



CINCINNATI
 CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
 SERVING OHIO, KENTUCKY AND INDIANA SINCE 1956



THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT PO Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org>
 April, 2008 Issue

Meeting Date: April 17, 2008

Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

Time: (6:00) Sign-in and Conversation

(6:45) Dinner: - Rosemary Roasted Pork Tenderloin, Caesar Salad, Wild & Brown Rice,
 Broccoli Casserole, Pecan Pie

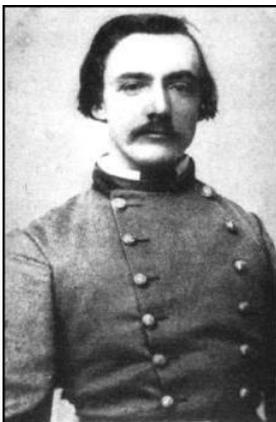
(A vegetarian meal option is available, if requested prior to the reservations cut-off date)

(7:30): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Raymond Mulesky:

Topic: Thunder From a Clear Sky: Stovepipe Johnson's Confederate Raid on Newburgh, Indiana

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org; call it in to Bob Limoseth at 513.777.2160 (h); or email: rlimo@fuse.net. If you are making a reservation for more than yourself please provide the names of the others.



At its April 2008 meeting, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table welcomes author and historian Ray Mulesky, who will be making his inaugural visit with the group. Ray comes from the city of Evansville, Indiana, which is located a couple miles northwest of the town of Newburgh, the focus of this month's Civil War presentation. The story of Confederate Lieutenant-Colonel Adam R. Johnson's July 18, 1862 raid on Union-held Newburg, Indiana evolved into a passion for Ray from the moment he discovered this topic. "For a long time I was trying to find a way to spotlight one of my biggest passions in life – historic preservation," Mulesky said. "I was also very interested in writing and history. When this story fell into my lap, I decided to combine all my interests into one grand project." The result of the project is his book entitled *Thunder From a Clear Sky: Stovepipe Johnson's Confederate Raid on Newburgh, Indiana* (2005). Besides writing articles and book reviews on Civil War subjects, Ray has made many appearances at Civil War round tables, book signings, and other events across the country. He is currently compiling a book on the unpublished Civil

War letters of Sergeant Albert Pancake, a 20-year-old Pike County farmer who served with Company H, 80th Indiana Infantry.

Mr. Mulesky will share his extensive knowledge of the little-known yet historically significant Newburg Raid, the Civil War's first Confederate incursion north of the Mason-Dixon Line. At the time of the war, Newburg, Indiana, (the "h" in "Newburgh" was added after the war) was a thriving Ohio River town of 1,300 residents. Its importance to the Union war effort was well established by the summer of 1862, when the town became a target of the famous Texas hero and Kentucky Confederate partisan, Adam Rankin "Stovepipe" Johnson. The former Indian-fighter earned his sobriquet during the Newburg Raid for his ruse involving stovepipes mounted on wagon carriages made to look like cannon. During June and July 1862, the wily Johnson led his Partisan Rangers on a daring mission into western Kentucky, a region that had become a "no-man's land" after the fall of Island No. 10 and New Madrid. One of Johnson's prime objectives on this raid was to recruit Kentuckians to join the Confederate cause. However, Johnson's ultimate objective was to cross the Ohio River and attack the Union stronghold at Newburg. The result was a success that sent shockwaves throughout the North, especially within the Northern states of the Midwest. Northerners began to question the protection that the Ohio River afforded as a natural barrier to invasion. If a small enemy contingent could accomplish such a feat, how much more damage could a larger force inflict upon Union soil? The Newburg Raid became the model of future Confederate cavalry raids into Northern territory, including General John Hunt Morgan's Indiana-Ohio Raid a year later, in which Johnson was a participant. Mulesky will describe the political and social nature of Southwest Indiana as he reflects upon the events encompassing the Raid on Newburg and how this military action impacted Civil War history.



