

My Fellow Roundtable Members: Our next meeting is on Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 7 pm at La Navona, 154 North Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230. Our speaker is Matt White, and his topic is entitled "Part and Parcel of the Late Rebellion: The French Intervention War and the End of the American Civil War." Matt describes his topic as follows:

*After Lee signed the instrument of surrender at Appomattox, Grant's aide-de-camp Horace Porter remembered that the first words Grant uttered were "on to Mexico." He wasn't joking about his Mexican War experience, he was serious. In a month Grant ordered 25,000 troops to the Mexican border, 16,000 of whom were of the largely African-American 25th Corps. Grant stated in his orders "if war is to be made, they will be in the right place." To Grant, the French invasion of Mexico was "part and parcel of the late rebellion" and the Civil War would not truly be over until the French were thrown out of Mexico. Grant wasn't alone in his opinion, many people on both sides of the border and both sides of the conflict understood the war in similar ways. This talk will briefly explain the French Intervention War, and why and how ex-Confederates and the United States affected it. We'll cover battles like Palmito Ranch and Bagdad, and people like George Washington Williams, Henry Young, Jo Shelby, Phil Sheridan, Lew Wallace, RIP Ford, John Mosby, Dick Gatling, and a slew of other characters who became involved. Hopefully by the end of the talk you'll never think of Cinco de Mayo the same way again.*

Matt, a member of our Roundtable, is a PhD student at OSU. He lives with his wife and his dog in beautiful Clintonville, near the site of Camp Lew Wallace and Camp Thomas.

I have attached Tom Ayres' Secretary's Report for the June meeting. I just want to take a moment and praise Tom for his great Report's, which mix in a whole lot of additional personal research on top of the information provided by our speaker.

Dave DeLisio's Treasurer's Report for July is as follows:

Treasurer's Report for July 2017

*Beginning checking account statement balance 7/1/2017 = \$2483.93*

*July receipts = \$320.00 (\$50.00 dues, \$100.00 book raffle, \$160.00 print raffle ticket sales auction, \$10.00 from Ed Chapdelaine for aluminum can sales)*

*July expenses = \$0*

*Ending checking account statement balance 7/31/2017 = \$2803.93*

We are off & rolling on our "Rally on the Battery" raffle. The print is on artist's color giclée on a 30" x 17" canvas, and I will continue to bring it to meetings so you can see it. We have sold eight of the 25 tickets (as you can see in Dave's Treasurer's Report). Tickets are \$20. I am going to hold the drawing for the print no later than the November meeting, so don't delay getting into the raffle. This raffle 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.

Battlefield Tour Report: Please save the dates of April 12 2018 through April 15, 2018 for a trip to Chickamauga. Jeromy Rose will be providing details, but our guide will be the incomparable Jim Ogden, Chief National Park Service historian of the battle. I have done at least five tours with Jim, and I wouldn't miss the chance to do another tour with him. He is like a younger version of Ed Bearss.

Finally, I want to formally welcome long time member Ed Chapdelaine back after his recovery from his broken leg.

James G. Ryan, President COCWRT

## Atrocities before and during the Civil War

Thirteen uniformed Union soldiers stood shivering on the gallows in Kinston, North Carolina, their heads covered with rough corn sacks, nooses around their necks. A rebel lieutenant read the order sanctioning their executions. Then, the hinged floors dropped, and all 13 were hanged simultaneously. The date was February 15, 1864.

Two federal soldiers had been hanged at the same gallows earlier. Seven more would meet the same fate a few days later.

After the 13 were cut down from the gallows, their bodies were stripped of their blue uniforms as partial payment demanded by the hangman. Naked, the dead were thrown in a heap to be claimed by their kinfolk and loved ones. For these were local men. Those not claimed were buried in a shallow mass grave.

The Union men executed at Kinston had fought reluctantly for the Confederacy, deserted and joined the Union army or simply joined the federals as, surprisingly, many of their fellow "tar heels" had done. These were poor country boys who had no allegiance to slave-owning planters who had fomented secession.

