



December, 2020

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## From the Brigade Commander

Now that COVID-19 cases are skyrocketing and vaccine availability to the masses is still many months away, the likelihood of in-person meetings any time soon seems remote. But not all the news is bad. Just last Monday evening, we bravely marched into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with Jim Duffy taking the point, and held our first-ever virtual meeting to hear about the life and times of James Tanner, a disabled Civil War veteran-turned-bookkeeper and stenographer and how he was called upon, years later, to once again serve his country by capturing eyewitness testimony and creating a record of the events surrounding the assassination of President Lincoln.

Of course, a virtual meeting is not the same as having everyone in the same room. But it was still great to be able to see folks again and hear their voices. Our next meeting will take place on December 1<sup>st</sup>; take a look inside for an outline of the lecture, background information about the speaker, and meeting sign-up instructions. If you're wary of using internet tools, please remember that you can choose to listen in to the meetings by telephone.

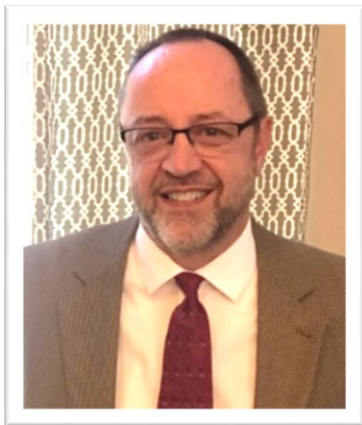
I want to thank those who have re-enlisted for Campaign 43 and/or supported our Campaign 43 preservation efforts through print raffle ticket purchases, cash donations, or both. Like the pandemic, the fight to preserve battlefield acreage and ensure continued operation of institutions dedicated to preserving and interpreting the Civil War rages on. Your continued financial support of the CWRT of Eastern Pa. will also fund continued, enjoyable learning experiences that help us to grow our understanding of the American Civil War.

*Barry*

★ Our 43rd Campaign Year! ★

## Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Attend

Tuesday, December 1; virtual meeting will begin at 7 p.m.



Ron Kirkwood's presentation will focus on the contents of his book, "Too Much for Human Endurance: The Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg." He will share his belief that the George Spangler farm was, logistically, the most important farm in the Battle of Gettysburg. He will also weave a tale about the Spanglers, the surgeons and nurses who worked at the hospitals located on the Spanglers' land, some of the soldiers who were brought to the hospital, including Confederate Brigadier General Lewis A. Armistead, and the 153rd Pennsylvania, a nine-month unit recruited in Northampton County. Mr. Kirkwood retired after a 40-year career as an editor and writer for periodicals that include *USA TODAY*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Harrisburg (Pa.) Patriot-News*, and *York (Pa.) Daily Record*. He has served as a Gettysburg Foundation guide at the George Spangler Farm Civil War Field

Hospital since the site opened in 2013.

To register for this virtual meeting (via Zoom), contact Jim Duffy at [Duffysocwk@aol.com](mailto:Duffysocwk@aol.com) or 610-253-4549 (email preferred) **prior to 12:00 p.m. on Monday, November 30, 2020**. Those who register by/before the deadline will receive an invitation via email that will include the information you need to enter the virtual meeting room via video or telephone.

## Thank-you letter excerpts ... Campaign 42 Preservation Awards

... "The land you're saving today—part ofz the West Woods—is located in the very heart of the battlefield. While we're fortunate that a great deal of this battlefield has been preserved, there is still more work to be done, and we must act quickly whenever we have the opportunity to save the remaining unprotected parcels of land at Antietam.

Thanks to your generous gift of \$1,500 (received on 9/17/2020), I am certain we will raise the needed funds to close on this property. How can I thank you enough for what you've done to make this critical addition to the Antietam Battlefield possible? ... With sincere thanks,

**James Lighthizer, American Battlefield Trust**

... We have been working diligently to continue to preserve our collection so that it will be available for future generations. ... I wish to express the sincere appreciation of the board of the G.A.R. Museum for the most generous donation of \$500 to support the museum. ...

