
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](#)

November, 2015 Issue

Meeting Date: November 19, 2015

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(7:15) Business Meeting

(6:30) Dinner

(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: *Country Ribs and Sauerkraut,
Traditional Tossed Salad, Red Potatoes,
Rye Dinner Rolls, and German Chocolate Cake***
Vegetarian Option: Upon request

Speaker: Andrew Homan, 6th Ohio Volunteer Infantry

Topic: *Reenacting Gettysburg and Other Battles*

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 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, November 10, 2015.**

November Speaker:

Our November program will be a double feature, with both presentations on the subject of the Gettysburg Sesquicentennial event. First, we will welcome CCWRT member Bert Sheard, who will describe his experiences from a spectator's perspective using photographs he took of the event. Next, we will welcome Andrew Homan to the podium. Mr. Homan has been serving as a First Corporal of the 6th Ohio Volunteer Infantry reenacting group since 2009. In addition to talking about his portrayals and reenacting in general, Andrew will discuss in detail what it was like to be a part of the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg event in 2013. He will reveal the inner workings of reenacting as well as explain how reenactments are staged. The Gettysburg reenactment was a special experience for Mr. Homan that left him with lasting memories. Andrew Homan is a resident of Cincinnati and a student of the University of Cincinnati.



Andrew Homan



President's Report

...from Tom Williams

At the October Round Table, it was announced that the preservation project for this year is to aid the Harriet Beecher Stowe (HBS) house in its efforts to advance its education program with new graphical materials, signage, and such. Of all the projects submitted for our consideration, this one easily rose to the top of the list for our approval.

A recent poll on Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio's lasting impact on the Civil War identified Harriet Beecher Stowe and the efforts of the Underground Railroad highest on the list. This probably makes sense, as our closest Civil War battlefield – the various forts in Northern Kentucky – never saw any action beyond pot shots along the skirmish lines. I say this not to belittle the efforts to quickly build these defensive positions, or to understate the importance of the formation of the Black Brigade; rather, it's just not quite the same as what a visitor might expect to see on their first planned visit to, say, Vicksburg or Shiloh.

As the board continued its discussion on the HBS house, a lot of additional ideas bubbled up. Perhaps there is more the Cincy Round Table could do to promote both the HBS house and its Civil War educational mission. Some of these ideas seemed to make sense, and more will be coming in the future. As for the house, we learned that it is also different in that it is not owned by the Federal or State government. This means no government money exists for staff or upkeep.

Money – that necessary evil that is the grease for any educational effort, even those run by volunteers. That is why if you go to the Cincy CWRT web site (<http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org/>) and then click on the "Preservation Project" tab at the top, you will find a convenient yellow *Donate* button to give some of your evil money to the HBS House preservation project. You can also just as easily make that donation an ongoing monthly donation. Do it once, and it is done until you tell us to stop.

Never let it be said that your Round Table would make it hard to relieve you of the distaste you might have by holding onto sums of those greenbacks, as they were called during that period of time in our history that is

so dear to us. Why, in fact, we will take anything, especially those new little rectangular cards made out of some odd semi-hard material that you now value as much as our United States Notes, authorized by Congress in February 1862, and affectionately called by the name “greenbacks.”

Items of Interest

Sustaining Members of 2015-2016

The Sustaining Member Level allows public recognition of persons who add dues contributions of \$25 or more onto their minimum annual dues in any fiscal year, to use toward the objectives and programs of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table. The CCWRT is proud to recognize and thank the following persons who have joined or have renewed their memberships this season at the Sustaining Member Level: Lester Burgin, Greg Fisher, Bob Haines, Albert Hallenberg, Bob Limoseth, John Linnenberg, David & Dawn Mowery, Dan Reigle, Mark Silbersack, Darryl & Jennifer Smith, Jim Stewart, Paul Weber, Jackie & Tom Williams.

2015-2016 CCWRT Preservation Project Announced

The CCWRT Preservation Project for the 2015-2016 campaign season will benefit the Harriet Beecher Stowe House located in the Walnut Hills suburb of Cincinnati. The funds raised will be used to create one or more free-standing mobile panels that will detail the lives of two of Harriet's half-brothers and a son who were actively involved in the Union war effort.. Donations are now being accepted to help us reach our goal of raising \$900 for this worthy cause! You can give (via Paypal) from our CCWRT web site at <http://cincinnatiwrt.org/preservation.html> or through the CCWRT treasurer at the meetings.



