



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>  
September, 2006 Issue

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Meeting Date: September 21, 2006

Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

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

(6:45) Dinner: - Greek Salad, Grilled Pork Chop, California Medley, Roasted Redskin Potatoes, Carrot Cake

(7:45): Meeting and Program

Speaker: A. Wilson Greene,

Executive Director, Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, Petersburg VA

Topic: Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War

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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 Bob Limoseth (h) 513-777-2160 [rlimo@fuse.net](mailto:rlimo@fuse.net)

**Menu Announcement:** The main entrée selection for September is Grilled Pork Chop. If you prefer a selection other than pork the alternative entree selection is "Vegetarian Lasagna." You need to indicate "Lasagna" when making your reservation by email or phone call if you prefer the alternate selection. Members who have a standing reservation will automatically receive the pork selection unless you notify Bob Limoseth...[rlimo@fuse.net](mailto:rlimo@fuse.net) (513.777.2160) that you prefer the alternate selection before the September 17 final reservations date

**Standing Reservations List:** Eighteen members are currently listed on our Standing Reservations List. They don't worry about calling in each month to make a dinner reservation because they have indicated "I'll be there." They only call when they can't make the meeting. If you are regular in your attendance and only miss one or two meetings a year you too might want the convenience of our Standing Reservations List. If you are interested in having your name put on the list see Jim Stewart, Treasurer, at the check-in table. He'll have you sign the enrollment form and no more last minute worries about forgetting to call in. As with all meals, if the standing dinner reservation is not cancelled prior to the Sunday cut-off date the week of the meeting, and the Round Table has to pay for the meal, the member will be billed for the cost of the meal.



## **Speaker: A. Wilson Greene**

To kick off our 50th Anniversary year, CCWRT welcomes back a long-time friend, Will Greene of Pamplin Historical Park. Under his leadership, Pamplin Park has experienced several significant accomplishments recently, including being designated in March 2006 as a National Historic Landmark, the highest such recognition accorded to historical properties by the U.S. Government, and the acquisition of the William Gladstone African American Civil War Collection of images, documents, and objects. In addition, Will is serving his second term on the board of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the federal agency that oversees grants and other activities for the nation's museums and libraries. This position is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The University of Tennessee Press has recently reprinted Will's book *Whatever You Resolve to Be: Essays on Stonewall Jackson*, with a new introduction, and he is also the author of *Breaking the Backbone of the Rebellion: The Final Days of the Petersburg Campaign*. Will's new book of the same title as his talk to us is expected to be published in August-September by the University of Virginia Press. He is also at work on a two-volume history of the Petersburg Campaign.

A graduate of Florida State University and Louisiana State University, Will served for 17 years with the National Park Service at a variety of historic sites, including Petersburg National Battlefield, Fredericksburg, Independence National Park, and Gulf Islands National Seashore. He was a founder and the first president of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites from 1990-1994, the predecessor organization of the current Civil War Preservation Trust. He is also a superb tour guide, including Smithsonian Study Tours. He has spoken at CCWRT on four previous occasions: in January 1988 on "Stonewall Jackson and the Second Manassas Campaign"; in April 1991 (Midwest CWRT Conference) on "The Eleventh Corps on the First Day at Gettysburg;" in February 1994 on "The Unfortunate Army of the Potomac (Dec 1862-Jan 1863)"; and in April 1996 (as keynote speaker at our Midwest CWRT Conference) on "Decision at Petersburg, April 2, 1865". Will's talk will center on the development of Petersburg from a pro-Union city in the winter of 1860-61 to the rabid secessionist town it became in the early spring. He will also touch on some of the wartime experiences of Petersburg citizens. Petersburg was the second largest and most important city in Virginia on the eve of the Civil War and the seventh largest city in the Confederacy. Its history outside of the famous 1864-65 campaign is perhaps as fascinating as the campaign itself.



### **It's Time to Renew Your Membership**

Membership dues for the 2006 – 2007 campaign year are now due. Payments can be made at the September meeting to Treasurer Jim Stewart or you can mail your dues payment to: Cincinnati CWRT, P. O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, OH 45262. As you know we have two levels of membership, Regular and Sustaining. The amount due, and an explanation of the Sustaining Member level of membership, are explained in the article below.

# Making a Contribution to CCWRT Above and Beyond Your Annual Dues

## Sustaining Membership

At the May, 2005 meeting the CCWRT membership approved an amendment to the Constitution creating a membership category called Sustaining Members. The Sustaining Membership level provides the opportunity for members to make 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 CCWRT.

