



CINCINNATI
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT P. O. Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnati-cwrt.org>
November, 2014 Issue

Meeting Date: November 20, 2014

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: *Southern Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,
Mixed Beans, Dinner Rolls, and
Warm Bread Pudding with Vanilla Sauce***
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

Speaker: Tom Parson, Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center

Topic: *Work for Giants: The Campaign and Battle of
Tupelo/Harrisburg*

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org or call it in to Lester Burgin at 513-891-0610. 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, November 11, 2014.**

November Speaker:

On November 20, we welcome Tom Parson to the podium. Mr. Parson's talk will be about the campaign and battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg, Mississippi. In early July 1864, a column of Union soldiers set out from LaGrange, Tennessee, on a raid with three goals. First, prevent the Confederate cavalry under Nathan. B. Forrest from entering Tennessee and disrupting Sherman's supply line. The second goal was to destroy a portion of the Mobile & Ohio railroad. The last Union goal was to defeat Forrest's cavalry in battle. A



Tom Parson

similar raid just a few weeks earlier had met with disaster at the Battle of Brice's Crossroads. This program will present the details of the remarkable Tupelo raid led by Maj. Gen. A.J. Smith, which resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Union and the first defeat for Forrest's vaunted cavalry.

Tom Parson is a native of Sylmar, California, a suburb of Los Angeles. He joined the US Navy right out of high school for a four-year hitch that turned into twenty years. He served on four ships and retired in 1998 as a Chief Petty Officer. Not long after retiring, he signed on with the National Park Service and has spent the last fifteen years with Shiloh National Military Park. Ranger Parson is assigned to the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center and is the author of two books and three feature articles in *Blue & Gray Magazine*. His newest book, *Work for Giants: The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg*, will be released on October 15, 2014, by the Kent State University Press. He lives in Corinth, Mississippi, with Nita, his wife of 34 years.



President's Report

... from Tom Williams

October's Halloween is probably still being celebrated by some folks while the clock rolls over to November. Then, in a blink, it's Thanksgiving. I always have liked Thanksgiving. For one, there is no pressure to get presents for those relatives who already have everything they would ever need. Then, of course, there is the great food being shared with those same relatives. Maybe I can get a hint or two during dinner for present ideas for next month's holiday.

Thanksgiving certainly has a strong Civil War heritage. Wikipedia's info starts with the old story of the Pilgrims and Puritans in New England and their Thanksgiving in 1621. George Washington was the first national leader to proclaim a nationwide day of Thanksgiving. Oddly, it didn't hold, and the various states and localities picked their own dates for a day of Thanksgiving.

Sarah Josepha Hale had worked for 40 years writing letters to politicians trying to establish Thanksgiving as an official national holiday. Influenced by Mrs. Hale, Lincoln in 1863 proclaimed the final Thursday of November as a national day of Thanksgiving. His goal was an attempt to foster a sense of American unity between the Northern and Southern states.

As you might guess, the Confederate States refused to recognize Lincoln's authority, plus President Davis in

1861 had issued his own Proclamation for “a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer.” Somehow this doesn’t sound as nice as our present Thanksgiving. A nationwide Thanksgiving date was not realized until Reconstruction was completed in the 1870s, and the date picked was Lincoln’s original date of the last Thursday of November.

Our speaker, Tom Parson, for our week before Thanksgiving Round Table, brings us a Southern story: the campaign and battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg. A major element of this engagement was the always colorful CS Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest. I am looking forward to Tom’s talk. Great speakers have always been a major element of the Civil War Round Table experience. And a speaker of Tom Parson’s background is also why you should make your dinner reservation today. You won’t want to miss his presentation.

Fellowship is another element of the CCWRT experience. Please help us expand our numbers by bringing a guest. Who knows, maybe your guest will have the answers to one of Alan’s tricky questions on the quiz.



Credit Cards Accepted at the Cincinnati CWRT

The Round Table now has the ability to process credit cards at the door for you to pay for dinners, fees, and donations. This is made possible with PayPal, an online credit card processing company. PayPal works with many small businesses and non-profits worldwide to enable credit card processing, typically with lower fees than local banks and traditional credit card processors.

How does it work?

If you wish to pay with credit card, we will have a laptop available for this purpose at the Treasurer's table. We can enter the credit card information through our website, thanks to PayPal (shown here).

It is **NOT** required for you to sign up with PayPal, or have a PayPal account, to pay with credit card. The Round Table does not store any credit card information. The information entered on this page goes directly to PayPal.

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Why PayPal?

