

**Cape May County Civil War Round Table Newsletter
October 2016**

Meeting Dates for 2016

20 Oct – Speaker: Craig Swain on *South Carolina, Sumter and Charleston*. **Refreshments:** Pat Munson-Siter

7 Nov = Tom Ryan to make a presentation on *Spies, Scouts and Secrets of the Gettysburg Campaign*.

Refreshments: Lou Bishop

? Dec = **Christmas / End of Year party**

LIST OF LOCAL EVENTS!!!

If anyone knows of local Civil War related events for 2016, please contact the Secretary so the information can be added to future issues of the newsletter.

Cape May County Historical Society & Museum

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

the museum. They also have lost a huge amount of funding from the county; please support their fund raising efforts!! They are also always ready to welcome new members as well.

Round Table Officers

President: VACANT

Vice President: Lou Bishop Jr.

21 Schoolhouse Ln, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

609-463-9277 or 741-5438

southwilriseagain@aol.com

NOTE: We need a volunteer to become our new President!!!

Secretary: Pat Munson-Siter

42 Franklin Ave., Villas, NJ 08251-2407

609-287-5097

patms1766@outlook.com

Treasurer: Jim Marshall

202 Bartram Ln., Ocean City, NJ 08226

609-602-3243

jim@jimocnj.com

Minutes of the Business Meeting, Sept 2016

The meeting was brought to order by Vice President Lou Bishop. We saluted the flag and held a moment of silence for everyone past and present standing in harm's way to protect the country. Lou then read the Treasurer's report, as Jim was at work and could not attend the meeting. Motion made to donate funds to the Civil War Trust, seconded and approved. Lou told folks to see Andy about buying tickets for the night's drawing. Please folks, soon we will be posting a sign up sheet for refreshments for meetings next year. It seems the same 7 or 8 people volunteer every year, while the rest of the many folks who attend eat and drink the refreshments but never volunteer to provide them. We don't get any money from the CWRT to pay for food; we buy everything ourselves. We have more than enough people coming to meetings that we should be able to have two people joining forces to buy food and drink for every meeting!!

Reminder that Civil War Weekend at Cold Spring Village is coming up. Schedule for battles etc discussed. The Brewer at CSV is now open. Several of our members will be attending as re-enactors.

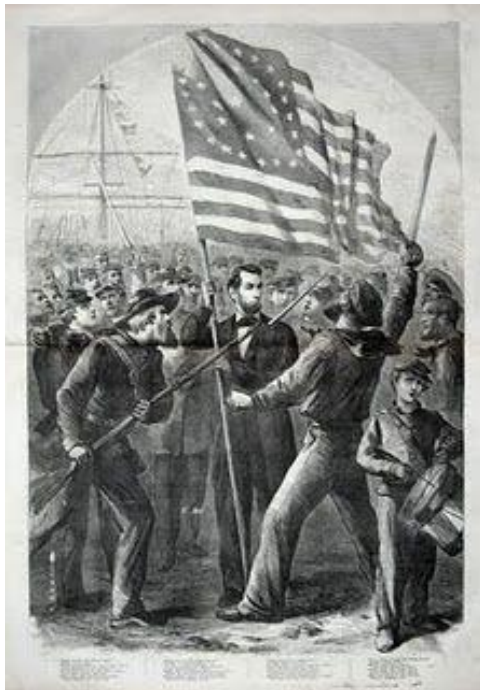
Rent due on our safety deposit box. Motion made to pay the rent, seconded and approved.

Rich from Old Baldy CWRT rose to speak about what they are doing, including an awards luncheon on 24 Sept. Also upcoming is a symposium on New Jersey in the Civil War. Flyers for both events were in the break room, including one on a NASA employee working on ballooning in the Civil War.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A Munson-Siter, 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

