

Cape May County Civil War Round Table Newsletter September 2015

17 September: Tracy Evans will be telling us about *The Lost Orders of General Lee*. **Refreshments:** Tim Keely
15 October: Craig Caba will be discussing the J Howard Worth Collection of Civil War Artifacts from Gettysburg as well as anti-slavery efforts in Gettysburg.

Refreshments:

19 November: To Be Announced

?? December (date for Christmas dinner meeting to be determined)

LIST OF LOCAL EVENTS!!!

Members are encouraged to participate; if you have Civil War garb / uniforms, please feel free to wear it! We would also appreciate members attending helping by handing out flyers as well as telling folks about our group. MAC says we can have people at non-Civil War oriented events too, and some of them are listed herein.

12 – 13 Sept: Civil War Weekend at Cold Spring Village

19 Sep: MAC = *Harvst Brew Festival*

11 Oct: MAC = Special Family Event at end of Victorian Week

16 Oct: Cape May County Historical Museum begins winter hours, tours only by appointment.

12 & 19 Dec: Christmas Open House at the Cape May 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.

Round Table Officers

President: Marty Runner
 1402 Rt 9 South, Lot 193, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
 609-536-8235
 pat_mar1136@yahoo.com

Vice President: Lou Bishop Jr.
 21 Schoolhouse Ln, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
 609-463-9277 or 741-5438
southwilriseagain@aol.com

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

Minutes of the Business Meeting 20 August 2015

From notes from Treasurer Marshall, as Secretary Munson-Siter was unable to attend:

Meeting called to order, pledge of allegiance and moment of silence for those who stand in harm's way to protect the rest of us.

Motion made, seconded and approved to donate \$100 to the Cape May Historical and Genealogical Society.

Sept 11 – 12 is the Civil War Weekend at Cold Spring Village.

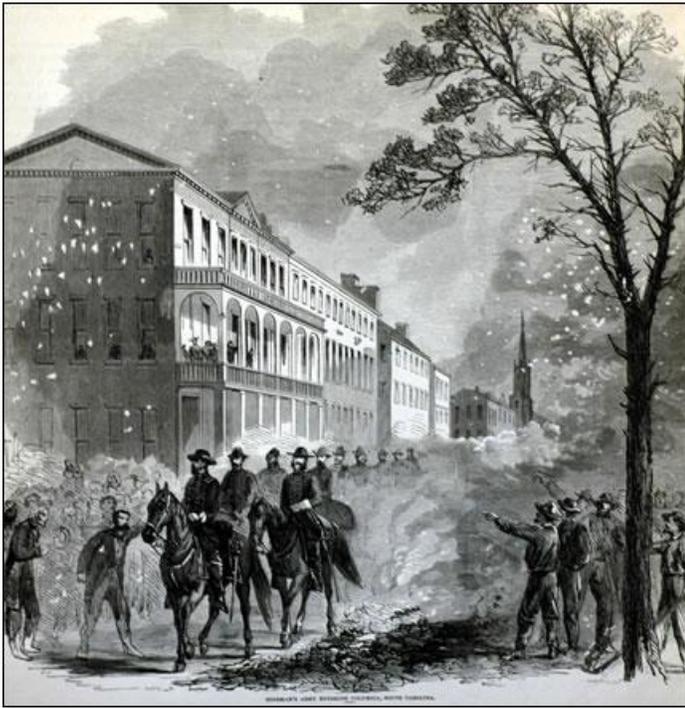
Sept 12 is the art auction to benefit the Cape May Historical and Genealogical Society. More info available on the CMHGS website.

