



The Signal Flag



BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Campaign # 22

Skirmish # 6

February 2009

From the Rear Ranks:

AFTERMATH OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

The War was over and the Peace begun. All the major forces of the Confederate States of America had surrendered, and President Jefferson Davis was in prison. All that was left was bitterness and a few insignificant pockets of resistance. A new President in Washington was wrestling with reconstruction, as it was called, and facing rising impatience with his policies, which, like those of Lincoln, were more restoration than reconstruction. The armies of the union had marched in Grand Review and then most of them went home except for those needed in occupation duties. The people now were asking in massive chorus - what next? Personal life could be taken up again and if there were no opportunities at home, there were plenty to the westward. There must be a blending of the way of life of 1860 and the new ways of 1865. There was the problem of the freed slave. Was the Negro a full citizen? How could or should he be brought into the stream of national life? Slavery was in effect actually abolished as the Thirteenth Amendment in the Constitution received approval by most states. What would the new United States be like? The headlines of battles appeared no more; the bulletin boards with their chilling casualty list had ceased.

June 30, 1865, Friday: Lincoln Conspirators Convicted.

July 7, 1865, Friday: Execution of Lincoln Conspirators.

November 10, 1865, Friday: Captain Henry Wirz was hanged after conviction by a military commission on charges of cruelty to Federal prisoners of war.

April 2, 1866, Monday: "Now, therefore, I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do hereby proclaim and declare that the insurrection which heretofore existed in the states of Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Florida is at an end and is henceforth to be so regarded." Texas only was omitted, its government not yet formed.

August 20, 1866, Monday: In a new proclamation President Johnson declared the insurrection at an end in Texas: "I do further proclaim that the said insurrection is at an end and that peace, order, tranquility, and civil authority now exist in and throughout the whole of the United States of America."

The Civil War was over and the painful days of reconstruction had begun. But, as in all history, the cataclysm of 1861-1865 would color subsequent events. Laws, politics, economics, social mores, the people of all the states were altered irrevocably and for generations to come by the years of war.

Source: "The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac 1861-1865." E.B. Long. New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1971, Pages 691 - 697.

I remain your most obedient servant, Robert Paul Sprague



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President: John Walls
Vice President: Chip Crowe
Secretary: Ted Pawlik
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Preservation: Bob Sprague, John Walls
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Trips: Greg Buss
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Historians: Bill Sitman and Bob Sprague
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~Members at Large ~

David Hoffritz, James Lawler, Lynne Fulton

~ Official Sutler ~

Bob Sprague: Books / Periodicals
610-644-0353

~ 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!

**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: Roger Arthur
Topic: "Lincoln Legacy"
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street

"The Lincoln Legacy" cuts through the mythology that surrounds this great patriot. What did he believe? What did he want to accomplish? What example did he set for us who follow him? Why is America different because of this one man? His honesty is legendary, of course, but there is more to the Lincoln story.

Roger Arthur has spoken to us on many occasions as he celebrates his 17th year as a Round Table member. Roger was born in Dayton, Ohio and as a small boy became interested in the American Civil War. He later became a History Teacher and taught in Cincinnati for five years. He worked in the Sales Marketing Department for Sunoco from (1970-2000). Now he is back teaching History again. I have taken a couple of Roger's courses through the Chester County Adult Night School. Roger has received many honors and recognitions from various Civil War groups, he is a member of many Round Tables in the area, does Battlefield walking tours and is an active member in the Boy Scouts of American. We always look forward to hearing from Roger.

Education: M.A. American History – West Chester University (2003)
Colloquium for History – "The "Copperhead" Vallandigham: Civil War, Civil Rights, and the Constitutional Conundrum – West Chester University (2003)
Public History – Rutgers University (1998)
American History – Miami University (1968-69)
B.S. History, Government & Speech – Bowling Green State University (1965)

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

Minutes of the January 7, 2009 Meeting
BVCWRT
Submitted by Ted Pawlik

John Walls Presiding:

Treasurer's Report (Dave Walter):

- A \$1000 donation was made to the Civil War Preservation Trust. \$100 was received for dues. Therefore the balance as of 01/01/09 is \$2399.00.
- There are currently 66 dues paying members of the Round Table.

Field Trip:

- Greg Buss distributed information on a field trip to include Ford Theater and the Booth Escape Route with Roger Arthur acting as tour guide. The trip will be by bus, leaving West Chester approximately 7 AM. The cost will be approximately \$70, depending on the number who sign up. It will be scheduled for the latter part of April or 1st Saturday in May, final date to be determined.
- At this point, Greg is trying to determine interest. Those interested are asked to contact Greg at 610-321-1792 or email at grbuss@yahoo.com. The request was made to do this ASAP so final arrangements can be made.

