



20 Oct
17 Nov
? Dec = Christmas / End of Year party

LIST OF LOCAL EVENTS!!!

Members are encouraged to participate; if you have Civil War garb / uniforms, please feel free to wear it! We would also appreciate members attending helping by handing out flyers as well as telling folks about our group. MAC says we can have people at non-Civil War oriented events too, and some of them are listed herein.

12 & 19 Dec: Christmas Open House at the Cape May 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.

Round Table Officers

President: Marty Runner
1402 Rt 9 South, Lot 193, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
609-536-8235
pat_mar1136@yahoo.com

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: Jim Marshall
202 Bartram Ln., Ocean City, NJ 08226
609-602-3243
jim@jimocnj.com

Minutes of the Business Meeting 19 Nov 2015

President Runner could not attend due to his wife being in the hospital. Treasurer Marshall conducted the meeting. We saluted the flag and held a moment of silence not only for those who put themselves in harm's way to protect our country, but also for those who have lost their lives or been injured in the recent terror attacks in Paris and the Middle East.

Jim then announced the death of John Burke, past president and very active member of the Round Table. Information as to the

Bagpiper at John Burke's Funeral

Cape May County Civil War Round Table Newsletter December 2015

There will be NO meeting in December, January, or February.

Meeting Dates for 2016

17 March (St Patrick's Day) – Guest Speaker and Author Scott Mingus presents "Flames Beyond Gettysburg"- refreshments by Andy Lolli
21 April – Guest Speaker Ed Bonekemper presents "McClellan and Failure" – refreshments by Jim Marshall
19 May – Guest Speaker Brian Blake presents "Union General Francis Barlow"
16 June
21 July
18 Aug
15 Sept

viewing/memorial mass this next weekend was disseminated, as well as a copy of the obituary from the *Press of Atlantic City*.

Secretary reminded everyone that today is the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. Also, there were no corrections or additions from the October meeting, so the minutes were accepted as they appeared in the November newsletter.

Treasurer gave his report. Motion made to accept the report and file for audit, seconded and approved.

The Civil War Trust is asking for additional funds to buy more land that has become available at the Antietam and South Mountain battlefields. Motion made to donate \$50 to the CWT, seconded and approved.

Jim talked about the '7 Mile Walk' at Gettysburg that he, Marty and several other members of the CWRT attended after the October meeting. Sounds like they had a good time and learned a lot, seeing areas of the battlefield they had not seen before.

It is too late now to try and get our Christmas party organized. Avalon Country Club has a few dates available in December, but we would need at least 25 people to show up; last year we only had about 17. Officers will try to get the party organized and scheduled starting in March or April last year; some places we checked had been booked up for December since May this year.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned so our speaker could begin his presentation on the Battle of Flowing Waters.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Munson-Siter

Secretary, Cape May County Civil War Round Table



Civil War Timeline for January

1861

- 9 USS Star of the West fired on in Charleston Harbor
- 9 Mississippi secedes
- 10 Florida secedes
- 11 Alabama secedes
- 19 Georgia secedes
- 29 Kansas admitted as 34th state

1862

- 19 Battle of Mill Springs (KY)

1863

- 1 Emancipation Proclamation takes effect

1865

- 15 Fort Fisher falls to Union forces

REMINDER: Dues are Now Due, and have gone up to \$30 a year; \$35 if you want a hard copy of the newsletter mailed to you. Copy costs have gone up to \$.11 a page, so it's a lot more expensive to print the newsletter than it was even a few years ago! And you all know how more expensive it is to mail a letter, too... Send your dues to Jim Marshall!!!



Civil War Related Events January 2015

- 9 **PA** Lecture, "Jubal Early and the Molding of Confederate Memory" at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett
- 10 **PA** Lecture, "Louisiana Radical: James Longstreet and Reconstruction (1866-1875)" at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett

16 **PA** Lecture, “Power and Distorted Relationships: The Psychology of the ‘Loyal Slave’ and ‘Mammy’” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett

17 **PA** Lecture, “The Long road to Reconciliation — Veterans and the Record of War,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett

23 **PA** Lecture, “Freedom, the Civil War, and its Complicated Legacy,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett

24 **PA** Lecture, The Rhetoric of Reconstruction and Reconciliation — What Does it All Mean?” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett

30 **PA** Lecture, “Colonels in War, Governors in Peace: Chamberlain and Oates in Reconstruction,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett

31 **PA** Lecture, “The High Water Mark and War’s Memory and Reconciliation,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett



John at the “Civil War Days” at the Cape May Historical Genealogical Society this year

Past President of our Civil War Round Table John Burke has passed, 13 Nov 2015

The following has appeared in the Press of Atlantic City:

JOHN WILLIAM BURKE passed away peacefully on Friday November 13, 2015 of cancer at the age of 56.

