

## The Year of Lincoln

### 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lincoln's Birth



### Cape May County Civil War Round Table

#### May 2009 Newsletter

**Deadline for the newsletter is the first of every month. If you need to contact me, see my listing among officers below. Meetings are held at the Cape May Court House Senior Center in Cape May Court House, normally at 7pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. DUES FOR 2009 ARE DUE! Please send dues to Jim Marshall.**

#### *Meetings for 2009:*

**18 June:** Carmen Fiori will be covering *Lincoln/Bush – a History Redux* – a comparison between Lincoln's administration to that of George Bush Jr. **Refreshments:** Mary Anne Donlin, in memory of Clark Donlin

**17 July:** Michael Wunsch of the General Meade Society will be telling us about *Abraham Lincoln and the Great Sanitary Fair of 16 June 1864*. **Refreshments:** Pat Munson-Siter

**21 Aug:** **Refreshments:** John Burke

**17 Sept:** **Refreshments:** Judy & John

**15 Oct:** Sid Copel will be returning to give us a presentation on *Civil War Spies and Guerillas*. **Refreshments:** Helen Olen, Bill & Cindy Craft

**19 Nov:** Dick Simpson will be lecturing on *Gettysburg – America's Greatest Art Park*; a slide presentation on the many magnificent monuments erected at Gettysburg by the survivors of the battle, many designed by the finest sculptors and produced by some of the most skilled monument manufacturers of the day. **Refreshments:**

**3 or 10 Dec:** Sue Gibson will be telling us about the Civil War Christmas Table. Potluck Christmas Dinner

#### *CMCCWRT Officers for 2009:*

**President:** Andy Lolli  
17 Delaware Ave, Del Haven, NJ 08251  
609-889-0061

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Suzanne Gibson

214 Exton Rd., Sommers Point, NJ 08244

609-927-9484

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Lou Bishop Jr.  
21 Schoolhouse Ln, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

**Secretary:** Pat Munson-Siter  
42 Franklin Ave., Villas, NJ 08251  
609-287-5097 / ladysymitar@hotmail.com

**Treasurer:** Jim Marshall  
202 Bartram Lane, Ocean City, NJ 08226  
609-398-6924

### Minutes for the Civil War Round Table

#### Business Meeting – April 16 2009

President Lolli opened the meeting. We saluted the flag and held a moment of silence for our troops serving our country.

Treasurer did not make the meeting; no treasurer's report. VP Sue Gibson has not yet lined up any new speakers for those meetings where we have no speakers yet.

"Return to Bull Run / Second Manassas" was the book being offered for fund raiser tonight.

No other business for this meeting, meeting adjourned so presentation could begin.

### Minutes for the Civil War Round Table Business Meeting – 21 May 2009

VP Gibson brought the meeting to order. We saluted the flag and held a moment of silence for all those serving our country.

Please pay dues if you haven't paid. No newsletters will be mailed out to anyone who has not paid their dues.

Treasurer was present and gave his report. \$50 has been voted to be donated to the Kernstown Battlefield preservation fund. Hardcopy of report is in files. Motion made to accept the report and file for audit; seconded and approved.

VP Gibson went over the presenters for the next few meetings. She is still arranging presenters for some future meetings. She had someone lined up for the August meeting but they were forced to cancel.

Our website was recently updated. Jim hopes to be able to keep it updated in a more timely manner in the future. AMART has added us to their website (AMARTcivilwar.org)

On 20 June, Cold Spring Village will present a "Timeline Reenactment," in which several historic time periods will be represented by reenactors.

Hank Heacock has several Civil War books on sale; see him at meetings if you're interested in purchasing any of them.

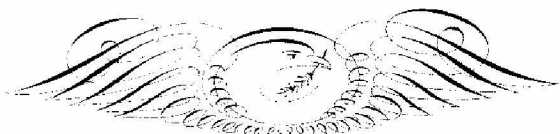
Kathy Perry has donated several books in support of our fund raising efforts.

