



THE COURIER



Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



Tuesday November 11th, 2014 Meeting #148

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

Pine Ridge Country Club

30601 Ridge Road, Wickliffe, Ohio

Guest Speaker: Todd Arrington

Topic: “Stand Fast to Union and Old Flag: Reelecting Abe Lincoln, 1864”

Reservations required Guests are Welcome Please call Mike Sears

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



Todd Arrington is a career National Park Service employee. He is currently Chief of Interpretation and Education at **James A. Garfield National Historic Site**, a position he has held since April 2009. Prior to his current assignment, he served ten years as Historian at Homestead National Monument of America in Beatrice, Nebraska. He has also worked at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, both in his hometown of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He received his Ph.D. in American History from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in

May 2012. He has been published several times on subjects related to the American Civil War, westward expansion, and African American settlement in the West. Most recently, his essay “**Industry and Economy during the Civil War**” was published in *The Civil War Remembered*, the National Park Service’s official handbook commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. He has spoken at dozens of academic conferences and meetings, including those hosted by the George Wright Society, the Nebraska State Historical Society, the Illinois State Historical Society, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the University of Nebraska, and the Organization of American Historians. In discussing relevant history and National Park Service news and events, he has appeared on PBS, numerous television news programs, several radio programs, Radio Free Europe, and National Public Radio. Todd Arrington had served in the United States Army from 1995-98. He is married to the former Kristy M. Riggle, and they have a daughter and a son.

Civil War Journal of Franco M. Sperrazzo, Events Coordinator



Roderick Bruce Beale, The passing of one of our true soldiers: President Carl Dodaro informed the membership on Tuesday that NEOCWRT Charter member, Bruce Beale passed away last weekend. In recent years, Bruce struggled with deteriorating health. He was an outspoken, straight forward man who was not afraid to express his feelings. My first recollections of Bruce go back to our club's first fall Field Trip in September 1998.

Bruce and I were able to bond because of our tour guide, Stacy Allen from the Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee. Ranger Allen managed to scare the living daylights out of many of us with his advance letter on how to prepare for our visit to Shiloh. Bruce and I took our preparations seriously. We prepared for 2 weeks rather than for 4 days of battle.

Bruce headed up the Civil War Monthly Book Club at Borders along with Norton London and Bob Baucher. Many fellow NEOCWRT members participated in the book club. Arlan Byrne recently recalled the depth of Bruce's knowledge and his infectious laugh. He had the uncanny ability to regale everyone with lively stories from his college days at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. R. B. Beal serviced in World War II as an officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine. Bruce Beal loved Robert E. Lee but he loved his family and friends even more. He was a charitable man and always generous to the NEOCWRT. We will miss his humor, good fellowship and ready smile.

October 14th Meeting, Dr. Robert Gino Stabile: Dr. Bob's talk was eloquently presented and shed new light on Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain's amazing life. Bob Stable reminded me that not too much has changed since the former Bowdoin College professor, Army of the Potomac colonel died 100 years ago. Joshua Chamberlain was badly wounded on June 18, 1864 while leading his brigade in an attack on Rebel trenches near Petersburg, Virginia. Everyone expected him to die, in fact, New York newspapers reported that he had. Chamberlain was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1893, for his heroic actions on Little Round Top. Dr. Stabile's talks are always interesting and always presented with passion, heartfelt emotion, and a wealth of knowledge.

Major Battles of the Civil War, Mentor Library: (8215 Mentor Avenue). "The Battle of Franklin" will be the feature program on Wednesday November 12th at noon. Learn more about the late 1864 Tennessee battle from James A. Garfield NHS Park Rangers and volunteer guides. Admission is free to the public. Please call **440-255-8811 for more information.**

WRHS Exhibits, Cleveland Browns & Euclid Beach: "When Browns Town Was Title Town" officially opened to the public on September 6th. The 1964 Championship Season is the focal point. The Euclid Beach Park Horse Race Carousel Ride is now completely restored and will be available to view or ride the weekend of November 22nd. We have free passes to enjoy these and other special artifacts. Call 216-721-5722 for hours. The museum is closed on Mondays. Cleveland/Westlake, OH native Kelly Falcone-Hall has been appointed new WRHS President & CEO. Congratulations on her previous 19 years of service.