Our two levels of membership look like this:

<u>Regular</u>		<u>Sustaining</u>	
Single	Couples	Single	Couples
\$25.00	\$35.00	\$50.00	\$85.00

If you are able to do so, we encourage you to become a Sustaining Member.

Note: Because CCWRT is a 501(c)(3) organization all contributions above the Regular membership level may be tax-deductible. Treasurer Jim Stewart will provide a receipt for each contribution



### **Sustaining Member Update:**

In an attempt to find more sources of support for preservation activities, the officer group has decided to dedicate all membership money received, above the basic level of membership, to the Preservation Fund. As you are aware, the basic level of membership is used to cover our speaker, Newsletter, web site and other operating expenses of the organization. This change, also effective with the September 2006 meeting, will provide approximately \$600 additional per year to the Preservation Fund at current giving levels. If you are interested in increasing your membership level from the basic level (\$25) to the Sustaining Member level (\$50, or more) please see Jim Stewart, Treasurer at the check-in table on September 21.



## **New Book Raffle Procedure:**

At the July Officer's meeting we decided to adopt the practice used by a number of other Round Tables throughout the country. To contain the expense of the Book Raffle, and increase the money going to preservation related activities, the following procedure will be adopted effective with the September 2006 meeting.

1. All proceeds from the book raffle will be deposited directly into the Preservation Fund.
2. Books awarded in the raffle will come from three primary sources.
  - a. Members are encouraged to donate civil war books, in good condition, from their personal libraries.
  - b. Civil war books, in good condition, will be purchased through Second Hand Book Stores.
  - c. New civil war books will be purchased at retail outlets to supplement the monthly selection, if enough books are not provided via a & b.

If you would like to donate any of your personal civil war books to help us raise more money for Civil War Preservation Projects, please give your books to Bob Limoseth at any of our future monthly meetings.



## **CCWRT-contributed signs installed at James A. Ramage Civil War Museum & Battery Hooper Park**

August 19 was the official "unveiling" of the two interpretive signs at the Ramage Museum. Jeannine Kreinbrink, Museum Board President, acknowledged and thanked CCWRT for contributing \$1400 to pay for these signs during the opening events at the Museum and Park's First Anniversary celebration weekend. The signs are installed in a very attractive viewing area with several benches in front of the museum, and include a reproduction of the map of the battery and fort positions in northern Kentucky, as well as other information about Battery Hooper.

At the same ceremony, the Museum's replica of the Black Brigade flag was presented and carried to its display location in the Museum by a color guard, following remarks on the history and significance of the Black Brigade by Dr. Ramage.

## **SAVE OUR HISTORY NATIONAL HONORS AWARDED TO OHIO TEACHER PAUL LARUE**

Congratulations to Paul LaRue, social studies teacher at Washington High School in Washington Court House! Paul is one of 25 teacher finalists in the Save Our History program sponsored by The History Channel. Information on the Emancipation Day Project by Paul's Research History class can be found at [www.emancipationday.net](http://www.emancipationday.net). Paul will receive a \$1,000 cash prize from The History Channel for use in his classroom.

## **May Presentation, Summarized by Albert Hallenberg:**

This month, the Round Table brought back University of Cincinnati History Professor Dr. Christopher Phillips. In May 2004, Dr. Phillips made a presentation to the Round Table on "The Ohio Valley in the Civil War." That talk mainly addressed events in Kentucky, but this month's presentation centered on another border slave state, Missouri, as well as a key military figure in that state's struggle, General Nathaniel Lyon.

As Dr. Phillips noted, General Lyon's Civil War service was quite short. He was killed at the battle of Wilson's Creek in August, 1861 (Lyon was the first general to be killed in the War). Yet, as Dr. Phillips indicated, he made a

sharp impact during his short tenure. The main question remains, however, was his effect positive or negative?

Lyon's early death made him a hero for the Union cause, but Dr. Phillips pointed out his early family life in Connecticut and certain incidents in his 20 year military career before the War, shed a different picture. Lyon was raised in a rigid, dogmatic household, and this stern background carried over into his military career. Known as a harsh, almost sadistic, disciplinarian, Lyon developed a reputation as "the most tyrannical officer in the Army." Yet, he became a devout Unionist and abolitionist, and his friendship with Congressman Frank Blair paved the way to a command of four regiments of Missouri Federal volunteers. Lyon's troops protected the vital arsenal in St. Louis, coveted by the secessionist wing of the state led by Governor Claiborne F. Jackson.

