
THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



PO Box 621082 • Cincinnati, OH 45262 • www.cincinnatiwrt.org
Serving the Tri-State area of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana since 1956

[CCWRT](#)

April, 2016 Issue

Meeting Date: April 21, 2016

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social
(7:15) Business Meeting

(6:30) Dinner
(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: Roasted Pork Loin,
Twice Baked Potato, Buttered Broccoli,
Sugar Snap Pea & Berry Salad, Dinner Rolls,
and Brownie Bites Topped with Whipped Cream and Chocolate Sauce**
Vegetarian Option: Upon request

Speaker: Stephen M. "Sam" Hood

Topic: *The Lost Papers of General John Bell Hood: Revelation and Redemption*

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org or call it in to Lester Burgin at 513-891-0610. Leave a message, if necessary. If you are making a reservation for more than yourself, please provide the names of the others. Please note that **all reservations must be in no later than 8:00 pm Tuesday, April 12, 2016.**

April Speaker:

The historical community long believed Confederate General John Bell Hood's papers were lost or destroyed. Numerous books and articles have been written about him without the benefit of these documents. In fact, the papers had been carefully held and preserved by Hood's descendants. The collection relates to Hood's U.S. Army service, Civil War career, and postwar life, and includes letters from Confederate and Union officers, unpublished battle reports, detailed medical reports relating to Hood's two major wounds, and dozens of letters exchanged between Hood and his wife, Anna.



Stephen M. "Sam" Hood

After pouring through these documents, Sam Hood will shed important light on some of the war's lingering mysteries and controversies. For example, letters from Confederate officers help explain Hood's failure to entrap Schofield's Union army at Spring Hill, Tennessee, on November 29, 1864. Another letter by Lt. Gen. Stephen D. Lee helps to explain Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne's gallant but reckless conduct that resulted in his death at Franklin. Other papers explain, for the first time, the purpose and intent behind Hood's "controversial" memoir *Advance and Retreat*, and validate its contents. While these and others offer a military perspective of Hood the general, the revealing letters between he and Anna, his beloved and devoted wife, help us better understand Hood the man and husband.

Stephen M. "Sam" Hood is a distant relative of Confederate General John Bell Hood. Sam is a retired industrial construction company owner, and lives in Huntington, WV, with his wife of 38 years, the former Martha Ann Hager. He is a 1970 graduate of Kentucky Military Institute, and earned a BBA in Marketing from Marshall University in 1976. Sam served in the United States Marine Corps

Reserve and has had a lifelong interest in the sport of soccer. He is a former head men's soccer coach at Marshall University, and coached Huntington St. Joseph Catholic High School to four West Virginia state championships. A former college soccer referee, Sam was a founder of the West Virginia Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association in 1982. With an abiding interest in Civil War history, Sam is a past member of the board of directors of the Blue Gray Education Society of Chatham, VA, and is past president of the Board of Directors of Confederate Memorial Hall Museum in New Orleans.



President's Report

...from Tom Williams

April – spring time, new blooms, baby chicks, and Easter. Oops, Easter was early this year and was last month. Still, April always has that sense of love and new growth.

Now, how does this relate to the Cincy CWRT? Well, Dan Bauer, our program chair, tells me that our April speaker Stephen M. Hood's talk about *The Lost Papers of John Bell Hood* has been extremely popular at other round table chapters, and especially with the spouses of members who, in general, are not interested in other round table talks about various Civil War battles. It seems General Hood had, shall we say, an active love life, and parts of General Hood's lost papers that Stephen Hood will talk about, I expect, will relate to these non-battle periods in the life of the general.

Certainly, I am looking forward to Stephen Hood's talk, but I frankly have this mental image of General Hood that I just can't get out of my mind. To me, I always see John Bell Hood as the figure that is the Monty Python character, the Black Knight.

The Black Knight is a fictional character who appears in a scene of the film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. If you haven't seen this film, let me give you the scene as it is listed in *Wikipedia*. The Black Knight guards a "bridge" (in reality, a short plank of wood) over a small stream, which could have been easily stepped over by King Arthur but, for unknown reasons, he does not. The Black Knight stands still, holding his sword vertically, and makes no response until Arthur moves to cross the bridge. The Black Knight moves slightly to block Arthur and declares, "None shall pass." King Arthur, in a conciliatory manner, asserts his right to cross, but the Black Knight says Arthur will die. Arthur orders the Black Knight to move, but he says, "I move for no man." Reluctantly, King Arthur fights the Black Knight and, after a short battle, the Knight's left arm is severed, which squirts out copious amounts of blood.

