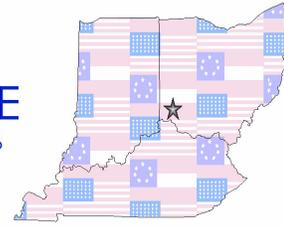




CINCINNATI
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
SERVING OHIO, KENTUCKY AND INDIANA SINCE 1956



THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT PO Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org/>
SEPTEMBER, 2004 Issue

MEETING INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER, 2004

Meeting Date: September 16, 2004
Meeting Place: Quality Hotel and Suites
Time: (6:00) Refreshments
(6:45) Dinner

Speaker: - Dr. Jim Ramage, NKU
Topic: "John Hunt Morgan in Perspective"



IMPORTANT NOTE: Please remember to call in your meeting reservation to John Linnenberg at (h) 513-922-3999 (cell) 607-4002 (has voice mail) or email it to: reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org.

Important Message:

*To all members, Round Tables and friends of the CCWRT who receive this Newsletter!
Effective immediately we have a new mailing address.*

*Cincinnati Civil War Round Table
P. O. Box 621082
Cincinnati, OH 45262*

Please change your records to reflect this change

Welcome to the first meeting of the Cincinnati CWRT's 2004-2005 season. To kick things off, we welcome life member and local university professor Dr. Jim Ramage back to the podium, where he will present the topic *John Hunt Morgan in Perspective*.

On their raids behind enemy lines Morgan's men traveled light and took food, forage, and horses from local people. This brought them into contact with enemy civilians -- particularly in Indiana and Ohio -- and led to the accusation that Morgan and his men were Confederate terrorists. Union newspaper editors accused Morgan's men of stealing and robbing passenger trains. When was capturing an enemy railroad train robbery, and when was it a legitimate military operation? Dr. Ramage will describe the treatment of Union civilians and their property by Morgan's raiders and compare it to the practice of hard war on Southern civilians by the Union army.



Dr. James A. Ramage, a native of Paducah, Kentucky, is Regents Professor of History at Northern Kentucky University. He graduated from Murray State University with bachelors and masters degrees in history, and earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Kentucky, where he studied under Dr. Holman Hamilton. Professor Ramage has published extensively, and is the author of several books, including *Rebel Raider: The Life of General John Hunt Morgan*.

2004-2005 Programs by Dave Smith

This season's programs have a little of something for everyone - local and national speakers, as well as the war on the sea, land, and in the soldier's minds. We close out the calendar year 2004 with a pair of well-known Round Table members, Mike Rhein and Larry Emley, talking about contrasting Union and Confederate generals - William Lytle and Turner Ashby, respectively. Member Tom Breiner kicks off 2005 with his story behind the C.S.S. *Shenandoah*, and Dave Smith follows with the always intriguing Union general Henry Halleck. We begin bringing out the big boys in March - Jim Epperson of Ann Arbor, Michigan discusses the Federal controversy at the April 1865 battle of Five Forks, Dr. George Rable of the University of Alabama discusses religion in the Civil War, and Dr. Brooks Simpson of Arizona State University closes out the year discussing Ulysses S. Grant and his struggles to achieve his accomplishments during the 1861 to 1863 period.

As a teaser of the 2005-2006 programs, Dr. Steve Engle of Florida Atlantic University will open, doing a talk based on his biography of Don Carlos Buell, and Mike Grimes of Berea, Kentucky will present a talk and performance of Civil War music in October. Stay tuned for more details!

2004 Student Research Awards

Two awards will be presented in the September meeting for the 2004 Student Research Awards program. The evaluation panel (Dr. James Ramage, Kris Teters, and Dan Reigle) certified an award winner in both the undergraduate program (\$200) and the graduate program (\$300). We have invited the award winners to be present at the September meeting, if they are able to do so, so that we can congratulate them in person.

