



WESTERN RESERVE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume 52

December 2017

Number 4

Meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 2017
6:15 PM Assemble
6:30 PM Buffet Dinner
7:30 PM Business Meeting
7:45 PM Presentation

Place: Colony Room in the Student
Union at Baldwin Wallace
University, Corner of East
Grand & Tressel, Berea OH
(440-570-0009)

Presenter: Paul Siedel

"Civil War Stories from the
Woodland Cemetery"

One of the groups that we have over the years provided financial support from our monthly book raffle, has been Woodland Cemetery, located along Woodland Avenue in central Cleveland. We thought it would be a good idea if we heard from a representative of the Woodland Cemetery who can tell us best about the Civil War interest stories that lay "buried" there. Our speaker will be Paul Siedel who some of you may have met before on one of his many tour offerings that the Cemetery has been offering to NE Ohioans in recent years. I know we have been hoping to take one of his Cleveland tours that have come up during the summer, but haven't been able to manage our schedules right to do so. This presentation is very much likely to get us all most interested with renewed interest to learn more of the Cemetery and perhaps at last participate in a future tour offered by Paul.

Woodland Cemetery has the distinction of being not only a Cleveland landmark, but also is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Cemetery was dedicated eight years before the start of the Civil War, making it 164 years old. Paul will be telling us of not just how the cemetery came to be, but also of some of the people that are buried there as well, and of some of the more interesting stories he has heard about over the years. We hope that you are able to attend this month's meeting and learn a little more of Cleveland's past and of the cemetery's rich history. See you soon.





Western Reserve CWRT - Membership Dues

Annual Dues: **\$30.00 Individual**
 \$40.00 Couple

Dues are to be paid each year on the anniversary month of each person's membership. For example, if a person joins the CWRT in March, then March is the anniversary month for future dues memberships. A member can see their dues status and anniversary month at check-in.

The Buffet Dinner Fee is \$20.00 plus a \$5.00 Speaker Fee for a total of \$25.00 per meeting. If a person chooses not to attend dinner, then the Speaker Fee of \$5.00 is requested to help defray the cost of our speakers.

Civil War Trivia

Last Month's Question: We all know of the Union disaster called Bull Run that was fought in the summer of 1861. But, what engagement in the West became known as the Bull Run of the West?

Answer: This was Wilson's Creek, which I must admit, I don't know very much about myself.

Source: Richard Snow in Iron Dawn, page 42 That's a nice read if you see it available.

This Month's Question: We all know of the CW exploits and gallantry of George Armstrong Custer, but what of his brother Tom? Was he gallant, daring?

Next Month: At the Front

January 10, 2018

George George (yes, that is correct)

"The Butterfly Effect at Gettysburg"



A hero's humble beginnings

...the centennial of Grant's birth. "And they were upset because the house wasn't here," said Jim Setty, manager of the birthplace home. This began a movement to bring the house back.

It took 14 years, but in 1926, the house was returned to Point Pleasant, back on its original foundation, where it stands today.

Managed by the Ohio History Connection, the house is a modest monument to a modest man whose achievements during the Civil War may have saved the nation.

"He never wanted to be president," said Setty. "He never wanted to be famous."

The site draws perhaps 6,000 visitors a year, including Civil War buffs, presidential scholars and accidental tourists. Out for a drive along scenic Ohio 52.

Whatever your motivations, it's worth a stop, an intimate glimpse into an American icon. Among the items on display:

A leather trunk, made by Grant's dad, and inlaid with the letters JRG, that Ulysses took with him to West Point; a white gown and a bonnet that belonged to Ulysses' mother; gloves and the Bible from Grant's inauguration; a locket of his hair that his wife, Julia, carried with her after his death.

Grant's Boyhood Home/Schoolhouse, Georgetown

For a broader look into Grant's early years, head northwest from Point Pleasant to Georgetown, the seat of Brown County. Jesse Grant built a modest brick home

here in 1823 that he ended up expanding several times — strong evidence of his growing success as a local businessman.

"If you had a brick outhouse, you were probably pretty well off," said Ronnie Paris, a tour guide at the boyhood home. The small structure sits behind the main house.

The house, converted to apartments in the 1960s, was slated for demolition in the 1970s. A local couple



Ulysses Grant was born in this one-room cottage in Point Pleasant in 1822.



The parlor sofa in the boyhood home of Ulysses S. Grant in Georgetown is original to the Grant family.

...bought it, restored it and opened it to the public. It was turned over to the Ohio History Connection in 2002. A \$1.4 million restoration was completed in 2013.

