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# THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



PO Box 621082 • Cincinnati, OH 45262 • [www.cincinnati-cwrt.org](http://www.cincinnati-cwrt.org)  
Serving the Tri-State area of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana since 1956

[CCWRT](#)

February, 2017 Issue

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Meeting Date: February 16, 2017

**Place: The Drake Center**

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

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

**Dinner Menu: *Chicken Piccata,*  
*Caesar Salad, Macaroni & Cheese,*  
*Fresh Asparagus,*  
*and Italian Cream Cake***  
**Vegetarian Option: Upon request**

**Speaker:** Mark Lause, University of Cincinnati

**Topic:** *Sterling Price and the 1864 Missouri Campaign*

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**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, February 8, 2017.**

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## February Speaker:

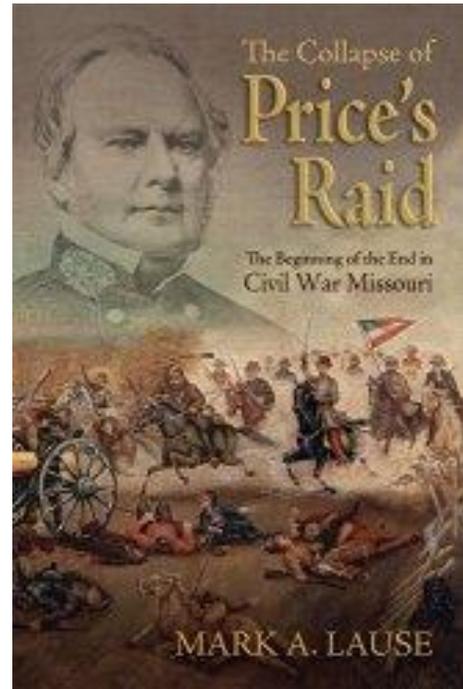
As the Civil War was drawing to a close, former Missouri governor Sterling Price led his army on one last desperate campaign to retake his home state for the Confederacy, part of a broader effort to tilt the upcoming 1864 Union elections against Abraham Lincoln and the Republicans. In *The Collapse of Price's Raid: The Beginning of the End in Civil War Missouri*, Mark A. Lause examines the complex political and social context of what became known as "Price's Raid," the final significant Southern operation west of the Mississippi River.

The success of the Confederates would be measured by how long they could avoid returning south to spend a hungry winter among the picked-over fields of southwestern Arkansas and northeastern Texas. As Price moved from Pilot Knob to Boonville, the raid brutalized and alienated the people it supposedly wished to liberate. With Union cavalry pushing out of Jefferson City, the Confederates took Boonville, Glasgow, and Sedalia in their stride, and fostered a wave of attacks across northern Missouri by guerrillas and organizations of new recruits. With the Missouri River to their north and the ravaged farmlands to their south, Price's men continued west.

At Lexington, Confederates began encountering a second Federal army newly raised in Kansas under General Samuel R. Curtis. A running battle from the Little Blue through Independence to the Big Blue marked the first of three days of battle in the area of Kansas City, as the two Federal armies squeezed the Confederate forces between them. Despite a self-congratulatory victory, Union forces failed to capture the very vulnerable army of Price, which escaped down the Kansas line.



Mark A. Lause



Lause's book



I am sure you all made a New Year's resolution to get more involved with the CCWRT in 2017 as I suggested in my last President's column, right? So how do you get more involved in CCWRT leadership? Alan Berenson, who does a fantastic job as our quiz master with his never-ending list of intriguing questions that generate lively discussions at our dinner table, is in need of an assistant. Contact me or Alan if you are interested.

Another easy way to get involved has the added benefit of helping you clean out your bookshelves. Consider donating some books to the CCWRT. They become our raffle prizes at our meetings, and the proceeds go towards our preservation projects. And it's so easy. Just bring them to our meetings and give them to our Vice President, Dave Stockdale. And another benefit - you will have more room to buy new books or win them in the raffle.

