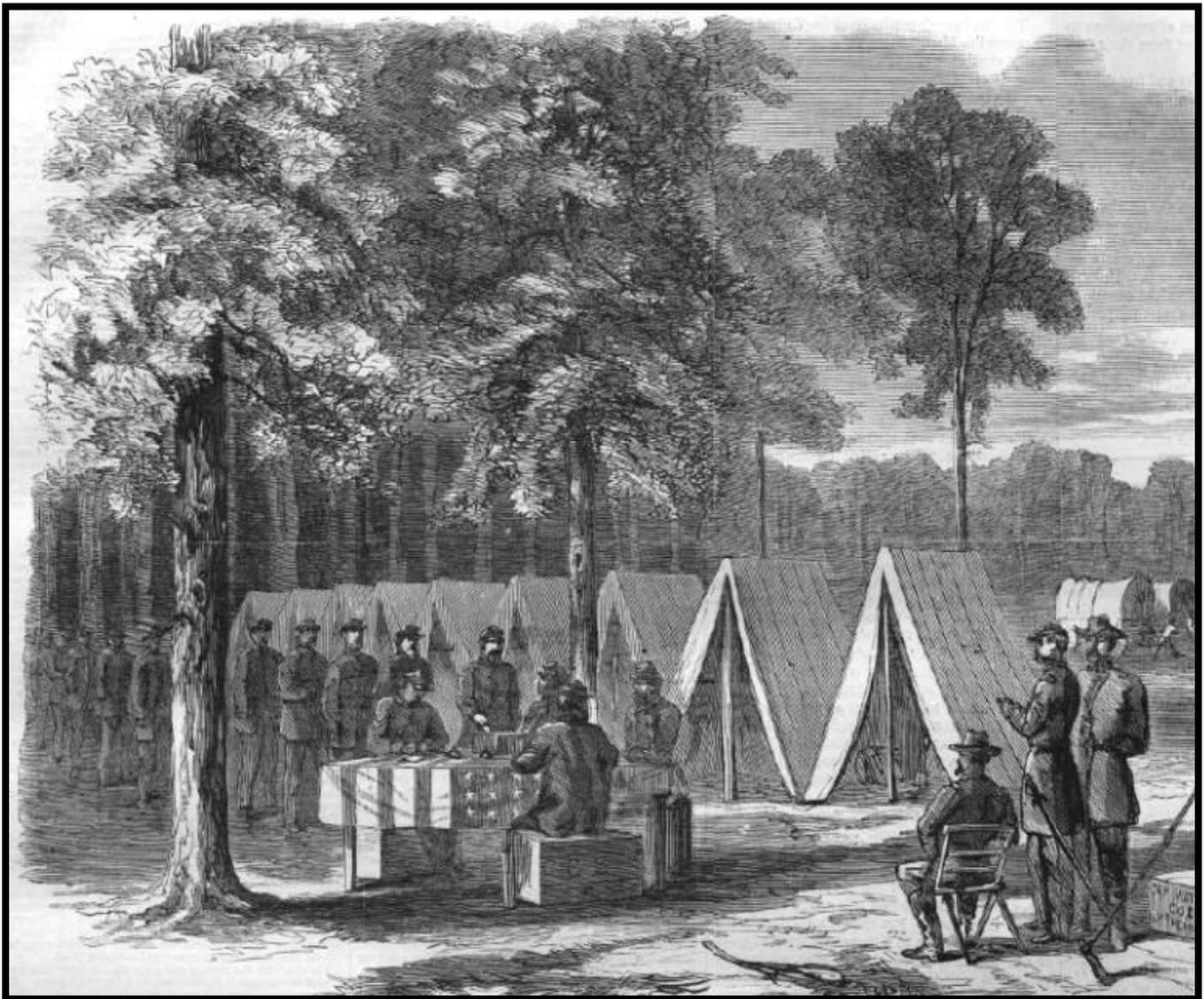


The Bugle



Quarterly Journal of the
Camp Curtin Historical Society
and Civil War Round Table, Inc.

Fall 2014
Volume 24, Number 3



Election of 1864

"The field upon which we now stand will be known as classic ground, for here has been the great central point of the organization of our military forces. When my administration of public affairs will have been forgotten and the good and evil will be only known to the investigation of the antiquarian, Camp Curtin, with its memories and associations, will be immortal."

