



CINCINNATI
 CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT PO Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org>
 October, 2008 Issue

Meeting Date: October 16, 2008

Place: The Drake Center

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

(6:30) Dinner: Oven Baked Chicken with Scalloped Potatoes, Corn Casserole, Orange Cumber Lettuce Salad, Dinner Rolls and Butter. Assorted Gourmet Cookies, Coffee, Tea and Water

Vegetarian Option: Eggplant Pasta Bake, Twice Baked Potato, Vegetable Medley, Salad, Dinner Rolls and Dessert

(7:30): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Roger Billings, CCWRT

Topic: *Lincoln at the Civil War Battlefields*

IMPORTANT NOTE: 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 8:00pm Wednesday October 8th**. This is one full week ahead of the meeting, which is required as the food is ordered on Thursday morning, October 9th.

Dinner Time Changed To 6:30 pm: By consensus of the members in attendance at the September meeting, we have adjusted the starting time for dinner to 6:30 pm, from 6:45 pm. The Social Period will be from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm. The reasons that justify this change include: most members arrive before 6:30, adult beverages are no longer available during the social period, members coming directly from work will still have sufficient time to make the rush hour commute, a buffet format allows for a shorter dinner period, and an earlier start gets members home a little sooner to spend time with family.

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The Cincinnati CWRT is honored by the return of one of its members, Roger Billings, as its speaker for the October meeting. Professor Billings came to the Salmon P. Chase College of Law of Northern Kentucky University in 1972 after working seven years for a major New York City publishing company, Charles Scribner's Sons. He received his J.D. from the University of Akron. Fulbright Distinguished Professor at he has been teaching international University of Salzburg. He has practitioners. Dr. Billings enjoys particularly about Abraham Lincoln, made a life-long study. His favorite Roger wrote an article, "A. Lincoln, published in the Summer 2005 issue also published a paper entitled *Lincoln Biographers* in 1993. Abraham Lincoln to audiences as Association, the Louisville Civil Historical Association. He has Lincoln's travels to the Civil War battlefields. Currently, Roger's research centers on Lincoln's law career, about which he is making presentations and writing an article.



A.B. from Wabash College and his Since 2004, when he was designated the University of Salzburg, Austria, trade law as visiting professor at the published four books for tennis and collects books, whose life and career Roger has book is David Donald's *Lincoln. Debtor-Creditor Lawyer,* that was of the *Journal of Illinois History.* He *Salmon P. Chase and the Great Professor Billings has spoken about varied as the New York City Bar War Round Table, and the Illinois conducted a long-term study of*

Professor Billing's talk will present the story of Abraham Lincoln's presidential travels and their impact on our bloodiest war. Lincoln was restless in the White House. He liked to get out and walk across Lafayette Park to visit a friend or general, making relaxing visits to Secretary of State Seward, or not-so-relaxing visits to General George McClellan. The President routinely walked next door to the Army telegraph office to get first news from the battle front. But the telegraph only whetted Lincoln's appetite for on-site inspections, and so he would travel by steamer and railroad to visit the generals at the battlefields. These excursions not only allowed him to escape from hectic Washington, but they also allowed him to evaluate the progress of the war first hand. In these excursions to battlefields, or soon-to-be battlefields, he gave his generals pep talks before a battle and reassurances after a loss. Many of Lincoln's visits occurred while he was trying to develop a better command structure. In visits to the Virginia Peninsula, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Antietam, he observed first hand the condition of the Army and the mindset of a general, and more often than not he replaced the general after returning to Washington. It was not until late in the war that Lincoln discovered that much of what he did could be done by a general in Washington who communicated the president's wishes to generals in the field.

Miscellaneous Announcements:

It's Time to Pay Your Re-Enlistment Fee: Membership dues for the 2008 – 2009 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: 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.

Raffle Ticket Price Change: To clarify the new pricing procedure for raffle tickets it is...the first ticket costs \$2.00. All additional tickets you purchase will be \$1.00 each. And remember, you have three chances of winning and all the proceeds go to civil war preservation activities.

Ed Bearss To Be Made An Honorary Member: When Ed speaks at the November meeting we will be asking him to accept Honorary Membership in the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table. This honor, given out only once before to Dr. James I. Robertson, is in recognition of his lifetime of work in preserving the legacy of America's Great Civil War and American History in general. Ed will be speaking to our Round Table for the fifth time. In recognition of his outstanding body of work, the Round Table will make a \$1,000 contribution, in Ed's name, to the non-profit civil war organization of his choice from the Preservation Fund. The award will be presented at the end of the business meeting. We hope to keep this a surprise so stay mum during the social and dinner periods. And, to help us accomplish this objective, he will receive a doctored copy of this Newsletter that does not contain this paragraph.

