



THE COURIER



Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



Tuesday April 14th, 2015 Meeting #152

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

Pine Ridge Country Club

30601 Ridge Road, Wickliffe, Ohio

Guest Speaker: Judge Paul Mitrovich

Topic: Justice Delayed: The Road to Brown v. Board of Ed. Of Topeka and the Civil Rights Movement

Reservations required Guests are Welcome Please call Mike Sears

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

CIVIL WAR JOURNAL of Franco M. Sperrazzo: Events Coordinator



March 10th meeting: “Women in the Civil War”

Mary Louise Daley performed admirably with emotion and personal stories of women who were influential during the Civil War years. Ms. Daley profiled Mary Todd Lincoln, Confederate First Lady Varina Davis, spy Belle Boyd, fighting women dressed as soldiers, Underground Railroad advocate Harriet Tubman, and unsung heroes on the battlefield like nurse Clara Barton. Ms. Daley is an excellent and well researched source for those wishing to know the behind the scenes under rated role women played from 1861-1865 on both sides of the Civil War.

2015 Spring Tour of Hiram College, Saturday May 30th: The Hiram College campus tour arrangements are as follows:



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

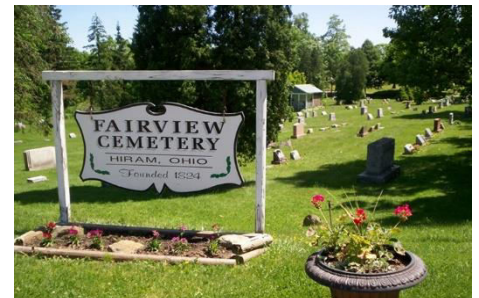
11:00am: A short stroll across State Route 700 to historic Koritansky Hall to hear Professor Doug Brattebo lecture on "The James A. Garfield Institute for the Study of the American Presidency."



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

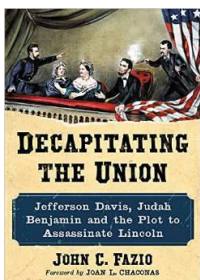
1:15pm: Depart for **Main Street Grill and Brewing Co.** 3 miles south on St. Rt. 700. The address is 8148 Main Street, Garrettsville Ohio, 44231 Phone: (330) 527-3663 website to peruse their new April menu: www.msg-brew.com

3:00 pm: Civil War bonus panel discussion with members of the NEOCWRT and JAGNHS park staff. The hearty program should spark some good questions and are encouraged. The tour and lunch events should end at 3:45pm. A sign-up sheet will be offered next Tuesday April 14th. Cost will be \$18 per person. Join us for our exploration of the former Western Reserve Eclectic Institute. Also the James A. Garfield experience as it began in 1851. Phone Franco for RSVP: 440-567-2414



Mentor Library/Major Battles of the Civil War Lunchtime Speaker Series April 8th: Noon-1:1pm. The schedule fluke appears this month as the JAG staff and volunteers present the program "Surrender at Appomattox". Robert E. Lee comes to the McClean house to hear surrender terms from U. S. Grant on April 9th, 1865. The war unofficially continued with fighting through the end of June. Reserve your seat to the free program in the lower level of the Garfield room 440-255-8811. Location is 8215 Mentor Avenue.

John C. Fazio, Esquire Book Release: Speaker, author and retired attorney John C. Fazio's book has been recently published.

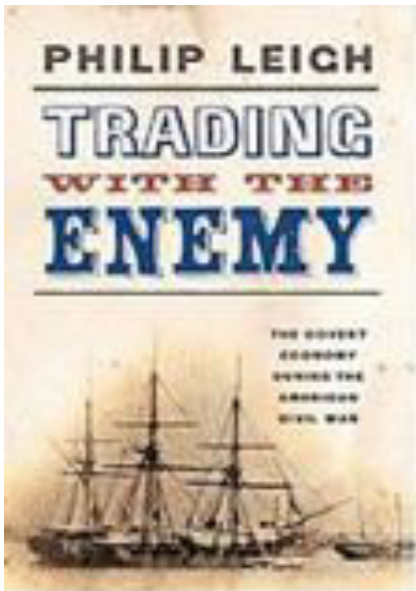


The title is "Decapitating the Union". Mr. Fazio, has been a guest speaker to our group on 4 occasions, most recently this past January. He is gifted in his knowledge and his style by addressing his audience in a unique mode that may shift from first to third person at times in the form of a one man stage play. The manuscript for this writing depicts the plot to kill Abraham Lincoln by implicating Jefferson Davis, Judah Benjamin and others. Mr. Fazio sent a fact sheet that will be forwarded to our club membership in the exact form received containing reviews and the means of how to obtain the book.

