



CINCINNATI
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Cincinnati CWRT P. O. Box 621082 Cincinnati, Ohio 45262 <http://www.cincinnati-cwrt.org>
November, 2011 Issue

Meeting Date: November 17, 2011

Place: The Drake Center

(6:00) Sign-in and Social

(6:30) Dinner

(7:15) Business Meeting

(7:30) Speaker

**Dinner Menu: Roasted turkey and dressing, candied sweet potatoes,
calico corn, tossed salad, pie**

Vegetarian Option: Available upon request

Speaker: Peter Cozzens, Rockville, MD

Topic: Cahaba: The Forgotten Prison

Reservations: If you do not have an Automatic Reservation, please remember to email your meeting reservation to reservations@cincinnati-cwrt.org; call it in to Tom Breiner at 513-984-3101 (h); or email: tbreiner@fuse.net. 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, November 9, 2011.**

About our November Speaker:

Author and historian Peter Cozzens will make his first appearance in front of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table at its November meeting. Cozzens works as a Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. government. In 2002 he received the American Foreign Service Association's highest award, given annually to one Foreign Service Officer for exemplary moral courage, integrity, and creative dissent. He also received an Alumni Achievement award from his alma mater Knox College, from which he graduated summa cum laude.

Cozzens is also a prolific writer of Civil War and American Indian War articles and books. He is best known for his detailed battle and campaign studies. Sixteen of Peter's critically acclaimed books have appeared as selections on the Book of the Month Club, History Book Club, and/or the Military Book Club. Cozzens' *This*

Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga (1996) and *The Shipwreck of Their Hopes: The Battles for Chattanooga* (1996) were both listed as ‘Main Selections’ of the History Book Club and were chosen by



Peter Cozzens

Civil War Magazine as two of the 100 greatest works ever written on the Civil War. His most recent book, *Shenandoah 1862: Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign* (2008), received a *Choice Magazine* Outstanding Academic Title award in 2010. The prestigious Easton Press reprinted *This Terrible Sound* for inclusion in its Library of the Civil War collection. Cozzens also was the creator of and series editor for Stackpole Books’ *Frontier Classics*. He has appeared on Book TV and the PBS series *History Detectives*. He is a member of the Advisory Council of the Lincoln Prize and the editorial board of the *Washington Independent Review of Books*. Peter is currently at work on a history of the Indian Wars of the American West to be published by Alfred A. Knopf in 2015.

Civil War prisons were notorious for unspeakable suffering, horrible conditions, and brutal commandants. Readers of diaries and letters from soldiers incarcerated at Andersonville or Camp Douglas, for example, often shudder at the experiences endured by the POWs at these prison camps. A remarkable exception to the common POW camp was the little-known Confederate prison at Cahaba, Alabama. Thanks to the humanity of the commandant, Col. H. A. M. Henderson, the mortality rate at Cahaba was just 2.5%, a remarkable figure when compared to the average Civil War prison mortality rate of 15%. The story of Cahaba and of how Henderson kept his inmates alive

will be the subject of Peter Cozzens’s talk.



President’s Report

..... **Pat Homan**

This will be a brief report as I am behind on Dan’s deadline. I have two topics for your consideration and, hopefully, your action. First, Alan Berenson has given us a very important preservation project for this year. This one hits right here in the Queen City and fills a long neglected part of our history. The marker which will note the site of the Burnett House and its role in the Civil War; will provide many Cincinnatians and visitors with information on a site that was key by what happened there, not because of its location. I join Alan in urging all members to make a small donation. We would like to see a 100% participation in this project. I learned in twenty years working for a non-profit organization that it was far better to have a large number of small donors than a few big ones. Small donors carry most organizations. So, if you can afford a larger donation, we will cheerfully accept it but if you can only make a small donation, we will just as cheerfully accept that. These donations are tax-exempt.

The next item is my repeated request to all to recruit new members. With many museums, universities and other groups presenting programs on the War, the interest level is being peaked. This is an excellent time to talk to others about our group and to invite them to attend a meeting. I encourage you to pick up a copy of the brochure Mike Rogers printed which tells about us and lists the schedule of speakers for this year. It is an excellent recruiting tool.

