



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



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>
February, 2014 Issue

Meeting Date: February 20, 2014

Place: The Drake Center

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

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

Dinner Menu: Boneless chicken breast stuffed with gravy and traditional bread stuffing served with glazed carrots, whipped potatoes, ceasar salad, & dinner rolls, creamed filled pastries topped with chocolate sauce and whip cream.
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

Speaker: Dan Bauer, CCWRT

Topic: *Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Politics of Slavery*

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org; call it in to Tom Williams at 513-563-2665 or email 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, Feb. 11, 2014.**

February's Speaker:

For our February 2014 meeting, Cincinnati Civil War Table welcomes Dan Bauer to the speaker's podium. The talk will include two firsts for the Round Table, a talk given by Dan and a talk featuring Harriet Beecher Stowe. Any discussion on factors leading to the Civil War includes the name of Harriet Beecher Stowe and her famous book, but rarely does a talk make her the focus of discussion. Never does a talk attempt to define the link between *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and the onset of the Civil War. Mr. Bauer will combine his passion for Cincinnati history, Civil War history, and politics into telling the story of this highly influential woman.

Stowe had little interest in politics, but her 1852 book *Uncle Tom's Cabin* had a tremendous influence on politics. Dan will describe the political environment as it existed just prior to 1850, the creation of the Fugitive Slave Law, Harriet Beecher's life in Cincinnati, the contents of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and finally and most importantly the impact of her book. Mr. Bauer will explain how publication of this landmark book raised level of hostility between North and South which then ultimately led to the Civil War.



Dan Bauer has been a member of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table since 2000 and is a lifelong resident of Cincinnati. He was Round Table Secretary in 2008 and 2009 and has been serving as newsletter editor ever since. He has coordinated Round Table field trips in four of the past five years. Mr. Bauer has a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati and has been working as a commercial lines insurance underwriter for the Cincinnati Insurance Company for the past 28 years. In case you are counting the word "Cincinnati" has been used seven times so far in this preview (make that eight now!) It's not just filler. Dan loves Cincinnati and especially its rich history.

This thought provoking talk will offer new insight into the forces which made the Civil War unavoidable. You will not want to miss it.

Dan Bauer



President's Report

... Pat Homan

I hope you have all survived the bitter cold of the last few weeks. My lovely wife purchased a heavy wool duffle coat several years ago, which has been a lifesaver. I have often thought of the problems the Confederate soldiers had to deal with in the cold. The Federals had wool uniforms and heavy wool overcoats, and the "union suite" or long underwear as it is currently called. While some Confederates were as fortunate, many were not and suffered greatly in the cold weather. It explains why most armies of the period did not campaign in the winter.

It is time to offer the periodic explanation of our fees and dues. What does the dinner costs actually cover? These are all good questions. First, the \$28 dollars you pay for the dinner covers the cost of the meal and the cost of the meeting room, averaged over the eight meetings per year. Included, in the meeting room cost is a charge for the table cover and the utensils. If we use any of the hospital's Audio Visual equipment, there is a fee for that as well. We simply lump this all together into the meal cost. Our intent is to "break even" on meals and meeting room charges over the course of a year with the dinner fee. We do not intend to "make enough" from the dinner fees to cover the cost for our programs or other expenses.

Our operating costs, which primarily cover the speaker costs and most of the funds dedicated to preservation come from the annual dues. When a new member joins, there is a \$20 initiation fee, which also helps offset the operating budget. Normally, we try to bring in a couple of nationally known speakers, some regional speakers and fill out the year with local speakers. Thanks to the generosity of the national speakers, we are able to avoid their typical fee which could range anywhere from \$500 to several thousand dollars.

Our speakers are not paid a speaker fee. Still, we have to cover their expenses in coming to Cincinnati. Usually the biggest speaker cost is transportation. We either provide an airline ticket or pay the mileage if they drive. Upon arriving in Cincinnati, we pay their motel room and meals. Our Round Table is blessed in that we have a number of high quality local speakers, many of whom are members. For these speakers, we are able to avoid the heavy expenses of a national speaker. All speakers and their guest are provided a meal at the Drake complements of the Round Table.

The book raffle brings in some additional funds. The presentation books, (those on the table in the hall,) goes entirely to the Preservation Fund. The Preservation Fund is a major reason we have a tax exempt (501.c3) status, in addition to our educational programs. Also, thanks to sustaining memberships we are able to fund some of the operating costs.

To help offset speaker costs, we ask that the number of guest visits be limited to two. After that we strongly encourage attendees to become members. If you have questions on this, please see me at a meeting or call me at home in the evenings.

