



**The Newsletter of the Cape May County
Civil War Round Table
April 2012**

2012 Meeting Schedule

Instructions on how to get to the new meeting location:

- 1) Turn into the County Complex at Crest Haven from the Parkway at Exit 11. Or turn east from Route 9 at the intersection by the Cape May County Park & Zoo and go straight across the Parkway to the Crest Haven Complex Road.
- 2) Turn left onto road that goes past the County Complex, Nursing Home, etc.
- 3) Make right at SECOND driveway on the right side of the road.
- 4) Park on the right / south end of the parking lot where the flagpole is. Go into the building to the right / south of the main administrative building.
- 5) Enter the building, walk down the hall to the far side of the building.
- 6) The Intermediate Meeting Room will be at the end of the hall, a little to the left. We should have a sign posted on or outside the door for the first meeting.

19 April: Dick Simpson will be presenting on the Battle of Pea Ridge. **Refreshments:** Andi Lolli

17 May: Presentation by MAC: *The Victorian Civil War: Causes*. **Refreshments:**

21 June: Presentation by Herb Kaufman: *Secrets and Spies*. **Refreshments:** John Burke

19 July: Presentation by MAC on: *The Victorian Civil War: Aftermaths*. **Refreshments:** Pat Munson-Siter

16 Aug: **Refreshments:** Wendy & Lisa

20 Sept: **Refreshments:** Marty Runner

18 Oct: Eric Buckland will be speaking to us on his research and books on the "Mosby Men." **Refreshments:**

15 Nov:

?? Dec:

**REMINDER: DUES FOR 2012
DUE NOW!!!!**

**Send Payment to Jim Marshall,
Treasurer**

CMCCWRT Officers for 2012

President: John Burke
40 Secluded Lane, Rio Grande, NJ 08210
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609-463-9277 or 741-5438
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Secretary: Pat Munson-Siter
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Treasurer: Jim Marshall
202 Bartram Ln., Ocean City, NJ 08226
609-398-6924
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**Business Meeting
15 March 2012**

President John Burke opened the meeting. We saluted the flag and held a moment of silence for those who have placed themselves in harms way to serve us. The Star Spangled Banner was played.

Secretary Munson-Siter brought in some new resource books on Union and Confederate records in the National Archives. She also reminded all members that they need to contact her with updates for the membership list. Several people have not yet contacted her with their current phone numbers and/or email addresses. Also as a reminder, if you have an email address and want your newsletter delivered to you via email (which also means you usually get it before the dead tree version goes in the mail) and not have a copy sent to you via snail mail, let either Pat or Jim Marshall know so we can add/subtract you from the appropriate lists.

Treasurer Marshall gave the Treasurer's Report. Motion made to accept the report and file it for audit; seconded and approved.

Marty Runner reminded the Round Table that the Civil War Trust (formerly the Civil War Preservation Trust) is celebrating the 150th anniversary of several battles by raising money to preserve those battlefields. He also reminded us that one of the purposes of this group, as specified by our by-laws, is to help raise funds for preservation of this country's Civil War heritage. A proposal was made for the Cape May County Civil

War Round Table to donate \$100 to the CWT. Motion made, seconded, and approved. Proposal also made to consider making a donation to Cedar Creek at a future meeting.

Reminder that we still need folks to sign up to provide refreshments for future meetings. Also, if possible, it is best if two people can team up for each meeting as is easier on both of them.

Lots of events coming up due to the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Keep your eye on CW related websites, as lots of stuff comes up too late to be included in the newsletter.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned so we could have a presentation on Civil War period music by John Phillip Sousa from the Mid Atlantic Center for the Arts.

