
THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



PO Box 621082 • Cincinnati, OH 45262 • www.cincinnatiwrt.org
Serving the Tri-State area of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana since 1956

[CCWRT](#)

March, 2017 Issue

Meeting Date: March 16, 2017

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social
(7:15) Business Meeting

(6:30) Dinner
(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: Southern Fried Chicken,
Marinated Tomato & Red Onion Salad, Oven Roasted Potatoes,
Glazed Carrot Casserole,
and Birthday Cake**

Vegetarian Option: Upon request

Speaker: William “Jack” C. Davis, Virginia Tech University

Topic: *The Confederate Kardashians: Loreta Janeta Velasquez and the Invention of Confederate Celebrity*

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to submit your meeting reservation to the web site at <http://cincinnatiwrt.org/wordpress/contact/rsvp/> or call it in to Dave Stockdale at 513-310-9553. Leave a message, if necessary. 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 8, 2017.**

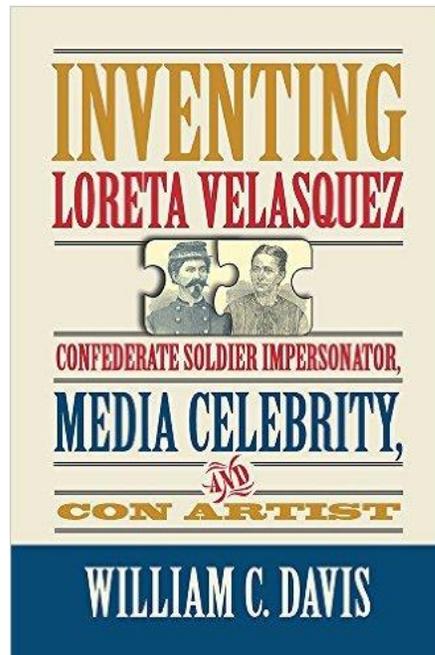
March Speaker:

She went by many names—Mary Ann Keith, Ann Williams, Laretta Williams, and more—but history knows her best as Loreta Janeta Velasquez, a woman who claimed to have posed as a man to fight for the Confederacy. In *Inventing Loreta Velasquez*, acclaimed historian William C. Davis delves into the life of one

of America's early celebrities, peeling back the myths she herself created to reveal a startling and even more implausible reality.

This groundbreaking biography reveals a woman quite different from the public persona she promoted. In her bestselling memoir, *The Woman in Battle*, Velasquez claimed she was an emphatic Confederate patriot, but in fact she never saw combat. Instead, during the war she manufactured bullets for the Union and persuaded her Confederate husband to desert the Army.

After the Civil War ended, she wore many masks, masterminding ambitious confidence schemes worth millions, such as creating a phony mining company, conning North Carolina residents to back her financially in a fake immigration scheme, and attracting investors to build a railroad across western Mexico. With various husbands, Velasquez sought her fortune both in the American West and in the Klondike, though her endeavors cost one husband his life. She also became a social reformer advocating on behalf of better prison



William "Jack" C. Davis

conditions, the Cuban revolt against Spain, and the plight of Cuban refugees. Further, Velasquez was one of the first women to venture into journalism and presidential politics. Always a sensational press favorite, she displayed throughout her life an uncanny ability to manipulate popular media and to benefit from her fame in a way that prefigured celebrities of our own time, including using her testimony in a Congressional inquiry about Civil War counterfeiting as a means of promoting her latest business ventures.

So little has been known of Velasquez's real life that some postmodern scholars have glorified her as a "woman warrior" and used her as an example in cross-gender issues and arguments concerning Hispanic nationalism. Davis firmly refutes these notions by bringing the historical Velasquez to the surface. The genuine story of Velasquez's life is far more interesting than misguided interpretations and her own fanciful inventions.

William Charles "Jack" Davis is an American historian who was a Professor of History at Virginia Tech and the former Director of Programs at that school's Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. Davis has twice been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize (for *Breckinridge: Statesman, Soldier, Symbol* and *Battle at Bull Run*). He has written more than 40 books on the American Civil War and other aspects of early Southern U.S. history. He is the only three-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Prize for Confederate history and was awarded the Jules F. Landry Award for Southern history.



