THE CHARGER

THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

February 2026 CCWRT Founded 1956 Vol. 50, No. 6

MEETING – February 11, 2026

PROGRAM – "Citizenship and Politics: How They Evolved During and After the Civil War"

SPEAKER – Dr. Brian K. Mitchell, a native of New Orleans and a frequent speaker at the Lincoln Forum in Gettysburg, is the author of the book, *Monumental*, about Reconstruction Louisiana and the service of Oscar Dunn as the first African American to serve as Acting Governor of a state and Lt. Governor of Louisiana.

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 7:30 PM

For reservations email: ccwrtreserve@gmail.com. To ensure dinner is reserved for you, the reservation must be made by Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

Website:
http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com

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CCWRT DISPATCHES

2026 Dick Crews Memorial Debate Posted on the Roundtable's Website

The annual Dick Crews Memorial Debate took place at the January 2026 Roundtable meeting. This year's topic addressed the question, "Other than Ohio, what was the most important state, North or South, during the Civil War era?" Four members of the Roundtable prepared arguments to present their opinion on this question: Ryan Bailey (who chose South Carolina), Jack Prause (who chose Virginia), Don Iannone (who chose New York), and David Parchem (who chose Illinois). William Vodrey again served as moderator. Each of the arguments was insightful and engaging, and each of the debaters made a compelling case; but Jack Prause was awarded the "fabulous prizes." The arguments that each debater presented are now posted on the Roundtable's website and are well worth reading (https://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com/the-great-debate-of-2026/.) In particular, the Roundtable members who were unable to attend the January 2026 meeting can read the arguments that were presented at the debate.

THE CCWRT 2026 FIELD TRIP

The CCWRT 2026 Field Trip will be September 17-20, 2026. We will be traveling to the Shenandoah Valley to study the 1862 Valley Campaign. Check the CCWRT website and your CCWRT emails for details and registration information.

**National History Day is approaching!*

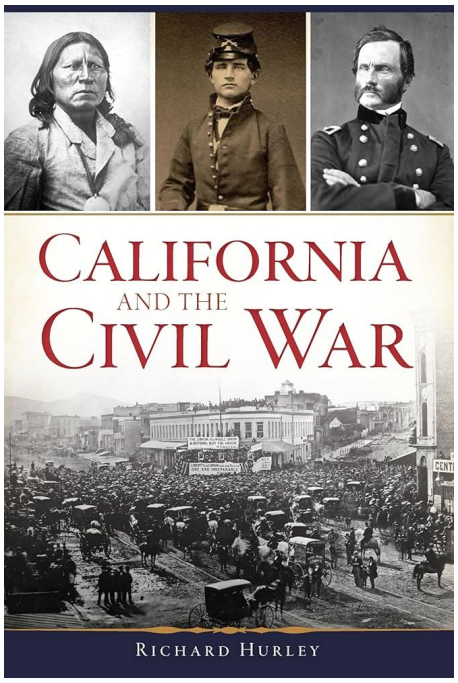
This is a reminder that NHD will be on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at the Western Reserve Cleveland History Center. Steve Pettyjohn, who is again coordinating CCWRT's participation, is seeking members interested in serving as judges for student exhibits dealing with American Civil War topics. We generally start around 8:15 or 8:30 with breakfast and training followed by judging for the rest of the morning. During the last two years, we have completed judging by noon and were able to have lunch and make decisions about awards. Steve is hoping to have three-person teams organized to tackle the appropriate categories with at least one experienced judge along with a rookie to show them the ropes. While we follow the overall judging process from NHD to help make our decisions, we do not go through their rather laborious documentation process. If anyone is interested in assisting with this worthwhile project, please contact Steve.

The Editor's Desk

CALIFORNIA!!! THE GOLDEN STATE—admitted to the Union as a "free state" as part of

the Compromise of 1850, few people know that California's loyalty in 1861 was not necessarily assured. Even though slavery was illegal under the state constitution, many Californians had Native-American "servants" in their homes and on their ranches since the legislature passed laws allowing for the forced labor of "vagrant" tribesmen. In addition, thousands of Southerners made the trip to stake claims in the gold districts, many bringing with them family slaves to help work the diggings. Suspicious of the new Republican Party, a majority of California voters in the late 1850s voted for Democrat Party candidates for state and local offices, sending many Democrats to serve in Congress. In 1860, Lincoln won California's electoral votes with only 32% of the popular vote. Only a few votes separated Lincoln and northern Democrat Stephen Douglas. Douglas received just a fraction less of the popular vote, rounding his tally to close to 32%. Southern Democrat, John Breckinridge, with support from southern miners in the gold fields and southern sympathizers near Los Angeles, garnered 28% of the vote, and Constitutional Unionist John Bell received 8%. Lincoln, therefore, won California by 700 votes, the slimmest of margins. The state was so divided in 1860, that, politically and socially, it looked more like a border state (Missouri, Kentucky, or Maryland) than it did a free state of the North. Somehow, however, California avoided the guerilla warfare of the border states, providing Lincoln with gold to help fund the war effort and manpower to ease the burden of the United States army on the western frontier, even providing a battalion of crack cavalry for service in the East as part of the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry regiment.

