



CINCINNATI  
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
SERVING OHIO, KENTUCKY AND INDIANA SINCE 1956



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# THE CANISTER

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Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT P. O. Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnati-cwrt.org>

March, 2010 Issue

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Meeting Date: March 18, 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, caesar salad & dinner rolls, cream filled pastries topped with chocolate sauce and whipped cream**  
**Vegetarian Option: Available upon request**

**Speaker: Lois J. Lambert, CCWRT**  
**Heroes of the Western Theater: 33rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry**

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**Reservations:** If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to [reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org](mailto:reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org); call it in to Pat Homan at 513-861-2057 (h); or email: [homanfamily@fuse.net](mailto: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 8:00 pm Wednesday, March 10th, 2010.**

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## About our March Speaker:

Author, historian, and Cincinnati Civil War Round Table member Lois Lambert makes her debut appearance at the CCWRT's podium this month with a presentation about one of Ohio's well known Western Theater regiments: the 33rd Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry regiment. Its recruits hailed from the Ohio counties of Scioto, Adams, Pike, Ross, Meigs, and Waverly. This unit saw some of the heaviest fighting of the war during the regiment's 5 years of existence. It saw its first action at the hard-won Battle of Ivy Mountain, KY, on Nov. 8, 1861. The regiment was hit hard by Cheatham's Confederate attack at the Battle of Perryville, KY, on Oct. 8, 1862, just south of the present-day visitor center, but the Ohioans distinguished themselves by their stubborn resistance. The 33<sup>rd</sup>'s beloved commander, Gen. Joshua W. Sill, was killed in the first

day's fighting at Stone's River (Murfreesboro), TN, on Dec. 31, 1862, as the regiment took the brunt of the overwhelming assault of Bragg's army. The unit suffered terribly at the Battle of Chickamauga, GA, when, on the second day of the battle, Longstreet's breakthrough resulted in 88 men of the regiment being captured at Kelly Field. Over the course of the Atlanta Campaign, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Infantry lost 170 of its men, having participated in nearly every major battle of the campaign in which the Army of the Cumberland was engaged. The survivors were with Sherman's army when Confederate Joe Johnston surrendered at Bennett Place in North Carolina on April 26, 1865. Their hard-fighting reputation known to all, the men of the 33<sup>rd</sup> were given the honor of marching in the Grand Review in Washington, D.C., on May 24, 1865.



## Lois J. Lambert

Lois plans to share with the group the scope and importance of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Infantry regiment, but her focus has always been on the stories of the men. Those personal accounts were based upon eight collections of letters and five diaries written by members of this distinguished unit. In particular, she will examine the experiences of a few of the eighty-eight men who were captured on the second day of fighting at Chickamauga on September 20, 1863.

Mrs. Lambert is a native of Pike County, Ohio. She received her BA degree in History and Spanish from Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio, where she met her husband, Tutt. Starting their education careers in 1960, Lois and Tutt worked as American History teachers in adjoining rooms at Milford High School in Clermont County. Later, Lois returned to the University of Cincinnati to earn her MA degree in Anthropology. Soon after, she joined the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History as its Coordinator of Education. In 1980, she returned to teaching at Sycamore High School, where she taught courses in Government and Anthropology. She retired from teaching in 1994.

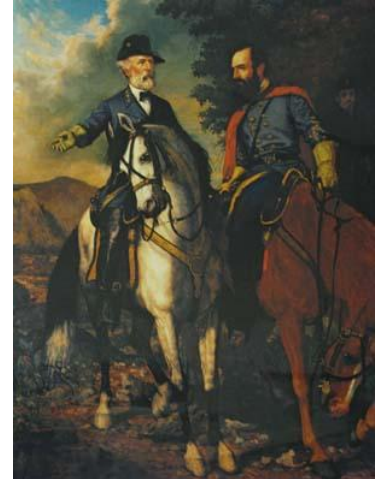
Lois and Tutt's love for history has gone beyond the classroom. An endearing desire to learn more about their ancestors led to them performing in-depth genealogical research over many years. This research found 16 of Tutt's relatives that had belonged to Confederate John Hunt Morgan's Raiders, while 20 of Lois's ancestors fought for the Union and 22 served the Confederacy! Lois's research became the foundation for two books she has written and published: *91st Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with the Letter of Lt. Colonel Benjamin Franklin Coates*, and *an Annotated Roster of the Men of Company C* (2005), which won the Ohio Genealogical Society's 2007 Oliver Hazard Perry Award, and *Heroes of the Western Theater: Thirty-third Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry* (2008), which won the 2009 Oliver Hazard Perry Award. Lois continues to research and write, while she speaks to various Civil War round tables, genealogical societies, and museums across the nation.



