



# THE COURIER



## Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



**Tuesday November 8th, 2011 Meeting # 120**

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

**Canteen at 6:00 Dinner at 7:00 Guests are Welcome**

**Speaker: Dr. Daniel Cudnik**

**Topic: "Confederate Guerrilla Operations during the Civil War"**

**Reservations required Guests are Welcome Please call Steve Abbey**

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

**Dr. Daniel Cudnik** has been a member of the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table since 1999 and has presented a number of informative talks that are always interesting, unique and above all, entertaining. On Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup> he will present a talk entitled: *Confederate Guerrilla Operations during the Civil War*. This is a topic that has not been explored by our club in the past. Therefore, you won't want to miss this special presentation by a gifted surgeon and historian.

Dr. Cudnik is a graduate of Cathedral Latin High School, Class of 1960; John Carroll University, Class of 1964; The Marquette School of Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin (1964 – 1968); Internship at the University of Kansas Medical Center (1968-1969); Residency: General Surgery, Ohio State University, (1969 – 1970); General Surgery, University of Kansas (1970 -1973); Plastic Surgery, Akron City Hospital (1977 – 1979).

He served in the United States Air Force from 1973 – 1975. Doctor Cudnik is a Board Certified Plastic Surgeon that was in Private Practice from 1979 – 2006 when he retired. Dan Cudnik is a member of the Lake County Medical Society, the Ohio State Medical Association, the American Medical Association, Fellow, American College of Surgeons, The Ohio Valley Society of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeons, The American Society of Plastic Surgeons, The Board of Trustees of Lake Hospital System and a number of other memberships too numerous to list.

In addition to his many memberships in professional organization, Dr. Cudnik is most proud of his membership in the Lipolysis Society, The Cato Institute, The Heritage Foundation, and The Institute for Justice and the Center for Objective Studies. He's also a Master Bridge Player. He was honored with Physician of the Year by the Northeast Ohio Occupational Therapists Association.

## Confederate Guerrilla Operations during the American Civil War

Most students of the War Between the States are familiar with the great land battles such as Bull Run, Shiloh, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg, but most people are less knowledgeable of the partisan, Confederate guerrilla operations that hampered the Union army's operations from 1861 thru 1865. In the late summer of 1861, following the Union Army's defeat at The Battle of First Bull Run, Major General George McClellan was summoned to Washington and appointed commander of what would become the Army of the Potomac. McClellan and President Lincoln both nurtured a conciliatory attitude toward the Southern Confederacy. Federal Armies were to engage Confederate armies, defeat them on the field of battle and thus force the misguided southern states back into the union. McClellan viewed the rebel army as fellow citizens. Moreover, he expected the men of the Army of the Potomac to respect the civilian population of the southern states. No one was to loot or cause harm to private property. Unfortunately for McClellan and many other Union commanders, Confederate partisans did not operate with the same restraint.

In July of 1861, Brig. General John Pope was appointed commander of the Department of Northern Missouri. Bushwhackers and pro slavery guerrillas repeatedly attacked Federal railroad lines, bridges and small troop detachments in Missouri. Pope did his best to stop the guerrilla activity in his area of operation but he had little success. The core of the guerrilla bands that operated along the Missouri and Kansas border from 1858 - 1865 were hard core ruffians that had little regard for human life or property. Gangs of pro slavery and Unionists attacked and killed each other with impunity.

**William Quantrill** was born and raised in Dover, Ohio. He became a school teacher in Illinois before seeking adventure as a teamster with the U. S. Army in Utah territory in 1857. In 1859 he accepted a teaching position in Lawrence, Kansas. With the outbreak of the Civil War, he formed a partisan guerrilla company and secured a commission as a captain of Confederate Partisan Rangers. Quantrill became infamous for his early morning raid on Lawrence, Kansas, in August of 1863. Lawrence was a pro Union town and the home of U. S. Senator, James Lane, a prominent leader of Jayhawks.



