



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>
April, 2006 Issue

MEETING INFORMATION FOR APRIL 20, 2006

Meeting Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

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

(6:30) Business Meeting—Montgomery Room

(7:00) Dinner: - Stuffed Chicken Breast

(8:00): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Dr. James Ramage, Jeannine Kreinbrink, & Larry Klein

Topic: Battery Hooper Park & James A. Ramage Civil War Museum

Note: Our meeting arrangements will be modified this month to accommodate a large group meeting at the same time in the Quality's conference area. To help make this successful, please (1) make your dinner reservation by Sunday, April 17th, if possible; (2) arrive at your normal time, so that we can conduct our business meeting before dinner; and (3) bring your flexibility with you! Our activities will center on the Montgomery Room in which we have met several times, along the hallway from the rear parking area, and we will likely have some dinner tables in both the Norwood Room and the Board Room.



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 John Linnenberg at (h) 513-922-3999 (cell) 607-4002 (has voice mail).

Following our March discussion with Dr. David Bush on the preservation and archaeological study of the Johnson's Island Prisoner of War Depot, we will turn this month to the preservation and archaeological study of Battery Hooper in Fort Wright KY. Members and friends of CCWRT are already aware that our 2005-2006 preservation project has been devoted to Battery Hooper Park and the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum which has been created in the former Storer House at the site. We are privileged to have as our April speakers the three prime movers behind this project: Dr. James A. Ramage, Regents Professor of History at Northern Kentucky University; Jeannine Kreinbrink, an archaeologist who has extensively studied the Civil War defenses of the Cincinnati area and who is now the president of the Ramage Museum Board; and Larry Klein, Fort Wright City Administrative Officer.



Gun crew prepares for live fire at the dedication of the Ramage Museum at Battery Hooper, 20 August 2005.

Battery Hooper was constructed in 1863 as part of the Northern Kentucky defense line protecting Cincinnati. This 10-mile line of forts, batteries, and connecting rifle pits stretching from Ludlow to Fort Thomas had been in existence since the fall of 1861, when General Ormsby Mitchel was tasked to protect the southern land approaches to Cincinnati following the Confederate breach of Kentucky neutrality on September 3, 1861. Over the next three years, the fortifications were strengthened until there were 24 forts and redans covering the key transportation routes to Cincinnati from the south: the Lexington Turnpike, the Independence Turnpike, the Licking River Pike, the Alexandria Pike, and the Kentucky Central Railroad. Throughout the course of the Civil War, many Federal units from Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky would serve some of their time in these entrenchments, including the Black Brigade and the famous "Squirrel Hunters" of September 1862.



CCWRT members Dawn Mowery and Jack Simon at the entry to the Ramage Museum.

At the conclusion of the war, the entrenchments of Northern Kentucky were abandoned to the elements. Natural erosion, modern development, and neglect have destroyed all but seven of the original forts and redans. Battery Hooper was covered up with dirt in the 1940's, which ultimately preserved the earthwork from further harm. Sheldon and Fern Storer completed a house on the site, and lived there until Fern's death in 2002. The Storers bequeathed their property to the Northern Kentucky University Foundation, from whom the City of Fort Wright acquired the property to develop the site as a Civil War museum and recreational area.

It will be a pleasure to welcome our long-time friends to this meeting. Dr. Ramage has spoken to CCWRT on several occasions, most recently at our opening meeting of last year's campaign; and Jeannine spoke to CCWRT in 1998 about her early research on the batteries in the defense line. This will be Larry's first visit to CCWRT, but we have learned quickly during the startup of the site and museum to have great respect and appreciation for his leadership capabilities, and for his dedication to the Hooper site and Ramage Museum. Make sure you are present on April 20th for a very special meeting.

Welcome New Members The Round Table welcomed Dennis Capps and Micah Genton into membership at the March meeting.

March Presentation, Summarized by Albert Hallenberg

This month, Dr. David Bush, Chair of the Political Science & Anthropology Department at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, OH, provided us with a fascinating talk on the archaeology and preservation of a Civil War site many of you may already be familiar with. In 2004/2005, the Round Table designated the Johnson Island Prisoner of War Depot (located in the Sandusky Bay portion of Lake Erie along Ottawa County, Ohio) as our preservation project for that year.

Dr. Bush has been overseeing archaeological extractions from the site since 1989. Since that time, his group has discovered over 6,000 artifacts. As many in the Round Table are aware, the lone island facility served as a prison for over 10,000 Confederate officers, spanning a time period from April 1862 until September 1865.

