

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

September 2018

Welcome to the September edition of *The Canister*! We hope you had a grand summer and are as excited as we are to start another fine campaign year with our friends in the Round Table. At the July Round Table board meeting, Dan Bauer shared his 2019-2020 line up, and it looks to be another grand one. Dan has done an excellent job in finding quality speakers while working within budgetary and travel considerations.

We have formed a newsletter committee. If you have any interest in assisting with writing articles or submitting Civil War related events in our region, please let us know. The committee will help drive content as well as be active in providing various event information in our region.

As always, we want to encourage all of you to submit articles and items of interest. Whether it is a summary of a trip you recently made to a Civil War related location, a review of a book you have recently read, or other articles of a Civil War interest, please consider sending those in for all our members to enjoy. Submissions can be emailed to us at ccwrt@cincinnati-cwrt.org and please use Microsoft Word if possible for your article. Pictures are also greatly welcomed and appreciated! *Submissions are due by the 25th of each meeting month for inclusion in the following newsletter.*

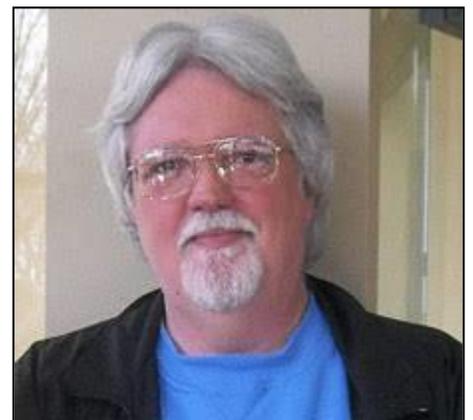
SEPTEMBER MEETING – 6:00 P.M.

Dinner - Chicken Cordon Bleu, tossed salad w/ assorted dressings, fresh green beans w/ sautéed mushrooms, oven roasted potatoes, apple crisp.

Speaker – Greg Biggs, Clarksville, TN: The Question Was One of Supplies – The Logistics for Sherman’s Atlanta Campaign

Greg Biggs has been a student of military history from the Spartans through modern times for over 45 years. His Civil War articles have been published in Blue & Gray magazine, Civil War Regiments journal, North-South Trader, Citizen’s Companion and local publications. He also has an essay in the recent book on the Tullahoma Campaign and is working on first person accounts of that campaign as well as a unit history of the 83rd Illinois Infantry.

Greg is a Civil War flags historian and has consulted with several museums and authors and has presented flags programs to the Museum of the Confederacy and the National Civil War Museum among others. He has assisted the Civil War Trust in securing flags for their web site. Greg has lectured across the country on Civil War topics primarily on flags and the Western Theater as well as the Revolutionary War.



Greg leads tours of the Fort Donelson Campaign, the Tullahoma Campaign, the Atlanta Campaign and Where the River Campaigns Began: Cairo, IL to Columbus/Belmont, KY for Civil War groups, individuals and U.S. Army Staff Rides. He is the president of the Clarksville Civil War Roundtable and an officer of the Nashville CWRT. He lives in Clarksville, Tennessee with his wife Karel, a 7th Grade science teacher, and their four cats named for Confederate cavalrymen.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Dave Stockdale

It's the beginning of a new campaign season and our program chair, Dan Bauer, has put together another great line-up. We are delighted to be starting off the 2018-2019 campaign with Greg Biggs, one of the Round Table's favorite speakers. We have held the line on the price of dinner (\$20), so we hope you can join us on Thursday, September 20, for a delicious meal, good conversation, and what promises to be an interesting and informative presentation on Sherman's Atlanta campaign. Even if you can't make dinner, I hope you will be able to join us for Greg's talk. You won't be disappointed!

As we start the new season, the Round Table is still looking for someone to fill the Preservation Projects chair. Preservation is one of the essential purposes of our organization. When the Round Table began more than 60 years ago, its sole purpose was the study of the American Civil War in all of its many facets. And of course, we still do that one Thursday a month. But as time went on, and the battlefields continued to be transformed into modern real estate developments, and the knowledge of the war faded from the public consciousness, it became apparent to many members that we who appreciate the centrality of the Civil War to the American experience should direct some of our energies toward maintaining our Civil War heritage. So, we made preservation activity an integral part of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table.

