

150th Anniversary of the Beginning of the Civil War



Cape May County Civil War Round Table Newsletter January 2011 www.cmccwrt.com

Tentative Dates for 2011 Meetings:

Jan & Feb: No Meetings

17 March

21 April

19 May

16 June

21 July

18 August

15 September

20 October

17 November

December date to be determined

If you end up missing a copy of the newsletter, or the post office tears your copy up, digital copies are posted on the Round Table website (cmccwrt.com).

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Reminder:
DUES ARE NOW DUE!
Give or mail your 2011 dues to Jim Marshall, listed under "Officers"

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE FOR FEBRUARY

1861

- 1 Texas secedes
- 18 Davis inaugurated as provisional president of Confederacy
- 23 Lincoln arrives in Washington DC
- 1 Texas secedes
- 18 Davis inaugurated as provisional president of Confederacy
- 23 Lincoln arrives in Washington DC

1862

- 6 Union army/navy forces take Fort Henry on the Tennessee River

1863

No significant events

1864

- 17 Confederate sub Hunley sinks Housatonic (SC)

1865

- 3 Peace conference at Hampton Roads (VA)
- 17 Columbia (SC) occupied by Union troops, burned
- 18 Charleston (SC) occupied by Union troops



Civil War Related Events February 2011



Jefferson Davis inauguration, Montgomery, Ala.

- 1 **VA** Lecture, "Military Geology of the Antietam Battlefield, Geology, Terrain, and Casualties," at Radford University in Radford. 7 pm. Details: 540-731-5031.
- 3 **VA** Tour, "Servant Life in the Confederate White House," special look at the Richmond landmark. 11:30 am. \$9. www.moc.org or 804-649-1861 extension 21.
- 5 **VA** ★ 150 Lecture, "J.E.B. Stuart and His Brothers Go to War," at the Bassett Historical Center, 3964 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett. 11 am. Free. 276-629-9191.
- 5 **VA** Music and narration, "Abraham Lincoln's Life in Music," program focus is on significant music in his life at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, 3149 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church. 4 pm. Free. 703-820-1904.
- 5 **VA** "Women's Fashions and Accessories," Civil War dress at Historic Blenheim in Fairfax. 2 pm. Free. 703-591-0560.
- 5 **VA** Tour, "Black Soldiers in the Siege of Petersburg," at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 10 am, 1 and 4 pm. Free with park admission. 804-732-3531 extension

223 or www.nps.gov/pete.

- 5 **PA** Lecture, "Gettysburg Viewed Through a Kaleidoscope of Historical Lenses," at the Gettysburg National Military Park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or call 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
- 5-6 **TN** Living history, "Encampment of the 2nd Iowa," camp and demonstrations at the Fort Donelson National Battlefield near Dover. 10 am-4 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/fodo.
- 6 **DC** Walking tour, "Escape of an Assassin," learn about how JW Booth escaped Washington, at Fort Stanton, 1901 Fort Place SE, Washington. 1 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/cwdw or 202-426-7723.
- 6 **VA** Lecture, "Back of the Big House and the Planters' Project," slave life during the Civil War, at the Manassas Museum in Manassas. 2 pm. Free. 703-368-1873 or www.manassasmuseum.org.
- 8 **PA** ★ 150 Lecture, "'One of the most cowardly and disgraceful acts': The Destruction of the Norfolk Navy Yard," at the Gettysburg National Military Park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or call 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
- 9 **DC** Lecture, *An Example for All the Land: Emancipation and the Struggle Over Equality in Washington DC* with the author, Kate Masur, at the President Lincoln Cottage. 6 pm. \$10. www.lincolncottage.org.
- 9 **VA** Gallery Walk, "An American Turning Point: The Civil War in Virginia," at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6. www.vahistorical.org.
- 9 **VA** Lecture, "Daily Life of the Freed and Enslaved in and around Chapman's Mill," at the Afro-American Historical Association Museum, 4243 Loudoun Ave, The Plains. 10 am and 4 pm. \$5. 540-253-7488.
- 9 **VA** "Civil War Conversation: The Confederate States of America" at Baine's Books and Coffee, 205 Main St, Appomattox. 12:15 pm. Free. 804-649-1861 or www.moc.org.
- 10 **VA** ★ 150 Lecture, "West Point at the Outset of the War," at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. 7 pm. Free. 703-830-2223.
- 10 **VA** Tour, "Servant Life in the Confederate White House," special look at the Richmond landmark. 11:30 am. \$9. www.moc.org or 804-649-1861 extension 21.
- 10 **VA** Lecture, "The Crossing: Slaves, Stafford, and the Great 1862 Exodus to Freedom," at the England Run Branch Library, 806 Lyons Blvd, Stafford (north of Fredericksburg). 7 pm. Free. 540-899-1703.
- 11 **DC** ★ 150 Symposium, "Peace Convention at 150: A Call to Compromise," at the Willard Hotel in Washington. Historians look at the ill-fated 1861 attempt to avoid war. 9:30 am-2:45 pm. \$40 (by Jan. 15). www.latcra.org or 703-820-1904.
- 11 **VA** ★ 150 "Lincoln's Journey Begins," the Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick participates in a simultaneous reading of Lincoln's farewell address in

