

THE CHARGER

September, 1998

362 Meeting

Vol.20 #1

Tonight's Program:

**Robert E. Lee,
Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson,
and James Longstreet:**

Traitors All ?

Robert E. Lee was responsible for more American combat deaths than Tojo or Adolph Hilter. Why then he is considered an American hero?

Lee clearly demonstrated by his actions that he didn't consider himself an American-or at least, less than he thought of himself as a Virginian and a Southerner. As British author Eric Larrabee wrote, "Lee and Confederate generals apparently saw *duty, honor, and country*" as a multiple-choice question."

Lee, Jackson, and Longstreet as Army officers took the oath : **to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.**

Were they not guilty of treason?

Treason is the *only* crime defined in the U.S. Constitution. The Constitution states: Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort.

Again the question, were they not guilty of treason?

Tonight's Speaker:

William F. B. Vodrey

William "*please don't call me Bill*" Vodrey is just back from the 135th re-enactment of the battle of Gettysburg. William is a corporal in the Ohio 51st.

He will get the year off to a flying start by asking the question of why the actions of confederate generals Lee, Jackson, and Longstreet were not considered treason.

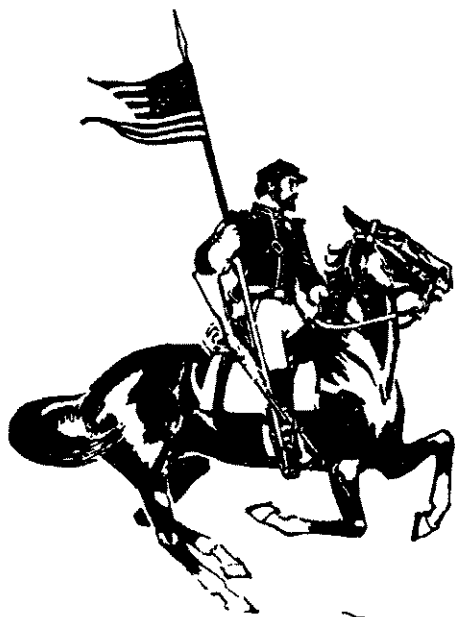
William, besides being a speaker on several civil war topics, is an assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor and a proud father of a two year old son, John Jackman Vodrey.

Date: September 9, 1998

Place: The Hermit Club

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

**Reservations: Please Call
JAC Communications
at (216) 861-5588**



THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE PO BOX 1800 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118

President: Dick Crews

Vice President: Bob Boyda

Secretary: William Vodrey

Treasurer: Peter Holman

Executive Committee:

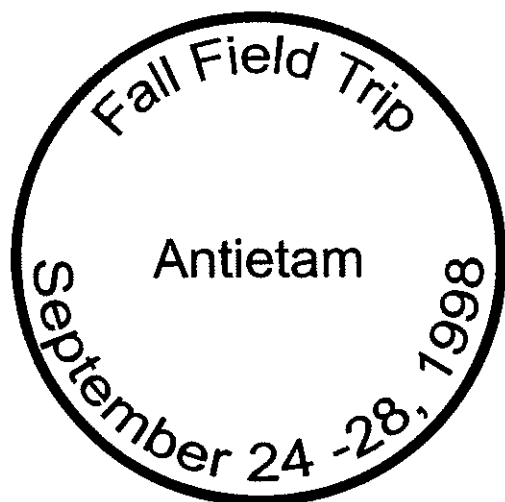
**Bob Battisti, Dan Zeiser, John Moore,
Bill Doty, John Howard, Bill McGrath.**

Editor of THE CHARGER

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Publisher: J A C Communications

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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.

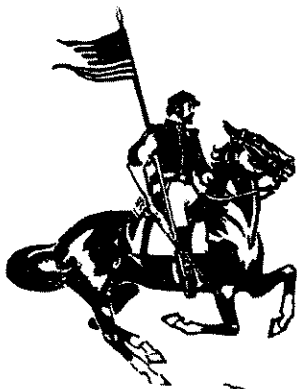
Club dues are \$35.00 per year .

The Roundtable also sponsors a Fall, four day, field trip to a selected civil war site and a Spring, single day, trip to a local area.

