



CINCINNATI  
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
SERVING OHIO, KENTUCKY AND INDIANA SINCE 1956



# THE CANISTER

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Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

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Cincinnati CWRT    PO Box 621082    Cincinnati, Ohio 45262    <http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org>  
May, 2006 Issue

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## MEETING INFORMATION FOR MAY 18, 2006

Meeting Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

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

(6:45) Dinner: - Grilled turkey cutlet

(7:45): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Dr. Chris Phillips, University of Cincinnati

Topic: Gen. Nathaniel Lyon

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



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nathaniel\\_Lyon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nathaniel_Lyon)

Dr. Christopher Phillips returns to the CCWRT podium for a second time, having spoken to us in May 2004 on the "Ohio Valley in the Civil War." That topic is part of his current research, to be published under the tentative title of *South of North: The Civil War on the Middle Border and the Creation of American Regionalism*. April's topic, however, will be the Union General Nathaniel Lyon, part of Dr. Phillips' earlier research on the military and political events in the border slave state of Missouri. Three books have resulted from his research on Missouri, including *Damned Yankee: The Life of General Nathaniel Lyon* (1990); *Missouri's Confederate: Claiborne Fox Jackson and the Creation of Southern Identity in the Border West* (2000); and *The Union on Trial: The Political Journals of Judge William Barclay Napton, 1829-1883* (2005).

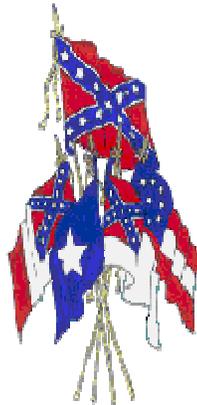
Commonly credited with “saving Missouri for the Union” (Ezra Warner) and with a “flaming drive and aggressive spirit” (Bruce Catton), Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon’s death at Wilson’s Creek MO on 10 August 1861 made him an early war hero and martyr for the Union cause, the first general officer to die in the war. However, during his twenty years of service before the Civil War in the “old Army” after his 1841 graduation from the U.S. Military Academy, he had also developed a reputation as the “most tyrannical officer in the Army.” His penchant for cruel disciplinary punishments, combined with a “violent, hair-trigger temper and a dogmatic personality,” defined a tempestuous military career. His strong support of the Union in the secession crisis, his abolitionist political beliefs, his drive and energy, and his friendship with Congressman Frank Blair took Lyon to the position of commander of the brigade made up of the first four regiments of Missouri volunteers, just as the state was teetering precariously between loyalty and secession. Bringing no diplomatic skills to a complex political situation, Lyon’s career would remain tempestuous during the remaining four months of his life. We look forward to Chris Phillips’ discussion on whether General Lyon saved Missouri for the Union, or caused Missouri to descend into a more destructive and brutal war experience than necessary.

### **Welcome New Members**

The Round Table welcomed Don Schibi into membership at the April meeting

### **Camp Dennison Tour**

Make plans now to attend the CCWRT special tour of Camp Dennison on Saturday, May 13th. The group will meet in the rear parking lot of the School House Restaurant, 8031 Glendale-Milford Road (Route 126, between Milford and Miamiville) at 9:45 AM in order to consolidate automobiles and leave on the tour at 10 AM. You will not want to miss out on all of the information about the camp and John Hunt Morgan's raid in this area. If there are any questions, please call Jack Simon at 513-574-0017.



### **April Presentation, Summarized by Albert Hallenberg**

This month, the Round Table offered its members a triple headliner act. Dr. James Ramage, Regents Professor of History at Northern Kentucky University, Jeannine Kreinbrink, archaeologist, and Larry Klein, City Manager for Fort Wright, Kentucky talked about the Civil War archaeological site of Battery Hooper and the development of the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum located on the site and, of course, named after the speaker.

