



# THE COURIER



## Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



**Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 Meeting #117**

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

**Guest Speaker: George Deutsch**

**Topic: "President Lincoln and Chief Justice Roger Taney: The Great Antagonists"**

**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)**



Civil War historian and author **George Deutsch** co-founded several historical organizations related to the Civil War and the War of 1812 in his home-town of Erie, Pa. He has also published a number of articles on the 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry and Commodore Oliver H. Perry's Flagship, the **U.S.S. Niagara**, which played a critical role in the 1813 Battle of Lake Erie. Deutsch designed the wayside marker about Cols. Strong Vincent and Joshua Chamberlain on Gettysburg's Little Round Top, worked to erect the Vincent's statue located near the entrance to Erie's Maritime museum, and led the effort to restore Erie County's Civil War monument. He also helped to lead the conservation of the 83rd and 145th Pennsylvania's battle flags now preserved in the Erie Library.

George Deutsch teaches Civil War history courses at the Chautauqua Institute located at Lake Chautauqua, New York and has led more than two dozen battlefield tours for roundtable and university groups. He has been honored twice by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and received the Local History Award in 2003 from the Erie County Historical Society. He was educated at Georgetown University's

School of Foreign Service and Mercyhurst College, from where he earned a degree in history. He is writing, with a partner, a new book on the 83rd Pennsylvania, focusing on the untold history of its last year in the war. He lives in Catonsville, Md., with his wife, Mary Fran. Special note: George Deutsch and our own Ted Karle have been lifelong friends. But equally important, George's great grandfather and Ted's great grandfather both served together in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania during the Civil War. George Deutsch is no stranger to our round table for he was one of our battlefield guides at Gettysburg in 2004 and a guest during our 2009 visit to Richmond, Va. and the **Battles of the Seven Days**.



Speaker George Deutsch will explore the legendary constitutional rivalry between President Abraham Lincoln and Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney. The rivalry began with the *Dred Scott* decision of 1857 and lasted until Taney's death in 1864. As soon as Lincoln was sworn in as president, he faced the armed insurrection of the Southern states, an unprecedented crisis that threatened the nation's survival. When riots broke out in Baltimore and pro-Confederate groups cut telegraph wires and burned railroad bridges in Maryland, isolating Washington, Lincoln suspended the writ of *habeas corpus*. Maryland civilian John Merryman was arrested by the military and held at Ft McHenry on suspicion of pro-Confederate activities. Taney challenged the military's authority to arrest a civilian and issued a writ



for Merryman that Lincoln chose to ignore. Other challenges to presidential war powers followed, culminating in the *Prize Cases* in 1863 involving Lincoln's naval blockade and the issue of the status of Confederate sovereignty. In that case, the Court ruled Lincoln's action was constitutional but Taney dissented. Taney was preparing briefs opposing the Emancipation Proclamation, Legal Tender Act (greenbacks) and Conscription laws at the time of his death in October 1864.

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## 14<sup>th</sup> PRESIDENT'S CIVIL WAR JOURNAL by Franco M. Sperrazzo

**April 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Keith Rocco:** Perhaps we should mention one of the major reasons for Mr. Rocco's success other than his gift of God given talent. Mrs. Libby Rocco accompanied her non-pretentious husband. When Gordy Morgan from the Youngstown Mahoning Valley Club, asked Joe Tirpak & yours truly if we were interested in booking Keith Rocco for our 2011 Speaker Program on our conference call I was almost speechless. Having always admired his accomplished works of art, even a recent medical setback could not keep me away. There is not enough room in this column to express the superlatives that our club has verbalized about Mr. Rocco's presentation of "Historical Art & Images of the American Civil War." .

**Fairport Harbor Historical Society: Bob Baucher & Joe Tirpak** both had successful debuts with their recent talks. Bob will complete the 3 part series on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 7pm in the FH Public Library, program, "Civil War Causes & Effects." FHHS programs are free. Address questions to Sirs Baucher & Tirpak. A Civil War Weekend Reenactment @ Lake County Historic Center Property, June 18-19<sup>th</sup> ask Dick Muny.

