

# 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

Volume 66 – Number 1

October 2021

## October Program

### George H. Thomas

Perhaps the Most Underappreciated General of the War

*Presented by: Daniel Zeiser, Cleveland CWRT*



George H. Thomas did as much to win the Civil War for the North as anyone but U.S. Grant. A native Virginian, he remained loyal to the Union and fought with the best of them. Unfortunately, he is not well known and is perhaps the most underappreciated general of the war. Daniel Zeiser's talk will concentrate on Thomas's life, as well as his contributions to the war. It is hoped that this presentation will leave you with a better understanding of this outstanding general and what he did to keep the Union together.

Daniel Zeiser was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. After graduating from Elder High School and Kenyon College, he attended Cleveland's Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Law, and has made Cleveland his home ever since. An attorney since 1984, Dan has been in the labor and employment field his entire career. He is married to Lori Gallo, who is also an alumna of Kenyon College and CWRU, and an attorney. They have three children and (so far) three grandchildren. A student of the American Civil War, he has been a member of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable since 1992, is a past president of that organization, and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison.



### Meeting Details

**Location:** Raffle's Evendale Banquet Center, 10160 Reading Rd., Evendale, OH 45241

**Date:** Thursday, October 21, 2021

**Time:** (5:30) Sign-in and Social (6:30) Buffet Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting (7:30) Speaker

**Reservations:** Go to the Sign in Link to RSP for a reservation

If you are unable to make your reservation on line, please contact the Treasurer.

**Cost:** Dinner meeting and speaker – \$27.00 (reservation deadline Oct.15)

Business meeting and speaker only – \$7.00 (reservation appreciated but not required)

## President's Message

In the middle of a pandemic, like none for a century, CCWRT perseveres. After nearly two years of a threat to each of us and our family and friends, each of us must work out a way to live our lives with the threat. As we did earlier, your board, following reasonable public health guidelines, sets up our meetings cautiously. As you know, risk is inherent in all of our activities in the current (germ) climate.

Each of us makes a determination of acceptable risk to continue doing the things that we enjoy. Thank you for choosing to attend CCWRT meetings.

Our fall kickoff meeting, attended by over 40 members was a great success. The talk required a paradigm shift to think of "our" Civil War as part of a "**global struggle**" and the protagonist was a Cincinnati, General August Willich. He published a newspaper, here, in Cincinnati with abolitionist tones (in German).

Our board is still short several members: vice president, newsletter editor and membership/publicity chairman. I can send job descriptions to you to help decide. Like other organizations, this one requires some work and few have chosen to work. We meet 8 times annually and the board meets a few more.

All of our officers have served more than required by the constitution and we need NEW BLOOD (yes, from old men, and young ladies too.)

Thanks to Tom Williams, who keeps our internet operations going and contact with the National CWRT group. Our treasurer, Dave Stockdale, provided our quiz at the last meeting . . . even though very difficult for most of us, ONE table really shined.

Looking forward to seeing you on October 21.

*Eslly Caldwell, II,  
President*

## September Meeting

Cincinnati Round Table President Eslly Caldwell opened the meeting with the following remarks:

Every man, woman and child has been impacted by an unseen enemy – COVID-19. We have a few weapons: immunization, face masks, social distancing. We've relaxed a little bit in an effort to come close to 'normal' as much as possible. We've expanded the seating at dinner from three people to four people per table. I'm glad that you all came out tonight because everybody's taking a chance on what risks they're willing to take in this bad time. Please, do everything you can to stay safe so you can be back at a few more of these meetings.

We're still short a few officers in our organization. We especially need a vice president. Please, think about it if you want to be active with this organization to help us stay alive a little longer. We have several hold overs who've stayed on the board, like Tom Williams, Dave Stockdale and Dan Bauer, who've done everything over the years and just don't stop.

Tom Williams, our webmaster, reminded everyone why there was no Canister issued in September. Tom is just the publisher, not the editor. We need an editor for The Canister. What does the editor do? He or she collects columns regularly written by the president, the secretary, the program chair, and other officers, and collects and solicits book reviews and other short articles written by Round Table members and others. He or she might even write his or her own article now and then. Tom said he will be more than happy to put it all together and publish it, but he needs an editor.

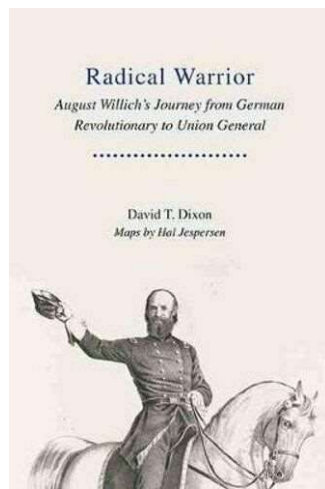
The position of Editor is an official board position. Esly invited anyone who was interested in being the Canister editor to see him during dinner or after the meeting.

After a sumptuous dinner and dessert, Dave Stockdale read the correct answers to the quiz questions and table 6 was the winner with seven correct out of ten. Three raffle ticket winners were drawn and those lucky winners got to select something from the book table.

