



# The Signal Flag



## BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Campaign # 20

Skirmish # 6

February 2006

### From the Rear Ranks:

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE - 2/7/07

- **Social** - The opportunity to meet new people with a common interest in the Civil War in particular and history in general. It provides for new experiences in getting to know the members on a more personal level.
- **Educational** - The opportunity to expand one's knowledge in many different aspects of the Civil War in listening to various guest speakers talking about a wide variety of Civil War topics, and seeing first hand implements, weapons, uniforms, civilian dress and other items from the war.
- **Historical** – The opportunity to travel to different battlefields and other sites of interest to experience the actual arena in which history occurred.
- **Preservation** – The opportunity to join other patriotic Americans in an effort to preserve sacred land for future generations of Americans to continue their study and understanding of the most difficult time in our short history, and to make lasting and enduring purchase of acres of that land.
- “I am reminded of how much I still don't know, and it provides me with a venue to find out how I can learn more. There are a hundred professors in the Round Table, all eager to teach me.”
- It increases and improves my knowledge of the Civil War, its causes, its battles, its impact and ramifications to the country then and now.
- I get to associate with people who have a better understanding than me. I can speak with them, pick their brains and learn a great deal from them.
- I learn where to get information that interests me about the war and related topics from people who have found a lot of that info themselves.
- I get to visit various Civil War sites and activities with people I know, like and trust, and who share a similar interest to my own.
- I have an opportunity to express my views on the war and related topics in a friendly atmosphere.
- I get to find out how to research my own relatives who served or may have served in the war and where to find info that is reliable.

### ***The Executive Board of the Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table***

*I remain your most obedient servant, Robert Sprague, President, BVCWRT*



*~ Officers ~*

**President:** Bob Sprague  
**Vice President:** John Walls  
**Secretary:** Lynne Fulton  
**Treasurer:** Dave Walter

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**Speakers:** Roger Arthur, Joe Lehman

**Monthly Scribe / Trips:** Susan Mahoney

**Credentials:** Bill Sitman

**Greeter:** Loretta Thomas

**Publicity:** Harriett Mueller

**Historians:** Bill Sitman, Mike Liddy

*~ Members at Large ~*

David Hoffritz, James Lawler

*~ Official Sutler ~*

John Carr: Books / Periodicals  
610-696-6506

*~ Annual Membership ~*

Individual \$25.00; Family \$40.00; Student \$15.00  
(Full time student up to age 23)

**? Questions ? Contact:**

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Unsolicited articles from our members are welcome.  
Please contact Lynne!

\* Our meetings are handicap accessible \*



## What is the BVCWRT all about???

We were founded in 1987. According to our by-laws, "the purpose of the Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table shall be to provide a congenial medium through which persons having a common interest in the events of the American Civil War - its causes and effects, engagements, personages, units, armaments and other things pertaining thereto - may satisfy their interest and broaden individual knowledge through discussion, lectures, field trips and the exchange of books, paper and other data. The purposed is also to consider the preservation and protection of the battlefields, sites, landmarks, relics and collection of the period."

In plain English, we are an organization of diverse people brought together by our common interest in the American Civil War. This interest can range from the casual to the obsessive. We intend to tailor our activities and presentations to appeal to all our members, novice or expert.

## Welcome New Members & Reenlistments

The Round Table welcomes our new members since our last meeting. Please welcome them and share your Civil War enthusiasm.

## New Members:

*Paula Coyne*

*Ken Woodward*





## *Editor's Note*

Hope you all have your “woolies” on because the temperature is dropping. We are finally feeling ‘good old winter’ after all the mild days we have been blessed. That is OK because spring is just around the corner. I had a chance to get out to Gettysburg a couple of weeks ago and noticed the change across from the Devil’s Den. They have cleared out the woods across the road trying to bring back the appearance as it was during the battle. They are also moving right along with the new visitor’s center. If you have not gone to Gettysburg before this is a good time to go, I know that it is cold but there are not the crowds during the winter as there are other seasons. You can tour the museum and you can really check out the battlefield with little interruptions. It will be interesting when they are through their changes to see what the battlefield will look like.

**Dues:** If you have not paid your dues and you are one of the members that we still mail out your newsletter than we will discontinue mailing.. If you wish to continue receiving your newsletter than please be prepared to pay Dave at the February’s meeting. Please make sure you fill out the membership form at the end of the newsletter so we have all your current information on record. Make out your membership checks to **BVCWRT** and give to Dave Walter, our Treasurer at the next meeting.

**Website:** Please make sure that you begin checking the website at the end of the fourth week of each month for the publication of the Signal Flag online. If you have problems with downloading the newsletter, please let us know and we will see if we can help.

**Book Review:** “Civil War Professional Soldiers, Citizen Soldiers, and Native American Soldiers of Genesee County, New York”, by Dave Walter. This book is written by our speaker and he talks about Gen Emory Upton, several regiments and their participation at Gettysburg, Antietam and Petersburg. He also talks about Ely S. Parker, a Seneca Chief and his service in the Union Army.

**Articles:** “*Ely S. Parker*”, this is something I put together to give us all a little background on Colonel Parker before our talk on Wednesday. I read the book “Warrior in Two Camps Union General and Seneca Chief Ely Parker” which I highly recommend, the author was William H. Armstrong. “**Journey Through Hallowed Ground**”, “**Bio on Abolitionist Robert Purvis**”, book by Margaret Bacon, “**Today in PA History, from the diary of Sidney George Fisher**”, “**Oldest Woman 114 and daughter of former Slaves**”, “**Lincoln’s Assassination diary of Sidnerly Fisher**” found on Temple website. “**The American Question Aboard in the Civil War (Part I)**” this is the continuation article from last month.

**Announcements:** “**Lincoln’s Ball**” **Saturday, February 17, 2007**, Russell S. Bond, author of “**Stealing the General: The Great Locomotive Chase and First Medal of Honor**” will be at Chester Co Book Store, March 15 at 7:30, “**Event Announcement**” Conference on Emancipation, Meade Society Annual Symposium and AMART Symposium

**Banquets:** Our banquet this year will be on May 8<sup>th</sup>, West Chester Elks, speaker will be Gobor Boritt, who will talk about the Lincoln speech no one knew about.

