
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](#)

October, 2017 Issue

Meeting Date: October 19, 2017

Place: The Drake Center

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

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

**Dinner Menu: Stuffed Pork Chops,
Apple Pecan Salad w/ Vinaigrette Dressing, Broccoli & Cheese,
Mashed Potatoes, German Chocolate Cake**
Vegetarian Option: Upon request

Speaker: Richard L. Miller, Seattle, WA

Topic: *John P. Slough, the 1st Colorado, and Glorieta Pass*

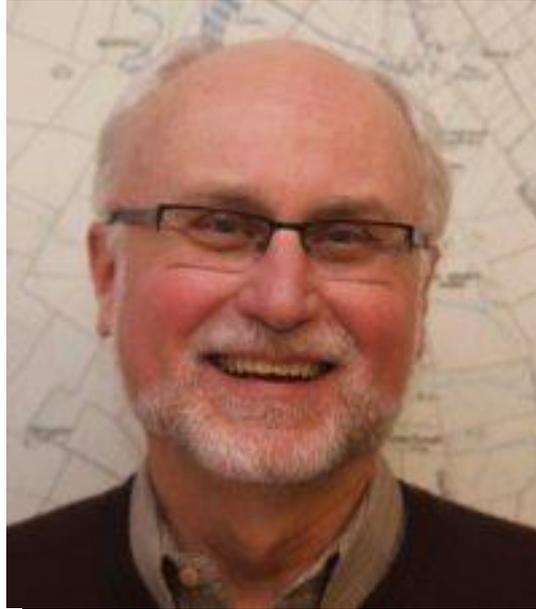
Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to submit your meeting reservation to the web site at <http://cincinnatiwrt.org/wordpress/contact/rsvp/> or call it in to Dave Stockdale at 513-310-9553. Leave a message, if necessary. If you are making a reservation for more than yourself, please provide the names of the others. Please note that **all reservations must be in no later than 8:00 pm Wednesday, October 11, 2017.**

October Speaker:

John Potts Slough, a Cincinnati native, was colonel of the 1st Colorado Volunteer Infantry. Richard Miller's talk will focus on Slough's efforts to organize, train, and lead the hard-drinking and free-spirited Colorado volunteers to their victory at Glorieta Pass in March of 1862. Shortly after the battle, Slough abruptly resigned his command, claiming that he feared for his life from his own men. Dick will discuss Slough's disastrous relationship with the 1st Colorado, the relationship's impact on the Colorado Volunteers'

campaign in New Mexico, and whether his concern about being assassinated was his real reason for resigning his commission.

Like John P. Slough, Dick Miller grew up in Cincinnati. Mr. Miller has spent nearly his entire adult life, the past 35 years, living in Seattle, Washington. After a career in health care administration, Miller is now retired and finishing a biography of John P. Slough. He is a past president of and frequent presenter to the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table.



Richard L. Miller



President's Report

...from Lester Burgin

You know it's fall when the Red's season is over and the weather turns cool. Usually it's the time to look forward to the Bengal's season, but not this year. So why not spend some time with the CCWRT? Our next meeting is on October 19. Come early to join the more than 50+ members who socialize and have dinner together before the meeting. It's easy to sign up for dinner on the website. And don't worry if you don't know many people. Our quizmaster, Alan, puts together a quiz that really gets everyone putting their heads together and talking.

Where is the last place you might imagine a Civil War battle? How about New Mexico? Don't believe me? Our October meeting speaker, Richard Miller, will teach us about Colonel John Slough and the 1862 Battle of Glorieta Pass in New Mexico. I've dragged my family to many Civil War sites, but they couldn't possibly believe I could find one on our trip to New Mexico. I actually found it by accident, but now this battlefield is part of the National Park Service. Come and learn about the significance of this most unusual battle and its unique Union leader. There is more to the story than you might expect.

Items of Interest

Cincinnati CWRT Polo Shirts - Order Yours Now!

The CCWRT has arranged for the purchase of embroidered CCWRT logoed polo shirts. Order forms will be available at the October 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. The address for the online store is:

<https://www.companycasuals.com/CCWRT/start.jsp>



Men's Core Classic Pique Polo



Ladies' Core Classic Pique Polo

Cincinnati CWRT Remembers a Long-Time Member

We note with sadness the passing of former Cincinnati Civil War Round Table member Jerry Frey on August 22, 2017, in Columbus, Ohio. Jerry had last attended a CCWRT meeting in 2016. The Ohio State University graduate and U.S. Army Veteran was 63. Jerry was the author of three books on the Civil War: *In the Woods Before Dawn: The Samuel Richey Collection of the Southern Confederacy* (1994); *Grandpa's Gone: The Adventures of Daniel Buchwalter in the Western Army, 1862-1865* (1998); and *Longstreet's Assault – Pickett's Charge: The Lost Record of Pickett's Wounded* (2001).