Respectfully,

Pat Munson-Siter

Civil War Timeline for April

1860

No Major Events

1861

- 6 Arkansas secedes
- 7 Tennessee negotiates alliance with Confederacy
- 20 North Carolina secedes
- 21 Confederate legislators vote to move capital to Richmond
- 23 Virginia secedes (after popular vote)
- 24 Union soldiers occupy Alexandria (VA)
- 6 Arkansas secedes

1862

- 4 Confederates evacuate Yorktown
- 5 Battle of Williamsburg (VA)
- 8 Battle of McDowell (VA)
- 15 Battle of Drewry's Bluff (VA)
- 23 Battle of Front Royal (VA)
- 25 Battle of Winchester (VA)
- 31 Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks) (VA)

1863

- 1-4 Battle of Chancellorsville
- 10 Stonewall Jackson dies
- 16 Battle of Champion's Hill (MS)

1864




- 5-6 Battle of the Wilderness (VA)
- 6 Atlanta Campaign opens
- 7-19 Battle of Spotsylvania (VA)
- 11 Battle of Yellow Tavern (VA)
- 12-13 Second Battle of Drewry's Bluff (VA)




- 15 Battle of New Market (VA)
- 24 Battle of the North Anna River (VA)
- 25-27 Battle of New Hope (GA)

1865

- 10 Confederate president Davis captured in Georgia
- 26 Smith surrenders Trans-Mississippi Confederate army

Civil War Related Activities May 2012

- 3  VA Tour and dinner, "Jamestown in the Civil War." A guided tour of Fort Pocahontas, a Confederate fort on Jamestown Island, and dinner following at a James River cafe. \$24.95. Reservations: 1-800-HISTORY.
- 4-6  VA Walking, bus tours and special programs, "To Freedom," commemorates the escape to freedom by Fredericksburg and area slaves in 1862. Includes bus tour, "Places of Bondage and Freedom," Friday and Sunday. Walking tours Saturday and a riverfront walk and ceremony Saturday evening. www.nps.gov/frsp
- 5  VA Reenactment and living history, "McDowell Battlefield Day," in McDowell. Camps relating to Jackson's Valley Campaign with reenactment of the battle. 9 am-5:30 pm. \$5. www.battleofmcdowell.org.
- 5 VA Living history, lectures, films and more during the 150 Legacy Project at Magruder Elementary School, 700 Penniman Road, Williamsburg. 10 am-2 pm. Free. www.williamsburgcc.com/civilwar/events
- 5 VA Bus tour, "Battle of McDowell Reenactment" Leaves from Staunton visitor center, 35 S New St, at 11 am. \$90. Reservations: www.stauntonguidedtours.com
- 5 VA Living history, artillery demonstrations at Hanover Tavern in Hanover, north of Richmond on US 301. 10 am-3 pm. www.hanovertavern.org
- 5 VA Living history, "Fairfax Civil War Day" with camps and demonstrations, tours and more, at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax City. 10 am-5 pm. 703-591-0560.
- 5 MD Walking tour, "Maryland Day" ranger-led tour of state-related sites at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 11 am. Free with park admission.

