
THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



PO Box 621082 • Cincinnati, OH 45262 • www.cincinnatiwrt.org
Serving the Tri-State area of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana since 1956

[CCWRT](#)

May, 2017 Issue

Meeting Date: May 18, 2017

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: Grill-Out: Hot Dogs & Metts,
Angus Burgers, Baked Beans, Potato Salad,
Relish Plate, Ice Cream Sandwiches
Vegetarian Option: Upon request**

Speaker: Phillip Greenwalt, Everglades NP

Topic: *Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864*

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 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, May 10, 2017.**

May Speaker:

Sweep the Shenandoah Valley “clean and clear,” Union General-in-Chief Ulysses S. Grant ordered in the late summer of 1864.

His man for the job: Maj. Gen. “Little Phil” Sheridan, the bandy-legged Irishman who’d proven himself just the kind of scrapper Grant loved. Grant turned Sheridan loose across Virginia’s most vital landscape, the breadbasket of the Confederacy.

In the spring of 1862, a string of Confederate victories in the Valley had foiled Union plans in the state and kept Confederate armies fed and supplied. In 1863, the Army of Northern Virginia used the Valley as its avenue of invasion, culminating in the Battle of Gettysburg. The Valley continued to offer Confederates an alluring backdoor to Washington, D.C.

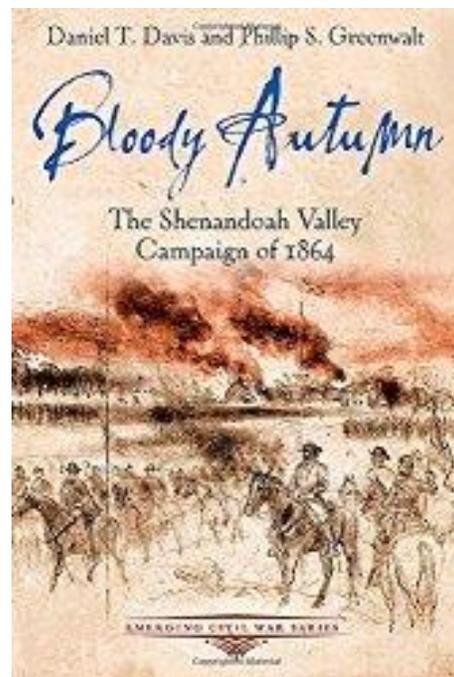
But when Sheridan returned to the Valley in 1864, the stakes jumped dramatically. To lose the Valley would mean to lose the state, Stonewall Jackson had once said—and now that prediction would be put to the test as Sheridan fought with Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal Early for possession.

For the North, the fragile momentum its war effort had gained by capturing Atlanta would quickly evaporate; for Abraham Lincoln, defeat in the Valley could very well mean defeat in the upcoming election. For the South, more than its breadbasket was at stake—its nascent nationhood lay on the line.

Historians Daniel Davis and Phillip Greenwalt, longtime students of the Civil War, have spent countless hours researching the Valley battles of '64 and walking the ground where those battles unfolded. *Bloody Autumn: The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864* shifts attention away from the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia to the campaign that ultimately determined the balance of power across the Eastern Theater.



Phillip S. Greenwalt



Greenwalt's book



Items of Interest

Candidates for Cincinnati CWRT Positions in 2017-2018

The candidates for officers (voting) are: Lester Burgin, President; Dave Stockdale, Vice President; Tom Williams, Treasurer; Don Vogel, Secretary; Dan Bauer, Program Chair; David Mowery, Newsletter Editor; Wanda Langdon, Membership and Publicity. The candidates for trustees (non-voting) are Tom Williams and Tom Breiner. The committee chairs (non-voting) are Becky Burket and Randy Donohue, Preservation Projects; Mike Rogers, Webmaster; Mike Rogers, CCWRT ListServ. The Activities Committee chair remains vacant and is looking for a person to volunteer for this position. Please be prepared to vote for the officers at the May meeting. Nominations from the floor are welcome.

Proposed Changes to the Round Table's Constitution and Bylaws

Attention all members!!! At the May Annual Meeting, the officers of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table will present to the membership the following recommended changes to the Corporation's Constitution and Bylaws. A majority vote of the members present will be required to implement the new wording.

For routine updating of the organization's title:

Article III

The Officers and Their Duties

(3) Secretary. Insofar as possible, the Historian will maintain the complete history of the organization, including the archives deposited in the Cincinnati ~~Historical Society Library~~ **History Library and Archives**.

To eliminate the one-time, lifetime initiation fee, the voting in of new members, and affirming that new members are bound by the constitution and by-laws of this corporation:

Article VI

Qualification of Members

A person with a definite interest in America's Civil War legacy and in the purposes for which this Corporation is formed ~~may~~ **will** become a member ~~after receiving the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present at a regular meeting and~~ after payment of their dues. ~~and one-time, lifetime, initiation fee.~~ Thereupon, ~~such newly elected member~~ **the new member** shall ~~agree to~~ be bound by the Constitution and By-laws of this Corporation.