Interested In Visiting The Chickamauga Battlefield: Secretary Dan Bauer is trying to determine if there is enough member interest for a battlefield visit to the Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Chattanooga areas. A survey form was distributed at the meeting and if enough responses are received Dan will check on available dates and the costs associated with a trip of this kind. If you were not in attendance at the meeting and would like to know more about this possible battlefield stomp with Chickamauga Park Historian Jim Ogden, please contact Dan using the contact information found at the end of this newsletter.

Reservations Date Has Changed To Eight Days Before The Meeting: This message is being repeated from last month's Newsletter because of its importance. Please take note that we have a change from last year's procedure. **You must make your dinner reservation by no later than 8:00 pm on the Wednesday night that is eight days before the meeting.** The count is called in at 10:00 am on Thursday morning, one week before the event. Also note that the Drake Center does not have a 5% overage policy as did our prior caterers. That pretty much means no reservation, no food. The only way we will be able to accommodate someone who forgot to make a reservation is if someone happened to be a no-show on meeting night. That seldom happens so if you are regular in your attendance please consider signing up for our Standing Reservations option. If interested, see Treasurer Jim Stewart for details.

Silent Auction in Progress: We are going to try the Silent Auction format as a vehicle for raising money for the Preservation Fund. After you check-in with Treasurer Jim Stewart, please check out the announcement table directly across from his. It contains upcoming seminar and conference information, free to a good home handouts, and now the Silent Auction item. The first item being raffled is a Civil War Album which presents a complete photographic history of the Civil War. This book, which is in great condition, is edited by William C. Davis and Bell L. Wiley. It contains nearly 4,000 photographic images of the war. If you want to add to your library, or give someone a really neat Christmas gift, check it out and enter your bid. Look next month for a second Silent Auction item and remember...all proceeds benefit preservation.

CCWRT Business Cards: A small supply of generic business cards that can be used to inform friends, relatives, neighbors and business associates about the Round Table can also be found on the announcement table. They contain information on when, where and what time we meet, the fees for attending a meeting, and it refers the recipient to our web site if they desire additional information. If you know of someone who might have an interest in our group, please take a few to help spread the message. We are always looking for new members and our current members are always are best source for helping spread the word.

The Becker Collection: If you are interested in drawings of the American Civil War Era be sure to visit <http://idesweb.bc.edu/becker/artists> The "About the Collection" introduction on this relatively new website indicates that it contains the hitherto unexhibited and undocumented drawings by Joseph Becker and his colleagues, nineteenth-century artists who worked as artist-reporters for *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly Newspaper* observing, drawing, and sending back for publication images of the Civil War and numerous other aspects of nineteenth-century American culture. These "first-hand" drawings, most of which were never published, document in lively and specific ways key developments in the history of America as it struggled to establish its national identity

September Presentation:

Lincoln's Hope for Victory: Henry W. Halleck, The General Who Refused to Command

Speaker: Dr. John F. Marszalek

John F. Marszalek's presentation on Henry Wager Halleck told of a man who was long on accomplishments but short on leadership skills. Marszalek believes Halleck to be one of the most significant figures of the 19th Century, and yet he was widely despised during the last three years of the war. He held the post of commanding general longer than anybody else in the war, but refused to command. Halleck's list of pre-Mexican War accomplishments was impressive.

He graduated 3rd in his class at West Point, joined the army corps of engineers, built the pedestal for the Statue of Liberty, and wrote a widely acclaimed report on the nation's defense systems. Halleck was considered the leading military theorist in the United States.

During the Mexican War he was stationed in California and assigned the task of designing and building defense systems. After the war, he and two others founded a law firm. When California was ready for statehood, Halleck played a key role at the constitutional convention. He built the Montgomery Block building in San Francisco, the largest building west of the Mississippi until the 1900's and one of the few buildings which survived the great San Francisco earthquake. Halleck was a manager of the largest quicksilver mine in the world. Quicksilver is used to separate gold from rock.

When the Civil War broke out, Halleck was named Major General and was stationed in St. Louis as commander of the western district. It was under Halleck's overall command that the victories of Fort Henry and Fort Donaldson occurred and the battle of Shiloh. Halleck took command of 100,000 men and was able to take Corinth while losing practically nobody. For this accomplishment, Halleck earned the nickname "Old Brains". In mid 1862, Halleck was the most successful general in the war.

