



The Signal Flag



BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Campaign # 24

Skirmish # 6

February 2011

From the Rear Ranks:

CONCLUSION: The Legacy of Abraham Lincoln

Carl Sandburg, Lincoln biographer told Congress on the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's birth: "Democracy? We cannot find the words to say exactly what it is, but Lincoln had it. In his blood and bones he carried it. In the breath of his speeches and writings it is there... Government where the people have the say-so, one way or another telling their elected leaders what they want. He had the idea. He embodied it. It is there in the lights and shadows of his personality." Lincoln remains the leader who spoke the enduring words at Gettysburg that students once memorized, the commander-in-chief who reunited the nation by winning the Civil War, and the chief executive who is continually ranked highest among all American presidents.

By Frank J. Williams. LINCOLN AT 199. From "Civil War News:

February/March 2008. <http://www.civilwarnews.com>

I remain your most obedient servant,
Bob Sprague, President of

The Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table



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Historians: Bob Sprague
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Banquet: Jim Lawler
Photographs – Hank Fisher

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302-429-6201

~ Annual Membership ~

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

? Questions ? Contact:

Bob Sprague
President, Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table
23 Wistar Road, Paoli, PA 19301
E-Mail: novacsa@comcast.net

BVCWRT Web Site:

<http://bvcwrt.home.comcast.net>

Webmaster: Jim Lawler

dtownjim@comcast.net

Signal Flag Editor:

Lynne Fulton
610-647-1039
mailto:fultonlm1949@aol.com

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:

Welcome to new members.



**Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table
Come to our next meeting
February 2, 2011**

Speaker: Charlie Zahn
Topic: "Civil War Music and our Winter Social"
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street



Charlie Zahn is a truly gifted musician and baritone voice. He is a master of traditional English language folk music – in particular, Irish, Scottish, maritime and Early American; and he is one of the most popular singers at Celtic and maritime music events in the Eastern United States. Charlie's interest in the great collection of music from the War Between the States was sparked when several friends in the Civil War community convinced him that with his wide array of Scottish, Irish and otherwise traditional American songs under his belt, he was more than halfway there to a strong Civil War repertoire -- and that he would be a welcome addition to that community through his music.



Charlie's interest in history (in fact, one of his degrees is in history) led him to disciplined research of the period, and how it affected the body of music now so important to its proper understanding.

Further, after finding a photo of Col. Lewis Zahn of the Third Ohio Cavalry at a library in Ohio (pictured here to the right), Charlie found the first of many family connections to the War. Col. Zahn -- still much revered in Ohio -- was the uncle of the first Charles Louis Zahn (and lent his name to the child, though it is now spelled differently). Charlie is the fifth in line to hold that exact name; so he is actually, in part, named after a Civil War officer. Charlie does his best to present these great songs with the honor due both them and the subjects they recollect. His 13th CD, "Americana," is heavily influenced by music of the War, and the collection of songs has proven a favorite of those who enjoy the study of this period. When not performing in civilian outfit, Charlie represents a member of the 79th New York Volunteers -- the Highlanders -- and Charlie's knowledge of this great regiment of well-traveled soldiers, as well as his grasp of Scottish history (the first few hundred men of the 79th were either Scottish or Scottish-American) help to bring the Highlanders alive through songs they sang or which relate to their experience. Charlie performs at many re-enactments, scholarly meetings (such as Round Tables), historic sites and concerts, and he puts a program together all enjoy. Charlie also appeared as a singing soldier in the film **Gettysburg: Three Days of Destiny**. For more information about Charlie Zahn and his scheduled performances, visit www.charliezahn.com.



[Additional article from 2008 on Charlie Zahn submitted by Dave Kohler]

Adding passion to the folk tradition

By Art Carey Posted on Sat, May. 3, 2008 Inquirer Staff Writer

He has no formal musical training, but largely through word of mouth, Charlie Zahn is much in demand.

Signal Flag February 2011

Charlie Zahm sings for the Scottish shepherd and the Irish peat farmer, the Dublin barkeep and the Nova Scotia fisherman. He sings for the storytellers of yore who put the joys and sorrows of their lives to music, and the children and grandchildren who kept those stories and songs alive through the centuries. "I love the traditional aspect of folk songs," Zahm says. "The stories are timeless - songs of love, loss, exploration and adventure. Those themes are still with us today, and as relevant as they've always been."

