

THE CHARGER



The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

September 2022

Vol. 47, No. 1

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Editor: D. Kent Fonner

E-mail Editor at dkfonner@gmail.com

President's Message

If there's anything I've learned over the past several months, it's that being president is hard work! I've really come to appreciate all the time and effort my predecessors in this role have put in over the years. There have been a few unexpected delays and hiccups this summer, but things are finally starting to come together as I write this message in late August, and I am hoping that all of you are looking forward to the 2022-2023 season as much as I am. The full schedule should be posted on our website shortly—possibly even by the time this message gets sent out. I tried to put together a wide array of speakers and topics, so while it is impossible to literally provide “something for everyone”, I hope there will at least be something new and interesting for all our members and guests throughout the upcoming Roundtable year.

September starts us off with a double-dose of events in the Shenandoah Valley—or possibly even a triple-dose, depending on how you look at it. Our first speaker of the year, at our September 14

meeting, is Phillip S. Greenwalt, offering an in-depth look at the 1862 and 1864 Valley Campaigns in comparison to each other, and in relation to the Civil War as a whole. This should serve as an excellent preview to our field trip the following week, on September 23-24, which will take us to the Shenandoah Valley in person to follow Philip Sheridan's 1864 campaign. When the Roundtable took a field trip to Winchester, VA, in 2011, the focus was on Stonewall Jackson in 1862, so even if you were on that earlier field trip, this year's trip should provide a completely new experience. The exact details of the itinerary are not yet final, but we will be visiting the battlefields for Third Winchester, Fisher's Hill, Tom's Brook, and Cedar Creek, including a tour of Belle Grove on the Cedar Creek battlefield, which was used as Sheridan's headquarters during the 1864 Valley Campaign. I have never been to any of these locations before, or even to Winchester, so I'm looking forward to the trip, and I hope my fellow attendees share my excitement.

One date to keep in mind for both the meeting and the field trip is September 7, as this is the last date to reserve a room from our hotel block for the field trip, as well as the last day to get your dinner RSVPs in for our meeting the following week. The Holiday Inn has decided to be more strict about deadlines for dinner requests this year, so it is very helpful to us if you can let us know sooner rather than later whether you are attending or not. The email for reservations is still ccwrtreserve@gmail.com

If you are attending the field trip but have not mailed in your check for payment yet because you are planning on paying in person at the September meeting, please email me at lkorte1924@gmail.com by September 7 to let me know that you are definitely attending but are paying in person, so that we can have an accurate headcount for our tour guide and for the Belle Grove staff. Please see previous emails and our website for more information about how to sign up for the field trip if you have not already done so and would like to attend. (Speaking of checks, and all matters financial, now that the year is about to begin, here's a reminder that annual dues are, well, due. Your membership dues are what finance the Roundtable's programming and operations, so paying them in a timely manner helps make things easier for everyone.)

One final note—I would like to welcome Kent Fonner in his new role as Editor of *The Charger*. If you have written an article, book review, or anything else Civil War-related that you would like to see in an upcoming edition of *The Charger*, please feel free to send it to him at dkfonner@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing everyone in September, whether here or in Virginia!

-Lily Korte

Updates on our September 2022 Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Field Trip!

As previously announced, our trip will be to the Shenandoah Valley, following the 1864 campaign in the area around Winchester, Virginia. The dates for the field trip will be September 23 and 24 (Friday and Saturday), with the preceding Thursday and following Sunday to be used as travel dates. Guests should plan to arrive at the hotel Thursday evening. Google Maps suggests Winchester is slightly over 5 hours away from Cleveland by car, so it should be a relatively easy trip.

The cost per attendee will be \$145 per person, which will cover all trip expenses, minus the cost of the hotel and the cost of dinner each night. I would like to get a final headcount for attendees by the first week of September, and payment will need to be made, at the absolute latest, on the date of our September meeting, though the sooner you can pay, the better.

Checks can be made payable to the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. For fastest processing, they can be mailed directly to our treasurer at:

Jimmy Menkhaus
1678 Roosevelt Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107

They can also be sent to our regular mailing address:

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable
P.O. Box 43280
Cleveland, Ohio 44143-0280

Conveniently enough, you can also include your annual dues by mailing them to the same address as your field trip payment, so if you want to get all your payments out of the way in one go; you are welcome to do so. Our hotel for the field trip will be the Hampton Inn Winchester N. The phone number is 504-678-4000. The address is:

Hampton Inn Winchester N
1204 Berryville Ave
Winchester, VA 22601

Their website is here: <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/wnchhhx-hampton-winchester-n-conference-center/>.

