



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>
September, 2011 Issue

Meeting Date: September 15, 2011

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: Country Ribs & Sauerkraut, red potatoes, rye dinner rolls,
traditional tossed salad, and german chocolate cake
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

Speaker: Jeffrey A. Hill, Hilliard, OH

**Topic: The 26th Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry:
An Overview of the Groundhog Regiment's Service**

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, September 7, 2011.**

About our September Speaker:

Our speaker to open the 2011-2012 season of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table is Mr. Jeffrey Hill, the author of *The 26th Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry: The Groundhog Regiment* (2010). He is the descendent of nine Union soldiers, including two veterans of the 26th Ohio. Jeffrey has spent the past eight years researching and writing the long overdue history of the "Old 26th." His book has received positive reviews in national Civil War publications and is now in the collections of 50 library systems across the country. Mr. Hill built an informational website for the 26th Ohio Infantry in 2002 that has received thousands of visits.

Through the website, Hill has met dozens of fellow descendants who have shared their ancestors' stories or have asked for assistance in finding out more about their family members' service during the war. Hill personally has toured nearly 90 % of the route that the regiment traveled throughout the War, and he has walked through dozens of cemeteries to photograph and document the burial sites of 26th Ohio members.



Jeffrey A. Hill

Mr. Hill earned his Bachelors of Arts degree at Capital University, Columbus, and his Masters of Social Work degree at The Ohio State University. A mental health social worker by profession, he spent his career researching the social histories of thousands of patients, a skill he honed that has served him well as an author of a regimental history. Mr. Hill is an active brother in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, belonging to Governor William Dennison Camp No. 1, Columbus, Ohio. He is also a member of the Civil War Preservation Trust.

The 26th Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry: The Groundhog Regiment relates the story of the regiment's 1,200 men who fought to preserve the Union during the American Civil War. The Groundhog Regiment was among the first to answer President Lincoln's call to duty, and among the last of the veterans to finally be mustered home. The Old 26th played a pivotal role in numerous major Western Theater campaigns and battles. These Buckeyes

were in the thick of the fight, from the early conflicts in western Virginia to the bloody fields of Corinth, Stones River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Kennesaw, Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville. Author Jeffrey Hill will provide an overview of the service of the 26th Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry, including its involvement in one the bloodiest conflicts of the war, the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia. Hill will exhibit photos and maps to help amplify his discussion.



President's Report

..... **Pat Homan**

Summer is coming to an end as school starts for many of us next week. I hope you have all had a great time, despite the heat of July. I have heard that some managed to get to various Civil War sites and re-enactments. I enjoyed listening to my oldest grandson's brief report of 6th OVI's participation at Manassas. "It was hot. We didn't have to wear the coat, only our vests. Yeah, I had fun" was the gist of it. Teenagers are known for their detailed reports. The rest of us had to do with books or other enticements.

Members of our Round Table have presented at several locations in the past two months. Mike Rhein has done at least two presentations on Gen. Lytle. We have also had tables at Grant Days in Georgetown, the Point Pleasant Grant days, and the 4-H fair and over the weekend of August 20-21 Battery Hooper. I appreciate all who have volunteered to man tables and answer questions or promote the Round Table at these events. We can always use more volunteers to assist us.

Dave Mowery had put together an excellent year of speakers. I must commend him for his diligence in seeking and getting top-notch speakers. This is a time consuming task.

I have three other items I wish to emphasize. First, I encourage all who regularly attend the meetings to make a **STANDING RESERVATION**. This accomplishes several things. First, it helps you, as you don't have to remember if you make your reservation or not. It is done. If you cannot attend the meeting, you can cancel your reservation for that meeting by contacting our Vice President one week before the meeting. It also helps the VP and Drake Center have a better idea of how many meals to prepare for each meeting. Finally, it is simply more efficient.

Second, the book raffle, which supports our preservation efforts and general funds, is in need of more books. We have benefited in recent years from members' generosity in the donation of books they no longer want to keep at home. If we were honest, we all have too many books and could easily cull our personal libraries. This saves us funds, as we do not have to spend Round Table funds in purchasing new books for the raffle. So, please check your libraries and bring any books you wish to donate to a meeting. We can give you a receipt for the number of books but you will have to assign a value to them for IRS purposes.