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

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



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

1998 - 1999 Schedule

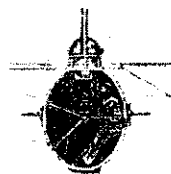
September 9, 1998



TRAITORS ALL?

*Stonewall Jackson,
Robert E. Lee, and James Longstreet*
WILLIAM F. B. VODREY

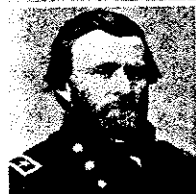
October 14, 1998



CSS Hunley

World's first Submarine
BILL MCGRATH

November 11, 1998



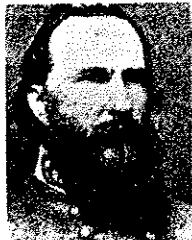
Grant's Canal

Vicksburg
DAVID F. BASTIAN

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
attached Cleveland*
LESTER V. HORWITZ

May 12 1999



Rosy O'Neal Greenhow

Confederate Spy
DIANNE KAUFFMAN

Fall Field Trip
Antietam
September 24 - 28, 1998

Spring Field Trip
James Garfield Home
Mentor, Ohio

The executive committee voted to put the following constitution revision to a membership vote at the October 14, 1998 meeting.

The highlight is the creation of a family membership class.

The Cleveland CWRT Constitution now reads under:

Article II Membership

Section 1. Classes of Membership

The members shall consist of four classes:

- (a) Active members
- (b) Junior members who shall be under the age of 25, and who shall be eligible for this membership while enrolled only as a student in a high school, preparatory school, college or university and for one year thereafter.
- (c) Honorary members, who shall be elected as such by the membership at a regular meeting upon the nomination of the executive Committee or a member in good standing provided that no more than two persons can be elected to honorary membership in any one year.
- (d) Out of town members, who shall be those persons who reside 50 miles from Cleveland.

——— *Proposed Constitution revision:* —————

Article II Membership

Membership in the Cleveland Civil War Round Table shall be open to all who have an interest in the American Civil War and its period in United States History.

Section 1. Classes of Membership:

- (a) Active members
- (b) Family members who are related to active members entitled to all privileges of active membership but do not receive a personal issue of our newsletter **THE CHARGER**.
- (C) Honorary members— elected by the membership.

FIVE FLAWED COMMANDS

By Matt Slattery*

The breech loading rifled musket changed it all. Now a man a quarter of a mile away could be effectively killed. Add the new minnie' ball and cartridge, add the improvement in field artillery and carnage was guaranteed. But military thinking and custom changes slowly. Time after time throughout the Civil War men were sent up against these new killing machines and far too many became corpses or cripples. This is generally known. Many a regiment or brigade was wiped out by these tactics. But is the reader aware that five times during the war just five times an entire army was ordered to cross a field against an entrenched opponent of equal strength acting as executioner.

Five times a commanding general, a man of experience, of reputation sent his soldiers to wholesale slaughter. With their background, their knowledge, and their unquestioned love and respect for their troops what could have led them to issue such orders? **Robert E. Lee at Malvern Hill, Ambrose Burnside at Fredericksburg, Lee again at Gettysburg, Ulysses S. Grant at Cold Harbor, and John Bell Hood at Franklin.** Each commander had to balance consideration for his troops versus the necessity to win. In each case troops were massacred and they did not win.

Robert E. Lee at Malvern Hill was preceded by the Seven Days battles. After Gaines Mills, Savage Station, and each of the others the Union troops abandoned the field to the Confederates. However, each was in fact a military standoff. McClellan with his poor generalship was forgetting Richmond and changing his base. With each encounter Lee was becoming convinced that he had won. He had McClellan on the run. He was right. McClellan was on a gunboat on the James arranging, *as* he always and competently did, for his supplies and supports and importuning Washington for more men to supplement "his badly outnumbered forces". He had left the competent Fitzjohn Porter in charge, and Porter had set up an excellent defensive position on Malvern Hill. The overconfident Lee believed he was sending his gray divisions against a discouraged McClellan; instead they were met by a confident and determined Porter and the southerners were mowed down.