Our three speakers unfolded a story many residents in the local area are probably not aware of. In September of 1862, Cincinnati was threatened by a Confederate invasion. The hilly area of Northern Kentucky was a natural buffer zone. Dr. Ramage, who has devoted much time in studying the Civil War defense area of Cincinnati, spoke of how, through the help of many volunteer citizens, whose numbers included the famous Black Brigade, a massive defense fortification line was constructed in a remarkably short time, stretching nearly 10 miles from the city of Ludlow in the west to what is now known as Fort Thomas to the east. This defensive structure was successful in thwarting a possible Confederate attack led by Henry Heth, whose force was called back by his commander, Kirby Smith. It was, according to Dr. Ramage, “Homeland Security,” circa 1862. One battery in Fort

Wright was named after William Hooper, a successful Cincinnati businessman, who made a significant financial contribution in supporting the 1862 defense.

Archaeologist Jeannine Kreinbrink, who has researched the Cincinnati defensive line since 1981 and is currently the President of the Board for the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, then took the podium, describing how she and a group of Northern Kentucky University students, as well as 140 public volunteers, began excavating the Battery Hooper site, which had been covered in landfill. The Behringer-Crawford Museum and the Central Ohio Valley Archaeology Society (COVAS) (whose members also attended our meeting) also provided assistance. Using Charles Whittlesey's 1861 battery map, aerial photography and a remote sensing device, Ms. Kreinbrink and her team were able to pinpoint the site's exact location. Ms. Kreinbrink showed photos of the excavation, including the stone foundation and walls, brick cistern and the drain system protecting the powder magazine.

Ms. Kreinbrink hopes to arrange to have a comprehensive metal detector study conducted on the site in the hope of discovering new artifacts. Her PowerPoint presentation included great photographs of the excavation process. Several years ago, the Round Table helped to fund Ms. Kreinbrink's research at the National Archives on the archaeology of the Cincinnati defense network, and it was fulfilling for the Round Table members to see the tremendous progress she has made.

Larry Klein spoke about the fortunate process of how the Storer house (which became the museum) came into Fort Wright's hands. He also talked about exciting plans to enhance the park area surrounding the museum and archaeological site, including the construction of an amphitheatre. But Mr. Klein emphasized the James A. Ramage Museum would always be the centerpiece of the city's historical heritage and a cultural focal point for residents of the community, as well as a destination point for visitors outside the area.

For more information on the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum (directions, hours, etc.) and the Battery Hooper archaeological site, visit the Fort Wright Website at <http://www.fortwright.com/index.asp?page=museum>.

Before the speakers began their presentations, the Round Table's Preservation Chair, David Mowery presented them with a check representing the Round Table's 2005/2006 Preservation Project. The money will go toward the purchase and installation of two permanent interpretative markers at the Battery Hooper site, one marker describing the design and construction of the Battery, and the other pointing out from its vantage point the location of other nearby batteries.

Dr. Ramage, Ms. Kreinbrink and Mr. Klein showed how Battery Hooper could become a historic microcosm representing an important memory of when Cincinnati was defended from a hostile attack. Thanks to the formation of the James A. Ramage Museum, Dr. Kreinbrink's tireless archeological work, and Mr. Klein's responsible government management, Battery Hooper will serve as a memory link to let future generations appreciate how local units came together for a common cause.



### **Preservation News by David Mowery, Preservation Chairman:**

#### *Preservation Project 2005-2006 Update: Check Presented for Battery Hooper Signs*

At the April 2006 meeting, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table presented a check for \$1,400.00 to the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum Board to be used toward the purchase and maintenance of interpretive markers at the

Battery Hooper archaeological site in Fort Wright, Kentucky. CCWRT Preservation Chairman David Mowery presented the check to three Battery Hooper representatives: Jeannine Kreinbrink, President of the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum Board, Dr. James Ramage, Regents Professor of History at Northern Kentucky University, and Larry Klein, Administrative Officer of the City of Fort Wright. The recipients were very excited and grateful for the donation, and they later showed the audience a blueprint of the type of signs (24 inches by 36 inches) that will be installed at the site. For decades to come, these markers will present the history of Battery Hooper to the thousands of visitors who will visit the park. For this reason, the CCWRT has made a lasting contribution to the Civil War community.

