
THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT PO Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnati-cwrt.org>
MAY, 2005 Issue

MEETING INFORMATION FOR May, 2005

Meeting Date: May 19th, 2005

Meeting Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

Time: (6:00) Refreshments

(6:45) Dinner

Speaker: Dr. Brooks Simpson, Arizona State

Topic: Enemies to the Rear: Ulysses S. Grant, 1861-1863



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

Dr. Brooks D. Simpson: "Enemies to the Rear: Ulysses S. Grant, 1861-1863"

Brooks Simpson, Professor of History at Arizona State University, earned his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Simpson's primary area of expertise is nineteenth century American political and military history, especially the Civil War and Reconstruction era, and the American presidency. His publications include studies of Ulysses S. Grant, Henry Adams, and Reconstruction policy and politics, as well as several documentary editions and shorter works. He serves as an advisory editor for Harlan Davidson, Inc., as coeditor (with Anne Bailey) of the University of Nebraska Press's Great Campaigns of the Civil War series, and as coeditor (with Mark Grimsley and Steven Woodworth) of the University of Nebraska Press's Civil War battlefield guide series. Dr. Simpson teaches research and reading seminars at both the graduate and undergraduate level as well as courses in nineteenth century American history. His many publications include: *Let Us Have Peace: Ulysses S. Grant and the Politics of War and Reconstruction, 1861-1868* (1991), *Union and Emancipation: Essays on Race and Politics in the Civil War Era* (1997); *Sherman's Civil War: Selected Correspondence of William T. Sherman, 1860-1865* (1999), and *The Reconstruction Presidents* (1998). Many members will remember Brooks' previous visit to the CCWRT in October, 1998, when he spoke on "Preserving the Fruits of Victory: U.S. Grant and Reconstruction". We are very pleased to welcome Brooks back.

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

The May 19th meeting will be your final opportunity to make your contribution to the Johnson's Island Preservation Project. Contributions can be made at the check-in desk at the meeting, or

by mailing your gift to Treasurer Bob Limoseth prior to the meeting at Cincinnati CWRT, P. O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, OH 45262. Checks should be made out to the "Cincinnati CWRT" and the memo line should indicate "Johnson's Island Preservation Project." A receipt will be provided as all contributions are tax deductible under our status as a 501 C3 organization.

CCWRT's Annual Business Meeting

The May 19th meeting will include our annual business meeting, including election of 2005-2006 Officers. The Nominating Committee has proposed the following candidates: President: Dan Reigle; Vice-president: John Linnenberg; Treasurer: Bob Limoseth; Secretary: Albert Hallenberg; *Canister* Editor: Pattie Waldbillig; Program Chair: Dave Smith (David Mowery to prepare to take over in 2006-2007); Membership & Publicity: Jack Simon; Trustee (2- yrs): Mike Rhein; (Dr. Paul Busam's term as Trustee will continue for his second year.) Other nominations from the floor may be made at the meeting for any position.

In addition the following proposed amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table will be considered:

Amend Article VII, Classification of Members, by adding a new section as follows: "Sustaining Members: Sustaining Members shall be Members who have made financial contributions of \$25 or more in addition to their annual dues in any fiscal year. The responsibilities and privileges of Sustaining Members shall be the same as Regular Members. 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."

Rationale: to encourage members to make an additional contribution, on an entirely voluntary basis, to support CCWRT programs such as Preservation. This type of membership category is used broadly by historical and genealogical societies. Because CCWRT is a 501(c)(3) organization, these contributions would be tax-deductible.