*Lynne Fulton, Editor*



*Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table*  
*Come to our next meeting*  
*7 February 2007*

**Speaker:** Professor James Hedtke  
**Topic:** "Ely Parker, Grant's Secretary"  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Place:** West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street

We are pleased to have Professor James Hedtke back again this year to talk with us about Ely Parker. If you remember last year, he came and gave a wonderful talk on Union General Emory Upton. James Hedtke is a Professor in Political Science and History at Cabrini College in Radnor. He earned a B.S. in International Relations at St Joseph's University, a Master's Degree in Political Science at Villanova and a Ph.D. in Political Science at Temple University. He is the author of numerous publications, book reviews and articles. Last year he released a book on Civil War soldiers from Genesee County, NY.

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**The Union League of Philadelphia's 7th Annual Civil War Lincoln's Ball**

*January 2007*

*Temple Website*

For any of you looking for a fabulous night of period entertainment in a place rich and unique in architecture, tradition, history, and decoration/appointments, and a way to break up the long Winter nights, you couldn't do better than to attend this event at the Union League in Philadelphia!

This years' Lincoln Ball, under the Chairmanship of our own esteemed colleague, Bob Hanrahan, aka General John Gibbon, will surely equal, if not surpass, prior engagements!

For those of you who have never been to the Union League in Philadelphia, this is a building any Living Historian MUST see at least once in their life!

For further details, **Saturday Night, February 17, 2007**

There is dancing, and then there is dancing! Dances and dancing of the 19<sup>th</sup> century are very different from, yet also similar, to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Waltzes, reels, and polkas may have been more elegant or refined but are still equally athletic. Join us for the 7th annual Civil War Ball and find out for yourself. Our Ball has earned the reputation as the best of its kind because of the incredible atmosphere of Lincoln Hall, the wonderful meal served by our kitchen, the remarkable music played by the 28th Regiment Brass Band, period songs performed by the famed Civil War Troubadour Charlie Zham, the extraordinary Dance Master Larry Keener-Farley, and the energetic dancing. This is an event that you should experience at least once in your life. Join League members and guests for what will be a most memorable evening of dining and dancing. Period Attire or Black Tie is requested. ( and enthusiastically embraced at past events! )

Cocktails begin at 6PM, dinner at 7PM, and dancing at 8PM. The cost is \$75 per person, inclusive. Sleeping rooms are available as well through the League's Front Desk at 215-587-5570 or [frontdesk@unionleague.org](mailto:frontdesk@unionleague.org).

**For Ball reservations, please call Jim Mundy, 215-587-5592, or email [mundyj@unionleague.org](mailto:mundyj@unionleague.org)**

## Meeting Minutes - From January 3, 2007

*Submitted by Lynne Fulton*

**The President's Report/Announcements:** Bob started out the meeting talking about the newsletter. He is still concerns about every member getting a copy whether it be online or by mail. We are hoping that soon most members will be obtaining their copies of the newsletter from our website. He wished all the members a Happy New Year and mentioned what was ahead for our Round Table in 2007. He also thanked Vince Carosella and Dave Walter for their hard work in completing our incorporation paperwork. His next topic of discussion was paying your dues and he thanked Dave Walter for his effort in sending out a reminder notice letter for those members who have not paid their dues as yet. As always, in January, Bob handed out 3 calendars to those that had birthdays in January. Bob ended our general business part of the meeting by commenting on how many of our members are now actively speaking to other organizations. We just get better and better.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave Walter reported the following: The General Fund as of 12/31/06 was \$2,207.68. We have taken in \$311.00 in the book raffle. We still have some members that have not paid their dues. We are asking that those members that have not paid please pay your dues at the next meeting.

**Book Raffle:** John Walls, had again, a great selection of books this month for our raffle. If you have books that you would like to donate please bring them in and give to John. We need to really focus on our preservation donations from now until our banquet so we can donate a \$1000.00 again this year towards preservation.

**Website:** Jim Lawler, our webmaster, continues to do a wonderful job at maintaining our webpage. You should see the Signal Flag out online for downloading. If you have problems with downloading or have not gotten on our website please let us know.

**Trips:** The trip this spring will be to Spotsylvania on Saturday, May 19, 2007. Susan Mahoney is again planning this trip. More information will be coming as we get closer to the time.

**Special Events:** Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, Roger Arthur will be speaking at the Avondale Public Library in West Grove, PA at 7:30 - topic "Laughing Lincoln". Mike Kochan mentioned a symposium on the "Battle of Hampton Roads", Friday March 9 - March 11 (some of the speakers: Harold Holzer, Mike Kochan, James McPherson, Frank J. Williams)

**Speaker:** Capt. David R. Kohler - Henry Pleasant - Petersburg's mine



## ELY SAMUEL PARKER 1828 – 1895

Ely Samuel Parker was born a Iroquois member of the Seneca Indian tribe in 1828; he had two tribal names as a child he was called Ha-sa-no-an-da ("Leading name or The Reader") and after he became a "sachem" he was called Do-ne-ho-ga-wa ("The Keeper of the Western Door of the Long House of the Iroquois"). The Iroquois Confederacy consisted of the 6 Nations, which included the Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Onondagas, the Cayugas, the Tuscaroroas and the Seneca. Ely's Father adopted the name Parker from a British Officer who was a friend of the tribe. The Seneca's thought that if they had English names it would help with dealings with white settlers in the area. His father was a Tonawanda Seneca chief part of the Turtle Clan and Ely was as his Mother part of the Wolf Clan. Children always followed their Mother Clans. His Father was a veteran of the War of 1812; his mother was descended from an Iroquois prophet.

Parker received his early education from Baptist missionaries on the Seneca reservation then he enrolled for a time at Rochester High School. He later studied at Yates and Cayuga Academies in the Finger Lakes region of New York. At age eighteen, he studied law in Ellicottville, NY. Although he passed the bar exam, he was denied the opportunity to practice law because of his heritage. He instead studied civil engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. During his school years he also devoted his time to furthering Indian affairs in Washington, D.C. as a translator for the Seneca chiefs. During this period, he came to know Lewis Henry Morgan (American Anthropologist) and helped aid Morgan in his work *League of the Iroquois*, one of the first studies of an Indian tribe. In 1852, Parker became the sachem of his tribe and adopted the tribal name Do-ne-ho-ga-wa, or "Keeper of the Western Door of the Long House of the Iroquois". In the late 1850s, Parker studied engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and began to work for the federal government, supervising public works projects. During one such project he befriended a local clerk, Ulysses S. Grant who became a lifelong friend.

