
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](#)

February, 2018 Issue

Meeting Date: February 15, 2018

Place: The Drake Center

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

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

**Dinner Menu: *Chicken Piccata,*
Caesar Salad, Macaroni & Cheese,
*Fresh Asparagus, and Tiramisu***
Vegetarian Option: Upon request

Speaker: Ron Blair, Lexington, KY

Topic: *Wild Wolf: Col. Frank Wolford and the 1st Kentucky Cavalry*

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, February 7, 2018.**

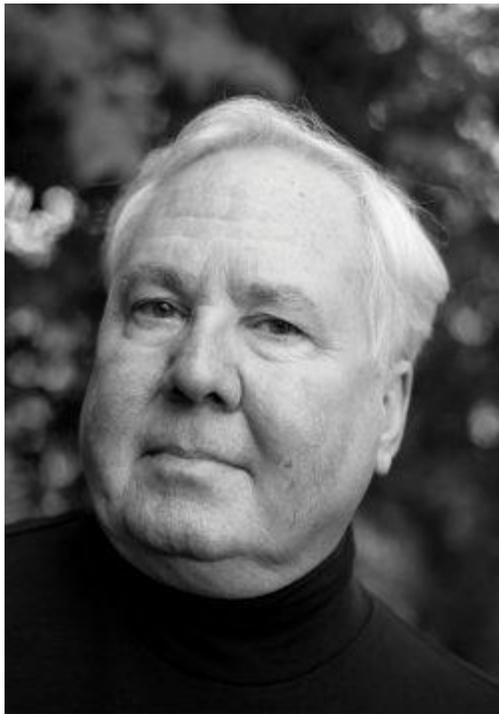
February Speaker:

Union Col. Frank Wolford was a celebrated Civil War cavalier and rival of Confederate raider John Hunt Morgan. Wolford, who formed the 1st KY (U.S.) Cavalry, took part in more than 300 battles and skirmishes, during which he was wounded seven times. In addition to detailing Wolford's military exploits, Blair will detail Wolford's political career, including his staunch opposition against President Abraham Lincoln over the use of black soldiers in the Union forces. Ronald Blair is Frank Wolford's great-great-nephew.

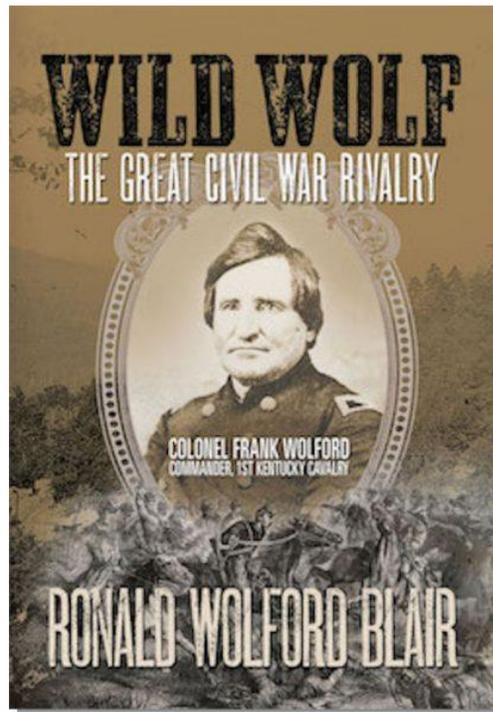
Both commanding cavalry, Wolford and Morgan make up the “great rivalry” alluded to in the title of Blair’s book. Throughout the first half of the war, Wolford and Morgan clashed against each other in skirmishes that don’t usually find a place in the standard history book. About half of the book details Wolford’s fight against Morgan and the other skirmishes Wolford’s Kentuckians find themselves in. The rest of Blair’s book is equally useful in that it details when Wolford went up against another great rival, this one far more surprising – his own president, Abraham Lincoln.

