



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>
March, 2006 Issue

MEETING INFORMATION FOR MARCH 16, 2006

Meeting Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

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

(6:45) Dinner: - Triple nut crusted chicken

(7:45): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Dr. David Bush, Heidelberg College, Tiffin OH

Topic: Preservation of the Johnson's Island Prisoner of War Depot



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



JOHNSON'S ISLAND FROM THE SKY

In our 2004-2005 campaign year, CCWRT designated Johnson's Island as our preservation project for the year, and we were pleased to contribute over \$1000 in member contributions supplemented with a CCWRT Preservation contribution to the efforts of the Friends & Descendants of the Johnson's Island Prisoner of War Depot. At our March meeting, we will be privileged to hear from Dr. David Bush, who is leading preservation efforts. He has



been doing archaeological digs at the site since 1989, and has identified over 6000 artifacts with historical significance.

Johnson's Island is located in the Sandusky Bay portion of Lake Erie in Ottawa County, Ohio. It was designated as the place of confinement for Confederate officers, including among its "residents" BG Basil Duke, BG Jeff Thompson, MG Isaac Trimble after his wounding at Gettysburg, and Stonewall Jackson's staff officer and chronicler, Henry Kyd Douglas. Today, Johnson's Island is a National Historic Landmark, ranking among Ohio's most important archaeological sites. It certainly is one of the best preserved Civil War prison camps....at least for the moment. Development has already taken the site of the garrison camp and one of the defensive forts at the prison site.

For more information prior to the meeting, see the feature article in the *Civil War Historian Magazine*, Sept/Oct 2005, the FDJI website, <<http://www.heidelberg.edu/~dbush/index.html>>, or Dan Reigle's brief article on the visit that Jack Simon, Bob Limoseth, and Dan made to JI last July in *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal*, Vol IX (2005), No. 4.

Dr. Bush is Professor of Anthropology at Heidelberg College, and Chair of the Political Science & Anthropology Department. He is Director of the Center for Historic & Military Archaeology at Heidelberg, and Chair of the Friends & Descendants of the Johnson's Island Prisoner of War Depot. He received his B.A. at Miami University, his M.A. at Kent State University, and his Ph.D. at Case Western Reserve University.



Welcome New Members The Round Table welcomed Ron Blair and Titus Genton into membership at the February meeting.



Soldiers Aid Society, Cleveland, Ohio

We Wish to Recognize and Thank the 2005-2006 Sustaining Members!

A Sustaining Member level of membership was added this year for the first time. 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.

The following members have given generously to help our Round Table achieve these objectives. Thank You!

Dr. Paul Busam	Dennis Harrell	John Linnenberg	Bill Smith
Jim Chaney	Skip Jackson	Dave & Dawn Mowery	Geoff Strauss
Albert Hallenberg	Bob Limoseth	Dan Reigle	Harriette Weatherbee

February Presentation, Summarized by Albert Hallenberg



This month the Round Table was treated to a unique presentation as instructor Paul Larue and his Research History Class visited us from the Washington Court House Senior High School (about 70 miles northeast of here). Since 1998, Paul has taught a special “hands on” history class for high school seniors that has brought previously neglected local and regional history to life. Each year his Research History Class picks a topic, mostly related to the Underground Railroad and African American troops in the Civil War.

Paul had the seven seniors accompanying him – Camille Galecki, Amanda Janasov, Darci Mossbarger, McKenzie Pfeifer, Christin Smith, Derek Stockwell and Bryan Tarry – each summarize to the Round Table the historical projects they are working on in this school year. The projects have included connecting members of Cincinnati’s Black Brigade with later Civil War service, creating a graves database for the Washington D.C. Soldier’s Home Cemetery, and documenting Civil War veterans buried in a local Catholic cemetery. What may be most exciting is the class project that involves working with the Ohio state legislature to designate September 22 as Emancipation Day in Ohio. A bill has already been introduced in the Ohio House, and some of the students will actually be testifying on the bill’s behalf in Columbus very soon!

Paul and his students provided us with a handout detailing their multiple projects. One can see looking at the references cited that Paul’s students utilize many primary sources, including census records, pension files, archival newspapers and thousands of grave registration cards.

To see some of the great work accomplished by this class, visit their Web site, <http://www.washingtonch.k12.oh.us/mapsite/>. One major ongoing project has been to document every gravesite of a United States Colored Troop (USCT) member in Ohio. The Ohio Adjutant General’s Graves Registration Database lists all burial sites for Union soldiers who died in Ohio, but does not list by race. Paul’s class established a separate database for USCT soldiers buried in Ohio sometime ago, and each school year more names are added. In addition, the class has been identifying unmarked graves, as well as trying to piece together the individual stories of the men buried there.

