

THE CHARGER

May 2010

469th Meeting

Vol. 31, #9

Tonight's Program:

John Wilkes Booth: Escape and Capture

John Wilkes Booth was the ninth of ten children born to the famous, eccentric, and hard-drinking actor, Junius Booth. The Booth family and its slaves lived on a farm near Bel Air, Maryland. Booth made his stage debut at age seventeen in Baltimore, appearing in *Richard III*. His highly successful acting career for a Shakespearian company based in Richmond took him all over the United States. On November 9, 1863, Abraham Lincoln watched Booth play Raphael in *Marble Heart* in the same box at Ford's Theatre where he would be assassinated.

Booth became politically active in the 1850s, joining the Know-Nothing Party, an organization devoted to reducing the stream of immigrants into the United States. He supported the institution of slavery and in 1859 joined a Virginia company that aided in the capture of John Brown after his raid at Harper's Ferry. Booth was an eyewitness to Brown's execution. During the Civil War, Booth worked as a Confederate secret agent and met frequently with the heads of the Secret Service, Jacob Thompson and Clement Clay, in Montreal.



Tonight's Speaker:

Mel Maurer

Mel Maurer is the Roundtable's Historian and a past President. He is a retired executive of the Dana Corporation. In addition to the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable, he has served as president of the Philosophical Club of Cleveland and is a member of the Titanic Historic Society. An Abraham Lincoln scholar, Mr. Maurer is a lifetime member of the Lincoln Forum, attending its Symposium in Gettysburg every November.

Mr. Maurer and his wife, Elaine live in Westlake, Ohio. They have four children (his son, Rick, is also a member of the Roundtable) and eight grandchildren. His interests include writing, acting, speaking on community affairs, charitable causes, history, and political issues.

Date: **Wednesday,
May 12, 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: **Turkey breast,
whipped sweet potatoes, and
broccoli, and dessert.**

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

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Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser

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2005 Mel Maurer	1979 William Bates
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2003 Maynard Bauer	1977 James Chapman
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2001 William Vodrey	1975 Thomas Gretter
2000 Bob Boyda	1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh
1999 Dick Crews	1973 Arthur Jordan
1998 John Moore	1972 Bernard Drews
1997 Dan Zeiser	1971 Kenneth Callahan
1996 John Sutula	1970 Frank Schuhle
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1991 Joe Tirpak	1965 Lester Swift
1990 Ken Callahan Jr.	1964 Guy DiCarlo, Jr.
1989 Neil Glaser	1963 Paul Guenther
1988 Martin Graham	1962 Edward Downer
1987 George Vourlojianis	1961 Charles Clarke
1986 Tim Beatty	1960 Howard Preston
1985 Brian Kowell	1959 John Cullen, Jr.
1984 Neil Evans	1958 George Farr, Jr.
	1957 Kenneth Grant

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MAY 2010

Greetings,

As we approach the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, once again the anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln has come and gone. As most of the nation mourned his death, Edwin Stanton launched the massive hunt for his assassin, resulting in the capture and death of the actor John Wilkes Booth. For those of us who have not taken the tour of Booth's escape and capture, our historian Mel Maurer will lead us through these dramatic events. You can read the details in James Swanson's *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* (2006). I hope that many of you can attend the special June 9 meeting where Mel and John Fazio will debate whether and how the Confederate government was involved in the actions of Booth and his fellow conspirators.

It has been an honor to be your president this year. Thanks to those members who have served on the Executive Committee and the others who have provided support for our programs. I look forward to the re-dedication of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument and the continued interest in the Civil War, especially the role of Ohioans.

