

THE CHARGER

September, 1999

371 Meeting

Vol.21 #1



John Bell Hood

1831-1879

Born in Owingsville, Kentucky, Hood was graduated near the bottom of his West Point class in 1853. He served on the California and Texas frontiers, and in Texas he became a favorite of his commander, Robert E. Lee. He joined the Confederate cavalry in April 1861. A "fighting general," he commanded John Magruder's cavalry at Yorktown and, as a brigadier general (March 1862), he led the "Texas Brigade" at Gaines's Mill, Second Bull Run and Antietam. Promoted to major general (October 1862), he led a division under James Longstreet at Fredericksburg and Gettysburg (where he led the assault on Round Top on the second day and lost the use of his left arm). He commanded Longstreet's corps at Chickamauga, where Hood lost his right leg and earned a promotion to lieutenant general. He assumed command of the Tennessee Army and, riding strapped to his horse, directed the disastrous Atlanta and Franklin and Nashville campaigns. Relieved at his own request, he fought under P. G. T. Beauregard in Tennessee. He surrendered in Mississippi in May 1865. "The Gallant Hood," though no match for master tacticians like W. T. Sherman, was an unparalleled brigade and division commander. "Hood's Brigade" set a standard to which other troops aspired. After the war he was a New Orleans merchant. Financially ruined by the yellow fever epidemic of 1878, he himself succumbed to the disease the following year.

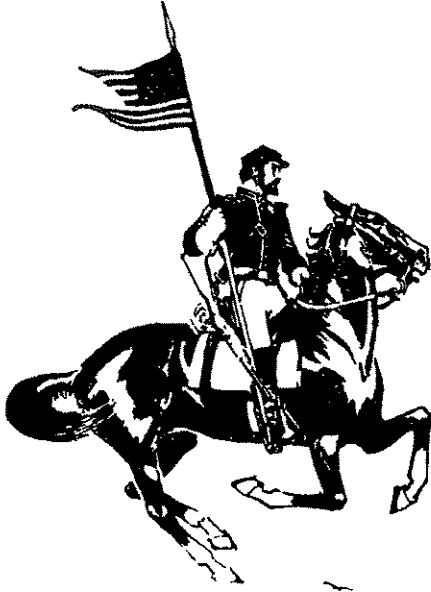
Tonight's Speaker:

Thomas Cartwright

Tom Cartwright is the director of Carter House, Franklin, Tennessee. He is the author an essay titled *Franklin, The Valley of Death* in the book titled, *A Meteor Shinning Brightly*.

Tom has appeared on the television specials: *Civil War Journal* and *The Irish in America*. He will appear on a two hour special this Fall, *Shiloh*, to be shown on the History Channel.

Date: September 8, 1999**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

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.

Yearly Club dues are \$40.00 per individual and \$60.00 per family.

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.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| President: Bob Boyda | Executive Committee | |
| Vice President: William Vodrey | Lou Braman | Tyler Sommershield |
| Secretary: Bill McGrath | Dick Crews | Dale Thomas |
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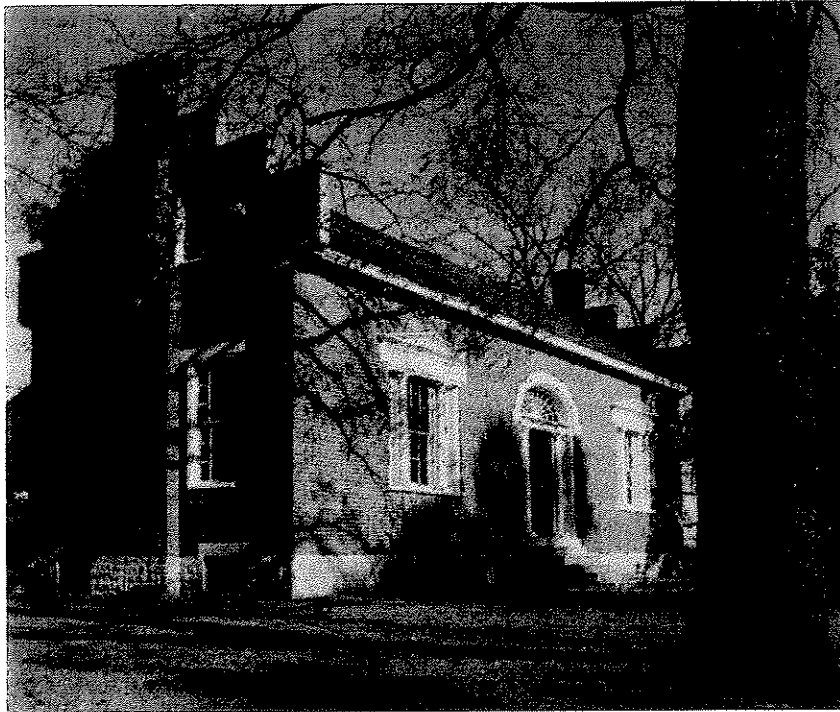
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PAST CLEVELAND C.W.R.T. PRESIDENTS	
1999 Dick Crews	
1998 John Moore	1977 James Chapman
1997 Dan Zeiser	1976 Milton Holmes
1996 John Sutula	1975 Thomas Gretter
1995 Norton London	1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh
1994 Robert E. Battisti	1973 Arthur Jordan
1993 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

