



THE COURIER



Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



Tuesday April 10th, 2012 Meeting #126

Canteen: 6:00 pm Dinner: 6:50 pm

Dino's Restaurant at I90 & State Rt. 306 Willoughby, Ohio

Guest Speaker: John Fazio

Topic: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of President Lincoln

Reservations required Guests are Welcome Please call Mike Sears

Phone 440 257 3956 e-Mail: mikeanddonna@roadrunner.com

John C. Fazio has a B.A. and J.D. from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He now lives in Akron with his wife, Mary, who is retired after a career in public relations. Between them, they have seven children, all of whom have left the nest. John joined Mary in retirement this year after practicing law for forty-six years. He is a student of history, with an emphasis on European and American history and with an even greater emphasis on the most defining event in American history, the Civil War. He is a member of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable and has been its president. He frequently speaks on the war and other subjects before Roundtables and other groups and has written and published numerous articles on the war and other subjects. He is also a member of the Center for Inquiry (CFI). At present he is writing a book on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

John will speak on the Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln. He will argue and demonstrate that the assassination was not a rogue operation led by John Wilkes Booth, with the help of his band of misfits, but part of a well-laid plan of the Confederate Secret Service, under orders from Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Secretary of State Judah Benjamin, to decapitate the Northern government, thereby offering a hope to the Confederacy of salvaging independence. Targeted, in addition to the President, were Vice President Andrew Johnson, Secretary of State William Seward, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant. The plan had two parts. Booth's part was to act if the first part failed, which it did.

CIVIL WAR JOURNAL Franco M. Sperrazzo Program Coordinator April 10th, 2012

March 13th, Meeting, Herman Rueger "Our Early Cleveland History": It is always interesting to hear stories from earlier times and how communities have evolved. Even though Mr. Rueger is a native of Erie, Pa, you would think here has been here his entire life. The Kent State University graduate was the elementary school teacher of our Editor John Sandy's Wife Terri. John & Terri have taken excursions with Mr. Rueger on a tour bus to New York City for Broadway events. We now have a concrete understanding of the role play by Moses Cleaveland, real estate developer & surveyor and his purpose for spending time in our future city but never permanently planting roots here. Actually Lorenzo Carter, builds the log cabin that burns down but is able to safely move his family here. He later builds a tavern for the fishing merchants & sailors to unwind in after a hard day's work. He also constructs a jail for unruly patrons that got out of hand. All-in-all a thought provoking timeline was illustrated by Herman Rueger from 1796 to present day Cleveland we know. Steve Abbey presided to keep 33 soldiers and guests quite entertained.

Spring Field Trip May 19th: We have enjoyed several great one tank trips to Ohio City, Cleveland, Canton, Erie, Clyde, Freemont and parts beyond. On Saturday May-19, we will venture to the campus of Kent State University in Kent, Ohio.



Kent State University has one of the most outstanding fashion museums of historical costumes in America. We will be led by Master Arlan, and Daughter, Rebecca Byrne. Ms. Byrne, a KSU Graduate student, has planned the morning that will include a tour of the campus, as urged by Founder JET Tirpak. We will have lunch at a local eatery. We will provide more detailed information for our "Spring Thing" in a separate cover letter.

Brent Morgan, Richmond, VA Our Richmond Raider and former Cleveland native will conduct a program with one of his professional cohorts of research. Brent & Michael L. Strauss will speak on Civil War primary, secondary and related records to use when researching your Civil War ancestors. This class sponsored through the Ohio Genealogical Society Conference will be held Thursday April 12, from 2-4:00pm. There will be a \$15.00 pre-registration fee. The conference will take place at the Intercontinental Hotel, located at 9801 Carnegie Avenue in Cleveland. You may contact Brent Morgan by e mail at: brentster1@comcast.net. Be sure to see Joe Tirpak, at our next meeting if you have any questions.

James A. Garfield, Mentor Library: The "Major Battles of the Civil War " speaker series continues on April 11th with the cooperation of the National Park Service. The program will be held from noon-1:15pm. You may bring your lunch if you like. The Battle of Shiloh from April 1862, is on tap. Scott Longert, who spoke last month may do this program. You can call to reserve seats or show up the day of. For any concerns email Todd Arrington, Director of Programs and Interpretation at todd.arrington@nps.org. NPS 440-255-8722; Mentor Library 440-255-8811.