Wolford openly argued against Lincoln’s calls for abolishing slavery and the creation of United States Colored Troops. Delivering vehemently anti-Lincoln speeches, Wolford found himself arrested for speaking against his commander-in-chief while in the uniform of a United States Army officer. Repeatedly offered a pardon if he agreed to rescind his remarks, Wolford steadfastly refused. Thus, while his troopers went to fight in later campaigns, Wolford was forced to watch from the sidelines, trading legal barbs with Lincoln in a series of letters. Blair reprints some of these letters back and forth as appendices, and they are well worth reading.

Ronald Wolford Blair grew up in the Cincinnati neighborhoods of Norwood and Clifton. He is a graduate of Xavier University. Ronald has authored stories for several publications, such as the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and the *Lexington Herald*. Ronald is an avid fly fisherman and is a member of the Bluegrass Chapter of Trout Unlimited, which promotes clean water and streams. A member of the Civil War Trust for the preservation of Civil War battlefields, he is also a member of several Civil War round table organizations, the Kentucky Historical Society, the Friends of Henry Clay, the Morgan’s Men Association, and other organizations. Ronald and Kathleen currently reside in the Bluegrass, horse country of Lexington, Kentucky.



Ron Blair



Ron’s book

I am never surprised anymore about the far-reaching effects of the Civil War and the people involved. I just returned from a winter visit to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. What a spectacular place and a fantastic time of year to visit. Snow was everywhere. There were lots of animals to see, and very few people were present since the park is closed to cars. I had the opportunity to go snowmobiling, dog sledding, and touring the park in a snow coach. To see the geysers, geothermal hot spots, and the waterfalls in a snow setting was a special treat.

While there, I did some reading about Yellowstone's history. Guess what? I ran into some Civil War generals who were involved in the establishment of the park.

On March 1, 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act into law. The world's first national park was born. However, over the next decade, the Interior Department was unable to maintain and protect the park's natural features or wildlife or to deal with poaching, vandalism, and attempts by railroad and mining interests to commercialize and privatize park lands. In 1883, control to protect the park was transferred to the War Department.

In August of 1886, Lieutenant General Philip Sheridan sent Company M, First U.S. Cavalry to the park, where they established Camp Sheridan at Mammoth Hot Springs. The army strengthened, posted, and enforced regulations in the park. Troops guarded the major attractions and evicted trouble makers, and cavalry patrolled the vast interior. General Sheridan was instrumental in the development and protection of Yellowstone National Park. He took on the protection of Yellowstone as his personal crusade, preserving the park for the benefit of us all.

After the horrors of the Civil War were over, it is kind of interesting to find that some of the major players continued their legacy of preserving the Union and its lands for future generations. I hope everyone gets a chance to experience Yellowstone.

Items of Interest

Cincinnati CWRT Preservation Project for 2017-2018

The Preservation Projects Committee has begun working on the 2017-2018 campaign season's Preservation Project for the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table. The current project proposal is to purchase 14 interpretive markers for a driving and walking tour of Camp Dennison, one of the North's largest Civil War camps, located 16 miles northeast of Cincinnati near Milford, Ohio. The camp was established on April 27, 1861, by Major General George B. McClellan and was surveyed by Colonel (later Major General) William S. Rosecrans. It became a major Union hub for training, mustering, and hospitalization of Federal soldiers. Between 50,000 and 75,000 soldiers passed through Camp Dennison between April 1861 and December 1865, when it was dismantled. It encompassed over 700 acres of prime bottomland in the Little Miami River valley. A lithograph of the camp from 1865 can be viewed on page 7 of this issue.

Today, much of the land on which Camp Dennison stood has been preserved by the Village of Indian Hill and Symmes Township. It is a great place to tour and envision the rich Civil War heritage of the area, including sites related to Confederate brigadier general John Hunt Morgan's attack on Camp Dennison.

