



# The Signal Flag



## BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Campaign # 25

Skirmish # 5

January 2012

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### From the Rear Ranks:

A Happy New Year to everyone! This month I have included an excerpt from the New York Times published on January 4, 1861. The article focuses on the reaction of Canada then still a part of the British Empire regarding the Trent Affair.

Respectively yours,

Chip Crowe  
President, Brandywine Civil War Roundtable

### **THE WAR PANIC IN CANADA.; How the Surrender of Mason and Slidell was Received in Canada-Continued Military Preparations in the Provinces.**

From Our Own Correspondent. QUEBEC, Monday, Dec. 30. 1861. The Government of Canada received intelligence from Lord LYONS on Saturday morning that MASON and SLIDELL, with their Secretaries, had been delivered over into the custody of Lord LYONS, and later in the day, the general Press dispatch to the same effect came over the wires. A feeling of relief as from some impending evil at once came over the people, who had been expecting a refusal to give these people up, and a consequent declaration of war. They all seemed rejoiced that hostilities had been certainly postponed, possibly averted altogether, for, as I have before told you, though Canadians would stand by their country's flag in the event of trouble, almost to a man, they do devoutly pray that the evils attendant upon warfare with the States may never overtake them. The impression is that the American Government honored themselves and the nation which they rule far more by yielding to a just, though possibly unpleasant demand, than they would have done by resisting it because it was unwelcome. The Government organ here, the Chronicle, utters similar sentiments, and adds that "the President and his Cabinet deserve all the more credit because they probably acted in opposition to the promptings of a violent and unscrupulous Press, which, if it represents anybody, only speaks for the lowest and most ignorant class of the populace." This is meant for your cotemporary, the New York Herald. You can judge more correctly than your correspondent how far the idea is true. I am sure of this, that the Herald has caused the sympathies of Canadians to be alienated from the Northern cause; by the recent act of President LINCOLN they are in a fair way of being reenlisted in your support against the rebels. Our sympathies may not be worth much, but they are worth having. Meanwhile we are continuing our defensive preparations. We feel that the possibility of war surprised us in a state of utter defenselessness, such as to invite attack. So we are going to make our militia a little more effective. Hon. J.A. MACDONALD, our Attorney-General west, has been appointed, in addition, "Minister of Militia Affairs." The Adjutant-General's Office is being reorganized, and new blood brought in to replace the old fogies, who have let our volunteers go to sleep on their arms these many years; and we shall very likely have 25,000 or 30,000 men tolerably well drilled by next Summer. The Imperial Government, too, continue throwing troops into the Province. The Persia landed nearly 2,000 men at Bic, on the St. Lawrence (though she had to put back to Halifax to land her stores.) The troops that have come, and are coming by other steamers, will march overland to Quebec and Montreal. There is a lingering idea here that the Mason and Slidell matter was but an incident in a course of practice to be regularly adopted towards Great Britain. I cannot at all believe it; and so I can't see any necessity for our having more than 10,000 troops or so in Canada. Perhaps, on the receipt of Mr. SEWARD's letter, the British Government will alter its determination and relax its preparations. I almost hope it may, for it is possible it might be considered an offence by you, and I am confident that the advantages to us of having a few hundred thousand pounds or so of extra British money spent among us, (each regiment causes a circulation of some \$100,000 per annum,) would not compensate us for the harm that a bitter feeling between our respective countries would inevitably do.

~ Officers ~

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

~ Committee Members ~

**Preservation:** Bob Sprague, John Walls  
**Nominating Committee:** Vince Carosella  
**Speakers:** Roger Arthur  
**Trips:** Greg Buss  
**Credentials/Greeter:** Ted and Marilyn Pawlik  
**Round Table Telegram:** Robert Sprague  
**Publicity:** Jim Lawler  
**Historians:** Bob Sprague  
**Social Dir:** Flo Williams  
**Banquet:** Jim Lawler  
**Photographs –** Hank Fisher

~Members at Large ~

David Hoffritz, Dave Kohler, John Whiteside

~ Official Sutler ~

Harriett Mueller: Books / Periodicals  
302-429-6201

~ 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:**

*Happy New Years to our Members.*





*Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table*  
*Come to our next meeting*  
*January 4, 2012*

