The ANGLE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

A bimonthly publication of the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Visit us online at cwrtgettysburg.org

"The art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can, and keep moving on."

– Ulysses S. Grant, statement to John Hill Brinton, at the start of his Tennessee River Campaign, early 1862

OFFICERS AND SUPPORT

Cindy King 717.359.7138
President ..... *cindyk1863@yahoo.com*

Joe Mieczkowski 717.642.9351
Vice President ..... *j-cmieczkowski@comcast.net*

Lynn Heller 717.398.2072
Secretary ..... *strangequark7577@hotmail.com*

JoyceAnn Deal 717.338.1892
Treasurer ..... *jdeal@gettysburg.k12.pa.us*

Dave Joswick 717.877.3975
Newsletter ..... *art-masters@comcast.net*

Linda Joswick 717.253.5477
Webmaster ..... *linda_joswick@yahoo.com*

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Impending Actions

Information and details about upcoming Gettysburg Roundtable presentations.

JANUARY 26TH

FIRST PERSON NARRATIVE: *THROUGH THE EYES OF PVT. RUSSELL*

*Over the last eighteen years, **CW Whitehair** has portrayed both a civilian and military Civil War re-enactor. He is a volunteer Historical Interpreter for the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and a member of the Harpers Ferry Historical Association. He is also recognized by the Harpers Ferry Merchants' Association as its resident author.*

Whitehair has written for various Civil War publications. He has two historical novels to his credit. He has also written two historical books. In 2007, he wrote the best selling short story for Amazon: The Struggle For Harpers Ferry. His next project is the republication of the Valley News Echo.

Whitehair has appeared in historical documentaries and several movies. He has given many lectures on historical issues and is also a guest speaker at roundtables, historical associations, schools, reenactments, civic organizations, book festivals, and libraries.

CW Whitehair is a direct descendent of Israel Russell, one of the last nine hostages held by John Brown during his Harpers Ferry raid in October, 1859.

JANUARY'S PRESENTATION

On July 3, 1863, Major-General George Pickett led a charge against the Union center that gained nothing but glory. One of the three brigades that took part in the charge was commanded by Brigadier-General Richard Garnett. General Garnett commanded the 8th, 18th, 19th, 28th, and 56th Virginia Infantry regiments. Jonathan Russell, a Confederate soldier and descendent of CW Whitehair was from Loudoun County, Virginia. CW in first person will narrate a very vivid description of the events from his great-great-great uncle's enlistment with the 2nd Virginia Infantry at Harpers Ferry to his service with the 8th Virginia Infantry at Gettysburg. Through the eyes of Private Russell, one will appreciate the trials, adventures, challenges, and the loneliness of separation from family while serving with the Army of Northern Virginia.

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.cwrtgettysburg.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, January 12, 2012 at the Avenue Restaurant.

FEBRUARY 23RD

SULTANA DISASTER

Our speaker will be **Hilda Koontz**, a writer and editor, former journalist, frequent presenter on Civil War topics and a Past President of the Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable. Her presentation is *The Sultana Disaster: Freedom's Dream Gone Awry.* The program explores the loss of the Sultana on April 27, 1865 – America's most costly maritime disaster. Attendees will learn about the hapless souls who traveled on the Sultana that fateful night, their enduring heroic acts, and can decide if this event was a case of greed or just plain incompetence.

Our former President is a consultant and frequent presenter for the National Museum of Civil War Medicine and for the annual "Maryland and the Civil War: A Regional Perspective" conference in Westminster MD.

In addition to the Gettysburg Roundtable, she frequently provides presentations for the Roundtables of Chicago, Frederick MD, Chambersburg, Pipe Creek in Westminster MD, the Carroll County (MD) Genealogical Society, as well as the Exploritas (formerly Elderhostel) program of the YWCA of Gettysburg and Adams County.

In 2009, Koontz served as the editor-in-chief for *A Sanctuary for the Wounded, the Civil War Hospital at Christ Lutheran Church, Gettysburg Pennsylvania* and is currently writing a history of one Maryland family's human contribution to the Civil War.

Hilda Koontz

In her professional life, Koontz served for 20 years as an organizational and career consultant. She earned her Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul MN, and her Bachelors of Arts degree in French and Political Science in Frederick MD.

A long-time reenactor, Koontz is Vice President of the Civilians of Gettysburg and resides in Fairfield.

The Famous railroad watch...a little known bit of railroad history

Train Station Watches Were Just the Beginning

Submitted by Joe Mieczwokski

If you were in the market for a watch in1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station! Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found.

