

THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



PO Box 621082 • Cincinnati, OH 45262 • www.cincinnati-cwrt.org
Serving the Tri-State area of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana since 1956

Volume 69 – Number 8

May 2025

May 15, 2025 Program

William Tecumseh Sherman

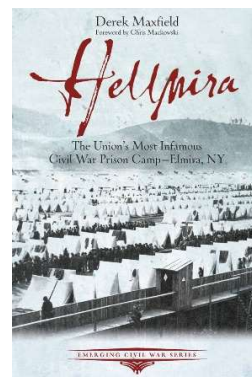
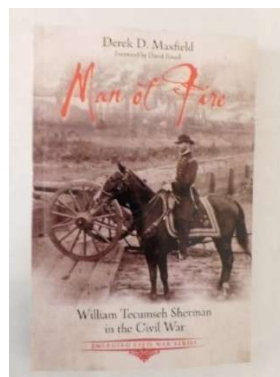
Presented by

Derek Maxfield

The Cincinnati Civil War Round Table welcomes Derek Maxfield on May 15 who will discuss his book: ***Man of Fire: William Tecumseh Sherman in the Civil War***. The book tells the story of a man who found himself in war—and that, in turn, secured him a place in history. Condemned for his barbarousness or hailed for his heroics, the life of this peculiar general is nonetheless compelling—and thoroughly American.



Derek Maxfield is a twenty-year-old veteran of higher education, having been a history professor at Genesee Community College since 2009. During his tenure, he has twice been honored by SUNY: In 2013, Maxfield was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Scholarship and Creative Activities and in 2019, the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Derek is author of two books - ***Hellmira: The Union's Most Infamous Civil War Prison Camp - Elmira, NY*** (Savas Beatie, 2020) and ***Man of Fire: William Tecumseh Sherman in the Civil War*** (Savas Beatie, 2023).



Submitted by Dan Bauer
Cincinnati CWRT Program Chair

President's Letter

Our April meeting featured Kent Masterson Brown, who has won numerous awards for his



books and films. His presentation, which he gave for the first time to our round table, combined elements from his books, ***Retreat from Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics, and the Pennsylvania Campaign*** and ***Meade***

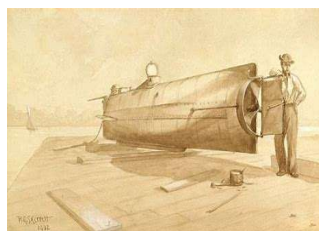
at Gettysburg: A Study in Command. His previous speeches focused on one or the other, but he provided us with a synthesis of both. He offered new insight into the challenges faced by General George Meade immediately after he became Commander of the Army of the Potomac as well as an explanation concerning the reasons Meade was not able to destroy the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia after the Battle of Gettysburg. Spoiler alert for those who have not read his books and were unable to attend our recent meeting: the answer involves poor federal logistics and the Downsville Line, General Robert E. Lee's elaborate defensive works that covered where his army crossed the Potomac River to modern day West Virginia and which, if attacked, likely would have resulted in substantial Union casualties.

Derek D. Maxfield will be our May speaker. He is an associate professor of history at Genesee Community College in Batavia, New York. He is also the author of two books concerning the Civil War, ***Hellmira: The Union's Most Infamous Civil War Camp – Elmira, NY*** and ***Man of Fire, William Tecumseh Sherman in the Civil War***, both included in the Emerging Civil War Series published by Savas Beatie. His presentation will focus on the latter work. Believing that Sherman is one of the most interesting individuals from our Civil War, I have read many of the books that are published concerning him, and I read Professor Maxfield's

book when it came out in 2023. While not a lengthy work, it provides an interesting and very readable summary of Sherman's upbringing, education, and Civil War accomplishments. Please join us on May 15th for what promises to be an interesting and entertaining presentation.