One such Union volunteer was 25-year-old Charles Cuthrell of Broad Grove, North Carolina. Cuthrell refused to enlist in the Confederate army and had to be dragged by force from his home. He was sent to New Bern and assigned to the 3rd North Carolina Artillery. Cuthrell saw his first and only action as a rebel at the battle of New Bern in March 1862. True to his word, he refused to fire on the U.S. flag. At the first opportunity Cuthrell deserted and joined what became the U.S. 2nd North Carolina infantry.

Enter the flamboyant rebel Major General George E. Pickett of the failed high water charge, bearing his name, on Union lines on Cemetery Ridge July 3, 1863, at Gettysburg. Pickett's plan was to recapture New Bern with a three-pronged attack with 13,000 men. His assault on the well-built and well-defended Union fortifications at New Bern failed. This constituted a second assault by Pickett that

ended in failure. But in the attack Brigadier General Robert Hoke's division overran a Union block house and captured several hundred federals, among them the unfortunate North Carolinians.

After he was captured and hanged, Charles Cuthrell, it is believed, was among those corpses that were unclaimed as his 19-year-old wife Celia, who had recently lost an infant, lived more than 30 miles from Kinston.

The federal army was unable to do anything about the executions until the war was over. In October 1865 Major General Thomas H. Ruger, commander of the Department of North Carolina, convened a board of inquiry. The board determined that Pickett had violated the rules of war, was guilty of heinous crimes and should be tried before a military commission. Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt recommended to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton that Pickett be arrested and held for trial. Tipped off, Pickett fled to Montreal where he lived under an assumed name. Enter Pickett's old West Point friend Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, who granted Pickett's request for a special pass protecting him from arrest. Grant went further, securing a pardon for Pickett from President Andrew Johnson. Thus ended the Kinston affair. (Grant contended that his peace terms to Robert E. Lee made no provision for Pickett to be held responsible for the Kinston hangings.)

At the July meeting Roundtable member Howard Strouse described the Kinston atrocity and four others, two well-known and two others, like Kinston, relatively obscure.

Among the well-known are John Brown's raid on pro-slavery residents of Pottawatomie Creek in Kansas in 1856 and Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest's slaughter of black Union Army soldiers at Fort Pillow in Tennessee in 1864.

Two atrocities, one in Texas and one in Minnesota, are not household knowledge.

Controversy and hard feelings followed the larger-than-life Sam Houston — war hero, Texas founder, governor of Tennessee and Texas and U.S. senator — every step of his stormy but incredibly varied and vital life. Houston was instrumental in Texas gaining its independence

from Mexico in 1836 and gaining statehood in 1845. Houston, while a slaveholder and foe of abolition, was an ardent unionist as a U.S. senator from 1846 to March 1859. Elected governor of Texas in December 1859, Houston loudly opposed secession. After a state convention voted to secede in February 1861, Houston refused to take an oath of loyalty to the Confederacy and was evicted from office on March 16, 1861. He predicted that the North would overwhelm the South. After his eviction, Houston retired from elective politics and died July 26, 1863.

Houston's public life reflected the strife and controversy Texas experienced over the issue of secession. Secession took an especially ugly turn in Cooke County on the Red River north of Dallas. By 1860 only 11 per cent of households in the county owned slaves, and 61 per cent had voted against secession. When the new Confederate legislature passed conscription acts, 30 residents of the county signed a petition railing against draft exemptions granted to large slave-owning landowners. A Peace Party was formed to resist conscription. A state militia was dispatched to the county in the fall of 1862 and arrested 150 suspected Union sympathizers over 13 days. An illegal Citizens Court was empaneled, and this kangaroo court held brief "trials." Several of the convicted men were hanged within hours. A mob formed and forced the foreman of the jury to provide names of prisoners. These 14 men were lynched on October 12-13 without trial. In all, 41 men were hanged after trial or lynched in Gainesville, and at least three were shot to death. The Great Hanging of Gainesville is believed to be the largest mass hanging in U.S. history.

After his thrashing at the second battle of Bull Run August 28-30, 1862, General John Pope, like many unsuccessful Union generals, was banished quickly to the West. Pope was sent to Minnesota to command the newly formed Department of the Northwest (formed September 6) and to quell Indian uprisings. To liken Pope's predicament to jumping from the frying pan into the fire is not a stretch. Violence on the frontier, specifically along the Minnesota River valley southwest of Minneapolis was horrific.