While his reputation certainly preceded this, my connection with our March speaker goes back to 2011 when I attended the Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission's Signature Conference Series at Virginia Tech. This prestigious conference, which had run for many years at various Virginia colleges and universities, brought together leading historians who discuss the Civil War. Some of the outstanding historians that I had the pleasure to hear at that conference included the well-known scholars such as James Robertson, Gary Gallagher, Richard McMurry, and our March speaker, William Davis.

The CCWRT is fortunate to be able to host such a renowned speaker at our March 16 meeting. In my opinion, William "Jack" Davis is a standout in the field of Civil War historians. This is his first visit to our Round Table, and he has chosen a unique topic: *The Confederate Kardashian: Loreta Janeta Velasquez and the Invention of Confederate Celebrity*. I can attest to the fact that his presentation will be lively, interesting, and thought-provoking.

I suggest you make your reservation now. Why not come to dinner or bring a spouse or friend to share this special evening? Check out our website for more information on Jack Davis and to make your dinner reservations.

Also in March – Happy 60th Birthday to the CCWRT! Come for the celebration, which will include cake, of course. Did I mention that the March meeting and presentation is NOT to be missed? See you all there on March 16.

Items of Interest

Remembering the 60th Anniversary of the Cincinnati CWRT

A big thank you to CCWRT member Dan Reigle, who sent this article which was originally printed in the Monday, July 9, 1956, edition of *The Cincinnati Enquirer* (p. 15). The article talks about the formation of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table. Happy Birthday, CCWRT!!!

To Revive Civil War, But Without Hate

Sons of Yanks And Rebels Form Round Table To Discuss 1861-1865 Split
And Cross Words At Meetings Are Barred

By May Dearness
Enquirer Reporter

Champions of both the Yankees and the Rebels are in the ranks of the newly-founded Civil War Round Table of Cincinnati. But not a cross word is expected! Many aspects of the Civil War will be discussed pro and con – but without bitterness – Ernest L. Miller, director of the Public Library and program chairman of the round table said yesterday. William J. Reardon, president of the new group, made that point very clear when he cautioned members at the recent organization meetings, beginning in September.

Nineteen Cincinnati men, mostly of business and professional fields, along with one high school student and one University of Cincinnati student, are the charter members of the Round Table. The high school student is Michael Schneider and the UC student Roger W. Parry. Others on the charter list are Me. Reardon, Frank P. Atkins, Thomas E. Holt, Ernest I. Miller, Dr. John W. Miller, Lee Shepard, Arthur A. Adler, John C. Varelmann, J. Louis Warm, John P.

Malone, Joseph S. Stern Jr., Fraser B. Rhodes, Charles S. Adams, Frederick A. Breyer, former Judge Chester R. Shook, Larz R. Hammel and Virginius C. Hall.

Other officers chosen to serve with Mr. Reardon are Mr. Warm, vice president; Mr. Parry, secretary, and Mr. Holt, treasurer. Trustees include Mr. Varelmann, Mr. Stern, Mr. Adams, Dr. Miller and Mr. Breyer.

A poll of these Civil War history enthusiasts indicated number of specialists in a wide variety of subjects, the program chairman said. In this list are ordinance, the war on the home front, the Battle of The Crater, Abraham Lincoln, the Western campaigns and Lee's lieutenants. Of the major figures in the war, the only one who had not inspired interest was Jefferson Davis, Mr. Miller added.

The round table is modeled after similar ones in other major cities. There are now 26. The pioneer one is in Chicago.

The plan here is to bring out-of-town speakers of scholarly standing on Civil War subjects to give the programs at every other meeting. Local members will present papers at the alternate meetings. The meeting place probably will be the University Club, where the round table founding took place. A dinner will precede each program, Mr. Miller said.

There will also be field trips to historic spots in this area and some, perhaps, to more distant places, such as Gettysburg. One of the first nearby sites to be visited will be Camp Dennison, located in Northeast Hamilton County, 16 miles from downtown Cincinnati, on State Route 126. Mr. Miller has collected data concerning the camp, laid out in 1861 on the Little Miami River, for the mustering in of units of Ohio volunteers, and later transformed into a general hospital with 1716 beds.