		Springfield, IL. Noon. www.nps.gov/mono .		14	VA	Talk, "Bowden the Traitor: A Unionist Family in Confederate Williamsburg," at the Library of Virginia, 800 E Broad St, Richmond. Noon. Free. 804-692-3592 or www.lva.virginia.gov .
11	VA	Living history, "A Visit with Elizabeth Keckley," a former slave who worked for Mary Lincoln in the White House during the war, at Centre Hill Museum in Petersburg. 6:30 pm. \$3. 804-733-2401.		17	VA	Tour, "Servant Life in the Confederate White House," special look at the Richmond landmark. 11:30 am. \$9. www.moc.org or 804-649-1861 extension 21.
11	VA	Lecture, "African Americans in the Civil War," at the Lucy Corr Village, 6680 Lucy Corr Blvd, Chesterfield. 7 pm. Free. 804-751-4946.		18	VA	Lunch talk, "Jefferson Davis Becomes Provisional President," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Noon. Free with admission. www.moc.org or 804-649-1861.
12	TN	Living history, "Encampment of the 50th Tennessee," camp and demonstrations at the Fort Donelson National Battlefield near Dover. 10 am-4 pm Free. www.nps.gov/fodo .	★ 150	18-19	VA	Symposium, "Storm on the Horizon: Slavery, Disunion, and the Roots of the Civil War," at the Williamsburg Lodge and Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area. Focus is on the roots of the Civil War in the American Revolution. 4-8 pm Friday, 9:30 am-7 pm Saturday. \$150. 800-447-8679 or www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/visit/eventsAndExhibits/specialEvents/pathToCivilWar.cfm .
12	PA	Lecture, "1861: Fort Sumter," at the Gettysburg National Military Park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or call 717-334-1124 extension 8023.	★ 150	19	PA	Lecture, "1861: Was the Civil War Avoidable," at the Gettysburg National Military Park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or call 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
12	MD	Lecture, "Iron Horses and Shadows of War: The U.S. Presidential Election of 1860 in Maryland," at the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore. Noon. Free with admission. www.borail.org .	★ 150	19	PA	Community Free Day at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. All visitors free. 10 am-4 pm. www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org .
12	MD	Lecture, "The African American Civil War Experience," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 11 am. Free with museum admission. www.civilwarmed.org or 301-695-1864.		19	VA	Car-caravan tour, "Fortifications," extensive tour of the Civil War fortifications in the Richmond-Petersburg area. Begins at the main visitor center of the Petersburg National Battlefield. 9:15 am-5 pm. Reservations necessary: 804-732-3531 extension 205.
12	VA	"Sailor's Creek Battle Interpretive Talk," at the Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park visitor center. 2-5 pm. Free. The park is located between Amelia and Farmville. Call 804-561-7510 for details and directions.		19	VA	Lecture, "African-Americans in the Union Navy," at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News. 1 pm. Free with museum admission. 757-596-2222 or www.marinersmuseum.org .
12	VA	Living history, "Fireside Mosby," first-person stories about John S. Mosby at the Rector House, 4161 Atoka Road, Marshall (4 miles west of Middleburg on Route 50). 7:30 pm. \$5. www.mosbyheritagearea.org .		19	VA	African American Freedom Ball at the Union Train Station in downtown Petersburg. 6-11 pm. 804-732-3531 extension 223.
12	VA	"The Underground Railroad Network to Freedom," special program at Leesylvania State Park, 2001 Daniel K. Ludwig Drive, Woodbridge. 11 am-4 pm. \$5/car. 703-730-8205.		19	VA	Film showing, "Glory," at the Virginia War Museum in Newport News. 1 pm. Free with admission. 757-247-8523.
12	VA	"A Slave's Life at Liberia Plantation," brief tour and presentation at Liberia Mansion, 8601 Portner Ave, Manassas. 10 am and 1 pm. \$15. www.manassasmuseum.org or 703-368-1873.		19-20	VA	"Slave Life" tours at Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas. 11 am-3 pm. \$7. 703-367-7872.
13	PA	Lecture, "The Other Adams County Goes to War: Natchez, Mississippi and the Civil War," at the Gettysburg National Military Park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or call 717-334-1124 extension 8023.	★ 150	20	VA	Walking tour, "All Roads Lead to DC," at Fort Marcy. Learn about the fort protecting the western approaches to DC. Parking off the northbound lanes of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington. 1 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/cwdw or 202-426-7723.
13	PA	Civil War Dance Class at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. 2-4 pm. Free for class (fee charged for gallery visits). Reservations required, email civilwardance@verizon.net , www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org .		20	VA	Living history, musket and artillery firing at the Manassas National Battlefield Park (Henry Hill). 1 pm. Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/mana or 703-261-1339.
14	VA	Living history, "Civil War Wedding and Reception," reenacts an 1863 Richmond wedding. Music, three-course dinner and ceremony at the Colony Club, 10 E Franklin St, Richmond. \$55/person. Reservations: 804-775-2323.		22	PA	Living history, "Lincoln Comes to Harrisburg," at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, part of the NPS Inaugural Journey program. 1 pm.

