



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 P. O. Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org>
September, 2009 Issue

Meeting Date: September 17, 2009

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social
(7:15) Business Meeting

(6:30) Dinner
(7:30) Speaker

Dinner Menu: Beef Short Ribs in a rich beef reduction; Fruited Cherry Gelatin;
Mini Oven Roasted Bakers; Succotash; Sweet Yeast Rolls; Chocolate Mousse
Coffee, Tea and Water
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

Speaker: Brian Steel Wills, University of Virginia at Wise

Topic: Nathan Bedford Forrest: Common Sense Soldier

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org; call it in to Pat Homan at 513-861-2057 (h); or email: homanfamily@fuse.net. If you are making a reservation for more than yourself, please provide the names of the others. Please note that **all reservations must be in no later than 8:00 pm Wednesday, September 9, 2009.**

About our September Speaker:

Author and historian **Brian Steel Wills**, will lead off the Cincinnati CWRT's 2009-2010 season with his first visit to our Round Table. Brian was raised in the rural area of Suffolk, Virginia. His mother, a 4th grade teacher and avid Civil War buff, led the family on vacations to historic sites like Yorktown and Gettysburg, which left an indelible impression on Brian at an early age. As a teenager, Brian spent five summers working as a Confederate artillery reenactor at Petersburg National Battlefield to demonstrate to visitors the loading and firing of cannons.

Brian's passion for the Civil War became his career when he graduated from the University of Richmond and earned a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia at Wise in 1992. He is currently the Kenneth Asbury Professor of History, an endowed position awarded nationally-recognized achievements as a scholar, teacher, and leader in his field. Brian has written many articles on the Civil War, and his Civil War publications include *Nathan Bedford Forrest* (1993), *The War Hits Home: The Civil War in Southeastern Virginia* (2001), and *Gone with the Glory: The Civil War in Cinema* (2006).



He joined the faculty at the University of Virginia in 2003 for his outstanding and scholar, teacher, and leader in his field. Faculty Award presented by the State for the top professor at Virginia's public universities. Brian has written many articles on the Civil War, and his Civil War publications include *Battle from the Start: The Life of Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman* (2001), and *Gone with the Glory: The Civil War in Cinema* (2006).

Mr. Wills' presentation will look at the famous – and infamous – Confederate cavalry leader Lieutenant-General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Often called the “Wizard of the Saddle,” Forrest earned his sobriquet from his hard fighting, his brilliant battlefield tactics, and his trademark aggressive nature in battle. Forrest joined the Confederate cause as a private, but rose to the rank of lieutenant-general by war's end. His battlefield success rate was among the best in the entire Civil War from either side of the conflict, and his tactics used at such battles as Brice's Crossroads, Mississippi, continue to be studied today by American cadets. Historian Bruce Catton rated Forrest "one of the authentic military geniuses of the whole war," and even Forrest's enemy in the Western Theater, Major-General William T. Sherman, described him as "that Devil ... the most remarkable man our Civil War produced on either side." Wills will cover this incredible military man from multiple facets, including some of Forrest's early life in Mississippi through his controversial involvement with the Ku Klux Klan during the post-war years.

News from the Summer Officer's Meeting:

The officers of the Round Table met on Monday, July 27, 2009 to discuss the organization's business. Actions taken include the following items:

Visitor/Guest Fee To Be Shelved: To address the General Fund balance concerns discussed at the two previous officer's meetings, a motion was passed at the Winter Officer's Meeting to assess a \$5.00 visitor/guest fee. This fee was to be added on to the current \$27.00 dinner fee (\$32.00) and \$5.00 meeting only fee (\$10.00). September, 2009 was to be its implementation date. Since this year's season ending General Fund balance is more consistent with those of prior years, the visitor/guest fee has been shelved. It will be reviewed again at the summer 2010 Officer's Meeting and implemented if the General Fund balance reaches an unacceptable level.

New Focus on Utilizing Electronic Media: New Membership and Publicity Chairperson Mike Rogers has developed an Electronic Marketing and Publicity Summary to help increase the public exposure of the Round Table. Included is a presence on the Cincinnati.com network of sites which will place the dates of our monthly meetings on a community calendar that will appear on On-line versions of CiN Weekly, NKY.com, CincinnatiUSA.com visitor's guide, and various Community Pages websites. Plans to utilize Facebook and Craigslist are also in the works. Having someone with Mike's skills allows us to take advantage of these technologies. We are hoping that our presence on these various forums will bring the Round Table to an entire new audience and that it will help us in recruiting additional members.