Parker attempted to join the Army as part of a regiment of Iroquois Volunteers to fight for the Union but was turned down by New York Governor Edwin D. Morgan. He then sought to join the Union Army as an engineer, but was told by the Secretary of War that he could not since he was an Indian. He even appealed to Secretary of State William H. Seward, a fellow New Yorker who, only two years before, had spoken effectively in the Senate on behalf of the New York Indians. Seward bluntly refused to help. "Mr. Seward in a short time said to him that the struggle in which he wished to assist, was an affair between white men and one in which the Indian was not called on to act. The fight must be made and settled by the white men alone. He said, "Go home, cultivate your farm, and we will settle our own troubles among ourselves without any Indian aid." He was finally commissioned as a captain of engineers in 1863 serving Grant at Vicksburg and rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel. Parker later that year became an adjutant under Grant; Grant appointed Parker his military secretary the next year. Parker was present at Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. Because of his superior penmanship, at Grant's dictation, Parker transcribed the terms of surrender of General Lee's army.

There was one account concerning Parker at Appomattox's – "It was said that General Lee's face flushed with indignation, and that it seemed to him (Parker) that the negotiations were very likely to be broken off abruptly. General Lee evidently thought that a mulatto had been called on to do the writing as a gratuitous affront." But if those were his thoughts, Lee soon realized his mistake, and he extended his hand to Parker and said, "I am glad to see one real American here." Parker shook Lee's hand and replied. "We are all Americans." Parker remained as Grant's military secretary through 1869, eventually ascending to the brevet rank of brigadier-general.



He married socialite Minnie Sackett on December 25, 1867. He was 39 and she was 18. Although Parker failed to appear on their scheduled wedding day, he and Minnie were married a week later, and Ulysses S. Grant gave the bride away. Of her marriage Minnie explained: "Some people thought I married the General because he was an Indian. Now I don't care for Indians – I married the General because I loved him." [from Arthur C. Parker, *The Life of General Ely S. Parker*] They had only one child named Maud Theresa Parker who did reach adulthood and married Arthur Bullard and they had three children.

Parker was one of Grant's first political appointments when he became President. Parker was named Commissioner of Indian Affairs on April 13, 1869 -1971. During his tenure in office, Parker sought to work both for the United States government and the Indians he represented; however, his attempts to bring justice to various tribes over land deals and treaties earned him many enemies in the process. He was accused of defrauding the government and was tried by the House of Representatives in February 1871. Although he was exonerated of all charges, Parker resigned from office and went into business in New York City. He did well in business; later in life, he held various positions within the New York City Police Department. General Parker died in Fairfield, Connecticut on August 30, 1895. Parker is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo next to Seneca Chief Red Jacket, on land that once belonged to the Seneca tribe. Chief Red Jacket was Ely's great-great uncle but is sometime referred as his grandfather. Red Jacket was presented with a silver medal from George Washington which became his prize possession and later Ely was owner this medal and wore it very proudly for many years when giving talks at Masonic Lodges and other functions. After Parker's death his wife was forced to sell all of their possessions, one being this medal, which was purchased by the Buffalo Historical Society. His wife Minnie re-married and lived until she was 82.



[New York State Archives](#)

[Red Jacket, the Seneca Chief and Orator, wearing the medal presented to him by President Washington in 1792.](#)

[Red Jacket was Ely's great- great uncle but sometimes referred to as his great-grandfather. Portrait by Charles Bird King ca. 1825](#)

[Information for this article obtained through "Warrior in Two Camps" by William H. Armstrong.](#)

[Wikipedia](#)

[www.library .rocheaster.edu](http://www.library.rocheaster.edu)

#### **Books on Senecas:**

*Warrior in Two Camps: Ely S. Parker, Union General and Seneca Chief*, by William H. Armstrong,

*Iroquois Legends Volume 11*, by Marian Miller,

*Genesee Country Senecas*, by Irene A Beale

*Red Jacket:Iroquois Diplomat and Orator*, by Christopher Densmore

*The Six Nations of New York: The 1892 United StatesExtra Census Bulletin (Cornell University Press)*

*Civil War Professional Soldiers, Citizen Soldiers, and Native American Soldiers of Genesee County New Yor*, by James Hedtke

## **Book Review: *CIVIL WAR PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS, CITIZEN SOLDIERS, AND NATIVE AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF GENESEE COUNTY, NEW YORK***

### **Ordinary Men of Valor**

**By James Hedtke**

**2006, The Edward Mellen Press, Lewiston, NY**

**Reviewed by Dave Walter**

This is a short book with a big title. The author, Dr. James R. Hedtke, Professor and Chair of the History/Political Science Dept. of Cabrini College (and BVCWRT's speaker for the February 7, 2007 meeting) grew up in Genesee County and wanted to honor, for future generations "their actions in preserving the Union."

Genesee County, in Western New York, provided approximately 2,000 soldiers to the Union cause. They served in at least thirty-four units of the Union Army, in all branches and all arms. Dr. Hedtke chose three regiments and two individuals to represent and reflect on the sacrifices and contributions Genesee County made to the Northern war effort.

The first individual was Maj. Gen. Emory Upton, who, as Col. of the Second Brigade, First Division, VI Corps, distinguished himself at Rappahannock Station, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. Promoted to general, and in command of a division, he was seriously wounded fighting with Sheridan at Opequan Creek. Upton had graduated 8<sup>th</sup> of 48 in the West Point Class of May 1861 and was soon a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. in the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Artillery. At Bull Run, his battery fired the opening Union salvo at Blackburn's Ford. A Maj. General at age 25, he ended the War as commander of the Fourth Division of the Cavalry Corps, taking Selma, AL, and Columbus and Macon, GA. Upton stayed in the Army, writing the Army's manual on drill and tactics, including the frontal assault tactics he devised at the Mule Shoe (of which BVCWRT should learn more during our May field trip). He became superintendent at West Point, and traveled the world analyzing the armies of other nations. His reports formed the basis for having a general staff and professionalizing the U.S. Army before WWI. Having a chronic sinus illness and being depressed from the death of his wife and slow advancement in rank, Upton took his life at 42, ending the career of , in General Wilson's words, "as brave and good a soldier as ever lived."

Dr. Hedtke writes on three regiments comprised, in part, of Genesee County men. In the 12<sup>th</sup> New York, Company K was from Genesee. It fought from Bull Run to Chancellorsville. At Bull Run, the first volunteer from Batavia, NY, Charles Rand, won the Congressional Medal of Honor for courage under fire. The 12<sup>th</sup> suffered heavily at Gaines Mill and then repaid the Confederates in kind on the Union left at Malvern Hill. The two year men of the 12<sup>th</sup> NY suffered 124 deaths during their service.

