

THE CANISTER

Monthly Newsletter of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table



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October 15, 2026 Program

Burnside's East Tennessee & Knoxville Campaigns

Presented by

Steve Phan

The Cincinnati Civil War Round Table will welcome Steve Phan to our October 15, 2026 meeting as he speaks on Burnside's East Tennessee and Knoxville Campaigns.

Central Kentucky was bustling with activity in August 1863 as Major General Ambrose Burnside and the Army of Ohio prepared for their grand offensive into East Tennessee. Camp Nelson served as the launching off point for the advance. Over the course of two weeks, 25,000 men, thousands of horses and draft animals, and hundreds of wagons passed through the supply base on their way south toward the Volunteer State. Steve will talk about Burnside's movements through the mountains and their capture of Knoxville.

Steve Phan is a National Park Ranger serving as Chief of Interpretation at Camp Nelson National Monument. He has also worked at the Civil War Defenses of Washington, Stones River National Battlefield, Richmond National

Battlefield Park, and Gettysburg National Military Park. A military history scholar of the Civil War era, Phan's research focuses on



military occupation, operational command, African American soldiers and refugees, and fortifications during the Civil War. His essay "Freedom on the Fringes: Interpreting the Civil War and Relevancy at Camp

Nelson" appears in *They Are Dead and Yet They Live: Civil War Memories in a Polarized America*, published by the University of Nebraska Press (2026). He was nominated for the National Park Service Tilden Award for Excellence in Interpretation for the National Capital Region in 2019 and 2020, as well as the Excellence in Interpretation Individual Award for the Southeast Region in 2025. He holds a Master's degree in American History from Middle Tennessee State University.

*Submitted by Dan Bauer,
Program Chair*

CCWRT's Book Swap!!!

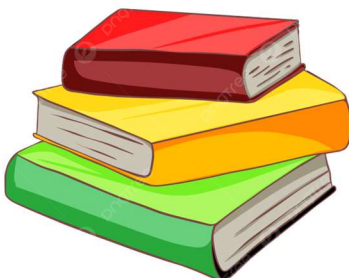
At our October meeting we will have our first "book swap" as I proposed at the last meeting and in September's Cannister. Here's how it will work: Participation is OPTIONAL.

Bring in one or two books (let's limit the swap to only two personal books) from your library, books you will probably never read or reference again.

I will have you write your name on a slip of paper and enter you for the swap. During the early part of our gathering shortly after dinner, I will draw names in order for you to browse and select a "new" book to take home. The value of this book swap I hope will be threefold: 1) You get to find a new home for books that you no longer need, 2) You find a book that interests you (and you've been dying to read, lol), and 3) We as a Round Table get to know and talk to other members and socialize a bit more freely...just a thought!

So, search through your library for that "special" book; bring it to October's meeting; and hopefully leave with a treasure you are dying to read. For this first swap limit your treasures to books. Magazines and journals will not be accepted at this time. Most importantly remember this swap does NOT take the place of our monthly raffle. We will still have our usual raffle. Our raffles are a good source of income for the Round Table and we rely on them. Thanks, and happy swapping.

Submitted by Keith Young, Trustee



Quiz

1. James's father, Jordi, was a Spanish merchant sea captain who settled in America at the beginning of the Revolution, and served in the Continental Navy. James, born in 1801, was eight when his mother died. Jordi, who had changed his name to George, arranged for James to live with a naval officer whose father he had served with in the Revolution. Beginning as a midshipman at age nine, James embarked on a 60-year U.S. Navy career that included several notable victories during the Civil War. Like his father, he changed his first name along the way. Who was he?
2. During his West Point years, this Confederate general with a receding chin, was nicknamed "Beauty" by his classmates, which they described as his "personal comeliness in inverse ratio to the term employed." He quickly grew a beard after graduation.
3. During the siege of Chattanooga, on Oct. 13, 1863, the soldiers of the 9th O.V.I. voted unanimously for the Union Party candidate for Governor of Ohio against his opponent, the Peace Democrat, Clement Vallandigham. Who was the Union Party candidate and ultimate winner of the race?
4. Robert L. McCook, a Cincinnati lawyer who became commander of the 9th O.V.I., had studied law in the Steubenville, Ohio, office of his older brother George Wythe McCook. Who was George's law partner at the time?



