Issue 2 October 2025

The Courier

Northeast Ohio Civil War Roundtable

"Quality, Education, Fellowship"

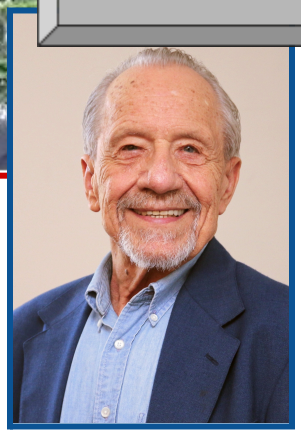
October Meeting #245

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Speaker - Mel Maurer

"An Evening with President Abraham Lincoln"





Lincoln Portrayer
Mel Maurer

Our October Speaker Series dinner program will host Lincoln Scholar, Mel Maurer. Being a lifelong student of the American Civil War, his emphasis is on Abraham Lincoln. He has performed for many years to numerous Ohio and Gettysburg audiences. Mel served as a past president of CCWRT and is a lifetime member of the Lincoln Forum. Many in our audience have had the privilege to attend and hear Mel Mauer & another friend of our Roundtable, the late John Fazio, in debate.
This month we will be excited recipients enjoying a special evening welcoming our 16th President Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by Mr. Maurer. The "Evening with Abraham Lincoln" will have you seated at Washington's Ford Theater, two days after General Robert E. Lee's Appomattox surrender. Lincoln is speaking at a fundraiser for the widows and orphans facing hardship during the long, devastating four year war.
Lincoln is relaxed, covering a number of topics, delighting his audience with his humor. It's an evening where Lincoln can enjoy a break from his pressing responsibilities, the weight of our Country's burdens, unaware of his soon tragic death in a few short days in this same theater. Tonight is your opportunity to ask our Civil War President questions. Be prepared. Invite a guest to a special evening.

Evening Schedule

Doors Open 5:45 p.m.

Social-6:00 p.m. Dinner-6:35 p.m. Program-7:45 p.m.
Dinner & Program
Members-$30.00 Non-Members-$40.00
Guests Welcome

RSVP Required by Friday, October 10, 2025
RSVP Contact - Event Coordinator, Franco
(440) 567-2414 Email: francomichael2414@yahoo.com



Our Venue
Pine Ridge Country Club
30601 Pine Ridge Rd.
Wickliffe, OH

Northeast Ohio Civil War Roundtable
presents Mr. Mel Maurer in
An Evening with
President Abraham Lincoln

You Are Invited

Tuesday, October 14, 2025



Guests Welcome - RSVP Required

See RSVP Contact Info Below

Evening Schedule

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Our Venue
Pine Ridge Country Club
30601 Pine Ridge Rd.
Wickliffe, OH

President Dale Fellows
October 2025



President Dale portraying Revolutionary New York Brigadier General Edward Paine, who purchased Ohio Western Reserve property in 1799 and settled there in 1800 founding Painesville OH

Hello Fellow Members,

What a fantastic start to our new NEOCWRT year! Tom McMillan gave a wonderful presentation, the food was great as always, and so was the camaraderie.

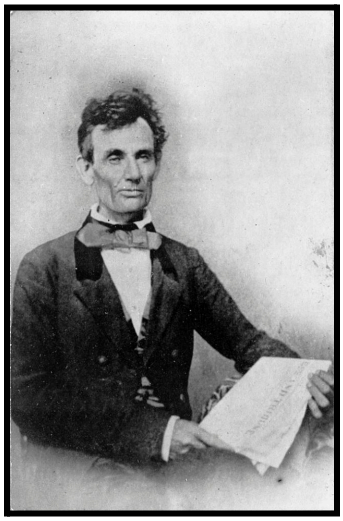
This month we have a special treat with our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln addressing our club.

We hope you will be able to join us and be sure to bring your questions for the President.

Our trip to Williamsburg is only 6 months away! Anyone still interested in being a part of this historic adventure, please give me a call at 216-299-2330. The America 250th celebration will be in full swing.

As President George Washington would say, "GOD Bless you, and GOD Bless these United States of America."