- www.nps.gov/anti
- 5 **MD** Battlefield Hikes at the Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick. Ranger-led walks at 9 am, 11:30 am and 2 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/mono
- 5 **MD** Bus tour, "John Wilkes Booth Escape Route," classic 12-hour tour sponsored by the Surratt Society in Clinton. \$75. Details, registration: www.surratt.org.
- 5 **SC** Tour, "Batteries Pringle & Tynes," part of the Charleston Confederate defenses, with Charleston Museum curator. 1:30 pm. \$20. Register: www.charlestonmuseum.org.
- 5-6 **VA**  Living history, "Slaves Crossing to Freedom," at George Washington's Boyhood Home (Ferry Farm), 268 Kings Highway, Falmouth (near Fredericksburg). 10 am-5 pm. Free with park admission. www.ferryfarm.org.
- 5-6 **VA**  Special Civil War-oriented programs at Colonial Williamsburg. See www.history.org for details.
- 5-6 **VA** Living history, "Field Hospital Encampment," on the grounds of the White Oak Civil War Museum, 985 White Oak Road, Falmouth. 10 am-5 pm each day. Surgical and military demonstrations at 11 am and 1:30 pm. Free (fee for museum). 540-371-4235.
- 5-6 **MD** Living history, camps and demonstrations at the Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S Center St, Westminster. 10 am-5 pm Saturday, 10 am-4 pm Sunday. Fee charged. www.carrollcountymuseum.org.
- 5-6 **MD** "Historic Site Ramble" in Washington County (based in Hagerstown). Showcase for area museums including opening weekend at the Pry House Field Hospital Museum in Keedysville. 11 am-5 pm. www.civilwarmed.org.
- 6 **VA**  Wreath laying at Redoubt No. 6, 1015 Penniman Road, Williamsburg, commemorating the 1862 battle there. www.williamsburgcc.com/civilwar/events
- 6 **VA** Book talk, "Mosby Men and Mosby's Keydet Rangers," at the Manassas Museum. 2 pm. Free. www.manassasmuseum.org
- 6 **VA** Living history, artillery and infantry demonstrations at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. 1-2 pm. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/mana
- 6 **VA** Civil War Music at the Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park near Rice. 1-3 pm. Free. 804-561-7510.
- 6 **VA** Living history, camps and demonstrations commemorating the anniversary of the Battle of the Wilderness at Ellwood Manor, near Routes 20 and 3 west of Fredericksburg on the Wilderness Battlefield. www.fowb.org.
- 6 **MD** Lecture, "Louisiana Soldiers at Antietam," at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 2 pm. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/anti
- 8 **VA**  Car-caravan tour of the McDowell battlefield on the anniversary. Begins at the Highland County Museum, 161 Mansion House Road, McDowell. 4 pm. Free. www.shenandoahatwar.org.
- 8 **VA** Lecture, "Battle of Chantilly," at Sully, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. 7 pm. \$5. 703-437-1794.
- 9 **VA** Lunch talk, "Jackson in the Valley," at Baine's Books and Coffee, 205 Main St, Appomattox. 12:15 pm. Free. www.moc.org.
- 9-12 **VA**  Living history, music, panel discussion, dance and more at the Chesterfield Central Library, 9501 Lori Road, Chesterfield (south of Richmond). Kicks off commemoration of the Battle of Drewry's Bluff. Free. Complete schedule: www.OnToRichmond.com
- 10 **VA** Living history, "Sewing Circle," life in the 1860s at the Bushong House on the New Market Battlefield State Park. 10 am-4 pm. Free with park admission. 866-515-1864.
- 10 **VA** Lecture, "The Seven Days Battles: War at the Gates of Richmond," at the Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave, Manassas. 7 pm. Free (donations welcome). 703-792-4754.
- 10 **VA** Lecture, "Lead Like a General: Lessons for Today's Leaders from the Civil War," at Mount Zion Church, 40309 John Mosby Highway (Route 50), Aldie. 7 pm. \$5. www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

