



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>

November, 2010 Issue

Meeting Date: November 18, 2010

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

Dinner Menu: Beef short ribs in a rich beef reduction served with: fruited cherry gelatin, mini oven roasted bakers, succotash, sweet yeast rolls, and chocolate mouse
Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

Speaker: Eric J. Wittenberg, Central Ohio Civil War Round Table

**Topic: Plenty of Blame to Go Around:
Jeb Stuart's Controversial Ride to Gettysburg**

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, November 10th, 2010.**

About our November Speaker: Author and historian Eric J. Wittenberg returns for his fourth visit to the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table. A native of Philadelphia, Mr. Wittenberg earned multiple degrees from Dickinson College in Carlisle and from the University of Pittsburgh. He now works as an attorney in Columbus, Ohio, yet he has made a name for himself in the field of Civil War studies. His specialty is cavalry operations, with a particular emphasis on the Army of the Potomac's Cavalry Corps. He is the author of sixteen published books, including Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions (1998), which won the 1998 Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award. Other books include Rush's Lancers: The Sixth

Pennsylvania Cavalry in the Civil War (2007), Glory Enough for All: Sheridan's Second Raid and the Battle of Trevilian Station (2002), The Battle of Monroe's Crossroads and the Civil War's Final Campaign (2005),



Eric J. Wittenberg

and One of Custer's Wolverines: The Civil War Letters of Brevet Brigadier General James H. Kidd, 6th Michigan Cavalry (2000). Eric's numerous Civil War articles have appeared in Gettysburg Magazine, North & South, Blue & Gray, Hallowed Ground, America's Civil War, and Civil War Times Illustrated. Eric regularly travels the country to lecture on the war, and he is frequently asked to lead Civil War battlefield tours. Eric sits on the boards of advisors of the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation and the Friends of the Alligator, and has regularly worked with the Civil War Preservation Trust in helping to save battlefield land. He is an original member of, as well as past president and program chairman of, the Central Ohio Civil War Roundtable. He is the vice president of the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation and serves as one of 18 members of the Governor of Ohio's Advisory Commission on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War.



Jeb Stuart

Mr. Wittenberg's topic will focus on the infamous ride of Confederate Lieutenant General Jeb Stuart's cavalry from Virginia to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, during the Gettysburg Campaign of June-July 1863. On the heels of his near-disaster battle at Brandy Station (June 9, 1863), Stuart left Virginia acting on General Robert E. Lee's discretionary orders to advance into Maryland and Pennsylvania, where Stuart was to screen Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell's marching infantry corps and report on enemy activity. The mission jumped off its tracks from virtually the moment it began when one unexpected event after another unfolded across Stuart's path. For days, neither Lee nor Stuart had any idea where the other was, and the enemy blocked the horseman's direct route back to the Confederate army, which was advancing nearly blind north into Pennsylvania. By the time Stuart reached Lee on the afternoon of July 2, the armies had unexpectedly collided at Gettysburg, the second day's fighting was underway, and one of the campaign's greatest controversies was born.



President's Report

... Pat Homan

As I write this month's report, it is just before Halloween and thoughts and interest vary from tomorrow's big football games, the grandchildren and their trick and treating, and all the unread Civil War books that we have. Both Ellen and I share this problem or challenge. We rarely meet a book that we don't like. Quiet frankly, one of the things I hope will happen, over the next four years, is that new material will come out and old, out of print, classics will be re-issued. This will naturally mean more books to read. It is a vicious circle.

This brings me to my first topic. Many of us have far too many books. If you are like me, giving up a book is similar to giving up our right arms; but, I have to admit that there are a number of books I probably do not intend to read again and would not need for research, so they could easily become someone else's prized treasure. So, if you have some decent non-fiction texts on our favorite subject that are surplus to your needs, please donate them to our Preservation/Raffle collection. If you want acknowledgment of your donation, please prepare a list of the titles you donated and I, or Alan Berenson, will sign acknowledging the gift. We cannot provide a dollar value to the gift you must do that for IRS purposes.

My other thought for this month is the importance of volunteers to the Round Table. We simply cannot exist without the members filling the numerous positions that keep us going. While this might seem early in the Campaign year to start asking the members to consider giving of their time for next year, it really isn't. We have a number of positions, which will be open for next year. Some are more involved than others, but none take really huge amounts of time. I think the VP position is one of the busiest as that person takes the monthly reservations. My estimate is that I spent about four hours per month fulfilling that role. Most of that was in small increments of five to ten minutes, which is not a back-breaker.

