



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.cincinnatiwrt.org>

June, 2011 Issue

Meeting Date: June 16, 2011

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

Dinner Menu: Blackened lemon pepper tilapia,
marinated tomato & red onion salad, vegetable rice pilaf, steamed asparagus tips,
assorted dinner rolls, and andes mint pie
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

Speaker: Pat Homan, CCWRT

Topic: Paved with Good Intentions: The Road to War

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.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, June 8, 2011.**

About our June Speaker:

In June, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table's distinguished President, Pat Homan, makes his first presentation to the organization. Mr. Homan has always enjoyed history, especially since the time of his attendance at St. Xavier High School when he was fortunate to have a teacher who taught him not just to look at an historical event, but to spend time looking at the actions that led to the event. Pat graduated from Xavier University in 1963 with a major in history and a Regular Army Commission

in the U.S. Field Artillery. He was a Field Artillery officer for 33 years, 15 of them active duty, serving overseas in Germany, Viet Nam, and Greece. Homan retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He is now an expert pistol shot, an avid model railroader, and, in his own words, “a general trouble maker!”



Pat Homan

Mr. Homan’s talk will examine the political, economic, and social events, beginning in 1785 before the signing of the U.S. Constitution, that eventually led to the secession of South Carolina and the break-up of the United States into the Union and the Confederacy. These events are not always seen as related, and most were not intended to cause problems, but rather to solve them. They are classic examples of “the law of unintended consequences.” The old saying “you reap what you sow” may actually be applicable to certain laws in the United States established from the country’s very inception. Fortunately, one of the greatest attributes of the Constitution is its flexibility to allow for bloodless changes in the law, but that would not prove to be the case in 1861.



President’s Report

... Pat Homan

I am writing this on the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend. At Mass today, we sang “America the Beautiful” as the final hymn. I freely confess, I have a tough time with the third verse as the thoughts and images of many now-deceased Army friends come to mind. I came home to discover an e-mail from another old Army comrade that noted many people talk of “celebrating” the Memorial Day holiday but on Military Posts, it is “observed”. That reminded me of the excellent comment Bob Limoseth made at the Lincoln event at Union Terminal when he noted that we are not celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War but we are commemorating it. That is a statement that we all need to keep in mind.

I have not been able to visit many Civil War Battlefields. The few I have toured have all had the same feelings. First, is a profound sense of awe and respect at the courage displayed by the men who fought there. I am certain that many of the dead did not feel courageous, and most were probably frightened; however, they did their duty. They obeyed orders, fought and some died, while others lived. There is never any rhyme nor reason to which one will or won’t. I also have a sense of sadness at the young lives that ended. As I prepare to leave the field, I always turn and render a salute. It’s a small gesture to acknowledge their sacrifices. The words that sum this up the best were in an address by President Reagan at a Veteran’s Day observance November 11, 1985.

It is, in a way, an odd thing to honor those who died in defense of our country, in defense of us, in wars far away. The imagination plays a trick. We see these soldiers in our mind as old and wise. We see them as

something like the Founding Fathers, grave and gray haired. But most of them were boys when they died, and they gave up two lives -- the one they were living and the one they would have lived. When they died, they gave up their chance to be husbands and fathers and grandfathers. They gave up their chance to be revered old men. They gave up everything for our country, for us. And all we can do is remember.

On a more mundane note, I thank the membership for allowing me to serve as President for another year and I greatly thank the other officers and committee chairs for agreeing to serve as they are the ones who regularly keep me out of trouble. I look forward to seeing you in our most rare June meeting.



Items of Interest:

2010 - 2011 Preservation Project Final Report: It is a pleasure to report that we exceeded our goal for the preservation project. Twenty-three members contributed \$1,037 towards our preservation project. An additional \$500 was donated directly from the club's Preservation Fund for a total contribution of \$1,537. The 23 donors represent a new record for number of donors in a single campaign year. As a result of generous donations, we will be able to fund the replacement of two faded historical markers interpreting the activities involving Col. William H. Lytle at the Perryville, Ky. Battlefield. The staff at Perryville is delighted and grateful. A modest amount of excess money raised will be donated to the Park's general fund. The signs should be installed shortly after you read this notice; all our members will be proud to see "Donated by the members of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table" on the bottom of the markers when they next visit the battlefield. For further information, contact Alan Berenson, Preservation Chairperson.

More photos from Shiloh: From April 30th to May 2nd, nine members of the Cincinnati Civil War Roundtable visited Civil War sites in Corinth, MS and the Shiloh, TN battlefield. Look for a photo journal of the trip soon to be posted to the website.



The group poses during an artillery demonstration



A portion of the beautiful Confederate Monument at Shiloh

CCWRT brochure for 2011 - 2012 updated and finalized: The new brochure contains information about 2011-2012 campaign season, the preservation donation to the Perryville Battlefield, and info about the Shiloh filed trip. There will be an initial printing of 800 brochures to be distributed throughout the Hamilton County library system, as well as the Museum Center, Freedom Center, Ramage Museum, Behringer-Crawford Museum, the 3 Campbell County libraries. Additional copies are available for members to take if they know of other venues to place some or persons who would like to know more about our roundtable. For information, contact Mike Rogers at 859- 907-3096 (c).