Respectfully,

Dennis Keating

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

September 9, 2009

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



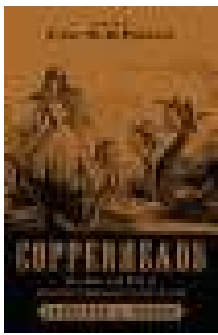
Eric Wittenberg

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



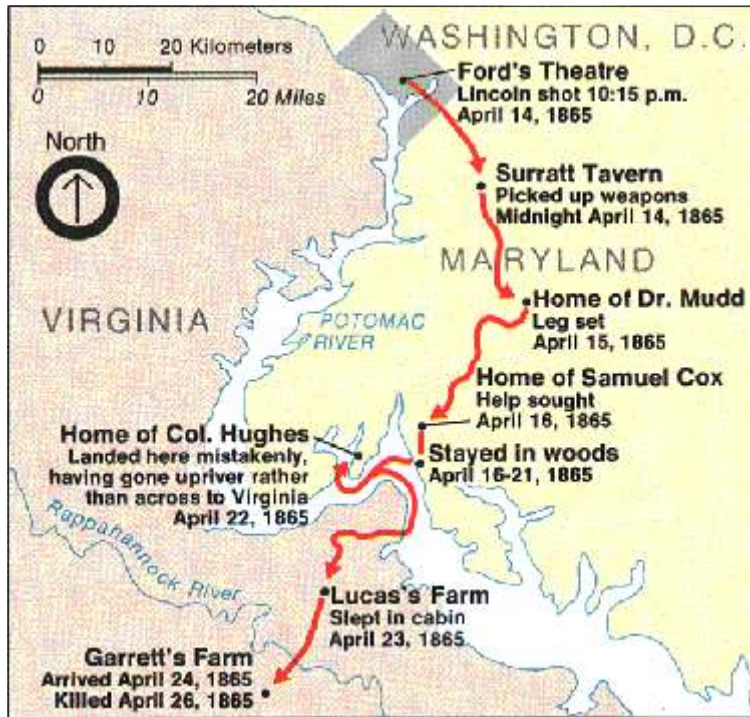
May 12, 2010



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

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

John Wilkes Booth: Escape and Capture



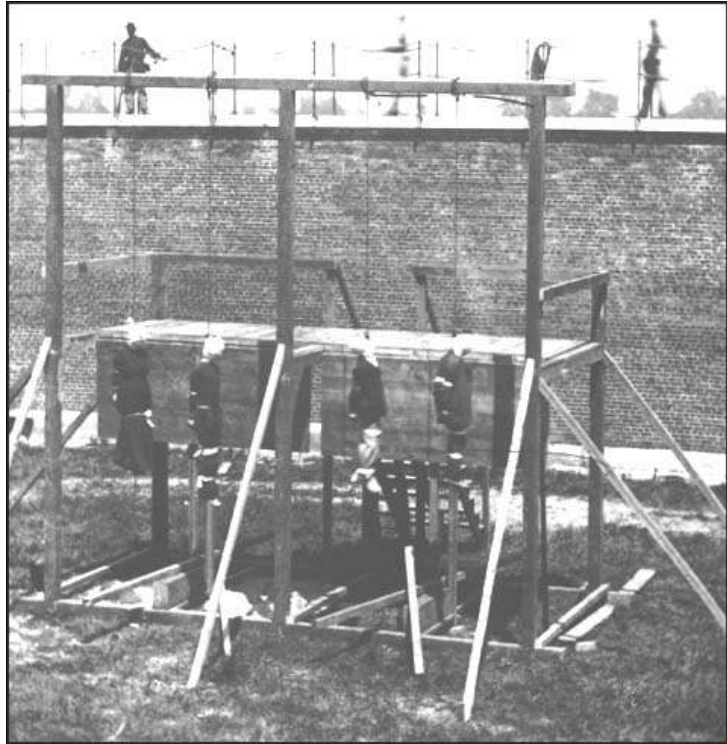
On the night of April 14, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was shot by the dashing young actor, John Wilkes Booth, at Ford's Theatre in Washington City. While Lincoln lay dying, his assassin was making his escape into southern Maryland. Over the next twelve days, Booth and his accomplice, David Herold, were tracked through the lower counties of Maryland and across the Potomac River into Virginia. They were finally trapped at Garrett's Farm near Bowling Green, Virginia, where Herold was taken prisoner and Booth was shot and killed by federal troops.



The Surratt boarding house at 604 H Street, NW, where Booth hatched his plan to assassinate Lincoln.



Above: David Herold, Booth's traveling companion on the night of April 14-15.
Left: The conspirators hanging from the gallows at the Old Arsenal Penitentiary, now on the grounds of Ft. McNair.



Dr. Samuel Mudd's house. The Mudd family vehemently denies that Dr. Mudd knew Booth was involved in the Lincoln plot and what he had done on the night of April 14. I believe the Mudd family members are the only people who truly believe that.

