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DATE: Monday, September 8, 2003
TIME: 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Antone's, 8578 Market Street, Boardman, Ohio
SPEAKER: **Ray Vanderpool** – President-elect for 2004
TOPIC: "The Battle of Shiloh"

A very warm and hearty "Welcome back!"

We start the 2003-2004 campaign as we have every new season with a presentation from our President-elect. Tonight, **Ray Vanderpool** will discuss the western theater of the war, specifically the Confederate attempt to strike a blow against Ulysses S. Grant on the banks of the Tennessee River with his talk entitled **Shiloh-A Civil War Battle at Pittsburg Landing, TN, April 6-8, 1862.**

Ray has been a member of the MVCWRT for ten years now, and you can always see him at the meetings with his wife of thirty-eight years, Maggie. He graduated from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a BS in Accounting and earned his MA in American History from Youngstown State, where he was a student of Hugh Earnhart. Educational tours with the likes of Hugh, Ed Bearss, Will Greene, and Niel Magnum through the states of Virginia, Texas and New Mexico, to name but a few, have helped further his understanding of the Civil War and the time period in which it occurred.

He and Maggie have two children, Jen and Mike.

Schedule of Speakers for 2003-2004

Oct 13, **Frank Scaturro** – "US Grant and the Grant Monument," Nov 10, **Shea McLean** – "The CSS Hunley," Dec 8, **Jay Jorgensen** – "The Wheatfield at Gettysburg," Jan 12, **TBA**, Feb 9, **John Hubbell** – "Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief," Mar 8, **Dale Phillips** – "Benjamin Butler and the Battle of New Orleans," Apr 12, **John Belt** – "RE Lee Impression," May 10, **Ronald Maust** – *Union II Corps Hospital – Gettysburg*"

Our fall trip to Cedar Creek battlefield to work clearing an interpretive path in front of the Union XIX corps earthworks has been set for the weekend of **September 20 and 21, 2003**. In the spring we helped **Roy McKenzie** with his **Eagle Scout** project by building a stacked rail fence around the historic **Heater House**, located just north of **Belle Grove Mansion**. This time we will be back at the entrenchments, picking up where we left off last fall. If you're interested in joining us, call **Frank Schmidt** at **(330) 799-7753** and he'll take your name down and give you information on the special rate offered us by the **Super 8** in **Middletown, VA**. The work is very rewarding and the dinner reception is truly an experience.

And if after that you haven't still gotten your fill of Cedar Creek, on **October 17**, two days before the 139th anniversary of the battle, the **YWCA of Gettysburg** is sponsoring a one-day bus tour of the **Cedar Creek Battlefield** with guide **Charlie Fennell** as part of their "Everlearning" one-day educational program (Charlie spoke to our group last year about Culp's Hill). The tour will also include visits to **Hupp's Hill** and **Belle Grove Mansion**, where **Stephen Dodson Ramseur** was visited by his old West Point friends **George Custer** and **Henry DuPont**, before dying of wounds suffered during the Confederate retreat. The fee is \$85 before September 26th, \$90 after, and includes a box lunch picnic. For more information, call the YWCA at **(717) 334-9171** and ask for **Deborah Ann**.

The Ladies' Department

By Charen Fink

Etiquette

Hygiene: "Clean & white teeth are an absolute necessity to anyone who expects to pass muster in good society. Some people can keep their teeth white without the aid of washes or powder, while for others it is necessary to use some cleansing substance daily. To keep the mouth sweet & the teeth clean, it is necessary to brush them always after eating, and to scour them once a day."

Period recipes for cleaning teeth (not recommended for modern-day use).

- * Take a wet tooth-brush and rub it upon a cake of soap, apply to the teeth. This also cleans the mouth. *The Practical Housewife*
- * Take finely powdered charcoal and mix with an equal amount of prepared chalk. This can be scented with a drop or two of oil of cloves. *Godey's, January 1863*
- * Opiate tooth-paste consists of honey, chalk, orris, rose pink, otto of cloves, nutmeg, rose, simple syrup and form into a paste. *Godey's, November 1858.*

Dentistry

Confederate dentists, who were commissioned as captains or majors, gave every soldier a dental exam, used their own instruments and were provided an ambulance wagon for transportation. Later in the war, dental supplies and equipment were considered contraband. Each day the dentist did 25 fillings and 20 extractions and removed immense amounts of tartar. Artificial teeth were done by a civilian dentist at the soldier's expense.

To fill teeth, a hand-rotated drill was used and then hand excavators used to remove carious material. If the pulp was removed, creosotum was often inserted, followed by gold foil for small fillings and tin foil for larger ones. Other filling materials include:

- * amalgam of silver, tin, and mercury
- * one tooth was filled with radioactive thorium (not known to be radioactive until 1898)
- * one tooth filled with lead and shotgun pellets.

