
THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



PO Box 621082 • Cincinnati, OH 45262 • www.cincinnati-cwrt.org
Serving the Tri-State area of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana since 1956

[CCWRT](#)

March, 2016 Issue

Meeting Date: March 17, 2016

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: Beef Roulades,
Scalloped Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables,
Fresh Fruit Salad, Dinner Roll,
and Key Lime Pie**

Vegetarian Option: Upon request

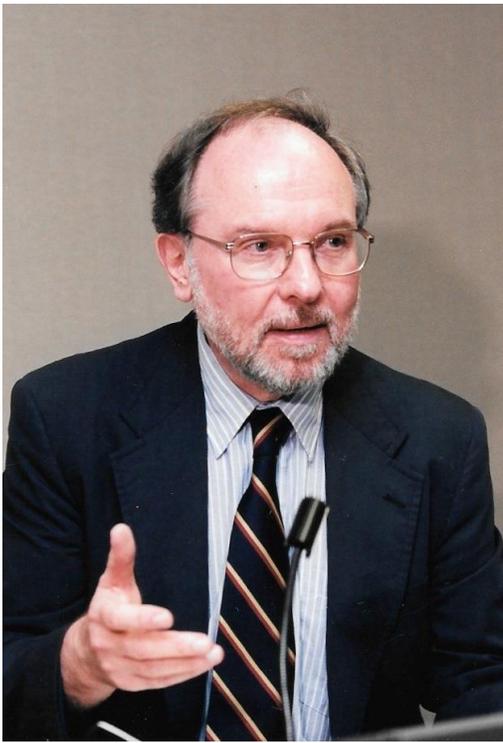
Speaker: Michael C. C. Adams

Topic: *Living Hell: The Dark Side of the Civil War*

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org or call it in to Tom Williams at 513-563-2665. Leave a message, if necessary. 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 8, 2016.**

March Speaker:

Michael C. C. Adams, Professor Emeritus of History at Northern Kentucky University, will talk about his 2014 book, *Living Hell: The Dark Side of the Civil War*. Mr. Adams is sensitive to the fact that not all the Civil War experience was blood, mud, misery, and grief; there was heroism, idealism, quiet courage, and an awe-inspiring capacity for endurance. But Michael wanted to depict all of the hardships that Civil War people endured in hopes of helping to provide a fuller picture of the war. He has brought back from the shadowed past as many ordinary people as possible to tell in their own words what they experienced on the dark side of war.



Michael C. C. Adams

Michael C. C. Adams grew up in Nottinghamshire, England, nurtured by legends of Robin Hood and Ivanhoe. But he was most influenced by the story of the Pilgrim Fathers, many of whom left England from Scrooby village, where Michael went to elementary school. His youthful interest in America was furthered by reading *The Red Badge of Courage*. After attending the universities of Wales and Sussex, Michael joined the faculty of Northern Kentucky University in 1972, serving in a number of administrative and academic capacities before retiring as Regents Professor of History Emeritus.

Michael's first book, *Our Masters the Rebels*, a study of generalship, won the Jefferson Davis Prize from the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. He then published books on World War I, World War II, and the treatment of war in popular culture, from knights to drones, before returning to the Civil War in 2014 with *Living Hell: The Dark Side of the Civil War*.



President's Report

...from Tom Williams

Year 2016 is off to a good start, CCWRT-wise. Our first two round table speakers brought to us new information and a perspective on topics that I frankly didn't know much about. Dan Bauer, our Program Chair, at our recent winter Board meeting, reviewed the lineup for next year's speakers starting in September 2016, and, boy, will these people be something! We will have a lineup of outstanding regional and national speakers coming to our podium. All will be presenting topics that will tweak your interest and help to move along your knowledge base. But, if you are like me, there is always room up there for more, in what for me is probably a half-empty noggin.

At that winter Board meeting, we kicked around other ideas that really got me thinking. One would be to hold a true "round table." Now being somewhat of a newer guy to the Cincy Round Table, at first I missed what this was. I was told it would be a meeting where Civil War topics would be discussed, not using a speaker or lecturer as we have now, but rather, sort of a panel-like gathering made up of our own members acting as moderators, taking questions, and leading the discussion on a topic presented from the floor.

