



THE COURIER



Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



Tuesday May 12th, 2015 Meeting #154

Canteen: 6:00 pm Dinner: 6:45 pm

Pine Ridge Country Club

30601 Ridge Road, Wickliffe, Ohio

Guest Speaker: Michael R. Bradley

Reservations required

Guests are Welcome Please call Mike Sears

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

May Speaker:

MICHAEL R. BRADLEY



Michael R. Bradley is a native of the Tennessee-Alabama state line region near Fayetteville, Tennessee. He attended Samford University for his B. A., took a Masters of Divinity at New Orleans Seminary, and a M. A. and the Ph. D. from Vanderbilt University, graduating from there in 1970.

For thirty six years Dr. Bradley taught United States History at Motlow College, a Tennessee Board of Regents junior college near Tullahoma. He retired in May 2006. He has been pastor of two Presbyterian churches in Middle Tennessee, LaVergne Presbyterian from 1968 to 1976 and Clifton Presbyterian from 1977 to

2006. He served as Interim Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Manchester from January 2007 until June

2008, and became Interim Pastor of Tullahoma's First Presbyterian Church in May 2012, serving until August 2013.

During his teaching career Dr. Bradley received a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant and a National Sciences Foundation Grant. He also was made a Fellow of Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Bradley is the author of several books on the War Between the States period including *Tullahoma: The 1863 Campaign; With Blood and Fire: Behind Union Lines in Middle Tennessee; Nathan Bedford Forrest's Escort & Staff in War and Peace; It Happened in the Civil War*, a second edition of which appeared in 2010; and Home Fires in the Line of Fire, published as part of an anthology titled *Sister States/Enemy States* about the war in Tennessee and Kentucky. Two recent articles have been published in *North & South* magazine; "Death Lists in Middle Tennessee," and "In the Crosshairs: Confederate Civilians Targeted for Death by the United States Army." "Tullahoma: The Wrongly Forgotten Campaign" was published in *Blue & Gray* magazine in 2010. He also writes on other topics including the Revolutionary War, the Great Smoky Mountains, and historical stories. Dr. Bradley has written for various reference works, including *The Civil Rights Encyclopedia* and *The Tennessee Encyclopedia*, and *Sports Encyclopedia*. Dr. Bradley continues to research and write on Civil War history. A biography of David C. Kelley, a prominent Methodist minister who was a Colonel under Bedford Forrest, was published as *Forrest's Fighting Preacher* in 2011. Another book for general readers, *Mysteries and Legends of the Civil War*, was released in April 2011. *Murfreesboro in the Civil War* was published in 2012. *They Rode with Forrest* was published by Pelican Press in June 2012. His latest book is *The Raiding Winter*, a description of Confederate cavalry operations in the western theatre during December 1862. This book was published by Pelican Press in July 2012.

In 2006, Dr. Bradley was elected Commander of the Tennessee Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and served until 2010. He is a Life Member of that organization.

In February 2010, Dr. Bradley was appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen to the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and is an active member of that body.

Dr. Bradley is married to Martha Rae Dobbins Bradley. They are the parents of two adult children, Nancy Todd Bradley Warren and Michael Lee Bradley. Dr. and Mrs. Bradley have two grandsons, William Andrew Warren and Michael Alexander Warren, and one granddaughter, Grace Lee Bradley.

CIVIL WAR JOURNAL

of Franco M. Sperrazzo, Events Coordinator May 12th

April 4th Meeting, Judge Paul H. Mitrovich: Honorable retired Judge Mitrovich expressed the history of the Civil Rights Movement, not only in the United States, but from its origins of slavery in Africa over 400 years ago. Hearing his original talk in 2013 at the Mentor Wildwood Center was enlightening. NEOCWRT technical advisor, John Sandy enhanced the presentation with appropriate photos, supporting the text of the book authored by Judge Mitrovich, titled: "Justice Delayed: the Road for Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka & the Civil Rights Movement." Look for a future presentation on "Civil War Spies" from Judge Paul and Tech John at our Summer Speaker Series on July 17th at James A. Garfield NHS Visitor Center.

Major Battles and Topics of the Civil War: On May 13th, the program subject is “Laws of War and the Special Challenges of War.” JAGNHS Park Ranger Joan Kapsch, will do the honors. Theoretically war is subject to the rule of law. Joan will examine those laws and see how they apply and how they are enforced or ignored. Example is a nation going to Civil War against itself, as the United States did from 1861-1865. Program is free at the Mentor Library Garfield Room from noon until 1:00pm. Location: 8215 Mentor Ave. Phone: (440) 255- 8811 to confirm your RSVP.

2015 Spring Tour of Hiram College Campus: Sat May 30th. The Hiram College campus tour arrangements are as follows:

9:30am, Rendezvous at the Hiram College Library, make our way to the second floor Archives conference room to study the James A. Garfield’s influence on Hiram and the formation of the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Our Host and narrator is College Archivist Jennifer Morrow. The library is located on Hayden Street near the post office on State Route 82.