I made a group reservation for the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable, so be sure to mention that to get the group rate. If you are booking online via the website, type 600 into the "Group code" field to get to the Roundtable rooms. The cutoff date for booking with the group code is September 8, so make sure you reserve your hotel room before then.

Continuing a tradition from recent field trips, we will be traveling by car caravan from site to site, rather than by bus, as we will be traveling on some smaller historic roads which would be more difficult for a bus to traverse. (This will also have the beneficial side effect of keeping the overall cost of the trip down.)

Additionally, some of the battlefields on the tour will involve more walking than others. Third Winchester and Cedar Creek will involve the most walking, and Fisher's Hill has a moderate amount. If anyone who wants to attend has limited mobility, difficulty walking, or related concerns, let me know, as our guide says he may be able to adapt some of the routes. The current plan for box lunches during the field trip involves a local barbeque place that was well-recommended, but if anyone has any specific dietary needs or restrictions which may not be accommodated by the meal options (food allergies, gluten-free diet, vegetarian/vegan, etc), please let me know in advance so that I can see whether any alternate meals can be arranged. Finally, if any members are interested in carpooling with each other to save on gas prices or for convenience, feel free to email ccwrtreserve@gmail.com and I can put people in contact with each other for making travel arrangements. You can use this email address for any other questions or comments about the field trip as well. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Winchester in September!

-Lily Korte

Notice from the Editor

This is the first issue of *The Charger* that I have had the pleasure of composing. I want to thank President Lily Korte for giving me this opportunity to be of service to the CCWRT members. I look forward to the job and hope that my efforts will keep the same quality for our newsletter as it has experienced in the past. I also want to acknowledge and thank Michael Wells and Catherine Wells for all their service and efforts in the past eight years in the editing and production of *The Charger*. They have set a high bar for me for the future. Of course, this newsletter can never be the result of just one person's labor. I therefore ask that all of you who are interested in submitting articles, book reviews, and notes for publication in future issues please contact me through email at dkfonner@gmail.com. I eagerly look forward to your submissions.

A Summer Sojourn to Johnson's Island

By Paul Siedel

Photographs by William Vodrey



On Sunday, August 21, members of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable met at Johnson's Island near Port Clinton, Ohio, for a tour and an accompanying lecture at the Confederate officers prison which was located there. Alan Goodman and I left Cleveland at 1:30 and made it there in plenty of time. The tour, which was sponsored by Friends and Descendents of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison, began at 3:00 and, although it threatened rain, the showers held off until the end of the afternoon. Once we were assembled, we were introduced to our guide, Amanda Mandahan, co-president of the FDJI Board of Trustees. She began telling us about the prison, how much has been preserved (about 60% of the entire prison), and about archaeological digs and the artifacts that have been recovered. The late David Bush, professor of history at Heidelberg University, led the charge to identify the site, purchase the land and begin digging in the area of one of the old latrines. Items such as old bottles, seeds, sections of boards, some hard rubber fragments, and a pocket watch made in London were recovered. As we walked through the site we could see several metal stakes painted different colors sticking out of the ground. Amanda related that they marked the boundary of the prison, and the outline of several of the barracks. We were standing near the hospital building. Although it took some imagination to see the entire scope of the prison, once it was pointed out, one could imagine the extent of the walls and some of the barracks.



Next we walked over to Fort Johnson, a very well preserved Civil War military installation which was built to protect the prison from an attack off Lake Erie by Confederates. Once at the Fort, one could see the outline of the walls, artillery positions, and the actual entrance to the fort. The late National Park Service historian, Ed Bearss, once told Dan Zeiser, after visiting, that these were “the best-preserved Civil War earthworks in the country.” It should be pointed out that the organization has taken the initiative to preserve this particular site because, as I understand it, another fort, Fort Hill, has been completely demolished over the years to accommodate quarry operations which were located next to the actual prison. We made our way back to where we began, passing several historic signs describing the prison, prison barracks, and general layout. One of these markers was donated by the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable several years back. What a great afternoon this organization provided us! Like other historic preservation entities, they are also in need of members and, I imagine, donations. Their address is printed at the end of the article.

After leaving the prison site and driving down Confederate Drive, we made our way to Gideon – Owen Winery, a fantastic restaurant and vineyard located near Catawba Island. There we had some great wine, and dinner off a large and varied menu. I imagine a good time was had by all.

