



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>

April, 2009 Issue

Meeting Date: April 16, 2009

Place: The Drake Center

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

(6:30) Menu: Roasted Pork Loin, Twice Baked Potatoes, Buttered Broccoli, Sugar Snap Pea and Berry Salad, Assorted Dinner Rolls, Brownie Bites topped with Whipped Cream and Chocolate Sauce and Coffee, Tea and Water

(A vegetarian meal option is available, if requested prior to the reservations cut-off date)

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Program

Speaker: Col. Kevin Weddle, US Army War College

Topic: *Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: Samuel Francis Du Pont*

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org; call it in to Pat Homan at 513-861-2057 (h); or email: homanfamily@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, April 8, 2009.**

The Cincinnati Civil War Round Table welcomes for the first time Col. (Ret.) Kevin J. Weddle, US Army, an author and professor of Military Theory and Strategy at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Throughout his variety of command and staff overseas. He is a native Minnesotan Academy at West Point, New York, combat engineer officer. platoon leader, assistant battalion officer, company commander, and tours of duty at West Point, Germany, the Defense Intelligence Agency,



and the Pentagon. He also served as operations officer for the 555th Combat Engineer Group and battalion commander for the 299th Engineer Battalion, 4th Infantry Division before joining the US Army War College faculty. At the War College he was the director of the Advanced Strategic Art Program and served as the Deputy Dean of Academics. Besides his professorship at the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, he also holds the General Maxwell D. Taylor Chair in the Profession of Arms. He served in Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Enduring Freedom, and is a licensed professional civil engineer. Colonel Weddle holds masters degrees in history and civil engineering from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. in history from Princeton University. His first book, *Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: The Life of Samuel Francis Du Pont* (2005), won the 2006 William E. Colby Award. Kevin is currently writing a strategic history of the Saratoga campaign for the Oxford University Press.

Once revered as one of the finest officers in the U.S. Navy, Rear Admiral Samuel Francis Du Pont is now, when remembered at all, criticized for resisting technological innovation and for half-heartedly leading the disastrous all-ironclad Union naval attack on Charleston, South Carolina. Although his reputation seemed secure after he won the first major Union victory of the Civil War in that state at Port Royal, the failed attack on Charleston in April, 1863 brought his career to an abrupt end. Relieved of his command, he was also maligned in the press. In his talk Col. Weddle argues against the prevailing assessment of Du Pont and will discuss some of the major episodes in his exciting life, both before and during the Civil War. Civil-military relations, military strategy and planning, military reform, and the integration of new technology into military organizations are just a few of the topics he will discuss. The talk, drawn from Weddle's award-winning biography of the admiral, will just scratch the surface of the eventful life of one of the most admirable officers ever to serve in the United States Navy.

Miscellaneous Announcements:

Early Reservations for the May 21, 2009 Meeting Encouraged: We expect a capacity crowd for **Harold Holzer's presentation in May**. Area Round Tables have been invited and public advertising through the partners of the Lincoln Legacy: A Cincinnati Celebration of Freedom will help promote the event. The event seating will be capped at 125 for dinner with only a limited amount of meeting only seats available. Meeting only seats will not be publicized and priority for them will be given to Round Table members. To avoid having members being unable to attend this meeting because of a late reservation, or an early sell-out of seats, we encourage you to **make your reservations for the May meeting now!** Reservations will, for this meeting only, be required for both the dinner and the meeting only attendees of the evening's events. Follow our standard procedure... If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org; call it in to Pat Homan at 513-861-2057 (h); or email: homanfamily@fuse.net. **If you are going to include your May reservation along with your April dinner reservation, you must be specific.** Pat will provide a confirming email back on the May reservations. **If you do not receive a confirmation within three days, you need to contact Pat directly via phone to resolve the problem.** **And, if you are making a reservation for more than yourself, please provide the names of the others.** CCWRT members and their visitors/guests will pay at the door, as per our procedure. Reservations received from the general public, out-of-state Round Tables, etc. will require payment at the time the reservation is made. Last minute cancellations and no-shows will have to pay for their meal - per our procedure.

On Wednesday, May 20, 2009 Harold Holzer will team with Dr. Gary Zola, Executive Director of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of The American Jewish Archives here in Cincinnati and Jean Soman, great great-granddaughter of Colonel Marcus M. Spiegel, and co-editor of his letters, in a panel discussion entitled: *Lincoln and the Jews*. The presentation will explore President Lincoln's relationship with American Jewry and the role of Jews in the American Civil War. The event will be held in the Museum Center's Reakirt Auditorium at 7:00 pm. The event is free to the public, but a reservation is required. To reserve your seats, please call **(513) 287-7071**.

