



# The Signal Flag

## BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



**Campaign # 25**

**Skirmish # 2**

**October 2011**

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### From the Rear Ranks:

As our campaign of 2011-12 commences I wanted to share with you all a letter President Lincoln wrote 150 years ago commenting on the question of Kentucky, whose allegiance would be so critical to the cause of the Union in the Western Theatre. I look forward to a successful campaign in which we not only further our knowledge but continue to support the efforts of battlefield preservation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Charles Crowe Jr., President Brandywine Valley Civil War Roundtable

### ***TO GOVERNOR MAGOFFIN, WASHINGTON, D.C., AUGUST 24, 1861***

*To HIS EXCELLENCY B. MAGOFFIN, Governor of the State of Kentucky.*

*SIR:—Your letter of the 19th instant, in which you urge the "removal from the limits of Kentucky of the military force now organized and in camp within that State," is received.*

*I may not possess full and precisely accurate knowledge upon this subject; but I believe it is true that there is a military force in camp within Kentucky, acting by authority of the United States, which force is not very large, and is not now being augmented.*

*I also believe that some arms have been furnished to this force by the United States.*

*I also believe this force consists exclusively of Kentuckians, having their camp in the immediate vicinity of their own homes, and not assailing or menacing any of the good people of Kentucky.*

*In all I have done in the premises I have acted upon the urgent solicitation of many Kentuckians, and in accordance with what I believed, and still believe, to be the wish of a majority of all the Union-loving people of Kentucky.*

*While I have conversed on this subject with many eminent men of Kentucky, including a large majority of her members of Congress, I do not remember that any one of them, or any other person, except your Excellency and the bearers of your Excellency's letter, has urged me to remove the military force from Kentucky or to disband it. One other very worthy citizen of Kentucky did solicit me to have the augmenting of the force suspended for a time.*

*Taking all the means within my reach to form a judgment, I do not believe it is the popular wish of Kentucky that this force shall be removed beyond her limits; and, with this impression, I must respectfully decline to so remove it.*

*I most cordially sympathize with your Excellency in the wish to preserve the peace of my own native State, Kentucky. It is with regret I search, and cannot find, in your not very short letter, any declaration or intimation that you entertain any desire for the preservation of the Federal Union.*

*Your obedient servant, A. LINCOLN.*

~ Officers ~

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**Vice President:** Chip Crowe  
**Secretary:** Ted Pawlik  
**Treasurer:** Dave Walter

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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:**

**Welcome to the membership.**





*Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table*  
*Come to our next meeting*  
*October 5, 2011*

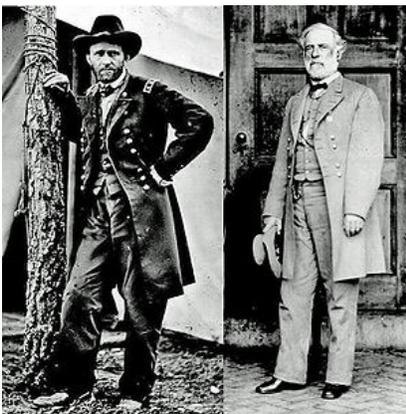
**Speaker:** Louis Caban  
**Topic:** "Lee's Retreat"  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Place:** West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street

Louis graduated Gettysburg College 1961 and just celebrated my 50th reunion.

He received a commission in the Army through ROTC and served in the 2nd Armored Cavalry regiment in Germany for three years, 1961 - 1964. (1855 - Robert E. Lee promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the Second Cavalry) I was assigned to an artillery battery in a cavalry reconnaissance squadron that guarded the East German and Czechoslovakian borders. I served as ground and air artillery forward observer, reconnaissance and survey platoon leader, executive officer and battery commander. Period of service was during the period immediately after the Berlin wall was erected, August 1961, and during the Cuba missile crisis.

After military service I went to school at night via the GI Bill to learn computer programming. I was a computer specialist and consultant working in the financial industry, banking and insurance, in New York City for 37 years.

I moved to Pennsylvania on the Delaware border from Long Island in June 2007 and my first meeting with the Round Table was December 2007. I have been following the cannon ball circuit since then. Louis will be speaking to us about:



## Lee's Retreat "The Appomattox Campaign"

The **Appomattox Campaign** was a series of battles fought March 29 – April 9, 1865, in Virginia that culminated in the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and the effective end of the American Civil War.

