

February 2018 – Winter Campaign 40: Meeting on February 06, 2018

From the Brigade Commander: Ed Root

Kudos to all the brave souls who ventured out on a frigid night to attend our January gathering. You were certainly rewarded with Mike Jesberger's presentation about the Home Front in the Civil War. This is a subject all too often ignored or under discussed and is absolutely worthy of discussion about how circumstances on the Home Front impacted circumstances on the Military Front.

Don't forget to frequently check our website. There is always something informative and interesting. I encourage any of you to send an article you deem worthy of sharing to me for inclusion. Check out our site at <http://www.cwrteasternpa.org/> Paul Bartlett does a great job keeping things fresh.

Once again Signup sheets will be at our upcoming meeting for our Saturday, April 21st Brush Cutting adventure at Gettysburg's Henry Spangler Farm. Please sign up so we can keep you updated as we approach our work date.

I know it has been really really cold, but please warm my heart and make sure your membership form for this Campaign has reached Jeff Gates. We need the support of all and your membership is important and we do appreciate it.

We have continued to receive donations to our Annual Appeal. This support over and above your dues will help us to continue to provide the excellent programs and meetings you have come to expect and appreciate without raising dues or dinner fees. If you are of a mind, it is not too late to make an offering to the Cause! This support is greatly appreciated.

Stay warm and dry and remember that by our upcoming meeting Spring will only be 6 weeks away!! See you on February 6 when we welcome Jim Remsen who will present "Embattled Freedom, Chronicle of a Fugitive-Slave Haven in the Wary North."

Ed Root sartilly@hotmail.com 610-417-6673

Our February 06, 2018 Speaker, About Our February Speaker: Jim Remsen

Embattled Freedom: Chronicle of a Fugitive Slave Haven in the Wary North takes readers into the 1800s, to a dramatic period of interracial history in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The focus is the village of Waverly, in Lackawanna County, and its thirteen black Civil War soldiers. Author Jim Remsen is a native of Waverly and is especially honored to bring the town's remarkable black and abolitionist era to light.

Jim is a journalist and author of three published books: *The Intermarriage Handbook* (HarperCollins, 1988), *Visions of Teoaga* (Sunbury Press, 2014) and, now, *Embattled Freedom* (Sunbury Press, 2017). Since retiring as Religion Editor at The Philadelphia Inquirer, he has pursued his keen interest in history, with a focus on under-appreciated aspects of our nation's local histories.

Embattled Freedom is the result of Jim's three years of research into local, county and state records, military documents, period newspapers, county and church histories, memoirs, and more. In learning about Waverly's runaway slaves and their white allies, Jim came to see how much animosity they faced on the home front, particularly as the Civil War bore down on them. His book chronicles a tumultuous world in which ideals collided, politics was thunderous, and national destiny was at stake.

Mary Ann Moran-Savakinus, Director of the Lackawanna Historical Society in Scranton, praised *Embattled Freedom* as "a fascinating history that needs to be shared." Sherman Wooden, head of the Center for Anti-Slavery Studies in Montrose, called it "a research gem."



About Our February Topic, Embattled Freedom

Embattled Freedom takes readers into the 1800s, to a dramatic period of interracial history in northeastern Pennsylvania. The focus is the village of Waverly, Pa. Being a native of Waverly, Jim is especially honored to bring its remarkable black and abolitionist era to light. In learning about Waverly's runaway slaves and their white allies, Jim came to see how much animosity they faced on the home front, particularly as the Civil War bore down on them. His *Embattled Freedom* chronicles a tumultuous world in which ideals collided, politics was thunderous, and national destiny was at stake. You're invited to enter that world and, as Jim states at the outset of the book, "consider its people, and ponder where you might have positioned yourself had it been your world."

Operation Snowflake



For weather related postponements/cancellations, please visit the CWRT website -www.cwrteasternpa.org - where any meeting change information will be posted. If you still have doubts, please call Ed Root at 610-417-6673.



Happy Birthday to Us; Happy Birthday to Us

Don't forget in honor of our fortieth birthdate, Kay Bagenstose is making the festivities even grander with special prizes and treats at every meeting. Below is a picture of our January winner. Congratulations to Fred Bomberger (see Fred's picture below) whose name was drawn at the January meeting. Fred received a special gift- a book. And remember, all you need to do is attend the meeting for your chance to win!



**Thanks to January Speaker, Mike Jesberger, for his Informative Talk on
The Homefront during the American Civil War**



Bob McHugh presents a \$50.00 check to for the 28th PA Historical Association in appreciation for his January presentation.

Do You KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Taken from the Civil War Quiz and Fact Book by Rod Gragg

Answers on Page 5

1. How old was General Joseph Wheeler when he took command of all the cavalry for the army of Tennessee?
A) 26 B) 40 C) 60 D) 71
2. Who was the female spy caught by Braxton Bragg and sentenced to death but escaped that sentence when the Confederates were forced to retreat from Kentucky?
A) Mary Bowser B) Belle Boyd C) Mary Surratt D) Pauline Cushman
3. What Union Cavalry leader was called "Kill Cavalry" by his troops?
A) H. Judson Kilpatrick B) Philip Sheridan C) George Custer D) Alfred Pleasanton
4. At the end of the Civil War how much national debt had the Confederacy incurred?
A) 2 Million dollars B) 4 Million dollars C) 1 Million dollars D) 2 Billion dollars

All Members and guests of the Lehigh Brigade are ordered to

Holiday Inn Conference Center Lehigh Valley in Breinigsville
7736 Adrienne Drive Breinigsville, PA 18031 Phone 610-391-1000

The deadline for accepting dinner reservations is the last Thursday, before the monthly meeting held on the first Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. Please note the deadline for making dinner reservations for the February 06, 2018 meeting is Thursday, February 01, 2018.

