

THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



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March 20, 2025 Program

Arming Ohio 1861 and Miles Greenwood

Presented by

Phil Spaugy

We welcome Phil Spaugy to the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table on March 20, 2025. Mr. Spaugy will speak about Ohio's role in arming the Union, specifically discussing the arms and accoutrements of the Federal infantry soldiers, especially the soldiers from the great state of Ohio. He is expected to bring some examples for display.*



In his talk, Phil Spaugy will emphasize the arms altered for the state of Ohio by that great Cincinnati entrepreneur, Miles Greenwood. Located in Cincinnati, Greenwood's Eagle Ironworks produced iron products for the Federal Army. In fact, his refusal to sell military products to anyone other than the Federal Government caused Confederate sympathizers to set fire to his buildings on three separate

occasions. Mr. Spaugy's interest in Greenwood's work is due in part to Greenwood developing a process to rifle the barrels of smoothbore muskets. That process greatly enhanced the accuracy of the weapon.

Phil Spaugy comes to us from Sidney, OH. For the last 45 years, Spaugy has been a member of the Union Guard, Company A, 19th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. The group is a part of the North-South Skirmish Association (N-SSA), where he has served on the Board of Directors for more than 20 years. As a member of the N-SSA, Spaugy has had the opportunity to live-fire almost every type of firearm issued to both the Union and the Confederacy during the American Civil War. Although his primary area of weapons collecting has been Civil War long arms associated with Ohio, Spaugy's interest in the war goes well beyond that area of study.

*Submitted by Dan Bauer
Cincinnati CWRT Program Chair*

*Raffel's has a state liquor license. Anyone possessing a firearm (including an unloaded antique) on the premises is prohibited by law from being under the influence or consuming any alcoholic beverage on the premises.

President's Letter

"Arming Ohio 1861 and Miles Greenwood" will be the topic of our speaker, Phil Spaugy, at our March meeting. Mr. Spaugy is a native of Ohio and a longtime Civil War enthusiast whose research primarily focuses on the weapons of Union infantry soldiers. He is a columnist for *Military Images*, a magazine that focuses on Civil War photography, and he also published "A Firearm Transformed" in January of this year in the *Civil War Monitor* (see below for more about this publication). His *Monitor* article relates to what he will address at our March round table. It focuses on the United States Model 1816/22 .69-caliber smoothbore musket and how this weapon was altered from a smoothbore configuration to a rifled firearm. Our speaker's great knowledge



and hands-on with Civil War weapons promises to provide us with an interesting and informative presentation on how Ohio's regiments obtained the firearms that were used to great effect in the war. Please join us on March 20th for Phil Spaugy's presentation.

I also want to give a preview of our April meeting, which will feature Kent Masterson



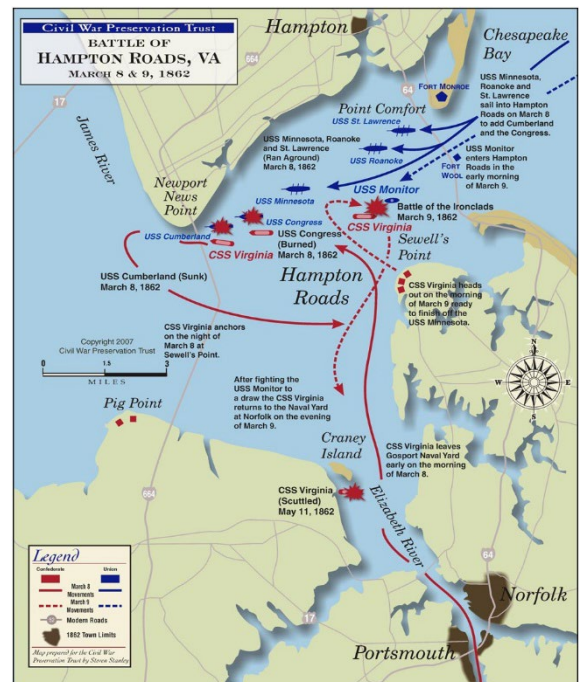
Brown. Mr. Brown will address logistics issues concerning the Union and Confederate armies at Gettysburg. He is an A-list historian who has written numerous books including *Cushing of Gettysburg: The Story of a Union Artillery Commander*, *Retreat*

from Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics, and the Pennsylvania Campaign, and *Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command*. As the President and content developer for Witnessing History Education Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation, he is also a filmmaker and has produced award-winning documentary films not only on Civil War subjects but also on topics of

