

THE CHARGER



The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

October 2024

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PROGRAM – “The Three
General Presidents:
Washington, Grant, and
Eisenhower”

SPEAKER – CCWRT Past
President Steve Pettyjohn

LOCATION: The Holiday
Inn Independence at 6001 Rockside Road,
Independence, Ohio 44131, off US Interstate 77

TIME: Social Hour at 6:00 PM and Presentation
at 7:00 PM

For reservations email:
ccwrtreserve@gmail.com. To ensure a dinner is
reserved for you, the reservation must be made
by Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Website:
<http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com>

MEETING – October 9, 2024

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President's Message

Fellow Roundtable Members:

As we continue our journey into the new season of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable, I am thrilled to share the highlights of our recent activities. Our September events set a high bar for the year ahead with our first meeting and annual Field Trip. So, sit back, grab your coffee and hardtack, and enjoy a fun recap of the significant events from September 2024!

Our September 11th meeting was a true delight! We kicked off the new season with a fantastic start, thanks to the remarkable Kellie Gormly. As both a seasoned journalist and an accomplished author, Kellie took us on a mesmerizing journey through the history of Swope Manor with her presentation, "Swope Manor: The Grand Inn Located in Downtown Gettysburg."

Her talk delved into the intriguing story of Gettysburg's wealthiest family during the Civil War—the Swopes—and their grand estate, Swope Manor. This impressive residence was more than just a symbol of luxury; it played a significant role during the Battle of Gettysburg. Kellie shared the poignant story of Lieutenant William Pohlman of the 59th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Pohlman, born in Borneo to missionary parents and later raised in Albany, New York, was a figure of remarkable bravery and dedication. Kellie provided moving excerpts from Pohlman's letters, offering a window into his wartime experiences and his reflections on the conflict's harsh realities. Despite initially recovering at Swope Manor, Pohlman's battle with an infection ultimately led to his death. She concluded by exploring Swope Manor's lasting legacy, detailing how it

endured through the battle and remained significant in the years that followed, reflecting its resilience and historical value. Kellie's talk sparked engaging discussions during our Q&A session, and we deeply appreciate her insightful and captivating presentation. We're thrilled to have started the season on such a high note and look forward to our next meeting in October.

From September 19 to 22, 67 participants set out on our highly anticipated Annual Field Trip to Gettysburg, PA. This year's trip was the largest we have organized in the history of the Roundtable. It was a perfect opportunity to immerse ourselves in the battlefield right as the fall season began, enhancing the experience of the changing autumn landscape. This trip to Gettysburg was nothing short of spectacular. Here's how it all unfolded:

September 19: We arrived in Gettysburg and settled into the Comfort Suites Hotel, just a short distance away from the Soldiers' National Cemetery and East Cemetery Hill. Bob Pence kicked off our adventure with an insightful talk, "Prelude to the Battle of Gettysburg & Buford's Stand on Day 1". Not only did he review the events that led up to the fighting on July 1st, 1863, but Bob did a fantastic job explaining the command structure and dynamics of the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia. The evening continued with a lively social hour where we mingled and shared the memories of past battlefield trips.

September 20: Our first full day was dedicated to exploring Day 1 of the Battle of Gettysburg. We began at the Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center, a pivotal landmark in the battle's history. After splitting into groups, we toured the

Thompson House (General Robert E. Lee's Headquarters), the Seminary Ridge Museum, and the Cupola. It was exhilarating to witness the joy on the faces of those who had visited Gettysburg before; their expressions brightened as they took in the view from the Cupola for the first time. Codie Eash led an insightful walking tour titled "The Final Attack: July 1st, 1863," which focused on the often-overlooked struggle for control of the area. He recounted the harrowing story of the 151st Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment (aka the "Schoolteachers' Regiment"). This unit faced intense combat after being repositioned around 2:30 PM due to a gap in the Northern brigades. They suffered significant losses, including their commander, Lt. Col. McFarland, who was seriously wounded. The regiment retreated to Cemetery Ridge, ending the day with just 92 survivors, resulting in a staggering 72% casualty rate—the second highest among Union regiments at Gettysburg. McFarland survived but required an amputation and spent two and a half months in the hospital. The 151st played a vital role in protecting the Union Army during the battle. Following the walking tour, we enjoyed a welcome break from the heat with lunch from Jersey Mike's in the Seminary Refectory. The afternoon continued with a car caravan tour led by Jon Thompson, who took us through McPherson Ridge, Oak Hill, Barlow Knoll, East Cemetery Hill, and the Soldiers' National Cemetery. Jon provided detailed insights into the actions that unfolded in these locations while encouraging us to consider the often-overlooked issue of PTSD among Civil War soldiers. He concluded his tour of the First Day at Gettysburg in a poignant manner by reading President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in the Soldiers' National Cemetery. Afterward, the group dispersed for the

evening, with members heading out to enjoy meals and drinks throughout the town.

September 21: The second full day of our field trip focused on Days 2 and 3 of the Battle of Gettysburg. We boarded a charter bus with Jon Thompson, who guided us to key sites including Little Round Top, The Wheatfield, The Peach Orchard, and the 1st Minnesota Monument. It was particularly special to visit Little Round Top for the first time since its \$12.9 million renovation. We also conducted a fun experiment to imagine what the sounds of battle might have been like, with everyone shouting "Huzzah" in unison like the 20th Maine. We also headed to Culp's Hill, the Union Right Flank, to learn more about the intense fighting that took place late on July 2nd and into the morning of July 3rd. Although most folks tend to focus on the afternoon actions of July 3rd, the seven hours of fighting at Culp's Hill on July 3, 1863 was the longest sustained battle of the Battle of Gettysburg. After a lunch break at the hotel, we continued our exploration of the climax of the battle. Our first stop was the Virginia Memorial on Seminary Ridge, where Jon provided background on Pickett's Charge (also known as Longstreet's Assault or the Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble Charge). Many in the group walked in the footsteps of the Virginians and North Carolinians to The Copse of Trees and the Highwater Mark of the Confederacy, a moving experience that deepened our understanding of the soldiers' challenges that day. Jon also highlighted the Union Defense along Cemetery Ridge including the courage of 1st Lt. Alonzo Cushing, the last recipient of the Medal of Honor from the Battle of Gettysburg. We concluded the day with a unique opportunity: special after-hours access to the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center. Our group was the only one allowed in since it was closed to the public, giving us

the chance to see the film, the famous Cyclorama painting of Pickett's Charge, and the museum exhibits. The evening wrapped up with a cocktail hour and a delicious dinner.

