

# THE CHARGER



## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

Nov. 2016

VOL. 38 #4

### **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

#### **On Turning Sixty**

Sixty years! I can't think of any other organization I've belonged to that has been in existence for sixty years. As a relative newcomer to our Roundtable, I have not been a part of our long history, but I *have* experienced many things which I feel have contributed to our longevity.

First, of course, is the reason for which we were formed. Our brochure describes us as "a group of people bound together by the belief that America's Civil War was the defining event in the history of our country."

Each month for most of the year for sixty years we have gathered to share our interest in and to learn more about that four-year conflict. We do this through the speakers we invite, whether they are nationally-known or one of our own members. We share our books. We have debates and dramatizations. We travel to the battlefields and other Civil War sites together.

We support outside organizations, presenting programs at other roundtables, libraries and at

# THE CHARGER



## CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

Nov. 2016

VOL. 38 #4

community events. We support poetry contests and Johnson's Island.

It hasn't always been easy. We survived our own "secession crisis" in 1997 when we voted to allow women to become a part of our organization.

Most of all, more than all those things, I think it's the members themselves who have made The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable an organization of which we can be proud. We have formed lasting friendships and supported each other in our various roles. We get together socially, sometimes for Civil War related events, sometimes just because we enjoy each other's company.

We have a high level of participation. Our members are always ready to step up when needed. Our leadership has been sound.

We each have reason to be proud to be a member of our Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. So Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and many more.

Jean

### THIS MONTH:

.This Month...

***Work for Giants: The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg***

It was early July, 1864. Sherman was advancing toward Atlanta. Maj. Gen. Andrew Smith and the XVI U.S. Army Corps advanced into Mississippi. Their mission was to prevent Stephen D. Lee and Nathan Bedford Forrest from moving into middle Tennessee and destroying Sherman's rail supply line. They met near Tupelo on July 14-15 in what is known as The Battle of Tupelo. *Work for Giants* is the story of that battle.

Tom Parson is a native of Slymar, California. He is a veteran of 20 years with the U.S. Navy. He retired in 1998 and has been with the National Park Service ever since, the last seventeen years at Shiloh. *Work for Giants* is his second book.

Next Month...

*The Case of the Murder of Bull Nelson* with Robert Girardi



# THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

Nov. 2016

VOL. 38 #4

## Ex Parte Milligan Anniversary

By Dennis Keating

2016 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision in Ex Parte Milligan. In 2012, I wrote about “Lincoln’s Suspension of Habeas Corpus” for The Charger. In this archived article I recounted the issues and U.S. Supreme Court cases surrounding Lincoln’s controversial wartime policy.

The case of Lambdin Milligan is the one most remembered because it declared Lincoln’s use of military tribunals like the one that condemned Milligan and other Indiana opponents to his wartime policies to death for treason to be unconstitutional. As long as civil courts were operating, the Court ruled in a unanimous opinion by David Davis that Lincoln opponents like the “Copperhead” Milligan could not be tried by military tribunals.

Milligan’s execution was delayed first by Lincoln and then by his successor Andrew Johnson until it could be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court after the war ended. Milligan’s case and its aftermath featured three prominent lawyer-politicians:

- He was represented in his appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court by a team that included future President James Garfield;
- In his later suit for damages against those responsible for his imprisonment, he was represented by Thomas Hendrickson, future Vice President;
- The attorney representing General Alvin Hovey who arrested Milligan was future President Benjamin Harrison.

Milligan triumphed but the jury verdict in his favor resulted in an award of only \$5.

The Milligan precedent continued to be cited in the litigation over the United States imprisonment at the Guantanamo naval base in Cuba of enemy combatants captured during the war on terrorists.

If you’re interested in the Copperheads, in addition to Jennifer Weber’s 2006 book, see Nancy Baxter YouTube lecture “Copperheads in Indiana”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHJ1vErNZsg>

# THE CHARGER

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

NOV 2016

VOL. 38 #4



## Fort Ward – Bastions Against the South

By Dan Ursu

Fort Ward is one of the 68 forts eventually built by the North that ringed Washington D.C. as protection against southern invasion and raids.

As with many of the forts constructed for this purpose, Fort Ward was strategically located astride highways leading towards the Union Capital. Built near Alexandria Virginia, it protected the potential southern invasion routes of the Leesburg and Alexandria Turnpike (modern route 7) and overlooked to the northwest Bailey's and Balls Cross Roads. It was named after Commander James Harmon who was the first Union naval officer killed during the Civil War.



