

# THE CHARGER



## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

JAN. 2017

VOL. 38 #6

### Executive Committee 2016/2017

**President - Jean Rhodes**

**Vice President - Hans Kuenzi**

**Treasurer - Dan Ursu**

**Secretary - C. Ellen Connally**

**Howard Besser - Director**

**Patrick Bray - Director**

**Jim Heflich - Director**

**Christopher Fortunato—Director**

**Paul Burkholder - Webmaster**

**Historian: David A. Carrino**

**Website : [clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com](http://clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com)**

**E-mail: [m.wells@csuohio.edu](mailto:m.wells@csuohio.edu) or [w.keating@csuohio.edu](mailto:w.keating@csuohio.edu)**

**Editors: Dennis Keating, Michael Wells**

**Newsletter Design: Catherine Wells**

### Message from the President

Most of us remember the beginning of Operation Desert Storm in 1991 , watching as images from the Middle East were broadcast live. Earlier, in the 1960's and 1970's, the conflict in Viet Nam was brought into our homes on a nightly basis on our television sets with films and photographs. Before television our parents saw news clips, already days old, in movie theatres of action in World War II. Even before the advent of television and moving pictures there was only the daguerreotype ... and men like Mathew Brady and Alexander Gardner who brought us the first images of the horrors of war, who took the photographs of loved ones which were carried into battle. They gave future generations the images of the political and military leaders as well as the average citizen and soldier, North and South, the men and women of The Civil War.

Jean

### Civil War Photography

by Dennis Keating

The American Civil War was much seen through the cameras of a group of early photographers. The best known was Matthew Brady. Before the war, Brady prospered by doing portraits in his New York City studio. His most famous was his photograph of presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln before his speech at the Cooper Union in February, 1860. Lincoln later said: "Brady and the Cooper Union speech made me the president of the United States".



# THE CHARGER



## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

JAN. 2017

VOL. 38 #6

With the coming of the Civil War, Brady determined to outfit mobile darkrooms and send teams of photographers to capture scenes of the war. His own first venture was to go the Bull Run battlefield, although he did not get scenes from that conflict. Actual battle scenes were not photographed during this era.

However, following the horrific battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, his photographers arrived there and photographed scenes of the carnage. Their photos were then displayed at Brady's studio in New York City. Titled "The Dead of Antietam", it was the first photo exhibit to show the Civil War dead in public. At the war's end, Brady went to a devastated Richmond and photographed the former Confederate capital and Robert E. Lee.

It was a Scottish immigrant Alexander Gardner who took many of the photos. It was Gardner and his assistants who also arrived after the battle of Gettysburg to photograph the dead. Gardner was the war's most prolific photographer. He took what was the last photograph of President Abraham Lincoln five days before his assassination. He then photographed his assassins and their execution by hanging on July 7, 1865. He also photographed the execution of Henry Wirz, the commandant of the Confederate prison camp at Andersonville, Georgia.

In 1866, he published a two-volume anthology titled *Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book of the War*. Brady sold most of his archives to the U.S. government in 1875 with the help of James Garfield. They are housed in the National Archives. The Library of Congress also bought a large number of Gardner negatives in 1942 after the federal government had declined to purchase them in 1869. They are included in its American Memory collection.

Brady did not prosper after the war. He died in 1896 while preparing to lecture at Carnegie Hall on his life and work as a war photographer. Gardner became the official photographer of the Union Pacific Railroad. He later gave up photography to start an insurance company. He died in 1882.

Both North and South, Civil War photographers made portraits of Civil War soldiers posing in their studios. These photographs were then sent to their families.

References:

Center for Civil War Photography (<http://www.civilwarphotography.org>)

Civil War Trust. *Photography and the Civil War: Bringing the Battlefield to the Homefront*.

William C. Davis and Bell I. Wiley, Eds. *Photographic History of the Civil War: Fort Sumter to Gettysburg and Vicksburg to Appomattox*.