Ambrose Burnside reluctantly accepted command of the Army of the Potomac when Washington, tired of the laggard and complaining McClellan, demanded action -- right now! Burnside was acutely aware of this condition. He lacked only the military savvy to carry it out. He fumbled his advance to the Rappahannock, allowing Lee to set up a formidable defense. Burnside, whose whole army service was only a brief six years during and after the Mexican War, made ANOTHER Mistake. He chose William B. Franklin to command his powerful Left Wing at Fredericksburg -- a man six years his senior, first in his class at West Point, and since in continuous military service.



Franklin sent Meade's division forward and it broke the Confederate line, but Franklin did not support the advance and the left wing thence contributed nothing to the battle. Burnside, with his esteem for Franklin, lacked the personal

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

(Ambrose Burnside continued)

courage to get him to get going or be relieved. Instead he persisted in attacks by the right wing on the near impregnable Maryes Heights. Historians have since concentrated their writings on the Maryes failure and not on Franklin and Burnside's dereliction. At the top there was prompt reaction-- Franklin was relieved of his command and spent the remainder of the war in a minor capacity.

Robert E. Lee's



first venture into the North, i.e. across the Potomac, ended in failure at Antietam. This time in 1863, following victories at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, he led a larger and better equipped army. He divided his forces to tempt the Union to attack him being well prepared to consolidate. But the astute and skilled Gen. John Buford forced him to consolidate at Gettysburg where Meade's army would have the better position. For two days the Blue and the Gray slugged it out with no advantage.

On the third day Lee conferred with Longstreet. Historians make much of the fact that Longstreet recommended stretching the right wing to the south thereby threatening Meade's communications. Was Lee, an astute and skilled tactician, opposed to this? He could see, as well as Longstreet, the advantage of such a move. But what would be the result --a prolonged and indecisive battle leaving him far from home with a reduced force. Whereas he particularly, with the full accord of Jefferson Davis, had set his heart on a massive victory. Marse Robert knew the odds in sending his brave lads up Cemetery Hill. He must have expected blood. But he did it and he failed.

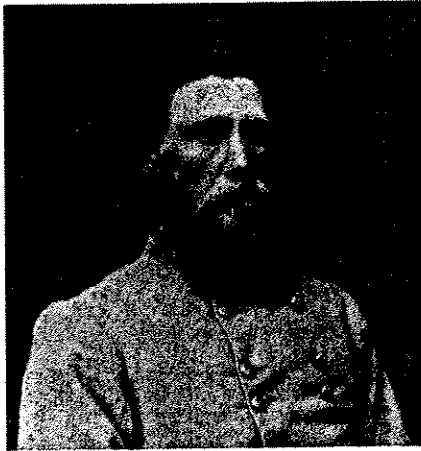
Ulysses S. Grant at Cold Harbor is the hardest one to handle. No rationale can explain it.



U. S. Grant wrote the best memoirs of any leader in the war. His writing is full and clear. But he did no more than mention the name Cold Harbor. He admitted in one unelaborated sentence that it was his greatest regret. He had fought a bloody draw in The Wilderness but he slid around Lee's right flank and turned south. The rebels anticipated him and he was forced into another terrible no decision contest at Spottsylvania.

He repeated the maneuver by the flank and again headed toward Richmond. Now his army was strung out among the fields on which McClellan had contended. Again Lee reacted efficiently and promptly. What then transpired, from the Union point of view, was a ghastly tragedy. Grant inexcusably gave the overall command to General Meade and himself retired to the rear. The corps commanders were ill prepared (in their minds) for another major battle. The troops were worn out and pessimistic. Scouting was not done at all. In the move forward the corps failed to support each other. The attack was mercifully abandoned after couple of hours. It was an unmitigated disaster.

John Bell Hood was probably the least competent commander the Confederates had in the entire war. Hood's sole qualification was that he would fight.



He was personally brave and had been severely wounded several times. Richmond had run out of patience with Joseph Johnson and named Hood to try to save Atlanta. He repeatedly attacked Sherman and lost every time. After Atlanta he played cat and mouse with the Yankees. Sherman gave up trying to corner him, led the most of his army across Georgia, and left George Thomas to deal with Hood.

Thomas organized his main force to a defense of Nashville and had one strong corps under John Schofield detached to keep Hood from breaking away again. He needn't have fretted. Hood was headed nowhere else and his rapidly moving army actually passed Schofield and got between him and Nashville. But the Union scouts were more alert than the rebels and Schofield retrieved his situation by slipping past the Confederates and setting up a strong defensive position at Franklin.