I have recently read a book called *The Immortal Irishman* by Timothy Egan. It is the story of General Thomas Francis Meagher who begins by leading a failed uprising against British rule during Ireland's Great Hunger of the 1840s. Banished from Ireland to Tasmania, Australia, for life in a prison colony, he escapes to New York City and becomes the most famous Irishman in America. As the Civil War begins, Meagher forms the Irish Brigade from New York, and the brigade excels at the battles of Bull Run, Antietam, and Fredericksburg, to name a few. The book details his meetings with President Lincoln, General Sherman, and many other famous men of this period. In his final chapter, Meagher serves as territorial governor of Montana. There he fights vigilante gangs until his mysterious death at age 43. I found the book fascinating.

Now that I've read it, I'll consider donating *The Immortal Irishman* to our raffle. Or, maybe Alan will use it to find some new trivia questions. I'll see you at our next meeting.

## Items of Interest

### Ed Bearss at the U.S. Grant Homestead

The U.S. Grant Homestead Association is excited to announce that Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, will be speaking again this year on **Saturday, March 11, at 1:00 pm** at the Gaslight Theatre in Georgetown, OH. His topic will be "Ulysses from Cadet to General."

Make a day of it and experience a free tour of the Grant Boyhood Home from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. The program begins at 12:30 pm at the Gaslight Theatre with Civil War music, followed by Ed Bearss's lecture from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Tickets are \$10 by phone or at the door. The lecture will be held at the Gaslight Theatre on the corner of Main Street & State Street in Georgetown. For more information, call 937-378-3087 or 937-378-4119.

### Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Sandy Rice of Hamilton, Ohio, has contacted the Round Table in search of women who are direct descendants of Union war veterans and who may be interested in establishing a local chapter ("Tent") of the

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The organization's website is [www.DUVCW.org](http://www.DUVCW.org). Interested women are asked to call Mrs. Rice at 513-749-6411, or contact her by email at [ricesandy@gmail.com](mailto:ricesandy@gmail.com).

## Loss of a Long-Time Cincinnati CWRT Member

Dr. Paul A. Busam, a member of the Cincinnati CWRT for the past several decades, passed away on December 30, 2016, at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife, Roselyn, and two sons, two daughters, 15 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. Paul was a veteran of WWII and devoted student of the Civil War. We will miss him very much. Memorial donations can be made in Paul's honor to Oratory-In-Formation of St. Philip Neri, 123 E. 13th St., Cincinnati, OH 45202, [www.spncincinnati.com](http://www.spncincinnati.com).

## You Can Write Articles for the Newsletter

The Cincinnati CWRT Newsletter is open to any articles that the membership or visitors wish to publish. You are very welcome to present news of upcoming local or regional talks, tours, or other Civil War related events. Book reviews are much in demand, too. You are also encouraged to write scholarly articles of one page or less that discuss battles, persons, letters, diary entries, speeches, events, or other topics from the Civil War. In our long past, we have had several persons contribute their very first writings to the *Canister*. It's a great way to have your story told without being fearful of writing for the public. The newsletter editor can help with spelling and grammar!

If you ever wish to contribute a segment to an upcoming issue of the *Canister*, please feel free to contact the CCWRT Newsletter Editor, David L. Mowery, by sending e-mail to [dmowery11@fuse.net](mailto:dmowery11@fuse.net) or calling 513-774-9544. Articles are best written either in e-mail or MS Word format, but a PDF works well, too.

## Book Review

...submitted by Alan Berenson

*The Story of Lee's Headquarters* by Timothy Smith

Timothy Smith, a licensed battlefield guide and genuine Gettysburg devotee confines himself in *The Story of Lee's Headquarters* to any and all aspects relating to the stone house on Seminary Ridge, its origins, ownership, inhabitants, uses and, above all, the military events that occurred around it. Through extensive research relying primarily on contemporary and primary sources, and despite considerable writings to the contrary, including those by historian John Bachelder, Henry Moyer, and others, Smith makes an excellent case that Robert E. Lee did spend significant time in it and in nearby staff tents across Chambersburg Pike. He also spent much time exercising command in the field.