Twice each year the Board meets. At each Board meeting we review the budget and, if necessary, move money from the General Operating fund and transfer it to the Preservation Fund. We just concluded the winter Board meeting where we began the process of assembling a slate of officers for the next year. We also are looking into some issues related to our tax status and how to better promote our group. We would like to see the organization double in size from our current membership of 100. When we move upstairs in March, we will be able to accommodate a much larger dinner crowd.

I have to thank all the Board members who have assisted me over the last four years, as well as the members. We will have a number of opportunities this spring and summer to attend fairs, exhibits and shows to present the Round Table to the public. We will always need volunteers to staff the tables and provide information on the Civil War and us. Stay warm and I will see you on the 20th.



January Presentation:

... submitted by Mark Silbersack

At our January 2014 meeting, CCWRT member Gary Johnson returned for his fourth Civil War naval talk, “Webbed Feet on the Western Waters.” In his talk, Gary focused on the river campaigns implementing the U.S. Navy’s “Anaconda Plan” strategy to blockade the Confederacy from supply sources beyond the Mississippi River. Gary highlighted the major role Cincinnati played in building and supplying the armored river navy that was critical to Union success in the Western theater.

At the war’s start, the Confederacy, by controlling the Mississippi, was able to blockade the North, including Cincinnati. To take and hold open the Mississippi and other Western rivers, the Union needed to create a river navy which was armored and could move in shallow waters. Cincinnati supplied over 30% of such warships as well as riverboat men to operate them.



Gary Johnson

“tinclads” (1-2” of iron, protecting only against bullets), “ironclads” (with thicker armor), and Ellet Rams (high-speed boats reinforced for ramming). About 6-8 boat yards in Fulton either built or refitted light wooden boats, short and squat, with a shallow draft (18-24 inches), with stern or paddle wheels, armored to protect their weak superstructure and coal-fired high pressure steam engines. They were armed with Dahlgren howitzers or Parrott rifle guns.

Gary gave us a lengthy summary of the use of these boats in the Union campaigns in the Western theater, starting with fighting on the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers, in the taking of Forts Henry and Donelson (where gunboat bombardment led to victory). The next “webbed foot” success was at Island No. 10, where Confederate fortifications blocked Union movement down the Mississippi until two gunboats, the Carondelet and Pittsburgh, ran past the Confederate cannons at night, cutting off the defenders from the South.

Gary went on to describe naval operations at Ft. Pillow (the only “fleet action” of the War), Ft. Hindman on the White River, the Yazoo River and Vicksburg, and on the Red River, as the Union gradually opened the Mississippi from Cairo to New Orleans.

Gary recognized some local heroes whose legacies influenced later U.S. Navy history. One was LeRoy Fitch, an expert on the Dahlgren guns which outfitted many of the tinclads. Fitch was a brilliant tactician who developed river convoy tactics to protect Union supply and troop boats from their main nemesis, the Rebel field batteries and cavalry known as “fighting guerrillas.” It is said that the Union never lost a boat in one of Fitch’s convoys. Fitch’s gunboats also played a role in preventing most of Morgan’s Raiders from escaping across the Ohio at Buffington Island. Another Cincinnati native was William Hoel, whose gunboat saved Admiral Porter at Grand Gulf.



Gary also mentioned the odd histories of the gunboat USS Cincinnati, which was twice sunk and then raised to fight again, and the Ellet Ram Queen of the West, which was captured by the Confederates on the Red River and then fought with another Cincinnati-built boat, the Indianola.

Black History Month Lecture: Fighting to Be Equals: The African-American Soldier in the Civil War. Where: West Chester’s MidPointe Library, 9363 Centre Pointe Drive, on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Eric Guttag, a local lawyer and history buff, will be delivering this most informative hour long presentation.

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.



Future Presentations:

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| Mar. 20, 2014 | Mike Rhein, CCWRT
<i>General Lytle: Home Again</i> |
| Apr. 17, 2014 | John Fazio, Cleveland Civil War Round Table
<i>The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln</i> |
| May. 15, 2014 | Greg Biggs, Clarksville, TN Civil War Round Table
<i>The Fall of Nashville and the Rise of the Sirens</i> |
| Sept. 18, 2014 | Don Rightmyer, Danville, KY
<i>Kentucky's Bookends to the Civil War: Robert Anderson and Fort Sumter</i> |
| May. 21, 2015 | Christopher Phillips, University of Cincinnati
<i>TBD</i> |

Atlanta Campaign Tour: March 27th-30th, 2014

War Comes To Georgia: The 150th Anniversary of the Atlanta Campaign: Ringgold Through Kennesaw - We will depart Franklin, TN on Thursday, March 27th and return there on Sunday afternoon, March 30th. Travel where nearly 200,000 men fought for 4 1/2 months at famous places like Resaca, Dalton, Pickett's Mill, New Hope Church and Kennesaw Mountain. Also included are various sites of the famous Great Locomotive Chase of 1862.

