



WESTERN RESERVE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume 52

May 2018

Number 9

Meeting: Wednesday, May 9, 2018
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: James Pula

"Chancellorsville: The 11th Corps"

For our finale of the Western Reserve CWRT of this year, we have a wonderful speaker, Dr. James Pula, who will be traveling from Indiana to speak to us about the XI Corps at Chancellorsville. Dr. Pula has been writing about German-Americans engagement in the Civil War for quite a while and his most recent book is a full study of the XI Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

Whenever discussing the infamous XI Corps of the Army of the Potomac, the question that arises most often is whether the men were ill served by its Corps leadership, as most notably witnessed at Chancellorsville or whether the terrain assigned to defend, as at Gettysburg, in broad open fields, was a challenge for most any unit of the Army of the Potomac? Or, did these men simply face just plain, dumb, bad luck when coming face to face with the Army of Virginia in its first two most prominent campaigns of action? We'll get a better grasp of these matters from Dr. Pula, who has spent significant time studying and writing about this unit – a unit primarily composed of German Americans.

His book, "Under the Crescent Moon" has been recently released and he may bring copies for you to purchase and have signed. And we are thankful to Savas-Beatie, the publisher, who helped to make arrangements for Dr. Pula to visit us. We hope you make it to our last CWRT of this season as well.



*****NOTICE*****



The main road to the BW Student Union (Strosacher Hall) for getting to the Colony Room – Multi-Purpose Rooms for our Western Reserve CWRT this May, will be under construction. You may find difficulties in driving down Tressel Street from Bagley Road to get to the parking lot. Here's an alternative route:

From Bagley, one block east of Tressel is Eastland Road. There is a light at that intersection. Head south on Eastland down the same longish block past the baseball field to the first street coming in from the right. This is E. Center Street.

Turn right on to E Center Street and take it to the stop sign. Turn right on Tressel for the short half block to the BW Union Parking lot. The students are now gone from Spring Semester and this traffic detour should be little consequence.

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Western Reserve CWRT - 2017-2018 Volunteers — Our 52nd Year



President:	George Rolleston 440-826-2081 (office) 440-570-0009 (cell) grolest@bw.edu
Treasurer:	Carl Glotz
Asst: Treasurers	Bill Helsel & Don Kunzen
Introductions:	Debbie Kelleher
Newsletter	George Rolleston



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: Virtually everyone knows of the famous Wisconsin regiments from the Iron Brigade that was partially made up of the 2nd, 6th, and 7th Wisconsin regiments. But, what of the 8th Wisconsin and what did this unit bring that is known of one of today's most recognized of military units?

Answer: Yes, you figured this one out – Old Abe – the eagle was a part of this regiment. And, the symbol of the eagle then became a part of the 100th Airborne's "Screaming Eagles".

This month's Question: Naval battles during the Civil War were quite different than land battles. Fewer in number, smaller in size. The odds of a soldier being killed was 1 in 65. What of a Navy man? Higher, lower or the same? See answer upside down below.

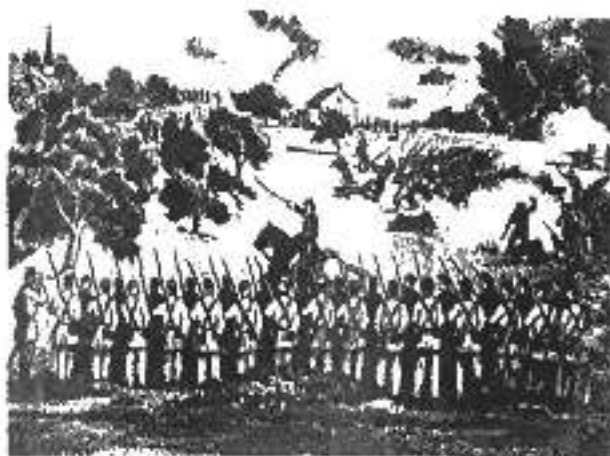
Answer: The same – 1 in 65. How about that? Iron Dawn by Richard Snow.

