
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](#)

January, 2018 Issue

Meeting Date: January 18, 2018

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,
Tossed Salad w/ Assorted Dressings, Wild Rice,
Spinach Soufflé, Double Chocolate Cake**
Vegetarian Option: Upon request

Speaker: Peter J. D’Onofrio, Ph.D, Reynoldsburg, OH

Topic: *Medical Advancements of the Civil War*

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, January 10, 2018.**

January Speaker:

The Civil War was the first modern war and resulted in the highest number of U.S. casualties per capita of any of our wars, as between 750,000 and 850,000 men perished (approximately 8 million in today’s population), including roughly 50,000 civilians; 25% of those involved died. What is not appreciated, even now, are the rapid advances made by American medicine that were stimulated by this conflict. This presentation will inform the audience of the background, procedures, and personnel that led to the advancements, many of which are the basis of techniques and procedures that are used today, and their

impact on the subsequent development of American medicine. Dr. D’Onofrio will present this talk in the guise of Ohio Civil War Surgeon General, Robert Nelson Barr, in period uniform. As such, he will talk as if this meeting took place some months after the Civil War ended.

Originally from New York City, Peter J. D’Onofrio came to Ohio in 1969, compliments of the U.S. Air Force, and then decided to stay in Ohio when his tour of duty was over. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Dayton, and he received his Doctorate in American History from LaSalle University. He worked as a firefighter/paramedic in the Dayton and Central Ohio areas and spent 30 years at the State Fire Marshal’s Office teaching men and women to be firefighters and EMTs.

Peter D’Onofrio has been re-enacting since 1978, starting as an infantryman with the 35th OVI, but since 1980, he has exclusively portrayed a surgeon. In addition, he is the president of The Society of Civil War Surgeons, THE largest non-profit, international, educational organization dedicated to the study and preservation of Civil War era medicine and surgery and those persons, both North and South, who labored to ease the suffering of the sick, wounded, and dying of that conflict. He is also the editor/publisher of the Society’s quarterly publication, *The Journal of Civil War Medicine*.



Peter J. D’Onofrio



2017 has been a fantastic year for the CCWRT. We have implemented our new website with all sorts of features, including more accessible information and the ability to make dinner reservations and payments online. We have rolled out our new logo as well. New polo shirts for both men and women are available with our logo, and sales have been brisk. There is still time to buy one if you haven't already. Check out this option on our website. It is possible that next year, other items with the CCWRT logo may be available.

As the year 2017 comes to an end, I reflect on our fabulous speakers and realize how fortunate we are to hear Theresa Lenninger-Miller's talk on *Illustrated Sheet Music of the Civil War* (who knew such a topic existed?), Jack Davis on *The Confederate Kardashians* (things never really change, do they?) and John Slough on the *1st Colorado and Glorieta Pass* (Civil War in New Mexico, come on!!). And you can only hear about these interesting topics at the CCWRT meetings.

The year 2018 has a unique speaker line-up as well. Our Program Chair, Dan Bauer, has done a super job finding interesting speakers and topics. You won't want to miss such far-ranging topics as *Medical Advancements of the Civil War*, *The Siege of Cincinnati*, or *The Logistics for William T. Sherman's Campaign*, and a sure highlight will be Bud Robertson's topic, *Water: The Most Overlooked Element of the Civil War*. I look forward to seeing you each month.

Have a happy, healthy new year.

Items of Interest

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 from July 13-14, 1863, 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). If you wish to drop off early in the tour, you can do so, since it will be caravan-style. However, if you are interested in possibly paying ahead for a seat in a van with David, to get the extra "talk" between sites, please contact David at 513-774-9544 or dmowery11@fuse.net. Tom Williams has volunteered to arrange a van if there is enough interest. The van holds 15 passengers maximum, so it's first-come, first-serve; others would need to follow in their cars. Tom will also arrange lunch and dinner locations.

The itinerary for the tour will be as follows:

Day 1 (Friday, May 18)

Meet at the Cincinnati Mills Mall sign on Forest Fair Dr (GPS: 39.301082° N, 84.518713° W) in Forest Park, OH. You can park your cars here and carpool, or you can follow the caravan from here. Depart Cincinnati Mills Mall at 8:30amEST. Visit site of Morgan's camp at Ferris Schoolhouse, which was used as Morgan's headquarters on the night of July 12, 1863, outside of

Sunman, IN. Visit downtown New Alsace, IN, area (St. Paul's Church, Klump's (Blettner's) Tavern, Jacob Gephart Saloon). Drive over Tanner's Creek, through Dover, IN, and through Logan, IN. Visit downtown Harrison, OH, area (American House Hotel, Vincent Bakery, Market House site). Have lunch in the Harrison area. Stop at Whitewater Shaker village outside of New Haven, OH. Visit site of first Civil War skirmish in Ohio at Miamitown, OH. Visit site of covered bridge burned by Morgan's men at New Baltimore, OH. Visit site of Camp Colerain and Morgan's rendezvous at Bevis, OH. Visit downtown Glendale (depot, railroad crossing, and site of Glendale Female College). Drive through New Burlington, OH, Forest Park, OH, and Springdale, OH. Visit Twelve Mile House in Sharonville, OH. Depart Sharonville, OH at 5:30 pm EST. Leave for the day back to Cincinnati Mills Mall and home, or eat dinner together with those who choose to do so.

