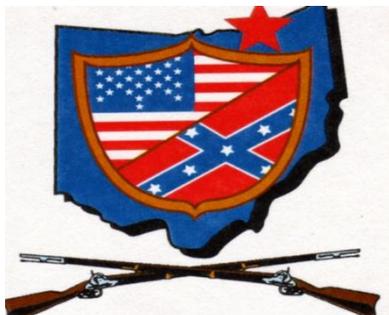


THE COURIER

Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



Date: November 11, 2008 Meeting # 94

Place: Dino's Restaurant I90 & Rte. 306 exit Mentor, Ohio

Canteen: 6PM Rations: 7PM

Speakers: Norton London and Joe Tirpak

Topic: Ulysses S. Grant and R. E. Lee in Peace and War

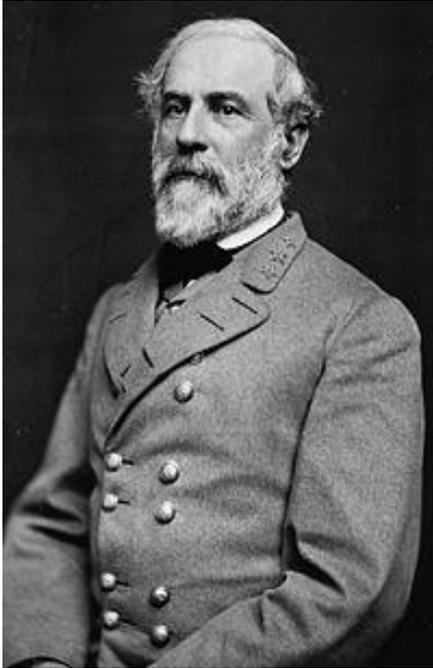
Reservations required Please call Steve Abbey

Phone 440 255 8375 e-Mail: abbeysr@yahoo.com

Norton London and Joe Tirpak from the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table will present a round table discussion contrasting the private lives and military accomplishments of two of America's greatest heroes, Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. Norton and Joe, two of the founders of the NEOCWRT will present a ten minute over-view of Grant and Lee and their impact on American history. The over-view will be followed by questions and open round table discussion by the membership and their guests. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this original civil war round table format.

General Robert E. Lee is the mythic general and lasting symbol of the Lost Cause in Southern military history. R. E. Lee fought to preserve the rights of his home state, Virginia and not to perpetuate the intuition of slavery as maintained by northern biased historians. Lee was the champion of the ante bellum planter class society that held an idyllic image of the pure, Christian knight fighting to preserve the virtue and righteousness of Southern society. Robert Penn Warren has written that "in the moment of its death, the Confederacy entered upon its immortality." R. E. Lee became the icon of that immortality.

Ulysses S. Grant was a man who failed at nearly everything he attempted in civilian life but found atonement in the heat of battle leading the Union Army to victory over the Confederacy. On March 10, 1864, President Lincoln appointed Grant to the rank of General in Chief of the Armies of the United States. Grant stated that “the art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can and as often as you can and keep moving on.” Grant has been portrayed as a drunk who had his own troops slaughtered because of his aggressive tactics in battle. In the spring of 1864, during Grant’s Overland Campaign, first lady, Mary Todd Lincoln called Grant a butcher after reading the account of the 55,000 Union casualties in the northern newspapers.



American Civil War historians Thomas Connelly and Alan Nolan believed that R. E. Lee actually hurt the cause of Southern independence because of his aggressive offensive strategy. Lee was always seeking a great history changing battle that would determine the out-come of the war. Lee’s aggressive orientation resulted in high casualty counts that the Confederacy could not afford. R. E. Lee lacked a general strategy for prosecuting the war on a national scale. While Lee was focused on the defense of his home state of Virginia, he did not want to relinquish his men for deployment to other theaters of battle. This reluctance to share his troops had disastrous consequences for the Confederacy during the Vicksburg siege.

Historian Gary Gallagher believes just the opposite is true of Lee. For Gallagher, Lee was a visionary who saw the defense of Virginia as the key element in defeating the Union Army and winning independence for the Confederate States of America.

Grant was elected president in 1868 and served two terms. His presidency was rocked by scandal and corruption although he personally avoided prosecution or impeachment. The Grants spent two years on a world tour in 1878-1880 in which they dined with Queen Victoria of England, Prince Bismarck of Germany, and the Emperor Meiji of Japan. Upon his return to the

United States Grant sought a third term as president but lost the 1880 Republican Party nomination to James A. Garfield. Grant lost a fortune in the stock market after being swindled by his banking partner, Ferdinand Ward.



