



THE COURIER



Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



Tuesday May 15th, 2012 Meeting #127

Canteen: 6:00pm Dinner: 6:50pm

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

Guest Speaker: Edwin Cole Bearss

Topic: The American Civil War

Reservations required Guests are Welcome Please call Mike Sears

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

Edwin Cole Bearss has been called an American Treasure and our greatest Civil War Historian. He possesses the uncanny ability, to close his eyes and transport his audience back through the mist of time and the fog of war, to the 1860's and a battlefield scene, like no else. *The Richmond Virginia Times Dispatch* called Ed Bearss, "a **Rock Star among battlefield guides**". Fellow Civil War historian, **Bob L. Krick**, who is with the Richmond National Battlefield Park said of Bearss, "He's the least boring historian you could ever run into." On Tuesday May 15, 2012, the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table will host Mr. Bearss, for a return engagement at his favorite Ohio club, (where, he is also an honorary member) and bless us with his talent and knowledge.



"To understand what happened at a battle, you have to walk the land....where the high and low ground is,....where the woods and open fields are, the houses, orchards and roads"

Mr. Bearss has been walking battlefields with his ever present swagger stick, which he uses as a pointer, for the last sixty years. As he strides rapidly over the terrain, his unique, gravelly, booming voice, calls attention to the topographical features and important military positions. He has the manner and forthrightness of a Marine gunnery sergeant with a 170 IQ. He also has a gentle soul and genuine love of people. Is it any wonder that Ed Bearss has become the most popular and famous of all Civil War Battlefield tour guides. **Norton London, Bob Baucher, Bob Bayless, Joe Tirpak** and **Frank Yannucci**, all members and past presidents of the NEOCWRT who have been on battlefield tours with Ed, marvel at his

inexhaustible energy and prodigious memory.

Ed Bearss was born in June 1923, on a small cattle ranch near Billings, Montana, some 35 miles from Custer's Little Big Horn Battlefield. Ed's father, who served with the U. S. Marines in France during World War I, used to read battle stories to him and his younger brother. Edwin became interested in the Civil War while attending Junior High School. He named various ranch animals after various Civil War battles and generals. He graduated from Hardin High School in 1941. After the Japanese attacked our naval base at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Ed joined the U. S. Marines. He saw action in several of the South Pacific campaigns including Guadalcanal and the Russell Islands. He was severely wounded in the Battle of Cape Gloucester on New Britain Island where he was hit four times by Japanese machine gun fire. He was fortunate to escape with his life. He was evacuated and sent back to the states to recuperate from his wounds. He spent 26 months at various hospitals in the states and required a number of surgical procedures. While recuperating from his wounds, he acquired a copy of Douglas Southall Freeman's, "*Lee's Lieutenants*" and read the three volume set to occupy his time.

Ed earned his B.S. degree in Foreign Service Studies from Georgetown University and later earned a Masters Degree in History from Indiana University. His first job after college was with the National Park Service at the Vicksburg National Battlefield Park, where he conducted his first battlefield tour. In the years since, he has worked on many National Park projects while continuing to lead tours. In 1981 he was named Chief Historian of the National Park Service. He held that position until his retirement in 1995, when he was named Chief Historian Emeritus.

The Civil War series produced for PBS by Ken Burns, brought instant acclaim to Mr. Bearss, with his colorful commentary and vivid descriptions of the battles and the personalities of the war. He has also appeared in a number of History Channel Greystone productions including "*Civil War Combat*" and "*Civil War Journal*."

NEOCWRT member and past president, **Ted Karle** fondly recalls how Ed Bears came to Erie, Pennsylvania for the dedication of a new bronze statue of Battle of Gettysburg hero, Col. Strong Vincent and how Ed's hour long talk brought tears to the eyes of all present. John Sandy was president of the NEOCWRT during Ed's last visit to our club and he rates that experience as a day he will always treasure.



Besides leading both Civil War and Revolutionary War Battlefield tours in this country; he has led tours of Second World War Battlefields in both Europe and the South Pacific. In his retirement, as his 89th birthday approaches, he continues his busy schedule, often spending over 200 days a year on the road.

Mr. Bearss has written hundreds of articles and written or edited over twenty books. His latest book "*The Petersburg Campaign, Volume 1: The Eastern Front Battles, June – August 1864*" is being released this month. "*Volume 2: The Western Front Battles, September 1864 – April 1865*" will be released next month.

