



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, 2007 Issue

Meeting Date: April 19, 2007

Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

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

(6:45) Dinner: - See notice below for menu

(7:45): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Terry Winschel, Vicksburg Nat'l Mil. Park

Topic: "Companion to the Fishes: The Saga of the Gunboat *Cincinnati*"

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 Bob Limoseth (h) 513-777-2160; rlimo@fuse.net

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Late Breaking News on Meeting Site Arrangements:

Shortly after last month's meeting we received notice that Steven's Hospitality, the meeting site catering service that we have used for several years, abruptly shut down both their restaurant and banquet catering support for the Quality Hotel and Suites. This early termination of their contractual arrangement with the hotel came as a surprise to both the hotel and its clients who had booked catering support through them. We have had conversations with both the General Manager and the Sales Director of the hotel, and they have assured us they want to retain our business. Our dates for the April and May meetings have been confirmed with the hotel, and we have booked a catering firm, whose name was provided to us by the hotel, to provide meal support for the last two meetings of our current campaign year. In order to make this plan work, on short notice, we will have to implement our promised meal price increase now. **The meal cost for the April and May meetings will be \$25.00, an increase of \$5.00 over our current rate.**

The hotel has also informed us that a search is under way for a new restaurant and catering service and that by August they hope to have everything back to normal. If this occurs as scheduled, we will meet with the new catering service during the summer months and finalize all meeting arrangements for the 2007-2008 campaign season with them. During these meetings we will continue to balance quality, service, price and location into all decisions on meeting site for our future meetings. We do not know what next year's meal pricing will be since all arrangements are considered temporary at this time.

As a side note, your officers did consider other meeting site options as a result of this unexpected change in banquet catering support. We continue to feel, however, that a change at this time would not be in the best interests of the membership. The current location is centrally located between two major highways, and between north and south, based on where our members live. And, even more important, the combination of quality and service provided has been fairly priced. Four other locations were visited and considered in the last few days. In each case we would experience a significant increase in meal cost and the locations, for the most part, were not as central as the Quality Hotel and Suites.

While we would like to make this change as transparent as possible, you are likely to notice that some things might be a little different on meeting night. The menu has not been finalized, because of cost factors associated with both the caterer and the hotel, and we do not yet know if we will have a buffet or our regular sit down dinner. What we do know is that **the meeting will definitely be worth attending!**

For now, you should do nothing different. Make your normal reservation and come prepared to hear another fine presentation by Terry Winschel on: The Saga of the Gunboat *Cincinnati*. If anything unexpected alters our plans for the evening, and at this time we do not expect that anything will, we will notify you via our web site and through the ListServ.

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SPEAKER FOR APRIL MEETING

The Cincinnati Civil War Round Table is friends, Terry Winschel, who returns in before the group. Over the course of his Service, Mr. Winschel has written more than of the Civil War. He is the author of several *Vicksburg Campaign, Vol. II* (SavasBeatie, *the Mississippi River* (University of Nebraska *Common Soldier* (LSU Press, 2001), (McWhiney Research Foundation Press, *Campaign* (Savas Publishing, 1998). Terry is considered by his peers, and by his readers, as one of the country's premier experts on the campaigns for Vicksburg, Mississippi. In recognition of Mr. Winschel's scholarship, the Civil War Round Table of Chicago honored Terry with the 2004 Nevins-Freeman Award, and the Civil War Round Table of New Orleans presented him the Charles L. Dufour Award in 2006.



honored to invite back one of its long-time April for his third speaking appearance distinguished career with the National Park 90 book reviews and 50 articles on the subject books, including *Triumph & Defeat: The* 2006), *Vicksburg is the Key: The Struggle for* Press, 2003), *The Civil War Diary of a Vicksburg: Fall of the Confederate Gibraltar* 1999), and *Triumph & Defeat: The Vicksburg*

Terry is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University. He also holds both M.S.S. (Master of Social Science) and Ed.S. (Education Specialist) degrees from Mississippi College. Mr. Winschel is a thirty-year veteran of the National Park Service. During those years he has served at Gettysburg National Military Park, Fredericksburg National Military Park, and Valley Forge National Historical Park. He is currently Historian at Vicksburg National Military Park.