2014 First Annual James A. Garfield Symposium: As mentioned in a separate flyer last weekend for the 3rd time, this is your final notice regarding the fall "Get to Know Garfield-Building the Garfield Network" Seminar. The half day session will be @ JAG Visitor Auditorium NHS Friday Nov 14th from 4:30-7:30pm. On Saturday Nov 15th we will convene @ Lakeland Community College, Kirtland, OH from 8am registration to 4:30pm. Several NEOCWRT members will be involved and speak. The cost of the entire event is \$50 for adults and \$25 for students. The complete conference guide has been emailed to everyone. For the list of time slots, presenters, food, beverages, visit www.facebook.com/Friendsofjamesagarfieldnhs. For twitter visit JAGNHSfriends. Further questions email: friendsofjamesagarfieldnhs@gmail.com. If necessary, further concerns can be addressed by calling **440-255-8722 @ 8095 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, OH.**

Medical Report on Theodore J. Karle: Ted Karle who is also a 1998 NEOCWRT Charter member, will be off the speaker bureau for an indefinite period of time due to a mishap while fishing a couple of Sundays ago. Ted suffered serious injuries to his right knee (requiring surgery) and damage to his left shoulder. Ted tripped and fell on some slippery wet rocks by a river embankment in Lake County. Several of our members visited with him Wednesday. Members and friends may contact Ted at **Heartland Of Mentor, 8200 Mentor Hills Drive, Mentor, OH 44060** where he is rehabbing and doing therapy. Phone 440-256-1496. Ted is currently in Room 512.

THE BATTLE of the SEVEN DAYS

“Seven Days in March, 1862” by Arlan Byrne



Note: Confederate generals are listed in bold type.

DAY 1 – **FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH**, 1862

Washington D.C.

At 10:00 AM, twelve Union Brigadier Generals met with their Commander, Major General George Brinton McClellan, at Union Army headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. When they arrived, they were surprised to learn that the original reason for the meeting, which they had been told was to decide how to remove the Confederate cannon battery blockading the Potomac River, had been changed. Now the meeting was to approve a campaign to end the war.

The reason for this unexpected change in plans was that earlier that morning, at 7:00 AM, General McClellan had been called to the White House for a conference with President Lincoln. No one knows for certain what was discussed at the conference, because no records were kept; but the President must have insisted on knowing how McClellan was intending to defeat the Confederacy.

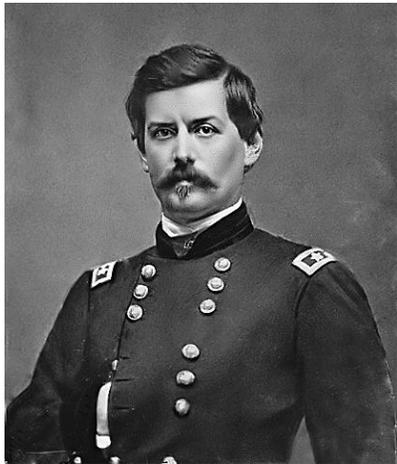
Seven and one half months earlier, after the humiliating Union defeat at the 1st Battle of Bull Run, the Union army had disintegrated into a mob and had fled the 25 miles back to Washington in utter panic. They threw away their guns, uniforms and equipment, even trampling all over the Washington civilian spectators, in their haste to escape from the battlefield. General McClellan had immediately been rushed to Washington and named to replace General Winfield Scott as General- in-Chief of All the Union Armies, as well as Commander of the Army of the Potomac. He had been appointed to bring order out of chaos and he had. He had rebuilt the disorganized Army of the Potomac with new equipment, discipline and marching drills. He turned the undisciplined and depressed mob into the finest army the United States had ever seen; but he had never disclosed or discussed what his plans were to win the war with anybody, not even the President. Now, with the ground drying up and a new campaigning season just starting to get under way; President Lincoln wanted to know exactly how McClellan was planning to defeat the Confederacy.