Fall Field Trip

"On to Richmond"

September 16 -19, 1999



The Carter House

Franklin, Tennessee

The Carter home, and outbuildings just south of it, was at the epicenter of the battle of Franklin in the fading afternoon light of November 30, 1864. The Carter extended family, the Carter slaves, and Lotz neighbors all sheltered in the basement as the Confederates breakthrough and Federal countercharge raged about these buildings. Battle damage to the house has been mostly repaired over the years.

The Carter house is located at 1140 Columbia Pike, Franklin, Tennessee. The house receives 40,000+ visitors per year. The restored home is open for guided tours daily.

For information call 615-791-1861 or on the internet www.carter-house.org.

The Blue, The Gray and The Red

The Carter House

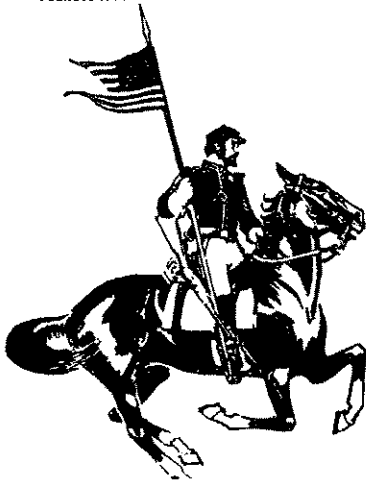
*A peaceful farm,
near a quiet village.
The Carters, and
the Blue, at home -
waiting for the Gray,
and the Red, to call.
Exploding shells,
Rebel yells -
War in their yard.
The family sheltered
beneath their house.
All, but one, safe
and that one,
a gray son, will die.
The Blue, the Gray,
their bloody battle,
now - sad history.
Memories of
a war torn country,
a war torn family
remain, in residence,
at the Carter House.*

*Mel Maurer
June 1998*

The excellent poem above was written by our member Mel Maurer.

Mel, lived for years in Franklin, Tennessee and obviously has strong feelings about the battle.

Founded 1957



The Cleveland Civil War Round Table PO Box 1800 Cleveland, Ohio 44118

This poster is available to members to place in your local library, bookstore, or school. Call Dick Crews 800-800-8310

November 10, 1999



William Quantrill
Confederate Raider - Outlaw
THOMAS GOODRICH

December 8, 1999

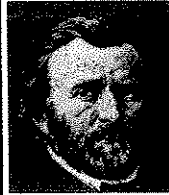


Union Soldier
An Ohio Soldier
DON ALLISON

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

September 8, 1999



John Bell Hood
The Battle of Franklin
THOMAS CARTWRIGHT

October 13, 1999



William B. Cushing
The sinking of the Albemarle
WILLIAM VODREY

Rifle Musket in the Civil War

By Neal Miere*

When the Civil War began neither the North nor South was prepared for the great struggle that would take place. This lack of preparation was especially true in regard to the tactics that Civil War soldiers used. The efficiency of infantry assault tactics to move men into position to use shock action was decreasing. At the same time the killing power of the standard infantry weapon was increasing due to technology.

These two forces on Civil War battlefields in a violent and lethal combination. The standard weapon before the Civil War was smoothbore musket, which had a maximum effective range of 75 yards and was generally ineffective after 50 yards. Generals of the time had accepted the tactics that had proven successful on the battlefield for more than 200 years, most recently in America's successful war with Mexico.

Attackers were to march to within 50 to 75 yards of the defenders, fire a volley with the musket, and then charge the enemy works, all the while shouting "Hurrah!" The soldier's principal weapon then became the bayonet.

