



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, 2013 Issue

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Meeting Date: January 17, 2013

**Place: The Drake Center**

**(6:00) Sign-in and Social**  
**(7:15) Business Meeting**

**(6:30) Dinner**  
**(7:30) Speaker**

**Dinner Menu: Roasted pork loin served with twice baked potato, buttered broccoli, sugar snap pea & berry salad, assorted dinner rolls, brownie bites topped with whipped cream and chocolate sauce**  
**Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

**Speaker: Ralph Arnold, CCWRT**  
**Topic: *The Andrews Raid***

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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 Andy Simmons at 513-705-9444 (c) or email [asimmons2@cinci.rr.com](mailto:asimmons2@cinci.rr.com). 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 9th, 2013.****

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## **About our January Speaker:**

For our January meeting, we welcome back Cincinnati Civil War Round Table member, Ralph Arnold. Dr. Arnold last spoke to us in February 2011 on "Railroads of the Confederacy." For this presentation, he will examine the ill-fated Andrews Raid of April 1862. This famous raid attempted to disrupt the line of communication (destruction of track, telegraph lines, etc.) along the Western & Atlantic Railroad line as part of a coordinated effort with Union General Ormsby Mitchel's planned advance on Chattanooga. The event is

popularly known as the “Great Locomotive Chase” referencing the pursuit of the hijacked Confederate engine, the *General*. Though not a success, the daring attempt brought praise from many in the North (for his role, one of the raiders, Jacob Parrot, became the first Army Medal of Honor recipient). The romantic view of the raid even continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century with Buster Keaton’s 1927 silent comedy, *The General* and later, in 1956, the more historically accurate Walt Disney production, *The Great Locomotive Chase*. Dr. Arnold’s talk will bring a more objective analysis of the raid beyond the “Great Locomotive Chase” sensation.



**Ralph Arnold**

Dr. Arnold holds a PhD in transportation management. He spent 25 years in the transportation industry prior to becoming a college professor. He has taught management and American business history at Wilmington College, Union Institute and the University of Cincinnati, as well as coordinating an onsite degree program for Ford Motor Company in Atlanta, GA. He also served in the U.S. Air Force as part of an air intelligence unit in the Far East. Dr. Arnold’s primary interest in the Civil War has been military logistics and maps.



## President’s Report

... Pat Homan

Let me start by wishing all of you a most prosperous New Year. As I write, the Homan house is in the usual pre-holiday madness, with a lot of running around to get last minute gifts and other preparations. For once, I have all my things done. I hope you all get a lot of good books on the Civil War, and that you get the chance to read them.

I understand I missed a great presentation in November. I can’t complain as in the nine years I have been teaching, this is the first meeting I have had to miss because of a school conflict. So while you were learning about Fredericksburg, I was having parent teacher meetings. These are important for the student’s growth and that is the way it goes.

We have a great new year coming with a number of excellent talks on the schedule and an excellent field trip planned. I hope you have a few dollars left after the Christmas rush to offer to this years project to re-build the Lytle Monument at Chickamauga. We certainly want to honor a true hometown hero.

There are several other items coming up. We will have the winter officer’s meeting coming shortly. If there is something you think should be discussed, please let one of the officers know. We will be looking at the seating issue, among other things. I would also like to know if any of you are interested in serving in one of the officer or chair positions. I know we are months away from the March period of nomination committee work but, I also know how fast time can get away from us all, so I would like to get a head-start on this, as I go back to semester exams, grades and report cards then the next semester starts. Two weeks into the semester, the High School class will cover the Civil War. I plan to make it interesting.

So, again let me send Ellen’s and my wishes for a Happy New Year, as my Australian friend says and I look forward to seeing all of you at the January meeting.

