

150th Anniversary of the American Civil War



Cape May County Civil War Round Table Newsletter June 2013

2013 Meeting Schedule

20 June: SPECIAL MEETING!!! We will be meeting at the Chalfonte Hotel at 7pm. If you want a southern fried chicken dinner, contact Jim Marshall so he can place an order with the Chalfonte's restaurant. Crab cakes also available. Cost is \$25 which does not include tip. Members, please dress nicely; no tee shirts, cut offs, etc. Bob Mullock of the Chalfonte will be making a presentation in their Henry Sawyer room about the Colonel and will review the story of the Chalfonte and its connections to Col. Sawyer.

18 July: Herb Kaufman on the assassinated Presidents

15 August: Ed Bonekemper will be giving us a presentation on *The Myth of the Lost Cause: A Fantasy View of the Civil War*.

Refreshments: Mike & Barbara Golla

19 September:

17 October: Refreshments: John Burke

21 November:

?? December:

CMCCWRT Officers for 2013/2014

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REMINDER: DUES FOR 2013 ARE DUE NOW!!!!

Send to Jim Marshall, address above

Members who have NOT paid their dues:

Charles Camp, Coll Coll, Suzanne Gibson, Bob Heinly,
Mike Houdart, Eddy O'Malley, Catherine Parry, John &
Judy Piokowski

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Cape May County Civil War Round Table, 16 May 2013

Vice President Lou Bishop called the meeting to order. We saluted the flag and held a moment of silence for those serving us in harm's way, including those here at home in places like Boston and Oklahoma.

The minutes were approved as they appeared in last month's newsletter.

Treasurer Marshall gave his report. Motion made to accept report and file for audit, seconded and approved.

David Check is still checking with Travel With Dave to find info as to scheduling a trip to Gettysburg in the fall.

The Delaware Valley CWRT has several activities scheduled over the next few months that are open to the public. Check their website for more information.

We have been invited to hold a meeting at the Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May in the Colonel Sawyer room. The owner has many artifacts related to Col. Sawyer and is willing to give us a presentation on his holdings.

There being no further new or old business, the business meeting was adjourned so the presentation could begin.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia A. Munson-Siter
Secretary

Important Civil War Events that Occurred in July

1861

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 11 | Battle of Rich Mountain (now WV) |
| 21 | Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run) |

- 1862**
- 1 Battle of Malvern Hill (VA)
- 1863**
- 1-3 Battle of Gettysburg
- 4 Vicksburg surrenders to Grant
- 13-16 New York City draft riots
- 1864**
- 9 Battle of Monocacy (MD)
- 20 Battle at Peachtree Creek (GA)
- 22 Battle of Atlanta
- 24 Second battle of Kernstown (VA)
- 30 Battle of "The Crater" at Petersburg
- 30 Confederate cavalry burn Chambersburg (PA)

Reenactments and More July 2013

Obviously, Gettysburg is the important one this month. It is also the anniversary of Vicksburg but most of the events celebrating that event are far outside our area...



- 1 **PA** ★ 150 Grand opening, "Seminary Ridge Museum," 111 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg. Details: seminaryridgemuseum.org
- 1 **PA** ★ 150 Gettysburg Commemorative event with dinner, celebrity talks, exhibits and more at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. \$100-150. gettysburgfoundation.org
- 1 **PA** "Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital: Candlelight at Christ Church," 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.
- 1-4 **PA** ★ 150 Anniversary commemoration at the Gettysburg National Military Park with living history camps, special ranger tours and talks plus family programs and more. Complete details: nps.gov/gett
- 2 **PA** Walking tour, living history and more, "Battle of

