



Winter on the Potomac

**Cape May County
Civil War Round Table
Newsletter
October 2012**

2012 Meeting Schedule

NEW MEETING LOCATION!!

**We are now meeting in the Jury Room at the New
Courthouse near the Public Library**

15 Nov: Topic will be "The making of Killer Angels" presented
by Marty Runner **Refreshments:** Please volunteer, someone!

6 Dec: Pot Luck Christmas Party; will be at the Jury Room.

CMCCWRT Officers for 2012

President: John Burke
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**REMINDER:
DUES FOR 2012
DUE NOW!!!!**

**Minutes of the Business Meeting of the CMCCWRT
18 October 2012**

The meeting was called to order by President Burke. We saluted the flag and held a moment of silence in honor of those who have and continue to stand in harm's way to protect us.

The minutes from the September meeting were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer Marshall gave the Treasurer's report. Motion made to approve the report and file it for audit. Seconded and approved.

Two guests were introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Burke has been in contact with former member Suzanne Gibson. Arrangements are being made for her to return CWRT property to the group.

NEW BUSINESS

Lou Bishop mentioned that the BBC has a show set in 1860's NYC called 'Copper' that members may want to check out.

Howard Ruhl mentioned that the NJ Heritage Committee has published two new books. Both examine the role of New Jersey troops in the Civil War, one in the Battle of Antietam and the other in the Battle of Gettysburg.

The Old Baldy Civil War Society is now meeting in New Jersey at the Camden County College in Blackwood County. They not only have meetings there but have been putting on mini educational courses on various Civil War related subjects.

Reminder of the 'Preservation Donation Bowl' that is out at every meeting. Money donated goes to battlefield preservation efforts.

The information on the Cape May County Civil War Round Table on the info channel through Comcast still lists our meeting place as being at the Senior Center. Contact will be made with Comcast to try and have our meeting information updated.

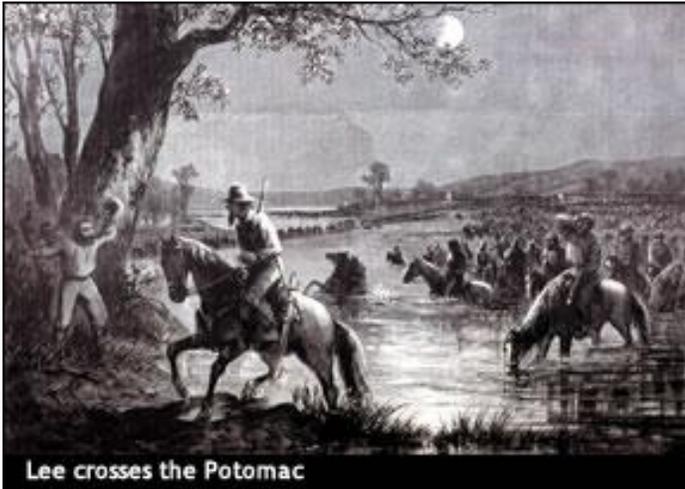
We will be able to use the Jury Room for our Christmas/End of Year party. Decision made to hold it on the evening of 6 December. Lou Bishop is in charge of planning the party. We are looking right now to having main courses brought in (sandwich plates, etc.) while Round Table members will bring

in drinks and desserts. More information will be announced at the November meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Munson-Siter
Secretary, Cape May County Civil War Round Table



Lee crosses the Potomac

Civil War Calendar for December

		1860
December	20	South Carolina secedes
		1861
No major events		
		1862
December	11	Union army crosses Rappahannock River into Fredericksburg
	13	Battle of Fredericksburg
	31-Jan 2	Battle of Stone's River (Murfreesboro) (TN)
		1863
No major events		
		1864
December	15-16	Battle of Nashville
	21	Savannah occupied by Union troops



Cemetery at Cross Keys

Civil War Related Events November/December 2012

November 2012

150 Years Ago This Month

For a timeline of historic and 150th-anniversary events:
CivilWarTraveler.com/150/2012

It was the calm between two storms 150 years ago this month. Confederate advances into Kentucky, Mississippi and Maryland had crested and receded and Union forces were slowly gathering in Virginia and Tennessee for a December push.

