

# THE COURIER

## Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



**Date: March 10, 2009 Meeting # 98**

**Place: Dino's Restaurant I90 & Rte. 306 exit Mentor, Ohio**

**Canteen: 6PM Rations: 7PM**

**Speaker: Bob Baucher**

**Topic: "Blood, Tears and Glory, How Ohio Won the Civil War"**

**Reservations required**

**Please call Steve Abbey**

**Phone 440 255 8375**

**e-Mail: [abbeysr@yahoo.com](mailto:abbeysr@yahoo.com)**

**Bob Baucher** is one of the founding fathers of the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table and he will be presenting a program entitled: "**Blood Tears and Glory, How Ohio Won the Civil War**," at our regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Bob's talk is based on the book by author James Bissland. Bob Baucher is a 1950 graduate of Collinwood High School and earned his bachelor's degree in Business from Ohio University in 1954. Bob joined the ROTC and met his future wife Carol, while at Ohio U. They were married shortly after their graduation in the summer of 1954 and Bob went on active duty with the U.S. Army. Our Mr. Baucher was stationed at Fort Lee, Virginia where he purchased Bruce Catton's Civil War Trilogy. He was promoted to First Lieutenant and acquired an insatiable appetite for American History and especially the Civil War. He was later assigned to Fort Polk, Louisiana before his discharge from the Army in the fall of 1956. In November of that year Bob was hired by General Motors and worked as a Labor Relations Supervisor in Messena, New York. Messena is located on the St. Lawrence Seaway where the winters are long and bitterly cold. The wind chill factor in Messena can often be below -30 Fahrenheit.

In 1969 Bob Baucher moved his growing family south to Mentor, Ohio and secured a personnel management position at Avery Dennison Inc. in Painesville. Bob and his wife Carol have three children: Todd, Jeff and a daughter Polly. They also have 4 grandchildren. Bob retired in 1994 from Laurelwood Hospital where he was the Personnel Director. Carol and Bob shared more than 54 years together before her death in December of 2008. Mr. Baucher is a serious golfer and devoted Cleveland Indians fan. He belongs to the Society for Baseball Research and played third base in college. Our "Mr. Conservative" is a past president of the NEOCWRT and has taught Civil War classes at Lakeland Community College.

## How Ohio Won the Civil War

James Bissland has published a book entitled:” **Blood, Tears and Glory, How Ohioans won the Civil War**” and few Buckeyes would argue with the author’s premise. Ohio provided the third highest number of volunteers for the Union Army, behind only New York and Pennsylvania despite having a much smaller population. Ohio, Indiana and Illinois provided ¼ of the total number of soldiers that served in the Union Army. James Bissland’s book is about individual people trying to survive and do their best in a time of war. While most people believe that the Civil War was fought and won in great battles in the eastern theater, the real war was going on west of the Appalachian Mountains. In Bissland’s view the big eastern news media along with a number of books and journal articles have biased the public’s opinion.

The battles that were being fought in the west were fought by Midwesterners and mostly Ohioans. These Ohio soldiers were: farmers, shop-keepers and country lawyers. Almost all of these men volunteered, they were not drafted. Blissland asserts that these citizen soldiers had never seen battle before and they had little training. They were poorly supplied, they were homesick and tired but they were determined to save the Union. They endured great hardships and were not discouraged. The author James Bissland goes on to present a series of biographies and vignettes about the most important generals and government officials that worked to secure the Union victory.



