

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

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September 2025

September 18, 2025 Program

Civil War Music

Presented by

Steve and Lisa Ball

The Cincinnati Civil War Round Table will be hosting Steve and Lisa Ball on September 18, 2025, as they perform Civil War era music using his vintage Civil War era guitars.

Steve Ball is a musician from Columbus Ohio specializing in the music of the American Civil War, and the music and life of Stephen Foster. Steve has studied the American Civil War since his teens and has devoted the past thirty-five years to studying the music of this era in American history. Steve has done programs for the Ohio Statehouse, the National Civil War Museum, the American Civil War Museum of Ohio, and countless historical societies, genealogical societies, libraries, museums, Civil War Round Tables and other historical venues such as re-enactments or living history programs. He has released two CD's of the music of the Civil War. Steve has been an instructor for Life Long Learning through Central Ohio Technical College. He also has provided the music for the annual Springfield, Ohio Civil War Symposium and is the narrator

for the 73rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Civil War Brass Band. He is the current Department of Ohio Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and a member of the American Battlefield Trust. He has participated in the annual Windham, New York Civil War Music Gathering, and the Gettysburg Music Muster at the Gettysburg Military Park visitor center.

As a collector of vintage instruments, mainly guitars, Steve has built a collection of Civil War Era Martin guitars, the earliest being an 1850



Martin size 3 model 17, followed by an 1851 Martin size 1 model 21, then, an 1852 size 2 model 30, an 1852 size 3, an 1855 size 1 model 26, and then an 1860 Louis Schmidt size 3 model 18. Steve uses all these guitars in his performances. All guitars are in their original

cases, and all are used in performances to minimize the amount of wear to any single instrument. Steve has also accumulated a large collection of Civil War era sheet music. It is interesting to see the original sheet music for many of the tunes performed during the

presentation. Steve can bring the guitars and sheet music to display when giving his presentation on the music of the Civil War.

Lisa and Steve got married in June 2015. Lisa often joins Steve on upright bass and vocal harmonies. Lisa plays piano, guitar, bass and autoharp and is an excellent musician in her own right and is also very knowledgeable on the history of the music in all presentations. She is the lead vocalist on the Carter Family Program. She is from Grove City, Ohio, and began playing piano as a child, and began playing upright bass in 2013. Lisa has six ancestors who served in the Union Army.

*Submitted by Dan Bauer
Cincinnati CWRT Program Chair*

President's Letter

I hope all of you enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to the 2025-2026 season of our Round Table. Our Program Chair, Dan Bauer, has put together an interesting and informative slate of presenters for the upcoming year.

Our September presenter is Steve Ball. Steve is a musician/singer and performs songs from the Civil War period. Steve will focus on the music



of Stephen Foster and will also perform songs that were popular during the war. I have attended several of his performances (at the annual Civil War Symposium in Springfield, Ohio sponsored by the Clark County Historical

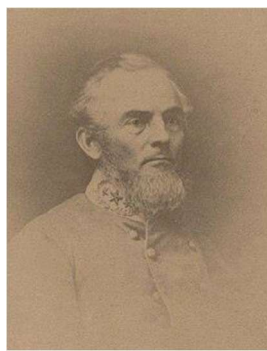
Society), and he has always been quite entertaining. In addition to performing, he provides background and context for the songs and tells interesting and sometimes amusing stories. Please join us in September. The program will be somewhat different from what

we usually do, but you will not be disappointed. For more information about Steve, you can visit steveballcivilwarmusic.com.

Most of last season's board members will continue in their roles, but there are some openings. The Secretary and Preservation Projects positions are vacant, so if anyone is willing to invest some time in the round table, please contact me or any of the board members. We need volunteers to ensure the continuation of our round table.

Notable Civil War events in September:

- September 3, 1861 – Kentucky, a deeply divided border state of major importance in the war initially attempted to remain



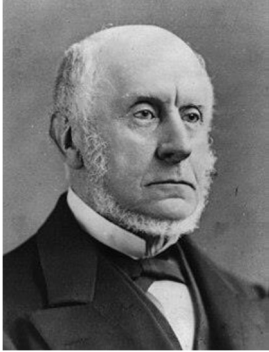
neutral. On September 3rd, however, Confederate troops under Brigadier General Gideon Pillow (pictured), following orders from Major General Leonidas Polk, occupied Columbus, Kentucky which had

strategic significance as the terminus of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and because of its position on the Mississippi River. The Confederate Secretary of War, LeRoy Walker, ordered the troops to withdraw but was overruled by Jefferson Davis. Walker resigned later that month. The Confederate move into Kentucky opened the door for Federal troops, under the command of then Brigadier General U.S. Grant, to take Paducah, where the Cumberland River flows into the Ohio River. Grant's move forestalled further Confederate advances in Kentucky and began the Union army's river campaigns in the war.

