

# CAPE MAY COUNTY CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

## Upcoming October 17th Meeting

For one of our final yearly meetings, on October 17th, the Round Table will hear the presentation “Civil War Naval Ships - The Sultana, the Black Diamond and the Massachusetts Disasters” which is presented by Mike Jesberger, historical lecturer, and college professor. He has his own website for his historical endeavors which can be found at [www.mrushistory.com](http://www.mrushistory.com).



**Walt Lafty**

## Past meeting - September 19th

The Round table enjoyed on September 19th, “The Grand Army of the Republic and the GAR Museum” by Walt Lafty, a Civil War Historian, GAR Museum Curator, and Round Table Leadership. Lafty has worked in GAR Preservation and is a professional in post-Civil War veterans organization history. The presentation offered valuable and rich insight into the story of the GAR post-Civil War history.

Issue #7 - October, 2024

# CAPE MAY COUNTY CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

## The Trent Affair (1861)

The Trent Affair was a diplomatic incident during the American Civil War in late 1861. The U.S. Navy intercepted the British mail ship RMS Trent, capturing Confederate diplomats James Mason and John Slidell. This action sparked outrage in Britain, leading to demands for their release and an apology. To avoid escalating tensions, President Lincoln ordered their release, emphasizing the need to maintain diplomatic relations during the war.



## About Us

The Cape May County Civil War Round Table was created in 1985, and since then has enjoyed strong membership and active participation. The Roundtable is active every year from April to November. Meetings are held on every third Thursday of each month at 7pm, at the American Legion Post 331, 11617 2nd Ave, Stone Harbor, NJ 08247. The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend meetings. Dues are \$30 every year, or \$40 for family.

## Officers - 2024

### *President*

John Herr

avalonjohn@aol.com

### *Vice- President*

Lou Bishop

louiebish22@gmail.com

### *Fundraising*

Andy Lolli

andy.lolli@verizon.net

### *Secretary*

Suzanne Gibson

gibsonsuzanne5@gmail.com

### *Communications*

Dylan J. Wettstein

djeffwettstein@gmail.com

### *Webmaster*

Jim Marshall

jim@jimocnj.com

### *Treasurer*

Hank Heacock

dianeruth54@hotmail.com

### *Sergeant-at-Arms*

Craig Costigan

costigan1117@comcast.net

**Civil War Question Answer for September:** “What was the main reason for General McClellan's slow movements during the Peninsula Campaign of 1862?” **Secretary of War Edward Stanton**

**Civil War Question for September:** “Who was the radical from Virginia that had advocated for secession decades before the American Civil War?”

The answer will be revealed in the next monthly issue of the Cape May County Civil War Round Table!



## **Civil War History of October**

**Battle of Petersburg (October 1864)** Union forces under General Ambrose Burnside aimed to seize the Confederate supply lines near Petersburg, Virginia. The Union launched several assaults, but despite initial gains, they faced fierce resistance from General Robert E. Lee's troops. The battle resulted in significant casualties on both sides and underscored the stalemate that characterized the Petersburg Campaign.

**Battle of Cedar Creek (October 19, 1864)** Confederate General Jubal Early launched a surprise attack on Union forces led by General Philip Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. Early's initial assault pushed the Union troops back, but Sheridan rallied his forces, leading a counterattack that resulted in a decisive Union victory. This battle significantly weakened Confederate strength in the valley and boosted Union morale.

**Battle of Nashville (October 1864)** Union General George H. Thomas prepared for an offensive against Confederate General John Bell Hood's forces in Nashville, Tennessee. Although the major battle occurred in December, the months leading up to it saw significant skirmishes and strategic positioning, as both sides readied for a crucial confrontation that would ultimately determine control of Tennessee.



*Issue #7 - October, 2024*

## **Upcoming Meetings for 2024**

**October 17th - “Civil War Naval Ships - The Sultana, the Black Diamond and the Massachusetts Disasters”** - Presented by Mike Jesberger, Historical Lecturer, and College Professor

**November 21 - TBA**