Even at this, the Knight refuses to stand aside, indicating "Tis but a scratch," insisting that he has "had worse," and fights on while holding his sword with his remaining arm. Next, his right arm is cut off, but the Knight still does not concede. As the Knight is literally disarmed, Arthur assumes the fight is over and kneels to offer a prayer to God. The Black Knight interrupts Arthur's prayer of thanks by kicking him in the side of the head and accusing him of cowardice. When Arthur points out the Black Knight's injuries, the Knight insists, "It's just a flesh wound!" In response to the continued kicks and insults, Arthur chops off the Black Knight's right leg. At this point, the Knight still won't admit to defeat; instead, he replies by saying, "Right, I'll do you for that," and attempts to ram his body into Arthur's, by hopping on his left leg. Arthur is annoyed at the Black Knight's persistence, and angrily asks the Black Knight if he is going to bleed on him to win. The Black Knight replies by saying, "I'm invincible!" to which Arthur replies, "You're a loony!" With an air of resignation, Arthur finally cuts off the left leg as well and sheathes his sword. With the Black Knight now reduced to a mere stump of a man, he says, "All right, we'll call it a draw."

Now that I have put this image in your head, that you also might never get out, especially if you Google and watch the movie sketch on YouTube, you can see how this is my mental image of General John Bell Hood. General Hood somehow continues on as arguably one of the best division commanders of the Confederate Army after losing his leg and the use of his arm. Truly, I see him as the "Black Knight" of the Confederacy.

Even after the war, his life was a mess. His business is ruined by a yellow fever epidemic which he ultimately contracts, and he, his wife, and one of his children die from the fever in 1879. Yet, he also left ten other children as orphans that he had fathered since the war. But all of the books and articles I have read on John Bell Hood describe him as being an aggressive leader of troops and always upbeat and energetic. I can see General Hood, saying to General Lee, "Let me return to my Texas division, 'Tis but a scratch and just a flesh wound!"

So, sign up and bring your friends and spouses to our April Round Table, where you can learn more about the complex John Bell Hood from his lost papers. Maybe then you will not, like me, picture him as the Monty Python "Black Knight."

Items of Interest

Perryville Battlefield Round Table Tour

In last month's newsletter, there were details provided for a Round Table tour at Perryville that takes place late April. To date, Darryl Smith has received no emails or phone calls from Cincinnati round table members about their interest in going. The deadline for reserving your room at a reduced cost (Hampton Inn in Danville, Kentucky) is March 29th.

Details for this trip are posted on the website and were fully given in last month's newsletter. This is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy a local battlefield. Darryl is working to access some otherwise non-public sites, so take advantage of this limited opportunity.

Those interested in attending must contact Darryl at **513-321-1539** or **ohioatperryville@gmail.com**.

Public Tour of Perryville Battlefield

For those wanting a less detailed tour at Perryville, Chuck Lott and Darryl Smith will be leading a one-day event at Perryville on May 21st, starting at 9:00 a.m. This will be in two sessions covering as much of the campaign and battle as possible. There is a good deal of walking involved, with discussion stops along the way. No need to RSVP for this tour; just come out and have a good time. Bring a lunch, water, and wear sturdy walking shoes.

2016 Blue & Gray Dinner

All are invited to the **April 13, 2016**, James A. Ramage Civil War Museum's Blue and Gray Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction. It will be held at Twin Oaks Plantation Club, 450 E 43rd Street, Latonia, KY, at 6:00 pm, starting with a cocktail hour followed by dinner at 7:00 pm. Entertainment is by Karl and Margaret (Peggy) Carson Lietzenmayer, living historians who will portray Stephen Foster and Jane Foster. Tickets are \$50 per person, or a Table is \$360 for 8 persons. Silent Auction: Cash or check only please. **RSVP to Linda Hornsby at 859-261-3045 or lykantee@aol.com**. Proceeds benefit the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum.

March Presentation ... submitted by Mark Silbersack

At our March meeting, Michael C. C. Adams, Regents Professor of History Emeritus at Northern Kentucky University, spoke about his 2014 book, *Living Hell: The Dark Side of the Civil War*.

Prof. Adams grew up in, holds a Ph.D. from, and has been on the NKU faculty since 1972. His first book, *Our Masters the Rebels*, won the Jefferson Davis Prize. His 1994 book *The Best War Ever*, a history of the American experience in World War II, is widely read in undergraduate history courses. He has also published books on World War I and the treatment of war in popular culture.



Michael C. C. Adams

who saw a battery's cannon, gunners, and horses blown to bits, and wrote about a badly mutilated survivor begging "to be shot and put out of his misery." Another involved a Confederate soldier who wrote about how his colleagues laughed at a young girl traveling near them (likely a mentally ill rape victim), who then threw her off a bridge to her death.

Prof. Adams also catalogued the many evils that beset the armies in the field, North and South, beyond the scourge of battle – scarcity of essential supplies like food and clean water, harsh punishment by their own commanders, dysentery and other illnesses, coping with the innumerable dead and wounded, unsanitary conditions, the overall climate of brutality, etc.

