



THE COURIER



Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



Tuesday, January 10th, 2012 Meeting #118

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

Guest Speaker: Bill Koeckert

Topic: World War II to the Korean War, My Service to America

Canteen at 6:00 pm

Dinner at 7:00 pm

Guests are welcome

Reservations required

Please call Mike Sears

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

Bill Koeckert is a recent member of our Round Table and a friend of long-time member Frank Moore. Bill is a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He was born on *Columbus Day* in 1925 and recently celebrated his 86th birthday. Bill is a graduate of the Culver Military Academy. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in December of 1943. His career in the Military is not only unique but historic and it is in that capacity that he will speak to us at the January meeting.

Bill was a member of a special U.S. Army investigative unit that was involved in the conviction and execution of General Hideki Tojo on December 23, 1948. General Tojo had served as Minister of War, Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese General Staff. He is most remembered for ordering the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, "*A Day that will live in Infamy!*" Bill will share his insights on the process leading to the conviction and execution of General Tojo.

In addition, Bill will share some thoughts and insights on General "Black Jack" Pershing of WW I fame and General Douglas MacArthur, the highest ranking WW II officer in the Pacific theater. Bill left the Army in 1950 and enrolled at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio to pursue a B.S. degree. However, fate again intervened! During his first semester of classes at Miami he was called back into the armed services for the Korean War. During this period he was selected for Officer Candidate School and was in the last group of Officers to complete the "*90 Day Wonders*" OCS Program." During the Korean War, Bill rose to the rank of Captain of a Tank Company and subsequently to the rank of Major.

Taking advantage of the G.I. Bill he earned his B.S. Degree from the University of Omaha. Bill, a widower, has two daughters. Lynn lives in Kansas City, MO and Mary lives in Savannah, GA. We owe so very much to our Veterans who served and fought for our freedom. This meeting will provide us an opportunity for us to say THANK YOU!

J.E. Tirpak

Founder and Program Chair

14th PRESIDENT'S CIVIL WAR JOURNAL by Franco M. Sperrazzo Jan 10, 2012

DECEMBER 13th MEETING. We first met Richard L. McElroy in the spring of 2011, at the McKinley Museum. He lived up to his pre game hype. Richard, accompanied by his lovely wife Pam, presented "Rating Ohio Presidents and First Ladies; also their roles during the Civil War." Unlike last year's temperatures in the teens, we eclipsed the upper 40's and our members and guests responded in force some 71 present to set a NEOCWRT Club record. The question and answer session sparked some debate and energy. In conversation with some cabinet members, we believe Mr. McElroy will be participating in future programs or symposiums we may participate in. Thank you to our friends, the McElroys from the Canton, Ohio area.

Membership Dues for 2012: this is your 1st official notice in print. In spite of all the NEOCWRT Club has to offer, we have held our membership dues at \$55.00. That includes your rights to attend 9 regular meetings, spring tour, Summer Program, Fall Field trip and anything special we may contrive. Please keep your check for dues separate from the monthly dinner meeting fee charge for Dino's. You can bring it to the January 10th meeting or make out the \$55.00 check to NEOCWRT memo: 2012 club dues- or mail to Bill Meissner, Treasurer, 9571 Headlands Road, Mentor Ohio 44060.

Changing of the Guard: Congratulations to Steve Abbey, our 15th president and an active member since 2000. Steve has been a regular on club outings and proactive on the Executive Board. New First Lady is his wonderful wife Roberta. John Michael Sears has been elevated to Sergeant of Arms and will man the entrance table for our 2012 meetings. Mike has served in this capacity previously and is another versatile, talent like Steve, willing to do what it takes in the best interest of our club. Mike's wife Donna has also been a great support to him.

January 10th, 2012 New Year Meeting; William "Bill" Koekert, veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict. Bill will reflect on his dedicated years of military service over 2 periods of war the United States was engaged in and offer insights into the personalities of some commanders he served under. We are privileged to have "Big Bill" in our organization. **Special Note:** We were honored to have Hudson Fowler III bring his father to our Holiday meeting. Hudson II turned the century mark earlier in 2011. We also were pleased to have Arlan Byrne bring his wife Patricia, who has not been able to attend this past year due to medical setbacks. We regret the absence of Joe "The JET" Tirpak and his best friend Judy. Dr. Leslie West, a charter member of NEOCWRT since 1998, passed away last May. A streamer will be added to our Club American flag in his honor during our Jan.10.meeting.