I am asking you to consider your time requirements and, if you find you have some extra time that you can spend in helping us grow in this exciting period of the Sesquicentennial, then let us know. If you have questions of what a specific position requires, ask one of the officers, or the person holding that position. We will be happy to talk to you.

Finally, talk up the Round Table. Don't be shy. There are many people in the Greater Cincinnati area, who are interested in History and in this specific period of History. Let them know we are here and invite them to come to a meeting. You don't have to offer to pay for their dinner but that can help. I let those who ask about us know about the dinner cost as that can be an issue but I always explain that there is the meeting only option. It would be nice to celebrate the Sesquicentennial by having 150 members. What do you think?

As always, please give me your feedback, suggestions and comments.



Items of Interest:

Railroad Pendants Raffle: George McIlveen has been kind enough to donate 3 brightly gold plated, attractive pendants with Cincinnati railroad motifs very suitable for hanging on your family's Christmas tree. As a fund raiser for our Preservation Fund, the Roundtable will be raffling off these decorations at our upcoming meeting, 18 Nov. You may choose to purchase raffle tickets @ \$1 each to have opportunity to win 1, 2 or 3 pendants. This is an opportunity for you to both support our preservation activities and have an opportunity to take home a novel and unique sparkler for your holiday greenery.

Shiloh Field Trip Dates Set: Mark your calendars. The spring field trip to the Shiloh Battlefield will be Sat. Apr 30th, Sun. May 1st and Mon. May 2nd. The trip will include a two hour guided tour of Corinth, an eight hour guided tour of Shiloh, and whatever else we can sneak in. Cost will include transportation and tour fees. Attendees will be responsible for reserving their own hotel room at the Hampton Inn in Corinth and meals. As we have done the past couple of years, we will be renting a 15 passenger van. The final cost of trip will depend on the number of attendees. Of the members who want to go, we will need a volunteer to

drive their own vehicle to help transport luggage and a few of the attendees. Please see Dan Bauer or e-mail him at dbauer002@cinci.rr.com for additional information.

Preservation project for 2010-2011: Our project for the 2010-2011 campaign is to fund the cost of replacing and updating two interpretive signs at the Perryville, KY Battlefield. The signs describe the actions of Colonel Wm. H. Lytle's Brigade. One sign describes the brigade's stubborn defense of the hill above the Bottom House while the other sign describes the brigade's artillery duel at Loomis Heights. As many of know Lytle, perhaps the most well known Civil War soldier emanating from Cincinnati, was injured at Perryville, recovered, and then went onto tragically lose his life in the Battle of Chickamauga.

As has been the practice in the past, the Roundtable will match the first \$500 contributed by our members. Last year we had a very successful donation campaign which benefited of the Museum of the Confederacy. We were able to more than double the number of fund donors who contributed to the previous year's campaign. This year we are setting a goal of increasing the number of donors by another 25 percent. We hope that you will share our enthusiasm in improving a battlefield close to our homes and a hero close to our hearts. Please give or mail your checks to Alan Berenson, Preservation Chair.

New Member: A hearty welcome to our newest member who was voted in at the October meeting:
David Finn



Book Review

submitted by Daniel H. Reigle

Wanted-- Correspondence: Women's Letters to a Union Soldier. Nancy L. Rhoades and Lucy E. Bailey, editors. Athens OH: Ohio University Press, 2009. 410 pages.

The heart of this book is a collection of 168 letters written to Lieutenant Edwin L. **Lybarger**, 43rd OVI, between 1862 and 1867. A unique aspect of this collection is that all but ten were written by women, most of whom **Lybarger** knew, but a few of whom were women who responded to his placement of "write to a soldier" newspaper advertisements that he placed to request correspondence.

The letters were found by **Lybarger**'s granddaughter, Nancy Rhoades, in a small wooden chest passed down through the family to her. She discovered them only after her own retirement from the College of Wooster (Ohio), and was stunned to find that these were not letters written by her grandfather, but that "These were letters from GIRLS!" Ms. Rhoades' co-editor, Dr. Lucy E. Bailey, saw the project through to completion after Ms. Rhoades' death in 2007, and a biographical sketch was written by Ms. Rhoades' niece, Jennifer L. Wilke.

