



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, 2010 Issue

Meeting Date: September 16th, 2010

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: Grilled chicken quarters & Angus burgers, potato salad, relish plate,
baked beans, and gourmet cookies**
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

Speaker: Robert E. L. Krick, Richmond Nat'l Battlefield
“Bombproof Officers” or Backbone of the Army?:
A Look at Staff Officers in the Army of Northern Virginia

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org; call it in to Tom Breiner at 513-984-3101 (h); or email: tbreiner@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 8th, 2010.**

About our September Speaker:

We kick off the 2010-2011 season of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table with a visit from historian and author Robert E. L. Krick, who makes his first appearance before our organization. Mr. Krick has lived or worked on Civil War battlefields almost continuously since 1972. He grew up on the Chancellorsville battlefield near Fredericksburg, and graduated from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg with a degree in history. He has worked in various historical capacities at several battlefields, including Little Bighorn Battlefield in Montana and Manassas Battlefield in Virginia. Since 1991 he has been an historian on the staff at Richmond National Battlefield Park. Mr. Krick is widely published on Civil War topics. His

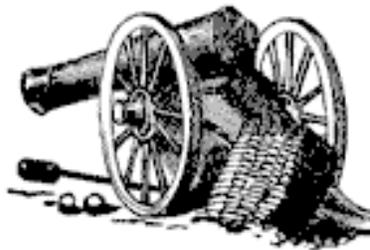
first book was a unit history -- *The Fortieth Virginia Infantry* (1985). He has also contributed many Civil War articles, including some published in books edited by historians Gary Gallagher and Peter Carmichael. In 2003 the University of North Carolina Press published Krick's biographical register of the Army of Northern Virginia's staff officers entitled *Staff Officers in Gray*. Robert is now at work on a study of the Battle of Gaines's Mill. Besides his writing activities, Mr. Krick has been heavily involved in the preservation of Civil War battlefields. Of particular note has been his heavy involvement in the recent Civil War Preservation Trust acquisitions at Glendale (Frayser's Farm) battlefield, one of the defining battles of the Seven Days Campaign.



Robert E. L. Krick

The most famous soldiers in the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia were men of the line—generals and field officers. Their colleagues on staff duty are less well known. Prominent memoirists like Henry Kyd Douglas and Moxley Sorrel have told the story of the staffers well, but somewhat superficially, leaving the duties and personal background of the more than 2000 men who comprised the army's staff corps obscured. Research into the lives of these men shows them to have been a remarkably well educated and literate body of officers.

Mr. Krick's talk will answer some of the basic questions about the staff corps. In addition to briefly outlining the various duties (aide-de-camp, adjutant general, inspector general, ordnance officer, etc.), it will address their role in the army. What was the difference between the general staff and a general's staff? What made a good staff officer? How did generals like Lee and Jackson use their staffs? And more importantly, were they effective?



President's Report

... Pat Homan

First, I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to be elected as your president. This started five years ago when I was approached at one of the meetings by Bob Limoseth and John Linnenberg and "invited" to run for Secretary. While I was not especially desirous of the position, I agreed that members must support organizations and step up to fill positions if the organization is to grow. I plan to return to this theme in later reports.

I must thank Bob Limoseth for this work as President and continuing guidance as a Trustee. The organization thrives and needs the "old heads" as well as new blood. Bob has done an excellent job of getting the membership level back to where it was 10 years ago. I will continue to emphasize membership growth, taking shameless advantage of the coming 150th Anniversary of the War and, hopefully, some renewed interest in the subject.

On that line, I encourage all members to talk to friends and acquaintances about the Round Table and our speakers. One never knows who is interested. To help, Mike Rogers has put together a great brochure that is easily folded and kept in your pocket to hand to prospective members. This is another of Bob's brainstorms. You will also see these at several local museums and the libraries. One thing I hope to encourage all of you to do is to introduce yourselves to new members or guests at our meetings. Make them feel welcome and find out what they are interested in. I have heard that some who come are intimidated (probably by the quiz) and they feel they are sitting with a group of world experts, and probably should quietly leave. If they understand that most of us are equally puzzled by the quizzes and come so we can learn more, they should feel more relaxed.