- September 17, 1862 – the Battle of Antietam. On this day, 23,110 Americans were reported as killed, wounded, or missing (12,410 Union and 10,700 Confederate). They fell at the rate of about 2,000 per hour, or about 35 per minute, from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. This was the

bloodiest single day in U.S. history. On September 22, President Lincoln issued the preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

- September 5, 1863 – U.S Ambassador to Great Britain, Charles Francis Adams (shown below), sent a note to John Russell,

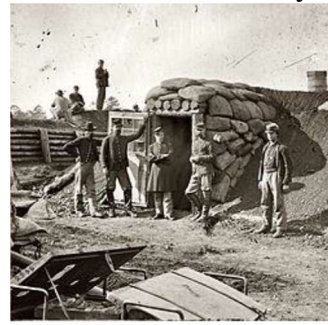


British Foreign Minister, that if the “Laird Rams” were released to the Confederacy, “it would be superfluous for me to point out to your Lordship that this is war.” The rams were

two 230-foot ironclad vessels under construction in the Laird shipyard at Birkenhead, widely believed for ultimate delivery to the Confederate Navy via a French shell company. The note precipitated a diplomatic feud between Adams and Russell, with each insulting the other’s abilities. The note, however, apparently caused Russell to realize that the British had gone too far towards breaching its neutrality. The British Navy took possession of the rams, commissioning them as the *HMS Scorpion* and *HMS Wivern*. The Confederacy never received the vessels.

- September 2, 1864. Major General William T. Sherman informed Washington D.C. by telegraph that “Atlanta is ours and fairly won.” Sherman’s seizure of the city culminated a long campaign involving a siege and attempts to block the railroads and supply lines leading to Atlanta.
- September 30, 1864 – During the siege of Petersburg, Confederate troops under the command of Lieutenant General (temporary) Richard Anderson attempted to recover Fort Harrison, taken by Union troops the previous day and renamed Fort Burnham in honor of Union Brigadier General Hiram Burnham who was killed

when the Union army took the place. The



rebel effort on September 30 failed, with about 2,800 Confederate casualties. Union losses were 929 killed/wounded and 1,756 missing. The picture shows

a portion of the fort after the battles.

Hope to see you at our meeting on September 18th.

Tom Robish, President

Future Speakers for Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

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, CCWRT

Cincinnati CWRT Meeting Details

Location	Raffel's Evendale Banquet Center, 10160 Reading Rd., Evendale, OH 45241
Date	Thursday, Sept 18, 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, Sept 14, 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.

Changes Are Coming

Changes are coming to the way the reservations are made, and payment is taken. The board recently met and decided to terminate our contract with Neon One LLC, the company that receives and processes your online dinner reservations, payments, dues, and preservation contributions, and maintains membership records. Neon has become too expensive for the value we receive.

Beginning in October you will make your reservations by email to a dedicated email address or by contacting V.P. Jeff Mikutis directly as before. Only members will be able to make reservations for themselves and their guests. Payments may be made by credit card at the door and will include a small credit card processing fee equal to the amount the CWRT is charged. Payment can also be made by cash or check as before.

Stay tuned for more information. We ask your indulgence as we put this new system into operation.

Dave Stockdale, Treasurer

June Presentation

The Round Table usually does not have a June meeting. But this year Gary Johnson offered to give a presentation about the development of the submarine as a weapon of war, starting with the *CSS Hunley*, and going forward 50 years to the First World War. The *Hunley* was the first submarine to sink an enemy ship, but it did not survive the encounter. Fifty years later, during World War I, some 7,600 ships were sunk by submarines. Twenty-seven members and guests turned out for this very interesting talk, which at least had its roots in the Civil War.