September Presentation ... submitted by Dave Stockdale

For our September presentation, the Round Table was pleased to welcome back to the podium former member Erick Bush, who spoke to us on “Selma: Alabama’s Civil War Arsenal City.” At the beginning of the war, the South’s only foundry was the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, Virginia; and its munitions industry was limited to a few arsenals producing small arms. Josiah Gorgas, the Confederacy’s Chief of Ordnance, was tasked with building an armaments industry to sustain its military forces.

There were several reasons Gorgas chose Selma to establish an industrial center. Its location in the interior of the country would protect it from Federal forces. As a cotton port on the Alabama River, it offered access to Mobile Bay. And as a rail junction, it provided connections to an abundant store of the raw materials and resources that would be necessary: coal, pig iron from the many iron furnaces that dotted central Alabama, and niter for gunpowder.

The Arsenal, Ordnance Works, and Navy Yard that General Gorgas developed in 1862 were second only to the Tredegar works. To protect them, he had an extensive series of earthworks and fortifications constructed around Selma. Commander Catesby Jones, a Virginia naval officer with expertise in both artillery and armor plating, was chosen as commandant of the Selma works. Jones had been Capt. Franklin Buchanan’s executive officer on the CSS *Virginia* and commanded it during its engagement with the USS *Monitor*.

At its peak, as many as ten thousand persons were employed at the Selma works, producing all manner of war materiel. Indeed, Selma produced half of the artillery and two-thirds of the fixed ammunition for the Confederacy in 1864-65. Most notable among the artillery manufactured at Selma was the Brooke cannon, a rifled gun comparable to the Union’s Parrott gun. The Navy Yard produced a number of ironclads, the foremost being the CSS *Tennessee*. Armed with six Brooke guns and six-inch armor plating, the *Tennessee* was the Confederacy’s most powerful ironclad. Unfortunately, its engine and those of the other ironclads built at Selma were undersized. With a maximum speed of only five knots, Union ships were able to isolate and pummel the *Tennessee* during the Battle of Mobile Bay, eventually forcing its surrender.

In March of 1865, Union General James H. Wilson commenced the largest cavalry raid of the war with 13,500 troops. The Selma works was one of his objectives. Nathan Bedford Forrest with 1,500 troops attempted to halt Wilson’s advance at Ebenezer Church on April 1, 1865, but was overpowered, and Forrest retreated to Selma’s defenses 19 miles away. The next day those fortifications, manned only by Forrest’s troops and a home guard consisting mostly of boys and old men, were overwhelmed by Wilson’s raiders. The Union forces captured or destroyed a huge amount of ammunition, artillery, and other materiel, and completely destroyed the Arsenal, Navy Yard, and Ordnance Works.

Erick enlivened his talk with many photographs illustrating interesting incidents and vignettes of persons connected with the events in Selma. Among the photographs was one of the flag of the Magnolia Cadets, which had been sewn by Selma residents Ella Todd Dawson and Martha Todd White, half-sisters of Mary Todd Lincoln. Another was of the ruins of the Crocheron mansion at Cahaba, where Wilson and Forrest had dinner together several days after the Battle of Selma to discuss the possibility of exchanging prisoners. And there was one of the grave stone of the 65-year old minister of the Presbyterian Church in Selma, who died defending the arsenal against Wilson's raiders.

Erick Bush's presentation was a great start to the 2017-18 campaign, and we look forward to a return visit in the years to come.

Book Review

...submitted by Thomas L. Breiner

Lincoln's Lieutenants: The High Command of the Army of the Potomac by Stephen W. Sears, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, New York, NY, 2016, 884 pages, Hardcover \$385.00.

Lincoln's Lieutenants by Stephen Sears is a detailed look at the Civil War's Eastern Theater from the point of view of the Commanders, Corps Commanders, Division Commanders, and Regimental Commanders for the Army of the Potomac. Mr. Sears provides his opinion on the various strengths, weaknesses, successes, failures, and blunders by these numerous individuals and how, despite the constant changes in leadership, the Army of the Potomac soldiers persevered and managed to win the war in the east.

