



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>  
March, 2015 Issue

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Meeting Date: March 19, 2015

**Place: The Drake Center**

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

**(6:30) Dinner**

**(7:15) Business Meeting**

**(7:30) Speaker**

**Dinner Menu: *Beef Tips in a Burgundy Wine  
and Mushroom Sauce, Spinach Souffle,  
Apple Pecan Salad with Vinaigrette Dressing, and Dessert Bars***  
**Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

**Speaker:** Martin Johnson, Miami University - Hamilton

**Topic:** *Making the Gettysburg Address*

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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, March 10, 2015.**

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## March Speaker:

Our March speaker, Martin Johnson, will discuss his recently published book, *Writing the Gettysburg Address*. The book provides answers to the longstanding mysteries about how Lincoln wrote his most admired speech. By examining various manuscripts of Lincoln, texts of his revisions, and the words of his speech, Johnson will trace, at times word-by-word, the arc of Lincoln's thought. When Lincoln stood on the speaker's platform at Gettysburg, he had traveled a long road, one that had become more meaningful with each step. Lincoln experienced for the first time the battlefield of Gettysburg and the little town in the grip of patriotic celebration. He deeply felt the solemn funeral rites for three thousand heroes and more, ceremonies

of prayer, commemoration, and remembrance. Lincoln's two-minute speech made the battlefield and the cemetery into landmarks of the American imagination, but Johnson shows that it was Lincoln's own journey to Gettysburg that made the Gettysburg Address.



Martin Johnson

Martin Johnson is an Associate Professor of History at Miami University Hamilton. He received a Ph.D. in History from Brown University in 1993. Johnson has published two books on nineteenth-century French history, but his main research interest for the past decade has focused on the American Civil War. Johnson has been a Book Review Editor at H-CivWar, the premier venue for scholarly digital communication about the Civil War. His most recent book, *Writing the Gettysburg Address* (University Press of Kansas, 2013) was a co-winner of the 2014 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize. The eminent Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer has called *Writing the Gettysburg Address* “a beautifully accomplished book...one of the best books ever written about the Gettysburg Address.” Martin Johnson lives in Hamilton, Ohio, with his wife, Kelli, and their daughter, Reilly.



## President's Report

## ...from Tom Williams

Boy, the hits just keep coming. No, I am not talking about the weather in February, although as I write this article, the temperature is in the single digits. But, I digress, this article is for the March *Canister*, and by the time y'all get this, the weather surely will be getting better.

No, the hits I am talking about are the programs we have had this year, and our March speaker will be no different. I know his talk will hit it out of the ball park, so to speak. Our March speaker, Dr. Martin P. Johnson, won the prestigious 2014 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize, awarded each year for the finest scholarly work published on Abraham Lincoln or the American Civil War era. Dr. Johnson's talk will be on the subject of his awarded book, *Writing the Gettysburg Address*.

This annual \$50,000 prize was established in 1990, and the past winners make up a list of who's who in Civil War scholarly work. This year's winner, for example, and who, by the way, was also a previous Cincy Round Table speaker, is the noted Lincoln scholar, Harold Holzer.

What makes me doubly proud, and this should be obvious to those who note the Miami University license plate on my car, is that Dr. Johnson is a professor at the very same establishment, and that I shamelessly always call one of America's best universities. I started my interest in the Civil War when I took an elective course in Civil War history my freshman year at Miami, sadly, more years ago than I wish to state. I do recall, though, that the class was a Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday class schedule, and it did cut into my recreation time.

Am I starting to sound like a broken record here? How we are lucky to have the resources to provide wonderful and learning experiences from noted experts at our Round Table each month, and who also happen to live nearby?

But just wait until you see what is on tap for next year. There will be a lot of out-of-town experts who will be bringing us their story. This is just a tease, but our program chair, Dan Bauer, has been working overtime to lock down a memorable year's worth of speakers. Stay tuned.

