



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, 2006 Issue

Meeting Date: October 19th, 2006

Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

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

(6:45) Dinner: - Caesar Salad, Grilled Filet Mignon, Green Beans Amandine, Garlic Mashed Potatoes,
Chocolate Torte/Raspberry Sauce.

(8:00): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. **Alumni Distinguished Professor of History,**

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Topic: Reflections on the Civil War Centennial



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 Bob Limoseth (h) 513-777-2160 rlimo@fuse.net

October Special Meal Price:

As announced at the September meeting, we will be increasing the price of the dinner meal to \$25.00 for the October 19th 50th Anniversary celebration. The regular meal price of \$20.00 will return in November and remain in effect until we complete our campaign season in May, 2007. Beginning in September of 2007, Brinkley's Restaurant will be implementing a general price increase to the Round Table on all meals catered through the Quality Hotel. The exact amount of the price increase has not yet been determined but we will continue our practice of setting the meal price for the 2007 - 2008 season with a break even objective. As a courtesy to the Round Table, and in recognition of our many years of monthly meetings at the Quality Hotel, the general price increase was delayed for the Round Table from its scheduled implementation date of January 1, 2007 to all customers. We thank Brinkley's Restaurant and Joy Marshall, Banquet Sales Manager, for extending us this courtesy.

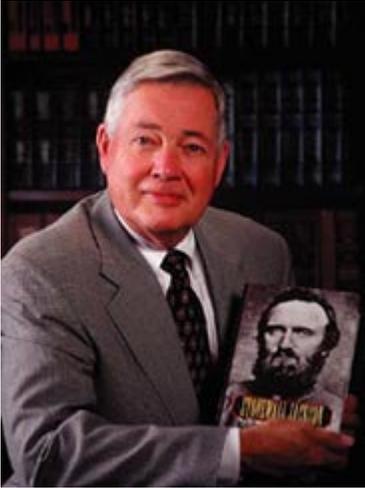
\$5.00 Meeting Only Visitor/Guest Charge for October:

We have had, for a number of years, a \$5.00 meeting only visitor/guest charge when we have a national speaker of Dr. James I. Robertson's reputation. The charge only applies to visitors/guests (not members) who attend for just

the business meeting and speaker portions of our evening's activities. If you bring a visitor/guest in October and they join us for the social hour and dinner portion of the meeting the extra charge does not apply. The monies received will be used to help us offset the speaker expenses for the evening. This is the only meeting at which this charge will be accessed during the 2006–2007 campaign year

Observing CCWRT's 50th Anniversary

This month's meeting celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table.



For the keynote speaker on this special occasion, it is an honor and a privilege to welcome back a special friend of the CCWRT – Dr. James I. “Bud” Robertson, Jr. Dr. Robertson is an Alumni Distinguished Professor of History at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, one of only eight professors of the 2,200 faculty at the school that are honored with this title. His Civil War Era class of approximately 250 students per semester is the largest class of its kind in the United States. He is also the acting Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. Dr. Robertson, a native of Virginia and a great-grandson of a Confederate veteran, earned his Ph. D. in 1959 at Emory University under the guidance of renowned Civil War scholar, Dr. Bell I. Wiley. Robertson served as Executive Director of the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission during the 1960's. He has written eighteen books and edited seventeen on various topics related to the Civil War, including his acclaimed work, *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend* (1997), which has won eight national awards. Dr. Robertson appears

regularly in Civil War programs on the History Channel, Arts & Entertainment Network, and public television, and he performs a weekly broadcast carried by eleven public radio stations. He also served as chief historical consultant for the 2002 movie *Gods and Generals*. Dr. Robertson first spoke to the CCWRT in January 1960, and has since spoken to the group eleven additional times, the most visits from a speaker living outside the tri-state region. At the CCWRT meeting on February 21, 1974, Dr. Robertson was elected an Honorary Member of CCWRT, the only person so honored during the organization's 50-year history.