**Herb Kaufman, Treasurer, Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Library and Museum**

## December 26, 1860: The "Hero" of Fort Sumter



Six days after South Carolina seceded from the Union, Capt. Abner Doubleday and the rest of the garrison was ordered to vacate Fort Moultrie for the more defendable, reinforceable and suppliable Fort Sumter. While waiting on the beach to be picked up, the men posed as the civilian crew that had been working at Fort Sumter at the time. The ruse worked; the approaching Confederate guard boat sailed on. Less than four months later, Doubleday fired the first shot in defense of Fort Sumter during the opening battle of the war. He promptly declared himself "the hero of Sumter," even though the fort was surrendered following the bombardment. He didn't invent baseball, either.

## College Football and Its Civil War Symbols

Barry Arnold



The first season of college football ever played took place in 1869—just four years after the Civil War ended. It's no wonder, then, that so many of these teams, particularly at the college level, chose nicknames that harken back to the Civil War.

Take Louisiana State University (LSU), for example. Its football team is known as the Fighting Tigers, which, according to LSU football tradition, came from a Civil War regiment known as the Louisiana Tigers. According to historian, Dan Hardesty, "... the unit distinguished itself with fighting spirits in the Battle of Shenandoah Valley. It was said they fought like tigers." LSU was also founded as a military school.

Here are more examples:

- The University of Missouri adopted its tiger nickname from a pro-Confederate militia group that, during the Civil War, went by the name of the Missouri Tigers.
- Michigan State adopted its nickname in honor of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade, which was sometimes called the Wolverines. It gained fame under the command of Union Gen. George Custer during the Gettysburg Campaign.

Other Civil War-inspired college football nicknames:

- The Kansas Jayhawks' nickname comes from a term adopted by militant bands affiliated with the free-state cause during the Civil War. These gangs were guerrillas who often clashed with pro-slavery groups.
- The home of the Wisconsin University Badgers was once known as Camp Randall, a Union training camp and, later, a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp.
- Lane Stadium, home of Virginia Tech, was named after Brig. Gen. James H. Lane, a Confederate officer who was also the First Commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.
- The University of Mississippi's nickname is the Ole Miss Rebels in honor of students who fought in the Civil War.

## Campaign 42 Updates and Recaps

Ed Root and Jim Duffy

**The brush cutting, fence painting, etc., event at Gettysburg National Military Park** (postponed during last year's Campaign) is indefinitely on hold due to COVID-19 concerns. We promise to stay on top of this situation and report back when we have something new to share, because these activities are critical to the continued existence of most battlefield parks. According to the Gettysburg Foundation, volunteer efforts typically generate >\$1 million in avoided cost each year for the two parks in Gettysburg.

\* \* \*

In addition to the **\$500 donation to the G.A.R. Museum** in Philadelphia and donations to the **American Battlefield Trust that totaled \$1,785** (\$1,500, as reported in our October, 2020, newsletter edition, plus a Campaign 42 speaker honorarium and a donation made in memory of the late Mike Cavanaugh, CEO), a **donation of \$275 was made to the Union League of Philadelphia** in lieu of paying a fee to tour the facility last year.

\* \* \*

A \$400 donation was made during Campaign 42 to the **National Museum of Industrial History** in Bethlehem. The funds were to be used to partially offset costs associated with a planned event that would have featured a U.S. Grant impersonator. The event is rescheduled for 2021. We'll share an update when one is available.

## The Great Russian Ball at the Academy of Music

*Jim Duffy*

Russian-American relations were not always so bitter and tense as now. In fact, Russia largely supported the Union during the American Civil War. (Its main geopolitical enemies—Britain and France—supported the Confederate cause.) It also didn't hurt that the US had never had a quarrel with Imperial Russia.

