

# THE CHARGER



## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT. 2015

VOL. 37, #1

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**Newsletter Design: Catherine Wells**



### **Fall Field Trip To Gettysburg September 24- 25-26, 2015**

On Thursday evening, September 24, we will meet in the lobby of the Wyndham Gettysburg, 95 Presidential Circle for a get-together.

On Friday morning everyone should be at the Visitors Center at 8:30. We will meet our guide, Tim Smith, there. Our bus will leave from the Visitors Center at 9 am. We will be touring the sites pertaining to the first day of the battle, July 1 McPherson's Ridge, the Union right flank, Culp's Hill, the cemetery, etc. Lunch will be served on the battlefield. We will return to the Visitors Center at 3 p.m. This will give us approximately two hours to tour the Visitors Center and the bookstore or perhaps go back out to the battlefield. Dinner will be at the Lincoln Diner, 32 Carlisle Street. Evening libations at the Wyndham Gettysburg or other places to be decided. Hopefully, all members will stick together in the conviviality. On Saturday please arrive at the Visitors Center by 8:30. Our guide for this day will be Kris White. We will carpool to various sites at the south end of the battlefield including Pitzers Woods, Warfield Ridge, Little Round Top, Devils Den, The Wheatfield, The Peach Orchard, Sickles Retreat, and the Peach Orchard. Lunch will again be served on the battlefield. We will arrive back at the Visitors Center at 3:45. Dinner will be at the Cashtown Inn in Cashtown on old US 30.

An optional trip to the Eisenhower House is planned for Sunday for those wishing to go.

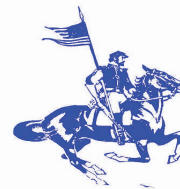
Hans will be giving you a menu from which to choose your box lunch. The lunch is \$11.50 plus tax for each lunch.

Visitors Center, the fee is \$12.50 for adults, \$11.50 for Seniors/Veterans, \$8.50 for Youth 6-12 and \$10.00 each for a group of 16 or more. Let Hans know if you will need a ticket. Estimated cost for trip is \$150—excluding visitor's center. The estimated cost per person for expenses will be \$150.00. This does not include the fee for the Visitors Center.

Jean Rhodes



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### 2015-2016 Program Schedule

See: [clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com](http://clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com)

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#### The Campaign Against the Confederate Battle Flag

By Dennis Keating

July 9, 2015 saw Nikki Haley, the governor of South Carolina, sign the bill removing the Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the state capitol. This ended a decades-long struggle. The flag came down the next day, to be placed in a museum. This was triggered by the massacre of nine African-Americans participating in a Bible study group in the historic Emanuel African Methodist Church in Charleston on June 17 by a white supremacist. He had posed with the flag before the killings. In 1961 (on the centennial of the beginning of the Civil War with the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor), South Carolina had hoisted the flag to protest federal policies challenging racial segregation policies. The South Carolina NAACP launched a boycott to protest this. While a 2000 compromise later removed the flag from flying over the state house, removing it to the Confederate Memorial next to the state house, the boycott continued. Impassioned pleas in the South Carolina legislature for the flag's removal came from Paul Thurmond, son of Strom Thurmond, the segregationist Dixiecrat presidential candidate in 1948, and State Senator Jenny Horne, whose ancestors include Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

This dramatic sequence of events followed the U.S. Supreme Court's decision, upholding the right of the state of Texas to deny descendants of Confederate soldiers special license plates decorated with the Confederate battle flag\*. Several Southern States still allow this. However, Virginia's governor ordered the recall of 1,700 such license plates. This followed the decision of a federal judge invalidating that same judge's 2001 decision requiring Virginia to offer these plates to the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

There are now efforts underway in several venues to ban the flag and to remove Confederate memorials from public areas, including buildings. The governor of Alabama quickly followed suit after the South Carolina vote by ordering the removal of the battle flag from the grounds of its state capitol. The most notable attempt now to remove the flag is taking place in Mississippi, whose state flag includes the Confederate battle flag. In 2001, the state's voters approved retaining this symbol by a more than a 2-1 margin. In August, the head football coaches at Ole Miss and Mississippi State, along with the state's football icon Archie Manning, joined other notable non-sports celebrities calling for removal of this emblem from the state flag. There is considerable opposition to any change, at least without another state referendum. The state's elected officials are divided about the issue.



**Keating cont.**

Major controversies are taking place in New Orleans and Memphis as well. New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu in July demanded the removal of statues of Robert E. Lee, Pierre G.T. Beauregard, and Jefferson Davis and a monument to the 1874 Battle of Liberty Place, honoring the coup that toppled the integrated Reconstruction government of the city. On August 13, the city’s Historic Landmarks Commission voted 11-1 to authorize their removal. The final authority lies with the City Council, which can declare them to be public nuisances. The preservationist Monumental Task Committee held a public forum in late August to discuss possible alternatives to removal of the monument. Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal opposes their removal and is seeking state authority to override the city’s right to proceed.