We enjoyed a topnotch presentation in October and I was pleased that the meeting was well attended. I am looking forward to seeing most of you in November.



Items of Interest:

Field Trip 2012: Mark your calendars for the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table spring field trip. The dates are April 20, 21, 22, and 23. The destination is Richmond, VA. The battlefield is the Seven Days. Highlights will include the following: Dabbs House (Lee's Headquarters), Mechanicsville, Gaines's Mill, Savage's Station, White Oak Swamp, Frayser's Farm/Glendale, Malvern Hill. The tour guide is Bob Krick of the NPS. Tour coordinator is Dan Bauer. Additional details to follow.

As an aside, the Civil War Preservation Trust is asking for donations for the purchase of land at Gaines's Mills, VA. As part of this effort, the CWPT website has posted a video of Bob Krick discussing the significance of the property. The video can be seen at www.civilwar.org/GainesMill2011. This is a three for one deal as you can see Bobby Krick in action, learn about Gaines's Mill, and perhaps consider making a donation.

Gettysburg Remembrance Day: In conjunction with the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address (November 19), the Gettysburg Foundation and the Friends of Gettysburg light over 3,500 luminary candles, one placed on each soldier's grave in the Gettysburg Soldiers' National Cemetery. This serves to remember and honor the sacrifices made by those who fought at Gettysburg. **Paul Ashworth**, a Civil War buff and gifted photographer, served as a volunteer for the event in 2010. On Wednesday, November 16, 2011, 7:00 PM, at the Cold Spring Branch of the Campbell County Public Library, he'll share his photos from last year's Remembrance Day plus some other interesting things about Gettysburg, including a few ghostly stories and pictures! The Cold Spring Branch is located just south of the entrance to Northern Kentucky University at 3920 Alexandria Pike. Contact person: Janet Arno, Adult Services Librarian. Phone 859.781.6166, ext. 28 jarno@cc-pl.org. [Registration Required](#)

Welcome! Please extend a hearty welcome to our newest member, Sam Duran, who was voted in at the October meeting.

2011-2012 Cincinnati Civil War Preservation Fund Campaign: The CCWRT will be erecting a marker commemorating the site of the Burnet House, one of the most important Civil War era landmarks in our area's history. This project has been an unfulfilled wish by our group for a number of years and when the management of the site's current building (the 4th/Vine Tower, formally the Central Trust Tower) enthusiastically granted us permission to formally mark the place with a plaque the wheels began to turn. We expect to install on a prominent outside wall a 33X43 inch aluminum plaque which will have space adequate

for substantial copy as well as a visual of the formerly described "finest hotel in the world."



Keith Rocco Print to be Raffled

order for the latter to initiate his famous charge at Gettysburg. Each donation will receive as many raffle tickets as the amount of his/her donation is divisible by \$25, but any size donation will be gratefully welcomed. The raffle will be conducted at our May 2012 meeting.

Funding for this project is currently underway. All donations up to the first \$1000 will be matched by the Round Table's Preservation Fund, an amount unprecedented in our fund raising history. As if additional motivation is needed for this significant memorial marker we have been very fortunate in having a generous member contribute a signed and numbered print as a raffle prize of Keith Rocco's famous depiction of Generals Longstreet and Pickett just moments before the former gives the

Income tax deductible donations can be given to Alan Berenson, Preservation Chairperson, or our treasurer, Jim Stewart, or made out to Cincinnati CWRT Preservation Fund, P.O. Box 621082, Cincinnati, Ohio 45262. We all look forward to finally seeing that this important local landmark receive the public recognition that has long been overdue.

Civilwar.com: Our current preservation project and the rest of this season's speaker list are published at civilwar.com. Civilwar.com offers an outlet to help gain awareness to a very broad community of Civil War enthusiasts beyond our local area. The posting can be found here: <http://www.civilwar.com/news/recent-postings/150477-cincinnati-civil-war-round-table-2011-2012-preservation-campaign-and-speaker-series.html> Civilwar.com also offers an interactive battle map, which allows you to select a state and look up every battle that took place within that state. You can view information such as commanders, units involved, casualties, and a description. This is a very interesting and educational tool, and many of our members might find it interesting. The interactive battle map can be found at: <http://www.civilwar.com/resources/battle-map.html>.

