



# The Signal Flag



## BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Campaign # 22

Skirmish # 2

October 2008

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From the Rear Ranks:

### CIVIL WAR NOSTALGIA “The Best Lines from the Civil War” (In chronological order)

1. **“Government cannot endure permanently half slave, half free.” Abraham Lincoln, during the Lincoln Douglass debates, 1865.**
2. **“The crimes of this guilty land will be judged away but with blood.” John Brown, 1859.**
3. **“No terms except unconditional surrender.” U.S. Grant, during the Henry-Donelson Campaign, 1862.**
4. **“Come on! Come on! Do you want to live forever?” Unknown Confederate Colonel, leading a charge at Malvern Hill, 1862.**
5. **“It is well war is so terrible, we should grow too fond of it.” Robert E. Lee, on the aftermath of Fredericksburg, 1862.**
6. **“The Gettysburg Address,” All of it, Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863.**
7. **“Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead.” David Glasgow Farragut, Mobile Bay, 1864.**
8. **“I intend to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer.” U.S. Grant, during the Wilderness Campaign, 1864.**
9. **“They couldn’t hit an elephant at this dis....” General John Sedgwick, Spotsylvania Court House, 1864.**
10. **“There is nothing left for me to do but go and see General Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths.” Robert E. Lee, Appomattox Court House, 1865.**
11. **“The nightmare is gone.” Abraham Lincoln, upon hearing that Lee had asked for terms, 1865.**
12. **“Now he belongs to the ages.” Edwin M. Stanton, upon the death of Lincoln, Washington, D.C., 1865.**

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***Source” “The Civil War Book of Lists”, 1993, page 225.  
Robert Sprague, Preservation Committee Chair***



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*~ Annual Membership ~*

Individual \$25.00; Family \$40.00; Student \$15.00  
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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:**





*Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table*  
*Come to our next meeting*  
*October 1, 2008*

**Speaker:** Bill Sitman  
**Topic:** Revenue Cutters (Coast Guard)  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Place:** West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street

We are very happy to welcome all of you back for another exciting year. We are so happy to have Bill Sitman, one of our members, start us off this year with an interesting talk on the Revenue Cutters. Bill has been a member of the BVCWRT for 7 or 8 years, he was not sure. He has been retired for almost ten years - from Weston Environmental Engineers. Bill has always been interested in history and especially in the Civil War since the Centennial years (1961-1965) and it was especially enhanced after seeing the PBS special Ken Burns' Civil War. His choice of topic for his talk is associated with his service in WW II in the Coast Guard (CG) on a destroyer escort in the Northern Pacific Theater the last few months of the war. That led him to explore the role of the CG in the Civil War.

Bill will be presenting a brief background history of the service prior to the Civil War as well as some limited discussion of the post-CW development of the Coast Guard. The main part of his talk will describe the status and the role of the Revenue Cutter Service (the predecessor of the CG) in the war. He will also present some descriptions of the kinds of vessels employed by the Service in the war - he found a few surprises there. There will be some descriptions of some of the exploits of the ships and crews. Who did fire the first Union gun in the war? The continuing evolution from sail to steam during the war is another interesting development affecting the Coast Guard as well as the Navy. His source includes a book based on a multi-year detailed study of cutter logs and journals; in addition to on-line searches in the Coast Guard Historian's site and other sites have been used.



The Revenue Cutter *Bear* on patrol in the Bering Sea, circa 1890.  
Painting by James A. Mitchell, III.



## Editor's Note

*It is that time again, Membership dues. We are happy to say that the membership will be at the same cost as last year: \$25 Individual, \$40 Family and \$15 Student (full time student up to age 23). Please fill out the attached membership form and bring it to our meeting on Wednesday, October 1, with your check. All dues should be given to our Treasurer, Dave Walter.*

*We are looking for volunteers to fill some open positions on the Executive Board, we need the following people; someone to organize Trips, handle Publicity, someone for the Nominating Committee and Credentials. If you are interested, please contact the President or any member of the Executive Board. These positions do not require much of your time so please consider volunteering.*

*Lynne Fulton, Editor Signal Flag.*

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### Contemporary painting of a Revenue Marine cutter (possibly USRC *Massachusetts*)



### The first ten cutters

In 1790, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, to create a maritime service to enforce customs laws (1 Stat. L. 145, 175; 4 August 1790). Alternately known as the system of cutters, Revenue Service, and Revenue-Marine this service would officially be named the Revenue Cutter Service (12 Stat. L., 639) in 1863. This service was placed under the control of the Treasury Department.

