

**Cape May County Civil War Round Table  
February 2016 Newsletter**

**There will be NO meeting in February.**

**Meeting Dates for 2016**

**17 March (St Patrick's Day)** – Speaker: Scott Mingus on *Flames Beyond Gettysburg*. Will cover the 2 weeks before the battle with a focus on Jubal Early's division **Refreshments:** Andy Lolli

**21 April** – Speaker: Ed Bonekemper on *McClellan and Failure*. **Refreshments:** Jim Marshall

**19 May** – Speaker: Brian Blake on *Union General Francis Barlow*. **Refreshments:**

**16 June** – Speaker: Randy Drais on *Gettysburg*. **Refreshments:**

**21 July**

**18 Aug**

**15 Sept** – Speaker: Paul Kahan on *Lincoln's Secretary of War: Simon Cameron*. **Refreshments:**

**20 Oct** – Speaker: Craig Swain on *South Carolina, Sumter and Charleston*. **Refreshments:**

**7 Nov**

**? Dec = Christmas / End of Year party**

**LIST OF LOCAL EVENTS!!!**

**If anyone knows of local Civil War Related events for 2016, please contact the Secretary so the information can be added to future issues of the newsletter.**

**MAC in Cape May**

**HISTORY SPEAKS:** Jan. 15-April 10, 2016

From the Underground Railroad to Segregated Schools to Urban Renewal, Hear the Voices of Cape May's African-American Community. At the Carroll Gallery on the grounds of the Emlen Physick Estate, 1048 Washington St. Admission is free.

**Cold Spring Village**

**Free Village Sampler Weekend** June 04 - June 05

Free admission! Visit select buildings and learn about the trades and crafts of the 'age of homespun'! Take guided walking tours and special discounts at the Country Store. Enjoy children's crafts and family activities.

**Military Timeline Weekend** June 18 - June 19

An exhibition of various conflicts spanning several centuries including English Hundred Years War, Boer War, American Revolution and Civil War, World War II, Korean War and more!

**Revolutionary War Encampment** September 10 - September 11

The American Revolution comes to life with reenactors and encampments from both Loyalist and Patriot militia. Field camps, weaponry, programs and more.

**Civil War Weekend** September 17 - September 18

Re-enactors bring to life military encampments, demonstrations of infantry and artillery drill, weaponry, camp life and more throughout the Village. Vendors of reproduction period merchandise. Battle reenactment at 2pm both days.

**Free Village Sampler Weekend** September 24 - September 25

Free admission! Visit select buildings and learn about the trades and crafts of the 'age of homespun'! Take guided walking tours and special discounts at the Country Store. Enjoy children's crafts and family activities.

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.

**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!!**

**Round Table Officers**

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**REMINDER: DUES ARE DUE!! Please send to the TREASURER, not the SECRETARY! \$30 for online newsletter; \$35 for snail mail newsletter**

**THERE WAS NO MEETING IN JANUARY so there are no minutes**



**Civil War Milestones in March**

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 Glorietta (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



**Civil War Related Events for March 2016**

5 **VA** Bus tour, “Mercy Street and Virginia’s Civil War Hospitals,” includes Manassas and Alexandria sites. Leaves from Ben Lomond Historic Site in Manassas. 8:30-5 pm. \$80/lunch included. 703-367-7872.

5 **PA** Lecture, “It was, indeed, a scene of unsurpassed grandeur and majesty” — An Audio-Visual Presentation of the National Park Service’s Coverage of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. [nps.gov/gett](http://nps.gov/gett)

5-6 **VA** Living history, “Battle of Hampton Roads Weekend,” at the Mariners’ Museum in Newport News.

Living history camps and demonstrations, lectures and more.  
10 am-4 pm. [marinersmuseum.org](http://marinersmuseum.org)

6 **VA** Book talk, *Poems of the Manassas Battlefields*, at the Manassas Museum. 1:30 pm. Free. [manassasmuseum.org](http://manassasmuseum.org)

6 **PA** Lecture, “Our once beautiful but now desolated Valley’ — Post-War Shenandoah Valley,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. [nps.gov/gett](http://nps.gov/gett)

10 **VA** Lecture, “Recovery in the Southern Homefront,” at the Henrico Theater, 305 Nine Mile Road, Henrico. 7-9 pm. Free. [mck32@henrico.us](mailto:mck32@henrico.us)

11 **PA** “Lincoln, Grant & Lee,” “hands-on tour” of Civil War letters and other material at the Rosenbach, 2008-2010 Delancy Place, Philadelphia, 3-4 pm. \$5 plus regular admission. Registration required. [rosenbach.org](http://rosenbach.org)

