



# Cape May County Civil War Round Table

## Newsletter

August 2006

Deadline for the newsletter is the first of each month, as I put everything together the first week that month. Deadline for the meeting agenda if you want a new business item added is the Monday prior to the meeting as that is when the minutes and meeting agenda are printed out.

Meetings will be at the Cape May Court House Senior Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, at 7pm. The following is a listing of the schedule of presentations planned for future meetings.

**17 Aug** – Andy Waski will be portraying General Meade. I've seen his presentation, and it is excellent! Refreshments by Andy Lolli and the Burkes.

**21 Sept** – Hugh Boyle of the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table will be making a presentation on General Sickles, *The Incredible Dan Sickles*.

**19 Oct** – Patrick Falci will be presenting *Thunder and Lightning: The Stormy Relationship Between Stonewall Jackson and A.P. Hill*.

**23 Nov** – “Show and Tell” with members of the Civil War Round Table presenting artifacts from their own collections.

**7 Dec** – *Note change of date, please!* Open. Please note this is **not** the third Thursday of the month, which would be too close to Christmas!

## CIVIL WAR TRAILS



### Upcoming Civil War Events

Most of this information is from the website <http://civilwartraveler.com>; June through September are busy months for Civil War related events; it would take up the entire newsletter and more to try and list them all. I also have a notebook full of other events – ask to look through it if you're interested in seeing what other events are coming up.

**18 – 20 Aug:** *Civil War Trails Discovery Weekend in Hanover, PA.* Events include street battle at 1pm Sat and Sun, living history camps, music, dusk cannon firing, and Sat evening candlelight tours. [www.hanovercamber.com](http://www.hanovercamber.com)

**19 Aug:** *Courage! Civil War Washington*, waling living history tour of sites associated with the wartime capital. Begins at 11am at Cosi Coffe, 10<sup>th</sup> and E Street NW. \$10 adults. [www.historicstrolls.com](http://www.historicstrolls.com)

**19 – 20 Aug:** *Battle of Dry Creek:* Reenactment near White Sulphur Springs in Greenbrier State Forest, exit 175 off I-64 in WV. Sunday afternoon reenactment plus military demonstrations, parade, night firings, church service and more. Free. [www.battleofdrycreek.org](http://www.battleofdrycreek.org) or 304-536-4373

**19 – 20 Aug:** Living history medical encampment at the Pennsylvania Memorial and other programs at Pitzer Woods and Spangler's Spring at the Gettysburg National Park. Free.

**19 – 20 Aug:** Civil War Show, hundreds of tables of Civil War relics, books, and much more for show and sale at the Showplace on Mechanicsville Turnpike (just east of I-64) in Richmond, VA. 9am – 5pm Sat, 9am – 3pm Sun. 540-672-5921 or [www.nstcivilwar.com](http://www.nstcivilwar.com)

**19 – 20 Aug:** Reenactment of the Battles of Saltville. Encampments and other activities commemorating the battles for the vital saltworks. Fee charged for some events. 276-496-5342 or [www.saltvilleva.com](http://www.saltvilleva.com)

**19 Aug – Cape May County Historic Genealogical Society Clambake** at the 4H Fairgrounds from 3:30 to 6:30 pm. Anyone interested in participating in a Civil War Round Table exhibit should contact Hank Heacock.

**20 Aug – Monument Avenue: Its Heroes, Homes and Residents;** walking tour of Richmond. Begins at the Lee Monument at 2 pm. \$10; 804-0711

**26 Aug – Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Second Manassas** at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Living history and demonstrations, special ranger programs and exhibits. 9 am to 5pm, free with admission to the park. 703-361-1339.

**2 – 3 Sept – Annual Artillery Weekend** with encampment and demonstrations at Pitzer Woods; other programs at Spangler's Spring at the Gettysburg National Park. Free. [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett)

**3 Sept – The Morning Battle of South Mountain;** walking tour meets at 2pm, Fox Gap, MD. 301-432-8065.

**9 Sept – John Wilkes Both Escape Route;** popular 12-hour bus tour sponsored by the Surratt Society in Clinton, MD. Reservations required, \$50. 301-868-1121

**9 – 10 Sept – Civil War Days at the Chesapeake Public Library;** annual event in VA includes lectures, living history demonstrations, children's activities, exhibits and much more, all for free. 757-382-6591

**10 Sept – Honoring the Fallen:** Special ceremony including the placing of flags on the graves of Union dead from the South Mountain battlefield at the Antietam National Cemetery, at 9am in Antietam, MD. 301-432-8065

**15 – 17 Sept: Commemoration of the Third Battle of Winchester:** Weekend-long living history event, with tours, exhibits, and more in Winchester, VA. Includes events and tours on the battlefield and city museums and sites. 888-689-4a545 or [www.shenandoahatwar.org](http://www.shenandoahatwar.org)

**23 Sept: Tour of Beverly Ford and St. James Church** at the Brandy Station Battlefield in VA. 10 am to noon, \$5 each. Begins at the Graffiti House visitor center south of Culpepper. 540-547-4106

### *Did You Know--??*

The blockade runner *Lucy*, escaping to sea from Wilmington, NC, in a storm in November, 1864, carried as signal officer a young army veteran who kept a flute up his sleeve, and in leisure moments, played romantic airs. In the Gulf Stream just 14 hours out of port, the *Lucy* was caught by the *USS Santiago de Cuba*. The signal officer was taken captive and spent four terrible months at the Union prison at Pt. Lookout, Maryland. He contracted tuberculosis, which later would shorten his life. He celebrated the prison in his first book, he was Sidney Lanier, who became in his brief life the most celebrated poet of his time.