Program Chairman, Dan Bauer announced the upcoming speakers:

In October, 2021, we will have Dan Zieser of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. He was originally going to speak in 2020 but that plan was canceled due to COVID. We're glad he has graciously agreed to come and speak to us on the subject of Union General George Thomas, nicknamed "the Rock of Chickamauga."

In November, 2021, we will have Eric Wittenberg, an award-winning historian, author, lecturer, tour guide and battlefield preservationist. He is a member of the Central Ohio Civil War Roundtable. His specialty is Civil War Cavalry Operations and much of his work is focused on the Army of the Potomac's Cavalry Corps and the cavalry battles at Gettysburg. He will be speaking on the Second Battle of Winchester.



The September speaker was David. T. Dixon, who last spoke to us in 2016 on The Lost Gettysburg Address. His most recent book, *Radical Warrior: August Willich's Journey from German Revolutionary to Union General* was the basis of his talk. He explained how a fifty-year-old German immigrant came to command an all-German regiment, Thirty-second Indiana Infantry, in the American Civil War. Discussing the Civil War in a global context, Mr. Dixon entertained the Roundtable members with various stories of Willich's escapades and helped everyone understand Willich's beliefs—social justice and slave liberation. He linked free-labor ideology to the crusade against chattel slavery. It was a fight not just to heal a divided nation, but to restore the very soul of that nation and to defend the rights of humankind.

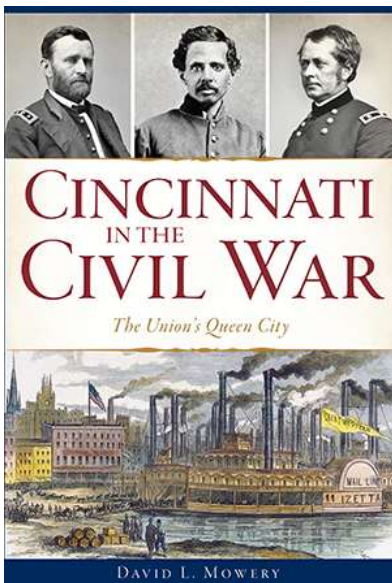
*Jenny Breeden,  
Secretary*

## September Quiz

1. The Civil War strained relations between the United States and Great Britain and her colonies. In November of 1861, the government of Queen Victoria deployed the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards, the 15<sup>th</sup> and 96<sup>th</sup> Regiments of Foot, the 4<sup>th</sup> Artillery Brigade, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Garrison Artillery Brigade to Canada to bolster colonial defenses. What event triggered that move?
2. What Northern state issued the first call for Black troops during the Civil War?

3. What was the official name of the Confederate prison at Andersonville, GA?
4. During the Civil War, the Federal government outlawed all commerce with the Confederacy, with one exception. Name the organization that was allowed to continue supplying its products to the South during the entire four-year period.
5. He passed away on April 13, 1933, at the age of 97, the last surviving Union general from the Civil War. An 1861 graduate of West Point, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at First Bull Run. He relinquished command of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine to Joshua Chamberlain just prior to Gettysburg, when he assumed brigade command in the XI Corps of the Army of the Potomac. He received a brevet promotion to major general in the Union Army (and brigadier general in the Regular Army) on March 13, 1865, following his success in the Second Battle of Fort Fisher. What was his name?
6. The Union suffered heavy casualties in front of the stone wall at the base of Marye's Heights during the Battle of Fredericksburg in December of 1862. Without a flag of truce and at extreme personal risk, this Confederate soldier ventured out to minister to the wounded still lying on the battlefield between the opposing lines. Soldiers on both sides watched without firing a shot as he moved among the wounded with canteens and blankets tending to Union and Confederate alike. What was the name of this "Angel of Marye's Heights?"
7. On June 14, 1864, as his troops were advancing toward Atlanta, Gen. William T. Sherman noticed that they were being observed by some Confederates atop Pine Mountain. So, he ordered an artillery fusillade to discourage their prying eyes. Unbeknownst to Sherman, the observer group included three Confederate generals. The first shot from the 5<sup>th</sup> Indiana Battery passed over the observers' heads. Two of the generals immediately moved to take cover but the third, Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk, hesitated too long and was killed instantly when he was struck by a 3-inch solid shot. Who were his two more fortunate compatriots?
8. What was "Company Q" in the Confederate Army?
9. Name the location of Gen. U.S. Grant's command post during the Battle of Missionary Ridge.
10. What was the name of Fort Henry's sister fort located on the opposite (west) bank of the Tennessee River?

## Book Review



*Cincinnati in the Civil War: The Union's Queen City* by David L. Mowery, The History Press, Charleston, SC 2021, 318 pp., softcover \$26.99.

*Cincinnati in the Civil War: The Union's Queen City* is our own Dave Mowery's latest work on the Civil War. It is a summary of the key events, people, and places associated with the City of Cincinnati during the war. He also covers the importance of Cincinnati contributions to the Union cause. This work by our author is superb. It is well written and extremely well researched. He has captured the important elements of the city's involvement in the war.