## "AN INCIDENT AT GETTYSBURG"

This story was written by my great great grandfather's lifelong friend and comrade; Capt. June Kimble, Co. A, 14th Tenn. Vol. Inf. Regt. The story is as follows:

Note: It appears as he wrote it. Where you see the words "killed squirrels", this was a term used by Tennessee and Kentucky troops for shooting Yankees. It shows both the serious side of war and a soldier's sense of humor. It reminds me of my own youth when I first fought in battle at the age of 17 and a half, and the many others during my three tours in Nam. Not to forget the serious humor soldier's like I developed...that when seen by civilians...they roll their eyes and move away. It shows that, except for the weapons, battle and men haven't changed that much from those of 135 years ago.

**I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
Larry (a.k.a. KyReb)**

When I realized that the assault on Cemetery Ridge was a failure, I sprang out of the enemy's works and rushed across to the slab fence, and dropped to the ground behind a large rock for protection. There were a number of other rocks similar, extending with the fence and behind each rock there was one or two men all busy loading and firing at the enemy's reinforcements coming over the crest of the ridge to our left. At my side, behind a rock, I noticed a comrade, also loading and firing. He was a handsome, fair complexioned youth, in fact he was a beardless boy, as I discovered.

I used in this battle a Mississippi rifle, with which I had killed squirrels considering myself a fairly good marksman, while shooting from this rock, I noticed a federal soldier clothed in blue pants and red shirt, standing some 50 or 60 yards to my left, with his left foot upon a low place in the rock fence, shooting at the retreating confederates. In my effort to pick him off, with good rest across my rock, I deliberately fired five shots at this red shirt. If I touched him, he gave no evidence of my splendid marksmanship. In my disgust I turned to my boy comrade and said to him "Shoot that fellow in the red shirt to the left". In reply he exclaimed in a loud tone, "Why dam him, I have shot at him four times". "I am going out of here". He sprang to his feet, turning his back to the enemy, and in that instant, I distinctly heard the bullet strike his head. He fell upon his face, and was dead, without a struggle. He was a member of Armistead's Virginia Brigade. He wore a neat, rather new dark gray uniform. Although a mere youth myself, I felt so much older than that bright-eyed, fair-faced brave boy looked, that a real sorrow passed into my heart, as lying by him I knew that his gallant spirit had winged its flight to its God.

At this moment I deliberated as to my own course, shall or shall I not surrender, rather than attempt to run the gauntlet of fire from innumerable guns. My first conclusion was to surrender. I laid my gun to one side, bowed up my body, unbuckled my cartridge belt, and was ready. But this conclusion and preparation for the safe side of the question was quickly recalled, as prison bars loomed up before me. I bowed up again, rebuckled my belt, grasped my gun, sprang to my feet, and made the run for liberty and won out. The near by zip of unfriendly bullets, reminding me of the danger of back wounds, and the more or less disgrace that clings to such wounds, caused me to about face and "gallantly" back out; which run and back out was safely accomplished and without so much as a scratch of clothing or flesh. It is due perhaps to state, that when I left my rock, the red shirt man still stood in his hole in the wall, seemingly a very live Yankee, and no doubt returned my compliment of shots, as I made for tall timber. I, at least was very cognizant of many near by lead messengers as they zipped on either side and made crosses on the ground in front, and then in my rear, in the backward movement, thanks to their poor marksmanship.

