

THE CHARGER

March 2010

467th Meeting

Vol. 31, #7

Tonight's Program:

Steps Toward War: Two Dramatic Rescues That Led To It



On East Vine Street in downtown Oberlin, you can find the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue Monument. Stop 5 of 8 on Oberlin's Downtown Civil War Tour, the text on the monument reads:

In the spring of 1859, twenty Oberlinians went to jail for the crime of rescuing John Price from slavery. With all their comrades in the Abolition Cause, they kindled hopes of freedom for us all.

You can find more at www.oberlin.edu/external/EOG/CivilWarTour.

Tonight's Speaker:

Nat Brandt

Nat Brandt is a veteran journalist and historian who has been a reporter for the *Newark Star-Ledger*, an editor for the *New York Times*, managing editor of *American Heritage*, editor-in-chief of *Publishers Weekly*, and a senior news writer for CBS News. He is the author of eleven nonfiction books, including *The Town That Started the Civil War (Oberlin)* and *In the Shadow of the Civil War: Passmore Williamson and the Rescue of Jane Johnson*. Mr. Brandt is a recipient of the Douglas Southall Freeman Award for Southern History as well as awards from the Illinois State Historical Society and the New Jersey Press Association. He will have copies of his Civil War books for sale at the meeting.

Date: **Wednesday,
March 10, 2010**

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

Time: **Drinks 6 PM
Dinner 6:45 PM**

Reservations: **Please Call
Dan Zeiser (440) 449-9311
Or email ccwrt1956@yahoo.com
By 9 pm Sunday before meeting**

Meal choice: **Salad, lemon herb
chicken, pesto potatoes, carrots,
and dessert.**

**CLEVELAND
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE**
FOUNDED 1957

President: **Dennis Keating** (216) 397-0188
Vice President: **Lisa Kempfer** (440) 526-1318
Secretary: **Marge Wilson** (216) 932-6558
Treasurer: **Paul Burkholder** (440) 918-0222
Historian: **Mel Maurer** (440) 808-1249

Directors:

Gordon Gates	John Thompson
C. Ellen Connally	Terry Koozer
Hans Kuenzi	Steve Wilson

website: clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com
email: pburkholder@ameritech.net

Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH 2010

Greetings,

While our primary interest and speakers are usually focused on the Civil War, the causes that led to it have stirred debate and deserve attention. Among the most important events leading to the Civil War are the following: the Missouri Compromise and Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, the publication in 1852 of Harriet Beecher Stowe's best selling *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act that led to the violence in "Bleeding Kansas" between the free soilers (including John Brown) and the slave staters, the 1957 Dred Scott decision by the U.S. Supreme Court declaring the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional and denying any legal rights to African-Americans, the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates, and John Brown's failed 1859 Harper's Ferry raid to free slaves, followed by Lincoln's election as President, the Southern secessions, and the attack on Fr. Sumter.

This month our speaker, Nat Brandt, will recount two examples of anti-slavery rescue actions by abolitionists that also contributed to the sectional split leading to war. Close by was the 1858 rescue by Oberlin area citizens of escaped slave John Price from Kentucky slave catchers. Oberlin was an Ohio center of abolitionist sentiments and a stop on the underground railroad. This led to a famous trial in Cleveland of Oberlin rescuers. Brandt's account of this drama and another earlier in Philadelphia will be well worth hearing

Respectfully,

Dennis Keating

**Cleveland Civil War Roundtable
Past Presidents**

<p>2009 Jon Thompson 2008 Terry Koozer 2007 John Fazio 2006 Dave Carrino 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 1986 Tim Beatty 1985 Brian Kowell 1984 Neil Evans</p>	<p>1983 William Victory 1982 John Harkness 1981 Thomas Geschke 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</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
2009/2010 SCHEDULE**

September 9, 2009

**Plenty of Blame to
Go Around: Jeb Stu-
art's Controversial
Ride to Gettysburg**



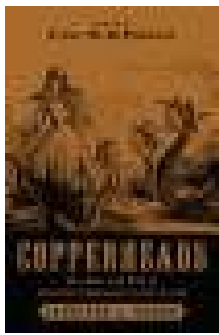
Eric Wittenberg

October 14, 2009

Behind the Scenes at a Civil War Movie

**Michael Kraus
Curator of the Pittsburgh Soldiers &
Sailors Military Museum & Memorial
Advisor on Cold Mountain and
Gettysburg movies**