During this early morning conference with Lincoln, McClellan finally told the President that instead of heading overland straight south to Richmond; he planned to move the army by water from its Washington camps to the little tobacco shipping port of Urbanna on the Rappahannock River. From Urbanna, he would march to West Point, which was at the end of the Richmond and York River Railroad line; and then up the railroad line to White House landing on the winding Pamunkey River. Here he would establish a supply base only 23 miles from the City of Richmond. This would put the Union Army squarely between the Confederate capital of Richmond and the Confederacy's main army at Bull Run. It would also force Confederate **General Joseph E. Johnston** to bring his army back from Bull Run to defend the Southern Capital. By using the Richmond and York River Railroad, McClellan would be able to transport his army rapidly to any place along the railroad, where he would be able to attack and defeat, what he thought was **Johnston's** much larger army, as it hurried south to defend Richmond. Then he could easily capture the Confederate Capital and win the war. After Lincoln heard the plan, he said he would think it over and give his decision the next day.

When McClellan explained his plan to the twelve generals assembled at army headquarters later that morning, four of them objected to the plan.

DAY 2 – SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH, 1862

Lincoln met with McClellan’s 12 generals and after telling them he had agreed to McClellan’s plan; he picked Generals Sumner, McDowell, Heintzelman and Keyes to command the four Union Army Corps scheduled to head the Urbanna attack. Unbelievably, three of these four generals had opposed the plan only the day before. Plus, Lincoln also insisted that 25,000 troops from the Army of the Potomac be left behind to protect Washington from a surprise Confederate attack.



harmlessly off the Southern ships’ iron covered sides.
Above photo of Major General George B. McClellan from the National Archives

Also on Saturday, unknown to McClellan, Confederate **General Joseph E. Johnston** had started destroying the immense supplies of food and equipment at the Confederate Bull Run fortifications in northern Virginia and began marching his army south toward Richmond. **Johnston** also destroyed the troublesome Confederate cannon battery closing the Potomac River; that had started the whole thing.

Finally, also on Saturday, as if McClellan didn’t have enough problems, the Confederates newly iron-plated war vessel Virginia, which most people still called by its former name Merrimac, came out of the Norfolk Navy yard into Hampton Roads and attacked the wooden Union Navy fleet blockading Norfolk. The cumbersome monster destroyed and sank two of the most formidable US wooden sided naval warships Cumberland and Congress and drove another two, the Minnesota and St. Lawrence, aground. Union cannon balls just bounced

He started thinking seriously about a fall-back plan of moving his Army not to Urbanna; but to the larger and more secure Union military base, Fort Monroe, at the foot of the Virginia Peninsula.

DAY 3- SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH, 1862

In the morning the Confederate Ironclad ship Merrimac again came out of Norfolk into Hampton Roads to complete the sinking of the grounded Minnesota and St. Lawrence. But this time, a Union Ironclad vessel the Monitor, which had arrived in Hampton Roads the evening before, was there to meet her. The result was the historic first battle between ironclad warships which ended forever the age of wooden warships. When the two vessels drew apart at the end of the day and returned to their respective dockages, neither had been able to inflict significant damage on the other one and the battle was declared a draw. But the Merrimac, because of the poor condition of her engines, would never be able to sail or fight again.

