



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>  
May, 2014 Issue

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Meeting Date: May 15, 2014

**Place: The Drake Center**

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

**(6:30) Dinner**

**(7:15) Business Meeting**

**(7:30) Speaker**

**Dinner Menu: *Southern Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,  
Mixed Greens, Dinner Rolls, and  
Warm Bread Pudding w/ vanilla sauce***  
**Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

**Speaker:** Greg Biggs, Clarksville (TN) Civil War Round Table

**Topic:** *The Fall of Nashville and the Rise of the Sirens*

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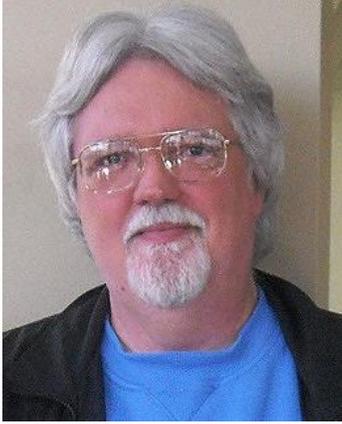
**Reservations:** If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to [ccwrt.dinners@gmail.com](mailto:ccwrt.dinners@gmail.com) or call it in to Lester Burgin at 513-891-0610. If you are making a reservation for more than yourself, please provide the names of the others. Please note that **all reservations must be in no later than 8:00 pm Tues, May 6, 2014.**

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## May Speaker:

For our May 2014 meeting, we welcome back Clarksville (TN) Civil War Round Table member Greg Biggs. Greg previously spoke to us in 2009 on the actual Battle of Nashville. This month's talk will be a prequel of sorts where Greg will talk about how the Nashville area became such a strategic area of the Western Theater in the first place. By late February 1862, the capital of Nashville had fallen to Union troops and most of Tennessee had been overrun. The causes of this debacle were numerous, from poor strategic planning, the loss of Forts Henry and Donelson and the collapse of the Confederate defense line from Cumberland Gap to Columbus, Kentucky. Greg will discuss how Nashville's capture set into motion events for both sides. For

the Union, it would become a massive supply depot from which the campaigns to take Georgia and Alabama and subdue the rest of Tennessee would be supplied. It also supplied the Union forces in the field countering the Confederate invasions in the fall of 1862 that tried to recapture the state. Of great interest is how the city became the political center of Tennessee Unionism. Guided by the hand of Military Governor Andrew



**Greg Biggs**

Johnson, a U.S. Senator from East Tennessee, the state's pro-Union stronghold, it was his mission to oversee the control of the state for the Union cause. His performance, certainly controversial, would earn him the nomination as Vice President in 1864. Johnson, of course, would become President after Lincoln's assassination in 1865, a remarkably rapid progression traced back to a key north central Tennessee city.

This month's talk will mark the seventh time Greg has spoken to us. Previous talks have focused on Nathan Bedford Forrest (1993 & 2000), the Atlanta Campaign (1994 & 1995), and the Confederate military infrastructure ("Confederate Department No. 2 – 2006). As many of us are aware, Greg's resume in the Civil War community is quite extensive, but here are some notable highlights: Greg is currently the President & Program Chair for the Clarksville (TN) Civil War Round Table. He is also the Program Chair for the Nashville (TN) Civil War Round Table. Greg has been a former Associate Editor for *Blue & Gray Magazine*. He has been Research Contributor or Primary Researcher for several books by well-known authors, including Gordon Rhea, Wiley Sword and Eric Wittenberg (forthcoming). Greg has published a number of articles in several Civil War publications, including *Blue & Gray Magazine*. He also writes a regular column on Civil War flags in *Civil War News*. As many of us also know, Greg is also a professional Civil War tour guide (He has just completed a tour of the Atlanta Campaign, which some of our members attended – and without a doubt immensely enjoyed!).