No Increase in Dues: The improved financial condition of the organization will allow us to maintain our current fee structure. Dues will remain \$25.00 for the upcoming campaign season. Meal cost remains the same at \$27.00.

Dedicated Preservation Project: The officer's have approved Preservation Chairperson Allan Berenson's recommendation that we adopt the Museum of the Confederacy as our 2009 – 2010 dedicated preservation project. As many of you are aware, the museum will be vacating from its current location in downtown Richmond and then will be broken up into three satellite museums. Traffic and parking problems associated with being in the middle of Virginia Commonwealth University's medical facilities proved to be overwhelming. The first satellite museum will be in Appomattox, the second *probably* somewhere near Fredericksburg, and the third at Fort Monroe. Significant expense is involved in this effort and any donation you can make during the current campaign year will be appreciated. Our preservation fund will match the first \$500 received on dollar for dollar basis. This matching donation is consistent with what we have done in the past on preservation project challenges of this kind. Please present your checks to Treasurer Jim Stewart.

Other Items Discussed: Additional topics included: member feedback on the Drake Conference Center remains positive; consideration being given to establishing a Speaker's List to respond to community requests; speakers for the 2010 – 2011 campaign year continue to be booked; our web site content continues to grow; possibility of future battlefield trips; and a discussion on just what the Round Table's role should be for the civil war's upcoming Sesquicentennial Anniversary. See any officer if you would like more information on any of these items.

Miscellaneous Announcements:

It's Time to Pay Your Re-Enlistment Fee: Membership dues for the 2009 – 2010 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 Jim's home at: 5510 Windridge View, Cincinnati, OH 45243 to help relieve the check-in rush on meeting night. As you know we have two levels of membership: **Sustaining** and **Regular**. The **Sustaining** level of membership is \$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 CCWRT. **Regular** memberships are \$25 (single) and \$35 (couple). If you are able to do so, we encourage you to become a Sustaining Member.

Increase Your Sustaining Member Gift Through Matching Funds: If you are a Sustaining Member and your current employer, or the company you retired from, has a Matching Gift Program, the Round Table, with tax-exempt status as a 501 (c) (3) organization, might qualify for Matching Funds. If the member will get the necessary paperwork to Treasurer Jim Stewart, after filling out your portion, he will be glad to complete the form and mail it in. This way you can double your gift, or more, to the Round Table.

Free To a Good Home Items: At the September meeting you'll find a few out-of-the-ordinary items on the table directly across from where you check-in. Included will be some older home made VHS tapes of Civil War Journal and a few Civil War maps that are slightly damaged but still fully useable. We'll leave them out for a few meetings to see if someone is interested before we dispose of them. If you see something you like take it home and enjoy both the product and the price.

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. This standing format has worked well for a significant number of our members. If you are in regular attendance, you might want to consider the “only need to call I’m not coming” format. Contact information for Jim is located at the bottom of this Newsletter under the Cincinnati CWRT Officer heading.

Condolences to the Family of Frank Fisher: The Round Table would like to express its condolences to the family and friends of long time member Frank Fisher who passed away of pancreatic cancer on Sunday, August, 2, 2009. Frank was the tall, stately, quiet gentleman whose busy schedule prevented him from attending meetings regularly in recent years. Attendees to area civil war seminars would run into him from time to time because of his love and interest in the civil war period. A Memorial Mass was held at St. Rose Church, on Riverside Drive, on Thursday, August 6. Our thoughts go out to his family during this difficult time.

Donated Books Now Being Accepted: It’s time to replenish our inventory of books used to supply the Monthly Book Raffle and the Preservation Book Sale. Last year we deposited \$994 from the sale of book raffle tickets directly into the General Fund. Revenue flowing into the Preservation Fund from book table sales and silent auctions totaled \$420. This program has truly been a win-win situation for the Round Table. We thank you in advance for your kind contribution.

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, 2009.**

Information may be emailed to: Dan_Bauer@CINFIN.com

May Presentation:

...submitted by Dan Bauer

Greg Biggs gave us a 45 minute fast paced, rapid fire talk summarizing the movements of the Confederate armies in the western theater during the entire Civil War. The main point Mr. Biggs seemed to make was that while many historians see the Confederate effort in the west only in terms of a disjointed reaction to what the Federals were doing, in actuality the Confederates were consistently trying to achieve one overriding goal. They wanted to recapture of the city of Nashville.