Allen and I left around 6:45 and drove home talking about what a nice afternoon we had. I learned much about Johnson's Island Prison, the preservation efforts, and the story behind some of the officers buried in the Confederate Cemetery. I would highly recommend a field trip there by any history minded organization. It is well worth the drive to Port Clinton!

Friends and Descendants of Johnson's
Island Civil War Prison
20545 Center Ridge Road, Suite 424
Rocky River, Ohio 44116

Hale Farm Village 2022 Civil War Weekend

On August 13-14, the Hale Farm Village hosted the annual Civil War weekend, which had been postponed for two years due to Covid-19 concerns. Hundreds of re-enactors staged the 1862 battle of Brawner's Farm, which began the Second Battle of Manassas. It featured the Stonewall Brigade versus the Black Hat Brigade. Several thousand spectators visited for that, the camp life of the re-enactors, cavalry and artillery demonstrations, musicians (the Camp Chase Fife & Drum Corps), and several presentations of historical figures, including Sara Lucy Bagby, the last fugitive slave sent back from Ohio (Cleveland) despite the failed efforts of abolitionists to protect her to a master in the South (Wheeling, Virginia), where she was liberated soon after the beginning of the Civil War.

-Dennis Keating

Ohio in the Shenandoah Valley: At the Beginning and at the End

By Dennis Keating

Introduction

Ohio soldiers and military leaders played important roles in the Civil War campaigns in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Among other major events were Stonewall Jackson's lightning campaign in 1862, Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia's marches through the valley in 1862 to the battle of Antietam and in 1863 to the battle of Gettysburg, the rout of Franz Sigel's Union force in 1864, Jubal Early's route to his raid to the gates of Washington in 1864, and finally Phil Sheridan's campaign against Early and the burning of the Valley in 1864. This article will focus on two battles – first the First battle of Kernstown on March 23, 1862 and second the battle of Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864. Both were Union victories in which

Ohioans were notable. The first saw a defeat of Stonewall Jackson and the second saw a victory from near defeat that contributed to the re-election of President Abraham Lincoln later that fall.



Shenandoah Valley as Seen From Maryland Heights (LOC)

First Battle of Kernstown

In 1862, General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson was assigned to confront Union forces commanded by former Massachusetts Governor Nathaniel Banks. An outnumbered Jackson was to try to prevent some of Banks’ forces being sent to reinforce Union forces under George McClellan preparing to attack the Confederate capital of Richmond. After an initial attack by Jackson just south of Winchester at Kernstown, Jackson would go on to wage one of the most brilliant campaigns of the war. However, his first engagement was not successful in contrast to what followed.



Jackson marched his foot cavalry north toward Banks’ army at Winchester. Relying on incorrect information provided to Turner Ashby, his cavalry commander, Jackson sent his small

division to attack a much larger federal division. With its commander James Shields wounded on March 22, 1862, the next day Nathan Kimball, commander of one of the three Union brigades, commanded the federals. That brigade included the Cleveland-based 7th OVI. Six other Ohio regiments, including the 8th OVI (which included the Hibernian Guards from Cleveland), were among the Union army of about 9,000

Despite his religious view that held against fighting on the Sabbath, Jackson felt compelled to attack. One of his three units was the Stonewall Brigade, his former command, now led by Richard Garnett. After close in fighting, Garnett finally ordered his brigade to retreat for lack of ammunition. For this, he was reprimanded by Jackson and arrested. However, before he was tried, he was killed in the Pickett charge at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863.

The 7th OVI saw fierce combat. Its colors were hit 28 times. Of 590 Union casualties, 80 were from the 7th OVI. Its commander William Creighton had his horse shot out from under him. He then grabbed a rifle from a wounded soldier and fired at the Confederates. Company commander Orrin Crane's life was saved when a Confederate bullet glanced off the gun of a soldier in front of him. Clevelanders Creighton and Crane were both killed at Ringgold Gap pursuing Bragg's defeated army after its November 25, 1863, defeat at Missionary Ridge.