### This Month:

#### "Faces of the Civil War"

The day after our Photo Trivia Contest last February, Ellen Connally suggested that we have a program showing photos of famous, and infamous, people of the Civil War instead of photos of battlefields and monuments. Due to the recent difficulty we have had in recruiting participants for our annual Dick Crews Debate, we decided to substitute the Debate this year with "Faces of the Civil War". Ellen, Dan Zeiser and I have chosen some photos of what we think is an interesting group of people, along with some helpful hints, for you to identify. We hope you enjoy the program.



**NEXT MONTH:** "Cleveland in the Civil War" with Paul Siedel

# THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

JAN. 2017

VOL. 38 #6

## *Days of Defiance* by Maury Klein

The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable encourages members to submit book reviews. This assists members and those from other roundtables in choosing worthwhile reading from the thousands of books available on this subject. A while back, an anonymous member of the Cincinnati Civil War Roundtable wrote an interesting and informative review of the book *A World on Fire: Britain's Crucial Role in the American Civil War* by Amanda Foreman. It caught my attention and I recently completed an enjoyable reading of this book. I feel that the best way to thank that member and the Cleveland Civil War Round Table is to write a book review as well.

*Days of Defiance* was published in 1997. Its heavily footnoted 430 pages trace the run-up to the Civil War. The vast majority of the book focuses on the time period from Lincoln's election through the fall of Fort Sumter. There are flashbacks to several important historical events that helped to set the stage for secession. These included Buchanan's election whose inaction and lack of leadership in the face of the gathering storm left little room for any other outcome but war.

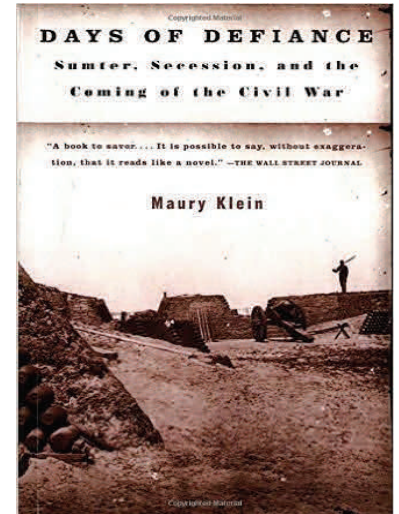
Numerous individuals, both significant and lesser known are followed through those fateful six months. The author provides substantial detail regarding the actors' lives, relationships, thoughts and actions. These asides relating to the subject person's background tend to take away from the flow of the historical events. However, if one wants to learn about their personalities, motivations and internal conflicts, the author provides much of that type of information.

Ft. Sumter, of course is a central topic. After completing the book, one will understand the difficult decisions relating to how this became a major thorn in the side of the South and was a critical factor in the increasing animosity between North and South. We see the struggle of conscience of some and the steadfastness of others, no matter what the possible consequences.

Another insightful thread is the inter-relationships of politicians. Many had known each other for years. There were also army officers who had attended West Point together, served in the army together and fought together during the Mexican War. Whose side they would support was worrisome for leaders both North and South. The beginning of turning brother against brother becomes a little better understood. More exploration of this most painful aspect of this civil war would have been helpful.

Overall, if one is interested in understanding these important few months and getting to better know the people involved, then this text generally fills that role. Just be prepared to learn about the details of their lives that may not be particularly noteworthy nor enlightening.

Review submitted by Daniel Bonder



# THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

JAN. 2017

VOL. 38 #6

## Sheridan's Butterfly

General Philip Henry Sheridan's famed Civil War career – most notably his “hell for leather” charge at Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864 – eventually led to his post-bellum appointment as Commanding General U.S. Army on November 1, 1883 – succeeding William Tecumseh Sherman. He remained in that post until his death on August 5, 1888.

Like many towns in the West that were named for U.S. Army officers, Sheridan, Wyoming in north-central Wyoming just east of the Bighorn Mountains, was named in honor of Phil Sheridan in 1882 by John D. Loucks who served under Sheridan in the Civil War.