Election of Officers for the 2009-2010 Campaign Season: Because of the large turnout expected for Harold Holzer's presentation in May, a motion to suspend the rules governing the date of the organization's annual meeting was requested and approved by those in attendance at the March meeting. The motion allows, for this year only, that the Annual Meeting be held in April during the business portion of our April 16th meeting, not in May as specified in the Constitution. A slate of Officers nominated by the Board was presented to the membership and, if elected, they will lead the Round Table during the 2009-2010 campaign year. Those nominated and their prospective positions are:

- Bob Limoseth - President
- Pat Homan - Vice President
- Jim Stewart - Treasurer
- Mike Rhein - Secretary
- David Mowery - Program Chair
- Dan Bauer - Newsletter Editor
- Mike Rogers - Membership and Publicity
- Dan Reigle - Trustee (2 year)

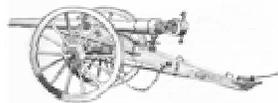
Alan Berenson has agreed to continue on as Preservation Chair; Dan Reigle as Webmaster; and John Steiner as ListServ Director. Shane Gamble has accepted the assignment of club Photographer. Each of these positions is an appointed one. John Linnenberg will continue on as one of our two trustees by fulfilling the second year of his two year term, a position he was elected to at last year's Annual Meeting.

To Pattie Waldbillig, who is leaving our group after six years as Newsletter Editor, we extend a hearty THANK YOU for all she has done to keep the Newsletter our most important communication link with our members. Our thanks also go out to Jack Simon who is rotating off his two year term as Trustee.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the April 16 meeting as required by our Constitution and By-Laws. If you intend to make such a nomination, please seek the approval of the nominee to have their name placed in nomination and advise Bob Limoseth at 513-777-2160 so that a ballot can be prepared for voting at the meeting.

Do We Have Your Email Address? Members who have provided us their email address receive a number of benefits not available to the rest of the membership. Our ListServ, which is maintained by member John Steiner, provides us the ability to mail the Newsletter electronically, notify members of upcoming civil war presentations in the Greater Cincinnati area, is a vehicle for members to ask civil war questions and seek responses from some of our subject matter experts, and get meeting on/off notification when the weather turns bad on meeting night. If you have not yet provided us your email address, please consider doing so to receive these extra benefits. And, if you have recently changed your address and not reported it to us, please see Treasurer Jim Stewart at the check-in table, and he'll make sure the master list is updated.

Welcome New Members: At the March meeting we welcomed Dan Griffith and Howard Wilkinson into the membership. We now have 90 members.



Second Silent Auction Item is Abraham Lincoln: A Life: In the first multi-volume biography of Abraham Lincoln to be published in decades, Lincoln scholar Michael Burlingame offers a fresh look at the life of one of America's greatest presidents. Incorporating the field notes of earlier biographers, along with decades of research in multiple manuscript archives and long—neglected newspapers, this remarkable work will both alter and reinforce current understanding of America's sixteenth president.

"Lincoln scholars have waited anxiously for this book for decades. Its triumphant publication proves it was well worth the wait. Few scholars have written with greater insight about the psychology of Lincoln. No one in recent history has uncovered more fresh sources than Michael Burlingame. This profound and masterful portrait will be read and studied for years to come." -- Doris Kearns Goodwin

Published to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, this landmark publication establishes Burlingame as the most assiduous Lincoln biographer of recent memory and brings Lincoln alive to modern readers as never before.

Michael Burlingame is the Sadowski Professor of History Emeritus at Connecticut College. He is the author or editor of a number of books about Lincoln, including *Lincoln Observed: Civil War Dispatches of Noah Brooks*, published by Johns Hopkins, and *The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln*.

The two-volume set retails for \$125.00. If interested in making a bid for this wonderful addition to the field of Lincoln literature, add your name and bid amount to the auction sheet found on the display table across from the check-in table. The winners of our various auctions will be announced during the May Business Meeting, and remember...all proceeds benefit preservation.

March Presentation:

...submitted by Dan Bauer

Alan Berenson stepped up to our podium and delivered an account of the life of Robert E. Lee starting from the war's end and ending with Lee's death in 1870. The presentation included a slide show of approximately 30 images.