Battery Hooper Days: Mark your calendars to attend August 20-21st is Battery Hooper Days at the Ramage Museum in Northern KY. Actives and times are yet to be announced

Cornets and Cannons Civil War Sesquicentennial Music Festival: The City of Frankfort, Kentucky, will host a unique observance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. *The Cornets and Cannons Civil War Sesquicentennial Music Festival* will celebrate the music of the War Between the States. Outstanding ensembles and solo performers from across the eastern United States will be in Kentucky's capital city for this event on September 1-4, 2011.

The Festival will begin on the evening of Thursday, September 1 with an opening ceremony and a program about the history of Civil War era music at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History. A highlight of this evening will be piano music of the mid-19th century performed by Helen Beedle. A similar session will follow on Friday morning, and it will feature Jari Villanueva – the foremost expert on the bugle call *Taps*, the history of which is closely tied to the Civil War. The Festival will feature the brass band music of the time. Festival concerts will begin on Friday with a performance on the lawn of the Old State Capitol by the Wildcat Band from Pennsylvania. On Friday evening, Saxton's Cornet Band – Frankfort's hometown Civil War ensemble – will perform in the Grand Theatre. A performance of period string and vocal music will follow. Performances will continue Saturday and Sunday with a "battle of the bands" the climax of the event on Sunday afternoon. This joint performance will be at Frankfort's new Ward Oates Amphitheatre overlooking the Kentucky River. Cannons will join the horns, fifes, and drums in a dramatic – and loud – closing concert.

All *Cornets and Cannons* events will be free. Performers will offer recordings of their music for sale at the festival, and a recording of many of the festival performances will be offered after the event. The proceedings of the scholarly publications will be published as well. Details about the performers, presenting scholars, and venues are at the event website – www.cornetsandcannons.com.
magazine of the CWPT)

Follow the Civil War Sesquicentennial On-line: If you have access to the Internet, you can follow the events each day of what happened 150 years ago in both the New York Times and the Washington Post. Both of the papers are offering great articles on the Civil War and these are absolutely free. The New York Times web site is www.Nytimes.com and just click on Opinion then Opinionator and Disunion and you will find a listing of the articles. The Washington Post web addresses is www.washingtonpost.com and then go to A House Divided.

New Members: A hearty welcome to our three newest members who were voted in at the May meeting: Bob Lewis, Ed Umbach, and Sally Umbach.

Sustaining Members: A special thanks is in order for the CCWRT members who became sustaining members for the 2010-11 campaign year. 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.

Ralph Arnold
Lester Burgin
Paul Busam
Mark Fidler
Greg Fisher
Dan Griffith
Albert Hallenberg

Ken Hoffman
Dan Kemble
Bob Limoseth
John Linnenberg
Mike Meese
Dave Mowery
Dawn Mowery

Bill Newcomb
Dan Reigle
Jim Stewart
Goeff Strauss
Jeff Strottman
Harriette Weatherbee
Paul Weber



May Quiz:

1. When he died on May 15, 1925 he was the last of the full rank major generals of Civil War vintage and was survived by only two Union brigadiers, John R. Brooke and Adelbert Ames. Name him.
2. Last month in Harold Holzer's talk about Lincoln and Ohio, he mentioned that when Lincoln arrived in Columbus on February 13, 1861 he was given a 34 gun salute. Why 34 guns?
3. On May 23, 1861 Shepard Mallory, Frank Baker and James Townsend rowed a small boat across Hampton Roads to Fort Monroe. What did they hope to accomplish? What did General Butler do with them?
4. What is blue mass?
5. "To acknowledge the corn" was a widely used expression among Rebel soldiers, what did they mean by it?
6. What is an "Arkansas toothpick"?

Answers

1. Nelson Miles
2. There were 34 states in the union.
3. They were slaves trying to escape. He declared them contraband of war.
4. It was medicine. Doctors used it for almost every ailment. Contained large amounts of mercury so it was toxic.
5. It was a phrase to confess to a hoax, deception or trick.
6. It was a side knife, often confused with a Bowie Knife.

We Who Study Must Also Strive to Save!

May Presentation:

...submitted by Mike Rhein

Formal soldierly poses in Civil War daguerreotypes did not reveal varied facial expressions or hints of human emotion, rarely showing qualities of joy, sorrow or even humor. Witty incidents, quips and ridiculous responses from that tragic time are provided in literary glimpses.

