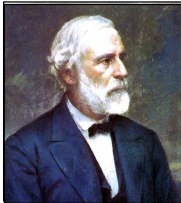


Programme of Activities

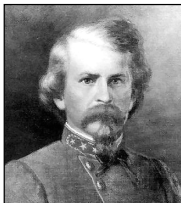
BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE CHAB



Saturday February 11, 2017 at 3 PM

ROBERT E. LEE

At the temporary Club House, lecture by *Alain Sanders*: “*Robert E. Lee*”. Considered as one of the best strategists of the United States Army, Robert E. Lee was appointed - the position was proposed to him - to lead the unionist forces during the Civil War. His unflinching loyalty to Virginia and his ancestors made him choose to take command of the Confederate forces of the South. He thus passed to posterity as the symbolic hero of what the Southerners of yesterday and today call “the Cause”. The speaker will draw the portrait of a man who never solicited any political mandate and who did not approve of slavery as a “moral and political evil” institution. The only figure in the history of the United States capable of counterbalancing the questionable Abraham Lincoln was the incarnation of the Southern gentleman, in line with the Horsemen of Charles I opposed to the Round Heads of dictator Cromwell. He was a Christian soldier, but not a Puritan. After defeat, he returned to civil life and contributed, without ever denying anything, to the difficult reconciliation of the Northern Yankee and Dixieland. The popularity of Lee, nicknamed “the marble man”, was never denied despite the destiny of life, and even increased after his disappearance, reaching and surpassing the “border” between North and South, the famous Mason-Dixon Line.



Saturday March 11, 2017 at 3 PM

IUKA AND CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI - 1862



At the temporary Club House, lecture by *Jean-Claude Janssens*: “*Iuka and Corinth, Mississippi - Fall of 1862 - A useless and bloody campaign*”. At the end of the summer of 1862, General Braxton Bragg moved the majority of his Confederate Army of Mississippi from Tupelo, Mississippi, to Chattanooga in Tennessee. He prepared to invade Kentucky, leaving behind part of his forces. The Confederates stationed south of Corinth were commanded by two generals, both as colorful as mediocre: the amateur Sterling Price and the professional Earl Van Dorn. On September 19, Price was defeated at Iuka by General William Rosecrans and on the 28, he joined his superior Van Dorn at Ripley. On October 3 and 4, they both attacked Corinth. The determined Rosecrans awaited them firmly and inflicted a resounding defeat on the Southerners. The next day, the rebels nearly saw their retreat cut off at Hatchie Bridge. What remained of their forces barely managed to reach Holly Springs. In December 1862, Van Dorn’s army was dissolved. Jean-Claude will review the personality of the three main antagonists and attempt to depict this deplorable campaign with the support of period maps and photographs.



Saturday May 13, 2017 at 10.30 AM

VISIT OF FORT FERMONT - MAGINOT LINE

Excursion organized by *Jean-Claude Janssens* and *Dominique De Cleer* to Fort Fermont at Longuyon (Meurthe et Moselle), France. Fort Fermont is part of the fortifications of the Maginot Line. Built as of 1931, this artillery fort suffered heavily from German bombardments but did not fall into enemy hands. It was handed over to the Germans after the 1940 armistice. Covering an area of 160 ha, it comprises 7 aboveground structures and about 10 km of underground tunnels dug 30 m deep. For additional information, please visit the official web site: <http://www.ligne-maginot-fort-de-fermont.asso.fr/>

Programme

- 10.30 am: arrival at Longuyon – Coffee break – Welcome by the president of the association “*Amis du fort de Fermont*” (Friends of Fort Fermont).
- 11.00 am: conference by Jean-Claude Janssens: *The Maginot Line*.
- 12.00 am: lunch (three course meal: max € 25.00).
- 3.00 pm: departure to Fort Fermont.
- 3.30 pm: private guided tour of the fort – Free visit of the museum – Farewell drink.
- 6.30 pm: return to Brussels.

Fixed group price of € 195.00, to be equally divided by the number of participants. A coach trip will be envisaged if there are enough participants. Price estimation: +/- € 35.00 p/p. Reservations required **before May 3, 2017** by contacting our Secretary Dominique De Cleer by phone at 0475-773460 or preferably by email at d.decleer@scarlet.be.