12 **VA** “Lincoln at City Point,” special ranger program at Grant’s Headquarters at City Point in Hopewell. 2 pm. Free. [nps.gov/pete](http://nps.gov/pete)

12 **VA** Van tour, “Howlett Line Tour,” includes sites on the Bermuda Hundred line south of Richmond. Tour meets at Henricus Historical Park, 251 Henricus Road, Chester. 10 am-2 pm. \$15. Registration required: [chesterfieldhistory.com](http://chesterfieldhistory.com)

12 **VA** Lecture, “New Navy Monitors,” at the Mariners’ Museum in Newport News. 2:30 pm. Free with museum admission. [marinersmuseum.org](http://marinersmuseum.org)

12 **PA** Symposium, “Teaching the Confederacy,” at the Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg. \$75. [seminaryridgemuseum.org](http://seminaryridgemuseum.org)

12 **PA** Lecture, “The Aftermath of Pickett’s Charge: Was There a Second Wave?” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. [nps.gov/gett](http://nps.gov/gett)

13 **PA** Lecture, “We have made the most costly sacrifices’ — The Consequences of War,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. [nps.gov/gett](http://nps.gov/gett)

13 **VA** Book talk, *Dark Days in our Beloved Country*, at the Manassas Museum. 1:30 pm. Free. [manassasmuseum.org](http://manassasmuseum.org)

13 **VA** Walking tour, “The Confederate Craters and Countermines,” backwoods hike through the Petersburg National Battlefield in Petersburg. Numbers limited. 1-3 pm. Free with park admission. More info: [nps.gov/pete](http://nps.gov/pete). Reservations: 804-732-3531 extension 222.

17 **VA** “The Irish Brigade at Petersburg,” at Tour Stop 3, the Petersburg National Battlefield in Petersburg. 2 pm. Free with park admission. [nps.gov/pete](http://nps.gov/pete)

18 **VA** Lecture, “Why Richmond’s Hollywood is the Other Gettysburg Cemetery,” at the Tredegar Civil War Center in Richmond. Noon. Free with admission. [acwm.org](http://acwm.org)

18 **DC** Bus tour, “Montgomery Meigs in Washington: Beyond the Civil War,” a Smithsonian tour leaves from 550 C St SW, Washington. \$185. [smithsonianassociates.org](http://smithsonianassociates.org) (click art and architecture).

18 **DC** Symposium, “Abraham Lincoln,” with a variety of noted scholars at Ford’s Theatre in Washington. Free but early registration suggested. [fords.org/home/performance-events](http://fords.org/home/performance-events) (click special events).

19 **VA** Walking tour, “Civil War Leesburg,” begins at the Balch Library, 208 W Market St, Leesburg. 10 am. Free. [mosbyheritagearea.org](http://mosbyheritagearea.org)

19 **VA** Lecture, “The Peace that Almost Was,” 1861 last-minute peace conference,” at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Alexandria. 2 pm. Free. 703-591-0560.

19 **VA** “United States Colored Troops in Winter Camp,” special program at Stop 3, Petersburg National Battlefield in Petersburg. 10-11 am and 2-3 pm. Free with park admission. [nps.gov/pete](http://nps.gov/pete)

19 **VA** Van tour, “Along This River: The Warwick-Yorktown Line,” begins at Lee Hall in Newport News. 9 am-3 pm. \$45. [leehall.org](http://leehall.org)

19 **VA** Walking tour, “First Battle of Kernstown,” at the battlefield, 610 Battle Park Drive, south of Winchester. 9 am. [kernstownbattle.org/calendarofevents.html](http://kernstownbattle.org/calendarofevents.html)

20 **VA** Lecture, “1866: Change, Resistance, and Uncertainty in Northern Virginia Piedmont,” at Mount Zion Church in Aldie. 3 pm. Fee charged. [mosbyheritagearea.org](http://mosbyheritagearea.org)

24 **VA** Lecture, “Kill Jeff Davis: The Kilpatrick-Dahlgren Raid on Richmond in 1864,” at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6/adult. [vahistorical.org](http://vahistorical.org)

24 **VA** Lecture, reception, “The Road to War and What We Have Forgotten,” with James I. Robertson at the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox. 6 pm reception, 8 pm lecture. \$5. Reservations: 434-352-5791 extension 203.