I received a slight acquaintance with California's Civil War history decades ago when I was a reenactor. The men who started our Civil War battery in Pennsylvania were transplants from southern California who had been members of Battery A, 1st California Volunteers, based out of the state park at Fort Tejon. From them, over the years, I learned something about the California volunteers. In addition, while reading about the western frontier, I picked up some bits of information about the "California Column" that battled the Apache at Apache Pass in Arizona. While doing research for a book a few years ago, I came across information about Dan Showalter, a western Pennsylvanian, born in Greene County, who migrated to the California gold fields in the early 1850s, became a California state legislator, and in 1861 was taken to Fort Yuma by California forces and charged with attempting to lead a company of men from Los Angeles across the Southwest to join the CSA army in Texas. My interest now piqued, I recently obtained Richard Hurley's excellent little book, *California and the Civil War* (The History Press, 2017).



Anyone interested in the subject would do well to pick up Hurley's book. Well-written and researched, in less than two hundred pages, the author presents a great overview of the state's contribution to the Union effort to combat rebellion. Of course, he includes a summary of California's history as part of the Spanish colonial empire, Mexico, and later the United States after the Mexican War. He provides some

details about California's divided politics before 1861. In addition, he has an interesting chapter on Thomas Starr King, a Unitarian minister from Boston who arrived in San Francisco in 1861, just in time to lend his voice and lectures on the nature of the Union to engage audiences throughout the state, helping to rally support for the war effort. One of his biggest supporters and promoters was John C. Fremont's wife, Jesse Benton Fremont. There are also chapters on California's volunteer regiments. Although California Unionists were anxious to fight CSA forces, few got the opportunity. Instead, many California units were assigned to replace U.S. army troops that were needed in the Eastern Theaters of the war. California volunteers, accordingly, spent most of the war manning U.S. army outposts in the far West, patrolling stagecoach roads, escorting supply wagons and civilian wagon trains, chasing Native-American bands who took advantage of the regular army's absence, and protecting gold shipments from the mines that were targets for ordinary thieves and Confederate raiders. One CSA raider even provided a receipt for the gold taken, assuring the owners that the bullion was seized solely for the purpose of outfitting CSA volunteers in California. A few Californians did make it to army service in the East. The governor of Massachusetts arranged to pay to equip and transport a company of elite California cavalry from the San Francisco area known as "The California Hundred." When the men reached Boston, they were assigned to the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry. A short time later, more Californians were brought East to create a "California Battalion" as part of the 2nd Massachusetts. It was noted that the addition of these California men helped build the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry into one of the finest cavalry regiments in the Northern army.

Another topic addressed by Hurley is a chapter on California's generous support for the work of the United States Sanitary Commission. Although the state population was only 1.2 per cent of the nation's total, Californians contributed $1,234,000 to the Sanitary Commission's overall budget during the war of $4,924,000.

The book is well illustrated, contains end notes for documentation, an index, and, most importantly, an annotated bibliography. Hurley manages to pack a lot of material in the volume's 176 pages and provides an interesting monograph for a basic understanding of California's contribution to the history of the Civil War.

Visit to the Clara Barton National Historic Site

by Dennis Keating

On a trip to Washington in January 2026, I visited the Clara Barton National Historic Site (the first dedicated to the accomplishments of a woman). She lived there from 1897 until she died in 1912. It also served as the HQ of the American Red Cross, which she headed until 1904. It was acquired by the National Park Service in 1974 (and is undergoing renovations). It sits adjacent to the Glen Echo Park in Bethesda, Maryland and has views of the Potomac River. Offering insights into her life and work (including during the Civil War), it is a recommended stop outside the many historic sites in Washington. Guided tours are available on Friday and Saturday.

Oliver Chase and His Candy Making Machine

Hub Wafers: A Yankee Delight

Brian D. Kowell © January 2026

During World War II, G.I.s were issued candy rations to increase stamina, enhance performance, and boost morale. Hershey's chocolate bars and Wrigley's chewing gum were two of the soldier favorites.

Civil War Union soldiers also looked forward to sweet treats. Whether they received these in care packages from home or acquired them from local stores or sutlers, candy was a small reminder of home and a powerful tool for maintaining morale.

The 1800's saw the rise of mass-produced candies. In 1847, Oliver R. Chase, an English immigrant living in Boston, Massachusetts, invented and patented a lozenge cutting machine. Originally used to manufacture medicinal lozenges for apothecaries, he discovered another use – making candy. Oliver and his two brothers, Silas and Daniel, formed the candy manufacturing company apply named Chase and Company. They began manufacturing and selling rolls of variously flavored thin disks that they named "Chase Lozenges." Then in 1850, Oliver invented and patented a machine for pulverizing sugar making the process easier and quicker.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, "Chase Lozenges" became a sought-after staple for the Union soldiers. The soldiers referred to them as "Hub Wafers" - supposedly from the city of Boston where the lozenges originated. In the 19th century Boston was known as the "Hub of the Universe," and subsequently shortened to "Hub." They came in rolls containing eight flavors: lemon (yellow), lime (green), orange (orange), clove (purple), cinnamon (white), wintergreen (pink), licorice (black) and chocolate (brown). They were small, had a long shelf-life, and were resistant to heat and damage - the ideal snack to carry in haversacks on long marches.

The iconic, mass-produced "Hub Wafers" were popular. So much so that in 1864, Daniel Chase moved to Chicago, Illinois and opened a second factory to satisfy the Western armies and territories. Around 1865, Daniel began printing sayings on the candy disks. He experimented first with hand tools and then devised a machine in which a felt roller pad, moistened with vegetable coloring, usually red, pressed against a die with the saying engraved. Much like a printing press, the die stamped the words onto the lozenge. Later, the disk was cut in a heart-shape and Sweethearts candies, a staple of Valentine's Day, was born.

