



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>
April, 2015 Issue

Meeting Date: April 16, 2015

Place: The Drake Center

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

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

**Dinner Menu: *Baked Salmon,*
Vegetable Rice Pilaf, Steamed Asparagus Tips,
Marinated Tomato & Red Onion Salad, Dinner Rolls, and Andes Mint Pie
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

Speaker: Wayne Motts, National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg, PA

Topic: *Fighting the Civil War: Historical Treasures of the Conflict in the Collection of the National Civil War Museum*

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org or call it in to Lester Burgin at 513-891-0610. 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 Tuesday, April 7, 2015.**

April Speaker:

In April, Wayne Motts will take you on a journey through the Civil War illustrated by some of the nations' rarest surviving Civil War artifacts. Mr. Motts will talk about items housed in the National Civil War Museum. Opened in 2001, The National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is the largest museum in the country dedicated to telling the complete story of the war from the viewpoint of both sides. The museum holds more than 4,000 three dimensional artifacts and over 21,000 archival items, including

manuscripts, diaries, letters, photographic images, newspapers, and correspondence dating from 1861-1865.

Wayne Motts holds two degrees in history and has been a licensed battlefield guide at the Gettysburg National Military Park for twenty-six years. He was the curator of the Cumberland County Historical Society in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, from 2002-2004 and the artifact collections manager at the Adams County Historical Society in Gettysburg from 2004-2005. In 2005 he was named executive director of the Society, a position he held for seven years. He became the Chief Executive Officer of the National Civil War Museum (www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org) in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in the spring of 2012.



Wayne Motts



President's Report

...from Tom Williams

The Cincy Round Table finally worked its way into the twenty-first century, at least technology-wise. So, Tom, how was that? Well, we signed up our first two members who had filled out the paperwork and made the necessary payment, all online through a link from our Facebook page. On top of this, you can now also pay for your dinner reservations at the door by credit card. We are not quite there yet for paying for dinners ahead of time online, but I have been promised it will be in place by the start of next year's meetings in September. Perhaps it's a small change, but we are striving to make it as easy as possible to sign up and to get everyone to our Round Table.

And there is another small change this year. We will hold the election for next year's officers at the April meeting rather than the May meeting. The change is due to the May meeting being really different, and thus the modification will save the time that the elections take. If taking a somewhat larger role in our Round Table is something you would like to try, there is still time to get your name into the hat. Just give me a call at (513) 608-4391, and I will fill you in. If you miss me, you can also get your name placed in nomination from the floor during the April meeting.

Now, what about that special May Round Table meeting? We are planning to hold a picnic outdoors on the Drake Center patio, and we would like to have representatives from all the other groups in town who have an interest in Civil War history. One group that has already committed is a dulcimer group who will entertain us with Civil War period music before the picnic dinner starts. The dinner that night will be only \$15.00, plus there will be no additional charge for anyone coming who does not partake of dinner.

The picnic will be, I hope, a chance for all of the various Civil War groups to get together as we commemorate the end of the Civil War and the end of the Sesquicentennial period. As I am sure you know, the actual final land battle of the Civil War was not the surrender of Lee at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, but

rather the Battle of Palmito Ranch in Texas, and that battle occurred on May 12 – 13, 1865. I believe our celebration will be a wonderful chance to renew old acquaintances, make new friends, and as 21st-century folk often say, to network together to improve the image and exposure of all of our Civil War based groups in the Greater Cincinnati area.

I am starting to get commitments from some of our fellow groups, but I could use your help. If you know the contact name for some group who you think might be interested in joining us, please get it to me. You can call me at (513) 608-4391 or email me at: T.Williams@outlook.com . I will take it from there and make the necessary contacts.

I hope I have wetted your appetite, so to speak, with these few details of our May Round Table, and I will have more details on the celebration/picnic/Round Table at our April Round Table. I hope to see you there.

Items of Interest

Civil War Trust Park Day 2015 Event (April 18)... by Darryl Smith

This year's local Civil War Trust Park Day event will be held at Camp Dennison, Ohio, on **Saturday, April 18, at 10:00 a.m.** Please volunteer for this spring clean-up day at what was once one of the largest Civil War camps in the North – Camp Dennison. We will be working on cleaning up the Secrest Monument Park (triangle park) that commemorates the camp. We will do such things as cleaning flower beds, picking up trash, cleaning the artillery piece and monument, cleaning up the crud along the road, and cutting honeysuckle. Bring any or all of the following: loppers, hand saw, flat shovel, wheelbarrow, rake, gloves, or safety glasses. We will work for a few hours, then tour the Civil War Museum and Waldschmidt House (\$5.00 per person), and afterwards we'll go to a late lunch at Midwest Best BBQ in Camp Dennison. Directions from I-71/Ronald Reagan Highway to the Kugler Mill soccer fields, where we can park, are here: <http://goo.gl/maps/21ZuH> . This is an excellent chance for you to honor those who served at Camp Dennison by making their memorial a bit nicer.