**Theodore J. Karle, Erie, PA. Ted** was brilliant in his "Gettysburg Revisited" power point presentation. Afterwards he drummed up support for our Fall Field Trip by explaining details to some of the Erie Club regular members, Jack Braun, Joe Steele, Bill Steger, Norm Whipple & Dick Capp. We owe Ted a huge display of gratitude for the kind & gracious words I received in a card from deceased member Ron Morgan's widow Margaret (Peg). Recently I presented her an honorary proclamation in his memory at Brent Morgan's Mentor High School Alumni Award Program that was drawn up by Ted. "Dear Civil War Round Table, I wish to thank each & everyone for their thoughtfulness in remembering Ron. He loved being in your group. Best Wishes, Love Peg. His contributions with the deceased members Robert "Sig" Jansen, Bob Battisti, Connie Sipple and Norman Feurst will always be honored.

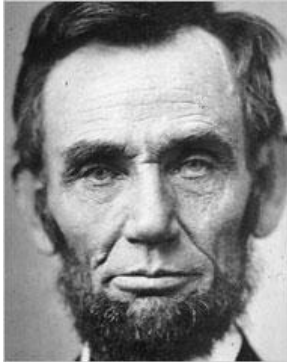
**Spring One Day Journey, Mark May 21<sup>st</sup> on your calendar:** Again it is a privilege to have Cleveland Historian Tim Barrett back as our tour guide, thanks to John & Theresa Sandy. Next Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup>, at our Dino's meeting we will ask for a show of hands for the option of Pres. Franco leading a group to **Western Reserve Historical Society** as an afternoon option from after 3 to 4:45 pm to visit the Pres. Lincoln Tribute, Library Archivist Ann Sindelar, & the new exhibit "Rally Round the Flags"

**Ohio Civil War Collectors & Artillery Show:** Not only did Ted Karle have a table for his artifacts @ the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Show in Mansfield, Ohio April 30<sup>th</sup> & May 1<sup>st</sup>, but an outstanding array of distinguished members & guests were on hand. The list included members Pat Norris, Rick Hudak, Norton Londen & Dick Muny. Guests present were Tom & Madrene Karle, Judy Muny, Lynn & Jim Keegan, and least we forget President Franco's better half & First Lady Cyndy Sperrazzo.

**NEOCWRT Memorial Day Parade:** Our 9<sup>th</sup>, dedication will be part of the annual day of events of City of Willoughby Festivities taking place on May 30<sup>th</sup>, about 10:00 am. Our represented members will present a wreath to honor the almost 100 soldiers buried in the Sharp Lane Cemetery that served in the Civil War from Lake County including 1 Confederate. The ceremony is only 30 minutes. Consider it.

## *The Dahlgren Raid and the Plot to Kill President Lincoln Part Two*

During the course of his presidency, Abraham Lincoln came to be viewed as a tyrant by some citizens of the north as well as a majority of the population of the Confederate States of America. President Lincoln suspended the *writ of habeas corpus* and imprisoned anyone who was perceived to be a traitor to the union cause. In the north, anti Lincoln administration newspapers like the *Chicago Times* were raided and their editors jailed. Political enemies that opposed the abolitionist Republicans were called Copperheads and were either imprisoned or like Clement Vallandigham, a prominent Ohio anti-war Democrat, banished to the south for preaching sedition. In the south, areas occupied by the Federal armies were subjected to the harshest measures of military occupation. Southern citizens were imprisoned and their private property confiscated. Farms and plantation houses were burned and crops destroyed. President Lincoln and War Secretary, Edwin Stanton developed a strategy of “total war” and charged Union Generals: Grant, Sherman and Sheridan with the task of implementing that strategy.



On December 24, 1864 General William T. Sherman wrote to Chief of Staff Henry Halleck: “We are not only fighting hostile armies but a hostile people and must make old and young, rich and poor feel the hard hand of war, as well as their organized armies.” By January of 1865, the people of the south had little to eat and their once beautiful, idyllic landscape had been transformed into a charred wasteland, littered with the carcasses of dead, rotting farm animals and burning rubble. Lincoln’s goal was to starve the south and deprive its people of basic sustenance, they would then compel their government to seek peace and return to the federal union.

