

# THE CHARGER

October, 2008

453rd Meeting

Vol. 30 #2

**Tonight's Program:**

## The Supreme Court during the Civil War

At a time when sectional tensions between the North and South were high, many of the Supreme Court's decisions—particularly those relating to slavery—met with controversy and contention. Most controversial was the Taney Court's decision in *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857). Dred Scott, a slave from Missouri, sued for his



Roger Taney, Chief Justice

freedom on the grounds that his master had taken him into Illinois and the territory of Wisconsin, both of which prohibited slavery. The Taney Court, however, ruled that members of the African race, "beings of an inferior order," were not and could never become citizens of the United States. Consequently, it ruled that Scott therefore had no standing to file the lawsuit. Moreover, the court held that the Missouri Compromise, under which Congress prohibited slavery in certain territories, was unconstitutional. The controversial decision met with vigorous opposition from abolitionists and contributed to the tensions that led to the Civil War.

During the war, the Court generally upheld Lincoln's unilateral suspension of *habeus corpus*, the arrest by the military of anyone suspected of being disloyal, and his imposing of naval blockades in decisions that deferred to Congress and the Executive branches of government during times of war. (*Ex parte Stevens*--1861; *Prize Cases*--1863; *Ex parte Vallandigham*--1864)

In the midst of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln appointed Salmon P. Chase to be Chief Justice. Chase had strong anti-slavery credentials and had served Lincoln as Secretary of the Treasury. His post-Civil War tenure featured several key decisions affirming the indestructibility of the Union.

**Tonight's Speaker:**

## Chris Fortunato

Christopher Fortunato has been a lawyer for 21 years. He thanks William F.B. Vodrey for sponsoring him as a member here. Chris has always wanted to give a presentation here and suggested the Supreme Court as a topic. In addition to practicing law, Chris decided to become a professional actor as well and holds membership in AFTRA and was invited to join Actors Equity, the union of stage actors and stage managers. While Roundtable members were dining at the Playhouse Club a few years ago, Chris made his debut in the Cleveland Playhouse production of Caryl Churchill's apocalyptic play, "Far Away," where he had a non-speaking role in a line of political prisoners that were hanged. Other theatres Chris appeared at include Porthouse Theatre, Beck Center, Ensemble Theatre and the Wake Up and Live Actors Studio. William Vodrey is the president of his fan club.

**Date: Wednesday,  
October 8, 2008**

**Place: Judson Manor NEW!  
1890 E. 107th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio**

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

**Reservations: Please Call NEW!  
Dan Zeiser (440) 449-9311  
Or email [ccwrt1956@yahoo.com](mailto:ccwrt1956@yahoo.com)  
By 6 pm Tuesday before meeting**

**Meal choice: Buffet includes entree, vegetable, potato/rice, salad, and dessert**

## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

*President:*       **Jon Thompson**       (440) 871-6439  
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**Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser**

### Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Past Presidents

2008 Terry Koozer  
 2007 John Fazio  
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 2005 Mel Maurer  
 2004 Warren McClelland  
 2003 Maynard Bauer  
 2002 Bill McGrath  
 2001 William Vodrey  
 2000 Bob Boyda  
 1999 Dick Crews  
 1998 John Moore  
 1997 Dan Zeiser  
 1996 John Sutula  
 1995 Norton London  
 1994 Robert Battisti  
 1993 Kevin Callahan  
 1992 Bob Baucher  
 1991 Joe Tirpak  
 1990 Ken Callahan Jr.  
 1989 Neil Glaser  
 1988 Martin Graham  
 1987 George Vourlojianis  
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 1985 Brian Kowell  
 1984 Neil Evans  
 1983 William Victory

1982 John Harkness  
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 1980 Charles Spiegle  
 1979 William Bates  
 1978 Richard McCrae  
 1977 James Chapman  
 1976 Milton Holmes  
 1975 Thomas Gretter  
 1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh  
 1973 Arthur Jordan  
 1972 Bernard Drews  
 1971 Kenneth Callahan  
 1970 Frank Schuhle  
 1969 Donald Heckaman  
 1968 Frank Moran  
 1967 William Schlesinger  
 1966 Donald Hamill  
 1965 Lester Swift  
 1964 Guy DiCarlo, Jr.  
 1963 Paul Guenther  
 1962 Edward Downer  
 1961 Charles Clarke  
 1960 Howard Preston  
 1959 John Cullen, Jr.  
 1958 George Farr, Jr.  
 1957 Kenneth Grant