# We Who Study Must Also Strive to Save!

## Items of Interest:

**2009-2010 Dedicated Preservation Project:** The Cincinnati CWRT's preservation project for the 2009-2010 campaign year is to assist the Museum of the Confederacy. With this in mind, we ask that you strongly consider making a tax deductible gift to our Preservation Fund for the Museum's benefit. Your gift will not only be matched (up to \$500) by our Round Table's Preservation Fund but each donor will have 1 raffle ticket with his/her name on it dropped into a hat for every \$25 donated; thus a \$25 donation earns 1 ticket, a \$100 gift earns 4. The raffle prize is a beautiful 30 x 41 inch full color print of E. B. D. Julio's famous painting of the Lee/Jackson meeting preceding the Battle of Chancellorsville. The print is numbered, signed by the printer and framed. The original hangs in the Museum of the Confederacy. Your donation can be made at any of our meetings through May, 2010, and given to our treasurer, Jim Stewart, or mailed to the Cincinnati CWRT, c/o Preservation Project, P. O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, OH, 45262. Checks should be made out to CCWRT Preservation Fund. Any amount helps the cause and any gift of \$25 or more may win you a major conversation piece for your home.



**CWPT'S 2010 Annual Conference:** Join CWPT members and staff along with some of the nation's best known historians for four days of camaraderie and Civil War touring at the 2010 *Battle in the Bluegrass – The Fight for Kentucky* conference in Lexington, Kentucky on June 3 – 6, 2010. Tours will include the: Battle of Mill Springs; Battle of Perryville; Battle of Richmond; Historic Homes...and more! Invited speakers and scholars include Edwin C. Bearss, Kent Masterson Brown, Christopher Kolakowski, Richard McMurray and Richard Sommers. Conference Registration Fee is \$540 before January 17, 2010 and \$585 after January 17, 2010 - a small discount is available for on-line registration. Conference fee includes tours, tour guides, coaches, conference welcome packet, name tags, etc. Fee does not include hotel accommodations; you must make your own reservation. A special conference room rate of \$129 is available at the Lexington Downtown Hotel and Conference Center - the conference location - until Tuesday, May 11, 2010. For the full ad and schedule or to register on-line visit their web site at: [www.civilwar.org/annualconference](http://www.civilwar.org/annualconference).

**Central Tennessee Field Trip:** For those attending the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> field trip to Central Tennessee, be sure to make your hotel reservations by April 15<sup>th</sup>. As was indicated in the handout, we will be staying at the Hampton Inn in Smyrna, TN. To receive the \$84 special rate this trip, your reservation must be made by calling 615-355-8432 and stating you are with the CCWRT group. Also, the tour has been expanded to include a May 3<sup>rd</sup> guided tour of the Franklin Battlefield by Thomas Cartwright, one of the leading authorities on the battle. To learn more about Mr. Cartwright, visit [www.LotzHouse.com](http://www.LotzHouse.com). Also, to prepare for our guided tour of the Battle of Nashville by Ross Massey, visit the [www.BNPS.org](http://www.BNPS.org) and consider buying the book "Guide to Civil War Nashville."

**New Members:** A hearty welcome to our newest members, Mark Fidler and Rich Foy.

**Newsletter Deadlines:** To facilitate the printing and timely distribution of the monthly newsletter, items to be considered for inclusion in the April Canister should be submitted to the editor no later than March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Information may be emailed to: [Dan\\_Bauer@CINFIN.com](mailto:Dan_Bauer@CINFIN.com)

# February Presentation:

...submitted by Mike Rhein

In 1962 my parents and this writer toured the Civil War Centennial Center in Richmond, Virginia. As a 13-year-old who had begun his passionate study of our American Civil War since the late 1950s, he was enthralled by the Centennial Center with its displays, his interest being stoked to an even higher pitch. As an aside, in October of that year, he was privileged to hear a speech at the University of Cincinnati by one of the finest Civil War writers this country has produced: Bruce Catton.

With the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War approaching next year, the February presentation by former CCWRT president Kris Teters, a University of Alabama history doctoral candidate, was a timely one. The topic, “A Contested Past: Alabama’s Centennial Commemoration of the Civil War,” though specific to Alabama’s role in the “commemoration” of the War Between the States, broached the general question of perception(s) of our nation’s fratricidal period of 1861-1865. As in any historical period, including our own personal and familial pasts, the mists of memory can cloud our own perception of how things were, narrowing our mental filter as to how we as individuals and as a nation shape our significance of events.



