

THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



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April 17, 2025 Program

Meade and Lee at Gettysburg: A Study in Logistics

Presented by

Kent Masterson Brown

We are pleased to host Kent Masterson Brown as our speaker for the April 17, 2025, meeting. Mr. Brown will draw upon both his recent books: ***Retreat from Gettysburg*** and ***Meade at Gettysburg***. Kent will examine how logistics not only affected the fighting capabilities of the two commanders at Gettysburg, but their operations after the fighting ended.

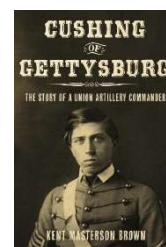
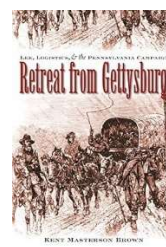
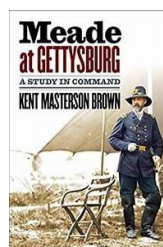


Kent Masterson Brown is a constitutional lawyer, author, historian, and the President of Witnessing History Education Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to providing high-quality, full-length films on American History to public and cable television and live-

streaming platforms completely free of charge. The films can be viewed on the Foundation's YouTube channel, or at www.witnessinghistory.org.

Kent is the author of three books on the battle of Gettysburg. His most recent, ***Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command***, was released in June 2020. The book is a companion volume to his 2005 publication, ***Retreat from Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics, and the Pennsylvania Campaign***. University Press of Kentucky published ***Cushing of Gettysburg: The Story of a Union Artillery Commander*** in 1993. That biography was used to support the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to Cushing in 2014 by President Obama.

Submitted by Dan Bauer
Cincinnati CWRT Program Chair



President's Letter

Mr. Phil Spaugy gave an interesting and unique presentation to us in March concerning the role Cincinnati businessman Miles Greenwood and his Eagle Foundry played providing arms for Union infantry regiments, particularly units from Ohio, in the critical early years of the Civil War. Mr. Spaugy described how Greenwood's foundry modified smoothbore muskets into rifled firearms. In addition to reconfiguring older



weapons, Eagle Foundry also manufactured new rifles and installed sights on thousands of firearms. Greenwood's efforts were quite important at that time because there was a significant shortage of infantry weapons in the state such that Ohio Governor William Dennison, in competition with other northern states, had sent agents to New York City to obtain any firearms that might be available for the regiments then being formed. Greenwood



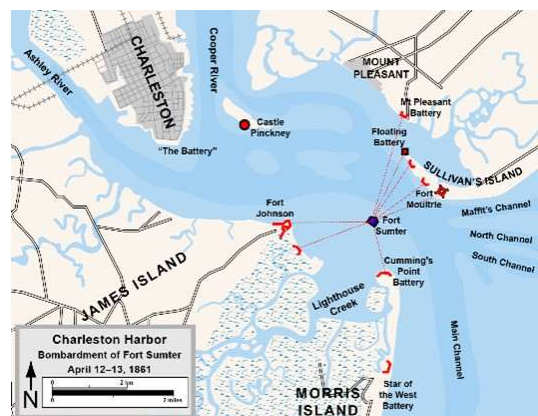
also cast bronze field guns for Union forces for a brief period until government arsenals began producing such items in greater quantities. A highlight of Mr. Spaugy's presentation was his demonstration of actual Civil War era firearms. He brought nine such weapons, which were displayed for inspection by attendees.

Our April meeting features Kent Masterson Brown, an attorney and award-winning author and filmmaker. He has written extensively on Civil War topics and Kentucky history and has particular expertise concerning the challenges faced by both army commanders in the Gettysburg campaign. While the movements of the armies and decisions of the commanding generals pertaining to the fighting at Gettysburg have been examined extensively by many authors

and historians, Mr. Brown's focus on logistics matters brings an interesting perspective to the events between July 3 and 14, 1863, after the fighting at Gettysburg concluded and before the Confederate army crossed the Potomac River. For example, while Bruce Catton in **Glory Road** devoted only a couple pages to this period and concluded with a reference to President Lincoln's great disappointment that the army of Northern Virginia had slipped back to Virginia, Mr. Brown details the significant logistics shortfalls faced by the Army of the Potomac and how the absence of supplies was a significant limiting factor. He brings a new understanding to General George Meade's decisions. Mr. Brown is also the President and content developer for Witnessing History Education Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation, which has produced documentary films on historical subjects, including one on Lee's retreat from Gettysburg. Our April meeting promises to be one of our best round table presentations, so please plan on joining us for this must-see lecture.

