



Cape May County Civil War Round Table Newsletter = October 2019

Meeting Dates

Meetings are at 7pm at the Cape May County Museum and Historical Society, in the Military Room in the old barn.

October 17 = Herb Kaufman will be speaking about the battle of Little Round Top

November 21 = Rita Fulginiti will be discussing the state of Cape May County at the time of the beginning of the Civil War.

PLEASE, friends, send me articles, book reviews, etc to help me fill up the newsletter!

Round Table Officers

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Photos # NH 58769. Cutaway drawings of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley

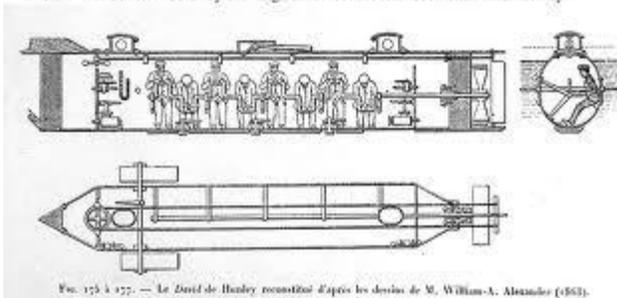


Fig. 175 à 177. — Le David de Hunley reconstruit d'après les dessins de M. William-A. Alexander (1863).

The Hunley

President's Update

1) We are again very fortunate to have an outstanding historian, civil war activist and speaker this month for our Thursday October 17 meeting. Herb Kaufman will present "Little Round Top, A Re-examination of its Importance at the Battle of Gettysburg". Herb is a founding member of the Civil War Institute and a history professor at Manor College. He also holds leadership roles at the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) Museum in Philadelphia, the General Meade Society and is active in several CW Round Tables in the Greater Philadelphia area. He is an author of and is a recognized authority on all things Civil War. In his talk, Herb will debunk the misconception created by the "popular press" that the Confederate reversal at Little Round Top was the critical turning point at the battle of Gettysburg.

2) Rita Marie Fulginiti, Cape May County Clerk will speak at the November 21 meeting. She will be discussing the history and attitudes of the people of Cape May County at the onset of the Civil War. She will also discuss some of the historical archives and methods currently in place at the County Clerks office in CMCH. In addition to her role as County Clerk, Rita has a long-standing interest in Civil War history herself.

This will be our last meeting in 2019. Our Round Table will start meetings again in April 2020 on the third Thursday of each month as has been our custom.

3) Villanova University will introduce this year's history communication fellows at an event entitled "Revising the Civil War". The event will be held on Wednesday, October 30 at 7 PM in the Driscoll auditorium. It is free and open to the public. Please join me. I plan to go.

4) Our CW Round Table continues to provide battlefield preservation support through proceeds from books sales and raffles. Land preservation is a noble and worthwhile cause. Thanks to Lou Bishop's focus and dedication, we have made numerous donations to the worthy Shenandoah Battlefield Preservation Foundation and have received very appreciative feedback in return from this organization. There are other organizations that provide battlefield preservation including the American Battlefield Trust and others. Battlefield preservation is important to the long-term memory of the events of the Civil War. These are important projects undertaken by these preservation organizations. I would like to find ways to

expand our efforts in this area. Please consider ways to raise additional money for this cause through third party affiliations. Your ideas are welcome and appreciated.

5) (From the Blue and Gray Education Society October newsletter - Chatham Virginia Round Table)
The third annual Congress of Civil War Round Tables met in St. Louis recently. It was a rousing success. Over 40 round tables were present. The oldest was Chicago, the second oldest was Kansas City and the third oldest was Washington. The largest was Brunswick, North Carolina. It is estimated that there are 225 Civil War Round Tables in the USA. Let's plan for one or two of us going to this meeting next year?

6) Donna Mattalucci will bring after-meeting snacks for after the October meeting and Barbara and Mike Golla will bring snacks for the November meeting.

7) Check out our new Facebook page. You can search Facebook for it. It is titled "Civil War Round Table of Cape May County". Let me know if you want to add anything to it.