Jeff Shaara, Author of Civil War Trilogies: The novelist of Gods & Generals, The Last Full Measure who continued his late Father Michael's trilogy starting with The Killer Angels is coming to NE Ohio. Jeff has authored books on other historic periods i.e. WW11; Revolutionary & Mexican Wars. Mr. Shaara will be the guest of the Kent State University 13th Annual Symposium on Democracy that will focus on the American Civil War, on April 23-25th. Member Jim Donahue, brought this special program to my attention. In recognition if the Civil War 150th Anniversary, Mr. Shaara, will be on a panel discussion with historians on the 24th at 9:00am; but the keynote speaker on 4-23 at 5:00pm in the Kiva Auditorium. Contact Jim @ jamesjrdon749@aol.com. Check out Kent's website or ph 330-672-3000, for more.

Mansfield Civil War Artillery & Collector's Show: The annual encampment will be at the Richland County Fairgrounds this year on Saturday & Sunday May 5-6th. This exciting exhibit is among the largest in the country. You can even meet Civil War artists and a friend of Ted Karle's and mine for creative framed artwork, Gary Jakubick, Owner of Historical Highlights, who we have conducted some business with, gjakubick@neo.rr.com. Or call 419-756-0498. The 2 day event is attended regularly by Ted & twin brother Tom Karle, .Pat Norris, Rick Hudak, Norton London & Yours Truly. Others going down are Dick Muny and Jim Keegan. Spouses may be attending. Contact Ted Karle, theokarle@aol.com, for the show website or phone numbers. (Photographs left and above of the Kent State Museum from the Plain Dealer)

Medical & Sick Bay Updates: Best wishes to First Lady Roberta Abbey, who recently had a knee replacement. She is currently rehabbing and progressing well according to President Steve Abbey. Book & 50/50 raffle member Bernard Taub, came home from a short hospital stay with an infectious bite. Keep Editor John Sandy, in your thoughts and prayers as he will have back surgery on March 29th. If other members may have issues, kindly bring those matters to my attention.

Fall Field Trip 2012: At this writing no specific location has been approved by the Executive Committee. Editor Sandy suggested we pass around a signup sheet on April 10th, to learn who would interested in our annual journey and discover those who believe they plan to attend. Also if you have a desire to share an idea of a prominent location you may expound on where and what theatre of the Civil War it might be.

Erie Civil War Roudtable; Last Tuesday 3-20, I enjoyed the company of Arlan Byrne, John Sandy & Ted & Tom Karle as we shared food and beverages at a new restaurant outside of Erie, PA. After we traveled to McDowell Intermediate School, Erie club moderator, William Steger made a quality power point presentation on controversial Union General, Daniel Sickles. Sickles was one of 7 corps commanders at Gettysburg for the Army of the Potomac. Steger provoked his audience to determine if Sickles was “ A Hero or A Villain”.



Edwin Cole Bearss *We are inching closer to May 15th:* Our dear friend, elder statesman & Honorary Member, Ed Bearss will be joining us for the 3rd time as our special guest speaker. The details of this special evening will be spelled out in the May issue of the Courier. Be sure to mark your calendar and you will want to bring your spouse and/friends.

Where Have You Gone Joe DiMaggio? In this case we ask, where have you been Joe Abazzio? Our prodigal son and charter member made a cameo appearance for the 1st time since the fall of 2010. Welcome back!

Congratulations to the 4 Ohio Basketball Teams: Ohio State, Ohio U, Cincinnati, & Xavier all made it to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA College March Madness Tourney. The Buckeyes even managed to advance to the Final 4. This feat has never been accomplished by any state before. Our deceased pal Dr. Leslie West would have cherished the moment and thoroughly enjoyed this spectacle of achievement. Hope to exchange pleasantries with you on April 10. Capt Franco # 14

Special Executive Committee Meeting at 5:15 pm April 10th

Dino's Meeting Rm. Spring Field Trip Agenda

2012 Officers of the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table

President: Steve Abbey Sergeant of Arms: Mike Sears Web Site: Tom Horvath
Vice President: Carl Dodaro Treasurer: Bill Meissner Program Chairman: Joe Tirpak
Secretary: Carl Dodaro Membership Liaison: Mike Driscoll

Past Presidents of the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table

Joe E. Tirpak *	1998	John A. Sandy	2005
Bob Baucher *	1999	Brent Morgan	2006
Norton London *	2000	J. Michael Sears	2007
Bob Bayless *	2001	Bill Meissner	2008
Dr. Bob Battisti *	2002	Arlan Byrne	2009
Frank Yannucci *	2003	Terry Reynolds	2010
Ted Karle	2004	Franco M. Sperrazzo	2011

* Indicates Club Founder

Why Would They Want to Assassinate President Lincoln?