The more I thought about this, it reminded me of the discussions often held around the dinner table while on

one of our CCWRT battlefield trips. These discussions often started by talking about something we saw that day, but then drifted off to all kinds of other Civil War topics. “Old timers” at the Board meeting told me that was the original theme of round tables across America when they were first formed in the 1940s, and, thus, the name Round Table came about. Our own round table also used to hold round table meetings, or maybe better called, “general discussion topic” nights.

Perhaps, too, for me, the atmosphere of sitting at a table with possibly a fireplace going in the background and with friends, and also with a beer or something in hand, gave me that warm remembrance of our battlefield trip discussions. I think the Drake Center is a good central location for us, but, frankly, it is a hospital and is, of course, somewhat sterile. So, a decision was made.

Next December, a month with no normal round table meeting, we will sponsor an old fashioned Round Table. At this point, we don't know where it will be held, but it will be at a location that will have the option of getting a drink and even a snack. The drink could be iced tea, or maybe you would rather choose to have one of Sam Adams's seasonal brews. No out-of-town experts – just us asking each other questions or giving our answers on topics we know something about.

Who knows, maybe this will become an annual event and add another CCWRT date to your calendar. But until then, I will see you at the Drake, on a date that is already set: March 17th.

Items of Interest

Perryville Battlefield Round Table Tour

On **Friday, April 29 to Sunday, May 1**, Cincinnati CWRT member Darryl Smith will lead a tour of Perryville battlefield for the Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table, and they have invited the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table to join. Space is limited, so **contact Darryl at ohioatperryville@yahoo.com or call 513-321-1539** to reserve a spot. This should be a great Civil War weekend. It's a pristine battlefield and, if you haven't been to Perryville recently, you really haven't been there. When Darryl first went there in 1988, the park consisted of 98 acres. Now, it's over 1,300 acres. A recently acquired parcel, the site of the final Union line on the left, might be accessible when we get there.

Tentative Tour Schedule:

Friday afternoon, when we get there (later afternoon probably), we will go to Perryville and tour the Peter's Hill portion of the battlefield. This is the early morning action of October 8, 1862. It is also not within the state park boundaries (all private ground), so we will take as few vehicles as possible, find a place to park, and hike along the road. We can still get a good view of the field, and this will orient us to the rest of the battle which we'll cover on Saturday. For the Missouri folks, what little Missouri involvement at Perryville took place occurred on Peter's Hill. The 2nd and 15th Missouri infantry regiments, plus Battery G, 1st Missouri Light Artillery, were engaged here in the morning. There are a lot of Trans-Mississippi connections to the various units and commanders in this sector, and Andy Papen from the Mid Missouri group plans to discuss that during the tour. After completing this part of the battlefield, we will return to Danville, eat, and then do some campaign overview at the Hampton conference room. Darryl is planning a PowerPoint to assist in this overview. This could lead to some good discussion. Andy, for one, being a Bragg guy, has some non-traditional views of this campaign, and Darryl does as well.

Saturday morning is still somewhat up in the air as far as starting time. The park visitor center and museum opens at 9 a.m. The grounds are open earlier, so we might be able to do something prior to seeing the museum and visitor center. The visitor center is small, but has really good exhibits, some books for sale, and a video on the battle. To maximize our time on the field, we probably will limit this to an hour, which is plenty of time.

On the battlefield park itself, we will examine each sector of action. Remember that the Confederate attacks were conducted by three of Bragg's four divisions (one was not present at Perryville). We'll tour the area of Frank Cheatham's division attack, and then the area of Simon Buckner's and Patton Anderson's divisions' attacks. We haven't determined yet in what order; we might do Cheatham first, and the others next, or vice versa. This will be a full day on the field. We'll go, rain or shine, so pack accordingly. The only thing that would stop us is tornadic activity or lightning, and maybe not even then! Keep in mind that everything we have stated here regarding Saturday's schedule is still tentative; it might be altered between now and then, but we'll see the whole battlefield.

