



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>
September, 2012 Issue

Meeting Date: September 20, 2012

Place: The Drake Center

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

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

**Dinner Menu: Grilled chicken quarters & Angus burgers, potato salad,
relish plate, baked beans, and gourmet**
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

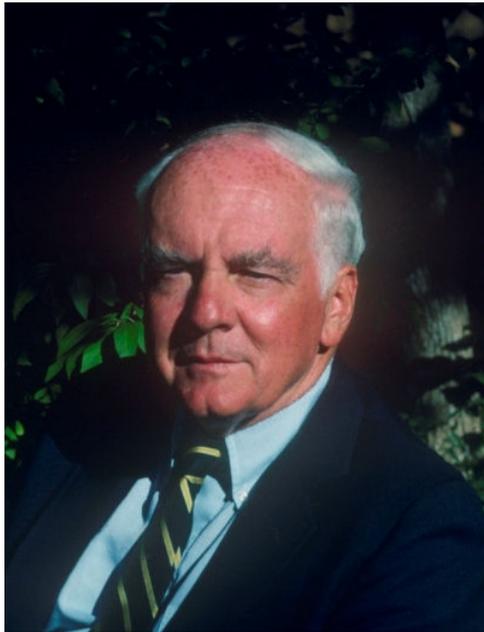
Speaker: Charles Bracelen Flood, Richmond, KY
Topic: *Ulysses S. Grant's Final Victory*

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 Andy Simmons at 513-705-9444 (c) or email asimmons2@cinci.rr.com. 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 12, 2012.**

About our September Speaker:

The Cincinnati Civil War Round Table begins its 2012/2013 season by welcoming noted author, Charles Bracelen Flood. Born in Manhattan, Mr. Flood graduated from Harvard University, where he was a member of Archibald MacLeish's famous writing seminar known as "English S." Interestingly, Mr. Flood was also on the literary board of the *Harvard Lampoon* (in 2001, he was the recipient of the *Lampoon's* Clem Wood award; past recipients have included John Updike and George Plimpton). His literary education at Harvard

has taken Mr. Flood many places from an Associated Press reporter for the Olympics in Melbourne, Rome, Tokyo and Mexico City to a year long stint as a correspondent in the Vietnam War. Although Mr. Flood began his publishing career as a novelist, in the 1970's he began writing history books. His topics have covered the American Revolution (*Rise, and Fight Again: Perilous Times along the Road to Independence*, 1976), his experience in Vietnam (*War of the Innocents*, 1970) and even an analysis of Adolph Hitler (*Hitler, The Path to Power*, 1989). In recent years, Mr. Flood has devoted his subject matter to the Civil War,



Charles Bracelen Flood

including *Lee, the Last Years* (1981), *Grant and Sherman: The Friendship that Won the Civil War* (2005) and *1864: Lincoln at the Gates of History* (2009). All these books have won critical acclaim. Salon.com, for instance, named *Grant and Sherman* one of the “Top 12 Civil War Books Ever Written.”

“campaign,” one the whole nation, both North and South, followed with great interest and support. We look forward to Mr. Flood’s talk focusing on the quiet courage of a man who seeks to save his family, not by the sword, but by pen and paper. Mr. Flood currently resides in Richmond, KY with his wife, Katherine.

For our September talk, Mr. Flood will discuss the “Final Victory” of General and President Ulysses S. Grant. The “Victory,” in this case, is not Robert E. Lee’s surrender at Appomattox, but a far more personal endeavor. In 1884, nearly 20 years after the end of the conflict, Grant fell victim to a business swindle that ruined him financially. In addition, that same year he was diagnosed with terminal throat cancer (the probable result of one cigar too many). His only solution to save his family from complete deprivation was to write his memoirs, which, with the help of his good friend and publisher, Mark Twain, was certain to be a best seller. The grim prospect remained: could he complete his memoirs before he died? Many of us may already know the outcome, but Mr. Flood, drawing from his recent book, *Grant’s Final Victory: Ulysses S. Grant’s Heroic Last Year* (2011), will shed new light on the General’s last



It’s Time to Pay Your Re-Enlistment Fee: Membership dues for the 2012 – 2013 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 2012 - 2013 ready for Distribution: The brochure contains information about 2012-2013 campaign season, the preservation donation to the mark the Burnet House, and info about the Seven Days Field 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).