September 22: Our final day brought us to the restored George Spangler Farm, which served as the Union 11th Corps Field Hospital. The site has been meticulously renovated, featuring original buildings from the 1863 battle that invite exploration. Paul Semanek and other docents from the Gettysburg Foundation provided us with an in-depth look at the Spangler family, the history of the Field Hospital, and Civil War medicine. During the Battle of Gettysburg, over 1,900 wounded soldiers were brought to the Spangler Family Farm. Despite the chaos of battle and hospital operations, the Spangler family chose to remain, with all six members relocating to a single room in their home. The Pennsylvania Bank Barn served as the hospital where both Union and Confederate soldiers received care. Notably, records indicate that this is where Confederate General Lewis A. Armistead succumbed to wounds that he sustained during Pickett's Charge. Members then made their separate ways, some heading back home or others doing further site exploration on their own. It is safe to say that everyone learned something new and experienced a part of Gettysburg they hadn't seen before, fulfilling President Lincoln's charge regarding the "the great task remaining before us..."

For those who campaigned to Pennsylvania, I hope you enjoyed the trip as much as I did and gained a greater understanding and appreciation of Gettysburg's significance. A huge thank you to all our guides including Jon Thompson and Codie Eash, whose knowledge and passion truly shone through and left a lasting impression on everyone.

Jon's advice to "close your eyes, remove the monuments, and open them again to better tune into the battlefield" particularly resonated with me. I would especially like to give a big shout-out to Cpt. Robert M. Pence, the Field Trip Coordinator, for his exceptional behind-the-scenes efforts. His work in promoting the trip, sharing historical insights, coordinating with the hotel and other venues, and even scouting Gettysburg over the summer was invaluable. Lastly, I want to thank all the members for braving the late summer heat with such enthusiasm. Here's to many more adventures and shared experiences as we continue exploring Civil War history!

Coming up in October, former Roundtable President Steve Pettyjohn will take center stage. The presentation delves into the lives and careers of three U.S. Presidents who led critical military campaigns and later assumed the presidency: George Washington, Ulysses S. Grant, and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Each of these leaders crafted successful strategies for their wars, commanded bold campaigns, and exhibited notable traits such as strategic thinking, use of espionage, and effective leadership. The presentation explores their different reputations and how perceptions of them have evolved over time. It highlights both humorous comparisons and common characteristics that contributed to their successes.

I am excited to see you all at our next meeting in October! Looking forward to a great discussion and catching up with each of you.

Your obedient servant,

Gene Claridge

The Editor's Desk



Despite arguments to the contrary, it seems safe to say that charges of Federal election finagling are nothing new. During the 1864 elections, in the 24th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, incumbent Jesse Lazear, whom Republican newspapers in the state labeled a “copperhead,” opposed to Lincoln’s war measures, and advocating a negotiated peace with the South, was rivaled for reelection by George V. Lawrence, Republican and former Speaker of the Pennsylvania State Senate. At that time, Pennsylvania held state and congressional general elections in October and the Presidential election came in November. Tensions were high, and Captain John Cuthbertson, U.S. Provost Marshal for the 24th District received letters from various Republican Party leaders in the area complaining about the number of army deserters, non-reporting drafted men, and “copperheads” in his district, especially Greene County in the southwestern corner of the state. Republicans and War Democrats feared violence at political meetings and the polls. In addition, rampant rumors indicated that Knights of the Golden Circle, sympathizers to the Confederacy, were gathering arms in a couple townships on the

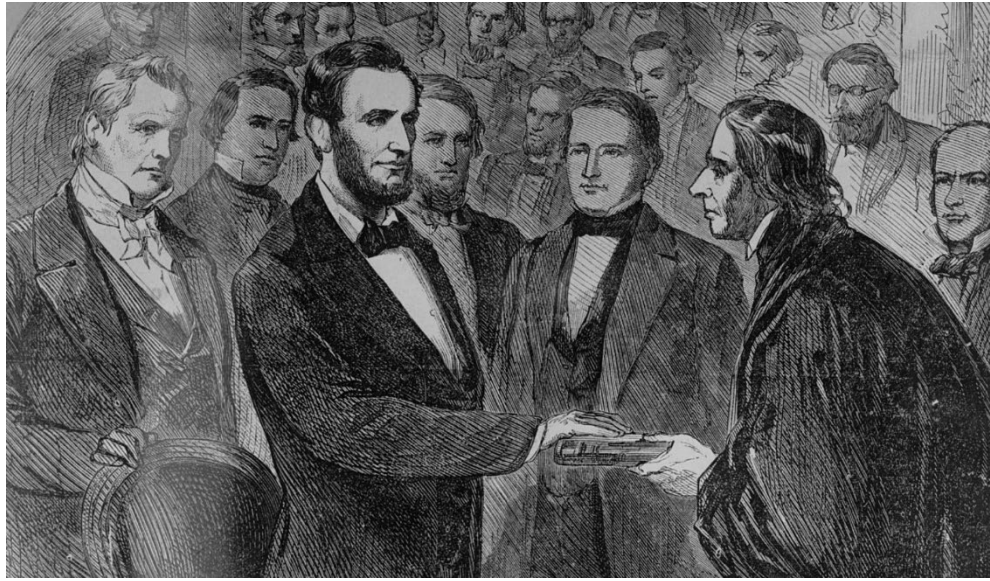
Mason-Dixon Line, Greene County’s southern border. Captain Charles W. Taylor, Assistant U.S. District Provost Marshal charged with enforcing the military draft law in the county, set sight on the October election. “Do you want anything done,” he asked Cuthbertson, “by having soldiers at the polls to arrest deserters? If so, notify me in time.” Receiving no reply, two days before the election, 9 October 1864, Taylor informed Cuthbertson:

