

My Fellow Roundtable Members: This is a reminder that our meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 7 pm will be at our normal meeting site at **La Navona**, 154 North Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio. Our speaker is Patrick Schroeder, who the National Park Service Historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Patrick's topic is "**The Battles of Appomattox: The Final Fury and the Last to Die**" that focuses on the April 8, 1865, Battle of Appomattox Station and the April 9, 1865, Battle of Appomattox Court House. Patrick will show us nearly 100 maps and photos, and will provide details on the final casualties that occurred before the cease fire and surrender.

Please see our website www.centralohiocwrt.wordpress.com for more details about our speaker and his topic.

Dave Delisio submitted the following treasurer's report for September:

Treasurer's Report for September 2019

Beginning checking account balance 9/1/2019 = \$1,504.93

September receipts = \$247.00 (\$162 from meeting book raffle; \$85.00 from dues)

September expenses = \$255.00 (\$200.00 donation to McCormick Civil War Institute Projects at Shenandoah University in lieu of speaker fee; \$55.00 to Mike Peters for speaker dinner expenses)

Ending checking account balance 9/30/2019 = \$1,496.93

I have also attached Tom Ayres report on our September meeting, in which Phil Spaugy provided us a detailed description of the actions of the color guard of the 19th Indiana Infantry on July 1, 1863 west of Gettysburg.

I look forward to seeing you on October 9 at **La Navona**.

Jamie Ryan

President COCWRT

The Color Guard and Bearers of the 19th Indiana

Regiment at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863

**“Boys, we must hold our colors on this line,
Or lie here under them.”**

Colonel Samuel Williams, commanding officer, 19th Indiana regiment

When the 19th Indiana infantry arrived at McPherson’s Ridge west of Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg on the morning of July 1, 1863, it was well versed in arts, and horrors, of war. Mustered into service on July 29, 1861, the 19th Indiana saw action from the minor battle of Lewinsville in northern Virginia on September 11, 1861, through Robert E. Lee’s surrender at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

Prior to Gettysburg, the 19th had fought in heavy action at Brawner’s Farm against the Stonewall Brigade before the main battle of Second Manassas, where it helped cover John Pope’s retreat, attacked Turner’s Gap at South Mountain and fought against John Bell Hood’s Texas brigade in D.R. Miller’s cornfield at Antietam.

The 19th was part of the First Brigade, First Division of John F. Reynolds’ First Corps, among the first infantry units to reach the western outskirts of Gettysburg and confront Robert E. Lee’s main force advancing eastward on the Cashtown Road.

Reynolds was a highly respected career Army major general from nearby Lancaster, Pennsylvania. During the Seven Days battle outside Richmond, Reynolds brigade held its line against rebel attacks at Beaver Dam Creek on June 26, 1862. The following day at Gaines Mill, Reynolds, who had not slept for two days, took a nap, thinking his position was safe. It wasn’t, and his troops left him behind as they retreated. Captured by his old friend Confederate commander D.H. Hill, Reynolds was mortified by his lapse. But he was treated with respect and sent to Libby Prison in Richmond, where he was soon exchanged.

Early on the first day’s action at Gettysburg, Reynolds was not so lucky. As Reynolds was supervising the placement of the 2nd Wisconsin regiment, with the 19th Indiana, part of what was then known as the Iron Brigade under Brigadier General Solomon Meredith, he was shot in the neck and died almost immediately.

Reynolds’ death presaged some very hard fighting for the first Union soldiers to arrive at Gettysburg and assist cavalry commander John Buford’s men in

trying to hold their ground against what became overwhelming numbers of rebels from the west and north.

Phil Spaugy, who spoke to the Roundtable in September, picked up the story of the 19th Indiana anchoring the Union left flank at Willoughby Run. Spaugy of Vandalia, Ohio, is vice president and co-owner of Aviation Sales, Inc. He has a long record of Civil War research, re-enactment and restoration. In fact, he raised funds to restore the deteriorated statue of Solomon Meredith at Riverside Cemetery in Cambridge City, Indiana.