Pinnacle Award: Phillip Seyfrit has been awarded the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance's Pinnacle Award for accomplishments at the Battle of Richmond, KY Visitor Center and preservation efforts for the Battle of Richmond. Seyfrit is a member of the Madison County, KY Civil War Roundtable and past speaker (Oct, 2010) to our Roundtable. Your newsletter editor visited the Richmond Battlefield on 8/10/2011 and was pleasantly surprised how worthwhile the visit was. The laser light battlefield map in the visitor's center would be the envy of any Civil War visitor center in the country.

October Presentation:

... submitted by Andy Simmons

In October, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table was proud to have Frank J. Williams, former Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court and a leading scholar on Abraham Lincoln, make a presentation entitled, *Abraham Lincoln: The Evolving Commander-in-Chief*. While President Lincoln was of his peers one of the least qualified to serve as commander-in-chief, his evolution from country lawyer to President put him at the center of the wheel.

Justice Williams predicated his remarks on Lincoln's innate greatness through the words of historian Alan Brinkley, who noted that: "Great presidents are products not just of their own talents and ambitions, but of the circumstances they inherit." Without the Civil War, there is not the great general; and if there is not the great occasion, there is no great statesman. If Lincoln had lived in a time of peace, no one would know his name now.



Frank J. Williams

it caused confusion over the re-supply to Fort Sumter with far reaching results. Never again would Lincoln sign an order without reading it. Winfield Scott and Irwin McDowell advised against fighting First Manassas on the grounds that more time was needed to drill and discipline the troops. Lincoln disregarded the advice of his professional military advisors, succumbing instead to the public who clamored for action. After that, Lincoln would be more careful before ignoring such advice. By 1862, his increased knowledge of military affairs and his growing self-confidence caused him to become not only the greatest wartime president, but perhaps the greatest general in the federal army save Grant.

The Constitution provides that the President shall be Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States. This confers a vast undefined power, the limits of which have never been fully explored and which test our mettle even today. Lincoln invoked the Commander-in-Chief clause of the Constitution to justify measures some considered to be those of a dictator. He assembled an army, called out the militia,

Although Lincoln had little military to prepare him for the Civil War, he did spend ninety days in the State Militia during the Black Hawk War. Lincoln later joked that his only combat experience was with the pesky mosquitoes. While short, Justice Williams believes that his war experience should not be underestimated. His men reported him as a kind-hearted, noble man, who did his duty well and had a somewhat good eye for military affairs. His experience would later prove invaluable when he lead the citizen soldiers of the Civil War. He understood that sharing equally in their hardships and possessing an absence of self importance were the primary bases to provide leadership and to bind the men to him.

Due to the severity of the war, the lack of adequate leaders, and lack of precedent delineating the powers of the Commander-in-Chief gave Lincoln little choice but to take part in the conduct of the

war. Not unexpectedly, some of his early actions revealed mistakes. Signing an order without reading

closed the post office to treasonable correspondence, closed southern ports by blockade, and suspended the writ of habeas corpus in certain parts of the country. He later instituted a draft. The Emancipation Proclamation was first instituted as a military order from the Commander-in-Chief, freeing slaves in states then in rebellion and authorizing the military to enforce that order. Refusing to engage Chief Justice Roger Taney in a showdown over the constitutionality of the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, Lincoln skillfully avoided a constitutional crisis. Instead, applying his political genius and using his astute understanding of the people, he asked Congress to either ratify his actions or enact something else. Congress ratified every one of his actions.

Lincoln had qualities that made him a great wartime president. One was patience; he knew it would take time for people to accept change. However, he could assess public will and impose that will on opponents by the sheer force of his personality. He was also pragmatic. He was unwilling to be hamstrung by established doctrine or protocol. Lincoln revered the law and the Declaration of Independence, calling it “an apple of gold, framed in silver,” but he would always consider an unconventional approach. Lincoln succeeded because of these qualities and because of his keen political sensitivity, his deft touch as a manager, his willingness to make a hard call while assuming full responsibility, and perhaps mostly, his humor and humanity.

