



The Signal Flag



BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Campaign # 22

Skirmish # 5

January 2009

From the Rear Ranks:

Civil War Park ranks #1 in the Nation in Tourism

From: Temple Website 12/30/08

National Park sites lift local economies \$11.8 billion boost, study finds. The country's national parks have become a valuable asset during the recession - drawing thousands of visitors and propping up local economies, a new study shows. Visitors to the National Park Service sites in the District and elsewhere in country last year helped support roughly 209,000 jobs and spent \$11.8 billion in gift shops and nearby businesses such as hotels, restaurants and gas stations, according to the study by the National Park Service and Michigan State University.

"Every tax dollar spent on national parks resulted in more than \$4 in visitor spending in communities within 50 miles of a national park site," agency director Mary A. Bomar said.

Visitors staying outside the parks in motels, hotels, cabins and bed-and-breakfasts accounted for 55 percent of the total spending. Sixteen percent was spent on gas and transportation, and 14 percent went to souvenirs. The study authors did not consider as new revenue the money local residents spent on going to nearby parks so it was excluded from the study of the agency's 391 park sites.

Among the most successful sites in bolstering local economies was the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, a Civil War battlefield and major destination for amateur historians. The roughly 8,000-acre park in Northern Virginia generated about \$49.6 million in 2007 for the local economy, according to the study.

"A large number of the people who come to this park are Civil War buffs who bring their families," Don Fanz, a staff historian, said Friday. "And a lot come due to the general history here."

The National Park Service sites cover more than 84 million acres in every state (except Delaware), as well as the District, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. They include national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, seashores, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House.

The agency was created in 1916 by an act signed by President Woodrow Wilson. However, the country's first national park was Yellowstone, spanning Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, which was established in 1872 by an act signed by President Ulysses S. Grant.

Holiday visitors flock to the Lincoln Memorial, one of the National Park Service's most popular sites in Washington, on Sunday. Park Service sites cover more than 84 million acres. (Joseph Silverman/The Washington Times) The recent success of the park sites have been a bright spot in an economy that nearly every day produces more bad numbers - from low consumer spending to more bad debt to increasing unemployment.

see; www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/dec/29/national-park-sites-lift-local-economies/

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610-644-0353

~ *Annual Membership* ~

Individual \$25.00; Family \$40.00; Student \$15.00
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? Questions ? Contact:

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

**We are wheelchair assessable*

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
January 7, 2009

Speaker: Dennis Kelly
Topic: "The Army of Tennessee"
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street

The Army of Tennessee

There is no country named the Confederate States of America. Why not? What went wrong? Southerners especially have been asking questions ever since April 9, 1865. There is no single answer. Actually, there is a very long list of answers. Somewhere on that list should be the Army of Tennessee. Its strategic mission was to keep the invading Yankees out of the Confederate heartland, the Deep South, and it failed. Its soldiers fought valiantly, to be sure. But it lost battle after battle. Its one great victory was wasted. Very often this army beat itself. It did not "yield to overwhelming numbers and resources." It beat its own self to death. The Army of Tennessee could fight, of that there is no question. But it was poorly led by a series of five commanders who were far less clever than their opponents. That is the theme in a nutshell.

Dennis Kelly will be our speaker this month. He will supply details on how the Army of Tennessee failed to produce the success it so desired. Dennis has been one of our annual speakers. Last year he talked to us about the Battle of Manassas. He tends to be a Southern partisan. He attended Temple University before being hired by the National Park historian at Manassas, VA, Stone River, TN, and Kennesaw Mountain, GA. He retired in 1995. Four decades and forty pounds ago he was a US Paratrooper and member of Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, 504th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division. He fought in Operation Power Pack, the 1965-66 US intervention into the Dominican Republic for which he was awarded an Armed Forces Expedition Medal and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He has been a Round Table member for more than a decade. It is always a pleasure to have Dennis talk with us.

Don't forget to send Abraham Lincoln his 200th Birthday Card

From: Temple Edu website 12/30/08

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - A "Happy 200th Birthday" card is tough to find.

