



CINCINNATI
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT PO Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org>
January, 2007 Issue

Meeting Date: January 18, 2007

Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

Time: (6:00) Sign-in and Conversation

(6:45) Dinner: - Beef Stroganoff Dinner with Garden Salad, Seasonal Vegetable Medley and Raspberry Sorbet

(7:45): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Dr. John Cimprich, Thomas More College

Topic: Fort Pillow Massacre

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org or call it in to Bob Limoseth (h) 513-777-2160; rlimo@fuse.net

Dr. John V. Cimprich of Thomas More College will be making his debut speaking appearance in front of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table at our January meeting. Dr. Cimprich is a native of southwest Ohio. He received a B.A. degree from Thomas More College, and later earned his Ph. D. in history from The Ohio State University. For several years he lectured at OSU, helped edit the Andrew Johnson Papers at the University of Tennessee, and taught at Southeast Missouri State University before joining the Thomas More College staff in 1986. Since then, he has served as professor and chairperson of the History Department at Thomas More College. Dr. Cimprich's specialty is in the area of the American Civil War, to which he has contributed many articles and publications, including *Slavery's End in Tennessee, 1861-1865* (1985) and his recent acclaimed work entitled *Fort Pillow: A Civil War Massacre, and Public Memory* (2005). He is currently working on a book about reformers and runaway slaves during the Civil War.

Dr. Cimprich's presentation will focus on the infamous Battle of Fort Pillow, Tennessee, and its controversial aftermath. Fort Pillow was erected in June 1861 by Arkansas troops under the "Stonewall of the West," Colonel (later Major-General) Patrick Cleburne, to defend western Tennessee from Union naval attacks along the Mississippi River. Located about 50 miles northeast of Memphis, the fort was abandoned by the Confederates in June 1862 following the Union naval victory at nearby Plum Run Bend (May 10, 1862) and the subsequent withdraw of the Confederate army from Corinth, Mississippi. Soon afterwards, the fort was garrisoned by Union troops, and as the war moved further southward, the stronghold became a fairly forgotten Federal rearguard outpost that was mainly used as a base for suppression of guerrilla activity. However, Confederate cavalry commander

Major-General Nathan Bedford Forrest would give Fort Pillow its place in American history when his division assaulted and captured the fort and its garrison on April 12, 1864. In this battle, the majority of Fort Pillow's Union defenders were African-Americans. The exceedingly high death rate among these soldiers, along with survivors' claims that Confederates had brutally killed black prisoners, caused a national outcry that resulted in the battle being termed by the North as a "massacre," and General Forrest being nicknamed "The Butcher." Dr. Cimprich's talk will look deeper into this controversy, as he presents the evidence of the incident and analyzes the reactions of the citizens in the North and South.



Major-General Nathan Bedford Forrest

We Who Study Must Also Strive To Save!



Preservation News:

Our Perryville and Richmond Battlefield Dedicated Preservation Fund Raising Project has now reached the half way point. As you'll remember, we announced in October that the preservation project was chosen due to its close proximity to Cincinnati and because many of us have visited these sites and are familiar with them. We are pleased to announce that 14 members have contributed a total of \$600.00 to date. That balance when combined with the \$1.00 for \$2.00 match from the Preservation Fund, with a \$250.00 cap, will allow the Round Table to make a contribution to the Civil War Preservation Trust of \$850.00. The Round Table thanks the following members for supporting this first half of the fund raising effort for this campaign: Jeannie Bechtold; Terry Borkenhagen; Dan Kemble; Bruce Kirchner; Tom Lewis; Bob Limoseth; John McGee; Stan Porter; Dan Reigle; Jack Simon; Marsha and Vince Stitzel; Jeff Strottman and Jim Stewart.