Why were the best watches found at the train station? The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was. Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-ways had already been secured for the rail line.

Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and that was the primary way that they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station. And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches. As a matter of fact they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years.

This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the east. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them.

So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did. He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit.

That started it all. He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers. It worked! It didn't take long for the word to spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches.

Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watch maker to help him with the orders. That was Alvah. And the rest, as they say, is history.

The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods.

Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago – and it's still there.

IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT that for a while in the1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station. It all started with a telegraph operator: Richard Sears and his partner Alvah Roebuck! Sears – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

COOPER'S BATTERY UPDATE

Dear Friends,

Finally, Cooper's Battery B Memorial Shaft replacement Project is in it's last phase. We received the final specifications from the NPS, and are now in the hands of our monument company,

Cooper's was hoping to have an Unvieling ceremony on Remembrance Day weekend, but another date will have to be set. We will be sending out invites when we have a better handle on a date.

Thank you all again for your interest and support for this project. It is close to being a reality.

For Cooper's Battery B,

Keith Foote

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 March 1, 2012.

Field Trip 2012

On Saturday, May 12, 2012, the Gettysburg Civil War Round Table will take a trip to the battlefield of Second Manassas with Licensed Battlefield Guide, Don Walters, leading the way. We will board a Wolf's bus promptly at 7:00 AM at the Gettysburg Wal-Mart parking lot. Lunch will be a choice of an Italian or Turkey hoagie. Water, soda and snacks will be available on the bus. Cost is $75.00 per person. Be prepared for a busy day, rain or shine, with lots of walking on the field.

See the enclosed attachment for all details and to sign up.

Your Membership Dues are Now Due

It is time to renew your membership in the Gettysburg Civil War Round Table. Annual membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. Individual membership is $20.00 and family membership (for those at the same address) is $30.00. A membership form is attached to your newsletter if you need to renew. Membership cards can be picked up at the monthly meeting. See Joyce-Ann at the meeting if you have any questions. A membership renewal form accompanies this newsletter.

MUSEUM PLANS 1862 EXHIBIT FOR SESQUICENNTENIAL COMMEMORATION

The National Civil War Museum will open the second exhibit in a series of commemorative exhibits for the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. "1862" is scheduled to open on January 19, 2012 and focus on the year 1862. It will discuss the rise of Robert E. Lee, the increasingly strained relationship of President Lincoln and General McClellan, costly battles such as Shiloh, Antietam and Fredericksburg, and much more about the events and people that defined this year in history.

The National Civil War Museum will host a wine & cheese reception to preview "1862" on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Civil War Times editor Dana Shoaf will argue that 1862 was the most critical year of the Civil War. While the South had opportunities to gain triumphs in following years, the events of 1862 offered the Confederacy its best chance to achieve victory. Admission to the reception is $10 per person with complimentary admission for Museum members. Reservations must be made by contacting Lynn Smolizer at 717.260.1861 x. 1108 or lsmolizer@nationalcivilwarmuseum.org by January 16, 2012.

The Washington Hotel

This is the thirteenth in a series of articles, contributed by past roundtable president, John Winkelman, on the inns, hotels, taverns, and stores that were in Gettysburg and the surrounding communities during the battle.

On the eastern edge of Adams County sits the small boro of Abbottstown. Founded in 1763 by John Abbott it is the oldest town in Adams County and it also has a rich history of inns and taverns. The founder, John Abbott, was granted a tavern license in 1750 and operated his tavern on the first road that was established here in 1747. As the community grew so did the number of taverns, sometimes as many as four taverns would be operating simultaneously around the square.

On June 2, 1802 John Fox, who had been operating another tavern on the square, will purchase a two story brick building on the southwest corner of the square which he will open as a new tavern the "Indian King". It will go through several other owners until 1836 when Michael Hoffman will buy it and rename it the "Washington Hotel" and it will become an important stop for stage coaches on the York Pike. Hoffman will run the Washington until 1858 when he will turn it over to his son-in-law Francis Wilson and it would be Wilson who was the owner and proprietor on June 27, 1863 when General John Gordon's Confederate Brigade marched into town.

