

Confederate Staff Officers with Ohio Connections

From the research of Robert E. L. Krick, Historian, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Richmond VA.

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Author of *Staff Officers in Gray: A Biographical Register of the Staff Officers in the Army of Northern Virginia*, Chapel Hill NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

Submitted by Dan Reigle

Our Cincinnati Civil War Round Table had the privilege of having Robert E. L. Krick as our September 2010 speaker, discussing his research on staff officers in the Army of Northern Virginia. His book, cited above, includes biographical sketches of 2284 staff officers, in addition to brief history of the development of staff roles during the Civil War and the responsibilities of each of the primary staff roles.

Mr. Krick pointed out the following twenty officers from his research who have personal connections to Ohio in some way. They are presented here not only out of local interest to Ohio Civil War and family history researchers, but as a way of illustrating the breadth and depth of this research, not to mention the interesting people involved.

Adolphus H. Adler

(Page 59) From Hungary and claimed to have served on the staff of Garibaldi in Italy.

- Colonel, Engineer Officer, (Provisional Army of Virginia?) to Henry A. Wise, Jul 1861.

- Arrested by authorities in Oct 1861 for suspected disloyalty and attempted to cut his own throat.

- Convicted of bribery in Mar 1862. Sentenced to six months in jail and expulsion from CSA. Released and went north.

- **Arrested 18 Dec 1862 at Cincinnati OH. Took oath and released, Apr 1863, age 39.**

George Washington Crane

(Page 105) **Born in Ohio.** Moved to Augusta, Georgia, ca. 1855, and was a merchant.

- Captain, Assistant Quartermaster, 12th Bn., Georgia Artillery, 27 May 1862.

- Major, Quartermaster to Henry Heth, 27 Oct 1862. Collected supplies in Georgia, most of 1863.

- Major, Quartermaster to Howell Cobb, 23 Sep 1863.

- Major, Quartermaster to Montgomery D. Corse, 2 Dec 1863. Relieved 4 Jul 1864 at Corse's request. No further military record.

Postwar cotton factor. Died Augusta, 5 Feb 1895, age 67. Buried Magnolia Cemetery.

Alfred Ward Grayson Davis

(Page 110-111) **Born at Vanceburg, Kentucky**, 15 Oct 1806. **Attended college at Athens, Ohio.** Attended U.S. Military Academy, and thought to be the roommate of Jefferson Davis. Attorney in Arkansas Territory, 1831-1835. Cotton planter at Bolivar, Mississippi. Mexican War veteran. Lived in Greenbriar County, Virginia. In legislature and state Secession Convention.

- Major, Quartermaster to John B. Floyd, 18 Sep 1861 to Feb 1862.

- Major, Quartermaster at Greenville, South Carolina, 1862-1863. Resigned Aug 1863.

Died at "The Cliffs" in Greenbriar County, West Virginia, 20 Jan 1865, buried there. A shadow of uncertainty remains on this man's identification and service.

Samuel Boyer Davis

(Page 111) Born in Delaware on 5 Dec 1843.

- Private, Latimer's (Virginia) Battery.

- Lieutenant, Aide-de-camp to his uncle, General Isaac R. Trimble, 2 Feb 1863. Wounded in action in lung, and prisoner of war at Gettysburg.

- Lieutenant, Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General to John H. Winder, 22 Oct 1863. Commanded prison at Macon, Georgia, summer 1864.

- Lieutenant, Signal Corps, 27 Dec 1864.

- **Prisoner of war 14 Jan 1865 at Newark, Ohio, using an alias. Nearly hanged as a spy. Released 20 Dec 1865.**

Married Anna Mason. Died at Washington DC, 24 Feb 1914. Buried Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria, Virginia. Davis' account of his late-war experiences was published in 1892.

George R. R. **Dunn**

(Page 118) **Born in Ohio, 24 Apr 1832.** Depot agent at Abingdon, Virginia, prewar.

