



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 PO Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org>  
February, 2006 Issue

## MEETING INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2006

Meeting Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

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

(6:45) Dinner: - Stuffed chicken breast

(7:45): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Paul LaRue and Students, Washington Court House, OH

Topic: "A Look at the Civil War--Presented by the Washington H.S. Research History Class."



**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to [reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org](mailto:reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org) or call it in to John Linnenberg at (h) 513-922-3999 (cell) 607-4002 (has voice mail).



History teacher Paul LaRue and students from his Research History Class at Washington Senior High School in Washington Court House will join us to discuss their current research projects. Mr. LaRue introduced the Research History Class in 1998 for seniors who had already taken American History. Rather than teaching the advanced class with lecture and reading methods, he decided to devote a major portion of the class' effort to "real time" work with original source materials, to include finding, transcribing, interpreting, and organizing historical documents, and writing their results and conclusions. Over the eight years of its existence, students in the class have produced a remarkable body of important, useful, original research on their community during the Civil War era. The classes have created and maintain websites with databases and essays, and have published three books with their research findings. One of the honors they have received was being named last year as one of History Channel's seventeen finalists for their national *Save Our History* awards. (See

<<http://www.saveourhistory.com/awards/index.html>>.

For examples of their work, see these websites:

Website: *Freedom Fighters: United States Colored Troops in the Civil War*: <<http://www.usctcw.org/>>

Website: *U.S.C.T. Buried in Ohio: African-American Soldiers in the Civil War*:

<<http://www.usctohio.org/>>

Website: Teaching with Historic Places: *A Nation Repays Its Debt: The National Soldiers' Home and Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio (115)*: <<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/115dayton/115dayton.htm>>

Mr. LaRue's undergraduate education was at Ohio State University, and his graduate education was at Xavier University. He teaches Applied Economics and U.S. History, in addition to Research History.

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

**Welcome New Members** The Round Table welcomed Erik Bush and Bob Phillips.

### **Madison Round Table Sponsors Symposium on Atlanta**

The Jefferson County Civil War Round Table of Madison, IN is sponsoring a symposium on the Atlanta Campaign on April 21 - 23, 2006. Six outstanding national historians will be the speakers. For more information, check out their website at [www.windihill.com/civilwar](http://www.windihill.com/civilwar).

### **Attention ListServ Members: From Bob Limoseth**

In August we added every member who has provided the Round Table an email address to the ListServ distribution list. This list included two different groups of members. The first is members who were receiving, and prefer to receive, their Newsletter via email. The second is members who have email capabilities but prefer regular mail (snail mail) delivery of the *Canister*. Now that the ListServ concept has been in place for nearly five months, and all ListServ members participating in it receive an email copy of the Newsletter, I'm seeking an update from those who are receiving it both ways as to their preference. From an administrative standpoint the email delivery of the Newsletter is easier, faster and cheaper. Printing costs are reduced, labor is minimized and postage is eliminated. So...if you are receiving the *Canister* via both methods of delivery, I'd like to know if anyone wants to discontinue the regular mail method and only receive the Newsletter in the future via the ListServ. For those of you who want to continue receiving the Newsletter both ways you need do nothing. We will continue our present practice. If, however, you want to discontinue the regular mail method because the email format is working out just fine, just notify me at the check-in table at the next meeting you attend or send me an email at [rlimo@fuse.net](mailto:rlimo@fuse.net) and we'll update our records. P. S. For our members who do not have a computer, or prefer not to use one, there will be no change. Your copies of the Newsletter will continue to be delivered by the U. S. Post Office. Thank you.

### **January Presentation, Summarized by Albert Hallenberg**

Kirk Jenkins graced our Round Table for the January 2006 meeting, discussing the 15<sup>th</sup> (US) Regiment of Kentucky. Kirk brought much expertise on this topic. In 2003, he published an excellent history of the unit, *The Battle Rages Higher: The Union's Fifteenth Kentucky Infantry*. Kirk pointed out, despite popular belief, that Kentucky, at least until the Emancipation Proclamation, committed far more Union troops to the field than Confederate. Although it was a slaveholding state, Kirk emphasized Kentucky had strong economic ties to its northern neighbors. And more importantly, reflecting the stance of their premier statesman, Henry Clay, Kentucky on the whole was fiercely against secession, despite barely giving 1% of the vote to Lincoln in the 1860

presidential election. Only after the War did devotion to the “lost cause” of the Confederacy become a part of Kentucky culture, which may be why Kirk’s book is only the third full-length history of a Kentucky Union regiment. But Kirk also possesses a more personal connection with the regiment: his great-great-grandfather, Captain Aaron Smith Bayne served in the Fifteenth until he was killed at Stones River.

