



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.cincinnati-cwrt.org>  
February, 2007 Issue

---

Meeting Date: February 15, 2007

Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

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

(6:45) Dinner: - Italian Luncheon Buffet with Meat Lasagna, Garlic Breadsticks, Chicken Marsala over Tri-Colored Farfalle Pasta, Eggplant Parmesan, Assorted Dinner Rolls and Butter and Tiramisu Dessert

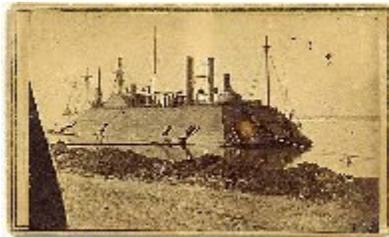
(7:45): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Bob McLaurin, CCWRT, The River Navy

Topic: River Navies: The Forgotten Warriors

---

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



The USS *Essex*, built by Page & Bacon, New Albany IN

For our February meeting, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table welcomes to the podium one of its own distinguished members, Dr. Robert L. McLaurin, who will be making his first speaking appearance before the group. Though his career has centered upon the field of neurosurgery, Dr. McLaurin has fostered a longtime interest in the study of history and the American Civil War. In 2003, he published a book entitled *Richard M. Gano: Physician, Soldier, Clergyman*, a work that highlights the life of Confederate Brigadier-General Richard Montgomery Gano, who performed admirable service as a cavalry leader under Generals John Hunt Morgan and Edmund Kirby Smith. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati (J. D.) and of Harvard University (M. D.), Dr. McLaurin currently serves as an Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the University of Cincinnati. He also volunteers as captain of the steamboat *Queen of the West* at the Cincinnati Museum Center, an experience which has fueled his thirst for knowledge of the vessels that plied the shallow waters of the United States during the 1800's.

Before the Civil War ever began, both the North and the South understood the critical need to control US waters. Lessons learned from the

American Revolution told them that the side who dominated the oceans and the rivers would be able to dominate the country's most profitable commerce routes, safest supply lines, and best avenues of large-scale troop movement. After the fall of Fort Sumter in April 1861, the Union and Confederate nations worked feverishly to beef up their navies, particularly on the rivers, where initially the US Navy had no distinct military advantage over the Confederacy. Dr. McLaurin's presentation will concentrate on the types of gunboats used and the principal persons involved in the Western river fleets of the Union and Confederate navies. He will give an overview of each side's organization of their naval forces during the Civil War. He will also present the principal commanders and the engineers who designed the various types of boats that vied for control of the Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, and Cumberland Rivers. In addition, Dr. McLaurin will tell the stories of the two most famous "ironclads" (the ancestor of today's battleship) that fought on western waters – the Federal's USS *Carondelet* and the Confederacy's CSS *Arkansas*. The extraordinary combat successes of these two ironclads, and other vessels like them, would spell doom for the conventional wooden warship, and would usher in a new era of naval warfare around the world.



## We Who Study Must Also Strive To Save!

### Preservation News:

We are now in the second phase of our Dedicated Preservation Fund Raising Project. We are pleased to announce that 14 members contributed to the project during the first phase in which we teamed with the Civil War Preservation Trust. We were able to take advantage of the large matching dollar incentive offered by the Preservation Trust to help save a total of 454 acres of unprotected land at both the Richmond and Perryville Battlefields! Member contributions combined with the \$1.00 for \$2.00 match from our Preservation Fund (with a \$250.00 cap) allowed the Round Table to make a contribution to the Civil War Preservation Trust of \$850.00. When you multiply this total by the large \$1.00 for \$12.30 match by the Preservation Trust, our \$850.00 contribution equaled \$10,455.00 or almost two acres saved! You can see a copy of a letter that the Civil War Preservation Trust sent us as an acknowledgment of our contribution on our website (<http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org>).

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

<http://www.perryville.net/pbpa.html>

Contributions can be made at the check-in-desk during our monthly meetings, or by mailing your gift to our Treasurer, Jim Stewart at Cincinnati CWRT, P.O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, Ohio 45262. Checks should be made out to the "Cincinnati CWRT" and the memo line should indicate "Perryville Battlefield". A receipt will be provided as all contributions are tax deductible under our status as a 501(C)3 organization. Donations can be accepted anytime from now until the May 2007 meeting.

