



THE COURIER



Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



Tuesday March 12th, 2013 Meeting # 133

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

Canteen at 6:00 Dinner at 6:50 Guests are Welcome

Speaker: Bob Baucher, Founder

Topic: *The Boys Of Summer '48*

Reservations required Guests are Welcome Please call Mike Sears

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

The Boys Of Summer '48 – Bob Baucher

The last time the Cleveland Indians won the World Series was 1948. It was, especially in the minds of Indians fans, the most exciting season of baseball – ever. And there is much to support that contention. The pennant race was very, very close and ended in a tie – indeed, a rarity. Then there was the World Series.....

Founder Bob Baucher, spent eighteen years playing, coaching, and managing in the Cleveland Sandlot organization. When it looked as if the Indians would abandon Cleveland and the Plain Dealer promoted a contest to garner interest and suggestions, Bob was chosen for the "Save the Indians Committee". He is a member of the SABR, the Society for American Baseball Research. On March 9, 2004, Bob and Franco Sperrazzo presented *Baseball in the Civil War* to our group. Do we sense a theme?

In addition to *Baseball in the Civil War*, Bob's past presentations to our group include *Blood, Tears, and Glory: How Ohio Won the Civil War* on March 10, 2009; *The Man Behind the Gun: General Henry Hunt* on October 11, 2005; and *Hancock the Superb* on January 14, 2003.

CIVIL WAR JOURNAL of Franco M. Sperrazzo, Events Coordinator, 3-12-13

February 12th meeting, Dr. Hugh G. Earnhart: Dr. Earnhart, Youngstown State University professor emeritus did not lose a step in bringing his record 5th program to our robust audience. Dr. Hugh is one of our earliest honorary club members. During the introduction of his talk on the topic **Military Intelligence/Gettysburg**, he told the story of his early days while working on his doctorate degree in 1958 in Maryland. He often visited the National Archives in D.C. The fuse that initially ignited his Civil War interest in high school exploded into what became a celebrated and highly recognized career in American History. Several Civil War prominent figures were drawn together to create an unusual and not well known tale of intrigue. Dr. Hugh facts were not based on conjecture that events surrounding the Battle of Gettysburg, were not the happenstance that is commonly portrayed. One high profile person was Secret Service Agent Alan Pinkerton, in February 1863. He was known to inflate the figures for the number of Confederate troops in the field in an effort to build the Union military strength. This enabled General George B. McClellan to often attempt to persuade President Lincoln to replenish the Northern army. McClellan unfortunately never seemed satisfied to use the troops he had trained and cared for so admirably. In many instances his 2/3 to 1 advantage was not deployed at the most strategic moments so many battles garnered unfavorable results. Today it is believed that 257 known spies were engaged during the war effort and perhaps 70 were at Gettysburg. Dr. Earnhart backed his thesis with startling revelations supporting his research that Gettysburg was not an accident. Dr. Earnhart will be back.

Membership Dues for 2013, FINAL NOTICE: The revenue stream has been good to this point. This will be the 3rd and final mention. Treasurer Bill Meissner, will once again assist J. Mike Sears at the entrance table to keep you \$55.00 check or cash separate from the \$25.00 dinner fee. If you choose to mail your check send it to Bill Meissner, 9571 Headlands Road, Mentor, OH. 44060. Your support allows us to provide amenities.

James A. Garfield @ Mentor Library March 13th: The next "Major Battles of the Civil War Series" continues March 13th @ noon. This one our program will explore the life and career of Jefferson Davis, the first and only President of the Confederacy. Always free of charge. You can reserve in advance or make a last minute decision to attend. Location is 8215 Mentor Avenue in the lower level Garfield room. Bag lunch is welcomed. Phone number to confirm is: 440- 255-8811. **5th Ohio Colored Regiment:** During Black History Month, President Horvath, my wife Cyndy and I were honored to be present at the J.A. Garfield NHS during a presentation and lecture conducted by Sergeant Major Bertram Floyd and troopers Chris, Shane, Howard, Fred and Jackie. They would put on a stimulating program to entertain our soldiers. You can visit them @: www.5thusct.org. **Friends of Garfield @ Lawnfield:** There will be an introduction information meeting on Wednesday March 20th @ 6:30pm in the admin building. Interested inquires to Arlan Byrne, Tom Horvath, John Sandy, Steve Abbey or Franco.