To eliminate the one-time, lifetime initiation fee:

Article VII

Classification of Members

(C) Student Members. Student members shall be persons who are enrolled as full time students in any recognized secondary or higher institute of learning, who have fulfilled the qualifications of membership described above, and who are current on annual dues. Except for their ~~initiation fee and~~ dues as described in Article VIII (B), all other provisions of membership in the organization shall

apply to Student Members.

(D) Honorary members shall be exempt from payment of dues ~~and initiation fees~~, and they shall not have the right to vote or to hold office in the Corporation.

Article VIII

~~Initiation Fees and Dues~~

~~(A) Each new member shall pay a one time, lifetime, initiation fee of \$20 in conjunction with their application for membership.~~

(D) Student members ~~will not be required to pay an initiation fee when joining the organization, and shall have annual dues of \$15. Upon expiration of their student status, they will be required to pay the one time, lifetime, initiation fee of \$20 to achieve Regular Membership dues. status.~~

For routine updating of the organization's title:

Article XIII

Dissolution

Upon dissolution of this Corporation, after payment of all financial obligations, all funds or other assets held by the Corporation shall be distributed first to any corporation succeeding this Corporation and second if such corporation does not exist, then to the Cincinnati ~~Historical Society Library~~ **History Library and Archives** for the preservation and display of Civil War artifacts.

A discussion period will follow the presentation of the recommended changes during the business meeting.

Changes will be effective immediately.

Join Us at Roebling Fest

June 17, 2017, from 10:30 AM – 5:30 PM, at 3rd and Court Streets in Covington, Kentucky. Roebling Fest is an annual event that will focus this year on the 150th anniversary of the John A. Roebling Bridge, which was under construction during the Civil War. In addition to the formal recognition ceremony of the bridge by regional and state-wide government dignitaries, there will be tours of the bridge, the murals, and historic Covington, as well as history exhibits, period personalities, food and drink, and more.

CCWRT is pleased that we have been asked to participate in the “history tent” along with other groups. This is a great opportunity for us to introduce ourselves to history buffs stopping in throughout the day. We plan to have information about our organization at the table.

We would love to have you help staff our table at any time during the day. Give as much or as little time as you have that day. Please call me at 513-891-0610 or send me an email at lesterburgin@gmail.com if you are interested in helping the volunteers who have already committed. I plan to be there. It will be a fun and interesting event.

CCWRT Donation to John Parker Historical Society

In keeping with our pledge to encourage Civil War-era history, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table has donated the sum of \$500 to the John P. Parker House located in the town of Ripley, Ohio. John Parker was a

slave, inventor, entrepreneur, abolitionist, and Underground Railroad conductor in Ripley. Mr. Parker led an extraordinary life, and his legacy carries on through the work of the many volunteers who give freely of their time and talent to make sure that the history of the Underground Railroad will continue to be shared by those who hold historical accuracy and truth in the greatest regard. It is an honor for us to assist the great folks at the John P. Parker House.

Book Review

...submitted by Thomas L. Breiner

Confederate Waterloo: The Battle of Five Forks, April 1, 1865, and the Controversy that Brought Down a General by Michael J. McCarthy, Savas Beatie LLC, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762, 2017, 288 pages, Hardcover \$32.95.

Confederate Waterloo by Michael McCarthy is really two books in one. The first 103 pages are dedicated to a summary of the Battles of White Oak Road on March 31, 1865, and Five Forks on April 1, 1865, from the perspective of the involvement of Major General Gouverneur K. Warren and the V Corps. The author's primary purpose is to defend Warren and remove the stain to his reputation created as a result of his removal from command by Major General Philip Sheridan.

While the first book, which covers the battles from the prospective of General Warren, is well researched and well written, it is not a complete analysis of the Battle of Five Forks. The focus is too narrow to call this a detailed account of the battle. The second book is a summary of the Court of Inquiry held fifteen years after the battle that was Warren's attempt to get his reputation restored. Warren's request was finally approved by President Rutherford Hayes in 1879. By the time the court's decision was rendered, General Warren was dead. The Court of Inquiry, as approved, was limited in scope to the actions of General Warren on April 1, 1865. This did not allow the court to investigate all the issues that revolved around the decision by Sheridan to remove him from command of the V Corps and why General Grant authorized such action by Sheridan. The author is very selective in what portions of the Court proceedings are covered and the documentation used by the Court in determining their recommendation.

In my opinion, this work is not for the casual Civil War reader. Unless you are willing to devote the time to fully understand all the aspects of the controversy that began on July 2, 1863, with Warren's actions on Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg, and culminated with his removal from command on April 2, 1865, then this book or books is not for you. I found it an interesting read, but the scope of the work is too narrow for the subject matter. The author hints that Grant and Sheridan had discussed Warren prior to the spring campaign of 1865, but the author fails to do the required research to address the issue properly. The Warren-Sheridan controversy cannot be limited to the two days in March and April, 1865. The determination of the Court of Inquiry was not very unsatisfying to everyone. The Court's findings did not acknowledge that Sheridan should have relieved Warren or that he was unjustified in the removal. Since the findings were published after Warren's death, he never received the vindication he desired. While I found this work to be very interesting and highly readable, I did not find that the author brought any new material to the discussion.