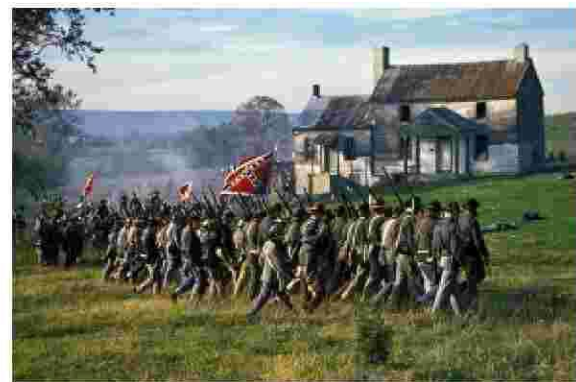
- www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.
- 22 **VA** Lecture, "Black Troops in the American Civil War," at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 2 pm. Free. 703-689-2700.
- 23 **VA** Gallery Walk, "Who Freed the Slaves," at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6. www.vahistorical.org.
- 24 **TN** Book discussion and film focusing on the time between Lincoln's election and his inauguration. Fort Donelson National Battlefield near Dover. 6:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/fodo.
- ★ 150
- 24 **VA** Tour, "Servant Life in the Confederate White House," special look at the Richmond landmark. 11:30 am. \$9. www.moc.org or 804-649-1861 extension 21.
- 24 **VA** Lecture, "Plantation Culture from Those Who Built It: A View of Slavery through Architecture and Art," at the Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave., Manassas. 7 pm. Free. 703-367-7872.
- 26 **VA** Seminar, "The War Begins: 1861," at the Jarman Auditorium, Longwood University in Farmville. Doors open 9 am. Free. Reservations not necessary. Directions: www.longwood.edu.
- ★ 150
- 26 **VA** Lecture, "Whirlwind Coming: African Americans in the District and Alexandria During the Civil War," at Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria. 1 pm. \$10. www.fortward.org.
- 26 **VA** Book signing and discussions, "Civil War Authors Book Mart," at Historic Blenheim in Fairfax. Noon-4 pm. Free. 703-591-0560.
- 26 **VA** Walking tour, "Butler's Offensive at Point of Rocks," begins in main parking lot, Point of Rocks Park, 201 Enon Church Road, Chester (south of Richmond). 2-4 pm. \$8. Register: www.chesterfieldhistory.com.
- 26 **VA** Symposium, "Person of the Year: 1861," candidates are nominated and spoken for by a panel of historians; and the audience will decide in this annual symposium sponsored by the Museum of the Confederacy at the Library of Virginia, 800 E Broad St, Richmond. 9:30 am-4 pm. \$50. Details and registration: www.moc.org.
- 26 **VA** Tour, "Butler's Offensive at Point of Rocks," at Point of Rocks Park, 201 Enon Church Road, Chester. Takes a look at the 1864 Union base. 2-4 pm. 804-751-4946.
- 26 **PA** Lecture, "Dan Sickles: The Colorful and Controversial Commander of Gettysburg," at the Gettysburg National Military Park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or call 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
- 26 **PA** "An Evening with the Painting," special look at the Cyclorama at the Gettysburg National Military Park visitor center. 5-6:30 pm. \$30. Reservations: 877-874-2478 or www.gettysburgfoundation.org.
- 27 **VA** Walking tour, "Freedman's Farm and Confederate Winter Camp Site Walking Tour," at Montpelier, home of President James Madison. 2 pm. Free with admission. 540-672-2728 or www.montpelier.org.