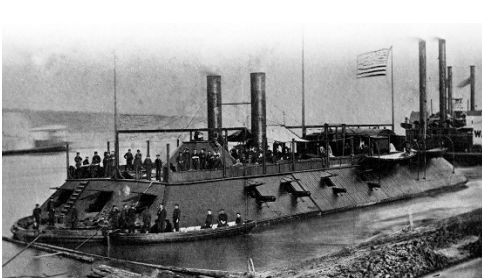
► The scene of the ball held in New York City on November 5, 1863, for visiting Russian officers. Women in attendance were reportedly captivated by the brawny contingent.



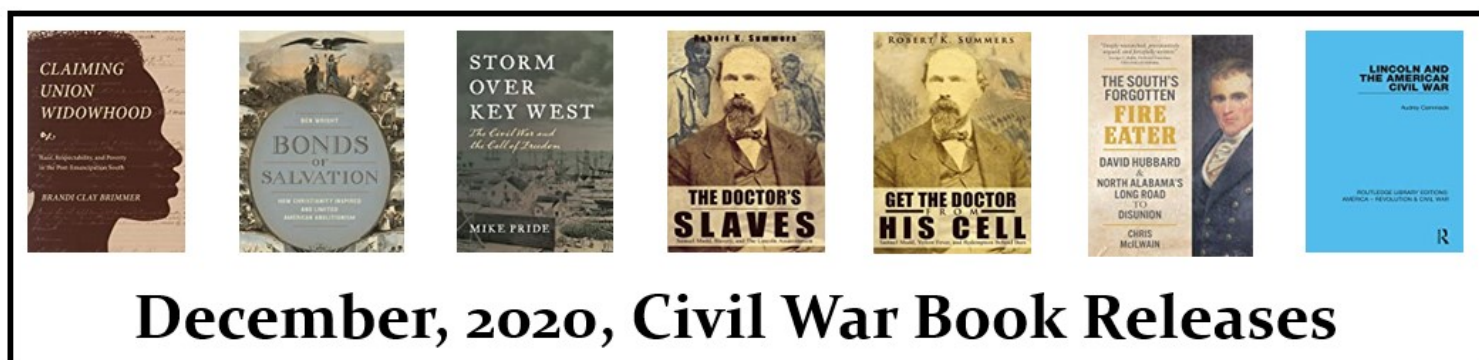
Empress Catherine the Great refused to send Russian soldiers to fight with the British during the American Revolution. And, during the Crimean War, the US alone stood by Russia against Britain, France and the Ottoman Empire. The American government even sent arms and gunpowder to the Russians during this conflict.

In the fall of 1863, in the darkest hour for the Union, a total of 12 ships of the Russian fleet arrived in New York and San Francisco, where they remained for almost seven months. While Russia never explained the fleet's appearances, its arrival was seen as a concrete expression of Russian friendship. Some historians maintain there was a secret alliance in place between the two nations. The probable truth is that, by harboring in neutral ports, the ships would be protected from the fleets of the British and French should hostilities be renewed over the armed revolt against Russia by Poland and Lithuania. The Russian presence may have also deterred Confederate raiding ships from attacking these two port cities.

### December 12, 1862: USS Cairo Makes History



While clearing Confederate torpedoes (underwater mines) from the muddy Yazoo River near Haines Bluff, Mississippi, the commander of the *USS Cairo* heard small-arms fire and quickly ordered the ship into attack position. As it turned out, the gun fire had come from volunteers who had hidden themselves behind a river bank and then detonated the explosives using an electric charge. Within 12 minutes, the *Cairo* sank to the bottom (36 feet) and became the first armored warship in history to be sunk in this way.



## December, 2020, Civil War Book Releases

*We share what is most certainly a partial listing of book releases for informational purposes only.*

**Storm Over Key West: The Civil War and the Call of Freedom**, Mike Pride | Dec 1, 2020

**The South's Forgotten Fire-Eater: David Hubbard and North Alabama's Long Road to Disunion**, Chris McIlwain | Dec 5, 2020 (*previously planned for a November, 2020, release*)

**Lincoln and the American Civil War**, Audrey Cammiade | Dec 7, 2020

**Claiming Union Widowhood: Race, Respectability, and Poverty in the Post-Emancipation South**, Brandi Clay Brimmer | Dec 11, 2020,

