
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](#)

May, 2016 Issue

Meeting Date: May 19, 2016

Place: The Drake Center

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

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

**Dinner Menu: Grilled Hot Dogs, Metts, Hamburgers, and Cheeseburgers,
Potato Salad, Baked Beans,
Relish Plate,
and Assorted Ice Cream Bars**
Vegetarian Option: Upon request

Speaker: William Alan Blair, Pennsylvania State University

Topic: *The Dirty Business of Winning a Civil War: Combating
Disloyalty*

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, May 10, 2016.**

May Speaker:

We often talk about the hard measures used to win the war on the battlefield. But we don't often consider the hard war that was fought away from the battlefield and in the streets of even the communities loyal to the Union. What it took to win the Civil War was often very dirty business in which the Constitution, at times, became stretched, and soldiers committed acts that should raise our eyebrows. No place was sacrosanct from arrests: not newsrooms, not churches, and certainly not the ballot box. In winning the Civil War, virtually every cornerstone of freedom sustained a few cracks.



William Blair

Dr. William Blair is the Walter L. and Helen P. Ferree Professor of Middle American History, Director of the Richards Civil War Era Center, and founding editor of *The Journal of the Civil War Era*. He also edits The Brose Lecture Series with the University of North Carolina Press. He earned his Ph.D. from Penn State in 1995 and now serves as Acting Head of Penn State's Department of History. His books include *With Malice Toward Some: Treason in the Civil War Era* (2014), which was a finalist for the Lincoln Prize; *Virginia's Private War: Feeding Body and Soul in the Confederacy, 1861-1865* (1998), and *Cities of the Dead: Contesting the Memory of the Civil War in the South, 1865-1914* (2004). He serves as a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians.



President's Report

...from Tom Williams

Come May 19th, I'm outta here.

Well, not really, and maybe the New Jersey slang is over the top, but my term as President of our esteemed organization will come to an end in May. Although it is not in our bylaws, it has been tradition that one serve two years in the office. That is, two years as VP, then on to the Presidency for another two years.

And just like what I find in my non-Round Table life, the two years as President has gone by very quickly. It has been a very enjoyable two years. I have made new friends, grown closer to old friends, and learned a lot from the lectures given by our speakers. For those of you who might think about climbing on this Round Table ladder, it frankly hasn't been all that time-consuming.

I take pleasure in the membership growth of the Round Table during these last two years, but certainly there was nothing I did to make that happen. I think our new digs at the Drake has been of help. It is just roomier, airier, and altogether better than the old meeting space that, for me, I felt was down in a dungeon. Going forward next year, having both of the rooms set up like we had at our April Round Table meeting will only enhance our Drake experience.

Now, since this is my last opportunity to preach, it is time to get to it.

#1 – We haven't grown enough. I think we are still "unknown" by perhaps a fair number of people in Greater Cincinnati who have an interest in the Civil War. I am astounded when I hear we have over 800 followers on Facebook. Therefore, there is a Civil War interest in Cincy. Not that we would ever get all 800 to come to a meeting, but we still need to find new ways to better introduce and promote the Round Table to the community.

#2 – In that same vein, we haven't done a good job of linking up with the other Civil War interest groups in our area. I think such interaction would be helpful and beneficial to us and to those other diverse Civil War groups. I had hoped last year's May picnic would have been a start. Maybe it was, but if so, it was only a small step.

#3 – Thank goodness the CCWRT is in a comfortable place, at least financially. That was not the case a few years back, and it is not the case with today's separate Preservation Fund. The quiz and the book raffle are fun, but the funds the raffle brings in don't support the needs of the Preservation projects we are asked to support. In the past, there were donations beyond buying a raffle ticket. This year, these larger donations are down. I personally feel preservation should be a major, ongoing goal of the Cincy Round Table, but preservation takes money, and maybe we need to rethink our commitment to preservation projects or devise new and better ways to financially support our goals.

#4 – We rely on too few people to do the things that need to be done. Maybe it is the American way today, but not a lot of hands go up when someone asks for help.

So there you have it – just a few things that are my hopes for an even better Round Table. I also hope you will join with me to achieve these goals. You can start by inviting someone to this year's May Picnic/Round Table. Just like last year, the dinner will only cost \$15.00, and there will not be a charge for those attending the meeting but not the dinner. Dan tells me we will have a great speaker who should be of interest to we Civil War nuts, as well as any non-nuts, attending.

Items of Interest

Volunteers Needed

The 501c3 not-for-profit, all-volunteer Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation is working on two major projects in 2016 to bring awareness to the nation about Ohio's largest Civil War battle, the Battle of Buffington Island, fought July 19, 1863, at Portland, Ohio. Both projects are looking for volunteers from across the country who might help in various capacities.

