



DRUM AND BUGLE CALL

MAHONING VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

DATE: Monday, March 12, 2017 @ 6:30 P.M.
LOCATION: A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon St, Canfield, OH 44406
SPEAKER: Bert Dunkerly, Park Ranger at Richmond NBP
TOPIC: *To the Bitter End: Appomattox, Bennett Place, and the Surrenders of the Confederacy*

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“Appomattox is the best known and most visited of the Civil War surrenders,” says this month’s speaker, Bert Dunkerly, a Ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park, “but it was the smallest and least representative of them all.” Bert believes that the surrenders in North Carolina, Alabama, Texas, and the Indian Territory “have been long neglected.” To-

night he will “focus on how the surrenders unfolded and how the war really ended.”

Robert M. Dunkerly is another of the Emerging Civil War historians we’re hosting, and I can’t say enough good things about that group. He’s an award-winning author and speaker and is actively involved in historic preservation and research. Bert earned his undergrad degree in History from St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and his Masters in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. A prolific writer, Bert Dunkerly has authored eleven books and over twenty articles. His research efforts include archaeology, colonial life, military history, and historic commemoration.



Well-traveled, he has visited over 500 battlefields and more than 1,000 historic sites worldwide.



Your chance to own a piece of history: In April of last year, Sue Boardman of the Gettysburg Foundation spoke to our group about the compelling history of the Cyclorama Painting. Afterwards, she generously donated to us a piece of the painting that was discarded as part of the restoration process, so we’re going to raffle it off to raise money for the round table. *The raffle will be in May, but we’ll start selling tickets this month.*

This raffle is separate from the monthly book raffle, but tickets will cost the same—1 for \$1, 3 for \$2, and 12 for \$5.

The Ladies Department *By Charen Fink*

Rape in the American Civil War—This article may be somewhat controversial but in light of current events involving today’s women and the *Me Too* movement, it fits in well with the subject of rape during the Civil War. Women faced fears then of not being believed, bodily harm or even death, and loss of reputation.

The burden of proof fell on the woman as the victim whether she was or was not raped; there were many factors that helped determine if she was telling the truth.

Rape was more prevalent than previously recorded. In the antebellum period, “rape meant, by definition, rape of white women for no such crime as rape of a black women existed in law.” “Colored” female slaves were expected to remain invisible in the legal system, and because they were unable to legally marry, all of their sexual relations were suspect, thus, in law the crime of rape of black women did not exist.

Generally, both armies were very respectful of most women, even those who were hostile. It is an injustice to assume that most Union and Confederate soldiers were committing acts of violence. However, the miscreants were usually stragglers, deserters, drunks, marauders and ruffians. Some of the men were possibly sociopaths and being in the army gave them the opportunity to wreak havoc on civilians. The majority suffered fear, pain and mental anguish, while a few suffered mental illness, suicide or even death.

If a man was charged, it would be for attempts or murder. The court ruled that there were too many false statements made by women or they were mentally ill. It was concluded that a chaste white woman of a high social standing would be too embarrassed to admit to an assault. However, if charged (black men were more likely to be convicted) the following punishments were expected: hanging, firing squad, ten years hard labor, prison, reduction in rank, or dishonorable discharge. Other forms of discipline included head shaving, buttons cut off, forfeit all pay within military lines. Often the sentence was reduced or men were punished for other than the actual rape charge, such as battery.

References:

Murphy, Kim. *I Had Rather Die: Rape in the Civil War*. Published by Coachlight Press: 2014.

“Sex in the Civil War.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sex_in_the_Civil_War&oldid=818502070 1-3-2018

Stutzman, Maureen. “Rape in the American Civil War: Race, Class, and Gender in the Case of Harriet McKinley and Perry Pierson.” Spring 2009 Issue.

Slave women were always a target for violence but there were cases where they had the opportunity to prosecute their case of sexual violence and it was heard in the court system. The book, *I Had Rather Die: Rape in the Civil War*, cites numerous examples of sexual violence perpetrated on women of all ages, social positions and color. The author, Kim Murphy, also examines how the perpetrators were or were not punished. Her book covers the subject material quite extensively.

TACTICALLY SPEAKING

By Gary Wholf

Loading a musket is a labor intensive, 9-step procedure that a well-trained soldier can execute three times in a minute. The loading procedure is so intense and the battlefield so loud and stressful that the soldier might not realize that his weapon has discharged. There are many instances of a musket being found on the field with 8 or more rounds stacked in the barrel. Remember that the standard musket used a paper cartridge containing black powder and a Minie ball and was ignited by placing a percussion cap on the cone that was struck by the hammer when fired. The sequence is as follows.