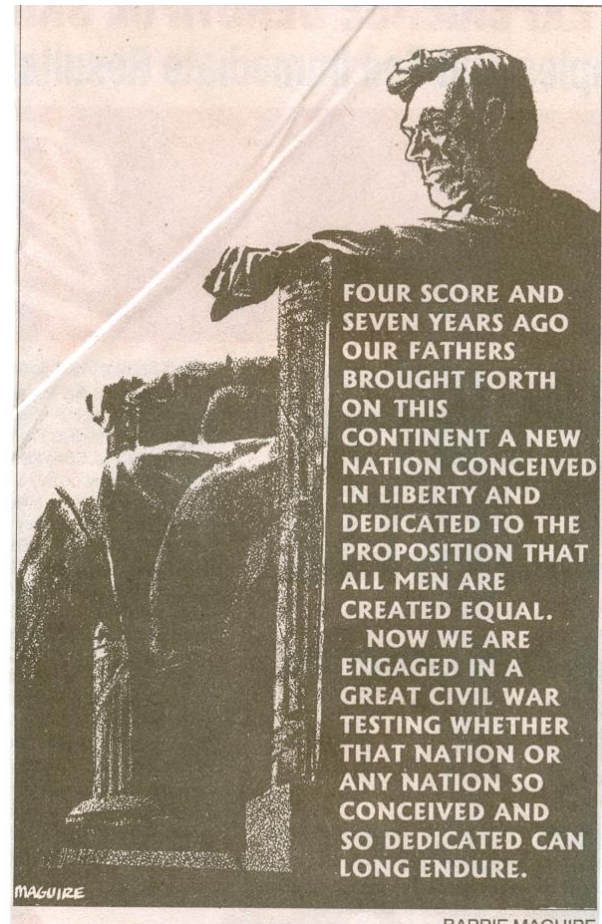
Nothing of note happened

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"



FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO OUR FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS CONTINENT A NEW NATION CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY AND DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL. NOW WE ARE ENGAGED IN A GREAT CIVIL WAR TESTING WHETHER THAT NATION OR ANY NATION SO CONCEIVED AND SO DEDICATED CAN LONG ENDURE.

Civil War Related Events in November 2016

4 **PA** "Inspired by Gettysburg," the Gettysburg NMP artist-in-residence at the Lincoln Railroad Station in Gettysburg. 5-8 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett

5 **MD** Lecture, "The 54th Massachusetts, After 'Glory'" at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. 4 pm. Free. <http://www.surrattmuseum.org/>

5 **VA** Living history walking tour, "Battle of Smithfield," meets at the Isle of Wight Museum, 103 Main St, Smithfield. 2 pm. Free. historicisleofwight.com/events.html

5 **VA** Walking tour of Fort Huger near Smithfield. Explore the Confederate James River fort, 15080 Talcott Terrace, Isle of Wight County. 10 am. Free. historicisleofwight.com/events.html

5 **VA** Living history walking tour, "A Gangly Village in the Civil War," lantern walk begins at the Purcellville Train Station, 21st Street, Purcellville. 7:30 pm. Fee charged. mosbyheritagearea.org

10 **VA** Lecture, "Stonewall Jackson's Early Life," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox. 6:30 pm. \$5. acwm.org

12 **MD** Talk, "Women Soldiers in the Civil War," at the Newcomer House, 18422 Shepherdstown Pike, Keedysville. 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. Free. heartofthecivilwar.org/events

12 **MD** Lecture, "Spies in Frederick County," at the National Civil War Medical Museum in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free with admission. civilwarmed.org

18 **PA** "An Evening with the Painting," after-hours, behind-the-scenes extended tour of the Gettysburg Cyclorama in the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 4:30 and 6:30 pm. \$20/adult. Tickets: gettysburgfoundation.org

19 **VA** Book talk, "Clashing Dynasties: Charles Francis Adams and James Murray Mason in the Fiery Cauldron of Civil War," at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 2 pm. Free. 703-591-0560.

19 **VA** Living history tour, "Thanksgiving in the Trenches," popular annual lantern-lit living history at Tour Stop 3, Petersburg National Battlefield in Petersburg. 5:30 and 6:45 pm. Limited space. Early reservations suggested. Free. 804-732-3531 extension 204. More info: nps.gov/pete

19 **PA** Anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address at the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg. Ceremony 10 am. Cemetery illumination 5:30-9 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett and gettysburgfoundation.org

19 **PA** Living history, "Remembrance Day Parade" begins at 1 pm in downtown Gettysburg. suvcw.org

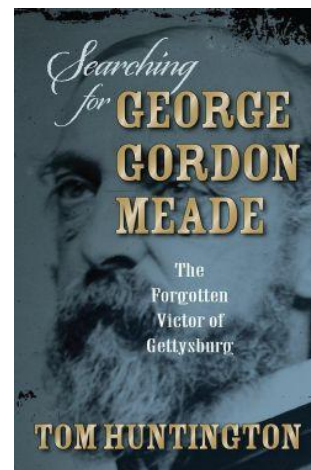


Obituary of Thomas Keely

Thomas Keely, III, "Tim" age 66, of Wildwood Crest passed away suddenly on Monday, September 26,

