



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>

September, 2005 Issue

MEETING INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER, 2005

Meeting Date: September 15th, 2005

Meeting Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

Time: (6:00) Refreshments
(6:45) Dinner

Speaker: Dr. Stephen D. Engle

Topic: General Don Carlos Buell



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

Dr. Engle specializes in 19th Century American history with an emphasis in the Civil War and Reconstruction era. His research interests include civil-military relations and ethnic dimensions of the Civil War. His Books include *Yankee Dutchman: The Life of Franz Sigel*, (1993, reprint 1999), *Don Carlos Buell: Most Promising of All*, (1999); and *Struggle for the Heartland: The Civil War in the West* (2001).

In addition to the above books Professor Engle's articles have appeared in such journals as the *Journal of Negro History*, *Civil War History*, *Yearbook of German-American Studies*, *Journal of Urban History* and *Perspectives*.

Dr. Engle has also received numerous research and teaching awards including a Fulbright to Germany (1995-1996), and the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award (2000). He has presented papers at numerous conferences including the American History Association, Organization of American Historians, and the Society for German-American Studies. He currently serves as the treasurer and book review editor for the Society of Civil War Historians.

Preservation News by David Mowery, Preservation Chairman

Interpreting Battery Hooper -- The Round Table's 2005-2006 Preservation Project

Battery Hooper was constructed in 1863 as part of the Northern Kentucky defense line protecting Cincinnati. This 10-mile line of forts, batteries, and connecting rifle pits stretching from Ludlow to Fort Thomas had been in existence since the fall of 1861, when General Ormsby Mitchel was tasked to protect the southern land approaches to Cincinnati following the Confederate breach of Kentucky neutrality on September 3, 1861. Over the next 3 years, the fortifications were strengthened until there were 24 forts and redans covering the key transportation routes to Cincinnati from the south: the Lexington Turnpike, the Independence Turnpike, the Licking River Pike, the Alexandria Pike, and the Kentucky Central Railroad. Throughout the course of the Civil War, many Federal units from Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky would serve some of their time manning these entrenchments, including the Black Brigade and the famous "Squirrel Hunters" of September 1862.

At the conclusion of the war, the entrenchments of Northern Kentucky were abandoned to the elements. The ravages of time -- natural erosion, modern development, human neglect -- have destroyed all but 7 of the original 24 forts and redans. Battery Hooper was covered up with dirt in the 1940s, which ultimately preserved the earthwork from further harm. Today, the City of Fort Wright's archaeological team is slowly digging out Battery Hooper from its 20th Century grave. Besides restoring the battery's original form, the dig is revealing many interesting wartime and post-war artifacts.

After investigating several different options, the Round Table has decided upon the interpretation of Battery Hooper in Fort Wright, Kentucky, as the choice for its 2005-2006 Preservation Project. The goal for the Round Table is to raise at least \$1000 to give to the City of Fort Wright's Battery Hooper Park (a non-profit municipality) in order to purchase two permanent interpretive markers that will be placed next to the Battery Hooper earthworks. Just as we did with last season's project, the CCWRT Preservation Fund will match dollar-for-dollar the first \$250.00 that the Round Table receives in donations. Therefore, we need your help to raise \$750.00 or more!

Each marker costs about \$300.00, with the remaining money needed to cover installation and maintenance. The interpretive markers will be made of a durable metal (most likely industrial-strength aluminum) which will be mounted on metal posts concreted into the ground. Words and images will be laser-engraved on the plaque, which allows for permanency and aesthetics. Markers of this construction are often found on battlefields and at other historic sites throughout the country.

The current plan of the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum Board is to have one of the markers describe Battery Hooper's design and construction, with a copy of the Major J.H. Simpson's 1864 blueprint being shown. The other marker will interpret the surrounding Civil War fortifications visible from Battery Hooper, with arrows pointing to the locations of at least five other batteries which protected the critical section of the Northern Kentucky defense line lying between the Lexington Turnpike and the Independence Turnpike. If the Round Table is successful in reaching or surpassing its project goal, the Museum Board has offered to engrave on each marker something like "Donated by the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table," which would give permanent recognition of our group's assistance in preserving this Civil War site.

