



CINCINNATI
 CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT PO Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org>
 October, 2007 Issue

Meeting Date: October 18, 2007

Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

Time: (6:00) Sign-in and Conversation

(6:45) Dinner: - Spinach Salad with Bacon Dressing, Beef Tenderloin Tips Diane on Buttered Noodles,
 Green Beans Almandine, Cherry Cobbler

(7:45): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Richard M. McMurry

Topic: A Georgian Looks at Sherman

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org or call it in to Bob Limoseth (h) 513-777-2160; rlimo@fuse.net

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Sherman in Georgia!



In October we welcome educator, historian, and author Richard McMurry, who will be making his first speaking appearance before the Cincinnati CWRT. Dr. McMurry is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. He has worked in various places as a history professor and writer, such as in Virginia and North Carolina, although he

has recently moved back to his beloved native state. Richard is considered among current historians to be the foremost supporter of the importance of the Western Theater to the outcome of the Civil War. He has published well over a hundred articles on Civil War topics, and he has written numerous books, including *The Road Past Kennesaw: The Atlanta Campaign of 1864* (2005), *Atlanta 1864: Last Chance for the Confederacy* (2000), *The Fourth Battle of Winchester: Toward a New Civil War Paradigm* (2002), *John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence* (1982), and *Two Great Rebel Armies: An Essay in Confederate Military History* (1989). Civil War Magazine listed the latter two works among the 100 best modern Civil War books ever published. Richard has appeared in Civil War history programs on television stations such as *The History Channel*. He is also active in the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Blue and Gray Education Society. Richard is currently working on a book about Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston.

Dr. McMurry will present a perspective of the world-famous Ohio soldier Major-General William Tecumseh Sherman unlike many persons have ever experienced. As a long-time resident of Georgia, Richard grew up with the local stories and opinions of General Sherman and his rampage through Georgia in 1864. Sherman's two military campaigns conducted within the state – the Atlanta Campaign (May through September 1864) and the March to the Sea (September through December 1864) – are well known for their destructiveness to both the Confederate armies opposing him and to the Confederate home front along his path. Sherman's greatly successful Georgia campaigns helped secure President Lincoln's re-election in 1864, and made Sherman a hero and household name in the North. However, "arson" and "pillaging" often come to mind when talking about Sherman, especially to the Southerners who survived the war, and to their descendants who carried on the legacy of Sherman's brutal "total war" policy. However, is this legacy the only aspect of Sherman's trek through Georgia that these residents remember? Are all of their recollections negative about Sherman? And does this loathsome view of Sherman remain alive today in the hearts and minds of some 21st century Georgians? Dr. McMurry will give us those answers and more.



We Who Study Must Also Strive To Save!

Miscellaneous Announcements

It's Time to Renew Your Membership: Membership dues for the 2007 – 2008 campaign year are now due. Payments can be made at the October meeting to Treasurer Jim Stewart or you can mail your dues payment to: Cincinnati CWRT, P. O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, OH 45262. 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 further the objectives and programs of the CCWRT. Regular memberships are \$25 (single) and \$35 (couple). If you are able to do so, we encourage you to become a Sustaining Member. Note: Because CCWRT is a 501(c)(3) organization all contributions above the Regular membership level may be tax-deductible. Treasurer Jim Stewart will provide a receipt for each contribution.

Standing Reservations List: If you are regular in your attendance and only miss one or two meetings a year you might want to consider the convenience of our Standing Reservations List. Members on the list don't worry about calling in each month to make a dinner reservation because they have already indicated "I'll be there." They only call when they can't make the meeting. If you are interested in having your name put on the list see Jim at the check-in table. He'll have you sign the enrollment form and no more last minute worries about forgetting to call in. As with all meals, if the standing dinner reservation is not cancelled prior to the Sunday cut-off date the week of the meeting, and the Round Table has to pay for the meal, the member will be billed for the cost of the dinner. Members who were enrolled in the program last year automatically carry over to this year's Standing Reservation List. They are already signed up for the October meeting.

Preservation Fund Update: At the September meeting we announced that we are not going to start this campaign year with a Dedicated Preservation Project. We hope, however, that this will not stop our members from making individual contributions to the Preservation Fund. The Round Table remains committed to supporting preservation and educational activities related to America's great civil war. If something comes to our attention that warrants support we will bring a recommendation forward to the membership. In the mean time we would like to see the Preservation Fund balance grow so that we can make even more meaningful contributions during the sesquicentennial years beginning in 2011. Your continued support will be appreciated.