All of Paul’s students gave articulate well-informed and enthusiastic presentations on their projects. And, from what we could see, they rarely referred to any notes! As a personal aside, I saw in the project handout that the students had identified at least 15 members of the Black Brigade who would later become soldiers in the USCT. I was going to e-mail the school later to obtain a list of the names, but thanks to the thoughtfulness and generosity of Camille, Darci and McKenzie, right after the meeting I was given a handout not only listing the names but photocopies of the grave registration cards! A real goldmine and I thank them very much.

Paul’s students not only gain valuable research experience through their projects, but also leave a legacy of data

that will be used by many genealogical and historical researchers. Round Table members attending were very receptive to Paul and his students, and very appreciative of the work they have done. We are very glad they came to visit us, and we hope to have another one of Paul's senior classes return in the near future.



Preservation News by David Mowery, Preservation Chairman:

- **Battery Hooper Project Update:**

As of publish date, the CCWRT has received gifts totaling \$996 for the Battery Hooper signage project. With the CCWRT Preservation Fund match of \$250, we are now at \$1246 that we will give to the James A. Ramage Museum for manufacturing and maintaining interpretive signs to mark these rare entrenchments from the Northern Kentucky defensive line. WOW! Please keep your donations coming! We thank everyone who has contributed thus far. Your contributions will make a difference for many persons who will be trying to understand their past so that they can make better judgments for their futures.

Do not let this great news stop you from making a contribution to this project. 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.

- **A Fateful Donation from the CCWRT...**

In January 2006, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table donated \$500.00 to Beauvoir Relief, to be used toward the rebuilding of Confederate President Jefferson Davis's "Beauvoir" house in Biloxi, Mississippi. Much of the home was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina last year.

However, this is not the first time that "Beauvoir" has been severely hit by a hurricane, and, interestingly enough, it is not the first time that the Round Table has helped to rebuild this house. The following is an excerpt from the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table's *Canister* published in November 1969:

"Following the item in last month's *Canister*, Jim Barnett made a motion to donate \$50.00 to the Beauvoir Restoration. Beauvoir, the last home of Jefferson Davis, was hit by hurricane Camille and suffered considerable damage. Paul Ashworth seconded the motion and the members voted to send a \$50.00 donation to the Jackson Mississippi CWRT, collectors of the fund."

Fate has its way of bringing bad and good things around again. And if fate should be blamed for bringing Katrina to Beauvoir's door, it also should be credited for inspiring the membership of the CCWRT to again vote to donate to the house's restoration. Thank you all, again, for continuing the CCWRT's tradition of helping Civil War sites in need.

Lecture: Women and the Civil War

Dr. Alice Fahs, associate professor of history at University of California, Irvine, will speak at NKU on Tuesday, March 28, 7:30 PM, in the Eva Farris Auditorium, BEP200. Her topic will be “Women and the Civil War.” Dr. Fahs is author of *The Imagined Civil War: Popular Literature of the North and the South, 1861-1865*, and editor with Joan Waugh of *The Memory of the Civil War in American Culture*. Her lecture is part of NKU’s Military History Lecture Series. Directions to NKU and campus parking information are available on the NKU website at <http://www.nku.edu/community.php>.

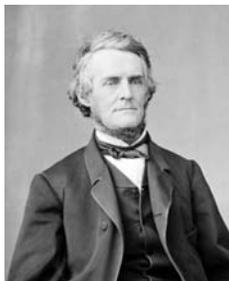
Forthcoming Book on Ohio’s Civil War Monuments

Harold George of Lakewood OH has produced a new book on Ohio's Civil War Monuments, including the exact location of 270 monuments and over 100 full color photographs. He expects it to be available from the printer in April. A promotional flyer and order form has been distributed to CCWRT Listserv, and will be available at the next meeting. Harold will be our CCWRT speaker in May of next year, talking about his research and book on the 9th Ohio Independent Battery Light Artillery. If you have seen his book on the 9th OIBLA, you will be confident that his book on Ohio monuments will be very carefully researched and full of information not otherwise readily available.



Spring Outing

Tired of being cooped up all winter? Want to get out and explore some Civil War history? Have we got a deal for you! Mark your calendars now for Saturday, May 13th for the Round Table's deluxe tour of Camp Dennison to learn its interesting history and the role in Morgan's Raid. More details will be issued from Headquarters on where to muster in and move out! Be sure to attend the March meeting to get all of the details! You don't want to miss this event!



William Dennison Governor of Ohio who was born in Cincinnati, Ohio

William Dennison, Jr. (November 23, 1815 – June 15, 1882) was a Whig and Republican politician from Ohio. He served as the 24th Governor of Ohio.

Born in Cincinnati, Dennison graduated from Miami University, studied law, and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1840. A canny businessman, he led the Exchange Bank and the Columbus and Xenia Railroad, and organized the Hocking Valley Railroad, while becoming active in politics.

