

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

January, 2019 Issue

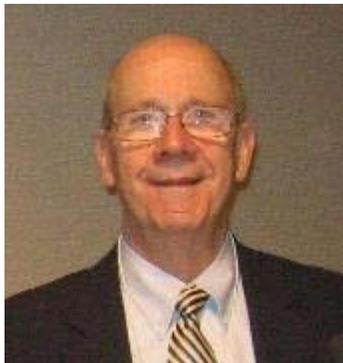
Meeting Date: January 17, 2019

Place: The Drake Center

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

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

Dinner Menu: Roasted pork loin, tossed salad w/ assorted dressings, wild rice, spinach soufflé, double chocolate cake.



Speaker: – Gary Johnson, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Topic: A Sailor's Life for Me: How Sailing Differs from Soldiering

January will mark long-time Cincinnati Civil War Round Table member Gary Johnson's sixth trip to the podium, this time to talk about the life of a Civil War sailor. Sailors and officers operated in a much different environment than soldiers, living for months at a time in claustrophobic conditions aboard ship. Ocean going sailors flirted with acrophobia when setting sails on 150 foot masts. Unlike the Army, the Navy had been integrated since the 1830s and gave African-Americans equal pay and equal justice. This talk will explore these and other differences, including how courage and leadership were recognized. The efforts of 17 Midwestern naval personnel were recognized by naming ships for them to inspire future generations of sailors. Their WWII namesakes performed deeds of valor in combat. Come and learn about the contributions of sailors to Civil War results.

Gary Johnson attended the Ohio State University on a Naval ROTC scholarship, and graduated as a chemical engineer. For the next five years he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy qualified in submarines and nuclear propulsion. After leaving the Navy, he worked for Procter & Gamble in a variety of Health, Safety, and Environment roles in support of manufacturing sites. He left P&G after 27 years to become an Industrial Ventilation Consultant. The topics of Gary's previous presentations to the Round Table include the Confederate submarine *CSS Hunley*, the Union's Monitor Class ironclads, the U.S. Navy's implementation of the Anaconda Plan, Cincinnati and its role in the River Navy, and Confederate Navy Secretary Stephen Mallory's innovations in naval warfare.

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 Esly Caldwell at 513-607-6598. 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, January 9, 2019.

President's Report

By Dave Stockdale

Happy New Year to all! I hope that everyone had a pleasant holiday season. We have a great lineup of speakers for 2019 that I'm sure you won't want to miss, starting with our own Gary Johnson. As you can see from the introduction above, Gary has another interesting naval topic to present. If you have heard Gary speak before, you know that his presentations are often based on his own original research. So you are bound to learn something new.

The Board of Trustees met on December 12; and yes, the positions of Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Co-chair of the Preservation Committee are still vacant and need to be filled. But on a positive note our treasurer, Tom Williams, reported that over 45% of our members have become Sustaining Members. You are to be commended for your commitment to the Round Table's mission of preserving our Civil War heritage.

The preservation project we embarked upon last year, installing a series of informational signs in and about the community of Camp Dennison to identify and describe features of the Union Army installation which occupied the area during the Civil War, is on hold until we find a new project chair. Meanwhile the Board has been looking for other ways we can fulfill our preservation mission. Preservation co-chair Mark Silbersack and former chair Alan Berenson brought to the Board's attention the campaign of the American Battlefield Trust to preserve an 18 acre parcel of land on Seminary Ridge at Gettysburg. This parcel witnessed the climactic scene of fierce, deadly fighting on July 1, 1863, the First Day of battle. The Board believes that this preservation effort deserves the Round Table's support and has voted to donate \$1,000 to the effort. If you wish to learn more about this preservation effort, and perhaps make an individual contribution to the cause, you may visit their web site at www.battlefields.org/gettysburg2018.

Did Santa Claus bring you one of the Civil War books you had on your list? Do you think that other Round Table members might like to know a little about the book and what you thought of it after you read it? Then please consider writing a book review for *The Canister*. Actually, we are open to considering any scholarly article of one page or less that a member might wish to publish on a Civil War topic. It could be a biographical sketch, or a note on some aspect of a battle, event, or phenomenon related to the war. If you have an idea for an article or you already have something written, just contact me.

