



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>
May, 2012 Issue

Meeting Date: May 17, 2012

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: Beef Roulades, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, dinner rolls,
fresh fruit salad, key lime pie
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

Speaker: Lesley J. Gordon, University of Akron

Topic: *A Broken Regiment: The 16th Connecticut's Civil War*

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, May 9, 2012.**

About our May Speaker:

We are honored to have Dr. Lesley J. Gordon visit the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table for the first time at our May meeting. Dr. Gordon received her B.A. from the College of William and Mary, and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. She is presently Professor of history at the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio, where she teaches courses on the American Civil War and Reconstruction eras, U.S. Military History, and the Early Republic. Dr. Gordon is the author of *General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend* (1998), co-editor of *Intimate Strategies of the Civil War: Military Commanders and their Wives* (2001) and *Inside the Confederate Nation: Essays in Honor of Emory M. Thomas* (2005), author of *I Never Was a Coward: Questions of Bravery in a Civil War Regiment (Frank L. Klement Lectures)* (2005), and co-author of *This Terrible War: The Civil War and its Aftermath* (2003). She has also written Civil War articles for *The*

Mississippi Quarterly and the *Journal of Southern History*. Lesley became editor of the scholarly journal *Civil War History* in April 2010.



Lesley J. Gordon

Dr. Gordon will be speaking about her recently completed book manuscript, “*A Broken Regiment, The 16th Connecticut’s Civil War*.” The 16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry began its Civil War career by breaking under enfilade fire at the battle of Antietam (September 17, 1862), and ended its service by suffering capture at Plymouth, North Carolina (April 17-20, 1864). Over two hundred members of its ranks became inmates at the Confederacy’s Andersonville Prison. When the remnants of the battered regiment mustered out of service in June 1865, a mere 160 of the original 1,000 men marched the streets of Hartford before a shocked and saddened crowd of onlookers. These Connecticut soldiers returned home, as did all Civil War veterans, to try to begin lives again. Members of the 16th had their bodies scarred and minds haunted by the trails of combat and captivity. Some led successful and productive postwar lives as farmers and businessmen. However, many failed to resume their prewar occupations, and a few spent their remaining years in insane asylums. And some began to contest the “true” story of their wartime experience. Dr. Gordon’s talk will

explore the fascinating and forgotten story of this single northern regiment and delve into larger questions about the war’s lasting legacy.



President’s Report

.... Pat Homan

This coming weekend is the Civil War Event at the Cincinnati History Museum at Union Terminal. A number of us will be there. Bob Limoseth, Lois Lambert and myself will be giving presentations. Dr. Esly Cadwell will be at our Round Table booth discussing Civil War medicine. He is worth listening to at any time. Mike Rogers, the Umbergs and Ken Hoffman have promised help man our display over the weekend. I expect to be there for the entire event as will other members. There will be reenactors, the Flying Cloud Academy of Dance and music. I saw the dancers perform last year and admit I was both impressed and delighted at their skill. Most officers, and many enlisted men, were excellent dancers as it was a prime form of entertainment during the War. It promises to be an enjoyable weekend. I hope to see you there.

This summer will offer a number of chances to visit local Civil War sites. Again, the History Museum is offering a guided tour with bus of area locations. I will have additional information at the May meeting. The Homan family, like many will be on a travel restricted summer but I hope to get a few one day trips in with some of the grandchildren. I have to plan to work in the 150th commemoration of the Battle of Perrysville in September, as I can only spare a day, due to my class schedule. We will have a list of other area events. If you hear of any, please pass on the information to myself or Mike Rogers. We like to get our display booth at as many of these as possible as they are always a good recruiting tool. Alan Berenson and Mike Rogers did

excellent work last year at the Battery Hooper Days with Mike's Harpers Ferry musket and shelled peanuts, using the peanut as simulated cartridges for the younger attendees to get a sense of loading rifle.

