



# THE COURIER



## Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



**Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Meeting #109**

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

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Ethan Rafuse**

**Topic: Lee and McClellan and the War in the East**

**Canteen at 6:00 pm**

**Dinner at 7:00 pm**

**Guests are welcome**

**Reservations required**

**Please call Steve Abbey**

**Phone 440 255 8375 e-Mail: [abbeysr@yahoo.com](mailto:abbeysr@yahoo.com)**

**Dr. Ethan Rafuse** teaches Military History at the United States Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Prior to his assignment at the USACGSC at Leavenworth, he taught history at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Dr. Rafuse grew up in Northern Virginia and earned his BA and MA at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. He did his doctoral work at the University of Missouri in Kansas City.



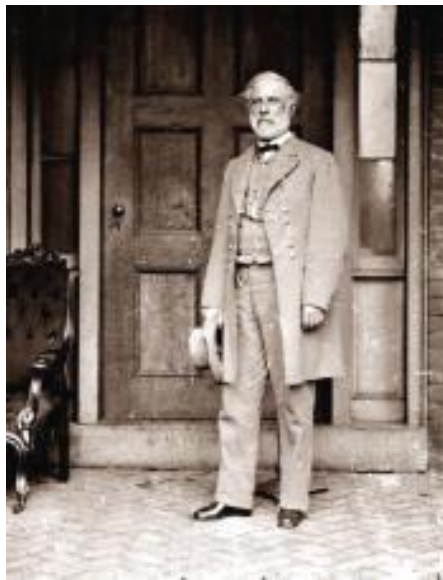
Ethan Rafuse is the author or co-author of 8 books and monographs on the American Civil War including *McClellan's War*, *The Failure of Moderation in the War for Union*; *Antietam*, *South Mountain and Harpers Ferry: A Battlefield Guide*; *Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy*; *The Ongoing War*; *A Single Grand Victory* and *George Gordon Meade and the War in the East*. He has also written and published many articles and essays on the Civil War in various historical magazines and journals.

General Robert E. Lee was forced to surrender to General U.S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in April 1865 but he emerged from the war as one of history's consummate warrior generals. General George B. McClellan and his Army of the Potomac inflicted a number of defeats on the Army of Northern Virginia only to be removed from command by President Lincoln for being too cautious. Most civil war historians judge McClellan to be a failure as a battlefield commander because he failed to capture Richmond and force Lee into surrender in 1862. General Lee is considered among history's best battlefield commanders. Dr. Rafuse will examine this paradox and how Lee's knowledge of McClellan affected his strategy and tactics throughout the remaining years of the civil war. Be sure to join us for what will be a memorable evening with a gifted writer and historian from the United States Army Command and General Staff College.

## **Robert E. Lee and George B. McClellan Battled to win the War in the East**

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Most recent scholarship on the American Civil War has attempted to downplay the importance of the battles and military operations in the Eastern Theater while emphasizing the Western Theater as far more important in deciding the outcome of the war. Yet, there is little question that the military campaigns that took place in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania were of major importance to winning the civil war. Dr. Ethan Rafuse believes that there was an interaction between the strategic and operational visions of George B. McClellan and Robert E. Lee that shaped the war in 1861-1862 and established a framework that would dominate the war in the East long after McClellan departed from the stage.



*Photographs of George McClellan and Robert E. Lee from the Library of Congress*

McClellan and Lee shared a common understanding of the strategic, organizational and operational dynamics of the Eastern Theater and the war in general. It was this shared understanding, rather than the disparagement of his foe's considerable abilities that was at the heart of Lee's remarks upon learning of McClellan's removal from command of the Army of the Potomac: **"we always understood each other so well!"** Indeed, it was the fact that McClellan understood the Confederacy and its challenges, and the approach he took to war that flowed from this understanding, that made him such an eminently dangerous foe for the Confederacy. Lee's conduct from the time he took command in June 1862 until the end of the war was in large part, a response to lessons about the strategic needs of the Confederacy that were impressed upon him by George McClellan. ( Synopsis of the presentation by *Dr. Ethan Rafuse*)