Miscellaneous Announcements

New Member Search: As you know, we are always looking for new members. If you know of someone who has an interest in history, especially America's great Civil War, please invite them to attend one of our meetings. And, if you have a relative, neighbor, friend or work associate that you think might be interested in our group, forward them an email copy of the monthly *Canister* you receive for their review and enjoyment. Paper copies can also be provided for a three month period, if they are not an email user, by providing Membership and Publicity Chairman Jim Chaney their mailing address. Jim can also assist you on any and all questions regarding membership in one of the oldest, and we think the best, Round Tables in the region.

March Presentation, Summarized by Pat Homan:

After the presentation, a member noted that this was the finest visual presentation and graphics that he had witnessed. I concur. Round Table member and former submariner Gary Johnson gave an outstanding presentation on the CSS Hunley at the March Meeting. The presentation provided detailed information on the reason for the Hunley, its construction and details (made easy to understand by skillful use of computer animation) and its voyages.

Gary noted that he first heard of the Hunley while serving as a Navy officer at Charleston. One of his early graphics compared the size of the Hunley to a modern sub, noting that the Hunley would fit in the missile tubes of today's modern subs.

Gary started by noting that the Union blockade of Charleston had reduced the number of port landing to 8,000 in

1864, down from 20,000 in 1860. The merchants of Charleston had offered a prize to anyone who could develop a way to break the blockade. A Mobile financier, Horace Hunley, funded the work of James McClintock to develop a submersible. The commander for all three ships was an Army Engineer officer, Lt. Dixon. Three submarines were constructed. The first, named the *Pioneer*, developed in 1862 was basically a test vehicle to see if the concept could submerge, and rise; could steer and could deliver a weapon. The first weapon was a keg of gunpowder towed behind the sub, which would be detonated by a contact fuse as the sub went under the target, with the keg floating on the surface. A trial attack on a barge was moderately successful. This first vessel had a conical bow and stern, a four-man crew, which led to a serious power problem. The conical hull led to problems with steering.

The second vessel, named *American Diver* experimented with some very modern concepts included electric power. Sadly, the motors and batteries of the time were not up to the task. Design changes included a wedge-shaped bow and stern, which did improve steering.

The third vessel, the *Hunley*, was larger, had an eight man crew, and featured a hand cranked screw propeller and even a small conning tower for viewing while awash. It also included a snorkel device powered by bellows to provide fresh air for the crew. It was totally inadequate for the task but demonstrates the planning and imagination of McClintock and others involved with the ship's design. Gary noted that much of the detail was provided by the one surviving crewman, who participated in some of the training but was removed before the first actual trial voyage.

The *Hunley* was taken by railcar to Charleston where, after training, the actual sea trials began. The first voyage ended in disaster when the wake of a passing ship caused it to sink because the *Hunley* was running with the conning hatch or tower above water. Four of the nine men on board escaped, the other five drowned. Gary explained that the difference between floating, submerging and disaster was a very small amount of water.

The *Hunley* was raised, a new crew prepared and another voyage attempted, this time with Mr. McClintock on board and in command instead of Lt. Dixon. Apparently, McClintock accidentally opened a seacock or valve, which let water into the dive tank from the outside and prevented the tank from being pumped out, which was required for the ship to surface. The *Hunley* ended nose down, in the harbor mud, where the crew suffocated. After several weeks, it was raised, cleaned out and moved to Beach Inlet on Sullivan's Island for another attempt. The Union forces had learned of this new weapon and it was felt the blockade ships off this point would be less alert and therefore an easier target.

Another crew was recruited and Lt. Dixon was again in command. Several changes were made. A spar torpedo or mine was placed in the bow, projecting forward about 25 feet. The spar had a barb to attach itself to the target and the detonator would be manually controlled from the sub. This spar acted as another rudder, which increased the difficulty in steering. Navigation was by an early gyro, as a standard compass would not work, surrounded by the iron hull.