Day 2 (Saturday, May 19)

Meet at the parking lot in front of the Tile Shop, as close to US 42 as possible, directly across US 42 from KFC (GPS: 39.292423° N, 84.394205° W) north of I-275 exit at Sharonville, OH. You can park your cars here and carpool, or you can follow the caravan from here. Depart Sharonville, OH, at 8:30amEST. Visit Gorman Heritage Farm in Evendale, OH. Entry fee required, and hiking involved. See John C. Hunt house in Blue Ash, OH. See John Schenck house, site of Morgan's breakfast and an extraordinary ruse by citizens, in Deer Park, OH. Have lunch in Kenwood area. Visit the site of the Skirmish at the Crossroads in Indian Hill, OH. Drive through Montgomery, OH. Visit Porter's Mill Ford site in Sycamore Creek Park, Remington, OH. See the site of the train derailment north of Miami, OH. Visit Evergreen Cemetery, and graves of John & Katherine Deerwester Anderson, Miami, OH. Visit site of Madisonville Pike Bridge skirmish, Miami, OH. Visit Little Miami Railroad Bridge skirmish site, Miami, OH. Drive past Dangerous Crossing and Morgan's headquarters on Branch Hill-Miami Road. Visit Camp Shady site in Mt. Repose, OH. See past city hall (former church) and Governor Pattison's boyhood home in Owensville, OH. See Big Field camp site, Lytle doorstep marker, site of the covered bridge, and Morgan's headquarters site in Williamsburg, OH. Depart Williamsburg, OH at 5:30 pm EST. Leave for the day back to Sharonville and home, or eat dinner together with those who choose to do so.

November Presentation

... submitted by Don Vogel

David Powell brings a fascinating story of two Civil War officers, both of whom gained some measure of fame, but not the kind usually associated with West Point graduates. It would seem that both men had no small amount of difficulty translating what they had learned from the brilliant minds at this great school into results on the fields of battle.

Let's begin with Daniel Harvey Hill, a very pro-Southern man, having been born in South Carolina. Hill was out of the army in 1859 and had been a teacher. In 1861, he joined the Confederacy and served under Robert E Lee. He fought through the Seven Days Campaign, and he also went into Maryland with Lee in the Antietam Campaign. Hill is probably best known for his rear guard action in the Battle of South Mountain, which saved Lee's supply chain.

Hill was not a popular officer with either subordinates or other officers. He caused a lot of dissension, so much so that Lee transferred him to the Army of Tennessee, under Bragg. Bragg, not being a real sweetheart of a guy, clashed with Hill in three months. The issue, it would seem, was the fact that Hill got to the Battle of Chickamauga about four hours late, through no fault of his own, but Bragg was livid. As the war of words continued, Hill even resorted to a petition to have Bragg removed, which, you might imagine, did not cause the two to make nice.

As the war drew to a close, Hill went back to educational pursuits and spent the years trying to rebuild a reputation tarnished by years of being a real thorn in people's backsides. There is a real lesson to be learned here from a man and officer of over 150 years ago: BE NICE; YOU SHOULD LIVE SO THAT PEOPLE ARE SORRY TO SEE YOU PASS ON.

We now turn to look at Alexander McCook, famous as a member of the “Fighting McCooks,” an Ohio family that contributed so much to the Union war effort. McCook graduated from West Point in 1852, ten years younger than most of the other generals in the war. At the age of 32, he commanded three corps of infantry, each made up of from 15,000 to 20,000 men, a big, big job for such a young man. He was a very popular officer, and probably one of the most influential Civil War generals, but a very unlucky fellow.

McCook commanded in three battles which are legends in Civil War history: Stone’s River, Shiloh, and Chickamauga. Three battles, and three times nearly driven off the field. Poor planning? Poor execution? Historians are still trying to sift out the failures of the Union forces in these campaigns, but one thing is sure: McCook was a tenacious fighter, but he was just unlucky.

McCook was appointed aid-de-camp to Sherman, and the two got along famously. I believe that Sherman was able to see the potential that this officer had to improve the training that officers received, and thereby improve all military forces. One of these schools which McCook was instrumental in establishing was the School of Application, advanced training for officers, today called the Command and General Staff College. Alexander McCook most definitely had a profound impact on US military education.

David Powell has put in a great effort to show these two men in their differences and likenesses. I would suggest that you get in touch with David and have him ship you a copy of his book: *A Tale of Two Commanders*.

Book Review

...submitted by Thomas L. Breiner

The Battle of Glendale: Robert E. Lee’s Lost Opportunity by Douglas Crenshaw, The History Press, Charleston, SC, 2017, 170 pages, Hardcover \$27.97.

