

March, 2005

422nd Meeting

Vol. 26 #7

*Tonight's
Program:*



Myths of Shiloh

After the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson, Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston chose to fall back upon Corinth, Mississippi. General Ulysses S. Grant followed with 40,000 troops, disembarking his troops at Pittsburgh Landing, Tennessee near a small church known as Shiloh. On April 6, 1862, Johnston attacked Grant, surprising him. The federals were pushed back toward the river, suffering many casualties and causing many stragglers to hug the cliff along the river. Perhaps only Johnston's death prevented a Union defeat. On the evening of April 6, Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio reinforced Grant. The next day, Grant advanced and pushed the Confederates all the way back to Corinth. Although it was a victory, the number of casualties, approximately 14,000 Union and 10,000 Confederate, shocked the nation. Severe fighting was said to have occurred on the first day at the Hornet's Nest, where the Union suffered a large number of casualties.

Tonight we will learn about the battle in a new way. Tim Smith will discuss and debunk what he considers to be misconceptions about the battle, disproving the **Myths of Shiloh**.

Tonight's Speaker:

Dr. Timothy Smith

Tim Smith holds a Ph.D in history from Mississippi State University and is a historian at the Shiloh National Military Park. He is the author of *This Great Battlefield of Shiloh: History, Memory, and the Establishment of a Civil War National Military Park* and *Champion Hill, Decisive Battle for Vicksburg*. More important than his many accomplishments, Tim was our guide for the Round Table's 2003 field trip to Shiloh. He is an excellent and knowledgeable guide.

**Date: Wednesday,
March 9, 2005**

**Place: The Cleveland
Playhouse Club
8501 Carnegie Ave.**

**Time: Drinks 6 PM
Dinner 7 PM**

**Reservations: Please Call
JAC Communications
(216) 861-5588**

**Meal choice: Roasted Park Loin
or Vegetarian Pasta**

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDED 1957

President: **Mel Maurer** (440) 808-1249
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1998 John Moore	1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh
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1982 John Harkness	1958 George Farr, Jr.
1981 Thomas Geschke	1957 Kenneth Grant

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH, 2005

Last month, we road with **General Jackson** in the valley as **Bob Boyda** turned our meeting room into the Shenandoah Valley and told us of Stonewall's remarkable, significant, and very exciting **Valley Campaign**. Our thanks to Bob and to all those town sign holders who helped Bob geographically. It was also fun to celebrate with cake and candles the 185th birthday of **Ole "Cump" Sherman** with **Chris "Sherman" Evans**, there to hear us sing.

Our speaker this month, **Tim Smith**, was our guide on our field trip to Shiloh in 2003. He is a bright young man, a distinguished park ranger at Shiloh, and a noted author. He knows all there is to know about the **Battle of Shiloh** – the real story. It is one he will be sharing with us. Tim, a true southerner, has never seen snow so we are planning to have a little that day – maybe just enough to take him sled riding.

Our raffle will feature Tim's latest book, **"Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg,"** among other books and unique items, including a wine that will honor **U.S. Grant**. (Maybe bourbon would be a better way to honor Grant.) We appreciate your continuing support of the raffle and the fun we have with it. Tickets will also be available for the **Lincoln Bicentennial Poster**.

Dick Crews and I attend **The Lincoln Forum** each November in Gettysburg. This three day symposium attracts excellent Lincoln speakers. It is covered by **C-SPAN** every other year and then broadcast later in the year – usually over the holidays. I have copies of the broadcasts for 2002 and 2004 should anyone be interested in seeing them. I also expect to have a copy of the **Harold Holzer/Sam Waterson** program – **"Lincoln Seen and Heard"** – which they performed at the White House in February. Dick and I saw it in Gettysburg and it is well worth seeing.

One talk at last year's Forum was by **Richard Norton Smith**. He is the director of the **Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** in Springfield. The library opened last year and the museum will open in April. The museum will be "state of the art" and will stress interactivity in its various exhibits. Let me know if you would be interested in a weekend trip there for our members.

See you on March 9th...

Mel Maurer

**CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
2004/2005 SCHEDULE**

September 8, 2004



Lincoln and Douglas

**Voices of the
Civil War:
D o u g -
las, Lincoln,
and Echoes on
the Prairie**

George Buss

October 13, 2004

**Henry
W.
Halleck**



John Marszalek

November 10, 2004

**Winfield Scott
Hancock**



**Dan
Zeiser**

December 8, 2004



**Ghosts of
Gettysburg**

**Neil
Glazer**

January 12, 2005

The Great Debate

Which is the best book, fiction or non-fiction, on the Civil War?