Other problems were the humid and cold conditions inside the hull, the strenuous task of cranking the screw in very tight quarters, but most of all the lack of fresh air. In recent years a volunteer crew sat in the same size space as the *Hunley*, with a candle for illumination. The candle stopped burning after 30 minutes and the crew gave up after two and a half hours. The actual crew spent six hours getting to the target on its last voyage.

On the night of 17 February, the *Hunley* set out on its voyage. Gen. Beauregard had ordered the crew not to completely submerge as he believed that had caused the two previous fatal voyages, but the *Hunley* apparently ran with its deck just awash. The wind was high, and blowing from the shore, which helped the *Hunley*. The moon was high in the night sky, which would also help in reducing a silhouette or shadow.

The *USS Housatonic*, a steam-powered sloop, was at anchor off the mouth of the harbor. Captain Pickering had extra lookouts posted with steam up in the boilers and men stationed with axes at the anchor chains to cut the ship loose, and to be able to get underway immediately if danger was threatened. The Navy Review Board, convened after the sinking, exonerated Captain Pickering of any fault in the loss of the ship. The lookouts actually spotted the *Hunley* but first thought it was a floating log. When it was correctly identified it was too close for the main guns of the *Housatonic* to depress enough to hit the *Hunley*. Dixon attached his mine to the starboard rear quarter of the *Housatonic*, detonated it and disappeared into the night. The *Housatonic* sank in three minutes. Fortunately, it sank in shallow water, with its masts above the surface of the sea. All but five of the crew escaped by clinging to the mast until a sister ship, the *USS Canandaigua* rushed to rescue the crew. The five dead were presumed to have been killed by the explosion.

There were two reports of a blue light being shown from the *Hunley*, one from a surviving crewman of the *Housatonic* and one sighting from a Confederate coastal fort. This was the agreed signal of success for the *Hunley*. After that, the ship was lost until 1995, when Clive Cussler, the novelist, discovered the wreck about 650 yards away from the last position of its target. After five years of work, the *Hunley* was raised and carried to the Charleston Ship yards where restoration is carefully proceeding. The remains of the crew were found at their posts and described as in a position of repose. These have been removed and the crew has been buried with full honors at Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston along side of the 13 others dead from the two previous voyages.

The *Hunley* was a far advanced weapon in concept but the technical limitations of the time were not up to the ideas. It sank a Union ship; killed five Union sailors at the cost of a lost submarine and 21 Confederate dead. It did nothing to change or relieve the blockage.

Gary spent some time discussing the various theories of why the *Hunley* was lost, varying from caught in its own explosion, simple crew exhaustion, bad air, or possibly being struck by the *USS Canandaigua*, while rushing to the aid of the *Housatonic*. That might be the final irony of the story but until the restoration of the *Hunley* is completed; this will not be known and may not be known then.

This was a topnotch presentation by a knowledgeable speaker. I regret that I cannot put all the information or details of the talk into this report. Gary has sent a complete bibliography of his presentation to all members on the list serve, a most generous act.



**Reprinted from the March Issue of the CWRT of Eastern Pennsylvania's Newsletter:
Civil War Games...by Susan Keenan**

Before the arrival of electronic entertainment such as TV, radio, and internet, games played by people were popular up until the aforementioned media assaulted our senses. As a child, I remember the fun and sociability of board games and card games, or more physically involved fun such as Hide and Seek. In games favored during the Civil War era, as well as those of my own childhood, I feel 21st century folks have lost something very special. I personally cherish memories of games played with my sisters and cousins, or dice and board games played with my father. Nor do I feel the least bit impoverished to never have played a TV video game!

Games of all kinds were enjoyed both by the folks at home and the soldiers in the field during the Civil War.

For civilians, games played with friends and family lessened, at least temporarily, the worries for young men away at war. For soldiers confined to camp between battles, games relieved the boredom of awaiting the next military encounter.

During the 1860s, dice, board, and card games were widely popular. While commercially made games were available to the folks at home, soldiers often played with make-shift implements.