At around 10 a.m. Tennessee and Alabama troops under Brigadier General John J. Archer had crossed the open field from Herr Ridge and emerged from the tangled undergrowth lining Willoughby Run. Archer or someone in his brigade is said to have exclaimed when they caught sight of elements of the Iron Brigade wearing their familiar Hardee hats, “There are them damned black hat fellows again. Tain’t no militia. It’s the Army of the Potomac.”

When Archer’s men emerged from the run, the 2nd Wisconsin and, to their left, the 24th Michigan and 19th Indiana held their fire until Archer was totally exposed. The black hats delivered a galling fire, causing Archer to fall back across the run. The Michigan and Indiana regiments crushed Archer’s right. When the 13th Alabama fled, the Michiganders got into the rear of the Tennessee boys, capturing some 200 of them, including Archer, the highest ranking Confederate general officer captured at that point in the war.

A lull prevailed until about 2:30 p.m. Major General Henry Heth, battered south of Cashtown Road, was determined to reverse the morning’s action. And fresh troops were arriving in numbers to enable him to do this.

Meredith had the good sense to bring his brigade back and concentrate them in Herbst Woods — from left to right: 19th Indiana, 24th Michigan, 7th Wisconsin, with the 2nd Wisconsin, which had taken the brunt of the morning action, in the rear.

The 26th North Carolina brigade under 21-year-old Henry K. Burgwyn moved out from the run. Lying in wait was the 24th Michigan, which held its fire before delivering a killing barrage. A succession of Confederate color bearers was wounded or killed, in quick order. In a mere 10 minutes of furious action, according to some reports, 10 color bearers went down, including Burgwyn himself, who took a bullet to the chest, when he raised the flag. Despite its concentrated fire, the 24th was overwhelmed by numbers and retreated to its third line on Seminary Ridge. The action between the Michigan and North Carolina units is considered the bloodiest regimental engagement of the war. Of the 843 Carolinians, casualties totaled 687, including its colonel, as noted, and lieutenant colonel. Worse, what was left of the 26th took part in the Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble charge on July 3. The 24th suffered 363 casualties, out of 496. They were posted to Culps Hill thereafter.

Meanwhile, on the left the 19th Indiana was under heavy assault. When the 24th Michigan gave way, the Hoosiers had to do so, as well. Consolidated on Seminary Ridge they repelled two rebel attacks.

As Spaugh pointed out, the 19th’s action was portrayed by famed artist Don Troiani. The 19th carried a blue regimental flag given to them by women of Indianapolis and a national flag. Sergeant Burlington Cunningham, already wounded, was hit a second time when he carried the national flag. When Corporal Abe Buckles went down, Lieutenant Colonel William Dudley snatched the national flag and was shot in the leg, which was later amputated. Sergeant Major Asa Blanchard upbraided the colonel, saying it was his duty to carry the flag. At this time eight color bearers were casualties as were half the regiment.

Corporal David Phipps, bearing the Indiana banner, beat Blanchard to the national flag, hoisted it and was wounded, falling on both flags. An enlisted man defied Captain William W. Macy’s command to retrieve the flags.

Macy was joined by Lieutenant Crockett East and Color Corporal Burr Clifford in rolling Phipps off the flags. East was shot and killed as he furled the flag and shoved it into its case, known as a shuck. An angry Blanchard demanded the flags as Macy and Clifford got both flags in their cases. Macy refused, but Blanchard appealed to Colonel Williams, who ordered Macy to give the flags to Blanchard. Blanchard unfurled the national flag, shouting, "Rally boys," as he waved the banner. A shot severed an artery in his leg and, he bled to death on the spot. Clifford scooped up both banners and ran for town.

All told, the Iron Brigade marched into Gettysburg with 1,883 men. By dusk on July 1, only 671 were still on their feet.

As Rufus Dawes, commander of the 6th Wisconsin, would write, "Where has the firmness of the Iron Brigade at Gettysburg been surpassed in history?"

The gray Vermont Barre granite monument, standing nine feet, six inches high, to the 19th Indiana near Willoughby Run was dedicated on October 28, 1885. Its front side bears a red granite circle surrounded by laurel, the symbol of First Corps, First Division.

Colonel Samuel J. Williams, a farmer from Selma, Indiana, who commanded the 19th Indiana at Gettysburg, survived the great battle but was slain at the Wilderness in Virginia on May 6, 1864.