**Kris Teters**

Mr. Teters’ insightful view of the Centennial commemoration in Alabama, beginning in 1961, noted that the “racial aspect was ignored.” He emphasized that black soldiers and emancipation were not mentioned at all. The state’s celebration of its role in the Civil War was shrouded in “romantic rhetoric of white Alabamians,” as the speaker termed it. Mr. Teters stressed that Alabama wanted to “affirm superiority of their own whiteness.” African-Americans were, the speaker noted, “excluded from the Civil War celebration.” According to Mr. Teters, the Alabama Centennial Commission’s formation in 1959 and subsequent preparation culminated with a re-enactment of the inauguration of Confederate President Jefferson Davis in 1961 in Montgomery. Attorney T.B. Hill, Jr. reprised the Jefferson Davis inaugural address. At this point, the tone of Alabama’s view of its Civil War heritage became apparent within the 1960s background of America’s “Cold War” versus the Soviet Union, Mr. Kris Teters said, in regards to “North and South unite(ing) versus the Communists” and at the same time “leave out racial issues.”

The Alabama Centennial Commission, led by Governor John Patterson as chairman and university professor Albert B. Moore as executive director, perpetuated the “Lost Cause” mythology, Mr. Teters said, which was the “South’s rationalization for defeat,” and “deified” Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. He added that a key component of the “Lost Cause” was the emphasis on the “North’s resources and manpower as the reason for the South’s defeat.”

The speaker recounted the Feb. 12-18, 1861 Montgomery (Ala) Pageant at the Coliseum, the site of the Jefferson Davis inaugural re-enactment, accompanied by “church bells ringing.” He cited the city of Marion being festooned by Confederate flags and a Confederate ball held. Mr. Teters commented, “The ‘Gone with the Wind’ version of the Civil War was evident.” In a 100-page book of centennial activities, “not one black was in it,” he added.

In response to the Alabama Centennial Commission’s exclusion of blacks from the commemoration, a black newspaper, the “Alabama Herald,” called for African Americans to conduct their own version of the Civil War Centennial with an emphasis on the “Emancipation Proclamation” issued by President Abraham Lincoln, Mr. Teters said, adding that the proclamation became the “key theme for blacks in the centennial,”

thus, “blacks and whites held separate commemorations.” Professor Moore published pamphlets on the Civil War, Mr. Teters related, which “did not elevate slavery to the level of importance as a key factor for the war “and that “state’s rights was more important.”

Besides the “Cold War” issue, there was the national issue of the civil rights movement as the backdrop to the various southern states’ centennial observances. The speaker referred to the civil rights movement challenging segregation. In Mr. Teters’ view, the centennial’s “unification theme” encompassing the “valor of their Civil War ancestors, North and South,” was a response to the “Cold War” and civil rights movement “fears.” He stressed that the centennial was a “pageant for white America.”

In conclusion, this writer recites a statement by Dr. Bell I. Wiley, famed Southern scholar and author, regarding a classic Civil War novel, “Gone with the Wind,” that he used in his classes: “There’s a little too much of the moonlight-and-magnolia atmosphere...” In essence, Mr. Teters’ perceptive study of the Alabama centennial’s “Lost Cause” focus and its attendant “moonlight-and-magnolia” nostalgia reminds us about lessons to be learned from the 1961-65 centennial in helping our nation to develop a fuller picture of the Civil War for the upcoming sesquicentennial in an all-inclusive framework for blacks and whites.

This writer’s life-long passion for the Civil War period has never dimmed; his Richmond, Va. excursion in the midst of our nation’s centennial as a teenager was a rewarding experience. In looking back through that particular mist of time, here is the question: were his perceptions of the Civil War, to a small degree, subconsciously reinforced by Virginia’s presentation at its centennial center? Mr. Teters, in his thought-provoking presentation, raised pertinent points for discussion as we Ohioans approach our 2011 commencement of the Civil War Sesquicentennial.



## Book Review

...submitted by Thomas L. Breiner

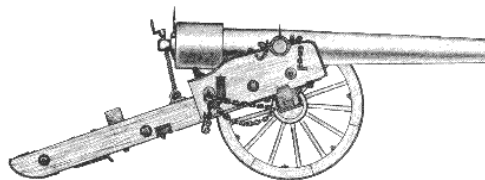
**A Vast and Fiendish Plot: The Confederate Attack on New York City** by Clint Johnson, Citadel Press, New York, NY, 2010, 296 pages, Soft cover \$15.95.

On November 25, 1864 six Confederate officers tried to burn the city of New York. Eight men were initially involved in the attempt that was to occur on November 8, election day, but the Confederates and their accomplices were covered by Benjamin Butler and 3,500 veteran Union soldiers. By the time they were ready to try again on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, two of the original agents quit. The author, Clint Johnson, in his book [A Vast and Fiendish Plot: The Confederate Attack on New York City](#) gathers the slim factual documentation available concerning this event and manages to put the pieces together to produce a highly interesting work. He has done extremely well with the material available to outline the significant and relevant events that were behind the plot.

