

**Cape May Civil War Round Table
October 2013 Newsletter**

2013 Meeting Schedule

17 October: Herb Kaufman will be speaking on the subject of Mrs. Lincoln. **Refreshments:** Andy Lolli
21 November: **Refreshments:** John Burke
?? December: **Refreshments:**

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**Business Meeting
September 2013**

VP Bishop brought the meeting to order. We saluted the flag and held a moment of silence for those serving our country and who put their lives on the line for us. He also mentioned that President Burke goes in for more surgery shortly.

Treasurer Marshall gave the Treasurer's Report. Hard copy on file. Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the report and file it for audit.

Secretary Munson-Siter reminded the group of Constitution Week, 17 – 23 September every year; this is the 225th anniversary of the Constitution.

Several events including re-enactments in the month of September addressed and discussed.

ELECTIONS ARE NEARLY UPON US. If anyone wished to volunteer to become an officer for the Round Table, please contact one of the current officers and let them know you are willing to serve.

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

Respectfully reported,

Patricia A Munson-Siter
CMCCWRT Secretary



Historical Civil War Events in November

1860
November 6 Lincoln elected to Presidency

1861
November 6 Jefferson Davis elected to 6 year term as president of the Confederacy

1862

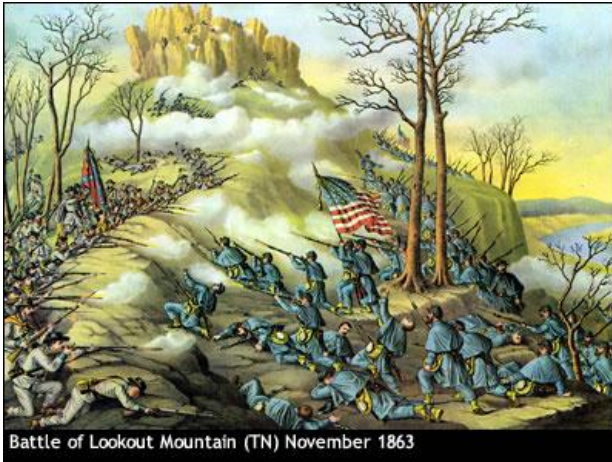
Nothing of note happened

1863

November 6 Battle of Droop Mountain, WV
November 19 Lincoln delivers Gettysburg Address
November 23-25 Battles for Chattanooga, TN (Lookout Mountain & Missionary Ridge)

1864

November 8 Lincoln elected for 2nd term
November 15 Gen. Sherman begins his "March to the Sea"

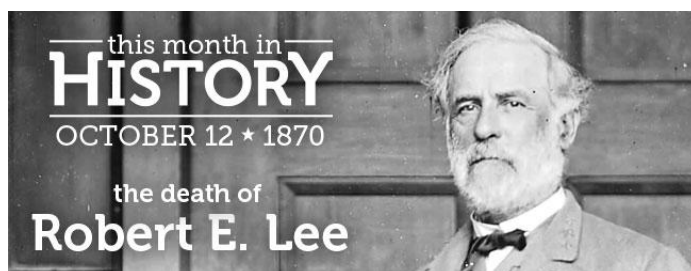


- 2 **PA** Living history, "James Hayney as President Lincoln," at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. 1 pm. Free with museum admission. nationalcivilwarmuseum.org
- 2 **VA** Lecture, "From Unison to Fredericksburg," at the Unison Methodist Church, 21148 Unison Road, near Middleburg. 7:30 pm. mosbyheritagearea.org
- 2 **VA** Living history, "Heritage Day at the Mill — Life in 1863," demonstrations, music, tours and more at the Burwell-Morgan Mill in Millwood. Free. 540-837-1799.
- 8 **VA** Talk, "George Thomas," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Noon. Free with admission. www.moc.org
- 9 **VA** Lecture, "The 10th Virginia at Culp's Hill," at the Heritage Museum, 382 High St., in Dayton. Noon. Details: 540-879-2616.
- 9 **VA** Living history walking tours of Fort Ward in Alexandria. 2 pm. Free. 703-671-7350.
- 9 **VA** Luminary, annual candle event at Poplar Grove National Cemetery near Petersburg. 5:30-8:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete

- 9 **MD** Movie, "Glory," at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. 6 pm. Free. www.surratt.org
- 10 **PA** Gallery tour, "Voices of 1863: Witnesses to the Civil War," at the Rosenbach Museum & Library, 2008-2010 Delancy Place, Philadelphia. 1 pm. Free with museum admission. Reservations: 215-732-1600 extension 100.
- 10 **PA** Curator tour, "Voices of 1863" exhibit at the Rosenbach Museum and Library, 2008-2010 Delancey Place, Philadelphia. 1 pm. Free with admission. Register: 215-732-1600 extension 100.
- 10 **VA** Movie and discussion, "Reel to Real: Shenandoah" at the Henrico Theatre, 305 Nine Mile Road in Highland Springs (near Richmond). 2 pm. Free. 804-652-3409.
- 11 **VA** Flag conservation demonstration at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. 10 am-2 pm. Free with museum admission. moc.org
- 11 **VA** Luminary trail at the Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park, 6541 Saylers Creek Road, near Rice. Evening program. Free. 804-561-7510.
- 13 **VA** Lecture, "Richmond and the Lincoln Legacy," at the Library of Virginia in Richmond. 5:30 pm. Free. Registration: Jepson.richmond.edu or 804-287-6522.
- 13 **VA** Talk, "George Thomas," at Baine's Books and Coffee, 205 Main St, Appomattox. 12:15 pm. Free. www.moc.org
- 13 **PA** "An Evening with James M. McPherson: Civil war on Land and Sea: Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief," exhibit tour and lecture at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. Dinner follows at the Maryland Club. Begins 4 pm. \$25/lecture, book signing; \$125 for everything. www.mdhs.org
- 14 **PA** "An Evening with James M. McPherson: Civil war on Land and Sea: Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief," exhibit tour and lecture at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. Dinner follows at the Maryland Club. Begins 4 pm. \$25/lecture, book signing; \$125 for everything. www.mdhs.org
- 16 **DC** Living history walking tour, "Courage! The Civil War in Washington," hear the stories, see the downtown sites. Meets at 1001 Pennsylvania Ave NW. 11 am. \$12. historicstrolls.com
- 16 **PA** "Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital: Candlelight at Christ Church," 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.

- 16 **VA** Commemoration of the anniversary of the Mine Run Campaign in Orange County. visitorangevirginia.com
- 16 **VA** Symposium, "Mine Run: Missteps, Mischief & Mayhem, the Campaign That History Forgot," at the Locust Grove Middle School, 6368 Flat Run Road, Locust Grove. Lectures plus afternoon tour of the battlefield. \$15 before Oct 31. \$25 after. visitorangevirginai.com or 540-661-5328.
- 16 **VA** Walking tour, "Civil War Trail & Gilmore Farm," tour a Civil War winter camp and watch reenactors build huts at Montpelier, home of James Madison near Orange. 2 pm. \$5 plus Montpelier admission. montpelier.org
- 16 **VA** Walking tour of Fort Huger, Confederate fort on the James River at 15080 Talcott Terrace near Smithfield. 10 am. Free. 757-357-0115.
- 16-17 **DC VA** Overnight Bus Tour, "Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign," with Ed Bearss. Leaves from Washington DC. For detailed information see smithsonianassociates.org (click on Civil War) or call 202-633-8647.
- 16-17 **VA** Civil War show and sale at the Richmond International Raceway, 600 E Laburnum, Richmond. 9 am-5 pm Saturday, 9 am-3 pm Sunday. \$8. www.mkshows.com
- 19 **PA** Anniversary activities commemorating Lincoln's Gettysburg Address at the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg. Speaker and memorial. Details: 717-337-6590.
- 21 **MD** Lecture, "Overland Campaign," at the Carroll Community College in Westminster. 6:30-9:30 pm. \$39. Details: 410-386-8100.
- 21 **DC** Book talk and reception, "Congressman Lincoln: The Making of America's Greatest President," at President Lincoln's Cottage in Washington. Talk at 6:30 pm, reception at 6 pm. \$10/lecture, \$10/reception. lincolncottage.org
- 22 **PA** "An Evening with the Painting," special two-hour, after-hours view of and talks about the Gettysburg Cyclorama. 4:30 and 6:30 pm. \$20/adult. Tickets: gettysburgfoundation.org
- 23 **PA** Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremonies commemorating Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in Gettysburg. Parade starts 1 pm. www.suvcw.org
- 23 **PA** Remembrance Illumination at the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg. 5:30-9:30 pm. Free. www.gettysburgfoundation.org
- 23 **VA** Living history, "Thanksgiving, 1863," at Meadow