What is known as the Dakota War of 1862 or Little Crow's War, among other titles, broke out August 17, 1862, and continued for four increasingly murderous months. But it was several years in the making, with Indian rage over their treatment at the hands of agents

smoldering, before boiling over. The U.S. and Dakota tribal leaders negotiated two treaties, Traverse des Sioux and Mendota, in July and August 1851, under which the Dakota ceded large tracts of land for money and goods. The tribe was to live on a 20-mile-wide reservation covering 150 miles of the upper Minnesota River. But the U.S. Senate deleted the reservation article, and much of promised compensation was stolen by corrupt Indian agents.

When Minnesota was granted statehood on May 11, 1858, Little Crow traveled to Washington, D.C., to negotiate enforcement of existing treaties. He was humiliated and lost credence among tribal members. Logging and agriculture eliminated forests inhabited by tribes, and hunting by settlers reduced game available to tribes. Bands of Dakota tribes met with Upper and Lower Sioux agencies in August 1862, with only partial success, to obtain food. One agent Andrew Jackson Myrick was reported to have told the Indians to eat grass or their own dung.

On August 16, 1862, one member of a band of four Dakota men in a hunting party killed five white settlers. A subsequent war council vowed to continue attacks to drive out white settlers. On August 18 Little Crow led an attack on the Lower Sioux agency. Agent Myrick was among the first killed. His body was found with grass stuffed in his mouth. Minnesota militia were defeated at the Battle of Redwood Ferry. Dakota attacked New Ulm on August 19 and again on August 23. During the same period Indians attacked Fort Ridgely. While not taking the fort, Indians preventing soldiers from aiding white settlers under attack as far west as eastern Dakota Territory.

Minnesota militia suffered a major defeat at the Battle of Birch Coulee on September 2. Also, Indian raiders attacked forts and river crossings farther north.

This was the situation Pope inherited. Action came soon enough. On September 23 elements of the 6th and 7th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry regiments charged Dakota forces in a ravine and routed them at the Battle of Wood Lake. Most of the Dakota warriors surrendered three days later and were imprisoned at Camp Release. At military trials in November, 303 (of 498) Indians were sentenced to death, but President Lincoln commuted all but 38. The 38 condemned men were hanged on December 26, 1862, in the largest mass execution in U.S. history. Before a mass burial some unknown person removed skin

from some of the men and sold it in Mankato. Also, the grave was reopened one night, cadavers were removed and sold to doctors for study. The body of Stands on Clouds, also known as Cut Nose, was sold to William Worrall Mayo, who dissected the body in the presence of medical colleagues. Afterward, Mayo had the skeleton cleaned, dried and varnished and kept it in an iron kettle in his office. Many years later these remains and those of other Indians were turned over by the Mayo Clinic to tribes for ceremonial burial.

Little Crow escaped to Canada but returned to Minnesota and was killed July 3, 1863, near Hutchinson by a settler looking to collect a bounty. The chief's skull and scalp were displayed at Saint Paul until 1971 when the remains were given to the chief's grandson.

Two other Sioux leaders Little Six and Medicine Bottle escaped to Canada but were drugged and returned to the U.S. where they were hanged in 1865.

The Dakota were expelled from Minnesota, but many surviving warriors joined the Lakota to continue their warfare against the U.S. Army. Battles continued until the slaughter at Wounded Knee in 1890, which ended Sioux resistance.

About the two aforementioned familiar atrocities, in Kansas and Tennessee, John Brown and his three sons attacked pro-slavery families at Pottawatomie Creek on May 24, 1856, killing five men, to avenge the first sacking of free state haven Lawrence, Kansas, by pro-slavery partisans. In April 1864 Confederate cavalry leader Nathan Bedford Forrest was repulsed at Paducah. He turned his attention to the Union garrison at Fort Pillow, defended by troops that were equally divided between white and black. Forrest's men overran the fort wantonly killing Union soldiers, especially blacks, who attempted to surrender.

Tom Ayres , Secretary COCWRT