But this was not the first patronymic honor that Sheridan earned in Wyoming. In 1877 a type specimen of a beautiful but tiny green butterfly (under 1” wingspan) collected in north-central Wyoming was named “Sheridan's Hairstreak” (*Callophrys sheridanii sheridanii*) by W.H. Edwards – the leading amateur American lepidopterist of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is one of three races of this species – given the modified common name of “White-lined Sheridan's Hairstreak”.

In July 2006, acting upon signed legislature earlier that year, Sheridan's Hairstreak officially became the State Butterfly of Wyoming.

Sheridan's Hairstreak is one the true harbingers of Spring in Wyoming – being the first butterfly to emerge from chrysalis – flying from March to early June. It is found up to high elevations of 8000 ft. near melting snowbanks. Buckwheats are the primary larval food plant.

There are over seventy Hairstreak species in North America, including a rare California species named for John Muir. Most are colored in beautiful shades of browns and grays, but a few species are strikingly green in color, including Juniper Hairstreak which I've found in Adams County in extreme south-central Ohio. Malachite (*Siproeta stelenes*), a large tropical gem that can be seen in southern Florida, is often a star of indoor butterfly gardens. Green butterflies have a stunningly unique appeal whenever they are encountered.

While no Civil War battles were fought in present-day Wyoming, on my next trip to the Bighorns, a foray in search of Sheridan's namesake butterfly will be high on my to-do list. As will a return trip just an hour's drive north up I-90, to where one of Sheridan's stellar subordinate commanders in the 1864 Valley Campaign came to grief along the banks of the Little Bighorn River in 1876.

Jim Heflich

December 22, 2016

\*\*\*\*\*

## Civil War Television Viewing



**Antiques Roadshow: The Civil War Years - Artifacts: WVIZ/PBS Monday, January 23, 2017 (8 PM and 3 re-broadcasts)**

**Lincoln Assassination: American Experience (PBS.org) will broadcast "The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln" on January 17, 2017 at 8 PM (ET).**

# THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

JAN. 2017

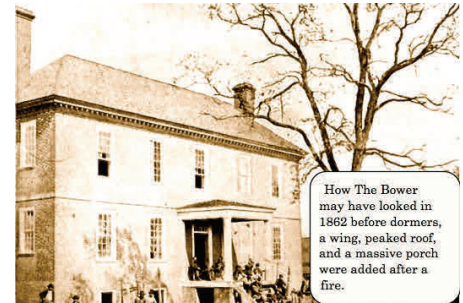
VOL. 38 #6

## A SURPRISING FIND

By Paul Siedel

Last June while attending the Civil War Institute in Gettysburg I decided to take a detour on my way home and look for a house called "The Bower". Located somewhere between Martinsburg and Charlestown, W. Virginia, it was, during the Civil War owned by the Dandridge Family and the house was offered by them to Gen. Jeb Stuart to serve as his headquarters during the autumn of 1862 shortly after the Battle of Antietam .

While Lee, Jackson, and Longstreet had their headquarters at Bulnker Hill Va., on the Valley Pike (today U.S. 11) between Martinsburg and Winchester Va., Stuart chose to stay at "The Bower". Here during the months of September, October and into November was located the famous "boys club" which revolved around Stuart and his group of officers which included Stuart, John Pelham, Heros Von Borke, Wade Hampton and much of the the cavalry of Lee's Army. The house was the site of many entertaining nights with Stuart and Von Borke reciting and acting out scenes from Dickens and Shakespeare. Lively conversation, dances and games of whist, chess and cards were all enjoyed by the folks both military and civilian during their sojourn at the Dandridge home. It was from this location that Stuart launched his Chambersburg raid in October 1862. John Pelham became enamored with Sallie Dandridge at this time and the two spent many evenings walking through the fields and woods of the Dandridge property. No one knows, however just how involved they actually became with each other as Pelham was killed 5 months later at Kelly's Ford, Va and Sallie was married to a local man shortly after the close of the War. She died in childbirth shortly thereafter. The whole lively sojourn came to a sudden halt when Burnside began to move on Fredricksburg. The "boys club" was broken up, Stuart, Pelham and Von Borke rode away from "The Bower" never to return.



