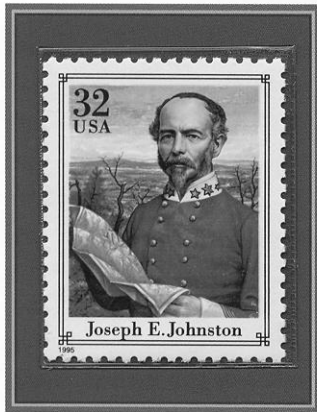


# 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War



This stamp honoring Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston was issued June 29, 1995 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

## Cape May County Civil War Round Table Newsletter September 2011

### 2011 Meeting Schedule

**15 September:** Don Hergsberger will be making a presentation about General Meade's breakthrough at Fredericksburg. **Refreshments:** John Burke  
**20 October:** **Refreshments:** Judy & John  
**17 November**  
December date to be determined

### CMCCWRT Officers for 2010 - 2011

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## Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Cape May Civil War Round Table 18 August 2011

President Lolli called the meeting to order. We saluted the flag and held a moment of silence in recognition of those who put themselves in harm's way in order to serve us.

Treasurer Marshall gave the Treasurer's report. Motion made to accept the report and file for audit; seconded and approved.

Secretary Munson-Siter and Treasurer Marshall reminded everyone of the option to receive the newsletter electronically at your email address. Secretary reminded everyone that she no longer has access to free / low cost Xeroxes, and it costs currently \$.09 a page – 6 to 8 pages a newsletter, approximately 30 newsletters – to get the newsletter copied. Plus \$.44 cents a copy postage; it all adds up very quickly. Please contact either the Treasurer or Secretary if you want to receive the newsletter only electronically.

Pres. Lolli thanked John & Judy for supplying refreshments this month. He also reminded everyone that so far no one has signed up to provide refreshments for November.

Jim Marshall and Kurt Haywood described some of the re-enactments they have attended this summer. There was a massive security presence (ie Homeland Security, cameras, helicopters, etc.) due to these events – not just thousands of re-enactors and normal spectators, but many are being attended by government officials due to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversaries – making them possible targets for terrorist attacks.

There being no further new or old business, Pres. Lolli adjourned the meeting so Hank Heacock could begin his presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A Munson-Siter  
Secretary

### Historical Civil War Events in October

	<b>1861</b>
21	Battle of Ball's Bluff (VA)
	<b>1862</b>
4	Battle of Corinth (MS)
8	Battle of Perryville (KY)
	<b>1863</b>
	Nothing of Major Importance
	<b>1864</b>
19	Battle of Cedar Creek (VA)
23	Battle of Westport (MO)

### Civil War Related Events in October

- VA** Bus tour, "Defenses of Washington," leaves from Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria at 8 am. \$90. Registration: 703-746-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).
- VA** Movie, "Mosby's Combat Operations in Fairfax County, Virginia." Multimedia "tour" of Mosby-related sites at 2 Courthouse Square in Warrenton. 5 and 7 pm. \$8. 540-341-7019.