November 11, 2009



**The Copperheads:
Lincoln's Oppo-
nents in the North**

**Prof. Jennifer L.
Weber**

December 9, 2009

Three Soldiers and the Negro

**David L. Forte
Professor
Cleveland-Marshall College of
Law**

January 13 2010

**The Dick Crews Annual
Debate**

*After Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E.
Lee, William Tecumseh Sherman Was
the Greatest General of the War*

Moderator: William F. B. Vodrey

February 10, 2010

**The 26th Ohio
Volunteer Infantry:
The Ground Hog
Regiment**
Jeff Hill



March 10, 2010

**Steps Toward War: Two Dramatic
Rescues That Led To It.**
Nat Brandt

April 14, 2010

**Rutherford B. Hayes
and the
23rd Ohio Volunteer
Infantry**
Thomas J. Culbertson



May 12, 2010



**John Wilkes
Booth:
Escape and
Capture**
Mel Maurer

**For membership in the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable, please visit our web site:
<http://clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com>**

LOVEJOY OF ILLINOIS

By John C. Fazio, © 2009

Part 2 of 2

In October, 1837, some of the town leaders, realizing that bloodshed was almost certain to follow if something did not check the escalating violence, asked Lovejoy to leave Alton. He refused, vehemently asserting that he had as much right to live and work there as anyone else. In his defense, he asked:

What infraction of the law have I been guilty of? When and where have I published anything injurious to the reputation of Alton? ... Why am I waylaid from day to day...and my life put in jeopardy every hour?

Despite harassment of his family by the rabble, which he took note of in his defense and which, of course, was especially painful for him, he would stay in Alton because duty and principle demanded it, as he saw it.

Should I attempt it (to leave)," he said, "I should feel that the angel of the Lord with his flaming sword was pursuing me wherever I went...I here pledge myself to continue it, if need be till death.

Matters came to a head on November 6, 1837, when a new press was secretly delivered by steamboat, in the wee hours, to a warehouse on the banks of the Mississippi (the Godfrey & Gilman Warehouse) prior to its installation at the offices of the *Observer*. This press came from the Ohio Anti-Slavery Society (or perhaps the Illinois Anti-slavery Society – the record is unclear). Under the direction of the mayor, a volunteer militia of sixty men opposed to mob violence was formed for the purpose of protecting this, Lovejoy's fifth, press. Either because mob leaders were unaware of the arrival of the press or they chose not to challenge a force of sixty men, the night of November 6 passed quietly.

On November 7, however, the guard was down to about twenty men, which apparently became known to the mob leaders, because by approximately 10:00 p.m. some twenty to thirty men gathered and laid siege to the warehouse and the twenty or so Lovejoy supporters who were holed up inside. One of the owners of the warehouse, Winthrop Sargent Gilman, appeared in an upper window. "What do you want here," he asked the crowd. "The press" was the unsurprising answer. Gilman tried to pacify them, at the same time letting them know that they were not dealing with pushovers: "We have no ill feelings toward any of you," he said, "and should much regret to do any injury; but we are authorized by the Mayor to defend our property and shall do so with our lives."

The mob, now of sufficient size to have its way, and well oiled with booze (almost always the companion of lawlessness and vigilantism), ignored Gilman and began to hurl rocks at the warehouse, breaking its windows. It was soon met with a barrage of earthenware pots, which just happened to be in the warehouse. This, of course, escalated the violence, and it was not long before attackers and defenders were exchanging gunfire. The Mayor, with about as much chance for success as a candle in a windstorm, ordered the mob to disperse. Rebuffed, he tried to persuade the defenders to surrender the press, but they were having none of it. In the exchange of gunfire, several mob members were hit and one was killed. It was apparent to the mob leaders that the exchange favored the defend-



