
THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



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

[CCWRT](#)

May, 2018 Issue

Meeting Date: May 17, 2018

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: Grill-Out: Hot Dogs & Metts,
Angus Burgers, Baked Beans, Potato Salad,
Relish Plate, Ice Cream Sandwiches
Vegetarian Option: Upon request**

Speaker: Darryl Smith, CCWRT

Topic: *The Last Raid: The 1864 Battle of Cynthiana*

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to submit your meeting reservation to the web site at <http://cincinnati-cwrt.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, May 9, 2018.**

May Speaker:

When we hear the name John H. Morgan, it usually brings to mind the dashing leader of a small band of gallant raiders, but by 1864, Morgan was a shell of his former self, and his command was no longer the gallant band of 1862 and 1863. This talk is about Morgan's Last Raid, with a focus on the fighting at Cynthiana, but will also provide a few insights to Morgan's lack of control and discipline during this campaign.

Darryl Smith is a board member for the Cynthiana Battlefields Foundation, and a member of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table and Civil War Trust. He also is a section supervisor for the Buckeye Trail Association. He holds a degree in American History from Miami University and a B.A. from Xavier University and is the owner of Walking With History LLC, which offers tours of Perryville, Cynthiana, and other battlefields and history sites in the Kentucky/Ohio areas.



Darryl Smith



President's Report

...from Lester Burgin

After two years, my term as President of CCWRT comes to an end in May. As with many things, I am amazed at how quickly the time passed. The thing I enjoyed most about my terms is making new friends and growing closer to old friends.

It is a CCWRT tradition and my honor to publish the candidates for our new Board members in this edition of the *Canister*. We will hold our election at our May 17 meeting.

The candidates are:

President: David Stockade
Vice-president: Esly Caldwell
Treasurer: Tom Williams
Secretary: Don Vogel
Program Chair: Dan Bauer
Newsletter Editor: Darryl Smith
Membership and Publicity: Wanda Langdon
Trustee: Tom Breiner
Trustee: Dawn Mowery
Activities: Joyce Vogel
Preservation Projects: Bob Haines and Harvey Olf
Webmaster/List serve: Mike Rogers

I specifically want to thank all the current Board members for all of the accomplishments we have made over the last two years. Together we have had our website redesigned, created a new logo, had a presence at local events, had fabulous speakers, began an important preservation project and participated in the Civil War Trust Day. We even made CCWRT polo shirts available for the first time!

There is always more work to be done to continue our growth and make our Round Table meet the needs of the changing demographics. And, the year is not officially concluded. We have our annual cookout at the next meeting (join us and bring a friend) and a unique tour of Morgan's Raid planned. Of course, I will continue to see you at next year's meetings and, since I won't be leading the meeting, I will have much more time to chat with you and get to know you.

Items of Interest

Many Civil War events coming this summer to the Tri-State!

Be sure to go to <http://cincinnaticwrt.org/wordpress/events/> to review the many local Civil War related events planned for the summer. Among them are the James A. Ramage Museum's annual Blue & Gray Dinner, the CCWRT-sponsored Morgan Raid tour, the Cynthia Battlefields Foundation Speaker Series, a Spring Grove Cemetery tour, the Civil War Weekend at Sharon Woods Village, and Battery Hooper Days.

April Presentation

... submitted by Don Vogel

It's the late summer of 1862, and Cincinnati was under assault by an enemy that was determined to destroy and pillage the city and leave behind fear in the people: Thus begins a story woven together by Chris Burns, a local historian/presenter who explains how people and events came together to protect and defend one of the greatest cities in the nation, and the cost of failure should the defenses fail. Unfortunately, the details of the efforts and success that followed have not been carried forward historically, as it seems that this local history has not fared well, and the fact that a historian has taken the time to study and bring forth a worthy work such as this is to be applauded.

Cincinnati was a hub of commerce, with rail and river traffic coming and going. Both the North and the South depended upon Cincinnati. The city was also a great center of education for both the Northern and Southern cities, and students came from great distances to attend Miami University.

Cincinnati had around 160,000 people, and Northern Kentucky had a sparse population with only about 5,700. But this was a growing, prosperous area and right dead in the sights of Southern tacticians. After the outbreak of the Civil War, eight batteries and two forts were constructed in Northern Kentucky with the intent to defend Cincinnati from any attack from the south. Ft. Mitchell, just south of Cincinnati on the Dixie Highway, was the largest and best defended fort, designed to intercept any Rebel threat. In Campbell County, Ft. Whittlesey guarded the Alexandria Pike and the road to Cynthia.

