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| Graphical user interface, text  Description automatically generated | **HARDSCRABBLE**  Civil War Round Table of the Mid-Ohio Valley Newsletter  April 2023 – Vol 23 |

*Notes from Nancy Arthur*

If you’ve been to any of our in-person membership meetings in the past year, you may have noticed a couple of tables in the back of the room that are filled with books. These have been donated to our Round Table by former members’ families. The Leadership Team decided, with permission from the families, to sell these to raise funds for our marker program.

One of the ones I purchased is Blood, Tears and Glory – How the Ohioans Won the Civil War by James Bissland.

Some of the noted names are of course Ulysses S. Grant, from Southern Ohio, William T. Sherman, although living in St. Louis when the war started, he was born in Ohio; Edwin Stanton. President Buchanan’s Attorney General, also from Ohio; and John Brown, from Hudson, Ohio to name a few.

To fight this war, the citizen-soldiers from Ohio alone totaled 300,000, roughly one of every ten Ohioans. Add in 450,000 more from our sister states of Indiana and Illinois, and you have one fourth of all the soldiers fighting for the Union. These men and boys came from farms and cities, law offices & banks, stores, and schools.

The description of their lives during service is deplorable: wearing a ragged uniform, unbathed for weeks at a time, eating disgusting food, even if that was available, and receiving pay of $13.00 a month, when it was delivered. Sometimes mail was forbidden to go out, due to secrecy of movement.

They did this to protect and defend their country; as Ohio Senator Benjamin Wade said, “The great declaration cost our forefathers too dearly to lightly thrown away by their children”.

They risked their lives, their futures, and their health to save this country.

*Stories by Bill Teegarden*

**Cleveland’s Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument to open underground tunnels to public** By [Megan McSweeney](https://www.cleveland19.com/authors/megan-mcsweeney/)

*Published: Mar. 29, 2023 at 10:33 AM EDT*

CLEVELAND, Ohio (WOIO) - The Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument announced Wednesday morning that it’s annual Tunnel Tours will take place from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 29-30.

[Online ticket sales](https://www.soldiersandsailors.com/news-events) begin at 10 a.m. April 6 at $5 a ticket, officials say.

The release says limited tickets will be sold in advance and standby will be available for day-of openings.

Officials say all proceeds and donations during the event will support Monument projects, such as external architectural lighting.

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Butler County history: Civil War general was born 200 years ago today



Caption

Credit: Nick Graham

[**NEWS**](https://www.journal-news.com/news/)

**By Journal-News Staff**

Updated Feb 27, 2023

The Hamilton Civil War general who organized the 35th Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry also was responsible for creating the first national military park at the Georgia battlefield where many of his men died.

Ferdinand VanDerveer was born Feb. 27, 1823 — 200 years ago today.

VanDerveer’s second-in-command, Henry Van Ness Boynton, persuaded the federal government to make the Chickamauga battlefield the first to be included in the National Park Service.

*The following story about VanDerveer, written by Mike Rutledge, published in the Journal-News in 2020:*

“The 35th was known as “the Butler Boys,’” said Kathy Creighton, executive director of the Butler County Historical Society. “The unit was about 85 percent Butler County,” with the rest of the unit recruited from Preble, Warren and Montgomery counties, although Boynton was from Hamilton County.

“When the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter and Lincoln called for troops, Butler County responded with the Ohio 35th Volunteer Infantry,” Creighton said. “They were under the direction of then-Colonel Ferdinand VanDerveer, who was born in Middletown, went to school to become a lawyer at Farmers College down in College Hill, comes back here and sets up his law practice here in Hamilton.”

The 35th recently made news because of historical society efforts to preserve its American flag that was damaged during Civil War battles.

The regiment spent the early part of the Civil War guarding railroad depots in Tennessee and Kentucky, not seeing much fighting. They later were assigned to Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, and their first major battle was Chickamauga, in northwestern Georgia (some fighting also happened in southeastern Tennessee).

The regiment was to hold the Confederates back so Union forces could escape.

“Over half of the 35th is killed, wounded or captured at Chickamauga,” she said. “They continue on with Sherman’s march to the sea, and eventually get mustered out.”

VanDerveer and Boynton were part of a reunion at Chickamauga years later with both Union and Confederate soldiers who had fought there.

