

# Quick Step News

Volume 6, Number 2

October 2003

## October Meeting

Monday October 6, 2003

7:30 PM

### Grants Canal

## The Union Attempt to By Pass Vicksburg

Dave Bastian

A hydraulic engineer who was employed at Vicksburg, Mississippi, Dave now resides in Annapolis, Maryland. His talk centers on why the Union attempt to pass by the Vicksburg defenses failed.

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## New Contest

Design an insignia for our round table. See next months Quick Step News for details.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual AMART Civil War Symposium Abraham Lincoln The War President Saturday, October 18, 2003

Mark J. Neely, Jr., Ph.D. Pulitzer Prizewinner  
&  
Alan Guelzo, Ph.D. Lincoln Prizewinner

Pulitzer Prizewinner Mark J. Neely, Jr., Ph.D. from Penn State University and Lincoln Prizewinner Alan Guelzo, Ph.D. from Princeton University are just two of seven presenters who will speak at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual AMART (Association of Mid-Atlantic [Civil War] Round Tables) Symposium being held at the Horsham Performing Arts Theatre located in the Hatboro-Horsham HS, 899 Horsham Road (PA Route 463), Horsham, PA on Saturday October 18, 2003.

This full day event, which is being sponsored by The Union Library Civil War Round Table of Hatboro, PA, will also include James Paradis, PhD and Matthew Pinsker, D.Phil. and Sarah Norton Prizewinner in U.S. History from Oxford University. Three local authors, educators, and historians (Roger Arthur, Hugh Boyle, Steven J. Wright) will also present a panel discussion on the Lincoln Assassination.

In addition to the speakers there will be period music, door prizes, a raffle for a bust of Abraham Lincoln, booksellers, sutlers and many Civil War related organizations in attendance.

The cost of the event is \$50 (\$25 for students w/ID) and includes a continental breakfast, box lunch, and afternoon snack. Proceeds will benefit the Union Library CWRT/Hatboro-Horsham High School Scholarship Fund and \$25 of a full price admission ticket is tax deductible.

### Contact Information:

William S. (Bill) Vosseler  
503 S. Warminster Road, Ste R-3  
Hatboro, PA 19040  
D-302-737-9482  
E-215-443-7632

**Please support this AMART event and try to attend.**

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## DON'T FORGET THE AMART SYPOSIUM



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## 5 Stones Placed at Montgomery Cemetery

Through the efforts of Jim Sedar and his staff at the Montgomery County Veteran's Affairs Office and the hard work of Charlie Williams and Mike Brumbaugh of the CWRT of Montgomery County, five Civil War veterans have had government markers placed on their graves. The veteran's grave markers were lost over time to vandals or to wear. In the past there was no indication of who was buried in these graves save for the written records maintained at the county veteran affairs office. The dire situation at Montgomery Cemetery was brought to the attention of many by the publication of the book, *Memorials in Stone* (1983). The book was the result of the efforts of Vivian Taylor and her group of volunteers who painstakingly went through the cemetery recording every memorial inscription on the stones there. Taylor also matched veteran's affairs records that resulted from a 1934 census of all veteran burials in Montgomery County with what was found in the cemetery. As a result at least 50 veteran markers have been identified as lost. Martha Bricker of HSMC's cemetery operations committee compiled a listing of the missing markers. Charlie Kelly of the round table and HSMC ordered the stones through the veteran's office and the staff at Riverside Cemetery agreed to accept delivery of the stones.

## 2 Veteran Graves

### Scheduled for Dedication

### At Montgomery Cemetery

On October 25, 2003 at 10:00 AM the graves of Private Abraham Lancaster of Company E, 15<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry and Dr. Richard Beaver Assistant Surgeon 191<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers will be rededicated in a ceremony sponsored by the Historical Society of Montgomery County Cemetery Operations Committee and the Civil War Round Table of Montgomery County, Pa.

Lancaster was born in Baltimore, Maryland. He most likely came to Conshohocken for employment and worked as an engineer at the Alan Wood Company. He mustered into Company E of the 15<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry on August 14, 1862. In February he developed diarrhea, which plagued him until his death on August 31, 1863 at hospital No. 1 at Nashville, Tennessee. His remains were returned to Conshohocken and buried in Montgomery Cemetery.

David Richardson Beaver was born near Valley Forge, Chester County, Pa. on April 18, 1842. His family moved to and operated businesses in Norristown and Bridgeport, Pa. Richardson was educated in local schools and then attended the medical school at the University of Pennsylvania graduating in 1864. His training there was interrupted by the Civil War. Answering a call to volunteer from Governor Andrew Curtin, Beaver mustered into the 12<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Reserves (41<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers) as an Assistant Surgeon on April 13, 1864 and mustered out with the regiment on June 11, 1864. He returned to military service as an Assistant Surgeon of the 191<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers on July 12, 1864 and mustered out with the regiment on July 28, 1865. It is reported that Beaver commanded 12 batteries of artillery at the Battle of Weldon Railroad, Va. during Grant's siege of Petersburg, Va. After the war, Beaver operated a private practice in Reading, Norristown and finally in Conshohocken where he lived and practiced for 54 years. Dr. Beaver died of pneumonia on November 17, 1923. His home stood at 405 Fayette Street the present site of Progress Bank.