5. On this date [Sept. 17] in 1864 the Radical Republican candidate for president withdrew from the race in favor of Lincoln, fearing a Democratic victory would mean recognition of the Confederacy or at least a reestablishment of slavery. Who was he?
6. During the Battle of Chickamauga, this officer sent a telegram to Rosecrans, then in Chattanooga, which contained the phrase, "Thomas standing like a rock," giving George H. Thomas the sobriquet he carried into history.
7. The Battle of Chaplin Hills is better known as the Battle of _____.
8. Addressing the assembled students in March of 1861, the major said, "Military men make short speeches, and as for myself I am no hand at speaking anyhow. The time for war has not yet come, but it will come, and that soon; and when it does come, my advice is to draw the sword and throw away the scabbard." Who was the speaker?



*Home Page of the "new"
Cincinnati CWRT website
www.cincinnati-civil-war-roundtable.org/home*

President's Letter

Please join us on October 15 when our speaker will be Steve Phan, National Park Ranger and Historian. Mr. Phan presently serves as Chief of Interpretation at Camp Nelson National Monument in Jessamine County, Kentucky (southwest of Lexington); this 465-acre property was designated a National Park Service Monument in 2018. His previous positions for the Park Service were at Stones River National Battlefield, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Gettysburg National Military Park, and at the Civil War Defenses of Washington. He has researched numerous aspects of the Civil War, including various military matters and African American soldiers and has appeared before many Civil War groups. Mr. Phan's topic for our round table will be Burnside's East Tennessee & Knoxville Campaigns. This subject is not as well-known as many other Civil War events, and we are certain to benefit from his knowledge and presentation. Please join us for what promises to be an excellent lecture.

Cincinnati CWRT Website

Many of you probably remember our website – more accurately, you may remember that it has gone dark. After the site disappeared, I tried contacting the man we were paying to maintain the site, to no avail. Many attempts, via email and telephone, went unanswered. Apparently, he has gone out of business, and further attempts to reach him to restore our site appear fruitless. (We stopped payments to him when the site went away.)

I believe having a functioning website is important to our organization, not only to disseminate information but also to facilitate recruitment of new members and retention of current members. Accordingly, one of my summer projects was to investigate how to create a new site, which, because of our limited resources, had to be relatively inexpensive.

Without having any background in web design or formation, I have put together a new site. You can find it at cincinnati-civil-war-round-table.org/home. It has a home page with a picture of the Roebling Bridge under construction during the Civil War and links to drop-down pages that focus on various subjects relevant to our round table and our activities. These pages include information about our meetings, schedule, membership, past newsletters, and more. There is a “CCWRT Member Contributions” page where any of you can submit articles, notes, pictures, or anything else relevant to our purpose for publication – I hope you do so. The site remains a work in progress. I have plans to redo many of these pages to make them more visually appealing by adding additional pictures and perhaps more color. Any suggestions or comments that I could use to improve the site are welcome.

Interesting Civil War- related events that occurred in October:



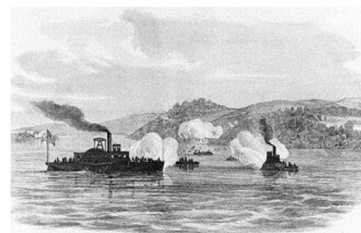
21 October 1861 – Battle of Camp Wildcat. (Until researching October Civil War events, I had not heard of this engagement either.) After Kentucky’s “neutrality” ended when Confederate Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk seized Columbus in September 1861, Union Brig. Gen. George Thomas sent 600 troops under Col. Theophilus Garrard to establish Camp Wildcat at Rockcastle Hills, near London in southeast Kentucky, close to the Tennessee line. That position was important to the Union to secure a ford on the Rockcastle River and to prevent the rebels from using the Wilderness Road. Knowing he was outnumbered by a nearby Confederate force under Brig. Gen. Felix Zollicoffer (pictured above), who had 5,400 troops, Garrard asked for reinforcements, and Thomas sent a brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. Albin Schoepf (pictured below), bringing the Union force to ~7,000 men. The additional Union troops arrived on 20 October, and the next day Zollicoffer attacked. The Union force

was positioned on high ground, and the rebel attack failed, after which the Confederates withdrew toward Tennessee. Compared to later battles in the war, casualties were negligible – Union: 5 killed, 20 wounded; Confederate: 11 killed, 42 wounded or missing. The battlefield is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the American Battlefield Trust has acquired and preserved 264 acres of the site.