# Items of Interest:

**2012-2013 Preservation Project:** The main preservation project of the CCWRT this year is the purchase of cannonballs for the restoration of the monument dedicated to William Lytle at the Chickamauga Battlefield. A partnership has been formed to raise funds for the restoration between the Sons of Union Veterans William H. Lytle Camp #10 (Cincinnati) and the Friends of Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park (501-c-3.) The cost of each cannonball is \$200, with an estimated total cost of the project being \$65,000. The project's intent is to have the restoration completed and rededicated on the 150th Anniversary of the battle in 2013. The CCWRT would like to purchase at least seven cannonballs for the project. The CCWRT will match member donations up to \$500. For more information, visit the Sons of Union Veterans website at SUVCW Lytle Camp #10: <http://www.suvcwcincinnati.org>. This site includes photographs of the original monument and its current condition. To make a donation, contact Becky Burket and Randy Donohue – CCWRT Preservation Project Co-chairs.

**April 2013 Field Trip:** This year we are partnering with The Washington DC Civil War Round Table (CWRTDC) on a four day charter bus tour of the entire Vicksburg Campaign. The tour will be guided by renowned Civil War historian Ed Bearss and will take place April 25-28, 2013. A rather detailed description of this trip and registration form can be found by visiting the DC Round Table's web site at [www.cwrtdc.org](http://www.cwrtdc.org). The cost of the trip is \$675 single occupancy or \$524 double occupancy. This price includes bus transportation, four nights lodging, and six meals. Each attendee is responsible for his/her own transportation to either Jackson, MS or Vicksburg, MS. Whether you are interested in either flying or driving, please contact Dan Bauer. For the drivers we will try to coordinate car pooling. Since there is a good chance this trip could sell out, get your reservations in early. Dan Bauer – Field Trip Coordinator

**Burnet pronunciation:** During the dedication of the Burnet House marker, I had a chance to talk to Stewart Maxwell, a descendent of Jacob Burnet of whom the Burnet House is named. I mentioned to Mr. Maxwell that my mother, who lived in Clifton from 1925 to 1990 and within walking distance of Burnet Woods, always pronounced the park "BURN IT". I mentioned to Mr. Maxwell that during the past years fund raising efforts, the CCWRT always pronounced the building the "BUR NET" House. My question to Mr. Maxwell was which is correct? He said the Cincinnati faction of his family pronounces it "BURN IT" like your mother does. However, if you're from Virginia side of Mr. Maxwell's family, the pronunciation is with the accent on the second syllable as in "BUR NET". When I got home to research Jacob Burnet who I presume the house is named for, I learned Burnet came to Cincinnati from New Jersey, not Virginia. So, there you have it, clear as mud.

**Inclement Weather Plan:** 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.cincinnati-cwrt.org](http://www.cincinnati-cwrt.org). We will post a simple update informing the membership on the status of the meeting.
2. Check your email for an update. Our ListServ service will be used to communicate the latest information to members who have provided us their email address.
3. Call the Drake Conference Center at 513.418.2500 and inquire about the status of the meeting. If we decide to cancel, they will be the first to know and their switchboard operators will be informed.
4. Call Andy Simmons, Vice-President at 513- 705-9444
5. Call Pat Homan, President, at 513.861.2057

Andy and Pat will make the decision on the status of the meeting by noon the day of the meeting. The decision will be based on the condition of the roads, the safety of our members, the status of the speaker and the Drake Meeting Center's ability to serve us. Remember, if make you a reservation but fail to attend due to bad weather (or any other reason for that matter), you are still responsible to reimbursement the Round Table for the cost of the meal.



## **Book Review:**

**... submitted by Alan Berenson**

So you think you know Lincoln! Well, it's unlikely that you know him as well as you will when you finish reading William Lee Miller's "*Lincoln's Virtues, an Ethical Biography.*" Published in 2002 this 456 page labor of love examines in depth Abe's genius in combining principal with flexibility, idealism with reality and rhetoric with leadership.

Written in a conversational style featuring frequent dashes, interjections, double negatives, parenthesis and extra long sentences this reader found himself rereading sections of the copy several times over before the author's point could be discerned if it was discerned at all. Alternatively he also could describe events in exciting, fast moving fashion as he does in recalling the details of Lincoln's iconoclastic vote regarding the Illinois House's debate (1837) on an issue to discourage abolitionism and the dramatic Republican party nomination process in Chicago's Wigwam in May 1860.

