
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](#)

October, 2016 Issue

Meeting Date: October 20, 2016

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,
Apple Pecan Salad with Vinaigrette Dressing,
Fresh Green Beans with Sautéed Mushrooms, Mashed Potatoes,
German Chocolate Cake***

Vegetarian Option: Upon request

Speaker: Richard Swigert, Hamilton CWRT

Topic: *CSS Shenandoah: The Last Confederate Commerce Raider*

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, October 12, 2016.**

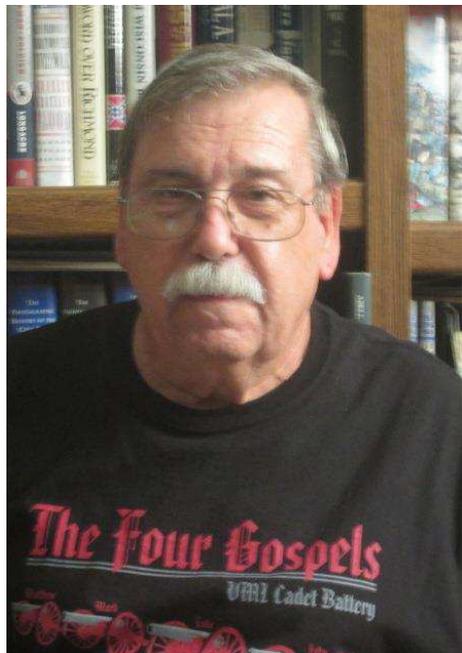
October Speaker:

The story of the CSS *Shenandoah* is not just unique in the Civil War, but also in the history of the world. When a naval vessel engages in acts of war she does so in the service to her country and her government, but what if that country and government no longer exist? Such a thing has rarely occurred in history, but it did at the end of the Civil War. The story of the *Shenandoah* is the tale of a warship that found herself with no government, no country, and no cause — and being hunted the world over by her enemies as a pirate.

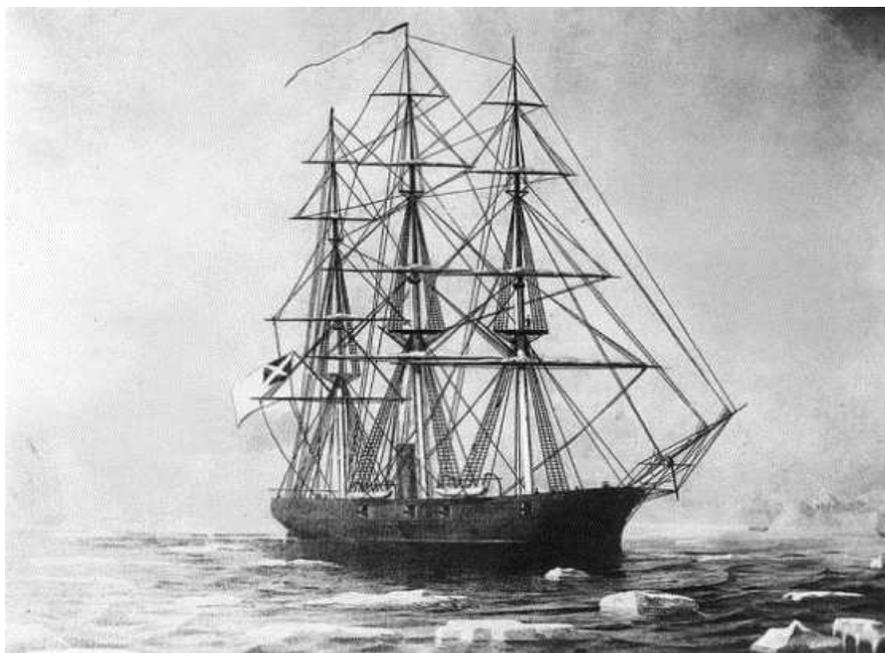
The CSS *Shenandoah* was one of the South's most successful commerce raiders, with a total of 38 captures. However, most of these captures (24) took place after the Civil War's military operations in America had

come to a close. The last were almost two months after the armies had fired their last shots and the Confederacy was no more.