Domestic Management of the Sick-Room

For apoplexy and fits generally—raise the head; unloose all tight clothes, strings, corsets; apply cold lotions to the head, which should be shaved; apply leeches to the temples, and send for a surgeon (or a doctor).

Cosmetics

19th century Rose Lip Salve: olive oil, oil of sweet almonds, white wax, Balsam of Peru (resin from the Myroxylon ceriferum tree), and alkanet (from a root of the Anchusa plant) coloring.

21st century equivalent of Red Rouge or Lip Salve: 4-1/2 oz. bleached beeswax, ½ cup olive oil, 20 drops lavender oil, 2 oz. alkanet root or several drops of red food coloring

Macerate the alkanet root and steep in olive oil for four days and then strain. Place the oil in a bowl with the beeswax & heat in a water bath until the wax is melted. Stir gently & add the lavender oil. Continue stirring until mixture is firm. Place in a closed container.

Of course, today it is much easier to buy this commercially.

During the Sixties

- * Little Women (by Louisa May Alcott) was published
- * Typewriters were invented
- * modern shoe manufacturing began
- * cost of living rose along with the style of living
- * women became interested in riding, billiards and croquet

References

Bollet, Alfred Jay, M.D. *Civil War Medicine, Challenges and Triumphs*. Tucson, AZ: Galen Press, LTD., 2002

Kunciov, Robert, editor. *Mr. Godey's Ladies*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1971.

Mescher, Virginia. *Powdered, Painted, and Perfumed, Cosmetics of the Civil War Period and Their Historic Context*. Burke, VA: Vintage Volumes, 2003.

"Sick Room & Nursery 1857 Godey's". *Past Reflections Magazine*. Issue 13, 2003.

Willis, Henry. *Etiquette and The Usages of Society*. New York: Published by Dick & Fitzgerald, 1860.

(I must mention the wonderful job Charen did at the Greater Pittsburgh CWRT this past July. I maintain that an important measure of the success of a presentation is the length of the question-and-answer period afterwards. This time, they practically had to throw everyone out!)

Happening Locally: On August 24 between 50 and 60 people journeyed into the past with local historian **Steffon Jones**, who pointed out the graves of the 25 black Civil War veterans buried in **Oak Hill Cemetery** in Youngstown. He related many of the personal and family stories of such individuals as **Samuel Gwynn**, 1st Sergeant of Co.K, 8th USCT who was the first black elected constable in the city of Youngstown, and **James Kelly**, Co E. of the well-known **54th Massachusetts**, who survived the assault on **Battery Wagner**, which was depicted in the film, “**Glory.**” **Harry Richards**’s headstone doesn’t identify him as having served with a black regiment because he campaigned with **Colonel Emerson Opdyke**’s “**Tigers,**” the **125th Ohio**, as a cook. **Johnny Holmes** was too young to fight, but he nonetheless served the military as a mule driver and was present at the surrender of Robert E. Lee’s army at Appomattox. And **James T. Cheney**, known to the locals as “**Senator**” **Cheney** because of his interest in politics (he was a staunch Republican), was born a slave but was given the opportunity to fight for both his country and his people in Co. A, 5th USCC. Steffon hopes that others will take time to come to Oak Hill to visit these and the many other Civil War veterans buried there and encourages them to bring their children so that they, too, may be touched by their memory.

In a related story, the names of nine black Civil War-era veterans of Youngstown will be placed on the monument downtown. Specifics have not yet been worked out, but plans are in place to add the names sometime next year as soon as work begins reopening Federal St. to traffic.

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BOOK REVIEWS – We’re interested in what you’ve read this summer. Of the many new titles out this year, a biographical tribute to “**History’s Pied Piper,**” **Ed Bearss** by **John C. Waugh** and **Newt Gingrich** re-fighting the **Battle of Gettysburg** come immediately to mind. If you’d like to do a short critique for the newsletter of something you’ve recently read, see **Charen Fink** at the meeting. We’d really like to hear from you!

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Morgan’s Raid Festivities

The July 16 edition of the **Youngstown Vindicator** reported that beginning next year the state will establish a heritage trail marking Ohio’s nearly 550-mile long leg of John Hunt Morgan’s 1863 raid. About 65 markers will be installed, 3 in **Columbiana County**, the end of the line for Morgan. In the article, the reporter enlisted the views of **Attorney Tim Brookes** of East Liverpool, a MVCWRT member, who hopes the trail sparks new interest in the raid.

Running through September 21 – Exhibition of Civil War artwork and photos by contemporary artists and photographers from Kentucky and Ohio hosted by the **Greater Loveland Historical Society Museum**. The show is part of a 5-month **Morgan’s Raid Exhibit**, which also has on display historic artifacts of the raid. Located near Cincinnati, the museum is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1-4 and admission is free. Call (513) 683-5692 for more information.