“You did not give me any instructions about how to proceed on election day – but I shall take the responsibility to send out a squad to each poll before daylight, and I think I shall be sure to get some [deserters]. I think I had better stay here until after election. I think I can kill more than one vote.”

On election day, Tuesday, 11 October 1864, Taylor dispatched seven separate detachments of soldiers that he stationed at various election polls in the townships. He could only make limited use of cavalry, having only 16 serviceable horses in the stable in Waynesburg, the county seat. He used the men of Company F, 16th Veteran Reserve Corps (once known as the Invalid Corps) at some of the polls, transporting them by wagon. The next day, Taylor reported having three prisoners to transport and thought he might have more when the squads returned from the outer townships. He planned to give the cavalry a couple days rest and get the horses shod. He seemed happy to report to Cuthbertson that there was a general loss in the Democrat vote in the county.

The *Waynesburg Messenger*, the Democrat Party organ in the county, howled with indignation over the presence of soldiers at some of the township polling places. The editors were certain that the only excuse for their presence was for “intimidating the disaffected” and hampering the Democrat Party vote. In the event, however, despite Democrat party complaints, the presence of the military at some of the polls in Greene County did not have much impact. The Republicans had predicted that it would cost the Greene County Democrats 1200 votes. By the time the dust settled, however, it was clear that the Democrat majority in Greene County had only been reduced 42 votes from the majority in the gubernatorial

election in 1863. As a harbinger of what the soldier vote would be in the November presidential election, Captain Taylor observed that, in Greene County, 95 soldiers voted for Republican Lawrence for Congress and 75 voted for Democrat Lazear. Lawrence won the district vote and the election, but the slight reduction in the Democrat majority in Greene County in October can probably be attributed to the votes of county War Democrats who joined with Republicans in a movement for unity over war policies.



Chief Justice Taney Administers the Oath of Office to President Lincoln, 1861

LINCOLN, TANEY AND EMANICIPATION

By John Fazio

In the earlier years of their careers, Abraham Lincoln and Roger Taney (pronounced Tawny) had much in common, or so it appeared. This went beyond the fact that both were tall, gaunt and somewhat cadaverous looking and frequently dressed in ill-fitting clothing. Both believed that

they were instruments of God's will; both were known for personal integrity, fairness and compassion for people less fortunate than themselves; and both were outstanding trial lawyers. Further, they both believed in a strong central government and both opposed slavery. But whereas Lincoln would maintain his view of slavery, Taney would not. The latter changed his view, because he believed that without the institution, and without the right to extend it into the territories, the South would be overwhelmed by the rapidly growing North.

Then, in 1857, came the notorious Dred Scott decision of the Supreme Court, commonly recognized now as the worst decision in the history of the Court. Officially known as *Dred Scott v Sandford*, the case involved a slave who claimed his freedom by virtue of the fact that his master had taken him into a free state (Illinois) and a free territory (the Louisiana Territory, where slavery was prohibited by the Missouri Compromise of 1820). The Court, which was dominated by five pro-Southern and three compliant Northern Democratic Justices, ruled against Scott. Speaking for the 5-4 majority, Chief Justice Taney, who believed that the Court was resolving judicially what had thus far not been resolved legislatively or by the Executive, held that Scott, as a black man, was an inferior being who had no constitutional right that any white man was bound to respect, as had been shown, said Taney, by colonial and United States history. Further, Taney ruled that the Federal government had no power to ban slavery in the territories. This ruling, not surprisingly, set Lincoln and Taney firmly against each other for the rest of their lives. It also hardened the lines between the country's pro-slavery and anti-slavery elements, contrary to Taney's fatuous pronouncement that the decision was "the law of the land".

Lincoln attacked the Dred Scott decision in his famous 1858 debates with Stephen Douglas, which were held as part of the Senatorial campaign that year. (Douglas won the election.) He also attacked it in his Presidential campaign of 1860 and in his First Inaugural address. He held firmly to the view that he had no Constitutional authority to interfere with the institution of African slavery in the states where it already existed, and therefore would not do so, but that the government had every right to prohibit its expansion into the territories.

Lincoln and Taney also differed strongly on the issue of secession, Taney, of course, holding that it was lawful, and Lincoln holding that it was not. Lincoln expressed his view on the subject in his First Inaugural address.

The third major disagreement between these public figures had to do with the Writ of Habeas Corpus, referred to by legal scholars as "The Great Writ of Habeas Corpus", because its genesis is the Magna Carta of the 13th century and because it challenges authority to justify the holding of any person against his or her will. The dispute arose when Lincoln suspended the writ in 1861, giving as his authority for doing so Article I, Section 9, of the Constitution, which authorized the suspension of the writ "when in cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it". In response, Taney, in his capacity as a Circuit Justice, declared Lincoln's suspension unlawful in the case of *Ex Parte Merryman*, arguing that inasmuch as Article I of the Constitution related to the powers of the legislative authority, only Congress could suspend the writ during emergencies. Lincoln did not respond directly or immediately to the *Merryman* decision, but later made his case to the Congress in a July 4 address. The issue became moot when, in March

1863, the Congress confirmed Lincoln's suspension of the writ for the duration of the conflict when "the public safety may require it".