Hood was properly advised by his cavalry chief that he could again by-pass Franklin and get between Schofield and Nashville. But Hood was furious. He berated his subordinates for allowing the Yankees to get past him. He wanted to fight. Tactically it was not a bad decision. Why not engage Thomas' army piece meal. Eliminating Schofield would make Nashville that much easier. There was one thing he didn't consider -- the Yankee defensive position at Franklin was well nigh impregnable. But he threw his entire army into an assault. It was mercilessly cut down.

Matt Slattery

What! John Bell Hood was a worse general than Braxton Bragg?
It just can't be, it just can't be.

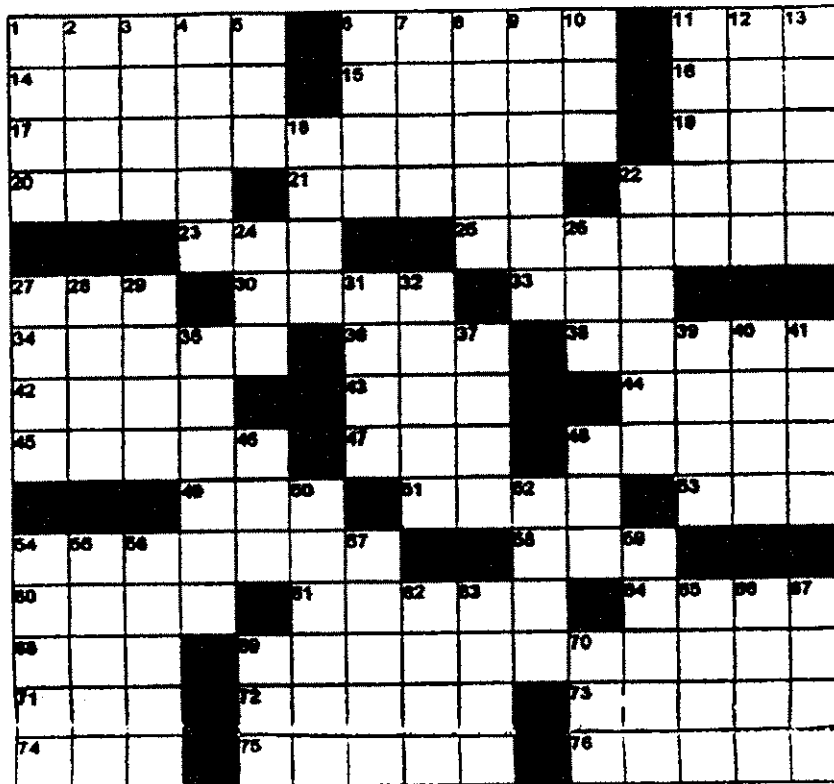
Editor's note

FRIENDS OF CHICKAMAUGA & CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK COMMEMORATIVE CROSSWORD

by Fred Piscop

ACROSS

1. Rough and disorderly
6. Mother: prefix
11. Provide with weapons
14. Milo of "Barabarella"
15. "Some Like ____" (1959 Marilyn Monroe film)
18. ____ and Gordon's mill (17-Across landmark)
17. Battle in which Bragg defeated Rosecrans
19. "The ____ Daba Honeymoon"
20. The Green Hornet's assistant
21. Missionary ____ (69-Across landmark)
22. Secondhand
23. Silence sound
25. Surprise suddenly
27. Benching device, for short
30. The Friends of the ____
33. Bro's sib
34. ____ Lookout (popular place for picture-taking at 69-Across)
36. La-la lead-in
38. Exhumed
42. Treat for Fido
43. ____'s Tavern (site of an arms cache found by the Lightning Brigade)
44. "Cracker ____" (Federal's supply route)
45. Oktoberfest vessel
47. Right-angled pipe
48. Jeff C. ____ (Division leader under Rosecrans)
49. Custer's first name, abbreviated
51. Captain Hook's henchman
53. D.D.E.'s W.W.II command
54. ____ Knob (69-Across landmark)
58. Commanded the troops
60. Hawaii mementos
61. Get the wrinkles out
64. "If ____ a Hammer"