Next Month: At the Front

June 13, 2018

Annual Business Meeting

Perkins Restaurant -- Bagley & Engle 6:30 PM



The Confederate Museum in Charleston, South Carolina

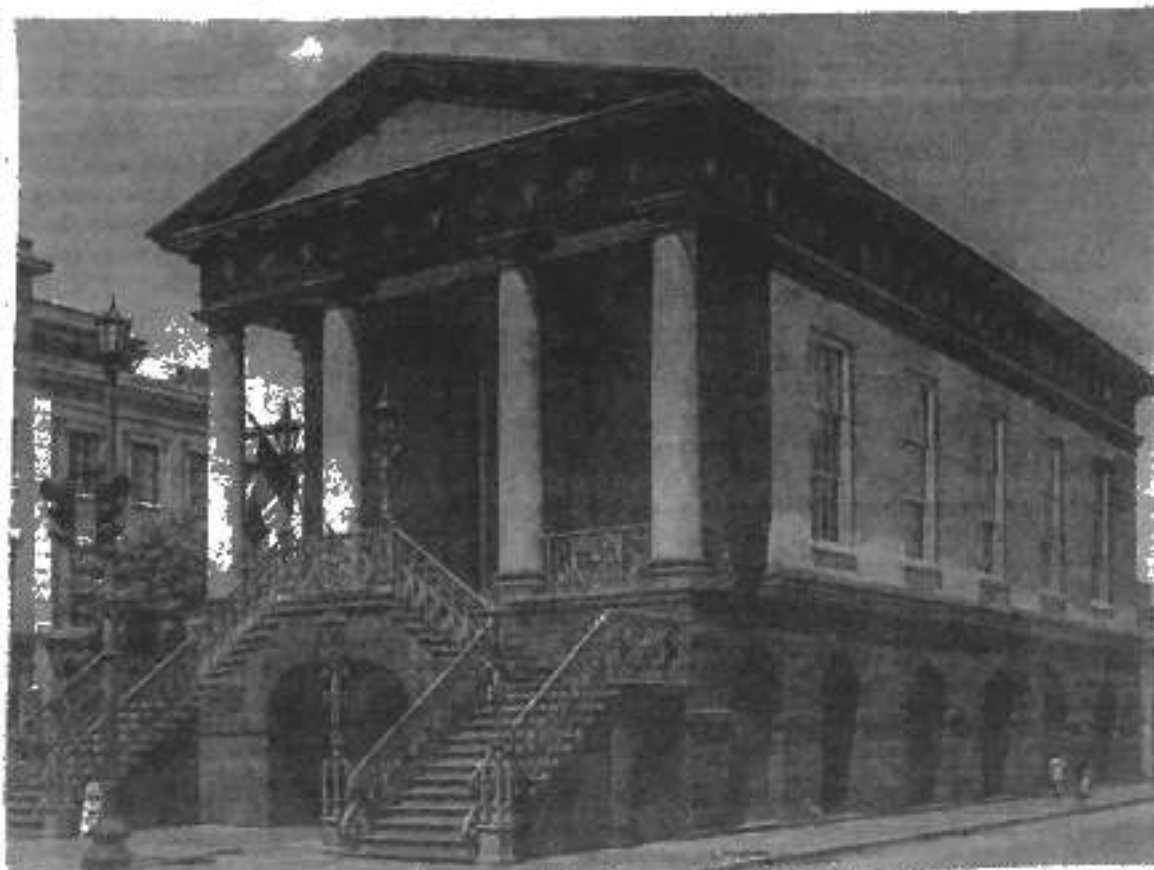
The Confederate Museum sits above the city market at 188 Meeting Street in historic downtown Charleston.

In 1894 the Charleston Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy was founded. They immediately began to collect relics and the collection grew quickly. By 1898 this group of ladies became Charleston Chapter #4, United Daughters of the Confederacy.

