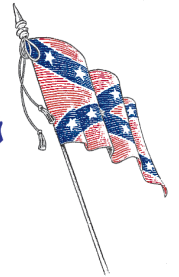




THE OFFICIAL RECORDS

OF THE ROBERT E. LEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF CENTRAL NJ



APRIL 8, 2019 MEETING

Woodbridge Public Library, 7 pm

Unsung Heroines:

The Role of Women in the Civil War

Speaker: Martin Mosho

This month's presentation provides a comprehensive, one-hour review of the heroic and awesome accomplishments made by women, both North and South. It covers their roles as administrators, journalists, nurses, spies and combatants in an age when women were expected to stay home. These remarkable women defied the culture of their time, surpassed all expectations and provided enormous support to the war effort. Sadly, they never received proper historical notice. This program reveals the enormity of their contributions and sacrifices.

Our speaker this month is Martin Mosho. Mr. Mosho is a retired business executive who taught at Mercer County Community College for nine years. He also teaches four different Civil War programs at adult education centers, libraries, senior centers and historical societies in Central New Jersey.

He is the author of two published books. Martin is a graduate of Brooklyn College. His professional career consisted of advertising sales management positions at the *New York Times*, *New York Post*, *Mademoiselle* and *U.S. News & World Report*. The American Civil War has been a passion of his for over sixty years. He is a member of the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table and museum in Hamilton N.J.

NEWS AND NOTES

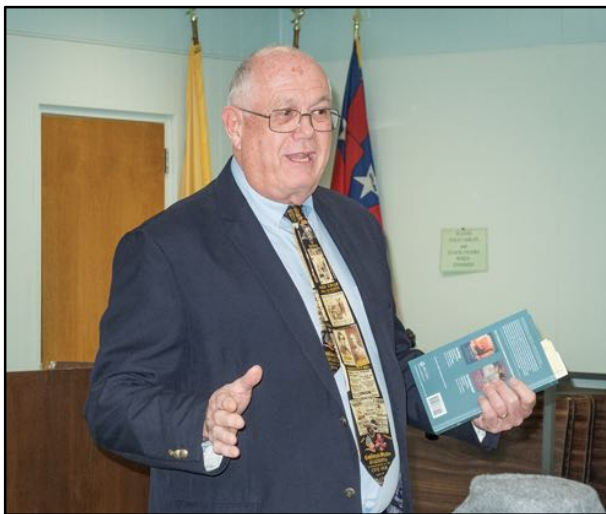
* The books for this month's Book Raffle are *No Better Place to Die: The Battle of Stones River* by Peter Cozzens, *Return to Bull Run* by John Hennessy, *A Stillness at Appomattox* by Bruce Catton, and *1863 The Rebirth of a Nation* by Joseph Stevens.

* A flyer for our annual battlefield tour, to Antietam and Shepherdstown, is attached.

* The annual St. Patrick's Day parade, sponsored by the Woodbridge Irish American Association, was held on Sunday, March 10. On a cold, wet and dreary day, five members of the RE Lee Round Table—Jim Donovan, Gary Drake, Phil Kohn, Karen Kulaga, and Mike Lawrence—members of the 7th Virginia Cavalry, participated. As has been the tradition, members of the 7th VA officially started the parade with the firing of guns. The unit was well received as they marched the approximate 1.7-mile parade route. All were proud to participate in this event.

President's Column

I'd like to thank Professor James Hedtke for making the trip from Pennsylvania to speak to us about Civil War myths and their origins. His presentation was very interesting and enlightening. If any of our members wish to explore more of the Professor's research on Civil War myths, he recently authored a book entitled *American Civil War Facts and Fictions* which is available at Amazon.



February speaker James Hedtke explores Civil War myths and their origins.