Lincoln was so impressed with Halleck, that Lincoln called him to Washington to be overall commanding general even though the two had never met. Halleck was Lincoln's hope for victory. Lincoln told Halleck to visit McClellan during the Peninsular Campaign. Although Halleck felt McClellan should leave the peninsula and join up with Pope, Halleck never ordered him to do so. McClellan did not follow Halleck's suggestion. After McClellan was driven off the peninsula and Pope was badly defeated at Second Bull Run, Halleck suffered an emotional breakdown.

Halleck saw himself as more of an advisor than a commander. While this style of command worked very well with the aggressive Grant and Sherman in the west, it did not work so well with the cautious eastern generals. With the war going poorly in the east, criticism began mounting against Halleck and Lincoln. When it became apparent to Lincoln that Halleck would not be the great commander he had hoped for, why didn't Lincoln fire Halleck? Marszalek thinks there were three main reasons. First, Lincoln saw that Halleck was a great administrator. Secondly, Lincoln saw Halleck's military knowledge and strategy as being invaluable. Lastly, for the time being, nobody else was as qualified to hold the position.

After Grant's victory at Vicksburg, Lincoln felt Grant was finally ready to become overall commander and take Halleck's place. Lincoln made this move and created a brand new position for Halleck: Chief of Staff. Halleck thrived in this position. He was able to concentrate on what he did best, administration and deferred to Grant for making military decisions in the east.

While Lincoln met with Grant, Sherman, and Porter at City Point, Virginia to discuss the final strategy for the war, Halleck was hardly missed. Halleck was back in Washington happily doing his paperwork. What kept Halleck from being an effective leader? Marszalek suspects there are psychological and health reasons. Because Halleck ran away from home as a teenager, he was always looking for a replacement father figure. Marszalek thinks Halleck saw McClellan as this missing father figure. Halleck revered McClellan so much, he hesitated giving him orders. On the health side, Marszalek thinks Halleck suffered from hemochromatosis or too much iron in the blood. Halleck also suffered from a severe case of hemorrhoids and possibly an addiction to opium, the treatment for the hemorrhoids.

After the war, Halleck served as head of the Department of the James in Virginia, commander of the department of the Pacific in California, then commander of the South in Louisville, Kentucky. It is in Louisville where he died in 1872, a very wealthy man with an estate valued at \$500,000. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.



May Presentation:

August Willich's Gallant Dutchman: Bullets, Bayonets and Beer

Speaker: Joseph Reinhardt

Those who heard speaker Joseph Reinhardt's talk really got three talks for the price of one. The talk included a biography of August Willich, a history of the 32nd Indiana Infantry, and an account of the involvement of German immigrant soldiers in the Civil War.

Mr. Reinhardt began with a handout with statistics from the 1860 census which showed that while 1.3 million of the 31 million U.S. population was German born (4%), 10% of the Union Army was German born. The other side of the handout included photos of a few of the members of the 32nd Indiana. Some of the other famous German regiments were the 9th Ohio, the 15th Missouri, the 24th Illinois and the 26th Wisconsin. While Germans were blamed for the loss at Chancellorsville, the 32nd Indiana won praise for a record of gallant fighting in the West. Trying to get a picture of the "Germaness" of the 32nd was difficult because only a handful of diaries and letters are available. Germans were eager to join the Union Army because they wanted to be good Americans while bringing honor to the German name. They formed their own regiments because they did not speak English and they wanted to be around others who shared their culture including a fondness of drinking beer (even on Sundays).

In August of 1861 Indiana Governor Oliver Morton tapped August Willich to raise a German regiment. Willich was chosen because of his military reputation and influence. The German born Willich was trained in the Prussian Military Academy and served in the Prussian army for 19 years. Although he was considered a highly effective drill master, he was court martialed in 1847 due to his dabbling in Communism and resigned his post. Willich had befriended both Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Willich became a leader in the German Revolutionary Army and the failed German revolution of 1848.

Willich fled to the U.S. with hopes of recruiting soldiers to invade Germany. After spending a few years in South Carolina, he came to Cincinnati in 1856 accepting a position as editor of a German newspaper. He used this position to spread his Socialism and anti-Catholicism ideology. Willich's plans changed when war broke out and he was instrumental in raising four companies for the 9th Ohio.