Last month's speaker hit on a number of subjects that are often overlooked. Interestingly, I had not thought of the time that had to pass for the soldiers to want to attend reunions. I have noticed that that has not changed much. It was only three years ago that I decided to track the Artillery battalion I had served with in scenic Southeast Asia. They have a website, which noted that the visitors and also the former members who had come forward had more than doubled in the last few years. I found a number of his comments hit very close to home. This leads into his discussion of the start of Decoration Day as it was originally known, now Memorial Day. While I enjoy the holiday, I will also have some quiet time to bring back the memories of the great guys I was privileged to serve with and who have passed on. One thing I started doing five years ago was to pick up three small flags to place on the graves of my father, who was commissioned in 1925 in the Infantry, and his two brothers who served, one Army and one Navy in the First World War. If you have relatives who served, make sure you mark their graves on this day.

Dave Mowrey has lined up more excellent speakers for next year and Albert Hallenberg is preparing his list for the coming years. I can't think of a better time to be a member of a Civil War Round Table. So, make sure to bring a friend to a future meeting. Finally, I don't have a total on our Preservation Project but there is still time to make a donation if you have not already done so or to increase your donation if you desire. I am looking forward to seeing you at the May meeting which is also the annual business meeting with the election of officers for next year.



Items of Interest:

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.

New Members: Welcome to our newest members who were voted in at the April meeting: Sharon Simmonds, Denny Luithle, Marvin Mathis, and Tony Moubray.

Report from Richmond: Our 2012 field trip was another tremendous success. During April 20-24 nine CCWRT members and one guest toured the Seven Days Battles with guide Bob Krick. Unlike the three previous field trips, we enjoyed one rain free day when we walked the Beaver Dam Creek and Gaines's Mill

Battlefields. This was followed up by a more typical field trip day when it rained as we walked the Glendale and Malvern Hill Battlefields. Fortunately the rain did not prevent us from doing any of our scheduled activities. As a bonus, we got to visit Drewry's Bluff and enjoyed driving tour of downtown Richmond. In the below left photo, the group is surveying the area where the McGhee house stood, a key location in both the Gaines's Mill and Cold Harbor Battlefields. In the below right photo Andy Simmons and Dan Bauer stand in front of the Watt House on the Gaines's Mill Battlefield as they present Bob Krick with the \$300 check that the CCWRT donated to the Richmond Battlefields Association.



Many thanks to Bob Krick for his insight and patience in answering all our questions. A detailed recap of the trip along with photos will be posted on our website in the next few months.



April Presentation:

... submitted by Andy Simmons

In April, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table was proud to have for the first time, author and historian, Thomas Flagel, speak about Appomattox – A Place of Peace.

Today, Appomattox seems admirable, unique, strange and unlike anywhere else. On the contrary, Dr. Flagel explained that Appomattox was like nearly every place else in the United States in 1860. Despite the industrial revolution taking place, about 70% of northerners and 80% of southerners lived in towns of 2,000 or smaller. The country was for the most part a rural one for most boys in blue and grey. During the battle of Gettysburg, a town of 2,500 people, soldiers became lost in the spoke wheel of roads, tall buildings and high fences. Gettysburg's population of over 2,000 qualified it as a city; but by today's standard, it is a sleepy little town – a normal town. Only one city, New York, had more than 1 million people.

Any confidence either side might have achieved after First Manassas was shattered the following year in Shiloh, where 19,900 men were killed or wounded in less than 40 hours. More Americans died in that battle than died in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the War against Mexico combined. People

began to believe that this might not end. At Gettysburg, 37,000 men were killed or wounded. It was the largest battle of the Civil War. James McPherson puts this into perspective stating that Gettysburg was the largest deadliest battle in the history of the Western Hemisphere. In July 1863, people were wondering if

this was just the beginning. George Gordon Meade himself predicted a much larger battle in the days following Gettysburg.

Franklin Tennessee, the last great Confederate assault, exceed Gettysburg in a number of respects. Pickett's Charge was one mile; the charge at Franklin was over two miles. Pickett's Charge had 12,000 men, while the charge at Franklin had 20,000. Pickett's Charge decided little; whereas Franklin marked the end of the Confederacy. 6,750 men were killed or wounded at Franklin in 5 hours. While a small number compared to Shiloh and Gettysburg, this number exceeded the number of men killed at Omaha Beach on World War II.