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### OCTOBER, 2008

CCWRT's 52nd season got off to a rousing start last month when over 65 people came to Judson Manor to hear Dr. Joan Cashin speak on Varina Davis, whom she portrayed as the reluctant First Lady of the Confederacy. We learned that Varina was Southern bred, but Northern educated, with close family in the Deep South, but numerous relatives in Philadelphia as well as New England ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War. Cashin said the often conflicted Varina's happiest years were in the 1850s in Washington D.C., where she was an integral part of the city's society scene, being the wife of a powerful and influential Senator. Pro-Union, yet pro-slavery, she sadly, but accurately, seemed to realize that the Southern way of life was doomed and, although she feigned support for secession and the Southern cause, she privately believed the South stood little chance against the military and economic might of the North. Following the death of Jefferson Davis, Varina left the South and moved to New York City, where she lived out her life as a magazine writer, an independent thinker, and a reasonably independent woman, even befriending Julia Grant in their final years.

On another note, just last weekend, 26 CCWRT members journeyed to Gettysburg for an in-depth study of the battle and the battlefield. On behalf of the entire Roundtable, we placed a wreath at the 8th Ohio monument in honor of those soldiers from Northern Ohio who stood fast against the onslaught of Pickett's Charge. Our guide, Gary Kross, spent over 15 hours with us, providing detailed explanations of tactics as well as an abundance of human interest stories. The highlight may have been the spirited discussion between Dan Zeiser and Gary Kross regarding James McPherson's true profession. Our activities also included a guided ghost walk through the streets of town and a visit to the new Visitor Center, where we saw a Lincoln-penned copy of The Gettysburg Address and a spectacular presentation of the newly restored *Cyclorama*.

This month we look forward to a presentation by one of our own. Attorney, history-lover, and local thespian Chris Fortunato will enlighten us on The Supreme Court During the Civil War. Yes, there was indeed a Supreme Court from 1861-1865, although Lincoln's strong-willed leadership during a national crisis makes it possible to perhaps overlook their presence. Please join us Wednesday, October 8, at Judson Manor to hear Chris speak on this topic.

Respectfully,

Jon Thompson

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE  
2008/2009 SCHEDULE**

September 10, 2008

**Varina Davis:  
First Lady of the  
Confederacy**

**Dr. Joan Cashin**



October 8, 2008



**The Supreme Court  
During the  
Civil War**

**Chris Fortunato**

November 12, 2008

**Blood, Tears, and Glory:  
How Ohioans Won the  
Civil War**

**Dr. James Bissland**

December 10, 2008

**Restoring  
the  
USS  
Monitor**



**Dr. Sean Brossia**

January 14, 2009

**The Dick Crews Annual  
Debate**

*The Hitherto Unknown Meeting  
Of Abraham Lincoln and  
Jefferson Davis at Hampton Roads in January, 1865  
Lincoln will be portrayed by Mel Maurer  
Jefferson Davis will be portrayed by John C. Fazio*

**Moderator: William F. B. Vodrey**

February 11, 2009

**The Great  
Emancipator  
As Lawyer  
Dr. Paul Finkelman**



March 11, 2009

**Meet Me at the Fair: The Northern  
Ohio Sanitary Fair of the Cleveland  
Chapter of the United States Sani-  
tary Commission  
Tim Daley**

April 8, 2009

**The Fight for Money:  
The Income Tax Laws  
Of the Civil War**

**Donald Korb**

May 13, 2009

**The Fighting McCooks**



**Barbara  
Whalen**

# The Irish in the Civil War

By Dennis Keating

This is the 1st of a series. Next month: Three Leading Irish-American Heroes

## Introduction

On my mother's German side from Western Pennsylvania, I had a great-grandfather and two of his brothers who served in Pennsylvania volunteer regiments in the Civil War. Even though the Irish on my father's side had not yet arrived in the United States and Ohio during the Civil War, I have been interested more in the Irish-Americans who fought for the Union than the German-Americans.

