

# 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

**September, 2019 Issue**

**Meeting Date: September 19, 2019**

**Place: The Drake Center**

**(6:00) Sign-in and Social**

**(7:15) Business Meeting**

**(6:30) Dinner**

**(7:30) Speaker**

**Dinner Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu, tossed salad w/ assorted dressings, fresh green beans w/ sautéed mushrooms, oven roasted potatoes, apple crisp.**



**September Speaker: John C. Fazio, Cleveland Civil War Round Table**

**Topic: The Emancipation Proclamation**

Our speaker for September is John C. Fazio, whose topic will be the Emancipation Proclamation, a document which he describes as perhaps the strangest in American history. This will mark John's third appearance before the Round Table. His presentation will cover the genesis, preparation, promulgation, interpretations and effects of that unique document. And it will include a discussion of the moral imperatives that were the inspiration for it as a war measure as well as the more strategic motives: preventing foreign intervention in the war, depleting Southern manpower—the engine that drove the Southern economy—and, the opposite side of the same coin, increasing Northern manpower, especially in Union armies. He will also touch on the Thirteenth Amendment and how the two provisions have been viewed by later generations of African-Americans.

John Fazio is a member and past-president of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable, and is also a member of the Lincoln Forum, the Surratt Society, the Cleveland Grays, and the Western Reserve Historical Society. He teaches Civil War history at Chautauqua Institution, and is a frequent speaker at round tables across the country. John has written and published numerous articles on the Civil War and related subjects. And he is the author of *Decapitating the Union: Jefferson Davis, Judah Benjamin and the Plot to Assassinate Lincoln*, McFarland & Co., Inc., Jefferson, NC (2015), which was the subject of his 2014 talk to the Cincinnati Round Table.

## Dinner Reservations

**Deadline:** Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 8:00 p.m.

Please remember to submit your meeting reservation to the web site at <https://cincinnaticwrt.org> . If you are making a reservation for more than yourself, please provide the names of the others. You are strongly encouraged to pay for your dinner on-line. If you are unable to make your reservation on-line, please call it in to V.P. Esly Caldwell at 513-607-6598. Leave a message, if necessary.

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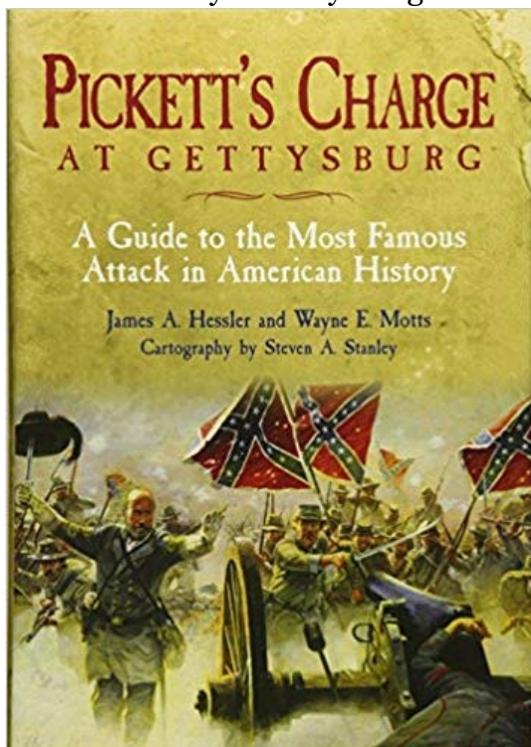
Be certain to Like our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CincinnatiCWRT>) and follow us on our new Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/CwrtCincinnati>). Yet another way to stay connected with your round table!



### Book Review

Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg: A Guide to the Most Famous Attack in American History by James A. Hessler and Wayne E. Motts, Savas Beatie LLC, El Dorado Hills, CA (2019), 310 pp., hardcover \$37.95.

*Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg* is not the usual narrative concerning all or portions of the Battle of Gettysburg. Instead it is written as a tour guide. The book is arranged as four guided tours: the first looks at the Confederate Battle Line; the second focuses on the Pettigrew – Trimble Charge; the third concerns Pickett's Charge, and the fourth the Union Battle Line. Each tour follows the National Battle Field tour stops. At each stop the authors provide the reader with detailed information on the area, and address the many controversies surrounding various facets of the Confederate plans for the attack on the third day at Gettysburg and the Union response.



In the First Tour, the authors delve into what General Robert E. Lee had planned for the attack and why it failed. They look at which troops were assigned to participate and their dispositions. And they discuss the lack of needed coordination across the three Confederate Corps. The authors allow the reader to form their own conclusions concerning how the plan developed and was eventually implemented. They describe in detail the number of cannons the Confederates had arrayed for the bombardment of the Union position, along with their locations and intensions, and discuss whether the Confederate artillery met its objective.