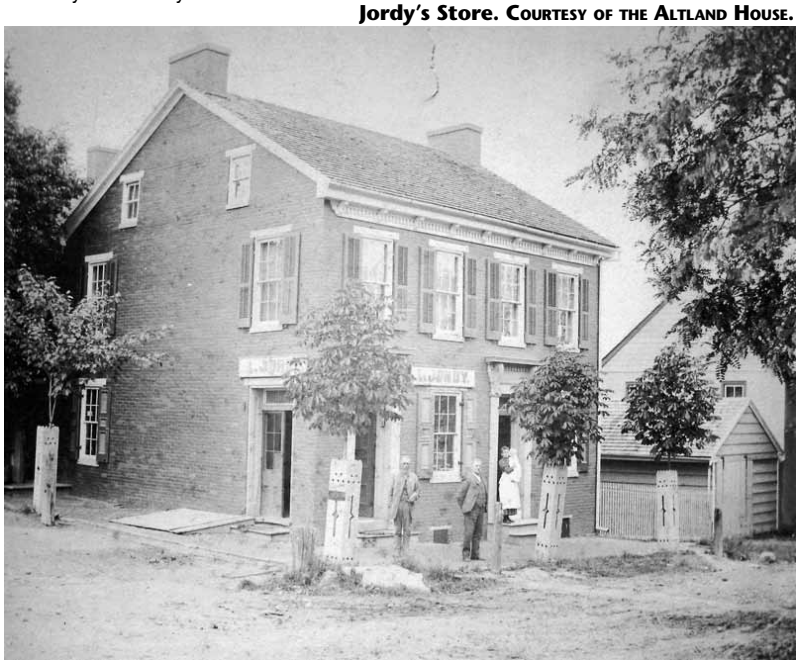
Gordon, who had left Gettysburg that morning, was marching east on the turnpike to York. General Early his commander was marching with the rest of the division on a parallel road to the north. Entering the square General Gordon noticed an elderly gentleman watching his men as they marched passed and thinking to have some fun Gordon rode up to the old fellow and said "General Lee with an army of 100,000 men is coming". The old fellow looked up at Gordon and said "I marched with an army larger than that in Europe".

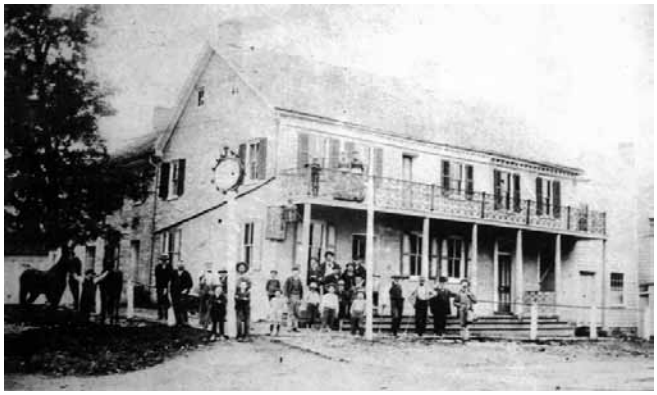
"When" asked Gordon. " I marched with Napoleon's army into Russia in 1812". The old fellow was Mr. George Jordy, a veteran of Napoleon's Grand Army, who with his son Lewis was operating a store on the square. On hearing this General Gordon dismounted and treated Mr. Jordy with the utmost respect and courtesy.

The Confederate invasion of Abbottstown was over very quickly as Gordon and his men continued marching eastward towards York to meet up with the rest of the division. That was good news for Francis Wilson and the other business owners as the southern boys didn't have much time to go "Shopping".

Francis Wilson will run the Washington until 1872. In 1880 Reuban Altland will purchase it but he feels it needs to be modernized and refurbished. He will add a third floor and a new Mansard roof and rename it the Altland House. Today the Altland house is still in operation as a fine restaurant on the square in Abbottstown. The old inn has served the community for 212 years.

Jordy's Store. Courtesy of the Altland House.





The Washington Hotel as it appeared during Civil War. Courtesy of the Altland House.

The Washinton Hotel after 1880 modernization. Courtesy of the Altland House.

Present day photo.

ORDER TODAY

Orders are being taken for GCWRT tee shirts. Shirts cost $25.00 each and can be ordered in blue with white logo embroidery or gray with black embroidery. All sizes are available. Order will be placed in March 2012, and upon arrival can be picked up at a monthly GCWRT meeting.

Also available to order are magnetic name tags for $10.00 each.

You may order shirts/nametags at a roundtable meeting or email Lynn Light Heller: strangequark7577@hotmail.com.

JAN FEB Stuff to do in the area

Jan. 7, 8, 14, 21, 22, 28, 29 Gettysburg National Military Park Winter Lecture Series. Join a Park Ranger for free indoor lectures on various Civil War topics. In the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center Theater. For information go to www.nps.gov/gett or call 717-334-1124 ext. 8023.