The 15<sup>th</sup> New York cavalry, raised after Gettysburg, had substantial numbers of Genesee men in Companies E and F. Their first assignment was to track down "the Grey Ghost," John Mosby and his partisan rangers. Later in 1864, they served as rear guard on the Union's retreat from the battle of New Market then joined Hunter's push on Lynchburg and then on the retreat to West Virginia. Replenished, the 15<sup>th</sup> was assigned to the Army of the Shenandoah, and placed them in George A. Custer's division where they adopted the red neckties worn by Custer's Michigan Wolverines. Engaged in daily patrols and skirmishing, the 15<sup>th</sup> helped Sheridan destroy Jubal Early's forces in the Shenandoah, and then moved on to the Petersburg front. On the third charge at Five Forks, they breached Pickett's lines, leading to Lee's abandonment of Petersburg. Their Colonel, Augustus Root, of Batavia, was lost at Appomattox in what many consider to be the last charge of the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac.

The "Bloody 8<sup>th</sup>" N.Y. Heavy Artillery had the most Genesee County men. This was an infantry regiment formed in the summer of 1862...one of those whose quota would be filled by draft if enough volunteers didn't step forward. Genesee's quota was 444 and was filled, without a draft, by offering combined bounties nearly equal to two years of income. They initially guarded prisoners from Antietam and manned heavy guns in Baltimore. In Dec. 1862, they were transferred to the Artillery, all 1,800 strong, where many hoped they would "thereby escape the dangers of the field." After 18 months guarding Baltimore, the officers of the 8<sup>th</sup> wrote Gen. Lorenzo Thomas, expressing the desire to see active duty in the Spring 1864 campaign. Unfortunately for many, they got their wish as casualties in Grant's Overland Campaign mounted.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup>...trained in both infantry and artillery tactics, but combat rookies...joined the II Corps at Spotsylvania. Headquarters included the 8<sup>th</sup> in the front line of the assault at Cold Harbor, where it had to charge 1,600 feet over open ground. Casualties were 505, including Col. Porter. Genesee County's Sgt. LeRoy Williams was awarded the Medal of Honor for retrieving Porter's body from no-man's land. Later, at Petersburg and Weldon R.R., they saw further action, having another Colonel killed. At Ream's Station, they fought hand-to-hand and lost their flag, and 211 were taken prisoner. (51% of the 8<sup>th</sup>'s prisoners would die in Confederate prisons, triple the rate for the entire Union army.) On and on they fought; only 310 original members made it past Appomattox. For their short field service, "the bloody 8<sup>th</sup>" ranked

second in officers killed, second in enlisted men killed, and sixth in total losses in the *entire* Union Army. Their only monument stands on the battlefield of Cold Harbor.

The other individual Dr. Hedtke writes about is Ely Parker, a Seneca Indian from the Tonawanda Reservation in Genesee County. Close to eight thousand Native Americans fought to preserve the Union, and Parker became the most famous due to his service on Grant's staff (joining him initially at Vicksburg shortly after the surrender of that city) and in having penned the terms of surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox. [Dr. Hedtke will be speaking on the life and service of Col. Parker at the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Roundtable.] When Grant became president, he appointed Parker Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The most illuminating aspect of Parker's life is that he, and other Native Americans, did not achieve citizenship for their service. In fact, it wasn't until 1919 that the United States granted citizenship to Indians who had served in World War I and until June 1924 that all Native Americans were automatically granted citizenship.

This is a nice little book about the patriotism and bravery of citizen-soldiers. Genesee's men were probably no braver or patriotic than those from other places, but this book is their monument to the qualities they exemplified in service to the Union.

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### **Russell S. Bond to Speak at Chester County Book Company – West Chester**

Russell S. Bonds, author of *Stealing the General: The Great Locomotive Chase and the First Medal of Honor* will be speaking at the Chester County Book Company, West Chester, PA, on Friday, March 16 at 7:30pm. His book has received excellent reviews (two are below) and is a selection of both Book-of-the-Month and History Book Clubs. We are encouraging our members to try and attend. Mr. Bonds will be coming up from Marietta, Georgia.

This message was from Bruce H. Franklin, Westholme Publishing, [www.westholmepublishing.com](http://www.westholmepublishing.com)

**James M. McPherson**, author of *Battle Cry of Freedom*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize:

"The Great Locomotive Chase has been the stuff of legend and the darling of Hollywood. Now we have a solid history of the Andrews Raid. Russell S. Bonds' stirring account makes clear why the raid failed and what happened to the raiders."

**Publishers Weekly**, star review (their highest recommendation):

[ **Stealing the General: The Great Locomotive Chase and the First Medal of Honor**

Russell S. Bonds. Westholme, \$29.95 (464p) ISBN 1-59416-033-3

A spy and trader in contraband led an ill-fated commando mission during the first year of the Civil War with these words: "Now my lads, you have been chosen by your officers to perform a most important service, which if successful, will change the whole aspect of the war, and aid materially in bringing an early peace to our distracted country." The episode, which formed the basis for one of Buster Keaton's best-known films, took place in April 1862, when 20 Union soldiers crossed Confederate lines to steal a locomotive called the General and destroy a critical Confederate supply line. In this gripping, smooth-running account of the raid and its aftermath, Atlanta lawyer and Civil War historian Bonds zooms effortlessly from broad-stroke overviews of Civil War strategy to minute-by-minute scrutiny of unfolding events on the ground. He sets up the story with a quick, punchy outline of the first year of the war. What follows is a fast-paced, extremely well-told tale of espionage, capture, trial and escape. Half the team was executed; the half that escaped received the newly established Medal of Honor. With its authoritative tone and refreshing accessibility, this should find a place on the nightstand of the general reader as well as the bookshelf of the Civil War enthusiast.

## "Journey through Hallowed Ground" National Heritage Area Act Introduced

*Listed by William Vossler*

*January 18, 2007*

*Temple Website*

Legislation Introduced With Strong Bipartisan Support, Four-State Historic Region Would Become Nation's 38th National Heritage Area