**William T. Anderson** (photograph on the left) was a Confederate guerrilla that became so notorious that he was called "Bloody Bill." He joined the Confederate partisans after his father was killed in a dispute with a pro Union neighbor. The neighbor was found innocent by a Kansas court of law, so Anderson killed the presiding judge. He then moved his family to Western Missouri and joined Quantrill's guerrillas in the spring of 1863. Anderson participated in the raid on Lawrence, Kansas where more than 150 men and boys were murdered by Quantrill's gang.

**Adam Rankin Johnson** was born and raised in Kentucky. He moved to Texas and worked as a surveyor but returned to Kentucky when the Civil War began. Johnson joined Nathan B. Forrest as a cavalry scout. Later he was promoted to the rank of colonel and commanded a Partisan Ranger unit that operated against Federal supply lines in Kentucky. Johnson mounted two sections of stove pipe together on the running gear of a wagon so that it looked like a cannon. He threatened to blow up the town of Newburgh, Indiana if it did not surrender. He was forever after known as "**Stovepipe Johnson.**"

McClellan's failure to capture Richmond and destroy General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia during the Peninsula Campaign of 1862 prompted President Lincoln and his Cabinet to pursue a more draconian policy toward the citizens of the Confederacy. The Radical Republicans convinced President Lincoln that the citizens of the Confederacy were traitors and must be treated as such. Union army commanders were to regard the citizens of the Confederate states as enemies. They needed to destroy private property, imprison civilians and execute them when it was deemed necessary. The goal of this severe policy was to destroy the south's ability to wage war against the forces of the union. **McClellan's policy of conciliation** toward the south was seen as a failure.

In the spring of 1862, The Confederate government passed the **Partisan Ranger Act**, authorizing the formation of independent, partisan companies of irregular soldiers that could operate against Federal forces. The Federal government saw this action as an inexcusable call for open guerrilla warfare.

In the July of 1862, Major General John Pope was brought east after a series of victories in the western theater. Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton and Chief of Staff, Henry Halleck created a Union Army in northern Virginia and Pope would be its commander. Lincoln and the Radical Republicans had had enough of McClellan and his demands for more troops. Units from the Army of the Potomac were removed from Virginia's peninsula and redeployed to Pope's Army of Virginia.

General Pope became one of the most despised of all Union commanders when he issued his **General Order #5** that announced "his army would live off the enemy's countryside." **General Order #6** indicated that all disloyal males within Union lines would be arrested and forced to take an Oath of Loyalty to the Union. Any person found to be disloyal after taking the oath would be shot. Pope's **General Order #7** threatened the citizens of Virginia with the loss of property and possible arrest in response to guerrilla attacks on Federal railroads, bridges and lines of communication. Person found to be committing such acts against the government of

the United States were to be shot without trial. If Union troops were fired upon from any private house or building, the structure was to be razed. Jefferson Davis called Pope's general orders inhuman and Pope so angered the citizens of Virginia that Davis ordered General Lee to dispose of Pope and his army as soon as practicable.



**John Singleton Mosby** (photograph on the left) was called the “*Gray Ghost*,” and commanded the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Cavalry. His battalion was known as Mosby's Rangers and was famous for its ability to strike fast and hard at Federal targets then escape before the Federal forces could find them. Mosby's Rangers operated in north central Virginia and blended into the local population to avoid capture. Mosby originally served under J. E. B. Stuart. In the spring of 1862 he participated in Stuart's ride around McClellan's army.

**Champ Ferguson** was a sadistic Confederate partisan that operated in the Cumberland Mountains of Eastern Tennessee. His guerrilla unit cooperated with General John Hunt Morgan and also Joseph Wheeler. Ferguson usually operated at his own discretion and gained the reputation of a murderous cutthroat. Ferguson attacked Union supply trains and small detachments of Federal soldiers. He generally showed no mercy. After the Civil War, Ferguson was captured and tried in Nashville, Tennessee for the murder of 53 victims. He was found guilty and hanged on October 10, 1865.