--submitted by Hank Heacock

**Monday, 12 May 1862:** We remained in camp till afternoon and then moved up to Gen. Schenk's headquarters and made our camp in a fine pasture. The firing ceased today except occasional pickets on the mountains. Tuesday we remained in camp all day. I visited the town and found the stores and dwellings all broken open and everything of value taken. We were gladdened today by the arrival of Fremont with about 13,000 men. He was received with the honors due and everyone put on a smiling face. He looks old and careworn and is so changed that I could hardly recognize him. Now our danger is at an end, we have enough force to wipe out all the rebels in the mountains and shall soon make an advance. Monday night after turning in I heard a noise and reached out to disentangle one of my horses which had got his halter rope fastened. The rascal grabbed me by the little finger and tore the nail and most of the flesh out of the first joint. I ran over to the hospital and had it dressed and today it is doing very well. Tuesday night Generals Fremont and Schenck were serenaded by the brass bands and also by a quartet club of singers. After hearing this I turned in. It commenced to rain at about 8 pm and has been raining very hard since.

As yet I have received no letters from home and am getting anxious to know what is going on. During the retreat from Monterey I had a chance to use my professional skill in binding up the wounds of several poor fellows who were dragging themselves along. Since Sunday I have been cooking by myself. My utensils consist of a plate to fry meat in and eat out of, a quart cup to make coffee in and boil rice and 2 pint cups and a water bucket. I have a knife and fork also and there are plenty of fine flat stones around which do for plates,

tables, etc. Yesterday I managed to impress a mess pan and now I want a coffee pot and I shall be complete. 4 pm. Since writing I have been out on a hunt of 8 hours after our horses were turned loose yesterday, as there was no feed for them. I had to ride around among thousands of horse but succeeded in getting the last home a few minutes ago. Resencrantz Division arrived this morning numbering 14 thousand, without tents or hardly any baggage, but they soon had huts built of fence rails with India rubber blankets for sides and roof. Hardly a fence is left in the country, everything is being destroyed. Livestock of all kinds, cows, sheep, hens, chickens, hogs etc. have disappeared and this country – at best not much more than a desert – will never recover from the shock. It has been raining all day and has just ceased for a few minutes. Have not received a letter yet from anyone.

[Here a gap of 10 days during which Albert was given a train to run. JHD]

**Sunday, 25 May 1862:** Awoke about daybreak and having put on dry clothes I rode over to the 82<sup>nd</sup> camp and had 6 men detailed to drive my teams, then went back and distributed the horses and wagons. Still raining. About 8 am went down and reported my train ready for orders, but as needing shoeing quite badly. Was ordered to have my wagons at the hospital immediately to haul the sick and wounded to Petersburg as the whole army was about to retreat to make a junction with Banks. Went back to camp and in 20 minutes the wagons were at the hospital and loaded down with sick. Had to ride around considerably during the early morning. We did not get started till noon on account of wagons banking the road and when I did get into line the progress was slow, short starts and long halts. About 2 miles from town a clear stream crossed the road, and I ordered my men to water [the horses] as all before had done. When the next to last wagon drove in, a wagonmaster rode in and commenced whipping the horses. I ordered him to quit, which he did, when Brig. General Steiner rode in and ordered me to leave, which I refused to do. He then drew his sword and pitched in, assisted by the Wagonmaster and a Lieutenant. I had nothing in my hand but an apple sprout, and I laid round with that as brisk as I could and in the melee I struck the General over the face with the butt end of the stick. At last they drove my horse out of the

water and I turned round and called them Dutch cowards and every other name I could think of. The result was I was put under arrest and had to ride with Gen. Blinker all day between two orderlies. At night I slept in his headquarters and went without supper or dinner. The next morning I got up and found that all the staff had left, and I was without a guard, so I saddled up my horse and, having eaten a small slice of bread and a tea cup of coffee (costing about 25 cents) I proceeded to hunt for my train. I found a portion of it, the rest were back at least three miles and the road was blocked up between. About 4 o'clock I managed – by self-made orders from Gen. Fremont – to get my wagons together and then turned off the road to give the poor men a chance to get something to eat as they had been without since they started. The teams also needed rest and feed. Borrowed rations from a Captain whose company was quartered near me, and it certainly did me good to see the poor fellows eat a hearty meal. Some were too sick to eat or even sit up, and had to be fed with spoons after all had had enough.

During the whole eve and night the teams were crossing the pontoon bridge, which kept me awake till late. About night I received a dispatch from David, Manager of Telegraph, blaming me severely for allowing my teams to come on this trip, and ordering me to report as soon as arrived at Petersburg, by telegraph to him at Cumberland. So two more days were written up, the record shows the advantage of not carrying weapons for had I one I should not probably have lived to continue this journal. I am not in the habit of allowing officers to beat me over the head with a saber and should have certainly shot him had I been able. As it is I am plagued a good deal for my whipping a general with apple sprouts and do not expect to soon hear the last of it. Written in a wagon Saturday morning, but I must quit, saddle my horse and go up to town. Will try and finish this afternoon.

**Tuesday, 27 May 1862:** Arose early and after eating a hearty breakfast I had the teams hitched up and started across the pontoon bridge. The road was still full of teams but I managed to obtain a place in the line, being loaded with sick. The first team across of mine after climbing a steep hill backed over the bank and as soon as the horses were unloosed, pitched into the river upside down. As the teamster was unwell I pitched in myself and chopped the wagon bed in two and unloaded the