Battles of Cynthiana Driving Tour (April 19) ... by Darryl Smith

On **Sunday, April 19**, join local historian Bill Penn as the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table visits some of the sites of the 1862 and 1864 battles that took place at Cynthiana, Kentucky. Both battles involved cavalrymen led by Confederate General John Hunt Morgan. We will be following the battlefield driving tour stops and discussing what occurred at each stop along the way.

We will need drivers for the tour, preferably with vehicles that can hold three or four passengers, due to the limited parking at some of the tour stops. We will meet for the carpool at the Campbell County Library (3920 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076). Please meet at the library between **8:15 and 8:30 a.m.** as we will need to leave by 8:30 a.m. to meet our guide.

We will be meeting Mr. Penn at the courthouse in Cynthiana at 9:30 a.m., taking scenic US 27 from Alexandria to Cynthiana. The tour itself will take a few hours, and then we will have a late lunch at a local restaurant.

The cost for this tour is free, but donations for Mr. Penn's time and lunch will be accepted. If you have questions, please contact Darryl Smith at (513) 321-1539 or ohioatperryville@yahoo.com .

Perryville Walking Tour Weekend (May 15-16) ... by Darryl Smith

Where: **Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site**, 1825 Battlefield Road, Perryville, KY 40468

Guides: **Chuck Lott** and **Darryl Smith**, with special guest, historian/author **Stuart Sanders**

For more information: **Darryl Smith** (see Darryl's contact information under "Cincinnati CWRT Officers" below).

Sponsored by the Friends of Perryville Battlefield and the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table.

Walking Tour Itineraries:

May 15th – Dry Canteen Trail Walk

This walk replicates the Federal First Corps approach to the Perryville battlefield. The Dry Canteen Trail is a Boy Scout trail on which scouts could earn a badge and learn about the Battle of Perryville. Scouts travel the trail without water to simulate what the Union troops were going through on that dry October 7th in 1862. The trail consists of road-walking, so wear comfortable walking shoes, bring water and snacks, and wear bright colors so that passing cars may see us more easily. While the walk is mostly on back roads, there is a busier section at the beginning of the walk that we need to exercise extreme caution and walk single file.

Meet by the Confederate Cemetery at **Perryville Battlefield SHS at 10:00 a.m.** We will then take as few vehicles as possible and drive to Mackville. Starting at the Mackville Community Center, we will walk about ten miles back to the battlefield, arriving by 3:00 p.m. Car drivers will then need to be shuttled back to Mackville to pick up their vehicles. Do not let the distance deter you from joining, as we will have an easy pace and smooth surface to enjoy. The post-walk event will be at Bluegrass Pizza and Pub, where we can enjoy a great local restaurant and chat about Perryville.

May 16th – Walking Tour of Perryville Battlefield

Join Chuck Lott and Darryl Smith for an extended walking tour of the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site. Noted author Stuart Sanders will be joining us for the tour and the evening session. He has written two acclaimed books dealing with the Perryville battle, and his insights will be a great addition to the weekend. 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). At 6:00 p.m., we will have a social hour in the Civil War Hall. Site manager Kurt Holman will speak about the history of the park at 6:30 p.m., and then Stuart Sanders will speak at 7:00 p.m. on the aftermath of the battle.

Attendees should wear comfortable clothing, wear sturdy walking shoes, bring water and snacks, and pack a lunch. History buffs and the general public are all welcome! Each session will involve about three miles of walking, with some elevation changes (none greater than 100 feet) along the way. **Meet for the morning session at the picnic shelter near the playground in the Perryville Battlefield Park.** When entering the park, take the first right and look for the shelter.

