

"It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces."

— ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The ANGLE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

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

Information and details about upcoming Gettysburg Roundtable presentations.

JANUARY 22ND

Harvest Death: A Study in Battlefield Forensics

No mystery about the Battle of Gettysburg has been so perplexing as locating the site of a series of post-battle wet-plate photographs of dead Federal soldiers, one of which was entitled "The Harvest of Death." A multitude of possibilities have been proposed. Through the years Chuck Teague, serving as a Park Ranger, has explained to inquirers why one proposal or another is unlikely. Several years ago, when another site was presented for his consideration, he was surprised in his step-by-step research to find confirmation. In doing so, Chuck discovered things about the terrain and the battle itself, as well as the photographs, that have been unappreciated. One camera angle shows ground that has through the decades been the most disrupted part of the Hallowed Ground, and cannot be understood without careful examination of historic photos and maps. The other camera angle is misleading because of a slight maladjustment on the part of the photographer. By addressing multiple issues the plausibility of a particular site can be established, and even possibly the names of the dead soldiers!

Chuck Teague is a native of Pittsburgh and graduate of Gettysburg College. He also was awarded a Masters of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Law with Specialization in International Affairs from Cornell University. He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the US Air Force, also having served as a Captain in the US Army. He is past-President of the Gettysburg Civil War Round Table, Historic Gettysburg Adams County, and the Gettysburg Adams County Torch Club. Chuck has served for the past 12 seasons as an Interpretative Ranger at Gettysburg. His books on the battle include *Gettysburg By the Numbers* and the recently published *Masters of the Field* at Gettysburg.



FEBRUARY 26TH

York County, PA in the Gettysburg Campaign

One in seven soldiers in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia passed through York County PA in the days before the battle of Gettysburg. For some, the destination was York, the largest town between Harrisburg and Baltimore and a rich prize to be seized. For others, the goal was the Susquehanna River, seeking potential crossings into Lancaster County and their commanding general's unauthorized and impromptu dream of raiding Harrisburg from its undefended rear.

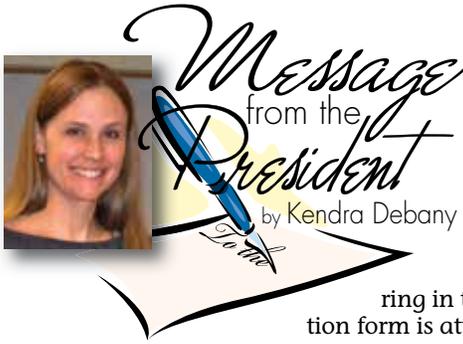
Hundreds of civilians were compelled to donate or sell horses, mules, supplies, and food to the Confederate soldiers, who in turn left their own ideas of the largely German population. Later, JEB Stuart's cavaliers traversed York County for two full days concurrent with the opening of the Battle of Gettysburg. Some observers have speculated that Lee's developing intention was to fight a decisive battle somewhere along the road between Carlisle and York, perhaps in Dillsburg. Come hear author Scott Mingus give a sweeping overview of York County's role in the Gettysburg campaign, beginning with the 87th Pennsylvania's fight at Second Winchester.

Scott Mingus is a scientist and executive in the global paper industry, and holds patents in self-adhesive postage stamps and bar code labels. The Ohio native graduated from the paper science and engineering program at Miami University. He was part of the research team that developed the first commercially successful self-adhesive U.S. postage stamps.

The York, PA, resident has written twelve Civil War books. His biography of Confederate General William "Extra Billy" Smith won the 2013 Nathan Bedford Forrest Southern History Award and was nominated for the Virginia Literary Award for Non-Fiction. He also wrote several articles for *Gettysburg Magazine*. Scott maintains a blog on the Civil War history of York County (www.yorkblog.com/cannonball). He received the 2013 Heritage Profile Award from the York County Heritage Trust for his contributions to local Civil War history.

He also has written six scenario books on miniature wargaming and was elected to the hobby's prestigious Legion of Honor in 2011. His great-great-grandfather was a 15-year-old drummer boy for the 51st Ohio Infantry and other family members fought at Antietam and Gettysburg.