April Presentation

... submitted by Don Vogel

I'AM REALLY, REALLY ENVIOUS!!!!!! I'm always on the lookout for anything Civil War. Books, pictures, music, uniforms, bullets, (CANNONS, I really like cannons, and I have just the place for one on my

property), but I rarely find anything that is in a good condition and affordable for an old guy with limited means.

The April 2017 meeting of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table was proud to welcome Carleton Young for a lecture, "Voices from the Attic." Carleton made a great find (in his own attic) when he discovered 250 letters and other papers written by two brothers who fought in the Vermont Brigade of the Army of the Potomac. What a find it turned out to be. But, it took over ten years to decipher the letters, many of which were written in the cross-writing style as paper was scarce during the war. Then, all the correspondence was put in order to coincide with the advance of the war, and was prepared for the publisher. It took a great deal of work, but the final product is superb.

Carleton, in his lecture and in his book, brings to light details about the brothers Martin, their mustering into the army, their training, what they saw, how they responded to the war, and things that would change their lives forever. They witnessed the terrible suffering of men on both sides of the war. At Antietam, they saw bodies of men, so numerous, that at times it was necessary to burn the corpses to keep down the threat of disease. This incident is the only time we have a record of this body disposal. It has not been recorded in any other writings of the Civil War. They wrote of life in winter quarters. They told stories of recipes, some good, some horrible, including coffee prepared in a frying pan (WOOF). I wonder if Starbucks has a recipe for that.

I was really drawn in by Carleton's explanation of what he learned from all these pieces of history. He is a great speaker and writer, and it was an enjoyable presentation.

Oh, and if you happen to find a cheap cannon sitting around an antique store, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.



April Quiz:

1. The Federals called it "Opequon"; the Rebels called it _____.
2. Honey Springs was the largest Civil War battle fought in (the state or territory of) _____.
3. A colonel and brigade commander in Wharton's division in the Army of the Valley who was killed in the Battle of Opequon was the grandfather and namesake of a well-known WWII U.S. Army general named _____.
4. What is a "file closer?"
5. Lt. General Jubal A. Early's last military action occurred 2 March 1865 when Custer's troops demolished his 1,500 demoralized rebels; "Old Jube" was last seen fleeing the scene on his horse avoiding capture by escaping through a patch of woods. This modest skirmish is known as the battle of _____.
6. What was the name of Philip Sheridan's horse before the onset of the Shenandoah Valley campaign?

BONUS QUESTION:

What was the name of Philip Sheridan's horse after the Shenandoah Valley campaign?

Quiz Answers:

1. (3rd) Winchester (19 Sep. 1864)
Ref.: *From Winchester to Cedar Creek*, Wert, p.101.
2. Oklahoma or Indian Territory; battle preceding campaign to capture Little Rock; Union victory: Blunt (Indian, Negro & White troops) vs Wm. Steele (Indian & White troops). Rebels' wet powder led to their flight.
Ref.: Civil War Trust solicitation letter, Lighthizer, 9 Nov. 2015; *The Civil War*, Flood, Vol. II, pp. 702-703.
3. George S. Patton
Ref.: *From Winchester to Cedar Creek*, Wert, pp. 95, 96, 103.
4. A soldier assigned the duty to maintain military movement discipline within his unit; shooting a shirking unit mate might be within his orders.
Ref.: *From Winchester to Cedar Creek*, Wert, p. 185.
5. Battle of Waynesboro, VA
Ref.: *Ibid.*, p. 251; *Wikipedia*, "Battle of Waynesboro, Va".
6. Rienza
Ref.: *Ibid.*, p. 248.

BONUS QUESTION:

Winchester

Ref.: *Ibid* to question 6



Future Presentations:

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| 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 A. Powell, Chicago, IL
<i>A Tale of Two Corps Commanders: D. H. Hill and A. M. McCook at Chickamauga</i> |
| Jan. 18, 2018 | Peter J. D'Onofrio, PhD, Reynoldsburg, OH
<i>Medical Advancements of the Civil War</i> |
| Feb. 15, 2018 | Ron Blair, Lexington, KY
<i>Wild Wolf: Col. Frank Wolford and the 1st Kentucky Cavalry</i> |
| Mar. 15, 2018 | James "Bud" Robertson, Richmond, VA
<i>Water: The Most Overlooked Element of the Civil War</i> |
| Apr. 19, 2018 | Chris Burns, Cincinnati
<i>The Siege of Cincinnati</i> |
| May 17, 2018 | Wayne Motts, Harrisburg, PA
<i>Pickett's Charge: A Battlefield Guide</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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