WATERFORD, Va., Jan. 17 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Bipartisan legislation was introduced in the Senate and in the House during the opening days of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress that, if passed, would designate the 175-mile corridor encompassing many historic lands in four states along U.S. Route 15, including Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, a National Heritage Area. Senator John Warner, R-VA, introduced the "Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area Act" (S.289) in the Senate with principal co-sponsor Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, D-MD. The two co-sponsors were joined by Senators Jim Webb, D-VA, Barbara A. Mikulski, D-MD, Robert P. Casey, Jr., D-PA, and John D. Rockefeller, IV, D-WV, in sponsoring the legislation. In introducing the bill, Senator Warner said, "In Virginia, we are lucky to have a region that is worthy of the recognition and celebration that a National Heritage Area designation affords. No area in America could possibly be more deserving of this status than the corridor affectionately known as The Journey Through Hallowed Ground. I intend to work with my colleagues in the Senate to give it the historic recognition that it deserves." U.S. Representative Frank Wolf, R-VA, introduced a companion bill (HR.319) in the House of Representatives with co-sponsorship from his House colleagues: Representatives Eric I. Cantor, R-VA, Jo Anne Davis, R-VA, Tom Davis, R-VA, Shelley Moore Capito, R-WV, Bobby Scott, D-VA, Todd R. Platts, R-PA, James P. Moran, D-VA, Jim McCrery, R-LA, Ted Poe, R-TX, Mark Souder, R-IN, Alcee Hastings, D-FL, Albert Wynn, D-MD, Jim Saxton, R-NJ, and Rick Boucher, D-VA. "America's history can literally be traced along this corridor," Wolf said. "The Monroe Doctrine, the Marshall Plan and the Camp David Accords were penned right there in our backyard." "The proposed Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area would be one of the nation's most historic," said Kat Imhoff, chairman of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Board of Trustees and Vice President, Thomas Jefferson Foundation. "If enacted, this National Heritage Area would benefit the region's citizenry, the region's economic prospects and shine a national spotlight on the lessons of American leadership that are told through the history of the region." Generally following the path of the Old Carolina Road (today's Route 15), the "Journey Through Hallowed Ground" area is home to considerable historic, cultural, and natural treasures such as Monticello, Montpelier, Manassas, and Gettysburg. The area encompasses eight Presidential homes or sites, 15 National Historic Landmarks, the Jeffersonian World Heritage Site which includes Monticello and the University of Virginia, 47 historic districts, with a significant number of Revolutionary War sites and the largest collection of Civil War battlefields in America.

"We are enormously grateful for the leadership of Congressman Wolf and Senator Warner, both of whom have shown steadfast support in response to the request of over 150 partnering organizations, landowners and businesses to seek the honorary recognition this region deserves," said Cate Magennis Wyatt, President of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership. Now introduced in the Senate as S.289, the legislation has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for consideration. In the House, HR.319 is now under consideration with the House Committee on Resources.

The bill was first introduced in the House and Senate last April but not enacted before the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress adjourned in December. The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising national and local awareness of the unparalleled history in the region, which generally follows the Old Carolina Road (Rt. 15/231) from Gettysburg, through Maryland, to Monticello in Albemarle County, VA. From its communities, farms, businesses and heritage sites, we'll celebrate and preserve this vital fabric of America which stands today in the historic, scenic and natural beauty of this region. The Journey Through Hallowed Ground is dedicated to encouraging both Americans and world visitors to appreciate, respect, and experience this cultural landscape that makes it uniquely American.

**This is wonderful news!!!!**

# Event Announcements

Submitted by Loretta Thomas

## Conference – “Race and Gender in the Era of Emancipation”

The fourth Annual Underground and Black History Conference  
Saturday February 10, 2007 WALK Auditorium Temple University Philadelphia, PA  
Cost Pre – Reg \$15 On Site \$20 Dinner and Speaker \$35.00

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## Meade Society Annual Symposium

### “Meade and the Pennsylvania Reserves in the Seven Days Campaign”

Sunday February 18, 2007 Snow Date February 25 12 noon – 5 PM  
Solarium at the Chapel West Laurel Hill Cemetery, 215 Belmont Ave Bala Cynwyd, PA  
Reservations: call 610-668-9900 Lunch – Speaker – Books – etc  
Cost \$25 per person  
More information to come about the speaker.

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## AMART Symposium

### “The History of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps”

WALK Auditorium – Ritter Hall - Main Campus Temple University  
Saturday , September 22, 2007  
Pre-Reg \$50 by July 31, 2007 Later \$60  
Continental Breakfast – Lunch – Snacks

For Speaker information see Loretta. She will either send you a flyer at home or have some flyers at our next meeting.

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## Did you know?:

General George Armstrong Custer received the flag of truce at Appomattox Court House that brought about a cessation of hostilities leading to the surrender meeting between Lee and Grant. The original Truce Flag is exhibited at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

# Biography of Abolitionist Robert Purvis

By historian Margaret Bacon'

Bacon will be speaking at the Temple Black History & Underground RR Conference on 2/10/07 and signing her new book!

Born in South Carolina to a wealthy white father and mixed race mother, Robert Purvis (1810 -1898) was one of the nineteenth century's leading black abolitionists and orators. In this first biography of Purvis, Margaret Hope Bacon uses his eloquent and often fierce speeches to provide a glimpse into the life of a passionate and distinguished man, intimately involved with a wide range of major reform movements, including abolition, civil rights, Underground Railroad activism, women's rights, Irish Home Rule, Native American rights, and prison reform. Citing his role in developing the Philadelphia Vigilant Committee, an all black organization that helped escaped slaves secure passage to the North, the New York Times described Purvis at the time of his death as the president of the Underground Railroad. Voicing his opposition to a decision by the state of Pennsylvania to disenfranchise black voters in 1838, Purvis declared there is but one race, the human race. *But One Race* is the dramatic story of one of the most important figures of his time.

Margaret Bacon has worked tirelessly in her effort to rescue Robert Purvis from obscurity and present him to the modern reader as a man who was both of his time and ahead of it in his demands for an equality that knew no lines of race or sex.

**Fergus M. Bordewich**, author of *Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America* In this long-overdue biography of Robert Purvis, Margaret Hope Bacon has given us back one of the towering figures in the history of civil rights.

**Winthrop D. Jordan**, University of Mississippi - Bacon is effective in setting the context for Purvis's activities both in terms of public and family events, and in demonstrating the complex nature of black abolitionism. She has helped to reclaim Purvis's rightful place in American history.

**Roy E. Finkenbine**, Director, Black Abolitionist Archives, University of Detroit Mercy  
MARGARET HOPE BACON is an independent scholar and the author of many books, including *Valiant Friend: The Life of Lucretia Mott and Abby Hopper Gibbons: Prison Reformer and Social Activist*, also published by SUNY Press.

## ***FIRST CHAPTER AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [WWW.SUNYPRESS.EDU](http://WWW.SUNYPRESS.EDU)***

Robert Purvis has long deserved a good biography. Bacon's penetrating study illuminates both Purvis's many accomplishments in a complicated and hostile world and his often prickly personality

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## Today in PA History, from the diary of Sidney George Fisher

By Jonathan White, UMD education Saturday January 13 2007

Prior to ratification of the seventeenth amendment in 1913, US senators were elected by the state legislatures. In 1863 a very interesting scene occurred in Harrisburg.