- 150 **VA** Farm Museum, 3400 Mountain Road in Glen Allen (near Richmond). 12:30-3:30 pm. Free. 804-501-2130.
- 23 **VA** Lecture, "From Turret to Table," at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News. 1 pm. Free with museum admission. marinersmuseum.org
- 23 **VA** Living history tour, "Thanksgiving in the Trenches," popular holiday program at the Petersburg National Battlefield. Tours begin 5:30, 6:45 and 8 pm. Free. Reservations necessary: 804-732-3531 extension 205. More info: nps.gov/pete



The following is from a newsletter emailed out by Fold3.com, a pay genealogy website that has one of the most extensive collections of military documents in cyberspace. They are still uploading copies of all the Civil War Pension records in the National Archives collection... If you are doing any research into military records, Fold3.com could well be a very worth while investment. My only complaint with the site is that its search engine is TERRIBLE!

October 12, 1870:

General Robert E. Lee Dies

"The education of a man is never completed until he dies" is a statement attributed to Robert E. Lee, whose education was completed in 1870 as death reached him only five years after surviving the U.S. Civil War as the head of the Army of the Confederate States of America (CSA).

General Lee died in Lexington, Virginia, on October 12, 1870, at the age of 63. [Mourners at his funeral](#) are pictured standing on the steps of Arlington House, residence of the Lee and Custis families for decades, and now known as The Robert E. Lee Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Lee was born on January 19, 1807, at his family's Stratford Hall plantation in Westmoreland County, Virginia. After attending West Point, he forged a promising military career and distinguished himself in the Mexican American War. Later, he would command the CSA Army and, in the last years of his life, serve as president of Washington College, now Washington and Lee University.

There are several photos on Fold3, one showing [Lee in profile](#), another with [son George Washington Custis Lee](#), and his [famous portrait](#) as a Confederate general. Many more documents relating to Lee and his family can be found in Fold3's [Civil War Collection](#).

As a second-year student at West Point in 1827, [Cadet Robert E. Lee](#) appears on a list of assistant professors at the academy in [Letters Received by the Adjutant General, 1822-1860](#). Lee's name and signature appear often within that title and in the later set of [Letters Received by the Adjutant General, 1861-1870](#). In this 1855 document, [Lee accepts an appointment of Lieutenant Colonel](#) and [swears allegiance](#) to the United States of America. Later, he's [recommended for promotion to brigadier general](#) by J.M. Porter in a letter to President Buchanan. It was an appointment that didn't happen despite Porter's effusive endorsement.

Prior to the Civil War, Lee headed a board of officers tasked with examining effective signal communications. His 1859 [reports begin here](#) and continue for 179 pages. When Virginia voted to secede from the Union on April 17, 1861, Lee felt obligated to fight for his home state and signed a [resignation letter](#) three days later. In his new position, he wrote a [letter to General McClellan](#) regarding an exchange of prisoners on July 24, 1862.

[Confederate Amnesty Papers](#) contain applications of former Confederates for presidential pardons and, while there are many post-war oaths of allegiance to the USA by former CSA officers like [General George E. Pickett](#) and Lee's nephew [Fitzhugh Lee](#), General Lee's request and pardon are not among them. Learn the story behind it in the [Spring 2005 issue](#) of NARA's *Prologue* magazine.

After his death, Robert E. Lee's legacy strengthened in both the South and the North. He is remembered as a brilliant military leader, a devoted family man, and a great American.

