



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>
January, 2012 Issue

Meeting Date: January 19, 2012

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: Cornish game hen served with wild rice stuffing, broccoli au gratin,
warm blackberry cobbler, w/vanilla ice cream
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

Speaker: Gary Q. Johnson, CCWRT

Topic: The Squeeze in the Anaconda Plan; America's First 600 Ship Navy

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 Breiner at 513-984-3101 (h); or email: 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 11, 2012.**

About our January Speaker:

In 1861, 74-year old General Winfield Scott recommended a broad strategy to President Lincoln to blockade the South's 3,500-mile coastline and to invade along the Mississippi River to outflank and split the South. The press derided the idea and called it the "Anaconda Plan." The Lincoln administration informally adopted this strategy that became a monumental challenge for the Union Navy, which only had 48 ships and 8,500 officers and sailors in 1861. By the end of the war, the Union Navy had over 600 ships and 55,000 men. Gary's talk will outline the four major missions for U.S. Naval forces and describe what it took to recruit and train sailors who differed greatly from the average soldier. It will also discuss the issues in



Gary Q. Johnson

graduation as an officer qualified in submarines and nuclear propulsion. His ships were home-ported in Charleston, South Carolina. After leaving the Navy, he worked for Procter & Gamble for 27 years in a variety of Health, Safety, and Environment roles to support manufacturing sites. About eight years ago, he left P&G to become an Industrial Ventilation Consultant.

acquiring purpose-built ships for the different missions and the logistics needed to keep the world's first large steam powered navy on station. New tactics were needed to contain blockade runners, to confront commerce raiders, to respond to new weapons, and to provide close gunfire support for the Army. The talk will conclude by summarizing how the Navy's contributions played an important role in the North's winning of the war.

The January meeting will mark Gary's third trip to the Cincinnati CWRT podium. Gary is a chemical engineering graduate of the Ohio State University. He attended college

on a Naval ROTC scholarship and served five years after



General Winfield Scott



President's Report

..... **Pat Homan**

I hope you all had a joyous Christmas or Hanukah. The Homan house was full of children, their spouses and all 16 grandchildren. It seemed so quiet when they all went home. Santa didn't bring me any books on the Civil War, but I did get a book on Garfield's assassination. Currently I am reading much on European History in the pre-World War I period as I am teaching that this year.

The first year of the Civil War's Sesquicentennial is coming to a close. We started the year with the re-enactment of Lincoln's inaugural trip, delighting the Park Service with a turnout of almost 600. 150 years ago, the North was still pondering the defeat at Balls Bluff in October, but would shortly note the first substantial Union victory in Kentucky at Mill Springs. 1862 would prove to be a bitter year, as the reality of war would hit on both sides. Our Roundtable has an interesting lineup of speakers to mark the occasion.

The year 2012 will see changes in a couple of our Chair positions. Dave Mowrey, who has done an excellent job of bringing in a variety of speakers, is stepping down at the end of the campaign year as he is finishing his book on Morgan's Raid, and working to get the State Markers complete for the Morgan Trail. Albert Hallenberg has volunteered to replace him and will continue the standard of excellence that Dave carried on. My thanks to Dave for his excellent work.

Another change is that our Preservation Chairman, Alan Berenson, is stepping down. He will be replaced by the team of Becky Burkett and Randy Donohue, famous for their trip reports. Again, Alan has done a top-notch job in finding worthy projects for our Preservation funds. Alan will continue with his current project of placing a marker on 3d Street to note the location and significance of the Burnet House.

While on this subject, I will continue to urge ALL members to donate to the Burnet House Project. While off to an excellent start, this project needs the support of all our membership. It is a very important historical site of which the majority of citizens of Cincinnati are unaware. This needs to change.

I want to encourage all of you to talk up the Roundtable and encourage friends to attend a meeting. We need to take advantage of this Sesquicentennial and see if we can at least grow to a membership of 150.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at the January meeting for another great presentation by Gary Johnson.



Items of Interest:

Field Trip 2012: Mark your calendars for the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table spring field trip. The dates are April 20, 21, 22, and 23. The destination is Richmond, VA. The battlefield is the Seven Days. Highlights will include the following: Dabbs House (Lee's Headquarters), Mechanicsville, Gaines's Mill, Savage's Station, White Oak Swamp, Frayser's Farm/Glendale, Malvern Hill. The tour guide is Bob Krick of the NPS.

As we have done the past few years, transportation will be via a 15 passenger van. To reserve your seat for this tour, please send a check in the amount of \$115 made out to the CCWRT and mailed to Dan Bauer, 6581 Club LN, West Chester, OH 45069 or present the check to Dan Bauer at one of the next couple of meetings. Checks will not be cashed until one month prior to departure. The \$115 will cover the cost of transportation, guide fees, and miscellaneous expenses. Each attendee will be responsible for their own hotel costs and meals. The hotel has not been selected as of yet but will likely be a Hampton Inn as we have done in the past. If you have any questions, contact Dan Bauer at 759-4495. Additional details to follow.

