

THE CHARGER

November 2009

463rd Meeting

Vol. 31, #3

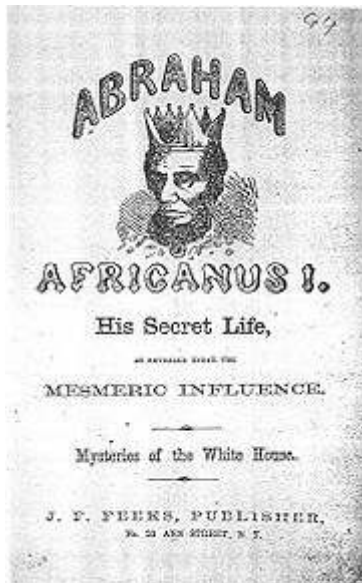
Tonight's Program:

Copperheads: Lincoln's Opponents in the North

Although the Democratic party broke apart in 1860, Democrats in the North were generally more conciliatory toward the South than were Republicans. They called themselves Peace Democrats; their opponents called them Copperheads because some wore copper pennies as identifying badges. A majority of Peace Democrats supported war to save the Union, but a strong and active minority asserted that the Republicans had provoked the South into secession; that the Republicans were waging the war in order to establish their own domination, suppress civil and states rights, and impose "racial equality;" and that military means had failed and would never restore the Union.

Peace Democrats were most numerous in the Midwest, a region that had traditionally distrusted the Northeast, where the Republican party was strongest, and that had economic and cultural ties with the South. The Lincoln administration's arbitrary treatment of dissenters caused great bitterness there. Above all, anti-abolitionist

Midwesterners feared that emancipation would result in a great migration of blacks into their states. The most prominent Copperhead leader was Clement L. Vallandigham of Ohio, who headed the secret antiwar organization known as the Sons of Liberty. At the Democratic convention of 1864, where the influence of Peace Democrats reached its high point, Vallandigham persuaded the party to adopt a platform branding the war a failure, and some extreme Copperheads plotted armed uprisings. However, the Democratic presidential candidate, George B. McClellan, repudiated the Vallandigham platform.



Copperhead pamphlet, 1864.

Jennifer L. Weber

Dr. Weber is a native Californian who worked for several years in her home state as a journalist and political aide. Then she saw the light and went to graduate school. Her principal interest is the Civil War, especially the seams where political, social, and military history come together. Other fields that attract her attention include 19th century America and war and society. She is currently working on a children's book about the battle of Gettysburg; a collection of essays in honor of her graduate adviser, James M. McPherson; and a monograph comparing conscription and its consequences in the Union and the Confederacy. Professor Weber is co-director of the Hall Center's seminar on Peace, War & Global Change. In addition to her work at KU, she serves on the advisory panel for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. In her spare time she enjoys sports, music, movies, novels, and traveling. Dr. Weber is an avid follower of current events and politics.

**Date: Wednesday,
November 11, 2009**

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

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

**Reservations: Please Call
Dan Zeiser (440) 449-9311
Or email ccwrt1956@yahoo.com
By 8 pm Tuesday before meeting**

**Meal choice: Pot roast, roasted,
potatoes, vegetable, salad, 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
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Hans Kuenzi Steve Wilson

website: clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com

email: pburkholder@ameritech.net

Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Past Presidents

2009 Jon Thompson	1983 William Victory
2008 Terry Koozer	1982 John Harkness
2007 John Fazio	1981 Thomas Geschke
2006 Dave Carrino	1980 Charles Spiegle
2005 Mel Maurer	1979 William Bates
2004 Warren McClelland	1978 Richard McCrae
2003 Maynard Bauer	1977 James Chapman
2002 Bill McGrath	1976 Milton Holmes
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
1995 Norton London	1969 Donald Heckaman
1994 Robert Battisti	1968 Frank Moran
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1992 Bob Baucher	1966 Donald Hamill
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

NOVEMBER 2009

Greetings,

Movie buffs were enlightened by our October speaker - Michael Kraus, curator of the Pittsburgh Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum, Civil War re-enactor, and adviser on Civil War films. His account of the Romanian Army soldiers rented for the filming of "Cold Mountain" to play Union and Confederate troops and the re-enactors in "Gettysburg" were especially fascinating to me.