Terry will present to the CCWRT the colorful history of the Civil War ironclad USS *Cincinnati*. He will detail in graphic manner the saga of *Cincinnati* from its commissioning in 1862 until its sinking in May 1863. Following failed assaults against the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg on May 19 and 22, 1863, Union troops extended their lines until they reached the Mississippi River above and below the beleaguered city. Completing the encirclement of Vicksburg and assuring its capitulation were the vessels of Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter's Mississippi Squadron. This river fleet played a crucial role in the campaign for Vicksburg. However, the squadron's record of achievement was not earned without loss. On May 27, while investigating reports that the Confederates had abandoned their powerful water batteries, the ironclad gunboat *Cincinnati* steamed into a trap. Southern batteries

suddenly sprang into action and pummeled the ironclad with solid shot and shell that crashed through her decking and roof. Five of its fourteen guns were knocked out of commission, and its jackstays were also shot away, taking the national colors down with them. Lt. George Mifflin Bache, *Cincinnati's* gallant commander, attempted to run his vessel to safety. But with his boat badly taking on water, Bache's luck ran out, and the ironclad sank in three fathoms of water. Tapping on an array of sources, Mr. Winschel's story will place you on the gun deck as *Cincinnati* steamed into history.



We Who Study Must Also Strive To Save!

Preservation News:

We are now in the second phase of our Dedicated Preservation Fund Raising Project.

Although we have already accomplished so much, further preservation is still in need! The second part of our Dedicated Preservation Fund Raising Project for the Perryville Battlefield runs from January to May. All monies received between now and our last meeting of this campaign year will go directly to the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association. The Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association (PBPA) is a non-profit organization devoted to the interpretation and preservation of the battle lands and the historic town of Perryville. Founded in 1991, the organization has been successful in its numerous achievements in the field of preservation. In 1993, the Congressionally-appointed Civil War Advisory Commission named Perryville as a Priority-One Class-A Battlefield. This designation ranks Perryville as one of the top eleven battlefields in need of preservation and ranks the site as one of the top eleven battlefields in terms of overall historic importance out of 384 conflicts included in the study. Here is a website for more information

<http://www.perryville.net/pbpa.html>

Contributions can be made at the check-in-desk during our monthly meetings, or by mailing your gift to our Treasurer, Jim Stewart at Cincinnati CWRT, P.O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, Ohio 45262. Checks should be made out to the "Cincinnati CWRT" and the memo line should indicate "Perryville Battlefield". A receipt will be provided as all contributions are tax deductible under our status as a 501(C)3 organization. Donations can be accepted anytime from now until the May 2007 meeting.



Miscellaneous Announcements

Corporate Matching Gift Plans: One of the topics of discussion at the February Officer's Planning Meeting was new and untried sources for raising Preservation Fund monies. During that conversation we may have identified what could be an untapped source of additional funds for the Round Table's Preservation efforts. A significant number of our members, both active and retired, work (ed) for companies that have Corporate Matching Gift Plans. Most all of them include provisions for donations to Educational Institutions. Some of them also include Historical Societies and Museums under their giving guidelines. Our Purpose Statement as a 501 (c) 3 organization indicates that "the organization shall be structured as a non-profit corporation to foster and promote the interest in and research of the scientific, literary, preservation, and intellectual aspects of the American Civil War period." This explanation supporting our non-profit status may qualify us for some company Matching Gift Programs.

Having said all the above...the next step in the process of testing this theory requires your help. If the company you work (ed) for has a Matching Gift Plan and you make periodic contributions to the various Round Table Preservation Fund appeals, or are a Member at the Sustaining Member dues level (\$50 or more single, \$85 or more couple), we ask that you obtain the required Matching Fund Brochure, fill out the donor portion, and give it to Treasurer Jim Stewart at the time you submit your check. He will fill in the eligible institution information and submit it for verification. We recognize that it may be too late for most of our members to take advantage of this potential giving opportunity during the current campaign year unless you still plan on supporting the Perryville Battlefield Preservation effort which ends with the May meeting.

So...we will repeat this notice in the September Newsletter. We ask, in the mean time that if any of our members have specific knowledge of their company's giving guidelines or access to one of the trustees who can advise you on whether we would qualify or not for their program, to bring that information to the attention of John Linnenberg or Bob Limoseth. They will be the Round Table's contact people on all related questions and they will determine if we qualify for enough Matching Gift program matches to warrant the additional paperwork required to receive these monies.