Kirk related how the Fifteenth was very diverse in composition. During this time of the nation’s history, it was still not unusual for the typical citizen to have been born outside the country, and the Fifteenth reflected this status. 127 men in the unit were born in Germany, while 47 were Irish by birth. Nearly half the regiment was born outside of Kentucky. Twenty two members of the unit’s roster hailed from Cincinnati, and Kirk mentioned some of them are buried at Spring Grove Cemetery. To supplement his talk, Kirk compiled an excellent PowerPoint display that provided many more fascinating demographics on the regiment, as well as photographs of several members. The officers in the unit also originated from varied backgrounds, including an Irish revolutionary/poet, Lt. Col. William George Halpin, who had been the Cincinnati city engineer and Hamilton County surveyor when the war began. Judging by Kirk’s description, Lt. Col. Halpin was certainly the most colorful character in the unit.

Kirk provided an excellent overview of the Fifteenth’s strong battle record in the Western Theater of the war, including engagements at Perryville, Stones River, and Chickamauga, as well as their participation in the Atlanta campaign. The Fifteenth had a number of encounters with the Confederate Orphan Brigade, which also consisted of many Kentuckians and was led by Abraham Lincoln’s brother in law, Ben Hardin Helm, until he was killed at Chickamauga. A nice backdrop to Kirk’s talk, by the way, was a replica of the Fifteenth’s battle flag, which members of a reenactor’s group kindly lent him.

Coincidentally, Kirk’s talk complemented two recent presentations given to the Round Table: Steve Engle’s talk in September 2005 on Don Carlos Buell and Steve Rockenbach’s talk in November 2005 on the Kentucky/Indiana border during the war. In that vein, Kirk’s talk was not only an interesting regimental history, but also an excellent analysis of how that unit’s composition reflected the political and social framework of the borderlands in the Ohio Valley. Kirk is an attorney residing in Chicago, and we are glad he took the time from his busy schedule to provide this excellent talk.



### Preservation News by David Mowery, Preservation Chairman:

- *Battery Hooper Project update: The Round Table’s 2005-2006 Preservation Project*

We are continuing to accept contributions beyond our minimum commitment to the James Ramage Museum for interpretive signs at the museum on the Battery Hooper site. Additional funds will be used by the museum board to provide additional signage and to better fund the long-term maintenance of these signs. The May 2006 meeting is the deadline for all donations. Contributions can be made at the check-in desk during monthly meetings, or by mailing your gift to Treasurer Bob Limoseth at Cincinnati CWRT, P. O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, OH 45262. Checks should be made out to the "Cincinnati CWRT" and the memo line should indicate "Battery Hooper Preservation Project." A receipt will be provided as all contributions are tax deductible under our status as a 501 C3 organization.

- *Membership Approves Contribution to Restore Jefferson Davis's "Beauvoir" Home in Mississippi:*

At the January 2006 meeting, the membership of the CCWRT voted in favor of sending a \$500 donation to the Friends of Beauvoir, the 501c3 group that is funding the reconstruction of the Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library in Biloxi, Mississippi. All of our donation will be used in the rebuilding of this national treasure which was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina. We thank all of the membership, whose dues make the CCWRT gifts toward Civil War preservation possible. A special thanks goes to the Sustaining Members, whose extra dues this year allowed us to generate a large donation for a single cause that we normally would be not be able to afford



**A SAD note from the Morningside Bookshop**

Morningside Bookshop founder Bob Younger passed away January 11. He will be missed. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, January 18, 2006, in Dayton, and later at his gravesite in Missouri. Morningside Bookshop is the premiere bookseller of Civil War books. Morningside is also the publisher of the *Gettysburg Magazine*, a bi-annual, scholarly publication devoted to the Battle of Gettysburg. Morningside Bookshop was established in 1969 and is located in the South Park Historical District of Dayton, Ohio. Bob was a long-time friend and supporter of CCWRT, and attended many meetings here over the years.

