



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, 2009 Issue

Meeting Date: March 19, 2009

Place: The Drake Center

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

(6:30) Menu: Beef Tips in a Burgundy Wine and Mushroom Sauce, Spinach Soufflé, Apple Pecan Salad with a Vinaigrette Dressing, and Assorted Dessert Bars, Coffee, Tea or Water.

(A vegetarian meal option is available, if requested prior to the reservations cut-off date)

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Program

Speaker: Alan Berenson, CCWRT

Topic: "Robert E. Lee, 1865-1870"

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, March 11, 2009.**

In March, fellow member Alan Berenson makes his first trip to the Cincinnati CWRT podium. Alan grew up in the Boston, Massachusetts area and graduated from Tufts University Medical School. He came to Cincinnati to perform his medical internship and, upon completion, he practiced family and occupational medicine for over 40 years.

Alan's interest in the Civil War began in the late 1970's when he picked up Shelby Foote's famous 3-volume history of the war. "I took the next 2 years off reading it, got hooked on Foote's wonderfully told tale," said Alan, "but I concluded that the ending was unsatisfactory and have been refighting the war ever since." Over the years he has led his family to innumerable Civil War sites while "driving his family to distraction," although in testament to Alan's fervent determination to follow the war's course throughout the United States, he has managed to convert his wife into a genuine Civil War enthusiast!

Most of what we know about Robert E. Lee relates to his military responsibilities as the South's leading military figure during the Civil War. But after the war Lee still had to provide for his family and face the issues of treason, citizenship, race, loss of his family's home, and his health. Furthermore, he had to address the nonmaterial needs of the former Confederacy which looked to him for moral, civic, and behavioral leadership probably more than any other individual. The response by a defeated, demoralized, impoverished country to a perceived vengeful and radicalized conqueror might have been highly reactionary and resentful. And, to some extent it was, but Lee's lifestyle of stoicism, diligent work ethic, moderation in all spheres, emphasis on forbearance, and obedience to the law - no matter how offensive offered many of the rank and file, as well as its former leaders, an example of how to overcome adversity and contribute to a productive economy.

Near the end of Lee's life, he made a prolonged tour of the South which generated unprecedented throngs wherever he stopped. Almost always reluctant to discuss military issues after the war, he occasionally let his hair down to confide in those in whom he felt confidence. His death brought great sorrow to the entire South, and it is not unreasonable to speculate that with both Lincoln and Lee gone, the South and North lost an opportunity for a reconciliatory "soft landing." Mr. Berenson will discuss these and many other points about Robert E. Lee's impact to the post-war years.

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.

Winter Officer's Meeting: The officer's and trustees of the Round Table met on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 to discuss the organization's business. Topics discussed, in addition to the officer's individual reports, included the on-going concerns for the increased costs of running the organization. The expense item that received the largest amount of attention is the cost of bringing in speakers who have to fly and/or drive long distances. While this continues to be an important part of our total program offerings, it will be necessary to book fewer national speakers in the future because of the expenses involved. A proposal to assess a visitor/guest fee to help offset some of these expenses was passed. Additional information on this new item is provided below.

Other topics discussed included the proposed Chickamauga Battlefield Trip; meeting arrangements with the Drake Conference Center - no increase in the \$27.00 dinner fee for the next campaign year; the joint sharing of arrangements and expenses with the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives for Harold Holzer's May visit; a survey on dues and meal costs of other Round Tables, the listing of the Round Table and a short promotional message on civilwar.com; officer job description updates and nominees for the open officer and committee head positions. A discussion on whether an increase in member dues will be required for the 2009 - 2010 campaign season was tabled until the summer officer's meeting to allow for a complete end of year review of our financial status.



Visitor/Guest Fee To Be Implemented: A motion to assess a \$5.00 visitor/guest fee, which would be added to the current dinner and meeting only fees, was made and passed at the meeting. **The effective date of this change will be our September, 2009 meeting.** The rationale that supported this additional source of revenue included the following:

- visitors/guests who attend the meeting and have dinner do not help us offset any of the speaker expenses because the meal is priced as a break even item.
- members and visitors/guests who currently attend the meeting only portion of the evenings activities both pay \$5.00.
- other organizations like ours routinely assess a visitor fee to help offset meeting expenses.
- visitors/guests do not, for the most part, become members and they attend primarily to hear that evening's speaker.
- the additional fee to hear a quality presentation by local, regional and national speakers is moderately priced.
- members pay the major portion of the speaker expenses via their annual dues payment. The officers believe that visitors should help us offset some of these expenses in order to keep our annual dues to members as moderately priced as possible.
- spouses/other family members can be added to an individual membership for only \$10.00.

Accordingly, **beginning with our September 17, 2009 meeting**, the dinner charge for visitors/guests will be \$32.00 (\$27.00 + \$5.00) and the meeting only fee will be \$10.00 (\$5.00 + \$5.00). If you have questions, or would like to share a comment on this new program, please talk to one of the officers.