Tuesday's lecture is the second of three that Mr., Bearss is presenting in Northeast Ohio this spring. Monday night he will be at the *Mahoning Valley Civil War Roundtable* and Wednesday night he will be at the *Cleveland Civil War Roundtable*. This is a special meeting with an authentic American Hero, so be sure to tell all your friends to be there. Everyone is welcome!

*Interview with Connie Debele, C-Span TV, March 21, 2007

This article was written by Arlan Byrne and John Sandy

NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE CIVIL WAR – COMPILED BY ***CARL DODARO*** **SUPPLY OF THE CIVIL WAR UNION ARMY**

Bureau chiefs and heads of staff departments were responsible for various aspects of the Army's administration and logistics and reported directly to the Secretary of War. The division of responsibility and authority over them of the Secretary of War, the assistant secretaries, and the General in Chief was never spelled out. Therefore the supply departments functioned independently and without effective coordination throughout most of the Civil War, although the situation improved after U.S. Grant took command in the spring of 1864.

Logistical support was entrusted to the heads of four supply departments in Washington D.C. –

Quartermaster General – clothing and equipment, forage, animals, transportation, and housing.

Commissary General – rations

Chief of Ordnance – weapons, ammunition and miscellaneous related equipment.

Surgeon General – medical supplies and evacuation, treatment and hospitalization of the wounded.

For other support there were the –

Adjutant General – commander of the Army's administrative services.

Inspector General – to detect fraud, waste, abuse and violations of law while promoting economy, efficiency and effectiveness in military operations.

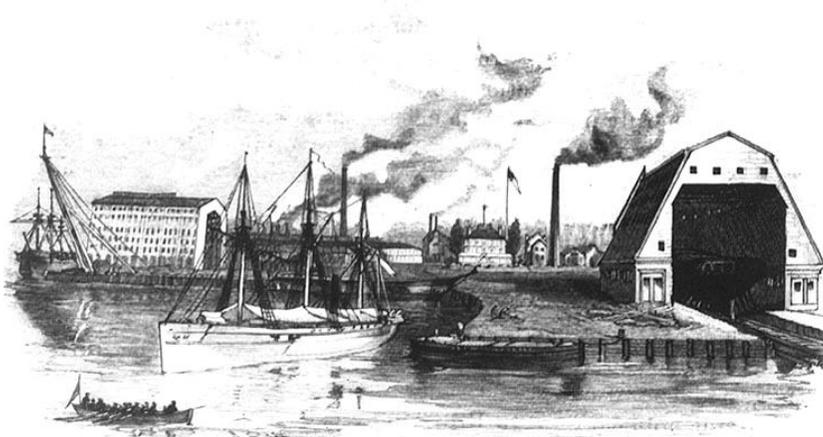
Paymaster General – payment of troops and bounties.

Judge Advocate General – the legal services of the Army

Chief of Engineers – fortifications & Chief of Topographical Engineers – maps & geography.

There were six military departments when the war started – East, West, Texas, New Mexico, Utah and Pacific. The military department was the basic organizational unit for administrative and logistical purposes, and the commander of each department controlled support in that area (this could help or hinder an army in the area, depending on the military dept. commander and the general on the scene's ability to work together). Later on in the war, boundaries changed and several geographical departments were grouped together as a military "division" headquarters.

Photo # NH 91955 Washington Navy Yard, 1861



Army depots were located in major cities; Boston, New York City, Baltimore, Washington D.C., Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, Chicago, New Orleans, and San Francisco. The Philadelphia depot was the chief depot and manufacturing center for clothing. Most depot commanders were authorized the rank of captain who, despite the low rank and meager pay, had tremendous resources of men, money and material under their control. The primary function of the depots was to procure supplies and prepare them for use in the field by repacking, assembling or other similar tasks.

Lithograph left from the U. S. Naval Institute

Procurement was decentralized and purchases were made on the market by low-bid contract in the major

cities and producing areas by depot officers. Flour and other commodities were procured closer to the troops when possible. Cattle were contracted for at specific points, and major beef depots were maintained at Washington D.C. (on the grounds of the Washington Monument); Alexandria, VA., and Louisville, KY. The Subsistence Department developed a highly effective system of moving cattle on the hoof to the immediate rear of the armies in the field, to be slaughtered by brigade butchers and issued to the troops the day before consumption.