Grant’s health was failing from cancer of the throat caused by years of chain smoking cigars. Samuel Clemens arranged a book deal for the former president so that he could write his “Memoirs” and provide for his wife and family after his death.

In October 1865, R. E. Lee became president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. Lee transformed the obscure little college into one of the most distinguished schools in the South. He established an honors system at the school modeled after West Point. Lee stated that “we have but one rule, every student is a gentleman.”

R.E. Lee and U.S. Grant present a contrast in style and demeanor. Grant was a bulldog that would not give up in the face of adversity. Lee was the consummate engineer and military strategist. These two men had one thing in common; they both overcame the hardships and disappointments in their lives and achieved greatness.

CIVIL WAR MINUTES: Franco M. Sperrazzo, Special Events Coordinator

Welcome my friends. For those who were among the 38 members and guests at the 93rd meeting of the NEOCWRT on October 14th, you enjoyed an extra treat not trick. **BOB BAUCHER** presented a baseball quiz to stump the stout hearted fanatics on hand. Do you remember Lee Stevens from the Bartolo Colon trade? Who was Tommy Helms? How many games did Babe Ruth win as a Boston Red Sox pitcher? “The curse is back!”

TOM HORVATH presented the truth to the maxim that mathematicians are deft at all pursuits. Tom offered an interesting power point talk on the Andrews Raid. In April 1862, 24 men of the 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Army of the Ohio embarked on a mission to hijack a Confederate train in Marietta, Georgia. We were introduced to the likes of Hawkins, Porter, Pittenger, Fuller, and Murphy and of Course James Andrews. As the story unfolds the group of Union Saboteurs attempted to escape with Confederate locomotive “the General” north to Chattanooga Tennessee. Tom’s keen insight to the subject clearly showed on a little known story of the Civil War.

Our 11th Fall Field Trip has been herald among the best ever. On Friday, we explored the “Capital City of the Confederacy Tour” by Jim DuPriest of Richmond Discoveries. Highlights were The Confederate White House and Museum, and Hollywood Cemetery. Saturday, we ventured on the battlefields with our September 9th, speaker, Mike Gorman to do the “Seven Days Battles”, like Gaines Mill, Malvern Hill and more. The reason the trip was extra special and so successful was our onsite coordinator Brent Morgan, and his gracious wife Sharon whose generosity and hospitality are something we have come to expect. Along with brother Ron Morgan and wife Peg they made the work that Norty London, Mike Sears, John Sandy and I go easier without any hitches. The weather could not have been any more cooperative and ideal. Can we do a similar trip next year?

Also the two days we spent with Mike Gorman was a large triumph for all those who shared the time together. We traveled with President Bill Meissner, N. London, R. Morgan, Arlan Byrne, J. Sandy and Ted Fisher, to the Western Reserve Historical Society; President Garfield’s Home Lawnfield; and Lakeview Cemetery. I want the acknowledge the great job that director John Grabowski and his staff lead by research library supervisor Ann Sindelar provide when we call upon them to welcome and out of town author or park historian. As a long time member myself I encourage our members to join this national treasure we have here our city. I have been in contact with membership services rep Kim Fleishman regarding NEOCWRT becoming a member in an organizational capacity.

Special Note: Oliver Schroeder Sr. passed away at his residence in the Judson Manor. Mr. Schroeder was an honorary member of the NEOCWRT and a retired law professor at Case Western Reserve University. He was a member of the U. S. Army Intelligence Service that broke the Japanese code prior to the United States entering the Second World War. Mr. Schroeder presented a talk to our round table in 1998, on his efforts as a member of that select group of intelligence officers. He also expressed his views on the Abraham Lincoln speech at the Cooper Union in New York City prior to his nomination as the Republican Presidential Candidate during the 1860 election. Oliver Schroeder will be sorely missed.

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

John Sandy Editor

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Feature writers: Carl Dodaro and John Krouse

THE CONFEDERATE STATES MARINE CORPS Compiled by Carl Dodaro

A common reaction that many researchers have when confronted with a reference to the Confederate States Marine Corps is, "There was a Confederate Marine Corps?" Genealogists familiar with researching confederate soldiers and sailors rarely, if ever, investigate the Confederate Marine Corps.

