



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.cincinnati-cwrt.org>
 November, 2007 Issue

Meeting Date: November 15, 2007

Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

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

**(6:45) Dinner: - Caesar Salad, Roast Loin of Pork, Buttered Broccoli Spears,
 Baked Potato w/ Sour Cream and Chives on Side, Derby Pie**

(7:45): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Gary Ecelbarger

Topic: *The Unheralded Alliance: John 'Black Jack' Logan and Ulysses S. Grant*

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not have an automatic reservation please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org; call it in to Bob Limosek at 513.777.2160 (x); or email: rlimo@fuse.net. If you are making a reservation for more than yourself please provide the names of the others.

MG John A. Logan



Historian, battlefield guide, and author Gary Ecelbarger will be making his first speaking appearance before the Cincinnati CWRT in November. Although Gary is a native of North Tonawanda, New York, he has spent many years living in northern Virginia. In fact, he is a former president of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. Noted Civil War authors have touted Gary as being “one of the most prolific new Civil War writers in recent years.” He has worked as a consultant and contributing writer for the Time-Life Books series *Voices of the Civil War*. He also has published numerous articles and reviews on Civil War topics, and he has written several books on the subject, including ‘*We Are in For It!*’ *The First Battle of Kernstown* (1997), *Frederick W. Lander: The Great Natural American Soldier*

LTG Ulysses S. Grant



(2001), and *Black Jack Logan: An Extraordinary Life in Peace and War* (2005). He is currently working on a book about Abraham Lincoln’s path to the presidency in 1860. Mr. Ecelbarger has appeared in Civil War history

programs on television stations such as *The History Channel*. He is also well known for being one of the original members of the Kernstown Battlefield Association, which has contributed a great deal toward the preservation of that threatened Shenandoah Valley battlefield.

Gary's presentation will tell the story of one of the most important, yet most underrated, friendships that occurred between two influential Civil War figures: Lieutenant-General Ulysses S. Grant and Major-General John A. "Black Jack" Logan. These men first met on the streets of Springfield, Illinois, on June 19, 1861. At the time, Grant was the newly appointed colonel of the 21st Illinois Infantry, while Logan was an experienced U.S. congressman. Neither knew much about the other, but from that moment onward, Grant and Logan would form a valuable friendship that would last for the rest of their lives. Yet, unlike the much-publicized relationship between Grant and Major-General William Tecumseh Sherman, there has been little written about the great things that happened because Grant and Logan repeatedly helped one another during tough times. Gary will enlighten us all on Grant's and Logan's personalities, why they worked so very well together, and why their friendship made a big difference both in the outcome of the war and in their military and post-war careers.



We Who Study Must Also Strive To Save!

Miscellaneous Announcements

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 meantime 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; 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.

Civil War Medal of Honor Tour at Spring Grove Cemetery: Jack Simon will be conducting a driving tour of the Civil War Medal of Honor Recipients at Spring Grove Cemetery as part of Spring Grove's observance of Veterans Day. The one hour tour will include a short history of the Medal of Honor, visiting the five Civil War recipients' gravesites, and a visit to the 5th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Association monument. The public is invited and there is no charge for the tour. Please meet at the main cemetery entrance off of Spring Grove Avenue at 1:00 PM on Sunday, November 11th. Hope to see you there.

Proposed Fortification Study Group: Jack Simon has proposed to set up an informal discussion group within our Round Table on the topic of Civil War fortifications. The group would meet three or four times a year on a day and time different from the Round Table's regular meetings. No dues, no officers, just informal presentations and discussion of any facet of Civil War fortifications. Possible locations could include a library or a restaurant. Membership in the Round Table would be required. If you are interested, please contact Jack by phone or email as listed in the CWRT Officers section on the last page of this newsletter

New Quiz Masters: Alan Berenson and Dawn Mowery are your new quiz masters. They 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 Dawn at a meeting. Please include the question, the answer and the source.

Book Raffle Request: If you would like to donate any of your personal civil war books to help us raise money for Civil War Preservation Projects, please give your books to Bob Limoseth at any of our future monthly meetings.

