

# Books and Bytes

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A Newsletter of the Hiram College Library

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## Archives Launches Civil War Database “Our Eclectic Soldiers”

We are pleased to announce the publication of the database “Our Eclectic Soldiers: WREI Students Who Served in the Civil War.” The database contains information regarding the service of almost 400 young men who attended the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (now Hiram College) and went on to serve in the Civil War. The information gathered here comes from a variety of sources including military records, online databases, and local history resources. As more information is found, it will also be posted. The database can be accessed through the Hiram College Archives webpage at <http://library.hiram.edu/index.php/2011-12-26-19-16-07/cws-database>.



## Library Hours for Fall-3 Week Term

(Wednesday, November 28, through Tuesday, December 18)

Monday	7:45 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Tuesday	7:45 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Wednesday	7:45 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Thursday	7:45 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Friday	7:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	Noon – 11:00 p.m.

## OhioLINK Turns 20

On November 1, OhioLINK celebrated 20 years of library resource sharing to provide more than 600,000 college and university students, staff, and faculty with access to millions of books and other materials.

University libraries and the Board of Regents created OhioLINK to provide a competitive advantage to Ohio's higher education community by cooperating to acquire, in a cost-effective manner, library resources. OhioLINK has won several awards for fulfilling that mission.



Today, OhioLINK provides access to 46.5 million print books, more than 81,000 e-books, millions of electronic journal articles, and thousands of digital images and videos. OhioLINK's membership includes 16 public/research universities, 49 private colleges, 23 community/technical colleges, and the State Library of Ohio. Hiram College has been a member since 1997.

## Library Hours for Holiday Interim

Wednesday, December 19	7:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 20	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, December 21	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 22 through Tuesday, January 1	CLOSED
Wednesday, January 2	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 3	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, January 4	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 5	CLOSED
Sunday, January 6	CLOSED

Regular library hours resume on Monday, January 7

**Hiram College Library: Learning Unshelved**

## Hiram History

### Hunting for Soldiers

As part of the Civil War Sesquicentennial commemorations, for the past two years I have been working on a special project in the Archives to find out how many young men who had attended the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute [now Hiram College] also served in the Civil War. The idea for this project came after a student asked how many students served and I did not have a good answer – merely a couple of half-hearted lists created by two literary societies. This project has led me down many avenues and through many doors in pursuit of these young men. I have had wonderful success in finding Union soldiers. We have gone from 139 to almost 400.

However, something bothered me. Did we have any soldiers who fought for the Confederacy? We had students from many parts of the country, including the South, prior to the war. If they returned home after completing their time at the Eclectic, is it not reasonable to assume that they served with their home regiments? I wanted to believe this but I had no proof. The names of the students/ soldiers were not unique enough for me to make a true connection without more facts.

My first “breakthrough” came as I was looking for something else in a book in the Henry Collection, *Captain Henry of Geauga County* by Frederick A. Henry. In it, the then Lt. Charles E. Henry talks about being in Louisiana with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Infantry during the war and he ran into a few young men he had known at the Eclectic.

“Hough of Virginia was a Delphic and Pratt of Louisiana and Craig of Mississippi were Hesperians. They took but little part in secession debates and appeared at times reticent and gloomy. They were treated, however, by the rest with great kindness and so far as I know nothing was said in a personal way to hurt their feelings. All three served in the Confederate army.” (page 177)

Ah hah! Now I had some sort of confirmation. Using resources from Ancestry.com, Fold3.com, the National Park Service Civil War database, and other local history materials found through internetarchives.com, I have determined that Henry was correct about Pratt but not Hough. Marion Franklin Pratt served as a Sergeant in Company I, Louisiana Ogden’s Cavalry Battalion. After the war, he lived the rest of his life in New Orleans and worked as a bookkeeper.

Hough was more difficult to find. First, looking through Eclectic student rosters between 1850 and 1865, I could find no one with that last name. The closest I found was William Hoff, who attended the Eclectic in 1860 and was from Phillipi, Virginia. Using many of the same resources that I had used for Pratt and many other soldiers, I found out that Capt. Henry was wrong. While Hoff had served in the war, he had served for the Union. The area of Virginia he was from became West

Virginia. Hoff was a Lieutenant in Company D, 15<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Infantry.

I have yet to find “Craig of Mississippi” but I remain hopeful that through multiple database searches and local history resources I will find an answer.

For more information regarding this project, our Eclectic students who served in the Civil War, or any other Hiram History topic, please contact the Hiram College Archives at x5361 or [morrowjs@hiram.edu](mailto:morrowjs@hiram.edu). The Hiram College Archives is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Appointments are strongly recommended.

To view the database of soldiers please go to <http://library.hiram.edu/index.php/2011-12-26-19-16-07/cws-database>. See the front page for more information.

By Jennifer Morrow, College Archivist

## Gwen Evans Named OhioLINK Director

Chancellor Jim Petro has appointed Gwen Evans to serve as executing director of OhioLINK. Evans had been named interim director in August, replacing John Magill, who took a new post to focus on workforce creation and economic development initiatives for the Board of Regents.

Before OhioLINK, Evans served as director of special projects for the Ohio Technology Consortium (OH-TECH), as well as the liaison between OH-TECH and OhioLINK of technology issues and services. She previously served as an associate professor and coordinator of library information and emerging technology at Bowling Green State University.

At the same time, Chancellor Petro officially placed OhioLINK under the umbrella of OH-TECH, which serves as the research and technology arm of the Board of Regents. OH-TECH consists of OhioLINK, the Ohio Supercomputer Center, the Ohio Academic Resources Network, eStudent Services (an expansion and realignment of the Ohio Learning Network), and the newly established Research and Innovation Center.

## *Health and Society in Video* Available on Trial

The library has started a 30-day trial (through December 11, 2012) subscription to *Health and Society in Video*, a new video – streaming database. Just go to <http://hlth.alexanderstreet.com>. Access is limited to on-campus only. Produced by Alexander Street Press, the database contains more than 250 full-length videos with more being added. Check it out and let us know what you think – just email David Everett at [everettd@hiram.edu](mailto:everettd@hiram.edu) with your comments.