Kentucky history including Henry Clay, Daniel Boone, and bourbon. He practiced law for many years in Washington, D.C. and Lexington, Kentucky, where he currently resides. Please remember to reserve April 17 on your calendar because this will be a must-see presentation.

Notable events concerning the Civil War that occurred in the month of March:

- March 4, 1861 – Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the 16th U.S. President.
- March 8 – 9, 1862 – The Battle of Hampton Roads. On the first day *CSS Virginia*, rebuilt from the scuttled remains of *USS Merrimack* and equipped with sloped casemate ironclad



sides, steamed out of the Elizabeth River into Hampton Roads and destroyed wooden Union vessels *USS Cumberland* and *USS Congress*. The *Virginia* then maneuvered to attack *USS Minnesota*, which had run aground attempting to avoid the Confederate vessel, but the rebel ship ran out of daylight before attacking the stranded Union vessel and returned to the Gosport Naval Yard (now Norfolk Naval Shipyard) to repair her minimal battle damage. The next day *Virginia* returned to Hampton Roads, but in one of the great coincidences of history, *USS Monitor*, the U.S. Navy's first ironclad

warship was waiting. The two ironclads fought for about three hours, with neither able to inflict significant damage on the other. After the conclusion of the battle, *Virginia* returned to the Gosport Naval Yard, and *Monitor* moved to a position defending *Minnesota*. The two ships never fought each other again.

- March 8, 1863 – Union Brigadier General E. H. Stoughton, in his headquarters at Fairfax County Court House in Virginia, was captured, without a shot being fired, by Confederate partisan troops led by Colonel John S. Mosby. Also taken were 30 other Union soldiers, a civilian telegraph operator, and 58 horses. Upon learning of the incident, President Lincoln reportedly remarked, perhaps apocryphally, that he did not mind so much the loss of a brigadier general because he could appoint another but was upset that the horses each cost \$125.
- March 2, 1864 – The Senate confirms Ulysses Grant's nomination as lieutenant general.
- March 19 – 21, 1865 – The Battle of Bentonville. This was the last battle between the Western field armies of Union General William T. Sherman and Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston. The battle began when the Confederate army attacked the XIV Corps of Sherman's left wing. Two Union divisions were routed, but the rest of the Union army defended its positions. The next day there was only minor fighting as Sherman sent reinforcements. On the third day a Union division attacked the rear of Johnston's position. Even though this attack was repulsed, Johnston elected to withdraw from the battlefield that night. The rebel losses were 2,606, with 239 killed and the remainder wounded or missing; Union losses were 1,527, with 194 killed.

I have mentioned in past newsletters that we have an opportunity to receive the *Civil War Monitor*, and that subscribing will also benefit our organization. The Round Table will receive \$3.00 for every member who subscribes using the code CINCWRT via the publication's website (www.civilwarmonitor.com/subscribe). I'm a

subscriber, and I have enjoyed reading its articles. As mentioned above, in January the *Monitor* published an article by our March speaker that relates to the subject of his



presentation this month. Additionally, the current (Spring 2025) issue contains articles on “The Making of a General” about Grant’s development into the successful general he became, “Redrawing the Guerilla War” which presents a new history of partisan activities during

the war, and “The Liberators” about how Harriet Tubman helped Union forces accomplish a daring raid of destruction and liberation on the plantations of the South Carolina Lowcountry. Subscribers also receive the *Civil War Monitor Gazette*, an electronic newsletter that comes out several times per month, which also contains useful and interesting articles. Please consider this opportunity. I believe you will find the *Monitor*’s articles to be interesting, and at the same time you will improve our organization’s finances.