Pursuant to Article V of our Constitution and By-Laws, our May meeting also constitutes the required annual business meeting for our organization. This will include elections for the elective positions on our Board of Trustees for the season starting next September. With one exception, the individuals recommended by the Nominating Committee are the same as this year's Board. The exception is for the position of Secretary. Jenny Breeden, who has been serving in this role, is unable to continue to do so. As a result, anyone interested in this position should contact me or any of the other Board members. Also, pursuant to our Constitution and By-Laws, members will have the opportunity to nominate themselves or others for any of the elective positions. I also want to express our appreciation to Jenny for her service in this position. She did a fine job and will be missed.

Normally our May meeting is the final one before our summer break, but this year we will have an



extra meeting on June 19th. Gary Johnson, one of our members, will give a presentation describing the evolution of submarine technology and tactics from the Civil War to World War I. The Civil War saw one surface vessel (*USS Housatonic*) sunk by a submarine (*CSS Hunley*) in February 1864, and it should be

noted that this action also resulted in the loss of the attacking Confederate submarine. Within approximately 50 years, however, submarine technology had advanced such that over 7,600 surface vessels were sunk in the Great War, and Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare was

the primary reason the United States entered WWI in 1917 on the Allied side. Please plan on attending what promises to be an interesting and original presentation.

Notable Civil War events in May:

May 13, 1861 – Queen Victoria of Great Britain announced her nation's position of neutrality and stated that the British will assist neither side but give both the rights accorded to belligerents.

May 9, 1862 – Union General David Hunter, Commander of the Department of the South, announces the freeing of all slaves in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. His action lacked approval from either Congress or President Lincoln and was later repudiated by Lincoln.

May 16, 1862 – General Benjamin Butler, in command at New Orleans, Louisiana, issued General Order No. 28, also known as the “Women Order.” In his order Butler noted that, “As the officers and soldiers of the United States have been subjected to repeated insults from the women (calling themselves ladies) of New Orleans ... when any female shall ... show contempt for the United States, she shall be



regarded as a woman of the town plying her avocation.” For this and other reasons, Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard gave him the nickname “Butler the Beast” despite leaving his wife under Butler's personal care in New Orleans.

May 2, 1863 – After marching his corps for most of the day toward the exposed Union right flank west of the Chancellorsville crossroads, shortly after 5:00PM General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson initiated his attack against the Union XI Corps. The XIth Corps was crushed, and Jackson continued attacking until darkness and disorganization

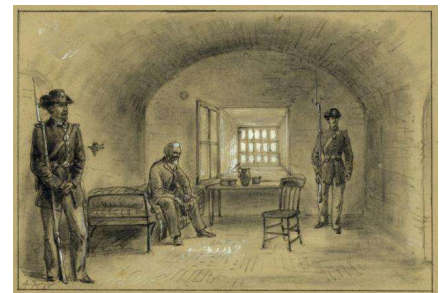


ended the fighting. While making a night reconnaissance, Jackson was accidentally shot by his own troops and died on May 10th at Guinea Station following the battle.

May 5–7, 1864 – The Battle of the Wilderness was the first battle of General Ulysses Grant's Overland Campaign against General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. The fighting occurred in a wooded area about 20 miles west of Fredericksburg, Virginia. Both armies suffered heavy casualties, nearly 29,000 in total, a harbinger of a war of attrition by Grant against Lee's army. The battle was tactically inconclusive, as Grant disengaged and continued his offensive towards Spotsylvania.

May 10, 1865 – President Andrew Johnson announced that armed insurrection against the authority of the federal government can be considered

“virtually at an end.” On the same day, Confederate President Jefferson Davis, his wife, and



Postmaster-General John Reagan were captured near Irwinville, Georgia by the Union's 4th Michigan Cavalry Regiment. By May 19th, Davis was held in a casement cell at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

Hope to see you at our meeting on May 15th.

*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, May 15, 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, May 11, 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.