The Civil War remains topical with the recent 150th anniversary of John Brown's Harper's Ferry raid and subsequent execution. After his capture by Robert E. Lee, among others, he spoke with none other than Ohio Congressman Clement Vallandigham. Commemorative exhibitions are open in New York City and Richmond.

Several of us heard retired Civil War historian James Robertson of Virginia Tech give a very interesting talk last month about some of the underlying and often neglected influential elements of the Civil War (for example, the weather).

I look forward to this month's speaker, University of Kansas history professor Jennifer Weber. She will be talking about the Copperheads (Peace Democrats). Among the two most prominent were Ohio Democratic Congressmen Vallandigham and George Pendleton, about whom I have written in the Charger. Civil War politics are certainly as complicated and interesting as its many military battles.

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**



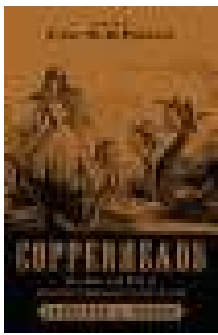
Eric Wittenberg

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>**

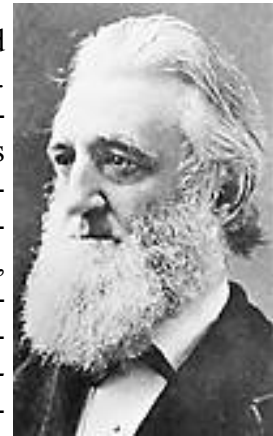
THE COPPERHEADS

The **Copperheads** were a vocal group of Democrats in the Northern United States who opposed the American Civil War, wanting an immediate peace settlement with the Confederates. The name Copperheads followed from their practice of cutting the Liberty heads from copper pennies and wearing them as lapel pins. Their opponents also associated them with the venomous copperhead snake.

They were also called "*Peace Democrats*" (although the 13th Edition of *The American Pageant* makes a distinction between the two, as those termed Copperheads were at the extreme end of the Peace Democrats) and "Butternuts" (for the color of the Confederate uniforms). Perhaps the most famous Copperhead was Ohio's Clement L. Vallandigham.

During the American Civil War (1861-1865), the Copperheads nominally favored the Union and strongly opposed the war, for which they blamed abolitionists, and they demanded immediate peace and resisted draft laws. They wanted President Lincoln and the Republicans ousted from power, seeing the president as a tyrant who was destroying American republican values with his despotic and arbitrary actions.

Some Copperheads tried to persuade Union soldiers to desert. They talked of helping Confederate prisoners of war seize their camps and escape. They sometimes met with Confederate agents and took money. The Confederacy encouraged their activities whenever possible. The Copperheads had numerous important newspapers, but the editors never formed an alliance. In Chicago, Wilbur F. Storey made the *Chicago Times* into Lincoln's most vituperative enemy. The *New York Journal of Commerce*, originally abolitionist, was sold to owners who became Copperheads, giving them an important voice in the largest city. A typical editor was Edward G. Roddy, owner of the *Uniontown, Pennsylvania Genius of Liberty*. He was an intensely partisan Democrat who saw blacks as an inferior race and Abraham Lincoln as a despot and dunce. Although he supported the war effort in 1861, he blamed abolitionists for prolonging the war and denounced the government as increasingly despotic. By 1864 he was calling for peace at any price.



Wilbur F. Storey

John Mullaly's *Metropolitan Record* was the official Catholic paper in New York City. Reflecting Irish opinion, it supported the war until 1863 before becoming a Copperhead organ; the editor was then arrested for draft resistance. Even in an era of extremely partisan journalism, Copperhead newspapers were remarkable for their angry rhetoric. Wisconsin newspaper editor Marcus M. Pomeroy called Lincoln "fungus from the corrupt womb of bigotry and fanaticism" and a "worse tyrant and more inhuman butcher than has existed since the days of Nero... The man who votes for Lincoln now is a traitor and murderer... And if he is elected to misgovern for another four years, we trust some bold hand will pierce his heart with dagger point for the public good."

OHIO COPPERHEAD HISTORY

Copperheads or Peace Democrats were people who opposed the North's attempts to reunite the nation during the American Civil War.

