



# The Signal Flag



## BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

**Campaign # 27**

**Skirmish # 7**

**March 2013**

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### From the Rear Ranks:

Greetings Members!

I hope everyone enjoyed last month's presentation by Chris Densmore. Personally I enjoyed learning about the Quakers and Emancipation as well as hearing about local communities in our area. This month we are lucky to have Charlie Zahm back for the third time at our roundtable. We are fortunate to have such a talented singer and musician perform for us again. I hope to see you all this coming week. For this month I have found an interesting passage in the New York times regarding General Hooker's introduction of more fresh break to the army as opposed to hard tack, perhaps a minor point unless you have ever had the unfortunate experience of having to live on hard tack alone...

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

### FRESH BREAD vs. "HARD TACK."

We are glad to hear of the success of the system inaugurated by Gen. HOOKER for supplying his army regularly with fresh bread. If we may judge of the style of ovens used by the pictures of them given in the illustrated papers they are simple and well contrived, and ought to turn out a good loaf or biscuit. There are professional bakers enough in every brigade of the army to work the matter, as well as the dough, properly. As each soldier is entitled to a pound loaf every other day, we suppose between sixty and seventy thousand loaves will be consumed per diem by the infantry, artillery and horse-marines under command of Gen. JOE HOOKER.

DE QUINCEY<sup>1</sup> says that one can form some conception of the vast mass of human beings who dwell in London by observing the prodigious droves of cattle that march into it daily, never to march out again, but to be devoured by the Cockneys; and on the same principle, some conception can be formed of the magnitude of Gen. HOOKER's army by pondering upon the prodigious pyramid of bread (not to speak of cattle) that it makes away with daily. Sixty thousand pound loaves, if put together endwise, would stretch from the Battery to Seventieth-street; if piled on top of each other, would reach -- not quite to the Dog-Star; if they were used for a breastwork, with a hungry army to defend them, all the rebels in the South, with JEFF. DAVIS at their head, could not capture it.

We hope that as Gen. HOOKER has introduced the fresh bread ration into his army, he will look around occasionally to see that the bakers furnish a good, light, digestible article. There is nothing worse for the stomach and pluck of the troops than damp, heavy, half-cooked bread. A single meal of it, on the eve of a battle, would almost certainly insure defeat. We are no special admirers of the bran-bread school of philosophers; but in favor of bran-bread itself, as an article of diet, there are excellent arguments, which would have more than ordinary force in the army. Everybody knows that there are some quite valuable elements of the flour lost in the super-refining process; and many a dyspeptic can testify to the value of the invention of Rev. Mr. GRAHAM. Corn bread or "dodgers," also, would form an excellent article for the army -- cheap, nutritious and

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<sup>1</sup> Of course, English author Thomas De Quincy (1785-1859) had also advocated consuming opium.

wholesome. All the Western troops would far prefer it to the flour bread, and their preference would be justified by chemistry, physiology and experience. The rebel soldiers, it is true, live on this article to a great extent; but we do not see that that furnishes any argument why our gallant boys should live on an article which is in every way its inferior. Corn bread and bacon; corn bread and coffee! They're dishes fit for a sovereign, or an army of sovereigns, such as Gen. JOE HOOKER commands.

(Source New York Times Article Published March 4, 1863)



**~ 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)



**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  
March 6, 2013*

**Speaker:** Charlie Zahm  
**Topic:** Civil War Musical Presentation  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Place:** West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street

Our speaker for this month is Charlie Zahm. This is Charlie's third appearance at the Brandywine Civil War roundtable. We are fortunate to have him back again.



Original flag march 2013

**Charlie Zahm** 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. Just a few years ago 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 finally 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. They were exactly right! 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 Zahm of the Third Ohio Cavalry at a library in Ohio (pictured here), Charlie found the first of many family connections to the War. Col. Zahm—still much revered in Ohio—was the uncle of the first Charles Louis Zahm (and lent his name to the child), and 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 singing songs of either side of the Conflict, 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 reenactments, 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 Zahm, his music and his scheduled performances, visit [www.charliezahm.com](http://www.charliezahm.com).



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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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