There is much to learn from these letters, and anyone who wants a better understanding of the experiences of their ancestors, both the veterans and their relatives and friends, will benefit from reading these letters. However, an unexpected bonus in the book is the extensive "introduction" to the letters written by Lucy Bailey. In this case, "introduction" does not adequately describe Dr. Bailey's 117-page analysis of the letters themselves, because she actually develops several themes at length: the culture of letter-writing at the time of

the war; correspondence as an integral part of the war effort; correspondence as romantic work; the importance of photographs and photographic technology; women and education; and Ohio's Civil War involvement and experience. Having earned her Ph.D. at Ohio State and now teaching at Oklahoma State, Dr. Bailey ties many specific letters into each one of these larger issues, adding to the value of reading the letters themselves and making the book of interest to a much broader range of readers and researchers.

There is unique value in these letters for anyone researching the genealogy and/or the military history of the specific soldiers of the Knox-Holmes-Coshocton area or of the 43rd OVI, as there are references to other soldiers and units on nearly every page. For example, Fannie **Meredith** on 14 Sep 1862 relates visiting Delia **Shroyer** and the **Deal** family, who "feel very bad about Nute, did not get any letters yesterday ... They do not know but what he is dead but think if he was dead some of you would have written about it" (pages 117-118.) According to the *Ohio Official Roster*, Newton **Shroyer**, age 18, 43rd OVI, Company K, died of disease on 21 Sep 1862 at Jackson TN, and was buried in Chattanooga National Cemetery. A later letter from Adelia painfully relates that "We sent for Newton's clothes and they came. O what a horrible sight to look upon and to think that was all that was left of the once merry-hearted bright eyed Boy, my Dear Brother, it is dreadful to contemplate, but alas how frail is life" (page 130.)

This is a valuable book and an important collection of letters, joining *Affectionately Yours: The Civil War Home-Front Letters of the Ovid Butler Family* (Barbara Butler Davis, Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 2004) among the very few such published sources.



October Presentation:

...submitted by Mike Rhein

The most complete Confederate victory of the war occurred on August 29-30, 1862. Oh. That would be the smashing rout of Union general John Pope's army by General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Manassas, Va., right? Nope. How about at a little-known place in Kentucky in the area of Richmond and Rogersville along the Old State Road (now U.S. 25)? No kidding.



Phillip Seyfrit

According to our October speaker, Phillip Seyfrit, the destruction of the Union Army of Kentucky was the most complete victory for one side during the entire War Between the States. Mr. Seyfrit, who serves as the Historic Properties Director of Madison County, KY, said that loss of men and material sustained by Union General William "Bull" Nelson's army was more than 85 percent. The numbers engaged by both sides were not the magnitude of a Gettysburg, as Mr. Seyfrit noted, but Gen. Nelson's army (6,500 Federals) sustained losses of 206 killed, 84 wounded and 4303 captured, and Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith's Confederate army (6,600) lost 122 killed, 519 wounded and three captured (or missing).

Besides the Union army practically ceasing to exist in the wake of the disastrous defeat, the victory enable Smith's army to take over the city of Lexington and the state capital of Frankfort, the only time in the entire war that a Confederate army occupied an enemy capital, Mr. Seyfrit said. He added that some Confederate troops went as far north as Florence (Boone County) and that "the road to Cincinnati was open."

With Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg's army moving north (west of Smith's army) and eventually coming to battle with Gen. Don Carlos Buell's at Perryville, Ky. the following October, much of the Bluegrass state was in Confederate control for several weeks (even a provisional Confederate government was established). However, as a result of Bragg's defeat at Perryville and Smith retreating southward from Lexington, the hopes of regaining Kentucky as a state for the Confederacy were dashed for good.

While Mr. Seyfrit provided a firm basis in his presentation in establishing the significance of a small battle early in the sectional conflict (in relative terms of the entire war) in Kentucky which had potential ramifications for that state, negative or positive, depending on each side's point-of-view, he waxed eloquently with passion towards the end of his program regarding the subject of preservation, a subject dear to any student of the American Civil War, particularly in the past 20 years and vitally important to Civil War groups like ours who have donated funds to preservation projects around the country.

