

THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



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Serving the Tri-State area of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana since 1956

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January 16, 2025 Program

Cincinnati's Germans in the Civil War

Presented by

Don Heinrich Tolzmann



We begin 2025 by welcoming back to the podium Don Heinrich Tolzmann. Dr. Tolzmann last spoke to us in 2013 about the *War within a War: The Sioux Uprising of 1862*, an event in Minnesota with fascinating connections to Cincinnati's German community. His talk this time is about Cincinnati's Germans in the Civil War. This presentation will consist of three parts. First, Dr. Tolzmann will review the

historical literature that got him increasingly interested in researching the topic, focusing on works he and others have published (see Dan Reigle's book review on page 2.) Second, he will selectively discuss German regiments and units formed in the area. Lastly, Dr. Tolzmann will review how the service record of these soldiers has been commemorated.



Members of the 28th Ohio
Infantry Regiment

Don Heinrich Tolzmann is Emeritus Curator of the German-American Collection and Director of German-American Studies at the University of Cincinnati. A prolific author, he has written, edited, translated, or composed 370 works in 605 publications, in both German and English, including numerous books on German-American history. Currently, he is President of the German-American Citizens League; Curator of the German Heritage Museum, and Historian for the Covington-Cincinnati Suspension Bridge Committee.

Dan Bauer
Cincinnati CWRT, Program Chair

Book Review

The following review, with some slight modifications, was written in 2011 by the late Dan Reigle for the Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal and for the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table website – ed.

The Cincinnati Germans in the Civil War.

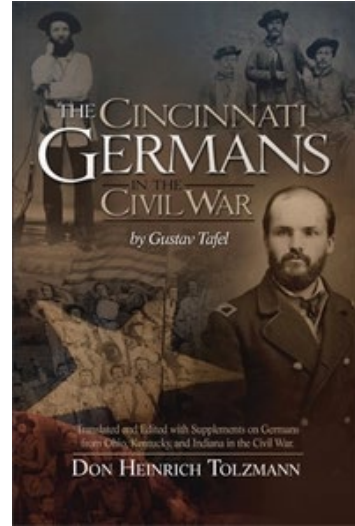
Gustav Tafel. Edited and translated by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. Milford OH: Little Miami Publishing Company, 2010. 198 pages. \$16.95.

The Cincinnati Germans in the Civil War should immediately become an essential book for any research on Germans in Cincinnati in the 19th Century, on Germans in the Civil War, and on Cincinnati in the Civil War. The core of the book is provided by Gustav Tafel, whose close connection to these subjects can be illustrated with the bare facts of his career: born in Munich, immigrated to Cincinnati in 1847, employee at the *Cincinnati Gazette*, reporter for the *Cincinnati Volksblatt*, one of the founders of the Cincinnati Turnverein, attorney admitted to the bar in 1858, lieutenant in the all-German 9th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, recruiter and commander of the all-German 106th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, elected to the Ohio State Legislature, mayor of Cincinnati, and important author of German history (e.g., introduction to the regimental history of the 9th OVI, 1881 *Der Deutsche Pionier* article on the future of German immigrants and descendants in America).

This book includes the first translation of Tafel's history of "Cincinnati Germans in the Civil War," originally published in 1901 as part of a larger, German language history of Germans in Cincinnati, and never before translated into English. The same history provided a biographical sketch of Tafel, also translated by Professor Tolzmann and included in this new book.

Tafel's history, the translation of which takes forty pages, comes from a clear point of view: "It

was generally accepted that the weight of the German vote had tipped the scales in favor of



Lincoln, making his election possible. It was also recognized by every unprejudiced citizen that it was the willingness of German-Americans to support the Union cause that played such a decisive role in the lengthy and extremely bloody Civil War, making the final victory possible." In

his article, Tafel summarized the activities of the 9th, 28th, 106th, 108th, 47th, and 165th OVI, all primarily German regiments; other Cincinnati regiments that included significant numbers of Germans (5th, 6th, 10th, 39th, 54th, and 83rd); non-Ohio regiments with Germans from Ohio (32nd Indiana, 1st Kentucky, 2nd Kentucky, and 7th Missouri); Louis Hoffman's 4th Ohio Independent Battery of Light Artillery; and the 4th and 5th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry regiments, both with "many Germans." Some of the information included is not widely known today, such as the important background that Louis Hoffman's service under Franz Sigel during the 1848 revolution in Baden was critical to Hoffman's recruiting of the battery in Cincinnati in August 1861 that went immediately to Missouri to serve under Sigel.

