



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>
 November, 2008 Issue

Meeting Date: November 20, 2008

Place: The Drake Center

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

(6:30) Dinner:

Stuffed Pork Chop (a hand cut pork chop stuffed with bread stuffing and gravy) with Baked Potato, Vegetable Medley, Caesar Salad, Hot Dinner Rolls, Cheese Cake/Fruit Topping, Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea and Water.

Vegetarian Option:

Pasta Alfredo (penne pasta with assorted vegetables smothered in a rich Alfredo Sauce) served with Italian Style Salad Bread Sticks, Apple Strudel Cake, Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea and Water.

(7:30): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Edwin C. Bearss: Arlington, VA

Topic: *Flight From Richmond and the Imprisonment of Jefferson Davis*

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 no later than 8:00 pm on Wednesday, November 12th which is eight days before the meeting. If you are making a reservation for more than yourself, please provide the names of the others. The count is called in at 10:00 am on Thursday morning the 13th. Also note that the Drake Center does not have a 5% overage policy as did our prior caterers. 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 at the sign-in table for details.

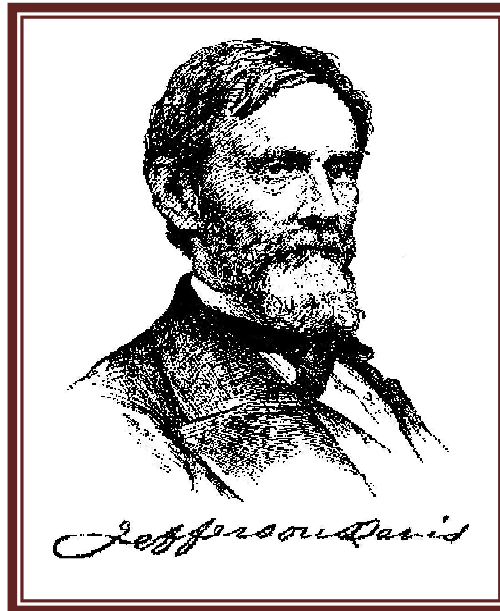
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Program Information:

It is with great honor that the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table welcomes back the remarkable veteran, historian, and battlefield tour guide Edwin C. Bearss for his fifth appearance in front of the organization (Ed delivered his first talk to the Cincinnati CWRT in September, 1968). The fruits of Ed's long and distinguished career in history are well known throughout the world, particularly in the field of American Civil War studies. A former Marine Corps veteran of the Pacific Theater of WW II, Bearss began his career on the G.I. Bill at Georgetown University where he received his B. A. degree in Foreign Studies in 1949. In 1955 he earned his M. A. in history from Indiana University where his thesis focused on Confederate General Patrick Cleburne. Bearss first joined the Office of the Chief of Military History, U.S. Army, but soon after he was hired as an historian at Vicksburg National Military Park at Vicksburg, Mississippi. From the very beginning, Ed clearly stated his philosophy about military sites when he said: "You can't describe a battlefield unless you walk it." Since then, he has visited hundreds of battlefields across the nation. His unique knowledge of Civil War battlefields placed him in a leadership position within the National Park Service during the Civil War Bicentennial. His accomplishments in historic preservation and interpretation are numerous, including the development of Civil War battlefield parks such as Pea Ridge National Military Park and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. He rose to the level of Chief Historian of the National Park Service in 1981, and he retired in 1995 with the title Chief Historian Emeritus. Ed is well known for over 50 years of military history scholarship, including countless Civil War books and articles as well as publications on other topics from American many television programs, his commentaries in the Ken Burns' Ed is most widely regarded for that he continues to give on his

On June 3 of this year we anniversary of the birthday of the Confederacy, Jefferson Finis about the darkest days of Davis and his cabinet abandoned Richmond, Virginia, on April 2, its downward spiral toward he could attach the government to refresh the war effort. This Lee surrendered the Army of Courthouse, Virginia, on April government from the rest of the crumbling Confederacy. Davis fled Danville, Virginia, with a small contingent of cavalry southward through North Carolina and Georgia, while soldiers and members of the cabinet separated from his party to make their own routes of escape. Jefferson Davis and his family were captured near Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10, 1865. The next years proved trying for him, as he languished in prison at Fortress Monroe for 2 years while the Federal government decided what to do with him. From his extensive research, Mr. Bearss will detail Davis's route from Richmond and he will discuss the fate of the Confederate President after the war.



history. He has appeared in most famous being his PBS series *The Civil War*. Yet, his rich and colorful monologues one-of-a-kind battlefield tours.

remembered the 200th first and only President of the Davis. Mr. Bearss will talk to us Jefferson Davis's life. When the Confederate capitol at 1865, his nation was already in dissolution. He had hopes that to Lee's retreating forces in order was not to be. General Robert E. Northern Virginia at Appomattox 9th, thereby isolating Davis's

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.

