



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>
 May, 2008 Issue

Meeting Date: May 15, 2008

Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

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

(6:45) Dinner: - Chicken Asiago, Tropical Spinach Salad/Red French Dressing,
 Parsleid Red Skin Potatoes, Medley of Fresh Vegetables, Brownie

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

(7:30): Meeting and Program

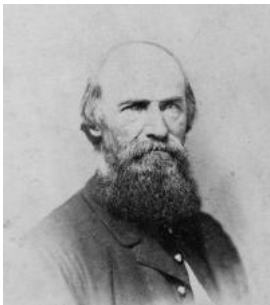
Speaker: Joseph Reinhart:

Topic: August Willich's Gallant Dutchmen: Bullets, Bayonets and Beer

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org; call it in to Bob Limoseth at [513.777.2160](tel:513.777.2160) (h); or email: rlimo@fuse.net. If you are making a reservation for more than yourself, please provide the names of the others.

Standing Reservations Reminder: If you currently have a Standing Dinner Reservation with the Round Table, this note is a reminder that **it will carry over to the September meeting**. If you want to remain on the list you need do nothing. If you want to be removed, you must contact Treasurer Jim Stewart and ask that your name be taken off the list. The Standing Format has worked well for a significant number of our members. If you are regular in your attendance, you too might want to consider this “only need to call if I’m not coming” format.

In May, we welcome Joe Reinhart, who makes his first trip to the Cincinnati CWRT podium. Joe is a native of Louisville, KY. He is a member of the Louisville Civil War Round Table and the Manasota (FL) Civil War Round Table. He earned his B. A. degree at Bellarmine College and a post-graduate degree from Indiana University. A retired C.P.A., Joe has devoted the past twelve years to researching and writing about the Civil War in the West. He is the translator and editor of two works: *August Willich’s Gallant Dutchmen: Civil War Letters from the 32nd Indiana Infantry* (2006) and *Two Germans in the Civil War: The Diary of John Daeuble*



Civil War Round Table

and the Letters of Gottfried Rentschler, 6th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry (2004). Joe is the author of *A History of the 6th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry U.S.: The Boys Who Feared No Noise* (2000). His forthcoming work is entitled *With a Strong German Hurrah: Civil War Letters of Friedrich Bertsch and Wilhekm Stängel, 9th Ohio Infantry*.

The 32nd Indiana Infantry was the only German regiment fielded by Indiana, and one of only about 33 German regiments in the entire Union army. Organized and initially led by Colonel August Willich, a former career officer in the Prussian army and leader in the German Revolution of 1848, the 32nd proved to be one of the Union's most successful ethnic regiments in terms of both military achievements and gaining positive recognition for German-American participation in the conflict. The sacrifice of its members in combat in the Western theater was extraordinary; 171 of its officers and men lost their lives due to combat. This is the fourth highest number of battle deaths in the Hoosier State's 170 plus regiments. Joe will cover the history of the 32nd and also reveal what made this regiment different from Anglo-American regiments, such as its strong sense of ethnic German identity, distinctive cultural traits and preferences, ethnic pride, group solidarity, and feelings of superiority over Anglo-Americans and other ethnics.

Election of Officers for the 2008-2009 Campaign Season:

A slate of Officers nominated by the Board was presented at the meeting of April 17. If elected, they will lead the Round Table in 2008-2009. Those nominated and their prospective positions are, as follows:

- Bob Limoseth—President
- Pat Homan—Vice President
- Dan Bauer—Secretary
- Jim Stewart—Treasurer
- Pattie Waldbillig—Newsletter Editor
- David Mowery—Program Chair
- Jim Chaney—Membership and Publicity
- John Linnenberg—Trustee (2 year)

Alan Berenson has agreed to serve as Preservation Chair, an appointed position, and Dan Reigle and John Steiner will continue as Webmaster and ListServ Director, respectively. Jack Simon 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.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the May 15 meeting as required by our Constitution and By-Laws. If you intend to make such a nomination, please advise John Linnenberg at 513-607-4002, so that a ballot can be prepared and copies made for voting at the meeting.