Dennison was one of the first major Ohio politicians to leave the dying Whig Party for the new Republican Party. He rose quickly through the party ranks due to his anti-slavery and anti-discrimination efforts in the Ohio State Senate. Dennison was elected to the governorship in 1859, defeating Rufus P. Ranney, and served a single term from 1860 to 1862. Before the outbreak of the American Civil War, he refused the demands of Kentucky and Virginia state authorities for the extradition of fugitive slaves or the punishment of those who helped them. He organized Ohio's mobilization in the opening days of the war, and was generally effective, despite having a small staff and no prior military experience. Without being asked by the War Department, he sent Ohio troops into

western Virginia, where they guarded the Wheeling convention which eventually led to the admission of West Virginia as a free state.

However, errors by the Governor and his subordinates led the state's alliance of Republicans and War Democrats to drop Dennison as a candidate in 1862. The parties turned instead to David Tod, a War Democrat. Historian Richard H. Abbott wrote, "No Ohio chief executive [before Dennison] had ever exercised such powers and fulfilled such duties with a greater sense of public responsibility and determination. Nevertheless...politics dictated his demise."

Dennison accepted this turn of events with good grace, capably advised his successor, and provided valuable services in helping recruit black troops for Ohio units. He was appointed U.S. Postmaster General by President Abraham Lincoln, and served from 1864-1866, leaving the Cabinet after he decided he could no longer support the policies of President Andrew Johnson. Dennison remained active in state and national politics until his death. He left behind a widow and seven children.

Of Dennison's single term in the opening stages of the Civil War, historian John S. Stilt wrote, "His wisdom and foresight were appreciated by few and condemned by many.... It is doubtful whether any of his predecessors could have met the issues any more successfully."

Dennison tried but failed to be elected to the United States Senate in 1861, when he was defeated by John Sherman, and in 1880, when he was defeated by James Garfield.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Quiz---January, 2005

1. On this date (February 16) in 1861, Jefferson Davis arrived in Montgomery to become Provisional President of the Confederacy. A prominent politician proclaimed the famous words, "The man and the hour have met." Who was the speaker?
2. A prominent Civil War leader had two sons, Charles and Lewis, in the 54th Massachusetts Infantry. Lewis was the Sergeant Major of the regiment, and both survived the assault on Fort Wagner. Who was their father?
3. Dr. Middleton Goldsmith, a Union surgeon and a medical school professor before the war, pioneered the use of bromine solutions for a particular medical problem encountered primarily in the relatively permanent general hospitals found in the larger cities. His published article in 1863 led to his being sent to hospitals having difficulty with this particular condition, and led to widespread application of his recommendations. What was the medical condition to which bromine was successfully applied?
4. As future Vietnam commander and US Army Chief of Staff William C. Westmoreland reported to the US Military Academy as a plebe in 1932, he was impressed with the commandant of cadets. The commandant, destined to die as a general officer on Okinawa, was named for his father, a Confederate general. Who was he?
5. The drill manuals used most widely by commanders in both armies were translations of French manuals by Winfield Scott and William J. Hardee. An 1867 manual attempting to capture the learning from the war was entitled *A New System of Infantry Tactics, Double and Single Rank, adapted to American Topography and Improved Firearms*. It was written by a veteran with a long career still ahead of him, who would become the subject of a biography by Stephen Ambrose. Who was he?
6. The 2003 publication of the Washington Court House Research History Class, *Ohio's African American Civil War Heritage* (<<http://www.usctcw.org/>>) includes a profile of an African-American veteran who became the minister of the Union Baptist Church in Cincinnati in 1876. He had enlisted in the 41st U.S. Colored Troops as a 15-year-old, was wounded at Fort Harrison, and continued in the 10th US Cavalry for three years after the war. He wrote one of the earliest histories of African-American troops in the war. Name him.

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:

April newsletter, March 17th, 2006

May newsletter, April 24th, 2006

Quiz answers:

1. William Lowndes Yancey, a “fire-eater” from Alabama who was a primary force in the secession movement, who became an opponent of Davis’s policies in the Confederate Senate, and who died in 1863 without seeing the final results. (Boatner, p. 37; Historical Times Encyclopedia of the CW, p. 845.)
2. Frederick Douglass. (Blight, *Race and Reunion*, 301; Burchard, *One Gallant Rush*, 139.). 124 men from Ohio served in this unit, who are listed on the website <http://www.usctcw.org/>, by the Research History Class at the Washington Court House OH Senior High School.
3. Hospital gangrene. (Bollet, *Civil War Medicine: Challenges and Triumphs*, pp. 201-207.)
4. Simon Bolivar Buckner. (Westmoreland, *A Soldier Reports*, p. 10-12. Gen. Westmoreland died on 18 July 2005.)
5. Emory Upton. (Griffith, *Battle Tactics of the Civil War*, 103; Ambrose, *Upton and the Army*.)
6. George Washington Williams. (Blight, *Race and Reunion*, 168-170; *Ohio’s African American Civil War Heritage*, Washington Court House OH Research History Class, pp. 50-55.)



FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2005-2006 Programs

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