



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.cincinnatiwrt.org>

April, 2011 Issue

Meeting Date: April 21, 2011

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: Homemade lasagna served with tossed salad with a house dressing,
garlic bread and homemade tiramisu**

Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

Speaker: Harold Holzer, New York Metropolitan Museum

Topic: How Lincoln Became President – In Ohio

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to 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 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 13, 2011.**

About our April Speaker:

Widely acclaimed author and lecturer Harold Holzer will make his debut at the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table with a presentation about his favorite subject, Abraham Lincoln, whose 200th birthday the nation celebrated in 2009. A graduate of the City University of New York, Mr. Holzer began his career as a newspaper editor for the *Manhattan Tribune*, and later worked as a political campaign press secretary for New York Congresswoman Bella Abzug and Governor Mario Cuomo. Since then, Harold has authored, co-authored, or edited 33 books and 425 articles, mostly on the topic of our 16th President. Among Holzer's

books are *The Lincoln Image* (1984); *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: The Civil War in Art* (1993); *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates* (1993); *The Union Preserved* (with Daniel Lorello, 1999); *Lincoln Seen and Heard* (2000); *Abraham Lincoln, The Writer* (2000); *The Lincoln Forum: Rediscovering Abraham Lincoln* (co-edited with John Y. Simon, 2002); [Lincoln Revisited](#) (2007); [Lincoln President-Elect: Abraham Lincoln and the Great Secession Winter 1860-1861](#) (2008); and his most renowned work, [Lincoln At Cooper Union: The Speech That Made Abraham Lincoln President](#) (2004), which won the 2005 Lincoln Prize. His articles have been printed in many publications, including *American Heritage* magazine, *Civil War Times* magazine, *North&South* magazine, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times*, and *The Los Angeles Times*. Harold has



Harold Holzer

also appeared in television programs broadcast on C-SPAN, CNN, CBS, The History Channel, A&E, and Fox News, as well as *The Today Show*, *The Charlie Rose Show*, and *The Lou Dobbs Show*. Mr. Holzer currently serves as Senior Vice President for External Affairs at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. He also served as the co-chairman of the U.S. Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, for which position he was elected in 2001. In November 2008, President George W. Bush awarded Holzer the The National Humanities Medal to honor his distinguished career in historical studies. For more information, Harold has published a web site at www.haroldholzer.com.

In the summer of 1858, Abraham Lincoln appeared to have no chance at being considered a candidate, let alone a contender, for the presidency of the United States. His disappointing loss to Democrat Stephen Douglas for the U.S. Senate seat from Illinois seemed to have placed Lincoln in a political hole from which few politicians were ever known to escape. Yet Lincoln would not give up. Even though he had performed well in the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates, Lincoln would have a large mountain to climb in order to gain a position from which he could win the highest office in the nation. It would be Lincoln's unique personality, engaging speech, and strong appeal to the common man that would win over more people to his side than would be lost. And concerning the delicate but critical question of slavery, he would weave together a masterful message that would thwart many of his adversaries' attacks. Lincoln's 17-month odyssey, ending with his Republican Party nomination for President in May 1860, is considered one of the greatest political comebacks in U.S. history. Mr. Holzer will discuss how Ohio (and, particularly, Cincinnati, the seventh most populous city in the United States at the time) played a crucial role in Lincoln's comeback and his eventual election to the presidency in 1860.



President's Report

... Pat Homan

March has passed very quickly and on the 12th we start the actual 150 Anniversary of the Civil War. As a historian, I have often wondered what it would have been like to live through this. I suspect that many citizens were apprehensive of what the future would hold but also that many would have decided that it would not affect them, as it would end quickly. I am glad that I did not live then as we have enough issues today to keep us all busy/

The April meeting is when the slate of officers is announced for the next year. While the term of office is one year, most understand that we serve for two years then move on. I regret that Mike Rhein, our most able Secretary, has informed me that he cannot continue in that position due to a series of projects and issues he is working on. I am sorry to lose him, as he is a most able member of the officer's team. Officers holding all of the other positions have agreed to stand for re-election. I encourage nominations from the floor for any of the officer's position at the April meeting but especially for the position of Secretary. If any are interested in being considered or would want to volunteer for a position, I would appreciate if you would contact me immediately.

