

Cape May County Civil War Round Table



March 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: Mike Kochan on *The Battle of the Ironclads*.

May 16 = Presentation: Robert Holden will be discussing some of the letters and other correspondence and anecdotes about President Lincoln.

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

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DUES ARE DUE!!!

And can be mailed to our treasurer, Eddie Vargo, whose address is above.

Treasurer's Update

(Taken from a letter sent to John and other officers of the CWRT)

Here is my summary of the meeting several of our officers held on February 23rd.

- We will continue to move forward from a 501 C 3 to an unincorporated 501 C & (Club).
- I've tried a few times to call the IRS 800 # but since the government shutdown, the wait times are just too long. I will try again next week (to understand how we withdraw from Federal 501 C 3 registration). More to follow.
- I'm putting together new bylaws (really just recreating what we had ...with updates) and will pass out draft at our 1st meeting in April to get membership thoughts.
- When you get back I'd like to try and set up a time for us to meet with Rita Marie Fulginiti (County Clerk and County Historian) to review all the information she has on the 7th New Jersey Regiment that was mustered in from Cape May and Atlantic Counties. She told me they have quite a bit of information at the County Court House.

- When you get back I'd also like to sit down and review budget/bank info etc. so we can make smooth transition from Andy to me as treasurer.
- Some other things we may want to share with members at 1st meeting in April:

I would be happy to contact one of my guide friends to see if they'd be interested in coming down to present at one of our meetings. Not only are they a wealth of knowledge but they can relate some great stories from all the participants (north and south) along with stories about visitors and questions they get from people from all states and countries.

Also, I'd be happy to keep the books we have for raffle at my place. I also have quite a few books to donate (plus my better half will be thrilled I'm getting rid of some!).

More updates to follow. Best, Eddie



Civil War Timeline for April

1860

No Major Events

1861

- 6 Arkansas secedes
- 7 Tennessee negotiates alliance with Confederacy
- 20 North Carolina secedes
- 21 Confederate legislators vote to move capital to Richmond
- 23 Virginia secedes (after popular vote)
- 24 Union soldiers occupy Alexandria (VA)
- 6 Arkansas secedes

1862

- 4 Confederates evacuate Yorktown
- 5 Battle of Williamsburg (VA)
- 8 Battle of McDowell (VA)
- 15 Battle of Drewry's Bluff (VA)

- 23 Battle of Front Royal (VA)
- 25 Battle of Winchester (VA)
- 31 Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks) (VA)

1863

- 1-4 Battle of Chancellorsville
- 10 Stonewall Jackson dies
- 16 Battle of Champion's Hill (MS)

1864

- 5-6 Battle of the Wilderness (VA)
- 6 Atlanta Campaign opens
- 7-19 Battle of Spotsylvania (VA)
- 11 Battle of Yellow Tavern (VA)
- 12-13 Second Battle of Drewry's Bluff (VA)
- 15 Battle of New Market (VA)
- 24 Battle of the North Anna River (VA)
- 25-27 Battle of New Hope (GA)

1865

- 10 Confederate president Davis captured in Georgia
- 26 Smith surrenders Trans-Mississippi Confederate army

Civil War Related Events in April 2019

1 VA Anniversary activities, "Battle of Five Forks," special ranger programs at the Petersburg National Battlefield unit. 9 am-5 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete

2 VA Walking tour, "Sixth Corps Breakthrough," anniversary tour at Pamplin Historical Park. 9:30 am. Free with admission. pamplinpark.org

2 VA Anniversary ranger programs and living history at Fort Gregg, part of the Petersburg National Battlefield. 9 am-5 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete

3 VA Anniversary programs at Namozine Church, Namozine Church and Mill Quarter Road, between Petersburg and Amelia. 9 am-5 pm. Free. 804-561-3180.