Due to time constraints, Prof. Adams simply referred us to his book to learn more about the problems suffered by those left behind in the cities and particularly on family farms.

In his talk, Prof. Adams recounted the hardships that Civil War participants endured. His approach was to let ordinary people tell what they learned of the dark side of war in their own words, found in contemporaneous memoirs, diaries, correspondence, war reports, news reports, and even poetry. He said that, in doing such research over many years, he was most surprised by the candor with which sometimes awful events were described.

His overall theme, reflecting the structure of his book, was that the soldiers fighting the Civil War moved on a road from initial optimism and patriotic or moral fervor to gradually, over time, a state of "war psychosis." After deprivations in camp and then horrific physical and emotional wounds in battle, many were "on the edge of sanity." And the longer the war went on, the more likely soldiers were to engage in inhumane behavior.

Prof. Adams read a couple examples of soldiers' accounts that candidly described such conduct. One involved a Union soldier

who saw a battery's cannon, gunners, and horses blown to bits, and wrote about a badly mutilated survivor begging "to be shot and put out of his misery." Another involved a Confederate soldier who wrote about how his colleagues laughed at a young girl traveling near them (likely a mentally ill rape victim), who then threw her off a bridge to her death.



March Quiz:

This Cincinnati CWRT meeting will be our last meeting before the 154th anniversary of the first large scale battle of the American Civil War. All Americans would be paying honor to the soldiers who participated in that epic event by reading the following:

Skimming lightly, wheeling still,
the swallows fly low
Over the field in clouded days,
the forest-field of Shiloh-

Over the field where April rain
Solaced the parched ones stretched in pain
Through the pause of night
That followed the **Sunday** fight
 Around the church of Shiloh-
The church so lone, the log built one,
That echoed to many a parting groan
 And natural prayer
 Of dying foemen mingled there-
Foemen at morn, but friends at eve-
 Fame or country least their care.
(What like a bullet can undeceive!)
 But now they lie low,
While over them the swallows skim,
 And all is hushed at Shiloh.

– Herman Melville

1. Where was General Lew Wallace’s headquarters located when he directed the defenses of Cincinnati against Confederate General Heth’s advance upon the city in 1862?
2. 349 deceased Union soldiers were temporarily buried in the Waldschmidt Cemetery at Camp Dennison during the camp’s war-related operations. On **4 July, 1869**, the bodies were transferred to _____ (*supply name*) Cemetery, where they remain **today**.
3. He provided General Longstreet with arguably the most famous and important piece of military intelligence generated in the Civil War. Soon after doing so, this man was paid \$300 in United States currency for his work by Confederate Secretary of War Seddon. He married, fathered two daughters, and later deserted his family. His shadowy life ended in 1923 in the Greater Cincinnati area. His name was _____.
4. The first Union draft was held **1 Oct 1862**, but no draft was held in Butler County, Ohio. Why?
5. A plaque in downtown Cincinnati at 21 E. 8th Street marks the spot where poet and painter Thomas Buchanan Read wrote a famous Civil War poem dealing with General _____.

BONUS QUESTION:

Name the cemetery in which Henry Thomas Harrison is buried.

Quiz Answers:

1. The Burnet House
Ref.: “Lew Wallace’s American Civil War Career,” *Civil War Times*, **12 June 2006**

2. Spring Grove
Ref.: *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 9 Nov. 2014, p. AA1
3. Henry Thomas Harrison
Ref.: Coski, “New Donation Sheds Light on the legendary ‘Spy Harrison,’” *The American Civil War Museum Magazine*, Fall 2015, pp.4-6
4. Because the county’s draft quota had been exceeded by the voluntary enlistment of 337 more men than the quota demanded.
Ref.: Blount, The Lane Library, Hamilton, OH, 2 April 2015
5. Sheridan (Sheridan’s Ride)
Ref.: Suess, “Did You Know,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 27 Jan. 2013

BONUS ANSWER:

Highland Cemetery in Fort Mitchell, KY
Ref.: Ibid to question #3; Highland Cemetery business office



Future Presentations:

May 19, 2016	William Alan Blair, Pennsylvania State University <i>The Dirty Business of Winning a Civil War: Combating Disloyalty</i>
Sep. 15, 2016	David G. Moore, Washington, DC <i>William S. Rosecrans and the Union Victory</i>
Oct. 20, 2016	Richard Swigert, Hamilton CWRT <i>CSS Shenandoah</i>
Nov. 17, 2016	David T. Dixon, Santa Barbara, CA <i>The Lost Gettysburg Address: The Civil War Odyssey of Charles Anderson</i>
Jan. 19, 2017	Theresa Leininger-Miller, University of Cincinnati <i>Illustrated Sheet Music of the Civil War</i>
Feb. 16, 2017	Mark Lause, University of Cincinnati <i>Sterling Price and the 1864 Missouri Campaign</i>
Mar. 16, 2017	William “Jack” C. Davis, Virginia Tech TBD
Apr. 20, 2017	Wayne Motts, Harrisburg, PA <i>Pickett’s Charge</i>
May 18, 2017	Philip Greenwalt, Everglades National Park <i>Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864</i>