Through a very well done PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Bush provided us with a fascinating overview of the intricate excavation process involved in piecing together the lives of the prisoners. Dr. Bush showed several dozen images of lithographs, copies of letters, diary entries and maps drawn by the prisoners themselves. One letter from a prisoner to his family in April 1862 spoke of the refreshing cool breezes from the Lake, not realizing in seven or eight months that those cool breezes would transform into brutally cold winds. On a more humorous note, a letter from an escapee to one of the prison officers said that he was sorry he did not have a chance to provide a formal farewell before leaving.

The presentation also included images of the many artifacts Dr. Bush's archaeological team has discovered in the "blocks" (buildings where the prisoners were housed) and even the latrines. Dr. Bush related how one latrine was filled with discarded wine and liquor bottles. This latrine was connected to a block containing "assimilated" prisoners, those who took the oath of allegiance to the Union. Since they had, in effect, changed sides, these prisoners had to be kept in separate quarters to avoid retaliation from the regular prisoners. Perhaps, no written documentation exists specifying these prisoners received preferred treatment, but Dr. Bush indicated the archaeological evidence of the discarded bottles may indeed have demonstrated otherwise.

Though Johnson's Island is one of Ohio's most important archaeological sites and one of the best preserved Civil War prison camps, development in the area still threatens its integrity. Two before and after slides showed where a lakeside residential development has been built over what were once the garrison camp and the defensive fort. Dr. Bush explained how the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison are making great efforts to preserve what remains. For more information on the organization, look at their website at

<http://www.heidelberg.edu/~dbush/index.html>

Book Review by Dan Reigle:

Fort Pillow, a Civil War Massacre, and Public Memory. John Cimprich. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2005. 193 pp.

Consider this an advance reading assignment for the January 2007 meeting, at which Dr. John Cimprich, Professor of History at Thomas More College in Crestview Hills KY, will be our speaker. Dr. Cimprich has been studying the history and events at Fort Pillow for many years, having published several articles and chapters on Fort Pillow as early as 1982. In this new book, he “approaches the story of Fort Pillow and the sources about it afresh,” taking advantage of all available information and improving on his earlier research.

The book includes a concise, informative description of the fort from its early construction in 1861 through and beyond the events of 12 April 1864 that provoke controversy to this day. There are descriptions of the main personalities with roles in the fort’s history, including Capt. Montgomery Lynch who built the main outlines of the fort, its Confederate commander BG John Villepigue, Navy Captain Andrew H. Foote, Col. Charles Ellet, Col. John Scott of the 32nd Iowa, Capt. Franklin Moore of the 2nd Illinois Cavalry, and General Nathan B. Forrest. The social and political context of Fort Pillow is exemplified by the profile of Samuel B. Lanier, a young plantation owner whose Unionist sympathies and actions put his property and his life at risk of retaliation in the swirling local politics and partisan violence. Of interest because of his later fame is the first Confederate officer to lead a force to the site and begin building the fortifications that became Fort Pillow, an Arkansan loaned to the Tennessee state forces in June, Patrick Cleburne. An excellent chapter on the “challenge of everyday military life” describes the many difficulties associated even with the “safe” life of soldiers and officers on garrison duty.

Dr. Cimprich includes seven tables of information, including the garrison commanders, garrison size, and garrison units for both the period of Confederate control of the fort and the period of Union control of the fort. The most interesting table contains detailed analysis of the Union soldiers who died as a result of 12 April, and those who survived. In one sense, three numbers tell the story of Fort Pillow: for the 6th U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery, 174 men were killed or died from their wounds out of their total strength of 269, while only 25 were wounded, a ratio of seven killed per soldier wounded. For perspective on this upside down statistic, the combined Union and Confederate forces at Shiloh two years earlier suffered 16,420 wounded and 3477 killed, a ratio of nearly five wounded per soldier killed (Livermore, *Numbers and Losses*, p. 79-80).

In the final two chapters, the major sources of information about Fort Pillow from the day of the battle until today are summarized and evaluated, including letters to newspapers, official reports, affidavits given by participants, stories by reporters, and studies by historians and other authors. These chapters are very useful in understanding how various sources have been used and misused, and how interpretations have changed through the past 140 years with reconciliation politics, white supremacy efforts, and finally the civil rights movement. I found these chapters to be the most important and valuable in the book. I know that reading them ahead of Dr. Cimprich’s visit to CCWRT will be a worthwhile investment in understanding the issues surrounding the events at Fort Pillow.