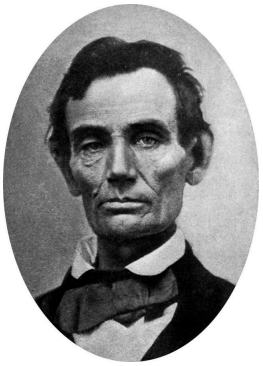
Gallery of Lincoln Portraits



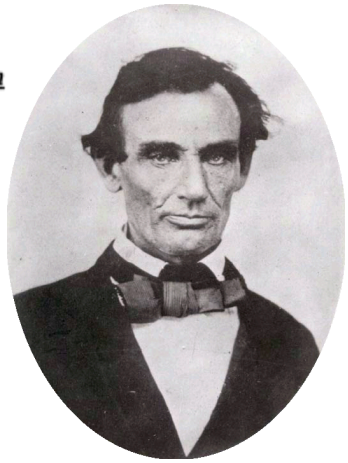
October 27, 1854
2nd earliest known photograph of Lincoln who had this taken for Mr. Johan Carl Frederic Polycarpus Von Schneidau, former editor of the influential anti-slavery German newspaper, Illinois Staats-Zeitung, after a Chicago dinner with him and Isaac N. Arnold
Rarehistoricphotos.com



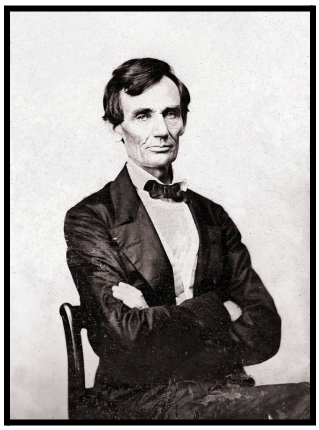
February 28, 1857
by Alexander Hesler/Hessler
Chicago, IL
Taken immediately prior to his Senate nomination. Lincoln didn't like the photographer wanting his hair smoothed down so he ran his fingers through his hair right before the sitting. Original negative burned in the Great Chicago Fire
Wikipedia



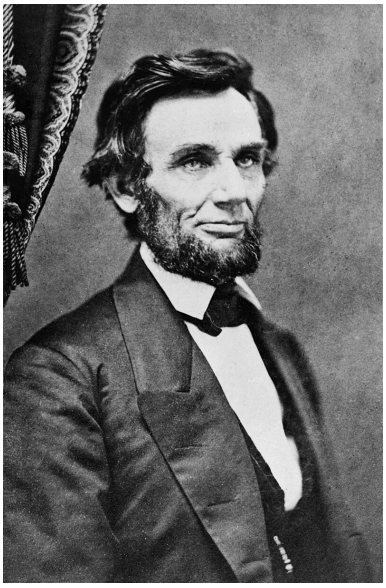
August 26, 1858
by T.P. Pearson
Macomb, IL
L.O.C.



October 1, 1858
by Calvin Jackson
Pittsfield, IL
L.O.C.

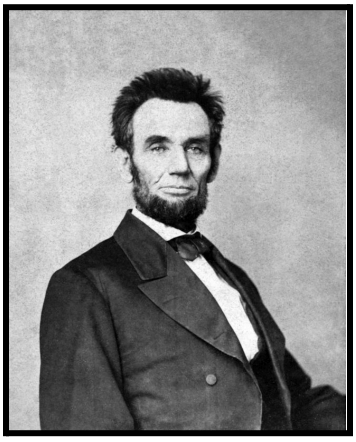


August 13, 1860
by Preston Butler
Last beardless photograph of Lincoln
One of six taken, only two survive
Rarehistoricphotos.com



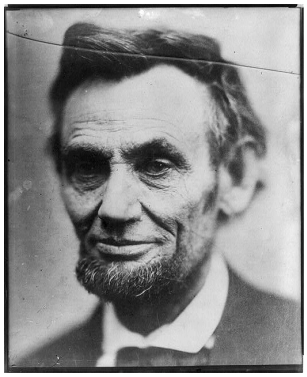
February 9, 1861
by Christopher S. German
Macomb, IL
Taken two days before he left Springfield for Washington for his inauguration
L.O.C.