68. Potok's "My Name Is Asher ____"
69. Battle in which Grant defeated Bragg
71. Infamous Amen
72. Singer Page
73. Decorate
74. Immigrant's course: Abbr.
75. Auto-racing family name
76. Adolph Ochs's business

DOWN

1. Gen. George H. Thomas's 17-Across nickname
2. Work-safety agcy.
3. The least bit
4. Interior design
5. Tibetan ox
6. Benzell of stage
7. Just ____ (tiny amount)
8. Hoodlums
9. Thesaurus
10. "Isn't ____ pity?"
11. Make ____-ditch effort
12. One of Bragg's men

13. Battle of Gettysburg victor
18. This act imposes penalties for removing Chickamauga Battlefield's resources
22. Actress Andress
24. Perfectly put
26. Give an assist to
27. N.Y.P.D. broadcasts
28. Horn sound
29. First word of "The Battle hymn of the Republic"
31. Noose need
32. Mentholated cigarettes
35. Horses' sounds
37. Confederate Brigadier General Benjamin Hardin ____
39. Take's partner
40. One of five at The Park
41. Mexican monetary unit
46. Teachers' org.
48. Actor Billy ____ Williams
50. 37-Down's "____ Brigade"

52. Lanchester or Maxwell
54. Stan's friend, in old films
55. ____ Bridge (17-Across landmark)
56. War Roundtable
57. Mild oaths
59. Electron tube type
62. Suffix with luncheon or kitchen
63. Use a swizzle stick
65. Confederate general John Bell ____
66. Farm: Prefix
67. Asst. Secretary of War Charles A. ____, who ordered Col. Wilder's retreat
69. PC's "brain"
70. "Platoon" land, for short



WILLIAM T. SHERMAN

GIVES A LESSON IN DIPLOMACY

BY MARILYN DEBALTZO

On the arrival of General Sherman at Savannah, he saw a large number of British flags displayed from buildings, and had a curiosity to know how many British Consuls there were there. He soon ascertained that these flags were on buildings where cotton had been stored away, and at once ordered to be seized. Soon after that, while the General was busily engaged at headquarters, a pompous gentleman walked in, apparently in great haste, and inquired if he was General Sherman. Having received an affirmative reply, the pompous gentleman remarked, "that when he left his residence, United States troops were engaged in removing cotton from it, when it was protected by the British flag."

"Stop, sir!" said General Sherman; "**not your cotton, sir, but my cotton**, - In the name of the United States Government, sir. I have noticed," continued Sherman, "a great many British flags all about here, protecting cotton. I have seized it all, in the name of my Government."

"But, sir," said the Consul, indignantly, "there is scarcely any cotton in Savannah that does not belong to me."

"There is not a pound of cotton here, sir, that does not belong to me, for the United States," responded Sherman.

"Well, sir," said the Consul, swelling himself up with the dignity of his office, and reddening in the face; "my Government shall hear of this. I shall report your conduct to my Government, sir!"

"Ah! Pray, who are you, sir?" said the General.

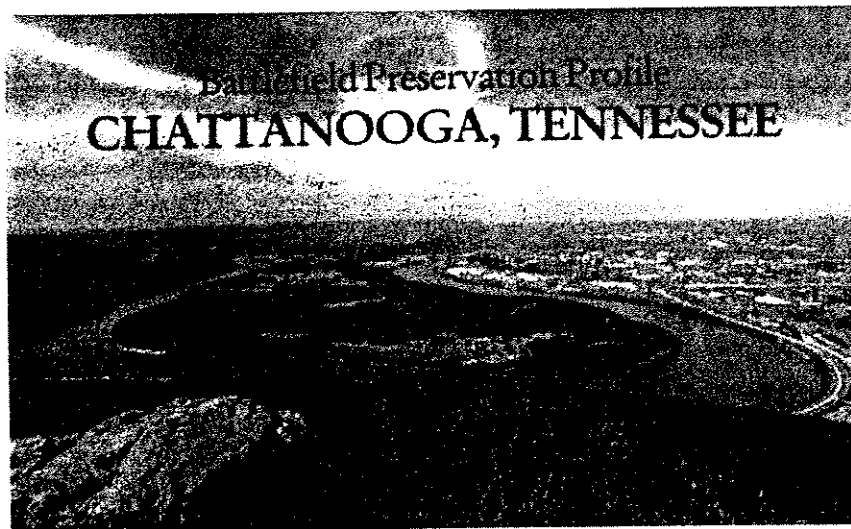
"Consul to Her British Majesty, sir!"