The job of the Preservation Projects Chairperson is to keep the members up to date on preservation issues, events, and developments, both locally and nationally, to make recommendations to the officers and the membership of locally significant preservation projects that merit our support, and to help in growing the Preservation Fund. If you feel strongly about the importance of preserving our Civil War heritage, educating others about it, and passing that heritage on to future generations, please consider stepping forward and accepting this position.

Our support of Civil War education and preservation activities is the primary reason the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table qualifies as a charitable organization. That designation affords you an income tax deduction for any contributions you make over and above your regular dues of \$25 (\$35 for couples). So, as you're filling out the new membership information form, please consider becoming a sustaining member at \$50 (\$85 for couples) and help preserve our Civil War heritage.

Please make your reservation early and join us September 20th at the Drake Center. Bring a friend. If you're not a member of the Round Table, you are more than welcome to come and have dinner with us. If you'd prefer to come only for the program, no reservation is necessary. The cost is \$5.00 and you're just as welcome. I hope to see you there!

"TO GIVE IT ALL TO THIS CAUSE"

Reception at Stowe House a Hit!

Members of the Round Table along with several other interested local individuals enjoyed a rainy July afternoon at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House for the dedication of their new exhibit on the Civil War lives of the Beechers. We enjoyed a tour of the home, light refreshments, along with talks by Christine Hartlieb (director of the Stowe House) and our own president, Dave Stockdale. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the new exhibit, please stop by and let the Stowe House folks know that you are from the Round Table! Also, look elsewhere in the newsletter for details on our holiday event to be held at the Stowe House.

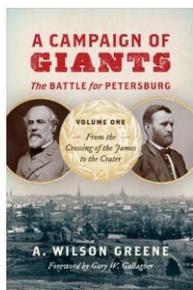


TREASURER'S REPORT

Awaiting report

BOOK REVIEW – A CAMPAIGN OF GIANTS

By Thomas L. Breiner



A Campaign of Giants – The Battle for Petersburg: Volume One - From the Crossing of the James to the Crater by A. Wilson Greene, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC 2018, 711 pages, Hardcover \$45.00.

the players involved lead to a failure to capture Petersburg early in the campaign. General Lee was slow to react to the movement of the Army of the Potomac and allow Grant to steal a march.

This work also provides the most detailed account of the Wilson – Kautz raid on the railroads leading into Petersburg from the south and west. These were the Southside; Richmond & Danville and Weldon Railroads. While the raid is usually just a side note in most works, the author has included a comprehensive look at the raid and why it failed.

This volume also includes the best coverage of the Battle of the Crater. While there have been other books on just this portion of the Petersburg Campaign, I found that the author's coverage is the best explanation of the confusion that resulted in what should have led to the capture of Petersburg. Due to the misunderstandings and petty jealousy displayed by the various staff officers and commanders in the Army of the Potomac, the end result was a total disaster.

This manuscript has excellent maps that the author has placed in just the right spots to help the reader understand the significance of the military puzzles. I can highly recommend this work to everyone with an interest in the Civil War. Hopefully Volumes Two and Three will be of the same quality. This study of the Petersburg Campaign will undoubtedly become the definitive work on this period, even if Wil Greene does not agree.

A Campaign of Giants – The Battle for Petersburg is the first of three volumes covering the details of the 1864-1865 Petersburg campaign. This first volume studies the six weeks in 1864 from the crossing of the James River through the Battle of the Crater. The author, Wil Greene, has provided the reader with a very fascinating account of this period that definitively proves he is the foremost authority on the Petersburg Campaign. Wil Greene has created several works on various aspects of the Petersburg Campaign over the years, but now he has finally taken on the task of providing a comprehensive study of the entire campaign, filling a much-needed void in the study of the final 292 days of the war in the East.

