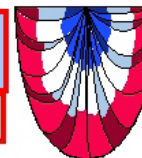


THE OHIO VOLUNTEER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHEASTERN OHIO CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



FEBRUARY, 2013

FEBRUARY MEETING

The Feb. meeting will be held on Saturday, February 23 at 9:00 at the Ninth Street Methodist Church. Our speaker will be Andy Warholla who will speak on "Black Soldiers from Guernsey County"
Our host for the meeting supplying treats to go along with the coffee is Judie Perkowski.

JANUARY'S MEETING

Tom Buckley gave a good presentation on the "Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark". This was a battle where poorly equipped green Confederate troops went up against an equal amount of veteran Union troops. The Union rifled artillery proved too much for the smooth bore Confederate guns and was the determining factor in the Confederate defeat.

After the meeting a dozen of our members retreated to Theo's restaurant for a good meal and fellowship.



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Where was the first capital of the Confederacy?

ANDY'S QUESTION

Name the Union General who fought at Stones River whose brother was a Confederate General.

If you haven't paid dues yet -

they are

Single membership \$15

Couple membership \$25

Family membership \$30

Dues can be paid at our meetings to our Treasurer

John Slovski or through the mail at:

Southeastern Ohio Civil War Roundtable

P.O. Box 1343

Cambridge, Ohio 43725

2013 MEETING HOST

These are the members who have signed up to supply treats to go with the coffee at each meeting. If you are on the list please write your name on a calendar at home as a reminder of your turn.

Feb. 23 - Judie Perkowski

March 23 - Tom Snyder

April 27 - Beverly Justice

May -

June 22 - Sheila Cochran

September 28 - John Slovski

October -

November 23 - Herb Parkenson

December 28 - Mary Lou and Sandy

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please send any information you would like to have in the newsletter to me a week ahead of the meeting. Phone: 638-2126 E-mail: irishman1020@hotmail.com or Ralph McCready, 8600 Oakland Rd. Chandlersville, OH 43727

150 YEARS AGO

Feb. 14 - Confederates capture the Union ram "Queen of the West" in the Mississippi river.

Feb. 24 - congress establishes the Arizona Territory, separating it from the New Mexico territory

Feb 25 - The National Banking Act, which moves to centralize banking functions across the country, is passed by Congress.

Feb. 26 - the Cherokee National Council repeals its ordinance of secession and abolishes slavery.

Admiral Porter sends a dummy ironclad down the Mississippi river to scare the Confederates trying to salvage the recently beached USS Indianola.

Feb. 28 - The CSS Nashville is destroyed by the USS Montauk near Fort McAllister, Georgia.

Morgan's Raid Trail Markers

Tom Snyder reports that all the markers and signs for the project are now here and just have to be put in place. They hope to have the project done by May. Dedication ceremonies are still to be announced.

"Our American Cousin"

On April 11-14 Columbus will be hosting a National Lincoln impersonator Convention. Part of the program will include The Encore Academy in Reynoldsburg, Ohio performing the play "Our American Cousin". This of course was the play President Lincoln went to see when he was shot. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for Seniors and students. Ralph will present the details at the next meeting. This could make a good field trip for our group.

AFTERMATH OF GETTYSBURG

June 8th and 9th, Woodsfield is celebrating the 150th Anniversary with an event they are calling "Aftermath of Gettysburg". This event will include a Hospital where amputations, caring of the sick and wounded can be seen, as well as lectures on the 25th OVI (part of which was raised in Monroe county) will be given.

Money raised will be sent to the Ohio Historical Society's efforts to restore Ohio's Civil War Battle Flags.



We did it. With your help we have now secured the funds to save the "strip center" tract at Franklin — one of our most important, improbable, and exciting victories ever. This one-acre tract [see map], currently occupied by a pizza place and a small market, was the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting of the Civil War. Brig. Gen. Hiram Granbury was killed with his troops in the parking lot. Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne was killed nearby.

Thanks to your generosity we have now raised the \$339,000 that we needed to make our preservation dreams a reality. Now the process of reclaiming more of this once-lost battlefield can press further ahead.

BOTTOM RAIL ON TOP

"Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, 'U.S.," said Frederick Douglass, "let him get an eagle on his buttons and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship in the United States."

Abolitionists had been pressing to put blacks into battle since the first shots were fired. Congress authorized their recruitment in 1862, and Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had urged it, but it took a full year before the first black men put on blue coats to serve under white officers.

"Resolved," said a convention of free blacks, assembled at Poughkeepsie, New York, that summer to urge greater participation of black troops in the struggle for the Union. "More effective remedies ought now to be thoroughly tried, in the shape of warm lead and cold steel, duly administered by two hundred thousand black doctors."

Yet even the top Union command still could not agree as to the wisdom of arming blacks. "I have had the question put to me often," said William Tecumseh Sherman. "Is not a Negro as good as a white man to stop a bullet? Yes: and a sand-bag is better; but can a Negro do our skirmishing and picket duty? /can they improvise bridges, sorties, flank movements, etc., like the white man? I say no."

Sherman's friend Grant said yes: I have given the subject of arming the Negro my hearty support. This, with the emancipation of the Negro, is the heaviest blow yet given the Confederacy . . . By Arming the Negro we have added a powerful ally. they will make good soldiers and taking them from the enemy weakens him in the same proportion they strengthen us."

Lincoln had come to agree with Grant, and when the opposition complained, he hit back hard: You say you will not fight to free Negroes. Some of them seem willing to fight for you. (When victory is won) there will be some black men who can remember that, with silent tongue and clenched teeth, and steady eye and well-poised bayonet, they have helped mankind on to this great consummation; while, I fear, there will be some white ones, unable to forget that with malignant heart and deceitful speech, they strove to hinder it.

On June 7, fifteen hundred Texans attacked a smaller force of black and white Union troops at Milliken's Bend, Louisiana; It was the first important engagement in which black troops took part. "After it was over," a Union officer wrote, "many men were found dead with bayonet stabs, and others with their skulls broken open by butts of muskets ... The bravery of the blacks at Milliken's Bend completely revolutionized the sentiment of the army with regard to the employment of Negro troops. I heard prominent officers who formerly had sneered . . . at the idea of the Negroes fighting, express themselves after that, as heartily in favor of it."

"The arm of the slaves (is) the best defense against the arm of the slaveholder." Frederick Douglass told his fellow blacks. "Who would be free themselves must strike the blow. . . I urge you to fly to arms and smite to death the power that would bury the Government and your liberty in the same hopeless grave. This is your golden opportunity.'

They responded to such appeals in astonishing numbers. Constituting less than one percent of the North's population, blacks would make up nearly one-tenth of the northern army by the end of the war. Eighty-five percent of those eligible signed on: 180,000 blacks wore Union blue - more than twice the size of Lee's army at Gettysburg.

Black regiments were often restricted to the most menial military tasks. Their officers were almost all white. In 166 black regiments there were scarcely 100 black officers, and no black soldier was ever allowed to rise above captain.

Nonetheless, they took great pride in their new status as soldiers fighting for the freedom of their race. One celebrated his newfound ability to "walk fearlessly and boldly through the streets (of New Orleans) . . . without being required to take off his cap at every step." Another found himself face to face with his former owner, now a prisoner of war. "Hello, Massa," he said, "bottom rail on top dis time."