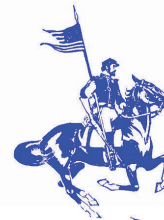


THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

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Message from the President

Warm greetings to all members and friends of the Roundtable! I welcome you to an exciting year of speakers and activities to expand your knowledge of the Civil War, and hopefully make new friends and acquaintances. Since becoming an officer, I made it my mission to broaden our exposure and generate interest in the Roundtable in the community at large. To this end, we engaged Lisa Frank as our social media consultant to give our group a presence on Facebook and Twitter. For those of you who access digital media, you know that we now post news and interesting articles about the Civil War several times a week, which has generated significant interest. This year, we have also printed full color playbills for distribution to libraries, historical centers and college campuses to promote our speakers schedule. I have also invited professors of American history at Cleveland State University, Case Western Reserve University, Baldwin Wallace University, John Carroll University and Ursuline College to attend one of our meetings to learn more about our organization. If you meet someone new at a meeting, please do your best to welcome and honor them as as a valued guest. I would like to celebrate our sixty-first year (our first meeting took place in November 1956) with a renewed spirit of outreach to budding scholars and enthusiasts of the Civil War.

I have picked an interesting year to be your president. The Civil War and its impact is suddenly in the news. Confederate memorials around the country particularly have come under assault. As a country we are being called upon to reexamine our history. The appearance of Ed Bonekemper as our first speaker could not be more timely. A military historian and author, Mr. Bonekemper will speak about the Myth of the Lost Cause, which he maintains is a false memory of the Civil War. He notes that since the end of the struggle, the former Confederate states have continued to mythologize the South's defeat to the North, depicted the Civil War as unnecessary, or as a fight over states' Constitutional rights. In his talk, he will deconstruct this multi-faceted myth, and reveal the truth about the war that nearly tore this nation apart.

Please consider this message as a preview of our presentation in October, due to the fact that the *Charger* will not publish next month. On October 11, Eric Wittenburg, will explain what exactly happened on East Cavalry Field on July 3, 1863. It was there that Union horsemen under Brig. Gen. David M. Gregg tangled with the vaunted Confederates riding with Maj. Gen. Jeb Stuart. A lengthy mounted battle ensued, highlighted by the charge of Brig. Gen. George A. Custer, leading the 1st Michigan Cavalry,

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT./OCT 2017

VOL. 39 #1

which blunted the attack by Wade Hampton's brigade, which prevented Stuart from changing the course of the battle of Gettysburg. This combat was the most magnificent mounted charge and countercharge of the entire Civil War, and its telling by Eric Wittenburg will captivate you.

One last note. Due to mounting costs, the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable has found it necessary to increase the cost of dinner and attendance at our monthly meetings to \$30.00 per meeting. Our membership has not seen an increase of this nature since the 1990s and, frankly, it is to be expected. Judson Manor does a fine job in providing our group with first class service and a fine dinner experience. As its costs have risen, we are now expected to pay fairly, which I am sure we will all do happily. Therefore, please remember to bring at least \$30.00 to our meetings in payment of a great evening of fellowship and entertainment.

I look forward to a great year as your President!
Hans



Jubal Early: Lee's Bad Old Man

By Dennis Keating

Edward H. Bonekemper III, our September speaker on "The Myth of the Lost Cause", writes of Jubal Early in his 2015 book:



"Early, who faltered at Gettysburg, lost the Shenandoah Valley and his corps, been relieved of his command by Lee, and fled the country for a few years after the war, was an early critic of Longstreet and others who could be blamed for Lee's shortcomings. Early was a better propagandist than general. As an author and president of the Lee Monument Association, the Association of the Army of Northern Virginia, and the Southern Historical Society, he acted as Lee's chief votary for three decades". (p. 112)

Called by Robert E. Lee his "Bad Old Man", who was Jubal Early and what was his record during and after the Civil War? Early was one of ten children born in 1816 to a slave-holding family owning a tobacco plantation in southwestern Virginia. The owner of a single slave himself, Early was a strong supporter of slavery and a believer in white supremacy. He entered West Point in the class of 1837 with many Civil War officers on both sides (e.g., Braxton Bragg, John Pemberton, Joseph Hooker and John Sedgewick). A mess hall altercation with Lewis Armistead led to the latter's dismissal from West Point. After graduation, he served briefly in the Seminole war in Florida before resigning and practicing law in Virginia. He served a term in the Virginia legislature. He volunteered during the Mexican war but didn't see combat.

