



HFCWRT Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 38 November 2018 No. 3

www.harpersferrycwrt.org

- DATE:** Wednesday, November 14th, 2018
- TIME:** Dinner 6:30 PM; Program 7:30 PM
- PLACE:** Camp Hill Methodist Church, Harpers Ferry, WV
- SPEAKER:** Mark Dudrow
- SUBJECT:** Cole's Cavalry: *History and Formation of Company C*

The Speaker:

Mark Dudrow lives with his wife, Sharon, in Summit Point, WV. He is retired from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and Frederick County (Virginia) Fire and Rescue. He presently works part time as a firefighter at Summit Point Raceway.

Mark has been interested in the Civil War since learning of his Great-Great Grandfather, Abraham Dern, serving in Cole's Cavalry. He has done, and continues to do much research on the subject.

Mark recently wrote and had published a book on Company C of Cole's Cavalry entitled *The Keystone Rangers*. It is a *print on demand* book through the Book Patch and can be ordered on line. Proceeds for the book go to the Shriver House in Gettysburg,

Pennsylvania. George Shriver served in Company C and died in Andersonville Prison.

Mark and his horse "Eve" volunteer at Antietam Battlefield talking to visitors about the cavalry and the sacrifices of the horses. They also do many programs in Loudoun County for Tracey Gillespie and the Northern Virginia Park Authority.

Mark continuously strives to promote the heritage of the Civil War.

The Subject

During the Civil War, Cole's Cavalry patrolled along the Potomac River and the Shenandoah Valley. Mr. Dudrow's discussion concerns the formation and history of Company C from 1861 to 1865 which is provided from letters and diaries of that company's members.

The Meal

A family-style meal will be served at 6:30 PM prior to the program. The cost of the meal is \$15.00 per person. Reservations for the meal **must be made no later than Sunday, November 11th**, with Christopher Craig ccraig@laurellodge.com or 000-000-0000. The meal will consist of Austrian goulash, pan-roasted potatoes, and green salad with apple strudel for dessert. Port and cigars will be provided.

Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiments at the Battle of Gettysburg

A free tour following the Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiments (7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th) at the Battle of Gettysburg will be conducted by author Richard Allen on the following date:

Saturday, November 24 - 10am - noon

The tour will meet at the Arkansas Monument on West Confederate Avenue. The tour is going to follow the July 2, 1863 attack of the four Georgia regiments featured in the rosters. The tour will discuss the tactical decisions facing Anderson's men that day and the resulting decimation of the brigade's command structure. Anderson's brigade was more seriously damaged at Gettysburg than most people realize. For example, the 8th Georgia Infantry lost 30 of its 36 officers that day while taking 53% casualties and the 11th Georgia ended July 2nd having taken losses of 65%. This tour will revolve around the reasons for this, by way of focusing on the specifics of the brigade's three separate attacks on July 2, 1863.

Attendees should be prepared to walk for approximately a mile through rough, uneven terrain so a moderate level of physical fitness is required.

Please register by emailing here: sarahs@savasbeatie.com

Lincoln Takes Command: The Campaign to Seize Norfolk and the Destruction of the CSS Virginia

Author: Steve Norder

On a rainy evening during the Civil War's second May, President Abraham Lincoln and two of his cabinet secretaries boarded a treasury department ship to sail to Union-held Fort Monroe in Hampton Roads, Virginia. The trip resulted in the first and only time in the country's history that a sitting president took direct control of military forces, both army and navy, to wage a campaign with wide-ranging consequences. This little-known slice of the war and its effect on the president is the subject of Steve Norder's *Lincoln Takes Command: The Campaign to Seize Norfolk and the Destruction of the CSS Virginia*.

For five days that May, Lincoln studied maps, suggested military actions and—in his quiet, respectful way—issued direct orders to subordinate commanders. Helped by movements farther up the Virginia peninsula, the president's decisions resulted in a host of military actions and successes, including: a naval bombardment of a Confederate fort, the sailing of Union ships up the James River closer to the enemy capital, an amphibious landing of Union soldiers, the capture of Norfolk and the vital Portsmouth and Gosport navy yards, and the destruction of the Rebel ironclad CSS Virginia. Salmon P. Chase, Lincoln's treasury secretary, described the actions as a “brilliant week's campaign.” The president returned to Washington in triumph, hailed as a military and civilian leader. Indeed, some urged him to take direct command of the nation's field armies.

Norder's years-long investigation draws upon a host of primary sources, including letters, diaries, official reports, and memoirs. This rich blending of material allows for a fresh perspective and interesting insights.

Untold numbers of books have been penned about Abraham Lincoln, his presidency, and his struggles during the Civil War, but the fascinating week within the covers of *Lincoln Takes Command*—which helped shape him as a war president—has never been told in such full detail. The successes that crowned his short time in Hampton Roads changed the nation's commander in chief by giving him more of an understanding and confidence in his ability to see what needed to be accomplished, insight that sustained him through the rest of the war.

Steve Norder has worked as a genealogist, teacher, author, newspaper reporter, and book editor. He has a strong interest in researching and writing about the tragic Civil War years, and his work has appeared in many places, including *Civil War Times, Illustrated*. Steve is originally from Iowa but currently resides in Georgia, where he is a member of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta. (Publishing date: June 2019) (Excerpted from www.savasbeatie.com)