

My Fellow Roundtable Members: Our next meeting is on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 7 pm at La Navona, 154 North Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230. Our speaker will be Harry Smeltzer. Harry maintains the website *Bull Runnings*, <https://bullrunnings.wordpress.com> which he founded in November Of 2006. Harry's topic will be "The Future of Civil War History." Harry will discuss the current Civil War history environment and where it is headed. We'll discuss trends in academic, public, and "amateur" history delivery systems, the impact of document availability, and what our roles are, may, should, and can be. While there are elements of presentation, this is most importantly **a discussion**. Come ready to contribute. Please see our website <https://centralohiocwrt.wordpress.com> for more information on Mr. Smeltzer.

I have attached Tom Ayres' Report of Mike Block's presentation at our June meeting.

Here is our Treasurer's Report from Dave Delisio:

Treasurer's Report for August 2018

Beginning checking account balance 8/1/2018 = \$2512.93

August receipts = \$161.00 (\$25.00 from dues; \$126.00 from book raffle; \$10.00 from Ed Chapdelaine from aluminum can recycle)

August expenses = \$260.00 ( \$100.00 to Michael Block for speaker fee; \$260.00 to Mike Peters for speaker travel expenses)

Ending checking account balance 8/31/2018 = \$2313.93

If you want to read a very interesting story which will warm your heart, please click on the following link that Mike Peters sent to me:

[https://www.cleveland.com/expo/news/erry-2018/08/bf921487c45504/ohio-civil-war-infantry-leaves.html#incart\\_m-rpt-2](https://www.cleveland.com/expo/news/erry-2018/08/bf921487c45504/ohio-civil-war-infantry-leaves.html#incart_m-rpt-2)

Speaking of Cleveland, I received the following “Save the Date” email earlier this month:

# The James A. Garfield Civil War Round Table

requests that you SAVE THE DATE:

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2018**

for the

**5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GARFIELD SYMPOSIUM**

**“THE GARFIELD WOMEN”**

To be held at the Orange Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public  
Library.

Registration encouraged, but not required.

Free and open to the public.

Additional fee for the catered lunch

Finally, I want to remind everyone about the great conference scheduled for Fremont, Ohio at the Hayes Library on October 13, 2018, which includes our own Eric Wittenberg as one of the five outstanding speakers. If you have never been to the Hayes home, library and museum, they are worthy on their own of a trip north; with this outstanding panel of speakers, there is almost no reason not to go.

I look forward to seeing everyone on September 12.

Jamie Ryan

President COCWRT

### Battle at Cedar Mountain

At 814 feet above sea level, Cedar Mountain, seven miles south of Gordonsville, in the rolling Piedmont terrain of northern Virginia, is hardly a mountain.

But standing largely by itself in the gently undulating topography of Culpeper County, the “mountain,” also known as Slaughter’s Mountain, is a distinctive feature of the landscape.

In fact, Cedar Mountain is a “monadnock,” which, roughly translated, means “mountain that stands alone.” That it does.

Atop Cedar Mountain on August 9, 1862, a viewer would have had a ringside seat to a bloody little fight between two familiar opponents, Stonewall Jackson and Nathaniel Banks, also known among Confederate wits as “Commissary” Banks for all the supplies and provisions Jackson’s rebels had stolen from Banks.

Describing this battle at the September meeting was Michael Block, a retired career Air Force officer who is intimately familiar with this fight, having lectured and written about and guided many tours of Cedar Mountain. In fact, his book about the battle, titled *The Carnage was Fearful*, is due out this fall.

Block is emphatic that Cedar Mountain was a continuation of George McClellan’s Peninsula Campaign. Despite a crushing victory over Robert E. Lee at Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862, McClellan chose to gather his vast army at Harrison Landing on the James River south of Richmond rather than advance on the Confederate capital.

With McClellan still within striking distance of Richmond, Lee had to stay near McClellan. But Lee wanted to shift the action away from Richmond into northern Virginia. Major General John Pope, fresh off Union victories on the Mississippi River, had been installed as commander of the Army of Virginia on June 26. Lee sent Stonewall Jackson and the 14,000 men of his Army of the Valley to Gordonsville on July 13, to be joined by General A.P. Hill and his 10,000 men on July 27.

Facing due north from Cedar Mountain, the federals formed on the right or east, rebels on the left or west. Uncharacteristically, the rebels, at full strength of almost 17,000, vastly outnumbered their foes, at about 8,000. Banks's army held excellent high ground. But having suffered humiliation repeatedly

at the hands of Jackson, Banks was itching for a fight, and revenge. So, throwing caution to the wind, the federals attacked. They overwhelmed the Confederates, at least initially.

The rebels were in disarray and largely ignorant of Jackson's plans for the battle. At about 5 p.m. as an artillery duel slowed, Confederate General Charles Winder, already ill and transported to the field in an ambulance wagon, was struck by a shell fragment that tore his left arm and side to pieces. He died a few hours later. Command on the rebel right passed to William Taliaferro, who was totally clueless about Jackson's plan.

Thomas Garnett's Virginia brigade on the left was almost in the woods isolated from the main line. Brigades commanded by Samuel Crawford and George Gordon tore into Garnett, mauling the 1st, 42nd, 48th and 21st Virginia units. On the Union left John Geary and Henry Prince (later captured) under Christopher Augur slammed into Jubal Early and Taliaferro. This charge threatened to break the rebel line, but Early rushed to rally his line. Raking artillery fire helped turn back the Union attackers.

On the Union right the Stonewall brigade was swept aside by Crawford's troops. In one of the war's memorable moments Jackson himself galloped up to rally his brigade. Unable to draw his sword from its rusted scabbard, he tore off the entire weapon and waved it in the air. He then grabbed a battle flag from a retreating color bearer and waved it, too. Unsupported federals continued to charge and rout their foes. But A.P. Hill's troops arrived, filling in gaps. Eventually, overwhelming numbers sent Union soldiers flying in full retreat by 8 p.m. With word that Union reinforcements were on the way, Jackson called off the pursuit by 10 p.m.

Despite being vastly outnumbered, the federals would likely have prevailed with a coordinated attack, according to Block. As it were, their assaults were piecemeal.

Union casualties were high, given their strength: 314 killed, 1,445 wounded, 594 missing. Crawford's brigade had lost more than 50%, including most of its officers. Prince and Geary suffered 30-40% casualty rates. Confederate losses were 231 killed and 1,107 wounded.

Block stated at the beginning of his presentation that he was more interested in highlighting various combatants and others involved in the battle than a detailed description of troop movements and clashes.

Lt. William P. Warren of the 28th New York was wounded five times but survived and lived until 1902.

Lawrence O'Bryan Branch, a North Carolinian, helped save the day for Jackson by stopping the 10th Maine under Crawford. Branch would play a similar role at Antietam, helping save Lee's right flank. But a Union sharpshooter spotted him conversing with fellow generals and fired a shot that hit him in the right cheek, killing him instantly.

Cedar Mountain was the first battlefield visited by Clara Barton, who later founded the American Red Cross.

Photographer Timothy O'Sullivan took his first battlefield photos at Cedar Mountain. He would go on to document in film the battles of Gettysburg, Petersburg, Fort Fisher and Appomattox.

