



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>

October, 2010 Issue

Meeting Date: October 21, 2010

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

Dinner Menu: Boneless chicken breast stuffed with gravy and traditional bread stuffing served with glazed baby carrots, whipped potatoes, ceasar salad & dinner rolls, cream filled pastries topped with chocolate sauce and whip cream
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

**Speaker: Phillip Seyfrit, Madison County Historic Properties Director,
Richmond (KY) Battlefield Park**

Topic: The Battle of Richmond, Kentucky

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, October 13th, 2010.**

About our October Speaker:

Phillip M. Seyfrit will speak for the first time to the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table at its October meeting. A lifelong Madison County, Kentucky, resident, Mr. Seyfrit is a graduate of the Model Laboratory School, Eastern Kentucky University, and the Mid- America College of Funeral Service. After a twenty year career in the funeral industry, Phillip changed direction and accepted the position

of Historic Properties Director for Madison County, whose duties include management and proper interpretation of the properties relating to the Battle of Richmond and the other Madison County parks. Phil is active in Richmond's First Presbyterian Church, the Richmond Masonic bodies, and many national, state, and local Civil War preservation and history groups. He is on the staff of the "Kentucky Civil War Bugle" news publication. He has been published in several Civil War periodicals and enjoys visiting Civil War battlefields and related sites. Phillip portrays Federal Colonel William Link and Confederate Colonel Preston Smith at events relating to the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky. He was recently appointed by Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear to the Kentucky Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

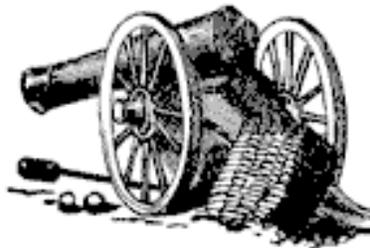


Phillip M. Sevrit

6,600-man Confederate force led by Major General Edmund Kirby Smith. Mr. Seyfrit will take us on a journey to the late summer/early autumn of 1862 in Kentucky, during the period of General Braxton Bragg's Kentucky Campaign. Phillip will relate the importance of the Battle of Richmond to the other Western Theatre activities occurring simultaneously, including the Confederate army's march on Cincinnati.

The Battle of Richmond, fought on August 29-30, 1862, was the second largest battle fought on Kentucky soil. It is considered by most Civil War scholars as the most complete victory one side had over the other during the entire war. It was here that 6,500 Federals under Major

General William "Bull" Nelson were routed and lost more than 85 percent of their men and materiel to the



President's Report

... Pat Homan

We had an excellent presentation at our first meeting on the staff system of the Army of Northern Virginia. I learned some new information, which is always important. We also welcomed several new members. One member is my next door neighbor who had not heard of the Round Table. My wife gets credit for joining as she explained the organization to Missy. As Missy is a descendant of a Union Officer and interested in many things, she decided to join our group.

There are many people in the Greater Cincinnati area who have no idea of the organization's existence and, if informed, might also like to join. I strongly encourage all members to talk up our Round Table and to carry a copy or two of the excellent small brochure that Mike Rogers and Bob Limoseth developed last year.

I have found many casual occasions to mention the Round Table. One of my favorites is when browsing books at any bookstore. If I notice someone else in the Civil War Section, I will ask if they are interesting that period. If they answer yes, I will go on to tell them briefly about the Round Table and invite them to attend a meeting. This is when the brochure is an excellent aid. It is quick, easy and makes for a “soft sell”. I don’t want to come on too strong but simply as one Civil War buff talking to another. There is nothing to lose. I am sure you can all find other occasions to talk about our group.

I am aware that the Drake Hospital is cutting staff and their problems have been in the newspaper. Tom Briener, or VP, is in contact with them and it doesn’t appear that our meetings will be affected. We do have a two year contract with the Drake, however, we will be watching the situation closely in the coming months.

I hope to see all of you at the October meeting.



