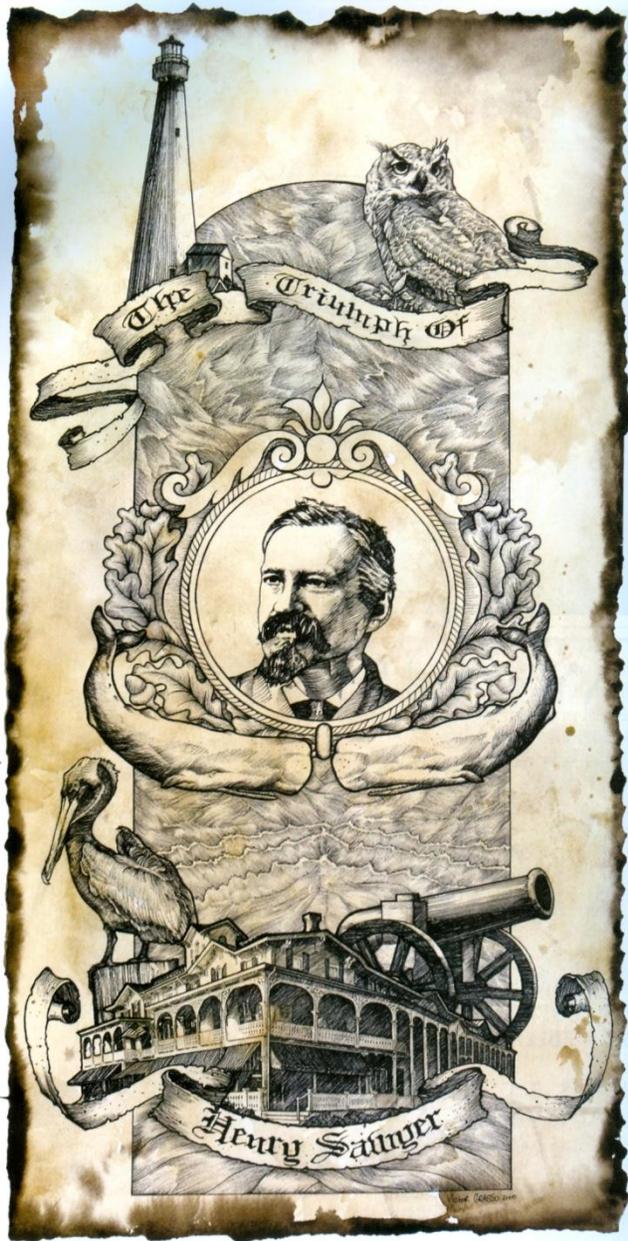


Cape May County Civil War Round Table
January 2019 Newsletter



Meeting Schedule for 2019

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

April 18 = Presentation: Tentative; Mike Cochan on *The Battle of the Ironclads*.

May 16

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!

Round Table Officers

President: John Herr
241 80th St., Avalon, NJ 08202
609-636-2551
avalonjohn@aol.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: Ed Vargo
25 Sand Castle Drive, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
alwayscloudy1863@gmail.com



Minutes of the 5 January Organizational Planning Committee Meeting

Ed Vargo has talked to someone at the state office in charge of monitoring non profit organizations. This person told Ed that considering how little money we have during the year, we would be better off withdrawing our official registration as such. We mainly registered as a non-profit because we were holding raffles, and needed to be registered to officially run those fund raising activities. The last time we officially filed with either the state or IRS as required to maintain our non-profit status was 2006!! We can register as a club instead of being an incorporated non profit; a C7 instead of C3 classified group. We will eventually need to open a new checking account under the new classification. We also need to look at our by-laws and see if they need to be revised in order to reflect the change in status. Ed will be continuing to spearhead the effort to change our status so we will once more be a legal entity under state and federal laws.

Dues are due now; they need to be paid to Eddie by the end of April. Please remember that your dues help pay for us to obtain our speakers for meetings. We already have a number of speakers lined up for this year.

Our website also needs to be updated. John will be looking into getting that done.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Munson-Siter



Civil War Milestones in February

1861

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

1862

- | | | |
|-----------------|----|---|
| February | 6 | Union army/navy forces take Fort Henry on the Tennessee River |
| | 8 | Union soldiers take Roanoke Island (NC) |
| | 16 | Confederates surrender Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River (TN) |
| | 22 | Davis officially inaugurated Confederate president in Richmond |

1863

Nothing really important happened in February 1863

1864

- | | | |
|-----------------|----|--|
| February | 17 | Confederate sub Hunley sinks Housatonic (SC) |
|-----------------|----|--|

1865

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

- 18 Charleston (SC) occupied by Union troops
- 22 Wilmington (NC) falls to Union troops



Civil War Related Events in February 2019

2 **PA** Lecture, “The War for the Common Soldier,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm.