The second part of our dedicated fund raising program for the Perryville Battlefield runs from January to May. All monies received between now and our last meeting of this campaign year will go directly to the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association. The Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association (PBPA) is a non-profit organization devoted to the interpretation and preservation of the battle lands and the historic town of Perryville. Founded in 1991, the organization has been successful in its numerous achievements in the field of preservation. In 1993, the Congressionally-appointed Civil War Advisory Commission named Perryville as a Priority-One Class-A Battlefield. This designation ranks Perryville as one of the top eleven battlefields in need of preservation and ranks the site as one of the top eleven battlefields in terms of overall historic importance out of 384 conflicts included in the study.

Contributions can be made at the check-in-desk during our monthly meetings, or by mailing your gift to our Treasurer, Jim Stewart at Cincinnati CWRT, P.O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, Ohio 45262. Checks should be made out to the "Cincinnati CWRT" and the memo line should indicate "Perryville Battlefield". A receipt will be

provided as all contributions are tax deductible under our status as a 501(C)3 organization. Donations can be accepted anytime from now until the May 2007 meeting.



VISIT THE BATTLEFIELDS WHEN YOU CAN...WHILE YOU CAN

Raffle Book Update:

In September of this year we announced our new program guidelines for obtaining books for the monthly book raffle. The first guideline encouraged members to donate civil war books, in good condition, from their personal libraries. When we made this change we had hopes that we would be able to reduce the amount of money being spent on raffle books from the General Fund and this would free up more money for other Round Table priorities. Prior to this change all books were being purchased through local outlets, or online, at full retail price. Well, we won't have to worry about spending organization money on raffle books for quite some time as a result of the donation of 223 hard and soft cover books from member Dave Smith. Dave has decided to reduce the size of his personal library and the Round Table's Book Raffle Program is going to be the beneficiary of his generous gift. Any proceeds derived from the on-going raffle of these books, or any monies received from the sale of these books, will be deposited into the Preservation Fund to help with our program of contributions dedicated towards civil war land preservation and education programs. Now, don't let Dave's wonderful addition to our raffle book inventory discourage you from donating some of your own personal civil war books to help us raise money for Civil War Preservation Projects. If you have a few copies, in good condition, you'd like to donate to the Round Table please give them to Bob Limoseth at any of our future meetings.

Book Raffle Sale:

As a result of Dave Smith's donation of books to the Round Table, we are going to start giving away three books each month in conjunction with the monthly book raffle. In addition, beginning with the January meeting and lasting until May, we are going to have a stack of about ten to twenty books available each meeting for member purchase. The books will be displayed near the check-in table and will be available for \$10.00 each. Any member who would like to purchase one of the books should simply make their selection before the meeting and make payment to Treasurer Jim Stewart at the check-in table.

50th Anniversary Souvenir Program:

A limited supply of the 50th Anniversary souvenir program is available for those members who were not in attendance at the October 19th meeting. If you were unable to join us for that very special celebration and would like a souvenir copy of the evening's program, please see Dawn Mowery at the January meeting. A copy can also be provided by mail, as long as supplies last, by emailing Dawn at dmowery11@fuse.net or by calling her at 513.774.9544.

Inclement Weather Plan:

Yes, it's that time of year when winter weather might force us to cancel a meeting. While that is unlikely, it has only happened two times in the last fifteen years, we wanted to provide you some options for getting last minute information on meeting day. If the weather turns bad, and the streets are difficult to travel, you can check the following sources to determine if the meeting is still on or if it has been cancelled.

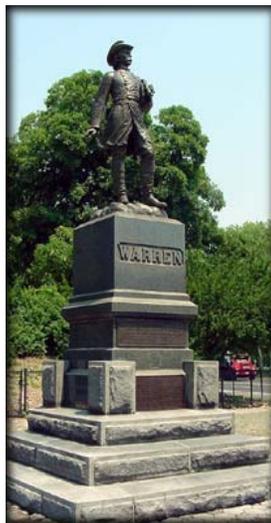
1. Check the home page on our web site at www.cincinnatiwrt.org. We will post a simple update informing the membership that the meeting has either been cancelled or it is still on.

2. Call the Quality Hotel & Suites at 513.351.6000 and inquire about the status of the meeting. If we decide to cancel, they will be the first to know and their front desk people will be informed.
3. Call John Linnenberg, President, at 513.607.4002 (business) or 513.922.3999 (home)
4. Call Bob Limoseth, Vice President, at 513.777.2160.

