



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



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# 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>  
February, 2015 Issue

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Meeting Date: February 19, 2015

**Place: The Drake Center**

**(6:00) Sign-in and Social**

**(6:30) Dinner**

**(7:15) Business Meeting**

**(7:30) Speaker**

**Dinner Menu: *Homemade Lasagna,  
Tossed Salad with House Dressing,  
Garlic Bread, and Tiramisu***

**Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

**Speaker:** Bernie O'Bryan, James A. Ramage Museum, KY

**Topic:** *A Conversation with General Lew Wallace*

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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) 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, February 10, 2015.**

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## February Speaker:

For our February talk, you will be treated to a first-person presentation of Union General Lew Wallace. Perhaps best known for his exploits at Shiloh and Monocacy, Wallace did so much more. For instance, in 1865, he led secret missions into Mexico in an effort to raise a mercenary force to throw the French out of Mexico. He served as Judge Secretary at the Lincoln Conspirators Trial and served as the head judge at the Andersonville Trial of Capt. Henry Wirz. In his spare time, Wallace became an accomplished painter. What were the subjects of his paintings? What else – the Lincoln conspirators and the prisoners of Andersonville.

Bernie O'Bryan is one of those guys who enjoy bringing history alive. In addition to his first-person presentation of Wallace, he has written and performed "shows" on General Joshua Hall Bates, Adam "Stovepipe" Johnson, and 1864 Democratic Vice Presidential candidate George Hunt Pendleton.



Bernie O'Bryan

Bernie is the founder of the Mid States Living History Association – an historical event planning and management group that has put together exhibits and programs for state fairs, museums, libraries, cities, and historic sites.

Mr. O'Bryan served as editor of the *National Son*, an historical quarterly, and was twice elected National President of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He is Secretary Treasurer of the Department of Kentucky Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He is also one of the founders of the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum in Fort Wright, Kentucky, and still serves on its Board.



## President's Report

...from Tom Williams

It is hard to believe, but it is February and the year is already half over! Cincy CWRT-wise, that is. Four round table gatherings down and just four more up and ready to go. The first four have been great. My bet is that the final four will be equally as good. I rest my opinion on the growing list of guests and new members joining our Round Table. I am sure they were attracted and were curious about the speaker that was to appear that night. But I am also sure, for the most part, they found out about those wonderful speakers because of one of you – our current members – who took the time to spread the word and invite someone who you knew had an interest in the Civil War.

Our January speaker is a good example. One of our members brought four new guests just to hear this talk. I hope they were impressed and will make the decision to join and come back for more meetings. If you were unfortunate to miss the talk, our speaker spoke about Lincoln's growing faith and how each side – Union and Confederate – was absolutely sure God was on their side. The talk was spell-binding. Check the more professional review elsewhere in this month's *Canister*.

Another point I find interesting is that Dr. Stephen Brown is one of ours, a Cincy CWRT member. Out-of-town experts and speakers are great, and certainly hearing, say, a speaker like Edwin Bearss, is an experience not to be missed, but we also have our own experts from whom we look forward to their talks on that subject that they have found so interesting and have gained expertise. But for me, wonderful speakers are just part of the Cincy CWRT experience I enjoy. The fellowship prior and during dinner is great, and I love using this

time to pick the minds of our Cincy “experts.” Certainly, when our table answers all the quiz questions, it was not because of my knowledge – it was because I picked a table where our “experts” were seated.

I have also stepped up to the next level of Round Table fellowship when I went on one of our battlefield road trips. Truthfully, this is where I have met and become closer friends with a number of our members. You just can’t beat one of our battlefield road trips. The cost is very reasonable, and because we are a recognized Round Table, we will always get the best of the best to lead our trip. Often it will be the head Park Service battlefield interpreter or, possibly, a non-Park Service educator, and this non-Park Service interpreter is there because he is even better than what the Park Service can offer to us. So, I am pushing you to consider joining this year’s trip where we will be at Appomattox, VA, in April for the weekend celebration of the 150th anniversary of Lee’s surrender. Truly, this is a once-in-a-lifetime event, and the Cincy CWRT will be there. There is more than just Appomattox in this trip, but at least for me, Appomattox will be the highlight. Talk to Dan Bauer for more details or to sign up for this April trip.

