



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



THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT P. O. Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnati-cwrt.org>
March, 2012 Issue

Meeting Date: March 15, 2012

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social
(7:15) Business Meeting

(6:30) Dinner
(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: Baked stuffed fish, wild rice, ratatouille,
waldorf salad, rye dinner roll, carrot cake**
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

Speaker: Jill Holt, CCWRT

Topic: Women Soldiers in the Civil War

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org; call it in to Tom Breiner at 513-984-3101 (h); or email: 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 7, 2012.**

About our March Speaker:

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

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

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



President's Report

..... Pat Homan

I hope every one is enjoying the mild winter. Not to jinx things, but this is Cincinnati and we can still get a heavy snow in March. Just remember that if it is snowing or a heavy snow is forecasted for the meeting night, there are several ways to find out if the meeting is cancelled. First, check with the website. Secondly, call the Drake Center as they are supposed to be able to provide that information about possible cancellations to callers after noon of the meeting day. Finally, a notice will go out on the list-serve.

I am happy to note that we are close to meeting our goal for funding for the Preservation Project. I will let the dynamic duo of Randy and Becky provide the details at the March meeting but things are moving along. A meeting is being set up with the building management to provide them with the final copy of the sign and other related matters so we can, hopefully, proceed quickly once the funding is secure.

The CCWRT is looking for volunteers this summer. There are a number of historical events planned which the Round Table will be manning a booth for the purpose of advertising our club. These are fun events where we get to meet a large number of people. We can always use additional folks to help at the booth. We found last summer that it also helps if some artifacts are available to be shown to the public. Mike Rogers tells me he had a great time with a musket which children and teens hefted and then noted how heavy it was. It was a good hands-on learning experience. If you can help man these booths or if you have something you would like to bring or loan to the booth, please let Mike Rogers know. A list of the events will be included in the April Canister.

Dave Mowrey has completed the speaker line up for the next campaign year which looks excellent. This month's speaker, Jill Holt, will have a presentation on a little known and even less written about subject of

women who served in the war. There were actually more than most are aware of. I hope Jill is recovering nicely from her back surgery, and I am looking forward to her talk.

The Museum Center is planning a Civil War weekend in May, and has asked us to assist in their project. We agreed to do so. This is a follow-up to the very successful Lincoln event of last year. I don't have any details at this time but may have some by the March meeting. A meeting is planned for early March to start working on the details. I will keep you informed. We will have a "recruiting" booth and, as noted above, volunteers for the booth are always welcome.

Enjoy the mild weather and I will see you the 15th.



Items of Interest:

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

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

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

New Members: Welcome to our two newest members who were voted in at the February meeting: Judy and Denny Brown and R A Davis.

Sustaining Members: In addition to the sustaining members listed in the February Canister, we need to include the names of Dan Kemble and Phil Seyfrit as being sustaining members. Thanks Dan and Phil.

2011-2012 Cincinnati Civil War Preservation Fund Campaign: This year's preservation project is the memorialization of the Burnet House with the placement of an historic marker at 3rd & Vine Streets. The marker will be a 33X43 inch aluminum plaque with space adequate for substantial copy as well as a visual of the formerly described "finest hotel in the world." Drop \$15 (or more!) in an envelope with a statement that the funds are to be for the benefit of our Preservation Project and give it to Jim Stewart, our



Keith Rocco Print to be Raffled

treasurer, or mail it to: Cincinnati CWRT, P.O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, Oh. 45262. This is an opportunity for our Round Table to make a dream come true and spread a little bit of history upon our community.

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

any size donation will be gratefully welcomed. The raffle will be conducted at our May 2012 meeting.

James A. Ramage Civil War Museum: Please consider becoming a member of the James A. Ramage Civil War Battery Site and Museum. Through your generous support the museum will be able to improve its exceptional special events, continue to provide superb educational programming and most importantly help excavate and maintain the only Civil War Battery site in Cincinnati which is being actively preserved. As a member, you will receive a 10% discount in the museum gift shop and on future museum tours where a charge will be applied. You will also receive newsletters and general informational updates about the museum. Memberships are also tax deductible. An individual membership is \$20 and a family membership is \$35. To make a donation online, visit www.fortwright.com and click on the Civil War Museum tab.

Please also consider attending the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum Blue & Gray Benefit Dinner on April 26, 2012. It will be held at the Gardens of Park Hills, 1622 Dixie Hwy, Park Hills, KY. Cocktail Hour (cash bar) 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Dinner 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. Silent Auction. Tickets \$45 per person/\$80 per couple. RSVP Linda Hornsby at 859-261-3045 or lykantee@aol.com.