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| <p>11 VA Play, "The Trumpet to the Cannon Spoke," short theatrical performances focusing on Civil War characters, during "Galleries at Night" at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester. 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 pm. Free with admission. www.shenandoahmuseum.org</p> <p>12 MD Walking tour, "National Cemetery," at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 11 am. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/anti</p> <p>12 MD Lecture, "The Battles of South Mountain and Antietam and Their 150th Anniversary Commemoration," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2 pm. Free with museum admission. www.civilwarmed.org or 301-695-1864.</p> <p>12 VA "Thinking of Mother," soldier letters home at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 10 am. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/pete</p> <p>12 VA Living history, "Cavaliers, Courage and Coffee," tales from the Mosby Heritage Area at Mount Bleak in Sky Meadows State Park near Delaplane. 7:30 pm. www.mosbyheritagearea.org.</p> <p>12 VA Lecture, "Confederate Monuments," at the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort. 3 pm. Free. www.ncmaritimemuseums.com.</p> <p>12-13 PA Living history at the Pennsylvania Memorial in the Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. www.nps.gov/gett</p> <p>12-15 VA Anniversary programs at Drewry's Bluff, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. Living history camps and demonstrations with ranger programs. Free. www.nps.gov/rich</p> <p>13 VA "Mother's Day 1860s Afternoon Tea," at Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge. 1:30-3 pm. \$4. 703-583-6004.</p> <p>13 VA Mother's Day at Ellwood Manor. Reading of soldier/family letters at Ellwood Manor, near Routes 20 and 3 west of Fredericksburg on the Wilderness Battlefield. www.fowb.org.</p> <p>15 VA Lecture, "The Naval Battle of Drewry's Bluff: May 15, 1862," at Hanover Tavern, 13181 Hanover Courthouse</p> | <p>★
150 VA Road, Hanover. 7 pm. \$3. www.hanovertavern.org</p> <p>15 VA Lecture, "Capture of New Orleans," at the Education Center, Pamplin Historical Park near Petersburg. 7 pm. Free. www.pamplinpark.org</p> <p>16-20 VA Living history and live-fire demonstrations at the North-South Skirmish Association Spring Nationals at Fort Shenandoah near Winchester. Free. Details, directions: www.n-ssa.org</p> <p>17-20 VA Bus tour, "Jackson's Valley Campaign," sponsored by Pamplin Historical Park. Details, reservations: www.pamplinpark.org or 804-861-2408.</p> <p>18 VA Lunch talk, "Joseph E. Johnston and the Battle of Seven Pines," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Noon. Free. www.moc.org.</p> <p>19 PA Seminar, "1862: 'All hell breaks loose,'" lecture and field program in Gettysburg. More info, registration: www.gettysburgfoundation.org</p> <p>19 MD Lecture, "Monument Dedications and Commemorations at Antietam," at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 11 am. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/anti</p> <p>19 MD Victorian Garden Planting Party at the Pry House Field Hospital Museum in Keedysville. Help with the 19th-century medicinal plants. 9 am-3 pm. www.civilwarmed.org.</p> <p>★
150 VA Tours and talks, "Mr. Lincoln Visits Fredericksburg," based on Lincoln's May 23, 1862, visit. Based at Chatham. www.nps.gov/frsp</p> <p>★
150 VA Living history, "March of the Tigers and an Evening with Stonewall Jackson" at the Luray Valley Museum, 970 US 211 West (Luray Caverns) in Luray. 6 pm. Free. www.luraycaverns.com or www.shenandoahatwar.org.</p> <p>19 VA Living history, "Civil War Day," in Falls Church. Camps and demonstrations, tours, period music and Civil War medical exhibit. 10 am-3 pm at Cherry Hill Park, 312 Park Ave. in Falls Church. Free. 703-248-5171.</p> |
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- 19 VA Book talk, "'Hell is Being a Republican in Virginia,' The Postwar Relationship Between John S. Mosby, and Ulysses S. Grant," at the Bristol Public Library, 701 Goode St. 1 pm. Free. 276-645-8780.
- 19 VA Walking tour, "Twilight Stories in Stone," at the Manassas Confederate Cemetery. 6:30 pm. \$15. www.manassasmuseum.org
- 19 VA Walking tour, "Follow the Cavalry," at the Five Forks Battlefield, part of the Petersburg National Battlefield. 7 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/pete
- 19 VA Music, "Arlington Taps 150," commemorates the anniversary of the bugle call "Taps" at the Old Amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery. 10 am-noon. Free. www.taps150.org
- 19 VA Living history, "Hanover Heritage Day," Civil War camps and artillery demonstrations at Hanover Tavern, 13181 Hanover Courthouse Road, Hanover. 10 am-3 pm. \$3. www.hanovertavern.org
- 19 VA Living history tours, "Soldier-led Tours of Fort Ward," at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site in Alexandria. 10 am-4 pm. Free. www.fortward.org or 703-746-4848.
- 19 VA Boat tour, "Potomac River Blockade," includes surviving batteries that enforced the Confederate blockade (September 1861-March 1862). 10 am-1 pm. \$30 includes lunch. Reservations: 703-792-4754.
- 19 VA Boat tour, "The Civil War on the James," includes Dutch Gap, Trent's Reach and more. Leaves from Deep Bottom Park, southeast of Richmond. 8-10 am, 10:30 am-12:30 pm and 1-3 pm. \$45/person. Details, reservations: 804-938-2350.
- 19 VA Living history, "Civil War Hut Construction," at the site of a winter Confederate camp on the grounds of Montpelier, home of James Madison, near Orange. 10 am-4 pm. www.montpelier.org or 540-672-2728.
- 19 VA Kids Day, special games and activities at the Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park near Rice. 1-3 pm. Free. 804-561-7510.
- 19 VA Walking tour, Fort Huger, 15080 Talcott Terrace in Isle of Wight County on the James River near Smithfield.

