



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



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# THE CANISTER

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Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

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

March, 2011 Issue

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Meeting Date: March 17, 2011

**Place: The Drake Center**

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

**(6:30) Dinner**

**(7:15) Business Meeting**

**(7:30) Speaker**

**Dinner Menu: Country style meatloaf served with whipped mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls, green salad with raspberry vinaigrette, german chocolate cake**  
**Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

**Speaker: Martin Stewart, Troy, Ohio**

**Topic: Redemption: The 71st OVI in the Civil War**

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**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, March 9, 2011.**

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## About our March Speaker:

The 71<sup>st</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry was mustered in at Camp Tod in Troy, Ohio, on February 1, 1862. Its men had been recruited from western Ohio, including Hamilton, Montgomery, Clark, Miami, Auglaize, and Mercer counties. The regiment's first action occurred at the bloody Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee (April 6-7, 1862), where the regiment was accused of running from the enemy, leaving the regiment with its first black mark. However, research performed by historians over the past decade has led to the conclusion that the 71<sup>st</sup> OVI was falsely blamed for the collapse of General Stuart's brigade on the first day of the battle. In fact, this

new research suggests that the men of the 71<sup>st</sup> OVI held their line the longest in this critical sector, and they were the ones who delayed Confederate Brigadier General Jackson's brigade for nearly four hours. Furthermore, it might be possible that a bullet from a gun of a 71<sup>st</sup> OVI soldier may have caused the fatal



wound to General Albert Sidney Johnston. Unfortunately, the regiment received its second black mark at Clarksville, Tennessee, on August 18, 1862, when the regiment's leader, Col. Rodney Mason, surrendered the town and its important Union supply depot to Confederate raider Adam Rankin "Stovepipe" Johnson, even though the strength of the detachment of the 71<sup>st</sup> OVI defending Clarksville outnumbered Johnson's force. As a result of this unacceptable surrender decision, Col. Mason and several of his officers were cashiered from the army. This event left such a stain upon the 71<sup>st</sup> OVI's reputation that it became known throughout the Union army as the "Hard Luck Regiment." However, from that day onward, the fighting men of the regiment worked hard to reverse their misfortunes and dispel their sobriquet. For example, their hard fighting at Montgomery Hill and Peach Orchard Hill at the Battle of Nashville, Tennessee, December 15-16, 1864, proved their willingness to fight and succeed; they lost the most men of any white Union regiment engaged in the battle.

## Martin Stewart

Martin Stewart was born and raised in Miami County, Ohio. He spent four years in the U.S. Navy (on board the submarine *San Diego*) and then returned home. By trade, Martin is a mechanical engineer, and for the past 33 years he has been working with EES Facility Services in Dayton where he is currently Vice President. Mr. Stewart is a direct descendant of four Union soldiers. He is the author of the recently published book *Redemption: The 71<sup>st</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War* (2010), the first printing of which has nearly sold out. Martin's presentation will give more details about the history of the 71<sup>st</sup> OVI and the events that brought this regiment from a demeanor of shame to one of prestige.



## President's Report

## ... Pat Homan

The February meeting was very busy, with a number of business items, which delayed the start of Ralph Arnold's very interesting talk on Railroads of the Confederacy. I admit that I am a bit prejudiced on the subject of railroads as I am a long-time railfan and avid model railroader. Ellen would add that "fanatic" might be a better term.

I again have to thank Bob Limoseth for his work in setting up the Lincoln Inaugural presentation and the members who gave extra time to man the table, present topics to keep the crown entertained before the second show and, finally, all of you who turned out to prove to the Museum Center that there is a lively interest in the Civil War in Cincinnati. This is the start of a number of ongoing presentations, which will occur over the next four years. If any of you are aware of coming events, please do NOT assume we are aware of them but send the information to one of the officers or to me. I would rather get several notices before the event than one a week after it occurred.

Looking ahead, our April meeting will have Harold Holzer as its speaker. I look upon this with both anticipation and concern. Due to Mr. Holzer's popularity, I am anticipating a large crowd. To accommodate the many attendees, we are planning on opening the room adjacent to our normal room as we did for the Ed Bearss talk a couple of years ago. Because our Vice President will be unavailable in April, **I am taking the reservations for the April meeting only. Please e-mail me at [homanfamily@fuse.net](mailto:homanfamily@fuse.net) or call me at (513-861-2057) to make your reservations for the April meeting.** Although the combined rooms will greatly enlarge our capacity, I am concerned that there still may be people who will be left out. Reserve early to ensure a seat. For the May meeting and thereafter, we will go back to our normal reservations system in which Tom Breiner is the contact person.

