

**Cape May County Civil War Round Table
Newsletter = February 2019**



Abandoned Confederate defenses at Atlanta (GA)

Meeting Schedule for 2019

There will be no meetings in January, February, or March. Meeting dates for 2019 are as follows:

April 18 = Presentation: Mike Kochan on *The Battle of the Ironclads*.

May 16 = Presentation: Robert Holden will be discussing some of the letters and other correspondence and anecdotes about President Lincoln.

June 20

July 18 = Presentation: Hugh Boyle on *Collateral Damage from the Assassination of President Lincoln*

August 15 = Presentation by Andy Waskie as General George Meade.

September 19

October 17

November 21

PLEASE, friends, send me articles, book reviews, etc to help me fill up the newsletter!

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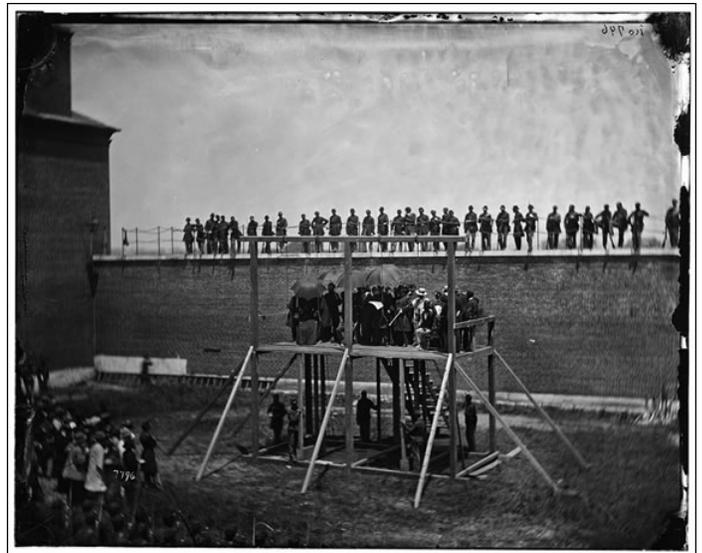
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DUES ARE DUE!!!

And can be mailed to our treasurer, Eddie Vargo, whose address is above.



President's Update

I am working to line up our speakers for the upcoming year - 2019. To date I have four committed presenters which I am sure you will find informative and entertaining. I have a few more in process and will let you know as soon as I have firm dates. Please share this information with friends and associates who may be interested in these topics or potentially in joining as members.

In April, Mike Kochan will speak about the *USS Monitor* and its' battle with the *CSA Virginia* and efforts to recover and restore the *Monitor*. Mike was originally scheduled to speak at the November 2018 meeting but that meeting was canceled due to a horrific rain storm. We are glad that he

has agreed to return, and hopefully will have better weather this time. In addition to his in-depth knowledge of the Civil War ironclads, Mike frequently portrays Ben Franklin at other historical events in the Philadelphia area. He is a well rounded historian.

In May, Robert Holden, a local teacher, historian and speaker will be presenting lesser-known facts and information about Civil War President, Abraham Lincoln. He will be sharing stories and anecdotes about the president, many of which have not been widely circulated. Robert has many memorabilia pieces and even facsimiles of letters that Abe Lincoln actually wrote which he will share with us. I'm sure our members will find this talk of great interest.

The June speaker is still open at this time.

In July, Hugh Boyle, president of the GAR Museum in Philadelphia, will be speaking about the "collateral damage" of the Lincoln assassination. You will no doubt find his insightful observations about the affect of the assassination on President Lincoln's friends, family and associates to be entertaining and of great interest.

In August, Anthony Waskie, a very popular and well known speaker from the Philadelphia area, will present as General George Meade in full uniform regalia as part of a first person portrayal. More about this lecture will be in upcoming newsletters.

On other matters, our treasurer, Eddie Vargo, is working on a review of our organization's bylaws and mission statement. This will include a clarification of our legal status which has become somewhat muddled over the years. More on this at the April meeting.

The Cape May County Historical Museum has agreed to allow us to use their Military Museum for our meetings again this year. This is good news for us. Advise your friends there is no change of the meeting location.

Look forward to seeing everyone back again this year. First meeting will be Thursday, April 18. I will be providing post meeting snacks at this first meeting. A sign-up sheet will be distributed for the rest of the meetings. Please sign up as people seem to enjoy hanging around for the post meeting socialization. See you then.