Preservation News by David Mowery, Preservation Chairman:

- **Battery Hooper Project:**

Our 2005-2006 Preservation Project campaign is nearing its end to raise funds to purchase interpretive markers for Battery Hooper in Fort Wright, KY. The May 2006 meeting is the deadline for all donations, even though we plan to present a check to our April speakers from the James A. Ramage Museum for the balance of the donations we have received thus far. We plan to send a separate check to the museum after the May meeting for any additional

donations. Therefore, it's not too late for those who still wish to participate. We welcome everyone to join in this very worthy cause.

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 "Battery Hooper Preservation Project." A receipt will be provided as all contributions are tax deductible under our status as a 501 C3 organization.

- A Letter of Thanks from Beauvoir Relief:

In January 2006, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table donated \$500.00 to Beauvoir Relief, to be used toward the rebuilding of Confederate President Jefferson Davis's "Beauvoir" house in Biloxi, Mississippi.

S. W. Calhoun, Treasurer of the Mississippi Division of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc., sent the CCWRT this note of thanks for our donation:

February 20, 2006

Dear Members of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table:

Words can not express our sincere appreciation for your donation to help give Beauvoir a new life. This catastrophic hurricane changed the face of the Mississippi gulf coast from Pearlington to Pascagoula, as well as eastern Louisiana and western Alabama. Never before has a storm, such as this, had such widespread effect on so many people.

Beauvoir was devastated, with considerable damage to Beauvoir House and the Presidential Library. The Hayes Cottage, the Presidential Cottage, the Old Hospital Building, a replica barracks from the old veteran days, and the Director's home are gone. The Presidential Library and Beauvoir House, although damaged severely, are the only two buildings left standing.

However, the people of Mississippi are resilient and will overcome this tragedy. All we need is a lot of prayer, a little time, and, of course, financial help.

The Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees of Beauvoir are committed to the rebuilding of Beauvoir and are working diligently to accomplish the goal of re-dedicating Beauvoir by June 3, 2008, the 200th birthday of Jefferson Davis. What a grand day that will be.

With the help of friends like you, we will accomplish this goal.

All gifts are greatly appreciated and tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Again, thanks for your support and concern for Beauvoir.

Sincerely, S.W. Calhoun Treasurer "Let's give the past a future."

Lecture: Women and the Civil War

Dr. Alice Fahs, associate professor of history at University of California, Irvine, will speak at NKU on Tuesday, March 28, 7:30 PM, in the Eva Farris Auditorium, BEP200. Her topic will be "Women and the Civil War." Dr. Fahs is author of *The Imagined Civil War: Popular Literature of the North and the South, 1861-1865*, and editor with Joan Waugh of *The Memory of the Civil War in American Culture*. Her lecture is part of NKU's Military History Lecture Series. Directions to NKU and campus parking information are available on the NKU website at <http://www.nku.edu/community.php>.

Forthcoming Book on Ohio's Civil War Monuments

Harold George of Lakewood OH has produced a new book on Ohio's Civil War Monuments, including the exact location of 270 monuments and over 100 full color photographs. He expects it to be available from the printer in April. A promotional flyer and order form has been distributed to CCWRT Listserv, and will be available at the next meeting. Harold will be our CCWRT speaker in May of next year, talking about his research and book on the 9th Ohio Independent Battery Light Artillery. If you have seen his book on the 9th OIBLA, you will be confident that his book on Ohio monuments will be very carefully researched and full of information not otherwise readily available.



Special Notice

Did you mark your calendar for Saturday, May 13th at 10 AM for the CCWRT tour of Camp Dennison and Morgan's Raid at the camp? Be sure to attend the April meeting to get all of the details and to learn about a very special offer which will be available only to those who attend on May 13th! More details at the meeting!

Upcoming Conference

The Hamilton Civil War Round Table proudly announces its 2006 Civil War Conference Benefiting the Moor and Bartels Scholarship Fund, On September 23, 2006 at The Manchester Inn, 1027 Manchester Avenue, Middletown, Ohio 45042 (513-422-5481 or 1-800-523-9126). Cost is Individual - \$95.00, Family Plan* = \$170.00 Conference cost will include all sessions, meals and supplies. Registration (no later than June 16, 2006), for both plans (\$85.00 Individual--\$160.00 Family*). *Family plan = individual + spouse or one child. Additional Dinner Guests will be accommodated at \$30.00 per meal required. For additional information or to obtain a registration form –Email us at Hamorndtbl@aol.com or via snail-mail at: L. Gebing, 2536 Chapel Road, Okeana, Ohio 45053.