- Morning Session – 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. – Meet at the Picnic Shelter near the playground.
- Lunch - 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Be sure to pack a lunch! Note - There is a small Amish place on the Lebanon Pike southwest of Perryville that may be open (about a ten-minute drive). They make a delicious deli sandwich!
- Afternoon Session – 1:00-4:00 p.m. – Meet at the Confederate Cemetery
- Evening Session – 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Post-Tour Gathering with Stuart Sanders – Civil War Hall

National Park Service's Lincoln Funeral Train Re-enactment

The Lincoln Retrospective, with Fritz Kline as Abraham Lincoln, will be held on **Wednesday, April 29, 6:00 p.m.** in the House Chamber at One Capitol Square, **Columbus, OH**. Seats are first come, first served. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m., and arriving early is encouraged to insure a seat. An overflow area with video viewing will be available, if needed. Program is expected to last a little more than an hour and will include a Q&A session. On **Thursday, April 30, at 12:00 p.m.**, Scott D. Trostel, author of *The Lincoln Funeral Train: The Final Journey and National Funeral for Abraham Lincoln*, will speak in the Ohio Capitol Atrium. This will be the standard format we use at Round Table meetings, with a 50-minute presentation followed by a Q&A session. A smaller crowd is expected, hence the more casual setting. A Batesville-replica Lincoln casket ceremony will be held on **Tuesday, April 7, at 11:00 a.m.** in the Indiana State House at 200 W. Washington Street, **Indianapolis, IN 46204**. The casket will be carried in by re-enactors; choir singing (same choir organization as in 1865); short remarks; and a display of artifacts. Open seating - first come, first served. The National Park Service ceremony, with Fritz Klein as Abraham Lincoln, will be held on **April 30** in the Indiana State House at **11:00 a.m.** In addition to Mr. Klein's remarks, there will be additional programming which will include comments from the Governor. Open seating - first come, first served.

March Presentation: ... submitted by Mark Silbersack

When and where did Lincoln write the Gettysburg Address? And how did that affect what he said?

These were the questions addressed by our March speaker, Martin Johnson, Associate Professor of History at Miami University Hamilton, whose recent book *Writing the Gettysburg Address* delves into longstanding mysteries about the composition of the speech memorized by so many school children. Professor Johnson described his answers in detail, while also telling a mesmerizing story about the events of Nov. 17-19, 1863.

Prof. Johnson says that the Gettysburg Address “grew organically” over those three days in November. As Lincoln told Attorney General Speed much later, he wrote about half the speech on November 17th. This one-page “Washington Draft” is written in ink; if more was composed then, it is now lost.

Lincoln did not write the speech on board the train north on November 18th (as popular myth has it). After arriving, he stayed at the home of David Wills on Gettysburg's main square. That evening, after attending a lively celebration of the recent Republican election victory in Pennsylvania, he retreated to his room to complete his speech. Later, he visited Secretary of State Seward, who was staying in an adjacent home, to get Seward's thoughts, some of which were probably added to the speech (such as its final words “perish from the earth”).

Early the following morning, November 19th, Lincoln and Seward visited the battlefield. Seeing the “scenes of death” and “marks of battle on the ground” had a profound effect on Lincoln. Feeling the power of the place and the dedication of the soldiers who died there led him to do a “crash rewrite” of his speech, on different paper, in pencil.

Prof. Johnson described in some detail the proceedings later on November 19th, including the parade from town to the cemetery, where Lincoln walked past the graves of 3,000 Union soldiers who had been buried; the somber dignitaries and crowd of 5,000 – 10,000; the emotional opening prayer, during which Lincoln cried; and Edward Everett's lengthy oration, which also brought Lincoln to tears.

Lincoln presented his brief remarks in a high, clear voice. Having lacked time to memorize the speech, he deviated from the written text several times as he spoke. For example, he adlibbed the phrase “under God” in its closing pledge and added the word “dedication” for the sixth time.

Prof. Johnson concludes that it was Lincoln’s personal experience at Gettysburg that made his address the great speech it is. Only after viewing the battlefield did he write and speak of the “new birth of freedom” which became his policy for the rest of his life, as he moved the country towards ending slavery. He would henceforth be

... dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom



March Quiz:

1. Abe Lincoln cleverly intimated in an 1858 speech that the Dred Scott decision was the result of a conspiracy amongst “Stephen, Franklin, Roger, and James.” To whom was he referring (names)?
2. You see a brigade of Union infantry advancing upon your position. All wear black hats (similar to that pictured below), many with an identifying hat pin, hat cord, and a brim pinned up on one side. This is for sure the _____ Brigade, as you turn to flee.



