
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](#)

September, 2017 Issue

Meeting Date: September 21, 2017

Place: The Drake Center

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

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

**Dinner Menu: Beef Sirloin Steak,
Tossed Salad with Assorted Dressings, Fresh Green Beans with Sautéed Mushrooms,
Oven Roasted Potatoes, and Apple Crisp**
Vegetarian Option: Upon request

Speaker: Erick Bush, Rome, NY

Topic: *Selma: Alabama's Civil War Arsenal City*

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, September 13, 2017.**

September Speaker:

Selma, Alabama, was transformed into the Confederacy's second most important war manufacturing center, outside of Richmond. Essential to the Confederate war effort, especially with the construction of the CSS *Tennessee* ironclad and the Brooke cannon, Selma provided critical support to Confederate operations in the field, in places including Mobile, Charleston, and Atlanta. An impressive network of ironworks was developed in Alabama to supply the sprawling Selma Arsenal, Ordnance Works, and Navy Yard. A series of well-engineered earthworks and fortifications were constructed around Selma to defend this critical

industrial center. As a testament to the importance of Selma, it produced “half of the cannon and two thirds of the fixed ammunition” for the Confederacy in 1864-1865. The largest cavalry raid of the Civil War, under the command of Major General James H. Wilson, targeted and destroyed Selma during the final stages of the Civil War.

Erick Bush is a former member of the Cincinnati Civil War Roundtable, with a specialization on the Civil War in Central Alabama. He has previously lectured on a number of Alabama and Virginia related topics to Civil War Round Table and history enthusiast groups in England, Ohio, Alabama, Texas and Virginia. Erick’s first lecture on the Civil War in Alabama was at the Royal Army Museum in London in 2005. He has a recurring article series entitled “Letter from Civil War Alabama” in the magazine *Crossfire*. He recently developed a web page which brings together key aspects of the Battle of Big Bethel in Virginia. In 2015, Erick was one of the featured speakers at an American Civil War Conference in the United Kingdom, with talks entitled “Alabama in 1865: The Confederacy’s Final Chapter” and “Jefferson Davis at Fort Monroe.” He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from the University of Alabama, and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Troy State University.



Erick Bush



As you certainly know, there have been many news stories surrounding the removal of statues and other symbolism of the Civil War. While there are many opinions about these issues, it is important to remember the mission of the CCWRT, found in Article I of the *Cincinnati Civil War Round Table Constitution and By-Laws*, which states:

"The purpose of the CCWRT is to foster and promote the interest in and research of the scientific, literary, preservation and intellectual aspects of the American Civil War period."

After lengthy discussion about these issues at the most recent board meeting, the Board believes that the mission statement speaks for the position of our Round Table.

I look forward to the beginning of our new campaign for 2017-2018. We have a great line-up of speakers, and I hope to see all of you at our upcoming meeting on September 21. Plan on coming for dinner and to socialize with fellow members before the meeting.

Items of Interest

2017 Patriot Fair

Join us at the annual Patriot Fair on **September 23, 2017, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mason Municipal Center, Mason, Ohio**. The American Spirit Education Alliance, in conjunction with The Sons of the American Revolution (Cincinnati Chapter), The Children and Daughters of the American Revolution (John Riley Chapter), Sons of Union Veterans, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Sister Anthony O'Connell Chapter), and the Veterans Memorial Museum Foundation (Germantown, Ohio) and many other history lovers will present the Seventh Annual *Patriot Fair*. It will be a day full of adventure, discovery, patriotism, learning, fun, and good things to eat. This day will celebrate our American history and heritage, honor our military, and provide unique 'Living History' experiences.

Contact Wanda Langdon: Wanda@TeamLangdon.com or 513-505-6871 if you can help man the CCWRT Table to meet, great, and hand out info about the Round Table.

Visit: <http://www.americanspiriteducationalliance.com/events/patriot-fair-2017/> for more information.

It's Time to Pay Your Re-Enlistment Fee

Annual membership dues for the 2017 – 2018 campaign year are being collected now. For new members, there is no longer any initiation fee; new members and renewing members pay the same amount. The Cincinnati CWRT offers two levels of membership: **Regular** and **Sustaining**. The **Regular** memberships are \$25 (single) and \$35 (couple). The **Sustaining** level of membership is \$50 (single) and \$85 (couple). The purpose of the sustaining 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. If you are able to do so, we encourage you to become a Sustaining Member. Please know that you can pay with check, cash, or credit card. **THANK YOU** for your membership. It's you who allow the CCWRT to bring in high-quality speakers from around the region, as well as from across the United States. Your membership also permits the CCWRT

to give to charitable groups working to preserve and share with others the Civil War history of our country.