The author has created a masterful volume that is well researched and well written. He provides the reader with critical analysis of the success and failures of each commander. Wil does not hold back on his praise or criticism of the leadership displayed at all levels of command. While General Grant's plans for crossing the James were extraordinary, a lack of communications with all

KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



As we are on the mailing list for the Knoxville Civil War Round Table, we thought it might be interesting to share what this eastern Tennessee group of over 200 members has on their horizon as well as a bit about

their round table. They meet twelve times per year, and have a fairly well-known list of speakers lined up in the immediate future:

September – Frank O'Reilly

October – John Marszalek

November – Ed Bearss

December – Krista Castillo

January – Jim Ogden

Much like our group, speakers present for free, and the round table covers travel expenses. Their board is made up of officers (the usual president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) and directors (preservation, community activities, membership, promotions, programming, technology, newsletter, and two at large), and have five levels of membership (individual, family, sustaining, supporting, and sponsoring). It would be interesting to see our round table could expand its various functions to add directors in the future.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JULY BOARD MEETING

Compiled by Don Vogel

In his president's report, Dave Stockdale told the board of the progress in a search for a new preservation chair person. This position goes to the very heart of the CCWRT. The monies that we collect from dues, gifts and raffles are used to help advance Civil War projects around the tri-state area. It is the job of the preservation person to research and present for discussion areas that the body may be interested in supporting. Our latest efforts went to Harriet Beecher Stowe House which received a donation from the Round Table to help finance a large display explaining the history of the Stowe House and its part in Cincinnati history. The donation was used very effectively and wisely and the CCWRT was proud to come along side Stowe House on this project.

There has been some discussion on signage help for the Camp Dennison, a project that will require a large expenditure to be completed. This is a project that will require more financial help than the CCWRT alone can provide and we would partner with other groups and individuals to complete the project. Having said all this, we need a person in this position who has a heart for preservation of civil war history! Please, speak with Dave about being that person.

Tom Williams, our treasurer, explained to us that there is a need for a program to handle membership information, dues and dinner reservations, plus keep track of our bank accounts. Our present system has very limited capabilities and we should be looking toward updating to a system that provides expansion options for a growing CCWRT. Tom will partner with Wanda Langdon to research different systems that may be useful to us and address future needs.

Wanda Langdon reported on our Facebook presence, which is such an important function within any round table group that hopes to build membership numbers. Wanda showed

board members a spread sheet that indicates we have several hundred followers. These are people who regularly check in to see what is going on at CCWRT events, speakers, etc. Also, Darryl Smith passed along information from Facebook that indicates within twenty-five miles of our meeting location there are 14,000 Facebook users, ages 18 to 61+, who have listed American Civil War as an interest. If we could just attract 1% to CCWRT that would be 140 new members, and that would be fantastic! Wanda has done a great job with the Round Table's Facebook page and continues to fine tune the information to encourage folks to join us.

Joyce Vogel, the activities chair person, is working with Darryl Smith to put together a tour at the Cynthiana for the fall. They are planning to run a van if there is enough interest. A Round Table Christmas party is also in the planning, to be held at Stowe House, with more events in 2019.

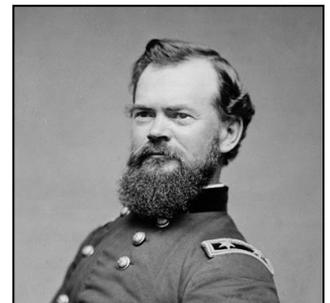
Dan Bauer told us of the additions to the speaker schedule, taking us up to April 2020. As he always does, Dan brings us the best of presenters from all over the country and the 2018-2019 schedule is no exception. Make sure when you come to the meeting in September that you pick up a schedule. Also, take a minute to thank Dan for all the work it takes to continue to bring in the very best of Civil War speakers.

Darryl Smith is now our newsletter editor, and he promises to continue to bring us news on all the various Civil War fronts. Besides keeping us up to speed on round table news, there is much to learn about sites such as Perryville, Cynthiana, Buffington Island, Richmond, etc. Darryl is very interested in Round Table building and will help us greatly in reaching out to those 14,000 I mentioned earlier.

DID YOU KNOW? - GENERAL MCPHERSON HIGHWAY

Submitted by Jim Antell from the Cleveland Plain Dealer

U.S. Route 20 moves across Williams, Fulton, Lucas, Wood, Sandusky, Huron, Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, and Ashtabula counties and through the cities of Fremont, Norwalk, Elyria, Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula. The highway is named after James McPherson, who was born in Clyde, Ohio, and was the second highest ranking Union Army officer killed in the Civil War.



RECAP OF OUR MAY SPEAKER

By Don Vogel

What a great way to end our 2017-18 campaign season! Darryl Smith, who is a non-stop civil war historian, who is involved in projects to build interest in many civil war sites such as Perryville and Cynthiana, Kentucky, and is also the newsletter editor of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table, a board member of the Cynthiana Battlefields Foundation, and a member of the American Battlefields Trust, took time from his busy schedule to bring us a presentation on John H. Morgan's 1864 raid of Kentucky.