Quiz---April, 2005

1. Name the Jesuit-educated Confederate General who commanded a brigade at Shiloh, Perryville, Stone's River, and Chickamauga. He resigned in October, 1863, to return to his Alabama law practice. He was best known by his initials.
2. Garland H. White, a slave owned by Georgia Senator Robert Toombs, escaped and went to Canada for education. When he was commissioned into a specific role in the 28th USCI, he became one of only 14 African-Americans out of the 133 total officers holding this position in the African-American regiments in the U.S. Army. What was the role?
3. On this date (April 21) in 1861, just as the war began, the USS *Saratoga* captured a ship, the *Nightingale*, filled with cargo which had been banned by U.S. law since 1807. What was the cargo?
4. In 1832 Lyman Beecher arrived in Cincinnati to become president and professor in an educational institution that would have a significant impact on the debate over slavery and abolition. His daughter, Harriet, later wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*; another daughter, Catherine, was an educator in Cincinnati, and anti-slavery writer; sons, Edward, Charles, Thomas, and Henry were all ministers involved in the anti-slavery movement. What was the name of the educational institution that sat near the intersection of Gilbert Avenue and the modern M. L. King Jr. Drive?
5. Eight men who have served in the U.S. Senate have won the Congressional Medal of Honor, including the first to earn the award, Adelbert Ames (USMA Class of 1861 and later Colonel of the 20th Maine). Rising to major general during the war, Ames was awarded the Medal on 29 March 1899. For which battle was Ames awarded the Medal of Honor; and which state did he serve in the Senate?
6. Battlefield terrain features are sometimes renamed to commemorate an event or person associated with that feature. The Rohrback Bridge at Antietam, for example, is better known to us as Burnside's Bridge. By what name is the Blocker Knoll at Gettysburg now known?

April Speaker: Albert Hallenberg on “Valor beyond Duty: Ohio African-American Troops in the Civil War”

In light of the inability of our scheduled speaker, Dr. George Rable, to travel to Cincinnati, we were very grateful that Albert Hallenberg was willing and available to step in. A CCWRT member and reference librarian in History & Genealogy at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Albert presented an overview on the 5000 African-Americans from Ohio who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Early efforts by African-Americans to participate in the military effort were rejected by authorities, including the application for enlistment of Cincinnati's "Attucks Blues" home guard unit, named for one of the victims of the 1770 Boston Massacre, Crispus Attucks. However, the success of Cincinnati's "Black Brigade" helped to change that policy. A voluntary labor brigade of approximately 700 African-American men, the group helped build the ring of fortifications in northern Kentucky during the 1862 Confederate threat to Cincinnati. The brigade's accomplishments were made even more significant by the fact that the first attempts to enlist Black labor for the work was forcible; as three hundred men were arbitrarily taken into police custody to be "impressed" as laborers at the order of Cincinnati city officials. Judge William Dickson, appointed to oversee the brigade's work, refused to take advantage of this approach and released the 300 prisoners, telling them that their services were needed, but only on a voluntary basis. On the following morning, 700 African-American volunteers showed up to go to work, vindicating Judge Dickson's action. This labor organization was the first northern Black organization established for military purposes during the war, and helped create the foundation for Congressional authorization of enlistment of Black soldiers three months later. Ohioans went to Boston to enlist in the fabled 54th Massachusetts Infantry, who would further build the case for participation of Black troops with their courageous assault on Fort Wagner (SC) the following July. Two units primarily made up of Ohioans, the 5th US Colored Troops and the 27th USCT, were participants in the final major battles of the war at Petersburg and Appomattox. Albert noted the major contributions to recruiting of Black troops by John Langston, a Cincinnati who became the state's first Black office-holder, and O.S.B. Wall, a businessman from Oberlin. Attendees at Albert's lecture also contributed several interesting points, including the fact that the Union Baptist Church Cemetery in Price Hill is the burial location of many African-American Civil War veterans, including Medal of Honor winner, Sgt. Powhatan Beatty, who also still has descendants living here. Along with his excellent presentation, Albert provided attendees with a timeline of key events in the development of African-American participation in the war, and a bibliography of primary references on the subject. **Our thanks to Albert both for substituting on short notice and for an excellent presentation!**

Book Review By Thomas L. Breiner

American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies by Michael W. Kauffman, Random House, New York, NY, 2004, 508 pages, Hard cover \$29.95.