We would like to thank the following individuals for contributing to the Battery Hooper project: Dan Bauer, Dr. Paul Busam, Erick Bush, Albert Hallenberg, Janet Hiser, Skip Jackson, Dan Kimble, Bruce Kirchner, Bob Limoseth, George and Sally McIlveen, Bob McLaurin, David and Dawn Mowery, Roger Parry, Stan Porter, Dan Reigle, Vic Sandfoss, Jack Simon, and Jeff Strottman. Thanks again for making our 2005-2006 Preservation Project a big success!

### **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.



### **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](mailto:Hamorndtbl@aol.com) or via snail-mail at: L. Gebing, 2536 Chapel Road, Okeana, Ohio 45053.

### **Proposed Officers Slate for 2006-2007 Campaign**

Pres: John Linnenberg

VP: Bob Limoseth

Treasurer: Jim Stewart

Secretary: Albert Hallenberg

Program: David Mowery

Membership & Publicity: Jack Simon

Newsletter Editor: Pattie Waldbillig

Trustee (2-year term): Dan Reigle

(Mike Rhein will serve the second year of his term as the other at-large Trustee).

## **Quiz—April, 2006**

1. On April 20, President Lincoln issued an announcement that, based on Congressional approval, the 35<sup>th</sup> state would be admitted to the United States on June 20 of that year. What was the year and state?
2. Also on April 20, a Federal Navy yard was evacuated and partially destroyed, a decision by its Commandant Charles S. McCauley. He was later criticized sharply for these decisions. What was the location of this facility, and in what year did this occur?
3. On the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first day of the Battle of Shiloh, a writer whose book on Shiloh was being published that day and an author-friend spent the day walking the battlefield. Who were they?
4. According to statistics compiled by William F. Fox in *Regimental Losses in the Civil War* in 1889, Gettysburg had the highest total losses of any battle in the war (23,001 Union, 28,000 Confederate, 51,000 overall: killed, wounded, missing). The second most costly battle, which occurred in the western theater, had losses of 16,179 Union and 18,454 Confederate, 34,633 overall. Which battle was this?
5. What battle made Rienzi famous as “A steed as black as the steeds of night” in a poem, as part of a statue in Washington D.C., and as a taxidermic display in the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.

For extra credit: Identify the location of the first reading of the poem.

6. Name the career engineer officer who also commanded a Union infantry division and corps during 1864-1865, and participated in the battle in Question #5. After the war, he rose to Chief Engineer of the Army, and managed completion of the Washington Monument, among many other projects.

### **Book Review by Dan Reigle:**

*Affectionately Yours: The Civil War Home-Front Letters of the Ovid Butler Family.* Barbara Butler Davis, editor. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society Press, 2004. 211 pages.

As Alan Nolan states in his Forward, “Barbara Davis has presented us with an unusual book. The typical Civil War soldier’s letter book is a collection of letters *from* the soldier in the field *to* his family back at home. This book is composed of a family’s letters *to* the soldier.” Sixty-three such letters provide a unique perspective about the concerns, activities, relationships, and life of an Indiana family during the three-year absence of their 18-year-old son. The primary figures are Ovid Butler, his wife Elizabeth Anne, and their son, Scot. The book’s editor is a great-granddaughter of Scot, and will be our November speaker at CCWRT.

Ovid Butler, an early immigrant to Indiana from New York, became a successful lawyer in Indianapolis. He was active politically and in the Stone-Campbellite religious movement. He was an important promoter of educational development in Indiana, providing the political, legal, and financial support to found the school now known as Butler University. A widower with three children, he married a widow and Kentucky native, (Elizabeth) Anne McOuat, Scot being the second of their seven children. Scot, born in 1844, was rejected by several recruiters due to his slight build and youthful appearance, but finally succeeded in enlisting in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Indiana Infantry with his father’s consent in January 1862. The regimental commander, Col. John Coburn, Ovid’s longtime friend and fellow antislavery activist, assigned Scot to the newly-forming Signal Corps, from which Scot served Thomas’ and Sherman’s commands. Scot survived the war to become a classics scholar, serving Butler University as professor, twice President, and trustee from 1875 until his death in 1931.