Miller fails completely to hide his enthusiastic support for Abe's character, logic, rhetoric and political morality (largely deserved) and occasionally forgets to avoid using 21st century racial standards to mid 19th century racial practices. Is it really "remarkable" that Alexander Stephens was completely comfortable with the morality of slavery as practiced in the South and that Thomas Jefferson was in error when he wrote that "all men are created equal?" He is also objective and intellectually honest enough to note some of the (rare) low points in Abe's ethical history (his use of signed pseudonyms to denigrate a political opponent; his playing up to the racial prejudices of his audience at the Charleston Lincoln - Douglas debate) and recognizes and responsibly explains countervailing views of Lincoln's political actions and positions.

Rather than being a recital of all things Lincoln 1809-1865 as most bios are, Miller puts spotlights on the turning points both minor and major in Lincoln's life, looks into Lincoln's self educated mind and explains how Abe arrived at the decisions/conclusions he did. In particular he dissects Lincoln's speeches explaining the research behind them, their logic and rhetorical significance. The book ends when Abe turns in at 1:00a.m., 5 Mar. 1861 after having given a critically important first inaugural speech in which he offers conciliation to his dissatisfied countrymen; it was too little, too late. Even today we are still trying to bind up the wounds of our country's greatest tragedy.

# November Presentation:

... submitted by Mark Silbersack

The Battle of Fredericksburg on December 11-15, 1862, was one of the deadliest of the Civil War, with almost 18,000 casualties, mostly Union troops. At our November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park historian Frank O'Reilly discussed the Battle. He began by noting that most of our members were already familiar with mainstream thoughts on the Battle. Instead, he focused his remarks on issues over which he personally has "lost a lot of sleep."

First, why Fredericksburg? A plan to advance on Richmond through Fredericksburg was initially developed by General McClellan and was adopted by General Burnside after he replaced McClellan. There was no intent to fight at Fredericksburg itself. Confederate troops were elsewhere in Virginia, with only about 900 troops at Fredericksburg. The plan was to use pontoon bridges to cross the Rappahannock quickly, seize the town, and then (making use of the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac RR) move on Richmond.

Second, the plan was doomed even as Union troops began to march, because their engineers couldn't possibly get bridges to Fredericksburg in time. Burnside worried about this but was assured that the bridges were "on the way." They didn't arrive for ten days, while his troops sat north of the river and Confederate troops arrived. By December 11<sup>th</sup>, Burnside faced 78,000 entrenched enemy soldiers.

Third, Burnside realized that his chance of victory was now slim. So why attack? The answer is that it was a political decision. In late 1862, Union troops were taking the offensive on all fronts, seeking a victory after the Republicans were trounced in that fall's congressional elections.

Fourth, the opening day of the Battle, December 11<sup>th</sup>, was an unprecedented one in U.S. military history, for which the Union troops were unprepared, and which presaged aspects of modern warfare:

- the first amphibious landing under fire
- house-to-house urban fighting
- Confederate tactics intended to kill individual troops or units
- Union artillery bombing of the town generally
- retribution ransacking the town after its occupation

Fifth, several mistakes on December 13<sup>th</sup> led to horrible bloodletting on the Union side. Burnside correctly decided that his only chance of winning was to focus the attack on the South side of the Confederate line and he allocated 65,000 troops to that attack. But they were led by General Franklin, a cautious man, and Burnside's orders did not make clear that this was the main line of attack. A single advance was made by a single division, which was not timely reinforced in the face of a Confederate counterattack. Meanwhile, early "supporting" attacks to the North, against the stone wall and Marye's Hill, proved disastrous. As survivors sheltered on the field, Burnside, concerned that Lee might take the offensive and destroy them, launched futile additional attacks all through the afternoon until nightfall finally permitted withdrawal.

After viewing the carnage, Robert E. Lee is said to have remarked, "It is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it."