Gallery of Lincoln Portraits

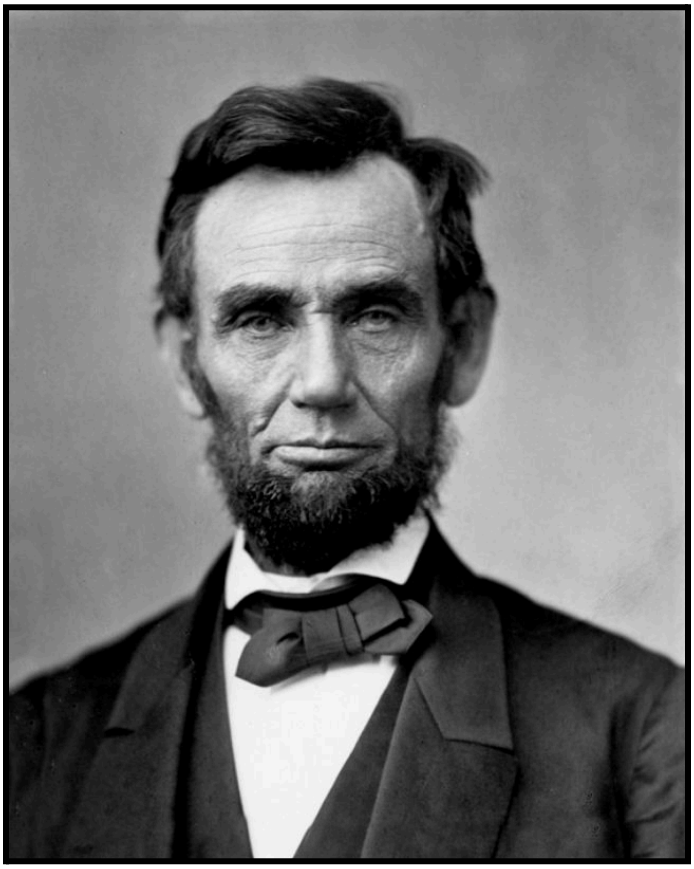


February 1865
stereograph
by government photographer
Lewis Emory Walker,
not Matthew Brady.
Lincoln's short haircut may have been suggested by his barber when he had his Clark Mills' life mask to prevent long hair sticking to the plaster mold
Rarehistoricphotos.com

Head and shoulders portrait, traditionally called "Last photograph of Lincoln from life"



February 5, 1865
by Alexander Gardner
Washington, DC
L.O.C.



November 8, 1863
by Alexander Gardner
Sometimes referred to as the "Gettysburg portrait."
Taken on a Sunday afternoon in Gardner's Washington studio less than two weeks before Lincoln's Gettysburg Address
Lincoln posed for several portraits during his visit
Rarehistoricphotos.com



November 19, 1863
The original 34-star flag shown above is reported to have been flown during President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and was donated to Union College, in 1985 by alumna, Muriel Fleming O'Connor



October Birthdays

October 21 - Chick Beach
October 31 - Dave Lintern

Welcome New Member

Dr. Mark Stillman

September Executive Board Happenings

1. *Pine Ridge Doors - Open 5:45 p.m.*
2. *Dinner salad served - 6:30 p.m.*
3. *Grow your Roundtable - Invite, Invite, Invite - History Loving Family and Friends*
4. *Encourage guests to become a member of our Roundtable*
5. *We invite members to attend the Williamsburg March 26-30, 2026 field trip. Contact President Dale Fellows ASAP (216) 299-2330 to allow for enough rooms to be available at the discounted rate quoted on the flyer in this month's Courier*
6. *Take the opportunity to thank Treasurer George Maier who has faithfully served our Roundtable each year keeping our finances in order.*

Presidents
1998 - 2026

*****

1998 - Joe Tirpak (1)
1999 - Rob Bayless (2)
2000 - Norty London (3)
2001 - Bob Baucher (4)
2002 - Bob Battisti (5)
2003 - Frank Yannucci (6)
2004 - Ted Karle (7)
2005 - John Sandy (8)
2006 - Brent Morgan (9)
2007 - Mike Sears (10)
2008 - Bill Meissner (11)
2009 - Arlan Byrne (12)
2010 - Terry Reynolds (13)
2011 - Franco Sperrazzo (14)
2012 - Steve Abbey (15)
2013 - Tom Horvath (16)
2014 - Carl Dodaro (17)
2015 - Bernie Taub (18)
2016 - Bill Wilson (19)
2017 - Hudson Fowler (20)
2018 - David Lintern (21)
2019 - Kenny Godnavec (22)
2020 - 2021 - Tom Horvath, Jr. (23)
2021 - 2022 - Scott Hagara (24)
2022 - 2023 - Paul Siedel (25)
2023 - 2024 - Tena Kegg (26)
2024 - 2025 - Darrell Schneider (27)
2025 - 2026 - Dale H. Fellows (28)