The Second Tour looks at the Pettigrew – Trimble Charge. This tour focuses on a part of the battle that is largely misunderstood due to numerous changes to the landscape in this area of the battlefield resulting from commercial encroachment. The authors also cover the controversy over who went the furthest – the Virginians or the North Carolinians; and also, who ran first. They provide the facts

and allow the reader to reach his or her own conclusion. This tour also looks at how the Gettysburg area was used during World Wars I and II and the impact on the battlefield.

Tour Three covers that portion of the Confederate attack commanded by General Pickett. This tour looks at where Pickett's troops were located during the bombardment, their route during the attack, and where Pickett himself was during the assault. Again, the reader is provided the details and left to draw his or her own conclusions.

Finally, Tour Four looks at the attack from the Federal point a view. This tour starts at Little Round Top and ends at Ziegler's Grove. The authors discuss how the Union artillery was handled and who came up with the idea of limiting return fire and waiting for the Confederate infantry. And they examine the appropriateness and feasibility of a Union counterattack. They also provide the information on where General Armistead fell and his subsequent death. Finally, there is a brief discussion on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> reunions.

The authors have given the reader an extremely detailed, well-research tour guide that reads like a narrative. I found it hard to stop reading. There are excellent maps to go along with the fabulous prose. The work is not only an excellent tour book but an outstanding analysis of the Confederate plans and attack on the third day of Gettysburg. I highly recommend this work as both the guide to the field and an in-depth examination of the controversies surrounding Pickett's charge. The authors are to be commended for their efforts.

*Submitted by Thomas L. Breiner*

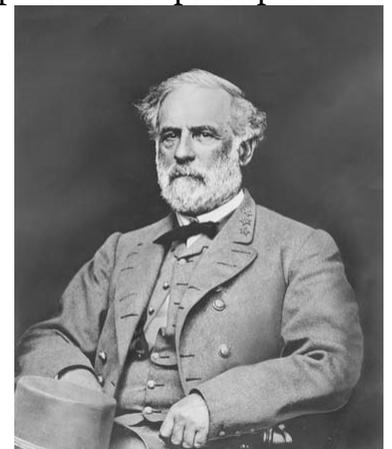
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## May Presentation

The May meeting of the Round Table welcomed back to the podium Wayne Motts, chief executive officer of the National Civil War Museum. Wayne and his colleague, James A. Hessler, have written a new battlefield guide *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg: A Guide to the Most Famous Attack in American History*. Wayne was prepared to tell us everything we wanted to know, and in some cases to disabuse us of things we thought we knew, about that singular event. It is the most talked-about frontal assault in the Civil War and is the turning point of the Battle of Gettysburg. And although Pickett's forces were only one part of the Confederate attack on the Union left July 3, 1863, it has been called Pickett's Charge from the beginning.

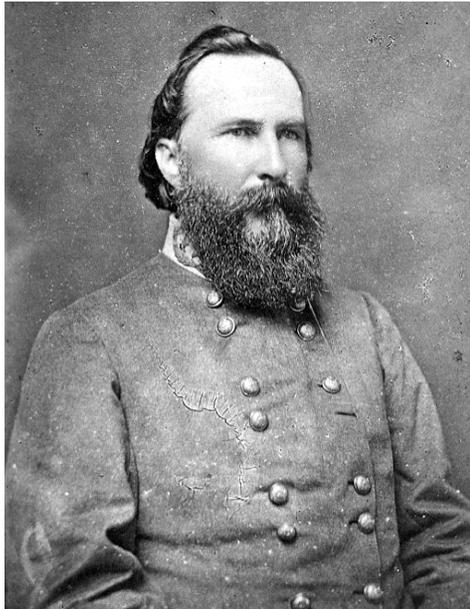
The first day of the battle belonged to the Confederates. They had driven the Union Army off of the ridges north and west of the town and on to Cemetery Ridge and the hills south and east of the town. Robert E. Lee's plan for the second day was to have James Longstreet's corps make the principal attack against the Union left down by Little Round Top. A.P. Hill was to threaten the center of the Union line, while Richard Ewell made a simultaneous demonstration on the Union right at Culp's Hill, exploiting any opportunities that might present themselves to commence a real attack. The Peach Orchard was a key objective because it was elevated. In Lee's own words, published in the Official Reports: "In front of General Longstreet the enemy held a position from which, if he could be driven, it was thought our artillery could be used to advantage in assailing the more elevated ground beyond, and thus enable us to reach the crest of the ridge."