Reconstructed ceremonial Fort Ward Gate

Today the site is a 45 acre municipal Park operated by the city of Alexandria. I visited Fort Ward on the way to our annual field trip on September 22, 2016. There is a modest sized visitor center and museum. A walking tour of the perimeter of the site takes about 45 minutes and is well worth the visit. The fortification is entered through the reconstructed Fort Ward gate.

The highlight of the current site consists of the fort's rebuilt Northwest Bastion which is loaded with cannons and howitzers similar to what were present during the Civil War. In position are reproductions of three impressive 4.5-inch Ordnance Rifles noted by contemporary writers for their accuracy and range, two large 24-Pounder Howitzers which would generally have been used to protect against infantry attack on the fort and a 6-Pounder artillery piece. By late 1864 the five bastion fort had 36 guns of various calibers and had grown to become the fifth largest fort protecting the Capital.

Importantly, Fort Ward included a 100-Pounder Parrot whose great range and hitting power when combined with similar Parrots at nearby Forts Worth, Ellsworth and Richardson, strategically covered a line below Alexandria from Munson's Hill across the range of heights south of Hunting Creek, thus making an integrated defense controlling the previously mentioned roads, the Little River Turnpike (modern Duke Street) and the Orange and Alexandria Railroad.



Construction of the fort began in September 1861 and was improved extensively until the end of the war. The angular bastion works were protected by moats and rifle pits which were manned by the fort's garrison. The garrison size varied during the war, but to give an idea of what might have been desired as an optimal number, bombproofs were constructed to protect up to 500 troops. The final perimeter length of 818 yards made Ward one of the largest forts built near D.C. and is twice the size of the more famous Fort Stevens which has also been preserved.

Two 4.5" Ordnance Rifles and 24 Pounder Howitzer in the Northwest Bastion

# THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

NOV. 2016

VOL. 38 #4

Fort Ward cont.

Unlike Fort Stevens which protected two highways approaching the Capital from the north, Fort Ward had no similar challenge to that withstood by Fort Stevens. This occurred when Jubal Early's Confederate Corps invaded Maryland in September 1864. After the Battle of Monocacy on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1864, Early's troops advanced south-eastwards to the Capital, but were stopped by Fort Stevens and troops hastily transported from General Grant's army then located at Petersburg, Virginia. Perhaps making Fort Stevens even more famous was Abraham Lincoln's visit when the fort was under fire.



Overhead view of a 4.5" Ordnance Rifle facing westward

Although never tested in battle nor visited by the President, Fort Ward in conjunction with other forts south of the Potomac were arguably completely successful as an excellent deterrent to any potential plans the south might have had to attack D.C. from that direction.

The Fort Ward site is located at 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, Virginia and is easily reached by taking I 395 for about five miles north from its intersection with the I 495 Washington D.C. Beltway, just south of D.C. The fort is only a few minutes from Exit Number 5 along I 395.

Sources:

Mr. Lincoln's Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington; 1988; by Benjamin Franklin Cooling III and Walton J. Owen II; White Mane Publishing Company, Inc.

"68 Forts: Why Confederates never could have taken Washington", *America's Civil War Magazine*; May 2009; by Marc Leepson.

Mr. Lincoln's City: an Illustrated Guide to the Civil War Sites of Washington; 1981; by Richard M. Lee; EPM Publications, Inc.

Last Chance for Victory: Jubal Early's 1864 Maryland Invasion; 2010; by Brett W. Spaulding.

"The Art of the Artilleryman"; Fort Ward Museum Brochure; Alexandria, Virginia.

American Civil War Artillery 1861-1865 (2), Heavy Artillery; 2001; by Philip Katcher; Osprey Publishing.

Cannons: An Introduction to Civil War Artillery; 1985; by Dean S. Thomas; Thomas Publications.



Closer view of a 4.5" Ordnance Rifle

# THE CHARGER

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

Nov. 2016

VOL. 38 #4



\*\*\*\*\*



## JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING



Nov. 9 , 2016

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

East 107th St & Chester

Program: *Work for Giants: The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg*

*By Tom Parsons*



Look for us on:

Follow us on twitter:



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



<https://twitter.com/CLECivilWar>