Executive Board
2025-2026

Founders - Joseph Tirpak, Norton London
President - Dale H. Fellows
Vice President - Cherie Godnavec
Secretary - Mike Driscoll
Treasurer - George Maier
Past Presidents -
Darrell Schneider, Tena Kegg, Scott Hagara
Event Coordinator - Franco Sperrazzo
Sergeant at Arms -
Mike Driscoll, John Kegg
Courier Editor, Publicity - Tena Kegg
Membership Chairman - Kenny Godnavec
Members at Large -
Dave Lintern, Bob Tribby

1998 Charters

Joe Abazzio, Dale Fellows, Ted Karle
Bill Meissner, John Sandy, Franco Sperrazzo

Hear ye, Here ye…..
Calling all members….
Starting September 2025….



If you have not done so it is time to support the 2025-2026 Roundtable with payment of membership dues. Your dues support NEOCWRT and enable us to continue to welcome and enjoy quality speakers at our monthly dinner programs. Treasurer George Maier will accept your payment in Cash or Check at the Welcome Table, Tuesday, October 14, 2025.

Special Request

If paying by check….
please write a separate check for dues
and a separate check for dinner

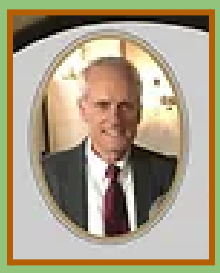
Important Note…..

Membership dues should be paid by November 30, 2025
renewing your membership,
enjoying your member $30.00 dinner cost,
avoiding an increase to the nonmember $40.00 dinner cost
effective December 9, 2025

2025-2026 Membership Dues…..

Single - $55.00 Couple - $75.00

Courier Editor, Tena Kegg
October 2025



Lake View Cemetery Tour

"Family and Friends of James A. Garfield"

Saturday, November 1, 2025 11:00 a.m.

Meet at the Garfield Memorial

Tour Guide - Dave Lintern

* Tour is limited to 20 *

RSVP required ASAP - contact davelintern6@gmail.com



Captain Levi Scofield Tomb



James A. Garfield Memorial

Welcome Courier guest contributor, John Sandy, as he begins a series on….

The Army of the Potomac at Harrison's Landing

Part I of a Three Part Series

By John Sandy

Following the defeat of Federal forces under Major General Irwin McDowell at the First Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861, Major General George Brinton McClellan was ordered to report to President Lincoln at the White House in Washington. At age 34, McClellan gained recognition in the northern press as the "Young Napoleon" after successfully commanding Union troops against Confederate forces under Robert E. Lee in western Virginia. He was subsequently appointed to lead the Federal troops in Washington and was tasked with organizing and training the inexperienced recruits, and turning them into a disciplined and effective military force.

McClellan's initial priority was to instill discipline within the army. He implemented measures such as closing bars and brothels frequented by soldiers, and he contributed to organizing the army's various departments and establishing a systematic approach to military procurement. These reforms required significant time, which frustrated the Abolitionist Wing of the Republican Party, who were demanding immediate action and tangible results. President Lincoln faced ongoing criticism from members of his cabinet as well as from Radical Republican leaders such as Senators Benjamin Wade of Ohio and Zachariah Chandler of Michigan, who urged him to instruct McClellan to attack the Confederate encampment at Centerville, Virginia, near the Bull Run / Manassas battlefield, just 30 miles from Washington. The Radicals were dissatisfied with McClellan's insistence on thoroughly training the Army of the Potomac before launching an offensive. Despite their objections, McClellan maintained that additional preparation time was necessary. There was also a prevailing mistrust in the Lincoln Administration towards Democrats and West Point-trained officers who opposed waging war explicitly to end slavery.

