

# THE CHARGER



## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

MAY, 2016

VOL. 37, #9

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### FIELD TRIP UPDATE

### SEPTEMBER 22-24 THE WILDERNESS AND SPOTSYLVANIA

Several people have expressed their interest in going to The Wilderness and Spotsylvania with us in September. If you are planning to go, I would encourage you to make reservations as soon as possible and advise me of your plans to attend. **The deadline for registration is August 20.**

The cost of the trip will be **\$170 per person**. This will include the bus, our guide, a box lunch each day on the battlefield, a meeting room on Thursday evening, a hospitality suite on Friday and Saturday, and a catered dinner buffet on Saturday evening. I will be sending you an email with your lunch choices for Friday and Saturday.

Please make your check out to The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable, making sure either Hans Kuenzi or Dan Ursu has it by August 20. The trip itinerary has been published and been made available at the meetings, but if you need the information, I would be happy to send it to you.



*Battle of Spotsylvania by [Thure de Thulstrup](#)*

Spouses are always welcome, and if your spouse would like to come, but is not interested in accompanying us to the battlefield, I have several brochures of other things to do and see in Fredericksburg. I'll have those available at the May meeting.

If you wish to car pool please let me know as there is at least one person looking to share a ride.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

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### JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

May 11, 2016

Drinks @ 6pm, Dinner @ 6:30 Judson Manor

East 107th St & Chester

Program: Tim Daly

Cleveland Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument



### IN SEARCH OF JOHN BELL HOOD. By Paul Siedel

On Thursday February 18, 2016 being in New Orleans I decided to locate the house where John Bell Hood spent his last years and died of yellow fever in 1879.

I got up early, I loaded the bike onto the car and took it into the city, parked and rode the bike through the French Quarter and over across Canal St. Into what they call the Garden District. I stopped at the Confederate Memorial Hall on Camp St where they gave me directions not only to Hood's home but to the house where Jefferson Davis died in 1889. As it turned out they are within 3 blocks of each other. The Hood home is at 3rd and Camp and the house where Davis died is at 1st and Camp St. Biking through the Garden District was quite an experience as it is west of Canal St. And is where the Americans began to settle after Louisiana was purchased from the French in 1803. This area contains many fine old homes and many were built by the movers and shakers of New Orleans both before and after the Civil War. Streets with names such as St. Charles Ave., Annunciation, Prytania, and Baronne wind through the area. I proceeded south down 3rd St. and I found the Hood home at 3rd and Camp. A large stucco over brick house built shortly after the Civil War and with no designation as to whom it belonged to. There were several folks taking the Garden District Tour who were taking pictures. The house stood there large and imposing. I next decided to find the home at 1st and Camp St., the house where Jefferson Davis died. Not hard to find it is marked with two historic markers. A very large and imposing home much like the others in the area. Both of the homes are in private hands and there is no public admittance. I made my way back along St. Charles Ave, across Canal St, and stopped for coffee at a coffee shop across the street from the house where Gen. Beauregard lived after the War. For a Civil War Buff it was quite an exciting day.

John Bell Hood

After the debacle at Franklin Hood retreated with his army to the area around Tupelo, Miss. There in February 1865 he asked to be relieved of command and upon his going to Richmond his request was granted, his place being taken temporarily by Gen Richard Taylor. Hood agreed to go to Texas his adopted state and raise troops for the Confederacy. However upon reaching Natchez, Miss he realized the end had come and in May surrendered to the Federal forces there. He made his way to Texas staying in the home of Louis Wigfall. After visiting his mother in Kentucky he went to New Orleans and followed several pursuits. Over the years he became an insurance agent, and a cotton broker. He later married Anna Marie Hennen and purchased the home at 3rd and Camp St. In 1870. There he raised a family of eleven children and ran a successful cotton brokerage. In August 1879 yellow fever swept the New Orleans area. John Bell Hood, his wife and oldest daughter all died within days of each other. The house was eventually sold to settle debts and to help support the ten orphaned children



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JEFFERSON DAVIS

After a protracted legal battle lasting until 1881 Davis finally regained possession of his home in Mississippi called "Briarfield" on the Mississippi River just south of Vicksburg. At that time he was living at "Beauvoir" his home on the Mississippi gulf coast. Here he wrote his epic work "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government" In November 1889 he decided to go to "Briarfield" to survey flood damage and make insurance claims. He was at that time 81 years old and the trip proved to much for his frail constitution. He fell ill with bronchitis on the way back and upon arrival in New Orleans was taken to the home of the Payne Family, and there he succumbed to pneumonia on December 6, 1889 surrounded by friends and loved ones. Buried at first in New Orleans he was taken later to Richmond, Va. Where he is today buried in Hollywood Cemetery.



**John Brown House**

**by Dennis Keating**



The Summit County Historical Society has been awarded an Ohio Capital Grant of \$250,000 to assist in the restoration of the historic John Brown House near Akron: [http://summithistory.org/Community/museum\\_johnbrown.html](http://summithistory.org/Community/museum_johnbrown.html)

Brown and his family lived in the house from 1844-1854 on what was known as the "Mutton Hill" farm where he raised sheep. His house was also a stop on the Ohio Underground Railroad for escaped slaves fleeing to freedom in the North. In addition to work on the house and grounds, the Society is also raising funds for museum-quality exhibits on abolition.

Reference: Stephen B. Oates. *To Purge this land with blood: A Biography of John Brown* (1970)