DAY 4 – MONDAY, MARCH 10TH, 1862

For several days McClellan had heard rumors of **Johnston** abandoning the Bull Run defenses. So, he organized what he called “a reconnaissance in force” and headed part of his army toward the Confederate Bull Run Defense Line. When he arrived he was surprised to discover the Confederates were indeed gone; leaving only the smoldering remains of immense piles of food and supplies. The fortifications were also deserted, except for wooden logs painted black to resemble cannon. The Democratic opposition newspapers delighted in these logs and called them Quaker Guns after the famous pacifist religious sect. Then they began to make fun of McClellan, accusing him of being fooled by fake cannon. But this was not true. McClellan knew all about the wooden guns; but because he had never intended to attack the Bull Run defensive line; he hadn’t paid any attention to them. However, with this negative newspaper publicity, and with the Confederate Army gone; McClellan immediately changed the name of his “reconnaissance in force,” to a “practice march.” What McClellan really needed was a good public relations expert.

DAY 5 – TUESDAY, MARCH 11TH, 1862

At Lincoln’s cabinet meeting in the morning, General McClellan was the main topic of discussion. Many of the members of the cabinet were already discouraged by his lack of military accomplishments and when it was learned the Confederates had slipped away from the Bull Run line unmolested; it was the last straw. Since at the time, McClellan was in the field with the Army of the Potomac and unable to return to Washington; Lincoln used a Presidential Order to relieve him of his duties as General of All the Union Armies. The excuse used for his removal was that now he would be able to devote all his time and attention to the one most important army of all, the Army of the Potomac. Unfortunately, since his friend, the former Ohio Governor William Dennison, who had been delegated to deliver the news to him, had been unable to reach him in time; McClellan had to read of his dismissal as General of All the Union Armies in the Washington newspapers. This did not make him happy.



Above photo: Quaker Guns from the Library of Congress

DAY 6 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12TH

The twelve generals met with McClellan for the second time in a week, and discussed the idea of a change of base from Urbanna to Fort Monroe. With **Johnston** and the Rebels already on the way back to Richmond, the plan to land at Urbanna and use the Richmond-York River Railroad to get between **Johnston** and Richmond was now obsolete. A big problem with the plan of changing from Urbanna to Fort Monroe; was that Fort Monroe was closer to the Confederate ironclad monster Merrimac's base at Norfolk than Urbanna. Would the Navy assure McClellan that they could prevent the Merrimac from interfering with the Fort Monroe water movement? When contacted by telegraph, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Gustavus V. Fox assured McClellan they could.



Day 7 – THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH, 1862

The job of obtaining ships to move the army to Fort Monroe began. This was the type of job the Federal Government was superb at. The assistant secretary of war, John Tucker, was put in charge of collecting ships for the movement and he chartered every available steamer on the east coast. One hundred thirteen of them plus 276 schooners, barges and flatboats were hired to transport the troops, artillery, animals and war material to Fort Monroe at a cost of \$24,300 a day. Eventually 121,500 men, 14,592 animals, 1,224 wagons and ambulances, and 44 artillery batteries, along with thousands and thousands of tons of supplies and equipment were safely shipped to Fort Monroe in three weeks. Only one barge, loaded with Artillery guns and mules tipped over. However, everything, including the barge, was saved with the exception of 8 of the mules. The government even transported McClellan's portable printing press. McClellan's campaign to win the war was, at last, about to get under way.

Part 2 will discuss how the Union's Army of the Potomac fights its way up the Peninsula to the gates of Richmond, and prepares for the climactic battle of General McClellan's campaign to win the war.

Map of the Virginia Peninsula by Arlan Byrne and Alan Byrne

**Remarks at the Veterans Day Ceremony, Arlington Cemetery
President John F. Kennedy (November 11, 1961)**

"General Gavan, Mr. Gleason, members of the military forces, veterans, fellow Americans:

Today we are here to celebrate and to honor and to commemorate the dead and the living, the young men who in every war since this country began have given testimony to their loyalty to their country and their own great courage.

I do not believe that any nation in the history of the world has buried its soldiers farther from its native soil than we Americans--or buried them closer to the towns in which they grew up.

We celebrate this Veterans Day for a very few minutes, a few seconds of silence and then this country's life goes on. But I think it most appropriate that we recall on this occasion, and on every other moment when we are faced with great responsibilities, the contribution and the sacrifice which so many men and their families have made in order to permit this country to now occupy its present position of responsibility and freedom, and in order to permit us to gather here together.