That's just what the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission is looking for. The group is asking people to send cards to Lincoln for his 200th birthday, on Feb. 12.

The 16th president even has an official address with the U.S. Postal Service:
Abraham Lincoln
Old State Capitol/ 1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois.

Commission chairwoman Marilyn Kushak says she hopes birthday greetings pour in to Lincoln's hometown from around the world. She recommends that people make the cards by hand.

The commission says the cards it receives may be used for displays or publicity.

see; www.startribune.com/nation/36822504.html

Despite past, New Jersey joins in fete for Lincoln

By Edward Colimore / Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Writer / 12/28/08

He lost the popular vote in New Jersey in two presidential elections, and was assailed by a future governor as the "original gorilla" and a "well-meaning baboon." The president-elect was also savaged by New Jersey legislators, who ridiculed his height when he addressed them in Trenton. One lawmaker offered a resolution describing him as "the ugliest man in the country."

But New Jersey today looks more kindly on Abraham Lincoln. Gov. Corzine has issued an executive order creating a commission to arrange events honoring the 16th president next year, the bicentennial of his Feb. 12 birth. Pennsylvania and other states have formed similar commissions. In New Jersey, the state library plans to raise money in February through Lincoln "Pennies for Peace" donations to help build schools and libraries in Pakistan. Lincoln also will get his due in the schools as teachers fashion lessons and programs that recall his life. And Lincoln-related documents are expected to be displayed at the New Jersey State Archives in Trenton. In Pennsylvania, a Lincoln Day scheduled for Feb. 11 in Harrisburg will include art exhibits, a Civil War encampment, and Civil War music at the state Capitol.

In Gettysburg, the David Wills House, where Lincoln spent the night before his Gettysburg Address, will be reopened as a museum Feb. 12. "Lincoln is widely regarded by historians as our greatest president," said Marc Mappen, executive director of the New Jersey Historical Commission. "I think New Jersey came to admire Lincoln and realize what he had done. "There was a great out flowing of crowds to watch his funeral train pass through New Jersey. He guided the country through its greatest crisis. Thanks to his leadership, the nation was united for what he described as 'a new birth of freedom.' "

The bicentennial provides "a particularly good teachable moment," New Jersey State Librarian Norma Blake said. "It's a good time to have the children think about the importance of education to themselves and others." "When Lincoln addressed the General Assembly, he said, 'The man does not live who is more devoted to peace than I am.' Our 'Pennies for Peace' project ties together with that."

The program is part of efforts started by Greg Mortenson, coauthor and subject of *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time*, to encourage peace through education in remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Residents will be encouraged to donate pennies at the circulation desks of more than 300 public and school libraries across the state. Lincoln is also going to receive greater attention in New Jersey classrooms. "Studying historical figures like Lincoln is in the core curriculum, but this is obviously a special year of celebration," state Education Commissioner Lucille Davy said.

"Students can do some community services connected to Lincoln, maybe researching their own community to see what it was like when Lincoln was president. We want to focus on good character and citizenship." Davy said the schools "can easily run essay contests. There might be art or poster contests . . . PowerPoint presentations and videos. There are lots of ways to recognize and celebrate this occasion."

While Lincoln was widely supported in most Northern states, including Pennsylvania, he was reviled in New Jersey. His name and the antislavery Republican brand were so unpopular the state party referred to itself as the Opposition party in the election of 1860, Mappen said.

Lincoln clearly understood the opposition facing him when he addressed the state's Senate and General Assembly separately on Feb. 21, 1861. New Jersey's invitation to Lincoln and his letter agreeing to speak are in the state's archives.

"Received, as I am, by the members of a Legislature the majority of whom do not agree with me in political sentiments, I trust that I may have their assistance in piloting the ship of State through this voyage, surrounded by perils as it is; for, if it should suffer attack now, there will be no pilot ever needed for another voyage," Lincoln told the General Assembly. He gave a similar message to the Senate, noting that its members "did not think I was the man."