Finally, I have my constant plea to recruit new members. The articles, which are appearing in local newspapers, some written by member Howard Wilkinson, stir interest with people. If you hear anyone discussing the article or the war, don't hesitate to tell them about our organization. Invite them to a meeting and give them one of the brochures Mike Rogers has prepared.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I will see you in September.



Book Review

..... Reviewed by Alan Berenson

Manhunt by James L Swanson Ready for an old time serial thriller? Then take a look at James Swanson's 2006 version of John W. Boothe's crime of the century, a fast reading page turner which covers not only in detail Boothe's flight from Ford's Theater to his painful death at Garrett's farm near Port Royal, Va. but also the origins of the conspiracy, its members, ancillary players both innocent and stained as well as an epilogue.

Minute by minute descriptions of the attacks on Lincoln and Seward are gruesomely described in detail as is Lincoln's last hours at the Petersen House. Swanson's bibliographic references are extensive including many modern sources which have added clarity (as Edward Steer's *Blood on the Moon*) to an episode in American history which has been confounded with multiple sources of misinformation and exaggeration. In addition he used extensively first person accounts written in the 19th or early 20th centuries by authors such as newspaperman George Alfred Townsend who wrote *The Life, Crime and Capture of John Wilkes Booth* published just a few weeks after the manhunt was over, by former Confederate soldier/spy Tom Jones who wrote his memoir re his guidance of Booth through the famous Maryland pine thicket and "across" the Potomac and sympathetic words by his sister, Asia Booth Clarke, written in secret and not published until 1938.

The book is organized much like a diary so that one cannot follow any one individual's actions continuously and as there are several dozen characters involved in the tale this reader found himself having to repeatedly refer back to the (excellent) index to remind himself of the roles they played in previous pages. Chapters end at critical points in the flite/chase so that it was often difficult to put the book down without peeking a few pages ahead to see how the adventure moves on.

The author has a tendency to dramatize the action and takes opportunity to read behaviors into the minds of many personalities but always within the context of the documented evidence. Such interpretations make for interesting speculations. He takes the time to point out that although Booth was full of hate for Lincoln, contempt for the victorious Union, self indulgent and anti-black to the core, he was also brave, committed, talented, a good athlete and held the love and affection of his sister, Asia, brother Edwin and dozens of groupies.

Swanson also gives space to many ancillary characters so we have the opportunity to learn about the character of his coconspirators, pursuers and government officials, Secretary of War Stanton in particular. Be reminded that all the major conspirators were either hung or imprisoned - except one who really did get away (at least for a while) yet who was acquitted of the crime at trial in 1867. Can you figure out who he/she was? Read the book and find out!



Items of Interest:

It's Time to Pay Your Re-Enlistment Fee: Membership dues for the 2011 – 2012 campaign year are now due. As you know we have two levels of membership: **Sustaining** and **Regular**. The **Sustaining** level of membership is \$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 CCWRT. **Regular** memberships are \$25 (single). If you are able to do so, we encourage you to become a Sustaining Member.

CCWRT brochure for 2011 - 2012 ready for Distribution: The brochure contains information about 2011-2012 campaign season, the preservation donation to the Perryville Battlefield, and info about the Shiloh filed trip. The initial printing of 800 brochures is 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).

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.



Future Presentations:

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| 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>So Much Suffering: The 16th Connecticut Infantry Volunteers in War and Memory</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> |

June Presentation:

.....submitted by Andy Simmons

In June, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table's distinguished President, Pat Homan, made his first presentation to the organization. Mr. Homan, currently teaching history at St. Edmund Campion Academy, tells his students that history is a wondrous story of events, which were caused by earlier events that will, in turn, cause further events, and much of this will be unplanned or unexpected. In his presentation, Mr.



Pat Homan

Homan traces the critical events that took place long before the Civil War, which through their accumulation set the stage for the inevitable conflict. Citing John C. Calhoun's last presentation in the Senate on March 4, 1850, in which he predicted that unless prevented by some timely and effective measure, the subject of slavery would end in disunion, Mr. Homan begins to lay out the events that would lead to exactly that.

