

THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



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

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A Message from the President David Stockdale

The Covid-19 pandemic has certainly turned the world upside down. And the Round Table has been affected just like many other social and educational organizations. We haven't met since February and now the May meeting has been cancelled, which brings us to the usual close of our campaign year. I for one miss the camaraderie, the stimulating discussions, the interesting presentations, and the dialogue between our members and our guest speakers.

We will only resume our dinner meetings within whatever safety guidelines the government sets. Yet some of us who are at higher risk for complications if we contract the virus may be reluctant to venture out to a restaurant setting, even when the other patrons are our friends.

Your Round Table board has been wrestling the challenge of keeping everyone engaged. But before we make any decisions, we would like to have your input. Our webmaster, Tom Williams, will be sending out a survey to gauge your comfort level with various avenues: attending a regular dinner meeting with appropriate safeguards, meeting just to hear the speaker but without food service, attending a virtual meeting and listening to the speaker and maybe some other short presentations from the comfort of home, or having a "live" meeting while streaming it for the benefit of those who aren't comfortable attending in person. Be on the lookout for the survey in your email and let us know what you think.

Although we are at what is traditionally the end of our campaign year, the pandemic has left us with some

loose ends. We always finish the campaign with our annual meeting in May where we elect officers and at-large trustees. The Round Table constitution calls for the nominating committee (the board) to announce the nominees at the April meeting and to publish the names in the May Canister before the election. Recruiting has been hampered by the meeting cancellations, but here are the nominees for the coming year as we have them to date:

<i>President:</i>	Dr. Esly Caldwell
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Vacant
<i>Secretary:</i>	Jenny Breeden
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Sarah Ferguson
<i>Program Chair:</i>	Dan Bauer
<i>Trustee at large:</i>	Dave Stockdale
<i>Trustee at Large:</i>	Lester
<i>Webmaster:</i>	Tom Williams
<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	Vacant
<i>Membership/Publicity Chair:</i>	Vacant

The election will take place whenever our next meeting happens. That then will be our annual meeting. It may be next month, September, or sometime in between; and it may take the form of a virtual meeting, a regular dinner meeting or something in between. Meanwhile, I hope you will give some thought to helping keep the Round Table a going concern by volunteering for one of those vacant positions. As I've said before, no experience is necessary, only a willingness to help.

★ MEETING SCHEDULE ★

~~★ Thursday, March 19th ★
Speaker: Steve Magnusen~~

~~★ Thursday, April 16th ★
Speaker: Eric Wittenberg~~

~~★ Thursday, May 21th ★
Speaker: Michael A. Flannery~~

Quizzes: April Answers & May Challenge

Be honest: Just how many were able to get the answers to the April quiz without on-line help? Since I had stated, again in the April *Canister*, that I think Alan gets help from surely some underworld guy, I now believe that same guy can somehow know if we were honest or did we cheat.



So here is the April Quiz with answers and the new challenge, the May Quiz. If you are stuck, May answers will be forthcoming in June. Good luck.

The April Quiz With Answers

1] The authors of the Wade-Davis Reconstruction Bill were Senator Benjamin Wade from the state of **Ohio**, and Representative Henry Winter Davis from the state of **Maryland**.

2] The Wade - Davis Reconstruction Bill (answer each statement “true” or “false”)

- Was largely supported by moderate Republicans in Congress. **T** **F**
- Was vetoed by President Lincoln's signature **T** **F**
- Contained more restrictive, i.e. severe, conditions for return of the southern states to the Union than Lincoln desired **T** **F**
- Was passed as law after Lincoln's death: **T** **F**
- Required at least 10% of the number of white male voters who participated in the 1860 election must participate in state reorganization elections in order for that vote to be valid **T** **F**
- Offered more civil rights to the Blacks than what Lincoln recommended **T** **F**

3] In the summer of 1864 dissatisfaction amongst influential radical Republicans with their presidential candidate (Lincoln) was so great that alternate names were jostled about in a meeting on 18th of August at the home of New York City mayor, George Opdyke. Lincoln became aware of the meeting and the several suggested proposed nominees to replace him. He was unperturbed by any of them until he was made aware of one which caused him great anxiety. Who was that individual?

Ulysses S. Grant

BONUS QUESTION: The famous Willard Hotel was run by brothers Joseph and Henry Willard. During the Civil War Joseph also managed another well known (but much less well thought of) establishment in D.C. Name this 2nd establishment. **The Ebbitt House**

THE MAY QUIZ-YOU FILL IN THE ANSWERS

By Alan Berenson

1.] “*In the Waves*,” a book by Rachael Lance, is a complete history of the design, construction, testing execution of purpose and postmortem of the world's first submarine to sink an enemy ship. A primary goal of her work was to study the mechanism of inquiry and death of the 8-man crew found 136 years after they died sitting at their stations showing little sign of struggle or trauma. What was the author's explanation of their mechanism of death? _____

2.] Two of Robert E. Lee's significant Civil War battlefield victories were fought in Va, one in 1862, the other in 1864; both were fought on land common to each. Name them. _____

3.] From what cultural entertainment was the term “Jim Crow” derived? _____

4.] There were 4 honorary pallbearers at Ulysses S. Grant's funeral, all generals, 2 Union and 2 Confederate. Name them.