Respectfully,

John Herr, President

		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

Civil War Related Events for March 2019

2 VA Symposium, "A People's Contest: Struggles for Nation and Freedom in Civil War America," at the Library of Virginia, 800 E Broad St, Richmond. 9:30 am-4 pm. \$65. acwm.org

2 PA Lecture, "College Students in the Battle of Gettysburg: A Different Kind of Soldier," at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett

3 VA Lecture, "The Union Cavalry at Five Forks," at the Five Forks contact station, 9840 Courthouse Road, near Dinwiddie. 2 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete

9 VA "Battle of Hampton Roads Day" at the Mariners Museum in Newport News. Living history, special talks, tours, music and more. Lecture, "Battle of the Ironclads," 2:30 pm. Free with \$1 museum admission. marinersmuseum.org

14 VA Lecture, "Federal Occupation of Middle Tennessee during the Civil War," at the Hopewell Public

Library, 13 E Broad St, Hopewell. 6 pm.
Free. nps.gov/pete

16 DC Symposium, “Abraham Lincoln,” at Ford’s Theatre in Washington. 9 am-5 pm. Free. Speakers, tickets: fords.org

21 VA “Stories of the Civil War,” local historians explore little known history at Tucked Away Brewing Company, 8420 Kao Circle, Manassas. 6-8 pm. Free (donations welcome). 703-365-7895.

22-24 VA Civil War Weekend Conference, “Civil War Leadership,” at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. \$295 includes talks, meals and receptions. Can be combined with Peninsula tour March 24-26. More info: civilwar.vt.edu/wordpress

23 VA Walking tour, “Abraham Lincoln at Petersburg and City Point,” at Grant’s Headquarters at City Point in Hopewell. 2 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete

23 VA Living history, “Civil War Women’s Day,” at Fort Ward in Alexandria. Talks and demonstrations with hands-on projects for kids. 11 am-3 pm. Free. fortward.org

23 VA “Exploring Your Civil War Roots,” special program at the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum, 20 N Loudoun St, Winchester. 1-4 pm. Free. shenandoahatwar.org

23 PA Lecture, “The Whole Civil War in 45 Minutes,” at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. 1 pm. Free with admission. nationalcivilwarmuseum.org

23 PA Lecture, tour, “The Union Army at Gettysburg: Great Leadership from Unexpected Places,” at the Gettysburg NMP. Lecture 9 am-noon followed by guided walking tour 1-4 pm. \$110. Reservations, more info: gettysburgfoundation.org

23 PA “An Evening with the Painting,” a special behind-the-scenes look at the Gettysburg Cyclorama at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 5-7 pm. \$20/adult. Reservations: gettysburgfoundation.org

24-26 VA Bus tour, “The Peninsula,” leaves from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. Stops include the Mariners’ Museum, Fort Monroe and Battle of Dam No. 1. \$750/single occupancy. Can be combined with Civil War Leadership conference March 22-24. cpe.vt.edu/cww/campaign.html

29-30 VA Living history, tours and music, “Sixth Corps Breakthrough,” anniversary activities at Pamplin Historical Park near Petersburg. 10 am-4:30 pm. Free with admission. pamplinpark.org

31 VA Book talk, *In Memory of Self and Comrades: Thomas Wallace Colley’s Recollections of Civil War Service in the 1st Virginia Cavalry*, at the Brambleton Library, 22850 Brambleton Plaza, Brambleton. 2 pm. Free. 540-687-5578. **BUY BOOK**

31 VA Lecture, “The Battle of Dinwiddie Court House,” at the Five Forks contact station, 9840 Courthouse Road, near Dinwiddie. 2 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete



7 Gettysburg Myths and Misconceptions

“The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here”

With so much written about the Battle of Gettysburg, it's not surprising that the war's bloodiest battle has become surrounded by delusions and misinformation. Here are seven myths about the Battle of Gettysburg, debunked.

Myth 1: The Battle of Gettysburg was fought over shoes.

