

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL 2019

VOL. 40 # 8

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A message from the president

American Civil War historians – welcome to the April 2019 issue of the Charger!

At our March 13th meeting, we began a two month study of what most historians assert was the most important battle of the American Civil War: **Gettysburg**. The meeting focused on the lead up to the battle with Daniel Welch’s presentation “How Did They Get Here? –The Gettysburg Campaign”. Our April 10th meeting will be an in depth look at an example of Gettysburg generalship when Wayne Motts presents: “Trust in God and Fear Nothing: Confederate General Lewis A. Armistead”.

After Lee’s spectacular Confederate victory at Chancellorsville, widely thought of as his best triumph, General Lee convinced Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Secretary of War James Seddon that the summer of 1863 would be the optimal time for the South to launch an invasion into Pennsylvania.

Lee envisioned a minor Confederate force pinning Hooker’s Army of the Potomac along the Rappahannock River; and covering a thrust by his main body into the Shenandoah River Valley with a dense General Stuart led cavalry screen shielding the move from the Union. With his right flank protected by the Blue Ridge and South Mountain ranges, Lee would cross the Potomac River near Harper’s Ferry and penetrate into the Cumberland River Valley of Pennsylvania. Lee’s plan was then to isolate and destroy piecemeal elements of the Army of the Potomac as they approached to confront him.

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL 2019

VOL. 40 #8

Lee's army indeed moved northward into Pennsylvania with leading elements reaching as far as the vicinity of the state capital Harrisburg. Hooker, after a late start, followed with the Army of the Potomac, as Lincoln would say "on the inside track", which created the dynamic of the Confederate Army - during most of the campaign - being further North than the Union Army which had placed itself essentially in between Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and Washington D.C. Dan Welch expertly explained the irony that led to the three day battle at the crossroads town of Gettysburg, when the Southern Army was approaching on road nets from the north and the Northern Army of the Potomac was advancing on roads from the south and southeast of Gettysburg!

This leads us to our April 10th meeting at beautiful Judson Manor where we will learn of a Confederate general whose career culminated at the Battle of Gettysburg; when Wayne Motts returns to our Round Table to present: "Trust in God and Fear Nothing: Confederate General Lewis A. Armistead".

Throughout 1861-1863, historians mostly give the advantage of better generalship to the Confederacy. Further, this tends to coalesce around army, corps and division commanders with Generals Lee, Jackson, Longstreet, Stuart and Forrest most often noted.

However, brigade level leadership was also a strength for the Confederacy. After an inauspicious beginning at West Point, Lewis Armistead was "booted" from the Academy after a couple of years when he broke a plate over the head of classmate Jubal Early. Still desiring a military career, Armistead directly joined the Army in 1839 and fought in the Mexican American war where he was wounded and twice brevetted for bravery. Armistead's courageousness continued during the Civil War when he was named a Brigadier General on April 1, 1862 and during the Peninsula Campaign Commander D.H. Hill noted him holding out with a small force against an entire Union brigade. Subsequently, during the Seven Days Battles while leading his brigade into the thick of Union artillery fire at Malvern Hill Armistead's bravery was again proven. Next, as part of McLaws division at Antietam he was once more wounded in the vicious West Woods fighting. He recovered in time for Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville where his brigade was assigned to the newly formed division under General Pickett but did not see major action in those battles.

However, at Gettysburg's famous "Pickett's Charge" on the battle's third day, after the many grim assaults of the first two days by the southern invaders against the well chosen Union defensive position had not secured a victory - Armistead and his brigade played a pivotal role in the near success of Pickett's Charge.

Mr. Motts will take us through Armistead's career and tell us how his dramatic leadership at the "high water mark of the Confederacy" almost changed the entire direction of the war. General Armistead's valor is truly bound up in this crucial moment of our country's history. Renowned civil war author Shelby Foote famously captured the moment when he paraphrased southern novelist William Faulkner's book, Intruder in the Dust, in Ken Burns's groundbreaking documentary "The Civil War": *thereafter southern raised boys would have within their reach the ability to imagine 1PM of an early July afternoon in the hot dusty dusty fields of Pennsylvania - a time before the war was lost.*

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL 2019

VOL. 40 # 8

Message cont.

Looking ahead to our May 8th meeting, we will hear John V. Quarstein, Director Emeritus, USS Monitor Center & Mariner's Museum in Newport News, Virginia, and our guide for Immediate Past President Hans Kuenzi's Peninsula Campaign & Monitor/Merrimack field trip in September 2017. Mr. Q will present: "The Capture of the St. Nicolas". Although during the war there was never a semblance of an "amphibious invasion" of the north, in keeping with my series theme of "Southern Invasions and Raids of the North" Mr. Quarstein convinced that this was the next best thing closest to it!