4 VA Anniversary programs at Amelia Court House. Includes special relic displays. 9 am-5 pm. 804-561-3180.

5 VA Anniversary programs at Nottoway Court House and the Nottoway Presbyterian Church. Special displays

and talks. 10 am-5 pm.
Free. [facebook.com/pg/nottowayhistory/posts](https://www.facebook.com/pg/nottowayhistory/posts)

6 ALL Park Day, cleanup and rehab at battlefield sites across the country, sponsored by the American Battlefield Trust. More info: battlefields.org/events/park-day/faqs

6 PA Lecture, “Embattled Freedom: Journeys through the US Civil War’s Slave Refugee Camps,” at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. 1 pm. Free with admission. nationalcivilwarmuseum.org

6 VA Anniversary living history and tours at the Sailor’s Creek Battlefield Historical State Park near Rice. 11 am, 4:30 pm talks, Hillsman house open with medical living history 3-7 pm. “Real time” tour 5:15 pm. Free. dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/sailors-creek#general_information

7 MD Walking tour, “Witness Trees of Antietam, Part II,” 2.5-mile walk at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 1 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti

7 VA Anniversary tours and living history at High Bridge Trail State Park (at the bridge) near Farmville. 9 am overview talk, 1-6 pm living history tours. Camp cooking 5-7 pm. Free. dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/high-bridge-trail#general_information

8-14 VA Anniversary activities at the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Ranger programs and tours each day. Living history Saturday-Sunday, luminary event TBA. 9 am-5 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/apco

10 VA Lecture, “Louis Goldsborough,” at the Mariners’ Museum in Newport News. 2:30 pm. Free with admission (\$1). marinersmuseum.org

10-13 VA Conference, “‘Give the Enemy No Rest’: The 1864 Shenandoah Campaign,” tours, talks and more based in Front Royal. \$475. More info, register: shenandoahatwar.org

12-16 DC The DC Emancipation Act (April 12, 1862) on display at the West Rotunda Gallery, National Archives, in Washington. 10 am-5:30 pm. Free. archives.gov/dc

13-14 VA Living history, camp and demonstrations at the Kernstown Battlefield Park, 610 Battle Park Drive, south of Winchester. Details: kernstownbattle.org

14 MD “Medal of Honor Hike,” 2-mile walk at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 1 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti

14-16 DC Original Emancipation Proclamation on display at the East Rotunda Gallery, National Archives, in Washington. 10 am-5:30 pm. Free. archives.gov/dc

20 VA “Potomac Blockade Boat Tour” includes river views of Confederate fortifications. Begins at Leesylvania State Park, 2001 Daniel K. Ludwig Drive, Woodbridge. 10 am-1 pm. \$50. Reservations, more info: 703-792-4754.

21 MD “Monuments at Antietam,” 2-mile walk at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 1 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti

26-27 VA Bus tour, “The Road to Richmond: The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House.” Introduction Friday evening, bus tour departs 8 am Saturday from Holiday Inn, 5422 Jefferson Davis Highway, Fredericksburg. \$150. mosbyheritagearea.org

28 MD “West Woods Hike,” 2-mile walk at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. 1 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti



Two nonprofit organizations join forces to protect 18 acres of battlefield land on iconic Seminary Ridge at Gettysburg

Jim Campi, (202) 367-1861 x7205

Nicole Ryan, (202) 367-1861 x7231

February 25, 2019

(Gettysburg, Pa.) — The American Battlefield Trust and the United Lutheran Seminary today announced the permanent protection of 18 critical acres on Seminary Ridge at Gettysburg. The \$3.5 million transaction — one of the most ambitious preservation efforts in the Trust’s history — closed on February 25 and encompasses property of profound military significance that has remained largely unchanged since the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg. To date, the Trust has helped protect 1,040 acres at Gettysburg, the bloodiest battle ever fought on American soil.

“Seminary Ridge will forever carry a defining legacy as the land that witnessed intense combat at the Battle of Gettysburg and the beginning of the end of the Civil War,” remarked Trust president James Lighthizer. “We are honored that the United Lutheran Seminary entrusted us to protect this remarkable landscape after its careful, 186 years of stewardship. Today is a win for our nation’s history.”



Jeff Griffith

The preservation of Seminary Ridge includes the Trust’s acquisition of 11 acres to the west of Seminary Ridge Road, coupled with the placement of a conservation easement on seven acres to the east, along Chambersburg Pike. The land has been part of the Seminary since it moved to the site in 1832 and is adjacent to the original Mary Thompson House, which served as General Robert E. Lee’s headquarters after the first day of the battle. The Trust successfully preserved and restored the house in a landmark effort launched in 2014.