Welcome New Members:

At the October meeting we received into membership former member George McIlveen and new member Dan Mueller. New member names are now printed in red on their Round Table badge. Please take note and help them feel welcome

Interested In Visiting The Chickamauga Battlefield: Secretary Dan Bauer is trying to determine if there is enough member interest for a group battlefield visit to the Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Chattanooga areas. If you were not in attendance at either of the last two meetings and would like to know more about this possible battlefield stomp with Chickamauga Park Historian Jim Ogden, please contact Dan directly using the contact information found at the end of this newsletter.

Last Month for Silent Auction Item: The November meeting will be your last chance to bid on our first Silent Auction item. Only two bids have been received to date on the *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 and is currently selling for \$65.00 to \$75.00 on eBay. If you want to add to your library, or give someone a really neat Christmas gift, check it out and enter your bid. The winner of the auction will be announced during this month's Business Meeting and remember...all proceeds benefit preservation. The second Silent Auction item which is a complete 24 volume collection of the *Illustrated World War 2 Encyclopedia* will remain in effect until our May meeting.

Harold Holzer's Round Table Visit in May, 2009: The Round Table is teaming up with The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives to bring Harold Holzer to Cincinnati for two civil war presentations on May 20 & May 21, 2009. The first presentation will team Mr. Holzer, a member of the United States Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, with Dr. Gary Zola of the American Jewish Archives on a topic they co-presented earlier this year in Miami, Florida. The title of their presentation is: *Lincoln and the Jews*. Details regarding location and time are still being finalized. The following night Mr. Holzer will appear before our Round Table at the Drake Center. The two organizations have agreed to jointly publicize the events in order to insure Harold Holzer receives the turnout his impressive credentials deserve. Additional information will be shared as arrangements are finalized.

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 will be available each month on the announcement table right across from Treasurer Jim Stewart's check-in table. The card contains 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 and help us spread the message.

October Presentation by Roger Billings:

...submitted by Dan Bauer

Lincoln routinely walked next door from the White House to the Army telegraph office to get first news from the battlefields. But the telegraph only whetted Lincoln's appetite for on-site inspections so he would travel by steamer and railroad to visit the generals at the battlefields. These excursions allowed him to evaluate the progress of the war first hand, give his generals pep talks before a battle and reassurances after a loss.

Mr. Billings' talk was accompanied with a one page handout which included a chronology of Lincoln's fifteen battlefield visits and a map of the eastern theater. The same map was projected onto a large screen. As Mr. Billings would mention a location, he would identify the location with a laser pointer.

The first of Lincoln's war trips occurred two days after First Bull Run on July 23, 1861. Lincoln went to Fort Corcoran near Arlington, VA to confer with Erwin McDowell. Lincoln had decided that the job was too big for McDowell. Four days later, Lincoln appointed McClellan commander of the Army of the Potomac. Lincoln and McClellan had a fundamental strategic difference on how the war should be fought. Lincoln wanted McClellan to go after the Confederate Army while McClellan wanted to go after Richmond, the confederate capital. Lincoln finally gave in to McClellan's plan and agreed to the Peninsula Campaign. Lincoln visited the union army at Fortress Monroe at Hampton Roads on May 6th, 1862. Fortress Monroe was the staging point for the Peninsula Campaign. McClellan was too busy to meet with Lincoln during this

visit. During the six day visit, Lincoln did not seem to have much of an agenda.

Lincoln was unsure if he should send Irwin McDowell's Corps of 30,000 troops to join McClellan on the peninsula or if he should keep them in Northern Virginia to protect Washington from a possible attack by Stonewall Jackson. To help him decide, Lincoln met with Winfield Scott at West Point on June 23rd. Although Scott advised that sending McDowell to the peninsula would be best, the Seven Days Battles occurred before the shift could occur. McClellan retreated back down the peninsula to Harrison's Landing. Lincoln went to Harrison's Landing on July 7, 1862. During the visit, McClellan provided Lincoln with a horse that was too small. While some believed this was done on purpose, Lincoln was nevertheless cheered on by the 100,000 soldiers. Although Lincoln treated McClellan in a kindly manner during the visit, once returning to Washington, Lincoln placed Henry Halleck over McClellan as General in Chief of the army. This was a move recommended by Winfield Scott during the West Point visit. Lincoln wanted Halleck to serve as intermediary between himself and McClellan so as to translate Lincoln's strategic decisions into military terminology.

