

conclusion from all of this, then Gordon's telling of Barlow's mistake is strongly probative of the essential truth of Gordon's accounts.

Still further support for the truth of the story is that, in the account of it that appeared in 1879 in the *National Tribune*, the unidentified author concludes his description of the dinner party by saying "The hearty greeting which followed the touching story, as related to the interested guests by *General Barlow* (my italics), and the thrilling effect upon the company, can be better imagined than described." Observe that according to this unidentified author (who was approximately one hundred twenty-seven years closer to the event than we are), the story was told by *Barlow*, not *Gordon*, thus further corroborating Gordon's accounts, unless we prefer to go off into daisyland again and hold that Barlow fabricated the story first, but that Gordon liked it so much that he later incorporated it into his speech and memoirs, sanitized his other writings, and threw in a couple of other fabrications here and there to beef it up.

The weight of the evidence, indeed the great weight of the evidence, is in favor of the truth of Gordon's and Barlow's accounts, later embellishments in the retelling of it by others notwithstanding. The only reasonable conclusion, therefore, is that it happened in substantially the way that Gordon said it happened, and that the integrity of both Americans, therefore, remains untarnished.

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Civil War Monuments in Ohio

By Harold A George. Privately published, 2006

The author is known to many of us for his in-depth Civil War programs and we will see him in March when he speaks on George Armstrong Custer. George has photographed and indexed more than 270 Ohio Civil War monuments; 66 are featured here. Most of the illustrations are large enough for the viewer to see much detail. Each photo includes the memorials' location, cost and dedication date. Uniformed men are the most common memorial subject. Most are a symbolic 'everyman', but some are familiar Civil War patriots, e.g., Lincoln, McPherson, Steedman, John Clem (the youngest Union volunteer), and Custer. There are lots of cannon, of course, and an assortment of obelisk types. There are some unique memorials, too, including a beautifully sculpted bronze and stone featuring the effigy of the grandfather of the family who paid for the statue. In Canton, a bronze draped woman, "Peace," bows at the base of a large stone and places a palm frond on its surface. George includes the Confederate POW cemetery in Columbus with its huge boulder crudely cut with the words "2260 Confederate Soldiers of the War of 1861-65 buried in this enclosure."

Although "Monuments" is essentially a picture book, George relates some human interest stories collected, he told me, from people he met on thousands of miles' of travel researching this book. He includes quite a bit of incidental monument information. The complete index of monuments, categorized by region and county, is in the book, also. There are thousands of Civil War books, but I doubt if there is another quite like this one, dedicated to the memorials honoring those who served in a cruel war that left millions of broken hearts, bodies, and lives. As I spent time with the book, I felt that it is also a testimonial to the grief and pride of citizens who raised these memorials so that the generations will remember.

George has donated a copy of "Civil War Monuments in Ohio" to our 50th Anniversary raffle. You can bid on this at our November party or you can purchase an autographed copy when George speaks to us on April 11 at a special guest price of \$20.00. If you are in a hurry, call (216 319-4575) and George will mail you a copy for \$25.00.

Reviewed by Marjorie R Wilson. Marjorie is a new member and a current board member.