



THE COURIER



Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



Tuesday September 11th, 2012 Meeting #128

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

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

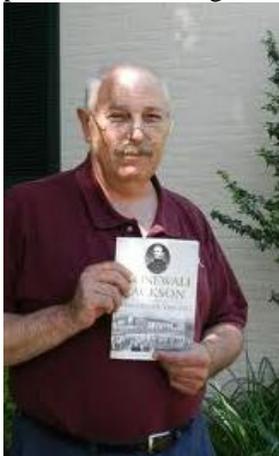
Speaker: Jerry W. Holsworth

Topic: "Stonewall Jackson and Winchester, Virginia"

Reservations required Please call Steve Abbey

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

Jerry W. Holsworth is a free lance sports writer in Frederick County, Virginia and the author of several articles on the American Civil War. J. W. Holsworth's articles have appeared in *Blue and Gray* and *Civil War Times* magazines. He worked as a park ranger at Antietam National Battlefield and has conducted numerous battlefield tours of the Shenandoah Valley and historic, Winchester, Virginia. He served as the manager of the George Washington Office Museum and was a docent at the *Stonewall Jackson Museum* in Winchester. Mr. Holsworth developed his passion for writing, while covering sporting events for Winchester area newspapers.



Civil War Winchester was his first book and it offers a very candid and personal view of the citizens of that war torn town. Winchester was the most disputed town of the Civil War, it changed hands 75 times. Needless to say, the war was especially hard on the citizens of Winchester but somehow, they managed to preserve. Jerry Holsworth spent years collecting notes and studying the diaries of the citizens of Winchester and *Civil War Winchester* was the result of that enterprise.

Heywood Shepard was a night watchman for the Winchester and Potomac Railroad. Shepherd was shot and killed on the night of October 17, 1859 in Harpers Ferry, Virginia while protecting the railroad's property. Heywood Shepard was married and the father of 8 children. Heywood Shepard was an African American, a Free African American, who lived in Winchester. John Brown's Raiders had killed a free man in their quest to foment a slave rebellion throughout the South.

Frederick County Virginia had a population of 16,000 citizens and 2300 slaves. Winchester, Va. had a population of 4400 people but 655 of those citizens were free African Americans!

The election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency, in November of 1860, resulted in increase tensions in the Shenandoah Valley and throughout the South. The Democratic Party was split between John Breckinridge and Frederic Douglas while John Bell was the Constitution Party candidate. Most of the citizens of Winchester and the surrounding valley had strong union ties. Many of the original settlers of the Shenandoah Valley were German, Scottish and Irish farmers and shop keepers that had migrated south through the Cumberland Valley from Pennsylvania. They were Quakers, Lutherans and Presbyterians. They were a peace loving, people that had little in common with the big tobacco plantation owners and gentlemen farmers that resided east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, in the tide water region on antebellum Virginia.

The citizens of the valley opposed disunion. Attorney, Robert Conrad, a former state senator and Winchester resident, warned a gathering at the Frederick County Court House that calls for secession “threatened the destruction of our Union and Constitution and that meant civil war and the loss to civilized man of all hope of securing peace, liberty and happiness by a representative, republican form of government.” A week later South Carolina seceded from the union. After the South fired on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, Lincoln called for 75,000 troops from the individual states, to put down the rebellion. A peace delegation from the state of Virginia went to Washington to see President Lincoln but he refused to meet with them. Virginia’s State delegation voted to secede from the Union and the people of the valley could not turn their backs on their home state.



Every year, on the sixth of June, the citizens of Winchester, Virginia gather at the Stonewall Cemetery to honor the Confederate soldiers buried there. But the people of Winchester also gather to honor the memory and deeds of many civilian heroes and heroines who devoted their time and efforts caring for the wounded soldiers of both the North and the South. That story was presented in Holsworth’s first book, *Civil War Winchester, Virginia*.

Left Photograph: The Frederick County Court House in Winchester, Va.

From November 1861 through March 1862, Thomas Jonathan Jackson, better known by his nom de guerre: Stonewall, made his headquarters in Winchester, Va. at the home of Colonel Lewis T. Moore, a member of his staff. Stonewall Jackson has been called one of the greatest military leaders in American history. His battle tactics and strategies are studied by military academies throughout the world. In the pantheon of Southern Confederate Heroes, Stonewall Jackson ranks second only to Robert E. Lee. However, hard core civil war history enthusiasts would challenge that ranking and place R.E. Lee in the second position!