www.cmcmuseum.org

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Munson-Siter
 Secretary



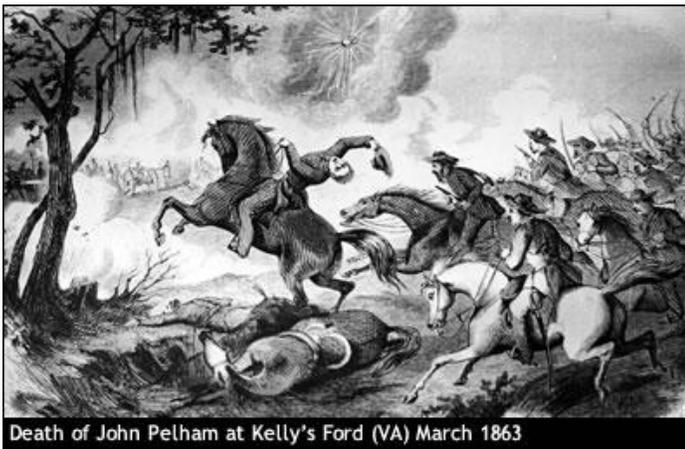
**Civil War Events
October 1860 – 1864**

21 **1861**
Battle of Ball's Bluff (VA)

1862
4 Battle of Corinth (MS)
8 Battle of Perryville (KY)

1863
Nothing of Major Importance
1864

19 Battle of Cedar Creek (VA)
23 Battle of Westport (MO)



Death of John Pelham at Kelly's Ford (VA) March 1863

Civil War Related Events in October 2014

2-4 **VA** Conference, "The Second Day at Gettysburg," annual Mosby Heritage Area event at the Middleburg

Community Center, 300 W Washington St, Middleburg. Speakers and bus tour. Registration info: mosbyheritagearea.org/events.html

2-4 **VA** Living history, North-South Skirmish Association semi-annual live-fire competition at Fort Shenandoah, 480 Chalybeate Springs Road, near Winchester. Free. n-ssa.org

3 **VA** Walking tours, "Hard Liquor and Women," living history tours meet at the Farmer's Market in downtown Petersburg. 10:30 am, 1 pm and 2:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete

3 **VA** Living history walking tour, "Battle of Smithfield," begins at the Isle of Wight Museum, 103 Main St, Smithfield. 2 pm. Free. historicisleofwight.com

3 **VA** Walking tour, "Fort Huger," 17146 Monument Circle, Isle of Wight County near Smithfield. 10 am. Free. historicisleofwight.com

3-4 **MD** Living history, "124th NY Infantry," at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg. Camp and demonstrations. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti

4-5 **MD** "Civil War Steam Days Weekend," at the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore. Living history, train rides, more. 10 am-4 pm. Saturday, 11 am-4 pm Sunday. borail.org

8-9 **VA** Seminar, "The Long Road Home: Following Longstreet and Lee to Appomattox," based in Virginia. Speakers, tours and more sponsored by the Longstreet Society. longstreetsociety.org

9 **VA** Car-caravan tour, "Every opening disclosed moving masses of bluecoats... covering the hill slopes... with apparently countless squadrons' The Battle of Tom's Brook." Meets at the Shenandoah County Park, 380 Park Lane, Maurertown. 4 pm. Free. nps.gov/cebe

9-10 **VA** Seminar, tour "The Long Road Home: With Longstreet to Appomattox," based in Burkeville. Talks plus tour of "Lee's Retreat" route. Sponsored by the Longstreet Society. More info, register: longstreet.org

9-11 **MD** Conference, "Civil War Medicine... it's not what you think," in Frederick. Speakers, panel and a tour

of Civil War hospital sites in Frederick. Details, registration: civilwarmed.org

10 **PA** “An Evening with the Painting,” an “after-hours” experience with the Gettysburg Cyclorama at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 6 pm. \$20/adult. gettysburgfoundation.org/18

10 **VA** Boat tour, “Potomac River Blockade,” see preserved Confederate batteries along the river, plus lunch. Cruises based in Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge. \$45. 703-366-3049 for details.

10-11 **VA** Living history, tours and more, “Battle of Bristoe Station Weekend and Luminary,” anniversary activities at the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park in Bristow. 11 am-4 pm. Luminary 5 pm Saturday. \$5 donation welcome. 703-366-3049.