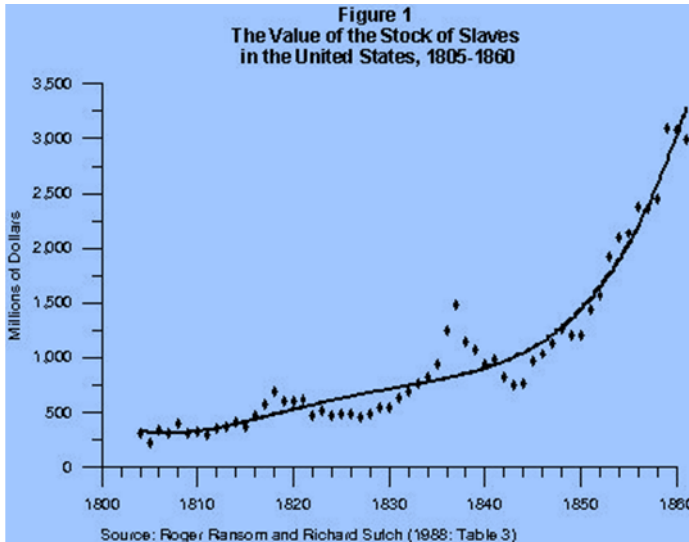


2011, The Year In Review: A message of recognition to the Founders, Executive Cabinet & Membership for making monthly programs & special events under my administration so memorable. In **January** Ted Karle presented the history of the Taps. Our founders pledged memorial streamers in the name of our deceased members: Sig Jansen, Dr. Bob Battisti, Connie Sipple, Judge Norman Feurst, Ron Morgan and John Krause. **February** Norton London pinched hit for Dr. Phillip Price. He admirably profiled the "Life and Times of Jefferson Davis." **March** Dr. Edward J. Pershey, WRHS chronicled North East Ohio at the outbreak of the Civil War. **April** Libby and Keith Rocco's portrait of the Civil War in art form. **May** George H. Deutsch debated Lincoln/Taney, Civil War adversaries. **September** Dick Muny displayed his fabulous gun collection. **October** A Wilson Greene, Civil War and West Virginia in 1861. **November** Dr. Dan Cudnik "Guerrilla Warfare beyond Appomattox." **December** Founding father and presidential expert Richard L. McElroy back for a return visit. On May 21st Tim Barrett, introduced by John and Terri Sandy, led us on a historic Cleveland tour. The summer picnic at the German Gottscheer Club was orchestrated by Ted Karle and others. The Fall field trip October 21 was coordinated by Ted Karle, George Deutsch and Yours Truly. An alternative trip to Gettysburg was resurrected. Accomplished were new directory and roster member packets by Steve Abbey and Mike Sears. Charter member badges by Arlan Byrne. New member and president's oath from Joe Tirpak. Member business cards and a possible legacy project by our ad hoc committee. I am proud of the growth of our great club, 6 new members, 10 or more guests at monthly programs and a holiday meeting of record breaking attendance. May all who comprise the nucleus of our active NEOCWRT have a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous 2012. Franco #14
(Above photographs by Cyndi Sperrazzo and Bob Bartok)

The Social and Economic Causes of the Civil War

Most historians agree that slavery was the major cause of the American Civil War but there is considerable disagreement concerning how economic and social factors induced eleven Southern States to secede from the union and establish the Confederate State of America. By 1860, four out of every ten people living in the South were slaves and while the Northern States were experiencing the benefits and problems of the Industrial Revolution, Southern society was more than content to continue living their lives in an agrarian plantation system that provided ample income for its gentlemen farmers.

The slave population in 1860 was valued at nearly \$ 3 billion and represented ½ of the agricultural labor force of the South. Roger Ransom and Richard Sutch gathered statistical data that established the value of the slave population in the South from 1805 – 1860. (See Figure 1.)