3. Fed up with McClellan’s dilatory habits, Lincoln visited the Antietam battlefield two weeks after the fighting had ended. Standing with a friend on a rise overlooking a massive field of tents, Lincoln leaned over and asked him, “What is all this?” The friend replied, “Why, Mr. Lincoln, this is the Army of the Potomac.” Abe paused, then said, “No, Hatch, no. This is _____.”
4. Son of a Baptist minister, lawyer, newspaper reporter, and coal mine manager, this Georgian had no previous military training. Initially elected to captain of a company, he rose to regimental, brigade, and divisional command. As he was saved from drowning in his own blood by a hole in his hat while unconscious after being hit five times at Sharpsburg, he helped save a Union general at Gettysburg. A noted leader, he compiled a superlative record by the summer of 1864; his combat prowess had originality and daring. Straight, thin, and tall, he made a striking appearance and positive impression

on his men. “The prettiest thing you ever did see on the field of battle. It ‘ud put fight in a whipped chicken just to look at him!” His name: _____.

Quiz Answers:

1. Stephen Douglas
Franklin Pierce
Roger Taney
James Buchanan
Ref.: *Battle Cry of Freedom*, McPherson, p. 179.
2. Iron
Ref.: *Google*, “Iron Brigade Command Set, The Black Hats”.
3. McClellan’s bodyguard
Ref.: *Lincoln*, Donald, p. 387.
4. John Brown Gordon
Ref.: *From Winchester to Cedar Creek*, Wert, p. 58;
Civil War Dictionary, Boatner, “J.B.Gordon,” p. 58-9.



Future Presentations:

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| May 21, 2015 | Christopher Phillips, University of Cincinnati
<i>North Star and Southern Cross: The Political War after the War in Ohio</i> |
| Sep. 17, 2015 | William Vodrey, Cleveland Civil War Round Table
<i>Ohio's Civil War Governors</i> |
| Oct. 15, 2015 | Michael Panhorst, Auburn University
<i>Lest We Forget: Memorial Art and Architecture on Civil War Battlefields</i> |
| Nov. 19, 2015 | Andrew Homan, 6th Ohio Volunteer Infantry
<i>Reenacting Gettysburg and Other Battles</i> |
| Jan. 21, 2016 | Gary Johnson, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table
<i>Countering Mallory's Infernal Machines</i> |
| Feb. 18, 2016 | Gene Schmiel, Washington, DC
<i>Citizen General: Jacob D. Cox</i> |
| Mar. 17, 2016 | Dr. Michael Adams, Northern Kentucky University
<i>Living Hell: The Dark Side of the Civil War</i> |
| Apr. 21, 2016 | Stephen M. Hood, Huntington, WV
<i>The Lost Papers of John Bell Hood</i> |
| May 19, 2016 | William Alan Blair, Pennsylvania State University
<i>The Dirty Business of Winning a Civil War: Combating Disloyalty</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 (single) and \$35 (couple) 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 (single) or \$30 (couple). Students enrolled full time in any recognized secondary or higher institute of learning can use a **Student Membership**, which applies a discount of \$10 to each of the above dues and initiation fee rates.

Dinner reservations are required, and can be made prior to the reservations deadline either by an email to 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 \$25. 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 main entrance and go to the left side of the gift shop found opposite the entryway; the meeting room is located at the far end of the cafeteria hallway.

CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:

President: Tom Williams	513-608-4391 (h)	T.Williams@outlook.com
Vice-President: Lester Burgin	513-891-0610 (h)	LesterBurgin@gmail.com
Treasurer: Jim Stewart	513-271-0738 (h)	jebstewart@fuse.net
Secretary: Mark Silbersack	513-977-8243 (h)	mark.silbersack@dinsmore.com
Program Chair: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h)	dbauer002@cinci.rr.com
Newsletter Editor: David Mowery	513-774-9544 (h)	dmowery11@fuse.net
Membership & Publicity: Ed and Sally Umbach	513-522-9053 (c)	eumbach@gmail.com duchess792003@yahoo.com
Trustee: Dan Reigle (2013-2015)	513-777-9255 (h)	dreigle@cinci.rr.com
Trustee: Pat Homan (2014-2016)	513-861-2057 (h)	homanfamily@fuse.net

COMMITTEES:

Activities: Darryl Smith	513-321-1539 (h)	ohioatperryville@yahoo.com
Preservation Projects:		
Becky Burket & Randy Donohue	513-771-3949 (h)	northstarians@AOL.com
Webmaster: Mike Rogers	859-907-3096 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
CCWRT ListServ: Mike Rogers	859-907-3096 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
CCWRT ListServ Address		ccwrt@cincinnatiwrt.org