At the conclusion of the Richmond–Petersburg Campaign (also known as the Siege of Petersburg), Lee's army was outnumbered and exhausted from a winter of trench warfare over a 30 mi (48 km) front, numerous battles, disease, and desertion. At the Battle of Five Forks on April 1, Union forces under Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant cut the final railroad line supplying Lee's army in Petersburg, and ordered a general assault along the Petersburg fortification line. On April 2, Grant's army achieved a breakthrough of the lines in the

Petersburg, which prompted Lee to order the evacuation of both Petersburg and the Confederate capital of Richmond on the night of April 2–3.

Lee hoped to withdraw to the southwest and unite his army with Confederate forces in North Carolina, but Grant's army pursued relentlessly. On April 6, Lee's army suffered a significant defeat at the Battle of Sayler's Creek, but continued to move to the west in an attempt to elude the Union Army. Cornered, outnumbered, and short of supplies, Lee finally agreed to surrender his army on April 9 at Appomattox Court House. *Information from Wikipedia and their sources.*

#### LEE'S REPORT OF THE SURRENDER

Near Appomattox Court House, Virginia  
April 12, 1865

To: Jefferson Davis

Mr. President:

It is with pain that I announce to Your Excellency the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia.

The operations which preceded this result will be reported in full. I will therefore only now state that upon arriving at Amelia Court House on the morning of the 4th with the advance of the army, on the retreat from the lines in front of Richmond and Petersburg, and not finding the supplies ordered to be placed there, nearly twenty-four hours were lost in endeavoring to collect in the country subsistence for men and horses. This delay was fatal, and could not be retrieved.

The troops, wearied by continual fighting and marching for several days and nights, obtained neither rest nor refreshment; and on moving on the 5th, on the Richmond and Danville railroad, I found at Jetersville the enemy's cavalry, and learned of the approach of his infantry and the general advance of his army toward Burkeville.

This deprived us of the use of the railroad, and rendered it impracticable to procure from Danville the supplies ordered to meet us at points of our march. Nothing could be obtained from the adjacent country. Our route to the Roanoke was therefore changed, and the march directed upon Farmville, where supplies were ordered from Lynchburg.

The change of route threw the troops on the roads pursued by the artillery and wagon trains west of the railroad, which impeded our advance and embarrassed our movements. On the morning of the 6th General Longstreet's corps reached Rice's station on the Lynchburg railroad. It was followed by the commands of Generals R.H. Anderson, Ewell, and Gordon, with orders to close upon it as fast as the progress of the trains would permit or as they could be directed (diverted) on roads farther west.

General Anderson, commanding Pickett's and B.R. Johnson's divisions, became disconnected with Mahone's division, forming the rear of Longstreet. The enemy's cavalry penetrated the line of march through the interval thus left, and attacked the wagon train moving toward Farmville. This caused serious delay in the march of the center and rear of the column, and enabled the enemy to mass upon their flank. After successive attacks Anderson's and Ewell's corps were captured or driven from their position. The latter General, with both of his division commanders, Kershaw and Custis Lee, and his brigadiers, were taken prisoners.

Gordon, who all the morning, aided by General W.F. Lee's cavalry, had checked the advance of the enemy on the road from Amelia Springs and protected the trains, became exposed to his combined assaults, which he bravely resisted and twice repulsed; but the cavalry having been withdrawn to another part of the line of march, and the enemy, massing heavily on his (Gordon's) front and both flanks, renewed the attack about 6 P.M., and drove him from the field in much confusion.

The army continued its march during the night, and every effort was made to reorganize the divisions which had been shattered by the day's operations. But the men being depressed by fatigue and hunger, many threw away their arms, while others followed the wagon trains and embarrassed their progress.

On the morning of the 7th rations were issued to the troops as they passed Farmville, but the safety of the trains requiring their removal upon the approach of the enemy all could not be supplied. The army, reduced to two corps under Longstreet and Gordon, moved steadily on the road to Appomattox Court House. Thence its march was ordered by Campbell Court House, through Pittsylvania, toward Danville. The roads were wretched and the progress of the trains slow.

