



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>

November, 2005 Issue

MEETING INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER 17th, 2005

Meeting Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

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

(6:45) Dinner: Stuffed breast of turkey

(7:45): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Dr. Stephen I. Rockenbach, Northern Kentucky University

Topic: "War Upon Our Border": War and Society in Two Ohio Valley Communities,
1861-1865



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 John Linnenberg at (h) 513-922-3999 (cell) 607-4002 (has voice mail).



At the beginning of the Civil War, a network of Ohio Valley communities formed a cohesive region, separate from the North and the South but affected by the politics and economies of both sections. Steve's dissertation research compares the wartime experiences of two of those communities—Frankfort, Kentucky and Corydon, Indiana. Although the actual clash of armies in the border region was brief, border citizens

experienced the war every day in politics, business, in recreational activities, and in day to day interpersonal interactions with their neighbors. The last was especially difficult for many as the war forced them to reconsider who they were and where their allegiances lay. Along the Ohio River, a legal if not absolute boundary between slavery and freedom, white residents prided themselves on their ability to relate to people throughout the Ohio Valley by transcending the dissimilarity of free and slave state society. They did so by emphasizing a shared experience of frontier settlement and white supremacy that allowed them, for a time, to overcome the divisiveness of the slavery issue. Before the war, influential border citizens solved conflicts pertaining to slavery through cooperation and emphasis on mutual economic interests. After 1863, when slavery emerged as the central focus of the Union's war effort, local attempts to reestablish this continuity created very different wartime experiences, depending on which side of the Ohio River border citizens lived. In the end, the war transformed the Ohio Valley into sections wherein people defined themselves based largely on their wartime experiences. The Ohio River, once a symbol of regional unity, became a partition between communities that were forever changed by the exigencies of war.

Steve Rockenbach is a member of CCWRT, and was the winner of the 2004 James Barnett Graduate Student Research Award for his paper, "A Border City at War: Louisville and the 1862 Confederate Invasion of Kentucky." He successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation on June 17th at the University of Cincinnati, and is now teaching at Northern Kentucky University. Steve's original degree was in music, before moving into history at Indiana University Southeast and then to UC for his graduate work. Steve's wife, Tre, frequently attends CCWRT meetings, and his mother-in-law, Harriette Weatherbee, is a CCWRT member as well as member and Treasurer of the Louisville CWRT.

October Presentation, Summarized by Albert Hallenberg

For the October 2005 Round Table talk, Mike Grimes from the rich arts and crafts community of Berea, Kentucky provided the Round Table with an informative, as well as entertaining, talk on music and its effect on the Civil War.

Mike talked about how the Civil War was one of "singing soldiers." Music had its practical and leisurely uses for the soldier. Drummers would call infantry regiments into formation. Bugles were integral in signaling the cavalry and artillery units. On a more personal basis, a song allowed a soldier to express emotions he would not do in normal circumstances. He sang about love for a wife or girlfriend back home, how he missed his family and, more vitally, how he feared what the next battle would bring. Many sentimental, romantic tunes, such as "Kathleen Mavourneen," were popular.

Mike indicated how music was just as important to the civilians back home. The audio recording, of course, was not yet invented, so sheet music was the bread and butter of this industry, and it prospered quite heavily during the War. People bought sheet music for reasons of patriotism or keepsake purposes, and it did not matter whether they had a piano at home or not. And the conflict produced many patriotic songs, such as "Battle Hymn of the Republic" (a revised version of "John Brown's Body" by Julia Ward Howe), "Dixie" (actually composed by a native of Ohio and actually one Abraham Lincoln's favorite tunes) and "The Bonnie Blue Flag." Mike noted how in Benjamin Butler's Union occupied New Orleans simply whistling the Confederate oriented "The

Bonnie Blue Flag” could land one in prison.

Mike also tested the vocal chords of the Round Table when, accompanying himself on guitar, he roused everyone to participate in the choruses of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” “The Bonnie Blue Flag” and, of course, the all time favorite “Goober Peas.”

Mike’s presentation enlightened the Round Table members on the importance of music for both soldier and civilian, North and South, and gave us a perspective on daily life during the conflict beyond the usual battles and leaders. We certainly enjoyed the presentation and would look forward to him returning at a later time.



Lincoln's **Gettysburg Address**, given November 19, 1863 on the battlefield near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA

Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation: conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war. . .testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated. . . can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war.

We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate. . .we cannot consecrate. . . we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us. . .that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion. . . that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain. . . that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom. . . and that government of the people. . .by the people. . .for the people. . . shall not perish from the earth.

Book Review By Thomas L. Breiner

Retreat From Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics and the Pennsylvania Campaign by Kent Masterson Brown, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC, 2005, 534 pages, Hard cover \$34.95.

