



CINCINNATI
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
SERVING OHIO, KENTUCKY AND INDIANA SINCE 1956



THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT P. O. Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnati-cwrt.org>
September, 2013 Issue

Meeting Date: September 19, 2013

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: Grilled chicken quarters & angus burgers,
potato salad, relish plate, baked beans, and gourmet cookies
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

Speaker: Gary D. Joiner, PhD LSU-Shreveport

Topic: *Red River Campaign*

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org; call it in to Tom Williams at 513-563-2665 or email thom.williams@fuse.net. 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 Wednesday, Sept. 11th, 2013.**

About our September Speaker:

To begin our 2013/2014 season, we are pleased to welcome for the first time Dr. Gary Joiner, Associate Professor at Louisiana State University, Shreveport. Several of our speakers have discussed the Civil War's river navy, but Dr. Joiner is the first to focus on the Red River Campaign of 1864, a somewhat forgotten chapter in Civil War history. Considered a premier expert on the campaign, Gary wrote a definitive book on the subject in 2003, *One Damn Blunder from Beginning to End: The Red River Campaign of 1864* (Scholarly Resources). He is also the Director of the Red River Regional Studies Center at LSU-Shreveport.

The Red River Campaign takes us to a geographic area of the Civil War some of us may not be familiar with. Here was an intensive Federal Army/Navy effort to secure the Red River along western Louisiana and Arkansas, so as to cut off the Confederate supply route from Texas. Shreveport, the Confederate capital of



Gary D. Joiner

Louisiana (and where Gary lives), was the primary target. On paper, the campaign strategy appeared solid. 22,000 Federal troops under Nathaniel P. Banks would march from New Orleans to meet the Union naval forces under Rear Admiral David Porter at the lower end of the Red River. Defending against this formidable infantry/naval force was substantially less Confederate opposition. However, several factors, including the quirkiness of Mother Nature in the form of low water levels and many tactical errors (mostly attributed to General Banks), doomed the campaign from the start (and almost resulted in the decimation of the entire Federal Mississippi Squadron fleet). As Gary will relate in his talk, it seemed “one damn blunder from beginning to end” plagued this effort that led to what is considered the last decisive Confederate victory of the War. Gary, by the way, is also an expert cartographer, and will allude to the many geographic difficulties of the Red River and the challenges it presented to Admiral Porter. For further information on the Red River Campaign, please consult Gary’s excellent online article on the Civil War Trust website:

<http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/mansfield/mansfield-history-articles/redriverjoiner.html>.

In addition to *One Damn Blunder*, Gary has written and edited several other books, including *Mr. Lincoln’s Brown Water Navy: The Mississippi Squadron* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2007), *Little to Eat and Thin Mud to Drink: Letters, Diaries & Memoirs from the Red River Campaign, 1863-1864* (University of Tennessee Press, 2007 - Editor), and *The Red River Campaign: Union and Confederate Leadership and the War in Louisiana* (Parabellum Press, 2003). Gary has been a history consultant to, among others, Louisiana Public Television, the History Channel and MSNBC. For more about Gary, please visit his website: <http://www.garyjoiner.com/index.asp>.



President’s Report

... Pat Homan

I am writing this column in early August as we have just finished the Summer Officer’s meeting and there are several items that I want to share with the membership. First, let me note the summer’s activities.

At the end of June, the Cincinnati Historical Museum had their second Civil War Weekend. The Round Table had a prominent part in assisting. Five of our members offered presentations: Tom Breiner, Gary Johnson, Ralph Arnold, Dave Mowery and myself. Numerous others helped at the booth. Dr. Caldwell spent most of the day explaining Civil War medicine, aided by some enlarged photos of period

medical kits. George McIlveen then aided the effort by generating publicity through the website: www.civilwar.com.

I have to commend the Museum Director, Ms. VanZant, who was able to obtain donations to bring up a full-sized replica of the CSS Hunley. She parlayed that into several good TV news slots. That brought good crowds both days. It was awesome to view this craft.

One of the visitors, who came because of the TV information, was a 12-year-old lad from the San Francisco area. His mother told me they were visiting grandparents, saw the TV spot and decided to come down. I was highly impressed with his knowledge of the War. He asked a number of excellent questions. Fortunately, I could answer them and I encouraged him to keep reading and asking questions.

The Summer meeting was very productive. I have to thank Andy Simmons, our outgoing Vice-President and Tom Williams, our new Vice-President for their work with the Drake Center. Thanks to their efforts and our now 6-year relationship with the Drake, there will be a number of changes; I believe improvements, at our meetings.

It was pointed out that I have not explained the costs and fees of the Round Table in quite a while. Some members may not understand where the funds collected go so, let me explain. First, we are currently charging \$28 per meal per person. This is a direct pass-through cost which includes the meal, room and staff costs. We actually are losing a small amount on each meal unless we have a 58 or more at each meeting. Last year we averaged 50 dinner reservations and 12 meeting only attendees per meeting. The Officers decided not to raise the meal cost this year but this will be reviewed at the end of the coming Campaign year.