The Lytle Monument: Cincinnati's famed General William H Lytle gave his last measure of devotion at the Battle of Chickamauga on Sept. 20, 1863. A monument was erected at the site of Lytle's passing in the shape of a pyramid consisting of 323 cannonballs. Sometime after 1936 the monument lost the majority of its cannonballs either to more visible monuments in need of repair or to human vandalism. An effort is underway to restore the monument and renovate the access trail to the monument in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga. To make a donation for the restoration of the Lytle monument go to the www.chickchatt.org and use the joining and giving menu option. To make a donation by mail, send a check to Friends of Chickamauga-Chattanooga NPS, P.O. Box 748, Chattanooga, TN 37401

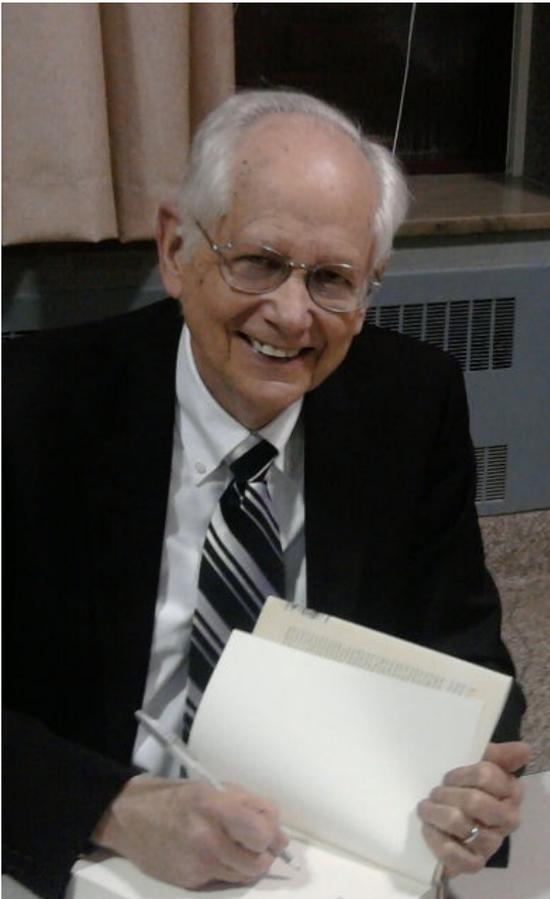
February Presentation:

... submitted by Andy Simmons

In February, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table was proud to have Dr. James A. Ramage, one of the most distinguished friends of our Round Table, make a presentation entitled, "*Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, and the Civil War in Kentucky.*" Lincoln regarded his native state as the bellwether of the Border States, and feared that if Kentucky seceded, the others would follow, and the Confederate industrial capacity would increase by 80%. He said, "I think to lose Kentucky is near the same as to lose the whole game."

Lincoln appointed Robert Anderson of Louisville, the hero of Fort Sumter, as Kentucky's provisional governor. Grant said the commander of Kentucky needed extraordinary common sense and perfect freedom from prejudice. Anderson had all this, although he was 55 years old and probably suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. When Confederates raided near his Louisville headquarters, he believed Kentuckians were rising and advancing with a force of 30,000 men. The vast force of undeclared men of fighting age supported this fear. Anderson could not stand the pressure. On October 8, 1861, Anderson resigned.

Anderson appointed as his replacement, William T. Sherman. Although outnumbering the Confederates 2:1, Sherman believed he was outnumbered 5:1. The fear of losing Kentucky and of causing loss of the war overwhelmed Sherman, and he had a nervous breakdown. Secretary of War Simon Cameron accepted Sherman's urgent request for a meeting. Sherman told him the enemy could walk into Louisville any day or cross the Ohio River at any point unopposed and asked for 200,000 reinforcements. Reporters were in the room, and the headlines read, "General Sherman – Insane." Lincoln relieved Sherman.



Dr. James A. Ramage

After driving out two commanders, the Confederacy felt it had the upper hand in Kentucky. In February 1862, the Confederates seized Columbus, Missouri, believing it to be *the* strategic point for entry into Kentucky. Grant seized Paducah from which he would capture Fort Donnellson and Fort Henry. Grant's strategic movements and fighting cleared Kentucky of Confederate troops. Kentucky thereafter became less of a priority to Lincoln.