This might be a great month to invite a friend or partner to try our gem, the Cincy Round Table. I would suggest an early reservation, as we were almost at Drake's capacity at the February Round Table. When we hit that number, we then have to decline further reservations.

As I recall, the weather that night, as it is today, was in the single digits with predicted snow on the way. Hardy souls, we Round Tablers.

## Items of Interest

### Northern Kentucky History Day 2015

The Northern Kentucky Regional History Day event will be held at Northern Kentucky University on **Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** A volunteer is needed to assist at the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table booth; if you are interested in helping at the booth, please contact Mike Rogers (see contact information for Mike on the last page of the newsletter).

Here is a link to the History Day web page:

<http://artscience.nku.edu/departments/hisgeo/projects/historyday.html>

The speaker lineup looks quite excellent. Don Rightmyer, who spoke to our Round Table this past September, will be discussing Kentucky's role in the Revolutionary War. Our good friend, Jeannine Kreinbrink, will be giving a talk on the history of Devou Park. Pat Van Skaik (Manager of the Cincinnati Library's Genealogy & Local History Department) will be giving a very good presentation on Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky during World War I. Although it appears none of the presentations this year address the Civil War, many of the attendees will have an interest in the conflict. We estimated last year's crowd to be about 400-500 attendees, so it might be an opportunity to draw in some Northern Kentucky members.

### Civil War Trust Park Day 2015 Event

... 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 Secret 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, and then we'll go to a late lunch at Midwest Best BBQ in Camp Dennison. Camp Dennison Civic League has offered to help, too. 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.

# CCWRT Day Trip to the American Civil War Museum of Ohio

A summer trip to an air-conditioned museum...

On **Saturday, July 25**, we will be taking a drive to Tiffin, Ohio, to visit the American Civil War Museum of Ohio. The museum offers over 10,000 square feet of exhibit, research, and presentation space to engage every visitor. There are eight main exhibit areas within the museum. Many have unique learning centers for children and adults. There are numerous hands-on activities, as the museum believes history becomes more real when you get to touch! A gift shop, research library, theater, and presentation room allow guests to experience the American Civil War in many new ways.

The museum does charge an admission fee, and ***ONLY ACCEPTS CASH!***

Adults \$6

Seniors (55+) \$5

Students \$3

Children under 6 FREE

We will meet at **8:45 a.m.** in the parking lot of the UC Health Drake Center, where we hold our CCWRT meetings. We will need a few folks willing to drive to the museum and take others. We will take a restroom break along the way, as it is nearly a three-hour drive to the museum.

After touring the museum, we will have a late lunch at a local establishment. For more information about the day trip, please contact Darryl Smith (see contact information for Darryl on the last page of the newsletter).

## ***Treasures of Our Military Past opens at Cincinnati Museum Center***

Cincinnati Museum Center is celebrating the region's rich military past and the contributions of so many over two centuries of military conflicts. *Treasures of Our Military Past* tells the stories of the men, women, and local organizations, institutions, and businesses that contributed to the many military campaigns fought for independence, the security of citizens around the world, and the liberty of those oppressed by tyrants and terrorists. *Treasures of Our Military Past* opens **May 15, 2015**.

*Treasures of Our Military Past* is the fourth installment of Cincinnati Museum Center's Treasures series which offers a look inside our vast collections. Through uniforms, weaponry, medical instruments, supplies, photographs, and documents, *Treasures of Our Military Past* provides insight into the depth of this region's contributions to military action from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the modern War on Terror. The exhibit honors the courage and sacrifice of men and women who served during military campaigns from Fort Washington, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, both World Wars, and the post-World War II military actions in Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War and the modern era.

