

150th Anniversary of the American Civil War



Cape May County
Civil War Round Table
Newsletter
August 2012

2012 Meeting Schedule

NEW MEETING LOCATION!!

We are now meeting in the Jury Room at the New Courthouse near the Public Library

Instructions on how to get to the new meeting location:

- 1) From Rte 9 (Main Street in Cape May Court House) turn North on Mechanic Street, toward the library.
- 2) Turn right at the next intersection (Boyd St.) (The corner the Public Library is on.)
- 3) Turn right at the jury parking sign (about half way down the street)
- 4) Go past the open gate and park in the Court House parking lot.
- 5) As you look at the brick building in front of you, bear to the left and enter between the two large brick pillars.
- 6) Jury room will be the first door on the left. If you have been called up for jury duty in the past, it's the room you entered into to start with before going up to sit in the court rooms.

- 7) Two New Rules: Nothing may be left in the room when we leave, including trash; and NO WEAPONS.

16 Aug: Presentation by Wendy Repici on *The Gettysburg Cyclorama Painting*. **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:

CMCCWRT Officers for 2012

President: John Burke
40 Secluded Lane, Rio Grande, NJ 08210
609-408-8238 = NEW PHONE NUMBER
jwburke@comcast.net

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609-463-9277 or 741-5438
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Treasurer: Jim Marshall
202 Bartram Ln., Ocean City, NJ 08226
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Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Cape May Civil War Round Table 19 July 2012

Secretary ran late for this meeting due to getting out of work late and then having to pick up food items for refreshments for this meeting. Sorry! Thanks to those who brought me up to date when I arrived.

President Burke called the meeting to order. We saluted the flag and held a moment of silence for those who

have placed themselves in harm's way while serving our country.

There was a discussion of recent re-enactments members had attended, historical displays at NJ museums and historic societies, and so on until the secretary arrived.

Secretary arrived, at which point the minutes from the previous meeting were read. There being no additions or corrections, motion made and seconded to approve them as read.

The Treasurer read his report. . Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the report and file it for audit. Treasurer asked for a motion to be made for him to be able to use Round Table funds to pay for our safety deposit box. Motion made, seconded and approved.

There being no further business, motion made to bring the business meeting to a close so our presenters could start their presentation. Motion made, seconded and approved.

With respect,

Patricia A. Munson-Siter
Secretary, Cape May County Civil War Round Table



Church Service in the Field
courtesy of the SC Relic Room & Military Museum

Civil War Milestones = August

1861

6 – Union troops take Paducah (KY)

1862

1 – Battle of Chantilly, VA

5 – Lee crosses the Potomac into Maryland

14 – Battles at South Mountain, MD

15 – Harpers Ferry falls to Confederates

17 – Battle of Antietam

22 – Lincoln issues preliminary Emancipation Proclamation

1863

7 – Ft. Wagner (SC) occupied by Union troops

19 – 20 – Battle of Chicamauga (GA)

1864

2 – Union troops occupy Atlanta

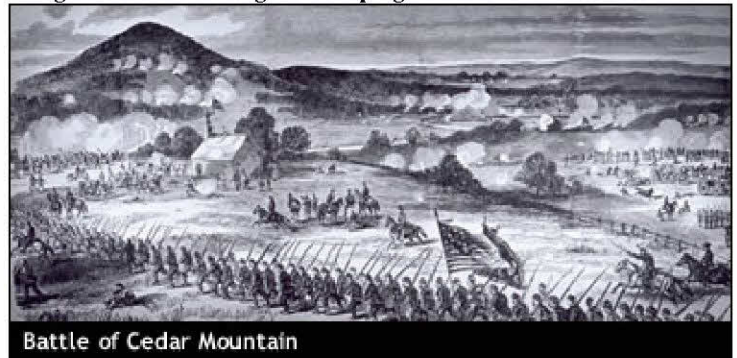
19 – Third battle of Winchester

22 – Battle of Fisher's Hill, VA

29 – Battle of Ft. Harrison/Chaffin's Farm, VA

150 Years Ago This Month – From CivilWarTraveller.com

• Virginia: Northern Virginia Campaign



Just a month after the bloody Seven Days Battles around Richmond, another Union army — under aggressive Gen. John Pope — began moving south from the Washington DC area. Robert E. Lee dispatched a wing of his army under Stonewall Jackson to meet the new threat. On Aug. 9, Jackson stalled Pope's advance at Cedar Mountain south of Culpeper and over the next few weeks Lee brought the rest of his army north. Lee again dispatched Jackson, this time to wreak havoc on Pope's supply and communication line on the Orange & Alexandria Railroad. After sacking Federal supplies at Manassas Junction, Jackson moved north to a strong position near the old Bull Run battlefield. A decisive Confederate victory at the Battle of Second Manassas Aug 28-30 opened the door to Maryland for Lee's army.

Some anniversary highlights:

- Walking tours and living history programs are planned on the Cedar Mountain battlefield Aug. 9 beginning at 6:30 pm. More living history is scheduled Aug. 10-12. Walking tours are set in downtown Culpeper Aug. 11, and performances of "Marching Through Culpeper" are offered Aug. 10-12. See friendsofcedarmountain.org for schedules.
- Special walking tours and living history programs are set for Aug. 25-26 commemorating the Battle of Kettle Run (Aug. 27, 1862) at the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park near Manassas. A memorial luminary is scheduled the evening of Aug. 25. Details: manassasbullrun.com
- A variety of walking tours, lectures and other programs Aug. 25-Sept. 2 commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Second Manassas at the Manassas National Battlefield Park and other nearby locations. Ranger-led tours of various areas



of the battlefield at the historic times are planned Aug. 28-30. Complete schedule: www.nps.gov/mana/sequicentennial-of-the-second-battle-of-manassas.htm

- Living history, music and talks commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill) Sept. 1 at the Ox Hill Battlefield Park in Fairfax County. Directions, history: fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/oxhill

Other programs related to the Northern Virginia Campaign are scheduled in August and early September. See civilwartraveler.com/events for listings.

• Missouri

Confederates lost whatever slight military presence they had in western and northern Missouri in separate August engagements.

Battle of Kirksville Aug. 6-9 1862 -- Union troops finally caught up with Confederates under Col. Joseph Porter at Kirksville, destroying the Southern force in and around the town.

- Living history, talks and reenactment commemorate the event in Kirksville Aug. 3-5: kirksvillecity.com/content/72/166/5195
- Battle of Lone Jack Aug. 16, 1862 -- Hard fighting resulted in a Confederate victory on the ground. But the win was short-lived. More Union soldiers arrived the area the next day forcing the Confederates to withdraw south to Arkansas.
- A reenactment, candlelight tours and more scheduled at Lone Jack Aug. 18-19. Details: lonejackbattle150.org

• Kentucky



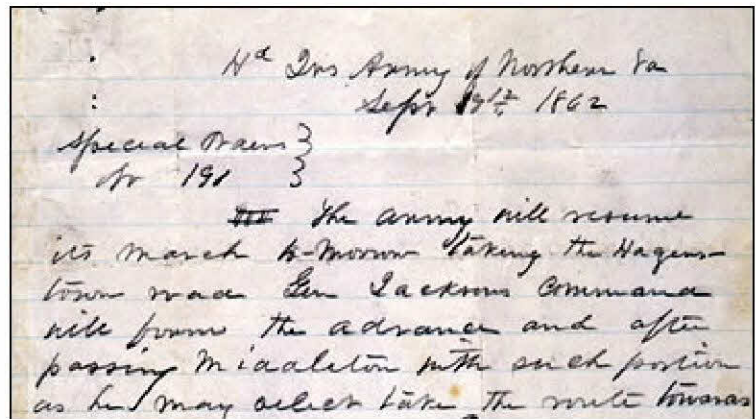
Mt. Zion Church on the Richmond (KY) battlefield

About the same time Lee moved north in Virginia, Confederates were moving the same direction in East Tennessee and Kentucky. Gens. Braxton Bragg and Kirby Smith hoped to steal a march around the flank of Union forces and take Confederates to the Ohio River. They also expected Kentuckians to rally to their cause, swelling the army's ranks as the columns moved through the state. Smith entered Kentucky first and met with initial success in late August.

The Battle of Richmond Aug. 29-30 was a stunning and complete Confederate victory as Smith rolled through the town's Union defenders, scooping up thousands of prisoners.

- A reenactment and living history weekend is scheduled in Richmond Aug. 25-26. See battleofrichmond.org/re-enactment for details.

"Lost Order" returned

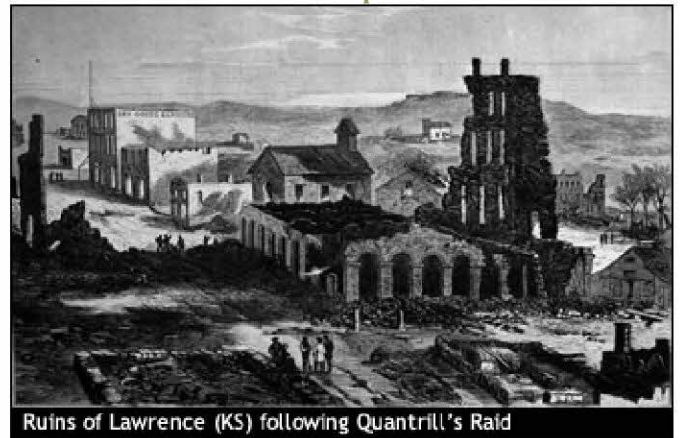


Lee issued Special Order 191 Sept. 9 near Frederick (MD) as his army moved deep into Maryland. It divided the Confederates into four widely divided parts. Four days later, a Union soldier found a copy of the order near the Monocacy River and quickly moved it up the line to the Union command. Gen. George McClellan, back in charge of the Union army, saw an opportunity and put his soldiers in motion, hoping to "bag" Lee's army.

The original "Lost Order" is on display Aug. 1-Oct. 31 at the Monocacy National Battlefield visitor center just south of Frederick (MD) near where the orders were found. A panel discussion on the topic is scheduled Aug. 4 at the Frederick Visitor Center, 151 S. East St., Frederick.

nps.gov/mono/historyculture/so191.htm

"War on Western Frontier" heats up



Ruins of Lawrence (KS) following Quantrill's Raid

The month-long commemoration of Kansas' Civil War and Quantrill's 1863 Raid hits full stride in Lawrence (KS) with mid-August tours and talks.

Complete schedule: visitlawrence.com/pages/the-civil-war-on-the-western-frontier-2012

Gettysburg walking tour app

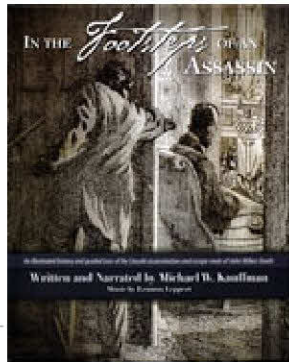
A new free iPhone app covers Civil War sites in downtown Gettysburg. Places included in the walking tour include the Globe Inn and the Gettysburg Train Station. Download a copy: itunes.apple.com/us/app/historic-gettysburg-walking/id533811379?mt=8

Stones River programs

Beginning Aug. 20, rangers at the Stones River National Battlefield (TN) will offer weekday talks at 2 pm and a weekend schedule of 11 am talks and a 2 pm car-caravan tour. The schedule continues through October. www.nps.gov/str

New Expedition Guide: Booth Escape

The latest in the popular Expedition Guide series follows Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth from Ford's Theatre to his death in Virginia. *In the Footsteps of an Assassin* is written and narrated by Michael W. Kaufman, author of *American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies*. The guide contains maps, narrative and an audio cd. Purchase a copy: civilwartraveler.com/books



Exhibits

- "Visualizing History: A New Jersey Civil War Camp," at the National Guard Militia Museum in Sea Girt (NJ). www.nj.gov/military/museum

On the Web

- Biggest Battles by Casualties graphic: www.civilwar.org/resources/battles-of-the-civil-war-infographic.html



Civil War Related Events September 2012

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--|
| 1
★
150 | VA | Anniversary activities commemorating the Battle of Ox Hill/Chantilly at the Ox Hill Battlefield Park, 4234 W Ox Road, Fairfax. Living history, demonstrations, tours, music, talks and more. 10 am-6 pm. Free. Parking at the County Government Center with shuttle to site. More info: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/oxhill . |
| 1 | MD | Bus tour, "John Wilkes Booth Escape Route," classic 12-hour tour sponsored by the Surratt Society in |
| 1-2
★
150 | VA | Lecture Series, "Second Manassas," begins 11 am each day with book signings, at the Manassas National Battlefield. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/mana |
| 1-2 | 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 Saturday, 10 am-3 pm. Sunday. Free. www.nps.gov/pete |
| 1-2 | FL | Living history, "Union Garrison," at Fort Clinch State Park near Fernandina Beach. Camps and demonstrations 9 am-5 pm Saturday, 9 am-noon Sunday. \$2. 904-277-7274. |
| 1-2 | PA | Living history, Confederate camp and demonstrations at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. 10 am-4 pm Saturday, noon-4 pm Sunday. nationalcivilwarmuseum.org |
| 1-2 | PA | Living history at Spangler's Spring and Pitzer Woods in the Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. www.nps.gov/gett |
| 4 | MD | Film, "The Heart of the Civil War," a documentary at the Weinberg Center for the Arts, 201 W Patrick St, Frederick. 7 pm. www.fredericktourism.org . |
| 5 | MD | Walking tour, "National Cemetery," at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 7 pm. www.nps.gov/anti |
| 6-10 | VA | Bus tour, "1862 Virginia," includes Monitor-Merrimack, Peninsula Campaign sites, and Fredericksburg battlefield and related sites. Includes four nights lodging and dinners, guide service and admissions. \$1,186/person double occupancy. 717-201-4381 or www.civilwartours.net |
| 7 | MD | Living history, tours, "Rosser's Raid Into Westminster," living history and walking tours on Main Street, downtown Westminster. 410-848-5294 or www.carrollcountytourism.org |
| 8
★
150 | MD | Lecture, "Visitation Girls' Academy as General Hospital No. 5 - Frederick, MD," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2 pm. Free with museum admission. www.civilwarmed.org or 301-695-1864. |
| 8 | 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 . |

8	VA	"Scarlett's Clothing was Hollywood Fiction: What Women Really Wore," special program at the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox. 11 am and 2 pm. Free with museum admission. www.moc.org	15	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.
8	VA	Car-caravan tour, "Brandy Station Battlefield: Buford Knoll & Yew Ridge," begins 10 am at the Graffiti House in Brandy Station. \$10. brandystationfoundation.org	15	VA	Walking tour, "When the Lights Go Out: Death, Sin and Slavery in Richmond," begins at the Main Street Station, Main and 16th streets in downtown Richmond. 10:30 am. \$9. More info, tickets: www.moc.org .
8	VA	Special tours, "The Deadliest Enemy," disease at a Civil War hospital, at Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas. 11 am-4 pm (tours begin on the hour). \$5. 703-367-7872.	15-16	MD	Reenactment, "The Battle of Antietam," at a site 2 miles north of the battlefield near Sharpsburg. Camps open 8:30 am both days with living history demonstrations. Battles at 10 am and 3 pm Saturday, 11 am and 2 pm Sunday. www.150thantietamreenactment.com
8-9	MD	Reenactment, "Maryland, My Maryland: The Battles of South Mountain and Antietam," in Boonsboro. www.marylandcampaign150.org .	15-16	MD	Living history, "Sharpsburg Heritage Festival," with camps, living history, exhibits and more in downtown Sharpsburg. Commemorating the anniversary of the Battle of Antietam. 10 am-6 pm Saturday, Noon-5 pm. Sunday. www.sharpsburgheritagefestival.com
11	VA	Behind-the-scenes tour, "Forever Free: The Emancipation Proclamation," at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. 10:30 am. \$17. www.vahistorical.org	15-16	MD	Living history with camps, demonstrations and hospital set-up at the Pry House Field Hospital Museum in Keedysville. 11 am-5 pm. More info: www.civilwarmed.org or 301-695-1864.
12	MD	Walking tour, "National Cemetery," at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 7 pm. www.nps.gov/anti	15-16	PA	Living history at Pitzer Woods in the Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. www.nps.gov/gett
12	VA	Lunch talk, "Harpers Ferry," at Baine's Books and Coffee, 205 Main St, Appomattox. 12:15 pm. Free. www.moc.org	15-16	VA	Tours, "War on the Home Front," at Oatlands Historic House and Gardens near Leesburg. 11 am and 1 pm Saturday, 1 pm Sunday. Fee charged. www.oatlands.org
13	VA	Lecture, "Civil War Lawyers: Constitutional Questions and Courtroom Dramas," at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6. www.vahistorical.org	15-16	NC	Reenactment, "Allison Woods Living History & Reenactment," in Statesville. Camps and demonstrations open 9 am each day. Lantern tours Saturday evening. Battles each afternoon. Fee charged. www.allisonwoodslivinghistory.org
13-15	WV	Anniversary commemoration, "Prelude to Freedom: The 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry," with ranger programs, tours, lectures, panel discussion and more at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. 10 am-4 pm. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/hafe	15-17	MD	Anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Antietam at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Hikes, speakers, exhibits, music and living history. See www.nps.gov/anti for details and schedule.
15	PA	"High Tea and 19th-Century Fashion Show" on the Rupp House lawn, 451 Baltimore St, Gettysburg. 1-2:30 pm. \$26.95. Tickets: 877-874-2478.	18	DC	Seminar, "Lincoln and Grant: The Civil War's Winning Team," at the Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive SW. 6:45-8:45 pm. \$40. smithsonianassociates.org (click on Civil War).
15	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 .	19	MD	Walking tour, "National Cemetery," at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 7 pm. www.nps.gov/anti
15	VA	Bus tour, "John Singleton Mosby" annual tour includes related sites in Northern Virginia. Begins 8:30 am at Truro Church Rectory, 10520 Main St, Fairfax. \$75. Reservations: 703-971-4984.			

19	VA	Gallery Walk, "The Emancipation Proclamation," at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6. www.vahistorical.org	22	VA	Living history, "Rendezvous at Rector's Crossroads," Civil War-oriented stories and tours of the town and nearby Goose Creek Bridge. Meet at Rector House, 1461 Atoka Road, Marshall. 11 am-5 pm. \$5/adult. www.mosbyheritagearea.org
20	VA	Lecture, "The Civil War According to the Rockingham Register," at the Heritage Museum in Dayton. 7 pm. Free. www.heritagecenter.com	22	VA	Living history/tours, "Rendezvous at Rector's Crossroads," a small-town view of the Civil War at the Rector House, 1461 Atoka Road, Marshall. 11 am-5 pm. www.mosbyheritagearea.org .
20	VA	"Fireside Stories at Ben Lomond: Battle of Shepherdstown." Historians discuss the 1862 battle at Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas. 6-7 pm. Free (donations welcome). 703-367-7872.	22	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.
21	★ 150	VA "A Fireside Chat: Looking at the Emancipation Proclamation," at the Dodd Auditorium, University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg. 7 pm. Free but registration required. www.virginiacivilwar.org	22-23	★ 150	MD Anniversary commemoration of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Speakers, living history and more. www.nps.gov/anti
21	★ 150	VA Lunch talk, "Antietam, Photography and the Changed Face of War," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Noon. Free. www.moc.org .	22-23	★ 150	VA Living history, "Yankees Return to Falmouth," at Falmouth Park and Moncure Conway House, 401 River Road, Falmouth. Demonstrations, camps, exhibits and more. 9 am-5 pm. Free. 540-658-8681.
21-22	★ 150	MD Tour, "One Vast Hospital," the historic churches in downtown Frederick, used as hospitals following the Battle of Antietam, are open for special tours 5-9 pm Friday and 1-4 pm Sunday. Free. 301-695-1864 extension 14 or www.marylandcampaign.org	22-23	VA	Living history, "Anniversary of the Potomac River Blockade 1861," camps and demonstrations at Leesylvania State park in Woodbridge. 10 am-4 pm. Parking fee applies. 703-583-6904.
21-23	★ 150	PA Commemoration of the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation at the Gettysburg National Military Park and Gettysburg College. www.gettysburg.travel	22-23	PA	Living history, "Civil War Remembered," annual skirmish viewed from passenger train, at the Middletown & Hummelstown Railroad in Middletown. Skirmished at 11 am and 2:30 pm Saturday and 11 am Sunday. \$10. Reservations recommended. Ticket info: www.mhrrailroad.com
22	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	MD	Lecture, "Maryland Troops at Antietam," at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 2 pm. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/anti
22	PA	Seminar, "Into the Valley of Death: Defense of the northern slope of Little Round Top," lecture and field program in Gettysburg. Details, registration: www.gettysburgfoundation.org	24	VA	Kids program, "Drums Alive! Civil War Drummers," hands-on activities with talks for grades 1-5 at the Isle of Wight Museum in Smithfield. 2-4 pm. \$10. Registration: 757-356-1223.
22	MD	Lecture, "The Civil War Afloat" Civil War navies and battles, at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. 4 pm. Free. www.surratt.org .	24	VA	Lecture, "USS Monitor," at the Isle of Wight Museum in Smithfield. 7 pm. Free. 757-356-1223.
22	VA	Author talk, Civil War author Jeff Shaara at "Novel Nights" at the Chesapeake Central Library, 298 Cedar Road, Chesapeake. 6:30 pm. \$35/advance. Tickets, more info: www.novelnights.com	26	MD	Walking tour, "National Cemetery," at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 7 pm. www.nps.gov/anti
22	VA	Walking tours, ranger-guided tours at the Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park near Rice. 1:30-3:30 pm. Free. 804-561-7510.	27	VA	Bus tour, "Both Sides Tour IX," covers Cedar Mountain, Second Manassas and Chantilly battlefields. Meets 8 am at the Franconia Government Center, 6121

- Franconia Road, Alexandria, at 8 am. \$100. Reservations: 703-971-4984 or 703-971-4716.
- 27 **VA** Lecture, "A World on Fire: Britain's Crucial Role in the American Civil War," at the Robins School of Business, University of Richmond. Sponsored by the Museum of the Confederacy. 7:30 pm. Free, reservations required. 855-649-1861 or www.moc.org
- 28-30 **VA** Seminar, "1862 – The Rise of Lee and Grant," at Liberty University in Lynchburg. Reception, lectures, film festival and more. Details, registration: 434-582-2087.
- 28-30 **PA MD** Seminar, "The Battle of South Mountain: September 14, 1862," based in Chambersburg. www.civilwarseminars.org.
- 29 **PA** Seminar, "Into the Valley of Death: Defense of the northern slope of Little Round Top," lecture and field program in Gettysburg. Details, registration: www.gettysburgfoundation.org
- 29 **VA** Van tour, "1864 Bermuda Hundred Campaign," includes stops at Drewry's Bluff, Battery Dantzler and more. Begins at Henricus Historical Park, 251 Henricus Park Road, Chester. 10 am-2 pm. \$15. Details, register: www.chesterfieldhistory.com
- 29 **VA** Talks and memorial, "Bristoe Station-Camp Jones Cemetery," highlights the cemeteries at Bristoe Station, where nearly 1,000 Confederate soldiers died in Camp Jones the fall of 1861. At the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, Iron Brigade Unit Avenue, in Bristow. 10 am-1 pm. Free. 703-366-3049.
- 29 **ALL** Free Entrance Days at National Park Service sites. nps.gov.
- 29 **VA** Bus tour of a Hanover County battlefield (north of Richmond, TBA), leaves from Hanover Tavern, 13181 Hanover Courthouse Road, Hanover. 8:30 am-1 pm. \$75 includes breakfast and lunch. www.hanovertavern.org
- 29-30 **MD** Living history, "Artillery and Infantry at Antietam," at the Antietam National Battlefield, camps and demonstrations. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/anti
- 29-30 **PA** Living history at Pitzer Woods and the Pennsylvania Memorial in the Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. www.nps.gov/gett
- 29-30 **PA** Living history and reenactment during the 200th-anniversary celebration of the town of Port Royal.

Saturday's activities include a reenactment of a June 30, 1863, event, followed by a battle reenactment (10 am) and parade. Sunday period church service. www.portroyal200.com.