**Celebration of the Birth of Robert E. Lee DOB: 19 January 1807**

**HdQrs Army of No VA**

**10th April 1865**

**General Order No 9**

After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard fought battles who have remained steadfast to the last that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them; but feeling that valour and devotion could accomplish nothing that would compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuance of the contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their Countrymen.

By the terms of the Agreement officers and men can return to their homes and remain there until exchanged.

You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a Merciful God will extend to you his blessing and protection.

With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you all an affectionate farewell .R. E. Lee Genl

## After the War

Lee's notarized oath of allegiance to the United States was forwarded to William H. Seward, Secretary of State, who should have then forwarded it to President Johnson. But the President never received the pledge, so the pardon process could not be completed. Without the oath of allegiance no action could be taken on Lee's pardon application.

Then, in 1970, a Civil War buff obtained permission to research old State department files stored in the National Archives. During his research, he came across a cardboard box labeled "Virginia." While rummaging through this box, he spied an aged sheet of paper containing a faded pen and ink inscription. Upon examination, he was stunned to learn that he was actually holding the notarized pledge of allegiance to the United States that Robert E. Lee had executed in 1865.

Upon learning of the discovery of the lost pledge, Virginia Senator, Harry F. Byrd proposed a congressional resolution for a posthumous pardon and restoration of citizenship for Robert E. Lee. Congress, to its credit, overwhelmingly voted in favor of the resolution and President Gerald Ford indicated his willingness to sign it. The signing ceremony took place on August 5, 1975, at Arlington House, the former home of General Lee's family.

These excerpts from the comments President Ford made at the signing ceremony are a fitting tribute to Robert E. Lee.

"I am very pleased to sign Senate Joint Resolution 23, restoring posthumously the long overdue, full rights of citizenship to General Robert E. Lee. This legislation corrects a 110-year oversight of American history. It is significant that it is signed at this place."



## A NOTE ABOUT ROBERT E. LEE

Lee was born at Stratford, in Westmoreland County, Virginia, son of Revolutionary War hero Henry Lee ("Lighthorse Harry") and Ann Hill Carter Lee. He entered the United States Military Academy in 1825. When he graduated (second in his class of 46) in 1829 he had not only attained the top academic record but was the first cadet (and so far the only) to graduate the Academy without a single demerit. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers.

Lee served for seventeen months at Fort Pulaski on Cockspur Island, Georgia. In 1831, he was transferred to Fort Monroe, Virginia, as assistant engineer. While he was stationed there, he married Mary Anna Randolph Custis, the great-granddaughter of Martha Washington. They lived in the Custis mansion, located on the banks of the Potomac River in Arlington, just across from Washington, D.C.. They eventually had three sons and four daughters.

Lee distinguished himself in the Mexican War 1846-1848. He was one of Winfield Scott's chief aides in the march from Vera Cruz to Mexico City.

He was promoted to Major after the battle of Cerro Gordo in April, 1847. He also fought at Contreras, Cherubusco and Chapultepec, and was wounded at the latter. By the end of the war he had been promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel.

In 1855, Lee became Lieutenant-Colonel of the Second Cavalry and was sent to the Texas frontier. There he helped protect settlers from attacks by the Apache and the Comanche.

These were not happy years for Lee as he did not like to be away from his family for long periods of time, especially as his wife was becoming increasingly ill. Lee came home to see her as often as he could. He happened to be in Washington at the time of John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1859, and was sent

there to arrest Brown and to restore order. He did this very quickly and then returned to his regiment in Texas. When Texas seceded from the Union in 1861, Lee was called to Washington, DC to wait for further orders.

