

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

MARCH, 2015

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President's Message for March, 2015 - Before and After

We spend plenty of time at the Roundtable focusing on the battlefield. There is certainly some appeal in getting immersed in the dramatic moments of combat. And given the enormity and extent of the Civil War there are plenty of exciting individual stories to tell. Writers like the great Shelby Foote captivate us with vivid details such as his description of Confederate General Barksdale's face "radiant with joy" as he led the charge of his Mississippians towards Cemetery Ridge on July 2 at Gettysburg. Running well out on front of his men with his white locks flowing, the general was cut down by a hail of bullets with the result being—as Shelby puts it to us—"his thirst for glory slaked at last." Writing like that is hard to put down. But perhaps we would also enjoy taking our lens and zooming back for a much wider view in space and time. Consider the western world as it was before our Civil War and then how it looked in the war's aftermath. A new book, *The Cause of All Nations: An International History of the American Civil War* by Don Doyle, does just that. Prior to the late 18th century almost all democratic republics were short-lived failures. Then suddenly following the American and French revolutions there were two relatively large republican governments. But as Edmund Burke correctly predicted, only one was built to last. In 1801 during his first inaugural address Thomas Jefferson, who had originally supported the French Revolution, rightly pointed to the United States as "the world's best hope." Another burst of republican

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enthusiasm engulfed the major cities of Europe in 1848, but by the end of that year all of these uprisings had been suppressed and the conservative royalists were back in control. A short 13 years later it looked as though America's experiment with self-government was likewise doomed to a violent dissolution. So, it was with a mixture of fear and optimism that President Lincoln characterized the United States as "the last best hope of the earth" one month before signing the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. America's hard won victory for union, liberty, and democracy had repercussions which were felt around the world. The anti-democratic elements were put on the back foot. Spain retreated from many of its colonies in the Western Hemisphere. France gave up on its puppet emperor in Mexico. Napoleon III was ousted within four years by the Paris Commune. Britain passed the Reform Act of 1867 which enfranchised for the first time the urban male working class, a group which more so than the British aristocracy had supported the democratic Union against the slave-holding Confederacy. In 1865 serious discussions began in France as to how to honor cause of democracy which the United States had so resoundingly invigorated. Because of false starts and delays it wasn't until 1886 that the tall and proud statue of Lady Liberty was dedicated in New York harbor. She was deliberately placed facing eastward. America had her back as she gazed across the Atlantic challenging Europe to join in her aspirations. Following the crucible of the Civil War America was indeed the best hope of the world and no longer the last.

Patrick Bray

Remember Our Next Meeting!

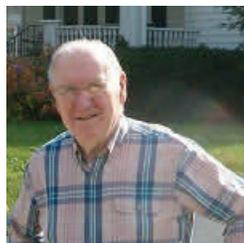
John Wilkes Booth & His Conspirators

Presented by John C. Fazio

Wednesday - March 11, 2015

Judson Manor 1890 East 107th St. // Cocktails: 6pm Dinner 6:30pm

Please send an email to ccwrt1956@yahoo.com



Harry W. Pfanz, a Civil War historian who wrote an acclaimed trilogy of the Battle of Gettysburg, a bloody clash in July 1863 that turned the tide of the war in the North's favor, died Jan. 27 at his home in Gaithersburg, Md. He was 93.

The cause was renal failure, said a son, Donald Pfanz.

Dr. Pfanz was a former chief historian of the National Park Service and, earlier, the historian of Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania.

Three of his great-grandfathers were Union veterans of the Civil War, and one of them was still living when Dr. Pfanz was in high school. As a result, he said, "I grew up with an interest in the Civil War as far back as I can recall."

After retiring from the Park Service in 1981, Dr. Pfanz spent the next 20 years researching and writing his Gettysburg trilogy: "[Gettysburg: The Second Day](#)" (1987), which was the most critically praised book in the trilogy; "[Gettysburg: Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill](#)" (1993); and "[Gettysburg: The First Day](#)" (2001). In an Atlantic Monthly review of "The Second Day," New York Times columnist Tom Wicker wrote, "Pfanz appears to have found out everything that can be known about the fighting on July 2, about the maneuverings that led to it, about the armies that collided so fatefully in the rolling Pennsylvania farm country, and about the men who led them — right down to the sergeants and lieutenants, without whom armies seldom would be led anywhere."

Harry Willcox Pfanz was born Dec. 9, 1921, in Bexley, Ohio, and grew up on a farm. In 1943, he graduated from Ohio State University. Then, he served in the Army in Europe during World War II. He was wounded in action during the Battle of the Bulge.

He became an Army Department historian and, from 1956 to 1966, was the historian at Gettysburg. He received a doctorate in history from Ohio State University in 1958.

In 1966, he took a job at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis and was superintendent when it opened to the public in 1968. He left St. Louis in 1971 to return to Washington, where in 1974 he became chief historian of the National Park Service, a position he held until retirement.

