



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>  
January, 2015 Issue

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Meeting Date: January 15, 2015

**Place: The Drake Center**

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

**(6:30) Dinner**

**(7:15) Business Meeting**

**(7:30) Speaker**

**Dinner Menu: *Beef Short Ribs, Succotash,  
Fruited Cherry Gelatin, Mini Oven Roasted Bakers,  
Sweet Yeast Rolls, and Chocolate Mousse***  
**Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

**Speaker:** Stephen Brown, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

**Topic:** *God, Lincoln, and the Civil War*

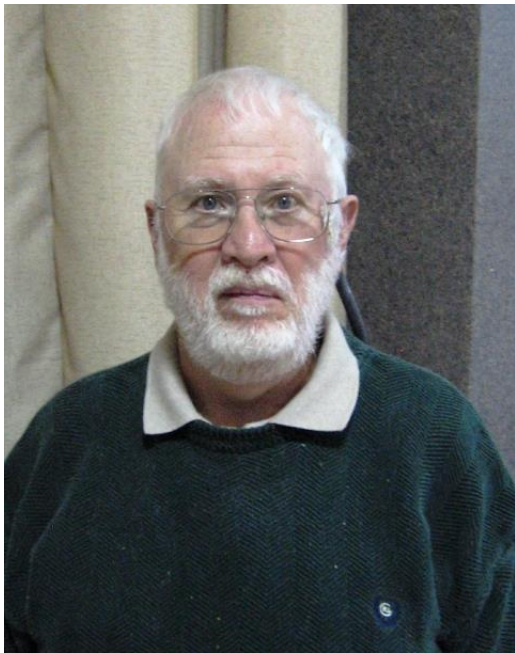
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**Reservations:** If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to [reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org](mailto:reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org) or call it in to Lester Burgin at 513-891-0610. If you are 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, January 6, 2015.**

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## January Speaker:

Our January speaker, Rev. Dr. Stephen Brown, will tackle the issue of how religion shaped the Civil War. Religion played a much greater role in the lives of 19th century Americans than it does today. It is not surprising then that religious faith guided and divided the people and churches of both North and South. Faith served to motivate as well as justify the actions of Civil War participants.



## Stephen Brown

"borrowed" his father's Bruce Catton trilogy on The Army of the Potomac at the age of ten. The Civil War is very much a family heritage. Robert E. Lee's mother's sister is Dr. Brown's great-great grandmother, making Robert E. Lee a great uncle. Stephen's great grandfather, William D. Brown, served in the 7th Kentucky Mounted Infantry. Dr. Brown has taught a graduate course for teachers entitled "Lee, Lincoln and Gettysburg" and recently taught an expanded six-week course on tonight's topic for an adult Sunday School class. He has visited numerous battlefields and has taken or "dragged" his wife and family to Gettysburg at least eight different times over the past thirty years.

Make plans to attend January's meeting and learn how Abraham Lincoln developed a personal "theology" which guided his understanding of God's role in the war and, in turn, guided his thoughts and actions. The often-avoided topic of religion cannot be overlooked if one is to really understand what the Civil War was all about.



## Items of Interest

**Welcome New Members!** We have had several new members join the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table since September 2014. They are listed below by the month in which they joined. Welcome aboard to all our new members! We appreciate that you have chosen to be a part of our organization:

<u>September 2014</u>	<u>October 2014</u>	<u>November 2014</u>
Thomas Barnett	Allen Bozarth	Rick Detjen
Linda Dietrich	Martin Gibbons	
Donna Duncan	Jim Reigle	
Dianne Hartmann	Bill Slemmons	
Frederic Gagel		
Jennifer Smith		

## **Reflection on CCWRT's Camp Wildcat Tour ... by Jennifer Smith**

On November 1, 2014, Darryl Smith, Activities Committee Chair, led the first event for the new Activities committee, reaffirming for this student of history that there is more to learning than books and lectures. The guided walking tour took place at Camp Wildcat, KY, on a cold, blistery day with the season's first snow. Thoroughly researched and expertly presented, Darryl's tour recounted the events that took place there on October 21, 1861.