There was no mention of shoes having anything to do with the Battle of Gettysburg until 14 years after it happened. In 1877, Confederate General [Henry Heth](#) wrote, “Hearing that a supply of shoes was to be obtained in Gettysburg, eight miles distant from Cashtown, and greatly needing shoes for my men, I directed General Pettigrew to go to Gettysburg and get these supplies.” Problem is, there were no shoe factories anywhere near Gettysburg in 1863. Rather, roads took the armies to Gettysburg. It was difficult to travel through south-central Pennsylvania without passing through Gettysburg.

Myth 2: The First Day was not a large battle.

Despite how it is often portrayed in movies and documentaries, the first day of the battle of Gettysburg involved nearly 50,000 soldiers and was one of the bloodiest days of the Civil War – with 16,000 men killed, wounded, missing, or captured. If the battle of Gettysburg ended after the first day, it would still rank in the top twenty bloodiest battles of the Civil War, with more casualties than Cold Harbor and almost as many as Fredericksburg.

Myth 3: John Wesley Culp was killed on his uncle's property.

John Wesley Culp moved South before the battle of Gettysburg and joined the Virginia ranks. Although his unit fought on Culp's Hill, and he was the only man in the 2nd Virginia Regiment killed at Gettysburg, he did not die on his uncle's property for which Culp's Hill is named. He most likely died on Abraham Spangler's property, or one of the farms far to the east of Culp's Hill.

Myth 4: The fight for Little Round Top was the most important combat of the battle.

Historians have long written about the disaster that would befall the Union army if Little Round top fell into Confederate hands. But even before the fighting began, [Gen. Meade](#) had already ordered more than 10,000 reinforcements to the Union left. Had the Confederates captured Little Round Top, they would have been greatly outnumbered and low on ammunition, with a command structure in complete disarray. With nearly equal numbers, the Confederates almost captured Little Round Top twice during the battle. Why is it difficult to believe that organized and fully-supplied Union troops could not retake it with at least triple the number of troops?

Myth 5: Pickett's Charge was the largest, most decisive, and most consequential charge of the war.

Although often portrayed as the greatest charge of the Civil War, it was far from the largest, most decisive, or most consequential. Those honors would belong on other battlefields at Gaines' Mill, Chickamauga, and Petersburg.

Myth 6: Abraham Lincoln finished the Gettysburg Address on the back of an envelope on the way to Gettysburg.

The original copy of the [Gettysburg Address](#) on its original stationery is in the possession of the Library of Congress. So, we know on what material he wrote it. It is also well documented that [Lincoln](#) wrote portions of the Address before he left Washington, and put the finishing

touches on the Gettysburg Address in the home of David Wills at Gettysburg.

Myth 7: Gettysburg ghost stories are true.

With the exception of one story about Iverson's Pits near Oak Hill there were no substantially disseminated ghost stories at Gettysburg for more than a century. The ghosts at Gettysburg phenomenon started in the 1990s which happens to coincide with people starting to make money on ghost books and tours. Today, there are scores of books and tours available for visitors but most all of these stories are not historical in nature. The Civil War Trust's historian once heard a ghost story told in 1993. It was presented as fiction, but it only took three months until it was in a book as fact. By all means, believe what you want to believe but please know that if water gets on a camera lens, it's water—not a ghostly "orb." If sun shines into a camera lens, it's called sunlight, not an "energy sphere."

10 Facts about Gettysburg

July 1-3, 1863

It is the site of the bloodiest battle of the Civil War and one of the most visited places in the United States, but Gettysburg is still plagued by misinformation. Set the record straight with these ten key facts.

Fact #1: The battle was fought at Gettysburg because of the area road system—it had nothing to do with shoes.

The Town of Gettysburg, population 2,000, was a town on the rise. It boasted three newspapers, two institutes of higher learning, several churches and banks, but no shoe factory or warehouse. The ten roads that led into town are what brought the armies to Gettysburg. The shoe myth can be traced to a late-1870s statement by Confederate general [Henry Heth](#).

Fact #2: The First Day's battle was a much larger engagement than is generally portrayed.

The first day's fighting (at McPherson's Ridge, Oak Hill, Oak Ridge, Seminary Ridge, Barlow's Knoll and in and around the town) involved some 50,000 soldiers of which roughly 15,500 were killed, wounded, captured or missing. The first day in itself ranks as the 12th bloodiest battle of the Civil War—with more casualties than the battles of [Bull Run](#) and [Franklin](#) combined.