John Burke will now be refreshment person in August, while \$\$ sent by Mary Ann Donlin for refreshments in memory of Clark will be June (Pat M-S will be actually bringing the refreshments in)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned so the presentation could be given.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Munson-Siter  
Secretary



## Civil War Timeline

### July

#### 1861

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

#### 1862

- 1 Battle of Malvern Hill (VA)

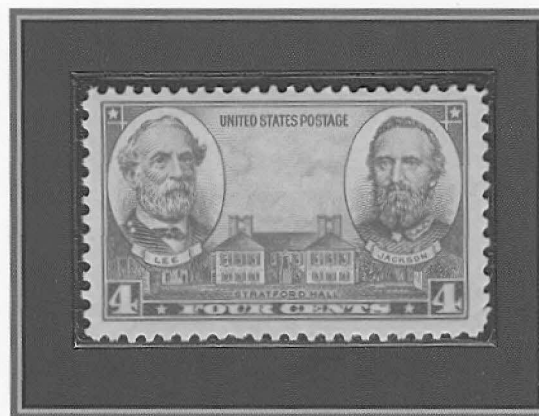
#### 1863

- 1 - 3 Battle of Gettysburg
- 4 Vicksburg surrenders to Grant
- 13 - 16 New Your City Draft Riots

#### 1864

- 9 Battle of Monocacy (MD)
- 20 Battle at Peachtree Creek (GA)
- 22 Battle of Atlanta
- 24 Battle of Kernstown (VA)

- 30 Battle of "The Crater" at Petersburg
- 30 Confederate cavalry burn Chambersburg (PA)



This stamp honoring Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. Jackson was issued March 23, 1937 in Washington, D.C. Lee's Virginia birthplace is shown in the background.

July 2009

### Civil War Related Events

- 1 **VA** Walking tour, "Malvern Hill," part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 7 pm. Free. [www.nps.gov/rich](http://www.nps.gov/rich) or 804-771-2145.
- 1 **MD** Lecture, "When the Bullet Hits the Bone," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 7:30 pm. Free. [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org) or 301-695-1864.
- 1-3 **PA** Special anniversary tours and programs at the Gettysburg National Military Park. Details: [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett) or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
- 2 **PA** Hunterstown Heritage Day, includes walking tour of the 1863 Battle of Hunterstown, living history, speakers, authors and artists. [www.hunterstown1863.com](http://www.hunterstown1863.com).
- 3 **VA** Walking tour, "This Time the Yankees Win," part of the Fredericksburg NPS History at Sunset Series. Begins at the main Fredericksburg battlefield visitor center. 7 pm. Free. [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp) or 540-373-6122.
- 3 **VA** Walking tour, "Jefferson Davis's Richmond," a presidential view of the Confederate capital, begins at the Museum of the Confederacy. Noon. \$10. [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org) or 804-649-1861 extension 37.