President Abraham Lincoln is ranked as the best chief executive in the history of the United States by most historians and millions of private citizens. Lincoln is credited with saving the Union and freeing 4.5 million former slaves from bondage. He was a man, born of humble beginnings, to a dirt poor family on the Kentucky frontier. His mother died in childbirth when he was just 9 years old. His stepmother taught him to read and though he had little formal education, he had a thirst for knowledge. He moved to Illinois, worked as a store clerk during the day and studied law at night. Lincoln went on to become a very skillful trial lawyer. He was hired by the Illinois Central Railroad to represent them in legal disputes. In 1848, Lincoln was elected to the United States House of Representatives as a Whig candidate. He served for only one term (two years) but he established his name as a man in the tradition of Henry Clay. Lincoln supported a high protective tariff, a strong central banking system, the development of railroads and internal improvements to roads, bridges and harbor facilities. Mr. Lincoln opposed slavery and he believed that it was an immoral institution. But he also recognized that slavery was protected by the U. S. Constitution and that it would require an amendment to the Constitution to abolish it. An amendment to the Constitution requires that 2/3 of the states of the union ratify the amendment in order for it to become law.

By the 1800's a new religious movement began to sweep across the heartland of the United States. This New Protestantism was based on Neo Puritanism and its goal was to prepare the world for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. "Man must set up a 1000 year Kingdom of God on Earth and this kingdom required a perfect society that was free of Sin!" Alcohol, gambling, greed and prostitution were the instruments of the devil. Slavery was also viewed as a sin against God. The Southern branches of the movement refused to include slavery as an instrument of evil. The Yankee Puritans defined sin as anything that might interfere with a person's free will to embrace salvation. The Sabbath was a holy day reserved for prayer and Bible reading. One had to pray and read Scripture in order to maintain the fervor of salvation. The Abolitionist movement gained its zeal and breadth during this period and Abe Lincoln's views on slavery were influenced by this religious movement. Many of the North's Abolitionists leaders were influenced by this movement.

(Photograph on the left of President Lincoln, from Library of Congress)



In 1854, the Republican Party was formed by the former members of the Whig Party, the Free Soil Movement and the Anti-Catholic, Know-Nothings. The Republican Party opposed slavery and supported a strong national government that would provide funding for northern industry and commerce. Northern bankers, shippers and financial interests provided funds to support the party's platform and its agenda. John C. Fremont was its first Presidential candidate in the election of 1856 but he lost to the Democratic candidate, James Buchanan. The Republican Party opposed the spread of slavery to the territories and therefore garnered little support among the southern slave holding states. *(Photograph below left: Cotton waiting to be loaded, from the Library of Congress)*



By the mid nineteenth century, the South was beginning to feel that there was little advantage to being members of the Republic of the United States of America. The production of cotton required the use of slave labor in order to make it a profitable enterprise and while the population of the northern states was expanding with a steady influx of German and Irish immigrants, the Southland had only a modest increase in population. While cotton was still "King" in terms of income and providing a steady source of federal tax revenue, the South was losing control of Congress as more Free Soil Congressional districts were added to the emerging Northern states. The Northern states were growing in population and they were receiving most of the Federal Works projects funded by the South's tax revenue. Southern citizens began to see that they had less and less influence in Washington while the lion's share of tax revenue was collected from cotton and the high tariff charged on imported

foreign goods entering through southern ports.

In 1860, the Republican Party Platform offered little to eliminate the South's paranoia over its waning political and financial influence. Ohio Senator, Samuel P. Chase and New York Senator, William H. Seward were vying for their party's nomination for president. While Chase and Seward were popular Abolitionist leaders, they lacked national support. Abraham Lincoln was seen as a candidate who could capture the support of voters all across the nation and win the White House. The South regarded Lincoln as an anti-slavery politician who threatened not only their livelihood but their way of life. The Republicans met at the Wigwam in Chicago, Illinois in May of 1860 and selected Abraham Lincoln as their candidate. Lincoln won the Presidential election that November, gaining 39.8 % of the national vote among a field of 4 candidates including Steven Douglas, John Breckinridge and John Bell.

Eleven Southern, Slave holding States seceded from the United States from December 1860 through May of 1861 and formed their own nation, the Confederate States of America. On April 12, 1861, Confederate batteries in Charleston, South Carolina opened fire on Fort Sumter at 4:30 am and the War of the Rebellion (if you are a Yankee) or The War of Northern Aggression (if you are a Rebel) began. The Confederate States sent a delegation to Washington whose purpose was to meet with President Lincoln and work out an

agreement whereby the United States would recognize the Confederacy as a separate and independent nation. President Lincoln refused to meet with the Confederate delegation. Instead, Lincoln sought the counsel of his cabinet, the Department of War and General of the Army, Winfield Scott on what course of action he should take to bring the Confederate states back into the Union. General Scott proposed the Anaconda Plan, a blockade of all southern ports to halt all shipping and commerce. President Jefferson Davis had hoped to settle the issue by peaceful means but Lincoln provoked military action by attempting to resupply Sumter without permission from the Confederate government. Lincoln called for 75,000 Volunteers to put down the rebellion.