29 **DC** Lecture, book signing, *The Myth of the Lost Cause: How Civil War History Was Rewritten*, a Smithsonian program at the Ripley Center, 1100 S Jefferson Drive SW, Washington. 6:45 pm. \$45. [smithsonianassociates.org](http://smithsonianassociates.org) (click Civil War).

## Preview: PBS's "Mercy Street"

By Orrin Konheim



Ready to get your Civil War drama on? Actors Mary Elizabeth Winstead as Mary Phinney and Josh Radnor as Jedediah Foster star in PBS's "Mercy Street" which debuts on Jan. 17.

As soapy period drama "Downton Abbey" prepares to exit the airwaves this spring, PBS hopes the Civil War hospital drama "Mercy Street" can follow in the show's footsteps and keep the network a prime-time viewing destination in a television golden age.

Shot in Richmond and Petersburg, this is PBS's first American-produced drama in more than a decade. The story is set in Union-occupied Alexandria during the Civil War, centering around New England abolitionist Mary Phinney (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) and Southern belle Emma Green (Hannah James) working side-by-side as nurses in a hospital that was recently converted from the Green's family mansion.

The idea was conceived by Lisa Quijano Wolfinger, whose production company, Lone Wolf Media, has produced Emmy-Award-nominated documentaries on topics as diverse as the Mayflower, the Salem witch trials, and the Age of Discovery. Wolfinger originally developed the project before the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

"I was looking for a way to tell a Civil War story from a fresh vantage point, right before the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and I realized there was a great story

about the medical side of the Civil War about the doctors and nurses," Wolfinger says.

Wolfinger, who co-produced "Mercy Street" with Scott Free Productions, partially based her project on Louisa May Alcott's short story "Hospital Sketches" that strikes a balance between humor and sediment in recounting her experiences as a volunteer nurse.

Although the series is written by former "E.R." showrunner David Zabel and uses "The Knick's" Dr. Stanley Burns as its medical consultant, the show's producers do not see themselves as a competitor to other medical dramas on the air.

"I don't think we're a medical drama," Zabel says. "[The Knick]'s much more intensively about the medicine and that's one of a lot of the issues that we're touching on."

The show's expanded ensemble also features Gary Cole ("Office Space") as family patriarch James Green, Wade Williams ("Prison Break") as a conniving hospital steward and Josh Radnor ("How I Met Your Mother") as a surgeon with a conflicted heritage.

Crucial to the story is the setting of Alexandria as the sort of conflict-infused melting pot that comes from being situated along the Union-Confederate border.

In addition to telling the story of nurses and doctors on different sides of the conflict, the show's expanded ensemble includes three African-American characters at various stages of freedom: L. Scott Caldwell plays a family servant coping with her newfound freedom; McKinley Belcher III plays a hospital laborer with a secret knowledge of medicine, and Shalita Grant ("Bones") plays a contraband, a slave newly possessed by the Union.

In a recent panel discussion, documentarian Ken Burns commended the producers of "Mercy Street" for having "taken an African-American narrative that is vulcanized and put off to the side, as if they are mere passive bystanders, and not active and self-sacrificing soldiers and these characters are so fully realized."

While the show is set in Alexandria and is partially sponsored by the city's member-based tourism organization, Visit Alexandria, traffic considerations sent the production southward. Richmond's historic Laburnum house and Petersburg's Center Hill mansion were the two main locations used for the production.

Attracting film productions to Richmond is handled by the Virginia Film Office which doesn't promote one part of the state over another. Deputy Director Mary Nelson noted that film productions typically prefer areas of the state with a locally-based talent pool of crew and actors, which Richmond has in spades.

"Richmond is authentic -- history happened here and has left behind a kind of truth that cannot be fabricated. In addition to realistic locations, Richmond has historians, museums, re-enactors and craftspeople as well as the talented and experienced pool of artists from the VCU School of the Arts, all of whom are dedicated to interpreting actual events and keeping them alive for future generations," Nelson said.

Other productions that have recently filmed in Richmond include the Academy Award-nominated "Lincoln," Meg Ryan's directorial debut "Ithaca" and the upcoming Daniel Radcliffe film "Imperium."

Nelson cites the work of Gov. Terry McAuliffe, State Secretary of Commerce Maurice Jones, and the General Assembly in building up Virginia's reputation as a prime destination. In addition to filming in the state, the production also took time to immerse itself in the historical locations with on-site visits and enlisted Alexandria Black History Museum Director Audrey P. Davis as a historical consultant on set.

