

# THE CHARGER

October 2012

489th Meeting

Vol. 34, #2

*Tonight's Program:*

## Morgan's Raid

Morgan's Raid was the only major attack by Confederate forces on the State of Ohio during the Civil War. On July 8, 1863, Morgan, a Confederate cavalry leader, led his soldiers across the Ohio River into southern Indiana. They spent five days in southern Indiana procuring supplies and horses from Northern civilians. On July 13, as the Indiana militia descended upon Morgan's men, the Confederates entered Ohio, near the Hamilton-Butler County line. Morgan led his men to the outskirts of Cincinnati, where he spent the night of July 13-14, within sight of the Union army's Camp Dennison. The next day, Morgan divided his men. They reunited in Jackson County and proceeded through Gallia, Vinton, and Meigs Counties, in an effort to reach the Ohio River.

On the night of July 18, Morgan and his men reached the Ohio River. The battle of Buffington Island occurred the next day. Northern forces numbered approximately 3,000, while Morgan's Raiders included 1,700 soldiers. Some uncertainty exists about the battle. Morgan did not file a battle report, and the Union officers involved left out many details in their final reports. Estimates for the number of wounded or killed Southerners range from 52-120. Union soldiers captured an additional 800-1,200. Northern soldiers lost twenty-five men in the battle, including Daniel McCook of the Fighting McCooks.

Morgan's remaining men managed to break through the Union lines and continued along the Ohio River, hoping to find a place to cross. Twenty miles from Buffington Island, they found an unprotected crossing where several hundred crossed before Union gunboats arrived. Morgan and his remaining soldiers retreated west then northeast. At Salineville, in Columbiana County, Union Cavalry under the command of Major W.B. Way and Major G.W. Rue surrounded Morgan's Raiders and succeeded in capturing Morgan and most of his command. Morgan's capture marked the end of his raid of the North.

*Tonight's Speaker:*

## Lester Horwitz

Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's great raid through Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio in July 1863 was a grueling horseback ride of more than 1000 miles. Beginning in Tennessee with 2,500 men, Morgan surrendered in Columbiana County, Ohio with about 350 tired troopers remaining. The raid was the northernmost incursion by the Confederacy into the Union and provided the most significant military action within the state of Ohio.

Lester Horwitz is a historian, lecturer, playwright, and screenwriter. He began these creative enterprises after the age of 69. Earlier, he was the founder and CEO of a national advertising agency for 45 years. His book on the raid was published in 1999. He has given talks on Morgan's Raid to several hundred organizations from coast to coast. In this talk, Mr. Horwitz discusses the unique characteristics of this daring raid and its effect on the Civil War and civilian.

*Date:* **Wednesday,  
October 10, 2012**

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

*Time:* **Drinks 6 pm  
Dinner 6:45 pm**

*Reservations:* **Please send an email to  
[ccwrt1956@yahoo.com](mailto:ccwrt1956@yahoo.com) with your reservation, or call  
Dan Zeiser at (440) 449-9311 by 9 pm the Sunday  
before the meeting.**

*Meal:* **BBQ beef brisket, whipped potatoes, green  
beans, salad, and dessert.**

**CLEVELAND  
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE  
FOUNDED 1957**

*President:* **Michael Wells** m.wells@csuohio.edu  
*Vice President:* **Jim Heflich** laureldoc@gmail.com  
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**Cleveland Civil War Roundtable  
Past Presidents**

2012 **Paul Burkholder**  
2011 **Lisa Kempfer**  
2010 **Dennis Keating**  
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 Vourlojanis**  
1986 **Tim Beatty**  
1985 **Brian Kowell**

1984 **Neil Evans**  
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**

## President's Message

This month's speaker, Lester Horwitz, is not a stranger to the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. His story of the July 1863 Morgan raid is one that involves a lot of geography and bears looking at again. The expanse of geography is something we experienced in our recent field trip. We were not concerned with one finite battlefield, but with three states involved in the Union's march into the western South, and this gave us (me, at least) a sense of distance not experienced in our trips to the eastern theater. But, maybe I am too imaginative; McClellan did go down and up rivers and marched all directions on the Peninsula. Perhaps it was just all the driving we did. Anyway, enjoy our October meeting and Charger.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Wells

