

Cape May County Civil War Roundtable – February Newsletter

Deadline for the newsletter is the first of every month. If you need to contact me, see my listing among officers below. Meetings are held at the Cape May Court House Senior Center in Cape May Court House, normally at 7pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Meetings for 2010:

Tentative Dates for 2010 Meetings

Please contact V.P. Gibson if you would be interested in giving any presentations at meetings in 2010.

No meetings in January or February

18 March: Speaker for March is Dave Hann, who used to be a member of our round table about 20 years ago... his talk is on the 44th National GAR Encampment that was held in Atlantic City. There were over 15,000 veterans on hand for this encampment, and Dave is bring some artifacts along....

15 April:

20 May:

17 June:

15 July:

19 August:

16 September:

21 October:

18 November:

? December:

ΜΜΧΧΩΡΤ Οφφτιχερσ φορ 2010 – 2011

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1860

No major battles, etc. in 1860

1861

March 4 Lincoln inaugurated

1862

March 7-8 Battle of Pea Ridge (AR)
8 Confederate ironclad Merrimac enters Hampton Roads, destroys Union warships
9 Battle of Monitor-Merrimac in Hampton Roads
21 First battle of Kernstown (VA)
28 Battle of Glorieta (NM)

1863

No major battles, etc. in 1863

1864

No major battles, etc. in 1864

1865

- March** 2 Battle of Waynesboro (VA)
 4 Lincoln inaugurated
 25 Battle of Fort Stedman at Petersburg



Cold Harbor National Cemetery (Virginia)

Χυρρεντ Χιπιλ Ωαρ Ρελατεδ Επεντσ Μαρχη 2010

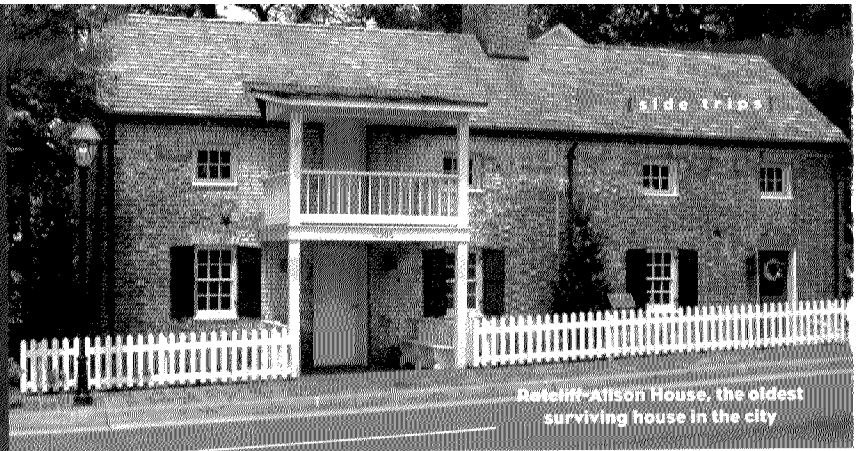
- 4-7 **PA** Conference, "Ladies & Gentlemen of the 1860s," period clothing and culture with speakers, tours and hands-on activities, in Harrisburg. Complete info, registration: www.genteelarts.com.
- 6 **VA** Living history, lectures, tours and more commemorating the Battle of Hampton Roads at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News. Camps and demonstrations and behind-the-scenes tours of the USS *Monitor* Center are highlights. 10 am-4 pm. Free with museum admission. www.marinersmuseum.org or 757-596-2222.
- 6 **VA** Living history and tours commemorating the Battle of Waynesboro at the Plumb House. 9 am-4 pm. 540-942-6644 or www.waynesboro.va.us.
- 13 **MD** "Great Guns," special Civil War weaponry tour of the of the USS *Constellation* in Baltimore Harbor. Noon. Free with admission. www.historicships.org.
- 13 **VA** "Basement to Attic Tours of Liberia Mansion," guided tours of the historic home that served as headquarters during the battles of Manassas. 10 am and 1 pm. Registration required. \$15/adults. www.manassasmuseum.org or 703-368-1873.
- 14 **VA** Book talk and signing, "Robert E. Lee in Leadership" by Noah Andre Trudeau, at the Manassas Museum in downtown Manassas. 2 pm. Free with admission.