Once engaged in close combat, attackers and defenders bayoneted, butt-stroked, or clubbed each other until one side broke and ran. These tactics were fundamental warfare when the armies of the North and South first clashed at Manassas.

The smoothbore musket was virtually little more than a pipe with a trigger and a firing mechanism attached to a shoulder stock. The infantryman loaded his weapon pouring gunpowder down the musket's barrel, tamping the powder down with a long rod, and then adding small, packed wad of cloth to hold in the powder. Next he added the musket ball, a one-ounce round sphere also tamped down with the long rod. This eighteen-step process took more than 30 seconds to accomplish.

When the infantryman fired his weapon, the expanding gases of the exploding gunpowder forced the musket ball out of the barrel. It is at this point that the problem with the accuracy of the smoothbore musket began. As the musket ball left the barrel, whatever side the barrel it touched last gave it a spin in that direction.

CIVIL WAR SMALL ARMS



Much like a "curve ball" in baseball, the musket ball's spin imparted a distinct direction of flight. But, unlike the well-practiced curve ball, the direction of flight could not be predicted.

Various Civil War authors hold different opinions on the effective range of the smoothbore musket. One oft-quoted source, Jack Coggins, contends that the smoothbore was not very effective after 50 yards. Other sources give ranges that vary, but the majority agree with Coggins, who did his own research with British Army smoothbores. Coggins' work showed that at 50 yards the smoothbore could put most of its shots into an 18-inch diameter circle, but at 100 yards the 18-inch circle widened to three or four feet

Statistically, that meant a man-sized target presenting a two-foot wide exposure at chest height would be missed by every second round fired at him. The accuracy dropped off in geometric proportion as the range to the target increased. When Coggins fired at a target 11.5 feet high and 6 feet wide from a range of 200 yards, he could not get one in ten rounds to hit it. An attacking soldier 200 yards from a defender equipped with a smoothbore musket was safe except from the occasional stray round.

But in the first half of the nineteenth century, the smoothbore musket had undergone a number of evolutionary changes to increase its effectiveness and simplify its use. One of the changes that simplified usage was the addition of the percussion cap. In 1807 a Scottish clergyman, Alexander Forsythe, developed a method of putting explosive powder in a small metal cap. The cap would be snugly fitted over the touchhole of a musket and then struck with the weapon's hammer, igniting the powder. The ignition would flash through the touchhole and subsequently ignite the powder in the weapon. Forsythe's invention, the percussion cap, within a few years became a copper cap filled with fulminate of mercury. The advantage of the percussion cap was that it gave the infantryman a relatively all-weather weapon.



President's Letter:

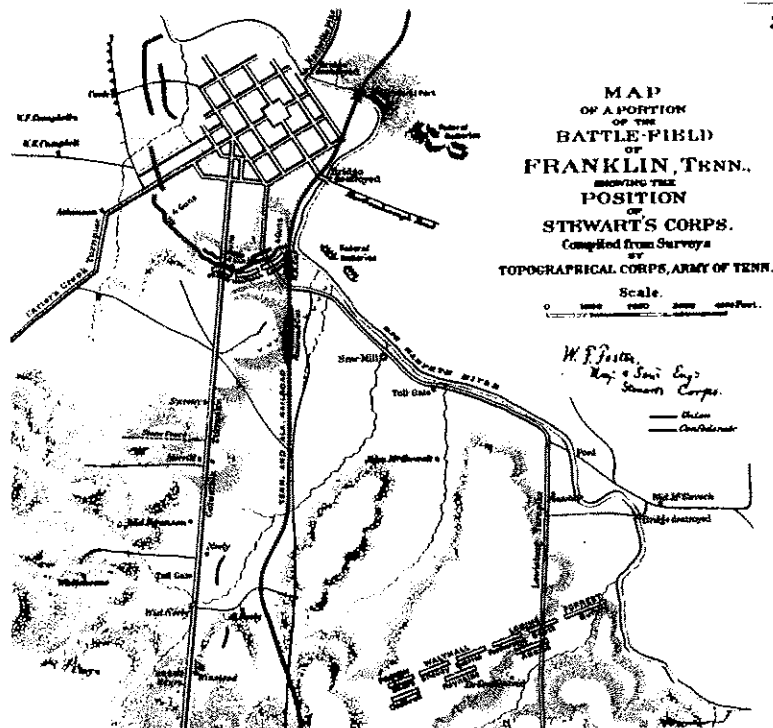
Wow, I cannot believe that my year as President of The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable is about to begin. I consider it a true privilege to have the opportunity to hold this office as the club moves into the 21st century. I trust that by sharing our interest in the greatest event in American history with others will help lead to someone else holding this position when the next century begins.