Confederate partisan guerrilla operations had a significant effect on Federal armies operating in the various regions of the Confederacy. Federal railroad lines and bridges were destroyed and the movement of Federal troops and vital supplies delayed. Confederate Partisan Rangers attacked Federal targets of opportunity and were then able to escape without detection. General Henry Halleck believed that nearly a third of all Federal armies had to be diverted, in order to protect lines of communication from partisan attacks. This undoubtedly helped the Confederacy to prolong the war and sustained their will to fight.

References:

Mountcastle, Clay *Punitive War: Confederate Guerrillas and Union Reprisals* University Press of Kansas 2009

Sutherland, Daniel *The Savage Conflict, The Decisive Role of Guerrillas in the American Civil War* The University of North Carolina 2009

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## 14th President's Civil War Journal by Franco M. Sperrazzo 11/8/11

**Oct. 11 Meeting with A. Wilson Greene:** Will Greene is an old friend of our founding fathers, Tirpak London, Baucher and Yannucci from their previous Civil War club association. Greene led our troops at Petersburg, VA. in 2005 and later visited our NEOCWRT in the Fall 2006. His encore performance on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> was as superb as his previous engagements. Among the 44 in attendance were several guests again signaling what appears to be a rise in our club's enrollment. Will gave a comparison of the state of America and the factors that were prevalent at the outbreak of the Civil War in Western Virginia in 1861. This was also the audition for General George Briton McClellan's legacy. Will showed examples (Editor's note) *in his opinion*, of the General's failure to execute in the manner necessary to be successful time and time again. Mr. Greene has offered an invitation for our club to participate in a future Pamplin Park symposium. We will consider having Will lead us in battle as field commander at a predetermined destination for a future fall field trip.

**Gettysburg Fall Field Trip Oct. 21-23:** The reviews are in and the panel of judges has concurred Historian George E. Deutsch scored a ten in all categories. Here is a wrap up of what occurred at Gettysburg National Military Park in a thank you letter.



*Dear George Deutsch,*

*It has been a pleasure working with you this past year on numerous occasions; May 10<sup>th</sup> NEOCWRT meeting, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, D. Scott Hartwig presentation at the Erie Maritime Museum and the newly completed fall excursion to Gettysburg. The collaboration of Edinboro University, the Erie group and the NEOCWRT comprised of Theodore Karle, coordinator, Roberta and Vice President Steve Abbey, MaryEllen and Terry Reynolds, Judy and Dick Muny, Lynn and Jim Keegan, John Sandy and Terri's cousin Tom Rosich, First Lady Cyndy and President Franco Sperrazzo made this cooperative effort successful and memorable. It was special to envision what might have been as we exercised and hiked through the closed country*

*club Golf course on grounds not previously open to the public. Our Saturday morning local Gettysburg resident Louise gave a biographical overview of General Dwight D. Eisenhower on a prominent church steps. Now we know where General Pickett really was on the third day of fighting at Gettysburg. He may have been preparing an outstanding meal for the 15<sup>th</sup> Alabama after their defeat at the hand of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine at Little Round Top on day 2. We chowed down for lunch at the general's hearty home town buffet. The afternoon was well orchestrated by you and John Kotich with expertise and detail we have come to expect. You added side stories, humor and John demonstrated with drama and emotion. Your presentation was quite compelling even though admitting not previously rehearsed. After a wet Friday and cold Saturday, Sunday morning finally blessed us with morning sunshine. William Barksdales' charge came to life and was a fitting end to our journey. We are grateful to you Edinboro, Erie and the Gettysburg people for making this combined effort so successful.*

*We are honored to have you as a member of the NEOCWRT in an honorary capacity.*

*- Franco M. Sperrazzo 14<sup>th</sup> President of the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table*



**Book Raffle Request:** Kindly bring you books to our November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to help replenish stock for our holiday event. Since we will have our guests present, please consider range of topics. We will also do our 50/50 raffle. Books appealing to the female gender are also encouraged. Thanks for your support.