As an aside, the Civil War Preservation Trust is asking for donations for the purchase of land at Gaines's Mills, VA. As part of this effort, the CWPT website has posted a video of Bob Krick discussing the significance of the property. The video can be seen at www.civilwar.org/GainesMill2011. This is a three for one deal as you can see Bobby Krick in action, learn about Gaines's Mill, and perhaps consider making a donation.

2011-2012 Cincinnati Civil War Preservation Fund Campaign: This year's preservation project is the memorialization of the Burnet House with the placement of an historic marker at 3rd & Vine Streets. The marker will be a 33X43 inch aluminum plaque with space adequate for substantial copy as well as a visual of the formerly described "finest hotel in the world."

This is the largest project our Round Table has adopted in its history at least in terms of cost. It is a \$2500 hurdle. We have just about 100 members and if each one of us could see his/her way to contribute at least \$15, that total plus the up to \$1000 matching funds donated by our Round Table's Preservation Fund would get the job done.

It used to be thought that \$15 was a lot of money and back in Abe Lincoln's day it would buy a client any number of legal services. Today it would barely buy 4 gallons of gas, 9 holes of golf (if one walked) or just about 1/2 the cost of our Round Table's dinner meeting. Many would consider this proposal a bit of a fantasy but even if this dream only became partially real, it would create increased unity within our group and make us a more purposeful organization.

Drop \$15 (or more!) in an envelope with a statement that the funds are to be for the benefit of our Preservation Project and give it to Jim Stewart, our treasurer, or mail it to: Cincinnati CWRT, P.O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, Oh. 45262. This is an opportunity for our Round Table to make a dream come true and spread a little bit of history upon our community. Become a member of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table's \$15 Club! And THANK YOU.



To assist in the fundraising effort, we have been very fortunate in having a generous member contribute a signed and numbered print as a raffle prize of Keith Rocco's famous depiction of Generals Longstreet and Pickett just moments before the former gives the order for the latter to initiate his famous charge at Gettysburg. Each donation will receive as many raffle tickets as the amount of his/her donation is divisible by \$25, but any size donation will be gratefully welcomed. The raffle will be conducted at our May 2012 meeting.

Keith Rocco Print to be Raffled

Civilwar.com: Our current preservation project and the rest of this season's speaker list are published at civilwar.com. Civilwar.com offers an outlet to help gain awareness to a very broad community of Civil War enthusiasts beyond our local area. The posting can be found here: <http://www.civilwar.com/news/recent-postings/150477-cincinnati-civil-war-round-table-2011-2012-preservation-campaign-and-speaker-series.html> Civilwar.com also offers an interactive battle map, which allows you to select a state and look up every battle that took place within that state. You can view information such as commanders, units involved, casualties, and a description. This is a very interesting and educational tool, and many of our members might find it interesting. The interactive battle map can be found at: <http://www.civilwar.com/resources/battle-map.html>.

November Presentation:

... submitted by Andy Simmons

In November, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table was proud to have Peter Cozzens, prolific author, statesman, and historian, make a presentation entitled, *Cahaba: The Story of Captive Boys in Blue*. As a collector of Civil War regimental histories and ephemera, Mr. Cozzens discovered a rare book of the same name. Eventually able to acquire the book himself after 20 years of searching, Mr. Cozzens decided to share this story in part because of the prison camp's little known existence and history and in part to show a dramatic contrast between this prison camp and others maintained by the Confederacy.

Cahaba was located south of Selma, Alabama, at the confluence of the Cahaba and Alabama Rivers. It was built in June 1863 from an unfinished 16,000 square foot brick warehouse. Mr. Cozzens began his description of Cahaba by comparing it to the Andersonville prison. In Andersonville, 45,000 prisoners passed through the camp, 12,913 died, for a 24% death rate. Cahaba saw 5,000 prisoners pass through, yet had only 147-225 deaths, making the death rate 3.7%.

Although many of the conditions of Cahaba were similar to those at Andersonville, it was the humanity of the commandant at Cahaba, Howard A.M. Henderson, which made for the major difference. He gave the men hope and a relatively clean supply of water. Henderson understood northerners. Prior to the war, he was educated at Cincinnati Law School, attended Ohio Wesleyan and went on to become a Methodist minister. He was determined to run Cahaba with as much compassion as discipline and order permitted. Despite of his good intentions, the prison had its share of problems. The most serious was the water supply. The water source passed through town for about 200 yards before entering the camp where it was exposed to "filth of all kinds." The quartermaster corps solved this problem by building a covered pipe from the well to the camp. This kept the drinking water relatively clean and kept the men relatively healthy.