January 14, 1863--The election for senator came off yesterday at Harrisburg and resulted in the choice of a Mr. Charles Buckalew, a Democrat, [1] Went to town saw Col. Robert Patterson, [2] a Democrat, who told me all about it, and the whole affair was most disgraceful to all concerned, as well as significant of our condition. The Democrats had a majority of one on joint ballot & were therefore entitled to success. Simon Cameron was the Republican candidate. It was known that Cameron was prepared to pay a large sum for Democratic votes enough to elect himself. As the venality of members was well known, the Democrats sent up to Harrisburg a large body of rowdies, pledged to put to death anyone of their party who voted for a Union man. They filled the hall. Buckalew was elected and the affair went off without disturbance. Here, then, were exhibited the two characteristics of democracy, fraud & violence. The Republicans disgraced themselves in selecting Cameron, a man notoriously corrupt, and the Democrats by resorting to force proved alike the corruption of their own party & their contempt for law & order. Patterson thinks we are on the verge of anarchy, that the Democrats will be able to stop the war & grant their own terms to the South, & thinks they will insist on calling a national convention to restore the Union & alter the Constitution. Met Charles Ingersoll. [3] He was in a state of great exultation at what he considers the triumph of the Democratic Party & said that soon they will resort to mob law & physical force to carry out their views. I told him that would only be in accordance with democratic principles in all ages & that I did not doubt but they would willingly imitate the Jacobins in France, if they could.

[1] Charles R. Buckalew (1821-1899), formerly minister to Ecuador, served in the Senate from 1863 to 1869 and later was a U.S. Representative from 1887 to 1891.

[2] Robert Emmet Patterson (1830-1906), a son of Gen. Robert Patterson, was appointed colonel of the 115th Pennsylvania Infantry on June 25, 1862.

[3] Charles Ingersoll (1805-1882), a prominent Philadelphia Democrat, was the son of Charles Jared Ingersoll, and brother-in-law of the diarist.

Side note: For another account of this occurrence, see Mark Neely's *Union Divided* (Harvard University Press, 2002), pp. 50-55.

from <http://www.fordhampress.com/detail> obtained from Temple website

# Oldest Woman, 114-year-old woman, daughter of former slaves, now world's oldest woman on record

By STEPHANIE REITZ Associated Press Writer

HARTFORD, Conn. - A 114-year-old Connecticut resident who was born to former slaves in North Carolina has become the world's oldest known woman after the death this week of a Canadian woman. Emma Faust Tillman, born Nov. 22, 1892, became the oldest validated

female "super centenarian" in the world when 115-year-old Julie Winnifred Bertrand of Montreal, Canada, died in her sleep early Thursday.

Tillman, of East Hartford, is now the second-oldest known person in the world behind 115-year-old Emiliano Mercado del Toro of Puerto Rico, born August 21, 1891. They are among many validated super centenarians on a list maintained by the Gerontology Research Group in Los Angeles and other organizations. Officials at East Hartford's Riverside Health and Rehabilitation

Center, where Tillman has lived since she was 110, were surprised to learn Friday of her new honor. They planned to wait until her family notified her, not wanting to overwhelm her.

"At 114 years old, having too much activity can wear on you after a while," said Karen Chadderton, the center's administrator. Tillman, who has been widowed for almost 70 years, takes no credit for her uncommon longevity and says she has no secrets for other aspiring super centenarians. "I think as she gets older, it gets a little less exciting only because reaching this age is something she feels she didn't really do herself - she says the good Lord did it,"

Chadderton said. Tillman's great-nephew, former Hartford fire chief John B. Stewart, said last month that she never smoked, never drank, did not need glasses and agreed to wear a hearing aid only reluctantly. He said when she's asked about the secret to her longevity, Tillman invariably points skyward and says "Ask the man upstairs." Tillman, one of 23 children, moved from North Carolina with her family to Glastonbury in 1895.

She graduated in 1909 as the only black student in her high school and later worked as a cook, maid, party caterer and caretaker for children of several wealthy families. She married Arthur Tillman in 1914, and they moved to Hartford's south end and raised two daughters before his death in 1939. One of her daughters is deceased. Before moving to Riverside, she lived alone in a Hartford apartment for years, family members have said. She also has been a member of the A.M.E. Zion Church in Hartford for more than 80 years.

Longevity runs in the family. One of Tillman's brothers lived to be 108, while one sister lived to 105 and two others lived to 102. "You can tell she's tired now, but at 114, we're blessed and she's blessed," Stewart said Friday.

## Sidney George Fisher on Lincoln's Assassination

From: Jonathan White UMD education found on Temple website

Fisher has some incredible diary entries from the time of Lincoln's assassination. They are all pretty long, so I will just give you one here. Some of Fisher's relatives faced mob violence and imprisonment for exulting in the assassination. Those entries are well worth reading at some point.

April 15, 1865--Calamitous news indeed this morning and a sad interruption to the joyful hopes inspired by late events. The national exultation at the prospects of peace & union has been suddenly converted into alarm & grief. Mr. Lincoln & Mr. Seward have been assassinated. Mr. Lincoln is dead & Mr. Seward, it is supposed, mortally wounded.[1] This morning, about 8 o'clock, Sidney knocked at my dressing room door, "Father," he said, "Lincoln is shot." "Nonsense child, how did you hear that?" "It is true, Cornelius heard it at the village. He was shot because he tried to shoot Seward." I was bathing. Bet soon came to the door & said that Cornelius had brought the news from the village that the President had been killed, adding that she thought the story probable enough as he went about everywhere, with the utmost confidence, alone. She had sent to the village for the paper, as ours is not delivered before 11 o'clock. In a little while, when I was half dressed, she brought the paper and read to me, half crying & in a tremulous voice, the sad & terrible story.

I felt for some time a mere dull & stupefied sense of calamity. What disasters, what wide-spread misfortune may not these events produce. A vague feeling of coming ill & real sorrow for Mr. Lincoln, deprived me of the power to think & reason on the subject. I felt as tho I had lost a personal friend, for indeed I have & so has every honest man in the country. Bet said she was as much agitated as if she had lost a relation. Mr. Lincoln's character was so kind, so generous, so noble, that he inspired personal attachment in those who can appreciate such qualities, malignant & bitter hatred, however, in southern people & Democrats, who saw with envy the popularity he acquired, the affectionate respect that was generally expressed for him & his growing fame at home and abroad. He was indeed the great man of the period. On his integrity, constancy, capacity, the hopes of the country rested. He possessed the entire confidence of the people. His perfect uprightness & purity of purpose were beyond all doubt. His ability to comprehend all the questions before the country & to deal with them in an efficient, practical manner, his firmness & purpose & strength of will, were equally well known, whilst his frank, easy, animated manners and conversation, his entire freedom from vanity, or pride, or self-seeking or apparent consciousness of his position, except as to its duties, won all hearts. His death is a terrible loss to the country, perhaps even a greater loss to the South than to the North, for Mr. Lincoln's humanity & kindness of heart stood between them and the party of the North who urge measures of vengeance & severity. The southern people have murdered their best friend, as they are likely to find ere long. The feelings of good will & conciliation, which were spreading thro the North at the hopes of speedy peace, will now be checked & converted in the minds of many into resentment & rage.