When Lyon discovered the Missouri state militia was planning on storming the arsenal, he had his troops surround their camp and captured them. Dr. Phillips indicated Lyon probably unnecessarily provoked further aggravation when he paraded the prisoners through St. Louis, setting off a two day riot that end in the deaths of over 75 civilians.

After Governor Jackson openly declared secession, Lyon mounted a campaign to drive all Confederate forces from the state. At the climactic Wilson's Creek engagement, Lyon met his end. Appropriately fitting with his temperament, he was killed while impetuously leading a futile last assault.

Although Lyon became probably the first Union war hero, Dr. Phillips stated, in hindsight, he did not deserve the status. Dr. Phillips noted Lyon's campaign brought no peace to Missouri and, in fact, drove many neutral residents to the secessionist cause. More importantly, Dr. Phillips pointed out Missouri, particularly before the War, was never very sympathetic to the idea of secession. In fact, Missouri was the only state where a secessionist convention was unsuccessful, thus leading to its status of neutrality. Dr. Phillips concluded Lyon's actions sparked more violence that persisted in the state throughout the War, a violence that touched virtually every resident. Dr. Phillips was well qualified to speak on this topic, as he wrote the first full-length contemporary biography on Lyon, *Damned Yankee: The Life of Nathaniel Lyon*, published in 1990. Although Dr. Phillips wore his "good luck tie," the one he had on twenty years ago in defending his Masters thesis, in the end it was not needed, as he treated the Round Table to another thought provoking presentation. We hope he visits again soon.



### Preservation News:

Update on **Beauvoir Damage:** Beauvoir, the postwar house of the Confederate president, Jefferson Davis, was badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Water rushed in and the porch collapsed. With the columns gone, the front of the roof fell away. As a result furniture, paintings, and other relics were soaked with rain and salt water. Two small out-buildings, the Hayes Cottage (which was a guest house), and the Library cottage (where Davis worked on his memoirs), were swept away by the storm. A former veterans' hospital which had been turned into a Confederate museum was destroyed. The Jefferson Davis Presidential Museum suffered severe damage with much of its holdings scattered into the woods. Meetings are being held to determine if FEMA (and thus us taxpayers) will cover any part of the restoration costs. Grants totaling \$600,000 from the Federal Government's Save America's Treasures Program and the State of Mississippi have been received, along with a check for \$25,000 from developer Donald Trump. The Winterthur Museum of Delaware assisted with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and is also consulting with the Beauvoir staff on the restoration efforts. The staff hopes to

reopen Beauvoir by June, 2008, the bi-centennial of Davis's birth. However, the rebuilding of the cottages and library may be finished later. More information can be found in the July-August issue of *Preservation Magazine*. (From *The Civil War Round Table* Newsletter, Volume LXVII, No. 1, September, 2006, Chicago, Illinois by David Zucker)



### **Shortages during the CW:**

SAVANNAH [GA] REPUBLICAN, April 30, 1863, p. 2, c. 3

#### **Famine at the South.**

In spite of all the efforts of Confederate journals North and South to conceal the fact, or deprive it of importance, no doubt remains that very serious bread riots have taken place in Richmond and other southern towns. In these riots the women have been the leaders; and that fact alone proves that absolute hunger must have been the cause of them. Women do not get up street riots, break open provision shops, and pillage bakeries and flour stores from political sympathies, nor from resentment against high prices. When their children are in peril of starvation, they become capable of anything. Nothing short of that extremity can have provoked the demonstrations admitted by the Rebel papers to have taken place in Richmond, in Raleigh, in Salisbury and many other Southern towns. In each of these cases the rioters were women—"mostly soldiers' wives," say the North Carolina papers, that give account of the latest transactions. And these papers, more honest than those at Richmond, candidly admit that the women were prompted by hunger, their spirit sharpened, perhaps, by "hatred against speculators." The women armed themselves with hatchets and axes, broke upon stores that were not willingly opened to them, and took barrels of salt, flour and molasses, which they had hauled to the market house and divided equally between those who needed it. This was a real hunger riot, and no cloak for indiscriminate robbery, as pretended in Richmond. The Raleigh, N.C., Standard, in giving an account of it, exclaims with feeling, and with despair: "Bread riots have commenced, and where they will end God only knows."

