



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>

October, 2005 Issue

MEETING INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER 20, 2005

Meeting Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

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

(6:45) Dinner: Backyard Grill Out

(7:45): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Mike Grimes, Berea, Kentucky

Topic: Music and Its Impact on the Civil War



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 Dan Reigle, (h) 513-777-9255.



Band of the 114th Pa. Inf.(Zouaves)

Mike is a native of Tennessee who lives now in Berea, KY, and has lived in Kentucky since 1969. He is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). His interest in

music has been a lifetime enjoyment, and his specific interest in Civil War music dates back about 15 years. He has studied the music of the war, and presents music of both sides, although the music of the South is his favorite. He presents programs on the music of the War Between The States to SCV camp meetings and occasionally attends reenactments and sings there. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and is a retired sales representative. Mike has two sons and five grandchildren, and we are pleased that his wife will be joining us at the meeting. We are looking forward to Mike's visit and program. If you need any reinforcement as to the importance of music during the war, consider the words of Bell Wiley in his classic *The Life of Billy Yank*: "The men who wore the blue, and the butternut Rebs who opposed them, more than American fighters of any period, deserve to be called singing soldiers;" and in *The Life of Johnny Reb*: "Perhaps the favorite recreation of the Confederate Army was music."

Before Dinner: Dual Monitor Demonstration by John Steiner

Based on our survey of members' computer uses and interests, John Steiner will provide a demonstration of how dual computer monitors can be used to increase productivity while using the computer. We will set up this demonstration either in the meeting room or nearby, depending on space available, and it will occur from 6:15 to 6:30.

A Nation Forged: Legacies of America's Civil War

October 27, 2005 from 6 to 7:30 PM, Reakirt Auditorium in the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal, free admission, parking is charged.

Traditionally the Civil War has been treated as a two-sided issue, North vs. South. The American Civil War Center, now in development at the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, Virginia, believes that to tell "the whole story of the conflict that still shapes our nation", the African American perspective must be given equal weight. On October 27th the Cincinnati Museum Center and the Tredegar will co-host a special program, "A Nation Forged: Legacies of the American Civil War". The program will feature three major historians:

Michael Les Benedict, Professor of History at Ohio State University is the author of *A Compromise of Principle: Congressional Republicans and Reconstruction* and *The Fruits of Victory: Alternatives in Restoring the Union, 1865-1877*.

William J. Cooper, Jr., the Boyd Professor of History at Louisiana State University and author of *Jefferson Davis, American*.

John Fleming, Ph.D., the Vice President for Museums of the Cincinnati Museum Center. He was the founding director of the National Afro-American Museum in Wilberforce, Ohio.

H. Alexander Wise, Jr., president of the American Civil War Center will moderate.

Book Review By Thomas L. Breiner

The Sword of Lincoln: The Army of the Potomac by Jeffery D. Wert, Simon & Schuster New York, NY, 2005, 559 pages, Hard cover \$30.00.

The Sword of Lincoln: The Army of the Potomac by Jeffery D. Wert is another manuscript about the history of the Army of the Potomac. This work does not provide detailed accounts of the campaigns and battle that involved the Army of the Potomac, but rather a glimpse into the character of the men who made up the fiber of the Army. No Union army fought more battles, incurred more casualties and withstood more command turmoil than the Army of the Potomac. The story of the army has not changed; however, the author promises a new look into the command structure and a re-evaluation of the five principle leaders from Major Generals Irvin McDowell, George McClellan, Ambrose Burnside, Joe Hooker and finally George Meade. Time is also spent looking into the quality of the leadership at the corps, division, brigade and regimental levels.

The book is a well written, well researched and an extremely entertaining work. The author has been able to capture the spirit of the Army of the Potomac and the character of the men who made up the army. I found that his discussion on the leadership was excellent. Irvin McDowell receives his usual evaluation as being inexperienced in leading any field forces since he was a staff officer in the army prior to the war. He was not Winfield Scott's choice for the position. Jeffery Wert is definitely no fan of McClellan stressing that he never had the faith in his creation that they had in him. It was arguably his greatest failing as a general. Wert agrees with Burnside in his belief that here was an individual that was not qualified to lead the Army. Hooker for all his endeavors to get the job proceeded to display in inability to understand how the Army should be fought. Meade would never loss the war in Virginia and could never win it.

The one problem I did find with this otherwise outstanding work was the maps. The maps added nothing to your understanding of the issue being discussed and were really very poorly done to the point of being useless.