- 1 **VA** Lecture series, "Colonel John Singleton Mosby and His Rangers," at 2 Courthouse Square, Warrenton. Four lectures 9 am-3 pm. 540-341-7019.
- 1 **DE** Lecture, "A Fragmented Nation, A Divided State: The Delaware Home Front," at the Delaware Public Archives, 121 Duke of York St, Dover. 10:30 am. Free. [www.archives.delaware.gov](http://www.archives.delaware.gov).
- 1-2 **MD** Living history, "5th Virginia Infantry," at Fort Frederick State Park near Big Pool. 10 am-4 pm. \$3. 301-842-2511.
- 1-2 **MD** Living history, infantry camps and demonstrations on the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Free with park admission. [www.nps.gov/anti](http://www.nps.gov/anti).
- 1-2 **PA** Living history, camps and demonstrations at several locations in the Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett) or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
- 1-2 **VA** Seminar, "With Sabre in Hand: Longstreet at 1st and 2nd Manassas," in Manassas. Includes tours, lectures and more. 914-381-2147 or [mlagonia@optonline.net](mailto:mlagonia@optonline.net) for more info.
- 1-2 **VA** Living history, camp and demonstrations at Drewry's Bluff, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, on the James River, south of Richmond. 10 am-4 pm Saturday, 10 am-3 pm Sunday. Free. [www.nps.gov/rich](http://www.nps.gov/rich).
- 1-2 **VA** Reenactment and living history at Laurel Hill (JEB Stuart's Birthplace), 1091 Jeb Stuart Highway, Ararat. Camps, demonstrations and battles. [www.jebstuart.org](http://www.jebstuart.org).
- 2 **VA** Living history, infantry and artillery demonstrations on Henry Hill in the Manassas National Battlefield Park. 11 am-2 pm. Free with park fee. [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).
- 4 **PA** Lecture, book signing, "Tasting Freedom: Octavius Catto and the Battle for Equality in Civil War America," at the Tredyffrin Township Library, 582 Upper Gulph Road, Strafford. 7:30 pm. 610-296-7996.
- 5 **VA** Lecture, "Oddities and Curiosities: Strange objects from the Museum of the Confederacy collections" at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 110 N Union St, Petersburg. 7 pm. Free, donations welcome. 804-733-3415.
- 5 **VA** Lecture, "A Visual Tour of Civil War Alexandria," with Walton Owen and 3-D and other rare photographs, at the Lyceum, 201 S Washington St, Alexandria. 7:30 pm. Details: 703-746-4994.
- 5-9 **VA** Living history, North-South Skirmish Association Fall Nationals featuring live-fire shooting of Civil War weapons, dress competitions and more at the NSSA grounds at 480 Chalybeate Spring Road, Winchester. [www.n-ssa.org](http://www.n-ssa.org) or 540-888-4334.
- 6 **VA** "Jamestown in the Civil War," explore the Civil War fort on Jamestown Island, site of the first English settlement. Evening includes tour, living history and picnic dinner. Begins 5 pm. \$24.95/adult. Space limited. Reservations: 800-HISTORY.
- 6 **VA** Lecture, "Hollywood in Blue and Gray: The Civil War in Film," at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, 1201 Caroline St, Fredericksburg. 7 pm. Free. [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).
- 6 **VA** Tour, "The Confederacy and the World," a special look at the White House of the Confederacy in Richmond. 11:15 am. \$9. [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org) or 804-649-1861.
- 7 **VA** Walking tour, guided Civil War tour of downtown Winchester. Meets at 2 N Cameron St at 6 pm. \$5. 540-542-1326.
- 8 **DC** "Georgetown Civil War House & Walking Tours," offered by Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, 1644 31st St NW, Washington. Special house tour 10:30 am, Georgetown walking tour 12:30 pm. \$10/each, \$15 for both. 202-965-0400 or [www.tudorplace.org](http://www.tudorplace.org).
- 8 **VA** Battlefield Hike, ranger-led 5.4-mile walking tour of the First Manassas Battlefield. Begins at the Manassas National Battlefield Park visitor center. 1-4:30 pm. Free with park admission. [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).
- 8 **VA** Van tour, "1864 Bermuda Hundred Campaign," begins at Henricus Historical Park, 301 Henricus Park Road, Chester (south of Richmond). 10 am-2 pm. \$12. Registration: [www.chesterfieldhistory.com](http://www.chesterfieldhistory.com).
- 8 **VA** Walking tour, guided tour of the Kernstown Battlefield begins at visitor center, 610 Battle Park Drive, south of Winchester just off Route 11. 11 am. Free. [www.kernstownbattle.org](http://www.kernstownbattle.org).
- 8 **PA** "An Evening with the Painting," a special program at the Gettysburg Cyclorama. 6-7:30 pm. \$30. [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org).
- 8 **MD** Living history, "Songs and Stories of the Civil War," at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. 4 pm. Free. [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org).
- 8-9 **VA** Living history, "Mobilization for war in Appomattox County," at the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. 8:30 am-5 pm. Free with park admission. [www.nps.gov/apco](http://www.nps.gov/apco) or 434-352-8987.
- 8-9 **VA** Walking tours, "Bristoe Station Battlefields," at the battlefield park, 10708 Bristow Road, Bristow (near Manassas). 11 am-3 pm. \$5/adult. 703-792-5546.
- 8-9 **MD** Living history, "Aftermath of Battle," at the Antietam National Battlefield. Burying the dead, photography, soldier and civilian life and much more. Free with park admission. [www.nps.gov/anti](http://www.nps.gov/anti).
- 8-9 **PA** Living history, camps and demonstrations at several locations in the Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett) or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
- 12 **VA** Lecture, "Infernal Machines of the Civil War," at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 110 N. Union St., in Petersburg. 7 pm. Free, donations welcome. 804-733-3415.
- 12 **VA** Gallery Walk, "The Civil War in Virginia: Battle Flags," at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6/adult. [www.vahistorical.org](http://www.vahistorical.org).
- 12 **VA** "Civil War Conversation: Hospital System" at Baine's Books and Coffee, 205 Main St, Appomattox. 12:15 pm. Free. 804-649-1861 or [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org).
- 13 **VA** Tour, "The Confederacy and the World," a special look at the White House of the Confederacy in Richmond. 11:15 am. \$9. [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org) or 804-649-1861.
- 13-15 **VA** Play, "Kiss My Little Girls â€“ 1861," based on the letters of a Confederate cavalryman, at Arts on Main, 6580 Main St, Gloucester. 7:30 pm. \$10/adult. 804-695-0700 or [bootsandkisses.com](http://bootsandkisses.com).
- 14-16 **VA** Symposium, "The Civil War in 1861," at Pamplin Historical Park near Petersburg. \$249. Details, registration: [www.pamplinpark.org](http://www.pamplinpark.org) or 877-PAMPLIN.
- 15 **DC** Living history walking tour, "Courage! The Civil War in Washington, 1861, The Storm Begins." Meets 11 am at 10th and E streets NW (Cosi Coffee). \$10/adult. No reservations necessary. [www.historicstrolls.com](http://www.historicstrolls.com) or 301-588-9255.
- 15 **PA** Seminar, "Off the Beaten Path," at the Gettysburg National Military Park. [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org).

