

The
ANGLE

MAY/JUNE 2011

A bimonthly publication of the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Visit us online at cwrtablegetty.org

"It was because we failed to do the thing we really have a genius for, which is compromise. Americans like to think of themselves as uncompromising. Our true genius is for compromise. Our whole government's founded on it. And, it failed."

— SHELBY FOOTE
ON THE CAUSE OF THE
CIVIL WAR

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BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Collins, Carl Doucette, Roger Heller,
Mike Hietikko, Linda Joswick, John Scott, and
John Winkelman (past President)



Impending Actions
Information and details about upcoming
Gettysburg Roundtable presentations.

MAY 26TH

**IMBODEN'S
WOUNDED
WAGON TRAIN**

Presented by
STEVE FRENCH

GAR HALL – 7 PM

JUNE 23RD

**THE GETTYSBURG
ADDRESS**

Presented by
JOHN FITZPATRICK

TBD – 6 PM

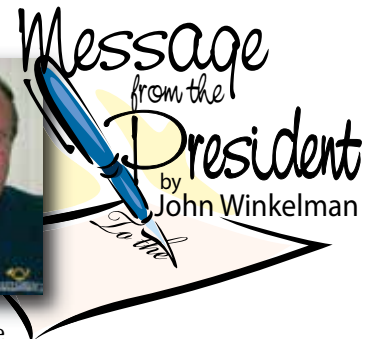
From September to May, we meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at the GAR Building, 53 East Middle Street. Light refreshments and conversation starting at 7:00 PM., and the featured program beginning at 7:30 PM.

Our June, July, and August summer meetings are in the field starting at 6:00 PM, with the meeting location announced in the bi-monthly newsletter and on the roundtable website: www.cwrtablegetty.org.

Whenever treacherous weather is predicted, the CWRT President and Vice President shall determine by Noon on that day whether the program should be cancelled or not. Announcements will be made on television station WGAL and FOX Sports Radio 1320.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting begins at 6:30 PM on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at the Avenue Restaurant.

It is hard to believe that two years have passed and my term as President of the Gettysburg Round Table is ending. It has been a very rewarding two years and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. What made it such an enjoyable experience was having officers and board members who shared ideas and worked together for the benefit of the organization, it was an honor and a privilege working with them.

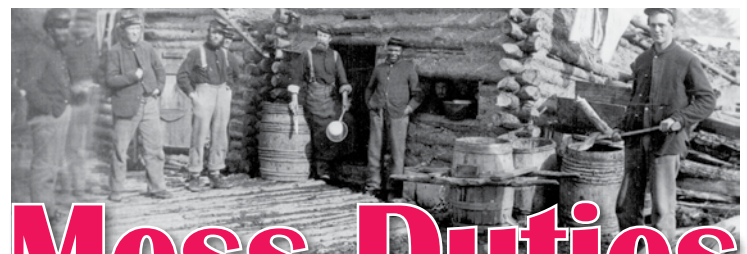


The recent election in April will bring on board new officers but their faces will be very familiar to our members. As I have said in the past new blood is important for an organization, it means fresh ideas and new concepts. I want to congratulate the new officers and wish them all the best. I know we will continue to have great programs and events in the future.

While stepping down as President I will still be on the board for two more years and I will continue doing the articles on the Historic Taverns for the Newsletter.

As my predecessor Joe Mieczkowski was fond of saying: "The Gettysburg Civil War Round Table is the most important round table, in the most important small town, at the most important battlefield, in the most important country in the world." I could not agree more.

John



Mess Duties

May 26 meeting..... Chris Mieczkowski

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

A volunteer is needed to store and bring the coffee pots and supplies to each monthly meeting. After three years of service, Pat & Mary Ellen Fairbairn are retiring. If interested, contact JoyceAnn Deal or Cindy King.

2 BOOK Chat

by Pat Fairbairn, Book Editor

This month's book review is by George Newtown as he assays a new book on Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson.

The Rashness of That Hour Politics, Gettysburg, and the Downfall of Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson

By Robert J. Wynstra

Reviewed by George Newton

In the introduction, author Wynstra asserts that Iverson suffered more damage to his reputation than any other commander in Lee's Army. Wynstra, using exhaustive research, has gathered a flood of fresh, primary evidence about this controversial general's career. The reader is then treated to a journey of this man's life both pre- and post-war. Iverson emerges, at least to this reviewer, as an abrasive personality; a lighting rod for controversy, tactless, mean-spirited, and most certainly one who does not command respect or understand what true leadership really is. He is a strong disciplinarian but does not understand that there are other aspects to good leadership to inspire confidence and respect.