After the successful release of his first book, Mr. Holsworth was asked to write an article for a prominent Civil War magazine. The article was to chronicle the time period in which General Jackson made his headquarters in Winchester. With the help, resources and encouragement of a good friend, Ben Ritter, Holsworth expanded that article into what became his second book, *Stonewall Jackson and Winchester, Virginia*. *Left Photograph: General Thomas J. Jackson from the National Achieves*

In his new book, Jerry W. Holsworth examines the relationship between General T. J. Jackson and the residents of Winchester and Frederick County, Virginia. Note: Winchester is the county seat of Frederick County and its citizen came to admire the Confederate hero of the Battle of First Manassas and rely on his presence as a deterrent to the “damn Yankee invaders” that threatened their homes and livelihood.

In March of 1862, General George B. McClellan brought his Army of the Potomac of more than 118,000 men, to the Peninsula of Virginia. His goal was to move up the Peninsula from Fortress Monroe capturing Yorktown, Williamsburg and finally the Confederate capital of Richmond.

Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston commanded the forces of the Army of Northern Virginia which were deployed around Richmond and the Virginia Peninsula.

On April 14, 1862, General Johnston met with President Jefferson Davis and members of his cabinet to discuss the defense of Richmond. Johnston argued that General Jackson's command of 18,000 men was needed for the defense of the Peninsula. Therefore, it was imperative that Jackson move his command to Richmond with all possible speed. General Robert E. Lee, President Davis' military advisor, reasoned that Jackson would be more beneficial to the defense of Richmond if he were to remain in the Shenandoah Valley and prevent the 40,000 man corps of General Ervin McDowell, which was deployed near Fredericksburg, Virginia, from uniting with McClellan's forces east of Richmond.

General Lee dispatched orders to Stonewall Jackson via telegraph and choreographed his movements in what became known as the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862. President Lincoln and War Secretary Stanton became so frightened that Stonewall Jackson might attack Washington that they cancelled the orders that would have sent McDowell's 40,000 men to link up with McClellan's Army of the Potomac. The rescinded order by President Lincoln created serious problems for the "Young Napoleon." McClellan had established his base of supply at White House Landing on the Pamunkey River. Stanton had ordered McClellan to extend his right flank in order to link up with McDowell's corps. With McClellan's supply base exposed and vulnerable to attack, it would not be long until General Lee would take advantage of this development.

Travel



Above Photograph: the Shenandoah Valley from Virginia

- Early in May 1862, Stonewall Jackson took part of his command and joined up with General Edward "Alleghany" Johnson's force of nearly 5000 men. On May 8, 1862, a reinforced, Jackson with approximately 11,000 men attacked part of Union General John C. Fremont's army, commanded by General Robert Milroy and defeated them at McDowell.
- Jackson returned to the Shenandoah Valley and marched his "foot cavalry" north toward New Market while Confederate General Richard Ewell's division of nearly 7000 men marched east into the Luray Valley. On May 23, 1862, Jackson and Ewell's combined forces attacked the Union army garrison at Front Royal capturing hundreds of Federal prisoners.
- On May 25, 1862, Jackson's Army of the Valley defeated Union General Nathaniel Banks at the First Battle of Winchester. Banks army was forced to retreat north to the safety of the Potomac River.
- President Lincoln was growing more and more distressed by Jackson's success in the valley and dispatched a reinforced John C. Fremont and David Shields back for a rematch with Jackson's grey backs. On June 8, 1862 Jackson eluded his Federal pursuers and defeated Fremont at the Battle of Cross Keys.
- On June 9, 1862, The Army of the Valley caught up with Shields and defeated him at Port Republic. Fremont and Shields retreated from the Shenandoah Valley and General Thomas Jonathan Jackson was ordered to bring his army to Richmond to help defeat McClellan's Army of the Potomac.

References: Gary Gallagher, *The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862* 2003, University of North Carolina

Gary Ecelbarger, *Three Days in the Shenandoah: Stonewall Jackson at Front Royal and Winchester*, 2008 University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma

Jerry W. Holsworth, *Civil War Winchester*, 2011, History Press, Charleston, South Carolina

Jerry W. Holsworth, *Stonewall Jackson and Winchester Virginia*, 2012 History Press, Charleston, South Carolina

CIVIL WAR JOURNAL by Franco M. Sperrazzo Program Coordinator

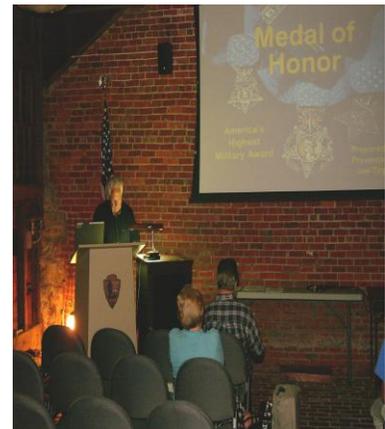
May 15th Meeting, Edwin Cole Bearss, “A World Class Historian”: It would be pointless to describe the details of Ed Bearss’ presentation to the overflow, Dino’s audience, back on May 15th. To keep it simple, President Lincoln and George Brinton McClellan, were never on each other’s favorite people list.