In the 1861 secession convention Early was a Unionist in the majority initially opposed to secession. However, once Virginia did vote for secession following Lincoln's call for volunteers after the assault on Fort Sumter, Early volunteered to defend his state and organized Confederate volunteers in Lynchburg and became commander of the 24th Virginia. His early combat service in 1861-1862 enhanced his reputation – at First Bull's Run, Williamsburg (where he was wounded), Cedar Mountain, Second Manassas, Antietam (Sharpsburg), and Fredericksburg, rising to command of a division under Stonewall Jackson. "Old Jube" developed a pugnacious reputation. At Chancellorsville, Lee had Early defending the heights at Fredericksburg against John Sedgewick. Early's outnumbered force had to retreat in the face of Sedgewick's advance.

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT./OCT, 2017

VOL. 39 #1

With Jackson's death, Early's division was now in the new Second Corps commanded by Richard Ewell. They would be the source of great controversy at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. Returning from York, Early's division routed Barlow's division of the Union XI Corps. But later that day Early supported Ewell's decision not to attempt an assault on Cemetery Hill. Early's division would attack Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill later in the battle but failed to dislodge the Yankees from their position.

1864 would see Early play a prominent role in the Army of Northern Virginia's defense against U.S. Grant's Overland campaign. He would occasionally become acting commander of the Second and Third Corps due to the illness of Ewell and A. P. Hill, fighting at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor.

Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General, on June 12, 1864 Lee sent Early and the Second Corps from the defense of besieged Petersburg to the Shenandoah Valley to drive the Union army away and to relieve pressure on Lee's remaining army. Early's military reputation would largely rest on this campaign. First, Early joined John C. Breckinridge and saved Lynchburg which was threatened by David Hunter. Then with Lee's support, Early and his small force headed for the Lower Valley and a possible strike north of the Potomac. After failing to drive Franz Sigel from Harper's Ferry at Maryland Heights, Early crossed into Maryland and captured Frederick. While Early haggled with the city father for a ransom and supplies, his army then met Lew Wallace's hastily assembled force at the Monocacy River on July 9 and were delayed for a critical day before Wallace withdrew and the road to Washington City was open

On July 11, Early and his vanguard arrived before the city's formidable string of fortifications which at that point were undermanned. However, Early hesitated while waiting for the rest of his army to arrive on a hot summer day. By the next day, elements of the VI Corps of the Army of the Potomac sent by Grant were arriving to thwart any Confederate attack. Best remembered was the presence of President Abraham Lincoln at Fort Stevens to observe the skirmishing. Early's raid ended with his escape back across the Potomac to the Shenandoah Valley as the Federals did not immediately pursue him.

This soon led to Grant's appointment of Phil Sheridan, commander of his Cavalry Corps, to head a consolidated command (the VI and XIX Corps and the Kanawha Corps from West Virginia) to drive the Confederates from the Valley and destroy the breadbasket of Lee's army. This would lead to the destruction of Early and his reputation as a commander. However, first Early routed the Federals at Second Kernstown on July 24. He then ordered cavalry under John McCausland to ransom Chambersburg, Maryland. When this demand was refused, the town was burned down. The justification was retaliation for David Hunter's earlier devastation of Lexington and other locations in the Valley on Grant's order.

On September 19, Sheridan moved against Early in the battle of Third Winchester. After troubles in the beginning, a sweeping attack by Sheridan's cavalry finally led to Early's defeat. Retreating south to Fisher's Hill, Early's army was again routed on September 22 by a flanking attack led by George Crook's troops. Seemingly no longer able to hold back Sheridan, Early nevertheless struck back in a surprise attack orchestrated by John B. Gordon at Cedar Creek on October 19. With Sheridan away, his army was initially scattered in an early morning attack in the fog. Then, with Gordon urging further assaults, Early demurred. Inspired by Sheridan's return after his famous ride from Winchester, a reconstituted Union army counter-attacked and again routed Early's army. Early would claim that his halt and defeat was caused by many of his soldiers looting the captured Union camps. Sheridan's victory was seen as sealing Lincoln's election in November, 1864.

