

150th Anniversary of the American Civil War



Cape May County Civil War Round Table Newsletter July 2014

Meeting Schedule

17 July: Frank O'Reilly, Fredricksburg National Park Ranger, will talk to us about the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5 – 7 1864. **Refreshments:** Wendy & Lisa

14 August: Refreshments: Carol Ruhl

18 September: Tracy Evans of the National Park Service will be lecturing on the Battle of Monocacy. **Refreshments:** Pat Munson-Siter

20 September: *BUS TRIP TO GETTYSBURG!!!* We will have a licensed battlefield tour guide and a buffet lunch, and free time in the afternoon to wander through town. We will leave the Cape May Court House Acme at 7am. Cost will be \$65 (which is a REAL BARGAIN!!!) More information soon.

16 October: Possibly a presentation on the Battle of New Market. **Refreshments:** John Burke

20 November: John Burke will be lecturing on the subject of the Battle of Franklin **Refreshments:** Mike Golla

?? December:

Reminder: If possible, it's best to have TWO folks providing refreshments. Anyone care to volunteer to help out any of the folks who have already signed up for refreshments?

Round Table Officers

President: Marty Runner

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Vice President: Lou Bishop Jr.

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609-602-3243

jim@jimocnj.com

**REMINDER:
DUES FOR 2014 ARE DUE NOW!!!!
Send to Jim Marshall, address above**

The following people have, according to the Treasurer's Records as of the June meeting, not yet paid dues for 2014. If you get a hard copy of the newsletter, this is the LAST copy you will get mailed to you until you have paid dues. If you think you have paid dues and are on the list, contact Jim Marshall.

Charlie Camp

David Check

Coll

Jim Creamer

Don Dunleavy

Jim English

Rita & Anthony Fulginiti

Sue Gibson

Mike Houdart

Max & Pat King

Eddy O'Malley

Catherine Parry

John & Judy Piorkowski

Charlotte Wireman



Minutes of the Business Meeting 19 June 2014

President Runner brought the meeting to order. We saluted the flag and held a moment of silence to honor those who stand in harms way in order to protect us.

A reminder to all members that we have a Face Book page, and we are trying to update it regularly. If items come up in between meetings and newsletters, that information will be posted to the FB page.

Dues are long overdue. Anyone who is getting the newsletter mailed to them needs to know that the July

newsletter is the last one they will receive if they have not paid their 2014 dues.

Marty has worked hard to arrange the bus tour to Gettysburg. We need at least 40 people to give the bus company a 'go.' You need to contact Jim Marshall ASAP if you are interested in going; the "go-no go" decision will be made at the July meeting. Pat Munson-Siter got the Historical Society to include a mention of the bus trip in their newsletter as well.

There being no further business to discuss, the business meeting was adjourned so the presentation could begin.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Munson-Siter



Civil War Milestones = August

- 1861
- 10 Battle of Wilson's Creek (MO)
- 11 Union soldiers occupy Hatteras Island (NC)
- 1862
- 9 Battle of Cedar Mountain (VA)
- 29-30 Second battle of Manassas (Bull Run) (VA)
- 1863
- 21 Lawrence (KS) burned by Quantrill
- 1864
- 5 Battle of Mobile Bay (AL)



August 2014

- 1 **VA** Panel discussions, "Battle of the Crater," 10 am-noon at Gillfield Church, 209 Perry St,

- ★ 150 Petersburg; 1-3 pm at St. Paul's Church, 10 Union St, Petersburg. Free. nps.gov/pete
- 1 **VA** Tour, "The William Dinges Farm (Rienzi Knoll) at Cedar Creek," Sheridan's arrival on the Cedar Creek battlefield. Meets at 7712 Main St, Middletown. 7 pm. Free. nps.gov/cebe
- 1 **VA** Walking tour, "Where Valor Sleeps: Explorations in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery," a Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP History at Sunset program at the cemetery near the park visitor center in Fredericksburg. 7 pm. Free. 540-373-6122.
- 2 **PA** "Stories and Songs of a Civil War Hospital," music and readings at Christ Church, 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. candlelightatchrist.org
- 2 **MD** Talk, "Naval Surgeons in the Civil War," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2 pm. Free with site admission. civilwarmed.org
- ★ 150 2 **VA** Conference, "Is the World Being Set on Fire? Sheridan's Shenandoah Campaign and the Burning," at Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown. \$20. ShenandoahatWar.org
- ★ 150 2 **VA** Living history, "Battle of the Crater," day-long camps, demonstrations and talks at the site on the Petersburg National Battlefield. Shuttle parking in downtown Petersburg. nps.gov/pete
- 2 **VA** Walking tour, "Battle of Smithfield," meets at the Isle of Wight Museum in Smithfield. 2 pm. Free. historicisleofwight.com
- 2 **VA** Guided walking tour of Fort Huger, 15080 Talcott Terrace, on the James River near Smithfield. 10 am. Free. 757-357-0115.
- 2-3 **WV** Living history, "Under Fire: The Battle of Bolivar Heights, 1862," at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Free with park admission. nps.gov/hafe
- 2-3 **MD** Living history, "The US Army Signal Corps: The Civil War and Today," at the Pry House Field Hospital Museum in Keedysville. All day. \$5. CivilWarMed.org