Virgil Smalley of Company D, 7th OVI described the day:

"It was a beautiful day. Birds sang in the trees and the warm sun brought out all the aromatic odors of the forest. Suddenly spurts of fire seemed to come out of the tree trunks ahead of us, and we heard the sound of musket shots...The command to deploy to the left was given, and as the left guide of my company I led off through the woods and over a rail fence into a field, when finding nobody with me but the major, Jack Casement, and hearing bullets singing though the air and coming 'zip, zip' through the dry weeds, we both fell back into the woods, the major with three holes through his cloak cape...What a fracas there was-a steady cracking and rattling of musket firing, penetrated by the loud reports of artillery. I remember to have listened with peculiar interest to the surging sound of minie balls as they came close to my head. They made a vibrating, musical tone, something like a tuning fork. It was hard to realize that these little, swift humming messengers, were bent on murderous errands."

The 8th OVI was sent to attack Confederates behind a stone wall on Sandy Ridge. Four of its companies under Lt. Colonel Franklin Sawyer charged with fixed bayonets at the double quick. Sawyer described the close combat:

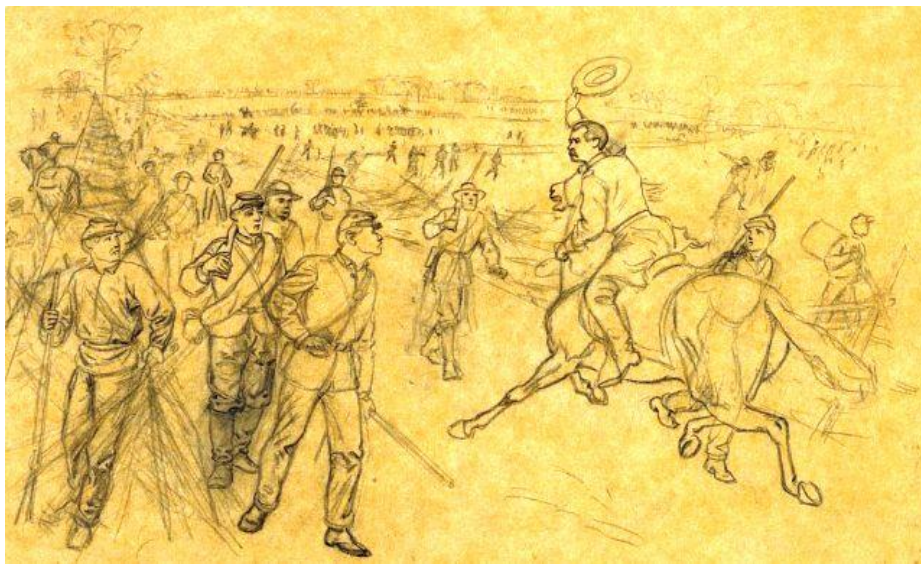
"Cannon balls were crashing through the trees, and the ugly rifle and musket ball were whizzing fearfully close to us. The line struck the enemy at right angles to the stone wall, and a savage fight for a few minutes ensued. We were separated from the Rebels by a rail fence, which was nearly demolished by the line as it came up, leaving us absolutely among the Rebels. The fight was almost hand to hand, some of the men discharging and then clubbing their muskets."

Sawyer's horse was shot twice.

Jackson's small force withdrew. However, during May-June, 1862, Jackson would defeat Union units in several engagements, securing the valley for the Confederacy, before joining Lee's army defending Richmond.

Battle of Cedar Creek

With U.S. Grant now in command of the Union armies, he was determined to destroy Lee's army of Northern Virginia. His strategy included denying Lee's army crucial food supplies from the Shenandoah Valley. With the failure of Generals Franz Sigel and David Hunter to achieve this goal, Grant turned to Phil Sheridan, his cavalry commander for the Army of the Potomac.



Alfred R. Waud's Sketch of Sheridan's Ride at Cedar Creek (LOC)

Sheridan's new command faced a smaller force under Jubal Early, reinforced from the Army of Northern Virginia. Sheridan forced Early out of Winchester and then routed his army at Fisher's Hill. While the federals believed that the Confederacy's hold on the valley was broken and began to wreak havoc on its breadbasket, a defeated Confederate army devised an improbable attack plan in desperation. In the ensuing battle, four Ohioan commanders would play important roles: Phil Sheridan, George Crook, George Armstrong Custer, and Rutherford B. Hayes.

Confederate division commander John B. Gordon came up with a daring plan for a morning attack on the Army of the Shenandoah resting at Cedar Creek. On the evening of October 18, 1864, Sheridan's army was enjoying a beautiful autumn day. An officer of the 2d Ohio cavalry (many from Cleveland) recalled:

“As evening closed above the valley, the soft pleadings of some homesick soldier’s flute floated out through the quiet camp, while around a blazing campfire an impromptu glee club of Ohio boys lightened the hour and their own hearts by singing the songs of home.”