President's Report

.... Pat Homan

It is hard to believe it is almost the end of summer, if you use Labor Day as your mark. School started last Wednesday and even the weather is a bit nicer than that of late June and July. Our first meeting is coming up in three weeks and I am hoping to be able to get there, as Dr. Flood is a man I want to hear. I have a slight problem with a knee repair and recovery getting in the way but the Doctor assures me I should be able to attend.

It has been a busy summer with the Round Table represented at a number of area events. Mike Rogers has done a great job in coordinating events and getting volunteers to sit at a table, extolling the benefits of membership in our Round Table. Thanks to all who helped.

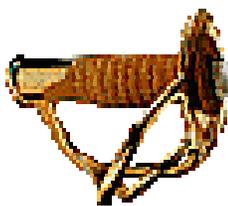
I have a few items that need to be covered regarding reservations and seating. First, if you do not have a standing reservation, but usually attend the meeting, consider signing up for one. It solves many problems, taking just one more thing off your monthly to-do list. If you know you are not coming to the meeting, just call our esteemed new Vice President, Mr. Simmons and advise him. It is just that simple.

Speaking of dinner reservations, please make every effort to make your dinner reservation at least ten days in advance to let us know if you are coming for dinner or just for the meeting. Let me explain why this is important. The Drake Center requires that we give them the number of reservations one week in advance. In addition to knowing how many meals to prepare, that number also advises the Drake as to how many tables to set up with dinner settings. I think the maximum we can fit in the room with the book table and the dessert table etc. is 56, or seven tables of eight place settings each. That is a bit tight but doable. If we have a few more, we move the deserts and even the buffet line outside the room. If we are over 60 reservations, we normally have to go to a second room or move to a larger room if it is available. We also have to watch the number of 'Meeting Only' attendees to determine how many extra chairs have to be set up, as that also limits our options.

This leads to a delicate issue which needs addressing. Occasionally, we have 'meeting only' attendees take a seat at the dinning tables. This brings up the embarrassing situation when they are asked to move so a member with a dinner reservation could take the reserved seat. We need to make sure that everyone who has paid for a dinner has a place at a table. Some members want to sit with their friends, even though they are not eating, which is understandable but it will throw off our dinner count and, as I said, can lead to an embarrassing situation. I would like to avoid this so I am asking all to **remember that the seats at the tables are reserved for those who are eating dinner**. If you are coming just for the meeting, please take one of the seats along the side or at the back of the room, which have been set up for you. Please do not sit at the tables, even if it is "just for a moment".

That brings up another point that we are going to work on this fall. Chairs for 'meeting only' attendees are initially placed along the walls so there is room for all to walk around. Sitting in these chairs during a meeting can be uncomfortable as you have to turn your head to the side to hear and see the speakers. To alleviate this, all who are sitting along the sides of the room are encouraged to move their chairs (once the meeting portion of the evening has started) to a position where they will be comfortable to enjoy the meeting. We plan to review this after the first three meetings and make further changes if they are needed.

That is all for now. I am told there are some great new books out that are waiting to be read as well as some classics I am looking forward to reading.



Items of Interest:

Welcome to our newest officers: At the May meeting, Mark Silbersack was voted in as Secretary, Albert Hallenberg was voted in as Program Chairperson and Mike Rhein volunteered to serve as Trustee. Thanks to these gentlemen for stepping up to serve our Round Table.

Spring 2012 Field Trip: A summary of the field trip to the Seven Days Battles has been prepared and posted on our web site on the Research and Information tab. If you did not get a chance to attend, you are encouraged to read the summary and see all that we pack into these trips.

Spring 2013 Field Trip: During each of the past four field trips, attendees have expressed strong interest in going to Vicksburg. Since 2013 marks the sesquicentennial of the Union capture of Vicksburg, it seems like 2013 would be the ideal year to go. However, rather than making a go of it on our own, I would like to try something a little different this year. I would like to partner with another round table.