The scene is set during June of 1861 in the Potomac River as a daring band of Confederate "pirates" concocted a plan to capture a Northern ship. Adventurers Captain George Hollins, CSN and Lieutenant Colonel Richard Thomas Zarona with the help of a lady known as Madame La Force managed to gain boarding, overcome the crew and commandeer the ship - and voyage on to capture three additional northern merchant vessels! Come and hear this fascinating and little know story which unfolded quite early in the Civil War.

Lastly, my Vice President Ellen Connally has been diligently working to put together a unique first time Cleveland Civil War Round Table field trip to "The Land of Lincoln" this September 19-21st, in Springfield, Illinois. Look for a flyer with further details at our April 10th meeting. She also has put together an impressive list of engaging speakers for 2019/20. Mark your calendars now for our October 9th meeting which will be held at the Western Reserve Historical Society and include a special look at some of their more rarely accessible collection of Civil War Memorabilia.

But more immediately, I look forward to being with you when Wayne Motts presents: "Trust in God and Fear Nothing: Confederate General Lewis A. Armistead" on April 10th!

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Ursu, President

Discovery of Civil War Graves in France. By Paul Siedel



THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL 2019

VOL. 40 #8.

Several weeks ago I happened to become engaged in a discussion with Pete Donatucci over at the monthly meeting of the Quincy Gilmore C.W.R.T. in Elyria. We were talking about the accessibility of the Garret Farm in Virginia where Booth was killed back in 1865. He mentioned to me that he had been to Europe and had decided to visit some Civil War graves in Cherbourg. He said that they were U.S. and Confederate sailors who had been killed in 1864. For a split second I thought to myself what Civil War action had taken place in Cherbourg in 1864. Then it hit me, the sinking of the Confederate raider the C.S.S. "Alabama" by the U.S.S. "Kearsarge"! It seems, as I learned, that the sailors that were killed that fateful day are buried in the city cemetery at Cherbourg, France. A fact that was totally new to me, and here is how it all came down:

On July 29, 1862 a newly built, steam powered cruiser called the "Enrica" left the Liverpool shipyard of the Laird Brothers, she was equipped with two 300 horsepower steam engines and among other things a large water conversion device that desalinated sea water, making it possible for her to be at sea for months at a time living off the booty captured from northern merchant vessels. She steamed out into the Irish Sea, around the northern coast of Ireland and out into the North Atlantic. So began the notorious career of the Confederate Raider the "Alabama." She was next seen steaming into port in the Azores, the Portuguese Islands in the Atlantic. Here she took on coal, supplies, a mostly English crew and her new captain, Raphael Semmes. Semmes had been a lawyer in Mobile before the war, so he immediately rechristened his new ship the "Alabama." For the next two years she roamed the seas sinking over fifty eight U.S. merchant vessels valued at nearly \$6,547,000, and driving insurance rates up so high that many cargoes could not be sold at a profit. The "Alabama" had to be stopped. After sinking ships off the coasts of Texas, Brazil, Cape Town, Santo Domingo and Jakarta, she put in for repairs at the small port of Cherbourg, France on the English Channel. She had barley arrived in Cherbourg when the U.S. counsel telegraphed the ambassador in Paris who then contacted Captain John Winslow of the U.S.S. "Kearsarge," a U.S. Navel vessel lying in wait off the coast of Holland. Winslow immediately steamed over to Cherbourg and dropped anchor at the entrance to the harbor. Unless the "Alabama" could fight her way out, her career was over. Early in June Captain Semmes steamed out into the open ocean and challenged the "Kearsarge" to a running duel. The two ships were evenly matched and were nearly the same weight but the "Kearsarge" had gunners that were much more experienced than those of the "Alabama." Soon the Confederate ship was in trouble, taking on water that flooded her engines and consequently rendering her almost helpless. Captain Semmes finally gave the order to abandon ship, and he along with several others were picked up by the British yacht "The Deerhound" which took them over to Portsmouth, England. Semmes eventually made his way back to Richmond where he commanded the cadets aboard the C.S.S. "Patrick Henry." Union losses were one killed, William Gowen, and three wounded, Confederate losses were nine killed and twenty one either drowned or wounded. These are some of the men who rest eternally in their own small section of the Cherbourg Cemetery, and whose lives ended tragically along with dynamic career of the C.S.S. "Alabama." Confederate raiders did much damage to the U.S. merchant fleet. Ships such as "The Florida," "The Nashville," "The Tallahassee," and "The Shenandoah" destroyed millions of dollars worth of U.S. shipping during the Civil War. The reign of terror finally came to an end in November 1865, when crew members aboard "The Shenandoah" learned of Lee's surrender from captured newspapers. The ship docked at Liverpool, and the crew walked off the ship and into history. Thus ended the Confederacy's final attempt at destroying U.S. shipping on the seven seas.