John and Bob will make the decision on the status of the meeting based on the condition of the roads, the safety of our members, the status of the speaker and the Quality Hotels ability to serve us.

Welcome New Members:

The Round Table welcomed Gary Johnson into membership at the September meeting. In November we welcomed new members Tom Lewis, Michael Stevens and Vince & Marsha Stitzel as well as returning members Ray Drew and Connie Roesch. Our current membership of dues paying members now stands at 83.



Book Review by David M. Smith:

"Happiness Is Not My Companion:" The Life of General G.K. Warren by David M. Jordan, Indiana University Press, 2001, 401 pages, \$24.95, hard cover

Happiness Is Not My Companion is an apt title for David Jordan's 2001 biography of General Gouverneur K. Warren, hero of Little Round Top at Gettysburg, commander of the II and V Corps for the Army of the Potomac, and most famously relieved of command by Major General Philip Sheridan following the Battle of Five Forks in April of 1865. That relief, coming scant days before the surrender of Robert E. Lee at Appomattox, sparked controversy and an eventual court of inquiry into the appropriateness of the relief.

This biography, long overdue and very much needed, goes far towards painting a picture of the enigma that was G.K. Warren. Get two Civil War buffs together, and you will likely have conflicting thoughts about what made the man tick. Author Jordan does a very nice job of culling the extensive Warren papers and presenting the various sides of "Gouv," and further includes snippets from the letters of his wife to flesh out his subject.

Warren himself is often treated by historians as something of a loaner for whom the trials of war drove him more and more towards despondency and depression. This is much of what Jordan presents, although I found the work somewhat lacking in analysis of the subject's character. For example, one could fairly easily extrapolate that

Gouverneur Warren may well have suffered from bi-polar disorder, a malady not uncommon to brilliant men. Jordan's descriptions of Warren's seeming inability to complete after the war his Midwest mapping projects from the antebellum period, and the seeming mountains of work associated with the projects, allows us to see the loaner sitting in his work area with mounds of paper strewn about. That Warren spent most of his life away from his wife speaks volumes.

Jordan does an excellent job presenting Warren's mood swings. Periods of inactivity seemed to drive the downward spiral for Warren's moods, although almost any pretense of activity could perk the general up. What also comes through beautifully is the somewhat odd love affair between Warren and his wife Emily, one that lasted through his lifetime, yet saw the two living apart for so much of their time together.

Jordan further does a good job of chronicling the Warren Court of Inquiry, presenting what is most likely a more balanced side of the Court than Phil Sheridan probably deserved.

Like many military biographies, Jordan spends more time filling in the military history surrounding Warren than looking at the man himself – not too unusual for Civil War biography – but still leaving so much interpretation open to the reader. And that, in and of itself, is not too large a problem for the reader can draw his or her own conclusions regarding what drove Gouverneur K. Warren, and what led to his premature death at the age of 53.

All-in-all, an excellent work, and well worth the purchase and read.