By great efforts the head of the column reached Appomattox Court House on the evening of the 8th, and the troops were halted for rest. The march was ordered to be resumed at 1 A.M. on the 9th. Fitz Lee, with the cavalry, supported by Gordon, was ordered to drive the enemy from his front, wheel to the left, and cover the passage of the trains, while Longstreet, who from Rice's Station had formed the rear-guard, should close up and hold the position. Two battalions of artillery and the ammunition wagons were directed to accompany the army, the rest of the artillery and wagons to move toward Lynchburg.

In the early part of the night the enemy attacked Walker's artillery train near Appomattox Station on the Lynchburg railroad, and were repelled. Shortly afterward their cavalry dashed toward the Court House, till halted by our line.

During the night there were indications of a large force massing on our left and front. Fitz Lee was directed to ascertain its strength, and to suspend his advance till daylight if necessary. About 5 A.M., on the 9th, with Gordon on his left, he moved forward and opened the way. A heavy force of the enemy was discovered opposite Gordon's right, which, moving in the direction of Appomattox Court House, drove back the left of the cavalry and threatened to cut off Gordon from Longstreet. His cavalry at the same time threatening to envelop his left flank, Gordon withdrew across the Appomattox River, and the cavalry advanced on the Lynchburg road and became separated from the army.

Learning the condition of affairs on the lines, where I had gone under the expectation of meeting General Grant to learn definitely the terms he proposed in a communication received from him on the 8th, in the event of the surrender of the army, I requested a suspension of hostilities until these terms could be arranged. In the interview which occurred with General Grant in compliance with my request, terms having been agreed on, I surrendered that portion of the Army of Northern Virginia which was on the field, with its arms, artillery, and wagon-trains, the officers and men to be paroled, retaining their side-arms and private effects. I deemed this course the best under all the circumstances by which we were surrounded.

On the morning of the 9th, according to the reports of the ordnance officers, there were 7892 organized infantry with arms, with an average of 75 rounds ammunition per man; the artillery, though reduced to 63 pieces with 93 rounds of ammunition, was sufficient. These comprised all the supplies of ordnance that could be relied on in the State of Virginia. I have no accurate report of the cavalry, but believe it did not exceed 2100 effective men. The enemy was more than five times our numbers. If we could have forced our way one day longer it would have been at a great sacrifice of life, and at its end I did not see how a surrender could have been avoided. We had no subsistence for man or horse, and it could not be gathered in the country. The supplies ordered to Pamplin's Station from Lynchburg could not reach us, and the men, deprived of food and sleep for many days, were worn out and exhausted.

With Great Respect  
Your Obedient Servant  
R.E. Lee  
Genl.

[ In an April 20, 1865 letter from Richmond, Lee reported to Davis that when stragglers and others heard of the surrender they turned themselves in, increasing the number surrendering to 26,018. -Ed. ]

*(Source: "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War"; "The Written Papers of Robert E. Lee", edited by Clifford Dowdy and Louis H. Manarin; and others.)*

**Minutes of the September 7, 2011 Meeting BVCWRT  
Submitted by Ted Pawlik  
Chip Crowe – Presiding**

Chip Crowe, President of the BVCWRT, welcomed everyone to the 2011/2012 campaign noting that this is the organization's 25<sup>th</sup> campaign.

After the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, a moment of silenced was observed in memory of all those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Chip Crowe announced that the speakers have been scheduled for the entire campaign and a list is being developed of others to speak during the next campaign.

**Preservation Committee: (Bob Sprague)**

Bob Sprague reported that as of June 2011, the BVCWRT donated \$27,000 for land preservation. Money from the book raffle and the book sales all go to preservation. A motion was made to make a donation of \$200.00 from the BVCWRT to the Civil War Trust for preservation of acreage at Second Manassas (Bull Run). Every dollar donated will be matched by \$11.25. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the members present.

**Field Trip: (Greg Buss)**

Due to the difficulty in filling the bus for last year's field trip, this year's field trip will be to Culp's Hill, Gettysburg. Members will drive, on their own or arrange to car pool. The plan will be to meet at the visitor center and board a small bus for a tour with a guide. Culp's Hill was an important site for all three days of the battle. The date will be at the end of April or the beginning of May depending on the availability of the guide. A block of rooms will be arranged for those who wish to stay overnight as well as arrangements for dinner. Details will follow.