Most of a unit's logistical needs were handled at the regimental level. The regiment's quartermaster was often a line lieutenant designated by the regimental commander. In addition to his normal duties, the regimental quartermaster submitted requisitions for all quartermaster supplies and transport; accounted for regimental property including tents, camp equipment, extra clothing, wagons, forage, and animals; and issued supplies and managed the regimental transport. The regimental commissary officer, also designated from the line, requisitioned, accounted for, and issued rations. The regimental ordnance officer had similar duties regarding ammunition and managed the movement of the unit's ammunition transport.

The SOLDIER'S LOAD – the Union soldier carried about 45 pounds; musket and bayonet (14 lbs.), 60 rounds of ammunition, 3 to 8 days' rations, canteen, blanket or overcoat, shelter half, ground sheet, mess gear (cup, knife, fork, spoon, and skillet), and personal items (sewing kit, razor, letters, Bible, etc.).

ANNUAL CLOTHING ISSUE – the Union infantry allowance consisted of 2 caps, 1 hat, 2 dress coats, 3 pairs of trousers, 3 flannel shirts, 3 flannel drawers, 4 pairs of stockings, and 4 pairs of shoes and the allowance equaled \$42.00.

RATIONS (per day) – the daily individual ration for a Union soldier consisted of 20 ounces of fresh or salt beef or 12 ounces of pork or bacon; 1 pound of hard bread or 18 ounces of flour or 20 of cornmeal. In addition to the daily individual ration, the following were issued every 100 men: 15 pounds of beans or peas; 10 pounds of rice or hominy; 10 pounds of green coffee or 1.5 pounds of tea;

15 pounds of sugar; 4 quarts of vinegar; 3.75 pounds of salt; 4 ounces of pepper; 30 pounds of potatoes; and, when practicable, 1 quart of molasses. Desiccated potatoes or mixed vegetables, a dehydrated concoction referred to by soldiers as “desecrated vegetables”, could be substituted for beans, peas, rice, hominy or fresh potatoes.

Photograph below left of City Point from the Library of Congress



WAGONS – a wagon drawn by four horses over good roads could carry 2,800 pounds. A good six-mule team, in the best season of the year, could haul 4,000 pounds, but in practice neither could be realized because of poor roads. Number of wagons authorized for the Union Army in August 1862 was as follows; corps headquarters – 4 wagons; brigade or division headquarters – 3 wagons; infantry regiment – 6 wagons; battery of light artillery or squadron of cavalry – 3 wagons.

FORAGE – the daily forage ration for horses was 14 pounds of hay and 12 pounds of oats, corn, or barley. For mules, the daily ration was 14 pounds of hay and 9 pounds of oats, corn or barley.

TENTS – in the field the Union Army utilized a variety of canvas tents. The wall tent measured approximately 7 feet high, 10 feet wide and 12 feet deep, and was issued to officers above company level. A typical hospital tent might be 14 feet long, 14 feet wide and 11 feet high. Shelter tents were issued to company level officers and enlisted men. They consisted of two sections that buttoned together to form what is now referred to as a “pup” tent. Each enlisted man received a shelter tent half and buttoned it together with that of a sleeping mate. The number and kinds of tents prescribed for the Union Infantry in the field were as follows; corps headquarters or administration = 1 hospital tent; division

/ brigade headquarters = 1 wall tent; corps, division or brigade commander = 1 wall tent; every two officers of staff = 1 wall tent; regimental colonel and field and staff officers = 1 wall each (minimum 2 officers in tent as assembled); other officers of the regimental staff = 1 wall per 2 officers (minimum 4 officers in tent as assembled); company officer = 1 shelter (complete “pup” tent); every enlisted man = 1 shelter half; every officer’s servant = 1 shelter half.

BAGGAGE – a Union order of September 1862 limited officers to blankets, on small valise or carpetbag, and a mess kit. Enlisted men carried their rations and personal belongings in a waterproofed canvas knapsack or haversack attached to a strap slung over one shoulder.

BIBLIOGRAPHY – ALL THE INFORMATION HERE WAS TAKEN (ALMOST WORD FOR WORD) FROM “BATTLE OF BALL’S BLUFF: U.S. ARMY STAFF RIDE GUIDE” BY TED BALLARD FOR THE CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY, UNITED STATES ARMY, WASHINGTON, D.C., 2001.