8) The Civil War Round Table (CWRT) Congress recently conducted a nationwide "financial" survey of all CWRTs. Some of the key findings are:
- most Round Tables pay between \$50 and \$150 to each out of town speaker
- 60% have individual annual dues between \$20 and \$35 per year and 21% are between \$35 and \$50 per year. 11% do not pay annual dues
- 30% provide honoraria if one of their members speak but they usually turn down whatever is offered
- 78% stated that they reimburse speakers for expenses but 53% of them consider an honorarium sufficient compensation for these expenses

9) The November meeting at Old Baldy CWRT is on Thursday, November 14 and is titled "Targeted Tracks - The Cumberland Valley RR in the Civil War" by Cooper Wingert. Join me if you can.

See you next Thursday, October 17 at our meeting. Bring new members if you can. Ride share with old members. Encourage others to attend. It's a good way to save gas.

Respectfully

John Herr

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

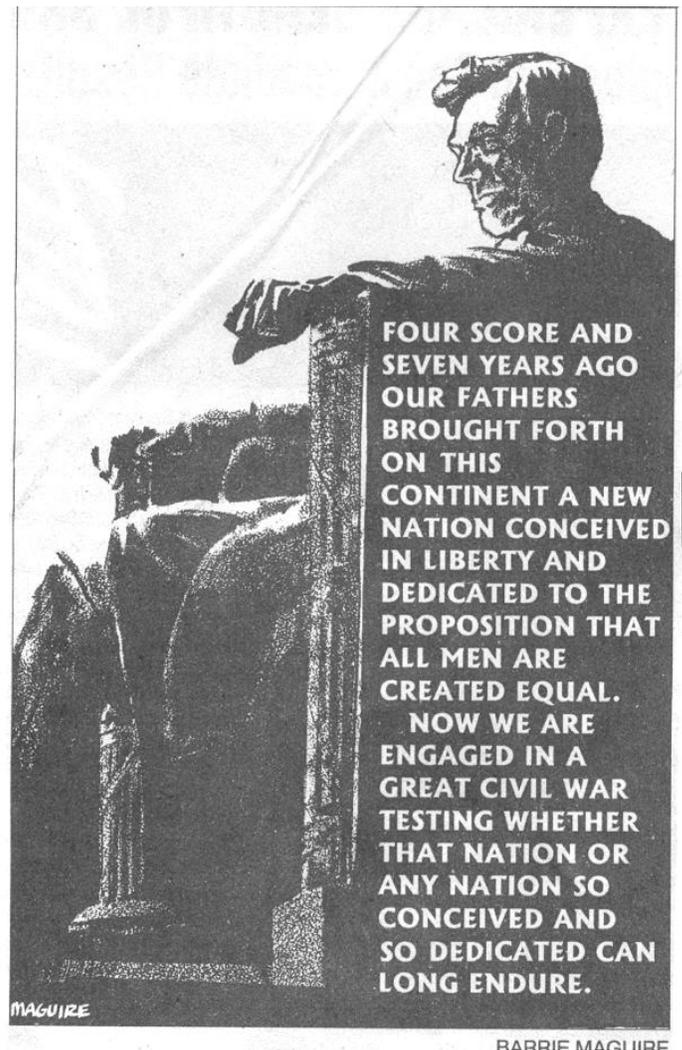
Nothing of note happened

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"



Civil War Lectures, Re-Enactments, etc for November 2019

2 **MD** Special programs, “155 Years of Emancipation in Maryland,” at the Monocacy National Battlefield and the Burr Artz Library in Frederick. Schedule: nps.gov/mono

2-6 **VA** Tour, “Petersburg to Appomattox,” includes bus and walking tours. \$725. Details, registration: civilwartours.org

8-9 **PA** Seminar, “Gone But Not Forgotten,” in Gettysburg. Gettysburg Guide tours focus on locations and landmarks that were once part of the Gettysburg NMP but are no longer there. \$125. Details, registration: gettysburgtourguides.org/2019-fall-seminar

9 **VA** Lecture, “Robert Smalls and the CSS Planter,” at the Mariners’ Museum in Newport News. 2:30 pm. Free with \$1 museum admission. marinersmuseum.org