In 1871, the Chicago Fire wiped out Daniel Chase's western factory forcing him to return to Boston. Unfortunately, a year later a Boston fire destroyed Oliver's factory. The brothers slowly rebuilt the business. Olive retired in 1888 and 3 years later Chase and Company merged with two other candy firms, Forbes, Haywood & Company and Wright & Moody Company, and was incorporated into the New England Confectionary Company (NECCO). By 1912, the wafers were being advertised as "Necco Wafers," a name they have carried since. NECCO became home to such treats as the Clark Bar, Mary Janes, Sky Bar, Candy House Candy Buttons, Canada Mints, Mighty Malts Malted Milk Balls along with Sweethearts and Necco Wafers.

The company went through a number of acquisitions between 1963 and 2018. Today, Sweethearts, Canada Mints and Necco Wafers are made and sold by the Spangler Candy Company of Bryan, Ohio. For between $1.25 - $2.99 you can buy a roll and taste what the soldiers enjoyed in the Civil War.

Sources:

Oliver R. Chase - Candy Hall of Fame

"Necco History: About the Company: Year by Year", NECCO® - About

"Sweet History of Civil War Candies: 1800s Treats That Boosted Soldier Morale" article by True Treats Candy, https://truetreatscandy.com/blogs/article/sweet-history-of-civil-war-candies-1800s-treats-that-boosted-soldier-morale-3?srsltid=AfmBOooAe8qgEeHxKfuqa5zDHFHMghr6V_WRpWATE

Beckett, Jesse, "How the American Civil War Helped Shape the Modern Candy Industry," November 4, 2012, How the American Civil War helped shape the modern candy industry

Galarza, Daniela, "A Brief History of Necco: America's Original Candy Company," October, 30, 2015, A Brief History of Necco: America's Original Candy Company | Eater

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HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY!

Civil War Ohio Union Boy Drummers

By Dennis Keating

In the Civil War, boy drummers played an important role in communications on the battlefield. Each was required to play variations of the 26 "rudiments". "Although there were usually official age limits, these were often ignored; the youngest boys were sometimes treated as mascots by the adult soldiers." [Aubrecht]

While I did not check every Ohio regiment for a drummer boy, I did find background for some of them, including the most recognized from Ohio.

Arguably, the most famous boy drummer of the war was Johnny Clem of Newark, Ohio. At the beginning of the Civil War, at 9 years old, he ran away and tried to enlist. He joined the 3rd OVI but was not enlisted. He then joined the 22nd Michigan Infantry which allowed him to become a drummer boy but not enlist. In May, 1863, at age 11, he supposedly enlisted in the 24th OVI. At the battle of Chickamauga, Clem was ordered to surrender by a Confederate colonel but rather than surrender, he killed the colonel and became known as "the Drummer Boy of Chickamauga." After the war, now named Lincoln Clem, he failed the West Point entrance exam repeatedly but was appointed a second lieutenant by President Grant. By his retirement in 1915, Clem had become a brigadier general.

Another famous Ohio drummer was John S. Kountz. At age 15 ½, he joined the 37th OVI. At the battle of Missionary Ridge, he was marching with the band. When the Army of the Cumberland charged the ridge, he joined in. He was severely wounded and his right leg was amputated. In 1909, he received the Medal of Honor.

Another Ohio drummer also received the Medal of Honor. German born Richard Enderlin grew up in Chillicothe, Ohio. He became the drummer boy of the 73rd OVI. He later became a musician. On the night of the second day of the battle of Gettysburg, he rescued a wounded Pvt. George Nixon (great-grandfather of President Nixon) from between the lines, for which he was promoted to sergeant and then received the Medal of Honor in 1897. He was wounded in the Spring of 1864 and joined the Veteran Reserve Corps.

James Barrington enlisted in the 14th OVI at age 16. He was killed at the battle of Jonesboro, GA outside Atlanta on September 1, 1864

Edward Daniel Fitzpatrick, enlisted at age 13 in the 41st OVI. On the second day of the 1862 battle of Shiloh, he was wounded in the foot and later discharged.

Gilbert Van Zandt from Port William, Ohio enlisted at age 10 in the 79th OVI after drumming at a recruitment center. Known as "Little Gib" he became its drummer boy. He served in the Atlanta campaign, the March to the Sea and the Carolinas campaign.

Avery Brown joined the 31st Ohio at Camp Chase in 1861at age 9. He served through the battle of Stones River, after which he was discharged due to illness. His gravestone reads "Drummer Boy of the Cumberland."

John A. Cockerill joined the 24th Ohio at age 16 in 1861as a musician and mustered out in 1862. After the war, he became a journalist.

Andrew Parsons enlisted in the 103rd OVI at age 14 in 1862. At the regiment's Museum in Sheffield his wartime diary and his drum and drumsticks are displayed.

James Shellenberger from Covington, Ohio joined the 94th Ohio at age 16. He served throughout the war.

Lucius Cron of Piqua, Ohio joined the 110th OVI when he was in his mid-twenties, older than many other drummers.

William Morris, like Cron, was in his mid-twenties when he joined the 110th OVI. He was captured in the Second battle of Winchester, Virginia.

William Dalton was age 12 when he joined the 71st OVI in 1862.