“As VanDerveer and Boynton were riding around the Civil War battlefield, they realized that stuff was being built, and changes were happening,” Creighton said. “And they said, ’This is not good, because if we don’t remember the Civil War, history will doom us to repeat ourselves.’”

Most people expect that Gettysburg was the first battlefield, Creighton said, because President Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address there. But: “Lincoln dedicated the cemetery at Gettysburg. He did not dedicate the battlefield.”

VanDerveer died before the camp was dedicated, but Boynton became the first commandant there, said Creighton, who has visited the battlefield and found the monument there dedicated to the 35th regiment.

Michael Cupp, who has organized Hamilton’s Memorial Day parades for three decades, was delighted to hear the society was working to preserve the regiment’s flag, not only for people today, but for future generations, he said.

“I think it’s wonderful,” Cupp said.

Ohio sent more soldiers per capita to the Civil War than any other Union state. Also, many of the blue jackets worn by Union soldiers were manufactured in Columbus. Those are two reasons for the National Hockey League team, the Columbus Blue Jackets.

Dr. Mardy's Quotes of the Week

A Weekly Celebration of Great Quotes in History and the History Behind the Quotes

[FEB. 12-18, 2023](https://mail.yahoo.com/d/folders/61/messages/82681#m_2659233074520613395_) | THIS WEEK'S THEME: "SELF-DECEPTION"

Opening Line of the Week

"I was born in Tuckahoe, near Hillsborough, and about  
twelve miles from Easton, in Talbot County, Maryland.  
I have no accurate knowledge of my age,  
never having seen any authentic record containing it."

These are the opening words of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*(1845), by Frederick Douglass, whose chose his birthday as February 14, 1817. Since the exact date of his birth was not known, he selected the day because his mother had called him "Little Valentine" as a baby.

Douglass's autobiography started off softly, but it took a dramatic turn as he continued: "By far the larger part of the slaves know as little of their ages as horses know of theirs, and it is the wish of most masters within my knowledge to keep their slaves thus ignorant. I do not remember to have ever met a slave who could tell of his birthday." As I began to think about the immense psychological significance of *not knowing* one's own birth date, I was eager to learn more, and Douglass didn't disappoint. He continued:

"They seldom come nearer to it than planting-time, harvest-time, cherry-time, spring-time, or fall-time. A want of information concerning my own was a source of unhappiness to me even during childhood. The white children could tell their ages. I could not tell why I ought to be deprived of the same privilege. I was not allowed to make any inquiries of my master concerning it. He deemed all such inquiries on the part of a slave improper and impertinent, and evidence of a restless spirit."

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| Douglass became a fugitive slave in 1838 when he escaped from his slave master’s plantation and headed north on the Underground Railroad. Ultimately settling in Massachusetts, he went on to become a popular spokesman for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, traveling throughout the U. S. and England. He also became a successful businessman (the first African-American to own a publishing house), a diplomat (ambassador to Haiti), and author of three autobiographies (considered among the best "slave narratives" ever written).  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  . |

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**How an 18-year-old earned the Medal of Honor at the Battle of New Market**

Sgt. James Burns went above and beyond the call of duty during the 1864 battle of New Market.(WHSV)

By [Jacob Fife](https://www.whsv.com/authors/jacob.fife/)

*Published: Feb. 11, 2023 at 10:35 AM EST*

New Market, Va. (WHSV) - Most people are familiar with the story of the VMI Cadets at the Battle of New Market, but many people might not know that a soldier was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle.

The Battle of New Market was fought on May 15, 1864 and was a key battle in the 1864 Valley Campaign. It saw some of the fiercest combat that took place in the Valley, and shook the town to its core. During the battle a soldier from the 1st West Virginia Infantry went above and beyond the call of duty to recover his regiments’ flag and save a wounded soldier.

James Burns was born in Ohio in 1845, and was 16 when he enlisted to fight in the American Civil War.

“He had to have his father’s permission.” Assistant Site Manager and Educator of the [Virginia Museum of the Civil War](https://www.vmi.edu/museums-and-archives/virginia-museum-of-the-civil-war/) Sarah Hebert said. “He ended up enlisting in a West Virginia Unit, which is not the far over the border.”

The Union Army was under the command of Major General Franz Sigel, who was known to shout commands in his native German during the heat of battle. Burns and the 1st West Virginia were next to the 54th Pennsylvania Regiment, which saw some of the highest casualties during the battle, and the 1st West Virginia would see heavy fighting as well.

