



THE COURIER



Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



The 2011 NEOCWRT Summer Picnic

Sunday August 14th

2:00 pm till dusk

Gottscheer Park

8636 Pekin Road Novelty, Ohio 44072

Reservations Required Call Franco Sperrazzo at 440 442 4824

Menu: Pork Schnitzel, German Potato Salad, Vegetables, Rolls & Butter

Cash Bar with liquor and plenty of German Beer

Last year, **Ted Karle and Franco Sperrazzo** collaborated to arrange a very enjoyable Summer Picnic at the Old Pine Lake Trout Club outside of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. This year, they joined forces again to bring us the **NEOCWRT Summer Picnic at the Gottscheer Club of Cleveland**, located at 8636 Pekin Road in Novelty, Ohio.

The Gottscheer Club of Cleveland was organized by two German speaking communities that immigrated to the United States and settled in Northeast Ohio in the mid-19th century. The group is a mutual aid society for its members and has kept alive the traditions and culture of their Austrian homeland.

We are honored to be the guests of the Gottscheer Club and we will be joining them and some 300 of their members and friends on Sunday August 14, 2011. They have set aside picnic tables for 50 members and guests of the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table near the stage and dance floor. This event will feature: Pork Schnitzel, German potato salad, vegetables, breads and rolls at a cost of \$12.00 per person. In addition, there will be strudels and assorted Austrian pastries (additional cost = \$0.50)! There will be plenty of German Beer. We will be entertained with German Festival music by the Jeff Pecon Orchestra and various brass bands and festival dancers.

The Gottscheer Club of Cleveland is located on the grounds of the Erster Osterreichischer Unterstutzungs Verein, located at 8636 Pekin Road in Novelty, Ohio. Pekin Road runs East off of Route 306. The entrance to the Gottscheer Club is on the North side of Pekin Rd. approximately 1/10 mile East of Rt. 306. **Call Franco Sperrazzo at 440 442 4824** and make your reservations for the ***Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table's Summer Picnic at the Gottscheer Club today!***

The May 2011 Tour of Ohio City

After weeks of nearly constant rain and overcast skies, 28 members and guests of the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table gathered at St. Patrick's Church on Bridge Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, to begin a tour of historic Ohio City. Saturday May 21st was a glorious day of clear skies and a warm breeze. Everyone enjoyed the comfort of the 35 passenger bus provided by Shima limousine Service of Mentor, Ohio. Our tour guide was the incomparable, **Tim Barrett**, whose knowledge and passion for his subject, never ceased to amaze his audience.

Our tour of historic Ohio City began with a brief stop in front of a small frame house at 3928 Bridge Avenue. The house has a brass marker in the front yard informing all that this was the birth place of John Heisman, the famous college football coach and the man for whom the Heisman Trophy is named. Our guide made a point to stop there only to tell us that John Heisman never lived in that house. Zealous individuals with the best of intentions had lobbied the state of Ohio for the marker but did faulty research on the correct address for the famous coach. Later we would see the correct location of the John Heisman's residence.

We then motored past **Saint Ignatius High School** and on to West 25th Street, stopping in front of the West Side Market. The original West Side market was a one story frame structure built in 1868 and was located across the street from its current location. By the turn of the century, Cleveland's population had grown from 92,000 to more than a half million people and the demands for fresh meats and produce required a larger central market place. In 1912, the current, Neo-Classical/Byzantine style building was constructed. Next year, Cleveland will celebrate the **100th anniversary of the West Side Market** and it will mark the occasion by hosting an International Conference on Public Markets. Mr. Barrett prepared architectural drawings and photographs of the original market and the current building. *Photo of the West side Market's clock tower*



The next tour stop was at the **St Malachi's Church** neighborhood. **Saint Malachi Church** was founded in 1865 and dedicated in March of 1871. The parish was founded to administer to the spiritual needs of the growing Irish immigrant population that settled near the Flats, in an area known as "The Angle." Fire destroyed the original church structure in 1943 but it was replaced by the current Gothic style church building.

Tim Barrett directed our bus driver to proceed to an area in the Flats underneath the Detroit Superior Viaduct, across from "Settlers' Landing" on the Cuyahoga River. This is a very special location with a great deal of historical importance. This was the location of the first series of locks for the Ohio Canal that connected Cleveland and Lake Erie with Portsmouth, Ohio on the Ohio River. Canal boats could transport goods down the canal to Portsmouth, unload the canal boats on to river barges and eventually make it to New Orleans near the mouth of the Mississippi River.

