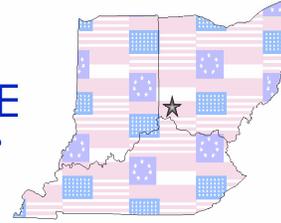




CINCINNATI  
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
SERVING OHIO, KENTUCKY AND INDIANA SINCE 1956



# THE CANISTER

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Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT PO Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262

<http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org>

APRIL, 2005 Issue

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## MEETING INFORMATION FOR April, 2005

Meeting Date: April 21, 2005

Meeting Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

Time: (6:00) Refreshments

(6:45) Dinner

Speaker: Dr. George Rable, University of Alabama

Topic: , "Religion and the Civil War"

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

**George C. Rable**

Professor and Charles G. Summersell Chair in Southern History  
Ph.D. Louisiana State University, 1978 ✉ [grable@tenhoor.as.ua.edu](mailto:grable@tenhoor.as.ua.edu)



Dr. Rable's research interests include Southern History—American Civil War

A list of his recent publications include:

- *Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!* (University of North Carolina Press, 2002). Winner of the Lincoln Prize, the Jefferson Davis Award, and the Douglas Southall Freeman Southern History Award. History Book Club Selection.
- *The Confederate Republic: A Revolution against Politics* (University of North Carolina Press, 1994). History Book Club selection.
- *Civil Wars: Women and the Crisis of Southern Nationalism* (University of Illinois Press, 1989). Jefferson Davis Award and the Julia Cherry Spruill Prize.
- *But There Was No Peace: The Role of Violence in the Politics of Reconstruction* (University of Georgia Press, 1984).
- Current Project: researching the role of religion in the Civil War for the Littlefield History of the Civil War Era.

Dr. Rable was also the recipient of the Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Professor, University of Alabama (2003).

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

The Round Table welcomed Phyllis Berenson into membership at the January meeting; Jeanne Bechtold, Terry Borkenhagen, John Hunter, John Reickert and Daniel Reickert into membership at the February meeting; and Tom Joseph into membership at the March meeting. We also welcome returning member Bob Grierson, a veteran Round Table member, who is back amongst us

**Quiz---January, 2005**

1. The “Act for enrolling and calling out the national Forces” passed by the U.S. Congress on March 3, 1863, the first Federal conscription act, provided that “any person drafted...may pay ...such sum, not exceeding three hundred dollars...for the procurement of such substitute...and thereupon such person ...shall be discharged from further liability under that draft.” What was the term or name applied to this payment?
2. On this date (March 17<sup>th</sup>) in 1863, President Lincoln answered a complaining telegram from one of his generals with these comments: “...you wrong both yourself and us, when you even suspect there is not the best disposition on the part of us all here to oblige you.” To whom was he writing?
3. On this same date, at Kelly’s Ford on the Rappahanock River in Virginia, a young Confederate given the label “gallant” by General Lee for his conduct at Fredericksburg, was killed while serving as an observer at the battle. Who was he?
4. When the siege of Petersburg was broken on 2 April 1865, (a) which Union corps was composed of the divisions commanded by Frank Wheaton, George W. Getty, and Truman Seymour; and (b) which Confederate corps was composed of the divisions commanded by Bryan Grimes, James A. Walker, and Clement A. Evans?
5. Alexander T. Augusta, a Virginian educated in Canada, was the first African-American to be commissioned into this U.S. Army position on 14 April 1863. What was his position and rank?
6. Two prominent Civil War figures were associated with the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi River, built in the 1850’s at Rock Island, Illinois. A landmark legal case arose after a steamboat crashed into the bridge in 1856, burning both the ship and the bridge. The steamboat company claimed that the bridge impeded navigation and sued the

railroad for damages, but the railroad prevailed based on the successful defense presented by their attorney, Abraham Lincoln. After the Civil War, the bridge had to be redesigned and replaced. Name the U.S. Army engineer officer, formerly a Union general, who supervised the construction of the new bridge.

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## NEWS RELEASE

FROM: The Danville-Boyle County Convention and Visitors Bureau

**Danville, KY**--The Danville-Boyle County Convention and Visitors Bureau has announced an award of \$12,000 in funding from the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association (SEKTDA) to further develop interpretive signage at the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site.