- 15 **VA** Walking tour, ranger-led tour of Civil War Middletown and the Battle of Cedar Creek. 11 am. Free. [www.nps.gov/cebe](http://www.nps.gov/cebe).
- 15 **VA** Self-guided walking tour, "First Kernstown battlefield" on Rose Hill Farm, 1850 Jones Road, Winchester. 1-4 pm. \$5. 540-662-1473 extension 224.
- 15 **VA** Bus tour, "Civil War Sampler," highlights of Richmond plus Cold Harbor and Gaines' Mill battlefields. 1-5 pm. \$23. Meets at the Richmond History Center, 1015 E Clay St. Reservations: [www.historicrichmondtrips.com](http://www.historicrichmondtrips.com) or 804-649-0711 extension 301.
- 15 **VA** Lecture, "Mortuary Affairs Throughout the Ages," at the Eastern Front visitor center, Petersburg National Battlefield. 3 pm. Free with park admission. [www.nps.gov/pete](http://www.nps.gov/pete).
- 15 **VA** Walking tour, "Fort Huger," Confederate fort on the James River (15080 Talcott Terrace, Smithfield, follow signs from Route 10). 10 am. Free. 757-357-0115.
- 15 **VA** Walking tour, "Middletown in the Civil War," NPS ranger-guided tour begins at the Farmer's Market 11 am. Free. [www.nps.gov/cebe](http://www.nps.gov/cebe) or 540-860-3051.
- 15 **VA** Civil War medical program at Ellwood, historic home on the Wilderness battlefield near the intersection of Routes 3 and 20 west of Fredericksburg. Free. Details, directions: [www.fowb.org](http://www.fowb.org).
- 15 **VA** "Haunted Hayride" at the Staunton River Bridge Battlefield State Park near Randolph. 7 pm. Admission fee. 434-454-4312 or [www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org](http://www.stauntonriverbattlefield.org).
- 15 **VA** Anniversary tours of the Bristoe Station battlefield at the battlefield park, 10708 Bristow Road, Bristow (near Manassas). 11 am-3 pm. \$5/adult. 703-792-5546.
- 15-16 **MD** Living history, infantry (Iron Brigade) camps and demonstrations on the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Free with park admission. [www.nps.gov/anti](http://www.nps.gov/anti).
- 15-16 **PA** Living history, camps and demonstrations at several locations in the Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett) or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
- 15-16 **VA** Reenactment, "Battle of Cedar Creek," on the historic battlefield south of Middletown. Living history, music, demonstrations and battles each day. Fee charged. [www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org](http://www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org).
- 15-16 **VA** Living history and special tours during the Civil War Commemoration Weekend at Belle Grove Plantation, 336 Belle Grove Road, Middletown. 9am-4pm Saturday, 11am-4pm Sunday. [www.Bellegrove.org](http://www.Bellegrove.org) or 540-869-2028.
- 16 **VA** Lecture, "African Americans in the Civil War, Men, Soldiers, Citizens" at 208 W Market St, Leesburg. 2 pm. 703-737-7195.
- 16 **VA** Play, "Kiss My Little Girls" 1861," based on the letters of a Confederate cavalryman, at Arts on Main, 6580 Main St, Gloucester. 2 pm. \$10/adult. 804-695-0700 or [bootsandkisses.com](http://bootsandkisses.com).
- 16-20 **PA MD** Bike tour, guided four-day Civil War tour covers Gettysburg, Harpers Ferry, Antietam and more. Begins in Gettysburg. \$1,075 includes lodging, support and more. [wilderness-voyageurs.com/bike-tour-gettysburg.html](http://wilderness-voyageurs.com/bike-tour-gettysburg.html) or 800-272-4141.
- 18 **VA** Lecture, "'A Perfect Steel Trap': Resources at the Library of Virginia Documenting John Brown's Raid," at the Library of Virginia, 800 E Broad St, Richmond. Noon. Free. 804-692-3592 or [www.lva.virginia.gov](http://www.lva.virginia.gov).