**Treasurer's Report: (Dave Walter)**

The 2010/2011 campaign started with a bank balance of \$1734.44 and ended with a balance of \$1732.19, a difference of \$2.25. During the campaign, \$3,500 was donated to preservation. There was a deficit of \$238.00 on the field trip and the banquet made \$719.76.

**Other Business:**

Chip Crowe will get some information about a possible field trip to Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia. A number of Civil War generals are buried there. The plan will be to drive to the cemetery on our own and have a guided tour of notable gravesites. More information will follow.

**Program for the Evening:** Dr. Sydney Copel: Civil War Entertainment

**President Lincoln's Cottage Shaken Up By August Earthquake**

By Gwendolyn Purdom Sept. 15, 2011      News From Preservation Magazine

When a 5.8 magnitude earthquake sent powerful tremors through Washington, D.C., on August 23, President Lincoln's Cottage and historic buildings near the National Trust Historic Site sustained significant damage. The 1842 Gothic Revival cottage, which served as a place of respite for Abraham Lincoln and his family during his presidency, and later for Presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and Chester A. Arthur, sustained interior damage estimated in the thousands of dollars, while the 1850s Sherman Building, part of the Armed Forces Retirement Home campus, was hardest hit, with as much as \$17 million worth of damage.

No one was injured when the earthquake hit, but it left cracks in the plaster and underlying bricks, damaged woodwork and window casings, and loosened debris that fell through chimneys in many of the cottage's rooms. At the Sherman Building nearby, large pieces of stone and debris tumbled from the structure. Two additional contributing buildings to the site's National Historic Landmark status, the Italianate-style Quarters One and Quarters Two, were also damaged. The cottage's 1905 Visitor Education Center was unharmed.

Follow site director Erin Carlson Mast around the grounds as she details the earthquake's impact. To find out more about the fund to support ongoing preservation efforts at President Lincoln's Cottage, including restoration of earthquake-damaged sections of the property,

<http://www.preservationnation.org/magazine/2011/story-of-the-day/president-lincolns-cottage.html>



September 23, 2011  
Lieutenant Ingraham's Short 'Commish'  
By RONALD S. CODDINGTON

*Aaron Hunt Ingraham pictured early in the war; Carte de visite by an unidentified photographer, circa 1861*

#### **Disunion follows the Civil War as it unfolded.**

The monotony of Army life often left Aaron Ingraham lonely and bored. His thoughts typically turned inward, where he fixated on two topics: money and position.

Ingraham and his family had always struggled with finances. In peacetime they eked out a living on a farm in Amenia, a village near the northwestern corner of Connecticut. His father, George, an ardent Republican with civic impulses, had speculated and lost in a string of entrepreneurial ventures, including soft soap and perfume. Aaron, born in 1839 and the eldest of four children, worked various jobs to supplement the meager income derived from the farm. One winter he taught school to get the family through the cold months. His family's financial straits were a large reason why, in the summer of 1861, he answered President Abraham Lincoln's call for 300,000 volunteers and enlisted as a corporal in the 48th New York Infantry.

Ingraham hadn't given much thought to being an officer when he enlisted. Like many volunteers, the novelty of army life satisfied him. "There is nothing like being a good Soger," he wrote, referencing a popular Irish song, "The Bowld Soger Boy."

Aaron Hunt Ingraham pictured early in the war; Carte de visite by an unidentified photographer, circa 1861 But his family's experience with poverty seems to have led Ingraham to dream big. In letters home, he longed for fame and fortune. "When I come to be President I will make a splurge," he once mused to his parents. In the same letter his thoughts took a serious turn. "What a pity I was born poor," he lamented. "Had I been rich I might have been more ambitious - had I been more ambitious might have known something - had I known anything I might have been in a different position." He yearned desperately to be an officer. His desire for a lieutenant's commission - or a "commish," as he once called it - underscored many of his letters.

One benefit of being a "Soger" was regular pay, and Ingraham sent as much of it home as possible. Still he fretted about finances. On Sept. 25, 1861, less than a month into his enlistment, he wrote home, "I have business enough to be sure for the present but for fear the war might stop suddenly would like to have another situation in view & in fact dont know but could be persuaded to leave the ranks for a fat situation."

