



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, 2015 Issue

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Meeting Date: May 21, 2015

**Place: The Drake Center**

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

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

**Dinner Menu: *Hot Dogs, Angus Burgers, and Metts,*  
*Potato Salad, Baked Beans,*  
*Relish Plate, and Assorted Gourmet Cookies*  
Vegetarian Option: None**

**Speaker:** Christopher Phillips, University of Cincinnati

**Topic:** *North Star and Southern Cross: The Political War after the War in Ohio*

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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 Thursday, May 14, 2015.**

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## May Speaker:

Our understandings of our national past and present interpret a timeless border between North and South, with the Civil War serving as confirmation that distinct cultures on either side of the Ohio River fought over separate devotions to slavery and freedom. In Ohio, politics straddled both a north-south and an east-west border during this war, and played out as a state deeply divided over the war's coming, emancipation, and later Reconstruction amendments. The cultural politics of war memory and political positions forced the

residents of Ohio into new regional identities. Situated as former Westerners, Ohio's residents who had had different trajectories in wartime evolved as Northerners, and more complicatedly, as Midwesterners, by re-narrating the war and themselves. This talk will explain how postwar Ohioans reconciled the Civil War's divisions by using war politics as a wedge between parties and peoples.



Christopher Phillips is Professor of History and Department Head at the University of Cincinnati. His six published books have focused variously upon slavery and freedom, emancipation, war, race, politics, and memory during and after the Civil War era, with particular focus on the Border States. His current book project, *The Rivers Ran Backward: The Civil War on the Middle Border and the Making of American Regionalism*, will be published by Oxford University Press in October 2015. From 1999 to 2009, Christopher served as co-editor of *Ohio Valley History*, a peer-reviewed, quarterly journal of regional history. In 2009, he was appointed as a Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians. He lives in Glendale, Ohio, the nation's first planned community (1855), with his wife, Jill, and two sons, Grayson and Maddox.

Christopher Phillips



## President's Invitation

...from Tom Williams

Hey Everyone:

It's time we celebrate!

The May meeting will be the end of this year's Round Table meetings, and I think our speakers during this campaign have been great. And this May is also the end of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, and to celebrate, we are having a picnic.

This would be a great Round Table meeting to bring a friend. All are welcome – just as it is for all of meetings. There is no requirement to belong to the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table, and we encourage people from other local Civil War interest groups to attend. The dinner cost will be less, just **\$15.00**, or no charge if you come after dinner, but then you will have missed the fellowship and all. We will still have a wonderful speaker, as well as the usual stuff. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm, and the program will start at 7:30 pm. So, start rounding up your guests. It's a wonderful chance to meet old friends, make new ones, and network around our mutual passion: the American Civil War.

To get your reservation in now, just e-mail [reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org](mailto:reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org) or you can phone your reservation in at: **(513) 891-0610**.

# Items of Interest

## Perryville Walking Tour Weekend (May 15-16) ... by Darryl Smith

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

Guides: **Chuck Lott** and **Darryl Smith**, with special guest, historian/author **Stuart Sanders**

Information: **Darryl Smith** (see Darryl's contact information under "Cincinnati CWRT Officers" below).

### May 15th – Dry Canteen Trail Walk

This walk replicates the Federal First Corps approach to the Perryville battlefield. Meet by the Confederate Cemetery at **Perryville Battlefield SHS at 10:00 a.m.** 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. Noted author Stuart Sanders will be joining us for the tour and the evening session. Attendees should wear comfortable clothing, wear sturdy walking shoes, bring water and snacks, and pack a lunch. The general public is welcome! **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 – 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Post-Tour Gathering with Stuart Sanders – Civil War Hall

## 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).

## **Jacob Hirst's Civil War ... submitted by Martin Gibbons**

My great-grandfather, Jacob Gossin Hirst, born in Cincinnati on March 7, 1832, was a riverboat engineer on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers prior to the Civil War. Early in the war, his steamer was captured by Confederate forces in New Orleans. On May 1, 1861, he was appointed to the Cincinnati Police by Mayor George Hatch as a lieutenant at the Hammond Street station. There are newspaper articles about Jacob's capture of counterfeiters and confidence men.

