THE COURIER



Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



Special Holiday Gala December 13th, 2011, Meeting #121 Dino's Restaurant at I90 & State Rt. 306 Willoughby, Ohio Guest Speaker: Richard L. McElroy Topic: Rating the American Presidents and First Ladies Canteen at 6:00 pm Dinner at 7:00pm Guests are welcome Reservations required Please call Steve Abbey Phone 440 255 8375 e-Mail: abbysr@yahoo.com Music provided by Josh Fadenholz

Richard L. McElroy is back for an encore performance at the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table. We enjoyed his December 2009 presentation so much that we had to see him again. Mr. McElroy has hosted historical programs on C-Span and PBS and he helped make our 2002 visit to the President McKinley Museum memorable with his humor and easy-going style. He was born in Smithfield, Ohio and is a graduate of Carrollton High School. He earned his undergraduate and master's degrees in History from Kent State University and has taught in both the Stow and North Canton School districts. Mr. McElroy also taught courses in Political Science and Education at Mount Union College. In 2003, President George Walker Bush named Richard McElroy to a special White House Forum to promote the Study of the Social Sciences.

Richard McElroy and his wife Pamela have a daughter, 2 sons, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandson. Our presenter enjoys collecting baseball cards and the autographs of famous personalities. He is the author of more than 100 stories and articles and has published 12 books including: *James A. Garfield, His Life and Times, William McKinley and Our America, American Presidents, Fascinating Facts and Stories.* McElroy has also tried his hand at local politics by serving two terms on the Canton, Ohio City Council. He also served on the Stark County Planning Commission.

Richard McElroy is a prodigious writer who has received many national and local awards. He is listed in Who's Who in America. He was awarded the Liberty Bell Award by the Stark

County Bar Association. The Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table is honored to have Richard McElroy and his wife Pamela as our guests for our special Ladies Night program.



14th PRESIDENT"S CIVIL WAR JOURNAL by Franco M. Sperrazzo

November 8th Meeting, Dr. Daniel B. Cudnik: Dr. Dan has now given several presentations to our roundtable. He has tackled topics largely unrelated such as Civil War medicine, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and now Guerrilla Operations During the Civil War. He wore a Kansas Jayhawks sweat shirt during his presentation. He did residency at the University of Kansas from 1970-73 specializing in general surgery. Dr. Cudnik created a thought provoking talk citing key examples that demonstrated how notorious outlaws from the Old West carried out field tactics that were introduced when many of them served in the Civil War. Infamous figures like the Earps, Youngers and Daltons were singled out. Of course Rebel Raiders John Hunt Morgan and John Singleton Mosby were prominent. We will have to wait and see what attire Dr. Dan will wear when he gives his next stellar performance.



Above Left: Fall 2011 Gettysburg Field Trip



<u>Ad hoc Executive Meeting:</u> We met following our regular meeting to approve Darrell Schneider for membership sponsored by Paul Posatiere Jr. We will also make donations for 2011 to Western Reserve Historical Society for their annual fundraising campaign. Joe Tirpak serves on the "Wall of Honor" committee at Lake County Historical Society, so we are contributing to their expenses. I want to offer a *Special thank you to Mike Sears* for his assistance and support towards the recent fall field trip to Gettysburg.

<u>Western Reserve Historical Society:</u> WRHS recently had their holiday party. There is time over the next three weeks to marvel over the decorations of the festive Bingham-Hanna and Hay-McKinny mansions. The Civil War 150th Flag Exhibit is on display. Remember admission is free if you ask me for passes.

<u>**Pearl Harbor – A Day of Infamy:**</u> December 7th 1941 – December 7, 2011. At this writing we want to acknowledge the 70th Anniversary of that tragic and immortal day in our American history. Most veterans who survived are in at least their mid-80's to 90's. We have at least two active members- Herb Jacobs, Bill Koeckert and one honorary member Edwin C. Bearss. If there are others, we will have a moment of silence to salute them as well on December 13th, for their dedicated service to our country.

James A. Garfield Legacy Project at Lawnfield: We held a second effective meeting on November 16th at the Lawnfield historic site. The original foundation was laid at the first meeting on June 29th to investigate possible project planning from our club. The Park Service initially presented a 9 topic wish list.