## President's Report

... Pat Homan

It is time for my last column to you. I want to start by thanking you for giving me the privilege of serving as President of the Round Table. It has been fun and an enjoyable four years. I have to thank a number of you for your assistance, starting with the Officers, both those currently serving and those who served previously. I have to thank the many of you who have volunteered to assist at various functions by manning our display or providing information at various functions.

I have to single out Dan Reigle, who has been my primary go-to person for over four years. Dan has served in virtually all capacities of the Round Table. He is a walking encyclopedia as well as a genealogical expert. I especially appreciate that he volunteered to extend his term as Trustee, to assist me this last year.

Others who need to be mentioned would include Dave and Dawn Mowery; the dynamic duo of Randy and

Becky; Bob Limoseth; and certainly Jim Stewart, who quietly collects the money at each meeting and who keeps the Round Table on a financially sound foundation; and Dan Bauer, who has done a great job as editor of the *CANISTER*. There are many more: Mike Rhein, another long serving member; Mike Rogers who did publicity; Darryl Smith, who handles our website; Ed and Sally Umbach, our publicity team; and all of you who have assisted and made my task a joy.

There are a number of events coming up this summer and, as usual, we will be looking for volunteers to help at our display. The first is the Cincinnati History Museum's Civil War Day, on Saturday, 14 June. That is also Flag Day, which is very appropriate. There will be others so check the Summer issue of the *Canister* and the website.

I have to commend our April speaker, John Fazio, for a thought provoking presentation. It is another example of new information on a subject that many consider as closed, as there is no new information. This is one of the many reasons I love history. I am looking forward to hearing Greg Biggs on Nashville issues on 15 May. As Tom has pointed out in his email reminder of the meeting, the May meeting is early, on the 15<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see all of you there.

Thanks again for a great four years.



## 2014 Preservation Project:

May is the last month to contribute your tax-deductible donations toward the restoration of the General Lew Wallace Study and Museum in Crawfordsville, IN. As part of our 2014 preservation project, 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 to our Treasurer, Jim Stewart. Help restore this architectural wonder, and then make plans to visit this historic Civil War and American Literary landmark.

## Items of Interest

**Perryville Spring Walking Tour:** On **May 17, 2014** 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). An evening roundtable talk to be held over drinks in Danville, most likely at V the Market or another suitable location. Attendees should wear comfortable clothing, sturdy walking shoes, bring water and snacks, and pack a lunch. History buffs and the general public are all welcome! Each session will involve three miles of walking, with some steep but short elevation

changes (none greater than 100 feet). Meet for the morning session at the picnic shelter in the park. When entering the park, take the first right and look for the shelter. For more information contact Darryl Smith at 513-321-1539 or [ohioatperryville@yahoo.com](mailto:ohioatperryville@yahoo.com).

**Spring Public Archaeology Day:** On **May 24**, 2014, the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, 1402 Highland Avenue, Fort Wright, KY, will conduct a public archaeological dig at Battery Hooper, one of the few remaining fortifications of the Union's extensive Northern Kentucky defenses during the Civil War. Sign up for a 2-hour session to help excavate Battery Hooper: 9- 11 am, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, or 2- 4 pm. Call 859-384-0354 for reservations, or email [ramagecivilwarmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:ramagecivilwarmuseum@gmail.com).

**Cincinnati Museum Center's Civil War Day:** On **June 14**, 2014, the Cincinnati Museum Center at 1301 Western Avenue downtown will host its third annual Civil War Day. This year's event commemorates the 150th anniversary of Cincinnati's Great Western Sanitary Fair—a multi-week event in 1864 that raised money for sick and wounded Civil War soldiers. Help recreate the Fair and head to Reakirt Auditorium for an up-close look at Civil War style during the Ladies Living Historical Society fashion show. Watch a performance of *Soldier, Come Home*, a story based on a family's correspondence during the Civil War. Then stop by Newsreel Theater for lectures led by members of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table and *The Siege of Cincinnati*, a documentary by local filmmaker Paige E. Malott. Activities on the front lawn, the Rotunda and Reakirt Auditorium are free and open to the public. Activities in the Cincinnati History Museum are free for Museum Center Members or included with the general museum admission. Call 513-287-7001 or visit <http://www.cincymuseum.org/events/civil-war-day> for more details.

