



THE OFFICIAL RECORDS



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

FEBRUARY 6, 2012 MEETING

Woodbridge Public Library, 7 pm

The Beginning of the American Civil War: *“No One Expected It to Last This Long...”*

Speaker: Ralph Siegel

Nine months ago, our five-year sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War was launched with the 150th anniversary of Union Major Robert Anderson’s surrender at Fort Sumter, ending a battle that is generally acknowledged as the start of the American Civil War.

The theme of our February presentation is the immediate expectation both sides had about what would come next. We will focus on one profound misconception shared in both the North and the South: *that the conflict would not last long.*

Our presenter, Ralph Siegel, will use a slideshow format to review the details of the bombardment of Fort Sumter, the events and conditions leading to that battle, and why Charleston Harbor would be the setting for the spark to ignite war. He will address the reasons why the war became so protracted, so far-flung—and so bloody.

Ralph Siegel has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park since 2004. He has conducted hundreds of battlefield tours for all manner of visitors, groups, and military classes from around the United States.

He is also the proprietor of Trenton Battlefield Tours.Org, conducting field tours, bus trips and indoor presentations on Revolutionary War events of the “10 Days Campaign”: Washington’s Crossing, the Battle of Trenton and the Battle of Princeton. His tours are a popular feature of the annual, weeklong “Patriot’s Week” festival based in Trenton.

Mr. Siegel is a frequent presenter on military history at luncheons, evening seminars and history roundtables. His presentations have included “Artillery at Gettysburg” for the Gettysburg Foundation’s John Adams Seminar; “Sculpture at Gettysburg” for a Friends of the National Parks conference, and “World War II at Gettysburg,” about the WWII veterans buried at Gettysburg National Cemetery, conducted for the National Park Service staff at Eisenhower National Historic Site.

Mr. Siegel lives in Hamilton with his wife Donna Leusner, daughter Amy, and dog, Oliver. He is employed as executive director of the Garden State Preservation Trust.

NEWS AND NOTES

* This month's regular raffle book is *From Auction Block to Glory* by Phillip Tucker. The preservation raffle book is *Naval Warfare* by John Wideman.

* 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 our newsletter editor Chris Luzhak at CLuzhak@aol.com or you can mail it to the RE Lee CWRT, 1162 St. George Avenue, Suite 194, Avenel NJ 07001.

* The 68 members and guest thoroughly enjoyed last month's presentation on Johnson's Island by Mike Gray. Thanks once again to Professor Gray for being with us.



January speaker Mike Gray kicks off our New Year with a presentation on the Confederate prisoners of Johnson's Island

* Attached is a dues notice for this year's meetings. *Prompt payment is always appreciated!*

* **JUNE TOUR UPDATE:** John Quarstein will be doing a tour of the Peninsular Campaign the weekend of June 23-24, 2012. The cost will be \$50 per person

We have contacted the Norfolk/Chesapeake Hampton Inn, 701-a Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, VA. They will give us a special room rate of \$99 plus tax. To make reservations: 1. Call 757-420-1550. 2. Identify yourself as a member of the Robert E. Lee CWRT to get your special rate.

Reservations must be made **no later than May 10, 2012**. You are responsible for your own transportation to and from the tour.

* The premiere of Movie Night at the Robert E. Lee Civil War Library & Research Center was held Monday, January 23. It featured *The Great Locomotive Chase* hosted by Mark Luongo. After the showing, Mark gave a brief history of the facts behind the movie and opened the floor for discussion. Positive comments were received from the 10 people in attendance. This will become a regular monthly feature at the library. Next month's movie will be *The Santa Fe Trail* on Monday, February 27 at 7 PM.

* **Quote of the month, submitted by Mike Lawrence:**

"No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works."

—*Union Brigadier General US Grant to Confederate General Simon B. Buckner, who was holding Fort Donelson, Tennessee, Feb. 16, 1862*

* **Fact of the month, submitted by Mike Lawrence**

The maximum weight of a shell for a ten-inch Columbiad was 128 pounds.