The Rebels were on the move. They had battled against the Federal troops in Paris, Frankfort, and Richmond, Kentucky, and the Union seemed to be playing a guessing game as to where the Confederates would strike next. How soon would they make a run on Cincinnati? Gen. Lew Wallace was sent to Cincinnati to take charge of both the north and the south banks of river preparations. He set up command at the famous Burnet House at what is now Third and Vine streets. So serious was the concern of a Southern assault that Cincinnati Mayor George Hatch considered surrendering the city, but neither the governor nor Gen. Wallace would consider such action. What to do: PREPARE, PREPARE, PREPARE. Thousands upon thousands came from surrounding states; they joined those they had never seen before, to fortify Cincinnati. Not just soldiers came. Men left their farms and jobs to gather together and work to prepare the city for the unthinkable. They would not give up Cincinnati, no matter how great the aggressor force. Cincinnati was transformed; they were ready.

I don't have the space to tell you the details of the men and women who worked so hard to defend the city. I can tell you this: The Rebel forces took notice and marched away.

There are so many, many details to this history, and it happened right in our backyard. I would love to see Chris write this up into a book. It would be one you would re-read as you walked along the river front on a warm spring day and listen for voices from the past as they prepared for the war that never came.

Thank you, Chris. I thoroughly enjoyed your presentation, and I hope we can have you back again at the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table.

Book Review

...submitted by Thomas L. Breiner

Wild Wolf - The Great Civil War Rivalry by Ronald Wolford Blair, Acclaim Press, Morley, MO, 2015, 464 pages, Hard cover \$29.95.

Wild Wolf – The Great Civil War Rivalry is a detailed study of the conflict between Confederate General John Hunt Morgan and Union Colonel Frank Wolford, commander of the 1st Kentucky (US) Cavalry. However, there are two other stories the make up a substantial portion of the work. The author has also included a study of the conflict between President Abraham Lincoln and Frank Wolford over the President's enrollment and enlistment of African-Americans in the Union armies. The final study covers the politics, the attitude towards, and the treatment of the new freedom granted to the former slaves in post-war Kentucky. This is part of the reason given that Kentucky joined the Confederacy after the war was over.

During the pursuit of Morgan's Cavalry, Wolford and his 1st Kentucky surprised the Rebels on May 5, 1862. In the ensuing battle at Lebanon, Tennessee, Colonel Wolford would be seriously wounded. The wounds would never completely heal and would be a source of pain and discomfort for the rest of his life.

The author has provided the reader with a work that shows that he spent a long time researching his relative; however, the end result is a book that is poorly written and even more poorly edited. There are numerous errors in his research of the Civil War in general, in grammar, typos, and the use of paragraphs. The maps provided are not very helpful and definitely poorly placed. The major portion of the information provided on Colonel Wolford and his command of the 1st Kentucky Cavalry is the work of Sgt. Eastham Tarrant in his work, *The Wild Riders of the First Kentucky Cavalry*. The information on John Hunt Morgan is provided by Basil Duke's *A History of Morgan's Cavalry*. There is too much emphasis on period newspaper articles, which tend to be interesting reading but highly inaccurate. The manuscript would have been better had the author had access to more primary sources.

Colonel Wolford was highly critical of President Lincoln. He claimed that Lincoln violated the Constitution with the Emancipation Proclamation, the suspension of habeas corpus, the Confiscation Act, and the enrollment and enlistment of blacks, especially Kentucky slaves, which Wolford considered confiscation of personal property. Wolford would be arrested four times due to continued verbal attacks on the President and the Lincoln Administration, for which Wolford was never brought to trial. The author leaves you with the impression that Wolford could have single-handedly taken Kentucky out of the Union and into the Confederacy.

I found that in this book there was a lot of very interesting information concerning Colonel Wolford and his Civil War accomplishments, but while I understand the author's dedication to his relative, I cannot recommend this work to the general Civil War enthusiast. There are just too many problems with the book for the average reader.