In 1899 the reunion of the United Confederate Veterans was to be held in Charleston. The men decided to help these ladies form a permanent Confederate Museum in Charleston. A call went out asking former soldiers to bring their war-time possessions to the reunion for donation to the new museum. The enthusiastic response showed that a large building would be needed to house the collection. Since the Mayor and the city councilmen were all former Confederate soldiers, it was only natural that they selected Market Hall for this purpose.

The same building where they had gone to become young soldiers became the place they brought their relics to be preserved for the future. The Confederate Museum opened in 1899.

The site of this building was originally occupied by the Masonic Hall, which was completely destroyed by fire in 1838. Market Hall was built in 1841. It is a copy of the Temple of the Wingless Victory in Athens, Greece. Money flowed freely in Charleston at that time and materials for the new building were brought in by water from as far away as New York, Connecticut, and Italy. Its original purpose was to be the "head building" or front entrance to six blocks of roofed, open air market space attached to Market Hall. This was a farmer's market where fruits, meats, vegetables, and fish were sold, but not slaves as is often thought.



Confederate Museum is located on the corner of Meeting and Market streets in downtown Charleston

Two small rooms upstairs in the hall housed the offices used by the market commissioners for day to day operations. The main room was used for meetings, balls, and banquets. When the War Between the States commenced, men actually signed up to fight in the room where the museum is housed today.

In 1898, the Confederate Veterans held their reunion in Charleston and decided there should be a new museum dedicated to the War. The base of the collection was the relics donated by the Veterans who also helped to secure the building for use as a museum. The Museum opened in June 1899.

Operated by friendly members of Charleston Chapter #4, United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Confederate Museum houses such relics as the first national Confederate flag to fly over

Fort Sumter, a lock of Robert E. Lee's hair and the original South Carolina secession flag. The collection boasts over 2,000 artifacts.

The museum has seen a rise in visitors from all over the world who support the preservation of history. We welcome you and your family to come experience the unique Southern experience which is the Confederate Museum.

Open Tuesday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. all year, the museum is a must see.

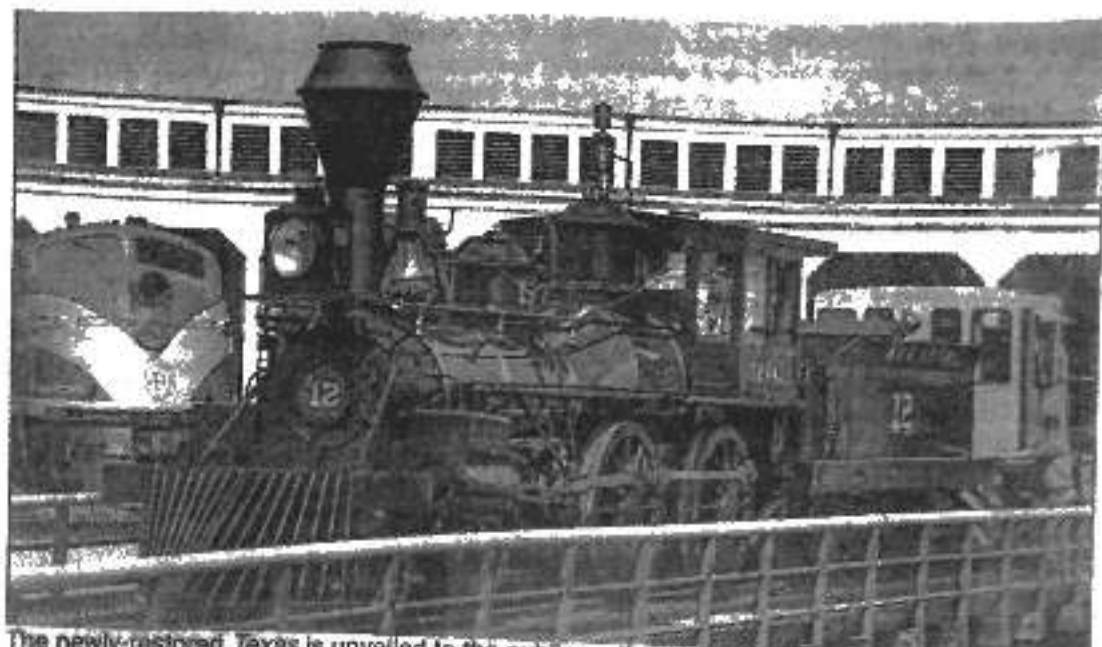
For more information visit their website at www.confederatemuseumcharlestonse.com for more information. Email: confederatemuseum@gmail.com