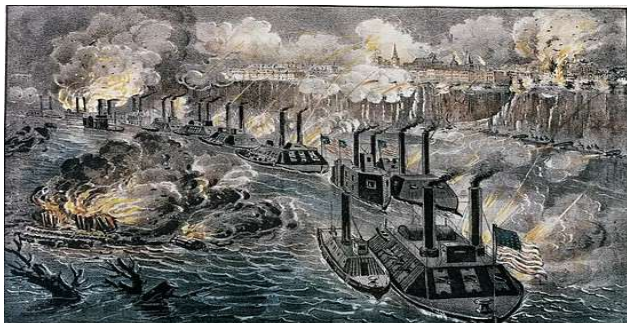
Notable Civil War events in April:

- At 4:30 AM on April 12, 1861, Confederate forces fired a single 10-inch mortar round from Fort Johnson toward Fort Sumter in the harbor at Charleston, South Carolina. This round was a signal for 43 other guns and mortars at Fort Moultrie, Fort Johnson, a floating battery, and Cummings Point to begin a general bombardment. This attack began formal hostilities between the United States and the (so called) Confederate States of America. The Union garrison formally surrendered Fort Sumter at 2:30 PM, April 13, 1864. No one from either side was killed



during the bombardment, although two Union privates were killed during the 100-gun salute to the United States flag – Union commander Major Anderson’s sole condition for withdrawal – which was permitted by Confederate authorities, when a pile of cartridges exploded from a spark. As a result, the salute was stopped after fifty shots.

- The Battle of Shiloh, also known as the Battle of Pittsburg Landing, occurred on April 6 – 7, 1862 in southwestern Tennessee. Hoping to defeat General U.S. Grant’s Army of the Tennessee before it could be reinforced, the Confederate Army of Mississippi under the command of General Albert Sidney Johnston attacked early on the morning of April 6. Not expecting an assault, the Union army was pushed back toward the Tennessee River for several hours. The southern advance stalled at a grove of trees later called the “hornet’s nest” where Union forces repelled several rebel assaults and inflicted a wound on General Johnston that proved to be mortal. Although finally outflanked and overwhelmed, the Union forces at the hornet’s nest held off the Confederate army long enough for Grant to organize an effective defense and receive some reinforcements. The next day, with additional soldiers from General Don Carlos Buell’s Army of the Ohio, the Union forces compelled the Confederate army, then under the command of General P.G.T. Beauregard, to retreat.
- On the night of April 16 – 17, 1863, during the Vicksburg Campaign, General U.S. Grant’s navy, led by Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter, successfully ran the Confederate batteries at Vicksburg, Mississippi, allowing Grant’s army to later cross the Mississippi River and begin the successful land



maneuvers and battles that resulted in the siege and surrender of the city.

- On April 17, 1864, General U.S. Grant decided to cease prisoner exchanges until such releases were balanced equally. He announced, “No distinction whatever will be made in the exchange between white and colored prisoners.” At that time, the United States held about 146,634 prisoners.
- On April 9, 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered what was left of his Army of Northern Virginia to General Grant.

Previously, I announced that we have an opportunity to receive the Civil War Monitor, a very fine publication, as well as benefit our organization. Our round table will receive \$3.00 for every member who subscribes via the publication’s website

(www.civilwarmonitor.com/subscribe) using the



code **CINCWRT**. I’m a subscriber, and I have enjoyed reading its articles. Subscribers also receive the Civil War Monitor Gazette, an electronic newsletter that comes out several times per month, and this also contains useful and interesting articles. Please consider this opportunity.

Hope to see you at our meeting on April 17th.

*Tom Robisch
President, Cincinnati Civil War Round Table*

Cincinnati CWRT Meeting Details

Location	Raffel's Evendale Banquet Center, 10160 Reading Rd., Evendale, OH 45241
Date	Thursday, April 17, 2025
Time	5:30 Sign-in and Social 6:30 Buffet Dinner 7:15 Business Meeting 7:30 Speaker
Reservations	Members who are unable or would prefer not to make their dinner reservation on-line, please call, text, or email Jeff Mikutis, Vice President. 937-623-4879, mikutisjeff@yahoo.com Reservation Deadline Sunday, April 13, 2025
Cost	Dinner, meeting and speaker – \$28.00 Meeting and speaker only – \$7.00 Reservation for meeting and speaker only is appreciated but not required.
Cancellations	We are charged for the number of dinners called in to Raffel's after the reservation deadline. Refunds will be made after the deadline only if a late-comer can be substituted.

