



# THE OFFICIAL RECORDS



OF THE ROBERT E. LEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF CENTRAL NJ

## AUGUST 5, 2010 MEETING

Woodbridge Public Library, 7 pm

### *Winfield Scott Hancock*

*Speaker: John Deppen*

This month's presentation is a first person presentation of Winfield Scott Hancock given by John Deppen. Hancock was one of the extraordinary generals for the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War. Serving as General George Gordon Meade's eyes and ears on the scene at Gettysburg on the first day of the Battle, he rallied the retreating Union I and XI Corps on Cemetery Hill. As commander of the Union II Corps, it was his troops that defeated the Confederate charge on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Deppen began making appearances as Major General Winfield Scott Hancock in 1997. As Hancock, John recounts the general's command performance during the momentous three-day Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. The general's memories include not just tactical battlefield decisions, but thoughts of old friends struck down in combat. John also provides information on the rest of General Hancock's amazing life, including his 1880 run for the White House, his conflicts with Ulysses Grant, and his relationship with his nearly forgotten twin brother, Hilary Baker Hancock.

John Deppen of Northumberland, PA is a writer and living historian whose articles and book reviews have appeared in *Military Heritage*, *Gettysburg Magazine*, *Civil War Historian*, *Blue & Gray Magazine*, and *The Civil War News*. Though he is not a veteran himself, John is an active advocate for veterans' issues, and is an honorary member of both the Snyder County Veterans Council and Korean War Veterans of Lycoming County. John is also the Senior Vice Commander of Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp #15 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and a member of Squadron #44 of the Sons of the American Legion.

## NEWS AND NOTES

### **THIS MAY BE THE LAST PRINTED NEWSLETTER YOU RECEIVE!**

We're moving ahead rapidly with converting *The Official Records* to a purely paperless format. Time is running out for you to get on our email list to receive your newsletter electronically. Don't miss a single issue! Send your name and email address TODAY to Hank Ballone at [releecwrt@gmail.com](mailto:releecwrt@gmail.com).

\* Andy Johnson provided a very informative presentation last month. Thanks to Andy for a job well done!

\* This month's raffle book is *Summers with Lincoln* by James Perococo. The preservation raffle book is *The Irish Brigade in the Civil War* by Joseph Bilby. Tom Rizzo was the winner of both of last month's book raffles.

\* The Civil War Living History Weekend will be held on August 7-8, 2010 at Parker Press Park, Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ. A flier for the weekend is attached. Volunteers are needed to help out, and a sheet for you to volunteer is also included in this month's newsletter.

\* We've completed our 20<sup>th</sup> year as a Civil War Round Table. Congratulations to all of our members, past and present, who have enjoyed the journey! Starting with the September meeting there will be a bit of a change in how the organization is run. Our founder and benign dictator for the past 20 years, Jay Jorgensen, will become President Emeritus of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey. He will continue to have a very active role in the organization, and will continue to arrange for all of the monthly speakers. Bill Bork will be the new president, ably assisted by an enhanced and improved Executive Board. Board members will be introduced at the September meeting.

\* **Civil War Round Table Going Green!** Starting in September, in time for the start of our new Civil War Round Table season, our newsletter, *The Official Records* will be sent out electronically. To help make our job a lot easier in developing the email database, please send in your name and email address to Hank Ballone at [releecwrt@gmail.com](mailto:releecwrt@gmail.com).

\* We want to hear from you! Any member who has recently taken an interesting Civil War related trip, or has read a good Civil War book should consider sharing the information with the rest of the RE Lee CWRT members. You can e-mail the information to Chris Luzhak (our newsletter editor, whose e-mail address is [CLuzhak@aol.com](mailto:CLuzhak@aol.com)) or you can mail it in to the Round Table at R.E. Lee CWRT, 1162 St. George Avenue, Suite 194, Avenel, NJ 07001.

## ***Gettysburg Vignettes***

*By Jay Jorgensen, CWRT President*

### **Don't Give Up**

Both sides at Gettysburg could look back at the battle and point to numerous times when one of their men, or one of their units, persevered in the face of adversity. One such example was Captain Hubert Dilger. Born in Europe, Dilger came to the

United States and settled in Ohio. He volunteered his services to his adopted state and was given command of an Ohio battery. He was renowned for his no-nonsense approach to fighting, and his actions at Gettysburg did nothing to tarnish that image.

Early in the afternoon of the first day of fighting Dilger led his cannoneers of Battery I, 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio Light Artillery to a position north of town between Carlisle Road and Mummasburg Road. He placed two of his Napoleon cannons in action and opened fire on the Confederates on the eastern slope of Oak Hill, a half-mile distant.

