



WESTERN RESERVE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume 40

May 2005

Number 9

Meeting: Wednesday May 11, 2005
 6:15 PM Assemble
 6:30 PM Dinner
 7:30 PM Business
 7:45 PM Presentation

Place: Colony Room, Student
 Union at Baldwin-Wallace
 College, Corner of East
 Grand and Tressel, Berea
 OH 44017 1-440-826-2081

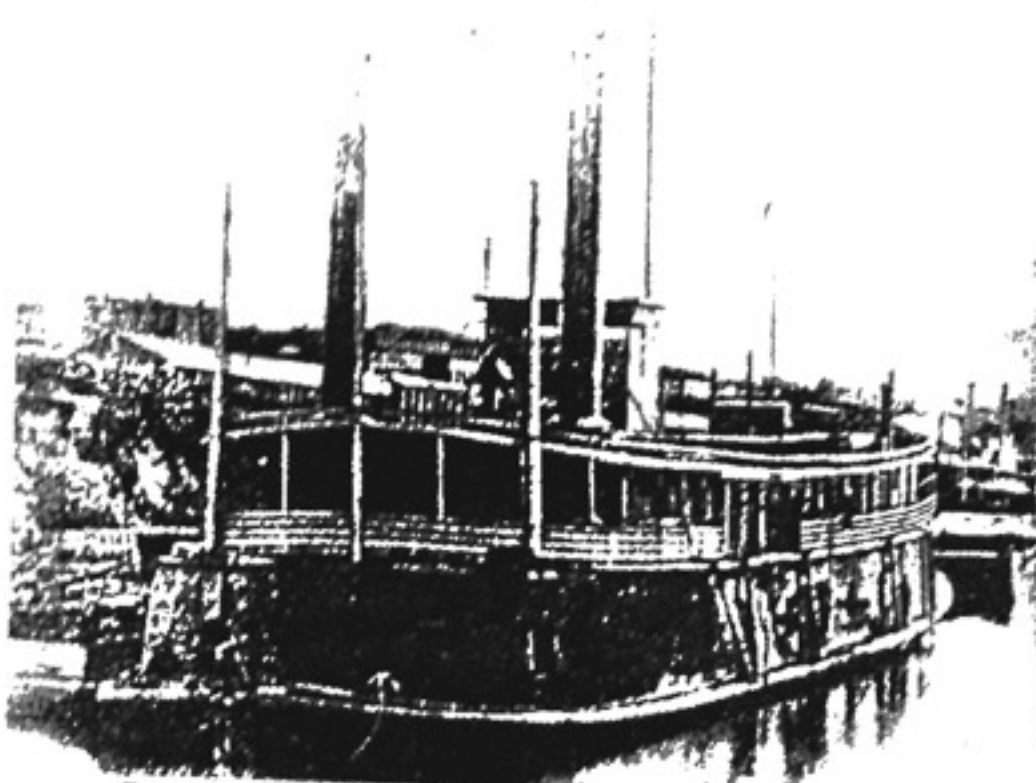
Speaker: Rebecca Morgan
 Jacobsburg, OH

Topic: "Steam Boating and the Civil War"

We began our 40th year of the Western Reserve CWRT by hearing about the efforts of the U.S Navy in conducting salvage operations in the raising of the turret of the Monitor. But, before these ironclad vessels came to dominate the seas, it was steam power that ruled the water. To address this topic of steam boating and the Civil War we are delighted to have as our speaker, Rebecca Morgan. The study of the naval side of the Civil War is a most fascinating topic and admittedly, one which perhaps few of us have studied enough in depth. Just as the land armies were non-existent before the start of the Civil War, the same is true of the navy, but perhaps even more so. New soldiers sometimes brought their own, old muskets and maybe even their horses. But, where were the ships to come from?

Our speaker for May, will certainly help us begin to understand the huge undertaking involved in the raising of a navy and especially of the role that steam boat vessels had in either imposing or breaking the blockade as well as in either controlling or defending the countless rivers found in the Confederacy and the

North. The magnitude of this problem can be quickly grasped when one realizes that at the start of the Civil War the North had only about 90-odd vessels under its control to impose the coastal blockade of some 3,550 miles. How did the steam boat enter into the Civil War? How had private commerce ships become transformed for wartime usage? What was the nature of navy life on the water – a little like Put-In-Bay in July? Certainly there are many topics to explore here and Rebecca Morgan's talk will help to "wet" our appetites for more serious study during the summer months.



The USS Cricket, a Union ironclad saw much action in the Red River campaign of 1864. Admiral Porter used her at times as his flagship.