**June Kimble**

Capt Co.A. 14th Tenn Regt Note: At the Battle of Gettysburg, Capt. Kimble, was an Orderly Sgt. He was commissioned an officer, in 1864.

**Source: Larry McGibbins From: <http://www.civilwarhome.com/Gettysburgincident.htm>**

## Stuart at Gettysburg

By  
Buford

(Editor's Note: Buford is the name used by a regular in a Civil War Chat Room. Besides his many other accomplishments, he is a Civil War Historian of some renown, and a published Civil War author. Though he has many interests in the Civil War, his favorite is Union Cavalry. This is a discussion he provided one night during one of the chat sessions.)

When Lee was the superintendent at West Point, the young JEB courted one of Marse Robert's daughters. JEB was a regular visitor at Lee's home, and they were very close. Stuart was like a surrogate son, who got quite a bit of leeway from the old man. The relationship was extremely close and warm, unlike Lee and Jackson, who wasn't close to anyone except maybe his wife, or Lee and Longstreet, which was a mutual respect but not a friendship. Lee knew that Stuart was a brilliant cavalryman, and an outstanding professional soldier, and gave him a lot of leeway. That sets the stage for the rest of this.

First. It is entirely a myth that Lee was without cavalry on July 1. The truth is that Brig. Gen. Albert G. Jenkins' cavalry brigade was with Ewell's Corps. It is further true that Jenkins' men were actively engaged with Devin's 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry at the Samuel Cobeau farm at Gettysburg during the morning of July 1. See the OR's.

Second, while Fitz Lee, Chambliss and Hampton were with JEB, there were also two excellent brigades of cavalry nearby. William E. "Grumble" Jones' outstanding brigade (in my opinion, the best Confederate cavalry brigade), and John D. Imboden's brigade of cavalry were nearby but actually had been ordered by Lee to remain in Maryland to guard the mountain passes and the line of retreat. If Lee felt that there was insufficient cavalry with him in Central Pennsylvania, this could easily have been rectified with a single order. There could have been two additional full brigades of cavalry at Gettysburg within a few hours of hard riding. Myth number 1 shattered, eh?

Okay...the joyride. First, here's one for you. We all think that Stuart was a joyriding raider, right? Isn't the CW that Stuart spent all of his time joyriding and raiding?

The truth is that my good friend Bob Trout has studied Stuart's career and has determined that Stuart spent a total of 28 days over the course of the war raiding. That's it. John Hunt Morgan's Raid of Indiana and Ohio was longer. I don't think anybody would consider that joyriding. Would you?

The truth is that cavalry served one major role...scouting and screening. Fighting was a very low priority. Truly good cavalry usage entailed sending out cavalry videttes to screen and army's advance and gathering intelligence. Stuart was a master of this. One need only study things like the advance up the Loudoun Valley or the retreat to Gettysburg to know this. So, the legend of Stuart being a joyriding raider is just that--a legend.

Next, the joyride. For those interested in reading more, John S. Mosby wrote a brilliant lawyer's brief about this whole thing called "Stuart's Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign". The whole thing was Mosby's idea, so that's why he wrote the book. Pick it up.

Mosby discovered that there was a gap in the lines of march of the Army of Potomac. Stuart was given extremely flexible and vague orders to take his command up the valley. The problem was that the Second Corps (Hancock's command) was blocking his way. Mosby found a way around it, told Stuart, and the cavalry took a detour around it, to avoid being CUT OFF from the rest of Lee's army. Stuart then went around those elements of the Army of Potomac that were blocking his way. It was no joy ride; rather a legitimate argument can be made in Stuart's defense. It may be argued that Stuart's actions were actually IN COMPLIANCE with his orders since it enabled him to remain in proximity to the Army and to interpose his command between the Union masses.

Having dispelled that myth, we move on to the dreaded wagons. It's true that Stuart captured a wagon train. It's also true that the wagon train slowed him down and clogged the roads badly. All of that is beyond dispute. It is also beyond dispute that Stuart may well have exercised poor judgment in bringing them along, but 150 wagons was quite a haul for any army far beyond its normal lines of support and communication, and horses, draught or otherwise, were a commodity in great demand during the CW. Finally, Stuart wanted to show off a bit. So, he kept the wagons. They probably did indeed keep him from arriving at Gettysburg in the timeliest fashion. However, I suggest that it would not have made a difference in the big picture, but for one thing, which we will address later.