Smith goes into great detail on the first day's conflict at the Battle of Gettysburg, to which the stone house is geographically central. Using the words of many primary sources, both rank and file as well as civilian, he paints a picture that puts the reader in the center of a thunderstorm of lead and iron. It was an unbelievable hell on earth for the combatants of both sides and a double-down of it for the thousands of troops who had to "run the gauntlet."

After lesser activity in the area on the second and third days of the battle, the area grew defensive breastworks against an expected counterattack that never came. The Rebel retreat began in a downpour the evening of July 4, 1863.

The "celebrity" owner of the house died in 1868, tenant Thompson passed in 1873, the house sold at auction in 1888, and it was gutted by a fire in 1896, but it was rebuilt with insurance money, became a public

nuisance around the turn of the century, leading to the arrest on moral charges of a middle-aged female tenant, and by 1945 was owned by Eric Larson, who expanded the improvements to build Larson's Cottage (motor) Court, where some of our members may have stayed. During all this time, the federal government was buying up large plots of battlefield acreage but successfully overlooked the four acres involving the stone house that became a tourist trap museum. History was preserved when the Civil War Trust recently completed its campaign to finance the property's purchase and restoration at \$1,100,000; it could have been bought for \$500 in 1850.

This is a narrowly focused, clearly written 67-page tale for the Gettysburg enthusiast. Go to it, and don't forget about helping out the Civil War Trust. Who was that "celebrity?"

## January Presentation

... submitted by Don Vogel

We begin the 2017 series of lectures with a visit to our meeting from Theresa Leininger-Miller, Associate Professor at the University of Cincinnati. Her field of study has been Art History of the 19th and 20th centuries, focused on both American and European artists. Theresa came to share with us the background of art that was used to decorate the front pages of sheet music from the Civil War period.

Theresa was fortunate several years ago to find several boxes of this music at a yard sale. As it was late in the day, the lady running the sale told Theresa to just take the boxes. When she got the boxes home, she was surprised to find thousands of pages of sheet music. Upon digging through the treasures, she found beautiful pages depicting scenes from battlefields, cemeteries, great celebrations, families greeting loved ones home from the war, and also anguished families who would not see their soldier come home. So much historic content forgotten by time, just about to be relegated to the trash. I am so thankful that there are people like Theresa who dig through what seem to be dead ends to find historic material and preserve it for the future.

Tonight, Theresa shared with us some of the musical material she has rescued, that she uses in presentations such as shows at the libraries. The list of pages she brings to show is extensive, and the detailed description of each is fascinating. I will only try to give you a short look at what she shared.

John Lozier wrote a song called "Nameless Graves (Where our Heroes Lie)," a song of sorrow for all the soldiers who were laid to rest in graves without a marker to tell who they were. You might think of this the next time you walk through a Civil War cemetery and see the lines of unknowns.

J. P. Webster wrote "Irish Volunteer"; this was written to praise the men who came from Ireland to fight in the conflict that had divided the nation. Many of those who survived adopted America as their home and became part of the greatest country in the world.

There were marching songs written, one of which was "Cincinnati Rover Guards Quick Step." I am fairly certain that all the small home guard units had similar songs to practice their close-order drill routines.

There were many songs about the greatness of generals on both sides and the love that the men had for them. There were also songs that were penned to make an example of an officer who was a poor leader, and songs that proclaimed the lack of fighting skill when the enemy was sent packing.

I can't forget the songs praising President Lincoln and his leadership through the great conflict. So much great history is contained in these pages. The next time you hear of Theresa putting on a show with this

material, make time to see all the beautiful work that went into its creation. Oh, one more thing, I hope like myself you will start looking in those dirty old boxes at yard sales to see if there is a CIVIL WAR TREASURE just waiting to be discovered.