KENTUCKY IN THE CIVIL WAR

Mill Springs: No Longer a Footnote

January 19, 1862

Brig. Gen. Felix K. Zollicoffer never could have imagined, in the years preceding January 19, 1862, that he would be facing Brig. Gen. George H. Thomas's Federal forces on a cold, rainy Sunday morning near a sleepy little community called Logan's Crossroads, Ky., nine miles north of the Cumberland River. Zollicoffer had been a Union man, a member of the Whig Party, a three-term U.S. Congressman, and a newspaper editor from Nashville, Tennessee, and he had served in the Second Seminole War in Florida. However, when southern states began to secede from the Union, like many, he chose to support his state, taking command of Confederate forces in East Tennessee at the behest of Governor Isham Harris.

Zollicoffer invaded Kentucky in the fall of 1861 and was forced to retreat at the Battle of Camp Wildcat, north of present day London, Kentucky. After retreating back to the Cumberland Gap, Zollicoffer moved his army to Mill Springs, on the south side of the Cumberland River. He planned to use this winter camp to guard the fords leading to central and eastern Tennessee. Mill Springs had plenty of water and a grist mill, and supplies could be sent up river from Nashville. Zollicoffer made a fateful decision to move his army across the river to Beech Grove, which resulted in the combining of Federal forces at Logan's Crossroads (now present day Nancy, Ky.) to plan an attack on Beech Grove. Jefferson Davis sent Maj. Gen. George B. Crittenden to take over command of Zollicoffer's army, leaving him in command of one brigade. What transpired in the coming battle resulted in Zollicoffer's death and the first major Federal victory of the war.

The rain, smoke, and fog caused visibility to be minimal and, against the advice of his aids, Zollicoffer rode up the Mill Springs Road to get a better view of troop movements. Unknowingly, he rode up to a Federal officer from Danville, Kentucky named Speed Fry. Realizing his mistake, Zollicoffer tried to bluff his way to safety and ordered Fry to stop firing on his own men. In reality, however, the Union soldiers of the 4th Kentucky were shooting at the Southerners of the 15th Mississippi Infantry. Zollicoffer might have gotten away, had not one of his aides rode up shouting "General, they are the enemy!" and fired upon Fry. The jig was up. Fry turned, fired his pistol, and ordered his regiment to open fire. Zollicoffer and his two aides fell, mortally wounded, in the middle of the Mill Springs Road. After a bitter fight along the split-rail fence — punctuated by a bayonet charge by the 9th Ohio — the Confederates retreated in disorder and crossed the Cumberland River later that night.

The Confederate defeat caused far-reaching results during the following months. The Southern defensive line across southern Kentucky and northern Tennessee was blown wide open, giving Union forces the opportunity to move down the Tennessee River and attack Forts Henry and Donelson, ultimately resulting in the devastating Battle of Shiloh. An additional quirk of the engagement is that it has more names than any other Civil War battle: the Battle of Fishing Creek, Logan's Crossroads, Old Fields, Somerset, and Mill Springs among the most noted.

The Battle of Mill Springs had been a footnote in history, overshadowed by the larger battles of the Civil War that followed. It was not until 1992, when the Mill Springs Battlefield Association was formed, that the battle's significance was brought back to life. Since then the MSBA has acquired, with the help of the Civil War Preservation Trust, nearly 500 acres of battlefield land, restored two historic houses, created two walking trails, placed numerous interpretive signs and built a 10,000-square-foot visitor center. The visitor center and museum, located in Nancy, Kentucky., acts as the information hub for the entire battlefield, drawing thousands of visitors per year. The MSBA also holds several annual events each year.

Taken from the website of the Civil War Preservation Trust, www.civilwar.org

KENTUCKY IN THE CIVIL WAR — JOHN HUNT MORGAN

Although never rising above the rank of brigadier general, John Hunt Morgan was one of the Confederacy's most colorful cavaliers and raiders. His exploits took him deep behind federal lines and earned him a reputation for audacity and creativity — even favorable comparisons to Francis Marion, the famed "Swamp Fox" of the Revolutionary War.

Born in Alabama but a Kentuckian since childhood, Morgan did not initially support the Confederate cause in his home state, going so far as to write to his brother that he believed Abraham Lincoln would be a good president. However, as tensions in Kentucky rose and the state government began to splinter under the weight of its faltering, self-imposed neutrality, he began to reconsider his position. Prior to the war, Morgan was a Lexington businessman who had seen combat as a cavalry private during the 1847 Battle of Buena Vista. Returning home from the Mexican War, he married and reentered private life, although he raised and commanded two companies of militia during the 1850s. In September 1861, following the death of his wife from a protracted illness, Morgan and the majority of his "Lexington Rifles" militia crossed into Tennessee to enlist in the Confederate Army. The band formed the crux of the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry, which fought with distinction at the Battle of Shiloh.