It's almost time for the holidays!!!! Already!

Since the weather is turning colder, and your treks out on the battlefield are growing fewer and shorter, you should plan on joining us indoors for our monthly meetings this winter! Gail Stephens will be here on November 20th to talk about Jubal Early's mission to take Washington, D.C., and our VP Roger Heller has set up some fantastic speakers for 2015! Not to be missed! **Please note that our meeting is one week earlier this month as Thanksgiving falls on our usual fourth Thursday meeting day.**

It's again that time of year to come out and join us in celebrating the holidays and sharing good food, good music, and great company with your friends at the Roundtable! I hope you will be able to join us on Thursday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the Dobbin House. Help us ring in the holidays! If you're planning on attending you must register by November 26th. A registration form is attached to this newsletter for your convenience. I look forward to seeing you there!

Kendra

GNMP NEWS



Gettysburg's winter lecture series begins January 3

The War in 1865 and Beyond

Winter's cold does not deter Gettysburg National Military Park's rangers from continuing to study and present programs on the meaning, significance, and impact of the battle of Gettysburg and the American Civil War. From January through early March, Gettysburg will offer a series of lectures that touch on many different aspects of the Civil War in 1865, with programs expanding beyond the boundaries of the Gettysburg campaign. The consequences of the conflict, presidents and generals, the final battles and profound decisions, the aftermath and reconstruction will be examined.

Programs are held on weekends in the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center at 1:30 PM. The lectures from January 3 to February 22 will be held in one of the theaters and the lectures on February 28, March 1, 7, and 8 will be held in the Ford Education Center. All lectures are free and open to the public.

For a copy of the full Winter Lecture Series schedule go to: www.nps.gov/gett/ or call 717-334-1124 x8023.

Can't make it to Gettysburg? All Winter Lectures will be filmed and made available on the park's YouTube page: www.youtube.com/GettysburgNPS.

NPS winter lecture series to feature battlefield guide

One program in particular has our interest: Saturday, February 14 *A Peculiar Institution – A Century of Licensed Guiding at the GNMP* featuring LBG Frederick Hawthorne.



October 17, 1915 the Gettysburg National Military Park began active enforcement of a newly enacted regulation requiring anyone conducting a tour of the battlefield to be duly licensed. Yet the roots of the uniquely peculiar institution that has become the Licensed Battlefield Guides or LBG's stretch back to the immediate aftermath of the great battle. What caused the War Department to establish licensing regulations and how has the guide force evolved over the past century?

Lincoln Speech Memorial at GNMP has just been rehabbed

Read about it at: <http://npsgnmp.wordpress.com/2014/11/14/lincoln-speech-memorial-repairrehabilitation>.

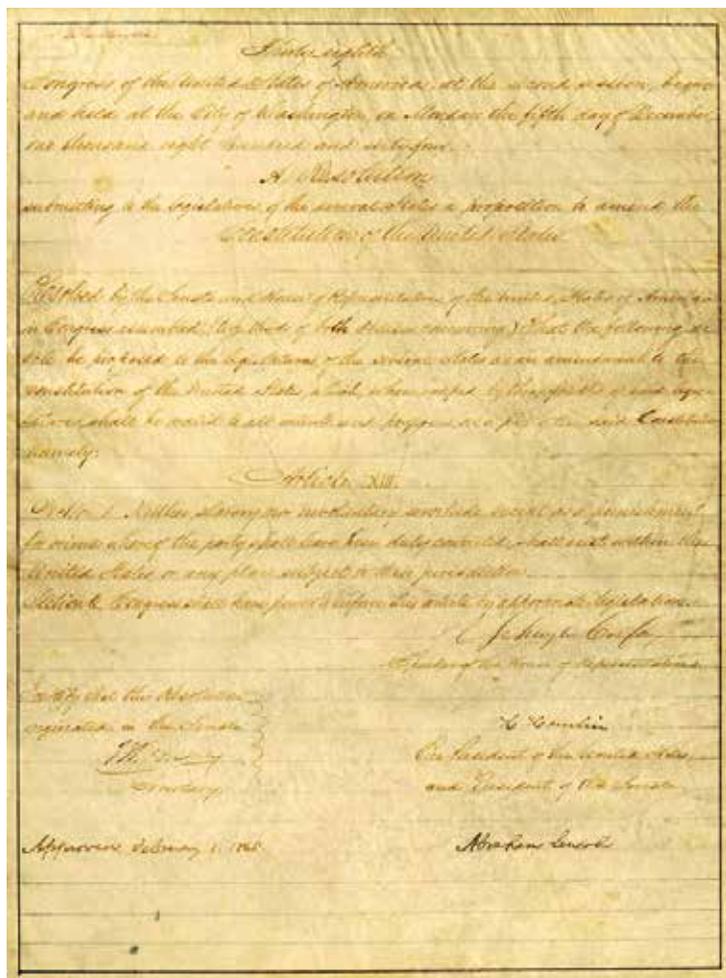
Abolishing Slavery: The Thirteenth Amendment Signed by Abraham Lincoln