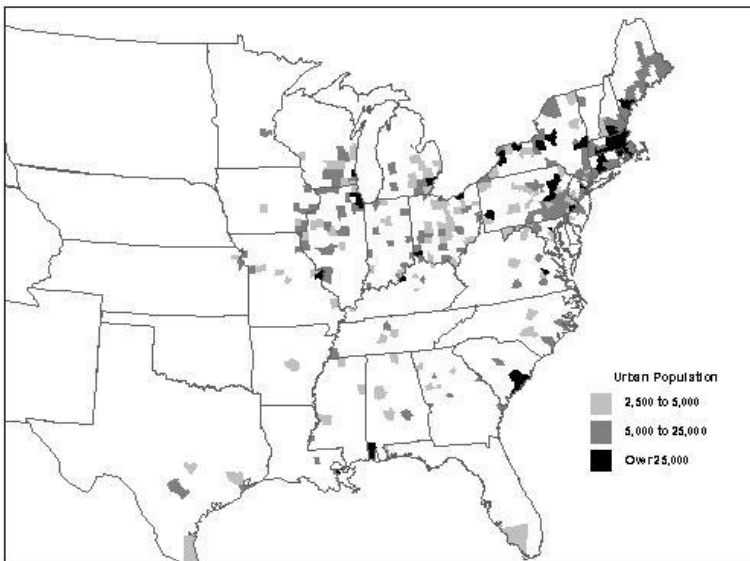
Although the value of the slaves may have fluctuated from year to year, the overall value increased and was not the result of financial speculation. (1)

The prosperity of the entire United States economy was based upon the South’s ability to produce cotton more efficiently than any other region in the world. Great Britain and most European countries came to rely on an ever increasing supply of short staple cotton from the South in order to meet the demand for textile products throughout the world. Nobel Prize winning economist, Douglas North examined the effects of trade within the United States from 1790 – 1860 and determined that all geographic regions in the United States benefited from the South’s production of cotton. (2)

“The low price of raw cotton produced by slave labor in the American South enabled textile manufactures both in the United States and Britain to expand production and provide benefits to consumers through a declining cost of textile products. As the manufacture of all kinds expanded at home and abroad, the need for food in cities created markets for foodstuff that could be produced in the areas north of the Ohio River. And the primary force at work was the economic stimulus from the export of Southern Cotton. When James Hammond exclaimed in 1859: “Cotton is King,” no one rose to dispute the point.” *EH. Net The Economic History Association, Feb.2, 2010* (3)

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Map 1: Urban Population of the United States in 1860



EH.Net The Economic History Association Map from the 1860 U S Census

Douglas North did not focus on the social and political issues that resulted from the expansion of the American economy. North saw the expansion of trade as instrumental in widening the market and increasing productive efficiency. And while the production of cotton contributed to the economic expansion of the entire U S economy, economic forces produced tensions between the different regions of the nation. The immigration of Irish and Germans swelled the population of Northern and later Western cities and towns while the population of South grew at a much lesser rate. An emerging class of Northern industrial capitalists gained control of the nation’s economic policy and influenced the laws and legislation in the U. S. Congress. By 1860, economic and social changes resulted in the evolvement of Urban Places. Urban Places were defined by the 1860 Census Office as a town or city having a population of at least 2,500 residents. More than two thirds of all the urban counties in the United States were located in the Northeast and the West. Less than 7 % of the population of the South lived in urban counties. (4)

The Atlantic Coast had the largest concentration of urban population in the United States. This region also boasted the greatest concentration of commerce and industry in the nation. The cultivation of cotton did not require financial services or manufacturing to be located nearby and that may have explained why there were only 51 urban counties in the eleven states that comprised the Southern Confederacy. Economic forces produced increased tensions among the regions of the United States

The Whig Party evolved in the 1830's and a number of economic goals became important national issues, such as the settlement of the territories and the availability of cheap land. Northerners wanted land for small family run farms while Southerners favored an open land policy that would enable the creation of large plantations, utilizing slave labor. Slaveholders needed large farms or plantations in order to achieve economies of scale with lower unit costs of production. Lower unit costs and greater production would result in increased profits for the landowners. When the Homestead Act was first introduced in the House of Representatives in 1860, it offered 160 acres of federal land free to anyone willing to settle and farm the land. Congressmen from the North and West voted in favor of the bill, while only one Congressman from a slave state voted for it. President James Buchanan vetoed the bill. (5)