2 October 1862 – During a cavalry raid in the Warrenton, Virginia area, a Yankee telegrapher accessed a rebel telegraph line and sent a message to Richmond, reporting that all was quiet in the Warrenton area and asking how things were in the Confederate capital.

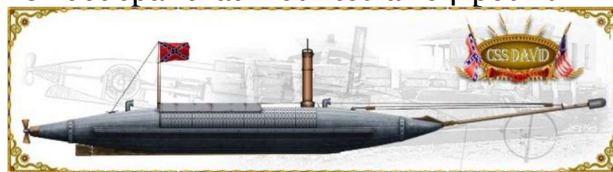
4 October 1862 – More telegraph news. A federal landing party from *USS Thomas*



Freeborn (shown in the left of the drawing), a sidewheel tug acquired by the Union Navy at the beginning of the

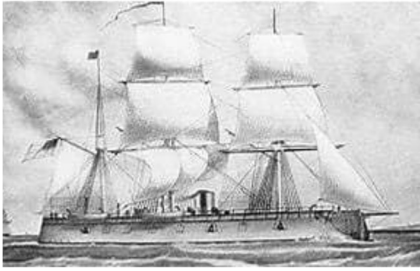
war and used as a gunboat, raided Dumfries, Virginia (just north of the current site of Quantico Marine Base) and destroyed a telegraph office and wires of the line from Occoquan to Richmond.

5 October 1863 – Attack on *USS New Ironsides* in Charleston Harbor. Early in the evening *CSS David* (shown below), a 50-foot vessel with a 10-foot spar that mounted a 164-pound



warhead (called a torpedo) at the point, approached the Union ship, a wooden hulled ironclad (shown on the next page). (Although *David* resembled a submersible, the craft was a surface ship that could not go underwater.)

David was spotted and fired upon before reaching *New Ironsides* but managed to strike



the Union ship with its torpedo on the federal ship's starboard quarter. The explosion created a huge column of

water that extinguished *David's* boiler, rendering her disabled alongside *New Ironsides*, which was slightly damaged but required some repairs. Believing their ship lost, two rebel seamen jumped overboard and were captured by Union ships. *David's* engineer remained on the ship, however, because he could not swim. He was able to relight the boiler and took the little craft back to Charleston. The major effect of this incident was that the navies of the world took heed of this new weapon and developed countermeasures.

1 October 1864 – Confederate spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow drowned. Rose O'Neal Greenhow was a socialite in Washington, D.C. prior to the



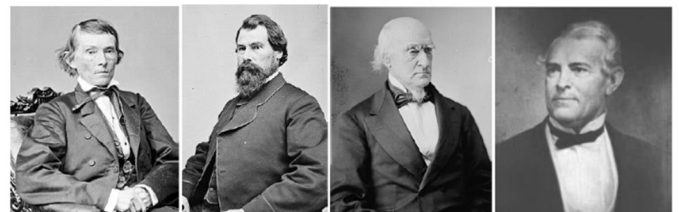
Civil War. She moved in important political circles and cultivated friendships with high-ranking military officials and important politicians, including John Calhoun and James Buchanan. She used her position to pass key

information to the Confederacy at the start of the war. She was apprehended and jailed for five months in 1862 in the Old Capital Prison. After her release she departed Washington, D.C. for the Confederacy. Meeting her in Richmond, Confederate President Jefferson Davis credited her with providing information that ensured the South's victory at the first Battle of Bull Run. She then supported the rebels on a diplomatic mission to Britain and France in 1863 – 1864 and carried dispatches across the ocean. On 1 October 1864, she was aboard the British blockade runner *Condor* as it was chased by *USS Niphon*. During the pursuit, *Condor* grounded near Fort Fisher,

North Carolina. Greenhow attempted to avoid capture by trying to escape in a small boat with her secret dispatches and \$2,500 in gold. The boat capsized in heavy seas, and she drowned. Her body washed ashore the following day, and the gold and her documents were found sewn into her clothing. She was honored with a military funeral in Wilmington, North Carolina.