Published with permission, Seth Kaller, Inc.: www.sethkaller.com/freedomdocuments/13th-amendment.

The copy of the Thirteenth Amendment described here is the Schuyler Colfax copy, which we acquired privately for collector David Rubenstein. It is one of about fourteen manuscripts Lincoln signed in addition to the original. This copy is significant because it is directly traceable to a leader instrumental in the amendment's passage

Document Description

ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Manuscript Document Signed ("Abraham Lincoln") as President, with his Autograph Endorsement ("Approved. February 1, 1865.") Washington, D.C., ca. February 1, 1865. Co-signed by Hannibal Hamlin as Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate, Schuyler Colfax as Speaker of the House, and John W. Forney as Secretary of the Senate. 1 page, 15 1/16 x 20 inches, on lined vellum with ruled borders.



This amendment, outlawing slavery and involuntary servitude, was the first substantive change to America's conception of its liberties since the Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791. After signing the original resolution on February 1, Lincoln responded to a serenade, and to questions about the legality of the Emancipation Proclamation and prior efforts to eradicate slavery, by saying that the amendment "is a king's cure for all the evils. It winds the whole thing up."

While the Emancipation Proclamation was taking its effect in the field, as the Union army advanced, Lincoln also supported Radical Republicans who began to advocate a constitutional amendment abolishing slavery everywhere in the United States. On December 14, 1863, Ohio Congressman James M. Ashley introduced such an amendment in the House of Representatives. Senator John Brooks Henderson of Missouri, a border state that still sanctioned slavery, followed suit on January 11, 1864, courageously submitting a joint resolution for an amendment abolishing slavery.

The proposed amendment passed in the Senate on April 8, 1864, with a vote of 38 to 6. Two months later, however, it was defeated in the House of Representatives, 95 to 66 (or by another account, 93-65), shy of the 2/3 necessary for approval. Lincoln, not about to give up, made abolition a central plank of the National Union platform during his re-election campaign. He argued,

"When the people in revolt, with a hundred days of explicit notice, that they could, within those days, resume their allegiance, without the overthrow of their institution, and that they could not so resume it afterwards, elected to stand out, such [an] amendment of the Constitution as [is] now proposed, became a fitting, and necessary conclusion to the final success of the Union cause. Such alone can meet and cover all cavils..." (Basler, *Collected Works*, 7, 380).

Lincoln's victory over McClellan in 1864 gave him a new mandate and enough seats in the House to eventually guarantee passage of the stalled amendment. Not content to wait until the new Congress met in March, the amendment's supporters brought the measure to another vote in the House on January 31, 1865.

On being informed that the amendment was still two votes short, Lincoln is reported to have told the Republican Congressmen: "I am President of the United States, clothed with great power. The abolition of slavery by Constitutional provisions settles the fate, for all ... time, not only of the millions now in bondage, but of unborn millions to come – a measure of such importance that *those two votes must be procured*. I leave it to you to determine how it shall be done, but remember that I am President of the United States, clothed with immense power, and I expect you to procure those two votes ..." (John B. Alley, *Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln*, ed., Rice, 1886 ed., p 585-6. Per Goodwin, p. 687).

