



CINCINNATI
 CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT PO Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnatiwrt.org>
 January, 2008 Issue

Meeting Date: January 17, 2008

Place: Quality Hotel and Suites

Time: (6:00) Sign-in and Conversation

(6:45) Dinner: - Chicken Marsala, BLT Salad, Scalloped Potatoes, Carrots with Snow Peas,
 Jumbo Homemade Cookie

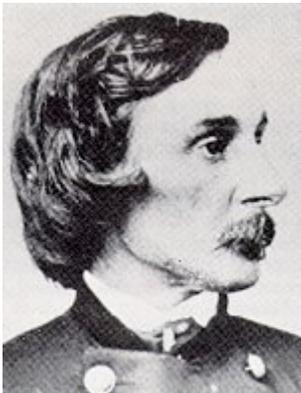
(A vegetarian meal option is available, if requested prior to the reservations cut-off date)

(7:45): Meeting and Program

Speaker: Dave Smith & Tom Breiner:

Topic: *CCWRT Relieved of Command at Five Forks: G.K. Warren Right or Wrong?*

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org; call it in to Bob Limoseth at **513.777.2160** (h); or email: rlimo@fuse.net. If you are making a reservation for more than yourself please provide the names of the others.



MG G. K. Warren

MG Phillip H. Sheridan



Our two speakers for the January meeting are no strangers to the podium. Dave Smith, who has been a member of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table since 1986, has spoken to the organization 11 different times; Tom Breiner, whose membership with the CCWRT began in 1983, has spoken to the group on 8 previous occasions. Their combined numbers of talks they have given to Civil War Round Tables across the country are too numerous to count. Both speakers have been very active in the supporting roles

of the Cincinnati CWRT. Dave served as the CCWRT's President twice, was its Webmaster

and Program Chair for many years, and was its Newsletter Editor for over a decade. Tom was also President of the Round Table twice, and held the position of Treasurer of the group for many years. Dave currently serves as Dean of Academic Affairs at Brown Mackie College in Northern Kentucky. He is the editor of the book entitled *Compelled to Appear in Print: The Vicksburg Manuscript of General John C. Pemberton* (1999). Tom is a retired Captain of the U.S. Navy Reserves. He graduated in 1972 from the U. S. Naval Academy and in 1982 from Xavier University.

Tom and Dave will be giving us a talk with a unique presentation format – a head-to-head debate about a Civil War topic! While David Mowery, CCWRT Program Chair, will moderate the debate, Tom and Dave will take opposite sides on one of the controversial decisions of the Civil War: the dismissal from command of Union Major-General Gouverneur Kemble Warren.

General G. K. Warren was born in Cold Spring, New York, on January 8, 1830. He attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and graduated second in his class in 1850. A month after the outbreak of the Civil War, Warren was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the soon-to-be-famous 5th New York “Duryee Zouaves” Infantry. He saw action at Bethel Church, Gaines Mill, Second Manassas, and Antietam. He exhibited great courage at the Battle of Gaines Mill, where he received a wound while leading a brigade of Sykes’s Division into the heavy fighting there. Warren rose in rank, and achieved promotion to Major General on August 8, 1863, after he had become a national hero for organizing the successful defense of Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. Warren was serving as Chief Engineer for the Army of the Potomac at the time. Military historians often cite Warren’s defense of Little Round Top as one of the most studied tactical defenses of a topographical feature in the history of warfare.

General Warren took command of the Army of the Potomac’s V Corps before the start of General Ulysses Grant’s Overland Campaign in May 1864. Warren ably led the Corps for nearly a year through the great battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor, and the Siege of Petersburg. However, it was on April 1, 1865, at the Battle of Five Forks, Virginia, where Warren’s military career took a dreadful turn. His battlefield superior, Major-General Philip Sheridan, relieved Warren of command after Sheridan accused Warren of disobeying orders and dereliction of duty at Five Forks (although the battle was one of the Army of the Potomac’s greatest victories of the war). Even worse, it was discovered that General Grant had given Sheridan permission beforehand to dismiss Warren at Sheridan’s own discretion.

Was Sheridan right about Warren’s conduct at the Battle of Five Forks? Did Warren deserve what he received? Or had Warren become a man with a target on his back, with Grant and Sheridan harboring a personal vendetta against him? Dave and Tom will debate the facts, and will then let their audience decide the fate of General Warren!

Miscellaneous Announcements

Inclement Weather Plan: Yes, it’s that time of year when winter weather might force us to cancel a meeting. While that is unlikely, it has only happened two times in the last fifteen years, we wanted to provide you some options for getting last minute information on meeting day. If the weather turns bad, and the streets are difficult to travel, you can check the following sources to determine if the meeting is still on or if it has been cancelled.