11 October 1865 – President Andrew Johnson issued an Executive Order releasing several high-ranking Confederate officials from close custody, pending further executive action. The Confederate officials were Alexander H. Stephens, Vice President of the Confederacy; John H. Reagan, Confederate Postmaster General; John A. Campbell, Confederate Assistant Secretary of War and former U.S. Associate Supreme Court Justice; and George A. Trenholm, Confederate Secretary of the Treasury (shown below, left to right). At this time, Johnson's actions concerning these individuals were not full pardons or restoration of citizenship. The men were released from prison at Fort Pulaski and Fort Warren under strict military paroles and were required to remain in their home states, formally submit to U.S. authority, and answer future charges if indicted. General amnesty and restoration of citizenship came later for them during Reconstruction.

Submitted by Tom Robisch, President



Meeting Details

Location	Raffel's Evendale Banquet Center, 10160 Reading Rd., Evendale, OH 45241
Date	Thursday, October 15, 2026
Time	5:30 Sign-in and Social 6:30 Buffet Dinner 7:15 Business Meeting 7:30 Speaker
Reservations	You MUST make a reservation if you would like Dinner . Please Email reservations to: CinCWRTreservations@ gmail.com Or Call, or text Jeff Mikutis, Vice President: 937-623-4879 Reservation Deadline Sunday, October 11, 2026
Cost	Dinner, meeting and speaker – \$30.00 Meeting and speaker only – \$7.00 . No reservations are required.
Cancellations	We are charged for the number of dinners called in to Raffel's after the deadline. You will be charged if you do not cancel by the reservation deadline, unless a late- comer can be substituted.

Future Speakers for Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

November 19, 2026 **The Battles of
Vaught's Hill and Snow Hill**, by Kevin
McCray

January 21, 2027 **Clermont County, Ohio
in the Civil War**, by Gary Knepp

February 18, 2027 **Across the River:
Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and
the Enduring Legacy of the Civil War**,
Cordell George, Cincinnati Museum Center

March 15, 2027 Speaker TBD

April 15, 2027 **Sherman and the Law of
War**, Tom Robisch *(date may be changed)*

May 20, 2027 Annual Business Meeting,
Speaker TBD

Quiz Answers

1. Admiral David Glasgow Farragut.



2. General J.E.B. Stuart.



September 2026 Meeting

3. John Brough.



4. Edwin M. Stanton.



5. John C. Frémont.



6. General James A. Garfield.



7. Perryville.

8. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson, addressing the cadets of V.M.I. at an assembly following a tense standoff between the cadets and a mob of unionists who had gathered in Lexington.

Our speaker was Erick Bush, a former member of the CCWRT who has given several talks to our group, most recently in 2017. He enthusiastically recounted for us the Battle of Big Bethel, which antedated the first Bull Run (Manassas) by 5 weeks. It was a planned battle involving many future leaders on both sides. The Union occupied the tip of the Virginia peninsula in well-defended Ft. Monroe, commanded by Gen. Benjamin Butler. The Confederates were commanded by Colonel John B. Magruder. In a poorly planned attack, the Union lost 78 men including Major Theodore Winthrop who planned the attack, and Lt. John T. Greble, the first Union Regular Army officer and first West Point graduate killed in the war. The Confederates had eight casualties, including Private Henry L. Wyatt, the first Confederate to die on the battlefield. The Union effort was poorly planned and executed. There were casualties from Union friendly fire, poor communication and coordination.

*Respectfully submitted by, Esly S. Caldwell, II,
Trustee and acting Secretary*

*The Quiz and the Quiz Answers
Submitted by Dave Stockdale*

Cincinnati Civil War Round Table

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Welcoming Committee: **VACANT**

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