### Advice for Volunteers

An "Old Soldier" gives the following counsels, from experiences, for the benefit of those who are, or expect to become, soldiers:

1. Remember that in a campaign that more men die from sickness than by the bullet.
2. Line your blanket with one thickness of brown drilling. This adds but four ounces in weight but doubles the warmth.
3. Buy a small India rubber blanket (only \$1.50) to lay on the ground or to throw over your shoulders when on guard duty during a rain storm. Most of the Eastern troops are provided with these. Straw to lie on is not always to be had.
4. The best military hat in use is the light colored soft felt: the crown being sufficiently high to allow space for air over the brain. You can fasten it up as a continental in fair weather, or turn it down when it is wet or very rainy.
5. Let your beard grow to protect the throat and lungs.
6. Keep you entire person clean; this prevents fevers and bowel complaints in warm climates. Wash your body each day, if possible. Avoid strong coffee and oily meat. Gen. Scott said that too free use of these (together with neglect in keeping the skin clean) cost many a soldier his life in Mexico.
7. A sudden check of perspiration by chilly or night air often causes fever and death. When thus exposed do not forget the blanket.

From the *Union County Star & Lewisburg Chronicle*, April 30, 1861.

### The Home Guard

The roll of the Home Guard is filling up very rapidly. The report that the Virginians intend invading the Southern border of the State, and march to the Capital, has had its effect, and it is to be hoped that every man capable of using a musket will enroll himself. It is altogether likely that Camp Curtin will exist until the show is over and there will be never less than a few thousand brave boys on hand to repel any such invasion; we should nevertheless leave nothing undone to show negligence on our part.

Those who are disabled will of course, not be expected to drill, but every man who can load and fire a musket will be expected to do his duty in protecting his fireside. There are a great many old flint-lock muskets through the county, and in some of the unexposed interior counties, which, in the absence of a better article, might be made useful. All of these should be forwarded once to the Adjutant General, or left at Brant's Hall. A great many have been brought here by volunteers, which will be stored in the Arsenal for use, if occasion should require it.

*The Patriot and Union*, Harrisburg, Pa. April 24, 1861.

**Abraham Lincoln The War President  
October 18, 2003**

Saturday, December 6, 1862

Camp Near Falmouth

Dear Sister,

It is with much pleasure I occupy these few moments to let you know that I am in good health and spirits, except this morning I had to help take Joe Harris to the Hospital. Ellie I received your kind letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you and all the rest, I got one from you while at Alexandria. I answered immediately I also wrote one to Beccy and have yet received no answer. I wrote one to Jim and Dave and neither of them answered them. Tell Beccy she must not think I don't answer here letters for I have not seen any to answer yet. I answer every letter I get and more besides. Ellie I am glad that Beck Cevines is married for I think it will help her, as for sinus care I don't know what is to be done in such a case as that. Eli, lay all jokes aside I would like to have a box with something good in it. I have had nothing since I have been with the regiment but hard crackers some is as hard as the hinges of hell. The fat pork would make a dog run away so you see I want a box. John can get a box when ever he wants it, I can't get one. You can send it by Adams Express while the army is on the move so soon as we get in winter quarters I want a box. Tell Beccy to write. Tell her I would like to be up in her closet to get some good biscuits and pies. Give my love to her. Willie keep a large portion for yourself, and all inquiring friends good bye write soon to your Brother

Benj. Hannum

Address Benjamin F. Hannum  
Co B Baxters fire zouaves  
Sedwicks Division  
Care of Camp McBride

Benjamin F. Hannum was born on March 17, 1842 in Upper Darby, Pa. He served in Company B of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers and Company H of the 183<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers. After the war Hannum married and resided in West Conshohocken and was in the employ of the Schuylkill Iron Works operating an engine that provided lights to the mill. His widow Hannah wrote to the Commissioner of Pensions on September 18, 1916 regarding her benefit. At that time she resided at 630 Ford Street in West Conshohocken. This letter along with 2 others remains in the family and is possessed by Benjamin Hannum of Lafayette Hill, Pa. who was one time Mayor of Conshohocken.

## Best Wishes to Vivian Taylor

In September of this year Vivian Taylor resigned her position with the Historical Society of Montgomery County and the Genealogy Society of Pennsylvania due to health reasons. You may not have known Vivian Taylor personally, but you may have benefited from her work and never knew it. Vivian did extensive work in the preservation of cemetery records and genealogy. She served on the board at HSMC. She taught at the adult evening class at Norristown High School and sponsored trips to Salt Lake City for those interested working on her family history. She also offered classes on genealogy at HSMC and GSP. The Civil War community in Montgomery County owes her much for the work she did at Montgomery Cemetery and at St. Matthew's Cemetery in Conshohocken among others. Without her many veteran names would have been lost to the vandals who prey on these places and to time that is slowly eroding away names and dates carved in stone. In her spare time Vivian worked as a nurse and raised a family. The membership of our round table wishes her well in the future and thanks her for all the hard work and effort she put into the many projects that she undertook.

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**Remember the AMART Symposium  
October 18, 2003**

### Membership and Public Invited

The membership of our round table and members of the general public are invited to attend the rededication of the graves of Ebenezer Lancaster and David R. Beaver on Saturday, October 25, 2003 at 10:00 AM to be held at Montgomery Cemetery 1 Hartranft Ave., Norristown, Pa.

As of this publication Post 1074 VFW of Conshohocken and St. Mark's Cub Pack also of Conshohocken have been invited to attend and participate in the ceremony. Mr. Robert MacMullan of Blue Bell, Pa. a descendant of Lancaster will also attend and participate. Beaver had living descendants in Washington State and efforts are being to inform them of the ceremonies.

A ceremony for two Norristown veterans will be held at the cemetery in April of 2004.

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**Please Pay Your 2003 Dues  
Thank You If You Have**

Civil War Roundtable of Montgomery County  
C/o Charles J. Kelly  
253 Spring Mill Ave.  
Conshohocken, Pa. 19428-2037

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