Many history enthusiasts are familiar with the moment when President Abraham Lincoln met Harriet Beecher Stowe in late 1862 and allegedly turned to her and said, “So you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war!” This quote referenced Beecher Stowe’s wildly popular 1852 anti-slavery novel, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, and its impact on public opinion. Beecher Stowe had traveled to Washington to speak with Lincoln about the importance of signing the Emancipation Proclamation.

The Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Inc., is requesting funds to create an interpretive panel that shares story of this apocryphal quote as well as the significant role of other Beecher family members in the Civil War. The panel will be designed to be free-standing and mobile, so that it could travel to other locations in addition to being displayed at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House. The panels would credit the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table for its contribution.

The panel would share information about the following Beecher family members:

Brevet Brigadier General James Beecher, Harriet Beecher Stowe’s half-brother—

James Beecher was a chaplain of the 1st Long Island Regiment and a Lieutenant Colonel in the 141st New York Infantry Volunteers. He spent some time out of the army to care for his wife, who died in 1863, but returned to recruit for an African-American regiment, the 1st North Carolina Infantry Volunteers.

Frederick William Stowe, Harriet Beecher Stowe's son—

Frederick Stowe was wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg but returned to war and fought throughout 1864. After the war, he battled alcoholism and disappeared after moving to California in 1870.

Henry Ward Beecher, Harriet Beecher Stowe's younger half-brother—

Henry Ward Beecher spent parts of the Civil War in London, England, on assignment from President Lincoln. He was tasked with persuading Great Britain to remain neutral. At the end of the War, Henry Ward Beecher gave a sermon at Fort Sumter when the United States flag was raised once more.

Presentation on Ulysses S. Grant and Minorities

History scholar Chris Burns will be speaking about Ulysses S. Grant and his treatment of minorities in both of his roles as Civil War general and as President of the United States. Burns' presentation will be held on **November 2, 2015, at 7:00 pm** at the Kenton County Library at 1992 Walton Nicholson Road, Independence, KY, and again on **November 7, 2015, at 6:30 pm** at the Campbell County Library at 3920 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY.

CCWRT Tour of Northern Kentucky's Civil War Batteries

On **Saturday, December 5**, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table members, guests, and visitors are welcomed to join CCWRT member and author David L. Mowery on a one-day caravan tour of the Civil War batteries of Northern Kentucky. Some of the sites are little known and rarely visited.

In May-June 1861, Major General George B. McClellan, keenly understanding the need to protect the seventh largest city in the United States from a possible Confederate thrust through Kentucky, ordered military engineer Lt. Orlando M. Poe to survey and map the hills south of Cincinnati that would later serve as the site of the Northern Kentucky defensive line. However, it was not until September 1861 that Brigadier General Ormsby Mitchel, commander of the Department of Ohio, headquartered at Cincinnati, ordered a nationally known engineer, Colonel Charles Whittlesey of the 20th Ohio Infantry, to begin the planning and construction of the forts and batteries associated with these defenses. Whittlesey originally called for 17 distinct fortifications to be built along a ten-mile front from present-day Ludlow to Fort Thomas, but because of the increase in fighting elsewhere in the Western Theater, available troops dwindled. Whittlesey was only able to successfully design and build nine fortifications (Fort Mitchel and eight batteries) in Northern Kentucky from September 1861 to February 1862.

After the Union defeat at the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky, on August 30, 1862, Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith's army captured the state capitol at Frankfort and sent a force of about 8,000 men under Brigadier General Henry Heth (of Gettysburg fame) northward in an attempt to capture Cincinnati, if practicable. Major General Horatio Wright, commander of the Department of the Ohio, immediately called upon Major General Lew Wallace to prepare a defense of the Queen City.