To supplement the family coffers, he sold milk to his fellow soldiers at a profit. His father purchased Borden's condensed milk and mailed it to Ingraham, who had moved with his regiment to Daufuskie Island, along the South Carolina coast. "People here generally like the condensed best (though I like the solidified) - send me a box of each as soon as convenient," he wrote home in the spring of 1862. Ingraham recommended his father send other goods to sell, including coffee and revolvers.

By this time Ingraham had advanced to quartermaster sergeant. This entitled him to wear a pair of chevrons on his sleeves, but not the coveted shoulder straps of an officer. The excitement of his new duties, however, soon waned. "I am getting tired of being a common soldier," he wrote during the summer of 1862. "I have seen so many officers in responsible positions who at home I should call my inferior." Many of these officers, he noted, gained their positions by shameless self-promotion and sending representatives to the state capital in Albany to lobby on their behalf.

In letter after letter, Ingraham wrote in frustration about the men who belonged to the elite officer corps he wished to join - and heaped words of praise on his comrades in the ranks from whom he wanted to depart:

If there is any class of people who command the respect & gratitude of the masses or who need their sympathy & kindness it is the common soldier - not that we have done any more than we ought - or would do again - but we have been humbugged so much by ambitious politicians & speculators - that we feel hurt & disheartened & wish most earnestly for the war to end that we may once more enjoy the blessings of a Democratic government where a man is esteemed according to his real worth & not merely respected on account of position. I have often been afraid this war would engender a feeling of superiority - a spirit of aristocracy throughout the nation which allow me to say would be one of the leading steps to the downfall of the Republic.

In late 1862, Ingraham finally launched a personal campaign to secure a commission. He petitioned company and staff officers for recommendations, or "recommends," as he called them. In January 1863, the colonel of the 48<sup>th</sup> informed Ingraham that a formal request for a lieutenant's commission in his name had been sent to Albany for confirmation. Ingraham waited in anxious anticipation for the document to arrive; he debated whether to send his father to Albany to hurry the process along, arranged for an officer's uniform, and considered the financial aspect of his new role.

Interestingly, while the promotion would increase his pay, it would stop the flow of milk money. "Officers are not allowed to traffic at all - they have done a great deal of it & a few do still but dont know as I care to break the orders in that way - if I send for any twill be for someone else in which case I will send the money directly to Borden," he explained to his parents.

Aaron H. Ingraham Letters, New York State Library, Albany, N.Y. Ingraham often signed his letters with a flourish Six agonizing weeks passed before he received his commish. Ingraham announced the good news to his folks, and boasted that he had risen from the ranks to become a second lieutenant. He also acknowledged that there was no military reason for his success. Opportunities to fight battles along this section of the Southern coast were limited compared to other theaters of the war. "To be sure I have never shown any bravery in battle for the best of reasons - none of us have we had a good opportunity - perhaps I should not if we had - that remains to be seen." Ingraham's chances of proving his mettle in battle faded further in June 1863 after he was detailed as acting regimental quartermaster.

Fate intervened as Ingraham tended to his new duties. On July 18, 1863, the 48th participated in the failed assault on the battery known as Fort Wagner, near Charleston, S.C. Casualties were heavy. Among the killed was a first lieutenant in Company C. Ingraham was promoted to replace the dead officer, and slated for a field assignment.

Still, eight more months passed before his superiors released him from quartermaster and other administrative duties. About this time the 48<sup>th</sup> moved to Virginia and joined the Army of the James to participate in operations against Petersburg and Richmond. On June 1, 1864, at Cold Harbor, the quartermaster-turned-combat lieutenant led his company into battle for the first time.

Ingraham and his men, along with the rest of the regiment, arrived late in the afternoon and filed into nearby woods where they assumed they were to make camp. A half hour later, however, the 48th and the rest of its brigade received orders to attack an entrenched Confederate line nearby.

The rank and file fixed bayonets, charged across a field into more woods and occupied rifle pits with little resistance. "Here the men stopped, and commenced firing; but a lull in the fire of the enemy enforced the order to move forward, and in little more time than it takes to write it we had captured and occupied a section of the main line of Confederate works," recounted a captain who later wrote a history of the regiment.