On the business side, I feel compelled to explain the cost increase of the dinner from \$27 to \$28. This matter was discussed at great length at the summer officers meeting. It has long been the policy of the Cincinnati Round Table to keep the dinner cost as close to breakeven as possible...but not to lose money. We have been able to hold this cost for several years. Last year, the Drake increased our meal cost a small amount, but we were able to cover this without increasing the cost to our members. This year, the meal cost was increased by one dollar per meal and the room cost increased the equivalent of 50 cents per person per meeting. This took the total increase per person, per meal, to \$1.50. We offered several options to try to reduce this but none worked. As we enjoy the facility and the level of support, and noting that none of us have heard complaints about the quality or quantity of the food, we decided we should continue using the facility and enjoy the quality meals.

While I was searching for a new location two years ago, I met with a number of facility directors and their food service teams. Most wanted a higher price for the meals, unless we were willing only to have chicken, in various forms, as the entrée. In several cases, we would also have had to pay for parking or meeting space. I believe we are in the best place for our meetings at this time. So, all things considered, we have reluctantly raised the price to \$28 per meal which covers the meal, the room and the set-up. We have a contract to hold this cost for the next two years.

On a final note, I encourage you to speak to me about any issues you have or suggestions. I ask that if you approach me at a meeting that you get directly in front of me and speak directly to me. I am a retired Field Artillery officer and have the standard Field Artillery hearing loss. When there is any type of background noise, such as the standard conversations at the meeting, my hearing deteriorates. I would appreciate that kindness. You may also contact me by e-mail at: homanfamily@fuse.net. I check my messages daily and usually respond or acknowledge receipt within 24 hours. If you don't hear from me in two days, assume I did not get the message.

I am looking forward to this campaign season and the continued growth of the Round Table.



Items of Interest:

It's Time to Renew Your Membership: Membership dues for the 2010 – 2011 campaign year is 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. Annual dues (prorated throughout the year to new members) are \$25 for a Regular Membership. A Sustaining Member level of membership is also available for \$50 (single) and \$85 (couple).

Donated Books Now Being Accepted: The Preservation Fund is in desperate need of a few donations of lightly used books related, of course, to the Civil War. Consider this a great opportunity to clean out some clutter in your home and make space available for those nifty little knickknacks that your spouse has been urging you to display. If you can help us out, please bring your books to the September meeting and give them to Alan Berenson, Preservation Chairman. If you are unable to attend the meeting, our Alan is offering a free pick up service so you won't have to schlepp all that weight yourself. Give Alan Berenson a call @ 513 891 8376 or drop him an email @ pberenson@yahoo.com and let him show off his new moving van designed for Old Book Transportation by driving it to your book repository..

2009-10 Preservation Campaign Follow Up: Now that our 2009-10 campaign year preservation project has been completed, we are proud to report that \$1,500 dollars was donated to The Museum of the Confederacy. The number of individual donations was 17, both records when compared to historical data in our files.

We received personal, hand written thank you notes from the MOTC from both president and CEO, Waite Rawls and Membership/development Director, Diane Willard. Diane wrote, "I hope you all can come for a visit soon. We would love to show you our research library and vault. Perhaps we can host a wine and cheese reception for the group." She enclosed a membership card in the name of our Round Table for the benefit of our entire group. Waite wrote, "Please thank all of the members of the Round Table for us. Your support means a lot."

A special thanks to all CCWRT donors. Through your generosity, each year we are able to fill a dual mission of preserving and enhancing a piece of Civil War history while at the same time broadening the profile of our own round table.

Museum of the Confederacy Follow Up: The Museum of the Confederacy has raised \$6 million of the needed \$7.5 in funding for a satellite location in Appomattox. The museums expected completion date is "early 2012" after a projected 18 months of construction. The museum initially planned an opening in late 2011, but was delayed by fundraising issues and an expansion of the original museum plans. The new design is 11,000 square feet and located on eight acres of land near the intersection of U.S. 460 and Virginia 24. The proposed site is a mile away from the Appomattox Court House Nation Park. The satellite location in Appomattox is part of an effort to expand the number of Confederate artifacts on display. It is estimated that visitors to the Richmond museum see less than 10 percent of the entire collection. The site will have artifacts and exhibits related to Appomattox, including General Robert E. Lee's uniform, sword and the pen the he used to sign surrender documents at the McLean house in Appomattox Court House. Other satellite sites will include locations in Fredericks-burg, Spotsylvania and Fort Monroe near Hampton Roads.