Malvern Hill Battlefield to Expand

On February 1, I attended a “Town Meeting” on the topic of TOURISM, at Willis UMC Church near the entrance to Malvern Hill Battlefield. **The NEOCWRT members** who attended our **Seven Days campaign field trip (2008)** will remember that this battle was on the last day of this campaign. The big announcement at this meeting was that Malvern Hill Battlefield unit was the recipient of a **\$4 million Land & Water Conservation Fund grant** that would be used to acquire 400 adjacent acres to add to the battlefield. The theme of the town meeting was a discussion on boosting tourism and travel to Virginia and its Parks. The meeting was conducted by the United States Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar and several others. Mr. Salazar spoke as did the Governor of Virginia, Robert McDonnell. Jonathan Jarvis, head of the National Park Service was also on hand for a short presentation.

I registered to attend this meeting as 1st vice-president of the Richmond Civil War Roundtable and as past president of the North East Ohio Civil War Roundtable. I filled out an extensive comment card at the conclusion of the meeting.

Our guide in 2008 was **Michael Gorman** who many of you will remember as he also made a trip to Willoughby to address the NEOCWRT. On Tuesday, February 14, our scheduled speaker in Richmond had an emergency and I was able to obtain Mike to speak at Richmond. He did a neat presentation on the Civil War in 3-D and yes we all had to wear the special glasses for the full impact of his presentation. Mike and Tina had dinner with Sharon and me before the Roundtable meeting. Mike said to be sure to pass on his greetings to his friends at NEOCWRT!

Your Richmond Correspondent,
Brent Morgan

The Battle of Balls Bluff a Three Act Play by Arlan Byrne

SYNOPSIS:

Act I – On October 20th 1861 General McClellan’s Headquarters heard rumors of the Confederates massing troops at Leesburg, Virginia, for a possible attack. General Charles Stone, who’s Army of Observation was responsible for that part of the Potomac River, was ordered to investigate. The result of a small patrol sent across the river that night at Ball’s Bluff was inconclusive, so a larger ‘Reconnaissance in Force’ was planned for the next day.

Act II – In the spring of 1863, while General Stone is awaiting a train to take him to his new assignment with General Banks Staff on the Gulf Coast, he relates the events of the past year and a half; including his courts martial and imprisonment, to his friend Colonel Charles Devens.

[Note; All the events depicted in this story are true.....except for the fictional parts I made up – *The Author*]



ACT III *Photograph of General Stone from the Library of Congress*

A New York City Townhouse – Mid-January 1887. The stage is set up like a typical 1880s sitting room. On the back wall there is a window with sunlight streaming through lace curtains. The walls are covered with heavy velvet drapes. Several bookcases scattered around the room have open shelves adorned with Egyptian artifacts. In the center of the room is a white hospital table with two straight chairs next to it. On the table are bottles in various sizes and utensils filled with what appears to be medicine. In stage front left is a padded reclining chair with a footstool facing the opposite right wall. Beside the chair is a small table with a bottle of scotch, some glasses, a box of cigars, an ornate Egyptian ashtray and a large glass filled with water. An old man with white hair, a large white moustache and a white goatee is seated in the chair with his feet upon the footstool. He is wearing an Oriental type dressing gown and his legs and lap are covered with a flowered afghan. A shawl covers his shoulders. He appears to be sleeping. A door on the right wall opens and a young man dressed in the fashion of the 1880s enters, carrying a briefcase. He walks to the center of the room, stops, and looks at the sleeping man.

The old man jerks awake, looks around, sees the young man and says: “Grumpf..... ummp....Who are you?.....How the devil did you get in here?”

The young man: “I’m sorry if I startled you General Stone. The nurse said to ‘just go right in’. My name is Frank Bennett and I’m a reporter for the New York Herald. **My editor, Mr. Sandy, is running a series of articles about Civil War Generals, their experiences in the war and what they have done in the 20 years since the war ended. He is especially interested in your version of what really happened at the Battle of Balls Bluff. A secretary contacted you last week about this interview.”**

General Stone: “Ump....Oh yes, that’s right, I did agree to talk with you..... I had forgotten.”

Stone picks up a glass, fills it with scotch, lights a cigar and points to the bottle with it. “umppf,.....Might as well make yourself comfortable Bennett”

The reporter also fills a glass with scotch, moves to the white table, sits, takes a drink of scotch and purses his lips thoughtfully. **“Glenlivet,”** he says approvingly, and puts the glass on the table. Then he takes a pad and pencil from his briefcase and looks up at the General expectantly.