Quiz---November, 2006

1. Civil War veterans who later served in the United States Senate included Adelbert Ames, Matthew S. Quay, William J. Sewell, Francis E. Warren, and Henry A. DuPont. As a result of their service, they had something in common with modern Senators Daniel K. Inouye and J. Robert Kerrey. What did these seven men have in common?
2. According to Bruce Catton in *The Coming Fury*, to whom did General Winfield Scott offer the position of his second-in-command of the Union Army after it was declined by Robert E. Lee? (Note: Catton did not cite his source for this information, and biographer Charles P. Roland stated only that this officer was offered "high command.")
3. On this date (November 16th), General Sherman recounted in his *Memoirs* that he was just behind the XIV Corps on the march when a band "struck up the anthem of 'John Brown's soul goes marching on;' the men caught up the strain, and never before or since have I heard the chorus of 'Glory, glory, hallelujah!' done with more spirit, or in better harmony of time and place." When and where did this incident occur?
4. At the outbreak of the war, Thomas Scott, Vice-president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, became Assistant Secretary of War, responsible for development of the military telegraph and railroad systems. Scott took with him his 25-year-old superintendent of the railroad's Pittsburgh Division, a former telegrapher himself. This young man was instrumental in organizing the War Department's telegraph office and immediately rebuilding the Long Bridge to extend railroad service from Washington across the Potomac to Alexandria. After the war, he became one of the United States' most important industrial entrepreneurs, investors, and philanthropists. Who was he?
5. On 10 May 1861, BG Nathaniel Lyon used his force of inexperienced Missouri recruits to break up the camp of Missouri's pro-Confederate militia. As Lyon marched 600 prisoners back to St. Louis, his troops exchanged gunfire with some members of the unruly crowd lining the route of march. During the gunfire, the president of the Fifth Street Railroad Company lay on the ground on top of his son to avoid the gunfire. Two weeks earlier, this USMA graduate had declined an offer to command Missouri's new volunteers, with the command then going to Lyon. However, he would soon be back in uniform. Who was this civilian?
6. Two men born in Mason County, Kentucky, became general officers and died during the war. One, born in Washington, died in battle as a Confederate general. The other, born in Maysville, died in Louisville in 1862 as a Union general. Who were these two men?



November Presentation, Summarized by Albert Hallenberg:

For the November 2006 meeting, our Round Table was pleased to welcome back Greg Biggs, current President and Program Chair of the Clarksville (TN) Civil War Round Table. Greg is no stranger to the Cincinnati Round Table, as he has spoken to us at five previous meetings.

Round Table members have listened to many outstanding talks on battles and leaders of Civil War, but rarely have we heard a presentation on the actual military administration behind the fighting armies. Greg provided insight into this aspect of the War with his talk on Confederate Department No. 2, which administered a good portion of the Western Theater stretching from the Cumberland Gap to the Mississippi River. The Confederate Government formed Department No. 2 in the summer of 1861 and shut it down in February 1862.

While the Eastern Theater battles went well for the Confederates, the Western Theater conflicts, particularly those under Department No. 2, were another matter. Within the designated geographic designation of Department No. 2 during this time period, Forts Henry and Donelson fell to the Union. Previous to these successes, Federal forces broke the Confederate defense line of southern Kentucky at Mill Spring and, although Confederates held their own at Belmont, Missouri, the battle allowed a lesser known Union general at the time, Ulysses S. Grant, to prove his worth.

In command of these challenging tasks for Department No. 2 was Albert Sidney Johnston. Greg discussed how, from the beginning, Johnston was saddled with willful subordinates, such as Leonidas Polk. Often, Johnston's authority was limited by the fact that generals like Polk were the favorites of the Confederate President Jefferson Davis. In fact, Greg pointed out that Davis alone was ultimately responsible for Western Theater defeats. Essentially, 45,000 Confederate soldiers were given the impossible task of holding a 350 mile line and, due to Davis not ordering more troops to hold key positions, the loss of Tennessee was inevitable. This loss, along with the presence of better trained Union commanders and the superiority of the Federal river navy, in Greg's view, sealed the fate of the Confederate Western front and, inevitably, marked the "crack of doom" for the Confederacy as a whole.

Greg's presentation originates from a background rich in Civil War study. He has been an Associate Editor of *Blue and Gray Magazine*. In addition to writing several articles for this renowned publication, Greg has been a research contributor to works by such well known authors as Larry Daniel, Gordon Rhea, Wiley Sword and Eric Wittenberg. Greg's residency in Tennessee gives him relatively easy access to several major battlefields of the Western Theater. As many Round Table members are aware, a number of Ohio regiments participated in these battles, and Greg also possesses an Ohio connection, as he held several Officer positions with the Western Ohio Civil War Round Table and the Ohio Civil War Association. Our Round Table members appreciated, as always, Greg's frank assessments, and we look forward to hearing from him again in the near future.



