



THE COURIER



Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



Tuesday February 12th, 2013 Meeting # 132

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

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

Speaker: Dr. Hugh G. Earnhart

Topic: Military Intelligence / Gettysburg

Reservations required Guests are Welcome Please call Mike Sears

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



Dr. Hugh G. Earnhart - "There are so many nooks and crannies in this war," said Hugh Earhart, professor emeritus, winner of the Heritage Award in 2001 and retired history department chairman at Youngstown State University. "It's just so fascinating." Earnhart, who taught at YSU for 33 years and is a co-founder of the Mahoning Valley Civil War Round Table. A descendant of two men who fought in the 66th Ohio Regiment at Culp's Hill at Gettysburg, Earnhart said he had a grade-school teacher and then a high-school teacher who made American history come alive for him. "I learned about Grant and Sherman, and that did it, the Civil War won out." Published in 1985, "Student

Study Guide for Military History" by Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA., Dr. Earnhart shares his love of history with students.

Dr. Earnhart's interest in history was developed into the Oral History Program at Youngstown State University, started in 1974 by Dr. Earnhart, and has collected over 2000 interviews with northeastern Ohioans on topics ranging from education to the steel industry to politics. In 2001, the staff of YSU's Maag Library digitized the transcripts and placed them on the Internet. Anyone wishing to examine these materials can access the collection at http://www.maag.ysu.edu/oralhistory/oral_hist.html

NEOCWRT is proud to present Dr. Hugh G. Earnhart's "Military Intelligence / Gettysburg"

CIVIL WAR JOURNAL of Franco M. Sperrazzo, Events Coordinator, 2-12-13

January 8th meeting, Todd Arrington: Todd Arrington, is Chief of Interpretation & Education at James A. Garfield National Historic Site. Todd and his staff headed by Sherda K. Williams, NPS Site Mgr and NEOCWRT member Scott Longert, have become good friends of our round table. Todd spoke on the evolution of the Republican Party by presenting a power point presentation on Western Expansion during the Civil War. Todd theorized how the party formation was based on not trying to abolish slavery in the states it existed but rather stabilize it and stop the spread of pro slave ideology in the open Western part of America. Todd was precise in demonstrating visual aids and strong communication skills. Todd's passion for his career dedicated to the National Park Service was evident throughout the program. Mr. Arrington's somewhat debatable subject sparked a hearty Q and A session. We look forward to Todd Arrington again.

Membership Dues for 2013, Second Notice: A second reminder for your 2013 membership club dues. The \$55.00 annual fee contributes towards 9 program meetings at Dino's; Spring Tour; Summer Speaker Symposium; Fall Field Trip; and Western Reserve Historical Society admission & exhibits. Bill Meissner, will assist J. Mike Sears at the entrance table to keep the \$25.00 dinner fee separate from the \$55.00 check or cash you may give to Treasurer William. You may mail your check to Bill Meissner, 9571 Headlands Road, Mentor, Ohio 44060 as another option. The deadline for dues is the end of March.

James A. Garfield @ Mentor Library February 13th: The next major "Battles of the Civil War Series" continues February 13th @ noon. During President's month you can learn of the life and presidency of Abraham Lincoln. Our 16th President led the Union to a political & military victory in the Civil War and was assassinated only 5 days after war's end. Location is 8215 Mentor Avenue in the lower level Garfield room. Admission is free. Attendees may bring their lunch. For inquires or confirmation call 440-255-8722.

Western Reserve Historical Society: As the new History Center Transformation nears completion a new feature exhibit was unveiled this past weekend titled *Setting the World in Motion*. This fascinating achievement illustrates the importance of the auto & aviation industries in the late 19th century into the mid- 20th century in the Western Reserve region. Entrepreneurs such as John D. Rockefeller and Alexander Winton are featured. Contact me for more information and admission passes for this highlighted event.

Sons of the American Revolution: Celebrate President George Washington's 281st birthday at Western Reserve Historical Society on Saturday February 16th. Doors open at 5:15pm. Keynote speaker is Jim Sheehan, the Shirley Wormser Professor of Journalism and Media at Case Western Reserve University. Dinner will be served at 6:45pm. A white glove handling of soldier General Washington's pistol and a book from his Presidential library written by Thomas Paine will be offered for viewing. This special event cost only \$40.00 per person. Contact Charles "Pat" Norris CTP from our NEOCWRT (330) 659-0595, email cpatnorris@aol.com, who will direct you to Ted Minier, from the SAR. Three other members that currently belong to both clubs are Hudson Fowler 111, Frank Moore and R. Bruce Beale. They can be approached for more details.

