



CINCINNATI  
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
SERVING OHIO, KENTUCKY AND INDIANA SINCE 1956



---

# THE CANISTER

---

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT P. O. Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnati-cwrt.org>

February, 2012 Issue

---

Meeting Date: February 16, 2012

**Place: The Drake Center**

**(6:00) Sign-in and Social**

**(6:30) Dinner**

**(7:15) Business Meeting**

**(7:30) Speaker**

**Dinner Menu: Beef medallions in brown sauce, garlic redskin mashed potatoes, succotash, mixed green salad w/ citrus vinaigrette, sweet yeast rolls and assorted dessert bars**  
**Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

**Speaker: Jill Holt, CCWRT**

**Topic: Women Soldiers in the Civil War**

---

**Reservations:** 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); call it in to Tom Breiner at 513-984-3101 (h); or email: [tbreiner@fuse.net](mailto:tbreiner@fuse.net). If you are making a reservation for more than yourself, please provide the names of the others. Please note that **all reservations must be in no later than 8:00 pm Wednesday, February 8, 2012.**

---

## About our February Speaker:

Jill Holt will speak for the first time to the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table at its February meeting. Jill is a *summa cum laude* graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a B.S in nursing. She practiced for 10 years as a critical care nurse, receiving her CCN accreditation. Jill has been a student of history her whole life, with an emphasis on American history and with an even greater emphasis on the American Civil War. She has always found the Civil War interesting, especially when discussing how people of this era lived in a tumultuous time without many of the medical or technological advances that we enjoy today. Yet, what

impresses Jill most about the Civil War is that so many people maintained a high moral, educational, and religious standard despite their surroundings. Jill has spoken about the Civil War to various children's groups and classrooms, hoping that her talks will help history come alive for young people and start a fire in their hearts to learn and to study.

Ms. Holt will speak to us on a topic close to her heart – women soldiers of the Civil War. The fact that women disguised themselves as men and served with the Union and the Confederacy is one of the best kept secrets of the American Civil War. To date, the story of the average antebellum soldier has been told from a distinctly masculine point of view. However, the last fifteen years has brought to light a lot of information about these Civil War heroines that had been previously lost or hidden over the last century. Jill's presentation will focus on how so many women of the North and South, with absolutely no urging from their respective governments, all made the same, independent decision to dress like a man and march off to war. Jill's talk will also focus on the legal, social, and economic status of mid-nineteenth century women, as well as the cultural and historical patterns that set a precedent for female services in the military. Jill will also talk about how female soldiers of the Civil War were viewed then, and how they are viewed now, the results which are both fascinating and surprising, and speak volumes not only about the women soldiers, but also of America as a whole.



## President's Report

..... Pat Homan

**IMPORTANT:** Our February meeting will be held in a different room. We will meet in Meeting Room D, which is on the first floor, behind the cafeteria. I am told signs will be up but the cafeteria is to the left of the gift shop and down the first hall to the right. The meeting room is at the end of the hall.

Jill Holt is recovering from a recent back operation and is still in a lot of pain. There is a good chance she will not be able to speak at the February meeting. Please check our website for announcements as to a possible replacement speaker.

We had an excellent meeting in January. Gary gave another excellent presentation on the growth of the US Navy from 50 ships in 1860 to 600 ships by 1865. Our new Preservation co-chairs also not only gave a musical presentation and had the entire group singing along. I think this is a first for the Preservation Committee. I decided it was worth another donation to the fund. I hope others either make their first gift or will consider making an additional gift. I understand we are more than halfway to the goal.

On that issue, a question was raised as to why we did not consider a free-standing sign on the street. The short answer is, we did. We discovered that this would require approval by the City of Cincinnati, which meant going through numerous city agencies for approvals, the size of the sign would be about half of what we will have and, in addition, the costs of the sign and related fees would be more than our current project plus, the Round Table would have to purchase liability insurance to cover the city on a continual basis or as long as the sign was standing. We did not approach the Ohio State Civil War 150 Committee as they had

advised us they had no funds for any projects. As it is, we have a good workable and affordable project. If anyone has any questions, please contact me.

There are other Civil War related events coming up. One is Ed Bearss is speaking on March 17 meeting to the Brown County Ohio Historical Society and attendance is \$10. I believe the event is in Georgetown, but I have not been able to get any additional details. If someone has the information, please see me prior to the February meeting so it can be publicized. If there are others in the next few months, please let me know. In September, we will observe the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Perrysville. I have to figure out how to get my students to attend.

