



CINCINNATI
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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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>
November, 2012 Issue

Meeting Date: November 15, 2012

Place: The Drake Center

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

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

Dinner Menu: Oven roasted turkey served with, dressing, mashed potatoes, super sweet corn, dinner roll and butter, and assorted gourmet cookies
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

Speaker: Frank O'Reilly, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP

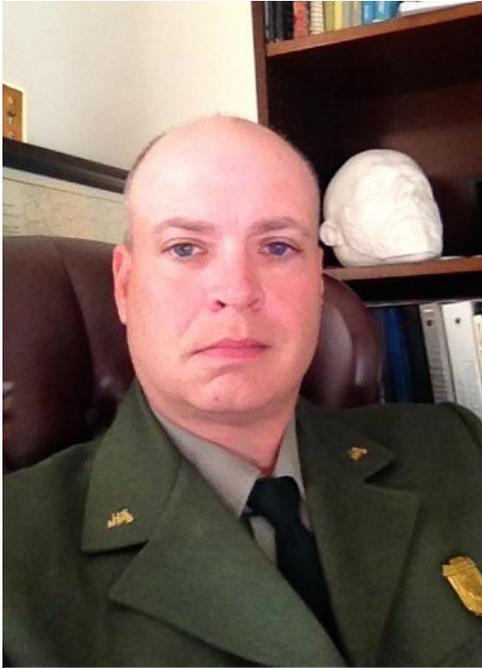
Topic: *The Battle of Fredericksburg*

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, November 7, 2012.**

About our November Speaker:

For our November meeting we welcome Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park historian, Frank O'Reilly. Frank will discuss the Battle of Fredericksburg, and the timing could not be better. The night of his talk, November 15, marks the exact sesquicentennial anniversary of the Union march toward Fredericksburg that began the campaign. A premier expert on the battle, Frank will draw from his 2003 book, *The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock* (nominated for a Pulitzer Prize). The actual battle took place December 11-15, 1862, and was one of the deadliest of the Civil War, resulting

in almost 18,000 casualties, mostly Union troops. Frank will discuss several unique aspects about the campaign, including the massive use of pontoon bridges by Union forces to cross the Rappahannock (in effect, the first “beachhead” of the Civil War) and the first time in the conflict both sides engaged in urban warfare. Frank is also the author of *“Stonewall” Jackson at Fredericksburg: The Battle of Prospect Hill* (1993). He will pay particular attention in his talk to Jackson’s firm defense of an initially successful Federal assault and his subsequent counterattack that, in the end, shut down any chance of a Union victory. Frank, in fact, is the permanent historian at the “Stonewall” Jackson shrine on the site where Jackson died after the Battle of Chancellorsville. And, of course, Frank will discuss the futile and disastrous Federal assaults of Marye’s Heights that led to immense casualties. After viewing the carnage, Robert E. Lee is said to have remarked, “It is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it.” As many of us are aware, within weeks of this military debacle, Abraham Lincoln replaced Ambrose Burnside as commander of the Army of the Potomac with Joseph Hooker.



Frank O'Reilly

Frank’s background thoroughly prepared him for his current position. While an undergraduate at Washington & Lee, he worked at the “Stonewall” Jackson house in Lexington, VA, and even guest lectured on Civil War topics. After graduating in 1987, he joined the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park as a temporary historian. After working at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Frank returned permanently to the Military Park. Frank has contributed numerous articles to Civil War journals, and has

made several appearances in documentaries. He is currently in the research stage for a book on the Seven Days Campaign and the Battle of Malvern Hill.



President’s Report

.... Pat Homan

We had another excellent meeting with an eloquent speaker. Hunter Lesser gave an informative and entertaining presentation on the opening actions of the War in West Virginia. It was so good that I broke my self-promise not to buy any more books, as we are out of room. I am looking forward to reading this volume.

The other big news is that the Burnet House Marker is up. Randy and Becky did an excellent job of wading through the mire of city regulations to get the proper permits and inspections – explain that one – to get it mounted. The owners of the Fourth and Vine Tower generously mounted the marker at no cost, so special thanks goes to Mr. Ben Hucker and his staff at the building. A day after Becky emailed and told me it was up, I happened to be downtown, so I made a slight detour to Third and Vine. The marker is easily visible, even from a car.

The actual dedication took place on Saturday, 20 October. We had a small crowd of Roundtable members plus several individuals who had read about this when Channel 5 put a “crawler” on the screen while covering the morning news. This could not have happened without the key coordinating of Becky and Randy, our Dynamic Duo. They provided a veil as well as coordinating with Mike Rogers on publicity. I am told it did make the 11:00 news, but I was asleep. The dedication was my third function for the day. I appreciate all who came out but especially all who donated to this project. While Channel 12 failed to mention that this was done by private funds and the Cincinnati Round Table, all who read the marker can see who did this. I have to note none of this was done with government help, we did it ourselves! Well Done!