Fact #3: The Second Day's Battle was the largest and costliest of the three days.

The second day's fighting (at Devil's Den, Little Round Top, the Wheatfield, the Peach Orchard, Cemetery Ridge, Trostle's Farm, Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill) involved at least 100,000 soldiers of which roughly 20,000 were killed, wounded, captured or missing. The second day in itself ranks as the 10th bloodiest battle of the Civil War—with far more casualties than the much larger [Battle of Fredericksburg](#).

Fact #4: Of 120 generals present at Gettysburg, nine were killed or mortally wounded during the battle.

On the Confederate side, generals Semmes, Barksdale, Armistead, Garnett, and Pender (plus Pettigrew during the retreat). On the Union side, generals Reynolds, Zook, Weed, and Farnsworth (and Vincent, promoted posthumously). No other battle claimed as many general officers.

Fact #5: Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill were far more important than Little Round Top.

While Little Round Top is far more popular today, its importance to the Union army is at least debatable. The same cannot be said for Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill. The two latter hills formed the center and right of the Union's main position and also protected the Union army's only real lifeline on July 2 and 3—the Baltimore Pike. Had Confederates captured and controlled either of these two hills, the Union army would have had to leave the Gettysburg area. It is as simple as that. Even with its sweeping views and commanding height, the same cannot be said for Little Round Top.

Fact #6: Pickett's Charge was large and grand but by no means the largest charge of the Civil War. Not even close.

Pickett's Charge involved some 12,000 Confederate soldiers, but the Confederate charge at [Franklin](#) had roughly 20,000. Even that pales in comparison to the grand Confederate charge at [Gaines' Mill](#) which involved more than 50,000 Confederate troops. Even the well-known 260-gun bombardment that preceded Pickett's Charge was not the largest of the war. There was at least one bombardment at [Petersburg](#) with more than 400 cannons involved.

Fact #7: The Battle of Gettysburg is by far the costliest battle of the Civil War but not necessarily the largest.

While each of the three days of the Battle of Gettysburg rank in the top 15 bloodiest battles of the Civil War—the 160,000 troops present at Gettysburg are eclipsed by the more than 185,000 at Fredericksburg.

Fact #8: 64 Medals of Honor awarded to Union soldiers for their actions at Gettysburg

The deeds spanned the battlefield and were awarded from wartime into the 21st century. Eight were awarded for actions on July 1, 28 for actions on July 2, and 29 for actions on July 3. The most recent [Medal of Honor](#) given for heroism at Gettysburg was awarded to [Alonzo Cushing](#) by President Barack Obama in 2014.

Fact #9: The Gettysburg Address essentially said the same thing as the famous orator Edward Everett's speech but in 1/60th the time.

When [Lincoln uttered these two sentences](#), "We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this," he was essentially repeating an idea that had already been stated—only more succinctly. Everett used more than 5,500 words ([the entire speech can be found here](#)) to make the same point. Most every part of the corresponding speeches can be examined this way and leaves no doubt as to why Everett wrote to Lincoln: "I should be glad, if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes."

Fact #10: While the Gettysburg Battlefield is well-preserved, there are still numerous parcels to be saved.

The Civil War Trust and the National Park Service have identified several unpreserved parcels which are important to the story of America's greatest battle. The battlefield itself is among the best resources for historians and others to learn about the battle. The unique terrain, when used in conjunction with the words of those who fought here, images created on the ground, and monuments placed by the veterans, provides an unparalleled learning opportunity. We must continue to work to preserve this hallowed ground.





June 9, 1863

The Battle of Brandy Station = Fleetwood Hill

Following the Confederate victory at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May of 1863, the two great eastern armies found themselves once more confronting each other along the line of Virginia's Rappahannock River. Never one to forfeit the initiative, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee resolved to take the war once again onto Northern soil.

Beginning June 3, the Army of Northern Virginia marched west from Fredericksburg towards Culpeper Court House, on its way to the protection of the Shenandoah Valley. Lee ordered Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry to screen this movement, keeping the southern bank of the Rappahannock free of Union scouts. By June 8, roughly 9,500 of Stuart's cavalymen were concentrated at Brandy Station, a small crossroads roughly halfway between Culpeper and the Rappahannock. In preparation for his pivot northward, Lee directed Stuart to launch a diversionary raid across the river the next day, June 9.