## January Quiz:

1. General O.O. Howard was responsible for establishing two universities, Howard and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The National Park Service recently opened a new museum at 437 7th Avenue in Washington, D.C., commemorating the use of the facility from 1861 through 1868 to foster the reunion of dead/missing Union soldiers with their families. Not used since 1911, the walkup was discovered in 1996 to be the residence and office of the organization's female leader. Her name was \_\_\_\_\_.
3. There are only two father/son combinations who have been awarded Medals of Honor; one was Theodore Roosevelt, for his exploits in the Spanish/American War, and his son, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., for his actions in WWII. The father/son of the other pair were Civil War/WWII related. Who were they?
4. The largest privately owned Confederate cemetery in the United States is located at or in \_\_\_\_\_ (city and state).
5. In 1882, Custis Lee, upon receipt of \$150,000 from the U.S. government as compensation for the taking of the Custis/Lee property now known as the Arlington National Cemetery, personally conveyed the deed to the property to the Secretary of War named \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Today (in the 21st century) the town is called Clinton, MD; in April 1865, it was known as \_\_\_\_\_.

### BONUS QUESTION:

During the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the United States Postal Service issued a pair of commemorative Forever stamps for each of the five calendar years in which the Civil War was fought. What were the subjects of the two designs issued to commemorate the 1865 year?

## Quiz Answers:

1. Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN  
Ref.: *Wikipedia*, Oliver Otis Howard
2. Clara Barton  
Ref.: "American Artifacts, Missing Soldier's Office," *American History TV*, C-SPAN3  
22 July 2012. (Museum is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thurs. thru Sat., 202-824-0613)
3. Arthur and Douglas MacArthur  
Ref.: *Arlington National Cemetery Website*, Arthur MacArthur, Jr.

4. Franklin, TN (Carnton Plantation; McGavock Family Cemetery)  
Ref.: James Redford, tour guide at Carnton Plantation, 3 Dec. 2010
5. Robert Todd Lincoln  
Ref.: *American History TV*, C-SPAN3, 5/19/07, “The Private Letters of Robert E. Lee: Reading the Man,” Pryor
6. Surrattsville  
Ref.: *Manhunt*, Swanson, “Booth Escape Route Map,” p. 95,103;  
*Rand McNally Road Atlas*, State of Maryland

**BONUS QUESTION:**

- (1) Battle of Five Forks
- (2) Appomattox Court House Surrender

Ref.: *Amazon.com*, 150th anniversary of the Civil War set of five commemorative USPS Forever stamp sheets.



## Future Presentations:

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|---------------|---|
| Mar. 16, 2017 | William “Jack” C. Davis, Virginia Tech<br><i>The Confederate Kardashian: Loreta Janeta Velazquez and the Invention of Confederate Celebrity</i> |
| Apr. 20, 2017 | Carleton Young, Pittsburgh, PA<br><i>Voices from the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War</i>  |
| May 18, 2017  | Philip Greenwalt, Everglades National Park<br><i>Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864</i>   |
| Sep. 21, 2017 | Erick Bush, Rome, NY<br><i>Selma: The Confederacy’s Arsenal City</i>  |
| Oct. 19, 2017 | Richard L. Miller, Seattle, WA<br><i>John P. Slough, the 1st Colorado, and Glorieta Pass</i>  |
| Nov. 16, 2017 | Dave Powell, Chicago, IL<br><i>Battle of Chickamauga: Generals McCook and D.H. Hill</i>   |
| Jan. 18, 2018 | Peter J. D’Onofrio, PhD, Reynoldsburg, OH<br><i>Medical Advancements of the Civil War</i>   |
| Feb. 15, 2018 | Ron Blair, Lexington, KY<br><i>Col. Frank Wolford</i>   |
| Mar. 15, 2018 | Ted Savas, El Dorado Hills, CA<br><i>George Rains and the Augusta Powderworks</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. 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.

### CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:

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