- ★ 150 Hunterstown," in Hunterstown. Walking tour 11 am. Full details: hunterstown1863.com
- 2 **PA** ★ 150 Reenactment, "Battle of Hanover," cavalry action at the Sheppard Farm in Adams County. leacnet.org
- 4 **PA** ★ 150 Tour, "Gettysburg Aftermath in 4D — The Rose Farm," at the Gettysburg NMP. The story behind the famous photographs. 7-9 am. Free. Park along South Sickles Avenue and Ayers Avenue on the battlefield. nps.gov/gett
- 4-7 **PA** ★ 150 Reenactment, "Battle of Gettysburg" at a site near town. Annual event includes living history, talks and multiple battles each day. Complete schedule, order tickets: gettysburgreenactment.com
- 5 **PA** ★ 150 Music, "Comets and Cannon Brass Band Performances," on Steinwehr Avenue near the Lincoln Train Museum in Gettysburg. 7 pm. Free. gettysburg.travel
- 5-7 **PA** Book talks and signing at the Gettysburg National Military Park visitor center. Free. Details: 717-339-2109.
- 6 **VA** Ranger program, "Photo Tour of Fort Brady," at the Fort Brady unit of the Richmond National Battlefield Park (in Varina, southeast of Richmond). 10:30 am. Free. nps.gov/rich
- 6 **MD** "Antietam Salute to Independence Celebration," popular party with fireworks and concert at the Antietam National Battlefield. 7:30 pm. Some park roads and visitor center close at 3 pm. Free, donations accepted: nps.gov/anti. View from the Pry House Field Hospital Museum near Keedysville: civilwarmed.org
- 6 **PA** ★ 150 Living history, "Confederates Take the Shriver House," at the Shriver House Museum in Gettysburg. 5-9 pm. \$10/adult.
- 6 **PA** "Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital: Candlelight at Christ Church," 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.
- 10 **VA** Talk, "Gettysburg," at Baine's Books and Coffee, 205 Main St, Appomattox. 12:15 pm. Free. moc.org
- 11 **MD** Lecture, "Antietam Remembered," at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, 401 Museum Drive in City Park, Hagerstown. 6-8 pm. \$25 with dinner, \$5 lecture only (7 pm). wcmfa.org
- 12-14 **MD** ★ 150 Reenactment and anniversary living history, "Retreat Through Williamsport," at Springfield Farm and the C&O Canal Cushwa Basin in Williamsport. Camps, demonstrations, music talks and battles. williamsportretreat.com
- 13 **DC VA** Bus tour, "The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House," with Ed Bearss. Smithsonian tour leaves from 550 C St SW, Washington. 8 am-7 pm. \$165. smithsonianassociates.org (click on Civil War).
- 13 **VA** Ranger program, "'Hard War?' 'Just War?'" Rethinking

- the Battle of Cold Harbor and the Overland Campaign," at the Cold Harbor unit of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 3 pm. Free. nps.gov/rich
- 13 **VA** Living history, "Civil War Base Ball," at the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Free with park fee. nps.gov/apco
- 13 **MD** Talk, "Birth and Growth of Inscribed Quilts," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2 pm. Free with museum admission. civilwarmed.org
- 13-14 **VA** Living history, "Confederate States Marine Corps," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox. 10 am-5 pm. Free with museum admission. moc.org
- 13-14 **MD** Living history, "Wig Wags: The Union Signal Corps Occupies Washington Monument," at the Washington Monument State Park near Boonsboro. 10 am-4 pm Saturday, 10 am-3 pm Sunday. Parking fee. 301-432-4042.
- 16 **DC** Lecture, "Are We Still Fighting the Civil War?" at the Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive SW, Washington. 6:45-8:45 pm. \$42. smithsonianassociates.org (click on Civil War).
- 18 **VA** Lecture, "Civil War Surgery and Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire," at the Heritage Museum in Dayton. 7 pm. Free. 540-879-2681.
- 19 **VA** Talk, "Pickett's Charge," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Noon. Free with admission. moc.org
- 20 **DC** Bus Tour, "The Battle of North Anna," with Ed Bearss. Smithsonian tour leaves from 550 C St SW, Washington. 8:15am-7:15 pm. \$165. smithsonianassociates.org (click on Civil War).
- 20 **VA** Living history, "Civil War Surgeon," at Ellwood, near the intersection of Routes 3 and 20 west of Fredericksburg. 11 am-4:30 pm. Free. fowb.org
- 20 **VA** Living history walking tours, "City Point's Tom Sawyer," another side of life at the huge Union supply base, at the City Point unit (Hopewell) unit of the Petersburg National Battlefield. 10:30 am, 1 and 3 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete
- 20 **PA** Living history, "Civil War Saturday," at Fort Mifflin, Fort Mifflin and Hog Island roads, Philadelphia. Camps and demonstrations. Free with fort admission. 10 am-4 pm. fortmifflin.us
- 20 **PA** "Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital: Candlelight at Christ Church," 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.
- 20-21 **PA** Living history, infantry camps and demonstrations at Spangler Spring, Gettysburg battlefield. Free. nps.gov/gett
- 20-21 **VA** Anniversary activities commemorating the Battle of First Manassas at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Living history, ranger talks and tours. nps.gov/mana
- 21 **VA** Boat tours, "Civil War on the James River," two-hour tours leave from Deep Bottom Park east of Richmond. 9 and 11:30 am. \$50. Reservations, details: 804-938-2350.
- 21 **PA** "An Evening with the Painting," special two-hour, after-hours view of and talks about the Gettysburg Cyclorama. 6 pm. \$20/adult. Tickets: gettysburgfoundation.org
- 23 **VA** Car-caravan tour, "Battle of Manassas Gap (Wapping Heights)." Noon-4 pm. Begins at the Warren Heritage Society, 101 Chester St, Front Royal. Free. 540-636-0702.
- 23-28 **PA** Seminar and tours, "Gettysburg and Beyond," based in Gettysburg. Details, registration: civilwarseminars.org
- 27 **VA** Living history, ranger programs, "Anniversary of the Battle of the Crater," at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 9 am-5 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/pete
- 27 **VA** Ranger programs, "From Battle to Grave," at the Petersburg National Battlefield visitor center. 11 am and 2 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/pete
- 27 **VA** Ranger program, "Richmond's Civil War Railroads," at the Richmond National Battlefield Park visitor center at the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond. 10:30 am. Free. nps.gov/rich
- 27 **VA** Ranger program, "The First Pickett's Charge: Confederate Attack at Gaines' Mill," at the Gaines' Mill unit of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 2 pm. Free. nps.gov/rich
- 27 **PA** "Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital: Candlelight at Christ Church," 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.
- 28 **VA** Bus tour, "The Battle of Cold Harbor," with Ed Bearss. Smithsonian tour leaves from 550 C St SW, Washington. 7:30 am-7:30 pm. \$165. smithsonianassociates.org (click on Civil War).
- 28 **VA** Living history, "Eyewitness to War," tours of the Mt. Zion Church and cemetery in Aldie. 1-5 pm. Free, donations welcome. 703-327-9777 or nvrpa.org/park/mt_zion
- 30 **VA** Walking tour, "Remember the Glorious Dead: The Battle of the Crater," at Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg. 6:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete



GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK, Pa. — Like a general leading his troops into battle, tour guide Charlie Fennell stands tall on his Segway, snaking through the crowd that mills around an equestrian statue. His group follows on

their futuristic two-wheeled vehicles, carefully avoiding bicyclists, motor coach passengers and a pair of locally rented three-wheeled scooters resembling circus clown cars.

"This is where Robert E. Lee became a hero," Fennell tells the Segway riders over a two-way radio, pointing to the memorial and explaining how the Confederate general took responsibility for the South's loss at the Battle of Gettysburg.

The group at the Virginia Monument numbers fewer than 100 today. It's nothing compared to the hundreds of thousands expected at the end of June and early July. Ten days of events will mark the 150th anniversary of what some call the most crucial battle in American history. More than 50,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, captured or went missing.

Tourists began arriving the day after the fighting ended on July 3, 1863. And from the beginning, this small Pennsylvania farming community has had to strike a sometimes uneasy balance between honoring the fallen and profiting from tragedy.

TOURISM IS PART OF THE SCENE

Over time, commercialism has taken many forms. Today, visitors can stop by the Adams County Winery to sample Rebel Red — a semi-sweet Concord with "a dry finish" — and Tears of Gettysburg, a white blend in production for 25 years.

A few blocks away along Steinwehr Avenue — a boulevard of toy gun and T-shirts shops and wax museums — hungry tourists line up at Hunt's Battlefield Fries, which announces its presence with a sign featuring jaunty Idaho spuds in blue and gray uniforms. Over at the cavernous National Park Service gift shop, visitors are tempted by Battle of Gettysburg pajamas with a stylized U.S. flag featuring stovetop hats instead of stars.

And nearly every night, the city is haunted by more than a dozen ghost tours ranging from historic walks to full-fledged Ghostbuster outings with energy meters and dowsing rods.



Steven Carney, a Ghosts of Gettysburg tour guide, wears a Confederate Army officer's uniform when giving candlelight tours of the historic town. (Photo: H. Darr Beiser, USA TODAY)

Bob Wasel, who started Haunted Gettysburg Ghost Tours 10 years ago, says the town is spook central. "There are 1,000 bodies still buried on the battlefield. If any place is going to be haunted, it's here." He says his customers, who each get use of paranormal-detection equipment, often find unexplained images in photos and mysterious sounds on their recorders. "The ghosts are friendly. They're happy that we're coming there ... telling their story."

