

THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



PO Box 621082 • Cincinnati, OH 45262 • www.cincinnati-civil-war-round-table.org

Serving the Tri-State area of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana since 1956

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October 2019

Speaker:
Scott Schroeder

Topic:
Lee's Lost Order,
The Road to Antietam

Date:
Thursday, October 17th

Place:
The Drake

Time:
6:00 Social
6:30 Dinner
7:15 Meeting
7:30 Speaker

Dinner Reservaton Deadline

Dinners are \$20 per person. This month's dinner will be stuffed pork chops, apple pecan salad, brodccoli and cheese, mashed potatoes, and German chocolate cake.

Your dinner reservaton must be submitted by Wednesday, October 9, 2019, no later than 8:00 PM. You can call in your reservaton to Esly Caldwell at 513-607-6598. Leave a message if necessary. If you are making a reservaton for more than yourself, please provide the names of others.

You can also make your reservaton on line and pay right then with a credit card at our new member's site:

For Access, Click the Link Below

<https://cincinnati-civil-war-round-table.z2systems.com/eventReg.jsp?event=2&>

The Find of the War: Lee's Lost Order, the 27th Indiana and the Road to Antietam

In September 1862, General Robert E. Lee made the decision to invade Maryland. He had a bold plan that included orders to split his army. Fortuitously for Union forces, a copy of those orders came into the possession of a member of the 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry near Frederick, Maryland.

The orders were passed up the Federal chain of command to General George B. McClellan. McClellan subsequently altered the movements of the Army of the Potomac. What followed was an inevitable clash with General Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia in what came to be known as the Battle of Antietam.

It was the single bloodiest day in American history. This lecture discusses the people and places associated with the lost order. It also explores a number of questions, including: who lost the order – or was it lost; who found the order; and what cascade of events unfolded as a result of the lost order being found.

Scott Schroeder is an independent historian and researcher as well as a professional Physical Therapist and Certified Athletic Trainer currently practicing in southern Indiana. He is a lover of all eras of American history, with the American Civil War and Abraham Lincoln being of particular interest. He is currently working on several writing and other media projects related to the Civil War era. Among other organizations, he is a member of the Society of Civil War Historians, the Abraham Lincoln Association, and the Lincoln Forum.

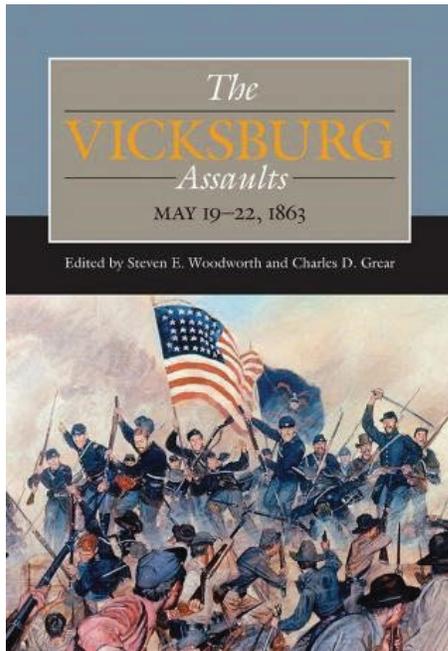


Book Review

The Vicksburg Assaults May 19-22, 1863

Edited by Steven E. Woodworth and Charles D. Gear, Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, IL 2019, 121 pp., hardcover \$29.50.

The Vicksburg Assaults May 19-22, 1863 edited by Steven Woodworth and Charles Gear is a series of five



articles that covers the two assaults Major General U. S. Grant ordered prior to laying siege to Vicksburg.

This work is part of the publisher's series surrounding the Civil War Campaigns in the West. The first two essays are by J. Parker Hills. They concern the attacks on May 19th and 22nd. The third essay, by Steven E. Woodworth, focuses specifically on the assault on the Railroad Redoubt on May 22nd. The fourth essay, by Brandon Franke, concentrates on the counterattack by members of Waul's Legion on the Railroad Redoubt. The last essay, by Charles Gear, looks at the reaction of Midwesterners to Grant's assaults on Vicksburg.

Hills's essays are brief reviews of the two assaults. The assault of May 19th was not adequately planned in that the Confederate positions and geographic features of the area had not been properly reconnoitered. The second supports the idea the Major General John McClernand knew better than the West Point Generals, Grant, Sherman, and McPherson, how the assaults should have been ordered. However, the author later finds fault with the troop assignments that McClernand made for the three targets he selected, and with his failure to maintain division integrity.

The third essay is a more micro look at McClernand's planned attack on the Railroad Redoubt. It really does not provide the reader with any better understanding of the assault and why it failed. Waul's Legion is the topic of the fourth essay and again it is an even more micro discussion of the attack on the Railroad Redoubt from the Confederate counterattack view. This essay is more of a brief synopsis of Waul's Legion during the Vicksburg campaign, since only Captain L. D. Bradley and thirty-eight volunteers were involved in the counterattack.

The final essay tries to gauge the reaction of Midwesterners to the assaults.