Immediately following the war, a weary Lee returned to a rented house in Richmond and, much to his dismay, was greeted by a hundreds of callers who stopped stay in Richmond was Matthew took his famous photos of Lee Another visitor was Tom Cook, a who conducted perhaps the only Berenson's talk included visitors. It was during Lee's stay pardon in the hopes of regaining indicted of treason by a Federal judge, the charge was never acted upon.



cheering crowd. Among the by to visit during his two month Brady who on April 16th, 1865 along with Lee's son, Custis. reporter from the N.Y. Herald postwar interview of Lee. Mr. accounts of a few of Lee's other in Richmond that he applied for a citizenship. Although Lee was

Lee had a desire to escape city life and take up farming. In July of 1865 he accepted an offer from a rich widow to live in a farmhouse 50 miles west of Richmond. A month after he made this move, he received an offer to serve as the president of the financially strapped Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. Although the salary would be only \$1,500 a year and included use of the president's house, Lee accepted. Lee, his wife Mary, and their three unmarried daughters, Mary, Agnes, and Mildred moved into their new home in Lexington. Lee's other three children were sons, Custis, who had become a professor at VMI, Rooney and Bobby who had taken possession of farms each had inherited from their grandfather, George Washington Custis.

From October 2, 1865 until his death five years later, Lee transformed Washington College from a small, undistinguished school with an enrollment of only 15 students to one with a modern curriculum and an enrollment of 400 students. In addition to being president, Lee was also dean of students, advisor to them and the faculty and chief fund raiser. As the school's finances prospered, Lee's salary was doubled to \$3,000 in 1868. A new president's home was built for Lee and completed in 1869. Lee kept a close eye on each student's progress and had the faculty send him weekly reports on them. He also imposed a simple concept of honor - "We have but one rule, and it is that every student is a gentleman."

Included in Lee's daily routine was a 7:45 AM service in the college chapel which was newly constructed at Lee's urging in 1868. Attendance by the students was strongly recommended, but not required. Lee would then be at his office from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM when he would walk home, have the main meal of the day, a short nap and then ride on Traveler to various sites around Lexington.

Mr. Berenson gave an account of Lee's position on secession and states rights which was followed by an examination of whether Lee was a racist. Judging by today's standards, Lee would be considered a racist. In the winter of 1866, Lee was asked to testify before the Joint Congressional Committee on Reconstruction in Washington. Mr. Berenson read an extended excerpt of an exchange between Lee and Senator Howard of Michigan. In his two hours of testimony, Lee expressed support for President Andrew Johnson's plans for quick restoration of the former Confederate states. Lee forthrightly opposed allowing blacks to vote. Said Lee, "My own opinion is that, at this time, they [black Southerners] cannot vote intelligently, and that giving them the [vote] would lead to a great deal of demagoguism, and lead to embarrassments in various ways." In 1868, Lee signed onto a letter along with several other former prominent southern leaders drafted by Alexander Stuart attesting to the south's acceptance of the consequences of its military defeat, that secession and slavery were dead, that the south valued its freed negroes, but they were considered less than fully qualified to vote. The letter was intended to be a response to the radical Republicans and an endorsement for the Democratic Party's presidential candidate Horatio Seymour over Lee's old foe Republican Ulysses S. Grant.

With the signs of physical decline readily apparent, Lee, upon the advice of his physicians, embarked on his longest vacation in March of 1870. Traveling with his daughter Agnes, Lee made his first visit to the grave of his second daughter, Anne. Anne had died in 1862 and was buried in Warrenton, NC. Lee and Agnes went on to visit Augusta, Savannah, Jacksonville, Norfolk, and the Shirley Plantation, his mother's old home. The tour generated unprecedented throngs wherever he stopped.

He came home even more tired than before he left, and despite treatment, rest, and visits to the springs, his condition did not improve materially. On the evening of September 28, 1870 Lee had been going about his work routinely when he went in to dine with his family. He sat down to the table and attempted to say grace, as was his habit, but this time words failed him. Lee had suffered an apparent stroke that left him without the ability to speak. Over the next few days Lee seemed to drift in and out of consciousness and paralysis. On October 12, 1870, Robert E. Lee died from the effects of pneumonia, a complication following the stroke.

On October 15th, a long funeral cortege was formed at the president's house and paraded through Lexington and back to the chapel. Although the chapel was overflowing, the service was short and simple and without eulogy. His coffin was placed in a crypt beneath the chapel where his body remains today. To honor Lee, the college was renamed Washington and Lee College.