Union: _____

Confederate: _____

6.] What famous Confederate brigade had a place in the funeral parade honoring Ulysses S. Grant?

7.] What Union general helped establish 2 colleges after the Civil War? They still exist; name them.

Name of General: _____

College # 1: _____

College #2: _____

BONUS QUESTION: A (_____) as an officer in the Union Army was assigned to manage the Old Capital Prison; in this role he met, fell in love with and later married Antonia Ford, a Confederate spy who had been arrested and placed in the prison. A TV docudrama, *Now and Forever, Letters to an Old Soldier*, was an Emmy award winner which dramatized Antonia's and (_____) romance. Name the officer.

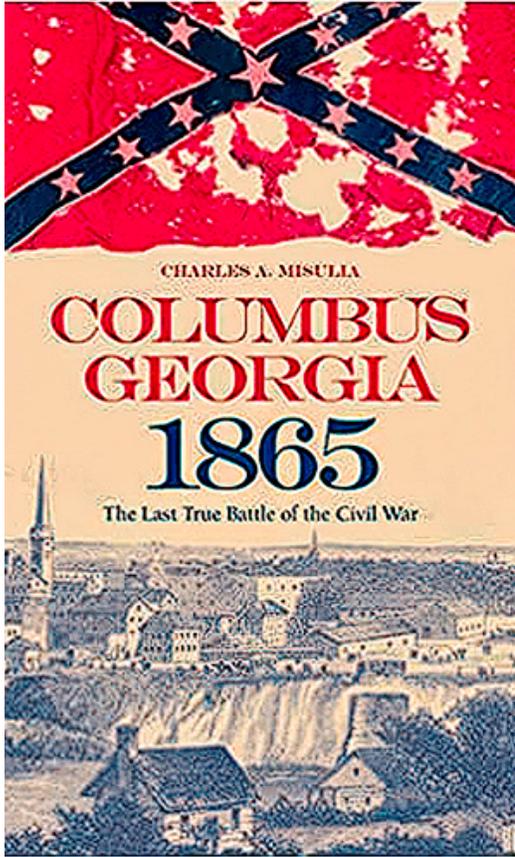


Old Capital Prison circa 1860's

This Month's Book Review - Submitted by Thomas L. Breiner

Columbus, Georgia, 1865: The Last True Battle of the Civil War by Charles A. Misulia, The University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa, AL (2010), 335 pp., paperback \$29.49.

Columbus, Georgia, 1865 by Charles A. Misulia is a detailed account of the capture of Columbus, GA on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1865. The fighting at Girard, AL and Columbus, GA has been neglected since it had no significant impact on the outcome of the Civil War. Other more



important events in early April 1865 resulted in the battle for Columbus being basically ignored. With the fall of Richmond, the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, the assassination of President Lincoln, and the search for John Wilkes Booth attracting all the interest of the press,

the battle for and the capture of Columbus, GA fell off the radar.

This work covers the 1865 raid by Major General James Harrison Wilson and his newly organized cavalry corps to capture and destroy the military capabilities in the cities of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, and Columbus and Macon, Georgia. From there Wilson hoped eventually to join forces with Sherman and Grant in North Carolina and Virginia. The book briefly covers the action at Selma and Montgomery, but the main concern is detailing the actions of April 16th when Major General Emory Upton's division of Wilson's corps attacked the defenses at Girard, AL and Columbus, GA. Upton was trying to build his reputation and therefore did not want the other two divisions to assist in the capture of Columbus. After captur-

ing the city, Wilson's corps systematically destroyed all of the businesses and stockpiles of supplies that had any military use. The city of Columbus was destitute. This would not have happened had Wilson known that for all practical purposes the war was over. He did not learn of the events that had transpired earlier in the month until he approached Macon on April 20th.

The book does not address the issue of Columbus being the last true battle of the Civil War until the reader gets to the first Appendix. In it the author tries to define what a battle is, which is difficult. No clear definition has ever been established as to what constitutes a battle. He then discusses the chronological issue. Most historians consider the fighting at the Palmito Ranch on May 12-13, 1865 to be the last battle. According to our author, however, that action does not meet the definition of a battle. I'll leave that determination up to the individual reader.