**Ulysses S. Grant** was born Hiram Ulysses Grant on April 27, 1822 at Point Pleasant, Ohio just east of Cincinnati. He did not want to be called “Hug” so Grant wrote Ulysses H. in the registration book at the U. S. Military Academy. He graduated in 1843 and ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in a class of 39 students. His friends called him “Sam.” Grant served in the Mexican War under General Zachary Taylor from 1846 – 1848. He wrote in his memoirs that he was bitterly opposed to the Mexican War. Grant regarded it as an unjust war waged against a weaker nation for the sole purpose of increasing the number of slave states. After the war he married Julia Dent, the first cousin of James Longstreet, one of his best friends from West Point. Grant was promoted to captain but could not support his family on the meager salary he earned in the peace-time army. He was later assigned to Fort Vancouver, Washington Territory and grew depressed being away from his wife and family. He resorted to drinking until his commanding officer Lt. Col. Robert Buchanan advised him to resign from the army or face a court martial. Grant resigned from the army and tried his hand at farming near St. Louis, Missouri but the land was dry and his crops failed. He moved to Galena, Illinois and worked in his father’s leather shop until the outbreak of the Civil War. Illinois governor Richard Yates appointed Grant to command a regiment of volunteers. He rose through the ranks to command all of the Union Armies and received Robert E. Lee’s surrender at Appomattox. Ulysses Grant was a man who failed at virtually everything he tried as a civilian but his “bulldog”

determination gave him the courage to win the war and gain the eternal gratitude of the nation.



**William Tecumseh Sherman** was born on February 8, 1820 in Lancaster, Ohio. His father gave him the name Tecumseh after the great Indian chief because he wanted his son to be a great leader of men. In 1829 his father Charles died suddenly leaving his wife and eleven children penniless. William went to live with Thomas Ewing, a neighbor and family friend. Thomas Ewing would later become Secretary of the Interior. William graduated from West Point in 1840. He was assigned to Florida and served during the Second Seminole War. He was stationed in San Francisco during the Mexican War. He married Ellen Boyle Ewing in 1850. Ellen was the daughter of his foster father Thomas Ewing. Sherman resigned his commission in the army and became a partner in the Lucas, Turner & Co. Bank. The bank failed and he moved to Kansas to practice law. In 1859 the state of Louisiana established a military college and William Sherman was appointed its first Superintendent. He held that position until Louisiana seceded from the Union in the spring of 1861.

He moved his family north to St. Louis and accepted a position as president of a streetcar company. That job lasted only a few months until the South fired on Ft. Sumter. Sherman was appointed to the rank of brigadier general by President Lincoln in May, 1861. He saw action at Bull Run and the men under his command performed well. Later in the fall of 1861 he was assigned to Louisville, Kentucky and served under Robert Anderson. Anderson was reassigned and Sherman assumed command. He began petitioning Washington for more men and supplies. He believed that his forces were vastly outnumbered. The local newspapers called him insane. Sherman asked to be relieved. He contemplated suicide. Sherman went home to Ohio, rested for a few months, then returned to duty under General Henry Halleck in Missouri. Sherman battled the Confederates and the demons of fatigue and depression to become the second most famous general in the Union Army, second only to Grant.



**Edwin McMasters Stanton** was born in Steubenville, Ohio on December 19, 1814 to a devout Methodist family. He attended Kenyon College but had to leave after two years because of a lack of money. Stanton moved to Columbus and worked in a book store while studying law. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar Association in 1836 and settled in Cadiz, Ohio. In 1847, Edwin Stanton moved to Pittsburgh, Pa after the death of his wife. Stanton headed a team of attorneys that included Abraham Lincoln in a patent infringement case filed by Cyrus McCormick. Stanton referred to Lincoln as a “long armed ape that doesn’t know anything.” Little did he know that Lincoln would one day be his boss and he would have to regret his words. Stanton was one of the first lawyers in U.S. legal history to successfully use temporary insanity as his defense in a murder trial. His client was New York Congressman Dan Sickles who was charged with the murder of his wife’s lover. The victim was the son of Francis Scott Key, the composer of our National Anthem. Stanton was appointed Attorney General in 1860 by President Buchanan and served in that capacity until Lincoln became president in 1861. Stanton was a devoted Democrat and a close friend of General George McClellan. McClellan recommended Stanton as a suitable replacement

for Secretary of War Simon Cameron. Stanton became Lincoln’s Secretary of War in January 1862. He is credited with providing the leadership in the War Department that ensured the ultimate Union victory.

