



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>  
September, 2014 Issue

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Meeting Date: September 18, 2014

**Place: The Drake Center**

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

**(6:30) Dinner**

**(7:15) Business Meeting**

**(7:30) Speaker**

**Dinner Menu: *Chicken Cordon Bleu, Red Roasted Potatoes,  
Broccoli & Cheese, French Salad, Dinner Rolls, and  
Carmel Nut Apple Pie***

**Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

**Speaker: Don Rightmyer, Harrodsburg, KY**

**Topic: *Kentucky Bookends to the Civil War: Robert Anderson and  
Fort Sumter***

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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 Tues, September 9, 2014.**

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## September Speaker:

To kick off our 2014-2015 season, we are pleased to have Don Rightmyer speak to us. Some of us have heard Don's excellent presentations given at the annual Northern Kentucky Regional History Day, as well as other venues. For our September meeting, Don will outline the very interesting life of Kentucky native, Robert Anderson. Many of us may probably know Anderson's name as the commander of Fort Sumter. Continuous shelling from Confederate artillery forced the outgunned garrison to surrender in April 1861, but Anderson's four month stand without supplies made him a hero in the North (including the subject of a



Don Rightmyer

subsequent huge patriotic rally in New York City – over 100,000 attendees!). Don will discuss how Anderson, even before Fort Sumter, had a rich military career beginning as an 1825 graduate of West Point and spanning several conflicts before the Civil War. Don will also talk about Anderson’s “post-Sumter” role as a successful recruitment officer for the Union in his home state and a very ironic “bookend” visit back to Fort Sumter in 1865.

Don Rightmyer is a native of Kentucky and currently works at the Mercer County Public Library in his hometown of Harrodsburg. A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy where he majored in military history, Don served in various flying and staff assignments around the world during his 20+ year USAF career. More recently, Don was the editor of the Kentucky Historical Society’s genealogical quarterly, *Kentucky Ancestors* (2008-2013).

Don’s first book, *Torn: The Civil War in Kentucky*, will be published in December 2014 by Savas Beatie Press. Pre-orders of the book can be made on Amazon.com.



## President’s Report

... from Tom Williams

I always like September. I feel there is an excitement in the air after the laid-back summer season. Perhaps it is because my wife had spent her professional career in education. As September approached, I swear she became more excited than that young first grader on the first day of school. Her excitement always rubbed off on me, too.

The upcoming Cincy Civil War Round Table Campaign has started to get my excitement index going up. The lineup of speakers looks really good and the topics are different from past years. I expect to learn a lot about subjects that I just don’t know all of the background. How about “Mr. Lincoln’s Cameraman: An Evening with Mathew Brady” or maybe “Making the New Birth of Freedom: The Gettysburg Address,” just two of our speakers’ topics from the 2014 – 2015 campaign.

Then too, this year we will continue meeting upstairs (on the first floor) of the Drake. Personally, I wasn’t fond of the dungeon – err, basement – space we used to use. There is something about windows, especially windows with a view of a garden, that improves things for me. Plus, with the first floor room, we can accommodate more people, and we get this space at the same room cost as we were paying for the basement space.

Through negotiations with the Drake’s management, we have been successful at lowering the monthly meal cost to **\$25 per person!** Location and cost are issues the Board rustles with every year. If I could find a taker,

I would bet everyone feels they can find a better restaurant meal for the price than the one we often have at our meetings. But in the dinner price we also have to cover a fixed room rental cost of \$160.00 per month, and that cost doesn't drop, even if no one shows on a given third Thursday of the month.

More space means we can comfortably seat more people each month. Maybe you know that neighbor or a friend who had in the past expressed an interest in the Civil War? Why not invite them to give us a try. Or perhaps your spouse or partner might be tweaked by one of our speakers. Bring them along with you. We are not exclusive; I believe everyone is open and warm to newcomers.

Why the push for more people? Well, for one, dividing our fixed cost of \$160 by more people lowers our fixed cost per person, and hopefully then we can lower our meal cost. But more importantly, it's the Civil War and all that it represents.

Year 2015 will be the last year of the national sesquicentennial anniversary commemoration of the Civil War. I believe there has been a local uptick in Civil War interest, and certainly our membership has experienced some increase. But I believe there are many in our area who haven't a clue of our existence.

So, on this last year of the anniversary campaign, let's push our pickets out and introduce a surprise flanking movement on those poor souls who are wondering without leadership in the wilderness, and enlist them to join in our right cause.

(Hey Pat Homan, for my first President's Report, did I get the military terms correct?)



