



THE COURIER



Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



Tuesday May 8th, 2018 Meeting #179

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

Pine Ridge Country Club

30601 Ridge Road, Wickliffe, Ohio

Guest Speaker: Milann Daugherty

Topic: Your Affectionate Son – Found Letters from a Civil War Soldier

Reservations required Guests are Welcome Please call Mike Sears

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

Milann Daugherty

Your Affectionate Son – Found Letters from a Civil War Soldier

In 2004, educator Milann Daugherty came across a box of yellowed letters in the bottom drawer of an old dresser, all written by James Cleaver, her great-great-uncle 150-years earlier. The letters contained a fascinating first-hand account of the Civil War as seen through the eyes of a young soldier. Over the course of three years, she painstakingly transcribed each of the letters, and undertook the research to elaborate on much of what James described. Written in the elegant style typical of the mid-nineteenth century, James' letters give us fresh insight into the daily life of a soldier in the Civil War and the politics of the day

Our speaker:

Milann Daugherty grew up in Western Pennsylvania and graduated from Westminster College with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She taught for sixteen years at the New Castle Christian Academy. It was here that her interest in American history was ignited, setting the stage for her discovery of the letters of James Cleaver.



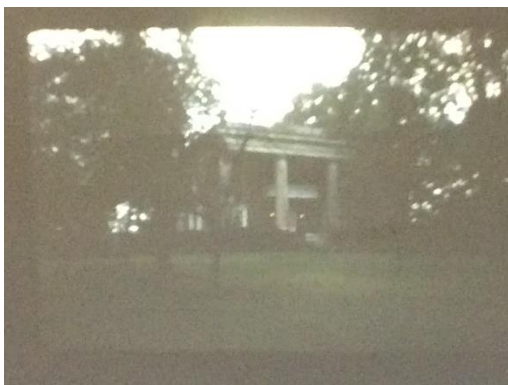
A Visit to "Crawfish Springs"

By Paul Siedel

Some time ago while visiting the Chattanooga area I ran upon a wonderful Civil War era home that played a huge part in the Battle of Chickamauga and the Civil War in northern Georgia. In 1842 James Gordon, a distant relation of John Brown Gordon, purchased 2,500 acres in what



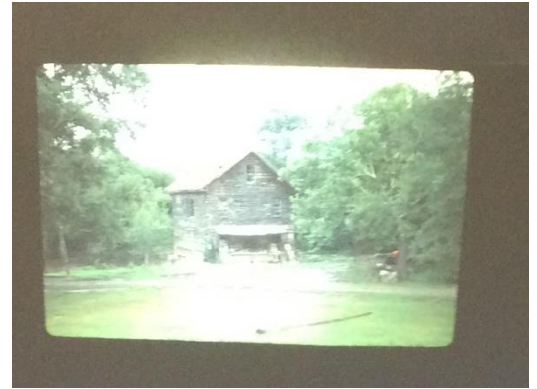
would become Walker Co. Georgia, on land formerly belonging to the Cherokee Nation. On his property he found a huge spring forming a waterway eventually emptying into Chickamauga Creek. Above the spring he built a log house and later on a milling operation known on battlefield maps as The Lee's and Gordon's Mill. As the mill prospered he built the iconic Greek Revival mansion known today as "Crawfish Springs". For many years the house stood strong and solid being the center of Gordon's farming and milling business. That is until June 1863 when James died and the house passed to his wife Elizabeth. She resided in the home along with several servants and her daughter also called Elizabeth when the Civil War broke upon the Gordon property. As the Confederates abandoned the location Union troops moved in and several days before the Battle of Chickmauga General William S. Rosecrans established his field headquarters in the mansion. Elizabeth Gordon along with her family were moved into an outbuilding and from the home along with James A. Garfield, Rosecrans directed officers such as George Thomas, Alexander McCook and Gordon Granger during the battle of Chickamauga. It also served as the main field hospital for the right wing of the Union Army. During the restoration of the house many artifacts were uncovered between the walls and in the yard. These can be seen today when one visits the mansion.



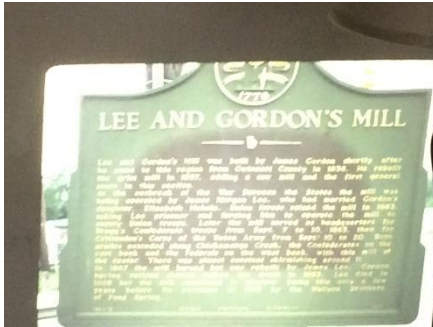
The War was not kind to the Gordon estate. The house was heavily vandalized and the mill burned in 1865. The property eventually ended up in the hands of the Gordon's daughter Elizabeth and her husband James Lee and they operated the mill well into the 20th Century. One day during the hog killing season old Mr. Lee related to his grandchildren the horrors of life on the plantation during the War. "One day", he said "they started bringing those Yankees to the house here, all bleeding and shot up. Some of them were crying with pain, and I remember one cussing

Ole Longstreet, whoever he was. Anyway, I guess I'm remembering all this because hog killing is pretty much the same ... bloody."