Standing at the foot of the 100-foot tall bluffs, similar to ones that soldiers reported as being 200 feet, seeing the terrain that the freshman soldiers had to maneuver, and experiencing first-hand, albeit briefly, what it feels like to be in the cold and wind, brings a better understanding to the battle. Discussing the events that occurred on that day in history, while standing in the very place where these young, green soldiers fought, it was easier to understand their perspective of the battle. The battle had a low causality rate, yet the soldiers who fought that day recorded the fighting as intense, with a great deal of shooting.

As students of the Civil War, many CWRT members have a solid understanding of most, perhaps all, of the battles that took place during the war. I am certain few would fault me in saying that discussing events of the war, while walking the grounds on which the battles occurred, with fellow Civil War enthusiasts, is an invaluable experience that fosters a better understanding of the war.

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

Good news for those interested in going on the Appomattox, Petersburg, and Bermuda Hundred trip! The cost of the van is a little less than expected, and with the drop in gas prices, the cost for gas will be a lot less than expected. The cost of the trip is now \$150 per person, which includes rental of the 15-passenger van, gas for touring as well as for the round-trip drive to Lynchburg, VA, and the guide fee in Petersburg. The deposit is still \$100. Please send your reservations and deposit checks to Dan Bauer by January 15th. Make checks out to 'Dan Bauer' (see Dan's contact information under "Cincinnati CWRT Officers" below).

## **Perryville Walking Tour Weekend (May 15-16, 2015)**

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

Guides: **Chuck Lott** and **Darryl Smith**

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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. 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). There will be some sort of evening session (hopefully with a renowned Perryville expert), so please plan on joining us after the walking tour for some enjoyable post-tour camaraderie.

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 – Post-Tour Gathering – To Be Announced

## **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.

## November Presentation: ... submitted by Mark Silbersack

At our November 2014 meeting, Tom Parson described in detail the July 1864 Union campaign in Mississippi, and especially the Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg. Tom showed how Union troops led by Maj. Gen. A. J. Smith gained an overwhelming victory over Confederate forces that included Nathan B. Forrest's vaunted cavalry.



Tom Parson

Tom Parson has spent the last 15 years with the Shiloh National Military Park and has written two books, including *Work for Giants: The Campaign & Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg*.

In early July, a 14,000-man force under Gen. Smith left LaGrange, Tennessee, heading south on a raid with three goals:

- prevent Forrest from disrupting Sherman's supply line in Tennessee;
- destroy a portion of the Confederates' Mobile & Ohio Railroad; and
- if possible, defeat Forrest in battle.

A similar prior raid had met with disaster at Brice's Crossroads, where Gen. Samuel Sturgis's force was nearly destroyed after entering battle worn out from hard marching in stifling heat. Gen. Smith took a larger force into Mississippi; had strong subordinate commanders, including

Gen. Benjamin Grierson, his cavalry officer; and was determined not to repeat Sturgis' mistakes. Smith's strategy was to move slowly, prolonging the diversion of Southern forces, until he could find a favorable position to receive an attack.

Opposing Smith's raid were about 9,000 Confederates led by Gen. Stephen D. Lee, including Forrest's cavalry. Their first plan – to entice Smith into a trap at Prairie's Mound, TN, as his men moved south – failed when Smith's advance discovered the Confederate position and turned in a different direction, east towards Tupelo.

The Confederates next tried to attack Smith's column as it moved east. Attacks on the rear guard were repelled. An attack on the lightly guarded wagon train began well, but experienced Union troops soon rallied. Another attack at Camargo Creek collapsed when a Southern regiment charged prematurely and was decimated by artillery fire. In short, three attempts to stop and break the Union column all failed.

Near Tupelo, Smith found the terrain he was looking for, at a "ghost town" called Harrisburg. His troops deployed on high ground and rested overnight. Early on July 14, they moved down the ridge and lay down, becoming invisible to anyone advancing uphill.