Through the author's in-depth research, we see the lack of on-battlefield leadership by George McClellan, Antietam being the only battle where he was on the field during the engagement. Ambrose Burnside's unfitness to command large forces is analyzed. Joe Hooker was not a drunk as many officers thought, but his womanizing was not acceptable behavior for the majority of his subordinates. General Grant's primary flaw was his lack of patience with the Army. He continually failed to allow for the necessary preparation when scheduling most attacks, which usually led to poor performance by units involved. The infighting among the Army's officers provided the author with a bonus of material for the work. You will have to read the book to follow all the back biting and intrigue among the many officers, such as Fitz John Porter, John Pope, Baldy Smith, etc.

Over the course of the four years of Civil War, the Army of the Potomac had seven commanders. It wasn't until U. S. Grant became the General-in-Chief in 1864 that the leadership stabilized. The command structure at Appomattox little resembled the command organization in 1861. At the end, the Army was primarily composed of volunteer officers who were self-taught. The Army's high command spent as much time fighting the administration in Washington (the enemy in the rear) as they did the Confederates, but somehow they managed to keep their resolve until the issue of civil war was decided.

At first, I did not think there was a need for another rehashing of the life of the Army of the Potomac. There has certainly has been enough written about the war in the Eastern Theater. However, the author, Stephen Sears, has created a winner. His new and interesting approach to the story of the Army of the Potomac is fresh and exciting. I found this work to be very interesting, well researched, and an easy read. I had a difficult time putting the book down. He provided me with a great deal of food for thought. His comments were right on target concerning which officers in the Army of the Potomac were providing the soldiers with the leadership they required and those that failed to step up to the requirements of their positions. I definitely recommend the work to anyone interested in understanding the quality of the high command in the Army of the Potomac. The only fault I found was the maps, while very detailed, were not helpful in understanding of the movements in the various battles.



September Quiz:

A gentleman in conversation remarked to President Lincoln on Friday that nothing would defeat him but Grant's capture of Richmond, to be followed by the General's nomination at Chicago and acceptance. "Well," said the President, "I feel very much like the man who said he didn't want to die particularly, but if he had got to die, that was precisely the disease he would like to die of."

Ref: *New York Times*, June 13, 1864, as shown in *The New York Times Complete Civil War*, Holzer/Symonds, p. 144.

1. Thomas (Boston) Corbett is probably most well known as the Union NCO who mortally wounded John Wilkes Booth. He is less well known for a surgical procedure he performed prior to his enlistment as a Union soldier. What procedure was done and who was the patient?
2. Some of their names were *Intrepid*, *Union*, *Constitution*, *The United States*, *Washington*, *Eagle*, and *Excelsior*. What were they?
3. "Old Slow Trot" was also known as _____.
4. Identify the battlefield depicted in the colored photos shown on the 8.5"x11" paper at your table _____ and the state represented by the memorial building shown _____.
5. In 1866, George Robinson, who formerly resided at "The Clubhouse" on Madison Place adjacent to Lafayette Park in the District of Columbia, was issued by Secretary Stanton an historic knife, a gold medal with George's image on it, and \$5000, authorized by the U.S. Congress for an action he performed 14 April 1865. What was that action?

BONUS QUESTION:

According to a notice in the *Wall Street Journal* of 27 July 2017, President Trump donated \$100,000 to a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) camp for students. Three months previously, Mr. Trump donated his first quarter's salary to the National Park Service; nearly \$80,000 of that contribution was directed toward _____.

Quiz Answers:

1. (a) Bilateral Orchiectomy (Castration); (b) himself.
Ref.: *Manhunt*, Swanson, pp. 328-329
2. Civil War (Union) military observatory balloons
Ref.: Civil War Trust, "Civil War Ballooning"

3. George H. Thomas
Ref.: Ferguson, “Catching Up With ‘Old Slow Trot,’” *Google*
4. (a) Vicksburg; (b) Illinois
Ref.: *Magazine of the American Civil War Museum*, Spring 2017
5. Protecting and saving the life of William Seward from Lewis Powell’s attempted murder assault, part of the Lincoln murder conspiracy
Ref.: *Manhunt*, Swanson, p.51, 71

BONUS QUESTION:

Restoration of a Civil War battlefield (Antietam).

Ref.: *Wall Street Journal*, 17 July 2017, p. A4



Future Presentations:

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|---------------|---|
| 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 <i>The Question Was One of Supplies: The Logistics for William T. Sherman’s Atlanta Campaign</i> |
| Oct. 18, 2018 | Dan Welch, Youngstown, OH <i>The Last Road North: A Guide to the Gettysburg Campaign</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. 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:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
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| | | |
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