As more information is gained by Preservation co-chairpersons Bob Haines and Harvey Olf, they will relate those details to us at the CCWRT meetings and in future *Canister* articles. In the meantime, you are welcome to donate to this cause or to any Preservation Project by payment to the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table through the CCWRT Treasurer. Please mark your checks with "Preservation Project" on the Note line. The Preservation Project donations are fully tax-deductible, and the donations will be held for the express purpose of funding the project.

Buffington Island Battlefield Foundation Looking for Volunteers

Would you like to volunteer for a non-profit group dedicated to preserving and interpreting Ohio's largest Civil War battlefield? This is your chance! The 501c3 organization, called the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation (BIBPF), is looking for volunteers to accomplish its mission of preserving the battlefield land around Portland, Ohio, interpreting the battlefield for future generations, and educating the populace about the Civil War in Ohio, Morgan's Raid, and the Battle of Buffington Island. Not only that, the group would be building more heritage tourism for Meigs County, one of the poorest counties in Ohio, by bringing tourists to the battlefield and museum envisioned by the BIBPF plan.

Many openings are available in the BIBPF, including officer positions and committee positions. One can be in a position of leadership, or just participate in one of the committees focused on a particular aspect of the organization's charter, such as fundraising, finance, education, preservation, or advertising and public relations, including social media. Volunteers can attend quarterly meetings from home or in Meigs County.

Please consider the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation as an option to use your time, treasure, or talents to serve your community while feeding your passion for the Civil War in your community. For more information about the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation, please contact David Mowery, Chair of the BIBPF, at buffingtonisland@gmail.com, or join us on Facebook or take a peek at its web site www.buffingtonbattlefieldfoundation.org . You are also welcome to become a member of the group. The membership options and form are located at <https://www.buffingtonbattlefieldfoundation.org/membership> .

January Presentation

... submitted by Don Vogel

Let me say from the outset, that I was fascinated by Dr. D'Onofrio's presentation. I have never been exposed to a talk by a presenter speaking in the first person. I LOVED IT. This style brings a realism to the topic that would otherwise be missing, and the impact of the great material would be lessened. I do hope future presenters use this same approach. I must stop here and explain, that somewhere between Drake and my car, my recorder is missing, and thus, a complete recording of this presentation is missing. Soooooo, I will just hit a few of the items that I have notes on.

The doctor told us that medical care, especially for the military, was almost nonexistent when war broke out, and neither side was prepared for the carnage that was about to be unleashed. There was not a lot of training as far as surgery was concerned, and it seems that most of the frontline doctors got their knowledge by OJT. Medical units were brutal affairs where cleanliness was way down the list of things that were important. After amputating a limb on a soldier that was so unfortunate to be struck down by the hail of canister, or a minie ball, the surgeon would sometimes wipe the saw on his sleeve and call for the next patient. If you couldn't see germs, I suppose it was not a concern.

But, the war continued, and out of a great need, the nursing service was born, with the nursing greats like Dorothy Dix, Clara Barton, and “MOTHER” Bickerdyke, (I hope that spelling is close) and the many others that made up the 4,000 women who served, often without pay. Also, this period gave birth to catholic orders who cared for the wounded, without whose service the suffering would have been so much greater.

One last item: the doctor spent several minutes detailing what took place when a soldier was wounded by a minie ball. So often you hear the term minie ball, and it’s said so quickly that the actual deadliness of the projectile is not comprehended. When the doctor explained what happens inside the body when struck by this instrument of death, I got a cold feeling of the terrible power that was unleashed. Stop and think of the hundreds of thousands who expired in sheer moments after meeting this killer.

A great presentation by Dr. D’Onofrio, and a special thank you from the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table.

Book Review

...submitted by Thomas L. Breiner

“The Bloody Fifth”: *The 5th Texas Infantry Regiment, Hood’s Texas Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia, Volume 2: Gettysburg to Appomattox*, by John F. Schmutz, Savas Beatie LLC, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762, 367 pages, Hardcover \$32.95.