Thomas Flagel

General Lee said that it was only a matter of time. Time ran out for the Confederates in Petersburg in April of 1865. General Lee's troops were barefoot and receiving only quarter rations. General Lee's 13,000 effectives begin to retreat west in hopes of re-supply. Lee's surrender said nothing of the 150,000 Confederates, in three armies, still in the field. They knew it would be a slow road home. The war technically does not end until the surrender of the C.S.S. Shenandoah in November 1865 when it sails into the Port of Liverpool.

Dr. Flagel believes approximately 650,000 were killed in the Civil War. If fought today and the same percentage of people were killed, the death toll would be 5.8 million. The national debt before the war was \$65 million. By the end of the war, it had reached \$2.8 billion. Pensions would cost twice as much. Before the war, the State of Mississippi was the fourth wealthiest state in the union. After the war, it became one of poorest and it continues to be so. The War did not end with a handshake and a handful of nice paragraphs. Divorce increased by 150% in the 20 years after the war. Veterans suffered from post traumatic stress disorder. More than 60,000 amputees served as living reminders that part of us was gone. Some 300,000 families would never have closure because they would never know where their sons were. Lee and Grant gave the nation peace, but it was left to the nation to fix what it broke.

Twenty years after the war, men began to emerge from their stupor and conduct reunions. They gathered at cemeteries, not to relive the glories of war, but to honor their fallen comrades. They could talk to veterans about things they could not share with their families. Later, national battlefields would be established. The 1913 Gettysburg anniversary, the largest civil war reunion, thousands of veterans come together and embraced. Woodrow Wilson, born in Virginia, was the first southern president elected after the war. It took 50 years to occur. It took a century for reenactments to begin

In the 1930's Appomattox became part of the National Parks. In the 1950's and 60's, the site was rebuilt in a permanent beautiful place. For those lucky enough to travel there, a sense of calm sets in. A place of national resurrection, it truly remains today, a Place of Peace.

Battlefield Preservation

... by Jamie Ryan

I sometimes try to imagine what future historians will think of the early twenty-first-century humans who populate America. One point that I think a future Heir of Herodotus will find fascinating is the movement to preserve Civil War battlefields that started in approximately 1987 and is still going strong today. The future historian will have to wonder why Americans living 150 years after the war created this impressive infrastructure of organizations devoted to preserving and reclaiming battlefields.

There is nothing surprising about the veterans of a conflict, and even the next generation (their sons and daughters) creating monuments and battlefield parks in acts of historical memory. It happens for virtually every conflict. But the modern Civil War battlefield preservation movement is several generations removed from that type of filial connection. You do not see any similar types of preservation movements for American Revolution or War of 1812 battlefields. Europe has preserved many World War I and some World War II battlefields, but no mass movement exists today (even while many WWII veterans are still alive) to add more places of commemoration.

I remember distinctly when the modern Civil War battlefield movement started after the Chantilly battlefield was overwhelmed by a residential housing development and the Manassas battlefield was threatened by Til Hazel's mega mall in 1988. Fellow Round Table member Brian Hall and I immediately joined the fledgling Association for the Preservation of Civil War sites and discussed what the future of our battlefields would be. We reasoned that a window of about twenty-five years existed for the friends of the battlefields to raise the money needed to protect as much core battlefield land as possible, and that the window would be closed around 2013. Well, I am glad that Brian and I are poor prognosticators. I never imagined that organizations such as the Civil War Trust would be growing and trying to reach such audacious goals as twenty-five thousand new acres preserved during the sesquicentennial. I could not have imagined the actual reclamation of lost portions of the battlefield at Franklin. I certainly never dared to believe that a completely unprotected field such as Glendale would be acquired piece by piece to form a new battlefield for me to visit. And I did not realize that local preservationists at places like Parker's Crossroads, Tennessee, would jump in and put up visitor centers, monuments, wayside markers, and signage to make their battlefields vibrant and alive to visitors.