Newspapers in Richmond, Virginia and throughout the south began calling Lincoln a tyrant and some even called for him to be assassinated. Emboldened by what he perceived to be a universal hatred of Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth assembled his cadre of conspirators in an effort to rescue the Confederacy from certain defeat. Booth initially planned to kidnap Lincoln and escape to Richmond, Virginia. He believed that the U. S. Government would willingly exchange thousands of Confederate prisoners of war for the safe return of President Lincoln. The exchanged rebel prisoners would replenish General Robert E. Lee’s army and turn the tide of the war. However, recent events spoiled Booth’s plans to reinforce the Army of Northern Virginia. The plot to kidnap Lincoln while on his way back from the Campbell Hospital outside of Washington, D. C. was thwarted when the President changed his schedule and attended a flag presentation for an Indiana regiment located at the National Hotel. Ironically, Booth was registered at the National Hotel! Robert E. Lee was forced to surrender his army on April 9, 1865; therefore a prisoner exchange at that late date was not likely to change the fortunes of the Southern Confederacy.



Booth attempted to revise his kidnap plan and changed the location for the event to the Ford Theater on Seventh Street. The President and Mrs. Lincoln enjoyed attending the theater because it gave them an escape from the exhausting schedule of their daily lives. Booth’s decision to change the location to the Ford Theater made no sense to conspirators Samuel Arnold and Michael O’laughlen, two of Booth’s life-long friends from Baltimore. Arnold argued that it made no sense to attempt to kidnap the President at the Ford Theater. President Lincoln would be” surrounded by a thousand friends” and an escape would be impossible. Believing that Booth’s plot was doomed to fail, Arnold and O’laughlen bid farewell to Booth and returned to Baltimore. But Arnold knew too much and Booth would not sanction losing two men who could testify against him in a court of law. Booth therefore, sent a letter addressed to Arnold in Baltimore that was sure to implicate him and O’laughlen should Booth be charged with any crime. This was the price of their friendship with Booth.

**Good Friday, April 14, 1865** was a day of celebration in the city of Washington, D. C.. Crowds gathered in the streets while shops and taverns were bustling with jubilant patrons. President Lincoln met with his cabinet and expressed his goal to restore the Confederate states to the Federal Union without malice and without revenge. The Radical Republicans of Congress and some members of his own cabinet wanted to punish the leaders of the Confederacy as traitors. But Lincoln wanted his Reconstruction program to be one that welcomed the former southern states back without vengeance. The citizens of the former Confederate states would be required to take an oath of allegiance to the union.

Lincoln had lunch with the first lady and they discussed their plans for attending a play at Ford’s Theater later that evening. The English comedy, “Our American Cousin” starring Laura Keane was on the bill. President Lincoln was in a joyful mood and even a constant stream of White House visitors and job seekers did little to diminish his countenance. The General and Mrs. Grant were to accompany the President and First Lady to the theater but alas, the Grants were called out of town at the last minute. Ulysses and Julia Grant did not care to be in the company of Mary Todd Lincoln. Their relationship cooled after the First lady called Grant a” Butcher” during the Overland Campaign.



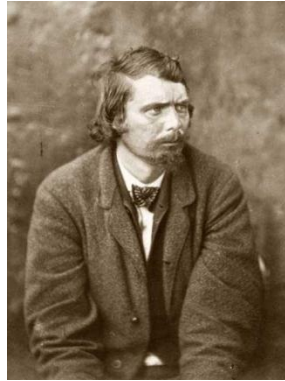
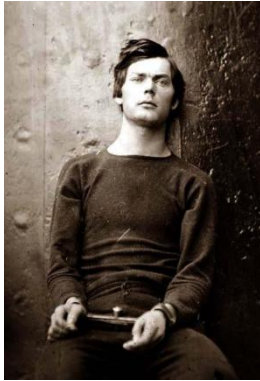


John Wilkes Booth changed his mind about kidnapping President Lincoln. Booth decided that the political situation called for drastic measures. Lincoln was an evil tyrant and had to be killed. He would also target the Vice President, Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State, William Seward. Booth was certain that killing the heads of the Federal government would throw the nation into chaos and the Confederacy would be reborn in the process. The U. S. government would be compelled to let the southern states go and exist as an independent nation. He would surely be honored as a great hero throughout the southland. This was the role John Wilkes Booth had been waiting for his entire life, the opportunity to change the course of history.