The truth is that it was well known that Jubal A. Early had taken a large force of Confederate infantry to York, PA, thirty-two miles due east of Gettysburg. When Kilpatrick came up into Pennsylvania, he knew this too. His force was deployed in that direction to look for Early, in an effort to pin down his location with some precision.

Stuart and the wagon trains came up into the area of Hanover, PA on June 30, as Kilpatrick was headed back toward Gettysburg. There, they had a major, nearly day long engagement. Stuart was beaten there, nearly captured by the Wolverines of Custer's brigade, and forced to go farther around to the north to reach the main battlefield at Gettysburg. Hanover, more

than anything, is the principal reason for the delay in Stuart's arrival at the big dance, as they say.

Having gone out of their way to avoid Kilpatrick, Stuart then had a fairly major engagement with Custer again at Hunterstown, PA on July 2. Stuart won that fight, and Custer, the fool, almost got himself killed by Hampton's guys. Nevertheless, this fight also delayed Stuart and caused him to detour a bit farther.

So, Stuart's men finally arrived at Gettysburg late in the day on July 2. They had been either fighting or marching non-stop since Brandy Station on June 9. During that period, there were the following major battles involving Stuart's command: Brandy Station, Aldie, Middleburg, Upperville, the ride, Hanover and Hunterstown. All of this was hard, unrelenting marching and fighting. It is no wonder that they were tired and perhaps a bit tardy in arriving. Finally, however, there wasn't the great sense of urgency for them to get there, since there were already cavalry at Gettysburg who were engaged in the fighting. Make sense?

Finally, what was the real impact? The real impact was that Ewell and Lee dropped the ball. They dropped the ball by not bringing Jones to the field until July 3, and by not bringing Imboden at all. Second, they did not deploy Jenkins' men properly or efficiently. Once the lines had settled in around Cemetery Hill on the first, either Jenkins (now commanded by Col. Milton Ferguson, since Jenkins was wounded) or Jones, brought up from Maryland, should have been placed on the Confederate left flank. Instead, since there was no cavalry there, Extra Billy Smith's command, and Walker's Stonewall Brigade were deployed to guard the flanks. Here is the true impact, to get to the punch line. If Confederate cavalry had been at Brinkerhoff's Ridge, or where Smith's men were, two additional brigades of infantry would have been available to join Ewell's attack on July 2. The Stonewall Brigade was part of Early's Division and would have participated in the assault on East Cemetery Hill. Perhaps their presence might have tipped the scales that night. Instead, they were doing duty properly assigned and performed by the cavalry.

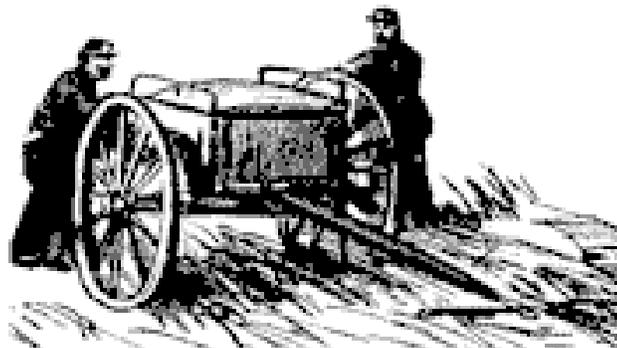
My read on it is as follows: Stuart does indeed deserve some degree of blame, since he allowed himself to be delayed by the wagons. However, I believe that Lee deserves the bulk of the blame for leaving an outstanding brigade of cavalry on the sidelines, for leaving another competent one behind and for putting an inferior one on the lines with Ewell. Instead, he should have brought Jones and/or Imboden north to join Jenkins. With two full brigades, one to cover each flank, things may well have been quite different indeed.