During the American Civil War, a majority of Ohioans supported the war effort and the Republican Party, although there was a sizable minority who opposed the conflict. Many of the opponents of the war were members of the "Peace" section of the Democratic Party. They and other opponents of the war often came to be called "Copperheads." A number of white Ohioans, especially those living along the Ohio River, had migrated to the state from slaveholding states. While opponents of the war could not legally own slaves in Ohio, many of them did have family members residing in the South who did own African American slaves. These people often sympathized with slaveholders, agreeing with many white Southerners that the federal government did not have the power to limit slavery's existence. Some Peace Democrats also feared that President Abraham Lincoln intended to free the slaves. Some Ohioans who objected to slavery's end feared that African Americans would flood the North looking for jobs if they were given their freedom. These white Ohioans did not want to compete with African Americans for employment. Additional Ohioans had economic ties to the South and feared a decline in revenue and business opportunity with the war raging. Additionally, some Ohioans objected to violations of civil liberties, including suspension of habeas corpus and denial of freedom of speech, during the conflict.

Peace Democrats preferred political compromise rather than warfare. Several Ohioans participated in a peace convention during early 1861. The convention was held in Washington, DC, and the delegates hoped to convince President Lincoln to either agree to the Confederacy's demands to get it to rejoin the Union or to simply let the Southern states leave the United States. Lincoln ignored the convention's attempt to end the conflict peacefully. Politically, most people who participated in the peace convention affiliated themselves with the Peace Democrats. Their opponents nicknamed them Copperheads, describing the opponents of the war as poisonous snakes waiting to strike a blow in favor of the South. The first reference to "Copperheads" in Ohio occurred in 1861. Accepting the Copperhead name, many opponents of the war began to use the portrait side of copper coins as badges and tokens for identification and promotion of their cause.

Clement Vallandigham was the best-known Peace Democrat in Ohio. He helped organize a rally for the Democratic Party at Mount Vernon, Ohio, on May 1, 1863. Peace Democrats Vallandigham, Samuel Cox, and George Pendleton all delivered speeches denouncing General Order No. 38. In April 1863, General Ambrose Burnside, commander of the Department of Ohio, issued General Order No. 38. Burnside placed his headquarters in Cincinnati. Located on the Ohio River, just north of the slave state of Kentucky, Cincinnati had a number of residents sympathetic to the Confederacy. Burnside hoped to intimidate Confederate sympathizers with General Order No. 38.

General Order No. 38 stated:

The habit of declaring sympathy for the enemy will not be allowed in this department. Persons committing such offenses will be at once arrested with a view of being tried. . . or sent beyond our lines into the lines of their friends. It must be understood that treason, expressed or implied, will not be tolerated in this department.

Burnside also declared that, in certain cases, violations of General Order No. 38 could result in death.

Vallandigham was so opposed to the order that he allegedly said that he "despised it, spit upon it, trampled it under his feet." He also supposedly encouraged his fellow Peace Democrats to openly resist Burnside. Vallandigham went on to chastise President Lincoln for not seeking a peaceable and immediate end to the Civil War and for allowing General Burnside to thwart citizen rights under a free government.

In attendance at the Mount Vernon rally were two army officers under Burnside's command. They reported to Burnside that Vallandigham had violated General Order No. 38. The general ordered his immediate arrest. On May 5, 1863, a company of sol-



Clement L. Vallandigham

diers arrested Vallandigham at his home in Dayton and brought him to Cincinnati to stand trial.

Burnside charged Vallandigham with the following crimes:

Publicly expressing, in violation of General Orders No. 38, from Head-quarters Department of Ohio, sympathy for those in arms against the Government of the United States, and declaring disloyal sentiments and opinions, with the object and purpose of weakening the power of the Government in its efforts to suppress an unlawful rebellion.

A military tribunal heard the case, and Vallandigham offered no serious defense against the charges. He contended that military courts had no jurisdiction over his case. The tribunal found Vallandigham guilty and sentenced him to remain in a United States prison for the remainder of the war.