Jacob's brother, Samuel Hirst, was elected President of City Council and President of the Cincinnati Home Guard. He died of tuberculosis in 1861 (*Cincinnati Daily Gazette*, April 7,11,&12, 1861, and August 31, 1861). Jacob's wife Julia Singer Hirst (born January 9, 1836, at Melksham, Wiltshire, England) and her sister had contests to see who could "rescue" the most escaped slaves and get them to Underground Railroad safe houses in Cumminsville, Northside, or College Hill in present-day Cincinnati.

Here printed for the first time is a letter to my grandfather, William Norwood Hirst, from his mother Julia. William was a missionary in South Africa and at Mount Selinda Mission, Southern Rhodesia, from 1900 to 1911. In the letter, Julia tells how in 1862, Mayor Hatch assigned Jacob to lead a group of policemen aboard the steamer *Magnolia* to rescue and return wounded soldiers from the Second Battle of Bull Run [Shiloh]. Jacob was discharged from the Union Army on September 24, 1864, in Evansville, Indiana.

Below is a copy of a letter from Julia Augusta Singer Hirst [born Jan. 1836] in Cincinnati to her youngest son, Rev. William Norwood Hirst while he was a missionary at Mt. Silinda Mission in Southern Rhodesia. He had written to ask for stories of his father's life [Jacob Gossin Hirst- born Mar. 1832]. Only a few changes have been made in spelling and punctuation for clarity. Editor's notes are in [brackets](#).

Cumminsville June 15th, 1910

Reminiscences of Early days, written for my son William

At the Breaking out of the War, [[Civil War- Apr. 12,1861](#)] caused by the determination of the South to maintain Slavery as well as to establish Self government She saw fit to secede from her Parents, but her Parents said No, and like a refractory Child, had to be subdued and brought back where She belonged, and here we see the Hand of Omnipotence and the manner Employed to bring about the destruction of that Awful Curse Slavery that our fair land could be of a Truth called God's own land and the oppressed and downtrodden of other lands. So War was the result. Oh, my, how many anxious hearts there were, for we must bear in mind the North had her loved ones in that Sunny South land as well as the South had her loved ones in the North. How well do I remember when the news came that Sumpter had been fired on. There are no words that can describe the awful excitement and grief, of those days. Your Father [[Jacob Gossin Hirst, Sr., born Mar. 1832](#)] was a Steamboat Engineer and at the breaking out of the War he with his Boat was caught at the Wharf in New Orleans. The boat was Confiscated, and he allowed twelve hours to get out of N.O. or to go into the Southern Confederacy, or the Navy. Now, All transportation north was cut off and the only way to get out was to walk out. This your Father did. He walked to Memphis, and then footsore and weary, with his boots all in rags, he happened to get transportation part of the way home, and by going at short distances at the time, he succeeded in getting home. Judge if you can, with what anxiety and Prayer, every inch of that Journey was made. I did not know that he walked, all communication being cut off. At last I got word like this, homeward bound all well. It took a little