- www.manassasmuseum.org or 703-368-1873.
- 18 **VA** Lecture, "Before They Were Killer Angels," soon-to-be famous generals in the Seven Days Battles," at Walkerton Tavern, 2892 Mountain Road, Richmond. 7 pm. Free. 804-652-3411.
- 19-21 **MD** Conference, "Lincoln's Assassination: More Revealed," sponsored by the Surratt Society, in Clinton. Includes tours of Washington DC and Fredericksburg VA (also sold separately). More information, registration: www.surratt.org.
- 20 **PA** Civil War Ball, in the Pennsylvania Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg. Music, dancing and more. 7-10 pm. \$35/person (proceeds to the Gettysburg Monuments Project Endowment Trust Fund). 717-732-5330.
- 20 **PA** "An Evening with the Painting," a history of the Cyclorama painting at the Gettysburg National Military Park's Museum and Visitor Center. 5-7:30 pm. Tickets: www.gettysburgfoundation.org or 877-874-2478.
- 20 **VA** Book talk, "Mr. Lincoln's Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington," by Walton Owen at Historic Blenheim & the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Lee Highway, Fairfax. 2 pm. Free. 703-591-0560.
- 20 **VA** Living history, "Harriet Tubman: The Chosen One" and the Underground Railroad at the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar in Richmond. 2 pm. Free with admission. www.tredegar.org or 804-780-1865.
- 20 **VA** Van/walking tour, "Along This River: The Warwick-Yorktown Line," leaves from Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News. 9 am-3 pm. \$45. Reservations necessary. www.leehall.org or 757-888-3371.
- 20-21 **VA** Living history, "Military Through the Ages," at Jamestown Settlement Park, 2219 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg. Includes Civil War camp and demonstrations. 9 am-5 pm. \$14. www.historyisfun.org.
- 20-21 **NC** Reenactment, "The Battle of Bentonville," big event staged every five years with demonstrations, camps, lectures and battles at 3 pm Saturday and 1:30 pm Sunday. \$8/adult per day. Complete details, tickets: www.bentonville145.com.
- 21 **VA** Living history, "Spring Drill Day," at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Camps and demonstrations. 11 am-2 pm. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/mana or 703-361-1339.
- 21 **VA** Book talk, "A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe," at Panera Bread, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 6 pm. \$5, 703-250-8705.
- 25 **VA** Lecture, "If They Build It, Supplies Will Come – The Centreville Railroad and Its Importance During the American Civil War," at the Old Manassas

- Courthouse, Grant and Lee Avenues in Manassas. 7 pm. Free. www.pwcgov.org/historicsites or 703-792-5546.
- 26-28 **VA** Seminar, "Join The Cavalry!" includes reception, full slate of speakers focusing on Civil War cavalry and cavalry battles, at Liberty University in Lynchburg. \$60. 434-592-4366.
- 27 **VA** Anniversary activities at the Five Forks Battlefield, part of the Petersburg National Battlefield. Living history, talks and more. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/pete or 804-732-3531.
- 27 **VA** Seminar, "Binding the Nation's Wounds 1861-2010" at the Baruch Auditorium at the Egyptian Building in downtown Richmond. 9 am-4 pm. \$25. More info: www.moc.org or 649-1861 extension 13.
- 27 **VA** Living history, "President Lincoln Visits Gen. Grant" at the Grant's Headquarters (City Point, Hopewell) unit of the Petersburg National Battlefield. 10 am-3 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/pete or 804-732-3531.
- 27 **VA** Living history, "President Lincoln in Petersburg," at Union Station in downtown Petersburg. 7 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/pete or 804-732-3531.
- 27 **VA** Tours commemorating the First Battle of Kernstown at the Kernstown Battlefield Asso. site and Rose Hill, both south of Winchester. Lecture and tour at the KBA site begins 9 am, tour of the Rose Hill site begins 1 pm. \$5 per tour. More info: email educates@shenandoahmuseum.org.
- 27 **VA** Lecture, "Lesser-Known Actions in Northern Virginia," at Morven Park in Leesburg. Tours of the mansion also offered. 1 pm. Free. 703-431-2869.
- 27 **VA** Boy Scout Day at Mayfield Earthworks Fort in Manassas. Kids learn how Civil War soldiers lived. \$18/Scout. Registration required. www.manassasmuseum.org or 703-368-1873.
- 27 **MD** Conference, "Maryland and the Civil War," at the Carroll Community College, 1601 Washington Road, Westminster. Talks on the Union Navy, flags and Maryland soldiers on both sides. Harriet Tubman living history. See hccc.carr.org for complete program and registration info
- 27 **MD** Civil War Ball, "Corbit's Charge," at the Westminster City Recreation & Parks Family Center Gym, 11 Longwell Ave. Period dancing, music and more. 8-11 pm. \$20. 410-848-9161 or www.westminstermd.gov.
- 27 **PA** Seminar, "The Man in the Red Battle Shirt: The Life of A.P. Hill," at the Gettysburg campus of the Harrisburg Area Community College. Includes battlefield sessions and classroom sessions, breakfast and lunch. \$65. Registration: 717-338-1010.
- 27 **PA** Seminar Series, "Antietam at Gettysburg" an examination of units heavily involved in both battles, in Gettysburg. www.gettysburgfoundation.org or 717-338-1243.
- 27-28 **VA** Living history, tours and talks commemorating the First Battle of Kernstown at Rose Hill, 1850 Jones Road, Winchester. 10 am-4 pm. \$5. www.shenandoahmuseum.org or 540-662-1473 extension 235.
- 27-28 **VA** Living history, "Southside Virginia Heritage Days" at Historic Fork Inn on US 460, 4 miles west of I-85 in Dinwiddie County. Civil War camp and commemoration of the Battle of Sutherland Station (April 2, 1865). 9 am-5 pm Saturday, 9 am-3 pm Sunday. Free, donations requested for house tours. 804-304-4200.
- 28 **DC**
VA Bus tour, "Battle of Spotsylvania Court House," with Ed Bearss. A Smithsonian tour. Leaves from DC. www.residentassociates.org (Study Tours).
- 29-
April 1 **VA** Spring Break Civil War Boot Camp (grades 3-6), includes sessions at the Manassas Museum and the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Registration, more info: www.manassasmuseum.org or 703-368-1873