GENEALOGY

A NEVER ENDING QUEST

Civil War Roster Index Now Available Online

The Historical Publications Section of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources has made available online a cumulative master index of the first 18 volumes of "North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster." This index of approximately 115,000 names of North Carolinians who served in the Civil War will be of great interest to historians, genealogists, and anyone with a Tar Heel ancestor who fought in that conflict.

Work on "North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster" began in 1961 with the purpose of researching, compiling, and publishing service records for every North Carolinian who served in the Civil War. To date, 18 of a projected 22 volumes have been published.

The rosters in each volume are arranged numerically by regiment or battalion and alphabetically by company. Each roster is preceded by a unit history giving information about where it was raised and how it was designated. Officers and enlisted men are listed in separate sections alphabetically by surname. Each name is followed by a service record that includes information such as the soldier's county of birth and

residence; his age and occupation at time of enlistment; promotions; whether he was wounded, captured or killed; and whether he deserted or died of disease.

This online cumulative index contains an entry for each man listed in the series. Each entry includes the volume number and page number where his service record is listed or where he is otherwise mentioned. It does not list company and regiment. Cross referencing of variant name spellings is available. The index database also contains entries for all the persons, places and military units mentioned in the histories.

Most public and academic libraries hold volumes of the "North Carolina Troops" series. Individual volumes and copies of individual pages from those volumes can be purchased from Historical Publications.

Digitization of the "North Carolina Troops" index is a joint project of Historical Publications and the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources Information Technology Application team.

For additional information call (919) 733-7442, ext. 225. The Historical Publications Section within the Office of Archives and History is part of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

Speaking of genealogy research, are any of our members interested in me writing a series of articles on how to start researching your family history? I have been a genealogist for more than 40 years and have taught a class in the subject in the Vtech Continuing Education Program for more than 10 years now. If you are interested, let me know, please.

--Pat Munson-Siter



Confederate ironclad CSS Tennessee engages the USS Oneida while under fire from the USS Chickasaw (Painting by Tom Freeman www.tomfreemanart.com)

Damn the Torpedoes!

THE BATTLE OF MOBILE BAY BY CRAIG L. SYMONDS

Along with the clash of ironclads in Hampton Roads and the duel between the Alabama and the Kearsarge off

Cherbourg, France, the Battle of Mobile Bay is one of the iconic confrontations of the Civil War at sea. Indeed, Farragut's charge into Mobile Bay in August of 1864 may have been the most dramatic moment of the naval war, comparable to Pickett's Charge at [Gettysburg](#) or the Union assault up [Missionary Ridge](#).

The Battle of Mobile Bay had a dramatic cast of leading characters. Inside Mobile Bay, the Confederacy's only full admiral, Franklin Buchanan, waited with his flagship, CSS Tennessee, the most powerful rebel ironclad since the Virginia. Buchanan was an old sea dog with an illustrious and lengthy career. He had entered the Navy as a teenager — not unusual in those days — during the War of 1812, first serving under the command of Oliver Hazard Perry, fresh from his immortal victory on Lake Erie. Buchanan had subsequently commanded warships against pirates in the Caribbean, and he led a storming party ashore during the Mexican War to capture an enemy fort. He was the founding superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, where the superintendent's home is named Buchanan House in his honor. Earlier in the Civil War, he had commanded the CSS Virginia during its initial sortie [Hampton Roads](#) when it all but destroyed the Union fleet there on March 8, 1862. Badly wounded in that fight, he missed the Virginia's historic clash with the Monitor the next day. Promoted to full admiral — the only man ever to bear that rank in the Confederacy — he was sent to Mobile Bay to take command of the naval forces there. By August of 1864, he had been a naval officer for 49 years.

As impressive as that is, David Glasgow Farragut, who commanded the Union squadron outside Mobile, had a 51-year naval career that rivaled it. Born James Glasgow Farragut in Tennessee, the future admiral entered the naval service at the age of eight. Even in those days, going to sea at such a tender age was unusual. It came about by accident, or, if you believe in such things, by fate. Having moved his family from Tennessee to New Orleans, Farragut's father, Jorge Farragut, was fishing one day when he happened upon an elderly man lying unconscious in a small boat. Jorge Farragut brought the man home and nursed him for weeks until his death. He turned out to be 84-year-old David Porter, whose son and namesake was a captain in the U.S. Navy. Out of gratitude for this solicitude, Captain Porter offered to take Jorge Farragut's son to sea as a midshipman. It was quite a generous offer since such appointments were rare and valued, even more so then than now.