Peter Cozzens

A few problems Henderson could not overcome were overcrowding, inadequate food supply, and vermin. Although designed to have a capacity of only 500 prisoners, the prison population went from 600 in March 1864 to 2,150 in October of that year when Grant ended prisoner exchanges. This left for only 7 ½ square feet per man. In comparison, Army regulations in the north and south required 42 square feet per man. Along with overcrowding, rations became a problem. The typical daily ration was 10-12 ounces of cornmeal, usually with the husks ground in, 5-7 ounces of bacon or beef, and 1-2 hardtack crackers.

Although the prisoners did not starve, a gnawing desire for food permeated their dreams. Rats were also a huge problem; the population grew with the prison population. Prisoners reported being awakened each night so many times by rats that it was unendurable. Rats were only a minor annoyance when measured against the infestation of lice. They crawled over the clothes by day and into the ears, nostrils and mouths of the men by night. An Ohio soldier reported that his clothes were so covered with lice they it looked more like pepper and salt than blue. In addition to the animal vermin, the prisoners had to overcome the human vermin. Fellow prisoners, dubbed muggers, presented a serious problem. They watched new prisoners and preyed on the weakest. They beat them senseless, drugged them with chloroform, and stripped them of valuables. Ironically, despite for a few exceptions, the 179 conscripted guards were relatively humane to the prisoners.

In July 1864, a new officer arrived to take command of the prison named Lt. Colonel Samuel Jones. Captured twice and paroled, Lt. Colonel Jones said he intended to make the “G_D_Yankees suffer.” One particularly egregious example was in January 1865 when the camp was flooded by the Cahaba River. Jones refused to allow the prisoners to seek higher ground, causing them to stand in waist-deep, cold, fetid water for nearly 9 days until the water receded.

Amanda Gardner, a resident living near Cahaba, demanded that Jones end his cruelty. Amanda Gardner provided relief to the prisoners by sending her daughter to give them food, cutting up carpets to make blankets, and setting up a lending library from her large collection of books. Seemingly insignificant, this library helped men alleviate boredom and contributed to the low death rate. Another factor was an excellent hospital and a good supply of medicine.

One of the sad ironies of fate of the Cahaba prisoners came after their release and while they were being exchanged. Prisoners were transferred to Camp Fisk near Vicksburg. More than one-half of the Cahaba prisoners were loaded onto the steamboat Sultana and lost their lives when the boilers exploded. With few survivors of Cahaba, the prison and its memories were mostly lost. Today, little remains except two period buildings and a small monument.



Future Presentations:

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| February 16, 2012 | Jill Holt, CCWRT
<i>Women Soldiers in the Civil War</i> |
| March 15, 2012 | David L. Mowery, CCWRT & OCWTC
<i>America's Longest Cavalry Ride: Morgan's 1863 Raid Around Cincinnati</i> |
| April 19, 2012 | Thomas R. Flagel, Columbia State Community College
<i>Appomattox: The Place of Lee's Surrender and a National Resurrection</i> |
| May 17, 2012 | Lesley J. Gordon, University of Akron
<i>So Much Suffering: The 16th Connecticut Infantry Volunteers in War and Memory</i> |
| September, 2012 | Charles Bracelen Flood, Richmond, KY
<i>Ulysses S. Grant's Final Victory</i> |
| October, 2012 | W. Hunter Lesser, Elkins, WV
<i>The First Campaign: Western Virginia, 1861</i> |

November Quiz:

Questions:

- 1.: Jefferson Davis entered West Point in 1824 after he had attended _____ University for 2 years.
- 2.: Henry Adams, descendent of 2 presidents, Harvard historian and intellectual had little good to say about one of the Union's greatest Civil War heroes. To whom was he referring when he attributed the statement: Venice would be a very fine city if it were drained?
- 3.: Burton Harrison was to Jefferson Davis as _____ was to Abe Lincoln.
- 4.: The Postal Service released 2 new "forever" stamps 12 April 2011. What episodes did they depict?
- 5.: At the age of 38 (1847) Jefferson Davis sustained an injury to his ankle that necessitated his using crutches for 2 years. Thereafter it caused him occasional distress the rest of his life. How did the injury occur?
- 6.: James L. Petigru asked, "What is too small to be a republic and too large to be an insane asylum?"



Answers:

- 1.: Transylvania; Ref.: Jefferson Davis, American; Cooper, p.25, 48
- 2.: Ulysses S. Grant; Ref.: The Education of Henry Adams (1906), H. Adams, p265-66
- 3.: Hay or Nicolay; Jefferson Davis, American, Cooper, p.427-8
- 4.: 1st Bull Run (Manassas) and Ft. Sumter; Ref.: USA Today, 12 April 2011, New Stamps Mark Start of Civil War, Tugman
- 5.: Gunshot wound of ankle during Mexican War; Ref.: Jefferson Davis, American, Cooper, p154
- 6.: South Carolina; Ref.: Wikipedia, Republic of South Carolina; Military Strategy in the American Civil War Conference, Va. Tech, 21 May 2011, James Robertson

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.

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Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!