When war broke out after the election, Lincoln turned to Gen. George McClellan to lead the Union Army of the Potomac. But the commander - who would one day serve as New Jersey governor - often criticized the president, referring to him as "the original gorilla" and once keeping him waiting at his headquarters while he took a nap.

Lincoln later removed him from command, and McClellan, of Orange, N.J., ran for president as a Democrat in 1864, winning the state's popular vote but losing the election. "There is a general consensus over the past 100 years that Lincoln was a great president," said Karl Niederer, director of the New Jersey State Archives.

"But it wasn't evident during the Civil War. Leading the nation through its most difficult trial and becoming the first president killed in office" raised his stature, Niederer added. "When all was said and done, he stepped up to the challenge and got us through."

ecolimore@phillynews.com . <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/36793369.html>

Minutes of the December 3, 2008 Meeting
BVCWRT
Submitted by Ted Pawlik

The President's Report/Announcements (Vice President Chip Crowe Presiding)

- If anyone is not receiving the Round Table telegram, they are to e-mail Bob Sprague to insure he has the correct e-mail address on file. His email address is novacsa@comcast.net.
- The Civil War Preservation Trust announced a program to save the 3rd Winchester Battlefield. For every dollar donated, there is a match of \$8.00. There are over 209 acres involved.
- Based on the above opportunity, Roger Arthur made a motion to donate \$1000 for this purpose. The motion was seconded by Flo Williams. It was unanimously approved by the membership.
- Mark Neely has agreed to be our guest speaker at our annual banquet to be held on May 12, 2009

Treasurer's Report (Dave Walter)

- The balance as of 11/1/08 was \$3194.75. During the month there were membership receipts of \$125.00 and book receipts of \$105.00 for total receipts of \$230.00. The expenses for the month totaled \$125.40. Therefore the balance as of 12/1/08 is \$3299.35

Field Trip

- Greg Buss has agreed to coordinate the annual field trip scheduled for Spring, 2009.
- The intent this year is to have a one-day field trip.
- Some suggestions for the trip were: Monacacy, Lincoln Cottage, Visitor Center/Wheat Field at Gettysburg and a bus trip of the Booth escape route.
- Greg will send a survey via the Roundtable Telegram asking members to rank their preferences.

Presentation for the Evening: Round Table discussion on two topics: A. Lincoln as Commander in Chief and Political Generals.

Following the discussion, the annual Christmas Social was held. Many thanks to Flo Williams and all those who contributed to the Social.

Fifth Michigan Cavalry Papers almost thrown away

From: Temple website. 12/24/08

George Custer's Fifth Michigan Cavalry Co. F Papers almost thrown away. A piece of that history nearly escaped unnoticed years ago. Leslie Chase got a call from someone at Goodwill one day who told her they had an old piece of paper that was donated to the store. The paper was fragile and yellowed. It was held together by six pieces of tar-colored tape.

Chase recognized some of the surnames on the document and realized it had something to do with the Civil War. She called her brother to tell him. When she did, he not only knew what it was, but where it came from. He said someone had recently cleaned out the belfry at Ferry Memorial Reformed Church, where the paper had been. It was a roster of the locals who fought in the Civil War. Chase looked closer at the document. Company F, the paper said near the top. Fifth Michigan Cavalry.

Chase took the document to a man who is a local history enthusiast: Mayor Henry E. Roesler, Jr. "She wanted to know if the museum wanted to make any copies," said Roesler, as he held a cup of coffee at Lipka's. "And so I took it down to John (McGarry) at the museum and asked him if they could make copies for us." John McGarry, the man who Roesler took the document to, is the executive director of the Muskegon County Museum and a Civil War history buff himself.

McGarry not only made copies, he put together a small book of information on the history of the company and where the individuals on the roster came from. The majority of them came from near the area. "Predominantly from Whitehall/Montague area: Claybanks and White River," said Roesler.