- Governor Andrew Curtin, 1865

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Ron Shireman 1935 - 2014

Ronald Shireman passed away on August 21 at age 79. Ron and his wife, Helen, were early members and supporters of the Camp Curtin Historical Society. With Helen, the great granddaughter of General and Governor John Hartranft, he helped Camp Curtin with numerous projects related to Hartranft.



Ron was born on February 25, 1935, in Hanover, graduated from Delone Catholic High School and served in the U.S. Army. He was a successful businessman and farmer. He was the Chief Executive Officer of Product Enterprises and, along with his wife, owned and managed Rolenshire Farms. Surviving, in addition to his wife of 51 years, are a sister, Sheila Shireman Long of Hanover; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ron had a great interest in history, was on the board of directors of the Hanover Historical Society, and was also a member of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table, Sons of Union Veterans and Victorian Dance Ensemble. Ron was always willing to share his knowledge and enthusiasm for history, and many CCHS members learned much from him.

We need your email!

As you all know, mailing costs are increasing and it would help us greatly if we had everyone's email. We will be able to send you updates on Society activities and any changes in scheduling. Rest assured, we will not share our email list with any other organization or business. If you have an email, and have not done so, please send us a message at CampCurtin@verizon.net so that we can add it to our list.

Cover:

Harpers Weekly newspaper depicted Pennsylvania soldiers voting at the headquarters of the Army of the James. "Our soldiers do not by fighting our battles cease to be citizens, but are even more interested than others in the maintenance of the civil institutions for which they are ready to give up their lives. There can be no doubt as to the loyalty and sincerity of these men."

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Election of 1864 – Lincoln vs. McClellan

The presidential election of 1864 was one of the most important in American history. It decided whether there would be a *united* United States of America.

In the summer of 1863, with victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, the northern war effort seemed to be on the track to victory. By July of 1864, however, the Union momentum had bogged down.

Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant had fought a series of battles in May and June known as the Overland Campaign that had failed to destroy Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The war in the east had settled into a siege at Petersburg, the railroad gateway to Richmond.

Maj. Gen. Franz Sigel's push into the Shenandoah Valley had been blocked by the Confederates at New Market, with the help of the teenage cadets from the Virginia Military Institute. Confederate Maj. Gen. Jubal Early had come close to capturing Washington but was stopped at the Battle of Monocacy. Maj. Gen. William Sherman's march on Atlanta had been stalled by numerous battles and Confederate maneuvers.

To many people it seemed that the war was a failure and the losses in dead and wounded had had been in vain. Reunification of the nation seemed a forlorn hope, and many still opposed emancipation. The presidential

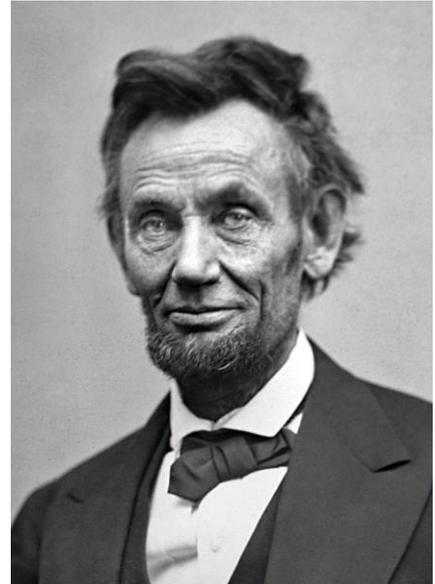
election of 1864 would be a referendum on the war and Lincoln's policies.

Dissension in the Republican Party over Lincoln's lack of military success and the view that he was too moderate on post-war readmission of the rebelling states led several prominent Republicans to call for the nomination of Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase to be the party's nominee. Although Chase resigned his cabinet post, the movement never really gained widespread support.