1. Check the home page on our web site at www.cincinnatiwrt.org. We will post a simple update informing the membership that the meeting has either been cancelled or it is still on.
2. Call the Quality Hotel & Suites at 513.351.6000 and inquire about the status of the meeting. If we decide to cancel, they will be the first to know and their front desk people will be informed.
3. Call John Linnenberg, President, at 513.607.4002 (business) or 513.922.3999 (home)
4. Call Bob Limoseth, Vice President, at 513.777.2160.

John and Bob will make the decision on the status of the meeting based on the condition of the roads, the safety of our members, the status of the speaker and the Quality Hotel’s ability to serve us.

Ed Bearss to Speak Nearby: Well-known history guide and Civil War scholar Edwin C. Bearss will present “The Overland Campaign” at the Gaslight Theater in Georgetown, Ohio at the corner of Main and State on Saturday, February 16th, 2008 at 2:00 P.M. The lecture is sponsored by the U.S. Grant Homestead Association, an organization which celebrates the life, history, and legacy of Ulysses S. Grant through preservation and education.

The cost of admission is \$10.00 per person. Proceeds will go to the U.S. Grant Homestead Association and the Civil War Preservation Trust, which is a national organization working to save America’s Civil War battlefields. Tickets should be purchased in advance from the Thompson House Gallery, 203 E. Grant Ave., Georgetown, OH 45121 (phone 937-378-4222).

The U.S. Grant Homestead and the Grant Schoolhouse, both located in Georgetown, will also be open for tours from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on February 16th. A fee of \$3.00 per person will admit you to both sites. For more information about these Land of Grant historic sites, please see their website at www.usgrantboyhoodhome.org.

Standing Reservations List: If you are regular in your attendance and only miss one or two meetings a year you might want to consider the convenience of our Standing Reservations List. Members on the list don’t worry about calling in each month to make a dinner reservation because they have already indicated “I’ll be there.” They only call when they can’t make the meeting. If you are interested in having your name put on the list see Jim at the check-in table. He’ll have you sign the enrollment form and no more last minute worries about forgetting to call in. As with all meals, if the standing dinner reservation is not cancelled prior to the Sunday cut-off date the week of the meeting, and the Round Table has to pay for the meal, the member will be billed for the cost of the dinner. Members who were enrolled in the program last year automatically carry over to this years Standing Reservation List.

Preservation Fund Update: At the September meeting we announced that we are not going to start this campaign year with a Dedicated Preservation Project. We hope, however, that this will not stop our members from making individual contributions to the Preservation Fund. The Round Table remains committed to supporting preservation and educational activities related to America’s great civil war. If something comes to our attention that warrants support we will bring a recommendation forward to the membership. In the mean time we would like to see the Preservation Fund balance grow so that we can make even more meaningful contributions during the sesquicentennial years beginning in 2011. Your continued support will be appreciated.

New Quiz Masters: Alan Berenson and Dawn Mowery are your new quiz masters. They would love to include some quiz questions from the membership. So if you have a question you would like to see in a future quiz, please send it to Dawn at dmowery11@fuse.net or give it to Dawn at one of our meetings. Please include the question, the answer and the source.

Last Call for Proposed Fortification Study Group: Jack Simon has proposed to set up an informal discussion group within our Round Table on the topic of Civil War fortifications. The group would meet three or four times a year on a day and time different from the Round Table’s regular meetings. No dues, no officers, just informal presentations and discussion of any facet of Civil War fortifications. Possible locations could include a library or a restaurant. Membership in the Round Table would be required. If you are interested, please contact Jack by phone or email as listed in the CWRT Officers section on the last page of this newsletter.

Membership: At the November meeting we welcomed new members Rebecca Burket and Randy Donohue.



Cincinnati Civil War Round Table November Quiz

1. What is meant by “Waving the bloody shirt”?
2. Which two former Confederate Generals were pall-bearers at General U.S. Grant’s funeral?
3. Who commanded the Washington Navy Yard at the outbreak of the Civil War until his promotion to Rear Admiral in July 1863?
4. On Monday, March 4, 1861, who administered the Presidential Oath of Office to Abraham Lincoln?
5. Serving in General Joseph Wheeler’s Cavalry Corps were the 3rd Confederate Cavalry, the 8th Confederate Cavalry, and the 10th Confederate Cavalry. Why were these units designated “Confederate” instead of state units?
6. What are skillygalee, lobsouse and cush?