**John Hunt Morgan's Great Raid "Thunderbolt Through Kentucky" Field and Walking Tour:** Join fellow CCWRT historian David L. Mowery and professional Kentucky tour guide Valerie J. Smith as they lead a bus and walking tour of Morgan's Great Raid in Kentucky on **July 10-12**, 2014. This tour will be Part 1 of a series that will cover Morgan's Great Raid in Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio (July 2-26, 1863). Beginning and ending at the [Breckenridge Inn](#) on 2800 Breckenridge Lane, Louisville, KY, from Thursday, July 10, at 7:30 pm to Saturday, July 12, around 5:00 pm, the registration fee of **\$395** per person includes all bus transportation, museum entries, Friday night lodging in Campbellsville, KY, two lunches, and Friday dinner. You can safely park your car at the Breckenridge Inn during the length of the tour. Reservations for the tour are required. You may sign up at <http://www.cwea.net/programs/1407-john-hunt-morgan%E2%80%99s-great-raid-thunderbolt-through-kentucky-%E2%80%93-field-walking-tour> or by calling 1-800-298-1861.

The tour includes visits to: the skirmish site at Marrowbone, where Captain Tom Quirk, the famed leader of Morgan's Scouts, was wounded and taken out of action for the remainder of the raid; the Burkesville ferry, where a portion of Colonel Basil Duke's brigade crossed the Cumberland River; the Columbia skirmish site, where Morgan's men defeated a detachment of archrival Colonel Frank Wolford's 1<sup>st</sup> Kentucky U.S. Cavalry (the "Wild Riders"); the bloody Tebbs Bend battlefield, considered by many historians as the most lopsided small battle of the Civil War; the Lebanon battlefield, where Morgan's younger brother Tom was killed; the site of the fight at Bardstown, where 25 Federal cavalymen harassed Morgan's division for nearly 24 hours; and Brandenburg crossing, where Morgan's division ferried themselves across the Ohio River using two captured steamboats. Follow Confederate Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan and his 2,500-man cavalry division as they traverse the state of Kentucky on their way to making history in Indiana and Ohio.

**Battery Hooper Days:** On **August 16-17**, 2014, the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum will be the setting for Battery Hooper Days 2014. There will be lots of different activities, including Civil War history presentations and displays, cannon firings, and live period music. Food will be available. The event will be held on Saturday, noon – 6 pm, and Sunday, noon – 5 pm. Parking at the neighboring Community of Faith Presbyterian Church parking lot is free.



## April Presentation:

... submitted by **Mark Silbersack**

For our April 2014 meeting, we welcomed back Cleveland Civil War Roundtable member John Fazio, who spoke on the topic “The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln.” John is a retired attorney and a student of history, in particular the Civil War, and has published numerous articles on the War and other subjects. After almost five years of research, John has recently completed a book on Lincoln’s assassination which bears the sub-title “The Great Kidnapping Ruse That Concealed the Attempted Decapitation of the United States Government.” It is currently awaiting publication.

John began his talk by asking this question: Thinking globally, what really happened on April 14, 1865? The answer is that, not only did Booth shoot Lincoln, but attempts were also made on the lives of Vice-President Johnson, Secretary of State Seward, and probably also Secretary of War Stanton and General Grant. Further, there is evidence that the lives of other key Northern officials were also in jeopardy.

This leads to another question: Why? As John says, there were two reasons. First, by April 1865, the Confederacy was in desperate straits. Lee had surrendered. Only drastic measures might snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. Even though its chance of success was minimal, “decapitation” of the Union’s top leadership could create chaos, delaying the end of Southern independence, and perhaps leading to a negotiated peace.