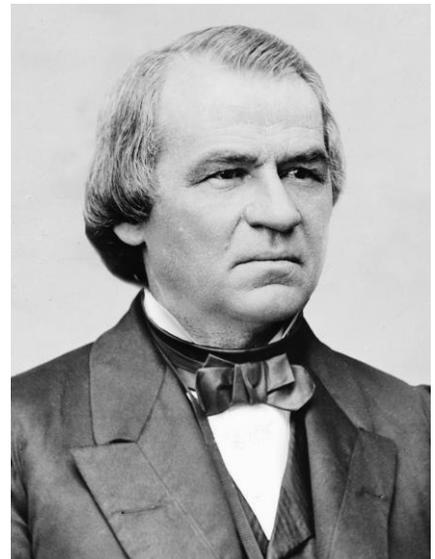
A more threatening challenge came from a group of break-away Republicans who met in a stump convention in Cleveland and nominated John C. Fremont for president. Fremont, who had been the Republican's presidential candidate in 1856, was a staunch abolitionist and sought a harsh reconstruction that would punish the South for the rebellion. Eventually, Fremont realized his third party candidacy would lead to a Democratic victory so he withdrew from the race.

In June, Republicans combined with War Democrats in convention in Baltimore under the banner of the "National Union Party" and nominated Lincoln for president and Andrew Johnson for vice president. Johnson, a Democrat, was a former U.S. Senator from Tennessee who remained loyal to the Union after the state seceded. He had been appointed

a brigadier general of U.S. Volunteers and later military governor of Tennessee by Lincoln.



Abraham Lincoln



Andrew Johnson

Lincoln did not think he would win the election; in late August he wrote, "*It seems exceedingly probable that this Administration will not be reelected. Then it will be my duty to so*

cooperate with the President elect, as to save the Union between the election and the inauguration; as he will have secured his election on such ground that he can not possibly save it afterwards."

The Democratic National Convention met in Chicago on August 29. Its delegates were split between those who favored continuation of the war and those who opposed the war and wanted an immediate negotiated settlement. The result of the convention was a compromise. The "War Democrats" secured the nomination of Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan for president but the "Peace Democrats" were allowed to write the party platform.



George McClellan

McClellan was the former commander of the Army of the Potomac, who had been relieved of command by Lincoln twice, first after the failed Peninsula Campaign and again after the Battle of Antietam when McClellan failed to follow up

his victory by aggressively pursuing the Confederates. He was personally in favor of Lincoln's basic war aim of preserving the Union but wavered on emancipation.

Notwithstanding the candidate's views, the party platform proclaimed the Civil War a failure, demanded the immediate ending of hostilities, and called for the convening of a national convention to restore the Union by negotiation with the Confederate government. August Belmont, chairman of the convention declared, "*Four years of misrule by a corrupt party have brought our country to the very verge of ruin. The inevitable results of Mr. Lincoln's reelection must be the utter disintegration of our whole political and social system.*"

The campaign was extremely vicious and personal. *Harper's Weekly* newspaper ran an article listing a few of the names applied to Lincoln by the opposition press and campaign speakers:

CONSERVATIVE RIBALDRY

If any of our readers are really wondering which is the "Conservative" party in this election; which candidates a peaceable, thoughtful, self respecting citizen ought to vote for, let him look over the following list of epithets applied to the Constitutional President of the United States by the men who obstreperously vociferate that they are "Conservative." Is this the spirit of that wise

Conservatism which every good citizen respects? Is there any partisan ribaldry so disgusting since the Aurora bespattered General WASHINGTON with invective? These are the terms applied by the friends of General McCLELLAN to the President:

Filthy Story-Teller, Ignoramus Abe, Despot, Old Scoundrel, Big Secessionist, Perjurer, Liar, Robber, Thief, Swindler, Braggart, Tyrant, Buffoon, Fiend, Usurper, Butcher, Monster, Land-Pirate, A Long, Lean, Lank, Lantern-Jawed, High-Cheeked-Boned Spavined Rail-Splitting Stallion.

Is the party whose orators and papers incessantly speak of the President of the United States in such terms, a party to which the Government of this country should be intrusted?

The Democrats attacked Lincoln for abusing executive power by censoring the press, extending military rule over areas adequately served by civilian government, and suspending the writ of habeas corpus and jailing war critics without a trial.

The common Republican answer was to warn voters not to change horses in mid-stream and reelect Lincoln to secure the preservation of the Union.

The Democrats also claimed that the Lincoln administration manipulated the soldier vote. For the first time soldiers in large numbers were allowed to cast absentee ballots in the election. Previously, only a few

states had allowed absentee voting, and the number of votes cast had been very small. Modern analysis shows this claim is probably true.