The outcome of the vote was in doubt until the final hour. A Pennsylvania Democrat, Archibald McAllister, opened the debate by explaining why he had changed his vote from a "Nay" to an "Aye." He had been in favor of exhausting all means of conciliation, McAllister stated, but was now satisfied that nothing short of independence would satisfy the Southern Confederacy, and that therefore it must be destroyed, and he must cast his vote against its cornerstone, and declare eternal war with the enemies of the country. Fellow Pennsylvania Democrat Alexander Hamilton Coffroth also changed his vote, and gave a speech advocating passage. Arguments continued until, finally, the votes were tallied. This time it passed, by a vote of 119 to 56, with 8 abstentions. When Speaker Colfax declared the results, "a moment of silence succeeded, and then, from floor and galleries, burst a simultaneous shout of joy and triumph, spontaneous, irrepressible and uncontrollable,



Engraving from Frank Leslie's magazine of the celebration when the Thirteenth Amendment was passed.

swelling and prolonged in one vast volume of reverberating thunder..." (*Report of the special committee on the passage by the House of Representatives of the constitutional amendment for the abolition of slavery. January 31st, 1865: The Action of the Union League Club on*

JANUARY FEBRUARY

Stuff to do in the area

EVENTS

Through January 25, Washington, D.C., Exhibit. *Mr. Lincoln's Washington.* Emphasis on activities in and around the Patent Building. Large format photos, prints, drawings, maps showing forts, hospitals, Navy Yard, Capitol, White House, Ford's Theater, Old Capitol Prison, people. For information, 202-633-8300; www.npg.si.edu.

Through April, Baltimore, MD, Maryland During War. *Divided Voices, Maryland in the Civil War*, sesquicentennial exhibit at Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore. Annual change of artifacts and programs. Time tunnel, performances, music. For information, 410-685-3750; www.mdhs.org.

Through May, Washington, D.C., Exhibit. *Mathew Brady's Photographs of Union Generals* at the National Portrait Gallery. Modern prints made from Brady's studio portrait glass plate negatives in the gallery's Frederick Hill Meserve Collection. Free admission, open daily except Christmas 11:30 AM-7:00 PM. For information 202-633-8300; www.npg.si.edu.

Through May, Harrisburg, PA, Prisons. *In the Hands of the Enemy: The Captivity, Exchange, and Parole of Prisoners of War* exhibit at the National Civil War Museum. Artifacts and information about camps and prisoner life. For information www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

Through 2015, Baltimore, MD, Exhibit. *The War Came by Train*, sesquicentennial exhibition that will change annually at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum. National Landmark Roundhouse exhibit of world's largest assemblage of Civil War railroad equipment, military, and personal artifacts. Narrated round trip train ride to original site of Camp Carroll, the city's largest Union encampment. For information 410-752-2490; www.borail.org.

Through 2015, Gettysburg, Exhibit. *Treasures of the Civil War: Legendary Leaders Who Shaped a War* at Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. Rare artifacts related to Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, George G. Meade, Frederick Douglass, Clara Barton and others. Sponsored by Gettysburg National Military Park. Gettysburg Foundation, and other partners. Included in museum admission ticket. For information 717-334-1124; www.nps.gov/gett.



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 or mobile device on or around January 1, 2015.

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 WGTY 107.7 FM and ESPN Radio 1320 AM.

The next scheduled board meeting begins at 6:30 PM on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at the Avenue Restaurant.