I am not about to try to bring you blow by blow of the Morgan's campaign. Darryl's presentation was *very* detailed,

and fast moving. In the one-hundred and ten-minute time that he spoke, aided by a PowerPoint presentation, Darryl took us on a trip following Morgan all over the Commonwealth. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening as did 70+ other folks. I heard nothing but great comments about this presentation and look forward to Darryl sharing with us again in the near future.

I have talked with Darryl several times away from the meetings and have always been impressed by his knowledge and devotion to all things Civil War. His enthusiasm is contagious.

SEPTEMBER ROUND TABLE EVENT – LAND OF GRANT TOUR

The Round Table is organizing a tour of the U.S. Grant sites at Point Pleasant and Georgetown on September 15th. If you haven't visited these sites, or even if you have, this will be a nice outing for the group. The itinerary is as follows:

10:00 a.m. - Meet at the Kellogg Park and Dog Field for carpool (along Kellogg Avenue, east of Coney Island)

10:30 – Tour Grant Birthplace

11:30 – Depart for Georgetown

12:00 – Lunch at Cherry Street Cafe

1:30 – Tour Grant Boyhood Home and Schoolhouse

3:00 – Head back to carpool site

Costs - All fees are the responsibility of the attendee.

Grant Birthplace – Adult - \$3.00, Senior - \$2.00, Children 6-12 - \$1.50, Ohio History Connection member - free

Grant Boyhood Home – Adult - \$5.00, Senior - \$3.00, Children 6-12 - \$3.00, Ohio History Connection member - free

As always, more details can be found on the Round Table website.

A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE – HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR ROUND TABLE



In order to provide some sustainability, along with helping to promote growth and enhance our preservation efforts, we would like to put out a call for your help. We would like to take your passion for the Civil War, and for our round table in particular, and find a place for you, a role that you want to fulfill, beyond our annual request for officers. We have several areas that could use your expertise and assistance, from getting our events and meetings listed in the local media outlets to contacting related historical groups and sites to create a relationship, to serving as a greeter at our meetings, to serving on an existing or new committee, to assisting with our Facebook page and Twitter account. Heck, maybe you

just want to assist at the various events we have forthcoming.

We do currently have roles open on our preservation and newsletter committees, and I am sure our activities and membership chairs could use additional help. Maybe you want to head up a promotion committee, or you have some website, Facebook, and/or Twitter experience. Really, the role you play would be a role you are passionate about...we'll find a place to utilize your strengths and interests.

If you are interested in chatting about any role or help that you are passionate about, please contact us at ccwrt@cincinnatiwrt.org and let's talk about what we can accomplish for the round table.

ONLINE? FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER



Be certain to come Like our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CincinnatiCWRT>) as well as follow us on our new Twitter account

(<https://twitter.com/CwrtCincinnati>). Yet another way to stay connected with your round table!



GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD!

Elsy Caldwell II, MD, MPH, FRCP(C), FAAFP, FACP (Vice-President)

I am a semi-retired physician and have been in the Round Table CCWRT since late 1980's, presenting three times. I am married and have three children and five grandchildren. I taught at Wayne State Medical School and in Pontiac Michigan (Full time Chief of Medicine and Director of Residencies in Internal Medicine and Family Medicine) before coming to Cincinnati. I have been in Cincinnati since being recruited to be the Medical Director for the Health Department in 1978. I taught briefly at UC Med school after leaving the Health Dept and starting private practice for almost 30 years.

BS, MD from Howard University, MPH from University of Michigan

Internship: Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago, Ill, Residency (Internal Medicine) and Fellowship (Hematology): Henry Ford Hospital. Fellowship (Hematology and Human Genetics) University of Michigan

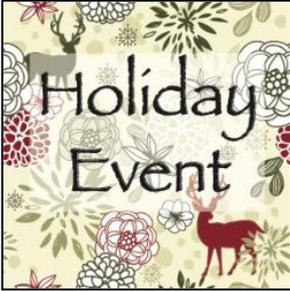
OCTOBER ROUND TABLE EVENT - BATTLES OF CYNTHIANA TOUR

You've heard the talk, now visit the two battles of Cynthiana, Kentucky, located about an hour south of Cincinnati. Round Table member Darryl Smith will be leading us on a day tour covering both the 1862 and 1864 battles on October 27th. The morning will be an easy walking tour that focuses primarily on the 1862 affair, including a stop inside the historic Episcopal Church, then after lunch at Bianckes (a local icon since 1894) we'll complete a driving tour of the 1864 sites, including the gorgeous Battle Grove Cemetery.

