

# Civil War buffs work to preserve history

By KASIA McDONOUGH  
Post Staff

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - Members of the Civil War Round Table (CWRT) are leading the charge to preserve historic monuments throughout the state.

The group is coordinating a restoration project of the Shawnee Cemetery in Plymouth, a site containing grave markers for many of the area's Civil War veterans. It is also working with state legislators in an effort to refurbish monuments in Gettysburg.

CRWT holds fundraisers to support the Gettysburg Monument Project, a statewide effort to preserve Civil War landmarks, and its members travel to the battlefields every year to help maintain the sites.

"We organized a group of volunteers who painted a picket fence and helped rebuild an iron fence around the national cemetery this year," said Ed Brewer, of Shavertown, who together with his wife Connie, started CRWT four years ago. "Many of the markers and monuments are starting to show signs of their age and there isn't sufficient federal funding to repair them."

Civil War monuments and grave markers offer a testimony to the men and women whose sacrifices ensured the nation's unity. "We have a large number of people from this area who fought in the war," said Brewer. "Our goal is to keep that history alive."

This history is often personal, as many of the group's members have discovered their own ancestors had a role in defending the union. "After our children



Members of the Civil War Round Table pose near a Civil War era cannon at the Shawnee Cemetery in Plymouth. The group has been working to clear brush from grave markers, many of which belong to

Civil War soldiers. They also visit national monument sites to do maintenance. From left: John Chapple, Lynne Austin, Pete Austin, Reese Pelton, Maureen Follmer, Gary Mathers.

POST PHOTO/KASIA McDONOUGH

were grown, my husband and I were looking for something to keep us busy and we thought it might be interesting to take a class about the Civil War," said Lynn Austin of Harvey's Lake. "I was talking to my mother about the class and I found out she had a letter my great uncle wrote the day before he was killed on the battlefield."

The Back Mountain Chapter of CWRT, which boasts more than 80 members, is actively involved in preserving this sort of historical data relating to the battle between North and South. "Our focus is to create an

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Ed Brewer  
Shavertown

understanding of the Civil War and its impact on our nation," said Ed Brewer. "If things had gone differently, and the Union had not won the war, this country would be entirely different than it is today."

The Civil War Round Table holds monthly meetings to

research and discuss the effects of the war on the country, politics, communities and families. "The group acts as a resource for people who are interested in learning more about this crucial time in our history or for those looking for information about family members who fought in the Civil War," Brewer said.

The group also has works with local schools to personalize history for younger generations that do not have a firsthand account of the war. "We conducted a program on the 'Lost Confederacy' at the Dallas High

School a short while ago and we'd like to do more of that kind of thing," said Brewer.

Youngsters and their families can learn more by attending Luzerne County Civil War Day, an annual event commemorating the four-year struggle. "Some of our members are re-enactors who dress in Civil War uniforms and stage battles at programs like this as a way of putting a human face with the history," said Brewer. "It's important to keep alive our sense of appreciation for the sacrifices made by those who fought because what we have today is due to them."

## Meadows Center planning craft show

The Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas, will host its fall craft show, on Saturday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature the work of 33 crafters from Carol Ann's Crafts and Candles, Luzerne. There will also be a residents' bake sale, Christmas treasures booth, raffle and complimentary refreshments.

Prizes for the raffle include a silver mink jacket, a complete set of 12 TV McDonald's Teenie Beanie Babies toy animals, and a Candle Basket.

## Legion Post 672 will install new officers

Daddow-Isaacs Post 672, The American Legion, Dallas, will hold installation of officers, Friday, Oct. 8 beginning at 8 p.m. at the Legion Home. New commander will be "Kep" Gottshalk of Dallas.

All Legion members are asked to attend.

## Westmoreland class of 1960 seeks mates

Westmoreland High School Class of 1960 is planning its 40th class reunion for July 21, 22, 23, 2000. Addresses are sought for the following classmates: Lloyd Bishop, John Bishop, James Morgan, George Shields, Pat Soltshick and Jeff Thompson. Call Larry Newhart, reunion chairman at 278-2704 or Donna LaBarr Kachmar at 696-3375. Other committee members include Sue Anderson Weber, Bill Weber, Carol Reed Lasher, Jack Lasher, Constance "Evelyn" Orchard, Jack Chapple and Carol Heslop Rogers.

## LL class of 1990 planning reunion

Lake-Lehman High School Class of '90 reunion committee is seeking information from 1990 graduates. Please contact Denise Thompson DuBois at (732) 818-1008 or Michelle Lapwarden at (323) 822-9331 or e-mail us at <lehman90@hotmail.com>.

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## NEW VISITING HOURS

Protecting our patients' health and privacy are our most important responsibilities. That is why, effective **Monday, October 4**, Wyoming Valley Health Care System is implementing new patient visiting hours for Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and Nesbitt Memorial Hospital.

These new visiting hours will help ensure that our physicians, nurses and other health professionals have appropriate access and time to spend with each patient.

*Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!*



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All Critical Care Units  
(CCU, CTICU, MICU, SICU):  
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1:00 PM to 1:30 PM  
5:00 PM to 5:30 PM  
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Obstetrics - Post Partum:  
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All other visitors:  
11:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Children under 12 years of age are only permitted to visit Obstetrics/Post Partum or Pediatrics - or with special permission. Visitors in the Medical/Surgical Units - including the Cardiac Surgery Stepdown Unit - are limited to three (3) visitors per patient bedside. In the Critical Care Units and Pediatrics, visitors are limited to no more than two (2) visitors per patient bedside.

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