



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.cincinnatiwrt.org>  
January, 2011 Issue

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Meeting Date: January 20, 2011

**Place: The Drake Center**

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

**(6:30) Dinner**

**(7:15) Business Meeting**

**(7:30) Speaker**

**Dinner Menu: Blackened lemon pepper tilapia,  
marinated tomato & red onion salad, vegetable rice pilaf, steamed asparagus tips,  
assorted dinner rolls, and andes mint pie  
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

**Speaker: Ralph Arnold, CCWRT  
Railroads of the Confederacy**

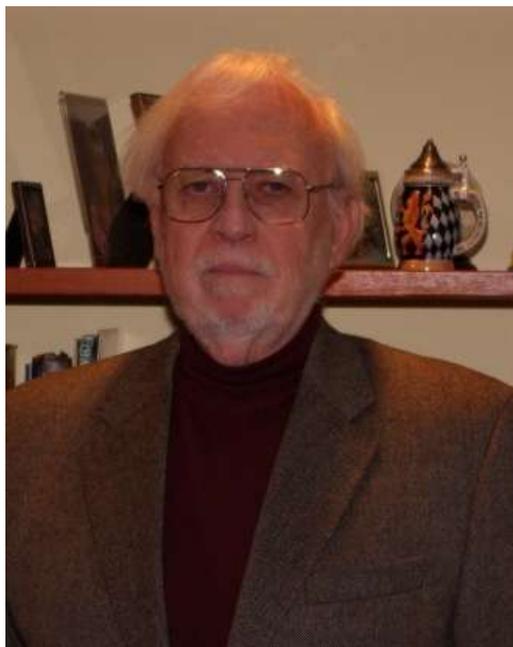
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**Reservations:** If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to [reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org](mailto:reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org); call it in to Tom Breiner at 513-984-3101 (h); or email: [tbreiner@fuse.net](mailto:tbreiner@fuse.net). 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, January 12, 2011.**

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**About our January Speaker:** At the January meeting, fellow Cincinnati Civil War Round Table member Ralph Arnold makes his debut appearance on the CCWRT's podium. Mr. Arnold holds a PhD degree in Transportation Management, with which he spent 25 years in a career involving transportation operations and management prior to moving into the field of academics. He served with the U.S. Air Force's Air Intelligence group for many years, during which time he was stationed in Japan. He returned to the United States and found a career as a Professor of Management and On Site Program Manager at the Union Institute, from which role he has retired. He has also served as an Adjunct Associate

Professor at the Center for Organizational Leadership at the University of Cincinnati. Ralph's primary interest in the American Civil War has been in the area of military logistics and maps. Over the years, he has toured all of the major Civil War battlefields, as well as most of the war's minor engagement sites and museums.



**Ralph Arnold**

Mr. Arnold's presentation will examine the role that railroads performed in the defense of the Confederate States of America. Ralph will look at the state of the Confederacy's railroad network before, during, and after the Civil War, and how external influences such as States' Rights based government, slave labor, manufacturing capacity, and raw material availability played upon the success – and failure – of the railroads south of the Mason-Dixon line. Ralph will also discuss major troop movement logistics that aided the Southern armies. These and other topics will provide an understanding of the enormous hurdles facing the Confederate States' railroad system as a major method of transportation and communications for the fledgling country.



## **President's Report**

## **... Pat Homan**

As it is Christmas Eve as I write this column, but you won't read it until January, I still wish you all a belated Merry Christmas. I also wonder what it was like 150 years ago as the nation was beginning to ponder the impact of the act of secession of South Carolina. I suspect it took the edge off the holidays for many but I also doubt if many fully realized what the next four years would bring.

In the next four years, we will have numerous opportunities to talk and teach about the Civil War. These will come at odd times and from often-unexpected sources. I urge you all to take advantage of these opportunities to encourage reading and learning about this great conflict. This is when our brochure that Mike Rogers put together can be very helpful. I believe, that with proper promotion, we can grow the Round Table to 200 members during this coming four years.