So, the upshot here is that while Stuart is not blameless, he certainly is not the scapegoat that he is made out to be in THE MOVIE and The Killer Angels.

Lee trusted Stuart a great deal, and trusted him to cover the army's advance. Study the retreat some time, and you will see why that trust was so well-deserved. If Stuart had problems before the battle, he certainly redeemed himself during the retreat.

Beginning on the afternoon of July 3 at Fairfield, Stuart did a masterful job of covering the retreat. From July 3 until July 11, his cavalry single-handedly fended off the Army of Potomac's pursuit. The following is a brief list of the engagements: Fairfield, Monterey Pass, Cavetown, Williamsport, Boonesboro, Beaver Dam Creek, Hagerstown, and Funkstown. In each of these engagements, Stuart either defeated the Federal cavalry, or he bought sufficient time to keep the pursuit off of Lee's tail. Finally, at Funkstown on July 11, facing Buford, Kilpatrick, and infantry of the 6th Corps, Stuart was defeated and brushed out of the way. However, by that time, Lee had established an extremely formidable defensive line along the Potomac, which was very flooded, which probably could have withstood an assault by the entire Army of Potomac. So, Stuart did a superb job of holding off the Army of Potomac, bought time for Lee to forge a nearly impregnable defensive line, and did a masterful job of performing the classic functions of cavalry, doing some excellent fighting along the way.

*This Page last updated 01/26/02 From: <http://www.civilwarhome.com/essays.htm>*



# The Soldiers' Cause: A Review of Why Men Fought in the War

© [Michael J. Swogger](#) [Aug 20, 2000](#)

From: [www.suite101.com/articles](http://www.suite101.com/articles)

The question of what the soldiers in gray and blue fought for come up often in debates and discussions, including such discourse on this site. Were they fighting to preserve or abolish the institution of slavery? Was it for states' rights or union preservation? Or was the so much more than these two over-generalized causes that compelled so many to voluntarily enlist and re-enlist in the fight for their respective homelands? This piece examines this issue using the research compiled by James McPherson in his book *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War* (1997). Therefore, view this article as a book review and analysis to provide you better insight to the issue of the soldiers' cause(s).

The foremost element to keep in mind when thinking about the causes for which the soldiers were fighting is that there were different brands of motivation. McPherson makes the distinction between *initial* motivation, *sustaining* motivation, and *combat* motivation. Initial motivation simply involves reasons why the soldiers first enlisted in their armies or militias. Sustaining motivation consists of the reasons why they continued to fight. Combat motivation concerns their reasons for engaging in the deadly battles they encountered. To make this distinction early is paramount in understanding the overall motives of the soldiers.

The first chapter in the book outlines quite nicely what is to come in greater detail in subsequent chapters. The author breaks down the list of reasons the initial impulses to enlist. First, what is called *rage militaire* swept through both North and South. The wave of immense patriotism triggered by secession and the attack on Fort Sumter stirred great excitement among the populous of both sides, thus breeding an intense desire among the male citizenry to enlist. Ohio's governor, in response to Lincoln's quota of thirteen regiments, stated that "without seriously repressing the ardor of the people, I can hardly stop short of twenty." The same was true in the Confederacy, where, according to one new recruit, "nothing else is talked of anywhere about War."

The motives that came from the *rage militaire* stemmed much from patriotic ideals. The belief in the North that there were only two choices - union or anarchy-prevalled among the new recruits and such a belief was echoed by many who had written home to explain their motives. The legacy of the Founding Fathers was also invoked, saying that this nation founded by their wisdom and the blood of the revolutionaries must be preserved. In the South, many claimed they were fighting for liberty and invoked the Founding Fathers in a different way. As one Texas cavalryman put it, the Revolution brought "liberty and freedom in this western world, [and we are] now enlisted in 'The Holy Cause of Liberty and Independence' again."