New Silent Auction Item: Our last silent auction items for this campaign season will be two Jay Ashurst prints of the CSS Alabama - compliments of member Mike Rhein. These beautiful prints of one of the wars most significant ships will be auctioned off separately. Perfect for framing they will enhance any civil war buffs collection, especially those who have a special interest in the historic conflicts between the two navies. If interested, add your name and bid to the auction sheets found on the display table across from the check-in table. The winner of the auction will be announced during the May Business Meeting, and remember...all proceeds benefit preservation. The winner of the recently completed auction of Illustrated World War 2 Encyclopedias was Walt Stroud.

Soda Pop is Available for Purchase: Yes, soda pop is available for purchase at two locations near our meeting room. If interested, go back to the elevator and push floor 1. The first location is the gift shop directly across from the main entrance. The second location is the hospital cafeteria. To reach the cafeteria turn right at the first hallway right after the gift shop. The vending machines are a short distance down the hallway on your right just before you reach the cafeteria.

Harold Holzer's May Presentation to the Round Table: To help publicize Harold Holzer's visit to the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table on May 21, 2009, we've added to the last page of this Newsletter one of the promotional pieces being used to help advertise his visit. A slightly modified version has been mailed to nearby Round Tables in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky encouraging them to attend. If you know of someone who might be interested in being a part of this special evening, please share a copy with them. We expect a large crowd so remember to get your reservations in early.



February Presentation:

...submitted by Dan Bauer

Stanley Wernz gave our round table a riveting first person in costume portrayal of our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln. In his 47 minute completely memorized presentation, Wernz chronicled the life of Lincoln from his days as an Illinois lawyer through to his efforts in getting the 13th amendment ratified. Included were many of Lincoln's quotes, writings, and excerpts from speeches. This material provided insight into Lincoln's thoughts on the importance of preserving the Union, the anguish felt over the terrible loss of life caused by the war, and his reliance upon God to give him guidance.

Most of the presentation was done in the deliberate pace and melancholy tone that was said to be the dominate trait of Lincoln's personality. However, Wernz would also at times raise the volume of his voice and change the pace from slow to fast and then back to slow again. This alternating use of volume and choice of content kept the room was able to capture the passion and Lincoln. Just as Wertz made his remainder of this review will Lincoln talking and not Wernz.



pace along with an outstanding focused on his every word. Wertz conviction that was the essence of presentation in first person, the summarize the talk as if it was

After opening with a few quick Abe seamlessly transitioned into an of each of us making a difference his thoughts in the dispute known as case. Following this, he gave his Douglas for the Illinois senate seat Douglas including his famous quote cannot stand. He harkened back to in 1849 he introduced a bill before that they could be set free. When slavery he recalled his days when he travelled down the Mississippi and the sadness he felt when he saw slaves being auctioned.

remarks about his life on the farm, 1838 speech about the importance for the nation. Next, he highlighted Bloody Kansas and the Dred Scott reasons for challenging Steven and then recounted the debates with that a house divided against itself his days as a US congressman when the United States to buy slaves so asked why he felt so strongly about

Wernz skipped ahead to just after he was elected president and recited a portion of the speech he gave in Springfield to those who came to see him off. Lincoln told the audience that without divine guidance he cannot succeed, with divine guidance he cannot fail.

His next topic was the debate over whether Fort Sumter should be restocked with supply. Lincoln said he would not sit by idly while American soldiers were in need. Members of the cabinet advised against it warning that the act would lead to war. He also talked about the delicate balancing act he had to do in order to keep England, France, and Spain out of the war.

Lincoln described the factors that went into the release and timing of the Emancipation Proclamation. With the proclamation, the war changed from a war over states rights to a war over slavery. It changed from a limited war to a war of unconditional surrender. Lincoln knew that with the proclamation, France and England would not dare risk the negative public opinion that would be caused by joining the South. The highlight of the evening came when Lincoln recited the entire Gettysburg Address.

With 1864 elections looming and the prospect of a possible defeat, Lincoln recounted how he was advised to recant the Emancipation Proclamation so as to garner more public support or to perhaps cancel the election altogether. Lincoln would have none of it and was re-elected anyway. With a second term secured, Lincoln turned his attention to beyond the war and getting the 13th amendment ratified. To this end Lincoln gave a speech reminding the listeners of a higher calling that in giving liberty to slaves we would preserve liberty

for all of us.

In the question session we learned that his comments on this subject of liberty were taken from both an address he gave to the Sanitary Commission in 1864 and a speech given to the Lyceum in 1838.

Cincinnati Civil War Round Table February Quiz:

1. What was the essence and purpose of the letter Lincoln wrote to New York Democrat, Erastus Corning published 12 June, 1863?

Ans: The defense of military arrests for speech or activities which were felt to reflect the interests of the confederacy; specifically, statements encouraging mass desertion of the Union Army by Clement Vallandigham, the Democratic candidate for Ohio governor.

Ref: Lecture at Thomas Moore College on 22 August, 2008 by Mark Neeley; *Team of Rivals*, Goodwin, p. 522-24

2. The musical piece in question was first heard by Abe Lincoln at a minstrel show in 1860. It became one of his favorites and was played in his presence at his first inaugural, during his April, 1865 visit to City Point and the public celebration of victory at the DC Naval yard on 10 April, 1865. But, Abe did not have the opportunity to hear it otherwise during the war. The name of the piece is _____?