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

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**CIVIL WAR MINUTES** by **Franco M. Sperrazzo** Events Coordinator

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**April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting:** Special guest **Dan Frazier**, from Perry, Ohio treated 43 members and guests that included a 91 year young World War II veteran brought by **Frank Moore**. Also a former sandlot baseball player **Ken Godnavec** from Euclid brought by **Bernie Taub**. Mr. Frazier served in the Korean War, but for the purpose of our gathering he served as **Major General James Ewell Brown Stuart**. He had tremendous recall for time sequences as he took us from 1862 to the late spring of 1864 when **JEB** was mortally wounded during the Battle of Yellow Tavern. Dan is a big man and he wore the period costume well. He was quite engaging, to a point that at times I felt he drew us back about 150 years allowing me to believe that he had really been there. He brought a replica pistol that the Confederate Cavalry man may have carried. Dan Frazier was a worthy guest speaker and we were fortunate to be able to have a night with him.

**May 15<sup>th</sup> Spring Day Trip:** The final details have been completed for our visit to three historic churches in Cleveland, Ohio. We will break for lunch after 1:00pm at Grump's Home Cooking Restaurant in the Tremont District. We could finish at the newly restored Soldiers and Sailors Monument recently rededicated this past April. **John Sandy** has hired **Tim Barrett**, noted Cleveland sacred architecture historian and associate of wife **Terri Sandy** as our guide. *Call John at 216-486-9406 or Franco at 440-567-2414. The cost is \$15.00 per couple or \$10.00 for a single tour.* We hope you can join us.

**WRHS:** We recently renewed our membership at the Western Reserve Historical Society. This great facility can be used to view exhibits and perform research at the archival library. I had the opportunity to assist **Ted Karle** in the necrology section viewing old listings of obituaries of our 5 fallen comrades. We will use this information next winter 2011 to recognize **Robert Jansen, Conrad Sipple, Judge Norman A. Fuerst, Dr. Robert E. Battisti Sr.,** and the most recent loss, long time member and flag bearer **Ronald Morgan**. Sesquicentennial 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War exhibit will be portrayed to a great degree before spring 2011. As me if you are interested in passes.

**Summer Picnic:** If any of our members have suggestions for an outdoor picnic or special event, please bring it to my attention so that it can be discussed at our next executive committee meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>. We generally convene a week or so after the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. What about a 5:00pm dinner then 6:30 ball game with the Lake County Captains at Classic Park. Regretfully, the **51st Ohio Volunteer Infantry** that have been with us for the past few years would not be included.

**Speakers for 2011:** Openings for next years' speakers are closing fast through the efforts of Director and Program Chair **Joe Tirpak**. I am speaking to a handful of potential excellent people that would give interesting presentations. If you have something prepared or know of someone noteworthy, come forward.

**2011 Fall Field Trip:** On April 29<sup>th</sup> we decided that the fall outing will commence on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and finish on Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup>. Field Commander **Norton J. London** has narrowed it down to three potential locations. He and **Brian Kowell** have put much thought into planning the logistics for our group. An announcement will be made at our May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Ethan S. Rafuse:** will be our honored guest for a full day and evening on May 11<sup>th</sup>. We will take him to some of our local historic sites when Trooper **George Grim** brings him from the Youngstown Civil War Club the previous night. We also may have a visit from their speaker's bureau director **Gordy Morgan**.

We look forward to a huge turn out since this is our last meeting before our summer sabbatical. Mr. Rafuse will have some volumes of the several books that he has written with him. Editor J. Sandy will produce more on the biography of Ethan S. Rafuse.