Membership: At the October meeting we welcomed new members Craig Brockway, Bob Olexsey and Michael Riesenberg.

IRS Receipts: Receipts for Sustaining Member dues (except October payments) and donations to the Perryville Battlefield Preservation project have been sent out. If you haven't received a receipt, please contact Jim Stewart at jebstewart@fuse.net or (513) 271-0738.

Perryville Battlefield Preservation: If you're interested in making a donation, please contact Jim Stewart (see above) as soon as possible.

October Presentation Summarized by Pat Homan :

Richard McMurry used a blend of humor with history for an enjoyable and educational evening. He started his presentation by quoting the comments of a Georgian Clerk of Courts, on hearing the news of General Sherman's death, stated "The SOB is dead and in hell." He went on to recount his youth, growing up in the Atlanta area and attending schools where he was brought up to believe that Ohio's William Tecumseh Sherman, was one of the worst men in history. He then listed the 21 most hated men in Atlanta; starting with the two nine man squads of the Birmingham and Nashville baseball teams, that regularly picked on the Atlanta nine; Wally Butts, the former football coach of Georgia occupied the nineteenth position for his alleged conspiring with Bear Bryant to fix football games, (for which Coach Butts won a large lawsuit against the publisher of that story for defamation). The number twenty was the South's own John Bell Hood for surrendering Atlanta, then running off, and finally, the most hated of all, that devil who personally took a match to the entire city, the aforementioned W. T. Sherman. Dr. McMurry pointed out that Sherman is blamed for every fire in the state from the first bonfire of William Oglethorpe to the burning of a large department store in 1946. He recounted how on boyhood trips in an auto

around the state that every blackened chimney of a burned out house was referred to as a “Sherman Sentinel”

McMurry told how his personal introduction to the real Sherman started with his attendance at VMI, where he first met some of the cursed Yankees, discovering that they were really nice chaps, then as he pursued his advanced degrees, he learned about the real Sherman and confessed, while stating that this would end his speaking career in Georgia, that he had come to admire the man.

McMurry stated that he believes that Sherman is the most interesting of all Civil War generals comparing him to Lincoln. He noted that Lincoln was a lawyer and therefore rarely told anyone what he really felt about someone or something. Sherman, was the opposite, he never failed to state exactly how he felt and punctuated his feelings with blunt and profane terms. In this, McMurry felt that Sherman was much like President Harry Truman, who was also noted as rarely shying away from plain talk. Sherman was also a profuse writer, leaving us an excellent knowledge of the man, and his beliefs, from his writings.

Sherman was often stationed in the South Southerner’s. Shortly before the outbreak of founded Louisiana State Seminary and Military school moved to Baton Rouge and is known war fever raged and several months later Army, moving up the chain to Grant’s key Corp Commander in the West.



during his active military career and liked the War, he was the Superintendent of the newly Academy at Alexandria. After the war, the today as LSU. He resigned from this position as accepted a commission as a Colonel in the Commander, then succeeding Grant as

Dr. McMurry pointed out that Sherman’s true genius was his logistical skills, understanding and achieving the proper supply of his own army and the necessity of destroying the Southern logistical base. Sherman would rather maneuver or force his opponents to fall back due to lack of supplies rather than trying the often futile and costly frontal assault. McMurry noted that in his opinion, Sherman lacked the “killer instinct” and supported that position with Sherman’s actions at the Battle of Bentonville where he could have destroyed Joe Johnston’s Army but let them escape, only to surrender shortly thereafter.

Dr. McMurry pointed out that much of the myth of the destruction of Georgia is exaggeration rather than fact. This was largely helped by the writings and claims made by Sherman himself. Dr. McMurry noted that according to the records, the value of all property in Georgia, not including slaves, in 1860 was 300 million dollars. Even allowing for wartime inflation, Sherman’s claim that he destroyed that much would have required his Army to have devastated the entire state, not the actual estimated 12% of the state that his Army of “bummer’s” actually traversed. If that claim were true, or even close to true, then how could there be so many beautiful antebellum homes still standing today was a question posed by our speaker.