How The Bower may have looked in 1862 before dormers, a wing, peaked roof, and a massive porch were added after a fire.



Photos courtesy of the American Public University System

I left Gettysburg and drove to Sharpsburg, Md where I was able to obtain information on a place called The George Tyler Moor Center for the Study of the Civil War in Shepardstown, Md. and it was while visiting the Center that I happened just by chance to read the plaque on the wall of the charming old house in which it was located. It seems that the house was purchased by Actress Mary Tyler Moore and donated to Shepard College in honor of her father George. I was thoroughly surprised however knowing only that Mary Tyler Moore was from this section of the country and that Jackson's Headquarters in Winchester was at one time owned by an ancestor of the actress. It was here that I met Mr. Thomas White who was more than helpful and assisted me in finding "The Bower" on a local map. Although I had found the approximate location on Google Maps I did not know what condition the roads were in and if the owners would be friendly. I drove down Sulpher Springs Rd and came upon the home which is the centerpiece of a huge working farm in rural Jefferson Co W. Va. The owners were more than happy to show me around while we talked and I took pictures. They were well aware of the historic significance of the home and showed me the exact location on the grounds where the soldiers had pitched their tents. I left feeling fulfilled in that I had visited a Civil War landmark that many of us have read about and knowing that it would be there for many more years to come."

# THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

JAN. 2017

VOL. 38 #6

## **A Hanukkah Gift for All Americans by David A. Carrino**

This history brief was presented at the December 2016 meeting of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. The following longer version of the history brief contains additional information that was not included in the version that was presented at the meeting.

American men who were born between 1944 and 1950 were automatically entered into the first of seven lotteries in which entrants were hoping that they did not receive a number that put them at or near the top of the list. This lottery, which was held on December 1, 1969, was the first Selective Service draft lottery of the Vietnam War, and in that and the subsequent lotteries the order in which draft-eligible men would be drafted was randomly assigned based on birthdates. One of the jokes that came out of that lottery was that Jesus Christ had number 84 in the Selective Service draft order, because number 84 was the number that was drawn for December 25. The birthdate that led to Jesus receiving that number one of the most important religious holidays in Christianity. There is compelling evidence that the birth of Jesus did not occur in December, which not only means that Jesus should actually have received a different draft number, but also makes this religious holiday misplaced, although that birth is celebrated on December 25 nonetheless. There is another important religious holiday that often begins in December, namely Hanukkah. Many traditions are associated with the celebrations of Christmas and Hanukkah, and in light of the tradition of gift-giving, it is appropriate during the month of December for Civil War enthusiasts to remember a Jewish man named Uriah P. Levy. Levy has only scant connections to the Civil War, for example the year of his death, which was 1862. But Levy's death was not due to any combat, because he saw no combat in the Civil War. Levy did, however, have a distinguished military career, and he has some notable legacies that came from his military service. One of these legacies is that he worked assiduously against antisemitism in the branch of the military in which he served. Levy also left a monumental legacy for all of us that fits extremely well with the efforts at historical preservation that Civil War enthusiasts consider essential.

Uriah Levy was born on April 22, 1792 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Michael and Rachel Levy. Uriah's father served in the Revolutionary War, as did his maternal grandfather, Jonas Phillips, who fathered 21 children (obviously taking to heart the verse from Genesis to be fruitful and multiply). Jonas Phillips was staunchly patriotic to the American cause and fervently devoted to his Jewish heritage. Both of these traits strongly influenced Uriah Levy, who came to embrace similar sentiments. Uriah also developed a love for the sea. In 1806, when Uriah was 14, his father arranged a four-year apprenticeship for Uriah with a prominent Philadelphia shipowner, during which Uriah became educated in the art of sailing aboard large ships. By the age of 19, he had earned enough money to become part owner of a trading ship named the *George Washington*, which was named after not the first U.S. president, but bore the two first names of Uriah's partners, George Mesoncourt and Washington Garrison. This business allowed Uriah to hone his maritime skills, which was helpful in the next phase of his life



# THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

JAN. 2017

VOL. 38 #6

When the War of 1812 began, Levy applied for and received a commission in the U.S. Navy. He was assigned to the USS *Argus*, which, coincidentally, had originally been named the *Merrimack*. During the first several months of the war, the *Argus* was stationed off the Atlantic coast. But her greatest contribution to the war effort came when she raided British shipping in the English Channel. In one month of raiding, the *Argus* captured and burned 19 merchant ships. On August 14, 1813 the *Argus* was engaged by a British warship and was captured in a battle in which the captain of the *Argus* was mortally wounded. Most of the ship's crew, including Uriah Levy, were taken prisoner, and Levy remained a prisoner in Britain until the end of the war.

After the war Levy served aboard a number of Navy ships including the USS *Franklin*, the USS *United States*, and the USS *Cyane*. It was fitting that Levy served on the *Franklin*, because this was the first ship to be built at the naval yard in Levy's hometown of Philadelphia. The *United States* has an interesting Civil War history in that it was captured by the Confederacy and renamed with the seemingly contradictory name CSS *United States*. The *Cyane* was originally a British warship that was captured near the end of the War of 1812 by the USS *Constitution* and was purchased by the U.S. Navy shortly after the war. During the period of Levy's life following the War of 1812, his naval career was intensely frustrating for him. He faced numerous verbal insults and slow promotions in rank, both of which he believed to be the result of his ethnicity. Not one to back down from an insult, Levy, who has been described as quick-tempered and pugnacious, engaged in numerous fights with comrades who Levy felt insulted him. Levy even killed another officer who challenged him to a duel, although according to an account of the incident, Levy went to great lengths to resolve the situation peacefully, including firing into the air several times during the duel. Because of his many instances of physical altercations, Levy was court-martialed six times, and he received three presidential pardons after courts-martial ruled against him, two pardons from James Monroe and one from John Tyler.

In spite of these difficulties Levy was devoted to his service in the Navy, and an incident that occurred in 1825 when Levy was serving on the *Cyane* demonstrates how devoted he was. While the ship was in port in Brazil, Levy watched as a junior officer from the *Cyane* intervened in a dispute that involved a Brazilian military officer. At one point the Brazilian officer drew a saber and slashed at the junior officer. Levy stepped in and deflected the saber and in so doing was slashed on the wrist. The emperor of Brazil was told of the incident and was so impressed by Levy's bravery that he offered Levy a commission in the Brazilian navy on a new vessel. Levy politely declined and reputedly answered that he would rather be a cabin boy in the U.S. Navy than an admiral in any other navy in the world.

Levy's later service in the Navy was marked by two milestones. Early in his career when Levy was serving on the *United States*, he witnessed a flogging for the first time. Although flogging was standard punishment in the Navy at that time, Levy thought that the practice was barbaric and ineffective. In 1837 Levy was given command of the USS *Vandalia*. As commander of the *Vandalia* Levy discontinued the use of flogging as a punishment and employed different measures. Levy also campaigned to have flogging outlawed in the Navy, but there was stiff resistance to this. In 1850 the practice of flogging was banned by Congress, although it required a legislative maneuver that is often criticized nowadays. Senator John Hale of New Hampshire attached a rider banning flogging to the 1850

# THE CHARGER

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

JAN. 2017

VOL. 38 #6

Uriah Levy cont.