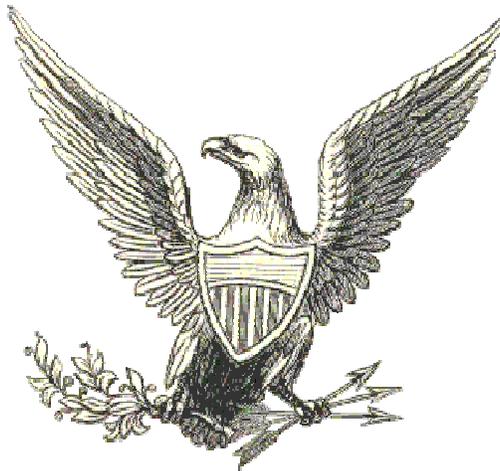
**Frank O'Reilly**

**2012 -2013 Sustaining Members:** Thanks to all our members who generously agreed to be sustaining members for our current season. Their financial contributions provide valuable help in maintaining our Round Table's activities. The sustaining members to date are: Paul Busam, Lester Burgin, R. A. Davis, Mark Fidler, Dan Griffith, Albert Hallenberg, Ken Hoffman, Jill Holt, Bruce Kirchner, Bob Lewis, Tom Lewis, Bob Limoseth, John Linnenberg, John McGee, Dave Mowery, Dawn Mowery, Dan Reigle, Jim Stewart, Jeff Strottman, Harriette Weatherbee, Paul Weber, and Tom Williams.



## November Quiz:

- 1) Robert E. Lee courted and finally married Mary Anna Randolph Custis, the great-granddaughter of Martha Washington. While her parents were fond of their daughter's suitor, her father was reluctant to give Robert her hand. What was his objection?
- 2) Who formed the Excelsior Brigade and in what state was it formed?
- 3) This fort was built on Cockspur Island to protect the city of Savannah. Name it.
- 4) What was a mantelet and what type of soldiers used it?
- 5) What did Union soldiers refer to as "McClellan Pie"?
- 6) On the day of John Brown's execution, the streets were filled with soldiers and militia because of rumors that some desperate attempt would be made to save Brown from execution. The Richmond Grays were one such unit that rushed to secure the site. One of their number was a man who would become famous in the Civil War era. Who was he?



## Future Presentations:

Feb. 21, 2013	Don Heinrich Tolzmann <i>War within a War: The Sioux Uprising of 1862 in Minnesota</i>
Mar. 21, 2013	Gary Zola, Hebrew Union College <i>Revocation of General Grant's General Orders No. 11</i>
April 18, 2013	David L. Mowery, CCWRT & OCWTC <i>America's Longest Cavalry Ride: Morgan's 1863 Raid Around Cincinnati</i>
May 16, 2013	Gail Stephens, Monocacy National Battlefield <i>General Lew Wallace</i>
Sept. 19, 2013	Gary D. Joiner, PhD <i>Red River Campaign</i>
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>
Feb. 20, 2014	Mike Rhein, CCWRT <i>General Lytle: Home Again</i>
Jan. 16, 2014	Gary Q. Johnson, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



## Quiz Answers

- 1) It was not any disapproval of Robert that made them slow to approve the match. It was the fact that this young man would pursue a military career. Ref.: Civil War Journal: The Leaders, Davis, Pohanka, and Troiani, pg.137.
- 2) New York Democratic congressman Daniel E. Sickles set out to raise a brigade, which he dubbed Excelsior on the basis of the state motto (forever upward). This brigade was comprised of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Excelsior Regiments, which were eventually renamed the 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, and 74th New York Infantry Regiments. In December 1862, the 120th New York joined the brigade, and in March 1864, the unit was increased by the addition of the 11th Massachusetts and the 84th Pennsylvania. Ref.: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage, Garrison, pg.72.
- 3) Fort Pulaski. Ref.: Wikipedia
- 4) Named for its vague resemblance to a small garment, this device was usually made of woven rope. Mounted in front of a gun position, it was not strong enough to stop a shell or ball from the enemy. Many gunners were fond of it, however, for it served to protect them from flying debris, such as splinters. Ref.: Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage, Garrison, pg.154.
- 5) Even though McClellan managed to capture both the minds and hearts of most of his men, they couldn't refrain from bestowing their commander's name on hardtack. Ref.: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage, Garrison, pg.156.
- 6) John Wilkes Booth. Ref.: Civil War Journal; The Leaders, Davis, Pohanka and Troiani, pg.23

## 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 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:

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