The completion of the Erie Canal in 1823 linked Lake Erie with Portsmouth, Ohio on the Ohio River. Farm products, lumber and other goods from the Mid - West could be transported to towns and cities all along the Mississippi River. There was growing support for improvements in transportation especially along the Great Lakes region. The federal government provided the lion's share of the money to finance these improvements. The Southern states had a much smaller population and therefore had fewer towns and cities. There were fewer roads and bridges in the South linking their urban centers. The South therefore, had a lesser need for internal improvements than the North and came to view the federal government's expenditures on projects in the North and West as unfair and biased. The South viewed Internal Improvements as an example of favoritism. This was best demonstrated by the controversy over the Pacific Railway Bill of 1860. This bill proposed the construction of a transcontinental railroad linking California with the Atlantic Coast. No Southern Congressmen voted in favor of the bill. (6)

The citizens of the Southern states generally opposed tariffs on imported goods. British manufactured goods could be produced and transported to America for much less than identical items made in the factories of the Northeastern United States. On the other hand, citizens of the Northeastern states favored high tariffs in order to protect the factories and mills located in their districts. Financial interests of the Northeast had a vested interest in the success of the domestic commerce and manufacturing of their home state and "lobbied" for their Congressmen to support the imposition of high tariffs. Tariffs were the primary source of federal revenue before 1860 and Westerners needed federal funds to finance internal improvements. Therefore the West often supported high tariffs on imported good. (7)

The creation of a Federal Banking System was a sensitive issue prior to 1860. The Federal government's history in chartering and regulating a national bank had met strong opposition from the South and most Democrats. President Andrew Jackson vetoed a bill to charter the Second Federal Bank of the United States. Jackson distrusted the financial interest of the Northeast and firmly believed that the individual states were better equipped to administer and regulate their own, individual state banks. The South had little need for local banking services and held a general distrust of Northern banking and financial interests. Westerner farmers needed local banks to finance their annual crop production and were more inclined to support a National Banking System. Southern Congressional opposition defeated the National Banking Bill of 1860. (8)

The South came to view the industrial development of the North and the political and economic cooperation of the West as an assault on the South's very way of life. The Federal government in Washington represented Northern financial and economic interest and sought to limit and marginalize the South's influence and political power. The "Fire Eaters" of Southern independence succeeded in having it their way by leaving the Union. They formed the Confederate States of America and hoped the federal government would allow them to leave peacefully. President Lincoln's War for Union in 1861 became the War to end Slavery in 1863. The American Civil War exacted a terrible price; more than 620,000 men died fighting for the Cause and opposing the Cause. Meanwhile it has been suggested and demonstrated by statistics that it would have been better to find a peaceful solution to the slave issue other than resorting to war. Those that objected to slavery could have compelled the Federal government to simply "buy out" the economic interests of the Southern slaveholders. Economist, Claudia Goldin estimated the cost of the U. S. government to buy all the slaves in 1860 at 2.7 billion. In 1865, the slaves were given their freedom. The slave owners received nothing in return and many lost their homes and all their land.



Photograph of Lincoln inauguration in 1861 from the Library of Congress

Footnotes: (1) EH. Net The Economic History Association, February 2, 2010

(2) – (8) Ibid.

References for the Social and Economic Causes of the Civil War:

EH. Net The Economic History Association, February 2, 2010

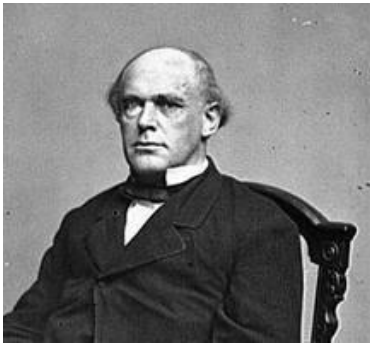
Douglas North, *Economic Growth of the United States: 1790 -1860*. Norton Library, 1966

Roger L. Ransom, *Conflict and Compromise: The Political Economy of Slavery, Emancipation and the American Civil War September* 1989, Cambridge University Press

Roger Savoy, *An Economic History of the United States from 1607 to the Present* Taylor and Francis Group, 2006