16 **VA** Car-caravan tour, “...the destruction of Sheridan’s army was inevitable.” The Confederate Advance on Cedar Creek.” Meets at Ramseur’s Hill, 1864 Battlefield Road, Fisher’s Hill. 4 pm. Free. nps.gov/cebe

16 **VA** Tour, “Recorded in Stone: the Monuments at Cedar Creek,” on the Cedar Creek battlefield south of Middletown. 4 pm. Free. nps.gov/cebe

16-18 **VA** Symposium, “The Civil War in 1865,” speakers plus optional tour at Pamplin Historical Park near Petersburg. \$259. pamlinpark.org

16-18 **VA** Seminar, “Image of War,” annual Center for Civil War Photography conference in Manassas. Speakers, “4-D” presentations and tours. Details and sign-up: civilwarphotography.org

17 **VA** Walking tours of the Kernstown battlefields at the KBA property off Route 11, south of Winchester. 11 am and 1 pm. Free, donations welcome. kernstownbattle.org

17 **VA** Living history, “17th Mississippi Regiment Returns to Aldie,” at Aldie Mill, 39401 John Mosby Highway, Aldie. 9 am-5 pm. Free. 703-327-9777.

17 **VA** “United States Colored Troops in Winter Camp,” ranger programs at the Petersburg National Battlefield (Stop 3, Eastern Front). 10 am-2 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/pete

17-18 **DC|VA** Bus tour, “The Shenandoah Valley in the Civil War: A Closer Look,” a Smithsonian tour with Ed Bearss leaves from Washington. Call 202-633-8687 or see smithsonianassociates.org (click on Civil War) for reservations or more info.

17-18 **VA** Reenactment, “Battle of Cedar Creek,” popular annual event includes living history demonstrations and battles both days. cbf.us

18-21 **MD** Bus tour, “1862 Antietam Campaign,” based in Hagerstown. Organized by the Civil War Museum in Kenosha (WI). kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events

23 **VA** Lecture, “The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson,” at Ellwood, historic property near the intersection of Routes 20 and 3 west of Fredericksburg. 3:30 pm. Archeology at Ellwood talks at noon and 2 pm.

24 **MD** Battlefield hikes at the Monocacy National Battlefield in Frederick. Two-hour, ranger-led walks at 9 and 11:30 am and 2 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/mono

24 **VA** Bus tour, “Jeb Stuart’s Route to Gettysburg, Phase I,” Piedmont Station to Rowser’s Ford. Tour begins at the Franconia Museum, 6121 Franconia Road, Franconia. 8:15 am. \$100. 703-971-4984.

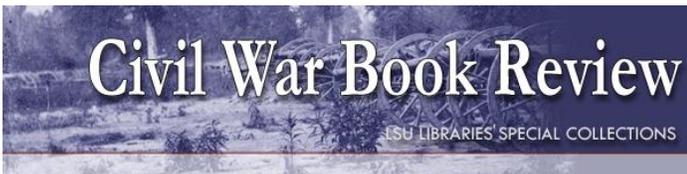
24 **VA** Lecture, “Desertion in the Civil War,” at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 2 pm. Free. 703-591-0560.

25 **VA** Living history and tours, “Eyewitness to War,” at the Mt. Zion Historic Park, 40309 John Mosby Highway, Aldie. 1-5 pm. Free. 703-327-9777.

29 **VA** Lecture, “Unionists in Virginia: Politics, Secession, and Their Plan to Prevent Civil War,” at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6. vahistorical.org

29-30 **VA** Living history tours, “Voices from the Shadows: A Walk Through Hallowed Ground,” at Pamplin Historical Park near Petersburg. 7 pm. Reservations required: 877-727-7546. pamlinpark.org

31 **MD** Living history, “Ship’s Company,” life in “Mr. Lincoln’s Navy” at the USS Constellation in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. 10 am-4 pm. Free with admission. shipscompany.org



The Gettysburg Address: Perspectives on Lincoln's Greatest Speech. Edited by Sean Conant. Notes, appendix, index, 366 pp., 2015, Oxford, www.oup.com, \$24.95 softcover.