Book Review

By Thomas L. Breiner

The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson's Epic 1863 Civil War Raid Through Mississippi by Timothy B. Smith, Savas Beatie LLC, El Dorado Hills, CA (2018), 345 pp., hardcover \$32.95.

The Real Horse Soldiers, by Timothy Smith, is what its author calls the unembellished story of the fabled raid through central Mississippi in support of Grant's crossing of the Mississippi in the Vicksburg campaign. Smith stresses that he used primary sources to develop his analysis and story, which he claims is the only true version of the raid. He has three goals in mind as he relates the details of this

prominent raid. First he wants to tell a good story; then he wants to provide the raid's social context as the Union soldiers interact with the residents of Mississippi; and finally he wants to place the raid in the context of all the military operations that comprised the 1863 Vicksburg campaign.

As for providing the reader with a good story based on the facts of the raid, Smith is a success. I found the tale to be very interesting and his sources good. The more I read of his story the more I wanted to continue reading. His style is easy to read and very compelling. He also succeeds in placing within its social context the reactions and relations of the Mississippi residents to the soldiers that appeared as if out of nowhere. The raid was just a part of the extensive operations that General Grant planned in order to ensure the success of his final attempt to capture Vicksburg. There were multiple raids planned around the time of Grierson's raid that were intended to distract the Confederate high command from not only Grant's attempt to cross the Mississippi below Vicksburg, but also the target of Grierson's raid. Several raids were designed to give Grierson the opportunity to slip into central Mississippi unopposed.

Colonel Grierson was given two goals. The first was to damage the Southern Railroad at Newton Station and the second was to distract the Confederates from Grant's movements. And he was given the leeway to determine how he performed his mission. Grierson succeeded beyond expectations. He started from La Grange, Tennessee on April 17, 1863 and ended in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on May 2, 1863. He marched over 600 miles in less than 16 days, killed or wounded 100 enemy, captured and paroled over 500, and damaged between 50 and 60 miles of railroad. The only losses he sustained were three of his cavalry killed, seven wounded, five left behind sick, and nine missing. More importantly, he distracted Confederate Lieutenant General John Pemberton from Grant's operations during the critical days at the end of April, 1863.

I highly recommend this work to all, even if you have read other accounts of the raid. Timothy Smith has produced a very well researched and written manuscript that meets all his goals. The maps are informative and appropriately located and the bibliography is impressive. This book is worth your time and attention.

Inclement Weather Plan

Winter is upon us, so there is the possibility that the weather will turn bad, and the streets will become difficult to travel. The President and Vice-President will make the decision on the status of the meeting by noon the day of the meeting. The decision will be based on the condition of the roads, the safety of our members, the status of the speaker and the Drake Meeting Center's ability to serve us. You can check the following sources to determine if the meeting is still on or if it has been cancelled:

1. Check the home page on our web site at www.cincinnatiwrt.org. We will post a simple update informing the membership on the status of the meeting.
2. Check your email for an update.
3. Call Esly Caldwell, Vice-President at 513-607-6598.
4. Call Dave Stockdale, President, at 513-310-9553.

Online? Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter



Be certain to Like our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CincinnatiCWRT>) and follow us on our new Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/CwrtCincinnati>). Yet another way to stay connected with your round table!



November Quiz

By Alan Berenson

“But the Civil War era was far worse [than now re: political relations amongst Democrats and Republicans in the House]. In the 1850s, ‘you had brawls on the floor of the House of Representatives. One of the most precious ones occurred when William Barksdale from Mississippi got into a flying fistfight with a Northern representative, and one of them reached out to grab him by the hair and pulled off his wig.’ That was in 1858.”

Divided America Stands - Then, and Now, (The Weekend Interview with Allen Guelzo),
Taranto, Wall Street Journal 1-2 July 2017, p. A1

1. Established by European-Americans in 1850 the 54 acre health resort called Tarawa Springs only survived for 5 years when its primary clientele, rich white southern plantation owners with their entourage of female and mixed race children, were discouraged by local abolitionist sentiment from continuing their patronage. In 1855 it became a college named after a famous English abolitionist and served a primarily black student population many of whom were children of the aforementioned planters. The Civil War caused the school to close in 1862 but it reopened in 1863 when the African American Episcopal Church bought and reorganized it. It exists today as a leading black educational institution and is called _____.
2. An overwhelming majority of newly freed blacks remained in the south after the Civil War and by 1870 - 1880s 80% of them worked as _____.
3. Clues: (a) 14 April 1863, 453 freedmen leave from Fort Monroe via USS Ocean Ranger to Ile a Vache
(b) 453 less 161 = 292 leave Mar. '64 from Ile a Vache via USS Marcia Day to Alexandria, Va. arriving on 20 Mar. '64.