## 2013-2014 Preservation Project a Success!



On June 7, 2014, members of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table traveled to Crawfordsville, Indiana, to present the Round Table's 2013-2014 Preservation Project contribution of \$1,500. This contribution, as we were told by the museum staff, put the Lew Wallace Study Restoration Campaign over its goal of raising \$300,000. Preservation Chairs Randy Donohue and Becky Burket (left) and CCWRT members Dawn

and David Mowery (right) presented the check to Associate Director Amanda McGuire (center) of the Lew Wallace Study (background). Watch for the CCWRT's 2014-2015 Preservation Project to be announced!

# Items of Interest

**Welcome New Members!** We have had several new members join the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table since January 2014. They are listed below by the month in which they joined. Welcome aboard to all our new members! We appreciate that you have chosen to be a part of our organization:

## March 2014

Jim Bruckmann  
Dave Grayum  
Melinda Kelly  
Mike Kelly

## April 2014

Carol Lommer

## May 2014

Karen Hensley

**It's Time to Pay Your Re-Enlistment Fee:** Membership dues for the 2014 – 2015 campaign year are now due. As you know we have two levels of membership: **Regular** and **Sustaining**. **Regular** memberships are \$25 (single) and \$35 (couple). The **Sustaining** level of membership is \$50 (single) and \$85 (couple). The purpose of the sustaining 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. If you are able to do so, we encourage you to become a Sustaining Member.

**Standing Reservations Reminder:** If you currently have a Standing Dinner Reservation with the Round Table, this note is a reminder that **it will carry over to the September meeting**. If you want to remain on the list you need do nothing. If you want to be removed, you must contact Treasurer Jim Stewart and ask that your name be taken off the list. This standing format has worked well for a significant number of our members. If you are in regular attendance, you might want to consider the “only need to call - I’m not coming” format. Contact information for Jim is located at the bottom of this Newsletter under the Cincinnati CWRT Officer heading.

**Contribute your knowledge:** The membership of CCWRT has a vast knowledge on a variety of Civil War topics. Share your knowledge. Consider being a speaker. If there is a topic you think doesn't get the attention it deserves, research it, take notes and write out a story. If you are interested in the topic, chances are there are a lot of other members who would like to learn about it. If you are shy about speaking in public, just write a short article about your favorite subject and it can be published in the *Canister*. Please try to keep articles to one page or less in length. If you are not the scholarly type, please contribute your time and consider serving as an officer for our Round Table.

**Cleveland CWRT Field Trip to Spring Hill and Franklin, TN:** All are welcome to join the Cleveland CWRT on a tour of Spring Hill and Franklin battlefields, **September 19-20, 2014**. You do not need to be a member. If you are interested, please e-mail Patrick Bray at **PBray360@aol.com** or call **216-407-7878 as soon as possible**. Send no money at this time.

Where: Franklin, Tennessee, is home base.

Thursday, September 18 is a travel day. The trip is a 10-hour drive to Franklin.

Southwest Airlines has a direct flight to Nashville which is 18 miles from Franklin.

Friday, September 19 is a tour of Spring Hill Battlefield.

Saturday, September 20 is a tour of the Franklin Battlefield Civil War sites.

Sunday, September 21 is a travel day back to Ohio.

**Each person is responsible for getting there and paying for lodging.**

Lodging options:

1. Drury Plaza Hotel Franklin [www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com) (615-771-6778). The Cleveland CWRT has a block of rooms with a king bed for \$129 per night. Say “Cleveland Civil Roundtable” when booking. Breakfast and supper of hot food small plates with limited alcohol choices are included in that price.
2. Nearby is the Comfort Inn at 4206 Franklin Common Court (615-791-6675). No special rates are available, but rack rates are around \$80 per night.

Estimated cost of the tour: **\$175 per person**, which includes the guide’s fee, a chartered bus for Friday and Saturday, box lunches both days, and entrance fees. Again, send no money to Patrick Bray at this time, but do let him know as soon as possible if you intend to go on the field trip. You should go ahead and book your lodging if you know you are going.



## May Presentation:

... submitted by **Mark Silbersack**

Our May 2014 speaker, Clarksville (TN) Civil War Round Table member Greg Biggs, delivered a “prequel” to his previous 2009 presentation on the Battle of Nashville. He described why and how Nashville became a key strategic focus of military activity in the Western Theater.

The State of Tennessee was the last state to join the Confederacy, seceding in June 1861. Its governor, Isham Harris, and most of its population (except in Unionist East Tennessee) supported the Southern cause. Tennessee had a significant economic base. The State had the largest concentration of iron furnaces in the South, produced 90% of its copper, was a big manufacturer of war materials (e.g., cannons), raised livestock and food, and had an extensive rail network, including several critical east-west lines.