Saturday June 10, 2017 at 6 PM

ANNUAL CHAB SUPPER

As in previous years, the annual CHAB supper will be held at the clubhouse of the Hoegaarden hockey club. This time, *Hubert Leroy* and *Dominique De Cleer* propose an original gastronomical meal: Wild West welcome drink - Ms. Françoise's Terrine of the Plains and its grass (salads) - Buffalo steak on the barbecue - Oven baked potato, sour cream - Ms. Louise's deserts - Coffee/Tea. Price of the meal (drinks not included): CHAB members: 35 € - non members: 45 €. Reservations required before **June 6, 2017** by contacting Dominique De Cleer at 0475-773460 or preferably by email at d.decleer@scarlet.be. More information on our website when available.

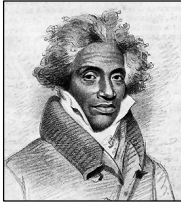


Saturday September 9, 2017 at 3 PM

**CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE
DURING THE CIVIL WAR**

Conference by *Daniel Frankignoul*: “*Chemical and bacteriological warfare during the Civil War.*” During the first half of the nineteenth century, the evolution of physics, chemistry, biology and medicine was such that many scientists and inventors planned to use their discoveries. In most cases these were not put into practical use but attempts were made by

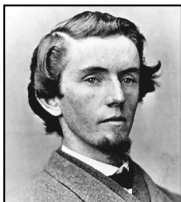
both sides during the conflict. The lecturer will depict the first use of chlorine as a fighting gas. Other ideas ranged from the vaporization of chloroform, the dropping of canisters from balloons, the throwing of “Chinese stink balls” and of grenades containing arsenic, chloroform, hydrochloric or sulfuric acid, the dispersion of sulfur fumes to cause suffocation of the enemy and the contamination of wells with animal carcasses during the withdrawal of troops. At the end of the conflict, the enigmatic Dr. Luke P. Blackburn, a future governor of Kentucky, was accused of attempting to launch an outbreak of yellow fever to Washington, DC, Norfolk and New Bern from a virus imported from Bermuda. As to the Northerners, they attempted to transfer smallpox to the Confederates by exchanging prisoners who had contracted the disease.



Saturday October 14, 2017 at 3 PM

***PRINCE ABDUL RAHMAN OF FOUTAH-DJALOO
IN NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI***

Our speaker *Tierno M. Sow* descends by his mother from one of the nine founders of the kingdom of Foutah-Djaloo, a secular Muslim theocracy established in the 18th century in the heart of Guinea, close to Senegal and Gambia. A prince of this kingdom, Abdul Rahman Barry, born in 1762, was captured, enslaved and taken to the United States where he was sold in 1788 to a planter of Natchez. In 1826, a letter written in Arabic to his parents ended up in the American consulate of Morocco. It was transmitted to the Sultan who, thinking that he was a Moor, requested President John Quincy Adams and Secretary of State Henry Clay to release him. Finally freed in 1829, Abdul Rahman travelled to Liberia where he died shortly after his arrival at the age of 67, without having seen his native Foutah. Through his story, our lecturer will compare the living conditions in the kingdom of Foutah-Djaloo and Natchez, Mississippi, during the first half of the 19th century. Politics, slavery, economics and education in each of these two societies will be discussed.



Saturday November 18, 2017 at 3 PM

THE STRANGE WATSON AFFAIR

At our temporary Club House, conference by *Francis Balace*: “*The strange Watson affair.*” After numerous adventures, John Surratt, suspected of complicity in the Lincoln assassination enrolled in the Pontifical Zouaves in Rome under the name of Watson. He was recognized by Sainte Marie, a Canadian Zouave, but with the help of Belgian lieutenant Victor Mousty, managed to escape and flee to Alexandria. From thereon, many factual mistakes have been made, including the hypothetical association of Sainte Marie with the Confederate army or, on the contrary, with the secret services of the North. The reality is much simpler: he was a second rate Zouave who, in denouncing Surratt, sought his freedom from papal service. It was above all the origin of a very serious clash between Lieutenant-Colonel de Charette and the French officers of his corps on one hand and the Belgian enlistment committees on the other, in the name of their totally opposite interests. It was also the illustration of the tortuous ways of the Roman Curia.



Saturday December 9, 2017 at 3 PM

FLORIDA AND THE SEMINOLE WARS

At our temporary Club House, lecture by *Jean-Claude Janssens*: “*Florida and the Seminole wars*”. Our speaker will relate the singular history of the State of Florida, focusing on the three tough wars that the Washington government fought against the Seminoles in the 19th century. Jean-Claude will develop this little known subject with the support of period maps and photographs.