The American Civil War raged on for 4 years and resulted in the death of more than 620,000 troops from both sides. The Confederacy had but a small chance of winning its independence from the Federal government. The Union had a population of more than 30 million people as compared to just 9 million citizens in the Confederate states. The Slave population of the Confederacy amounted to 4.5 million and the Fire-Eaters of the Confederacy refused to consider arming the slaves in order to stop the invading armies of the Union. Most of the industry and heavy manufacturing was located in the north and northeastern states of the Union. The Confederacy had little industry to supply its armies. It was only a matter of time before the unlimited manpower supply of the Union overwhelmed the limited resources of the Confederacy.

Although President Lincoln did not belong to a Protestant Congregation, he was an avid reader of the Bible and often quoted Bible passages to illustrate a point or clarify an argument. It is therefore difficult, to understand why Lincoln, a man of Faith, would resort to the use of inhuman military force and sinful tactics to force the Confederate States back into the Union.

President Lincoln could have offered to pay the slave owners of the seceded Southern Confederacy for their “property” and avoided the deaths of 620,000 combatants and hundreds of thousands of amputees. It has been estimated that the American Civil War cost the Confederate and Union states more than \$ 7 billion (\$75 billion in 2008 dollars). Therefore why would a “Man of Faith” choose war and destruction of the entire southland in order to achieve a military solution to a social problem?

In the beginning of the Civil War, Lincoln felt that this dispute between the Union and the Confederacy would last for just a few months and the South would return to the Union. Lincoln prodded General Irvin McDowell to attack Confederate forces positioned at Henry House Hill near Manassas, Virginia on July 21, 1861. McDowell pleaded for more time to train his “Green Troops” so that they would be a more effective force but Lincoln insisted on rushing them into battle. McDowell had never before led men into battle and his Union Army was soundly defeated in the first major battle of the Civil War. McDowell was a quartermaster by training and had assumed command of the Union Volunteer forces because he was ordered to do so!



General George McClellan shared a number of political ideas with President Lincoln. They had both been Whigs and supported the political and social tenants of Daniel Webster and Henry Clay. McClellan was called to Washington in the summer of 1861 and given command of the defeated remnants of McDowell’s forces. McClellan had achieved much success against Confederate forces in the Alleghany Mountains of Western Virginia. McClellan was a master at organizing and training an army. Over the course of the next 6 months, he managed to mold The Army of the Potomac into a great fighting force. But once again, Lincoln was not happy with McClellan’s timetable. Lincoln ordered McClellan to attack the Confederate forces facing him at Manassas. McClellan refused to engage his army until he believed they were ready. This did not endear him to the Radical Republicans in Congress nor did it enhance his status with the Lincoln’s Cabinet. All called for McClellan to be removed from command. Lincoln could not decide what he should do because he had no one else to command the Army of the Potomac. *(Left Photograph of Irvin McDowell and George B. McClellan)*

McClellan believed that the Confederate states were misled into leaving the union. The Confederates were really his friends and fellow associates and should be treated as such. The Radical Republicans wanted to punish the Confederates and saw McClellan as a traitor and a “band box general.” McClellan finally began a campaign to capture Richmond, Virginia in the spring of 1862 but he failed to provide an adequate reserve forces to defend Washington, D. C. Lincoln and War Secretary Stanton withheld Irvin McDowell Corps of 40,000 men from linking up with McClellan’s forces on the Peninsula of Virginia. The loss of McDowell’s Corps exposed the right flank of McClellan’s Army. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia attacked

McClellan’s exposed right and forced him to abandon his supply base at White House Landing on the Pamunkey River. McClellan was forced to change his base of supply to the James River at Harrison Landing. Lincoln removed McClellan from command of the Army of the Potomac in August of 1862 and redeployed the units of the Army of the Potomac to the command of Major General John Pope and the Army of Virginia, located near Manassas.

General Pope was a West Point graduate who had achieved some success that spring, commanding Federal forces at Island #10 in Tennessee. But Pope was a man intoxicated with self importance and the men of the Army of the Potomac did not take too kindly to his brash, arrogant style. Pope’s forces were soundly defeated on August 28 – 30, 1862 in a flank attack by James Longstreet’s First

Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. Few military observers were surprised by Pope's defeat except for President Lincoln and the Radical Republicans. The administration wanted a scapegoat to blame and McClellan's devoted friend, Fitz John Porter fit the bill.