- 10 am. Free. 757-357-0115.
- 19 VA Living history, "Songs and Remembrances" camps and music at Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Stratford. Fee charged. www.stratfordhall.org.
- 19 VA Van Tour, "Battle of Williamsburg," site associated with the 1862 battle. Begins at Lee Hall in Newport News. 9 am-3 pm. \$45. www.leehall.org or 757-888-3371.
- 19-20 MD Living history, "Thunder on the Mountain," artillery demonstrations on South Mountain, Fox's Gap, Reno Monument Road, near Middletown. Firings Saturday at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm; Sunday at 11 am and 1 pm. Free. 301-791-4767.
- 19-20 PA Living history, camp and demonstrations at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. 10 am-4 pm Saturday, noon-4 pm Sunday. www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org
- 19-20 PA Living history at Spangler's Spring in the Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. www.nps.gov/gett
- 19-20 VA Symposium, "Battle of Cedar Creek," includes opening and closing receptions and battlefield tour. Based in Strasburg. \$225. www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org.
- 19-20 VA Reenactment, annual event at Fort Pocahontas, on the James River off Route 5 between Richmond and Williamsburg. Living history camps and demonstrations with battles each day. Details, directions: www.fortpocahontas.org.
- 19-20 VA Reenactment, "The Battles of Spotsylvania," 9019 Old Battlefield Road in Spotsylvania (near Fredericksburg). www.spotsylvania.org/2012.htm.
- 19-20 VA Reenactment, "Battle of New Market," on the historic battlefield at the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park. Living history camps and demonstrations 10 am-5 pm each day. Battles at 2 pm. Saturday and 1:30 pm Sunday. www.vmi.edu/newmarket or 866-515-1864.
- 20 MD Book talk, *A Rare Case of Two Brothers Who Actually Fought Against Each Other in the Civil War*, at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 11 am.

			Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/anti	26	VA	Living history and tours at Ellwood Manor, near Routes 20 and 3 west of Fredericksburg on the Wilderness Battlefield. www.fowb.org .
20-24	DC VA		Ken Burns Civil War Event, includes exclusive guided visits to DC and area museums and sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Manassas National Battlefield, Ford's Theatre and many more with a keynote and visit with filmmaker Burns. From \$3,990 including hotel, some meals. Organized by Burns and Tauck Tours. www.tauck.com or 800-468-2825.	26	PA	Seminar, "1862: 'All hell breaks loose,'" lecture and field program in Gettysburg. More info, registration: www.gettysburgfoundation.org
23	VA	★ 150	Car-caravan tour of the Front Royal battlefield. Orientation 1 pm, tour 2-4 pm. Begins at the Warren Heritage Society, 101 Chester St, Front Royal. \$10. www.warrenheritagesociety.org or 540-636-0702.	26	PA	"An Evening with the Painting," a special look at the famous Cyclorama at the Gettysburg National Military Park. 5 pm. \$20. www.gettysburgfoundation.org
23	VA		Gallery Walk, "An Artist's Story: Civil War Drawings by Edwin Forbes," at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6. www.vahistorical.org	26	MD	Living history, "Confederate Surgeon and CSA Medical Practices," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 11 am-4 pm. Free with museum admission. www.civilwarmed.org or 301-695-1864.
24	VA	★ 150	Car-caravan tour of the running battle fought along the Valley Pike (Route 11) following the Battle of Front Royal. Begins at the NPS offices, 7718 ½ Main St, Middletown. 4 pm. Free. www.shenandoahatwar.org .	26-27	PA	Living history at Meade's Headquarters in the Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. www.nps.gov/gett
24	VA		Concert, Civil War-era tunes at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site in Alexandria. 7 pm. Free. www.fortward.org or 703-746-4848.	26-27	VA	Living history, infantry camp and demonstrations at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. 11 am-2 pm. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/mana
25	VA	★ 150	Tour, "History at Sunset: The First Battle of Winchester," starts at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, 901 Amherst St, Winchester. 7 pm. Free. www.shenandoahatwar.org or 540-740-4545.	26-27	VA	Living history, "General Grant and Mrs. Grant Return to City Point," at City Point (Hopewell) a unit of the Petersburg National Battlefield. 10 am-5 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/pete
25	VA	★ 150	Car-caravan tour to sites associated with the First Battle of Winchester. Begins at the Winchester-Frederick County visitor center, 1400 S Pleasant Valley Road, Winchester. Orientation 1 pm, tour 2-4 pm. \$10. www.shenandoahatwar.org .	26-27	VA	Living history, camps and demonstrations at George Washington's Boyhood Home (Ferry Farm), 268 Kings Highway, in Falmouth (near Fredericksburg) and Kenmore in Fredericksburg. 10 am-5 pm. Free with admission. www.ferryfarm.org and www.kenmore.org .
26	VA	★ 150	Living history/driving tour of the Front Royal battlefield. Living history presentations at many stops on the 1862 self-guided battle driving tour. 10 am-4 pm. www.shenandoahatwar.org .	26-28	VA	Living history, "Civil War Weekend" at the Yorktown Battlefield. Camps and demonstrations all weekend with focus on Yorktown during the Peninsula Campaign. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/colo
26	VA		Luminaria, annual candle-light experience at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery near the Fredericksburg NPS visitor center, 1013 Lafayette Blvd. 8-11 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/frsp	26-28	MD	Flag display and focus on the history of Memorial Day at the Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick. Free. www.nps.gov/mono
				27	VA	★ 150 Bus tour, "The Battle of Hanover Courthouse," covers the 1862 battle north of Richmond. Begins at Hanover Tavern, 13181 Hanover Courthouse Road, Hanover.

- Noon-5 pm. \$75 includes lunch.
www.hanovertavern.org
- 27 VA Living history, artillery camp and demonstrations at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 1-4:30 pm. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/pete
- 27 MD Lecture, "James Hope," at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 11 am. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/anti
- 28 VA Memorial Day observance at the Groveton Confederate Cemetery and New York Avenue at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Begins noon at Groveton Cemetery. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/mana
- 31 ALL Park Day, nation-wide volunteer effort to clean up and restore Civil War battlefields and sites sponsored by the Civil War Trust. www.civilwar.org/parkday
- 31 VA Living history, "Home Cookin,'" life in the 1860s at the Bushong House on the New Market Battlefield State Park. 10 am-4 pm. Free with park admission. 866-515-1864.
- 31 VA Lecture, "Lee Takes Command" at the Virginia War Memorial Freedom Hall, 621 S Belvidere St, Richmond. 7 pm. Free. Reservations required: www.moc.org.

Henry Wilson: The Story Behind the Official Record

From *The Amazing Civil War*

By Webb Garrison

Pages 31 through 39

Continued from the March 2012 issue

Today that accomplishment may not sound impressive, but at the time, barely a generation after hostilities had ceased, it was almost unbelievable. Clerks had deciphered hundreds of styles of handwriting, ranging from formal reports written from luxurious headquarters in splendid copperplate to crudely scrawled battlefield memoranda. Working without the new device beginning to be offered to the business world as the 'type writer,' detailed indexes were generated for the 47 volumes. In 1880 Congress authorized an edition of 10,000 copies of each existing volume. These began coming from the press five years before the Linotype machine was first put into commercial use in New York.

Pouring from the US Government Printing Office in a steady stream, 127 immense black bound volumes were created, containing practically all military material from 1861 to 1865 that was then known to exist. Five volumes were devoted to the Atlanta campaign while both Vicksburg and Gettysburg filled three volumes, and an October 2, 1862 skirmish near Columbia, Missouri, merited half a page. In 1901, this project – considered to be finished at the time – climaxed with a 1,248 page general index that was accompanied by an official atlas of the Civil War.

