



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, 2007 Issue

Meeting Date: March 15, 2007

Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

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

(6:45) Dinner: - Caesar Salad, Stuffed Breast of Turkey, Broccoli & Cauliflower, Baked Potato,
Cheesecake with Raspberry Sauce

(7:45): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Jack Simon, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Topic: Many A Mighty Fortress: The Third System Coastal Defenses During the Civil War

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 Bob Limoseth (h)
513-777-2160; rlimo@fuse.net



Jack Simon, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

In March, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table is proud to welcome back one of its own, Jack Simon, who will be stepping up to the CCWRT podium for his fourth time. A retired Cincinnati native and University of Cincinnati

graduate, Jack is a self-described “avocational” local historian, having given much of his own time to further the study of Civil War history in the Cincinnati area. Besides being a past Secretary and now the Membership and Publicity Chairperson of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table, Jack is an active volunteer at the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal. He participated in the set up of the nationally recognized Civil War exhibit that appeared at the Museum Center several years ago. Mr. Simon was a former docent and Advisory Board member of the Camp Dennison Civil War Museum, located 16 miles northeast of Cincinnati. Jack is perhaps most well known for his years of service as a Civil War tour guide at Cincinnati’s Spring Grove Cemetery, the final resting place of 40 Union generals. Jack has done extensive research and has authored a number of articles on the Civil War, including the military hospitals in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, the Grand Army of the Republic, and Camp Dennison. He also volunteers as an “Ask the Experts” panel member for the Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal.

Mr. Simon’s address will focus upon the United States Third System (1816-1867) seacoast defenses and their important role during the Civil War. At various times throughout the history of our country, Congress has appropriated funds specifically to build fortifications to protect key U.S. harbors from enemy attack. The First System defenses were begun in 1794 to prevent the possible return of the British navy after the American Revolution. In 1807, with tensions high among the U.S. and Great Britain and France, Congress again allocated money for construction of new seacoast forts. The next set of coastal defenses, called the Third System, was the most ambitious of the three systems. It was established in 1816, not long after the end of the War of 1812. With a budget of just over \$800,000, the US government set about improving the country’s seacoast defenses. The new fortifications incorporated the latest military technology for land-based works, particularly the construction of massive masonry walls. Brick was considered to be the best defense against the musket and the smoothbore cannon, the most formidable weapons known to man during the first half of the 19th century. Among the masonry forts that were built as part of the Third System defenses were Fort Barrancas, Florida; Fort Delaware, Delaware; Fort Point, California; Fort Pulaski, Georgia; and Fort Jefferson, Florida. All of these forts would receive much use during the Civil War, and several would become famous as a result of the war. For example, the Siege of Fort Pulaski in 1862 would forever change how American forts would be designed and constructed, and Fort Jefferson would serve as a Federal prison that would include among its inmates Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, of the Lincoln assassination conspiracy. Mr. Simon will talk about some of the other famous or notorious persons who designed, commanded, or manned the Third System forts.



We Who Study Must Also Strive To Save!

Preservation News:

We are now in the second phase of our Dedicated Preservation Fund Raising Project.

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

Corporate Matching Gift Plans: One of the topics of discussion at the February Officer's Planning Meeting was new and untried sources for raising Preservation Fund monies. During that conversation we may have identified what could be an untapped source of additional funds for the Round Table's Preservation efforts. A significant number of our members, both active and retired, work (ed) for companies that have Corporate Matching Gift Plans. Most all of them include provisions for donations to Educational Institutions. Some of them also include Historical Societies and Museums under their giving guidelines. Our Purpose Statement as a 501 (c) 3 organization indicates that "the organization shall be structured as a non-profit corporation to foster and promote the interest in and research of the scientific, literary, preservation, and intellectual aspects of the American Civil War period." This explanation supporting our non-profit status may qualify us for some company Matching Gift Programs.

Having said all the above...the next step in the process of testing this theory requires your help. If the company you work (ed) for has a Matching Gift Plan and you make periodic contributions to the various Round Table Preservation Fund appeals, or are a Member at the Sustaining Member dues level (\$50 or more single, \$85 or more couple), we ask that you obtain the required Matching Fund Brochure, fill out the donor portion, and give it to Treasurer Jim Stewart at the time you submit your check. He will fill in the eligible institution information and submit it for verification. We recognize that it may be too late for most of our members to take advantage of this potential giving opportunity during the current campaign year unless you still plan on supporting the Perryville Battlefield Preservation effort which ends with the May meeting.