Army of the Potomac Photo from The National Archives



General McClellan informed President Lincoln that offensive operations would commence once the army was adequately trained and equipped. During the First Battle of Bull Run, the inexperience of untrained Union soldiers led to widespread panic. Although President Lincoln noted that both sides lacked experience, thorough training proved indispensable. New recruits required instruction in drills, marching, target practice, and mastery of the Army's Manual of Arms, while officers—many of whom were former civilians—needed assessment in military tactics and operations.

The Army of the Potomac also needed comprehensive provisioning, including proper uniforms, footwear, belts, winter coats, headgear, backpacks, blankets, shelter tents, preserved meats, hardtack, and, crucially, rifles, bayonets, and ammunition.

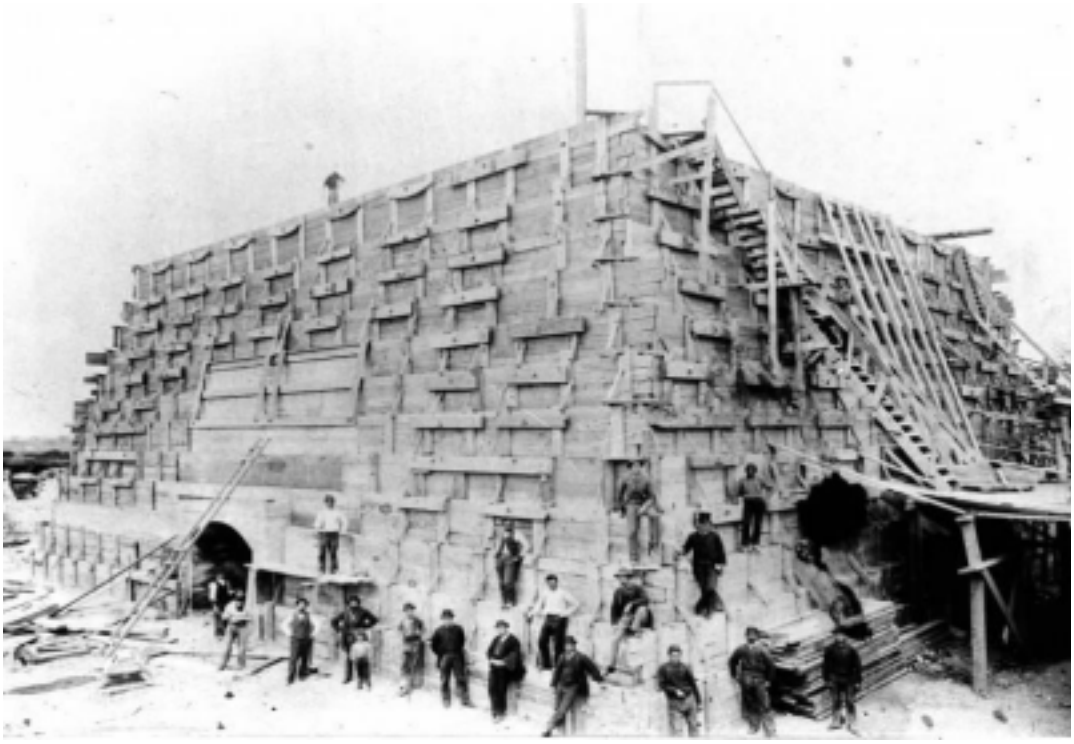
McClellan's army required an extensive range of supplies to operate efficiently. Essential items included railroad rolling stock, iron rails, ties, and couplings for the transportation and resupply of troops. Thousands of horses and mules were necessary for transporting goods, hauling artillery, carrying provisions, and supporting the cavalry. To maintain these animals, the army needed substantial quantities of fresh forage and grain. The supply train relied on thousands of wagons, while the artillery was equipped with hundreds of cannons, caissons, and gun carriages. Fulfilling these logistical demands represented a significant undertaking that required months of coordinated effort.

As McClellan's efforts to equip his army dragged on, the delays fueled growing frustration among Radical Republicans. They viewed every month spent gathering supplies as a missed opportunity to strike at the Confederacy. Although some leaders were willing to allow McClellan a month or two to prepare, their patience waned quickly in the face of prolonged logistical challenges and perceived inaction.