“United Lutheran Seminary is excited to partner with the American Battlefield Trust to preserve this ground on which a ‘new birth of freedom’ was gained through the sacrifice of so many,” said Richard Green, United Lutheran Seminary interim president. “This land should forever be preserved and honored as the space where national and religious history intersected as shown through our Seminary Ridge Museum. United Lutheran Seminary and the American Battlefield Trust will continue to work together to see this pledge through.”

Recognized as some of the bloodiest ground at Gettysburg left in private hands, the land at Seminary Ridge witnessed the climactic scene of the first day’s fighting. The determined defense on Seminary Ridge by men from the Union’s Iron Brigade and 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry enabled the army to regroup and hold Cemetery Hill, key to the ultimate Federal victory at Gettysburg. Hundreds of soldiers from North and South fought and fell on the ground to be protected by the Trust.



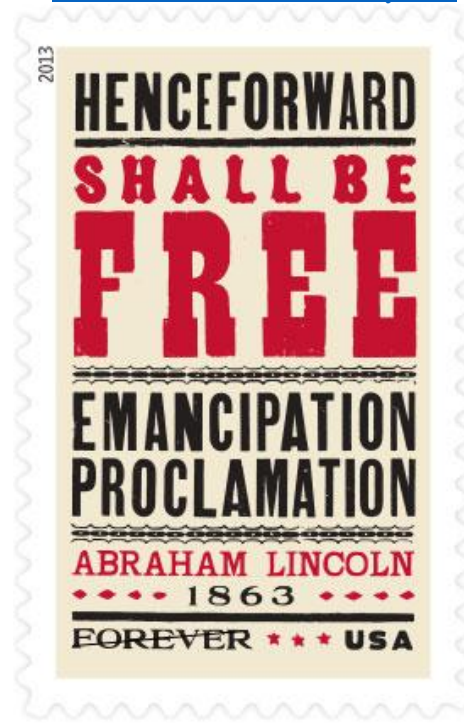
Library of Congress

About the American Battlefield Trust

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America’s hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened there and why it matters today. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has protected more than 50,000 acres associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War, including 1,155 acres in Pennsylvania. Learn more at www.battlefields.org.

About the United Lutheran Seminary

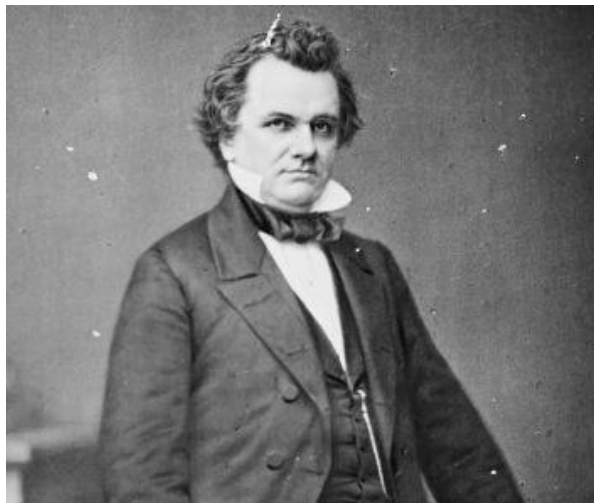
With deep roots on its two campuses in Gettysburg and Philadelphia, the United Lutheran Seminary is theological education’s newest graduate and professional school. It awards seven different degrees, and has more than 10,000 graduates. Learn more at www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu.



The Kansas – Nebraska Act

Described by historians as the most consequential piece of legislation ever passed, the Kansas-Nebraska Act of

1854 represented a pivotal moment in American history which forever changed American politics and unequivocally contributed to the coming of the American Civil War.



Senator Stephen Douglas = *Library of Congress*

By 1853 discontent over President Franklin Pierce's patronage allotment caused the Democrats to lose support among their constituents. In order to save the party from ruin, the Democrats needed something that would rally their base behind it and the best way to achieve this was to provoke opposition from its rival party—the Whigs. However, Pierce did not have any domestic policy that would serve this purpose, so Democratic [Senator Stephen Douglas](#) filled that void. Douglas developed a three-pronged western development program to drum up conflict with the Whigs. The first part was the formal organization of the territory west of Iowa and Missouri. The second part was enacting a homestead law that gave free land to settlers. The final part was the construction of a transcontinental railroad with federal land grants, which of course, would run through his home state of Illinois. Douglas's top priority was the preservation of the Democratic Party not the preservation of the Union. It was a common trend among antebellum politicians to make decisions that would achieve short term partisan advantages with little concern for the long-term consequences these decisions would have on the health and preservation of the Union.