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE  
2012-2013 SCHEDULE**

September 12, 2012

**John  
Michael  
Priest**



January 9, 2013

***Dick Crews Annual Debate:  
President Lincoln's Biggest Mistake***

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

February 14, 2013



***Edwin M. Stanton  
Buckeye Warlord***

**William F. B. Vodrey**

October 10, 2012



***Morgan's Raid***

**Lester Horwitz**

March 13, 2013

***The Assassination***

**Michael Kaufman**



November 14, 2012



***Fort Pillow***

**Dr. John V.  
Cimprich**

April 10, 2013

***Lincoln***

**Harold Holzer**



December 12, 2012

***The Irish and the  
Civil War***

**Dr. W. Dennis Keating**



May 8, 2013

***Cleveland Civil War Roundtable  
Players Present:  
Grant and Lee at the White House***

## BOOTH IN THE CONFEDERATE SECRET SERVICE

By John C. Fazio © 2012

John Wilkes Booth was an agent of the Confederate Secret Service. It is not known, and may never be known, when or exactly under what circumstances he was recruited and accepted his role as such, but that he was an agent and was in regular contact with other agents, who had ties to the Confederate leadership, or who had ties to other agents who had such ties, has been firmly established. Asia Booth described her brother as "a spy, a blockade-runner, a rebel!"<sup>1</sup>

Because he is not known to have been an agent before 1864 and is known to have been such in 1864 and 1865, it appears that he was recruited and trained in 1864, quite likely when he was in New Orleans for three weeks that year from the middle of March through early April. While there, he boarded at the home of George Miller, a Confederate sympathizer known to have had ties to high-ranking figures in the Confederate government. Booth and Miller are known to have corresponded for some time after Booth left the city. Another sympathizer he met there, and in whose company he was often seen, was Hiram Martin, a blockade runner. Either Miller or Martin could have been the recruiter. The only certainty is that by the end of that summer, Booth was in regular contact with Confederate agents and was familiar with their cipher system.<sup>2</sup>

Booth told Asia that he was involved in the "underground" and that the work demanded travel. The unexplained trips, the strange visitors at all hours, the callused hands "from nights of rowing," to Asia it suddenly all made sense. She wrote that:

He often slept in his clothes on the couch downstairs, having on his long riding boots. Strange men called at late hours, some whose voices I knew, but who would not answer to their names; and others who were perfectly strange to me. They never came farther than the inner sill, and spoke in whispers.<sup>3</sup>

It is worth noting, as further indication of his Secret Service activities, that some time in late summer or early fall of 1864, a few weeks after he had lost a \$6,000 investment in the oil business in northwestern Pennsylvania, Booth transferred all of his remaining assets to his mother, Mary Ann Booth, and his older brother, Junius Jr.<sup>4</sup> This could only have been because a traitor's property could be seized under the treason statute passed by Congress on July 17, 1862, and this fact was surely known to every Northerner who was in any way supporting the Confederacy.<sup>5</sup>

It is well known that, throughout most of 1864 and in the months leading up to the assassination, Booth had frequent meetings with other operatives, doubtless higher level, in Montreal, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington.