Project #1:

The Foundation is sponsoring a 5-day reenactment of Confederate Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan's movements through Meigs County, Ohio, from Wilkesville to Portland. The reenactment will be held from **September 14-18, 2016**, in Meigs County, and will feature approximately 300 infantrymen with artillery and 200 cavalymen who will ride or march along much of the original path of Morgan's Great Raid of July 1863. Steamboats will also likely be participating in the event. There will be battles reenacted every day, but the largest one will be performed on Sunday, September 18, on the actual Buffington Island battlefield.

For this project, the Foundation is looking for volunteers to help set up and tear down tents and other amenities for the reenactment, help guide visitors for parking, help feed the reenactors, and perform work in booths in Meigs County. The group is also looking for anyone who might assist with sending out social media blurbs to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other media venues. This can be done from your home. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, or know someone who might want to join in this historic Civil War reenactment (the largest in Ohio), please contact David Mowery, Chair of the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation, at **513-774-9544** or at buffingtonisland@gmail.com. More information is available at www.morgansraidreenactment.com.

Project #2:

The Foundation is sponsoring a one-hour documentary film on John Hunt Morgan’s Great Raid of 1863, with special focus on the raid within Ohio. The working title of the film is *Raiders on the Ohio*, but since the film is in the marketing and funding stage, this title may change in the future. From May through December of this year, a campaign will be conducted at various sites across the state to raise funds for the film. A professional film producer and director from Ohio University have already committed to the project, and once the funds are raised, they will begin production in 2017. The locations where the public are encouraged to join in a night of talks and discussions about the documentary film are listed below:

County	Date	Time	Location	Address
Adams	Friday, June 24, 2016	7:00 PM	First State Bank	19230 State Rt. 136, Winchester, OH 45697
Brown	Saturday, June 25, 2016	7:00 PM	Mary P. Shelton Library	200 W. Grant Ave., Georgetown OH 45121
Guernsey	Friday, July 22, 2016	7:00 PM	Deerassic Park Education Center	14250 Cadiz Rd., Cambridge, OH 43725
Morgan	Saturday, July 23, 2016	7:00 PM	Burr Oak Lodge	10220 Burr Oak Lodge Rd., Glouster, OH 45732
Meigs	Friday, July 29, 2016	6:00 PM	Meigs County Public Library	216 W. Main St., Pomeroy, OH 45769
Jackson	Saturday, July 30, 2016	7:00 PM	Jackson County Public Library	21 Broadway Street, Jackson, Ohio 45640
Columbiana	Friday, August 12, 2016	6:00 PM	Columbiana County Public Library (Salchow Room)	332 N Middle St, Columbiana, OH 44408
Jefferson	Saturday, August 13, 2016	6:30 PM	Historic Fort Stueben	120 South 3rd Street Steubenville, OH 43952
Clermont	Friday, August 26, 2016	7:00 PM	Batavia Township Hall - Community Center	1535 Clough Pike, Batavia, OH 45103
Hamilton	Saturday, August 27, 2016	7:00 PM	Heritage Village of Cincinnati	11450 Lebanon Rd., Sharonville OH 45241

The Foundation is looking for volunteers to help spread the word about these meetings. The more people who attend the meetings, the more success will come from them. Anyone versed in social media is much appreciated to assist. Also, if you have any ancestors who were engaged in the raid, come to the meeting. We are gathering oral histories to be stored at the Ohio History Connection and may be included in the film. Please contact David Mowery, Chair of the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation, at **513-774-9544** or at buffingtonisland@gmail.com, or contact Scott Backus at scott@lapstrakemarketing.com or at **216-401-2554**. More information on the film will be available at www.raidersontheohio.com.

April Presentation

... submitted by **Becky Donohue**

“It’s a shame a book like this has to be written.” This is the opening sentence of the introduction to Stephen M. Hood’s book, *John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General*. Mr. Hood, who goes by the nickname “Sam,” was the engaging and entertaining speaker at our April 21st meeting. A self-proclaimed amateur historian and ‘C’ student from a non-Ivy League university, he never expected to be the one to bring General Hood’s papers to light.

“Hood’s papers discovered me,” says Sam.

Sam is a second cousin of General Hood, being a direct descendent of Hood’s grandfather. Using the available resources, he set out in his retirement to correct the many inaccuracies written about John Bell Hood. The General’s personal papers were considered to be lost, due to the circumstances of his death. Tragically, Hood, his wife and their oldest daughter died within a few days of each other in 1879, leaving ten orphans, aged 4 months to 9 years. The children were adopted by seven different families in five states, and scholars assumed that in the chaos, the papers had been hastily discarded.

While the manuscript for the book was in editing, a 72-year-old great-grandson of John Bell Hood called Sam from Philadelphia. The man’s mother, Hood’s granddaughter Babs, had just died at age 96, and in going through her belongings, he had found boxes of old papers. The only name he recognized in the letters was that of Robert E. Lee.