It is important to note that the pressure to organize the land west of Missouri and Iowa did not come from land hungry southern slave holders or southern politicians wanting to extend slavery, rather it came from two northern sources. The first source were farmers seeking cheap land, as they could not gain a title for their settlements until Congress organized the territorial

government. The second source was railroad promoters (including [Stephen Douglas](#)) because the construction of a continental railroad required Congress to survey the land into sections to subsidize to the railroad companies. Thus, northern politicians faced pressure from their constituents to organize this territory although many wanted the continuation of the [Missouri Compromise](#) restriction to these lands, which restricted slavery above the 36°30' parallel, Missouri's southern border.

In order to execute his plan, Douglass first needed to organize the territory west of Iowa and Missouri (Nebraska and Kansas). Southern Democrat support was necessary for Douglas's plan, yet many southerners despised the Missouri Compromise and the limitations it placed on slavery, which required the construction of a territorial organization bill that repealed the Missouri Compromise. This bill became known as the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The Kansas-Nebraska Act stipulated that the territory west of Missouri and Iowa would be organized into two territories and that "all questions pertaining to slavery in the territories and in the new states to be formed therein are to be left to the people residing therein, through the appropriate representatives." This principle quoted in the bill is known as popular sovereignty. Popular sovereignty was first introduced as a potential solution during the [crisis over organizing the territory gained through the Mexican Cession](#), but it failed to gain headway among politicians. In principle, popular sovereignty is neither pro-slavery nor anti-slavery as it is the citizens in the specific territories who decide if slavery should be allowed in these places, not Congress. However, the Kansas-Nebraska Act in itself was a pro-southern piece of legislation because it repealed the Missouri Compromise, thus opening up the potential for slavery to exist in the unorganized territories of the Louisiana Purchase, which was impossible under the Missouri Compromise. Despite Douglas's understanding that the North would be furious with the repeal of the Missouri Compromise restriction, Douglas proceeded with the Kansas-Nebraska Act because he wrongfully assumed that slavery would never exist in those territories and he needed to garner southern support for his bill.





Wikimedia Commons

Due to this repeal of the Missouri Compromise restriction and its restriction on white economic mobility, northerners became livid over the introduction of this bill. However, the Kansas-Nebraska Act easily passed the Senate on March 4, 1854 by a vote of 37 to 14 with southern Whigs voting in favor of the bill—even if southern Whigs voted against the bill, it still would have passed the Senate. However, in the House of Representatives some northern Democrats caved to this political pressure from their constituents and voted against the bill. Despite this, on May 22, 1854, the bill passed the House by a much closer vote of 113 to 100 with northern Democrats split right down the middle, 44 voted in favor, 44 voted against. Additionally, 13 out of the 24 southern Whigs voting in favor (four abstained), enough to tie the House vote if they voted against. President Pierce signed this bill into law on May 30, 1854 and the massive political fallout that ensued had immediate and enduring consequences.

Many northerners view the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act as evidence of the slave power's hostility to the North and the damaging effects it had on northern interests. Consequently, the Democratic Party faced significant backlash from their northern wing. In the congressional elections of 1854 and 1855, the Democrats lost 66 out of the 91 seats they held prior to the passage of this bill and of the 44 northern Democrat Representatives who voted in favor of this bill, only seven won reelection. The alienation of northern Democrats from the southern wing of the party was hardly the solidification and unification Pierce and Douglas intended to bring about through this legislation. The fracture between northern and southern Democrats only grew with [Bleeding Kansas](#) and

the [crisis over the Lecompton Constitution](#), two additional direct consequences of this bill. Additionally, the negative reaction to this bill destroyed Pierce's ambitious plan for additional territorial expansion—the Gadsden Purchase almost failed in Congress and ruined Pierce's hope of annexing the slaveholding Cuba into the United States.