Items of Interest:

It’s Time to Renew Your Membership: Membership dues for the 2010 – 2011 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 further 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. 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.

Spring Field Trip: A spring field trip is being planned to visit the Shiloh Battlefield. While plans are still tentative, we would like to hear from as many members as possible who may want to attend such a trip. It would be nice if we could get a rough idea as to how many people would like to attend such a trip and what weekend would work for best for the majority. Please see Dan Bauer at the October meeting e-mail him at dbauer002@cinci.rr.com with comments and suggestions.

New Members: Are hearty welcome to our newest members who were voted in at the September meeting: Missie McPherson and Jackie Todd

**VISIT THE BATTLEFIELDS
WHEN YOU CAN..WHILE YOU CAN**

Book Review

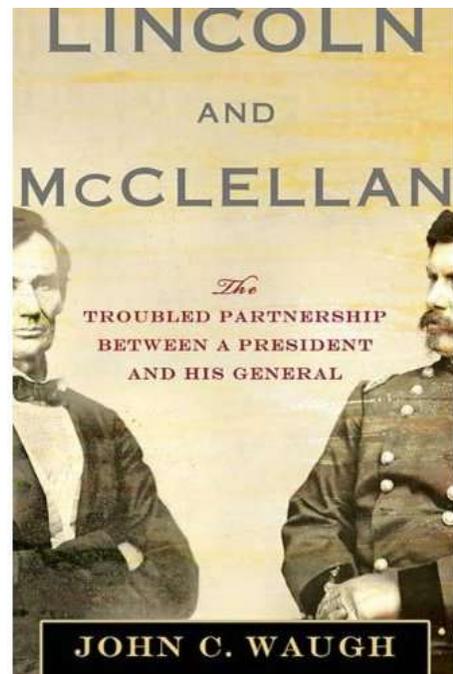
submitted by Daniel H. Reigle

Lincoln and McClellan: The Troubled Partnership Between A President and His General, by John C. Waugh New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. 252 pages.

The first three chapters of the book juxtapose brief, but important, descriptions of the prewar careers of both Lincoln and McClellan, describing their extremely different backgrounds while highlighting the capacities which brought them to their roles in 1861. Waugh points out, McClellan's conclusion from this early experience with Lincoln was that Lincoln was his social, intellectual, and moral inferior, an opinion that McClellan never seemed to overcome.

The author's portrait of the early McClellan emphasizes his significant talents and his personal charm. For those of us whose reading has led to a more negative impression of McClellan, it is important to be reminded that many contemporaries described him as "generous-hearted ... noble ... not a mean thought in him ... honorable ... pleasant ... charming ... modest."

The failure of the relationship between Lincoln and McClellan leads to further comparison of the relationships of both men to Edwin Stanton. Starting from a perhaps similarly deficient relationship, Lincoln was also willing to swallow his pride and display extraordinary patience with McClellan. In contrast to Stanton, Lincoln's patience with McClellan never produced results. Stanton's case is also illuminating in that he was an early McClellan supporter and confidante, whose allegiance McClellan seemed to make no effort to keep. In McClellan's eyes, Stanton became just another enemy who did not know what he was doing. McClellan's overwhelming arrogance and blindness toward others' capability was not just personally directed at Lincoln, but he managed to lose the support of many who initially thought highly of him, while he failed to cultivate the support and understanding of those whose partnership he certainly needed, including Lincoln, Stanton, and Halleck.



The author provides a concise, but fresh and engaging, narrative of the strained and painful interactions throughout the first months of McClellan's command, the Peninsula Campaign, and the Maryland Campaign. When Lincoln's seemingly endless patience is finally exhausted and McClellan is relieved of command, we are left with one of those puzzles of history: was there ever a major character in American history whose personal capabilities and whose political capital were so large as McClellan's in 1861, but who produced so little to show for it?