The Washington DC Civil War Round Table (CWRTDC) is sponsoring a four day charter bus tour of the entire Vicksburg Campaign. The tour will be guided by renowned Civil War historian Ed Bearss and will take place April 25-28, 2013. I have contacted the CWRTDC tour coordinator, and she thinks there should be room on the bus for the small group of persons who have been attending our Cincinnati Civil War Round Table (CCWRT) sponsored tours. A rather detailed description of this trip can be found by visiting the DC Round Table's web site at www.cwrtdc.org. The cost of the trip has not been finalized.

Most of the CWRTDC group will be flying into Jackson, MS and their tour will be starting from Jackson. I would think our CCWRT group would want to drive straight to Vicksburg and pick up the tour when the CWRTDC group arrives in Vicksburg. However, I hesitate in knowing exactly what our membership would want to do. During the fall meetings of the CCWRT, I would like to hear from our members as to who might be interested in touring Vicksburg this way. Not only am I looking for a head count, but I would also like to hear ideas on how we might get our group to Vicksburg and if we would like to include the CWRTDC tour in its entirety or if we might like to omit the first and/or last day of the scheduled tour. If you are not able to attend the meetings, give me a call at 759-4495. Dan Bauer – Field Trip Coordinator

Upcoming Events: To commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County plans to host a fall speaker series each year through 2015 highlighting the history of Cincinnati and the Tri-State area during the Civil War. All presentations begin at 2:00 p.m. and will be held in the Genealogy & Local History Study Area.

Saturday, Sept. 22 “The John Hunt Morgan Trail” - speaker: David Mowery

Saturday, Sept. 29 “Railroads in Civil War Cincinnati” - speaker: Larry Southwick

Saturday, Oct. 6 “William Haines Lytle” - speaker: Mike Rhein

Saturday, Oct. 20 “The Black Brigade of Cincinnati” - speaker: Albert Hallenberg



May Presentation:

... submitted by Mark Silbersack

In May, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table was honored to have for the first time as our speaker the history professor, editor, and author Lesley J. Gordon, Ph.D., of the University of Akron. Dr. Gordon spoke on the topic of her recently completed book manuscript “A Broken Regiment: the 16th Connecticut’s Civil War.”

Dr. Gordon began by describing how she came to write about the 16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. She was interested in studying the experience of common Civil War soldiers and, while reading about the battle of Antietam, became intrigued by the story of a regiment which panicked. She wanted to learn what happened to those men subsequently in and after the War – and how they dealt with their initial failure. Based on extensive research into its papers, the publications, diaries and letters of its men, and prior articles about the unit, Dr. Gordon has been able to piece together the story of the 16th Connecticut.

This unit was raised in Hartford in April 1862 in response to President Lincoln’s call for 300,000 more men. Its men were the “flower of the city” and went off to war with high expectations. But with minimal training



Lesley J. Gordon

(some men didn’t even know how to load their rifles), and commanded by a leader who was strongly disliked, the regiment was rushed into battle on the Union’s far left flank at Antietam. While advancing, they took withering enfilade fire, suffering 20% casualties. As one soldier wrote, “We were murdered.” They broke and ran.

Unlike other units who suffered similar humiliation, the 16th Connecticut never got a chance to redeem themselves in a major engagement. They were kept out of the front lines, held in reserve at Fredericksburg, sat through a siege at Suffolk, Va., and camped comfortably in winter quarters in Portsmouth, Va. They felt like “nomads,” and they brooded.

In January 1863, what remained of the unit was moved to Plymouth, on the North Carolina coast. The men thought they’d been “forgotten.” But a larger Confederate force found them and attacked in April 1863. Though they fought bravely, they were all captured. From Plymouth, the men (now down to about 400 of their original 1000) were sent to the brutal Andersonville prison camp in Georgia, where they suffered further humiliation and hopelessness. About a third of them died there. Finally, the survivors were paroled in late 1864 or

early 1865. When they were mustered out in June 1865, during a parade in Hartford, the crowd was depressed by the sad appearance of the 160 survivors.

During the war, reports about the 16th Connecticut to those back home had been few and inconsistent. Dr. Gordon labeled some press reports as “spin.” They said that the men had done well at Antietam. But letters from the soldiers themselves told another story. As one member wrote to his fiancé: “I was cowardly and

ran.” Later, reports from Andersonville were a real concern.

