



Patrick Falci ----- photo by Pat Munson-Siter

# Cape May County Civil War Round Table

## Newsletter November 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. If you need to contact me:

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**Reminder: Dues For 2007 need to be paid  
sometime in the next 3 months!**

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.

**23 Nov** – “Show and Tell” with members of the Civil War Round Table presenting artifacts from their own collections. **Please be sure and bring something to show to other members – items may be recreations, collector/memorial items, etc. They do not have to be items that actually date to the time period of the Civil War!** Refreshments: Jim Marshall

**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!

**18 Jan 2007:** Refreshments: Jack McDonough. DVD presentation.

**15 Feb 2007:** DVD presentation.

**15 March 2007:**

**19 April 2007:** Refreshments: Pat Munson-Siter

**17 May 2007:**

**21 June 2007:**

**19 July 2007:**

**16 August 2007:**

**20 September 2007:**

**18 October 2007:**

**15 November 2007:**

**20 December 2007:** This date will probably change when we get into 2007: it is too close to Christmas!

Remember to contact Suzanne Gibson (927-9484) or myself if you have any preferences as to which DVDs/VHS tapes you want to see in the January and February 2007 meetings: the list of material available was in the October newsletter.

### Minutes of the October Business Meeting of the Civil War Round Table

President Lolli opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for those serving this country who are in harm's way. The minutes for each meeting are now in the newsletter so were not read aloud.

Pam Eaves gave the treasurer's report: the original is filed with the minutes in the secretary's notebook. Motion made and seconded to accept report and file for audit: motion passed.

Suzanne Gibson reminds all members to buy their Christmas dinner tickets ASAP, the deadline is coming up shortly. Suzanne also gave out copies of a petition she received that is

to be signed and mailed off in reference to a court action started by developers illegally ripping out trenches through an area of Harpers Ferry that is owned by the Civil War Preservation Trust. A copy of press release about this event will appear later in this newsletter; Suzanne will have more copies of the petition at the November meeting. She also informed those attending the meeting that Jeff Shaara's *Guide to Civil War Battlefields* is now out; a portion of the profits from the sales of the book will be donated to the Civil War Preservation Trust.

The Nomination Committee presented its slate of officers to the meeting. President: Andy Lolli. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Suzanne Gibson. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Lou Bishop. Treasurer: Pam Eaves. Secretary: Pat Munson-Siter. No nominations were made from the floor. Elections will be held at the November meeting; if you are interested in running for one of the offices please contact someone on the Nomination Committee; their phone numbers were printed in the October newsletter. Installation of officers will take place at the December meeting.

Bobbie Babbitt had a list of topics and dates Clark (Col. Sawyer) Donlin is available for meetings; information was passed on to Suzanne Gibson.

Pres. Lolli gave thanks of the members to the Baxters and Pat King for the refreshments they brought to the October meeting.

Motion made, seconded and approved to adjourn the business meeting and let Mr. Falci begin his presentation on Gen. A.P. Hill.



## Upcoming Civil War Events

Most of this information is from the website <http://civilwartraveler.com>. Unfortunately, New Jersey does not participate in this web site, so I don't have much information on New Jersey events! Hopefully this will change as I start getting more information from the AMART website.

**18 - 19 Nov:** *Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremonies* commemorating the anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Parade begins 1pm, ceremony at 2pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> and at 1pm on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Annual luminaria at the Soldier's National Cemetery in the evening, at Gettysburg, PA. 717-334-0772

**18 - 19 Nov:** Civil War Show, hundreds of books, artifacts and other Civil War material at the Richmond Raceway Complex at 600 E Laburnum in Richmond, VA: 9 am - 5 pm on Saturday: 9 am - 3 pm on Sunday. \$6 fee to enter the event. [www.cvcwca.com](http://www.cvcwca.com)

**2 Dec:** Living history and Civil War encampment and demonstrations at the Bonham House, 152 E. Market St., in York, PA. 10 am to 7 pm. Free event. [www.yorkheritage.org](http://www.yorkheritage.org)

**2 Dec:** Memorial Illumination at Antietam, an annual event that features 23,000 candles - one for each battle casualty - on the battlefield tour route. Visitor center, some park roads closed at 3pm. Expect large crowds. Begins at 6pm on Route 34 east of Sharpsburg. Free. [www.nps.gov/anti](http://www.nps.gov/anti)

**2 Dec:** *The Lee Family at Christmas*; a living history open house at the Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News, VA. Stories, refreshments, music and more. Reservations needed; cost is \$7 for entry. [www.leehall.org](http://www.leehall.org)

**3 Dec:** *Old Salem Church Holiday Music Program* at the church west of Fredericksburg, VA on Route 3. 6pm; free admission. [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp)

**9 Dec:** *A Civil War Christmas at Liberia Plantation*; a living history soldier encampment that will include music and other holiday traditions at the Manassas, VA landmark. 5 to 9 pm; \$15 entrance fee. [www.manassasmuseum.org](http://www.manassasmuseum.org)