Hope to see you at our meeting on March 20th.

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, March 20, 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, March 16, 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

April 17, 2025 **Logistics Concerns 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

September 18, 2025 **Civil War Music**,
Presented by Steve Ball

October 16, 2025 To be determined

November 20, 2025 To be determined

January 15, 2026 **Abraham Lincoln**,
Presented by Kim Villalva

Quiz

1. In 1866, following his release from prison, this former Confederate office holder was chosen by the Georgia legislature as a U.S. senator. But the Senate barred him from serving. In 1873 he was elected to the U.S. House and served for nearly 10 years.
2. This system of communication was invented by Lt. Albert James Myer in 1858. In 1859 an army board chaired by Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee approved it for field testing, where it proved successful. In 1860 Myer was promoted to major and appointed chief signal officer of the newly formed Signal Corps. But it was E. Porter Alexander, chief engineer and signal officer of the Confederate Army of the Potomac, who had

assisted Myer in the 1859 field tests, who first employed the system in combat during the First Battle of Bull Run. What was the system?

3. In the Confederate army it was known as Company Q. To what did the name refer?
4. Name the only regular Union army general, a non-West Pointer, who was born in Virginia and remained loyal to the Union.
5. This native Texan was described by historian Jack Davis as “almost without a doubt the most reprehensible man in either army to wear the uniform of a general.” His troops, and likely he personally, were responsible for murdering wounded black Union cavalymen on the battlefield and in a field hospital at the First Battle of Saltville, Virginia, in 1864. Robert E. Lee directed Gen. Breckenridge to prefer charges against him and bring him to trial. But he was severely wounded shortly afterward and escaped prosecution. While severe, the wound not fatal. He was the last Confederate general to die after the war, passing away on 20 April 1928.
6. What was the name of the fort opposite Ft. Henry on the Tennessee River?
7. Which state furnished the most men for the U.S. Colored Troops?
8. General Dan Sickles’s amputated leg is on display at the National Museum of Health

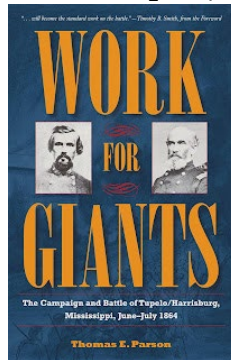


and Medicine. In what battle did Sickles and his right leg part company?

Book Review

Work for Giants: The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg, Mississippi, June-July 1864 by Thomas E. Parson, The Kent State University Press, Kent, Ohio, 2014, 384 pages, hardcover/ \$42.14 (paperback/ \$29.95)

Work for Giants describes the often overlooked Tupelo/Harrisburg campaign of June-



July, 1864. It was one of the few battles the Wizard of Saddle would lose. Up to that time, Nathan Bedford Forrest had been the stuff of legends, a constant thorn in Sherman’s side in his home state of Mississippi. Indeed, as described by Parsons, two

prior Union raids in 1864 into northern Mississippi had come to naught because of the military brilliance of Forrest, especially the second at Brice’s Crossroads.

His adversary for what would be the third Union raid into northern Mississippi that year was Andrew Jackson (“A. J.”) Smith. A veteran Union commander, Smith had been ordered by Sherman on June 14 in this third Union raid to “follow Forrest to the death, if it cost 10,000 lives and breaks the Treasury.”

On July 5, Smith (with around 14,000 men) would set out to “make Forrest come out of Tupelo.” Together with Stephen D. Lee, Forrest (with almost 10,000 men) would oppose this third Union raid. They would finally collide with Smith’s column on July 14 in what became known as the battle of Tupelo (Harrisburg). As described by Parsons, Lee and Forrest would suffer an embarrassing defeat in this battle.

Work for Giants was extensively researched by Parsons and provides many details absent from earlier accounts of the Battle of Tupelo

(Harrisburg). Indeed, in its final chapter entitled "A Second Battle," he provides an illuminating discussion of the "ten issues that have been debated heatedly by the participants of the battle and subsequent writers of the battle." It is also a very readable account for both the veteran, as well as novice, Civil War buff.