**John Fazio**

Second, there was also a desire for retribution. The South had suffered great destruction, from the depths of Georgia to the seizing of its capital in Richmond. And Confederate leaders were angry with Lincoln for (they may have believed) authorizing the so-called “Dahlgren Raid” aimed at killing them and for allowing the execution of John Yates Beall.

Fazio debunked the “conventional wisdom” that Booth was a “loose cannon” leading a small-scale conspiracy that aimed to kidnap Lincoln (an idea he labeled an “absurdity”) and then at the last minute improvised an assassination scheme. Instead, John marshaled a substantial volume of evidence, extracted from letters and reported statements of Confederate leaders and plotters before and after the fact, to show that Booth was a member of the Confederate Secret Service who led just one of several “action teams” created by Richmond to carry out a broader assassination plot.

John points out that the terrorist “Harney Raid,” hoping to blow up part of the White House, killing Lincoln and several Cabinet members, was aborted when Northern troops intercepted and captured the raiders outside Washington on April 9, 1865. It was only then that the Booth action team hurriedly put its “contingency plan” into motion.

Finally, John concluded that it is “ludicrous” to think that members of the Confederate executive branch, including President Jefferson Davis and Secretary of State Judah Benjamin, were not privy to the plot. Indeed, he finds it likely that they conceived the plan, financed it, ordered it, lied about it afterwards – and “got away with murder,” since the higher-ups were never prosecuted for their role in Lincoln’s assassination.



## April Quiz:

1. This week 150 years ago Confederate General Abraham Buford returned to Paducah KY only 3 weeks after General Forrest’s successful raid. Why?
2. When sworn into the Senate on March 4, 1849, which political party did Salmon P. Chase represent?
3. Who was George McClellan’s running mate in 1864?
4. The word deadline first appeared during the Civil War. Where did it originate?
5. Name the Confederate spy who is often credited for the rebel victory at First Manassas.

## Quiz Answers:

1. The newspapers were reporting that Forrest had missed 150 horses that were concealed in a foundry. Buford went back to get them. He was successful!
2. Free Soil
3. George H Pendleton
4. “The noun deadline, meaning a limiting mark or time, was coined at the Confederate prisoner-of-war camp Andersonville. The first written record of the word appeared in an 1864 report.”
5. Rose O’Neal Greenhow



## Future Presentations:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Sept. 18, 2014 | Don Rightmyer, Danville, KY<br><i>Kentucky's Bookends to the Civil War: Robert Anderson and Fort Sumter</i>   |
| Oct. 16, 2014  | Mark Holbrook, Ohio Humanities Council<br><i>Mr. Lincoln's Cameraman: An Evening with Mathew Brady</i>  |
| Nov. 20, 2014  | Tom Parson, Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center<br><i>Work for Giants: The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg</i>   |
| Jan. 15, 2015  | Stephen Brown, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table<br><i>God, Lincoln and the Civil War</i>  |
| Feb. 19, 2015  | Bernie O'Bryan, re-enactor<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>TBD</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 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 \$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.

**CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:**

|   |                  |                              |
|---|------------------|------------------------------|
| President: Pat Homan                        | 513-861-2057 (h) | homanfamily@fuse.net         |
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| Treasurer: Jim Stewart                      | 513-271-0738 (h) | jebstewart@fuse.net          |
| Secretary: Mark Silbersack                  | 513-977-8243 (h) | mark.silbersack@dinsmore.com |
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| Membership & Publicity: Ed and Sally Umbach | 513-522-9053 (c) | ed.umbach@gmail.com          |
| Trustee: Dan Reigle (2011-2013)             | 513-777-9255 (h) | dreigle@cinci.rr.com         |
| Trustee: Mike Rhein (2012-2014)             | 513-984-3227 (h) | arhein@earthlink.com         |

**Committees:**

|                              |                  |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Preservation Projects:       |                  |                        |
| Becky Burket & Randy Donohue | 513-771-3949 (h) | northstarians@AOL.com  |
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**Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!**