Of course, Southern motivation seemed to have a more practical and intuitive side to it, that is, defending their homes against the invasion of an enemy force. "When a Southern home is threatened, the spirit of resistance is irrepressible" wrote the commander of an Alabama infantry company. Defense of house and homeland was a cause for which a vast majority of Southern enlistees professed to be their own.

Duty was a powerful motivator for many soldiers. The simple feeling of duty to one's country provoked thousands to enlist. Of course, one might surmise that such a sense of responsibility to the country might be replaced by fear and pragmatism once the soldiers saw the horrors of battle. but still, most remained determined to fight after "seeing the elephant." McPherson points out that "one finds repeatedly in soldiers' letters the sentiment that 'I have no desire to get into another fight, but if duty calls I am ready to go.' 'All the money in the world would not *hire me* to go into another battle but I shall go cheerfully when I am ordered to.'"

Working concomitantly with that feeling obligation to the country was also the fear of being seen as a coward or even felt afraid of knowing that they themselves were fearful. And this is where the mark of honor played a powerful part. Often, the courage certain soldiers mustered to enlist and to fight in ferocious battles was actually the avoidance of this virtue's opposite. The author points out that "Civil War soldiers went into a hail of bullets because they were more afraid of 'showing the white feather' than they were of death." Passing the test of manhood by willingly engaging in battle was a serious business for the Civil War soldier, for if he failed, he would never be able to hold his head up in his unit again. In fact, many seriously ill soldiers dragged themselves into battle out of fear of being called a "sneak" and a "coward."

Of course, the fear of being seen as yellow had its roots back home; most soldiers who enlisted did so with friends and family in their own communities. Many enlistees were childhood friends who remained in close contact with the local newspapers and family back home. News of any cowardice act would, by any individual would undoubtedly make it back home, thus ostracizing that soldier into utter shame. Fear of this humiliation was a compelling force in the initial, sustaining, and combat motivations.

The question of slavery is indeed one of great significance and receives much attention when it comes to discussing why the soldiers fought the War. There were, of course, thousands who professed to be fighting solely for the abolition of this sinister institution. But in the letters McPherson read of Northern recruits (a sample of 647), a states that "few Union volunteers mentioned the slavery issue *when they enlisted*." However, he details in Chapter Nine that that most soldiers professed the preservation of the Union to be the chief purpose of the war, but with that came the need to strike down slavery as well. The idea that the end of slavery was inextricably bound to the cause of Union was one that three in ten soldiers whose letters he examined expressed. He goes on to indicate that more would be converted to this school of thought as the War progressed (for reasons too numerous to list in this article, but would make well in a later discussion).

McPherson does point out that the attitudes of many of the soldiers were "more pragmatic than altruistic." Within this notion resides the fact that because slavery was depended upon as the chief economic sustainer in the South, the freeing of as many slaves as possible would expedite the South's downfall. "I don't care a damn for the darkies," wrote an Illinois lieutenant, but "I couldn't help to send a runaway nigger back. I'm blamed if I could. I honestly believe that this army [in Tennessee] has taken 500 niggers away from them."

Not all in the North felt a sense of pragmatism or altruism when it came to the Negro. About 2/5 of the soldiers came from Democratic backgrounds and another 1/10 hailed from the border states that still clung to the institution of slavery. McPherson states in regards to this large minority of soldiers that the cause of Union united the Federal army while the cause of emancipation divided it. Following the Emancipation Proclamation, a good number of soldiers expressed a feeling of betrayal by Lincoln, saying they would fight and die for the Union, but not for the freedom of the slave.

The author cites an interesting poll taken in the 15th Iowa regiment in March 1863 where half the men favored emancipation while a quarter opposed it, the other quarter remaining silent. McPherson then divides the respondents in the poll into socio-economic backgrounds. He reveals that pro-emancipation sentiment was overwhelmingly coming from an over-represented group: officers and men from professional and white-collar backgrounds. Forty-two percent of the officers supported emancipation, whereas 33 percent of the enlisted men agreed. Further, among those with "prewar professional and white-collar occupations, those who favored emancipation outnumbered opponents by four to one."