President Lincoln and the First Lady were accompanied to the Ford Theater by Major Henry Rathbone and his fiancée, Clara Harris. The Presidential party was late arriving at the theater. (The play began at 8:30 pm.) The actors on stage stopped their performance while the orchestra struck up “Hail to the Chief” as the Presidential party entered their box above the stage. The audience burst into applause and after awhile, the play resumed.

John Wilkes Booth stopped off at Taltavul’s *Star Saloon*, the tavern next door to the Ford Theater for some liquid courage. After a glass of whiskey and water he made his way to the *Ford Theater*. It was just after 10:00 pm. Booth showed his card to Charles Forbes, Lincoln’s messenger and only security and Forbes permitted Booth to make his way to the Presidential box. Spying the President in the dimly lit theater, Booth entered the box and shot Lincoln in the back of the head from less than four feet away. Booth lashed out with his knife at Major Rathbone who was attempting to stop him. The injured Rathbone did not stop Booth but he threw him off balance. Booth leaped to the stage below but fell breaking a bone in his left leg. The assassin then stood on the stage and shouted “Sic Semper Tyrannis”( thus always to tyrants). Booth rushed off stage and out a rear door to Baptist Alley where his horse was being held by Joseph “peanuts” Burroughs.

A small crowd attempted to stop Booth but he lashed out with his knife and managed to make his way down the alley. He turned north on F Street and made his way to the Navy Yard Bridge where he crossed the Potomac River without incident. Booth was joined by David Herold and they made their way to the Surratt Tavern where they were met a not too sober, John Lloyd. Lloyd retrieved rifles and ammunition John Surratt had hidden above the kitchen ceiling weeks before. Booth and Herold left the Surratt Tavern and were forced to make their way to the home of Dr. Samuel Mudd. Booth was in extreme pain, he could not continue his escape in that condition. Dr. Mudd reset the bone and made a splint for Booth’s leg.



While Booth was carrying out his assassination of President Lincoln, George Atzerodt was to murder Vice President Andrew Johnson at the Kirkwood House Hotel. Atzerodt began drinking at the hotel bar and never got the courage to accomplish his mission. He left the Kirkwood House and wandered the streets of Washington. He eventually made his way to Germantown, Maryland where he was arrested on April 20, 1865.

Lewis Powell was to kill Secretary of State William Seward. He entered the secretary’s house despite protests from a servant. He attacked and injured a bodyguard and severely injured Seward and his son but he failed to kill his victim. Powell left the Seward’s home in plain view and despite the screams of Seward’s daughter. Powell threw his bloody knife into the street where it was easily recovered by witnesses. He was arrested on April 17<sup>th</sup> at the home of Mary Surratt.

*Lewis Powell above left      George Atzerodt above right      Photographs from the National Archives*

On April 26, 1865, John Wilkes Booth and David Herold were surrounded by 16<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry Regiment in a tobacco barn at the Garrett Farm in northern Virginia. Booth was shot and later died on the front porch of the Garrett residence. David Herold along with Mary Surratt, Lewis Powell, and George Atzerodt were all tried and convicted by a military court in Washington. All were found guilty and all were executed by hanging on July 7, 1865. Legal scholars have long debated the military’s jurisdiction in bringing civilians to trial in a military court. Was Mary Surratt guilty of aiding and abetting Booth in the murder of President Lincoln and was the evidence against her so compelling that the military jury had to convict? These are questions that will forever challenge historians and legal scholars alike. What we do know is that Secretary of War Edwin Stanton believed that our nation had been attacked by Confederate agents bent on destroying our government and striking fear into our citizens. Stanton wanted the defendants tried, convicted and brought to justice. That is just what he got.

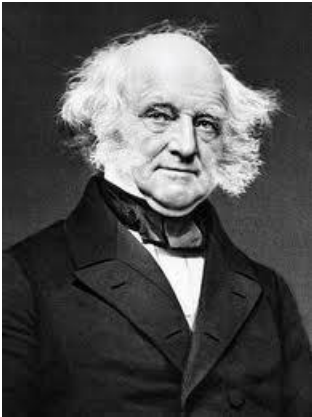
It is interesting to note that Colonel Ulric Dahlgren’s pocket note book and John Wilkes Booth’s note book were both given to Secretary of War Stanton and he kept booth items in his safe until he died. His family donated the note books to the National Archives and historians seeing the books have often wondered if there was a reason that pages are missing from both books.