The most commonly played dice game was craps, which normally entailed betting. Board games included checkers, chess, cribbage, and backgammon. A card game popular among soldiers was poker, although many others were also played. Manufactured card games were readily available in the 1860s, especially decks that replaced the usual card symbolism with military and patriotic imagery. The Union Playing Card Company produced a deck that replaced the traditional suits with eagles, shields, stars, and flags. A typical deck manufactured in the South featured portraits of various Confederate generals on the cards.

Horse racing and, of course, betting, were popular in both North and South. Boxing also enjoyed popularity during the war years. Baseball, however, was the outdoor sport that gained the most popularity during this period, eventually becoming America's favorite sport by the end of the 19th century.

Croquet was played during this time in America, and was especially favored by the ladies. By 1865, the Newport Croquet Club was formed in Rhode Island, evidencing that it was commonly enjoyed, especially in the North.

Civil War era Americans also enjoyed the English game of cricket. By 1860, an estimated 10,000 Americans engaged in playing cricket. The war, however, interrupted its popularity when men left their homes and communities to become soldiers. Although it made a comeback after the war, its popularity was soon diminished by the success of baseball.

Americans of the 1860s played billiards as well, the game having been introduced to the colonies by Dutch and English settlers. In 1850, the first rule book on the game of billiards was written. Billiards must have been popular in the 1860s because it was the first sport to have a world championship match in 1873.

The games played by children were probably the most affected by the war. While many people today over the age of 60 recall playing cowboys and Indians, Civil War children played Yankees and Rebels, or even Soldiers and "Injuns." In the South, children were divided more often based on gender, than on color. White boys and slave boys played marbles together, or games of strength. When they played Soldiers and "Injuns," the slave children were always the "Injuns" who inevitably were mock-slaughtered and scalped. Girls played with dolls, or played ring games and jump rope. Children on both sides of the war undoubtedly played Yanks and Rebs, often "reenacting" famous battles. It is reported that Southern boys enjoyed playing "Harper's Ferry," in which they reenacted John Brown's famous raid.

Civil war era games and sports brought people together, providing a welcome respite to the everyday horrors of war. Games enjoyed by the soldiers in camp may have sometimes conjured up fond memories of happier times when such activities took place at home. Games of all sorts served the purpose of bringing people together, to enjoy each other's company, and to temporarily lessen the heartbreaks of the real world. Although many of us in the 21st century enjoy sports and games, it seems we infrequently do so with a group of friends or family, such activities having been largely replaced by the multi-media. Perhaps as students of the Civil War era, we should relearn the pleasures of games at home within a circle of loved ones. We might even turn the TV off a bit more often.



Cincinnati Civil War Round Table March Quiz

(Q1) He was a man who never questioned his own authority and always did in wartime just what he wanted to do. The Constitution was not an impediment to him while it lasted. It was not framed with a view to any such rebellion as that of 1861-65. The Constitution was therefore in abeyance for the time being. I entirely agree with this view he evidently held. So said U.S. Grant in 1886. To whom was he referring?

(Q2) Who did General Grant select to relieve General Thomas when Thomas appeared to be excruciatingly slow in following Grant's orders to attack Hood at Nashville in late 1864?

(Q3) One can amass at no additional charge a wonderful, accurate, colorful, and detailed collection of maps of the Civil War Battlefields, which include the order of the battle, by joining the _____?

(Q4) What is the USS Housatonic's claim to fame?

(Q5) U.S. Grant was suffering from a "sick" headache (obviously a migraine) on 8 April 1865. Stopping at a roadside farmhouse in rear of the main body of his army, he spent the night soaking his feet with hot water and applying mustard plasters on his body. Come 9 April he had no relief. It was not until noon of that day that his suffering was suddenly relieved. What caused this remarkable cure?

(Q6) What percentage of Massachusetts males aged 20 to 45 who were drafted under the 1863 Federal Draft Law personally served in the Union Army? (The table with the closest correct answer will be awarded one point.)