Stone: “Balls Bluff!humppf..... Good god, what a fiasco that was!... The original plan was a good one and it would have worked except for that damned Colonel Baker. He lost that battle for us,...umppf..... and caused me a good bit of trouble along with it.....ummp..... His orders were simple. Get reinforcements across the Potomac river and to the top of Balls Bluff. Then set up a defensive line in that farm field on top of the bluff in case the Confederates attacked Devens after he finished his reconnaissance and before he could get back across the Potomac.....cough..... Instead Baker spent the entire morning looking for boats to get his men across the River.....humppfummp.....”

Raising his voice and shaking his fist he says loudly, “looking for damn boats!! Any Lieutenant could have done that!...humppf....cough He should have been on top of that bluff setting up a defense line.....Umpf, that was his job ..cough,..... cough, cough.....”

Then, in a quieter strangled voice, almost a whisper, he says: “Damned political Officers.....give me a good West Point man any time.”

Reporter: “But sir, everybody says Colonel Baker died a hero”

Stone ignores him and gazes up at the ceiling for a few minutes lost in thought. Then he says, quietly, still looking at the ceiling and thinking about the past: “Devens started out towards Leesburg at dawn, right on schedule, looking for the Confederate tents and camp that a small patrol had reported the night before. We started our demonstration at Edwards Ferry at dawn also, in order to keep the rebs occupied and off Colonel Devens back. In fact, General Gorman did such a good job it was noon before the Confederates figured out it was just a demonstration and not a real attack..... **Umpf, coughcough.** By 9 – 10 in the morning Devens had arrived at the row of reported Confederate tents and guess what? They were just a row of trees that looked like tents in the dark. Can you imagine? Mistaking a row of trees for tents? Even in the dark?.....**Ghumpf**”

Becoming more agitated Stone sits up straighter, raises his hand with the cigar in it, shakes it at the reporter, and says loudly: “That Captain....**cough**.....or whoever he was....**Grumpf**.....**cough... cough... cough**... should have been court marshaled and shot for dereliction of duty...**cough...cough..cough**...”

Almost shouting now Stone says “Causing a whole battle and 1,000 casualties just because he couldn’t..... or wouldn’t take the time to tell trees from tents.!!!”AURUMPF.....

Suddenly Stone starts to cough in earnest. He puts down the cigar and the scotch, pulls a handkerchief from the pocket of his gown and puts it over his face; but the coughing gets worse. Hard rasping coughs start coming from deep in his chest. He leans forward, gasping for air, his face starts to get red and his eyes start to water.

The reporter becomes alarmed. He jumps up and starts toward the General, “Sir, do you want me to get the nurse?.....”

But Stone waves his hand to stop him and then he motions for the reporter to sit down. As the coughing subsides, Stone picks up the glass of water, takes a drink or two, and wipes his face. He shakes his head disgustedly, slumps back in his chair, waits twenty or thirty seconds until the normal color starts to return to his face and says quietly: “**Damn cold.**”

Stone blows his nose loudly and finally continues talking: “.....Then Devens went on to where he could see Leesburg, which was deserted.....**harumpf**..... The whole expedition was a waste of time, money, and the lives of many good men.....**rumpfg...cough**..... By this time the Confederates had figured out something must be up, so they started converging on the Balls Bluff area. Devens was forced to engage in intermittent firefights all the way from Leesburg back to the Bluff.....**umpf**....., and..... when he got back to the Bluff, at about noon, there wasn’t any defensive line waiting for him. Or any Colonel Baker. All there was were about a thousand Union troops milling along the edge of Balls Bluff doing nothing,..... just standing around waiting for orders.....**humpf**,Devens tried to organize a defense line, but crammed against the edge of the cliff like that it was impossible. Then about two o’clock the Confederates had built up enough strength to mount a major attack with their Bull Run veterans, and that’s when Baker arrived. He was killed in the Rebel attack..... Shot four **times.....ummpf..... cough,cough.....**”

Stone stops talking, wipes his face and eyes with his handkerchief and continues: “When our green Union troops saw their commander killed right in front of them and then saw those screaming charging Confederates with those bayonets;.....well, they panicked, and ran....**umpf**..... Most of them were trapped at the edge of the bluff and surrendered. Many scrambled down the goat path onto the narrow beach, where some of them tried to swim back to Harrison’s Island; but their heavy woolen uniforms just dragged them under and they drowned.....**Cough, Cough**..... Others jumped into the small boats that had brought them across the river, but they became **overcrowded and they swamped and sank, drowning even more men. Bodies floated past Washington for the next two weeks.....umpf... Each side had gone into the battle with about 1700 men. When it was all over, we lost about 1000 men, while the Confederates, only had around 150 casualties.**

Bennett who had been scribbling away furiously, finally stopped and looked up at Stone expectantly.

