

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

2011-2012 Program Schedule

September 14, 2011 – Robert Olmstead: On Writing Coal Black Horse



Robert Olmstead is the Director of the Creative Writing Program at Ohio Wesleyan University. He is the author of four novels, a memoir, a textbook on writing fiction, numerous short stories and many magazine and journal articles. Prior to joining the faculty at Ohio Wesleyan, Professor Olmstead served as Senior Writer in Residence at Dickinson College and as director of the creative writing program at Boise State University. His third novel, Coal Black Horse, follows a 14-year old Southern boy on his journey to find his father, a Confederate soldier fighting in Pennsylvania with the Army of Northern Virginia. Coal Black Horse earned the 2007 Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize for Fiction, the Ohioana Book Award for fiction, was a finalist for the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance Book Award for fiction, and was nominated for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.

October 12, 2011 – Marc Leepson: The Battle of Monocacy



Marc Leepson is a journalist and historian and the author of seven books, including Desperate Engagement on the Battle of Monocacy and Jubal Early's march on Washington. Mr. Leepson earned both his undergraduate degree and MA in history from George Washington University. He is a former staff writer for the Congressional Quarterly and has written for many newspapers and magazines, including *Preservation*, *Smithsonian*, *Military History*, *Civil War Times*, *America's Civil War*, the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *New York Times Book Review*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Detroit News*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Newsday*, *The Arizona*

Republic, and *USA Today*. He has made regular appearances on radio and television, including *The Today Show*, *CNN*, *MSNBC*, *Fox News*, *All Things Considered*, *Talk of the Nation*, *To The Point*, *Morning Edition*, and *The Diane Rehm Show*.

November 9, 2011 – Jason Emerson: Robert Lincoln



Jason Emerson is an independent historian and freelance writer living in Cazenovia, NY. His books include The Madness of Mary Lincoln, Lincoln the Inventor, and Giant in the Shadows: The Life of Robert T. Lincoln which is scheduled for publication just prior to his appearance before the CCWRT. Mr. Emerson has also published numerous articles and book reviews in both scholarly and popular publications. He worked as a National Park Service park ranger at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Gettysburg National Military Park, and the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (the Arch) in St. Louis and as a costumed interpreter at the Genesee Country Museum in Mumfordsville, NY.

December 14, 2011 – Nora Titone: How Sibling Rivalry Helped Spawn An Assassin



My Thoughts Be Bloody is Nora Titone's first book and focuses on John Wilkes Booth's relationship with his more famous and more accomplished father (Junius Booth) and brother (Edwin Booth) and speculates on Booth's psychological motivations for assassinating Abraham Lincoln. Nora Titone studied American History and Literature as an undergraduate at Harvard University, and earned an M.A. in History at the University of California, Berkeley. She has worked as a historical researcher for a range of academics, writers and artists involved in projects studying nineteenth-century America including historian Doris Kearns Goodwin for Goodwin's book on Abraham Lincoln's cabinet, Team of Rivals.

January 11, 2012 – Annual Dick Crews Debate

Abraham Lincoln (CCWRT past President, Mel Maurer) and Stephen Douglas (CCWRT member, Chris Fortunato) will join us to argue over slavery, the constitution, states rights, secession, and the fetching appeal of the former Mary Todd. Moderated by William F.B. Vodrey.

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February 8, 2012 – Jon Thompson: A.P. Hill at Gettysburg

CCWRT past President, retired history teacher, and future Licensed Gettysburg Battlefield Guide Jon Thompson will be posing and answering the question, "What happened to A.P. Hill at Gettysburg?" Indeed. Where was he?

March 14, 2012 – John C. Fazio: The Barlows and the Gordons



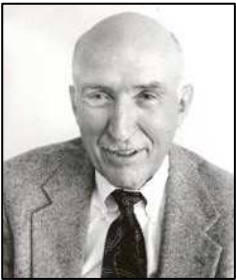
Civil War history overflows with sad, ironic stories of families and friendships made and broken by the tragic events of 1861-1865. One of the more compelling of these stories is that of Union General Frances C. Barlow and his wife Arabella and Confederate General John B. Gordon and his wife Fanny. Retired lawyer and CCWRT past President John C. Fazio steps to the podium to tell this intriguing story.

April 11, 2012 – Edward H. Bonekemper III: How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War



Edward H. Bonekemper, III is an adjunct lecturer of U.S. military history at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA. For 34 years he served as a Federal Government attorney, including 11 years with the U.S. Coast Guard and 17 with the U.S. Department of Transportation. Mr. Bonekemper holds a BA from Muhlenberg College, an MA from Old Dominion University and a JD from Yale Law School and is a retired commander in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. He is the author of several Civil War books including, [How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War](#), [A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius](#), [McClellan and Failure: A Study of Civil War Fear, Incompetence and Worse](#), and [Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian](#).

May 9, 2012 – Ed Bearss: Vicksburg



Perhaps the most famous and recognizable of living Civil War historians, Ed Bearss has appeared before the CCWRT a dozen times, most recently in 2000, and is an honorary member. Mr. Bearss began his long career in 1954 working in the Office of the Chief of Military History, US Army, before moving over to the Vicksburg National Military Park as historian. While at Vicksburg, Bearss was instrumental in locating the U.S.S. Cairo and two forgotten forts at Grand Gulf, MS. In 1958, he was named Southeast Regional Historian, and worked to develop a variety of new parks, including Pea Ridge and Wilson's Creek. In 1966, Bearss was transferred to Washington, D.C., ultimately rising to the position of Chief Historian of the National Park Service, a role in which he served from 1981-1994. Following his retirement in 1995, Bearss was named Chief Historian Emeritus. In addition to his work at Vicksburg, Bearss led restoration and preservation efforts at Fort Smith, Stones River, Fort Donelson, Richmond, Bighorn Canyon, the Eisenhower Farm at Gettysburg, Chilkoot Pass, the LBJ Ranch, Fort Moultrie, Fort Point, the William Howard Taft House, Fort Hancock at the Boston Navy Yard, and the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. Ed Bearss received his BS from Georgetown University and MA from Indiana University and is the recipient of several honorary doctorates. He has published numerous books and articles on the Civil War and has appeared on radio and television many times, most notably and memorably in Ken Burns' 1989 documentary, "The Civil War".