I also have to announce some Constitutional changes that should be made. I understand that each new president has the Constitution reviewed to insure we are following it or to see if changes need to be made. I asked our Trustees to conduct this review, and they did an excellent job. They discovered several areas that needed clarification and some that needed to be changed. These changes are noted elsewhere in the *Canister* and copies will be available at the April Meeting. The changes and the officer's slate for the 2011/2012 Campaign year will be voted on in May.

I am anticipating an excellent crowd at our April meeting. Please remember that I am handling the reservations FOR THIS MEETING ONLY. If you think you have a reservation but do not have a confirmation from me, you don't have a reservation so call or e-mail to check. Looking forward to seeing you in April.



Items of Interest:

Shiloh Field Trip Reservations Being Accepted: The spring field trip to the Shiloh Battlefield is Sat. Apr 30th, Sun. May 1st and Mon. May 2nd. The trip will cost \$100 per person and will include a two hour guided tour of Corinth, an eight hour guided tour of Shiloh, and whatever else we can sneak in. Cost will include transportation and tour fees. As we have done the past couple of years, we will be renting a 15 passenger van. Attendees will be responsible for reserving their own hotel room and meals. For hotel reservations, call the Hampton Inn Corinth at 1-662-286-5949 and tell the reservationist you are with CCWRT.

Reservations will accepted on a first come first basis as checks are received. Checks can be given to Dan Bauer at any of the April meeting or they can be mailed to Dan Bauer at the following address: 6581 Club Lane, West Chester, OH 45069. Checks should be made out to CCWRT. For more information, call Dan Bauer at 513-759-4495 or e-mail him at dbauer002@cinci.rr.com.

Preservation project for 2010-2011: Our project for the 2010-2011 campaign is to fund the cost of replacing and updating two interpretive signs at the Perryville, KY Battlefield. The signs describe the actions of Colonel Wm. H. Lytle's Brigade. One sign describes the brigade's stubborn defense of the hill above the Bottom House while the other sign describes the brigade's artillery duel at Loomis Heights. As many of know Lytle, perhaps the most well known Civil War soldier emanating from Cincinnati, was injured at Perryville, recovered, and then went onto tragically lose his life in the Battle of Chickamauga.

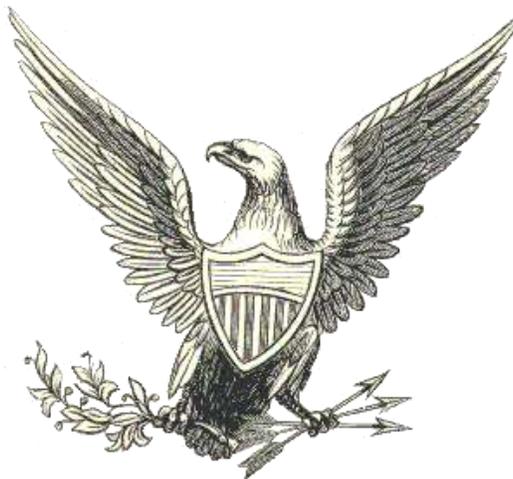
As has been the practice in the past, the Roundtable will match the first \$500 contributed by our members. Last year we had a very successful donation campaign, which benefited of the Museum of the Confederacy. We were able to more than double the number of fund donors who contributed to the previous year's campaign. This year we are setting a goal of increasing the number of donors by another 25 percent. We hope that you will share our enthusiasm in improving a battlefield close to our homes and a hero close to our hearts. Please give or mail your checks to Alan Berenson, Preservation Chair.