Drawing from his experiences as a leading member of the Civil War Centennial Commission, Dr. Robertson will discuss the centennial and its effects upon the preservation and study of Civil War history in America. The Civil War Centennial was the longest national observance in U.S. history. More people took an interest in it than any other similar commemoration. What the Centennial sought to do and accomplished, what all was involved and what all was not, is more than a story; it is a lesson for the nation as the Civil War approaches its sesquicentennial. What has changed in the last 50 years with respect to Americans' views on the Civil War? Dr. Robertson's talk may provide us an interesting answer to that question.



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

Membership dues for the 2006 – 2007 campaign year are now due. Payments can be made at the October 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.

How to Read a Civil War Battlefield

The 6 components which help any battlefield trumper to best understand whatever fight they're studying.

First, one needs to understand the organization of Civil War armies. More specifically, one should keep in mind that the basic tactical units of the armies were brigades and regiments.

Second, one needs to understand the basic battlefield functions of the leaders of these units, keeping in mind leaders at the brigade and regimental levels were expected to lead their troops directly, at their front.

Third, to get the most comprehension of the way the battle was fought, one should prepare to visit by reading as much as they can. The OR's and first-person accounts and good analysis of the battle are best. Also, the importance of good maps is stressed. One can never have too many. Consider photocopying them and putting them in a folder for ease of use.

Fourth, one should understand the typical ranges of the weapons used. Most engagements were fought at a distance of 200 yards or less between the lines, even though the weapons had a much longer range. Employing the "100 yard rule" gives one a useful idea of actual distances; after all, most people know how long a football field is.

Fifth, one should have a working knowledge of tactics. This goes hand-in-hand with the above component, since the most effective use of the single-shot weapon was in massed volleys. The shock and concentrated firepower of such volleys were very destructive.

Sixth, one should have a good eye for terrain and an ability to view the ground as a commander would have. The best positions would have been defensible and higher than the surrounding terrain for targeting and reconnoitering purposes. Also important was ground that presented obstacles to attackers, especially on the flanks yet offered ease of access for retreat or reinforcements. Finally but as important as any other aspect of geography, the position should be within easy reach of a source of potable water. Conversely, an attacking force would look for any weaknesses in any of these aspects of the enemy's position and take advantage as the opportunities presented themselves.

Article from the September 2006 edition of *The War Correspondent*, Volume 16, No. 3, the Newsletter of the Ray Fawcett Chapter of The Central Ohio Civil War Round Table, Rory McIntyre, author

Civil War Talk Radio: In case you are interested, Civil War Talk Radio is on the Internet and you can join in and listen. This is an archive of prior broadcasts of interviews of authors by a Professor from East Carolina University. You can take a look and listen at <http://www.worldtalkradio.com/show.asp?sid=150> (This notification was found in the current issue, # 382, of the Louisville Civil War Round Table's Newsletter)



September Presentation, Summarized by Albert Hallenberg:

This month, the Round Table welcomed A. Wilson Greene, Executive Director of Pamplin Park (Petersburg, VA). Will is no stranger to the Round Table, as he has spoken to us four times before, most recently in April 1996 at our Midwest CWRT Conference on “Decision at Petersburg, April 2, 1865.” With this month’s talk, “Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War,” Will expanded his subject further by discussing the overall role of this vital Confederate stronghold before and during the War.

Will spoke of how at the beginning of his career he concentrated much of his study on the military history of Civil War Petersburg, but in recent times Will has researched other aspects of this city during the era. All Round Table members were at least somewhat familiar with the 1864/65 Petersburg Campaign, but some may not have been aware that this strategically important Virginia city was a pro-Union city before the War, but, upon the state’s secession in the spring of 1861, became rabidly secessionist. This rapid transition led to a general theme throughout Will’s talk that war can have unintended consequences, and certainly Petersburg experienced those consequences both economically and socially.

Will talked about how Petersburg was a vital railroad hub of the Confederacy as the city had five railroad terminals. Will pointed out, however, that unfortunately for the Confederacy none of these terminals connected (the city purposely had created no connections to spur hotel business and other economic activity in the central business district). It was well into the conflict before the Confederate government provided the funding to connect the terminals. By then, however, the city was experiencing the consequences of secession, including rampant inflation and a general economic downturn, as most of the markets for this industrial city had been with the northern states.

Another unintended consequence of the War in Petersburg, according to Will, was the imposition of martial law as the city became a way station for thousands of (sometimes unruly) Confederate troops. In believing they had asserted their voices through secession, Petersburg citizens soon found they had lost virtually all their basic civil rights courtesy of the Confederate government.