The author does not spend much of his time analyzing the Confederate viewpoint which was not the intent of the work or needed. I found this book to be very interesting and a most absorbing work. The author, Jeffrey Wert, has produced an excellent manuscript that I recommend to all. He has provided the reader with a well researched, entertaining and highly rewarding book on the primary Army of the Union. I agree with him that the Army of the Potomac was important in that, while the war was won in the West, the east was where the Confederacy could make their loudest political statement and if at all possible, gain international recognition. No matter how poorly they were used, the men of the Army of the Potomac were able to responds to the demands of the leaders and keep fighting. They remained devoted to the cause, despite fearful losses and inept generalship. Resiliency became one or their defining characteristics. They wanted a fair fight with their enemy convinced that they could whip them every time on such a field. I agree with the author when he says that the Army of the Potomac's was best described by one of its own. In October 1863, Sergeant Charles Bowen of the 12th U. S. Infantry wrote to his wife, "It is actually wonderful how the Army of the Potomac stands the deprivations, trials and reverses that have been heaped on them without start or mercy to meet the foe with undaunted spirits. I do not believe there ever was an army in any country that would endure the same treatment this army has and yet be ready to fight as good a battle, and perhaps a better one than they could when they first came out. Although we have been deprived of the privilege of winning any lasting victories, it has not been our fault, as history in future days will show. I look forward to the time when a

man can say with pride, 'I belonged to the Army of the Potomac.' We look to history to give us our just due and to place all the blame where it belongs." Through the endeavors of our distinguished author Sergeant Bowen's wish has come true.

Do you have any copies of the *Canister* from the 1970's and 1980's?

CCWRT will mark our 50th Anniversary in 2006. The first organizational meeting was in March 1956, and the program meetings started in the fall of 1956. One of the things that we are doing this year is to try to add significant historical materials from CCWRT to the CCWRT Papers Collection at the Cincinnati Historical Society Library. That collection already includes many documents, talks, minutes, and newsletters from 1956 to 1969, but nothing has been added for the period since 1969. At this point, we are looking for the following issues of the *Canister* newsletter:

- Any issues from January 1970 to March 1978.

- Seven specific issues that we are missing between 1980 and 1987: Nov 1980, Apr 1982, May 1985, Oct 1986, Nov 1986, Jan 1987, May 1987.

If you happen to have any of these issues, please notify Dan Reigle. If you know of anyone else who might be able to help, pass the message to them or let Dan know.

September Presentation, Summarized by Albert Hallenberg

For the September 2005 Round Table talk, Dr. Stephen D. Engle, Professor of History and Department Chair at Florida Atlantic University provided us with an excellent talk on General Don Carlos Buell and his place in the Civil War's Western Theater. Dr. Engle was well qualified to speak on the topic through his authorship of two books, *Don Carlos Buell: Most Promising of All* (1999) and *Struggle for the Heartland: The Civil War in the West* (2001).

Dr. Engle humorously referred to George McClellan as part of his topic title, "because the name 'McClellan' sells." He pointed out in many ways McClellan and Buell were similar. Both emphasized preparation over battle movement. Both avoided battle so as not to risk defeat. Both had an immense talent for organization. But, unlike McClellan, Buell was never popular with his troops. During his Tennessee occupation around Nashville, for example, many of his men felt he favored the welfare of Confederate citizens over their needs.

Dr. Engle noted, judging from Buell's pre-Civil War record, he certainly was not timid. He participated in the Seminole War and distinguished himself in the Mexican-American War. He essentially, along with naval gunboats, bailed Ulysses Grant out at Shiloh, but Dr. Engle indicated Buell was gentlemanly and never lorded this rescue over Grant. As Dr. Engle noted, Buell's military career faded quickly after it was alleged he was negligent in not pursuing Bragg's forces after the Battle of Perryville. In November 1862, a special military commission hearing (not a court martial) was convened in Cincinnati to investigate Buell's conduct. The commission more or less exonerated Buell, but his fighting career was over. (As a note, the hearings were extensive and, as Dr. Engle noted, the documentation takes almost an entire volume of the *Official Record* – Series I; volume 16, part 1 for those who have an interest).

Dr. Engle also provided some psychological insight into Buell as a person. He seemed too caught up with himself to realize that the public criticisms he made, even about Lincoln, would be on record. Emotionally withdrawn and reclusive, Dr. Engle concluded Buell ended up truly a sad man. He lived the rest of his days in west central Kentucky working on a failed mining project.