Most of the remnants of Early's Valley army were returned to Lee at Petersburg. Early remained with a skeleton observation force as Sheridan continued to burn the Valley's farms to deny supplies to Lee's army. Finally, on March 2, 1865, Early's tiny force at Waynesboro at a Blue Ridge mountain gap was virtually destroyed with Early barely escaping. Thus ended Early's Valley campaign and military career. His eventual loss of the Valley would be unfavorably compared to Stonewall Jackson's acclaimed 1862 Valley campaign.

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT./OCT. 2017

VOL. 39 #1

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Early sought another command but on March 30, shortly before the fall of Petersburg and Lee's retreat, Early was dismissed from the army by Lee. While thanking Early for his service to the Confederacy, Lee said that he could no longer command the support of the people and the confidence of the soldiers.

With Lee's surrender, Early refused to follow his example. Instead, he headed on horseback to join Kirby Smith's Trans-Mississippi army which surrendered before Early's arrival in Texas. He then went into exile in Mexico, then Havana, Cuba, and then in Toronto, Canada, where he wrote his memoir, mostly about his Valley campaign.

Pardoned in 1868 by President Andrew Johnson, Early returned to Virginia in 1869. For the rest of his life before he died in 1894, Early was one of the most prominent proponents of the "Lost Cause". He notably criticized James Longstreet, blaming him for Lee's Gettysburg defeat. He also became embroiled in disputes with several other Confederate generals including Gordon, John Mosby, and William "Extra Billy" Mahone.

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2017 Civil War book Recommendations by Dennis Keating

Fighting the Second Civil War: History of Battlefield Preservation and the Emergence of the Civil War Trust. Bob Zeller. Knox Press. 448 pages.

Lincoln and the Democrats: The Politics of Opposition in the Civil War. Mark E. Neely, Jr. Cambridge University Press. 248 pages.

Lincoln's Lieutenants: The High Command of the Army of the Potomac. Stephen W. Sears. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 896 pages.

Stanton: Lincoln's War Secretary. Walter Starr. Simon & Schuster. 768 pages.



THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT./OCT. 2017

VOL. 39 #1

The Southbound Underground Railroad by David A. Carrino

This history brief was presented at the May 2017 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.

The Civil War has been called the first modern war, because many innovations that had been developed in the years prior to the Civil War saw their first extensive wartime use in the Civil War. In keeping with this, the January 2004 Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Dick Crews debate focused on the topic of the equipment or innovation that had the most effect on the Civil War. One of the five innovations that were discussed was railroads. Most historians agree that the Civil War was the first war in which railroads saw widespread use and had a major impact. For example, at the first battle of Bull Run, Joseph Johnston used a railroad to rapidly move his troops from the Shenandoah Valley to reinforce P.G.T. Beauregard. A few months after the battle of Shiloh, Braxton Bragg moved his infantry by rail along a circuitous route from Tupelo, Mississippi to Chattanooga, Tennessee so he could join forces with an army led by Edmund Kirby Smith for an invasion of Kentucky. Railroads were instrumental prior to the Civil War in the development of the United States due to their capacity for rapid transportation in all directions throughout the country. However, there was one pre-Civil War railroad that operated in only one direction. This railroad, which operated without locomotives and without tracks and was a railroad in name only, was the Underground Railroad, and it went essentially only in a northbound direction. As Civil War enthusiasts know, the Underground Railroad was a series of secret routes by which escaped slaves fled from slave states to free states. The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable visited the Underground Railroad museum in Cincinnati several years ago as part of our annual field trip. Because of the geographic locations of free and slave states, escaped slaves who used the Underground Railroad moved northward, which is where they could find freedom. However, before there was a northbound Underground Railroad to move escaped slaves toward freedom, there was a southbound Underground Railroad that moved escaped slaves toward freedom. In fact, this southbound Underground Railroad was the first Underground Railroad that was used by escaped slaves to flee from the future Confederacy in a quest for freedom.

The story of the southbound Underground Railroad revolves around what is considered the oldest city in the United States: St. Augustine, Florida. St. Augustine was founded on September 8, 1565 by Spanish admiral and explorer Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. St. Augustine, which is in northeast present-day Florida, was the capital of the Spanish territory of Florida. The original contract with the Spanish crown stipulated that 500 slaves would be brought to St. Augustine to work on sugar plantations, but none of the slaves called for in the contract was ever brought to the settlement. Spain's system of slavery, which was in place for centuries before Spain's colonization of the New World, differed from that of Britain. Spanish slaves had some rights, such as the right to own property and to purchase their freedom, and it was illegal to separate members of a slave family. Although the life of a Spanish slave was by no means desirable, it was preferable to that of a slave in the British system of chattel slavery.