It is important to note that they are not allowed to self promote. The government does not allow that and their financial subsidy is not what you would hope it to be. Here is why Ted Karle, John Sandy, Steve Abbey, Arlan Byrne, Tom Horvath, Bernie Taub and Yours Truly believe this is important and worthwhile. They are not soliciting our membership for monies; they are our Lake County neighbors where we are based; we can be influential in their efforts to achieve certain goals in a voluntary capacity; assist in fundraising and eventually spearhead forming a Friends of James A. Garfield affiliation within the community. We have narrowed the topics to three. This will be brought forward to our January 2012 Executive Board meeting for discussion and approval. Future member Scott Longert, who works as a park guide and historian, will relate more of their vision to us periodically at future meetings as time allows. Scott can be reached at the Garfield site at <u>scott longert@nps.gov</u> or 440 255-8722.

Dr. Phillip Price: Dr. Phil has been our speaker the past few years during Presidents Month for February meetings. This past year a medical setback kept him sidelined, so Norton London stepped in admirably. He has been an NEOCWRT member since 2003. The Sun Messenger Newspaper from November 3rd has a feature story in which Price announced his resignation from the Mayfield City School System at the end of the current calendar year mid next Summer. Phillip has been superintendent for the past 13 years, and

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was honored earlier this year as Ohio Superintendent for the Year 2011. He once conveyed to me he worked for the Chicago School System. His son and daughter both reside there. He and wife Karen are both in harmony with their decision to the Chicago area in 2012 to reunite with their kids and enjoy time with their

two grandchildren. We wish the Price's all the best and certainly the offer to visit with us in the future. We as his club will keep an open door policy for Phillip Price, our friend to speak to the membership when he journeys back to Ohio. We look forward to his "Oberlin-Underground Railroad" talk in February 2012.

Richard L. McElroy, December 13, 2011: My first moment of knowledge and enlightenment with Mr. McElroy was in 2007 at Sons of the American Revolution through the efforts of late Founder Bob Battisti Sr for the George Washington Birthday Celebration. April 27th that same year Battisti Sr lead our troops to the Mckinley Monument & Museum in Canton, OH where Mr. McElroy served as a guide and docent. We re-discovered Richard in 2009, for our club Holidays Celebration. Back for another festive occasion his topic will cover "Rating Ohio President's & First Ladies Serving at Wartime".Mr. McElroy is an accomplished college professor, coach, author, historian and even a softball Hall of Famer. He and delightful & lovely wife Pamela will engage us on December 13th. In my past associations with Richard I acquired 3 of his excellent books. They include "American President & First Ladies Vol. 3"; "William McKinley & Our America"; and the most recent he unveiled to us at Holiday 2009 is titled "Battlefield Presidents". These and others will be available for sale following his regular presentation. For this meeting Dino's Manager Doug and Owner Pat have pulled out all the stops and extended the menu to include entrees chicken marsala, filet beef medallions and baked scrod, with Italian veggies, roasted potatoes, Dino's famous salad, desert and beverages. The club will provide 7 personally selected wines at dinner time all for only \$25.00 per person. An open cash bar will be in place as usual from 6-7pm during the social hour. We will have our book raffle with special prizes for the lady guests handled by Carl Dodaro & Terry Reynolds. The 50/50 raffle will be conducted by Mike Driscole & Bernard Taub. There may be more surprises provided for you to enjoy! **Books** are still a wonderful source of knowledge, if you have any you would like to contribute helping us to defray costs of outside speakers kindly do so. **Thanks**



Above left: Group photo with Ed Pershey

Ted Karle, Ed Bearss, Franco Sperrazzo and George Deutsch

January 10, 2012 Meeting: Newer member but Veteran Bill Koeckert will share some life experiences with us to kick off the New Year. His topic has not yet been revealed. We are planning a possible NEOCWRT Website promo for this meeting. Stay tuned for more details.

Special Presidents Note:

I feel fortunate & proud to have served my fellows peers with the challenge of being your President for Year 2011. Having passed on two previous nominations I believe accepting the honor was the right decision. I would even consider a second term at a future time if our Constitution ever allows for the opportunity and history repeats itself. Any qualified members should put their reservations aside, step forward and participate in some capacity to properly show their intentions to hold an Executive Committee position. You will be given all the support you need.