2016. He will be greatly missed by his mother, stepfather, family and friends. Thomas was born in St. Louis MO and was formerly of Maryland, and a graduate of the Univ. of Maryland. He worked for Western Pest Services in the Cape May area as a technician for the past 17 years He also had worked for the Mid Atlantic Center for the Arts (MAC) at the Cape May Point Lighthouse as a keeper. Thomas previously had worked for Walden Books in Maryland. Thomas had served in the US Coast Guard. He was a very active member of Calvary Chapel - Cape May where he was a Sunday School Teacher and Church Greeter. He is survived by his mother Louise Ross and step father Gary Ross; a sister Cathy (Gary) Hornfeldt; nephews, Chris and Kyle Hornfeldt and a niece, Amy Hopgood, and many great nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held 7:00 PM Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at Calvary Chapel-Cape May, 596 Seashore Rd., Erma, NJ 08204 where relatives and friends will be received from 5:00- 7:00 PM. Contributions in his memory can be made to the Wounded Warriors Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675. Condolences will be received at www.evoyfuneralhome.com

On a Quest for the Forgotten Victor of Gettysburg AN INTERVIEW WITH TOM HUNTINGTON, AUTHOR OF SEARCHING FOR GEORGE GORDON MEADE: THE FORGOTTEN VICTOR OF GETTYSBURG



Searching for George Gordon Meade (Tom Huntington)

Searching for George Gordon Meade: The Forgotten Victor of Gettysburg is Tom Huntington's account of his travels to sites associated with Union Gen. George Meade. From Texas to Pennsylvania, each stop on

Huntington's travels illuminates more about Meade, painting a portrait of the general for readers.

Civil War Trust staff sat down with the author to discuss the new book.

By visiting the sites associated with General Meade, you took an unusual angle in telling his story. What inspired you to pursue his life in this way?

Tom: I used to edit a magazine called *Historic Traveler*, and I loved that approach to history—going to a place, finding out what happened there, and seeing what remains today. I was also inspired by Tony Horwitz's *Confederates in the Attic*, which I thought did a great job of mixing past and present. So when I decided to write about Meade I intended from the start to make it a literal "journey of discovery" by traveling to the places Meade knew and the battlefields where he fought. I also sought out people who could tell me about their take on Meade and the Civil War, and I found ways to immerse myself in what I guess you could call the process of remembering, whether I was participating in a birthday toast at Meade's gravesite in Philadelphia or observing a "skirmish" of the North-South Skirmish Association. It was a lot of fun investigating Meade's life and legacy that way. (Obviously I did a lot of historical research, too).

General Meade was given command of the Army of the Potomac just three days before Gettysburg. How did he approach what must have been a daunting responsibility on the eve of battle?

Tom: "Daunting" is just the word for it. It says something about the state of the army that Meade's first thought when the messenger from Washington woke him up with his orders to take command was that he was going to be arrested. Then, Meade had to find out where his army was! He had been on the outs with his predecessor, Joseph Hooker, and hadn't even seen Hooker in almost two weeks. So right away, Meade had to meet with the outgoing commander and learned the positions of all the elements of the army.

According to one account, when Meade found out how scattered the army was he "unguardedly expressed himself." Hooker "retorted with feeling." It must have been an awkward meeting. Meade then set out to come up with a plan to deal with Lee, who had already moved into Pennsylvania. Meade's engineers found what they thought would have been a great defensive position—one that also fulfilled Meade's orders to protect Washington and Baltimore—along Big Pipe Creek in Maryland. The so-

called Pipe Creek Circular, the order in which Meade informed his commanders of this plan, later created controversy when Meade's critics cited it as evidence that he intended to retreat from Gettysburg. But it was a contingency plan only. Once events overtook it Meade hurried his army north towards Gettysburg, where John Buford's cavalry, and later John Reynolds, commanding the army's left wing, had begun fighting elements of Lee's Army. Talk about on the job training!

The battle of Gettysburg decimated the leadership corps of the Army of the Potomac. How did that impact Meade's attempt to re-engage Lee's Army during his retreat?

Tom: A lot of people think Meade never pursued Lee at all after Gettysburg, which is not true. There's a reason Eric Wittenberg, David Petrucci and Michael Nugent called their book about the pursuit *One Continuous Fight*. But the Army of the Potomac had lost a lot of valuable officers -- most notably John Reynolds, killed on July 1, and Winfield Scott Hancock, badly wounded on July 3. It was bad enough that Meade was still new to his command—the two men he most relied on were gone. Keep in mind that this was an army that had suffered badly at Lee's hands before Gettysburg. Still, I suspect that if there's one decision Meade wished he could take back, it would be his choice to postpone his attack on Lee's lines outside Williamsport, Md., from July 13 until July 14.