Bonus: Why did John Logan resign his seat in the House of Representatives in late March of 1862?

Answers to Quiz

1. It’s a Republican political tactic to remind voters of southern secession and urging them to vote for the party of the Union and Lincoln.
2. Simon B. Buckner and Joseph E. Johnston
3. John A. B. Dahlgren
4. Chief Justice Robert B. Taney
5. They were volunteers just like everyone else. Companies of cavalry were accepted independently and later joined with other independent companies to make a regiment. Often there were not enough companies from a single state available in a camp to form a new regiment, so this resulted in regiments with companies representing more than one state and they were given the designation Confederate.
6. They are names given to food made with hardtack.

Bonus: He was promoted to Brigadier General on March 21st. The highest rank a sitting U.S. Congressman could hold was colonel.

November Presentation, Summarized by Pat Homan :

Gary Ecelbarger presented an excellent presentation on Major General John “Blackjack” Logan at the November meeting. As Dr. Ecelbarger explained in his opening, this was a presentation about Logan and Grant as their careers were closely tied together throughout the war.

When Grant was given command of the 21st IL, it was a hollow command. The unit was comprised of 90-day soldiers, whose enlistments were expiring. Grant had the seemingly impossible task of getting the vast majority of the men to re-enlist, or he would be out of a job. Grant sought the assistance of a visiting state congressman, McClernand, who was accompanied by a fellow Illinois congressman, John Logan. Logan was a Jackson Democrat, who represented the eleven southern counties of the state, and had spoken publicly against abolition. At McClernand’s urging, Grant permitted Logan to speak after him, but he did so with great misgivings. Logan’s talk was so inspiring that the Regiment re-enlisted and was mustered into Federal service. Grant did not forget this.

They met again in September, when Grant is the Southern Illinois District Commander, which included a Brigade headed by BG McClernand and the 71st Il Inf. commanded by Col. John Logan. Logan had been one of the many congressmen who journeyed to Bull Run to watch the battle and ended up tending to wounded on the field. He enlisted in Illinois and is given command of a regiment. He is with Grant at Fort Donelson, where he is severely wounded. While he is recovering, a list of proposed promotions to Brigadier General is sent to Grant for his comments. He strongly urges that Logan be promoted, and further asks that he be assigned to Grant’s command. The recommendation is followed and BG Logan returns to Grant’s Army. This would happen again, when Lincoln snubs Logan for promotion to Major General a year later and Grant again intercedes on his behalf. Lincoln acquiesces to his favorite and Logan is promoted. Logan proves Grant’s judgment is correct and is an

excellent Division and later Corps Commander. At the end of the War, he Commands the Army of Tennessee. His service is rewarded after the war by being offered a Regular Army Commission as a Brigadier General, a rare honor.

Dr. Ecelbarger then posed the question, what made Logan so effective. He starts his flag rank as CG, Third Div, 17th Corps (McPhearson). He participates in numerous actions at Vicksburg. As Commander, 15th Corps, he participates at Resaca, Atlanta, and then commands the Army after McPherson's death. Logan fully understands the principle of Mass. He is one of the few Civil War Commanders to do so. (*there is an interesting talk*) An example is his action at Champion Hill, where he hits the Confederate line with his entire Division, and wins. He is equally adept on the defensive as demonstrated at Ezra Church and Jonesboro. His Corps holds off attacks of heavier forces, and suffers 950 casualties to the Confederate losses of over 7000.

Logan looks like a General, which is important. He appears taller than he actually was as he was usually on horseback. His huge mustache, long dark hair, dark complexion and his penetrating eyes are often cited. He was a superb horseman, as was Grant. Again, skills respected by soldiers. His working his way up through the ranks as Regimental, Brigade, Division and Corps Commander, gave him an excellent grasp of the problems and challenges of each position, as well as an understanding of the tactical needs of these levels. He led from the front, on a coal black horse, named *Slasher*, which inspired his men.

Logan develops both personal and official bonds with his officers and men; a skill taught today at the Army's advanced officer courses. He clearly was an inspiring leader as his men knew that he would lead, and would undergo the same hardships they did.

Dr Ecelbarger also pointed out that this pre-war anti-abolitionist and Jackson-Democrat undergoes a significant change during the war. After the War, he is a staunch supporter of Civil Rights, leading Frederick Douglas to support his two failed attempts to get the Republican nomination for the presidency.