Sam spent six days there looking through the boxes, which he felt contained astounding historical information. His publisher immediately returned the manuscript to Sam to be reworked in light of the discovery. Sam later published the transcribed letters and documents in an annotated volume, *The Lost Papers of Confederate General John Bell Hood*.

In the boxes was a previously unpublished picture of General Hood on crutches, taken in January or February of 1864 after he had recuperated from the amputation of his right leg at Chickamauga and had learned to use a prosthesis. During his rehabilitation in Richmond, Jefferson Davis promoted Hood to corps command in the West under General Joe Johnston, and Hood returned to action in the winter of 1864.

This injury had occurred just months after General Hood’s left arm was injured at Little Round Top in July 1863. Hood’s papers included a three-page report by Dr. John T. Darby, detailing the location on the field where he was hit, a specific anatomic description of the wound, and his rehabilitation, such as which specific motions he could and could not perform with that arm. Dr. Darby’s twenty-page report of General Hood’s leg amputation was also in those boxes, naming the physicians involved in his treatment, the details of the surgical procedure, his daily progress notes, and medications used, including iron for blood loss and quinine. Despite the liberal use of morphine at that time, Hood only took it at night to help him sleep.

History has portrayed Hood as argumentative and unwilling to accept responsibility for mistakes. His memoirs supported this, in that he devoted a large portion of the book to an argument with General Johnston. Also, because many of his extant letters to Jefferson Davis were critical of Johnston, his superior officer, he was thought to have been underhandedly seeking promotion. However, the “lost letters” contained correspondence from Lewis T. Wigfall, a member of the Confederate Congress and Hood’s former commander, that indicate the letters to Davis actually may have been responses to questions Davis posed to Hood about Johnston’s performance.

Post-war letters from General Stephen D. Lee were found, asking if Hood planned to set the record straight regarding Cheatham’s blunder at Spring Hill, Tennessee. For the rest of his life, Hood maintained that he had ordered General Cheatham several times to move his corps to block the road to Franklin. Cheatham denied he had received any order...and outlived Hood by five years to continue to deny it. Additionally, the boxes contained two framed letters: one from Thomas Jonathan Jackson and the other from James Longstreet, both recommending John Bell Hood for promotion. The latter was also signed by Braxton Bragg, James Seddon (Confederate Secretary of War), and Jefferson Davis. Further discoveries included Hood’s diploma from West Point (signed by Franklin Pierce) and certificates commemorating his promotion to Brigadier General, Major General, Lieutenant General, and General.

After the war, Hood lived in St. Louis and traveled in the insurance business. Sixty letters he wrote to his wife revealed the General to be a religious, sweet, and gentle man who called his wife “My most precious one” and who advised his son to not bite his brothers and sisters. Hood became friends with St. Louis resident General William T. Sherman during this time, and letters from him were also discovered, including a note of condolences on the death of Hoods’ wife, signed “Truly your friend, WT Sherman.” Hood never received this letter, as he died a few days after his wife.

The first question asked at the end of Sam’s presentation was, “What happened to the papers??” Sam consulted with archivists and advised the family on proper preservation. They decided to keep the letters in the family, but have moved them to secure off-site storage. The documents are included in the digital archive at Confederate Memorial Hall in New Orleans. The family may consider a public exhibit in the future.



April Quiz:

1. True or False:
On April 21, 1861, Marylanders cut telegraph wires, burned bridges, and tore up miles of railroad track and cut the city of Washington, D.C., completely off from rail support.
2. True or False:
On April 21, 1861, Jefferson Davis asked R.E. Lee to take command of Virginia’s defenses.
3. True or False:
On April 21, 1861, Thomas J. Jackson and his cadets left Lexington, Va., for Richmond. Jackson never saw Lexington again.
4. True or False:
On April 16, 1862, President Davis signed the bill authorizing conscription of every white male 18-35 years old. While the bill allowed substitutions of draftees, there was no provision for exemptions.
5. True or False:

On April 21, 1862, Flag Officer Farragut had the chains that were strung across the Mississippi River blocking access to New Orleans cut.

6. True or False:

On April 21, 1863, General Lee reported to the War Department that his men subsisted on a daily ration of ¼ lb of meat and 1 lb of flour. In addition, 1 lb of rice was distributed to every ten men, two or three times a week.

7. True or False:

On April 22, 1864, Congress passed the act to stamp *In God We Trust* on U.S. coins. It has been there since.

8. True or False:

On April 21, 1865, Lincoln's funeral train left Washington.

Quiz Answers:

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. True
6. True
7. False
8. True



Future Presentations:

Sep. 15, 2016	David G. Moore, Washington, DC <i>William S. Rosecrans and the Union Victory</i>
Oct. 20, 2016	Richard Swigert, Hamilton CWRT CSS Shenandoah
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.

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