This issue of our OR should contain the flyer about our trip to Antietam and Shepherdstown. The price of the hotel room includes a hot and cold breakfast menu as well as access to a pool and other amenities. Check-in time is 3 pm Friday, June 7. If you have to cancel your reservation for any reason, make sure you do so no later than 6:00 pm on June 7. As we get closer to our departure date, I'll fill you in about lunch and dinner plans. Please keep in mind that before the trip we will have an informal meeting on Thursday, May 23 at 7 pm at our Civil War Library, located at 94 Green St in Woodbridge, NJ. The purpose of this meeting is to provide our travelers with background information about the Battle of Shepherdstown. Hopefully, this information will make your trip experience more meaningful and enjoyable.

Our tour guide is Kevin Pawlak. He is the Director of Education for the Mosby Heritage Area Association and works as a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Antietam National Battlefield. Kevin also sits on the Board of Directors of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association and the Save Historic Antietam Foundation. He is also on the advisory board of the George Tyler Moore Center for the study of the Civil War at Shepherd University, his alma mater.

Previously, Kevin worked and completed internships at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, and the Missouri Civil War Museum.

Kevin is the author of *Shepherdstown in the Civil War: One Vast Confederate Hospital* published by the History Press in 2015. He also authored *The Heaviest Blow Yet Given the Confederacy: the Emancipation Proclamation Changes the Civil War* part of *Emerging Civil Wars/Engaging the Civil War* Series with Southern Illinois University Press.

Congratulations to our book raffle winners: Tom Williamson (*Yellow Tavern to Cold Harbor; Gettysburg: The Second Day*, and *Fighting for the Confederacy: The Reminiscences of Edward Porter Alexander*); Rich Romano (*Charleston*); Kelly Mcvey (*The History and Battlefields of the Civil War*); Mike Lawrence (*Cain at Gettysburg*); and Tom Kuzma (*Wasted Valor*).

Next month's meeting will be on Monday, May 6 at 7 pm in the downstairs meeting room of the Woodbridge Main Library. Our speaker will be Ralph Siegel who will talk to us about "The Peach Orchard Fight." Until then have a happy Easter, a joyous Passover, and remember that the IRS is really an acronym for THEIRS.

—Tom Kuzma

This Month in the Civil War

4/12/61:	Firing on Ft. Sumter
4/6-7/62:	Battle of Shiloh
4/2/63:	Richmond "Bread Riot"
4/8/64:	Battle of Sabine Crossroads
4/9/65:	Army of Northern Virginia surrenders
4/15/65:	President Lincoln dies



Samuel Colt

GRAVE OF THE MONTH

Samuel Colt

By Judith Breistein

Samuel Colt was born in Hartford, Connecticut on July 19, 1814. His mother died of tuberculosis when he was six years old. His father remarried less than two years later. His stepmother resented the large Colt family of 7 boisterous children, though she birthed three of her own children in rapid succession.

The house was crowded and money was tight. The older Colt children were forced to go out to work or be apprenticed to a trade.

Samuel began to work in his father's textile factory when he was 10. In 1829, after setting fire to his classroom during a brief stint at school, he was sent to intern on a cargo ship headed to India. It was on board that Samuel constructed his first wooden model of a revolving pistol, a "six shooter." Upon his return home, he worked for his father as a dye manager, learning a great deal of chemistry along the way. After saving enough money, he traveled as a showman through the United States and Canada, doing demonstrations using "laughing gas." In two years, he had earned enough to stay home and work on his revolver prototype. By 1833, he had perfected a six-barreled rotating breech. Samuel was advised to patent it in Europe first. In 1836, he returned to America and founded the Patent Arms Company. By 1842, the company was insolvent.

Tragedy seemed to dog the Colt family. During his youth, Samuel lost three sisters: one to a childhood disease, one at 19 from consumption and one in 1839, from suicide by arsenic poisoning. Of his three brothers, he was closest with the eldest, John. John had written a remarkably successful accounting text, reprinted 46 times. But while arguing with his publisher about money, John murdered the man with a hatchet. He tried to ship the body to New Orleans, wrapped in sailcloth and covered with chloride of lime, but it was soon detected. (Edgar Allen Poe based his story "The Oblong Box" on this murder.) The body was traced back to John who was tried and condemned to death.

Samuel and John had a complicated relationship. In 1838, while in Europe, Samuel had met and married the beautiful 16-year-old Caroline Henshaw. When he returned with her to the United States, he realized she did not fit the model of the wife of a successful businessman and a high society hostess. He left Caroline in the care of John.