Finally, I hope to see all of you at the next meeting. I am encouraged by the number of first time guests at the meetings and noting how many are finding out about our group. Keep publicizing us. Nothing is more effective than word of mouth. I wouldn't be here if Paul Busam had not talked it up. Go do the same with your friends.



## Items of Interest:

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

As we have done the past few years, transportation will be via a 15 passenger van. To reserve your seat for this tour, please send a check in the amount of \$115 made out to the CCWRT and mailed to Dan Bauer, 6581 Club LN, West Chester, OH 45069 or present the check to Dan Bauer at one of the next couple of meetings. Checks will not be cashed until one month prior to departure. The \$115 will cover the cost of transportation, guide fees, and miscellaneous expenses. Each attendee will be responsible for their own hotel costs and meals. We will be staying at the Hampton Inn – Mechanicsville 804-559-0559. If you have any questions, contact Dan Bauer at 759-4495.

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

**New Members:** Welcome to our two newest members who were voted in at the January meeting: Terry Dull and Erin Morris.

**Sustaining Members:** A special thanks to our 2011-12 class of sustaining members. Through their special contributions, the cost of dues is held in check for the remaining membership. Here are this year's Sustaining Members (23): Tom Breiner, Lester Burgin, Paul Busam, Mark Fidler, Greg Fisher, Rich Foy, Bill Franzosa, Albert Hallenberg, Dennis Harrell, Ken Hoffman, Bruce Kirchner, Bob Limoseth, John Linnenberg, Mike Meese, Dave Mowery, Dawn Mowery, Bill Newcomb, Dan Reigle, Jim Stewart, Jeff Strottman, Harriette Weatherbee, Paul Weber, Tom Williams

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

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



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

### **Keith Rocco Print to be Raffled**

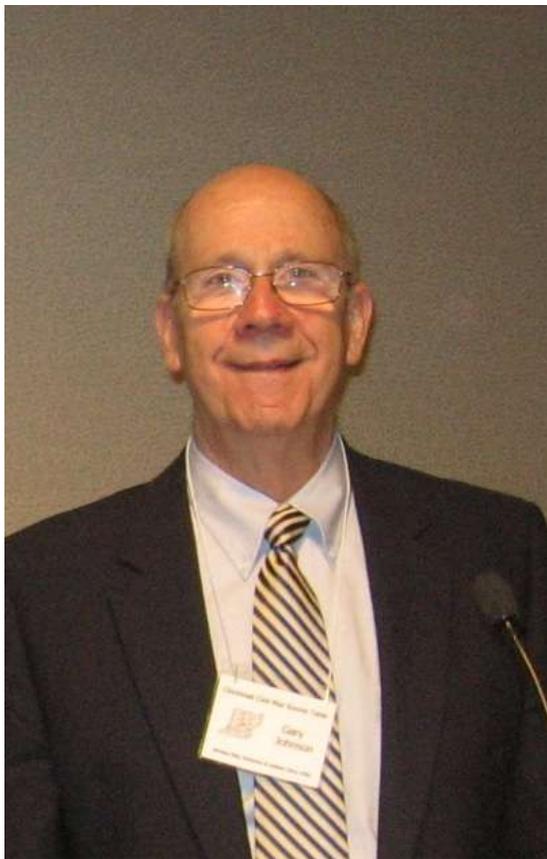
**Help Save 141 Acres at Perryville:** We have the opportunity to build on the recent preservation successes at Perryville by saving 121 additional acres that includes, according to historian and park manager Kurt Holman, "without a doubt, the most blood-soaked ground on the entire Perryville Battlefield." One of the two tracts that make up this new opportunity is the location of the Slaughter Pen region of the battlefield. Here late on October 8, 1862, a terrible and bloody struggle raged for the strategic Dixville Crossroads. The 22nd Indiana alone lost 65% of its men in the fighting here. Colonel Squire Keith lay dead on the ground. And by the end of the intense fighting on this section of the battlefield upwards of 1,000 soldiers from Indiana, Alabama, Ohio and Illinois, were dead, wounded, or captured on the very ground that we are now seeking to save. If \$181,250 can be raised, we can save this critically important land valued at \$725,000 – that's a \$4-to-\$1 match of your donation dollar". We need your help to save this battlefield land. Please consider making a donation to help add these important Kentucky tracts to the "saved forever" column. Follow this link to donate; [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org). You can also mail your contribution to: Civil War Trust, P.O. Box 1477, Hagerstown, MD 21741-1477.