Other Ohio regimental drummer boys included:

Thomas C. Hatfield: 79th OVI

Jerome J. Musser: 104th OVI

References

"Newark's Johnny Clem joined the Union Army at age 11 during the Civil War." Ohio History Connection (September 11, 2022)

Michael Aubrecht. “A History of Civil War Drummer Boys” Emerging Civil War (July 27, 2016)

Shelby Boatman. “Little Gib: A Story from Port William” Clinton County History Center (May 3, 2023)

Julie Deeter. “Civil War Drummer Boys: those Who Went to War.” This Local Life (Miami County)

Bob Ebbekotte. “Drummer Boy of the Cumberland.” Delphos Canal Commission (March 26, 2022)

Katie Lange. “Army Sgt. Richard Enderlin” Department of Defense Medal of Honor Monday (July 6, 2020)

Dan Masters. “The Drummer Boy of Missionary Ridge.” Dan Masters’ Civil War Chronicles (November 16, 2022)

A Civil War Era Baseball Game

A Civil War-Era Invention That Literally Was a Game-Changer

By David A. Carrino

The Civil War is often called the first modern war because many advances in technology and in military practices had their first widespread use during the Civil War. This is articulated nicely and succinctly in an article on the website of the Chicago Historical Society: "The Civil War demonstrated for the first time how industrial technology had transformed the nature of warfare." After the Civil War, wars and the methodology of waging war would never be the same as before, a fact that European nations cruelly learned in World War I. Rifled muskets, ironclad warships, the use of railroads to transport troops and

supplies, faster and better medical treatment of the wounded, the use of the telegraph to enhance the speed of communication, surveillance balloons, and trench warfare all experienced their first widespread wartime use in the Civil War. Moreover, the practice of total war came to prominence during the Civil War, which also saw the first sinking of an enemy warship by a submarine. The Union war effort was even aided by the mass production of horseshoes with a machine that could make a horseshoe per second (https://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com/horseshoes-win-the-civil-war/.)

Abraham Lincoln, who had greater insight than putative experts in the government whose role it was to supply this aptitude, showed great prescience when he spearheaded the creation of the National Academy of Sciences to provide scientific and technological expertise for the war effort (https://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com/abraham-lincolns-little-known-important-legacy/.) This organization still exists today as a resource for authoritative knowledge and proficiency in addressing science-related issues (https://www.nasonline.org/.) The significance of technological innovations in the Civil War was highlighted in the Roundtable's annual debate of January 2004, when the topic of the debate focused on the equipment or innovation that had the greatest effect on the war (https://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/charger-jan_2004.pdf.)

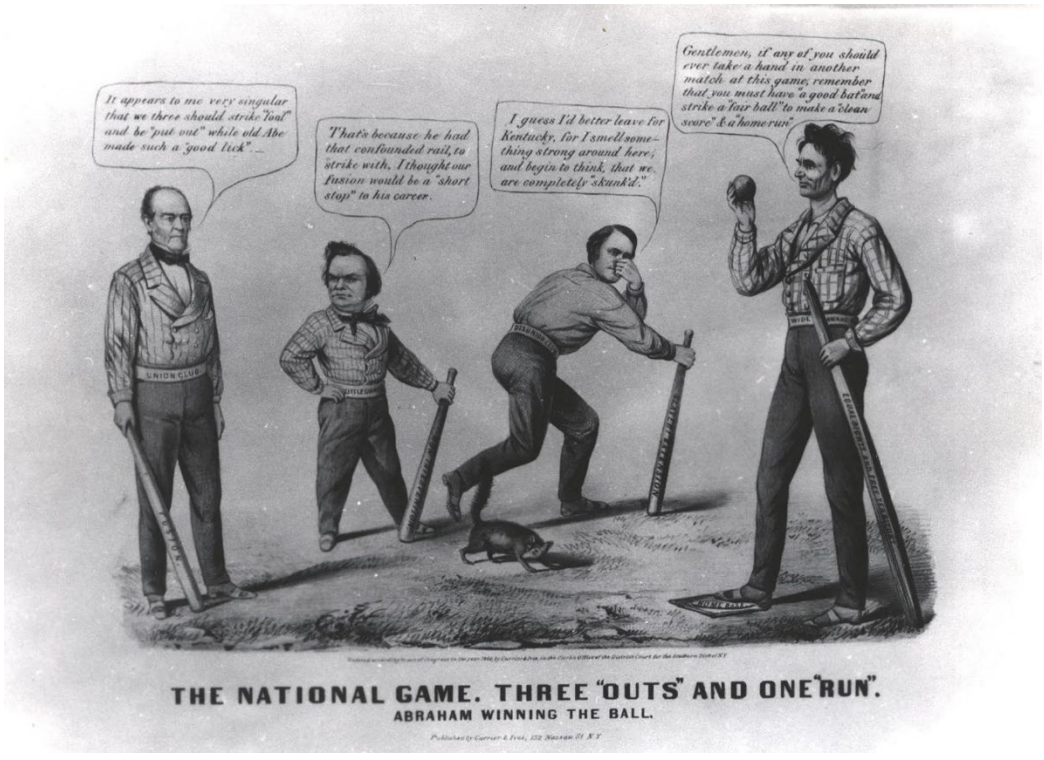
While a large number of innovations did have a direct effect on the Civil War, there is one particular groundbreaking invention that was conceived during the Civil War and that is still in extensive use today, but which had no direct effect on that war. This invention can rightly be characterized as revolutionary for a couple of reasons. One reason is that this invention resulted in a dramatic and permanent change, and this is what makes an invention revolutionary. Moreover, this invention is revolutionary due to the physics involved in its functioning, because this invention depends on a specific object's spin rate or revolutions per minute. Although this Civil War-era invention played no role in the Civil War, this innovation is so significant in the area in which it is utilized that it is no exaggeration to call this innovation a game-changer. In fact, this invention was not just a game-changer in the figurative sense of that word. This invention literally was a game-changer.