Richard Swigert is a 1965 graduate of Lakota High School and of the Ohio College of Applied Science (now part of UC) in 1967. He is married with two grown sons and two grandchildren. He has had a strong interest in the Civil War since junior high school, joining the Hamilton CWRT in 1968 and the Cincinnati CWRT in the mid 1980's. He serves as the current president of the Hamilton Civil War Round Table. Richard has given a number of talks over the years in Hamilton and twice before in Cincinnati.



Richard Swigert



CSS Shenandoah



President's Report

...from Lester Burgin

Our new website has been launched! I just finished my first look at this new and improved website and am impressed by this special redesign. While there is still more information to be added, and the website continues to be a "work in progress," I think you can already see how user-friendly the site will become. It is important for the CCWRT to have an expanded digital presence to benefit our existing members as well as to attract new members. I would encourage all our members to take a look for themselves and to continue watching the website for updates as it continues to develop.

As announced at our last meeting, we will choose our preservation project for the upcoming year by a vote of our membership. I hope everyone will participate in not only voting for your favorite project, but also by

making a donation to the final choice. Preservation projects are one of the major reasons for the founding and existence of the CCWRT. You will receive an email notice with more details about the upcoming vote. Currently you can go to the Preservation tab on our new website to review details of the projects under consideration.

As we celebrate our 60th campaign, we should all get involved to make the preservation project a huge success.

Items of Interest

Welcome New Members!

We have had several new members join the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table during the period January-May 2016. They are listed below by the month in which they joined. Welcome aboard to all our new members! We appreciate that you have chosen to be a part of our organization:

January 2016

Linda Pitcock
Marvin Pitcock
Don Vogel
Joyce Vogel
Jerry Wild

February 2016

Ed Schweitzer

March 2016

Carolyn Bruckmann

April-May 2016

Jerry Anders
Bob Day

Vote for the 2016-2017 CCWRT Preservation Project!

Our 2016-2017 preservation fundraiser will be chosen by the membership, who will vote for one of the following three projects to support. Members will be receiving an email that will allow them to vote on one of the below projects. Please provide your voice to this campaign season's preservation effort.

The winner will be announced at the October meeting.

Local Project—John Parker House, Ripley, Ohio



The Parker House is a National Historic Landmark, home of African-American abolitionist, John Parker. John Parker advanced his status from former slave to successful patented inventor and businessman in Ripley before the Civil War. He is credited with assisting virtually hundreds of slaves to make their way north to freedom through his Front Street home.

The John P. Parker Historical Society, Inc. was founded in 1996 to recognize, commemorate, and preserve the extraordinary legacy of John P. Parker and his remarkable family.

The project for the Parker House will be to improve signage and displays in Parker Memorial Park and in the Parker House.

Regional Project—Richmond Battlefield, Kentucky



The second largest Civil War battle in Kentucky, the Battle of Richmond, was fought on August 29-30, 1862. The battle involved such notable military figures as Bull Nelson and Mahlon Manson for the Union pitted against Edmund Kirby Smith and Patrick Cleburne for the Confederacy. The Battle of Richmond Association was organized in 2001 to preserve this historic battlefield. They recently completed a fundraising campaign to purchase a cannon, a 3-inch Ordnance rifle, for their battlefield. The Association is now undertaking a campaign to raise \$15,000 to obtain a limber.

National Project—Brandy Station Battlefield, Virginia



The Battle of Brandy Station was one of history's greatest cavalry engagements with over 20,000 troops, including 17,000 cavalry, engaged in battle. Here the famed Confederate cavalry under Major General J.E.B. Stuart narrowly defeated the Union cavalry under Brigadier General Alfred Pleasonton on June 9, 1863.

The Graffiti House served as a field hospital for the South during this and other local battles during the war. It also served as a headquarters facility for the Federal forces during the winter encampment of 1863-64. Soldiers from both sides made drawings and signed their names and units on the walls, including General Stuart. Rediscovered in 1993, much has been preserved.