Free. [nps.gov/gett](https://www.nps.gov/gett)

3 **PA** Lecture, “On the Tenuous Edge of Freedom: Gettysburg’s African-American Community Before, During and After the Battle,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. [nps.gov/gett](https://www.nps.gov/gett)

9 **PA** Lecture, “Scapegoat or Scandal?: JEB Stuart during the Gettysburg Campaign,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. [nps.gov/gett](https://www.nps.gov/gett)

10 **PA** Lecture, “Twilight at Gettysburg: The 1938 Reunion of the Blue and Gray,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. [nps.gov/gett](https://www.nps.gov/gett)

16 **PA** Lecture, “Eisenhower and the American Civil War,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. [nps.gov/gett](https://www.nps.gov/gett)

17 **PA** Lecture, “From Albuquerque to Richmond: Longstreet’s Long Journey from New Mexico to the Seat of War,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. [nps.gov/gett](https://www.nps.gov/gett)

22 **VA** Living history, “Looked for in the Hour of Danger — but Trampled Underfoot in the Time of Peace,” black history month programs including a Civil War vignette. Programs begin at St. George’s Episcopal Church, 905 Princess Anne St, Fredericksburg. Sign up for program time (6-8 pm). \$10. fowb.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](https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org)

23 PA Lecture, “Unprecedented Discovery at Manassas National Battlefield,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett

24 PA Lecture, “Lincoln Mythed: Memorial Biographies and the Damage Done to History — A Discussion,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett

NOTE: LOCAL: 28 February: Dr Holden will be speaking on President Lincoln at the Stone Harbor Library.

Abraham Lincoln: A Historical Perspective

2/28/2019

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Stone Harbor Library Events Room

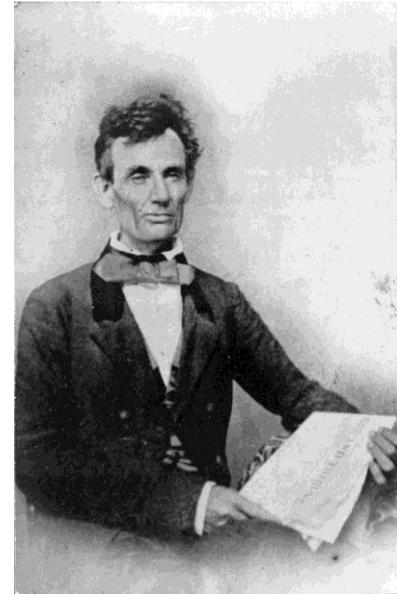
Registration begins 1/22/2019 at 9:00 AM

This talk will be about the early life of Abraham Lincoln, his time as president during the Civil War and his assassination in April of 1865. Many anecdotes will be shared as well as a discussion of the ambivalence that Lincoln had towards slavery in the early years both as candidate and as President until the Emancipation Proclamation.

I speak not as an authority on Abraham Lincoln, but as a student of him and his presidency. I read every book I can about Lincoln and currently have a Lincoln section in my own library (courtesy of a parent of former students I taught at Ocean City Intermediate School) numbering over 100 books, many of which are antiques and some are signed by the author. I will be sharing stories, anecdotes and prose from several of these authors. In addition, I will be sharing a variety of Lincoln memorabilia pieces I have been gifted with over the years, including a facsimile of a letter Lincoln actually wrote to one of my ancestors.

The Lincoln assassination is an interesting dimension of the Lincoln Presidency and fascinating (and perhaps new to participants) information about the conspiracy to kill Lincoln and other top government officials will be discussed.

Mr. Robert F. Holden, a retired senior adjunct Professor of history at ACCC (World Civilizations I and II, and Holocaust and Genocide Studies) will be giving a presentation about America’s entry into the world as an Imperialist power.



The Story of 2nd Sergeant Richard T Tindall The First Civil War Enlistee from Cape May County to Die for the Cause but not at the Hands of the Enemy

Prepared by: Bobbie Babbit

For: Andy Lolli

Date: May 1, 2006

Recently it was brought to the attention of Andy Lolli that there is a grave in the First Baptist Cemetery at Cape May Court House that is the resting place of a Civil War volunteer that does not have a Civil War Marker.