A native Georgian, Iverson's pre-war education included private schools, and a military school in Alabama cut short by the Mexican War. Iverson

(whose father was elected to the US House in 1847) received a commission as 2nd Lt. in a Georgia Volunteer Battalion in the Mexican War but he and his unit spent most of their time sick. After the war, Iverson read law in his father's office and worked for a brief period as a railroad contractor in Georgia. In 1855, he is commissioned a 1st Lt. in the 1st US Cavalry helped, no doubt, by his father's lobbying for his son's selection.

Married in 1856, his wife Harriett died in July of 1861 only a few months after Iverson had resigned from the US Army. He received a Captain's commission, assigned recruiting duty and subsequently assigned to the 10th Regiment North Carolina Volunteers. Rising from there, he would eventually, with Stonewall Jackson's recommendation, become a Brigadier General.

Wynstra takes us through his career in the ANV leading up to Gettysburg. Quick to arrest officers, points fingers at others for South Mountain, and one who doles out discipline but does not take orders well himself, Iverson fails to supervise at Chancellorsville with accusations of cowardice — a perfect storm of problems that will surface at Gettysburg.

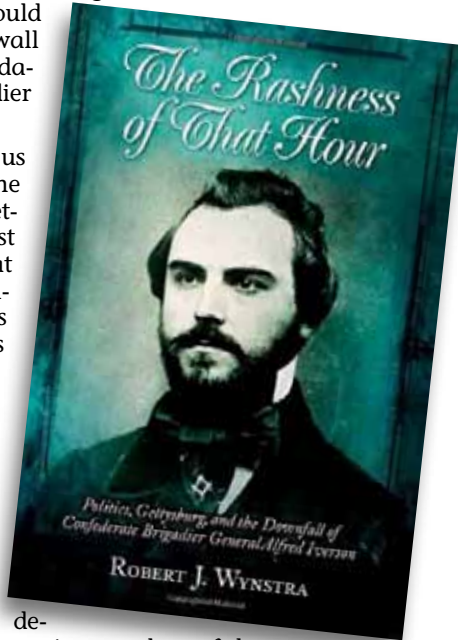
The confusing fight for Oak Ridge is described in detail, but the serious student of the battle will learn nothing really new and will note some minor errors of fact and may also quibble with some areas regarding the battle flow. What is not in dispute is Iverson's actions — or lack thereof.

Post Gettysburg, the vitriol will flow. Iverson is relieved but is then retained in the ANV with help from his father. Eventually, Iverson will be sent to Georgia. The troops he commands will have an excellent day in July '64 that results in the capture of Major General George Stoneman. However, Iverson once again does not seem to be in the lead.

Post-war, Iverson, again married, makes his way to Florida to grow oranges after a failed attempt at inventing an ice-box that was affordable only for the wealthy. After a few successful years in orange production, weather takes its toll. He moves to Atlanta to live with his youngest daughter and dies in 1911 at age 82.

This reviewer was impressed with the primary sources that Wynstra has arrayed and thus I recommend this book. No doubt Iverson has problems and author Wynstra does a fine job of detailing his actions that lead to so much controversy. The reader will come to know Iverson better and find a man not up to the positions he attained.

Published By Savas Beatie, November, 2010 ; 408 pages; \$32.95, discounted to \$21.33 on Amazon; Hard Cover, maps, photo, notes, bibliography, index. ISBN 978-1-932714-88-3.



Come join us!

The Cumberland Township Historical Society was formed recently to preserve the history of Cumberland Township for future generations.

Almost 150 years after the Battle of Gettysburg, many are still drawn to this special place and we've become accustomed to seeing visitors walking the fields where history was made.

Most of those fields lie within Cumberland Township, but few of us know the history of what took place on those fields before or after the battle. We know little of who lived here, farmed the land and raised families. The Society has begun to research sites and structures within the township, some of which are no longer standing. With a strong commitment to education, John Horner discussed the Mason-Dixon house, Horner farm, Centennial School and Witherow's Mill at our first public meeting on March 7th.