Commanding Union Gens. Don Carlos Buell (West) and George McClellan (East) both were casualties of half-hearted pursuit of defeated Confederates. William Rosecrans (West) and Ambrose Burnside (East) replaced them on the hot seat with mandates for aggressive behavior.



George McClellan

Virginia

Robert E. Lee completed his "escape" from Maryland, getting his army safely to the Culpeper (VA) area. Behind him, Confederate cavalry held off their Union counterparts for days in Northern Virginia during the Battle of Unison.

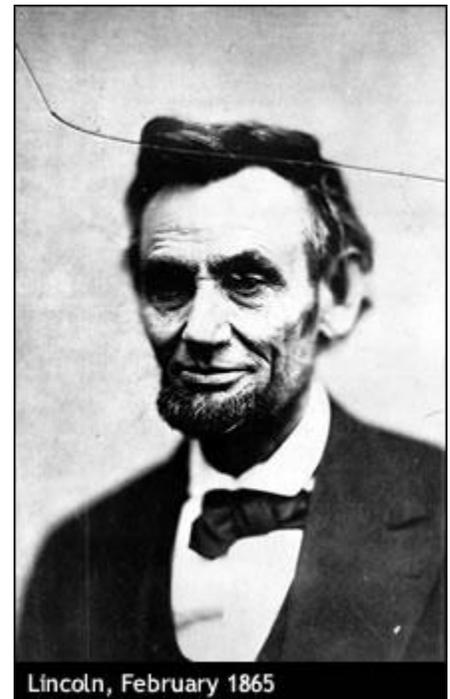
Historian Frank O'Reilly talks about the battle and the aftermath during a talk at the Unison Methodist Church Nov. 2.

www.mosbyheritagearea.org/events.html

Spielberg's Lincoln opens

The much anticipated Steven Spielberg movie *Lincoln* opens Nov 9 to considerable Oscar buzz. The film focuses on the last few months of the president's life, including his last trip to the Virginia front in March and April 1865. Lincoln spent more than two weeks at U.S. Grant's headquarters at City Point (now Hopewell) and from there, he visited the Petersburg and Richmond just hours after they were occupied by Union troops. Follow in Lincoln's footsteps in a CivilWarTraveler.com special section:

CivilWarTraveler.com/events/Lincoln.html



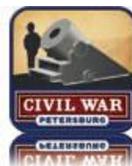
Lincoln, February 1865

Trust unveils new Petersburg app

The 9.5-month siege of Petersburg (VA) is outlined in the latest app offered by the Civil War Trust. The app covers more than 40 sites related to the long campaign including the battles of "The Crater" and Five Forks.

The app is free and available for both iPhone and Droid.

www.civilwar.org/battleapps



NPS fee free for Veteran's Day weekend

The last 2012 fee-free days at the National Parks are Nov 10-12.

www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm

Spielberg to appear at Gettysburg event



Lincoln at Gettysburg

Director Steven Spielberg is scheduled to appear at the 149th-anniversary commemoration of Lincoln's address at Gettysburg. Spielberg is set to speak at 10 am Nov 19 at the rostrum in the Soldiers' National Cemetery. Related anniversary activities include an illumination at the cemetery Nov. 17. Details:

www.gettysburgfoundation.org/calendar

Civil War cave tours in Missouri

Weekly Civil War Christmas lantern tours begin Nov 24 at Smallin Cave in Ozark (MO). It's said that Union soldiers camped in the area hid ammunition and artillery in the cave. Tour details:

www.smallincave.com/eventspace_smallincave.html

Play scheduled at Lincoln Museum

Performances of "The Heavens are Hung in Black," a play set in 1862, are scheduled at the Union Theater in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield (IL) Nov 8-11 and 15-18.

www.presidentlincoln.org

Planning a trip to Fredericksburg?