American Brutus by Michael Kauffman is a wonderful book that is well-researched, well-written, and very readable work. By far, the best work that I have read on the subject. The author has created a fascinating manuscript that place to rest many of the old myths and folklore concerning the Lincoln murder conspiracies that become accepted as fact due to the constant repeating. Mr. Kauffman has finally taken all the known information and documents to form a realistic and highly plausible re-evaluation of the events associated with the assassination of

President Lincoln.

The author provides his reader with a look into the mind of John Wilkes Booth to understand how he created a conspiracy within a conspiracy to bind his associates together and incriminate many others to cover his activities prior to his final act of desperation. The entire process of creating the abduction plot is laid open for re-examination in order to better understand Booth's motivations that eventually led to his murder plot.

In his coverage of the conspirator's trial, Kauffman explains the differences in the rules of evidence and the laws for prosecutions in 1865 from today - how the government could not use a co-defendant to testify against the other conspirators; therefore, several potential accomplices were allowed to go free in order to be used as witnesses. Unlike today, there was no negotiating a reduced sentence to turn state's evidence. The government either prosecuted you or used you as a witness. It was all or nothing.

Mr. Kauffman also provides a good look into the lives of the people involved. He discusses the tragedy that followed the marriage of Major Henry Rathbone and Clara Harris, how Ned Spangler was incriminated and convicted based on the testimony of a confused stage hand at the Ford Theater. The author exonerates Secretary of War Edwin Stanton from the myth that he helped Booth escape from Washington by leaving open one bridge and that he disabled the telegraph network. He also added to the irony of the situation by revealing that a few days prior to the assassination John Wilkes Booth had lain in the same bed in which President Lincoln died.

American Brutus is definitely a must read for anyone interested in the Lincoln assassination conspiracy. It is well-researched, extremely entertaining and highly provocative account of the assassination. The author has both educated and fascinated. While there are no headline grabbing theories, what the author does is place the story in the proper context and put to rest the extraordinary myths that have become accepted as fact. For this we should be forever grateful.

Central Kentucky Civil War Heritage Trail wins award

PERRYVILLE, Ky. – The July 2004 Central Kentucky Civil War Heritage Trail, a weeklong tourism event involving six Kentucky Civil War sites, recently won an Award of Merit (Educational Program for Community category) from the Historical Confederation of Kentucky.

“This is a great honor for all of the participating sites,” said Stuart Sanders, director of the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association and chairman of the Heritage Trail planning committee. “Many partners, including state agencies and local tourism offices, were involved with this event, and we're pleased that everyone has been recognized for their dedication and hard work.”

Sanders and Tom Fugate, a program administrator for the Kentucky Heritage Council, the state historic preservation office and partner in the Civil War Heritage Trail, accepted the award at a recent history awards banquet in Frankfort.

Last year's Central Kentucky Civil War Heritage Trail brought hundreds of visitors from more than 15 states into Kentucky. The event – thought to be the only one of its kind in the nation – represented the first time that these sites have worked together to organize a major, statewide Civil War event.

“Last year’s tour was such a success that we’ve decided to make it an annual event,” Fugate said. “For this summer’s event July 18-24, we have expanded the number of sites involved to 10, added a day and enhanced the programs that will be available to visitors.”

Each day during that week, one or two sites will showcase their programs to visitors. Participating sites include Perryville, Mill Springs, Camp Wildcat, Richmond, Winchester, Camp Nelson, Frankfort, New Haven, Tebbs Bend and Munfordville. Events include speakers, living history demonstrations, battlefield tours, archaeological digs and more.

“This event is a great way for visitors to experience much of Kentucky’s rich Civil War heritage during one week,” Sanders said.