When I visited the Malvern Hill Battlefield site in the late 1980s, only a small postage stamp of ground was preserved. When I toured this site with Bobby Krick in the 1990s, the Civil War Preservation Trust had recently acquired several large tracts, and we could visit places no Civil War historian had seen in many years. Today the National Park Service owns virtually the entire battlefield, meaning that it belongs to us and our posterity forever, like the Grand Canyon and Yosemite. I think we should all be proud of the part we have played in making this remarkable story come to life, and I think we should all remain focused on the work that is left for us to finish. One hundred fifty years from now, our progeny ("generations who we do not know, and who know us not," in the wonderful words of Joshua Chamberlain) will look back in amazement as they thank us for preserving so many crucial acres of battlefield land.

Jamie Ryan is a member of the Central Ohio Civil War Round Table

Future Presentations:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Sept. 20, 2012 | Charles Bracelen Flood, Richmond, KY
<i>Ulysses S. Grant's Final Victory</i> |
| Oct. 18, 2012 | W. Hunter Lesser, Elkins, WV
<i>The First Campaign: Western Virginia, 1861</i> |

Nov. 15, 2012	Frank O'Reilly, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park <i>The Battle of Fredericksburg</i>
Jan. 17, 2013	Ralph Arnold, CCWRT <i>The Andrews Raids</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>



April Quiz:

- True or False. Did the following four events all happen on April 19, 1861?
 - Virginia session convention voted to join the Confederacy.
 - The 6th Mass. was attacked by southern sympathizers in Baltimore.
 - Lincoln declared a blockade of the Southern ports.
 - Robert E. Lee resigned from the US Army.
- It is estimated that about 200,000 men deserted the Union armies during the Civil War. Only about 80,000 men were apprehended; many of them were not tried and simply returned to the ranks. Of those that were tried many were sentenced to death. How many were actually executed?
 0-150 _____ 150-300 _____ 300-600 _____ 600-1000 _____ over 1000 _____
- What happened April 19, 1865?
- This man resigned his commission in the US Army in February 1861. In late February he left his wife assuring her he would be home soon and travelled to Montgomery to offer his services to Jefferson Davis. He was appointed brigadier general in the Provisional Army of the Confederacy and went immediately to his new command. He was never to see his wife again. She died in March of 1864. Name the general whose wife's tomb says "The Country came before me".
- After reading Grant's written terms of surrender and asking for one last concession, Lee then mentioned to Grant that his men had been without rations for several days. How many rations did Grant send to the hungry Confederates?

Quiz Answers

- False
- 0-150 147 Union deserters were executed
- Lincoln's funeral and his body was moved from the White House to the Capitol rotunda
- PGT Beauregard
- 25,000

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.

CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:

President: Pat Homan	513-861-2057 (h)	homanfamily@fuse.net
Vice-President: Tom Breiner	513- 984-3101(h)	tbreiner@fuse.net
Treasurer: Jim Stewart	513-271-0738 (h)	jebstewart@fuse.net
Secretary: Andy Simmons	513-705-9444 (c)	asimmons2@cinci.rr.com
Program Chair: David Mowery	513-774-9544 (h)	dmowery11@fuse.net
Newsletter Editor: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h)	dbauer002@cinci.rr.com
Membership & Publicity: Mike Rogers	859- 907-3096 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
Trustee: Dan Reigle (20011-2013)	513-777-9255 (h)	DReigle@cinci.rr.com
Trustee: Bob Limoseth (2010-2012)	513-777-2160 (h)	rlimo@fuse.net

Committees:

Preservation Projects:		
Becky Burket & Randy Donahue	513-771-3949 (h)	northstarians@AOL.com
Webmaster: Dan Reigle	513-777-9255 (h)	DReigle@cinci.rr.com
Photographer: Shane Gamble	513-791-3541 (h)	colt45@fuse.net
CCWRT ListServ: John Steiner	513-528-3350 (h)	jcsneuro@fuse.net

Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!