

Great appreciation goes to:

American Legion-  
Teddy M. Zieja Post 627

Susan C Day  
Christine Gaffney  
Allan & Cynthia Kuntz  
Marian Pledger

Rev Mark & Virginia Steiger  
Strongsville VFW Post 3345

All the volunteers and participants  
for Memorial Day

*In loving memory of Bedford "Skeeter" Fortie Jr.*

A great friend of the Woodland Cemetery Foundation  
who decorated the soldier graves of over 250 veterans  
buried in Section 72 each year for the past five years.

RIP Skeeter, thank you for your service.  
It was our honor to know you.



US  
CIVIL WAR  
1861 ★ 1865  
IN GRATEFUL MEMORY  
DEDICATED  
UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS  
"ORICE LET THE BLACK MAN  
THE BRASS LETTER U.S. LET HIM  
GET AN EAGLE ON HIS BUTTON  
AND BALLETS IN HIS POCKET,  
THESE COLORED TROOPS  
EARNED THE RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP"  
ABOLITIONIST

# 2019 MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

MONDAY, MAY 27  
10:00 AM

## Honoring Captain Merwin Clark

A native Clevelander,

Merwin served in every engagement that the  
7th O. V.I. participated from June 1861, until July 1864.

After mustering out, he reentered the service and appointed  
Lieutenant Colonel of the 183rd Regiment O. V. I.

On November 30, 1864, he was killed leading his regiment  
during the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee.



**Woodland Cemetery Foundation**

PO Box 1966, Cleveland, OH 44106 216.319.2091

Web site: [www.wefcle.org](http://www.wefcle.org) Email: [wefcle@wefcle.org](mailto:wefcle@wefcle.org)



Woodland Cemetery,  
6901 Woodland Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44104

# MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

Welcome:

Rev. Mark Steiger, Pastor  
North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Lower/Raise Flag:

Boy Scouts Troop 801, Troop 6297 and  
Cub Scout Packs 0409, 0703

Pledge of Allegiance:

(Audience participation)

National Anthem:

Adewe Stovall

Invocation:

Rev. Jerome A. Lukachinsky  
Chaplain, Sons of Union Veterans  
James A. Garfield Camp #142

Introductions:

Rev. Mark Steiger

Keynote Address:

Paul Siedel

Cannon Firing:

19th Ohio Battery Light Artillery

Rifle Salute/Military Honors:

7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Group

Taps:

Marque Davis

Concluding Remarks:

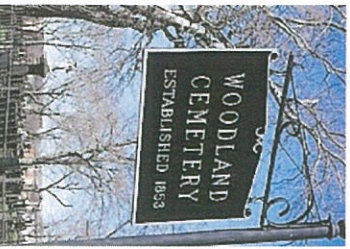
Remembering *Bedford "Skeeter" Forte*

Benediction:

Rev. Jerome A. Lukachinsky



*Bedford "Skeeter" Forte, Jr.  
October 28, 1924-March 26, 2019  
US Navy, World War II*



**Paul Siedel Keynote Speaker**  
Paul, a graduate of Akron Univ., is a semi-retired teacher, presently substituting in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese. A member of three area Civil War Round Tables, Paul devotes time to researching the Civil War period.  
On the board of Trustees of the Woodland Cemetery Foundation, Paul lives in Cleveland's Ohio City neighborhood.

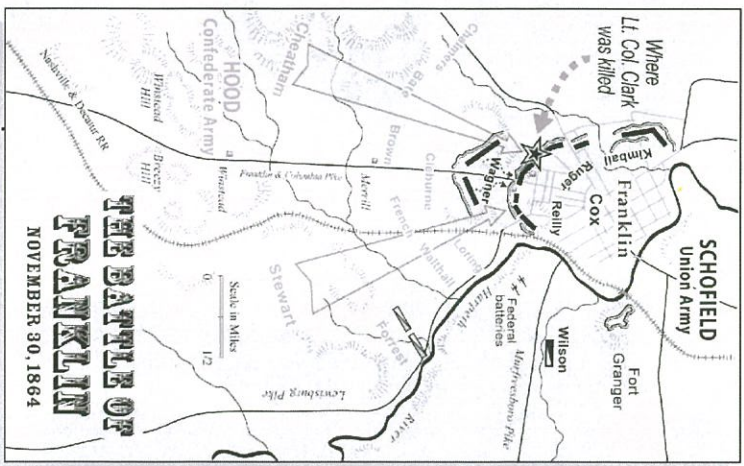


# Lt. Colonel Merwin Clark (1843 - 1864)

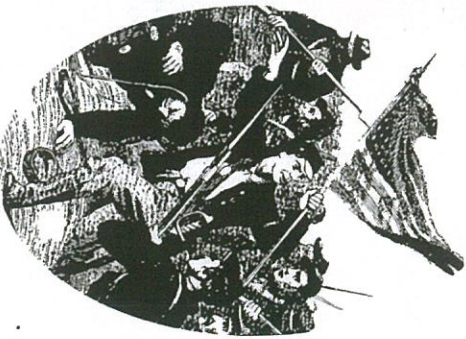
**Lieutenant Colonel Merwin Clark**, of the 183rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, was mortally wounded during the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee on November 30, 1864.

The twenty-one years old Clark was shot while carrying the regimental flag.

His body was first buried near the battlefield and later returned to Cleveland for burial in Woodland Cemetery.



Clark seized the flag and called to his men, "Who will follow me to take those works?"



Contents of this page were adapted from the, **Woodland Cemetery BETWEEN THE LINES Civil War Coloring Book**, available from:  
Woodland Cemetery Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio, PO Box 1966, Cleveland, OH 44106  
216-319-2091  
wcfcl@wcfcl.org