Although Lincoln favored a fair election, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton took steps to ensure that the military vote went to the Republicans. Furloughs were given to men to return home to vote Republican in states that did not allow absentee voting. Democratic ballots (tickets), which were supplied by the parties, were not available in many camps so the men could not vote for McClellan. Some men were even court martialed for criticizing Lincoln and the conduct of the war.



Edwin Stanton

Ultimately, the soldiers in the field cast 116,887 votes for Lincoln and only 33,748 for McClellan. This 78 percent majority is probably somewhat skewed because of the manipulation of the vote but still gives a clear indication that many

soldiers were willing to continue the fight.

It was the tide of battle that eventually turned the election in Lincoln's favor. The lackluster performance of the Union forces through most of the summer of 1864 suddenly changed as the Army and Navy drove into the Confederacy and achieved major victories at Mobile Bay, Atlanta and Cedar Creek. Public opinion shifted as ultimate victory and preservation of the Union again seemed possible.

The nation went to the polls on November 8, 1864. At the time, there was no secret ballot so everyone, your employer, creditors, neighbors and pastor, knew how you voted. Lincoln won with 2.2 million votes (55%) to 1.8 million (45%) for McClellan. Lincoln carried 22 states with 212 electoral votes to McClellan's three states with 21 electoral votes (see next page). None of the Confederate states were involved in the election.

Lincoln was the first president to be re-elected since Andrew Jackson in 1832. As the *Harper's Weekly* newspaper commented with an editorial cartoon (right) "*Long Abraham Lincoln a Little Longer*" after his reelection.

The Civil War would go on for another seven months, but ultimately Lincoln's vision of a united nation, without slavery, would come to fruition. The dead did not die in vain, and the nation did eventually have a new birth of freedom.

Note: The political parties of the 1860s have very little philosophical relationship with the political parties of today. The Republican Party then was generally northern-based, liberal and favored a strong central government. The Democratic Party was generally southern-based, conservative and favored states' rights. The modern parties have basically reversed positions since the Civil War.

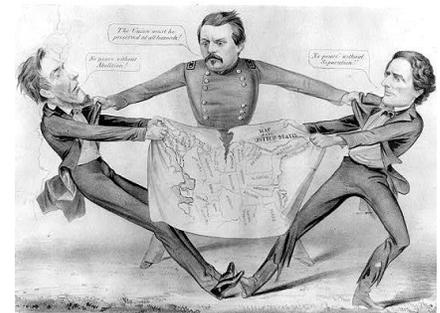




Editorial Cartoons

Lincoln and McClellan (left) try to entice Miss Columbia to take their path to the future. Lincoln's plank is "all one piece" while McClellan's is "worm eaten" and split between war and peace planks. In the background, Britain and France urge support for McClellan, as each hopes for the United States to break apart.

Newspapers favoring McClellan (below) depicted him as the savior of the nation who would keep the hotheaded Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis from tearing the nation apart.



The result of the election was a clear majority for Lincoln as "Little Mac" was dragged down by the devil in the background (below).



1864 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS							
	STATE	Abraham Lincoln			George McClellan		
		Popular	Percent	Electoral	Popular	Percent	Electoral
1	California	62,053	58.6	5	43,837	41.4	
2	Connecticut	44,673	51.4	6	42,285	48.6	
3	Delaware	8,155	48.2		8,767	51.8	3
4	Illinois	189,512	54.4	16	158,724	45.6	
5	Indiana	149,887	53.5	13	130,230	46.5	
6	Iowa	83,858	63.1	8	49,089	36.9	
7	Kansas	17,089	81.7	3	3,836	18.3	
8	Kentucky	27,787	30.2		64,301	69.8	11
9	Maine	67,805	59.1	7	46,992	40.9	
10	Maryland	40,153	55.1	7	32,739	44.9	
11	Massachusetts	126,742	72.2	12	48,745	27.8	
12	Michigan	91,133	55.1	8	74,146	44.9	
13	Minnesota	25,031	59.0	4	17,376	41.0	
14	Missouri	72,750	69.7	11	31,596	30.3	
15	Nevada	9,826	59.8	2	6,594	40.2	
16	New Hampshire	36,596	52.6	5	33,034	47.4	
17	New Jersey	60,724	47.2		68,020	52.8	7
18	New York	368,735	50.5	33	361,986	49.5	
19	Ohio	265,674	56.4	21	205,609	43.6	
20	Oregon	9,888	53.9	3	8,457	46.1	
21	Pennsylvania	296,292	51.6	26	277,443	48.4	
22	Rhode Island	14,349	62.2	4	8,718	37.8	
23	Vermont	42,419	76.1	5	13,321	23.9	
24	West Virginia	23,799	68.2	5	11,078	31.8	
25	Wisconsin	83,458	55.9	8	65,884	44.1	
	TOTALS:	2,218,388	55.03	212	1,812,807	44.96	21

