

Cape Amy County Civil War Round Table



Newsletter for June 2015

2015 Meeting Dates

18 June: *The Field of Shoes: The Battle of New Market*

Refreshments:

16 July: To Be Announced **Refreshments:** Lisa & Wendy

20 August: John Michael Priest will be telling us about *The Battles of South Mountain.* **Refreshments:**

17 September: Tracy Evans will be telling us about *The Lost Orders of General Lee.* **Refreshments:** Tim Keely

15 October: Craig Caba will be discussing the J Howard Worth Collection of Civil War Artifacts from Gettysburg as well as anti-slavery efforts in Gettysburg.

19 November: To Be Announced

?? December (date for Christmas dinner meeting to be determined)

LIST OF LOCAL EVENTS!!!

Members are encouraged to participate; if you have Civil War garb / uniforms, please feel free to wear it! We would also appreciate members attending helping by handing out flyers as well as telling folks about our group. MAC says we can have people at non-Civil War oriented events too, and some of them are listed herein.

13 June, 10am – 4pm: MAC Civil War event (Physic Estate)

20 – 21 June: *Military Time Line* at Cold Spring Village

16 – 18 July: 4H Faire at Cape May County Park

8 Aug: MAC *Craft Beer and Crab Festival*

12 – 13 Sept: Civil War Weekend at Cold Spring Village

19 Sep: MAC = *Harvst Brew Festival*

11 Oct: MAC = Special Family Event at end of Victorian Week

16 Oct: Cape May County Historical Museum begins winter hours, tours only by appointment.

12 & 19 Dec: Christmas Open House at the Cape May Historical Society Museum

The County Historical Society and Museum would like us to add that they are looking for volunteers to help with many aspects of their work – from helping in the library, working in the gardens, to acting as tour guides/docents in the museum.

Round Table Officers

President: Marty Runner

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21 Schoolhouse Ln, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

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Treasurer: Jim Marshall

202 Bartram Ln., Ocean City, NJ 08226

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jim@jimocnj.com

Sorry, no minutes for May as yours truly was too ill (I spent most of the weekend in ICU at Cape Regional due to a very nasty allergic reaction to a

medication I had been prescribed) and so far, if anyone took notes they haven't sent them to me.

Pat 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

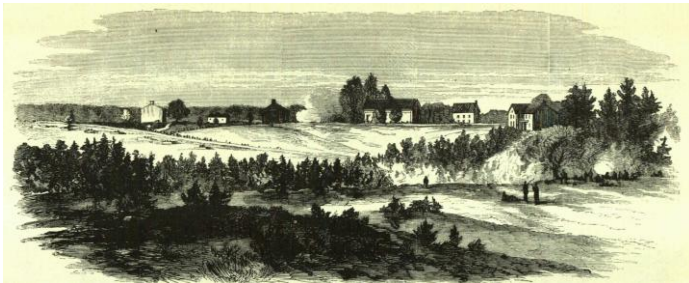
- 1 Battle of Malvern Hill (VA)

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)



1-3 **PA** Anniversary programs at the Gettysburg NMP include ranger walks and other programs. Highlights are a variety of "real time" tours. Free. nps.gov/gett

2 **MD** Lecture, "The Sultana Disaster," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 7 pm. Free. civilwarmed.org

3 **VA** Walking tour, "Heroes and Homefolk: A Walk Through the City and Confederate Cemeteries," begins at the head of Amelia Street in Fredericksburg. 7 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/frsp

3 **PA** "An Evening with the Painting," an "after-hours" experience with the Gettysburg Cyclorama at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 6 pm. \$20/adult. gettysburgfoundation.org/18

3-4 **NY** Living history, "123rd Regiment Homecoming," living history camp, music in Salem with 5 pm parade Saturday on Archibald Street. Free. 123rdregiment.org

3-5 **PA** Book talks and signings at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. nps.gov/gett

3-5 **PA** Reenactment, "Battle of Gettysburg," annual event in Gettysburg. Gates open 8:30 am each day with demonstrations and programs throughout. Complete info: gettysburgreenactment.com

4 **VA** Living history, artillery firings at Pamplin Historical Park south of Petersburg. Programs begin at 1 pm. Free with park admission. pamplinpark.org

4 **MD** Talk, "Civil War Hospitals," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free. civilwarmed.org

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10 **VA** "Not Just Black and White: Exploring the Complexities of Emancipation in the Post-War Shenandoah Valley," special program from the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP in Middletown. 7 pm. Free. nps.gov/cebe