Stone: “.. **cough**.....” He blows his nose again. “Everybody wants to hear all about the courts marshal, and the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War stuff; but I don’t want to talk about it....**cough** Anyway since all the Army files have been declassified it is now public knowledge.....**umpfh**...”

Reporter: “I know, sir. In fact Mr. Sandy has had a newspaper researcher in Washington working on them in connection with another project for a month. Actually, I think he is more interested in what has happened to you since the war. Weren’t you in Tripoli for a while, sir ?”

Stone leans back in his chair, looks at the ceiling and starts to smile: “No,..... Egypt,..... we were in Egypt....**umpfh**....it’s a marvelous country,.... My family and I spent 13 wonderful years there. Billy Sherm..... er..... that is... General William Tecumseh Sherman, Commander in Chief of the Army got me the job of organizing and commanding the Army of the Khedive of Egypt.....**umpfh**.....**cough**.....”

Stone pauses and waits until the reporter stops writing and looks up at him with a confused expression on his face. Then Stone smiled and said: “That’s spelled..k H e d i v e. It means viceroy. Egypt was part of the Ottoman Empire at the time....umpf...”

The reporter starts writing, then suddenly stops as a look of understanding sweeps across his face: “Then that’s where all the.....?” he indicates the Egyptian artifacts in the room.

Stone smiling: “That’s right. We brought them back with us.”

He leaned toward the reporter confidentially, “Mark my words, son,... There will be a popular wave of Egyptania sweeping this country soon. Everybody will be wanting Egyptian artifacts:”

Almost whispering now, he smiles and says: “and I’ve got three warehouses down at Five Points packed with them. I’ll be a rich man!umpfh!”

Stone is breathing easier now. His eyes have stopped watering and the color has returned to his face. Plainly feeling better he pours himself another scotch and lights up another cigar. He leans back in his chair, takes a drink, inhales deeply at the cigar and blows a large blue smoke ring into the air over his head.

The reporter looks at him dubiously: ”**Sir, maybe with your cold you shouldn’t smoke and....**”



However Stone interrupts him; “**But the thing I’m proudest of in my whole life....cough.... is that magnificent Liberty Statue down in the harbor....cough,...cough....umpfh. Holding her burning torch of Liberty and Freedom high up in the air, so the whole world can see it.....umpf.**”

“**I designed and built the foundation and pedestal for the Statue, you know.**”

Reporter: “Yes sir, I know. I covered the dedication ceremonies in October for the paper.”

Stone, ignoring the reporter continues: “..... I wouldn’t be surprised if that statue stands for 50 years.....umpf. I know the foundation and pedestal will. I built them to last! Also, that was a stroke of genius when the French sculptor Bartholdi insisted on putting his statue on Bedloes Island....umpf....cough.... It’s the first thing you see when you come into New York City Harbor. It will be an awe-inspiring sight to all those millions of poor immigrants who are coming from Europe looking for freedom and a better way of life.....Humpf.....I tell you, taking those immigrants into America will help us build the greatest nation the world has ever seen.”

Photograph left of the Statue of Liberty from the Library of Congress

Stone leans forward in his chair and then continues in a disgusted voice: “.....Humpf,... umpf..... Davis, Stephens, Ruffin, and all the rest of those old Southern slave owning fire-eaters wanting to secede and start their own country....Humpf,..... ;well, we wouldn’t let them secede. But, they finally got their own country anyway, and a miserable place it is..... Segregation.... Jim Crow Laws.... lynchings....

Ku Klux Klan.....poverty..... the poor negroes still practically slaveswell,..... at least we got the Constitutional Amendments in place. When the Negroes finally get fed up with that kind of life and want to take their place with the rest of the free citizens of this great country, they can.....umpf...”

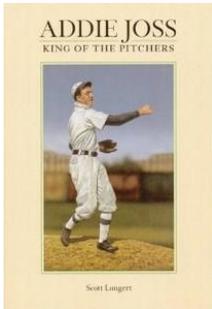
Suddenly Stone stops speaking and leans forward, trying to catch his breath. He starts to cough, his eyes start to water, his face turns bright red and gets a stricken look on it, as he starts gasping for air.