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| <p>3 VA Living history, artillery demonstrations at the Petersburg National Battlefield 1-4 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/pete</p> <p>5 VA Living history, "Towne Ball," Civil War era baseball in Manassas. 6-8 pm. Free. manassasmuseum.org</p> <p>8 VA ★ 150 Lecture, "The General-in-Chief: Grant Takes Command, 1864-1865," at General Grant's Headquarters Unit of the Petersburg National Battlefield in City Point (Hopewell). 7 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete</p> <p>8 VA "We Wished for Night: Campfire Program at Chatham," at Chatham, across the river from downtown Fredericksburg. 7 pm. Free. 540-373-6122.</p> <p>9 PA Living history, "1st Maryland Battalion, CSA" at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. Camps and demonstrations 9 am-4 pm Saturday, 10 am-4 pm Sunday. nationalcivilwarmuseum.org</p> <p>9 PA "Stories and Songs of a Civil War Hospital," music and readings at Christ Church, 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. candlelightchrist.org</p> <p>9 VA ★ 150 Living history and ranger tours at General Grant's Headquarters Unit of the Petersburg National Battlefield in City Point (Hopewell). 9 am-5 pm. "Military Justice and the Civil War" programs at 10 am and 2 pm. Real-time City Point explosion tour at 11:40 am. Free. nps.gov/pete</p> <p>9 VA Car-caravan tour, Brandy Station battlefield (Kelly's Ford and Stevensburg). Begins at the Graffiti House visitor center in Brandy Station. 10 am-noon. \$10/adult. brandystationfoundation.com</p> <p>9 VA Anniversary walking tour of the Cedar Mountain battlefield south of Culpeper at Route 15 and General Winder Road. Guided real-time tour 4-7 pm. Free. 540-727-8849 or friendsofcedarmountain.org</p> <p>9 VA Walking tours, "Military Justice at City Point," at Grant's HQ at City Point (Hopewell). 10:30 am, 1 and 3 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete</p> <p>10 VA Living history and ranger tours at General Grant's Headquarters Unit of the Petersburg National</p> | <p>★ 150 Battlefield in City Point (Hopewell). 9 am-2 pm. "Military Justice and the Civil War" program at 1 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete</p> <p>10 MD Kayak tour, "Antietam Creek" focus is on Civil War history. \$110 includes brunch, kayak rental. rivertrail.com/kayak-antietam-creek-brunch.php</p> <p>10 MD Talk, "John Wilkes Booth and Tudor Hall," at Tudor Hall, home of the Booth family, 17 Tudor Lane, Bel Air. 2 pm. \$5/adult. spiritsoftudorhall.blogspot.com</p> <p>13 VA Talk, "The Siege of Petersburg Begins," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox. 12:15 pm. Free with museum admission. moc.org</p> <p>14 VA Lecture, "Nature's Civil War: Common Soldiers and the Environment in 1862," at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6. www.vahistorical.org</p> <p>15 VA Talk, "The Fall of Atlanta in Gone with the Wind: History or Fiction?" at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Noon. Free with museum admission. moc.org</p> <p>15-16 PA Civil War Music Muster in Gettysburg. Free concerts at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center, Dobbin House and the Pennsylvania Memorial. Free. nps.gov/gett.</p> <p>16 VA ★ 150 Anniversary car-caravan tour, "Battle of Guard Hill," meets at 101 Chester St, Front Royal. 4 pm. Free. nps.gov/cebe</p> <p>16 VA ★ 150 Living history walking tour, "Cavaliers, Courage and Coffee: The Berryville Wagon Raid," starting at 32 E Main St, Berryville. 7:30 pm. \$8. 540-687-6681.</p> <p>16 VA Van tour, "1864 Bermuda Hundred Campaign Tour," Leaves from Henricus Historical Park. 10 am-2 pm. \$15. Register: chesterfieldhistory.com (click Civil War Tours).</p> <p>16 MD Walking tour, "Civil War in Annapolis," two-hour tour meets at City Dock downtown at 10 am. \$16/adult. Reservations: annapolistours.com</p> <p>16 PA Seminar, "Our War, Our Constitution — Significant Constitutional and Legal Issues Arising from the American Civil War," at the</p> |
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- Gettysburg Seminary, 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg. 8:30 am-4 pm. \$105. friendsofgettysburg.org
- 16 **PA** "Stories and Songs of a Civil War Hospital," music and readings at Christ Church, 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. candlelightchrist.org
- 16 **PA** "An Evening with the Painting," after-hours extended look at the Gettysburg Cyclorama at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 6 pm. \$20. gettysburgfoundation.org
- 16-17 **VA** ★ 150 Reenactment, "Battles of Saltville," in Saltville. battlesofsaltville.com/about
- 17 **VA** ★ 150 Bus tour, "Grant's Third and Fourth Offensives: Battles of the Crater and Weldon Railroad," at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 1-4:30 pm. \$25. Reservations: 804-732-3531 extension 200.
- 22-24 **VA** Living history, period baseball game and more, "Civil War Weekend," in Old Town Manassas. Free. visitmanassas.org
- 23 **MD** Living history, "Union Artillery at Antietam," camp and demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti
- 23 **VA** Lecture, "Civil War Balloon Corps," at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 2 pm. Free. 703-591-0560.
- 23 **VA** Car-caravan tour, Brandy Station battlefield (Fleetwood Hill). Begins at the Graffiti House visitor center in Brandy Station. 10 am-noon. \$10/adult. brandystationfoundation.com
- 23-24 **VA** ★ 150 Living history and ranger talks, "Battles of Weldon Railroad and Reams Station," at Western Front Unit, Stop 1, Petersburg National Battlefield. Free. nps.gov/pete
- 24 **MD** Living history, "Confederate Artillery at Antietam," camp and demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti
- 24 **VA** Living history tours, "Eyewitness to War," at Historic Mount Zion Church, 40309 John Mosby Highway, Aldie. Donations accepted. 1-5 pm.