The Writing on the Walls

History is written all over Fairfax City, Virginia.



Datsiff-Alison House, the oldest surviving house in the city

SOME SKETCHED animals, soldiers or the Stars and Stripes. Others played games, wrote poems or avowed their intentions: "Death and destruction to the rebels" and "We will be avenged." Mostly, though, the Union soldiers passing through Fairfax, Virginia, in 1862 and 1863 simply wanted to say "I was here." Using lead pencil and charcoal from campfires, they inscribed their names, regiments and hometowns on the still-curing plaster walls of the circa 1859 Blenheim House, which was used at various times during the war as a field hospital and message center.

"We probably have the most outstanding collection of Civil War-era graffiti in the region in terms of quality and quantity," says Andrea Loewenwarter,



PHOTOS: DESTINATION FAIRFAX

Craffiti left behind by Union soldiers

lum house and see up close some of the intriguing graffiti that has been uncovered beneath layers of paint and wallpaper.

Although the best-preserved graffiti exists in the home's off-limits third-floor, much of it can be viewed in the interpretive center's full-size, partial

attic replica. "That was the driving reason behind the center—to bring the attic to everybody," Loewenwarter notes.

Fairfax City, just 20 minutes from Washington, D.C., sprouted in the late 18th century from a wayside inn for travelers. Its historic Old Town is rich in 19th-century buildings and stories. The first skirmish of the Civil War occurred here—and the first Confederate officer was killed—on June 1, 1861.

Ranger John Mosby captured Union Brigadier General Edwin H. Stoughton asleep in bed at the William Gunnell House on the night of March 9, 1863. The Ford Building, once home to accused Confederate spy Antonia Ford (who later married a Union major), is now an office building with exhibits in its public spaces about Ford's life and escapades.

The core historic district is centered on Main Street between West and East Streets, with additional sites on Chain Bridge Road. North Street was redeveloped within the past year, with the architecture of the new designed to blend with the old.

The Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., houses exhibitions about the town's colorful history and provides maps for self-guided walking tours. Special programs are offered the second Sunday of each month.

The town's historical society, Historic Fairfax City, Inc., offers guided walking tours every Saturday evening from April through October. The story-filled tour includes a stop inside one or more of the historic buildings. "It's a real draw for Civil War buffs," says Hildie Carney, one of the society's volunteer guides.

For more information: 800/545-7950 or visitfairfax.com.

—Theresa Gawlas Medoff