Other Announcements and Items of General Interest:

- To commemorate A. Lincoln's 200th birthday in 2009, Roger Arthur will be presenting a number of talks on Lincoln at various libraries. A schedule of those talks will be available online our website.
- Roger will also be presenting two courses at the Chester County Night School beginning in March. On Mondays, at Henderson High School, he will present Discover Mr. Lincoln and on Tuesdays he will present The War of the Rebellion at Pierce Junior High. Information on the programs will be posted on the Chester County Web Site.

Speaker for the Evening: Dennis Kelly on the Army of Tennessee.

WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN: DID YOU KNOW?

- Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809 and George Washington was born February 22, 1732.
- Lincoln was the first president whose portrait appeared on a U.S. coin. The design for the Lincoln penny was adopted in April 1909 and coinage began in May of that year.
- Washington's and Lincoln's yearly salary was \$25,000.00.
- Lincoln was the first president to be born outside the borders of the 13 original colonies.
- Washington was the first president whose likeness appeared on a U.S. postage stamp, issued in 1847.
- Lincoln's grandfather, for whom he was named, was killed by Indians.
- Half-dimes, the first coins produced at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, was made for President Washington from his own silverware.
- Lincoln joined the militia to fight Chief Black Hawk.
- Washington gave the briefest inaugural address.
- Lincoln had no formal religious affiliation or formal education.
- Washington was completely toothless by age 57. He never had wooden teeth.
- Lincoln gave the eulogy at the funeral of Zachary Taylor.
- Washington had no formal education.
- Lincoln died without a will.
- Washington was one of eight presidents born in Virginia.
- Lincoln was one of five bearded presidents.
- Lincoln's funeral train traveled 1,662 miles on its journey from the Capital to Springfield, Illinois.

Source: The Daily Local News, February 18, 2002. submitted by Robert Paul Sprague



Reading the War News in Broadway, New York

May 6, 1865

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

President Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America during the most momentous period of rule since that of his great predecessor George Washington, was the grandson of Abraham Lincoln, killed by Indians in 1784, and was the son of Thomas Lincoln, of Virginia, by his wife, Nancy Hanks. He was born, Feb. 12, 1809, in Harden County, Kentucky. His father, Thomas Lincoln, when the young Abraham was about eight years of age, moved with his family to Spencer County, Indiana. There for the next twelve years Abraham Lincoln worked with his father in the ordinary pursuits of a settler, living in the log hut which the neighbours assisted them to build when they first came to the neighbourhood. He had not, however, during all these years the

guiding hand of his mother, for she died shortly after they took up their residence in Indiana. In course of time, a Mr. Crawford came to settle in the