By the end of the second day Longstreet's men had destroyed Union



General Daniel Sickles's Third Army Corps and gained the Peach Orchard and the Wheat Field; but the Union still held Cemetery Ridge, Big and Little Round Top, and the Devil's Den. The Confederates had momentarily taken East Cemetery Hill but could not hold it. Again, in Lee's own words, "The result of this day's operations induced the belief that, with proper concert of action, and with the increased support that the positions gained on the right would enable artillery to render the assaulting columns, we should ultimately succeed, and it was accordingly determined to continue the attack. The general plan was unchanged." But ultimately Lee did not get the "proper concert of action" on July third, and the artillery did not render the planned support.

General George Pickett's forces arrived at Gettysburg late in the day on July second, and were not engaged. These fresh troops were to link up with Longstreet for a morning attack on the center-left of the Union line, while Ewell commenced a simultaneous attack on the Union right. But the Union Army got the jump on Ewell by attacking Culp's Hill early on the morning of the third before Longstreet, with Pickett, could get in position opposite the center of the Union line.

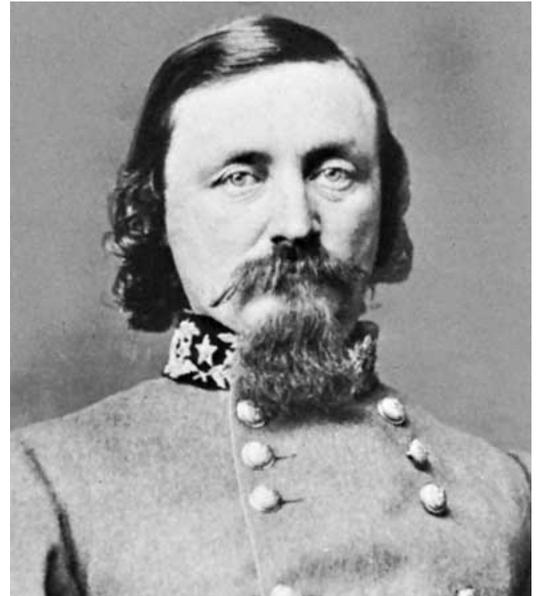


Just about day break, Lee rode down to the Peach Orchard area and met with Longstreet to reexamine the military situation. Over Longstreet's objection that his troop strength of 15,000 was insufficient, Lee determined that he would attack the center of the Union line: he would have the artillery pound the Union line and when the attack commenced would move the artillery forward with the advancing columns. For Lee, the role of the artillery was to batter the Union line, to kill the Union defenders, to destroy Union morale, and to fire as the columns advanced.

But the artillery did not do the four things Lee hoped it would do. Most of their shots in the two hour cannonade preceding the attack went over the Union Army. In the speaker's view, the failure of Confederate artillery on July third is why Pickett's Charge failed, which is the same view expressed by Lee in his official reports: "Owing to this fact [that the artillery had nearly expended its ammunition] which was unknown to me when the assault took place," ". . . the attacking columns became exposed to the heavy fire of the numerous batteries near the summit of the ridge, and, after a most determined and gallant struggle, were compelled to relinquish their advantage, and fall back to their original positions with severe loss."

How many were engaged in the action? The number of Confederate soldiers who participated in the charge has continuously been revised downward in the past 30 years. It was originally thought to be 15,000, the number Longstreet used, but the speaker believes it was about 12,500. While the numbers for Pickett's forces, who were not engaged on the first two days, are fairly accurate, parts of four divisions participated in the attack. Many of those Confederate units had fought on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>; and the Confederates calculated their casualties only at the end of a battle, not every day. Thus on the third day those units were no longer at their initial strength. By the same token the number of Confederate soldiers who were wounded is understated, because Lee had issued a general order that if a wounded soldier could still carry a musket or perform duty, he was not to be counted as wounded. So out of 12,500, probably 8,000 Confederate soldiers were casualties. Between 500 and 1000 were casualties of the Union cannonade, as the shots that went over the Confederate artillery, which was the target, hit the troops which were positioned behind the batteries.

The Confederates were facing probably 6,000 Union soldiers, giving them a two-to-one numerical advantage. The Union had 106 artillery pieces, probably 80 effective, versus the Confederates' 150 pieces; but the Union artillerists had ammunition. The Union casualties numbered about 1500. Where were the troops positioned? They were arrayed in a line about a mile long. Almost none of Pickett's soldiers were in the trees as depicted in the movie *Gettysburg*. Of the 15 regiments that made up Pickett's forces 13+ were out in the fields from the early morning, in temperatures that reached 87 degrees, dressed in wool uniforms, carrying a 10 lb. rifle and probably 20 lbs. of ammunition and equipment. Most of Pettigrew's men were in the shade of the trees, but Trimble's were nearly all in the field. Because of the terrain, the Confederate troops could neither see or be seen by the Union troops on the ridge.