**Special Executive Committee Meeting:** After our regularly scheduled program we need to cover the adhoc committee being formed for the potential legacy project developing with the James A. Garfield National Site. The contributions for the historical society's WRHS or LCHS will be determined. Consider nominations for any new members. The 150<sup>th</sup> Sesquicentennial and any unresolved business.

**Nov.8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Dr. Daniel B. Cudnik:** Dr. Dan has been a member of the NEOCWRT since JET sponsored him in 1999. His distinguished career is too numerous to mention here. The local boy makes good applies but he is

traveled doing internships and residencies in Ohio, Wisconsin and Kansas and points beyond. He also served in the United States Air Force from 1973-75. The balance of his vitae and resume would qualify for lifetime updates entered in a GPS navigation system. Every presentation that he has made has been better each time starting with Civil War medicine 1998, the United States Constitution 2001. Now Dr. Cudnik examines " Guerilla Warfare in the Civil War ". Be on hand for one of our own scholars.

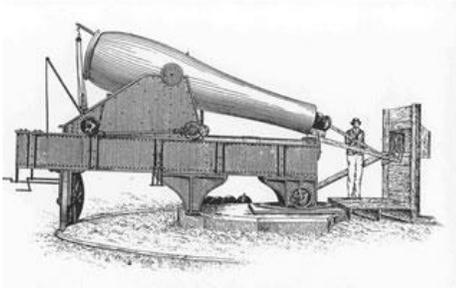


*Special Thanks to Cyndy Sperrazzo for the photographs from the Gettysburg Field Trip*

## **RODMAN'S SMOOTH BORE CANNONS COMPILED BY CARL DODARO**

### **EARLY CANNON CASTING**

Early cannons (pre-1712) were made by pouring molten metal around a solid cylinder to form a chamber for powder and shot. Exact alignment was difficult and the interior cavity was often miss-shaped. In 1712, the Swiss introduced solid casting, a manufacturing process that formed the cannon as one solid piece and then cooled only on their outside, resulting in uneven cooling when the metal contracted toward the barrel's outer surface. Metal impurities, known as slag, was forced to the center by the cooling action and removed by a lathe during the finishing operation. The hollow area, now called the bore, was accurately shaped by drilling the solid cast piece. This process reached America by 1773 and became the standard practice for all American canon foundries. After the American Revolution, the government turned to iron as their gun metal so that the military would not have to rely on foreign metals such as copper or nickel. In 1811 Major George Bombford of the U.S. Ordnance department introduced a 50-pounder iron gun called the Columbiad to replace the large variety of seacoast cannons then in use.



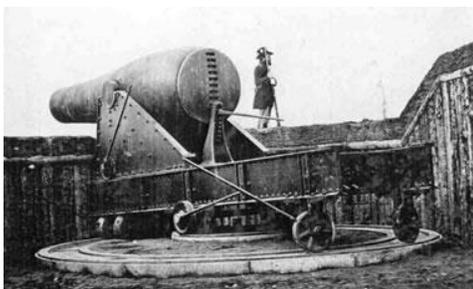
Gradually, as the thickness of the ship's hulls increased, larger guns were needed and more material had to be removed, interior and exterior, to reduce weight and decrease cost. The quest for more powerful guns resulted in less trustworthy ordnance as it was found that the solid casting method of construction created internal strains and structural irregularities and these problems were even more prevalent in large bore castings. Made in this way, the cannons could crack during the cooling process, break apart during shipment or worse burst as they were fired. America's cast iron guns became notorious for their ability to burst (i.e. the Peacemaker gun which burst on the USS Princeton in 1844, killing five, including Navy Secretary Gilmer, Secretary of State Upshur and a Congressman, a Board of Inquiry blamed the failure on thin barrel design) so the field artillery went back to bronze as their gunmetal.