In view of all this conflict between Lincoln and Taney, Lincoln, of course, realized, when he took office, that if he was going to save the Union he would have to do battle not only with Peace Democrats, sometimes referred to as Copperheads, in the Congress, but also with a Supreme Court that was dominated by Southern sympathizers and spineless Peace Democrats and led by an avowed racist. Lincoln, therefore, knew that he would have to craft his policies in such a way as to circumvent that authority, because to placate it would have been fatal to the causes of Union and Emancipation. Accordingly, Lincoln would promulgate his Emancipation Proclamation under authority of his war powers, i.e. his authority as Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, as set forth in the Constitution, thus giving the Proclamation enough legality to survive the conflict of Civil War, but perhaps not more than that. Thus, it was that Lincoln pushed hard, indeed very hard, in the closing days of his Administration, for the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which he knew was the only iron-clad way to permanently abolish the institution of African slavery on American soil. That is to say that he had little faith that the Emancipation Proclamation would survive a challenge before Taney's Supreme Court. He didn't make it by much. Less than four months after Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment in January 1865, a bullet from John Wilkes Booth's Derringer pistol put an end to the President's magnificent work and political genius. The Amendment was finally ratified by sufficient states in December 1865.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Before he passed, John sent us several articles for inclusion in "The Charger." He wanted to be sure that these articles were shared with the members of the CCWRT.]

CONGRATULATIONS to Past President **Brian Kowell, a frequent contributor to The Charger, on the announcement of his recent news that he has been accepted as a member of the Emerging Civil War. He began writing for the Emerging Civil War in 2021 and authored an article about Buckland Races in the journal, America's Civil War.*

***On another note, CONGRATULATIONS, to **Dennis Keating** on the publication of his instructional material on "The Grand Review" in Essential Civil War Curriculum:*

Keating, Dennis W. "The Grand Review," in *Essential Civil War Curriculum*. Blacksburg: Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, June 2024, <https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/the-grand-review/>, accessed June 27, 2024.



Several Civil War Round Tables Come Together for A Gettysburg Weekend

By Paul Siedel

On the evening of September 19 four Civil War Round Tables met at the Comfort Inn in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania for a Gettysburg weekend. Represented were the Cleveland CWRT, Northeast Ohio CWRT, Cape Fear North Carolina CWRT, and the Bucks Co. Pennsylvania CWRT. This was all put together by our expert planner Bob Pence who did an excellent job for us. We each received a weekend schedule at the lecture meeting on Thursday night and listened to Bob tell us about the organization of the Army of the Potomac and Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Afterwards Bob received an award: a custom made kepi for all his efforts helping to steer the organization through some tough times and bring us out on top. What a great start to a great weekend. We all met early the next morning and drove in convoy to The Lutheran Seminary Museum. We toured the Museum and were given a bonus when we were taken up to the Cupola on the roof of the building and got to survey the entire battlefield as Lee and Buford saw it from that spot on that fateful day in July of 1863. We then went to the refurbished Lee's Headquarters and saw the amazing work done by The American Battlefield Trust in restoring

both the headquarters building and the surrounding property. A docent from the Trust was there and answered questions for the group. After a satisfying box lunch at the Seminary, we all went again in convoy for a tour of the Battlefield with our guide Jon Thompson. We visited McPherson's Ridge and saw where General Reynold fell, then made our way to the Eternal Peace Light Memorial, Barlow's Knoll and the Soldiers' National Cemetery Where Bob played "Taps" and Jon read the Gettysburg Address, very moving. We then returned to the hotel before making our way to dinner at any restaurant we chose and there is a great assortment there in Gettysburg.

On Saturday we met at breakfast and departed in an air-conditioned bus for Little Round Top, The Wheatfield, and Culp's Hill among other points of interest. Once again, we had a dynamite box lunch at the Comfort Inn and then headed for The Confederate lines on Seminary Ridge. Once there Jon gave us a great lecture on Pickett's Charge before actually walking the path of that great event in American History. What a moving experience!! Afterwards we returned to the hotel and got ready for the banquet. It was held at the new Visitor's Center, and it was an afterhours event, so we were the only ones there. The movie and Cyclorama were open and attended by museum staff for our benefit. Our meal was a sit-down affair and consisted of several delicious choices. There was a cash bar open for us with a nice assortment of drinks both alcoholic and nonalcoholic.

On Sunday September 22 we again made our way in convoy to the newly restored George Spangler Farm just outside Gettysburg. Here we broke up into groups and went into the farmhouse and barn for lectures on medical practices during the 1860s and although germs had not yet been discovered many of the basic medical practices were not primitive as I had been led to believe. In the house we learned about the Spangler Family and how they chose to stay when the War swooped down and devastated their beloved farm and ruined their livelihood tearing down the fences, killing and eating the livestock and using furniture for operations and amputations. I have been to Gettysburg several times but have never been to this site. What a moving experience to see the floors on which wounded soldiers were stretched out and the spot where General Lewis Armistead was laid down and shortly after that died there in the summer kitchen.

Thus ended our three-day sojourn to the Battlefield of Gettysburg. Having been there several times as I have said I was amazed at how much has been added to the park and how people have gathered together to save sites that were threatened. The downtown section of Gettysburg itself also holds something for everyone, several people went shopping and took a tour of the David Wills House where Lincoln stayed before giving the Gettysburg Address. I was amazed at the number of scout troops, and church groups etc. that were there enjoying learning about our history. I would encourage members of our round tables here in northeast Ohio to join with each other and take advantage of the field trips when offered. I had several new experiences last weekend that I never would have had if I had not been with the group. As I said they are adding new sites to the Park each year and from what I saw they are great additions and well worth visiting. Once again I personally would like to thank Bob Pence for all the effort he put forth to make this a very enjoyable weekend for everyone.