NOTE SPEAKER CHANGE: Jan 10 Tim Smith will be the presenter. 7 PM Valentine Hall Adams County Historical Society Gettysburg, PA http://www.achs-pa.org/

Jan 14-16 Free Entrance Days at National Park Service sites. nps.gov.

January 14th, 3:00 PM The Gettysburg Poetry Society will be doing dramatic readings in period costume with the Daughters Of Charity at the Mother Seton Shrine Saturday, with a time line from the Civil War period. Hope you all can come. The program is free! Charity A Fire!

January 18-21 CWEA Civil War symposium Sarasota, FL www.cwea.net/2012tours/2012_SARCW_WEB-October_12.htm

Jan. 19 Robert E. Lee's Birthday celebration at his birthplace, Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Stratford, VA. Free admission 10 am-4:30 pm. www.stratford.org.

Jan 20-Feb 12, 2012 Necessary Sacrifices. Explore the two documented encounters between Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln during a period of national crisis. As Lincoln searches for a way to end slavery in the summers of 1863 and 1864, Douglass's rhetoric and conviction challenges the president to envision a post-emancipation world. Ford's Theatre Washington DC. http://fords.org/home/performances-events/civil-war-150

Jan.21-22 Reenactment, "Battle of Mill Springs," on the historic Mill Springs battlefield near Nancy KY. www.millsprings.net.

Jan. 27 – Jan. 29. Winter Innkeeper's Civil War Ball. Civil War Ball Event. Inns of the Gettysburg Area sponsors the Winter Civil War Ball. Dance Master Briant Bohleke and Music by "Smash the Windows". Full sit down dinner at the Gettysburg Hotel Ballroom. Period Dance lessons included. Please visit www.gettysburgbedandbreakfast.com for more information about this event.

Feb. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 Winter Lecture Series, Gettysburg National Military Park. Join a Park Ranger for free indoor lectures on various Civil War topics. In the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center Theater. For information go to www.nps.gov/gett or call 717-334-1124 ext. 8023.

Feb 16 Ranger program with living history, commemoration of the "Surrender of Fort Donelson," at the Fort Donelson National Battlefield near Dover. 6 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/fodo.

Feb, 18, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Community Free Day. National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg, PA. FREE admission to Museum galleries for all visitors! For details: www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/?q=node/603.

Registration is open for the 18th Annual Ladies & Gentlemen of the 1860s Conference, March 1-4, 2012 in Harrisburg, PA. www.genteelarts.com

NEW & Noteworthy

NEW CIVIL WAR REFERENCE BOOKS

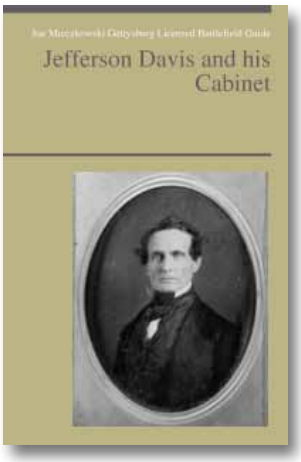
Edited by Joe Mieczkowski, Liscensed Battlefield Guide, Gettysburg National Military Park

While doing research for a battlefield program Joe realized there were few good sources of information concerning the "men behind the curtain" in the administrations of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis. These books are the result of his investigation.

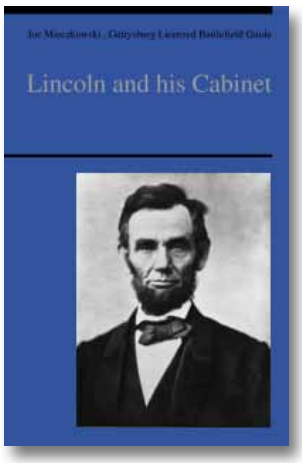
Signed copies are available by sending a check to: Joe Mieczkowski, Civil War Books, 26 Deer Trail Fairfield, PA 17320

The price is $15 for the Lincoln book, $13 for the Davis book, or $25 for both. (Annotate "roundtable" on your check and Joe will donate 10% to the Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable)

Please add $3 shipping and handling (whether you are ordering one or both books).