- 540-687-6681.
- 26-27 **VA** Battle of Kettle Run anniversary activities at the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park, near Iron Brigade Unit Ave, in Bristow. Special tours 11 am-4 pm. \$5. 703-366-3049.
- 30 **PA** "Stories and Songs of a Civil War Hospital," music and readings at Christ Church, 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. candlelightchrist.org
- 30-31 **VA** Reenactment, "Waynesboro at War," at Coyner Springs Park, Lyndhurst Road in Waynesboro. Camps open 9 am-5 pm Saturday, 9 am-4 pm Sunday. Battles both days. \$5/adult per day, \$8/two-day pass. Details, tickets, directions: waynesboroatwar.webs.com
- 30-31 **VA** Anniversary living history camps and special tours at the Manassas National Battlefield. nps.gov/mana
- 31 **VA** Lecture, "Grant Comes to Washington 1864," at the Graffiti House visitor center in Brandy Station. 2 pm. Donations welcome. brandystationfoundation.com



From Chambersburg, PA:

Hi, Pat!

I hope your Civil War Roundtable is doing well! We appreciate your efforts in spreading the word about our seminars to your members – your organization is essential to preserving our Civil War heritage!

I just wanted to let you know about our upcoming tours the end of this year and into 2015, which include the Civil War Roundtable discount of 10% off. Members of the same CWRT are eligible for a 10% discount when 3 or more CWRT members register for complete packages of the same seminar. Here's our lineup into next year:

Sept 26-28, 2014 “Winchester, Fisher’s Hill, and Cedar Creek: The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864” with Ed Bearss, Jeffry Wert, Scott Patchan, Dennis Frye, Eric Wittenberg, and others. The seminar will include a bus tour of 3rd Winchester, Cedar Creek and Fisher’s Hill Battlefields as well as lectures by nationally recognized historians. Based in Chambersburg, Pa.