In the South, some soldiers avowed to the defense of slavery as their reason for enlisting. Of the sample he covered (429 Confederate letters), however, McPherson states that few professed their desire to defend slavery outright. Instead, many coupled it with their fight for absolute liberty-to defend themselves against the usurpation of power by the federal government. This notion, as well as their intention to fight against being subjugated by the Northern oppressors, was much more dominant than any sentiment that made a clear connection between enlistment and the preservation of slavery. Further, it is safe to say that the unconditional preservation of slavery was not necessarily on the minds of the thousands of Southern soldiers who owned no slaves, though their interest in preserving the institution was much like that of their Northern counterparts, namely, free Negroes meant tougher competition for lower paying jobs.

After reading McPherson's book, I felt I had a better grasp on the whole concept of why a war, in this case the Civil War, is fought. It is too simplistic to narrow this to one issue or cause, and to do so does those who fought the conflict a terrible injustice. Additionally, when confronting this issue we need to ask numerous questions before our opinions begin to be formed. Which cause are we talking about? How many played combined roles in the soldiers? Which soldiers, from which backgrounds are we talking about, white-collar workers and professionals or the Irish and German immigrants? At which point in the War are we referring and, of course, which motivations-initial, sustaining, or combat? All of these questions will lay the foundation for the discussion ahead. All must be taken into consideration. And if done correctly, discourse on this subject will lead us to a similar conclusion as the one on the causes of the Civil War: there are indeed a great many.

#### Source

McPherson, J.M. (1997). *For cause and comrades: Why men fought in the Civil War*. New York: Oxford University Press.



## ABRAHAM LINCOLN WALKS AT MIDNIGHT

by [Vachel Lindsay](#)

(1879-1931)

It is portentous, and a thing of state  
That here at midnight, in our little town  
A mourning figure walks, and will not rest,  
Near the old court-house pacing up and down,

Or by his homestead, or in shadowed yards  
He lingers where his children used to play,  
Or through the market, on the well-worn stones  
He stalks until the dawn-stars burn away.

A bronzed, lank man! His suit of ancient black,  
A famous high-top hat and plain worn shawl  
Make him the quaint great figure that men love,  
The prairie-lawyer, master of us all.

He cannot sleep upon his hillside now.  
He is among us:--as in times before!  
And we who toss and lie awake for long,  
Breathe deep, and start, to see him pass the door.

His head is bowed. He thinks of men and kings.  
Yea, when the sick world cries, how can he sleep?  
Too many peasants fight, they know not why;  
Too many homesteads in black terror weep.

The sins of all the war-lords burn his heart.  
He sees the dreadnoughts scouring every main.  
He carries on his shawl-draped shoulders now  
The bitterness, the folly and the pain.

He cannot rest until a spirit-dawn  
Shall come;--the shining hope of Europe free:  
A league of sober folk, the worker's earth,  
Bringing long peace to Cornland, Alp and Sea.

It breaks his heart that kings must murder still,  
That all his hours of travail here for men  
Seem yet in vain. And who will bring white peace  
That he may sleep upon his hill again?

From: <http://www.civilwarpoetry.org/union/lincoln/midnight.html>

Signal Flag October 2008



*Scheduled Speakers for 2008 - 2009:*

Sep 3, 2008: No meeting this month

Oct 1, 2008: Bill Sitman - "Revenue Cutters (Coast Guard)"

Nov 5, 2008: Jari Villanueva - "The Civil War Bugle"

Dec 3, 2008: BVCWRT Members - Discussion of selected topics, plus our Christmas Social

Jan 7, 2009: Dennis Kelly – The Army of Tennessee

Feb 4, 2009: Roger Arthur - "Lincoln's Legacy"

Mar 4, 2009: Chip Crowe - "Chickamauga: the Real Story"

Apr 1, 2009: To be announced

May 6, 2009: To be announced

May --, 2009: Field Trip TBD

May 19, 2009: (Annual Banquet): To be announced

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

Application Type: New  Renewal

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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**