Gary Walton and Hugh Rockoff: *History of the American Economy*, 2009

January is that time of the year when we start thinking about blue skies, warm summer breezes and that nasty federal tax bill. But it is worth noting that in 1861 the tax rate for most Americans was just 3% on incomes of \$800 or more. Those darn Republicans increased the tax rate in 1862 to 3% on incomes of \$600 or more and 5% on incomes of \$10,000 or more. Saloman P. Chase oversaw the creation of a national banking system in 1863 and our first federal currency in 1862. A standardized currency enabled the U. S. to issue \$500 million in war bonds and the banks provided a market for them. The banking system was created to buy the government bonds in order to back the U. S. currency during the war. It has been estimated that the cost of the American Civil War was \$4.2 billion or approximately \$84 billion in 2011 dollars. Sarah Stodola, The Fiscal Times, April 12, 2011, Debt lessons from Lincoln



Now that we have your attention! The dues for 2012 must be paid by March 1st. Make your check out to the NEOCWRT



Happy New Year

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

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1812 by George C. Doughan – a book review by Tom Horvath



When a Canadian friend mentioned that we had pillaged Toronto during the War of 1812, I realized how little I knew about that war. To me, it was the forgotten war, somehow lost between the Revolution and the Civil War. After reading this book, I can understand why this particular war is ignored. The land battles pale in scope to the Civil War and Revolution. They normally involved fewer soldiers and, fortunately, far fewer casualties. President Madison pursued a failed strategy of invading Canada to obtain bargaining power with Britain. Except for a successful, but short-lived, incursion by William Henry Harrison from Detroit, most other attempts were dismal failures. Yet Madison continued to chase that dream. The most significant land battle took place near New Orleans, not Canada, and occurred after the war formally ended.

The two major reasons for declaring war on Britain were the Orders of Council (which required all ships carrying goods to Napoleonic Europe to stop in Britain, obtain a permit, and pay a fee), and impressments (British naval vessels stopping American ships, boarding, and taking back “British” deserters). The Orders of Council were repealed before war was declared, and impressments ceased to be an issue by the war’s end. Those items were not even mentioned in the peace treaty. Neither was there significant change in territory nor major concessions on either side. From a material point of view, nothing was gained nor lost by either side as a result of the conflict. The major benefit of the war was the respect gained by our new republic and our realization of the need for a strong, standing navy.

It is the naval battles that take center stage in this volume, and it is Mr. Doughan’s contention that this was the navy’s war. Our navy, miniscule in comparison to Britain’s, scored some astounding and, for the British, demoralizing victories. In the author’s opinion, the Navy was the bright spot.

In striving to tell the story of these naval battles succinctly and precisely, the author uses a great deal of sailing terminology. He attempts to aid the uninitiated by including a glossary of nautical terms and a diagram of the sails on a square-rigged ship. These were somewhat helpful. I now know the meaning of “having the weather” in a sea battle, and what a carronade is. On the other hand, not all ships are square-rigged, so not all sails mentioned are in the diagram. And I soon gave up referring to the glossary because I had to do it so frequently that it interrupted the flow of the narrative.

Emphasizing these sea battles presents a problem: they are very short in duration and require, at most, only a few pages of narrative. That leaves a lot of space to be filled with other information. I learned a great deal from this book, but much of it was about events surrounding the war and not the war itself.

The author faced another problem due to lack of documentation: the role that American privateers played in harassing British shipping, even around the British Isles. Hundreds of British merchant ships were taken by our privateers. These encounters were less dramatic than the battles between war ships and are largely undocumented, except for the results. Though critical in bringing Britain to the peace negotiations, there is no choice but to leave these exploits untold.

Despite my lack of understanding of many terms and the author’s propensity to include far more detail about ships’ armament and personnel than a landlubber like me can absorb, the writing was actually very good. I learned a great deal – including information about conflicts I’d totally forgotten (our War with Tripoli) or never knew (a “quasi-war” with France during John Adams administration, and a war with Algeria in 1814). My major concern with the book is the author’s obvious aim of paying honor to our fledgling navy, which may have affected his objectivity.

This is not a narrative that will grab your interest and hold it, but if you want to bolster your knowledge concerning the War of 1812, especially the naval battles, it will do that. It was published in 2011 by Basic Books and has 491 pages, including a section of helpful maps, an index, notes section, bibliography, glossary of terms, and a diagram of the sails on a square-rigged ship. Amazon has the hard cover available for \$21.45 and their electronic edition for \$13.49. Barnes & Noble has the hard cover for \$22.11 and their Nook version for \$21.12. Mentor Public Library owns one copy and the ClevNet System owns ten copies with two additional copies on order.