Fighting in downtown Fredericksburg

The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg is coming up in December. If you are going, be sure to check out CivilWarTraveler.com's special section:

civilwartraveler.com/150/Fredericksburg-events.html

Exhibits

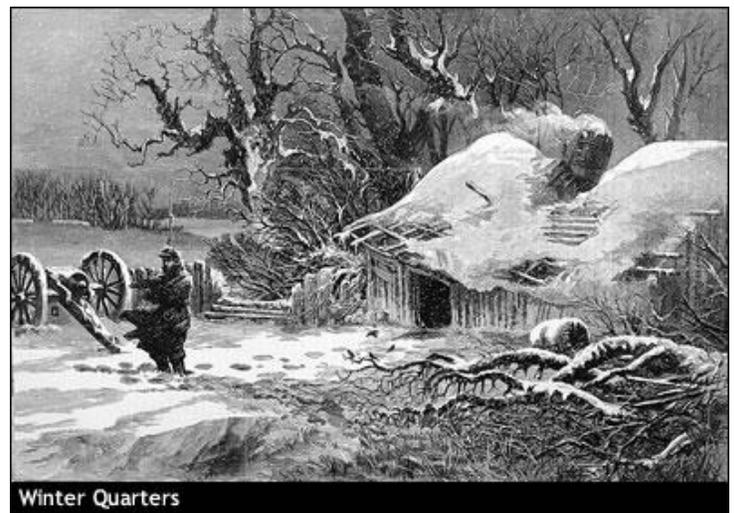


Flags from the Mariners' Museum exhibit

- Confederate naval flags at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News (VA) continues through May 2013. www.marinersmuseum.org/exhibitions/rebel-ensign-confederate-flags-sea
- "Currency and Conflict," (Nov 1-Feb 3, 2013) and "Between the States: Photographs of the American Civil War" (Nov 7-Jan 6, 2013) at the Manassas Museum (VA). www.manassasmuseum.org
- "Service and Sacrifice: Vermont's Civil War Generation" opens Nov 11 at the Vermont History Center in Barre. www.vermonthistory.org
- "An American Turning Point: The Civil War in Virginia" at Hanover Tavern in Hanover (VA) continues through Nov. 17. www.hanovertavern.org
- "A Thomas Nast Christmas: The Civil War in Political Cartoons" is up Nov 30-Jan 15, 2013, at the Lee-Fendall House Museum in Alexandria (VA). www.leefendallhouse.org

On the Web

- Great Civil War lecture videos from C-Span: www.c-span.org/History/Events/The-Civil-War-Western-Theater/10737434975/



Winter Quarters

- 14 **MD** Living history, "The Legend of Civil War Santa," with period decorations at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. noon-4 pm. Free with admission. www.surratt.org



December 1862 & 2012

Dec 7, 1862 – Battle of Prairie Grove (AR)

Then: In an attempt to destroy Union forces in northwest Arkansas, Confederate Gen. Thomas Hindman attacked the Federal forces near Prairie Grove Church. The fight here resulted in a draw but cost nearly 2,600 casualties.

2012: The battlefield is preserved in the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park.
State park commemoration TBA.
Website: arkansasstateparks.com/prairiegrovebattlefield.

Dec 7, 1862 – Morgan's Raid at Hartsville (TN)

Then: A large Federal detachment camped near this Cumberland River crossing was surprised by this early-morning Confederate attack. This turned out to be one of Confederate cavalryman John Hunt Morgan's greatest exploits. The Confederates swept up more than 1,800 prisoners here.

2012: A driving tour that includes a park and cemetery is available.
Anniversary event TBA.
Website: www.hartsvilletrousdale.com/civilwartour.html.

Dec 11, 1862 – Federals occupy Fredericksburg (VA)

Then: Confederates on the heights above Fredericksburg turned back wave after wave of Union attacks in one of the bloodiest and most futile assaults of the war.