### **NEW CASTING PROCESS**



Thomas Jackson Rodman graduated from the military academy in 1841 and was assigned to the Ordnance Department at Allegheny Arsenal in Pittsburgh. Shortly after the Princeton incident he began studying the properties of gunmetal and theorized that a cannon cooled from the inside would be stronger than those manufactured by the current method. He found that if you cast iron around a hollow core and then applied a steady stream of water within the hollow core, a much more reliable and stronger product was made. His method, and the result, has been described as: "water circulating through the tube cooled the bore while coals were piled against the mold to keep the outer surface hot. Rodman's manufacturing method, now known as the 'wet chill process', forced the impurities outward while the outer metal shrank against the hardened interior". Doing this forced the thickest material toward the center of the barrel. This and the bottle shape of the cannon with a thick breech to absorb the extreme pressure created by large powder charges made the Rodman Gun preferable to any other style of large

bore artillery. Rodman offered his ideas to the government but it was rejected. He then obtained permission from his superiors to apply for a patent for hollow casting guns and arranged for the Fort Pitney foundry to cast and test his cannons. In 1849, it was found that cannons produced by this method were superior to all other guns produced in this country. The one problem encountered during testing was weight of the cannon would break off the knob or cascabel, a projection at the rear of the cannon used to move and mount and set the elevation of the cannon barrel. Rodman developed a knob that was almost as large as the base of the cannon and had only a narrow groove to accommodate lifting tackle. The button-shaped knob, was a distinctive feature of the large Rodman cannons and makes them easy to recognize. Rodman also developed instruments for measuring the internal pressure of cannons and in 1856 he invented "Mammoth Powder". These large pellets of powder had holes to allow the charge to burn smoothly while the projectile traveled down the barrel giving the cannon more range and accuracy.



### **THE MILITARY AND THE RODMAN GUNS**

Rodman experimented for almost a decade at the Fort Pitt Foundry in Pittsburgh, testing his theory and performing trial runs on his cannon barrels. After reviewing the results, the U.S. War Department approved construction of a fifteen-inch smoothbore Columbiad of Rodman's design in 1859. A prototype was cast and test fired 509 times without incident. The following year he supervised the construction at the foundry, and once complete, it was shipped for testing to Fortress Monroe at Old Point Comfort on the Virginia Peninsula. It tested successfully there in March 1861, but due to size and weight it would be destined for permanent, fixed positions, and not



suitable for field or naval use. Between 1861 and 1871 the U.S. Military purchased 322 of the fifteen-inch Columbiads, known as Rodman guns, and made them the primary weapons of the U.S. coast defense system for over thirty years. The specifications of the fifteen-inch Rodman were: overall length of fifteen feet ten inches, bore length of thirteen feet nine inches, total weight around 50,000 pounds. It was capable of firing of either shot or shell. The fifteen-inch gun was finally officially tested at Sandy Hook, N.J. in 1883 and found that 130 pounds of black-powder created 25,000 pounds of pressure in the chamber and at 20 degrees elevation the gun could send a 440 pound shell over three and a half miles. At 1,000 yards the round-ball projectile could pierce 10 inches of iron. No warship, regardless of how well armored, could afford to trade shots with a fifteen-inch Rodman at close range. As the rifled steel guns replaced smoothbores, the old cannons were considered junk and either scrapped or as in the case of Fort Taylor, engineers used the 25 ton fifteen-inch Rodman Guns to reinforce concrete for new gun emplacements. Today, only 25 of the fifteen-inch Rodman Guns survive and they can be seen at military parks such as Fort McHenry and Fort Foote.

NOTES – Compiled mostly from two articles – Thomas Jackson Rodman – Wikipedia Entry

National Park Service – History & Culture Dept. – Stories – The Mammoth Guns – Rodman’s Smoothbore .  
Cannons

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*The Courier is the Monthly News Letter of the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table*

*John Sandy Editor*

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*Norton London Joseph Tirpak*

### **Humor to brighten your day!**

**Why is the Department of the Interior responsible for everything outdoors?**

**A sign hanging from behind an Amish carriage: Energy efficient vehicle. Runs on grass and oats.**

**Caution: Beware of the exhaust!**

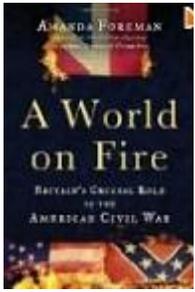
**Experience is something you don’t get until just after you need it!**