Dr. Hugh Earnhart: The Youngstown State University Professor of History has spoken to our troops in past years. He reflected on President Abraham Lincoln and ranking the most popular and unpopular Presidents in any order. Dr Earnhart was nominated as our 2nd honorary member in 1999. Bob Baucher may share a story of an early life association with Dr. Hugh. Hope to see everyone on February 12th. Happy 204th birthday Mr. Lincoln.

North East Ohio Civil War Roundtable – Executive Committee 2013

President – Tom Horvath Vice President – Carl Dodaro Secretary – Steve Abbey Treasurer – Bill Meissner
Terry Reynolds, Norty London, Bob Baucher, Mike Sears, Franco Sperrazzo, Joe Tirpak, John Sandy and Arlan Byrne.

If you would like to help with the NEOCWRT discussions, planning, or suggestions and would like to attend executive committee meetings, please give your name to Tom Horvath, Carl Dodaro or Steve Abbey, so you can be notified of the time and place for the next meeting. Any time you can donate will be appreciated.

NOT-SO-GREAT COMMANDERS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

COMPILED BY CARL DODARO

UNION MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT PATTERSON – Born - Jan. 12, 1792 in Cappagh, County Tyrone, Ireland

Died - Aug. 8, 1881 in Philadelphia, PA.



Born in Ireland, his family was banished from the Emerald Isle due to his father's involvement as an insurrectionist. Coming to the U.S. in 1799, Robert eventually became involved in banking at a young age. At the outbreak of the War of 1812, he volunteered for service and quickly rose through the ranks, to colonel in the 2nd Pennsylvania Militia before joining the United States Army. In the U.S. regular army he served in the Quartermaster General Department and was discharged in 1815 as a captain. After the war, he started a wholesale business in eastern Pennsylvania, and became an active

Jackson Democrat and a power in Pennsylvania politics.

Patterson received commission as a major general of volunteers for the Mexican War, July 7, 1846. Performing ably at Cerro Gordo and seizing the town of Jalapa, he won praise from Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott and joined Scott's staff, mustering out of the military on July 20th, 1848. From 1848 until the Civil War, Patterson concentrated on his business interests, becoming the owner of a Louisiana sugar plantation and 30 Pennsylvania cotton mills.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Winfield Scott mustered Patterson back into military service as a major general of Pennsylvania volunteers. Appointed commander of the Department Of Pennsylvania, Patterson was to muster volunteers and defend state borders. At the age of 69, Patterson was unable to respond effectively to an emergency call for active field service when, on May 24th, 1861, Winfield Scott ordered Patterson to advance his combined force of state volunteers and U.S. Regulars from Chambersburg, PA., south through Maryland to Harpers Ferry. Patterson was to retake the captured U.S. arsenal there and prevent Confederate troops in the Shenandoah Valley from joining a larger force gathering near Washington, D.C.

Timid, confused and unprepared, Patterson did not leave Pennsylvania until June 14th. Meanwhile, Confederates under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston used Harpers Ferry as a training center. When Johnston learned of Patterson's arrival in Maryland, he torched the arsenal buildings and then eluded Patterson's army for three weeks, before successfully joining the main Confederate Army at Manassas, VA. Patterson, believing that Johnston may have as many as 30,000 men (actually only 9,000) did not try to engage with his 20,000 men and at times seem to be running from Johnston's Army. Johnston's last minute arrival at Manassas turned the tide of battle and resulted in a Confederate victory at the First Battle Of Bull Run. Patterson was widely criticized for his failure to contain a much smaller enemy force and received an honorable discharge July 27th, 1861, only three months after he was commissioned.

After the Civil War, Patterson returned to his cotton milling business and wrote a booklet, "A Narrative of the Campaign in the Valley of the Shenandoah in 1861", published in 1865. He also was president of the Aztec Club of 1847, from 1867 to 1881 (the Aztec Club of 1847 was made up of regulars and volunteers who fought in Mexico). Patterson died in Philadelphia and is buried there in Laurel Valley Cemetery. His son Francis Engle Patterson and his son-in-law John Joseph Abercrombie were both Union generals during the Civil War.