This innovation had its beginning in an unexpected place for something that has had such a profound and long-lasting effect: on a beach in Brooklyn, New York in the summer of 1863. While the Union and Confederate armies were locked in combat that summer at places like Gettysburg and Vicksburg in the battles that would irreversibly change the course of the Civil War, some boys on a beach in Brooklyn on one day that summer were throwing clam shells. One of the boys was 14-year-old William Arthur Cummings. Cummings was born in Ware, Massachusetts on October 18, 1848, and his family moved to Brooklyn four years later, which was how he came to be on a Brooklyn beach in the summer of 1863. Many years later, Cummings related the story of his light-bulb moment on that beach. "In the summer of 1863 a number of boys and myself were amusing ourselves by throwing clam shells (the hard shell variety) and watching them sail along through the air, turning now to the right, and now to the left. We became interested in the mechanics of it and experimented for an hour or more. All of a sudden it came to me that it would be a good joke on the boys if I could make a baseball curve the same way."

What Cummings described in that quote is how the boys could alter the trajectory of the thrown clam

shells by changing the way that they threw them. This is the same principle behind a curveball in baseball. If the ball is thrown with a sharp twist of the wrist such that the proper spin is imparted onto the ball, then the sideways spin causes the air molecules around the ball to move in a way that decreases the air pressure on one side of the ball and increases it on the other side. This difference in air pressure causes the ball to curve during its flight, and the higher the ball's spin rate (i.e., revolutions per minute), then the larger the difference in air pressure that is created, and the greater the curve in the trajectory. Because of baseball's enormous popularity at the time that Cummings and his cohorts were flinging clam shells, it is not surprising that the curving trajectory of the clam shells inspired Cummings to think about making a thrown baseball similarly curve.

By the time of the Civil War, baseball (or base ball, as it was written at that time) had become a leisure-time obsession, particularly in northeastern cities such as New York. For example, even with the Civil War in progress and the Army of the Potomac closing in on the Confederate capital of Richmond, a June 7, 1862 game in Brooklyn between a team from Philadelphia and a team composed of players from the best teams in Brooklyn drew what *The New York Times* called "by far the largest assemblage which has gathered upon any base ball ground during this season." In addition, a Currier & Ives political cartoon for the 1860 presidential election, which is titled The National Game, Three "Outs" and One "Run," uses a baseball analogy to describe the four candidates. All four are holding bats with words written on them. John Bell's bat is labeled "fusion" to signify his platform's attempt to unite both pro-slavery and anti-slavery voters. John C. Breckinridge's bat is labeled "slavery extension," while Stephen A. Douglas' bat is labeled "non intervention." Abraham Lincoln's bat, which is actually a wooden rail for the candidate known as the railsplitter, is labeled "equal rights and free territory." Moreover, Lincoln is holding the ball and has his foot on home plate to indicate the pro-Lincoln stance of the cartoon. This cartoon is evidence of how significant baseball had become in the U.S. at that time. In fact, baseball's immense popularity in the 19th century led to it gaining the lofty title of the "national pastime."



During the years prior to the Civil War, the game of baseball evolved from an amalgam of similar but disparate variations to a game with codified rules. Initially baseball was played under different sets of rules in different cities, but in 1845, Alexander Joy Cartwright wrote the first set of rules for the game. After that, modifications to the rules were made at various times, including at the seminal Base Ball Convention of 1857 in New York City, to which a number of teams sent delegates. At this convention, important rules were established. Among these, the length of games was set at nine innings (rather than the previous rule stipulating that games ended when one team scored 21 runs), the number of players per team was set at nine, and the distance between bases was set at 30 yards (90 feet). All of these rules are still in effect today.

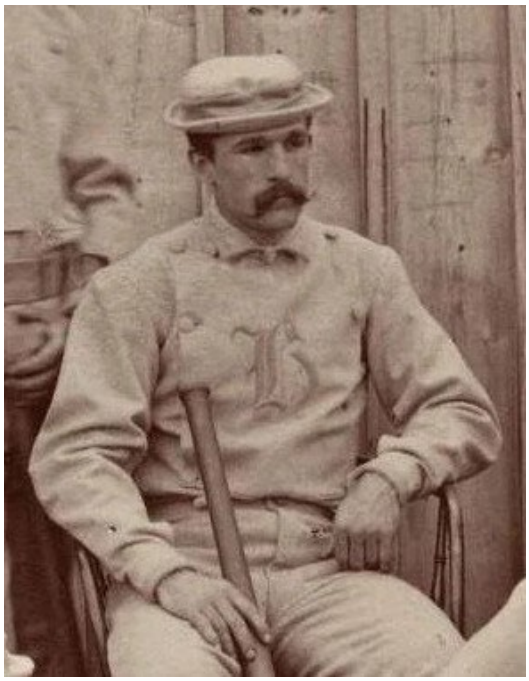
Baseball had become such a prominent part of American society by the time of the Civil War that soldiers on both sides played it during the times when they were free from their duty of trying to kill each other. On a summer day during this horrific war, William Cummings watched clam shells that he hurled curve through the air and was inspired to try to make a thrown baseball follow a similar path.