Dr. Ramage on TV

Dr. James Ramage, our September speaker, will appear on the *History Detectives* program on WCET, Ch. 48, on Monday, September 6th, at 9 PM. It airs again on Ch. 54 the following Sunday, and probably at other times on other PBS stations. The subject is a saddle that allegedly belonged to John Hunt Morgan.

MAY PRESENTATION by Jack Simon

At the last Round Table meeting before the summer break, Dr. Chris Phillips of the University of Cincinnati gave his presentation on the regional identity of the lower Ohio valley during and after the Civil War. Focusing on Kentucky, the presentation analyzed how Kentucky's identity shifted from being a mediator between the North and the South as late as 1862 (in the tradition of Henry Clay), to becoming southern after the war. The main issue for Kentucky was Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Kentucky's perception of itself before the war was Western, rather than Northern or Southern. The presentation by Dr. Phillips made it another informative and thought provoking evening at the Round Table.

OFFICERS' SUMMER MEETING by Albert Hallenberg

In July 2004, Cincinnati CWRT officers met at the Public Library of Cincinnati to discuss and plan for the upcoming 2004/2005 year. Two major issues covered in the meeting concerned dinner reservations and membership. To address problems with dinner reservations last year, the Round Table is now offering automatic reservations. Dan Reigle has sent a letter to all members outlining how this reservation process works. To address the problem of declining membership, different ways were

discussed to help Jack Simon, the first to hold the new Officer position of Membership & Publicity Chair, attract new members and hold on to current ones. Also on the agenda was the decision to continue the Student Research Awards and also a list of possible future preservation projects. For a complete summary of the meeting, please see the Round Table Secretary, Albert Hallenberg. The next Officers' meeting will be held in February, 2005

PERRYVILLE EXCURSION 2004 by Albert Hallenberg

On Saturday, June 19, 2004, five members of the Round Table (Bob Limoseth, Dan Reigle, Vic Sandfoss, Linda McKinney and Albert Hallenberg) traveled to the Perryville, Kentucky battlefield site for a guided tour. The group met up with a sixth member, John McGee, whose uncle's farm adjoins the battle site.

Kurt Holman, Site Manager of the Perryville Battlefield Park (the Park is state owned), was our tour guide. Kurt is a walking encyclopedia on the October 1862 Battle of Perryville. He escorted us by foot and automobile through several battlefield highlights, including Parson's Ridge, the Bottom House and a Confederate burial site.

Interestingly, Kurt pointed out the rolling hills in the area can create optical and audio illusions. At a distance, objects appear closer to each other than they actually are. These phenomena led to misjudgments on both sides. Because of an acoustic "shadow," for instance, Don Carlos Buell the Union Commander, did not know the battle was raging on until the late morning, though he was less than two miles away.

Another tour highlight was a visit to a graveyard, holding about 30 Confederate soldiers. The burial site lies on private land held by John McGee's uncle. No easy walking path is available to reach the site, so John graciously provided us tractor transportation to the area. A wheel malfunction temporarily delayed our excursion, but John kindly went back for help, braving the treacherous waters of the Chaplin River (maximum depth 9 inches – it was virtually dry at the time of the battle) and had his uncle provide another tractor. Many of the graves have lost their headstones or were never provided with one in the first place. Kurt indicated an archaeological team would soon probe portions of the ground so as to have a more accurate picture of how many soldiers are buried at the site.

The tour ended at the Perryville Battlefield Museum. Though comparatively small to other museums, the facility is chock full of artifacts, 95% of which Kurt stated came from the battlefield. The walls are lined with photographs of the officers and enlisted men who took part in the engagement. A portion of the museum is devoted to the aftermath of the battle where the small Perryville community was saddled with caring for the wounded many weeks afterward while many of their resources – crops, domestic animals, firewood –had been depleted by troops of both sides.

All the members found the trip more than worthwhile and well worth the cost (\$25.00, museum admission, gas money & a very good box lunch included). We had fine weather and were glad we were led by the expertise of Kurt Holman.