For Winstead, the experience allowed her to reconnect with her roots. Although she confesses, "I didn't learn anything more about the Civil War than what kids learn in school," the North Carolina-born and Utah-raised actress recently discovered through her parents' genealogical searching that she had Civil War roots. Winstead, whose previous experience in period dramas includes playing Mary Todd Lincoln in "Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter", was drawn to the project on the basis of the script.

"I'd never seen a Civil War story told entirely from the points of views of these types of women," Winstead says. For Hannah James, shooting "Mercy Street" was a welcome homecoming. James grew up in rural Virginia near Culpeper before studying acting in England.

"Coming back to my backyard [where I was] raised a little girl on a farm . . . was a treasure," says James.

Ultimately, Wolfinger and PBS hope that "Mercy Street" will not just be a historical statement but something in the present.

"Our series deals with some of the same issues we're wrestling with today whether its sexism or racism or polarizing politics," she says.



NOTE: The above is from one of the USSC re enactor FB pages talking about some of the costuming errors on the show. I think that while the garb on the show is consistent with Civil War period garb, the clothing worn by the nurses and such are those that would have been worn as street wear, etc but not when someone was actually working in a hospital.

### Mercy Street' Review: PBS' Ridley Scott Civil War Series Is Masterfully Made

By Mekeisha Madden Toby on January 17, 2016

Josh Radnor and Mary Elizabeth Winstead star in this six-part series as complicated figures during a complicated time

It's rare that the Civil War is portrayed as a fortuitous time.

But that's exactly how it is spun on the riveting new PBS drama "Mercy Street," which weaves an edifying six-part tale about the opportunities this tumultuous period in American history created for white women and free black people.

When the [Ridley Scott](#)-executive produced series premieres Sunday Jan. 17, viewers will meet protagonist Mary Phinney (a captivating [Mary Elizabeth Winstead](#), “Scott Pilgrim vs. the World”). She’s an abolitionist-leaning widowed countess who discards a life of pomp to work as a nurse at a Union-Army hospital in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1862. Articulate and moralistic, Mary is quickly thrown into a whirlwind of chaos where politics and philosophies come second to the gore, malnutrition and crude medical practices the war dictated.



Mary forms a mutually beneficial alliance with Samuel Diggs (McKinley Belcher), a northern black man born into freedom, who works as a hospital orderly. She is disregarded and disrespected because of her gender and he is belittled and brow-beaten because of his race but the professional courtesy and human kindness they extend to each other is refreshing and convincing.

In a different time and place, these two would be well-suited romantically. But in the Civil War-torn 1860s, they are simply allies in a battle for equality and the writers deftly but subtly make it clear that such pursuits were too life threatening to explore.

Instead, the romantic tension between Mary and Dr. Jedediah Foster (a cast against type [Josh Radnor](#)) slowly builds. Initially, the two are adversaries with her idealism put at odds with his racism and pragmatism. A man of his time, Dr. Foster’s Union allegiances are determined by his desires to keep the country whole and not the emancipation of enslaved black people.

Making matters more complicated, the good doctor is married and has a few demons and addictions. But the physical and intellectual chemistry between Jed and Mary is rife with potential.

The same can be said for the budding relationship between Samuel and Aurelia (a convincing Shalita Grant, “NCIS: New Orleans”). He suffers racism at every turn but has never been enslaved and she’s a tirelessly ambitious woman who escaped slavery but struggles to carve out a new identity.

Aurelia’s goals are further hampered when she relies on the help of Silas Bullen (Wade Williams, “The Dark Knight Rises”), a lecherous cad who doesn’t hesitate to exploit her vulnerability. While Bullen’s villainous ways and bigotry veer into trope territory, they also inspire several beautifully penned exchanges between Aurelia and a maid named Belinda (L. Scott Caldwell, “Lost”) about life as a black woman in that era and the meaning of freedom.

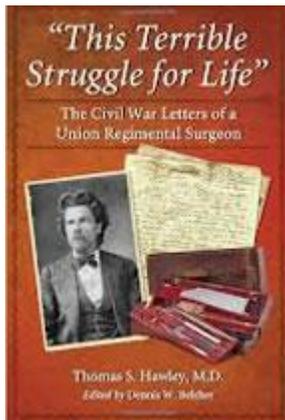
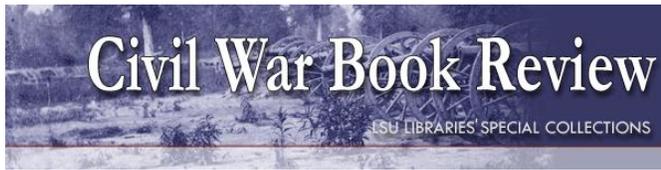
Fascinatingly enough, the exchanges between “Mercy Street’s” female characters are the show’s best as seen with Aurelia, Belinda, Mary and Anne Hastings (Tara Summers). When Anne, a more experienced nurse, challenges Mary’s expedited career ascension, Mary utters the series’ most compelling lines. “We are women in a men’s world. Let us not make enemies of each other.” Preach, Mary! Preach!

