



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>
January, 2014 Issue

Meeting Date: January 16, 2014

Place: The Drake Center

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

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

Dinner Menu: Roasted pork loin served with twice baked potato, buttered broccoli, sugar snap pea and berry salad, assorted dinner rolls, and brownie bites topped with whipped cream and chocolate sauce
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

Speaker: Gary Q. Johnson, CCWRT

**Topic: *Webbed Feet on the Western Waters:
Cincinnati and the River Navy***

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, Jan 7, 2014.**

January's Speaker: For our January 2014 meeting, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table member, Gary Johnson returns for his fourth Civil War naval talk. As some of you recall, Gary gave an excellent presentation in 2012 on the U.S. Navy's "Anaconda Plan" designed to blockade the Confederacy from receiving overseas supplies. This time, Gary will take us back to the river naval campaign and how our local area played a huge part in this arena.

Most of us are aware that the river navy was critical to Union success in the western theater of the war (examples: Forts Henry and Donelson, Island # 10, Vicksburg, New Orleans, etc.) You might not have



Gary Johnson

realized that the river navy started in Cincinnati which also became a major supplier of river warships as well as riverboat men to operate the ships. Gary will talk about the differences between river and ocean naval operations, Cincinnati riverboat building, the types of warships, and their use in the Union campaign to reopen the Mississippi River system and to deny its use to the Confederacy. He will also recognize some of the local heroes whose legacies influenced later generations of Naval personnel.

Gary's background neatly parallels his presentation topics. A chemical engineering graduate of the Ohio State University, he attended college on a Naval ROTC scholarship and served five years after graduation as an officer qualified in submarines and nuclear propulsion. His ships were home-ported in a key Civil War location: Charleston, South Carolina. After leaving the Navy, he worked for Procter & Gamble for 27 years in a variety of Health, Safety, and Environment roles to support manufacturing sites. He is now an Industrial Ventilation Consultant. Previous to his 2012

talk on the "Anaconda Plan," Gary has spoken to the Round Table in 2010 on the "Monitor Class Ironclads" and in 2008 on the "CSS Hunley." Gary's talks are always thoroughly researched with great PowerPoint illustrations, so you will not want to miss the January presentation. (Plus, we will all want to know what "Webbed Feet" really means.)



President's Report

... Pat Homan

I hope all had a great Christmas holiday and you found a number of interesting books under the proverbial tree, covering new aspects of our favorite subject. I also wish you all a great New Year.

We are entering the third year of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. This will mark the four key battles in Virginia that led to the siege of Richmond and Petersburg; the march to Atlanta, then the sea, and the Red River and western campaigns. There will be plenty to see and do.

The Round Table will be needing a number of replacements for some rather important positions. I am in my last term as President, which I have enjoyed but we need a new head. Albert Hallenberg has informed me he cannot continue as Program chair and Dan Bauer, our esteemed editor, has asked to be replaced. There may be more but these are the ones I am aware of at this time. It takes a number of volunteers to keep the organization running smoothly and we have been blessed over the years with many good people. I will make a full report at the February meeting on our needs but I request that all of you think of what roles you can play. If any are interested or wish to know what is involved in any position, please contact me, or the current holder of the position, to find out what the job entails. The positions are set up so that no one has any overwhelming tasks, which take a lot of time.

We have some great speakers coming up. I am eagerly looking forward to Gary's presentations in January as well as the rest of the talks through the remainder of the campaign year. I will see you at the meeting.

November Presentation:

... submitted by Mark Silbersack

At the November 2013 meeting, we welcomed local author, professor and attorney Gary Knepp, who spoke on Camp Dennison, its underappreciated contribution to the Union war effort, its early years, and some of units and colorful characters who trained there.

Gary began with the question: why was it located there? It became apparent in April 1861 that a training ground for Ohio troops was needed. Strategically, proximity to Cincinnati was key. This was the country's sixth-largest city, and an important commerce center. It sat on a sometimes shallow river, bordering a slave-holding state, in an area whose population had divided loyalties. There was fear of an imminent Southern attack.

So putting a lot of Ohio volunteers nearby made sense. Cincinnati businessman, later general, William Rosecrans selected a site at what was then called New Germany. Its virtues included that it was large, had a ready source of water (the adjacent Little Miami), was on a rail line, and was far enough from town to keep any rowdy soldiers out of trouble. It was named in honor of Ohio governor William Dennison.

The Camp's startup was inauspicious. When the first troops arrived, they found *nothing*. While they scrambled to create makeshift housing, rain fell and temperatures dropped. Soon, there were over 10,000 men - - and serious problems. The water supply was polluted by a slaughterhouse just upstream. The food supply was too often sub-standard. (Until a baker moved onsite, the daily bread sometimes came covered by coal-dust.) There was no standard uniform, and clothing and shoes soon wore out. Gary humorously described how the soldiers (who usually wore no underwear) finally got new uniforms only after greeting some visiting ladies with backsides showing through worn-out pants.