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:

October newsletter, September 27th, 2004
November newsletter, October 22nd, 2004
January newsletter, December 10th, 2004
February newsletter, January 21st, 2005
March newsletter, February 18th, 2005
April newsletter, March 18th, 2005
May newsletter, April 22nd, 2005

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

Quiz--May, 2004

1. On May 2, 1863, Pvt. Herman Roehr, a collateral ancestor of the quiz author, was killed in action along with 52 of his colleagues in the 26th Wisconsin Infantry, a new unit "seeing the elephant". Composed primarily of German immigrants or their descendants, the regiment suffered an aggregate loss of 204 out of 471 engaged. In what battle did this occur, and in what Federal corps was this unit

located?

2. The world's tallest concrete obelisk, dedicated to a Civil War figure, bears a striking resemblance to the Washington Monument, the world's tallest stone monument. Where is this monument located, and to whom is it dedicated?
3. Name the Regular Army officer who was elevated from Major, 1st US Artillery, to Brigadier General and given command of the Department of Kentucky. Lincoln hoped that this native of Kentucky would help hold the state in the Union.
4. Some of the Federal attempts to take Vicksburg included the digging of canals to circumvent its fortifications. General John Pope attempted a similar maneuver; where was "Pope's Canal"?
5. The first Federal officer to (unsuccessfully) try a canal at Vicksburg was Brig. Gen. Thomas Williams, whose long military career included the Black Hawk War, Seminole Indian campaigns in Florida, the Mexican War, aide-de-camp to Gen. Winfield Scott, and professor at West Point. On August 5, 1862, General Williams was the second Federal general killed in action, after General Lyons at Wilson's Creek. Where was General Williams killed?
6. Missouri Governor Claiborne Jackson sent this response to a message from Simon Cameron: "Sir: Your requisition is illegal, unconstitutional and revolutionary; in its object inhuman & diabolical." What was the subject of this message from Cameron and its response from Jackson?

BOOK REVIEW by Tom Breiner

Lincoln at Cooper Union: The Speech That Made Abraham Lincoln President by Harold Holzer, Simon & Schuster, New York, NY, 2004, 338 pages, \$25.00.

Harold Holzer, the author of Lincoln at Cooper Union, has provided us with a definitive work on the making of a President. With the invitation to speak in New York, Lincoln knew he had the opportunity to stake his claim as a legitimate candidate for the Republican Party nomination. The Cooper Union address delivered on February 27, 1860.

The Cooper Union Address was nothing like the usual Lincoln speech. Here was a finely researched, in depth and extremely logical presentation using the actions and words of our founding fathers to convince the eastern politicians that, although there is no direct reference to slavery in the United States Constitution, our founding fathers never intended to allow slavery to grow and thrive. There was no rustic humor or the already renowned Lincoln stories. Here was a speech like no other in his life, but it solidified his political career. It was a perfect rebuttal to Stephen Douglas's Popular Sovereignty and a warning to would-be secessionists stressing they were in the wrong. He began with Douglas's own word, "Our fathers, when they framed the Government under which we now live, understood this question just as well, and even better, than we do now". He continually drives this idea home throughout the presentation. What our fathers understood was that slavery was wrong and as Lincoln concluded his address, he left the aroused crowd with the ring words, "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it".

Lincoln would go on to deliver a variation of the address 11 times over the next 12 days, twice in Rhode Island, four times in New Hampshire and five times in Connecticut.

The writer covers all the details of Lincoln's address. The long tedious hours researching his topic,

through the numerous rewrites to weave his line of logic, we follow Lincoln's drive that lead to his eventual nomination as the Republican Presidential candidate. The author begins with Lincoln receipt of the invitation, his strategic move to change the timing, and the long and tedious time spent researching, writing and rewriting his speech. We see Lincoln practicing his speech as he walks through the streets of his hometown, Springfield, IL. Mr. Holzer discusses the many myths that have surrounded the address and sets the record straight.

Who would have thought that a detailed play-by-play of a speech could be fascinating, but Harold Holzer has truly found a way to bring Lincoln's address to life. He captures the spirit of the times and the emotions that Lincoln must have felt as he stepped to the podium that evening for what he knew was a critical moment in his political life. Without a success in New York, Lincoln would have been, at best, a footnote in American history.