Cincinnati was a major manufacturing center. In 1861, the city was the third largest producer of manufactured goods in the United States, and was seventh in population. The immigrant population of the city was primarily Jewish, Irish, and German. These white minorities felt nearly the same oppression as African Americans. The author also points out how the minorities were not readily accepted in the city. Yet it was an important player in the Underground Railroad. Cincinnati was northern in geography, southern in

economics, and western in aspirations. A major portion of the commerce from Cincinnati was with the South. This economic trade was curtailed with the start of the Civil War; however, Cincinnati was able to redirect its production towards the war effort and the economy rebounded.

Several of the key topics that our author covers include the creation of Camp Dennison and its importance to the war effort as both a training site for the newly created Ohio regiments, and later as a hospital site for many of the sick and wounded soldiers. Another is the defense of Cincinnati from the Confederate threat in September of 1862, which required the building of many fortifications in Northern Kentucky. The author provides a complete listing of these sites, their location, and whether they still exist. He also delves into the handling of “Copperheads” and their political influence on the city. The major incident there was the arrest and removal of Clement Vallandigham, a Democratic candidate for Governor. Finally, our author expounds on John Hunt Morgan’s 1863 raid through Ohio and its impact on the city.

The best part of this book are the five appendices. The information covers: a list of the US Navy Steamers built, refitted, or purchased in Cincinnati; the location of Civil War fortifications constructed in the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area; a list of Civil War sites and their location in the Greater Cincinnati area; a section on Spring Grove Cemetery and the location of the burial sites of Civil War generals and other significant persons; and finally, a listing of all military units composed of Cincinnati or Hamilton County residents.



The author has provided the reader with an outstanding resource for the places and people that were involved in the Civil War. The research on this work is phenomenal and the narrative is clear and concise. The work is easy to read, and information provided is outstanding. Dave Mowery has contributed the best work on the location of specific sites within the Greater Cincinnati area and providing the reader with GPS coordinates. The author also informs us of which are available for public access, and which are on private property. This book is highly recommended for everyone interested in the Civil War as it pertains to the Greater Cincinnati area.

*Submitted by Thomas L. Breiner*

### Quiz Answers

1. The Trent Affair, in which the U.S.S. *San Jacinto* accosted the Royal Mail Ship *Trent* on the high seas and seized two Confederate emissaries: James Mason and John Slidell.
2. Rhode Island
3. Camp Sumter
4. American Bible Society
5. Adelbert Ames
6. Richard Rowland Kirkland
7. Joseph Johnston and William Hardee
8. The sick list
9. Orchard Knob
10. Ft. Heiman

### Nametags

If we didn't have a nametag for you at the September meeting, and it wasn't because you left it at home, please let the Treasurer know so we can have one ready for you this month.

## Future Presentations

November 18, 2021	Eric Wittenberg, Central Ohio CWRT Second Battle of Winchester
January 20, 2022	David Mowery, Cincinnati CWRT Cincinnati in the Civil War: Then and Now
February 17, 2022	Tom Breiner, Cincinnati CWRT Dick Ewell
March 17, 2022	Steve Phan, National Park Service Camp Nelson
April 21, 2022	Dan Welch, Emerging Civil War Jackson at Second Manassas
May 19, 2022	Craig Warren - Erie, PA Civil War Writings

## The Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

### Trustees

President: Esly Caldwell II	513-607-6598 (c)	<a href="mailto:ecaldwel2@gmail.com">ecaldwel2@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President: <b>VACANT</b>		
Treasurer: Dave Stockdale	513-310-9553	<a href="mailto:djrtstockdale@aol.com">djrtstockdale@aol.com</a>
Secretary: Jenny Breeden	859-261-0859	<a href="mailto:jennybree054@yahoo.com">jennybree054@yahoo.com</a>
Program Chair: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h)	<a href="mailto:dbauer002@cinci.rr.com">dbauer002@cinci.rr.com</a>
Newsletter Editor: <b>VACANT</b>		
Membership & Publicity: <b>VACANT</b>		
At Large: Mike Rogers	859-907-3096 (c)	<a href="mailto:rogersmb1981@yahoo.com">rogersmb1981@yahoo.com</a>
At Large: Lester Burgin		<a href="mailto:lesterburgin@gmail.com">lesterburgin@gmail.com</a>

### Committees

Activities: <b>VACANT</b>		
Preservation Projects: Mark Silbersack,		
Webmaster/Social Media: Tom Williams	513-861-1354 (h)	<a href="mailto:tom@jandtwilliams.com">tom@jandtwilliams.com</a>
CCWRT E-Mail Address		<a href="mailto:ccwrt@cincinnatiwrt.org">ccwrt@cincinnatiwrt.org</a>

**THE CANISTER** is regularly published eight times per year, in January, February, March, April, May, September, October, and November; sometimes more often, if we have a lot to say to our members, and sometimes less often when, as now, we don't have an editor. In the days before the widespread use of email, when **THE CANISTER** went by snail mail to all of our members and friends, the editor's job was admittedly onerous. But that's no longer the case. Please consider lending a hand to keep **THE CANISTER** going.

*Dave Stockdale, Treasurer  
(and Temporary Editor)*