There were many military and government officials that did their part to support the cause of Union but the courage and sacrifices of the women of Ohio must not go unheralded. Without the support of the soldiers’ wives, mothers and sisters, the Union could not have been saved. James Bissland’s book does not tell us anything new about the Ohioans that saved the Union but it does give us pride to reflect upon their contribution.

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

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Please submit all articles by e-mail to: [jschez47@yahoo.com](mailto:jschez47@yahoo.com)

## **CIVIL WAR MINUTES 3/10/09: Franco M. Sperrazzo, Special Events Coordinator**

**George Grim** captivated an audience of 36 members and 1 guest at our February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The fact that 80% of our membership showed up for **George** is not a coincidence. He is a charter member who rarely misses a meeting and is a generous contributor to the monthly book raffle. **Mr. Grim** spoke of the **Last Days of the Confederate Government April-May 1865**. We learned of the key players in Confederate President Jefferson Davis's cabinet. Men such as Vice President Alexander Stephens, John Breckenridge, Judah P. Benjamin among the most familiar and the changing and significant roles they portrayed, also may lesser known names of equal importance. **George** outlined the events of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1865 like the appointment of Breckenridge as Secretary of War. How Campbell, Stephens and Hunter met with President Lincoln at Hampton Roads to discuss a cease fire of two sovereign nations, but Jeff Davis would not give in to surrender. Next apparent was Davis, Breckenridge and General Lee meeting discussing evacuation plans of Richmond once Breckenridge and Lee agreed there cause was hopeless so the best thing to do would be to end the war in the best possible manner. Once Richmond falls on April 2nd, and Lee surrenders to Grant on April 9th, a chronological series of affairs take place until final surrenders by Kirby Smith in New Orleans on May 30<sup>th</sup> and Stand Watie's last Confederate command on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Jefferson Davis was captured on May 9<sup>th</sup> and shipped to a prison at Fort Monroe near Hampton Roads. He was not released until May 13<sup>th</sup> 1867. Other prominent figures scattered to various countries. It was on December 25<sup>th</sup> 1868 that general amnesty was issued by President Andrew Johnson. **George's** talk sparked at least a dozen questions and an inspired a discussion on whatever happened to all the Confederate gold and money from the treasury. It was well planned and informative presentation by **George Grim**.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> **General Bob Baucher**, will present a talk on how so many Ohio generals were prominent in influencing the outcome of the **Civil War**. His talk is called **How Ohio Won the Civil War**. One of the major resources **Bob** used was the fairly recently published book, "**Blood, Tears and Glory**" by author and professor of American history **James H. Bissland**, a former New Englander who has resided in Ohio since 1976. The book is published by Orange Frazer Press copyright 2007. I can assure you that General **Baucher** will be well prepared for duty.

Plans to bring the **Lee and Grant "American Heroes"** exhibit are on hold at this time. My research in contacting the **Virginia Historical Society** indicates the artifacts have moved on from **Richmond** to **St. Louis** and is currently in **New York City** until the end of March '09. The exhibit will continue in Houston through September '09 and wind up in Atlanta by the end of February 2010. The principals I spoke to at **Western Reserve Historical Society** indicate cost and other factors prohibit booking **Lee and Grant** at this time. If there is any positive news to report I will certainly pass it on to all.

An update on the **Spring One Day Trip** is in the works. The latest suggestion is a trip South near **Columbus, Ohio** to the birth home of **General William T. Sherman**, and the nearby **Ewing House** which he was raised in. If anyone has any good ideas contact **President Byrne, Ted Karle, Franco** or any of our **Founders**. This probably will commence in mid-May. Stay tuned for further details.