Moderator: William Vodrey

February 9, 2005

**Stonewall
Jackson in the
Valley
Bob Boyda**



March 9, 2005

**Myths of
Shiloh**

**Tim Smith
Shiloh National Park Historian**



April 13, 2005

**Abraham
Lincoln
Portrayed by
Jim Getty**



May 11, 2005

**Patrick
Schroeder
As George Peers**



Recollections of Appomattox

SILENT WITNESSES TO THE CIVIL WAR

Rockport Pioneer Cemetery

Second in a series of articles on cemeteries in Cleveland's western suburbs

Written by Dale Thomas © 2005

Rockport Pioneer Cemetery is located on a small, tree shaded hill in Fairview Park, Ohio. Earliest burials predate the establishment of Rockport Township in 1814. Four of the interments fought in the American Revolution. Although traffic passes below on Lorain Road, the cemetery still retains some of the original rural environment on its south edge that overlooks the valley of Rocky River Metropolitan Park. Thirty-eight tombstones are inscribed with the names of those who served in the Civil War. Three victims of the war are at rest beneath the cemetery's sod. Two stones in particular bear witness to the horrors of the war, but the remains of Nathan W. Hawkins and Ansel Jordan are buried in the prison cemetery at Andersonville, Georgia.

Nathan W. Hawkins came from a family of abolitionists. A mile west of the cemetery on Lorain Road, the Hawkins farm was a station for the Underground Railroad between Oberlin and Canada. In 1853, he married Lucy Romp in her father's tavern and inn at the top of Cedar Point Hill on Columbia Road, now in the city of North Olmsted. After the war started, James Hawkins, a brother, refused to enlist, but Nathan believed someone from his family should defend the Union. Even though he had three young daughters at home, the thirty-year-old Hawkins traveled to Camp Cleveland on August 12, 1862 and enlisted in the 103rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Township neighbors Ansel Jordan, Albert Durham, and Jacob Gessner joined Hawkins during the next week in G Company. Allen Jordan, Ansel's cousin, John Andrews, James Welch, and William Romp, Hawkins' brother-in-law, were assigned to other companies in the regiment.

The regiment was still under state control when it marched to Cleveland's Union Depot and boarded a train for Cincinnati. Mustering into Federal service took place when an officer from the regular army administered an oath of allegiance on September 16, 1862. Two days later, the 103rd OVI pursued a rebel force to Lexington, Kentucky. One of the regiment's first casualties, John Anderson, died of disease at the age of twenty years in Lexington General Hospital. His body was brought home and buried in the township cemetery.

The 103rd Regiment took part in a number of skirmishes as General Burnside's army fought its way toward Knoxville. After a battle in October of 1863, Hawkins wrote a letter to his wife that probably gave her nightmarish dreams:

Dale Thomas is the historian for the Cleveland Civil War Round Table.

The most horrible sight was one of our men wounded in the neck. He was walking to the rear and the blood was running down in front of him. He was covered all over in blood of his own. These things seem horrible to you, and it is but soldiers think nothing of it.

A month later, Hawkins was almost fatalistic when writing his wife about the experience of being in combat:

You no doubt would like to know how Nate felt...just as cool as he does. No not the least bit nervous but I have to wink...when the shells began to burst. They make the most unearthly noise you ever heard... The worst of all is to see the dead and wounded to hear their cries and groans. God deliver me..

In the middle of January, 1864, Union forces were ordered to withdraw from Dandridge, Tennessee, but Hawkins, now a corporal, acting without approval, stayed behind to help Ansel Jordan and Adam Miller, who were in poor health. They were captured on January 18 and taken to the prison at Andersonville where all three perished from disease: Hawkins died of typhoid fever on May 7, 1864; Adam Miller on July 5, 1864; and Jordan on September 19, 1864. Although knowing he was a prisoner, Lucy Hawkins did not hear news of her husband's death until after the war. Since Hawkins and Jordan were among 13,000 prisoners buried in mass graves, their families could only place stone markers to memorialize them: "DIED AT ANDERSONVILLE."

John W. Spencer grew up in a house that was a station for the Underground Railroad. (The old homestead still survives today at 4572 West 220 Street in Fairview Park.) On February 1, 1862 at Camp Dennison (Cincinnati), Pvt. Spencer and Pvt. Hoxie K. Landphair were mustered into Federal service in the 15th Independent Battery, Ohio Light Artillery. The men boarded a riverboat at Cincinnati and, while on route to Kansas, stopped at Louisville. Taken ill, Landphair went to a hospital in the city and died at the age of nineteen on April 3, 1862. While his body was being transported home for burial, the 15th Battery had a change in orders, going instead to Mississippi. Spencer took part in the sieges at Corinth, Vicksburg, and Atlanta, then Sherman's march to the sea and the capture of Columbia, South Carolina. He was discharged in June of 1865 and survived Landphair by 57 years. In late summer of 1919, Spencer was buried near his old comrade.

John Bassett was born on his parent's farm near Puritas Springs and Grayton Road, now a part of Cleveland. When the war came, Bassett expected as others had that it would be over in

less than a year. Then reality set in and he volunteered in September of 1862 at Camp Cleveland for the 19th Independent Battery, Ohio Light Artillery. Shield's Battery, as it was also called, pursued Morgan in May of 1863 from Kentucky into Ohio. Afterwards the unit fought in Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina. However, John Basset did not survive the war and his remains were laid to rest in the township cemetery.