2012: The Fredericksburg NPS plans special walking tours matching the time and location of the major battle-related events Dec 11-13.
Website: www.nps.gov/frsp

Dec 12, 1862 – Sinking of the USS *Cairo* (MS)

Then: The USS *Cairo*, a Union ironclad operating on the Mississippi River, was sunk by Confederate torpedoes (mines) during an operating on the Yazoo River.

2012: The wreck settled into silt and was raised in 1964. The restoration was completed in 1984 and is now on exhibit in a museum setting at the Vicksburg National Military Park.

Rangers at the Vicksburg National Military Park offer "anniversary of the sinking" programs at the museum Dec 8–9 and on the anniversary, Dec 12.
Website: www.nps.gov/vick.

Dec 13, 1862 – Battle of Fredericksburg (VA)

Then: Confederates on the heights above Fredericksburg turned back wave after wave of Union attacks in one of the bloodiest and most futile assaults of the war.

2012: The Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park preserves much of that high ground defended by Lee's Confederates that day. The Civil War Trust has preserved and interpreted part of the Union attack route at "The Slaughter Pen" south of downtown.

Website: www.nps.gov/frsp.
Website: www.civilwar.org/battlefields/fredericksburg.html.

An area-wide slate of living history events and walking tours, "Fire on the Rappahannock" is planned Dec. 7-9.
Website: fredericksburg150.org.

The Fredericksburg NPS plans special walking tours matching the time and location of the major battle-related events Dec. 11-13.
Website: www.nps.gov/frsp.



Battle of Fredericksburg

Dec 13–14, 1862 – Battle of Kinston (NC)

Then: Designed to coordinate with assault at Fredericksburg (VA) Union planners ordered an attack against the important railroad junction at Goldsborough (now Goldsboro). The Union raiders ran into resistance here.

2012: The site of the fighting is now marked with a driving tour and small park. Pick up information at the Blue-Gray Information Center on US 70 at Route 258.
Plans for the anniversary TBA.
Website: kinstoncivilwar.com.

Dec 17, 1862 – Battle of Goldsborough Bridge (NC)

Then: Designed to coordinate with assault at Fredericksburg (VA) Union planners ordered an attack against the important railroad junction at Goldsborough (now Goldsboro). Led by Gen. John Foster, Union troops fought their way to the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad bridge over the Neuse River, then burned it as Confederates withdrew to the other side. A Confederate counterattack later in the day against the Union rearguard resulted in more bloodshed before Union forces finally withdrew.

2012: A critical part of the battlefield is protected and interpreted in a park supported by a local organization. A reenactment of the battle is planned Dec 15-16. Website: www.goldsboroughbridge.com.

Dec 20, 1862 – Holly Springs (MS) Raid

Then: Confederate Gen. Earl Van Dorn staged a dramatic raid on Union Gen. US Grant's supply base here. This raid plus Forrest's raid against Union supply lines in Tennessee caused Grant to abandon his "overland" campaign against Vicksburg.

2012: The town features many antebellum homes that were landmarks during the raid. Pick up self-guided tour info at the Tourism Bureau, 148 E College Ave. More info including audio tour: www.visithollysprings.com.

The annual "Holly Springs Pilgrimage" (April 13–15 this year) features Civil War history.

Dec 29, 1862 – Battle of Chickasaw Bayou (MS)

Then: Union Gen. William T. Sherman ordered frontal assaults on the Confederate defenses of Vicksburg, approaching from the northeast. The attacks failed, resulting in another setback to Grant's plans to attack Vicksburg directly.

2012: The battlefield can be viewed from Stop 9 on the Vicksburg National Military Park.

Ranger programs describe the action 9 am–4 pm on Dec 29. Website: www.nps.gov/vick

Dec 31, 1862 – Battle of Parker's Crossroads (TN)

Then: N.B. Forrest was almost done in here after Union forces caught up during the Confederate general's December raid on Federal supply lines. But he managed to escape in part by ordering his troops to "charge both ways."