Next month we will be explaining plans for our annual **Fall Field Trip #12**. We will be embarking on the **Richmond, Virginia** area again, only this time it is 1864. Along with the splendid history **Richmond** offers we will cover the spring and Summer campaigns of **North Anna River, Cold Harbor** and more. Of course our own on site field coordinator will be past **President Brent Morgan**. We can always count on **Brent** and **wife Sharon** for the best accommodations. **Norty London, Mike Sears, President Byrne, John Sandy** and **Franco** will be working for the cause.

**Frank Yannucci** is recovering from a medical setback he suffered on Valentine's Day. After he came home from the hospital we enjoyed a warm conversation. **Frank** was in good health, sounded great and appreciated the cards and calls of concern. He plans on attending our current meeting.

Finally, if you still have not sent your 2009 **NEOCWRT DUES \$55.00** to our **Treasurer Bill Wilson**, please bring a check March 10<sup>th</sup> and present it to **Membership Director Steve Abbey** our friendly enforcer at the door upon entering **Dino's Restaurant**. Better weather is coming, honest. **FMS**

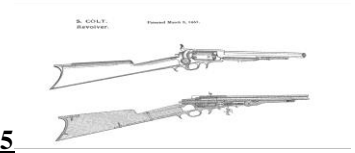
**THE MACHINE GUN AND THE CIVIL WAR**

**Compiled By Carl Dodaro**

The Civil War brought many innovations to warfare, not the least of which was rapid fire weapons that developed into the famous Gatling Gun and later became known as machine guns.



**COLT REPEATING RIFLE MODEL 1855**



The early civilian method of fastening a shoulder stock on a heavy barrel revolvers and making a serviceable repeating shoulder arm led the Colt Company to apply the same idea to a full fledged rifle. Consequently the 1855 model revolving rifle was produced. It became the first repeating rifle adopted by the armed service of the United States. This caliber .58 weapon had a full length rifle barrel. The cylinder was long enough to hold the large powder charge and conical bullet. The Colt method of ramming the charge in the cylinder by a hinged lever was employed. One of the features of the weapon failed to work properly under field conditions. The nipples that held the percussion cap were set in a recessed opening in an attempt to protect the cap and primer from weather conditions, which they did successfully. But in field use, as the soldier loaded the cylinders, he placed too much pressure on the loading lever. This force would rupture the paper cartridge where it bottomed at the aft end of the cylinder, causing loose powder to spill through the hole in the nipple. Since it was too dangerous to cover the nipple with a percussion cap while loading, the grains of powder would lodge in the recess connected to other nipples. During firing the heavy rifle barrel had to be supported by hand. This had not been necessary in the revolver equipped with the shoulder stock. Sometimes loose powder from a faulty cap or gas leak would cause other chambers to be ignited. When this happened, the soldier using the rifle lost his hand or the portion of his arm that happened to be in front of the exploding cylinder. One such accident in a regiment destroyed not only confidence in the weapon, but the morale of soldiers and officers alike. Before the Civil War many a regular was on the pension roll for having lost his hand in the line of duty - the duty being, in most cases, nothing more than target practice with the new repeating rifle.

The total failure of the Army's first official attempt to introduce a repeating shoulder weapon into the service gave the conservative element a chance to point out the inevitable disaster that always follows any such departure from what has proved successful over the years. Finally a board of officers met and after hearing all the evidence, they ordered that the Colt's use be discontinued and the pieces sold for whatever price could be obtained. The highest bid was 42 cents a rifle.

While the weapon's danger to personnel using it had undoubtedly been bad, the effect of its reputation on the trend toward repeating-action guns was almost fatal, so far as U.S. Military forces were concerned. No officer cared to stake his career on any such contrivance, especially since the Colt revolver, which the weapon closely copied, had been such a huge success. They simply could not understand why a trivial change in design could result in such a disaster. It was accepted as proving that one could not go beyond a hand gun in this type of weapon. The effect of the failure of the Colt Revolving Rifle was to turn development of new weapons entirely to civilians. The military authorities refused to be interested in anything beyond producing volley fire.