Kay Berggren, executive director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, submitted a grant application written by Stuart Sanders, director of the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association. The funding will be used to purchase 6-8 signs to further interpret the existing walking trail at the Perryville battlefield, which will extend the trail to nearly forty interpretive signs. The new signage will be in place by June 2005.

"The number of visitors traveling to heritage sites is on the rise," said Berggren, "and extending the interpretive trails at the Perryville battlefield will add value for our visitors, encourage repeat visits and hopefully, attract new visitors to our area."

Sanders agrees. "Extending the trails truly adds to the visitors' experiences. Civil War enthusiasts and casual visitors alike will benefit from additional signage to guide them through these hallowed battlegrounds." Sanders added that "this grant opportunity creates a unique partnership between the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site, the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, SEKTDA, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau. It is a good example of how private and public partnerships work to preserve and interpret historic sites."

Created in 1987, SEKTDA exists to promote, expand, develop and market the existing and potential tourism industry throughout southern and eastern Kentucky. Boyle County (where Perryville is located) was voted into the 46-county service area of SEKTDA in June 2004.

The Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association (PBPA) is a non-profit organization charged with preserving and interpreting Kentucky's largest Civil War battleground. Since 1995, the Association has increased the amount of protected battlefield land from 98 to nearly 600 acres. The PBPA is currently restoring several structures along Merchants' Row, the town's 19th century commercial district. For more information on Perryville preservation efforts, please see [www.perryville.net](http://www.perryville.net).

### **March Presentation by Albert Hallenberg**

Jim Epperson of the Ann Arbor (MI) Civil War Round Table returned for his fourth talk to our Round Table, "Sheridan, Warren, and the Battle of Five Forks."

An integral part of the Appomattox Campaign (March-April 1865), Five Forks, an intersection of four major roads, guarded Robert E. Lee's last supply line to Richmond. Jim provided a nice concise description of the battle as a lead-in to the centerpiece of his talk, the bitter personal conflict between two of the primary Union generals in the engagement, Phil Sheridan and Gouverneur K. Warren.

Jim discussed how a series of errors and misunderstandings plagued the Union command beyond the battle's outcome. Before the battle, Grant believed by mistake that Warren had been negligent in reaching his position at the appointed time. Hence, he ordered the

spiteful Sheridan to relieve Warren of his command, which did not occur until after the battle. Warren, himself, did not obey his orders properly and ended up out of position, though, through several fateful incidents, his forces still managed to turn the Confederate flank with devastating effect. Considering the next day, Lee began preparations to evacuate Petersburg and Richmond, one would believe all had gone well for the Union army and all ill will forgotten.

But the bad blood between Sheridan and Warren continued after the War. Jim described a June 1865 article Sheridan wrote for the *Army and Navy Gazette* detailing Warren's incompetence and negligence during the battle. Jim showed Sheridan's "imputations" on an overhead, and pointed out some were legitimate, but it could have been argued everything was moot as the battle was a decisive Union victory and the War was over. If Sheridan's article was cruel and unnecessary, Warren's response was in equal parts inappropriate. Jim indicated, instead of rationally countering each of the charges publicly, Warren chose the legal route seeking a Court of Inquiry. As the War was concluded, the military had little interest in convening such a hearing, and one was not approved until 1879, 13 years later. The Court finally reached a decision in 1882, partially exonerating Warren, but, ironically, Warren had died several months earlier.

It is interesting to note that Jim's talk happened to be a nice thematic carryover from Dave Smith's talk the previous month on Henry Halleck. As the group remembers, Dave pointed out Halleck was an excellent administrator misplaced as a field commander. Likewise, Jim indicated Warren would have been an outstanding staff officer, but had great faults as a corps commander.

As has been the case in previous talks, Jim's presentation was thoroughly researched with effective overhead images and spiced with interesting anecdotes and informed opinions. We thank Jim for indulging us with the abridged version of his talk. Possibly, at a later time, Jim will provide the detailed story of Warren and Sheridan's conflict in book format. Judging by the lively discussion after the talk, many Round Table members would certainly look forward to reading it.