As we've discussed, Perryville is not a battlefield that can be toured via car; this will be largely on foot. We'll carpool to a few sites, and walk from there in order to minimize our travel time between sectors of the battlefield. It's a hilly son of a gun, too, but the terrain made a huge impact on how the battle was fought.

Sunday morning, we'll head home. Darryl is willing to take those who are interested to the Goodnight Cemetery, site of the only United States funded memorial to Confederate troops in the entire United States.

Lodging:

There are several hotels in Danville, Kentucky (none in Perryville). The Hampton Inn is the "headquarters hotel" for the weekend. You do not have to stay there should you choose to stay elsewhere, but they do provide a hot breakfast and are giving us a break on price. In addition, they have a conference room which we will access on Friday night after dinner for a campaign overview. Hotel contact information is:

Hampton Inn Danville
100 Montgomery Way
Danville, KY 40422
859-236-6200

The Hampton is holding a block of 10 rooms for our tour at \$104 per night. That's about \$15 (I think) less than usual price, so that's good. We'll be staying in Danville Friday night (April 29) and Saturday night (April 30). To get the reduced price on this block of rooms, tell them that you are with the Central Missouri Round Table or Tour. **Important:** *The block of rooms will be held until March 29, so make reservations prior to that if you want this hotel at the reduced rate.*

Food:

Perryville does not have a restaurant. Therefore, on Saturday, we'll take a cooler and our lunch and eat on the battlefield. Danville has several restaurants, including one really good pizza place, so we'll be fine on Friday and Saturday nights.

Travel Schedule for the Ohio folks:

It's about 2.5 hours from the Drake to Danville. Since we want to do a portion of the battle on Friday afternoon/evening prior to dinner, please make your travel plans to arrive at the Hampton no later than **3:30 p.m.**

Suggested Reading:

The best book is *Perryville: This Grand Havoc of Battle* by Kenneth Noe. Excellent campaign and battle study, and does a great job of covering the events leading up to the movement north into Kentucky.

Older, but still useful, is Kenneth Hafendorfer's *Perryville: Battle for Kentucky*. This was the first book-length study of Perryville; originally published in 1981.

Much newer (2009), but shorter is *The Civil War at Perryville: Battling for the Bluegrass* by Chris Kolakowski. It's shorter (less than 200 pages). It is a good overview, but obviously not a ton of detail in a book this size.

Ed Bearss Speaks on Ulysses S. Grant

Civil War historian and author Edwin C. Bearss will return to Georgetown, OH, for the ninth time on **Saturday, March 5, 2016**, to speak at the Gaslight Theater, 301 S. Main Street, Georgetown, OH. His topic will be "Ulysses: From Cadet to General." Bearss's lecture will be at **1:00 pm**. If time allows, there may be a book-signing immediately following the presentation. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door; seating is strictly first-come. Advanced tickets can be ordered through the Bailey House Bed & Breakfast by calling 937-378-3087, or by contacting the Purdy & Ring Law Office at 937-378-4119. For more information, please call 937-378-3087, or email baileyhou@frontier.com.

February Presentation ... submitted by Mark Silbersack



Gene Schmiel

At our February meeting, Gene Schmiel told us the story of the amazing life of Jacob Dolson Cox, a self-made "Renaissance man" who was, at various times, a military leader, office holder, university and business executive, scientist, and historian.

Mr. Schmiel is a retired Foreign Service officer who holds a doctorate from Ohio State and who has taught at several eastern Universities. His book *Citizen-General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era* was published in 2014 and is a History Book Club selection.

Mr. Schmiel suggested that Cox (1828-1900), a leading citizen of Cincinnati who is buried at Spring Grove, may be the most capable but least known celebrity in the City's history.

Cox began his public life as an "introverted intellectual," attending Oberlin College as a divinity student. He left there to practice law in 1853 in Warren, OH, where he helped found the Ohio Republican Party. He served one term in the Ohio House starting in 1859. Seeing war on the horizon,

he studied military tactics. When war came, he was appointed Brigadier General of Ohio Volunteers by Governor Dennison.