However, most one of the most significant and lasting effects the Kansas-Nebraska Act had on the American political system was the formation of the Republican Party. The Kansas-Nebraska Act directly led to the creation of the Republican Party. In 1854, the Whig Party was essentially on life support as Pierce's election, [Henry Clay's](#) death and the formation of "Conscious" and "Cotton" factions served to be significant blows to the party's unification and message. However, the southern Whig support for Kansas-Nebraska Act represents the final death blow the party. The bill would have failed if southern Whigs voted against it and northern Whigs viewed their support as a betrayal to Whig principles. The final sectional split between northern and southern Whigs occurred when anti-slavery northern Whigs left the party over the perceived betrayal by southern Whigs and joined ranks with independent free soilers to join a new broad anti-slavery party that opposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, slavery's extension and the slave power's control of politics—the Republican Party.



Political cartoon depicting the violence of Bleeding Kansas = *Wikimedia Commons*

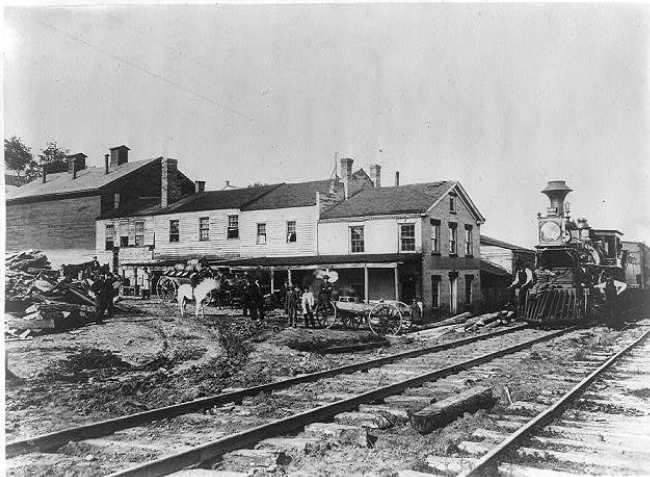
As the 1850s progressed, Republicans continued to build their base with each perceived aggression from the slave power, including [Bleeding Kansas](#) and the [Lecompton Crisis](#), and became a significant threat to the Democrat Party. The split between northern and southern Democrats would continue to grow throughout the 1850s to the point where the Democratic party intentionally ran a northern candidate (Stephen

Douglas) and a southern candidate (Vice President John C. Breckenridge) in the presidential election of 1860. The consolidation of Republican power and the fracturing of the alliance between northern and southern Democrats led to Abraham Lincoln's Election in 1860, triggering the secession of lower south states. While the Kansas-Nebraska Act in no way directly caused the Civil War, its existence and the political consequences that arose from it remain essential to the coming of the Civil War and had lasting effects on the United States.



Milwaukee to New Orleans: Breweries and the Civil War

In 1860, as the Civil War approached, a German immigrant named Eberhard Gottlieb Anheuser decided to leave soap and candle-making to buy the struggling Bavarian Brewery in St. Louis, Missouri. His investment saved the brewery, and a year later his daughter married another German immigrant, Adolphus Busch, who lent a hand and later his name to the still successful brewing company that we know today as Anheuser-Busch. While Anheuser-Busch's longevity is unusual, it was just one of many breweries established in the United States before or during the Civil War that would face challenges posed by the conflict.



A train waits in front of a cart loaded with kegs outside of a potential brewery in Peru, Illinois shortly after the end of the war. = [Library of Congress](#)