Menu Announcement: Members should be aware that an alternative meal selection does exist if you do not prefer the entrée item that was selected for the current month's meal. Normally only offered when we have a pork meal, we have expanded this option to any of our menu offerings. The alternate selection is "Vegetarian Pasta." You need to indicate "Pasta" when making your reservation by email or phone call if you prefer the alternate selection. Members who have a standing reservation will automatically receive the entrée selection of the evening unless you notify Bob Limoseth...rlimo@fuse.net (513.777.2160) that you prefer the "Pasta" selection before the final reservations date.

Need for Volunteer Help: Organizations like your Round Table exist because of a small group of dedicated volunteers. They handle the day to activities that are required to ensure meetings occur as scheduled and they perform all the behind-the-scene things that keep an organization healthy. Volunteer organizations do, from time to time, need to ask for more help and we are asking you to step forward now. Current areas where help is needed include: help identify preservation projects that might warrant our financial support; be responsible for the Preservation Book Sale which involves bringing, displaying and taking home the books which are for sale each meeting; research and writing of the monthly quiz that starts off our dinner meetings; and folks who might be willing to write occasional articles for publication in our monthly newsletter *The Canister*. If you have the interest, the talent and the time to help us out in these areas, or if you think you might have an interest in serving as an officer of the Round Table at some point in the future, please see, or call, John or Bob for additional details.

Lincoln Legacy: The Round Table was represented at a recent meeting of the Lincoln Legacy Group as it launched its plans for the 2008 – 2009 Celebration of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial. The initiative is a cooperative alliance of community organizations that has been organized to plan activities throughout Greater Cincinnati (beginning in 2008) to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of our country's greatest presidents – Abraham Lincoln in February of 2009. The group was especially interested in our May 2009 plans to have Harold Holzer, noted Lincoln scholar and author, speak to the Round Table. Consideration is being given to including this event in their overall communication campaign on Lincoln area related activities. For more information on activities planned to date go to www.cetconnect.org/lincolnlegacy.

Alan Berenson and Dawn Mowery are your new quiz masters. We would love to include some quiz questions from the membership. So if you have a question you would like to see in a future quiz, please send it to Dawn at dmowery11@fuse.net or give it to her at a future meeting. Please include the question, the answer and the source.

Cincinnati Civil War Round Table September Quiz

On this date in 1863 (September 20th), the battle of Chickamauga was raging. General Rosecrans received a false report that a gap existed in his line. Whose division was ordered to fill the space opening a very real hole in the line? Whose division was already filling the space when the order was issued?

Brig Gen. Thomas J. Woods 1st Div. 21st Corp. Brig Gen. John M. Brannans 3rd Div. 14th Corp.

Francis Edwin Brownell twice nominated himself for the Medal of Honor. He received the honor in 1877 on the third attempt after getting help from his congressman. For what May 1861 event did Brownell receive his medal?

Brownell killed the hotel owner who had killed Colonel Elmer Ellsworth of the 11th NYC Fire Zouaves after Ellsworth had removed the Confederate flag flying over the hotel.

Who was appointed Superintendent of West Point in January 1861 and only served five days before being removed because of his outspoken southern sympathies?

PGT Beauregard

Jefferson Davis' middle name was Finis, so bestowed by his parents in hopes he would be their final child. (He was number ten.) What was Abraham Lincoln's middle name?

Lincoln didn't have one.

Thomas Marion Anderson married Ovid Butler's daughter Janett. Marion was a member of the 51st Indiana Infantry. The 51st and 73rd Indiana, 80th Illinois, 3rd Ohio and the First Alabama (Union) Cavalry were part of an unusual expedition in late April 1863. The original colonel of the 51st was the leader of this excursion that ended in tragedy. Who was he and to whom did he surrender?

Abel Streight, 1863 Alabama Raid, he surrendered to N.B. Forrest.

Bonus Question: Anderson managed to escape from what notorious Confederate prison?

Libby Prison in Richmond, Va.



Book Review by Thomas L. Breiner

What This Cruel War Was Over Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War by Chandra Manning, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY, 2007, 350 pages, Hardcover \$26.95

The author, Chandra Manning, in her new work, *What This Cruel War Was Over Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War*, has created a superb book that quickly and definitively gets at the heart of the issue that drove this country to civil war. In a masterly written and well-researched manuscript, the author has eliminated any doubt concerning the fact that slavery was the one underlying issue. Anyone reading this book with an open mind cannot help but agree that Ms. Manning has provided the material to answer the age-old question of the war. All sorts of issues are raised to explain the cause of the war, but when you analyze the thought of the soldiers in the reality of 19th century America, it all comes down to slavery.

