



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, 2009 Issue

Meeting Date: February 19, 2009

Place: The Drake Center

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

(6:30) Menu: Homemade Spaghetti and Meatballs, Homemade Lasagna, Tossed Salad with House Dressing, Garlic Bread, Tiramisu for dessert, & Coffee, Tea or Water.

Vegetarian Option: Eggplant Pasta Bake, twice baked Potato, Vegetable Medley, Salad, Tiramisu and beverages above.

(7:30) Meeting and Program

Speaker: Stanley A. Wernz, Cincinnati, OH

Topic: An Evening With Abraham Lincoln

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org; call it in to Pat Homan at 513-861-2057 (h); or email: homanfamily@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, February 11, 2009.**

For the February meeting we welcome recall was the living historian who the Cincinnati CWRT's 50th Anniversary same capacity, but this time he will take tone, highlights about Mr. Lincoln's life. Mount Healthy, Ohio. He received a the College Conservatory of Music, teaching music at North College Hill commented that Wernz "always acted him." After checking in a mirror, Wernz



Picture from
*Lincoln and Lee at Antietam:
The Cost of Freedom*

back Stanley Wernz, who many will portrayed President Abraham Lincoln at event. Mr. Wernz returns to us in the center stage as he presents, in first person Stanley is a native Cincinnati from Master of Music Education Degree from University of Cincinnati. In 1969, while Junior-Senior High School, a student like Lincoln and how he looked like concluded the student had a point. Soon

Stanley began to wear stovepipe hats and black suits, and play the role of Lincoln at school history events. The students were thrilled. From that time Wernz's role-playing has evolved into a passion for living history, with his goal being that each member of the audience will leave his presentation knowing more facts about Mr. Lincoln, and with a feeling that they have been in an audience addressed by our 16th President. Wernz is recognized for his realism in both appearance and historical content, since his monologue materials are taken directly from the speeches and writings of Lincoln. Over the years Wernz has portrayed Lincoln for numerous groups, schools, universities, museums, and community events across the country. He has been featured in articles published in *Time* magazine, *People* magazine, and *Cincinnati* magazine. In the mid-1990's Stanley joined the Association of Lincoln Presenters (ALP), who honored him with the "Best Lincoln of 2005" award. In April 2007, along with Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee impersonators, Stanley received the Best Lincoln Team award from the ALP. Since July 2005, Wernz has served the ALP as their President.

This year the people of the United States solemnly celebrate the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, who was born on February 12, 1809, in a small cabin nestled among the hills of western Kentucky. Lincoln raised himself from an impoverished existence to arguably this country's greatest political figure – a man who "belongs to the ages," and a role model for generations of Americans since his death in 1865. President Lincoln led the nation through one of the toughest times in its 233 year history – the Civil War – and his exceptional leadership during this period has set precedents for presidents succeeding him. Mr. Wernz will bring Lincoln to life again as he shares with us, in a unique way, some of this great American's experiences and thoughts.

Miscellaneous Announcements:

Chickamauga Bus Trip: The Cincinnati Civil War Round Table is sponsoring a bus trip to Chickamauga Battlefield, Lookout Mountain, and other Civil War related sites in the Chattanooga area. Jim Ogden, the Chief Historian of the Chickamauga National Military Park, will serve as our guide. Our 47 seat Travel America motorcoach will depart from Cincinnati the morning of Friday, May 1st and will return Sunday May 3rd at 8:00 PM. The cost of the trip will be a bus fare of \$100 per person which could be adjusted as much as plus or minus \$20 depending on attendance. The bus fare will include beverages and snacks available on the bus. Each person will be responsible for making their own hotel reservations at the Hampton Inn. The Hampton has agreed to give the CCWRT a special rate of \$72 per night. If interested contact Dan Bauer at 513-759-4495 or e-mail DBauer002.cinci.rr.com by March 1st.

Second Silent Auction Item Ends This Month: The February meeting will be your last chance to bid on our second Silent Auction item. The item is a complete 24 volume collection of the *Illustrated World War 2 Encyclopedia* donated by member Tom Briener. The entire collection will be available for your review at the announcement table immediately outside of our meeting room. If interested, just add your name, and your bid, to the auction sheet found on the table. The winner of the auction will be announced during the February Business Meeting and remember...all proceeds benefit preservation.