The Radical Republicans had enough of McClellan and his inertia. In their view, the Confederates were our enemy. They were traitors and must be treated as such. Before John Pope was exiled to chasing Indians in Minnesota, he managed to make himself one of the most hated Union officers in Virginia. Robert E. Lee received reports of Pope burning civilian property and the execution of private citizens he believed to be spies. Lee moved his Army of Northern Virginia off the Peninsula so that he might deal with Pope. General Pope was a distant cousin of Lincoln and would not have burned the homes of Southern citizens or had them executed without being ordered to do so.

In February of 1864, a cavalry force of four thousand men led by General Judson Kilpatrick attempted to attack the outer defenses of Richmond, Virginia while a smaller force of 460 men led by Col. Ulric Dahlgren attempted to reach the Confederate Prisoner of War Camp at Belle Isle, an island in the James River. The Confederates were alerted to the raid and Dahlgren was killed. A note book was found on his body. That notebook contained a detailed order to free the prisoners at Belle Isle, assassinate Jefferson Davis and the Confederate Cabinet and then to set fire to the city of Richmond. Richmond's Daily newspapers published the details of the Dahlgren Raid. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton denied the authenticity of the order and claimed that it was manufactured by the Confederates.



William Tecumseh Sherman and his Army of the Military Division of the Mississippi unleashed the concept of total war on the unfortunate citizens of Atlanta and the surrounding communities. Sherman's artillery rained fire and shell on the city and its citizens. Thousands of civilians were killed in the fires and the bombardment. The citizens that did survive were left homeless and with nothing to eat. Sherman continued his advance to Savannah, Georgia. His army burned and looted every house and barn in their path.

General Phil Sheridan was ordered to destroy the Confederacy's sources of food and livestock in the Shenandoah Valley in September of 1864. Sheridan's forces burned more than 2200 barns, 70 grist mills and factories. In addition his men killed 4000 head of cattle, 3000 sheep, and thousands of chickens and hogs. Hundreds of Shenandoah Valley citizens died of starvation in the winter of 1864 -1865. (*Left Photograph of William Tecumseh Sherman*)

President Abraham Lincoln unleashed the concept of total war on the citizens of Atlanta, Georgia and the peaceful farm communities of the Shenandoah Valley. Had the Confederacy won the war, it is a good bet that President Lincoln, Edwin Stanton, U. S. Grant, W. T. Sherman, Phil Sheridan and John Pope would have been tried as war criminals for causing the death of thousands of innocent civilians. Historian James McPherson believes that 50,000 civilian deaths were the result of Union action during the Civil War. Historian and Economist, Thomas DiLorenzo believes that McPherson has underestimated the number of civilians killed by Union forces. DiLorenzo believes that more than 700,000 Southern civilians died as a result of Lincoln's Hard War Campaign. It follows that Robert E. Lee took his army into Pennsylvania in the summer 1863 to gain retribution for the inhuman acts of the Federal armies throughout the Southern Confederacy. Lee's men may have helped themselves to chickens, hogs and large quantities of food in their foraging mission into Pennsylvania but no civilians were harmed and their homes and barns were not disturbed.

In the spring of 1864, shortly after the Dahlgren Raid, the Confederate Secret Service began using its contacts and spy network in northern cities in an attempt to kidnap President Lincoln. The Confederates had hoped to bargain for the release of a number of Confederate prisoners of war in exchange for Lincoln's life. John Wilkes Booth and his gang of conspirators were not able to kidnap Lincoln, so they resorted to assassination. They believed that they would be welcomed home as heroes. Instead, the Southern newspapers called the assassination a despicable act and wanted no part of Booth and his gang of cut throats.. It will be up to history to judge whether Lincoln was a great president or a tyrant that ordered his generals to use the Hard Hand of Total War.

References for Why Would Anyone want to Assassinate President Lincoln::

Nothing Ought to Astonish Us: Confederate Civilians in the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign, William G. Thomas

University of Nebraska 2006

The Real Lincoln: A new look at Abraham Lincoln, His Agenda and an Unnecessary War, Thomas DiLorenzo

Prima Publishing, Roseville, California 2002

Battle Cry of Freedom, James McPherson

Ballantine Books, New York 1988

The Burning: Sheridan's Devastation of the Shenandoah Valley, John L. Heatwole Rockbridge Publishing, Charlottesville, Va. 1998

The Battle of Balls Bluff by Arlan Byrne

A Drama in Three acts

Synopsis: In Act I General McClellan hears a rumor the Confederates are massing troops in Leesburg, Virginia for a possible attack. He orders General Charles Stone, whose Army of Observation is on the North side of the Potomac River opposite Leesburg, to investigate. Stone passes the order on to Colonel Charles Devens, Commander of the 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. The results of a small night patrol on October 20th is inconclusive, so a larger 'Reconnaissance in Force' is planned for the next day, October 21st.