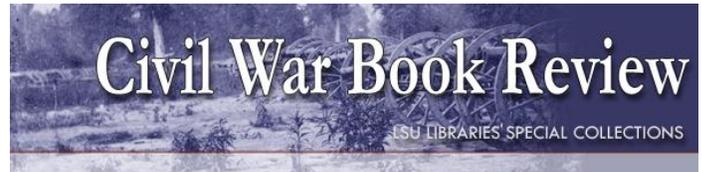
2012: More information about self-guided driving and walking tours is available at the visitor center just off I-40 in Parkers Crossroads. Annual anniversary commemoration TBA. Website: www.parkerscrossroads.com.

Dec 31, 1862–Jan 2, 1863 – Battle of Stone's River/Murfreesboro begins (TN)

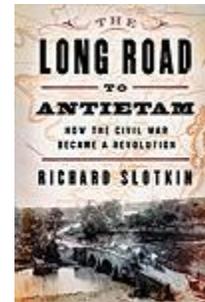
Then: Bloody battle fought as Gen. William Rosecrans' Union army marched from Nashville to clear out Confederates under Gen. Braxton Bragg at Murfreesboro. Union forces finally beat back the last Confederate counterattack after three days of fighting and Bragg withdrew to Tullahoma.

2012: Key parts of the battlefield are preserved in the Stones River National Battlefield. Website: www.nps.gov/stri.

Living history, ranger tours and talks are planned Dec 26, 2012–Jan 2, 2013, at the Stones River National Battlefield. The programs follow the course of the battle. Details: www.nps.gov/stri/planyourvisit/upload/Anniversary-2012.pdf.



Book Review: *The Long Road to Antietam*, by Richard Slotkin



By HistoryNet Staff

Originally published by [Military History](#) magazine. Published Online: September 06, 2012

***The Long Road to Antietam*, by Richard Slotkin, Liveright, New York, 2012, \$32.95**

At Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862, lingers. Walking the battlefield, one can sense that day, the deadliest of any American war. In this cornfield, along this sunken road, upon this bridge more than 20,000 men were killed or wounded. In this engrossing book Richard Slotkin looks beyond that blood-drenched battlefield to explore how President Abraham Lincoln linked victory at Antietam to his decision to free slaves and declare that they could join the Union Army.

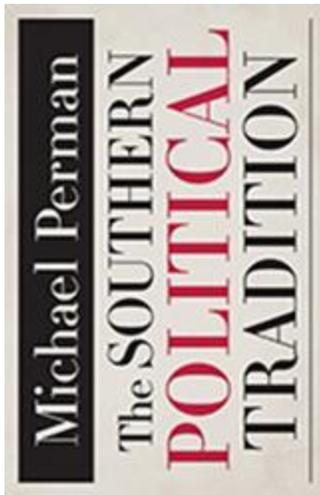
Slotkin shows just how Antietam prefaced the Emancipation Proclamation, as Lincoln abandoned any hope of a negotiated end to the war. "The proclamation," Slotkin writes, "made compromise impossible" and transformed a civil war into a social revolution. "Lincoln understood very clearly," Slotkin says, "that the war could not in future be prosecuted as anything but a war of subjugation and a remorseless revolutionary conflict."

The Long Road to Antietam is indeed a long road—the battle begins on P. 225. Slotkin devotes the preceding pages to Lincoln's efforts to control Maj. Gen. George McClellan, who

ran the war on his terms rather than the president's. McClellan's defiance of his commander in chief grew as General Robert E. Lee invaded Maryland and chose Antietam as the place where he would confront McClellan. Slotkin transports readers to the onset of the battle, tracking orders from the headquarters of Lee and McClellan to their field commanders. Moving hour by hour from one firefight to the next, Slotkin relates where men fell and where they fled as they groped for victory under "gray clouds of gun smoke...blotting out the lines."