## Ex-Presidents and the Civil War

Compiled by Carl Dodaro

In an age where ex-Presidents are automatically considered the elder statesmen of the country, and expected to use their experience in foreign affairs to try to help the current President, to back and support the current government, how did the five living ex-Presidents use their status to help the government of Abraham Lincoln?

The five surviving ex-Presidents in 1861 – Martin Van Buren, John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, and James Buchanan – all having enough reputation for being above the party battles and in fighting, for it to be suggested, more than once, that they meet to find remedies for the secession crisis. That such a meeting never took place is testimony to the weakness on the non-partisan ideal of nineteenth century politics. The broad public did not regard these men – and the ex-Presidents did not regard each other – as passionless retirees, well on their way to becoming marble statues. They were all fiercely partisan.

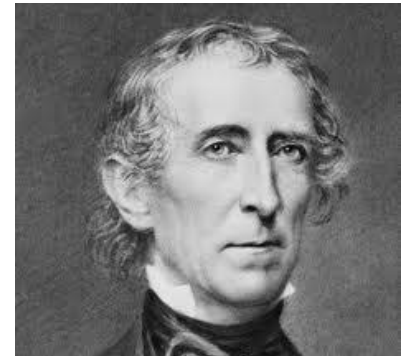


Of the five, *Martin Van Buren* (see photograph to the left) alone gave the Lincoln administration unwavering support. The eighth President, being the oldest ex-President, had powerful anti-slavery views, and refused any invitation to organize any meeting of ex-Presidents out of a desire not to be associated with James Buchanan, whose course during the secession crisis, Van Buren despised. Unfortunately, Van Buren did not live to see Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, dying on July 24, 1862 at the age of 79.

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**John Tyler**, (see photograph below on the right) a native southerner, and supporter of state's rights and whose policies may have helped caused the Civil War, was ironically came the closest to assuming the leadership in a conference meant to reconcile the secession crisis. When the Virginia General Assembly proposed a peace conference for all the states in Washington for February, 1861, Tyler became one of Virginia's five commissioners at the convention. The delegates in Washington elected Tyler president of the conference unanimously, but the convention was so divided in voting on recommendations, that it was largely ignored by Congress. Tyler returned to Virginia and became an advocate of secession.

When urged to lead a compromise movement after the fall of Fort Sumter, Tyler thought it hopeless. Lincoln, he said, "having weighed in the scales the value of a mere local fort against the value of the Union itself" had brought on "the very collision he well knew would arise whenever Fort Sumter was attempted to be reinforced or provisioned." In November, 1861, Tyler was elected to serve in the Confederate House of Representatives. Far from becoming an elder statesman, John Tyler played a role in trying to destroy the nation that he was once President of.



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**Millard Fillmore**,( see photograph below on the left) the thirteenth President and like Lincoln, a member of the Whig party, despised the Republican Party as a threat to the Union he loved, and had helped to preserve by supporting the Compromise of 1850. He felt that the burden lay upon Republicans to give "some assurance that they are ready and willing to repeal all unconstitutional state laws; live up to the compromises of the Constitution, and treat our Southern brethren as friends."



He disagreed with the cautious policies of James Buchanan, and argued that the men who passed ordinances of secession should be "regarded as an unauthorized assembly of men conspiring to commit treason, and as such liable to be punished like any other unlawful assembly engaged in the same business." When war broke out, Fillmore rallied to the colors, and feared that the British may intercede on the side of the South and invade the Niagara frontier from Canada. He supported McClellan in 1864, feeling that the country was "on the verge of ruin." Without a change in administration "we must soon end in national bankruptcy and military despotism."