**If you can’t convince them.....confuse them!**

**Do you ever feel like you are diagonally parked in a parallel universe.**

**How can you tell when you’ve run out of invisible ink?**

## ***A World on Fire* by Amanda Foreman – a book review by Tom Horvath**



The subtitle of this book is *Britain's Crucial Role in the American Civil War*. If you have any doubts that Britain could have had a major impact on the outcome of the Civil War, especially had they intervened near the beginning, consider the relative size of the navies, the quality of the armies, and the financial support Britain could have provided. The Confederacy expected recognition and support from Britain because of “King Cotton”, the critical raw material of Britain’s mills. Had they gotten it, the progress of the war, if not the outcome, would have changed dramatically.

Whether Britain entered the fray, or even recognized the Confederacy and tested the blockade, was determined primarily by diplomacy, so this aspect of the relationship gets the most attention from Ms. Foreman. I was not familiar with most of the major players in the diplomatic dance between Britain and the North: Lord Russell (British Foreign Minister), Lord Palmerston (Prime Minister), Lord Lyons (Minister of the British Legation in Washington), Charles Francis Adams (Minister at the U.S. Legation in London and son of John Quincy Adams), and Henry Seward. (From the British perspective, Lincoln played a lesser role than Seward.)

Our relations with Britain at the outset of the war were not extremely friendly, and there were a number of incidents during the war, such as the *Trent* Affair that resulted in the imprisonment of Mason and Slidell (the Confederate commissioners to Britain), that brought us close to war with Britain. At one point, war seemed so likely that Britain sent troops to Canada in preparation. Britain’s neutrality was severely strained at many points, and Seward was often responsible for that strain. The British view of Seward is quite different from ours and, after reading this, yours may be significantly altered.

Diplomacy is the central thread of the narrative, but other aspects of the war are covered. Most of the major battles of the war were experienced by one of more British volunteers, military observers, and war correspondents. Ms. Foreman describes each of the battles and adds a map depicting the major troop movements. She draws from a wealth of letters, diaries, and newspaper articles to add a personal perspective. Naval activities are also addressed because many military vessels, especially those of the Confederacy, were manned by British subjects.

War correspondents wrote articles whether there were battles or not and saw no need to stay with the troops when there was no action, so their reports on civilian life are included. Even more interesting to me were reports of civilian life in Britain. The lack of cotton severely impacted the well-being of a large number of mill workers. Their reaction and the propaganda battle to woo British citizens was new information to me.

As you can deduce from this brief summary, the narrative is far-ranging. It tells the story of a great number of British citizens involved in the war, from the Prime Minister to Confederate volunteer William Watson. The narrative is chronological and, in many instances, the stories of the individuals wind through the entire war, so the names of relatively minor characters pop up sporadically making it a test of memory. Fortunately, Ms. Foreman usually provides enough of a descriptor to tie them back to their earlier escapades. If that is not sufficient, the brief description of their role in “*Dramatis Personae*” can be helpful.

The volume is necessarily lengthy – running to more than 800 pages of narrative. Yet it is surprisingly cohesive, especially considering the number of people involved. It is well written and flows very well. More importantly, it seems to be even handed.

*A World on Fire* had more new information than any book I have read in recent memory and I would recommend it to anyone interested in learning more about this interesting and important aspect of the Civil War.

It was published in 2010 by Random House and has 958 pages. In addition to the maps, the book is sprinkled with illustrations, including a number of interesting drawings by Frank Vizetelly, a British war correspondent and artist. It also contains an index, notes section, glossary, section of plates, and a section on *Dramatis Personae*. Amazon and Barnes & Noble both have the hard cover available for \$19.89 and their electronic editions for \$17.99. Mentor Public Library has one copy, while the ClevNet System owns 28.