while for him to recuperate and then he was all right. Your Uncle Samuel B. Hirst was Deputy Sheriff and also President of City Council at that time, and as there was nothing doing in your Father's line of work, and nothing realizable in any other line to be done, Sam persuaded your Father to accept a place on the Police Force. The Force at that time was not as it is now. There was the Chief and his Lieutenants with the Patrolmen. So your Father was made Lieutenant of Police at Hammond St. Station house under Mayor George Hatch. By this time the Government had found that the call for one hundred day men was only the beginning. Yes, they thought that the South would be very easily subdued, but they found that they had a monster to deal with. Cincinnati was placed under Martial law, with Lew Wallace as Provost Martial. The city was full of soldiers and some were very disorderly and Wallace ordered them to the Station houses to be locked up. Your Father being on watch or duty and having received orders from the Mayor not to let them take possession of Civil authority, he refused them admission and then Wallace sent for your Father, first by command. Of course, he did not respond. Then he sent by Request, then he went and when he stood before that man, Wallace viewed him from head to foot, and then said "By what authority do you stand in my presence uncovered?" Then your Father answered "By the right of a freeborn American Citizen," and before it ended he begged your Father's Pardon for his rudeness. He reminded Wallace that he was not a Soldier and that he had no authority over the civil law, and advised him to have barracks built for the soldiers, which they did, and had great need of them too. One after another was built and they were filled, and afterwards many of them were turned into Hospitals. This was a crowded city. About this time occurred that awful Battle of Bull Run [Second Battle of Bull Run- August 28 – 30, 1862] when our troops were so awfully cut up and lost the day- where the Earth was strewn with the Dead and Dying. The Mayor of our city sent a steamboat under command of your Father to render all service possible for the relief of the poor wounded men. Oh, how heart rending that was. My poor Jake. Oh how he suffered through sympathy for them. I think that I still have a clipping from the paper with regard to it. If so, I will enclose it. [?] For the space of six months your Father never touched a bit of meat. He could not look at it, let alone eat it. Well, he became tired of the life on the force and when the Mayor was changed at the Election, he tendered his Resignation. He was Reappointed, but would not Serve. It was then that the men on the force Presented The Silver Service. I had the speech he made in response to the Presentation for many years. Then your Uncle Chester borrowed it and failed to return it. That Speech was published in all of the daily papers. It was simply Grand. How I wish that I had it now. It would give you an idea of your Father's ability. At this time Capt. Hopkins had built two Boats, the Ginnie and Lizzie Hopkins and he came for your Father to get them in readiness for service. They took the Ginnie down to the Wharf and as soon as she was ready, the Government impressed her into service and your Father with her. Oh, the desolation I felt to have him go away at such an awful critical time\*, and leave me with my two little children. [Charles Daniel Hirst, born Oct. 29, 1858 and Mary Julia Hirst, born Sep. 16, 1860]. I felt that I could not live through that time, but like many other things, it was endured and I lived on. Then the war was on in full force. I took the daily paper (for there was not many that could take it) and my kitchen was filled every morning by the women in the neighbourhood whose husbands and sons were in the field, to hear the War news. Poor souls. How anxious they were. How vividly it all comes to me now, and I can hear again the voice of my dear little girl singing snatches of war songs. [Mary died in Nov. 1863. She was 3 years old.]

I will send this now and will send more at another time. Hope that you are better by this time. [This may be referring to one of his bouts with malaria.] Oh, my poor dear Boy. How I would love to care for you and comfort you if I could. Remember me in love to each one and be sure that you have the love of

Mother

Note from my cousin Dr. Peter Frame:

I think that in her letter to William, Julia mistook Bull Run for the Battle of Shiloh (April 6-8, 1862, also known as the Battle of Pittsburgh Landing, Tennessee). It was the bloodiest battle in American history up to that time, and was a wake-up to both sides that this war was for real. Casualties of both sides totaled more than 23,000 men. Over 8,000 wounded Union troops had to be evacuated, and over the next several weeks, hundreds of river boats brought them north - mostly to Cincinnati. Note also that General Lew Wallace was reprimanded by General Grant for his failure to contribute to the Union effort.

Reference to Underground Railroad safe houses around Cincinnati:

<https://www.alookatcincinnati.us/2015/02/underground-railroad-cincinnati-look-cincinnati-played-major-role-underground-railroad/>

At the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, National Civil War Museum CEO Wayne Motts took the CCWRT on a whirlwind tour through the Civil War, as evidenced by twenty-one fascinating items from the museum's collection. Wayne's choice of diverse items from each time period of the war ranged chronologically from the pen used by Virginia Governor John Wise to sign the death warrant for John Brown in 1859, to a playbill advertising the upcoming performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865.



