

**January, 2005**

**420th Meeting**

**Vol. 26 #5**

*Tonight's Program:*

## **THE GREAT DEBATE**

Topic: "Which is the best book, fiction or nonfiction, ever written on the Civil War?"

Our contenders:

Chris Fortunato - *A Stillness at Appomattox* by Bruce Catton (1953)

Tony Kellon - *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane (1895)

Lisa Kempfer - *Battle Cry of Freedom* by James McPherson (1988)

Diane Mintz - *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell (1936)

Jon Thompson - *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara (1975)

Dick Crews has, after many years of distinguished service as moderator, passed that duty on to William Vodrey.

Our debaters have chosen well, selecting books which have earned four Pulitzer Prizes and a National Book Award. The order of speaking will be determined by random draw just before the debate. Each debater will speak for no more than five minutes, then take questions from the audience for another five minutes. The Roundtable membership will vote on the winner, who will receive amazing prizes. Let the debate begin!

*Tonight's Debaters:*

The tradition continues. This month's meeting will again pit five of our members against each other in another stirring round of THE GREAT DEBATE. And the contestants are:

**Chris Fortunato**

**Tony Kellon**

**Lisa Kempfer**

**Diane Mintz**

**Jon Thompson**

**Date: Wednesday,  
January 12, 2005**

**Place: The Cleveland  
Playhouse Club  
8501 Carnegie Ave.**

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

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

**Meal choice: Chicken Florentine  
or Vegetarian Pasta**

## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

*President:* **Mel Maurer** (440) 808-1249  
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Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser

### Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Past Presidents

2004 Warren McClelland	1980 Charles Spiegle
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2000 Bob Boyda	1976 Milton Holmes
1999 Dick Crews	1975 Thomas Gretter
1998 John Moore	1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh
1997 Dan Zeiser	1973 Arthur Jordan
1996 John Sutula	1972 Bernard Drews
1995 Norton London	1971 Kenneth Callahan
1994 Robert Battisti	1970 Frank Schuhle
1993 Kevin Callahan	1969 Donald Heckaman
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1991 Joe Tirpak	1967 William Schlesinger
1990 Ken Callahan Jr.	1966 Donald Hamill
1989 Neil Glaser	1965 Lester Swift
1988 Martin Graham	1964 Guy DiCarlo, Jr.
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1986 Tim Beatty	1962 Edward Downer
1985 Brian Kowell	1961 Charles Clarke
1984 Neil Evans	1960 Howard Preston
1983 William Victory	1959 John Cullen, Jr.
1982 John Harkness	1958 George Farr, Jr.
1981 Thomas Geschke	1957 Kenneth Grant

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### JANUARY, 2005

Were those ghosts we saw in the slides used by our speakers in December or just some unexplainable light phenomenon? Whatever they were – as so well presented by Drs. Glazer and Shields – they were fun to see and interesting to consider. I am happy to know that such qualified people as Neil and Lynne are looking for answers to these spirited questions.

Our meeting this month also promises to be spirited. It has been said that, for every day since it ended, the equivalent of a book has been written on the Civil War. True or not, many books have been written and the question for this month's debate is simple – of all the books, which is the best? Our moderator has assembled a distinguished roster of debaters who will champion outstanding works fact and fiction. (And yes, sometimes it is hard to tell the difference.)

Our debate is always one of our most interesting meetings, made more so by the questions of our members who never lack for opinions on any aspect of the war and its times. It is a good time for members and their guests – a showcase for some of us and a great show for all of us.

Our raffle last month featured some items from Gettysburg. We will have more great items this month including our featured wine – “William Vodrey Vendange Chardonnay.” We appreciate your support of the raffle with your “George Washingtons” and especially your “Abraham Lincolns.” (One chance for a dollar and six for five dollars – such a deal.)

Speaking of presidents, the Western Reserve Historical Society's exhibit, “Every Four Years – Ohio's Role in the Making of the American President,” will be there through February 27<sup>th</sup>. It features interesting artifacts from presidential elections. Check out George Washington's dueling pistols. It also honors our first ladies, featuring some dresses they wore, including one of Mary Lincoln's.

I hope to see the exhibit this month and all of you on the 12<sup>th</sup> as we kick off 2005 – our 49<sup>th</sup> year!