We will not make a habit, of moving our meetings to the 3rd Tuesday of the month, unless our favorite son, from Arlington, Virginia, is the keynote speaker. Mr. Bearss, is a true American hero and a historian without equal. He is a valiant World War II veteran and he became our 1st honorary club member. Born on June 26, 1923, in Montana near the Little Big Horn Battlefield, Ed’s military father, read to him and his brother, stories about General Custer’s Last Stand and other stories from American history. The next time our elder statesmen travels to Ohio to spend time with our membership and guests, we will have a special birthday cake for him!

The Summer Speaker Symposium, July 13th, @ James A. Garfield’s Lawnfield Auditorium: Our Founders were on hand for the First Annual Civil War Speaker Symposium at the Lawnfield National Historic Site. Bob Baucher kicked off the evening with: *“How Ohio Won the Civil War”*. Norton J.London batted second with: *“Ulysses S. Grant the Man”* and Joseph E. Tirpak presented his evolving and stimulating *“Medal of Honor”* program.

James A. Garfield’s Lawnfield Symposium photos by Frank Moore



Above photographs left: **Bob Baucher,**

Above center: **Norton London**

Above right: **Joe Tirpak**

Our editor, John Sandy assisted Bob Baucher with a Power Point presentation using graphics and photographs to enhance Professor Baucher’s “How Ohio Won the Civil War.”. Yours truly was privileged to introduce our panel of historians. We owe a great thanks and appreciation to Sherda Williams, Todd Arrington and Scott Longert, of the National Park Service, who sponsored this special event that drew more than 3 dozen people from Northeast Ohio. Many NEOCWRT members were in attendance and helped to make this inaugural event a success.

Mentor Library, “Great Battles of the Civil War Series” September 12th James A. Garfield’s park rangers and guides continue their ongoing series commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War on Wednesday, Sept 12, 2012, at 12:00 noon until 1:15pm. The battle topic will be “Antietam,” leading up to the Sept 17, anniversary date. Call the Mentor library at 440 255 8811 to confirm. Reservations are not needed. It’s Ok if you want to bring your lunch.

Fall Field Trip: Sept 27-30th, MANASSAS NATIONAL MILITARY PARK: There is not an official NEOCWRT excursion this year. Arlan Byrne, Tom Horvath, John Sandy and I met with the National Park

Service looking for suggestions on a guide for a 2 day field trip to Manassas, Virginia. We our “hard core, Civil War battle field junkies” and we want to visit an historic site every fall! We have contacted Henry / Hank Elliott, a highly qualified, professional park ranger. He has agreed to be our guide. Honorary member, George E. Deutsch, was with “Hank” last week when the NPS conducted a 150th Anniversary program honoring the Battle of Second Manassas. No deposits are being accepted. Arlan will come to the lectern on Tuesday September 11th and present more information for those who may be interested in joining us.

Medical Update: Our 2010 President Terry Reynolds, is on the mend. Over 2 months ago he was stricken with a heart problem. Initially Joe Tirpak, updated Terry’s condition to our Executive Board. His Son Mark, also gave me progress reports. We are pleased to the Grace of God that Terry is in good spirits, his memory is sharp, and he is exercising and resuming daily activities. We hope to have him back on Tuesday.

Condolences & Sympathy: Last Tuesday I received news of sorrow from Joe Tirpak. His Wife Judy’s mother, Madeleine Beacham, passed away over the Labor Day weekend. Mrs. Beacham lived in many different places because Judy’s dad traveled in his work for Standard Oil. She did spend many years in Euclid. Had Madeleine Beacham lived to September 29th, she would have surpassed her 97th year. Western Reserve Hospice was quite caring and supportive in her final weeks as expressed by JET. A private service will be held to honor her long life. Our thoughts and prayers on behalf of the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table go out the to the Beacham and Tirpak families.