Future Speakers for Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

May 15, 2025 **Man of Fire: William Tecumseh Sherman**, Presented by Derek Maxfield

September 18, 2025 **Civil War Music**,
Presented by Steve Ball

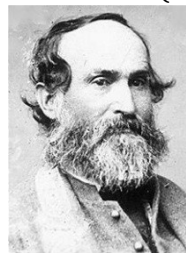
October 16, 2025 To be determined

November 20, 2025 To be determined

January 15, 2026 **Abraham Lincoln**,
Presented by Kim Villalva

Quiz

1. While civilian John Burns was the oldest Union combatant in the Battle of Gettysburg, the oldest Union soldier was this 62-year-old general, West Point class of 1823, who is best known for his defense of Culp's Hill on the second day of the battle, where his single brigade of five regiments held off an entire Confederate division.
2. The fighting at Culp's Hill resumed on the third day. That day's engagement saw the oldest Union general (answer no. 1) leading his troops against those commanded by an even older (66) Confederate general. Who was that "political" general who resigned his commission one week after the battle, having been the only general not commended in Jubal Early's official report?



Jubal Early

3. Outlining his plan of attack, General Hood was emphatic that the attacking force was to “go over the main works at all hazards.” This Confederate general responded: “I will take the enemy’s works or fall in the attempt.” Who uttered those words before the charge at Franklin that cost him his life?
 4. Based on intelligence reports supplied by this man, General McClellan always thought himself vastly outnumbered.
 5. Six men held the office of Confederate Secretary of War. Name two. (No penalty for a wrong answer.)
- Extra credit/debit:* 1 point for each additional secretary you can name. Minus 1 point for each incorrectly named secretary.
6. This battle was the most lop-sided Confederate victory. The engagement on 8 September 1863 pitted 46 mostly Irish-American Confederates manning six smoothbore cannon within their fortifications, against 17 Union vessels with 36 guns and 4,000 soldiers and sailors. Union results: 2 gunboats captured, 24 men killed or wounded, 37 men missing, 315 sailors captured. Confederate results: No casualties or losses.
 7. Troops often went into battle with 40 rounds of ammunition. How much did 40 rounds of .58 caliber ammunition (minié balls) weigh?



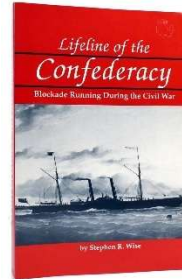
Minié balls

8. President Lincoln appointed Andrew Johnson the Military Governor of Tennessee March 12, 1862. He served in that capacity until March 4, 1865. Did he receive a military commission and, if so, what was his rank?

Book Review

Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running During the Civil War by Stephen R. Wise, University of South Carolina Press, 1988, 403 pages, hardcover/\$34.92 (paperback/\$24.99)

The naval component of the American Civil War is an aspect that often gets passing



attention. Even more neglected is what became the “lifeline” to the Confederacy: blockade running. ***Lifeline of the Confederacy*** is the rare book that addresses the many aspects of blockade running, especially how significant it was to the

survival of the Confederacy.

When Fort Sumter was fired upon in April of 1861, Southern industry was woefully unprepared to supply the needs (especially for war) of this new nation carved out of the United States. From necessity, it relied upon private, state, and eventually Confederate sponsored blockade running to export the South’s “White Gold,” *i.e.*, cotton. Those blockade runners also needed to safely import to available Southern ports (the number of them dwindling over time) war materials for their Confederate armies, other scarce necessities that included shoes, coffee, salt, wine, as well as silk, hoop skirts, china, furniture, carpets, cigars, and other luxury items.

Lifeline of the Confederacy does an admiral job of making readable a topic that is far more complex than many might think. The subjects discussed include: the early blockade runners and the enterprises that were created to build, secure, and manage them; the devastating impact of the capture of New Orleans (characterized by Wise as a

“lost opportunity” for exporting large quantities of cotton); the difficulties in relying solely upon exported cotton to secure war materials and other vital supplies; the exploits of many famous (and many not so famous) blockade runners, some almost “chameleon-like” in how many times their names changed.