Have A Wonderful & Safe Holiday Season. Please remember those less privileged and in need.

Your NEOCWRT 14th President, FRANCO MICHAEL SPERRAZZO

President Lincoln and the July 1863 Draft Riots of New York

In the summer of 1863, New York City had become a seething hot bed of social unrest and anti federal government fervor. Union Armies had sustained horrendous battlefield casualties at Shiloh, The Peninsula Campaign, Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Stones River. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton had closed all of the Recruiting Offices in the spring of 1862, believing that the war would soon be won. Stanton believed that more troops would not be required. Stanton was wrong of course. Thousands of Union troops who had survived the battles of 1862 were scheduled to be ending their enlistments in the spring of 1863. Recognizing the impending shortage of troops, Congress passed the Enrollment and Conscription Act in March of 1863. Draft Lottery offices were to be opened in cities all across the Union.

In January of 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which stated that all slaves in the states that were in rebellion against the Union were for hence forth and forever, free. This action not only angered the leaders of the Southern Confederacy but it also infuriated the citizens of New York City. Up to this time, the Civil War was being fought to put down the rebellion of the disenfranchised southern states and restore the Union. Lincoln was now using the War Powers Clause of the Constitution to deprive the Confederate States of slave labor. Lincoln and his administration reasoned that if the slaves began fleeing the plantations, seeking asylum with the closest Union army, the south would be deprived of vital manpower it needed to harvest crops and aid the Confederate cause. This action would hasten the end of hostilities. But in New York City, The Emancipation Proclamation and The Enrollment and Conscription Act were seen as evil deeds by a sinister and intrusive federal government.



With a population of more than 800,000, New York City had grown in 1863 to become the largest city in the United States. Thousand of destitute Irish and German immigrants had fled their homelands for the promise of a new and better life in America. Many of the German immigrants were skilled artisans or educated professionals. They therefore had little difficulty finding gainful employment. The Irish on the other hand were mostly unskilled day laborers who battled each other for menial jobs working on the docks and warehouses of New York. The Irish were forced by necessity to live in overcrowded tenement houses in neighborhoods with open sewers and an over abundance of crime and prostitution. The Five Points area of New York was more like a scene from Dante's Inferno than a busy urban intersection. Here, street gangs battled each other for control of their turf. They would not hesitate to smash in the heads of opposing gang members. The murder rate in New York was only exceeded by the death rate from disease.

Picture above: "Five Points by George Catlin, 1827

New York City was often called the "The Northern most southern city in the U. S. A." because most of the business activity of the city was dependent upon the agricultural commodities produced in the southern states. Black Slaves were required to plant and cultivate cotton, tobacco, rice and a number of farm products grown on the plantations of the south. Southern plantation owners financed their crop production with loans from New York banks. The commodities grown on those same plantations were shipped to Europe on ships owned by New York shipping companies and the shipping companies required the cheap labor provided by the poor Irish immigrants who on the docks and warehouses loading and unloading the merchant ships. Therefore, it was no accident that most of the working class and well heeled business men of New York City were opposed to the Abolitionist Movement and any effort to free the Black Slaves.

President Lincoln met with a group of African American at the White House in the spring of 1862. At this meeting, Lincoln blamed the Black Slaves for the Civil War and told the delegation that the slaves would have to be sent overseas. Lincoln said: "Your race is suffering in my judgment, the greatest wrong inflicted on any people, but on this broad continent, not a single man of your race is made equal of a single man of ours." This is a quote from the writings of Frederick Douglas.(1)

In a new book published in February of 2011, Historians, Phillip Magness and Sebastian Page write in "Colonization after Emancipation, Lincoln and the Movement for Black Resettlement," that they had discovered documents in the British Archives that indicate Lincoln's intention on what to do with freed Black Slaves. In June of 1863, British colonial agent John Hodge was given the authorization to recruit freed slaves for resettlement in Guyana and Belize. Hodge reported to the British Ministry that Lincoln said it was his desire for this emigration to go ahead. Sebastian Page, an Oxford University professor said that Lincoln also considered