Zahm, 42, is a tall, handsome man who lives in a spacious brick twin in Coatesville, Chester County. Largely through word of mouth, he has become a folk performer much in demand on the East Coast. His calendar is booked through 2009, with as many as three events in a week. One day he may sing to a half-dozen people at a private house concert, the next to thousands of people under a tent. A regular on the Celtic festival circuit, he has displayed his talent at the Spectrum, the Philadelphia Folk Festival, the Arenson River Theater in San Antonio, and Longwood Gardens. His music is available on two DVDs and 16, soon to be 17, CDs.

"Charlie represents an excellence in music that far transcends most of what you hear on the radio these days," says Ken Carpenter, a Nashville documentary filmmaker who produced and directed Zahm's second DVD, *Charlie Zahm: An Evening of Classic Melodies*, released last spring. Carpenter saw Zahm perform in San Antonio in 2005, and was so impressed by the simplicity of his music and his high level of artistry that he decided to feature him in a DVD.

Fond of security and health insurance, Zahm has a day job. He writes proposals seeking to entice schools and colleges to purchase administrative software from his employer, SunGard Higher Education of Malvern. But what sustains his soul is music, specifically folk music - the traditional songs of Ireland and Scotland and the Maritime provinces of Canada, and the backwoods and mountain yeomanry of early America up to and including the Civil War. "Folk music is my art. It's what I do," Zahm says. "I have no formal training. I never set out to be a folk singer. I just knew I loved music and wanted it to be part of my life." Zahm sings in a clear, strong baritone that has been hailed by more than one rapt listener as "coming along once in a generation."

"For me, he is the ideal Celtic singer," says Gene Shay, host of a folk music program on WXPB (88.5 FM) and co-founder and emcee of the Folk Festival. "He's big and handsome, and he sings with a robust, virile baritone that sounds like he should be working on a whaler or doing something on the high seas." Besides playing the acoustic guitar masterfully, Zahm is facile with the five-string banjo, mandolin, flute, bouzouki and pennywhistle. Since he was a youngster, he has been taken by bluegrass and folk music. "I love the traditional aspect of folk songs," Zahm says. "The stories are timeless - songs of love, loss, exploration and adventure." Despite his German surname, Zahm's veins course with copious amounts of Irish and Scottish blood, and he's a congenial storyteller. Three of his CDs consist of stories and songs he composed, told and sung in the traditional mode.

One of the old folk songs Zahm sings is "The Ballad of Barbara Allen." It's about a man who dies of a broken heart after he is spurned by the woman he loves. When she realizes what she has done, she, too, dies, of remorse. "It's a song for the ages and all ages, a complete story that appeals to the head and heart," Zahm says. For Zahm, composing a song is rarely intentional. "I can't sit down and write a song," he says. He can barely read music and plays strictly by ear. Melodies ambush his brain. Sometimes, while out and about, he'll call home and record a spontaneous tune on his answering machine, so he can retain and perfect it later.

His ancestors on his mother's side migrated from Ireland to Nova Scotia, then moved farther west to Ontario. His affection for the Maritimes is "mystical," he says, and the music inspired by that rugged coastal seascape and ancient way of life seems rooted in blood memory. Recently, Zahm performed for a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Scranton. While he was singing "Loch Lomond," a woman in the audience began weeping. "She told me her father was from Scotland, and the song brought back memories of when she was a little girl listening to her daddy sing," he says.

Born in Michigan, Zahm grew up on the Atlantic coast of Florida in a house filled with music. His mother played the piano and sang, and his parents took him to see Pete Seeger and folk groups such as the Kingston Trio and the Irish Rovers. Infatuated with the fast, snappy sound of bluegrass, Zahm taught himself to play the five-string banjo at age 14. Two years later, he took up the acoustic guitar. He continued practicing in high school and college, studied folk music on his own, and played with a couple of bands.