Retreat From Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics and the Pennsylvania Campaign is a detailed and sometimes tedious look at the withdrawal by the lengthy quartermaster, subsistence, ordnance and ambulance trains along with numerous herds of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. The two supply trains were the primary concern of General Robert E. Lee during his return to Virginia following the costly battle at Gettysburg. If he could return with the spoils of his raid, the campaign could still be a successful accomplishment according to Kent Masterson Brown.

Our author has done his usual superb job of researching his topic and producing a definitive account, rich with all the trials and tribulations faces by Major Harman and Brigadier General John Imboden as they made their valiant attempt to evade the harassment of Federal cavalry in the retreat from Gettysburg. This is the one story of this battle that is usually glossed over in most campaign studies. Logistics are not exciting or usually heroic. There is no glory in the mundane. But to Robert E. Lee, the fate of these two extremely long, over fifty-seven miles in length, and vulnerable quartermaster, subsistence, ordnance and ambulance trains along with numerous herds of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs represented the life blood of the Army of Northern Virginia. This was the goal that would make the raid into Pennsylvania a success.

For any student of the Battle of Gettysburg, this work is of utmost importance. Kent Masterson Brown has helped bring this phase of the campaign to life. The author has truly supplied us with an important look at why Major General George G. Meade was unable to mount a pursuit of Lee and failed to bring the Confederate army to battle before they could escape back across the Potomac River into Virginia. I highly recommend this work. I initially found the details of gathering the material for the trains to be a tedious read, but the end result is definitely worth the effort. I congratulate Kent on producing another impressive work that truly displays his skills as a researcher. I do tend to disagree with the author in his evaluation of Lee's Pennsylvania raid. Gettysburg campaign with its list of over 25,000 casualties was not worth the expense if the sole purpose was to gather supplies and plunder from north of the Potomac. There has to be more to Lee's plans and hopes for the campaign to make the loss worth the attempt. ``

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.



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

Battery Hooper Project update:

To date, we have raised \$310.00 to go toward the interpretation of Battery Hooper in Fort Wright, KY. This leaves us \$440.00 left to gather, and we need your help to make it happen.

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.

Please remember the Battery Hooper project in your end-of-year gift giving. This project follows our group's charter to promote Civil War education and preservation. The Civil War happened in our own back yard; it is left to organizations like ours to take advantage of a unique opportunity to participate in permanently interpreting that Civil War history for our local community.



Quiz---October, 2005

1. On 20 October 1864, President Lincoln issued a proclamation which we still observe. What was it?
2. In 1902, John Mosby wrote to a former member of his unit: "Men fight from sentiment. After the fight is over, they invent some fanciful theory on which they imagine that they fought." What theory was he describing as "fanciful"?
3. John Billings of the 10th Massachusetts Battery, III Corps, author of *Hard Tack and Coffee*, recalls the following verse used during one (in)famous operation of the Army of the Potomac. He does not indicate whether it was set to music or not. Name the operation and its commander.

“Now I lay me down to sleep
In mud that’s many fathoms deep;
If I’m not here when you awake,
Just hunt me up with an oyster rake.”

4. Stephen D. Ramseur was one of seven Confederate Major Generals killed in action during the war. In what battle was he killed, and in what month and year?
5. At Gettysburg, a barn and house located between Seminary Ridge and Cemetery Ridge were the focus of continuous fighting, changing hands ten or more times. What was the name of the family who owned the farm?
6. In October, 1861, the 14th Massachusetts Infantry, marching through Washington D.C. in a driving rainstorm, sang its favorite marching song. As it worked on the defenses of Washington, the 14th had many visitors, for whom it was famous for its version of this song. One of the visitors, Julia Ward Howe, wrote new lyrics for the music, and titled it “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” What was the title of the marching song used by the 14th and many other volunteer units?

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:

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. Setting aside the last Thursday in November “as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God the beneficent Creator and Ruler of the Universe.” (CW Day by Day, p. 586).
2. The Lost Cause theory, especially those aspects of it that claimed that defense of slavery was not a part of the Confederacy’s reason for fighting the war. (*Blight, Race and Reunion*, 298).
3. Burnside’s Mud March, 20-23 January 1863. (*Billings, Hard Tack and Coffee*, p. 72.)
4. Cedar Creek, VA, on 19 October 1864. (*Warner, Generals in Gray*, p. 251-252.)
5. William Bliss. The buildings were burned, and the family left Gettysburg in 1867. They tried unsuccessfully into the 1900’s to obtain reparation for the buildings. (The Struggle for the Bliss Farm at Gettysburg, Elwood Christ)
6. “John Brown’s Body” (lies a-mouldering in the grave). (*Heidler & Heidler, Encyclopedia of the American Civil War*, pp. 191-192.)



FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2005-2006 Programs

- 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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