On November 18, 1842, the day of John's execution, Samuel Colt appeared at The Tombs with a very pregnant Caroline Henshaw and a preacher. Caroline and John were married to give the baby a legitimate name, Samuel Caldwell Colt. After the short ceremony, John asked to be left alone to compose himself. When the hangman returned, he found John dead, a knife sticking out of his heart. Caroline was sent back to Europe under the name Julia Leicester, to start a new life. Samuel Caldwell Colt, always referred to in quotes as Samuel Colt's

“nephew,” was more or less acknowledged openly by Colt to be his son. He was given a generous allowance and sent to the finest schools.

Colt’s multi-shot revolvers had been used successfully in the West by Texas Rangers during the Seminole War. The repeat shot revolvers evened their odds against an enemy who outnumbered them. When the Mexican war began, the U.S. government ordered 1,000 revolvers. Colt constructed a new workshop in Hartford, calling it Colt’s Patent Fire-Arms Manufacturing Company. By 1860, it was the largest of its kind in the world.

Death was big business and the coming Civil War was to make Samuel Colt an immensely wealthy man. By 1861, the factory had doubled in size. Colt wrote his foreman, “Run the Armory night & day with a double set of hands.”

Colt was innovative as a factory owner. He revolutionized the production of revolvers by using interchangeable parts, making an assembly line process feasible. He spent a fortune on advertising, even coining the phrase, “New and Improved.” He obtained (paid) celebrity endorsements from Sam Houston and Brigham Young. He used famous artists, like George Caitlin, to illustrate his ads. Colt sent complimentary engraved revolvers to leaders throughout Europe, even to Tsar Nicholas and the King of Siam. He relied on the bribery of politicians and military officials to help him receive lucrative government contracts for his factory.

An American citizen could buy a Colt revolver for \$14.50. The British government could buy one for \$12.50. Samuel Colt sold his revolvers to the Federal government for \$25 each. Even with the rumblings of war on the horizons, Colt sold his revolvers both North and South. Some said he was a Copperhead, others called him a traitor. Three days after Fort Sumter, he was still shipping arms to the Confederacy, labeling them “hardware.” Colt was billing the Federal Government 10 percent more than the CSA. The New York Tribune wrote, “...traitors have found sympathizers among us, men base enough to sell arms when they knew they would be ...in the hands of the deadly enemies of the Union.” Bribed men in high places now told Colt the game was up. He was forced to stop selling weapons to the south.

Colt was considered a good employer. His men worked a 10-hour day with an hour for lunch. He put wash stations throughout the factory. He built employee housing. He also built The Charter Oak Hall, a club where his employees could relax in their leisure time. But he regularly fired employees who he considered to be “Black devil Republicans.” He would rant about abolitionists and curse John Brown. On Election Day, he would stand besides voting booths, cautioning his workers on who to vote for.

Samuel married Elizabeth Hart Jarvis on June 5, 1856. Elizabeth was a wealthy 30-year-old woman from a good family. The Colts built a mansion, Armswear, hoping to fill it with children. But their hopes for a large family were consistently dashed. Their first son, Samuel, was born and died in 1857.

On January 10, 1862, Samuel Colt died suddenly of complications from gout. He was 47 years old. He did not live long enough to hear his Colt .45 caliber Peacemaker called “the gun that won the West.” He never knew it was used by the legendary Jesse James, Billy the Kid and Wyatt Earp. He never heard the slogan, “God created men. Colonel Colt made them equal.” Colt was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford. The planned military salute was silenced so as not to disturb Colt’s two-year-old daughter, Henrietta, who was desperately ill. She died 10 days after her father. Six months after Colt’s death, Elizabeth gave birth to a stillborn child. In 1863, three-year-old Elizabeth died. Of their five children, only one, Caldwell Hart Colt, would live to adulthood.