Mr. Reardon, a "Yankee" with business interests in the South, was instrumental in establishing the round table here. Membership now stands at 37. The limit will be 50.

Mr. Reardon is busy now looking over a list of visiting speakers, to select the one for the initial meeting. Mr. Breyer, Hamilton County's welfare director, has consented to be the first member to present a paper. In November, he will discuss the election of 1860. Mr. Stern will be next in line of the local speakers. He has made an extensive study of the Battle of the Crater, and his paper will be on that subject.

Mr. Parry, now at Army camp for six weeks at Ft. Bragg, N.C., is looking around there for some Civil War relics or information to bring home for the September meeting. The camp is near Fayetteville, one of the cities which Gen. William T. Sherman passed through on his trip north from Georgia.

Cynthiana Battlefield Group Formed

Sixty miles south of Cincinnati lay the small town of Cynthiana, Kentucky. Cynthiana was the site of two battles during the Civil War, one in 1862 and the other in 1864, and both involving John H. Morgan and his raiders. Harrison County's Civil War history shows us that the area was heavily pro-Southern, with six companies of infantry raised for the Confederate cause, and only two for the Union, during the early days of the war. Butler County's own 35th Ohio was stationed there in the fall of 1861, guarding the railroad that ran from Northern Kentucky to Lexington.

Recently a new organization has been created to help interpret, increase awareness, and preserve Cynthiana's Civil War past. Called the Cynthiana Battlefields Foundation, they are a non-profit within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. They have an active presence on Facebook as well as a website where one can join the Foundation or give a donation as the Foundation works to develop a more in-depth walking and driving tour, install interpretive signage, and eventually preserve battlefield lands. They also have events scheduled for this summer and fall, including two free tours open to all.

For more information, or to join the Foundation, please visit the Foundation's website, www.cynthianabattlefieldsfoundation.org, or contact CCWRT member Darryl R. Smith at ohioatperryville@gmail.com.

Book Review

...submitted by Thomas L. Breiner

The Collapse of Price's Raid: The Beginning of the End in Civil War Missouri by Mark A. Lause, The University of Missouri Press, Columbia, MO, 2016, 262 pages, Hardcover \$32.95.

The Collapse of Price's Raid by Mark Lause is a detailed account of the ending to Major General Sterling Price's last gasp effort to return Missouri to the Confederacy. However, the effort by Price's army has already degenerated from an effort to take control of the State of Missouri to a raid to collect supplies, booty, and to draft any eligible man into the Confederate Army. He has already given up the idea of capturing St. Louis or the state capitol, Jefferson City.

Mark Lause, the author, has done a superb job of researching the numerous and varied accounts of the raid and producing an understandable manuscript covering the events that led to the collapse of Price's campaign. The Union forces were a mixture of regulars, Missouri State Militia, Enrolled Missouri Militia, Kansas State Militia, and civilians. The command structure is confusing with Major General Rosecrans commanding the Missouri district, Major General Alford Pleasanton leading the Missouri cavalry, and Major General Samuel Curtis in charge of the Kansas Militia and the Army of the Border. Each has his own idea of how the defense of Missouri and Kansas should be conducted. Rosecrans just wants to get Price out of Missouri, and Curtis just wants to keep Price out of Kansas.

The Confederate command is simpler; however, after the thought of capturing St. Louis and Jefferson City was abandoned, Price has no clear goals for his raid. With each successive victory or defeat, Price changes his plans. He is finally left with the goal of remaining in Missouri as long as he can to feed his army. This campaign will turn out to be the last significant operation for the Confederacy west of the Mississippi.

The only issue I have with this otherwise excellent work is that there are no maps to help with the reader's understanding of the various command movements and the location of the various towns, creeks, and rivers mentioned. Also, there is no Order of Battle for either side. This makes understanding the players and their relationships very difficult and following the command structure impossible. Even with these drawbacks, I still recommend the book to anyone with an interest in the actions in the Trans-Mississippi Theater. The manuscript is well written and highly detailed. Mark Lause has done an outstanding job of researching these events and sifting through the confusing reports and letters of the many participants. Each writer from the campaign has his own agenda and twists the facts to suit his needs rather than report accurate information. This book is a fitting sequel to the author's work, *Price's Lost Campaign: the 1864 Invasion of Missouri*.