One of the reasons for lack of interest in this subject is simple math. One historian has estimated that the Confederate Marine Corps never exceeded more than six hundred marines at a given time and that no more than twelve hundred men served as Confederate Marines during the Civil War. At six hundred men, the C.S. Marine Corps was equivalent in size to a Confederate infantry regiment.

Another reason for the lack of research is that few records of the Confederate Marine Corps survived. In 1880, Lloyd J. Beall, former colonel commandant of the Confederate Marine Corps, explained in a later letter to a U.S. Marine Corps officer that the "books and papers" pertaining to the C.S. Marine Corps were burned. Beall claimed Confederate Secretary of the Navy Stephen R. Mallory ordered the destruction of the records, presumably to prevent capture by Federal forces (from Ralph W. Donnelly's book "The Confederate States Marine Corps: The Rebel Leathernecks {1989} p.324). And even this item is argued by the other sources (see Historical Times – Encyclopedia of the Civil War {1986} Beall, Lloyd James. Entry) which claims that "In the postwar years he (Beall) lived quietly in Richmond, Va, and kept most of the old Confederate States Marine Corps records in his home. Unfortunately, a fire destroyed these, and much of the Confederate Marines' and Beall's personal history was lost." The small size of the corps, combined with this lack of documentary evidence, results in only occasional research by Civil War historians, present-day marines, or individuals researching ancestors who served as a Confederate Marine. What follows is a bit of the history of the Confederate States Marine Corps.



Seventeen days after its establishment on February 4, 1861, the provisional government of the Confederate States of America passed an act to create a Navy Department, with Stephen Mallory is Secretary of the Navy. Working closely with Congress, by March 12 Mallory had prepared a budget that provided for the creation of Navy and Marine Corps. Four days later an Act of Congress established the Confederate States Marine Corps, and authorized the creation of a headquarters consisting of a major, a quartermaster, a paymaster, an adjutant, a sergeant-major, and a quarter sergeant. This act also legislated for a battalion of six companies, each to consist of a captain, a first lieutenant, a second lieutenant, four sergeants, two musicians and 100 men. The decision to use a company-based organization followed more closely that the British Royal Marine than the US Marine Corps.

On May 20, after the enlargement of the Confederacy with the secession for Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina, an Amendatory Act increased the CS Marine Corps for battalion to regimental strength or 46 officers and 944 enlisted men. Three days later, Lloyd J. Beall was appointed colonel and Commandant for the Corps, and he would serve in that capacity until the end of the war. A Marylander, and West Point Class of 1830 graduate, 25th in his class, Beall had no previous experience as a Marine, but has served as a lieutenant in the 1st Infantry from 1830 until 1836.

His selection was based on a hard-bitten 30-year career with both the infantry and the 2nd US Dragoons that saw him rise to the rank of major and fight in both the Seminole and Mexican wars. Since Beall was an administrator during the Civil War, his combat field experience and military knowledge remained an untapped resource and he never led his men in combat.

The CS Marine Corps was organized into permanent companies, three of which were based in Virginia. Headquarters was established at Drewry's Bluff, a naval strongpoint which commanded the approach to Richmond by the James River. Camp Beall, named in honor of the Commandant, served as the training and administrative headquarters for the CS Marine Corps

from 1862 until April 2, 1865. By the end of the war, the Confederate Marine Corps had established a second marine training camp in Charleston, South Carolina and had several permanent station on the Mississippi River and the Atlantic Coast including the Naval Ship Yards at Gosport, Virginia, Savannah, Georgia and Wilmington, North Carolina. Beall worked hard to have the CS Marine Corps receive the personnel, supplies and other benefits accorded to the other branches of the military. A Confederate Marine received no \$300 bounty for joining as a man would get in the army, got \$3 less a month in pay and enjoyed a longer term of service.

The mission of the Confederate Marine Corps was similar to that of the Federal Marine Corps in that it was tasked with providing detachments for all warships and commerce raiders, guarding the naval yards as well as shore batteries. As the quality of these Marines came to the front, their duties were increased to include manning the main guns on both ships as well as shore batteries, and as sharpshooters stop boarders from landing on their ships. They were issued 1853 British Enfield type rifled muskets in 1862 as the standard, but like their brothers in the Army, they used whatever was available to them, ranging from altered flint lock muskets to captured US caliber Springfield or copies of them. Marine NCOs also were issued Army swords along with bayonets, scabbards, cap box, cartridge boxes, and knapsacks as used in the British Army. Side arms were captured Colt 1860 Navy revolvers and the Le Mat revolvers. The Le Mat held nine .42 pistol rounds which revolved around a .20 gauge smoothbore shotgun barrel, and was a good weapon for the close in fighting that could occur on a ship during boarding.