The Southerners opened fire with eight cannons of their own. This prompted Dilger to bring up his remaining four guns, and an artillery duel ensued. In the heat of the battle Dilger was seen personally directing fire from his guns. In spite of the beating that the Ohioans were taking, Dilger refused to give up his position. In fact, he ordered two of his guns to advance 600 yards to the front to obtain a better vantage for firing. Ultimately Dilger and his men got the best of the bombardment, due in large part to the erstwhile German captain who refused to yield quarter to the enemy.

This vignette is excerpted from *Gettysburg's Leadership Lessons* by Jay Jorgensen.

## **Civil War Weekend Update:**

*The Civil War Living History Weekend Welcomes Union Generals and the Crew of US Navy Ironclad USS Lehigh.*

One of the new additions to the annual Civil War Living History Weekend at Parker Press Park will be the presence of Members of The Confederation of Union Generals (COUG) a living history organization that focuses on Generals and Officers in the Army of the Potomac.

This year COUG has designated Parker Press an official event and is sending Union Major General William T. Sherman, Brigadier General Gouvenor Warren, Cavalry Brigadier General John Buford and Army of the Potomac Commissary General, General Rufus Ingalls to our annual event. Each General will be more than willing to discuss his part in the Civil War and give visitors insight into their contribution in preserving the Union.

Another new addition this year will be members of US Navy at Parker Press. A landing party contingent from the US Navy's Ironclad Steam Monitor USS *Lehigh* will be attending and presenting accounts of day-to-day shipboard

routines, recent naval actions of the war by eyewitness officers and sailors of the crew as well as a rebel navy prisoner. These living historians will also be displaying models of warships of both the US Navy and CS Navy. The Medical Officer of the USS *Lehigh* will present a surgeons perspective on the latest medical techniques and members of the crew will be recruiting volunteers to serve on the blockade.

Come join us and visit with our newest living historians at The Civil War Living History Weekend at Parker Press Park, Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge. The hours are 10:00 to 4:00 on August 7-8. The candlelight tour on Saturday evening, August 7, starts at 8:30 PM. We look forward to seeing you there.

## *Library News*

*By Bruce Form*

*Pennsylvania Historical Society Digitizing Its Civil War Collections*

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is launching a massive project to make its collections available online.

Since the beginning of 2010, archivists have been carefully using a special digital camera acquired by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania that will digitize thousands of letters, photographs, artwork and other documents from the Civil War era. It's the pilot project of the Digital Center for Americana a new branch of the society's archives department that will make its collections available on line.

Project archivist Cathleen Miller says some interesting things have already crossed her desk in addition to Civil War material. "A group of documents that basically detailed blow by blow, the lead up to the Wounded Knee massacre in South Dakota. (It's) a huge find for us because we didn't realize it was in the collection."

The Civil War material is getting digitized first because of the war's sesquicentennial coming up in 2011. In order to assist anyone doing Civil War research, the Civil War Library and Research Center will continually strive to keep our members posted on information and developments as we receive them.

If our volunteer staff can help direct you in your research please contact Bruce Form, 732-846-5725, or Mike Lawrence, 732-425-6758 or drop us a line at Civil War Library and Research Center, 94 Green St., Suit 104, Woodbridge, NJ 07095.

## Civil War Quiz

1. After the Civil War, who spent the rest of his days as a life insurance agent in Richmond?
2. What capable general died at Shiloh after a minie ball severed an artery in his leg?
3. What general had eleven children during eleven years of marriage?
4. What Confederate general ordered the September 1861 invasion of Kentucky?
5. Who was head of West Point while J. E. B. Stuart was a cadet there?

*—Submitted by John DiNuzzo*

*Last month's answers: 1. Nathan Bedford Forrest 2. The 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts 3. Major General George Crook, USA 4. Brevet Major William McKinley and Brevet Major General Rutherford B. Hayes 5. Major general George Gordon Meade.*

*Due to space limitations, there is no "Who Am I?" column this month. Last month's answer: General George Sears Greene, USA, aka "Pap."*

### **This Month in the Civil War: 1862**

8/6/62: Loss of CSS *Arkansas*

8/9/62: Battle of Cedar Mountain

8/17/62: Sioux uprising begins

8/24/62: CSS *Alabama* commissioned

8/26/62: Second Bull Run Campaign begins

8/29/62: Battle of Second Bull Run

*IMPORTANT REMINDER: The Official Records is going "paperless" this fall. Be sure to send your name and email address to [releecwrt@gmail.com](mailto:releecwrt@gmail.com) to help with this important transition!*

*The Official Records is the monthly newsletter of the  
RE LEE CWRT  
of Central New Jersey.  
Christopher Luzhak, Editor  
([CLuzhak@aol.com](mailto:CLuzhak@aol.com))*



1162 St. George Avenue  
Suite No. 194  
Avenel, NJ 07001

[www.RobertELeeCWRT.com](http://www.RobertELeeCWRT.com)

**R.E. LEE CWRT  
1162 ST. GEORGE AVE.  
SUITE # 194  
AVENEL, NJ 07001**