Gary started by reviewing the various deficiencies in design and engineering from which the *Hunley* and its crew suffered, and

how those problems were resolved through the rest of the 19th Century and into the 20th. First, he traced the development of the propulsion system from *Hunley's* hand crank through attempts to use compressed air, primitive batteries powering small electric motors, the development of an on-board rotary generator powered by a steam engine or gasoline engine to recharge batteries (very hazardous), and finally the diesel engine both to power the generator recharging the batteries and to turn the submarine's propeller. By World War I the submarines in every navy were diesel powered.

The next problem was the shape of the hull. The *Hunley* was built to only operate submerged. Shapes that worked well underwater did not work so well on the surface, and vice versa. But with limited air, submarines could not travel long distances submerged. So, they had to think of the submarine as a surface warfare raider that could submerge and hide for a while and design the hull accordingly. So, they developed one that was streamlined on top and oval below.



Control of the vessel and navigation were also problems. The *Hunley* rode just under the surface of the water and so required a calm sea to keep from being exposed. It had no periscope. Once submerged, it was blind. Its magnetic compass inside the metal hull was virtually worthless in aiding its skipper to maintain the submarine's intended course. The development of the periscope and the

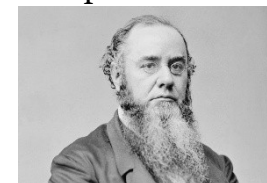
gyrocompass enabled submarines to navigate while submerged.

The *Hunley's* torpedo, attached to a spar extending from its bow, was its undoing. The development of the self-propelled torpedo, which allowed the submarine to stand off from its target, greatly enhanced its effectiveness.

Dave Stockdale, Treasurer

Quiz

1. Why was "Old Capitol Prison," where suspected Confederate sympathizers were held in Washington, D.C., called "Old Capitol Prison?"
2. In the official exchange of prisoners, a lieutenant was to be exchanged for four enlisted men. How many enlisted men were to be exchanged for a general?
3. Name the Union general who, upon reaching Galveston, Texas in June of 1865, issued General Order No. 3: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."
4. In contrast to its War Department, only one man served the Confederate government as its Secretary of the Navy. Who was he?
5. Who was the only man to hold the position of Secretary of the Navy in the Lincoln administration?
6. Who preceded Edwin M. Stanton as



Secretary of War in the Lincoln administration?

7. What was William Tecumseh Sherman best known for among the other cadets at West Point during his time there?
8. On 17 February 1864 the Confederate submarine *Hunley*, using a torpedo with a contact fuse attached to the end of a 16-foot spar projecting from its bow, attacked and sank the 1240-ton *USS Housatonic*. The *Hunley* never resurfaced, taking the lives of all eight crew members. The submarine was finally located in 1995 and raised largely



intact in 2000. The remains of the crew were all found at their stations with no signs of skeletal trauma. The pump was found not to have been set to remove water from the crew's compartment, suggesting the vessel was not flooded until after the crew's death. And the keel blocks, which the crew could release from inside the vessel to allow it to surface quickly in an emergency, were found to have not been released. Modern research by the Naval Surface Warfare Center (2017) indicates that the crewmembers' deaths were nearly instantaneous with the detonation of the torpedo. What did the research conclude was the likely cause of their deaths?

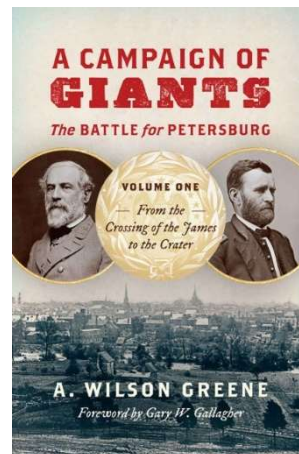
Book Review

Submitted by Eric W. Guttag

A Campaign of Giants: The Battle for Petersburg, Vol. 1, From the Crossing of the James to the Crater

by A. Wilson Greene, The University of North Carolina Press, 2018, 721 pages, hardcover/\$31.19 (paperback/\$26.49)

One of the great Civil War historians, the late Richard J. Sommers, characterized Petersburg as the “guardian of Richmond’s lifeline to the Southern heartland.” Known as the Cockade City, protecting Petersburg was vital to the survival of Richmond. If Petersburg fell, Davis’ government would have no choice but to evacuate the Confederate capital. Accordingly, Petersburg’s perimeter was guarded by an extensive series of fortifications known as the Dimmock Line.