Many of the details exceed credibility. If the data is to be believed, the governor of New York, Horatio Seymour, and Congressman Fernando Wool not only were aware of the scheme, but were willing to support the plot to destroy New York City. There was supposedly an army of 20,000 New Yorkers, fully armed, ready to form a new Confederacy and willing to cooperate with the Southern Confederacy. This is hardly a believable idea in the fall of November, 1864. The war was clearly approaching its end. Why would any Democratic politician support the destruction of the one city that was instrumental in their election? How could the Governor of New York, the state that provided the largest number of soldiers to the Union armies, expect to be able to face the people of New York after allowing the Confederates to burn New York?

The Confederate officers involved in the attack proved to be extremely incompetent. They were using an unfamiliar weapon in the Greek fire. They were their own worse enemies. Their lack of knowledge and poor planning was the major contributor to the failure of the plot. Their reconnaissance of the city was inadequate. They used the Greek fire in the wrong locations and were instrumental in nullifying the effect by cutting off the supply of oxygen need to expand the blaze by closing the hotel room windows. The author's most intriguing research was in identifying all the possible locations in 1864 New York that, if attacked, would probably have achieved their goal and destroyed the City of New York. The author systematically lays out how the attack could have occurred to guarantee success.

Clint Johnson has created a most interesting and highly readable manuscript. His research is superb and the book is well written. However, he devotes the first 149 pages of the work building the background of the Confederate secret service and the previous attempts to disrupt the Union war cause. He also links the attack on New York to the death of John Hunt Morgan. Two of the officers involved were former members of Morgan's cavalry. Most of the information does not address his primary topic. However, I still recommend this work to anyone with an interest in the Confederate's various and unique attempts to stem the tide of the war and overcome their lack of industrial might and manpower. This may have been their only means to reverse the losses on the major battlefields of the war.



## February Quiz:

1. In Sept. 1862 Col. Wm. Dickenson acting as commander of Cincinnati's Black Brigade upon learning of the men's initial confinement and maltreatment by white Union soldiers gathered the entire brigade of 400 men together and pledged that they would receive the same protection and treatment as white men and the group would be kept together as a distinct unit. He then released them to go home, tend to their families and prepare for 2 – 3 weeks of hard work building roads and fortifications in anticipation of a rebel attack upon Cincinnati. They were obliged to return to duty the next morning. How many members of the Black Brigade showed up the next day? **A. 700**
2. Grant wrote in his 1886 Memoirs: Although I knew him well before the war, I saw him but little during it. He showed military brilliance but I regarded him as a dangerous man. He was not subordinate to his superiors. He was ambitious to the point of caring nothing of the rights of others. When engaged in battle he tried to detach himself from the main body of the army and exercise a separate command. To whom was he referring? **A. Joe Hooker**
3. There are 6 statues of famous people on Monument Avenue in Richmond, Va. Name as many as you can. **A. Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, Matthew F. Maury, J.E.B. Stuart, Thomas Jackson, Arthur Ashe**
4. Lincoln won the 1860 presidential election. In greater New York City Lincoln got \_\_\_\_\_% ( of the total vote), Douglas got \_\_\_\_\_%. In that same election was a referendum to give free male blacks suffrage fights. In Manhattan it got a positive vote from \_\_\_\_\_% of the voters **A. 38%, 62%, 14%**

5. I was governor of Alabama 1959 -1963 during which time I obtained a court order to restrain the NAACP from operating in my state. Supported by the KKK I took no steps to protect out of state freedom riders when they came to agitate us regarding recent federal desegregation rulings. I was special chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court where I voted to support Chief Justice Ray Moore's contempt of court conviction in his attempt to post the 10 Commandments in his courthouse. Complemented by others for my judicial temperament as judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, I retired to my hometown of Goldville, Alabama. My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

**A. John M. Patterson**



## Future Presentations:

April 15	John Fazio, Cleveland CWRT <i>Francis and Arabella Barlow; John and Fanny Gordon: Love and War</i>
May 20	Dale Phillips, George Rogers Clark NHP <i>The Real First Day of Chickamauga: September 18, 1863</i>
September 10	Robert E. L. Krick, Jr., Richmond Nat'l Battlefield <i>"Bombproof Officers" or Backbone of the Army?: A Look at Staff Officers in the Army of Northern Virginia</i>
October 10	Ron Blair, CCWRT <i>Colonel Frank Wolford, 1<sup>st</sup> Kentucky (US) Cavalry</i>
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, 2011	Ralph Arnold, CCWRT <i>Civil War Military Railroads</i>
February, 2011	Pat Homan, CCWRT <i>Paved with Good Intentions: The Road to War</i>
March 2011	David Mowery, CCWRT and OCWTC <i>America's Longest Cavalry Ride: Morgan's 1863 Raid Around Cincinnati</i>
April 2011	Harold Holzer, New York Metropolitan Museum, <i>How Lincoln Became President – In Ohio</i>

## 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](mailto: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 \$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: 513-418-2500**). 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:

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**Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!**