Including the atlas, the *Official Records* runs to just under 140,000 pages that cost taxpayers the staggering total of \$2.8 million – equivalent to perhaps forty times that sum in today's dollars. Entire sets were sent free of charge to most public libraries that simply requested it. The fact that a set required 21 feet of shelf space meant that many libraries – some of them relatively large – had to decline the free offer.

Many users found it inconvenient that the 127 volumes were divided into 4 separately numbered series and that numerous numbered volumes were divided into 2 to 5 parts. This cumbersome system has been largely overcome by the current practice of citing serial numbers, such as 79, in lieu of Series I, Vol. 39, part 3. Material originally designed for use in Series I, Vol. 54, parts 1 and 2, went elsewhere. As a result, serial numbers 112 and 112 were never produced.

The index alone (serial 130) is a monument to years of hard work. In an era when indexes were prepared from handwritten entries on index cards, OR 130 was packed with more than 146,000 listings. Most of them are personal and geographical names and listings of military units from each of the 34 states that existed when the conflict began and from war born West Virginia. Each entry in the index refers to the volume or volumes in which references are to be found. The index of a typical 900 page volume runs to about 100 pages.

Indexes of individual volumes include thousands of full names of persons whose surnames only appear in the text. By the time the general index was ready, compilers had discovered approximately 1800 errors in volumes whose serial numbers ran from 1 to 129. Indexes of individual volumes refer users to such errors by the use of a plus symbol at the end of an affected entry. Clumsy as this system appears to current users, it was the product of tens of thousands of hours of diligent work.

To some who had worked full time for years on the gargantuan project, it must have seemed that the record was as complete as it could be when serial 130 came off the presses in 1901. At least a decade earlier, however, US Navy officials complained that naval activity had been ignored in the compilation of the massive records of the war. In response, Congress authorized publication of *The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion (NOR)* on July 31, 1894. Since masses of source material had already been sorted and made ready for printers, the first volume came off the press before the end of the year. It launched a second spree of publication that stretched for more than thirty years, during which 30,000 printed pages and another comprehensive index were produced.

The final NOR volume came off the press in 1917. By that time, researchers had uncovered significant caches of Confederate material not known when the OR was completed.

Authorization to publish a second series under NOR came while Josephus Daniels was serving as secretary of the Navy.

During a period of 5 years, 3 large volumes of Confederate material were issued, 2 of which were almost entirely devoted to naval matters. The 3rd volume was 1,336 pages long and filled with such things as proclamations and appointments of Confederate president Jefferson Davis and Confederate State Department correspondence with diplomatic agents. Since the OR was completed in 1901, it offered no hint that immense quantities of material dealing with Confederate actions on land are included in the NOR. The index volume, last of the series and comparatively small at 458 pages, was issued in 1927.

Together, the OR and the NOR constitute by far the largest project that the US Government Printing Office had undertaken up to that point. Part of the amazement that every user finds here stems from the fact that when a search is made for information about a given person or place, relevant passages are virtually guaranteed to yield gems of information that were not sought specifically.

Tom Broadfoot of Wilmington, NC, issued from the publishing house that bears his name a modern reprint of the entire OR slightly more than a century after the war ended. In the process, he realized that substantial primary materials about actions on land were not known when the massive set was produced. As a result, in 1994 he launched a multivolume *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (SOR)*. The diaries, letters, newspaper reports, and other source material offered here add substantially to the government published set

Cape May County Civil War Round Table



Logically, the accumulation and publication of enough supplementary material to fill about 10,000 pages in addition to the existing 170,000 pages issued in Washington should end the saga of the OR. That it does not is due to the way in which we have come to consider desktop computers as indispensable as telephones. In recent years at least 3 publishers set out to make the OR available on compact disk *<and hopefully as ePub files to be read as eBooks = Pat>*. In addition to accelerating the speed with which searches can be performed, a CD-ROM is not limited to the personal, geographical, and unit names that dominate the indexes of the printed version of the OR.

During 4 years in which Americans fought Americans with ever increasing fury, their experiences – almost wholly confined to battlefields – generated a publishing program like no other. Using methods and equipment that today seem primitive, hundreds of people put together an estimated one million words that keep every minor clash and major struggle alive for future generations.