From the Lynchburg News & Advance

Soldiers and Sailors Monument: Cleveland's Soldiers and Sailors monument is a 125-foot-high landmark in Public Square that serves as a tribute to Civil War bravery. It has bronze representations of the navy, artillery, infantry and cavalry in battle, as well as panels depicting emancipation, key points in the conflict and creation of the Sanitary Commission, the Soldier's Aid Society and the Hospital Service, staffed by women who were the precursors of today's American Red Cross. Marble tablets serve as a somber remembrance of the 9,000 Cuyahoga County residents who served in the Civil War, of these 1,800 died. After a \$2 million restoration project the 116-year old landmark has recently reopened to the public.
From Ohio Magazine

Gettysburg Civil War 150 Website: The Gettysburg Convention & Visitors Bureau - the marketing agency of the Battle of Gettysburg's 150th anniversary - has launched a website to share travel and event information to the millions of visitors expected during the Civil War's four-year commemoration. On the new website - www.gettysburgcivilwar150.com - visitors can find listings of all events and information associated with the 150th anniversary, from 2011 to 2015.



May Presentation:

...submitted by Mike Rhein

The expression, "fog of war," had no better application of it than on the events of Sept. 18, 1863 at a meandering creek in north Georgia called "Chickamauga.

Wait a minute. Was not the Battle of Chickamauga on Sept. 19-20? Well...mainly so. There were horrific casualty lists on both sides those two days. Yes, there was that famous shattering assault by Confederate General James Longstreet which demolished the center of Union General William Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland on Sept. 20, not far from Dyer Field. What about that heroic stand on a hill, later to be named Lytle Hill, that day also? Let us not forget the subsequent rearguard struggle on Horseshoe Ridge led by Gen. George Thomas on the 20th which saved the Union Army from total destruction. And what about the fierce fighting all day on Sept. 19 at places such as Jay's Mill, Brock Field, Winfrey Field, Brotherton Field and Viniard Farm?

However, as our May speaker, Dale Phillips of George Rogers Clark National Historic Park (Indiana) emphasized, the events occurring at nondescript bridges such as Dyer, Reed and Alexander spanning Chickamauga Creek dictated what would happen on Sept. 19-20, 1863.

Mr. Phillips, with 33 years in the National Park Service and beginning his new assignment this year at the Abraham Lincoln home in Springfield, Illinois, described the operations in late August-early September, 1863 of Gen. Rosecrans and Confederate General Braxton Bragg prior to the Chickamauga Battle which would claim over 34,000 in dead, wounded and missing. He lauded Rosecrans' maneuvers, featuring three Union corps (Thomas Crittenden, George Thomas and Alexander McCook) going through parts of the Cumberland Mountains, Sand Mountain and Lookout Mountain to force Bragg to retreat southward from Chattanooga, Tennessee into north Georgia, as "one of the most brilliant campaigns of the war." Mr. Phillips said that, at one point in the campaign, Gen. Rosecrans' army was "spread over 50 miles."

The speaker related that Rosecrans believed Bragg to be retreating in confusion, his perception fueled by Confederate “deserters” asserting Bragg’s Army of Tennessee to be in “disarray.” The so-called deserters were chosen by Bragg to go behind the Union lines to plant this deception. Bragg in the meantime, according to Mr. Phillips, was being reinforced by Gen. W.H.T. Walker’s Mississippi troops, Gen. Simon Buckner’s men from Knoxville, Tennessee and Longstreet’s corps from Virginia, boosting Bragg’s army to 66,000, eclipsing the Army of the Cumberland’s 57,000.

Bragg tried several times to trap Rosecrans in the area of McLemore’s Cove (situated west of Chickamauga Creek) between Lookout and Pigeon Mountains) prior to Sept. 18. Rosecrans “discovers his predicament and pulls his army together,” Mr. Phillips said. By Sept. 17 Union cavalry Colonels John Wilder (Thomas’ 14th Corps, Fourth Division, First Brigade) and Robert Minty (Cavalry Corps, Second Division, First Brigade) were dispatched to guard Alexander’s and Reed’s bridges (north of Lee and Gordon’s Mill), respectively, and patrol the areas east of Chickamauga Creek.