Speakers for Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

June 19, 2025 **The Hunley, a Harbinger
of WWI Unrestricted Submarine
Warfare**, Presented by Gary Johnson,
Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

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

October 16, 2025 To be determined,
Presented by Greg Biggs

November 20, 2025 **The Saga of the 35th
Ohio Volunteer Infantry**, Presented by
Brian Smith

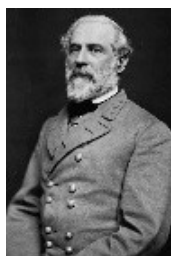
January 15, 2026 **Abraham Lincoln:
Servant Leader**, Presented by Kim Villalva

February 19, 2026 **Conducting Slaves to
Freedom: The Underground Railroad**,
Eric Gutttag, Cincinnati Civil War Round
Table

Quiz

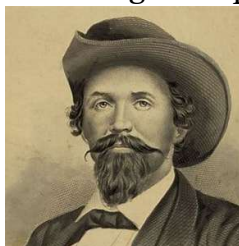
1. Four Confederate generals, in addition to Patrick Cleburne, were killed in action at the Battle of Franklin TN on 30 November 1864. Name one of the four.

2. Name the Texas-born President who proudly displayed a portrait of Robert E. Lee on the Oval Office.



April 17, 2025 Meeting

3. This July 1863 battle, or more accurately this series of skirmishes that collectively have been named a battle between regular Union and Confederate troops, took place on the northernmost Civil War battlefield east of the Mississippi. Name the battle.
4. What Civil War weapon was called the “Old Wrist Breaker”?
5. What was the “Intrepid”?
6. Following his capture in 1863, Gen. John H.



Morgan was briefly imprisoned in this place before being transferred to the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus.

7. What is a Burton ball?
8. Following the bombardment of Ft. Sumter, Governor Tod appointed him Commanding General of the Ohio Militia.



Thirty members and guests attended the April meeting. President Tom Robisch announced that we will elect officers and at-large trustees at the May meeting. According to our constitution, the Board of Trustees constitutes the nominating committee. Tom presented the committee's slate for next year, which consists of this year's officers and trustees. The only exception is our secretary, whose health prevents her from continuing in that role. The primary responsibility of the secretary is to keep a record of what transpires at our membership and board meetings. The board usually meets two or three times a year. If you regularly attend the monthly Round Table meeting and would be willing to do a short write-up of the meeting for the Canister, like the one you are reading now, please contact Tom or one of the other officers.

We were pleased to welcome back to the podium Kent Masterson Brown. His last talk was based on his 2020 book ***Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command***. His topic for this evening was whether the logistics concerns of Meade and Lee at Gettysburg dictated that the battle be fought there and determined the outcome of the battle.

Logistics means feeding, clothing, and arming the soldiers, and feeding and maintaining the horses and mules. The Army of the Potomac had nearly 92,000 officers and men, and more than 70,000 horses and mules. Horses and mules required 14 lbs. of hay and 14 lbs. of oats per day.

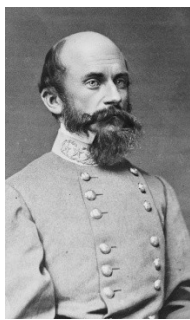


After Lee succeeded Joseph Johnston in 1862, it was apparent Virginia was no longer capable of supplying the food, clothing and shoes needed by the men and animals of the Army of Northern Virginia. So, Lee moved north to Maryland to forage his army. The ultimate result was the Battle of Antietam.

There followed the battles of Fredericksburg in December and Chancellorsville in May. But after Chancellorsville, Lee's army was again in desperate need of food, fodder, shoes, and clothing. But Virginia had nothing to give. So, Lee again determined to move north.