North of Spanish Florida the British brought captured Africans to work as slaves in their North American colonies beginning with the arrival of 20 African slaves in August 1619 in Jamestown. When the British established present-day Charleston, South Carolina in 1670, African slaves were brought with them, and during the 17th and 18th Centuries many African slaves worked on plantations in the Carolinas. In 1687 the Spanish colonial governor in St. Augustine, Diego de Quiroga, reported to the home country that 11 escaped slaves from the Carolinas, eight men, two women, and a three-year-old nursing child, arrived in St. Augustine.

THE CHARGER

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT./OCT.2017

VOL. 39 #1



. These were the first recorded escaped slaves from a British colony to flee to Spanish Florida. Quiroga decided that the slaves were not to be returned to their owner, but would be allowed to remain in St. Augustine, if they agreed to accept the Catholic faith and declare loyalty to Spain. It is not clear how slaves in the Carolinas learned of a better life in St. Augustine, or if they even knew of this, but simply journeyed in whatever direction they could away from the Carolina plantations. A year before these escaped slaves made their way to Spanish Florida, tensions between Spain and England over their colonial territories in North America led to a raiding party from Spanish Florida attacking some British settlements in the Carolinas and removing, among other possessions, 13 slaves. The British governor of Carolina, James Colleton, demanded the return of not only those 13 slaves, but also those slaves "who run dayly into your towns," which suggests that there had been previous and numerous slave escapes from the Carolinas into Spanish Florida. The Spanish refused to return those slaves, and perhaps knowledge of this somehow made its way to the slaves in the Carolinas, who now knew of an escape route to freedom, an escape route that went south.

Whether or not escaped slaves knew that southward was the direction for possible freedom, the Spanish crown recognized that keeping escaped British slaves was a way to aggravate its rival, England. Moreover, in 1683, four years before the recorded arrival of those 11 escaped slaves, the Spanish colonial government organized a militia composed of free black men to help defend against any British incursions. To further torment the British, on November 7, 1693 King Charles II of Spain issued a decree regarding escaped slaves, in which he stated that he was "giving liberty to all...the men as well as the women...so that by their example and by my liberality others will do the same." In succeeding years four groups of escaped slaves were recorded as arriving in St. Augustine, and there were probably more than this based on known complaints by the British governor of Carolina to the home country. In 1724 a group of ten escaped slaves arrived in St. Augustine and claimed to have known that their freedom was guaranteed by the king of Spain if they converted to Catholicism. In addition, these escaped slaves had been assisted on their journey by Yamassee Indians, who had earlier fought a war with British colonists and, hence, were not on friendly terms with the British.

Due to the growing population of blacks in St. Augustine, in 1738 the Spanish governor, Manuel de Montiano, decided to allow the blacks of St. Augustine to establish a separate settlement two miles north of the city. This decision was not made solely for altruistic reasons, because Montiano saw the black settlement as a first line of defense against a British attack. The settlement was named Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose (pronounced Moe-zay, with the accent on the second syllable). At the center of the settlement was a fort, Fort Mose, which was surrounded by dwellings for the people of the settlement. The land in the area was fertile, and farming provided food for the residents of Mose. It was clear that the free black men of Mose, who were members of a militia, understood that the freedom to settle in their own town came with a commitment, because they pledged to be "the most cruel enemies of the English" and to spill their "last drop of blood in defense of the Great Crown of Spain and the Holy Faith." Obviously this pledge was also beneficial to themselves, since resisting the British meant resisting a return to chattel slavery.