Ans: Dixie's Land (or Dixie) by Daniel Emmett

Ref: *Lincoln and the Music of the Civil War*, Bernard, p. 13, 298, 300

3. Abe Lincoln was famous for his aphorisms, one of which was directed to a leading Union General. "I'll be hanged if I could think of anything else but an old woman trying to shoo her geese across a creek." To which general and military activity (or inactivity) was he referring?

Ans: General Meade's dilatory behavior in pursuing Lee's defeated Army of Northern Virginia immediately after the Battle of Gettysburg.

Ref: *Abraham Lincoln and the Nation Worth Fighting For*, Rawley, p. 148

4. *Team of Rivals* authored by Doris Kearns Goodwin and regarded by author James McPherson as one of the five best books on the civil war not related to its military aspect refers to several politicians who formed an effective team with Lincoln and his cabinet despite their being fierce political competitors against him. Name them (up to six).

Ans: William Seward, Salmon Chase, Edward Bates, Gideon Wells, Montgomery Blair, Edwin Stanton and Simon Cameron

Ref: Wall Street Journal, 18 Oct. 2008, Leisure and Arts Section; *Team of Rivals*, Goodwin, p. 15 -16

5. Abraham Lincoln was the first United States President who interacted with his Jewish constituents in more than an ad hoc fashion. Victor David Brenner, a Jewish immigrant in 1908, Lincoln's Centennial year, made a major contribution to the former friend of the Jews when he _____?

Ans: Made an engraving of Lincoln which has been used on every penny since.

Ref: Lecture, Dr. Gary Zola, Northern Kentucky University, 12 Nov., 2008

6. View the picture of the statute on the accompanying 8 x 11 paper. In what city is the statue located? Who funded it?

Ans: Washington D. C.; Dedicated in 1876, it precedes the more famous Lincoln Memorial by forty years. It was funded by black Americans including many freedmen.

Ref: Wall Street Journal, Letters to the Editor by Christian Wallace, 30 May, 2008

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:

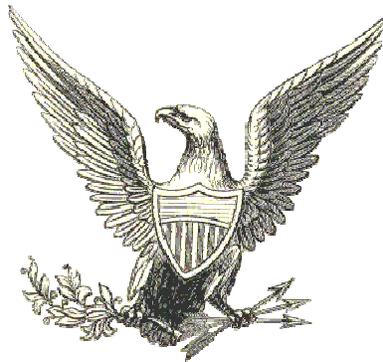
March 27, 2009

April 24, 2009

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

Future Presentations:

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:

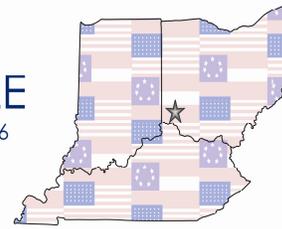
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Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!



CINCINNATI CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

SERVING OHIO, KENTUCKY AND INDIANA SINCE 1956
P. O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, OH 45262



The Cincinnati Civil War Round Table is extending an open invitation to the public to attend its May, 2009 meeting. One of the speakers in greatest demand in this the year of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday is the well known Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer. Author or editor of thirty-one books on our sixteenth president, he brings a most unique understanding of the leadership qualities that placed Lincoln first in the recent C-Span poll of sixty-four historians who rated Lincoln as our most effective president on individual leadership characteristics. It promises to be a special evening and one we are sure any student of Lincoln will enjoy. The details required to make a reservation for this limited seating event are provided below.

May 21, 2009 Meeting

Harold Holzer, United States Lincoln Bicentennial Commission

How Lincoln Became President --- In Ohio

**Meeting held at: The Drake Center
 151 West Galbraith Road
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45216**

Social Time: 6:00 pm; Dinner: 6:30 pm; Business Meeting: 7:15 pm
Speaker: 7:30 pm

Dinner: \$27.00

Menu: Stuffed Chicken Breast with Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Glazed Baby Carrots, Caesar Salad, Dinner Rolls, Cream Filled Pastries with Chocolate Sauce, & Coffee, Tea or Water

(A vegetarian meal option is available, if requested prior to the reservations cut-off date)

- Members & visitors can attend the speaker only portion of the meeting for \$5.00 -

Reservations deadline is May 13th, 2009 for both the dinner and the speaker only option of the evening's activities. Use the reservations link at cincinnatiwrt.org; email homanfamily@fuse.net; or call 513-861-2057 to secure your seat. Dinner reservations require payment in advance. Your check in the amount of \$27.00 per person should be made out to the Cincinnati CWRT. Indicate Holzer Dinner on the memo line and mail to the address shown at the top of this flyer. Meeting only attendees can pay at the door. Cash or checks...no credit cards accepted.

Directions to The Drake Center: 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. **Free parking** is available in the WEST PAVILION parking lot. To get to the meeting room enter the West Pavilion and take the elevators to your right to level A, turn to your right and Motivation Meeting Room G is located at the end of the hallway.

For additional information visit: www.cincinnatiwrt.org