In addition to translating Tafel's work, Professor Tolzmann has provided supplemental information on many units and subjects: Lincoln and the Cincinnati Germans, Medal of Honor recipient Hubert Dilger's Battery I of 1st Ohio Light Artillery, Markgraf's 8th Independent Battery, the Cincinnati Turnverein and its connections to the Sioux uprising in New Ulm MN in 1862, a chronology of key events in Civil War remembrances, Cincinnati German soldiers of note (Kaemmerling, Kautz, Willich, Alms, Doepke, Hickenlooper, and others), Ohio

German units from other areas of the state (7th, 37th, 107th, 58th and 74th OVI, 20th Independent Battery, 3rd OVC), Papa Willich's famous 32nd Indiana, museums, sites, Memorial Days, and Memorial Halls. His essential endnotes amplify information on people (e.g., Judge Johann Stallo) and events (e.g., Lincoln's visit to Cincinnati enroute to his inauguration), as well as providing references to additional sources, many not often cited in Civil War literature. The text is complemented by unique photographs of Tafel and his war memorabilia provided by the Tafel Family Association, as well as many photographs by the editor of relevant Cincinnati and Hamilton sites.

Daniel H. Reigle

*Thanks to Dave Stockdale
for remembering this book review*

In Memoriam

Kevin Richards Preece 1954 - 2024

We are sad to report the passing of a former Cincinnati Civil War Round Table member. Kevin Richards Preece served as secretary of the organization 1988-1989, as treasurer 1989-1991 and president 1991-1992. He had not been a member of our Round Table for a while.



Here is a copy of his obituary:

Kevin Richards Preece, 70, of Edgewood, KY, passed away on Friday, May 31, 2024. He was born on February 13, 1954 in Athol, MA. He was the son of the late Elizabeth Jane (Richards) Vorce. Kevin was raised in Orange, MA and graduated from Mahar Regional High School.

Kevin never met a stranger. He was an extremely hard worker and owner/operator of Preece Property Management, which was a successful

business for 25 years. He was very interested in American Civil War history and president of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table for several years. Kevin was a die-hard Boston Red Sox, New England Patriots and Boston Celtics fan. He enjoyed playing baseball as a catcher and coached/umpired Little League baseball in Northern Kentucky. Kevin enjoyed listening to all genres of music and attending concerts.

He is survived by his son, Matthew Preece of Edgewood, KY, and daughter, Marideth (Terry) Kingsley of Independence, KY; two grandchildren, Colin Kingsley and Emma Kingsley; four brothers, Michael (Jeannette) Preece, Colin (Annette) Preece, Shawn (Joye) Preece and Daniel (Joanie) Preece; two sisters, Mary Preece and Claire (Don) Barrie and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by six of his siblings. Sympathy may be expressed by a memorial contribution to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Books, books, books...



The Cincinnati Civil War Round Table learned of Kevin Preece's death when his daughter contacted us to ask if we wanted any of his Civil War books. We collected 8 boxes of books.

Now we have lots and lots and lots of Civil War books we use as prizes for our monthly raffle. Perhaps too many – especially since we have to transport them to and from each meeting. We are considering a means to allow more of our members to "win" books, as well as raise a little more money for our Preservation Projects fund. More later.

President's Letter

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas/New Year break, and now we can look forward to the remainder of our 2024-25 program.

Previously, I mentioned that we have an opportunity to receive the *Civil War Monitor*, a very fine publication, as well as benefit our organization. The Round Table will receive \$3.00 for every member who subscribes via the publication's website (www.civilwarmonitor.com/subscribe) using the code CINCWRT. I'm a subscriber, and I have enjoyed reading its articles. Subscribers also receive the *Civil War Monitor Gazette*, an electronic newsletter that comes out several times per month, and this also contains useful and interesting articles. Please consider this opportunity.

