

My Fellow Roundtable Members: Our next meeting is on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 7 pm at La Navona, 154 North Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230. Our speaker is Wade Sokolosky, and his topic is called "To Prepare for Sherman's Coming, the Battle of Wise's Forks." Wade, a native of Beaufort, North Carolina, is a graduate of East Carolina University and a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army, from which he retired as a Colonel. He is one of North Carolina's leading experts of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign. He is the co-author (with Mark A. Smith) of *"No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar": Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averagesboro*, and the author of *"Final Roll Call: Confederate Losses during the Carolinas Campaign."* Wade's most recent book, co-authored with Mark Smith is *"To Prepare for Sherman's Coming": The Battle of Wise's Forks, March 1865*, erases the misconception that the four-day battle was little more than an insignificant skirmish and elevates this combat action and its related operations to the historical status it deserves. Wade is the recipient of the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's 2017 T. Harry Gatton Award for his efforts to study, preserve and share the Civil War heritage of his native North Carolina.

Wade describes his talk as follows: History has relegated the Battle of Wise's (Wyse) Forks, March 7–11, to little more than an insignificant skirmish during the final days of the Civil War. Indeed, most histories mention it not at all. Wade Sokolosky's and Mark A. Smith's *"To Prepare for Sherman's Coming": The Battle of Wise's Forks, March 1865* erases the misconception that the four-day battle was little more than an insignificant skirmish and elevates this combat action and its related operations to the historical status it deserves. By March 1865, the Confederacy was on its last legs. Its armies were depleted, food and resources were scarce, and morale was low. Gen. Robert E. Lee was barely holding on to his extended lines around Richmond and Petersburg, and Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman was operating with nearly complete freedom in North Carolina on his way north to form a junction with Union forces in Virginia. The fighting that is the subject of this talk came about when Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant initiated a broad military operation to assist Sherman.

I have attached Tom Ayres' Secretary's Report for the September meeting. As I told you last month, Tom needed to get some information back from Greg Biggs in order to finish it. Tom was unable to attend the October meeting, so I will provide my own Secretary's Report: it was great!!! Steve Ball and his lovely spouse entertained (and involved) the Roundtable attendees with Civil War music on vintage instruments. Several of our member thought that the presentation was an ideal way to present an overview of Civil War history. If you ever get a chance to see the Balls perform, do NOT pass up the opportunity.

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

Treasurer's Report for October 2017

*Beginning checking account statement balance 10/1/2017 = \$2756.93*

*October receipts = \$24.00 from Ed Chapdelaine for aluminum can sales*

*October expenses = \$100.00 to Steve Ball for speaker fee*

*Ending checking account statement balance 10/31/2017 = \$2680.93*

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.

This month is the end of 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 thirteen of the 25 tickets. Tickets are \$20. I am going to hold the drawing for the print at this month's meeting, this is your last chance to get into the raffle. 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.

I have attached an updated announcement of the Dedication Ceremony for the Memorial Marker to Major Jonathan Letterman.

As a reminder, there is an event in the Cleveland area:

**SAVE THE DATE**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual**

# **GARFIELD SYMPOSIUM**

**Hosted by the James A. Garfield Civil War Round Table  
discussing**

## **THE GARFIELDS OF NORTHEAST OHIO**

**Saturday, November 4, 2017 – 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Cuyahoga County Public Library – Chagrin Falls Branch**

**Please RSVP to [JamesAGarfieldCWRT@gmail.com](mailto:JamesAGarfieldCWRT@gmail.com)**

**by October 27, 2017. Registration is required.**

**Admission to the Symposium is Free.**

**There is a charge for lunch.**

If you have questions, please contact Andrew Mizesak at (440) 550-9620 or :  
[AndrewMizesak@gmail.com](mailto:AndrewMizesak@gmail.com)

James G. Ryan  
*President. COCWRT*



