



# The Signal Flag



## BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

**Campaign # 27**

**Skirmish # 6**

**February 2013**

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### From the Rear Ranks:

Greetings Members!

I hope everyone enjoyed last month's traditional roundtable format. There were some great discussions and conclusions from each group. This month's presentation by Chris Densmore will explore the Emancipation Proclamation in associate with the Quakers. This is appropriate given we have just passed the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its passage. I hope to see you all this coming week and for your amusement I have included Abraham Lincoln's letter to General Hooker as he took command of the Army of the Potomac.

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

Letter to General Joseph Hooker  
January 26, 1863

Executive Mansion  
Washington, January 26, 1863

Major-General Hooker:  
General.

I have placed you at the head of the Army of the Potomac. Of course I have done this upon what appear to me to be sufficient reasons. And yet I think it's best for you to know that there are some things in regard to which, I am not quite satisfied with you. I believe you to be a brave and skillful soldier, which, of course, I like. I also believe you do not mix politics with your profession, in which you are right. You have confidence in yourself, which is a valuable, if not an indispensable quality. You are ambitious, which, within reasonable bounds, does good rather than harm. But I think that during Gen. Burnside's command of the Army, you have taken counsel of your ambition, and thwarted him as much as you could, in which you did a great wrong to the country, and to a most meritorious and honorable brother officer. 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 setup up dictators. What I now as of you is military success and I will risk the dictatorship. The government will support you to the utmost of its ability, which is neither more nor less than it has done and will do for all commanders. I much fear that the spirit which you have aided to infuse into the Army, of criticisizing their Commander, and withholding confidence from him, will now turn upon you. I shall assist you as far as I can, to put it down. Neither you, nor Napoleon, if he were alive again, could get any good out of an army, while such spirit prevails in it.

And now, beware of rashness. Beware of rashness, but with energy, and sleepless vigilance, go forward, and give us victories.

Yours very truly  
A. Lincoln

(Source Abraham Lincoln: His Speeches and Letters p. 693-4)



**~ Officers ~**

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

**~ 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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**BVCWRT Web Site:**

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

**BVCWRT Blog:**

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

**BVCWRT Facebook Page:**

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

**Webmaster:** Jim Lawler

[dtownjim@comcast.net](mailto:dtownjim@comcast.net)

**\*We are wheelchair assessable**

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

**Signal Flag January 2013**



**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**





*Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table*  
*Come to our next meeting*  
*February 6, 2013*

**Speaker:** Christopher Densmore  
**Topic:** Emancipation and the Pennsylvania Quakers  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Place:** West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street

Our speaker for this month is Christopher Densmore. He will be discussing the Emancipation Proclamation and Quakers. Mr. Densmore has held the position of Curator at the Swarthmore College Friends Library, a position he has held for over 12 years. Previously he was the University Archivist at the State University of New York at Buffalo for 27 years. He received a BA in History from Oberlin College and Masters in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is also a member of the board of Chadd's Ford Historical Society, the Friends Library and the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries.

Mr. Densmore is the author of *Red Jacket: Iroquois Diplomat and Orator* (Syracuse Univ. Press, 1999), co-author of *Quaker Crosscurrents: Three Hundred Years of the New York Yearly Meetings* (Syracuse, 1995), author of introduction to the new edition to Robert C. Smedley's *History of the Underground Railroad in Chester and the Neighboring Counties of Pennsylvania* (Stackpole Books, 2005), and of fifty other publications including articles in *Quaker History*, *New York History*, *Quaker Studies*, *American National Biography* and other publications.

In addition Mr. Densmore has done recent presentations on the following topics: "Early Woman's Rights in Chester County," Hadley Foundation, Unionville, PA, February 27, 2012; "Short History of Quakers in Pennsylvania," Winterthur Museum, Delaware, June 2, 2011; "Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War, Slavery and the Chester County Quakers, Hadley Memorial Lecture, Unionville, PA, January 15, 2010; *Across Regions, Across Religion, Across Race: Quakers, African-Americans and the Underground Railroad*," Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Conference, Cambridge, MD, June 5, 2010

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## **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:

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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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