This isn’t the only trip planned this spring. There will be a number of walking trips around Perryville, KY, in May. Spring is coming, and the Cincy CWRT will be active. For these trips, talk to Darryl Smith.

Speaking, as I did, of Edwin Bearss, he will again be talking in Georgetown, OH, on February 28, 2015. Georgetown is just a short drive east, and you should plan to go early before Ed’s talk, so you can tour the Grant childhood homestead.

A lot is coming in the next few months that you should get on your calendar now. Isn’t it cool that a group dedicated to an event that ended 150 years ago is so active? See you at our February 19th Round Table meeting at the Drake. Oh, and bring a friend with you.

## **2014-15 Preservation Project**

**...by Becky Donohue**

*“It’s there across the river,  
Our city to deliver,  
Confederates did quiver—  
The Hooper Battery!”*

Why Battery Hooper? Many of the fortifications built in September 1862 in Northern Kentucky were named for Union generals: Fort Wright (Major General Horatio G. Wright), Fort Mitchell (General Ormsby M. Mitchel – note the spelling difference), and even Fort Burnside. But for whom was Battery Hooper named?

William Hooper was born in Devon, England, in 1812. Early aspirations to become a doctor ended when his father died, and young William went to work to support his mother and sister. He was convinced to immigrate to the “new frontier” of Cincinnati by his friend and pen pal, William Proctor. Hooper began work in a dry goods store, switched to banking and was credited with preventing the failure of his bank during the Panic of 1837 when he was just 25 years old. He became president of the bank, and in the 1860s was a wealthy, prominent Cincinnati with a mansion in East Walnut Hills.

When the Confederates threatened to attack Cincinnati during September of 1862, Hooper and other local businessmen stepped up to provide funding for the volunteer recruits and for the construction of an eight-mile line of fortifications in Northern Kentucky. Hooper himself donated an additional \$120,000 for the conversion of four steamships to armored vessels. He was given the rank of captain in the Union Army, and served as paymaster and assistant quartermaster.

In 1894, William Hooper died on his way to Paris to meet his wife and daughter. He is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery with his first wife, Annie, and their infant daughter.

Please contribute, if you are able, to this year's CCWRT preservation initiative that will help the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum obtain signs for the park at Battery Hooper. We are hoping to raise a total of \$1,200 to purchase two interpretive signs for the site.

## Items of Interest

### Sustaining Members of 2014-2015

The Sustaining Member Level allows public recognition of persons who add dues contributions of \$25 or more onto their minimum annual dues in any fiscal year, to use toward the objectives and programs of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table. The CCWRT is proud to recognize and thank the following persons who have joined or have renewed their memberships this season at the Sustaining Member Level: Allen Bozarth, Lester Burgin, Dan Griffith, Bob Haines, Albert Hallenberg, Dan Kemble, Bruce Kirchner, Bob Limoseth, John Linnenberg, Jim MacKnight, David Mowery, Dawn Mowery, Harvey Olf, Dan Reigle, Mark Silbersack, Darryl Smith, Jennifer Smith, Jim Stewart, Jeff Strotzman, Harriette Weatherbee, Paul Weber, Jackie Williams, and Tom Williams.

### Reminder: Dinner Price Change

This is a reminder to all members and CCWRT meeting guests who choose to join us for dinner: **The cost of a CCWRT dinner seat is now \$25.00 per person.** This price is a drop from last season. If you are using checks to pay for your dinners, please be sure to write them with the understanding that it is \$25.00 per meal.