In Memphis, the effort to remove the grave of Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest and his monument from a public park named for him has been longstanding. Opponents of the park pointed to his being a slave trader before the Civil and afterwards being the first Grand Wizard of the Klu Klux Klan, and his command of the Confederate forces involved in the massacre of black Union soldiers at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864 (both of the latter charges contested by Forrest admirers). The local spokesperson for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, which supports continuation of the park, says that Forrest was “a great community man. He was an inspiration for everyone.” This sentiment was echoed by Forrest’s great-great-grandson, a Memphis resident. A. C. Wharton, Jr., the African-American mayor of a majority black city, supported the 2013 act of the City Council to remove Forrest’s name from the park. In July, 2015, the Memphis City Council unanimously voted to remove the statue and Forrest’s remains from the park. The state of Tennessee’s Historical Commission will still have to waive a state heritage law prohibiting war memorial changes in order for Memphis to proceed.

These examples are only a few of the disputes now occurring not just in the South but nationally over school buildings, roads, and parks named after famous Confederates; monuments honoring Confederate generals at places like Monument Avenue in Richmond and Stone Mountain, Georgia; “rebel” nicknames of athletic teams; and other similar issues. Meanwhile, retailer Walmart has stopped selling items like the Confederate battle flag, and other private organizations are being lobbied to disassociate themselves from the flag.

It took the shocking event in Charleston to generate these many efforts to place the Confederate battle flag where it belongs – in historical museums of the Civil War. This is the view, with which I agree, of those who believe that displays of this symbol of rebellion in the defense of slavery is so offensive to many American citizens that it should not be seen as a governmental-sanctioned symbol. This is despite the claim of its supporters that it is rather instead a reminder of Southern heritage and a tribute to those soldiers who bravely fought for the Confederacy.

\*See the article about this case in the January, 2015 issue of The Charger.

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## From the field - The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg

By Paul Seidel

Last June I traveled to Gettysburg, Pa. for the annual Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College. The Institute lasted six days and covered just about any topic there is regarding the Civil War. For one who has had the Civil War in his blood since the Centennial it is still a learning experience, and I never fail to bring back some new information.

After arriving and receiving our name tag, meal ticket and dorm assignment we heard a conversation between Peter Carmichael and James McPherson on the War in 1865. Why Civil War studies are relevant today. They touched on the Charleston shootings and the historical events that made us the nation we are, for better and for worse. It is much easier to understand (not excuse) current events when we see them in the context of 250 years. The next several days were taken up with lectures by such noted authors as Gary Gallagher, Steven Cushman and Harold Holzer, and a Gettysburg Battlefield tour. One had their choice of several units they wanted to follow through the battle. I chose to follow the route of Barksdale's 21st Mississippi on the second day. A guide took us from Seminary Ridge up through the Sherfy Farm and the Peach Orchard to where Daniel Sickles was wounded near the Trostle Farm. On Sunday the 21st buses took the group on a tour of the Appomattox Campaign which I didn't attend.

In the evenings a group of us gravitated to the Garryowen Pub where we ate, drank and met Civil War Buffs from all over the U.S.

All in all I find the Civil War Institute an informative and rewarding sideline for Civil War enthusiasts, and one I would highly recommend.



## From the field - Confederate Battlefield on South

Carolina State House Grounds

By Dick Crews

I promised you a report on whether the *good ole boys* had put that confederate battle flag back up on the grounds on the South Carolina State Capital. We found two black maintenance workers sitting on a bench. I asked them if the *good ole boys* had put that battle flag back up. They laughed and said, NO SIR. I

I was later to learn that they were trustees from the local prison. Looking hard at the ground I could see where new sod was placed where the flag and the base once stood.

I next went three blocks away to the South Carolina Military Museum. After touring the museum without finding the flag, I went to the front desk and said, "OK where's the flag." They replied, "it's locked in the back. We are under State orders not to display the flag until January.



**Membership Application and Information Available At:**

**clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com**



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*Join us for our next meeting.*

- *Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2015*
- *Drinks @ 6pm Dinner at @ 6:30 pm*
- *Judson Manor*
- *East 107th Street & Chester*

*Dr. Richard Kipir speaking on:*

*Major General John Alexander McClernand: Politician in Uniform*

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***Remember Our Next Meeting!***

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

***Please send an email to [ccwrt1956@yahoo.com](mailto:ccwrt1956@yahoo.com)***