Bart Barnes

Courtesy of [Washington Post](#). Feb. 20, 2015 <http://wapo.st/1vl7CVt>





The Assassinated President Lincoln in Cleveland **by Dennis Keating**

On April 21, 1865, the preserved corpse of the assassinated President Abraham Lincoln left Washington City, bound for his burial in Springfield, Illinois. A week later, the funeral train arrived that morning in Cleveland. After a 36-gun salute, accompanied by a local militia escort and local officials and civic organizations the body was transported in a hearse to a pagoda-style catafalque in Public Square. After a short service the viewing by the public was from 10 AM to 10 PM, during which well over 100,000 persons passed by the open coffin. The body was then returned to the train for the overnight trip to Columbus. The dead president arrived in Springfield on May 2.

References:

Encyclopedia of Cleveland History: "Abraham Lincoln's Funeral"

James L. Swanson. *Bloody Crimes: The Funeral of Abraham Lincoln and the Chase for Jefferson Davis*.

John Wilkes Booth's Diary **by Dennis Keating**

While on the run from assassinating President Abraham Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth kept a diary. After he was cornered and shot in the barn on the Garrett farm on April 26, 1865, the diary was found by Colonel Everton Conger. Ohioan Conger accompanied the 16th New York Cavalry in the search for Booth, while acting as a detective for General Lafayette Baker's secret intelligence service in the War Department. Conger gave Booth's diary to Baker, who in turn gave it to his superior Ohioan Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. As found by Conger, the diary had many missing pages. The mystery of these missing pages has been the source of speculation since its discovery in 1867 in the War Department's files. While it was not introduced at the trial of the conspirators in 1865, it was introduced at the trial of John Surratt in 1867. The diary is on display at Ford's Theater.

References:

James L. Swanson. *Manhunt: the 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer*.

Rebecca Beatrice Brooks. *The diary of John Wilkes Booth*.

<http://civilwarsaga.com/the-diary-of-john-wilkes-booth/>

The Case of Dr. Mudd **by Dennis Keating**

On the morning of April 15, 1865, two men arrived at the door of Dr. Samuel Mudd's farm in southern Maryland. Dr. Mudd set the fractured leg of President Lincoln's assassin, actor John Wilkes Booth. The next day Booth and David Herold departed after Mudd returned from nearby Bryantown, where he later claimed to first have learned of the assassination. It wasn't until that Easter Sunday that Mudd asked his second cousin Dr. George Mudd to notify the commander of the 13th New York Cavalry in the town of the visit of these two men. Despite having met Booth at least two times previously in November and December, 1864, Mudd claimed when interviewed by federal detectives not to have known that he had treated Lincoln's



assassin. Because of his evasive interview, Mudd was arrested on April 26 and charged with being part of the conspiracy to murder the president.

At the trial of the charged conspirators before the military commission, Dr. Mudd was represented by Ohio attorney Thomas Ewing, Jr.* (who also represented Samuel Arnold and Edman Spangler). Instead of the claim that Mudd was an ardent pro-Confederate sympathizer and part of its underground support for couriers like John Surratt, Ewing's defense attempted to show that Mudd was a pro-Union man and innocent of knowingly harboring Booth and Herold and aiding their escape. While Mudd was convicted, he was sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor rather than execution (along with Arnold, Spangler, and Michael O'Laughlin).

The four were imprisoned at Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas off the west coast of Florida. Two months after their arrival there, Mudd staged an unsuccessful escape attempt. In the Fall of 1867 there was an outbreak of yellow fever at Fort Jefferson (during which O'Laughlin died). After the death of the prison doctor, Dr. Mudd agreed to replace him and his work during this period was later cited on his behalf for his release. Shortly before the end of his term as president, Andrew Johnson pardoned Mudd, who was released in March, 1869 (along with Arnold and Spangler, also pardoned by Johnson). Mudd's release was undoubtedly due in part to the influence of his attorney Ewing* with Johnson's administration.

Mudd died in 1883 at the age of 49. Since then, his relatives have waged an unsuccessful political and legal campaign to obtain a posthumous pardon of his conviction.

References:

Anthony Jones. *Dr. Mudd and the Lincoln Assassination: The Case Reopened.*

Elizabeth Leonard. *Lincoln's Avengers: Justice, Revenge, and Reunion after the Civil War.*

John McHale, Jr. *Dr. Samuel A. Mudd and the Lincoln Assassination.*

Edward Steers and James Hall. *His Name is Still Mudd: The Case Against Dr. Samuel Alexander Mudd.*

*Thomas Ewing, Jr. was a member of the famous powerful Ohio Ewing family. He was one of the four Union generals in this family, including William Tecumseh Sherman. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati Law School after serving as private secretary to President Zachary Taylor, Thomas Ewing moved to Kansas where he was elected as that new state's first Chief Justice just before the outbreak of the Civil War. He then raised a Union regiment and distinguished himself under Ohioan William Rosecrans in turning back Sterling Price's 1864 invasion of Missouri. After the war, Ewing was a lawyer in Washington City and he and his family were supporters of President Johnson and his Reconstruction policies challenged by Ohioan Senator Ben Wade and other Radical Republicans. Thomas Ewing was credited with being a key figure in persuading his fellow Kansas Senator Edmund Ross to cast the key vote to acquit President Johnson in his impeachment trial. Ewing represented Ohio in Congress from 1877 to 1881 but lost his bid for Governor of Ohio in 1880.

References:

Kenneth Heineman. *Civil War Dynasty: The Ewing Family of Ohio.*

Ronald Smith. *Thomas Ewing, Jr. Frontier Lawyer and Civil War General.*