Colt’s grave, Hartford CT

Colt had left a thriving business and a 15-million-dollar fortune, equivalent to 350 million today. Elizabeth's brother, Richard Jarvis, became president of the company. On February 4, 1864, the factory burned to the ground, alleged to be the work of Confederate sympathizers. Elizabeth struggled on. She had lost four children, her husband and the uninsured factory in six years.

Caldwell Hart Colt was viewed as a "fop and dilettante." He drowned while yachting on January 21, 1894, aged 35, under mysterious circumstances. Some believe he was murdered by a jealous husband.

Samuel Colt had left his "nephew," Samuel Caldwell Colt, two million dollars. Elizabeth went to court but in probate young Samuel produced a marriage certificate that proved his "uncle" had married Catherine Henshaw in 1838 and there was no evidence that there had ever been a divorce. Samuel Caldwell Colt was entitled to part of the Colt estate. He married, raised a family and was elected to the state legislature. He died on July 16, 1915 and is also buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford, Connecticut.

Elizabeth became a philanthropist, advocating for daycare for working mothers. She was president of the Union for Home Work for 22 years and the first president of the Hartford Soldiers Aid Society. In 1869, she organized the first Suffragette Convention in Hartford. Elizabeth died "of paralysis" on August 23, 1905 and is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery next to her husband. She was known as "The First Lady of Connecticut." Her full-page obituary was the first ever for a woman.

Today the grounds of Armswear are a 100-acre public park. The house was donated by Elizabeth to be used as a refuge for gentlewomen dependents of Episcopal clergymen.

Who Am I?

Many students of the Civil War believe that Captain Henry Wirz was the only one executed for war crimes against the United States government. Untrue. I was another unfortunate victim of the Union killing machine.

I was born on November 29, 1821 in Clinton County, Kentucky, the oldest of 10 children. Like my father before me, I was a farmer and expected to live a quiet life tending my land. People laughed when I said that. They called me a "gambling, rowdyish, drinking, fighting, quarrelsome man."

I buried my infant son and my first wife, Ann Elizabeth, who died of childbed fever, age 22, in 1847. By the 1850s, I had moved my new wife, Martha, and our family to East Tennessee. Families there were divided by the talk of abolition. My mother and all 9 of my siblings were for the abolitionists, damn them all. Later, one of my brothers was killed while he was fighting for the Union as a member of Kentucky's 1st Cavalry.

In 1858, I was sitting in jail convicted of tying Sheriff James Read to a tree, winding a rope around him, and then hacking him to death. When the war began, the authorities let me loose. I formed my own guerilla band. The area where we lived was mountainous and easy to hide in. We attacked and killed in cold blood anyone, and I mean anyone, we suspected of being loyal to the Union. Often I would just knock on the front door of a home. When the wife answered, I asked for her husband. When he appeared, I ran him through with my saber. I tried to fight alongside Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan and Major General Joseph Wheeler. But my boys and I didn't quite follow the "civilized rules" of warfare so we worked mostly alone. Some said I was a sadist and maybe they were right. I saw no sight better than the decapitated head of a Union soldier rolling down the hillside and bleeding into the good Tennessee dirt.

After the Confederate victory at the Battle of Saltville, Virginia, my men and I were accused of slaughtering the wounded United States Colored Cavalry troops in their hospital beds. Even the CSA government condemned us. We didn't stay to hear the

accusations. We took off. But my picture was plastered on every newspaper and magazine in the country.

After the war, I went back to my farm. Union guerillas had burned everything I owned to the ground. The US government said we'd be paroled if we turned ourselves into the military authorities. My men were released but they kept me in jail. I was accused of killing over 53 men in cold blood. "Tinker Dave" Beatty testified against me. He had his own band of guerillas fighting for the other side. We had spent most of the war trying to kill each other. But that was my duty as a soldier, wasn't it?

My trial lasted two months, from June to September 1865. Everyone knew it was a sham, a "kangaroo court." I was doing my duty as a soldier. I was convicted and sentenced to death for war crimes. On October 20, 1865, the Yanks strung me up while my wife and daughter watched.