So...we will repeat this notice in the September Newsletter. We ask, in the mean time that if any of our members have specific knowledge of their company's giving guidelines or access to one of the trustees who can advise you on whether we would qualify or not for their program, to bring that information to the attention of John Linnenberg or Bob Limoseth. They will be the Round Table's contact people on all related questions and they will determine if we qualify for enough Matching Gift program matches to warrant the additional paperwork required to receive these monies.

*****Annual Nashville Area Civil War Conference - March 10, 2007*****

Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum will host the *Third Annual Nashville Civil War Conference* on Saturday, March 10, 2007. The all day affair will begin at 9 AM and end at 4 PM. A lunch is included with the conference fee of \$38 - which is wonderfully reasonable! All events will be held onsite and a tour of the ante-bellum home is also included.

The theme is *Cavalry Operations of the Western Theater* and speakers include:

Eric Wittenberg, noted cavalry author/historian - "*Union Cavalry in the West*;"

Myers Brown, Tennessee State Museum and former director of the Joe Wheeler Home in Alabama - "*Joe Wheeler and Confederate Cavalry in the West*."

- Brian Wills, author/historian and biographer of Nathan Bedford Forrest - "*Nathan Bedford Forrest*"

- Greg Biggs - Clarksville CWRT and author/historian, - "*Turning The Tide: The Union Cavalry At the Battle of Shelbyville*."

An afternoon panel discussion concludes the day.

For an online registration form please visit www.travellersrestplantation.org and you can either mail in your fee or do it by credit card. The site also has more details and directions.

Travellers Rest is also producing two other wonderful programs that will also be of interest to Civil War buffs.

Hidden Histories: The Lives of Women in Nineteenth Century Nashville

March 30- June 15, 2007



Travellers Rest and the Nashville Public Library collaborate for this contemporary photographic exhibition that examines the roles of women in Nashville during the 1800s. Nashville-based international photographer Kimiko Sakai will use local historic buildings, artifacts, tombstones, and landscapes to convey a broad perspective on women's lives in the private and public spheres. Exhibition held in the main gallery of the downtown branch of the Nashville Public Library. Admission: Free.

For your reenactors there's: Civil War Refugee: Historic Role-Playing Activities for the Family

April 21 (Saturday), 2007



For most of the Civil War, Federal forces occupied Nashville. Play the role of a refugee searching for work on the Overton plantation. Your goal is to earn enough money to buy a train ticket, but watch out for the obstacles along the way. You will encounter Union sentries, Confederate smugglers, sutlers, bushwhackers, army recruiters, and trades people who may or may not help your cause. And most of all, you have to find a way to impress the lady of the plantation: Harriett Overton. Admission: \$8 adults/\$5 students (6-18), under 6 free.

Please support our area's wonderful historic resources!

New Members:

At the February meeting we welcomed back returning member Roger Weber. Our membership is now 92

Quiz---February, 2007

1. On the evening of this date (February 15), "one of the most significant discussions in Civil War history was

taking place,” according to Stephen D. Engle in *Struggle for the Heartland*. Charles Roland described the night’s events as “a tactical comedy of errors turned into high tragedy...for the South.” What discussion was this?

2. (With credit to Pat Homan). Peter Conover Hains, born in Philadelphia in 1840, graduated from the US Military Academy in 1861. He served as an artillery officer and engineer officer throughout the war, receiving three brevet promotions for his service. He remained in the Army after the war, working on engineering projects such as the Tidal Basin in Washington DC until his retirement in 1904. In retirement, General Hains again responded to a call for his service in a way that gave him a unique position in American military history. What was this service?

3. On 13 September 1847, Lt. George E. Pickett earned praise from Gen. Winfield Scott and other higher officers for his actions during the assault on Chapultepec, including his taking the US colors from a wounded colleague, carrying them over the fortifications, and raising them on the fort’s flagpole. Who was the wounded colleague, who would become an important sponsor of promotions and assignments for Pickett, and would serve as his commander during the Civil War?

4. As an example of the bitter divisions over slavery and race issues at the start of the Civil War, a constitutional amendment for the State of New York on the ballot in the 1860 election failed by a large margin, including in Manhattan where it failed by at 86% to 14% margin. Harold Holzer in *Lincoln at Cooper Union* called this vote an “affirmation of intractable white supremacy and inflexible racial intolerance.” What would the constitutional amendment have provided?

5. Name the Miami University graduate who became a war correspondent for the *Cincinnati Gazette*, and who was the author of the classic history of Ohio’s military and political involvement in the war, *Ohio in the War*, published in 1867 and still the primary research source on the subject. Later in his career, he succeeded Horace Greeley as editor of the *New York Tribune*.

6. If a young man considering military service signed up at an office called a “rendezvous,” in what service would he be enlisting?