Friends of James A. Garfield NHS Fundraiser May 6th from 5-8pm: The first event will raise

proceeds to support site endeavors for outreach, promotional events, and advocacy efforts of the organization. Location is the Loft Room at Red Wine & Brew, 9620 Old Johnny cake Ridge Road, Mentor, OH. Cost: \$55. / Couple \$30. Person. Table and Events sponsorships starting at \$250. Checks payable to: **The Friends of JAGNHS**, Post Office Box 1761 Mentor, OH 44061-1761. Food will be served visit: www.Friendsofjamesagarfieldnhs.org.

Multiple Topics: Contact Paul Siedel for the “**Tour of Cleveland Civil War Connections**” he will be narrating for the benefit of the Woodland Cemetery Foundation on April 19th, phone 216-961-6033. Paul is stepping aside from his Executive Committee obligation due to teaching evening history classes. **Joseph Tirpak** will assume the responsibility and join Arlan Byrne, Ted Karle, John Sandy and this writer as Directors of Special Projects. **Roster Updates for Mike Sears:** Mike is completing the 2014-15 new member roster. If longer tenure members have changes or corrections kindly inform Mike ASAP @ mikeanddonnas@roadrunner.com. Spring is finally here so good luck and physical health to the Tribe. May they not be jinxed by the Sports Illustrated predictions. Hope the Cavs go deep and bring home the NBA Championship for the 1st time to Cleveland/NE OHIO.



Trading with the Enemy

By Philip Leigh

A Book Review by Tom Horvath

Despite the dry nature of the topic, this turned out to be an interesting book. The subject is the illicit trade that took place between North and South during the Civil War. There was a considerable amount of such trade, probably worth many millions of 1860 dollars. It was spurred by the huge profits available to those who were willing to take the risk, and condoned at the highest levels.

Initially, trade was officially illegal between the combatants, and the North sought to strangle the South financially by issuing a blockade of southern ports. The problem was, the blockade also hurt the North which depended on cotton exports to Europe to balance our foreign trade (cotton accounted for at least half of the value of our exports) and on cotton itself to keep the mills of New England working. The situation led to some unexpected events.

There were more blockade runners from New England than from England. Northern businessmen traded goods and arms to the South to get the cotton to run their mills.

The trade was so important to the North that certain trades were legalized. It was an evolving process, but in most cases a permit was required. The trade was so lucrative that these permits were highly prized – which led to bribery, cronyism, and fraud. Usually, the items going south had to be non-military. However, it became difficult to determine what was non-military. Food became a critical resource to the armies of the South.

In fact, food impacted the location of Southern troops. By 1863, the South was so short of supplies that Lee moved Longstreet's corps away to facilitate provisioning. When Hooker attacked, Lee was outnumbered two to one because Longstreet was too far away to support him. Lee was able to carry the battle of Chancellorsville

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because he still had Jackson's corps. And he only had that corps available because he was able to get enough incremental provisions from between-the-line trades with the North.

Toward the end of the war, Congress recognized the value of this trade to the South and passed legislation to curtail the practice. Lincoln, for his own reasons, did everything he could to keep the trade moving. In his concluding chapter, Mr. Leigh feels that Lincoln erred and that the trade extended the war at least six months, costing the North thousands of lives and millions of dollars.

Probably the worst part of the trade was the tarnish it put on the reputations of men with otherwise splendid credentials. Admiral Porter sent his men many miles inland to find cotton and other goods. Only Confederate owned cotton was subject to confiscation, so his men stenciled "CSA" on the bales, regardless of who really owned it, then cross that off and stencil "USN". The confiscated goods were then adjudicated at a naval prize court and the proceeds distributed among the officers and men, with the Admiral receiving the largest share.