ABOUT THE CINCINNATI CWRT:

Membership in the Cincinnati CWRT is open to anyone with an active interest in the American Civil War. Annual dues (prorated throughout the year to new members) are \$25 (single) and \$35 (couple) for a **Regular Membership**. This fee helps cover operating costs which include this newsletter, as well as speaker expenses. A **Sustaining Member** level of membership is also available for \$50 (single) and \$85 (couple). The purpose of this membership category is to encourage and recognize members who make additional contributions of \$25 or more, in addition to their annual dues in any fiscal year, to the objectives and programs of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table. If you are joining for the first time, there is a one-time, lifetime, **Initiation Fee** of \$20 (single) or \$30 (couple). Students enrolled full time in any recognized secondary or higher institute of learning can use a **Student Membership**, which applies a discount of \$10 to each of the above dues and initiation fee rates.

Dinner reservations are required, and can be made prior to the reservations deadline either by an email to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org or by a phone call to the officer taking reservations for the meeting (whose name and number is listed on the header of the current **Canister**). **Meals** currently cost \$20. Menu selection will change with each meeting. A vegetarian meal option is available, if requested prior to the reservations cut-off date.

A **Meeting Only Fee** of \$5.00 is assessed to members, visitors and guests who arrive after dinner to hear the speaker. The monies collected are used to help offset the expenses of the evening's activities.

Late Reservations and Walk-ins without a reservation: Our ability to be flexible for late reservations or walk-ins is now restricted by the fact that the Drake Center only prepares meals according to the reservation count called in. Therefore, **Late Reservations** (after the Wednesday by 8:00 pm which is eight days before the meeting) will be accepted conditionally, subject to the caterer's ability to honor a change in dinner count if received close to the meeting date. **Late Reservations and Walk-ins without a reservation** will only be able to have dinner if offset by cancellations or no-shows, or if the caterer determines that sufficient food is available.

Late cancellations may be made by email or phone. Since a cancellation after the Wednesday 8:00 pm deadline which is eight days before the meeting means that CCWRT has guaranteed payment to The Drake Center for the reserved number of meals, the Treasurer will review the number of late cancellations and late reservations for every meeting. If a late cancellation results in the CCWRT being required to pay for an extra meal, the person making the late cancellation will be expected to pay for the dinner. **No-shows** who have a dinner reservation but do not attend will be billed for the meal. **Meetings** are held the third Thursday of the month, September – November and January – May at The Drake Center, 151 West Galbraith Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45216 (**Phone: 513-418-2500**). If traveling Interstate 75, exit at Galbraith Road (Exit 10) and go west one mile. If coming across the Ronald Reagan Cross County Highway, take the Galbraith Road exit and go west two miles. Or, take the Galbraith/Winton exit and go east one mile.

Free parking is available in the WEST PAVILION parking lot. The West Pavilion entrance will take you to the meeting rooms. **To get to our meeting room**, enter the West Pavilion main entrance and go to the left side of the gift shop found opposite the entryway; the meeting room is located at the far end of the cafeteria hallway.

CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:

President: Tom Williams	513-608-4391 (h)	t.williams@outlook.com
Vice-President: Lester Burgin	513-891-0610 (h)	LesterBurgin@gmail.com
Treasurer: Jim Stewart	513-271-0738 (h)	jebstewart@fuse.net
Secretary: Mark Silbersack	513-977-8243 (h)	mark.silbersack@dinsmore.com
Program Chair: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h)	dbauer002@cinci.rr.com
Newsletter Editor: David Mowery	513-774-9544 (h)	dmowery11@fuse.net
Membership & Publicity: Vacant	--	--
Trustee: Bob Limoseth (2015-2017)	513-777-2160 (h)	rlimo@fuse.net
Trustee: Pat Homan (2014-2016)	513-861-2057 (h)	homanfamily@fuse.net

COMMITTEES:

Activities: Darryl Smith	513-321-1539 (h)	ohioatperryville@gmail.com
Preservation Projects:		
Becky Burket & Randy Donohue	513-771-3949 (h)	northstarians@AOL.com
Webmaster: Mike Rogers	859-907-3096 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
CCWRT ListServ: Mike Rogers	859-907-3096 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
CCWRT ListServ Address		ccwrt@cincinnatiwrt.org