I came across an interesting article concerning Civil War mortality in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, a peer-reviewed journal of the National Academy of Sciences. Although there is no certainty regarding the precise number of lives lost in the Civil War, in large part because of the incompleteness of the Confederate Army's surviving records, the generally accepted estimate for the past century has been 618,222 deaths. This figure came from *Numbers and Losses in the Civil War in America* by T. L. Livermore, which was published in 1900. Livermore fought in the war and was Colonel of the 5th New Hampshire Infantry Regiment when the conflict ended. He obtained his figure by applying Union Army mortality rates to a rough count of the total number of Confederate soldiers. The authors of the *PNAS* article (Joan Barcelo, Jeffrey Jensen, Leonid Peisakhin & Haoyu Zhai) used a different methodology and produced an estimate of 698,000 deaths, an increase of 79,778 or approximately 13% greater than the 1900 estimate. The authors used data from the 1860 and 1870 censuses, historical peacetime death rates, adjustments of deaths by gender, and an analysis of national and interstate migration trends to support their new estimate.

It should be noted that there was an academic article in 2011 that produced an estimate of 750,000, but the author of that study cautioned that the data used was incomplete and the authors of the *PNAS* study build upon the 2011 article using newly available statistics. The methodology used by Livermore in 1900 assumed equal mortality rates for the Union and Confederate armies, but the *PNAS* study found that the war was much more deadly for Confederate soldiers – that is from where the increase in the estimate comes.

Notable events in the Civil War that occurred in January: Secretary of War Simon Cameron resigned his office on January 11, 1862 due to credible allegations of corruption, and President Lincoln nominated Edwin Stanton as his successor two days later. The battle of Stone's River (or Murfreesboro) began on December 31, 1862 and continued through January 2, 1863. According to the National Battlefield Trust, this engagement had one of the highest casualty rates of the war (3.8% killed, 19.8% wounded and 7.8% missing), higher than the rates at Shiloh or Antietam. Also, on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Finally, on January 31, 1865 the House of Representatives passed the 13th amendment (the Senate had previously passed it in April 1864), sending it to the states for ratification. It was ratified by the 27th (Georgia) of the required 36 states on December 6, 1865. Interesting fact: the final two states to ratify the 13th Amendment were Kentucky in 1976 (after rejecting it in 1865) and Mississippi in 1995 (after also rejecting it in 1865), although Mississippi's ratification was not certified until 2013.

Hope to see you at our meeting on January 16th.

Tom Robisch
President, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT Meeting Details

Location	Raffel's Evendale Banquet Center, 10160 Reading Rd., Evendale, OH 45241
Date	Thursday, January 16, 2025
Time	5:30 Sign-in and Social 6:30 Buffet Dinner 7:15 Business Meeting 7:30 Speaker
Reservations	Members who are unable or would prefer not to make their dinner reservation on-line, please call, text, or email Jeff Mikutis, Vice President. 937-623-4879, mikutisjeff@yahoo.com Reservation Deadline Sunday, January 12, 2025
Cost	Dinner, meeting and speaker – \$28.00 Meeting and speaker only – \$7.00 Reservation for meeting and speaker only is appreciated but not required.
Cancellations	We are charged for the number of dinners called in to Raffel's after the reservation deadline. Refunds will be made after the deadline only if a late-comer can be substituted.

Future Speakers for Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

February 20, 2025 **Butler Boys: 35th Ohio Infantry**, Presented by Brian Smith of the Butler County Historical Society

March 20, 2025 **Arming Ohio**, Presented by Phil Spaugy

April 17, 2025 **Logistics Concern of Both Meade and Lee at Gettysburg**, Presented by Kent Masterson Brown

May 15, 2025 **Man of Fire: William Tecumseh Sherman**, Presented by Derek Maxfield

Quiz

1. In May of 1864, in the company of his fellow soldiers at Lee's headquarters, he offered this assessment of Grant: "I know him through and through, and I tell you we cannot afford to underrate him and the army he now commands. . . . For that man will fight us every day and every hour till the end of this war." Who was the speaker?
2. According to October's speaker, Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan, approximately how many veterans died as a direct result of battlefield related injuries in the five years following the war's end?
3. After Jefferson Davis was captured by Union cavalry he passed through Augusta, Georgia. A future U.S. president watched the procession from a second-floor window of his aunt's residence. Who was he?