So where did he come up with the term Siren’s Song? In Homer’s Odyssey, Ulysses was warned to beware of Sirens who lived on islands in the Aegean Sea surrounded by cliffs and rocks. Sailors who sailed near were compelled by the Siren’s enchanting music and voices to shipwreck on the rocky coast. Much like Sirens of Greek mythology, Mr. Biggs thinks the allure of recapturing Nashville was to doom the Confederate effort in the west. To this point, Greg sees the war in the west as five separate failed initiatives by the Confederates to retake Nashville. His talk broke down these five attempts in terms of the key players, the execution, and then the results.

Once Confederate forces were routed from Forts Henry and Donelson, in February, 1862, Confederate commanders decided that any further effort to defend the poorly fortified Nashville would be pointless, and they abandoned the city. It was the cheapest land grab of Union military during the entire Civil War. The city was almost immediately occupied by Union forces which rapidly began preparing fortifications. Two of the Union constructed forts mentioned by Mr. Biggs were Fort Negley and Fort Casino.

The loss of Nashville, due to its being an industrial, agricultural, and transportation center, was a huge political blow to the state and the Confederacy as a whole. The confederates were desperate to come up with a plan to regain Nashville.

The first effort to regain Nashville was for the Army of Mississippi to move north from Corinth, strike Buell's army at Pittsburg Landing, move up the Tennessee River and then retake Nashville. In opposition, the Union plan was to take Corinth. The result was the Battle of Shiloh on April 6-7, 1862. Unfortunately the Confederates lost the element of surprise, Albert Sydney Johnston died, and Buell showed up on the second day of the battle. The battle ends with the Confederates falling back to Corinth. Thus, the first attempt to retake Nashville fails.

The second effort to capture Nashville is the Kentucky campaign. Kirby Smith, who has taken over in Chattanooga, thinks that if he invades Kentucky, 25,000 Kentuckians will join the Confederacy. Meanwhile, Bragg wants to take Nashville by maneuver. The plan is a good one except that Jefferson Davis fails to appoint an overall commander. Although they are able to recruit 6,000 to 7,000 troops, they are not able to recruit more because there is no guarantee the Confederates can stay in KY. The campaign ends with the Battle of Perryville on October 8th, 1862 and the plan to recapture Nashville is put on hold.

The third effort to capture Nashville is Stone's River campaign. Breckinridge was told to hold the railroad junction at Murfreesboro and prevent the Federals from advancing down the Stone's River. The ultimate Confederate goal, after destroying Rosecrans' army on the banks of the Stone's River, was to retake Nashville. Unfortunately for Bragg, just before the battle, he lost some of his strength when Jefferson Davis ordered the division of Carter Stevens to go to Mississippi. The campaign ends as a stalemate with the battle of Stone's River on Jan 1-3, 1863.

The fourth effort to capture Nashville is the Chickamauga campaign. Although Bragg had been outmaneuvered and forced out of Tennessee with the Tullahoma campaign, Bragg along with help from Longstreet had plans to bag each corps of Rosecrans' army as they came out of the mountains and then move onto Nashville. The result was the September 19th and 20th Battle of Chickamauga. Although Bragg is able to defeat Rosecrans at Chickamauga and retake Chattanooga, due to logistical problems, the redeployment of Longstreet to Knoxville, and the difficulty of terrain, they are unable to launch a campaign to retake Nashville.

The fifth attempt to regain Nashville is Hood's actions after the fall of Atlanta in October of 1864. Because Hood has only 35,000 troops while the Union is able to counter with the armies of Thomas and Schofield totaling 70,000 troops, the plan is doomed from the outset. Any hope of success effectively ends with the Battle of Franklin November 30th, 1864, a battle which does not need to happen. Still, Hood sticks to his plan and presses on to Nashville with the remnants of his battered army. On December 15th and 16th, Hood's army is smashed on the rocks just south of Nashville by George Thomas, just like what happened with the sailors of Greek mythology upon hearing the song of the Sirens.

Book Review:

... Submitted by Dan Reigle

The Fighting McCooks: America's Famous Fighting Family. Charles and Barbara Whalen. Bethesda MD: Westmoreland Press, 5301 Portsmouth Road, Bethesda MD 20816. 2006. 421 pages, \$16.95, paperbound. <<http://www.thefightingmccooks.com/>>.