Paperback • 157 Pages

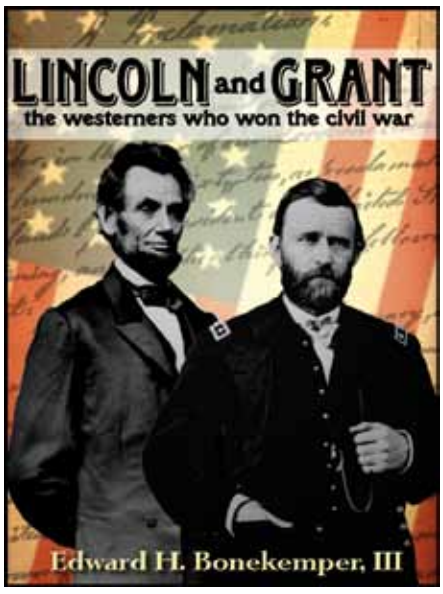


Paperback • 216 Pages

BONEKEMPER RELEASES NEW CIVIL WAR BOOK

I am pleased to announce that my fifth Civil War book, *Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the Civil War*, is now available as an e-book on Kindle and Nook. It will be published as a softcover and hardcover book in February 2012. Unbelievably, this is the first book-length study of Lincoln and Grant, who formed the partnership that won the Civil War.

Edward (Ed) H. Bonekemper, III



Calling all ancestors.....

I am the author of three Civil War books who has just recently begun the research for a fourth. My first books are Lost Soul, Long Time Gone and (the soon to be released) Home Of The Brave.

My new book will be called *No Ordinary Soldier*. My premise is that one CW soldier (only) from each Union and Confederate state will represent said state. I'm looking for men who are not well known (ordinary) but performed feats of bravery and honor. I would also like to tell the readers who these men were in civilian life.

I'm hoping that SUV, SCV, UDC and roundtables around the country would ask its members to suggest candidates representing their state. I think it could be a lively discussion.

I look forward to hearing anyone who would like to suggest an ancestor or any soldier who you believe would be of interest to the readers. The only stipulation is that there be enough surviving material for me to work with.

Please contact me:
Les Rolston
25 Emmons Avenue #4
Warwick, RI 02888
Or at Lesrol2@gmail.com.

Did you know that Mary Todd Lincoln's brother and three half-brothers all fought in the Confederate Army during the Civil War? In fact, two of her half-brothers were killed — one in the Battle of Baton Rouge and the other in the Battle of Shiloh?

Show & Tell

Do you have a Civil War relic, letters from veterans or any interesting artifact from the Civil War? Would you like to tell us about them?

For our monthly meetings we are looking to continue our "Show & Tell" session of about 5-10 minutes where you can show our members your items, tell how you acquired them and what they mean to you.

We'd like to see and hear about them so if you are interested please contact John Winkelman on 717 337 0979 or email gburg1863@comcast.net.

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@joimail.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 January thru June 2012.

On January 2, 2012 – Craig Symonds on *To the Gates of Richmond: Johnston vs. McClellan.* The reservation deadline is January 1.

On February 13 (Note day change) – Richard Hatcher on *The Battles for Missouri.* The reservation deadline is February 12.

On March 13, 2012 – Frank O'Reilly on *Jackson in the Valley.* The reservation deadline is March 12.

April 5-8, 2012 – will be the Annual Field Trip with Ed Bearss; the Vicksburg Campaign.

On April 10, 2012 – John Hoptak on *From Richmond to the Antietam: Lee's Northern Virginia & Maryland Campaigns.* The reservation deadline is April 9.

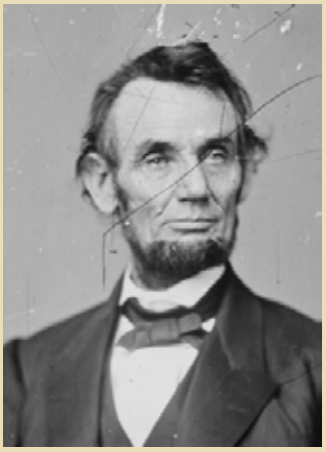
On May 8, 2012 – Christopher Kolakowski on *Battling for the Bluegrass State.* The reservation deadline is May 7.

On June 12, 2012 – Marc Thompson on *Lee Takes Command: Seven Days Campaign.* The reservation deadline is June 11.

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.

150 years ago

January 31, 1862



President Lincoln issues General War Order No. 1 calling for all United States naval and land forces to begin a general advance by February 22, George Washington's birthday.