Generals Wesley Merritt, Philip Sheridan, George Crook, James William Forsyth, and George Armstrong Custer (LOC)

Gordon’s plan required a perilous nighttime march to then attack the small army of West Virginia led by George Crook. With his flank unprotected by cavalry, Crook’s soldiers were quickly crushed and his force disintegrated as the Confederates charged into their camps out of a morning fog. Early’s divisions then pursued the fleeing federals into the neighboring camps of the VI and XIX Corps. Attempting to escape from the rapidly advancing Confederates was Rutherford B. Hayes, commander of the Second Division of Crook’s army. It included the 23rd OVI, which Hayes once commanded. It was one of nine Ohio infantry regiments in Sheridan’s army, plus batteries from Ohio’s Light Artillery. Hayes’ horse was killed, falling on him and injuring his ankle. When he regained consciousness, Hayes hobbled away, only to be told to halt and surrender by a Confederate. Instead, he fled, only to be hit in the head by a spent bullet. But, he still managed to escape and attempted to rally his men.

While many panicked Union units ran, many in the VI Corps, led by General Horatio Wright, stood their ground and refused to leave the field. Wright was in command of the army because Sheridan had been called to Washington to meet with War Secretary Edwin Stanton and General Henry Halleck to discuss the future of Sheridan’s army. Back in Winchester, Sheridan was awakened on the morning of October 19th to gunfire. When it became apparent that a battle was underway, Sheridan mounted his horse Rienzi and rode twenty miles to rejoin his army, recounted in an epic poem. Reaching his dispirited troops and then the VI (and XIX) Corps and



Brevet Major General R. B. Hayes

embracing his friend Crook, Sheridan promised his soldiers that they would regain their camps by nightfall. Organizing a counter-attack, Sheridan rode the length of his line, rallying troops, who joyously shouted his name.

With his previously uncommitted cavalry divisions arrayed on both flanks of his reconstituted infantry, Sheridan's army overwhelmed Early's force, with Custer's cavalry imposing heavy losses. Early's army had previously mostly halted, assuming that a defeated federal army would retreat to Winchester. Blamed by Gordon for failing to press the attack, Early would lose what remained of his army, most of which returned to Lee's defense of Petersburg and Richmond. Early, perhaps the best known of the advocates of the postwar "Lost Cause" myth, was denied a command after the remnants of his army were routed.

Conclusion

So, Ohio soldiers and Ohio commanders played key roles in eventually securing the Shenandoah Valley for the Union.

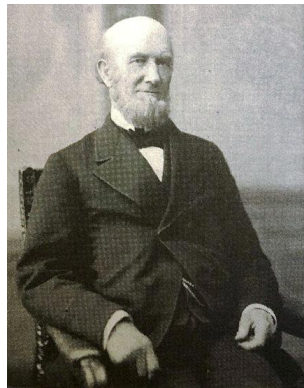
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The Most Powerful Ironclad on the Mississippi River

By ©Brian D. Kowell

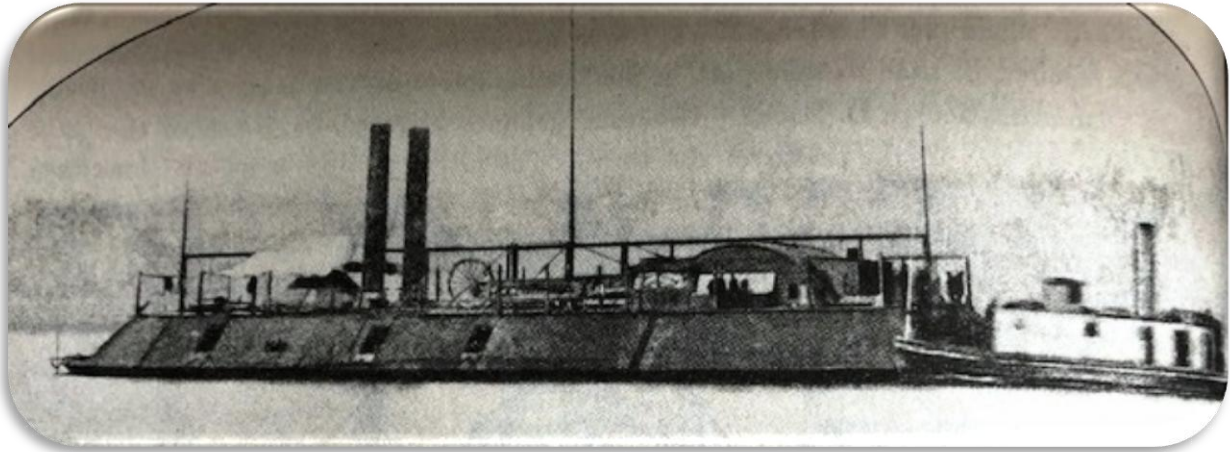
The giant ironclad gunboat, *Benton*, was destined to be the most powerful ironclad afloat in the Western Theater. She was built at the Carondelet Marine Railway Company shipyard south of St. Louis, Missouri, by James B. Eads, along with four of the seven gunboats known as the Pook Turtles. The *Benton* was constructed from a twin-hulled catamaran snag-boat owned by Eads originally named *Submarine No. 7*. Eads had sold that vessel to the U.S. War Department in early November 1861 for \$2600 and in return was awarded the contract to convert her into an ironclad.