3-5	PA	Reenactment, annual event at Gettysburg with three days of battles, living history camps and demonstrations, talks and more. Schedules, tickets, etc: <a href="http://www.gettysburgreenactment.com">www.gettysburgreenactment.com</a> .			War Comes to Morven Park," in Leesburg. Civilian and military camps and demonstrations. 10 am-4 pm. \$7/adult includes house tours. 703-777-6034 or <a href="http://www.morvenpark.org">www.morvenpark.org</a> .
3-5	PA	"A Scared Trust: Gettysburg Perspectives," authors, historians and NPS rangers present perspectives on the Battle of Gettysburg at the national park visitor center. <a href="http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org">www.gettysburgfoundation.org</a> or 717-338-1243.	11	VA	Walking tour, "Hard Liquor and Women," in Civil War Petersburg, meets at the Petersburg city visitor center, 425 Cockade Alley downtown. 11 am, 1:30 and 3:30 pm. Free. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/pete">www.nps.gov/pete</a> or 804-732-3531 extension 205.
4	MD	Antietam Salute to Independence. Annual event on the Antietam National Battlefield includes concert and fireworks. Visitor center closes 3 pm. Details: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/anti">www.nps.gov/anti</a> or 301-432-5124.	11	VA	Tour, Brandy Station battlefield (Buford Knoll and Yew Ridge) Two-hour tour begins at 10 am at the Graffiti House visitor center north of Culpeper. \$10. <a href="http://www.brandystationfoundation.com">www.brandystationfoundation.com</a> or 540-547-4106.
4	PA	"Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital," at Christ Church, 30 Chambersburg St., Gettysburg. Civil War music and stories by candlelight at this historic church. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.	11	VA	Living history walk, "Cavaliers, Courage and Coffee," in Atoka (4 miles west of Middleburg on U.S. 50). Civil War characters present vignettes. Sponsored by the Mosby Heritage Area. 7:30 pm. \$5/adult. <a href="http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org">www.mosbyheritagearea.org</a> or 540-687-6681.
4-5	PA	Living history camps and programs at Spangler Spring and Pitzer Woods, Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/gett">www.nps.gov/gett</a> or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.	11-12	PA	Living history, infantry camp and demonstrations at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. <a href="http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org">www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org</a> or 717-260-1861.
8	VA	Walking tour, "Battle of Totopotomoy Creek at Rural Plains," part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 7 pm. Free. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/rich">www.nps.gov/rich</a> or 804-771-2145.	11-12	PA	Living history camps and programs at the Pennsylvania Memorial and Pitzer Woods, Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/gett">www.nps.gov/gett</a> or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
8	MD	Lecture, "Stuart's Horse Artillery during the Maryland Campaign of 1862," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 7:30 pm. Free. <a href="http://www.civilwarmed.org">www.civilwarmed.org</a> or 301-695-1864.	11-12	VA	Living history at the Chancellorsville battlefield west of Fredericksburg. NPS site hosts camps, living history and tours. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/frsp">www.nps.gov/frsp</a> or 540-373-6122.
9	VA	"Life at Headquarters," special program with talks, kids activities and tours at the Dabbs House Museum, 3808 Nine Mile Road, just off I-64 east of downtown Richmond. 1-4 pm. Free. 804-652-3411.	11-12	VA	Tour, "Sheridan in the Shenandoah," based in Winchester. \$295 plus lodging. <a href="http://www.civilwartours.org">www.civilwartours.org</a> or 860-485-3244.
10	VA	Walking tour, "Race to the Crossroads: Laurel Hill," part of the Fredericksburg NPS History at Sunset Series. Begins at stop No. 1, Spotsylvania battlefield. 7 pm. Free. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/frsp">www.nps.gov/frsp</a> or 540-373-6122.	11-12	VA	Living history at Malvern Hill, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. Demonstrations, talks and tours 10 am-5 pm Saturday and 10 am-3 pm Sunday. Free. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/rich">www.nps.gov/rich</a> or 804-771-2145
10-12	VA	Reenactment, Battles at Wise. Camps, demonstrations and battles downtown. Latest details: <a href="http://www.battlesatwise.com">www.battlesatwise.com</a> .	11-12	MD	Reenactment, "Gilmor's Raid," at Jerusalem Mill Village, Kingsville. Camps, demonstrations, music and other living history all weekend. Battles each day. 410-877-3560 or <a href="http://www.jerusalemill.org">www.jerusalemill.org</a>
11	PA	Walking tour, "Gettysburg and Beyond: Laurel Hill's Ultimate Civil War Tour," at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia. 2 pm. \$15. <a href="http://www.thelaurelhillcemetery.org">www.thelaurelhillcemetery.org</a> or 215-228-8200.	11-12	MD	Living history, "Civil War Days" at Point Lookout State Park (end of Route 5 at Chesapeake Bay). Camps, demonstrations and fort tours. Free with park admission. 301-872-5085.
11	PA	"Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital," at Christ Church, 30 Chambersburg St., Gettysburg. Civil War music and stories by candlelight at this historic church. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.	11-12	MD	Living history, "Confederates on Turner's Gap," demonstrations and camps at the South Mountain gap near Boonsboro. Free. 301-432-8065.
11	VA	"Mosby Heritage and You," talk about the Mosby Heritage Area and area Civil War history at Sky Meadows State Park in Delaplane. 2-4 pm. Parking fee. 540-592-3556.	11-12	MD	Anniversary activities at the Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick. Living history and ranger-led battlefield hikes. Free. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/mono">www.nps.gov/mono</a> or 301-662-3515.
11	VA	Living history, "Fighting and Frolicking: The Civil	11-12	MD	Living history, annual encampment at Rose Hill Manor Park, 1611 N Market St, Frederick. Camps,