Looking ahead even further towards the summer, we will have our first ever June meeting. The June meeting is necessary to satisfy contractual obligations with the Drake Center. The special meeting saves us from losing the required deposit for the meeting and dinner, which we would do if we simply cancelled. I agreed to take that slot and let Ralph give his presentation in February. It worked out quiet well.

Growing our membership base is one of our goals for the upcoming Sesquicentennial. We know from experience that current members make the best recruiters so please continue your efforts to help us spread the word about the CCWRT. There was a fair amount of interest expressed by attendees at the Lincoln event. We hope that translates into additional visitors and more visitors eventually translates into more members. We all have another opportunity to impress visitors with the Harold Holzer's presentation in April. A lot of folks will be attending for the first time, or coming back to take a second look, so join us in helping them feel welcome for what we know will be a great evening.



## Lincoln Inaugural Journey Reenactment ...Bob Limoseth



It all started out with an innocent enough email from Timothy S. Good of the National Park Service on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 addressed to Webmaster, CCWRT. The email ended with the statement: "Unfortunately, we have not found a group in the Cincinnati area that would be interested in hosting the program. Would your group be interested?"

Over the next eight week period a plan was put together by the Cincinnati History Museum, with the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table as its Community Partner. The program developed combined the city's local history of Abraham Lincoln's visit on February 12, 1861 with the Park Service's "Civil War to Civil Rights" program to help commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President-elect Abraham Lincoln's Inaugural Trip from Springfield, Illinois to Washington, DC. It proved to be a most memorable evening and a great kick-off to the upcoming Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War which begins on April 12, 2011.

The event was so well received by the public that the Museum's Reakirt Auditorium had to have two presentations to accommodate the large crowd. The official count was 590 and that tells just part of the story. The Round Table had agreed to conduct an overflow presentation in the News Reel Theatre, should one be needed. While the first program was being presented, RT members Dave Mowery, Bob Limoseth and Mike Rhein were addressing a crowd of 140 on the John Hunt Morgan Raid Trail; Lincoln's three visits to

Cincinnati and the 1860 election; and a recap of the life of well known Cincinnati resident William Haines Lytle. Dan Reigle had about 40 more in the food court where he was answering questions on genealogy; a History Museum staff member did an impromptu tour for 20 on the history of the rotunda's wall graphics; and the History Museum was opened up so that 100 more could tour it while waiting.

The event would not have been nearly as successful had it not been for a number of other members who helped with the publicity for the event. George McIlveen posted the event flyer on [civilwar.com](http://civilwar.com)'s home page and mailed the flyer to a number of model railroaders; Rod Earhart distributed the flyer to some of the area schools he knew people in; Mike Rogers sent the flyer to his contact at the Cincinnati Public Library who distributed it to all the area branches; and member word of mouth brought even more folks out. And last, but certainly not least, member and Enquirer columnist Howard Wilkinson wrote an article that was posted on Cincinnati.com (the Enquirer's web site) on Friday and appeared on the front page of the Local Section of the Enquirer Newspaper on Saturday. That final piece of publicity increased the crowd beyond everyone's expectations.

As part of our arrangement with the History Museum, the Round Table had an Information Table immediately outside the auditorium. Attendees on the way in, and on the way out, could talk to some of our members about the RT and our mission of education and preservation. Our thanks go to Pat Homan, Mike Rogers, Becky Burkett and Randy Donahue for staffing the table all evening.

Our thanks to Timothy Good, David Schafer and Spirit Trickey of the National Park Service; Vanessa Van Sant and Shawn Kohrman of the Cincinnati History Museum; and acclaimed Lincoln interpreter Fritz Klein of Springfield, IL for all their help and cooperation. The Round Table will seldom be in a position to meet and greet as many folks as we did that night. I can assure you that we left a most positive impression. The feedback we received from the National Park Service, the History Museum and the general public was most gratifying. It was a great evening, and the wonderful turnout of Round Table members made all the work by everyone involved worthwhile.



## Items of Interest:

**Shiloh Field Trip Reservations Being Accepted:** The spring field trip to the Shiloh Battlefield is Sat. Apr 30<sup>th</sup>, Sun. May 1<sup>st</sup> and Mon. May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The trip will cost \$100 per person and will include a two hour guided tour of Corinth, an eight hour guided tour of Shiloh, and whatever else we can sneak in. Cost will include transportation and tour fees. Attendees will be responsible for reserving their own hotel room and meals. For hotel reservations, call the Hampton Inn Corinth at 1-662-286-5949 and tell the reservationist you are with CCWRT.