James A. Ramage Civil War Museum: The Ramage Museum is holding a benefit dinner on Wednesday April 6th and you are invited. Dubbed the "Blue & Gray Benefit Dinner", it will take place at the Twin Oaks Gold Club in Latonia, KY and will feature speaker Dr. James A. Ramage. Cost is \$40 per person. Please come out and support the Ramage Museum. Contact Kathleen Romero at 859-331-2499 or kromero@insightbb.com for details.

Changes to the Constitution: The April meeting will include a proposal to amend the CCWRT Constitution. These proposed changes will include, among other things:

- Circumstances in which duties are delegated to the Vice-President
- Secretary shall also serve as Club Historian
- Treasurer shall also maintain master membership lists
- Rules as to how dues are applied
- Description of the duties of the Preservation Chair

The changes will be presented in detail at the April meeting, but the vote will not take place until the May meeting.



March Presentation:

...submitted by Mike Rhein

Martin Stewart's presentation centered on the experiences of the 71st Ohio from its inception in February, 1862 in Camp Tod at the "original Miami County Fairgrounds" to its final service in San Antonio, Texas in November, 1865. The talk was based off the speaker's book, **Redemption: the 71st Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War** and also included a slide show. The history of the 71st Ohio mirrored many wartime units in that they experienced a substantial amount of mundane duty punctuated by a limited amount of sheer terror combat.

The regiment (about 800 men led by Colonel Rodney Mason and Lt. Col. Barton Kyle) was composed of recruits from Miami, Mercer, Auglaize, Montgomery, Hamilton and Clark Counties. According to Mr. Stewart, a native of Miami Co. and descendant of four Union soldiers, the 71st Ohio embarked for Cincinnati by train three days after their flag presentation at Camp Tod on February 15. From Cincinnati, the regiment embarked to Paducah, Kentucky in two steamboats in three days. "Some didn't get weapons until they arrived at Paducah," he said. The unit eventually arrived at Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing) Tennessee and camped near Hamburg-Purdy Road near Lick Creek, having become part of General David Stuart's Second Brigade, Gen. William T. Sherman's Fifth Division of the Army of the Tennessee.



Martin Stewart

Confederate Gen. Adam, "Stovepipe" Johnson's cavalry, a much smaller force. Col. Mason and 300 of the 71st surrendered and were sent to Camp Chase to be exchanged. Mr. Stewart said Col. Mason was cashiered out of the service and that the Camp Chase contingent "returned to Tennessee from Camp Chase, not with welcome arms." Uneventful expeditions and garrison duty would mark the 71st Ohio's Civil War journey until ordered to report to Sherman's Army of the Tennessee's Fourth Corps in August, 1864, marching "to Lovejoy Station," seeing action there.

The 71st would quickly be initiated into the "sheer terror" aspect of what would be called the Battle of Shiloh (April 6-7, 1862). Situated on the Union left flank, it and the rest of the Second Brigade, along with many other units along the entire front line, was hit hard by Gen. Albert S. Johnston's Confederate Army's early morning surprise attack. The Buckeyes were forced back three times, with Col. Mason unaccounted for in the confusion in rough, wooded country and Lt. Col. Kyle killed at the third position. Mr. Stewart described "men in clusters of 10 to 15 were falling back" in the woods. By the end of that day, General U. S. Grant's army backed up towards Pittsburg Landing, the 71st would lose two men to battle deaths, along with 15 men missing.

Where the "Redemption" part of the book's title comes to play here at Shiloh, is that the 71st Ohio, according to the speaker, was accused of fleeing "from the fight" based on "second or third-hand reports" by "northern newspapers. They could not shake off this stigma until they somehow redeem themselves in battle. The "boredom" part for the 71st would involve subsequent guard duty at Ft. Donelson and Clarksville, Tennessee for several months in 1862 until the fateful day of August 18.