Brave Buckeye Women in Blue: Ohio Women Soldiers in the Civil War

By Brian D. Kowell © August 2024

No one knows the exact number of women soldiers who served in the American Civil War. Historians DeAnne Blanton and Lauren M. Cook, who chronicled 240 women in uniform in their book, *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War*, estimate that over 400 served North and South. The American Battlefield Trust estimates that the number could be as high as 700 women who served in uniform. “The full extent of women’s participation as armed combatants in America’s bloodiest and most costly conflict will never be known with certainty,” wrote Blanton and Cook, “because women soldiers fought for the most part in secrecy.” Some followed their husbands or sweethearts off to war, some escaped from domestic

abuse or poverty, and others served for patriotic reasons. Many women soldiers hailed from Ohio.ⁱ

Mary Smith, a 21-year-old Ohioan, passed herself off as a man and enlisted in the 41st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. She joined not only for patriotic reasons, but to avenge the death of her only brother at Bull Run. She was sent to Camp Wood in Cleveland where she was described as "intelligent" and "good looking." She was soon suspected of being a woman due to her mannerisms as well as her ability to sew like a skilled professional. Her true gender was soon discovered and her soldiering career came to a swift end.ⁱⁱ

Having a distinctly female manner also gave away another disguised soldier in the 3rd Ohio Infantry. The young lady enlisted with her brother at Camp Jackson in Columbus, Ohio. They were both sent with the regiment to Camp Dennison for training. The two became separated and thinking he had been transferred to Pennsylvania, she went to her commanding officer to request a transfer there as well. In a remarkably soft voice she pleaded her case. The colonel, scanning her closely, said, "Young man, you are a woman." Soon tears burst from her eyes and she was discharged from the army.ⁱⁱⁱ

The 10th Ohio Cavalry was organized in Cleveland at Camp Taylor in October 1862. In February 1863, four months after enlisting, a woman soldier was discovered in their camp. When she was interviewed she gave her name as Henrietta Spencer from Oberlin, Ohio and said that she enlisted to avenge the death of her father and brother at Murfreesboro. Unfortunately for her, she was quickly sent packing for Oberlin.^{iv}

The 59th Ohio Volunteer Infantry was organized at Camp Ammen in Ripley, Ohio, and was led by Colonel James P. Fyffe, part of General Buell's Army of the Ohio. They fought at Shiloh under Buell and then at Stones River and at Chickamauga under General Rosecrans. The 59th was at Chattanooga and fought with Sherman's army to Atlanta until it was mustered out on October 31, 1864. Reportedly two-unnamed women served in the 59th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.^v

Catherine Davidson fought with the 28th Ohio Infantry at Antietam. The 28th Ohio Regiment was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Gottfried Becker and was part of Colonel George Crook's brigade in the IX Army Corps. The 28th Ohio was engaged along Antietam Creek, adjacent to the Lower Bridge, facing the 20th Georgia Infantry. Once the bridge was crossed by other troops, the 28th Ohio forded the creek and moved forward to the Lower Bridge Road, facing Drayton's and Kemper's brigades of D.R. Jones' division. The regiment lost 42 men, killed or wounded. One of those wounded was Catherine Davidson, suffering a terrible wound to her right arm.

Shortly after the battle, the Governor of Pennsylvania, Andrew Curtin, arrived on the field to help with the wounded. Davidson was one of the soldiers he consoled, and he helped her into an ambulance. Davidson, thinking she was dying, gave him her ring as a token of thanks. Army surgeons amputated Catherine Davidson's right arm between the shoulder and the elbow. Her secret was discovered on the operating table. She survived the wound but was dismissed from the army.

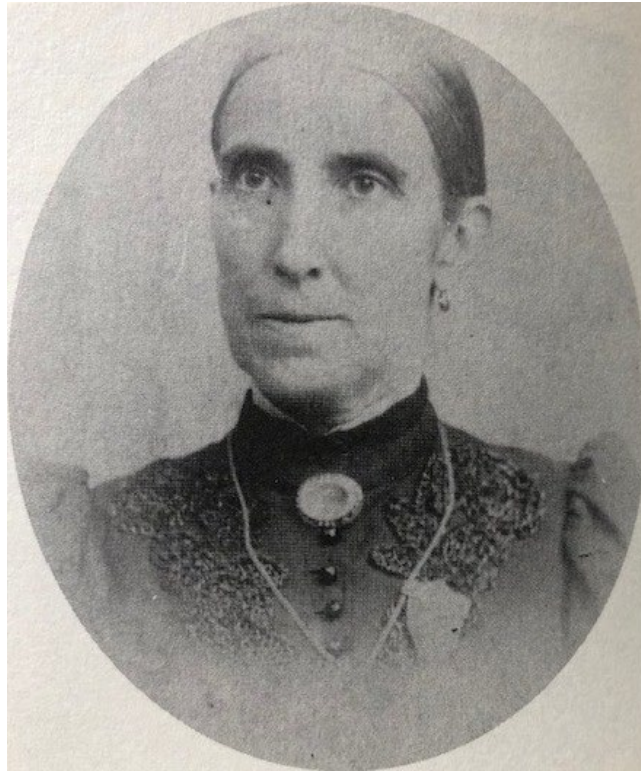
After her recovery, Davidson was in Philadelphia and called upon Governor Curtin who happened to be in the city at the Continental Hotel. Recognizing the governor, she rushed over to him, kissed him on the forehead, and poured out her thanks for his kindness to her. Catherine explained who she was and how they had previously met. She also reminded him that she had given him her ring on the battlefield. Curtin was stunned that the soldier he helped was a woman. He was wearing the ring and Davidson showed him her initials etched on the inside of the band. Governor Curtin offered the ring back, but Catherine wanted him to keep it saying, “The finger that used to wear that ring will never wear it anymore. The hand is dead, but the soldier still lives.”^{vi}