As we have done the past couple of years, we will be renting a 15 passenger van. If more than 10 people want to attend the trip, we will need a volunteer to drive their own vehicle to help transport luggage and a few of the attendees. The person driving their own vehicle will not be charged the \$100 trip fee. Reservations will accepted on a first come first basis as checks are received. Checks can be given to Dan Bauer at any of the next tree meetings or they can be mailed to Dan Bauer at the following address: 6581 Club Lane, West Chester, OH 45069. Checks should be made out to CCWRT. For more information, call Dan Bauer at 513-759-4495 or e-mail him at [dbauer002@cinci.rr.com](mailto:dbauer002@cinci.rr.com).

**Preservation project for 2010-2011:** Our project for the 2010-2011 campaign is to fund the cost of replacing and updating two interpretive signs at the Perryville, KY Battlefield. The signs describe the actions of Colonel Wm. H. Lytle's Brigade. One sign describes the brigade's stubborn defense of the hill above the Bottom House while the other sign describes the brigade's artillery duel at Loomis Heights. As many of know Lytle, perhaps the most well known Civil War soldier emanating from Cincinnati, was injured at Perryville, recovered, and then went onto tragically lose his life in the Battle of Chickamauga.

As has been the practice in the past, the Roundtable will match the first \$500 contributed by our members. Last year we had a very successful donation campaign, which benefited of the Museum of the Confederacy. We were able to more than double the number of fund donors who contributed to the previous year's campaign. This year we are setting a goal of increasing the number of donors by another 25 percent. We hope that you will share our enthusiasm in improving a battlefield close to our homes and a hero close to our hearts. Please give or mail your checks to Alan Berenson, Preservation Chair.

### Sesquicentennial Events:

- Wednesday, March 9, Cold Spring Public Library, about 3/4 mile south of NKU: Our own Mike Rhein will speak on General Lytle at the Northern Ky CWRT, 6:45 PM.
- Sunday, April 10, Ohio Statehouse, Columbus: Official launch of Ohio's Sesquicentennial commemoration. Wes Cowan speaks at 11 AM, full brunch served, muster ceremony for reenactors at 2 PM. Tickets required: see <http://www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-Civil-War-150-Kickoff-BrunchApril-10-2011Ohio-Statehouse-Atrium-P8600C61.aspx>. Proceeds from the lunch (\$40 per ticket) will go to the OHS' Save the Flags fund to conserve the battle flags. (Thanks to Jim Bissland.)



### February Presentation:

...submitted by Mike Rhein

“They had so little to start with.” This statement made by our February speaker, Mr. Ralph Arnold, crystallized the South's meager resources with which to fight a war. A key illustration of this Confederate dilemma was its railway system, aptly described by Mr. Arnold whose career included 25 years in transportation operations and management.



**Ralph Arnold**

Using a good array of slides and providing a detailed map of the Confederate railroads, Mr. Arnold explained such factors daunting the South's capability in transporting armies and food as gauge variances (just over 4'-8" to 5'-6"), predominance of single-track railroads, inadequate iron production, little cooperation between state and national governments, inefficient coordination among local railroad companies with military departments, and competing commercial interests.

According to Mr. Arnold, whose interest in military logistics and maps led him to tour all the main Civil War battlefields, “railroads were the biggest business of the day” in the 1850s, citing such key railroad entities as the

Pennsylvania, the Baltimore & Ohio and the New York Central. He said that, due to manufactured goods from New England and New York areas being shipped westward and foodstuffs eastward from the West, railroad networks assumed an east-west pattern, therefore bypassing the southern region until railroads later developed the north-south format.

However, Mr. Arnold emphasized that cotton, being “the major crop of the South,” created a southern railroad pattern leading to coastal ports which shipped this product to “textile mills of England and Europe.” Because of cotton, he added, it created “insurance” and “warehousing” industries and “regular scheduled transportation,” therefore enabling the South to ship the “greatest number of exports out of the country,” ultimately to be the “richest” part of the United States.

Nonetheless, in the South, railroad right-of-ways tended to be “poorly constructed,” and railroads themselves were “cheaply constructed,” the speaker stressed, adding that iron was a “cheaper brand” with wood being the “major fuel” as opposed to coal. He said that “not one rail was manufactured in the South during the war.” Mr. Arnold noted the poor maintenance of the southern railway network which contributed to slower speeds (averaging 10-15 miles per hour by 1864), consuming more cords of wood mileage-wise, down to an average of “30-40 miles per cord of wood” from the pre-war average of 70-80 miles per cord. Because “safety was not the first feature,” he said, there was “no central track control,” leading to accidents. In fact, Mr. Arnold commented that the United States Military Railroad would rebuild southern railroads “once it was in the area” where a northern army took control.