To what activity or purpose does the above pertain?

4. Of the approximately 180,000 blacks who served in the Union army what % came from the slave population?
5. When Senator John Crittenden of Ky. proposed in 1861 reinstating the 36°30' dividing line across the entire country to the Pacific as the border between slave and free states, President Lincoln stated, “that it would amount to a perpetual covenant of war against every people, tribe and state owning a foot of land between here and Tierra del Fuego.” Where is Tierra del Fuego?
6. Who was considered the leader of those who established the American Colonization Society?

BONUS QUESTION: He was a dedicated abolitionist and as a lawyer defended “so many escaped slaves as to be given the informal title of ‘attorney for the runaways.’ ”

His name: _____

Quiz Answers:

1. Wilberforce University. Ref.: Wench, Perkins-Valdez, epilogue\
Wikipedia, Old Wilberforce University Campus Tarawa Springs
2. Sharecroppers. Ref.: A Slave No More, Blight, p.93
3. Colonization. Ref.: New York Times, Opinionator, The Ile a Voche, From Here to Disaster, Manness, 12 April 2013
4. "Nearly" 80%. Ref.: A Slave No More, Blight, p159
5. An island off the southernmost part of contiguous South American continent.
Ref.: Concise Columbia Encyclopedia, p. 848
6. Henry Clay. Ref.: Wall St. Journal 31 Jan. 2014, p. C5, 7.

BONUS QUESTION: Salmon Chase.

Ref.: Answer & Quotation from Lincoln's Virtues, Miller, p.243

November Presentation

By Dave Stockdale

The War Outside My Window



There are many Civil War diaries written by both combatants and civilians. But none are quite as unique in many respects as the one LeRoy Wiley Grisham kept starting at age 12 in 1860 and ending shortly before his death in June 1865 at age 17. Edited by Janet Elizabeth Croon the diary, comprising six volumes, which had lain in the Library of Congress unnoticed by historians since it was donated by Gresham family descendants in the 1980s, was published in 2018 under the title *The War Outside My Window*. Ted Savas, managing director of the publisher, Savas Beatie, LLC, reviewed this remarkable work at our November meeting and provided the back story surrounding its publication.

The diary is unique in that it is the only known account of the Civil War that was written by a teen-age noncombatant. And it is the only one that provides an insider's view of life in a prominent Southern plantation family during the war. The Greshams lived in an elegant home in Macon, Georgia, where LeRoy was born in 1847. They owned two plantations south of town and over 100 slaves, eight of whom worked in the household. LeRoy's father was a lawyer and businessman in addition to being a planter,

and was twice mayor of Macon. Alexander Stephens, Vice-President of the Confederacy, was an occasional visitor at LeRoy's grandmother's home in Athens, Georgia.

LeRoy was crippled in 1856 when his leg was crushed by a falling chimney. For the rest of his life he was pulled about in a wagon, usually by one of the family slaves. He regularly read several newspapers, and closely followed politics and the course of secession. He was a voracious reader of all manner of books, loved math and science, and was an avid chess player. He followed the war closely, especially as it involved Georgia units, and recorded his thoughts and opinions on battles and strategies, and on politicians and military leaders. Our speaker also described LeRoy as a "wickedly funny" writer who often came up with witty phrases worthy of Mark Twain. LeRoy describes how the plantation crops supported the family. He writes about what the family ate and what they wore; and he relates conversations and interactions with family, friends and visitors, and with the family slaves of whom he seemed genuinely fond. As the war went on he became increasingly skeptical of news stories, finding that the initial reports (e.g., that there was a small fight near Gettysburg, PA) were often wrong.

In the year following his leg injury LeRoy developed a persistent cough; and by 1860 abscesses had formed on either side of his spine. His treating physician diagnosed the abscesses as bed sores. That year his father took him to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to see Dr. Pancoast. The diary, a gift from his mother so that he could record his journey to Philadelphia, begins at that point. LeRoy thought they were going to see the doctor about his leg. But that was not the case. Dr. Pancoast paid little attention to the leg; his field was the treatment of consumption (i.e., tuberculosis). LeRoy always ascribed his poor health to the leg injury. But in reality he was terminally ill with TB, a fact LeRoy's parents never told him.