Paul Siedel

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL, 2019

VOL. 40 #8.

Brigade Commanders Killed at Gettysburg by Dennis Keating

Among the massive casualties at the battle of Gettysburg were numerous commanders at all levels, with Union First Corps commander John Reynolds being the highest ranking commander killed. The Army of the Potomac also had two Corps commanders wounded: Winfield Hancock (Second Corps) and Dan Sickles (Third Corps). Of the 53 Confederate generals there, in addition to Lewis Armistead, three other brigade commanders were killed: William Barksdale, Richard Garnett, and Paul Jones Semmes. Of the 67 Union generals, five brigade commanders were killed: Edward Cross, Elon Farnsworth, Strong Vincent, Stephen Weed, and Samuel Zook. Of these eight brigade commanders, on July 2 three died in the Wheatfield and two on Little Round Top. Four were shot off their horses. Their stories follow.

Confederates

William Barksdale



Barksdale commanded the Mississippi Brigade, part of Lafayette McLaws' Division of James Longstreet's First Corps. In the late afternoon of July 2, an impatient Barksdale finally launched his attack against the Union Third Corps in the Peach Orchard. Led by Barksdale on horseback, his troops stormed Cemetery Ridge, only to be stopped by the First Minnesota, which suffered heavy casualties. This was the closest that Lee's army came to breaking through the Union front. Barksdale was hit three times and died the next morning.

Barksdale was a lawyer who fought in the Mexican War and served in Congress from 1853-1861. He was one of the Southern "Fire-Eaters" in the House. He led a Mississippi regiment at First Bull Run and Ball's Bluff. He assumed command of the brigade during the Seven Days campaign and led it at Malvern Hill. Later that year his brigade served at the capture of Harper's Ferry and Antietam and Fredericksburg. It again defended Fredericksburg against Sedgewick in the Chancellorsville

Richard Garnett

Garnett was a West Point graduate. Resigning to join the South, he first served in the Cobb's Georgia Legion. Then he was soon assigned to the First Brigade of the Shenandoah Valley District commanding the Stonewall Brigade. At the first battle of Kernstown, Garnett withdrew the brigade in the face of superior Union forces. This led an angered Jackson to arrest Garnett and order his court martial. However, this was delayed by the battle of Second Bull Run. Garnett was then transferred to James Longstreet's Corps. Garnett commanded a brigade previously commanded by George Pickett and led it at South Mountain and Antietam. His brigade was at Fredericksburg but not at Chancellorsville. Jackson's death put an end to Garnett's possible court martial. Despite Jackson's action, Garnett was a pallbearer at Stonewall's funeral.

Garnett's experience in the Gettysburg campaign began badly when his horse Red Eye kicked him. Despite feeling poorly, Garnett was determined to participate in the battle to uphold his honor. As Pickett's division prepared to charge Cemetery Ridge on July 3, Garnett mounted Red Eye against Lee's order against officers being mounted. Somewhere near the Bloody Angle, Garnett disappeared and a riderless, bloodied Red Eye returned to the Confederate lines. How Garnett died is unknown. The mystery of his death was compounded when his sword was discovered by former Confederate General George H. Steuart 30 years after Garnett's death in a Baltimore pawn shop.

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL, 2019

VOL. 40 #8.

Paul Jones Semmes

Semmes was a Georgian and a relative of Confederate naval hero Raphael Semmes, the captain of the CSS Alabama. During the Peninsula campaign, he commanded a brigade in John Magruder's corps. In the Maryland campaign, his brigade fought at South Mountain and Antietam. His Georgia brigade fought against Sedgewick's Sixth Corps at Salem Church during the Chancellorsville battle. At Gettysburg, Semmes was wounded on July 2 in the Wheatfield and died eight days later.

Union

Edward Cross



Cross before the Civil War led an adventurous life. This included a stint with a Cincinnati newspaper. He was a canvasser in Ohio for the Know-Nothing Party. He was colonel of the 5th New Hampshire, which fought at the major battles of the Army of the Potomac. Cross was wounded at Seven Pines and Antietam. At Gettysburg, Cross commanded the First Brigade in the First Division of Hancock's Second Corps. Cross was noted for wearing a red bandanna into battle. However, at Gettysburg on July 2 he wore a black bandanna, foreseeing his own death which he told Hancock. That came in the Wheatfield where he was mortally wounded and died the next day.