The McCook family statistics are summarized in this statement from the book's title page: "Seventeen McCooks fought for the North in the Civil War: three major generals, three brigadier generals, one naval

lieutenant, four surgeons, two colonels, one major, one lieutenant, one private, and one chaplain. Four gave their lives to save the Union.” The numbers, in themselves, are an indication that the McCooks were an extraordinary Civil War-era family, but the numbers do not adequately convey the extent to which these seventeen men, along with their spouses and other relatives, were a fascinating, diverse, and highly accomplished group of individuals. Charles and Barbara Whalen have done justice to these men and their families by presenting engaging and stimulating biographical sketches of each of the seventeen men, woven efficiently into a narrative approximating the chronological context of the war. The Civil War McCooks include three brothers and their sons:

(1) Dr. George McCook, a physician, and his son, Dr. George Latimer McCook.

(2) Dan McCook, a lawyer, who received a commission as Major and served as an Army Paymaster. At age 65, Dan was killed in 1863 at Buffington Island when he joined the pursuit of Morgan’s Raiders in the (mistaken) belief that a guerilla responsible for one of his sons’ death was with Morgan. Dan had eight sons who served: Dr. Latimer McCook (civilian contract surgeon, 31st Illinois); George Wythe McCook (law partner of Edwin Stanton in Steubenville; friend of Clement Vallandigham; Colonel and commander of the 157th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Delaware POW camp); Robert Cincinnati, commanded the 9th German unit; Brigadier died August 1862 from near Decherd TN); Alexander (organized 1st OVI at Dayton; division commander at at Perryville, Stones River, General); Dan McCook, Jr OVI; Colonel and brigade wounded in assault at 27 June 1862, and died on 17 July at home in Steubenville); John James McCook (served on MG Thomas Crittenden’s staff at Stones River, Chickamauga, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Shady Grove, and Cold Harbor); Charles McCook (18 years old, private, 2nd OVI, killed at First Bull Run, 21 July 1861); Edwin Stanton McCook (captain in 31st Illinois; colonel in 1862; brevet brigadier general in 1865.)



on 100-days’ service at Fort L. McCook (lawyer in OVI, “Die Neuner,” an all-General, brigade commander; wounds inflicted by guerillas McDowell McCook brigade commander at Shiloh, Corinth, and corps commander and Chickamauga; Major (organized and trained 52nd commander; mortally Kennesaw Mountain GA on

(3) Dr. John McCook, physician, and his five sons: Edward Moody McCook (“Horse Ed,” Colonel commanding the 2nd Indiana Cavalry; Brigadier General and Brevet Major General; commanded brigade of cavalry at Perryville and division of cavalry at Chickamauga, the Atlanta Campaign, and Wilson’s Selma raid); Anson McCook (Colonel commanding 2nd OVI and 194th OVI); Roderick McCook (Gulf and Atlantic Blockading Squadrons; Executive Officer, USS *Canonicus*); Henry McCook (Chaplain, 41st Illinois; resigned January 1862 in protest of 41st officers’ selling runaway slaves back to their owners); John James McCook (1st Virginia Foot Volunteers at Philippi, on McClellan’s staff as assistant quartermaster in western VA; the last of the fighting McCooks when he died in 1927.)

With the high ranks and commands at the division and corps level, it might be easy to overlook the individual with perhaps the most impressive war service record among the McCooks. The only McCook who participated in Sherman’s Savannah Campaign and who marched in the Grand Review in Washington, Dr. Latimer McCook served as a contract surgeon with his brother, Edwin, in John Logan’s 31st Illinois. 41 years old when the war began and injured at Fort Donelson, Vicksburg, and Pocotaligo Bridge NC, he served without a single day of leave during the war. He was detached from the 31st to care for his brother, Dan Jr., when he was wounded at Kennesaw Mountain. He walked in the Grand Review with a cane, accompanied by the two dogs who were always with him. He had marched 4076 miles with the 31st Illinois during the war from Belmont MO to Bentonville NC. He had probably cared for most or all of the 471 officers and men

whose wounds or illness had taken their lives during the war, and the hundreds of others who had recovered. His health was broken by the war, and he was cared for by his mother and brother George before dying in 1869 at 49 years of age. Although ostensibly not a “fighting” McCook, his service was unsurpassed.