"Oh indeed!" responded the General. "I hope you will report me to your Government. You will please say to your Government, for me, that I have been fighting the English Government all the way from the Ohio River to Vicksburg, and thence to this point. At every step I have encountered British arms, British munitions of war, and British goods of every description- at every step- sir. I have met them, sir, in all shapes; and now sir, I find you claiming all the cotton, sir. I intend to call upon my Government to order me to Nassau at once."

"What do you propose to do there?" asked the Consul, somewhat taken a back.

"I would," replied the General, "take with me a quantity of picks and shovels, and throw that cursed sand-hill into the sea, sir; and then I would pay for it, sir- if necessary! **Good day, sir.**"

**Marilyn DeBaltzo is an admitted William T. "Cump" Sherman buff and a new member of the Cleveland CWRT.*



After his defeat at Chickamauga, Georgia, in September 1863, an unnerved Union Brig. Gen. William S. Rosecrans ordered his Army of the Cumberland to withdraw to Chattanooga. The city, captured by the Union earlier that September, was the hub of several railroads providing access to all parts of the Confederacy. Concerned about the situation at Chattanooga, in October, President Lincoln ordered Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant take control of the Federal armies in the West. Grant removed Rosecrans as commander of the Army of the Cumberland, installed Brig. Gen. George H. Thomas in Rosecrans' place, and immediately undertook step to raise the Confederate siege of Chattanooga. Gen. Braxton Bragg's Confederates were deployed on and along Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, south and east of Chattanooga. From these positions, the Confederates threatened both the city and its supply lines along the Tennessee River. Bragg planned to hold the city under siege and force the Union troops out of Tennessee. Nevertheless, Grant was able to open a supply line to the city from the west that allowed him to mount an offensive against the Confederates on November 23-25. The ensuing Union victory lifted the siege of the city and decimated the morale of the Confederacy. Chattanooga's railroads became the Union's gateway into ~ Deep South. Preservation at the site began in 1890 when Congress established the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park to commemorate the battle. Small portions the battlefields were purchased and, over the next 20 years, various veterans groups and state commissions installed

numerous monuments on these small battlefield reservations. In the 1930's, local residents donated more than 2,400 acres on Lookout Mountain to the National Park Service. In 1966, 2,700 acres of the battlefield (the boundaries of the park) were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. No historically significant land has been added to the park in more than 50 years. The Secretary of the Interior established the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) in 1990. That same year Congress and the

Secretary appointed the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission to study and rank the nation's Civil War battle fields. In the 1993 *Civil War Site Advisory Commission Report*, the Chattanooga Battlefield was identified as one of this country's top 50 priority battlefield sites for preservation. Recent preservation activities at the site include The Civil War Trust's adding the site to its Civil War Discovery Trail in 1995. In 1996, the ABPP funded the Chattanooga Area Civil War Sites Assessment (CACWSA), a joint effort of the community and the park to identify and encourage the protection of Civil War battlefield resources located outside the park boundaries.

Last year the ABPP awarded two grants to facilitate preservation activity as recommended by the CACWSA. The Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park, Inc., received a grant to identify and evaluate significant battlefield features within Moccasin Bend, prepare a report describing activities there that were key to the Chattanooga Campaign, and provide preservation and interpretation recommendations for Civil War resources at the site. The second grant was awarded to Reflection Riding, a 300-acre botanical park, historical site and nature preserve, to evaluate cultural resources on the portions of the Lookout Mountain and Wauhatchie battlefields that it owns. Today 2,700 acres of this 25,429 acre battlefield are protected.

For more information on the protection of this site, contact Jim Ogden, Historian, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, P.O. Box 2128, Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742, or call (423)752-5213 ext. 116.