The Ohio Canal unleashed a rivalry for business and commerce between Cleveland and Ohio City. Resourceful and enterprising businessmen from Ohio City conspired to dig a cut through that bypassed a mile long bent on the Cuyahoga River and redirected all boat traffic to the Ohio City side of the river. In 1836, a group of Cleveland businessmen purchased land in the Flats. They then bought a tract of land in the southeast corner of Ohio City and constructed the Columbus Street Bridge connecting the two tracts and completely cut off Ohio City from any commerce. The citizens of Ohio City retaliated by digging trenches at both ends of the bridge and attempted to burn it. This led to the "**Bridge War**" between Ohio City and Cleveland. Shots were fired and a number of people were injured on both sides.

The Detroit Superior Viaduct was built in 1878 at a cost of \$2.2 million, to connect Cleveland with Ohio City. This bridge is an amazing achievement, built of large sandstone blocks and utilizing Roman arches to support the deck. It is fascinating that many bridges built just forty years ago are now in deplorable condition and in need of replacement, while this viaduct is 133 years old and still going strong.

Tim Barrett then directed our bus driver to stop in front of **St. John's Episcopal Church** at 2600 Church Street in Ohio City. St. John's is the oldest consecrated building in Cuyahoga County. The Gothic Revival Church was built in 1838 and became a "safe house" for the Underground Railroad prior to the Civil War. The famous industrialist and political boss, Mark Hanna was a member of this congregation. The church was rebuilt in the 1880's after a fire destroyed most of the interior. St. John's was severely damaged in 1953 by a huge tornado that devastated Cleveland's West Side neighborhoods.

Our group then proceeded to **Franklin Circle** where we stepped off the tour bus for some fresh air and to hear the history of that locale. Franklin Circle was planned and designed as a park and open air farmers' market by Josiah Barber, back in 1836. It became a favorite gathering place for citizens to relax and escape the cares of 19th century life. In the 1870's, Cleveland City Council appropriated funds to improve the park and added a stone pavilion. **The Franklin Circle Christian Church** is located nearby at 1688 Fulton Road. President James Garfield was a pastor there in 1857.



The Franklin Castle, at 4308 Franklin Boulevard, was the next stop on our tour. Built in 1865 by Hanes Tiedemann, a German immigrant and successful businessman, the Gothic style stone structure was designed to convey the more refined, simplicity of European homes of the period. The Franklin Castle has a bizarre history. Many of the inhabitants of the house died while living there. Various owners have found skeletons embedded in the interior walls. The Franklin Castle is reputed to be haunted. *Photograph of Franklin Castle on the left*

Our tour stopped at the site of the **Kentucky Street Reservoir** on Franklin Boulevard where we learned that a walkway was constructed around the reservoir and that it offered a majestic view of the surrounding area. Tim Barrett then directed the tour to his home and the adjacent 19th century era cottage he restored. Tim ingeniously employed a turnbuckle and cable system to support the

roof of the cottage thus providing more living space for the occupants.



The last stop on our Ohio City tour was back at **St Patrick's Church** on Bridge Avenue. St Patrick's was a congregation comprised of some of the earliest Irish immigrants to Northeast Ohio. They were referred to as the "poorest of the poor" but their priest was determined to build a church that not only expressed their faith but would be as grand as any house of worship in Ohio.

Our 2011 Tour of Ohio City concluded with lunch at Heck's Café .After lunch, President Franco Sperrazzo escorted a group of members and guests on a late afternoon visit to the **Western Reserve Historical Society** to view a special Civil War map exhibit.

Interior view of St. Patrick's Church Photo by Frank Moore

The staff of the Western Reserve was on hand to provide expert attention for our NEOCWRT group. President F. M.Sperrazzo has devoted much effort in establishing a special relationship with the Western Reserve Historical Society. He is to be commended, for the staff of WRHS does not give up a Saturday afternoon with their families for just anyone!



Standing in line to pay our bill after lunch, General **J. E. Tirpak** remarked that "I honestly thought that last year's spring field trip (a tour of historic churches) could not be beat but Tim Barrett managed to impress me even more!" It was a special day for our spring thing and I want to thank everyone that helped make it possible. I want to thank **Terri Sandy** for her assistance and special thanks for a gifted historian, artist and craftsman: **Tim Barrett**.

Group photograph of the 2011 Spring Thing by Robert Bartok

14th PRESIDENTS CIVIL WAR JOURNAL by Franco M. Sperrazzo Summer 2011

George E. Deutsch: exemplifies our club's guiding principles of Quality, Education and Fellowship through his lecture presentations and field trip leadership. First introduced to our club by **Ted Karle**, **Mr. Deutsch** co-lead our 2004 Fall Field Trip with former Erie Associate **David Earles** and **President Karle** to Gettysburg. **Mr. Deutsch** joined us at Virginia Resort Richmond in 2009. He was to co-lead our Field Trip to the President's Cottage outside of Washington D.C. Also Soldier's Home, and other historic places. George intends to return to present a talk on the riots surrounding the Weldon Railroad in 1864 Petersburg. George is published in magazines and historical journals. He is researching his 1st complete book, with forward by **Edwin C. Bearss**. The tentative Fall 2012 release should coincide and pave the way for his tour support and 3rd visit to our group in Spring 2013. Congratulations George on your endeavor!