He commented that, as of nine years ago, there were three or four historical markers at the Richmond battlefield that were "put up in the '50's." and "were all wrong." Mr. Seyfrit noted that the Battle of Richmond Association has been responsible for saving over 600 acres of "prime battlefield land" and five buildings. One of those buildings, the Rogers house, is the Visitor's Center, he said, adding that they are "redoing some other buildings there." The speaker stressed that the Richmond Battlefield is the "closest significant battle to Cincinnati." In assessing the prodigious preservationist efforts there, Mr. Seyfrit attributed the "success story" of the "county government and private sector" working together.

In a brochure provided by Mr. Seyfrit after the program, a statement by Ed Bearss (historian emeritus for the National Park Service who has spoken to the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table) illustrates the significant efforts by the aforementioned association: "No other group in the United States has done more to save and preserve their battlefield and related sites as the Battle of Richmond Association." The battlefield is accessible near I-75 (exit 83) on 101 Battlefield Memorial Hwy. The phone number to contact for information is (859) 624-0013.



Future Presentations:

January 20, 2011	Ralph Arnold, CCWRT <i>Civil War Railroads of the Confederacy</i>
February 17, 2011	Pat Homan, CCWRT <i>Paved with Good Intentions: The Road to War</i>
March 17, 2011	Martin Stewart, Troy (Ohio) CWRT <i>Redemption: The 71st Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War</i>
April 21, 2011	Harold Holzer, New York Metropolitan Museum, <i>How Lincoln Became President – In Ohio</i>
May 19, 2011	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

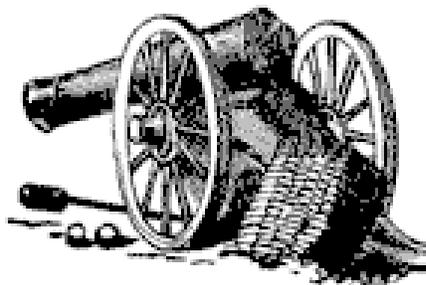
We Who Study Must Also Strive to Save!

October Quiz:

1. What is a tampion?
2. Name the battle fought October 21, 1861.
3. Name the Union commander killed in the October 21st battle.
4. Name the Union general who was blamed for the October 21st Federal defeat, was then jailed for 189 days and then released with no charges ever being leveled against him.
5. Of the 6500 Union troops engaged at the Battle of Richmond KY how many were listed as “missing” after the Confederate victory?
6. What Big Ten football stadium was built on the site of a Civil War training camp?

Answers

1. A tampion is a specially designed wooden plug pushed into the barrel of a musket to keep out water and dirt.
2. Battle of Ball’s Bluff
3. Col. Edward D. Baker U.S. Senator from Oregon and a close friend of President Lincoln.
4. Charles P. Stone
5. 4303 missing 206 killed, 844 wounded for a grand total of 5353
6. The University of Wisconsin’s Camp Randall Stadium
Camp Randall is a historic U.S. Army site in Madison, WI named for Governor Alexander Randall. It was a training facility during the Civil War, with more than 70,000 recruits receiving training there. A hospital and stockade for Confederate prisoners was located at the camp. The site was purchased by the state of Wisconsin in 1893 and deeded to the University of Wisconsin. Of the original 53 ½ acres a segment was set aside as a park, which now features a memorial arch, two civil war cannon, and a stockade building.



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 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: 513-418-2500**). 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.

CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:

President: Pat Homan	513-861-2057 (h)	homanfamily@fuse.net
Vice-President: Tom Breiner	513- 984-3101(h)	tbreiner@fuse.net
Treasurer: Jim Stewart	513-271-0738 (h)	jebstewart@fuse.net
Secretary: Mike Rhein	513-984-3227 (h)	arhein@fuse.net
Program Chair: David Mowery	513-774-9544 (h)	dmowery11@fuse.net
Newsletter Editor: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h)	dbauer002@cinci.rr.com
Membership & Publicity: Mike Rogers	859- 907-3096 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
Trustee: Dan Reigle (2009-2011)	513-777-9255 (h)	DReigle@cinci.rr.com
Trustee: Bob Limoseth (2010-2012)	513-777-2160 (h)	rlimo@fuse.net

Committees:

Preservation Projects: Alan Berenson	513-891-8376 (h)	pberenson@yahoo.com
Webmaster: Dan Reigle	513-777-9255 (h)	DReigle@cinci.rr.com
Photographer: Shane Gamble	513-791-3541 (h)	colt45@fuse.net
CCWRT ListServ: John Steiner	513-528-3350 (h)	jcsneuro@fuse.net

Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!