
THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT PO Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnati-cwrt.org>

JANUARY, 2005 Issue

MEETING INFORMATION FOR JANUARY, 2005

Meeting Date: January 20, 2005

Meeting Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

Time: (6:00) Refreshments

(6:45) Dinner

Speaker: Tom Breiner Cincinnati CWRT

Topic: Rebels Down Under: The C.S.S. Shenandoah



IMPORTANT NOTE: 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 John Linnenberg at (h) 513-922-3999 (cell) 607-4002 (has voice mail)

The main entrée selection for January is **ROASTED PORK LOIN**. For those of you who prefer a selection other than pork an alternative entrée is available. If you prefer the alternate selection, you need to indicate "Lasagna" or "alternative selection" when making your reservation by email or phone call. If you have a standing reservation you will automatically receive the pork selection unless you notify John Linnenberg that you prefer the alternate selection before the Sunday final reservations date.

She didn't have a long life, but even with a short one, her's was the stuff of legends. Originally outfitted as a British merchant vessel, the Confederate government turned the ship into a raider in less than two weeks, and sent the renamed *Shenandoah* out to wreck havoc on Union shipping interests on October 19, 1864. While on a journey of over 50,000 miles, the *Shenandoah* made port in Melbourne, Australia - forever linking the "Land Down Under" with the American Civil War.

Tom Breiner, twice a past president and long-time treasurer, returns to the Cincinnati CWRT podium in January with a talk that relieves those events of 140 years ago. Tom is a graduate of the Naval Academy and a retired captain in the Naval Reserve. He has spoken on numerous occasions to not only the Cincinnati CWRT, but to Round Tables and organizations in several states.



One of the last groups of Confederate veterans to surrender (Pacific theater communications being less than instantaneous), the *Shenandoah* was active fighting for the Confederate cause as late as August of 1865.

Get your reservations in early to hear what promises to be a fascinating talk.

Copy of letter that was sent to John Ruthven from CCWRT.

November 19, 2004
Mr. John A. Ruthven

Dear Mr. Ruthven:

The Cincinnati Civil War Round Table would like to join in congratulating you on your award of the National Medal of Arts. We are pleased that your superb work has received this very appropriate and well-deserved recognition.

We appreciate your support of Civil War education and preservation over many years, including, certainly, your preservation of the Grant Home. As a long-time member of our Round Table, you have graciously supported many tours and visits, and have helped to encourage many people in their study of our local history and the many important roles that local residents have had in the nation's history. Congratulations!

Daniel H. Reigle
President, 2004-2005

Quiz---November, 2004

1. Name the three men who served as Governor of Ohio during the Civil War.
2. In 1878, President Rutherford Hayes appointed a Board of Review, to be chaired by General John Schofield with members Alfred H. Terry and George W. Getty. Whose court-martial was this Board to review and what was their recommendation?
3. This recently-widowed Georgia woman used her friendship with the wife of C.S. Secretary of War Randolph to obtain a position as matron of Hospital No. 2 at Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond, where she remained throughout the war. After the war, she traveled extensively and wrote on her hospital experiences. Who was she?
4. On April 13, 1863, the Ohio General Assembly passed its Senate Bill 143. The Assembly had received strong support for this measure from military units such as the 126th OVI, who sent a set of resolutions supporting this bill to which the entire regiment unanimously agreed, including these words: "...we discover with shame and concern that we have left behind us in Ohio, men...aiding and abetting the rebellion,and adding to the effusion of blood and treasure." What did this bill provide?
5. Several of Turner Ashby's artifacts are displayed today in the house that belonged to Col. Lewis T. Moore on North Braddock in Winchester, VA. This house is also known as the headquarters and temporary residence for another Civil War figure invited by Moore to use the home. Who made his headquarters in this home?
6. During an advance led by the 32nd Illinois at Bentonville, NC, in March, 1865, one of the Illinoisans bent down momentarily, and was yelled at by an officer, "You d---d 'connie', come on and fight". To which the soldier replied, "Wait till I tie my shoe, and you'll see how a 'connie' will fight!". What is a "connie"?

November Presentation by Albert Hallenberg

The November CWRT meeting had the pleasure of hosting long-time member Larry Emley, who provided a thorough and informative presentation on the short, but rich, life of Confederate cavalry commander, Turner Ashby. Larry spoke of the qualities in Ashby's early adult life that set the stage for his Civil War involvement: his ingenious, natural way with horses; his early knack for leadership; and his always brash way of taking risks.

When Ashby came under Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's command during his Shenandoah Valley campaign (1862), it appeared the combination would be unbeatable. Larry provided an interesting comparison on the styles of the two officers. Both believed in taking the offensive without hesitation. But, as Larry pointed out, Jackson was a general of drill and order, while Ashby appeared to be very lax in the

area of discipline, particularly seen when his men indulged in looted whiskey rather than pursuing a routed Union force. Such oversights enraged Jackson, yet he was aware Ashby's fighting and scouting skills were invaluable in his campaign. Larry spoke of Ashby's individual courage, which brought him to an end in June 1862 near Harrisonburg, VA. His horse shot out from under him, Ashby bravely led a charge on foot, but was found dead later. Though his death occurred only a third of the way through the War, Ashby had already attained legendary status. As Larry mentioned, after the War, half the Confederate cavalry fighting east of Ohio claimed to have fought under him and, conversely, half the Union cavalry it seemed claimed to have fought against him.