James Buchanan Eads (LOC)

The 633-ton *Benton* would be 202-feet in length with a 72-foot beam and a 9-foot keel draft. She would have a rectangular wooden casemate with sloping sides, covered with 2½ inches of steel plating in which she carried 16 guns. Her original armament consisted of two 9-inch smoothbores, seven 42-pounder rifles, and seven 32-pounders. They were placed four in the bow, two on the stern and five on each broadside. Over time, these guns were replaced and by December 1863 she carried two 100-pounder rifles, eight 9-inch smoothbores, four 32-pounders and two 50-pounder rifles. She had a large, enclosed paddlewheel powered by two inclined engines with a 20-inch bore and a 7-foot stroke.

She was launched on December 2, 1861 and commissioned on February 24, 1862. After taking the *Benton* for a trial-run up the Ohio River with Captain William D. Porter, Captain Andrew Hull Foote remarked to Porter that the gunboat was too slow; whereupon Porter replied, “Yes, but plenty fast to fight with.” She would become the flagship of the Western Gunboat Flotilla under Captains Foote and Charles H. Davis and later under Commodore David Dixon Porter when the fleet was renamed the Mississippi Squadron.



U.S. Gunboat "Benton" and Tug "Fern"

The *Benton* was the most powerful ironclad of the Union brown water fleet. While she and the City-class gunboats resembled one another with slanting casemates, iron plating and enclosed paddlewheel, in comparison the City-class gunboats overall length was 175 feet with a 51-foot beam and a six foot keel draft. They displaced 512 tons and only carried thirteen guns. An example of the 13 guns carried by the City-class gunboats are those of the *Cairo* when she was sunk on the Yazoo by a Confederate torpedo: three 7-inch 42-pounder army rifles; three eight-inch 64-pounder smoothbores; six 32-pounders; and one 30-pounder Parrott rifle. They were placed three on the bow, two on the stern and four on each broadside.

When first commissioned, the City-class gunboats' standard armament was three 8-inch Dahlgren smoothbores in the bow, two 32-pounders in the stern with two 32-pounder converted rifles and two 42-pounder converted rifles on each broadside. At the engagement at Fort Henry, Commander Roger N. Stembel recorded the *Cincinnati* being armed with six 32-pounders, three 8-inch Dahlgren smoothbores, four rifled army 42-pounders and, above deck, a single 12-pounder boat howitzer to defend against boarders. The *Carondelet* had the same armament as the *Cincinnati*, while the *St. Louis* differed slightly, carrying seven 32-pounders, two 8-inch Dahlgren smoothbores, four rifled army 42-pounders, and one rifled boat howitzer above decks. As time went on these were replaced by stronger and more effective guns as noted above.

Eads would tell an interesting story concerning the *Benton's* maiden voyage to Cairo in December to finish the inside carpentry and have her guns mounted. Flag Officer Foote invited Eads to come on board for the trip. Eads was an old hand at navigating the fickle waters of the Mississippi and Foote thought his expertise would be invaluable should the water level drop or ice floes appear. Eads accepted, packed his bags, and came on board, happy to be on the river again. The *Benton* cast loose and slipped down the River des Peres and out into the floe-dotted Mississippi River. All went well until she ran aground on a sandbar 30 miles downriver, fulfilling Foote's worst fears. Anchors were put out and, using the boat's winches, attempts were made to move her off the bar. In navy parlance this is called "kedging." However, it was to no avail. Oddly, during the hours spent in trying to kedge her off the bar, Eads was not consulted, despite being on board for that very purpose.