On October 20, 1861, General McClellan sent a telegram to Major General Charles Stone, who was commanding Union forces safeguarding the Potomac River in Maryland, directing him to conduct a reconnaissance in force on the Confederate side of the river near Leesburg, Virginia. A Federal detachment led by General George McCall reported observing a substantial Confederate encampment on the plateau at Balls Bluff. Following this report, General Stone instructed Colonel Edward Baker—then a U.S. Senator from Oregon—to lead his "California Brigade" and compel the Confederates to abandon their position.

Col. Baker had only small boats with a capacity of ten people each available for the river crossing, which led to delays and allowed the Confederate forces time to prepare an assault against the Federal troops. During the ensuing firefight, Colonel Baker was killed and many of his men were captured. Some attempted to escape by jumping into the Potomac River but did not survive. In total, 33 were killed, 115 wounded, and 714 captured. Colonel Edward Baker, who had previously served in Congress with Abraham Lincoln before the Mexican War, was acquainted with President and Mrs. Lincoln, and his death was significant to the President. Both Baker and Lincoln had opposed the war with Mexico.

Photo of the base of the Statue of Liberty from National Archives



Secretary of War Stanton had General Charles Stone arrested and held in prison without being charged until a Courts Martial could be convened. Stone was never court martialed, but his military career was all but over. He would later gain national fame 1883-1886 as the chief engineer and head of construction of the base for the Statue of Liberty in New York City Harbor.

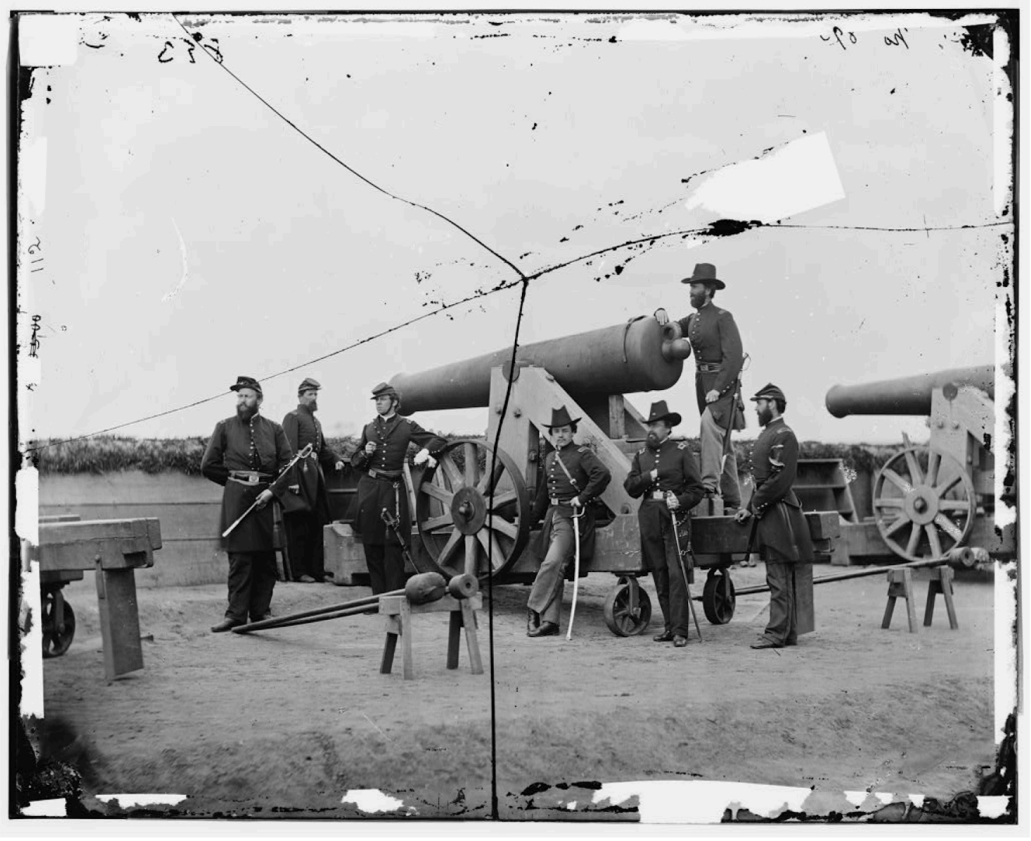
During the mid-19th century, American roads frequently became impassable in late autumn and winter, presenting significant challenges to large-scale military operations. Supply convoys often stalled in deep mud while horses and mules struggled to transport wagons and artillery. General McClellan and his staff recognized the risks associated with conducting extensive campaigns during these seasons; however, their efforts to communicate this concern to President Lincoln and his cabinet met with limited success. Secretaries Stanton and Seward, along with other cabinet members, perceived the army's lack of movement as continued inactivity. Although President Lincoln defended McClellan for some time, he ultimately grew impatient with the persistent delays.

