



The Signal Flag



BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Campaign # 27

Skirmish # 5

January 2013

From the Rear Ranks:

Greetings Members!

I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas and Holiday season! I apologize that this is slightly late coming out but after an extended period without internet connectivity as well as several fire-drills at work, that's how it is. This month we are having a traditional roundtable meeting which will involve discussion topics. I have listed out the topics I received below but if anyone has other ideas I would more than welcome them. This month 150 years ago saw several milestones in the War of the Rebellion. Two of the most important was the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation as well as the critical western Battle of Murfreesboro. Below is a description of the battle from the New York Times published on January 3, 1863. I look forward to seeing you all on January 2nd.

Respectively,
Chip Crowe
President,
Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table

The Battle in Tennessee.

January 3, 1863

The last day of the old year went out in quiet all over the great theatre of military operations excepting in Middle Tennessee. But there, on that day, one of the greatest, and we judge it will prove to be the very greatest battle yet known in the Southwest, was fought. The only other Southwestern battle that equals it in the magnitude of the forces engaged, was the battle of Pittsburgh Landing -- and that only on the second day, after the arrival of BUELL's column. The army of Gen. ROSECRANS comprises the greater part of the magnificent force so long drilled and manoeuvred by Gen. BUELL in Kentucky and Tennessee, and which was transferred to Gen. ROSECRANS after BUELL had failed, in Northern Kentucky, to destroy with it the same rebel army which it has now again met near Murfreesboro. The opposing rebel force is, next to the army at Fredericksburgh, the largest rebel army in the South. It was recently reviewed by JEFF. DAVIS; and in the account of the review published in the Chattanooga Rebel, the columns of Polk, Bragg, Hardee, Breckinridge, Cheatham and others were mentioned as being present. The whole, we believe, was under the immediate command of Gen. BRAGG, who handled the same army during the campaign in Kentucky. For, although Gen. JOSEPH JOHNSTON is the Commander of the Department, it was said when he took command that he was only to be a sort of closet strategist or Generalissimo, and not to lead in the field. We judge it would be a fair estimate to put each of the armies at at least eighty thousand men.

It was on Friday of last week that ROSECRANS moved out from Nashville to attack the rebel, army. By next day, he was in the vicinity of Murfreesboro' and had some sharp skirmishing. He remained quiet on Sunday, but on Monday morning, his army, divided into three bodies, moved by different roads upon the enemy's position. On Tuesday he occupied the city, the rebels retiring some distance South, though not, we judge, as far as Tullahoma, as is asserted in one of the dispatches. He came up with the enemy's main body on Wednesday, and gave it battle. Concerning the engagement of that day, we have a dispatch from Gen. BOYLE, which comes from Murfreesboro on New-Year's Day, asserting that the battle had been a terrible one, and that the losses were reported to be enormous, but that things looked favorable for us at noon. Another dispatch, dated

on the afternoon of the battle, said that the enemy had been driven a mile, that his intrenchments were in our hands, and that we were then advancing our whole line. But the reports are as yet extremely meagre and unsatisfactory, and for what we know of the further progress of operations, we shall have to refer our readers to the telegraphic columns, where will be found everything received up to the moment of going to press.

(Source New York Times)



~ Officers ~

President: Chip Crowe
Vice President: Hank Fisher
Secretary: Ted Pawlik
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~ Committee Members ~

Preservation: Bob Sprague, John Walls
Nominating Committee: Vince Carosella
Speakers: Vacant (currently by committee)
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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<http://bvcwrt.home.comcast.net>

BVCWRT Blog:

<http://bvcwrt.blogspot.com/>

BVCWRT Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/BrandywineValleyCivilWarRoundTable>

Webmaster: Jim Lawler

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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



****We are wheelchair assessable***

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



Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table
Come to our next meeting
January 2, 2012

Speaker: Traditional Roundtable Discussion
Topic: See Topics Below
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street

Roundtable Discussion Topics

1. A turning point may be defined as: a decisive moment, or the deviation from a straight course. Which of the following was a turning point in the course of the American Civil War? 1) The death of Albert Sydney Johnson at the Battle of Shiloh? 2) Lee replacing Johnson at the Battle of Fair Oaks? 3) "Stonewall" Jackson dying of pneumonia following his wounding at Chancellorsville. EXPLAIN
2. Clearly General McClellan seemed to have all the tools to be a successful general for the Union. However it became clear he was no battlefield commander. He lacked the ability to deal with the horrors of battle or take risks during combat. If McClellan was less of an egotist would there have been a way he could have made a positive contribution to the war effort?
3. Gettysburg today is seen as the major turning point in the war and also the start of the decline of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. However contemporaries just after the battle did not view Gettysburg in this way. Why is that?
4. Discuss how the tactics specifically later in the war i.e. Petersburg contributed to the thoughts and methodology used on the Western Front in World War I



2012-2013 Scheduled Speakers

- **Sep 5, 2012:** Sid Copel - "Notable Civil War Personalities"
- **Oct 3, 2012:** Roger Arthur - "1862"
- **Nov 7, 2012:** Mike Plunkett - Musical Presentation: "Paddy Has Gone For A Soldier"
- **Dec 5, 2012:** Don Ernsberger - "Meade's Breakthrough with the PA Reserves at Fredericksburg"
- **Jan 2, 2013:** Traditional Round Table Discussion
- **Feb 6, 2013:** Christopher Densmore - "Emancipation and the Pennsylvania Quakers"
- **Mar 6, 2013:** Charlie Zahm - "Civil War Music"
- **Apr 3, 2013:** John Michael Priest - "Into the Fight: Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg"
- **May 1, 2013:** Melissa Yiaski Rabinsky - "Mary Todd Lincoln : Before, During and After Mr. Lincoln"
- **May 14, 2013:** (Annual Banquet): Robert L. Hodge - "Confederates in the Attic"

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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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