McClellan chose not to launch an attack that could have destroyed Lee's army. Instead, he allowed Lee to retreat into Virginia and did not pursue him. "Either McClellan's motives were disloyal, or he was a military incompetent," Slotkin writes. On November 7 Lincoln relieved him of command, having learned, in Slotkin's words, "how to deal with generals who thought control of war policy should be conceded to military professionals."

—Thomas B. Allen



The Southern Political Tradition

by Perman, Michael
Publisher: Louisiana State University Press
Retail Price: \$48.00
Issue: Summer 2012
ISBN: 978-0-8071-4468-8

A Journey through Southern Politics

This gem of a book consists of the Fleming Lectures Michael Perman gave at LSU in the spring of 2007 and two additional chapters. In it he manages to pack a number of keen insights into a small space, although it is fair to say that readers of his *Pursuit of Unity: A Political History of the American South* (University of North Carolina Press, 2009) will be familiar with some of them. He was, after all, drafting that very book when he gave his lectures.

Perman traces what he calls the southern political tradition from 1800 to the 1990s, a very long period indeed, and he sees it as consisting of three primary characteristics. "The first," he tells us on page 3, "is the region's penchant for one-party politics." The second he designates as the South's "Frontier and Filibuster Defense" of its internal race-relations, whether under slavery or the subsequent system of segregation and black disfranchisement, from outside interference, whether by northern abolitionists in the antebellum period or northern civil rights advocates in the twentieth century and most especially by

the federal government (25). He calls the third distinctive characteristic "the overrepresentation mechanism," by which he means the acutely disproportionate power the South exercised in national politics, the national government, and the Democratic Party which, for decades, was little more than the South's fiefdom. In the nineteenth century, he points out, resentful and hostile northerners referred to this inflated political influence as the Slave Power whereas in the twentieth century southerners themselves proudly boasted of the Solid South's defense of white supremacy. Four of the books chapters flesh out these contentions by stressing the continuity from the nineteenth to the twentieth century. The short final chapter discusses the unraveling of the southern political tradition after 1970 caused by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, by the Supreme Court's one-man-one-vote decisions that sharply reduced the power of rural areas that had been the backbone of Democratic strength in the South, and by the reform of Congress' committee system that lessened the clout of southern committee chairmen.

The South's tradition of one-party politics, Perman contends, went through three different phases: one-party dominance from 1800 to 1860 when Democrats won most elections in the region; one-party hegemony from 1868 to 1908 when Democrats used fraud and intimidation to neutralize Republicans' votes from blacks and the demand for white supremacy to mobilize whites; and then a true one-party system from 1908 through the 1960s when massive disfranchisement of blacks and the Democrats' whites-only primaries rendered it impossible for any opposition party to exist. There were only two exceptions to this pattern before the 1970s, he insists. From the mid-1830s to 1852 a legitimate system of two-party competition between Democrats and Whigs characterized southern politics. Then during the Civil War "no-party politics" characterized the Confederacy. What about competition between Republicans and Democrats from 1868 to 1876 that Perman wrote about so brilliantly in his *Road to Redemption: Southern Politics 1869-1879* (University of North Carolina Press, 1984)? In that book, my personal favorite among his many books, he contends, correctly I think, that Reconstruction politics in the South is best understood as normal two-party conflict, not as some freakish political outlier. But here, he recants and declares that two-party politics did not exist between 1868 and 1876 because Democrats never recognized the legitimacy of the Republican party and aimed at destroying it, not simply defeating it in the electoral arena. To quote him on page 17, "This was not a normal electoral competition between two political parties, but an all-out contest for control by the party that considered itself alone to be legitimate and qualified to govern." On this point, again, I find the Perman of 1984 more persuasive than the Perman of 2012.