- 27 **PA** Lecture, "'Most everything blown up': Cushing's Battery at Gettysburg," at the Gettysburg National Military Park visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/gett or call 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
- 28 **MD** Lecture, "African American Surgeons of the Civil War," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 11 am. Free with admission. 301-695-1864 or www.civilwarmed.org.

From www.newsweek.com

Battle Over the Battlefields

One hundred and fifty years after the start of the Civil War, we're still fighting. This time it's development vs. preservation—and development's winning.



Richard

T. Nowitz / Corbis
Civil War Battlefields Under the Gun

A casino could soon sit near the Gettysburg battlefield, the bloodiest encounter on American soil. A Walmart supercenter may shadow the Wilderness battlefield in Virginia where Gen. U. S. Grant kept his headquarters when he first fought Gen. Robert E. Lee. And Washington, D.C.'s suburban sprawl is slowly strangling the rural lands where the Civil War's first crucial battles were fought. It's an ironic situation: as battlefield sites across the country prepare for an expected onslaught of visitors connected to the Civil War's 150th anniversary, many of them are shrinking away, acre by acre.

April 12 will mark the sesquicentennial of the start of the war, and governments and citizens across the country are gearing up to commemorate it. Visitation at Civil War-related national parks has already been on the rise, increasing 6.4 percent between 2008 and 2009 after mostly flat numbers in prior years. The National Park Service has reworked its approach to teaching the war's history to make it more focused on causes and effects. In anticipation of the anniversary, PBS plans to repair Ken Burns's landmark documentary on the war, and *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* have already

launched special commemorative blogs and news coverage. All the while, however, development at sites around the country is destroying Civil War battlefields at a frantic rate—30 acres a day, according to the Civil War Trust (CWT), a leading heritage conservation group—fast enough to eat up what's left of the Gettysburg battlefield park in just seven months. “[Battlefield visitors] don’t want to see the parking lot where their ancestors once fought that’s now a shopping center,” says Jim Campi, policy director of CWT. “They want to walk through the woods and see the cannon and the fence lines.”