It seems Meade was personally in favor of attacking but when all but two of his corps commanders recommended taking another day to reconnoiter the Confederate defenses, he decided to wait. Lee's army slipped across the Potomac the next night. When the Army of the Potomac did advance on July 14, it found empty fortifications. What if Meade had attacked on July 13? It's one of the great "what ifs" of the war. Of course, we will never know.



Daniel E. Sickles (Library of Congress)

In the aftermath of the battle, General Sickles waged a campaign against Meade that resulted in extension Congressional hearings. What was Sickles motivation in doing so?

Tom: Dan Sickles sure did a lot of damage to Meade’s reputation. It all stemmed from Sickles’s actions at Gettysburg on July 2, when he moved his III Corps forward without orders, putting it in an exposed and stretched-out position. When the Confederates attacked that afternoon, they nearly decimated the III Corps (Sickles himself lost his leg), and Meade had to throw in units from other corps to support it. Afterwards, Sickles defended his blunder by claiming that Meade had intended to retreat from Gettysburg and that by moving forward and precipitating the fighting Sickles had prevented that from happening. So, Dan Sickles was the true savior of the Union army at Gettysburg!

As Edwin Coddington put it in his study of Gettysburg, “General Sickles apparently preferred to be guilty of willful insubordination than of stupidity.” Sickles, by then a one-legged general, was one of the star witnesses when Congress’s Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War looked into Meade’s actions at Gettysburg and after. Sickles—who was a rogue, but a fascinating one—outlived Meade by a good many years, and he never ceased to repeat his version of events. But, to give him some credit, it was Congressman Dan Sickles who introduced the bill that made Gettysburg a national military park.

With General Grant accompanying the Army of the Potomac, how did Meade adjust to his new role as an army commander with his immediate superior looking over his shoulder?

Tom: In some ways it was a difficult transition. Grant was general-in-chief of the Union armies but rather than stay in Washington, he chose to travel in the field with Meade’s army. As Meade wrote to his wife, she could expect to see “the Army of the Potomac putting laurels on the brows of another.” It was a tough role for a proud man like Meade. He did offer to resign so Grant could put his own choice in command but Grant declined. “This incident gave me even a more favorable opinion of Meade than did his great victory at Gettysburg the July before,” Grant wrote in his memoirs.

Meade did everything he could to cooperate with Grant, although he grumbled in his letters home about being overlooked. Grant’s staff complained about having to transmit Grant’s orders to the Army of the Potomac

through Meade, but Grant appeared satisfied. “General Meade has more than met my most sanguine expectations,” he wrote to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton after Spotsylvania. “He and Sherman are the fittest officers for large commands I have ever come in contact with.”

The one thing that really angered Meade was when Grant favored General Philip Sheridan over Meade for promotion. Meade was proud and ambitious and Sheridan’s lust for glory obviously rubbed him the wrong way. I think Meade was pretty realistic when he described the difference between him and Grant this way: “I over-sensitive, and he deficient in sensibility.”

You visited several sites connected with Meade’s career. What do they tell modern visitors about his life and accomplishments? Can you talk about the Civil War Trust’s role in preserving some of those sites?



Author Tom Huntington (Tom Huntington)

Tom: Some of them don’t tell you anything about Meade, and at least one of them tells you something completely incorrect. I visited a little museum in Port Isabel, Texas, which had information about future Civil War generals who passed through during the Mexican-American War. A little panel there said Meade had fought in Vicksburg—Vicksburg, Virginia, not Vicksburg, Mississippi—and that General “T. Sherman” put him in command of the town once it fell! I had to laugh.

At the Battle of the Wilderness, signs refer to Meade as “the forgotten commander,” which is true enough, I guess, but there’s also has a marker that describes “the conservative, sometimes timid, methods of the Army of the Potomac.” I would argue that Meade was over-aggressive in the Wilderness, especially on May 5, when he kept pressuring Gouverneur Warren to push his V Corps forward despite Warren’s protests that the VI Corps hadn’t arrived to protect his flank.