On July 26, 1864, Booth was in Boston at the Parker House. There he met with three Confederate agents from Canada and one from Baltimore. It appears that with this meeting, Booth was officially enlisted in the business of conspiracy against the Lincoln Administration. The identities of the men with whom he met are known, but the evidence is strong that they registered using aliases. The subject and purpose of the meeting are not known with particularity. What is known is that this meeting was the first, or at least one of the first, that Booth had with Confederate agents and that many more followed. Tidwell, Hall and Gaddy, masters of their craft, had this to say about this meeting:

The gathering at the Parker House...has all the earmarks of a conference with an agenda. The inference is that agents of the Confederate apparatus in Canada have a need to discuss

something with Booth. Capturing Lincoln? Within a few weeks Booth was in Baltimore recruiting others for just such a scheme and had closed out his Pennsylvania oil operations.<sup>6</sup>

It is also known that Booth's relationship with his family, never good relative to the major issue of the period, especially with brother Edwin and brother-in-law John Clarke, deteriorated badly during 1864 and finally reached the breaking point. The career rivalry between the brothers, in which Edwin easily eclipsed him, accelerated the process. Booth told Asia that if it were not for their mother, he would never enter Edwin's home, nor, he said, would he enter Clarke's home, but for Asia. In November, following an especially bitter exchange between the brothers, and after many such exchanges during the year, Edwin ordered Booth to leave his home and then physically expelled him from it. This humiliation may have sent him over the edge, because it followed other major problems he was having that year.

On August 7, Booth was in Philadelphia, from where he went to Baltimore. Most of August he spent in New York City at the home of his brother, Edwin. He had developed a bad case of erysipelas, on his right arm, a skin infection which, in the days before antibiotics, was quite serious and could even be fatal. He was confined to his sick bed, in Edwin's home in New York, the entire month before recovering. Later, in November, he suffered from eruptions of what have been described as "boils" or "carbuncles" on his neck, which had to be lanced and drained by a doctor. No longer welcome in Edwin's home, Booth found refuge with Asia in Philadelphia.

With John Ellsler, manager of the Cleveland Academy of Music, and another friend, Thomas Mears, Booth had invested substantial sums in oil speculation in western Pennsylvania, a highly risky venture in which many lost small and large fortunes. Booth joined them; his efforts came to nothing. The "oil business," however, did provide an effective cover for his travels and income in connection with his activities on behalf of Richmond and the Secret Service.

Clearly, Booth's world was falling apart; his relationship with his family was bad because of ideology and, in Edwin's case, had ruptured completely. Brother Joseph was abroad and brother Junius Jr. was in California through May, then returned home, joining Booth, Edwin, Asia and sister Rosalie, and Edwin's daughter, Edwina. Booth had been outclassed by brother Edwin on stage, who reserved the choicest venues for himself, assigning Booth to smaller cities and theaters, mostly in the South. Junius, also an actor, was too busy for him. In addition, Booth was often seriously ill physically, had lost a small fortune in oil and was, as always, drinking heavily (he could put away a bottle of brandy in one sitting) and therefore scrapping easily and often. In these circumstances, he may indeed have been losing his mind. At all events, we can at least begin to understand why he would be drawn to persons who offered him refuge, comfort, camaraderie, acceptance, money, ideological commonality, and purpose.

To New York, he is known to have traveled at least a dozen times for secret meetings. On one of these trips, in November 1864, he met with Samuel Knapp Chester, a fellow actor, and tried to recruit him into what he described as a plan to abduct Lincoln. He told Chester there were 50 to 100 people involved in the plan. Chester refused to join. Fifty to 100 is certainly an exaggeration (it could never have been kept secret with that number), but we may be certain that there were more than the number who were tried and convicted by the military commission in Washington in May and June 1865.

In the third week of October, Booth went to Montreal and stayed there for at least ten days (October 18-27), returning first to New York, on or about November 1, and then to Washington on November 9. Before he left Montreal, he arranged with Patrick C. Martin, a blockade-runner from Baltimore, to ship his entire theatrical wardrobe to Nassau, from where it was to be shipped through the blockade to Richmond, where it would be waiting for him. Neither he nor the wardrobe made it, but that is beside the point. The point is that he obviously had no intention of pursuing his acting career in the immediate future, having more pressing matters to attend to, and that if he decided to resume that career, it would be in the Confederacy. That meant, of course, abandoning his home and family, which is a good



indication of the depth of his feeling, the degree of commitment he brought to whatever he was planning, and an awareness of its likely consequences.<sup>7</sup>

While in Montreal, Booth stayed at the St. Lawrence Hall and also at a room nearby. "The Hall," as it was generally referred to, was thought by many to be the finest hotel in the city. It was also the headquarters of the Canadian Cabinet, the name given to Confederates stationed there from early 1864, under instructions from Jefferson Davis and Judah Benjamin.