Andy shared his concern with me and expressed his interest in bringing this matter to the attention of the Round Table membership. Therefore, I have put the story of 2nd Sergeant Richard Thomas Tindall together from my research files and records and submit it to you as a story worth telling inasmuch as he was the first Cape May County boy to pass from this life while serving the Union cause. In addition to this fact you will see that this young man went to great lengths to enlist, believing so strongly in the cause to which many others elected to pay someone else to go in their place.

Beyond that fact, it is interesting to note that Richard Tindall was the nephew of Lt Col Richard Swain Thompson, who was the subject of the book *While My Country is in Danger*. Richard Tindall’s mother was a sister to Lt Col Thompson of the 12th NJ Volunteers, whose *Life and Letters* was the sub-title of the above mentioned book, written by Gerry and Ralph Poriss.

The story of Sgt Tindall is as follows, beginning with the text of his obituary.

Cape May County Ocean Wave, Cape Island, New Jersey; October 17, 1861

OBITUARY

TINDALL – At Camp Casey, near Washington, DC, Sergeant RICHARD T TINDALL, of Cape Island, in the 20th year of his age on 10-8-1861.

The subject of the above notice was born in the city of Camden, NJ on the 22nd day of April, 1842. At the time of his birth, his father, the Rev. Napoleon Bonaparte Tindall, was the pastor of the First Baptist Church at that place. Subsequently his father was the first pastor of the First Baptist Church in Cape May City. Richard's mother's maiden name was MARY ELIZABETH THOMPSON, the daughter of RICHARD TOMPSON, Esq. of Cape May Court House.

Richard Thompson Tindall in his early life received a religious training which he never lost. His disposition was of a warm-hearted and genial man who held a strong attachment to his friends and associates. He was not known to have any enemies. He was of irreproachable character with a quiet and unassuming demeanor and his circle of friends was made up of all of his acquaintances. He dearly loved his relatives almost to a fault and they like wise were strongly attached to him.

In January of 1860 he made a profession of religion uniting with the Cape Island Baptist Church. His life up until his death proved to genuineness of his faith and commitment as a Christian, which was a comfort for his bereaved friends knowing that their loss was his eternal gain.

He was firm in his purpose and whatever he undertook he seldom gave up on except at the demands of duty or impossibility. Even though but 20 years of age, he was a true lover of his country and when the present wicked rebellion broke out, his young heart was fired with a patriotic zeal for the defense of the flag and institutions of the country. When the news of the bombardment of Ft Sumpter was first received, it was remembered that Richard expressed the desire to be part of the gallant band whose duty it was to defend it.

When in the Spring of 1860, a company was formed at Cape Island as a Home Guard, Richard was among the first to join it. Then when the company was re3solved

into a Militia Company, Richard was almost unanimously elected Second Lieutenant. Following this transition when the effort was made to organize a company for the United States volunteer services, he still retained his position. When this concerted effort failed to get an entire company there in Cape Island, Richard and some of his friends refused to be thwarted in their patriotic purpose. He left his home and loved ones on the 29th day of August and proceeded to Trenton. There he entered the ranks of Company A, 7th New Jersey Regiment on 8-23-1861, where he was appointed Second Sergeant, a position he held until his death.

On the 17th of September with the rest of the regiment, Richard left Trenton for the seat of war at Washington, DC. Not long after the arrival of the regiment at Washington, he took cold, most probably from exposure to camp life, and was seriously ill for some time, being afflicted with intermittent fever. At one point it seemed that he was recovering as he was able to be out of his tent. He was hopeful that he would soon be able to tend to his duties in the company. But, alas! Richard's hopes were suddenly blasted as he was sieved with typhoid fever of such a violent nature that medical skill could not remedy.

Friends in Philadelphia were immediately telegraphed and word sent to Cape May that he was failing fast. On Tuesday, the day that he died, his mother was at Dennisville attending the funeral of a brother-in-law. As soon as she received news that Richard could not live, that same night she started on her way to Washington. Upon her arrival in Philadelphia, she received word that his spirit had taken flight on Tuesday afternoon.