Dr. Wister came about 3 o'clock. He ordered a new pill for me, but I have but little hope & I fancy he has little. We had a great deal of talk about this deplorable event. He says the people everywhere seem stunned and overwhelmed, the windows of the houses in Germantown & the city bowed & draped in black, everybody in the streets looking sad & depressed, in striking contrast with the hilarious cheerful expression of all faces a few days ago, or indeed yesterday. Bet, who went up to Germantown to [Dr. Louis] Jack, the dentist, remarked this when she returned. In the afternoon, I sent Daniel up Germantown for an evening paper. Not one to be had, all sold. He said that he heard that the Mayor had ordered out the police to protect the office of the Age, a Democratic paper from the mob, very likely. The forbearance of the people has been wonderful. The Democrats in their speeches & their press have denounced the war & its motives & purposes, gloried in every rebel victory, mourned over their defeats, vilified the North, abused every officer of the government and above all Mr. Lincoln, on whom they have lavished every epithet of scorn & contempt; he was a usurper, a tyrant, a blackguard, a ruffian, a buffoon, a gorilla, a kangaroo, & his administration was worse than an eastern despotism. They have been permitted to do this without check or molestation, thus refuting their own charges. At length, Mr. Lincoln has been murdered by a Democrat in the execution of a plot made by Democrats. That a leading Democratic paper or leading demagogue of the party should require at such a moment the protection of the police is not surprising.

[1] Seward's wounds were not mortal.

<http://www.fordhampress.com/detail>

## The American Question Abroad in the Civil War (Part 1)

European attitudes toward the Civil War were destined profoundly to affect its ultimate outcome, yet at the outbreak of the conflict most foreigners were poorly informed about the United States. As Leslie Stephen said in 1865: "The name of America five years ago, called up to the ordinary English mind nothing but a vague cluster of associations, compounded of Mrs. Trollope, Martin Chuzzlewit, and Uncle Tom's Cabin." Influenced by the rabidly pro-Southern London *Times*, most upper-class Englishmen tended promptly to side with the Confederacy. For years the Old South had been close to Great Britain in both business and society, and it was easy to see in the Southern planters an equivalent of the English gentry. British aristocrats like the Marquis of Lothian, the Marquis of Bath, Lord Robert Cecil, and Lord Wharncliffe thought that the success of the Confederacy would give a much needed check to democracy, both in America and in Europe. More liberal Englishmen, too, could favor the South, supposing its desire to escape Northern "tyranny" was something comparable to the fulfillment of Italian and German national aspirations. The character of the leaders of the Southern Confederacy inspired respect abroad, and the chivalric bearing of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson enlisted the Englishman's deepest admiration. From the outset of the war, therefore, the "great body of the aristocracy" in England was "anxious to see the United States go to pieces."

Though at first not so articulate, there were, in fact, large segments of British opinion which favored the Union cause. Many English manufacturers and shippers had strong commercial ties with the North. The powerful British humanitarian movement, especially the antislavery societies, found it hard to sympathize with the Confederacy. Friends of democracy and proponents of republicanism saw in the United States a model to be cherished. Powerful John Bright, leader of the British radicals, spoke eloquently of the "odious and... blasphemous" attempts of the Confederates to divide the United States and looked to the day when America, with "One people, and one language, and one law, and one faith," should become "the home of freedom, and a refuge for the oppressed of every race and of every clime." The principal leaders of the British labor movement were "firmly on the side of the North," for they saw in the pro-Southern sympathies of the "millionaire aristocrats, venal politicians, and some of the press, led by the great bully *The Times*," a "hatred to freedom, jealousy of the growing power of the United States, and a desire to see democratic or republican institutions overthrown or brought into disrepute."

At the outbreak of the war it was far from clear that these latter sentiments, resting on the profound pro-Unionism of the British masses, would triumph. At first it seemed that the North muffed every opportunity to enlist British support. Already fearful of Northern economic competition, which threatened the supremacy of the British merchant marine and challenged the pre-eminence of British manufactures, the English middle classes were alienated when the Republicans adopted the Morrill tariff of 1861. Northern appeals to British idealism were undercut when Seward, early in the war, explicitly declared that the conflict was not being waged over slavery and would not disturb the South's peculiar institution. Even a staunch friend of the Union like the Duke of Argyll was obliged to conclude "that the North is not entitled to claim all the sympathy which belongs to a cause which they do not avow; and which is promoted only as an indirect consequence of a contest which (on their side at least) is waged for other objects, and on other grounds."

The English viewed the leaders of the Northern cause with suspicion. Lincoln was an unknown quantity, whom even the friendly Richard Cobden characterized as "a backwoodsman of great sturdy common sense, but . . . unequal to the occasion." It was assumed that the administration would be run by Seward, who was widely distrusted abroad. From careless words spoken during his prewar trip to England he had acquired "a heavy load of obloquy" abroad. Englishmen repeated the story that Seward had boasted to the Duke of Newcastle, during the Prince of Wales's American visit in 1860, of his intention to twist the lion's tail once he assumed high office. When news leaked out of his incredible April 1, 1861, memorandum, proposing to demand categorical explanations from Great Britain, France, and Spain, followed by war against the two latter powers, European fears were confirmed.

It was, therefore, with reasonable hope of success that the infant Confederacy looked to Europe for recognition and assistance. A month before the war (March 16, 1861) William L. Yancey, Pierre A. Rost, and A. Dudley Mann were sent on an introductory mission to England, France, Russia, and Belgium. Their instructions from Secretary Toombs were to present to these governments the nature and purposes of the Southern cause, to open diplomatic intercourse, and to "negotiate treaties of friendship, commerce and navigation...." This was the first of a series of diplomatic or commercial missions which, as the war progressed, were sent by the Confederacy not only to the countries mentioned, but to Spain, to the Pope, to the States of the Church, to the United States of Mexico, to the Empire of Mexico, to individual states within Mexico, and to imperial dependencies or dominions such as Canada, Ireland, and various West Indian colonies.