Consequently, David Porter became a kind of surrogate father for the young Farragut, who changed his first name to David to honor his benefactor. He could not adopt his patron's surname since there was already a David Porter in that generation — the captain's natural son, whom historians call David Dixon Porter to distinguish him from his father. That is how James Farragut became David Farragut and the foster brother of David Dixon Porter, another key player in the Civil War.

Besides their age and their connection to famous figures from the War of 1812, Buchanan and Farragut also shared the rather curious distinction of having switched sides. Buchanan, born in Baltimore and appointed as a midshipman from Pennsylvania, fought for the South; Farragut, born in Tennessee, raised in New Orleans and married to a Virginian, fought for the North. Thus it was that at Mobile Bay the

northern-born southerner Franklin Buchanan awaited an attack by the southern-born northerner David Farragut. Between them they had accumulated a total of 100 years of service at sea.

Mobile Bay also involved ironclad warships. Inside the bay, Buchanan commanded the formidable ironclad CSS Tennessee in addition to two less-efficient ironclads, the Baltic and the Nashville, which were badly underpowered and unlikely to be of much value in combat. Farragut was reluctant to fight his way in until he, too, had some ironclads in his command. The first of them arrived in late July 1864, and by the end of the month he had four. On August 1, Farragut ordered the captains of his wooden steamers to send down their upper yards, stripping away nonessential impedimenta for imminent action. Farragut planned his attack carefully, for he had to worry not only about the Tennessee, but also about the twin forts guarding the entrance to the bay. The larger of these, Fort Morgan, was a starshaped masonry fortification armed with a score of heavy guns, any one of which was capable of sinking one of his wooden screw steamers. In addition, there were the “torpedoes”— what the Federals called “infernal machines,” and what today would be called mines — that the Confederates had sown in the ship channel. Only a very narrow passage directly under the guns of Fort Morgan had been left unmined for arriving and departing blockade-runners. The smaller Fort Gaines stood on the western side of the bay's mouth, completing the gauntlet.



Vice Admiral David G. Farragut (Library of Congress)

Farragut planned to advance his ships in two columns. The column on the right, or starboard, was closer to Fort Morgan and consisted of his four monitors, with the Tecumseh in the lead. To the left and slightly behind these, Farragut positioned a second column — his wooden warships lashed together so that the more formidable vessels absorbed the bulk of the fort's guns. The idea was that the bigger ships would screen the smaller ones, and, in addition, if one ship became disabled, the other could pull it through the channel to safety. Farragut did not plan to stop and fight it out with the forts. As he had done on the Mississippi in 1862, he hoped to run past the enemy forts into the bay. Only after he made it past the forts and through the minefield would he worry about Buchanan in the Tennessee.

Farragut expected to lead the attack in his flagship, the woodenhulled screw sloop Hartford, but at the last minute his captains prevailed upon him to let the sloop Brooklyn go first instead. If the admiral were hurt early in the fight, they argued, it might throw the whole attack into confusion and lead to disaster. Reluctantly, Farragut agreed that the Hartford could go second in line behind the Brooklyn.

August 5th dawned with a gentle haze that turned the sky a milky white and a sea as smooth as glass. As the Federal warships approached the ship channel, the rebel gunners in Fort Morgan fired slowly and deliberately, the shell splashes erupting around the lead ships, which returned fire as their guns bore, the white smoke from their broadsides beginning to obscure their formation.

As the two columns approached the bay's entrance, Capt. Tunis Craven in the Tecumseh spotted Buchanan's Tennessee through the narrow viewing slit on his pilothouse. Since Craven's job was to shield the wooden warships from Buchanan's Tennessee, he began to edge over to port — that is, to the left — to intercept her. But that pushed the wooden ships in the left-hand column to the left as well, dangerously near the line of buoys marking the edge of the mine field. Seeing the buoys ahead of him, Capt. James Alden, in command of the Brooklyn, ordered his ship to stop.