Carl Whitehill of the city's visitor's bureau strikes a diplomatic tone. The tours can be a welcome evening activity in a town without vigorous nightlife. "We want everyone to be respectful, to follow the rules and learn history. If you come just to do the ghost thing, you are missing out."

Although the details may have changed since 1863, none of this is new, says best-selling Civil War novelist Jeff Shaara, who will be spending much of the summer in Gettysburg for the commemoration. "Whether it's Pearl Harbor, Valley Forge, the Alamo or Little Big Horn, there's that element of crass commercial. But that's capitalism."

The importance of Gettysburg isn't lost in the clamor of commerce, he says. "It is really easy to get away from the cotton candy and T-shirts and get the experience. You had almost 200,000 bodies descend on this place and wage the greatest battle in our history. You can feel it."

TOWN STRIKES A BALANCE

The town has long struggled, however, to keep the appropriate tone. Twice in the past decade, Pennsylvania's gaming board has turned down requests to build a casino here. But if blackjack by a battleground was too much, it doesn't mean that tranquility reigns by the former killing fields.

The commercialism starts literally next door. General Pickett's Buffets borders the pasture where the Southern commander led perhaps the most famous charge in U.S. military history across an open field on the Union line. In 50 minutes there were 6,800 casualties, and many believe the nation was saved when Northern soldiers held back the attack.

Restaurant owner Gary Ozenbaugh says he knows he sits next to hallowed ground, and although thousands may come daily for all-you-can-eat meatloaf, fried chicken and more, he keeps his building low-key, painted in neutral tones without balloons or flashing lights to attract attention. "I try to exist in a delicate location. I'm very respectful."

U.S. Air Force Lt. Joel Barnes, 26, of Roanoke, Va., says he's not bothered by businesses catering to tourists. He leaves for Afghanistan next month, but made a trip to Gettysburg to pose as a Confederate soldier for a picture at Gibson's Photographic Gallery, which uses 19th-century cameras and technology to create eerily convincing historic images.

"They're not doing any harm to the battlefield itself. They're not building houses on Culp's Hill," he says, citing a strategic landmark.



Steinwehr Avenue in Gettysburg is lined with businesses catering to tourists. (Photo: H. Darr Beiser, USA TODAY)

Instead, the latest addition to the city's tourism industry is the \$13.3 million Seminary Ridge Museum, which opens July 1. The carefully restored 1832 building stands on the Lutheran Theological Seminary campus, where some of the first shots of the battle were fired. Visitors will be able to stand in the building's rooftop cupola for a view of the landscape that shaped the engagement.

The fact that the vista may include a convoy of Segways doesn't concern Gayle Underwood, a retired teacher from Pensacola, Fla., who has visited Gettysburg more than 12 times, and took her first ride on one last week.

She says the two-wheeled vehicle enhances a tour. It's quiet and non-polluting and unlike a car or bus, lets you experience the open air and terrain of the battlefield. "This is the next best thing to walking."

Gettysburg's longtime mayor, William Troxell, isn't concerned either. "General Lee came here on a horse. Things change. These are modern times and we have to adjust," says Troxell, 86, whose great-great-great-grandfather is considered the first settler of Gettysburg.

Indeed, Abraham Lincoln had similar thoughts. Although he couldn't envision Segways or slot machines, the 16th president seemed to anticipate what the battlefield would someday face when he visited four months after the clash to deliver his Gettysburg Address.

"The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here," Lincoln said, "have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract."



A statue of Union Gen. G.K. Warren overlooks the Gettysburg Battlefield from Little Round Top. With the 150th anniversary this summer of the battle at Gettysburg, the town's history and economy have never been more entwined. H. Darr Beiser,

Events marking the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg:

This year features scores of events marking the battle, with most running from June 28 to July 7 and the focus on the actual battle dates, July 1-July 3. Major activities include:

Celebrate History Music Festival. American Civil War Wax Museum, culminates with grand finale on July 5 at 7 p.m. June 29-July 5. gettysburg.travel/150/event.asp

Sacred Trust: Talks and Book Signings. Gettysburg National Military Park & Visitors Center. More than a dozen

authors and historians will speak. June 29-30 and July 5-7. GettysburgFoundation.org