It was during Lincoln's October 3rd visit to Sharpsburg after the battle of Antietam that Alexander Gardner took his famous photos of Lincoln and McClellan. After McClellan crossed back over the Potomac a month later, Lincoln replaced McClellan with Burnside.

On four separate occasions Lincoln would meet with his generals around Fredericksburg as the army tried to advance south of the Rappahannock River. While the Army was encamped at Falmouth on the north bank of the Rappahannock River just across from Fredericksburg, Lincoln met Burnside at Acquia Creek on November 28, 1862. Acquia Creek was a major supply depot located on a tributary of the Potomac River and a short rail trip from Fredericksburg. The two met to discuss the impending attack on Fredericksburg. After the disastrous battle of Fredericksburg, Lincoln replaced Burnside with Hooker. The following spring while the army was back at Falmouth; Lincoln met with Hooker on April 5th and again on April 19th at Acquia Creek. On May 7th, after the defeat at Chancellorsville, Lincoln went back to Falmouth to again meet with Hooker.

On June 28th Hooker was relieved of command and replaced with Meade. In November of 1863, four and a half months after the battle of Gettysburg, Lincoln went to Gettysburg to dedicate a cemetery and address the crowd.

Lincoln placed Grant over Meade as commander of all the Union Armies. After the Battle of Cold Harbor, Grant established a base of operations at City Point for the siege of Petersburg. City Point is located at the confluence of the James River and the Appomattox Rivers just downstream from Petersburg. During the siege of Petersburg, Lincoln traveled to southeastern Virginia on four separate occasions. The first two of these visits involved meetings with Grant at City Point on June 21, 1864 and later on July 31 at Fortress Monroe. On February 3, 1865 Lincoln and Seward met with three prominent Confederates for an unsuccessful peace conference aboard the River Queen at Hampton Roads.

The last and longest of Lincoln's trips was prompted by an invitation from Grant's wife, Julia. It included a tour of the Petersburg battlefield, a March 25, 1865 meeting with Grant at City Point, and a review of General Ord's Division at Malvern Hill. The Malvern visit was in the company of General Ord's wife instead of the late arriving Mary Lincoln. This prompted an upset Mary Lincoln to return to Washington abruptly. After the fall of Richmond, Lincoln visited what had been the Confederate White House and was even able to sit at the desk of Jefferson Davis. Lincoln returned to Washington on April 5th.

In the question session, Mr. Billings described the July 11, 1864 Fort Stevens trip. While Grant had Lee pinned down at Petersburg, Jubal Early was threatening an attack on Washington. Early got as close as Fort

Stevens, one of the 60 forts guarding Washington. Lincoln wanted to see the action first hand and rode out five miles from the White House to visit the fort. While at Fort Stevens, Lincoln was told to get down to avoid the bullets that were whizzing by.

Book Review By Thomas L. Breiner

Southern Storm: Sherman's March to the Sea by Noah Andre Trudeau, Harper Collins Publishers, New York, NY, 2008, 667 pages, hard cover \$35.00.

Southern Storm: Sherman's March to the Sea by Noah Andre Trudeau is a new work dedicated to a fair and factual coverage of Sherman's march across Georgia in the fall of 1864. The author has completed the most comprehensive research on the topic and is trying to debunk the many myths and fallacies that have surrounded Sherman's march. The first myth that our dedicated author attacks is the one that concerns Sherman's intentions upon his departure from Atlanta. According to the author, Sherman had not decided which of the many options he had available he would pursue. Would he attempt to capture Macon and Augusta? Was Savannah truly determined to be his final destination?

The march to the sea was not one long picnic. Major General William Tecumseh Sherman knew where a diligent foe could create havoc with his advance. The army needed to keep moving in order to gather the necessary food and forage. Supplies in any given area would be quickly exhausted if the army had to remain stationary for an extended period. Sherman was extremely concerned that the rebels would obstruct his advance, especially in trying to cross the Oconee and Ogeechee Rivers. There were numerous places where a small, but determined foe could create a serious problem for Sherman's larger army.

Fortunately for Sherman, the Confederate high command was disjointed. Each commander was only concerned with his restricted area of operation. There was no overall command structure to analyze the larger picture and unify the efforts of the Confederates. Major General Howell Cobb focused on Macon, Lieutenant General William J. Hardee's primary concern was Savannah and General Braxton Bragg managed the defense of the Augusta area. Major General Joseph Wheeler was only concerned with harassing the Union cavalry. General Pierre G. T. Beauregard, the new regional commander, failed by not being on the scene where he could provide the overall command guidance necessary.