This Month in the Civil War 1862:

2/8/62: Battle of Roanoke Island

2/13/62: Federal attack on Fort Donelson

2/15/62: Battle at Fort Donelson

2/22/62: Inauguration of President Davis

2/25/62: Union troops occupy Nashville

Library News

By Bruce Form

There are major happenings going on at our Civil War Library & Research Center. The first is as reported previously, that we have completed the basic re-cataloging of our books and are starting the third and last phase of the reorganization plan.

In our final phase, we will be moving all titles into a format that will allow members of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table to once again loan out books—**starting in April!** This means that any member in good standing can borrow books in our collection. It should be noted that, as in all libraries, there would be “for research only” books that may not be removed from the Library.

The second is the success of Civil War Movie night hosted by Mark Luongo. Coming up this month on February 27 will be a viewing and “History vs. Hollywood” discussion of the feature film, *Santa Fe Trail*, starring Errol Flynn and Ronald Reagan (information on it appears in this issue of the “OR”).

Our thanks to all our members who have supported the Library in the past and who currently support it. It is through your work, financial support, and use that keep our Civil War Library & Research Center available to all.

Book Donations to the Library Now Accepted

For the past several months, our Civil War Library & Research Center has not been taking in books from people willing to donate them. This was due to the fact that the re-cataloging process was taking up so much time it would have been almost impossible to keep track of any incoming books. Now that we have reached the end of that we are now once again accepting book donations.

For those who plan to donate books, we ask that all donations be non-fiction books. Our space is very limited. We no longer have room for historic fiction novels.

If you wish to donate Civil War books, please contact Mike Lawrence (732-738-8411) or Bruce Form (732-846-5725) either by phone or at the next CWRT meeting.

The upcoming schedule for Library volunteers is as follows:

Saturday Feb. 4: Jay Jorgensen, Mike Lawrence

Monday Feb. 6: Mark Luongo, Mike Lawrence

Saturday Feb. 11: Jay Jorgensen John Liska

Monday Feb. 13: Mark Luongo Bruce Form

Saturday Feb. 18: Mike Lawrence

Monday Feb. 20: no library (meeting)

Saturday Feb. 25: Jay Jorgensen, John Liska

Monday Feb. 27: Mark Luongo, Mike Lawrence
(movie night)



Become a Library Volunteer!
See the *Call For Volunteers* in this issue.

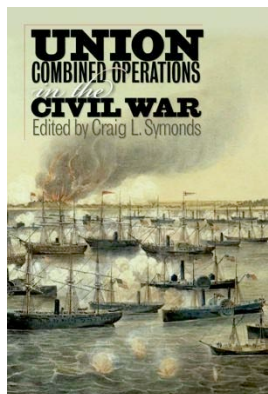
President's Message

By Bill Bork

As I stated in our last meeting our Editor Chris Luzhak does a great Job, but he is in need of submissions for our “Quiz” and “Who Am I” columns. You can email them in MS Word format to Cluzhak@aol.com. The misunderstanding with the **RED X** will be cleared up as soon as possible (thank you for your patience). Hope you will join us on our trip to Virginia the end of June.

Your input for the betterment of our Round Table is important. Hope to see you on February 6 for our own Ralph Siegel's presentation on Fort Sumter.

Book Review:



Union Combined Operations in the Civil War

Author: Craig Symonds

*Review by:
Lawrence Korczyk*

Craig L. Symonds, the preeminent Civil War naval historian and Professor Emeritus at the US Naval Academy, has assembled and edited a collection of essays from distinguished historians examining Union combined (Army/Navy) operations against the Confederacy during the Civil War. Not since 1978, with the publication of author Rowena Reed's *Combined Operations in the Civil War* has this long-overlooked and important aspect of Civil War campaigns been addressed.

After an exceptional introduction by our editor Craig Symonds, in which he outlines the requirements for success or failure of combined operations and the need to establish protocols for these operations (beautifully citing President Lincoln's coordination of combined forces that captured Norfolk Virginia in 1862), he lays the foundation for the subsequent ten case studies of combined operations.

The case studies are arranged in chronological order, beginning with Ambrose Burnside's amphibious campaigns along the North Carolina coast, working through the naval battle at Drewry's Bluff and on the doorstep of secession at Charleston Harbor, and ending with the attack and closing of the last important Confederate seaport at Wilmington.