Towards Another Freedom

African American Soldiers in the War between the States

By David Thomas*

"We are going down to Dixie's Land, to carry the sword and the constitution; you will hear from us before long. We expect to take Secesh, box him up, label him "dead," and send him to Bunker Hill, on or before the Fourth of July. Then the banner of liberty will go up. "Governor" William H. Johnson, an African American member of the 8th Connecticut Infantry, spoke for many of his fellow black soldiers when he made this patriotic address in 1861. Their optimism about the speed of victory was not well founded. But their enthusiasm for the cause was clear. This was not to be just a war to preserve the Union, or a fight by white soldiers on behalf of black slaves. This was also to be part of the long struggle of black men and women "towards another freedom," who, when given a chance to serve, showed their courage and valor in battle.

In the Civil War, there were a total of about 166 black regiments, with a total of 186,000 black soldiers in those regiments. Only four of those regiments maintained their state name throughout the war: the Twenty-ninth Connecticut Infantry Regiment, the Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth Massachusetts Infantry Regiments and the Fifth Massachusetts Colored Cavalry Regiment. The rest were redesignated United States Colored Troops after the establishment of the Bureau of Colored Troops on May 22, 1863.

While many of the commissioned officers were white, 109 black men were commissioned officers in black regiments. More important than leadership statistics, however, was the terrible toll in lives lost. About 38,000 blacks gave their lives fighting to restore the Union and end the institution of slavery that had so devastated their people for centuries. Their casualty rate was 40% higher than that of white soldiers. Proving that they were just as good soldier as whites. Sixteen blacks received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Sergeant William H. Carney of the famous Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Colored Regiment, who carried the regimental colors up Battery Wagner on July 18, 1863, even after being wounded several times in the chest and head. Afterwards he said to the surviving men of the Fifty-fourth, "The old flag never touched the ground, boys." Also thirteen white officers, who served black regiments received the Congressional Medal of Honor, unfortunately, none from the Massachusetts Fifty-fourth. Given the courageous contributions of black soldiers in the Union Army, it seems quite likely that the Civil War would have ended sooner if blacks had been allowed to take up arms at the beginning of the war.

***David Thomas is a Junior at Shaker Heights High School and a junior member of the Cleveland CWRT.**

The story of African Americans in the Civil War combined tragedy and triumph, the struggle for freedom and the persistent evil of racism. In 1865, the black chaplain of the Twenty eighth United States Colored Infantry, Garland H. White, wrote, "The historian pen cannot fail to locate us somewhere among the good and the great, who have fought and bled upon the altar of their country." Blacks did fight - and die - bravely, but before they could even take up their weapons and put on their uniforms they had to fight the attitudes of whites in both the North and the South which would bar them from taking part in the struggle for their own freedom. In the end, however, their courage helped change attitudes and open the way toward acceptance as equals, not only in the army, but in the larger society. That may have been the greatest victory of all. American composer Charles Ives spoke for many when he wrote these words, now etched in the memorial sculpture by Augustus Saint-Gaudens dedicated to African American soldiers that stands on the Boston Common:

Moving - Marching - Faces of Souls!

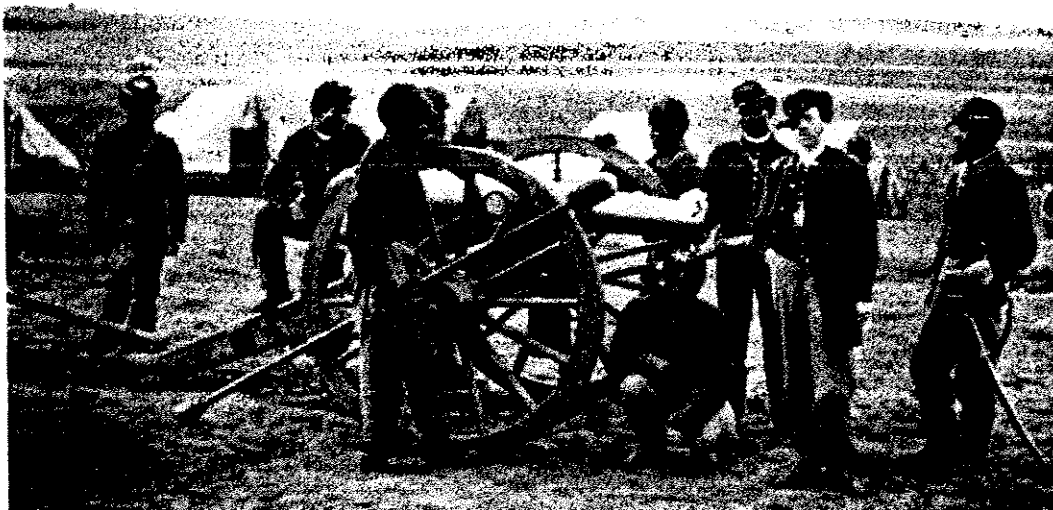
Marked by generations of pain,

Part-freers of a Destiny,

Slowly, restlessly - swaying us on with you

Towards another Freedom!