**THE BILLINGHURST REQUA BATTERY GUN**

Perhaps the weapon most in keeping with the acceptable idea of producing volley fire was the Requa battery. This caliber .58 gun was built late in 1861 by the Billinghamurst Co. of Rochester, New York. It was publicly demonstrated in front of the Stock Exchange Building in New York City in hope of interesting private capital in manufacturing it for Army use.

This gun had 25 barrels mounted flat on a light platform. The sliding breech mechanism was operated by a lever. Charging was accomplished by means of cartridges held in special clips. These cartridges were of light steel with an oval base that had an opening in the center for ignition. They were spaced in the 25 round clip so as to mate with the open rear end of the barrels. When the gun was loaded, a channel behind the cartridges was filled with powder. This train of cartridges was ignited by a percussion cap struck by a single hammer, manually cocked and released by lanyard. The barrels fired in sequence with a rippling sound due to the powder being ignited in flowing fashion. The clip loading and the quick means of locking and unlocking allowed for a fair rate of fire. With a crew of 3 men, the weapon could be fired at the rate of 7 volleys, or 175 shots per minute. The effective range was 1,300 yards. The barrels could be moved laterally, like fingers on a hand for a "spread" effect. In the field, however, the Requa battery had its limitations. Dampness in the unprotected powder train would render it useless. Frequently it was unfit for offensive service but effective in defense of restricted fields of fire.

This gun became known as the “covered bridge” gun. During the Civil War, practically every important crossing over a stream was in the form of a wooden bridge, with roof and side-walls to protect the floor and under structures from the weather. As these covered bridges were long and narrow, one of these weapons in the hands of an alert crew could break up a quick charge by the enemy, either on horse or afoot. As many as 50 of the Requa batteries were produced for the Union Army.

### **THE AGER “COFFEE MILL” GUN**

The next machine gun to be used by the Union forces was the “Ager”, better known as the “coffee mill” gun. The nickname was derived from its being crank operated with a hopper feed located on top so that it closely resembled the contemporary kitchen coffee grinder. This gun was the invention of Wilson Ager, an American citizen, who for some unknown reason patented his weapon only in Great Britain, although he did patent in this country many industrial devices such as rice cleaners and corn planters. The coffee mill gun is a hand-cranked, revolver-type weapon that can use either loose powder or caliber .58 ball projectile, or an impregnated paper cartridge. The ammunition is loaded into steel containers which do the double duty of being cartridges and explosion chambers. The Ager weapon was purposely made not to exceed a speed of 120 shots per minute, since it used only a single barrel and the heat from rapid firing was considered a serious drawback. The gun had many construction features that were either new or improved, such as a quickly detachable barrel, a ball-and-socket mount for speedy elevation and traversing and could be locked at any desired position and a “manlet” shield to protect the operator from small arms fire. The barrel was rifled, and the maximum effective range, using the caliber .58 Minie-type bullet and a 750 grain powder charge, was 1,000 yards.

The Ager gun was a very advanced weapon for the Civil War era. But there was no military demand for a machine gun. Contemporary authorities condemned it as requiring too much ammunition ever to be practical. Also, from the fact that it had only one barrel, the heat from rapid fire, they reasoned would never have enough sustained fire to the extent of being considered as an effective arm. Quite a few guns were bought, but they were relegated to covered bridge duty with the Requa battery, there being only a few isolated instances where they were actually used in battle (Goldings Farm, Gaines Mills).