Dr. Engle informed the Round Table he is working on a book about Abraham Lincoln's relationship with the 23 Union governors. All would agree this would be a very interesting topic, and we hope Dr. Engle returns sometime in the near future to discuss it further.

Preservation News by David Mowery, Preservation Chairman: Battery Hooper -- The Round Table's 2005-2006 Preservation Project

The goal for the Round Table's 2005-2006 Preservation Project is to raise at least \$1000 for 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. 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!

Your donations, no matter how small, will help preserve this Civil War redan for future generations to study and enjoy. 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. Donations can be accepted anytime from now until the May 2006 meeting.

Quiz---September, 2005

1. On 15 April 1861, Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk was superseded in command of all Confederate armies in TN, AR, western MS, KY, MO, KS, and the Indian Territory. Who replaced Polk in this command?



2. The New York Fire Department Badge was adapted from a Civil War badge that was associated with the former general who served as police, fire, and public works commissioner for New York City. Who was he?

3. On 11 January 1863, Lt. John Crawford, Adjutant of the 2nd Michigan Cavalry, wrote

a letter to his cousin about his experiences of the past few months. He describes the sacrifice of his fellow soldiers in one recent battle: “And how sacrificed? By the treachery, the *treason* of _____, who refused to send in reinforcements which he held in sight of the battlefield, but would not listen to the appeals of generals and colonels, and even privates, to go to the aid of those brave comrades who had fought against great odds all day.” Who was he writing about?

4. An ardent opponent of secession, the wealthy plantation owner and widower who became the colonel of the 1st Mississippi Cavalry saw action at Belmont and Shiloh before being asked by the governor to take charge of the state’s militia. We know his great-grandson as one of the foremost Civil War historians and writers of our time. Who is he?

5. During the early Confederate efforts to organize their forces and actions in the West, George W. Johnson was in a position of importance. What was his role?

6. On 15 September 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation suspending the writ of habeas corpus throughout the U.S., citing his authority under the Habeas Corpus Act of 3 March 1863. What instigated his proclamation?

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:

November newsletter, October 24th, 2005

January newsletter, December 9th, 2005

February newsletter, January 23rd, 2006

March newsletter, February 20th, 2006

April newsletter, March 17th, 2006

May newsletter, April 24th, 2006

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

Quiz answers:

1. Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston. (Long, *CW Day by Day*, 118; Engle, *Struggle for the Heartland*, pp. 14-16.)

2. Fitz-John Porter (Jamie Ryan talk to CCWRT, 18 Sept 2003; Sifakis, *Who Was Who in the Civil War*, pp. 515-516.)

3. Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell at the Battle of Perryville, 8 October 1862. (*Blue & Gray Magazine*, Wiley Sword’s War Letters Series, Winter 2005, p. 23.)

4. Shelby Foote, who passed away on 27 June 2005, age 88. His great-grandfather’s name was Henry Foote. (Chapman, *Shelby Foote: A Writer’s Life*, 10-12).

5. He was the provisional Confederate governor of Kentucky, and a member of General A. S. Johnston’s staff. He was mortally wounded at Shiloh and died in a Union hospital on 9 April 1862. (Engle, *Struggle for the Heartland*, 15, 65; Faust, *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War*, 397-398.)

6. Resistance to the draft, including both street riots in some cities and political resistance from New York governor Horatio Seymour and others. (Geary, *We Need Men*, 107-109; Long, *CW Day by Day*, 409; Heidler and Heidler, *Encyclopedia of the American CW*, pp. 906-907.)



FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2005-2006 Programs

- November 17th, 2005: Dr. Stephen Rockenbach, Northern Kentucky University, on "The Ohio River Border Region in the Civil War."
January 19th, 2006: Kirk Jenkins, Chicago, on "The 15th (US) Kentucky Infantry."
February 16th, 2006: Paul LaRue and the Senior Research History Class, Washington Court House Senior High School.
March 16th, 2006: Dr. David Bush, Heidelberg College, and Friends & Descendants of Johnson's Island.
April 20th, 2006: Dr. Jim Ramage, Jeannine Kreinbrink, and Larry Klein: "Battery Hooper and the Ramage Civil War Museum."
May 18th, 2006: Dr. Chris Phillips, University of Cincinnati, "Gen. Nathaniel Lyon."

Make Your Dinner Reservations Now!

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 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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