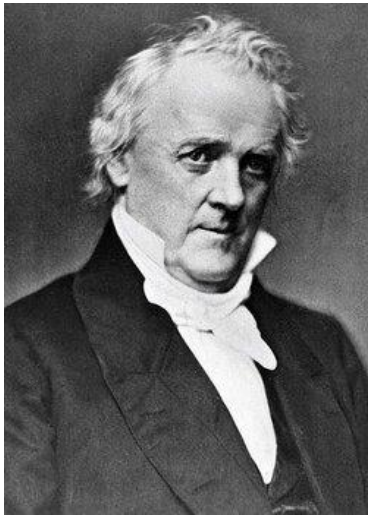
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*5 ex Presidents photographs from the Library of Congress*

Among the five living ex-Presidents, none was more hostile to Abraham Lincoln than **Franklin Pierce**. Despite being a native to New Hampshire, Pierce, the fourteenth President, supported much pro-slavery legislation throughout his political life. He believed that the Constitution supported states' rights issues and slavery itself. Calling the war a failure, Pierce felt that it was "butchery of white men" for the sake of "inflicting" freedom on the black race who didn't want it. His last public speech voiced his displeasure with the Emancipation Proclamation. This speech was his greatest error because he gave it just after the Union victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg with Northern morale reaching an all-time high. Afterwards, his friend Nathaniel Hawthorne never spoke to him again.



*Franklin Pierce*



**James Buchanan**, the fifteenth President, had more reason than any other to feel directly hostile to the Lincoln administration. Buchanan had been accused by Lincoln in 1858 of conspiring with Stephen Douglas and Roger Taney to nationalize slavery in the United States, and that by 1860 that he conspired with secessionists to let the South out of the Union. Despite these claims and many others, Buchanan did not oppose the Lincoln administration, and usually spoke of Lincoln in complimentary language. He spent his time writing a book which would refute the Lincoln claims, finished in late 1862, but not released until 1866 "to avoid the possible imputation . . . that any portion of it was intended to embarrass Mr. Lincoln's administration."

It easy to forget that Presidents are men. This quick look at the ex-Presidents of Lincoln's day is a reminder that these men retained their personal and partisan views of the world. It would be hard to imagine an ex-Presidents club. Van Buren would have nothing to do with Buchanan, though both of them were Democrats. John Tyler remained a Virginian at heart and cast his fortunes with secession and against the country of which he had been both Vice President and President of. Pierce and Fillmore, one a Democrat and the other a Whig in their prime, retained a dislike for the Republican Party. Fillmore supported the war with vigor but came to despair of the effort through suspicion that the Republican administration mishandled it.

*James Buchanan*

Pierce always blamed the war on Republican provocation and came quickly to oppose the war effort bitterly. Buchanan, who labored under the heaviest burden of charges of Southern sympathies, was the least critical of the administration of any of the ex-Presidents except Van Buren. Critical of Republican war aims like the rest, Buchanan, nevertheless, supported the war effort and maintained a high personal regard for his Presidential successor. Buchanan thus approached the twenty-first century ideal of an elder statesman.

This paper is a condensed version of a bulletin from the "Louis A. Warren, Lincoln Library and Museum", Mark E. Neely Jr. editor – issue number 1685 – July 1978 – the article called "FIVE EX-PRESIDENTS WATCHED THE LINCOLN ADMINISTRATION."

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

John A.Sandy, editor

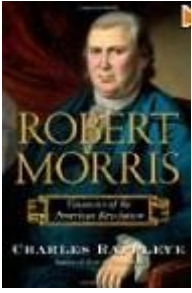
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Arlan Byrne Bill Meissner Dr. R. Stabile Joseph Tirpak

Richmond Virginia Correspondent: Brent Morgan



## ***Robert Morris* by Charles Rappleye – a book review by Tom Horvath**



I've read about George Washington and the battles of the American Revolution, but I never really gave a thought to where the states found the money to finance the revolution, or how the state governments loyal to the crown changed over to governments loyal to the new nation. Robert Morris was in the middle of both of those processes and his story taught me a great deal about the nuts and bolts of the American Revolution.

For instance, we all know that the American army suffered at Valley Forge, short of food, clothing, and supplies. Yet, America was a wealthy country, even then, and the reasons for their suffering are far from satisfying. The Articles of Confederation created a Congress, but specifically forbade that Congress from levying taxes. The individual states were charged with providing funds for the army, yet were extremely reluctant to levy taxes for fear of facing resistance similar to that experienced by the British. In addition, state governments and constitutions were being replaced and the new governments were trying to find their way.

Robert Morris was not a soldier, but what he accomplished was second in importance only to Washington's accomplishments with the army.

