

# THE CHARGER



## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT. 2016

VOL. 38 #2

### **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: Dave 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 – September, 2016

Welcome back from what I hope has been a safe and enjoyable summer, although perhaps warmer than most of us would have liked.

I'm delighted at this opportunity to serve as your President for the 2016-2017 year and would like to mention a few things about some of our upcoming events.

We have 30 members and guests signed up for our annual field trip this year to The Wilderness and Spotsylvania which is only a few weeks away. This is a wonderful response! Kris White is looking forward to leading us on September 22-24 as we learn more about Ulysses S. Grant's first encounters with Robert E. Lee. Hopefully some of the people attending will be willing to share some experience from the trip in next month's issue of *The Charger* for the benefit of those who weren't able to attend.

In November we will be celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are one of the oldest Roundtables in the nation. Be sure to come and share this occasion with us. Mike Wells would welcome any memories you may wish to share with us for the November *Charger*.

Our programs will include talks on some battles (Perryville and Tupelo), we'll relive the Andrews Raid, and a detective from Chicago will re-open the case of the murder of Bull Nelson. And what would an election year be without politics? This time the re-election of Abraham Lincoln. We'll also learn more about American-British relations during the Civil War.

Due to last year's difficulty in finding participants for the Annual Dick Crews debate, we've decided to substitute a program giving all a chance to identify famous, not-so-famous, and infamous people from the Civil War by their photographs. Judge Connolly and I will be selecting photos to challenge everyone.

# THE CHARGER



## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT. 2016

VOL. 38 #2

Pres. Message cont..

And something different – there will be an evening devoted to women’s fashion in the mid-nineteenth century. We’ve been promised an entertaining evening by those who have seen this program. As always, spouses welcome.

And last but not least, don’t forget that dues are due in September. Dues pay for our programs, our donations and all the “extras” that make our Roundtable an organization of which we can be proud.

See you on September 14.

Jean Rhodes, President

### THIS MONTH:



#### ***STAND FAST TO THE UNION AND THE OLD FLAG: RE-ELECTING LINCOLN IN 1864***

**WE’VE HEARD IT SAID SO MUCH DURING THE CURRENT PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN THAT THE 2016 ELECTION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT IN OUR NATION’S HISTORY. PERHAPS THE ELECTION OF 1864 WAS TRULY THE MOST IMPORTANT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AS WITHOUT THE RE-ELECTION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN OUR COUNTRY MAY HAVE BEEN FOREVER DIVIDED.**

**TODD ARRINGTON, IN HIS PRESENTATION, LOOKS AT THE ISSUES FACING PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN’S RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN 1864, INCLUDING OTHER REPUBLICANS WHO HOPED TO UNSEAT HIM AS THE PARTY’S NOMINEE AND THE CONTEST AGAINST DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE AND FORMER UNION GENERAL GEORGE B, McCLELLAN. FACTORS THAT LED TO LINCOLN’S VICTORY WILL BE EXAMINED, AS WELL THE AFTERMATH OF THIS MOMENTOUS AND IMPORTANT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.**

**DR. ARRINGTON IS A CAREER NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORIAN AND INTERPRETER. HE IS CURRENTLY THE SITE MANAGER OF THE JAMES A. GARFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE. HE GREW UP IN GETTYSBURG AND BEGAN HIS CAREER WHEN, WHILE ATTENDING THE MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, HE WORKED AS AN INTERN AT THE FRONT DESK AT THE OLD GETTYSBURG VISITOR CENTER. HE EARNED HIS MASTER’S DEGREE IN HISTORY AT SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND HIS PH.D. FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN IN 2012. HE HAS TAUGHT HISTORY AND HUMANITIES AT SEVERAL NORTHEAST OHIO COLLEGES. MOST RECENTLY HE APPEARED IN THE PBS DOCUMENTARY *MURDER OF A PRESIDENT, JAMES A. GARFIELD* WHICH AIRED IN FEBRUARY 2016.**

**NEXT MONTH...**

***AUTUMN 1862 – THE TRUE HIGH TIDE OF THE CONFEDERACY* WITH ROBERT LEE HODGE**

# THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT. 2016

VOL. 38 #2

## Remembering "the Rock"

by William Vodrey  
Copyright 2016 All rights reserved

On July 31, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, fourteen members of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable gathered at the Cleveland Chop restaurant downtown to mark the occasion and honor his memory. GHT200 Chair Dan Zieser welcomed attendees, and Dr. Pat Bray, a U.S. Navy veteran, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. I proposed the customary first toast of military and patriotic occasions, to the President of the United States. Dan then posed the first ten questions (tough but not impossible) of our two-part "Rock of Chickamauga" quiz, covering the years from Thomas's 1816 birth in Newsom's Depot (now Newsoms), Southampton County, Va., through the beginning of the Civil War. Dan then spoke briefly about Thomas's life and times, praising him as a loyal, determined, skillful general who never lost a battle.



Mel Maurer was to have proposed the second toast of the evening, to President Abraham Lincoln, but was unavoidably prevented from attending, so John Fazio kindly stepped in and proposed the toast instead. I posed the next ten questions of our trivia quiz, covering the Civil War through Thomas's death at the Presidio in San Francisco in 1870. Bill Frank, Steve Pettyjohn and Pat Bray were our trivia contest winners; each received a book about Thomas and a replica major general's two-star shoulder strap. I presented Dan, the only person I know who admires the general more than me, with a commemorative Thomas challenge coin from the Col. G.L. Willard Camp 154 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. All who attended the dinner will receive envelopes with commemorative postal cancellations honoring Thomas, from the post offices in Chickamauga, Ga. (where Thomas won his nickname) and Troy, N.Y. (his wife's hometown, where he is buried).