Vallandigham's attorney, George Pugh, appealed the tribunal's decision to Humphrey Leavitt, a judge on the federal circuit court. Pugh, like his client, claimed that the military court did not have proper jurisdiction in this case and had violated Vallandigham's constitutional rights. Judge Leavitt rejected Vallandigham's argument. He agreed with General Burnside that military authority was necessary during a time of war to ensure that opponents to the United States Constitution would not succeed in overthrowing the Constitution and the rights that it guaranteed United States citizens.

As a result of Leavitt's decision, authorities were to send Vallandigham to federal prison. President Lincoln feared that Peace Democrats across the North might rise up to prevent Vallandigham's detention. The president commuted Vallandigham's sentence to exile in the Confederacy. On May 25, Burnside sent Vallandigham into Confederate lines.

Some Peace Democrats resorted to more radical means, including subversion, to protest the Civil War. Some of these men formed a secret society known as the Order of American Knights or the Sons of Liberty. In February 1864, Vallandigham was elected supreme commander of the organization. Ohio government officials estimated that between eighty thousand and 110,000 Ohioans belonged to these organizations, but most historians discount these numbers as being dramatically higher than the group's actual numbers.

Rumors circulated throughout the North during 1864 that the Confederate sympathizers intended to free Southern prisoners at several prison camps, including Johnson's Island and Camp Chase, in Ohio. These freed prisoners would form the basis of a new Confederate army that would operate in the heart of the Union. Supposedly, General John Hunt Morgan, who had raided Ohio the previous year, would return to the state and assist this new army. The plot never materialized. General William Rosecrans, assigned to oversee the Department of Missouri, discovered the planned uprising and warned Northern governors to remain cautious. John Brough, Ohio's governor, sent out spies to infiltrate the groups of sympathizers. These men succeeded and stopped the uprising before it could occur. Confederate supporters hoped to capture the *Michigan*, a gunboat operating on Lake Erie near Sandusky. They would then use the gunboat to free Confederate prisoners at Johnson Island. Union authorities arrested the plot's ringleader, Charles Cole.



Gov. John Brough

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Rosecrans' and Brough's actions in 1864 helped subdue opposition to the war. Northern battlefield victories in 1864 also convinced many Ohioans that the war would end shortly in a Northern victory. As a result of these events, the influence of the Peace Democrats began to decline.

Taken from www.ohiohistorycentral.org.

JOHN HOWARD

John Howard, a long time member, passed away earlier this year. John had lived out of town for several years and had not attended a meeting in a number of years. Taking care of an ill spouse, he was never a regular at meetings. However, he was a regular on field trips when I first joined the Roundtable. John was a warm, caring man and I will always remember his cheerful smile. He brightened the group with his presence and will be missed.

Dan Zeiser, Editor

REPORT: FRIENDS OF THE HUNLEY OYSTER ROAST, OCTOBER 23, 2009

The Friends of the CSS Hunley held their 5th Annual Oyster Roast in Charleston, SC on October 23, 2009, from 7-10 PM, as their major annual fund raiser, supporting conservation of the raised Confederate submarine. Cleveland CWRT member, John Harkness, and his wife, Marguerite, are members of the Friends of the Hunley and drove to Charleston to see what this event was all about. This was our first (but won't be our last!) "oyster roast." You can keep your puny Yankee clam bakes. A meager dozen clams -- hah! This was downright filling & FUN!!

The event was held in the downtown Charleston Visitor Center's Tour Bus Shed. The location was a restored 19th century building that was once perhaps a steam railway train shed or street car barn. A brick building houses the Visitor Center offices & ticket windows, and behind it is the attached covered bus shed -- a couple of football fields in length, and at least a ball field wide, under a trussed roof, but otherwise open at both ends and along the full far wall. But, who cared? The weather was fine, with temperature in the 80° F range. Ample parking was available in adjacent garages, a short block away. All surrounding downtown streets were choked with strolling tourists and college students out for fun (& having a lot of it).

The all-you-can-eat event cost the astronomical sum of \$25 per person, with parking at \$2 for the night. The two cash bars offered wine at \$3 a glass and beer at \$2 a bottle. Outlandish prices!! But, there were also 50 major corporate sponsors and all wine/beer was donated by local distributors. All bar sales were thus total cash to the Hunley project. Organizers told us that at least 700 tickets had been sold in advance (\$25 each). We observed about 500 guests in the bus shed at any one time while were at the event.