At the meeting, Becky and Randy unveiled this year’s project, which is to purchase seven cannon balls for the restoration of Gen. Lytle’s marker at Chickamauga. Becky even offered a lovely song to get this started. We have a lot of talent in this group.

Dan Reigle advises me that our November speaker is one of the nation’s top historians and is noted for excellent presentations. His topic is right in keeping with the 150th anniversary, as he will discuss the Battle of Fredericksburg. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.



Items of Interest:

2012-2013 Preservation Project: The main preservation project of the CCWRT this year will be the purchase of cannonballs for the restoration of the monument dedicated to William Lytle at the Chickamauga Battlefield. The monument was built in 1894 by Union veterans at the location of his death. Originally a pyramid of approximately 350 cannonballs, the “monument” now consists of only the side of the original pyramid that contains the identifying plaque. The other two sides of the monument have “disappeared” many years ago for unknown reasons, perhaps by vandalism or perhaps used to repair other monuments in the park. Finally, something is being done to restore the monument to its original condition. A partnership has been formed to raise funds for the restoration between the Sons of Union Veterans William H. Lytle Camp #10 (Cincinnati) and the Friends of Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park (501-c-3.) The cost of each cannonball is \$200, with an estimated total cost of the project being \$65,000. The project’s intent is to have the restoration completed and rededicated on the 150th Anniversary of the battle in 2013. The CCWRT would like to purchase at least seven cannonballs for the project. The CCWRT will match member donations up to \$500. For more information, visit the Sons of Union Veterans website at SUVCW Lytle Camp #10: <http://www.suvcwcincinnati.org>. This site includes photographs of the original monument and its current condition. To make a donation, contact Becky Burket and Randy Donohue – CCWRT Preservation Project Co-chairs.

Burnet House Plaque Dedicated: On October 20th, 2012 the CCWRT plaque affixed to the building at 3rd and Vine Street in downtown Cincinnati describing the location and historical significance of the Burnet House was unveiled. The dedication was the culmination of a year long fund raising project by our Round Table. The cost of the plaque was \$2,485 which includes base cost of \$2,185 and \$300 in permit fees. About 15 persons attended the event with the surprise guest being Stewart Maxwell, a well-known city architect and descendent of the Burnet family. Mr. Maxwell (in dark blue blazer in these photos) assisted Alan Berenson in unveiling the marker.



As this was one of the most ambitious efforts in the history of the CCWRT, a few credits need to go out. First of all thanks to Alan Berenson, the past Preservation Chair, who was the brainchild of the idea. Secondly, thanks to Bob Limoseth who worked with the officers in getting the wording just right and had the sign ordered. Next, thanks go to Becky Burket and Randy Donohue, the current Preservation Chairpersons for their fund raising efforts and the logistics of getting the sign on the wall after it was made. Thanks also to Mike Rogers, Publicity Chair. Through Mike's efforts, we had the morning TV announcement from Channel 5 and a video team from Channel 12 who filmed the event. Most, of all thanks to the membership of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table for the generosity of its members and foresight of its past and present officers to recognize the importance of bringing of one the cities' great past institutions to the attention of current and future Cincinnatians.

The exact wording of the sign and additional photos of the event can be found by visiting the CCWRT website

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

October Presentation:

... submitted by **Mark Silbersack**

On October 18th, we welcomed author W. Hunter Lesser, who described the first, often overlooked, and in some ways “severest campaign of the Civil War,” a series of small battles in the western part of Virginia. This campaign in mid-1861 featured the first significant fighting between Confederate and Union troops, affected the reputations of two war leaders, and led to the creation of the new state of West Virginia.

Western Virginia was always different from the rest of the Commonwealth. Beyond the Alleghenies, it was tied to the North by proximity and the B&O railroad. Its people lived in more rugged terrain than, and their culture and economy had little in common with, the Virginia cities and plantations to the east. They had fewer slaves. When the war came, about 60% favored the Union, and thus separation from Virginia.



W. Hunter Lesser

In April 1861, Confederates burned several B&O bridges, and the area’s Unionists pleaded with Lincoln for help. Former railroad executive George B. McClellan had built an army of Ohio volunteers and then been appointed Major General over all Union volunteers, making him the second-ranking officer in the U.S. Army. He offered to take his 19,000 troops to the area and join the loyal troops there to save it for the Union.

After smaller skirmishes in June at Phillippi and Carricks Ford, McClellan-led Union forces gained a resounding victory in the fierce battle of Rich Mountain on July 11th, leading to withdrawal of Confederate forces. McClellan’s victory was complete – although he himself was not actually at any of the battle sites. It was his subordinates like Col. Rosecrans at Rich Mountain who led the Union troops in each engagement.

In the glow of victory, McClellan’s absence as a battlefield commander went unnoticed.