		demonstrations, military and civilian living history. <a href="http://www.rosehillmuseum.com">www.rosehillmuseum.com</a> or 301-600-1650.			military camps and demonstrations commemorating the Battle of First Manassas. 11 am-4 pm. Free. 703-367-7872 for more info, directions.
12	MD	Open House at the Kennedy Farm, 2406 Chestnut Grove Road near Sharpsburg. Commemorates the arrival of "Isaac Smith" (John Brown) and his group prior to the raid at Harpers Ferry. Noon-4 pm. <a href="http://www.johnbrown.org">www.johnbrown.org</a> or 304-535-6026.	18-19	VA	Anniversary activities (First Manassas) at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Special ranger tours, living history camps and demonstrations. 10 am-4 pm Saturday, 10 am-2 pm Sunday. Free with park admission. 703-361-1339 or <a href="http://www.nps.gov/mana">www.nps.gov/mana</a> .
15	VA	Walking tour, "Chimborazo Hospital," led by a Richmond National Battlefield Park ranger. 7 pm. Free. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/rich">www.nps.gov/rich</a> or 804-771-2145.	22	VA	Walking tour, "Richmond's Riverfront – the Industrial Heart of the Confederacy," led by a Richmond National Battlefield Park ranger. 7 pm. Free. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/rich">www.nps.gov/rich</a> or 804-771-2145.
15	MD	Lecture, "Orthopedic Surgery: Then and Now," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 7:30 pm. Free. <a href="http://www.civilwarmed.org">www.civilwarmed.org</a> or 301-695-1864.	22	MD	Lecture, "Brother against... Insects, the role of insects in the Civil War," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 7:30 pm. Free. <a href="http://www.civilwarmed.org">www.civilwarmed.org</a> or 301-695-1864.
17	VA	Walking tour, "Clara Barton Comes to Fredericksburg," part of the Fredericksburg NPS History at Sunset Series. Begins at Rappahannock Regional Library downtown. 7 pm. Free. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/frsp">www.nps.gov/frsp</a> or 540-373-6122.	22-26	MD	Seminar and tours, "Stonewall Jackson in the Valley," headquartered in Hagerstown. Details: 717-264-7101 or <a href="http://www.chambersburgcivilwarseminars.org">www.chambersburgcivilwarseminars.org</a> .
18	PA	"Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital," at Christ Church, 30 Chambersburg St., Gettysburg. Civil War music and stories by candlelight at this historic church. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.	24	VA	Walking tour, "Key Moments for Key People," part of the Fredericksburg NPS History at Sunset Series. Begins at stop No. 9, Chancellorsville battlefield. 7 pm. Free. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/frsp">www.nps.gov/frsp</a> or 540-373-6122.
18	VA	Walking tour, self-guided tour of the Civil War trail at Rose Hill (part of the First Kernstown battlefield near Winchester). 1-4 pm. \$5. Directions, more info: <a href="http://www.shenandoahmuseum.org">www.shenandoahmuseum.org</a> or 888-556-5799.	25	MD	Living history, artillery demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Free with park admission. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/anti">www.nps.gov/anti</a> or 301-432-5124.
18	VA	Living history, Civil War Camp Day and Skirmish at Fort Ward in Alexandria. Camps, medical, civilian and military demonstrations plus tactical skirmish. 10 am-5 pm. \$5/adult, \$10/family. <a href="http://www.fortward.org">www.fortward.org</a> or 703-838-4848.	25	PA	"Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital," at Christ Church, 30 Chambersburg St., Gettysburg. Civil War music and stories by candlelight at this historic church. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.
18	VA	Van tour, "Stuart's Ride Around McClellan," follows the famed 1862 Richmond-area ride. Begins at Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News. 8 am-4 pm. \$50, reservations required, space limited. 757-888-3371 or <a href="http://www.leehall.org">www.leehall.org</a> .	25	VA	Lecture, "Importing, Manufacturing and Transporting the Confederate Nation," at the Union Station in downtown Petersburg. 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. Free. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/pete">www.nps.gov/pete</a> 804-732-3531.
18-19	MD	Living history, infantry camps and demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Free with park admission. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/anti">www.nps.gov/anti</a> or 301-432-5124.	25	VA	Tour, Brandy Station battlefield (Beverly Ford and St. James Church). Two-hour tour begins at 10 am at the Graffiti House visitor center north of Culpeper. \$10. <a href="http://www.brandystationfoundation.com">www.brandystationfoundation.com</a> or 540-547-4106.
18-19	MD	Living history encampment at Union Mills, on Route 97 north of Westminster. 10 am-4 pm. 410-848-2288 or <a href="http://www.unionmills.org">www.unionmills.org</a> .	25	VA	Family Fun Day at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Kid's games and other family activities. 10 am-4 pm. Free with admission. <a href="http://www.moc.org">www.moc.org</a> or 804-649-1861 extension 21.
18-19	MD	Summer Open House at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. Free admission noon-4 pm. <a href="http://www.surratt.org">www.surratt.org</a> or 301-868-1121.	25-26	VA	Living history at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Focus on Union occupation following the surrender. Free with park admission. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/apco">www.nps.gov/apco</a> or 434-352-8987 extension 26.
18-19	PA	Living history camps and programs at the Pennsylvania Memorial and Pitzer Woods, Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. <a href="http://www.nps.gov/gett">www.nps.gov/gett</a> or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.	25-26	MD	Living history, "Field Hospital," at the Pry House Field Hospital Museum on the Antietam National Battlefield near Keedysville. 11 am-5 pm. Details: <a href="http://www.civilwarmed.org">www.civilwarmed.org</a> or 301-416-2395.
18-19	VA	Living history at Ben Lomond in Manassas. Hospital,	25-26	PA	Living history, infantry camp and demonstrations at