John Schmutz has attempted to create a comprehensive account of the 5th Texas Infantry Regiment in his book, *“The Bloody Fifth.”* This is the second of a two-volume work on the subject. Volume 2 covers the period from the Battle of Gettysburg through the surrender at Appomattox. The 5th Texas was a member of the famed Texas Brigade led by John Bell Hood. It was one of three regiments from the state of Texas that fought in the East with the Army of Northern Virginia. After reading Volume 1, I was not expecting much improvement as I approached this new work; however, it is an improvement.

From my viewpoint, this second manuscript, as a regimental history, is better than Volume 1. The author does a better job of covering the regiment than before, but there are still times when I felt that he was not sure if he was writing the regimental history, a history of the Texas Brigade, or the Division history as a whole. The footnoting is not very well done. The author footnotes each paragraph, which makes checking his sources difficult. This work is based primarily on secondary source material and not the collection of primary letters, diaries, and journals that you would anticipate in a regimental history. I also found his selection of secondary resource material to be extremely poor. *Battles and Leaders* is not the best resource to provide accurate information, since most of the authors of these articles were out to defend their own actions.

The work is again very poorly edited, with numerous grammatical and spelling errors along with missing words, run-together words, and extra or repeated words. This makes reading the work sometimes a bit difficult. The author’s research again appears to be suspect. He fails to realize that Major General Alfred Pleasonton did not successfully complete his mission assigned for the Battle of Brandy Station. While he did succeed in embarrassing Confederate cavalry commander J.E.B. Stuart, Pleasonton failed to break up the Confederate cavalry or see that the Confederate infantry was in the area and preparing to move. Pleasonton provided Major General Joe Hooker with no useful intelligence. With this kind of quality, the entire work becomes less than believable or reliable.

I was extremely disappointed in the book and cannot recommend this to anyone. The maps, I felt, were not as informative as in Volume 1. They did not seem to follow the narrative as well. Despite the poor editing, I did enjoy reading some parts of the book, especially the chapter on the return of the soldiers to Texas after the surrender at Appomattox. This work is still not worth the price for the quality of the information provided.