150th Gettysburg Reenactment. Watch the battle play out with weapon demonstrations, lectures and even a Civil War Ball. June 28-30. Bluegraygettysburg.com. Another major reenactment runs July 4-7. Gettysburgreenactment.com

Gettysburg: A New Birth of Freedom commemorative ceremony. This evening event will include a keynote speech by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, dramatic readings and a candlelit procession to the national cemetery. June 30. Nps.gov/gett

Opening of the new Seminary Ridge Museum. July 1. SeminaryRidgeMuseum.org

Independence Day Parade. Downtown Gettysburg. Gettysburgcivilwar150.com

Confederates take the Shriver House. A reenactment at this downtown house museum, which tells the story of how civilians were affected by the battle, July 6. Shriverhouse.org



Dobbin House Tavern in Gettysburg offers fine dining in a historic house built in 1776. (Photo: H. Darr Beiser, USA TODAY)

If you go ...

Getting there: The three airports serving Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, are all within a two-hour drive of Gettysburg. There's also air service to Harrisburg, Penn., about an hour away.

Where to stay: During the anniversary events, some rates will be higher and room availability limited. The city's grandest inn, the 119-room **Gettysburg Hotel** (hotelgettysburg.com or 866-378-1797) has presided over the town square since 1797. It recently underwent extensive renovation. Rates start at \$149 per night. The boutique **Federal Pointe Inn** (federalpointeinn.com or 717-334-7800), occupies the city's former high school. Rates from \$199. On the outskirts of town, the **Eisenhower Hotel** (eisenhower.com or 717-334-8121) is a conference center and motel with rates from \$89.

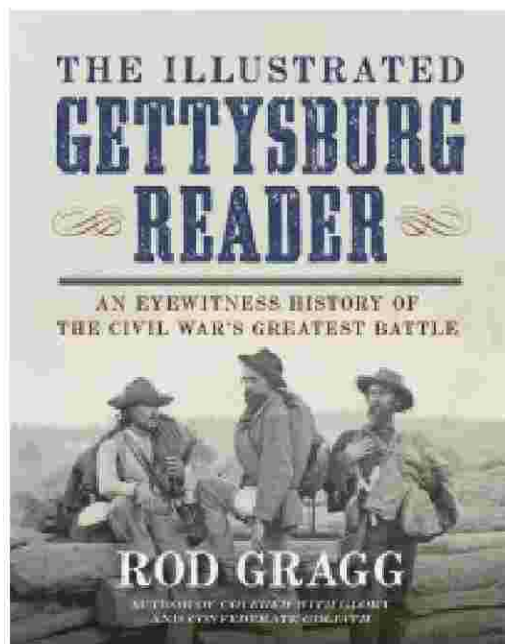
Where to eat: Dating to 1776, the **Dobbin House Tavern**, (dobbinhouse.com) serves crab cakes, steaks and pasta in an authentic Colonial setting. Adjacent to the Gettysburg Hotel, **One Lincoln** (onelincoln.net) serves updated classics like three-cheese French onion soup, heirloom tomato salads, burgers and

flat-breads. You'll find fast, inexpensive and tasty offerings at **General Pickett's Buffets** (generalpickettsbuffets.com), where tilapia, jambalaya and house-baked brownies up the standard fare.

Getting around: During the middle of summer, Gettysburg traffic would try even Abraham Lincoln's patience. **Freedom Transit** (ridethetrolley.com) offers free service around the city. You can tour the battlefield by bus, bike, Segway, horse and scooter

Information: Gettysburg.travel; gettysburgcivilwar150.com

The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader



by [Rod Gragg](#)

Hardcover • 2013 • \$29.95

Regnery Publishing, Inc. • ISBN 978-1-62157-043-1

One hundred and fifty years after the Battle of Gettysburg, the words of the soldiers and onlookers present for those three fateful days still reverberate with the power of their courage and sacrifice. *The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader: An Eyewitness History of the Civil War's Greatest Battle* gathers letters, journals, articles and speeches from the people who lived through those legendary three days. Tied together with narrative by historian Rod Gragg and illustrated with a wealth of photographs and images, *The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader* will transport you to the battlefield, immersing you in the emotional intensity of

the struggle of brother against brother for the future of the United States of America.

“Here they are penetrating the heart of a hostile country leaving their homes beyond broad rivers and the largest of the enemies armies while in front of them is gathering all of resistance that can be obtained by a power fruitful of every element of military power.”