Marines were part of the crew of the ironclad CSS Virginia (formerly the USS Merrimac) during its historic battle with the USS Monitor in Hampton Roads, Virginia, and were on most of the famous and infamous commerce raiders. Confederate Marines were also called upon for special operations raids. In February of 1863, the Naval Dept. authorized a plan to train a Marine unit commanded by Capt. Thomas S. Wilson to destroy ironclads by boarding and scuttling them. This was in anticipation of a Union attack on Charleston which occurred in April, 1863. The attack was beaten back before the Marines could be used and Capt. Wilson's men stood down. General Robert E. Lee later devised a plan where a battalion of Marines were to slip through the naval blockade and make a landing at Point Lookout about Washington D.C. to free Confederate prisoners of war there. It was to be done in July 1864 as part of General Early's raid on Washington. The force was again led by Capt. Wilson. The ships carrying the Marines were called back and the mission aborted due to perceived leaks regarding their activities and the unit finished the war as conventional infantry.



(Lithograph drawing of Lloyd Beall)

The battle honors of the Confederate Marine Corps include the Peninsula Campaign 1862, Butler's Bermuda Hundred Campaign, the Defense of Fort Fisher, Wilmington NC and the Defense of Richmond. As the fortunes of the Confederacy grew dark in the spring of 1865, Navy and Marines personnel were brought to Drewry's Bluff and formed into fighting units such as Tucker's Naval Battalion which fought with distinction at the Battle of Saylor's Creek, Virginia. In the Battle of Saylor's Creek (April 5, 1865) during the retreat from Petersburg to Appomattox, nearly a quarter of the Confederate Army was cut off and forced to surrender to Union Cavalry under Sheridan. The heart of the Marines' surrounded here while trying to protect Robert E. Lee's supply trains. When Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House, it still included at least four Marine officers and twenty-one enlisted marines.

Sources for the Confederate States Marine Corps article:

Historical Times Encyclopedia of the Civil War

The Confederate States Marine Corps: "The Rebel Leathernecks" by Ralph W. Donnelly

"Confederate States Marine Corp" picture by Don Troiani

[Lithograph drawing of Lloyd Beall from The Museum of the Confederacy](#)

The Ups and Downs of a Confederate Soldier Part III The Epilogue by John Krouse



James Huffman Gravesite

From Arlington National Cemetery Photo

After the war, Huffman's sister Rebecca and brother-in-law Captain Wilson Carrier – who helped bring him home with typhoid after the first battle of Bull Run – lived close by at the home place and were in business with him running a water-powered sawmill and grist mill in addition to growing crops and tending livestock. The Carriers raised four children at Naked Creek, including my Great Grandmother Betty Blanche born in 1863.

She considered herself a good field hand, taking care of the many farm chores that needed to be done. One day while chopping corn for the hogs, she cut off the end of her finger, wrapped a rag around it and continued working. In her teenage years, she was known locally as “the belle of Naked Creek”, and her exploits are legendary in our family – especially her elopement across the state line into Maryland with William Price, her older sister's ex-beau whom her parents objected to because he

was a school teacher – no job for a man! They returned to Naked Creek, were married 41 years until Will's death in 1941 and had thirteen children.

Even in her advanced years, she had a quiet contentedness about her, a love of Zane Grey western novels, an ability to embroider even with that one stub of a finger, a good sense of humor, sharp memory and fascinating stories of “Neckkid Crick” (as she pronounced it) told in her low-pitched, gentle voice – always with a smile. She lived into the 1960s during all the Civil War Centennial festivities and re-enactments when I was graduating from high school, and I was fascinated in speaking with someone born the year of the battle of Chancellorsville when Stone Wall Jackson was mortally wounded and grew up during reconstruction in what used to be the Old South. In 1966, she crossed over the River Jordon, as she would often say of dying, with spunk right up to the end of a 102-year life that even today makes the Civil War seem as though it happened not very long ago.