General Charles Stone

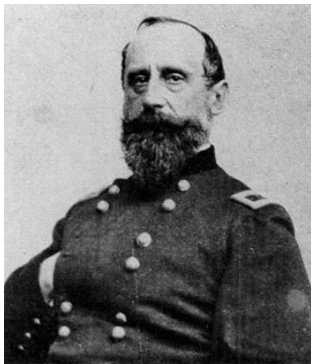
Act II

April 1863 Two Years Later

The curtain opens on a railroad ticket office at night in the early spring of 1863. Lanterns on the walls and hanging from the center of the room provide adequate light. The walls are whitewashed and in the middle of the rear wall is a window with an iron grill over it. A slot in the bottom of the grill permits money and tickets to pass through. A large sign over the window says TICKETS; but the window is closed. A bulletin board marked ARRIVALS–DEPARTURES is on the wall next to the ticket window. In the west wall are two doors, one wider than the other. A sign over the wider door says FREIGHT and a sign over the narrower door says PASSENGERS. A long wooden church-type bench pew with a back is stage front center. A neatly stacked pile of 15-20 suitcases, trunks and boxes is behind and to the left of the bench. General Stone, dressed in a Union Generals uniform, sits on the bench, legs crossed, smoking a cigar and staring morosely into space. He is alone in the room.

The door marked 'PASSENGERS' on stage right opens and Colonel Devens' orderly enters. He holds the door open, steps to the side and snaps to attention. Colonel Devens enters, sees Stone and starts to limp slowly across the room using a cane to help him walk. Stone glances up, sees Devens, leaps to his feet, and rushes toward Devens, holding out his hand:

General Stone: ".....Umphh.....Charles.....By God, it's good to see you again..."



Col. Charles Devens

Devens: "Thank you sir!"

Both men shake hands heartily and sit down on the bench.

Stone:..Umphh....I heard about you getting wounded at Fair Oaks.....as if being wounded at Balls Bluff wasn't enough for you....Umphf... How are you getting along?"

Devens: "The doctors say I am healing well and should be able to get rid of this cane and return to duty in a short while, sir."

Stone: " Good, good....umphf...Well, you know what they say; 'A Colonel wounded three times automatically becomes a General.'"

Stone laughs heartily at his joke, but Devens merely smiles. Then Devens says: "Sir, I was outraged to hear about your courts martial. That defeat wasn't your fault, and I told them that when I testified. Even General McClellan sent a letter stating that!"

Then Devens motions to his orderly and points to the pile of luggage. The orderly quietly starts to carry the luggage across stage rear and out the door marked 'freight'.

Stone:"... ummpf.....well, Congress didn't really care whose fault it was, they were just looking for a scapegoat. The entire Northern public including the Democratic Press and the anti-war Democrats were all up arms.....Umpgf.....you know, 'let the erring sisters go in peace' and all that nonsense" Pause " And..... rightly so...umpff.....first that Bull Run disaster and then Wilsons Creek out in Missouri where the Union forces ran all the way back to St. Louis..... and finally Balls Bluff....all in three months to the day... umpgf. The war was going badly for the Union and somebody had to pay the price.....umpgf... I guess it was me."

Stone reaches into his inner coat pocket, pulls out a silver flask, unscrews the top and offers it to Devens. Devens takes a drink, gasps, coughs, leans forward, his eyes starting to water, and whispers "Glenlivet!."

Stone ignores him, takes back the flask, takes a healthy drink, leans forward and says indignantly: “Do you know what they did?Umpfg..... They arrested me in the middle of the night! Can you imagine?umpgf.....” his voice rising, “ in the middle of the night!... An officer and a gentleman....” Then, starting to rise and in a very loud voice says: “IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT !!!”

Slumping back down on the bench he looks at Devens and says quietly, “Did you know that when we got to the Philadelphia station, they didn’t have a transfer ticket to New York for me;....Umpff.... and they didn’t even have the money to buy one, so I paid for it myself?”

He pauses a few seconds and then chuckles and says: ”I bet I’m the only prisoner who ever paid his own way to jail.....ummpf.”

Then Stone leaned toward Devens, lowered his voice and said conspiratorially: “Do you want to know the real reason they tried to courts martial me?”

At this Colonel Devens orderly, who was carrying boxes across the room, stopped to listen; but Devens, who noticed him, glared at him and he resumed carrying boxes out the door.

Stone ignored the orderly and continues: “Oh sure, Colonel Baker, who was killed in the battle, was a member of the Senate and the only sitting Senator ever killed in combat;umpf... and he was a also a close personal friend of Lincoln.....ummpf..... In fact Lincoln named a son of his after him.....umpf..... and,.....”