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sending freed slaves to what is now Panama to assist in the construction of a canal. Lincoln's plans for colonization of the Blacks ended in 1864 when the British government believed that the Confederacy might win the war and suspended the agreement. Later that year the U. S. Congress voted to end funding for colonization. (2)

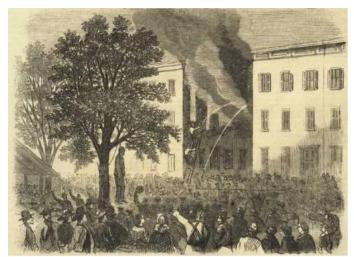
The anti war/ anti Abolitionist newspapers in New York published editorials critical of the Federal government's plan to enroll more able bodied men in the fight for the freedom of Black Slaves. *The Journal of Commerce and the New York Herald* went on to enflame the passions of the working poor by insisted that the freed Southern Blacks would be coming to New York City and they would undoubtedly be working for lower wages than the Irish. The Blacks would be hired and the Irish would be forced to work for lower wages or unable to obtain work all together. At least that was the growing fear and rant of the anti war press.

The first Draft Lottery was held in New York City of July 12, 1863. The city was relatively quiet except for someone shouting an occasional "We are sold for \$300.00." the cost of paying for an exemption, to serve in the army in you place.(3) Only the rich businessmen and wealthy bankers could afford that luxury. The unfortunate poor would be forced to serve and lose their life or limb fighting for a cause they surely did not support, freedom for Black Slaves!

On Monday July 13, 1863, the riot began as if on cue. Mobs welding iron pipes and axe handles gathered in the streets and intersections blocking the movement of pedestrian traffic and commerce. The rioters attacked the government draft offices, setting them on fire and sending the government workers fleeing for their lives. At noon the mob moved up Broadway and Chambers assaulting Black street vendors who had the misfortune of being there.

At about 10 past noon on Monday, July 13th, Major E. S. Stanford of the U. S. Military Telegraph Service in New York City dispatched an urgent message to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. "A serious riot is now taking place on Third Avenue at the Provost Marshall's Office. The office is said to have burned and the adjoining block is on fire."(4)

In June of 1863, General R. E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia invaded Pennsylvania. Secretary of War Stanton ordered all New York State Militia units to report to General George Gordon Meade and assist him in his defense of Pennsylvania. There were no New York State Militia units available to put down the riot in New York City.



Rioters headed toward Wall Street on July 14th only to be turned back by heavily armed policemen. The Wall Street financial institutions were not about to let their fortunes fall prey to an angry army of the insane. A U S Navy warship was anchored nearby in the East River to add to the security of the financial district if needed.

Drawing on the left: Negro hanged by a mob on July 15,1863 From Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper of August 1,1863

Rioters attacked the Colored Orphan Asylum located on Fifth Avenue near 43rd Street. There were approximately 233 Black children living in the orphanage at that time and they were all led away to safety by Caucasian bystanders who were in turn roughed up by the mob. The rioters looted the orphanage carrying away food, clothing and furnishings before setting fire to the building.

Innocent Black Freedmen were attacked and beaten to death while other Blacks were hanged and set on fire by the mob which had grown to more than 40,000. The New York Police Department numbered 2000 strong in the summer of 1863. Police Superintendent John Alexander Kennedy tried to direct his available patrolmen to block and suppress the converging rioters. Kennedy however was captured by the mob and badly beaten. The mob then looted his house and burned it to the ground.

The rioters sought out the homes and business of the wealthy class of New Yorkers, most of whom were Republicans. The poor despised Republicans and they especially hated wealthy Republicans. Rioters attacked and burned the Brooks Brothers Clothing Store because it catered to the rich.

On Wednesday July 14, 1863, the rioting subsided and peaceful order was restored with the arrival of 6000 troops from the Army of the Potomac in Gettysburg. The army units ordered the mob to disperse and return to their homes. Those who choose to defy the military's orders were summarily shot. New York Governor Horatio Seymour arrived at New York City on Thursday July 15th and went directly to City Hall to speak to a gathering of citizens. Seymour declared that the Conscription Act and the Draft Lottery were both unconstitutional. He vowed to challenge them in Federal Court. Historian James McPherson estimates that at least 120 civilians were killed and more than 2000 injured during the New York City Riots, although other historians believe that the number was much higher . McPherson also estimates that property damage amounted to more than \$5 million (1863 dollars) or nearly \$50 billion in 2011 dollars.