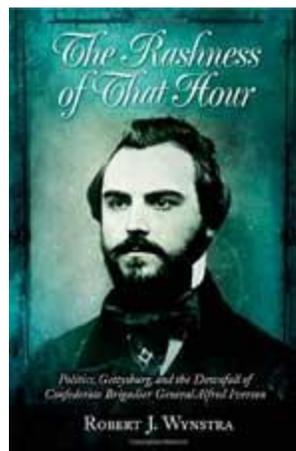
10 **VA** Ranger program, “Life in the Borderland: The Limits and Possibilities of Freedom for Enslaved and Free Blacks,” meets at the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHS visitor station, 7712 Main St, Middletown. 5 pm. Free. nps.gov/cebe

15-16 **PA** “An Evening with the Painting,” a special behind-the-scenes look at the Gettysburg Cyclorama at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 5-7 pm. \$20/adult. Reservations: gettysburgfoundation.org

23 **PA** Living history, talk, and ceremony, “North & South Reunion, Handshake Across the Wall,” at “The Angle” on the Gettysburg NMP. The 1913 Gettysburg reunion remembered. 3 pm. Free. facebook.com/WSHancockSociety

The Rashness of That Hour: Politics, Gettysburg, and the Downfall of Confederate General Alfred Iverson, by Robert J. Wynstra (Savas Beatie, 2011)

REVIEWED BY JOHN DAVID HOPTAK



Early on the afternoon of July 1, 1863, Brigadier General Alfred Iverson’s veteran brigade, composed of four hard-fighting regiments from North Carolina, was slaughtered on John Forney’s fields of ripening timothy northwest of Gettysburg. Of the nearly 1,350 North Carolinians in Iverson’s ranks that day, 860 would be killed, wounded, captured or missing in action (a 65% casualty rate) in an ill-fated attack against Brig.

Gen. John Robinson’s Federals on Oak Ridge. The losses in the 20th and 23rd North Carolina were most staggering. Each regiment carried 285 men into action that fateful day. Only 40 emerged unscathed from the 20th, while just 17 in the 23rd escaped unharmed. Among the 23rd’s casualties was its commanding officer, Colonel Daniel Harvey Christie, who was shot through both lungs and fell mortally wounded. The following morning, while suffering from his death wounds, Christie placed the blame for the brigade’s costly attack solely on its commander, whom Christie referred to as that “imbecile Iverson.”

The attack of Iverson’s Brigade on July 1, 1863, remains among the most notorious of war. Without skirmishers and without any clear idea of what lay ahead—and with Iverson remaining well to the rear—the four North Carolina regiments stepped off in parade-like precision only to be slaughtered by Robinson’s well-positioned and well-sheltered troops. In the immediate wake of the battle, and in the nearly 150 years since, Alfred Iverson received full blame for this disastrous attack. His reputation destroyed, he lost command of his brigade within a week.

The Rashness of That Hour: Politics, Gettysburg, and the Downfall of Confederate General Alfred Iverson is a fascinating study—an insightful behind-the-scenes look at one of Robert E. Lee’s hardest-fighting brigades and one of his most star-crossed brigade commanders. Robert Wynstra, who spent more than a decade researching Iverson and who has a background in both history and journalism, does a fine job explaining the turbulent politicking that was all-too-often present within a Civil War command, and deftly weaves it into the larger story of the brigade’s campaign and battle experiences. The focus, of course, is on Iverson’s attack at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863; yet Wynstra also presents a good biographical look at Iverson’s pre-Gettysburg career as well as a fine back-story on each of the regiments in his command. One will also find in this work a good

accounting of General Robert Rodes' Division, of which Iverson's Brigade formed part, during the entire Gettysburg Campaign, and an in-depth look at the division's actions on July 1. There is little discussion of Iverson's post-battle Civil War career—he commanded cavalry under Joe Wheeler during the war's final months—and little of Iverson's post-war life, which leaves one wanting to learn more.

The Rashness of That Hour is a must-read for anyone interested in the Battle of Gettysburg and in Lee's storied Army of Northern Virginia.