# January Presentation:

... submitted by Andy Simmons

In January, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table was proud to have Gary Johnson, a veteran speaker before our group, make a presentation entitled, *The Squeeze of the Anaconda Plan – America’s First 600 Ship Navy*. A veteran of the United States Navy, Mr. Johnson has always had a fascination with the naval forces during the Civil War and the major part it played in the Anaconda Plan. The USN was the “Squeeze” in the Anaconda Plan.

The USN started the war with 50 ships, most which were not of the right kind, and by the end of the war, it had 600. The term “Anaconda Plan” was not a term used by Winfield Scott; it was coined by the press somewhat tongue in cheek. Despite Lincoln never formally adopting the plan, splitting the Confederacy in two was one of the principal tools used to win the war. Further, Lincoln was forced early in war to recognize it as a blockade. Doing so allowed him to pursue ships into international waters, a necessary ability to keep Great Britain and France at arm’s length. This decision however required giving belligerent status to the Confederacy.



**Gary Johnson**

The challenges to the USN at the outset of the war were many. There were 3500 miles of coastline, 189 harbors and rivers, and only 50 ships, mostly deep water ships unsuitable for navigation along the shallow coastline and rivers. A further challenge was to keep the British and French out of the war and from re-supplying the Confederacy. The USN wanted to recapture the coastal fortifications seized by the Confederacy and to support coastal army operations.

Recruiting posed a problem. Army recruiting was localized. Naval recruiting was carried out at *rendez-vous* stations in mostly eastern coastal cities. Recruits were enticed to share prize money. Instead of keeping recruits enlisting together in the same command, recruits who knew one another were split up. The average age was 26 years old, as opposed to the army, which was much younger. Also, the number of sailors reached 55,000, as opposed to 2.2 million soldiers. 15% were African-American. 45% were foreign born. 78% of sailors came from East Coast states. Most were looking to escape poverty with a perceived degree of safety.

Basic training was conducted on a “receiving ship” for a few weeks. Real training happened after their first assignment. This was a different world for the sailors. They had to become used to sea sickness, a wet environment, little sleep, smells, and a small area to live and sleep, mostly cutoff from the rest of the

world for long periods. It took four years to become the sailor and learn the ropes. They had to learn new skills and a new vocabulary. Pay generally ranged from \$8 - \$18 per month, with specialists getting more. African-Americans were paid equal to their white counterparts. Daily life was a strict routine. It consisted of watch, eating, cleaning, maintenance, sleeping, and drills. Leave was granted, usually not favored by the captains, but occurring when the grumbling among the crew stopped. Although Annapolis existed, officers received mostly on the job training after a few weeks of indoctrination.

In addition to the challenges faced in building and equipping the USN, a strategy had to be formed to carry out the blockade. Four blockading squadrons were created: North Atlantic, South Atlantic, East Gulf and West Gulf. Four ports had to be re-captured to provide forward bases. Ships had to be fitted from merchant use, such as ferry boats, that were used to operate in shallow water. Naval battles were rare; the strategy was primarily to close ports, Heavy ships to carry guns were very important. Coastal campaigns were effective, but were not frequent. The principal counter weapon was a torpedo. 18 Union ships were sunk with torpedoes. Torpedo boats were deemed to be more cost effective than ironclads.

Certain ships were required to fight blockade runners. These ships were usually not heavily armed, and had a shallow draft. A blockade strategy was developed to place ships in layers. Close in ships with a shallow draft were stationed near the coast. Chasers comprised the second layer. The third layer used faster ships, The farthest ships out were cruisers designed to intercept the runners.

The economics of the blockade wreaked havoc on the Confederacy. In 1862, the price of cotton soared. The cotton embargo, in the first year of the war when the blockade was at its weakest, hampered rather than helped the Confederate war effort. The blockade created an incentive to ship lighter luxury goods, not essential for the war effort, as opposed to war materiel. Eventually, the foreign markets for US cotton dried up and were replaced by other producers such as India. The blockade's success can be measured by the effectiveness. In 1861, 1 in 10 runners were captured. In 1862, 1 in 8; 1863, 1 in 4 and by 1864, only 1 in 3 runners made it through the blockade.

The blockade had a serious impact. In 1861, southern ports had 20,000 landings and by 1864, there were only 8,000. Exports were reduced and the price of imports skyrocketed. Overall this crippled the economy of the Confederacy and contributed to runaway inflation. Closing the southern ports created a relentless squeeze. The Anaconda Plan in hindsight was extremely effective. Combined with similar army strategies of Grant and Sherman, the Confederacy was split in two and ultimately brought to its knees.