**Greg Biggs**

Yet by late February 1862, its capital, Nashville, had fallen to Union troops and most of Tennessee had been overrun. Greg explained how this debacle came about. It started with poor strategic thinking by the State’s incompetent military leadership, such as its top general Gideon Pillow (derisively called “the Ditch Digger”) and the head of Confederate Department No. 2, Gen. Leonidas Polk. While they built a series of forts along the Mississippi and at the northern ends of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, they failed to construct defensive positions in the state’s interior and didn’t even try to protect Nashville (a blunder aided and abetted by the City’s own leadership).

The collapse of the Confederate defensive line from Cumberland Gap in the east to Columbus, Kentucky in the west came quickly. The right flank was broken at Mills Spring in the winter of 1861-62, and Grant’s capture of Forts Henry and Donelson then breached the center of the line in northern Tennessee. These events led rapidly to the capture of Nashville, virtually without a fight. Don Carlos Buell’s Army of the Ohio arrived in February, as did 6th Ohio Infantry (on the gunboat USS *Cairo*) who seized the State Capital.

The loss of Nashville was a major blow to the morale and military position of the Confederacy. The City

quickly became a massive military supply depot for the Union army, from which the campaigns to take Georgia and Alabama and subdue the rest of Tennessee were supplied. Union troops were garrisoned in larger cities around the rest of the state, but the countryside was harder to control, and Confederate cavalry raids by, for example, Morgan and Forrest, were a constant danger.

President Lincoln appointed U.S. Senator Andrew Johnson as Military Governor, charging him with controlling the state for the Union. This choice was controversial, and Johnson's performance won him few friends, even on the Union side. He clashed with the military and was hated by many Tennesseans, but he did start fortifying Nashville.

Nashville went on to supply the Union troops who countered the Confederate attempts in the fall of 1862 to recapture the state. As Greg says, five times "the Sirens called" – that is, the Confederates tried but failed to take Nashville back – until ultimately their armies were devastated.



## May Quiz:

1. The first Guggenheim-Lehrman Award for exemplary military history writing was made by the New York Historical Society, 17 March 2014. Six nominations were made out of 100 submissions. The winning author was (a)\_\_\_\_\_. His book's subject concerned the Battle of (b)\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The skirmish called the Battle of Fallen Timbers was the concluding military action of the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Battle of Fallen Timbers featured an attack by a sole Confederate officer against a Union brigade. Who was that officer?
4. According to historian Louis Masur, author of *Lincoln's Hundred Days*, there are three significant and substantial differences between the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation of 22 September 1862 and the version of 1 January 1863. Name/describe them.
5. BONUS QUESTION: Today [May 15, 2014] is the anniversary of a battle unique in military history and fought during our Civil War. It is known as the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Quiz Answers:

1. (a) Allen Guelzo  
(b) Gettysburg. Book title: *Gettysburg, the Last Invasion*  
Ref.: Guggenheim-Lehrman Award, New York Historical Society, 17 Mar. 2014, C-SPAN2 Book TV.
2. Shiloh  
Ref.: *The Civil War* Vol. 1, Foote, p.349-50.

3. Nathan Bedford Forrest  
Ref.: *The Civil War* Vol. 1, Foote, p.349-50.
  
4. (1) The Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation offered the possibility of colonization to the freed slaves; the final version makes no mention of it.  
(2) The final version authorizes the enlistment of freedmen into the Union army; the preliminary version does not mention that possibility.  
(3) The final version grants the right of self-defense to the newly emancipated slaves in separating themselves from bondage; the preliminary version does not grant the slaves any such specific right.  
Ref.: "Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation," Masur, C-SPAN3, 13 Dec. 2012.
  
5. New Market (Va.)  
Ref: With thanks and credit to Mr. Waite Rawls, President & CEO of The Museum of the Confederacy (soon to be known as The American Civil War Museum) you, our members, are being informed that on this date in 1864 "the famous 'Spirit of VMI' was born in the 'field of lost shoes.' Today, on the anniversary of the battle, the VMI Cadet Corps has a ceremony in front of the graves of the fallen cadets in which each of the ten names is called out with the response "Died on the field of honor, sir.' It is a tribute to those who did their duty, no matter the sacrifice." As printed in the *Washington Post*, 27 April 2014, p. 11.



## Future Presentations:

Oct. 16, 2014	Mark Holbrook, Ohio Humanities Council <i>Mr. Lincoln's Cameraman: An Evening with Mathew Brady</i>
Nov. 20, 2014	Tom Parson, Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center <i>Work for Giants: The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg</i>
Jan. 15, 2015	Stephen Brown, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table <i>God, Lincoln and the Civil War</i>
Feb. 19, 2015	Bernie O'Bryan, re-enactor <i>A Conversation with General Lew Wallace</i>
Mar. 19, 2015	Martin Johnson, Miami University, Hamilton Campus <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 <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 <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 (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.

**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.

## **CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:**

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**Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!**