*Submitted by Eric W. Guttag
Publicity and Membership Officer*

Quiz Answers

1. Confederate V.P. Alexander H. Stevens. He served in the House from 1873 until his election as governor of Georgia in 1882.
2. Wigwag signaling or aerial telegraphy. It consisted of a signalman using a single large flag on a long pole. From "Signal Hill" in



Manassas, Alexander saw Union troop movements and signaled to Nathan "Shanks"

Evans's brigade "Look out for your left, your position is turned." After receiving a similar message, generals Beauregard and Johnston sent timely reinforcements that turned the tide of battle in the Confederates' favor. Ft. Myer, next to Arlington National Cemetery, was named in honor of Albert Myer.

3. The sick list.
4. Winfield Scott.
5. Felix Huston Robertson.
6. Ft. Heiman.

7. Louisiana, with 24,052. Louisiana was followed by Kentucky - 23,703, Tennessee - 20,135, Mississippi - 17,869, Maryland - 8,718, and Pennsylvania - 8,612.
8. Gettysburg.

*Quiz and its Answers
Submitted by David Stockdale*



BLUE AND GRAY DISPATCH

The Dimick Rifle: From the diary of Arminius Wesley Bill – 66th Illinois Infantry

*By Tony Patton, February 3, 2025
blueandgrayeducation.org*

Pvt. Arminius Bill of Sheffield, Illinois, was 17 when he volunteered for service in Company C, 14th Missouri Infantry, later designated the 66th Illinois Infantry. They were better known as the "Western Sharpshooters" or the "Squirrel Tail Regiment"—and they carried Dimick rifles.

These unique guns were developed by Horace Dimick, who had 27 gunsmiths working for him in St. Louis, building a variety of weapons. Dimick personally competed in sharpshooting contests to publicize his shop's products and entered his rifles in regional competitions and fairs with great success.

In the September 3, 2022, issue of *Military Images*, Ronald S. Coddington wrote about Dimick's percussion rifles: "[They] possessed extraordinary shooting qualities; varying from the mark in the hands of a good shot, not more, on an average, than six inches in a quarter of a mile range."

One issue, however, was the lack of uniformity in caliber—these rifles could range from .40 to .55. As a result, each issued gun came with a bullet mold. R. K. “Kip” Rapp wrote in the *American Society of Arms Collectors Bulletin*: *"The rifles were simple in design and were either all iron, iron and silver, or all silver."*



Dimick contract rifle

During the Civil War, Dimick became nationally famous for supplying rifles to elite sharpshooter units. Private Bill vividly recalled in his diary the day he received one of these distinctive weapons. It was October 16, 1861.

"About 20 men in each Co. have been sent to the city to select their rifles. We go to a large Hardware & gun-store 'Dimmicks' where some 3,000 rifles and accoutrements are collected. The rifles are of all makes, sizes & calibers. They are numbered & each man is allowed to select his rifle, powderhorn, bullet pouch, moulds, capbox &c. Then to try the rifle 3 weeks when if not satisfied with it, he may select another. When he has a gun which suits him, he keeps it. It is charged to him by number. He is furnished also with a nipple

wrench and a screwdriver—powder, bar lead. He must mould his own balls. Secure his ball patches, grease &c. &c. &c.

"The trial was at a 10 inch target 250 yds distant. 5 shots. 3 to hit & one to touch the bullseye. If anyone failed, he could be dismissed & return home."

Private Bill passed his trial, and his life as a soldier had begun.



A Dimick bullet (left) compared to a Standard Miniball 2 (right), both recovered from the Resaca, Georgia, battlefield (from the author's collection)

This article comes courtesy of the Blue and Gray Education Society, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. You can visit them at www.blueandgrayeducation.org.



Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

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Vice-President: Jeff Mikutis	937-623-4879	mikutisjeff@yahoo.com
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Speakers Bureau: Tom Breiner	513-382-1412	tbreiner@fuse.net
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CCWRT E-Mail Address		ccwrt@cincinnatiwrt.org
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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.*