One of the sad truths of today is that many students, from high school through college, and recent graduates, have no knowledge of the Civil War. It is simply some vague event in our past. Modern education "experts" have decided that American History is not a vital subject and have cut the subject back to the period starting with the end of Reconstruction to the present time. This starts then, with the election of Rutherford Hayes. The student never learns of the issues that led to the American Revolution, the founding of our country, the issues of the Constitutional Convention and certainly of the issues that led to the Civil War, how it was fought and all the related issues. Many only know of Lincoln as a president way back when and many don't even know he was assassinated. I have witnessed this in students who transferred into my class. It is appalling but that is a battle for your local school boards.

What this provides is fertile ground for education. Many of these same students really want to know about this period. I am hoping that whatever publicity is drummed up during the next four years, will trigger curiosity and questions. I encourage you, when answering question of those who are completely ignorant, is to keep your initial answers simple. Too much data can drive them off. Also remember that their ignorance is not their fault.

When adults ask for one good book on the subject, my first choice is McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*. I warn them that it is long but the reward is finishing it. I would like to know of a simpler high school level text to recommend as many of our high school grads, have a less than eighth grade reading level. This is another example of the problems in many of our schools.

I could continue on this subject but I am liable to start frothing. Just remember that we are going to be presented with opportunities. I want to commend Bob Limoseth for seizing a rare opportunity and setting up a very special event at the Museum Center, to mark President-elect Lincoln's train ride to Washington in 1861. He was routed through Cincinnati and this event will be part of the recreation of the actual ride. A series of events at each stop, organized by the National Park Service will include Cincinnati, where Lincoln stopped on his 52d birthday. Bob will provide more details in an accompanying column. Please do everything you can to publicize this event. Thank you Bob for jumping in and setting this up.

A Happy New Year to all of you.



## Items of Interest:

**Preservation project for 2010-2011:** Our project for the 2010-2011 campaign is to fund the cost of replacing and updating two interpretive signs at the Perryville, KY Battlefield. The signs describe the actions of Colonel Wm. H. Lytle's Brigade. One sign describes the brigade's stubborn defense of the hill above the Bottom House while the other sign describes the brigade's artillery duel at Loomis Heights. As many of know Lytle, perhaps the most well known Civil War soldier emanating from Cincinnati, was injured at Perryville, recovered, and then went onto tragically lose his life in the Battle of Chickamauga.

As has been the practice in the past, the Roundtable will match the first \$500 contributed by our members. Last year we had a very successful donation campaign which benefited of the Museum of the Confederacy. We were able to more than double the number of fund donors who contributed to the previous year's campaign. This year we are setting a goal of increasing the number of donors by another 25 percent. We hope that you will share our enthusiasm in improving a battlefield close to our homes and a hero close to our hearts. Please give or mail your checks to Alan Berenson, Preservation Chair.

**Shiloh Field Trip Dates Set:** Mark your calendars. The spring field trip to the Shiloh Battlefield will be Sat. Apr 30<sup>th</sup>, Sun. May 1<sup>st</sup> and Mon. May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The trip will include a two hour guided tour of Corinth, an eight hour guided tour of Shiloh, and whatever else we can sneak in. Cost will include transportation and tour fees. Attendees will be responsible for reserving their own hotel room at the Hampton Inn in Corinth and meals. As we have done the past couple of years, we will be renting a 15 passenger van. The final cost of trip will depend on the number of attendees. Of the members who want to go, we will need a volunteer to drive their own vehicle to help transport luggage and a few of the attendees. Please see Dan Bauer or e-mail him at [dbauer002@cinci.rr.com](mailto:dbauer002@cinci.rr.com) for additional information.

## **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Observance of Lincoln's Inaugural Journey Coming to Cincinnati:**

The National Park Service recently contacted the Round Table for assistance in identifying a site in Cincinnati to host the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Observance of Lincoln's Inaugural Journey from Springfield, Illinois to Washington, D.C. Vanessa Van Zant, Director of the Cincinnati History Museum, has agreed to host the event with the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table acting as its community partner.

