

My Fellow Roundtable Members:

Our next meeting is on May 10, 2017 at 7 pm at La Navona, 154 North Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230. Our speaker is Phil Spaugy, and his topic is *Arming Ohio, the Firearms of the First Volunteers including the arms altered for the State of Ohio by Miles Greenwood in Cincinnati*. Mr. Spaugy was born in Sidney Ohio, and currently lives in Vandalia, Ohio. Phil has had a lifelong interest in the American Civil War and has been collecting items since he was 16 years old. He is a member of Union Guards, Company A, 19th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry of the North South Skirmish Association [N-SSA] for the last 40 years and has recently completed his last term as National Commander of the N-SSA and is currently serving as Past National Commander of the organization. Please see our website for more information on Mr. Spaugy.

I have attached Tom Ayres' Secretary's Report, which I need to add was made less than 48 hours after Tom emailed me from the hospital where he was undergoing an appendectomy.

Here is Dave Delisio's Treasurer's Report for April:

Treasurer's Report for April 2017

Beginning checking account statement balance 4/1/2017 = \$1989.92

April receipts = \$288.00 (\$195.00 dues, \$93.00 book raffle)

April expenses = \$40.00 to Mike Peters for speaker expenses

Ending checking account statement balance 4/30/2017 = \$2237.92

We have done a good job of collecting dues in the first couple of months of the year. If you have not paid your dues yet, please do so at our May meeting (or send a check to Dave).

We have a couple of other fundraising opportunities. First, I received the print "Rally on the Battery" for participating in a recent Civil War Trust campaign. The print is on artist's color giclée on a 30" x 17" canvas. Please click on the link below for more information and to see the scene depicted on the print:

<http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/cedarcreek/four-battlefields-2016/rally-on-the-battery.html>

I am going to donate the print to the Roundtable and the Roundtable is going to sell twenty five \$20 chances, and then pick the winner on a random draw. This will raise \$500 for the Roundtable. Please see me to buy a raffle ticket at the next meeting, or email me if you are interested in participating.

The second fundraising opportunity involves a regimental history that was recently donated to the Roundtable. The book is on the Pennsylvania Bucktails Kane Rifles (13th PA Reserves; 42nd Pennsylvania) authored by William Rauch, a sergeant from Company F of the regiment. The book is an original edition from 1906, and is in fair condition. My resident book expert Mike Peters tells me that similar versions of the book are selling on the Internet for between \$100 and \$500 depending on condition. Therefore, rather than throwing this valuable volume into our normal book raffle, I have decided to have an auction for the book at our JUNE meeting. If you want to bid but cannot make the meeting, please email me with your maximum bid, and I will act as your proxy.

I also want to thank Van Young for all the work he did to organize the Gettysburg Symposium in April at the Griswold Center in Worthington. The event showed how much interest there is in Civil War in our area.

James G. Ryan
President, Central Ohio Civil War Roundtable

"We Ride a Whirlwind" - Sherman and Johnston come to peace
Presentation by Eric Wittenberg in April from his latest book,
available June 1

When Union Major General William Tecumseh Sherman and his Confederate counterpart General Joseph E. Johnston met April 17, 1865, to discuss a truce and cessation of hostilities at James Bennett's farmhouse at Durham Station, North Carolina, neither of them could have foreseen the convoluted events that would ensue and complicate the peace process for an arduous 11 days.

Sherman and Johnston had met on the battlefield, of course, but, surprisingly, they had never met personally, face to face. But Sherman trusted the Confederate and considered him a man whose word could be trusted. Their bond would only grow and strengthen with the passage of time to the point that their friendship would flourish after the war.

Consider the turmoil. Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet were on the run as the Union army had broken rebel defenses south of Petersburg in early April. Ulysses S. Grant, of course, ran down Robert E. Lee's ragged rebels at Appomattox, and Lee surrendered in a fairly straightforward meeting on April 9.

And then, John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Abraham Lincoln on April 14. After an agonizing night, the president died the next day.

Sherman had agreed to meet with Johnston after receiving Johnston's letter dated April 14, under flag of truce, seeking an end to the war. As Sherman was preparing to leave Raleigh for the meeting on April 17, he received a telegram from Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, of Ohio, informing him of the president's death. Sherman swore the telegraph operator to secrecy and rode off to meet Johnston.

Before the meeting Johnston had conferred with Jefferson Davis in Danville, Virginia, who still favored resistance, rejecting Johnston's insistence on

surrender. When they met, Sherman informed Johnston of Lincoln's assassination. Johnston opined that the South had lost its best friend.

Over two days the two generals hammered out a "memorandum or basis of agreement." Johnston had wanted only a cease fire agreement. Sherman offered terms of surrender. Sherman thought he was following Lincoln's plan, as he understood Grant had done with Lee. But critics said Sherman's terms were far more comprehensive than Lincoln's. Transported to Washington, this agreement was summarily rejected by Stanton and his cohorts. News reports, largely authored by Stanton, appeared that were highly critical of Sherman. The general was fit to be tied.

On the other side Davis wanted to infantry to disband and then reform to guard his escape farther south. Davis fled south after five of his cabinet members voted for surrender. This was becoming academic as rebels were deserting in droves. Johnston disobeyed Davis and met with Sherman again on April 26. This time there was a surprise visitor, Grant himself, sent south to smooth the Sherman's ruffled feathers and grease the negotiations. A second agreement, Terms of a Military Convention, was reached on April 26. Remaining rebel soldiers were to assemble in Greensboro, deposit their military supplies and go home. Sherman remained for a few days in Raleigh to help the region recover, an effort that was much appreciated.

When the Union army held its grand victory review on Pennsylvania Avenue in the District of Columbia, Sherman pointedly snubbed his nemesis Stanton.

Tom Ayres' Secretary