After graduating from the University of South Florida in Tampa, he toured Japan and Europe with the music ambassadors Up With People. During five weeks in Ireland, he tried to learn and perform a new song in every town he visited. He learned "The Rose of Tralee" from a maintenance man in the boiler room of the town theater and sang it on stage just hours later. Not long after college, Zahm landed a job at TV Guide in Radnor, where he wrote programming notes. "I fell in love with Pennsylvania," Zahm says. "The state has a big feel and it's in the middle of everything. I love the history and scenery, and the folks are great." Zahm, who is divorced and the

father of an 11-year-old daughter, lived in Narberth and Havertown before moving to Coatesville, where he shares his house with a cat.

"I love Chester County - the rural unspoiled landscapes, the beautiful stone buildings," he says. "You know a home when you find it, and I have found a home here." The pull of the past is evident in Chester County as well as the folk songs Zahm cherishes. He is fascinated by the links between traditional Appalachian music - the songs that have endured in the mountains of North Carolina, West Virginia and Pennsylvania - and the folk songs of Ireland and Scotland. They share the same DNA because the back hollows of 19th-century America were settled by the sons and daughters of the Scottish highlands and the Olde Sod.

"The music was kept alive by people who couldn't read and write, who worked in coal mines or walked behind a plow," he says. "At night, they'd come home and take a fiddle off the wall, and tell the stories their grandfathers told and play the tunes their mothers played.

"It takes only one generation for something to be lost, and I don't want to be part of that. I feel it's my duty to sing these songs and to do it in a way that makes others love the songs, too."

Contact staff writer Art Carey at 610-701-7623 or acarey@phillynews.com.

Announcement

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Civil War Lecture

Dr. Randall Miller of Saint Joseph's University will be giving a lecture on **Religion in the Civil War on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 7pm** in the **Widener Center Lecture Hall, Cabrini College at 7pm. Admission is free** and all are welcome. I would appreciate it if you would pass the word along to the roundtable and other interested Civil War enthusiasts. If you have any questions, please contact me.

James R. Hedtke, Ph.D. <jhedtke@cabrini.edu>
Chair, History/Political Science Department
Cabrini College
Radnor, PA 19087 610-902-8336

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Special Framed Print Raffle.

Collapse of the Peach Orchard Line

Gettysburg: The Inevitable Confrontation

by Bradley Schmehl

Special Limited Edition Print

Raffle Chances are \$5 each, with the final drawing at the Banquet

Print Description (July 2nd, 1863 – 2:30 pm)

We are standing on the Emmitsburg Road facing west/northwest with Seminary Ridge in the distance. Directly in front of us is Joseph Sherfy's home, canning house, corn crib (small structure at the extreme left) and, beyond the first line of Confederates, a portion of his orchard. The Confederates closest to us are the 18th Mississippi, of Barksdale's Brigade; beyond them are the Georgians of Wofford's Brigade. Both brigades are of McLaws' Division, Longstreet's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia.

The colorful zouave troops closest to us belong to the 114th Pennsylvania, Graham's Brigade (1st Brigade, First Division, III Corps, Army of the Potomac. The captain at the right has ordered the color guard to fall back a distance up the Emmitsburg Road, the regiment's only route of escape, since at this point the Confederates are not only in their front, but on their left flank and rapidly gaining their rear. The rest of the regiment will fall back to their colors, and the maneuver will be repeated several times until the regiment has arrived safely at Cemetery Ridge and the main Union line.

The dead horses and solitary Yankee corpse in the middle distance, between the two opposing lines of troops, are from Bucklyn's Battery (also known as Randolph's Battery), Battery E, 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery, whose right gun was posted in the area a short time before. The Sherfy home and outbuildings were occupied by Federal soldiers who sniped at the oncoming Confederates from the windows of the home's south side. We can see the damage done by Confederate returned fire. The smoke we observe in the distance, from behind the trees just beyond and to the left of the wood-sided canning house is from the guns of Patterson's Confederate Battery.

The two flags carried by the 114th Pennsylvania's color bearer differ, though it is hard to see. The flag at the left carries a Pennsylvania state seal in the midst of a blue field. (Some of the seal's scrollwork is barely visible.) The flag on the right is a regular Union flag. The colors were not captured in this battle. The farmyard fence has been trampled down, probably by the skirmishers of the 63rd Pennsylvania, who were ordered forward and retreated when their ammunition ran out earlier in the day.

Books for Raffle:

We are still looking for Books for our Raffle. If you would like to donate any we will be very happy to collect them. Please remember all the money we raise from the monthly raffle goes right to battlefield preservation.