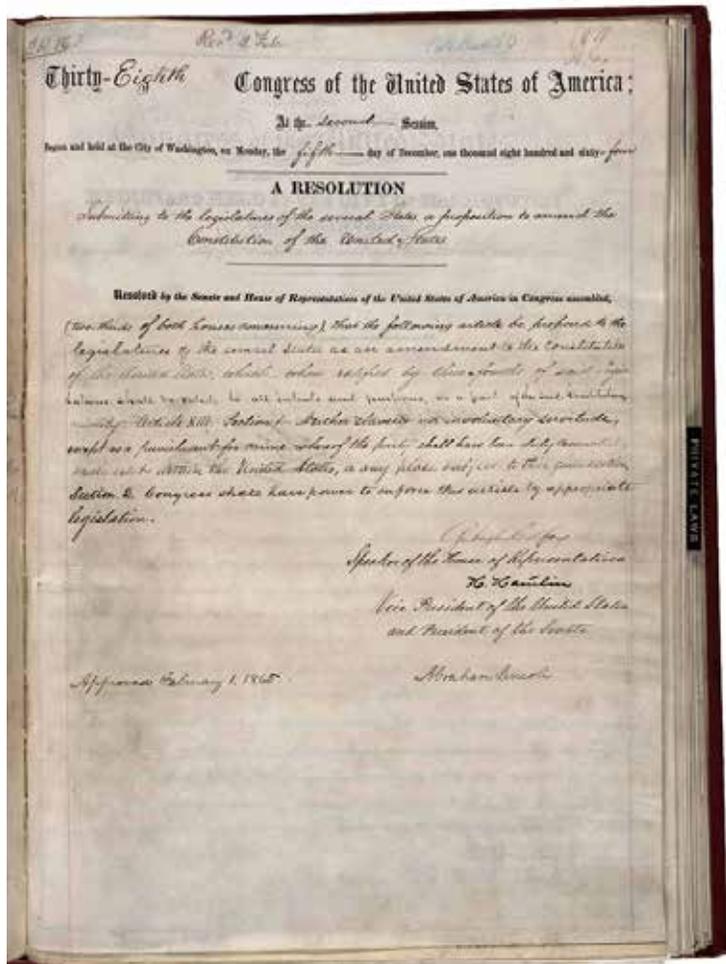
JANUARY

January 17, Baltimore, MD. Annual Gen. R.E. Lee and Gen. T.J. Jackson birthday Ceremony at the Lee/Jackson double equestrian monument in Baltimore, 11 a.m. C.S. reenactors, civilians, heritage groups invited. Sponsored by SCV Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp 1388 & Maryland Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy. For information, map, Elliot Cummings, 410-296-9235, basilduke@comcast.net.

January 23 – February 22, Washington, D.C. World premiere of *The Widow Lincoln* by James Still, directed by Stephen Rayne at Ford's Theatre. For information, www.fords.org. Tickets, 800-982-2787; 202-638-2367 (groups).

the Amendment, February 9, 1865, in "From Slavery to Freedom." American Memory, Library of Congress).

Following in the footsteps of President James Buchanan, who had signed a proposed amendment to *protect* slavery in the United States, Lincoln signed the official resolution, along with several commemorative copies (fourteen copies with Lincoln's genuine signature are now known). For that action, the Senate, on **February 7th**, resolved that **the president's signature had been "unnecessary"** and directed the Senate secretary to "withhold from



Official copy of the Thirteenth Amendment, now in the National Archives.

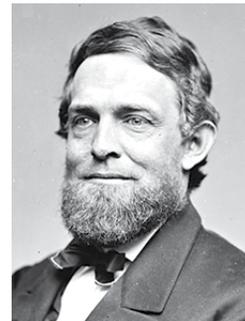
the House of Representatives the message of the President informing the Senate that he had approved and signed the same..." (Senate Journal). It is unlikely that the president would have signed copies of the Thirteenth Amendment resolution subsequent to the "withholding" resolution's passage.