The story did not end in November 1862, of course. In an excellent chapter titled "Two Storks by a Frog Pond," the author draws upon his work in *Reelecting Lincoln* to relate the ironic events that led to the Democrats' choice of McClellan to oppose Lincoln in the 1864 election. The verdict of the Army, whose allegiance McClellan thought he owned, was clear: of the 150,000-plus votes cast by soldiers in the field, Lincoln received more than 80%.

The irony of 1864 should also cause us to consider whether McClellan's political beliefs in 1862 influenced or impaired his military judgment. Jacob Cox later described these characteristics as "overestimate of the enemy, tendency to interpret unfavorably the sights and sounds in front, hesitancy to throw in his whole force when he knew that his subordinate was engaged." Were these strictly indications of his military thinking and style, or was he allowing the political fires to be stoked, presumably in his favor? In any event, the author concludes that "McClellan's inability to see Lincoln's greatness, as Grant later could, in effect destroyed McClellan's career and made Grant's. Lincoln had held out his hand to McClellan, but McClellan refused to grasp it, refused to confide in the President, refused to make him his partner. Above everything else, that failure had been his Achilles' heel."

Thanks to John C. Waugh for another stimulating book, well worth reading.



September Presentation:

...submitted by Mike Rhein

Robert E. L. Krick, Jr., chief historian of the Richmond National Military Park, spoke on a topic not previously dealt with in the annals of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table: staff operations.

Mr. Krick began his talk with an overview of the evolution of staff operations in terms of the lack of technical development in the decades prior to the Civil War. He emphasized that there was no staff school as such and that there had not been much progress in the performance of staff work dating back to the Mexican War and before. He alluded to a comment by a Confederate staff officer, John Pickett, under Gen. John C. Breckenridge, in deriding qualifications for staff operations: "The duties of this office can be discharged by any schoolboy who possessed common sense."



Robert E. L. Krick, Jr

According to Mr. Krick, even Gen. Lee "felt that the staff system was insufficient". As evidence of Lee's frustration, Krick included a comment of Lee directed to President Jefferson Davis in which Lee wrote "the greatest difficulty is in causing orders and regulations to be obeyed." Krick noted that Lee did not have intelligence and operations officers assisting him in planning troop movements and divining enemy intentions. In contrast, the speaker stressed that in the latter part of the war, Gen. U.S. Grant had the benefit of excellent work by Gen. A. A. Humphreys in operations and George Sharpe in intelligence in expediting the efficiency of the Army of the Potomac's movements.

Mr. Krick delivered an interesting overview of the makeup of the NVA staff composed of 2300 staff officers. His statistical research revealed such facts as these: the average age of a staff officer was 30; four percent of staff were killed in battle as opposed to 22 percent of field officers; 42 percent attended college and that they tended to come from a "professional class" including "bankers, lawyers, merchants." Generally, during the Civil War, the staff saw itself as a "military family."

Confederate generals such as James Longstreet, Jubal Early, Cadmus Wilcox and Richard Ewell had staffs that stayed together for the four years of the conflict. The speaker said that the record for the general who had the most staff officers in the ANV in a short period of time was John B. Magruder: 57 officers in 56 weeks.

Mr. Krick said that the most important staff position was assistant adjutant general which usually required “the brightest man on the staff,” citing Walter Taylor (Lee’s staff) and Sandie Pendleton (Gen. T. J. Jackson’s staff) as examples, alluding to their monumental paperwork duties (“writing morning, noon and night”). He also referred to other aspects of staff operations such as assistant inspector general (for “discipline offenses”), engineers, judges, ordnance officers, commissary officers, and quartermaster officers. The speaker said that typically staff officers possessed “an inordinately high level of education” and “in most cases had unlimited authority.” Mr. Krick also emphasized that “staff affected army morale and discipline” and that the staff was “an extension of the general himself.”

“Many classic accounts of the war,” according to Mr. Krick, “were written by staff officers” who “helped to define the view of the army.” He referred to such authors as W.W. Blackford, Jedidiah Hotchkiss, H. Kyd Douglas, Moxley Sorrel, Walter Taylor, H.B. McClellan, William Allan, E. Porter Alexander, Armistead Long, and Campbell Brown.