Abraham Lincoln traveled through more than 83 cities and towns in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Maryland, on his way to Washington D.C. from February 11-23, 1861. The second night of his journey, February 12th – his 52nd birthday, was spent in Cincinnati at the Burnet Hotel. The program will include an accomplished Lincoln presenter who will dramatically portray what Lincoln said and did here, to the extent practical, and National Park Service Rangers will discuss the larger "Civil War to Civil Rights" theme of the journey.

Other forms of programming to assist this visit are being considered. The Round Table will have an Information Table immediately outside the auditorium. We plan on handing out promotional brochures and answer questions about Round Table membership as well as help the public understand the importance of this most important time period in American History.

We need your help in getting the word out and we do hope that you'll want to attend so that the Round Table will be well represented. If you are a member of another Round Table, please extend an invitation for their members to attend. If you have a friend, or neighbor, with an interest in Abraham Lincoln or the American Civil War, be sure they receive an invitation to join us as well. We'd love to fill the museum's auditorium and we can't do that without your help. We hope you'll mark your calendars now for Saturday night, February 12, 2011 at 7:00pm for an Evening at The Museum with Lincoln. What a great way to launch the Sesquicentennial activities scheduled for 2011...and you can be a part of it! Contact Bob Limoseth at [rlimo@fuse.net](mailto:rlimo@fuse.net) or call him at 513.777.2160 if you need additional information.

**More Sesquicentennial News from VA:** The Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission's third annual Signature Conference will be held at Virginia Tech University on May 21, 2011 and will feature noted historians discussing military strategy in the American Civil War. The conference will highlight Virginia and the Eastern Theater, as well as the Western Theater of the War. Speakers will also discuss elements of the war that affected military strategy and tactics. As a special treat, the Stonewall Brigade Band will perform during the lunch break. You won't want to miss this outstanding program! Scheduled speakers are James M. Bowen, William C. Davis, Dennis E. Frye, Gary W. Gallagher, Joseph T. Glatthaar, Richard M. McMurry, James I. Robertson, Jr., Richard J. Sommers, and Steven E. Woodworth. For more information on the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission, visit their website: [www.VirginiaCivilWar.org](http://www.VirginiaCivilWar.org).

**Vicksburg military park poised to add 10K acres:** A bill introduced by Mississippi's senators, Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker, would permit the Vicksburg National Military Park to expand by 10,000 acres to include the Champion Hill, Port Gibson and Raymond battlefields. If the legislation passes, it would be the first comprehensive preservation of an entire Civil War campaign by a single organization, said Terry Winschel, a historian at the park. "Here in Mississippi we have the opportunity to interpret an entire campaign and actually follow the same dirt roads that the soldiers from the North and South followed," said Terry Winschel. "These three battlefields have remarkable historic integrity," said Mike Madell, park superintendent. "All are much as they were in 1863, except they weren't paved roads back then. As compared to many battlefields in the East, these are still in very good condition." Winschel said the only battle in the campaign that has had serious encroachment is the battle that took place in Jackson. The timing for this preservation couldn't be better with the 150th anniversary of the 1863 campaign approaching, he

said. The proposed sites would encompass several historic homes, including the Shaifer House at Port Gibson and the Coker House at Champion Hill, now owned by the state Department of Archives and History. Clarionledger; November 20, 2010



## November Presentation:

...submitted by Mike Rhein

“It should have happened, but it didn’t.”

This quote by our speaker last month, Eric Wittenberg, in his program, entitled, “Plenty of Blame to Go Around,” summarized the “what if’s” arising out of Confederate cavalry General James Ewell Brown Stuart’s disastrous cavalry expedition during the 1863 Gettysburg campaign.