Minutes of the January 5, 2011 Meeting

BVCWRT

Submitted by Ted Pawlik

Bob Sprague - Presiding

Treasurer's Report: (Dave Walter)

The bank balance as of 12/1/2010 was \$3368.68. Receipts for the month of December totaled \$145.00. Expenses for the month of December totaled \$862.85 leaving net revenue for the month of minus \$717.85. The

bank balance as of 12/31/10 was \$2650.83. Transactions for December included \$800.00 in donations for preservation. Dave reported we have 78 dues paying members.

Preservation Committee: (Bob Sprague)

Bob Sprague reported that he received an acknowledgement and thank you from the Gettysburg Foundation for the donation made. He also received a letter from David Duncan from the Civil War Preservation Trust thanking the BVCWRT for their continuing support of civil war preservation.

Social Committee:

The Round Table social will be held at the February meeting. Anyone who did not sign the list to assist with the social may contact Flo Williams directly at flokhws@verizon.net. Dave Kohler reminded the membership that the February meeting will have a musical presentation by Charlie Zahn who will sing music of the Civil War. Information on Charlie Zahn was circulated via the Round Table telegram.

Field Trip: (Greg Buss)

Plans for the field trip to Harpers Ferry are proceeding. Once a guide has been confirmed, the date will be set. Target date for the trip is April 30, 2011 but that depends on confirmation from the guide

Other Business:

Lynne Fulton reported that Loretta Thomas passed away. Loretta for many years was the Greeter at our monthly meetings and did her best to represent the Southern point of view. A sympathy card was circulated for members to sign. The card will be forwarded to members of Loretta's family.

Bob Sprague updated emails addresses for some members and reminded others to keep their email addresses updated in order to receive the Round Table Telegram and other information from the Round Table.

Lou Caban reported that the NY Times is running a series on what happened on that particular day in the Civil War. Jim Lawler will insert a direct link to that series on the BVCWRT website.

Bob Sprague reported that the proposed casino in Gettysburg is still a live issue and encouraged members to support efforts to stop it.

There will be an Executive Board meeting on January 19, 2011 at 7 PM at John Walls house.

Speaker for the Meeting: (Introduced by Bob Sprague)

Roger Arthur – The Succession Crisis 1960-1861.

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 Robert Paul Sprague

Stroke of Pen Altered Date, and a Tale of Lincoln, Too

By SAM ROBERTS

January 24, 2011

Found on Temple website

Just hours before Abraham Lincoln “put on his hat and headed for Ford’s Theater,” on April 14, 1865, the president is said to have spared a mentally incompetent Army private the death penalty for desertion.

The legendary act of compassion was revealed by Thomas Lowry, an amateur historian, who said he found the pardon among hundreds of untapped Lincoln documents in the National Archives in 1998

and described it in a book the following year. His discovery was hailed by scholars as one of the biggest findings of Lincoln memorabilia in the 20th century.

But on Monday, the National Archives disclosed that Dr. Lowry had altered the date on the original pardon to promote his book, changing the year to 1865 from 1864, possibly to make it look as if the pardon was one of the president's final acts — and thus historic.

Dr. Lowry is a 78-year-old Virginia psychiatrist, who, after researching Civil War documents with his wife, Beverly, wrote "Don't Shoot That Boy: Abraham Lincoln and Military Justice," which was published in 1999.

"This kind of put him into the Lincoln expert world," said Trevor Plante, the Archives' acting chief of reference, whose suspicions about the timing of the pardon were finally confirmed not long ago when he consulted a published version of Lincoln's collected works.

David S. Ferriero, the national archivist, said Dr. Lowry confessed this month to the alteration. Because the statute of limitations has lapsed, he will not be criminally prosecuted, but will be barred from National Archives facilities.

"He indicated that he snuck a pen in — a Pelikan pen — and he marked the document and changed the date for the simple reason of getting some notoriety," said Mitchell Yockelson, an investigator for the National Archives.

Dr. Lowry insisted in an interview Monday that the alteration was not his doing. "It's against my code of ethics," he said. "I got leaned on for two hours with a mixture of pressure and false promises. While they weren't driving splinters under my fingernails, they said I wouldn't hear from them again."