**9 Dec:** *Christmas in Camp*; special program at the Ft. Ward Museum in Alexandria, VA. Will include holiday traditions, decorations, refreshments, music, tours (weather permitting) and more. None to 4pm; suggested donation for adults is \$2. [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org)

**9 Dec:** *Museums by Candlelight in Frederick*; annual open house includes the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, MD. 2 - 7 pm; free admission. [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org)

**9 – 10 Dec:** *Civil War Santa*; living history at the Hillsman House on the Sailor’s Creek battlefield east of Farmville, VA. Fee charged. 10 am to 4pm. 434-392-3435 (Twin Lakes State Park)

**9 – 10 Dec:** Re-enactment at Endview Plantation in Newport News, VA. Living history demonstrations and battle each day. 10am to 4pm, \$6 entrance fee. [www.endview.org](http://www.endview.org)

**10 Dec:** Christmas open house at the Miller-Kite Museum (Stonewall Jackson HQ) in Elkton, VA. None to 5pm; 540-298-1717

**10 Dec:** Special program commemorating the anniversary of the battle of Fredericksburg. Living history and special tours and talks at the National Battlefield and activities throughout the downtown area in Fredericksburg, VA. [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp)

**14 – 14 Dec:** *St. Nick at Enevview*; an 1861 Christmas recreated at the Newport News, VA historic site. Charity toy drive included; cost is \$3 per child. Reservations suggested. 757-887-1862

**17 Dec:** Open house: an annual event at Chatham (NPS), a Union HQ across the river from downtown Fredericksburg, VA. 2 – 4 pm; free. [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp)

**31 Dec:** New Year’s Eve Deck Party at the USS *Constellation* at Pier 1, 301 Pratt St. in Baltimore Harbor, MD. 7 – 10 pm. Purchase tickets online at [www.constellation.org](http://www.constellation.org) or call 410-539-1797 ext 3.

### Did You Know...???

The following are just a few of the many firsts of the Civil War:

- Revolving gun turrets
- A “snorkel” breathing device
- Hospital ships
- Army Ambulance Corps
- Legal voting for servicemen (including absentee ballots!)
- The Income Tax
- Electrically exploded bombs and torpedoes
- Wide-ranging corps of press correspondents in battle areas
- Conscription of troops (the draft)

--Submitted by Hank Heacock

## When Firemen Fought More than Fires Part 2 By David Check

When Col. Ellsworth got wind of a Union move against Arlington, VA, he used his closeness to President Lincoln to make his Fire Zouaves the vanguard of the attack. The president agreed, and the 11<sup>th</sup> New York led the assault on Arlington, which was relatively peaceful due to a flag of truce.

Upon entering Arlington, Ellsworth spied a confederate flag flying high atop the Marshall House Hotel. According to assorted sources he shouted either “We must have that flag!” or “That flag must come down!” and entered the building with a handful of men to remove the banner.

At the top of the building, Ellsworth himself climbed a ladder to the roof, cut the halyards, and brought the flag down. The size of the flag made lowering it and taking it away a difficult task. As he started rolling the flag up, Ellsworth started back down the stairs, preceded by Private Francis E. Brownell.

As the party rounded a corner between the third and second floors the inn’s proprietor, James Jackson, lay in wait on the second floor landing and raised a double-barreled shotgun. Private Brownell parried Jackson’s shotgun, pinning it briefly against the railing.

But Brownell slipped and lost his footing, and the innkeeper raised his weapon and emptied his first barrel, a shot that sent a round deep into Ellsworth’s chest, killing him almost instantly. The innkeeper was then quickly dispatched by a shot to the face and a bayonet to the body by Private Brownell, and both the South and the North would have their first martyrs.

“Avenge Ellsworth!” would become the foremost battle cry in many of the Union’s early engagements. And there was even another New York Regiment, which formed that called itself “Ellsworth’s Avengers.”

But after Ellsworth’s tragic death, the 11<sup>th</sup> New York had secured a place in history, and the war had just started. Ironically, the tenure of the “Ellsworth’s Fire Zouaves” would not last past early 1862 when the regiment disbanded.

A general consensus of historians says morale plunged after a dismal initial showing of the 11<sup>th</sup> New York on the battlefield at First Manassas (Bull Run), their first and only major engagement. But a few others, most notably historians for the New York City Fire Department, say there is some cause to dispute that.

Now under the command of Col. Noah Lane Farnham, a longtime New York City firefighter, when the 11<sup>th</sup> New York Fire Zouaves arrived on the battlefield at First Manassas they, like all the other fighting units, were already demoralized by the long stop and go marching, the dust, and the heat and humidity. At one point they had marched 14 miles at the double-quick, rested for a moment to dump unneeded equipment, and then, exhausted, began to move at the double-quick again in a way that reminded some of the ‘random manner’ in which firemen race down the street to a fire.