February Presentation

... submitted by Don Vogel

The February meeting of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table was honored to have a presentation by UC professor Mark Lause. Professor Lause spoke on the details of his book, *Sterling Price and the 1864 Missouri Campaign*. Professor Lause brought a very detailed account of this largely forgotten episode of the Civil War, and I will just try to give a brief overview of his presentation, which was quite fast-paced so as to fit into a one-hour block of time. I found it difficult to keep up with the professor and take notes, as he is so well-versed on his subject, and I intend to read the book to get the details that I missed during his spirited presentation.

The South in 1864 thought it was time to go back and take Missouri for the Confederacy. As Professor Lause said, "This was a very bad idea." At this time in the conflict, the Federals controlled the Mississippi River, so they continued to bring troops into the South as needed, but the South could not get troops out to other theaters except by overland. This lack of fighters for the various theaters was a death knell for the South. The

Rebels felt that there were enough fighters available to overthrow the Federal military occupation of Missouri and restore an already elected Democrat to the governorship.

Onto the scene came Sterling Price with about 12,000 men, many of whom were dressed in Union uniforms, and three experienced commanders – Marmaduke, Shelby, and Fagan. It should also be noted that at that time, there were various guerrilla bands operating in and around Missouri and Kansas that completely terrorized the citizens, as these bands treated them in a way similar to the way they treated the Union troops.

From the Union came General Rosecrans, to administer St. Louis, and General Alfred Pleasanton, to handle field command. These two men appear to have had little respect for each other, which would make it difficult for them to work together as Washington had requested.

When Price began to make his move toward St. Louis, Rosecrans came to the realization that this was not just a small raid but an army, and he mobilized 20,000 men to defend the city. Upon learning that he was facing a much larger force, Price backed away from the attack. Almost everything going on around the St. Louis area was now between the Union militia and the Rebels. African Americans and Germans were most often the victims of terror attacks by Rebel soldiers.

General Price now made Jefferson City his goal, but the militia had other plans. They put a defensive force of 7,000 in Jefferson City. Price decided that it just was not worth the trouble.

Not long afterwards, the 1864 election took place, with Lincoln and Johnson carrying Missouri, and the Radical Republicans taking control of the state with the idea of not rejoining the Union, but punishing the South. This spelled the end of slavery in the South. Price's Invasion and Raid constituted a very short episode in a very long and bloody war.



February Quiz:

1. In 1862 the Confederate Congress was considering a bill to repeal a law requiring the mails be carried on Sundays. A citizen wrote to his congressional liaison: "I hope you will urge its repeal. I do not see how a nation that thus arrays itself by such a law against God's holy day can expect to escape His wrath. For fifteen years I have refused to mail letters on Sunday or take them out of the office on that day except since I came into the field....My rule is to let the Sabbath mails to remain unopened." Who was the writer?
2. Who was the best man at U.S. Grant's wedding, 8 Aug. 1848, in St. Louis?
3. It's 1859, and you are in Richmond, VA, at Franklin and 15th Sts. at Hector Davis's slave trading office; you see a coffle. What are you looking at?
4. Congressman, later general, Dan Sickles shot and killed his wife's lover, Philip Barton Key, son of Francis Scott Key, and successfully escaped punishment by being the first defendant to use the temporary insanity plea in American jurisprudence. Who was Sickle's brilliant attorney?
5. The periscope is a critical piece of equipment to any naval force (& golf tournament spectator). During which military campaign of the Civil War was it first used?
6. On 17 Apr. 1862, Stonewall Jackson established military headquarters at a home in Big Springs, VA. The widow owner had a male relative who moved to Kentucky at the turn of the century, and his grandson had become an important Union politician named _____.
7. Which Ohio regiment was known as the Groundhog Regiment?