11:00am: A short stroll across State Route 700 to historic Koritansky Hall to hear Professor Doug Brattebo lecture on “[The James A. Garfield Institute for the Study of the American Presidency.](#)”

11:45am: The Final segment, weather permitting, will be a tour of Fairview Cemetery with Professor Arlene Hilfiger. About 30 Hiram College students that served in the 42nd Ohio during the Civil War are buried there. Stories told to us during our first visit were fascinating. We advise our members and guest to bring folding chairs for the cemetery stop. If it is raining that day, then the cemetery program will be held in the Archives conference room. There is no seating or

shelter at the cemetery. There is parking on Hayden Street and at the visitors’ lot next to the Kennedy building, off Hayden Street.

1:15pm: Depart for **Main Street Grill and Brewing Co.** 3 miles south on St. Rt. 700. Separate checks are allowed. The address is 8148 Main Street, Garrettsville Ohio, 44231 Phone: (330) 527-3663 website to peruse their new April menu: www.msg-brew.com



3:00 pm: Civil War bonus panel discussion with members of the NEOCWRT and JAGNHS park staff. Included in the panel are David Lintern, Debbie Weinkamer, and Andrew Mizsak of National Park Service/JAG Friends. The hearty program should spark some good questions and are encouraged. The tour and lunch events should end at 3:45pm. We will provide a map with directions of Hiram College and parking places. **Remember to bring an umbrella if there is a rain threat, and folding chairs for cemetery seating.**

Cost will be \$18 per person. Join us for our exploration of the former Western Reserve Eclectic Institute. Also the James A. Garfield experience as it began in 1851. Phone Franco for RSVP: 440-567-2414

Save This Date- June 8th –Friends of James A Garfield Golf Outing: Grantwood Golf Course, Solon Ohio. Location is the intersection of Aurora Road Route 43 & Pettibone Rd. Shotgun start @ 11:30am. Individual golfers \$125. Foursomes \$400. Includes both lunch & dinner. Call 440-550-9620 ask for Andrew to obtain more details or visit: www.Friendsofjamesagarfieldnhs.org. Proceeds to support James A. Garfield National Historic Site & Landmark Home of our 20th United States President in Mentor, Ohio.

Newer Members of Club NEOCWT: Kindly extend welcome offerings of hospitality to newer 2014 club members; David Lintern, Rich Miklaucic and David Napoli. Recent 2015 constituents include; Rebecca Byrne, Mary Lintern, Jean Mitrovich and Debbie Winkamer. This group will become assets to our team.

Proposed Fall Field Trip Based in Chambersberg, PA: Dates September 24-27. The Seminar & Tour covers Mr. Lincoln's Army at Gettysburg; John Wilkes Booth Escape Tour; sessions with leading Historians: Edwin C. Bearss, Bob Allen, Wayne Motts, Edward Steers, Dan Vermilya, Ted Alexander and several others. Ask Arlan Byrne, Ted Karle, John Sandy and this writer if interested in registering. Visit the following website for the daily agenda, details and costs: www.CIVILWARSEMINARS.ORG.

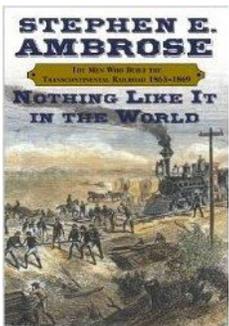
Multiple Topics and concerns; Our 4th Annual NEOCWRT/JAG Summer Speaker Series: This free program in the JAG/Visitor Center Auditorium will dovetail the National Park Service 6th Annual Civil War Encampment & Educational Teaching Expose. Besides Judge Paul Mitrovich who was mentioned previously in this column, doing a visual program of his choice is contributor David Lintern. A flier will be emailed before the July 17th seminar from 7-9:15pm. Perry Library Program: Tuesday May 19th @ 7pm. Club prospect Ed Keyes informed me of an interesting presentation on the "Medal of Honor" by Harold George, who will be in period uniform. Phone: 440-259-3300 for more details. NEOCWRT Co-Founder Joe JET Tirpak, has a stellar PowerPoint program the subject of the medal given for bravery & heroism beyond the call of duty covering most wars that America has been engaged. Passing of Hudson Fowler III Father Hudson Fowler II. On Saturday April 25th long time member Hudson's father who came to our club frequently for several years passed away peacefully. The elder Fowler was a special and distinguished man who enjoyed our club activities and programs. He was an honored guest we looked forward to having with us. Hudson's mom passed on last year at age 101. Hudson Sr. would have been 103 on November 3rd. Join us on Tuesday May 12th for Michael R. Bradley. On Sunday, May 25, 10:00-10:30, the Willoughby Cemetery Memorial Service will take place, with the parade starting at 9:40. The NEOCWRT will be recognized for honoring the 96 Union and 1 Confederate soldiers buried on Sharp Lane. Legacy committee members JET Tirpak, Ted Karle, John Sandy, Franco, President Bernie Taub, Carl Dodaro, and other members and guests will be there to observe the ceremony for our 13th annual dedication. We will be stopping by Kenny Godnavec's Arabica beverage café for refreshments afterwards, courtesy of Jet!