- Serving in Quartermaster Department of John B. Floyd's command by Jul 1861.
- Captain, Assistant Quartermaster to John B. Floyd, 11 Nov 1861.
- Captain, Assistant Quartermaster at Dublin Depot, Virginia, Jan 1862.
- Captain, Assistant Quartermaster, 36th Virginia, 22 Apr 1862.
- Major, Quartermaster to John McCausland, 14 Nov 1862.
- Back to Dublin Depot, Nov 1864.

Banker, clerk, and "retired landlord" at Abingdon and Wytheville. Died at Wytheville, 29 Apr 1902. Buried at Sinking Spring Cemetery, Abingdon. Third initial possibly spurious.

Nicholas **Fitzhugh**

(Page 129) Born Fauquier County, Virginia, 4 Jan 1823. **Attended Marietta College, Ohio.** Lawyer at Charleston, Virginia.

- Lieutenant, Company H, 22nd Virginia, 22 May 1861.
- Captain, Assistant Adjutant General to Albert G. Jenkins, 6 Aug 1862.
- Captain, Assistant Adjutant General to John McCausland, 28 May 1864. Paroled 17 May 1865.

Lawyer and legislator in Charleston, West Virginia. Died in Charleston, 10 Dec 1892. Buried in Spring Hill Cemetery.

Elias **Griswold**

(Page 143) **Born in Ohio.** Lived in Georgia and Florida prewar. A 41-year-old lawyer in Dorchester County MD in 1860.

- Captain, Assistant Quartermaster, 15 Nov 1861, at Tuscaloosa AL.
- Major, Assistant Adjutant General to John H. Winder, 11 Apr 1862.
- Major, Assistant Adjutant General to Daniel Ruggles, 25 Mar 1865.
- Paroled 3 May 1865 at Salisbury NC.

Founded the first telegraph company in Dorchester County MD. Life insurance agent at Baltimore in 1870. Dead by 1894.

Henry Ebenezer **Handerson**

(Page 148) **Born Cuyahoga County OH, 21 Mar 1837.** Attended Hobart College. Surveyor and tutor in Rapides Parish LA.

- Lieutenant, Company B, 9th Louisiana.
- Later to Adjutant, Captain, Assistant Adjutant General to Leroy A. Stafford, 23 Oct 1863.
- POW at Wilderness, 5 May 1864.
- Captain, Assistant Adjutant General to James Dearing, 25 Jan 1865, but not released from prison until June 1865.

Physician at New York City and Cleveland. Died 22 Apr 1918. Buried Woodland Cemetery, Cleveland.

Handerson's excellent reminiscences are published. (Editor's note: *Yankee in Gray: The Civil War Memoirs of Henry E. Handerson, with a Selection of His Wartime Letters*. Henry Ebenezer Handerson. Cleveland: Press of Western Reserve, 1962. Digital edition at HathiTrust Digital Library, <<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015005984219>>.)

Camillus Sluman **Hart**

(Page 151-152) **Born Marietta OH, 10 Jul 1823.** Mexican War veteran and member of Cuba filibustering expedition. Cotton merchant, steamboater, and government purchasing agent. Lived in Texas, Mexico, Memphis, and Lexington KY.

- Lieutenant, Company I, 20th Georgia, 23 May 1861.
- Captain, Assistant Quartermaster, 3rd Bn, Georgia, 19 Jul 1861.

- Captain, acting Assistant Quartermaster to Samuel Garland, Mar 1862.
- Captain, acting Assistant Quartermaster to Jubal A. Early, May-Aug 1862, at least.
- Captain, Assistant Quartermaster to Carter's Bn Arty, Nov 1863.
- Captain, acting Assistant Quartermaster to John Pegram, Aug 1864.
- Captain, Assistant Quartermaster to Lunsford L. Lomax, Jan 1865.
- Major, Quartermaster to Lunsford L. Lomax, backdated to 26 Dec 1864.

New Orleans tobacco and cotton merchant. Martinsburg WV hotel manager. Also lived in Baltimore, Washington DC, and Winchester VA. Died at his home in Mercersburg PA, 24 Feb 1889. Buried Mt. Hebron Cemetery, Winchester.