Gettysburg serves as a looking glass for America. This fine compendium of essays demonstrates that not even Abraham Lincoln could distill Gettysburg for all time. The 150th anniversary of the address that we commemorated in 2013 drives us again to peer into the glass, to reflect anew the moment when President Lincoln redefined the nation. He took great pains to say things beautifully.

Harold Holzer's contribution is found in the "foreword," which aptly points out that it was not by chance that one of Lincoln's best speeches was delivered on a battlefield on the occasion of dedicating a cemetery for those who fought, died, and were buried there.

Lincoln said that the brave men, living and dead, who struggled on this ground had "consecrated it" better than he or anyone else could. Their cause was noble.

Lincoln also said that their work was "unfinished," and that we, the living, should "highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation under God, shall have a new birth of freedom," and that government of, by, and for the people "shall not perish from the earth."

Holzer points out that there have been many who followed Lincoln through dedicatory remarks on Nov. 19 in succeeding years, including himself and this reviewer, but, "Of course, there remains only one Gettysburg Address, one Lincoln."

Allen Guelzo, in his contribution, opines that Lincoln gave "advanced echoes" of what were to be his clear Gettysburg observations. On July 7, 1863, just days after the battle, Lincoln mentioned "eighty odd years" ago, which would morph into "four score and seven years ago" by November.

This volume also includes other scholars' work about the origins of the Gettysburg Address from Nicholas Cole on classical oratory, Sean Wilentz on democratic ideals, Craig Symonds on political eloquence, Dean Grodzins on American philosophical originality, and Chandra Manning and Mark Schantz on national mourning of the horrific wartime deaths and suffering.

One wonders if anything important or new can be said about the address that has not already been said in countless volumes and speeches. Yet, these essays prove its continuing relevance.

Frank J. Williams is founding chairman of the Lincoln Forum and author of *Lincoln as Hero*.

Ulysses Underground: The Unexplored Roots of U.S. Grant and the Underground Railroad. By G.L. Corum. Illustrated, photos, maps, appendix, notes, bibliography, index, 330 pp., 2015, Riveting History, www.rivetinghistory@gmail.com, \$27.50.

History is full of mysteries, and it is always intriguing to explore possibilities about connections between historical characters and historical events. G.L. Corum delves into one such mystery: any connection between the Underground Railroad and Ulysses S. Grant.

Grant was born in 1822 in Adams County, Ohio, where an Underground Road, as it was known in its infancy, was being established.

Grant's father Jesse was no stranger to those involved in creating and operating this path of freedom. Jesse Grant lived in an area populated by many families from the North and some from the South who supported freedom for slaves.

Pockets of freedom were established around churches in a cluster of counties. Corum has identified dozens of unheralded families who contributed to building this freedom network.

One was the Ammens family. David Ammen was a printer who lived in Ripley, Ohio. He published the *Castigator*, a newspaper dedicated to preaching as well as exposing slavery. In 1829 David's son Daniel saved Ulysses from drowning and became his lifelong friend. Supporters of this publishing venture included Peter Grant, Ulysses's uncle.

Other stories include a brief history of Ripley (Ohio) College. It was open to everyone, including women, Southerners and former slaves. One former slave was Benjamin Franklin Templeton, who was brutally attacked while walking home from class. This outraged the antislavery community, and two college leaders stepped forward to protect Templeton from future attacks.

These and dozens of other stories about the antislavery movement in and around the area where Ulysses Grant grew up are detailed and well documented. While there is no proof that Ulysses

avored antislavery sentiments, the fact is that he was exposed through both family and friends to them during his youth.

In his memoirs, Grant devotes little space to his youth. That is not unusual since he kept his personal life to himself. However, as Corum points out, the number of "antislavery societies increased from 25 in 1835 to 120 in 1836." Numbers didn't always mean safety. As societies gathered, many times they were met by mobs intent on silencing them.

The great strength of *Ulysses Underground* is the stories of all these antislavery people. Those with the courage to spread the word of freedom to slaves risked everything to see the end of the peculiar institution. They represented America at its best.

This work sets a very high standard. Such detail from painstaking research makes this book a worthy addition to readers' Civil War libraries. It is highly recommended.