11 **VA** Ranger program, "Encounter at Rural Plains: Totopotomoy Creek, 1864," at Rural Plains on the Totopotomoy Creek battlefield, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 7 pm. Free. nps.gov/rich

11 **MD** Guided tour of the “The War Came by Train,” exhibit at the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore. Noon. Free with admission. borail.org

11-12 **MD** Anniversary living history at the Monocacy National Battlefield in Frederick plus hikes, music and special programs. Free. nps.gov/mono

11-12 **MD** Open House, free tours of the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. Noon-4 pm. surrattmuseum.org

16 **MD** Lecture, “The Maryland Line Confederate Soldiers Home,” at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 7 pm. Free. civilwarmed.org

17 **VA** Walking tour with living history, “Unleash the Thunder: Artillery on Marye’s Heights,” begins at the Fredericksburg battlefield visitor center. 7 pm. Free. nps.gov/frsp

18 **DC/PA** Tour, “A Gettysburg Panorama,” with Gregg Clemmer and Ed Bearss. Overall tour of the battlefield with walking tours. Leaves 8 am from 550 C St., SW in Washington. Returns 7 pm. \$185. smithsonianassociates.org (click Civil War)

18 **MD** Living history, “Clara Barton to the Rescue: Bringing Relief to the Wounded of Antietam,” at the Pry House Field Hospital Museum in Keedysville (Antietam battlefield). 11 am-4 pm. civilwarmed.org

18 **VA** Ranger program, “Chimborazo’s Post-War History: Reconstruction on the Hill,” at the Richmond National Battlefield Park’s headquarters, 3215 E Broad Broad St, Richmond. 7 pm. Free. nps.gov/rich

18 **VA** Walking tours of the Kernstown battlefields at the KBA property off Route 11, south of Winchester. 11 am and 1 pm. Free, donations welcome. www.kernstownbattle.org

18 **VA** Van tour, “Wistar’s Raid,” leaves from Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News. 9 am-3 pm. \$50. Reservations: 757-888-3371 extension 306.

18-19 **MD** Living history, camp and demonstrations at Union Mills Homestead, 3311 Littlestown Pike, north of

Westminster. Camps open 9 am. Details, directions: unionmills.org

18-19 **VA** Living history, “Pringle House Hospital Weekend,” special tours explore the manor house to hospital transformation at Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor, in Manassas. \$5/adult; free on Saturday to Red Cross blood donors. 703-367-7872.

22-26 **VA** Seminar and tours, “The End of the War: Richmond, Petersburg, and Appomattox,” based in Richmond. Speakers and bus tours of 1864 and 1865 sites. civilwarseminars.org

23 **MD** Lecture, “Civil War Medicine: Hollywood vs. History,” at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 7 pm. Free. civilwarmed.org

24 **VA** Walking tour, “History Interactive: The Legacy of War,” meets at the Bloody Angle on the Spotsylvania Court House battlefield west of Fredericksburg. 7 pm. Free. nps.gov/frsp

24 **VA** Ranger program, “A Hidden Corner of the Totopotomoy Creek Battlefield: A Visit to the Historic Washington Jones Farm,” begins at the Totopotomoy Creek battlefield, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 7 pm. Free. nps.gov/rich

24 **VA** Walking tour, “Looking Beyond the Big House, the Belle Grove Plantation Complex,” meets 7 pm. at Belle Grove, south of Middletown on Route 11. Free. nps.gov/cebe

25 **MD** Living history, “Ship’s Company,” life in “Mr. Lincoln’s Navy” at the USS Constellation in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. 10 am-4 pm. Free with admission. shipscompany.org

25 **MD** Illustrated talk, “Guarding the Railroad,” at the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore. Noon. Free with admission. borail.org

25 **VA** Anniversary commemoration of the Second Battle of Kernstown at the KBA property off Route 11, south of Winchester. Walking tours 10:30 am and 2 pm. Free, donations welcome. kernstownbattle.org

25 **VA** Living history and ranger tours, “Battle of the Crater” at the Petersburg National Battlefield (Stops 7-8, Eastern Front). 10 am-4 pm. Keynote address 10 am. Free with park admission. nps.gov/pete

25 **VA** Lecture, “The Road to Ford’s Theatre, Abraham Lincoln’s Murder, and the Rage for Vengeance,” at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 2 pm. Free. 703-591-0560.