Reference: Robert Grandchamp. *Colonel Edward E. Cross, New Hampshire's Fighting Fifth: A Civil War Biography* (2012)

Elon Farnsworth

Farnsworth went West from Illinois and served on the staff of Albert Sidney Johnson during the Utah War of 1857-1858. He first served with the 8th Illinois Cavalry and then as an aide-de-camp to Alfred Pleasonton, commander of the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac. Two days before the battle of Gettysburg Pleasonton made him commander of the First Brigade, Third Division of the Cavalry Corps.

On July 3, following the repulse of Pickett's Charge, Judson Kilpatrick (known as "Kill Cavalry") ordered Farnsworth to attack the Confederate position in the Devil's Den area below the Round Tops. Farnsworth objected and was accused of cowardice for his resistance. He then led his brigade in a suicidal attack against entrenched Confederates of William Oates' 15th Alabama of Law's (Hood's) division. Farnsworth was shot five times.

Strong Vincet

Vincent was an Erie, Pennsylvania lawyer He became commander of the 83rd Pennsylvania after the Seven Days battles. In May, 1863, he became commander of the Third Brigade of the First Division of the Fifth Corps. It arrived at Gettysburg on July 2 just in time for Vincent to play a key role. When Gouverneur Warren, chief engineer of the Army of the Potomac, realized that Little Round Top was undefended and Confederates were approaching, Vincent's brigade was the closest Union unit and Vincent agreed to defend it without an order from his superiors. He deployed his four regiments, including Joshua Chamberlain's 20th Maine, along the ridge. Rallying his troops atop a boulder shouting "Don't give an inch", he was shot down and died several days later. He is memorialized by a statue atop the 83rd Pennsylvania monument on Little Round Top.

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL, 2019

VOL. 40 #8.

Stephen Weed

Weed was a West Pointer who served in the Indian Wars in Florida and Utah. In May, 1861, he took command of Battery I, 5th U.S. Artillery which fought during the Peninsula campaign and at Second Bull Run. He then commanded the artillery of the Fifth Corps at Fredericksburg and then that of the Second Division, Fifth Corps at Chancellorsville. In June, 1863, he left the regular army to take command of the Third Brigade, Second Division, Fifth Corps.

On July 2, his brigade joined Vincent's brigade in the defense of Little Round Top. When standing near the guns of Ohioan Charles Hazlett's Battery D, 5th U.S. Artillery, Weed was shot. Hazlett was killed trying to overhear his words. Weed died the next day. A stone marker on Little Round Top memorializes Weed and Hazlett.

Samuel Zook

Pennsylvanian Zook was a pioneer in telegraphy. He raised the 57th New York which served in the Peninsula campaign. After that he went on medical leave but returned to command the Third Brigade, First Division, Second Corps. Zook's brigade participated in the ill-fated assault on Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg. Zook led his brigade close to the Stone Wall and had his horse shot out from under him.

At Gettysburg on July 2, as part of Caldwell's Division of Hancock's Second Corps, Zook's brigade was rushed to help the Third Corps under assault by Longstreet's Corps. Directed by a Sickles aide, Zook veered off to the Stony Hill in the Wheatfield. There he was shot off his horse and died the next day. There is a Zook Monument in the Wheatfield



Winfield Scott Hancock - Gettysburg and Beyond by Dennis Keating

In *The Killer Angels* Michael Shaara tells the story of the ante-bellum friendship in the U.S. Army between Virginian Lewis ("Lo") Armistead and Pennsylvanian Winfield ("Win") Scott Hancock. They left their California post saddened by the prospective hostilities between North and South.

As the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac met at Gettysburg in 1863, Hancock commanded the Second Corps under new army commander George Meade while Armistead led a brigade in George Pickett's division of James Longstreet's First Corps. Pickett's division was the last of Robert E. Lee's army to reach the battlefield.



Winfield Scott Hancock

As recounted in Shaara's novel and the *Gettysburg* film, Armistead led his brigade toward Cemetery Ridge in Pickett's charge on the afternoon of July 3. Before the attack, Shaara has Armistead thinking back to his parting with Hancock and remembering saying to him:

. "If I lift a hand against you, friend, may God strike me dead".

It was Hancock's Second Corps that defended Cemetery Ridge against the Confederate assault. It was Armistead who led a band of rebels over the stone wall at the Angle before he was shot down. Shaara has Armistead say:

"Is General Hancock...would like to see General Hancock"

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL, 2019

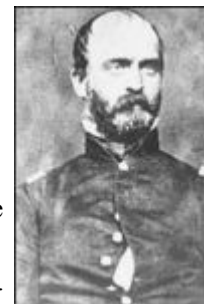
VOL. 40 # 8

"I'm sorry, sir. General Hancock has been hit".

The mortally wounded Armistead then said:

Lewis Armistead

"Will you tell General Hancock, please, that General Armistead sends his regrets. Will you tell him how very sorry I am".