Ohio Veterans, including a woman soldier in the middle

There is a remarkable story in the *Cleveland Leader* titled “Romance of an Ohio Woman” about William Lindley and his wife Martha Parks Lindley. William decided to join the 6th U.S. Cavalry Regiment in 1861, and his wife Martha was determined to go with him. After entrusting her two children to the care of her sister, she enlisted as Private Jim Smith along with William. Once sworn in, her husband pleaded with her to go home, but she insisted on staying in the army. “I was frightened half to death,” she admitted, “but I was so anxious to be with my husband that I resolved to see the thing through [even] if it killed me.” In late 1861, Martha was promoted to sergeant but was later demoted. This happened again in the fall of 1862, when she was again promoted to sergeant only to be later demoted in rank. The cause for these demotions remains unclear. Martha faithfully served beside her husband for three years. She did spend ten months of

her enlistment detached on hospital duty as an orderly for the regimental surgeon. In the 1864 election, as Jim Smith, she was allowed to cast a ballot for Abraham Lincoln for President– the first and last vote of her life since women could not legally vote until 1919. In August 1864, upon the expiration of their terms of enlistment, Martha and William were mustered out of service. Through all that time, no one knew that Private Jim Smith was a woman.



Martha Parks Lindley

When William decided to reenlist in the 6th Ohio Cavalry, Martha said she'd had enough of war and went home. She retrieved her two children and waited for her husband's return. The couple was reunited in July 1865 and settled in Cleveland. Martha gave birth to two more children after the war. She was too busy raising her children after the war to speak publicly about her time in the army. "The fact that she served throughout the war is known to but a few of her friends and acquaintances," according to the *Cleveland Leader*. The couple apparently also shared their war stories with their children. To her family she was as much a hero as her husband. William Lindley died on July 3, 1899, and Martha passed away ten years later on December 15, 1909 at the age of 74. It was 30 years after the war when one of her children brought Martha's story to the public. The children had carefully saved their mother's uniform and pistol and handed them down from generation to generation.^{vii}

Many women followed their spouse, lover or relative to war. An Ohio woman, using the alias Private Joseph Davidson, followed her father into war. They fought side by side at Chickamauga where her father was killed in the battle. Her real name and unit are lost to history.^{viii}

Margaret Catherine Murphy also accompanied her father into the Union ranks. Father and daughter enlisted in the 98th Ohio Volunteer Infantry at Camp Mingo near Steubenville, Ohio. Margaret's father became the orderly sergeant of their company and looked out for his daughter. She recounted that "a few days after I enlisted, I was detected by my laugh and was suspected of being a woman. My father reported to the captain that he had examined me, and that I was a man." Margaret served for six months, being promoted to corporal, before she irrevocably betrayed herself while drunk. Her captain ordered her into women's clothes and sent under guard to the Wheeling jail where she was held for three weeks under suspicion of being a rebel spy. From there she was transferred to Old Capitol Prison in Washington until she was again transferred to City Point to be exchanged.

On the exchange boat Margaret protested that she was never a rebel spy and proclaimed her love for her country and the Union, all to no avail. When it was time to turn her over to the Confederates, Margaret cursed the rebels and refused to leave the boat. Not being believed, she jumped overboard attempting to drown herself, but Confederates quickly fished her out. She was taken to Petersburg where she was jailed with her hands tied behind her back. When her captors realized that she was not one of their own, Margaret was sent back north and, despite swearing her loyalty, was not believed. Again she was imprisoned in Old Capitol for six months. From there she was transferred to the prison at Fitchburg, Massachusetts where she spent the remainder of the war. Once the war ended, she was released and made her way back to Ohio.^{ix}

In 1861, Louise Hoffman donned Union blue and served in a cavalry regiment seeing action at both Battles of Bull Run. She left that regiment and joined the 1st Ohio Infantry Regiment as a cook. Becoming tired of that occupation and wanting to see more action, she enlisted with Battery C, 1st Tennessee Light Artillery (U.S.). She might be the only woman to have served in three branches of the Union army. In August 1864, both the *Nashville Dispatch* and the *Washington Daily Morning Chronicle* reported that "a very good-looking and respectable soldier girl," dressed in a suit of blue with artillery trappings, made her appearance at the Nashville Provost Marshal's office. She was arrested by Lieutenant Fletcher who stated that she enlisted as a man under the name of John Hoffman, but was a female. Upon questioning she admitted that her real name was Louise Hoffman and that she was from New York City. She was given female attire, escorted to Louisville, and then sent home. The tabloids added "She makes a very handsome soldier."^x

Another non-Ohioan who served in the ranks of an Ohio regiment was Ms. Ida Bruce. She was a native of Atlanta, Georgia and her parents were staunch Unionist. Upon the death of her parents, Ida traveled north and joined the ranks of the 7th Ohio Cavalry.^{xi}

The *Nashville Dispatch* reported that "A bold looking soldier girl attired in the uniform complete, was arrested in Louisville . . . and taken before the Provost Marshal." Major Fitch, the provost, at first didn't know what to do with her. She was identified as 21-year-old Elizabeth Price. She said that she had served for two years with an Ohio regiment. She donned the attire of a soldier when her lover enlisted in the army, desiring to follow and share his fortunes. She confessed that she had seen enough of the service and wanted to return home to Cincinnati. Her request was granted and she was discharged and soon on her way to that city.^{xii}