He was the loving son of the late Pauline Jarvis Burke. John left behind his beloved cat Chiefee and his devoted friend Charles Keller. He was also the son of the late Norbert Joseph Burke Jr. (Bud) and the grandson of Edward and Cecelia Jarvis and Nobert Joseph Burke Sr. and Marguerite Burke. He is survived by his special cousins Nancy McClatchy and Stella Wainer, his aunt Peggy and many other cousins. He graduated from the University of Scranton with a BS in Criminal Justice. John was proud of the fact that he worked for the Department of Corrections and retired as a Sargent from Southern State Correctional Facility after 28 years. John was active in the Civil War Roundtable, Ancient Order of Hibernians, and as an Usher at Our Lady of Angels. He was passionate about Civil War Reenactments, and the Historical Miniature Gaming Society (HMGS). For those of us who knew John he was our friend, and we will miss his presence in our lives. Visitation will be on Saturday November 21, 2015 at 10:00 am followed by the 11:00 am Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Angels Church in Cape May Court House, NJ. Interment will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Conshohocken, PA. In lieu of flowers, an offering to the Humane Society of the United States at <http://www.humanesociety.org/> would be appreciated. William R. May Funeral Home Glenside~North Wales www.mayfuneralhome.com



Report of the Secretary:

I and several other members of the Round Table attended John’s funeral. It was a wonderfully warm event, with everyone speaking talking of their good memories of John.

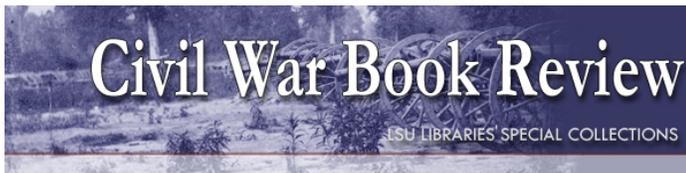
As a retired member of the Department of Corrections, the DOC had at least 11 members in uniform standing honor guard during the viewing part of the ceremony, changing over about every 15 minutes. As someone who is quite familiar with honor guard protocol due to my years in the military, I have to say they did an excellent job. I suspect at least a few of those men had served at the state prison with John before he retired.

It was obvious from the way the priest talked that he knew John really well also, and he spoke of some of the things he and John had talked about over the years.

After the formal part of the ceremony, we adjourned to Uncle Bill's Pancake House in North Cape May for a brunch / wake. This was one of John's favorite restaurants, and the staff knew him as well; they prepared three items for a special "John's Wake" menu including "John's Omelet." In addition to other members of the CWRT, I also talked to several of the gentlemen who were involved with the war gaming aspect of John's personal interests. Someone had put together a 'slideshow' of photos of John over the years, displayed on a computer; it was very well received.

John's ashes will be buried near his parents in Pennsylvania. Those of us in the CWRT who knew him well will miss him, and we honor him for all his many efforts in support of our group, both as President and as a member of the Round Table. I hope he was able to attend the parades in Gettysburg over the weekend of the funeral in spirit; you know that if his health had been better he would have been there in garb and participating in the parade!

Pat Munson-Siter



Abraham Lincoln's Daily Treasure: Moments of Faith with American's Favorite President, edited by Thomas Freiling

Published by Revell, division of Baker Publishing Co, available thru amazon.com as either trade paperback or as eBook for Kindle. Probably available in other eBook formats too, I'm sure.

