

# Programme of Activities

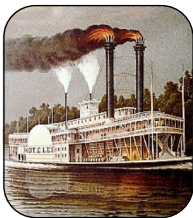
BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE CHAB



**Saturday 10 February 2024 at 3 pm**

## **ARKANSAS FROM 1541 TO 1868**

Lecture by *Jean-Claude Janssens*: *Arkansas from 1541 to 1868*. The history of Arkansas dates to the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century. Part of French Louisiana until 1762, Arkansas then passed into Spanish hands before briefly becoming French again in 1800. It was ceded to the United States in 1804. It was granted territory status in 1819 and became the twenty-fifth state of the Union in 1836. The speaker will describe the role of Arkansas in the Southern Confederacy and in the Civil War in 1861 and 1862. He will recall the operations in Helena and Little Rock in 1863 and the events of 1863 to 1865. The presentation will conclude with the period of Reconstruction and the return of Arkansas to the Union.



**Saturday 9 March 2024 at 3 pm**

## **STEAMBOATS ON THE MISSISSIPPI**

Lecture by *Michel Verheyden*: *Steamboats on the Mississippi*. The speaker will tell us about the development of steamboats on the great American river before, during and after the American Civil War. The topic will include aspects of these vessels, their propulsion, life on board, their civilian and military use, and accidents involving steamboats. The speaker will also mention the various battles in which riverboats were involved. Finally, the creation of hospital ships will also be developed.



**Saturday 13 April 2024 at 3 pm**

## **MISSOURI IN TURMOIL**

Lecture by *Gerald Hawkins*: *Missouri in turmoil*. In 1861, when Kansas joined the Union as a free state, thousands of pro-slavery border ruffians who had been involved in years of violence during the Bloody Kansas conflict, either joined the Confederate army of General Sterling Price in Arkansas or returned to their home state of Missouri. Despite the efforts of its governor Claiborne Jackson, Missouri did not secede and remained a Border State where the population was deeply divided over its loyalty to the Union or the Confederacy. After the battle of Boonville in June, General Nathaniel Lyon managed to clear Missouri of most of its southern sympathizers and the poorly organized outlaw groups, but this sparked a state of rebellion in areas that were poorly controlled by federal forces. Resistance was soon organized. Bands of determined pro-slavery guerrillas emerged, spreading terror among the people of Missouri. The most notorious was led by William Quantrill, who enjoyed the status of regular soldier granted by the Confederate Partisan Act of 1862. The horror reached its climax when in August 1863, Quantrill launched a devastating raid on Lawrence, Kansas, killing some two hundred residents and burning the town. The war then turned into a ruthless hunt for outlaws

by the federal forces backed by vengeful militias. Quantrill and many of his lieutenants were killed in 1865. The James and Younger brothers escaped unharmed and, drawing on their experience, became outlaws who targeted banks and trains.



**Saturday 18 May 2024 at 10 am**

***THE 3<sup>rd</sup> ARMORED DIVISION IN THE ARDENNES***

Activity organized by *Jean-Claude-Janssens*: *In the footsteps of the 3<sup>rd</sup> US Armored Division 'Spearhead' on the northern salient of the Ardennes front, December 1944.* A drive in the north of the province of Luxembourg between Hotton and the Baraque de Fraiture, through the villages of Soy, Erezée and Manhay where the battles took place.

- The tour will focus on the memorials and heavy weapons displayed in the various villages where the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division saw action.
- Lunch in a local restaurant.
- Guided visit of the Manhay History 44 Museum.

Price of the excursion: **€ 60 all included**. More details on the French page of this website or upon request. Reservation a must by email at [d.decleer@scarlet.be](mailto:d.decleer@scarlet.be) **before 13 May 2024 at the latest.**



**Saturday 15 June 2024 from 11h30 am**

***ANNUAL CHAB BBQ***

As in previous editions, the annual CHAB BBQ will take place at noon at the club house of the Hoegaarden hockey club. This year, *Hubert Leroy* and *Dominique De Cleer* will prepare a traditional menu: Aperitif of the house – Chicken skewer with coriander and lime – Pure fillet of beef with Provencal herbs, potatoes, salads and dressings – Trio of fruit tarts – Coffee/Tea. Price of the meal (drinks not included) = **CHAB members: € 35 – non- members: € 45**. Please register with our secretary Dominique De Cleer, either by tel. at 0475-773460 or preferably by e-mail at [d.decleer@scarlet.be](mailto:d.decleer@scarlet.be) and pay the amount of your meal to the CHAB bank account BE90 3100 9059 2632 with the mention *CHAB BBQ* **before 10 June 2024 at the latest.**