In this article, I will discuss the role of the Irish in the Civil War focusing on some famous units, primarily on the Northern side but also some in the South. I will profile the three leading Irish-American military leaders of the war – Thomas Francis Meagher of the Irish Brigade, “Little” Phil Sheridan of the Union, and Patrick Cleburne of the Confederacy. While “Stonewall” Jackson was of Ulster Scots-Irish stock, I am not including him. Seven Union and six Confederate generals were Irish-born. And I will discuss the conflict between the Irish immigrants and the Negroes, which erupted in the New York City draft riots of July, 1863.

## The Pre-War Irish

By the beginning of the Civil War, the United States had a considerable Irish population, mainly centered in the cities. In 1860, a quarter of New York City's population (204,000) was Irish-born, with 22 percent (57,000) Irish-born in Brooklyn, then an independent city. The two other leading cities with large numbers of Irish-born immigrants were Philadelphia (95,000 - 18%) and Boston (46,000 - 26%). The Midwestern cities with the largest number of Irish-born immigrants were: St. Louis (19%), Chicago (18%), Detroit (14%), and Cincinnati (12%). The Southern Irish-born population was estimated to be between 85,000-175,000 in 1861. The Irish were about 25 percent of the population of New Orleans (24,398) and Memphis (4,159).

The first Irish emigrant wave was the Ulster Protestant (Presbyterian) Irish who left Northern Ireland for the rural United States, motivated by economic and religious reasons. Around 250,000 arrived in the eighteenth century. The next wave was the Irish Catholics, numbering almost a million, who came to North America – mostly the United States – between the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 and the beginning of the great potato famine in 1845. For them the reasons for emigrating were also to escape economic hardship and religious persecution. This rising Irish emigrant population triggered anti-Irish nativist reactions, including occasional violence in eastern cities and, in the 1840s, the birth of the Know Nothing party, dedicated to ridding the United States of papist-led Roman Catholics. It enjoyed its greatest electoral successes in the mid-1850s in New England. Some of this sentiment continued while approximately 1.5 million Irish, mostly Catholic, came to the United States in a single decade (1845-1855) to flee the famine. On the other hand, many Americans came to the aid of the Irish suffering under British policies and from Irish landowners clearing many of their desperate tenant farmers unable to pay rent or sustain themselves due to the disease that destroyed their potato crops.

Despite the discrimination and poverty endured by these Irish immigrants, they began to gain political power in those cities where their numbers were high. They mostly joined the Democratic party. As the abolitionist movement grew in the North, the Irish were not attracted to it for a number of reasons. Many distrusted its largely Protestant leadership and, with most Irish immigrants employed in low-paying, unskilled jobs, they feared competition from freed slaves in the same economic class.

In the election of 1860, the Irish-born voters in the North predictably supported the Democratic Party. However, after the South fired on Fort Sumter, many of these Irish Democrats volunteered to fight for the Union. It is estimated that about 145,000 Irish-Americans served in the Union's armed forces. Of this number, more than 8,000 were from Ohio. In addition to patriotism, many joined for the pay (and later bounties paid to recruits). Some





immigrants were recruited as they disembarked in New York City. Others saw this as an opportunity to prepare for a future opportunity to fight to liberate the Irish homeland from British rule. What they were not fighting for was to end slavery.

It was estimated that about 40,000 Irish-Americans fought for the Confederacy. On the Southern side, Irish-Americans, including their Catholic bishops and priests, sympathized with the defense of the South against Northern aggression, although they also generally supported the institution of slavery. They also identified with the Democratic Party, but experienced less discrimination than their Northern immigrant counterparts. Interestingly, “The Bonnie Blue Flag” was written by Irish-American minstrel Harry McCarthy, later a prisoner of war held at Johnson’s Island, Ohio. “Dixie” was written by Irish-American entertainer Daniel Decatur Emmett, born in Mount Vernon, Ohio. Leading Irish nationalist John Mitchel, the Young Ireland leader and escaped exile, moved to the South and became a noted defender of the Confederacy (breaking with his follower Meagher). Two of his sons who served in the Confederate army were killed (one at the Bloody Angle in Pickett’s Charge) and the third was badly wounded.