- the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. [www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org) or 717-260-1861.
- 25-26 **PA** Living history camps and programs at Pitzer Woods and Spangler Spring, Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett) or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
- 27-31 **PA** Tour, "The Ultimate Gettysburg Tour," includes campaign and retreat sites, based in Gettysburg. \$800 plus lodging. [www.civilwartours.org](http://www.civilwartours.org) or 860-485-3244.
- 29 **VA** Walking tour, "First Deep Bottom battle" led by a Richmond National Battlefield Park ranger. 7 pm. Free. [www.nps.gov/rich](http://www.nps.gov/rich) or 804-771-2145.
- 29 **MD** Lecture, "Postwar Memorial Activities: Creating the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 7:30 pm. Free. [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org) or 301-695-1864.
- 30 **VA** "Life at Headquarters," special program with talks, kids activities and tours at the Dabbs House Museum, 3808 Nine Mile Road, just off I-64 east of downtown Richmond. 1-4 pm. Free. 804-652-3411.
- 30 **VA** Battle of the Crater anniversary walking tour, "Remembering the Dead." Ranger-guided walk begins at 7 pm at the Blandford Cemetery Reception Center at 7 pm. 804-732-3531 extension 200.
- 31 **VA** Walking tour, "War Comes to the Wilderness and the Chewning Family," part of the Fredericksburg NPS History at Sunset Series. Begins at Stop 5, Wilderness battlefield. 7 pm. Free. [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp) or 540-373-6122.
- 31-Aug 2 **VA** Living history, camps, drills and demonstrations at the old Montpelier visitor center on Route 20 near Orange. Noon-5 pm Friday, 9 am-5 pm Saturday, and 9 am-2 pm Sunday. Free (fee charged for Montpelier visit). [www.montpelier.org](http://www.montpelier.org).



This stamp honoring the Stone Mountain Memorial, a rock carving of Confederate heroes Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson, was issued September 19, 1970 in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

# Unmarked but far from forgotten

*After more than a century, black Civil War soldiers are getting headstones.*

By Dahleen Glanton  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — For more than a century, the bodies of about 300 black soldiers who died in the Civil War have lain in unmarked graves on the bank of Skull Creek harbor.

These former slaves who fled the plantations to fight for freedom on the side of the Union Army are unknown heroes.

The small plot of land where they are buried is overshadowed by multimillion-dollar condos and a private marina — symbols of the transformation that has occurred in Hilton Head over the last 50 years, changing the island from a predominantly black town to one of gated communities for the wealthy.

But for Howard Wright, 57, the great-great-grandson of a former slave who fought in the war, Talbird Cemetery is part of his family's heritage and, he said, an integral part of American history that should not be forgotten.