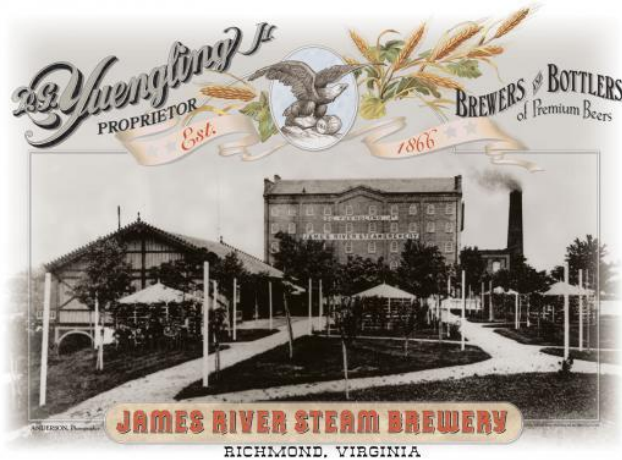
While many of mid-nineteenth century brewers lived far from the front-lines of the conflict in midwestern cities, including Madison and Milwaukee, they were not immune to the obstacles of war. By August 1861, the federal government introduced the nation's first income tax, which was expanded in 1862 to apply to all manner of goods: sugar, almonds, iron, leather, silk, figs... and beer. Angered by the necessary increase in prices and lower profits, some brewers tried to cheat the system, reporting falsely deflated sales and facing off against local tax officials. Those who were caught in the act were shut down and some breweries' inventories were simply seized until they could prove that all taxes had been paid. Other brewers banded together in protest. In August of 1862, German-American brewers in New York City formed the United States Brewers' Association, the first American industry trade group. By 1863, the association had grown into a national organization that strove throughout and after the war to modify the legislation.

As breweries across the north fought increased taxes on their craft, other brewers operated in areas directly affected by the more violent aspects of the war, including Eberhard Anheuser's brewery in St. Louis, Missouri. As the urban center of a highly contested border state, St. Louis was the setting for riots, military encampments, and sectional violence. Yet, despite the conflict erupting around the city's breweries, the influx of soldiers proved to be a blessing for brewers—a whole new market of men looking for ways to kill time and the trauma of battle through alcohol. This increase in demand even inspired some breweries to expand; in 1864, wealthy brewer Adam Lemp constructed a new plant to keep up with demand, making his company one of the largest breweries in St. Louis and ultimately becoming the Falstaff Brewing Corporation, which survived into the 1990s.

Far away in the Deep South, Union-occupied New Orleans's brewers enjoyed the hordes of soldiers in the city and one soldier of the 77th Illinois Infantry recorded the generosity of a local brewer who had sent beer to his regiment. In November 1862, however, the city's military governor, General Benjamin Butler, issued an order forcing the closure of all businesses selling intoxicating substances. Soldiers in Union-held Memphis recorded a similar experience—one soldier of the 1st Nebraska wrote that the provost guard's strict policy towards beer limited him to secretly drinking bad lager. As this soldier revealed, however, these bans on beer were not completely effective, especially since lager's characterization by some as "non-intoxicating"

meant that in some cases, it did not qualify to be banned at all.

While these military bans could try to keep soldiers from alcohol, beer remained an important part of 19th century medicine. The US Sanitary Commission recommended it as a cure for digestive issues resulting from camp life. It also had a cheering effect, boosting the morale of recovering soldiers. Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, had its own brewery even in a city under martial law that forbid the sale and consumption of intoxicating beverages to its residents. In Madison, Wisconsin, one man recorded the joy of the soldiers recuperating in the local hospital when the local Rodermund Brewery gave them four kegs of beer.



Yuengling's James River Steam Brewery was built in Richmond in 1866. = *D.G. Yuengling & Son*

Cape May County Civil War Round Table

www.cmccwrt.com:

c/o

Just as the Civil War posed both challenges and opportunities to brewers, the brewing industry after the war has had its ups and downs. Initially after the war, breweries across the nation began to thrive again. In February 1866, Richmond became the home of Yuengling's James River Steam Brewery, the ruins of which can still be seen today. The invention of pasteurization in the 1870s increased the shelf-life of beer and opened new markets beyond brewers' immediate communities. In the decade following the Civil War, the number of breweries in the US skyrocketed, cresting 4,000 by 1873.

But trouble came again with the Panic of 1873, which contributed to the end of Yuengling's Richmond branch. Countless other breweries succumbed a few decades later during Prohibition, the Great Depression, and the rationing and shortages of World War I and II. Yet, somehow through all of this, a few breweries survived. Today, Anheuser-Busch is joined in longevity by Yuengling, founded in Pottsville, Pennsylvania in 1829, and Pabst Brewing Company, founded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1844. And now, these well-known names make beer alongside the highest number of domestic brewers since 1873—bringing back the landscape of small breweries of 150 years ago.