The Battle of Glendale by Douglas Crenshaw is a work that focuses on a small part of the Seven Days Battles, particularly on the battle at Glendale or Frayser’s Farm. This is one of the big ifs of the war. Robert E. Lee had just become commander of the Army of Northern Virginia after the wounding of Joe Johnston. Lee knew that the best chance the South had for winning its independence was to defeat the Union Army of the Potomac quickly. A protracted war favored the Union. The Battle of Glendale was another opportunity for Lee to do just that.

The author follows the sequence of events for the Seven Days at the end of June 1862. Lee’s initial plans failed to deliver the knockout punch he desired. The first miscue was at Mechanicsville where Major General “Stonewall” Jackson failed to attack the Union flank, and then again at Gaines Mill where Jackson was late in arriving. Lee’s plans for Savage Station failed to materialize, while major generals Benjamin Huger and “Stonewall” Jackson did not provide the support as Major General Magruder was told to expect.

Lee saw another opportunity to cripple the Union army on June 30th at the intersection near Frayser’s Farm, or Glendale, Virginia. The Union army was in retreat and strung out. Major General Theophilus Holmes was in position to capture Malvern Hill and cut off McClellan’s retreat, Generals Longstreet and AP Hill were maneuvering to attack the Union force directly at Glendale, Jackson was set to cross White Oak Swamp and attack the Union flank and rear, and finally Major General Huger would join with Major General John Magruder and provide support to Longstreet and Hill. Lee’s plan could conceivably destroy the Union army. McClellan had also helped by leaving the retreating army to be on board the gunboats in the James River. He again failed to place any of his Corps commanders in charge of the operations. Therefore, they were on their own to coordinate the defensive effort. Fortunately for the Army of the Potomac, there were enough division-level commanders who stepped up to the occasion, such as George McCall, George Meade, Joe

Hooker, and Phil Kearny. The author then provides the reader with the reasons why Lee's opportunity failed to be delivered as expected.

This work is well researched and extremely well written. The maps provided are excellent. While the book is not long, it provides an outstanding look at the battle and the possibilities of Lee's lost opportunity. The author also looks at where the opportunity failed and those responsible. The only explanation missing is why General Lee never held Jackson responsible for his lackluster performance during the Seven Days Battles. After the campaign, Jackson is given command of a newly formed wing. The Confederate Congress had not authorized the formation of corps at this stage of the war. My recommendation is that anyone interested in the Battle of Glendale should read this work. It is by far the best coverage of the important battle that I have read.



November Quiz:

1. Except perhaps regarding the response given to George McClellan by the Army of the Potomac as it streamed toward Washington in the wake of Second Bull Run, there is no equal in the annals of the Civil War than the renewed spirit, the intangible sense that all would be righted, than what occurred across the length of the _____ (name the army) gripping each member like an electric shock. The general, brimming with energy and confidence, possessed a presence, a charisma which could not be reasoned, only felt. As he passed in front of each successive unit, holding his hat in his hand, speaking to them, the men thundered their approval. A deafening cheer cascaded through the woods.
2. Although the Union and the Confederacy are said to have alternated control over Winchester, VA, dozens of times during the war, it is generally considered that there were three Battles of Winchester, I, II & III. Fill in the blanks below regarding those three major events:

	Year fought	Winner	Commanding General	
			Union	Confederate
First Battle	_____	_____	_____	_____
Second Battle	_____	_____	_____	_____
Third Battle	_____	_____	_____	_____

Tie Breaker (to be counted only if necessary): How many defendants were tried at the Lincoln Assassination trial June 1865? _____

BONUS QUESTION:

Today is 16 Nov.2017; 153 years ago today, a significant Civil War event occurred in Georgia. What was that event?

Quiz Answers:

1. Army of the Shenandoah

Ref.: *From Winchester to Cedar Creek*, Wert, p. 224.

2. I: 1862 Confederates Banks Jackson
II: 1863 Confederates Milroy Ewell
III: 1864 Union Sheridan Early

Ref.: *Encyclopedia Virginia*, “Winchester during the Civil War”; *Civil War Dictionary*, Boatner, “Winchester,” pp.936 – 940.

Tiebreaker: 8 (Mary Surratt, Lewis Powell, David Herold, George Atzerodt [all hung], Samuel Arnold, Michael O’Laughlen, Edman Spangler, Samuel Mudd)

Ref.: *Manhunt*, Swanson, p. 356.

BONUS QUESTION:

16 Nov. 1864 was the date General Sherman had his army evacuate Atlanta and head east toward Savannah, Georgia.

Ref.: *2017 Calendar*, Civil War Trust, notation on 16 Nov. 2017



Future Presentations:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 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 | Darryl Smith, CCWRT
<i>The Last Raid – The 1864 Battle of Cynthia</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> |
| Nov. 15, 2018 | Ted Savas, El Dorado Hills, CA
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.

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