

Quick Step News

Civil War Roundtable of Montgomery County, Pa.

Volume 6 Number 1
September 2003

We Begin Our Sixth Year

On September 8, 2003, the Civil War Round Table begins its 6th year of existence. For the past 2 years we have met at Normandy Farms Estates and now we return to the refurbished Historical Society of Montgomery County at 1654 DeKalb Street in Norristown. As before there is parking in the rear. You will notice that the parking lot is now paved and has much better lighting. As for the inside, we will now gather in the meeting room and not the library. There is a handicapped bathroom facility on the first floor and the meeting room is wheelchair accessible. I would like to thank Frank Miller MD who suggested the use of Normandy Farms Estates and Sandy Stigler who made us most welcome at the Normandy Farms facilities. We still have use of the facility if necessary and may in fact go back there from time to time. I would also like to thank Ed Addison, President of HSMC for his continued interest and support in our group.

September Speaker

Lesley Wood
Dr. Sarah Ann Chadwick
Regimental Surgeon
7th Illinois Cavalry

Monday, September 8, 2003

Lesley Wood, living historian/Civil War medical re-enactor, portrays Dr. Sarah Ann Chadwick Clapp. Clapp served with the 7th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry in 1861-1862 as a contract regimental surgeon, assistant surgeon/surgeon in general hospitals in Cairo, Illinois, and aboard hospital transport ships.

Currently, Lesley is the regimental surgeon for two Civil War reenactment units in the Delaware Valley: the 6th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry/Co. C based in NJ and the 17th PA Cavalry/Co. E. based in PA. She does a large scale field hospital at reenactments and living history events.

Lesley will discuss the role of Clapp and other women physicians during the Civil War. She will also focus on the obstacles faced and achievements made by these heroic women who were so determined to use their medical training in time of war.

A resident of Swarthmore, PA, Lesley is an adjunct college professor at Delaware Technical and Community College in Delaware. She holds a BA degree in Journalism from Temple University and completed MA studies in Education at West Chester University. She is a member of the Brandywine Civil War Roundtable in West Chester, PA. Lesley has been actively conducting research on 19th century women physicians since 1999 and eventually hopes to write a book.

Montgomery Cemetery

Work on the main gates at Montgomery Cemetery has begun. If you have been there lately you will notice that the main gates are missing and that 2 large 8-inch square supports have been erected behind the main pillars to hold the refinished gates. An arch bearing the cemeteries name is being constructed and curbing has been installed on either side of the main drive. The smaller gates on either side of the main gates will be redone to allow foot traffic to enter the cemetery. The work is being done to improve the appearance of the cemetery and to prohibit access to the cemetery by undesirables.

Work Weekend

Any one who is interested in helping out at Montgomery Cemetery on Saturday, September 13th, 2003 is welcome. The plan is to move and reset stones in Section A of the cemetery. 5 new veteran stones have been ordered for unmarked graves at Montgomery and have arrived. The weekend includes a camp out by Scout Troop 752 of Norristown. The troop spent a weekend at the cemetery in the spring. They will be participating in a general clean up as well as helping in section A and the Veteran's Rose Garden. The Viet Nam Veterans Chapter #349 under the direction of Eileen Santori sponsors the event. Eileen is also a member of the CWRT of Montgomery County.

Norris City Cemetery

Thanks to the support of our round table membership and other members of the Civil War community in the Philadelphia area a letter was published in the Times Herald by West Norriton Township outlining their intention not to flatten the tombstones in the cemetery. The township's position is to only bury those stones that are broken or beyond repair.

AMART SYMPOSIUM

(See page 3 for details)

And Dinner

The "Meet the Authors" dinner buffet will be held on Friday October 17th at 6:30 and the Water Wheel Restaurant in Doylestown. The cost is \$30. You must purchase a symposium ticket to attend this event.

Death Claims George Evans in Hospital

From the Norristown Time Herald, Wednesday, July 23, 1941
Last Surviving Civil War Veteran in This Section Died This Morning

The thin blue line of Civil War Veterans vanished in this section with the death at 12:30 this morning of George W. Evans in Chestnut Hill Hospital. Mr. Evans, husband of the late Mrs. Mary S. Evans, was born in Bridgeport, a son of the late Cadwallader and Rachel Evans, but has resided most of his life at Spring Mill. He would have observed his 97th birthday anniversary on September 9. Recently, he had been living at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Harry S. Runacres, Cedar Grove Lane and Joshua Road, Spring Mill, Whitmarsh Township. He had been a patient at the hospital only since last Saturday, and prior to that had been in fairly good health. Death was due to complications. The Civil War veteran served as school master on a naval training vessel, the "Quinneburg", and also was attached to the medical department during the war. He was in the Marine Corps. He was a member of the "Freeman's Bureau", an organizations whose principles were for reconstruction of the South. He is a member of the Sons of Veterans of the Civil War, Norristown Camp. The former Union soldier served with the 138th Pennsylvania, Second Brigade, Third Division, Sixth Army Corps, known as the "Army of the Potomac". He was a familiar figure in the neighborhood and the children of the Spring Mill School, Just across Joshua Road befriended him. He was the last known surviving Grand Army veteran of this section. He outlived his wife and two daughters and recently made his home with his remaining daughter. **Mark Twain A Favorite.** Reading was a favorite recreation and until his eye sight dimmed he read Mark Twain every day this author interesting to him particularly because he once had the pleasure of meeting him at Mr. Evans boyhood home in Bridgeport. Military funeral services will be held from the funeral home of Paul D. Miller, 300 Fayette Street, Conshohocken, at 2 Saturday afternoon. Rev. Stanley R. West, rector of Cavalry Episcopal Church will officiate.