*Mel Maurer*

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE  
2004/2005 SCHEDULE**

September 8, 2004



Lincoln and Douglas

**Voices of the  
Civil War:  
D o u g -  
las, Lincoln,  
and Echoes on  
the Prairie**

**George Buss**

October 13, 2004

**Henry  
W.  
Halleck**



**John Marszalek**

November 10, 2004

**Winfield Scott  
Hancock**

**Dan  
Zeiser**



December 8, 2004



**Ghosts of  
Gettysburg**

**Neil  
Glazer**

January 12, 2005

**The Great Debate**

*Which is the best book, fiction or  
non-fiction, on the Civil War?*

**Moderator: William Vodrey**

February 9, 2005

**Stonewall  
Jackson in the  
Valley  
Bob Boyda**



March 9, 2005

**Myths of  
Shiloh**

**Tim Smith  
Shiloh National Park Historian**



April 13, 2005

**Abraham  
Lincoln  
Portrayed by  
Jim Getty**



May 11, 2005

**U. S. Grant Seen  
and Heard**

**Harold Holzer**



# **SILENT WITNESSES TO THE CIVIL WAR**

## **Evergreen Cemetery**

**First in a series of articles on cemeteries in Cleveland's western suburbs**

**Written by Dale Thomas © 2004**

Evergreen Cemetery in Westlake, Ohio is located on Center Ridge Road and bordered by greenhouses, a nursery, and soccer field. Across the busy highway, a housing complex sprawls beyond a ridge that once was a farmer's field. The cemetery is well maintained, but something has been lost in the suburban encroachments around it. The names and dates on many of the old tombstones have eroded away and, like the rural surroundings, are gone forever.

The first burials date back to a time when the area was called Dover, a part of Cuyahoga County that became a township in 1811. One of the first settlers, Jasher Taylor, a veteran of the American Revolution, is buried in the southern part of the cemetery. His weathered gravestone lies flat on the ground, but is still readable. Born in Ashfield, Massachusetts in 1753, he served from time to time in the Continental Army from April of 1775 to the end of the war. The records also show Taylor was a farmer, six feet, one inch tall with a light complexion. He married Dolly Carr and moved to Ohio before the turn of the nineteenth century. At the age of seventy-five, the old soldier died, seven years after the Missouri Compromise helped preserve the Union in 1820.

Sherman Sperry was born five years before the Compromise of 1850, the last major attempt of a nation trying to find the middle ground to avoid disunion and war. However, conciliation failed, and the Civil War was about to enter its third year in January of 1863 when Sperry volunteered for the 124<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry Regiment being organized at Camp Cleveland. The eighteen year old became a musician in Company F and, more than likely, his parents hoped this would keep him out of danger. Within the month, the regiment left for Louisville, Kentucky and then moved on to Franklin, Tennessee in February, joining the Army of Kentucky, Department of the Cumberland. A month after his regiment fought its first battle at Thompson's Station, Private Sperry died on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. He was buried in the National Cemetery near Nashville, Tennessee. Sometime after the war, Sperry's parents may have moved his remains to Evergreen Cemetery.

Private John A. Clague's grave is near the soccer field, where today youngsters play and parents cheer, ignoring the tombstones on the other side of a rail fence. Displaying marksmanship with a rifle, Clague joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Independent Company of Ohio Sharpshooters, which would become Company H in the 60<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry Regiment. In the late winter of 1864, the regiment was reorganized at Camp Cleveland, departing by railroad for Alexandria, Virginia on April 21, 1864.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Ohio was attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, and 9th Corps of the Army of the Potomac. From May 5 to June 12, the regiment saw action at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor. It then took part in the siege of Petersburg, which lasted from June 16, 1864 to April 2, 1865. Private Clague, however, did not survive that last terrible summer of the war. Either a victim of disease or wounds, he was taken north to Philadelphia where he died at the age of twenty-three on August 11, 1864. Buried in Pennsylvania, his remains may have also been moved by family members to Evergreen Cemetery.