Sad News from the Membership: "Roger Alan Weber, a lawyer and partner at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister, died unexpectedly of heart failure at his home Feb. 20. He was 58." That was the lead paragraph in the Enquirer's article about the unexpected passing of member Roger Weber. Adding to the surprise of this notice was the fact that Roger had just rejoined the Round Table at the February, 2007 meeting. He had been a member in the past and had reactivated his membership because of his long held interest in the American Civil War. Roger's wife Mary Helen provided a wonderful observation about how Roger lived his life when she commented: "He had boundless intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm and sense of wonder. He read voraciously on almost any topic. Merely living with him you could not help but learn things." The entire membership of the Round Table extends its sympathies to the Weber family

The Approaching Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War (2011 – 2015) offers the current generation of Americans a most important opportunity to know, discuss, and commemorate this country's greatest national crisis, while at the same time exploring its enduring relevance in the 21st century. In preparation for the Sesquicentennial, the National Park service – through the collective efforts of the superintendents at Civil War related parks – proposes to undertake a multifaceted, multi-year, integrated program that will simultaneously transform and improve interpretation of the Civil War in our national parks while providing a national forum for the observance of the Sesquicentennial of America's greatest national crisis. During the preparatory period (2005-2011), the web site below will present information on the events leading up to the Civil War, so that the Sesquicentennial can be experienced as the 150th anniversary of major military events, but also of social, political, economic and cultural transformations that have changed the nation forever. <http://cwar.nps.gov/civil>

(from Waskie's Civil War ListServ Newsletter and the Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pennsylvania, Inc.'s April Newsletter)

New Members:

At the March meeting we welcomed new members Ralph Arnold, Jim Houston and Lois and Tutt Lambert. We now have 94 members.

Quiz--March, 2007

1. On this date (March 15) in 1862, Gen. Halleck made one of the wiser decisions of his career. What was it?
2. The fortification which claims to be "America's First Fort Knox" garrisoned troops during the Civil War, primarily for training. It was named for Revolutionary War General Henry Knox, a close associate of George Washington and the United States' first Secretary of War, who was a native of the state in which it is located. In what state is "America's First Fort Knox" located?
3. As he spoke with the 140th Indiana Infantry on 17 March 1865, President Lincoln stated that "Whenever [I] hear any one arguing for __?__, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally." Of what was he speaking?
4. In April 1862, twenty-two men from three Ohio regiments (2nd OVI, 21st, OVI, 33rd OVI) were chosen for a special operation under the command of a civilian and directed by MG Ormsby Mitchel. What was the operation?
5. Jacob Secrest, a Cincinnati resident and employee of the Cincinnati Water Works after the war, served in the 139th Indiana Infantry. Active in the Grand Army of the Republic, he served as commander of the GAR's Department of Ohio and nationally as the Senior Vice Commander. Mr. Secrest was instrumental in development of one of the most significant Civil War monuments in the Cincinnati area. What is the monument and where is it located?
6. Col. William Lamb, a 26-year-old Virginia newspaper editor with an education in history and law, built and commanded one of the most formidable coastal fortifications in the world, that did not fall until 15 January 1865. What was the name of his fort?



March Presentation, Summarized by Albert Hallenberg:

At our March 2007 meeting, the Round Table welcomed back long-time CCWRT member Jack Simon. Stepping up to the CCWRT podium for the fourth time, Jack is a familiar face to us. As a self-described "avocational" local historian, Jack has devoted much of his own time to further the study of Civil War history in the Cincinnati area, and he has generously shared his knowledge with CCWRT members in his talks on military hospitals in the local area, as well as local lodges of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). But Jack expanded his scope on a more national level with this talk called "Many a Mighty Fortress: The Third System Coastal Defenses during the Civil War."

Round Table members were probably familiar with several of the specific forts Jack discussed in his talk, but may not have been aware that the fortress system had its roots going back to the post-Revolutionary War. Jack explained the Congress authorized the First System of fortresses in 1794 to protect against the return of the British navy. In 1807, with tensions very high with Great Britain and France, Congress approved the Second System of

fortifications.