The Brandy Station Foundation is currently renovating the house, which serves as their Visitor's Center. There is now an 1860s hospital room exhibit, and there are plans to create a media room, construct a brick walkway to the John Pelham Monument, and repair the front walk and porch steps.

A Book Review

...by Thomas L. Breiner

"The Bloody Fifth": The 5th Texas Infantry Regiment, Hood's Texas Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia; Volume 1: Secession to the Suffolk Campaign, by John F. Schmutz, Savas Beatie LLC, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762, 335 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 first of a two-volume work on the subject. Volume one covers the period from the secession of Texas through the Suffolk campaign in the spring of 1863. 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. There has not been a complete work on the subject, so I was anticipating a very enjoyable and informative book.

From my viewpoint, this manuscript, as a regimental history, misses the mark. The work appears to be more of an overview of the history of the Civil War in the East, using the campaigns in which the 5th Texas participated as the focal point. I felt that the author spent as much time writing a regimental history of the 1st and 4th Texas as he did with the 5th. The book reads more like a brigade history than a regimental history.

This work is based primarily on secondary source material and not on 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. Jacob Cox's article in *Battles and Leaders* is not the best resource to provide details around the events on the Union right at Antietam. There are many far better resources available, even if you just consider the *Official Records*.

The work is also very poorly edited, with numerous grammatical and spelling errors. It started with the 5th Texas being organized in Richmond on September 31, 1861, and the quality of the book went downhill from there. The author's research appears to be suspect in that he has Manassas located twenty miles north of Richmond. He repeatedly refers to Major General Franklin's Sixth Corps as McClellan's reserve in the center of the Union line at Antietam, when the Sixth Corps was never there. The Sixth Corps spent the Battle of Antietam located in Maryland's Pleasant Valley guarding McClellan's rear, not along the banks of Antietam Creek. Of course, the author was really referring to Major General Fitz John Porter's Fifth Corps. 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 only good point is the quality of the maps. I consider them to be very well done. It was interesting to find that every march the 5th Texas made during this part of the war was the most difficult or most grueling march of the entire war. The author's work is easy to read and was mildly entertaining but definitely not worth the price for the quality of the information provided.

September Presentation

... submitted by Don Vogel

The CCWRT welcomed David G. Moore to our meeting of September 15, 2016. David brought to the podium an in-depth look at the life of General William Rosecrans. The general was a person of whom there were differing opinions, not only in respect to his military career, but his private life as well. David's book delves into a life well lived by a man not only dedicated to the ideals presented by emancipation, but also a man who understood that his God had work for him to do. Rosecrans was a highly intelligent man, graduating fifth in his class at West Point Military Academy, which in itself was a feat to be admired, as he had no formal education prior to his acceptance at this great school. He had taken it upon himself to learn all he could by reading and pushing himself onward, not only becoming a skilled officer, but also becoming a man of outstanding business success, an inventor, executive, diplomat, and Christian witness who clearly understood that indeed "ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL."

General Rosecrans had a measure of success in these battles:

- Battle of Rich Mountain, WV
- Battle of luka, MS
- Battle of Corinth, MS
- Battle of Stones River, TN
- The Tullahoma Campaign, TN
- Price's Raid, MO/KS

There was one place where Rosecrans did get into trouble, and that was at Chickamauga, GA. According to what you read on this battle, it is not clear if it was due to miscommunication, lack of information, or misinterpreted intelligence, but the rout of Union forces there caused him to lose his command, and he resigned from the military.

The men who served under “Old Rosey” really loved the General, and in the evenings when he would ride the lines, the men would cheer for him, and he always had friendly words for the men in his command. The General seemed to have a connection with his men that was of great importance in this conflict.

David Moore has done a great deal to peel away the layers and expose the heart of General Rosecrans, and is to be commended for his research and construction of his book *William S. Rosecrans and the Union Victory*. If you were not in attendance to purchase the book at the meeting, you may obtain it from AMAZON at about \$35.00 or on Kindle for much less.



