



CINCINNATI  
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
SERVING OHIO, KENTUCKY AND INDIANA SINCE 1956



# THE CANISTER

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Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT P. O. Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnati-cwrt.org>  
April, 2014 Issue

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Meeting Date: April 17, 2014

**Place: The Drake Center**

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

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

**Dinner Menu: *Hand cut Pork Chop stuffed with a bread stuffing and gravy served with Caesar Salad, Baked Potato, Vegetable Medley, Hot Dinner Rolls, Cheese Cake with Fruit Topping***  
**Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

**Speaker: John Fazio, Cleveland Civil War Round Table**

**Topic: *The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln***

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**Reservations:** If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to [reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org](mailto:reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org); call it in to Tom Williams at 513-563-2665 or email [ccwrt.dinners@gmail.com](mailto:ccwrt.dinners@gmail.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 Tues, April 8, 2014.**

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## **April Speaker:**

For our April, 2014 meeting, we welcome back Cleveland Civil War Roundtable member John Fazio. Many of us remember John's fascinating talk from 2010, "Francis & Arabella Barlow; John & Fanny Gordon: Love & War." For this talk, John will take us from the world of high courage and romance to one of intrigue and dark secrets. From late 1864 into early 1865, the Confederacy was in a desperate position. It had suffered great destruction from the depths of Georgia all the way to their capital in Richmond. John will discuss how Confederate leaders were now prepared to take extreme measures to turn the tide. In effect, they would

unleash a campaign of terror that would include seizing (or killing) President Lincoln. John will show evidence that John Wilkes Booth, whom we often associate as the leader of a small conspiracy unit, was actually part of a complex network of “action teams” hatched by the Confederate Secret Service to carry out the assassination plot. John will also demonstrate the likelihood that members of the Confederate executive branch, including President Jefferson Davis, Secretary of State Judah Benjamin and Secretary of War James Seddon were all privy to the plan.



**John C. Fazio**

John C. Fazio has a B.A. and J.D. from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He now lives in Akron with his wife, Mary, who is retired after a career in public relations. Between them, they have seven children, all of whom have left the nest. John recently joined Mary in retirement after practicing law for 47 years. He is a student of history, with an emphasis on American and European history and with an even greater emphasis on the most defining event in American history, the Civil War. He is a member of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable and has been its President. He frequently speaks on the war and other

subjects before Roundtables and other groups. John is also a member of the Surratt Society, the Lincoln Forum and the Western Reserve Historical Society. He has written and published numerous articles on the war and other subjects. After almost five years of research, John has just completed writing a book on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. It is currently awaiting publication.

The terrible event of Abraham Lincoln’s assassination is almost 150 years old, yet John will show several questions still remain to be full answered. You will not want to miss this fascinating talk!



## **President’s Report**

## **... Pat Homan**

I am happy to report that there is a substantial increase in presentations in the Greater Cincinnati area on subjects related to the Civil War. Our esteemed editor has stated he will be listing these elsewhere in the *Canister*. I encourage all of you to take advantage of these and attend as many as possible. It also seems that the Roundtable is on more mailing lists from various Civil War related or historical sites, which is a positive thing. I have no explanation as to why but I appreciate the information. As usual, I ask all members to forward information on events, presentations and displays in the area so these can be passed on to all members.

We had another great presentation last Thursday by Mike Rhein, which concentrated on the Lytle family home. I enjoyed numerous photos of the house and its interior. I realize that most of these were taken 30 to 40 years after the death of the General but they still were very interesting.

We also were in new quarters. While the square tables were not to everyone’s liking everything

seemed to flow smoother. This was one of the goals. The square tables were an attempt to set the room so that no one had to sit with their backs to the speaker and screen. I think we are trying round tables for the April meeting but that is being determined as I write. I would like to hear from you as to what you liked or did not like about the new set up. The Drake staff is working hard to make our meetings as enjoyable as possible. I appreciate their efforts.

One good thing about the new space is we have plenty of room for more attendees and it is much easier to move around without bumping into other tables or guests. I mention this to encourage all of you to bring more guests and sign up more members.