Behind him, Farragut sent him the flag hoist signal number 665: "Go ahead." Alden answered by wig-wag, which he calculated would be faster than flag hoist. Unfortunately, the only officers aboard the Hartford who could read a wig-wag signal were army officers currently below deck. After passing the word for the army signal officer, Farragut climbed part way up the rigging to see over the smoke that was billowing about the deck. Worried that the admiral might fall to the deck if he were hit by a splinter, Farragut's flag captain, Percival Drayton, sent up a signalman with a piece of line to secure the admiral to the rigging. Farragut at first refused, then seeing the wisdom of it, passed the line around his body a few times and gave the loose ends to the signalman, who secured him to the rigging.

Meanwhile, the army signal officer arrived to read Alden's wig-wag message, which was that the monitors were squeezing the Brooklyn toward the mine field. "We cannot go on without passing them," Alden signaled. "What shall we do?" Again, Farragut ordered Alden to go ahead. With both columns under fire from the fort, this was hardly the place to stop and have a conversation.

Suddenly, off to starboard of both the Brooklyn and the Hartford, the bow of Craven's Tecumseh heaved up out of the water, followed quickly by the muffled thump of an underwater explosion. The Union monitor turned over onto its starboard side; its bow plunged downward, its stern rose up, exposing its still-turning brass propeller; and then it shot downward like an arrow and was gone from sight. The whole incident, from explosion to the moment the Tecumseh disappeared, lasted barely twenty-five seconds. All that was left was a handful of survivors flailing in the roiling water where the Tecumseh had been. At least one of the Confederate torpedoes had proved appallingly successful.

While the Tecumseh went down, the Brooklyn was edging even closer to the minefield on the left. Farragut had ordered Alden to keep to the center of the channel, but that was

impossible now. Indeed, Alden could not go forward at all without steaming directly into the minefield. Again he ordered the engines stopped, and then he began to back down. The whole Federal movement was about to collapse into confusion and disorder.

This, of course, is when Farragut took matters in hand. In order to avoid having his entire column of ships collide like a collapsing accordion, he ordered the Hartford to pull out of line and steam past the Brooklyn to port, directly through the mine field. As Farragut passed the Brooklyn, Alden called across to him to point out the torpedoes in the water dead ahead. To which Farragut purportedly replied, "Damn the torpedoes!" The phrase has gained immortality in the 150 years since, but, in fact, Farragut had little choice at this point but to go ahead. He could not stop under the guns of Fort Morgan and he could not back down with a column of ships behind him, so he went ahead. The rest of the Federal ships followed him, careful to stay in his wake. As they passed through the mine field, some sailors later claimed they had heard the primers snapping on the torpedoes. Luckily, no more of them exploded, very likely because of faulty primers.

Buchanan watched all this from the pilothouse of the Tennessee, and once it was clear that, except for the unlucky Tecumseh, Farragut's vessels had survived the run into the bay, he ordered his ship to steam directly for the Hartford, which was now leading the Federal squadron out of the minefield. Alas, the Tennessee's plodding speed made such an attack an exercise in frustration. Two and a half years earlier, when Buchanan had commanded the Virginia in Hampton Roads, he had been able to ram and sink the Cumberland with relative ease largely because his target had waited passively at anchor to receive the Virginia's charge. The circumstances in Mobile Bay were quite different. A ship underway had little to fear from an iron-clad ram whose top speed was only six knots. Farragut's Hartford easily eluded the Tennessee, while gunners on both ships fired at one another. Buchanan made a run at several more of the Federal ships, but failed to make contact. Buchanan then broke off the action, and ordered the Tennessee back to its anchorage off Fort Morgan.

As his ungainly vessel steamed slowly back to Fort Morgan, Buchanan ordered an inspection of her damage. The news was gratifying. Though the exterior accouterments, such as the smokestack, boat davits and handrails, had all been blasted away by fire from the enemy fleet, the armored casemate was undamaged, the engines were sound and there had been no serious injuries.