One interesting note Will made about the social makeup of the city was that Petersburg had the highest number percentage wise of free African Americans in the Confederacy. In fact, when War broke out, a substantial number of free male African Americans volunteered to take up arms against the Union. The Confederate government declined their military assistance, but did allow free blacks to form labor brigades. Will believed, for the most part, these free blacks were not so much dedicated to the Confederate cause as wanting to be “on the right side of the fence,” since their social status was in a much more delicate balance than that of most whites.

Round Table members were not only impressed with Will’s knowledge and expertise on the Petersburg campaign, but also with the city itself. And he arrived as a heavily qualified speaker. In addition to his experience with the National Park Service at the Petersburg National Battlefield, Will is the author of *Breaking the Backbone of the Rebellion: The Final Days of the Petersburg Campaign*. The University of Virginia Press will soon publish a new book by Will (the same title as his talk). Will is also at work composing a comprehensive two volume work on the Petersburg Campaign.

Will also paid a huge compliment to our Round Table, stating that out of the many Round Tables he has spoken to, the Cincinnati CWRT stands out as one of the best. We can only say that as a speaker Will stands out as one of the best, and we hope to have him back in the near future.

YANKEES

ARE NOT WELCOME TO SIT HERE



The question of permanently marking graves of Confederate deceased in national cemeteries and Confederate burial plots resulted in the Act of March 9, 1906 (P.L. 38, 59th Congress, Chap. 631-34 Stat. 56), authorizing the furnishing of headstones for the graves of Confederates who died, primarily in Union prison camps, and were buried in federal cemeteries

Congress adopted the same size and material for Confederate headstones as headstones for Civil-Spanish War deceased. The design varied in that the top was pointed instead of rounded and the shield was omitted.

Apocryphally, it has been said that the pointed top was adopted to prevent "Yankees" from sitting on Confederate headstones.

An act of February 26, 1929 (70th Congress, Chap. 324-45 Stat. 1307), authorized the furnishing of this type stone for graves in private cemeteries, as well.

*On May 26, 1930 the War Department implemented regulations for Confederate headstones that also authorized the inscription of the **Confederate Cross of Honor** in a small circle on the front face of the stone above the standard inscription of the soldier's name, rank, company, and regiment.*



From Civil War Round Table of Arkansas Newsletter (August, 2006)

We Who Study Must Also Strive To Save!



Preservation News:

The Dedicated Preservation Project for this campaign season will be Perryville Battlefield. Any funds collected between September and December 31st will be given to the Civil War Preservation Trust. This donation will be matched \$1/\$12.30 by the CWPT. The Round Table will also match your donations on a one for two basis, up to a

two hundred and fifty dollar cap. Our goal remains \$1,000 and we hope you will consider supporting this worthwhile project.. Therefore our donation will multiple quickly.

Beginning January, 2007 any donations will be given to the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association <http://www.perryville.net/pbpa.html>. More information will be forthcoming as the project moves forward.

Contributions can be made at the check-in-desk during monthly meetings, or by mailing your gift to Treasurer Jim Stewart 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 "Perryville Battlefield." A receipt will be provided as all contributions are tax deductible under our status as a 501-C 3 organization. Donations can be accepted anytime from now until the May 2006 meeting.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

To facilitate the printing and timely distribution of the monthly newsletter, information for it should be submitted to the editor no later than the following dates:

October 23rd, 2006
December 15th, 2006
January 22nd, 2007
February 19th, 2007
March 19th, 2007
April 23rd, 2007

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu



FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2006-2007 Programs

November 16 th 2006	Barbara Davis, Chicago, Civil War Home-Front Letters of the Ovid Butler Family
January 18 th , 2007	Dr. John Cimprich, Thomas More College, Fort Pillow
February 15 th , 2007	Bob McLaurin, CCWRT, The River Navy
March 15 th , 2007	Jack Simon, CCWRT, Fortifications
April 19 th , 2007	Terry Winschel, Vicksburg National Military Park
May 17 th , 2007	Harold George, Lakewood OH, 9 th 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 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:

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