Second, included in the room cost is the use of the Drake Center's built-in projector. In the past, Dan Reigle has generously provided his projector but this is a burden for Dan and his projector is aging. Renting the Drake equipment means we do not have to purchase our own projector. This will also be reviewed at the end of the year. I have to thank Dan for his time and effort for the 5 years he has provided projector and set up time.

Members pay a one-time \$20 initiation fee when they join and a \$25 annual membership fee. It is this money that allows the Round Table to operate. These funds cover out speaker expenses, any shortfall in the dinner costs and some preservation funds as well. The Round Table is a 501c(3) charitable organization. Our primary charity is preservation projects and surplus funds are periodically transferred to the Preservation Fund. The biggest expenditure is the speaker costs. While we do not pay speaker fees, we cover their travel expenses, which, includes a motel room (depending on distance) and meals. This varies year to year, based on whom the speakers are and how far they had to travel. This is the primary reason we ask guests to join the organization after their second meeting as a visitor.

We have a great year scheduled. Contact me if you have any questions on items covered in this column or other items about the Round Table. I look forward to seeing you in September.



Items of Interest:

Welcome New Members! Your newsletter editor has been somewhat tardy in welcoming new members. The following is a list of all the new members added since October, 2012. Welcome board!

November	Ted McCormick	February	Ruthanne Palmer
	Bert Sheard	March	Rose Alcorn
January	Jim MacKnight	April	Regina Ector
	Tom Palmer		William Jeffers
	Darrly Smith	May	Jim Cobb

John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail of Ohio: The John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail guidebook for Ohio, *Morgan's Raid Across Ohio: The Civil War Guidebook of the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail*, has been released by lulu.com. You can purchase it now with either of these binding types:

<http://www.lulu.com/commerce/index.php?fBuyContent=14021653> (perfect binding - \$27.00 + tax + shipping) or <http://www.lulu.com/commerce/index.php?fBuyContent=14021512> (coil binding - \$24.30 + tax + shipping)

Both options are paperback. Within another 6-8 weeks, the guidebook will be available for purchase on Amazon.com and BarnesAndNoble.com. The links to purchase the guidebook are now on the Morgan's Raid web site at <http://www.ohiohistory.org/exhibits/traveling-exhibits/morgans-raid>.

Please spread the word! All profits from the guidebook go toward the maintenance of the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail of Ohio. Lora and I hope you enjoy the book!!

It's Time to Pay Your Re-Enlistment Fee: Membership dues for the 2013 – 2014 campaign year are now due. As you know we have two levels of membership: **Regular** and **Sustaining**. **Regular** memberships are \$25 (single). 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.

Donated Books Now Being Accepted: It's time to replenish our inventory of books used to supply the Monthly Book Raffle and the Preservation Book Sale. Last year we earned \$551.00 from the sale of book raffle tickets \$135 from the direct sales of used books. We could always use more high quality, slightly used books. Contact Becky Burket or Randy Donohue if you are interested in donating books. We thank you in advance for your kind contribution.

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



May Presentation:

... submitted by Mark Silbersack

At the May meeting, Gail Stephens, Civil War historian and author of the award-winning book *Shadow of Shiloh: Major General Lew Wallace in the Civil War* (Indiana Historical Press, 2010), provided a biographical sketch of a complicated military figure probably best known to Americans today as author of the historical novel *Ben Hur*.



Gail Stephens

In early 1862, Lew Wallace was a rising star in the Union army. At 35, he was its youngest Major General. He was very intelligent and brave, devoted to the Union, organized and trained troops well, and had performed admirably while commanding Indiana troops in Maryland and then in supporting Gen. Grant's conquest of Forts Henry and Donelson. But he was a bit flamboyant, with an arrogant and impatient personality, and not a good "team player." And he was a "political general" who was self-educated, had not attended West Point, and was thus suspect in the eyes of his ultimate commander, Gen. Halleck.

Wallace's career suffered a serious setback at Shiloh in April 1862. During the first day of the battle, his division failed timely to appear when expected by Gen. Grant, who considered the late arrival as a failure to obey orders. Gail explained how Wallace's division never was in fact "lost" as alleged by some, but actually arrived as quickly as was possible, and how Grant simply misapprehended what had happened.

On the “outs” with Grant and Halleck (by then the overall Union commander), Wallace’s career continued, but with militarily less important assignments. His next significant contribution to the war effort was in September 1862, when he was sent to be military commander at Cincinnati as it was threatened with invasion. He quickly organized such a strong defense that Confederate forces retreated without attacking. While this earned Wallace renown as the “Savior of Cincinnati,” it didn’t keep Halleck from “putting him on the shelf” until 1864.