At the trial of the conspirators, several witnesses, namely Richard Montgomery, Sanford Conover (Charles Dunham), James B. Merritt, John Deveny, Hosea B. Carter, William E. Wheeler, and Robert Anson Campbell, testified that they saw Booth in Montreal between the summer of 1864 and February 1865, with most witnesses placing him there in October. The substance of their testimony was that they saw Booth in conversation and "intimate association" with Jacob Thompson, head of the Canadian Cabinet, and the notorious George N. Sanders, said by many to have been the brains behind the terror and assassination plots hatched at "the Hall."<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Asia Booth Clarke, *John Wilkes Booth: A Sister's Memoir*, ed. Terry Alford, University Press of Mississippi, 1996, p. 83.

<sup>2</sup> Nora Titone, *My Thoughts Be Bloody*, Free Press, 2010, p. 319.

<sup>3</sup> Clarke, pp. 85, 87; Michael W. Kauffman, *American Brutus*, Random House, 2004, pp. 130, 131.

<sup>4</sup> *The Trial: The Assassination of President Lincoln and the Trial of the Conspirators*, ed. Edward Steers, Jr., The University Press of Kentucky, 2003, p. XXXV.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. LXI

<sup>6</sup> William A. Tidwell, James O. Hall and David Winfield Gaddy, *Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*, University Press of Mississippi, 1988, p. 263.

<sup>7</sup> Stanley Kimmel, *The Mad Booths of Maryland*, 2<sup>nd</sup> rev. and enlarged ed., Dover Publications, 1969, p. 189.

<sup>8</sup> Clara McLaughlin, *The Death of Lincoln*, Doubleday, Page & Company, 1909, pp. 203, 204.

John Fazio is a former present of the Roundtable and a frequent contributor to the Charger. He is writing a book on John Wilkes Booth and the assassination. This is part 1 of his chapter on Booth in the Confederate Secret Service. Part 2 will be included in next month's Charger.



## National Park Service Seeks Public Input on Civil War Battlefield Preservation

As the nation observes the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the National Park Service (NPS) is asking for public feedback about the future of the war's touchstone battlefields. The NPS's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) has released a draft report about the conditions of the nation's Civil War battlefields. As directed by Congress, the report highlights battlefield preservation efforts over the past 20 years and sets new priorities for federal, state, and local action. The report will help focus the efforts of an active Civil War community and provide useful information to federal, state, and local officials responsible for making land use decisions on historic Civil War battlefields. The draft report is online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/battlefields> and the ABPP invites public comment on its contents and recommendations. The comment period is open until October 12, 2012.

"A tremendous amount has already been accomplished in the area of battlefield preservation, but we know that much work is left to do, and our surveys tell us that preserving these sites is important to communities," said Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service. "This report will serve as the outline, and the 150th anniversary as the catalyst, of what is probably the last great opportunity to save any significant portions of these hallowed grounds."

In 1993, the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission produced a landmark report that outlined actions needed to save the nation's Civil War battlefields from destruction and its recommendations have guided decisions about the allocation of limited public and private sector resources to Civil War battlefields for two decades. The ABPP's update of that original document looks at what has happened to the battlefields since 1993 and seeks to draw attention to battlefields that have become increasingly vulnerable to development today. "This report is much more comprehensive than the 1993 report. It provides better baseline data as well as highlighting efforts of preservationist across the United States," said Paul Hawke, Chief of the American Battlefield Protection Program.