*Treasures of Our Military Past* includes artifacts from military conflicts spanning 220 years. A hand-drawn plan of Fort Washington from 1793 and a directive from General "Mad" Anthony Wayne from 1794 help tell the story of battles fought in the Cincinnati region, America's early frontier, at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The flag of the 10<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry, the "Irish Regiment," with the names of battles the regiment fought in during the Civil War, has survived the bullets of Confederate soldiers and the ravages of time. One of those names stitched into the green silk is Chickamauga, the battle where General William H. Lytle, whose uniform and personal items are also included in the exhibit, lost his life. Artifacts recognizing Cincinnati's contributions to two world wars, including a poster announcing a War Exposition at Music Hall in 1918 and the World War II army nurse's uniform of Bobbi Sterne, former mayor of Cincinnati, are

fascinating glimpses at a region geared up for the war effort. Civil defense survival kits and radiation detectors show a city on edge as the threat of nuclear war was a constant concern for civilians and military personnel alike.

### **Honor a veteran on the Tribute Wall**

To recognize the men and women from the region who served in the military and to honor their sacrifices, *Treasures of Our Military Past* will also include a Veteran Tribute Wall that will display the names of veterans through the duration of the exhibit. For a suggested minimum contribution of \$10, people are invited to add the names “in honor of” or “in memory of” the veterans in their family. All proceeds from the Veteran Tribute Wall will support the Cincinnati Museums Foundation endowment fund for the preservation and conservation of military collections. For more information, please visit [www.cincymuseum.org/exhibits/treasures-of-our-military-past](http://www.cincymuseum.org/exhibits/treasures-of-our-military-past).

## **The Atlanta Campaign Tour: “The Siege and Fall of Atlanta” March 25-29, 2015**

Please join Greg Biggs and Robert Jenkins as they take you to the sites connected to the siege and capture of Atlanta, Georgia, in 1864. From Johnston's River Line through Jonesboro, the tour will cover several key battles – Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, Ezra Church, Utoy Creek, and Jonesboro – and will visit the Cyclorama, museums, and other sites with direct Civil War and Atlanta connections. Each night will include talks by historians who are considered experts on the Atlanta Campaign. The tour begins and ends at the Lotz House Museum, 1111 Columbia Avenue, Franklin, TN 37064. Please call the Lotz House Museum at (615) 790-7190 to book this tour. Costs: Single - \$685; Double (2 people) - \$555 per person; Triple - \$510 per person.

## **February Presentation: ... submitted by Mark Silbersack**

At our February meeting, Bernie O’Bryan presented a multi-dimensional program on Lew Wallace which included portraying General Wallace at various stages in his distinguished life and a slide show spanning his genealogy, war-time uniforms, post-war career highlights, artistic triumphs, and home/museum in Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Bernie O’Bryan often performs "shows" on General Wallace and other Civil War era figures. Bernie is the founder of the Mid States Living History Association – an historical event-planning group that puts together exhibits and programs for state fairs, museums, libraries, and historic sites. Among other achievements, he has twice been National President of the Sons of Union Veterans and is a founder of the Ramage Civil War Museum in Northern Kentucky.

Bernie described the Wallace family history. Their heritage was Scotch-Irish. Lew’s father David went to West Point but later became a lawyer and moved to Indiana, where Lewis was born. David Wallace became a judge, governor, and congressman.

Bernie provided a detailed first-person account of Lew Wallace’s youth in Indiana, service along the Rio Grande in the Mexican War, early involvement in politics, attending the Lincoln-Douglas debate in Danville, joining the Republican Party, and organizing and training Indiana militia units so that the State would be prepared if war should come.

Wallace began the Civil War as commander of the Indiana 11th Infantry and became the youngest Major

General in the Union Army. But then he ran into trouble. Bernie described the controversy concerning Wallace's performance at Shiloh (which Halleck used as an excuse to shunt him to the sidelines) and Wallace's unfortunate testimony in Washington (which almost ended his military career). After alluding to Wallace's role in the defense of Cincinnati, Bernie focused on the general's late-war exploits in Maryland, where his delaying action at Monocacy saved Washington from Jubal Early's advance; his subsequent secret mission to help raise and equip the force that threw the French out of Mexico; and his service as secretary at the Lincoln conspirators' trial and as head judge at the trial of Andersonville commandant Henry Wirz.