Restored Locomotive *Texas* Returns to Atlanta

ATLANTA, GA.—Fresh from a 15-month restoration at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, N.C., the Western & Atlantic Railroad locomotive *Texas* returned to Atlanta on May 4, and was gently lifted by a crane into its new home at the Atlanta History Center. The historic locomotive will be displayed inside a specially designed glass-fronted hallway-gallery connected to the new Lloyd and Mary Ann Whitaker Cyclorama Building, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2018.

The *Texas*, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was produced by New Jersey locomotive maker Danforth, Cooke & Co. in 1856. The *Texas* is most famous for its role in the 1862 Great Locomotive Chase, when it was used to chase down Union Army raiders who commandeered another W & A steam locomotive, the *General*. Both the *Texas* and *General* were saved from the scrapyard because of their roles in the Great Locomotive Chase.

The *Texas* was also a workhorse along the W & A railroad for many years after the war, hauling freight until 1907, when it was finally taken out of service. In 1908, after a public outcry for its preservation, the *Texas* was donated to the City of Atlanta, which displayed it outdoors in Grant Park. At the time, Atlantans wanted the *Texas* displayed in their city, because Chattanooga had the *General* (since moved to the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw, Ga.). In 1927, the *Texas* was moved inside the Atlanta Cyclorama building where it was exhibited with the 1886 cyclorama painting *The Battle of Atlanta*. In 1936, Atlanta historian Wilbur Kurtz added a new smokestack, pilot ("cowcatcher"), and name plates and painted the *Texas* so it would resemble its 1862 appearance. Much of Kurtz's research was based the appearance of the *General* after it was re-built in 1892.



The newly-restored *Texas* is unveiled to the public on the 1924 turntable at the N.C. Museum of Transportation, April 28, 2017.

A 2012 conservation assessment by Scott Lindsay of Steam Operations Corporation (which specializes in the restoration and operation of historic locomotives) confirmed that the *Texas* needed substantial work. Unchecked rust was present in many areas (some of it painted over in the 1936 restoration), several timbers comprising the tender frame were rotten, and a variety of parts had gone missing over the years. The restoration work would also mean moving the 53,000-pound *Texas* out of the Grant Park Cyclorama building, a major logistical challenge, to say the least!

In 2014, thanks to the support of several key donors, the private, non-profit Atlanta History Center, and the City of Atlanta signed a 75-year license agreement, whereby *The Battle of Atlanta* Cyclorama and the *Texas* were to be moved to a new facility constructed at the Atlanta History Center. With great fanfare, the *Texas* and its tender were carefully extracted from their old home in Grant Park during December 2015. Cranes and trucks brought them to the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, N.C. (a former locomotive repair shop) for restoration by the



Anthony Murphy poses next to the *Texas* in 1907. Along with William Fuller, Murphy led the pursuit of the Andrews Raiders during the 1862 Great Locomotive Chase.

Steam Operations Corporation while the new facility in Atlanta was being built.