Alfred Henry **Jackson**

(Page 169-170) **Born McConnellsville OH, 1 Jan 1836.** Attended Washington College. Lawyer and deputy U.S. Marshal in Lewis County VA. Married Mary Blair Paxton.

- Captain, Company I, 31st Virginia, 1861.
- Major, Assistant Adjutant General to Thomas J. Jackson, 10 Dec 1861. Resigned 21 Feb 1862.
- Lieutenant Colonel, 31st Virginia, 1 May 1862.
- Wounded at Cedar Mountain. Died Lexington VA, 1 Aug 1863. Buried at Stonewall Jackson Cemetery [Lexington VA].

Jackson's papers are at West Virginia University.

Wm. H. **Kirker**

(Page 194-195) **Born in Ohio, 5 Feb 1831.** (Bob Krick's note: **Wm. H. Kirker's father was from Belmont County, Ohio, and I believe William was living there prewar.**) Clerk in Brooke County, Virginia.

- Major, Provisional Army of Virginia, 28 May 1861.
 - Major, Quartermaster to Robert E. Lee, apparently, 6 Aug 1861.
 - Major, Quartermaster to William W. Loring, date unknown.
 - Major, Ordnance Officer, Feb 1862, date unknown.
 - Captain, Assistant Quartermaster, Provisional Army of the Confederate States, 5 Nov 1862. Duty again unclear.
 - Captain, Assistant Quartermaster to report to J. E. B. Stuart, 26 Mar 1864.
 - Captain, Assistant Quartermaster to Wade Hampton by 1865. Paroled May 1865 at Staunton, Virginia.
- Druggist at Charlottesville. Died 5 May 1884. Buried Maplewood Cemetery. Victim of a fuzzy military record.

Charles Taylor **Mason**

(Page 216) Born Fredericksburg VA, 7 May 1832. Attended Virginia Military Institute (VMI). Engineer on Covington and Ohio Railroad.

- Lieutenant, Engineer Officer in Provisional Army of Virginia, 1861. Served at Hardy's Bluff.
- Lieutenant, Engineer Officer, 15 Feb 1862 at Drewry's Bluff. Helped build Fort Drewry.
- Captain, Engineer Officer, 1 Oct 1862. Served mostly on the James River defenses, into 1865.

Postwar realtor. **Died Chillicothe OH, 11 Dec 1918.** Mason's excellent wartime papers are at the Virginia Historical Society.

Augustus Neal **Parker**

(Page 237) Born at Franklin, Tennessee, 7 Nov 1842. Moved to Mississippi at age five. **Attended college in Ohio.** Clerk.

- Private, Company C, 18th Mississippi, 28 May 1861.
- Volunteer Aide-de-camp to George B. Anderson at Seven Pines.
- Clerk at Daniel Harvey Hill's headquarters.
- Volunteer Aide-de-camp to Winfield S. Featherston during Seven Days.
- Lieutenant, Aide-de-camp to Featherston, 18 Jul 1862.
- Served into 1865.

Bookkeeper, banker, and broker at Canton, Mississippi. Married twice. Died 13 Sep 1913. Buried at Canton Cemetery.

Samuel Venable **Reid**

(Page 252) Born in Lynchburg, Virginia, 19 Jul 1833. Attended University of Virginia and Washington College.

Moved to Covington, Kentucky, in 1858.

- Captain, Company H, 3rd Arkansas. Wounded at Seven Pines. Resigned 12 Feb 1863.
 - Special duty with Commissary Department.
 - Captain, Assistant Commissary of Subsistence, 1 Feb 1863, at Atlanta.
 - Captain, Assistant Commissary of Subsistence to Robert Ransom, 16 Jan 1864.
 - Major, Commissary of Subsistence at Wilmington, North Carolina from 4 Jun 1864 through the end of the war.
- Postwar merchant at Cincinnati, Ohio.** Alive 1887. "Not much bigger than a lump of chalk." (Bob Krick's note: **S. V. Reid apparently was a businessman in Cincinnati both before and after the war. He married Josephine O'Hara there in 1879**; however, he died at Lexington, Kentucky, date unknown. It is not clear whether he was living in Lexington or just happened to be there when he expired.)