Military funeral services were held on Saturday, July 26, 1941 at Riverside Cemetery in West Norriton Township. The July 28, 1941 issue of, *The Norristown Times Herald*, reported that members of the John F. DeHaven Post of the American Legion served as pallbearers. The pallbearers were : Brooke Moore, Vernon E Wynne, Ezekiel Kirkpatrick, Francis J. Bobenreith, Walter Grain and George Clark.

According to the Civil War Veteran's Card File maintained by the Pennsylvania State Archives. George W. Evans a resident of Montgomery County enrolled at Norristown, Pa. on August 11, 1862 and mustered in at Harrisburg, Pa. as a Private in Company A of the 138th Pennsylvania on August 19, 1862. He mustered out of the regiment on June 23, 1865. At the time of his enrollment his age was 18 and his occupation was listed as a gentleman.

According to Samuel P. Bates', History of Pennsylvania Volunteers 1861-65, (Volume 4, page 360) Evans was wounded at Mine Rune on November 27, 1863.

Among the first to respond to the call for volunteers made by President Lincoln in July, 1862, and the very first three years organization to leave the Keystone State under that requisition, was the 138th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. It was not recruited as a regiment, like many were at that time but hastily organized by a consolidation of independent companies from different portions of the State. The first Company (A) was enrolled by Captain M.R. McClennan [mustered out as Colonel 6-23-65], of Norristown, and composed of men from that borough, Conshohocken, Barren Hill, and other towns and villages in Montgomery county. It was designed at first to serve in a nine months regiment, but not being recruited to full strength by the time limited for that purpose by the Governor, the officers resolved to change the period of enlistment to three years. After so doing, their company soon increased to the required number, and left Norristown August 16th, 1862, when it repaired to the State rendezvous at Harrisburg. Company "B" was enlisted by Captain John McCreary [discharged 9-12-64], of Adams county, principally at Gettysburg and its immediate vicinity. Company "C", organized by Captain George W. Guss [discharged 5-15-65], consisted of men residing in Norristown, Bridgeport, and the surrounding country, and arrived at rendezvous August 16, 1862. Company "D" was raised by Captain John S. Stuckey [discharged 2-3-65], of Bedford County, at Bedford, Schellsburg, and other places in that county. Company "E", commanded by Captain Simon Dickerhoof [mu stered out 6-23-65], hailed also from Bedford county, and chiefly from the county seat. Company "F", Captain Lewis A. May [mustered out as Lt. Col. 6-23-65], came from Cumberland Valley, Bedford Springs, and other portions of the same county. Company "G", composed of Adams county boys, was enrolled by Captain James H. Walter [discharged 3-26-65], at Bendersville, Heildersburg, and other country towns. Company "H" was organized by Captain Lazarus C. Andress [died of wounds 11-12-63], in Bucks county, and contained men from Doylestown, Yardleyville, and vicinity. Company "I" was formed by Captain Augustus G. Feather [dismissed 9-13-64], of detachments from Norristown, Port Kennedy and Hatboro, Montgomery county and a squad from Sellersville, Bucks county. Comp any "K" came into organization last, and under the command of Captain Richard T. Stewart [honorably discharged 5-15-65], of Norristown. It contained a few men from that borough, but was principally recruited from the country, in Montgomery county. Philadelphia and Bucks counties also had a few representatives in it.

History of the One Hundred and Thirty Eighth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry by Osceola Lewis, Norristown, Wills, Iredell and Jenkins, 1866, pages 9-11.

Information in brackets provided by editor from the regimental history.

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 9th 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, Ph.D 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.

Individuals may write, call or email for additional information to: ACWCT 503 S. Warminster Road, Ste R-3, Hatboro, PA 19040, 215.443.7632, oct2003amart@yahoo.com

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Saturday, October 18, 1862

As Whitemarsh was to be drafted today, Follen and I went to Norristown, after seeing a few patients, and witnessed the drawing. The Court House was about half full of anxious people waiting to hear their names called, but hoping that they would escape. Seventy-five names were drawn. A great number were our immediate neighbors and scarcely one of them I did not know. Many of them are laboring men with large families. This morning I visited John Burns family and found his wife in deepest agony. John used to live with me and says he will do whatever I advise. He has a large team and a good contract of hauling stones to the Furnace. He also digs ore for me by the ton. It is very distressing to see these men dragged away from their families. Three of our storekeepers here are drawn. Isaac Styer who is married to brother Alan's daughter Martha is in this list. There are many sad families in Pa. this night. There is a great demand for substitutes.

From: The Diary of Hiram Corson, M.D 1862-1865; Edited by Louis A. Meier, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Published in the Bulletin of the Historical Society of Montgomery County Pennsylvania Volume XXXIII No. 3 Fall 2002 page 194

Members of the Corson family belonged to the Society of Friends

2003-2004

Dues are now payable

**A SIGHT IN C
G**

¹A SIGHT in camp in the d
As from my tent I emerge
As slow I walk in the cool

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