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**NEOCWRT Historic Churches of Cleveland Tour**

**Saturday May 15, 2010**      **Cost \$15.00 per couple or \$10.00 per single**      **Call John Sandy at 216 486 9406**

**or Franco Sperrazzo at 440 567 2414 to reserve your tour**

**Our tour begins at St. Colman's at 10:00 am**      **St Stephen's at 11:00 am**      **Pilgrim Congregational at 12 noon**

**Lunch at 1:15pm at Grumpy's in Tremont**

## ***Jno Buford – The best Cavalry Officer in the Army of the Potomac***

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The life of John Buford is only a footnote in the vast history of the American Republic. With the exception of those who have read “The Killer Angels,” the Pulitzer Prize winning, historical novel by Michael Shaara, few people know of the man. The film actor, Sam Elliott played Buford in the movie “Gettysburg.” Buford was an obscure brigadier general who on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863, ordered his two cavalry brigades to secure the high ground outside of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania until the rest of the Army of the Potomac arrived. Buford’s cavalry troopers bought time by establishing a moving defense along Herr Ridge and McPherson Ridge and holding off Henry Heth’s division of the Army of Northern Virginia until John Reynolds and the I Corps of the Army of the Potomac could arrive. Buford and Heth were old friends who met while attending West Point. Buford’s cavalry actions enabled the Union Army to secure an excellent defensive position on Cemetery Ridge south of Gettysburg. Had Buford simply rode off in the face of a vastly superior Confederate force, the outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg may have been quite different.

Buford was a soft spoken cavalry officer with simple tastes. He liked to wear old flannel hunting shirts that were usually adorned with little burn holes from his ever present pipe. *He always signed his dispatches-Jno Buford.* Buford was the complete opposite of the glory seeking, and self promoting cavalry officers like George Armstrong Custer, Judson Kilpatrick and J.E.B. Stuart. Buford’s style and devotion to duty won him the respect of the men he commanded and the admiration of his senior officers.



John Buford was born on March 4, 1826 in Woodford County, Kentucky. His family moves to Rock Island, Illinois when he was eight years old. He learned to ride horses at an early age. He was a good student but he was also a skilled woodsman and an expert rifleman. He attended Knox College located in Galesburg, Illinois for one year before being selected for admission to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He graduated from West Point in 1848 and he ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in his class of 38 cadets. Buford studied hard and had good grades at the academy but he also collected a number of demerits for violating rules such as visiting fellow cadets after lights out and for smoking in his quarters. Nevertheless, he made many life-long friendships while at West Point including Ambrose Burnside, A.P. Hill, Henry Heth, Thomas J. Jackson and George Stoneman to name a few.

Upon graduation, Buford was commissioned a brevet second lieutenant and assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> United States Dragoons at Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis, Missouri. Lt. Colonel Edwin Vose Sumner (Ol’ Bull Sumner) was the executive officer of the regiment. Later, Buford was assigned to Fort Scott, Missouri where he befriended 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Delos Sacket. Buford credits Sacket with training him to be a cavalry officer. Dragoons were instructed to maneuver and adapt to

their terrain. The cavalry must be prepared to function in all contingencies. Lieutenant Sacket taught Buford to engage the enemy on horseback and to

dismount and secure an area and fight as an infantry unit when the situation dictated it.

In the spring of 1849, Buford was transferred to staff duty with the 2<sup>nd</sup> United States Dragoons in Texas. The 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Dragons earned their reputation as a dashing, hard fighting outfit in the Mexican War. However, the Second was equally well known for its hard drinking and fist fighting in civilian establishments. Later that same year, Buford was assigned to temporary duty with the 1st U.S. Dragoons in New Mexico Territory. For the next three years Buford served as the regiment’s quartermaster.

In the summer of 1851 Buford went on a long furlough and returned to Illinois and the area around Woodford County, Kentucky to visit his family and old friends. While visiting in Kentucky he met Martha McDowell Duke, a lovely young woman that sparked Buford’s romantic interest. The fact that they were third cousins was not going to hinder their attraction to each other. He called her Pattie-as in Pattie Duke!