### CCWRT Field Trip to Appomattox, Petersburg, and Bermuda Hundred in Virginia (April 9-12, 2015)

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE. Good news for those interested in going on the Appomattox, Petersburg, and Bermuda Hundred trip! We still have room for a few more people. Don't miss out on one of the final sesquicentennial events of the Civil War. Come tour Petersburg and the Bermuda Hundred with the finest guide on the subject, George Fickett. The cost of the trip is \$150 per person, which includes rental of the 15-passenger van, gas for touring, and the guide fee in Petersburg. Please send your \$100 deposit checks to Dan Bauer by February 19th to secure your seat on the van. Make checks out to 'Dan Bauer' (see Dan's contact information under "Cincinnati CWRT Officers" below). Hotel information can be obtained by visiting the CCWRT website or by calling Dan Bauer.

### Civil War Photos Needed

The CCWRT has a social media presence. Our Facebook page is a free and easy way to promote our organization, share information about Cincinnati and the Civil War, and attract new members. Social media platforms are most effective when new posts are added regularly and when photos are used. A quality photo can earn "likes," and more importantly, "shares," which help to build our social media reach. **Jennifer Smith** is offering to take photos relevant to Cincinnati and the Civil War, if you, the members of the CCWRT,

reach out to her, preferably via social media (building that social media presence!), with suggestions as to what she should be taking photos of. Buildings, historic sites, gravestones, Civil War events, Civil War artifacts in museums, and Civil War shows are just a few ideas. Not sure what Facebook “likes” and “shares” mean? Then take this opportunity to familiarize yourself with our CCWRT Facebook page, 'like' us, 'share' our posts, and help us spread the word about the CCWRT. You can also contact Jennifer by e-mail at [ohioatperryville@yahoo.com](mailto:ohioatperryville@yahoo.com).

## **Diekmeyer Property Rezoning Request Withdrawn**

In the summer of 2014, a development corporation and the owner of the 88-acre Diekmeyer farm in Miami Township, Clermont County (near Mount Repose), submitted a request to the township to rezone the property from agricultural to housing. Their intent was to build 200 homes on the property, one of the last remaining undeveloped farms in the township. Hundreds of residents living adjacent to the farm protested to the rezoning, mainly because of potential overcrowding of the local school, unaddressed drainage problems, and likely traffic issues on Weber Road and Branch Hill-Guinea Pike, where the Diekmeyer property is located. A large throng of citizens appeared before a Rezoning Commission public hearing in September 2014 to voice their concerns about the developer’s plans for the farm. Because the Miami Township facility could not handle the huge size of the crowd, the Rezoning Commission postponed the hearing to a later date so that a larger facility (Milford High School) could be used for the meeting.

Soon after this postponement was made, CCWRT member David Mowery submitted to the Commission an historical study of the Diekmeyer farm which had never been discussed. In 1863, three farm owners, William Tudor, Charles Harker, and Rebecca Cox, owned large portions of the present-day Diekmeyer property. All three owners had submitted claims to the Ohio Morgan Raid Commission for damages made by Federal Brigadier General Edward Hobson’s Provisional Division, which used their farms as a campsite on the night of July 14, 1863, as Hobson’s 2,500 cavalrymen chased Confederate Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan and his 2,000 raiders through Ohio on his Great Raid. The damages ranged from 16 acres of meadows ruined and a peach orchard stripped of its fruit to 90 bushels of corn eaten and 1.5 tons of hay lost to Hobson’s horses. The Morgan Raid Commission affidavits confirmed that the present-day Diekmeyer property was the site of Hobson’s camp, the only surviving Great Raid campsite of either side’s troopers in the tri-state region.

In late December 2014, the Diekmeyers and the development corporation withdrew their request for rezoning. This means the property will remain a farm, at least for now. The farm looks much like it did in 1863, and the old structure in the middle of the field has often been thought to be the remnants of the Tudor house. Let’s continue to keep a close eye on this rare piece of Civil War historical land in Greater Cincinnati.