September Quiz:

1. Two states joined the Union during the Civil War. Name them.
2. While Abe Lincoln was a resident of New Salem, IL, of what significance was Bowling Green to the future president?
3. A native of Frederick, MD, where a street, museum and plaqued tomb note his name, has recently been the subject of dememorialization. His plaqued bust (he was “an upright and fearless judge”) sits outside city hall. His name is _____.
4. In 2009, a long-lost collection of 35 Civil War ledger books, code books, and records of correspondence made a reappearance and were placed in auction. Purchased for \$36,000, they were again auctioned in 2012 and were sold to the Huntington Library at an undisclosed price when the federal government couldn’t beat its offer. Included in the collection are almost 16,000 telegrams, about 5,400 of which are enciphered and are being offered through Zooniverse.org, a “crowdsourcing” platform, allowing anyone to help decipher this fresh treasure trove of historic documents, a project estimated to last several years. Who was the Union military officer who was the source of this treasure of Civil War history?
5. General Godfrey Weitzel’s surname is memorialized at a gate at _____ National Cemetery. He is buried at _____ Cemetery.

BONUS QUESTION:

We all associate Farmville, VA, with the last days of the Civil War and Lee’s tortuous retreat from a flaming Richmond to a family’s home in Appomattox Courthouse. In October of this year, Farmville will again make its presence known to our citizens by holding a special event. Name it.

Quiz Answers:

1. West Virginia (1863) and Nevada (1864)
Ref.: *Wikipedia*, “List of U.S. states by date of admission to the Union”
2. Advisor, teacher, mentor, counselor (Mr. Bowling Green was justice of the peace in New Salem and took Abe Lincoln under his wing regarding his work experiences and emotional disruptions)
Ref.: *Lincoln*, Donald, pp. 41,57,71

3. Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney
Ref.: *Wall Street Journal*, 4 Sep. 2015, p. A6
4. Major Thomas T. Eckert, head of the U.S. military telegraph office (War Department)
Ref.: *The Chance to Decode History*, Rothstein; *Wall Street Journal*, 22 June 2016, p. D5; *Civil War Dictionary*, Boatner, p. 260
5. Arlington and Spring Grove Cemetery
Ref.: *Bing.com*, “Images of Weitzel Gate at Arlington National Cemetery”; *Life and Career of Godfrey Weitzel*, Quatman, C-SPAN3, 3 April 2015

BONUS QUESTION:

The debate between the vice-presidential candidates to be held at Longwood University in Farmville

Ref.: *Teaching the Habits of Democracy*, Rago; *Wall Street Journal*, 2-3 July 2016, p. A9



Future Presentations:

Nov. 17, 2016	David T. Dixon, Santa Barbara, CA <i>The Lost Gettysburg Address: The Civil War Odyssey of Charles Anderson</i>
Jan. 19, 2017	Theresa Leininger-Miller, PhD, University of Cincinnati <i>Illustrated Sheet Music of the Civil War</i>
Feb. 16, 2017	Mark Lause, University of Cincinnati <i>Sterling Price and the 1864 Missouri Campaign</i>
Mar. 16, 2017	William “Jack” C. Davis, Virginia Tech <i>The Confederate Kardashian: Loreta Janeta Velazquez and the Invention of Confederate Celebrity</i>
Apr. 20, 2017	Wayne Motts, Harrisburg, PA <i>Pickett’s Charge: A Battlefield Guide</i>
May 18, 2017	Philip Greenwalt, Everglades National Park <i>Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864</i>
Sep. 21, 2017	Erick Bush, Rome, NY <i>Selma: The Confederacy’s Arsenal City</i>
Oct. 19, 2017	Richard L. Miller, Seattle, WA <i>John P. Slough, the 1st Colorado, and Glorieta Pass</i>
Nov. 16, 2017	Dave Powell, Chicago, IL <i>Battle of Chickamauga</i>

We Who Study Must Also Strive to Save!

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. If you are joining for the first time, there is a one-time, lifetime, **Initiation Fee** of \$20 (single) or \$30 (couple). 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 and initiation fee 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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