



# The Courier



## Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



***Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 13th, 2018, at 6 pm***

***Pine Ridge Country Club***

***30601 Ridge Road, Wickliffe, Ohio***

***Speaker: John Moser PhD., Topic: "Armistice Day"***

***Reservations Required***

***Email: [davelintern@rwsidley.com](mailto:davelintern@rwsidley.com) by November 9th***



**John Moser is Professor of History at Ashland University** where he teaches courses on European, American and East Asia history, including Western Civilization to 1500, Western Civilization since 1500, Renaissance and Reformation, The Age of Revolution and Reaction, and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Europe. He is also co chairman of Ashland's Master of Arts in American History and Government degree program. He joined the Ashland University faculty in 2001. John did his undergraduate degree work at Ohio University and earned an MA and Ph.D. in history from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has published numerous works on subjects ranging from comic books to Japanese foreign policy. He is the author of four books, the most recent of which is "***The Global Great Depression and the Coming of World War II***," which was published by Roundledge in 2015. In 2016, John Moser received Ashland University's coveted **Taylor Teaching Award**. John Moser lives in Ashland, Ohio with his wife, Monica, their daughter Stanzi, and their three

dogs. As a member of the Ohio Garrison of the 501<sup>st</sup> Legion, he dresses in the uniform of an imperial officer from Star Wars for charity events and other appearances.



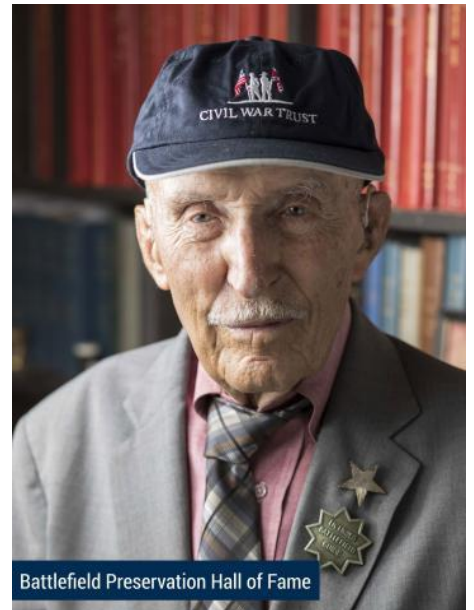
**October 9th Meeting, Tim Barrett:** Expressing the resume of Tim Barrett, is like attempting to understand the History of Cleveland in photos of multiple time periods. So much research has gone into Tim's labor of love for his hobby that the ultimate thing happened, he made a career of it. As a commercial architectural design consultant, he spent 30 years in Cleveland's Department of Community Development. A co-worker and friend of Terri Sandy, Tim has developed and led two grand tours of Greater Cleveland's Sacred Houses of Worship & our cities historic landmark buildings in 2010 & 2011. NEOCWRT Member Terri, gave an excellent introduction of Tim, and how special a friend he is to her and our Editor John. His valuable contributions have enhanced the legacy of Cuyahoga County, Cleveland and the tapestry of our great city dating back to its founding in 1796 and before. We can say, Tim Barrett, has become a good friend of our CWRT and deserves honorary recognition for his talents.

**Mentor Public Library, Leaders and Legacies of the Civil War.**

**"Cycloramas as Art, Entertainment, and Memorial."** The lecture will take place in the Garfield Room, located on the lower level of the library, on Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, from 12 pm to 1 pm. By sharing their Civil War experiences in the latter 19th century, Americans transitioned to the theatrical field with cycloramas. These lifelike recreations allow people to witness the war beyond what a parade, statue or monument could ever do. Learn how the battlefield cycloramas portrayal of people's life encounters survives beyond defining moments in history. Location is Mentor Avenue down the road from Lawnfield. RSVP: 440.255.8811 ext. 247

**Edwin Cole Bearss @ the Cleveland Civil War**

**Roundtable, Wednesday, December 12, 2018. His topic will be: "Nathan Bedford Forrest Vanquishes Union Cavalry While allowing Sherman to Capture Atlanta."** Our legendary NPS Historian Emeritus, World War 11 hero and American History savant will embark on the road visiting our counterparts at the Cleveland Civil War Round Table on Wednesday, December 12, 2018. Ed turned 95 and one half years young this past June 23rd. For more information, visit the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable website: [ccwrt1956@yahoo.com](mailto:ccwrt1956@yahoo.com)