Armistead died on July 5, having arranged to have his bible delivered to Hancock's wife. There is an Armistead-Hancock marker at the George Spangler farm site.

Hancock's wound delayed his return to command of the Second Corps until Spring, 1864. He led his force through Grant's bloody Overland campaign which resulted in horrendous casualties to his corps. During the siege of Petersburg, Hancock's corps suffered a stunning defeat on August 25, 1864 at Ream's Station. Still bothered by his Gettysburg wound, Hancock gave up his field command that November.

Following the end of the Civil War, Hancock first supervised the execution of the Lincoln assassins on July 7, 1865. In 1866, Hancock was promoted to Major General and sent to the Western frontier. His expedition against the Plains tribes was not successful.

He was then selected by President Andrew Johnson to replace Phil Sheridan in overseeing Reconstruction in Texas and Louisiana. He was then re-assigned back to the West after Grant took office. While there, he contributed to the creation of Yellowstone National Park. Grant then posted Hancock in New York.

A politically ambitious Hancock sought the Democratic nomination for President at their June, 1880 convention in Cincinnati. Hancock won the nomination on the second ballot. That Fall, he faced fellow Civil War hero and Clevelander James Garfield. Unable to carry a single Northern state, Hancock was defeated by the very narrow margin of only 39,213 votes out of almost 9 million. However, Garfield easily won the Electoral College by a 214-155 margin. In Ohio, Garfield won by a 51.7% to 47% margin (@ 34,000 votes).

While returning to military service, Hancock did become President – of the National Rifle Association. In 1885, he presided over the funeral of U.S. Grant in New York City. Hancock died the following year. He is remembered by equestrian statues on the Gettysburg battlefield, in Washington, D.C., and in Philadelphia. Also at Gettysburg, he is memorialized at the Pennsylvania and New York state memorials.

Marching Home to the Beat of a Purloined Melody by David A. Carrino

This history brief was presented at the March 2019 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.

On August 31, 1976 a district court in New York City ruled that former Beatle George Harrison was guilty of copyright infringement. Harrison was ordered by the court to pay nearly \$1.6 million to the publisher of the song that Harrison had plagiarized, although that amount was subsequently amended to \$587,000. The lawsuit involved Harrison's song "My Sweet Lord," which rose to number one in the U.S. and in so doing made Harrison the first of the former Beatles to have a number one song as a solo artist. The song that Harrison plagiarized is "He's So Fine," which was released by the singing group The Chiffons in December 1962 and became a number one song in 1963. Although the presiding judge in the trial, Richard Owen, acknowledged that he believed that Harrison had not deliberately plagiarized "He's So Fine," the judge nevertheless asserted that what Harrison did was "under the law, infringement of copyright, and is no less so even though subconsciously accomplished.

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL, 2019

VOL. 40 # 8

U.S. copyright laws were certainly different at the time of George Harrison's trial compared to the mid-19th Century, but a judicial fate like that of George Harrison's could have befallen the person who composed one of the most popular and uplifting songs of the Civil War.

The person in question is Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore, and at his peak Gilmore was as renowned and accomplished as George Harrison. Patrick Gilmore was born in County Galway, Ireland on Christmas day of 1829. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1849 and settled in Boston. Prior to his arrival in the U.S., Gilmore learned to play the cornet under the tutelage of a retired bandleader named Patrick Keating. At the time that Gilmore took up residence in his new country, he was already a very talented cornetist, and in 1852 he rose to become the leader of the Charlestown, Massachusetts Town Band. Within a year he became, first, the director of the Suffolk Brass Band and then the Boston Brigade Band. Soon thereafter Gilmore left the Boston Brigade Band to become director of the Salem Brigade Band, and it was under Gilmore's leadership that this band played for the inauguration of James Buchanan. However, the members of the Boston Brigade Band had developed strong feelings of animosity toward Gilmore and his new band after Gilmore deserted his previous band to take his new position. As a result, the members of the Boston Brigade Band concocted a plan to attack the Salem Brigade Band at the train station when it returned from Buchanan's inauguration. The planned attack involved destroying the instruments of the Salem band members and also injuring their lips to prevent them from playing. But the Salem band, which had no knowledge of the planned attack, took an earlier train to Boston than they had been scheduled to take and thereby avoided the harm that the Boston Brigade Band had prepared to inflict on them.

Although the Boston band's vindictive attack never took place, the Salem Brigade Band somehow learned of the planned attack by their Boston rivals. Because of this, the Salem band was fearful of a repeat attempt by the Boston band. On the Salem band's next trip, Gilmore arranged to have a sizable number of Salem ruffians accompany the band for protection. When the Salem band returned from its trip, the members of the Boston band set upon them at the train station. But the Salem goons did what they had been brought along to do, and the Boston band members were on the receiving end of the iniquity that they had intended to deliver to the members of the Salem band.

