



THE OFFICIAL RECORDS



OF THE ROBERT E. LEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF CENTRAL N.J.

NOVEMBER 10, 2003 MEETING

Woodbridge Public Library, 7 p.m.

Meet Wyman White, 1st Sgt., U.S. Sharpshooters

Speaker: Stan Saperstein

This month's meeting will feature a first person impression of Wyman White, a sergeant with the U.S. Sharpshooters. Hear Stan Saperstein describe White's experiences with Company F of the 2nd U.S. Sharpshooters from 1861 to 1865. This presentation is based upon Wyman White's diary entries, and Stan's new book, *Sharpshooters*.

Our speaker this month is Stan Saperstein. He received his BA from Rider College, and his MA in history from the College of New Jersey. A member of Camp Olden Civil War Round Table, Stan also serves on the Board of Directors of Swan Historical Foundation, and is Director of Preservation of the SUV Museum.

Mr. Saperstein is the author of numerous publications on the Revolution, Civil War, and period furniture making. He recently retired from employment with the State of New Jersey as a personnel manager.

Stan has been a re-enactor since 1974, portraying a colonial woodworker, Revolutionary War rifleman, and Civil War United States Sharpshooter. He has lectured extensively to various historical groups. You can check out his activities on the web at www.artisansofthevalley.com.

NEWS AND NOTES

* This month's book for the raffle is *Daring and Suffering* by William Pittenger. The preservation raffle book is *Nathan Bedford Forrest: A Biography* by Jack Hurst. The winners of last month's book raffles were Henry Ballone and Vito Buccarelli.

* The Civil War Library & Research Center is open on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. and on Saturdays during from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please feel free to drop in and visit.

* The upcoming schedule for Library volunteers is as follows:

Nov. 8 Helen VanDer Zyde & Mike Lawrence

Nov. 15 Bruce Bardarik & Clay Miller

Nov. 22 Jim Donovan & Larry Myers

Dec. 6 Norm & Judy Breitstein

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please see Neal Auricchio or Matt Borowick during the meeting.

* Dues are due! If you have not sent in your dues yet, please send it in now. General membership is \$35, associate membership is \$25, and student membership is \$20.

* Book Discussion: the next book discussion will be held on _____ at noon at the Civil War Library. The book is _____

* Attached to this month's newsletter is a flyer for the annual Civil War Library Dinner, to be held on November 8, 2003 at the Cameo Restaurant in Woodbridge. Come out to support our Library and hear a great historian, Frank O'Reilly, speak about the Battle of Fredericksburg.



NOTICE: If you would like to receive *The Official Records* via email, please send your email address to Matt Borowick at mbwick@infionline.net

Library News

By Matt Borowick, Executive Director,
Civil War Library & Research Center

Don't forget, the annual Civil War Library and Research Center Dinner is being held on Saturday, November 8 at 6 pm. The entertaining Frank O'Reilly will be our speaker, so join us for a wonderful evening of camaraderie and Civil War talk!

It's also time to renew or start your sponsorship of the Civil War Library and Research Center. This year, as always, we will be offering Corps (\$300), Brigade (\$150) and Regimental (\$100) sponsorship levels. Each comes with a particular and appropriate gift for your generosity.

The Library depends on your generosity to help keep it moving forward. Remember, with each sponsorship, your CWRT dues are waived, so you immediately save \$35 just by being a sponsor. And better yet, your donation may be tax-deductible. So please consider joining the ranks of those who support our Library and become a Civil War Library sponsor for the 2003-2004 year.

If you have already paid your dues and would still like to become a sponsor, just send in a check (payable to R.E. Lee CWRT) to 1162 St. George Avenue, #194, Avenel, NJ 07001 for the difference and you will get credit for a full sponsorship.

Thank you for your consideration of the Civil War Library and Research Center!



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

From the desk of Jay Jorgensen

The 74 members and guests at the October meeting thoroughly enjoyed Mike Snyder's presentation on General John Brooke. Thanks once again to Mike for a job well done!

I would like to personally urge the membership to attend the Library Dinner on November 8, 2003. Frank O'Reilly is one of the top Civil War historians in the field today, and is simply a wonderful speaker. Everybody should take advantage of his being with us not only to hear him speak, but also to obtain his new book, *Fredericksburg*, and have it autographed by him.

Also, I'd like to reiterate the challenge issued in last month's newsletter. Make this year the year that you each sign up a new member for the Round Table. We have much to offer as an organization, and greater numbers will certainly enable us to do even more. So, bring a friend to a meeting, have them experience what we're all about, and urge her or him to join. All it takes is to ask!

PRESERVATION NEWS

By Bill Welsch

Our preservation partner for 2003 - 2004 is the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association. Founded in 1959, the GBPA was the first public/private partnership at Gettysburg. "Over the years, the GBPA played a continuous role in purchasing endangered battlefield land." Their successes include saving the Meals Farm, the Timbers Farm, the Wolf Farm, the Taney Farm, the Colgrove tract, the Willoughby Run tract, and the East Cavalry field tract.

Their current project, the one that our donation will assist, is the Lady Farm, scene of fighting along the Hanover Road on the second day. If we meet our usual \$1000 goal, we will save 1/4 acre of hallowed ground. And with \$224.26 to date, we are off to another strong start. Check their web site at <http://www.gbpa.org/> for some good details. Plans are also in preparation for a special spring tour of the Lady Farm for Library sponsors, another reason to support the effort. As always, thank you for your important role.

Who Am I?

I was born in Williamson County, Tennessee on June 8, 1806. After graduating from the University of Nashville in 1827, I practiced law for some time in Columbia, Tennessee, with James Knox Polk (later President of the United States) as a partner.

An unsuccessful aspirant for the office of vice president in 1852 and 1856, I had been appointed in 1846 a brigadier general of volunteers by my former associate. Subsequently I was advanced by Polk to the grade of major general.

Twice wounded in the Mexico City campaign, I fell out with General Winfield Scott, but was sustained by the President on all occasions, who declared that I had been "greatly persecuted."

I was named senior major general of Tennessee's provisional army upon the secession of the state in 1861, and was appointed brigadier general in the Provisional Army of the Confederacy on July 9

of that year.

I was at the battle of Belmont, Missouri in November 1861, and was second in command to General John B. Floyd at Fort Donelson the following February.

During Grant's siege of Donelson, Floyd passed the command to me, and I in turn passed it to Simon B. Buckner. Floyd and myself made our escape before the surrender of the fort.

Subsequently relieved of duty, I held no important command thereafter. I was assigned to the volunteer and conscript bureau in Tennessee during the latter part of the war, and was commissary general of prisoners after the death of General J.H. Winder in February 1865.

I was forced into bankruptcy after the war, but practiced law in Memphis with former Governor Isham G. Harris as my partner.

I died near Helena, Arkansas on October 8, 1878, and am buried in Memphis. Who am I?

—Submitted by the Editor. New submissions needed!

Last month's answer: Joseph Finegan

CIVIL WAR QUIZ

1. In what Federal prison was Jefferson Davis held for two years after the war?
2. Where was the strongest concentration of Unionists in the South?
3. What famous Confederate prison incarcerated political prisoners, including "semi-Yankees"?
4. Where did Lincoln go in July 1862 to consult with Major General George McClellan?
5. What state provided the Union with only about 500 fighting men, who served in the 2nd MA Cavalry?

Last month's answers: 1. Richmond, VA 2. Briarwood 3. Chicago, Illinois 4. Alabama 5. Little Rock, AK

—Submitted by the Editor



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

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