*USS Tecumseh strikes a torpedo and sinks near Fort Morgan
(Library of Congress)*

Because the Tennessee had gone into battle before the hands could be fed, Buchanan ordered the crew to breakfast. Afterward, he turned to his flag captain and ordered him to get the Tennessee underway again. "Follow them up, Johnston," one officer recalled him saying, "We can't let them off that way." As the Tennessee moved up the bay, his intentions became obvious to every man on board, and a murmur ran along the deck. One crewman muttered: "The old admiral has not had his fight out yet; he is heading for that big fleet; he will get his fill of it up there." Another wrote that, "It looked to me that we were going into the jaws of death." The ship's surgeon could hardly believe it. "Are you going into that fleet, Admiral?" he asked. "I am, sir," Buchanan told him. Turning away, the surgeon incautiously ventured the opinion, "We'll never come out of there whole." Overhearing the remark, Buchanan instantly rounded on him, "That's my lookout, sir!"

On board the Hartford, Farragut was surprised that Buchanan planned to renew the fight so soon, but he did not hesitate to order his own vessels to clear for action. He ordered his flag captain to aim the Hartford directly at the approaching vessel. Buchanan, too, sought out the opposing flagship. Like two jousters in some slow-motion medieval tournament, the Hartford (at 10 knots) and the Tennessee (at four knots) steamed directly at one another. At a combined speed of 14 knots, it took 15 minutes for the two ships to cover the four miles that separated them. Had they collided stem-to-stem, the collision would almost certainly have sunk both vessels within minutes. As it was, the steersman on the Tennessee turned slightly to starboard at the last second and the two vessels passed each other port-to-port at point-blank range.

As the two ships scraped past one another, virtually touching, men on both ships screamed insults. Swept up in the fight, they used any weapon at hand: a sailor on the Hartford threw a spittoon and a holystone at the Tennessee; a sailor on the Tennessee leaned out a gunport and stabbed a Federal sailor on the Hartford with his bayonet — the only bayonet wound ever inflicted in a Civil War naval battle. Percival Drayton, Farragut's flag captain, later claimed that as the two ships slid past one another, he spotted Buchanan through an open gun port and, overcome by fury, threw his binoculars, thundering: "You infernal traitor!"

Once the Tennessee had slipped past the Hartford, it was surrounded by Federal warships all firing as fast as they could load. In less than an hour, the Union double-turreted monitor Chickasaw fired 52 shells into the Tennessee at a distance her commander estimated to be from "50 to 10 yards." Buchanan could not return fire even though he was literally surrounded by targets for one gunport was jammed shut and the primers regularly misfired on his other five. He called for a party of workmen to try to un-jam the stuck gunport. Two men stood with their backs to the casemate holding a metal bolt over the pivot rod, while two more struck it with sledgehammers. Buchanan was personally supervising their labor when a shell smashed into the casemate directly opposite where they were working. The men holding the bolt died instantly. Buchanan was struck by flying debris and fell to the deck. His left leg — his good leg — suffered a compound fracture and bent out at an impossible angle. Immediately the cry went up that the admiral was hit. "Well, Johnston," Buchanan told his flag captain, "They

have got me again. You'll have to look out for her now; it is your fight."

But the Tennessee was already doomed. The fusillade of enemy shells had severed the steering chains on the afterdeck, and the Tennessee's rudder no longer answered the wheel. Without its steering mechanism, the Tennessee was no longer maneuverable. Moreover, with its funnel shot away, the ship could not raise steam in her boilers. The gunport that Buchanan had tried to clear remained jammed, and the primers on the other guns were unreliable. The Tennessee could not steam, could not maneuver, could not shoot. The situation spoke for itself. "Do the best you can," Buchanan told his flag captain, James D. Johnston. "And when all is done, surrender." Johnston wasted little time. Almost at once, he lowered the Confederate flag flying from the pilot house. In the fury of battle, that gesture was ambiguous, and Johnston realized what had to be done. He tied a white handkerchief to a boarding pike and raised it above the ship, and at last the firing stopped.