There have been many books written on Petersburg and the ten months of fighting that took place there. That includes those by the late, as well as great Edwin C. Bearss. But A. Wilson Greene’s planned three-volume study is the most recent, and very likely the most know-

ledgeable on this subject. During his forty-four-year career in public history, Greene spent twenty-four of them focusing on Petersburg battlefield.

Volume I starts with the Battle of Old Men and Young Boys on June 9, 1864. As that name suggests, Petersburg’s defenses were then so

strapped for available infantry that upwards of around 160 Petersburg citizens (mostly boys and old men normally outside military age) manned the trenches in the southern section of the Dimmock Line. But they, as well as other Confederate units proved enough to thwart the first Union effort to take the Cockade City.

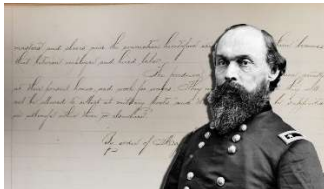
It concludes with the Battle of the Crater on July 30 (characterized by a frustrated Grant as “the saddest affair I have witnessed in the war.”). An over 500-foot-long Union tunnel filled with 4 tons of explosives blasted through the Confederate’s entrenched line at Elliot’s (Pegram’s) Salient. But the subsequent Union assault was badly bungled, tragically causing the deaths of many black members of several USCT units involved, victims of their enraged gray clad foe.

Greene’s first book in this series is extremely well researched and written, with many interesting stories, as well as numerous informative maps. Volume II in this series has just come out, so expect a review on it in the future!

Submitted by Eric W. Guttag

Quiz Answers

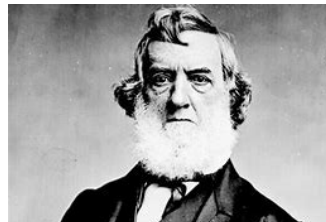
1. The building had been the temporary National Capitol while The Capitol Building was rebuilt following its torching by the British in 1814.
2. 60
3. Gordon Granger.



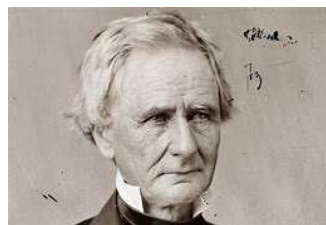
4. Stephen Mallory.



5. Gideon Welles.



6. Simon Cameron.



7. He was the best hash maker.
8. The pressure wave from the explosion resulted in sufficient atmospheric pressure waves inside the submarine to kill the crew through a combination of air blast trauma to their lungs and traumatic brain injuries.

*Quiz and its answers submitted by
Dave Stockdale*



John Anthony Winston: A Man of Man Firsts

by Phil Muskett, President, Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides (Gettysburg NMP),
August 4, 2025, blueandgrayeducation.org

John Anthony Winston was a man of many firsts. He was the first governor of Alabama born within the borders of the territory (and later, the state) of Alabama. When the Civil War began, he became the first colonel of the Eighth Alabama Infantry. After the war, he was among the first delegates from the former Confederate states to attend a national political gathering—the 1868 Democratic National Convention.



Official portrait of John Anthony Winston, fifteenth governor of Alabama

Born on September 4, 1812, in what would become Madison County, in the Alabama Territory, Winston moved to Mobile in 1844, where he worked as a cotton broker and merchant. His political ascent was swift: On December 6, 1845, he was elected President of the Alabama Senate. He continued his rise through state politics, eventually serving as Governor of Alabama from 1853 to 1857, where he earned the nickname John Anthony “Veto” Winston for his frequent use of the executive veto.

During the tumultuous presidential election of 1860, the former governor served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Charleston. A supporter of Stephen Douglas, Winston found himself at odds with fellow Alabamian William Yancey, a staunch “Fire-

Eater” backing John C. Breckinridge. Like many pro-Douglas delegates, Winston walked out of the convention, contributing to its collapse. Historian Hilary Herbert later wrote: “Not even Andrew Jackson had a more inflexible will than John A. Winston.”

Following Abraham Lincoln’s election, Alabama Gov. William Moore sent commissioners to neighboring Southern states, urging them to join Alabama in secession. Winston was dispatched to Louisiana, where he reported, “There is little or no doubt, but that Louisiana will co-operate with the States taking action.”