Dating and Number of Manuscript Copies

Having already been approved by the Senate the previous April, the amendment passed in the House on January 31, 1865. The engrossed manuscript was prepared, and Lincoln signed it on February 1st. There does not appear to be any record of the number of "souvenir" copies of the Amendment prepared for Lincoln to sign. Twelve to fifteen are known with Lincoln's signature. Several additional manuscript copies are known signed by Senators, Congressmen and other officials, but with the space for the President's name blank. On February 7th, the Senate, anxious not to set a precedent, resolved that the president's signature had been "unnecessary" on a joint amendment resolution. The Senate secretary, John W. Forney, was directed to "withhold from the House of Representatives the message of the President informing the Senate that he had approved and signed the same..." (Senate Journal) All of

the Lincoln-signed copies were likely completed before February 7th. After the resolution, it is probable that the president would have thought it impolitic to sign any additional copies. 44

Schuyler Colfax was elected as a Republican to Congress, where he served until 1869. An energetic opponent of slavery, Colfax's speech attacking the Lecompton Legislature in Kansas became the most widely requested Republican campaign document in the 1858 mid-term election. In 1862, following the electoral defeat of Galusha Grow, Colfax was elected Speaker of the House. In that capacity, Colfax announced the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment on January 31, 1865: "The constitutional majority of two thirds having voted in the affirmative, the Joint Resolution is passed." Colfax considered February 1, 1865, the day he signed the House resolution, the happiest day of his life. "Fourteen years before, among a mere handful of kindred spirits in the Constitutional Convention of his State, he had said: 'Wherever, within my sphere, be it narrow or wide, oppression treads its iron heel on human rights, I will raise my voice in earnest protest.'



150 years ago - 1865

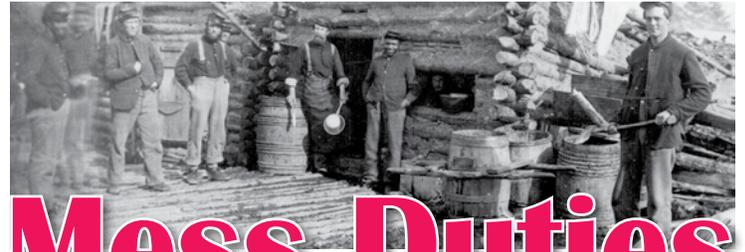
In the winter of 1864/1865 the armies of Robert E. Lee and U.S. Grant were locked in the trenches around Petersburg, VA. The siege of Petersburg was a prelude to the eventual assault on the Confederate capital of Richmond. In February, the always aggressive, General Grant broke with convention and launched an attack upon the Confederate supply lines into Petersburg. This attempt to choke the Army of Northern Virginia by limiting supplies to them resulted in the Battle of Hatcher's Run, a three day battle fought from February 5-7, 1865.

Led by BG David McMurtry Gregg, the Yankee cavalry attempted to destroy as many Confederate supply wagons as they could. Gregg's troopers were supported by infantry units led by Major General Warren (V Corps) and Major General Humphreys (II Corps). The Confederate forces were led by Major General John B. Gordon and BG John Pegram. Pegram was killed during the Hatcher's Run action.

After three days of combat, the Union advance was stopped, but Grant's strategy was becoming clearer. He was attempting to extend the siege lines to the West until the much smaller Confederate Army was spread out beyond their ability to hold. In the Spring Campaign to come, this strategy would continue.

In the other main theater of operations during the winter of 1865, significant Yankees efforts were made to close the Port of Wilmington, NC. By this time of the war Wilmington was the last port in the Confederacy open to the Atlantic trade. Wilmington was protected by Fort Fisher nicknamed the "Gibraltar of the Confederacy." Fort Fisher was a formidable earthen structure, surrounded by a 10 foot high parapet, a network of bombproofs, land mines, ditches and other impediments to an invader and armed with many pieces of heavy artillery. Wilmington had become the biggest base of supplies to the Rebel armies as a result of its protection from the fort.

In a cooperative effort with the Navy led by Admiral David Dixon Porter, General Terry opened the 2nd Battle for Fort Fisher on January 13, 1865. Two days later Fort Fisher fell to the Yankee onslaught. With the loss of Fort Fisher, the Port of Wilmington was now left virtually unprotected and the last Atlantic port in the Confederacy was cut off from worldwide trade.



Mess Duties

November 20 Dave & Linda Joswick



SEP Meeting
Candida
Photos by Lynn Heller

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