In December 1861, McClellan contracted typhoid fever and was confined to bed for nearly six weeks. During the Civil War, approximately 80,000 cases of typhoid fever were reported among Federal soldiers, resulting in more than 29,000 fatalities. The disease was typically transmitted through contaminated water containing Salmonella typhi bacteria. Contributing factors included inadequate hygiene, improper disposal of human waste, and overcrowded camp conditions. President Lincoln and Mary Lincoln's son, William Wallace "Willie" Lincoln, died from typhoid fever on February 20, 1862. Willie's passing had a significant impact on the Lincoln family.

March 17, 1862, General McClellan's army commenced boarding nearly 400 vessels to transport troops down Chesapeake Bay to Fortress Monroe, located at the convergence of the York and James rivers on the Virginia peninsula. The process of relocating all personnel, horses, and necessary supplies would require over a month. President Lincoln initially expressed reservations regarding McClellan's proposed amphibious military and naval operation to Fortress Monroe, preferring instead an overland approach across northern Virginia. He was concerned that utilizing the water route via Chesapeake Bay would prove excessively costly and time-consuming.

Additionally, Secretary of the Treasury Salmon Chase noted that the U.S. Treasury was experiencing significant financial constraints. General McClellan advocated for the Chesapeake route, emphasizing the strategic advantage of supplying the army via naval vessels and gunboats on the York and James Rivers, as opposed to relying on an extended overland supply line exceeding one hundred miles, which would require a substantial force both to transport supplies and defend against potential enemy attacks. The Navy's gunboats were expected to provide critical artillery support for the planned siege of Richmond, as well as safeguard the Army of the Potomac's supply lines and protect its flanks from Confederate assaults. President Lincoln ultimately approved the Chesapeake water route on the condition that General McClellan maintain sufficient forces to ensure the defense of Washington in the event of a Confederate attack.

Heavy Canon protecting Washington, D.C. photo from The Library of Congress



References for: The Army of the Potomac at Harrison's Landing

Harsh, Joseph L. "Confederate Tide Rising: Robert E. Lee and the Making of Southern Strategy, 1861-1862," Kent State University Press, 1998

Long, E. B. "Civil War, Day by Day," Double Day, 1971

Rafuse, Ethan S. "McClellan's War," Indiana University Press, 2005

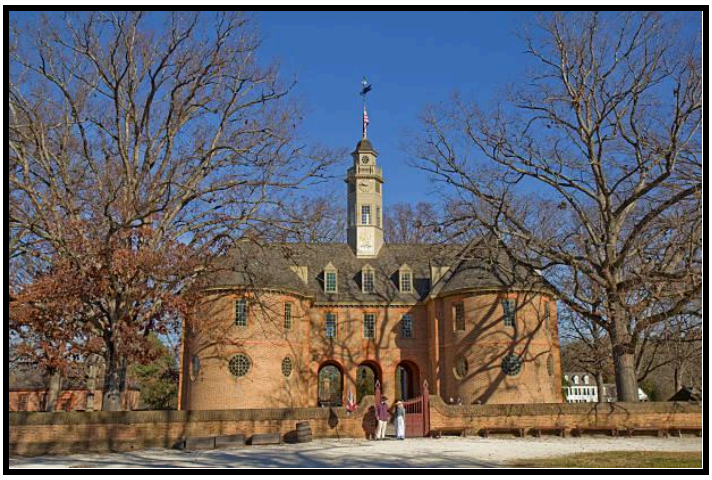
Ridgeway, James M. Jr. "Little Mac, Demise of an American Hero," Xlibris Corporation, 2000