So ... what was it like? A fabulous live band greeted guests at the entrance --playing rock & roll and country hits. Against the far long shed wall near the band were about 18 tables displaying many silent auction items -- unique Hunley art prints, sporting event tickets and memorabilia, other art, unique pottery, you name it. Next came two stations with whole BBQ pork carcasses, with platters of pulled pork -- combined with baskets of sandwich rolls, bowls of baked beans, tubs of cole slaw and selections of sauces -- vinegar, spicy vinegar and sweet and sour mustard. I vote for the spicy vinegar, myself! Further down the barn bay came the oyster roast serving stations. First came tables dispensing cotton gloves and oyster knives (one each per diner), plus cocktail sauce in plastic cups and numerous choices of hot pepper sauces to liven things up. They also had hand wash fluid and paper wipes -- which would come in VERY handy later. Then came two parallel rows of plywood table tops on saw horses, each about 50 feet long. At intervals in the table tops were 1 foot diameter holes (for the shells), feeding to garbage cans below. Just beyond these tables were propane-fired steamers that (more or less) cooked the oysters in the shell, and at the far entrance, a pressure wash station for the incoming fresh oysters. Periodically, two man crews brought long metal tubs of steamed oysters to the tables and dumped them in long piles about 6-8 inches high, down the length of the tables. Guests STOOD lining both sides of the table tops, hungrily grabbing hot, clumped oysters with their gloved hand as fast as they could and splitting open each individual oyster in the clump open with the stubby knife provided, then tossing the empty shells down the nearest hole in the table top. Then -- grab some more! We lost count of how many we ate -- and we had never eaten an oyster in the shell before that night! The locals were definitely faster at this ritual than were we!!

Last year they raised \$50,000 in one evening at this event. The 2009 ticket sales exceeded last year. In conjunction with the Oyster Roast, special "Friends of the Hunley Members Only" tours of the Warren Latch Conservation Laboratory in the old Charleston Navy Yard were offered on Friday the 23rd and Saturday the 24th. Members were given closer access to the conservation tanks where the submarine is displayed and were permitted to see artifacts recovered from the hull that are not on public display. Interestingly, the event coincided with the "Ring Day" ceremony for graduating seniors at The Citadel military academy in Charleston. Our hotel was filled with Citadel cadets in full dress uniform, their gorgeous girl friends in fancy dresses, and their proud families.

This is one l--o--n--g drive! We drove from Lakewood, OH to Beckley, West Virginia on Thursday, arriving about 7 PM. On Friday we drove from Beckley to Charleston, SC, arriving at our hotel about 6 PM. We raced to freshen up and got to the Oyster Roast about 7:30 PM (no need to dress up ... it's all messy food anyway). After a brief stop at the Conservation Lab the next morning, we drove back to Beckley on Saturday, arriving about 8 PM; then to Lakewood on Sunday the

25th, returning home about 3:30 PM. A couple of neat non-historic stops along the way: check out the J-R Outlet at Statesville, North Carolina -- tons of linens, towels, jeans, wine, perfumes and men's colognes, party decor items, and a prime cigar shop not to be believed, all discounted heavily. In Beckley, see Tamarac, a conference center and West Virginia artisans' showcase -- wood carvers, potters, painters, sculptors (in wood and bronze), blacksmiths, quilters, weavers, and books on area flora, fauna and geology.

Reported by John Harkness

AUCTION — NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

At the November and December meetings, we will be conducting an auction of a framed, matted John Paul Strain print. Titled “La Belle Rebelle,” it depicts Confederate spy Belle Boyd and 1st Lieutenant Henry Kyd Douglas at Front Royal, Virginia on May 23, 1862, during Jackson’s Valley Campaign. With the frame it measures approximately, 27 x 39. Below is a picture of the print and information from John Paul Strain about the print and its value. Let the bidding begin.



NEXT MONTH

THREE SOLDIERS AND THE NEGRO

**PROF. DAVID L. FORTE
CSU COLLEGE OF LAW**

Crews Debaters Wanted

The annual Dick Crews Debate is two months away. Those interested in participating in the debate about “Cump” Sherman’s place in the pantheon of great Civil War generals should contact the moderator, William Vodrey:
wfbvodrey@aol.com.