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October Presentation:

... submitted by Dan Reigle

CCWRT stepped back in time to 1875 for a fascinating meeting with Mathew Brady, who described some of the highlights of his photographic career. The son of Irish immigrant parents, Brady was born in upstate New York in 1822. He described how his childhood interest in drawing scenes from the local mountains led to three years of artistic training with William Page, whom he then followed to New York City. There, while working various jobs for living expenses, he obtained an appointment to Samuel F. B. Morse's Academy of Design, where he studied portrait painting for four years. He also learned the developing methods of photography from Morse, who brought home from Paris Louis Daguerre's new process for fixing the image captured by early cameras on the plate, the daguerreotype.



Mark Holbrook

Launching his own photographic studio in New York City in 1844, Brady became known for his photographs of prominent contemporary figures such as Webster, Calhoun, Jackson, and Clay. For the benefit of his CCWRT visitors, Brady used his “magic lantern” to show us some of these early and famous images.

Knowing our interest in the Civil War, however, he focused his comments on several images: Lincoln on 28 February 1860 as he visited New York City for the speech at Cooper Union that propelled him to the Republican nomination; Lincoln just before the inauguration, and two months later; and the image of Lincoln’s meeting with McClellan in the tent at the Antietam battlefield. As the war increased the burden and stress on Lincoln, Brady commented that Lincoln never lost his sense of humor, and often told stories to Brady’s crew as they prepared for taking his photographs. The 1864 image that is now the basis for Lincoln’s image on the five dollar bill was Robert Lincoln’s favorite image of his father, the “essence of his father.”

There was controversy over some of Brady’s work, and he described to us the struggles over what photographs were “appropriate” to be shown to the public. For example, his now-famous image of the Ford’s Theater stage taken two days after the assassination was considered to be an incendiary to a grieving nation by Secretary of War Stanton, who ordered all copies destroyed. Brady complied, but someone, somewhere, kept a paper copy. Those of us living in 2014 are grateful that we can see it. Brady wondered aloud whether the Ford’s Theater scene, still showing the bunting pulled loose by Booth’s fall, or his striking images of dead bodies on the battlefields, were in the “too offensive” category, or were a necessary “record of our history.”

Brady also showed us some of his favorites: the small group of Union soldiers, perhaps Engineers in Virginia in 1864-1865 whose identity he has lost, who seem to typify the characteristics of the Union enlisted men; the large group of Confederates “posing” for Brady’s camera across the gap in the destroyed railroad bridge at Fredericksburg; Grant at City Point in 1864, where Brady noted that Julia Grant was instrumental in getting permission for his crew to accompany the Army of the Potomac on their movements; and the photographs of Robert E. Lee on the back porch of his Richmond home just after he arrived home from Appomattox, the last photographs of Lee in uniform.

Brady noted for us in his 1875 audience that his four years of “War Views” included 10,000 plates that he offered to Congress as a photographic record of the war, hoping to escape from his massive indebtedness after the war. At the time of our meeting with him, Congress had taken no action.

Fortunately for us in 2014, Congress eventually did take action, and the collection is now in the Library of Congress and is being digitized, some being available at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/cwp/> . Congress did Brady no favors, however, granting him only \$25,000 for the collection. Brady would at least be gratified that his photography --- “a truthful and powerful medium of our history” --- is now widely available.

Moving out of character, Mr. Holbrook responded to many questions from his 2014 CCWRT audience. We greatly appreciate his intriguing, engaging, and highly informative presentation.

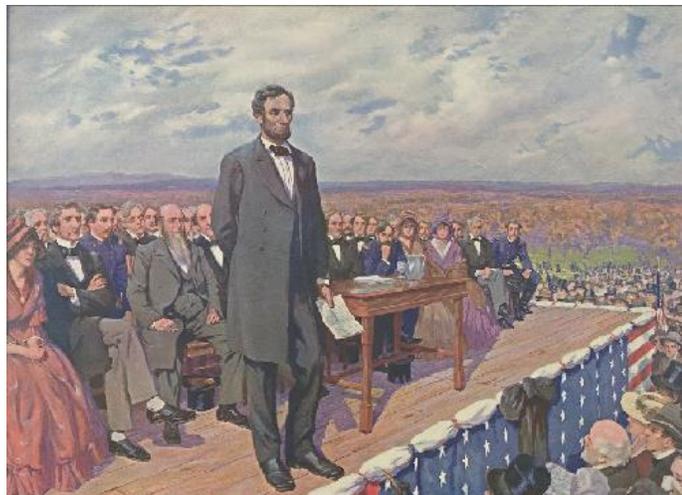
For further reading, he suggests: *Mathew Brady, Historian with a Camera*, by James D. Horan.