What do you get for the tour fee?

- Four days of tours with Greg Biggs and Thomas Cartwright. Greg, president of the Clarksville TN Civil War Roundtable, grew up in Georgia and has led Atlanta tours since 1993. Thomas is a well known tour guide and historian who is the expert on the Middle Tennessee Campaign of 1864 but also has experience in leading tours of Stones River, Shiloh, and Parker's Crossroads
- Three nights of hotels - Hampton Inn (Ringgold, GA, one night and Marietta, GA, two nights). These have free breakfasts each day.
- Cavalier Tours escort services who will handle almost everything you need for the tour including your luggage. The tour will be on a bus company coach who works with Cavalier on a regular basis
- Admission fees to the Tunnel Hill Civil War and Railroad Museum; the Southern Museum for Civil War and Locomotive History and the Pickett's Mill State Battlefield Park (which is one of the most pristine battlefields in America).
- A complete set of tour maps for each battlefield.
- A Wednesday night program (March 26th) in Franklin with a lecture on the Atlanta Campaign to orient you on what we will be touring.
- We are also planning on guest speakers for Thursday night and Friday night, known historians of the Atlanta Campaign, to share with you their expertise and the books they have written.

As stated we will base out of Franklin, TN. We are working on a secure place to park your vehicles while we are away. We are also working on a hotel for that Wednesday night (March 26th) and a discounted rate for tour participants (not included in the tour price). This information is shortly forthcoming and you will be informed accordingly.

Tour rates - Single person per room - \$495, Double per room - \$390 each, Triple per room - \$360 each

Tour payments - The Lotz House Museum of Franklin, TN is our new sponsor and proceeds will go to them so they can continue telling the story of the Lotz family and the Battle of Franklin in November 1864. They will handle all payments for the tour, and a portion of your fee is tax deductible as they are a non-profit 501(c)3 agency. To pay by credit card or debit card - call the Lotz House at (615) 790-7190. All you have to do is say that you are registering and paying for the "War In Georgia: The 150th Anniversary of the Atlanta Campaign" tour. They will take your name, address, phone number, card info and email address. Please be sure to inform them of how many are attending - single, double, triple. You will receive an email confirmation. If you do not have email then give them your phone number in its place.

To pay by check, mail in payment to - Lotz House Museum, 1111 Columbia Ave., Franklin, TN 37064. Be sure to enclose a letter stating how many people the check is for and be sure to write "Atlanta tour" on the bottom of your check!

For any questions, etc. please email J.T. Thompson of the Lotz House at - jtt@lotzhouse.com You can also email Greg Biggs at BiggsG@charter.net or call his cell phone at - (931)217-4265

January Quiz:

- 1: Which Union naval vessel was involved in more combat than any other during the Civil War?
- 2: Due to the exigencies created by its location in Annapolis U.S. Naval Academy superintendent George Blake and Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles early on in the war agreed to transfer the Naval Academy to _____.
- 3 & 4: The only surviving full sail, all wood constructed ship used in the Civil War is named the USS _____ and has been docked in the port of _____ since its decommissioning in 1955.
- 5: Percival Drayton, commander of the Union gunship Pocahontas attacked Ft. Wagner during the U.S. navy's assault on Port Royal 7 Nov. 1861. Who commanded the targeted and later captured fort? (a big THANK YOU goes to Roundtable member Lester Burgin who provided all the material for this question)
- 6: Ulrich Phillips Levy, born in 1792, ended his long years of service to the U.S. Navy in 1862 when he died as Captain/Commodore of the Mediterranean fleet. He took no part in any Civil War actions but made major contributions to naval morale and culture lasting to this day. His greatest contribution to our heritage was his purchase and rehabilitation of a historically important but deteriorating and failed agricultural plantation in central Virginia named _____.



Quiz Answers:

- 1: USS Carondelet Ref.: The USS Carondelet, Book Review, Civil War Times, 20 Aug. 2010, p31
- 2: Newport, R.I. Ref.: Divided Waters, Musicant, p.49
- 3: USS Constellation
- 4: Baltimore Ref.: American Artifacts, C-SPAN3, USS Constellation, 1 Sep. 2013, Rowson
- 5: Percival's brother, Brigadier General (CSA) Thomas Fenwick Drayton Ref.: Copy on historic marker at Ft. Wagner & Port Royal Wikipedia, Battle of Port Royal, South Carolina
- 6: Monticello Ref.: The National Museum of American Jewish History, Washington, D.C.
The Life and Career of Commodore Uriah Phillips Levy, U.S.N., Edw. Blattetal

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 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.

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Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!