The author, Noah Andre Trudeau, has accomplished his mission. He has created a masterpiece on Sherman's march. The reader is able to understand the impact of Confederate movements in relation to Sherman's developing plan. We see how Sherman took precautions to counter potential obstacles and his concern for the weather. This march was not one large picnic. Keeping all the wagons moving was a major undertaking, especially in light of the numerous rivers and swamps that had to be crossed. Noah Andre Trudeau has created a manuscript that is well researched, well written and highly readable. If you think you understood the complexities of Sherman's march to the sea; think again as you read this magnificent work.

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:

December 5, 2008

January 23, 2009

February 27, 2009

March 27, 2009

April 24, 2009

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

Cincinnati Civil War Round Table October Quiz:

1. In Civil War slang what was a “housewife”?
2. The 1860 Republican National Convention was held in which city?
3. In which two cities was the 1860 Democratic National Convention held?
4. In early October of 1862 President Lincoln went to the Antietam Battlefield to visit General McClellan. Name the house where McClellan had his headquarters during the battle of Antietam.
5. While in Sharpsburg, Lincoln visited a general who lay mortally wounded in an upstairs bedroom of the house referred to in question 4. The general died on November 3, 1862. Name him.
6. There were several photographs taken during this visit. Name the photographer who captured the meeting between President Lincoln and General McClellan.

Answers to October Quiz

1. sewing kit; 2. Chicago; 3. Charleston and Baltimore; 4. Pry House; 5. Israel Richardson;
6. Alexander Gardner

Future Presentations:

January 15, 2009

Thomas L. Breiner, CCWRT and Richard Swigert, 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

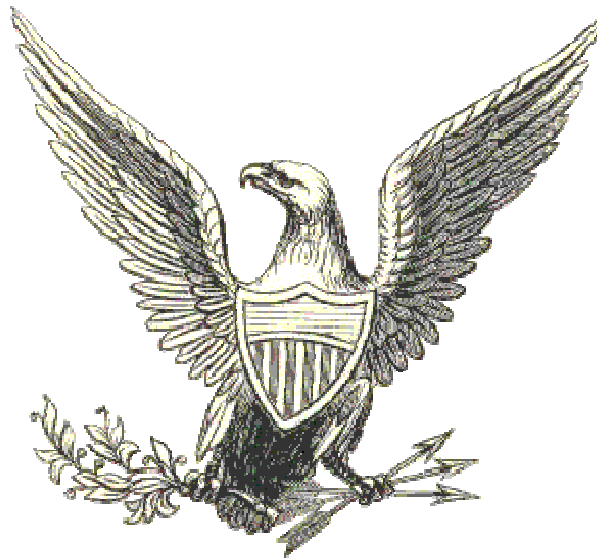
Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: Samuel Francis Du Pont

May 21, 2009

Harold Holzer, United States Lincoln Bicentennial Commission,
Topic TBD

September 17, 2009

Brian Steel Wills, University of Virginia at Wise
Nathan Bedford Forrest: Common Sense Soldier



Directions:

Getting to the Conference Center at Drake



From I-75

Take the Galbraith Road exit and go west one mile.

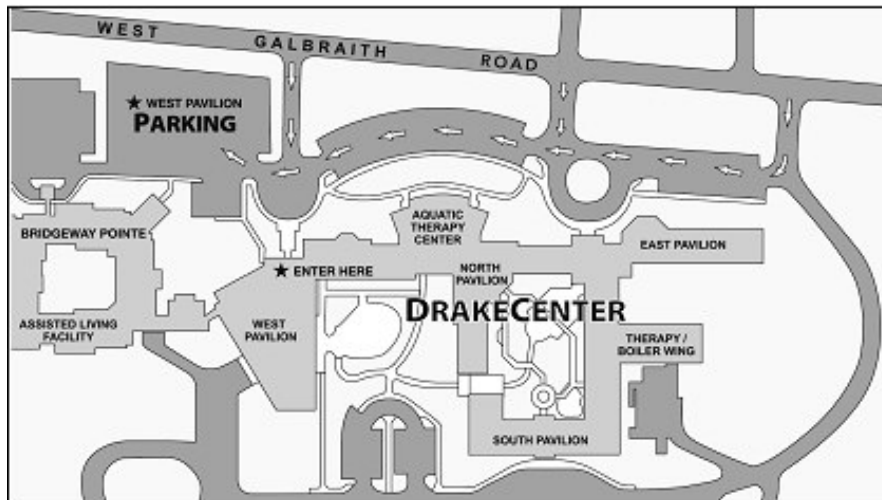
From Ronald Reagan Cross County Highway

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.

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.

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.

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CCWRT ListServ John Steiner	513-528-3350 (h)	jcsneuro@fuse.net

Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!