Cox's friend and superior George McClellan directed him to oversee training of new volunteer troops at Camp Dennison. Despite Cox's lack of any practical military experience, he was then sent with 2,500 of those troops to help pro-Union citizens in the Kanawha Valley. He and General Rosecrans succeeded beyond expectations, embarrassing Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

Cox's "Kanawha Division" later served with distinction in the 1862 Shenandoah and Maryland Campaigns. His troops took Frederick, Maryland, and routed the enemy at South Mountain. When the Federal 9th Corps commander died, Cox assumed its command just prior to Antietam. There, General Burnside sent Cox to attack on the left flank, where his men came close to sweeping Lee from the field, but a delay in launching the final assault allowed A.P. Hill's men to counterattack, leading to a draw. In Antietam's aftermath, Lincoln "fired" Cox's two "godfathers" (McClellan and Burnside), and Cox was sent with Burnside to Cincinnati (a non-combat posting).

Eventually, Cox was named deputy commander of General Schofield's Army of the Ohio and participated in the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. His men outflanked the Confederates at Kennesaw Mountain and then cut their supply line, causing them to abandon Atlanta. While top Federal commanders like Scott and Halleck had low regard for non-West Point officers and routinely derided "citizen generals," General Sherman saw Cox as different and asked him to "march to the sea," but Schofield needed Cox for other duties in the Western theater. Cox played a key role at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, stopping Hood's infantry charge towards a break in the middle of the Union line. Displaying great personal courage, Cox rallied the troops with "superb magnetism ... wresting victory from defeat." This battle effectively ended fighting in the West.

Cox also had an illustrious post-war career: Governor of Ohio (1865) for one term; Secretary of the Interior (1869); President of the Wabash Railroad (1873-77); U.S. Congressman (1887-89); Dean of the Cincinnati Law School (1880-97), and President of the University of Cincinnati (1885-89); back in Oberlin, he was a scientist and historian. Cox may be best known today for his well-researched, objective, and still influential Civil War history writings.

In short, in each of his vocations and avocations – as his gravestone says, "Soldier, Statesman, Scholar, Patriot" – Cox was an eminently capable leader. He was a Cincinnati of great skill and accomplishment, who should be better known and celebrated than he is today.



February Quiz:

1. Montgomery, Alabama, was the first capitol of the Confederate States of America. Approximately how long was Montgomery the capitol?
2. Charleston, South Carolina, surrendered 151 years ago today (February 18, 2016). Who accepted Charleston's surrender?
3. February 20, 1864, and February 21, 1862, are the anniversaries of two of the more out of the way Civil War battles. Name them.

4. How many African-American men who served in the Civil War received the Congressional Medal of Honor?
 - a. 11
 - b. 25
 - c. 2
 - d. 7
5. William Carney is considered the first African-American to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. In what battle did his heroic action take place?

Quiz Answers:

1. 2 ½ months
2. Alexander Schimmelfennig
3. Olustee, FL, and Valverde, NM Territory
4. 25
5. Fort Wagner presented May 23, 1900



Future Presentations:

Apr. 21, 2016	Stephen M. Hood, Huntington, WV <i>The Lost Papers of John Bell Hood</i>
May 19, 2016	William Alan Blair, Pennsylvania State University <i>The Dirty Business of Winning a Civil War: Combating Disloyalty</i>
Sep. 15, 2016	David G. Moore, Washington, DC <i>William S. Rosecrans and the Union Victory</i>
Oct. 20, 2016	Richard Swigert, Hamilton CWRT <i>CSS Shenandoah</i>
Nov. 17, 2016	David T. Dixon, Santa Barbara, CA <i>The Lost Gettysburg Address: The Civil War Odyssey of Charles Anderson</i>
Jan. 19, 2017	Theresa Leininger-Miller, University of Cincinnati <i>Illustrated Sheet Music of the Civil War</i>
Feb. 16, 2017	Mark Lause, University of Cincinnati <i>Illustrated Sheet Music of the Civil War</i>
Mar. 16, 2017	William "Jack" C. Davis, Virginia Tech TBD
Apr. 20, 2017	Wayne Motts, Harrisburg, PA <i>Pickett's Charge</i>
May 18, 2017	Philip Greenwalt, Everglades National Park TBD

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 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 \$20. 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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