The Siege of Washington: The Untold Story of the Twelve Days That Shook the Union, by John Lockwood and Charles Lockwood (Oxford University Press, 2011)

REVIEWED BY JOHN DAVID HOPTAK

Brothers John and Charles Lockwood, both lifelong residents of Washington, D.C.—the former a park ranger with more than 25 years' service on the National Mall; the latter an author who has written extensively on the history of the capital—have joined forces to pen a much-needed work of Civil War history. *The Siege of Washington: The Untold Story of the Twelve Days That Shook the Union* chronicles in dramatic fashion the tense-filled days that immediately followed the capitulation of Fort Sumter, when panic gripped the U.S. capital.

With Washington surrounded by either enemy or at least hostile territory, and with the city itself infused with thousands of pro-Confederate residents, the threat of an immediate attack by Rebel forces was very real and the fear pronounced, especially in the wake of Virginia's secession on April 17. As the Lockwoods clearly demonstrate, the anxiety felt during these earliest days of the war by the city's Unionists and within the highest levels of government was palpable.

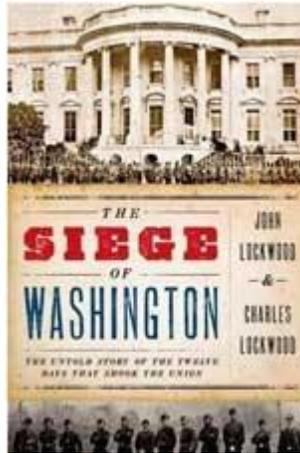
That the capital would fall by a quick attack was a fear shared by many Northerners, as the nation held its collective breath for what they imagined would be the inevitable Confederate attack. Many in the Confederacy, including some high-ranking government officials, were clamoring for such action, pleading in the newspapers and

with top civil and military authorities to gather forces to take Washington by storm. That they never did puzzled many Northerners, who felt the lightly defended city would have easily fallen. The fact of the matter was that the hysteria for such an attack in the South and the paranoia over the fall of the capital in North was much greater than the reality, or practicality of it.

As the Lockwoods argue, despite the loudest calls for action and the fiery cries of Southern newspaper editors, the Confederacy was simply not prepared to mount the offensive so early in the conflict. Neither Jefferson Davis nor Robert E. Lee, who assumed command of Virginia's military forces following his resignation from the U.S. Army, ever truly envisioned or had a plan to seize Washington. The Confederacy, maintain the Lockwood brothers, "did not have enough arms and materiel or, certainly, transport and provisions for the large number of troops needed for such an ambitious target as Washington." Those in the Confederacy who so loudly clamored for an immediate attack—such as Henry Wise, former governor of Virginia—were blind to this military reality. With no assault envisioned or ever attempted, Northerners—especially those in the capital—breathed easier with each passing day, their anxiety lessened with the arrival of an ever-increasing number of volunteer soldiers.

John and Charles Lockwood provide a crisp, clear narrative of these dramatic days, documenting the fears that gripped a nation concerning the safety of their capital. Told, too, are the actions of Lincoln and his Cabinet in the wake of Sumter, such as the president's April 15 call-to-arms; the formation of ad hoc militia companies in the capital, including the "Frontier Guards," led by Kansas Senator James Lane, and the Treasury Guards, composed almost entirely of government clerks; and the arrival of the Union's first volunteers, some 475 Pennsylvanians on April 18, followed the next day by the better remembered 6th Massachusetts. The Lockwoods recount in vivid detail the bloody and, in the case of the Massachusetts regiment, deadly march of these volunteers through the streets of Baltimore on April 18-19, tying this bloodshed into a larger theme of Maryland's loyalty.

Each of the book's chapters is devoted to each of the 12 harrowing days that succeeded the fall of Sumter, beginning on April 14 and continuing until the 25, the date the siege was "lifted" with the arrival of the 7th New York and 8th Massachusetts regiments in Washington. With *The Siege of Washington*, John and Charles Lockwood help to fill a void by addressing in detail and in an entirely readable manner a forgotten though important chapter of America's Civil War.





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 up 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.