April 10-12, 2015 “Ed Bearss Symposium on Leadership and Combat in the Civil War” with Ed Bearss, Dennis Frye, Wayne Motts, Perry Jameison, and others. Based in Chambersburg, Pa and **back by popular demand**.

Spring 2015 “On the Trail of Those Damn Black Hats: A Weekend with Lance Herdegen and the Iron Brigade” with tours of 2nd Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, and Gettysburg. Based in Chambersburg, PA.

July 22-26, 2015 “The End of the War: Richmond, Petersburg, and Appomattox” with Ed Bearss, Richard Sommers, Robert E.L. Krick, and others. Based in Richmond, Va.

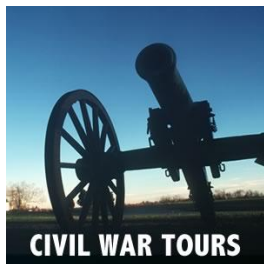
If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 717-264-7101 ext. 206. If you would like more information or are interested in joining our mailing list, please let me know. More details about our upcoming seminars can be found at www.civilwarseminars.org. Thank you!

All the best,

Lark

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PODCASTS



Walk with a noted historian as your personal audio guide on fields where decisive, dramatic battles took place. The battlefield podcasts are narrated by National Park Service

historians and recorded on the battlefields. They feature introductions by John Fieseler and Marc Ramsey and the period music of Southern Horizon, Al Neale, Vaughn and Starbuck, and Chris Jackson. The podcasts are complemented with detailed maps, so that you can follow the action easily.

Monocacy

The Battle of Monocacy, fought July 9, 1864, near Frederick MD is called by many “The Battle That Saved Washington.” A small Union force managed to hold off Jubal Early’s much larger Confederate army for a day here, allowing time for reinforcements to arrive in the national capital. Stop for orientation at the Monocacy National Battlefield visitor center a few miles south of downtown Frederick on Route 355. This audio tour begins a short distance away and across the road at the Best Farm.



5-stop driving tour, approximately one hour
Narration: Brett Spaulding, **Monocacy National Battlefield**
Introduction: John Fieseler
Music: **Al Neale**
Production: CivilWarTraveler.com and the **Monocacy National Battlefield**
Playing time: 24:24
File size: 6.5MB



The Peach Orchard at Gettysburg

Confederate attackers had a real chance to cut the Union line in half in and around the Peach Orchard July 2, 1863. Gettysburg park historian Eric Campbell tells the story of that attack and a heroic stand by Union artillery that day.

6-stop walking tour, approximately 90 minutes
Narration: Eric Campbell, Gettysburg National Military Park
Introduction: John Fieseler
Music: Wayne Erbsen (**Native Ground Music**)
Production: **CivilWarTraveler.com** and **Gettysburg National Military Park**

Playing time: 50:42 minutes
File size: 12.6 MB

The Final Assault: Beyond Burnside Bridge, Antietam

Following the capture of Burnside Bridge over the Antietam Creek Sept. 17, 1862, the Union 9th Corps still had its work cut out. This tour covers the final Federal attack that day and the dramatic Confederate counterattack that saved the day for Lee's army.



9-stop walking tour, about 90 minutes

Narration: Keith Snyder, NPS historian/ranger
Introduction: Marc Ramsey (**Owens and Ramsey Books**)
Music: Wayne Erbsen (**Native Ground Music**)
Production: **CivilWarTraveler.com** and **Antietam National Battlefield**
Playing time: 47:09 minutes
File Size: 11.5 MB

The Wheatfield at Gettysburg

The fighting in the Wheatfield at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863, was some of the most intense and confusing of the war. Gettysburg park historian Eric Campbell leads us through the bloody back-and-forth action.



7-stop walking tour, approximately 90 minutes
Narration: Eric Campbell, Gettysburg National Military Park
Introduction: John Fieseler
Music: Chris Jackson [**Chris Jackson Music**]
Production: Production: **CivilWarTraveler.com** and **Gettysburg National Military Park**
Playing time: 41 minutes
File size: 10.1 MB

The Breakthrough at Petersburg, April 2, 1865 Pamplin Historical Park

After more than nine months of trench warfare around Petersburg, Virginia, Union commander U.S. Grant ordered an all-out attack against Robert E. Lee's lines at dawn April 2, 1865. This walking tour of Pamplin Historical Park's

Breakthrough Trail covers a critical area of that assault and offers a good look at part of the well-preserved Confederate defensive line.