Not long after the War of 1812, in 1816, Congress allocated a massive (at the time) budget of \$800,000 to construct the Third System (1816-1867). The Third System was far more ambitious than the previous two. The new fortifications utilized the latest military technology, including the construction of huge masonry walls (during this time period, brick was considered the best defense against the musket and smoothbore cannon). Jack indicated historians refer to this construction period as the “Golden Age of American Fortifications.”

Jack discussed several specific Third System forts, which included Fort Sumter, Fort Trumbull (CT), Fort Delaware (where many Confederate prisoners from the battle of Gettysburg were housed) and the original Fort Knox (near Bangor, ME and named after the famous American Revolution artillery commander, Henry Knox).



Since he had actually visited this fort recently, Jack spoke extensively about Fort Jefferson located about 70 miles off of Key West. Jack braved a three hour boat ride and seasickness (for some sound reason his wife did not accompany him) before landing on the shores of this 17 acre complex. Jack included several photographs of the fort in his presentation. He also noted Fort Jefferson in 1865 housed a rather well know inmate, Dr. Samuel Mudd of the Lincoln assassination conspiracy.

Jack supplemented his well-researched talk with an excellent PowerPoint presentation (thanks to Dan Reigle for providing the equipment). He included several images painted by Seth Eastman, who was briefly the military commander of Cincinnati in 1863. The originals are still in the U.S. Capitol Building.

Jack noted the eventual advancement to rifled artillery made the Third System forts obsolete, but Round Table members showed great interest in how these forts, mainly designed for protection from foreign powers, were utilized for an unexpected interior conflict. As usual, Jack brought a unique and fascinating topic to the group. We are certain he is brewing up further subjects to share with us in later talks, and we will look forward to them.

Quiz Answers—March, 2007

1. Halleck restored Grant to command of Federal forces in Tennessee, after having accused him two weeks earlier of not reporting properly during the Donelson campaign and placing C. F. Smith in command over Grant. (Long, *CW Day-By-Day*, pp. 178, 185.)
2. Maine. (Jack Simon, CCWRT; *Fort Knox Through the Centuries* website, at <http://fortknox.maine-guide.com/>.)
3. Slavery. (Long, *CW Day-By-Day*, 653.)
4. Capturing a Confederate locomotive, *The General*, and using it to break the Confederate supply line between Atlanta and Chattanooga. The group became known as Andrews’ Raiders and the operation as the “Great Locomotive Chase.” All were captured, and eight were hanged in Atlanta as spies. (Harper, *Ohio Handbook of the Civil War*, 15-18.)

5. The Camp Dennison monument often referred to as the “Secret Monument”, with a bronze tablet that identifies the units that were trained at Camp Dennison. At the corner of Kugler Mill Road and Glendale-Milford Road, just south of Camp Dennison. (“Monument to Tell Why,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 7 April 1932; “Arrange Rites for GAR Leader,” *Cincinnati Times-Star*, 27 November 1935; CCWRT tour of Camp Dennison by Jack Simon and David Mowery, 13 May 2006.)
6. Fort Fisher, below Wilmington NC on a mile-wide strip of land between the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean. (Gragg, *Confederate Goliath*, 1-29; Boatner, 292-294; *Battles & Leaders*, IV, 642.)



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:

April 23rd, 2007

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu



FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2007-2008 Programs

- May 17 2007: Harold George, 9th OH Light Artillery Reenactor "Men of the 9th Ohio: One Man's Hunt for Civil War Gravesites"
 Sep 20 2007: Barbara Davis "Affectionately Yours: The Civil War Home-Front Letters of the Ovid Butler Family"
 Oct 18 2007: Richard McMurry Topic to be announced
 Nov 15 2007 Gary Ecelbarger "The Unheralded Alliance: John 'Black Jack' Logan and Ulysses S. Grant"
 Jan 2008: Dave Smith, CCWRT & Tom Breiner, CCWRT "Relieved of Command at Five Forks: G.K. Warren - Right or Wrong?"
 Feb 2008: Bob McLaurin, CCWRT, The River Navy
 Mar 2008: TBD
 Apr 2008: TBD
 May 2008: Joseph Reinhart "August Willich's Gallant Dutchmen: Bullets, Bayonets and Beer"



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@cincinnati-cwrt.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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