Jerry Holsworth, Archivist, and Author & Historian: Mr. Holsworth will be our special guest and keynote speaker. He is traveling from Winchester, VA. This is the quaint, historic town that changed hands 6 dozen times during the war. Mr. Holsworth, will bring his 2 books to sign should you desire to purchase. Editor Sandy will elaborate more on Jerry Holsworth and his extensive background on his cover page. During our next meet, we will observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the tragedy of September 11th, 2001.

“Proclaim liberty throughout the Land unto all the inhabitants there of”

Leviticus 25:10

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

John Sandy Editor

Staff Writers: Franco Sperrazzo Tom Horvath Carl Dodaro Ted Karle

Norton London Joe Tirpak Arlan Byrne Dr. Robert Stabile

Brent Morgan Richmond, Virginia Correspondent



LOOKING FOR FUTURE PRESENTERS

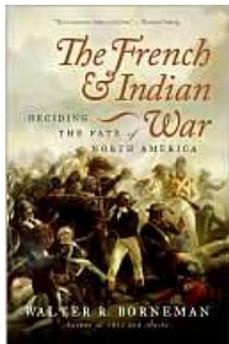
An excellent group of speakers are scheduled for 2012/ 2013. Before we schedule any additional future speakers, we would like to hear from our membership.

Many of you have presented to us in the past. Some members have interesting information that our Roundtable would enjoy hearing about. Suggestions are: Civil War related collections; visits of sites that some members know little about; topics from specific areas of the Civil War. Any of these are good topics for future talks.

Don’t be shy! Everyone has a story to tell.

Bob B. or Norty are happy to assist you in arranging your information for a future presentation. Please contact us: Bob Baucher 440/942-8627 – Norty London 216/321-7695

***The French & Indian War* by Walter R. Borneman** – a book review by Tom Horvath



My first thought upon reading the early part of this book was, “Why is the author paying so little attention to the incident involving George Washington that some feel may have precipitated the French & Indian War?” As I read on, the answer became clear. For three centuries, France and Great Britain had been at war more years than they had not. The conflict we call the French & Indian War began as part of a much larger conflict between the French allies and the British allies, but lasted a year longer. The wider war, that came to be known as the Seven Years War, began in 1756 and ended in 1762. It was fought in North America, Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa, India, the Caribbean, and the Philippines. The author goes so far as to suggest that this was actually the first World War.

Mr. Borneman’s primary interest is the conflict in North America, but it is unreasonable to separate that conflict entirely from the rest. The relative importance that the leaders of France and Great Britain placed on the various theaters of war had a significant impact on the outcome in North America. It is the author’s contention that a combination of events in Europe and the vision of British Prime Minister William Pitt were the major reasons why North America east of the Mississippi River became British territory.

Interestingly enough, even the success at arms of Great Britain did not ensure that North America would remain in British hands. As was customary after each conflict, the combatants sat down at the peace conference and divided up territory. Though Britain had prevailed, it was deemed necessary to exchange and return some territory to France to maintain a balance of power. Guadeloupe, in the Caribbean, produced much more revenue than all of the Canadian fur trade and had been captured by the British in 1759. Britain might well have chosen to keep Guadeloupe and return Canada to France had the decision been based solely on fiscal considerations.

No American Indian tribes attended the peace conference that ended the Seven Years War, so they were free to carry on the conflict. Under the guidance of Chief Pontiac, they continued to fight the British and Colonials after France ceded control in North America. Though conflict with Native American tribes continued for a hundred years more, intense fighting ended after about a year and marked the end of the French & Indian War.

This was one of the most easily understood books on war that I have read in some time. Mr. Borneman’s prose flows well. He pares down the number of important individuals and does an excellent job of reacquainting the reader with those that reappear intermittently. He dispels the romantic aura that surrounds some of the participants -- Wolfe, Montcalm, and Rogers. His handling of the intricacies of European politics during the 1700s provides enough information to understand the important relationships without getting bogged down in excessive detail. I have read an entire volume on the battles surrounding Fort Ticonderoga during the French & Indian War, so more detail is available about individual battles. Still, I felt the battles were adequately described and presented at a level that gave the reader a good sense of the tactics, the flow, and the errors committed by each side. All in all, this is an excellent overarching description of the French & Indian War that places it properly within the context of the Seven Years War.

Published in 2006 by Harper-Collins, the volume contains 360 pages, a notes section, a bibliography, and an index. The author also includes a number of high level maps and a list thereof, a list of “Key Players”, and a chronology of important events. Amazon has the hard cover available for \$19.37, the paperback for \$11.99, and the Kindle electronic version for \$10.99. Barnes and Noble has the hardcover for \$19.75 and the Nook electronic version for \$10.99. Mentor Public Library has one copy, as does the ClevNet System.