6-stop walking tour, approximately 60 minutes
Narration, Will Greene, president of Pamplin Historical Park
Introduction: Marc Ramsey, **Owens and Ramsey Books**
Music: **Al Neale**
Production: CivilWarTraveler.com and Pamplin Historical Park
Playing time: 29:20 minutes
File size: 6.9MB

Joe Tennis | Bristol Herald Courier Six Graves of Many Receive Markers

Judy and Bick Gibson stand among six gravestones of Confederate soldiers from Kentucky. The location of graves was determined by some visiting historians.



Posted: Sunday, February 9, 2014 3:30 am

Grave Discovery: Civil War dead all over Castlewood couple's property Joe Tennis | Bristol Herald Courier

CASTLEWOOD, Va. - Imagine getting ready to go on vacation when, all of a sudden, a visitor shows up and says that you have lost graves on your lawn. That's what happened to Bick and Judy Gibson, a couple of Castlewood, Va., residents who live in the Mud Hole Store section of Russell County, near Bickley Mills.

Some historians from Kentucky approached the Gibsons in 2010, saying dead Confederate soldiers lay on their property.

These Civil War buffs followed a list of clues as detailed in the book "Bluegrass Confederate: The Headquarters Diary of Edward O. Guerrant" (Louisiana State University Press, 1999).

In the diary, contained in "Bluegrass Confederate," it's mentioned the soldiers "were encamped at the Mud Hole store, and they crossed the Clinch River," Bick Gibson said.

That did happen here: As many as 800 soldiers camped out in the vicinity of what is now the 1863 home belonging to Bick and Judy Gibson and built for Bick's ancestors, Dr. Samuel Wesley Gibson and his wife, Harriet.

Dr. Gibson's doctor's office still stands on the property.

And, beneath the lawn, you'll find graves.

"All across the top of this knob are graves," Bick Gibson said, matter-of-factly.

Some tombs, like Dr. Gibson's, are marked.

But many more - who knows how many more - are not.

Coming to Castlewood, the historians showed up with a list of Confederate dead from Kentucky, said Judy Gibson, who teaches special education at Castlewood Elementary School. "And they were

trying to locate their graves. And they knew that they were probably buried near the doctor's office."

Later, with a ceremony, the historians would mark the graves of six soldiers presumed to be buried near what is now the Gibsons' barn.

"They felt like there was evidence of multiple graves over there," Judy Gibson said. "They set stones for six Kentucky Confederate dead. They placed them where they thought there were graves."

These Civil War re-enactors, said Bick Gibson, make it a point to "honor Confederate dead and put stones where they're buried."

The visitors used divining rods (or "dowsing rods") to try to determine the location of the graves. Bick walked with the men and watched their divining rods in action. As those rods moved, the men said, "There's a body there, a man's there," Bick recalled. "And, every now and then, they would swing out, and they'd say, 'There's a woman here.' And then they would say, 'A man and a woman are buried here.'"

How many more bodies lie sleeping beneath the lawn?

"They say there's all kinds of people buried here, all over the top of this mountain," Bick Gibson said. "So, there's no telling."

But, there has been some talk across Castlewood, St. Paul and Virginia City about those six grave markers that were put in place not so long ago on the Gibson family farm in Russell County.

Once, the Gibsons recalled, a man from Louisiana paid a visit.

Bick figured this man just wanted to see the stones.

He did. But then, he said, "You know, we're not alone."

"What?" Bick returned. "Do you see a deer or something on the creek?"