Meanwhile, Confederate troops hurried forward, suffering in the heat. Then Forrest began a series of Southern blunders. He led his troops on the right flank further right, creating a gap to which other units tried to adjust before launching what became a very disjointed attack. First up the hill were Crossland's troops, who climbed a ravine and started to trot forward; suddenly, Union troops rose, "appearing from nowhere," and fired a volley that "butchered" the Kentuckians. Then Mabry's men charged, but Union artillery fire "cut roads" through them. Two more Confederate brigades charged piecemeal, but they were stopped as well. Meanwhile, Forrest gave no support to the attacking infantry. Later, he began, but quickly abandoned, a small night attack from the south.

Gen. Smith is sometimes criticized for missing a chance to destroy the Confederate army, but Tom Parson believes that Smith simply didn't realize how badly his men had damaged the enemy. As Smith's forces were running very low on supplies (especially ammunition and food), he decided to withdraw to Tennessee for re-supply. Smith's men over the next few days withdrew northward in good order. The Southerners attacked them several times, but Smith's men met such attacks with strong small arms fire. In one skirmish, Forrest was wounded in the right foot and was dismounted; after Southern troops began to panic when the rumor spread that he had been killed, Forrest remounted and rallied the troops.

Bottom line: four Southern brigades were "wrecked" at Harrisburg. Confederate casualties far exceeded Union casualties. The Confederate army in Mississippi ceased to be an effective offensive force. Forrest blamed S. D. Lee, who had been in overall command. But Lee's subordinate, Gen. Chalmers, strongly criticized Forrest for not assuming responsibility for his role in the defeat.



## November Quiz:

1. Despite being A. P. Hill's beloved roommate at West Point, I later married his ex-fiance, Mary Ellen (Marcy) Neilly. I became an important general in the Union army. My name is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I graduated West Point second in the class of 1850 and won the heart and married another beau of A. P. Hill's, Emily Chase. I became a slightly less important general in the Union army than the gentleman noted above. My name is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. During the Civil War, Mary Ann Hall ran a business, the best of its type in Washington, D.C., at 349 Maryland Ave., only 1,500 feet from the U.S. Capitol. It ultimately became the location of the National Museum of the American Indian. She is buried in the Congressional Cemetery. What was Mary Ann Hall's occupation?
4. It's 8 Sep. 1863. Forty-eight Confederates manning six artillery pieces face 17 Union ships with 36 guns and 4,000 soldiers and sailors. Within an hour after the onset of the battle, two Union ships and 350 Federals are casualties. The Federal attackers slink back to their homeport. Name the battle.
5. Because he had not demonstrated any leadership skills or aptitude for command during his first three years at West Point, he was given the title of "high private" during his senior year (1846). Who was he?
6. Who was the commanding Union general who defeated A. P. Hill at the Battle of Bristoe Station, Virginia, 14 Oct. 1863?



## Quiz Answers:

1. George McClellan  
Ref.: “Rich Collections Attest to Family Ties of 3 Confederate Generals,” Coskie,  
*The Museum of the Confederacy Magazine*, Spring 2010, p.9
2. Gouverneur Warren  
Ref.: *Battle of Cold Harbor*, Rhea, 31 May 2014, C-Span3  
*Google, Wikipedia*, “George McClellan”
3. Madam of a bordello  
Ref.: C-SPAN3, American Artifacts, *Congressional Cemetery*, Roberts, 16 Oct. 2011  
*Google*, “Madam on the Mall”
4. Battle of Sabine Pass, Texas  
Ref.: *Hallowed Ground*, Civil War Preservation Trust, Winter 2009, p23-25  
*Civil War*, Foote, Vol. 2, p.775
5. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson  
Ref.: *Stonewall Jackson*, Robertson, p.42
6. Gouverneur Warren  
Ref.: *Battle of Cold Harbor*, Rhea, C-SPAN3, 31 May 2014



## Future Presentations:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Feb. 19, 2015 | Bernie O'Bryan, re-enactor, James A. Ramage Museum<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>North Star and Southern Cross: The Political War after the War in Ohio</i>   |
| Sep. 17, 2015 | William Vodrey, Cleveland Civil War Round Table<br><i>Ohio's Civil War Governors</i>  |
| Oct. 15, 2015 | Michael Panhorst, Auburn University<br><i>Lest We Forget: Memorial Art and Architecture on Civil War Battlefields</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.

**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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