Soda Pop is Available for Purchase: Yes, soda pop is available for purchase in vending machines. If interested, go back to the elevator...push floor 1; walk past the main entrance on your left – gift shop on your right; turn right at the first hallway immediately after the gift shop; the pop machines are on your right just a short distance down the hallway before you reach the cafeteria.



Inclement Weather Plan: We repeat last month's write-up on our plan of action should it become necessary to cancel a meeting because of bad winter weather. While that is unlikely, we want you to know the options available for getting last minute information on meeting day. 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.cincinnatiwrt.org. We will post a simple update informing the membership on the status of the meeting.
2. Check your email for an update. If the weather leaves you wondering whether we'll meet or not, the ListServ 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 Bob Limoseth, President, at 513.777.2160.
5. Call Pat Homan, Vice President, at 513.861.2057

Bob 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. **If a cancellation is required, we will have a June meeting to make up for the cancelled date because we are contractually obligated for eight meetings a year.**

We Wish to Recognize and Thank the 2008-2009 Sustaining Members! The following members have given generously to help the Round Table continue to provide quality programs for the membership. Thank you!

<i>Dr. Paul Busam</i>	<i>Albert Hallenberg</i>	<i>John Hunter</i>	<i>Dan Kimble</i>
<i>Bob Limoseth</i>	<i>John Linnenberg</i>	<i>David Mowery</i>	<i>Dawn Mowery</i>
<i>Bill Newcomb</i>	<i>Dan Reigle</i>	<i>Jim Stewart</i>	<i>Geoff Strauss</i>
<i>Jeffrey Strottman</i>	<i>Pattie Waldbillig</i>	<i>Harriette</i>	<i>Paul Weber</i>
		<i>Weatherbee</i>	

Donated Books Now Being Accepted: Our supply of gently used civil war books available for sale at the Preservation Book Sale table is getting a little thin. If you are trying to make room for some of the new books you received this holiday season, we're ready to accept some of your old ones. If you would like to participate, bring your books to the next meeting and give them to either Vice President Pat Homan or our Preservation Chairman Allan Berenson. Remember, all the proceeds received from the books you donate go into either the General Fund to offset operating expenses or to the Preservation Fund to help make civil war preservation donations. We thank you in advance for your kind contribution.

Welcome New Members: At the January meeting we welcomed back former member Julie Galluzzo and welcomed new member Nancy Windes into the membership.

January Presentation:

...submitted by Dan Bauer

Relieved of Command at Five Forks: G. K. Warren, Right or Wrong?

This month's meeting was billed as a debate between Tom Breiner and Richard Swigert about whether Philip Sheridan's dismissal of Gouverneur Warren as commander of Fifth Corps was right or wrong. The decision may have been controversial at the time, but there was little the debaters disagreed on this night. Three of the main points they agreed on were the following: 1) If one were to look at the performance of Warren at Five Forks in isolation, he did not deserve to be dismissed, 2) Over the course of Warren's tenure as commander of the Fifth Corps, his relationship with Grant, Sheridan, and Meade became strained, 3) It was really Grant's decision to dismiss Warren, not Sheridan's.

David Mowery began the presentation with an overview of the troop movements and other events in the days preceding the battle of Five Forks. Lee asked Pickett to defend the Southside Railroad, the major supply route into Petersburg, at all hazards. Grant assigned Philip Sheridan the task of capturing the Southside Railroad and placed Warren's Fifth Corps under Sheridan's command. On the morning of April 1st, while Sheridan impatiently awaited the arrival of the full body of Warren's forces, he received a dispatch which read: "General Grant directs me to say to you, that if in your judgment the Fifth Corps would do better under one of the division commanders, you are authorized to relieve General Warren, and order him to report to General Grant, at headquarters." Warren's fate as a corps commander was now in Sheridan's hands. Later that night, after the battle had ended, Warren received the following message from Sheridan, "Major General Warren of the Fifth Corps is relieved of duty and will report to General Grant." Warren had been replaced by Brigadier General Charles Griffen.