4. Name the Union general who, after converting to Catholicism, proceeded to convert his brother, who then went on to become a Catholic priest and ultimately the Bishop of Columbus, Ohio.

5. Name the civilian, a veteran of the War of 1812, who had been rejected for service in the Mexican War due to his advanced age, who fought with the Iron Brigade on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg and was wounded three times in the engagement.

6. George Junkin, the president of Miami University from 1841 to 1844, was an ardent



Unionist during the Civil War. Margaret Junkin Preston would become known as the Poet Laureate of the Confederacy. His daughter Elinor, Margaret's sister, married a man who would become a prominent

Confederate general in the war. Whom did Elinor marry?

7. What popular Civil War song was inspired by a telegram from Union General George B. McClellan to the Secretary of War in September, 1861?

8. What name was given by the Confederates to the battle that the Federals called Stones River?

Membership Renewal

Annual Membership Renewal for 2025 is due. If you've not done so already, please respond to an earlier email that gives you a link to renew. Or if you are more comfortable, you can renew at the January 16 meeting.

Regular Single Membership	\$35.00
Regular Couple Membership	\$55.00
Single Sustaining Membership	\$50.00
Couple Sustaining Membership	\$85.00



SPRINGFIELD

CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 8, 2025

Meet Generals Grant and Lee as they look back on the Overland Campaign and the Battle of Appomattox that led to Lee's surrender.

Every March, the Clark County (Ohio) Historical Society offers a one-day detailed exploration of the American Civil War. This year join Generals Grant and Lee as they explore the Overland Campaign and the Battle of Appomattox that led to Lee's surrender.

When: Saturday, March 8th from 9 AM to 4 PM.

Where: Hellmuth Rotating Gallery in The Heritage Center, 117 S. Fountain Ave., Springfield, Ohio

Continental breakfast & lunch will be provided.

Ticket prices:

Non-members	\$70
Members	\$50
Students	Free!

Remember to present your student ID at check-in.

Link to this event:

<https://heritage.center/events/civil-war-symposium/>

Link to purchase tickets:

<https://form.jotform.com/241005835732148>

The Speakers:

Curt Fields is a nationally-recognized living historian who has played **General Grant** for many years. **Thomas Jessee** is a native Virginian who has been a reenactor for over 50 years, portraying **General Lee**.

Quiz Answers

1. James Longstreet.
2. 250,000
3. Woodrow Wilson, who was then eight years old. At the time, his father was minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Augusta.
4. William Starke Rosecrans.

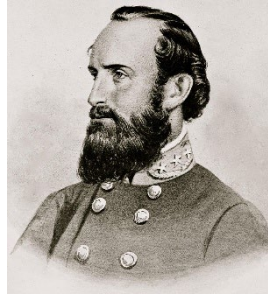


Rosecrans

5. John L. Burns. Burns received his wounds as the Union line was collapsing and falling back and he was left behind. Realizing that if he were captured as a non-uniformed combatant he could be summarily executed, he crawled away from his rifle and buried his ammunition. He was able to convince the Confederates that he was a non-combatant caught in the cross-fire and their surgeons dressed his wounds and sent him on his way.



6. Stonewall Jackson. Elinor was his first wife. They married in August 1853 in Lexington, VA, where her father was president of Washington College. On October 22, 1854, she gave birth to a still-born baby boy and died within hours thereafter due to an uncontrollable hemorrhage. Her sister Margaret was married to John Thomas Lewis Preston, a founder and organizer of VMI, and a faculty member there from 1839 until 1882. Preston was a lieutenant colonel in the 9th Virginia Infantry and served for a time on Jackson's staff.
7. "All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight." A poem by Ethel Beers originally published as "The Picket Guard" in *Harpers Weekly* in November of 1861, it was renamed and set to music by John H. Hewitt in 1863. The melody was featured in Ken Burns's documentary *The Civil War*.
8. Murfreesboro.



*Quiz and its Answers
Submitted by David Stockdale*

Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

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Preservation Projects: **VACANT**

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*The **CANISTER** is regularly published eight times per year, in January, February, March, April, May, September, October, and November; sometimes more often, if we have a lot to say to our members.*