Our next public meeting will be June 6th and our guest speaker is Andrew Dalton, who will describe the history of the Emmanuel Harmon farm. The Harmon Farm has just been acquired by the NPS as part of the property formerly owned by the Gettysburg Country Club, and was the scene of fierce fighting on July 1st 1863.

The only requirement for membership in the Cumberland Township Historical Society is an interest in Cumberland Township. We'd like to talk to anyone who has Cumberland Township history, photos, and artifacts to share.

For more information or any questions, contact us at cths_pa@comcast.net or by phone to:
John Horner 334-8916
Speros Marinos 334-9376
Al Ferranto 334-8014
Gerry O'Brien 339-0811
Tom Clowney 334-5406

Got e-mail?

Want to receive your newsletter ahead of traditional mail delivery, and enjoy it in full color? Then join the growing list of members who already receive their newsletter via e-mail. Simply send your e-mail address to Roundtable Treasurer JoyceAnn Deal: jdeal@gettysburg.k12.pa.us, and the next issue will be sent right to your computer on or around July 1, 2011.

Herr's Tavern

This is the ninth in a series of articles, contributed by Round Table president, John Winkelman, on the inns, hotels, taverns and stores that were in Gettysburg and the surrounding communities during the battle. —Ed.

"I want to operate a Public House for travelers and strangers who require sojourn along the Turnpike from Gettysburg to Chambersburg."

So wrote Thomas Sweeney on his tavern license application in 1815. Sweeney had built a two story brick tavern on the Chambersburg Pike just west of Gettys-



burg and he will be granted a license. In the mid 1820's Sweeney is having financial problems and the tavern will be sold at a sheriff's sale in 1828 to Frederick Herr. Herr will be granted a license and he will give his name not only to his tavern but also to the ridge just west of Gettysburg on which the tavern is located.

An article in the Gettysburg Times in 1941 stated that Herr was a scoundrel. There were apparently two reasons for this. First, while he was running the tavern a certain Mr. Louey was making spurious (counterfeit) coins in the basement. Louey will be charged and convicted but nothing happens to Herr. Apparently he either had no knowledge of this operation or had a better lawyer. Second, Herr did not accept the Mennonite faith of his family and was considered an outcast by them.

By the mid 1850s Herr is running into financial problems and is looking to sell the tavern. An ad in the Gettysburg Compiler in 1854 lists the tavern for sale, the property consisted of the tavern, two tenant houses, bank barn, blacksmith shop, and two orchards. 1854 would also be the last year that Herr had a tavern license; from 1856 to 1869 the only tavern in Cumberland Township would be the Black Horse on the Fairfield Road. So at the time of the battle Herr's was not an operating tavern.

During the Battle of Gettysburg the old tavern will be right

on the Confederate battle line on July 1st. A Union artillery shell will hit the southeast corner of the building on the second floor destroying much of the outside wall. Frederick Herr will file a damage claim but he will die in 1869.

His heirs however will be reimbursed by the U.S Government in 1871 for this damage.

Greg Coco in his excellent book *A Vast Sea of Misery* wrote there is little evidence that the tavern served as a field hospital but it may have been used as a dressing station as blood

stains could be seen on an upstairs floor as late as 1986 and six Confederate burials were noted on the property. These men were from the 11th & 26th North Carolina and the 33rd Virginia infantry regiments. A visitor to the old tavern in July 1863 wrote: "Near us was a brick tavern and in the tavern a company of soldiers put up after the battle. We used water from the tavern well, but it got so ugly and smelt so bad we could hardly drink it. The soldiers got sick and we got sick. They thought there were dead frogs in the well and so one day they pumped and pumped to clear it out and by and by here comes up a little piece of

