



DRUM AND BUGLE CALL

MAHONING VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

DATE: Monday, May 8, 2023 @ 6:15 PM

LOCATION: A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon Street, Canfield, Ohio 44406

SPEAKER: GENE SCHMIEL

The Civil War's Forgotten General

Dave Duchek, Editor/Reservations.....330-207-8810

Gary Wholf, Program Director.....330-953-1965

www.mahoningvalleycwrt.com

This month's guest speaker, **Gene Schmiel**, is a retired U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Officer who also was an Assistant Professor of History at St. Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania. Born and raised in Cleveland, Gene holds a Ph.D. in History from The Ohio State University. He has written over 20 books about the Civil War. His first, *Citizen-General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era*, was published in 2014

by Ohio University Press. A companion book, *My Dearest Lilla: Civil War Letters Home* by General Jacob D. Cox, will be published this fall by the University of Tennessee Press. Gene lives in Gainesville, Virginia, on the border of the Bull Run/Manassas battlefields.

Union General Irvin McDowell was a major actor in the Civil War for a short but critical time. At the First Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861, this Ohio-born general commanded the largest army in American history up to that time. He was a dutiful, dependable, and diligent military officer, but in hindsight he may have been called upon to perform duties which were beyond his capacity and which served to enhance his peculiarities, such as his impulsiveness. His defeat at First Bull Run and his lack of battlefield success thereafter led to his being largely forgotten. Gene's book, *Searching for Irvin McDowell*, co-written with Frank P. Simone Jr., is the first and only full-length biography of McDowell. Tonight's talk will focus on McDowell's life, his role in the Civil War era, why he did not succeed on the battlefield, and why he was "forgotten" for so long.



2023-2024 Schedule

September 11, 2023

Eric J. Wittenberg: *Topic TBD*

October 9, 2023

Bill Griffith: *"Latimer's Battery, CSA, at Gettysburg"*

November 13, 2023

Carlton Young: *Topic TBD*

December 11, 2023

Bob Schneider: *"Custer"*

January 8, 2024

Tim Brookes: *Topic TBD*

February 12, 2024

Dave Walker and Holly Ray: *"Jefferson and Varina Davis"*

March 11, 2024

Bradley Keefer: *Topic TBD*

April 8, 2024

Codie Eash: *"The First Day at Gettysburg"*

May 13, 2024

Mike Priest: *"Pender's Attack on Seminary Ridge"*

Johnson's Island is a 300-acre island in Sandusky Bay, located 3 miles from Sandusky. It was the site of a prisoner-of-war camp for Confederate officers.

In use: 1862-1865 / Demolished: 1865

Designated a *National Historic Landmark*

The Confederate cemetery and Fort Hill are still accessible to the public.

Notable inmates include Gen. Isaac R. Trimble, Gen. James Jay Archer, and Gen. Edward "Allegheny" Johnson.

Camp Chase in Columbus was a military staging and training camp established in May 1861 after the start of the Civil War. It also included a large Union-operated prison camp for Confederate prisoners.

In use: 1861-1865 / Demolished: 1865-1867

Civil War Sites in Ohio

Listed on the *National Registry of Historic Places*

The Confederate cemetery is still accessible to the public.

The land that formerly housed Camp Chase has been redeveloped as a residential and commercial area now known as Westgate.

The Ohio Penitentiary, also known as the Ohio State Penitentiary, was a prison operated in downtown Columbus in what is now known as the Arena District. It was used to house hardened convicts until July 30, 1863, when Ohio Gov. David Todd declared that the prison would also house Confederate prisoners of war.

In use: 1834-1884 / Demolished: 1997

Notable inmates include Gen. John Hunt Morgan, who famously escaped the prison during the Civil War.