The survivors’ post-war experiences were similar to those we heard about in April from Dr. Flagel. Some returned successfully to their lives as farmers or businessmen. However, many continued to suffer from physical or mental injuries. Several died in asylums. Most of their families and friends came to realize that something awful had befallen them.

And yet, when “war ends, memory begins.” Dr. Gordon posed this question: How did the men of the 16th Connecticut remember and tell their story? She began with a telling story about the 16th Connecticut’s flag. When it became apparent that they would have to surrender at Plymouth, the men rejected the indignity of losing their flag. Instead, they tore it to shreds, secreting the scraps on their persons. Returning home after the war, they used the pieces to create a new regimental flag.

After the war, many 16th Connecticut survivors were in the Grand Army of the Republic or prisoner groups for years. It was important to them that they and their suffering not be forgotten. In 1894, a monument was erected on the spot where the unit broke and ran at Antietam. At that time, they were thus described: “Noble men whose hearts glowed and burned with patriotic fire.” In 1907, an official state monument was dedicated in a solemn ceremony at Andersonville, called the “Andersonville Boy.” Its sculptor said that, while it honored all Connecticut men who suffered in Southern prison camps, it was modeled on the men of the 16th.

In the end, Dr. Gordon concluded that the story of the men’s memory is not what one might expect. They went to great lengths to be remembered. But they were forgotten anyway, since – unlike their more famous neighbors serving in the 14th Connecticut at Gettysburg – they never played a glorious role in a major battle.



Future Presentations:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 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> |
| Feb. 21, 2013 | Mike Rhein, CCWRT
<i>General Lytle: Home Again</i> |
| Mar. 21, 2013 | Gary Zola, Hebrew Union College
<i>Revocation of General Grant's General Orders No. 11</i> |
| April 18, 2013 | David L. Mowery, CCWRT & OCWTC
<i>America’s Longest Cavalry Ride: Morgan’s 1863 Raid Around Cincinnati</i> |
| May 16, 2013 | Gail Stephens, Monocacy National Battlefield
<i>General Lew Wallace</i> |
| Sept. 19, 2013 | Gary D. Joiner, PhD
<i>Red River Campaign</i> |
| Nov. 21, 2013 | Gary Knepp, University of Cincinnati
<i>Camp Dennison</i> |

May Quiz:

- 1.: Identify the dark object in the colored photo at your table.
- 2.: Organized by Dan Bauer, our newsletter editor and primary travel agent, a group of our members recently completed a visit to the scenes of the Seven Days Battle outside Richmond, Va. The group was very fortunate to have as its guide the son of masterful historian and author Robert K. Krick who named his son _____ (four names please).
- 3.: William Johnson, a “person of color,” attended Abraham Lincoln as his man servant during the president elect’s entire trip from Springfield, Il. to Washington D.C. for his inauguration, worked as a gardener for the White House and attended Abe’s personal needs when the president went to Gettysburg 19 Nov. 1863. The next day Abe became quite ill with a febrile headache and later a rash keeping him from work (he called it a vacation) for over two weeks. Soon after William Johnson was dead.
 - a. what was the cause of his death?
 - b. where was he buried?
- 4.:The last check known to have been written by Abraham Lincoln was recently (2010) found in the state of _____ and was dated April __ , 1865.
- 5.: The Shenandoah Valley is defined by the _____ on the east and by the _____ on the west.



Answers

- 1.: A replica of the CSS Hunley (as seen on a malfunctioning trailer on I20 in Atlanta)
Ref.: Wall Street Journal, 30 Mar. 2012, p.A6
- 2.: Robert Edward Lee Krick
Ref.: 2012 Signature Conference Va. Sesquicentennial of the Civil War Commission, Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia, Merchant (introduction)
- 3.: a. Smallpox
b. Arlington National Cemetery (slave section)
Ref.: Gilder-Lehrmann Institute Podcast 10 June 2009, Abraham Lincoln’s Inaugural Journey, Holzer
- 4.: a. Ohio (Cleveland, Huntington National Bank), b. 13
Ref.: Cached at Huntington Bank: Lincoln’s Last Known check, Benoit, WS Journal, Nov. 16, 2011, Section B
- 5.: a. Blue Ridge Mountains, b. Allegheny Mountains
Ref.: Stonewall Jackson, Robertson, p. 286

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:

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Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!