Our May speaker, Mr. Thomas Cartwright of Franklin, Tennessee, in his debut appearance before the CCWRT, delighted the audience with jocular accounts, anecdotes and absurd situations, revealing that a sense of humor, despite the terrible atmosphere of war, can bubble to the human surface. A key comment towards the end of the presentation by the former executive director of the Carter House at the Franklin



Thomas Cartwright

Battlefield (Tenn.) and currently heading the Lotz House Civil War Museum near the Carter House, crystallized his apparent theme: “It (humor) was to get away from the sadness and the cost (of war).”

For a ludicrous situation, could one imagine Confederate General Frank Cheatham fist-fighting with an Irish private (who took offense to the general’s cursing him during drills) and losing the contest but still earning the admiration by the Irish unit? Mr. Cartwright described Southern soldiers tensely waiting for the charge of Gen. George Pickett’s division at Gettysburg and seeing quail and rabbits scattering away from them. One rebel yelled, “Run, cottontail, run! I would run with you, too!”

A vignette on Union General William Sherman’s hatred for newspapermen by the speaker: when hearing about a ship with reporters aboard sinking in the Mississippi River by Vicksburg during the night, the general exclaimed, “We’ll get a dispatch from hell before morning!”

General Sherman’s close friend, Gen. U.S Grant, known for being almost tone-deaf, in response to a question about his favorite tunes, replied, “Yankee Doodle and the other wasn’t Yankee Doodle.” Mr. Cartwright, noting the unpopularity of Confederate General Braxton Bragg, shared a telling comment by a private (who had witnessed Union troops fleeing from the Chickamauga, Georgia battlefield the day before) disdainfully replying to Bragg’s irritating question of his knowing the definition of a military retreat: “Sure, I’ve been with you for two years!” President Abraham Lincoln, assailed by political and military pressures, was once accused of being two-faced. He responded, Mr. Cartwright related, “Would I have chosen this face, if I was two-faced?”

Mr. Cartwright, who has appeared on Civil War television documentaries such as History and Discovery, described regimental attachments to dogs as mascots such as “Harvey” (with a Massillon, Ohio regiment), “Sally” (11th Pennsylvania) who hated “Democrats, rebels and women,” “Kirby” (11th Ohio) who “was buried with military honors” and “Little Charley” (a Georgia artillery battery). Even a rooster (Third Tennessee Confederate) “was given a military funeral.” He described such attempts to break up camp tedium as an Ohio regiment conducting lice races at Shiloh, Tennessee, even videttes and pickets from both sides establishing “truces with each other, trading things and play(ing) poker,” emphasizing that “boredom was the chief enemy.”

Mr. Cartwright’s amusing array of Civil War soldier-life depictions illustrated the human need for making such unlikely emotional attachments as to pets, breaking the tautness of battle tension with droll and ironic wit and even stolid officers displaying humorous moments in unmasking a sense of the ridiculous in an atmosphere of violence and sadness.

Writer's note: *At the conclusion of my two-year tour of duty as secretary, this is my final speaker summary. Writing these summaries for the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table readership has been a privilege. My objective always was to pen them clearly and informatively for those not able to attend the previous program and hopefully insightfully, perspective-wise, for those who did attend. I extend my gratitude to past president Bob Limoseth (my first year as secretary) and current president Pat Homan for their consistent support and encouragement of my composing efforts.*

Last, but not least, newsletter editor Dan Bauer has engendered my respect and admiration for his diligence and dedication, not only for sustaining my literary attempts but also for continually producing a high-quality publication, month after month, in spite of deadline pressure and other challenges that beset one in his position. Having once been a CCWRT newsletter editor in the early 1980's (when I used a typewriter and sent the newsletter for production and mailing to a printing company in downtown Cincinnati!), I can attest, to a significant degree, the stresses attendant to the editing post.

In closing, I am appreciative for the opportunity these past two years to inscribe my cogitations on the variety of interesting and thought-provoking topics for the CCWRT readers.



Future Presentations:

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| September 15, 2011 | Jeffrey A. Hill, Hilliard, OH
<i>The 26th Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry: An Overview of the Groundhog Regiment's Service</i> |
| October 20, 2011 | Frank J. Williams, Providence, RI
<i>Abraham Lincoln: The Evolving Commander-in-Chief</i> |
| November 17, 2011 | Peter Cozzens, Silver Springs, MD
<i>Cahaba: The Forgotten Prison</i> |
| January 19, 2012 | Gary Q. Johnson, CCWRT
<i>Achieving the Anaconda Plan</i> |
| February 16, 2012 | Jill Holt, CCWRT
<i>Women Soldiers in the Civil War</i> |
| March 15, 2012 | David L. Mowery, CCWRT & OCWTC
<i>America's Longest Cavalry Ride: Morgan's 1863 Raid Around Cincinnati</i> |
| April 19, 2012 | Thomas R. Flagel, Columbia State Community College
<i>Appomattox: The Place of Lee's Surrender and a National Resurrection</i> |
| May 17, 2012 | Lesley J. Gordon, University of Akron
<i>Topic TBD</i> |
| September 2012 | Charles Bracelen Flood, Richmond, KY
<i>Ulysses S. Grant's Final Victory</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!