---



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

---



## Miscellaneous Announcements

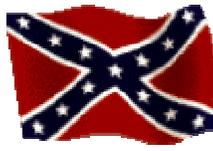
1. **Ed Bearss to Speak in Historic Georgetown, Ohio:** On Saturday, February 10, 2007 at 2:00 pm Ed Bearss will speak in Georgetown, OH at the United Methodist Church on "Grant Takes Vicksburg." All proceeds received from his presentation will go to the U. S. Grant Homestead Association & the Civil War Preservation Trust. The ticket cost is \$10.00 and reservations are required. To obtain a ticket or get additional information call 937.378.4222.
2. **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir Program:** This is the last call for anyone interested in obtaining a copy of our special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir Program. We still have a few remaining copies available for members who were unable to join us for that very special evening on October 19, 2006. If interested see Dawn Mowery at the February meeting. A copy can also be provided by mail, as long as supplies last, by emailing Dawn at [dmowery11@fuse.net](mailto:dmowery11@fuse.net) or by calling her at 513.774.9544.
3. **Classroom Membership Sponsor Program:** The education department at the Civil War Preservation Trust is attempting to recruit schools across the country for its classroom membership program. For \$25.00 per year you can sponsor a local classroom. Classrooms will receive the quarterly *Hallowed Ground* magazine, monthly classroom newsletter, welcome packet, curriculum CD-ROM, and all CWPT mailings. The purpose of the program is to get kids, their parents and their teachers involved in battlefield preservation. If you would like to sponsor a classroom see Bob Limoseth for the enrollment form at the February meeting or email him at [rlimo@fuse.net](mailto:rlimo@fuse.net) and the form will be mailed to you.
4. **Civil War Photo Field Trip:** Andy Turner and Sonny Fulks from *Gettysburg Magazine* visited our January meeting to tell the membership about their sponsorship of a Photo Field Trip to Vicksburg National Military Park and Fort Donelson National Battlefield on April 4 – 8, 2007. The tour includes round-trip transportation via deluxe motor coach, 4 nights lodging, 13 meals, all sightseeing and admissions, all taxes, baggage handling and services of an AAA Tour Director. The tour cost is \$889 per person twin basis, \$1099 per person single basis and \$829 per person triple or quad basis. If you are interested in reservation and deposit information see Bob Limoseth for the enrollment form at the February meeting or email him at [rlimo@fuse.net](mailto:rlimo@fuse.net) and the form will be mailed to you. Final payments are due on or before March 1, 2007 and there are a limited number of spaces available on a first come first served basis.

### New Members:

At the January meeting, we welcomed new members Wanda and Kerry Landgon. We now have 90 members

### Quiz---January, 2006

1. Today (January 18) is the birth date in 1820 of a Confederate general from Kentucky who served as a brigade commander under Forrest, but whose first cousin is better known today as a cavalry commander. Who was he?
2. On 22 July 1862, representatives of the US and CS governments created a formal procedure for parole and exchange of prisoners. A parole, to be put in effect within ten days after capture, permitted a prisoner to return to his own lines, provided that he did not take up arms or perform other military duties until formally exchanged. By what name was this agreement known?
3. Jed Hotchkiss' map-making skill often put him in the position of scouting and mapping routes for Confederate attacks, such as Jackson's flank attack at Chancellorsville. Prior to one battle, he climbed to the top of Massanutten Mountain with General John Gordon to conduct reconnaissance for a surprise attack on Philip Sheridan. What was the battle and when did it occur?
4. In *The Gettysburg Magazine*, Issue #35 (July 2006), Keith Snipes presents compelling evidence that the monument honoring an Ohio infantry regiment that fought near Cemetery Ridge on July 2 and July 3 was incorrectly placed. Instead of its current, prominent location, it should have been placed along Emmitsburg Road approximately 500 feet north of its current location. The role played by the unit on the afternoon of July 3 would not have been possible if it had been located where the current monument is located. What unit is this?
5. Name the ironclad gunboat sunk on 10 May 1862 during the US attack on Fort Pillow. It was raised, refitted, and returned to service, before being sunk by Confederate batteries during the bombardment of Vicksburg on 27 May 1863. It was raised, refitted, and returned to service again for the duration of the war.
6. Name the Confederate general from Tennessee who was a former law partner of President James Polk, "Tennessee's best known war veteran" as a twice-wounded veteran of the Mexican War, a wealthy attorney and entrepreneur, and an early appointee to the rank of general in the Confederacy. He filled no significant roles after Fort Donelson, and returned after the war to the practice of law in Memphis with former Tennessee governor Isham Harris.



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

At the January 2007 meeting, our Round Table was pleased to welcome for the first time Dr. John V. Cimprich, Professor and Chairperson of the History Department at Thomas More College. Dr. Cimprich provided us with an informative and thought provoking presentation on the 1864 Battle of Fort Pillow, in particular examining the atrocities occurring in the aftermath of the battle.

Dr. Cimprich first provided some background on the fort. Originally erected by the Confederacy in 1861 to defend western Tennessee from Union river navy assaults, the fort became largely forgotten after 1862 when it fell into Federal hands. During 1864, a substantial number of its defenders were black troops, mainly from the 2<sup>nd</sup> United States Colored Light Artillery and the 6<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Heavy Artillery. On April 12, 1864, Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest led a surprise attack, and, owing to superior troop numbers, took the fort after a brief, but intense, engagement. Under normal circumstances, the Federal defenders would have been taken prisoner and left mostly unharmed.

But later eyewitness accounts, mainly from wounded Union survivors, stated that the discipline of the Confederate victors broke down and many began slaughtering African American troops who were attempting to surrender. Dr. Cimprich showed a casualty list from the battle. Over 65% of Federal black soldiers stationed at the fort died in the engagement, an astoundingly high number and clear statistical evidence that some reason other than normal battle exchange led to such casualties. Another interesting piece of evidence Dr. Cimprich pointed out was an archaeological study discovering an extremely high number of navy revolver shells that littered the fortification grounds. Many of Forrest's soldiers carried two revolvers each, and possibly these were used in shooting some of their victims at close range, execution style.