**Johnson's Island Preservation Project:** by David Mowery, Preservation Chair

Only two meetings are left to make your contribution to the Johnson's Island Preservation Project. The CCWRT will be collecting donations up to the May 19th meeting, so please keep the Johnson's Island Project in your thoughts. Contributions can be made at the check-in desk during monthly meetings, or by mailing your gift to Treasurer Bob Limoseth at Cincinnati CWRT, P. O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, OH 45262. Checks should be made out to the "Cincinnati CWRT" and the memo line should indicate "Johnson's Island Preservation Project." A receipt will be provided as all contributions are tax deductible under our status as a 501 C3 organization.

**Proposal to Help Preserve Harper's Ferry Battlefield:** by David Mowery, Preservation Chair

Every year for the past few years, the Round Table has sent a donation to the Civil War Preservation Trust, the premier non-profit organization in the United States dedicated to preserving Civil War battlefields. In April, we propose to continue this preservation tradition. The proposal is to send \$250 to the Civil War Preservation Trust for the benefit of the purchase of 38 acres on School House Ridge at Harper's Ferry battlefield, WV. This parcel is believed to encompass the location of General "Stonewall" Jackson's

headquarters during the Siege of Harper's Ferry, September 12-15, 1862. The money for this \$1.5 million piece of land is due by April 30th. The due date is only days away, but it was set in order to earn a \$6.50 match on every donated dollar, as well as to prevent the land from falling into the hands of an anxious developer. Please be prepared in the April meeting discuss and vote upon this \$250 donation from our Preservation Fund.

#### 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:

May newsletter, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005

**Information may be emailed to [waldbill@xavier.edu](mailto:waldbill@xavier.edu)**

#### Quiz answers:

1. Commutation fee. This provision became very unpopular as "favoring the wealthy" and was repealed in 1864. (McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, p. 601; Faust, *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the CW*, p. 155-156; 37<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress, Statutes at Large, Sess. III, Ch. 75, 1863, p. 733, Sec. 13, <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsl&fileName=012/llsl012.db&recNum=764>.)
2. General William Rosecrans in Tennessee, resentful at being prodded to move his forces south in coordination with Grant's offensive at Vicksburg. (Long, *The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac, 1861-1865*, p. 329.)
3. Major John Pelham, West Point graduate, Confederate artillery officer, and now a member of the Alabama Hall of Fame. (Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, p. 630; Alabama Dept of Archives and History website <http://www.archives.state.al.us/famous/famebama.html>.)
4. Union VI Corps, commanded by MG Horatio G. Wright; Confederate II Corps, commanded by MG John B. Gordon. (Greene, "April 2, 1865: Day of Decision at Petersburg", *Blue & Gray Magazine*, February 2001, p. 16.)
5. Surgeon, with the rank of Major although paid at the rate of black enlisted soldiers. He later taught in the medical school at Howard University, became one of the leading physicians in Washington, D.C., and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. (Franklin & Moss, *From Slavery to Freedom*, p. 196; *American Civil War Research Database*, <<http://www.civilwardata.com>>; Henig and Niderost, *Civil War Firsts*, pp. 208-209.)
6. Major G. K. Warren. (Warner, *Generals In Blue*, p. 542; Donald, *Lincoln*, p. 157; Gordon, *Passage to Union*, p. 115; Joe Nobile, "Rock Island, the island: a study of place.", website: <<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/rockislandhistory/govtbridge.htm>>.)



#### FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

May 19, 2005, Dr. Brooks Simpson, Arizona State; "Enemies to the Rear: Ulysses S. Grant, 1861-1863."

September 15, 2005, Dr. Stephen Engle, Florida Atlantic University, "Don Carlos Buell and the Western Theater"

October 20, 2005, Mike Grimes, Berea, Kentucky, "Music and its Impact on the Civil War"

#### 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, and help cover operating costs including this newsletter, as well as speaker expenses. 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 Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and travel east to the Montgomery Road exit. Exit south, and the Quality is on the right.

If coming from Interstate 71, also exit at Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and go west. As before, exit at Montgomery Road and go south. There is plenty of free parking.

**Dinner reservations** are required, and can be made prior to the reservations deadline either by an email to [reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org](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*). **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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**Important Message:**

To all members, Round Tables and friends of the CCWRT who receive this Newsletter!

Effective immediately we have a new mailing address.

Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

P. O. Box 621082

Cincinnati, OH 45262

Please change your records to reflect this change.