Larry Clowers lives in Gettysburg, Pa., and is a professional historical interpreter of Ulysses S. Grant.

The Road to Gettysburg: Lee's Invasion of Pennsylvania and Grant's Siege of Vicksburg May-July 1863. By Donald S. Lowry. Maps, notes, orders of battle, bibliography, index, 644 pp., 2015, CreateSpace, www.createpace.com, \$27.75 softcover.

Donald Lowry is writing a multi-volume military history of the Civil War in reverse chronological order. After a brief respite, he has completed two of his projected 1863 Series trilogy.

Over the River: The Campaigns of Vicksburg and Chancellorsville March-May 1863 was published in 2014. *The Road to Gettysburg* encompasses a detailed chronological narrative of all theaters of the war from May to July 1863.

Each chapter is subdivided into sections on the various theaters and narrated chronologically. This volume primarily focuses on the siege of Vicksburg, the Tullahoma Campaign and Eastern events

concluding just prior to the Battle of Gettysburg. The endnotes conveniently are at the conclusion of each chapter.

The book weaves together a fast-paced narrative with contemporary quotations and thoughtful analysis. Lowry stresses the importance of military intelligence in each campaign, especially the Gettysburg campaign.

He concludes that Robert E. Lee, based on his “actions and words,” was ignorant of Meade’s army’s location and therefore failed to understand the importance of Gettysburg.

In addition, Lowry demonstrates how confusion existed among both Confederate and Union officers when department commanders treated their departments as their own personal fiefdoms.

Within the Union armies, especially in the Eastern Theater, President Abraham Lincoln created chaos when he continually allowed the chain of command to be subverted.

The text is accompanied by seven theater maps by cartographer George Skoch. However, more detailed maps should have been included to supplement the text.

Lowry relies almost entirely on the *Official Records* as his primary source material. He does use more recently published material when describing the Gettysburg Campaign.

This informative and interesting book is recommended for readers seeking a readable study of the relationship among various theaters during the May-July 1863 timeframe.

Lowry provides a synthesis of primary sources in his fluent writing style along with thought-provoking analyses of events and people. This volume can be read independently of his other volumes.

Michael T. Russert, a member of the North Shore Round Table of Long Island and the Company of Military Historians, has a MALS plus 60 hours in American Studies.

Redemption Songs: Suing for Freedom before Dred Scott. By Lea Vandervelde. Illustrated, photos, map, notes, bibliography, index, 318 pp., 2014, Oxford, www.oup.com, \$29.95.

African Americans sued for freedom long before the famous *Dred Scott* case. Freedom suits, called redemption songs, were filed by both men and women with inconsistent and interesting results. The uncertainty of the outcome in these cases caused many to decide it wasn’t worth the risks of trying.

Missouri, a slave state of the Midwest with divided loyalties, is an interesting location for studying how freedom suits were handled.

Vandervelde conducted more than a decade of research in St. Louis court records, uncovering approximately 300 freedom suits filed between 1814 and 1860. One-third of those cases resulted in emancipation.

This work examines 12 specific cases. Analyzing them allows readers to see how African Americans were treated in the courts, as well as how the state of Missouri tolerated freedom suits by these slaves.

Demographics played an important role in these suits. Women with children suing for freedom tended to fare better than single women.

Where a slave was purchased or resided also played a role. Also relevant was the proximity of Missouri to the Mississippi River and its various Underground Railroad terminals.

Politics also played an important role in these freedom suits. Missouri law allowed slaves to sue masters or anyone else who held them against their will if they had a reasonable basis to believe they were free.

This meant African Americans could sue based on geographic residence, purchase location or lineal relations between parents and children.

The cases Lea Vandervelde presents provide keen insights into a variety of issues related to slavery. This work uniquely demonstrates how those suits

impacted the master, the person enslaved and society as a whole.

There was little consistency in the resolution of freedom suits. On many occasions slaves filed their suits based on similarities to previously filed suits where emancipation had been granted only to lose their own suits on technicalities or different interpretations of the law. Each case was as unique as the individual who filed it.