Contributions can be made at the check-in desk during monthly meetings, or by mailing your gift to Treasurer Bob Limoseth 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 "Battery Hooper Preservation Project." A receipt will be provided as all contributions are tax deductible under our status as a 501 C3 organization.

Please help to donate to this very worthy cause. This project follows our group's charter to promote Civil War education and preservation. The Civil War happened in our own back yard; it is left to organizations like ours to take advantage of a unique opportunity to participate in permanently interpreting that Civil War history for our local community.

Resignation of Dave Smith:

Dave Smith has found it necessary to resign his positions as Program Chair and Webmaster. For the current year, the officers are handling the program responsibilities collectively, and we anticipate that Dave Mowery will be able to take over as Program Chair for next year. Jeff Strottman is picking up the responsibilities as Webmaster."

Quiz---April, 2005

1. Elias Riggs Monfort (75th OVI) and William Christie Johnson (89th OVI, 42nd USCT) are among the Civil War veterans buried at Spring Grove Cemetery. What prominent post-war position did each of them hold?
2. General Grant's first assault at Vicksburg and his final engagement during the Battle of Spotsylvania occurred exactly one year apart. On what day, month, and year did each of these events occur?
3. William Smith, 63 years old when the war started, served as a military officer (1st Bull Run, Seven Pines, Antietam, Gettysburg), a member of the Confederate House of Representatives, and as Governor of Virginia from January, 1864. His nickname derived from the frequent extra payments that he received from the Post Office Department for the mileage covered while he operated a mail coach service from Washington, D.C., to Milledgeville, GA, from 1827-1836. What was his nickname?
4. Of whom was Grant speaking when he described a prominent figure as having "great ability" but being "very timid". "He could see our weakness, but he could not see that the enemy was in danger. The enemy would not have been in danger if Mr. _____ had been in the field. These characteristics of the two officials (Lincoln and Mr. _____) were clearly shown shortly after Early came so near getting into the capital."
5. Name the highest ranking Confederate General born in New Jersey.
6. (With credit to Bob Limoseth). According to *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, this word was published in dictionaries and usage books prior to the Civil War. Therefore, it was not taken from the name of a prominent Union general as a comment on his headquarters' activities, as is often reported. What is the word?

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:

- October newsletter, September 26th, 2005
- November newsletter, October 24th, 2005
- January newsletter, December 9th, 2005
- February newsletter, January 23rd, 2005
- March newsletter, February 20th, 2005
- April newsletter, March 17th, 2005

Quiz answers:

1. They each served as national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic (Johnson in 1898-1899, Monfort in 1915-1916). (Jack Simon, CCWRT talk, 15 January 2004; Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War website, <<http://suvcw.org/garcinc.htm>>.)
2. May 19, in 1863 (Vicksburg) and 1864 (Spotsylvania). (Long, *The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac, 1861-1865*, pp. 355, 505.)
3. "Extra Billy" Smith. (Faust, *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the CW*, p. 698.)
4. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. (Grant, *Personal Memoirs*, p. 580.)
5. Samuel Cooper, the highest ranking officer in the Confederate Army. USMA 1815 with eight years of experience as the U.S. Army's Adjutant General, he had a close friendship with his former boss, Jefferson Davis, and was immediately appointed Confederate Adjutant General when he resigned from the U.S. Army on 7 March 1861. (Faust, *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the CW*, pp. 165.)
6. Hooker. (*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, p. 844. North & South, March 2005, p. 95. The same dictionary, p. 250, does attribute the term "sideburns" to General Ambrose Burnside.)



FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2005-2006 Programs

- October 20th, 2005: Mike Grimes, Berea, KY, on "Music and Its Impact on the Civil War".
November 17th, 2005: Dr. Stephen Rockenbach, University of Cincinnati, on "The Ohio River Border Region in the Civil War".
January 19th, 2005: Kirk Jenkins, Chicago, on "The 15th (US) Kentucky Infantry".
February 16th, 2005: Paul LaRue and the Senior Research History Class, Washington Court House Senior High School
March 16th, 2005: Dr. David Bush, Heidelberg College, and Friends & Descendants of Johnson's Island
April 20th, 2005: Dr. Jim Ramage, Jeannine Kreinbrink, and Larry Klein: "Battery Hooper and the Ramage Civil War Museum."
May 18th, 2005: To be announced.