When organizing the 32nd Indiana, Willich was able to draw from 200 former members of the German Revolutionary Army. The average age of the soldiers in the 32nd was 32 years old, more than 9 years older than the average age of a Union soldier. Many of the members of the 32nd were members of the Turners, a German social organization that promoted fitness through athletic contests. These three factors made for a highly cohesive, tough, and experienced unit before they saw their first combat. Although the 32nd was formed in Indianapolis, it included companies from all over the state including Evansville, Fort Wayne, Aurora, Terra Haute, Louisville, and even one from Cincinnati.

The 32nd fought in all the major battles of the Army of the Ohio and the Army of the Cumberland except for Perryville. The 32nd saw its first significant action at Rowlett's Station near Mumfordsville, Kentucky where 11 of its members were killed and 29 others were wounded or missing. The oldest Civil War marker of the war was dedicated in memory of the fighting of the 32nd at Rowlett's Station. This marker is now located in Louisville. Although the unit went on to suffer even greater losses at Shiloh, Stones River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Pickett's Mill, in each of these battles the 32nd displayed a high level of courage and tenacity. It is said that the 32nd was the first Union regiment to reach the crest of Missionary Ridge thanks in part to its fierce use of the bayonet.

Of the 937 men who enlisted in the 32nd, 171 lost their lives due to combat and only 280 were mustered out of service on Sept. 2nd, 1864. The 32nd Indiana was looked upon as one of the most successful ethnic regiments in terms of military achievement, gaining positive recognition for German-American participation in the conflict, and serving as a source of pride for the many German born Americans trying to assimilate themselves into American society.

Cincinnati Civil War Round Table September Quiz:

Q1: You are walking in Andersonville, Ga. down state Route 29 when you enter the town and notice a 45 ft. high obelisk monument dedicated to the memory of _____.

A1: Captain Henry Wirz CSA, Commandant of Fort Sumter (Andersonville) POW camp.

Ref: Andersonville: The Southern Perspective, J.H. Segars, ed., p. 7.

Q2: On 8 April 1865, the eve of his army's surrender, General Lee observed a Confederate General officer pass by. Turning to one of his staff officers, Lee coldly said, "Is that man still with this army?" To whom was he referring?

A2: General George Pickett. Ref: Lee, The Last Years, C.B. Flood, p. 231.

Q3: General anesthesia was first used for military casualties during the Mexican War. Approximately what % of major surgical procedures was accomplished with the use of general anesthetics, ether or chloroform, during the Civil War? The table with the closest answer will win 1 point.

A3: 95%. Ref: Hallowed Ground, Summer '07, Civil War Medicine - It's Not What You Think, Wanderlich, p. 34-36.

Q4: Explain the meaning or intent of the international law of the sea known as the "twenty-four hour rule."

A4: The vessel of one belligerent may not leave a neutral port within 24 hours of the departure of an enemy ship. Ref: Divided Waters, Musicant, p. 329.

Q5: What was the "Stone Fleet?"

A5: Several dozen ocean going ships purchased for about \$5,000 each and loaded with stones were sailed from northeast harbors, brought to southern harbors and sunk to act as obstructions to impair the operations of blockade runners. Ref: Civil War Boston, O'Connor, p. 85-86.

Q6: USN Red Rover, a captured rebel floating barracks, was converted into the Navy's first specifically commissioned _____.

A6: Hospital ship. Ref: Divided Waters, Musicant, Photos with caption, p. 268-269.

Q7: Identify this structure (see attached photo).

A7: Beauvoir. Ref: Civil War News, June 2008, p. 1.

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 24, 2008

December 5, 2008

January 23, 2009

February 27, 2009

March 27, 2009

April 24, 2009

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

Future Presentations:

2008 Programs

November 20, 2008

Edwin C. Bearss: Arlington, VA - *Flight From Richmond and the Imprisonment of Jefferson Davis*

2009 Programs

January 15, 2009

David M. Smith, CCWRT, and Thomas L. Breiner, CCWRT
Relieved of Command at Five Forks: G. K. Warren, Right or Wrong?

February 19, 2009

Stanley Wernz, Cincinnati, *An Evening with Abraham Lincoln*

March 19, 2009

Alan Berenson, CCWRT, *"Robert E. Lee, 1865-1870"*

April 16, 2009

Col. Kevin Weddle, US Army War College

Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: Samuel Francis Du Pont

May 21, 2009

Harold Holzer, United States Lincoln Bicentennial Commission,

Topic TBD

Directions:

Getting to the Conference Center at Drake



The

From I-75

Take the Galbraith Road exit and go west one-half mile.

From 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.

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.

Parking Map:



For More Information

151 West Galbraith Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45216

Phone: 513-418-2544

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@cincinnatiawrt.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: 513-418-2544**). 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:

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Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!