Bruce Catton, after totaling the casualties which took place in the battle of Antietam, not so very far from this cemetery, when he looked at statistics which showed that in the short space of a few minutes whole regiments lost 50 to 75 percent of their numbers, then wrote that life perhaps isn't the most precious gift of all, that men died for the possession of a few feet of a corn field or a rocky hill, or for almost nothing at all. But in a very larger sense, they died that this country might be permitted to go on, and that it might permit to be fulfilled the great hopes of its founders.

In a world tormented by tension and the possibilities of conflict, we meet in a quiet commemoration of an historic day of peace. In an age that threatens the survival of freedom, we join together to honor those who made our freedom possible. The resolution of the Congress which first proclaimed Armistice Day, described November 11, 1918, as the end of "the most destructive, sanguinary and far-reaching war in the history of human annals." That resolution expressed the hope that the First World War would be, in truth, the war to end all wars. It suggested that those men who had died had therefore not given their lives in vain.

It is a tragic fact that these hopes have not been fulfilled, that wars still more destructive and still more sanguinary followed, that man's capacity to devise new ways of killing his fellow men have far outstripped his capacity to live in peace with his fellow men.

Some might say, therefore, that this day has lost its meaning, that the shadow of the new and deadly weapons have robbed this day of its great value, that whatever name we now give this day, whatever flags we fly or prayers we utter, it is too late to honor those who died before, and too soon to promise the living an end to organized death. But let us not forget that November 11, 1918, signified a beginning, as well as an end. "The purpose of all war," said Augustine, "is peace." The First World War produced man's first great effort in recent times to solve by international cooperation the problems of war. That experiment continues in our present day--still imperfect, still short of its responsibilities, but it does offer a hope that some day nations can live in harmony.

For our part, we shall achieve that peace only with patience and perseverance and courage--the patience and perseverance necessary to work with allies of diverse interests but common goals, the courage necessary over a long period of time to overcome an adversary skilled in the arts of harassment and obstruction.

There is no way to maintain the frontiers of freedom without cost and commitment and risk. There is no swift and easy path to peace in our generation. No man who witnessed the tragedies of the last war, no man who can imagine the unimaginable possibilities of the next war, can advocate war out of irritability or frustration or impatience. But let no nation confuse our perseverance and patience with fear of war or unwillingness to meet our responsibilities. We cannot save ourselves by abandoning those who are associated with us, or rejecting our responsibilities. In the end, the only way to maintain the peace is to be prepared in the final extreme to fight for our country--and to mean it.

As a nation, we have little capacity for deception. We can convince friend and foe alike that we are in earnest about the defense of freedom only if we are in earnest--and I can assure the world that we are.

This cemetery was first established 97 years ago. In this hill were first buried men who died in an earlier war, a savage war here in our own country. Ninety-seven years ago today, the men in Gray were retiring from Antietam, where thousands of their comrades had fallen between dawn and dusk in one terrible day. And the men in Blue were moving towards Fredericksburg, where thousands would soon lie by a stone wall in heroic and sometimes miserable death.

It was a crucial moment in our Nation's history, but these memories, sad and proud, these quiet grounds, this Cemetery and others like it all around the world, remind us with pride of our obligation and our opportunity.

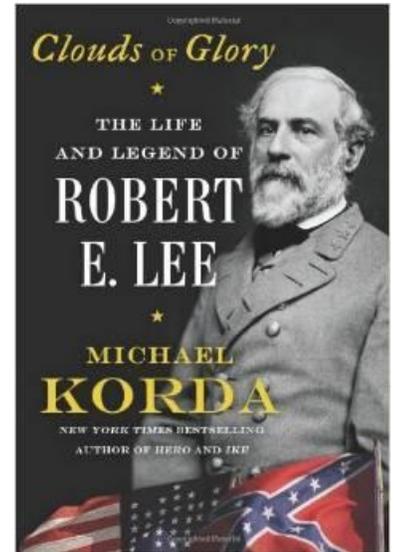
On this Veterans Day, on this day of remembrance, let us pray in the name of those who have fought in this country's wars, that there will be no veterans of any further war--not because all shall have perished but because all shall have learned to live together in peace."