- 19 **PA** "Stories and Songs of a Civil War Hospital," a candlelight program at Christ Church, 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.
- 19 **VA** Car-caravan tour, in-depth anniversary tour of the Battle of Cedar Creek south of Middletown. Meets at the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation across from Belle Grove. Free. Time TBA. [www.nps.gov/cebe](http://www.nps.gov/cebe).
- 19 **VA** Lecture, "First Ladies of the Civil War," at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 110 N. Union St., in Petersburg. 7 pm. Free, donations welcome. 804-733-3415.
- 19 **VA** Gallery Walk, "The Civil War in Virginia: Battle Flags," at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6. [www.vahistorical.org](http://www.vahistorical.org).
- 20 **VA** Tour, "The Confederacy and the World," a special look at the White House of the Confederacy in Richmond. 11:15 am. \$9. [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org) or 804-649-1861.
- 21 **VA** Talk, "Ball's Bluff: A Small Battle with Enormous Consequences," a brown-bag lunch talk at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Noon. Free. [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org).
- 21 **VA** Walking tour, guided Civil War tour of downtown Winchester. Meets at 2 N Cameron St at 6 pm. \$5. 540-542-1326.
- 21-22 **VA** "Ghost Walk," living history tours at the Exchange Hotel in Gordonsville. 7-9 pm. [www.hgiexchange.org](http://www.hgiexchange.org) or 540-832-2944.
- 22 **MD** Battlefield hikes on the Monocacy National Battlefield. Two-hour walks focus on different areas of the battlefield at 9 am, 11:30 am and 2 pm. Free. [www.nps.gov/mono](http://www.nps.gov/mono).
- 22 **PA** Seminar, "Off the Beaten Path," at the Gettysburg National Military Park. [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org).
- 22 **VA** Battlefield Hike, ranger-led 6.2-mile walking tour of the Second Manassas Battlefield. Begins at the Manassas National Battlefield Park visitor center. 1-4:30 pm. Free with park admission. [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).
- 22 **VA** Bus tour, "Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley including 'The Burning'" begins at CrossRoads, 1921 Heritage Center Way, in Harrisonburg. 8 am-5 pm. Registration by Oct. 17. \$70. 540-438-1275.
- 22 **VA** Walking tour, guided Civil War tour of Stephens City. Begins at 10:30 am at 5408 Main St. \$5. 540-869-1700.
- 22 **VA** Living history, "McLean Civil War 150th Commemoration," demonstrations, talks, music and exhibits relating to the impact of war on the region, at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. 11 am-5 pm. Free. 703-356-8223 or [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).
- 22 **VA** Lecture, "Johnny Reb and Billy Yank," at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St, Fairfax. 10:30 am. Free. 703-293-6227.
- 22 **VA** Lecture, "Johnny Reb and Billy Yank," at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. 2:30 pm. Free. 703-356-0770.
- 22 **VA** Living history, music and more during "Evening Encampment at Morven Park" in Leesburg. 7-9:30 pm. \$25. Tickets, more info: [www.MorvenPark.org](http://www.MorvenPark.org).
- 22-23 **MD** Living history, "Children's Experience Weekend," at the Pry House Field Hospital Museum near Keedysville (part of the Antietam National Battlefield). 19th-century games and more. 11 am-4:30 pm. [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org).
- 22-23 **PA** Living history, camps and demonstrations at several locations in