Two final articles close the book dealing with an assessment of Union combined operations, one from the British perspective, and the takeaways learned and forgotten. Overall, throughout the essays, is the overriding theme that Union combined operations were a success when Army/Navy

commanders respected and liked one another and relegated their egos and subordinated their own service jealousies and goals to the greater good. Otherwise, without this spirit of cooperation, combined operations were subject to confusion, bickering, a lack of coordination, and ultimately defeat.

Union Combined Operations in the Civil War is a book long overdue in the examination of this integral part of Union offensive operations. This book will hopefully be a stepping-stone to a deeper evaluation of combined operations, not just along the Confederate coastline but also amongst the inland waterways of the Confederacy, especially in the western theatre. These essays are crisply written and their evaluations are precise. Finally, it needs to be determined why it took eighty-two years and two world wars for the United States to unify the armed services in 1947 and understand the lessons learned from the American Civil War.

“Living Historians Creed”

“We are people to whom the past is forever speaking. We listen to it because we cannot help ourselves, for the past speaks to us with many voices. Far out of that dark nowhere which is the time before we were born, men who were flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone went through fire and storm to break a path to the future. We are part of the future they died for; they are part of the past that brought the future. What they did—the lives they lived, the sacrifices they made, the stories they told and the songs they sang and, finally, the deaths they died—make up a part of our own experience. We cannot cut ourselves off from it. It is as real to us as something that happened last week. It is a basic part of our heritage as Americans.”

—Bruce Catton

SAVE THE DATE!

***Parker Press Civil War
Living History Weekend
August 4-5, 2012***

WANTED VOLUNTEERS!!

Become a Library Volunteer

We want to expand the hours of
the Civil War Library & Research Center.

This can only happen if we
have an available staff to be there.
If you are interested in joining the

Volunteer Library Service
on a Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, or Thursday evening
from 7:00 to 9:30 or
Saturday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM,
sign up and volunteer your time.
All you have to do is call.

Mike Lawrence

732-738-8411

Calendar of Events

February 12, Metuchen NJ

Local History Day: The Civil War

At the Metuchen Public Library, 480 Middlesex Avenue, Metuchen, from 1:30-4:30 PM. Sponsored by the Metuchen/Edison Historical Society. Enjoy a once-a-year chance to look at thousands of photographs and other items from the Historical Society collections! If the library lot is full, visitors are advised to park behind the library on Library Place, and not on Middlesex Avenue (Rt. 27). For more information, visit www.metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org or email the Society at: info@metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org.

Is it real? or
Is it Hollywood?
Come Join Us!!
February 27, 2012
at 7:00 PM

The second in our evening series of
Civil War Movie Nights at the
Civil War Library and Research Center
hosted by Mark Luongo



View the feature film,
Sante Fe Trail
and after, join in on the
discussion that will separate
Historical Facts from
Hollywood Fiction

**The program is from 7:00 - 9:30 PM in our
Civil War Library and Research Center
94 Green St., Room 104, Woodbridge, NJ**

***Limited seating to 20 people
so make your reservation by
calling Mark Luongo at
718-317-1016***

CIVIL WAR HAPPENINGS:



“Gone For A Soldier:” Jerseymen in the Civil War

Through July 1, 2012

Macculloch Hall Historical Museum in partnership with the New Jersey Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee (NJCWSC) presents a major exhibit, *“Gone for a Soldier:” Jerseymen in the Civil War.*

The exhibit brings together about 200 objects from nearly thirty museums, historical societies, and private collections. Notable objects in the exhibit are the infantry coat that George Thompson of the 15th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry wore the day he was wounded; and the historic drum, decorated with hand-painted patriotic motifs, carried by a musician in Company K, 12th New Jersey Infantry in famous battles such as Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.

Museum exhibit hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday 1-4 pm. For further information contact the Museum by phone at 973-538-2404 or online at www.maccullochhall.org.

Civil War Quiz

1. Under the CSA Furlough and Bounty Act of 1861, how much cash did a soldier receive for a three-year enlistment?
2. What five Indian tribes furnished warriors who fought under Albert Pike?