THE MILITARY BAND IN THE CIVIL WAR

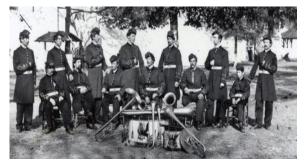
NUTS & BOLTS OF THE CIVIL WAR

COMPILED BY CARL DODARO

With the holiday season upon us and Christmas music everywhere you go, and music being a part of the life of the Civil War soldier, this month we are going to look at the Civil War military brass band.

Music has always been an important part of the American society and it was no different during the Civil War. Military bands were called upon to play at recruitment rallies and their patriotic marching tunes were sometimes a great incentive to inspire young men to enlist. The bands were needed to play for parades, formations, hospitals and to provide

entertainment for the troops and civilian gatherings. In 1861, the United States War Department officially approved that every regiment of infantry and artillery could have a brass band with 24 members, while a cavalry regiment could have a brass band of 16 members. The proliferation of volunteer regiments caused Congress to reassess the situation in regard to the bands because the musicians (considered noncombatants) were under salary and it was noted that the cost of operation of a band of 24 members per year was between \$9,100 and \$13,000 a year, which included salaries, transportation and subsistence (compared to a Union private who was paid \$156 a year and all the



hard tack he could eat). By July of 1862, a new public law was passed which abolished regimental bands in volunteer units, and brigade bands were formed to serve the entire brigade of a division. Despite the order, some regimental officers were able to retain their bands. The musicians were re-enlisted as combatants and were detailed by the colonel commanding the regiment into a regimental band.

There were fewer Confederate bands because musicians were not as plentiful in the South and good instruments



were expensive and very difficult to obtain. Quality brass instruments were rare because the metal was in short supply in the Confederacy and some of the best instrument makers were in the North. Like their Union counterparts, most Confederate bands were dismissed from the service after the first year of the war though several organizations, including the 26th North Carolina Infantry, retained their bands and many southern officers were glad for it. Generals Lee, Jackson, and Longstreet were all serenaded by Confederate bands while in camp and enjoyed the music very much. Most officers, including General Lee, felt that the music supplied by these surviving bands was very important to keep up the

morale of the men. The bands that remained with the army often used music borrowed from Northern song books and used captured instruments in place of their inferior Confederate-made instruments. Some Confederate bands were better than others and not all bands sounded that good. One Confederate soldier regarded the playing of his regiment's band "comparable to the braying of a pack of mules…"

The instruments used in a 16 to 24 piece brass band usually consisted of Eb Coronets, Bb Coronets, Eb Alto



Horns, Bb Bass Horns and percussion. Most of the horns were in the bell-up style, also known as horn-up style, which allowed a better sound to carry farther in the field. The coronet players were usually the buglers of the regiment and (with the drum) were used to communicate orders. Buglers (and the soldiers who had to understand the call) had to learn 49 separate calls for the infantry, with more for the cavalry. The percussion consisted of a



type of large snare drum, which along with keeping beat with the music, also was relied upon to play drum beats to call the soldiers into formation and for other events. Drums got the soldiers up in the morning, signaled them to report for morning roll call, sick call, and guard duty. The most important use of drums was on the battlefield where

they were used to communicate orders and signal troop movement. Similar to buglers, drummers had to learn 39 different beats: 15 for general use, and 24 for marching cadence. Also in the pictures you will sometimes see a bass drum which was used in parades and social affairs.

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Musical duels between the two sides were common, as they heard each other as the music traveled across the countryside. The night before the Battle of Stones River, bands from both sides dueled with separate songs, until both sides started playing "Home! Sweet Home!" at which time soldiers on both sides started singing together as one. Similar situation occurred in Fredericksburg, Va. in the winter of 1862-63, when on a cold afternoon, a Union band started playing Northern patriotic tunes and a Confederate band responded by playing Southern patriotic music. This continued back and forth through the night, until at the end both sides played "Home! Sweet Home!" simultaneously, to cheers from both Union and Confederate troops. Union General Phil Sheridan gave his cavalry bands the best horses and special uniforms, believing that "Music has done its share, and more than its share, in winning this war", and Robert E. Lee himself said, "I don't think we could have an army without music."