25-26 **MD** Living history, “Artillery Weekend” at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg. Camp and demonstrations. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti

26 **VA** Living history and tours, “Eyewitness to War,” at the Mt. Zion Historic Park, 40309 John Mosby Highway, Aldie. 1-5 pm. Free. 703-327-9777.

30 **MD** Lecture, “Military Medicine in Wars of the 19th Century,” at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 7 pm. Free. civilwarmed.org

30 **VA** Walking tour, “Remembering the Glorious Dead: The Battle of the Crater,” at Blandford Church and Cemetery in Petersburg. 7-8:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete

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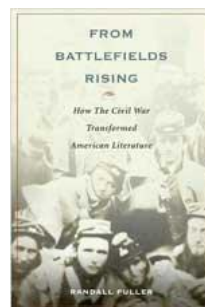


From Battlefields Rising: How the Civil War Transformed American Literature, by Randall Fuller (Oxford University Press, 2010)

Mightier Than the Sword: Uncle Tom’s Cabin and the Battle for America, by Davis S. Reynolds (Norton, 2010)

REVIEWED BY NAN SIEGEL

“The real war will never get into the books,” claimed Walt Whitman. Yet Whitman’s work is indelibly linked with the Civil War: Witness two of his best-known poems, *Drum-Taps* and *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d*, inspired by the pageantry of the sectional conflict and Abraham Lincoln’s assassination at its close. Two books that shed new light on how American literature as a

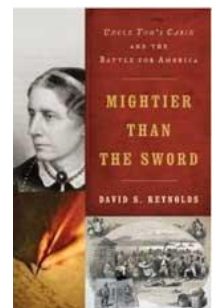


whole was influenced by the conflict, as well as how Americans perceived the sectional struggle then and since, may inspire modern students of the war to revisit writers such as Whitman, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Herman Melville. In *From Battlefields Rising*, Randall Fuller points to Emerson and Henry Thoreau as among the abolitionists and ideologues who, as he puts it, “fanned the flames of national division” with their words and speeches and glorified the war as a means of “perfecting” the Union. For Louisa May Alcott, her experiences as a nurse in a Union hospital proved to be a springboard to literary recognition, and Herman Melville effectively pinned a revival of his career to the conflict. But faced with the reality of combat, some of their contemporaries, such as Hawthorne, increasingly found themselves questioning the inflated rhetoric that had sent so many of their countrymen to their doom.

Fuller concentrates primarily on the era’s best-known authors, mostly Northerners. But he doesn’t wholly ignore the Southern view. For example Rebecca Harding Davis, from Wheeling, Va., reacted vehemently to the abolitionists’ framing of the conflict: “I had just come up from a border State, where I had seen the actual war: the filthy spewings of it the political jobbery in Union and Confederate camps; the malignant personal hatreds wearing patriotic masks, and glutted by burning homes and outraged women; the chances in it...for brutish men to grow more brutish, and for honorable gentlemen to degenerate into thieves and sots. War may be an armed angel with a mission, but she has the personal habits of the slums.”

The war’s horrors and its anguished aftermath were vividly reflected in the verse of Northerners Emily Dickinson as well as Whitman. But as Fuller points out: “In many ways, the task of assimilating the war imaginatively...would fall less upon Emerson and his contemporaries than upon the next generation of authors.” These would include Mark Twain, Ambrose Bierce and Stephen Crane, proponents of a new literary realism that took hold in the postwar era.

David S. Reynolds’ *Mightier Than the Sword* focuses on the far-reaching effects of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s seminal 1852 work, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, tracing it from antebellum abolitionism through its influence on wartime and postwar politics and on down to its lingering impact on popular culture today. So widely acknowledged was the



novel's influence by 1862 that when Stowe visited Lincoln at the White House, the president famously said on meeting her, "Is this the little woman who made this great war?"

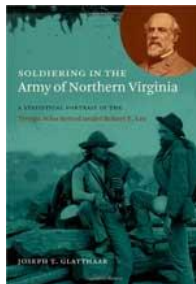
During the prewar years Stowe's novel—which Reynolds notes "had just the right blend of engaging storytelling and draw on popular culture to make its higher-law, antislavery message palatable to many readers"—had proved to be a great success, spreading abolitionist sentiment not just in America but around the world. It was also a great commercial success: A million copies sold in the United Kingdom within a year of its publication. Quickly translated into dozens of languages, it was also adapted for the stage. In fact, according to Reynolds, more people saw plays based on *Uncle Tom's Cabin* than read the novel, and he also points out the economic benefits to African Americans stemming from Stowe's work: "No popular genre offered a greater opportunity for empowering blacks during and after Reconstruction than did the Uncle Tom plays."