Pickett's charge took place across farmers' fields. What about the fences? The most significant fences were along the Emmetsburg Rd., and the fields had fences as well. But many of them were torn down in the previous days' fighting, and the rails had been used for fires and other purposes. Others were torn down on the third. The fences were a nuisance, but not an impediment to the attack. The soldiers went over, around or through them, or knocked them down. They did not change the course of the action.

Where was General George Pickett? He was not injured in the attack, nor was any member of his staff. But that seems to have simply been a matter of luck. Pickett positioned himself in the center of his command near the Codori farm.

Who got the furthest in this high water mark of the Confederacy? It was probably members of the 11<sup>th</sup> Mississippi, who were a mere 20 feet from the portion of the Union line manned by the 8<sup>th</sup> Ohio, with the Brian barn between them. Most of the Confederates (9,000 – 10,000) got to the Emmetsburg Rd., which was 200 yards from the Union position. Most of them got out of the road and went forward toward the Union line, where they were shot by Union artillery and musketry in large numbers. These numbers are borne out by the Elliot burial map of 1864.

*Submitted by Dave Stockdale*

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## **President's Report**

There are some changes coming for the 2019-2020 campaign. As usual Dan Bauer, our Program Chair, has arranged another great lineup of speakers. That you can count on. But our days of meeting at the Drake Center are numbered. U.C. Health, of which Drake is a part, is moving some of its operations to the Drake Center, taking over space that has heretofore been used for conference rooms. We are being displaced in the process, perhaps as early as November. Over the years the Round Table has met at various venues. We started at the University Club, downtown. In my time we have also met at Memorial Hall in OTR, the Drawbridge Inn in Ft. Mitchell, the Winton Place Veterans hall in Spring Grove Village, and the Quality Inn in Norwood. We have had a good experience at Drake, but time marches on. The board is currently searching for a new venue. If you have a connection to a venue that you believe might be suitable for our meetings, please contact me or one of the other officers.

At our May meeting we elected new officers for this year, but as of that date, no one had stepped forward to fill the position of Secretary. I'm happy to report that since then Jenny Breeden has volunteered to be Secretary. We will have a special election at the September to fill that slot. Also subsequent to the May meeting, Jeff Mikutis determined that he will not be able to serve as newsletter editor. So once again we are seeking someone with just the slightest of a journalistic bent to be our newsletter editor. In addition, the positions of Membership & Publicity chair and Activities chair remain vacant. Keeping the Round Table in the public eye is how we attract new members; and having activities in addition to our regular meetings, such as tours of battlefields, museums, and historic buildings, help to maintain members' interest. We sure could use your help.

You will also recall from the May meeting that we amended our constitution to put membership dues on a calendar year basis. Dues will be due the first of January. Meanwhile, the Treasurer's report for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2019, shows your Round Table to be in good financial shape. There is \$2,068.54 in our regular account, and \$5,162.43 in our preservation account.

One final note: we strongly urge you to pay on-line at the time you make your dinner reservations. And remember that there will no longer be any standing reservations. You must make a new reservation each month. But don't worry, we'll send you one or two email reminders before each meeting so you won't forget.

*Dave Stockdale*

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### **Future Presentations**

October 17, 2019	Scott Schroeder, Bloomington, Indiana <b><i>Lee's Lost Orders in the Maryland Campaign</i></b>
November 21, 2019	Scott Mingus, York, Pennsylvania <b><i>General William "Extra Billy" Smith</i></b>
January 16, 2020	Chris Burns, Cincinnati, Ohio <b><i>Ulysses S. Grant</i></b>
February 20, 2020	Christina Hartlieb, Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Cincinnati <b>Harriet Beecher Stowe</b>
March 19, 2020	David Deatrick, Louisville Kentucky Civil War Round Table <b>General Lovell Rousseau</b>
April 16, 2020	Eric Wittenburg, Central Ohio Civil War Round Table <b>Second Winchester</b>
May 21, 2020	Michael Flannery, Auburn, Alabama <b>Civil War Medicine</b>

## ABOUT THE CINCINNATI CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

**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 our meeting location 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 must 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 under **Dinner Reservations** 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

submitted the week before. Therefore, **Late Reservations** (after the Wednesday by 8:00 p.m. 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 p.m. 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.

### TRUSTEES:

President: David Stockdale	513-310-9553 (c)	djrtstockdale@aol.com
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