Larry spiced his presentation with insights into Ashby's personality. For instance, despite Ashby's unflinching, headlong bravado, he could be very courteous and gentlemanly in a civilian social setting. Larry speculated the death of his brother in 1861, while evidently trying to surrender, created an almost fanatical hatred of the Union, and probably increased his recklessness several times over. Another interesting note was that Larry found Ashby left little documentation behind to study, and what he saw was virtually illegible. From this, Larry is quite certain Ashby was dyslexic.

Larry's talk was valuable in bringing to light not only the military side but also the human angle on a Confederate cavalry commander that many in the meeting may have known little about.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

The Round Table welcomed Jim Chaney into membership at the November meeting.

CCWRT Preservation Projects Alert: Johnson's Island Prison Site From David Mowery Chair, Preservation Projects

At the November meeting, CCWRT membership approved the following proposal: **To allow the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table's Preservation Fund to contribute \$1.00 to match every \$1.00 that an individual donates to the CCWRT Preservation Fund earmarked for the Johnson's Island project. The maximum matching fund total will be no more than \$250.00, by May, 2005.**

The project will support of the purchase of 17 acres of land containing a significant portion of the Johnson's Island Prison compound, as well as the remains of Fort Johnson. The Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island, a non-profit 501(c)(3) group, is collecting donations to pay off the \$356,228 mortgage on the 17 acres in full by October 2005 in order to save this hallowed land for archaeological research and preservation. The Johnson's Island prisoner-of-war camp was established near Sandusky, Ohio, in 1861 and was designated as a place of confinement for Confederate officers. Brigadier-General Basil Duke and Brigadier-General Jeff Thompson were among the seven generals who served time in Johnson's Island Prison during the war. Today, Johnson's Island is a National Historic Landmark, and it ranks amongst Ohio's most important archaeological sites. It is certainly one of the best preserved Civil War prison camps in the nation -- at least for the moment. Development is encroaching upon the prison site.

How it will work: Johnson's Island will be our focal preservation project for the entire campaign year to encourage your on-going support. Multiple gifts can be made, of any size, if you so desire. We will track and announce the total number of gifts and total dollars contributed, but the names of contributors and their amounts contributed will be kept confidential by the Treasurer. Receipts will be provided to document your contribution. Payment can be made at the check-in table prior to each meeting or you can mail your contribution to our mailing address at Cincinnati CWRT, P. O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, OH 45262. Simply give, or send, a check or other form of funding, payable to the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table, to Treasurer Bob Limoseth. Note on the memo line "Johnson's Island." Our minimum goal for member giving is \$250 and that is why we've established the \$250.00 one-for-one match. We would, however, like to raise a good deal more (how about \$750 with a \$250 match?) so that future generations will see that our Round Table helped save one of Ohio's greatest Civil War sites. You may find out more about the prison and about the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island by going to their web site at www.johnsonsisland.com

Johnson's Island Preservation Project: At the November meeting Richard Swigert donated \$54.00 to our Round Table from the proceeds of his 2005 Civil War Calendar sales to members. At Richard's request, this contribution has been designated as the seed money for the Johnson's Island Preservation Project. Our

thanks to Richard for helping us to a good start in our effort to assist the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island preserve this important Ohio Civil War site.

It is Time for Membership Renewals If you have not yet paid your annual dues, please send your membership renewal check (\$25 single, \$35 couple) to Cincinnati CWRT, PO. Box 621082, Cincinnati, OH 45262. Thank you.

Books Added to the CCWRT online bookstore. (You can access the bookstore at our website.)

Geary, James W. *We Need Men: The Union Draft in the Civil War.*

Murray, Robert Bruce. *Legal Cases of the Civil War.*

Perry, James M. *A Bohemian Brigade: [The Civil War Correspondents--Mostly Rough, Sometimes Ready.](#)*

Perry, James M. *[Touched with Fire: Five Presidents and the Civil War Battles That Made Them.](#)*

Ratner, Lorman and Dwight Teeter, *Fanatics & Fire-Eaters: Newspapers and the Coming of the Civil War.*

NOTE: Robert Tanner's *Stonewall in the Valley: Stonewall in the Valley: Thomas J. 'Stonewall' Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign Spring 1862*, as recommended by Larry Emley in his November presentation to CCWRT on Turner Ashby, is available in the CCWRT Online Bookstore in both hardcover and soft cover editions.

Book Review by Tom Breiner: Field Artillery Weapons of the Civil War (Revised Edition) by James C. Hazlett, Edwin Olmstead and M. Hume Parks, University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago, IL, 2004, 322 pages, Soft cover \$29.95.