Gen. Joseph Hooker, commanding the Union Army of the Potomac, correctly interpreted Stuart's intentions. Redeploying his own cavalry opposite Brandy Station, he too ordered an attack for June 9. After the perceived failure of the mounted wing during the Chancellorsville Campaign, Hooker's orders were plain: "disperse or destroy" Stuart's entire command. Cavalry commander Gen. Alfred Pleasanton accordingly augmented his striking force with an ad hoc infantry brigade, bringing his strength to nearly 12,000 men. Stuart remained unaware of this rapid build-up of strength to his front. Pleasanton's plan had called for a coordinated double attack by Gen. John Buford's troopers at Beverly's Ford and a force under Gen. David Gregg further south at Kelly's Ford.

At 4:30 A.M., Buford's men splashed across Beverly's Ford, four and a half miles northeast of Brandy Station, and quickly scattered surprised Confederate pickets. Firing their revolvers wildly, the pickets scrambled back towards the main camp near St. James Church, along the direct road to Brandy Station from Beverly's Ford. Bleary-eyed Confederates at St. James Church hurled themselves into the fray and managed to stall Buford's

advance, claiming the life of Buford's lead subordinate, Col. Benjamin "Grimes" Davis.

Stuart's horsemen suffered heavily, but bought enough time for their artillery to deploy and open a murderous fire on the congested Union column from the high ground around the church. His position in peril, Buford ordered a desperate charge on the Confederate battery. The 6th Pennsylvania led the assault with the 6th U.S. close behind. Undeterred by the canister and shrapnel scything through their ranks, the Union horsemen overran the guns before Brig. Gen. "Grumble" Jones's Confederates repulsed them.

With the guns back in action, Buford now sought to reach them by moving around the Confederate left flank on Yew Ridge. Dismounted Confederate troopers repulsed repeated attacks from behind a stone wall before being dislodged at around noon.

Meanwhile, delays were plaguing Gen. David Gregg's Federal horsemen at Kelly's Ford. Gregg's scouts alerted him of the presence of Confederates in his front, prompting the Pennsylvanian to make a wide march around the enemy. It was 11:30 A.M. before Gregg reached Brandy Station, but he was now firmly in the Confederate rear.

Gregg's path to St. James Church was blocked by Fleetwood Hill, a broad elevation where J.E.B. Stuart had established his headquarters. Union artillery opened on Fleetwood Hill, giving a considerable shock to Stuart, whose main force was entirely committed to the battle in his front. Gregg's preparatory barrage, however, gave Stuart time to pull troops back to Fleetwood Hill to meet the first Union charge. Meanwhile, Confederates withdrawing from Yew Ridge were still holding Buford's tired troopers at bay, allowing Stuart to shuffle more troops to face Gregg. The opposing lines crashed into one another again and again for almost five hours. Finally, hearing reports of incoming Confederate reinforcements, Pleasanton decided to withdraw at 5 P.M. Stuart did not pursue.

Although Pleasanton failed to destroy Stuart's command, the hard fighting at Brandy Station definitively proved the fighting prowess of the much-maligned Northern horsemen—in the words of Stuart's own aide, "Brandy Station *made* the Federal cavalry." Stuart, for his part, was denounced in the Southern press for allowing himself to be surprised and very nearly destroyed on his own soil. Nevertheless, the Confederate infantry remained undetected, and continued the march that would eventually reach Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.



The Battle of Morton's Ford

The Battle of Morton's Ford, though it was really more of a large skirmish, was the brainchild of General Benjamin Butler of Massachusetts, a man not exactly known for his strategic insight. During the winter of 1864, Butler became convinced that General Robert E. Lee had sent away a large portion of the Army of Northern Virginia to reinforce North Carolina, leaving the Confederate Capital of Richmond open for taking. To do this, he devised a plan to send a few brigades across the Rapidan River at Morton's Ford and attract the attention of the remaining Confederates, while the main army advanced on Richmond. Despite some objections from his colleagues, particularly John Sedgwick, Butler's plan had the backing of the Lincoln Administration, and so they were ignored.