For further information, see the event website at www.kycivilwar.org or call the Richmond Tourism Commission at 1-800-866-3705.

website: www.perryville.net

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:

September newsletter, August 10th, 2005

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

Quiz answers:

1. Sterling Alexander Martin (S.A.M.) Wood. (Faust, *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the CW*, pp. 841.)
2. He was a chaplain with the rank of Captain in the 28th U.S. Colored Infantry, veterans of the Crater at Petersburg. Prior to obtaining his commission, he enlisted as a private in the unit and served in that capacity for ten months, in addition to doing “volunteer” work as a chaplain. (Miller, “Garland H. White, Black Army Chaplain”, in *Civil War History*, September 1997, pp. 201-218.)
3. 961 slaves, an example of the illegal slave trade which had increased during the 1850’s. (McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, p. 102-103; Long, *The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac, 1861-1865*, p.64; Wagner, Gallagher, and Finkelman, *The Library of Congress Civil War Desk Reference*, pp. 6-7, 94.)
4. Lane Theological Seminary. Beecher remained at the school until 1851. (*The WPA Guide to Cincinnati*, pp. 28-35, 47-48; Faust, *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the CW*, pp. 127-128.)
5. Ames was awarded the Medal of Honor for his service at First Manassas on 21 July 1861. He served as provisional governor of Mississippi during Reconstruction, and was elected to the Senate in 1870, serving four years. After being elected Governor of Mississippi in 1874, he was forced to resign when the Democratic Party regained control of Mississippi in 1875. He lived the rest of his life in Massachusetts, until his death in 1933 as the last surviving full-rank general on either side. (Warner, *Generals in Blue*, 5-6; “Senators Who Received the Congressional Medal of Honor”, Senate Historical Office, from *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-1989*.)
6. Barlow’s Knoll, after BG Francis C. Barlow, a division commander in XI Corps, whose unit fought the Confederate II Corps’ advance to Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. (Greene, “From Chancellorsville to Cemetery Hill”, in Gallagher, *The First Day at Gettysburg*, pp. 77, 88.)



FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

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

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

ABOUT THE CINCINNATI CWRT

Membership in the Cincinnati CWRT is open to anyone with an active interest in the American Civil War. Annual dues (prorated throughout the year to new members) are \$25, and help cover operating costs

including this newsletter, as well as speaker expenses. If you are joining for the first time, there is a one-time initiation fee of \$20.

Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Quality Hotel and Suites, 4747 Montgomery Road, Norwood, Ohio (**telephone 513-351-6000**). If traveling Interstate 75, exit at Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and travel east to the Montgomery Road exit. 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 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.

CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:

President: Dan Reigle, (h) 513-777-9255 DReigle@cinci.rr.com

Vice President: John W. Linnenberg, (h) 513-922-3999 jw.linnenberg@gte.net
(cell) 607-4002 (has voice mail)

Treasurer: Bob Limoseth, (h) 513-777-2160 rlimo@fuse.net

Secretary: Albert Hallenberg, (h) 859-441-0385 Alberthallenberg@zoomtown.com
(w) 369-6909 albert.hallenberg@cincinnati.library.org

Program Chair: Dave Smith, (h) 859 331-5558 Dmsmith001@aol.com(w) dmsmith@amedcts.com

Newsletter Editor: Patricia Waldbillig, (h) 513-271-5766 (w) 513-745-3531 waldbill@xavier.edu

Membership & Publicity Chair: Jack Simon, (h) 513-574-0017 JackPSimon@aol.com

Trustee (2004-2005): Dawn Mowery, (h) 513-774-9544 dmowery11@fuse.net

Trustee (2004-2006): Dr. Paul Busam, (h) 513-931-1516

Committees:

Preservation Projects: David Mowery, (h) 513-774-9544 dmowery11@fuse.net

Webmaster: Dave Smith, (h) 859 331-5558 Dmsmith001@aol.com (w) dmsmith@amedcts.com

Important Message:

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

Effective immediately we have a new mailing address.

Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

P. O. Box 621082

Cincinnati, OH 45262

Please change your records to reflect this change.