The struggle went on overnight, but the heavy craft held fast, and to make matters worse the river began to drop. It was obvious the ship's captain, John Winslow and his crew were unable to make any progress. Finally, unable to restrain himself any longer, Eads approached Winslow and offered some advice. Winslow by this time was fatigued and said, "At last. Yes, Mr. Eads, if you will undertake to get her off, I'll place my entire crew under your direction."



Capt. John Winslow, USN (LOC)

Eads instructed the executive officer, Lieutenant Bishop, to bring up heavy hawsers to be secured to the largest tress on shore, and then had them connected to three steam capstans on the bow. During the action a snatch block chain broke. It was made of iron, one and one-eighth inches in diameter and the link exploded into three pieces. One was found on shore at least 500 feet from the vessel. A second piece struck the iron plating in the bow and dented the plate two inches. The third piece struck and severely injured Captain Winslow who was standing next to Eads on the deck. The iron piece hit the fleshy part of his arm, cutting through both coat and muscle. The wound was a painful one and Winslow was taken below to be attended by the surgeon. The three hawsers and steam capstans dragged the *Benton* off the bar and she was once again refloated. Upon reaching Cairo, Captain Winslow was released from duty and sent home to recuperate. Though Winslow would never again command a ship in the brown water navy, his consolation was that on June 19, 1864, while commanding his new ship, *U.S.S. Kearsarge*, he would sink the notorious Confederate man-of-war *Alabama* off Cherbourg, France.

The *Benton* went on to participate in the taking of Island No. 10, the bombardment of Fort Pillow and the engagements at Plum Point and Memphis. She took part in the expedition up the Yazoo River and the bombardment of Hayne's Bluff, the run past the Vicksburg batteries and the attack at Grand Gulf where she was damaged and Admiral Porter wounded. Both would live to fight another day. The *Benton's* last action was during the Red River campaign where she captured the Confederate ironclad *Missouri* at Shreveport, Louisiana. The *Benton* was decommissioned on July 20, 1865 and sold on November 20 of that year and broken up for scrap.

Sources:

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He's Got Legs and He knows How to Use Them

By ©Brian D. Kowell

In Elizabeth "Libbie" Custer's book *Tenting on the Plains* she describes an encounter between her husband, Colonel George A. Custer, and ex-Confederate General John Bell Hood on a steamboat journey to New Orleans. Libbie observed that both her husband and the one-time commander of the famous Texas Brigade and later the Army of Tennessee quickly put the animosity of the war behind them. They amiably discussed a variety of topics. She wrote of a particular conversation of Hood's about his quest to find the best prosthetic leg for the one he had amputated at Chickamauga. Hood told Custer of trying various models over the years. He tried models from England, France, Germany, the Confederacy and the Union. She happily noted that General Hood acknowledged, despite his previous sectional loyalty, "The Yankee leg was the best of all."



John Bell Hood (LOC)



George and Libbie Custer (LOC)

Source: Zander, Cecily N., *The Civil War, Reconstruction, and the West in Elizabeth Bacon Custer's Memoirs*. In *Civil War Witnesses and Their Books: New Perspectives on Iconic Works*, ed. Gary Gallagher & Stephen Cushman. Pp 240-241.



MEETING: September 14, 2022

SPEAKER: Phillip S. Greenwalt. A fourteen year veteran of the National Park Service, he currently serves as Chief of Interpretation and Education for Catoclin Mountain Park

PROGRAM: “If the Valley is Lost” This talk will examine the 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign and focus on the 1864 Valley Campaign, showing why this theater of conflict was a microcosm of the entire war in general.

LOCATION: The Holiday Inn Independence at Rockside Road off I99

TIME: Social Hour at 6:00 PM and Presentation at 7:00 PM

THE TALK WILL BE IN PERSON AND STREAMED LIVE SO MANY CIVIL WAR ENTHUSIASTS CAN ENJOY OUR PROGRAM.

For reservations email: ccwrtreserve@gmail.com or call 440-449-9311. To ensure a dinner is reserved for you, the reservation must be made by Wednesday, September 7, 2022, a week before the meeting.

Website: <http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com>

Like us on FACEBOOK and TWITTER