Lee's application for citizenship, which had been made in 1865, had been misfiled by Secretary of State Seward. In 1975, a resolution to posthumously restore Lee's full rights of citizenship was passed in Congress and signed by President Ford.

The United States Sanitary Commission: The following excerpt is from an article authored by Jon Thompson, President of the Cleveland CWRT. It appeared in their March 2009 Newsletter, *The Charger*. "The Sanitary Commission was organized by civilians in June, 1861 to assist the army, specifically to provide care for sick and wounded soldiers and to protect their dependent families. The organization would attempt to do those things to improve life for soldiers that the government felt unable to do.

The Sanitary Commission became involved in aid that ranged from field ambulances, nursing, and hospital services to the care and protection of discharged soldiers. The Commission supplied more than one million night's lodgings during the war. It not only maintained convalescence camps offering soldiers special diets and attention, but also furnished paper and stamps, had letters written home for the men, and telegraphed relatives of the very sick. All this was financed by donations and sanitary fairs.

The first sanitary fair was held in Chicago in the fall of 1863. Lavish, popular, and profitable, the Chicago Fair set the tone for those that followed. The sanitary fairs spread east, with every larger city in the North and many smaller communities staging their own shows during 1864. In all, the sanitary fairs for which there are records raised approximately \$4.8 million dollars. More important, the fairs provided a public expression of unity and patriotism at a time when war weariness and disappointments on the battlefield weighed heavily on national morale."

Source: The Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War

Cincinnati Civil War Round Table March Quiz:

1. Which was the last Confederate state readmitted into the union? What year?

Ans: Georgia, 1870

2. Which battle began March 19, 1865?

Ans: Bentonville, NC

3. On which battlefield did General Robert E. Lee exclaim "My God has the army been dissolved?"

Ans: Sailor's Creek, VA.

4. Whose sobriquets include "Black Knight of the Confederacy", "White Knight of the Confederacy", or just plain "Knight of the Confederacy"?

Ans: Brig. General Turner A. Ashby

5. What year did Washington College change its name to Washington and Lee?

Bonus: What is Washington and Lee University's nickname? Examples: U. C. Bearcats, Xavier Musketeers, Washington and Lee_____?

Ans: 1870 and Generals



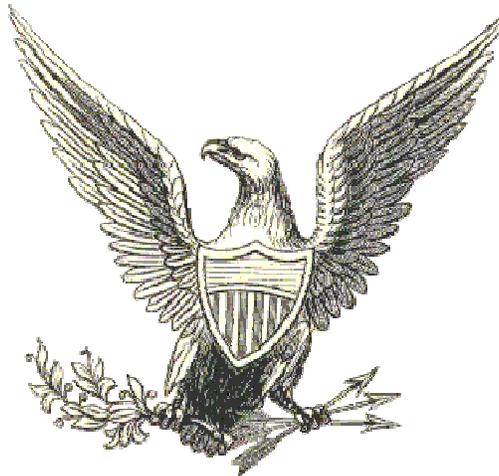
Newsletter Deadlines: To facilitate the printing and timely distribution of the monthly newsletter, information for it should be submitted to the editor no later than the following dates:

April 24, 2009

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

Future Presentations:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| May 21, 2009 | Harold Holzer, United States Lincoln Bicentennial Commission,
<i>How Lincoln Became President --- In Ohio</i> |
| September 17, 2009 | Brian Steel Wills, University of Virginia at Wise
<i>Nathan Bedford Forrest: Common Sense Soldier</i> |
| October 15, 2009 | John Fisher, University of Cincinnati, Clermont
<i>Combined Operations on the Texas Coast, 1863-1864</i> |
| November 19, 2009 | Charles P. Roland, University of Kentucky, <i>A Slave Owner Defends Slavery</i> |
| January 21, 2010 | Gary Q. Johnson, CCWRT, <i>USS Monitor</i> |
| February 18, 2010 | Michael Stevens, CCWRT <i>The Handsome Spaniard: Ambrosio Gonzales, Cuban Patriot and Confederate Officer</i> |
| March 18, 2010 | Lois J. Lambert, CCWRT, <i>Heroes of the Western Theater: 33rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry</i> |
| April 15, 2010 | John Fazio, Cleveland CWRT, <i>Francis and Arabella Barlow; John and Fanny Gordon: Love and War</i> |



We Who Study Must Also Strive To Save!

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 \$27. 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!