Finally, Justice Williams tells us that not only should Lincoln be remembered for his lack of selfishness and his lack of desire of power for power’s sake, but also for creating the modern command system. Under the new system, a joint product of Lincoln and Congress, Grant was named general in chief in charge with the function of planning and directing the movement of the armies. Henry Halleck was appointed Chief of Staff to function as a communicator between Lincoln and Grant and Grant and his Department heads. Lincoln would be Commander-in-Chief. Grant conformed his strategy from Lincoln’s grand plan. This system contained elements studied by students of the military and leaders in many nations. Abraham Lincoln, without fully realizing his part, made a large contribution to the story of command organization.



Future Presentations:

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| January 19, 2012 | Gary Q. Johnson, CCWRT
<i>The Squeeze in the Anaconda Plan; America’s First 600 Ship Navy</i> |
| February 16, 2012 | Jill Holt, CCWRT
<i>Women Soldiers in the Civil War</i> |
| March 15, 2012 | David L. Mowery, CCWRT & OCWTC
<i>America’s Longest Cavalry Ride: Morgan’s 1863 Raid Around Cincinnati</i> |
| April 19, 2012 | Thomas R. Flagel, Columbia State Community College
<i>Appomattox: The Place of Lee’s Surrender and a National Resurrection</i> |
| May 17, 2012 | Lesley J. Gordon, University of Akron
<i>So Much Suffering: The 16th Connecticut Infantry Volunteers in War and Memory</i> |
| September, 2012 | Charles Bracelen Flood, Richmond, KY
<i>Ulysses S. Grant’s Final Victory</i> |
| October, 2012 | W. Hunter Lesser, Elkins, WV
<i>The First Campaign: Western Virginia, 1861</i> |

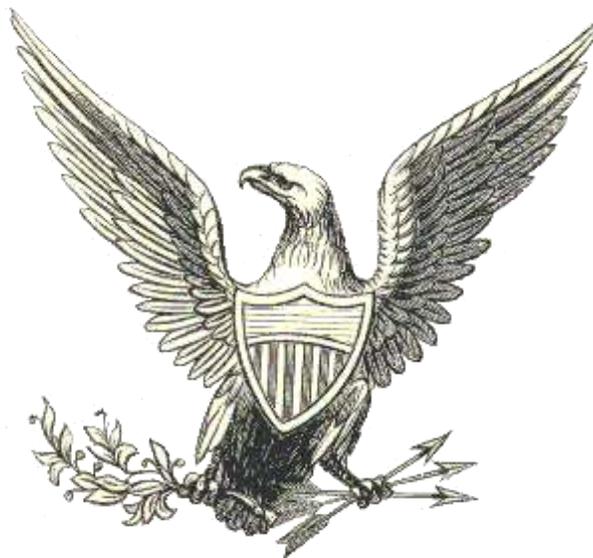
October Quiz:

Questions:

1. Dubbed “Queen of the Confederacy”, she was also the only woman to appear on Confederate currency. Name her.
2. True or False. General Meade was not at the surrender in Wilmer McLean’s home at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.
3. Where is Leggett’s Hill? What was it called before its 1864 name change?
4. On June 26, 1862, Major General John Pope was ordered to lead a new Federal army in Virginia. What was the name of this army?
5. General Pemberton, sensing that the time had come to surrender the city of Vicksburg, rode out to meet Grant and to seek terms. What surrender terms did Pemberton ultimately accept from Grant?

Answers:

1. Lucy Pickens
2. True. He was not there.
3. Atlanta and Bald Hill
4. Army of Virginia
5. The offer of parole to the entire Vicksburg garrison.



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, lifetime, 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 \$28. 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 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 and take the elevators to your right to level A, go to your right and Motivation Meeting Room G is located at the end of the hallway.

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Don't Forget to Bring a Friend!