During the year after the performance at Buchanan's inauguration, Patrick Gilmore married Ellen O'Neill. The following year, 1859, Gilmore was lured back to be the leader of the Boston Brigade Band. In spite of the animosity that the band had previously felt toward Gilmore, the band recognized that Gilmore was an exceptional director who could elevate both the band's prowess and its reputation. In addition to monetary inducement, Gilmore was lured back by a change in the band's name to Patrick Gilmore's Band. [At this time in his life, Gilmore was highly regarded as a director of concert bands, and over the next 30 years Gilmore rose to even greater prominence.](#)

At the start of the Civil War, volunteer regiments were permitted to have bands attached to them. In the fall of 1861 Gilmore had his entire band enlisted. The band was attached to the 24th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and the band accompanied this regiment on its military campaigns. The band went to North Carolina with the expedition that was sent there under the command of Ambrose Burnside. In mid-1862, when it became clear that the war would not be the short conflict that many had forecast, the U.S. government decided to eliminate regimental bands as a cost-cutting measure. In August 1862 Gilmore's band mustered out, but Massachusetts Governor John Andrew, the man who was instrumental in the creation of the famed 54th Massachusetts Regiment, approached Gilmore to organize bands for Massachusetts regiments. Gilmore did so, and in 1863 he accompanied one of those bands as its director when the band returned to duty.

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL, 2019

VOL. 40 # 8

Gilmore's band was present at the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. Gilmore's band was stationed in New Orleans when the first Union governor of Louisiana was inaugurated on March 4, 1864. Gilmore was tasked with organizing the musical performance for the inauguration celebration, and he assembled a band consisting of 500 instrumentalists and a chorus of 5,000. This experience with a very large band and chorus inspired Gilmore to organize two prodigious musical events after the Civil War.

The two gigantic musical extravaganzas that Gilmore organized after the war made him the most prominent bandleader of his time. The first was the National Peace Jubilee in Boston in June 1869 to celebrate the return of the country to peace after the horrible conflict that had claimed so many lives and torn the country apart. The National Peace Jubilee was a five-day musical event that was held in a specially constructed hall with seating for 30,000. Gilmore assembled over 1,000 instrumentalists and over 10,000 vocalists as performers. One of the highlights of the concert was a performance of Giuseppe Verdi's "Anvil Chorus," which included church bells, cannon fired in synchronization with the music, a bass drum eight feet in diameter, and 100 Boston firemen striking anvils. As if this spectacular event were not enough, Gilmore organized another enormous concert, the World Peace Jubilee, which was held in Boston in June 1872. This was an even larger and longer event, 18 days in duration with 2,000 instrumentalists and 20,000 vocalists as well as famous bands and performers from Europe, including Johann Strauss, who made his only appearance in the U.S. Also performing were some famous American bands, including the United States Marine Band, which around that time had as one of its members a young man 17 years of age named John Philip Sousa. However, the World Peace Jubilee took place during the six-month period between Sousa's first and second enlistments with the band, so Sousa likely did not perform at the World Peace Jubilee. Nevertheless, Sousa was greatly influenced by Gilmore, and in fact, when Sousa left the Marines for good, it was to become the director of a civilian concert band, which is the same kind of position that Gilmore had held for many years.

The year after the World Peace Jubilee, Gilmore left Boston to become the leader of a concert band in New York City. He made this move in part because New York City had become the principal location of top concert bands. The band that Gilmore directed was the 22nd New York Regiment Band, and shortly after his move to New York City, Gilmore leased a venue for his band's concerts. That venue was owned by Cornelius Vanderbilt, but it had been leased to P.T. Barnum, under whom the venue was called the Great Roman Hippodrome or, more grandly, Barnum's Monster Classical and Geological Hippodrome. After Gilmore leased the venue, he renamed it Gilmore's Garden. A few years later, the Vanderbilt family took control of the facility and gave it a new name, although they retained part of the name that Gilmore had given to the structure. The Vanderbilt family renamed the facility Madison Square Garden, and this was the first iteration of that famous New York City venue, of which there have now been four different structures to bear that name, each one built to replace the previous one.