Lew Wallace was a very creative man of boundless energy. He taught himself to paint; Bernie showed us several of his paintings. But Wallace is best known as a writer. His first big success was *Ben Hur*, published in 1880, which made him wealthy. While Wallace was himself not a member of any organized church, his novel reflected his strong religious beliefs, and it was popular for that reason. In 1881-85, Wallace served as Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, where he became a close friend to the Sultan. This experience led to his next book, *The Prince of India* (1893), which put the Moslem faith in a favorable light and was much less popular.

Bernie closed with two quotes capturing Wallace's life. His widow Susan (herself a successful writer) said of him: "He promised to make me famous by pen or sword, and he has done both." And Bernie gave Wallace the last word: "One never knows what they can do until they try."



## February Quiz:

1. After the Battle of Shiloh (April 6-7, 1862) and the capture of Corinth, Mississippi (May 25, 1862), William T. Sherman supervised the repairing of railroads and bridges, and he established a supply base in Corinth. On 21 July 1862, he was given a new assignment by General Henry Halleck which lasted until late November '62. What was the nature of that job?
2. You are an archaeologist visiting the POW camp on Johnson's Island with a small trowel and a screening pan. Which area would you seek to find that most likely would reveal the historic goings-on at the camp?
3. Draw a redoubt, as exhibited by a typical rebel defense work at Vicksburg.
4. Famous Last Words; Who is supposed to have said upon his imminent death:
  - a. "Strike the tent!"
  - b. "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees."
  - c. "Faithful and honorable"
5. The Goodnight family residence in Perryville, KY, was used as a hospital facility primarily for wounded and dying Confederates after the battle. The dead were buried mostly in unmarked graves in a cemetery close to the home. A monument to these Rebel dead was placed in the cemetery early in the 20th century. What is remarkable about how this marker was financed?

## Quiz Answers:

1. Military governor of Memphis, TN.  
Ref.: *Sherman*, Marszalek, p. 189-199.
2. The latrines.  
Ref.: David Bush's comments regarding archeological digs at Johnson's Island prison camp, as viewable on CCWRT's web site.
3. A quadrangular structure with 4 angles - an enclosed defense work, usually earthen.  
Ref.: Lane Library edition of 5 Nov. 2014, Blount; *Wikipedia*: "Frequently Asked Questions," Vicksburg Nat'l Military Park.
4. a. Robert E. Lee (possibly apocryphal)  
b. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson  
c. William T. Sherman  
Ref.: *The Civil War*, Foote, Vol.3, p.1050; *Robert E. Lee*, Thomas, p.412; *Stonewall Jackson*, Robertson, p.753; *Sherman*, Marszalek, p.492.
5. It was erected and paid for by the United States government.  
Ref.: Copy engraved on the monument: "Erected by the United States"; John McGee, Personal communication.



## Future Presentations:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 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>   |
| Nov. 19, 2015 | Andrew Homan, 6th Ohio Volunteer Infantry<br><i>Reenacting Gettysburg and Other Battles</i>   |
| Jan. 21, 2016 | Gary Johnson, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table<br><i>Countering Mallory's Infernal Machines</i>   |
| Feb. 18, 2016 | Gene Schmiel, Washington, DC<br><i>Citizen General: Jacob D. Cox</i>  |
| Mar. 17, 2016 | Dr. Michael Adams, Northern Kentucky University<br><i>Living Hell: The Dark Side of the Civil War</i>   |
| Apr. 21, 2016 | Stephen M. Hood, Huntington, WV<br><i>The Lost Papers of John Bell Hood</i>   |
| May 19, 2016  | William Alan Blair, Pennsylvania State University<br><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](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.

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