I recently found a copy of this book at the gift shop at the VA hospital in Wilmington, DE, and bought it. Based on *The Believer's Daily Treasure*, a book of prayers and meditation that Abraham Lincoln kept with him and used extensively, it has both a few pages explaining about the background of the book

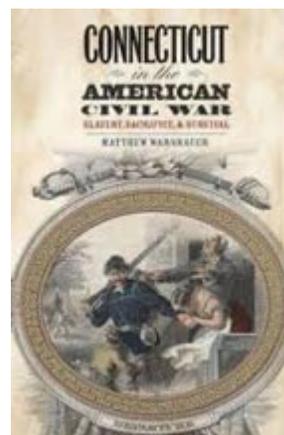
and its ties to President Lincoln, and then 356 pages of entries – one for each day of the year. Each entry starts with a selection from the Bible, then has a brief religious poem, and then one to several paragraphs about how Lincoln faced his world, good as well as bad, and with questions for the reader to reflect on. Even if you are not particularly religious, I think many people will find this volume of interest; you can remove / ignore the more religious parts of each entry and still have some good ideas to reflect / meditate on.

Reviewed by Pat Munson-Siter



Connecticut in the American Civil War: Slavery, Sacrifice, & Survival
By Matthew Warshauer

(Web Exclusive 11/17/11 Civil War News)



Illustrated, photos, notes, bibliography, index, 320 pp., 2011, Wesleyan, www.weslyn.edu/wespress, \$29.95.

In 1965, toward the conclusion of the Civil War Centennial, John Niven's classic *Connecticut for the Union* was published.

Although it suffers from some organizational problems, it has remained the best study of Connecticut's role in the Civil War.

Now, in 2011, at the beginning of the Civil War's Sesquicentennial, Central Connecticut State University Professor Matthew Warshauer has replaced Niven's work. His *Connecticut in the American Civil War* has been selected as the 2011 Driftless Connecticut Series outstanding book in any field on a Connecticut topic by a Connecticut author.

As a New England state, Connecticut has had a unique history. During the latter years of the War of 1812, Connecticut hosted the Hartford Convention, which protested involvement in that war, and refused to call out its militia. Slavery continued there into the late 1840s — longer than in other Northeastern states.

During the postwar period, Connecticut voters rejected an integrated society and voting rights for blacks. The author elaborates on these topics.

While Niven's 1965 study basically ignores any mention of slavery, Warshauer examines the roles of slavery and racial prejudice and documents his conclusions.

As he observes in his epilogue, "though slavery and its importance to the conflict is certainly woven throughout the pages of this book, I have also attempted to tell the story of the amazing sacrifices by the men and women of Connecticut who rallied to the nation's defenses as well as the story of those who voiced their dissent."

Warshauer's study is a concise, well-written, thoroughly researched and balanced portrait of Connecticut from the antebellum period to the formation of the Sesquicentennial Commission. The author follows a chronological order while focusing on the home front, military operations and Connecticut's military units and tracing the complex state political issues against a backdrop of larger national politics.

The struggles between the political parties of the state are presented through the words of local newspapers. Using the writings of participants, he relates the roles

played by Connecticut's soldiers and their feelings about various issues.

Warshauer also examines the significance of Connecticut's industry, especially weapons manufacturers Colt, Sharps, Whitney, and Henry, and the munitions factories of Hazard Gunpowder Company and Hotchkiss and Company.

As the role of its soldiers was memorialized following the end of the conflict, as related in a fascinating chapter on monuments in the state, Connecticut continued to deny blacks equality.

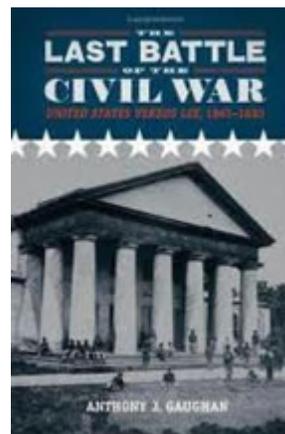
Connecticut in the Civil War is highly recommended. Warshauer has produced a model study of the internal political and social struggles within a state. He has written a fresh and meaningful contribution to Civil War history.

Reviewer: Michael Russert, a member of the North Shore Round Table of Long Island and the Company of Military Historians, has a MALS plus 60 hours in American Studies. He is Coordinator of The New York State Veteran Oral History Program.