—Confederate soldier T.G. Pollock on the 30th of June, 1863, the day before the Battle of Gettysburg

Review by Pat Munson-Siter = A very interesting book, told from multiple, contemporary viewpoints. The authors have taken numerous, diverse eyewitness accounts of the battle – military, civilian, officers, enlisted, Union, Confederate, farmers, shop owners, reporters; from official reports to diary entries to letters home and more. They have then arranged them more or less chronologically, with each individual segment accompanied by just enough information to place who is writing, and what time period he or she is writing about before, during, and after the battle. Each segment is fairly short, one to three pages for the most part.

The majority of the illustrations are period photographs and drawings, and they have been chosen with care to illuminate the pieces of writing they appear with. (It's not the publishers fault that the cover photo has become somewhat notorious in the last few months, with accusations that the photographer posed the men, questions as to if they really were Confederates, and their use on the new set of US Postal Stamp pages for the Civil War this year...)

Even if you are very familiar with this battle that eventually was acknowledged as one of the main turning points of the American Civil War, this book will be a revelation, as well as a fascinating read. We're far more used to seeing the Battle of Gettysburg being dissected by authors with a current day viewpoint, rather than experiencing what people at the time – both participants and observers – thought of what they saw with their own eyes, experienced with their own senses and how they processed that information with what they knew at the time, informed by their attitudes and opinions that were formed in the 1860s rather than the twentieth and twenty first centuries. Some of the viewpoints, opinions and attitudes can be quite a shock to current day sensibilities, in fact. You really do get a chance

to see the battle, even if mostly in bits and pieces, from new viewpoints quite different from most of the more scholarly books on the subject. I can only imagine the time and effort it took just to unearth many of these excerpts, let alone get them organized and arranged with commentary in such a way that they become a coherent, intelligent and enlightening whole. Well worth a read.



Lost Lincoln Document Found at Pa. College

Retiring President James Douthat found a certificate signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 that named the college's founder a Civil War chaplain

In losing a president, Lycoming College found a piece of its history.

Retiring President James Douthat was cleaning out a closet in his office last week when he stumbled on a rather uncommon historical document that had been lost for years — a certificate signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 that named the college's founder a Civil War chaplain.

Displayed inside a slightly worn black frame, the certificate itself appears to be in good condition. Lincoln's neat

signature is clearly visible, just above an ornate, patriotic-themed imprint at the bottom of the commission certificate for Methodist clergy Benjamin Crever.

"In the back of my mind, I remember hearing about it," Douthat said. But he never went looking for it and didn't know what it looked like.

Douthat, who will retire at the end of the month after 24 years, was clearing out boxes from the top shelf when he noticed what he initially thought might be a black-framed access panel — the kind to get to interior plumbing, for instance.

"When I took it down, of course I recognized Lincoln's signature immediately," he said. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton also signed the document.

"I assume it was in the top of the closet 24 years ago," Douthat said. "I had never seen it."

College officials say they always knew they had it in their possession. Somewhere.

"It was (initially) discovered a while ago," associate dean and library director Janet McNeil Hurlbert said in her office as she proudly displayed the document on a table. "And then it got ... put someplace else for a while."

Word of the document's rediscovery sprouted slightly different theories of how it might have been misplaced.

It could have been in the closet all along during Douthat's tenure. Or maybe someone brought it to his office to show Douthat, but, unbeknownst to him, it got stored away in the back of that shelf.

A preliminary appraisal has valued the certificate at more than \$6,000. For Lycoming, a school of about 1,400 students in central Pennsylvania, its added value is its proud connection to founder Crever.

"It was a pleasant surprise just to see it," Douthat said.

John Brinsfield, a U.S. Army Chaplain Corps historian emeritus, said Crever was one of 500 Union hospital chaplains. Crever was assigned to the military hospital in Frederick, Md., and served between July 1862 and August 1865, a period that would have included the major battles in the region at Antietam and Gettysburg.

"Civil War commissions of any type are rare because they were sent to the individual chaplains," Brinsfield wrote in an email. "If any exist, it is only because the families saved them."

In Philadelphia, The Raab Collection recently sold for \$11,000 a similar certificate signed by Lincoln that appointed Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's brother-in-law as a hospital chaplain, said Nathan Raab, vice president for the historical document dealer.