Dr. McMurry specifically addressed three critical charges made against Sherman. First, was the issue of cruelty to civilians. Second that he and his Army murdered many innocent men, and third, that there were many incidents of rape of white women. In each case, there is documented proof, often in the letters and journals of soldiers, newspapers and other contemporary accounts, that these charges are false. For example, there are no records of any murders of civilians unless the civilians tried to resist Sherman’s Army. There are three documented incidents of rape in which his fellow soldiers killed one man for his crime and the other two Union soldiers were charged and convicted by Courts Martial for their crimes.

Dr. McMurry’s final point was that a large number of Georgians welcomed Sherman as it meant an end to the fighting. Many of these were pro-union Georgians who didn’t want secession. Others were the slaves themselves who welcomed Sherman and his Army as their saviors. He noted that many of the charges against the General start in the post-Civil War period and are part of what he refers to as the “Moonlight and Magnolia” view of the South and all accompanying myths. He closed his presentation by citing two verses of “Marching Through Georgia”

which is an appropriate closing for this report as well.

*Bring the good ol' Bugle boys! We'll sing another song,
Sing it with a spirit that will start the world along,
Sing it like we used to sing it fifty thousand strong,
While we were marching through Georgia*

*Hurrah! Hurrah! We bring the Jubilee.
Hurrah! Hurrah! The flag that makes you free,
So we sang the chorus from Atlanta to the sea,
While we were marching through Georgia.*

Book Review by Thomas L. Breiner:

Reading The Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters by Elizabeth Brown Pryor, Penguin Group New York, NY 2007 658 pages, hardcover \$29.95

Reading The Man by Elizabeth Brown Pryor is not a biography of Robert E. Lee, but rather, an in-depth study of the man through his personal correspondence. The author used over a 1000 letters to develop insights into Lee's character and the results are extremely fascinating. This is not the Lee of Douglas S. Freeman. Ms. Pryor looks at Lee as a student at West Point, an engineer, a bachelor, a husband, a father, a flirt, an ambitious Army officer, a soldier in combat, and more. She also covers new ground on his attitudes towards slavery and racism.

This excellent work gives the reader a greater understanding of Lee as an individual. He has faults just like anyone else and some more so. Lee was not always the great leader of men as displayed in the majority of biographies. According to the author, the students at West Point were basically unimpressed with his performance. The students at Washington College tended to fear him more than respect him. His fellow officers found Lee to be an excellent companion, but not a real friend. Robert Lee was extremely reluctant to support his friends when asked to speak on their behalf.

Like most officers, Lee was not thrilled with the recognition he received from his actions during the Mexican War. He finally left the Army Corps of Engineers after over 20 years just to get promoted.

He constantly desired to be at home with his family, but never took the time to look for a better life style than that of a soldier. Although he complained about family separation, he eagerly sought the assignment with the newly formed 2nd Cavalry just to get out of the position as Superintendent of West Point.

Ms. Pryor looks closely at the reason that Lee preferred the company of women more so than men. In the female circle, he did not have to compete with those who may be better and more knowledgeable than him. The author analyzes his attraction to women and his constant flirtations. However, she firmly believes he never violated the trust of his wife.

Finally, here is a work that delves into Lee the person, not Lee the myth. She concludes that his greatness is really from the fact that he was so flawed. His life was a struggle to overcome his background and his faults. For anyone who has read all the biographies of Lee, this will prove to be a real eye-opener. I believe that Ms. Pryor has captured the true Robert E. Lee. The only flaw I found in her research was a remark from Joshua Chamberlain concerning the salute for the Confederates at the surrender ceremony at Appomattox. She is continuing a myth that has been put to rest. I strongly recommend this well-written and well-researched work to anyone who has any knowledge of Robert E. Lee. Here is the real story.