Finally, at the April meeting, the slate of officers for the Campaign year 2014-2015 will be presented. These will be voted on at the May meeting. We will accept nominations from the floor during the business meetings. Albert has another interesting presentation lined up for us so I look forward to seeing you on the 17<sup>th</sup>.



## 2014 Preservation Project:

The CCWRT has chosen the restoration of the General Lew Wallace Study and Museum as our 2014 preservation project. Wallace, a Civil War Major General and author of *Ben-Hur*, was said to have built the study because he wanted "a pleasure-house for my soul," that would be "a detached room away from the



world and its worries." The study was completed in 1898, seven years before Wallace's death in 1905. Later converted into a museum, the study now houses artifacts Wallace used during his lifetime, as well as many objects pertaining to his literary legacy. The General Lew Wallace Study is located in Crawfordsville, IN, and is the only National Historic Landmark in Montgomery County.

The first order of business is to replace the building's wiring. Next, conservators will move onto the primary objective of the restoration: remove nine layers of paint and so that the original fresco consisting of a military motif can be viewed. Lastly, the project will include installation of a modern security system. Total cost of the electrical work, paint conservation, and attendant services is

estimated to be \$300,000. Once restored and conserved, the study will feature one of the most elaborate and original Victorian finishes available for public viewing in the region.

The CCWRT will assist in financing this project by collecting tax deductible donations as well as contributing a member matching sum of up to \$500. Please forward your checks to our Preservation Chairs Becky Burket and Randy Donohue or our Treasurer, Jim Stewart. Help restore this architectural wonder and then make plans to visit this historic Civil War landmark.

# Items of Interest

**Free NKU Lecture:** Dr. Michael C.C. Adams, Northern Kentucky University Regents Professor of History Emeritus, will discuss his new book, “Living Hell: The Dark Side of the Civil War,” at 3 p.m. on Thursday, **April 10**, in the Griffin Hall George and Ellen Rieveschl Digitorium.

Dr. Adams argues that many Americans tend to think of the Civil War as more glorious and less awful than its reality. Millions of tourists flock to battlefields each year as vacation destinations, their perceptions of the war often shaped by reenactments that seek to present the war realistically but cannot ultimately simulate mutilation, madness, chronic disease, and advanced physical decay. In *Living Hell*, Dr. Adams tries a different tack, clustering the voices of myriad actual participants on the firing line or in the hospital ward to create a virtual historical reenactment.

Admission to his April 10 talk is free; donations will be accepted to support the Drop Inn Center. Donors will be eligible to win one of two autographed copies of “Living Hell.” The book will also be available for purchase. Parking in the Kenton Street Garage will be validated with a parking ticket. Campus map available at <http://www.nku.edu/campusmaps.html>. For more information, call the NKU Department of History and Geography at (859) 572-5461, or contact Professor Bonnie May at [mayb@nku.edu](mailto:mayb@nku.edu).

**Springfield Civil War Symposium:** The fourth Springfield Civil War Symposium, presented by the Clark County Historical Society, will trace the events of 1864 with emphasis on the eastern and western theaters of the conflict. Speakers will discuss Sherman’s Atlanta Campaign, March to the Sea, Grant’s Overland Campaign, Hood’s Tennessee Campaign, and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Speakers include John F. Marszalek, Jonathan Noyalas, Eric A. Jacobson, and Eric J. Wittenberg.

When: Saturday, **April 12**, 2014

Tickets: \$50 for adults, \$40 for members, and \$20 for students. Sponsor: Clark County Historical Society

Location: Clark County Heritage Center, 117 South Fountain Avenue, Springfield, OH.

For more information: Visit [www.heritagecenter.us](http://www.heritagecenter.us) or call (937) 324-0657

**Blue and Gray Dinner:** On **April 24** the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum will hold its annual fundraiser at Twin Oaks Golf and Plantation Club in Latonia, KY. Cocktail hour (cash bar) will be between 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Dinner will start at 7:00 PM. The Blue and Gray Dinner's guest speaker is Dana Gagnon who will be portraying Harriet Beecher Stowe. During the event, a silent auction will be held.