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### **Quiz---November, 2005**

1. Union General George Thomas and Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer were opponents at Mill Springs, Kentucky, on January 19, 1862. What nickname did they share?
2. In the late 1870's and through the 1880's, the Philadelphia *Weekly Times* and the *Century* magazine each published a series of articles on the war by Union and Confederate veterans and political leaders. Each of them published some of the articles in book form. What are the names of the books published by each of them?
3. Name the Republican U.S. Representative from Massachusetts (formerly Union Major General until relieved by Lincoln in January 1865) who was known for his use of the rhetorical weapon of "waving the bloody shirt" by waving a nightshirt allegedly stained with the blood of an Ohio carpetbagger who had been flogged by Mississippi ruffians during the violent early days of the Reconstruction Period. This occurred either (or both) during the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson and/or during the Representative's heated speeches in support of the Ku Klux Klan Bill.
4. Identify the Pennsylvania town near the quizmaster's great-great-grandfather's farm. Here on 30 June 1863, Stuart's cavalry, groping to find their own army, ran into Kilpatrick's cavalry. During the ensuing skirmish, which left the Federals in possession of the town, Stuart escaped capture only because of his horse's ability to leap a ditch.

Bonus Point: Identify the horse.

5. Name the brigade-sized unit originally commanded by BG Turner Ashby, then by BG William E. "Grumble" Jones, consisting of the 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Va Cavalry Regiments and the 35<sup>th</sup> Va Cavalry Battalion. During the later command of BG Thomas Rosser, it was derided by MG Jubal Early as a "running vine" for its defeat and retreat at Tom's Brook on 9 October 1864.
6. At Perryville the 15<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Infantry was brigaded with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Indiana, 88<sup>th</sup> Indiana, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ohio, 10<sup>th</sup> Ohio, and 1<sup>st</sup> Battery Michigan Light Artillery. Who was their brigade commander?

### **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:

March newsletter, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006

April newsletter, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006

May newsletter, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**Information may be emailed to [waldbill@xavier.edu](mailto:waldbill@xavier.edu)**

### **Quiz answers:**

1. Both were called "Paps" by their troops. (Blue&Gray, Feb 93, p. 6).
2. *Annals of the War* (one volume, 800+ pages) by the Philadelphia *Weekly Times*; and *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War* (4 volumes, about 3000 pages total) by *Century*. (Blight, *Race and Reunion*, 164.)
3. Benjamin Franklin Butler. (Franklin, *Reconstruction after the Civil War*, p 76; Heidler and Heidler, *Encyclopedia of the American Civil War*, pp. 329-331.)

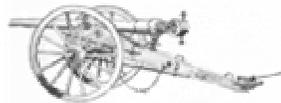
4. Hanover, PA. Stuart's horse was named Virginia. (Boatner, *CW Dictionary*, 373.)
5. The Laurel Brigade. (Lewis, *The Guns of Cedar Creek*, pp. 64, 96-104.)
6. Col. William H. Lytle. (Noe, *Perryville*, pp. 373-374.)



## FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

### 2005-2006 Programs

March 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2006:	Dr. David Bush, Heidelberg College, and Friends & Descendants of Johnson's Island.
April 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2006:	Dr. Jim Ramage, Jeannine Kreinbrink, and Larry Klein: "Battery Hooper and the Ramage Civil War Museum."
May 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2006:	Dr. Chris Phillips, University of Cincinnati, "Gen. Nathaniel Lyon."
September 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2006	A. Wilson Greene, Pamplin Park Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War
October 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., How the Civil War Still Lives
November 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	Barbara Davis, Chicago, Civil War Home-Front Letters of the Ovid Butler Family
January 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Dr. John Cimprich, Thomas More College, Fort Pillow
February 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Bob McLaurin, CCWRT, The River Navy
March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Jack Simon, CCWRT, Fortifications
April 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Terry Winschel, Vicksburg National Military Park
May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Harold George, Lakewood OH, 9 <sup>th</sup> Ohio Independent Battery Light Artillery



## Make Your Dinner Reservations Now!

### 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](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*). **Late reservations** (after Sunday prior to the meeting) will be accepted, but will cause an adjustment of arrangements with the Quality, and may require an alternate meal selection, depending on total attendance. **Walk-ins without a**

**reservation** will be able to have dinner if available based on total attendance. **Late cancellations** may be made by email or phone. Since a cancellation after the Sunday deadline means that CCWRT has guaranteed payment to the Quality for the reserved number of meals, the Treasurer will review the number of late cancellations and late reservations for every meeting. If a late cancellation results in CCWRT being required to pay for an extra meal, the person making the late cancellation will be expected to pay for the dinner. **No-shows** who have a dinner reservation but do not attend or cancel will be expected to pay for the dinner. **Meals** currently cost \$20. Menu selection will change with each meeting.

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