The Last Battle of the Civil War: United States versus Lee, 1861–1883

By Anthony J. Gaughan

(Web Exclusive 11/17/11 Civil War News)



Illustrated, photos, maps, notes, bibliography, index, 272 pp., 2011, Louisiana State University Press, www.lsupress.org, \$42.50.

Can the recounting of a 19th-century suit in ejectment be worth the time and money of those choosing among the wide array of new Civil War books? Absolutely, if the plaintiff in the case was

Robert E. Lee's son (Confederate Gen. George Washington Custis Lee), the property in question is

the site of Arlington National Cemetery, and the case was a multi-faceted political football in the postwar era.

This is apparently the first book by Anthony Gaughan, trained as a lawyer and historian. Even as a fellow lawyer, this reviewer expected to find the book a rather tedious exercise gussied up with a sexy title. Instead, I gulped the book down in two evenings and recommend it warmly to lawyers and non-lawyers alike.

This is the story of how Robert E. Lee's family lost control of their 1,100-acre Arlington property overlooking Washington, D.C., at the beginning of the Civil War and eventually, following a 5-to-4 decision by the Supreme Court in 1882, received \$150,000 for the property.

The tale is too complicated to be laid out here except in overview. When war broke out, the property was owned by Mary Custis Lee, wife of Robert E. Lee. The Lees moved elsewhere, and Union forces promptly seized the Arlington heights to protect Washington. Eventually part of the Custis-Lee property was used for a Freedmen's Village and part for Arlington National Cemetery.

Rather than acquiring title to the property by eminent domain, the War Department bought it at a tax auction for \$26,800 under a war-time taxation scheme applying only in Confederate states and effectively making it impossible for Mrs. Lee to pay the \$92 assessment unless she showed up in person in the tax commissioners' office.

After the war, in several cases, the Supreme Court basically disapproved all tax sales under this scheme and implied that title to the Arlington property should revert to the Lees. Eventually, the Lees began asking for compensation for, not physical recovery of, the property. Nonetheless, they stirred up a political firestorm about traitors seeking to disinter Union dead.

Meeting no success outside the courts, Custis Lee, in 1877, filed separate suits in ejectment against the military officers in charge of the property and the Freedmen's Village occupants. This was a well-

recognized legal avenue, but the Hayes administration interposed an objection of sovereign immunity to the suits — claiming that Custis Lee's only avenue of relief was a political appeal to Congress.

You certainly don't have to be a lawyer to enjoy this book. What makes the book a pleasure to read is the mosaic of war, postwar sectionalism, and eventual reconciliation that surrounded and shaped this high-profile legal controversy.

Issues of race, gender, and generational equity also arise. (What rights did the occupants of the Freedmen's Village have? Should Robert E. Lee's sins be visited on his wife? His son?)

Anyone interested in the Lee family, Arlington National Cemetery, the Freedmen's Village or postwar sectional politics should find this book of great interest. So will those with an interest in the doctrine of sovereign immunity or the postwar Supreme Court.

Gaughan writes very well and manages to bring forth much interesting information in a surprisingly suspenseful way. We see Custis Lee turn to litigation reluctantly and face now forgotten 19th-century impediments to achieving just compensation for property taken for public use.

We see the sovereign-immunity claim by the Hayes administration influenced by partisan political considerations. Ultimately, we see the Supreme Court hear the case twice, with the final decision in 1882 hinging on the vote of a brand new justice.

All nine justices were from states that remained in the Union during the war, and the court's decision advanced sectional reconciliation. The most famous justice of that era, John Marshall Harlan, voted for Custis Lee.

Gaughan also pays attention to more general aspects of North-South reconciliation. Thus, we see both sections mourn the 1881 assassination of James Garfield, with the North appreciating the South's response and all relieved that the assassin was not a

Southern bitter-ender, not another John Wilkes Booth.

In summary, I think this book is a gem. The author has done a lot of research and presents his story in a very readable fashion. He made this reviewer, hardly pre-sold, buy into his thesis that the case *United States v. Lee* can fairly be discussed under the rubric “the last battle of the Civil War.”

For those desperate to know, I would say that less than 50 percent of the book is “legal stuff” at all and very little is “stuff that only a lawyer could possibly be interested in.” If this review suggests otherwise, it is the fault of this reviewer, not the estimable author.