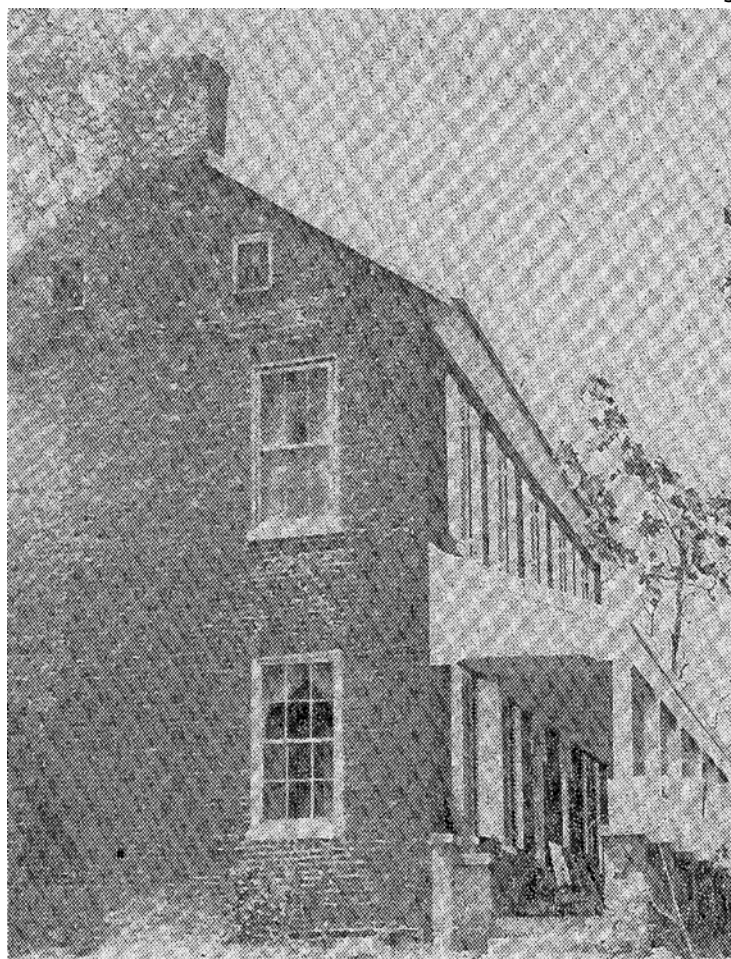


PHOTO COURTESY ADAMS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

wrist and thumb. Now they knew what was the matter and there was a lot of gagging done among them".

In 1869 the Reynolds family will purchase the tavern and operate it as a hotel for visitors to the battlefield. It will then become a private residence for many years until 1979 when the Wolf family will buy it and reopen it as a tav-

ern and restaurant. In 1987 during a terrific storm the roof would be ripped off and the west wall on the second floor would collapse and fall into the first floor. Luckily the Wolf family will rebuild the tavern and it would open for business a year later. Today it still stands high on Herr's Ridge serving the community as a fine restaurant and tavern. ✎

The Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Submitted by Kenneth R. Rice, Newsletter Editor and Membership Chairman

Our meeting will be held at the Ft. McNair Officer's Club in Washington, DC (map available on the website). The dinner costs \$30.00. Please see the newsletter: <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm> for a dinner reservation form, call 703-578-1942, or email John Restall at restall@joi-mail.com. Guests are always welcome. Those who wish to hear the speaker, but not have the dinner, may do so for a cover charge of \$5.00. The meeting starts at 6:00 pm with a social hour, the dinner is served at 6:45 and the presentation starts at 8:00. Please note the entrance to Ft. McNair has been moved to a new gate and search facility on 2nd St.

Here is the meeting and program schedule for May and June 2011.

On May 10, 2011 – Greg Mertz will speak about "Chancellorsville." The reservation deadline is May 9, 2011.

On June 14, 2011 – Garry Adelman will speak about "The Eastern Theater." The reservation deadline is June 13, 2011.

For further information on any of the events listed above, you are encouraged to contact Ken Rice at: <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm>. ✎

MUST SEE'S AT THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM[®]

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Museum Curator Plans Two-Week March as Confederate Soldier

Brett Kelley, curator of collections at The National Civil War Museum, today announced plans to follow up last year's "In Their Footsteps: Walking the Picket Line" fundraising initiative. On Monday, May 16, Kelley will begin a two-week march as a Confederate soldier. He will commence "In Their Footsteps: On the March to Pennsylvania" at the Kirkland statue in Fredericksburg, Virginia and end at the Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on Monday, May 30.

Kelley will trace the route that General Ewell's 2nd Corps took into Pennsylvania after the Battle of Chancellorsville. Ewell took over command of the 2nd Corps after General Jackson was mortally wounded. His corps took the lead of the invasion into Pennsylvania and almost reached Harrisburg before being recalled by Lee to Gettysburg.