Quiz---March, 2005

1. On 16 March, a significant engagement was fought near the town of Averasborough, with 682 Union losses and 865 Confederate losses. In what state and year did this take place?
2. In *Battle Tactics of the Civil War*, British military historian Paddy Griffith identified three major methods by which Civil War armies kept each other under surveillance to gather tactical-level intelligence. Picket lines provided close, direct line-of-sight contact, and cavalry probed for information about the enemy that was not in the range of vision of the commander and his main force. What was the third primary means of gathering tactical intelligence?
3. Joseph H. Choate was a New York attorney whose career included the prosecution of the corrupt Tweed Ring in the city's political in 1871 and who later served six years as Ambassador to Great Britain. His career touched two Civil War notable figures: he was present at Lincoln's speech at Cooper Union in February 1860, "the Speech that Made Abraham Lincoln President", and later wrote accounts of that speech as cited in Harold Holzer's recent book; and, he had also had a prominent connection to Union General Fitz John Porter. What was his connection to Porter?
4. This lieutenant colonel, commander of the 31st U.S. Volunteer Infantry, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions on 4 December 1899 during the Philippine insurrection on Mindanao. He was a native of Ohio, businessman in Cleveland, and Ohio National Guard officer who went on active duty in the Spanish-American War and remained on active duty through World War I. He had previously served as personal secretary to his father, who was a Civil War veteran and President of the United States. Who were the father and son?
5. During a battle in which Union forces under BG John Geary repulsed a nighttime attack by Confederate forces under BG Micah Jenkins, several hundred mules broke out of their enclosure and stampeded through Confederate lines. This prompted an anonymous poet to write a new version of Tennyson's poem, titling it "The Charge of the Mule Brigade", including this verse:
"Mules to the right of them, Mules to the left of them, Mules behind them
Pawed, neighed, and thundered.
Breaking their own confines, Breaking through Longstreet's lines, Into the Georgia troops
Stormed the two hundred." In what battle did this occur?
6. Henry Kyd Douglas, the youngest member of Stonewall Jackson's staff, wrote the classic memoir, *I Rode with Stonewall*. In it, he describes being wounded at Gettysburg and attempting to secure a parole due to his wound. Unsuccessful, he then describes arriving on his 23rd birthday, 29 September 1863, at "just the place to convert visitors to the theological belief of the Norwegian that Hell has torments of cold instead of heat." Where was he located?

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 24th, 2006

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

Quiz answers:

1. North Carolina, 1865, forces of Slocum vs. Hardee. (Long, *CW Day by Day*, pp. 652-653.)
2. Signalers using “wig-wags” from observation posts, an innovation in the Civil War. (Griffith, *Battle Tactics of the Civil War*, 68-71).
3. Joseph Choate was Porter’s attorney, who represented him before the Schofield Board of Inquiry in 1879, which exonerated Porter and praised his actions at Second Bull Run. (Holzer, *Lincoln at Cooper Union*, pp. 104-115, 145; Heidler and Heidler, *Encyclopedia of the American Civil War*, pp. 1554-1555; *The Columbia Encyclopedia*; Jamie Ryan, talk to CCWRT, 18 Sept 2003.)
4. Rutherford B. Hayes and his son, Webb Cook Hayes I. (Marchman, *The Story of a President: Rutherford B. Hayes and Spiegel Grove*, 32-35.
5. Wauhatchie TN, the small town west of Chattanooga on the Tennessee River, 28 Oct 1863. (*North & South*, May 2005, pp. 10-11.)
6. Johnson’s Island prison camp, in Sandusky Bay, Ohio. (Douglas, *I Rode with Stonewall*, 251, 334.)



FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2005-2006 Programs

May 18 th , 2006:	Dr. Chris Phillips, University of Cincinnati, “Gen. Nathaniel Lyon.”
September 21 st , 2006	A. Wilson Greene, Pamplin Park Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War
October 19 th , 2006	Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., How the Civil War Still Lives
November 16 th 2006	Barbara Davis, Chicago, Civil War Home-Front Letters of the Ovid Butler Family
January 18 th , 2007	Dr. John Cimprich, Thomas More College, Fort Pillow
February 15 th , 2007	Bob McLaurin, CCWRT, The River Navy
March 15 th , 2007	Jack Simon, CCWRT, Fortifications
April 19 th , 2007	Terry Winschel, Vicksburg National Military Park
May 17 th , 2007	Harold George, Lakewood OH, 9 th Ohio Independent Battery Light Artillery



Make Your Dinner Reservations Now!

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@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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