An outcry from the Northern states erupted, labeling the incident a massacre and General Forrest a butcher. Dr. Cimprich noted Benjamin Wade, a United States Senator from Ohio, a radical Republican, led a congressional investigation. The Confederates, on the other hand, denied any wrongdoing. Dr. Cimprich did note, in fairness, no direct evidence can be found indicating General Forrest decreed that black soldiers in the fort should be given no quarter. Yet, noting Forrest's post-war involvement with the Ku Klux Klan, it could be said he perhaps did very little to stop the slaughter.

Dr. Cimprich indicated the Fort Pillow incident may have sparked some interesting reactions from all sides: The U.S. Congress took steps to equalize the pay of the black troops with that of white troops, and also created more equal access to pension benefits. Although officially the Confederate position was that any African American soldier captured was subject to be returned to slavery, Dr. Cimprich noted toward the end of the War, the Confederates were exchanging black soldiers on a one to one basis with white soldiers. Dr. Cimprich also noted that African American troops after the Fort Pillow incident possibly may have fought that much harder to avoid being cornered into a surrender situation where no quarter would be given.

Dr. Cimprich has carefully studied the evidence surrounding this incident for a number of years. For a fuller analysis, Round Table members should read Dr. Cimprich's excellent book, *Fort Pillow: A Civil War Massacre and Public Memory* (2005). Dr. Cimprich is currently working on a book about reformers and runaway slaves during the Civil War. As Dr. Cimprich explained, the Battle of Fort Pillow may have technically been a minor battle, but the evident massacre afterward had significant social impact for the remainder of the War. Judging from the questions after Dr. Cimprich's presentation, Round Table members found this topic very interesting and worthwhile. We hope Dr. Cimprich can return for a later presentation.

## Quiz Answers—January, 2006

1. Abraham Buford, first cousin of Union cavalry commander, John Buford. (Boatner, *CW Dictionary*, p. 97.)
2. The Dix-Hill Cartel, after General John Dix and General Daniel Harvey Hill who represented their governments in negotiation of the agreement. (Wagner, Gallagher, and Finkelman, *The Library of Congress Civil War Desk Reference*, 596, 600-604.)
3. Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864. (Gordon, *Reminiscences*, and Lewis, *The Guns of Cedar Creek*).
4. 8<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which moved west of Emmitsburg Road and wheeled to the left (south) to put enfilading fire into the flanks of the Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble assault forces. (Snipes, "The Improper Placement of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ohio Monument: A Study of Words and Maps," *The Gettysburg Magazine*, Issue #35 (July 2006), 68-93.
5. The *Cincinnati*, built by James Eads at Mound City IL. (Cimprich, *Fort Pillow*, 26-27; Silverstone, *Civil War Navies 1855-1883*, 114-115.)
6. Gideon J. Pillow, for whom Fort Pillow is named. (Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 241; Cimprich, *Fort Pillow*, 3-9.)



## **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:

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

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



## **FUTURE PRESENTATIONS**

### **2007-2008 Programs**

- Mar 15 2007: Jack Simon, CCWRT "Many A Mighty Fortress: The Third System Coastal Defenses During the Civil War"  
Apr 19 2007: Terry Winschel, Vicksburg Nat'l Mil. Park "Companion to the Fishes: The Saga of the Gunboat Cincinnati."  
May 17 2007: Harold George, 9th OH Light Artillery Reenactor ""Men of the 9th Ohio: One Man's Hunt for Civil War Gravesites"  
Sep 20 2007: Barbara Davis "Affectionately Yours: The Civil War Home-Front Letters of the Ovid Butler Family"  
Oct 18 2007: Richard McMurry Topic to be announced  
Nov 15 2007 Gary Ecelbarger "The Unheralded Alliance: John 'Black Jack' Logan and Ulysses S. Grant"  
Jan 2008: Dave Smith, CCWRT & Tom Breiner, CCWRT "Relieved of Command at Five Forks: G.K. Warren - Right or Wrong?"  
Feb 2008: Erick Bush, CCWRT "The Civil War in Alabama"  
Mar 2008: TBD  
Apr 2008: TBD  
May 2008: Joseph Reinhart "August Willich's Gallant Dutchmen: Bullets, Bayonets and Beer"



## **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.

**CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:**

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

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

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

Secretary: Albert Hallenberg, (h) 859-441-0385 [Alberthallenberg@zoomtown.com](mailto:Alberthallenberg@zoomtown.com)

(w) 369-6909 [albert.hallenberg@cincinnatilibrary.org](mailto:albert.hallenberg@cincinnatilibrary.org)

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

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

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

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

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

**Committees:**

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

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

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

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

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Dawn Mowery, (h) 513-774-9544 [dmowery11@fuse.net](mailto:dmowery11@fuse.net)

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