**Get The Doctor From His Cell: Samuel Mudd, Yellow Fever, and Redemption Behind Bars**  
Robert K Summers | Dec 11, 2020

**Bonds of Salvation: How Christianity Inspired and Limited American Abolitionism**, Ben Wright | Dec 16, 2020

**The Doctor's Slaves: Samuel Mudd, Slavery, and The Lincoln Assassination**, Robert K Summers | Dec 31, 2020

### A Historic First

### CWRT of Eastern Pa. Goes Virtual!



It's been said that courage is not the absence of fear but the ability to carry on with dignity in spite of it. And so, with just a bit of online training under his belt, and maybe with fingers crossed, too, Jim Duffy led the CWRT into a new era; the first meeting of Campaign 43 took place via Zoom. Twenty-two people signed in to watch; others may also have listened in by phone. The meeting was intentionally kept short.

With some on-the-fly help from Bob McHugh, Jim was able to allow speaker, James Mundy from the Union League of Philadelphia, to share his presentation slides with attendees. Going forward, we can use what we learned during this meeting to make our next meeting's presentation, scheduled for December 1, even better. We hope to see many of you then.

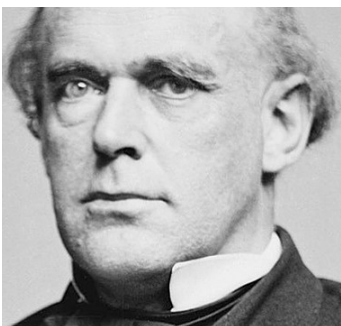
## Print Raffle Preservation Fundraiser

Purchase your Print raffle tickets booklets today (10 chances for \$5) by sending your check, payable to "Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc.," to: P. O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105. We'll return your tickets stubs by mail.



(Raffle items, below, from left, counterclockwise): 1. Surrender at Appomattox signing print; 2. Robert E. Lee print; 3. Union "General Service" Coat Button display; 4. "The Life of Billy Yank" and "The Life of Johnny Reb," by Bell Irvin Wiley (2-volume box set); 5. "Stonewall Jackson, The Legend and the Man" and "Stonewall Jackson, Seven Days to the Last March." by Lenoir Chambers (2-volume box set); 6. "The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War (2-volume box set) ; 7. "The Civil War," by Shelby Foot (3-volume set); 8. "Grant and Lee, The Virginia Campaigns, 1864-1865," by William Frassanito (signed copy); 9. print of Stonewall Jackson, original by J.A. Elder, (original is in Fredericksburg); 10. chess set created by the National Historical Society; 11. print of the Battle of Fredericksburg; 12. lamp made by Barry Arnold

### December 6, 1864: Secretary of the Treasury Appointed to Supreme Court



Staunch abolitionist Salmon P. Chase spent his early career as a lawyer and became known as the attorney general for fugitive slaves. Chase later served as the governor of Ohio (1855 -1859). Following a failed bid for the Republican presidential nomination in 1860, he was appointed secretary of the Treasury under Lincoln. Chase was instrumental in establishing the national banking system, including the issuance of paper currency (and managing to get his face to appear on every bill). According to the U.S. Treasury, he chose to bow to the increased religious sentiment that existed during the Civil War by adding the words, "In God We Trust" to U.S. coins.

## By the Numbers Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc.

### Membership Update *(Jeff Gates)*

In a year of continued uncertainty, having access to membership fees to provide immediate and unrestricted funds for planned-for and unexpected expenses is key. Since our last newsletter release, our reenlistment numbers have remained static at 29, which is 52% below membership renewals received by this time last year.

### Paymaster Update *(Jim Duffy)*

Thanks to David Hohe and Sherri Miller for the donation they each made to our **Campaign 43 Appeal**. Our **Print Raffle** revenue remains steady at \$259. The good news is that, although ticket sales did not increase since a month ago, the amount already received puts us at slightly more than halfway to our budgeted goal for the Campaign 43 print raffle.

