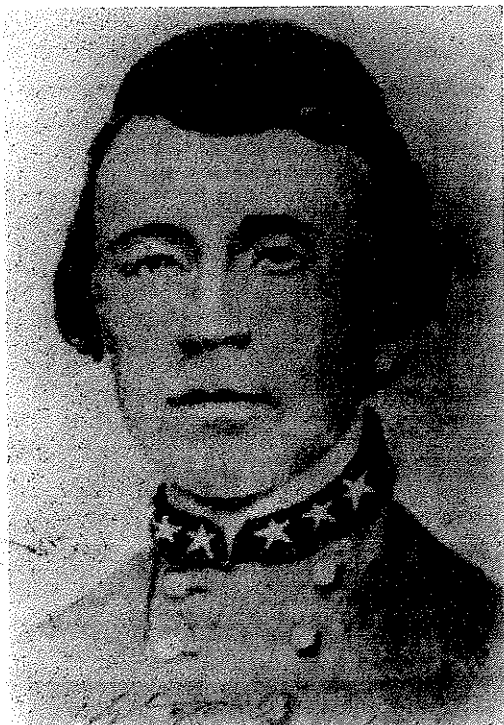
In closing I urge everyone to make plans to attend this months meeting. Hopefully the weather will return to normal and the show will be on the stage of the Hermit Club and not in the skies around Cleveland.

*Bob Boyda*



Minor F. Monroe  
30901 Lake Shore Blvd.-#1003  
Willowick, OH 44095

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable PO Box 18900 Cleveland, OH 44118



*William Quantrill*  
*Confederate Raider -*  
*Outlaw*

*Wednesday,*  
*November 10, 1999*