April Quiz:

A Toast (to):

The women of North Alabama, that so soothe the suffering of the sick and wounded soldier. That he no longer regard the pain that brought him within her influence. May the God of Love protect her and crown her with his blessings I have see them gather around the couch of the dying man to minister the consolation of religion. I have heard them for the last time read to him the gospel of a merciful God, and then slowly and sadly, with faltering voices that told of sympathy and sorrow, commit their charge to Him who doith all

things well, the creature to the Creators God. I have not seen anything that impressed me more deeply than the sight of Christian women pleading with women's tears & women's prayers to the King of Kings in behalf of the poor soldier who had fought his last fight and sleeping his last sleep.

Ref.: "Scribblings of a Private Soldier (John Taylor Banks) 1862 & 63 from Okolona and Meridian, Mississippi," Pike and Ewen (editors); Alabama Pharmacy Association, Spring 2012 (J.T.M., 25, member of the 6th Alabama was a trained pharmacist from Decatur, Al.).

1. 15 Sep. 1862: To see that no time was lost in completing the surrender, (he) went with his staff down (into the town) about 11:00a.m. Along the road, many Federal soldiers were waiting. "Boys," remarked one prisoner, "he isn't much for looks, but if we had him we wouldn't have been caught in this trap." A newspaper correspondent got an even more unfavorable picture of (him): "He was dressed in the coarsest kind of homespun, seedy and dirty at that; wore an old hat which any Northern beggar would consider an insult to have offered him, and in general appearance was in no respect to be distinguished from the mongrel, bare-footed crew who follow his fortunes. I had heard much of the decayed appearance of the rebel soldiers, but such a looking crowd! Ireland in her worst straits could present no parallel, and yet they glory in their shame." Who was "he?"
2. You are in the Washington, D.C., area and desire to see Carpenter's portrait of Lincoln reading the Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet. Where do you go to see it?
3. McDowell's Army of Northeastern Virginia was defeated by Beauregard's Army of the _____.
4. At which military facility was rebel Captain Henry Wirz (commandant of Camp Sumter) tried and executed?
5. Gabions were used as _____.
6. What is a Beecher's Bible?

Bonus Question: The motivation of Gen. Early's sending McCausland's Rebel cavalry to Chambersburg, PA, resulting in its burning and civil disruption, was to avenge the earlier Federal assault on _____.

Quiz Answers:

1. Stonewall Jackson
Ref.: *Lee's Lieutenants*, Freeman, Vol. II, pp. 199-200.
2. In the entrance to the Senate's visitors' gallery in the U.S. Capitol Building.
Ref.: *Opinionator, New York Times*, "The Painter and the President," Masur, 25 July 2012.
3. Potomac
Ref.: *Lee's Lieutenants*, Freeman, Vol. I, p. 101; *Wikipedia*, "Irvin McDowell".

4. Tried at Court of Federal Claims while Wirz was held at the Old Capitol Prison; after conviction was hung at Old Capitol Prison on 10 Nov. 1865; buried initially at gravesite of the four executed Lincoln conspirators at Ft. McNair but later moved to Mount Olivet Cemetary in Washington, D.C.

Ref.: *Wikipedia*, Henry Wirz; Photograph in Grant Hall (Ft. McNair) of gravesite; *The Image of War Vol. VI: The End of an Era*, Davis & Wiley editors, pp. 414-415*.

5. Revetments, retaining walls, means of bracing in the construction of military fortifications; made of wire, wood strips, heavy cloth usually filled with earth.

Ref.: *Civil War Dictionary*, Boatner, "Gabion revetment," pp. 320 & 693; Gardner's *Photographic Sketch Book of the Civil War*, plates 12 & 13.

6. The name given to the breech loading Sharps Rifles that were supplied to the antislavery immigrants in Kansas in the 1850's; their supply was openly supported by Henry Ward Beecher.

Ref.: *Wikipedia*, "Beecher's Bibles".

Bonus Question: Lexington, VA, by General Hunter in 1864

Ref.: 2012 Signature Conference @ VMI, VA, 22 March 2012; *The 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign*, West.

* Quizmaster is very grateful to an alert Round Table member who brought to his attention that the answer given at the time of our meeting was INCORRECT; quizmaster humbly apologizes.



Future Presentations:

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>
Feb. 21, 2019	Wayne K. Durrill, University of Cincinnati <i>War of Another Kind: A Southern Community in the Great Rebellion</i>
Mar. 21, 2019	Gary Dyson, Mount Airy, MD <i>The Ambush of the Isaac P. Smith and the Battle on the Stono River</i>
Apr. 18, 2019	TBD
May 16, 2019	Wayne Motts, Harrisburg, PA <i>Pickett's Charge: A Battlefield Guide</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. 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.

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