Book Reviews By Thomas L. Breiner

U.S. Grant: The Making of a General, 1861-1863 by Michael B. Ballard, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., Lanham, MD, 2005, 184 pages, Hard cover \$24.95.

The author of *U.S. Grant: The Making of a General, 1861-1863*, Michael Ballard was asked to contribute to the American Crisis Series by Steve Woodworth. He should have refused. In writing this book it seems that our author was so intent on having a manuscript to publish that he forgot to research and write an acceptable work. This offering is nothing more than a string of notes from Grant's Personal Memoirs, a literary version of connect the dots.

Michael Ballard appears to have put so little effort into this book that I cannot recommend this work to anyone, except possibly the person who is so enamored with U. S. Grant that they will read every word ever written either by him or about him. In his haste to produce this title, our author showed that he is directionally challenged. In the very beginning he has Grant's birthplace of Point Pleasant, OH located in

southeastern Ohio. Then he wants Sherman to march west from Jackson, Mississippi to reach Grant located in the vicinity of Edwards Station, which is in between Jackson and Vicksburg. These may be minor points but they caused me to look closer at the work. I found that the majority of the endnotes to be taken from U.S. Grant's Memoirs. Based on this research, the reader would be better served by reading Grant's Memoirs directly. That way the reader can develop their own ideas on how Grant grew into the general he became. So my recommendation is that you don't waste your time on this book. There are far better manuscripts available on the subject.

Lastly, I do have to give some credit to Mr. Ballard. The final chapter of the book is his summary and evaluation of Grant's character. I was impressed with his superb job of identifying Grant's strengths and weaknesses and explaining how the adversities in Grant's life were instrumental in his development as a general. The author shows exceptional insight and understanding of his subject. It is a shame that he waited until the end of his work to display his talents.

Retreat From Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics and the Pennsylvania Campaign by Kent Masterson Brown, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC, 2005, 534 pages, Hard cover \$34.95.

Retreat From Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics and the Pennsylvania Campaign is a detailed and sometimes tedious look at the withdrawal by the lengthy quartermaster, subsistence, ordnance and ambulance trains along with numerous herds of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. The two supply trains were the primary concern of General Robert E. Lee during his return to Virginia following the costly battle at Gettysburg. If he could return with the spoils of his raid, the campaign could still be a successful accomplishment according to Kent Masterson Brown.

Our author has done his usual superb job of researching his topic and producing a definitive account, rich with all the trials and tribulations faced by Major Harman and Brigadier General John Imboden as they made their valiant attempt to evade the harassment of Federal cavalry in the retreat from Gettysburg. This is the one story of this battle that is usually glossed over in most campaign studies. Logistics are not exciting or usually heroic. There is no glory in the mundane. But to Robert E. Lee, the fate of these two extremely long, over fifty-seven miles in length, and vulnerable quartermaster, subsistence, ordnance and ambulance trains along with numerous herds of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs represented the life blood of the Army of Northern Virginia. This was the goal that would make the raid into Pennsylvania a success.

For any student of the Battle of Gettysburg, this work is of utmost importance. Kent Masterson Brown has helped bring this phase of the campaign to life. The author has truly supplied us with an important look at why Major General George G. Meade was unable to mount a pursuit of Lee and failed to bring the Confederate army to battle before they could escape back across the Potomac River into Virginia. I highly recommend this work. I initially found the details of gathering the material for the trains to be a tedious read, but the end result is definitely worth the effort. I congratulate Kent on producing another impressive work that truly displays his skills as a researcher. I do tend to disagree with the author in his evaluation of Lee's Pennsylvania raid. Gettysburg campaign with its list of over 25,000 casualties was not worth the expense if the sole purpose was to gather supplies and plunder from north of the Potomac. There has to be more to Lee's plans and hopes for the campaign to make the lost worth the attempt. ``

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 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.

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