3. What general was carried on the roll of a New Orleans unit as an honorary private, with the color sergeant answering “Absent on duty!” when the roster was called?
4. Who was the only general officer to fight on both sides during the Civil War, as a US Army captain and as a CSA brigadier?
5. What inmate of the prison at Fort Warren, Massachusetts, was promoted to the rank of major general while he was a Union prisoner of war?

—Submitted by the Editor

New submissions needed! Kindly email them in MS Word format to CLuzhak@aol.com.

Last month's answers: 1. Colonel 2. Joseph Wheeler 3. John Taylor Wood 4. Their own civilian clothes 5. Brigadier General John B. Floyd, by Jefferson Davis

Who Am I?

Many in the Confederacy's high command became able historians of the conflict, but none more able than myself. Born in Georgetown, Kentucky, May 28 1838, I studied law before the war and was practicing in St. Louis, Missouri, when the crisis came. Associated briefly with partisan ranger M. Jeff Thompson, I soon returned to Kentucky, where I enlisted in the Lexington Rifles, commanded by my brother-in-law, Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan.

I rose rapidly, first to 2nd lieutenant, then to lieutenant colonel of the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry. I served with distinction throughout Morgan's campaigns, including the raid into Indiana and Ohio, in which both Morgan and myself were captured. I did not take part in Morgan's celebrated escape from the Ohio State Penitentiary, 26 November 1863, and was exchanged in 1864. I returned to the Kentucky cavalry that fall, serving in

southwest Virginia, and on Morgan's death was promoted brigadier, taking over Morgan's cavalry.

I accompanied President Jefferson Davis and the fleeing Confederate government April - May 1865, mine being the last organized command answering to the War Department.

Following the surrender, I returned to the law, moved to Louisville, and for the rest of my life took a prominent role in Kentucky affairs. A moderate, advocating reconciliation with the North, I devoted much of his time to preserving the history of the Confederacy. I edited *Southern Bivouac*, one of the best veterans' magazines of the 1880s, and wrote 2 first-rate books, including *A History of Morgan's Cavalry* (1867). I died in New York City on September 16, 1916. Who am I?

—Submitted by the Editor

New submissions needed! Kindly email them in MS Word format to CLuzhak@aol.com.

Last month's answer: Sally Louisa Tompkins, CSA



The Official Records is the monthly newsletter of the RE LEE CWRT of Central New Jersey.

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Vision Statement

With the Civil War being a defining event in the history of the United States and a continuing influence on our society in general, the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey is dedicated to preserving and expanding knowledge about — and understanding of — this seminal event.