"I killed a good many men...but I never killed a man who I did not know was seeking my life...I had always heard that the Federals...would shoot me down wherever they found me. That is what made me kill more than I otherwise would have done. I repeat that I die a Rebel out and out and my last request is that my body be removed to White County, Tennessee, and be buried in good Rebel soil."

My wife took me home in a wagon and buried me in France Cemetery, Sparta, White County, Tennessee. During the war, I had been known as the "most notorious" of the guerilla fighters. Today no one seems to remember my name. Who am I?

—Submitted by Judi Breitstein

Last month's answer: Susie Baker King Taylor

Civil War Quiz

1. What judge presided over the Andrew Johnson impeachment trial?
2. Who was the lead prosecutor in the Andrew Johnson impeachment trial?
3. Who said, "If you don't have my army supplied, and keep it supplied, we'll eat your mules up, sir."
4. Who said, "I am the last President of the United States."
5. Who was the most senior ranking member of the US government to take up arms against the United States during his service to the Confederacy?

—Submitted by Judi Breitstein

Last month's answers: 1. Henry King Burgwyn of the 26th NC 2. Rebels, Democrats, and women 3. Jennie Wade's Sister 4. A surgeon 5. Granite Hill

Vision Statement

With the Civil War being a defining event in the history of the United States and a continuing influence on our society in general, the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey is dedicated to preserving and expanding knowledge about — and understanding of — this seminal event.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to serve our members by striving to reach, with resources available, the goals set forward in the Vision Statement. This would be achieved, as finances allow, by: holding meetings, seminars and round tables; offering speakers who are experts in some aspect of the Civil War; encouraging nonpartisan, nonpolitical discussion and dialogue while honoring all those involved in the conflict; contributing toward the preservation of battlefields and important historical sites for future generations; providing eyes-on/hands-on/feet-on first-hand experiences by arranging field trips to battlefields and historical sites and by sponsoring living-history/reenactment events; enhancing communication by publishing a newsletter and maintaining a website; and operating a dedicated library/research center available to members, serious scholars and the general public.



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

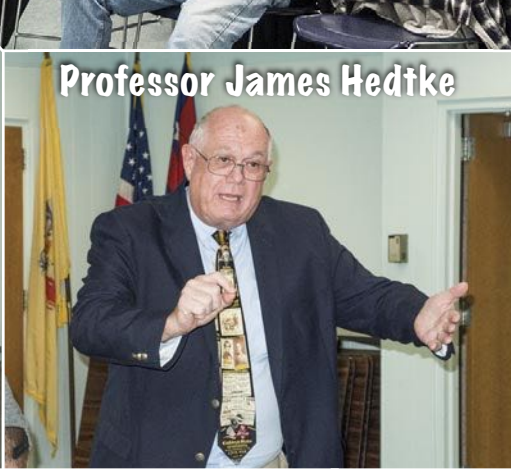
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www.facebook.com/RobertELeeCivilWarRoundTable

March 4, 2019 at The Robert E. Lee CWRT
Professor James Hedtke discusses his newest book:
"American Civil War Facts and Fictions"



Professor James Hedtke

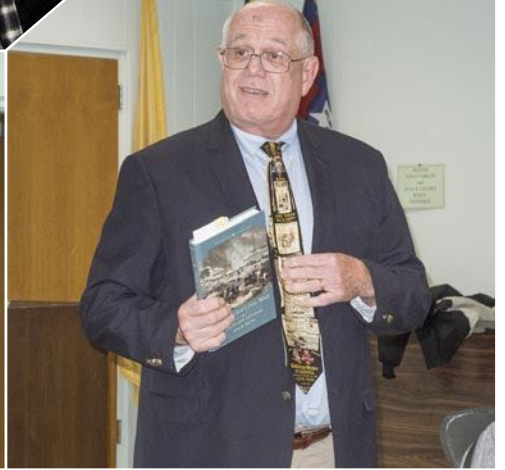


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Thomas Kuzma



Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey

Antietam & Shepherdstown: guided by Kevin Pawlak

You are responsible for your trip to MD & your Hotel reservation etc costs



Kevin Pawlak

**Tour Begins Saturday at 9:00 am June 8, 2019 at the:
Antietam National Battlefield Visitor Center
5831 Dunker Church Road, Sharpsburg, MD 21782**

Please Note: Consolidating rides will make our tour more enjoyable.