Grant family furnishings in the home include a horsehair sofa in the parlor, a cradle that Ulysses and his siblings used, and a rocking chair that Jesse made for his wife.

The tour includes a session with an animatronic Ulysses, age 16, who reminisces about the time he won \$5 after successfully taming a trick pony brought to town by the circus and how much he loved getting lost in the woods. ("Half the fun is finding a stream in cross, losing it — then finding it again.")

Ulysses and his five siblings were educated at the nearby two-room Dutch Hill School, a five-minute walk from their house. On display here is a re-

An Ohio tour of Ulysses S. Grant

In Georgetown: Boyhood Home, 219 E. Grant Ave.; Schoolhouse, 508 S. Water St.. Open noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday, April-October. Admission is \$5 for both. Information: usgrantboyhoodhome.org; 877-372-8777.

In Point Pleasant: Grant Birthplace, 1551 Ohio 232, open 9:30 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, April-October. Admission is \$3. Information: usgrantbirthplace.org; 513-497-0491.

More information: ohiohistory.net

Next page

At the time of his election in 1868, there was perhaps no presidential candidate in American history more revered than Ulysses S. Grant.

His achievements on the battlefield during the Civil War made him an American hero and a household name.

And it all started in a tiny house in a tiny town in what was then the frontier of southwest Ohio.

Grant, the nation's 18th president, was born in Point Pleasant, just east of Cincinnati, in 1822. A year later, his family moved to nearby Georgetown, where he lived for 16 years. He spent more time in Georgetown than he did in any other place he called home.

Both his birthplace and childhood homes are restored, open for tours, and make for a powerful lesson in American upward mobility.

Young Ulysses, a mediocre student who loved horses, probably wouldn't have believed it himself. This boy would grow up to be president?

It's a remarkable story that begins about four hours southwest of Cleveland, along the Ohio River.

U.S. Grant Birthplace, Point Pleasant

Jesse Grant, Ulysses' father, settled in Point Pleasant in 1820. He paid \$2 to rent the one-room cottage next to the store where he worked as foreman. He got his wife, Hannah, there, and in 1822, she gave birth to their first child, Grant Ulysses Grant (later changed to Ulysses S. Grant due to a clerical error at West Point).

The family stayed in Point Pleasant for about a year after Ulysses was born, and then made the move to Georgetown, where Jesse Grant owned his own business.

The small house changed hands many times over the next decades. In 1866, the year of Grant's death, a local businessman got the idea that the property might make a popular tourist attraction, and took it on a tour across the country, transported via barge and rail. Eventually, it was installed on the grounds of the Ohio State Fair in Columbus.

Then, in 1922, a group of about 30,000, including President Warren G. Harding, gathered

GRANT

product of a pencil drawing Grant completed in West Point. Grant's Civil War field desk, an 1855 copy of his best-selling memoirs, and a long list of 19th-century school rules, with the penalties for violating them, hanging over seven wooden desks in the room.

The school, damaged by a hurricane in 1941, was rebuilt using some of the original materials, according to Perry.

The Grant family history also stands across the street from the schoolhouse, awaiting restoration. Constructed as a residence in the 1870s, the building was mostly donated to the state. Ohio Department of Cultural Resources' project, announced for the Ohio History Connection, will this year begin to have the work completed by June, the 150th anniversary of Grant's birth.

Despite his father's wishes, young Ulysses began working in the laundry. Instead, the school from the place and the right of blood led to Grant's lifelong military career, an army that was

nicked "Red Bull."

Grant envisioned himself as a future farmer or river trader, but his father had other plans. Without his son's approval, he secured him a spot at West Point (where Jesse Grant found out a neighbor boy had dropped out of the academy, he lobbied their local congressman for Ulysses' appointment).

And so in 1822, at age 17, Grant left Georgetown for New York.

After West Point, Grant fought in the Mexican-American War, tried (and failed) at farming, lost money in a bad real estate investment, and finally moved to Illinois to work for family members at a leather-goods store.

In 1861, at the start of the Civil War, he joined the Union Army, offering to train volunteers. "And the rest, as they say, is history," said Perry.

Grant returned to Georgetown only once, in September 1865, just months after the end of the Civil War. He and his wife, Julia — she was the sister of his roommate at West Point — were feted and paraded through town.



This bedroom is inside the Grant boyhood home in Georgetown. The study was used by Ulysses Grant and all his siblings.

He was elected president three years later.

Neither site in Ohio offers much exploration of Grant's years at the White House nor his legacy on the battlefield. A timeline at the boyhood home outlines Grant's major wartime achievements, Fort Donelson in April 1862, and a handful of artifacts provide a glimpse into his presidency.