So he has set out on a mission to get the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide headstones for the more than 3,000 blacks in South Carolina who served in what was called the U.S. Colored Troops. In recent months, he has received 300 markers from the department, including one for his great-great-grandfather, Caesar Kirk-Jones, who died in 1903 at 74.

"History has been rewritten when it comes to the legacy of the colored troops," said Wright, a historian who founded the Sankofa Restoration Project. "They came in fighting with their weapons blazing. They had more at stake than anyone else and they turned around the destiny of this country."

Wright has spent 25 years researching the histories of the men buried at Talbird Cemetery, as well as more than 1,000 other black Civil War soldiers at some 100 similar cemeteries in Beaufort County, S.C. More than 1,000 black soldiers are buried in a formerly segregated section of the Beaufort National Cemetery.

According to Wright, about 300 black soldiers have yet to be identified at Talbird, Hilton Head's largest black cemetery. For the descendants to have relatives who died fighting in a war that ended slavery, it is considered an honor that they speak of with

pride.

"Every black family in Hilton Head has someone buried here," Wright said. "So this is important to a lot of people."

But Wright's work does not stop there. He said his goal is to have headstones placed on the graves of all 200,000 black Union veterans nationwide. The role of black soldiers in the Civil War always has been controversial, with advocates arguing that they have never received proper recognition.

At the beginning of the war in 1861, free blacks rushed to join the Union Army but were turned away because of a 1792 federal law barring free blacks from bearing arms for the Army. Though President Abraham Lincoln early on considered recruiting black troops, he feared that it would cause more states to secede from the Union.

But as the war raged on and fewer whites signed up, Congress passed a law in 1862 freeing slaves whose owners were fighting on the side of the Confederacy. Next shortly thereafter, Lincoln presented a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation, which gave freedom to all slaves in the Confederate states and made them eligible to fight in the U.S. military.

The Army's first formal black regiment, the First South Carolina Voluntary Infantry, was formed in Beaufort County, a primary battleground in the Civil War.

"We are talking about people who made the ultimate sacrifice, people who went without pay for months and months because of their dedication to this cause, people who wanted to fight," said Wright.

By the end of the war in 1865, about 180,000 black men were in the Army. An additional 20,000 served in the Navy. Black women signed up as nurses, spies and scouts, the most famous being Harriet Tubman, who helped establish the Underground Railroad and was a scout for the 2d South Carolina Volunteers.

Over the course of the war, nearly 40,000 black soldiers died. For Wright, that is a sacrifice worth noting.

Almost a century and a half later, he said, "nobody ever said thank you to them. This is the first time all the families in South Carolina will be able to say thank you to their ancestors who fought in this war."



I know this is WWI, but thought you might find it of interest...

## HISTORY

# The War We Forgot

World War I has no national monument. No iconic images. And only one soldier is still alive.

By TONY DOKOUPIL

**O**F THE 2 MILLION AMERICAN soldiers sent to the trenches during World War I, only Frank Woodruff Buckles is still alive. The retired Army corporal, who turned 107 this month, is all that prevents the first world war from slipping into the secondhand past. Harry Landis, the only other known WWI veteran, died at 108 last week in Tampa, Fla. We're about to "lose a living touchstone of history," says Bob Patrick, director of the Library of Congress's Veterans History

Project. In America, the first world war remains a largely forgotten conflict. It has no national monument on the Washington Mall, no blockbuster film, no iconic image equivalent to soldiers' raising the flag on Iwo Jima. There wasn't even a reliable list of living veterans until a writer, researching a book about the war's place in the shadows, tallied one for himself in 2004. "Nobody—not the Department of Veterans Affairs, or the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the American Legion—knew how many there were," says Richard Rubin, author of the forthcoming book "The Last of the Doughboys." As far as he could

reels with staged scenes. Frank Buckles has only three photos of himself in uniform, and all of them are portraits.

Rebooting the memory of WWI matters for reasons other than nostalgia. Historians see the conflict as the original canvas on which many aspects of today's Iraq War were drawn. "Most of the problems we're grappling with in the Middle East are legacies of the great military binge of 1914-1918," says Niall Ferguson, a revisionist British historian and author of several studies of war. He adds that the British also faced an insurgency when they invaded Baghdad and declared themselves liberators in 1917. "The American case in Iraq is one of historical ignorance," he says. In recent years, Buckles has also become a reluctant spokesperson for his generation—its impact and its memory. "Might as well be me," he told NEWSWEEK, adding that an official service honoring all U.S. veterans when he dies would be the "right thing to do."