From 1860 to 1865, as he chronicled the war and the demise of Southern life as he knew it, he also chronicled his own demise. Near the end of his life LeRoy weighed only 65 pounds. He had not only respiratory TB, but also spinal TB, sometimes known as Potts disease, which manifested itself in the abscesses. He wrote in detail about the pain he endured (he was in constant pain), his physical symptoms, the procedures he underwent such as the periodic draining of the abscesses, and the treatments that were prescribed, much of it consisting of alcohol consumption (he became fond of porter and of Catawba wine.) Thus the diary is unique in another way. It is the only detailed account by a tuberculosis patient of the progress of his disease.

The book is *The War Outside My Window: The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham*, Janet Elizabeth Croon, ed., Savas Beatie, LLC, El Dorado Hills, CA (2018), 464 pp., hardcover \$34.95. The medical story underlying LeRoy's presentation of his physical symptoms is explained in a companion book, the main title of which is taken from one of the last entries in his diary: *I am Perhaps Dying: The Medical Backstory of Spinal Tuberculosis Hidden in the Civil War Diary of Leroy Wiley Gresham*, by Dennis Rasbach, M.D., Savas Beatie, LLC, El Dorado Hills, CA (2018), 144 pp., softcover \$14.95.

Future Presentations

January 17, 2019

Gary Johnson, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

***A Sailor's Life for Me: How Sailing Differs from
Soldiering***

February 21, 2019

Wayne K. Durrill, University of Cincinnati

War of Another Kind: A Southern Community in the

Great Rebellion

March 21, 2019	Eric Wittenburg, Central Ohio Civil War Round Table <i>Second Winchester</i>
April 18, 2019	Gary Dyson, Mt. Airy, Maryland <i>The Ambush of the Isaac P. Smith and the Battle on the Stono River</i>
May 16, 2019	Wayne Motts, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania <i>Pickett's Charge: A Battlefield Guide</i>
September 19, 2019	John Fazio, Cleveland Civil War Round Table <i>The Emancipation Proclamation</i>
October 17, 2019	Scott Schroeder, Bloomington, Indiana <i>Lee's Lost Orders in the Maryland Campaign</i>
November 21, 2019	Scott Mingus, York, Pennsylvania <i>General William "Extra Billy" Smith</i>
January 16, 2020	Chris Burns, Cincinnati, Ohio <i>Ulysses S. Grant</i>

Events of Interest

Go to our website at <http://cincinnatiwrt.org/wordpress/events> for details for the following events. Items in blue denote CCWRT events.

January 9th - Hamilton CWRT Meeting – Round Table Discussion
January 14th - Indianapolis CWRT Meeting – James Fuller
[January 17th - CCWRT Meeting & Presentation – 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
May 8th – Hamilton CWRT Meeting – Scott Parkinson
[May 16th - CCWRT Meeting & Presentation – Wayne Motts](#)
May 29th – June 2nd – American Battlefields Trust Annual Conference – Lexington, Kentucky
June 14th-19th - Civil War Institute Summer Conference – Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
August 2nd – 4th - Sixth Annual Emerging Civil War Symposium – Spotsylvania, Virginia

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
Vice-President: Esly Caldwell, II	513-607-6598 (c)	ecaldwel2@gmail.com
Treasurer: Tom Williams	513-863-2665 (h)	t.williams@outlook.com
Secretary: Vacant		
Program Chair: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h)	dbauer002@cinci.rr.com
Newsletter Editor: Vacant		
Membership & Publicity: Wanda Langdon	513-505-6871 (h)	Wanda@TeamLangdon.com
At Large: Tom Breiner	513-984-3101 (h)	tbreiner@fuse.net
At Large: Dawn Mowery	513-774-9544 (h)	dmowery11@fuse.net

COMMITTEES:

Activities: Vacant		
Preservation Projects: Mark Silbersack, Co-chair		
Webmaster/Social Media: Mike Rogers	859-907-3096 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
CCWRT E-Mail Address		cwrt@cincinnatiwrt.org