### **Irish-American Units and Battles**

The most famous Irish-American unit in the Union armies was the Irish Brigade of the Army of the Potomac. More detail about its most famous commander – Thomas Francis Meagher – follows below. Its genesis was the 69<sup>th</sup> New York State Militia regiment, commanded by Irish exile Michael Corcoran, a Fenian (the Irish Republican Brotherhood founded in Dublin in 1858). Corcoran gained renown in October, 1860 when he refused to include the regi-



2nd Irish Color, 69th NSV

ment in a parade in New York City to honor the visiting Prince of Wales. For this, he was court-martialed and jailed. He was defended by fellow Irish exile and rebel Meagher, a captain in the regiment. After the attack on Fort Sumter, the 69<sup>th</sup> voted to answer Lincoln’s call for volunteers. The governor of New York then quashed Corcoran’s court-martial. Soon after, the 1,000 strong 69<sup>th</sup> left New York for Washington, D.C. amidst great fanfare, marching under their green silk regimental banner and the slogan “Remember Fontenoy” (the battle in which the exiled “Wild Geese” of the Irish Brigade of the French Army turned the tide against the British in 1745). The 69<sup>th</sup> was assigned to the brigade commanded by Ohioan William Tecumseh Sherman.

Its first battle experience came at First Bull Run. It twice assaulted Confederates holding Henry Hill, fighting fellow Irish-Americans, many of them dock workers, serving with the Louisiana Zouaves under Roberdeau Wheat from New Orleans. In the midst of the Federal retreat, Michael Corcoran was captured, as well as the regiment’s flags. It lost 192 men killed, wounded, and missing. Afterwards, Sherman criticized the 69<sup>th</sup> for their near mutinous behavior, partly resulting from their feeling that there was anti-Irish bias against them. This included disagreement over exactly when their 90-day enlistment ended. The 69<sup>th</sup>’s initial enlistment ended amidst acrimony.

Meagher returned to New York to recruit an Irish Brigade, of which he became commander, replacing Corcoran in December 1861. Tiffany and Company made a replacement flag featuring an Irish harp. Returning to the Army of the Potomac, the 69<sup>th</sup> was joined by two other largely Irish New York regiments – the 63<sup>rd</sup> and 88<sup>th</sup>. Father William Corby, a Holy Cross priest from Notre Dame University, became the chap-



Irish Brigade Chaplains,  
Fr. Corby, front row right

lain of the Irish Brigade. The brigade was assigned to Israel Richardson's division.

The Irish Brigade was next bloodied in George McClellan's Peninsula campaign. It fought in the battle of Fair Oaks on June 1-2, 1862 and then in several of the battles against Robert E. Lee's attacking Army of Northern Virginia. On July 1, it went up against the Confederate Irish-Americans of Roberdeau Wheat's Louisiana Tigers. Wheat had been killed a few days earlier at Gaines' Mill and the Tigers were disbanded soon after. The three regiments of the Irish Brigade suffered almost 500 killed, wounded, and missing out of about 4,000 during the Peninsula campaign. A few weeks later, it was reinforced by the 29<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts, a New England Yankee regiment. This did not sit well with the Irish or the Yankees. The all-Irish 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts replaced the 29<sup>th</sup> following the battle of Antietam. Meagher returned to New York to recruit replacements, which he found more difficult, even with the lure of bounties. In August, 1862, Corcoran was exchanged but did not return to command of the 69<sup>th</sup>. Instead, he recruited an Irish Legion unit.

The next test for Meagher's Irish Brigade was the slaughterhouse known as the battle of Antietam at Sharpsburg, Maryland on September 17, 1862. The Irish Brigade under Richardson launched an attack against the Confederates in the Sunken Road. Previously, the Irish-American 69<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania of Howard's Philadelphia Brigade was decimated in the fighting in the West Woods. After absolution by Father Corby, the Irish Brigade charged the Sunken Road (Bloody Lane) defended by D.H. Hill's division. In the savage fighting that followed, the Irish Brigade suffered over 500 casualties but could not break through the Confederate defense. Many protested Lincoln's decision to again relieve McClellan of command of the Army of the Potomac for his failure to pursue Lee, replaced by Ambrose Burnside. Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation also did not sit well with many of the Irish-American volunteers in the army, as well as their civilian relatives. Lincoln's action exacerbated previous opposition to the draft passed by Congress in the summer of 1862. Many felt that it favored the rich, who could afford to buy their way out of the draft, versus poor immigrants who could not.