Minty’s and Wilder’s troopers combined totaled about 3,000, according to Mr. Phillips. (the speaker added that Wilder’s brigade, composed of mounted infantry, was equipped with Spencer seven-shot repeating rifles, considerably increasing its firepower). During the night of Sept. 17, Mr. Phillips noted, this slim Union cavalry force heard trains pulling into Ringgold Station, unloading Longstreet’s corps. Minty and Wilder repeatedly sent messages, attesting to this disconcerting development, but Gen. Crittenden refused to believe that a large rebel force (about seven to ten thousand) was that close to the Union position.

On the morning of Sept. 18th, Confederate Gen. Bushrod Johnson was ordered to take Reed’s Bridge

(North of Alexander’s Bridge) and drive opposing Union forces southward down the western side of Chickamauga Creek to McLemore’s Cove. This movement, Mr. Phillips stressed, was the beginning of the Chickamauga battle. However, Col. Minty, with the Seventh Pennsylvania, Fourth Michigan and Fourth U.S. cavalry regiments plus the Chicago Board of Trade Artillery Battery, put up stubborn resistance. Col. Wilder sent part of his 72nd Indiana, 123 Illinois and part of Captain Eli Lilly’s (yes, that Lilly who would one day establish the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Co. after the war) 18th Indiana Light Artillery to Dyer’s Bridge (north of Reed’s) while defending Alexander’s Bridge with parts of his 17th and 72nd Indiana, the 98th Illinois and the rest of Lilly’s battery.

Minty held Reed’s Bridge until about 3 p.m. and then fell back under increasing Confederate pressure. At 4 p.m. Wilder was flanked and retreated to Viniard’s Field, Mr. Phillips said. Oh, back to that “fog of war” thing again. Both Gens. Crittenden and Thomas Wood dismissed Wilder’s and Minty’s reports regarding the large rebel presence in the area, but, as Mr. Phillips said, “they found out it was true.” He added that Union Gen. Alexander McCook (20th Corps) thought there was “only a lone rebel brigade across from Reed’s (bridge).” In grim reality, there were 20,000 Confederates.

Minty and Wilder frustrated Bragg’s plan to ensnare Rosecrans in McLemore’s Cove with their stalwart defense most of the day on Sept. 18. The impact of this defensive effort, in Mr. Phillips’ viewpoint, was that “if Bragg had gotten over the creek (Chickamauga) early in the morning (of the 18th), he would’ve blocked the Chattanooga Road and pushed Rosecrans back to McLemore’s Cove and be trapped.” In conclusion, Mr. Phillips, citing Confederate Gen. D.H. Hill’s opinion of the costly Confederate victory at Chickamauga 20 years after the battle, said that “it was a barren victory that sealed the fate of the Confederacy.”

We Who Study Must Also Strive to Save!

Future Presentations:

October 21	Ron Blair, CCWRT <i>Colonel Frank Wolford, 1st Kentucky (US) Cavalry</i>
November 18	Eric J. Wittenberg, The Ohio State University <i>Plenty of Blame to Go Around: Jeb Stuart's Controversial Ride to Gettysburg</i>
January 20, 2011	Ralph Arnold, CCWRT <i>Civil War Military Railroads</i>
February 17	Pat Homan, CCWRT <i>Paved with Good Intentions: The Road to War</i>
March 17	Martin Stewart, Troy (Ohio) CWRT <i>Redemption: The 71st Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War</i>
April 21	Harold Holzer, New York Metropolitan Museum, <i>How Lincoln Became President – In Ohio</i>
May 19	Thomas Cartwright, Lotz House Civil War Museum <i>Humor in the Civil War</i>



May Quiz:

1. Lieutenant Taliaferro “Tally” Simpson, 3rd S.C., wrote “Never did troops fight better than ours or worse than the Yankees... Our boys swept over their lines like a hurricane and as resistless as the billows of the sea.” About which battle did he make that statement?
2. _____, the largest inland stone fort built during the Civil War, covers four acres and measures 600 feet long by 300 feet wide.
3. What is Galusha Pennypacker’s claim to fame?
4. What is a vedette?
5. 148 years ago to today May 20, 1862, President Lincoln signed _____ into law fulfilling plank 13 of the 1860 National Republican Platform.
6. On September 18, 1863, Col. Minty’s troops were guarding _____ bridge over Chickamauga Creek. Minty’s troops were driven from their position and neglected to burn the bridge as they retreated.

Answers.

1. Chancellorsville
2. Ft. Negley
3. generally accepted as the youngest Civil War general
4. A mounted sentinel
5. Homestead Act
6. Reed’s

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 \$28. 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 accessed 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.

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Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!