ers, who had walls to protect them, whereas the mob was in the open. The cry went up: "Burn them out." The mob leaders sent for a ladder, which was put up against the side of the building. They then sent a very brave but deluded boy, armed with a torch, up the ladder, with instructions to set fire to the wooden roof. Lovejoy and one of his men, Royal Weller, realizing that a fired roof meant the defenders' doom, crept outside, unnoticed, and succeeded in overturning the ladder and then retreated to the safety of the building. Undeterred, members of the mob put up a second ladder and sent another brave but deluded fellow to the roof. This one attempted to ignite the roof with a smoking pot of pitch. Again Lovejoy and Weller crept out of the building with the intent to neutralize the threat, but this time they were spotted. One of the mob brought both men down with a double-barreled shotgun loaded with slugs. Five of the slugs struck Lovejoy and one or more Weller. Somehow, Lovejoy managed to make his way back into the building and to the second floor before he collapsed. "My God, I am shot," he said, and then died in the arms of his friend, Thaddeus Hurlbut. Weller survived. The mob rejoiced and announced their intention to kill everyone in the building. The defenders quickly realized that they had no choice but to surrender themselves and the press that had cost their leader his life. The mob rushed into the building, seized the press, and carried it to the riverbank, where they broke it into pieces and tossed them into the river.

Fearing further violence, Lovejoy's friends waited until the following morning to remove his body from the building, after guarding it all night. A funeral was quickly arranged. As the wagon carrying his body made its way through the streets of the city toward his home, some of the participants in the previous night's violence laughed and jeered. Some who witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus Christ also laughed and jeered. Thus always with miscreants. The following day, November 9, 1937, his 35th birthday, Lovejoy was laid to rest in an unmarked grave in the Alton City Cemetery, the location known by William "Scotch" Johnson, a black man who assisted in the burial.

News of Lovejoy's death spread quickly and became the subject of countless sermons and editorials throughout the North. Some in the South responded with silence, but many were gleeful that the voice of one of the hated abolitionists had been stilled. John Quincy Adams, whose anti-slavery credentials were well known, wrote that Lovejoy's death "...gave a shock as of an earthquake throughout the continent." The Reverend Edward Beecher, an abolitionist, said that Lovejoy was "...the first martyr in America to the great principles of freedom of speech and of the press." Abolitionists across the country hailed Lovejoy as a martyr and resolved to intensify their struggle to wipe the scourge of slavery from the face of the land. In addition, membership in anti-slavery societies increased sharply. Lovejoy's greatest honor, therefore, was the inspiration he gave to so many to hasten the downfall of slavery.

Among the many who were so inspired was a twenty-eight year old Illinois State Representative who addressed the Young Men's Lyceum in Springfield on January 27, 1838. Clearly referring to the death of Lovejoy, Abraham Lincoln said:

The innocent, those who have ever set their faces against violations of law in every shape, alike with the guilty, fall victims to the ravages of mob law...Let every man remember that to violate the law, is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the charter of his own, and his children's liberty...There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law.

Lesser honors took the form of numerous buildings that were named for Lovejoy, as well as numerous monuments. In addition, his death was the impetus for his brother, Owen, to enter politics and to become the leader of the abolitionists of Illinois. Owen thus joined Lovejoy's cousin, Nathan A. Farwell, who was elected United

States Senator from Maine.

Years after he was buried in an unmarked grave, Lovejoy's body was exhumed and re-interred in its present site in the Alton Cemetery, Madison County, Illinois, a project financed by a man by the name of Thomas Dimmock, who purchased a marble scroll which marks the grave. Inscribed on the scroll are Latin words, which translate as: "Here lies Lovejoy – Spare him now the grave." Dimmock also purchased the granite block upon which the scroll rests and beneath which the martyr rests, as well as the fence that encloses the gravesite.

On November 7, 1897, exactly sixty years after his murder, the citizens of the City of Alton dedicated a monument to Lovejoy in the cemetery in which he is buried, about fifty yards from his grave and overlooking the Mississippi. The monument consists of a ninety-three foot tall granite tower capped by a bronze statue of victory, with eagles mounted on thirty foot columns on both sides of the tower. The design attempts to convey a sense of triumph and consummation and commemorates Lovejoy's commitment to freedom of speech and of the press. Monuments memorializing some of his supporters are also in the vicinity. There are four inscriptions at the base of the monument, one on each side, which are meant to reflect Lovejoy's three occupations as editor, minister, and opponent of slavery, as well as to honor those who defended him and his press that terrible night. These are the inscriptions:

South Front

Elijah P. Lovejoy,

Editor Alton Observer,
Albion, Maine, Nov. 8, 1802
Alton, Ill., Nov. 7, 1837.

A Martyr to Liberty.

"I have sworn eternal opposition to slavery, and by the blessing of God, I will never go back."