Wise also addresses a pivotal point in blockade running when the Confederate government (in February of 1864) intervened more invasively in private- and state-sponsored blockade running, much to the annoyance (and anger) of certain “states’ rights” governors. But at the time Richmond took over greater control, blockade running also saw its steady (and fatal) decline as the Union strangled the Confederacy’s main “lifeline” through the loss of ports and vessels.

With numerous informative maps, photos, pictures, and appendices, ***Lifeline of the Confederacy*** is the “go-to” book on blockade running, especially from the Confederate perspective.

*Submitted by Eric W. Guttag
Publicity and Membership Officer*

March 20, 2025 Meeting

Thirty-one members and guests turned out for the March meeting. Dinner was preceded by an advertisement from our own Gary Johnson about the USS Cincinnati Cold War Memorial Peace Pavilion being constructed at VOA Park in West Chester. A nuclear submarine, the USS Cincinnati was the fourth Navy vessel to bear that name. The first one was a Union ironclad that saw extensive action in the western theater. The memorial committee is hoping to do a ribbon cutting October 13, 2025, the 250th birthday of the U.S. Navy. For more information go to www.subcincy.org.

We had plenty of books for the book raffle but unfortunately no raffle tickets. So, each person at the table with the winning quiz score got their choice of a book, and the rest of the books went on sale at two for \$5.00 for hardcovers and \$1.00 each for softcovers.

Phil Spaugy of Vandalia, Ohio, gave a very informative talk about the efforts to arm the 13,000 Ohioans who answered Lincoln’s first call for volunteers in 1861, and specifically the contributions of Cincinnati Miles Greenwood to that effort. Phil brought nine rifles from his personal collection to augment his presentation, several of which came from Greenwood’s Eagle Iron Works.



When the war started, Ohio only had 5,000 arms in its Columbus arsenal. So, the state scrambled to obtain more. State Senator James A. Garfield went to Illinois to meet with Governor Yates in an effort to obtain some of the Model 1842 percussion muskets that had been transferred from the St. Louis Arsenal to Illinois to keep them out of secessionist hands. State Attorney General Christopher Wolcott was sent to New York to buy as many arms, foreign or domestic, as he could.

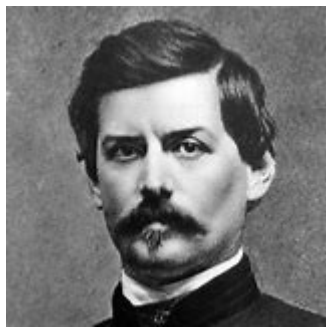
By May, the Federal government was able to get 20,000 arms, mostly Model 1816/22 smoothbore muskets, to Ohio. These were originally flintlocks that had been converted to percussion arms in the 1850s. They were adequate as smoothbores, although when the barrels were later rifled, the pressure that built up in the chamber when the gun was fired caused the percussion system to fail.

The Ohio volunteers all clamored for the new, modern, British P53 Enfield rifle, which had received much favorable press during the recently concluded Crimean War. When Phil showed a picture of the type of ball used by the Enfield and asked what kind of ammunition it was, the audience responded “a minié ball,” to

which our speaker loudly responded “No it’s not! It’s a Harpers Ferry ball or a Burton ball.” He then went on to explain that James H. Burton, a master armorer at the Harpers Ferry Arsenal had made major improvements to Claude-Étienne Minié’s design beginning in 1854. Burton resigned and went to England in 1856 and set up the machinery to produce the P53, which used his improved ball.

Because of the demand, many businesses contracted with the Federal government to supply imported Enfield rifles. One of them was New York’s Tiffany & Co., which would import about 5,000 Enfields during the war. The first 3,000 that were imported were sent to Ohio. All had been issued to its troops by the end of 1861. Phil brought one to display. It carries the Tiffany mark and the date 1861.

By May, with a supply of Model 1816/22 and Model 1842 smoothbore muskets in Ohio’s arsenal, and everyone demanding the new



George B. McClellan

rifled musket, George B. McClellan, who was then Major General of the Ohio Militia, had an idea. His friend, industrialist Miles Greenwood, owned a large foundry in Cincinnati: the Eagle Iron Works.

Greenwood was co-

inventor of the first practical steam fire engine and had served as Cincinnati’s first fire chief. McClellan asked Greenwood if he could rifle the barrels of state’s arsenal of smoothbore muskets. Greenwood agreed to do it and they shook hands. No written contract has ever been found. Greenwood charged \$1.25 per firearm for rifling and an additional \$1.75 to add front and rear sights to every fifth rifle. Between July and November of 1861 Greenwood remanufactured 26,000 smoothbores on a handshake.