Lincoln then appointed Jeremiah T. Boyle to command. Boyle fell into the grand illusion that it was totally up to him to win the war. He thought all would be lost unless he turned the population into smiling unionists willing to do anything to support the union war effort. He issued orders that anyone suspected of aiding the enemy would have to take a loyalty oath. Refusal meant prison without a trial. Boyle's pacification program had the opposite of his intended effect by turning moderate Unionists into Confederates. When John Hunt Morgan captured Cynthiana in July 1862, Boyle panicked and sought reinforcements. After 18 months, January 12, 1864, Lincoln removed Boyle, which pleased all factions in Kentucky.

Next appointed commander was General Stephen G. Burbridge, who reigned one year and made himself the

most controversial man in the civil war in Kentucky. Burbridge was ambitious, power hungry and became a dictator. Like Boyle, he developed a grand illusion that it was up to him to win the war by transforming every Kentuckian into an active Unionist in favor of freeing and enlisting Kentucky slaves. The Emancipation Proclamation excluded the Border States, and left the issue of voluntarily freeing the slaves to those states. Kentucky had a one word response to Lincoln's plea: Never.

After February 1862, Confederate forces abandoned Kentucky leaving it behind Union lines, and Confederate raiders moved in. Local Union bands retaliated, and law and order disappeared. Burbridge issued on July 16, 1864 one of the most inhumane and unjust orders of the war, General Order 59, providing that for every unarmed Union citizen murdered, four Confederate prisoners of war would be taken to the scene of the crime and shot to death without trial. Sixty-seven Confederates were thus murdered. The executions came to symbolize hatred for Burbridge and Union occupation. Many however believed extreme measures were necessary.

Two reasons can be cited as to why Lincoln kept Burbridge in command. First, Lincoln supported Burbridge's attack on the guerilla warfare participants who were killing civilians. The traditional interpretation was Kentuckians hated Burbridge, who was called "Butcher Burbridge." On the contrary, many Kentuckians supported Burbridge's counter guerilla campaign. The second reason for Lincoln not dismissing Burbridge was his enthusiasm for Lincoln's great priority of freeing Kentucky's slaves. Although by February 1865, 70% of Kentucky's African Americans were freed, the State continued to resist emancipation, and it was said that Kentucky seceded from the Union and joined the South after the war. It was the only state to explicitly reject passage of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution. Kentucky would say "never" until the end.

Despite his critics, Burbridge was heralded by Unionists and a hero to African Americans. After the war, he was given a ceremonial sword which was inscribed: "Pioneer of Freedom to the Slaves of Kentucky."



February Quiz:

Questions:

1. Who said "The man and the hour have met"? About whom is this quote referring?
2. 150 years ago today U.S. Grant replied to _____, who was in _____ "No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works."
3. His nickname was "Pathfinder of the Seas". Name him.
4. What was the first African American unit to fight in a Civil War battle?
5. What was the first Civil War engagement involving an African American unit?

Answers:

- 1.: Jefferson Davis. It was spoken by William Lowndes Yancey, governor of Alabama, as Yancey welcomed Davis to Montgomery to be sworn in as President of the Confederacy.
- 2.: Simon Boulivar Buckner. Fort Donelson.
- 3.: Matthew Maury Fontaine.
- 4.: The First Kansas Colored Volunteers
- 5.: Island Mound, MO fought 10/27-29, 1862



Future Presentations:

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| March 15, 2012 | David L. Mowery, CCWRT & OCWTC
<i>America's Longest Cavalry Ride: Morgan's 1863 Raid Around Cincinnati</i> |
| April 19, 2012 | Thomas R. Flagel, Columbia State Community College
<i>Appomattox: The Place of Lee's Surrender and a National Resurrection</i> |
| May 17, 2012 | Lesley J. Gordon, University of Akron
<i>So Much Suffering: The 16th Connecticut Infantry Volunteers in War and Memory</i> |
| September, 2012 | Charles Bracelen Flood, Richmond, KY
<i>Ulysses S. Grant's Final Victory</i> |
| October, 2012 | W. Hunter Lesser, Elkins, WV
<i>The First Campaign: Western Virginia, 1861</i> |
| November, 2012 | Frank O'Reilly, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park
<i>The Battle of Fredericksburg</i> |
| January, 2013 | Ralph Arnold, CCWRT
<i>More on Civil War Railroads</i> |
| February, 2013 | Mike Rhein, CCWRT
<i>General Lytle: Home Again</i> |
| March, 2013 | Gary Zola, Hebrew Union College
<i>Revocation of General Grant's General Orders No. 11</i> |
| April, 2013 | David L. Mowery, CCWRT & OCWTC
<i>America's Longest Cavalry Ride: Morgan's 1863 Raid Around Cincinnati</i> |
| May, 2013 | Gail Stephens, Monocacy National Battlefield
<i>General Lew Wallace</i> |

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 \$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.

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Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!