Further, there was no standard training regimen. Troops were trained well or poorly by their own officers, who were sometimes quite inept.

As happened in many Civil War camps, diseases like pneumonia and measles could reach epidemic levels. Catholic Bishop Purcell was asked to help, which led to the nursing mission to Union troops throughout the War of the Sisters of Charity.

But eventually Camp Dennison became an efficiently-run facility. It served over 50,000 Union troops during the War. Its first trainees sent into combat were the Germans of the 9th OVI, who fought capably in Western Virginia under McClellan in the War's first major campaign.

The Camp assumed an additional role in 1862 as the site of a large hospital that treated patients up through November 1865. Troops from the Camp also played a part in defending Cincinnati during in late 1862 and against Morgan's raiders in 1863.

Finally, Gary shared some tales of individual soldiers at Camp Dennison, such as Kentuckian John Thompson, discovered (only after training) to be a woman; Oliver Gatch, a doctor who was at Ford's Theater and tried to assist Lincoln; and Clermont County's Henry Clark Corbin, who commanded the 14th Infantry Regiment of Colored Troops during the War and retired as the top General in the U.S. Army.



Gary Knepp

Civil War Saturdays: The Taft Museum will offer three Saturdays of programs in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Take a look from different viewpoints and explore how the war shaped the country we live in today.

- **Saturday, January 18, 1–3:30 p.m.**

The Underground Railroad in Southern Ohio: A Journey to Freedom. Dr. Eric R. Jackson, an associate professor and director of the Black Studies Program at Northern Kentucky University, will discuss the Underground Railroad in our area.

Clothing and Custom During the Civil War. The Ladies Living History Society of Greater Cincinnati will model Civil War fashion in this interactive program.

- **Saturday, January 25, 1–3:30 p.m.**

An Afternoon with Catherine Coffin and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Reenactors Joyce B. Baer and Betsy Miskell bring Coffin and Stowe to life in this portrayal of women who fought slavery in their own important ways.

Meet Mr. Lincoln. Stanley A. Wernz, a life member of the Association of Lincoln Presenters, shares the thoughts and comments of our 16th president in Abraham Lincoln's own words.

- **Saturday, February 1, 1–3:30 p.m.**

African American Women During the Civil War. Dr. Annette E. Jefferson, founder and chief creative officer of DeArk Enterprises, discusses how women of African descent without access to political power acted with will to make a difference.

Cincinnati and the Civil War. Taft Museum of Art Manager of Public Programs Mary Ladrack reveals how local families such as the Longworths, Tafts, and Lytles helped lead the city and the country to freedom and peace.

Reservations required: visit www.taftmuseum.org or call (513) 684-4515 for more information. Civil War Saturday programs are **free**. The Taft Museum is located at 316 Pike Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Inclement Weather Plan: If the weather turns bad, and the streets are difficult to travel, you can check the following sources to determine if the meeting is still on or if it has been cancelled.

1. Check the home page on our web site at www.cincinnatiwrt.org. We will post a simple update informing the membership on the status of the meeting.
2. Check your email for an update. Our ListServ service will be used to communicate the latest information to members who have provided us their email address.
3. Call the Drake Conference Center at 513.418.2500 and inquire about the status of the meeting. If we decide to cancel, they will be the first to know and their switchboard operators will be informed.
4. Call Tom Williams, Vice-President at 513-563-2665
5. Call Pat Homan, President, at 513.861.2057

Tom and Pat will make the decision on the status of the meeting by noon the day of the meeting. The decision will be based on the condition of the roads, the safety of our members, the status of the speaker and the Drake Meeting Center's ability to serve us. Remember, if you make a reservation but fail to attend due to bad weather (or any other reason for that matter), you are still responsible to reimburse the Round Table for the cost of the meal.

In Memoriam: Bob Phillips, long time CCWRT member, passed away in October, 2013.

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

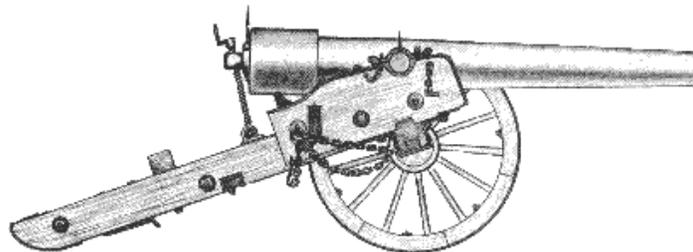


world and its worries." The study was completed in 1898, seven years before Wallace's death in 1905. Later converted into a museum, the study now houses artifacts Wallace used during his lifetime, as well as many objects pertaining to his literary legacy. The General Lew Wallace Study is located in Crawfordsville,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



We Who Study Must Also Strive To Save!