We do not wish nor expect to create hopes of advantage over the rebellion by the mere representations of scarcity of provisions in the South. The best reliance—as it is, indeed, the only one—that a wise and powerful government should have, is the arm of military power delivering irresistible blows upon the enemy in the field. But it is certainly sound policy to consider the physical condition of the enemy we are contending with, and take advantage of any moment of weakness and exhaustion that may come upon him. That time with the Rebels we surely believe is now. We have cumulative evidence that a scarcity of food never before paralleled exists in the South, that is weakening the Rebel army, disturbing the Rebel rulers, and upturning the most inveterate traditions and usages of Southern society. This is the time, then, to press our armies upon the enemy, and still further disturb and disorganize his agriculture. Two months hence it may be too late. He may have then harvested his crops and passed the point of famine.—N. Y. Times.

DAILY TIMES [LEAVENWORTH, KS], September 16, 1863, p. 2, c. 3

Memphis, Sept. 11: Refugees lately arrived within our lines bring exciting reports of the terrible condition of affairs in the Southwest.

One man, who left Mobile on the 5th, states there was a terrible riot of soldiers' wives in Mobile on the 4th. About six hundred women and children collected at Spring Hill, armed with clubs and hatchets, and marched through the principal streets, carrying banners inscribed, "Bread or Blood," "Bread or Peace," and other like inscriptions. Being soldiers' wives, the proceedings were winked at by the soldiers, who made but a feeble resistance. Several stores were broken open. One merchant, a Jew, struck one of the women. Some policemen present arrested the Jew and beat him severely.

Many citizens left town, among them my informant, who says the riot was increasing when he left.

A Union Spy in the South.

Condition of the Cotton States.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial gives a long and interesting account of the experiences of a Union spy who has been traveling since the third of August through the rebel states. . . . "Wherever he went he found the most intense suffering prevailing among the soldiers' families. Thousands drag out a miserable existence upon the paltry pittance derived from the government, for the manufacture of army clothing, at which about one dollar per day in Confederate money can be realized. Bread riots are frequent, yet the newspapers do not mention them, lest the intelligence reach their soldiery. They are not confined to one or two places, but are universal in every city and town throughout the South, where the poor, starving families can be collected together. The spy witnessed many of these riots, which he describes as extremely harrowing to the feelings of the humane. To such an extreme are the unfortunate families of soldiers driven that the women in towns and cities, as a last resort, take to a life of prostitution. So general is this that the name of "war widows" has become synonymous with a life of debauchery.

**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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006
- November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007
- February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

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



**FUTURE PRESENTATIONS**

**2006-2007 Programs**

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|----------------------------------|--|
| October 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2006  | Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., Reflections on the Civil War Centennial   |
| 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   |
| September 20, 2007               | Dr. Lenette S. Taylor, Kent State University "The Supply For Tomorrow Must Not Fail: The Civil War of Captain Simon Perkins Jr., A Union Quartermaster." |
| October 18, 2007                 | Richard M. McMurry—Topic to be announced   |
| November 15, 2007                | Gary Ecelbarger "The Unheralded Alliance: John 'Black Jack' Logan and Ulysses S. Grant"  |



**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.

#### **CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:**

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

Vice President: Bob Limoseth, (h) 513-777-2160 [rlimo@fuse.net](mailto:rlimo@fuse.net)

Treasurer: Jim Stewart, (h) (513) 271-0738 [jebstewart@fuse.net](mailto:jebstewart@fuse.net)

Secretary: Albert Hallenberg, (h) 859-441-0385 [Alberthallenberg@zoomtown.com](mailto:Alberthallenberg@zoomtown.com)

(w) 369-6909 [albert.hallenberg@cincinnatilibrary.org](mailto:albert.hallenberg@cincinnatilibrary.org)

Program Chair: David Mowery, (h) 513-774-9544 [dmowery11@fuse.net](mailto:dmowery11@fuse.net)

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

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

Trustee (2006-2008): Dan Reigle, (h) 513-777-9255 [DReigle@cinci.rr.com](mailto:DReigle@cinci.rr.com)

Trustee (2005-2007): Mike Rhein, (h) 513-984-3227

#### **Committees:**

Preservation Projects: Co-Chairs: Jeff Strotzman, (h) 513-226-1644 [jstrotts678@yahoo.com](mailto:jstrotts678@yahoo.com);

Patricia Waldbillig, (h) 513-271-5766 (w) 513-745-3531 [waldbill@xavier.edu](mailto:waldbill@xavier.edu)

Webmaster: Dan Reigle, (h) 513-777-9255 [DReigle@cinci.rr.com](mailto:DReigle@cinci.rr.com)

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Dawn Mowery, (h) 513-774-9544 [dmowery11@fuse.net](mailto:dmowery11@fuse.net)

CCWRT ListServ: Dr. John Steiner, (h) 513-528-3350 [jcsneuro@fuse.net](mailto:jcsneuro@fuse.net)