In January of 1852, Buford returned to duty at Fort Mason, Texas, where he served with 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Alfred Pleasonton and 2nd Lieutenant Beverly H. Robertson. Units of the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Dragoons were spread out in Texas and New Mexico Territory protecting settlers from attacks from hostile Indians. John Buford came to realize that promotions to higher rank were slow and virtually nonexistent for a quartermaster. To get a promotion, an officer had to serve in a cavalry unit that saw action! In the spring of 1854, Buford was reassigned back to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1854, he married Pattie Duke.



In the summer of 1854, a Sioux raiding party massacred a 30 man U.S. Army detachment near Fort Laramie in Nebraska Territory. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis ordered an expedition under General William Harney to capture the hostile Sioux raiding party. General Harney served in the Mexican War where he ordered the execution of 30 men from the San Patricio Battalion after the Battle of Chapultepec. The 30 men were Irish Catholics who had deserted from the U.S. Army to fight for Catholic Mexico against the United States.

There are no detailed records of the Harney expedition against the Sioux raiding party but we do know that John Buford participated in this expedition. More than 85 Sioux warriors along with women and children were killed in the U.S. Cavalry's attack on the hostile Indian encampment. Many of the victims were slain by cavalry sabers. The Sioux later called Harney, "*woman killer.*"

On September 11, 1857, a wagon train of settlers bound for California was attacked at Mountain Meadows, Utah Territory by Mormon Militia and members of a Paiute Indian tribe. More than 120 settlers were killed. The Mountain Meadows Massacre inflamed passions against the Mormons who were attempting to establish a theocracy in Utah. The Mormons refused to obey the orders of the Federal Judge assigned to the Utah Territory. President Buchanan ordered the U.S. Army to send an expedition to Utah to put down the Mormon Rebellion and reestablish Federal Law. John Buford was a member of that army expedition commanded by General Albert Sidney Johnston.

The spring of 1861 saw the advent of the American Civil War and John Buford was promoted to the temporary rank of major and assigned to duty as an inspector general of the Union forts outside of Washington, D.C. In the spring of 1862, Buford was assigned to General John Pope's Army of Virginia. General Pope knew of John Buford and had him promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. Buford was placed in command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps Cavalry Brigade.



*Photograph of John Buford seated and staff from the National Archives*

At the Battle of Second Bull Run, Buford's brigade detected the location of Confederate James Longstreet's Corps and tried to delay his movement through Thoroughfare Gap long enough to warn General Pope. Buford sent a dispatch to McDowell, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corp Commander but McDowell failed to convince General Pope that Longstreet's corps was approaching. Longstreet's 25,000 Graybacks slammed into Pope's army and sent them reeling back to the safety of the forts around Washington. Pope actually believed that the Confederates were retreating. Buford was slightly wounded by a spent shell, although the New York Herald erroneously reported that he had been killed.

John Buford served under General George McClellan and saw limited action at South Mountain and the Battle of Antietam during the Maryland Campaign.

Later he was placed in command of the Reserve Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps Cavalry and led his troopers against Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart's Cavalry at the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863. In late July, 1863, Patti Buford received news that her father was dying. While on the journey to see her father in Kentucky, little 5 years old Patti Buford, the only daughter of John and Patti Buford became ill and died. The loss of his daughter greatly weakened the health and well being of John Buford. In November, 1863, Buford became seriously ill after contracting typhoid. He transferred to Washington D.C. where on December 16, 1863, Buford died at the home of his close friend, General George Stoneman.

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1863, a funeral service for General John Buford was held in the Presbyterian Church at the corner of H Street and New York Avenue in Washington, D.C. President Lincoln attended the funeral services along with members of his cabinet. John Buford's body now rests in the graveyard on a hill overlooking the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. General John Buford's grave is marked by a twenty five foot high column of weathered granite with an eagle perched at the panicle. This monument is a symbol of Buford's courage and his devotion to **duty, honor and country.**

[References for Jno Buford, The Best Cavalry Officer in the Army of the Potomac:](#)

[Longacre, Edward G. General John Buford: A Military Biography, DeCapo Press 1995](#)