Mr. Homan argues that the seeds of the war were planted as early as 1787 when the Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance. In addition to providing a plan for the eventual statehood of three to five states when the population reached a sufficient level, the ordinance also prohibited the introduction of slavery in those states.

The institution of slavery received a boost with 1792 invention of the Cotton Gin. Thereafter, huge amounts of labor were needed to grow the crop, and because of the exhaustive nature of cotton on its growing soil, huge amounts of new land were needed to replenish fallow fields. After the ban on the importation of slaves in 1808, southern states like Virginia and Kentucky became leading producers of slaves. By 1819 the need for cotton land led to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama entering as slave states. These were balanced by Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Missouri would be the twenty-third state, giving the Union twelve slave states to eleven free states. This would give the South a majority in the Senate but not the house where the population of the Northern states gave them a majority. The so-called Missouri Compromise allowed Maine to come in as a free state and Missouri as a slave state. The rest of the Louisiana Purchase above a line 36 30' would be free area. While not part of the formal compromise, this started a thirty year custom that states would be admitted into the Union roughly in pairs, one slave, and one free.

In 1828, matter began to boil over with the enactment of a new tariff bill, called by some the *Tariff of Abominations*. The South had opposed tariffs since colonial times as they had always imported goods from England and France. The North, being industrial, favored protective tariffs on all imports. The South also objected to their exported product, cotton, being taxed while the North was not yet exporting many finished products that were taxed. The response by South Carolina was to renew calls for an old but yet untried concept: nullification. This is the principle that because states originally ratified the Constitution based on certain contractual representations, they could subsequently revoke their consent to ratification if there had been a breach of that contract. Nullification had been tried by some states two previous times, once in 1798 and again in 1815, but never tested.

Although the issue of slavery quieted down for several years, the annexation of Texas in 1844 reopened the slavery issue. To resolve the problem, California was admitted as a free state; the slave trade was forbidden in the District of Columbia but not slavery; and the New Mexico and Utah Territories were organized without restrictions on slavery which was to be resolved by popular sovereignty when applying for statehood. Finally, a Federal Fugitive Slave law was passed in 1851, which would be the first of a series of acts that would push the country to the brink. This was followed in 1852 by the publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a book that ripped the blinders from the eyes of the Northern citizens.

In 1857, the *Dred Scott* decision of the United States Supreme Court, holding that a black man lacked standing to bring an action in court because he was property and not entitled to the same constitutional guaranties as a white man. The decision went further declaring that Congress had no power to forbid nor restrict slavery in any state or territory, thus holding the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional and calling into question all anti-slavery legislation. The result was immediate. The ranks of the Republican party swelled almost guarantying its nominee would be elected president. By the summer of 1860, Southern firebrands were openly talking of disunion if a Republican won the election. In an amazing sequence of events, the Democratic Convention was deliberately split, and basically insured a Republican victory.

Looking at these events singly it is difficult to see how they could cause the bloodshed that followed, as all were taken with the best of intentions but with little thought to possible long-term results. However the collective weight of these well-intentioned actions nevertheless moved the nation ever closer to the brink and finally pushed it over.



June Quiz:

1. Who was the last full rank Civil War era general to die?
2. What is the difference between cavalry and dragoons?
3. The 37th Iowa Volunteer Infantry was created by special order of the U.S. War Department. What made this three-year regiment different from all others?
4. Many battles have two or more names, there was a battle fought June 30, 1862 in VA with seven names. Name them.
5. What is the “official” name of Andersonville prison?
6. Stonewall Jackson’s cousin, Major General William L. Jackson also had a nickname. What was it?

Answers

1. Adelbert Ames 1863
2. Cavalry soldiers were trained, armed and equipped to fight on horseback. Dragoons were trained to fight from the saddle and on foot. (dismounted) Mounted infantry used horses to get to the action but fought on foot. The 1st and 2nd Dragoons were used on the frontier prewar and in August of 1861 were reorganized as the 4th and 5th US Cavalry.
3. It was composed exclusively of men who were exempt from the obligations of military duty. Special authority was obtained from the Secretary of War to organize one regiment, composed of men who were over 45 years of age.
4. White Oak Swamp, Frayser’s Farm, Glendale, Charles City, Nelson’s Farm, New Market Crossroads, Turkey Bend
5. Camp Sumter
6. Mudwall

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!