February 6, 1862

Victory for Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in Tennessee, capturing Fort Henry, and ten days later Fort Donelson. Grant earns the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant

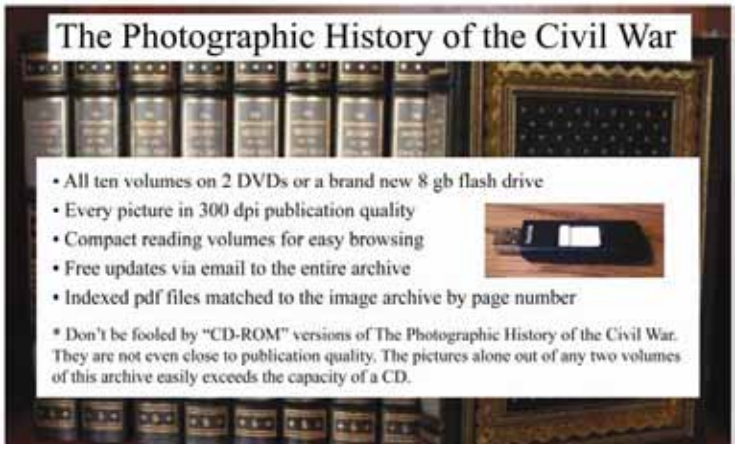
February 20, 1862

President Lincoln is struck with grief as his beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, dies from fever, probably caused by polluted drinking water in the White House.

Submitted by Joe Mieczkowski

Check out these two Special Offers!

For either or both of these offers, contact:
Chet Hearn • 5266 Wolf Run Village Lane • Erie, PA 16505-5524
Questions...(814) 835-4644
NOTE: To use Paypal, simply enter Chet's email address:
hearn4287@roadrunner.com



1 A technological first for university libraries, historical societies, presses, authors, collectors and museums. **Miller's Photographic History** contains more than 2,000 retrievable images. All ten volumes are in public domain and now on two DVDs or one 8gb flash drive. The full text is in normal low resolution, but the 300 dpi photos can be accessed by clicking on the page of the image. An index at the front allows the user to go directly to the volume and page of interest or to browse. Every high resolution image can be downloaded to a hard drive, a CD, DVD, or to an off-site location.

An instruction pamphlet accompanies the DVDs or Flash Drive with instructions and access information to a help line. The same collection can be purchased through Amazon on "Other Buyer Options" for $69.95 for the DVD set or $79.95 for the Flash Drive by accessing any of the following listings.

The Photographic History of the Civil War: All ten volumes on DVD Special Direct: $59.95 for the DVD set or $69.95 for the Flash Drive (Shipping and handling $3.00).

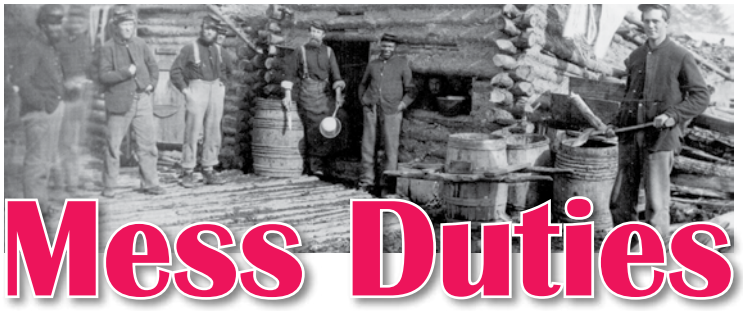
2 **The 821 Maps, plus Engravings and drawings of the Civil War Atlas in 300 dpi**

Originally published in 1891-1895, the collection contains 821 maps, 106 engravings, and 209 drawings. In 1978 Fairfax Press republished the Atlas in a very heavy book 17" x 13" x 2" that weighed about eight pounds and renamed it The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War.

The maps were drawn both during and after the Civil War by Union and Confederate engineers, draftsmen, and aided often by the generals themselves. Cartographers later added to the collection to fill voids in the absence of maps accompanying battle reports. The maps are quite detailed, showing troops positions, defense lines, redoubts, fortifications, signal stations, lines of march, landmarks, and topography. Some are still shown as rough sketches, while others are cartographic masterpieces.

A plate index is provided to facilitate in locating the maps, and all are available in jpeg high resolution 300 dpi. The entire collection is in public domain and can be copied, published, framed, or retained for research.

The DVD is available through Amazon books at $29.95. This offer can be purchased directly by forwarding a check, a money order, or paying by credit through PayPal for $22.50 plus $3.00 postage.



Mess Duties

January 26 meeting	Cheryl Winkelman
February 23 meeting	Cindy King
March 22 meeting	Kathy Rock
April 26 meeting	Open
May 24 meeting	Open

Civil War Roundtable
of Gettysburg, PA
PO Box 4236
Gettysburg, PA 17325-4236