



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 P. O. Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnati-cwrt.org>
April, 2012 Issue

Meeting Date: April 19, 2012

Place: The Drake Center

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

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

**Dinner Menu: Chicken alfredo, steamed broccoli, garlic bread sticks,
chopped salad, and Italian cream cake**
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

Speaker: Thomas R. Flagel, Columbia State Community College
**Topic: Appomattox: The Place of Lee's Surrender and a National
Resurrection**

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org; call it in to Tom Breiner at 513-984-3101 (h); or email: tbreiner@fuse.net. 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 Wednesday, April 11, 2012.**

About our April Speaker:

Author and historian Thomas Flagel will make his first appearance at the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table at its April meeting. Mr. Flagel is an assistant professor of American History at Columbia State Community College in Tennessee. He holds degrees from Loras College (B.A. History), Kansas State University (M.A., European History), Creighton University (M.A., International Relations), and has studied at the University of

Vienna. He is currently in the doctoral program for historic preservation at Middle Tennessee State. Originally from Iowa, he has several Civil War veterans among his ancestors, including a great, great, great grandfather from the 2nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry. A national speaker, particularly on subjects concerning the Civil War, Thomas also serves on the Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission, the Franklin's Charge Board of Directors, and the Carter House Museum Board of Directors. He has authored several books, including *The History Buff's Guide to Gettysburg* (2006), *The History Buff's Guide to WWII* (2005), *The History Buff's Guide to the Presidents* (2007), and the recently released second edition of *The History Buff's Guide to the Civil War* (2010). He also writes and narrates the Civil War series "Sesquicentennial Stories" for WAKM Radio, a program that has recently been nominated for the Peabody Award.



Thomas Flagel

Famous is the story of luckless Wilmer McLean, who moved from the ravaged Manassas battlefield to seek peace and quiet at a tiny place called Appomattox, Virginia. Less known is the ironic life of Appomattox itself. Transformed overnight from a humble county seat to an instant national icon, what can this fateful and hallowed ground teach us? In a multimedia presentation, Dr. Flagel will examine the birth, decline, and resurrection of this historic Civil War place of peace, and how it came to symbolize countless towns like it, utterly and forever transformed by a painful conflict that shapes our national landscape to this day.



President's Report

..... **Pat Homan**

All of a sudden it is April, and the campaign year is coming to an end. We have all enjoyed the unseasonably warm weather, which means a lot of spring outdoor projects have already been started, and, possibly, even finished. Thoughts are turning to outdoor activities. We still have two great meetings left, and there are still about a dozen books on the "to be read" shelf. If gas prices don't get too high, I hope to take some short trips to Civil War sites. One is Perryville as I have yet to go there. Tom Breiner has offered an excellently guided tour of the field and I hope to take him up on that.

We have several other events coming up. The next big event, other than our meetings, is the Civil War Living History Weekend at the Museum Center at Union Station. Their staff is putting the finishing touches on the event, which will include three of our members speaking, Bob Limoseth, Lois Lambert and myself. Dr. Esly Cadwell will be assisting at a booth on Civil War medical practices. We will have a booth to entice the public to join us for the next year. As soon as I get the final information, I will post it on the Listserve for your information. I am going to ask all of help publicize this event. I have been told that if this event is successful, then others will be held in the future.

Here is what else I need. The Museum Center has offered free parking and entrance to the History Museum

(we will be set up in the area of the History Museum known as the Public Landing) and lunch for those who are working over the midday period. They have asked for the names of our volunteers so the proper paperwork can be prepared. I have to turn these in shortly after the April meeting. So, if you are interested in assisting us at the booth, please give me your name at the April meeting or email me (homanfamily@fuse.net) and list the time period you are willing to be at the booth. I will set up a schedule and print it for all our volunteers. If you have something interesting to display at the booth to attract attention, please contact me to discuss this. We have brought a rifle to several events but there will be re-enactors at the event, who will take care of that. However, if you have a “draw” that you are willing to let us use, please let me know.

On other subject, the preservation project is getting close to completion. We have two months left to meet our planned goal. All of us involved would like to see this finished by the May meeting rather than carry over to next year. So, if you are thinking of making a donation, or adding to a previous donation, now is the time to act. Remember, for every \$25 donated, you will get a chance to win the painting of Generals Longstreet and Pickett at Gettysburg.

A reminder that Peter Cozzens will be speaking at the Merchantile Library on 18 April. Finally, I will introduce the proposed slate of officers for next year at the April meeting. We vote at the May meeting. I look forward to seeing you in April.



Items of Interest:

Field Trip 2012: For those attending the field trip to Richmond for the Seven Days Battles tour, be sure to make your hotel reservations quickly. Also, for those who have not paid the security deposit, please do so. The departure location and departure time will be provided at the April meeting. As we have done the past few years, transportation will be via a 15 passenger van. We will be staying at the Hampton Inn – Mechanicsville 804-559-0559. If you have any questions, contact Dan Bauer at 759-4495.