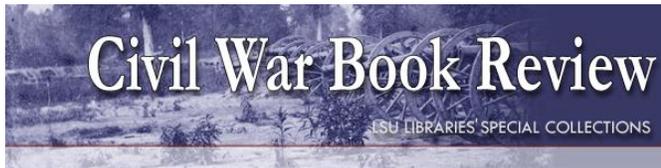
On Wednesday, his body having been properly encoffined and the coffin enveloped in the Stars and Stripes of the flag presented by the ladies of Cape Island, with full military honors escorted it to the depot. His comrades were in full uniform, with reverse arms, marching with slow and measured steps, as the band playing the *Dead March*, indeed presented a solemn sight. Quarter Master Sergeant S. R. Magonagle, the step-father and Richard Thompson, Esq., the uncle of the deceased, accompanied it to Philadelphia where they met the bereaved mother and young bride. The ne3xt day it was brought to Cape May Court House and the following day, Friday, solemn and impressive services were held in the First Baptist Church, where a large audience assembled from various parts of the country, not withstanding the shortness of the notice. The coffin still covered with the flag as it left Washington was taken to the burying ground where

eight young men, the intimate friends of the deceased, lowered it solemnly to its last resting place amid the tears of sorrowing friends and almost heartbroken relatives, there to remain, till the Archangel shall summon it forth to newness of life and immortal glory at the great resurrection morn.

The deceased was the first of our gallant sons of Cape May who have fallen a victim to the present war, not, in truth by the sword of our rebel enemy, but by the still more fatal ravages of disease induced by the exposure and hardships of those unaccustomed to camp live.

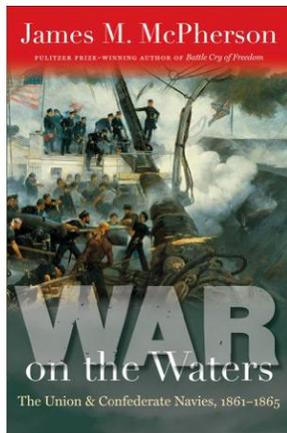
Richard was married to Miss Annie E. Mecray of Cape Island on the 4th of August, and therefore is left a young bride, a kind and affectionate mother, and four loved and loving sisters deeply to mourn the loss of a husband, and only son and brother, just as he had emerged into promising manhood.

==== Bobbie Babbitt



War on the Waters AN INTERVIEW WITH JAMES MCPHERSON

*The Civil War Trust recently spoke with Dr. James McPherson about his latest book, **War on the Waters: The Union and Confederate Navies, 1861-1865**. This new book looks at the significant contributions that both the Federal and Confederate navies made to the American Civil War.*



Civil War Trust: What attracted you to writing about the Union and Confederate navies during the Civil War?

James McPherson: I have long felt that the role of the navies in the war, and especially the contribution of the Union navy to final Northern victory, has been under-appreciated and under-studied. My book is a modest effort to address that problem. Also, the feats of the navies make for a dramatic story, and I wanted to tell part of that story.

Civil War Trust: Sailors and naval officers were only 5% of the total number of Federal men under arms. In your opinion was their impact proportional to that small size?

James McPherson: Their impact was much greater than the 5 percent of navy personnel--and also greater than the 12 percent of the navy's proportion of the financial cost of the Union war effort. Some of the most important strategic Northern victories in the war were either exclusively naval victories or successes of combined arms in which the navy's contribution was essential: Port Royal, New Orleans, Forts Henry and Donelson, Memphis, Vicksburg, Mobile Bay, Fort Fisher. Neither McClellan's Peninsula campaign in 1862 nor Grant's investment of Petersburg and Richmond in 1864-1865 would have been possible without the Union navy's control of the Chesapeake Bay and James River, by which McClellan's and Grant's armies were supplied. The blockade, leaky as it was especially early in the war, was nevertheless an essential part of Union strategy that made a crucial contribution to Union triumph in the end, as did the navy's control of the Mississippi, Tennessee, and Cumberland Rivers, which penetrated like arrows into the heartland of the Confederacy and made possible the successful army campaigns by Grant, Rosecrans, and Sherman.

Civil War Trust: How would you rate US Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles' contributions during the Civil War?

James McPherson: Welles was an energetic and successful administrator who played a key role in building up the Union navy and devising its strategy. I think he made a major contribution to ultimate Northern victory, despite the criticism he had to endure from merchants, newspapers, and others over the success of Confederate commerce raiders against American

shipping and also over the failure of the navy to stop more of the blockade running.

Civil War Trust: Despite their many disadvantages the Confederates crafted an interesting naval strategy. How would you summarize their plan?