Answers to Quiz

(A1) Edwin M. Stanton

Reference: The Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant; Konecky & Konecky, p. 639

(A2) General John A. (Blackjack) Logan

Reference: The Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant; Konecky & Konecky, p. 568

(A3) The Civil War Preservation Trust

Reference: Communication 17 December 2007, from Jim Lighthizer, President, Civil War Preservation Trust (www.civilwar.com or 888-606-1400)

(A4) It was the first ship sunk by an enemy submarine (The CSS Hunley).

Reference: The Civil War, Foote, Volume 2, p.898

(A5) Grant's receipt of a note from General Robert E. Lee requesting a meeting with Grant regarding the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Reference: The Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant; Konecky & Konecky, pp. 625-627

(A6) 2.3% of the 32,079 males drafted personally served in the Union Army.

(7% obtained substitutes)

(9% failed to report)

(70% were exempted)

(12% paid a fee to stay out)

Reference: Civil War Boston, O'Connor, p. 138

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

To facilitate the printing and timely distribution of the monthly newsletter, information for it should be submitted to the editor no later than the following dates:

April 25th, 2008

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2008 Programs

May 15, 2008

Joseph Reinhart: *August Willich's Gallant Dutchmen: Bullets, Bayonets and Beer*"

September 18, 2008

John F. Marszalek: *Topic TBD*

October 16, 2008

Roger Billings, CCWRT: *Lincoln at the Civil War Battlefields*

November 20, 2008

Edwin C. Bearss: *Arlington, VA - Topic TBD*

January 15, 2009

David M. Smith, CCWRT, and Thomas L. Breiner, CCWRT

Relieved of Command at Five Forks: G. K. Warren, Right or Wrong?

February 19, 2009

Stan Wernz, Cincinnati *An Evening with Abraham Lincoln*

March 19, 2009

Alan Berenson, CCWRT *Lee: The Last Years*

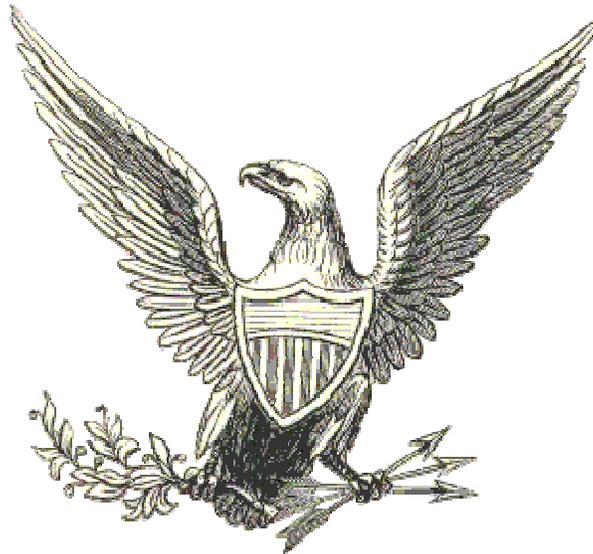
April 16, 2009

Col. Kevin Weddle, US Army War College

Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: Samuel Francis Du Pont

May 21, 2009

Harold Holzer, United States Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Topic TBD



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 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 caterer will not be preparing food in the hotel kitchen, but will be transporting food from their facility to the hotel. Therefore, **Late Reservations** (after Sunday prior to 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 Sunday deadline means that CCWRT has guaranteed payment to the caterer 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 CCWRT's 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 at the Quality Hotel and Suites, 4747 Montgomery Road, Norwood, Ohio (**telephone 513-351-6000**). If traveling Interstate 75, exit at Exit #7, Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and travel east to the Montgomery Road exit. After exiting, "double-back" by turning left across the bridge, turning left again after the bridge and turning left at the light onto Montgomery. If coming from Interstate 71, also exit at Exit #7, Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and go west to the Montgomery Road exit. After exiting, continue straight to the light and turn left onto Montgomery. The Quality is on the right, and there is plenty of free parking.

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Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!