Tom Breiner was the first debater who came to the podium. He asked us to remember two words: impression and perception. Warren did nothing wrong at Five Forks and probably could do nothing right. Around noon on the first of April, when Orville Babcock gave Sheridan Grant's directive to "use your judgment" in determining whether Warren should be relieved of command, Sheridan interpreted this as a direct order to relieve Warren of command rather than an indirect order to use his discretion. Grant's directive is not a generic statement. Grant does not use the word "any officer" in saying who Sheridan has the authority to relieve. It refers specifically to Warren. Sheridan understood he was the instrument Grant was using to relieve Warren of his command.

Breiner summarized Warren's military career by citing seven occasions which cemented Warren's reputation as being slow in obeying orders: Mine Run, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Battle of the Crater, and White Oak Road, the day before Five Forks. Warren tended to believe he knew more than his commanding officer, and he had a habit of telling his commanding officers what they should do. After the war, Grant was quoted as saying "these habits were a defect of personality." Although Sheridan did not have as many direct interactions with Warren as Grant and Meade had, Sheridan knew of Warren's reputation. Just after Sheridan returned from his campaign in the Shenandoah, Grant assigned him the task of capturing the Southside Railroad. On March 31st, Warren had been ordered to report to Sheridan. Sheridan was eager to do battle with Pickett immediately. Sheridan was under the impression that Warren would report to him by midnight, and Warren's troops would be positioned to fight early on April 1st. Because of bad weather, the first of Warren's troops did not show up in the Five Forks area until 7:00 a.m. and Warren didn't report to Sheridan until 11:00 a.m. Warren took until 4 p.m. to get his troops into position. The delay made Sheridan furious. Breiner concluded the only way Warren could have kept his job that day was if he were mortally wounded.

Next, Richard Swigert came to the podium to give his take on the dismissal of Warren. It has been said that Warren was relieved of duty due to poor performance on the first of April. However, according to accounts of the battle, Warren performed well that day. Mr. Swigert then went into a detailed account of Warren's actions on that day. The reasons why Warren and his Fifth Corps were not positioned to Sheridan's liking were not Warren's fault. In addition to problems caused by bad weather, Sheridan gave vague or incorrect orders and the diagram that Sheridan provided Warren was inaccurate. The poor directions caused Warren's Corps to be positioned too far to the right. In Sheridan's view, the right half of Warren's Corp got lost. In addition, Sheridan complained that Warren was not to be found. In fact, Warren was off to redirect the right part of his corps, as he should have been doing.

At the Court of Inquiry, called in 1879 to examine the facts surrounding the dismissal, it was discovered that Grant, through statements made by E. R. Warner, wanted Warren relieved long before the battle of Five Forks. It was General Meade who advised Grant to leave Warren in place. The final straw came when Grant received a faulty report as to where Warren was the morning of April 1st. A staff officer told Grant that Warren was building a bridge, when in fact he was in Dinwiddie Court House, right where he was supposed

to be. Lastly, Swigert pointed out that Sheridan was smarting from a rebuke from Grant for not capturing Five Forks sooner. Because of this, Sheridan was looking for someone else “to take a shot at.” Warren, being an engineer, was naturally inclined to think, to question orders, and to find solutions. He did not blindly follow orders as Grant, Meade, and Sheridan would have liked.

Breiner then returned to the podium to give his rebuttal in the form of a series of quick points. A curious thing about the 1879 Court of Inquiry was that only the facts regarding Five Forks could be admitted. Meade also wanted to get rid of Warren, but he was waiting for a suitable replacement. Shortly after the war, General David Stanley said he was told by Sheridan that it was Warren’s provoking language that got Sheridan upset. The commission of an officer says that you “serve at the pleasure of the president.” Therefore, no justification or reason is necessary to replace an officer.

Lastly, Swigert came to the podium to give his final thoughts. Rarely is a commander replaced in the midst of battle. It causes confusion and is dangerous and hazardous. Relieving him during the battle was a bad idea. It should have been done at another time. The reason the Court of Inquiry did not convene until 1879 was because Grant refused to one. It was President Hayes that called for the inquiry. Although the Court of Inquiry eventually cleared Warren of misconduct, Warren did not live long enough to hear the verdict. He died three months after the Court of Inquiry was adjourned but before its findings were published.