On the morning of February 6, 1864, the first Union troops under John C. Caldwell's command crossed the Rapidan. Despite the freezing conditions, at least one brigade under Alexander Hays and 300 skirmishers from the II Corps made it successfully across with limited casualties and captured 30 of the 80 Confederate soldiers guarding the ford. By 1:00, at least four brigades had managed to cross the river, and had actually managed to catch the Confederates by surprise, as many were still in their camps, and had left their artillery batteries exposed to Union fire. Unfortunately, the commanding officer of the Morton sector, General Richard Ewell, was less than three miles away, and immediately gathered his men to reinforce his defenses. Ewell's men manned the ridge and pinned down the Union brigades between the banks of the Rapidan. This created a stalemate for the next few hours, and though Hays made an assault on the Confederate line, he was repulsed, and began the retreat as darkness fell.

Ultimately, Butler had badly misjudged both the number of men Lee had at his disposal, and the feasibility of a flanking maneuver in such terrible winter conditions. Lee himself dismissed concerns about the attack, writing it off as a Union probe on Confederate weaknesses. The fighting would not flare up again until the beginning of Grant's Overland Campaign.

Female Soldiers in the Civil War

On the front line

*The outbreak of the Civil War challenged traditional American notions of feminine submissiveness and domesticity with hundreds of examples of **courage, diligence, and self-sacrifice in battle**. The war was a formative moment in the early feminist movement.*

In July of 1863, a Union burial detail at [Gettysburg](#), Pennsylvania made a startling discovery near Cemetery Ridge. Among the bodies covering the ground--the wreckage of the Confederate attacks during the battle--the Union men found a dead woman wearing the uniform of a Confederate private.

The burial detail had stumbled upon one of the most intriguing stories of the Civil War: the multitudes of women who fought in the front line.

Although the inherently clandestine nature of the activity makes an accurate count impossible, conservative estimates of female soldiers in the Civil War puts the number somewhere between 400 and 750. Long viewed by historians as anomalies, recent scholarship argues that the women who fought in the Civil War shared the same motivations as their male companions.

Some women went to war in order to share in the trials of their loved ones. Others were stirred by a thirst for adventure, the promise of reliable wages, or ardent patriotism. In the words of [Sarah Edmonds Seelye](#), also known as Franklin Flint Thompson of the 2nd Michigan Infantry: "I could only thank God that I was free and could go forward and work, and I was not obliged to stay at home and weep." Seelye holds the honor of being the

[Albert Cashier](#), born "Jennie Rodgers," of the 95th Illinois Infantry, participated in more than forty engagements. Frances Clayton served with the 4th Missouri Artillery and was wounded at the [Battle of Shiloh](#) and again at the [Battle of Stones River](#). [Loreta Janeta Velazquez](#) served the Confederacy as fighter and spy "Lieutenant Harry Buford."

Women stood a smaller chance of being discovered than one might think. Most of the people who fought in the war were "citizen soldiers" with no prior military training--men and women alike learned the ways of soldiering at the same pace. Prevailing Victorian sentiments compelled most soldiers to sleep clothed, bathe separately, and avoid public latrines. Heavy, ill-fitting clothing concealed body

shape. The inability to grow a beard would usually be attributed to youth.

Some women in uniform were still discovered, often after being wounded in battle and sent to a field hospital. [Clara Barton](#), who went on to found the Red Cross, discovered Mary Galloway's true identity while treating a chest wound Galloway had suffered at the [Battle of Antietam](#). Finding a woman in the ranks would generally bring a welcome dose of rumor and wonderment to camp life.

[Sarah Rosetta Wakeman](#), who enlisted under the name "Private Lyons Wakeman", on the other hand, was not discovered at any point during almost two years of service. Even after falling ill during the Red River Campaign and later dying in a New Orleans hospital of chronic diarrhea, her secret remained secure until the discovery of her letters home in 1976. She remains buried in Chalmette National Cemetery under her assumed name.

The discovered woman herself would usually be sent home without punishment, although an unlucky few faced imprisonment or institutionalization.

Cape May Country Civil War Round Table

www.cmccwrt.com

c/o

Clara Barton claimed that the four-year war advanced the social position of women by fifty years. The 1881 manifesto *History of Woman Suffrage*, written by luminaries Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Matilda Gave, argued vigorously that female front-line service proved that women should be accorded the same rights as male defenders of the republic. The Civil War changed the nation's perception of its citizens' capabilities and catalyzed a new push for equality not only between races, but between genders as well.