The aforementioned quote reflected the old “Murphy’s Law” syndrome: Anything that could possibly go wrong, will do so. For General Robert Lee, the Gettysburg campaign was replete with examples of Murphy’s Law, beginning with Stuart. Mr. Wittenberg, a Columbus, Ohio attorney and author of 18 published books (specializing in cavalry operations), making his fourth presentation to the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table, detailed Stuart’s star-crossed ride from its inception to the final destination at Gettysburg on July 2, the second day of the battle.

Mr. Wittenberg set the stage for Stuart’s ride around the Union Army of the Potomac by describing the near defeat of Stuart by Union cavalry general Alfred Pleasanton at Brandy Station, Culpeper Co., Virginia, June 9, 1863, in 14 hours of the largest cavalry battle in the war. “The Richmond papers excoriated Stuart,” he emphasized, adding that Stuart, barely held off Union cavalry thrusts at Aldie, Va. (June 17) and Middleburg (June 19) and sustained his first defeat by the Union horsemen at Upperville (June 21), Was Stuart’s pride stung by these events? Was his suggestion to Gen. Lee about riding around the Army of the Potomac (providing that it was inactive, usually moving slowly) motivated in part by his wounded pride?



**Eric J. Wittenberg**

Our speaker stressed that Stuart, in his view, was “an extraordinarily capable, very professional soldier” and enjoyed full confidence by Gen. Lee who considered him the eyes and ears of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee approved Stuart’s plan, providing that Stuart protected the right flank of Gen. Richard Ewell’s Second Corps as it marched into Pennsylvania, collected supplies and did damage to the enemy wherever he could. Lee’s operational orders to Stuart, written by his military secretary, Colonel Charles Marshall, were done twice, June 22-23, with the final admonition, “be watchful and circumspect in all your movements.”

The ride, which according to Mr. Wittenberg, took eight days, much longer than anticipated, started off on a wrong note, when Stuart headed through Glasscock’s Gap (Bull Run Mountains) instead of Hopewell Gap upon the suggestion by his favorite scout, John S. Mosby, and ran into the Union Gen. Winfield S. Hancock’s II Corps, marching toward Maryland. Riding back to Buckland Mills, he waits to hear from

Mosby for ten hours, never hearing from him. Subsequently, Stuart lost more time in fending off a cavalry attack, raiding the Army of the Potomac's supply depot at Fairfax Court House, laboriously crossing a difficult ford into Maryland, the only one available to Stuart.

Capturing 150 wagons and escorting them from Rockville ate more precious hours. Mr. Wittenberg said Stuart had sent two couriers to inform Lee of his whereabouts and developments, but they were captured. In the meantime, Lee is in the dark regarding the Union Army's movements, with his anxiety increasing by the day. Another skirmish with Union cavalry at West Minister, Maryland on June 29 consumed more hours, increasing the exhaustion of Stuart's men and horses. Another battle at Hanover, PA, June 30 against Union cavalry, led by Gen. Judson Kilpatrick, taxed Stuart's cavalry. At the time of this battle, the speaker added, Confederate Gen. Jubal Early is marching to Gettysburg from York. He heard gunfire to the east but apparently dismissed it as firing by local militia, never investigating it. This is one of those "what if's" to which Mr. Wittenberg alluded: What if Early had stopped and checked out the firing at Hanover? Stuart could have conceivably hooked up with him and protected Early's flank along the way to Gettysburg, possibly assisting his division in its assault on the Union army's 11<sup>th</sup> Corps on July 1 and maybe even help capture Culp's Hill that day, thereby making the Army of the Potomac's Cemetery Hill position untenable. Instead, Stuart continued to grope his way in trying to find Ewell at York and Carlisle, not arriving at Gettysburg until July 2.



**Jeb Stuart**

Mr. Wittenberg, assessing Stuart's ride, said that Gen. R.E. Lee shares "bulk of the blame; he issued the orders," adding that Marshall "wrote wretched orders." Stuart "deserves part of the blame" in that "he should have unloaded that wagon train." He said that Early gets a "great deal of blame" since "he didn't respond to the gunfire" and that Mosby "didn't keep Stuart informed of developments of the Union Army."