**Speaker:** Hugh Boyle  
**Topic:** “Dan Sickles – Congressman, Ambassador, General, Scoundrel, Adulterer and Murderer ”  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Place:** West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street

We are honored to have as our guest speaker this month, Hugh Boyle, who is the President of the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table. He will talk with us about Dan Sickles, a man that could be dubbed as the most notorious scoundrel of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was a congressman who got away with murder, a general who disobeyed orders at Gettysburg, an ambassador who carried on a love affair with the queen of Spain. He was known as a famous dead beat and adulterer and embezzler. His exploits still live long after his death. He is truly the American Scoundrel.

Mr. Boyle, as I said above is President of the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table, Executive Director of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum & Library, -Instructor at the Civil War Institute of Manor College and Former Publisher and book review editor of the Civil War Brigadier Newspaper



**Daniel Edgar Sickles**  
**Major General Sickles circa 1862**

October 20, 1819 – May 3, 1914) was a colorful and controversial American politician, Union general in the American Civil War, and diplomat.

As an antebellum New York politician, Sickles was involved in a number of public scandals, most notably the killing of his wife's lover, Philip Barton Key II, son of Francis Scott Key. He was acquitted with the first use of temporary insanity as a legal defense in U.S. history. He became one of the most prominent political generals of the Civil War. At the Battle of Gettysburg, he insubordinately moved his III Corps to a position in which it was virtually destroyed, an action that continues to generate controversy. His combat career ended at Gettysburg when his leg was struck by cannon fire.

**Minutes of the December 7, 2011 Meeting  
BVCWRT**

*Submitted by Ted Pawlik*  
**Chip Crowe – Presiding**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all those who lost their lives during the attack on Pearl Harbor and those service men and service women who lost their lives in all wars to preserve the freedom we enjoy today.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Report for November: Opening balance was \$3291.51. Total receipts for the month were \$159.00. Expenditures for the month were \$300.23 leaving net revenue for the month of - (\$141.23). The closing balance as of October 30, 2011 was \$3150.28.

There are 65 paid members.

**Field Trip: (Greg Buss)**

The revised tentative date for the field trip to Culp's Hill, Gettysburg is May 5, 2012. The guide will be Charlie Fennel. Details of the trip will be finalized by the January 4, 2012 meeting.

***Anyone who has not signed up for the field trip and is now interested is asked to contact Greg Buss at [grbuss @yahoo.com](mailto:grbuss@yahoo.com) or 610-321-1792.***

**Other Business:**

There was an article in the Community newspaper about the Round Table that resulted in additional publicity our organization.

Dan Cashin announced that there will be a Soldiers Christmas Time Line at Fort Mott, N. J. in Pennsburg, N. J. on December 10, 2012. This is an all day event.

**Program for the Evening:**

Dan Cashin: Privateers in the Civil War

## **Civil War Deadlier Than Previously Thought?**

Often referred to as the bloodiest conflict in U.S. history, the Civil War claimed more American lives than any other military action in which the country has taken part. Now, a professor at Binghamton University in New York has used 19th-century census data to show that the most commonly cited death toll 620,000 may significantly underestimate the true human cost, and that the real number of Civil War dead could be upwards of 20 percent higher.

The traditional estimate has become iconic, historian J. David Hacker said. It's been quoted for the last hundred years or more. If you go with that total for a minute 620,000 the number of men dying in the Civil War is more than in all other American wars from the American Revolution through the Korean War combined. And consider that the American population in 1860 was about 31 million people, about one-tenth the size it is today. If the war were fought today, the number of deaths would total 6.2 million.

How exactly did the number 620,000 enter the history books? According to Hacker's paper, which will be published in the December 2011 issue of *Civil War History*, an estimate for the Union Army's death toll 279,689 was deduced shortly after the conflict ended from battlefield reports and muster-out rolls, in which each regiment recorded, often imprecisely, the names and fates of its members. That figure was increased to 360,222 in the early 20th century to reflect applications by widows and orphans for pensions and survivors benefits, which could be claimed whether a soldier had been killed in battle, succumbed to his injuries later on or died of disease. (Historians believe that two-thirds of fatalities among soldiers serving in the Civil War were due to illness.)