This month, two high-profile conflicts over further development on the sites of major battles will come to a head. Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board officials are expected to decide whether to allow a casino several miles southwest of the Gettysburg battlefield. The Mason-Dixon Resort and Casino has become a cause célèbre for Civil War buffs, who have held it up as the best example of crass commercialism making inroads into the “hallowed ground” where more than 51,000 soldiers died. And in Virginia, a judge will hear arguments in a suit that aims to prevent the planned Walmart that is—depending on whom you ask—either adjacent to or on the Wilderness battlefield. These two standoffs are part of a larger debate that raises many of the same questions as the mosque controversy in lower Manhattan: What constitutes hallowed ground, what can you build near or on it, and how soon is too soon?

“There has to be a reasonable balance,” says James McPherson, the foremost living Civil War historian and professor emeritus of history at Princeton. “If you preserved every square foot of battlefield in Virginia, there wouldn’t be much land left. There’s a tendency among preservationists to want to save everything, but realistically there have to be compromises.”

One place McPherson isn’t willing to compromise, however, is the Virginia Walmart, a 140,000-square-foot supercenter the company wants to build in Orange County on a parcel that’s been zoned for commercial use for 37 years. The bloody May 1864 encounter fought there was the beginning of the end for the Confederacy. In Grant’s first battle since becoming chief of the U.S. Army, he pounded Lee and began driving him south toward Richmond. Historians say his army’s “nerve center,” including his own headquarters, was located on and near the Walmart site, which is also across the street from the entrance to the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park.

In August 2009, the Orange County board of supervisors issued a special-use permit for Walmart to build its store, but with several conditions—including setting the building back from the road, traffic mitigation, and other safeguards to reduce the project’s impact on the park. That wasn’t enough for historians, who say shrubs may block the view from the highway, but won’t prevent a huge store from destroying the landscape. As a result, the pushback against Walmart’s plans has been especially fierce. The nonprofit preservation group Friends of Wilderness Battlefield has sued the board of supervisors, Walmart, the developer, and the property owner

in an attempt to stop the store, and they’ve received help from McPherson, who appeared as an expert witness and National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis, among others. Plaintiffs say they don’t object to Walmart building in Orange County, but want it to move to a less historic spot.

The disagreement epitomizes disputes across the country: local officials, eager to spur economic growth, want to open lands for housing or commerce. In Orange County, for example, Walmart says it will create some 300 jobs, and says a survey it conducted in early 2009 found that 61 percent of residents backed its plan. But historians and preservationists fight back, saying development mars the historic value, cheapens the sacrifices made by thousands in the war, and impairs the ability of historians and visitors to understand the battles that took place. Preservationists also worry that development may actually cut into the economy: around many battlefield sites, tourism is a lucrative and sometimes dominant business—it accounted for \$2.5 billion in spending in Civil War parks in 2008 alone, according to the National Parks Conservation Association—but they say modern intrusions could dilute that value and drive away tourists, resulting in a net contraction.

Conflicts like the one in Orange County are the fruits of seeds sown more than a century ago. In the years immediately following the war, most battlefields were maintained by veterans’ organizations such as the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans, which played major roles in establishing parks like Gettysburg and the present-day Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (the National Park Service didn’t exist until 1916, and only took Civil War sites over from the War Department in the 1930s). As the sites became national parks, however, the scale of preservation was still minimal—the idea that urbanization would ever touch such remote farmlands seemed so absurd that park boundaries often included only historic stretches of road and significant structures. Though not formally preserved, fields remained in the same condition they had been in when Confederate and Union troops met. Now, however, urban sprawl has overtaken many of these areas, and threatens others. Once-remote parts of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, comprising most of the war’s eastern theater, are increasingly bedroom communities for Washington, D.C. “A lot of people have a misunderstanding that if it’s battlefield land, it’s within the boundaries of the park,” Smith laments. “We hold maybe one seventh of the battlefield. It would be totally unrealistic for us to hold all of it. We have to get the local community to understand that while we’re not going to preserve it, they do deserve to be treated with some sensitivity.”