neighbourhood, and opened a school in his own cabin, and Abraham Lincoln was his pupil. Abraham was a youth of manifold qualifications: he had perseverance, a desire for knowledge, truthfulness, and earnestness. The books which he loved to peruse at this period were Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," "Æsop's Fables," a life of Henry Clay, afterwards Lincoln's model of a statesman; and Weem's "Life of Washington." When he was nineteen he made a trip to New Orleans in a flat-boat with the son of one of his neighbours, with a cargo for the New Orleans market. In addition to a long voyage down the River Ohio, which bounds Indiana on the south, the young voyagers had at least one thousand miles of the Mississippi to traverse before they arrived at their destination. The voyage was successful, and raised the character of Abraham Lincoln in the vicinity as a youth of energy and promise. In 1830, when Abraham was twenty-one years of age, he migrated once more with his father to Decatur, Illinois. The father being there comfortably settled, Abraham started on his own account, hiring himself out first of all as a farm hand, and occasionally acting as a clerk in a store. When the war with the Indians broke out in 1832, commonly called the Black Hawk War, Mr. Lincoln was elected to the command of a company of volunteers. One who knew him at this period writes that "he was an efficient, faithful officer, watchful of his men, and prompt in the discharge of duty; and his courage and patriotism shrank from no dangers or hardships." After his military career, Lincoln kept a store; and then took to the business of a surveyor. In 1834 he was sent to the local Legislature, and during the time the House was not sitting he applied himself with vigour to the study of law. In 1836 he obtained a license to practise; and in 1837 went to Springfield, the chief town in Illinois, and commenced as a lawyer, in partnership with the Hon. John F. Stuart. He rose rapidly in public favour, and is said to have been very successful as an advocate in jury trials. In 1846 Mr. Lincoln was returned to Congress, and took his seat as the only Whig member from Illinois. He continued to belong to Congress till 1849. The Whigs were the forerunners of the present powerful Republican Party, the chief point of difference being that of slavery. Lincoln was for freedom, and on that ground opposed the Mexican War. He supported a bill abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia. When the Wilmot proviso was discussed to exclude slavery from those territories which had been captured from Mexico, Mr. Lincoln voted for the proviso; and he afterwards stated that, in one way or another, he had cast his vote about forty times in favour of the abolition of slavery. In 1849 he stood, and was defeated, for the office of United States' Senator for Illinois, and consequently remained at home from that period until 1854 in the practice of his profession. In that year the Kansas Nebraska Bill was passed by the slaveholding party, aided by some of their supporters in the North. Mr. Stephen A. Douglas stood for United States' senator from Illinois, and Mr. Lincoln opposed him; the two champions ultimately holding seven joint debates in different towns of the State for the purpose of informing the people of the grounds of difference of policy upon which they were called on to decide. Upon his discussions with Douglas, however, the eyes of the whole country were fixed, and the ability and quaint humour which Mr. Lincoln exhibited, and the success which he gained for the party, made him very popular among the Republicans. The immediate practical question which then agitated the people, which came to be the turning-point of the presidential election of 1860, was whether or not slavery ought to be permitted in the new territories as, one by one, they came to be peopled. Mr. Lincoln believed that slavery ought to be excluded from the territories, although he did not see his way to interfere with slavery in those States where it existed. The Republican Convention, which met at Chicago, nominated Mr. Lincoln as their candidate for the presidency. The contest lay between him and Mr. Seward. The canvass was carried on with the usual good humour in the North, but amid threatenings and mutterings in the South in the prospect of their defeat. The polling resulted in the return of Mr. Lincoln--the numbers being, for Lincoln, 1,857,910; for Douglas, 1,291,574; for Breckenridge, 850,082; and for Bell (a Whig of long standing), 646,124. The election, in

1860, of Mr. Lincoln was hailed with delight by the people of the Northern States, and when he proceeded to Washington to execute the functions of President the whole country watched his progress with intense satisfaction. Mr. Lincoln's policy was to woo the South to submission to the constitutionally-expressed will of the people by every argument which would be supposed to have weight with American citizens. His appeal was vain. The men to whom it was addressed had for a long series of years encouraged the delusion that slavery was a Divine institution. The North, with Mr. Lincoln as President, had no choice but to enforce the laws and to use whatever powers the Constitution gave for the suppression of the South, which had burst out into open rebellion. The terrible war that followed and its ever-varying incidents are too much matters of present knowledge and history to need any detail here. Sufficient it is to say that in the west the national arms were almost uniformly successful. In the east the forces of the Union failed to capture Richmond until weary years of effort had been wasted and several successive Generals tried and removed. But the elasticity of free institutions permitted of these changes of commanders, and the patriotism of the people supported the President in whatever appointments he deemed best for the furtherance of the cause until--by his happy selection of General Grant, who had proved victorious in the west, and Grant's no less admirable appointments of Generals Sherman, Sheridan, Thomas, and others--the power of the South has been completely battered down. The emancipation proclamation of President Lincoln was one of his boldest and greatest acts, and the cause of the Union seems to have prospered ever since. Lincoln had been a second time elected President, and the surrender of the Confederate army was just being looked on as the closing-in scene of the mighty struggle, when President Lincoln fell the victim of one of the foulest and most daring acts of assassination that has ever disgraced the pages of history. Assassination is a crime which seems to have peculiarly and invariably the curse of Heaven upon it; for in perusing the annals of the world we find it has not only been followed by success, but it has been usually a fatal blow to the cause in support of which the murderer has done the deed. No doubt, therefore, this dreadful slaying of the President will tend more than aught else to cause a revulsion in the minds of his opponents and bring them round, and to thus establish the Northern triumph permanently, and to effect the long-desired pacification of America. President Lincoln died, on the 15th ult., from the shot fired at him by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre, Washington, on the previous evening. The President leaves a widow and family.

Article from: Illustrated London News: Volume 46, No. 1313, p 443

Submitted by Chip Crowe

Lincoln and the myth of 'Team of Rivals': President Lincoln's Cabinet was far more dysfunctional than Doris Kearns Goodwin's book would have us believe.

From the Los Angeles Times - Opinion

By Matthew Pinsker, Professor at Dickinson College

November 18, 2008

People love Doris Kearns Goodwin's book on the Lincoln presidency, "Team of Rivals." More important, for this moment in American history, Barack Obama loves it. The book is certainly fun to read, but its claim that Abraham Lincoln revealed his "political genius" through the management of his wartime Cabinet deserves a harder look, especially now that it seems to be offering a template for the new administration.