For an Ohio angle to the topic, Mr. Krick referred to the number of ANV officers with Buckeye state connections: 25, including Jackson Warner (born on a flatboat on the Ohio River in 1815) who was in charge of commissary for Union prisoners in Richmond; James Power Smith (Jackson’s staff) born in Harrison County, Oh. and Henry Anderson from Cuyahoga Co. who wrote Yankee in Gray .

Mr. Krick presented an insightful look at the behind-the-scenes staff framework of the Army of the Northern Virginia, delineating the thankless tasks and attendant criticism that dogged the overworked officers, highlighting the question as to whether they were viewed as “the backbone of the army or ‘bombproof officers.’”



Future Presentations:

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>
September 2011	TBD
October 2011	Frank J. Williams, Providence, RI <i>Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief: The First Year of the War</i>
November 2011	Peter Cozzens, Silver Springs, MD Topic TBD

September Quiz:

- 1: What was the occasion that induced U.S. Grant to order a salute of 100 guns fired toward the enemy around Petersburg in late Sep. 1864?
- 2: I married a private in the Union Army who was 10 years my junior. While he was fighting the enemy I joined the U.S. Sanitary Commission and worked as a nurse. In July 1863 I received a note passed through the lines from an enemy soldier granting me permission to visit my injured husband whom I was able to nurse back to good health in 6 months. He remarried the sister of Robert Gould Shaw after I died in 1864. Who as the enemy soldier who granted me a pass through opposing army lines to nurse my husband?
- 3: _____ was the only president to hold a patent.
- 4: A victim of our nation's recent recession is the _____ Arizona State Park, site of a skirmish in April 1862 and the westernmost point of land based military conflict in our Civil War. It is being closed for lack of funds and is being listed for the first time as an endangered site by the Civil War Preservation Trust.
- 5: The Civil War was the greatest insurgency in the history of the United States. What was the second greatest insurgency?
- 6: On 13 April 1861 in Richmond, Va., a 100 gun battery fired a salute. What were they celebrating?

Answers:

- 1: General Sheridan's victory over the rebel army @ Fisher's Hill & Early's subsequent retreat from the Shenandoah Valley. Ref.: Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant, Konecky & Konecky, p. 536
- 2: General John Gordon. Ref.: Google, Francis & Arabella, A Love Story; 2006, John Fazio
- 3: Abraham Lincoln. Ref.: Abe as he Really Was, Wall St. Journal, 6 Feb. 2009, p.W10
- 4: Pikachu Peak (Pass). Ref.: Desert Peak is Named Civil War Site, Wall St. Journal, 14 May 2010
- 5: The New York City race & draft riots of July 1863. Ref.: Hallowed Ground, Civil War Preservation Trust, Summer 2009 The unpopular Mr. Lincoln, Tagg, p.18
- 6: The surrender of Ft. Sumter Ref.: Battle Cry of Freedom, McPherson, p.278

We Who Study Must Also Strive to Save!

ABOUT THE CINCINNATI CWRT:

Membership in the Cincinnati CWRT is open to anyone with an active interest in the American Civil War. Annual dues (prorated throughout the year to new members) are \$25 for a Regular Membership. This fee helps cover operating costs which include this newsletter, as well as speaker expenses. A Sustaining Member level of membership is also available for \$50 (single) and \$85 (couple). The purpose of this membership category is to encourage and recognize members who make additional contributions of \$25 or more, in addition to their annual dues in any fiscal year, to the objectives and programs of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table. If you are joining for the first time, there is a one-time, lifetime, initiation fee of \$20.

Dinner reservations are required, and can be made prior to the reservations deadline either by an email to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org or by a phone call to the officer taking reservations for the meeting (whose name and number is listed on the header of the current *Canister*). **Meals** currently cost \$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!