But Paul Brachfeld, the inspector general of the National Archives and Records Administration, said Dr. Lowry had "confessed to having erased the '4' and changing it to a '5' "and said he had "even defined the kind of pen he used."

Historians said the alteration reflected on a single pardon and would not affect their perception of Lincoln. "I think the Lincoln we have come to know historically is still the man of compassion," Craig L. Symonds, a Lincoln scholar, said.

After reading the 1863 court-martial report of Pvt. Patrick Murphy of California, who had been characterized as "idiotic and insane," Lincoln pardoned him and released him from the military. The otherwise-obscure pardon became part of a National Archives exhibit in 1998, leading Dr. Lowry to conclude in his book: "Fame comes to men in many strange ways."

CAMP WAYNE, CIVIL WAR TRAINING CAMP, WEST CHESTER, PA

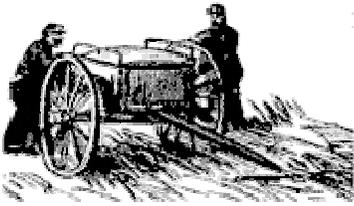
Submitted by David Kohler

From: Delaware Valley Archivists Group at www.dvarchivists.org.



Wayne Field, West Chester, PA, ca. 1900. Photo by Joseph Thorne. Talk about things that aren't there anymore, you would have to be a real old timer to recognize this view showing Wayne Field, the old Agricultural Fairgrounds with West Chester State Teacher's College, as it was known then, in the background. Today this corner of Rosedale Ave. and New Street is sprouting new dormitories and buildings for the West Chester University of today. This is the first photograph I have seen of the cannons at Wayne Field to commemorate Camp Wayne. During the Civil War, Camp Wayne operated for less than a year on this site. It began on May 4, 1861 serving as a training camp for recruits and as protection for West Chester. The 9th and 11th Pennsylvania Regiments were the first to arrive and slept in the horse sheds on straw. The 1st and 7th Pennsylvania Reserves arrived later to better conditions. Cabins were hastily erected. Here the men drilled and waited for their orders. Local men who enlisted in the 97th Pennsylvania received their first training here. In June of 1861 a Griffith patent cannon was sent to Camp Wayne by the Phoenix Iron Company, Phoenixville for the use of the 'Phoenix Artillerists' who were training there. This mention in the Village Record of June 22, 1861 is the only mention of cannon in use at the camp. The highlight of Camp Wayne's history was a visit from Governor Curtin on November 12, 1861 to present the colors to the 9th Regiment. The visit was reported in great detail in the Village Record November 16, 1862. After an unsuccessful attempt to torch the camp by Southern sympathizers, Governor Curtin ordered it to be dismantled as reported in the Village Record, January 18, 1862. I am interested to hear from readers where the cannons came from that were installed at Wayne Field to memorialize Camp Wayne. As far as we know, these cannons met a patriotic end in the scrap metal collection during World War II. Pamela Powell, Photo Archivist.

The only remnants of the Camp at Rosedale Av, the old Ag field, is the plaque on Wayne Hall. The 97th (9th Reg for 3 months) trained there and was re-enlisted as the 97th. They went to Washington and then a southern fort and finally to Ft Clinch in FL. They served here 2 years. Quite a few PA regiments trained at Camp Wayne. Submitted by: Dr. Florence K. Williams



Scheduled Speakers for 2010 - 2011

- Sep 1, 2010: Roger Arthur – “Meet Colonel Roosevelt”
- Oct 6, 2010: Jerry Carrier – “John Hay”
- Nov 3, 2010: Bruce Stocking – “Maj Gen Winfield Scott Hancock”
- Dec 1, 2010: Dick Simpson – “Battle of Franklin”,
- Jan 5, 2011: **Roger Arthur- “The Secession Crisis”**
- Feb 2, 2011: Charlie Zahn – “Civil War Music” and Social
- Mar 2, 2011: Hugh Boyle – “Dan Sickles”
- Apr 6, 2011: Mike Kochan – “CSS Hunley”
- Apr 30, 2011 Trip to Harper’s Ferry - *depends on confirmation from the guide*
- May 4, 2011: John Walls – “Admiral David Farragut”
- May 2011 : Banquet – Speaker Professor Carol Berkin – “Civil War Woman”

**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