Wallace, realizing the considerable insufficiency of the defenses of Northern Kentucky, ordered Captain James H. Simpson to design and build additional batteries to supplement the nine fortifications that had been built prior to February 1862. Captain Simpson completed the line of batteries, forts, and connecting entrenchments of Northern Kentucky by the autumn of 1863. Promoted to colonel, Simpson remained in control of the defenses for the remainder of the Civil War. During the last two years of the war, although he managed to mount a proper number of artillery pieces for all of the 31 batteries and forts, Simpson struggled to maintain even a regiment-sized guard for the ten-mile defensive line, because experienced troops were needed elsewhere. Simpson often borrowed convalescents from the tri-state's hospitals to serve as his guards and artillerymen. In the summer of 1865, the earthworks were abandoned to the original landowners, who received no compensation from the U.S. government except for the items that the residents found left behind by the army. The fortifications soon fell into disrepair and obscurity. Most of the earthworks were destroyed

by development in the second half of the 20th century, with only six of the 31 fortifications having any remnants left to observe today. However, the James A. Ramage Museum was established in June 2005 near the site of Battery Hooper to commemorate and study the Northern Kentucky defenses that played a crucial role in protecting Cincinnati, Covington, and Newport from Confederate attack during the Civil War.

For this caravan tour, we will meet at **9:00 a.m., Dec. 5**, at the **Fort Thomas Community Center, 801 Cochran Drive, Fort Thomas, KY 41075**. Directions from the I-471 bridge over the Ohio River are here: <https://goo.gl/maps/GpYEBS89SVJ2> . The tour is free, except for personal expenses such as gas and food. We will carpool from the Community Center unless persons are interested in driving only a portion of the tour. Contact tour director Darryl Smith at 513-321-1539 or ohioatperryville@yahoo.com for more details.

The itinerary includes visits to the site of Battery Lee, Gen. George H. Thomas marker, site of Fort Whittlesey, Battery Shaler (well preserved), Battery Holt (mostly intact), Wallace's pontoon bridge site over the Licking River, site of Fort Mitchel and the skirmish with Gen. Henry Heth's Confederates, site of Fort Wright, James A. Ramage Museum, site of Battery Hooper, Battery Coombs entrenchments, Battery Bates (the best preserved Civil War fort in Northern Kentucky), and Newport Barracks Monument. We will find a lunch spot to eat along the way, and we will have dinner together for those who wish to make a day of it.

October Presentation ... submitted by Mark Silbersack

At our October meeting, Michael W. Panhorst presented "Lest We Forget: Memorial Art & Architecture of Civil War Battlefield Monuments." It was an illustrated "brisk hike through 150 years of history and a half dozen battlefields." Mr. Panhorst, from Auburn, Alabama, is an historian of art and architecture, curator, teacher, and historic preservationist. He has lectured widely and has published his photographs in numerous magazines.



Michael Panhorst

The earliest Civil War battlefield monuments were funerary, sponsored by soldiers to mark the sites where honored companions died in battle. The first such work was the Barton Monument at Manassas in 1861. Later monuments were erected to commemorate the service of units who fought at specific locations or the occurrence of important events. Mr. Panhorst identified the Vicksburg Surrender Interview Site Monument as the first non-funerary monument. He then used photos of similar monuments to show how their patronage, design, production techniques, iconography, and message content affect what we see today.

Some monuments develop more general themes. Thus, the sculptures of Victory, War, History, Peace, and Plenty on Gettysburg's Soldiers National Monument (begun in 1865) provides easy-to-read symbols, and Antietam's tall monolith of a soldier standing at parade rest shows early recognition that the real hero of the War for the North was the common man doing his patriotic duty.

The creation of battlefield art intensified around 1888, as numerous monuments were placed in five National Military Parks at Antietam, Chickamauga/Chattanooga, Gettysburg, Shiloh, and Vicksburg. Mr. Panhorst provided two Gettysburg examples: the General Warren Monument (1888) at the very spot on Little Round Top so critical in the second day's fighting, and the First Minnesota Monument (1897) depicting a crucial bayonet charge to close a breach in the Union position.

A common theme emerging in that era, and continuing up to the 1930s, was national reconciliation, as seen

in the 1888 “Peace and Unity” relief at Vicksburg; the 1913 New York State Peace Monument at Lookout Mountain; and the Eternal Light Peace Memorial at Gettysburg in 1938.

In the 1880s, Northern state associations began erecting monuments to mark sites where their soldiers engaged in battle. Some such state memorials became quite elaborate after 1900. Southern states did likewise a little later. Mr. Panhorst cited the Confederate Monument at Shiloh (1917), a Beaux Arts design telling the entire story of that battle; the many Southern monuments erected at Vicksburg in the 1960s and at Gettysburg in the 1970s; and the Missouri Monument at Vicksburg, an elaborate celebration of reconciliation located where Missouri volunteers on both sides fought each other.