Another story related by Mr. Lee is one of a distraught woman from the Midwest who approached the house in the 1890s. Her son had died during the battle, and was buried in an unmarked grave. Finding no information at the battlefield she walked to Crawfish Springs. She heard that



he had died of wounds received while languishing in a field hospital. She asked the folks on the porch of the house if they knew anything, they said they didn't but that she was welcome to look around the place. With the help of Mr. Lee's daughters they began looking around the home and outbuildings which had served as hospitals during the battle. All at once the family was startled by her screams coming from the old horse barn. They rushed to the building where they found her on her knees before a door on which had been scrawled the name of her son, his home address, and company.



Although the Lee's have long departed, the home today is in the hands of a local organization called Friends of the Gordon Lee Mansion who do a wonderful job of maintaining the property. It is open for weddings and celebrations.

Today the house and grounds are the center of the small village of Chickamauga, Ga. A very peaceful and quaint place. It at one time was operated as a bed and breakfast by Dr. Francis Green and his family. Here one can walk the grounds and sit by the springs. You can see the room where James Garfield slept and see the bloodstains on the hardwood floors. All in all there is not much to remind one of the terrible carnage the swept across the estate back in those turbulent days in 1863.



The house and grounds are just off I 75 about twelve miles south of Chattanooga, Tennessee and south of the Chickamauga Battlefield. For more information one can go to their website FriendsoftheLeeGordonMansion.org.

CIVIL WAR JOURNAL of Franco M Sperrazzo Tuesday May 8, 2018

April 10th Meeting, Thomas A. Bogar: *BACKSTAGE At the LINCOLN ASSASSINATION*

Several years ago NEOCWRT Co-Founder Robert Baucher, researched a behind the scenes talk on the unsung hero's of Gettysburg. Bob's stellar manner of tying the prominent people together at that epic battle always stayed in my mind. Thomas A. Bogar has done something similar by revealing the previously untold story of the 46 little known actors, managers and stagehands at Ford's Theatre. The murder of President Abraham Lincoln, will likely remain a significant topic of controversy for another 150 more years. Imagine this most infamous crime in American History unfolding on stage before the eyes of those who witnessed the horrific tragedy that fatal night. No wonder the most creditable reviewers and critics on the topic have proclaimed Mr. Bogar's journal among the 5 best manuscripts ever written on the subject. Our group of 7 had the pleasure of dining with our guest speaker and found Mr. Bogar, quite engaging. The question and answer session that followed sparked heated but friendly conversation.

Leaders & Legacies of the Civil War, @ Main Mentor Library Wednesday May 9, time 12:00-1:00p

Topic: James A. Garfield and the First Decoration Day. Oddly enough it was our own Congressman and former Union General James Abram Garfield, who presided over the first ever Decoration Day Ceremony on May 30th, 1868 in Arlington National Cemetery. His speech was powerful and effectively delivered. Learn more about it in the Garfield Room. The program is FREE to public, RSVP required. Join JAGNHS Park Rangers and volunteers for the PowerPoint presentation. Website: mentorpl.org.

On Mentor Avenue Phone: 440.255.8811. Beverage & snacks allowed

41st Annual Ohio Civil War Show & 26th Annual Artillery Show. Saturday May 5, 2018 - 9am - 5pm

Sunday May 6, 9am - 3pm. Includes World War 1 & 11 Military Material from 1775 through 1945.

Open to Public with FREE Parking. Admission \$7.00 & Children Under 12 free with an adult. Location:

Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 North Home Rd, Mansfield, OH 44906 Trimble Rd Exit off U S Rt 30

For more details, new features & daily demonstration schedule visit: info@ohiocivilwarshow.com

NEOCWRT MEMORIAL DAY DEDICATION CEREMONY, Monday May 28, 2018 Time 10-10:30am

Willoughby Cemetery, Sharpe Avenue. This is the 16th Anniversary of our Civil War legacy project.

The original concept was spearheaded by the vision of our leader and commander General Joseph E. Tirpak. Without the following people who came forward our mission could have never been achieved to honor about 100 Union Veterans & 1 Confederate who served in the Civil War from Lake County. Thanks to the individual talents of Brent Morgan, Theodore J. Karle, Jonathan Sandy and Jim Walsh we exceeded our expectations. This writer was fortunate and honored to be able to learn from my mentors and contribute to this worthy cause. We visit **Fiona's Bakery & Coffee Bar** after the 30 minute program for some beverages & delicacies. Location: 4148 Erie Street below the newly formed & growing **Godnavec Family History Museum**. Come and share the Memorial Holiday morning with us!

NEOCWRT ANNUAL SPRING ONE DAY TOUR Saturday June 9, 2018. We Bivouac @ 9:00am.

Our 21st President David Lintern, will take the lead on our latest excursion South & West.

Explore with us **Oberlin & Sheffield Lake**. Our morning will commence with a visit to Oberlin College to view evidence of the **Underground Railroad** during the Civil War. Following our lunch respite we travel to **Sheffield Lake** to encounter the **103rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry**. Experience their museum, old barracks nicknamed **ELFORDILNO** and their current and former memorable photo gallery. Dave, will again pass around the signup sheet at our May 8th meeting with the game plan details and pricing.

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