



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>
October, 2012 Issue

Meeting Date: October 18, 2012

Place: The Drake Center

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

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

Dinner Menu: Chicken Cordon Blue served with French salad, with Russian dressing, red roasted potatoes, broccoli & cheese, dinner rolls, and caramel nut apple pie
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

Speaker: W. Hunter Lesser, Elkins, WV

Topic: *The First Campaign: Western Virginia, 1861*

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, October 10, 2012.**

About our October Speaker:

For our October 2012 meeting, we welcome author, archaeological consultant, and historical interpreter, **W. Hunter Lesser** from West Virginia. As a youth, Hunter had the benefit of having ready access to historic battleground. He vividly recalls finding a dirt-encrusted bullet near his home on the crest of the Rich Mountain Battlefield site in West Virginia. As Hunter states, that single bullet, “sparked a decades-long quest to uncover diaries, letters and chronicles of an important, but overlooked chapter in our nation’s history

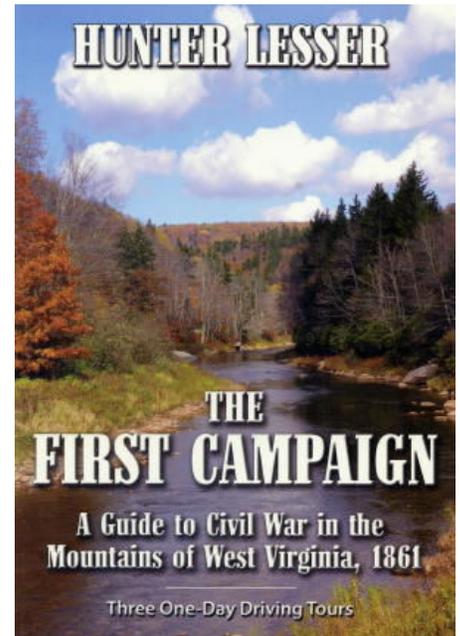
– the first campaign of the Civil War.” His lifelong research resulted in the 2004 book, *Rebels at the Gate: Lee and McClellan on the Front Line of a Nation Divided* (a History Book of the Month Club selection).



W. Hunter Lesser

Sesquicentennial Commission.)

His 2011 publication, *The First Campaign: A Guide to Civil War in West Virginia, 1861* provides the Civil War traveler with an excellent driving guide that not only pinpoints sites from the Western Virginia Campaigns, but gives pointers to locate the still beautiful natural scenery of the area.



Hunter will have his book titles for sale at the meeting. He will be accepting checks or cash (no credit card).

Hunter lives with his wife, Leann, in Elkins, WV very close to the First Campaign battle sites. In addition to his two books, Hunter is widely published in the fields of archaeology and history on topics ranging from ancient Native Americans to Kentucky Moonshine stills.



President's Report

.... Pat Homan

The campaign year got off to a great start with the presentation of Dr. Flood on the final illness of Gen. Grant and his heroic struggle to complete his memoirs. This was needed to provide funds for his family. I was aware of the story but did not know many of the interesting details, which Dr. Flood provided. The meeting was well attended, which is a good way to start the year. I want to mention that we had several new members sign up before the meeting. They had heard about us in various places so please remember to talk up the Round Table. You don't know who will be interested. I also need to note that we had 11 late reservation request, which did increase the difficulty for the meal count. Please get your dinner reservations in by the Wednesday, on week before the meeting.

I appreciate the cooperation of the membership in following the request I made in the last Canister to remember that the seats at the tables are reserved for those who have dinner reservations. We tried something a bit different with the seating for those who come only to hear the speaker. It seemed to go well as these were asked to move their chairs to a place where they could easily see and hear the speaker. As I said last month, we have to line up those chairs along the walls while the meal is being eaten as space is tight. I am always looking for ways to improve this process so please consider this a work in progress, at least for the next few meetings. This will be reviewed at the next officers meeting in the new year.

There are many things going on in the area. The Public Library is sponsoring a genealogy day and featuring information on searching for relatives who might have served in the ranks. There will be several talks on Civil War subjects by members of our Round Table. There should have been information posted on our Listserve on the event. Also, there will be the 150 commemoration of the Battle of Perryville in less than two weeks from the time I am writing this. One of my grandsons will be present as a member of the 6th Ohio re-enactors. Those are the top events that I know of in October but do not hesitate to contact me if there are others the members should be aware of.

A date has not yet been given for the placing of the Burnet House Marker. We are waiting for word from the building owner. The building is undergoing some major restoration work and this has to be fit into their schedule. As soon as I get a date, I will send out a notice via the Listserve as I would like to see a good crowd at the event.

Enjoy this beautiful weather we have, get out and visit historical places. I look forward to seeing you at the October meeting.