The author provides insight into the soldier's thoughts by researching diaries, journals, letters and regimental newspapers that were written during the war. After the war, the soldiers tend to be less spontaneous in the reasoning and try to over analyze the issue. They give their actions on what they believed to be a more politically correct spin in light of the "Lost Cause" image. The book is written with a chronological approach to allow the author to show how the attitudes of the soldiers changed as the war progressed. The soldiers' point of reference was changing, but the basis for their reasons, whether Union or Confederate, to stay the course remained firmly grounded in the issue of slavery and it's relation to their lives.

What This Cruel War Was Over is the definitive work concerning the cause of the Civil War. The book is a must read for anyone with a true interest in understanding why the soldiers were willing to sacrifice everything in this monumental struggle that lasted for four years. Many reasons have been advanced over the years for the force that drove these men, but as Chandra Manning has so magnificently stated, when you look at the underlying thoughts of these men the one primary issue that is the basis for all conflict is slavery. My only criticism of this otherwise superb work is that at times, I felt, the author was being a little repetitious. There was the feeling that I had read the same statement numerous times.



September Presentation, Summarized by Pat Homan:

Our September speaker, Mrs. Barbara Butler Davies, presented a talk on the letters of her family, the Butler's of Indianapolis. The patriarch, Ovid Butler, was an accomplished individual, who among other things founded Butler University. The presentation was to be on the letters of the Ovid Butler family to their son, Scot, who served first with an Indiana Regiment before transferring to the infant Army Signal Corps and who only used one T in the spelling of his name.

Mrs. Davis gave a great deal of family history, including how Ovid was named and an interesting account of how these letters were found. She presented a family tree for the Butler's from Ovid, through Scot to her grandfather and father, noting that each generation had an Ovid.

This collection of letters from the soldier's family is rare. Soldiers, then as now, usually do not have the space nor

the time to keep family letters. As many regiments or companies were from the same area, the letters were shared. Others were lost or misplaced in the constant movement of soldiers. Others had to be discarded, as the soldier had no place to keep them. Scot was an exception to the rule.

The letters, in many ways, were not unlike letters that are being sent today to family members in Iraq, or elsewhere, full of family news and local events. One difference of the Civil War as compared to today is the Civil War soldier often had no news about how the rest of the war was going or what was the national or local news. In one letter, Ovid tells Scot about Morgan's Raid. In another, he asks if Scot received the newspapers and magazines that have been sent. In yet another letter, he admonishes Scot to live a virtuous life and to consider life after the conclusion of the War.

Letters from Scot's mother were what would be expected, expressing concern for his well-being and hopes for his safe return. A letter from his sister requests that Scot look up a school friend in the Nashville area, with the chiding comment that she, the sister was not looking to start a romance as she was aware that Scot had a strong interest in a neighbor. In fact, they were married shortly after the War's end. One of the interesting facets of this presentation was that while Scot had saved 65 letters from his family, there is no evidence that the family saved his letters to them. At least none have been found to date.

There was a great deal of information about the Butler family. Mrs. Davies had copies of some of the actual letters as well as photographs of the family. She noted that she felt lucky that when the photograph albums were found, all the pictures were identified. As many of us know this is an all too rare occurrence.

The presentation concluded with a brief history of the family after the War.

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2007-2008 Programs

November 15, 2007	Gary Ecelbarger <i>The Unheralded Alliance: John 'Black Jack' Logan and Ulysses S. Grant</i>
January 17, 2008	Dave Smith & Tom Breiner: <i>CCWRT Relieved of Command at Five Forks: G.K. Warren Right or Wrong?</i>
February 21, 2008	Bob McLaurin: <i>CCWRT The River Navy</i>
March 20, 2008	Gary Q. Johnson: <i>CCWRT The CSS Hunley, A Weapon Ahead of Its Time</i>
April 17, 2008	Raymond Mulesky <i>Thunder From a Clear Sky: Stovepipe Johnson's Confederate Raid on Newburgh, Indiana</i>
May 15, 2008	Joseph Reinhart <i>August Willich's Gallant Dutchmen: Bullets, Bayonets and Beer"</i>

VISIT THE BATTLEFIELDS WHEN YOU CAN...WHILE YOU CAN



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 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 \$25. Menu selection will change with each meeting.

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 caterer will not be preparing food in the hotel kitchen, but will be transporting food from their facility to the hotel. Therefore, **Late Reservations** (after Sunday prior to 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 Sunday deadline means that CCWRT has guaranteed payment to the caterer 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 CCWRT's 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 or cancel will be billed for the meal.

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 Exit #7, Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and travel east to the Montgomery Road exit. After exiting, "double-back" by turning left across the bridge, turning left again after the bridge and turning left at the light onto Montgomery. If coming from Interstate 71, also exit at Exit #7, Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and go west to the Montgomery Road exit. After exiting, continue straight to the light and turn left onto Montgomery. The Quality is on the right, and there is plenty of free parking.

CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:

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Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!