While Roesler couldn't find the book on that day, he did bring the Montague Museum's display on the roster: A color copy of the roster, an enlarged copy of the copy, a photo of Noah Ferry - who led Company F - and several paragraphs each on their own display-piece describing the company. "They were mustered on August 28, 1862," said Roesler, sliding his pipe over to the side to move the roster towards me. Printed along the bottom are the words "Published April, 1864, by J.C. Fuller & Co., Baltimore Md."

Getting a roster printed was common as the war progressed, Roesler said. "(It) was quite a business after the war. Everybody wanted a historical document that kind of laid out who served and what unit." At the time this roster was made, the company had already been involved in Gettysburg and other major battles. A year after the printing date, the company would be at Appomattox Courthouse for the official surrender of Confederate forces.

The unit stayed together even after the war was over, finally being sent to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas where they mustered out June 22, 1865.

By that time, the number of men in the company had dropped drastically. "(Companies) would start out with 100 and be down to 60 or so at the end," said McGarry. Of the 130 men on the roster, 25 of them were listed as either, wounded, dead, missing or taken prisoner. The notes next to their names say things like "Missing on the raid to Richmond" and "Lost left leg at Gettysburg." Many others have notes reading "Discharged" or "Deserted."

Other documents from the era tell the number of dead for the entire regiment: 98 killed, 24 died of wounds, 276 dead of disease. Major Noah Ferry of White River was one of the men killed at Gettysburg on July 3, but not before playing a heroic role. They were very well recognized for their part at Gettysburg," McGarry said. "In part because they had Spencer repeating rifles and held the Confederate cavalry at bay."

For much of the war, the Fifth Michigan Cavalry - which Company F was a part of - was led by Brigadier General Custer. One of the museum's placards recounts Custer's description of the regiment at Gettysburg:

"Colonel Alger, commanding the Fifth, assisted by Majors Trowbridge and Ferry, of the same regiment, made such admirable disposition of their men behind fences and other defenses, as enabled them to successfully repel the repeated advances of a greatly superior force."

Ferry's father, Rev. William Ferry, named the streets in tribute to his son when the Reverend founded the city in 1867. "All the streets in the original plat of Montague were named after Civil War generals and heroes," Roesler said. "Especially those with some connection to Ferry."

Most of the town still bears those names: Sheridan St., Grant St., Meade St. But without the roster, we may not have known about the heroes of this area: The Boys from Clay Banks, as they are called. "It would have just gone into the garbage and been gone," Roesler said. And with it, part of Michigan's community's history.

see; http://www.whitelakebeacon.com/news.php?story_id=17680

Union Soldier's Remains Found at Antietam

From: Temple website 12/28/08

The soldier was just a teenager. Somewhere in New York state he had signed up to fight for the Union. The band was playing on the day he marched away from home headed South to to kill those rebels. Everyone said it would be a short war. He'd be home in no time. All of that ended on Sept. 17, 1862 at Antietam when he and his comrades were crossing a farmer's field. A bullet or piece of shrapnel found him. He sagged to the ground and was dead. His buddies moved on they had to. The fighting was intense. By the end of the day the battle considered the bloodiest of the war would end with 23,000 casualties. The next day under a flag of truce a Union burial detail began its grim work. Sometime in the next week the New Yorker was put in a shallow grave near where he fell but away from the farmer's plow. He was buried near a limestone outcropping that rippled just above the surface. This was temporary. Either his family or the government would move him to a cemetery and give him a proper burial. No one ever came for him. His grave was overlooked when the Union dead were gathered and moved to the new Antietam National Cemetery dedicated exactly five years after the battle.