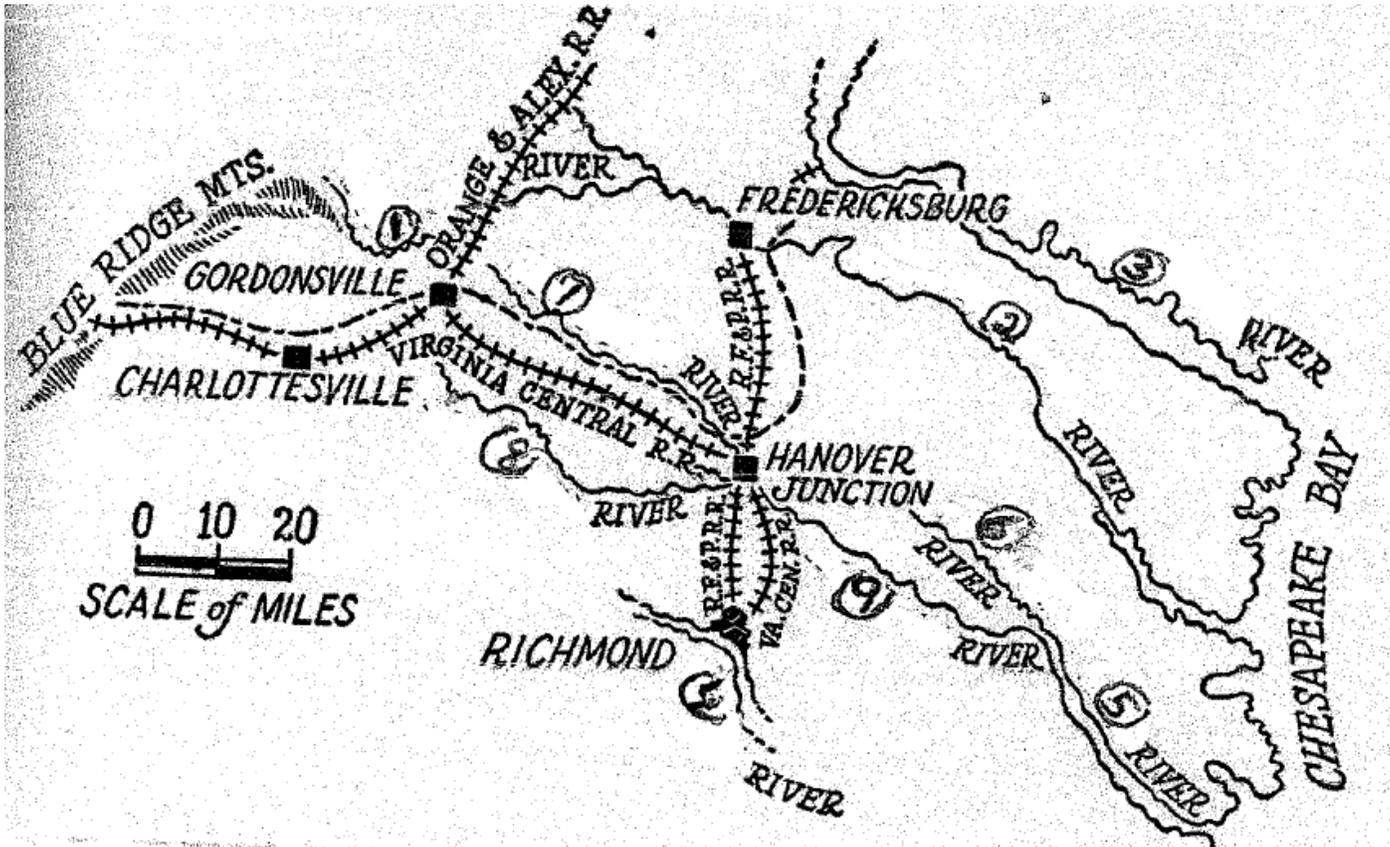


January Quiz:

It is 11 February 1859. Abe Lincoln is speaking to the Phi Alpha Society of Illinois College. He states that intellectual curiosity and scientific progress was the exclusive domain of the Western world. He recognized Asia as the birthplace of “the human family,” and concluded that Asians, like African Americans, were indeed human beings, but he believed that Asia was an ancient, crumbling civilization whose time has long since passed. “The human family originated, as is thought, somewhere in Asia,” Lincoln said, “and have worked their way principally Westward. Just now, in civilization, and the arts, the people of Asia are entirely behind those of Europe; those of the East of Europe behind those of the West of it; while we, here in America, think we discover, and invent, and improve, faster than any of them. They may think this is arrogance, but they cannot deny that Russia has called on us to show her how to build steam-boats and railroads - while in older parts of Asia, they scarcely know that such things as S.Bs & RR.s exist. In anciently inhabited countries, the dust of ages – a real downright old-fogism – seems to settle upon, and smother the intellects and energies of man. It is in this view that I have mentioned the discovery of America as an event greatly favoring and facilitating useful discoveries and conventions (when compared to Asia).”

Ref.: The President and the Stowaway: Abraham Lincoln Meets “The” Japanese by Jason H. Silverman. From an email from the Lincolncottage.org, 28 Sep. 2016.