The Confederate states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia did not participate in the election.

Upcoming CWRT Speakers

The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table meets on Friday evenings at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel on the Camp Hill By-Pass. There is a dinner 6:45PM that requires reservations before the program at 8:00PM. The lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.harrisburgcwr.org.

November 21 - Edward Bonekemper, "Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the War"

December 12 - John Hoptak, "Before the Crater: The 48th Pennsylvania at Petersburg, June, 1864"

January 23 - Christian Keller, "R.E. Lee, Great Captain: The Military Education of a Future Civilian"

The Gettysburg Civil War Round Table meets on Thursday evenings at GAR Building, 53 East Middle Street, Gettysburg. Light refreshments and conversation starting at 7:00PM, the program starting at 7:30PM. The lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.cwrgettysburg.org.

November 20 - Gail Stephens, "The Battle of Monocacy"

December 4 - Susquehanna Travellers Band performing Civil War Music for the Annual Christmas Party at the Dobbin House. Reservation and fee required for dinner.

January 22 - Chuck Teague, "The Harvest of Death: A Case of Battlefield Forensics"

The York Civil War Round Table meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM at the York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market Street, York. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, visit http://scottmingus.wix.com/yorkcwr#!about_us/crrl.

November 19 - Dick Simpson, "The Battle of Franklin"

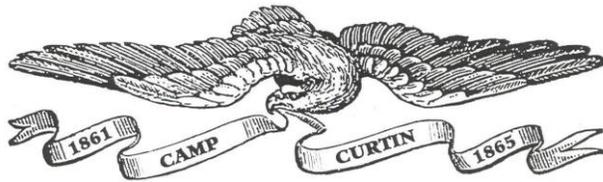
December - No meeting this month

Gettysburg Remembrance and Dedication Days

On Saturday, November 15, the Sons of Union Veterans will hold its annual **Remembrance Day** in Gettysburg. It includes a parade by Union and Confederate descendant organizations and reenactor units through the streets of Gettysburg, a ceremony at the Grand Army of the Republic's Woolson Monument, and a formal Civil War ball in the evening. For more information, visit www.suvcw.org.

On Wednesday, November 19, the exact anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania will hold its **Dedication Day** ceremony in the National Cemetery. For more information, visit www.lincolnfellowship.org.

The Camp Curtin Historical Society and Civil War Round Table, Inc., is a non-profit corporation chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Contributions are tax deductible under IRC Section 501(c)(3). The Society is properly registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State as a charitable organization. A copy of the registration and financial information may be obtained by telephoning toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



*Camp Curtin Historical Society
presents*

Bert Barnett

speaking on

**"Yankees in Georgia . . .
How Did They Ever Get In?!"**

***2:00PM, Sunday, November 9th
at the National Civil War Museum
Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania***

Bert Barnett will examine what Sherman did in Georgia on the march to the sea and why he did it. Bert has been a student of the War Between the States since his youth, growing up in suburban Atlanta. He is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a major in history, with minors in English literature and psychology.

He has served over twenty-five years as a ranger with the National Park Service at several Civil War sites and has been stationed at Gettysburg National Military Park since 1993. Bert has presented a variety of field programs and has written a number of research articles for the bi-annual park seminar books. Bert maintains an active interest in history, field artillery, and poetry. He is presently a member of the Pennsylvania Poetry Society and in 2014 received the First Place Award in the Historical Poetry Category.

Bert is currently working on a book, tentatively entitled
Rhyme and Reasons: The Meaning and Power of Poetry in Civil War America.

**This presentation is free and open to the public.
Bring a friend.**

Ticket purchase required to tour the museum.

For information call 717-732-5115 or email genjenkins@aol.com.