But these buildings focus mainly on his formative

years: his relationship with his father, his love of horses, his creative spirit.

"His life in Georgetown really set the stage for what was to come. To hear about his early life, to see the places where he grew up, I think is special," said Erin Bartlett, regional site coordinator for the Ohio History Connection.

Is it possible to see into the future by exploring the past? At the very least, it is one interesting to try.



The birthplace of Ulysses S. Grant in Point Pleasant, circa 1804. Pictured is physician John G. Rogers, who delivered Ulysses in 1822.

OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION

Conservation Treatment Of Mary Surratt's Bonnet



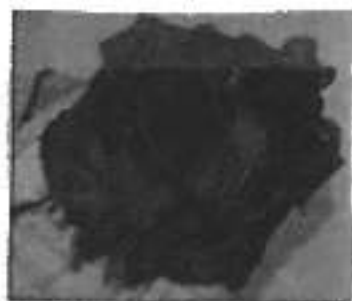
Bonnet, right side view, before treatment.



Bonnet, left side view, before treatment.



Staining on lining of brim, before treatment.



Back of crown, inside view, before treatment.

By Jessica Hack

This article is the first in what I hope will be a continuing series about conservation treatment of Civil War era textiles. As textiles are often among the most fragile of artifacts, it is remarkable that so many have survived through time. However, they frequently are in need of conservation, both to preserve them in general, and to make them stable enough for display.

In 2015 my studio undertook the conservation treatment of a bonnet worn by Mary Surratt, one of the Lincoln assassination conspirators. The bonnet is said to be the one Surratt wore to the scaffold before the hood was placed over her head. It was given to General Eckert, who accompanied Surratt to the gallows. It has been documented in a book entitled *Lincoln Lessons: Reflections of America's Greatest Leader* by Frank J. Williams and William D. Pederson.

The bonnet is currently part of the collection of the Little Drummer Boy Museum in Andersonville, Ga., which purchased the Eckert Collection some years ago.

The quilted bonnet is made of black silk satin material, with padding and a cotton lining. The material at the bonnet's back crown has no padding or lining. Over time, the silk satin fabric has deteriorated. The fabric was shredded in many quilted squares, on the neckpiece and back sections. The lining was yellowed and stained.

1. The bonnet was first hand vacuum cleaned through a screen of fiberglass mesh with a low suction HEPA filtered cleaner. It was hand dry cleaned with mineral spirits.

2. China silk fabric was dyed to match the color of the silk satin material. It was coated with Lancaux 498, a co-polymer vinyl acetate emulsion adhesive. The silk fabric was prepared for use in stabilizing damage to the back crown portion of the bonnet.

Conservation of the bonnet's body presented a particular challenge because of the way the layers of the bonnet were quilted together. This meant that stabilizing the deteriorating silk would have to be done from the surface, rather than from underneath, as with the back crown section.

3. The padded back crown section was stabilized by heat seal consolidation, using the prepared china silk material. The pleated back crown section was unstitched and removed from the bonnet. The pleated folds were first marked with threads. The crown was then pinned out on top of a panel of the prepared china silk and heat fused to it.

4. Cotton embroidery floss matching the bonnet's color was un-plied, and laid into areas of major loss of the silk satin bonnet material. The threads were secured in place as the bonnet was stabilized with crepe silk overlays.



Brim and body of bonnet after stabilization.



Crepe silk overlay heat fused to brim of bonnet.



Back of crown, inside of bonnet, prepared for re-stitching into bonnet.

Next page

5. Damage to the body and neckpiece was repaired by overlaying the bonnet with transparent crepe silk material. Black crepe silk fabric was created with Lascoux 498, and cut to fit panels in the bonnet and neckpiece. Cream colored crepe silk was prepared for use in stabilizing the cream colored silk lining of the neck. *Continued*

6. Panels of black crepe silk material were fitted and pinned in place over the bonnet. The crepe silk was heat fused to the bonnet to secure the internal threads and overall shredded silk fibers.

7. Two rows of 2" wide horse-hair braid (in double thickness) were stitched into the brim to hold it erect.

8. The back crown material was re-pleated and pinned to size. It was then stitched into the crown.

9. New silk fabric was prepared for use as a decorative lining for the brim. It was cut, fitted, and pinned to the inside of the brim of the bonnet.

10. Wide black silk taffeta ribbon was hemmed, gathered and banded stitched into the bonnet. After the ribbon was secured, the new silk lining was stitched into the brim.