Cincinnati Civil War Round Table October Quiz

1. The Slaughter Pen Farm, whose preservation is a current major project of the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), forms a significant portion of what Civil War battlefield?
2. Admiral Porter found himself in his gunboats in a very difficult situation. Greeting nearby black man as “Sambo” (in a later report called a “Truthful Contraband”) who answered, “My name ain’t Sambo, sah, my name’s ‘Tub’.” Porter gave me 50 cents and asked him to transmit an urgently written note which began, “Dear Sherman, hurry for heaven’s sake.” Where was Porter and what caused him to write his note?
3. In reference to the Atlanta Campaign, what even caused General Sherman to say, “The Confederate Government rendered us a most valuable service?”
4. You are a visiting an Irishman in Richmond VA 22 March 1865 and just had your credit card stolen. You need some local currency to pay for a room, board, a tour stop photo, and a slightly used overcoat. You therefore exchange 50 British Pounds at the local office of Branch Morton & Company. You receive ___ Confederate Dollars in exchange. How many dollars would you be given?
5. Scene: Fall, 1845, Corpus Christi (Mexico or Texas, take your pick). Military Officers of the occupying US Army become bored awaiting action against Mexico. In order to entertain themselves, they organize a theatrical group, one of whose productions was Shakespeare’s *Othello*. A junior officer was persuaded to play the 16th century Venetian Temptress, Desdemona. Who was that officer?
6. The only man to have his image on the currency of the Confederacy after he died was _____. His face was on the \$_____ bill. Fill in the blanks.

Answers to Quiz

1. It is the last large segment of the Fredericksburg, VA Battlefield that has yet to be preserved. It was the sight of Gibbons’ Union assault in which the Federal soldiers were repulsed by Rebels under General A. P. Hill.

Reference: CWPT Solicitation Letter of 6 August 2007 and accompanying map by Steven Stanley.

2. During the Vicksburg Campaign, April, 1863, Porter and his fleet of gun boats was on a narrow, crooked Mississippi bayou. The gun boats were enmeshed and trapped by willow reeds and taking fire from two Rebel artillery batteries all the while fending off swamp vermin which were displaced from their usual habitats by U. S. Grant’s deliberate flooding of the bayou’s watershed.

Reference: *The Civil War*, S. Foote, Volume II, Page 210.

3. President Davis’ decision to replace General Joe Johnston with General John Bell Hood.

Reference: *The Civil War Dictionary*, M. Boatner, Page 32.

4. \$13,333.33 The cost of dinner was \$1,930; a photo of the Petersburg crater was \$9,000; \$1,000 for a night at the hotel; and \$450 for a coat.

Reference: *An Irishman in Dixie, Thomas Connelly’s Diary of the Fall of the Confederacy*, 1988, Lankford, Editor, Page 61.

5. Ulysses S. Grant

Reference: *Ulysses S. Grant, The Unlikely Hero*, Michael Korde, Page 38-39.

6. General Stonewall Jackson, \$500.

Reference: *All Things for Good*, J. Steven Wilkins, Page XVIII.

To Other Round Tables That Receive Our Newsletter via the U. S. Post Office: If your Round Table receives our Newsletter in paper form instead of via email we are asking for your assistance on helping us reduce fixed expenses. As you well know, the cost of mailing out paper copies continues to increase. In an attempt to reduce the amount of money we spend on distributing the monthly *Canister*, we are going to automatically convert your Round Table over to the email version. If we currently receive a hard copy mailing from you to our P. O. Box we will use your Round Table’s email address listed on the newsletter, if you have one. If one is not listed we will use the Newsletter Editor’s email address, if provided. If you would like to direct the newsletter to a different person within your organization, you will need to provide us their email address. And, if you don’t send us your newsletter, but receive ours; please provide us the appropriate email address you would like us to use so we don’t have to discontinue your copy. To make changes, or to send your monthly newsletter to us via email, use info@cincinnatiwrt.org as our preferred email address. Thank you.

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:

- November 23rd, 2007
- January 28th, 2008
- February 29th, 2008
- March 28th, 2008
- April 25th, 2008

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2007-2008 Programs

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 River Navies: The Forgotten Warriors</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>
September 18, 2008	John F. Marszalek <i>Topic TBD</i>
October 16, 2008	Roger Billings, <i>CCWRT Lincoln at the Civil War Battlefields</i>
November 20, 2008	Edwin C. Bearss, <i>Arlington, VA Topic TBD</i>

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!