**Erie County Historical Society:** we have renewed our organizational membership to the Hagen History Center, 356 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16505 effective this month through the year 2019. This facility has many examples of the rich history of Erie. The Historical Society is located next to the beautiful landmark Watson-Curtze Mansion, located in Downtown Erie. Our good friends at the helm of the History Center are George E. Deutsch, Museum Executive Director; and Jeff Sherry, Education Director. Arrangements can be made for you to visit this historic place and garner admission passes. Phone: 814.454.1813. Visit their website for special events and current exhibitions. [eriehistory.org](http://eriehistory.org)

**NEOCWRT New Organization Business Cards:** We have made a slight alteration on our club business cards. Time to replenish them with a plain blank back area to allow more space for: names, phone numbers, email addresses, text. Your responsibility as a club member is to spread the good news about the **Best CWRT in the Midwest. Please use them to spread the good word about our club.**

**New 2019 NEOCWRT Speakers' Program & Meeting Flyer:** We have developed a new NEOCWRT 2019 monthly Speakers and Meeting Flyer. These attractive two-sided flyers will enable our round table to advertise and promote the authors, historians, programs and contact facts for the entire 2019 calendar year. We are encouraged about the prospects and potential of attracting new members and guests to our meetings. We will be placing the new flyers in information racks at various Cuyahoga, Lake & Geauga County Libraries, municipal government buildings, senior centers, hotels and possibly at local colleges. The Speakers Flyer is our very first effort at this endeavor, and we ask you to help YOUR CWRT by creating awareness with people that would be a good fit to make a presentation or come on board for possible membership. We must vocalize our **Guiding Principles of Quality, Education & Fellowship.** We want to express our gratitude to Club Member, Dale Fellows & Lauren @ Morgan Litho, for making these promotional tools available for our organization.

**Medical Updates on Members:** We ask fellow members to keep us in the loop on medical conditions of various members and their core family. We have heard from JET Tirpak and Steve Abbey on the recuperation and progress of our friend, longtime member and reliable Sergeant of Arms John Michael Sears. He will have a long recovery, but he is making great process. JET will keep us informed on hopefully good news as it unfolds. Steve will continue to coordinate short visits for our members with Mike, through his Wife, Donna. You may contact Steve by calling 440.255.8375. We mention how grateful we are for Mike's due diligence to our NEOCWRT and a devoted friend to his peers.

**Hope to see everyone on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Best to all! Franco**

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*All articles appearing in the Courier do not necessarily state or represent an endorsement of the facts, conclusions, and opinions of the author(s) by the NEOCWRT or its membership.*

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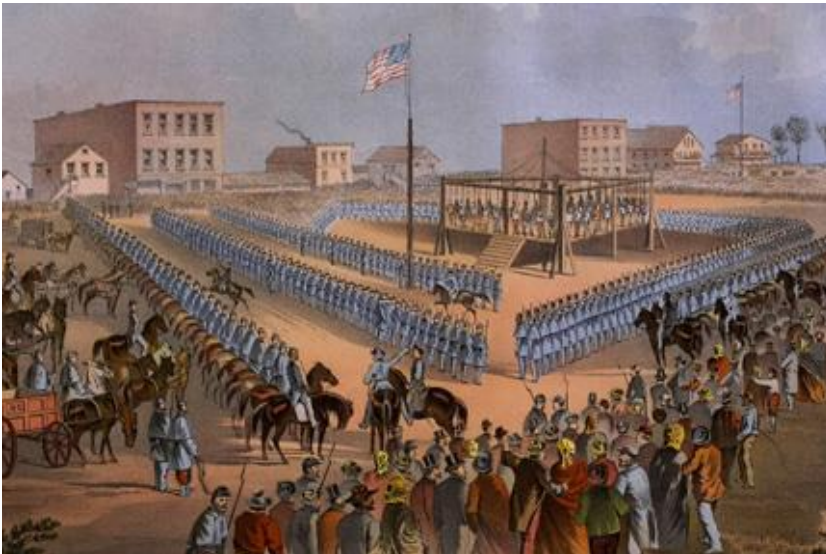


*League Park, Cleveland, Ohio*

## The Strange and Obscure Facts of American Civil War History

During the summer of 1862, the Dakota Sioux Indians on the Santee Reservation in Minnesota were in a bad way. The Federal government had promised to provide food, lodging, and protection for the Sioux as long as they remained peaceful and stayed at the Santee. Thousands of white settlers flocked to Minnesota to settle on the rich fertile soil. The Federal government got way behind on their food shipments to the Sioux at the Santee Reservation. The Indian agents kept making excuses. Meanwhile, hundreds of the Sioux were sick and dying from disease and malnutrition.