October Quiz:

1. Author of twelve books, novels, and histories of Lee, Grant, Sherman, Lincoln, and Hitler, he spoke to us 20 Sep. 2012. He died 14 Aug. 2014, right after finishing the manuscript to his last book, *First to Fly*. His name is _____.
2. Elizabeth Brown Pryor, winner of the Jefferson Davis Award for Civil War authorship in 2007 for her book *Reading the Man: a Portrait of Robert E. Lee through His Private Letters* and author of *Clara Barton: Professional Angel* (1987), on 13 April 2015 was _____.
3. Another opera regarding the Civil War era (remember Philip Glass’s “Appomattox”?), composed by poet, pianist, and conductor Matthew Aucoin, premiered at the American Repertory Theatre in Boston in the spring of 2015. Its title is “Crossing,” a word to remind us of a poem written by the opera’s protagonist. His name is _____.
4. Who was the West Point superintendent who authorized the dismissal of James McNeill Whistler in 1854?
5. Name the man pictured in the photo below. Hint: He was a civilian.



Bonus Question: The American Civil War Museum's (previously known as The Museum of the Confederacy) “1865 Person of the Year” Award was announced on 21 Feb. 2015. The winner was _____.

Quiz Answers:

1. Charles Bracelen Flood, age 84
Ref.: "The Air Over There (Review of *First to Fly*)," Ross, *Wall Street Journal*, 30-31 May 2015, p.C6.
2. killed in an auto accident by a speeding driver
Ref.: *Museum of the Confederacy Magazine*, Spring 2015, "Elizabeth Brown Pryor: An Appreciation," p.19.
3. Walt Whitman
NOTE: The poem's title is "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry."
Ref.: "A Libretto for Walt Whitman," Waleson, *Wall Street Journal*, 4 June 2015, p. D5.
4. Robert E. Lee
NOTE: Whistler was dismissed for failing chemistry and accumulating 240 demerits.
Ref.: "Why so Grumpy?," Gamerman, *Wall Street Journal*, 3 July 2015, p.D6.
5. William Henry Herndon
Ref.: *Google*, "Wm. H. Herndon."

Bonus Answer: Clara Barton

NOTE: Barton was nominated by Elizabeth Brown Pryor. Other nominees were Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln, the Freedmen, and Jefferson Davis.

Ref.: *Museum of the Confederacy Magazine*, Spring 2015, "Elizabeth Brown Pryor: An Appreciation," p.19.



Future Presentations:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 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> |
| Sep. 15, 2016 | David G. Moore, Washington, DC
<i>William S. Rosecrans and the Union Victory</i> |
| Oct. 20, 2016 | William C. "Jack" Davis, Virginia Tech University
TBD |
| Nov. 17, 2016 | David T. Dixon, Santa Barbara, CA
<i>The Lost Gettysburg Address: The Civil War Odyssey of Charles Anderson</i> |
| Jan. 16, 2017 | Theresa Leininger-Miller, University of Cincinnati
<i>Illustrated Sheet Music of the Civil War</i> |

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.

CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:

President: Tom Williams	513-608-4391 (h)	T.Williams@outlook.com
Vice-President: Lester Burgin	513-891-0610 (h)	LesterBurgin@gmail.com
Treasurer: Jim Stewart	513-271-0738 (h)	jebstewart@fuse.net
Secretary: Mark Silbersack	513-977-8243 (h)	mark.silbersack@dinsmore.com
Program Chair: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h)	dbauer002@cinci.rr.com
Newsletter Editor: David Mowery	513-774-9544 (h)	dmowery11@fuse.net
Membership & Publicity: Ed and Sally Umbach	513-522-9053 (c)	eumbach@gmail.com duchess792003@yahoo.com
Trustee: Bob Limoseth (2015-2017)	513-777-2160 (h)	rlimo@fuse.net
Trustee: Pat Homan (2014-2016)	513-861-2057 (h)	homanfamily@fuse.net

COMMITTEES:

Activities: Darryl Smith	513-321-1539 (h)	ohioatperryville@yahoo.com
Preservation Projects:		
Becky Burket & Randy Donohue	513-771-3949 (h)	northstarians@AOL.com
Webmaster: Mike Rogers	859-907-3096 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
CCWRT ListServ: Mike Rogers	859-907-3096 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
CCWRT ListServ Address		ccwrt@cincinnatiwrt.org