## Future Presentations:

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

# January Quiz:

## Questions:

- 1.: In 1846 naval Lieutenants John Winslow and Ralph Semmes would be roommates on a ship off the Mexican coast. 18 years later they would meet again. Where?
- 2.: How can a distant observer determine if a masted sailboat is carrying conventional or human cargo?
- 3.: In the early 1800's my father was fishing near New Orleans when he found an elderly unconscious man lying in a boat. My father took him home nursing him for several weeks before he died. His son, a captain in the U.S. Navy in gratitude to my father offered me a position as a midshipman, something too good to decline. He became my surrogate father whose natural son became a U.S. naval admiral in the Civil War. So did I. What is my name and that of my foster brother?
- 4.: Thomas Selfridge was a Union navel officer who experienced more than his share of navel firsts: he was on the USS Cumberland when it was involved in the first battle of ironclad vessels; he commanded the USS Cairo, the first ironclad sunk by a torpedo; and he commanded the USS Osage, the first ironclad attacked by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5.: The Comanche, a Monitor class Union ironclad, was unique among all U.S.Navy warships. Why?
- 6.: The Union's capture of Norfolk, Va. and its harbor protecting the Merrimack was due in part to the Confederate's abandoning of its defensive line on the peninsula but also due to the amphibious approach of 5000 Union soldiers landed on a beachhead below the city. The presence of these troops markedly shortened the time the rebel commander of the Merrimack had to lighten her draught to enable her to escape up the James leading to his decision to scuttle the ship. Who made the decision to land the troops and force the loss of the Rebel's ironclad?

## Answers:

- 1.: Off Cherbourg, France, as captains of the Kearsarge and Alabama. Ref.: Battle Cry of Freedom, McPherson, p. 5
- 2.: Slave carrying ships had airports on the bottom halves of their sides. Ref.: Lecture, CSPAN2, Atlanta Slave trade, Rediker
- 3.: David (James Glasgow) Farragut and David Porter. Ref.: Damn the Torpedos, Symonds, Hallowed Ground Vol. 9, #4, p.18
- 4.: Cavalry. Ref.: Lecture, The Battle of the Ironclads, Quarstein, Va. Historical Society, 21 Sep. 2011
- 5.: She was the only U.S. vessel that sank on launching before she ever sailed. Ref.: CSPAN3, History of Fort Point, 10 May 2011, Martini
- 6.: Abraham Lincoln. Ref.: Lincoln and the Navy, Symonds, American Heritage Magazine, Winter, 2009, p.43-6

## **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:**

President: Pat Homan	513-861-2057 (h)	<a href="mailto:homanfamily@fuse.net">homanfamily@fuse.net</a>
Vice-President: Tom Breiner	513- 984-3101(h)	<a href="mailto:tbreiner@fuse.net">tbreiner@fuse.net</a>
Treasurer: Jim Stewart	513-271-0738 (h)	<a href="mailto:jebstewart@fuse.net">jebstewart@fuse.net</a>
Secretary: Andy Simmons	513-705-9444 (c)	<a href="mailto:asimmons2@cinci.rr.com">asimmons2@cinci.rr.com</a>
Program Chair: David Mowery	513-774-9544 (h)	<a href="mailto:dmowery11@fuse.net">dmowery11@fuse.net</a>
Newsletter Editor: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h)	<a href="mailto:dbauer002@cinci.rr.com">dbauer002@cinci.rr.com</a>
Membership & Publicity: Mike Rogers	859- 907-3096 (c)	<a href="mailto:rogersmb1981@yahoo.com">rogersmb1981@yahoo.com</a>
Trustee: Dan Reigle (20011-2013)	513-777-9255 (h)	<a href="mailto:DReigle@cinci.rr.com">DReigle@cinci.rr.com</a>
Trustee: Bob Limoseth (2010-2012)	513-777-2160 (h)	<a href="mailto:rlimo@fuse.net">rlimo@fuse.net</a>

### **Committees:**

Preservation Projects: Alan Berenson	513-891-8376 (h)	<a href="mailto:pberenson@yahoo.com">pberenson@yahoo.com</a>
Webmaster: Dan Reigle	513-777-9255 (h)	<a href="mailto:DReigle@cinci.rr.com">DReigle@cinci.rr.com</a>
Photographer: Shane Gamble	513-791-3541 (h)	<a href="mailto:colt45@fuse.net">colt45@fuse.net</a>
CCWRT ListServ: John Steiner	513-528-3350 (h)	<a href="mailto:jcsneuro@fuse.net">jcsneuro@fuse.net</a>

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