The Lincoln Critters ...by Susan L. Keenan of the Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pennsylvania, Inc.

White House pets seem to be remembered by history nearly as often as their famous families. The Lincoln family was no exception. The following quotes of Abe Lincoln were recently found in a book about animals:

“No matter how much cats fight, there always seem to be plenty of kittens.”

“I care not much for a man’s religion whose dog and cat are not the better for it.”

“I could not have slept tonight if I had left that helpless little creature to perish on the ground.”

We may well wonder what small animal was referenced in this last quote – probably a kitten. Abe Lincoln’s love for all animals was well known, but he was especially fond of cats. Mrs. Lincoln was often asked if her husband had a hobby. “Cats,” she would reply.

As a child, Lincoln abhorred any kind of cruelty to animals, and would intervene when playmates were unkind to them. He once wrote a school essay on the subject of kindness to animals that was remembered for years.

As Commander-in-Chief, his residence, the White House, fairly overflowed with pets of all sorts. A beloved dog named Fido was very pampered, as were two pet goats, Nanny and Nanko. The goats had the run of the White House, and often disrupted official meetings when the Lincoln boys, Tad and Willie, would hitch a goat to a chair and clatter through the White House. There were rabbits, as well as a Thanksgiving turkey named Tom, whose life was spared when Tad became attached to the bird and begged his father to grant a “stay of execution.”

Lincoln’s horse, Old Bob, came to Washington from Springfield when the family moved into their official quarters. Old Bob would be remembered by his last official duty as the riderless horse in Lincoln’s funeral

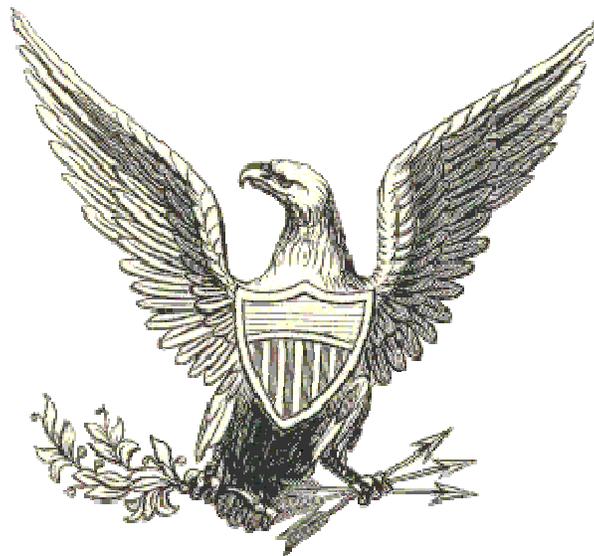
procession.

In 1863, the White House stables caught fire, and Lincoln had to be physically restrained from entering the burning building. One of the animals to perish in the fire was his late son Willie's pony, and also his son Tad's mount.

Mary Lincoln did not share her spouse's fondness for animals. Once, at a White House dinner, Lincoln had his cat Tabby seated next to him, and he fed her choice morsels with a gold fork. Mrs. Lincoln remarked, "Don't you think it's shameful for Mr. Lincoln to feed Tabby with a gold fork?" Mr. Lincoln replied, "If the gold fork was good enough for former President James Buchanan, I think it is good enough for Tabby."

During his early days as an itinerant lawyer, Lincoln was known to delay the travel of his colleagues by rescuing all sorts of creatures. Once he rescued a pig hopelessly mired in mud. On another occasion, he found two baby birds fallen from their nest, and refused to resume his travels until their nest was found and the babes restored to it.

One of Lincoln's well-known acts of animal charity came just three weeks before his assassination, in March of 1865. Lincoln was at a telegraph office on the day Grant began the final advance of the Civil War. Lincoln came upon three tiny kittens, mewling and wandering about the telegraph hut. Upon inquiring, he learned their mother was dead. Hearing the mother's fate, Lincoln took the three kittens in his lap and said to the telegraph operator, "Then she can't grieve as many a poor mother is grieving for a son lost in battle." The President requested Colonel Bowers of Grant's staff to look after the kittens and see that they were cared for. Bowers promised it would be done. Colonel Horace Porter, also present, observed Lincoln and the kittens, later writing, "He would wipe their eyes tenderly with his handkerchief, stroke their smooth coats, and listen to them purring their gratitude to him. Quite a sight it was, at an army headquarters, upon the eve of a great military crisis in the nation's history, to see the hand which had affixed the signature to the Emancipation Proclamation and had signed the commissions...from the generals-in-chief to the lowest lieutenant, tenderly caressing three stray kittens."