Vandervelde does an excellent job providing background information on slavery issues in general and more specifically how Missouri courts interpreted these issues. Extensive primary-source materials make this work an excellent reference tool.

Although the focus of the book is narrowly defined and only deals with one aspect of Civil War history, the author does an impressive job presenting many often-overlooked facets of slavery.

The work is well organized and reasonably priced. I highly recommend it for those interested in slavery or legal issues.

Richard J. Blumberg has a master's degree with honors in Civil War studies. He is past president of the Houston Civil War Round Table and is a speaker for that group and the Society of Women in the Civil War. He also reviews books for the Blue and Gray Education Society.

Winnie Davis: Daughter of the Lost Cause. By Heath Hardage Lee. Illustrated, photos, notes, bibliography, index, 230 pp., 2014, Potomac, www.potomacbooksinc.com, \$29.95.

The birth of President Jefferson Davis and his wife Varina's youngest child, Varina Anne, occurred on June 27, 1864. Heath Hardage Lee relates a tale of hope, love and tragedy that engulfs that child, "Winnie," who becomes an attractive young woman destined to be ensnared in the paradox of the Old and New South.

The Civil War was moving toward its conclusion. Yet, because Gen. Robert E. Lee's army was holding its own against Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's forces,

Confederate soldiers viewed Winnie's birth at the White House in Richmond as a good omen. This symbolism would lead to a worshipful love affair between the Southern people and her.

Several years after the war ended, Winnie's parents placed their teenage daughter in a German boarding school. The shy youngster was traumatized and lonely in this environment. But, always desiring to please, she studied diligently — excelling artistically in painting, music and writing.

When she returned home from Europe at age 18, she was "tall, slender, fair-haired with grey eyes of peculiar beauty." She often accompanied her father on tours throughout "Dixie" to attend veterans' reunions and monument unveilings.

During one of these events, Georgia governor and former Confederate general John B. Gordon introduced her as the "Daughter of the Confederacy." Her hold over the emotions of the defeated Rebel soldiers turned her into a female symbol of the "Lost Cause."

Eventually traveling on her own to New York, she became a favorite of Kate Pulitzer, whose husband Joseph was the wealthy owner of the New York World. The Pulitzers helped Winnie launch a literary career writing articles for the newspaper.

On a trip to Syracuse, Winnie met Alfred "Fred" Wilkinson, a young Harvard-educated lawyer whose grandfather was a well-known abolitionist — anathema to the people of the South. This was, however, "a classic case of love at first sight."

After Winnie returned to her parents' home at Beauvoir in Mississippi, Fred pursued her and asked her father for her hand in marriage. Resistant at first, Davis finally agreed to their betrothal, and Varina half-heartedly concurred.

When an announcement of Winnie and Fred's engagement was made public, a hue and cry from former Confederates resounded across the South. Though the Civil War had ended over 20 years earlier, resultant animosities died hard. Marriage of

the symbol of their beliefs to a Northerner was totally unacceptable.

Winnie began to wilt under the conflict between the role she had assumed as Daughter of the Confederacy and her love for a Yankee. Jefferson and Varina sent her with the Pulitzers to Paris to regain her health. Soon, Fred followed to lay claim to his future wife.

Meanwhile, Jefferson Davis died and Varina began to create barriers to the prospective marriage. Winnie was torn between the love of her life and her perceived responsibility as a symbol of redemption for many Southerners who clung tenaciously to the past.

Upon Winnie's return home, Varina summoned Fred to Beauvoir and accused him of concealing information from her about his financial status. Fred was on trial for something he had not done. Varina's manipulation engendered a "Romeo and Juliet" tale with a sad ending.

Cape May County Civil War Round Table
www.cmccwrt.com
c/o



In this biography, Lee characterizes the people in Winnie Davis's life with insight and objectivity. The story is well-researched, and the writing is crisp and articulate. This is a "must-read" book for anyone interested in how the war affected lives long after its conclusion.

Thomas J. Ryan is former president of the Central Delaware Civil War Round Table and author of *Spies, Scouts and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign* (fall 2014).