I also find Perman's compelling analysis of what he calls the frontier defense of southern race relations as the freshest part of the book. Here he compares John C. Calhoun's insistence in 1836 and thereafter that no abolitionist petitions even be accepted by Congress (rather than accepted and then automatically tabled as the Gag Rule directed) with southern senators' resistance to a bill outlawing lynching in the 1920s and to one outlawing the poll tax in the 1940s. Both were similar

examples of southerners defending their racial system aggressively at the first hint of any criticism of it, lest any breach of the external walls the South had erected lead inevitably to destruction of the central core of the South's system of white supremacy and racial oppression. "This," he cleverly writes, "was not a 'last ditch' stand, but its very opposite—unyielding resistance at the 'first ditch'" (34-35). Or as the notorious Senator Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi put it when justifying southerners' filibuster of a bill to outlaw the poll tax in the 1940s: "If the poll tax bill passes, the next step will be an effort to remove the registration qualifications, the educational qualification of negroes. If that is done, we will have no way of preventing the negroes from voting" (46).

After what white southerners regarded as the horror of Reconstruction, they had first used fraud and physical intimidation and then legal disfranchisement to prevent blacks from voting which they deemed a mortal threat to white supremacy. Thus Congress' passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 was one of the key steps toward the dismantling of the southern political tradition. But, as Perman smartly points out, even though black enfranchisement made a competitive Republican party possible by driving white Democratic defectors to it and thus once again introducing two-party politics into Dixie, Democrats' dominance of offices below the presidential level did not end until the 1990s. The roots of the Democratic Party that had usually controlled southern politics since the 1790s had furrowed deep indeed.

For anyone seeking a keenly incisive and brief overview of the entire history of politics in the American South, Michael Perman's *The Southern Political Tradition* is simply the best place to start.

Michael F. Holt, a former Fleming lecturer himself, retired from the History Department of the University of Virginia, where he was the Langbourne M. Williams Professor of American History, in May 2012. The most recent of his eight books was a short biography of President Franklin Pierce.

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I know this one isn't Civil War, but thought you all might still find it interesting. = Pat M-S



Book Review: 1812, by George C. Daughan

By HistoryNet Staff

Originally published by [Military History](#) magazine. Published Online: September 09, 2011

1812: The Navy's War, by George C. Daughan, Basic Books, New York, 2011, \$32.50

On June 26, 1812, President James Madison signed a declaration of war against the most powerful maritime nation in the world: Great Britain. Though justified by the Royal Navy's impressment of American sailors, Britain's violation of American sovereignty at sea and perceived involvement by British agents in Indian attacks along the western frontier, the declaration caught the United States unprepared for war. Daughan unravels the story of a nation that, without allies, sundered by partisan politics and sporting a military establishment that barely qualified as third-rate, managed to hold its own against the greatest power of the day.

This finely researched volume is a sequel to (or continuation of) Daughan's award-winning *If By Sea: The Forging of the American Navy—From the Revolution to the War of 1812*. From the poorly conducted chase of HMS *Belvidera* by Commodore John Rodgers' squadron in June 1812 to the capture of HMS *Penguin* by USS *Hornet* in March 1815, the author traces the rise of the U.S. Navy after its near dissolution following the American Revolution. He concludes with a brief examination of Commodore Stephen Decatur's whirlwind campaign in late 1815 against the Barbary pirates, a success clearly enabled by the United States' victory in the War of 1812.

Complementing the well-written and exciting narratives of naval action are concise analyses of the Americans' abortive land campaigns along the Canadian border (necessary toward a full understanding of the conflict along the Great Lakes), the burning of Washington and the final redemption of the U.S. military at New Orleans. Daughan also spends some words on politics and diplomacy. Lacking, however, is adequate treatment of the private navy in which Madison placed his faith. Those bold privateers contributed at least as much to the war as did the regular service.

Though Daughan offers nothing new to the scholarship of the War of 1812, readers are unlikely to find a more engaging or stirring recounting of the conflict and its place in the rebirth of the U.S. Navy.

—Wade G. Dudley



SAVING CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS

including 240 acres at Antietam



Cape May County Civil War Round Table
www.cmccwrt.com