Cincinnati Civil War Round Table November Quiz:

1. Who was confirmed by the Senate as Secretary of War on today's date 1862?
Answer: Edwin M. Stanton
2. On January 15, 1865 the Union army and navy forces cooperated and gained an historic victory. Name the battle.
Answer: Fort Fisher
3. Who was the host of the famous April 1, 1865 shad bake?
Answer: Thomas Rosser
4. Who replaced Gouverneur Warren as commander of the 5th Corps?
Answer: Charles Griffin
5. Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln held a series of debates in 7 Illinois cities in the late summer and early fall of 1858. Name 3 cities that hosted debates.
Answer: Ottawa, Freeport, Jonesboro, Charleston, Galesburg, Quincy and Alton
6. In reference to question 5, what specifically were Lincoln and Douglas campaigning for?
Answer: At the time U.S. Senators were elected by state legislatures. Therefore, Lincoln and Douglas were campaigning for their respective parties to win control of the Illinois Legislature.

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:

January 23, 2009, February 27, 2009, March 27, 2009, April 24, 2009

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

Future Presentations:

March 19, 2009	Alan Berenson, CCWRT, " <i>Robert E. Lee, 1865-1870</i> "
April 16, 2009	Col. Kevin Weddle, US Army War College <i>Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: Samuel Francis Du Pont</i>
May 21, 2009	Harold Holzer, United States Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, <i>How Lincoln Became President --- In Ohio</i>
September 17, 2009	Brian Steel Wills, University of Virginia at Wise <i>Nathan Bedford Forrest: Common Sense Soldier</i>
October 15, 2009	John Fisher, University of Cincinnati, Clermont <i>Combined Operations on the Texas Coast, 1863-1864</i>
November 19, 2009	Charles P. Roland, University of Kentucky, <i>A Slave Owner Defends Slavery</i>
January 21, 2010	Gary Q. Johnson, CCWRT, <i>USS Monitor</i>
February 18, 2010	Michael Stevens, CCWRT <i>The Handsome Spaniard: Ambrosio Gonzales, Cuban Patriot and Confederate Officer</i>
March 18, 2010	Lois J. Lambert, CCWRT, <i>Heroes of the Western Theater: 33rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry</i>
April 15, 2010	John Fazio, Cleveland CWRT, <i>Francis and Arabella Barlow; John and Fanny Gordon: Love and War</i>

We Who Study Must Also Strive To Save!

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 \$27. 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:

President Bob Limoseth	513-777-2160 (h)	rlimo@fuse.net
Vice President Pat Homan	513-861-2057 (h)	homanfamily@fuse.net
Treasurer Jim Stewart	513-271-0738 (h)	jebstewart@fuse.net
Secretary Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h) 513-870-2262 (w)	dan_bauer@cinfin.com
Program Chair David Mowery	513-774-9544 (h)	dmowery11@fuse.net
Newsletter Editor Patricia Waldbillig	513-271-5766 (h) 513-745-3531 (w)	waldbill@xavier.edu
Membership & Publicity Chair		
Trustee (2007-2009) Jack Simon	513-574-0017 (h)	jackpsimon@aol.com
Trustee (2008-2010) John W. Linnenberg	513-922-3999 (h) 513-607-4002 (c)	jw.linnenberg@gte.net
Committees:		
Preservation Projects Alan Berenson	513-891-8376 (h)	prb5@zoomtown.com
Webmaster Dan Reigle	513-777-9255 (h)	DReigle@cinci.rr.com
Photographer Jim Chaney	859-731-0594 (h)	jchaney@davmail.org
CCWRT ListServ John Steiner	513-528-3350 (h)	jcsneuro@fuse.net

Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!