Cincinnati CWRT Polo Shirts Coming This Fall

The CCWRT has arranged for the purchase of embroidered CCWRT logoed polo shirts. Order forms will be available at the September meeting. Pricing will be **\$20.50 each**, with \$2 extra for a 2XL size. Shirts can be ordered in over a dozen colors. Orders can be made either online or by mail, with payment by credit card or check. Show off your CCWRT pride and order a shirt or two. You do not have to be a member to own a shirt. With Christmas only a few months away, one of these shirts would make for an excellent gift idea.



Men's Core Classic Pique Polo

Ladies' Core Classic Pique Polo

A Greater Cincinnati Civil War Site Is Lost

Housing construction on the Diekmeyer property in Miami Township, Clermont County, began in July 2017. A 120-home subdivision will replace the former William Tudor farm, the site of the camp of Union Brigadier-General Edward Hobson's Provisional Division of 2,500 troopers on the night of July 14, 1863, during its dogged pursuit of Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan's Confederate cavalry. It was the last significant undeveloped camp site from Morgan's Great Raid left in the Greater Cincinnati region. However, as a gesture of good will and compromise from the developer, it has agreed to set aside a portion of Hobson's camp site as a common green space, with a trail and interpretive markers that will talk about the history of the property relative to Morgan's Raid.

For more information about the Diekmeyer Farm and its history, please see the CCWRT article by David L. Mowery located at <http://cincinnatiwrt.org/wordpress/library/history-diekmeyer-farm-relates-morgans-great-raid-1863-dave-mowery/>.

A Memory from CCWRT's 60th Anniversary Celebration

Here is a photo taken at the 60th Anniversary (March 16, 2017) meeting of the CCWRT. Enjoy!



The 60th Anniversary celebration cake entices the speaker and some members of the CCWRT. From left to right: Tom Williams, Trustee; Dave Stockdale, Vice President; Dan Bauer, Program Chair; William “Jack” C. Davis, Featured Speaker; Lester Burgin, President; David Mowery, Newsletter Editor.

Mark Your Calendars: Free Tour of Cincinnati's Morgan Raid Sites

Would you like to participate in a **no-fee** caravan (carpool) tour of Morgan's Great Raid sites in the Greater Cincinnati area? Anyone can come – bring your family, friends, and acquaintances. We will welcome all visitors. The tour will be led by historian and author David L. Mowery on **Friday, May 18, through Saturday, May 19, 2018**, and we will travel from Sunman, Indiana, to Williamsburg, Ohio, over the two-day period. The tour days will each last roughly from 8:30am to 5:30pm. We will retrace Morgan's "Great Ride" around Cincinnati, the longest non-stop cavalry ride of an American division of horsemen in enemy territory (85 miles in 35 hours). We will stop for lunch and will follow up the tour with dinner together (you'll pay for these). More details will be forthcoming. If you wish to drop off early in the tour, you can do so, since it will be caravan-style. If you are interested in joining us, please mark your 2018 calendars now!

May Presentation

... submitted by Don Vogel

May 18th marks the last presentation before our 2017 summer break, and we will start back up again in September with another great run of speakers and authors for the 2017-2018 season. The schedule for all the great men and women coming to share with us is the job of our own Dan Bauer, and I can't say enough about all the effort he puts into finding top shelf speakers. I am sure it takes many hours, and a ton of phone calls, to line up folks from across the country, and to coordinate with other clubs to help with expenses. Somehow, Dan pulls it all together to bring us the best. Next time you see Dan at the meeting, tell him how much you appreciate all his work.

At our May meeting, we had a fast-moving and informative presentation from Phillip Greenwalt. Phillip came to us all the way from Everglades National Park, where he is employed. You can tell that Phillip has a great love for all things Civil War by the way he is able to recite facts, data, and dates at an amazing speed. He has a Masters Degree in American History, and you just know he enjoys research. He has co-authored three books that he brought along, and there may be more that I am not aware of.