Morgan's first great escapade came in the summer of 1862, when he and 900 cavaliers spent three weeks riding through Kentucky, disrupting the progress of Union forces in the state and raising the hopes of secessionists who sought to bring the state fully into the Confederacy. Morgan and his raiders reportedly captured and paroled 1,200 Union soldiers, acquired several hundred horses, and confiscated or destroyed massive amounts of Federal supplies.

An August 1862 edition of Harper's Weekly described Morgan as a "guerrilla, and bandit" with "predatory instincts," and characterized his men as "a band of dare-devil vagabonds" who spent their time "burning bridges, tearing up railway tracks, robbing supply trains, and plundering and wasting the few remaining prosperous portions of Kentucky." The same article, however, also admitted some of the characteristics that gave Morgan a cult of personality in the South — "the most desperate courage" and "some of the chivalrous qualities of his namesake and prototype, Morgan the Buccaneer of the Caribbean Sea" — before noting that these "will not, however save him from being hanged if he falls into the hands of his fellow citizens in Kentucky."

In the summer of 1863, Morgan launched an even more audacious raid through Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. His inventive and highly successful tactics included having his telegraph operator masquerade as a Union soldier and send false and wildly divergent messages reporting on Morgan's actions, objectives, and troop strength, creating confusion and hampering any response. Despite great initial success, Morgan was defeated at the Battle of Buffington Island, Ohio on July 19, 1863 and some 750 Confederate cavaliers were captured. A few days later, pursued by Federal cavalry, 300 of Morgan's men crossed the swollen Ohio River into West Virginia; the rest continued north and east, hoping for a chance to slip across the river to relative safety. After another defeat at the Battle of Salineville on July 26, Morgan was captured and taken with some of his officers to the Ohio State Penitentiary, while the majority of the enlisted men were sent to Chicago's Camp Douglas as prisoners of war.

In November 1863, Morgan and six others escaped by tunneling out of a cell and scaling the prison walls. Two were recaptured, but the rest returned south, and Morgan recommenced his military exploits. His later raids in Kentucky, with a force inferior to the one he had lost on his great raid, resulted in heavy casualties and open pillaging, leading to accusations of banditry. On September 4, 1864, while attempting to escape from a Union raid on Greeneville, Tennessee, Morgan was shot and killed.

Although followed breathlessly by the press, Morgan's raid lacks the greater strategic importance of other military events from the summer of 1863, such as fighting at Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Moreover, Morgan conducted his raid in violation of direct orders not to cross the Ohio River, losing him the trust of his superiors and damaging his reputation forever. Still, his results were impressive. He captured and paroled approximately 6,000 Union soldiers, destroyed 34 bridges, disrupted rail lines at 60 sites and diverted tens of thousands of troops from other purposes. In Ohio alone, Morgan's men stole 2,500 horses and raided more than 4,300 homes and businesses. Claims for compensation of losses inflicted by Morgan's men were still being filed into the early 20th century.

Coming Events

May 29-30: Re-Enactment - Burton, Ohio
June 4-5: Re-Dedication of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument - Public Square
June 12-13: Re-Enactment - Lakeside, Ohio, East Harbor State Park
June 1-30: Looking at Lincoln: Political Cartoons from the Civil War Era - Garfield National Historic Site, Mentor
June 1-September 30: Diorama of the Battle of Chickamauga - Garfield NHS, Mentor
July 31-August 1: Civil War Encampment - Garfield NHS, Mentor
August 14-15: Civil War Re-Enactment - Hale Farm & Village
August 23-27: Civil War Week - Lakeside, Ohio

June 9 Special Summer Meeting Debate

John C. Fazio and Mel Maurer

Resolved: That the Confederate government, through the agency of its Secret Service Bureau, was complicit in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln

For the proposition: John C. Fazio

Against the proposition: Mel Maurer

Where: Judson Manor

Cocktails: 6:00 pm

Dinner: 6:45

Program: Approx. 7:30

If you are interested, please send an email to ccwrt1956@yahoo.com

DO NOT FORGET 2010 FIELD TRIP

**For more details, you can contact Lisa Kempfer at
440-526-1318 or lisakempfer76@yahoo.com**

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