Bibliography – Robert Patterson – Wikipedia – the Internet's free encyclopedia

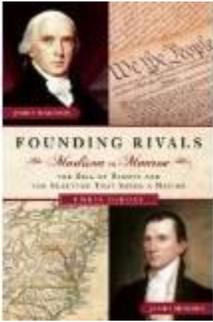
Picture from the Aztec Club of 1847 – History of its founding – Aztec Club of 1847 web site

Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War – Patricia L. Faust, editor.

The Courier is edited by John Sandy and Carl Dodaro. All members of the NEOCWRT can contribute articles to the Courier by e-mail to neocwrtcourier@yahoo.com. The Courier is e-mail published around the first Tuesday of the month, January thru May, and September thru December of each calendar year.

The quotes of Dr. Earnhart are from the Youngstown News, Civil War Sesquicentennial "Remembering Men Of War" published April 10, 2011

***Founding Rivals* by Chris DeRose – a book review by Tom Horvath**



The focal point of this book is the Congressional election of 1789 in the 5th Congressional district of Virginia – the only election in our history to pit two future presidents against one another in a Congressional race. The opponents were James Madison and James Monroe, two friends who found themselves maneuvered into this improbable contest. More important than that bit of trivia is the consequence of the outcome of the election. It is the author's contention that James Madison was the only person who could have gotten the Bill of Rights passed in that first Congress under the new Constitution; and that passage of a Bill of Rights was critical to survival of the Constitution and the government it created.

Mr. DeRose does a reasonably good job of supporting those contentions. He points to the great respect Madison garnered for his contributions to the Constitution, his deep understanding of governments and their philosophies, and his debating skills, which were supported by that deep knowledge and his reasoned logic. There was also a perception that Madison opposed amending the Constitution, partly because he had opposed amending it prior to its ratification, but primarily because opponents of the Constitution portrayed him as such. Those facts put him in a unique position to propose and argue for the Bill of Rights that, when passed, deflated a strong movement for a second constitutional convention. Had Monroe won the election, Madison would have been replaced by an opponent of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights might never have been passed, and a second convention called. Considering how difficult it was for the delegates of the first convention to reach any kind of compromise, it is possible that a second convention would have failed completely and we would have been saddled with the totally inadequate Articles of Confederation.

Although the election is the stated focus of the book, most of the volume is actually spent presenting the stories of the early lives of the two men. Along the way, a number of interesting facts come to light. For example, James Monroe fought in the Revolution and played a key role in the Christmas Day battle of Trenton, receiving a musket wound to the shoulder that could have cost him his life had a doctor not fortuitously joined his men. In 1788, Monroe voted against ratification of the Constitution that he would, some 29 years later, swear to protect and defend as President of the United States. James Madison came very close to marrying Kitty Floyd, the sixteen year old daughter of a Congressman. Had Madison married the well-educated young lady of "more than usual beauty and of irrepressible vivacity", we might never have known Dolly.

Madison is well known as the Father of the Constitution. He developed the Virginia Plan that served as the basis for discussion. He was author of some of the Federalist Papers that argued for ratification. Yet, in his home state of Virginia, the Constitution faced formidable opposition in Patrick Henry, proponent of the Articles of Confederation and master of the Virginia House of Delegates. In the special convention called to determine if Virginia would ratify the Constitution, Henry and Madison waged a historic debate that had implications beyond the boundaries of their state. If Virginia failed to ratify, not only would the United States be missing a key state, it would literally be split in two.

Madison won that round, but then faced an uphill battle to win a seat in the new government he'd been instrumental in creating. In the House of Delegates, Henry first passed a new residency requirement, then gerrymandered Madison's home district very heavily against the Constitution, and, finally, talked James Monroe, a Revolutionary War hero, into running against his friend Madison. But Madison won again, and, in the first Congress under the new Constitution, proposed twelve amendments. The first ten became our Bill of Rights. The eleventh, proposing one representative for each 30,000 people, never passed. The twelfth, limiting Congress's ability to vote itself raises, went into effect in 1992, over 200 years later!

The book is sprinkled with interesting little facts like these and it gave me a much better understanding of the early lives of these two friends who were critical to our history. It also expanded my knowledge of the process that created and ratified our Constitution and established our system of government.

The book is well written, interesting, relatively short, and easy to read. Published in 2011 by Regency Publishing, it contains 304 pages, including a notes section and an index. Amazon has the hardcover version available for \$11.18 and a paperback version for \$11.53. Barnes and Noble have the hardcover edition available for \$19.94 and the Nook electronic version for \$15.37. Mentor Public Library has one copy. The ClevNet System has eight copies of the printed book, one copy of an MP3 CD, and one copy of the book on CD.