More information on the Diekmeyer property rezoning request can be found at:

<http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/local/miami-township/2014/11/20/diekmeyer-farm-miami-township-zone-change-hpa-development-group-john-hunt-morgan-civil-war/70031850/>

## **January Presentation ... submitted by Mark Silbersack**

At our January 15th meeting, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table member Rev. Dr. Stephen Brown addressed the topic of “God, Lincoln, and the Civil War.”

After graduation from Ohio State, Dr. Brown earned a Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School and a Doctor of Ministry from the Methodist School of Ohio. He has served

congregations in Massachusetts and Ohio, worked in campus ministry in Massachusetts and Ohio, and taught various courses related to the issues covered by his presentation.



**Rev. Stephen Brown**

Dr. Brown began his talk by quoting various prayers of Union and Confederate leaders, exemplifying the points made in Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address that both sides read the same Bible and prayed to the same God, but reached different beliefs about slavery from the Bible and asked God's help in obtaining opposite results in the War. Brown described a religious landscape in early 19<sup>th</sup>-century America very different from that of today, one in which most people believed that God plays a direct role in governing the affairs of men. And many, especially in the South, believed that slaves were inferior beings, whose status was justified by passages in the Old Testament and never condemned by Jesus in the Gospels. Dr. Brown pointed out that in the 1840s, several major Protestant denominations broke apart into Northern and Southern branches (divisions that lasted for more than a century) over the issue of slavery. As he noted, if the preachers disagreed, this was an ominous threat to national unity.

When the Civil War came, both parties felt that God was on their side, at least early in the war, and only a few cautioned that this was questionable. However, as the horror of the war dragged on, some came to see it as God's judgment on the nation. Dr. Brown quoted one anonymous Southern soldier: "We deserve all we have suffered." More optimistically, other Southerners felt that "God chastises those He loves best."

Dr. Brown focused on the question on how Mr. Lincoln, who never actually professed to being a Christian (though he was a strong believer in a deistic Divine Providence), came to believe that God's judgment upon this nation resulted in the tragedy of the Civil War. Dr. Brown thinks that "Lincoln's faith came late to him." Lincoln initially struggled over how God could allow defeat of Union efforts, which he increasingly saw as fighting to end slavery. He pondered whether God's purposes were different from those of either side, and Lincoln came to believe that God would end the war only when God's purposes were realized.

Dr. Brown sees the Second Inaugural Address as the ultimate statement of Lincoln's personal theology. Slavery was an offense that God willed to remove, and this terrible Civil War was His means to do so, and a judgment upon and punishment of the nation. The Civil War would end only when and how God chose. And "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."



## **January Quiz:**

1. Which battle that resulted in a Union victory concluded on this date 150 years ago (January 15, 1865)?
2. Troops often marched into battle carrying 40 rounds of ammunition. How much do 40 rounds of 0.58 caliber ammunition (minie balls) weigh?

3. According to a feature in the Winter 2014 issue of *The Civil War Monitor*, the U.S. Ordinance Department purchased \_\_\_\_\_ number of rounds of 0.58 caliber ammunition between January 1, 1861, and June 30, 1866. (closest to the actual amount will get the point)
4. The Civil War Trust's current campaign is to save 33 acres at Brandy Station. There are many interesting stories about this famous battle. One involves a brother versus brother fight on the Cunningham farm. While not blood brothers, the two commanders, Confederate General W.H.F. Rooney Lee and Union Lt. Colonel Charles Mudge, were college classmates and star athletes. Which college did they attend?
5. Which of these songs were popular during the Civil War? Choose one or more: (1) "Dixie Doodle", (2) "Here's your Mule", (3) "I'm Bound to be a Soldier's Wife or Die an Old Maid", (4) "Root Hog or Die".

## Quiz Answers:

1. Fort Fisher
2. 3 pounds
3. 470,851,079
4. Harvard University
5. All of them



## Future Presentations:

Mar. 19, 2015	Martin Johnson, Miami University, Hamilton Campus <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 <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 <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>

## 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.

**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 \$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:

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