In the book, I use the Wilderness as an example of another kind of fight, which is the fight to preserve our Civil War battlefields. I was working on the book shortly after the successful campaign to prevent Walmart from building a store on a historically significant piece of the battlefield, so I wrote about that. Throughout my travels, I visited (and wrote about) many other sites the Trust has preserved—Glendale, where Meade was badly wounded during the Peninsula campaign; the Slaughter Pen outside Fredericksburg; Payne’s Road, the scene of fighting during Meade’s Mine Run campaign; White Oak Road outside Petersburg. Not only does the Trust preserve these sites, but it also puts up very helpful and informative historical markers. Walking a Civil War battlefield is a key way to understanding what happened there and once the land has been developed you lose that all-important connection with the past.

What is your favorite story about Meade you discovered during your travels?

Tom: My favorite story is one that happened at Gettysburg late in the day on July 2, as the Confederate assault on the Union lines was cresting. Meade and his staff had ridden up to Cemetery Ridge, only to see there were no defenders between them and rebels advancing across the fields. Meade actually drew his sword as though he intended to personally lead a charge. “It is in the minds of those who follow him that he is going to throw himself into the breach,” his son, George (who served on his father’s staff) wrote. His aides nervously followed suit. Just then someone shouted, “Here they come, General!” and soldiers from the I Corps hurried up and advanced to meet the Confederates. “Come on, gentlemen!” Meade shouted, waving them forward with his hat. General John Newton arrived and offered Meade a sip from his flask. As the two generals conversed on horseback, a shell exploded in the ground nearby, showering them with dirt. It’s a great story, and I especially enjoyed hearing it told during a “real-time” ranger presentation at Gettysburg late in the afternoon on the actual anniversary.

Which site in your travels would you consider a "must visit" destination for other Meade enthusiasts? Why?



Laurel Hill Cemetery (Civil War Trust)

Tom: Well, Gettysburg, of course. That’s a given. You have Meade’s statue on Cemetery Ridge and his headquarters and the little white Leister House. One of my favorite visits, though, was to the Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Library in Philadelphia. My wife and I went there for the “grand unveiling” of the head of Old Baldy, Meade’s horse. Baldy had been on display for years at a museum downtown; but when that museum closed, the GAR Museum sued to get the head back. It’s now housed in a case in a little room surrounded by Meade artifacts, including his Bible, some cufflinks with locks of his hair and a chair from the Leister House. The grand unveiling was a blast, and the next day a picture of my wife, gazing at Old Baldy, appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer. We got a kick out of that.

If you’re in Philadelphia you should also visit Meade’s grave at Laurel Hill Cemetery. In fact, you should do it on his birthday, December 31 (which is also his wedding anniversary). The General Meade Society of Philadelphia has an event at Laurel Hill every December 31, and a lot of people show up. There’s a procession down to the gravesite for a ceremony and a champagne toast and then there’s a free buffet luncheon at the cemetery gatehouse. It’s a really cool event (and, since it is December 31, it can be really cool in more ways than one). I love events like this because you meet all sorts of people who come because they love history and they want to make a connection with the past. I guess that’s something the Civil War Trust can appreciate.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

As the editor of the late, lamented Historic Traveler magazine, Tom Huntington developed a love for writing that merged stories from the past with journeys of discovery in the present. That was an approach he took with his first two books, Ben Franklin's Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Civil War Trails. In his latest offering, Huntington visits battlefields and museums and talks with historians, curators, park rangers and Civil War enthusiasts as he examines the life and reputation of the general who won the pivotal battle of the war. Huntington's many magazine articles have appeared in American Heritage, Smithsonian, Air & Space, British Heritage, America in WWII, Civil War Times, America's Civil War, Invention & Technology and many other publications. He lives in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Beth Ann, and his children, Katie and Sam.

FROM THE CAPE MAY WAVE:

REUNION OF THE 7th NJ VOLUNTEERS

Address of Col Francis Price, late Colonel of the 7th Regiment; NJ Volunteers, delivered at their late reunion at Passaic, NJ, to which many of our Cape May boys were members.

Ladies, Gentlemen, and Comrades:

We are again gathered at another reunion of "ours," the 7th NJ Volunteers.

Twenty-eight years ago today seven companies, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, of the 7th NJ Volunteers, were mustered into the service of the United States, and left Trenton for Washington, reporting the next morning for duty, and were assigned in encampment upon Meridian Hill. Early in October the remaining three companies, H, I, K, formed, and during the month "Our Colors," which were carried with so much pride on so many truly contested fields and returned to the State of New Jersey dyed with the blood of so many of New Jersey fallen and valiant sons, was presented to us by the Honorable Joseph Bradley, now an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, in the presence of President Lincoln, some members of the Cabinet, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and some distinguished citizens of New Jersey. They were committed to the safe keeping of our bayonets, in the hands of our boys, and we can say it with pride, they were manfully kept.

