



The Courier

CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
AMERICAN HISTORY ROUNDTABLE
ABRAHAM LINCOLN SOCIETY



January Newsletter 2021

This Months Round Table Meeting will be held
Monday January 11, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.



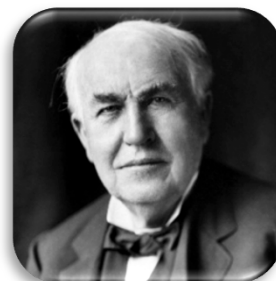
This Months speaker we welcome Adam Shefts

Please join us on **ZOOM** with historian Adam Shefts as he presents his program on the unique insights into the obscure history of America's 19th and early 20th century.



This entertaining program features short stories, footage, audio, and live demonstrations. Come experience forgotten and bizarre American history, dug up and presented by This Victorian Historian.

Why was a talking doll one of Thomas Edison's greatest failed inventions

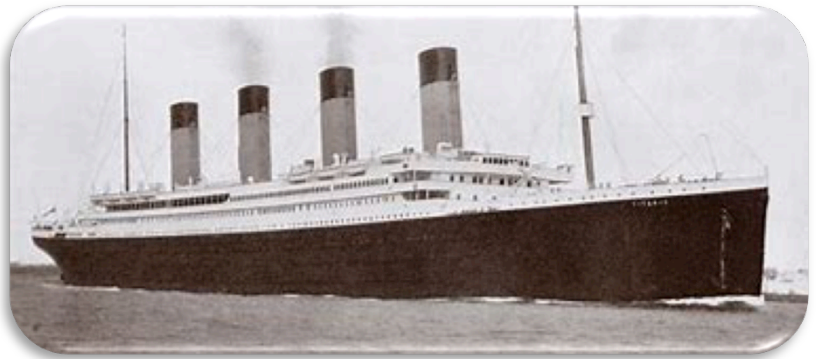


Continued page #2

Page 1

The Courier

Did an author write about the Titanic tragedy 14 years before it occurred?



Who was responsible for Abraham Lincoln growing his trademark beard?

These are just some of the interesting topics that will be covered by Adam.

Born and raised in North Haven, CT, and living for a number of years in Wallingford, Adam began working with historical societies around the state in 2009, assisting in events, some of which were fund-raising events for renovations of historic properties. Adam moved to Gettysburg, PA in 2017, where he created The Victorian Historian program, combining his interest of history and the unusual into a family-friendly program.

In 2018, Adam wrote "Games That Time Forgot", which was published in 2019. The book is a guide containing over 100 obscure 19th and early 20th century parlor games. Using original sources from the 1850s through 1910. As of November 2019, Adam has been busy working on his second book, "History's Haunted Headlines", a chronological look at ghost sightings and encounters reported on in 19th and early 20th century American newspapers. His aim is to have this book published by the end of 2021 or early 2022. This will likely be a three-volume set due to the size the book currently is and will be once complete.

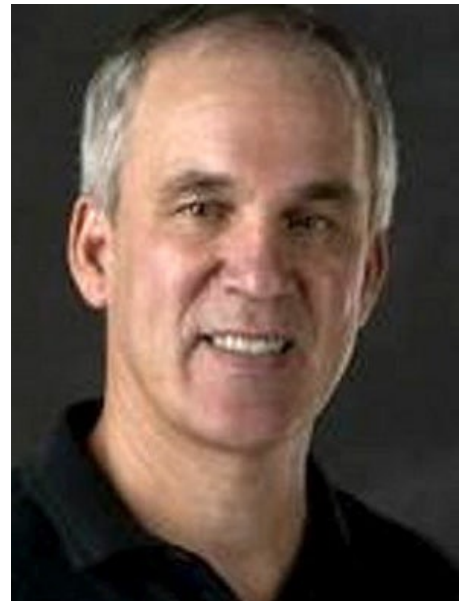


LAST MONTH: Our December meeting saw over 140 people log in to view Carolyn Ivanoff's excellent presentation, "Dying, Death and Burial on the Gettysburg Battlefield". Carolyn's talk provided a sobering look at the effects of the battle not only on the soldiers who fought, died and were wounded there but also on the civilians who found themselves in the midst of the battle and it's aftermath of dead and wounded to be cared for. Carolyn is shown at left during one of our pre-COVID cemetery tours we hope to be able to resume in 2021.

NEXT MONTH: A familiar face, John Banks, will join us from Nashville where he now resides. While living in Connecticut John spoke at our Roundtable on a couple of occasions. When he was a "nutmegger" John authored two books, "*Connecticut Yankees at Antietam*" and "*Hidden History of Connecticut Union Soldiers*". John has been featured in such notable publications as "The Civil War Times", "The New York Times", "Civil War News", "Civil War Monitor" and "Military Images".

John is the secretary-treasurer of The Center for Civil War Photography.

Roundtable VP Phil Vitiello will be conferring with John on his topic for February 8th and more details will follow.



GETTYSBURG TOURISTS: Unfortunately many of us were unable to make our annual pilgrimage(s) to Gettysburg in the crazy year of 2020. The group of “tourists” that visited Gettysburg on October 9, 1894



(Dave Pelland Photo)

pictured below were members of the 8th Connecticut Volunteers. While Connecticut had five infantry regiments engaged at Gettysburg, (5th, 14th, 17th, 20th, 27th), the 8th CVI were not there. The 8th was organized in Hartford in September of 1861. They were assigned at first to the IX Corps and took part in Burnside’s Expedition to North Carolina that Eric Lindblade told us about in November. They first saw battle at New Bern on March 14, 1862. They participated in the Battle of Antietam in September of 1862 and



returned there to dedicate their monument (above) on October 8, 1894. On their way back home they could not resist visiting Gettysburg as tourists and pose for this photo at Devil’s Den. A number of the party are still wearing their monument dedication ribbons from the day before.

It looks like they just missed the graffiti that had recently been chiseled off the rocks.



Roundtable President Mary Ann Quinn
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