There is more to “Mercy Street” than its socially aware messages, thankfully, and veteran actors Peter Gerety (“The Good Wife”) and Suzanne Bertish (“Rome”) steal countless scenes with agile grace and humor. Meanwhile, [Gary Cole](#) delivers another superlative performance this time as businessman James Green as does [Norbert Leo Butz](#) (“Bloodline”), as a rather insecure Dr. Byron Hale.



Subplots surrounding Green’s southern belle daughters, espionage and PTSD do little to move the series along and would’ve been better shortened or left on the cutting-room floor. That said, such distractions do little to dilute “Mercy Street” as the imperative Civil War narrative it truly is. Hopefully timing and word of

mouth will turn the series into a deserving contender in a Sunday television landscape packed with viable options.



**"This Terrible Struggle for Life": The Civil War Letters of a Union Regimental Surgeon.** By Thomas S. Hawley. Edited by Dennis W. Belcher. Illustrated, photos, maps, notes, bibliography, index, 262 pp., 2012, McFarland, [www.mcfarlandpub.com](http://www.mcfarlandpub.com), \$45 softcover.

Dr. Thomas Hawley, a recent St. Louis Medical College graduate, struggled to find a post in a Missouri regiment in 1861. He did, however, not struggle with words. His letters offer the liveliest prose of any collection by a Civil War surgeon that I have ever read.

Hawley was the son of an itinerant Methodist-Episcopal minister and physician, and his love for his family is apparent in such language as "My undying love to all at home, the dearest spot on earth to me."

Hawley's life force comes through on every page, but doesn't overwhelm the reader. He was compassionate to all who suffered and he dealt with those who caused him grief far more sympathetically than might be expected at his age.

The political situation in Missouri was volatile. The pro-Southern governor, Claiborne Fox Jackson, pushed a Military Act through the legislature in mid-May 1861, to disband the Missouri Militia and replace it with the Missouri State Guard, which "would defend Missouri from an invasion by the Union Army."

Maj.-Gen. Sterling Price, who commanded a Missouri cavalry unit during the Mexican War, knew that the Guard was on a collision course with Union regiments forming in the state. Even though Maj.-Gen. William

Harney stepped in to mediate a temporary truce, it soon fell apart.

Nathaniel Lyon, soon to be appointed commander of the Union Army of the West, expressed his feelings about giving up any part of Missouri to non-Union control: "I would see you [Jackson and Price], and you, and you, and every man, woman and child in the state dead and buried." Cool heads were in short supply.

Hawley's quest for a regiment forced him to leave the state and travel to Belleville, Ill., where the 22nd Illinois was gathering. He learned that the competition for surgeons' positions was brisk; there were seven or eight applicants for each post.

Turned down there, he returned to Missouri and finally found a position as a hospital steward with a three-month regiment, the 1st Missouri Rifle Battalion stationed at Rolla.

In the middle of the state, Rolla was occupied by the Union Army while the State Guard roamed the countryside looking for "opportunities to thwart Union control." A house was commandeered for a hospital. Hawley commented that they "had 20-30 patients a day but not much medicine."

The reality of war came early, when a soldier was reported as having been bayoneted at some distance from the camp. Fearing a trap, Dr. Thomas Smith, the surgeon, prohibited a rescue. The man was brought in the next day and died.

Throughout his correspondence, Hawley eloquently expressed his longing for home: "If Father, Mother, bro. and sisters are there, there is home. I have no old family clock, rocking chairs, where mother has rocked me & herself many years ago. No pleasant nook in the fine old garden where we children were want to hide away and gather currants, strawberries. No fine old spring in some sequestered glen."

Hawley was strong of spirit and never reported a case of the blues.

During the war, he moved on to the medical staff of the 11th Missouri Infantry, the 11th Illinois and then back to the 11th as full surgeon. He wrote about their actions from Cape Girardeau, Mo.; Columbus Ky.; Corinth, Miss., and downriver as far as Fort Blakeley and Spanish Fort on Mobile Bay.