David Thomas



Battery A, 2nd U.S. Colored Artillery, Army of the Cumberland

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
601 South La Salle Building, Suite C-817
Chicago, Illinois 60605
Phone: 847-698-1438

Editor's Note: At left is the logo of the Chicago Roundtable. Chicago was first in the roundtable movement which now numbers about 300 clubs in the United States, and some as far away as Australia.

The following is a eulogy by our 1994 Cleveland Roundtable President Robert E. Battisti on the passing of Ralph Newman, founder of the Chicago Roundtable.

"Father" of the Roundtable Movement Leaves Legacy

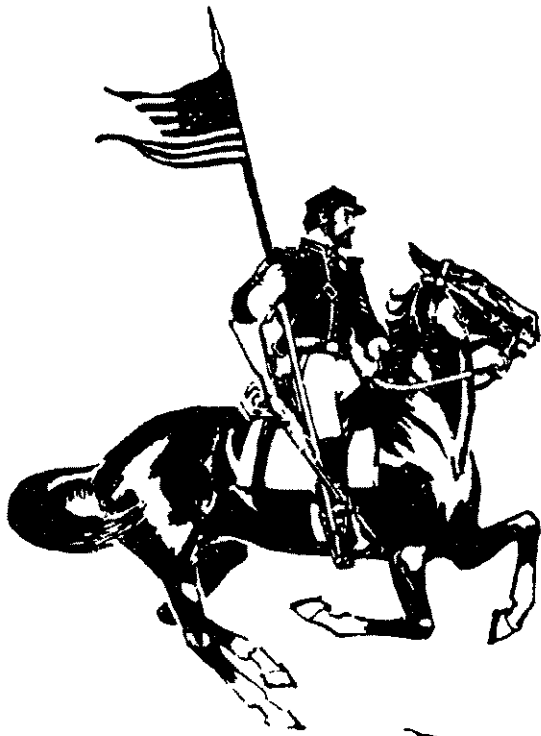
Ralph Newman, founder of the Chicago Civil War Roundtable died recently at age 86. He will never be forgotten because he tapped into the underlying interest in the most significant phase in American history since the founding of our country. The New York Times death notice mentioned that Mr. Newman provided books to every president from Herbert Hoover to Bill Clinton. Mr. Newman was a close friend of Carl Sandburg and was the author of about 20 books. He wrote extensively about Abraham Lincoln.

At the age of 22 Mr. Newman purchased a bookstore near the University of Chicago and decided to specialize in Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. His customers wanted Mr. Newman to succeed, so they helped him unpack and put the books on the shelves as they discussed the Civil War. Their common bond and enthusiasm resulted in having a lunch in the backroom to discuss their favorite subject. Soon after, they decided to formalize their activity to an evening meeting, with a speaker, followed by vigorous questions. All of this was wrapped in good fellowship. What a simple concept; and it lives today in over 300 Roundtables throughout the country.

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable was founded on this simple principle and owes its birth, to a great extent, to Mr. Newman. During the 50's it was common for Clevelanders to travel to Chicago to participate in those early meetings. Then, in 1956 Ken Grant and John Cullen started the CCWRT with Ralph Newman as their advisor. He was a speaker here in the early days and was one of the very first to receive our highest recognition, that of honorary life member.

This writer feels that we can best honor Mr. Newman by keeping the Cleveland Roundtable vigorous by continuing our tradition of having excellent speakers, followed by challenging questions and wrapped with a feeling of good fellowship.

Robert E. Battisti



Dick Crews
3673 Traver Road
Shaker Heights OH 44122

THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE PO BOX 18900 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118

THE CIVIL WAR BEGINS AGAIN SEPTEMBER 9, 1998