1. Command: "Load"
2. Handle cartridge
3. Tear cartridge (with the teeth)
4. Charge cartridge
5. Draw rammer
6. Ram cartridge
7. Return rammer
8. Prime (place a percussion cap on the cone)
9. Shoulder arms or the "Ready" position, as preferred by the Regimental commander.



Spring Tour of the Wilderness Battlefield: Remember that the weekend of May 4-6 we'll be offering our tours of the Wilderness battlefield. The cost is \$55 per person. Sites to be visited include Ellwood, Saunder's Field, Chewing Farm, Widow Tapp, and Longstreet's Assault and Gordon's Attack sites. Lodging is at the Hampton Inn & Suites Fredericksburg at Celebrate Virginia, located at 1080 Hospitality Ln, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Call 540.786.5530 and tell them you are with the Mahoning Valley Civil War Round Table to get a group rate of \$124/night. Then call Dan Welch at ###.###.#### to let him know that you are coming.

"Return to Gettysburg": In his 1997 booklet titled *Kelly's Heroes: The Irish Brigade at Gettysburg*, former Licensed Battlefield Guide and student of Irish History T.L. Murphy describes the scene on the Stony Hill as Father William Corby addressed the surviving members of the brigade on July 2, 1888, twenty-five years to the day after these Sons of Erin marched through the Wheatfield:

Emotion overtook him as he noted how few of the brigade actually survived the war. His eyes brimmed with tears as he finally began to speak. . . "here is what is left of us; where are the others?" His voice broke, and he again fell silent for several minutes as he tried to regain his composure. The men of the Irish Brigade were visibly moved. It was as if a wave of sorrow swept over these battle-hardened veterans and tears ran freely, falling softly on the same battlefield where over a third of the brigade engaged at Gettysburg had fallen as casualties.

"With bowed heads, the men of the Irish Brigade must have felt the pain of the chaplain as he stood before them so overcome with grief," Murphy continues. "No doubt they too were haunted by thoughts of their missing comrades, the 'brave old warriors' with whom they had marched."

BOOK REVIEW

Shooting Lincoln:

Mathew Brady, Alexander Gardner

And the Race to Photograph the Story of the Century

Written by Nicholas Pistar

Dacapo Press, Hachete Book Group

New York, NY, 2017

Reviewed by Carole Babyak

The author is a former Reporter for the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* and a consultant for CBS's *48hrs*. This book is about the photographers of the Civil War, their personalities, and accomplishments.

Mathew Brady said that his photo of Lincoln taken before the Cooper's Union Speech, which was made into an engraving and published in Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Magazine* and *Harper's Weekly*, made Lincoln President. Yes, Brady was arrogant but was the first to take a wagon to the battlefield as his darkroom.

Alexander Gardner at first worked for Brady, taking the picture of McClellan and President Lincoln at McClellan's headquarters. Gardner and James Gibson were at Antietam, their wagon full of glass plates with historic images.

In July of 1863 Gardner broke with Brady. After Gettysburg it was Gibson and Timothy O'Sullivan who repositioned dead Confederate soldiers, using their photographic prop rifle to lie over their bodies.

The photographs are so familiar, and now we get a glimpse of the men who took them. The book is 192 pages and full of photographs, of course.

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Bedlam on the Borderlands: a Civil War Symposium—Sponsored by the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation, "Bedlam on the Borderlands" will take place on Saturday, April 7 in Beverly, West Virginia beginning at noon. The program includes Kevin Pawlack, Antietam Battlefield guide who led a tour of the Shepherdstown battlefield for us last fall, giving a talk titled "Shepherdstown in the Civil War: One Vast Confederate Hospital," and Hunter Lesser, author of the excellent book, *Rebels at the Gate: Lee and McClellan on the Front Line of a Nation Divided*. Hunter will present "The Crooked Road to Freedom: Strange Tales of Slavery and Emancipation."

The cost for the symposium is \$30. For more information, call the Beverly Heritage Center at 304.637.7424 or send an email to info@beverlyheritagecenter.org. Beverly is about 4 hours south of Youngstown via I-79.

Partial Schedule for 2018-2019:

September—**Keith Rocco**, Historical Artist; October—**Tim Daley**, Cuyahoga County Soldiers and Sailors Memorial, *the Cleveland Sanitary Commission*; November—**Dr. Keith Miller**, Chemistry professor at Mount Union, *the American Civil War Battle Tactics in Perspective*; December—**Kevin Pawlack**, Antietam Battlefield guide, *the Battle of Shepherdstown*; March—**Dr. Mark R. Snell**, retired professor of history at Shepherdstown University, *Gettysburg's Other Battle: The Ordeal of an American Shrine during the First World War*; May—**Chris Kolakowski**, director of the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, VA, *the Perryville Campaign*.