In 1740 the Mose militia had an opportunity to follow through on its pledge. In January of that year James Oglethorpe, the British governor of Georgia, led an invasion into Spanish Florida in response to numerous slave escapes and some slave insurrections, all of which the British believed were instigated by the freedom offered in St. Augustine. Oglethorpe's invasion was part of a larger conflict between Britain and Spain that is known as the War of Jenkins' Ear. The name refers to an incident that occurred off the coast of Florida eight years before hostilities began. A boarding party from a Spanish patrol boat went aboard a British merchant ship, and the captain of the Spanish boat, Julio León Fandiño, became engaged in a heated exchange with Robert Jenkins, the captain of the British ship. Fandiño accused Jenkins of smuggling and in a fit of rage cut off Jenkins' ear. Jenkins was called before Parliament to give

THE CHARGER

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT./OCT. 2017

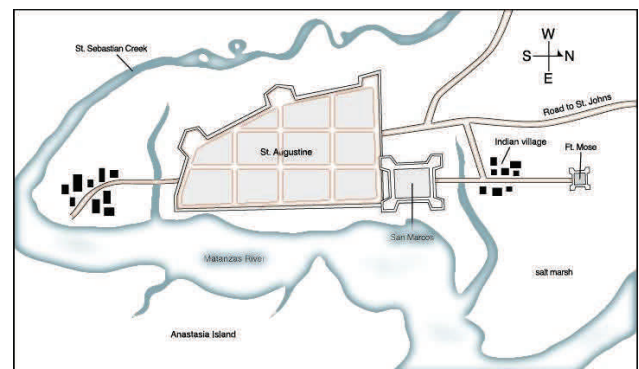
VOL. 39 #1



his account of the incident, during which he reputedly showed the severed ear. Numerous hostile boardings of British ships by the Spanish coupled with Britain's desire to improve its trade in North America by weakening its chief rival led Britain to go to war with Spain. Georgia Governor James Oglethorpe was more than willing to engage in a conflict with the Spanish colonists of Florida, whom he blamed for provoking slave escapes and revolts. Oglethorpe's invasion force captured some Spanish outposts west of St. Augustine and eventually threatened the city, itself. Governor Montiano feared that Mose could not withstand an attack by the overwhelming British force, so he evacuated all of the people of Mose into the fortifications of St. Augustine, to which Oglethorpe laid siege after capturing Fort Mose. On June 15, 1740 a force that included Spanish soldiers and the Mose militia attacked the British-occupied Fort Mose. The surprise attack commenced prior to dawn, before the British soldiers were awake, and the fort, after a vicious hand-to-hand fight, was taken from the British, who lost 70 men killed in the battle. Primarily because of this setback, Oglethorpe ended the siege of St. Augustine and retreated to Georgia.

After the War of Jenkins' Ear, Spain retained control of Florida. Mose was destroyed during the fighting between the British and the Spanish, and the Mose residents lived for a time in St. Augustine. Mose was eventually rebuilt, although on a different site, and the free blacks occupied the rebuilt settlement in 1752, but there is some evidence that the blacks resisted the relocation and desired to remain in St. Augustine. The governor at that time, Fulgencio García de Solís, claimed that this resistance among the blacks was not due to fear of living in a less defensible location, but due to their desire to live in "complete liberty." In other words, after living for 12 years within St. Augustine, the free blacks preferred assimilation into the city's population rather than their own separate town. In spite of the wishes of the free blacks, they were forced to live in the rebuilt Mose. As part of the treaty after the Seven Years' War, Spain ceded Florida to Britain in 1763, and Spanish residents of Florida, including the free blacks of Mose, moved to Cuba. This brought an end to the free black settlement of Mose and to the southbound Underground Railroad. In 1784, as part of the agreements that ended the Revolutionary War, Spain regained control of Florida. During the second period of Spanish control of Florida, escaped slaves again migrated there for freedom, but there is no evidence that the town of Mose was reestablished. In addition, many white settlers from the U.S. moved into Florida, and Florida became a haven for slave smugglers, who brought in slaves, mostly from Cuba, but some from Africa, to sell in the U.S., primarily in Georgia. After the War of 1812 there were incursions from the U.S. into Florida, some by civilians and militiamen and some by U.S. troops. Eventually Spain came to realize that it could not maintain control of Florida, and Spain ceded Florida to the U.S. Thereafter slavery was established in Florida by the U.S., and Florida was no longer a destination for escaped slaves.

A quote attributed to Horace Greeley (although there is some question as to whether he is the originator of the quote) gave directional advice to those who were seeking a better life. According to this quote, the way to go, in a geographic sense, was west. Although going west may have been good advice for some people who were seeking a better life, west was not the preferred direction for escaped slaves who were seeking a better life in freedom via the Underground Railroad. For those escaped slaves, north was the way to go. But before the northbound Underground Railroad existed, there was a southbound Underground Railroad, and this was the first Underground Railroad that was used by escaped slaves to flee from the future Confederacy and find freedom.



THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT./OCT. 2017

VOL. 39 #1

On the Route of The General By Paul Siedel

One of the more interesting excursions any Civil War buff will make is with Jim Ogden and the Blue and Gray Education Society to follow the route of Andrews Raiders on The Western and Atlantic Railroad through northern Georgia. Some of our members have taken advantage of this opportunity and I'm sure will agree that it was a weekend well spent. Our tour began on a Friday with a lecture by Mr. Ogden on the history of railroads in the antebellum period and the place the Western and Atlantic had in founding the city of Atlanta. He went into why this rail line was so important to the Confederates and why it was chosen for the raid. Generally setting the stage for the conditions leading up to the actual operation itself. The next morning we boarded two vans and drove to Marietta, Georgia where we saw the hotel which served as the staging point for the raiders and where they stayed prior to the action. We then went on to The Southern Museum of The Civil War and Locomotive History which is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution at Kennesaw, Georgia, (which was called Big Shanty at the time of the raid). Here one can see the actual locomotive and view railroading artifacts from the mid 1800s. The museum is a must and is well worth the stop one can make coming and going down I 75 just north of Atlanta. After lunch at a southern bar b cue restaurant we spent the rest of the day driving the route of the "General" as it made it's way through the towns of Acworth, Kingston, Adairsville, Calhoun, Resaca, Tunnel Hill, Dalton, and Ringgold. We walked through the tunnel used by the Western and Atlantic Railroad during the War and saw the spot where the train finally came to a halt just north of Ringgold. Here after running out of fuel and being closely pursued by William Fuller, the conductor of the stolen train, every man bailed out and took to the woods. All were later captured and eight of the twenty two participants were hung in June 1864 in Atlanta. The rest were eventually exchanged and were the first individuals to receive the Medal of Honor for their part in the operation. All were from Ohio and one Jacob Parrott was the first to receive the honors. Later the bodies of the executed men were reinterred in the National Cemetery at Chattanooga, Tennessee. The graves are set on a plot by themselves and the State of Ohio has erected a monument in their honor.



In 1956 The Walt Disney Studios told this story in a movie called "The Great Locomotive Chase" starring Fess Parker of Davey Crockett fame. The film showed on the Walt Disney program on NBC and went on to receive great acclaim later that year. Earlier Buster Keaton starred in a silent version of the story which also has become a classic. Many books have been written about the raid such as "Stealing the General" by Russel Bonds, and "The General and the Texas, A Pictorial History of the Andrews Raid" by Stan Cohen and James Bogle. One may also obtain a copy of the account written by William Pittenger one of the raiders himself called "Daring and Suffering, a History of the Great Railroad Adventure" this is a first person account that traces their horrible treatment in the Chattanooga jail and the eventual escape, recapture and execution of James Andrews the leader of the party. Fascinating stuff and a great weekend for anyone interested in American History, The Civil War or the history of Railroading.

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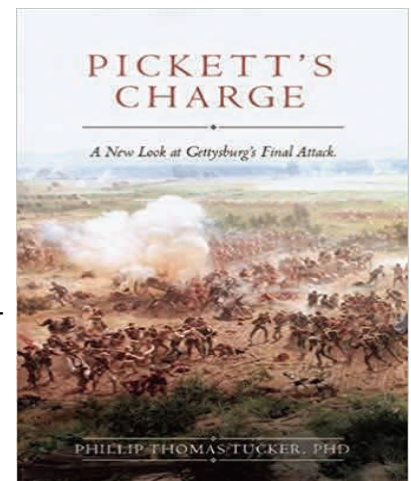
Fascinating stuff and a great weekend for anyone interested in American History, The Civil War or the history of Railroading.

Book Review by Dennis Keating

Phillip Thomas Tucker. *Pickett's Charge: A New Look at Gettysburg's Final Attack*. 2016. Sky Horse Publishing. 472 pages.

Historian Phillip Thomas Tucker claims about the Pickett-Pettigrew Charge on the third day at Gettysburg:

"Lee's complex battle plan on July 3 was more brilliant than Napoleon's at Waterloo... Lee unleashed a sophisticated and complex, three-part tactical plan to split the Army of the Potomac in two. Despite the failure of Stuart's cavalry to charge into the rear of Meade's right-center, and the lack of Longstreet's and Hill's coordination of the offensive effort as Lee bitterly reflected for the rest of his days, the attack had nearly succeeded nevertheless" (p. 359).



THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT./OCT. 2017

VOL. 39 #1

According to Tucker, Lee's plan was to have simultaneous assaults not only by the Pickett-Pettigrew force accompanied by flying artillery and follow-up reinforcements but also by Ewell's corps on Culp's Hill and by Lee's cavalry under Jeb Stuart attacking from the rear of Meade's center (p. XXIV). Tucker also claims that despite the failure of Ewell's attack being coordinated with the charge in Meade's front and the failure of Stuart breaking through on the East Cavalry Field, the charge almost succeeded.

Stuart's horsemen (who belatedly arrived late on the second day) were confronted by David Gregg's outnumbered Union cavalry. An heroic charge by George Armstrong Custer and his Michigan Wolverine brigade blunted Stuart's advance. Tucker's key Union hero at Gettysburg is Custer (and Union artillery commander Henry Hunt). Our October speaker Eric Wittenberg will talk about this cavalry battle.

Tucker's argument about Lee's plan (beyond just the frontal infantry assault on Cemetery Ridge) repeats the same hypothesis made by Army historian and lawyer Tom Carhart in his 2005 book entitled *Lost Triumph: Lee's Real Plan at Gettysburg-and Why It Failed*. Carhart arrived at his conclusion despite without much in the way of any real evidence to support his argument. He concluded:

"Finally, after reading, sifting, and absorbing all the evidence, it is the reader who must make the ultimate choice. Did Lee really just have a bad day, as the current revealed wisdom would have it? Or had he in fact concocted a plan for a three-pronged attack that, if successful, would have stunned the world? If the latter is chosen, then it becomes apparent that, had Jeb Stuart carried out his task, it probably would have resulted in a smashing victory for Lee, a victory that could have won recognition and acceptance of the Confederate States of America as an independent nation, an outcome with truly unimaginable consequences" (p. 267).

Eric Wittenberg critiqued Carhart's theory in his *Rantings of a Civil War Historian* on September 25, 2005 (<http://civilwarcavalry.com/?p=5>):

"I wish I could say that Tom Carhart's recent book, *Lost Triumph: Lee's Real Plan at Gettysburg-and Why It Failed*, is a worthy piece of revisionist history that adds something to the existing body of knowledge. Sadly, I cannot. Carhart's work is revisionism of the worst sort-it's grossly irresponsible, and there is not a shred of evidence to support Carhart's contentions. What astonished me most of all is that people who have been flocking to buy this piece of tripe and that prominent and well-respected historians like James McPherson and John Keegan have put their imprimatur on something that has no basis in fact". Wittenberg concluded:

"This book is an intellectually dishonest, poorly researched, fabricated piece of tripe that manipulates SOME of the available evidence to support foregone conclusions and which should be marked as fiction. It is certainly not history, and it constitutes revisionism of the worst variety".

I assume that Wittenberg would also label Tucker's same argument in a similar negative vein.

I agree with Wittenberg's criticism that there is little evidence to support Carhart and Tucker in their defense of Lee. Their criticism of James Longstreet, A. P. Hill, and Jeb Stuart for their failures on July 3 does seem justified. As for Tucker's version, he repetitively makes his main argument. He also provides a painstaking account of the Pickett-Pettigrew attack which includes identifying the home and unit of seemingly most of the participants killed, wounded and captured during the fighting. Tucker has also written Gettysburg books on *Barksdale's Charge: The True High Tide of the Confederacy at Gettysburg* and *Storming Little Round Top: The 15th Alabama and Their Fight for High Ground, July 2, 1863*.

Reference:

Eric Wittenberg. *Protecting the Flank at Gettysburg: The Battles for Brinkerhoff's Ridge and East Cavalry Field, July 2-3, 1863*. 2013. Savas Beatie.

THE CHARGER

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

SEPT./OCT. 017

VOL. 39 #1



Some Thoughts on the Removal of Southern Civil War-Related Symbols by John C. Fazio

The recent dismantling and removal of Southern statuary, monuments and other symbols relating to the Civil War and its aftermath has, not surprisingly, generated a lot of heat between those favoring the same and those opposed. It is also unsurprising that proponents and opponents are often identified by race, so that a political and regional conflict morphs into a racial one. For this and other reasons, we need to ask ourselves if what appears to be such a good idea, and one whose time has come, is really that, or if our country and its citizenry would be better served by a different approach, one more in keeping with "the better angels of our nature", to use Lincoln's immortal phrase from his First Inaugural Address.