Patrick Gilmore remained the leader of the 22nd New York Regiment Band for the next 19 years until his death. Under Gilmore's leadership, the band became the best and most celebrated concert band in the U.S. Gilmore's band toured throughout the U.S. and also in Europe, and the band was renowned not only for the extremely high quality of its performances, but also the very high number of performances that it gave. In the fall of 1892 the band was in St. Louis as part of a tour. On September 23 Gilmore conducted the band, and on the following night, while the band was being conducted by the assistant conductor, a message was delivered during the program that Patrick Gilmore had died. Gilmore's body was transported to New York City, where he was buried. Two days after Gilmore's death,

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL, 2019

VOL. 40 # 8

John Philip Sousa conducted the first concert of the civilian band for which he had left the Marines in order to become director. One of Patrick Gilmore's most important legacies is his innovation of instrumentation for concert bands that consists of a blending of brass and woodwinds rather than the predominately or exclusively brass instrumentation of the earlier 19th Century. Gilmore's blended brass and woodwind instrumentation is still the prevailing format for concert bands today.

Patrick Gilmore's novel instrumentation for concert bands is one of his greatest legacies, but it is not his best-known legacy. Gilmore's best-known legacy is the Civil War song "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." But while Gilmore composed the lyrics (under the pseudonym Louis Lambert), the jaunty melody is another matter. Even though sheet music that was published in 1863 by Gilmore's publisher credits Gilmore's pseudonym, Louis Lambert, for both the words and the music, there is reason to believe that the melody for "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" was, to put it kindly, borrowed from a soldiers' drinking song named "Johnny Fill Up the Bowl." Various lyrics exist for "Johnny Fill Up the Bowl," but one set of lyrics for the first stanza is as follows. "A soldier I'm just from the war, hurrah, hurrah / A soldier I'm just from the war, hurrah, hurrah / A soldier I'm just from the war, where thundering guns and cannons roar / And we'll all drink stone blind / Johnny, fill up the bowl." [This song's melody is essentially the same as that of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."](#) and there is compelling evidence that Patrick Gilmore did not compose the melody for "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," [but appropriated the melody from "Johnny Fill Up the Bowl."](#) For example, a copy of Gilmore's lyrics that was published by Gilmore's publisher contains the instruction that the song should be sung to the tune of "Johnny Fill Up the Bowl." In addition, Gilmore admitted in an 1883 article that the melody for "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" "was a musical waif which I happened to hear somebody humming in the early days of the rebellion, and taking a fancy to it, wrote it down, dressed it up, gave it a name, and rhymed it into usefulness for a special purpose suited to the times." This comment from Gilmore, himself, is strong evidence that he did not compose the melody for "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Instead, that melody appears to have come from "Johnny Fill Up the Bowl." In other words, Patrick Gilmore seems to have done just what George Harrison did with "My Sweet Lord" and "He's So Fine." (Some sources assert that the melody for "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" was taken from the Irish anti-war song "Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye." But there is evidence that this is not so, in particular the fact that the latter song was not published until after the Civil War.)

Patrick Gilmore has an illustrious musical legacy, but very few people know about that legacy. This is in contrast to John Philip Sousa, who gained his fame in a similar musical genre and whose legacy is well known. The reason for this difference is that Sousa composed many pieces, while Gilmore's body of work does not contain many compositions of his own making. However, Gilmore does have one musical composition that is very well known, particularly to Civil War enthusiasts. The song that Gilmore composed, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," was one of the most popular songs during the Civil War because of its rousing melody and uplifting lyrics about loved ones returning from the war. But Gilmore almost certainly pirated the melody for this song, although he was not unique in this Civil War musical transgression. Two of the most iconic songs of the Civil War, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "The Bonnie Blue Flag," likewise came into existence when someone set new lyrics to the melodies of pre-existing songs. This makes Patrick Gilmore no worse than the composers of those songs, Julia Ward Howe and Harry McCarthy, or, for that matter, no worse than a former member of the most influential and most innovative rock-and-roll band in history.

Note: A history brief that describes the origin of the song "The Bonnie Blue Flag" is archived on the web site of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable under the month of February 2013 (http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com/articles/comment/history_briefs13.htm).

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL, 2019

VOL. 40 # 8

Taking the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Into the 21st Century

By

C. Ellen Connally - Vice President

At our last meeting, a copy of a 2018 *New York Times* article discussing the significant decline in the number of Civil War reenactors nationwide was made available to members. The article points out the drop in the number of participants in reenactments not just at the 155th anniversary of Gettysburg, held this past July, but at battlefields and encampments around the country. Clearly, dressing up and playing the role of a Civil War soldier is a “hobby in decline.”

At the same meeting, our speaker, Dan Welch, discussed his findings regarding the decline in interest in the Civil War roundtables with those seated at his table. In 2015 he undertook a search to determine how many Civil Roundtables existed around the country and globally. Of the approximately 250 that he originally located, it appears that since his study about 80 of these organizations have gone out of business or ceased to function as a viable organization. He also recounted his experiences on the circuit as a roundtable speaker. Some meetings consist of eight or ten people at a table in the back of a local restaurant. In one southern venue he was shocked to be greeted by 400-500 people in packed meeting hall.