Keep on going CAVS!!! Chow Franco

Nothing Like It in the World

by Stephen E. Ambrose

A Book Review by Tom Horvath



It was Stephen Ambrose's editor who suggested that the author write a book about the first transcontinental railroad. Mr. Ambrose was reluctant. The scandal associated with the project; the grotesque profits siphoned off by the owners; the influence wielded by the huge companies those railroads became; and the ostentatious displays of wealth that some of these men flaunted; were not subjects Stephen Ambrose wanted to rehash. Instead, without ignoring those facts and that history, he wrote about the actual building of the railroad. He wrote about the daunting tasks that had to be accomplished – finding a route through the mountains that would provide the minimal changes in grade required by locomotives; filling in the low areas (fills); removing the dirt and rock from high areas (cuts); drilling tunnels; and building trestles. He wrote about the difficulty of getting and keeping workers because of the lure of gold in California; about the operational problems -- getting food, water, and

supplies to hundreds of men working forty miles away in a desert; and aligning excavation of tunnels that were dug from both ends, and, in one case, also from the middle.

As the track was laid, both companies used trains to bring material. But, in the case of the Central Pacific, the tunnels through the Sierras took months to blast and clear. There was no continuous track to the other side of the tunnels where track was being laid, so their material had to be taken over the mountains by wagons pulled by horses or donkeys. In either case, once the material reached the end of the line, it was moved by men. There was one steam shovel used by the Union Pacific to move rocks and dirt. Other than that, all of the dirt and rock brought to the fills and removed from the cuts was moved by men – through back-breaking work. If there is one point that the reader takes from this book, it is an understanding of the huge amount of physical effort required to build the transcontinental railroad.

I believe that, as Mr. Ambrose wrote this book, he realized that this story, like all stories, is not all black and white. The men who made huge fortunes, who bilked the public, also risked a great deal to build this railroad. They sank their own money into the project and were continually short of cash. And the project was no sure thing. Many respected engineers publicly stated that a railroad through the Sierras could not be built – it was physically impossible. And the success of the railroad, if it could be built, was predicated on trade with the Pacific Rim, which never materialized to the extent envisioned. These men were greedy and unscrupulous, but they were also visionaries who were willing to risk their own fortunes to make this happen.

Many historians assume that the government was bilked. But, unlike the individuals and communities that invested in the railroads, and the workers who were not paid, the government actually profited. (The people who profited exorbitantly were those who owned and invested in the construction companies hired by the railroads to lay the track. They were always paid whatever they charged because they were owned by the same people who owned the railroads. Can you say, “Conflict of interest”?) The bonds that the railroads received from the government as the track was completed had to be repaid and they were – with interest -- netting the government millions in profit. Historians point to the land that the railroads received from the government, for free, and sold at a nice profit as people moved west. But the government did not give away all of the land – and they also sold it at a nice profit.

This is an interesting story – especially for someone fascinated by railroads, as I am. The book is well written and contains a wealth of information. I can recommend it to anyone at all curious about what was, at its time, the greatest engineering feat in the world.

Published by Simon & Schuster in 2000, the volume has 431 pages. It contains a notes section, a bibliography, and an index. There is also a section of photographs of the construction and some of the important individuals involved. There are also a number of maps, though many of the places mentioned in the text are not identified on the maps. Amazon has a paperback version for \$15.88 and their electronic version for \$9.99 while Barnes and Noble has the same volume for \$16.03 and the Nook version for \$13.11. Mentor Library does not have a copy, but the ClevNet System has 34 copies at multiple locations, including Willowick and Willoughby-Eastlake.

NEOCWRT Executive Committee

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The Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table
Saturday May 30th, 2015 Spring Tour
Hiram College and the Civil War



Visit the Archives of the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment



The James A. Garfield Center for the Study of the American
Presidency



Fairview Cemetery & the Hiram Students of the 42nd OVI

Cost of the Tour: \$18.00 per person

Date: Saturday May 30th Time: 9:30

Join us for a Historic Tour of one Ohio's Finest Colleges*

Phone: **Franco Sperrazzo at 440 567 2414 for more information and to reserve your tour**

Founded in 1850 by the Disciples of Christ, Hiram College was one of the first non-denominational, coeducational colleges in the United States. James A. Garfield was a student there in 1851 when the school was called the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute. Garfield taught Greek and Latin before becoming one of its early Principals. With the coming of the Civil War in April 1861, Garfield organized the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment and enlisted a number of students from Hiram College.

*US News and World Report