Here Stone stopped talking, and started fussing with his cigar, which had gone out.

“Damned war,” Stone muttered, “.....umpf.....Can’t even get a decent cigar anymore.”

Stone finally gets his cigar restarted. He leans back on the bench, looks at the ceiling and blows out a large blue smoke ring. “And”, he continues,.....”umpff..... the abolitionist wing of the Republican Party was really getting frustrated. Even after John Brown, secession and Fort Sumter, Lincoln refused to make this a war to end slavery.....ummpf...and the abolitionists felt something had to be done about it....In fact, about two – three weeks after the Bluff battle, two runaway slaves came into my camp and I was forced to return them to their Maryland owners. Umpf.....That didn’t make Massachusetts Governor Andrews and his abolitionist friends happy! But what could I do? Maryland was still a loyal state and the Fugitive Slave Law was still the law of the land....And another of the things that got Andrews and his friends really upset and started the whole courts martial thing was a letter I wrote to Andrews. For months he had been writing and sending me messages on how to use the Massachusetts troops in my army. Finally I got tired of itumpf.... had enough of it.....umpgh,...so I wrote him a letter and told him that while he had raised the Massachusetts troops, now they belonged to my army. I was in charge of them and I would tell them what to do. He should keep his damned nose out of the Army’s business.....umpgf.

Devens chuckled and said, “That must have been when I heard talk about a duel between you and Andrews.”

Stone: Umpf....Probably, but it was all newspaper talk,nothing serious....umpf. However, Andrews did get together with that Senator from Massachusetts,...umm... Sumner - you know, the one Brooks almost beat to death a few years ago -and Representative Ben Wade from Ohio. Together they helped to create the ‘Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War.’ They use it to punish any general who they think doesn’t fight the war their way.....umpfh.....It’s hard to fight a war with a bunch of politicians looking over your shoulder and knowing any little mistake on your part could ruin your career.....or worse...umpf. In my case, before they dropped the courts martial charges, they took secret testimony from secret witnesses, and kept me in jail for six months before I was allowed to testify.Umpf... but they wouldn’t tell me what the charges were! How can you defend yourself when you don’t know what you are charged with. ...Bah!... Also, the first month I was in jail, I was kept at Fort Jefferson in New York harbor in solitary confinement. I became so sick I almost died. If it hadn’t been for my personal physician, Dr. Cudnik, I would have. Luckily for me he was able to pull some strings and get me transferred to a healthier prison.”

Devens: “Yes sir, thank God for Dr. Dan. He is the country’s foremost expert on battle wounds. His advice after Fair Oaks has allowed me to keep this leg.”

The orderly has finished carrying the boxes and suitcases out of the room and stands at attention behind the bench.

In the distance a train whistle can be heard. Stone:“.....humfp...Well, that will be my train. I’ve been assigned to serve as General Banks ‘Chief of Staff’ in the Gulf Department....humpf.”

Devens: “Yes Sir, I heard that news while I was at Army Headquarters yesterday. I also heard that none of your old orderlies were available to accompany you; so I arranged for my orderly here to be transferred to you. He is an excellent ‘scrounger’,

especially for fine cigars and whiskey, and he has been lying around the bars and fleshpots of Washington for the past two months. I'm sure he is anxious to get back out into the field where the action is!"

When the orderly hears this, his shoulders slump, and a shocked look appears on his face as if he is about to cry.

The train whistle sounds again, very loudly, as if it were right outside the door.

Stone and Devens both rise. Stone puts his arm around Devens shoulder and says: "Charles, good luck." He smiles, "....umpgh..... I'm sure you will make General without being wounded again." He walks out the passenger door followed by the dejected orderly. Devens stands, leans on his cane and watches them go.

Curtain falls – end of Act II

Note; Devens was wounded for the third time at Chancellorsville and eventually became General.

Civil War Pensions by Joe Tirpak, Founder

The following information about eligibility for Civil War Pensions appeared in the Painesville Telegraph on Thursday, June 1, 1865. The information was provided to show to whom CW Pensions may be granted.

1. Invalids, disabled since March 4, 1861, in the military or naval service of the United States, while in the line of duty.
2. Widows, of officers, soldiers and seamen who have died of wounds received or disease contracted in the service as above.
3. Children under sixteen years of age of either of the deceased parents, if there is no widow surviving or from the time of the widow's remarriage.
4. Mothers of officers, soldiers or seamen deceased as afore mentioned, and who are dependent on the son for support, in whole or in part.
5. Sisters under sixteen years of age dependent on said deceased brother wholly or in part for support, provided there are none for the last three classes above mentioned.