(Note: this review is condensed for the *Canister*. The complete text is available on the CCWRT website.)

May Quiz:

“Old Abe” the bald eagle mascot of Co. C 8th Wisconsin Infantry was probably the most famous unit mascot. There were hundreds of other animals kept as mascots by Civil War troops. Match the animal to its unit.

- a. 300 lb tame bear **Ans.** 12th WI
 - b. Donkey **Ans.** 3rd LA
 - c. Camel named Douglas killed in action at Vicksburg **Ans.** 43rd MS
 - d. Bull terrier named Sallie **Ans.** 11th PA
 - e. Duck named Dick **Ans.** 2nd RI
 - f. Gamecock named Jake **Ans.** 3rd TN
 - g. Jack a white and brown bull terrier **Ans.** 102nd PA
2. Who was governor of Tennessee when Nashville was captured in 1862? **Ans.** Isham Harris
 3. After Nashville was captured the governor (from question 2) became a staff officer. He served two Confederate generals. Name them. **Ans.** Albert Sidney Johnston and Joseph Johnston
 4. Who did Abraham Lincoln appoint as military governor of Tennessee? **Ans.** Andrew Johnson

Future Presentations:

October 15, 2009	John Haas, Ohio Historical Society <i>To Battle for God and the Right: The Civil War Letter Books of Emerson Opdycke</i>
November 19, 2009	Charles P. Roland, University of Kentucky <i>A Slave Owner Defends Slavery</i>
January 21, 2010	Gary Q. Johnson, CCWRT <i>Monitor Class Ironclads – The Dawn of Industrialized Warfare</i>
February 18, 2010	Michael Stevens, CCWRT <i>The Handsome Spaniard: Ambrosio Gonzales, Cuban Patriot & Confederate Officer</i>
March 18, 2010	Lois J. Lambert, CCWRT <i>Heroes of the Western Theater: 33rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry</i>
April 15, 2010	John Fazio, Cleveland CWRT <i>Francis and Arabella Barlow; John and Fanny Gordon: Love and War</i>
May 20, 2010	Peter Cozzens, Silver Springs, MD 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 \$27. 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 Drake Center only prepares meals according to the reservation count called in. Therefore, **Late Reservations** (after the Wednesday by 8:00 pm which is eight days before 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 Wednesday 8:00 pm deadline which is eight days before the meeting means that CCWRT has guaranteed payment to The Drake Center 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 the 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 will be billed for the meal. **Meetings** are held the third Thursday of the month, September – November and January – May at The Drake Center, 151 West Galbraith Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45216 (**Phone: 513-418-2500**). If traveling Interstate 75, exit at Galbraith Road (Exit 10) and go west one mile. If coming across the Ronald Reagan Cross County Highway, take the Galbraith Road exit and go west two miles. Or, take the Galbraith/Winton exit and go east one mile. **Free parking** is available in the WEST PAVILION parking lot. The West Pavilion entrance will take you to the meeting rooms. To get to our meeting room enter the West Pavilion and take the elevators to your right to level A, go to your right and Motivation Meeting Room G is located at the end of the hallway.

CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:

President: Bob Limoseth	513-777-2160 (h)	rlimo@fuse.net
Vice President: Pat Homan	513-861-2057 (h)	homanfamily@fuse.net
Treasurer: Jim Stewart	513-271-0738 (h)	jebstewart@fuse.net
Secretary: Mike Rhein	513-984-3227 (h)	arhein@fuse.net
Program Chair: David Mowery	513-774-9544 (h)	dmowery11@fuse.net
Newsletter Editor: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h) 513-870-2262 (w)	dan_bauer@cinfin.com
Membership & Publicity: Mike Rogers	859- 630-1263 (h)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
Trustee: John W. Linnenberg (2008-2010)	513-922-3999 (h) 513-607-4002 (c)	jw.linnenberg@gte.net
Trustee: Dan Reigle (2009-2011)	513-777-9255 (h)	DReigle@cinci.rr.com

Committees:

Preservation Projects: Alan Berenson	513-891-8376 (h)	prb5@zoomtown.com
Webmaster: Dan Reigle	513-777-9255 (h)	DReigle@cinci.rr.com
Photographer: Shane Gamble	513-791-3541 (h)	colt45@fuse.net
CCWRT ListServ: John Steiner	513-528-3350 (h)	jcsneuro@fuse.net

Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!