Items of Interest:

Upcoming Events:

- **Thursday, Oct. 11** Kentucky Chautauqua will host Robert Bell in his portrayal of Rev. Newton Bush at Behringer-Crawford Museum in Devou Park at 6:30 PM. Rev. Bush was in the Company "E" 5th United States Colored Cavalry who mustered in at Camp Nelson, was wounded at Simpsonville, and worked to try to get a pension on behalf of a widow of a fallen soldier from the Simpsonville massacre. Rev. Bush is portrayed by Robert Bell, a veteran re-enactor and member of the Kentucky Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. Robert Bell is a living historian and charter member of the 12th United States Colored Troops Living History Association.
- **Saturday, Oct. 20** To commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County will host Albert Hallenberg for a program on The Black Brigade of Cincinnati. The presentation begins at 2:00 p.m. and will be held in the Genealogy & Local History Study Area.

New Members: A hearty welcome to our newest members who were voted in at the September meeting: Stephen Brown, Bob Haines, and Harvey Olf.

Spring 2013 Field Trip: This year we will be partnering with The Washington DC Civil War Round Table (CWRTDC) on 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. 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

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.

Book Review:

... By Dan Reigle

The Civil War at Perryville: Battling for the Bluegrass. Christopher L. Kolakowski. Columbia SC: The History Press, Civil War Sesquicentennial Series, 2009. 188 pages, paperback. \$21.99.

This is an excellent “brief” overview of the 1862 Confederate Kentucky campaign and its culminating event, the battle at Perryville on 8 October 1862. The author spent three years (2005-2008) as executive director of the Perryville Enhancement Project, a public-private partnership that focused on adding to the amount of battlefield land preserved at Perryville, offering him the opportunity to experience first-hand and study the complicated terrain on this battlefield. It also offered him extensive contact with Kurt Holman, Park Manager of the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site, and the PBSHS manuscript collections, on which Kolakowski draws heavily, even in this short book. The book also relies appropriately on the superb complete treatment of Perryville by Dr. Kenneth W. Noe, *Perryville: This Grand Havoc of Battle* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2001.)

I became familiar with the book while preparing for publication of an article in *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal* by Bert Waits and Stefani Hennessee on Peter Harris, 121st OVI, who was mortally wounded at Perryville. The authors and I found it to be a very clear overview of the essential ingredients of a complicated campaign and a complicated battle that allowed the article to put the 121st's participation in the battle of Perryville in proper context, as illustrated by the number of references to the book in the article. Although it is an overview, the book's selective use of primary sources, such as the manuscripts in the PBSHS collection and the Harlan Papers at the University of Louisville, allow it to provide selective details that enhance the history of the campaign and battle as they unfold.

In the process, Kolakowski is able to provide a new interpretation of a meeting of officers in the troubled III Corps that prepared to send a telegraphic message to the President requesting the removal of General Buell. While this meeting has been believed to have occurred on the evening before the battle, Kolakowski uses an excerpt from the transcript of the Buell Commission in early 1863 along with an unpublished transcript in the papers of Colonel John Marshall Harlan (a future Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court) to confirm that the meeting actually did not occur until late in October, and that Harlan never actually sent the message because when he arrived at the telegraph office, he learned that General Buell had just been relieved of command by the President.

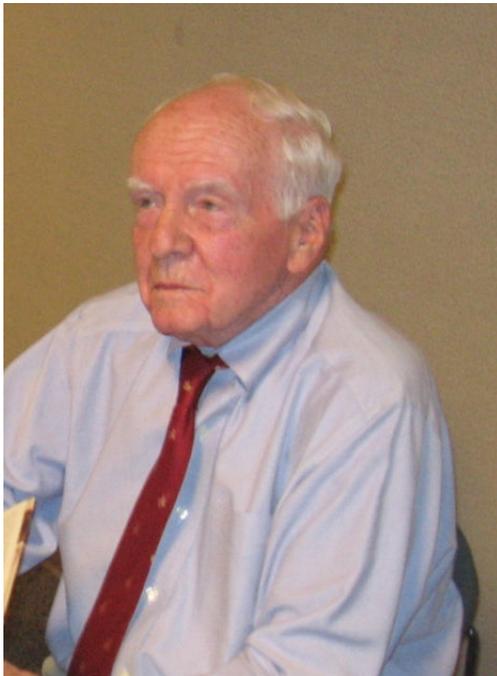
As we approach the 150th anniversary of the battle at Perryville, this book will be an excellent resource for descendants of the participants, Civil War students, local residents, re-enactors, and others among us who will gather at Perryville on 6-7 October 2012 to commemorate the Sesquicentennial.



September Presentation:

... submitted by Andy Simmons

In September, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table was proud to have Charles Bracelen Flood from Richmond Kentucky, give a presentation, entitled *the "Final Victory" of General and President Ulysses S. Grant*, taken largely from his recent book, *Grant's Final Victory: Ulysses S. Grant's Heroic Last Year* (2011). The book focuses on Grant's final struggle to complete his *Memoirs* in order to provide his family with financial security after his death.



