

Cape May County Civil War Roundtable

President John's comments

I want to start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. I'm sure you will all agree that 2020 was one "for the history books". I hope that you and your loved ones got through this pandemic safely and are looking forward to a much better 2021. With the rollout of the COVID vaccination, social distancing and face masks will soon become unnecessary. I expect to restart our meetings sometime near midyear. I don't believe we should meet until the general population gets the all clear. I will start to lineup live speakers for 2021 and keep you notified of our plans as they become clearer.

I'm sorry to report that Pat Munson-Siter, our newsletter publisher for the last several years and a long-standing and dedicated member of our organization died shortly after relocating to California to be with her family. She had been battling cancer for the last few years. She will be sorely missed as a long time member and strong supporter of our round table.

Jim Marshall has agreed to pick up the banner and will be issuing quarterly newsletters going forward. If anyone has an interest in learning more about publication software and how it interfaces to the internet I'm sure Jim would welcome your help and pass on some of his knowledge. Let him know if you're interested in helping out.

I've contacted all our officers from 2020 and since we didn't have any meetings all year everyone has agreed to serve again in 2021. And so our officers for this year will be myself (John Herr) as president, Lou Bishop as vice president, Hank Heacock as treasurer, Jim Marshall as newsletter editor, Bill Buchanan as meeting secretary and Andy Lolli as fundraising/raffle chair person. Since we're still not sure of our meeting schedule, we will not ask for dues at this time.

I encourage you to join in on Round Table Zoom meetings from other Civil War groups in the area. The George Meade Society, The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum (in Philadelphia), the Old Baldy Round Table, and the South Jersey (in Toms River) Round Table have all continued to conduct Zoom meetings at different times throughout the month. I encourage you to Google their webpages (you can contact me for assistance) and send a request to their president to be included in their meetings and given Zoom passwords. I have found that these local clubs will share this information openly with members of Cape May County Round Table. Looking forward to a time when we can meet in person again. Your president John

Round Table Officers 2021

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Friends are encouraged to, send me articles, book reviews, etc to help me fill up the newsletter!

Books, Books Books

A few years ago a friend of mine gave me a book **Cain at Gettysburg** by **Ralph Peters**. The cover said "Surpasses Michael Shaara's classic *The Killer Angels* ... brilliant ... brilliant. I thought :that would be difficult to do" ... but he did it. I liked his style of writing such that I've "read" three more of his books, in their historical order, with one more to finish. I mention "read" because, actually, they were read TO me on Audible.com.

I find that it takes me MONTHS to actually read a book, but with Audible.com I can listen while I drive or change lightbulbs at the Amusement Pier. Multi-tasking. There's a monthly subscription of about \$15, which is about what a book would cost anyway. Of course, you're not limited to historical novels, and they don't have EVERY title, but it's a way for me to try new authors that I otherwise might never hear about.

So, whether you actually turn the pages yourself, or let someone else read to you, here are his other books :

- ***Hell or Richmond***
- ***Valley of the Shadow***
- ***The Doomed of Petersburg***
- ***Judgement of Appomattox***

I have not "read" the last one yet, as it is not available on Audible, but the Ocean City Library has it, or will once I return it.

Oh, and by the way, if anyone wants to truly READ Cain at Gettysburg just get in touch with me and you can read my copy. Libraries are meant to be shared.

And while I'm on the subject of books ... I have a few duplicates in my library, and I suspect I'll find more once I explore deeper into the attic.

If anyone would like to give some of these Titles a New Home, give me a ring Some were gifts and have never been opened (since I already had them).

Gettysburg Books needing a new home :

- ***Gettysburg*** Newt Gingrich and William R. Forstchen. A "what if" book which explores an alternative ending. Paper back version with slight water damage, Oops.
- ***Witness To Gettysburg***. Richard Wheeler. Uses the words of participants and witnesses to tell the dramatic and factual story of the battle. New.
- ***Lost Triumph***. Tom Carhart. Lee's real plan at Gettysburg – and why it failed.

.... And a few more ...

- ***Stonewall in the Valley*** Robert Tanner. THIS book shows it's age, but the story is still good. A study of the Valley Campaign.
- ***Appomattox*** A novel by James Reasoner. Book 10 in The Civil War Battle Series. Need to complete a set , or begin one ?
- ***Manhunt*** James L. Swanson. The 12-day chase for Lincoln's killer. I hadn't realized that the search for John Wilkes Booth lasted almost two weeks. The Epilogue and Notes proved as informative as the book. THIS should be a movie !

And if anyone has a book to recommend, or books, tapes, etc . to share let me know.

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