In 2010, during "Walking the Picket Line", Kelley lived in a winter quarters hut on the grounds of The National Civil War Museum for a



two-week period of high winds, freezing temperatures and two snow storms that brought nearly two feet of snow to the Harrisburg area.

This year, Kelley will endure marching an average of 16 miles a day over all terrain, sleeping under the stars, wearing a wool uniform in the heat of late May, while carrying a pack and rifle weighing approximately 60 pounds. Just like his 2010 initiative, Kelley will not use any 21st century technology and eat only the rations that a Confederate private would have had available during the Civil War.

To represent the Museum's balanced coverage of the war, Kelley will be in a gray uniform for this year's initiative and he will be marching to raise money for the Museum's education department. The march will also serve as a learning experience for not only Kelley, but also for those who will follow his quest. "This experience will add to my appreciation of what these men went through as they risked their lives for their country and cause," Kelley stated.

Museum staff, volunteers and students from Hershey High School, under the direction of teacher Jeff Mummert, will update Kelley's movements and experiences through blog postings on (onthemarch.wordpress.com), the NCWM Facebook page, Twitter (@cwsoldier24_7) and YouTube (cwsoldier24_7).

Those who wish to donate to "In Their Footsteps: On the March to Pennsylvania" may do so by visiting nationalcivilwarmuseum.org, stop by the Museum or call 866-BLU-GRAY. ☞

NEW & Noteworthy

Drexel University Presents the Civil War as it Came to Philadelphia

(2-disc CD + booklet)



Music CD: For the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, Drexel University students in the history, music, and music industry programs collaborated to produce this 2-disc music CD. We have chosen 14 songs: some famous songs but also some obscure songs with ties to Philadelphia. On disc 1, students from the music program perform the 14 songs as they

might plausibly have sounded in the 1860s (vocal, brass & drum, or fife & drum). On disc 2, students from the music industry program had free rein to arrange and perform the 14 songs in any manner they chose (rock, ballads, and other). The CD comes with a 16-page booklet, which uses the 14 songs to tell the history of the Civil War in Philadelphia. (The CD is currently available at the Drexel University bookstore and through Amazon.)

DROWN THE STAGE WITH TEARS By Joseph Geringer

Lulu Publishers

www.lulu.com

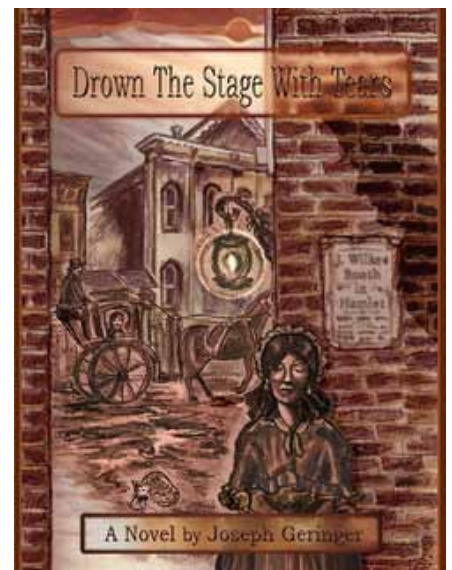
This beautifully written novel, a product of more than 30 years' research, takes you behind the scenes of the Lincoln assassination, relating the story in a way no one has done before—as an allegory to Hamlet.

Meet Shakespearean actor J. Wilkes Booth who, obsessed by a desire to defend his beloved Confederacy, finds himself juggling his own conscience, theatrical heroics and the love of a beautiful woman.

And among the diverse cast of characters acquaint Anna Surratt, his love interest sharing a starring role for the first time; her mother Mary, condemned unjustly as a member of Booth's cabal; and an Abraham Lincoln you never really knew. Stroll the streets of a reanimated, gas-lit Washington City of 1865 during the final poignant months of the American Civil War.

Order your copy today! Go to www.Lulu.com and type "Drown the Stage With Tears" in the search line.