Book and 50/50 Raffles: Vice President Carl Dodaro, is currently co-editor of the Courier. Bernie Taub and yours truly have worked on the 50/50 raffle team. Carl can use an assistant to step up and assume the duties of the book raffle. See Carl for details. And speaking of the book raffle, the raffle will be held at this March meeting and if you have any books you would like to contribute, just bring them to this month's meeting and we will use them as part of the raffle to raise money for the NEOCWRT.

Summer Spring Tour: It is likely to happen on the 2nd Saturday of May. All details are not in place at this time. There will be an announcement forthcoming and separate flyer.

Condolences to Scott Hagara: The NEOCWRT wishes to express our deepest sympathy to the Hagara family on the passing of Scott's father in February. Our thoughts and prayers are of them during this difficult time.

We hope to see everyone present in good health next Tuesday March 12th @ Dinos

NorthEast Ohio Civil War Roundtable – Executive Committee 2013

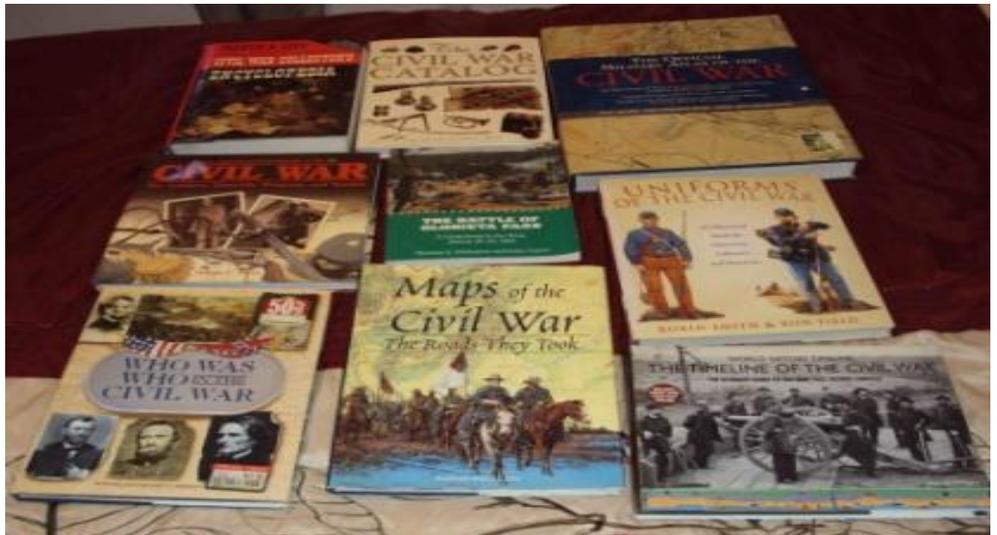
President – Tom Horvath Vice President – Carl Dodaro Secretary – Steve Abbey Treasurer – Bill Meissner
Terry Reynolds, Norty London, Bob Baucher, Mike Sears, Franco Sperrazzo, Joe Tirpak, John Sandy and Arlan
Byrne.

If you would like to help with the NEOCWRT discussions, planning, or suggestions and would like to attend the executive committee meetings, please give your name to Tom Horvath, Carl Dodaro or Steve Abbey, so you can be notified of the time and place for the next meeting. Any time you can donate will be appreciated.

The NorthEast Ohio Civil War Round Table Media-shelf

The Courier would like to start a column, or even a list if you will, of books, TV videos, movies, magazine articles or any other media that members would like to recommend to fellow members and readers of the Courier. Any member of the NEOCWRT can contribute to the list by writing a short article on the recommended book, article or media and sending it to the Courier at neocwrtcourier@yahoo.com by the end of any month, to be included in the next or future editions of the Courier. As time goes on we will keep a list of recommendations and compile the articles into a NEOCWRT MEDIA-SHELF list to print out occasionally and put out on the web page. We

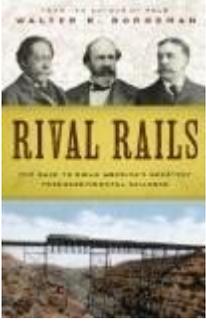
also will ask for input from some of our guest speakers as to books and media that they would recommend to further study related to their topic. To get a start on this column, this month's Courier has the last page devoted to member's recommendations and we ask that you take a little time and fill it out, bring it to any meeting and hand it to Carl Dodaro, who will keep a running tally of the recommended titles



and print a list of the most recommended books, video, media for the November NEOCWRT meeting, just in time to give to love ones who are looking for Christmas ideas for the NEOCWRT member in the family. We hope you will participate and take a little time to fill out the tally list on the last page, or take a little more time and send the Courier your article on why you feel that this piece of media should be included on the NEOCWRT MEDIA-SHELF list. The Courier thanks you for your time and wants to hear your opinion.