### **THE VANDENBERG VOLLEY GUN**

A less successful multi-barrel gun was the Vandenberg Volley Gun (1862), with from 85 to 451 barrels. A screw type breech slid in a key-way and forced copper sleeves into a counter-bored chamber for a gas-tight seal. A center charge fired by a cap set off a whole volley; or sections of barrels could be blocked off and fired later. In tests, the 91 barrel model put 90% of its bullets a six-foot square at 100 yards. American General O. Vandenberg, was the guns inventor, and at first had tried to sell his weapon to the British. While still in England during the outbreak of the Civil War, he made many attempts to sell the arm to the United States Government. When no interest was shown, he wrote a letter on February 18, 1864 to Brig. Gen. George D. Ramsey, Chief of Army Ordnance. In it he stated that he would either send or bring three of his guns and present them to the President, or the Secretary of War, as an “offering to our country and government.” The three guns were later shipped. Upon arrival they were tested with little delay by Captain Benton, U.S. Army Ordnance. After a very comprehensive test, he reported that they were not acceptable for Government service. Many improvements would have to be made before they could even be considered for further testing. Captain Benton, being a very thorough man, decided, after testing the weapon, to clean it, keeping account of the time required to do so. He found it took 9 hours for one man to clean the bore and chambers of the weapon adequately. This maintenance problem alone, made its usefulness doubtful in the field. At this stage, General Vandenberg, perturbed over what he termed a “purely negative attitude” with regard to his weapon, requested that the U.S. Government either put the guns in order and further test them, or make payment in full. The Government, after much correspondence, put the weapons in the same condition as received and returned them to General Vandenberg in England. The use of several of the guns in the South demonstrates that the Confederate forces did not concur with Captain Benton. However, on these Southern weapons the name of the British firm, Robinson and Cottam, was stamped into them. Undoubtedly, Gen. Vandenberg was “too patriotic” to allow them to be sold to the South marked in his name. There is a record of one being used in the defense of Petersburg, Va. Another was purchased by Gov. Zebulon Vance of North Carolina, and called by his skeptical constituents “Vance’s Folly”. Later this weapon was captured by Union Cavalry under Maj. Gen. Geo. Stoneman at Salisbury, N.C. Apr 1865.

*the Ager Gun* ✓



Coffee Mill Gun.

*the Vandenberg Volley Gun* ✓



*the Williams Machine Gun* ✓



**THE CONFEDERATE'S WILLIAMS MACHINE GUN**

To Capt. D. R. Williams, C.S.A., of Covington, Ky., goes the distinction of inventing the first machine gun to be used successfully in battle. This weapon, a 1-pounder, with a bore of 1.57 inches and a barrel 4 feet in length, was mounted on a mountain-howitzer style limber and drawn between shafts by a horse. It was adopted by the Bureau of Ordnance, C.S.A., at the very beginning of the Civil War, and looked upon as a secret weapon.

The firing mechanism was operated by a hand crank located on the right side. When rotated clockwise, an eccentric actuated by the crank alternately retracted and pushed forward the breech lock, which was so arranged that the striker was released simultaneously with the locking of the piece. The weapon used self-consuming paper cartridges and these were dropped by hand into position to be fed by the reciprocating breech lock into its loading recess. The rate of fire was 65 shots per minute and by actual test in battle, the mechanism proved very reliable. The only trouble encountered was that after prolonged firing, the breech would expand from the heat and then fail to lock securely until it cooled. The extreme range of 2,000 yards and, when several were operating at one time, unheard of fire power for this era was obtained. The most effective official use was at its initial test in battle when on May 3, 1862, at the Battle of Seven Pines and under the direction of the inventor, a battery of the weapons opened fire on the Union forces with telling effect. This battery was attached to Pickett's Brigade.

These weapons were used by the Confederacy all through the Civil War with a great deal of success, as attested to by the written reports of various Union officers. One of the most graphic descriptions was given by Capt. T.T. Allen of the Seventh Ohio Cavalry, who in his writings expressed amazement at the rapidity of fire and devastation wrought by these guns in the Battle of Blue Springs, Tenn., Oct.10, 1863. One of these guns, captured at Danville, Va., was sent to the West Point Museum, and the unique gas check on this weapon, was later adapted to the first breech-loading field piece adopted by the United States Army.