Itinerary ← (subject to change) →

Saturday, June 8, 2019 - 9:00 am promptly ~ Meet our tour guide at Antietam Visitor Center.
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 pm—Tour the battlefield, including: Dunker Church; North Woods; East Woods; the Cornfield; West Woods; Mumma Farm; Sunken Road; Burnside Bridge; Antietam National Cemetery
7:00 pm Group dinner

Sunday, June 9, 2019 - 9:00 am promptly ~ Meet our tour guide at Antietam Visitor Center.
9:00 a.m. - Noon—Tour the Shepherdstown battlefield
Noon—Head for lunch and then home.

The cost of \$60.00 covers your Guided Tour. You are responsible for any/all other costs.

The Robert E. Lee CWRT has a block of ten rooms reserved at \$92.00 per night until May 7 at:

Country Inn Suites, 17612 Valley Mall Road, Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301)582-5003

Includes Complimentary Hot Breakfast

Call (301)582-5003 and ask to reserve with the Robert E. Lee CWRT for the group rate of \$92.00.

← **May 7, 2019 is the group rate cut off date.**

Arrive Friday pm, June 7, 2019 and check out Sunday am, June 9, 2019

Please: Send \$60.00 payable to RELeeCWRT

May 7, 2019 is the cut off date to reserve your room at the group rate of \$92.00

Mail your check (payable to RELeeCWRT) to: Tom Kuzma ~311 West Gibbons Street, Lindon, NJ 07036

I wish to attend the Antietam & Shepherdstown tour with the Robert E. Lee CWRT ~ guided by Kevin Pawlak

☛ My \$60.00 check (payable to R.E.Lee CWRT) is included.

I will arrive Friday June 7 and check out Sunday June 9 am prepared to continue tour.

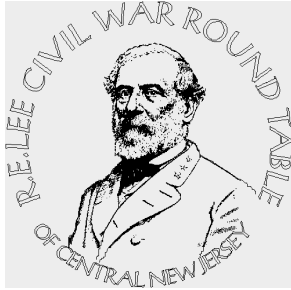
I will attend Saturday evening dinner with the group.

I hereby release the R.E. Lee CWRT and its members from any and all liability arising out of this trip.

Name: _____ email: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Address: _____



THE ROBERT E. LEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

SCHEDULE FOR 2018 – 2019

- 9-10-18 Paul Lader **M.O.L.L.U.S.**
10-1-18 Paul Kahan **Presidency of U.S. Grant**
11-5-18 Rick Trimble **Major General Isaac R. Trimble, CSA**
12-3-18 James Remsen **Embattled Freedom**
1-7-19 Jay Jorgensen **Fighting with Jackson**
2-4-19 Andie Waskie **G.A.R.**
3-4-19 Jim Hedtke **Civil War Myths**
4-1-19 Martin Mosho **Women in the Civil War**
5-6-19 Ralph Siegel **The Peach Orchard Fight**
6-3-19 James I. "Bud" Robertson **TBA**
7-10-19 Matt Borowick **Civil War Firsts**
8-7-19 Craig Breneiser **1863 – Afloat – A Year of Destiny**

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Corps Commander - \$300, includes dues membership for the year, free book raffle ticket at each meeting, special invitation to Library events, tour at Gettysburg, & Corps level gift

Brigade Commander - \$200, includes dues membership for the year, free book raffle ticket at each meeting, tour at Gettysburg, & Brigade level gift

Regiment Commander - \$100, includes dues membership for the year, free book raffle ticket at each meeting, & tour at Gettysburg

Dues: Regular Member **\$35**

Associate Member **\$25** (75 miles outside of Woodbridge)

Student Member **\$20**

Fill in info below and send in with dues to the address below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Enclosed is my dues of \$_____, plus an optional donation of \$___ for the Library & Research Center.

1162 St. George Avenue, Suite #194, Avenel, New Jersey 07001

<http://www.releecivilwarroundtableofcentralnj.com/>