John Christopher **Ruby**

(Page 258) **Born Gallia County, Ohio, 12 Apr 1829.** Clerk and grocer at Charleston, Virginia.

- Private, Company H, 22nd Virginia, 8 May 1861.
 - Captain, Assistant Commissary of Subsistence, 22nd Virginia, 11 Sep 1861.
 - Captain, acting Aide-de-camp to Colonel John McCausland, May 1862.
 - Captain, Assistant Commissary of Subsistence to John Echols, 1 Jul 1863. Served into 1865.
- Grocer at Charleston, West Virginia, and city mayor. Died 9 Jun 1882. Buried at Spring Hill Cemetery.

James Power **Smith**

(Page 269) **Born New Athens OH, 4 Jul 1837.** Attended Jefferson College and Hampden Sidney.

- Corporal, Rockbridge (VA) Artillery.
 - Lieutenant, Aide-de-Camp to Thomas J. Jackson, 2 Sep 1862.
 - Lieutenant, Aide-de-Camp to Richard S. Ewell, 8 Jun 1863.
 - Captain, Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General to Cullen A. Battle, 7 Dec 1863.
 - Captain, Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General to Gabriel C. Wharton, 23 Dec 1864, though he had been acting in that capacity since July 1864.
 - Captain, Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General to John Echols, 1865.
- Preacher at Roanoke, Fredericksburg, and Richmond VA. Died Greensboro NC, 6 Aug 1923. Buried Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond VA.

Cameron Lewis **Thompson**

(Page 286) Born Coalsmouth, Virginia, 22 Apr 1842.

- Private, Company H, 22nd Virginia, 1861.
 - Acting Aide-de-camp to Seth Barton, May 1863.
 - Prisoner of war at Vicksburg.
 - Captain, Assistant Quartermaster, 52nd Georgia, 19 Oct 1863.
 - Captain, Assistant Quartermaster to William R. Terry, 15 Sep 1864.
- Hardware salesman at Cincinnati, Ohio, 1865.** Later a merchant in Kentucky, and ultimately a newspaper publisher, realtor, and postmaster at Huntington, West Virginia. Alive 1920.

Charles Humphrey **Tyler**

(Page 291) Born in Virginia, ca. May 1826. Attended US Military Academy from Haymarket. Captain, US Dragoons, 1848-1861. Married Elizabeth Wright, 1856.

- Lieutenant Colonel, Provisional Army of Virginia, 25 May 1861.
- Captain, CSA, 25 Jun 1861.
- Lieutenant Colonel, Acting Assistant Adjutant General to Richard S. Ewell, Jun-Jul 1861.
- **Prisoner of war, Aug 1861 at Cincinnati, Ohio, "in an effort to recover my family." Exchanged 17 Dec 1861.**
- Captain, Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General to J. E. B. Stuart, 6 Oct 1862-12 Jan 1863.
- Temporarily commanded the 5th Virginia Cavalry until after Chancellorsville. Probably appointed Lieutenant

Colonel, Provisional Army of the Confederate States, at some point.

- Commanded a cavalry brigade in East Tennessee, late in 1863.

- Prisoner of war on 13 Feb 1864 in Trans-Mississippi. No further military record after 1864.

Postwar farmer at Cross Keys, Virginia. Died there on 17 Mar 1882. "Almost always drunk," according to one of Ewell's staff. A prewar acquaintance wrote of Tyler: "a handsome, courtly Virginian, a Chesterfield in manners, with dignity which was rendered very agreeable by a large and ready sense of humor."

Jackson Warner

(Page 296) **Born in a flatboat on the Ohio River.** A book publisher.

- Captain, Assistant Commissary of Subsistence, 2 Sep 1861. Served almost entirely as Assistant Commissary of Subsistence and acting Assistant Quartermaster for the military prisons around Richmond VA.

- Out of commission 24 Mar 1864, by virtue of non-assignment.

Briefly incarcerated by Yankees at Libby Prison in May 1865 on charges of cruelty to prisoners. A "stout, hearty-looking fellow, with ... immense circular beard and crisp moustache."