"Lincoln basically pulled in all the people who had been running against him into his Cabinet," is the way Obama has summarized Goodwin's thesis, adding, "Whatever personal feelings there were, the issue was how can we get this country through this time of crisis."

That's true enough, but the problem is, it didn't work that well for Lincoln. There were painful trade-offs with the "team of rivals" approach that are never fully addressed in the book, or by others that offer happy-sounding descriptions of the Lincoln presidency.

Lincoln's decision to embrace former rivals, for instance, inevitably meant ignoring old friends -- a development they took badly. "We made Abe and, by God, we can unmake him," complained Chicago Tribune Managing Editor Joseph Medill in 1861. Especially during 1861 and 1862, the first two years of Lincoln's initially troubled administration, friends growled over his ingratitude as former rivals continued to play out their old political feuds.

In fairness, Goodwin describes several of these more difficult moments, such as when Secretary of State William Seward tried to seize political command from Lincoln during the Ft. Sumter crisis. But she passes over their consequences too easily. Though Seward, the former New York senator who had been the Republican front-

runner, eventually proved helpful to the president, the impact of repeated disloyalty and unnecessary backroom drama from him and several other Cabinet officers was a significant factor in the early failures of the Union war effort.

By December 1862, there was a full-blown Cabinet crisis. "We are now on the brink of destruction," Lincoln confided to a close friend after being deluged with congressional criticism and confronted by resignations from both Seward and Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase. Goodwin suggests that Lincoln's quiet confidence and impressive emotional intelligence enabled him to survive and ultimately forge an effective team out of his former rivals, but that's more wishful thinking than serious analysis. Consider this inconvenient truth: Out of the four leading vote-getters for the 1860 Republican presidential nomination whom Lincoln placed on his original team, three left during his first term -- one in disgrace, one in defiance and one in disgust.

Simon Cameron was the disgraced rival, Lincoln's failed first secretary of War. Goodwin essentially erased him from her group biography, not mentioning him in the book's first 200 pages, even though he placed third, after Seward and Lincoln, on the first Republican presidential ballot. Cameron proved so corrupt and inept that the Republican-controlled House of Representatives censured him after he was removed from office in 1862.

Chase was the defiant rival. As Goodwin acknowledges, the Treasury chief never reconciled himself to Lincoln's victory, continuously angling to replace him. Lincoln put up with this aggravation until he secured re-nomination and then dumped his brilliant but arrogant subordinate because, in his words, their "mutual embarrassment" was no longer sustainable.

Atty. Gen. Edward Bates was the disgusted rival. The elder statesman -- 67 when he was appointed -- never felt at home in the Lincoln Cabinet and played only a marginal role in shaping policy. He resigned late in the first term. His diary reflects deep discontent with what he considered the relentless political maneuvering of his Cabinet peers and even the president. "Alas!" Bates wrote in August 1864, "that I should live to see such abject fear - such small stolid indifference to duty -- such open contempt of Constitution and law -- and such profound ignorance of policy and prudence!"

Only Seward endured throughout the Civil War. He and Lincoln did become friends, and he provided some valuable political advice, but the significance of his contributions as Lincoln's secretary of State have been challenged by many historians, and his repeated fights with other party leaders were always distracting.

John Hay, one of Lincoln's closest aides, noted in his diary that by the summer of 1863, the president had essentially learned to rule his Cabinet with "tyrannous authority," observing that the "most important things he decides & there is no cavil."

Over the years, it has become easy to forget that hard edge and the once bad times that nearly destroyed a president. Lincoln's Cabinet was no team. His rivals proved to be uneven as subordinates. Some were capable despite their personal disloyalty, yet others were simply disastrous. Lincoln was a political genius, but his model for Cabinet-building should stand more as a cautionary tale than as a leadership manual.

Matthew Pinsker, author of "Lincoln's Sanctuary: Abraham Lincoln and the Soldiers' Home," teaches Civil War history at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania.

Lincoln met with his cabinet on July 22, 1862 for the first reading of a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN – SELECTED QUOTES

June 16, 1858: “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the union to be dissolved - - I do not expect the house to fall - - but I do expect that it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other.

August 1, 1858: As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is not democracy.

March 4, 1861: I am loth to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearth-stone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

December 3, 1861: The struggle of today, is not altogether for today - - it is for a vast future also.

August 22, 1862: My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that.

December 1862: If there is a worse place than Hell, I am in it.