Field Artillery Weapons of the Civil War is a reference work that includes many interesting and little known information concerning the development and manufacture of artillery weapons that were used during the Civil War. Our authors have dedicated themselves to investigating the history and current location of many of these weapons. They have done an outstanding job. Here is a wonderful source for this material, presented in a highly readable and well-organized format. The work is filled with numerous pictures of the weapons or illustrations to emphasize the writer's point and make understanding simpler.

The book includes material not only on the tubes and their markings, but information on carriages. There is interesting and useful information on the various manufacturers. The sizes range from the smaller 6 pounders to the larger 32 pounders. There are chapters on the false Napoleons and the replicas located at Gettysburg and they have researched the British produced weapons and provided information on the progression of artillery from muzzle loading smoothbores through rifled breechloaders.

I do not review reference works very often, but in Field Artillery Weapons of the Civil War, I have found a gem. This is truly a must have addition to any Civil War library. The excellent research and work of the author's is by far the best that I have ever seen on this particular topic. Being a student of artillery, on many occasions I have had the chance to find unusual artillery weapons. Now, I have a tool to help identify and learn more about each of my new finds. I highly recommend this work to anyone that has any interest in the Civil War.

2005 Central Kentucky Civil War Heritage Trail

July 18-24, 2005

1-888-332-1862

The 2005 Central Kentucky Civil War Heritage Trail will be held July 18-24, 2005

More details to follow:

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

To facilitate the printing and timely distribution of the monthly newsletter, information for it should be submitted to the editor no later than the following dates:

February newsletter, January 21st, 2005

March newsletter, February 18th, 2005

April newsletter, March 18th, 2005

May newsletter, April 22nd, 2005

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

Quiz answers:

1. William Dennison, David Tod, and John Brough. (*The Governors of Ohio, 1803-1971*. 2nd ed. Columbus, OH: Ohio Historical Society, 1969.
<<http://www.ohiohistory.org/onlinedoc/ohgovernment/governors>>).
2. The Board reviewed the court-martial of General Fitz-John Porter for his conduct at the Battle of Second Manassas in 1862, and exonerated him of all charges. Not until 1886, however, was his rank restored, without back pay, by Congress and President Cleveland. (Jamie Ryan, CCWRT talk, 18 September 2003; Faust, *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the CW*, p. 594-595.)
3. Phoebe Yates Levy Pember. (Faust, *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the CW*, p. 568-569.)
4. "To enable qualified voters of this State in the military service of this State, or of the United States, to exercise the right of suffrage." It was the first absentee voting allowed in the state, and had a definite impact on the election of John Brough as Governor in the fall, and Lincoln's reelection the following year. (Reid, *Ohio in the War*, pp. 238-241.)
5. Stonewall Jackson, in the winter of 1861, when he was joined by his wife, Mary Anna. (Delauter, *Winchester in the Civil War*, 15-16.)
6. A conscript, or draftee. (Hedley, *Marching through Georgia*, quoted in Bradley, *Last Stand in the Carolinas*, pp. 366, 513, 540.)



FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

- February 17, 2005: Dave Smith, Cincinnati CWRT, "Stranger Than Braxton Bragg – Henry Halleck"
March 17, 2005, Jim Epperson, Ann Arbor CWRT, "Sheridan, Warren and the Battle of Five Forks"
April 21, 2005, Dr. George Rable, University of Alabama, "Religion and the Civil War"
May 19, 2005, Dr. Brooks Simpson, Arizona State; "Enemies to the Rear: Ulysses S. Grant, 1861-1863."
September 15, 2005, Dr. Stephen Engle, Florida Atlantic University, "Don Carlos Buell and the Western Theater"
October 20, 2005, Mike Grimes, Berea, Kentucky, "Music and its Impact on the Civil War"

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, and help cover operating costs including this newsletter, as well as speaker expenses. If you are joining for the first time, there is a one-time initiation fee of \$20.

Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Quality Hotel and Suites, 4747 Montgomery Road, Norwood, Ohio (**telephone 513-351-6000**). If traveling Interstate 75, exit at Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and travel east to the Montgomery Road exit. Exit south, and the Quality is on the right. If coming from Interstate 71, also exit at Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and go west. As before, exit at Montgomery Road and go south. There is plenty of free parking.

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*). **Late reservations** (after Sunday prior to

the meeting) will be accepted, but will cause an adjustment of arrangements with the Quality, and may require an alternate meal selection, depending on total attendance. **Walk-ins without a reservation** will be able to have dinner if available based on total attendance. **Late cancellations** may be made by email or phone. Since a cancellation after the Sunday deadline means that CCWRT has guaranteed payment to the Quality 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 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 or cancel will be expected to pay for the dinner. **Meals** currently cost \$20. Menu selection will change with each meeting.

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Important Message:

To all members, Round Tables and friends of the CCWRT who receive this Newsletter!
Effective immediately we have a new mailing address.

Cincinnati Civil War Round Table
P. O. Box 621082
Cincinnati, OH 45262

Please change your records to reflect this change.