The Articles of Confederation provided for a unicameral government with no executive positions or departments. Soon, it became impossible for the Continental Congress to function efficiently as a unit, and Congress created several committees to streamline critical processes. Morris was appointed to the key Secret Committee charged with supplying the army. Later, Congress realized the need for executive departments and replaced the committees with executive departments. The first department created was the Department of Finance, and the first Financier was Robert Morris. His responsibility remained the same as in the Secret Committee: supply the army without the ability to levy taxes and with no power to force the individual states to pay their share. He managed that unenviable task with varying degrees of success.

Why, then, is his name not better known? If you know his name at all, you may have heard the misconceptions that he paid for the revolution with his fortune and either lost it, ending up in debtors' prison, or made a fortune by tricky and shady financial dealings using the nation's money. Morris did not pay for the revolution with his own money, though he did obtain sorely needed munitions and supplies using his (and others') good name and credit. Whether the government owed him money at the end of his service, or whether he owed the government, could never be determined despite several attempts by Morris and others to work through the records. Early on, however, to provide cover for rebel shipments and to mask his real objectives, Morris, with Congressional permission, mixed personal shipments with rebel shipments – and he made significant profits on many of those transactions. His eventual time in debtors' prison was not the result of his actions during the revolution, but due to financial dealings later on.

Like most of the leading figures of the Revolution, Morris did not seek power or position. Most of the efforts he made for the Revolution took time away from his personal business, at which he was extremely successful. Like Washington, who became a close friend, Morris walked away from politics as soon as he felt morally comfortable doing so.

Mr. Rappleye believes that Robert Morris has not received enough credit for what he did. Even early in the Revolution there were philosophical differences in how to create the new nation. Morris was a leader of one of those factions and created a number of political enemies who did much to discredit him. The fact that he made money on his personal business while also doing business for the government gave his enemies plenty of ammunition. Early on, historians lauded Morris and placed him high in the pantheon of Revolutionary heroes. Later historians, for whatever reason, have ignored or vilified him.

The author does a good job of describing the extremely difficult task before Morris and the financial slights of hand that provided much needed supplies and munitions for the Washington and the army. I certainly did not understand all of the intricacies of his dealings, but that did not take away from the main thrust of the story. The book is well written and flows well. By the end, I had a pretty good picture of Robert Morris, his amazing business skills and optimism, his dedication to the revolution, and his weaknesses that eventually led to debtor's prison. If you would like to know more about the critical background work and political battles of the Revolution, or if you would just like to learn more about a little-known but extremely important person, I suggest picking up this book. It will provide a great deal of information and do it in an easy to read fashion.

Published by Simon & Schuster in 2010, this volume contains 625 pages including notes, bibliography, index, and a section of illustrations. Amazon has a hard cover edition available for \$12.00 and the electronic Kindle edition for \$14.99. Barnes and Noble has the hard cover for \$17.85, their ebook edition for \$14.99, and advertises a paperback edition available November 1, 2011 for \$12.15. Mentor Public Library owns one copy, while the ClevNet System owns thirteen copies.

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## **The Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table 2011 Fall Field Trip**

### **John Wilkes Booth's Escape Route**

**September 22<sup>nd</sup> -----25<sup>th</sup>**

**Featuring: George Deutsch**

**See Norton London for more information**

## *The Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table Spring Field Trip*

### *Historic tour of Ohio City and Cleveland's Near Westside*

Featuring: **Tim Barrett**

**Saturday May 21, 2011 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Ohio City**, founded in 1818, is one of Cleveland's oldest ethnically diverse neighborhoods. It was originally part of Brooklyn Township until 1836, when it became an independent municipality. In its early years, Ohio City competed with Cleveland for business and commerce. In 1854, Ohio City was annexed by the City of Cleveland.



*The Ohio Canal*



*St. Patrick's Church*

Ohio City was the home of many famous personalities and boasts a landscape filled with historic sites and locations. While most communities in Northeast Ohio witnessed a decline in population in the last decade, Ohio City has grown from 6000 to nearly 11,000 residents.



*The Fulton Library*



*The historic houses of Ohio City*



***Transportation provided by Shima Limousine Service***

***Cost: \$15.00 per person \****

***Reservations: Call John Sandy at 216 486 9406***

**Please note that we will be boarding the bus at 9:50 am in front of St. Patrick's Church**

**Located at 3602 Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (Ohio City)**