Cummings spent the next four years developing his curving pitch. For part of that time, he was a student at a boarding school named Falley Seminary in Fulton, New York. As Cummings told of it, "In 1864 I went to Fulton, New York, to a boarding school, and remained there a year and a half. All that time I kept experimenting with my curved ball." Cummings' 18 months at Falley Seminary coincided with the grueling period during the second half of the Civil War when the Confederacy's armies were inexorably ground down. According to a 1912 article in the *Syracuse Journal*, Cummings used his curveball in baseball games while he attended Falley Seminary. The pitch's effectiveness is clear from that article, which states, "Cummings could make the ball talk, and could get control of his sailing ball." Doug Allison, Cummings' catcher, "would throw up both hands and say: 'It's all over; they can't hit you with an oar.'"

After leaving Falley Seminary, Cummings joined a junior amateur team in Brooklyn, where he excelled as a pitcher to such a degree that he was nicknamed "Candy," which was a 19th-century sobriquet that was given to someone who was extremely skilled at his craft. Cummings' success with that team led to him being invited to join the Brooklyn Excelsiors in 1865. This was a major step for the young pitcher, because the Excelsiors were one of the premier amateur teams of that time, which meant that Cummings would be facing exceptional competition. Cummings proved equal to the task, as evidenced by the fact that the following year, Cummings received high praise from Henry Chadwick, one of the preeminent baseball writers of the second half of the 19th century and a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Chadwick was born in England and moved to the U.S., where he became the cricket reporter for *The New York Times*. But Chadwick came to be enamored with baseball because, as he wrote, "In baseball all is lightning; every action is as swift as a seabird's flight," which is a description of baseball that contrasts sharply with the opinion of many of today's sports fans that the game is too slow-paced. Chadwick, who transitioned from a cricket reporter to a baseball reporter, wrote of Cummings after one of Excelsior's games, "The pitching and general play of young Cummings in this match marks him as a future Excelsior

player of note." Interestingly, when Chadwick penned those laudatory words about Cummings, it was not merely a baseball reporter giving praise to a baseball player; it was a baseball inventor giving praise to another baseball inventor. Just as Cummings contributed the curveball to baseball, Chadwick invented the box score, and Chadwick is recognized for this by the Hall of Fame.



Archibald Bush

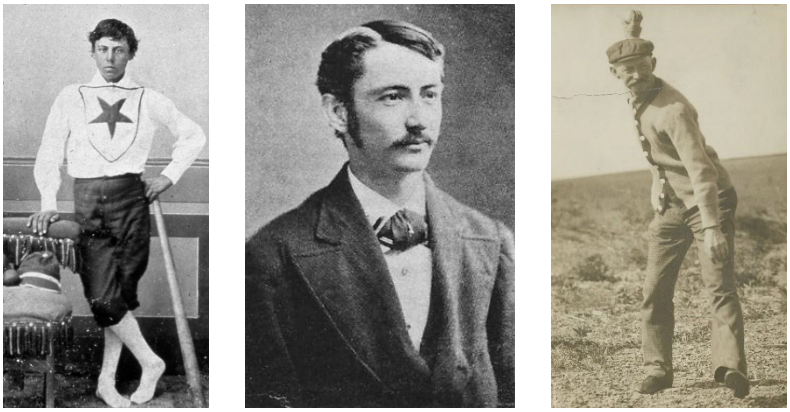
Despite Cummings' initial success at this higher level, his sternest test was yet to come. It arrived on October 7, 1867, 11 days before Cummings' 19th birthday, in the form of a batter who had, in Cummings' words, "prowess with the bat." Cummings was pitching for his Brooklyn Excelsiors team in a game against Harvard's baseball team. At a pivotal point in the game, a player named Archibald Bush stepped to the plate for his turn at bat. Bush, the Harvard team's catcher, was a prodigious and fearsome hitter. However, before he became a 19th-century baseball slugger, Bush served in the Union army as a lieutenant in the 95th New York Volunteer Infantry. That regiment was eventually assigned to the Army of the Potomac and spent part of its time in the I Corps, including at Gettysburg, where the I Corps was under the command of John Reynolds until Reynolds met his untimely end early in the battle. The 95th New York was in all of the major battles in the Eastern Theater from the Second Battle of Bull Run to the Battle of Appomattox Court House, and Bush was with the regiment for much of it, having enlisted in October 1863 at the age of 17 and being discharged in March 1865. Now, a little more than two and a half years later, Bush was serving in a different unit, a unit that met its foes not on a battlefield, but on a diamond-shaped field and in a far less hazardous activity.

For Bush's adversary in the baseball duel on that early October day, this was the pinnacle of four years of experimenting. This was not standing on a beach throwing clam shells and making them curve. This was the real thing. This was "Candy" Cummings standing in the pitcher's box on a baseball field, facing one of the best batters in baseball, and putting his curveball into use in one of the most difficult situations possible. This would be the test of Cummings' curveball that would tell him just how powerful a weapon it was. Many years later, Cummings related what happened when the time came for him to present his

brainchild to his formidable opponent: "When he struck at the ball it seemed to go about a foot beyond the end of his stick." In other words, Cummings' pitch curved so far beyond the reach of Bush's bat that Bush did not come close to hitting it when he swung at it and missed. Cummings continued, "I tried again with the same result, and then I realized that I had succeeded at last."