Project. Yet the United States has no firm or official plans to mark the passing of its last WWI veteran. "Frankly, we're trying to keep the focus on the living," says Phil Budahan, director of media relations for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Britain plans to hold an elaborate ceremony at Westminster Abbey when the last of its three remaining WWI veterans die. Canada and France, which each have one remaining veteran, have also announced plans to hold a state funeral. In fact, America's plans are more akin to those of its wartime enemy, Germany, whose last veteran died last month at 107 without official fanfare.

**N** Read Soldier's Home, our blog about veterans, at [xtra.newsweek.com](http://xtra.newsweek.com)

tell, "that chapter of history was closed."

So why the seeming lack of interest? The physical distance from the front lines is one reason. The war's naively grand promise—"to make the world safe for democracy"—also left people cold. But it might ultimately come down to records: WWI was the last war fought without modern methods of bearing witness. There are virtually no film reels, few battle photographs, only a smattering of reliable frontline news reports, and much of what exists was either produced under suffocating censorship or made as propaganda. "It's all fake. Nobody filmed a single battle," says Jay Winter, a professor of history at Yale University, whose Emmy-winning television documentary "The Great War and the Shaping of the 20th Century" supplemented news-

**READY TO SERVE:** Buckles, now 107, in a photo taken when he enlisted in the Army in 1917

For now, the primarily privately funded World War One Museum in Kansas City, Mo., is the only national institution with plans to commemorate the end of the Doughboy generation. "We just don't know what that means yet," says Denise Rendina, a spokeswoman for the museum. The VA says that all plans must come from Congress, while the White House Commission on Remembrance, the agency officially tasked with honoring "America's fallen," says it will invite Buckles to join a national flag-raising tour that began in December. There's just one problem: the touring flag is from a World War II memorial. ■

BETTSMANN—CORBIS (LEFT), BUCKLES FAMILY—AP

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140 years later, N.J. history students find, Civil War letters pack the power of e-mails from Iraq.

By Edward Colimore  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

In his letters home, George Bartlett wrote about the financial benefits that had lured him into the military, questioned the war's aims, and criticized inept commanders.

Soldier Miles Paul wrote about the financial benefits, too; told his wife he missed her; and said he feared being drafted for extended service.

Another, Daniel Swisher, focused on battlefield horrors, finding images there "enough to satisfy anybody never to see such a sight again."

The concerns of Bartlett, Paul and Swisher could have been found in e-mails from troops in Iraq or Afghanistan. But they came from Civil War soldiers whose correspondence — at the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York — was studied and inventoried this summer by students from Rutgers and Princeton Universities and other colleges.

Although written 140 years ago, the letters still carried the raw emotion of the troops, the students found, and sometimes offered surprising insights into their views of the war, its causes, the home

front, and families.  
"We look back on the Civil War and say slavery was obviously an evil and the Union forces were obviously doing a good thing," said Thorin Titter, a Princeton lecturer and coordinator of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and its online feature "Battle Lines: Letters from American's War" via: <http://go.philly.com/gilder>  
See **WAR LETTERS** on B4

## ONLINE EXTRA

Access the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and its online feature "Battle Lines: Letters from American's War" via: <http://go.philly.com/gilder>

# The experience of war transcends centuries

**WAR LETTERS** from B1  
Lehrman History Scholars Program.

But students "found Union soldiers who did not agree with emancipation, and that was a big surprise. Some soldiers did have a moral mission, but not all."

Many federal troops simply wanted to preserve the Union, collect military bounties, and go home.

"My soldier didn't have a romantic Victorian sense of battle," said Zachary Matusheski, 21, a Voorhees resident entering his senior year at Rutgers in New Brunswick. "He was there because he had to be there, not for honor or manliness."

"This was humanizing. It made me feel this was a real man, a real person, basically doing his job."

Matusheski, who studied George Bartlett of Coventry, R.I., was one of 15 students who spent six weeks getting to know the soldiers before writing pamphlets that will be used for high school classes on local history. Each pamphlet has an essay about the soldier, followed by some of his letters.