Mark collaborated with Richard F. Mann on the excellent regimental history of *The Buckeye Vanguard: History of the Forty-Ninth Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1865*, published in 2010 by Little Miami Publishing Company in Milford, OH, www.littlemiamibooks.com . A review of this book is available on the book review page at the CCWRT website at http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org/data/book_reviews.html .



October Quiz:

1. What action did the 27th Maine regiment take in the summer of 1863 that led to its members receiving 864 awards of the Medal of Honor?
2. In late August 1864, a gunshot was heard while President Lincoln was riding his horse to the Old Soldier's Home. What physical evidence was found to confirm that he indeed was the target of an assassin?
3. It's January 1865. Col. William Lamb, commander of Ft. Fisher, is facing an imminent attack by a Federal fleet under Adm. David Porter and General Terry's 8,000 amphibious troops. Lamb and his district commander, W.H.C. Whiting, send urgent messages to the department commander at nearby Wilmington, N.C., requesting reinforcements. They receive a minimal response of 750 men. Lamb, Whiting, and the South lose the last port open that can supply the impoverished Confederate army. Who was that department commander?
4. Who responded to William Tecumseh Sherman's letter of resignation from the Louisiana Military Seminary in Jan. 1861 by saying, "Wherever you go, my fervent prayers attend you for success and happiness."
5. On a June evening in 1863, after R.E. Lee completed his "Grand Review" of the Army of Northern Virginia, the rebel brigade bands on the banks of the Rappahannock played "Dixie" and "The Bonnie Blue Flag." On the far side of the river, the bandmen of the Army of the Potomac followed with "Yankee Doodle" and "The Star Spangled Banner." And then, on some mysterious cue, the bands on both river banks struck up "_____ " (name the music), and there was on both sides a universal shout, reverberating from one to the other and back and forth, showing there was one tie held in common by these two grand armies. Fill in the blank.
6. What is historically wrong with this painting (done by Fletcher C. Ransom in 1938) of Lincoln giving his Gettysburg Address?



Quiz Answers:

1. Reenlistment. In the week before the Gettysburg battle, Washington, D.C., was desperately in need of soldiers for its defense as the rebels invaded the North. Without reenlistments, the regiment would have been disbanded before the end of June 1863. All members of the regiment who reenlisted were promised Medals of Honor by Secretary of War Stanton.
Ref.: *American Heritage* Oct./Nov. 1978, p.112
2. The next day, a security guard found Abe's eight-dollar plug hat on the ground with a bullet hole through the crown.
Ref.: *Lincoln*, Donald, pp.549-50
3. General Grant's favorite general, Braxton Bragg
Ref.: Jan. 2008 "Civil War Calendar," Chris Heisey
The Civil War, Foote, Vol.3, pp.741-3
4. Braxton Bragg
Ref.: *Sherman*, Marszalek, p.138
5. "Home Sweet Home"
Ref.: *Gettysburg*, Guelzo, p.145
6. Edwin Stanton (Sec'y of War) and Salmon Chase (Sec'y of Treasury), painted sitting behind Lincoln, were not at Gettysburg that day. Lincoln was accompanied there by Sec'y of State Seward, Sec'y of Interior John Usher, and Postmaster General Montgomery Blair.
Ref.: *Lincoln*, Donald, p.463.



Future Presentations:

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| Jan. 15, 2015 | Stephen Brown, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table <i>God, Lincoln, and the Civil War</i> |
| Feb. 19, 2015 | Bernie O'Bryan, re-enactor, James A. Ramage Museum <i>A Conversation with General Lew Wallace</i> |
| Mar. 19, 2015 | Martin Johnson, Miami University, Hamilton Campus <i>Making the New Birth of Freedom: The Gettysburg Address</i> |
| Apr. 16, 2015 | Wayne Motts, CEO of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA <i>Fighting the Civil War: Historical Treasures of the Conflict in the Collection of the National Civil War Museum</i> |
| May 21, 2015 | Christopher Phillips, University of Cincinnati <i>North Star and Southern Cross: The Political War after the War in Ohio</i> |
| Sep. 17, 2015 | William Vodrey, Cleveland Civil War Round Table <i>Ohio's Civil War Governors</i> |
| Oct. 15, 2015 | Michael Panhorst, Auburn University <i>Lest We Forget: Memorial Art and Architecture on Civil War Battlefields</i> |

We Who Study Must Also Strive to Save!

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.

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 \$25. 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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| | | |
|---|------------------|--|
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