### Related Media

Civil War 150 - Interactive  
America Divided - Video  
Meaning of the Civil War - Video  
America and the Civil War - Video  
Related Topics  
American Civil War  
Battle of Gettysburg  
Civil War Technology  
The tally of Confederate Army deaths produced in the late 19th century 258,000 was based on even shakier methodology, as the two Union officers who spent decades attempting to calculate it openly acknowledged. The official and unofficial reports they used did not account for men who died of their wounds off the battlefield, and pension and benefit requests were not taken into consideration. Moreover, while the number was adjusted to include probable deaths from disease and accidents, the estimators assumed that Confederate troops had suffered from illness at the same rate as their Union counterparts. Subsequent research, however, has shown that Southerners, who largely hailed from rural areas with low population densities, were less likely to have been exposed to infections prior to the war and were therefore at greater risk of contracting them; they also had a less adequate supply of clothing, food and medicine.

One hundred fifty years after the Civil War began, most historians recognize that many deaths were never reported for a variety of reasons, including efforts by some commanders to understate casualties, the participation of non-enlisted guerilla fighters and the prevalence of chronic diseases that claimed lives long after hostilities ended. To achieve a more accurate number, Hacker studied newly available micro data samples from the 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 censuses. Looking at the native-born white population between the ages of 10 and 44, he calculated the ratio of male survival relative to female survival for the 1850-1860 and 1870-1880 decades. He then compared the average of this ratio to the 1860-1870 decade, during which the Civil War took place. The difference allowed him to estimate the excess proportion of males who failed to survive the 1860s compared to the preceding and subsequent decades.

Hacker then factored in comparable death rates for foreign-born white troops and existing estimates of mortality among black soldiers. Rounding to the nearest 50,000, he arrived at a probable range of 650,000 to 850,000 deaths, which averages out to 750,000. This number is 20 percent higher than the commonly cited count of 620,000. If Hacker is correct, one out of 10 white men who were of

military age in 1860, died as a result of the Civil War not one out of 13, as the traditional figure implies.

Although this census-based method does not distinguish between Union and Confederate deaths, Hacker was able to discern patterns for various regions of birth. For instance, he concluded that mortality was significantly higher for white males between the ages of 10 and 44 born in the South (13.1 percent) and in the slave-holding border states of Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware (12.7 percent) than for those born in the free states and territories (6.1 percent). At a more granular level, 22.6 percent of Southern men who were between the ages of 20 and 24 in 1860 lost their lives because of the war, according to Hacker's findings.

Hacker believes that his analysis will help illuminate how the Civil War ravaged the American population even after the bloodshed ended, taking a massive human and economic toll on the nation. An accurate tally or at least a reasonable estimate is important in order to gauge the huge impact of the war on American society, he said. Even if the number of war dead was only 620,000, that still created a huge impact, especially in the South, and a figure of 750,000 makes that impact and the demographic shadow it threw on the next two generations of Americans just that much greater.

Source: <http://www.history.com/news/category/american-civil-war/>

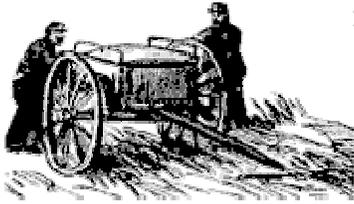


**Battle of Gettysburg**



**1861 cartoon of Scott's "Anaconda Plan"**

The **Anaconda Plan** or **Scott's Great Snake** is the name widely applied to an outline strategy for subduing the seceding states in the American Civil War. Proposed by General-in-Chief Winfield Scott, the plan emphasized the blockade of the Southern ports, and called for an advance down the Mississippi River to cut the South in two. Because the blockade would be rather passive, it was widely derided by the vociferous faction who wanted a more vigorous prosecution of the war, and who likened it to the coils of an anaconda suffocating its victim. The snake image caught on, giving the proposal its popular name.



# 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 Zahm “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**