In the diplomatic game the enterprising Confederates took the first trick. On May 13, 1861, Queen Victoria issued her proclamation of neutrality, recognizing the Confederates as having belligerent rights. The significance of this initial "concession to the South" is best to be measured by the disappointment it produced at Washington, where Seward asserted that the war was a domestic question and that belligerency should not be accorded the pretended Southern government, as the Washington authorities regarded it. That the Queen's proclamation, a proper one under international law which was imitated in other countries, did involve a recognition of Confederate belligerency, however, was a fact that could not be gainsaid: to the eyes of Europe the government of the South, though not yet a member of the "family of nations," was a responsible govern-

ment conducting war. As such it was deemed entitled to the rights and subject to the obligations of a belligerent in international law. The matter of status being fundamental, the refusal of Europe to adopt the Northern interpretation of the war as a mere irresponsible insurrection was of real significance; it has even been said that by this recognition of belligerent status "the South almost realized its ambitions of drawing England in upon its side."

Fortunately for the Union cause Lincoln had made one of his best appointments for the post at London. Indeed when all the facts are considered it must be admitted that the character and ability of Charles Francis Adams were as valuable as Union military victories in contributing to ultimate success in the war. As a boy he had witnessed stirring events in Europe; in the company of his mother he had taken the long and arduous winter journey by carriage from St. Petersburg to Paris to join his father, John Quincy Adams. Passing through the Allied lines, he reached Paris just after Napoleon's return from Elba. After a preliminary education at a drab English boarding school whose master made an unpleasant impression on him, he graduated at Harvard, and studied law under the great Webster. By 1861 he had served as legislator in Massachusetts, had become prominent as a leader of the "conscience Whigs" and the Free-Soilers, and had achieved the position of an influential member of the national House of Representatives, where his main contribution was as a moderate Republican earnestly engaged in the work of avoiding war. Though depressed at the nomination of Lincoln, whom he never fully admired, he accepted appointment as minister to England and gave of his best as a loyal servant of the Lincoln administration. "No man in American public life [writes Worthington C. Ford] was by inheritance, training and matured convictions, so well fitted to occupy this office at so delicate and critical a time....Facing perils where a misstep would have involved catastrophe..., he made no mistake... no concession of right or principle."

Arriving in England on the day of the Queen's proclamation of neutrality (one of the things he sought to prevent), Adams had hardly time to settle in London when another serious matter claimed his attention. It was Seward's "bold remonstrance" (Dispatch No. 10) of May 21. In this dispatch Seward gave Adams the impossible instruction to have no relations whatever with the British government so long as they continued to interfere in American domestic questions, and to discontinue relations if Russell should continue to hold intercourse with Confederate diplomats. The dispatch had fortunately been softened by Lincoln; and Adams, without binding himself to a literal compliance with Seward's instructions, handled the matter so deftly as to avoid a clash, and also to win from Russell the statement that he intended no more interviews with the Southern commissioners.

During the life of the Yancey-Rost-Mann mission March, 1861, to January, 1862, the South scored several points, but was unsuccessful in its main undertakings. The commissioners found entry into London society, seized the attention of a considerable public, and obtained recognition of belligerency; but they failed to secure full recognition of the Confederate government, sought in vain for a treaty of amity and commerce, met disappointment in their demand that England denounce the blockade, were denied the use of foreign ports for Confederate privateers, and saw their hopes deferred in the matter of intervention. Though Russell granted interviews to the commissioners on May 3 and May 9, the conversations were unofficial, and on seeking further interviews the Southerners were requested (August 7) to put their communications in writing. As time passed Yancey developed a feeling of bitterness toward England and asked to be relieved of his duties. The commissioners had differed among themselves; they had somewhat the feeling of being officially snubbed; and, with the arrival of new commissioners in January, 1862 (Mason and Slidell), their mission came to an end. Yancey returned to the South; Mann turned up in Belgium; Rost was transferred to Madrid. **Source: "The Civil War and Reconstruction" (Chapter 20) by Randall and Donald.**

## MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME

By [Stephen C. Foster](#)

(1826-1864)

The sun shines bright in the old Kentucky home,  
'Tis summer, the darkies are gay,  
The corn top's ripe and the meadow's in the bloom  
While the birds make music all the day.  
The young folks roll on the little cabin floor,  
All merry, all happy, and bright:  
By'n by Hard Times comes a-knocking at the door,  
Then my old Kentucky Home, good night.

### Chorus:

Weep no more, my lady, oh! weep no more today!  
We will sing a song for the old Kentucky Home,  
For the old Kentucky Home, far away.

They hunt no more for the 'possum and the coon  
On the meadow, the hill and the shore,  
They sing no more by the glimmer of the moon,  
On the bench by that old cabin door.  
The day goes by like a shadow o'er the heart,  
With sorrow where all was delight.  
The time has come when the darkies have to part,  
Then my old Kentucky home, good night!

### Chorus

The head must bow and the back will have to bend,  
Wherever the darkey may go:  
A few more days and the trouble all will end  
In the field where the sugar-canes may grow.  
A few more days for to tote the weary load,  
No matter 'twill never be light.  
A few more days till we totter on the road,  
Then my old Kentucky Home, good night.

### Chorus



*Scheduled Speakers for 2006 - 2007:*

- Sep 6, 2006: Sid Copel - "Civil War Humor"
- Oct 4, 2006: Michael Kaufman - "American Brutus"
- Nov 1, 2006: Michael Werner - "Jewish Contribution to the War"
- Dec 6, 2006: Group Discussions of Selected Topics and Christmas Social
- Jan 3, 2007: Dave Kohler - "Henry Pleasants & Construction of the Petersburg Mine"
- Feb 7, 2007: Prof. James Hedtke - "Ely Parker, Grant's Secretary"
- Mar 7, 2007: Dennis Kelly - "Fort Pillow Controversy"
- Apr 4, 2007: BVCWRT Members - "Show and Tell"
- May 2, 2007: Roger Arthur - "The 97th PVI"
- May 8, 2007: (Annual Banquet): Gabor Boritt - "The Gettysburg Gospel"

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**Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table  
Membership Application**

Application Type: New  Renewal

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Note: Monthly newsletters are distributed by E-mail only.

Membership Type: Individual (\$25)  Family (\$40):  Student (\$15):

If family membership, please list other names: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bring the completed form and a check payable to BVCWRT to a meeting or mail it to:  
**Dave Walter, Treasurer, 937 Thorne Drive, West Chester, PA 19382**