In 1861, Winston was given command of ten Alabama companies already in, or en route to, Virginia. This force became the Eighth Alabama Volunteer Infantry—the first regiment from the state to enlist for the duration of the war. Lacking military experience and disliking the demands of drilling raw recruits, Winston delegated training duties to Lt. Col. Young Lea Frazier, a West Point graduate.

At the Battle of Seven Pines on June 1, 1862, the Eighth Alabama saw heavy fighting. At one point, Union soldiers demanded Winston’s surrender. He famously replied that he “did not join the army to surrender” and that it was “not his business here.” Though he fought with gallantry, the physical toll of campaigning proved too great. Just over two weeks later, on June 16, 1862, he resigned his commission due to rheumatism.

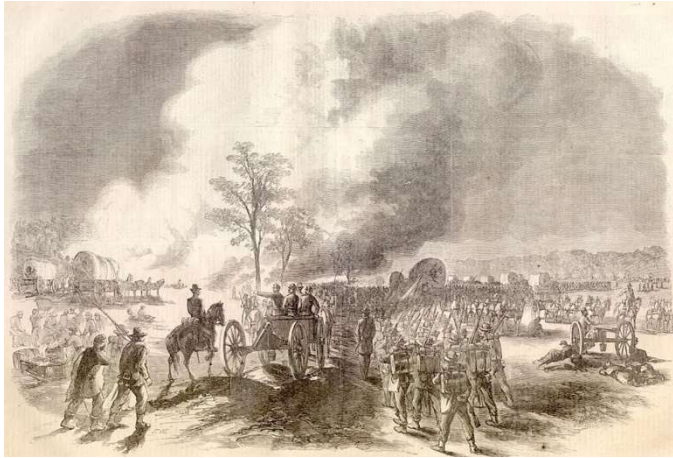
Winston returned home to Alabama by July 3 and remained as active as his health allowed in



William Yancey, Confederate States Senator from Alabama

supporting the Confederate cause. He unsuccessfully sought to fill the Confederate Senate seat left vacant by the death of William Yancey and later attempted to organize a Home Guard unit, a project he was unable to complete.

John Anthony Winston died on Dec. 21, 1871, in Mobile, Alabama. He is buried in the Winston family cemetery in Gainesville, Alabama.



Franklin's corps retreating from the Battle of Seven Pines (from a sketch by Alfred R. Waud)

This article comes courtesy of the Blue and Gray Education Society, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. You can visit them at www.blueandgrayeducation.org.

Other Civil War Round Tables

Are you interested in checking out other Civil War Round Tables around the country? This link takes you to a listing of Round Tables: [CWRT Websites](#) | [CWRT Congress](#)

The listing has been compiled by the Civil War Round Table Congress: [CWRT Congress](#). If you have not explored this website, I recommend you do so. You can also sign up for their newsletter.

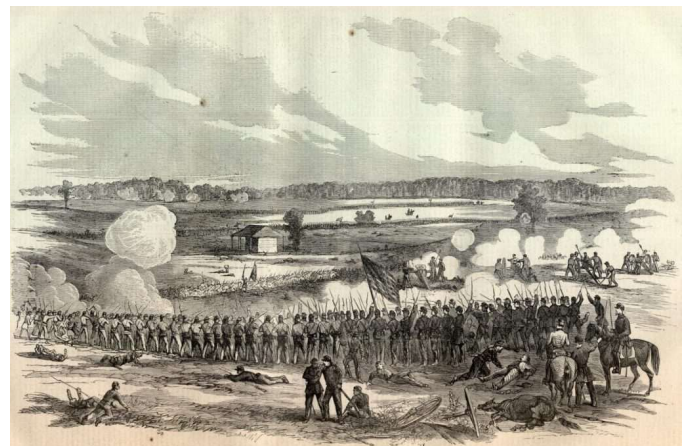


Blue & Gray asks: Help Us Tell the Story of Perryville

Blue & Gray Education Society says that it is “nearing completion of sponsoring 55 new interpretive panels for the Perryville Battlefield in Perryville, Kentucky. We are 8 panels shy of mission accomplishment. Give today and help us achieve this by visiting our website for more information.”

[Blue and Gray Education Society](#)

We have included this blurb because we believe that this cause is very near and dear to many of our members. However, currently, the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table organization is not supporting this project financially.



Battle of Perryville, Kentucky

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
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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**

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

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.*