Springfield Civil War Symposium: The Clark County Historical Society will present a symposium with the topic being the military events of 1862. Topics and speakers will be:

- Western Rivers Campaign to Shiloh by Park Hills
- Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862 by Jonathan Noyalas
- Maryland Campaign of 1862 by John Hoptak
- Kentucky Campaign of 1862 by Kent Masterson Brown

The date is April 14th from 9:00AM to 4:30PM. The location is the Clark County Heritage Center, 117 South Fountain Ave., Springfield, OH. Admission is \$30 for adults and \$20 for students and includes a lunch. Call 937-324-0657 for details and to make reservations.

New Member: Welcome to our newest member who were voted in at the March meeting: Joe Stiles.

2011-2012 Cincinnati Civil War Preservation Fund Campaign: This year's preservation project is the memorialization of the Burnet House with the placement of an historic marker at 3rd & Vine Streets. The marker will be a 33X43 inch aluminum plaque with space adequate for substantial copy as well as a visual of the formerly described "finest hotel in the world." Drop \$15 (or more!) in an envelope with a statement that the funds are to be for the benefit of our Preservation Project and give it to Jim Stewart, our treasurer, or mail it to: Cincinnati CWRT, P.O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, Oh. 45262. This is an opportunity for our Round Table to make a dream come true and spread a little bit of history upon our community.

2012 Sultana Reunion in Cincinnati: The 25th annual reunion of the Association of Sultana Descendants and Friends will be held this year in Cincinnati, the Queen City of the West, where the steamship was built in 1863. Events will be held to mark the occasion on Friday, April 27th (the anniversary date of the *Sultana* disaster), and Saturday, April 28th.

Our Saturday tour will be led by Cincinnati CWRT member, David Mowery. The tour will include visiting a couple of sites along the Cincinnati defensive line built across the Ohio River on the outskirts of Covington, KY; the present day site of Litherbury Shipyard which built the *Sultana*; and conclude at Camp Dennison, where many men from Indiana and Ohio were mustered into service with the Union army and trained to fight (tour cost is \$12.00 per person).

Saturday's evening banquet speaker will be Lester Horwitz, author of an engaging book on Morgan's Raid in 1863, which started in Tennessee and continued through Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio, where he and his troops were finally captured. All members and friends of the Cincinnati CWRT are invited to attend all events. For more details on the reunion, including registration and bus tour, contact Norman Shaw at shawclan4@bellsouth.net.

Peter Cozzens to speak locally: Peter Cozzens will appear at The Mercantile Library on Wednesday, April 18, the library's 177th birthday, to deliver the annual 1835 lecture, which will highlight the roles played by Cincinnati generals such as Rutherford B. Hayes and William Haines Lytle in the Civil War.

Cozzens, who serves as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State, wrote *The Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga*, named one of the 100 best books on the Civil War by *Civil War Magazine*, as well as *The Shipwreck of Their Hopes: The Battles for Chattanooga, Shenandoah 1862: Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign*, and the recently released *Battlefields of the Civil War*. Mr. Cozzens spoke to the CCWRT on Nov. 17, 2011.

The event begins at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Fee for the lecture is \$15 for library members, \$20 for others. Reservations are recommended. The library is located on the 11th floor of the Mercantile Library Building at 414 Walnut Street, just a block from Fountain Square in downtown Cincinnati. For more information or to make reservations, contact Mary Gruber at (513.621-0717), or visit online at www.mercantilelibrary.com.

March Presentation:

... submitted by Andy Simmons

In March, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table was proud to have one of its own members, Jill Holt, make a presentation entitled, *“Women Soldiers in the Civil War”*. The fact that women disguised as men and served in both the Union and Confederate armies is one of the best kept secrets of the American Civil War.

Understanding why women enlisted as soldiers requires an appreciation for the social, legal, and economic status of mid-19th century women, which created barriers and incentives for female enlistment, as well as the cultural and historical patterns that set a precedent for female service in the military. The Victorian social ideals dictated women would be submissive and demure and would confine themselves to matters of the children and the household. The legal status of women differed significantly from that of men. Women were not allowed to vote, they were bound by societal laws they had no influence in creating, they could not own property or act for themselves legally, they could not qualify for lucrative employment, they could not go to college, and they were held to different moral standards. Economic factors also played a role in female enlistment. Salaries of soldiers were double or triple the monthly wage an average woman could expect. Enlistment provided females with greater economic and social privileges as well as personal independence and control over one's own destiny.



Jill Holt

Although there was no public recruitment of women, a significant number enlisted anyway. The cross-dressing female heroine, both fictional and real, was a standard commodity in popular culture. There was also a romanticized image of going off to war to be near a loved one. The woman warrior has a literary archetype known as the Female Warrior Bold who is a fictional or semi-fictional woman pulled from her beloved by war, circumstance or a cruel father, disguises as a man and goes off to sea or war. The heroine is always a model of beauty and intellect, deserving of romance and able in battle. The image was used to inspire men to fight. In the antebellum south, the Female Warrior Bold image was used to encourage enlistment and to humiliate those who did not. Matriarchs assumed the role of the “virtuous conscience” providing a constant and consistent message to women to rally their men to fight and to be the bedrock on which the new country would be formed. Despite the “softer nature” of women, propaganda modeled this feminine ideal into the *Iron Magnolia*. Because of a higher emphasis on Victorian ideals in the south,

women in the Union army outnumbered those in the Confederate army by 4:1.