Cummings was ecstatic. "A surge of joy flooded over me that I shall never forget…I said not a word, and saw many a batter at that game throw down his stick in disgust. Every time I was successful I could scarcely keep from dancing with pure joy." But just like Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia at Gettysburg in the summer when Cummings first thought about throwing a curveball, Cummings and his curveball proved not to be invincible. The Excelsiors lost on that day by a score of 18 to 6, and Cummings learned a hard lesson about his curveball. "I could not make it curve when I wanted to…With a wind against me I could get all kinds of a curve, but…the ball was apt not to break until it was past the batter." It must be remembered that Cummings had to deal with different pitching rules when throwing his curveball. At that time, pitchers were required to throw underhand, so Cummings had to put spin on the baseball with a throwing motion that made it more difficult to do so. In fact, the pitcher's role at that time was simply to initiate the action, to deliver the ball to the batter without trickery and in a way to best allow the batter to hit it, hence the name "pitcher." The pitcher did not throw the baseball, but pitched it, like a gentleman.

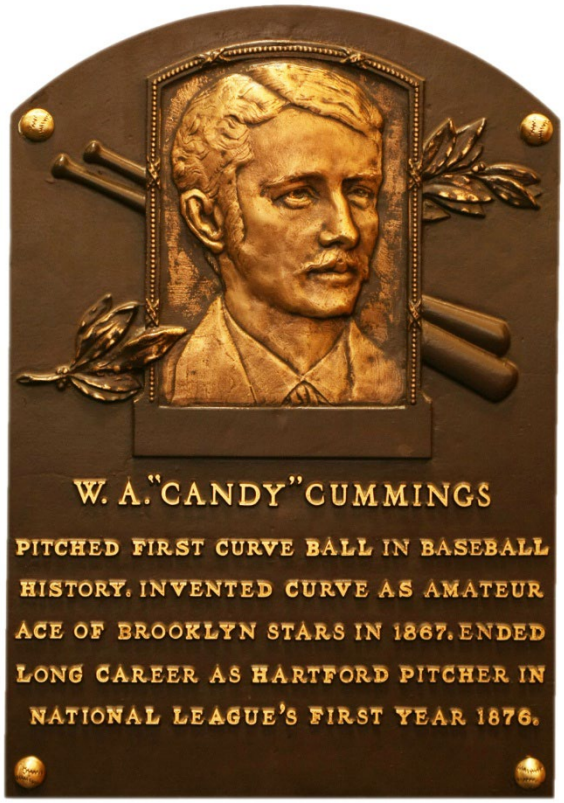
An underhand pitching motion made it impossible for Cummings to snap his wrist in the same way that today's pitchers do, and it would not be until 1885, several years after Cummings retired from playing baseball, that pitchers were permitted to throw overhand. But Cummings continued to work on his grip and his delivery, "holding the ball in many different ways and throwing with a variety of motions," although "many of the ways in which I held or threw the ball were useless." Eventually Cummings developed a grip, wrist snap, and motion that made it possible for him to consistently throw his curveball. Nevertheless, another aspect of the pitching rules made Cummings' task even more challenging, because pitchers of his time were, technically, not allowed to snap their wrist when they delivered the baseball to the batter. Fortunately for Cummings and his curveball, this rule was not stringently enforced, and Cummings admitted that he twisted his wrist illegally when he threw a curveball, although this twist was virtually undetectable to the game's lone umpire.



Cummings in 1868, 1872, and 1907

Cummings continued to refine his delivery and perfect his curveball while playing on amateur teams for the next few years. During this time, he became an outstanding pitcher. In 1872 Cummings began his professional career in the National Association of Professional Base Ball Players, where he played for four years and won 124 games. Following that, he played for two years in the National League. He pitched sporadically after that, but his baseball career essentially ended after his second year in the National League, where he had less success, although he did make history in 1876 (his first year in the National League) by becoming the first pitcher with two complete game victories on the same day. Because the percentage of complete games in Major League Baseball has decreased from over 50% in the early 1900s to less than 1% in 2024, this accomplishment by Cummings demonstrates the kind of pitching capability not to be found nowadays at the game's highest level.

William "Candy" Cummings died on May 16, 1924 in Toledo, Ohio and is interred in his birthplace of Ware, Massachusetts. Since that day, Cummings presumably has been throwing curveballs past the flailing bats of spectral participants in the afterlife's chapter of the national pastime. Cummings was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1939, and his plaque in the Hall of Fame recognizes him as the inventor of the curveball. Others claim to have invented the curveball, but the National Baseball Hall of Fame recognizes none of these other claimants and recognizes only William Cummings as the inventor of this pitch. Late in his life, Cummings mused about the pitch he invented, "But my idlest dreams of what a curved ball would do, as I dreamed of them that afternoon while throwing clam shells, have been filled more than a hundred times. At that time I thought of it only as a good way to fool the boys, its real practical significance never entering my mind. I get a great deal of pleasure now in my old age out of going to games and watching the curves, thinking that it was through my blind efforts that all this was made possible."