Like any working transportation equipment, locomotives evolve over time, as parts are routinely replaced or upgraded to keep the machines running and the railroad profitable. A careful part-by-part examination by Max Sigler and Nathaniel Watts of Steam Operations Corporation confirmed that the *Texas* was no different. In the 1870s, the locomotive was upgraded to burn coal rather than

wood. The 1874-dated boiler was installed with new steam and sand domes in 1877. The cab dates to the 1880s, and the wheels (re-gauged to the standard 4 feet, 8 and 1/2 inches in 1886) bear dates between 1896 and 1904. A "diamond" shaped smokestack and wooden pilot ("cow catcher") were also later additions, as was a switching engine footboard in the early 1900s. Little remains of the

See next page

War and Remembrance

Memorial Day has its roots in the Civil War—a time of unprecedented loss and nationwide mourning

It's the unofficial start of summer (and a traditional long weekend of backyard barbecue and fun), but Memorial Day means much more, as historian and Harvard president Drew Gilpin Faust reminds us in her book *This Republic of Suffering* and the subsequent PBS documentary *Death and the Civil War*. We asked her about the very first Memorial Day. —Joe Kite

Decoration Day, as it was originally called, was established in 1868. It grew out of the Civil War? It did. Just in the past year or so, estimates for the number of individuals killed in the Civil War have risen from 620,000 to 750,000, which is more than in all other American wars combined. In terms of the U.S. population today, that would be 2 to 2.5 percent, or 6 to more than 7 million dead. So the title of my book, the phrase "republic of suffering," represents the extraordinary level of loss that was both individual and national.

How did Memorial Day arise?

There are at least 12 towns across the nation that claim they introduced it. Warrenton, Virginia, talks about doing so as early as 1861. There's a sign in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, saying that in 1864 it started there. And there's a marvelous story from Charleston, South Carolina, about a Memorial Day in 1865 when African-Americans honored the Union dead with celebrations and flowers. What's striking is how everybody everywhere felt the need for a moment of reflection, so I like to think of Memorial Day as being created together by a nation rather than a single town or individual. You have to remember that probably half the Civil War dead were never identified because there were no dog tags or official next-of-kin notifications. It was a



Shared Loss: A lone Union soldier is buried alongside a former foe at Annandale Confederate Cemetery in Virginia.

shared loss in the sense that so many dead belonged to everyone because they weren't identified as belonging to any single one.

These were also not the kinds of deaths that society believed were appropriate at the time. They were gruesome and happened far from home. Death without dignity imperiled the meaning of the life that preceded it, so a day for memorial was meant to restore the dignity of those lives, underscore the contributions that had been made, and in some way ratify how important the courage and sacrifice had been. It was an important part of the nation's mourning.

Have Americans today lost the "memorial" in Memorial Day?

I'm not sure we spend enough time looking at the purpose of any of our national holidays. I would hope on Memorial Day, however, that we would take at least a little time to think about what it meant to be an American back then, undertaking those sacrifices for the common good.

How can a parent or grandparent impress upon a child the significance of this day?

Pick a Civil War soldier and research him online. It could be a general or a soldier, but find out what that person did and what his life involved. Make it real.

How will you spend Memorial Day?

Well, it's the start of Harvard's Commencement Week, so it'll be a workday for me. But what I've learned as a historian is how much the present is a product of the past, and the extraordinary actions that individuals have taken on our behalf. We are the beneficiaries of what they've done, and it behooves us to try to carry on their commitment, their belief in this nation—as Lincoln described it, the "last best hope of earth"—and to dedicate ourselves to the propositions that were at the heart of what those men did and died for, such as the equality of humankind and liberty. Those things are no less important today. ■

Arlington Cemetery

ARLINGTON, Va. — Arlington National Cemetery will host "Arlington at 150: Honor the Tradition, Remember the Sacrifice, Explore the History" from May through June.

The commemoration will begin on May 13 with a wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Army Pvt. William Henry Christman of Pocono Lake, Pa., who was the first military burial at Arlington on May 13, 1864. He enlisted in Co. G, 67th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry on March 25, 1864, and died of measles.

Commemorations will conclude with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on June 16, the day after Arlington was established as a national cemetery.