Miscellaneous Announcements

New Member Search: As you know, we are always looking for new members. If you think of someone over the summer months who has an interest in history, especially America's great Civil War, please invite them to attend our September meeting. And, if you have a relative, neighbor, friend or work associate that you think might be interested in our group, forward them an email copy of the monthly *Canister* you receive for their review and enjoyment. Paper copies can also be provided for a three month period, if they are not an email user, by providing Membership and Publicity Chairman Jim Chaney their mailing address. Jim can also assist you on any and all questions regarding membership in one of the oldest, and we think the best, Round Tables in the region.



Donation of Books Benefits Preservation: At the April meeting, Mike Rhein informed the membership of the contribution of civil war books, maps and miscellaneous items made by Mrs. Linda Tucker in memory of her husband George B. Tucker. As the letter of thanks to Mrs. Tucker indicated, Mr. Tucker was, like so many of us, a civil war enthusiast. I'm sure he would have appreciated his love of history being shared in this most special way. All proceeds derived from the sale of these items will be donated to the Round Table's Preservation Fund. On behalf of the entire membership of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table we thank Mrs. Tucker for this most generous gift.

April Presentation, Summarized by Pat Homan:

Speaker Ray Mulesky, Jr. treated us to a talk that was both entertaining and informative. I confess, I had never heard of Gen. Adam "Stovepipe" Johnson, prior to the presentation. He is one of the many little known but very interesting figures of the period.



Starting with the accidental discovery that a relative of his wife had fought in the Civil War, to wondering why there had been four Union regiments raised from Southern Indiana in the summer of 1862, and finally, to the answer, which was the raid on Newburg, Indiana by the subject, Adam Johnson. In briefly researching the raid, Mr. Mulesky found there was no book on the subject, which led him to see if writing one was feasible. He discovered that several of the current citizens of Newburg are well versed on the raid itself, but no-one seemed to know of the man who planned and led the raid. He was able to find out that Johnson was a native of Henderson, KY, just across the Ohio River, so he visited the Henderson County Historical Society and they were just waiting for him to show up. I was reminded of the presentation several years ago by Lester Horwitz on Morgan's Raid, where there was a lot of information in many families just waiting for someone to ask the right questions. The book *Thunder from a Clear Sky* by Mr. Mulesky is the result of those questions.

Adam Johnson was described as a mischief-maker as a youth and a leader of the youths of the area. At age 13, he enters the Apothecary business and is successful. At age 16, he leaves that and goes into the tobacco business with an uncle and is very successful. At age 21, he moves to West Texas where he surveys, invests in land, and other transactions. He becomes an experience Indian fighter, marries and apparently settles, until 1861.

When the War broke out, Johnson leaves his family and returns to Kentucky and enlists in a Confederate Kentucky Cavalry unit. He is instrumental in helping Forrest escape Fort Pillow. A meeting in Corinth, Mississippi with John Breckinridge leads to Johnson's fame. Breckinridge tells Adam Johnson if he can recruit a regiment of Cavalry from Western Kentucky, he can be the Commander and a Colonel. Johnson sets out for his home and starts recruiting. After several weeks of knocking on doors and asking for volunteers, with no results, Johnson changes his method. Reasoning that he must do something to get fame, he, with two assistants, attacks the Union soldiers stationed in Henderson for security duty. Henderson County is heavily pro-slave and the Federal Command in Southern Indiana had sent two units into Henderson to enforce the peace. Late in the evening of 29 June 1862, the three members of what will be called the "Breckinridge Guards"; armed with shotguns, attack the Union forces in the center of Henderson. Johnson and his two assistants fire two volleys, with the resulting death of a Lieutenant and the wounding of seven others. The attack is reported as being the work of 150 men. Johnson is getting his press.

Four other volunteers appear, swelling the ranks of the "Guards" to seven. Johnson takes his force to the Madison, KY area where on the night of 5 July he attacks elements of the 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry. While the attack results in the wounding of one Union cavalryman, the report is that 1,500 men assaulted the 9th. Once again, volunteers appear at Johnson's camp which is now south of Henderson. The ranks of the Guards have now swelled to about 50 men and Johnson has a serious problem in that he has no weapons for the recruits. Many are unarmed or inadequately armed. At this point, three men enter the camp that happen to be from Newburg, Indiana, although these men are Southern sympathizers. They tell Johnson that there is a store of muskets, pistols and sabers in a riverfront warehouse in Newburg. These weapons were for the Indiana Home Guard but many of the Home Guard have been pressed into Federal service as a result of actions in Central Kentucky by native son, John Hunt Morgan.