William Nicholas Worthington

(Page 310) Born 16 Jul 1841. Attended University of Virginia.

- Private, Company I, 4th Virginia Cavalry, 8 May-Dec 1861.

- Volunteer Aide-de-camp to Joseph R. Anderson, Oct 1861.

- Lieutenant, Aide-de-camp to Beverly H. Robertson, 13 Jun 1862.

- Captain, Assistant Adjutant General to Beverly H. Robertson, 18 Feb 1863.

- Captain, Assistant Adjutant General to Crutchfield's Artillery Brigade, 4 Feb 1865.

Died Toledo, Ohio, 30 Jun 1871. Buried at Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond.

A Potential Addition: George St. Leger Ommanney Grenfell

We would suggest that George St. Leger **Grenfell** should also be on the list of Ohio connections. Bob Krick's biographical sketch of **Grenfell** is as follows (Page 143): Born London, England, 30 May 1808. Attended school in Holland. British army officer. Married Hortense Louise Wyatt.

- Aide-de-camp and Acting Assistant Adjutant General to John H. Morgan, 1862.

- Volunteer Aide-de-camp to Braxton Bragg, Nov 1862.

- Lieutenant Colonel, Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General to Joseph Wheeler, May 1863.

- Lieutenant Colonel, Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General to J. E. B. Stuart, 12 Sep 1863. Resigned 21 Jan 1864. Disliked by Stuart.

- Arrested in Chicago as spy, 7 Nov 1864, and sentenced to life in prison. Fled from his prison in the Dry Tortugas, but never seen again, Mar 1868.

Grenfell had one Cincinnati connection during his life and a second connection that continues today. First, his trial was held in Cincinnati, and second, his biographer is former Cincinnati Stephen Z. Starr: *Colonel Grenfell's Wars: The Life of a Soldier of Fortune* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1971. Louisiana Paperback Edition, 1995.) Mr. Starr, a native of Hungary born in 1909 and raised in Cleveland, was a lawyer who served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Clopay Corporation in Cincinnati, trustee of the Cincinnati Historical Society, and president of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table (1961-1963). Among his other publications is the three-volume classic still in print, *The Union Cavalry in the Civil War*. Mr. Starr died in 1985.

Colonel Grenfell's Wars deals extensively with **Grenfell's** trial before a military commission in Cincinnati, including the following:

- **Grenfell** was transferred from Chicago to Cincinnati at the end of December 1864 for trial by military commission. The charges stemmed from an ill-fated plan to release Confederate POW's being held at Camp Douglas in Chicago, with **Grenfell** being one of eight men charged.

- The prosecutor was Henry Lawrence **Burnett**, Judge Advocate of the Department of the Ohio, formerly a captain and company commander in the 2nd Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. **Burnett**, 27 years old, was from Youngstown OH.

- The trial ran from 9 Jan 1865 until the verdicts were announced in court on 18 Apr 1865. **Grenfell** was one of eight defendants, the only one to receive the death sentence.

- His sentence was eventually commuted to imprisonment for life, at hard labor, at Dry Tortugas, approximately 75 miles west of Key West FL.
- **Grenfell** arrived at Dry Tortugas on 8 Oct 1865. During his imprisonment there, he maintained an active correspondence with British government authorities and with various US officials and lawyers in an attempt to have his conviction overturned, or his sentence commuted. In September 1867 he was instrumental in handling a yellow fever epidemic at the prison, along with convicted Lincoln assassination conspirator Dr. Samuel **Mudd**.
- Among the many individuals who attempted to gain **Grenfell**'s release from prison were Cincinnati judge and politician Thomas **Key**, Archbishop **Purcell** of Cincinnati, and A. J. **Peeler**, a former Confederate officer and POW at Johnson's Island, and later attorney in Florida.
- **Grenfell** attempted to escape Dry Tortugas with three other prisoners and a prison guard during a storm on 6 Mar 1868. None of the five were ever seen again, and were believed to have died in their small, overloaded boat before reaching Cuba.