Salmon, John S. "The Official Virginia Civil War Battlefield Guide," Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 2001

Simone, Jr. Frank and Schmiel, Gene, "Searching for Irvin McDowell, The Civil War's Forgotten General," Savas Beatie, El Dorado Hills, California, 2023

Thorpe, Gene M. and Rossino, Alexander B. "The Tale Untwisted, George McClellan, The Maryland Campaign and the Discovery of Lee's Lost Orders," Savas Beatie, El Dorado Hills, California, 2023

Vermilya, Daniel J. "That Field of Blood, The Battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862," Savas Beatie, California, 2018



Northeast Ohio Civil War Roundtable

March 26 - 30, 2026





Shields Tavern
where we will dine experiencing the atmosphere of Colonial Times

Celebrate Our Nation's 250th Semiquincentennial Birthday

In Beautiful Historic

Colonial Williamsburg

Register ASAP

Booking Information

A dedicated website is now available to book hotel rooms online
Reservations can be made at this web address
Booking Website: https://book.passkey.com/e/51017365

Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Suites
105 Visitor Center Dr., Williamsburg, VA 23185
walking/shuttle bus distance to
Colonial Williamsburg's Historic District
room group rate: $149.00 + tax + an additional $20.00 resort fee
includes deluxe continental breakfast
plus
(2) complimentary historic area tickets per room

Woodland Cemetery Foundation
Restoring the Cemetery - Preserving the History

Let the veterans who have gone before us know you are thinking of them this Christmas and sponsor a live wreath

Website News/Events History Burial Info Genealogy Contact

Please go online and sponsor a wreath or submit using the form which is located on our website (wcfcle.org). You can email us for a copy at wcfcle@wcfcle.org,

Woodland Cemetery is home to approximately 2,160 veterans (1,450) from the Civil War) ranging from the War of 1812 to current service. If you have a relative or a favorite veteran you would like to honor, we will take specific requests to honor that veteran which can be listed on the form.

Please consider sponsoring a wreath or more. On behalf of the veterans buried at Woodland Cemetery and the Woodland Cemetery Foundation, THANK YOU for your support.

The national day to lay wreaths should be Saturday, December 13, 2025. Woodland Cemetery will start at 10:00 a. If you would like to assist laying wreaths on the veteran graves, please follow up with us or the WAA for the national day of wreath laying. This date is in co-ordination with simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies at over 1,200 locations all across the country and beyond.

I have also included our donation forms if you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Woodland Cemetery Foundation.

Thank you for your continued support as we honor the residents of Woodland Cemetery. We wish you the best with your family and friends this holiday season.

Happy Holidays!!

Wreath Sponsorship Form

Please remember to sponsor a wreath (or more) at any time. Thank you!!

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____

State:_____ Zip:_____

Phone:_____

Email: _____

Do we have permission to publicize your name as a sponsor?

___ Yes OR ___ No, I wish to remain Anonymous

Please make checks payable to:
Wreaths Across America
Mail to: Wreaths Across America, PO Box 249, Columbia Falls, ME 04623
Questions? Please call 216-319-2091
Thank you for your Sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Deadline to sponsor wreaths is November 29, 2025

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Nobel= 1 Wreath	$17.00		
Fraser= 5 Wreaths	$85.00		
Douglas = 10 Wreaths	$170.00		
Balsam = 25 Wreaths	$425.00		
Scotch = 50 Wreaths	$850.00		
Angel= 100 Wreaths	$1,700.00		
		Total	

If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/142578 for a secure online transaction. ***You must know the Woodland Cemetery Foundation Location ID: OHWLCC and Group ID: OH0145P in order for it to be credited to Woodland Cemetery.***

In honor of a specific grave:

Name: _____

Section: _____ Lot: _____ Tier:_____ Grave no: _____

Name: _____

Section: _____ Lot: _____ Tier:_____ Grave no: _____

Name: _____

Section: _____ Lot: _____ Tier:_____ Grave no: _____

Please note that **all** sponsorships are sent directly to the location and **no** wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: **OHWLCC** Fundraising Group ID: **OH0145P**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash $: _____ Total $: _____ Date: _____

Total # Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____

MO $: _____

Entered: _____

GEN: