

Cape May County Civil War Round Table Newsletter July 2017

Meeting Dates for 2017

17 August: Live action artillery fire demonstrated by a Confederate Re-enactment unit. Please be aware we may have folks from the Atlantic City Press present! **Refreshments:** Barbara Golla and Bev L.

21 September: Mr. Donald Ernsberger noted civil war historian and author of several civil war books will be giving a presentation on the Defense of the Stone Wall at Gettysburg. It will be a very detailed presentation describing the main 45 minutes of the battle at the wall. He will cover troop movements down to the company level and several individuals involved both during the battle and after the war. This is a very rare opportunity to learn about the most famous part of the battle of Gettysburg in such detail.

Refreshments:

19 October: Eddy O'Malley, long time member of the Round Table, will be speaking on the subject of Rose Greenhow, Confederate spy. **Refreshments:** Donna Matalucci

16 November: **Refreshments:** Lou Bishop
There will be no meetings in December, January, or February.

LIST OF LOCAL EVENTS!!!

If anyone knows of local Civil War related events for 2017, please contact the Secretary so the information can be added to future issues of the newsletter.

Cold Spring Village

- **Civil War Weekend = 16 – 17 September**

Visitors can tour Union and Confederate camps and meet authentically clad and equipped military and civilian reenactors who will discuss the everyday lives of Civil War soldiers and the roles civilians played in supporting them.

Cape May County Historical Society & Museum

The County Historical Society and Museum would like us to add that they are looking for volunteers to help with many aspects of their work – from helping in the library, working in the gardens, to acting as tour guides/docents in the museum. They also have lost a huge amount of funding from the county; please support their fund raising efforts!! They are also always ready to welcome new members as well.

Round Table Officers

President: Andy Lolli

17 Delaware Ave, Del Haven, NJ 08251
609-889-0061

Email: andy.lolli@verizon.net

Vice President: Lou Bishop Jr.

21 Schoolhouse Ln, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
609-463-9277 or 741-5438

southwilriseagain@aol.com

Secretary: Pat Munson-Siter

42 Franklin Ave., Villas, NJ 08251-2407
609-287-5097

patms1766@outlook.com

Treasurer: John Herr

241 80th St, Avalon, NJ 08202
609-636-2551

avalonjohn@aol.com

Minutes of the 20 July 2017 Business Meeting

President Lolli called the meeting to order. We saluted the flag and help a moment of silence for those who are and have put their lives in the line of fire to protect those at home.

President Lolli made a short introduction to the Round Table for visitors and covered plans for the next few meetings. Membership forms were available for those wanting to become new members. He also reminded members that there is a sign up sheet for refreshments to the side of the room.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Herr gave his report; motion made to accept it and file for audit; approved. John also mentioned that only 15 members have paid dues as of 20 July. A reminder that dues help pay for covering the cost of our speakers; proceeds from the book raffle go to historic preservation, not to the general finance fund for the group.

Donna Matalucci, director of the museum, mentioned that the gallery in the museum will have a special exhibit on the history of maritime activities in Cape May County, from early whaling days through its history as a ship building area and on through the fishing and clamming industry today. The exhibit will run through the 6th of October; the museum is open from 10am to 4pm Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting for the presentation. Seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Munson-Siter
Secretary

One reminder: Please, if you go to a Civil War related event of ANY type, please write up a few paragraphs on it for me! If you read a book on the Civil War, write a book review for me! Putting together 8 pages of info a month all by myself ... well, let's just say I'd really appreciate anyone pitching in and helping me out by writing up reviews of books, re-enactments, visits to Civil War related museums, and so on. PLEASE!!!



Civil War Milestones September

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

Civil War Related Events Sept 2017

1 **PA** Living history at Lee's Headquarters, 401 Buford Ave, Gettysburg. 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. seminaryridgemuseum.weebly.com

2 **PA** Living history, "Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital," at Christ Lutheran Church, 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 7:30 pm. Free. christgettysburg.org/songs-and-stories-of-a-civil-war-hospital

2 **VA** Walking tour of Fort Huger, a Confederate fort on the James River, 15080 Talcott Terrace, Isle of Wight County, near Smithfield. 10 am. Free. www.historicisleofwight.com

2 **MD** Bus tour, "John Wilkes Booth Escape Route," leaves from the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. 7 am-7 pm. \$85. surrattmuseum.org

2-3 **MD** Living history, "Artillery Weekend," camp and demonstrations at the Monocacy National Battlefield in Frederick. 9 am-5 pm. Free. nps.gov/mono

7 **PA** Lincoln Lyceum Lecture with author James Conroy at Bowen Auditorium, Gettysburg College in Gettysburg. 7 pm. Free. More info: dbrennan@gettysburg.edu

8 **VA** Car-caravan tour, "The Heavens Were Fairly Illuminated," The Battle of Berryville." 10 am-noon. Free, registration suggested. More info, registration: 540-740-4545 or shenandoahatwar.org

9 **MD** Bus tour, "John Wilkes Booth Escape Route," leaves from the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. 7 am-7 pm. \$85. surrattmuseum.org

9 **VA** Walking tour, "Attack & Flank: Third Winchester," meets at Third Winchester visitor center, 541 Redbud Lane, Winchester. 5 pm. Free. nps.gov/cebe

- 9 **VA** Boat tour, “Potomac Blockade,” includes Freestone Point and other Confederate fort sites, 10 am-1 pm. \$45. Reservations: 703-792-4754.
- 10 **VA** Living history, “Union Artillery Demonstration,” at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 1-4 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/pete
- 11 **VA** Lecture, “Devastation, Hunger, and Survival after Antietam,” at the Capital Ale House, 623 E Main St, Richmond. 6:30 pm. Free. acwm.org
- 12 **VA** Special “Happy Hour” program, “Battling Starvation,” at Macado’s, 200 E Third St, Farmville. 6:30 pm. Free. acwm.org
- 14 **VA** Lecture, “Stonewall Jackson’s Little Sorrel: An Unlikely Hero of the Civil War,” at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6 adult. vahistorical.org
- 15 **VA** Walking tour, “The Bayonet Charge of the 8th Vermont and 12th Connecticut at Third Winchester,” meets at the Sheetz, 1683 Berryville Pike, Winchester. 6 pm. Free. nps.gov/cebe
- 15-16 **PA** “‘We now must return to Virginia’: The Gettysburg Campaign, July 4-14, 1863,” reception and bus tour. \$150. Details: seminaryridgemuseum.weebly.com
- 15-17 **WV** Conference, “Civil War Medicine — it’s not what you think,” at the Clarion Conference Center in Shepherdstown. Details: civilwarmed.org
- 16 **PA** Lecture, “Southern Occupation by USCT after the War,” at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. 1 pm. Free (regular admission to galleries applies). nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/events
- 16-17 **VA** “Harvest Days.” at Rural Plains, 7273 Studley Road, near Mechanicsville. Layers of history at the site, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, explored. 10 am-4 pm. Free. nps.gov/rich
- 16-17 **VA** Living history, camp and demonstrations at the Manassas National Battlefield. 11 am-3 pm. Free. nps.gov/mana
- 16-17 **VA** Reenactment, “Waynesboro at War,” living history camps with battles each day at Coyner Springs Park 2091 Lyndhurst Road, Waynesboro. 9 am-5 pm Saturday, 9 am-4 pm. Sunday. \$5/day. waynesborogatwar.webs.com
- 16-17 **MD** Anniversary living history, talks and tours at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg. Special commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Antietam National Cemetery Sunday. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti
- 21-24 **PA | MD** Symposium and tours, “Lincoln at Antietam,” lectures and battlefield tours based in Chambersburg. civilwarseminars.org
- 23 **DC** “The Myth of the Lost Cause: How Civil War History Was Rewritten,” special Smithsonian program 9:30 am-4:15 pm at the Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive SW, Washington. \$140. smithsonianassociates.org (click Civil War).
- 23 **PA** “Evening with the Painting,” special tour of the Battle of Gettysburg Cyclorama at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 6-7:30 pm. \$20/adult. gettysburgfoundation.org
- 23 **MD** Bus tour, “John Wilkes Booth Escape Route,” leaves from the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. 7 am-7 pm. \$85. surrattmuseum.org
- 23 **VA** Bus tour, “Battle of Fisher’s Hill,” near Strasburg. 9 am-4 pm. \$60. Details, registration: shenandoahatwar.org
- 23 **VA** Civil War Ball at the Kernstown battlefield south of Winchester. 7-10 pm. \$25/person. kernstownbattle.org
- 23 **VA** Car-caravan tour, “Manassas Civil War Hospitals,” begins at the Ben Lomond Historic Site in Manassas. 8 am-5 pm. \$40/lunch included. Reservations: 703-367-7872.
- 23-24 **MD** Living history “Aftermath of Battle,” at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg. Features the Sanitary Commission and a photographer. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti
- 23-24 **WV** Living history, “Lives in Limbo: Contraband Camp in the Shadow of John Brown’s Fort,” at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Free with park admission. nps.gov/hafe
- 24 **VA** Lecture, “Judson Kilpatrick Genealogy,” at the Graffiti House (Brandy Station Battlefield), 19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station. 2 pm. Free. brandystationfoundation.com
- 24 **VA** Living history, “Confederate Artillery Demonstration,” at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 1-4 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/pete

28 **VA** Lecture, “Resistance During the Civil War,” at Historic Tredegar in Richmond. 6 pm reception, 6:30 pm lecture. \$10. acwm.org

28 **PA** “Blue and Gray Gala,” at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. Special tours of the museum with food and drink. 6-10 pm. \$75.
nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/events

29 **PA** Living history at Lee’s Headquarters, 401 Buford Ave, Gettysburg. 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm.
seminaryridgemuseum.weebly.com

30 **VA** Ranger-led walking tours of the Fort Harrison Battlefield near Richmond. Free. nps.gov/rich

30 **VA** Bus tour, “Civil War Raiders of Northern Virginia,” includes Mosby and others. Begins at the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Road, Bristow. 8:30 am-4:30 pm. \$80/includes lunch. Reservations: 703-365-7895.

30-Oct 1 **VA** Living history, “Pallas Athena Ladies Aid Society,” at the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox. 10 am-3 pm. Free with admission. acwm.org

30-Oct 1 **VA** Living history, Civil War camp and demonstrations at Sky Meadows State Park near Delaplane. 10 am-4 pm Saturday, 10 am-2 pm Sunday. Parking fee. 540-592-3556.



**Report from the 44th Georgia Company
(Re-enactment at Gettysburg, 2017)
Submitted by Andy Lolli**

Sir:

I beg to report on operations of the 44th Georgia in Gettysburg Town July 1 through 3 where we were engaged in commemorating the 154th anniversary of the Great Battle. It was, indeed, an impressive event that attracted scores of Confederates and Union enthusiasts – and horses – from all parts. On hand were the newly minted Major Clark L Van Buskirk, who forthwith will be plying his organizational and strategic operational expertise to command headquarters; accompanying the group was the equally newly minted Captain, Art Mallette, under whose watchful eye and commanding comportsment shall lead the 44th into battle. Also present for duty were Sgt Ken Doran, Cpl Jim Marshall, and Privates “Uncle” Billy Ringel, David Bond, Andrew Lolli, and Bo O’Brien, as well as Yours Truly. Lady Michale Ringe graces the camp with her presence. Additionally, Mrs. Devita O’Brien and the lovely, talented and scholarly Brie O’Brien brightened our camp when they paid a visit.

Rows of tents and swirls of campfire smoke filed the spacious fields that served as home to the event. Confederate and Union Troops were separated by an undulating dirt road. The 44th set up a company street between the proud bookends of our Battle and Georgia state flags.

Following morning victuals on Saturday, Major Van Buskirk called a company meeting to address several matters of the 44th bylaws. (info as to the bylaws have been removed, per Private Lolli.)

The weather throughout the three days was hot with brilliant but intense sun. Saturday’s battle was rescheduled from mid to late afternoon, allowing the unit to keep the camp tidy and take occasional trips to the sutlers. In late morning, the battalion was taken out for drill. We were taught how to maneuver from a left-facing battle line to right without becoming inverted. It was clumsy at first, but after multiple attempts our battalion seemed to grasp the essentials.

It was a lazy afternoon and most of our time was spent under the company fly drinking wate3r to stay cool. Shade was at a premium, and as the sun made its heavenly arc, so changed the shade and so did we move our chairs to follow. Around half past two o’clock, dark and threatening clouds grumbled at us, the arrival of a forecasted storm. It came in a hurry and with a vengeance. It would be understated to call the rains torrential and the wind heavy. Many a canvas, unable to

hold its ground, was bowled over. Some tentage, like Capt. Mallette's fly, was so exposed it yielded to the overpowering force of nature which rent it from its moorings and left the fly dangling limp. Meanwhile, some brave souls, Yours Truly included, held the poles of the company fly to keep it from a similar fate and that of tents in other companies that were driven asunder.

Soon, the storm blew over. The sun emerged with the same intensity. All were accounted for, uniforms drenched by not worse for wear. Surprisingly, the ground remained mud less and very passable. Marching to the scene of battle would not be a problem.

Some drying out was possible by first call. The 44th fell in with several other Second Battalion units and we were designated Third Company. We marched up the dirt road toward the grand stand where onlookers came to watch the festivities. The battalion's Lieutenant Colonel deployed us in a battle line and as the enemy came to our front, we marched forward. Capt. Mallette directed our company firing by rank, file and independently. The battle raged as we alternated advancing and falling back, all the time firing and keeping it hot on the Yankees. Our lines held steady, sometimes advancing at the oblique to counter new enemy movements. Doubtless the enemy had the greater numbers for as we appeared to drive off one regiment of Bluebellies, they were able to put more reinforcements into line. After about 20 minutes of firing and the barrels of our muskets blazingly hot, a regiment of Yankees appeared on our left flank. Unable to contain their units on our front and left, the Captain gave the order to fall back and reform on the battalion colors, which we did with precision. After a final volley, it was decided to yield the field to the Yankees and return for them tomorrow.

Our return march to camp allowed us to pass the grand stand where we were applauded by the visitors and many in our unit responded with waves and raised hats in appreciation.

Back in camp we suppered on chili and corn on the cob courtesy of Mrs. Yours Truly. There also was very tasty onion bread from the Sergeant of which we ate heartily. When all had their fill and had cleaned up, we settled in for a quiet evening of cigars and reminiscing over the day's events and past battles.

Sunday morning brought a new battle, this one involving my ongoing brawl with grits. Having awoken early, I had my pot of water sufficiently boiled to catch the grits using the element of surprise. As is their nature when provoked, the grits clumped in a defensive position on the pot's bottom. I responded with vigorous agitation via the long spoon, which separated but a few leaving the bulk tenaciously holding their lower position. Being a veteran of such engagements, I knew the only way to break their line was with cold steel. Thus, I lay down my spoon and fixed spatulas. Decorum would not permit me to describe the ghastly events that followed my spatula assault, suffice to say the grits' clump was demolished with few unboiled survivors.

The rest of breakfast was pretty good.

The attack on Sunday was set for the middle afternoon. This again gave the boys time to resupply our rounds and caps, stack more firewood, police the camp and take an occasional trip to the upper town. Once more the heat and need for shade kept the unit strategically positioning and re-positioning our chairs under the company fly.

As with the previous day, our unit fell in with other units of the Second Battalion and marched up the dirt road. This time, the battalion formed battle lines in front and to the right of the viewing crowd's grand stand. When the order was given to march, we moved to the enemy's front through a series of obliques and wheels. Our formation held tight, much to the satisfaction of the Sergeant Major who led us into position.

We poured on fire on the Yankees and pushed them back. The enemy showed little appetite for pushing us back, but instead kept to a secured position challenging us to continue our advance. We did so while firing and reloading on the march. Operationally speaking, being the aggressor in this engagement meant we would take more casualties, and it proved to be true. Colleagues fell to Yankee fire more rapidly than we could move replacements into position. I too took a hit and had to limp off the field. The firing continued behind us, but not for long. As it faded, I knew all too well that another's day action was needed to drive the Yankees out, this time for good. The battle would be decided tomorrow.

Back in camp we were treated to a wonderful chicken and vegetable dinner courtesy of Mrs. Mary Doran. A

few ears of corn were left from the day before, complementing Mrs. Mary's culinary creation. Once more we passed the evening with walks to the sutlers and conversing under the company fly.

Monday, July 3 was to be the climax of the event. It started out, however, with a surprise as we learned it was Cpl Jim's birthday. Such milestones could not go unrecorded, and after some debate as to how the moment should be commemorated, it was decided that an appropriate gesture would be to prepare a birthday cake. Not any birthday cake, mind you, but something special; something that would stand the test of time, emblazon itself forever in the unit's history and adequately express our love and appreciation for the Corporal.

While the Corporal was off tending to matters with the Major, Private Bo stood guard and provided a shield from prying eyes enabling Yours Truly to manufacture the birthday device. I found a pile of evidence that the cavalry had passed through and scooped up a mess of the equine memorabilia. The inglorious ingredient was then paddled delicately into a cake. Sgt Ken provided a candle and someone added a stomped out cigar butt for sentimentality.

When Cpl Jim returned to the company fly we proudly presented him with the cake, candle, cigar and all accompanied by a chorus of "Happy Birthday to You." Although the Corporal accepted this beau geste with a touch of modesty, the ceremony mercifully ended quickly as the cake and contents were immediately dispatched to a trash bin well away from the company street.

First call for the battle came early in the afternoon and once again we trudged up the dirt road. This time, we were led under a large tent next to the viewer stands and told to wait. Ice was passed to help us stay cool. It was then that our cannons opened up, blasting sequentially. Yankee cannon returned this compliment, and soon both sides were engaged in a cannonade duel.

Then the order was given for us to move out. We were put into battle lines, this time battalion was placed directly in the center of the action facing the enemy and our backs to the crowd. A row of Yankee pickets positioned themselves behind a fence along a dip in the field and the bulk of the enemy was tightly packed in as strong defensive position some forty yards beyond.

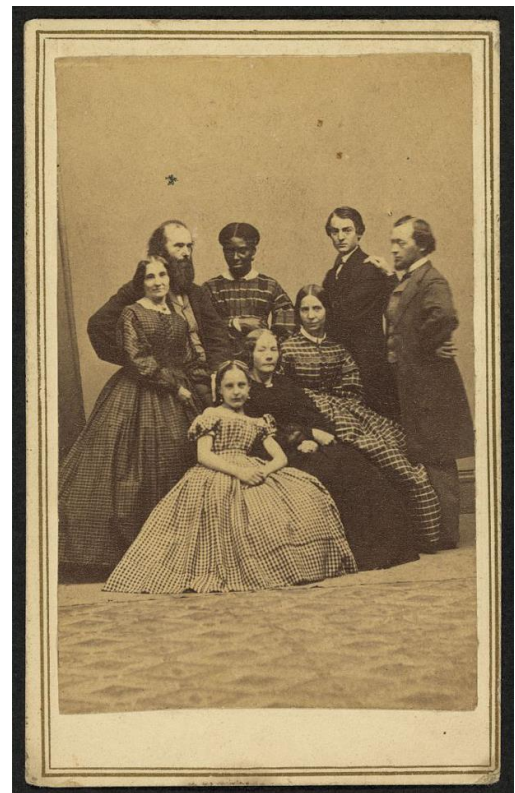
Forward march came the order and we headed directly to the enemy position, stopping occasionally to straighten out our lines and to fire. The enemy pickets were gone by the time we reached the fence, which we tore apart to continue our forward progress, all the time firing and reloading. At this point, many Confederates had fallen, but we were determined to drive the Yankees out. Tightening our lines we made one last charge to break the enemy. The Yankee fire was hot and true and soon only a handful of our boys were still in the fight. Not one was able to get within 15 yards of the enemy. Our attack stalled and we were ordered to withdraw. We would fight them another time, another place.

Upon our return to camp we stored our equipment and went about the last bit of policing. We struck our tents and broke camp. Sgt Ken was called on to lead the unit in a parting prayer. We acknowledge with an 'Amen' and headed out.

The next event is the fall of Gettysburg event at Spangler's Spring August 19 and 20. Please let the Major know if you will be attending.

Submitted with my compliments,

Corporal Mike Lordi



Stepdaughters of History: Southern Women and the American Civil War

by Clinton, Catherine

Publisher: LSU Press

Retail Price: \$27.50

Issue: Summer 2017

ISBN: 9780807164570

From Periphery to Center: Southern Women and the American Civil War

This concise volume marks the publication of three lectures that Catherine Clinton delivered at Louisiana State University in 2012 as the honored Walter Lynwood Fleming lecturer in Southern history. The Fleming lectures have been a venerable LSU tradition for nearly eighty years, and in that time, only a handful of female historians have been invited to contribute. Fittingly, then, Clinton's three lectures-turned-essays focus on the history and historiography of southern women in the Civil War era.

Despite its slim size, this volume packs an outsized punch. It is a tour de force for Clinton, an exposition of her vast and deep knowledge of the field in which she has worked—and written or edited nearly thirty books—throughout her distinguished career. The lectures and resulting book are part of her larger project to move women from the footnotes and sidebars of Civil War history and into the center of the narrative—a place where they clearly saw themselves. “I believe in taking every opportunity to afford women a platform, a place at the table,” she writes in the introduction, “even when we don’t like the menu.” (xvii)

Clinton's first chapter examines white Confederate women and their Civil War experiences, a relatively virgin terrain when Clinton began her career. Historians have trafficked the field with gusto during the past two decades and Clinton highlights their valuable contributions. She is just as intent, however, on showing how able Confederate women themselves, who constituted a veritable “sisterhood of scribblers” after the war,

were at shaping and re-shaping the Confederate experience for hungry readers. She credits this “dethroned plantation royalty,” the likes of LaSalle Pickett and, most famously, Mary Boykin Chestnut, among others with “erect[ing] a barricade, a façade, incorporating remembrances of things imagined,” which largely came to dominate the national reading of the war for decades. (2)

In chapter two, Clinton turns away from the elite women who were meant to emblemize southern societal expectations to those women who either chose or were forced to transgress them. Her starting point is Loreta Janeta Valazquez, the Cuban-born, Louisiana-raised woman who, after the death of her husband and children, donned male clothing and took up arms as Confederate Lt. Henry Burford in 1861. Clinton argues convincingly that Valazquez's experience may have been unusual, but it certainly was not singular. Hundreds of southern women engaged in transgressive acts including cross-dressing, spying, smuggling and other gender-bending acts in service of the Confederacy. Acknowledging both the problems and the promises of fragmentary evidence of these women, she insists that whatever we may think of their cause and motivations, that “these spirited patriots require interrogation.” (74)

Clinton centers her final chapter, “Mammy By Any Other Name,” on that highly problematic archetypal southern figure that has historically rendered black women “disembodied and anonymous.” (76) She lays out in example after despairing example how, despite the bold and important contributions of black women as well as those of the the historians who study them, the mythology of Mammy continues to subsume the historical identity of southern African American women. This problem appeared in all-too-bold relief when, during a recent discussion of who might Alexander Hamilton on the ten-dollar bill, one scholar vetoed Harriet Tubman, claiming that “the American people might not be prepared to accept a ‘Mammy’ image on [their] money.”(77) Clinton remains hopeful, however, that the cultural tide is turning thanks to modern historiography, and most importantly, social efforts such as the #SayHerName initiative. “Mammy may seem to

have nine lives,” she quips, “but hopefully at least eight of them are gone.” (110)

Stepdaughters of History highlights the many stories southern women left of their Civil War experiences, as well as their narratives were variously embraced, discounted, buried, or eventually debunked. The book serves as a bold and breezy appreciation of all of the important work that historians have done in the field to reveal and interpret southern women’s experiences, and as a call for them to do more. Clinton blends her historiographical and historical terrain seamlessly, and her piercing and witty prose is imminently readable, making this book essential reading both for people who have read much southern women’s history and for those who have read none.

Anne Marshall is an Associate Professor of History at Mississippi State University.



Cape May County Civil War Round Table
c/o Pat Munson-Siter
42 Franklin Ave
Villas, NJ 08251
www.cmccwrt.com