In my opinion the selection of newspapers to identify the pulse of the response is weak and not representative. The sample is too small and not conclusive. While there was concern about the number of casualties, after the numbers for the battles of Shiloh, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Stone's River they were not unusual. Grant still received the support of most of the populace. His campaign up until that time was brilliant and in the end he did capture Vicksburg.

In my opinion, there is nothing in these essays that adds significantly to our knowledge of the Vicksburg assaults, why they were ordered by General Grant or the results. Of the maps provided the one for the Railroad Redoubt is the best, though none are particularly helpful.

This work is an easy read and will not require any lengthy involvement.

So, if you just want a quick review of the assaults, then this is the book for you; however, from my point of view,

I'll use the words of WCPO-TV's John Matarese, "Don't Waste Your Money."

Submitted by Thomas L. Breiner



Out with the old - In with the new

UC Medical has informed us, this October's meeting will be the last meeting they will allow us to be at the Drake.

So it's *Auld Lang Syne* for us, and as of this writing, the Board has not settled on a new home. Personally, I remember the first Round Table I attended and it was down in the basement "cave" room, but I can't remember when that was.

Maybe some "old timers" can put a date on when the Round Table first came to the Drake. This might be a good question on Alan's quiz this month. There will be a new home, and I bet it will be as good, or maybe even better than what we now have at the Drake.

-2- Stay tuned for the announcement of our new home.

September's Lecture

In September, we were pleased to welcome back John C. Fazio for his third appearance before the Round Table.



His presentation covered the Emancipation Proclamation, which he described as “perhaps the strangest document in American history”. Some supporters claimed the document was instrumental in winning the war and ending the institution of slavery while other critics claimed it did nothing and that no slaves were freed by it.

Throughout the presentation, John displayed photographs of notable persons whose involvement influenced the events leading up to the development and issuance of the proclamation which ultimately changed the course of history.

On a journey to New Orleans when he was a young man, Abraham Lincoln witnessed the mistreatment of slaves during an auction and made a personal commitment that if he ever had the chance to change slavery, he would do so.

The Republican Party wanted to gradually get rid of slavery, but the Abolitionists demanded an immediate and comprehensive end to slavery. Lincoln, as President-Elect, was under pressure from all sides, but he did not have the luxury of choosing to be polarized if he were to save the union and win the war. In his first inaugural address on March 4, 1861, Lincoln said: “I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.”

Early in the war, Lincoln said, “I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky.” His statement underscored his keen awareness of the critical importance of the Border States. “I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game. Kentucky gone, we cannot hold Missouri, nor Maryland. These all against us and the job on our hands is too large for us.”

When the time came to “interfere with the institution of slavery,” he did so under his war powers which he mentioned in several places in the proclamation. As a military measure, it worked.

Our speaker explained that there were different interpretations of what the Emancipation Proclamation accomplished. One interpretation was that it freed no slaves. Since the document stated that it only applied to states in rebellion, it did not apply to the states not in rebellion—the Border States, and those in rebellion considered themselves out of the Union, they argued that it did not apply to them either.

Another interpretation was that it freed some slaves and left others in slavery. This argument is based on the idea that the states in rebellion were never out of the Union, that the Union was and is perpetual, and the slaves in those states were freed in law. The Northern States and the Border States were not in rebellion and therefore, not impacted so the slaves in those states were not freed.

Lincoln knew there were risks associated with declaring the freed slaves of suitable condition to be received into the armed services of the United States. The newly freed men could refuse to join the Union forces. However, he knew it would give them something greater than just a Union victory to fight for; it gave them the chance to fight for their freedom.

The result of the proclamation was that those freed went from enslavement, brutality and oppression to flight, and to the opportunity to fight for their own freedom. Still they had a long way to go to achieve real freedom and equality.

The great majority of soldiers accepted those blacks who enlisted, if not as equals, then at least as “enemies of my enemy, and therefore my friend.” But as they proved their worth as soldiers and sailors, which they soon did, they were accepted as comrades in arms.

Between 1863 and 1865, some 300,000 blacks fought on the Union side. By the war's end 186,000 were in uniform. 19,000 had served in the US Navy. 38,000 had paid the ultimate price.

Since the proclamation was a war measure that did not affect the Border States that had remained loyal to the Union, some lawmakers called for a constitutional amendment to abolish slavery nationally and permanently. The Amendment finally became part of the Constitution on December 6, 1865.

John closed by saying that the job is not done. Lincoln showed us the way, but it was only the beginning. “Let us resolve”, he said, “to treat blacks and everyone with decency and respect. Let us continue the struggle and honor Lincoln's legacy.”



September Meeting Notes

At our September meeting the Roundtable welcomed new member Linda Sterritt and returning member Robert Jones. We also formally elected Jenny Breeden as our new Secretary.

We are still looking for members to fill a few important slots that remain vacant. Can you step up and help?

- The Membership & Publicity Chair helps keep us in the public eye and that is what attracts new members.
- The Activities Chair coordinates activities outside of our regular meetings, such as tours, which keep our members interested.
- Newsletter Editor, whose importance you probably appreciate already since you are reading the newsletter now.