**Saturday 14 September 2024 at 3 pm**

***PIERRE-JEAN DE SMET  
A BELGIAN JESUIT AMONG THE INDIENS***

Lecture by *Dominique De Cleer*: *Pierre-Jean De Smet, a Belgian Jesuit among the Indians.* Pierre-Jean De Smet was born on January 30, 1801 in Dendermonde. Fascinated by the accounts of Father Charles Nerinckx, who was a missionary in Kentucky, in 1821, nine seminarians accompanied the religious man and left the country for America. They began their novitiate with the Jesuits at White Marsh, Maryland. Two years later, De Smet and his acolytes arrived at the Jesuit mission of Florissant near Saint-Louis. In 1827, he was ordained a priest. Ill, he returned to Belgium between 1833 and 1837. Back in America in 1840, at the request of a delegation of Têtes-Plates Indians, Black Robe began his first trip to the Rockies. In September 1851, he acted as mediator at the Great Conference of Fort Laramie. As the terms of

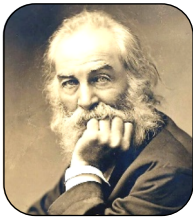
the treaty were not being respected, General Harney called on him to pacify the tribes on the warpath. In June 1868, at the Fort Rice conference at which the Treaty of Fort Laramie (April 1868) was submitted to the Lakota Sioux, Pierre-Jean De Smet obtained Sitting Bull's acceptance of the treaty's clauses. He died in Florissant on May 23, 1873.



**Saturday 12 October 2024 at 3 pm**

**CHILD COMBATANTS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

Lecture by *Farid Ameur*: “*The Boys’ War*”, *child combatants of the Civil War*. During the American Civil War, around one hundred thousand children, comprising 3% of the military manpower, were incorporated into the fighting forces. This phenomenon not only shaped individual destinies but also reflected the tumultuous era – a time marked by violent and passionate customs within the American population, scarred by its most harrowing experience. The rapid militarization of a society devoid of military traditions compelled leaders to tap into all available human and material resources to sustain the war effort. Whether on land or at sea, these young, budding soldiers bore a heavy burden. Their roles varied based on their armed force: drummers, dispatch riders, ship’s boys and medical service auxiliaries. Yet, even when they managed to escape the horrors of combat, it was their childhood that paid the price. Through their firsthand experiences and immersion in warrior values, these children lost more than innocence. They became witnesses to a brutal reality, forever etching their stories into the fabric of history.



**Saturday 9 November 2024 at 3 pm**

**WALT WHITMAN  
COMMITTED POET AND HUMANIST**

Lecture by *Maurice Jaquemyns*: *Walt Whitman, committed poet and humanist*. In 1862, Walt Whitman embarked on a poignant journey to locate his brother, who had vanished amidst the bloody battlefields of the American Civil War. As he traversed the war-torn landscape, Whitman grappled with the harrowing realities he encountered: the dire conditions prevailing in military hospitals. By night, he poured his thoughts into notebooks and penned heartfelt letters to his mother, seeking solace and release. The lecturer will weave together carefully curated texts, distributed to participants, while iconography serves as a visual backdrop. The speaker will delve into the evolution of military medicine during this tumultuous conflict. A humanist at heart, Whitman translated his ideals into action throughout the war. His enduring work bore witness to a hope for humanity amid the chaos of the wartime world.



**Saturday 14 December 2024 at 3 pm**

**GENERAL RICHARD « DICK » STROTHER TAYLOR**

Lecture by *Jean-Claude Janssens*: *General Richard “Dick” Strother Taylor, the stubborn defender of Louisiana*. Richard Dick Taylor spent his childhood in the forts of the Frontier. He was the son of General and later President Zachary Taylor. A graduate of Yale University in 1845, a Louisiana planter and politician, he had no military training. This did not prevent him from becoming one of the Confederacy's finest generals. His “masterpiece” was the 1864 Red River campaign in Louisiana. In 1865, he ended the war at the

head of the Mississippi and Alabama departments. He died in New York in 1879 at the age of 53. The speaker will go into more detail about his life, which was as short as it was full.

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