Sep 3 - Sep 7 Ohio 140th Reenactment of Morgan’s Raid. This is an Ohio Bicentennial event with 200 Confederate cavalrymen. Battles, school programs, children’s activities, art exhibit, lectures, artifacts, encampment, bean dinner, pancake breakfast, dress parade, Civil War Ball, church service. Hosted by Meigs County Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call (877) MEIGS-CO, or go to www.meigscountytourism.com.

September 20 & 21, 2003 First Annual Morgan's Raid Festival will take place Saturday, September 20, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday the 21st, from 10:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. in the small village of **Harrisville, Ohio**, about 20 miles SE of Steubenville. Admission and parking is free. On Saturday the 20th, from 2 – 3 PM author and historian **Lester Horwitz** will speak at the Fire Hall and will sign books before and after his presentation.

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The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation recently awarded grants totaling \$142,340 to 18 local organizations, \$5,000 of which went to the **Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation** for an archeological survey and GPS mapping of Union earthworks located on the Cedar Creek battlefield. Also, an original oil painting of the Confederate assault on those same XIX corps earthworks entitled “**Reverse the Trenches**” by renown historical artist **Keith Rocco** will be raffled off at this year’s Cedar Creek re-enactment October 19. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by calling the foundation at (540) 869-2064 or visiting www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org. Artist’s proofs for \$200 and prints for \$150 are also available.

*We would like to welcome **Donia Foster** to the roster of the Mahoning Valley Civil War Round Table.*

They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the Civil War

By DeAnne Blanton and Lauren M. Cook

LSU Press, 2002. \$29.95, or the library.

Reviewed by Carole Babyak

DeAnne Blanton is a senior military archivist at the National Archives and Lauren Cook is at Fayetteville SU, NC, she wrote a book about Sarah Wakeman who joined the 153rd NY Vol. Inf. This book tells the stories of women who fought in the Union and Confederate Armies. They joined for similar reasons that men joined but also to follow husbands, sweethearts, brothers and fathers. Many escaped oppressive, restrictive home environments. A woman working as a maid earned \$4-7 a month while wages for 3 months service in the Union Army was \$39.00, a woman disguised as a man had more independence and could vote in the Army. Mary Livermore wrote in her 1888 diary that she thought more women than the stated under 400 disguised themselves and enlisted. With several exceptions these women did not tell their stories and their identities remain unknown. For example when reburying soldiers killed in the Crater at Petersburg a woman was found shot through the head. At Shiloh in 1934 a mass grave of Union Soldiers was discovered, one of the 9 soldiers was a woman.

Women could gamble, fire a musket and talk like a man although Loreta Velazquez refused to swear or drink. In 1863 Sarah Bradbury (dragoon) and Ella Reno (teamster and niece of Brig.Gen. Jesse Reno) drank applejack and got drunk. Returning to camp, they fell into the Stones River and nearly drowned; their rescuers discovered their identities and they were sent to Gen. Sheridan who said in his memoirs that he was mortified. Many discovered women promptly went to another company and re-enlisted. One girl joined the 3rd Ohio Inf. enlisting with her brother. After they were separated she asked for a transfer and was discovered. Fannie Lee from Cleveland was discovered serving in the Ohio 6th Cavalry. She requested a hospital position and was sent home but other discovered women like Ella Reno did serve in hospitals.

The book goes over the history, motivation, service, and discovery in the ranks, public regard and postwar lives of women. Sarah Edmonds (Franklin Thompson, 2nd Michigan Inf.) married after the war and raised 2 sons. She wrote Nurse and Spy contributing all profits to the Sanitary Commission, however she did admit that the book was not just her experiences but also of other women during the war. Albert Cashier (Jennie Hodges, 95th Illinois Inf.) was an Irish immigrant. Jennie kept a male identity and the authors have brought together her early and postwar life. Loreta Velazquez (Lt. Harry Buford, CSA) was married to an Army officer before 1861 so she was familiar with Army life. She wrote *The Woman in Battle* in 1864, probably to support herself and her son. General Early was a critic of her work and discounted many details. The authors compile known facts concerning Velazquez and give probably the most complete record of this woman warrior. They also give changing views of women soldiers, the Victorian entertaining-Romanticism view and the 20th C. regard that these women were deviants. When asked the question, why did you join one woman said, I love my country, a simple reply from a female who was not allowed to vote.

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“If all the dead . . . could be heaped in one pile and all the wounded gathered in one group, the pale faces of the dead and the groans of the wounded would send such a thrill of horror through the hearts of the originators of this war that their very souls would rack with such pain that they would prefer being dead and in torment than to stand before God with such terrible crimes blackening their characters.”

Private Tally Simpson of South Carolina after the Battle of Fredericksburg.