1. Provide a name for each of the numbered rivers pictured in the map below:



Quiz Answers:

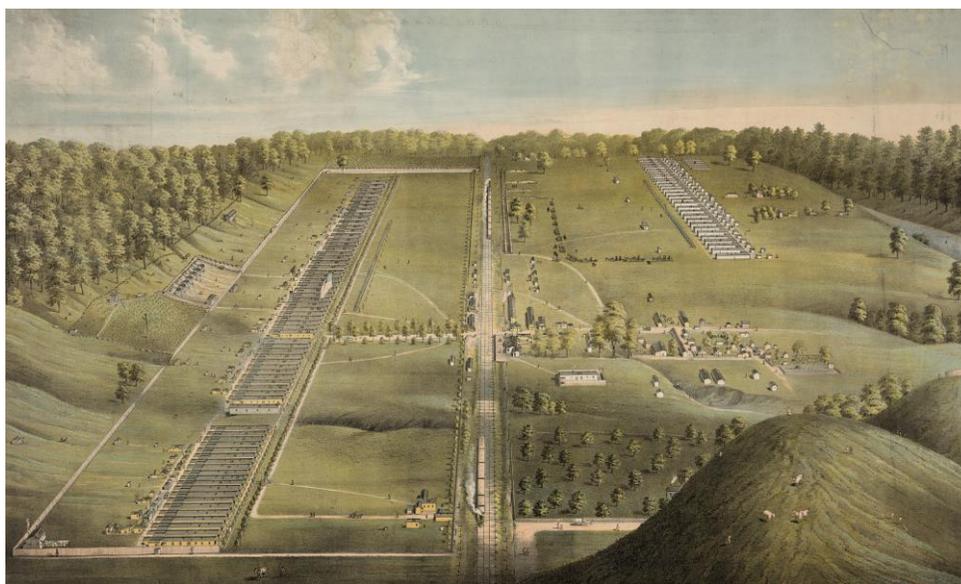
1. (1) Rapidan River; (2) Rappahannock River; (3) Potomac River; (4) James River; (5) York River; (6) Mattaponi River; (7) North Anna River; (8) South Anna River; (9) Pamunkey River

Ref.: *Google Maps*



Future Presentations:

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| Mar. 15, 2018 | James “Bud” Robertson, Richmond, VA <i>Water: The Most Overlooked Element of the Civil War</i> |
| Apr. 19, 2018 | Chris Burns, Cincinnati <i>The Siege of Cincinnati</i> |
| May 17, 2018 | Darryl Smith, CCWRT <i>The Last Raid – The 1864 Battle of Cynthia</i> |
| Sep. 20, 2018 | Greg Biggs, Clarksville, TN <i>The Question Was One of Supplies: The Logistics for William T. Sherman’s Atlanta Campaign</i> |
| Oct. 18, 2018 | Dan Welch, Youngstown, OH <i>The Last Road North: A Guide to the Gettysburg Campaign</i> |
| Nov. 15, 2018 | Ted Savas, El Dorado Hills, CA Topic TBD |
| Jan. 17, 2019 | Gary Johnson, CCWRT <i>The A Sailor’s Life for Me: How Sailing Differs from Soldiering</i> |



Camp Dennison, Cincinnati, OH, in 1865. *Courtesy of Library of Congress*

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. 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 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 | 513-891-0610 (h) | LesterBurgin@gmail.com |
| Vice-President: Dave Stockdale | 513-310-9553 (c) | djrstockdale@aol.com |
| Treasurer: Tom Williams | 513-608-4391 (h) | t.williams@outlook.com |
| 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: Wanda Langdon | 513-505-6871 (h) | Wanda@TeamLangdon.com |
| Trustee: Tom Breiner (2018-2019) | 513-984-3101 (h) | tbreiner@fuse.net |
| Trustee: Dawn Mowery (2016-2018) | 513-774-9544 (h) | dmowery11@fuse.net |

COMMITTEES:

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Activities: VACANT | -- | -- |
| Preservation Projects: | | |
| Bob Haines | 513-257-8854 (h) | bobh@3hab.com |
| Harvey Olf | 513-221-3422 Ex. 3024 (w) | harveyo@3hab.com |
| Webmaster: Mike Rogers | 859-907-3096 (c) | rogersmb1981@yahoo.com |
| Social Media: Mike Rogers | 859-907-3096 (c) | rogersmb1981@yahoo.com |
| CCWRT E-Mail Address | | ccwrt@cincinnatiwrt.org |