References – the Sheridan (pg.244) and Lee (pg.243, 244) quotes are from Michael Lanning's "the Civil War 100" published by Sourcebooks in 2007. The rest of this article is compiled from three articles – a pamphlet put out by the National Park Service called "Civil War Music, History and Songs", printed in 1996 – "Civil War Bands" at the <u>www.worldmilitarybands.com</u> web site and – "Music of the American Civil War" at Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia of the internet – the pictures are from the "Library Of Congress Civil War Pictures" which can be found on the internet at the Library of Congress site.

The Courier is the monthly newsletter of the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table

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Footnotes for President Lincoln and the New York City Draft Riots of July 1863

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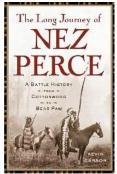
The Mob in New York, The New York Times July 14, 1863

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The Long Journey of the Nez Perce by Kevin Carson – a book review by Tom Horvath



Many of you probably already know something about the Army's war with the Nez Perce in 1877. For those who do not, the Nez Perce got along well with the white arrivals in their lands until the Nez Perce were told they must move to reservations and give up their traditional homelands. A series of events quickly escalated into an all-out war. During that war, five tribes of the Nez Perce -- men, women, and children, old and young, plus thousands of cattle and horses – journeyed more than 1200 miles through mountainous regions of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana while fighting an ever-increasing number of army units armed with Gatling guns and cannon. For more than four months, the Nez Perce out-maneuvered, out-ran, out-foxed, and out-fought the army, while protecting their wives, children, grandparents, and live stock.

Theirs is a compelling story and I've read other accounts that have been more moving. Perhaps that is due to the emphasis on the battles, which is the stated objective of this volume. Mr.

Carson has done a good job describing the battles, providing a map of the terrain indicating the location and movement of the warring parties. These battles involve, at most, hundreds of individuals and are more intimate and personal than the typical Civil War battle. Individuals play significant roles in the outcome, as does the terrain and the way the warring parties made use of both the terrain and their superior knowledge of the area.

Simply based on the availability of written records, the "facts" and details of the battles usually reflect the Army's perspective. Despite this and the fact that the author's great-great-great grandfather fought with the Army during this war, Mr. Carson's sentiments are clearly with the Nez Perce. In fact, when native accounts of the battles are available, he gives them more credibility than those of the military, who needed to gloss over a growing number of defeats and failures.

Despite his obvious sentiment for the Nez Perce, the author does attempt to present the facts with an even hand. Exactly how well he keeps his sentiments from affecting his writing, and actually achieves this, is difficult to tell.

The overall writing is uneven. In most areas the narrative flows well, but there are too many instances where it is ambiguous or repetitious. And I found it difficult to keep track of all the names that are mentioned, particularly those of Army officers. Considering that many of those names are already familiar from the Civil War (President Grant, Commanding General of the Army William Tecumseh Sherman, Philip Sheridan, George Crook, John Gibbons, Irvin McDowell, Oliver O. Howard, and Nelson Miles), the author could have done a better job. It was easier to keep track of the Nez Perce leaders and warriors, perhaps because there were fewer of them.

If the war with the Nez Perce interests you, and I think it will, this is one option. I cannot recommend it wholeheartedly because there are probably more comprehensive narratives that tell a more complete story. However, if your primary interest is the battles, this volume fulfills that aspect nicely.

The book was published in 2011 by Westholme Publishing and has 294 pages. In addition to the maps, the book is sprinkled with photographs of key individuals and battle scenes. It also contains an index, notes section, bibliography, list of maps, and tables of organization of the Nez Perce and the Army. An appendix contains writings about the war, from participants, that reach the level of poetry or admirable prose.

Amazon and Barnes & Noble both have the hard cover available for \$19.76 and their electronic editions for \$14.30. Mentor Public Library and the ClevNet System each own one copy.