Stationed at Clarksville," an important area of transport," the 71st, as part of a 2500-man garrison, was attacked by

The 71st would be part of the race to Nashville in Gen. John Schofield's army, "guarding wagons on the other side of the Harpeth River" at the Battle of Franklin, Tenn. It was at Nashville where the 71st would finally find redemption in Dec. 15-16, 1864. The "Hard Luck Regiment," as part of Union Gen. George Thomas's assault on Confederate Gen. John B. Hood's lines Dec. 15, charged up Montgomery Hill where it lost 49 in killed and wounded and would permanently lose 19 more the next day in the attack on Overton Hill and "numerous wounded," Mr. Stewart added. As part of the successful breakthrough of Hood's line, the 71st would experience its "best day for the redemption of the regiment," he said.

After their two days of glory at Nashville, they would go back to uneventful duty after "winter quarters at Huntsville, Alabama", protecting railroads in east Tennessee until the end of the war in April, 1865. As part of the Fourth Corps, they would venture forth to Indianola, Texas under Union Gen. Phil Sheridan, finally by Nov. 30, 1865 being "mustered out." The 71st, having experienced moments of "sheer terror" and much "boredom" in their four years together, would go home redeemed, wiping off the stains of Shiloh and Clarksville.



Future Presentations:

May 19, 2011	Thomas Cartwright, Lotz House Civil War Museum <i>Humor in the Civil War</i>
June 16, 2011	Pat Homan, CCWRT <i>Paved with Good Intentions: The Road to War</i>
September 15, 2011	David Mowery, CCWRT and OCWTC <i>America's Longest Cavalry Ride: Morgan's 1863 Raid Around Cincinnati</i>
October 20, 2011	Frank J. Williams, Providence, RI <i>Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief: The First Year of the War</i>
November 17, 2011	Peter Cozzens, Silver Springs, MD <i>Topic TBD</i>
January 19, 2012	Gary Q. Johnson, CCWRT <i>Achieving the Anaconda Plan</i>
February 16, 2012	Jill Holt, CCWRT <i>Women in the Civil War</i>
March 15, 2012	TBD
April 19, 2012	TBD
May 17, 2012	Lesley J. Gordon, University of Akron Topic TBD

We Who Study Must Also Strive to Save!

March Quiz:

1. What is a gabion?
2. List the 11 confederate states in the order they succeeded from the union.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 7. _____
 8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____
 11. _____
3. On December 22, 1861 Mary Chestnut quoted in her diary Hamilton Boykin's account of a hunting trip that he, Wade Hampton and others made before the war. "_____ was a capital shot, better maybe than Wade and I but the bird was too high or too low, the dogs too far or too near. Things never exactly suited him and he did not get a shot. He was too hard to please, too fussy. Wade and I came home with a heavy bag. We shot right and left, happy go lucky... _____ would not risk his reputation as a capital shot and got nothing... He is brave as Caesar, but he is never going to fight a battle. You'll see." While this sounds as though they were discussing George McClellan, he is not the correct answer. Fill in the blank with the correct southern general.
4. What appropriately named battle was fought March 17, 1863?
5. In the fall of 1861 the Secretary of War authorized the formation of the Irish Brigade. Six regiments would serve in the Irish Brigade before it was disbanded in the summer of 1864. Name 4 of them.



Answers

1. A woven cylindrical basket filled with earth and used as a military defense.
2. SC, MS, FL, AL, GA, LA, TX, VA, AR, NC, TN
3. Joe Johnston
4. Kelly's Ford
5. 63rd NY, 69th NY, 88th NY, 29th Mass, 28th Mass, 116th PA

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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Secretary: Mike Rhein	513-984-3227 (h)	arhein@fuse.net
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Newsletter Editor: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h)	dbauer002@cinci.rr.com
Membership & Publicity: Mike Rogers	859- 907-3096 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
Trustee: Dan Reigle (2009-2011)	513-777-9255 (h)	DReigle@cinci.rr.com
Trustee: Bob Limoseth (2010-2012)	513-777-2160 (h)	rlimo@fuse.net

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Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!