I brought forth a motion to have **Mr. Deutsch** bestowed the honor of membership in our NEOCWRT club. **John Sandy** made the first nomination, seconded by **Ted Karle** and **Arlan Byrne**. An official letter of acknowledgement will be sent to **George** this summer. **George** may become instrumental in a future legacy project.

Memorial Day Dedication Ceremony: May 30th, Willoughby Cemetery. Hard to believe we have been active in the honorary half hour program following the parade for nine years. Ad hoc chairman **Joe Tirpak**, ad hoc committee members **Karle**, President **Franco**, Vice President **Abbey**, **Bob Baucher** and first lady **Cyndy Sperrazzo** were present. Next year may introduce something new other than a wreath.

Lake County Historical Society: Introduces the Civil War and Wall of Honor Debuts. The entire encampment and re-enactment was a huge success for Lake County members and volunteers. More monies than expected were raised to support the struggling museum. **JET Tirpak** is one of the research archivists that worked on the "Wall of Honor" to recognize the veterans that served in the Civil War from Lake County. For **Joe's** dedication, our NEOCWRT is listed in recognition on the temporary plaque on display at the museum. Huzzah, Huzzah to all!

Summer Picnic: Sunday, August 14th. Last year, 46 members attended our annual summer picnic hosted at the Pine Lake Trout Club. This year's picnic will be hosted at the German Club and Village located on Pekin Road south of Mayfield Rd/ Rt 322 and Chillicothe Rd/ Rt.306. We took a second visit when we were invited by operators **Joe** and **Marie Sidar**. **Ted** and I were overwhelmed. This village complex is spacious yet quaint, has beautiful landscape, clean facilities, dining rooms, designated shaded picnic areas, entertainment, dancing, great food and more. **Theo Karle** will give more details. (440) 255-9375 or call **Franco** (440) 567-2414.

Badges & Business Cards: As our NEOCWRT transitions, it is evident that our 1998 charter members play an important role in club leadership. 10 active members will begin wearing designated badges at the 2011 fall meetings. The troops can always ask the four active founders; **Tirpak**, **Baucher**, **London** and **Yannucci** any questions or concerns. An average of three dozen participates in our monthly meetings. The following charter members would also be more than happy to offer information; **R. Bruce Beale**, **Arlan Byrne**, **Ron Doll**, **Dale Fellows**, **Ted Karle**, **Brian Kowell**, **Bill Meissner**, **John Sandy**, **Bob Stabile** and President **Franco**. Eventually, cabinet members such as **Steve Abbey**, **Carl Dodaro**, **Tom Horvath**, **Terry Reynolds**, **J. Mike Sears**, will wear executive officer badges. Hope this speeds up the welcoming process for all members. This fall we will provide name/club membership cards for your personal use.

Fall Field Trip: Unfortunately, the planned field trip to Washington D.C. and the Booth Escape Route by the Surratt Society due to high cost and lack of quota needed for pre-registration is cancelled. We are exploring other non-club sanctioned options through the efforts of **Karle**, (Gettysburg 10/21-23), **Kowell** (Atlanta 10/21-23), **Franco** (Manassas and Ball's Bluff 7/27-30 and Maryland & Washington D.C. 9/30-10/2) which should be more cost effective. Commander **London** and Co-field guide **G.E. Deutsch** had orchestrated a well conceived tour program.

Frank Yannucci: Dolores Yannucci, Long time wife of Founder Frank and sister of our deceased Founder **Bob Battisti** passed away Tuesday June 28th, near her home in Youngstown at age 75. Two car loads of members traveled to Schiavone Funeral Home during calling hours to express their sympathy and pay respect to **Frank**. The NEOCWRT has made a donation to St. John's Episcopal Church where Delores was active prior to her illness. Ours thoughts and prayers are with the Yannucci family at this time.

Dr. Leslie J. West (1927-2011): This is the most difficult part of the responsibility I inherited of writing a column for the Courier nearly 4 years ago. Dr. West specialized in optometry. He practiced his trade privately for almost 54 years. The native Clevelander served in the U.S. Navy. Les did his undergraduate work at Case Western Reserve University and post graduate studies at The Ohio State University. He served in various capacities in numerous clubs and organizations; prominent were the OSU Lake County Alumni Assoc; proudly past President of the Perry School Board; Northeast Ohio Model A Club; and was an ardent supporter of our NEOCWRT meetings, Fall Fields Trips & book raffle. He was married about 53 years to his wife the late Jean Hendrickson. They raised 4 sons.