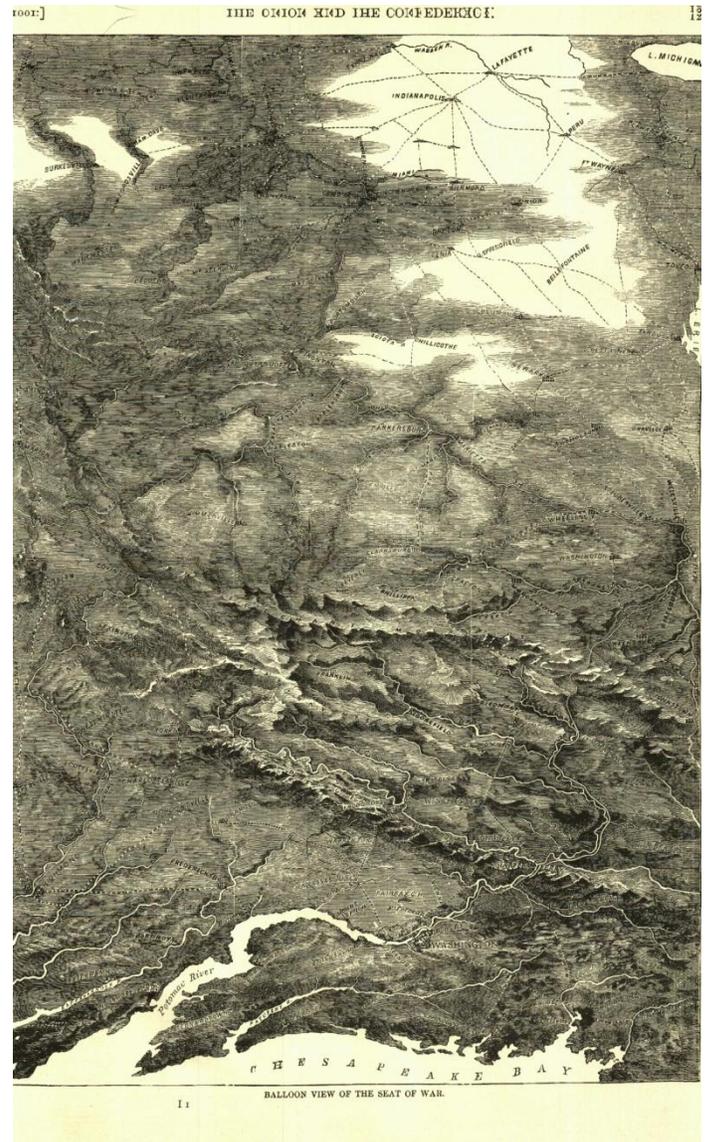
Veterans of more than a quarter of a century, when in your more youthful days you put everything at hazard in your country's cause – good as that cause was, and sanguine as youth is – still your fondest hopes did not stretch onward to an hour like this. At a period you could not reasonably have expected 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.

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.

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



Murphy's Laws of Combat – from the Rainbow Division Reveille Newsletter, January 2008

1. You are not a superman.
2. It's stupid but works, it isn't stupid.
3. Don't look conspicuous – it draws fire. (This is why aircraft carriers are called 'bomb magnets')
4. When in doubt, empty your magazine.
5. Never share a foxhole with someone braver than you are.
6. Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
7. If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.
8. No plan survives the first contact intact.
9. All five-second grenade fuses will burn down in three seconds.
10. Try to look unimportant because the bad guys may be low on ammo.
11. If you are forward of your position, the artillery will fall short.
12. The enemy diversion you are ignoring will be the main attack.
13. The important things are always simple.
14. The simple things are always hard.
15. The easy way is always mined.

Cape May County Civil War Round Table

www.cmccwrt.com

c/o:

16. If you are short of everything except enemy, you are in combat.
17. When you have secured an area, don't forget to tell the enemy.
18. Incoming fire has the right of way.
19. Friendly fire isn't.
20. If the enemy is in range, so are you.
21. No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection.
22. Thing that must be together to work, usually can't be shipped together.
23. Radios will fail as soon as you really need fire support.
24. Anything you do can get you shot – including doing nothing.
25. Tracers work both ways.
26. The only thing more accurate than incoming fire is incoming friendly fire.
27. Make it tough for the enemy to get in and you can't get out.
28. If you take more than your fair share of objectives, you will have more than your fair share of objectives to take.
29. When both sides are convinced they are about to lose, they are both right.
30. Professional soldiers are predictable, but the world is full of amateurs.
31. Murphy was a dogface.