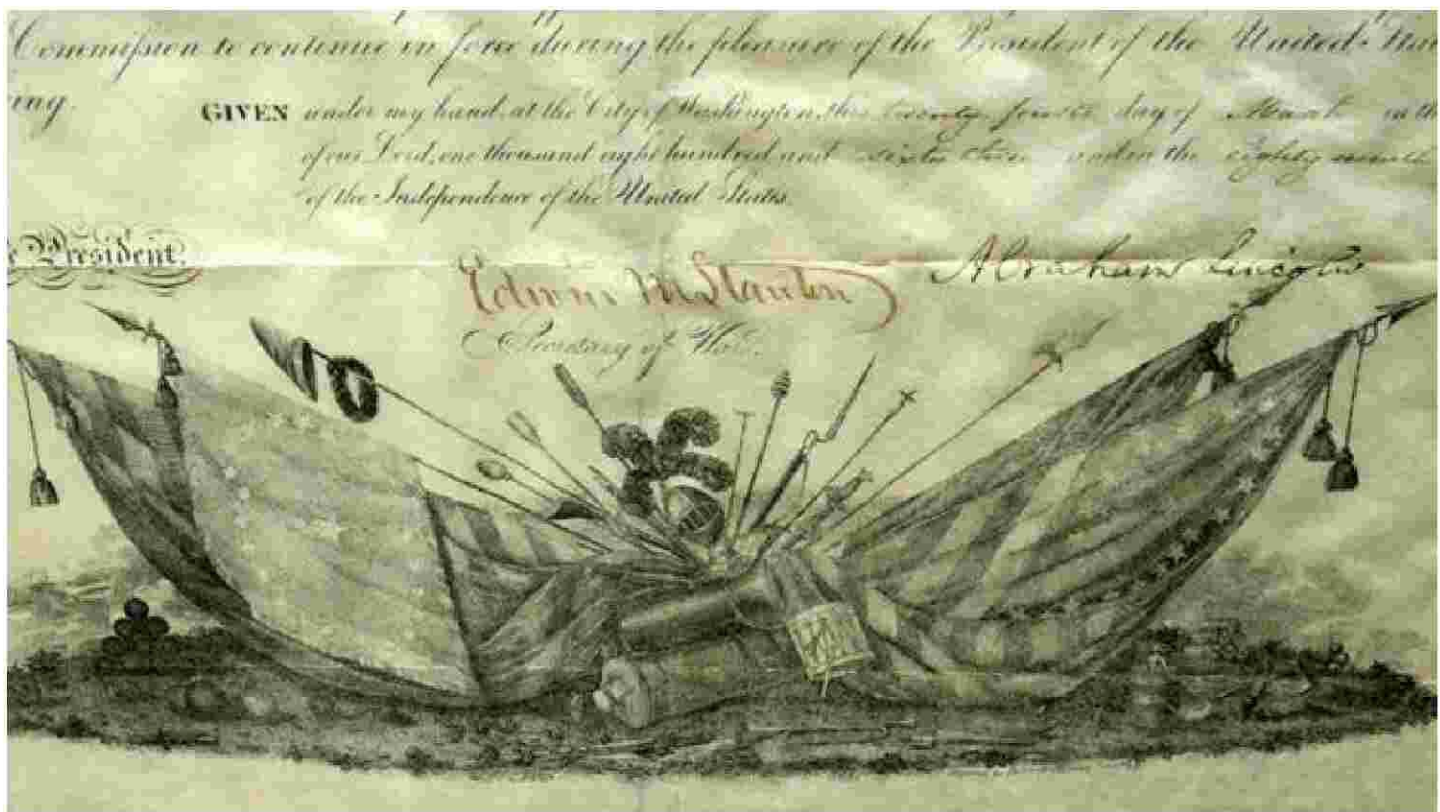
The powerful story behind the certificates, Raab said, was that Lincoln approved the chaplains in the first place.

The renewed interest in Lincoln — including last year's epic film biography by Steven Spielberg — and the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War have also added allure to such documents.

Until the school decides where to permanently place the document, it will be kept in the college archives in the basement of the library.

But one thing's assured: "We will know exactly where it will be from now on," McNeil Hurlbert said.

—Copyright Associated Press



In this Tuesday, June 4, 2013, photo, a certificate signed by Abraham Lincoln is displayed in the Lycoming College archives in Williamsport, Pa. The document naming the school's founder as a Civil War chaplain resurfaced after going missing years ago. (AP Photo/Ralph Wilson)

Cape May County Civil War Round Table
c/o