- the Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett) or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
- 22-23 **VA** ★ 150 Reenactment, "The Battle of Ball's Bluff," at the NVRPA park and Morven Park near Leesburg. Saturday includes march to the battlefield from Morven Park at noon, reenactment at 2:30 pm with evening activities at the battlefield and Morven Park. Living history with camps and demonstrations 9 am-noon Sunday. Tickets, more info: [www.150thballsbluff.com](http://www.150thballsbluff.com).
- 22-23 **VA** Walking tours, "Bristoe Station Battlefields," at the battlefield park, 10708 Bristow Road, Bristow (near Manassas). 11 am-3 pm. \$5/adult. 703-792-5546.
- 23 **VA** Lecture, "Lincoln Bodyguard Ward Hill Lamon," at 208 W Market St, Leesburg. 2 pm. Free. 703-737-7195.
- 23 **VA** Play, "Kiss My Little Girls" 1861," based on the letters of a Confederate cavalryman, at Arts on Main, 6580 Main St, Gloucester. 2 pm. \$10/adult. 804-695-0700 or [bootsandkisses.com](http://bootsandkisses.com).
- 26 **VA** ★ 150 Lecture, "Evolution of Military Medicine," at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. 7 pm. \$6/adult. [www.nps.gov/rich](http://www.nps.gov/rich) or 804-771-2145.
- 26 **VA** Lecture, "Why Rhett wasn't with Scarlet when Atlanta was burning" on blockade runners at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 110 N. Union St., in Petersburg. 7 pm. Free, donations welcome. 804-733-3415.
- 27 **VA** ★ 150 Lecture, "Evolution of Military Medicine," at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6/adult. [www.nps.gov/rich](http://www.nps.gov/rich) or 804-771-2145.
- 27 **VA** Tour, "The Confederacy and the World," a special look at the White House of the Confederacy in Richmond. 11:15 am. \$9. [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org) or 804-649-1861.
- 29 **VA** ★ 150 Walking tours of Richmond's Civil War hospitals, including Chimborazo (established in 1861), led by NPS rangers. Plus medical living history at the Richmond National Battlefield Park visitor center, 3215 E Broad St. 9 am-4 pm. Free. [www.nps.gov/rich](http://www.nps.gov/rich).
- 29 **VA** Seminar and Tour, "'We Shall Have Graveyards at Every Door': The Lower Shenandoah Valley's Border Region during the Civil War," lecture and carpool tour focus on civilian life. 10 am-4 pm. \$20. Registration: 540-868-7191.
- 29 **VA** Living history, artillery camp and demonstrations at Fort Ward in Alexandria. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 703-746-4848.
- 29 **VA** Living history, "Mosby: Scout Along the Turnpike," special programs along Route 50 between Atoka and Aldie. Noon-5 pm. [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org).
- 29 **VA** Living history, "Spirits of New Market," spooky soldiers return at the New Market State Historical Park in New Market. 7-9 pm. Free with admission. [www.vmi.edu/newmarket](http://www.vmi.edu/newmarket) or 866-515-1864.
- 29 **MD** Living history, ghost tales and tour, skirmish reenactment and music at Green Hill Farm, 5329 Modell Road, Sharpsburg. 4 pm-midnight. \$10. 304-279-0016 or [ghfarm.webs.com/ghostsofgreenhill.htm](http://ghfarm.webs.com/ghostsofgreenhill.htm).
- 29 **MD** Living history, "Ship's Company," see Union seamen at work on the USS *Constellation* in Baltimore Harbor. 10 am-4 pm Free with admission. [www.historicships.org](http://www.historicships.org).
- 29-30 **VA** Living history, Civil War Weekend at the Sky Meadows State Park near Delaplane. Camp and demonstrations plus a wide variety of other activities at the park. 10 am-5 pm. Parking fee.