Let me make myself clear: I am a dyed-in-the-wool Unionist and therefore believe that the right side won the war. The alternative, in my judgment, would have resulted in the Balkanization of the country, if not the continent, with interminable fratricide. Further, I also believe that it was time for slavery to go. All the major powers of the time (Great Britain, France and Russia), and most of the lesser powers, had already abolished it. The Confederate government's rear-guard action on the path that led to the future, therefore, stood no chance against the locomotive of history. I also believe, strongly, that the highest levels of that government and its Secret Service, principally President Jefferson Davis and Secretary of State Judah Benjamin and the head of the Secret Service in Canada, Jacob Thompson, were complicit in the attempt to decapitate the United States government on the night of April 14, 1865. On the other hand, I also believe that this conviction does not have much relevance to regional relationships more than 150 years after the fact and that, for that reason and others, our country and its citizenry are better served by letting sleeping dogs lie.

The truth is that the South put up an incredible fight for independence, despite a multitude of disadvantages, and I believe recognition of that fact should be given. Southerners are justifiably proud of the tenacity with which their ancestors fought against great odds. It is also true that there were dreadful black flag excesses --rape, pillage, plunder, terrorism and horrible neglect and abuse of prisoners of war--committed by both sides, and that this too should be acknowledged. When I was president of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable (2007) I provided for recognition of the fight made by the South (honor to the courage and bravery of those who fought and died for the cause of Southern independence) to be written into our Wikipedia entry. It was and it is still there.

I believe, further, that it is reprehensible and counter-productive for victors to gloat over their victory and to "rub it in" to their enemies or former enemies. Ulysses S. Grant instinctively knew this when he signaled his men to desist from cheering when Robert E. Lee left Wilbur McClean's home at Appomattox after his surrender there on April 9, 1865. And Lincoln instinctively knew it when he told his commanders to "Let em up easy". The Allies rubbed it into Germany and her people after WWI and the result was Hitler, another world war and another 60 million dead. Accordingly, I am inclined to the view that more time should be permitted to pass before we begin to dismantle and remove the iconic symbols of the Southern Rebellion, more time for the wounds to heal and for greater attention to be given to the things that unite us and less to the things that divide us. Let there be no doubt that regional conflict still exists. Southerners and Northerners cannot even agree, for example, on what to call the war. Most of the country calls it the Civil War, but this term is not favored by Southerners; they prefer to call it The War Between the States or The War of Northern Aggression. Nor is there anything even close to unanimity of opinion as to the causes of the war. Nor have epithets lost favor: Southerners still call Northerners yankees (always in a pejorative sense) and snowbirds, and Northerners still call Southerners red-necks and crackers.

I am fully aware of the atrocity that occurred in Charleston almost two years ago and that has provided the impetus to dismantle and remove the iconic symbols. No one with a brain in his head and a heart in his chest would dare to minimize that tragedy. No one is more sympathetic to blacks and their experience since the first slaves arrived in Virginia in 1619 than I am, including 246 years of slavery, 11 years of Reconstruction, in which thousands of them were slain and their property destroyed, and 100 years of Jim Crow, when they were murdered, abused, degraded, humiliated and exploited, so I fully understand their feelings on the matter. Nevertheless, I appeal to them to accept the reality that ridding the South of iconic Civil War-related symbols at this time will not improve race relations in the South, but will make them worse, and that the last thing black Southerners need is worse race relations. A better policy, in my judgment, is benign neglect of such symbols until such time as their removal will not stir feelings of great hostility. And even then, the symbols should not be destroyed, but placed in cemeteries, museums, etc., where they will continue to memorialize, without celebrating, a terrible time in our history, the crossroads to true nationhood, a time that scholar and historian Shelby Foote described as "a helluva crossroads".

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SEPT./OCT. 2017



VOL. 39 #1



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING



Sept. 13 2017

Program: The Myth of the Lost Cause—False Remembrance of the Civil War

by Edward H. Bonekemper III

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

East 107th St & Chester

Meeting will begin at 7 pm.



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