“Things are falling apart for the Union Army.” Hebert said. “There’s confusion, they’re being shot at, and now Sigel is yelling orders in German.”

Hebert explains that the Union Army is starting to realize that they need to leave the field, and the Southern troops are pushing them back. “They’re starting to move back North so they can get across the bridge to safety at Mount Jackson.” Hebert explains.

[In an article by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society](https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/james-m-burns), they say that Sgt. Burns rallied some men together to go back and save the flag, which is about to be captured, and after one of his fellow soldiers is injured Burns runs almost a hundred yards in the face of enemy fire to carry the wounded man off the field.

**The Author’s Corner with Jacqueline Jones**

[Rachel Petroziello](https://currentpub.com/author/rp1292/)   |  January 13, 2023 [Leave a Comment](https://currentpub.com/2023/01/13/the-authors-corner-with-jacqueline-jones/#respond)

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[Jacqueline Jones](https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/history/faculty/jj23464)is Ellen C. Temple Professor of Women’s History Emerita at the University of Texas at Austin. This interview is based on her new book,  [*No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston’s Black Workers in the Civil War Era*](https://www.amazon.com/No-Right-Honest-Living-Struggles/dp/154161979X) (Basic Books, 2023).

**JF: What led you to write *No Right to an Honest Living?***

**JJ:***I had a written a book on Civil-War era Savannah*(Saving Savannah: The City and the Civil War*[Knopf, 2008]), and I was struck by the links between that city and Boston before, during, and after the war. In addition, I was curious to learn whether the Civil War had an impact on Boston Black workers’ livelihoods. I found that despite the loss of 750,000 lives during the war, and despite various economic upheavals in the nineteenth-century—the Industrial Revolution, the emergence of the retail and clerical sectors—the social division of labor that relegated Black men and women to menial, ill-paid work remained intact throughout this period. Although a great deal of excellent work has been done recently on Black Northerners’ fight for civil rights, those studies generally give short shrift to the social and political dynamics of the workplace.*

**JF: In 2 sentences, what is the argument of *No Right to an Honest Living?***

**JJ:***I argue first, that potential white allies showed a studied indifference to the plight of Boston’s Black workers during this period; these whites included abolitionists, Republicans, members of the clergy, Boston city officials, war veterans, and the laboring classes. Second, I explore the resourcefulness and resilience of Black men and women who struggled to make a living—for example, by creating jobs for themselves, or by toiling in what I call an “underground commons.”*

**JF: Why do we need to read *No Right* *to an Honest Living?***

**JJ:***The fact that most Blacks lacked a pathway to upward job mobility—and they could not expect their children to do much better—had cascading effects on the welfare of families and the community in general. Without steady employment, most Black Bostonians remained at the mercy of white landlords, unable to accumulate the assets that would allow them to buy their own homes. This study acknowledges Boston’s hard-won reputation as a hub of militant antebellum abolitionism while at the same time highlighting the lack of economic justice accorded Black residents of the city.*

**JF: Why and when did you become an American historian?**

**JJ:***I became an historian in the 1960s, when questions of social justice seemed paramount.*

**JF: What is your next project?**

**JJ:***I have several in mind!*

**JF: Thanks, Jacqueline!**

*Books by Bill Teegarden*

*To OPEN HYPERLINKS with PC -place cursor on Subject line, hold down Control and Left Click mouse / with Smart Phone – touch with finger or stylus*

[Slavery and Freedom in the Shenandoah Valley](https://floridapress.blog/2021/04/21/slavery-and-freedom-in-the-shenandoah-valley-during-the-civil-war-era-2/)

[Tracing the American Civil Rights Movement](https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2021/04/kate-masur-until-justice-be-done/)

[Fraud & Violence in Missouri by Mark W. Geiger](https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300151510/financial-fraud-and-guerrilla-violence-in-missouris-civil-war-1861-1865/)

[No Common Ground by Karen Cox](https://www.usm.edu/news/2022/release/american-south-historian.php)

[Love & Duty by Angela Esco Elder](https://currentpub.com/2022/05/17/the-authors-corner-with-angela-esco-elder/)

[Hearts Torn Asunder by Savos Beatie](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/27/books/review/hearts-torn-asunder-ernest-dollar-jr-love-and-duty-angela-esco-elder-spectacle-of-grief-sarah-j-purcell.html)