In August of 1861, in Lancaster, Ohio, an 18-year-old student enlisted in the 17th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Described as five feet, six inches tall, with a dark complexion, gray eyes and black hair, Private Frank Deming was actually a woman in disguise. Deming faithfully performed all the duties of a soldier, including fighting with her regiment at the Battle of Mill Springs. In November 1861, Deming was ordered by the regimental surgeon to hospital duty. She served in this capacity for nine months until May 18, 1862 when she received a discharge for disability near Corinth, Mississippi. The discharge papers stated that Deming was “incapable of performing the duties of a soldier” because of the discovery of “a congenital peculiarity which should have prevented her admission into the Army – being a female.”^{xiii}

Katie Hanson was noted prior to the war for her predilection for masculine ways. She spent a lot of time in the woods hunting and fishing in Tioga County, Pennsylvania. She was probably a tomboy and left home when her parents disapproved of the worthless boy she became interested in. Dressing herself in men’s clothes, she began living as a man. She found work on a Great Lakes steamboat earning a man’s wages. When the war commenced, Katie joined an Ohio regiment. Being an expert marksman, she was soon promoted to the rank of sergeant. In 1864, after serving for three years, Sergeant Hanson’s captain confronted her with his suspicion about her gender. Catching her off guard, she confessed. Katie was discharged, and sent to work as a hospital nurse. Soon after, her captain was wounded in a skirmish. Sent to the regimental hospital, he convalesced under the tender care of Katie. “Between them a strong affection was formed [and] at the close of the war they were married.”^{xiv}

Marian McKenzie was a woman soldier who would not be denied from participating in the war. She enlisted at the age of 18 in the 23rd Kentucky Infantry under the name of Harry Fitzallen. After serving for eight months, she was revealed as a woman on August 27, 1862. She begged to remain in the army and was assigned as a nurse. Restless after three months, she craved more action. She left and joined the 92nd Ohio Infantry, marching with the regiment from Marietta, Ohio to Charleston, [West] Virginia. She was described as having a dark complexion, short cropped hair, coarse, rounded features and a stocky five-foot, three-inch frame. On December 20, 1862 she was discovered as a woman and accused of being a spy. Marian was sent to the provost marshal’s office in Wheeling where she was incarcerated. In a Wheeling paper, McKenzie was quoted: “The only way in which I violated the law is in assuming men’s apparel. The injury that I have done is principally to myself.” She added that she “went into the army for the love of excitement and from no motive in connection with the war, one way or another.” She was eventually released and promptly enlisted in the 8th Ohio Infantry, but was quickly discovered as a woman and discharged. Three strikes and she was out.^{xv}

Seventeen-year-old, Mary Scaberry enlisted in the 52nd Ohio Infantry under the alias of Charles Freeman in the summer of 1862. After coming down with a severe fever, she was sent first to the General Hospital in Lebanon, Kentucky and on November 10 transferred to the Louisville Hospital, where her identity as a woman was discovered. Mary’s discharge from the army soon followed.^{xvi}

Some women, when discovered, tried to stay in the army. The few who were successful were often transferred to serve as nurses. When John Finnern returned home from his three-month

enlistment with the 15th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, he decided to reenlist with the 81st Ohio Infantry. His wife Elizabeth decided that he was not leaving her again, so she signed up with him on September 23, 1861. She was discovered to be a woman, but stayed with the regiment working as both a battlefield nurse and a surgeon's assistant. Elizabeth was also the seamstress and laundress for the company. For practical reasons she stayed in male attire after her gender became known. One veteran stated that Elizabeth "was on every march and battlefield with the 81st Ohio." She was known by everyone in the regiment and "in time of danger . . . carried a musket just as the soldiers did, and in all respects shared the rough life of the men about her" but with none of the benefits such as pay. She was with the regiment for the full three years and left when her husband was discharged in 1864. Elizabeth and John returned to Ohio and tried farming, but that soon failed. They moved to Indiana where John worked as a migrant laborer until he was physically incapacitated. Elizabeth did what she could, but it was not enough. John's pension could not support them and the childless couple was forced to live in the Greenburg poor house. John died in 1907 and Elizabeth two years later at the age of 87.^{xvii}



Fannie Lee of Cleveland, Ohio, (whose real name was Fannie E. Chamberlain), enlisted in the 6th Ohio Cavalry when she was 18 years old. She enlisted with her cousin George and saw action in Virginia in 1863-64. She became ill and instead of taking the chance to be discovered as a female by army surgeons, went instead to the United States Sanitary Commission Hospital for treatment. Still dressed as a cavalry trooper, her gender was revealed at the hospital in Washington. When she recovered, she requested to stay in the service to serve as a nurse, but was refused by an irate provost marshal. He said that Fannie had "so far unsex[ed] herself" as to be unworthy of a job, and she was sent home. Back in Ohio she grew out her hair and married John H. Butts of Summit, Ohio on July 28, 1864.^{xviii}

One Cleveland, Ohio woman escaped capture by donning men's clothes. According to *The Peoria (Illinois) Morning Mail* of November 15, 1862, Clevelander Fannie Britten traveled to visit her brother whose regiment was in Lebanon, Kentucky. Arriving, she found the regiment had changed location. She stayed a few days in Lebanon hoping for their return. Unfortunately

that never happened. On her return trip to Ohio, she encountered Confederate cavalry who, learning that she was from Ohio, arrested her as a suspected spy. She was detained in a second-story room of a house with her captors billeted below. In the room she discovered a suit of men's clothes which she donned. Carefully climbing down a gutter spout she selected one of the thoroughbred horses tethered outside, and successfully made her escape in the night. She eventually returned safely to Cleveland with the captured horse.^{xix}