After the War, he serves two and a half terms as a congressman. He helps start Decoration (Memorial) Day, heads the GAR. He nominates Grant for President at the 1868 Republican Convention. After Grant becomes President, there is a falling out between them. It is surmised that Logan expected an appointment that did not come. He does support Grant for his second term. He seeks the nomination in 1880 (Garfield gets it) and in 1884, but is instead given the Vice President's position to James Blaine. The ticket loses to Grover Cleveland in one of our more interesting campaigns. He dies in Washington in 1886, and lay in state in the Capital Rotunda, where thousands of his former soldiers passed in a final review.

Book Review by Dan Reigle

Both Prayed to the Same God: Religion and Faith in the American Civil War.

Robert J. Miller. Lanham MD: Lexington Books, 2007. 243 pages. \$29.95, paper.

<<http://www.lexingtonbooks.com/>>. Review copy provided by Lexington Books. Reviewed by Dan Reigle.

This is an important book for anyone interested in the history of the Civil War era beyond a narrow "battles and generals" focus. Over the past fifty years, historians such as Bell Irvin Wiley, James I. Robertson Jr., Reid Mitchell, Drew Gilpin Faust, and James M. McPherson have expanded the field to examine the experiences and viewpoints of the "common" soldier and sailor and their families at home, in addition to the major military and political figures and events of the war. However, "of the thousands of books written about the American Civil War, few have focused on its crucial religious dimensions," according to McPherson's preface to this book. In that context, author Robert J. Miller sets out to produce "an overview of the topic—a comprehensive summary of the central issues which frame the topic of religion and faith in the American Civil War." In my opinion, he has accomplished this objective admirably.

Robert Miller is a Catholic priest, the pastor of St. Dorothy Church in Chicago, who in addition to his advanced professional education in religion, has been involved in the Chicago CWRT for several years and researched this book during a six-month sabbatical at Notre Dame. His preparation and research are clearly evident in the book. He covers a **lot** of ground:- America's "Great Paradox:" the development of race-based slavery and its moral impasse with ideals of liberty and freedom.- The role of religion in antebellum America, including the role and importance of the conflicting approaches to interpreting the Bible and its meaning for slavery.- Religious divisiveness, the involvement of religious beliefs and leaders in the escalation of sectional

conflict, and the effect of the slavery-based breakups of the three largest Protestant denominations as a prelude to Southern secession.- Religious support systems during the war, including the “invisible institution” of slave religion, military chaplains, charitable giving and organizations, and revivalism.- Post-war influences, such as the Lost Cause belief system, expansion of African-American church life, and unification of religion and patriotism into a civic religion.- The profound theological concepts in President Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address, from which the words of the book’s title are drawn: “Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God’s assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men’s faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes.”

This overview approach is perhaps the only possible way to approach a subject of this breadth and complexity. A very important perspective that Miller develops early in the book is the difference between religion (organized, formal, institutional) and faith (personal, belief-based, motivational). Distinguishing between the structural and the personal dimensions of religion and faith in the Civil War is a helpful concept when attempting to understand events and issues that range from the life and death experiences of an 18-year-old farmer/infantryman to Protestant denominationalism to the prewar immigration of European Catholics to the post-war Lost Cause hero worship of Robert E. Lee.

In building this outline of major issues, Father Miller relies primarily on several significant sources, including Mark Noll’s *America’s God* and *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis*; Randall Miller, Harry Stout, and Charles Wilson’s *Religion and the American Civil War*; Ronald White’s *Lincoln’s Greatest Speech*; Sydney Ahlstrom’s *Religious History of the American People*; and the “common soldier” studies of Wiley, Robertson, and Mitchell. To me, these examples illustrate the depth and quality of Father Miller’s research behind this book, and provide many suggestions for further reading.

In light of my opinion that this is an excellent book that offers an excellent introduction to a complicated, multi-faceted subject, I would offer only these two points of critique. Perhaps they are not actually critique, so much as expression of a desire to have “heard more” on these two subjects.

First, I fully agree with Father Miller’s emphasis on the positive effects of bringing religion and faith “out of the shadows” for a more thorough examination and, frankly, for acknowledging the positive effects of its impact on morale, on its role in the enormous charitable support for the military, and on resolution of the Great Paradox. However, it seems to me that there is room and need for greater examination of the other side of these issues. What about the half of the soldier population who were not known to have a religious affiliation or a personal belief system? How should we reconcile the viewpoints of participants who did not consider religion or faith to be essential to the outcome of the war? (As an example, Confederate General E. Porter Alexander wrote after the war, as quoted in Noll’s *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis* that: “It is customary to say that ‘Providence did not intend that we should win.’ But Providence did not care a row of pins about it.”) What about the proportion (even if small) of the chaplain population who did not live up to the calling of their profession, whether through lack of courage, unwillingness to share the hardships of camp life or of the march, or their inability to address the real-life issues of men in their charge? How should we think about the issues of stress, desertion, breakdowns in combat or in camp life, or post-war stress in light of religion and faith? I do not intend this as a criticism of the current book, perhaps so much as an indication of the questions that the book draws to the front.