Making a pitched baseball deviate from a straight trajectory has become as much an ingrained part of the game of baseball as the bats and gloves that are the standard implements of the game's players. Without this weapon, a pitcher's arsenal would be as much reduced as that of a Civil War soldier who was issued a smoothbore flintlock musket instead of a Springfield rifle. But on a summer day in 1863, while hundreds of thousands of men were far from home engaged in one of our country's deadliest experiences, William Cummings was inspired by the flight of thrown clam shells to develop a way to alter the course of a pitched baseball. Cummings' invention went on to become an integral part of baseball, and this happened for one simple reason. Cummings' invention truly was a game-changer.

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Color Guard of the 23rd OVI

The Color Guard

By Dennis Keating

During the Civil War, regimental color guards were essential to communication. They allowed commanders and troops to locate the positions of units amidst the chaos of battle. Usually, the guard was led by a senior non-commissioned officer, surrounded by supporting soldiers. Typically, there would be two color guards, one for the national flag and a second for the

regimental/state flag. As conspicuous targets, the men of the color guards suffered significant casualties. Nevertheless, it was considered an honor to serve in the color guard.

Both sides fought to defend or capture the battle flags of the color guards. The Union soldiers who captured a Confederate battle flag were often cited for the award of the Medal of Honor. Michael Dreese described four such fights at the battle of Gettysburg. An additional example was the actions of the 16th Maine. As the rearguard of the Union retreat at Gettysburg on the first day, surrounded and forced to surrender, its men tore its flag into strips and hid them to prevent its capture. Many of these remnants of their flag survived the war, even from those men imprisoned by the Confederates.

At the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Cleveland, the north face has figures depicting the Color Guard of the 103rd OVI at the battle of Resaca, Georgia in May, 1864. All nine members of this Color Guard were either killed or wounded. In my history of Cleveland and the Civil War, the battle flag and color guard of the 23rd OVI are displayed (p. 65). At the Ohio History Connection in Columbus, hundreds of historic battlefield flags, many from the Civil War, are included in the Ohio Battle Flag Collection.

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Some of the crew members of the USS Monitor. In addition to their action against the CSS Virginia, these men could also boast of being the first sailors to have the advantage of an underwater flushing toilet system onboard.

Surgeon Logue is Flushed with Surprise

By Brian D. Kowell © November 2025

The *USS Monitor* was a unique ship. Designed by John Ericsson, the ship was chuck-full of new technologies. It had the first revolving gun turret with unique gun carriages designed to minimize recoil. The gunports featured iron covers to protect the guns and gunners when not firing. It boasted an auxiliary steam engine to drive the turret as well as power ventilation blowers and pumps. Even raising and lower of the anchor along with the propeller were protected from being exposed by iron. But one of the most interesting inventions was the first custom-designed, pressure flushing, below-the-waterline "water closets" or "heads."[1]

Monitor was the first vessel where its crew was forced to live below the waterline for 24 hours-a-day. Up to this time, bathroom facilities on sailing ships consisted of slop buckets or chamber pots where the contents were simply tossed overboard. On paddle-wheeled steamers, such as *USS Cairo*, the heads were located near the paddlewheels, so the waste was washed out by the turning paddles. Toilets depended on gravity and gravity can do little below the waterline. But on

Monitor, the heads were more like those on modern submarines where Ericsson's design was copied.[2]

Ericsson designed a toilet that originally included an attached water supply, a pressure sealed lid, an adjacent air pump, and a release valve, all of which had to be operated in the proper sequence. This was a decade before that famous plumber, Thomas Crapper, would popularize water closets. On *Monitor* there were four "water closets" – two forward for the officers and two for the crew amidships near the engine room and galley.[3]

It was essential that the proper sequence was followed. Step one in the process was to close a valve near the toilet; two, open a valve on the other side to allow sea water in; and three, activate a pump to force the waste out of the ship below the waterline. Ericsson had invented a mini-torpedo.[4]

Operating the valves in the wrong order could be disastrous. An example was the *Monitor's* Acting Assistant Surgeon, Daniel C. Logue. When the 40-year-old, native New Yorker answered the call of nature on the *Monitor*, he apparently forgot the precise sequence and suffered the indignity of having his 5'7'' frame blown off the seat, into the air, by a jet of water when he went to flush.[5]

Modern submarine toilets are a modification of Ericsson's design. The process still requires specific sequential valve operations with a fourth step that lets water back into the bowl, creating a water seal that prevents gases from escaping. The waste, instead of immediately being expelled into the ocean, is pumped into a storage tank onboard, which is pressurized. By opening an external valve, the waste is expelled into the sea. Modern subs use vacuum systems and the tanks are pumped out when in port. This helps maintain stealth by avoiding noisy discharges.

But accidents sometimes happen. In April 1945, German U-boat U-1206 was submerged off the coast of Scotland. A Kriegsmarine sailor incorrectly flushed the toilet causing his submarine to flood with seawater. As a result, the U-boat had to surface within view of the British forces, who subsequently launched an attack. This led to the destruction of the submarine, the capture of 46 Germans, and three fatalities.[6]

Ericsson's innovations were cutting edge. He was always interested in the comfort and safety of all the crew serving on *Monitor*. All it seemed except Dr. Logue, who resigned in October 1862.

Today, the euphemism for a toilet is called the "john." It was not named for John Ericsson. It was named after Sir John Harrington, whose name in medieval times became synonymous for an "outhouse," or privy. He called it the "jake" but over time this changed to "john." During World War I, American doughboys started referring to bathrooms as "crappers." This was due to Thomas Crapper & Company's name stamped on most English toilets.[7]

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Color guard of the 7th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, armed with Henry Repeating Rifles

FINIS!