February Presentation, Summarized by Albert Hallenberg:

At our February 2007 meeting, the Round Table was pleased to have CCWRT member Erick Bush speak on “The Civil War in Alabama.” Erick’s presentation was his first to our Round Table, and he did so “on the fly,” a bit of a pun as Erick is an active member of the U.S. Air Force stationed at Wright-Patterson AFB. But the phrase also applies as to how Erick graciously filled in at the last minute, as Dr. Bob McLaurin, the original speaker, had to cancel his presentation due to severe laryngitis.

Erick first emphasized to the members that Alabama was far from a purely secessionist state. The northern part of the state was, in fact, mainly pro-Union. Alabama joined the Confederacy only after a fiercely partisan Secessionist Convention. In fact, the original Confederate capital was in Montgomery. But, because of Montgomery’s lack of infrastructure, the capital was moved to Richmond (also, Erick pointed out the capital’s move to Richmond was a primary deal breaker in convincing Virginia to secede).

Erick indicated Alabama, before the War, had little in the way of indigenous industry. But the state, after seceding, took great pains to expand its war manufacturing output. The city of Selma became a key player in this effort. During the War, it functioned as shipyard, arsenal (second largest in the Confederacy) and cannon foundry. Selma was known in particular for the manufacture of the very powerful Brooke cannon. During 1864 and 1865, Selma

produced half the cannon and two thirds of the ammunition for the Confederate war effort. The shipyard was also responsible for constructing the ironclad, CSS *Tennessee* (in an ironic twist, this ironclad was later captured by the Union and became the USS *Tennessee* to be used against Confederate forces in the Mobile area).

Erick also pointed out that Alabama was the site of several key Civil War actions. In March and April of 1865, for instance, Union commander James H. Wilson led the largest cavalry force of the Civil War (13,000) in a massive raid of Alabama, eventually leading to the destruction of the Selma manufacturing facilities and the capture of the state capitol, Montgomery. Erick mentioned that Wilson ordered much of Montgomery to be torched, but, ironically, the local fire department, composed almost entirely of slaves, managed to save many buildings. As Erick mentioned, the action of this dedicated fire crew probably saved many buildings that still stand today. And, of course, Erick discussed the Battle of Mobile Bay, where Union Admiral David Farragut shouted the immortal words, "Damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead!" (Torpedoes, in this case, were underwater mines.)

Round Table members found Erick's presentation on the political, economic and military contributions of Civil War Alabama the work of a serious researcher. His PowerPoint slides were excellent. Many of the photographs shown he took himself. For even more material on this topic, please take a look at Erick's excellent website on the Civil War in Alabama (<http://groups.msn.com/CivilWarAlabama/whatsnew.msnw>). Very few comprehensive studies exist devoted to the history of Civil War Alabama, and we are grateful that Erick added to our knowledge on the subject. We certainly look forward to having Erick speak again at the Round Table.

Quiz Answers—February, 2007

1. The discussion among Confederate Generals Floyd, Pillow, and Buckner about the surrender of Fort Donelson. Floyd and Pillow passed the responsibility to Buckner, who surrendered to General Grant the following day. (Engle, *Struggle for the Heartland*, 78-79.)
2. In 1916 by a special act of Congress, 76-year-old General Hains was recalled to active duty for World War I, serving as a division engineer to release a younger officer for service in Europe. He is the only Civil War officer to serve in World War I, and was the oldest officer in uniform. He died in 1921 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. (Arlington National Cemetery, <<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/pchains.htm>>.)
3. James Longstreet. (Gordon, *General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend*, 27-28, et al).
4. Suffrage, the right to vote, for free African-Americans, in a state in which slavery had been illegal since 1827. (Holzer, *Lincoln at Cooper Union*, 231.)
5. Whitelaw Reid. (Sifakis, *Who Was Who in the Civil War*, 536; Jones, "Whitelaw Reid," in *For the Union: Ohio Leaders in the Civil War*, Wheeler (ed.), 121-155.)
6. U.S. Navy, whose recruiting offices were called "rendezvous." (Bennett, "Dissenters from the American Mood," *North & South Magazine*, Mar 200, 12; Navy recruiting posters at Naval Historical Center website, <<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/arttopic/pstr-rec/nrp-old.htm>>.)



NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

To facilitate the printing and timely distribution of the monthly newsletter, information for it should be submitted to the editor no

later than the following dates:

March 19th, 2007

April 23rd, 2007

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu



FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2007-2008 Programs

- 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: Bob McLaurin, CCWRT, The River Navy
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@cincinnati-cwrt.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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