Second, while the book confronts the role of religion in the pre-war debates on slavery and includes an excellent chapter on the importance of religious activity among slaves, it makes little mention of the intertwining of religious beliefs and leaders in the post-war decades that eviscerated the XIIIth, XIVth, and XVth Amendments and later codified the race-based exclusion of African-Americans from political, social, and economic participation in both North and South. It is obvious that Father Miller is quite aware and sensitive to these issues, so this is not a critique of his viewpoint. It is more a statement of the potential value of expanding his work in that direction, perhaps drawing upon and expanding on the work of W. E. B. DuBois, John Hope Franklin, and David Blight.

Perhaps these points are more indicative of the success of the book, than they are of any shortcomings. A book on this subject that did not lead to further questions or stimulate deeper thinking would probably not be very worthwhile. This book is **both** worthwhile and stimulating to read, in addition to providing a foundational basis of ideas and facts from which further study can proceed.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

To facilitate the printing and timely distribution of the monthly newsletter, information for it should be submitted to the editor no later than the following dates:

January 28th, 2008

February 29th, 2008

March 28th, 2008

April 25th, 2008

Information may be emailed to waldbill@xavier.edu

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

2008 Programs

February 21, 2008

March 20, 2008

April 17, 2008

May 15, 2008

September 18, 2008

October 16, 2008

November 20, 2008

Bob McLaurin, CCWRT: *River Navies: The Forgotten Warriors*

Gary Q. Johnson, CCWRT: *The CSS Hunley, A Weapon Ahead of Its Time*

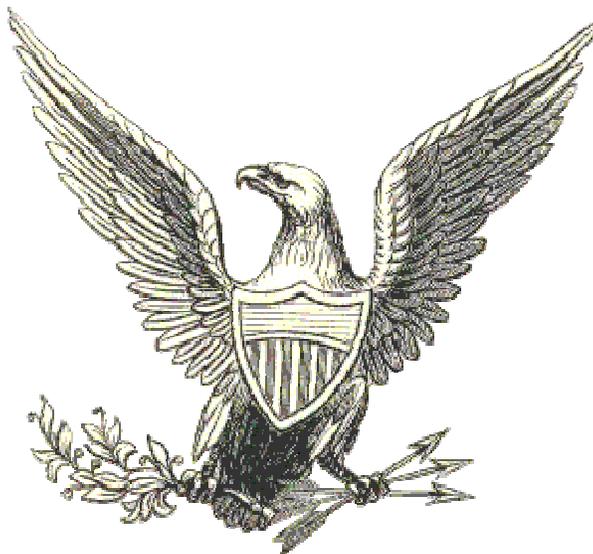
Raymond Mulesky: *Thunder From a Clear Sky: Stovepipe Johnson's
Confederate Raid on Newburgh, Indiana*

Joseph Reinhart: *August Willich's Gallant Dutchmen: Bullets, Bayonets and Beer"*

John F. Marszalek: *Topic TBD*

Roger Billings, CCWRT: *Lincoln at the Civil War Battlefields*

Edwin C. Bearss: *Arlington, VA - 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 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. If you are joining for the first time, there is a one-time initiation fee of \$20.

Dinner reservations are required, and can be made prior to the reservations deadline either by an email to reservations@cincinnatiwrt.org 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 \$25. 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. 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 caterer will not be preparing food in the hotel kitchen, but will be transporting food from their facility to the hotel. Therefore, **Late Reservations** (after Sunday prior to 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 Sunday deadline means that CCWRT has guaranteed payment to the caterer 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 CCWRT's 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 or cancel will also be billed for the meal.

Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Quality Hotel and Suites, 4747 Montgomery Road, Norwood, Ohio (**telephone 513-351-6000**). If traveling Interstate 75, exit at Exit #7, Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and travel east to the Montgomery Road exit. After exiting, "double-back" by turning left across the bridge, turning left again after the bridge and turning left at the light onto Montgomery. If coming from Interstate 71, also exit at Exit #7, Ohio 562 (The Norwood Lateral) and go west to the Montgomery Road exit. After exiting, continue straight to the light and turn left onto Montgomery. The Quality is on the right, and there is plenty of free parking.

CINCINNATI CWRT OFFICERS:

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Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!