Details about special guided tours and programs can be found under "events" at www.arlingtoncemetery.mil. Tickets for the tours can be bought at the visitor center, online or at 202-488-1012.

U.S. Army Quartermaster General Brig. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs established the cemetery on the grounds of Arlington, the family home owned by Gen. Robert E. Lee's wife, Mary Anna Custis Lee. The Lees left the home in 1861 after Virginia's secession. Federal troops occupied Arlington and established installations on the grounds.

The federal government confiscated the property for nonpayment of taxes. The U.S. Supreme Court in 1882 ruled that the Lees' eldest son, George Washington Custis Lee, was the owner. Congress bought the property from him in 1883 for \$150,000.

Civil War News

May 2014



To read an excerpt from Faust's *This Republic of Suffering*, go to parade.com/memorial

Garfield's eloquent words spoken at first Memorial Day are timeless

PATRICK M. McLAUGHLIN

The day America sets aside to honor our war dead is Memorial Day, a day of solemn reflection, parades and ceremonies at memorials and cemeteries — a day when the soulful sound of taps is heard throughout the land. Memorial Day is a time for long memories and thoughtful speeches.

The first Memorial Day address (then called Decoration Day) was given at Arlington National Cemetery in 1868 — 148 years ago. It was delivered by Gen. James Abram Garfield, then a member of Congress, and later president.

Who was this man and why was he selected to give the nation's first Memorial Day address?

Born in 1831, in a log cabin, in what we know now as Moreland Hills, young James was raised by his mother. His father died when he was 2. He is said to have read and reread every book in the sparsely shelved libraries of the Western Reserve. Some books, it is said, he learned by heart.

He worked to earn money for his education and to help

his mother. In 1851, he enrolled at the predecessor of Hiram College, then transferred to Williams College in Massachusetts, from which he graduated in 1856. Garfield returned to Hiram, taught Latin and Greek, and at the young age of 26 became president of the college.

Apparently needing more intellectual stimulation, he studied law and was elected a state senator. He married in 1858. In 1860, he was admitted to the Ohio bar.

When the Civil War erupted, Garfield enlisted and was assigned as a lieutenant colonel, commanding the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He distinguished himself and was quickly promoted to brigadier general then, in 1863, to major general. He fought at Shiloh and Chickamauga.

At the end of 1863, Garfield resigned his commission and took his seat in Congress, having been elected to the House while commanding in the field.

Garfield argued several cases before the U.S. Supreme Court while serving

in Congress.

On the first Memorial Day, news reports called the main speaker "one of the most eloquent orators" of his era.

Let us revisit some of 36-year-old James Garfield's elegant words, as he memorialized Union soldiers interred at the National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

"I am oppressed with a sense of the impropriety of uttering words on this occasion. If silence is ever golden, it must be here beside the graves of the 15,000 men whose lives were more significant than speech and whose death was a poem, the music of which can never be sung. We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens: For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."

"What other spot so fitting for their last resting place as

this, under the shadow of the Capital saved by their valor? Here, where the grim edge of battle joined, here where all the hope and fear and agony of their country centered, here let them rest, asleep on the nation's heart, entombed in the nation's love."

These are eloquent words reaching to connect to the acts of supreme sacrifice rendered by so many of our countrymen, then and now. Garfield's eloquence is timeless.

On Memorial Day 2016, Greater Clevelanders will reflect on the sacrifice of our beloved countrymen, as the men and women of Cuyahoga County have always answered the call. From 1899 to 2014, 5,582 patriots from this county have fallen in military service during wartime. They remain "asleep on the nation's heart, entombed in the nation's love" for they gave all for duty, honor, country.

McLaughlin is president of the Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial Inc.



Capt. Lauran Glover of Columbus, Ohio, places flags at headstones of section 87 at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on Thursday. Members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, or Old Guard, placed more than 230,000 flags at every headstone in the 624-acre cemetery. They have placed flags since 1948.