The reporter jumps up with a look of panic on his face. “**Sir, I’ll get the nurse,**” he says, and he hurries toward the door as the curtain comes down.

End of Act III

Note: General Stone died of pneumonia the next week, January 24, 1887. He is buried at West Point National Cemetery.

Addie Joss, King of the Pitchers by Scott Longert – a book review by Tom Horvath



This may be the only time I have the pleasure of reviewing a book written by a member of our round table. And it is a pleasure. Scott Longert, the newest member of our group, wrote this brief biography of Addie Joss in the 90s.

If you don't know much about Addie Joss, or even who he is, and you are a Clevelander and/or a baseball fan, then pick up a copy of this book, because you ought to know something about him. Addie Joss was a Hall of Fame pitcher for Cleveland from 1901 to 1909. He pitched a perfect game and another no-hitter, 7 one-hitters, and 45 shutouts in his nine years in the big leagues. His perfect game is one of only 19 since 1900 and the first of only two by Cleveland pitchers. He had 4 straight seasons of 20 or more wins and a lifetime earned run average of 1.88. Even in the "dead ball" days, those were impressive numbers.

His pitching in critical games and clutch situations made his performances all the more valuable. Probably his most crucial game came against the White Sox late in the 1908 season, when the Cleveland Naps, Detroit Tigers, and Chicago White Sox were all contending for the pennant. Joss took the mound against his friend, Big Ed Walsh, and both men pitched well. Scott does a masterful job of recreating the suspense that builds in a pitchers' duel, where one or two hits at the right moment can make all the difference.

The entire book is well written and flows well. It is, first and foremost, a baseball book and appropriately centers on that aspect of Joss's life. Nonetheless, Scott does attempt to paint a picture of the entire man. I suspect that the private life of celebrities in the early 1900s was just that -- private. That, and the central theme of the book, limits the amount we actually learn about Joss as a private person, but we do get the sense that he was a nice, likable individual who died at too early an age. The symptoms of advanced tubercular meningitis appeared as the Naps were heading north from spring training in 1910. He went home to Toledo and died ten days later.

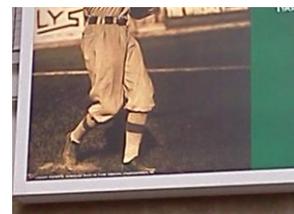
His untimely demise is commonly credited as triggering the first All Star Baseball Game, played in Cleveland, though a number of benefit games were played before the one that benefited his family. Certainly, it was an all-star tribute, featuring such early stars as Baker, Smoky Joe Wood, Walter Johnson, Eddie Collins, Tris Speaker, Crawford, and Ty Cobb. Cobb, a man noted for his combativeness, in a indicates just how well liked was Joss, donated as much money as any pool of team players.

Despite that, Scott does not shy away from Joss's warts. Addie's was providing for his family, and on his path to the big leagues he made team to team that helped his career and his finances, but upset some of the management that he left behind. Despite these minor league versions of agency, Joss still comes across as a very real, very likable human being, great talent for the game.

The book is an easy, pleasant read for any baseball fan, and was especially enjoyable for this Cleveland baseball fan. If you fall into either category, I think you'll find it a good read. Published in 1998 by the Society for American Baseball Research, the volume contains 141 pages. It has an index, but no footnotes, and is sprinkled with photographs of Joss and others. It is available only in paperback. Amazon and Barnes and Noble both have it available for \$14.95. Mentor Public Library does not seem to own a copy. The ClevNet System owns five copies of which two are reference books.



1 Addie Joss at Progressive Field



benefited his "Home Run" Sam gesture that other individual or primary concern some jumps from players and today's free possessed of a

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

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CIVIL WAR JOURNAL by Franco M. Sperrazzo May 15, 2012

April 10th Meeting with John C. Fazio Just when we thought we had heard all the possibilities involving the Lincoln assassination, an intriguing scenario has been thoroughly researched and developed by our guest John C. Fazio. A former practicing attorney, Mr. Fazio has devoted much of his time teaching classes in law at his alma mater, Case Western Reserve. One of his passions is to publish a book on his theory that the Confederate Secret Service, under the advisory of Southern President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet orchestrated the killing of President Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Fazio provided convincing evidence of how a pipeline of information existed between the Confederate Capitol of Richmond and an area of Canada where Mary Surratt's son John frequented. An undisclosed amount of monies appeared to be raised along this passage way. It was a very revealing case to consider in anticipation of Mr. Fazio's book due for release in 2013. The question and answer period provoked many inquires that Mr. Fazio handled brilliantly. The audience of 36 strong appeared to enjoy his presentation.