### Recent CWRT Website Postings *(Paul Bartlett)*

**Nov 11:** 80 to 1 Match for Southern Revolutionary War Battlefields. ([www.cwrteasternpa.org](http://www.cwrteasternpa.org))

### CWRT Gets an Email Address

We've set up a central email system on Gmail to provide our Board with a single method to contact membership and vice versa: [CWRTEasternPa@gmail.com](mailto:CWRTEasternPa@gmail.com).

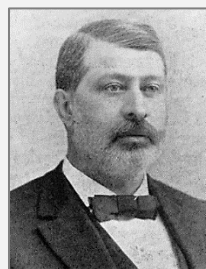
### *Remember the 2020 CARES Act ...*

*If you plan to take the standard deduction on your 2020 income tax return, you can ALSO deduct up to \$300 in donations made to 501(c)(3) nonprofits like the CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc. (Membership fees are a tax-deductible expense.) You can also indicate a donation, over and above your membership fee, right on the membership form, a copy of which is included in this newsletter issue. These additional funds will be used in support of preservation projects.*

*Thank you.*

*Sources for newsletter content are available upon request.*

## Christmas Comes Early to the 129<sup>th</sup> Pa. Volunteer Infantry



*William D. Luckenbach was born in 1840 in Bethlehem, Pa. In 1863, he mustered out of the 129<sup>th</sup> Pa. Vols and, a year later, completed the law degree study*

*that he had begun years earlier at Dickenson Law School. He then joined the 202<sup>nd</sup> Pa. Vols and served as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Adjutant.*

*After the war, he continued the practice of law until his death, in 1921. He is buried at Nisky Hill Cemetery, site of the CWRT of Eastern Pa.'s October, 2020, preservation project.*

\* \* \*

As 1862 ended, Corporal Luckenbach and the rest of the 129<sup>th</sup> Pa. Volunteers has just escaped injury during a crushing defeat at the Battle of Fredericksburg. During the retreat, the unit loses all of its supplies as well as many of the soldiers' personal belongings. Huddled together in the few tents available to them, with no blankets, the men soon receive more than they hoped for, as Luckenbach later notes in his journal:

**December 24, 1862**

**... All are again supplied with tents & blankets & consider themselves as comfortable as a soldiers [sic] life can make them. This evening being Christmas Eve we had a morning meeting ... interrupted by a slight sprinkling of rum. ...**

# Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc.

## REENLISTMENT FORM

It is re-enlistment time for the 2020-2021 Campaign! Again, our numbers have decreased over the past year and the Roundtable can use your help in acquiring some new recruits. If you know of anyone who has an interest in the Civil War, please pass his or her name and address along to me. I will send them a few complimentary newsletters and an introductory letter to the Round Table. Better yet, bring them to our next dinner meeting or excursion.

### Dues are payable now!

2020-21 dues are \$25.00 for individuals, \$10.00 for full-time students.

Please complete the form below and mail it with your check payable to CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc. to:  
P. O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105.

Thanks for your support. Questions? Contact Jeff Gates (610) 966-5773 or [jefgates@ptd.net](mailto:jefgates@ptd.net)

Name _____	How many years have you been a member? _____
Address _____	
How did you hear of this organization? _____	
What is your occupation/profession? _____	
Phone _____	E-mail address _____
Reenactor? (Yes/No)    If yes, Unit(s)? _____	
(If known), please give name(s) and unit(s) of ancestor(s) who fought in the Civil War: _____ _____	
My major interest is: _____	
Would you be willing to speak to groups on some aspect of the Civil War? (Yes/No)	
Would you be interested in participating in Round Table activities? (Yes/No) If yes, please specify below: ___ public functions    ___ political action    ___ preservation    ___ living history    other _____	

*(Please make your check payable to CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc.)*

\_\_\_ Individual membership (\$25.00)    \_\_\_ Full-time student membership (\$10.00)

\_\_\_ I am also enclosing a donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to benefit our CWRT's preservation fund.  
(Use the blank space provided below if you are making a donation in memory of an individual):

**The Civil War Round Table of Eastern, Pa., Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
Your membership dues are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.**