Since this month's NEOCWRT meeting is on Veterans Day 2014, we will ask all Veterans who are members of the NEOCWRT to share a few minutes with us about their time in the service (please note the earlier time listed for dinner start time).

Clouds of Glory, The Life and Legend of Robert E. Lee by Michael Korda – **Book review by Scott Hagara.**

Dr. Robert Stabile stated, in his recent presentation to the NEOCWRT, that there have been over 60,000 books written about the American Civil War. A significant number of those have been written about the subject of author Michael Korda's latest book, **Robert E. Lee**. Our fascination with Lee is never ending, and many authors have tried to document or explain his life as what some regard as America's greatest hero. *Clouds of Glory*, is a very detailed examination of the man, the myth, the legend – Robert E. Lee.

To understand Robert E. Lee, the General, one must get a feel for his character and his early life. Lee's family was among America's aristocracy, and his father was Harry "Light-Horse" Lee, a major figure in the Revolutionary War. Light-Horse Lee's reckless nature resulted in fame during, and disgrace after the war. The failure of his father would prove to be a defining tenant of Robert E. Lee's personality, as he would avoid politics and always hold his family, and his beloved State of Virginia, close to his heart. He always kept a calm and firm presence, with an overriding faith in God's will. The book follows his early days through his success at West Point, his engineering achievements and his outstanding work during the Mexican-American War, which earned him the respect and admiration of General Scott. Despite his achievements, he seemed to see himself as a failure and at times regretted his choice of the military as a career.



Lee's star rose when he was called upon to end John Brown's siege at Harpers Ferry in October, 1859. Lee does his duty and then is forced to struggle with an internal decision to support succession or the Constitution, as he is asked to serve both the U. S. Army as well as the Confederate Army. The book provides a vivid description of the events that defined the succession, and ultimately, Lee's decision to support the Confederacy.

The majority of the book documents the conduct of the war and the struggles that Lee and his army given their limited resources. It provides a detailed analysis of the battles and strategy involved, as well as the conflict Lee had with his generals. One of Lee's faults, as outlined in the book, was his reluctance to enforce his will on his own generals. Second Manassas, for example, had the potential for a huge Confederate victory, but General Longstreet failed to execute a charge that could have routed the Union Army under General Pope, despite repeated suggestions to do so. Lee's failure to order an assault, not saying "if practicable", also occurred at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. Lee went to great lengths to avoid confrontation with his generals. The book follows Lee's life after the war as well, ending with his death in October, 1870.

The book attempts to describe the environment which led to Lee's legacy by many as the saint. The author goes between those who worship Lee, such as Douglas Southall Freeman, those that criticized his tactics, for example James Longstreet, and those that hold Lee as a traitor to his county and tireless efforts to prolong a war that the Confederacy could never win. The author clearly thought positively of Lee, but also recognized that he had flaws.

One issue that I had with the author is that he thought Lee's position on slavery was similar to Abraham Lincoln's in that both men did not agree with the institution of slavery. I find that to be too basic a stance. Lee owned slaves and held very racist views, even testifying after the war that blacks were inferior to whites.

Clouds of Glory is very detailed. It is a little too long for my liking. The book numbered 1,200 pages (large print, of course), with another 200 pages of footnotes. I found it to offer great insight into the Army of Northern Virginia from the Confederate perspective. I also found it to be very repetitive at times. An example of this is the fact that he quoted Frederick the Great's "**he who defends everything, defends nothing**" on six separate occasions in the book. I do recommend this book to anyone interested in learning a lot about Robert E. Lee.

Published in 2014 by HarperCollins Publishers, the book is available at the Mentor Public Library and for purchase at all fine book stores.