One Bartlett letter, written in January 1863 with many spelling and grammatical errors, said, "I do not want to see enny more young men deceivid in this war buy trickers and officik-ers triing to Make young Men believe that they are fighting for the union. it is false as hell."

Bartlett "directs a lot of angry rhetoric toward abolitionists, the President and emancipation," and believed North and South could have settled their differences without the slavery issue, Matusheski said.

Though the students found some attitudes that were different from today's, they also discovered timeless similarities. Princeton student Molly Senger, 21, of Bethesda, Md., was "surprised by the universal nature of the soldiers' fears and desires."

"I was constantly reminded that these brave soldiers were re-

ally just regular 21-year-old guys who were often much more interested in discussing 'all the partickulars' of home-front gossip than they were in detailing the particulars of Civil War battles," wrote Senger in an e-mail. Senger studied letters of Union troops from West Virginia, including Swisher and John Foglesong.

"The aspect of the work which I found most surprising was the fact that the letters I was working with had survived in such good condition to the present day. The

Butchered in That kind of a way."

With the heavy casualties and the economic hardships at home, Miles Paul, from Muncy, Pa., wondered whether military service was worth the price. He had enlisted for nine months, and faced the possibility of extended service.

"He talks about selling his property to pay the \$300 fee required to get out of service," said Cornell University student Lauren Acker, 21, of Los Alamitos, Calif., who studied Paul's



**Molly Senger, a Princeton student** from Bethesda, Md., said she was most surprised by the good condition of the letters 140 years later.

same paper I was holding in my gloved hand this summer had been present at the battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg."

Senger said one letter stood out: Swisher's writing home to report that Foglesong had been killed at Antietam. "By the time I read this letter, I had already struggled through [the poor handwriting of] 10 of Foglesong's letters home, and I remember feeling really moved," she said.

In the September 1862 letter, Swisher wrote that Foglesong "was shot through the Head. he never suffered no misery." He also told his sister, "I could not express my feelings while walking over the Battle field to see Ever My Dearest friends and fellow soldiers lying on the field

letters. "He seemed concerned about his financial situation."

Paul wrote his wife in March 1863 that he did not "think it wud be advisable to sel the Property to get a substute," and added a month later: "I am anches to hear from home."

After "digging deep and looking at the world he lived in," Acker added, "I felt like I got to know him."

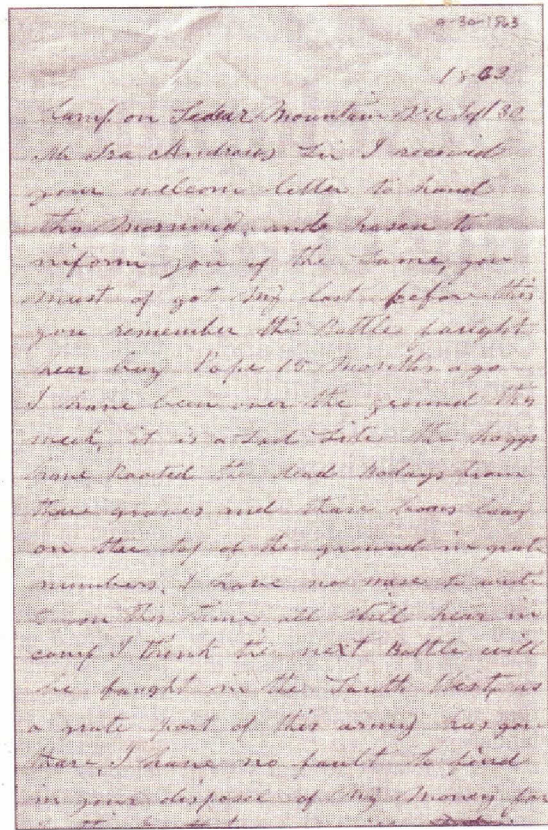
In May 1863, Paul wrote his wife again, saying, "We are Coming home I Shant inlist I am tiard of the sirvis."

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**Zachary Matusheski**, 21, of Voorhees, was among those working with the Civil War letters.



Courtesy of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History  
**In letters home, George Bartlett**, an artilleryman, suggested he was "there because he had to be."

## Cape May County Civil War Round Table

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