

My Fellow Roundtable Members: Our next meeting is on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 7 pm at La Navona, 154 North Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230. Our speaker is Greg Biggs, and his topic is entitled "Sherman's Logistics in the Atlanta Campaign." Greg describes his topic as follows:

*No army in history moved without a secure line of supplies especially if it moved into enemy territory. If an army got cut off from its supplies then calamity usually followed often ending in defeat and/or destruction. When William T. Sherman set his sights on Atlanta he prepared for the supplying of his army in a manner that surpassed every other Civil War general. Rebuilding railroads and confiscating locomotives and cars to haul supplies, Sherman set a daily goal for shipments to his forward base in Chattanooga. Ruthless in making sure that only supplies got on the cars, Sherman also had to worry about protecting the line of rails that ran back to Louisville, Kentucky from Confederate raiders. Building on a system begun by William S. Rosecrans, Sherman's engineers built forts and blockhouses and prepared pre-fabricated trestles for replacing those brought down by Confederate raiders. While his preparations were masterful and thorough, they were not without some flaws. This program will examine the nuts and bolts of these logistics and cover the errors that were also made. In the end, his supply line performed as expected and Atlanta was captured. This set the stage for two more campaigns that Sherman would undertake before the war ended in April 1865 as well as logistics for more modern wars.*

Greg Biggs, a former Ohio resident who has spoken to our roundtable several times in the past, has studied military history from the Spartans to modern wars for over 50 years with concentrations on the Napoleonic Era; Civil War; World War 2 and military flags of the 18th and 19th Centuries. Greg has consulted with several museums, collectors and auction houses on Civil War flags as well as having written several articles on the topic in SCV publications, North-South Trader and Civil War News. He has also done research for several Civil War authors and has written articles for Blue & Gray Magazine, Civil War News, Citizens Companion and others. Greg has lead tours for Civil War groups of the Fort Donelson, Atlanta, Chickamauga-Chattanooga and Tullahoma Campaigns as well as tours of the Cairo/Mound City, Illinois area covering the start of the Western river campaigns. He has also done numerous staff rides for US Army units stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Greg lives in Clarksville, Tennessee with his delightful wife Karel and the four cavalry cats. He is president of the Clarksville CWRT as well as an officer of the Bowling Green and Nashville CWRTs.

I have attached Tom Ayres' Secretary's Report for the July meeting, which includes an excellent chronology of the surrender of the various CSA army and naval forces. Good job Tom!

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

Treasurer's Report for August 2017

*Beginning checking account statement balance 8/1/2017 = \$2803.93*

*August receipts = \$187.00 (\$25.00 dues, \$111.00 book raffle, \$20.00 print raffle ticket sales auction, \$31.00 from Ed Chapdelaine for aluminum can sales)*

*August expenses = \$76.00 for P.O. Box fee*

*Ending checking account statement balance 8/31/2017 = \$2914.93*

Please continue to support our book raffle. Once again, I will match raffle sales up to \$50 if everyone at the meeting buys at least one ticket.

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 nine of the 25 tickets. 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 up to \$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.

Tom Ayres' Secretary's Report for July

French Invasion of Mexico and the American Civil War

Casual observers of the Civil War likely think the war ended when Robert E. Lee surrendered his Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant, general-in-chief of all U.S. forces, in Wilmer McLean's parlor April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia. Three days later Lee's men laid down their flags, stacked their rifles and started the long trek home.

But the war was hardly over, technically, as many other Confederate armies remained in the field. Their dispositions were overshadowed by the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln on Good Friday, April 14. The nation reeled and then was absorbed by the long funeral train that carried the President's body back to Springfield, Illinois, for burial.

But the remainder of the Confederacy, outside Virginia, was a beehive of surrenders and ceasefires. Many rebels remained in uniform despite wholesale desertions as the South's fortunes fell apart.

The following is a chronology:

- The battle at Fort Blakey in Alabama occurred six hours after Lee's surrender. Confederate General St. John Richardson Liddell was captured and surrendered during a Union assault. This was the last battle involving large numbers of U.S. Colored troops, who launched the successful attack.
- Union General James H. Wilson's cavalry, unaware of Lee's surrender or Lincoln's death, rode into west Georgia after laying waste to much of northern Alabama's industry. Wilson attacked Columbus, Georgia, on April 16, destroying most of its manufacturing facilities and forcing remaining rebels to surrender.