By the end of 1861 the importation of Enfields and the production of the Springfield Model 1861 at the Springfield Arsenal were sufficient to supply rifles to the troops, obviating the

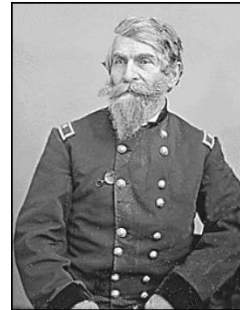
need to remanufacture old smoothbores. Greenwood went on to other pursuits such as the manufacture of artillery of various types, which continued through 1862.

Our speaker went on to discuss Greenwood’s contract to build the USS Tippecanoe, a monitor-type gunboat. Construction was not completed until 1866 and nearly put the foundry out of business because of cost overruns. He also discussed Greenwood’s work with Richard Gatling to build Gatling guns. This engendered a lively discussion about the gun’s post-Civil War use. Eagle Iron Works built the first six Gatling guns, but they were lost in a December 1862 fire at the foundry thought to have been set by Copperheads.

Submitted by David Stockdale

Quiz Answers

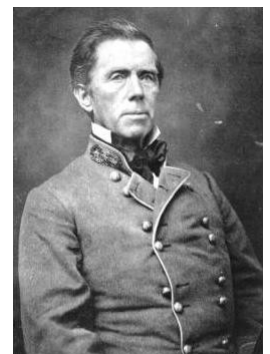
1. Brigadier General George Sears Greene. Greene died in 1899 at the age of 97 and



George Greene

was buried in the family cemetery in Rhode Island with a two-ton boulder from Culp’s Hill placed atop his grave.

2. William “Extra Billy” Smith. In June, prior to the Battle of Gettysburg, Smith had been elected Governor of Virginia. He took office on 1 January 1864.



"Extra Billy" Smith

3. Patrick Cleburne.

4. Allan Pinkerton
5. LeRoy P. Walker (7 Feb - 16 Sep 1861), Judah P. Benjamin (17 Sep 1861-24 Mar 1862), George W. Randolph (24 Mar - 15 Nov 1862), Gustavus W. Smith (17 -21 Nov 1862), James A. Seddon (21 Nov 1862 – 5 Feb 1865), John C. Breckinridge (6 Feb – 10 May 1865).
6. The Second Battle of Sabine Pass, Texas.
7. About 3 lbs.
8. Yes. Andrew Johnson was com-missioned as a brigadier general.

*Quiz and its Answers
Submitted by David Stockdale*

26th Annual U.S. Grant Celebration

April 24, 25, 26 & 27, 2025
Georgetown, Ohio

Some of the highlights include:

- April 24 - **War Regimental Mascots** presented by Dr. Ned Lodwick
- April 25 – School Day with Ulysses S. Grant
- April 26 – **More of Grant’s Seldom Told Stories, Ulysses’ Siblings, Ulysses’ Love of Julia, Ulysses’ Sense of Humor**, presented by Dr. Curt Fields as President Ulysses S. Grant

For more information, including details about time, location in Georgetown, and additional events, please go to the website of **The Ulysses S. Grant Homestead Association – Boyhood Home & Schoolhouse**.

<https://usgrantboyhoodhome.org/>

Click on “Events”

Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

Board

President: Tom Robisch	757-327-1388	Trobisch63@gmail.com
Vice-President: Jeff Mikutis	937-623-4879	mikutisjeff@yahoo.com
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Newsletter Editor: Kate Johantgen	513-731-2563	katejo77@msn.com
Membership & Publicity: Eric Gutttag	513-317-5313	Ericgutttag1952@gmail.com
Trustee At Large: Keith Young	513-260-0268	kryoung@isoc.net
Trustee At Large: Esly Caldwell, II	513-607-6598	ecaldwel2@gmail.com

Committees

Activities: **VACANT**

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Webmaster/Social Media: Tom Williams	513-608-4391	tom@jandtwilliams.com
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Welcoming Committee: Dawn Mowery		Dmowery11@fuse.net
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Speakers Bureau: Tom Breiner	513-382-1412	tbreiner@fuse.net
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CCWRT E-Mail Address		ccwrt@cincinnatiwrt.org
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*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.*