Burnside then led his army to Fredericksburg and another terrible battle which would reinforce the fighting reputation of the Irish Brigade. In addition to the 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts, the Irish Brigade now also included the 116<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania from Philadelphia. Although the latter was not all-Irish, its commander and his second in command were both Irish-born, as were many of its soldiers. On December 13, 1862, the Irish Brigade marched through the town to join the assault on Longstreet's troops on Marye's Heights entrenched in another sunken road behind a stone wall. Before their assault, soldiers of the Irish Brigade put sprigs of green boxwood in their caps to make their Irish heritage known. Their valiant but futile charge gained the admiration of Longstreet's troops, which included the Irish-Americans of the Georgia brigade. After the death of its brigade commander Thomas Cobb, the Georgia defenders were led by Robert McMillan, colonel of the 24<sup>th</sup> Georgia and born in Antrim, Ireland. The Irish Brigade suffered 45 percent casualties, including 55 officers killed and wounded. Father Corby called it a "slaughter-pen." This disaster fueled Northern Irish-American disenchantment with the war. On January 16, 1863, St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City was the site of a requiem mass for the dead heroes of the Irish Brigade with Meagher attending.

Upon his return to the army in February, Meagher attempted to obtain home leaves for the New York regiments in the Irish Brigade shortly after he met with President Lincoln, but his request was denied by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. A few months later, the Irish Brigade found itself caught up in the rout of General Joseph Hooker's right wing by Stonewall Jackson on May 2 at Chancellorsville. Frustrated by the brigade's losses and the denial of his requests for leaves, Meagher resigned from the army on May 8.

As the Army of the Potomac, now under the command of George Meade, marched to a momen-

tous rendezvous with Lee's army at Gettysburg, the battle-hardened Irish Brigade now numbered only 530 men, commanded by Colonel Patrick Kelly of the 88<sup>th</sup> New York. Small as it had become in numbers, the Irish Brigade still made a memorable contribution to the Union victory. The brigade was among others of Winfield Hancock's Second Corps ordered to support Dan Sickles' beleaguered Third Corps in the Wheatfield on the second day of the battle. Again first receiving absolute from Father Corby, it plunged into the maelstrom. Before it retreated back to Cemetery Ridge, the brigade lost 202 men.

Other Irish-Americans distinguished themselves at Gettysburg. Irish-born and West Point graduate Colonel Paddy O'Rourke led his 140<sup>th</sup> New York regiment in a desperate race to Little Round Top to stop a Confederate charge up its slopes. Leading his troops, O'Rourke fell dead, but his men and others of the Fifth Corps successfully defended Little Round Top, along with the more celebrated 20<sup>th</sup> Maine under Joshua Chamberlain. The next afternoon, it was the turn of the 69<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, still under Colonel Dennis O'Kane from County Kerry but reduced since Antietam to only 258 men. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade of the 2<sup>nd</sup> division of Hancock's Second Corps, they awaited the approach of the Pickett-Pettigrew charge at the Angle. Despite O'Kane's wounding (and later death) and casualties of 50 percent, the 69<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania played a critical role in defeating the Confederate attack at its high-water mark.

In December 1863, Michael Corcoran died in an accident in the company of Meagher and his loss was much lamented. The Irish Brigade, back to a strength of about 3,000 despite the re-assignment of the 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts and the 116<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, would participate in Grant's 1864 Overland Campaign, suffering losses of one-third of its men and officers, including two commanders killed in succession at Cold Harbor and Petersburg and their successor captured at Ream's Station. Nevertheless, the brigade survived as a re-organized unit and was commanded until the end of the war by Robert Nugent, an original member of the 69<sup>th</sup> New York. They were there for the final defeat and surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House in April 1865. In his 1963 address to the Irish Parliament, President John F. Kennedy presented to the Irish people a battle flag of the Irish Brigade.