Before and during the war, Southerners had worried that *Uncle Tom* might lead to more slave rebellions. In reaction, Southern writers attempted to justify the need for slavery and tell their side of the story. Reynolds points out that "At least twenty-nine anti-Tom novels were published before the Civil War," among them W.L.G. Smith's *Life at the South*, Mary Eastman's *Aunt Phillis's Cabin* and David Brown's *The Planter*—all come down to little more than historical footnotes today.

Then as now, the Civil War's causes and effects remain the subject of debate. From *Battlefields Rising* and *Mightier Than the Sword* both provide useful perspectives on that continuing discussion. Looking back on 150 years of American literature, we can trace the lineaments of lingering questions—about our national character, our cultural heritage and the challenges of race re relations facing a new generation.

Soldiering in the Army of Northern Virginia: A Statistical Portrait of the Troops Who Served Under Robert E. Lee, by Joseph T. Glatthaar (University of North Carolina Press, 2011)

REVIEWED BY LAWRENCE LEE HEWITT



Kudos to Joseph Glatthaar for his phenomenal statistical study of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. It is more than merely an attendant to Glatthaar's 2009 General

Lee's Army: From Victory to Collapse. Using the information gathered for that book, Glatthaar has generated a history of Lee's soldiers by the numbers. Thankfully his masterful portrayal provides both literary and visual acumen for the general reader. *Soldiering in the Army of Northern Virginia* is the finest melding of Civil War military and social history since George Rable's *Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!* (2002).

Glatthaar's database comprised a random sampling of 300 infantrymen, 150 artillerymen and 150 cavalrymen closely proportioned by rank (private through colonel) and by states that contributed troops. Analyzing 54 categories of information on these soldiers enabled Glatthaar to generate a wealth of data. Undoubtedly, some will find fault with his methodology, and available sources have limitations (e.g., not all muster rolls survived, and children might not have appeared on a census). Critics will have to prove Professor Glatthaar's findings wrong, however, because differing conclusions will be measured by this cliometrician's quantified yardstick.

Of the approximately 200,000 men who served in Robert E. Lee's army, only 7.7 percent were at Appomattox. Along the way, 12.3 percent were killed in action, 11.6 percent died of disease, .6 percent succumbed to various other causes and 6.4 percent were discharged for disability. The remainder were POWs, recovering from wounds or illness, serving elsewhere or deserters.

Northern- and foreign-born soldiers were more likely to desert, which resulted in a lower mortality rate among them. Surprisingly, though, these outsiders were quicker to enlist than native Southerners.

A man from a slaveholding family was slightly more likely to serve as an officer, while one from a family without slaves was more than twice as likely to leave his comrades and desert. Whether officer or enlisted man, the wealthier the individual, the more likely he would be killed or wounded. Soldiers over 40 were more likely to die of disease than on the battlefield.

Married men were more likely to die than unmarried ones. Less than a third of volunteers were married, but more than two-thirds of conscripts were, and all the latter had children. Most astounding, it was a rich man's fight: 44.4 percent either owned slaves or lived in slaveholding households. And 7.2 percent of enlisted men or their families, as opposed to 4.1 percent of officers or their families, came from the planter class.

Little Short of Boats: The Battles of Ball's Bluff & Edwards Ferry, October 21-22, 1861, by James A. Morgan III (Savas Beatie, 2011)

REVIEWED BY ETHAN S. RAFUSE

The October 1861 engagement at Ball's Bluff, while small in comparison to the great clashes of armies at Antietam, Shiloh and Atlanta, had a profound effect on the war's course. Not only did it produce yet another black eye for the Union war effort in 1861, it also contributed to Congress' fateful decision to create the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War. In 2004 James A. Morgan III's *A Little Short of Boats* won widespread recognition as the best work yet published on Ball's Bluff. The new edition is revised enough to merit the attention of anyone familiar with the initial work.

Like most students of Ball's Bluff, Morgan is sympathetic to Charles Stone and critical of Edward Baker's conduct. But Morgan's work stands out in its tactical analysis of the fighting overall. For those who love battles and leaders, there is much here to enjoy. Those who like visiting battlefields will especially appreciate Morgan's efforts to relate events to the ground. These features, as well as the first-rate battlefield guide provided in an appendix, make Morgan's updated edition an essential work for anyone interested in going to Ball's Bluff—and a guide that's guaranteed to stoke their enthusiasm.

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