11. The bonnet was fitted to the mannequin head. The taffeta ribbon chin bow was tied, and then tacking stitches were hand sewn through the top of the bonnet to secure it to the head form.



Ribbon and silk lining stitched into bonnet.



Back of crown, after re-pleating into bonnet.



Overlaying embroidery threads in damaged areas of silk.



Heat fusing crown piece to support underlayer.



Bonnet, after conservation treatment.

Conservation treatment of the bonnet took 41 hours to complete.

If you have any questions about conservation of the bonnet, please contact me at:

Jessica Hack Textile Restoration: JHack49@aol.com

Civil War News

February 2017

After the Battle of Gettysburg

by Joe Mieczkowski

At the conclusion of the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, the Army of the Potomac, led by Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade had won the Union's first undeniable victory in the East. After the battle, Lee was able to retreat back into Virginia.

With Gettysburg's effect magnified by news of Grant's capture of Vicksburg, Miss., on July 4, the Confederacy was left with no realistic chance of winning the war militarily. The Confederate government in Richmond could only hope for a negotiated settlement.

Terrified just days before, Washington responded to Meade's upset victory by criticizing him for not destroying Lee's army—an army with plenty of punch left in it, as the next two years would show. The gratitude of politicians was as negligible then as it is today.

On July 14, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln wrote, but never sent, a letter to General Meade following Robert E. Lee's retreat from Gettysburg.

The letter read: "Again, my dear general, I do not believe you appreciate the magnitude of the misfortune involved in Lee's escape. He was within your easy grasp, and to have closed upon him would, in connection with our other late successes, have ended the war. As it is, the war will be prolonged indefinitely."

Ending the war, however, was very much on the mind of the commanding general of the Army of the Potomac as he pursued and attempted to close upon Lee during the remainder of the year.

Meade organized the pursuit of Lee as quickly as he could, slowed by his own severe losses, the tens of thousands of wounded left on the field, and troops who were out of food and ammunition. Storms that began the day after the battle defined much of the coming action. They added a layer of misery to a scene few would have thought could have gotten any worse. "There was so many wounded that it was impossible to



Gallant charge by two companies of the 6th Michigan on Tuesday morning on the rebel rearguard, near Falling Waters, where part of the rebel army crossed the Potomac. (Library of Congress)



Pursuit of Lee's army. Scene on the road near Emmitsburg - marching through the rain / Edwin Forbes. (Library of Congress)

attend to all of them," Sgt. Calvin Haynes of the 125th New York Infantry wrote his wife. For days, the intermittent rains came down in sheets, turning roads to mush, saturating and soaking woollen clothes and blankets and raising the level of the Potomac River, an obstacle the Rebels would need to negotiate if they were to return safely to their home turf. Despite Meade's efforts and difficult pursuit, rain and thunder helped drown the sound of Lee's men and wagons as they splashed into fords and over hastily created pontoon bridges crossing the Potomac River on July 14th - the Army of Northern Virginia had once again eluded the Federals' grip.

He had just done the impossible and was damned for not doing the impossible twice in a row,

Meade continued to command his army during the Bristoe Station and Mine Run campaigns, but both proved indecisive. Still, Meade did not lose the Battle of Gettysburg—if he had, the results would have been ruinous for the Union, even with the offsetting fall of Vicksburg on July 4. Yet he allowed his own instinct for risk aversion to keep him from turning it into a complete victory.

In the fall of 1863 the Confederacy used their interior lines of communication to transfer two divisions and an artillery battalion of Lieutenant Gen. James

Longstreet's 1 Corps, Army of Northern Virginia, by railroad from Virginia to Georgia to reinforce Gen. Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee. The troops began arriving at the Catoosa Platform, Ga., on September 19,

having begun their journey from Virginia on September 9. Ultimately only 5 of Longstreet's 10 infantry brigades arrived in time to participate in the Confederate victory at Chickamauga.

Following their defeat, the troops of Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland fell back to Chattanooga, Tenn., where they were surrounded by Confederates who occupied heights surrounding the town.

On the evening of September 23, 1863, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton convened a meeting with President Lincoln, Maj.

Gen. Henry Halleck, Secretary of State William Seward and Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase to review plans to reinforce and relieve the Army of the Cumberland with troops from other Union departments.

Major General Meade, the Army of the Potomac's commander, was directed to prepare the XI and XII Corps for movement beginning September 25. At the time the XII Corps' two divisions were on picket duty along the Rappahannock River and had to be relieved by the I Corps before it could move to the railroad. The XI Corps' remaining two divisions were deployed in the army's rear guarding the Orange and Alexandria Railroad.