Many of the battlefields endangered in the early 1990s remain threatened, according to the ABPP. Places such as Gettysburg (Pa.), the Wilderness (Va.), Port Hudson (La.), and Mobile Bay (Ala.) face ongoing development challenges or have important structures in need of emergency repair. At other battlefields, however, landowners, preservationists, and government entities have collaborated to help protect large portions of the historic landscapes, often through conservation easements. Among the success stories are Antietam (Md.), South Mountain (Md.), Bentonville (N.C.), Brice's Cross Roads (Miss.), Cedar Creek (Va.), Perryville (Ky.), and Corinth (Miss.).

The report places special emphasis on battlefields that 20 years ago were considered to have few threats and those that were thought to be unsalvageable. The ABPP found that a number of historically rural battlefields are now seeing development pressures. For example, places like Aversborough (N.C.), Cedar Mountain (Va.), and Fort DeRussy (La.) are being splintered by the subdivision of older farms for new houses. However, the ABPP also found that some battlefields deemed fragmented or "lost" in the commission's 1993 report do still harbor pockets of preservation-worthy land. The ABPP's data indicates that the Moorefield (W.Va.), First Suffolk (Va.), and Belmont (Mo.) battlefields retain large portions of their historic landscapes, but are now used as the locations for a sewage treatment plant, housing developments, and an industrial park, respectively. The report elevates the profiles of these and other threatened battlefields and suggests ways in which communities can work with landowners, public agencies, and nonprofit partners to ensure the battlefields' survival as evocative historic landscapes.

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 397 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

## ***October Civil War Events in Ohio***

October 6 - Westerville: Making Sense of the American Civil War Reading and Discussion Series, 2 p.m.

October 7 - Dayton: "Hear the Silent Speak - A Civil War 150 Learning Experience," 1 p.m.

October 16 - Wooster, Wayne County Civil War Roundtable, 6:30 p.m.

October 20 - Monroe: Reenactment, "Monroe Civil War Days," 10 a.m.

## ***Notice to Members***

Judson Manor has advised us that it will be raising its prices for the beer and wine served at dinner. The new prices are:

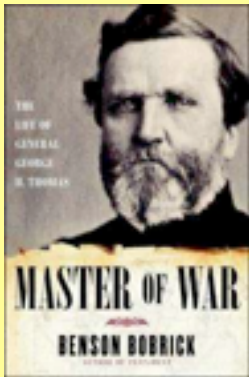
Beer - \$4 per glass/bottle

Wine - \$5 per glass

Judson has also purchased a portable bar that carries Sam Adams seasonal ale on draft, so there is another selection.

### **PENINSULA: CIVIL WAR LECTURE SERIES BOB BOYDA SEPTEMBER 27, 2012**

**OUR OWN BOB BOYDA WILL BE SPEAKING TO THE PENINSULA  
VALLEY HISTORIC & EDUCATION FOUNDATION**



### **The Book I Am Reading Now**

Benson Bobrick's *Master of War* is several years old and has been sitting on my shelf since it was published. As you know, I am a George H. Thomas fan. Two aspects of the book I have particularly liked. First, Bobrick points out that Thomas avoided unnecessary casualties. If he thought the enemy's defenses were too strong, he would not make a frontal assault or would counsel his superior that another move was better. In this, Bobrick juxtaposes Grant's suffering tens of thousands of casualties during the Overland Campaign, casualties that Bobrick believes Thomas would have avoided had he been in charge. The second aspect I have enjoyed is somewhat related to the first. Bobrick uses official records to show that Grant and Sherman, especially in their memoirs, slighted Thomas to make themselves look better, even to the point of outright fabrication. What Grant and Sherman painted as "slowness" was preparation and mastery of war. While Bobrick carries the point a bit too far, he demonstrates the oft quoted description of Thomas as slow was incorrect. If you like Thomas or want to learn more about him, you will enjoy this book.

**NEXT MONTH**

**FORT PILLOW**

**DR. JOHN V. CIMPRICH**