Confederate troop movements became more hampered by the deteriorating railways, taking longer to travel to their objectives. Mr. Arnold cited examples such as General Braxton Bragg’s army having to move from Tupelo, Mississippi to Mobile, Alabama to Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1862 in a circuitous route of 600 miles, taking three weeks and General James Longstreet’s 20,000 men of the First Corps (Army of the Northern Virginia) traveling from Virginia to northern Georgia in 15 days. He added that only about 4,000 of Longstreet’s corps made it to the Chickamauga battlefield.

Considering the South’s continual transportation difficulties in the Civil War, Mr. Arnold expressed admiration for southern ingenuity and adaptability in coping with them. “It was amazing what they accomplished,” he said. As his presentation clearly pointed out, the South’s perplexities in maintaining an aging, overtaxed rail network with fewer box cars and engines than the Northern system, reflected the shortages in materials, industry and manpower with which the Confederacy had to utilize against the industrial-commercial-military resources of the North.



## Future Presentations:

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| April 21, 2011     | Harold Holzer, New York Metropolitan Museum,<br><i>How Lincoln Became President – In Ohio</i>                |
| May 19, 2011       | Thomas Cartwright, Lotz House Civil War Museum<br><i>Humor in the Civil War</i>                              |
| June 16, 2011      | Pat Homan, CCWRT<br><i>Paved with Good Intentions: The Road to War</i>                                       |
| September 15, 2011 | David Mowery, CCWRT and OCWTC<br><i>America’s Longest Cavalry Ride: Morgan’s 1863 Raid Around Cincinnati</i> |
| October 20, 2011   | Frank J. Williams, Providence, RI<br><i>Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief: The First Year of the War</i> |
| November 17, 2011  | Peter Cozzens, Silver Springs, MD<br><i>Topic TBD</i>  |
| January 19, 2012   | Gary Q. Johnson, CCWRT<br><i>Achieving the Anaconda Plan</i>   |
| February 16, 2012  | Jill Holt, CCWRT<br><i>Women in the Civil War</i>  |

# February Quiz:

1. How did Robert E. Lee utilize the 150 Union supply wagons captured by Jeb Stuart on his cavalry ride during the Gettysburg campaign?
2. The latest Civil War soldier to win the Medal of Honor is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Name at least 2 of the 3 Union cavalry captains who were directly promoted to the grade of Brigadier General in June, 1863.
4. Name at least 2 of the 3 Confederate Lieutenant Generals who had no formal military training.
5. Cooper Union is/was (choose one):
  - a. the original name of baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. which contained a lecture hall
  - b. the administrative offices representing the interests of barrel makers in New York City containing a lecture hall
  - c. a college level teaching facility with a lecture hall
  - d. an adhesives manufacturing facility with a lecture hall
  - e. a breakaway group of New York City Republicans looking for an alternative to William Seward as a presidential candidate in the 1860 election
6. On 8 Dec. 1870 John Surratt, suspected but acquitted conspirator, son of Mary Surratt, convicted and executed conspirator regarding Abe Lincoln's assassination, gave a celebrated lecture on John Wilkes Booth and his plan to kill Lincoln. Where was it held?



## Answers:

1. Used them as ambulances on his retreat from Gettysburg  
Ref.: Eric Wittenburg, Stuart's Gettysburg Campaign Cavalry Ride, 18 Nov . 2010, CCWRT Meeting.
2. Alonzo Cushing (brother of Wm. B Cushing) who while wounded is pictured in Philipitaux's diorama facing General Armisted during the Pickett- Pettigrew-Trimble charge at Gettysburg)  
Ref.: Associated Press, D. Remke, 19 May 2010
3. Wesley Merritt, George Custer, John Farnsworth  
Ref.: Eric Wittenburg, Stuart's Gettysburg Campaign Cavalry Ride, 18 Nov 2010, CCWRT meeting.
4. Richard Taylor, Nathan Forrest, Wade Hampton  
Ref.; Lecture, The Hampton Family, Jeff Hampton, Northern Kentucky Univ., 8 Nov. 2009
5. c  
Ref.: Lincoln at Cooper Union, Holzer, p103
6. Cooper Union, N.Y.C.  
Ref.: Lincoln at Cooper Union, Holzer, p.248

## **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:**

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