The Courier is edited by John Sandy and Carl Dodaro. All members of the NEOCWRT can contribute articles to the Courier by e-mail to neocwrtcourier@yahoo.com . The Courier is e-mail published around the first Tuesday of the month, January thru May, and September thru December of each calendar year.

Rival Rails by Walter R. Borneman – a book review by Tom Horvath



Even though it was long understood that a transcontinental railroad was inevitable, there was much debate in Congress surrounding the route and the degree of government support. Initially, it was believed that only one such line would be built, so surveys of several possible routes were funded in the 1850s. During the war, the absence of southern legislators removed the main opponents of government support and most of those who favored a southern route. The northern route was the default winner and the Republican Party was able to make good on its platform of western expansion.

But even before the completion of the first transcontinental railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah in 1869, some railroad men were already looking south, and that is where this volume is centered. Though the northern route was the obvious choice under the circumstances, a southern route was very enticing. The original route through Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada was subject to frequent delays due to weather. So, in addition to simply offering an alternative, the southern route would suffer fewer weather delays and be more reliable.

A number of railroads competed for portions of the route starting from different points on the map, but the two major contenders were the Southern Pacific (which owned the Central Pacific portion of the northern line) and the Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe. The Southern Pacific, spurred by Collis P. Huntington, was centered in California and had a strangle hold on all major right of ways in that state. The Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe was headed by Cyrus K. Holliday and began operations in Kansas. It had to compete with other railroads as it expanded into Colorado and fought to gain the right of way through Royal Gorge in Colorado and Raton Pass on the Colorado-New Mexico border – passes that were so narrow they allowed only a single set of tracks. No less a character than Bat Masterson became involved in what could have been a deadly struggle for the ground.

That was just one part of the tactics, legal wrangling, competition, and deals that ensued as the Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe headed south and west. The Southern Pacific was keenly aware of the Santa Fe's intentions and headed west from its California base. The eventual winner was the Santa Fe, but progress wasn't easy and the story anything but simple and straightforward.

Most of the book deals with the high level strategies and could have been very dry. Many of the leading players in this saga played at that level and were unknown to me: Cyrus K. Holliday, Thomas A. Scott, Collis P. Huntington, and William Jackson Palmer. A couple, like Leland Stanford and Jay Gould, were familiar names. In each instance, the author provides only a couple of pages of biography that are not directly related to railroading, so not much is revealed about their personal life. But Mr. Borneman includes enough vignettes about more colorful characters, ground level participants, to take the story down to a more personal level and add interest and spice. Among them are a nameless drunken cowboy "going to hell" who was told to get off in Dodge, Fred Harvey, Bat Masterson, and Nellie Bly.

I found this a fascinating account full of new information about a portion of our history mostly ignored. In the interest of full disclosure, I must confess that I am a novice model railroader and find most things associated with railroading, especially the steam era, very interesting. However, I have read and reviewed another book by Walter Borneman that had nothing to do with this subject and found his writing well organized, understandable, and pared down to the interesting and important parts. This volume has those same qualities.

Published in 2010 by Random House, the volume contains 406 pages, a notes section, a bibliography (which includes a significant number of primary sources), and an index. The author also includes a large number of maps that greatly assist in understanding the routes, a list of those maps, a "Cast of Characters" (including railroads), a chronology of important events, and a section of photographs of railroad scenes and railroad barons. Amazon has the hard cover available for \$18.48 and the Kindle electronic version for \$16.99. Barnes and Noble has the hardcover for \$20.50 and an audio book for \$18.25. Mentor Public Library has one copy. The ClevNet System has 14 hard covers, two audio books, and the downloadable audio book.

THE NORTHEAST OHIO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEOCWRT MEDIA-SHELF

Please file in the blanks with your top two picks - book title and author and, if an article, magazine & date, or TV show, video series, etc. that you would recommend for each category (leave blank if you do not have an opinion in a certain category) and print your name at the bottom to cast your vote. Our thanks to Scott Hagara for the idea.

GENERAL HISTORIES OF THE CIVIL WAR

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR

BIOGRAPHIES

POLITICS

RECONSTRUCTION

REGIONAL CIVIL WAR HISTORIES (i.e. STATES, CITY, BUSINESS)

SLAVERY AND ABOLITIONISM

MILITARY UNITS, MILITARY LIFE

CIVILIAN LIFE, CULTURE

WOMEN IN THE CIVIL WAR

----- NEOCWRT MEMBER