He promptly promoted himself via dramatic and exaggerated telegrams to the War Department, which were repeated verbatim in the Northern press, where he was hailed as a military genius. As the North’s first military hero, he was summoned to Washington to rebuild the Army of the Potomac after the debacle at Bull Run.

Robert E. Lee then took 11,000 troops to reclaim the area for Virginia. But the terrain was bad and the weather worse. Rain, cold (snow in August!), and disease cut his forces by 50%. When he attacked at Cheat Mountain in September, the dense woods led to disorganized skirmishing, his troops were driven back, and Lee himself was almost captured. When he later resumed the offensive against Rosecrans at Gauley Bridge, feuding between his subordinate Generals Floyd and Wise stifled the offensive. Lee’s embarrassing performance in West Virginia earned him the nicknames “Granny Lee” and “the Great Evacuator.”

After Lee withdrew, there were no major battles in northern West Virginia, an area inhospitable to large-scale military operations. Most Federal troops were engaged for the rest of the war in guarding the B&O and fighting a brutal guerrilla war in rugged mountain terrain.

October Quiz:

1.: I was born in Germantown, Pa. in 1832, the second daughter of an abolitionist, transcendentalist educator and an associate of Thoreau, Emerson and Hawthorne. I served as a nurse at the Union hospital in Georgetown (D.C.) and wrote "Hospital Sketches," a collection of letters regarding my gruesome experiences there which gained me my first critical recognition of my many subsequent publications, the most famous of which came out in 1868 and was called _____. I was born on the same date as my father and died 6 Mar. 1888 in Boston, Mass., 2 days after he did. My pen name was A. M. Barnard.

2.: Rose O'Neal Greenhow was a bona fide Confederate spy who was also the aunt by marriage of the wife of a northern politician who could have become president. His name was _____.

3.: Joseph Gorgas was the administrative genius in developing an ordinance industry that had been previous to the war almost non-existent in the south. One of his actions was to encourage the collection of contents of the chamber pots of southern women. Why?

4.: Examine the photo below. This scene of wounded soldiers was photographed by James Gibson of the Brady firm at Savage's Station. What feature identifies those soldiers as being from the 16th New York regiment?



5.: The following are the names of the significant battles comprising the Seven Days campaign. Arrange them in their proper order from the first day to the last. (Note: 2 of them occurred on the same day) White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill, Mechanicsville (Beaver Dam Creek), Savage's Station, Gaine's Mill (Boatswain's Swamp), Glendale (Fraser's Farm)

6.: Major Henry Rathbone and Clara Harris accompanied the Lincoln's to Ford's Theater 14 Apr. 1865. They married in 1867. How did this marriage end?

Quiz Answers:

- 1.: Little Women by Louisa May Alcott Ref.: Louisa May Alcott, Wikipedia
- 2.: Stephen Douglas Ref.: Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Keckly, Fleishner, p.222
- 3.: To supplement the south's supply of saltpeter or niter to manufacture gunpowder. Ref.: Battle Cry of Freedom, McPherson, p.320
- 4.: The straw hats. They were given to all members of that unit by its colonel's wife earlier in June 1862. Ref.: In Through the Camera's Lens: Savage's Station, Gorman, Hallowedground, summer 2012,p.22-23
- 5.: Mechanicsville, Gaine's Mill, Savage's Station, White Oak Swamp – Glendale, Malvern Hill Ref.: Week of Blood and Fire, Krick, Hallowedground, summer 2012, p.16-20
- 6.: Henry Rathbone shot and stabbed his wife to death in 1888 living out his days in a German asylum Ref.: Manhunt, Swanson, p.372



Future Presentations:

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| 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 Aaround 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 |

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@cincinnatiawrt.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:

President: Pat Homan	513-861-2057 (h)	homanfamily@fuse.net
Vice-President: Andy Simmons	513- 705-9444(c)	asimmons2@cinci.rr.net
Treasurer: Jim Stewart	513-271-0738 (h)	jebstewart@fuse.net
Secretary: Mark Silbersack	513-977-8243 (h)	mark.silbersack@dinsmore.com
Program Chair: Albert Hallenberg	959-663-8811 (h)	albert.hallenberg@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h)	dbauer002@cinci.rr.com
Membership & Publicity: Mike Rogers	859- 907-3096 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
Trustee: Dan Reigle (2011-2013)	513-777-9255 (h)	dreigle@cinci.rr.com
Trustee: Mike Rhein (2012-2014)	513-984-3227 (h)	arhein@earthlink.com

Committees:

Preservation Projects:		
Becky Burket & Randy Donohue	513-771-3949 (h)	northstarians@AOL.com
Webmaster: Dan Reigle	513-777-9255 (h)	dreigle@cinci.rr.com
CCWRT ListServ: John Steiner	513-528-3350 (h)	jcsneuro@fuse.net

Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!