[Longacre, Edward G. Lincoln's Cavalrymen: History of the Mounted Forces of the Army of the Potomac, Stackpole Books](#)

[Phipps, Michael and Patterson, John S. The Devil's to pay, Farnsworth Military Impressions 1995](#)

## **“NUTS AND BOLTS” of the CIVIL WAR**

COMPILED BY CARL DODARO

### **“HOW MUCH IS A PRIVATE WORTH?”**

During the first two years of the Civil War, prisoners of the North and South were likely to be exchanged, or paroled because there were no places to detain them. The U.S. and Confederate governments relied on the traditional European system of parole and exchange of prisoners. The terms called for prisoners to give their word not to take up arms against their captors until they were formally exchanged for an enemy captive of equal rank. Parole was supposed to take place within 10 days of capture. The public demanded that prisoners be exchanged, as no one wanted to picture a family member in “prison”, just because they were captured. The governments wanted a parole system so they would not have to care for the prisoners (food, housing, medical), or deduct soldiers from the line to guard the prison camps. It took more than a year for both sides to agree on a system of exchange. The agreement worked out was called “The Cartel of July 22, 1862”, and was signed at Haxall’s Landing on the James River in Virginia, Major-General John A. Dix representing the United States and Major-General D. H. Hill representing the Confederate States.

“The Cartel of July 22, 1862”, agreed and stipulated that all prisoners of war held by either party, including those taken on private armed vessels, known as privateers, shall be discharged upon the conditions and terms following:

Prisoners to be exchanged man for man and officer for officer; privateers to be placed on the footing of officers and men of the Navy. Men and officers of lower grades may be exchanged for officers of a higher grade, and men and officers of different services may be exchanged according to the following scale of equivalents:

- A General Commanding-in-Chief or an Admiral for officers equal in rank or 60 privates / seamen.
- A Flag Officer or Major-General for officers equal in rank or 40 privates / seamen.
- A Commodore or Brigadier-General for officers equal in rank or 20 privates / seamen.
- A Captain in the Navy or Colonel for officers equal in rank or 15 privates / seamen.
- A Commander in the Navy, or Lieutenant-Colonel for equal rank or 10 privates / seamen.
- A Lt.-Commander in the Navy, or Major for officers equal in rank or 8 privates / seamen.
- A Lieutenant in the Navy, or Captain in the army for equal ranks or 6 privates / seamen.
- Masters mates in the Navy, or Lieutenants in the Army for equals or 4 privates / seamen.
- Midshipmen, Warrant Officers, Masters of merchant ships and Commanders of privateers for officers of equal rank or 3 privates or common seamen.
- Second Captains, Lieutenants, or mates of merchant vessels or privateers and all petty officers in the Navy, and all non-commissioned officers in either Army or Marines shall be exchanged for persons of equal rank or 2 privates or common seamen.
- Private soldiers or common seamen shall be exchanged for each other, man for man.

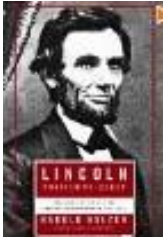
“The Cartel of July 22, 1862” failed to agree on procedure in executing the cartel, and violations and arguments were frequent, with major problems arising over the exchange of former slaves captured while serving as Union Soldiers. The South claimed they were runaways who should be returned to their owners, whereas the North demanded they be considered in the same manner as other prisoners of war. Lt.-General U.S. Grant strongly believed that the exchange of prisoners was of great disadvantage to the North, which did not suffer the manpower shortage of the South. He wrote in his “Personal Memoirs” that: “every man we hold, when released on parole or otherwise, becomes an active soldier against us. . . .If a system of exchange liberates all prisoners taken, we will have to fight on until the whole South is exterminated.” And Grant ended the exchange / parole of prisoners in 1863. The unfortunate part of ending the exchange or parole system was the buildup of prisoners on both sides and the horror stories of the camps, i.e. Andersonville.

References for How much is Private Worth?