540-592-3556.

- 29-30 **MD** Living history, "Artillery at Antietam," camps and demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Union Saturday, Confederate Sunday. Free with park admission. [www.nps.gov/anti](http://www.nps.gov/anti).

- 29-30 **PA** Living history, camps and demonstrations at several locations in the Gettysburg National Military Park. Free. [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett) or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.

## Civil War Reconstructed

### Archaeologist Mines Atlanta Landscape for Remains of the Clash Between Union and Confederate Armies

By CAMERON MCWHIRTER

KENNESAW, Ga.—When Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman arrived here in June 1864, he wrote to his superiors, "The whole country is one vast fort."

Gen. Sherman and his 100,000 men encountered 65,000 Confederates dug in along 12 miles of earthworks at Kennesaw Mountain. After fierce fighting, the rebels retreated to nearby Atlanta. Several more battles ensued before Union forces took the city, dealing a crippling blow to the South.

*Garrett Silliman points toward a rifle pit he found this month while using a GPS system in the woods of Smyrna, Ga.*



The detritus of war—bullets, uniforms, cannon shot, swords and, of course, corpses—was strewn across the region in the aftermath. Trenches, both intricate defenses built over weeks by engineers and shallow pits frantically dug by infantry under fire, snaked for miles.

Today, metro Atlanta—a land of expressways, subdivisions and shopping malls—has grown to about 5.7 million people, from about 10,000 in the 1860s. So it's easy to assume that evidence of the famous clash of armies has been obliterated except for that preserved in museums, parks and monuments.

That assumption is wrong, according to Garrett Silliman, a 36-year-old archaeologist for an environmental and land-use consulting firm. Mr. Silliman's employer, Edwards-Pitman Environmental Inc., has a contract with Cobb County and the Georgia Department of Transportation to identify battle sites to preserve—or at least excavate—before bulldozers plow them under. He is hoping that as the 150th anniversary of the Civil War arrives this year, governments will take a renewed interest in preservation.

Battlefield archaeology is meticulous work. It takes years of education and mastery of sensitive equipment, including global positioning systems, ground-penetrating radar, advanced metal detectors and extremely precise mapping software.



Garrett Silliman uploads the site's coordinates for comparison with old Civil War era maps.



But the work's goal is simple: to reconstruct a battle.

"It's just a huge crime scene," said William Lees, president of the Society for Historical Archaeology and a professor at the University of West Florida. "You are just trying to figure out what happened there by what was left behind."

If Mr. Silliman finds a clump of unspent bullets, he knows it was where men fumbled with ammunition shortly before an attack. If he finds shattered bits of bullets and belt buckles, he knows it is where soldiers encountered heavy fire. This forensic detail helps Mr. Silliman and other archaeologists develop a much clearer picture of parts of specific battles and also helps them understand overall military strategy at the time.

"We can really create a good picture of what was happening even with a limited archaeological record," Mr. Silliman said.

On a cold January morning, Mr. Silliman set out in his Land Rover in search of forgotten battlefields hidden amid heavily developed suburbs. His first stop was a municipal water tank atop a low hill in the shadow of Kennesaw Mountain. In 2005, Mr. Silliman was surveying at the bottom of the hill when he fell in a hole. Cutting away kudzu with a machete, he discovered what he thought was an advanced trench line. Looking at maps and accounts of the fighting, he determined the unnamed hill was likely an advanced position of Alabama Confederates, captured by Union Midwesterners on June 15, 1864.

Five years after he fell in the hole, Mr. Silliman has come back—with funding, county permission and equipment—to see what is still here. Mr. Silliman, who with a trim rounded beard and knit cap looks like a cross between a hippie and a Civil War colonel, hoisted on his back a GPS device that looked like a futuristic trumpet and pointed skyward. He carried a notebook to sketch battle lines that he would later scan into his computer.

There were trenches made of piled mud and stone, running along the hill. The water tank destroyed trenches higher up the hill. A nearby utility line and a subdivision destroyed more down the hill. But the side of the hill, which is tough to build on, had been spared. The fortifications still stand a few feet high, despite years of erosion.