Since my last meeting with you, at the reunion at Morristown, Sept 19, 1887, where we were so handsomely and hospitably received and entertained by the citizens and Grand Army Posts of that historic town, it has been your privilege to again visit the battlefield of Gettysburg, which must always and forever be dear to us and our posterity, and I wish that whomever in all coming time shall turn his eye thither and may behold the place is not

unmarked where the first great victory to the Army of the Potomac was achieved.

It is my wish that the monuments you sons of New Jersey dedicated on the 30th day of June, AD 1888, at Gettysburg, PA, may proclaim the magnitude and importance of that even to every class and to every age, and wish that infancy may learn the purpose of their erection from maternal lips, and that weary and withered age may behold and be solaced by the recollections which they suggest and further in those days of disaster, which as they come upon all nations, must be expected to come upon us also. Desponding patriotism may turn its eyes to Gettysburg and be assured that the foundations of our national power are still strong.

Venerable Comrades, it was my misfortune not to have been with you at Gettysburg.

Heaven has bounteously lengthened out your lives that you might behold the twenty-fifth anniversary of that important event to us as a nation, the battle of Gettysburg.

You stood, twenty-five years ago that very day, with your brothers and your neighbors shoulder to shoulder in the strife for your country.

Behold time altered! The same heavens were indeed above your heads, the same earth beneath your feet, but all else, how changed. You hear no roar of hostile cannon, or rattle of musketry, the ground strewn with the dead and dying; the impetuous charge, the steady and the successful repulse; the loud call to resented assault; the summoning of all that is manly to resented resistance; a thousand bosoms freely and fearlessly bared in an instant of whatever of terror they may be in now and the death of those you witnessed; but you witness them no more. All is peace, and God has granted you the sight ere you slumber in the grave. He has allowed you to behold and to partake the reward of your patriotic toils, and allowed your sons and countrymen to meet you there, and in the name of the present generation, in the name of your country, in the name of liberty, to thank you.

But alas you were not all there. Time and the sword had thinned your ranks. Revere, Francme, Cooper, Hart, McKieman, Withersee, Friseby, father and son, Geahart, Murry, Thompson, Bartolett, Berdan, and others, you were sought for in vain among this broken band.

You are gathered to your Father's; you have met the common fate of man. You have lived long enough to know that the work had been nobly and successfully accomplished.

We have lived to see our country once more at peace and to sheath our swords from war. But the scene amidst which we stand does not permit us to confine our thoughts or our sympathies to those fearless spirits who hazarded or lost their lives in their country's service.

We have the happiness to rejoice here in the presence of a most worthy representation of the survivors

of the 7th New Jersey Volunteers, with their families and friends.

Veterans, you are the remnant of many a well fought field. You bring with you marks of honor from Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Seven Days, Malvern Hill, First and Second Bull Run, Chantilly, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Petersburg, Yellow Tavern, Brynton Plank Road, the Weldon Raid Battle, Oct 27 '64 [1864] , and many others; and last, but not least, Appomattox Court House.

Veterans of more than a quarter of a century, when in your more youthful days you put everything at hazard in your country's cause – good as that cause was, and sanguine as youth is – still your fondest hopes did not stretch onward to an hour like this. At a period you could not reasonably have expected to arrive, at a moment of national prosperity such as you never could have foreseen, you are now met here to enjoy the fellowship of old soldiers and to receive the overflowing of gratitude.

But your agitated countenances and your heaving breasts inform me this is not an unmixed joy. I perceive a tumult of contending feelings rushes upon you, the images of the dead as well as presence of the living presents themselves before you, the scene overwhelms you, and I turn from it.

Cape May Civil War Round Table
c/o

May the Father of all Mercies smile upon your declining years and bless them, and when you have here exchanged your embraces, when you once more shall have pressed the hands which so often have been extended to give succor in adversity, or grasped in the exultation of victory, then look abroad upon this lovely land, which your young valor defended and mark the happiness with which it is filled. You look abroad upon the whole earth and see what a name you have contributed to give to your country, and, what praise you have added to freedom, and then rejoice in the sympathy and the gratitude which beam upon your last days from the improved conditions of mankind.

Illustrious as are your merits, yet far, oh! Very far distant be the day, when any inscription shall bear your name, or any tongue pronounce your eulogy.

== Rambo Valley, Sept. 19, '89 [1889]