The subjects in these fascinating letters range from updates on the activities and locations of the Butlers’ many family members and friends, including several in military service, to discussions of the politics of anti-war

Democrats, tensions among relatives over political differences, the election politics of 1864, and the family's long-distance farm in Illinois. Ovid and Anne are constantly asking Scot to write more often, and to be more specific about his health and conditions. These letters offer insight into their many efforts to get letters and packages delivered to the field, and into the elaborate informal communications networks used to get information about people and events. In one letter, Anne notes the contents of a box that she has just shipped to Scot, including "a new French novel, *Les Miserables*, a work which I have not read but have heard very highly spoken of." As the war goes on, there are expressions of parental concern that Scot not reenlist beyond his three year term. The Butler's son-in-law, Capt. Marion Anderson of the 51<sup>st</sup> Indiana, was severely wounded at Nashville in December 1864, and the letters describe how the family arranged for friends in Nashville to care for Capt. Anderson in their home until family members could get there to bring him home when he could travel; Capt. Anderson won the Medal of Honor for his efforts that day. There are discussions of soldiers being able to return home to vote in 1864, since Indiana was not a state that had provided for soldiers' absentee voting.

Barbara Davis has gone well beyond the basic tasks of transcribing and editing the letters. She has provided extensive footnotes to identify people, locations, and events mentioned in the texts; an excellent introduction to the letters and to the family; an essay on "Indiana Supports the War Effort" describing the political and social dynamics of the state in the war; a collection of photographs of many of the people involved in the book; a description of the family's post-war life; brief histories of Ovid's and Anne's families; a name-place glossary that is quite helpful for reference while reading the letters; several family tree charts that help to keep the relationships in mind among the many family members; and an excellent index. In short, the editor's valuable efforts have made the letters far more understandable and insightful.

According to the editor, "Scot rarely wrote or spoke publicly about himself." However, he did leave an articulate statement of the effect of the war on its veterans in an article published only after his death: "That was many years ago. The past dies? Ah, but its spirit lives and bears one silent company evermore."

I encourage CCWRT members and friends to read *Affectionately Yours* prior to Barbara's visit to our November meeting. I believe that you will find that it adds a different perspective and additional depth to your understanding of the war and its effect on our ancestors, both in military service and at home.

#### **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:

To be announced

**Information may be emailed to [waldbill@xavier.edu](mailto:waldbill@xavier.edu)**

#### **Quiz answers:**

1. West Virginia, 1863. (Long, *CW Day by Day*, p. 340; Foner & Garraty, *The Reader's Companion to American History*, p. 1025.)
2. 1861, the Gosport Navy Yard in Norfolk, VA. Loss of the yard hampered the Federal coastal operations and gave the Confederacy an important base. (Long, *CW Day by Day*, p.63.)
3. Shelby Foote and William Faulkner. (Chapman, *Shelby Foote: A Writer's Life*, 147).
4. Chickamauga. (Wagner, et al, *Library of Congress Civil War Desk Reference*, pp. 330-331, based on Fox's statistics.)
5. Cedar Creek VA, 19 October 1864, with the poem "Sheridan's Ride" by Thomas Buchanan Read; first reading on 31 Oct 1864, the same day on which it was written, in Pike's Opera House, Cincinnati. (Lewis, *The Guns of Cedar Creek*; Findsen, "Poet penned 'Sheridan's Ride' on run", *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 1 June 1997.)

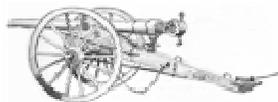
6. Horatio G. Wright. As commander of the Department of the Ohio in 1862-1863 with headquarters in Cincinnati, he was responsible for construction of the fortifications in northern Kentucky. The City of Fort Wright KY is named for him. (Warner, *Generals in Blue*, pp. 575-576; historical marker at the Fort Wright city administration building.)



## FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

### 2005-2006 Programs

September 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2006	A. Wilson Greene, Pamplin Park Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War
October 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., How the Civil War Still Lives
November 16 <sup>th</sup> 2006	Barbara Davis, Chicago, Civil War Home-Front Letters of the Ovid Butler Family
January 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Dr. John Cimprich, Thomas More College, Fort Pillow
February 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Bob McLaurin, CCWRT, The River Navy
March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Jack Simon, CCWRT, Fortifications
April 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Terry Winschel, Vicksburg National Military Park
May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Harold George, Lakewood OH, 9 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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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