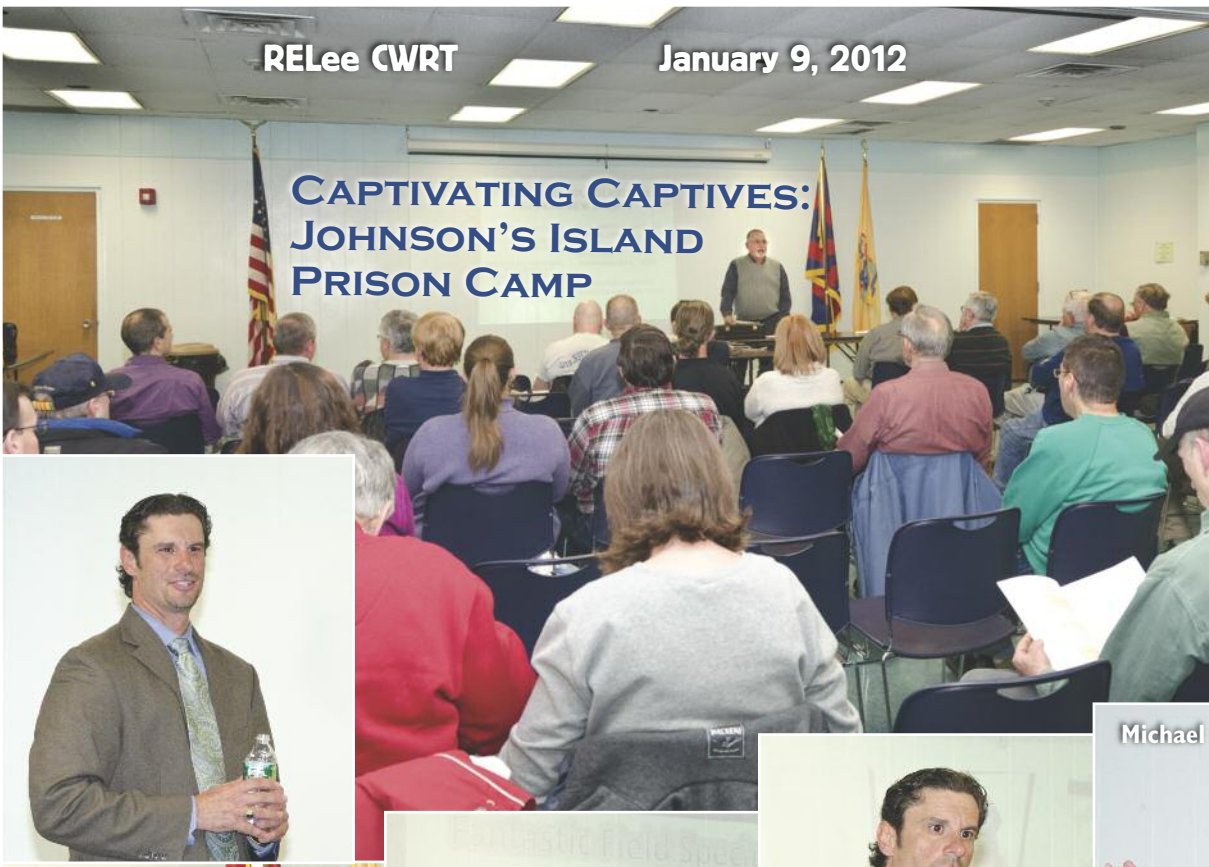
Mission Statement

Our mission is to serve our members by striving to reach, with resources available, the goals set forward in the Vision Statement. This would be achieved, as finances allow, by: holding meetings, seminars and round tables; offering speakers who are experts in some aspect of the Civil War; encouraging nonpartisan, nonpolitical discussion and dialogue while honoring all those involved in the conflict; contributing toward the preservation of battlefields and important historical sites for future generations; providing eyes-on/hands-on/feet-on first-hand experiences by arranging field trips to battlefields and historical sites and by sponsoring living-history/reenactment events; enhancing communication by publishing a newsletter and maintaining a website; and operating a dedicated library/research center available to members, serious scholars and the general public.

RELee CWRT

January 9, 2012

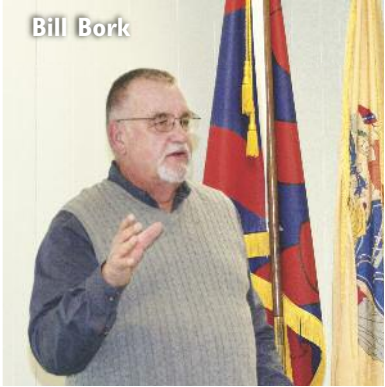
CAPTIVATING CAPTIVES: JOHNSON'S ISLAND PRISON CAMP



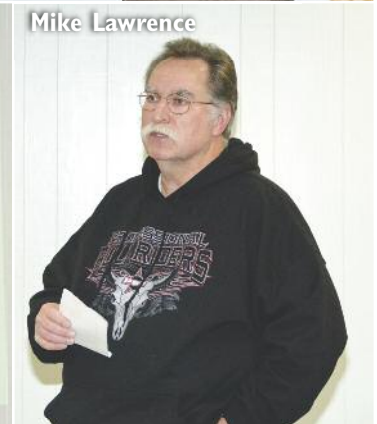
Michael Gray, PhD



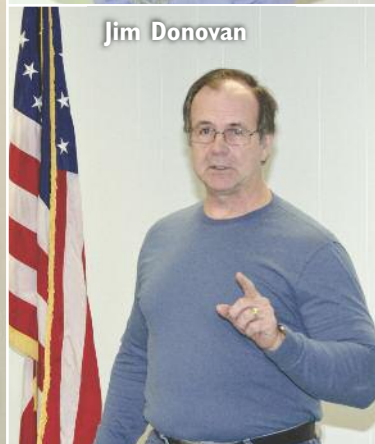
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Mike Lawrence



Jim Donovan



Mark Luongo