"No," the man said. "There's a ghost of a soldier on the creek - watching. There are spirits or something on that hillside: a lost soldier's spirit. And, he's not found his way"

jtennis@bristolnews.com | 276-791-

Tombstones honor fallen Civil War soldiers

The stones on the lawn of the Gibson home in Russell County honor the graves of men who died in Castlewood during the Civil War during 1862, 1863 and 1864, including:

>> Private Samuel W. Goode, Company D, 1st Battalion, Kentucky Mounted Rifles

>. Private William H. Garnett, Company B, 4th Kentucky Cavalry, CSA

>> Private Leroy White, Company B, 4th Kentucky Cavalry, CSA

>> Private C.J. Edrington, Company I, 4th Kentucky Cavalry, CSA

>> Private Henry Green, Company B, 4th Kentucky Cavalry, CSA

>> Private James W. Johnson, Company D, Diamond's 10th Kentucky Cavalry, CSA



Book Review: A Late Encounter with the Civil War

by Kreyling, Michael

Publisher: University of Georgia Press

Retail Price: \$19.95

Issue: Spring 2014

ISBN: 978-0820346571

A Study of how we Remember

In this slender volume, a revised version of his Lamar Memorial Lectures at Mercer University, Michael Kreyling offers a probing examination of the complex ways Americans have grappled with the memory and meaning of the Civil War. The author, a professor of English at Vanderbilt University, is particularly interested in the tacit "vocabularies" that inform "what" and "how" we remember (71). Measuring the space between the semi-centennial, the centennial, and the sesquicentennial, Kreyling renders an original and thought-provoking look at the relationship between history and memory – unpacking the dynamic and inherently political process by which the past is used in the present.

By placing the war's fiftieth anniversary in the context of early twentieth century fears of "race suicide," Kreyling's first chapter imparts a stunningly original reading of a commemoration that is best remembered for images of tottering veterans extending their hands across the stonewall at Gettysburg. Obsessed with both racial purity and eugenic ideas, Americans committed themselves to a narrative of white "redemption." Kreyling reminds us that it was not merely a shared racism, but also shared racial anxieties, that promoted sectional reconciliation. "Americans," he contends, "quelled passions with images of perpetuated racial mastery" (27). Through nuanced readings of period fiction and film, especially the work of Thomas Dixon, Kreyling observes the process by which the war became a triumphal story of tribal salvation. What the author does not address, however, is the possibility that such pervasive racial angst worked in precisely the opposite way. Did not misgivings about the deaths of so many thousands of white men in an emancipation war contribute to the historiographic moment (in the 1920s and 1930s) dominated by writers who looked askance at a "needless" war?

The next chapter explores the centennial, fraught with its own bundle of anxieties: the ongoing struggle for black civil rights, the Cold War, and the sense (prompted by the death of Albert Woolson, the last surviving Civil War veteran) that the war was no longer retrievable. With a perceptive analysis of the work of Robert Penn Warren, Edmund Wilson, Flannery O'Connor, and others, he concludes that "there was no longer a simplistic Civil War narrative with heroic American warriors on both sides," and that the war's ability "to ignite public interest" was "waning" (41, 32). Kreyling does not entirely ignore those who tidied up the war during the centennial, but he may overstate the degree to which the war was receding as a force in American historical memory. If official commemorative organs grew weary of battle reenactments, the public continued to consume Bruce Catton trilogies and attended Civil War Round Table meetings in droves.

His portrait of the sesquicentennial is mostly dreary – "set adrift," he writes, in a maddening sea of postmodernism. In

large measure, his assessments echo those offered by the cast of contributors to Thomas Brown's 2011 anthology, *Remixing the Civil War*: the South is a dynamic and changing place; "alternate" histories are proliferating, absolving certain groups of the "burden" of the past; and the Civil War narrative, far from conjuring weepy-eyed reverence, is fundamentally unhinged (84).

One of Kreyling's chief contentions – that the politics of the present moment shapes, in both willful and inadvertent ways, the content of commemorations held at "appointed times" (71) – will be old news to memory scholars. But it is a mark of his ultimate success that Kreyling leaves readers with more questions than he answers. The chapter on the sesquicentennial is a case in point. In commemorating the sesquicentennial by focusing on black civil rights, is the National Park Service repenting for the sins of the centennial, "fighting a bygone culture war rather than the current one?" (73). How will new media shape the process of remembrance? And will the "romance of mixed blood" emerge as "the language in which we remember the Civil War?" (94) As these questions abundantly attest, no scholar with an interest in the war or the contours of American historical memory can afford to miss an encounter with this book.

Brian Matthew Jordan is Lecturer of Civil War Era Studies at Gettysburg College. The author of Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War (2014), he is at work on a biography of Benjamin Butler.

Cape May County Civil War Round Table

www.cmccwrt.com

Check out our FaceBook page!