James McPherson: The Confederates did the best they could with limited resources, and I think their focus on ironclads, commerce raiders, and "torpedoes" stretched those resources as far as they could go even though, in the end, they could not come close to matching the power of the Union navy or preventing its successes. Their plan was to emphasize technological innovation (ironclads and torpedoes) to counter the strength of the enemy, and attack vulnerable American mercantile commerce to weaken Northern support for the war and divert Union naval strength from the blockade to pursue the raiders. In the end these efforts enjoyed some success (the raiders destroyed or captured more than 250 American merchant vessels and torpedoes sank or damaged more than forty Union naval ships), but they were nevertheless not sufficient to cut seriously into Union naval supremacy that helped win the war. The Confederates also developed a primitive "submarine" (the H.L. Hunley) which sank a Union blockade ship off Charleston in February 1864, and developed steam-powered "torpedo boats" that damaged a couple of Union warships, but these achievements did almost nothing to weaken the blockade or Union naval power.

Civil War Trust: In your book you highlight some of the Union victories in 1861 and 1862 that were derived largely or wholly from US naval actions. What were some of the most important ones?

James McPherson: Hatteras Inlet, Port Royal and the capture or closure of several Confederate ports along the South Atlantic coast, the **Monitor's neutralization of the CSS Virginia**, the capture of Roanoke Island, New Bern and Beaufort, NC, and other North Carolina ports on Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, Forts Henry and Donelson and the consequent control of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers deep into the Confederate heartland, Memphis, and control of nearly all of the Mississippi River except the portion between Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

Civil War Trust: Would you describe any meaningful differences in the strategy and management of the so-called "blue-water" and "brown-water" navies?

James McPherson: The blue-water navy's principal task was to establish and maintain the blockade, and to do so the navy captured several ports and estuaries to establish bases for the blockade fleet. In the case of **David Glasgow Farragut's** blue-water squadron, after its capture of New Orleans it also became--reluctantly--part of the brown-water fleet on the Mississippi in 1862 and 1863. The blue-water ships were entirely manned by naval personnel, while the brown-water Western Flotilla was originally built and administered by the War Department and many of the crewmen on these river gunboats and ironclads were army personnel, though most of the officers and much of the ordnance were provided by the navy. After October 1862 the Navy Department administered the brown-water navy, and its name was changed to the Mississippi Squadron. Its mission both before and after October 1862 was to control the navigable rivers and provide support for army operations using the rivers as their supply line and river ports like Nashville and Memphis as their bases.

Civil War Trust: Although many blockade runners were able to enter Confederate ports, you point out that the Union blockade was still successful. How so?

James McPherson: The blockade was successful because, while most of the blockade runners got through, the important fact is the wholesale reduction of the Confederacy's foreign and intra-coastal commerce because most merchant ships did not try to breach the blockade. The South's exports and imports during four years of the war were less than one-third of those during the four last antebellum years. Imports of much-needed iron for rails, ships, ordnance, and other war materiel were almost completely cut off by the blockade. The ten million bales of cotton exported during the last four antebellum years were cut to one million bales or less during the four years of war. Runaway inflation and the disastrous deterioration of the Southern rail network that caused the Southern war economy to break down completely by 1864-65 were, in considerable part, a result of the blockade.

Civil War Trust: International law seemed to be a serious thorn in the side of the Federal efforts to stop maritime commerce headed for the Confederacy. What efforts did the US Supreme Court make in setting important naval precedents?

James McPherson: The Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in the Prize Cases (1863) upheld the constitutionality of

the blockade, which had earlier been recognized as legitimate by the major maritime powers abroad.

Civil War Trust: Many know about the dawn of the ironclad warship, but where there other great technological naval innovations brought forth by the Civil War?

James McPherson: The rotating gun turret (first used on the Monitor) and Confederate developments in naval mines (torpedoes) were major innovations. And of course the H. L. Hunley was a spectacular innovation that cast a long shadow toward the future of naval warfare. Most of the other naval innovations--steam power, the screw propeller, shell guns, rifled guns, even ironclads--antedated the war, though all of these innovations were much improved and expanded during the war.

Civil War Trust: Did Confederate commerce raiders like the CSS Alabama, CSS Florida, and CSS Shenandoah have any meaningful impact on the war?

James McPherson: In the end the achievements of these commerce raiders, while spectacular, had only a marginal impact on the Northern war effort--they did divert some ships from the blockade, and they did drive the merchant marine into foreign registry, but these accomplishments did little or nothing significantly to hinder the Northern war effort--though they did have a major impact on the future of the merchant marine, which never fully recovered.