- John Singleton Mosby's irregular raiders, known as the 43rd Battalion Virginia cavalry, disbanded on April 21. As he had not surrendered, a \$5,000 reward was offered for Mosby's capture. He was captured by Union General John Gregg on June 17 at Lynchburg, Virginia.
- In a convoluted process that even involved the intervention of Grant, General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to General William T. Sherman on April 26 at Bennett Place near Durham, North Carolina. Johnston surrendered some 30,000 men. Additional forces under Johnston surrendered May 4 at Greensboro.
- On this same day the rebel departments of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana, under General Richard Taylor, son of former President Zachary Taylor, surrendered some 10,000 soldiers. Included were the troopers of Nathan Bedford Forrest, who surrendered May 9 at Gainesville, Alabama.
  - After the defeat at Fort Blakey General Dabney Herndon Maury, who commanded the Confederate District of the Gulf, retreated to Meridian, Mississippi, hoping to join what remained of Johnston's Army of the Tennessee in North Carolina. But upon learning of Johnston's surrender, Maury surrendered about 4,000 men on May 5 at Citronelle, Alabama.
  - On May 9 President Andrew Johnson declared the war virtually over, taking into account small pockets of rebels still in the field.
- On May 5 at Washington, Georgia, President Jefferson Davis held the final meeting of his cabinet. The Confederate government was dissolved as a result. Five days later Davis was captured by forces under Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin D. Pritchard of the 4th Michigan cavalry near Irwindale, Georgia. Davis's wife Varina implored Pritchard's adjutant to allow her elderly mother to get water from a nearby stream. As the "mother" walked to the stream, Union soldiers noticed the "old woman" was wearing men's riding boots and spurs. Davis was unmasked and captured. He would spend the next two years imprisoned at Fort Monroe, Virginia.
  - From May 10-12, rebel forces in Florida, South Georgia, Arkansas and North Georgia surrendered.
- Finally, the concluding land battle of the Civil War was a rebel victory on May 13 at Palmito Ranch near Brownsville, Texas. This leads to the subject of the Roundtable's speaker Matt White at the August meeting. More later.
- To complete the surrender chronology, a representative of rebel General Kirby Smith surrendered to a representative of General Edward Canby. Canby, at Shreveport, Louisiana, took control of Smith's 43,000-man army. This was the only significant Confederate force west of the Mississippi River and ended all organized resistance to the Union. Smith signed surrender documents June 2 aboard the USS Fort Jackson at Galveston, Texas.
- The last Confederate general to surrender was Brigadier General Stand Waite, leader of the fractured Cherokee tribe that supported the Confederacy. Hunted for years but never captured, Waite surrendered June 23 at Fort Towson in the Choctaw nation of Oklahoma. Waite had organized the Cherokee Mounted Rifles and commanded a guerrilla force of Cherokee, Seminole, Creek and Osage Indians
  - On the high seas Confederate Captain James Waddell commanded the converted warship Shenandoah, which was in the South Pacific when Lee surrendered. Unaware of Lee's surrender, Waddell continued his raiding and capturing of merchant ships. Waddell learned of Lee's surrender on June 27 when he read a newspaper account. But the news story carried

Jefferson Davis's vow to carry on the war. Hence, Waddell continued his raids. Waddell learned of the falling dominoes of rebel surrenders on August 2. Regretting his actions since Lee's surrender, Waddell stowed his cannons and converted the ship to merchant status. Off Cape Horn Waddell sailed some 9,000 miles to England, where he surrendered to the Royal Navy on November 6 at Liverpool.

President Johnson on August 20 signed a Proclamation - Declaring that Peace, Order, Tranquillity, and Civil Authority Now Exists in and throughout the Whole of the United States of America. In the proclamation Johnson referred to the end of the insurrection in Texas.

But this lofty titled proclamation did not apply to action south of the Rio Grande River and to the area around the rebel stronghold of Brownsville, Texas.

This is where Matt White picked up the story of the French invasion of Mexico and the tangled conquest, warring and Confederate pipeline through Matamoros south of the river.

As if Lincoln's problems in late 1861 were not enough, with his nemesis General George McClellan reorganizing and reinvigorating the eastern Union army, the French would add to the new president's woes.

Mexican President Benito Juarez made a monumental mistake when he suspended interest payments to foreign countries in July 1861. The three major creditors — France, England and Spain — united in October to collect their money. In early December Spanish, British and French fleets and troops landed at Veracruz. But England and Spain soon discovered that the French had darker motives — conquest of all of Mexico. These two allies quickly exited the invasion, leaving the field to the French.

The Mexican invasion was the brainchild of Napoleon III (1809-73), whose numerous foreign adventures, plots, alliances and aggressions were mixed, to say the least. Elected head of the 2nd French Republic (1848-52), but barred from a second term, Napoleon merely staged a coup and declared himself emperor. In the Crimean War, for example, Napoleon allied with Britain to defeat the Russians. But the cost in lives was horrific, almost unbelievable, as an estimated 95,000 Frenchmen lost their lives, most to disease and appallingly unsanitary living conditions. News of the suffering and deaths was suppressed and prevented from reaching the home front.