Johnson rapidly decides to attack Newburg with a plan noted for its audacity, a hallmark of Adam Johnson. The attack is well detailed in the book, which I highly recommend. After the attack, Johnson escapes with his men and his force increases yet again. Johnson and his Guards, now designated 10th KY Cav.; become unwilling participants in Morgan's Raid. Johnson is one of the fortunate ones who escape across the Ohio at Bluffton. He reorganizes Morgan's Command and after Morgan's escape, is once again tasked by Breckinridge to raise yet another Command, with the promise that it will be his. He does so and while planning to take part in a wild scheme to invade Southern Indiana in 1864, he is accidentally shot in the head by his own men. He is leading a column of captured Union soldiers and is mistaken for an attacking Union force. The wound leaves him permanently blinded. He is believed to be fatally wounded and is taken by his mother to the family home. He recovers, becomes a prisoner of war, is paroled and reports to Richmond in 1865 where he requests command of a unit. This perplexing problem of combat command by a blind man is never solved as the war ends.

After the War, Johnson returns to Texas where he thrives in the land business. He later is also successful in ranching and cotton business. It seemed that all his enterprises were successful. Forty years later, he authors his autobiography *Partisan Rangers in the Confederate States Army*. He is the founder of the town of Marble Falls, Texas (named for his marble business) where he lives until his death in 1922.

The original question of why were four Indiana Unions Regiments so quickly raised in the summer of 1862 is: To respond to the outrage of the raid on Newburg.



Cincinnati Civil War Round Table April Quiz

1. What great American hero was forced out of office because he opposed his states entry into the Confederacy?
2. Which were there more of... Southern-born Union generals or Northern-born Confederate generals?
3. What Confederate general had been a law partner with President James K. Polk?
4. What elderly U.S. army officer turned over all Texas troops, forts and supplies to the Confederacy in February 1861?
5. What was "chamber lye"?
6. How did Adam Rankin "Stovepipe" Johnson acquire his nickname?

Answers to Quiz

1. Sam Houston
2. Northern-born
3. Gideon Pillow
4. David Twiggs
5. A nice name for human urine used in the making of niter needed for gunpowder. People in the Confederacy were asked to save and contribute the "chamber lye" from their chamber pots.
6. The Confederate hero earned his sobriquet during the Newburg Raid of 1862 for his ruse involving stovepipes mounted on wagon wheels and made to look like cannon.

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:

July 10th, 2008

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2008 Programs

September 18, 2008 John F. Marszalek: *"Lincoln's Hope for Victory: Henry W. Halleck, The General Who Refused to Command"*

October 16, 2008 Roger Billings, CCWRT: *Lincoln at the Civil War Battlefields*

November 20, 2008 Edwin C. Bearss: Arlington, VA - *Topic TBD*

2009 Programs

January 15, 2009 David M. Smith, CCWRT, and Thomas L. Breiner, CCWRT
Relieved of Command at Five Forks: G. K. Warren, Right or Wrong?

February 19, 2009 Stan Wernz, Cincinnati *An Evening with Abraham Lincoln*

March 19, 2009 Alan Berenson, CCWRT *"Robert E. Lee, 1865-1870"*

April 16, 2009 Col. Kevin Weddle, US Army War College
Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: Samuel Francis Du Pont

May 21, 2009 Harold Holzer, United States Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, *Topic TBD*

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 \$25. 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 caterer will not be preparing food in the hotel kitchen, but will be transporting food from their facility to the hotel. Therefore, **Late Reservations** (after Sunday prior to 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 Sunday deadline means that CCWRT has guaranteed payment to the caterer 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's 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 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.

CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:

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Trustee (2007-2009) Jack Simon	513-574-0017 (h)	jackpsimon@aol.com

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CCWRT ListServ John Steiner	513-528-3350 (h)	jcsneuro@fuse.net

Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!