Future Round Table Speakers

Mark your calendars now

November 21, 2019



Scott Mingus,
York, Pennsylvania
General William
"Extra Billy" Smith

January 16, 2020



Chris Burns,
Cincinnati, Ohio
Ulysses S. Grant

February 20, 2020



Christina Hartlieb,
Harriet Beecher Stowe House,
Harriet Beecher Stowe

March 19, 2020



David Deatruck,
Louisville Kentucky
Civil War Round Table
General Lovell Rousseau

September Quiz

1. From the Wall Street Journal of 13 Dec. 2018, p.A6: A report of its history was recently solicited by the president of a regional organization which was founded in 1859. Its findings reported that all 4 founders owned slaves, that early trustees defended the practice as "righteous," that during the Civil War the organization supported the Confederacy and once the war was over the organization opposed racial equality well into the 20th century. In a preface to the report the president of a subsidiary of the organization acknowledged that it contributed to the horrifying realities of American slavery, Jim Crow segregation, racism and even the avowal of white supremacy. Identify the organization.
2. Who was the only U.S. senator who didn't resign his seat when his home state seceded from the United States?
3. In what Civil War battle did 14 African American soldiers earn the Medal of Honor?
4. What is the origin of the holiday known as "Juneteenth?"
5. The official Confederate political entity contained as many as 13 states all of which had representation in her Senate. Which of these 13 did not join the Confederacy by way of a state convention?
6. Who made the following statement? "I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for 8 years and I can say what most conductors can't say: I never ran my train off the track and never lost a passenger."

Bonus Question: Today is 19 Sep. 2019. What disastrous military action befell the Confederacy on 19 Sep. 1864?

Quiz Answers

1. The Southern Baptist Convention (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), our country's largest Protestant denomination (15 million members).
2. Andrew Johnson (Tennessee.)
3. Battle of New Market Heights (29-30 Sep. 1864) during the siege of Petersburg.
4. Juneteenth is an American holiday that commemorates the June 19, 1865, announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas, and more generally the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans throughout the former Confederate States of America.
5. Kentucky and Missouri
6. Harriet Tubman

Bonus Question: 3rd Battle of Winchester (19 Sep. 1864)

ABOUT THE CINCINNATI CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Membership in the Cincinnati CWRT is open to anyone with an active interest in the American Civil War. Annual dues are \$25 (single) and \$35 (couple) for a **Regular Membership**. This fee helps cover operating costs which include our meeting location as well as speaker expenses. A **Sustaining Member** level of membership is also available for \$50 (single) and \$85 (couple). The purpose of this membership category is to encourage and recognize members who make additional contributions of \$25 or more, in addition to their annual dues in any fiscal year, to the objectives and programs of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table. Students enrolled full time in any recognized secondary or higher institute of learning can use a **Student Membership**, which applies a discount of \$10 to each of the above dues rates.

Dinner reservations are required, and can be made prior to the reservations deadline either by the web site <https://cincinnatiwrt.zsystems.com/eventReg.jsp?event=2&> or by a phone call to the officer taking reservations for the meeting. A vegetarian meal option is available, if requested prior to the reservations cut-off date.

A Meeting Only Fee of \$5.00 is assessed to members, visitors and guests who arrive after dinner to hear the speaker. *No reservation is necessary.* The monies collected are used to help offset the expenses of the evening's activities.

Late Reservations and Walk-ins Without a Reservation: Our ability to be flexible for late reservations or walk-ins is now restricted by the fact that the Drake Center only prepares meals according to the reservation count called in. Therefore, **Late Reservations** after the Wednesday by 8:00 p.m. which is eight days before the meeting will be accepted conditionally, subject to the caterer's ability to honor a change in dinner count if received close to the meeting date.

Late Reservations and Walk-ins Without a Reservation will only be able to have dinner if offset by cancellations or no-shows, or if the caterer determines that sufficient food is available.

Late cancellations may be made by email or phone. Since a cancellation after the Wednesday 8:00 p.m. deadline which is eight days before the meeting means that CCWRT has guaranteed payment to The Drake Center for the reserved number of meals, the Treasurer will review the number of late cancellations and late reservations for every meeting. If a late cancellation results in the CCWRT being required to pay for an extra meal, the person making the late cancellation will be expected to pay for the dinner. **No-shows** who have a dinner reservation but do not attend will be billed for the meal.

Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month, September – November and January – May at The Drake Center, 151 West Galbraith Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45216 (**Phone: 513-418-2500**). If traveling Interstate 75, exit at Galbraith Road (Exit 10) and go west one mile. If coming across the Ronald Reagan Cross County Highway, take the Galbraith Road exit and go west two miles. Or, take the Galbraith/Winton exit and go east one mile. **Free parking** is available in the WEST PAVILION parking lot. The West Pavilion entrance will take you to the meeting rooms. **To get to our meeting room**, enter the West Pavilion main entrance and go to the left side of the gift shop found opposite the entryway; the meeting room is located at the far end of the cafeteria hallway.

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