On May 1884, 19 years after Appomattox, Grant was sixty-two years old and the most famous man in America. After serving as Commanding General in the Civil War and two terms as President, he was in poor health. He had gained forty pounds and used crutches. No one had any idea he had merely fourteen months to live.

He and his wife Julia were living very comfortably in New York, due primarily to the generosity of rich New Yorkers, such as J.P. Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, and William H. Vanderbilt. These men saw in Grant the same kind of vision and determination that had brought them success in their own lives. Vanderbilt, the richest man in the world, said of Grant, "He is one of us."

Mr. Flood spent the much of the first half of his talk summarizing Grant's life up until the time he was asked to write his memoirs. Since most of this is already known to Civil War buffs, I'll skip this and advance to the post Civil War years.

Charles Bracelen Flood

Four years after the Civil War ended, Grant was sworn in as President on the United States. His first term was successful, and his second was not. During that second term, his opponents launched thirty-seven investigations into alleged corruption in his administration. It was

never demonstrated Grant was involved in any scandal; it was likely just Grant's trust in the wrong men. In Grant's final address to Congress, he apologized for his inadequacies as President.

After his White House days in 1879, Grant and his wife took a trip around the world. Planned as a private sightseeing party, it turned into an immense international tribute to Grant. After returning, he and Julia were living in Manhattan just east of the fabulous millionaires' mansions of 5th Avenue, during the Gilded Age. He and his son, Ulysses S. Grant Jr., were partners in an investment firm known as Grant & Ward. Ward, entrusted with overseeing the enterprise, at one point represented to Grant that he was worth as Grant put it, "Nigh on to a million." Ward had been running what would later be called a "Ponzi Scheme." Disaster struck overnight in May 1884, and Grant lost all his money as Ward's fraudulent scheme collapsed.

After being approached afterwards by an editor from *Century* magazine, Grant eventually agreed to write a series of articles on his Civil War experiences. In doing so, he discovered he liked writing and was considered to be quite good at writing descriptive prose. He then expanded this project into his massive personal memoirs. At this point, Mark Twain entered the picture. Twain, about to publish *Huckleberry Finn*, made Grant a generous offer. Grant would receive a \$200,000 advance and a chance to make perhaps \$400,000.

As Grant continued writing, he suffered increasing pain to his mouth. By late October, 1884, he was diagnosed with cancer of the throat and tongue from smoking thousands of cigars. Facing a death sentence, the question became, could he complete his *Memoirs*? Averaging 750 words per day while in a condition in which he likened drinking a sip of water to "molten lead," Grant was putting on paper a work of remarkable literary work. To Twain, it proved he was right about what he saw in Grant, comparing the work to the *Commentaries* of Julius Caesar.

During the final months, it became apparent that people of both north and south had a special feeling for Grant. By Grant's birthday, April 27, 1885, it was becoming clear that an entirely new generation of people not born at the time of the surrender was growing up with a feeling that he, like Lincoln, had preserved the Union. Grant told his son Frederick that the dedication should stand, not just to the soldiers and sailors of the north, but to all who fought. Fearful as it was, Grant believed the war was worth all that it cost. Grant finished his *Memoirs* on July 20, 1885. Three mornings later, he died with Julia holding his hand. He was interred in Riverside Park in Manhattan. Eventually, Grant's *Memoirs* were published with great acclaim, ensuring Julia would lead a comfortable life thereafter.



Future Presentations:

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| 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>
Oct. 17, 2013	Stuart Sanders, Kentucky Historical Society. <i>Perryville under Fire: The Aftermath of Kentucky's Largest Civil War Battle</i>
Nov. 21, 2013	Gary Knepp, University of Cincinnati <i>Camp Dennison</i>
Jan. 16, 2014	Gary Q. Johnson, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

September Quiz:

1. This state would supply over 20,000 troops by the end of the war, suffering 8,500 casualties – the highest rate per capita of any Northern state. Name the state.
2. On June 20, 1863 West Virginia was admitted into the Union. Twenty-two months earlier on August 20, 1861 a convention was held in Wheeling to consider separation from the Old Dominion. What name was originally suggested for the new state?
3. Before the battle of Antietam Burnside's Bridge obviously had another name. What was it called?
4. I graduated from West Point in 1837, was severely wounded at the Battles of Okeechobee (1837) and Molino del Rey (1847) and served as Commandant of Cadets. I resigned my major's commission December 20, 1860. (probably the first pro southern officer to do so) I was a major general when I was killed July 22, 1864. Who am I?
5. After capturing a supply laden depot at Manassas Junction, Stonewall Jackson claimed that he feared what "more than General Pope's Army"?



Answers:

1. Kansas
2. Kanawha
3. Rohrbach
4. William H. T. Walker
5. liquor

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!