All proceeds will benefit the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum. Tickets are \$45 per person / \$80 per couple, payable in advance. Please RSVP to Linda Hornsby at (859) 261-3045 or [lykantee@aol.com](mailto:lykantee@aol.com) by April 17, 2014.

The mission of The James A. Ramage Civil War Museum is to inform visitors about the defense of Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati during the Civil War and how the community came together to defend the area during this critical period in our nation's history. The Museum preserves and interprets Northern Kentucky's unique role in the Civil War through archaeology, education and research.

**We have Moved:** Our March move into our new room within the Drake seemed to go smoothly. For those of you who missed the March meeting, we are now on the first floor. So no longer will you no longer need to go by stairs or elevator to the basement. More importantly, beyond being more accessible especially for those with disabilities, the new space is larger, give us some room to grow, and is much more inviting than our old basement room.

**Ulysses S. Grant's Birthday Celebration:** On Saturday, **April 26th** Come help celebrate the birth of Civil War General and 18th President, Ulysses S. Grant in the town he grew up in, historic Georgetown, Ohio. Event run continuously from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and feature Civil War re-enactors, artillery demonstrations, living historians and free tours of the cottage where Grant was born. For more information call 937-378-3087 or visit their website at [www.usgrantboyhoodhome.org](http://www.usgrantboyhoodhome.org).

**Perryville Spring Walking Tour:** On **May 17th**, 2014 join Chuck Lott and Darryl Smith for an extended walking tour of the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site. There will be a morning session from 9:00 a.m. until noon, a break for lunch, and then an afternoon session from 1:00-4:00 p.m. (covering a different part of the battle than the morning session). Evening roundtable talk to be held over drinks in Danville, most likely at V the Market or other suitable location. Attendees should wear comfortable clothing, sturdy walking shoes, bring water and snacks, and pack a lunch. History buffs and the general public are all welcome! Each session will involve three miles of walking, with some steep but short elevation changes (none greater than 100 feet). Meet for the morning session at the picnic shelter in the park. When entering the park, take the first right and look for the shelter. For more information contact Darryl Smith at 513.321.1539 or [ohioatperryville@yahoo.com](mailto:ohioatperryville@yahoo.com).



## **March Presentation:**

**... submitted by Mark Silbersack**

At our March 2014 meeting, we welcomed back Mike Rhein, a Round Table member since 1977 who has served as president (twice) and as newsletter editor, and who was speaking to us for the tenth time. This month's talk was the final installment of his William Haines Lytle series. Mike last spoke to us in 2004 about General's death at Chickamauga, his funeral service back home, and his burial in Spring Grove Cemetery. Mike continued the story beyond those events.

Many of us know about Lytle Park in downtown Cincinnati. Many of us also probably know that Lytle's family home was located in that area. What many of us may not realize is how the home, despite its obvious historic value, became a victim of "progress" in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Mike started with a history of the home. Built in 1809 by General Lytle's grandfather, it was a stately Federal-style mansion constructed of 215,000 bricks. The main structure and several out-buildings stood on a large parcel between Third and Fourth Streets, in the general vicinity of the present-day Anna Louise Inn.

Using a series of pictures, Mike gave us a “feel for what the house looked like,” inside and out. His detailed description of the interior of the Lytle mansion was like going on a tour of the rooms in a historic home, viewing its woodwork, furnishings, and portraits of family members.

Five generations of Lytles eventually lived in the mansion. They were illustrious and well-connected people, and their house was graced by many famous visitors. William Haines Lytle was born in the family home in 1826. Mike briefly reviewed Lytle’s activities as a young man, soldier, lawyer, politician, and poet before the War, and then his service history prior to his death at Chickamauga in 1863.

Unfortunately, by the early 1900s the Lytle home’s glory days were long past; it had become an eyesore. Nearby tenements teemed with poor children who needed a place to play. The City’s leadership - most notably, Mike Mullen, part of the Cox Machine - saw the home as an obstacle to creation of a neighborhood park. The City ordered that it be torn down. A campaign to “save the house” by historic preservationists, who wanted to maintain it as a symbol of the rich Lytle heritage, eventually failed, despite offers by various philanthropists to fix it up or convert it to other uses. The big house was finally razed in 1908.

