

History of the Wayne County, OH, CWRT

I don't know as there is that much to say. I think it was started in Wayne College (Branch of Univ. of Akron), Orrville, OH, by Tye Turning (who passed away a couple weeks ago) who was Dean of the College at that time, some 35 years ago. They initially met at the college and then changed to the Wooster Branch of the Wayne Co. Libraries. I understand they had speakers on various topics of the Civil War.

I first became involved in the Fall of 1999, attending the meetings and doing some presenting (as Abraham Lincoln). Tye "retired" in 2011 and I became coordinator. A brand-new Wooster Library was built in 2002 which has a wonderful Conference Room (capacity of 150) for our meetings. The folks at the Library have been great in cooperating with our programs!

As an active Lincoln Presenter, I have been blessed to know many Civil War reenactors (of all kinds) and have had no shortage of folks that will come to Wooster to do their quality programs. I have concentrated on having a variety of speakers, including Union & Confederate! In May, the last 8 years we have had a Civil War Living History Day with about 85 reenactors (of all kinds) set up their tents (outside) and displays (inside) including musicians (the 73rd OVI Regiment Band inside in the Conference Room). That day has proved to be popular. We do not meet in December, June, July, & August.

The Library has a policy of all programs being free and open to the public. However, we may take donations and folks are very generous. We average about 75 people for each program who are expecting and receive quality programs! Our presenters always comment on how attentive our folks are.

I do have my "CWRT Cabinet" of a few folks that are especially interested and knowledgeable and I am glad for their suggestions. I keep them posted of our financial matters (with a simple "running account" sheet) to be "accountable". We communicate via email and have no special meetings.

This is about it as far as our "history" is concerned.

Best wishes...
Jerry Payn