Reviewer: Carl R. Schenker Jr. is a lawyer living in Washington, D.C. His wife, Susan Sherman Richardson, is a great-great-granddaughter of William Tecumseh Sherman. Schenker is the author of “Ulysses in His Tent: Halleck, Grant, Sherman, and ‘The Turning Point of the War,’” in *Civil War History*.

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Teacher of Civil War Generals: Major General Charles Ferguson Smith, Soldier and West Point Commandant. By Allen H. Mesch. Illustrated, photos, maps, appendices, notes, bibliography, index, 331 pp., 2015, McFarland, www.mcfarlandpub.com, \$39.95 softcover.

Born in Philadelphia in 1807, C.F. Smith had a military heritage. His father was an assistant surgeon in the United States Army, and his grandfather was a colonel in the Continental Army. So it was only natural that Charles would also choose a military life.

He was admitted to West Point at 13 and graduated at 17, when many young men were just entering the academy.

Upon graduation, Smith was assigned to the 2nd Artillery Regiment at Fort Delaware. Coincidentally, this was also the duty station of C.F.’s father, Samuel.

In 1827, C.F. was posted to the Augusta Arsenal in Georgia. After serving two years there he returned to the military academy. Just 22 years old, he became assistant instructor of tactics. For the next 13 years, he served there, as adjutant to the superintendent and finally as commandant of cadets.

Standing 6 feet 2 inches tall and ramrod straight, Smith was the beau ideal of a soldier for the many cadets who passed through the academy while he served there. Many future Civil War officers were cadets during his tenure. They learned their first lessons in military discipline from the commandant of cadets.

After leaving the academy, Smith served a short time on the Western frontier before the outbreak of the Mexican War. During the war, he served under both Gens. Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott. He served with distinction in most of the war’s battles and received three field promotions.

Under Scott, Smith commanded a light infantry battalion that was usually in the forefront of attacks. His second-in-command was Capt. Ephraim Kirby Smith, older brother of future Confederate general Edmund Kirby Smith.

After his distinguished service in the Mexican War, Smith served under Col. Albert Sydney Johnston on the Utah Expedition. The “Mormon War” was a frustration to all concerned, especially to Charles, who commanded the troops there after Johnston left.

Finally, he was relieved from his exasperating duty in Utah in time to report for duty in Washington at the beginning of the Civil War. Gen. Winfield Scott assigned Smith, for a short time, to prepare the defenses of Washington against a possible Confederate invasion.

The press attacked Smith and questioned his loyalty because of his numerous Maryland friends. This delayed his promotion and assignment to any meaningful duty. He was finally promoted to brigadier general and assigned to Paducah, Ky.

His greatest Civil War fame came at the battle of Fort Donelson. The Rebels tried a break-out on the Union

right. Personally leading his troops, Smith led a counterattack on the Rebel right. His heroism effectively silenced his enemies.

Smith was next stationed at Pittsburgh Landing, Tenn., where he organized the troops being forwarded for a planned attack on Corinth, Miss. His commander, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, held a post at Savannah, Tenn., where he could more easily communicate with Gen. Don Carlos Buell, who was on his way from Nashville, Tenn.

On March 12, 1862, Smith slipped getting into a small boat and cut his leg from knee to ankle. This spelled the end of his Civil War service; the leg became infected and he died a few days after the battle of Shiloh.

Smith is usually just a footnote to Shiloh, but it was his well-trained division, under Gen. W.H.L. Wallace, that held the “hornets’ nest” position in the Sunken Road.

While not a comprehensive biography, this volume is a welcome addition to the literature of the prewar Army and the Civil War volunteer army.

C.F. Smith was a soldier’s soldier and a major influence on numerous Civil War generals, many of whom he personally mentored. He was greatly admired by such former students as Grant, Henry W. Halleck and William T. Sherman.

Cape May County Civil War Round Table



I recommend this volume about a soldier with an exemplary career. But for his untimely death, he would probably have had a profound impact on the Civil War.

Robert L. Durham is a computer specialist. A longtime Civil War buff, he is also interested in Old West history and has written articles and book reviews for Alamo Journal, True West, Journal of the Alamo Battlefield Association, and Alamo de Parras web site at www.flash.net/~alamo3