Invalids and friends of the deceased soldiers are reminded that I order to have said pension commence when the service terminated, the application therefore must be made within a year of the discharge of the invalid, or decease of the officer, soldier or seamen, as the case may be.

Rates of Pensions: Lt. Colonel and officers of high rank, \$30 per month; Major \$25 per month; First Lieutenant \$17 per month; Second Lieutenant \$17 per month; all enlisted men \$9 per month. Only one full pension will be allowed to the relative of a deceased soldier, and in the order of precedence as above mentioned.

I believe that this was a remarkable recognition of the devastation and misery created by this war and an effort by our leaders of that time period to reach out to those families that were most affected by the loss of a loved one.

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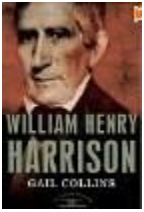
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***William Henry Harrison* by Gail Collins – a book review by Tom Horvath**



This short biography of William Henry Harrison is the most enjoyable non-fiction book I've read in some time. It is one of a series of books about the presidents, and gives immediate rise to the question of why anyone would volunteer to write about the president who served only 30 days before dying in office. Ms. Collins answered that question with humor and frankness in the preface: her father helped tear down President Harrison's home before it could become a national historic site and she felt a sense of familial obligation to repay somewhat for that indignity.

The next question is why I would be interested in reading about the president who served the shortest term. Having recently read about the War of 1812, I was interested in learning more about Harrison's role in the only major land battle won by Americans during the war, the Battle of the Thames. In fact, there was little about that battle in this volume.

As mentioned, this is one of a series of books about the presidents. Appropriately, the volume puts more emphasis on that portion of his life and, in the case of President Harrison, that means the nomination and election processes. Fortunately, there is plenty of interesting information in that area, particularly about the campaign.

It was an unusually modern campaign for the time. It was as if public relations people had landed in 1840 and put a huge spin on the truth. The newspapers and people who created the image of Harrison as a "log cabin" candidate and the hero of Tippecanoe ("Tippecanoe and Tyler, too") succeeded in turning the truth on its ear. Harrison was, in fact, born to Virginia aristocracy, the son of a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was the youngest son and his father died while Harrison was still a young man so, in large part, he did have to make his own way. The only "log cabin" in Harrison's life was a two-story log home Harrison built when a young man, but progressing from a Virginia plantation to a "log cabin" wouldn't sell as an American success story. Harrison's supporters also managed to paint his opponent, Martin Van Buren, as a man born to wealth. The fact that Martin Van Buren actually began life in much more moderate surroundings couldn't overcome his contemporary image as a man who dressed in fine clothes and liked fine food.

Then there was the fact that Harrison didn't actually participate in the Battle of Tippecanoe. He earned his fame as the commanding general at the Battle of the Thames, sometime later. The problem was that Van Buren's vice-presidential candidate, Richard Mentor Johnson, also fought at the Battle of the Thames. Not to be outdone, the Van Buren press talked up the story that Johnson had killed Tecumseh at that battle – something Johnson never claimed to do, but was careful not to deny. To westerners, the death of Tecumseh was at least as important as winning the battle.

Harrison also stumbled for himself. That was very controversial in those times. Many people considered it unseemly and very un-presidential. He probably did it because he was stung by accusations that, at 67, he was too old and decrepit to serve as president. By being seen and heard, he was able to dispel those accusations – at least among the relatively few people that saw him.

That same objective, and vanity, may have led to his early demise. At his inauguration, Harrison stood in the cold with his hat off and without a top coat to give a two hour speech – the longest inauguration speech ever. During the early days of his term, he traveled about Washington on foot in all kinds of weather, even buying his own groceries. Three weeks after his inauguration, he contracted pneumonia and eight days later, he died. Little was accomplished during those thirty days, so historians are left with only speculation as to what he might have done had he lived.

Ms. Collins's writing has a light touch, making this book an easy read. The fact that the book is both short and small contributes to that ease, but it is her humor and style that make it enjoyable. The other books in this series are equally short which, along with some of the comments in the editor's notes, leads me to believe that these books are meant primarily for students. Don't let that deter you. This is far from an exhaustive biography, but it manages to catch the essence and spirit of the subject, and it does it with candor and humor.

Published in 2012 by Holt, Henry, & Company, the volume contains only 153 pages. It has an index, a notes section, selected bibliography, and a table of milestones in Harrison's life. There are no maps and only one illustration -- an engraving of Harrison. Amazon has the hard cover edition available for \$12.88. Barnes & Noble has it for \$13.00 and a Nook version for \$10.88. Mentor Public Library owns one copy while the ClevNet System has 14.