Charles A. Misulia has provided an outstanding manuscript that brings the story of Wilson's Raid into the light. The maps I found to be extremely helpful. I highly recommend this work to everyone. The author has done a superb job of researching his subject. There were no newspaper articles of significance to provide the details; and many of the reports in the Official Records from the officers who were involved are misleading. The lack of press coverage of Wilson's Raid was a result of having no correspondent accompanying Wilson's corps and of his soldiers destroying the local printing presses in Columbus. The details of the battle of Columbus, GA have been lost over time due to the numerous major events that captured the interest of the public at the end of the Civil War. However, this is an important part of the end to the war as Wilson's corps was put into a position where his forces were able to capture Jefferson Davis at Irwinville, GA on May 10th.

Submitted by Thomas L. Breiner





**Time for a few
links for those
suffering
Cabin Fever
From the
Web Guy**



Here we are, it's April May and we are still required to stay holed up in our cabins. I know, I wrote the same thing last month, but nothing has changed. How much longer will this go on? As you all know, I don't have much hair, but what little I have is now way down over my ears. Will I ever be able to see my barber again? So here goes with a few more programs to watch if you have already covered the ones I listed in the April *Canister*. Click on the blue hyperlinks if you are viewing this on line, if not, just type the link into your favorite browser.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8kSUDp2BC0>

"When Georgia Howled: Sherman on the March"

For 37 weeks in 1864, general william t. Sherman made georgia his battleground. Georgia Public Broadcasting and the Atlanta History Center have partnered to produce the gripping new documentary "When Georgia Howled: Sherman on the March," premiering Thursday, September 10 at 8 p.m. on GPB Television. The program is the companion documentary to their Emmy-winning collaboration "37 Weeks: Sherman on the March," a series of 90-second segments that premiered in April 2014 and commemorated the 150th anniversary of Sherman's 1864 march into Georgia. It was 37 weeks that would determine the fate of a nation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLPcATES6OQ>

"Desperate Days: Last Hope of the Confederacy"

After three years of war, with depleting manpower and resources, and a series of stinging defeats, the fate of the Confederacy seemed certain. The South had to gamble, and take costly risks... and Tennessee would take center stage in that effort. Desperate days: last hope of the confederacy tells this remarkable story through the words and experiences of men, women, and children who shaped the events of the Civil War in Tennessee, or more often just tried to survive.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uu00yRkPS_c

"The American Civil War - The Early Years"

During four dark years of bitter and bloody fighting between the Northern and Southern states, more than 600,000 troops lost their lives. The country was torn apart as the military, political and ideological struggle dragged on and on. For those who lived through it, life would never be the same again. This powerful series tells the full story of The American Civil War - a conflict that left a deep scar on the soul of a nation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zy3OWWWARvw>

"Why the Confederacy Lost: The Experiences of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia"

Joseph Glatthaar, the Stephenson Distinguished Professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, spoke at Vanderbilt University Feb. 8, 2011, as part of a College of Arts and Science-sponsored series of lectures about the Civil War. Glatthaar teaches about the Civil War and is the author of "General Lee's Army: From Victory to Defeat."

More Recommendations to fill your time

Our members know how the Cincinnati Round Table works to provide education and networking opportunities for students of the Civil War. But they may not be aware of the Civil War Round Table Congress, a national membership organization that helps local Round Tables like ours to be sustainable groups presenting quality programs and assisting historic preservation.

During these difficult pandemic times, when local groups cannot meet in person, the Congress has stepped up to make excellent Civil War programs available via the Internet. Our members are invited to visit the Congress website, <http://cwrightcongress.org/lectures/lectures.html>, to learn about its live Lecture Series webinars available via Zoom. Upcoming talks include Nathan Bedford Forrest, the Battle of Gettysburg, the Battle at Drewry's Bluff, and Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign. A small donation to the Congress is requested, but not required.

I've "attended" a half-dozen of these Congress-sponsored webinars in the last month, and they've all been excellent. They feature solid speakers, with good Power Point outlines, photos, maps, etc. right on your home screen. And they are almost as inter-active as our usual Round Table programs: you can send the presenter written questions as they occur to you and he'll answer them at the end of his talk.

Mark Silbersack

Recently, you were asked to take a short survey to help the Board determine what's next. If you haven't taken the survey yet, there is a link in the email with this *Canister* link. We need your input.

If we are given the OK to go back to holding meetings, just when should we start? Our old schedule would say not until September. But maybe most might not be leaving town this summer; is anyone willing to take a cruise on one of those mega ships?

If most are in town, how about redoing the March, April, and May speaker schedule in June, July, and August. Dan has checked and the speakers are willing to come. They were great subjects, and would have been entertaining talks.

Beyond taking the 2 minutes it takes to fill out the survey how about offering to help out, and fill one of our "Vacant" committee spots. We also need a new VP, as David's term is over. I know, I know, no one wants to volunteer. It isn't that great of a time commitment.

If going to Round Table meetings - the great speakers and yes, the fellowship, is meaningful to you, please consider giving a couple of hours a month so we can keep this now 64 year old organization healthy and vibrant.

Stay safe, healthy, and I hope to see you soon.

The Web Guy

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