Les West suffered his second and fatal stroke while preparing to attend church Sunday July 10th. We grew closer when he, Arlan Byrne and I drove with retired member Ted Silverberg during the 2003 1st Petersburg Campaign that ended in a Hurricane. When the weather became ridiculous, I volunteered to drive about 95 miles on U.S. Rt 64 from Appomattox Court House to a motel in Petersburg. It took at least 4 hours and 40+ minutes with countless obstacles to endure. Little did I know at the time but I would be treated to an Ohio State Football game the next season. We even spent quality time at another game a couple seasons later. There was a strict ritual that Les practiced for every game that was to be followed to the letter. He was honored to be a Buckeye.

John Sandy, Frank Moore, Arlan and I traveled with Les to Gettysburg for the 2004 Fall Field Trip. His demeanor was different; he had lost his wife and OSU best partner the previous spring. He always was a man of class and projected a positive outlook on club events. He wanted to continually join us on Fall Trips but he was hampered by his 1st stroke over 3 years ago. He did manage to participate in a couple of the picnics at the Byrne farm after his recovery in 08-09. He worked hard to improve his speech problem from the stroke in therapy, but confided in me that kept him presenting a naval program he wanted to share with the club. I could go on. John and I recently said we should call Les since he was not at the May meeting. We never did. I did remind Joe Tirpak that when Ted Karle and I attended his Medals of Honor talk at Fairport Harbor Historical Society, Bob Baucher was present, then Arlan and Dr. Dan Cudnik arrived. Ted and I walked in and sat with our special friend. That was April 21st the last time we were with Dr. Leslie J. West. May he rest in peace! The NEOCWRT has made a contribution in his name to the St Paul's Lutheran Church Pre-School Fund. He will be with us in spirit for our Fall September 13th kick-off meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Franco M. Sperrazzo, President



"Is it time for lunch?".....Group photograph of the 2011 Spring Thing by Frank Moore

NEOCWRT SUMMER PICNIC

**PLEASE JOIN THE FUN on Sunday August 14th at Gottscheer Park (See below)
Arrival Time about 2:00 or earlier***

The park is located on the beautiful grounds of: **Erster Österreichischer Unterstützungs Verein, known as "The E.O.U.V." or the GOTTSCHEER CLUB OF CLEVELAND**



The Gottscheer Club of Cleveland, Ohio was formed in 1842, by two German-speaking communities that had immigrated to the USA and settled in Cleveland in the mid-19th Century. The group is a mutual aid society for its members. It has kept alive the traditions and culture of their Austrian village homeland. This is the oldest such "Gottscheer" organization in North America.



DIRECTIONS: The facility is **at 8636 Pekin Road, Novelty, OH 44072** (3.3 miles South of the intersection of Rts. 306 and 322 (not far from the last year's picnic at the Trout Club which was near that intersection). Pekin Road runs East off of Rt. 306, the entrance is on the North side of Pekin about a 1/10 of a mile east of 306. Telephone # is 440-338-5708; Visit their website at: <http://www.eouv.com>

***WE ARE HONORED TO BE THE GUESTS E.O.U.V. AT ONE OF THEIR SUMMER OUTTINGS HELD IN THEIR PAVILION with 200 to -300 GERMAN-AMERICANS PRESENT. THEY HAVE SET ASIDE PICNIC TABLES FOR 50 OR MORE OR US...UP-FRONT BY THE STAGE AND THE DANCE FLOOR. IN SUPPORT, PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY.**



Date: August 14, 2011 in the afternoon till early evening. The doors open at noon and entertainment begins.

Event: 12:00 Jeff Pecon: A German A Brass Band; Festival Music with Polka Dancing. E.V.O.U. Entertainment at 4:00 pm features the Gottscheer Brass (polka) Band the Gottscheer Tanz and Spielkreis.

Their dance group just returned from a European tour.

Cost: \$12.00 per person; includes: Entrance, Entertainment and Food:

ALL FOOD IS "HOME PREPARED" BY E.O.U.V. VOLUNTEER MEMBERS



Menu:

Pork Schnitzel, German Potato Salad, Vegetable, Roll and Butter, Coffee
(Desert: Strudels, Austrian Pastry etc. Cost \$0.50 extra)

Cash Bar with liquor and plenty of **German Beer**

TOTAL COST:

\$12.00 per person.

RSVP Franco at (440)-442-4824