Richard Ewell



A.P. Hill



*James
Longstreet*

Ewell's corps was first, crossing into Pennsylvania almost two weeks before the rest of the army with orders to forage as much as they could get. A.P. Hill's corps crossed next, followed by Longstreet's corps, both with the same orders. Foraging parties worked day and night, ranging as far away as 10 miles from where they bivouacked. One squad of cavalry went as far west as the foot of the Allegheny mountains and returned with 100 head of beef cattle. At the same time, pioneer teams burned railroad bridges, destroyed rolling stock, tore up rails, and cut telegraph lines in an effort to deny the Federal army the ability to sustain itself and communicate with its government.

Meade set up his army's supply base at Westminster, MD, on the Baltimore Pike, 22 miles south of Gettysburg. The Baltimore Pike runs across Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill, which Lee repeatedly attacked, thus cutting off the Army of the Potomac from its supply base.

While the Army of the Potomac was able to defeat Lee's army at Gettysburg, Lee's success in severing Meade's supply line had a devastating effect on the horses and mules. They broke down from malnutrition, which crippled Meade's pursuit of Lee following the battle. Meade lost 25,000 horses during the battle and its aftermath, 12,000 in the pursuit alone. This lack of supplies rendered the Army of the Potomac incapable of destroying the Army of Northern Virginia as it retreated to the Potomac.

At the same time, as Lee set his army in motion to retreat, he ordered quartermasters and subsistence officers not only to resume foraging but to intensify their efforts. Leaving Gettysburg, the wagon trains of Ewell's, Hill's, and Longstreet's corps were each 20 miles long. Combined with the ambulance trains, they covered nearly 80 miles. The foraging continued when they reached Hagerstown where, on July 7, the army commandeered more than 500 bushels of corn, 300 bushels of oats, and 11 tons of hay, in addition to coal, dry goods, food and horses.



Following the ambulance train came 26,000 head of cattle and 23,000 head of sheep all obtained north of the Potomac. The herds were taken up the valley and eventually over the Massanutten and Blue Ridge mountains to central Virginia to graze until required by the army.

The need for Lee to provide for his army compelled him to invade Pennsylvania and Meade to confront him there. In that sense logistics determined the location of the Battle of Gettysburg. And while logistics may not have determined the outcome of the battle itself, it did determine the outcome of Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania. The Army of the Potomac was exhausted. But the Army of Northern Virginia lived on, to continue the fight on until April of 1865.

Submitted by David Stockdale

Quiz Answers

1. In addition to Cleburne, generals States Rights Gist, John Adams, Hiram B. Granbury, and Otho F. Strahl were killed that day. Gen. John C. Carter was mortally wounded in the battle and died ten days later.
2. General of the Army, and Gettysburg resident, Dwight D. Eisenhower.



3. The Battle of Salineville. It took place near the Village of Salineville, Columbiana County, Ohio, on 26 July 1863 between Confederate troops under the command of Brig. Gen John H. Morgan and Union troops under Brig. Gen. James M. Shackelford. Salineville lies about 125 miles

farther north than Buffington Island and 55 miles farther north than Gettysburg.

4. The cavalry saber.



5. A Federal observation balloon.
6. The Cincinnati City Prison.
7. A bullet designed by James Burton, a master armorer at the Harpers Ferry Arsenal, that was a substantial improvement of the minié ball. It is also known as a Harpers Ferry ball.
8. George B. McClellan.

*Quiz and its Answers
Submitted by David Stockdale*



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
Treasurer: Dave Stockdale	513-310-9553	djrtstockdale@aol.com
Secretary: VACANT		
Program Chair: Dan Bauer	513-759-4495 (h)	dbauer002@cinci.rr.com
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**

Preservation Projects: **VACANT**

Webmaster/Social Media: Tom Williams	513-608-4391	tom@jandtwilliams.com
--------------------------------------	--------------	--

Welcoming Committee: Dawn Mowery		Dmowery11@fuse.net
----------------------------------	--	--

Speakers Bureau: Tom Breiner	513-382-1412	tbreiner@fuse.net
------------------------------	--------------	--

CCWRT E-Mail Address		ccwrt@cincinnatiwrt.org
----------------------	--	--

*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.*