



HARPERS FERRY

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO BOX 1079, HARPERS FERRY, WV 25425

Vol. 33 April 2014 No. 09

- DATE:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014
- TIME:** Dinner 7:00 PM; Program 8:00
- PLACE:** Camp Hill Methodist Church, Harpers Ferry, WV
- PERFORMER:** Clark Hansbarger
- PROGRAM:** Dream of a Good Death: New Songs from the Old War

The Performer:

Singer/Songwriter Clark Hansbarger lives in Virginia, where he performs and records with two original Americana bands— The Bitter Liberals and The Bastards of Twang.

After years of writing songs about love and life, Clark latched on to the Civil War for new subject matter. What started as a solo challenge soon became a collaboration among good friends (and fine musicians) to arrange and record the songs.

A recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment of the Arts and A PEN Syndicated Fiction Award winner, Clark's writing has been featured on National Public Radio's *The Sound of Writing* and in magazines such as *Shenandoah*, *Witness*, *Web del Sol*, and *The Gettysburg Review*.

The Program:

Clark Hansbarger's latest work, *Dream of a Good Death*, is a collection of original Roots Americana songs telling personal stories of the Civil War. A folk opera of sorts, *Dream of a Good Death*, was inspired by Drew Gilpin Faust's book *This Republic of Suffering*. This cycle of original songs follows the trials, hopes, fears and sacrifices of Confederate soldiers as they struggle through the Union conquest of Port Royal, the fires in The Wilderness, the killing fields of Gettysburg and Cold Harbor, and the long sieges of Vicksburg and Petersburg.

Clark will perform select songs, accompanied by his friend and fellow musician, Allen Kitselman, who also appears on the album recording. Between songs, Clark will talk about the history and background to each piece.

The Meal

A family-style meal will be served at 7:00 PM prior to the program. The cost of the meal is \$15.00 per person. Reservations for the meal **must be phoned in no later than Sunday, June 8th**, to Kyle Wichtendahl at 301-639-8855 or you can email him at kfwichtendahl@gmail.com. The meal will consist of Sliced Baked Ham With Raisin Sauce, Rice, Broccoli Salad, Iced Tea, Coffee, Rolls, Butter, & Dessert.

150 Years Ago:

Sunday, June 19, 1864

USS *Kearsarge* Sinks CSS *Alabama* off the Coast of Cherbourg, France

For many months the Federal Navy had sought the elusive, strikingly successful Confederate raider *Alabama*. At last they cornered her in Cherbourg, France. Raphael Semmes, whose commands had taken eighty-two Federal merchantmen, sixty-five with the *Alabama*, had been forced to take his worn-out ship into the French harbor for a refit. Having arrived June 11, *Alabama* was awaiting permission for overhaul when off the coast came USS *Kearsarge* under Capt. John A. Winslow. Knowing he faced combat, Semmes readied his 8-gun ship with its 360-pound total projectile weight. In mid-morning Semmes sailed out of Cherbourg Harbor in fine weather. *Kearsarge*, with 7 guns, having a projectile weight of 430 pounds, lay of the three-mile limit. The English yacht *Deerhound* watched the action, and onshore throngs of people lined the cliffs. Shortly before 11 A.M. *Alabama* opened fire, and then *Kearsarge* took the offensive. Circling rapidly, the vessels exchanged broadsides, gradually drawing closer. Soon the sides of *Alabama* were wrecked by shells, and casualties mounted. By noon *Alabama* ceased firing and withdrew toward shore, filling rapidly. Semmes was forced to strike his colors. (There were charges later that *Kearsarge* fired on a white flag.) *Deerhound* took off some survivors of the fight, including Semmes. This also sparked dissension. Semmes reported 9 killed and 21 wounded for a total of 30 on *Alabama*, while there were only 3 wounded on *Kearsarge*. Superior gunnery is generally credited for the Federal victory. In the greatest ship-to-ship combat of the war in open seas, the most famous commerce raider of its own time went down, far from the Confederacy it represented.

(from *The Civil War Day by Day*, by E. B. Long)

Upcoming Event:

150th Remembrance- Battle of North Mountain Depot-July 3, 1864

On June 28, from 1-5, the Town of Hedgesville, WV will be hosting a number of activities in remembrance of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of North Mountain Depot. All events are free and opened to the public.

History:

On the morning of July 3, 1864, Brigadier General John McCausland sent his Virginia cavalry brigade against two companies of the 135th Ohio Infantry manning a two-story blockhouse near the railroad crossing at North Mountain. After a spirited fight, the Ohioans finally surrendered when McCausland's artillery arrived and opened up on their fortifications. The casualties on both sides were light.

The Confederates sent their captives to prison camps in the deep South. Over the next year, 90 of the 163 soldiers taken prisoner died of diseases contracted while in prison.

Schedule:

Hedgesville Fire Hall 1-3 Battle Seminar (4217 Hedgesville Road)

1-Opening remarks by Mayor Mary Sue Catlett

1:05-1:50- Talk "Background to the Battle" Steve French

2:00-2:45- Slide Presentation- The Battle and Aftermath- Lt. Col. Kevin Bennett

3:00-3:10 –Tour Preview- Jim Droegemeyer

Hedgesville Middle School

3:30-3:50 Monument Rededication Speakers- Bill Moore and Lt. Col. Kevin Bennett

4:00 Trolley Tour of Battlefield- Ronnie Good and Jim Droegemeyer.

Directions- From 81 North take the Route 9 west (Berkeley Springs exit) From 81 South take the Route 9 west (Berkeley Spring exit) The fire hall is on the left about four and one-half miles from the interstate. For more info call 304-258-2563 or email

sfrench52@yahoo.com

Congratulations!

Long-time HFCWRT member and past president Bob Becker, along with his wife Jayne, will be retiring from teaching at the end of this year. Bob and Jayne have both taught at Heritage Academy in Hagerstown, MD for 40 years! A video story from the Hagerstown *Herald-Mail* can be found here:

http://www.heraldmillmedia.com/news/education/beckers-to-retire-from-teaching-after-years/video_89ff5b04-e2c2-11e3-aa5c-001a4bcf6878.html