Our various honored guests read congratulatory letters which the GHT200 Committee had requested. These included Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (who wrote that Thomas's "life and service exemplify West Point's ideals and values: 'Duty, Honor, Country'"); Gen. Mark A. Milley, Army Chief of Staff ("...it is clear that he was one of the Union's most brilliant strategists... President Lincoln's words, 'It is doubtful whether his heroism and skill... has ever been surpassed in the world' ring true to this day... Thomas continues to be an inspiration to us all"); Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff ("...we can learn from and be inspired by his example... Deliberate, focused, prepared, and even stubborn at times, Thomas not only had an unsurpassed record of battlefield leadership, he was generations ahead of his time in his mastery of theater command and control..."); Terry McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia ("...a true hero during a time of great chaos... one of Virginia's finest historical figures"); and Ash Carter, U.S. Secretary of Defense (a "revered soldier, leader, commander, and strategist... a man of great courage and conviction, who sought to serve his country and [its] citizens before himself").

# THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT. 2016

VOL. 38 #2

## Remembering the Rock cont.

Dan led our third toast, to Maj. Gen. Thomas himself, followed by other toasts and remarks from guests. Paul Burkholder concluded the evening by reading excerpts from Theodore O'Hara's somber c. 1850 poem "Bivouac of the Dead," which is still displayed on plaques at Arlington and other Civil War military cemeteries. Paul's reading began with the well-known first stanza:

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat  
The soldier's last tattoo;  
No more on life's parade shall meet  
That brave and fallen few.  
On Fame's eternal camping-ground  
Their silent tents are spread,  
But Glory guards, with solemn round  
The bivouac of the dead...

After further conversation and an excellent meal, we adjourned, pleased to have honored a too-often-unappreciated hero of the Civil War, a Virginian who remained true to his oath and loyal to the United States, helping lead its armies to victory in the Civil War.

One guest suggested we have special dinners to honor the bicentennials of the births of other leading figures of the Civil War. Some upcoming possibilities: William T. Sherman (2020) and Ulysses S. Grant (2022). Feeling healthy? You might plan ahead for Phil Sheridan (2031) and William Cushing (2042).

## In Remembrance: John W. Moore

JOHN W. MOORE passed August 10, 2016. Age 81, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was preceded in death by Helen, his dear wife of 55 years. Cherished father of Jennifer (John) Apanites, Kathy (Don) DeCaprio, LeeAnn (Dane) Delli and John; loving grandfather of seven; brother of Donna Moore, and the late Alberta (Adrian) Stull; brother in law of Dorothy (Delbert) Bair. Retired Assistant Superintendent of Mayfield City Schools. Memorial service Saturday, September 3 at 10:30am at Mayfield Church, 7747 Mayfield Rd, (Caves and Mayfield) Chesterland, OH 44026. In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to InMotion, 4829 Galaxy Parkway Suite M, Warrensville Heights, OH 44128 or [www.beinmotion.org](http://www.beinmotion.org)

I met John Moore when I joined the Roundtable in 1992. At the time, he was the Assistant Superintendent of the Mayfield City School District. He had been a teacher, principal, and held several administration positions before retiring as the Assistant Superintendent.

John served as President of the Roundtable the year after I did. John grew up on a farm in east central Ohio. On field trips, he could identify every crop on the farms we passed. And, Boy!, was he handy - he could fix just about anything. John and his wife, Helen, lived in Gates Mills for years, where they raised four (4) children. John spent a lot of time in the years after he retired traveling to Cincinnati, Chicago, and Seattle to visit his children and grandchildren. He will be missed.

Dan Zieser

# THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT. 2016

VOL. 38 #2

## Cleveland's 1864 Presidential Convention

By Dennis Keating

In July Cleveland successfully hosted its third Republican presidential convention. On May 31, 1864, a little known presidential convention was held in Cleveland that could have significantly influenced the outcome of the election that November. A few hundred Radical Republicans joined by Abolitionists like Frederick Douglas and Elizabeth Cady Stanton met and nominated John C. Fremont for President as the candidate of the Radical Democracy party.

A week later Lincoln was nominated to head the National Union party. His re-election was endangered by Northern weariness with the war and the opposition of the Peace Democrats. His Democratic opponent would be George McClellan, the twice-fired former commander of the Union army. Those who met in Cleveland were critical of Lincoln's policies on ending slavery and restricting opponents' civil rights. Fremont's candidacy could potentially have split the Republican vote and helped to elect McClellan.

Fremont had gained fame as "The Pathfinder" in the West and had played a prominent role in the capture of California during the Mexican-American war. In 1856, he was the first presidential candidate of the new Republican Party and finished second to James Buchanan.

Fremont was appointed by Lincoln the Union commander of the Department of the West based in St. Louis in 1861, The pro-abolition Fremont declared martial law and issued an emancipation proclamation freeing Missouri slaves. This led him into conflict with both Lincoln (who rescinded his policy) and the politically powerful Blair family. Re-assigned to the Mountain Department in the East, Fremont's command was defeated by Stonewall Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley in May and June, 1862, after which he left the Union army.

By the Fall of 1864, with Sherman's capture of Atlanta, Lincoln's re-election prospects had improved considerably. In a letter dated September 21, Fremont withdrew as a presidential candidate in order to oppose McClellan and his party's platform accepting Southern independence and slavery. However, he also stated:

"In respect to Mr. Lincoln, I continue to hold exactly the sentiments contained in my letter of acceptance. I consider that his Administration has been politically, militarily and financially, a failure, and that its necessary continuance is a cause of regret for the country".

So ended this political threat to Lincoln's re-election and Fremont's place in national politics.



**JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING**



**Sept. 14, 2016**

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

**East 107th St & Chester**



**Program: Stand Fast to the Union and the Old Flag: Re-electing Lincoln  
in 1864**