The modern Civil War preservation movement dates back to the 1980s, when major D.C. area developer Til Hazel announced a plan to build a huge mall on part of the Manassas battlefield. The development was eventually blocked by an act of Congress that took over the land and provided Hazel compensation for it, later pegged by a court at \$130 million. Since then, preservation groups have become more aggressive, led by the Civil War Trust, which has bought up 25,000 acres of land using private donations and matching grants. And

there have been notable victories, especially the 2000 demolition of a much-reviled observation tower at Gettysburg, which had been erected in 1974 by a private developer on a patch of the battlefield not owned by the Park Service, over noisy objections. In another victory, CWT prevented the building of a racetrack at Brandy Station, Va., site of a major cavalry battle in 1863.

Economic strife has helped the cause, too. The housing developments that were a frequent threat to rural land have come to a halt since the collapse of the housing market—a reprieve, but by no means a guarantee, that new attempts won't follow when the sector rebounds. Meanwhile, some landowners have turned to preservation as more lucrative than selling to developers. While there are still some 600 acres of land inside the Gettysburg park that aren't preserved or protected, the park recently demolished two 20th-century houses acquired when the owners offered to sell them.

But in quite a few cases, it's too late. Many of the battlefields in the western theater—including Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Georgia—are long gone. Others are hemmed in and reduced significantly; the Chantilly battlefield in northern Virginia “is a postage stamp now,” Campi says. And despite the stoppage of Hazel's plan, the Manassas park is sliced by U.S. 29 (the Lee Highway, appropriately enough) and State Route 234.

Cape May County Civil War Round Table

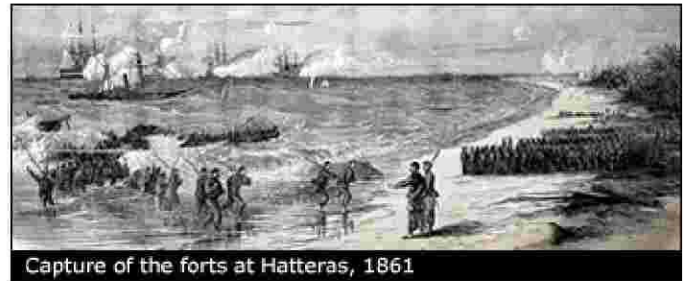
www.cmccwrtf.com



Preservation has its skeptics, too. Proponents are often attacked as being antidevelopment, or simply of overreaching.

The Gettysburg casino is, to detractors, the textbook case. Unlike the Wilderness Walmart, the proposed casino is actually five miles out of town, in neighboring Cumberland Township. If approved, the casino will include up to 500 slot machines—the smallest of three sizes allowed under state rules—and will be located at an existing resort, rather than in new, purpose-built structures. David LaTorre, a spokesman for the developer, points out that there are far more egregious infractions in the town itself. “People talk about how this is like building a McDonald's next to Pickett's Charge, but there is a McDonald's there,” he says with only mild exaggeration.

The Civil War Trust remains staunchly opposed, and it's got a host of celebrities on its side—including Ken Burns, author David McCullough, and actor Sam Waterston. The site is just too close to the battlefield, and the impact of development and traffic on the historical resources is too great, Campi says. The local community, too, is split into pro-casino and anti-casino sides—a small civil war, 150 years after the big one.



Capture of the forts at Hatteras, 1861