The wounded Buchanan was taken prisoner and, eventually, sent to New York, where he spent the winter months in Fort Lafayette in New York Harbor. Exchanged in the spring, shortly before Appomattox, he made his way back to Mobile, arriving there just as the war came to an end. As for Farragut, Congress voted him a \$50,000 bonus — serious money in those days, equivalent to several million dollars today — and in December, he was promoted to the rank of vice admiral. After the war was over, on July 26, 1866, Congress created the rank of full admiral and named David Glasgow Farragut to fill it. Just as Franklin Buchanan, the northerner who fought for the South, had been the first Confederate admiral, Farragut, the southerner who fought for the North, became the first admiral of the U.S. Navy.

This article originally appeared in the Winter 2008 issue of Hallowed Ground, the Civil War Preservation Trust's award-winning membership magazine.

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Civil War Trust Announces National "Honor Our Soldiers" Initiative

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN INTENDED TO RECOGNIZE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS AS LIVING MEMORIALS

TO THE SERVICE OF ALL AMERICAN SOLDIERS, PAST AND PRESENT

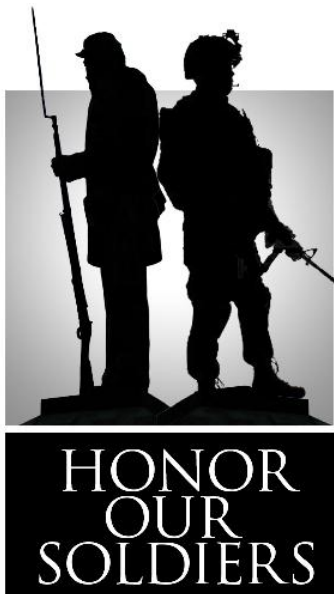
WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Civil War Trust, the nation's largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization, is proud to announce a new national campaign to honor American veterans, past and present. The multi-media campaign will recognize the tremendous sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform, and includes an online petition — www.ipetitions.com/petition/honor-our-soldiers — through which concerned Americans can show their support for historic battlefield preservation.

“We see Civil War battlefields as living memorials to the courage and service of all of America's military veterans,” remarked Civil War Trust President James Lighthizer. “We share an incalculable debt to the many soldiers, sailors and airmen who have endured hardships and sacrificed for our freedom. By preserving these battlefields, we celebrate their memory and honor their legacy.

The new “Honor Our Soldiers” campaign is intended to generate awareness about the acute plight of Civil War and other battlefields on U.S. soil. Many of these historic shrines to our nation's military have already been lost, and even more remain at risk of being destroyed beneath a bulldozer's blade. As an example, nearly 20 percent of our nation's Civil War battlefields have already been lost to development — denied forever to future generations. The “Honor Our Soldiers” campaign seeks to rally support for protecting those hallowed grounds that remain.

Cape May County Civil War Round Table

www.cmccwrt.com



Lighthizer was joined in the “Honor Our Soldiers” announcement by one of America's most distinguished veterans, historian and preservationist Ed Bearss. Bearss enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1942 and fought at Guadalcanal and the Russell Islands before being severely wounded at Suicide Creek on Cape Gloucester, New Britain. After the war, Bearss went on to become Chief Historian of the National Park Service — a position he continues to hold in an emeritus capacity. According to Bearss: “When I answered the call to serve my country in World War II, I felt a kinship with all those soldiers who had come before me. I see preserving battlefields as a sacred duty that honors the legacy of their service.”

Lighthizer and Bearss both noted how preserved battlefields give Americans a unique opportunity to learn about the great personal cost paid by our ancestors to forge the freedoms we enjoy today. Lighthizer in particular noted the monument of the 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment at the Angle at Gettysburg. “Carved into that monument are the words ‘Patriotism’ and ‘Heroism.’ To me, that's what battlefield preservation is all about. It gives young and old alike an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the patriots and heroes who have proudly worn our country's uniform. Protecting and visiting these places ensures that their bravery is never forgotten”

To honor our soldiers — both past and present — PLEASE SIGN the petition to show your support for the preservation of the hallowed battlegrounds on which Americans have fought and died. Go to www.ipetitions.com/petition/honor-our-soldiers or visit the website at www.HonorOurSoldiers.org.