Then, "while we occupied the Confederate line of works," the captain continued, "we were subjected to a merciless enfilading fire, which we could neither avoid nor return effectively. Lieutenant Ingraham, in command of his company, had pressed to the very front, and, while encouraging his men by word and example, he suddenly dropped from my side, and I never saw him more. With a great rush, the enemy was upon us both in front and flank, and we were pushed through the woods, and our wounded and dead were left to their care. Ingraham was a good soldier, a good friend, and a good man." Ingraham's career as a combat officer lasted only a matter of minutes.

***Note:** Misspellings and punctuation in Ingraham's quotes have been left intact. He often underlined words for emphasis, and these have been removed for readability.*

**Sources:** Aaron H. Ingraham Letters, New York State Library, Albany, N.Y.; George W. Ingraham pension record, National Archives and Records Administration; Commemorative Biographical Record of Dutchess County, New York; Aaron H. Ingraham military service record, National Archives and Records Administration; James M. Nichols, "Perry's Saints or the Fighting Parson's Regiment in the War of the Rebellion."

*Ronald S. Coddington is the author of "Faces of the Civil War" and "Faces of the Confederacy." His forthcoming book profiles the lives of men of color who participated in the Civil War. He writes "Faces of War," a column for the Civil War News.*

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Link: <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/09/23/lieutenant-ingrahams-short-commish/>



**Robert Edward Lee** (January 19, 1807 – October 12, 1870) was a career military officer who is best known for having commanded the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia in the American Civil War. The son of U.S. Revolutionary War hero Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee III and a top graduate of West Point, Robert E. Lee distinguished himself as an exceptional officer and combat engineer in the United States Army for 32 years before resigning to join the Confederate cause. By the end of the American Civil War, he was commanding general of the Confederate army. He became a postwar icon of the South's "lost cause", and is still admired to this day.

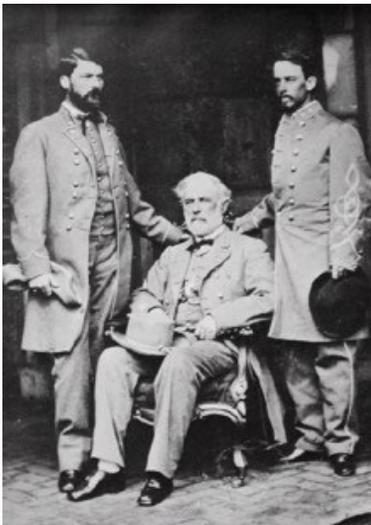
In early 1861, President Abraham Lincoln invited Lee to take command of the entire Union Army. Lee declined because his home state of Virginia was, despite his wishes, seceding from the Union. When Virginia declared its secession from the Union in April 1861, Lee chose to follow his home state.<sup>[1]</sup> Lee's eventual role in the newly established Confederacy was to serve as a senior military adviser to President Jefferson Davis. Lee soon emerged as the shrewdest battlefield tactician of the war, after he assumed command of the Confederate eastern army (soon christened "The Army of Northern Virginia") after the wounding of Joseph Johnston at the Battle of Seven Pines. His abilities as a tactician have been praised by many military historians.<sup>[2][3]</sup> They were made evident in his many victories such as the Battle of Fredericksburg (1862), Battle of Chancellorsville (1863), Battle of the Wilderness (1864), Battle of Cold Harbor (1864), Seven Days Battles, and the Second Battle of Bull Run. His strategic vision was more doubtful—his invasions of the North in 1862 and 1863 were designed to help gain foreign recognition, seize supplies, take the pressure off his beloved Virginia, and mobilize antiwar elements in the North.<sup>[4]</sup> After a defeat at Antietam in 1862 and disaster at Gettysburg in 1863, hopes for victory were dashed, and defeat for the South was almost certain. However, due to ineffectual pursuit by the commander of Union forces after both defeats, Lee escaped back to Virginia. His decision in 1863 to overrule his generals and invade the North, rather than help protect Vicksburg, proved a major strategic blunder and cost the Confederacy control of its western regions, according to critical historians such as Sears and Eicher.<sup>[5][6][7]</sup>

Nevertheless, there is no dispute that Lee's brilliant defensive maneuvers stopped the Union offenses one after another, as he defeated a series of Union commanders in Virginia.