The worst of the culprits was Benjamin Butler. When Butler took command in New Orleans in 1862 his net worth was around \$150,000. Butler was an intelligent man and left no hard evidence of his dealings, but six years later he was worth around \$3 million. He didn't make it all on a Major General's salary.

Mr. Leigh has taken a rather dry subject and turned it into a relatively interesting book. It is well written and flows smoothly. My only concern is not with the facts, but with the concentration of facts. The book is about the illicit trade and, as such, deals only with those people who were involved, leaving the impression that almost everyone was. That is a danger with all books of this kind and it is difficult to avoid.

Published in 2014 by Westholme Publishing, the volume contains only 182 pages, a notes section, an index, and a bibliography. It is sprinkled with photographs, illustrations, maps, and a few tables. Barnes & Noble has a hardcover edition for \$20.83 and their electronic version for \$10.99. Amazon has only their electronic version for \$10.99. Mentor Public Library owns one copy and the ClevNet System owns two copies -- at Cleveland and Euclid.

April Speaker – Judge Paul H. Mitrovich

Judge Paul H. Mitrovich recently retired from the Lake County Common Pleas Court, General Division, after 30 years of service. While serving on the Common Pleas Bench, Judge Mitrovich regularly sat by assignment in the Cuyahoga, Summit, Lorraine, and Stark County Common Pleas Courts. He was also privileged to be appointed to sit on the 8th, 9th, and 10th Appellate Courts.

Judge Mitrovich served as the elected Lake County Prosecuting Attorney. As the County Prosecutor, he established the Lake County Forensic Laboratory and the Lake County Narcotics Agency. Both agencies have been functioning for 40 years and serve a valuable adjunct to law enforcement in North East Ohio. He also served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Assistant Law Director for three Lake County cities. Judge Mitrovich's legal career spans 49 years.

Judge Mitrovich received his Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Toledo. He also holds Master and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Nevada. He has the honor to be the first judge in Ohio to earn a Ph.D. degree. He currently sits by assignment of the Ohio Supreme Court and teaches a variety of subjects at the Lakeland Community College. Judge Mitrovich has been a OPATA instructor at the Lakeland Community College Police Academy since its inception over 40 years ago.

Judge Mitrovich is the author of the book *JUSTICE DELAYED: The Road to Brown v. Board Of Ed. Of Topeka and the Civil Rights Movement*. The book deals with the historical, social, political, and economic forces which created the climate for the landmark decision of Brown v. Board of Education, which ultimately created the Civil Rights Movement.

A Comment from the Editor:

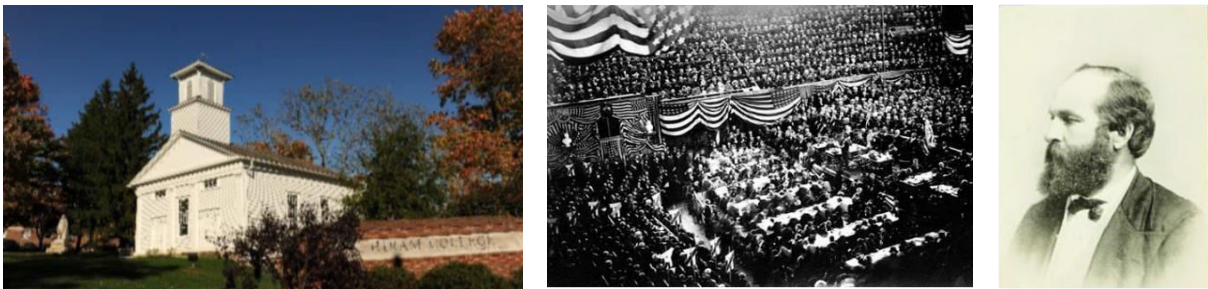
This is a call to anyone who has an interesting Civil War story to tell – send it in! I am happy to include in the Courier any anecdotes, recollections, or jokes pertaining to past NEOCWRT events or Civil War battles or personalities. Don't worry about grammatical or spelling errors; they can be fixed. I believe the involvement of these types of features from different members will make the Courier all the more readable.

-Rebecca Byrne
Rbyrne2@hotmail.com

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



Visit the Archives of the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment



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



Fairview Cemetery & the Hiram Students of the 42nd OVI

Cost of the Tour: \$18.00 per person

Date: Saturday May 30th Time: 9:30

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

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

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

*US News and World Report