Lytle Park holds an interesting statue of Abraham Lincoln, but, sadly, no monument to Lytle, despite a promise by Mullen to raise money for such a monument there.

Historic preservation is part of our Round Table’s mission. Mike’s talk showed how a landmark, even part of our national heritage like the home of a Civil War hero and nationally known poet, can be lost forever. As Mike said, “history can repeat itself” all too easily, as shown with the recent destruction of the Gamble House in Westwood.



## March Quiz:

1. Abraham Lincoln visited Cincinnati three times. What was the primary reason in each case?  
a. in 1855,    b. in 1859,    c. in 1861
2. It’s 1 May 1860; the noise in the building (NOT in Cincinnati!) is so loud, the atmosphere so electric that a reporter writes, “Imagine all the hogs ever slaughtered in Cincinnati giving their death squeals together.....” In what building did this pandemonium occur?
3. On 28 Feb. 1861 the U.S. House adopted a proposed 13th amendment to the Constitution. The Senate concurred preparing it for the states’ approval. What was the essence of this proposed 13th amendment?
4. Located at 500 E.4th St., Cincinnati, Oh, since Oct. 1849 this exclusively all male club is limited to 100 members. Among its many distinguished members were Rutherford B. Hayes and William Howard Taft; distinguished guests included Charles Dickens, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Mark Twain, Booker T. Washington and Oscar Wilde. Most significant is the fact that of its 50 members then extant in 1861 33 joined the Union Army. It is named\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Within 300 feet and southwest from the above facility was the home of the \_\_\_\_\_ family.

## Quiz Answers:

1. a.: McCormick/Manny reaper trial, b.: Political rally for the Republican Party (1859 elections)  
c.: En route to Washington for Lincoln's 1st inaugural Ref.: Lincoln, Donald, p.185-7;233,274
2. The Wigwam in Chicago during the 1860 Republican convention. Ref.: Battle Cry of freedom, McPherson, p.220
3. Guarantees slavery's immutability by any federal actions (vs. 1865's 13th amendment abolishing slavery!) Ref.: Battle Cry of Freedom, McPherson, p.256
4. The Literary Club. Ref.: Bing.com, Literary Club of Cincinnati Cincinnati Enquirer, 31 Mar. 2013
5. Lytle. Ref.:Googlemaps.com Wikipedia, Lytle Family Email 16 Feb.2014 from Michael Rhein



## Future Presentations:

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| May. 15, 2014  | Greg Biggs, Clarksville, TN Civil War Round Table<br><i>The Fall of Nashville and the Rise of the Sirens</i>  |
| Sept. 18, 2014 | Don Rightmyer, Danville, KY<br><i>Kentucky's Bookends to the Civil War: Robert Anderson and Fort Sumter</i>   |
| Oct. 16, 2014  | Mark Holbrook, Ohio Humanities Council<br><i>Mr. Lincoln's Cameraman: An Evening with Mathew Brady</i>  |
| Nov. 20, 2014  | Tom Parson, Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center<br><i>Work for Giants: The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg</i>   |
| Jan. 15, 2015  | Stephen Brown, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table<br><i>God, Lincoln and the Civil War</i>  |
| Feb. 19, 2015  | Bernie O'Bryan, re-enactor<br><i>A Conversation with General Lew Wallace</i>  |
| Mar. 19, 2015  | Martin Johnson, Miami University, Hamilton Campus<br><i>Making the New Birth of Freedom: The Gettysburg Address</i>   |
| Apr. 16, 2015  | Wayne Motts, CEO of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA<br><i>Fighting the Civil War: Historical Treasures of the Conflict in the Collection of the National Civil War Museum."</i> |
| May. 21, 2015  | Christopher Phillips, University of Cincinnati<br><i>TBD</i>  |

# We Who Study Must Also Strive to Save!

## 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@cincinnatiwrt.org](mailto: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 \$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:

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