Lincoln at Cooper Union is an intriguing, extremely well written, and brilliant book. It is hard to put down. The author displays his knowledge of his topic, his skill at research and then provides a convincing argument that here was truly the making of Lincoln as the future President. I highly recommend this work to any one who has even the slightest interest in Lincoln, the Civil War or politics in general.

Quiz answers:

1. Chancellorsville, 1863. XI Corps, Gen. O. O. Howard. They were in Schurz' division, Krzyzanowski's brigade. The officers and enlisted men of this unit were incensed by the inaccurate newspaper allegations that they and other German units had broken and run without excuse, and pointed to the severity of their losses as evidence of the strength of their resistance to Jackson's assault on Hooker's flank. (Pula, *The Sigel Regiment: A History of the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, 1862-1865*, pp. 117-142.)
2. Fairview, Todd County, Kentucky, dedicated to Jefferson F. Davis, Confederate President. (West Kentucky Corporation website, <http://www.wkycorp.org/monuments/reg2/fairview.htm>.)
3. Robert Anderson, the "hero of Fort Sumter". Poor health caused Anderson to be relieved that fall, and he retired in 1863. (Faust, *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the CW*, p. 15.)
4. Island No. 10 on the Mississippi. The canal took three weeks of difficult work, and was able to handle shallow-draft transports to move additional troops south of the island. It could not handle the gunboats, however, leading to their successful "run" past the island and its capture. (Foote, *The Civil War: Vol 1, Fort Sumter to Perryville*, p. 311; Time-Life, *The Road to Shiloh*, pp. 158-169.)
5. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. General Williams held the city against Confederate General John Breckinridge's attempt to re-capture the city. (Foote, *The Civil War: Vol 1, Fort Sumter to Perryville*, p. 580; Faust, *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the CW*, pp. 828-829; Warner, *Generals in Blue*, pp. 563-564.)
6. President Lincoln's proclamation calling on the states to furnish 75,000 militia to serve for 90 days to put down the rebellion, in the aftermath of Fort Sumter. (Phillips, *Missouri's Confederate: Claiborne Fox Jackson and the Creation of Southern Identity in the Border West*, p. 245.)



FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

October 2004 - Mike Rhein, Cinti CWRT, "William Haines Lytle at Chickamauga"
 November 2004 - Larry Emley, Cinti CWRT, "Turner Ashby"
 January 2005 - Tom Breiner, Cinti CWRT, "The C.S.S. Shenandoah"
 February 2005: Dave Smith, Cincinnati CWRT, "Stranger Than Braxton Bragg – Henry Halleck"
 March 2005, Jim Epperson, Ann Arbor CWRT, "Sheridan, Warren and the Battle of Five Forks"
 April 2005, Dr. George Rable, University of Alabama, "Religion and the Civil War"
 May 2005, Dr. Brooks Simpson, Arizona State; "Enemies to the Rear: Ulysses S. Grant, 1861-1863."
 September 2005, Dr. Stephen Engle, Florida Atlantic University, "Don Carlos Buell and the Western Theater"
 October 2005, Mike Grimes, Berea, Kentucky, "Music and its Impact on the Civil War"

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, and help cover operating costs including this newsletter, as well as speaker expenses. If you are joining for the first time, there is a one-time initiation fee of \$20.
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 Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and travel east to the Montgomery Road exit. Exit south, and the Quality is on the right. If coming from Interstate 71, also exit at Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and go west. As before, exit at Montgomery Road and go south. There is plenty of free parking.
Meal Reservations for dinner are required, and can be made by **calling John Linnenberg or by emailing to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org** In an emergency you can call any of the officers listed below. If you need to subsequently cancel your reservation, just give us a call as early as possible. Anyone making a dinner reservation and failing to come without cancellation will be billed the price of the meal.
Meals currently cost \$20. Menu selection will change with each meeting.

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