North Front

Champion of Free Speech.

"But, gentlemen, as long as I am an American citizen, and as long as American blood runs in these veins, I shall hold myself at liberty to speak, to write, to publish whatever I please on any subject – being amenable to the laws of my country for the same."

West Front

Salve, Victores!

This monument commemorates the valor, devotion and sacrifice of the noble Defenders of the Press, who, in this city, on Nov.



Rededication of
The Elijah Parish Lovejoy Monument
Alton, Illinois

Image from the program of the Rededication of the Elijah Parish Lovejoy Monument, Thursday, September 25, 1969.

7, 1837, made the first armed resistance to the aggressions of the slave power in American.

East Front

**Minister of the Gospel.
Moderator of Alton Presbytery,**

“If the laws of my country fail to protect me I appeal to God, and with him I cheerfully rest my cause. I can die at my post but I cannot desert it.”

Antedating the monument, but clearly predicting and anticipating it, Thomas Dimmock wrote this in the May, 1891, issue of *New England Magazine*:

The man who, with nothing to gain but the approval of conscience, and everything to lose but honor, stands forth against overwhelming odds in defense of a great and precious principle, and finally lays down his life in that defense, surely deserves from his fellow-men, at least, grateful and everlasting remembrance.

Another honor to Lovejoy came in 1952, when his alma mater, Colby College (then Waterville College), established the Lovejoy Award, with three purposes:

1. To honor and preserve the memory of Elijah Parish Lovejoy, America’s first martyr to freedom of the press and a Colby College graduate (Valedictorian, Class of 1826) who died bravely rather than forsake his editorial principles.
2. To stimulate and honor the kind of achievement in the field of reporting, editing, and interpretive writing that continues the Lovejoy heritage of fearlessness and freedom.
3. To promote a sense of mutual responsibility and cooperative effort between a newspaper world devoted to journalistic freedom and a liberal arts college dedicated to academic freedom.

It is worth noting, in conclusion, that a further honor was accorded to Lovejoy when the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, abolishing slavery, was drafted in Alton.



John Fazio is a former president of the Cleveland Roundtable and a frequent contributor to the Charger.

Gravesite, Alton Cemetery, Alton, Illinois

March Civil War Events in Ohio

March 4

Vermilion: Oberlin and the Underground Railroad, 7 p.m., at the Lorain County Metroparks Vermilion River Reservation, 51211 North Ridge Road, Vermilion.

March 6

Mentor: Behind the Scenes Tour of the James A. Garfield Home, 11 a.m. A special two hour tour that takes you into rooms not open to the public. Garfield National Historic Site.

Mentor: Children's Tour of the James A. Garfield Home, 12 noon.

Georgetown, Clermont County: Grant at Shiloh, by Ed Bearss, 11 a.m.. **NOTE: ED BEARSS IN OHIO AGAIN**

March 7

Mentor: Mayor Eleanor Garfield: A Women's History Month, 2 p.m.

March 8

Dayton: Abraham Lincoln Conversation Series, 1 and 7 p.m.

More information on each of these events can be found at www.ohiocivilwar150.org. Check out the site.

March 13

Mentor: Children's Tour of the James A. Garfield Home, 12 noon.

March 18

Cincinnati: Rare Civil War Artifact Exhibit, ONE NIGHT ONLY, 5:30 p.m.

March 20

Mentor: Behind the Scenes Tour of the James A. Garfield Home, 11 a.m. A special two hour tour that takes you into rooms not open to the public. Garfield National Historic Site.

Mentor: Children's Tour of the James A. Garfield Home, 12 noon.

Sunbury: Fireside Chat with General William S. Rosecrans, 7 p.m.

March 27

Mentor: Children's Tour of the James A. Garfield Home, 12 noon.

March 28, The Garfields of Mentor: A 30th Anniversary Celebration, 2 p.m.

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument was the featured landmark in Steve Litt's article on Cleveland landmarks in the February 26 Plain Dealer Magazine:

"Encrusted with ornamentation and festooned with sculptures representing bloody Civil War action, the monument virtually shouts for attention...Thanks to a recently completed \$2 million renovation, it's a more welcoming and rewarding place to see than it has been in years."

NEXT MONTH

**RUTHERFORD B. HAYES
AND THE 23RD OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY**

THOMAS J. CULBERTSON