Surviving the Civil War by fifty-five years, John C. Smith served in Company G of the

18<sup>th</sup> Regular Army Infantry Regiment. Smith's tombstone is unique because he wanted to tell his story for future generations:

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN C. SMITH  
SON OF  
RHODA G. AND SAMUEL P. SMITH  
JULY 1, 1838 – APRIL 4, 1920**

**HERE LIES THE ASHES OF A SOLDIER OF 1861-1864 WHO HELPED TO SAVE THE UNION THAT WAS DONE. WAS ON THE FORCED MARCH SUNDAY APRIL 6, 1862 TO REACH THE BATTLE OF SHILOH, TENN. CALLED PITTSBURG LANDING. WAS IN THE SIEGE OF CORINTH, APRIL AND MAY 1862. WAS IN THE BATTLE OF PERRYVILLE, KY, OCT. 9, 1862. WAS IN ALL OF GEN. BUELL'S LONG MARCHES OF 1862. WAS IN THE STONE RIVER BATTLE, DEC. 31, 1862 AND SEVERELY WOUNDED AND LAID UP FOR REPAIRS OVER A YEAR IN HOSPITALS. THEN SERVED ON DETACHED DUTY ON ACCOUNT OF WOUNDS TILL DISCHARGED.**

**ENGAGEMENTS OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> U.S. INF.**

**STONE RIVER DEC. 31, 1862**

**602 MEN IN BATTLE  
100 KILLED AND DIED OF WOUNDS  
200 WOUNDED  
300 TOTAL LOSS TODAY**

**CHICKAMAGUA SEPT. 19-20, 1863**

**587 MEN IN BATTLE  
45 KILLED AND DIED OF WOUNDS  
159 WOUNDED  
91 PRISONERS  
295 TOTAL LOSS TODAY**

**P.S. MANY SMALL ENGAGEMENTS NOT MENTIONED.**

**JOHN C. SMITH OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> U.S. INF.**

**NO COPPERHEAD OR SLACKER FOR ME.**

**REGIMENTS LOSS**

**218 KILLED AND DIED OF WOUNDS  
252 OF DISEASE – ACCIDENTS  
864 MORE MEN WOUNDED – PENSIONED**

James Bailey was another survivor of the Civil War. Facing rain storms out of the north-west, his white limestone marker is badly eroded. Bailey was forty-four years old on August 9, 1862 when he went to Camp Cleveland and became a private in Company H of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Infantry Regiment. Ordered south in September, the regiment saw action for the rest of the war in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Probably due to his age, Bailey was transferred on November 21, 1864 to the 47<sup>th</sup> Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Veteran Reserve Corps and was mustered out of the Union Army on July 1, 1865 in Washington City.

William W. Barnes was living in Michigan when the Civil War erupted. At the age of twenty-six, he joined Company C of the 9<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry, which was being organized in Detroit during October of 1861. His regiment saw action in many of the major battles in the western theatre, including Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Kennesaw, and Atlanta. Suffering a total of 309 dead from wounds and disease, the regiment was mustered out in Detroit during September of 1865. Perhaps the result of the physical and mental stress of war, Barnes died the following decade on March 1, 1876 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, four months before the United States celebrated its centennial anniversary.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* (Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., 1907).

*Official Roster of the Soldiers of the American Revolution Buried in the State of Ohio* (Columbus: F.J. Heer, 1929).

*Personal Reminiscences and Experiences* (Sheffield Lake, Ohio: One Hundred and Third Ohio Voluntary Infantry, 1900).

*Roll of Honor, Names of Soldiers Who Died in Defense of the American Union, Interred in the National Cemeteries* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1869).

## WEAPONS OF THE WAR

### LE MAT REVOLVER



The Le Mat revolver was the most exotic and formidable handgun to see service in the Civil War. Le Mat was a French-born American who at various times adopted the style of “Doctor” or “Colonel” as the mood suited him. In 1856, living in New Orleans, he had patented a revolver with a nine-shot cylinder for .40 caliber pistol ammunition. This cylinder revolved around a separate .63 caliber smoothbore barrel that extended forward under the conventional .40 caliber rifled barrel. This was, in effect, the close-range broadside to be loosed in an emergency, in addition to the cartridges in the normal chambers. A number, possibly three hundred (300), were made in New Orleans in 1859-1860, but on the outbreak of war Le Mat went to France to organize manufacture of the pistol for the CSA. The quality of the French-made pistols proved to be poor, and Le Mat placed further contracts in Belgium and England. At least one thousand five hundred (1,500) were imported. They appear to have been reliable and well-liked, and certainly the effect of the shot barrel at close quarters must have made them a fearsome weapon. No less a warrior than J.E.B. Stuart carried one.