For 146 seasons crops were planted all around him and even over him if a farmer could make the tight turn at the rocky place but nothing disturbed his sleep. He could have been there forever never found and never known except for a ground hog who happened to build a tunnel at that spot. The tunnel was deep angling down under the limestone. At some point the tunnel became clogged with debris and the ground hog vigorously kicked it out of the way flinging it all the way to the surface. It included pieces of tea-colored bone. A visitor who was walking the battlefield in mid-October strayed off the Corn Field Trail and saw some bones on the ground that he later left at the visitors' center. He didn't give his name saying only he had found some thing in a field off the trail next to an animal hole. "It was a jaw bone with four teeth attached and one loose plus some other fragments" said Ed Wenschhof Jr. Antietam's chief of Natural Resources Management and Resources Protection. "We get a lot of these bones brought in here almost all of them are animal." He needed to check it out. Several photographs were emailed to the National Park Service's regional archaeologist Stephen Potter in Washington. Potter said he knew right away the jaw and what turned out to be skull fragments belonged to a human. And he knew they were very old bones. "When I realized what I had -- an unmarked unknown burial of a Civil War soldier not a victim of modern mayhem -- it grabbed me in the gut" he said. "I was totally focused. I forgot everything else. I immediately started planning what we would do next." He said he estimated the soldier's age at 19 to 21 based on an impacted wisdom tooth in the jaw bone the lack of wear on the teeth and an open suture in the cranium. That suture closes only when an individual ceases to grow. He called Wenschhof. Potter wanted to see the bones but his first impulse was to collect whatever else was out there in the field. It was going to be difficult to find the spot. The field covered acres of land but they had to move quickly because relic hunters might hear about the discovery and disturb the grave. Wenschhof and a team of park rangers crisscrossed the field that was adjacent to the infamous Corn Field where brutal hand-to-hand fighting had taken place during the battle. There were burrows everywhere and they had to be careful not to step in to them. Finally one of the team found bone fragments and several pieces of leather outside a ground hog hole. It had to be the right place. The soldier had been found. Potter had sent the photographs to Douglas Owsley a well-known forensic anthropologist with the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution. He agreed with Potter's assessment but felt the soldier was somewhere between 18 and 21 and most likely was a teenager. "He said the kid never saw his 20th birthday" Potter recalled.

Within a few weeks Potter and a crew were at Antietam, also known as Sharpsburg, scraping away the top layer of brown earth and then delving into the reddish layer of clay. They were working under a blue and white tent erected to shield themselves from the rain and wind and to protect whatever they found. Two animal holes were within the rectangle sketched on the earth probably boundaries of the grave. The resident of the burrow had been captured a few days earlier and delivered to a new neighborhood beyond the field. The excavation work was slow. There weren't any large bones in the grave shaft. "Ground hogs can do a lot of damage" Potter said. "Context means everything. If the bones are moved or damaged or if the ground hog gnawed on them and ground hogs do gnaw on bones -- they need their daily calcium supplement -- things can be hard to figure out." In this case the ground hog had destroyed most of the soldier's bones. What they did find was a number of jacket or coat buttons that connected the soldier to a New York regiment. The ones from the cuffs had the state emblem and some of the larger ones from the front had the emblem and the Latin word "Excelsior" meaning upward. The other buttons found were general government's issue indicating the soldier was not a green recruit but a veteran who had been around long enough to have replaced lost buttons. They also found a belt buckle with "U.S." engraved on it and some bits of leather later identified as coming from boots or shoes. Potter told the crew "We now know three things: our soldier was a young guy probably a teenager but he was a veteran and not a new recruit and he was part of a New York regiment." The crew having plotted the exact position on paper of every bit of metal and bone and leather taken from the grave site filled the 18-inch-deep excavation and tried to make it look like just another part of the farmer's field.

The next step is for Owsley to examine all the bones and items found in the grave to see if he can tease any more information from them. He won't be able to do that for several months. John Howard Antietam battlefield superintendent had been following the progress of the search closely. He had come out to watch the crews excavating the grave. Later he said it was unlikely the soldier would ever be identified because so little was known about him and on the day of the battle there were many New York regiments involved. One of the rangers who works for Howard, Brian S. Baracz, has studied the battle for 10 years. He said there had been 68 infantry regiments 12 artillery and seven cavalry units from New York at Antietam. Close to the area where the soldier was found two dozen New York infantry regiments had crossed through. Using just those 24 units and narrowing the list of possible soldiers to those of the right age who were listed as "missing" he said the number would range between 25 and 50. Howard said if they ever got "really lucky and identified the soldier we'd make a real effort to track down the next of kin. We'd ask them what they wanted us to do. We could ship the remains or give him a proper burial here at Antietam." If there is no identification he expects the soldier will be buried in the New York section of the national cemetery which is near his office. "Just like any other American soldier we will give him a proper burial" he said. "This is where he fought. This is where he died. This is now his home."