Indian agent Andrew Myrick turned the Indians away from his trading post when they stopped to ask for food with the words: "If they are hungry, let them eat grass!" On August 18, 1862, Chief Little Crow led a Sioux war party against white settlers killing thirteen whites including Myrick. The Sioux continued their assault against white settlers and their families in a 20 county area, killing more than 500 whites. Minnesota Governor Andrew Ramsey notified President Lincoln about the Indian rampage and requested federal help. Lincoln ordered Major General John Pope, fresh from his embarrassing defeat at the hands of Robert E. Lee at Second Manassas to redeploy to Minnesota with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Minnesota OVI. Pope stated that "It is my purpose to utterly exterminate the Sioux." Pope instructed his men to treat the Sioux as if they are maniacs and wild beasts.



Pope and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Minnesota caught up to Chief Little Crow and his Sioux war party at Wood Lake. The Dakota Sioux had to surrender. A military tribunal convened and 303 of the Sioux Indians were summarily tried, convicted and sentenced to die based on little or no culpatory evidence of their guilt. A national outcry convinced President Lincoln to commute the death sentence of all but 38 of the Sioux. On December 26, 1862, at Mankato, Minnesota, 38 of the Dakota Sioux warriors were hung in the largest mass execution in American history.

On October 30, 1862, the Army of the Potomac commanded by Major General George B. McClellan, began to move south through Virginia's Loudon Valley. It had been almost six weeks since McClellan had defeated Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Antietam. President Lincoln and the Radical Republicans in Congress were not happy with McClellan and his performance after Antietam. In their view, he had wasted the opportunity to destroy Lee's army. Lincoln refused to believe that the Army of the Potomac was in bad shape, that it needed horses, more equipment and most of all, that the raw recruits that first saw the elephant at Sharpsburg needed training and instruction in the manual of arms before they could become effective fighting men.

McClellan had 30,000 raw, untrained recruits with him when the reorganized Army of the Potomac departed from the forts around Washington. These men were issued rifles on the march to Frederick, Maryland and South Mountain. They had no time to learn unit drill or marksmanship. McClellan had 28 cavalry regiments under his command but the Second Manassas campaign wore out nearly half of the horses. Thousands of horses were stranded at Hampton Roads by gale force winds and high seas. President Lincoln was waiting for the right moment to replace McClellan. He waited until after the mid-term elections, then on November 5, 1862, he issued the order. The order from Lincoln was delivered to McClellan at 2300 hours on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

# THE WITNESS TREE

## OF PROSPECT AVENUE by Paul Siedel



Many times as we go through our daily routines we pass by historic places and structures that should mean something but unfortunately they don't connect with us. As they don't have the capability of reaching out we need to know where they are and something about their significance. One such landmark is the old Elm tree in front of 3643 Prospect Ave. on the near east side of Cleveland. According to the Cleveland Landmarks Commission the tree was planted in 1858 as part of, and is the only remaining vestige of the city's first tree planting operation. This 160 year old remnant of the past has survived for many years in the urban environment. Growing tall and flourishing, prying up the sidewalk and providing shade to many passers by. One can only wonder about how many old vets stood under the tree and reminisced about what they did at Shiloh, where they were during the Overland Campaign, or how their post war businesses were faring. The tree has stood there and seen the rise, demise and rebirth of the once prosperous Prospect Ave. Although the homes of the once well-heeled folks that made Prospect what it once

was have long since vanished, the tree remains. Among other things It has seen the growth and decline of the great industrial society that once fueled this area, and as I stood there I couldn't help but wonder did folks gather under the tree to read the headlines announcing the assassination of President Lincoln, the collapse of the stock market in 1929, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Cuban Missile Crises and the assassination of J.F.K.? As I looked at the tree's trunk I saw that it is gnarled, broken and full of carbuncles depicting insect damage, but the tree still lives on and although by the looks of things is nearing the end of its life it hopefully still has a few more good years left. As I said before the tree cannot of course reach out to us but if it could one can only imagine what stories it could tell and what lessons we could learn. It could tell us about the many Congresses that never seemed to do much, the Presidents that never seemed to do much. The ones that seemed bigger than life and carried the nation on to victory and prosperity, and the ones that died before they could accomplish much. Through all these ups and downs the tree has survived, right along with the nation. So the next time we're rushing through our daily routine and in a hurry to get home or wherever we're going, stop and take a look at the old witness tree there on Prospect Ave. I'm sure it will get folks thinking, thinking about its past and its future, about our past and our future, and with that it will continue to have a positive influence on the community and in doing so it will have accomplished one of its main purposes.