### THE HENRY RIFLE



The Henry rifle stands alone as the most technically advanced firearm to see service during the Civil War. The Henry was a lever action magazine fed arm and its firepower was unequalled. In the days when muzzle-loading rifles were by far the most widely used weapons and single-shot breechloaders were considered advancements, the Henry’s fifteen (15) shot magazine (located under the barrel) offered a decided advantage. Only one thousand seven hundred thirty-one (1,731) were purchased by the federal government, although some soldiers paid the forty dollars (\$40.00) to privately purchase one. Brigadier General James W. Ripley, the Chief of Ordnance, recommended the rifle not be purchased, disliking its weight and seeing no advantage over single-shot breech-loading arms.

# SIGNIFICANT JANUARY CIVIL WAR DATES

## 1861

**JANUARY 5** - THE MERCHANT VESSEL *STAR OF THE WEST* SAILED WITH SUPPLIES AND 250 TROOPS FOR FT. SUMTER IN CHARLESTON. ALABAMA SEIZED FORTS MORGAN AND GAINES, WHICH PROTECTED THE HARBOR OF MOBILE.

**JANUARY 6** - THE U.S. ARSENAL AT APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA WAS SEIZED BY THE STATE WITH NO RESISTANCE.

**JANUARY 9** - THE STATE CONVENTION IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI VOTED 84 TO 15 TO SECEDE. THE *STAR OF THE WEST* ARRIVED IN CHARLESTON SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT.

**JANUARY 10** - BRAGG AND THE MILITIA SEIZED THE U.S. FORTS AND ARSE-  
NALS IN LOUISIANA. THE FLORIDA CONVENTION IN TALLAHASSEE VOTED 62 TO 7  
TO SECEDE. WILLIAM H. SEWARD ACCEPTED THE POST OF SECRETARY OF  
STATE.

**JANUARY 11** - THE STATE OF ALABAMA SECEDED BY A VOTE OF 61 TO  
39.

**JANUARY 19** - THE STATE OF GEORGIA SECEDED.

**JANUARY 29** - KANSAS WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION AS THE THIRTY-  
FOURTH STATE.

## 1862

**JANUARY 11** - SIMON CAMERON RESIGNED AS SECRETARY OF WAR.

**JANUARY 15** - EDWIN STANTON WAS CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE AS THE  
NEW SECRETARY OF WAR.

**JANUARY 19** - GENERAL GEORGE THOMAS WAS VICTORIOUS AT THE BAT-  
TLE OF MILL SPRINGS, KENTUCKY.

**JANUARY 30** - THE U.S.S. *MONITOR* WAS LAUNCHED AT GREENPOINT,  
LONG ISLAND.

## 1863

**JANUARY 1** - THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION WENT INTO EFFECT.  
BLOCKADING UNION SHIPS IN GALVESTON, TEXAS WERE FORCED OUT TO SEA BY  
CONFEDERATE COTTON-CLAD GUNBOATS WITH SHARPSHOOTERS ABOARD.

**JANUARY 2** - THE BATTLE OF STONE'S RIVER (MURFREESBORO) CONTIN-  
UED. BRAGG ANNOUNCED A GREAT VICTORY, ONLY TO RETREAT THE NEXT DAY.

**JANUARY 11** - THE C.S.S. *ALABAMA* SUNK THE U.S.S. *HATTERAS* THIRTY  
MILES OFF GALVESTON, TEXAS.

**JANUARY 19** - GENERAL BURNSIDE'S INFAMOUS MUDMARCH BEGAN FOL-  
LOWING THE DISASTROUS BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG. THE RAINS BEGAN ON  
JANUARY 20. THE MARCH ENDED ON JANUARY 23.

**JANUARY 25** - LINCOLN REMOVED BURNSIDE AND APPOINTED JOE  
HOOKER AS COMMANDER OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

**JANUARY 26** - THE C.S.S. *ALABAMA* CAPTURED AND BURNED THE  
*GOLDEN RULE* OFF HAITI.

**JANUARY 30** - THE RICHMOND *DISPATCH* PRINTED A LIST SHOWING THE  
PRICE OF GROCERIES HAD INCREASED TENFOLD SINCE THE WAR BEGAN.

**Western Reserve  
Historical Society  
Exhibit**

**“Every Four Years —  
Ohio’s Role in the  
Making of the  
American President”**

**Through February 27th**

**NEXT MONTH**

**STONEWALL  
JACKSON  
IN THE VALLEY**

**BOB BOYDA**

**BOB WILL DISCUSS JACK-  
SON’S BRILLIANT VALLEY  
CAMPAIGN  
FEBRUARY 9, 2005**