The 1960's marked the centennial of the Civil War and the accompanying interest in the war and its causes. The result was a plethora of books, articles and memorial events on virtually every aspect of the war – along with a lot of revisionist history. This interest was renewed in 1990's with the release of the Ken Burn's series on the Civil War, readily available in every household and school thanks to PBS. Movies like *Glory* and *Gettysburg* on the popular screen also spawned interest. And by the later part of the 20th century feminist historians made significant contributions to the role of women in the conflict.

The 2012 release of Steven Spielberg's Academy Award Nominated and Golden Globe winner *Lincoln*, based on Doris Kearn Goodwin's widely read book, *Team of Rivals*, brought some new Civil War enthusiast to the fold but controversies over the of the maintenance and existence of Civil War monuments have had a chilling effect.

In 2012 Paul Tetreault, the Director of Ford's Theater in Washington D.C., reported that to that date over 15,000 books had been written on Abraham Lincoln - with lots more published since then - more than any other person, except for Jesus Christ. Over 7 Million people visit the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. annually. And as we will see in our September field trip to Springfield, Illinois and its

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL, 2019

VOL. 40 # 8

new high-tech Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield remains a popular tourist destination demonstrating the continued interest in Lincoln.

While Northeast Ohio has several Civil War Roundtables it is apparent from the attendees at our meeting and those other groups that participants in these organizations is made up of a segment of the society that is highly male and graying. Our membership records do not keep track of the ages of our members, but it would be a fair guess that the vast majority of our members and those of the other groups are eligible at a minimum for membership in AARP and more likely Social Security.

The addition of our Annual Debate winner, Lilly Korte, has brought the average age of membership down by a few years. We are so glad to have her! But we need more younger members.

Our immediate past- presidents, Hans Kuenzi, did an admirable job of trying to increase membership. He reached out to local colleges and universities through their history departments and contacted local highschool history teachers along a wide array of other possible sources for new members. Unfortunately, he did not meet with a great deal of success. We even offered free dinners to college history majors and graduate students and got no takers.

Our most successful membership tool has been social media and the addition of the cards that list our annual schedule of speakers. The dissemination of those cards to local libraries and the Cuyahoga County Soldiers and Sailors Monument have been our most meaningful source of a new attendees and members.

As we approach the coming season, I would urge all of our members to consider bringing a friend to our next meeting; call a member who has not attended a meeting in a while; be sure that the information about the Roundtable is made available to your local library or other venues where people interested in the Civil War would gather and spread the word on Facebook, other social media outlets and plain old word of mouth.

While our organization is doing well financially and our membership remains steady, we must consider the future. With the natural attrition of people moving, aging or dropping out for a wide variety of reasons, it is important to keep our organization alive and well. As the population ages and the Civil War goes farther into the past, it is only natural that interest will wane. To keep our organization alive, we must maintain and grow our membership.

We have an exciting list of speakers for the remainder of this year and for the 2019 – 2020 schedule. The October 2019 meeting will feature a unique hands-on experience at the Western Reserve Historical Society. Our February 2020 meeting – held on February 12 - will mark the 211th Anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln with a featured speaker on Lincoln and a joyous birthday party for our 16th President – bring and display your favorite Lincoln memorabilia. Let's work on bigger attendance and membership to make sure that the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable continues to thrive and survive well into the 21st century.

THE CHARGER



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

APRIL, 2019

VOL. 40 #8.

Program: How Did They Get Here? The Gettysburg Campaign Presented by Daniel Welch March 13, 2019

The fighting at Gettysburg on July 1-3, 1863, the "high watermark of the Confederacy," is considered by many to be the turning point of the Civil War. The battle ended the last meaningful Confederate offensive of the war. If Robert E. Lee had prevailed at Gettysburg, there are serious questions about whether the United States as it had been prior to 1861 or as we know it today, could have survived. Instead, over the roughly 18 months following their victory at Gettysburg up to Lee's surrender at Appomattox, the United States Army and Navy pursued a relentless campaign reclaiming southern territory and destroying the Confederate States of America.

Our speaker: Dan Welch is a primary and secondary school educator. Previously, he served as the Education Programs Coordinator for the Gettysburg Foundation, the non-profit partner of Gettysburg National Military Park, where he continues to serve as a seasonal Park Ranger. During his time at Gettysburg, Mr. Welch has led numerous programs on the campaign.

Reservations: You must make a dinner reservation for any meeting you plan to attend no later than the day prior to that meeting (so we can give a headcount to the caterer). Make your reservation by sending an email to ccwrt1956@yahoo.com. JUDSON MANOR Drinks 6pm Dinner 6:30

Drinks @ 6 pm, Dinner @ 6:6.0

Judson Manor , East 108th St. & Chester

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