Mr. Wittenberg's finely-researched presentation illustrated the age-old dilemma that has plagued all commanders throughout history: the "fog of war."

## Future Presentations:

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| February 17, 2011  | Pat Homan, CCWRT<br><i>Paved with Good Intentions: The Road to War</i>                                       |
| March 17, 2011     | Martin Stewart, Troy (Ohio) CWRT<br><i>Redemption: The 71st Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War</i>     |
| April 21, 2011     | Harold Holzer, New York Metropolitan Museum,<br><i>How Lincoln Became President – In Ohio</i>                |
| May 19, 2011       | Thomas Cartwright, Lotz House Civil War Museum<br><i>Humor in the Civil War</i>                              |
| September 15, 2011 | David Mowery, CCWRT and OCWTC<br><i>America's Longest Cavalry Ride: Morgan's 1863 Raid Around Cincinnati</i> |
| October 20, 2011   | Frank J. Williams, Providence, RI<br><i>Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief: The First Year of the War</i> |
| November 17, 2011  | Peter Cozzens, Silver Springs, MD<br><i>Topic TBD</i>  |

# November Quiz:

1: The recent death of conservative editorial columnist James J. Kilpatrick Brought attention to the fact that he was closely associated and influenced early in his career by another newspaperman who is most famous for his contributions to Confederate Civil War history. Who was that person?

2: 17 Oct. 1859 was a bright fall day at Arlington. Robert E. Lee “wuz a-stannin’ out whar de men was a-cuttin’ a little rhy,” remembers Jim Parks, one of the slaves. “A mounted soldier cum up an’ s’luted an’ giv gen’l Lee a note. He took hit an’ read hit, den sent fo’ he ker’idge driver.” A: Who was the mounted soldier? B: Where did Lee go on his carriage ride?

3: Be prepared to pay BIG BUCKS for your next new soft and cool cotton garment. Cotton’s price has recently hit a high of \$1.20/lb. What is the highest price/lb. in nominal dollars (non inflated) cotton ever brought? When did that occur?

4: A new English word was coined by the pro McClellan New York World in 1864 in a warm up to the coming national elections. It related to the Democratic Party’s attempt to elevate fear of racial equality to counter the radical Republicans. What was the word?

5: A group of modern but Civil War connected personalities including Robert E. Lee IV, Wayne Parks, great, great grandson of Lee’s slave, Jim Parks (see above), General Montgomery Meigs, great nephew of his Civil War namesake and Elizabeth Brown Pryor, author of Reading the Man, are members of a newly (2009) established board of trustees to protect and preserve a famous Civil War site. What is it?

6: After the Dred Scott decision was handed down in 1857 a newspaper stated, “Southern opinion upon the subject of slavery ..... is now the supreme law of the land.” The decision “crushes the life out of that miserable ..... black Republican organization.” What newspaper was that?

## Answers

1: Douglas Southall Freeman, editor of the Richmond, Va. News Leader  
Ref.: Wall Street Journal, 17 Aug. 2010, Remembrances, pA8

2: A: Jeb Stuart B: President Buchanan’s cabinet meeting regarding the issue of an insurrection at Harper’s Ferry.  
Ref.: Reading the Man, Brown-Pryor, p278-9.

3: \$1.89/lb. the Civil War years (1861-1865)  
Ref: Flashback to 1870 as Cotton Hits Peak, Wall St. Journal, 16 Oct. 2010, pB1

4: Miscegenation  
Ref.: Battle Cry of Freedom, McPherson, p. 176

5: Arlington House at Arlington National Cemetery  
Ref.: Hallowed Ground, Civil War Preservation Trust, Winter 2009, p. 12

6: The Cincinnati Enquirer of 8 Mar. 1857  
Ref.: Battle Cry of Freedom, McPherson, p. 176

## 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](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 \$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 accessed 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.

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