In the west, from Ohio, the most notable unit was the 10<sup>th</sup> Ohio, known as the "Bloody Tenth." It was comprised mainly of Irish immigrants from Cincinnati. It gained fame because of its first commander - William Lytle. He came from a distinguished family and was a prominent lawyer and Mexican war veteran. He was also nationally known as a poet, especially for "Antony and Cleopatra." Lytle was wounded in 1862 at the battles of Carnifex Ferry, West Virginia and Perryville. Promoted to command of a brigade in Sheridan's division of Rosecrans's Army of the Cumberland, Lytle's brigade stood in the way of Longstreet's breakthrough on September 20, 1863 at Chickamauga. He led them in a desperate charge to stem the tide and died from four wounds. His body, accompanied by an honor guard from the Bloody Tenth, was returned to Cincinnati for a public funeral.



These are, of course, only a few examples of the heroism of the many Irish-Americans who fought and died for the Union. Due largely to there being no similar large concentrations of Irish-Americans in Southern cities and the segregation of Southern units by state, there was no Confederate equivalent to the

Northern Irish Brigade. Instead, there were a number of smaller predominately Irish-American Confederate units, mostly at the battalion and company levels. Several of these served under Stonewall Jackson and Richard Taylor in Jackson's 1862 campaign in the Shenandoah Valley. Some were prominent in the defeat of Irish-born general James Shields at Port Republic.

At the regimental level, the 6<sup>th</sup> Louisiana "Tigers" from New Orleans was perhaps the best

known in the Army of Northern Virginia. It served with Jackson and Taylor in the 1862 Valley campaign and in Early's 1864 Valley campaign. It was devastated defending against Union attacks on the West Woods at Antietam, losing its Irish-born commander Henry Strong and eleven other officers. Its brigade of Louisianans under Harry Hays suffered 60 percent casualties. It fought in every major battle of Lee's army, a total of 25 major battles. At the surrender under John Gordon at Appomattox, the 6<sup>th</sup> Louisiana numbered only 52 out of a total of 1,146 during the war. Thirty had originally enlisted in 1861. Approximately 60 percent of this regiment were Irish born or of Irish ancestry. The 6<sup>th</sup> Louisiana lost 219 killed in battle and a total of 330 died (including one executed for desertion).

An outstanding family example of Lee's Irish-Americans was the Dooley family of Richmond. John Dooley emigrated from Limerick in 1832. From clerking to becoming a prosperous clothing manufacturer, Dooley helped to organize the Montgomery Guard militia. He served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia regiment and later commanded the Richmond Ambulance Corps. His oldest son was wounded at Williamsburg in 1862 and then served in the Confederate Ordinance Department. His younger son, a captain in the Montgomery Guard in the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia, was in the forefront of Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, was shot through both thighs, but survived to serve 21 months as a prisoner at Johnson's Island. Of the 90 in the Montgomery Guard who began the war, only 11 were left at Appomattox.

In the Army of Tennessee, two regimental units are especially worth mentioning. The 5<sup>th</sup> Confederate Infantry was a combination of two largely Irish-American units from Memphis and served in Cleburne's division. After the destruction of Cleburne's command at Franklin, only 21 survived. At the surrender in North Carolina in April 1865, there were only 10 left. The 10<sup>th</sup> Tennessee, known as the "Sons of Erin," was led by the mayor of Nashville, killed at Raymond, Mississippi in the defense of Vicksburg. It too fought with Cleburne. Three of its officers were captured at Bentonville, leaving a single survivor at Johnston's surrender.

Two dramatic incidents also deserve mention. On June 26, 1863, after Grant's army besieging Vicksburg exploded a mine tunneled under the city's defenses, it was Irish-Americans in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Missouri who rushed to fill the gap against their fellow Irish-Americans of the Federal 7<sup>th</sup> Missouri, mostly from St. Louis.

On September 8, 1863, a band of 43 Irish-American artillerymen defended the Sabine Pass on the Texas-Louisiana coast against a Federal expedition comprised of four gunboats and 5,000 troops on 22 transports. The vastly outnumbered Confederates were led by Dick Dowling, who emigrated from County Galway to Houston. Without the loss of a man, they disabled two of the gunboats. A third ran aground before the Federals gave up their attempt to invade East Texas.

Dennis Keating is Distinguished Professor, Levin College of Urban Affairs and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University. He is currently Vice President of the Roundtable and will become President next year. He has been a member since 2002.

**THE 21ST ANNUAL OHIO  
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**Next Month**  
**Blood, Tears, and Glory:  
How Ohioans Won the  
Civil War**  
**Dr. James Bissland**