But Wallace’s greatest contribution may have been at the Battle of Monocacy in July 1864. To relieve pressure on Richmond and Petersburg, divert Union forces from the Shenandoah Valley, and undermine Northern morale before the upcoming presidential election, Lee sent Jubal Early to seize Washington, which was essentially undefended. Halleck was counting on Gen. David Hunter’s troops to screen the capital, but Hunter was out of position. Wallace, commanding in Maryland, quickly grasped the danger. He alerted Halleck to summon reinforcements. He then aggressively held off a Confederate force twice as large for an entire day at Monocacy. By the time Early was able to approach the city, reinforcements had arrived, and Early was forced to withdraw. Wallace’s defense was heralded as having “saved Washington,” and he regained much of his reputation with his performance.

Lew Wallace had a wonderful post-War career. He served in several important government posts and published *Ben Hur*, which made him both famous and wealthy. But the “slanders” about his conduct at Shiloh continued to aggravate him until 1885, when Grant, in his memoirs, citing a better understanding of the events, exonerated Wallace.



May Quiz:

- 1.: When Union General Ambrose Burnside was in the Fredericksburg, Va. area in mid-1862, he needed a bridge constructed across the Rappahannock as all previous bridges had been destroyed by recent floods. Who was the engineer who designed and supervised construction of this bridge?
- 2.: The first black Union regiment was mustered into the Union army in the fall of 1862; it represented the state of _____.
- 3.: What was the specific difference of opinion that precipitated General Hooker’s resignation during the early portion of the Gettysburg campaign?
- 4.: A case has been made by some historians that the rebel victory over Bull Nelson’s Union troops at Richmond, Ky. was the most one-sided Confederate victory in the Civil War. In fact a better case can be made for that title by citing the Confederate defeat of more than twice as many Federals at the battle of _____.
- 5.: A nightmare vision of freed blacks invading the north and competing with the white working class was the fear motivating anti-black rioters in the summer of 1862. One of the worst riots occurred in a northern city where the replacement of striking Irish dockworkers by Negroes set off a wave of attacks on black neighborhoods. What was that city?
- 6.: According to the 5 March 1864 edition of the New York Times no slave in any state could testify against a white person except in Maryland and then only if that Caucasian was a _____.

May QUIZ Answers:

1.: Washington Roebling Ref.: Google, A Mystery: Roebling's "Wire Bridge" on the Rappahannock, Hennesy C-SPAN3; The Civil War Before the Battle of Fredericksburg, McCluken, 8 Dec. 2012

2.: South Carolina Ref.: The Negroe's Civil War, McPherson, p.64-5

3.: Lincoln's desire to keep a large garrison at Harper's Ferry as a threat to Lee's rear as he passed through Md.. He so ordered Hooker, through Halleck, to comply. Hooker preferring to concentrate his forces declined and resigned. Ref.: Lincoln, Donald, p.444

4.: Harper's Ferry (Gen'ls Jackson vs. White) Ref.: Stonewall Jackson, Robertson, p.604-6

5.: Cincinnati Ref.: The Battle Cry of Freedom, McPherson, p.507

6.: a non Christian; free blacks in Delaware and La. could testify against a white only under "certain conditions." Ref.: New York Times Complete Civil War, Holzer & Symonds, ed's., p.309



Future Presentations:

Oct. 17, 2013	Stuart Sanders, Kentucky Historical Society <i>Perryville under Fire: The Aftermath of Kentucky's Largest Civil War Battle</i>
Nov. 21, 2013	Gary Knepp, University of Cincinnati <i>Camp Dennison</i>
Jan.16, 2014	Gary Q. Johnson, CCWRT <i>Webbed Feet on the Western Waters: Cincinnati and the River Navy</i>
Feb. 20, 2014	Dan Bauer, CCWRT <i>Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Politics of Slavery</i>
Mar. 20, 2014	Mike Rhein, CCWRT <i>General Lytle: Home Again</i>
Apr. 17, 2014	John Fazio, Cleveland Civil War Round Table <i>The Confederate Secret Service</i>
May. 15, 2014	Greg Biggs, Clarksville, TN Civil War Round Table <i>The Fall of Nashville and the Rise of the Sirens</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 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
Vice-President: Tom Williams	513-608-4391 (h)	twms@fuse.net
Treasurer: Jim Stewart	513-271-0738 (h)	jebstewart@fuse.net
Secretary: Mark Silbersack	513-977-8243 (h)	mark.silbersack@dinsmore.com
Program Chair: Albert Hallenberg	859-663-8811 (h)	albert.hallenberg@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h)	dbauer002@cinci.rr.com
Membership & Publicity: Ed and Sally Umbach	513-522-9053 (c)	rumbach@earthlink.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
Webmaster: Mike Rogers	859-360-6015 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
CCWRT ListServ: Mike Rogers	859-360-6015 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com

Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!