In the spring of 1864, the new Union commander, Ulysses S. Grant, began a series of campaigns to wear down Lee's army. In the Overland Campaign of 1864 and the Siege of Petersburg in 1864–65, Lee inflicted heavy casualties on Grant's larger army, but was forced back into trenches; the Confederacy was unable to replace their losses or even provide adequate rations to the soldiers that did not desert. In the final months of the Civil War, as manpower drained away, Lee adopted a plan to arm slaves to fight on behalf of the Confederacy, but the decision came too late and the black soldiers were never used in combat. In early April 1865, Lee's depleted forces were overwhelmed at Petersburg; he abandoned Richmond and retreated west as Union forces encircled his army. Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, marking the end of Confederate hopes; the remaining armies soon capitulated. Lee rejected as folly the starting of a guerrilla campaign against the Yankees and called for reconciliation between the North and South.

After the war, as a college president of what is now Washington and Lee University, Lee supported President Andrew Johnson's program of Reconstruction and intersectional friendship, while opposing the Radical Republican proposals to give freed slaves the vote and take the vote away from ex-Confederates. He urged them to rethink their position between the North and the South, and the reintegration of former Confederates into the nation's political life. Lee became the great Southern hero of the war, and his popularity grew in the North, as well, after his death in 1870. He remains an iconic figure<sup>[8]</sup> of American military leadership.

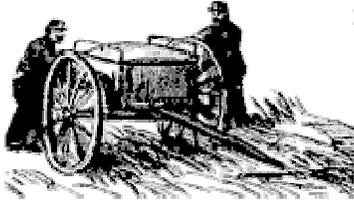
1. [Elizabeth Brown Pryor](#) "Robert E. Lee's "Severest Struggle,"" *American Heritage*, Winter 2008.
2. [Josiah Bunting](#), *Ulysses S. Grant* (2004) p. 62
3. [Jay Luvaas](#), "Lee and the Operational Art: The Right Place, the Right Time," *Parameters: US Army War College*, Sept 1992, Vol. 22#3 pp 2-18
4. [McPherson](#), *Battle Cry* pp 538 and 650
5. [Stephen W. Sears](#), "'We Should Assume the Aggressive': Origins of the Gettysburg Campaign," *North and South: The Official Magazine of the Civil War Society*, March 2002, Vol. 5#4 pp 58–66
6. [David J Eicher](#), *The Longest Night: A Military History of the Civil War* (2001) p 462
7. [It was too late to help Vicksburg](#), counters Albert Castel, "The Historian and the General: Thomas L. Connelly versus Robert E. Lee," *Civil War History* (March 1970).
8. [John F. Ross](#) "Unlocking History: Treasures of Robert E. Lee Discovered," *American Heritage*, Winter 2008.



Lee with son Custis (left) and aide Walter H. Taylor (right) by Brady, April 16, 1865.



Lee mounted on [Traveller](#) (September 1866)



# 2011-2012 Scheduled Speakers

- September 7, 2011 Dr. Sidney Copel "Civil War Entertainment"
- October 5, 2011 Louis Caban "Lee's Retreat"
- November 2, 2011 Dave Walter and Don Ernsberger "Battle of Ball's Bluff"
- December 7, 2011 Dan Cashin "Confederate Privateers"
- January 4, 2012 Hugh Boyle "Dan Sickles"
- February 1, 2012 Jack Lieberman, Capt USN (Ret) "Commodore Percival Drayton, USN"
- March 7, 2012 Charles Zahn "Musical Presentation" plus Annual Spring Social
- April 4, 2012 Flo Williams "The Postal Service"
- May 2, 2012 Carol Berkin "Civil War Women"
- May TBD Trip to Culps Hill, Gettysburg, PA is being planned by Greg Buss
- May 15, 2012 Annual Banquet – Dennis Frye, Chief Historian, Harpers Ferry National Park "Antietam"

*Additional Trips planned possibly to an Exhibit at the Union League and a guided tour of Laurel Hill Cemetery*

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## 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**

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**BRANDYWINE VALLEY  
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

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

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