- *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War – Patricia L. Faust, Editor - @ 1986*
- *Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War – Alfred H. Guernsey & Henry M. Alden - Fairfax Press*
- *Personal Memoirs – Ulysses S. Grant - @ 1885*

## ***Lincoln President-Elect* by Harold Holzer Book Review by Tom Horvath**

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This book covers the period from November 6, 1860 (Election Day) until March 4, 1861 (Inauguration Day). During most of that four-month-long period, Lincoln did little and said less. He did so with good reason. Several states seceded, and several more were threatening to do so. As president-elect, he had no power to act, but every public statement he made was widely published and scrutinized. He was urged by some advisors to make a conciliatory speech toward the south, but doing so risked the loss of northern support and would certainly make him appear soft, so he chose to remain silent for most of the lame duck period.

Mr. Holzer supports Lincoln's choice to do nothing, but it makes his job as an author formidable. There is simply very little substance to build on. It was interesting to see that, shortly after his election, Clifton H. Moore, an old legal associate of Lincoln's, wrote him warning that his problems had just begun -- from Mentor in Lake County, Ohio. Unfortunately, that was the most interesting item in the first hundred pages.

The difference between this book and the previously reviewed *Lincoln for President*, that also covered a period with very little activity, is the author's style. Mr. Holzer's narrative flows smoothly and is easy to read; and he makes the most of what little he has to work with.

This was, for Lincoln and the nation, a very nerve-wracking time. The nation was being torn apart and he was powerless to do anything about it for four months, at which time he would inherit the results of his predecessor's inaction. He was receiving conflicting advice. For every advisor urging him to assure the south of his good will, there was another advising him to say nothing. He was elected, but feared that the Electoral College process could be disrupted or corrupted, nullifying his election. (These were real fears. Electoral College voting took place in state capitols which, in some states like his own Illinois, were in southern-sympathizing areas. The final tally of Electoral College votes took place in the publicly accessible House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., a slave-holding district surrounded by Virginia and southern-leaning Maryland. And the man responsible for security in Washington, D.C., General Winfield Scott, was a Virginian.) Finally, Lincoln received a continual stream of threats -- many of them death threats. Mr. Holzer brings all of these dangers to light and allows us to share Lincoln's concerns.

As the four months neared an end, Lincoln finally broke his silence. He began his long, tortuous introductory journey to Washington, D.C., and with it came a number of speeches -- some with significant content.

Then, of course, there is the unfortunate sneak through Baltimore. Mr. Holzer takes some time to discuss the decision process and whether the danger was real or imagined.

Given what he has to work with, Mr. Holzer does a good job. The problem is the lack of real material. There's some good information here, but it takes a long time to get to it.

The book was published in 2008 and is 623 pages long. It contains a section of photographs, an index, a notes section, and the complete text of Lincoln's first inaugural address, including deleted and revised text. Amazon has the hard cover edition available for \$22.80; B&N member price is \$25.07. Mentor Public Library has one copy and the ClevNet system has 14.



## The Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



### Spring 2010 Field Trip

**Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010** **Historic Churches of Cleveland, Ohio**

Tim Barrett, noted Cleveland Sacred Architecture historian, will be our guide on a tour of



Altar and Sanctuary of St. Colman Catholic Church

some of the most famous churches in Northeast Ohio. Our tour will begin at 10 am at St. Colman Catholic Church, located at 2027 West 65<sup>th</sup> Street. St. Colman is one of the most famous Irish American churches in Ohio. [St Colman Catholic Church](#) and [St Stephen Catholic Church](#) were both slated to be closed by the Cleveland Diocese's Bishop Richard Lennon. However, the Bishop changed his mind after a massive public appeal.



St. Stephen's Catholic Church

We will then journey to [St. Stephen Catholic Church](#), at 1930 West 54<sup>th</sup> Street, to view one of the grandest German American houses of worship in the United States.

Next, we will venture to the Tremont neighborhood to see the [Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ](#) which is located at 2592 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street.



Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ

Contact **John Sandy** at **216 486 9406** to reserve your tour of the Historic Churches of Cleveland. All members and their guests are welcome.