As I look forward to the list of speakers I see a well rounded spectrum of the war from east to west and north to south. We will have a mix of speakers who will join us from out of town and members of our own club. In the instances where a speaker has written a book I have asked them to bring along copies that we can buy with autographs from the authors. Anyone with books by these individuals is invited to bring their copies for signature.

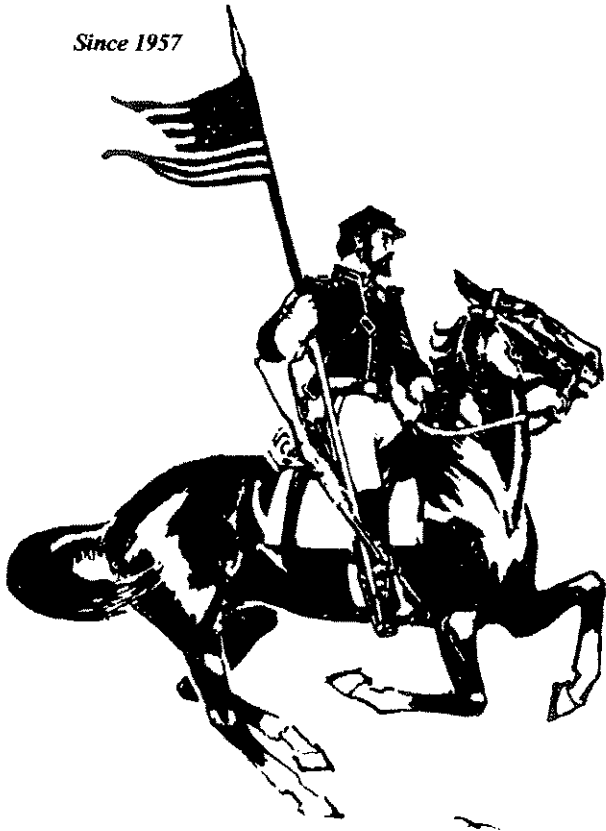
Of special interest to me will be the presentations that focus on the Western theater of the war and in particular the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee and Patrick Cleburne. I am also anxious to hear the opinions of Dave Smith of the Cincinnati (my long ago college town) Round Table on just how bad Braxton Bragg was. I trust others will share my enthusiasm for these subjects.

The schedule and arrangements with the Hermit Club are set and confirmed. However, as the year progresses I am sure there will be surprises. I know from past experiences that when a surprise occurs everyone will roll with the tide. As the year progresses please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions you may have. I will do my best to respond.

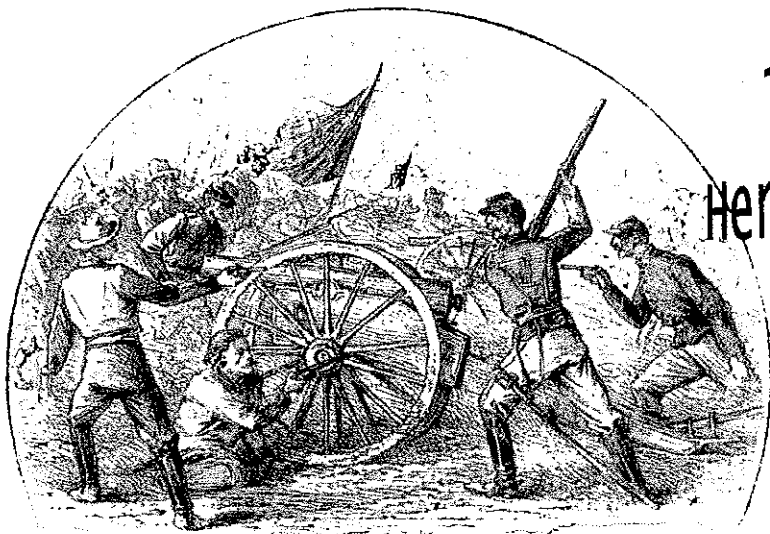
Bob Boyda



Since 1957



Cleveland Civil War Roundtable PO Box 18900 Cleveland, OH 44118



The Battle of Franklin
Hermit Club - Sept. 8, 1999

Confederate disaster