Atlanta Campaign Tour: Thursday, March 27th through Sunday, March 30th, 2014.

Guides will be Greg Biggs and Thomas Cartwright. The tour will be by bus and will leave Franklin, TN on Thursday, March 27th about 10 AM. The first destination will be Ringgold, Georgia. That evening we are planning on a well known Atlanta Campaign historian as a speaker.

Friday, March 28th, we head to Tunnel Hill for the railroad museum there and the site of the skirmishing that took place in early May 1864. From here we move to several sites in and around Dalton, GA, the main base for the Confederate Army of Tennessee. We will cross over Rocky Face Ridge at Dug Gap and move into the valley to see where the Union attack began before turning and taking the route of the march of Gen. James McPherson's Army of the Tennessee through Snake Creek Gap. We will see the Confederate Cemetery; where John Bell Hood's attack took place; the Van Den Corput GA Battery redoubt and where Hood's attack was stopped before going into town to see Fort Wayne, the new county park consisting of period fortifications built by the Confederates and used by the Federals later before crossing the river. This park just opened in June. We will be taking US Hwy 41 for most of the trip as this was the old Atlanta-Chattanooga Road in the Civil War era and from Resaca we head south to Calhoun, GA. We head south to Adairsville and see another old W & A railroad depot that has been restored and where the Confederates hoped to stop and fight. We will head to Cassville via Kingston, GA which was part of the trap and a railroad junction town that also has Great Locomotive Chase ties. It is also where the last Confederate troops surrendered in Georgia in 1865. From Cassville we head to the Etowah River, what Sherman considered "the Rubicon of Georgia" and we'll see the other Confederate fort also used by the Federals during the war - which also happened to be the site of probably the first baseball games ever played in the state by the Federal troops. We will end the day at our hotel in Marietta, Georgia. I will check with the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History about doing something there on this evening.

Saturday, March 29th - We will leave the hotel and head to Pickett's Mill State park for a tour of the vicious battle there that saw Union General Oliver O. Howard's attack against Patrick Cleburne's Division smashed. From here we head to New Hope Church for the battle that took place there and we'll have a lunch stop while here. After lunch it is off to Dallas, Georgia for the final battle along this Confederate line where the Confederates attacked but were shot down before the Union trenches. That evening at our hotel we will hopefully hear another fine Atlanta Campaign historian.

Sunday, March 30th - We head out to do the rest of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain before heading up I-75 to the Allatoona Mountains. We will tour the park which has wonderfully preserved earthworks. Sherman turned Allatoona Pass into a huge supply depot as well and warehouses bulged with food and other supplies. From here we head back to Franklin, Tennessee and the end of the tour.

This tour will be by bus and a wonderful company called Cavalier Tours. I have used them before on previous Atlanta tours and they take care of everything. The tour fees, to be determined, cover the bus, the guides, three nights in hotels and the tour maps plus any museum fees. As soon as I get the fees I will email everyone. We are working on places to park cars at Franklin for the tour that will be safe for your vehicles. Hotels in Franklin for Wednesday night and possibly Sunday night will be on your own (if you are not heading back home then).

We hope that this tour will be of interest to you. We have only 52 seats available so if you would like to go let me know as soon as possible. Hope to see you on this tour - as with all of them that I have done for you, it will be my honor and pleasure to show you around Georgia. To make reservations, contact Greg Biggs at biggs@charter.net

Future Presentations:

- Feb. 20, 2014 Dan Bauer, CCWRT
Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Politics of Slavery
- Mar. 20, 2014 Mike Rhein, CCWRT
General Lytle: Home Again
- Apr. 17, 2014 John Fazio, Cleveland Civil War Round Table
The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln
- May. 15, 2014 Greg Biggs, Clarksville, TN Civil War Round Table
The Fall of Nashville and the Rise of the Sirens



November Quiz:

1. One of the most successful Union spies was “ Crazy Bet”, the leader of a spy ring in Richmond. What was her real name?
2. Ward Lamon claims Lincoln said “ That speech won’t _____.”, after delivering the Gettysburg Address.
3. Lincoln was not feeling well while in Gettysburg. After returning to Washington, what illness did his doctors diagnose him with?
4. In whose home did Lincoln stay while in Gettysburg?
5. Bennett Young led the raid on St. Albans, Vermont, on October 19, 1864. Under whose command was he serving when he was captured in 1863?



Quiz Answers:

1. Elizabeth Van Lew
2. Scour
3. Smallpox
4. David Wills
5. Gen. John Hunt Morgan

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!