- 30 **VA** Lecture, "Fashions in the Civil War Era," at the Graffiti House in Brandy Station. 2 pm. Free, donations welcome. brandystationfoundation.org

- 30 **MD** Walking tour, "The Attack of the Iron Brigade," at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 10 am. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/anti

From *History Magazine: Official Magazine of the History Channel Club*; July/Aug 2012: Historian Challenges Civil War Death Count

The deadliest war in American history might have been even deadlier than previously thought. For more than a century, historians have generally accepted the consensus estimated Civil War death tolls of about 620,000 troops – 360,222 from the Union and 258,000 from the Confederacy. That could be changing.

New research recently published in the journal *Civil War History* says historians are vastly underestimating the actual death toll. The study's author, Binghamton University demographic historian J. David Hacker, said incomplete and missing battle records resulted in historians understating the actual death tolls by 20 percent or more. Troops most likely to have been overlooked were soldiers who perished from disease and who lacked identification, both of which were common in the Civil War.

"About half the men killed in battles were buried without identification," Hacker said. "Most records were geared toward determining troop strength."

Hacker's thesis quickly found support from several other notable Civil War historians. Preeminent Civil War expert James McPherson said he was not surprised by Hacker's findings, saying he had long been skeptical of the accepted totals, particularly the 258,000 figure for the South. "I have always been convinced that the consensus figure of 620,000 is too low," said McPherson, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Civil War history *Battle Cry of Freedom*.



The Battle of Lexington

For midshipmen, ‘teachable moments’ hiking Stonewall Jackson’s Shenandoah trail



By [Daniel de](#)

[Vise](#), Published: April 15 by The Washington Post

Swift Run Gap, Va. — This is the U.S. Naval Academy’s idea of spring break: a 70-mile march along the craggy spine of the Blue Ridge Mountains, in [a sesquicentennial tribute](#) to Confederate Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson and his torturous [Shenandoah Valley Campaign](#).

Fourteen midshipmen forsook Cancun or Panama City last month for a five-day slog along the Appalachian Trail, eating peanut butter and gorp and drinking water collected from mountain streams. Only nine completed the journey. Injury and exhaustion claimed the rest — a development that only reinforced the week’s lessons about hardship and resolve.

The [Valley Campaign](#) of spring 1862 secured Jackson’s legacy as a consummate military leader. Jackson’s “foot cavalry” marched 646 miles in 48 days and won a string of improbable victories against larger but separated Union forces, including memorable contests at [Front Royal](#) (May 23) and [Port Republic](#) (June 9). The Federals were prevented from reinforcing a drive on Richmond, and Jackson eventually slipped away from his befuddled enemies in the valley and joined the forces that drove the Union army away from the Confederate capital, fueling Southern hopes of winning the [Civil War](#).

Retracing some of Stonewall’s steps heralds a new academic approach at the Annapolis academy, one of five federal service academies that train future officers. Midshipmen are among the few college students required to study leadership — and to learn the skills well enough to lead sailors or Marines into battle.

“We can’t take these kids over spring break to Afghanistan, nor would we necessarily want to,” said Joe Thomas, a professor of leadership education at the academy who led the Valley Campaign expedition from March 11 to 16. “But we can take them to somewhere in their back yard that has really valid, timeless lessons for people who are going to go to Afghanistan in a few years.”

Past generations studied leadership mostly in the classroom. In recent years, though, the emphasis of leadership training in Annapolis has shifted to what academy instructors call “epic” experience — lessons learned in real life. It’s part of a broader educational movement toward experiential learning. Groups of midshipmen go sailing in Maine, kayaking on the Chesapeake or hiking in Alaska, learning to lead in places where decisions can have life-altering consequences. Other military schools, including the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and [Virginia Military Institute](#), also teach leadership in real-world settings.

“Optimism is a force multiplier. Keep that in mind,” Thomas said, addressing a circle of weary midshipmen. It was dusk on Day Three of the hike, and Thomas was doing what he could to buoy spirits after 55 miles on foot.

Jackson’s troops crisscrossed the valley from February to June of 1862, marching from Winchester to Port Republic, up into West Virginia and across the mountains to Charlottesville.

(Civil War completists will note that Jackson’s men passed through [Swift Run Gap](#), where Thomas and his midshipmen camped, around April 17. Confederate records show the “foot cavalry” slept “exposed in open bivouacs to the snow, rain and sleet,” a far cry from the balmy sunshine that greeted the midshipmen in mid-March 150 years later.)

Cape May County Civil War Round Table