By Linda Wheeler / December 28, 2008

An email from David Duncan, Dir of Membership and Development

From: [David Duncan](#)
To: novacs@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2008 3:15 PM
Subject: Many thanks!

Bob,

My deepest thanks to you and your fellow members of the Brandywine CWRT for your most recent \$1,000 gift. In this economy, the cause of battlefield preservation is really finding out who its best friends are, and you and your compatriots are certainly in that camp! Again, I cannot thank you enough for your generosity.

I wish you and your family every blessing of the season, and we can all hope for a better year ahead! All the best, and I hope to see you again soon.

DAVID N. DUNCAN / DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT / CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST
SAVING AMERICA'S ENDANGERED CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS

Inventor of Skirmish fire Tactics in the Civil War.

From: Temple Website 11/25/2008

John Watts de Peyster, Sr. was an author on the art of war, philanthropist, and early Adjutant General of the New York National Guard. He served in the New York State Militia during the Mexican-American War and American Civil War. He was one of the first military critics and noted for his histories of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and also published works of drama, poetry, military history, military biography and military criticism.

He later received the degree of M.A. from Columbia College, LL.D. from Nebraska College, and Ph.D. by Franklin and Marshall College. He was one of the organizers of the New York City Police Department and Fire Department. Reforms he advocated through publications which were eventually implemented nationwide included a paid Fire Department, and Steam Fire Engines, and New York City was the first in the nation to adopt such measures.

He spent his entire career in the New York State Militia, being promoted to brigadier general in 1851. He served as state Judge Advocate General and eventually Adjutant General, before resigning over a conflict with Governor Myron Clark in 1855. He traveled through Europe extensively as a military observer, and implemented many reforms that modernized the militia for the upcoming conflict.

Already a brigadier general of the state militia at the onset of the Civil War, he met with what he perceived, and declared, to be prejudiced resistance from Abraham Lincoln when he attempted to raise regiments for the Union Army. In 1861, de Peyster traveled to Washington, D.C., to solicit a commission as a brigadier general of the Regular Army and offered to raise two regiments of artillery, which he felt best suited his expertise and physical condition. This was met with little interest after New York had already filled its national recruitment quota of 75,000 men.

Each of his three sons served in the conflict in the Union Army. The eldest, John Watts de Peyster, Jr., performed duty as an aide-de-camp and artillery commander with the Army of the Potomac and mustered out as a brevet brigadier general; Frederic de Peyster III, was a Colonel and surgeon; while the youngest, Johnston L. de Peyster, was a second lieutenant in charge of a battery of artillery credited with hoisting the first Union flag over the Confederate capitol of Richmond, Virginia, after its fall.

The career militia officer had always suffered from poor health, and turned down a commission as a colonel of cavalry offered to him by New York Senator Ira Harris in June 1863 on behalf of Generals Joseph Hooker and Alfred Pleasonton, who may have had an eye towards de Peyster's social connections. Other notable figures with limited field experience who were promoted to brigadier general by Pleasonton at that time were Elon J. Farnsworth, son of a Congressman, Wesley Merritt, and George Armstrong Custer.

His treatise *New American Tactics* was a series of articles published in *The Army and Navy Journal* that advocated making the skirmish line the new line of battle, which was considered revolutionary at the time. These contributions were translated and copied into foreign military journals, including *Correard's renowned Biographie des célébrités militaires des armées de terre et de mer*. Such tactics were put into practice by generals including John Buford and were later adopted world wide. He was brevetted to major general in 1866 by a special act of the state legislature. His elevation to major general was the first such honor bestowed by the State of New York, or any other State in the Union. He was a close friend of Maj. Gen. Daniel Sickles, commander of the Union III Corps. General De Peyster wrote biographies of III Corps Generals Andrew A. Humphreys and Gershom Mott during the war, and wrote highly of Buford's celebrated usage of light cavalry.