258 pages \$18.99



MAY JUN **Stuff to do** *in the area*

May 13 & 14, Chambersburg. Seminar. Seminar and tour *Jackson and the Lower Valley, Spring and Summer, 1861* with historians Ed Bearss, Dennis Frye, Steve French, Ted Alexander, Andy Waskie & others. Talks, panel discussions, bus tour of Falling Waters Battlefield, Martinsburg, Belle Boyd sites & Harpers Ferry. For information, Chambersburg Civil War Seminars and Tours 717-264-7101 or chambersburgcivilwarseminars.org.

May 14, Frederick, MD. Lecture. *The Sanitary Commission and Their Fairs.* at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 11AM - Noon. For information 301-695-1864 or CivilWarMed.org.

May 14, Gettysburg. Lecture Series. John Scott Adams Seminar Series: *Repulse of Pickett's Charge*, lecture by licensed guide John Zervas at Gettysburg National Military Park. Sponsored by the Gettysburg Foundation. For information, 717-334-3460 ext. 221 or gettysburgfoundation.org.

May 21 & 22, Carlisle. Heritage Days. Army Heritage Day at U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, 9-5. History of the U.S. Army and its soldiers. Living historians, Civil War Road Show exhibit, displays, lectures, demonstration, book sale. Free. For information 717-245-3641 or cumberlandcivilwar.com.

May 28, Gettysburg. Living History. *Voices of the Confederacy*, living history at General Lee's Headquarters, 9-3. For information 717-334-3141.

June 2, Carlisle. Bus Tour. *The Rebels are Coming!* Civil War bus tour of Cumberland County from Cumberland County Historical Society. Free. For information 717-249-7610 or cumberlandcivilwar.com.

June 11, Warrenton, VA. Walking Tour. Col. John S. Mosby and the Mosby Players lead a tour of Old Town Warrenton at 1 PM. There is a 25 person limit. Fee: \$5. For information, Paula Johnson 540-341-7019 or e-mail: pauladrd@aol.com.

June 11, Gettysburg. Living History. *Trial Of The Lincoln Conspirators.* At Christ Lutheran Church, 44 Chambersburg St.; 1:00 P.M. until sentencing. Sponsored by the Lindhill Institute and the Confederation Of Union Generals. A unique Living History event! Experience the drama of the original trial. FREE ADMISSION. Free Souvenir ticket. Call 717-352-9403 for details.

June 18, Gettysburg. Band Festival. Gettysburg Brass Band Concert at GNMP Musuem & Visitor Center, evening concerts at the Pennsylvania Memorial. Free. For information 717-334-1124 ext 3251.

June 18, 21, & 25, Gettysburg. Stories and Songs. *Stories and Songs of a Civil War Hospital.* Candlelight at Historic Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 8 PM. Period music with professional musicians, sing-alongs, poetry, readings from hospital diaries. Free; handicap accessible; refreshments. For information 717-334-5212.

June 24-26, Frederick, MD. Banjo Conference. Conference of banjo scholars, makers, and players at the National Musuem of Civil War Medicine. Saturday concert. \$40, limited to the first 40 players. For information 301-695-1864 or www.CivilWarMed.org.

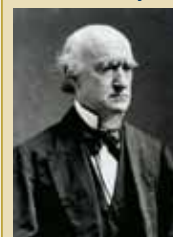
June 24-26, Gettysburg. Civil War Show. 37th Gettysburg Civil War Collector's Show at Allstar Complex, Eisenhower Inn. Friday early admission 12-7, \$100. Saturday 10-5. Sunday 9-2, \$7 over age 12. Hosted by Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Assn. For information 717-334-2350 or e-mail: bill@uniondb.com.

June 24-26, Shippensburg. Reenactment. March to Destiny, 10th Anniversary in Historic Shippensburg. Portrays events of late June 1863 Confederate occupation. Living history, street skirmish, luminary memorial service, community breakfast, firing drills, children's activities, parade, speakers, Civil War ball, Victorian tea, period music, buggy rides, church service. Bounty for horses & artillery. For information, Bill Chain 717-241-6036; Jim Baumgardner 717-477-0703; registration, Tammy Butler 717-530-1259, or visit website: marchtodestiny.org.

June 30, Hunterstown. Walking Tour. 7th Annual Battle of Hunterstown Walking Tour, 11 AM at the Historic Tate Farm. Walking tour with Mike Vallone. Encampment by 16th PA Volunteers, Co. G. Luncheon 12:30 provided by the Ladies of Cornerstone Worship Church, \$10. Speaker Steve Alexander as George Custer, 2 PM. Living History, generals, cavalry demonstrations, music, authors & artists. Free. Sponsored by the Hunterstown Historical Society. For information hunterstown1863@aol.com or hunterstown-hhs.org.