The number of female soldiers serving for the Union is estimated at between 400 and 1000 and for the Confederacy, between 100 and 250. Historians have documented evidence of about 250 female soldiers serving in the ranks of both armies. It must be remembered though that unless a woman was publicly discovered or confessed, a record of her military service was lost to history. Three African-American women were known to have served, although the actual number is likely much higher. The total number of women will never be known.

Getting through the enlistment process for women was not difficult. Women dressed in men's clothing and cut their hair short, which played into antebellum social expectations that women would do neither of these things. To further the charade, women would often bind their breasts, pad their waists, darken their skin, and wear a scarf or high collar to hide the lack of an Adam's Apple. The many shy, young, beardless boys filling

out the ranks of both armies helped further conceal these women's identities. Recruiting officers asked only for name, occupation and age. No one had any personal identification. Physical examination was superficial, taking the person's height and noting if they had teeth, fingers and feet. One doctor reported inspecting 90 candidates an hour. Men also assisted women in enlistment. Only one in three women successfully enlisted. Some women avoided enlistment by joining a unit right before battle.

After surviving enlistment, the women had to maintain the ruse by employing masculine manners of walking, talking and performing everyday activities. They needed secluded areas for privacy. In this instance, the young, shy, beardless boys helped to maintain the ruse. Other things that helped were that people did not bathe often and usually slept in their clothes. These women also did everything male soldiers did, and none were detected for being inept in battle.

Some women did leave documentation of their experience. Sarah Emma Edmonds is probably the most famous. Born in 1841 on a small farm in Canada, Sarah enlisted because her father wanted her to marry a much older man and become a farmer's wife. Under the name, Franklin Thompson, she enlisted in the 2nd Michigan Infantry. She trained in Washington D.C. and saw action at First Manassas in July 1861, followed by Antietam, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Seven Pines, and Fredericksburg. After falling ill in 1863, she deserted to avoid detection. After the war, she published her memoirs and revealed her secret at a reunion of the regiment.

Women soldiers were historically significant because they were there, but not supposed to be. When Victorian norms suggested women were far too weak for the brutality of war, many women, more than previously realized, proved themselves through courage, intelligence and physical stamina. Their service as a whole can be summed up by Mary Kathryn Murphy who served as a soldier and later asked why. Her reply was simply: "I love my country."



March Quiz:

Questions:

On 25 Feb. 2012 as seen on CSPAN3 the Museum of the Confederacy held its annual symposium to determine who would be the Person of the Year for 1862.

Q1: There were 5 nominators at the above symposium; name at least 3 of them.

Q2: 5 persons were nominated at the above symposium; name at least 3 of them.

Q3: Name the winner.

Q4: Who was Person of the Year, 1861?

Q5: Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey is better known to us as _____.

Q6: Ohio governor William Dennison in the spring of 1861 appointed _____ as Major General of Ohio Volunteers.

Answers:

- 1: Robert Krick, James McPherson, David Blight, Jack Mountcastle, Emory Thomas
- 2: Thomas J. Jackson, David Farragut, Frederick Douglas, George McClellan, Robert E. Lee
- 3: Robert E. Lee
- 4: Abraham Lincoln
- 5: Frederick Douglas
- 6: George McClellan



Future Presentations:

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| May 17, 2012 | Lesley J. Gordon, University of Akron
<i>A Broken Regiment: The 16th Connecticut's Civil War</i> |
| September, 2012 | Charles Bracelen Flood, Richmond, KY
<i>Ulysses S. Grant's Final Victory</i> |
| October, 2012 | W. Hunter Lesser, Elkins, WV
<i>The First Campaign: Western Virginia, 1861</i> |
| November, 2012 | Frank O'Reilly, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park
<i>The Battle of Fredericksburg</i> |
| January, 2013 | Ralph Arnold, CCWRT
<i>More on Civil War Railroads</i> |
| February, 2013 | Mike Rhein, CCWRT
<i>General Lytle: Home Again</i> |
| March, 2013 | Gary Zola, Hebrew Union College
<i>Revocation of General Grant's General Orders No. 11</i> |
| April, 2013 | David L. Mowery, CCWRT & OCWTC
<i>America's Longest Cavalry Ride: Morgan's 1863 Raid Around Cincinnati</i> |
| May, 2013 | Gail Stephens, Monocacy National Battlefield
<i>General Lew Wallace</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 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 \$28. 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 and take the elevators to your right to level A, go to your right and Motivation Meeting Room G is located at the end of the hallway.

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Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!