Phillip's presentation was on the Shenandoah Campaign and its effects in bringing the war to a close. Historians who have studied this campaign have said that it was "one of the greatest Rebel defeats, leading up to Appomattox."

There were a lot of Civil War greats in this series of battles, but a personal favorite of mine was Philip "Little Phil" Sheridan. Like William T. Sherman, Little Phil knew how to bring war to a close. He took the steps necessary to eliminate everything that the Rebels needed to continue to fight. Pretty close to a scorched earth action, I suppose. Not popular, but effective.

Two books co-authored by Phillip Greenwalt: *Hurricane from the Heavens* and *Calamity in Carolina*, both available from Amazon.com.

Book Review

...submitted by Thomas L. Breiner

Decision at Tom's Brook: George Custer, Thomas Rosser, and the Joy of the Fight by William J. Miller, Savas Beatie LLC, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762, 2016, 267 pages, Hardcover \$29.92.

The Decision at Tom's Brook by William Miller is the exceptionally well-written and exciting account of the little known battle at Tom's Brook in the Shenandoah Valley on October 9, 1864. The battle was part of the running conflict between friendly antagonists, George Custer and Thomas Rosser. They met at West Point,

and their friendship continued for the remainder of their lives. Both loved to fight. Rosser would keep fighting the battle of Tom's Brook for the remainder of his life as he attempted to rebuild his reputation.

Major General Philip Sheridan was frustrated by the aggressive pursuit of the Confederate cavalry as the Union Army of the Shenandoah moved north down the valley, burning all mills, barns, crops, and some homes in accordance with Lieutenant General Grant's instructions. Sheridan ordered Brevet Major General Alfred Torbert to whip the Rebel cavalry or get whipped himself. The Union cavalry proceeded to do exactly that. The battle started with George Custer bowing to Thomas Rosser across the battlefield and Rosser returning the salute. From that point on, it was the worst disaster that ever happened to the Confederate cavalry. What started as the Battle at Tom's Brook quickly degenerated into what became known as the "Woodstock Races." The battle was basically the result of Rosser's decision to fight the much larger Union cavalry when he should have withdrawn. The results were so lopsided that Lieutenant General Jubal Early and Brigadier General Thomas Rosser did not have their officers involved write official reports. Brigadier General Lindsey Lomax was the only Confederate officer to include it in a report, and that was only a brief paragraph.

The author, William Miller, has created a brief biography of Custer and Rosser comparing their love of the flight and their friendship. The action at Tom's Brook would probably have been forgotten by history had not Rosser continued to attempt to regain his reputation and justify his actions. He blamed everyone involved from his superior officer, Jubal Early, to his brigade officers and the Confederate cavalry.

I enjoyed this manuscript immensely and recommend it to anyone with an interest in more information on this minor action in the Valley Campaign of 1864. The only negative is the quality of the editing. There are the usual misspelled or missing words, but considering the length of the work, the number does not affect the reader's enjoyment. I recommend this work highly as the best researched and most well-written account of this action.



Future Presentations:

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>
Sep. 20, 2018	Greg Biggs, Clarksville, TN Topic TBD

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. 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 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:

President: Lester Burgin	513-891-0610 (h)	LesterBurgin@gmail.com
Vice-President: Dave Stockdale	513-310-9553 (c)	djrstockdale@aol.com
Treasurer: Tom Williams	513-608-4391 (h)	t.williams@outlook.com
Secretary: Don Vogel	859-360-9455 (h)	oneparson@aol.com
Program Chair: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h)	dbauer002@cinci.rr.com
Newsletter Editor: David Mowery	513-774-9544 (h)	dmowery11@fuse.net
Membership & Publicity: Wanda Langdon	513-505-6871 (h)	Wanda@TeamLangdon.com
Trustee: Tom Breiner (2017-2019)	513-984-3101 (h)	tbreiner@fuse.net
Trustee: Tom Williams (2016-2018)	513-608-4391 (h)	t.williams@outlook.com

COMMITTEES:

Activities: VACANT	--	--
Preservation Projects:		
Becky Burket & Randy Donohue	513-771-3949 (h)	northstarians@aol.com
Webmaster: Mike Rogers	859-907-3096 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
Social Media: Mike Rogers	859-907-3096 (c)	rogersmb1981@yahoo.com
CCWRT E-Mail Address		ccwrt@cincinnatiwrt.org