At Camp Cleveland in August of 1862, James Curran enlisted in the 7th OVI, which was fighting at the time in northern Virginia. He may have joined the regiment by mid-September when it took part in the bloodiest day of the war at Antietam. The following year, the 7th fought in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, then went to New York to quell the draft riots. The regiment moved to the southwestern front and saw action at a number of battles, including Chattanooga and Resaca. During the fighting near Dallas, Georgia on May 25, 1864, Curran was among five wounded from G Company. He was convalescing when the 7th returned to Cleveland for mustering out after three years of service. In late October, Curran was transferred to the 5th OVI then occupying Atlanta. The march to the sea began two weeks later and the siege of Savannah at the end of the year. After campaigning in the Carolinas, the 5th took part in the Grand Review in Washington on May 24, 1865.

Samuel Bates and James Robinson served in the 124th OVI, organized at Camp Cleveland on January 1, 1863. The regiment fought at Chickamauga and Chattanooga besides taking part in the same campaigns as the 103rd OVI starting in Dandridge, Tennessee. Charles C. Dean joined the 92nd OVI in the late summer of 1862. The regiment from southern Ohio took part in many of the same battles as the 124th OVI. Enlisting in December of 1863, William McDowell was a drummer in the 128th OVI guarding prisoners on Johnson's Island.

In October of 1861, Jacob Burkemer, a bugler, mustered into E Company of the 54th OVI at Camp Denison. His regiment saw action at Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Resaca, Kenesaw, Atlanta, and in Sherman's march to the sea. John Rush was a private in D Company of the 129th OVI, organized at Camp Cleveland in August of 1863. The regiment took part in the capture and occupation of Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. Albert G. Bentley fought with the 23rd OVI in western Virginia, including Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley Campaign. He was taken prisoner on May 9, 1864, but survived the war.

Great grandson of a Revolutionary soldier, Addison J. Farrand enlisted in June of 1862 for three months in D Company of the 84th OVI. While Addison was in Maryland, Jared Farrand died at the age of one hundred five in Middleburg, Ohio. In May of 1864, Sgt. James A. Potter and Pvt. Philip Phillips were mus-

tered into the 150th OVI (National Guard Regiment) at Camp Cleveland for garrison duty in the forts protecting Washington. After repulsing Jubal Early's attack in July of 1864, the troops were discharged the following month.

Son of a veteran of the War of 1812, George Cronk became a sergeant in Field and Staff of the 2nd Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. Organized at Cleveland's Camp Wade in the autumn of 1861, the regiment saw action in Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas in 1862 before being ordered to Columbus, Ohio at the end of the year. Operations the following year included the pursuit of Morgan's raiders, the capture of Cumberland Gap, and the siege of Knoxville. The 2nd was attached in May of 1864 to the Army of the Potomac and fought in the Wilderness and Cold Harbor in addition to a number of other battles. On April 9, 1865, the troopers from the Western Reserve of Ohio camped just outside of Appomattox Court House, where Lee surrendered on a Palm Sunday to Grant.

A number of veterans in the cemetery served in the regiments of other northern states: Calvin Pease, 26th Illinois Infantry; A.A. Bagley, 13th New York Cavalry; James Harbeson, 53rd New York Infantry; William E. Crabb, 6th New York Cavalry; Henry Patchen, 9th Michigan Infantry, Webster B. Ewing, 2nd Battalion Veterans Reserve Corps; and Manley Green, 6th Veteran Corps. Thomas Crawford was in the 33rd Illinois Infantry and later the U.S. Navy

John W. Spencer, Philip Phillips, Jacob Gessner, and William McDowell became members of the Olmsted GAR Post 634 that first met in the Olmsted Falls Town Hall on April 23, 1887:

Comrades, the time has been set to be mustered into the Grand Army of the Republic. The mustering in officers and escorts will be present from Cleveland. Bring your wife and friends. You are also requested to bring your discharge papers.

Cleveland CWRT Speakers Bureau

Let Mel Maurer know if you would like to be a member of the Round Table's Speakers bureau. We plan to have members of the bureau listed on our web site to be available for talks to other Round Tables and groups. Let him know the titles of the talks you give. For example:

Mel Maurer: President, Cleveland Civil War Round Table; member, the Lincoln Forum; member, Civil War Preservation Trust. Talks: "The Battle of Franklin," "Lincoln at Gettysburg," "Abraham Lincoln – There's Nothing Trivial About Him."

**SLAVERY IN THE U.S.
1790-1860**

1790 - 79% of slaves in the U.S. are held north of the Deep South.

1860 - 59% of slaves in the U.S. held in the Deep South.

1790 - 60% of slaves in the U.S. are held in Maryland and Virginia.

1860 - 18% of slaves in the U.S. are held in Maryland and Virginia.

1790 - 20% of white families in border states own slaves.

1860 - 12% of white families in border states own slaves.

APRIL, 2005



Lincoln and Tad, 1864



Lincoln's last portrait,
April 10, 1865

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
PORTRAYED BY
JIM GETTY