Levy's other milestone occurred a little over a year before the firing on Fort Sumter. On February 21, 1860 James Buchanan appointed Levy to command the Mediterranean fleet. As a fleet commander, Levy received the title of commodore, the first Jew to be named a commodore in the U.S. Navy. Levy held this post for less than five months, after which Abraham Lincoln named Levy to head the naval court-martial board. It was ironic that this was to be the last naval service for someone who had been court-martialed six times. Early in 1862 Levy contracted pneumonia and died on March 22, 1862. Uriah Levy's distinguished service in the U.S. Navy led to the naming of a World War II destroyer escort after him. In addition, the Jewish chapel in the naval station at Norfolk, Virginia is named after him, as is the Jewish center and chapel at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Naming the two Jewish chapels after Uriah Levy is quite fitting in light of a remark that Levy reputedly made to a fellow officer who insulted Levy for being Jewish. To this insult Levy replied, "That I am a Jew, I neither deny nor regret."

While Uriah Levy has exceptional legacies from his service in the Navy, Levy's most far-reaching legacy involves one of the Founding Fathers. Levy was an ardent admirer of Thomas Jefferson and said about Jefferson, "I consider Thomas Jefferson to be one of the greatest men in history, the author of the Declaration and an absolute democrat. He serves as an inspiration to millions of Americans." Because of his admiration for Thomas Jefferson, Uriah Levy, who became wealthy through real estate investments in New York City, was instrumental in two notable monuments to the author of the Declaration of Independence. The first monument is a bronze statue of Jefferson, which Levy funded and presented to Congress in 1834. The statue stands in the rotunda of the capitol in Washington, D.C. and is the only statue in the rotunda that was paid for with private funds. Even more impressive than that, Levy purchased and restored Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello. Because of the Jefferson family's financial difficulties, Thomas Jefferson's daughter, Martha, was forced to sell Monticello after her father's death. The new owner, James Barclay, intended to convert the estate into a silk-worm farm. Even before Barclay had purchased Monticello, it had fallen into disrepair, and this condition only worsened during Barclay's ownership. Levy purchased Monticello from Barclay in 1834 for \$2,700 and then oversaw its restoration, although he did not live to see the restoration completed. This restoration was interrupted by the Civil War, during which the Confederate government seized Monticello and sold it. After the Civil War, Levy's heirs recovered the property, and the restoration of Monticello was completed under the supervision of Levy's nephew, Jefferson Monroe Levy, who served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1923 Jefferson Monroe Levy sold Monticello to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation for \$500,000. This foundation, which is now known as the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, currently owns and maintains Monticello.

Of all Uriah Levy's legacies, the one that has the most far-reaching effects is his salvaging of Monticello. Without Levy's preservation efforts, it is not far-fetched to believe that Monticello would have been lost to posterity, in the same way that portions of Civil War battlefields have been lost. Because of his strong admiration for Thomas Jefferson, Uriah Levy preserved for all Americans the home of the author of the Declaration of Independence, and Monticello now stands as an enduring monument to the Founding Father who was the official voice of the movement that produced the United States of America. It is appropriate to remember and acknowledge Levy's preservation of Monticello during the month of December, because December has become the month of gift-giving due to the two religious holidays that fall in December, and Levy's preservation of Monticello is a gift to all of us. In light of Levy's ethnicity and religion and his deep devotion to them, Levy's gift of Monticello is not a Christmas present, but a Hanukkah gift.



# THE CHARGER

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

JAN. 2017

VOL. 38 #6



\*\*\*\*\*

## JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING



Jan. 11, 2017

Program: *Faces of the Civil War* presented by C. Ellen Connally, Dan Zeiser and Jean Rhodes

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

East 107th St & Chester

### BECAUSE YOU ASKED.....

In response to several requests, beginning in December, our meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

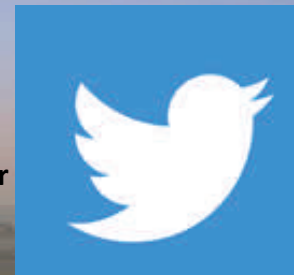
Jean

Like Us On Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/CLECivilWar/>

Follow Us on Twitter



<https://twitter.com/CLECivilWar>