Edwin Cole Bearss: The long awaited arrival of the "Pied Piper of American History" is upon us. Some eighteen months ago we began a countdown leading up to this special event. There were some Ed Bearss 'sightings' along the way such as Erie, PA. Feb.11, 2011. Ted Karle and I were fortunate to be invited by honorary member George E. Deutsch to hear Mr. Bearss speak at the Erie Maritime Museum, sponsored by Edinboro University. After the program, we were among a small group of ten to have a private dinner with Mr. Bearss, including our friends from the Erie Civil War Roundtable; Jack Braun, Bill Steger, Joe Steele, Norm Whipple among others. Mr. Bearss was our guest for our first anniversary of our NEOCWRT in December 1998. He returned in November of 2005 under President John Sandy's watch. The seven year cycle continues in May 2012. It's not too early to make your plans for Ed Bearss return in 2019.

Great Battles of the Civil War, May 9: The 5th installment of the speaker series will commence at noon on Wednesday until 1:15 in the Garfield room of the Mentor Library. Make your reservations at (440) 255-8811, or come as you wish. You may bring your brown bag lunch if you choose. This month's topic is "*The Battle of Winchester*", presented by NPS Ranger Todd Arrington.

Spring Tour, May 19th Kent State University: A separate flyer has been sent out by Program Chair Joe Tirpak and Editor John Sandy. This event is organized by Arlan Byrne's daughter Rebecca, graduate student at Kent State. In the separate itinerary provided the program will commence at 9:45pm at a determined destination. We will tour the Fashion Museum, have a bus tour of the campus, observe the May 4th 1970 memorial, and dine at Puffer Belly. Please send your checks for \$10.00 per person to Exec. Officer Michael Sears; 5843 Marine Pkwy, Mentor on the Lake. OH 44060. Bus reserved holds up to 40 people.

Speaker Symposium July 13 James A. Garfield Home: Plans are in the works for a Civil War Symposium of various topics with the National Park Service and at least four members of our NEOCWRT on Friday evening July 13th. The names of the participants and the time of the event will be posted in our next newsletter. This first of future symposiums will dovetail into the 3rd Annual Military Demonstration and Encampment on July 14 & 15 on the beautiful grounds of Lawnfield between 10:00 -4:00pm. This Civil War Speaker Symposium & Exhibit of Life During Times of Warfare from 1860-1865 are both free.

2012 Officers of the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table

President:	Steve Abbey	Sergeant of Arms:	Mike Sears	Web Site:	Tom Horvath
Vice President:	Carl Dodaro	Treasurer:	Bill Meissner	Program Chairman:	Joe Tirpak
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Past Presidents of the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table

Joe E. Tirpak *	1998	John A. Sandy	2005	
Bob Bayless *	1999	Brent Morgan	2006	
Norton London *	2000	J. Michael Sears	2007	
Bob Baucher *	2001	Bill Meissner	2008	
Dr. Bob Battisti *	2002	Arlan Byrne	2009	
Frank Yannucci *	2003	Terry Reynolds	2010	
Ted Karle	2004	Franco Sperrazzo	2011	*Indicates Club Founder

The Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table

Spring 2012 Field Trip

Saturday May 19, 2012

Kent State University Museum in Kent, Ohio

Our tour will begin at 10:00 am, at the Kent State University Museum. The Museum contains collections of fashion and decorative art, featuring eight galleries of changing exhibits from many of the world's greatest artists and designers.



Opened in 1985, the Museum was founded with an initial contribution of 4000 costumes from New York dress manufacturers, Jerry Silverman and Shannon Rodgers. The Kent State Museum is observing the 150 Anniversary of the American Civil War with a special fashion and style exhibit.



At 12:00 noon we will board a chartered **KSU** bus for a 45 minute tour of the campus, including a stop at the May 4th Memorial to the students killed and wounded protesting the Vietnam War. The bus will return to the Rockwell Hall parking lot near the Museum, where we will travel by car for lunch at the **Puffer Belly Restaurant**, located in an old train station. The cost for the museum and bus tour is \$10.00 per person. Guests are welcome!

Please send your check to:

Mike Sears

5843 Marine Parkway

Mentor Ohio 44060

*Note: there is a 40 person limit.
The cost of the tour does not include your lunch at the Puffer Belly.*