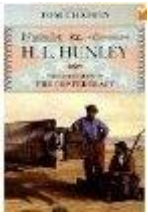
**Most of this material is taken from various Internet Web sites and from George M. Chinn's book - The Machine Gun. History, Evolution, and Development of Manual, Automatic and Airborne Repeating Weapons. Vol.1 - Bureau of Ordnance, Dept. of the Navy, Washington, 1951**

**New Investment Definitions:**

- CEO** Chief Embezzlement Officer
- Bull Market** A random market movement causing an investor to mistake himself for a financial genius
- Market Correction** The day after you buy stocks
- S&P** Standard & Poor..... your life in a nutshell

**A Republican and a Democrat were walking down the street when they came upon a homeless person. The Republican gave the homeless person his business card and told him to come to his office for a job. He then took \$20.00 out of his pocket and gave it to the poor soul. The Democrat was so impressed that when they came upon another homeless person, he decided to help. The Democrat gave the homeless man directions to the welfare office. He then reached into the Republican's pocket and gave the hard-luck person \$50.00! Now you understand the difference between a Republican and a Democrat!  
(Jokes On-line)**

## ***The H. L. Hunley* by Tom Chaffin    Book Review by Tom Horvath**



This is a book I can heartily recommend. For anyone with the slightest interest in the *Hunley*, Tom Chaffin provides an interesting, comprehensive story of the boat and the men who built it.

The subject of the book and the main thread throughout is the *Hunley*. But to put it in proper perspective, Mr. Chaffin begins his story with the three men who conceived and built three submarines, culminating with the *Hunley*, and fills in some submarine history along the way.

Horace Hunley, James McClintock, and Baxter Watson built their first submarine in New Orleans, where they all lived. Horace Hunley's name is better known, but it is more likely that James McClintock was primarily responsible for the design and engineering of all three boats. The *CSS Pioneer*, the only one of the three boats to officially join the Confederate navy, was scuttled when Federal forces occupied New Orleans.

The three men moved to Mobile, Alabama where they built the *American Diver*. That boat was never able to attain sufficient speed to be effective, and ultimately sank in Mobile Bay. Petitions to the Confederate government to salvage the boat were rejected, and the craft remains somewhere in Mobile Bay.

Their final effort, originally named the *Fish Boat*, was also constructed in Mobile. It proved more successful. The army decided that the submarine would be much more useful in Charleston than Mobile, so the boat was shipped there by rail. The rest of the story, the successful sinking of the *Housatonic* and the subsequent loss of the renamed *H. L. Hunley*, is well known to most of you.

Along the way, Mr. Chaffin characterizes and provides biographic information about all of the significant players, including their lives after the *Hunley*.

Because this is the complete story of the *Hunley*, the book continues with modern history. Mr. Chaffin describes the search for, discovery, and recovery of the shipwreck. He even touches on the politics that has allowed the *Hunley* to receive the special attention and funds that it enjoys. In the course of telling this story, Mr. Chaffin fills in other submarine history.

The first boat to dive and resurface, the *Turtle*, was built during the American Revolution. It unsuccessfully attempted to destroy a British ship in New York harbor during that war. Robert Fulton designed and built a submarine that reportedly stayed under water for an hour and, as a demonstration, sank a ship in France. During the Civil War, the North built the *Alligator*, but it sank before it could be put into action.

This is a well-written, comprehensive book that tells an interesting story. Published in 2008, it is current. Even at 323 pages, it is a quick and pleasant read. If I had to find any negative, it would be an occasional pedantic bent that interrupts the flow of reading. The book contains a bibliography, a notes section, and an index. It also has a section of glossy photos of important people and diagrams of the ships. List price for the hard back is \$26.00, but can be ordered on Amazon for \$15.60. Mentor Public Library has one copy. The Clevnet system has 12.