January 26, 1863: Major-General Hooker – I have placed you at the head of the Army of the Potomac. I have heard, in such a way as to believe it, of your recently saying that both the Army and the Government needed a dictator. Of course it was not for this, but in spite of it, that I have given you the command. Only those generals who gain successes, can set up as dictators. What I now ask of you is military success, and I will risk the dictatorship.

November 19, 1863: Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

November 21, 1864: Mrs. Bixby – Dear Madam, I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours, to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom. Yours, very sincerely and respectfully, A. Lincoln

March 4, 1865: With malice towards none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan - - to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, 16th President of the United States

Born: 12 February 1809, Hodgenville, Kentucky

Died: 15 April 1865, Washington, DC

Submitted by Robert Paul Sprague

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER TO DISPLAY RARE COPY OF THE THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT ON PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S 200th BIRTHDAY

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. --Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified on December 6, 1865

Philadelphia, PA (January 22, 2008) – The National Constitution Center announces that it has acquired for display a rare copy of the Thirteenth Amendment signed by President Abraham Lincoln. This treasured document will be on display for eleven weeks – beginning on Lincoln's birthday, February 12, 2009 – in the Center's main exhibition, The Story of We the People, and will coincide with the America I AM: The African American Imprint exhibition, which made its world debut at the Center on January 15, 2009.

"The Thirteenth Amendment serves as a poignant reminder of the struggle for all Americans to be included in 'We the People,'" said Joseph M. Torsella, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center. "It is a true honor to obtain this treasure, which had such a profound impact on American history."

Congress approved the Thirteenth Amendment on January 31, 1865. The original resolution was signed on February 1, 1865 by Abraham Lincoln (even though the Constitution does not give the president a say on constitutional amendments), Vice President Hannibal Hamlin, and House Speaker Schuyler Colfax. Over the next few days, Congressional clerks penned additional copies for related supporters, including Lincoln, to sign. Of the 14 known copies of the Thirteenth Amendment signed by Lincoln, the Center's is one of only 7 also signed by the Vice President, the House Speaker, and the Senators (37) and Congressmen (114) who voted to abolish slavery. Lincoln believed the Thirteenth Amendment would preserve for all time the emancipation he had ordered as a wartime measure. No piece of legislation received more of his attention.

Beginning in February 2007 with the acquisition of a rare copy of the Emancipation Proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln, and continuing with the acquisition of the signature made by Lincoln at Gettysburg and the Thirteenth Amendment, the Center is working to build a collection of treasures through long-term loans and permanent acquisitions, including rare and important documents and items with iconic status that uniquely capture crucial moments in American history.

"The Thirteenth Amendment loan is a remarkably generous display of support for the Center. We are grateful to the lender, who is helping us create ever-more-compelling experiences of our nation's history for our visitors," Torsella said.

The acquisition of the Thirteenth Amendment coincides with the premiere of Tavis Smiley's America I AM: The African American Imprint exhibition at the Center, celebrating nearly 500 years of African American contributions to this country. America I AM will be on display through May 3, 2009, presenting a historical continuum of pivotal moments in courage, conviction, and creativity that solidifies the undeniable imprint of African Americans across the nation and around the world. Featuring more than 200 artifacts culled from every period of U.S. history, the exhibit will include objects, texts, religion, music, narration, and media. An interactive component of the exhibition will allow visitors to leave their own video "imprints," and this collection will grow throughout the life of the exhibition with the potential to become the largest recorded oral history project in U.S. history.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

National Constitution Center, 525 Arch Street, Independence Mall
Philadelphia, PA 19106, T (215) 409-6693, F (215) 409-6650

Don't miss the world premiere of America I AM: The African American Imprint, a groundbreaking new exhibition presented by Tavis Smiley, celebrating 400 years of African American contributions to our country through stories of courage, conviction, and creativity from January 15 through May, 3, 2009. For more information and tickets, visit www.constitutioncenter.org or call 215.409.6700. National Constitution Center, The Story of We, the People.
Ashley Berke Senior Public Relations Manager **Source: Temple website**

O Captain! my Captain!

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought
is won,

The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring,
But O heart! heart! heart!
O the bleeding drops of red,
Where on the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.

O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;
Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills,
For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths—for you the shores
a-crowding,
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning,
Here, Captain! dear father!
This arm beneath your head;
It is some dream that on the deck
You've fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will,
The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed
and done,
From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;
Exult, O shores, and ring O bells!
But I with mournful tread
Walk the deck my Captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.

Walt Whitman
March 9 1887



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

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

**BRANDYWINE VALLEY
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

*c/o Lynne Fulton
144 W. King Street
Malvern, PA 19355*

FIRST CLASS MAIL