Quiz Answers—November, 2006

1. They were all awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. (Senate Historical Office website, <http://www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/SenatorsCMH.pdf>.)
2. Albert Sidney Johnston (Catton, *The Coming Fury*, 431; Roland, *Albert Sidney Johnston: Soldier of Three Republics*, 261).
3. Sherman and his command had just left Atlanta on their march to the sea, 16 November 1864. (Sherman, *Memoirs*, 655-656.)
4. Andrew Carnegie, who built America's steel industry, in addition to paying for thousands of libraries, trusts and foundations, Carnegie Hall, etc. (Bates, *Lincoln in the Telegraph Office*, esp. 20-24; Foner & Garraty, *The Reader's Companion to American History*, 148.)
5. William T. Sherman, then living in St. Louis, but soon to be appointed to a new position in the US Army. (Phillips, *Dammed Yankee*, pp. 165, 192.)
6. Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston and Union General William Nelson. (Rose, ed., *Kentucky's Civil War 1861-1865*, p. 62.)



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:

January 22nd, 2007
February 19th, 2007
March 19th, 2007
April 23rd, 2007

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu



FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2006-2007 Programs

February 15 th , 2007	Bob McLaurin, CCWRT, The River Navy
March 15 th , 2007	Jack Simon, CCWRT, Fortifications
April 19 th , 2007	Terry Winschel, Vicksburg National Military Park
May 17 th , 2007	Harold George, Lakewood, OH, 9 th Ohio Independent Battery Light Artillery
September 20, 2007	Dr. Lenette S. Taylor, Kent State University "The Supply For Tomorrow Must Not Fail: The Civil War of Captain Simon Perkins Jr., A Union Quartermaster."
October 18, 2007	Richard M. McMurry—Topic to be announced
November 15, 2007	Gary Ecelbarger "The Unheralded Alliance: John 'Black Jack' Logan and Ulysses S. Grant"



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. Sustaining members are members who have made financial contributions of \$25 or more in addition to their annual dues in any fiscal year. The purpose of this membership category is to encourage and recognize members who make additional contributions 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 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 Exit #7, Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and travel east to the Montgomery Road exit. After exiting, "double-back" by turning left across the bridge, turning left again after the bridge, and turning left at the light onto Montgomery. If coming from Interstate 71, also exit at Exit #7, Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and go west to the Montgomery Road exit. After exiting, continue straight to the light and turn left onto Montgomery. The Quality is on the right, and 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.

CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:

President: John W. Linnenberg, (h) 513-922-3999 jw.linnenberg@gte.net (cell) 607-4002 (has voice mail)

Vice President: Bob Limoseth, (h) 513-777-2160 rlimo@fuse.net

Treasurer: Jim Stewart, (h) (513) 271-0738 jebstewart@fuse.net

Secretary: Albert Hallenberg, (h) 859-441-0385 Alberthallenberg@zoomtown.com
(w) 369-6909 albert.hallenberg@cincinnatilibrary.org

Program Chair: David Mowery, (h) 513-774-9544 dmowery11@fuse.net

Newsletter Editor: Patricia Waldbillig, (h) 513-271-5766 (w) 513-745-3531 waldbill@xavier.edu

Membership & Publicity Chair: Jack Simon, (h) 513-574-0017 JackPSimon@aol.com

Trustee (2006-2008): Dan Reigle, (h) 513-777-9255 DReigle@cinci.rr.com

Trustee (2005-2007): Mike Rhein, (h) 513-984-3227

Committees:

Preservation Projects: Co-Chairs: Jeff Strotzman, (h) 513-226-1644 jstrotts678@yahoo.com;

Patricia Waldbillig, (h) 513-271-5766 (w) 513-745-3531 waldbill@xavier.edu

Webmaster: Dan Reigle, (h) 513-777-9255 DReigle@cinci.rr.com

Photographer: Jim Chaney, (h) 859-731-0594 jchaney@davmail.org

50th Anniversary: Dawn Mowery, (h) 513-774-9544 dmowery11@fuse.net

CCWRT ListServ: Dr. John Steiner, (h) 513-528-3350 jcsneuro@fuse.net