De Peyster said "The hero at Oak Ridge was John Buford ... he not only showed the rarest tenacity, but his personal capacity made his cavalry accomplish marvels, and rival infantry in their steadfastness ... Glorious John Buford!" - Gen. de Peyster on Buford's Dragoon Tactics

Evidence of Historic Slave Jail Revealed in Virginia

From Temple website 12/18/08

Richmond Virginia

Archaeologists are revealing some of their finds from a historic Richmond site that once was the center of Virginia's slave-trading past. The discoveries announced Wednesday include the remains of a brick foundation at what was once known as Lumpkin's Slave Jail. A cobblestone courtyard and the remnants of a kitchen were also found. Lumpkin's Jail was named after Robert Lumpkin, who was known as a "bully trader" for his rough handling of enslaved men, women and children. According to historians, the jail was the largest holding center in the former capital of the Confederacy from 1840 until the end of the Civil War. The discoveries are part of a dig to uncover remnants of Richmond's slave-trading history, much of which has disappeared through the years.

The archaeological dig to unearth Lumpkin's Slave Jail officially began Wednesday morning behind Main Street Station in Shockoe Bottom. The excavation for artifacts and the historic foundation from the 1800's comes two years after the site's discovery. Surrounded by a thriving city and beneath layers of asphalt and soil lies a piece of history ready to be uncovered after almost two centuries. "We are anxious to see where we go from here, to literally pull back the layers of time," says Kathleen Kilpatrick, director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Executive. It was two years ago that the Richmond City Council Slave Trail Commission realized the importance of this sight, sitting just feet below the surface, remnants of Lumpkin's Slave Jail. "It was a project that we thought was absolutely necessary to help in development of the slave trail as well as tell the story of Richmond history and this country's history," says Delores McQuinn of the Richmond City Council Slave Trail Commission.

To honor the ancestors of the past, Lumpkin's Slave Jail was one of the largest holding facilities in Richmond, until the end of the Civil War. Tens of thousands of slaves were held brought here, waiting to eventually be moved to slave owners living in various states. On Wednesday morning, the first step towards unearthing the secrets of the past. The jail's foundation and artifacts dating back to the 19th century. Ultimately, the jail took on another use. When owner and operator, Robert Lumpkin died, he left this property to his wife, who too was a former slave. Mary Lumpkin, played apart in establishing the jail as a school for freed slaves, the beginnings of what we know today, as Virginia Union University. "Those stories are critically important, not just to understand the past, but building through that understanding a stronger future," says Kilpatrick. Commission members are hopeful too that the finds here will ultimately help them piece together the history of the adjacent burial grounds. "The project, several years in the making, is expected to take several months. The first couple of weeks will be devoted to removing the top layers and prepping the site for more extensive research. Once that's done, the painstaking process of sifting through ruins begins. "Every layer, you're finding something," McQuinn said. "It's sort of a tedious process, with a lot of things done by hand. "The site, bounded today by East Main and East Broad streets just east of Main Street Station, once housed tens of thousands of slaves en route to the people who purchased them. In recent years, the spot has been a parking lot.



Scheduled Speakers for 2008 - 2009:

Sep 3, 2008: **NO MEETING**

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: Noah Andre Trudeau – “ Southern Storm”

May 6, 2009: To be announced

May --, 2009: Field Trip TBD

May 19, 2009: (Annual Banquet): **Speaker will be Mark Neely**, McCabe Greer Professor in the American Civil War Era at Penn State University has agreed to speak at our banquet. Professor Neely has authored and co-authored numerous books including the Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties". Professor Neely's curricula Vitae is available at: http://history.psu.edu/faculty/curriculaVitae/Neely_M_CV.doc

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Dave Walter, Treasurer, 937 Thorne Drive, West Chester, PA 19382