Quiz Answers:

1. Stonewall Jackson
Ref.: *Stonewall Jackson*, Robertson, p. 650.
2. James Longstreet
Ref.: *Grant and Sherman*, C.B. Flood, p. 54; “Book Review of *Polk: The Man Who Transformed the Presidency and America*,” W. Borneman, *Wall Street Journal*, May 8, p. W8; Google, “At His Wedding, Who Was General U.S. Grant’s Best Man?”.
3. A group of slaves chained together
Ref.: *The Free Dictionary*, “coffle”; *A Slave No More*, Blight, p. 36.
4. Edwin Stanton
Ref.: “A Missed Opportunity,” O’Reilly’s *Killing Lincoln*; *North South Magazine*, Nov. 2011, Steers.
5. Red River campaign; invented under the supervision of Captain Thomas Selfridge of the USS *Osage* and used to aim a large cannon at the enemy. It was the military tool that helped decapitate Confederate general and Texas hero Tom Green at the Battle of Blair’s Landing, LA.
Ref.: *One Damn Blunder from Beginning to End*, Joiner, p. 174.
6. Abraham Lincoln; Mrs. Lincoln gave Jackson his supper
Ref.: *Stonewall Jackson*, Robertson, p. 355.
7. 26th Ohio Volunteer Infantry
Ref.: *The 26th Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry: The Groundhog Regiment*, Hill



Future Presentations:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Apr. 20, 2017 | Carleton Young, Pittsburgh, PA <i>Voices from the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War</i> |
| May 18, 2017 | Phillip Greenwalt, Everglades National Park <i>Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864</i> |
| Sep. 21, 2017 | Erick Bush, Rome, NY <i>Selma: The Confederacy’s Arsenal City</i> |
| Oct. 19, 2017 | Richard L. Miller, Seattle, WA <i>John P. Slough, the 1st Colorado, and Glorieta Pass</i> |
| Nov. 16, 2017 | David A. Powell, Chicago, IL <i>A Tale of Two Corps Commanders: D. H. Hill and A. M. McCook at Chickamauga</i> |
| Jan. 18, 2018 | Peter J. D’Onofrio, PhD, Reynoldsburg, OH <i>Medical Advancements of the Civil War</i> |
| Feb. 15, 2018 | Ron Blair, Lexington, KY <i>Wild Wolf: Col. Frank Wolford and the 1st Kentucky Cavalry</i> |
| Mar. 15, 2018 | James “Bud” Robertson, Richmond, VA Topic TBD |
| Apr. 19, 2018 | Darryl Smith, CCWRT <i>General George H. Thomas</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 (single) and \$35 (couple) 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 (single) or \$30 (couple). Students enrolled full time in any recognized secondary or higher institute of learning can use a **Student Membership**, which applies a discount of \$10 to each of the above dues and initiation fee rates.

Dinner reservations are required, and can be made prior to the reservations deadline either by the web site <http://cincinnatiwrt.org/wordpress/contact/rsvp/> 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 \$20. 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. *No reservation is necessary.* 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 main entrance and go to the left side of the gift shop found opposite the entryway; the meeting room is located at the far end of the cafeteria hallway.

CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| President: Lester Burgin | 513-225-6686 (h) | LesterBurgin@gmail.com |
| Vice-President: Dave Stockdale | 513-310-9553 (c) | djrstockdale@aol.com |
| Treasurer: Jim Stewart | 513-271-0738 (h) | jebstewart@fuse.net |
| Secretary: Don Vogel | 859-360-9455 (h) | oneparson@aol.com |
| Program Chair: Dan Bauer | 513-759-4495 (h) | dbauer002@cinci.rr.com |
| Newsletter Editor: David Mowery | 513-774-9544 (h) | dmowery11@fuse.net |
| Membership & Publicity: VACANT | -- | -- |
| Trustee: Bob Limoseth (2015-2017) | 513-777-2160 (h) | rlimo@fuse.net |
| Trustee: Tom Williams (2016-2018) | 513-563-2665 (h) | t.williams@outlook.com |

COMMITTEES:

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Activities: VACANT | -- | -- |
| Preservation Projects: | | |
| Becky Burket & Randy Donohue | 513-771-3949 (h) | northstarians@AOL.com |
| Webmaster: Mike Rogers | 859-907-3096 (c) | rogersmb1981@yahoo.com |
| CCWRT E-Mail: Mike Rogers | 859-907-3096 (c) | rogersmb1981@yahoo.com |
| CCWRT E-Mail Address | | ccwrt@cincinnatiwrt.org |