Civil War Trust: Why was Farragut's success at Mobile Bay so important strategically?

James McPherson: It closed an important blockade-running port, and gave a shot in the arm to Northern morale at a low point of that morale.

Civil War Trust: What sort of lasting legacy did the naval actions of the Civil War have on future wars?

James McPherson: The wartime innovations and improvements in steam power, ironclads, gun turrets, "torpedoes," submarines, the advances in riverine warfare, and fleet actions against shore fortifications, were studied and sometimes applied in future naval conflicts.

Civil War Trust: Any hints on what the subject of your next book will be?

James McPherson: My next book will be a study of Jefferson Davis as commander in chief.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*James McPherson was born in North Dakota and raised in Minnesota, where he graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1958. He received his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1963. From 1962 to his retirement in 2004 he taught at Princeton University, where he is currently the George Henry Davis '86 Professor of American History Emeritus. Several of his books on the era of the American Civil War have won prizes, including the Pulitzer Prize (1989) for *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* and two Lincoln Prizes (1998 and 2009) for *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War* and *Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief*. He has been associated with battlefield preservation since he first joined the board of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites back in 1990. He has served as president of the Society of American Historians and of the American Historical Association. He is currently working on a book about Jefferson Davis as Commander in Chief.*

President's Update

Happy New Year to all and especially to fellow Civil War enthusiasts. My hope is that 2019 will be a good year for us all and for our CW Round Table in particular. With the start of the new year I am busily working on recruiting outstanding speakers for the coming year. So far - we have a good start. You are reminded that our first 2019 meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18 at 7 PM behind the Cape May County Historical Museum as usual. Please make a note on your calendar to attend and invite friends and family to join us at what will be an entertaining evening. This is also the first chance to sign up for your 2019 membership in person so bring cash or a checkbook to this meeting. Dues are the same as last year. You can also send checks (payable to CMCCWRT) ahead of time in the mail directly to our incoming treasurer Eddie Vargo or myself.

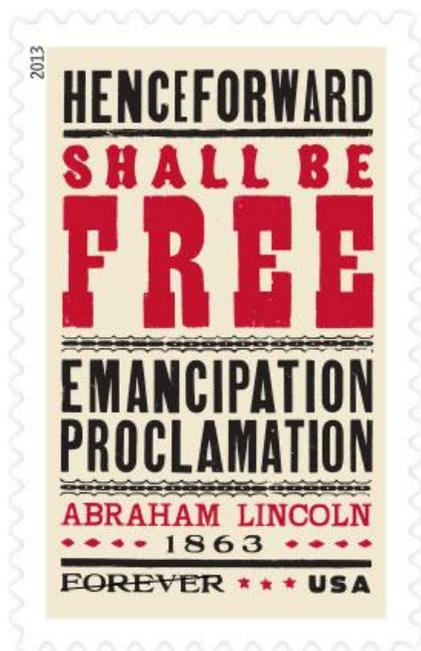
You may recall that our 2018 November meeting was canceled due to a torrential rain storm. I have requested the postponed speaker (Mike Kochan) to return for our upcoming April meeting. He is still finalizing his

calendar for April but will let me know as soon as his schedule is certain. His presentation focuses on the battle between the USS Monitor and the CSA Virginia (i.e. ironclads). Mike is very knowledgeable of and involved with the efforts to raise and restore the USS Monitor. He will speak on both topics. I will keep you apprised of his exact plans as the date approaches.

Additionally I have received commitments from two local Civil War historians and renowned speakers for the July and August meetings. Hugh Boyle will speak in July. Hugh is President of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Museum in Philadelphia and is very active in numerous Civil War organizations around the Philadelphia area. He will explain the “collateral damage” caused by the assassination of Abraham Lincoln that was inflicted on family and associates of President Lincoln at the time. I have heard this presentation and assure you it is entertaining and informative.

We are also honored to have Anthony Waskie, PhD. speak at our August meeting. Andy will present General George G. Meade (the victor at Gettysburg) in first person in full military regalia. This entertaining and informative meeting is a must see event. Andy (as he is known) majored in history at Bloomsburg University

Cape May County Civil War Round Table
c/o



and went on to receive his MBA and PhD degrees at New York University. He is currently an assistant professor at Temple University since 1999. Andy is a renowned Civil War historian, author and preservationist who specializes on the life of General Meade whom he portrays.

Call or write if you have any requests or suggestions for speakers to complete our roster for 2019. I will try to accommodate your ideas.

Respectfully

John Herr