Meade initially ordered the XII Corps to march to Brandy Station, but the corps was directed to march 10 miles further up the railroad to Bealeton where there were better arrangements for loading the trains. The XI Corps infantry moved to Manassas Junction, Va., to board trains.

By October 12, the USMRR and civilian railroads completed the movement of both corps to participate in fighting to relieve the Army of the Cumberland at Chattanooga.

From November 27 to December 3, 1863, Confederate troops under Gen. James Longstreet lay siege to the city of Knoxville held

Next page

by Union forces under Gen. Ambrose Burnside. Longstreet attacked on November 30 but was repulsed with heavy losses. The arrival of Union reinforcements forced him to withdraw to Greenville, Tenn., where his corps spent the winter.

In the spring of 1864, Ulysses S. Grant, the newly appointed lieutenant general and general-in-chief of Union forces, made his headquarters with the Army of the Potomac. Although Meade was technically in charge of the Army of the Potomac, Grant made all command decisions regarding movement of the army. Still, Meade would be the only commander of the Army of the Potomac never dismissed. He would serve until the last victory. Those who mattered most knew his worth.

The Battle of Gettysburg was a major defeat for the South. Lee's army, dangerous as it was until the very last, would never again have the power—in numbers, morale, quality and quantity of officers—that it took into Pennsylvania in June 1863. Whether or not Meade could have made the wound he had inflicted a mortal one remains one of the great unanswerable questions of the war.

No photographers were on hand to record Lee's retreat after Gettysburg. It was through the work of Civil War artists that the people of the United States were given a picture of the miserable rain swept conditions in which Lee's suffering Army retreated. One artist was Edwin Forbes who worked for *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*. Examples of his work appear here.



General Robert E. Lee's army retreats from Gettysburg across the Potomac River. Painting by Edwin Forbes (Library of Congress)

Joe Mieczkowski is a Licensed Battlefield Guide at The Gettysburg National Military Park. Joe is on the faculty of the Lincoln Leadership Institute in Gettysburg, Penn. He is also the past President of the Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable.

His most recent book is *After Gettysburg: Lee retreats, Meade pursues*. He is also the creator of the acclaimed program "Gettysburg in sight and sound" which showcases over 200 pieces of artwork on the Gettysburg Campaign.

Civil War News

July 2017

Civil War News

October 2017

The "Lost Cause" is Real Now

By Ben Windom

The recent events in the news has rekindled the common narrative that Southerners have told for over one hundred years, that the South was fighting an un-winnable war to preserve state sovereignty with slavery only being put forth in the most palatable ways possible. The national press has called this "the national myth" or "the Southern mythology" in recent weeks.

I do not argue that this story is often told in a more positive manner than the truth of history, especially in regards to slavery, but the core of the tale is not false. Certainly no more false than most simplified versions of history on various topics, but that is not why I write.

Even if the "Lost Cause" were never close to the truth of history, it is the truth that many Southerners have chosen to believe, and that makes it real. That makes it a real ideology and political philosophy. This should not feel as heavy a loss to those that cringe

at the idea of what they view as a false history. Southerners are, and have been choosing to, paint the Civil War in the most anti-slavery ways they possibly can for over a century and with an ever-increasing effort by the day. It is the very evidence that a person would hope to find proving that the South continues to evolve beyond a history of slavery. Is it solely a negative thing that pro-Confederate believers attempt to reject slavery in their arguments for the South? It should also be said that they are not necessarily doing this from a motive of political correctness, but from a genuine love of the South and an ethical distaste of slavery, and by extension, racism. That is progress.

We must also ask ourselves why Southerners feel a need to not let go of the Civil War and the "Lost Cause." It is largely because the state sovereignty portion of the narrative has been continually relevant since the war ended in 1865. The South

has continually fought political battles against the Federal government and lost. The South lost on Reconstruction, Civil Rights, abortion, gay marriage, and now the monuments. The Lost Cause is told because it is a story by historical extension that is as relevant today as it was upon the day of secession.

To be sure we could go even deeper into the sub-conscious of the South and look at the Scotch-Irish relationship with England that most certainly left a fear of foreign authority in the minds of the mass of the Southern population, many of whom are descended from the Scotch-Irish, but I will save that for a book.

The South therefore is constituted of a people who have been on the losing side of a battle for political autonomy for a hundred plus, if not a thousand years. It is only natural that they will tell of the "Lost Cause" because their "cause"—namely the cause of autonomy—is in a very real way lost.