150
years ago

May 1, 1861



Judge Campbell

Troops continued to pour into Washington, including the New York Fire Zouaves of Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth. The Federal Navy placed the mouth of the James River and Hampton Roads, VA, under strict blockade. Judge John A. Campbell, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, resigned, and eventually became Assistant Secretary of War of the Confederacy.

May 13, 1861

Without permission from Army Headquarters, Brig. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler moved troops from Relay Station, MD into Baltimore and took possession of Federal Hill. Butler claimed he had reports of a riot in the city.

May 24, 1861

As stealthily as partially trained troops could move, the Federals advanced across the Potomac at Washington and occupied Alexandria, VA. Added to the strategy and the thrill of the first advance, was the tragic, dramatic death of youthful Elmer Ellsworth.



June 3, 1861

The "Little Giant" was dead. In Chicago the 48 year old senator from Illinois and former presidential candidate succumbed in the Tremont House of typhoid fever, following physical exhaustion.

June 30, 1861



Below New Orleans, C.S.S. *Sumter*, commanded by Raphael Semmes, ran the blockade and with three lusty cheers from the crew began a spectacular career as a commerce raider, causing consternation to Federal shipping. U.S.S. *Brooklyn* gave chase but soon lost her.

THE VIRGINIA CENTER FOR CIVIL WAR STUDIES HAS LAUNCHED THE ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

BLACKSBURG, Virginia (April 12, 2011) The Essential Civil War Curriculum, a Sesquicentennial Project of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies and the History Department of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) was launched today under the URL www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com.

The Essential Civil War Curriculum is a website that contains a definitive list of Civil War topics and related content that public and academic audiences wishing for a broad understanding of the Civil War should study, housed at the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. For the average person interested in the Civil War the challenge today is that there is too much information. Google any Civil War topic on the internet and the reader will be presented with thousands of hits. Whether the information is accurate, whether it's worth looking at, whether the reader is looking for the right information, is not answered. What do those interested in the Civil War need to know to increase their knowledge and understanding of this important event in American history? The Essential Civil War Curriculum, overseen by professional Civil War historians, guides the reader to the important topics and sources that every student of the Civil War, amateur or professional, needs to understand.

The Essential Curriculum is owned by the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies and is sponsored by Professor William C Davis and Dr. James I. Robertson Jr. They are working with Mr. Laurie Woodruff who conceived, financed and manages and edits the website and the Essential Civil War Curriculum. A Board of Historians composed of the country's most eminent Civil War scholars individually and collectively approves all scholars wishing to contribute to the website and all postings and content produced from contributors through the wiki model under which the Essential Civil War Curriculum is managed.

The Center's mission is to be "a formal entity for studying and sharing knowledge" about the Civil War, and in particular to "target both academic and public audiences." The Essential Civil War Curriculum has been designed to achieve these objectives and therefore will appeal to young and old; the academic scholar, amateur historian, teacher and student. The website's content is produced under a wiki model. By invitation from the sponsors,

Our Cause: Increasing interest in and knowledge of the American Civil War during the Sesquicentennial.

individual scholars can contribute by populating the topics. A member of the Board of Historians will review and approve all contributions and the website's sponsors will have final say on whether any contributed content is actually posted on the site, thereby ensuring the quality of the information.

Eventually the website will house information on over 400 topics. We have launched the website with only a handful of topics completed, by members of our Board of Historians, to encourage other scholars to participate in the process and we expect the content to grow rapidly and steadily. If readers do not find what they are looking for initially, we encourage them to keep coming back and meanwhile to browse what has been published.

Notable Quotables from Pat Fairbairn

"When the cry goes out that the ship is in danger of sinking, the first duty of every man on board...is to lend all the strength he has to the work of keeping her afloat. At stake is the fate of the most magnificent example of self-government known to history."

Charles Francis Adams, Sr., Massachusetts Congressman, son of John Quincy Adams, Grandson of founding father, John Adams, in January 1861, expressing his thoughts on the crisis of disunion.