"It's amazing how well preserved these things are, given everything that's happened," Mr. Silliman said as he tramped through the forest.

Mr. Silliman stopped every few feet to log data to the satellite and sketch the line. He will probably come back in the spring with a metal detector to try to find bullets. Unlike collectors, who dig up items to trade or sell, Mr. Silliman uses detectors to figure out the battle's progress.

Many first-hand reports from the battles and later recollections were wrong. Officers confused by the fighting or eager to impress superiors wrote accounts of battles that often made themselves look better and the fighting fiercer than they actually were. It's like any crime scene. Witnesses can't be trusted, but physical evidence can.

Mr. Silliman's guess is that professionals have surveyed less than 10% of all the battle lines around Atlanta. Like many archaeologists, he considers his work on these forgotten battlefields to be more of a calling than a job. He has ancestors who fought for the

Union, and says he wants to preserve what he can for future generations.

"It's our Iliad," he said of the conflict.

William Lees teaches at the University of West Florida. An earlier version of this story incorrectly said he taught at the University of Western Florida.

Write to Cameron McWhirter at

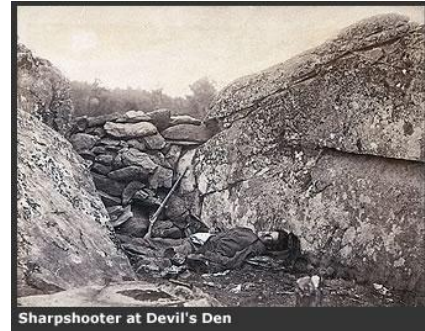
[cameron.mcwhirter@wsj.com](mailto:cameron.mcwhirter@wsj.com)

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## MORE PODCASTS

From [www.civilwartraveller.com](http://www.civilwartraveller.com)

### Devil's Den, Gettysburg



The Union soldiers defending this pile of giant boulders just west of Little Round Top found themselves on the far left flank of the Federal line July 2, 1863. They were the first to take on Confederate Gen. James Longstreet's assault that day. This tour covers the fight for Devil's Den and the true story behind one of the Civil War's most famous photographs.

6-stop walking tour, approximately 60 minutes

Narration: Eric Campbell, NPS staff historian

Introduction: John Fieseler

Music: Vaughn and Starbuck

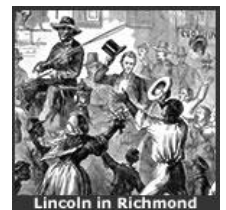
Production: CivilWarTraveler.com and Gettysburg National Military Park

Playing time: 25:47 minutes

File size: 6MB

### Lincoln Visits Richmond

On April 4, 1865, just one day after Richmond was evacuated, President Abraham Lincoln toured the still-smoldering former Confederate capital. This tour follows in his footsteps.



7-stop walking tour, approximately 90 minutes

Narration: Mike Gorman, NPS staff historian

Introduction: Marc Ramsey of **Owens & Ramsey Historical Booksellers**

Production: CivilWarTraveler.com and Richmond National Battlefield Park

Playing time: 35:09 minutes  
File size: 8.3MB

### The Cornfield, Antietam

The bloodiest one-day battle of the Civil War began when thousands of Union soldiers plunged into D.R. Miller's cornfield. Tour the opening moments of the Battle of Antietam.

8-stop walking tour,  
60–90 minutes  
Narration: Keith Snyder, NPS  
historian/ranger  
Introduction: John Fieseler  
Music: **Southern Horizon**  
Production: CivilWarTraveler.com and Antietam National  
Battlefield  
Playing time: 26:28 minutes  
File size: 6.2MB



Monument at the Cornfield

### The Crater, Petersburg

Explore one of the most dramatic events of the Civil War — the explosion of tons of gunpowder under part of the Confederate line at Petersburg, July 30, 1864.

7-stop walking tour  
Narration: Tracy Chernault, NPS  
historian/ranger  
Introduction: Marc Ramsey of  
**Owens & Ramsey Historical  
Booksellers**  
Music: **Southern Horizon**  
Production: CivilWarTraveler.com and Petersburg National  
Battlefield  
Playing time: 43:16 minutes  
File size: 10.2MB



Petersburg – The Crater

Cape May County Civil War Round Table

[www.cmccwrt.com](http://www.cmccwrt.com)