If there is enough interest there will be a bus for this tour, with fifteen seats. If you choose to not ride the bus, we will do a car caravan for the drive to and from Cynthiana, and for the 1864 portion of the tour.

We will meet at the Furniture Fair parking lot (3710 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY – near Wendy's) at 8:15 a.m. We are departing at 8:30 sharp, so please arrive early to arrange carpool rides.

HOLIDAY EVENT AT STOWE HOUSE!



The Cincinnati Civil War Round Table is having a holiday party at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Walnut Hills. The date is December 1st, and the time is 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. There is a \$10 charge per person to help cover costs of the renting the house. Monies raised above the rental costs

will be used for the preservation fund. Folks attending are asked to bring desserts, small sandwiches, fruit or meat trays, etc. Bring your own wine and adult type beverages to share.

Please bring your spouse or significant other, but no children please, this is a time for members and invited guests to get together and enjoy getting to know each

other and help to build friendships within the CCWRT. So many of the long-time members have much to share and would love to talk with you.

For more information, please contact Joyce Vogel at 859-991-0904 or mrsbunny44@aol.com, P. O. Box 148, Union, Kentucky, 41091

Checks for the event are to be made out to: Cincinnati Civil War Round Table or CCWRT. All fees are to be paid by November 1st. We will also be collecting fees at September and October meetings.

We are looking forward to a GREAT time during the Christmas Season!

PS: A tour of Stowe House will be available at the party.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Details for the following events can be found on our website at <http://cincinnatiwrt.org/wordpress/events>. Items in blue denote CCWRT events.

- September 10th - Indianapolis CWRT Meeting – James Pula
- September 12th - Hamilton CWRT Meeting – Peter D’Onofrio
- September 15th – Land of Grant Tour
- September 20th – CCWRT Meeting & Presentation – Greg Biggs
- September 29th-30th – Civil War Encampment – Glendower Home – Lebanon
- October 8th - Indianapolis CWRT Meeting – Joe Skvarenina
- October 10th – Hamilton CWRT Meeting – DVD Presentation
- October 13th – Buckeyes in Blue Conference - Fremont
- October 18th – CCWRT Meeting & Presentation – Dan Welsh
- October 27th – Cynthiana Battlefields Tour
- November 3rd – Speaker Series and Founder’s Dinner – Cynthiana
- November 12th - Indianapolis CWRT Meeting – John Summerlot
- November 14th - Hamilton CWRT Meeting – Jack Barnhart
- November 15th – CCWRT Meeting & Presentation – Ted Savas
- December 1st – CCWRT Holiday Event – Harriet Beecher Stowe House - Walnut Hills
- December 10th - Indianapolis CWRT Meeting – Robert Smith
- December 12th - Hamilton CWRT Meeting – Christmas Banquet
- January 9th - Hamilton CWRT Meeting – Round Table Discussion
- January 14th - Indianapolis CWRT Meeting – James Fuller
- January 17th - CCWRT Meeting & Presentation – Our own Gary Johnson
- February 11th - Indianapolis CWRT Meeting – Steve Williams
- February 13th – Hamilton CWRT Meeting – Chris Burns
- February 21st - CCWRT Meeting & Presentation – Wayne Durrill
- March 13th – Hamilton CWRT Meeting – Millie Henley
- March 21st - CCWRT Meeting & Presentation – Eric Wittenberg
- April 10th – Hamilton CWRT Meeting – Michael K. Shaffer
- April 18th - CCWRT Meeting & Presentation – Gary Dyson
- April 25th-27th – 23rd Annual US Grant Days – Georgetown
- April 27th – 197th US Grant Birthday Celebration – Point Pleasant

ABOUT THE CINCINNATI CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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 our meeting location 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 p.m. 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 p.m. 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.

TRUSTEES:

President: David Stockdale	513-310-9553 (c)	djrtstockdale@aol.com
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