The War of French Intervention, also known as the Second Franco-Mexican War, among other names, began in earnest in the spring of 1862. A heavy majority of Mexicans sided with the republican, elected government and mounted surprisingly stiff resistance to the French expeditionary force. On May 5 (commemorated by the Cinco de Mayo holiday) Mexican forces, also known as republicans or liberals, commanded by Ignacio Zaragoza defeated the French and their imperialists at Puebla just east of Mexico City. This defeat delayed the French entry into Mexico City by a year. Success was short lived as the French took the port of Tampico in October. But on April 30, 1863, a patrol of 62 French Legionnaires was attacked by some 3,000

Mexican infantry and cavalry at Camaron. The Legionnaires staged a suicidal bayonet charge. Only three survived. Even today, the French Foreign Legion celebrates the bravery of its forebears on April 30. When the French defeated Mexicans at San Lorenzo in May, relieving the siege of Puebla, that city surrendered on May 17. President Juarez and his cabinet fled Mexico City on May 31 and escaped far north to Chihuahua province, remaining for four long years, until the warfare ended in 1867.

French forces entered Mexico City in triumph on June 7, 1863. At the urging of Napoleon III, Archduke Maximilian of Austria accepted the crown of the "Cactus Throne" on October 3 as Emperor of Mexico. Formal acceptance took place on April 10, 1864. He was emperor in title but Napoleon's puppet monarch in reality.

How did this affect the U.S. government? In fact, the Lincoln administration had been wrought up over the French invasion since its inception. After critical Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg in July 1863, the War Department dispatched 6,000 Union soldiers to South Texas. John Bankhead Magruder, "Prince John," as the Confederate commander in Texas, conveyed through the rebel envoy in Paris that Confederates were enthusiastic supporters of the French invaders. Napoleon never recognized the Confederacy, but his actions spoke volumes. The emperor approved the shipment of some 20,000 Enfield rifles from Mexico to rebel forces in Texas. In fact, as the Northern coastal blockade tightened its grip on shipping into and out of Southern ports and as the Union navy asserted its control of the Mississippi River after the fall of Vicksburg in July 1863, the western Confederacy became more and more dependent on its supply line from Matamoros through Brownsville.

General Lew Wallace had been obsessed with Mexico since 1843 when he read a history of the Spanish conquest. He studied Spanish, and his interest was further whetted during his service as a lieutenant in the First Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, during the Mexican War. In fact, he worked on his first novel *The Fair God*, about the clash of European and Indian cultures, for 30 years.

As the Civil War wound down in early 1865, Wallace itched to go to Texas. He wrote Grant on January 14, 1865, asking to be sent there to negotiate with resistant rebels. The Lincoln administration feared rebels would cross the river and operate as guerrillas, causing turmoil in south Texas. Eight days after sending the letter, Wallace was ordered "to inspect the conditions of military affairs" in the Rio Grande valley.

Wallace was appalled at the volume of materiel moving out of Matamoros into rebel hands in south Texas. He reported to Grant that the city was, in effect, a rebel port with up to 150 ships discharging and receiving cargoes of rifles, musket barrels, powder kegs, pistols, percussion caps, fruit and clothing.

Wallace negotiated with rebel General James Slaughter and Colonel John Ford in March 1865, who agreed to pacification terms. But General John Walker, then military commander of Texas, scathingly rejected the terms. Wallace blamed Walker's rejection on the general's lucrative

cotton smuggling business. Wallace then met with Republican General Jose Maria Carvajal, who had spent years in the U.S., was fluent in English and a graduate of Bethany College in West Virginia. Carvajal ensured Wallace that the Juarez government would oppose any movement of rebels into Mexico. Carvajal also was authorized to buy arms for Juarez's army. Emboldened and encouraged, Wallace traveled with Carvajal to Washington, D.C., to lobby for support and supplies. By the time the two arrived in the capital in late April, Lee had surrendered, Lincoln had been assassinated and rebel forces were surrendering here and there. Also, Wallace was appointed to preside over the trials of the Lincoln assassination conspirators, but he continued to lobby behind the scenes for Mexican interests. Plus, Grant did not entirely trust Wallace. Grant, instead, entrusted the Texas operation to John Schofield and Philip Sheridan.

In the days after Appomattox, Union and Confederate forces on the Rio Grande around Brownsville had been observing an unofficial truce. Union Colonel Theodore Barrett attacked a Confederate camp near Fort Brown on May 12, 1865, allegedly because he wanted to see some action before the war ended. The following day he was repulsed near Palmito Ranch by Colonel John Ford. Casualties were minuscule. But the last battle of the war claimed the life of Private John J. Williams of the 34th Indiana Regiment, the last man killed in combat in the Civil War.

Meanwhile, the French and their imperial allies scored several victories in 1864, but the Republicans rallied in 1865. The sale of up to \$18 million of Mexican bonds in the U.S. financed the acquisition of an enormous cache of weaponry. As U.S. support for Juarez grew, arranged by Wallace and overseen by Sheridan, Napoleon announced the withdrawal of French troops, beginning May 31, 1866. As Republican forces rolled up victories, the French evacuated Mexico City on February 5, 1867. Maximilian sought to escape through enemy lines but was caught on May 15 and executed (Edouard Manet painted the scene) on June 19 with two of his generals on a hill outside Queretaro, just north of Mexico City.

The toll on the Mexican Republican side defies belief: almost 32,000 killed, an estimated 11,000 executed, 8,300 wounded and more than 33,000 captured.