**Wayne Motts**

Opened in 2001, the National Civil War Museum (NCWM) in Harrisburg, PA, is a unique collaborative effort between the State of Pennsylvania and the City of Harrisburg. The state built the museum building, while the city contributed matching funds to purchase the initial collection for the museum. And what a collection it is: 4,000 three-dimensional tangible objects and 21,000 archival items, including a seven-star Confederate flag (denoting the Confederacy in its first stage of secession) that flew over Fort Sumter. Captain (later Colonel) Robert Pittman, 13<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry (CS), was severely wounded in his leg at Shiloh, his blood soaking into the sash he wore, which is now in the NCWM collection. 5<sup>th</sup> OVI Private Abraham Henning, a Cincinnati carpenter born in Ireland, wrote a letter just after Antietam describing the battle in which the 5<sup>th</sup> fired more than 100 shots per man and engaged in hand-to-hand combat. You can see this letter at the NCWM. Among the weapons in the NCWM collection are a custom-made revolver presented to Brigadier General William Grierson by General Augur in appreciation for "Grierson's Raid" in 1863, and a Colt Navy Revolver with the initials "W.C.Q." stamped into the metal plate on the handgrip. (Hint on the initials: A young boy saw this weapon being dropped by a Confederate officer in Lawrence, Kansas, on 21 August 1863, and retrieved it afterwards.) The collection includes 270 letters written by Joshua Chamberlain; the sword carried by Confederate Major General Joseph Kershaw during the 1864-1865 campaigns in Virginia; and the Bible that Robert E. Lee obtained during the Mexican War and lost when it was captured with his wagon train on 5 April 1865.

It was a fascinating presentation, and we are grateful to Wayne for his time and effort in putting together a set of NCWM holdings that would, supplemented by his narrative, provide an overview of the entire war, 150 years to the week after its conclusion. For more information on NCWM, including membership and other opportunities for support, go to their website at <http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/home.aspx> .

We were also grateful that Wayne's parents, Warren and Daisy Mott of Columbus, joined us for the meeting. They are the founders of Motts' Military Museum in Groveport, OH, <http://www.mottsmilitarymuseum.org/> .



## April Quiz:

1. What personal favor did Lincoln ask of Grant in January 1865? Grant obliged, thus allowing Lincoln to keep the peace in his immediate family.

2. According to the War Department, when is the official end of the Civil War?
3. Throughout the Civil War, Secretary of War Stanton had a bad habit of making scapegoats of Union generals. At the war's end, he suggested that General Sherman's generous surrender terms to Johnston amounted to insubordination, or even treason. General Godfrey Weitzel also got hit with Stanton's ire. What did Stanton accuse Weitzel of doing in Richmond, Virginia?
4. Who happened to be in Cincinnati and reported for work at Pike's Opera House on April 15, 1865, having no knowledge of what had occurred the night before at Ford's Theatre?
5. In whose barn was John Wilkes Booth hiding when he was shot April 26, 1865?

## Quiz Answers:

1. Lincoln asked Grant if he would find a spot on his staff for his son, Robert.
2. August 20, 1866.
3. Stanton said Weitzel had no authorization to allow the Virginia legislature to meet in Richmond, VA, to enact the nullification of Virginia's secession ordinance.
4. Junius Booth, Jr.
5. Richard Garrett.



## Future Presentations:

Sep. 17, 2015	William Vodrey, Cleveland Civil War Round Table <i>Ohio's Civil War Governors</i>
Oct. 15, 2015	Michael Panhorst, Auburn, AL <i>Lest We Forget: Memorial Art and Architecture on Civil War Battlefields</i>
Nov. 19, 2015	Andrew Homan, 6th Ohio Volunteer Infantry <i>Reenacting Gettysburg and Other Battles</i>
Jan. 21, 2016	Gary Johnson, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table <i>Countering Mallory's Infernal Machines</i>
Feb. 18, 2016	Gene Schmiel, Washington, DC <i>Citizen General: Jacob D. Cox</i>
Mar. 17, 2016	Dr. Michael Adams, Northern Kentucky University <i>Living Hell: The Dark Side of the Civil War</i>
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>

# 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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