At least one officer recognized that the women soldiers were a valuable addition to the ranks. A female soldier from Cincinnati who was discovered by her commanding officer, pleaded to stay in the service. The officer agreed and did not report her or have her discharged, and she remained in the ranks. When later asked why he did not dismiss her, he said, "She looks as brave as any soldier in the division. I say bully for her, and if I could get 100 of such [women] I would send a company."^{xx}

Like Corporal Klinger (Jamie Farr from Toledo) from the TV series M.A.S.H., there was one male soldier who wanted to go home so badly that he dressed and presented himself as a woman. At City Point in January 1865, General Marsena Patrick, Provost Marshal of the Army of the Potomac, was presented with the case. "I had to examine a woman, dressed in our uniform," Patrick wrote. "Charlie (or Charlotte) Anderson of Cleveland, Ohio, who is, or has been with the 60th Ohio . . . She has told me the truth, I think, about herself." Charlie was so convincing in his disguise as a woman that Patrick sent him/her home to Ohio. Upon arrival in Cleveland, Anderson's ruse was finally revealed upon physical examination, but it was too late. He was out of the army. Seems Mr. Anderson had used this ruse successfully before, probably to collect enlistment bounty. He had used the trick to leave the 38th Pennsylvania Infantry, and after enlisting in the 60th Ohio Infantry, he fooled Patrick. Anderson was successful because he was of feminine appearance. He declared, "I adopted the course I have pursued to get home. . . . I came through City Point, I saw General Patrick . . . I told him I was a girl [and] he told me to go home."^{xxi}

Despite their varied reasons for disguising themselves and joining the ranks to fight in the Civil War, women soldiers went through extraordinary hardships to defend their country. The Civil War was the first time a significant number of women enlisted to fight. The women soldiers, like those from Ohio, helped to change the nation's perception of women's capabilities. Their front-line service proved that women should be accorded the same rights as men. These brave Buckeye women in blue paved the way for future generations of women to gain their rights and to serve in the military.

ⁱ Blanton, DeAnne & Lauren M. Cook, *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War*, Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 2002, p. 6. These numbers are taken from Mary A. Livermore, *My Story of the War*, Hartford, Connecticut, A.D. Worthington & Co., 1888, pp.119-120. "Female Soldiers in the Civil War," www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/female-soldiers-civil-war January 25, 2013.

ⁱⁱ Blanton & Cook, *They Fought Like Demons*, pp. 42, 109. "Female Volunteer," *Cincinnati Dollar Weekly Times*, August 11, 1864.

- iii Blanton & Cook, *They Fought Like Demons*, p. 109. "Women Soldiering as Men," *New York Sun*, February 10, 1901. *Cairo City Weekly News*, June 13, 1861, "Hid Sex in the Army," *Washington Post*, January 27, 1901.
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- v Reid, Whitlaw, ed., *Ohio in the War, Vol II: The History of Her Regiments and Other Military Organizations*, Cincinnati, Ohio, The Robert Clarke Company, 1895. pp. 352-355. Brooks, Rebecca Beatrice, "Women Soldiers in the Civil War" <https://civilwarsaga.com/women-soldiers-in-the-civil-war>.
- vi Blanton & Cook, *They Fought Like Demons*, pp. 14, 94-95. "Remarkable Incident", *Princeton (Indiana) Clarion*, November 14, 1863.
- vii Blanton & Cook, *They Fought Like Demons*, pp. 40, 65, 164-166. "Romance of an Ohio Woman," *Cleveland Leader*, October 7, 1896. <https://civilwarsoldierwomen.blogspot.com> Boldt Family History. (Her great, great, great granddaughter is Jessica Lindley Dale).
- viii Blanton & Cook, *They Fought Like Demons*, p. 33
- ix Blanton & Cook, *They Fought Like Demons*, pp. 33, 53, 121, 209. *U.S. Continental Commands*, part 1, entry 5812, file for Margaret Catherine Murphy, Record Group 393, *National Archives*. "Rebel Female Prisoners," *Worcester (Massachusetts) Aegis and Transcript*, December 5, 1863.
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- xi Blanton & Cook, *They Fought Like Demons*, p. 36.
- xii *Nashville Dispatch*, March 29, 1864, p.4, c. 2. https://scholarworks.utttyler.edu/cw_newstopics/28/ Betts, *Articles from Civil War Newspapers*,
- xiii Blanton & Cook, *They Fought Like Demons*, pp. 10, 107. *RG 94 Records of the Adjutant General's Office (AGO) Compiled Military Service Records (CMSR)* 17th Ohio Infantry, Deming, Frank
- xiv Blanton & Cook, *They Fought Like Demons*, pp. 39, 72, 118. "Female Soldiers" *Army and Navy Register*, February 11, 1882.
- xv Brooks, Rebecca Beatrice, "Women Soldiers in the Civil War", <https://civilwarsaga.com/woman-soldiers-in-the-civil-war/>. <https://civilwarsoldierwomen.blogspot.com/> January 5, 2011 "Woman Arrested Serving as a Union Soldier," Rick Steelhammer, *Charleston Gazette-Mail*, December 19, 2012.
- xvi <https://civilwarsoldierwomen.blogspot.com> January 4, 2011.
- xvii Blanton & Cook, *They Fought Like Demons*, pp. 30, 38, 116-117, 129, 164-166, 184. Record of the Adjutant General's Office (AGO) Compiled Service Record, 81st Ohio, *Elizabeth & John Finnern Record Group* 94 *National Archives*. *Veterans Administration Pension Application*, WC 620, 476, Record Group 15, *National Archives*. "Women Served as Soldiers," *National Tribune*, July 25, 1907.
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- xix https://scholarworks.utttyler.edu/cw_newstopics/28/ Betts, *Women Soldiers, Spies and Vivandieres: Articles from Civil War Newspapers*
- xx Ibid. p. 117.
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