

**The History of the Neshaminy Civil War Reenactment: 1990 – 2017**  
*28 Years of service to history education, interpretation and historic preservation*

The event was founded in 1990 by Scott Shablin and Andy Waskie with assistance from Jane Peters-Estes and the co-sponsorship of: the 28<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Historical Association; G.A.R. Civil War Museum & Library; Bensalem Historical Association; and later the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table; and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Army of Northern Virginia (ANV).

The event has become one of the largest historical recreations of Civil War history on the East Coast. A major mission of the event and its co-sponsors is raising funds for historic preservation of Civil War history sites. Thousands of Dollars (to date approx. \$50,000) have been presented to battlefields, local and national preservation groups, monument conservation, museums and historical societies, including:

Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT)  
Chancellorsville National Battlefield  
Gettysburg National Battlefield  
Glendale National Battlefield  
'Slaughter Pen Farm' at Fredericksburg National Battlefield  
G.A.R. Civil War Museum & Library of Philadelphia  
Civil War Museum of Philadelphia  
Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association  
Neshaminy State Park  
Laurel Hill Cemetery  
etc....

All funds raised at the event above costs go to a non-profit group selected each year by the Neshaminy Event Committee.

**Past Event Chairmen:**

Scott Shablin  
Andy Waskie  
Don Gallagher  
Mike Belgie  
Walt Macatee  
Russell Manning  
Ken Gavin  
Charles Gilson (present Chairman)

### **Present Neshaminy Event Committee 2010:**

Chuck Gilson (Co. C, 28th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry), Executive Chairman  
Carl Popadick, Overall Cavalry Commander  
Greg Fitzgerald, Artillery Coordinator  
Ralph Prince (Co. C, 28th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry), Work Party Coordinator, On Site Coordinator  
Mary Ann Hartner (Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table), Registration Coordinator  
Hugh Boyle (Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table), Public Education Coordinator and Assistant  
Registration Coordinator  
Brian Heath (Neshaminy State Park), Park Manager  
Mark Dombrowski (Neshaminy State Park), Chief Park Ranger  
Sally Sandusky (Bensalem Historical Society), Treasurer (original member)  
Kathleen Leighton (Bensalem Historical Society), Community Liaison  
Mitch Landon, Confederate Artillery Coordinator  
Sue Peterson (2nd Pennsylvania Reserves), Civilian Coordinator  
Ilena Di Toro, Public Relations

### **Past Event Commanders:**

#### **Federal:**

Andy Waskie (1990)  
Dale Fetzer (1991-1992)  
Dave Shackelford (1993)  
Tony Daniels (since 1994 to present))

#### **Confederate:**

Marty Wilson  
Dave Pridgeon  
Rick Huddleston  
Don Patterson  
Don Johnson  
Phil Katcher  
Bill Rodman  
Bill McGowan (present)

Each year, an historical battle of action of Civil War history is selected by the Committee to recreate as faithfully and authentically as possible. Generally, the Committee seeks events that are timely and appropriate (such as anniversary years; this year is the 155<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the actions we will portray). The action of battle should involve local troops from Philadelphia and environs to portray. The time period and terrain should be presented as well as can be done. We also try and present smaller sections of a larger action on the Brigade level, where the numbers engaged are actually accurate to the recreation. The tactics, uniforms, weapons and ceremonies are all authentic to the Action selected. The camps and civilian activities presented simulate the camps encountered when in long term service as opposed to on campaign. The Civilians simulate the home-front activities of the time period.

### **Annual Battle Scenarios**

- 1990: May 5-6 Battle of the Wilderness – 1864
- 1991: April 13-14 Battle of Shiloh – 1862
- 1992: April 11-12 Battle of Fair Oaks – 1862
- 1993: May 22-23 Battle of Chancellorsville – 1863
- 1994: April 23-24 Battle of New Hope Church (Atlanta Campaign) 1864
- 1995: April 29-30 Battle of Petersburg 1864
- 1996: April 26-27 Battles of Ball’s Bluff/Bolivar Heights 1861
- 1997: April 26-27 Peninsula Campaign ‘Sword Over Richmond’ 1862
- 1998: April 25-26 Battle of Chancellorsville – 1863
- 1999: April 24-25 Battles Around Petersburg 1864: Dimmock Line/Baylor’s Farm
- 2000: April 29-30 Campaign of the Carolinas: Averasboro & Bentonville 1865
- 2001: April 28-29 Opening of the War 1861: Dranesville & Ball’s Bluff
- 2002: April 27-28 ‘With the Pennsylvania Reserves on the Peninsula’ – 1862
- 2003: April 26-27 Carolina Campaign – 1865
- 2004: April 24-25 Bethesda Church & Cold Harbor – VA Campaign of 1864
- 2005: April 23-24 Appomattox Campaign 1865: Rice’s Depot & Cumberland Church
- 2006: April 29-30 Actions on the Upper Potomac 1861: Bolivar Heights & Ball’s Bluff
- 2007: April 29-30 Shenandoah Valley 1862 Campaign: Cross Keys & Port Republic
- 2008: April 26-27 Actions at Chancellorsville 1863
- 2009: April 18-19 Early’s 1864 Attack on Washington: Battles of Monocacy, MD. & Ft Stevens
- 2010: April 6, 1865: Sailors Creek, VA; Battle of High Bridge, VA
- 2011: April 30-May 1 Battles of Ball’s Bluff/Bolivar Heights 1861
- 2012: April 28-29 1st Battle of Kernstown; 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Winchester – 1862
- 2013: April 20-21 Mine Run Campaign – 1863
- 2014: April 5-6 The Overland Campaign - 1864
- 2015: April 25-26 Actions Around Petersburg - 1865
- 2016: April 23-24 First Bull Run/Manassas - 1861
- 2017: April 29-30 Battle of Antietam/Sharpsburg - 1862