For dinner reservations and/or information: Contact any of the following:

James Duffy – 610-253- 4549 duffysocwk@aol.com

Carol Detweiler 215-234- 4884 cdetweiler01@comcast.net

Ed Oechsle – 610-882-9228 ehoechsle@ptd.net

Please Remember To Visit Our Website: Our website is a treasure trove of up to date information about not only our Round Table and it' activities, but links to events of interest, research aids and other organizations of merit. Website: <http://www.cwrteasternpa.org/>

January Attendance Statistics by James Duffy

Our third meeting back and we had 43 attendees. That included 31 for dinner and 12 walk-ins. We were glad to see all of you and would love to have you back in February.

ANSWERS FOR DO YOUR KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Quiz on page 4

1.) A 2.) D 3.) A 4.) D

FYI....CIVIL WAR Roundtable of Eastern PA Recognized by the Civil War Trust

Not to be obvious and blow the Roundtable's horn, but we will anyway.

The Civil War Roundtable of Eastern PA is being recognized by the Board of Trustees of the Civil War Trust for its "exceptional generosity" toward Battlefield Preservation. A Certificate of Appreciation dated December 6, 2017 was received by this Roundtable.

In the Annual Report of the Civil War Trust (April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2017), this CWRT is mentioned as on the Brigade Color Bearers for its contributions to preservation efforts (p.21)

Also in Hallowed Ground (Winter 2017, Vol 18, No.4), this Roundtable is listed as one of the Civil War Trust's 300 ("greatest cumulative contributors to the preservation cause") in the \$50,000 and up category (p. 39).

Kudos to this Roundtable and all who through the print raffle, boo raffle, membership dues and individual donations have contributed to this honor.

Keep up the good and important work.

January 2018 Book Raffle Winners



Winners from L to R: Sherri Miller, Claude Kohl, Sr., David Hohe, Terry Benner, Reverend Craig Landis, Fred Bomberger, and Maria Maly

AN EVENING WITH THE PAINTING by Jim Duffy

Like many members of the Roundtable who have seen the Cyclorama in the Visitor's Center, I was impressed with the newly restored painting by Paul Philippoteaux.

Also like many members of the Roundtable, I was very disappointed that I could not spend more time on the platform admiring the painting and looking for specific parts that I had heard or read about before we were all shuffled out of the viewing area.

This past Remembrance Day weekend, I had the opportunity to spend more time with the painting after the Visitor Center had closed for the day.

The program is entitled "Evening with the Painting" and was hosted by Susan Boardman (who headed the restoration of this magnificent painting and who had spoken to this Roundtable several years ago about this effort – she is also the author of a book on the Cyclorama and its restoration).

The program ran for about 1 ½ hours and had two separate sessions.

The first session was in a meeting room where Ms. Boardman gave a history of Cycloramas in general and the “Battle of Gettysburg” in particular. She mentioned how Philippoteaux prepared for the painting and how it progressed with assistance from many other talented artists. She showed snippets of the painting that are not readily seen from the viewing platform but add to the story being portrayed. For instance, did you know that there are blacks in the painting showing the specific tasks that they would have done as part of the Federal forces? Or why poppy flowers were painted in.

After this informational session, we were escorted onto the platform in the Cyclorama. There we were divided into 3 groups and rotated in 15-minute periods.

One group was allowed to stand on the diorama where the detritus of a battlefield are placed (knapsacks, muskets, cannon, etc.) and we could see how this diorama blended in with the painting (wagon tracks, false landscaping, etc.)

Another group was permitted to go to the floor of the viewing room right under the painting where Ms. Boardman explained how the painting was hung and it achieved its parabolic shape that gives it a slight 3-D view (To be honest, I was so close to the painting that individual brush strokes could be discerned).

The 3rd group remained on the platform where the impact of this painting on civilians and veterans was explained as it was exhibited throughout the country in the late 1800s.

All in all, it was a very interesting and informative time. AND it only cost 20 bucks per person.

Therefore, if you notice under “Friends of Gettysburg Foundation” that there will be an “Evening with the Painting”, I would highly recommend attending and seeing this wonderful work of art and history.

Valentines in the Civil War-Smithsonian Magazine

The history of Valentine cards in North America owes a lot to Esther Howland. She popularized the cards just when they were needed most: during the Civil War. Valentines were especially important during the Civil War when husbands and wives, and young lovers were separated not only by miles but by the fear they would never see each other again,” [writes](#) novelist Joan Itaska in her long-running Civil War history blog. Howland turned DIY cards into an industry, so that now she is sometimes called “[The Mother of the Valentine](#).”



EMMA LOUISE NAGLE

Mar. 11, 1849 - Nov. 26, 1946

Emma Nagle of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, is memorable for having lived to become one of the last four women *known* to have nursed in the Civil War. However, she never actually enjoyed this distinction, for neither she nor those about her knew how many or few such nurses remained.

Emma, at ninety-seven, knew only that it had been years since she could recall seeing another who had nursed in the Civil War. In fact, she hadn't seen a Civil War soldier for several years either. Of publicity, she sought little and got little.

Born in Philadelphia to Mary and Peter Becker, Emma lived all during the war with her folks at Winchester, Virginia, where she had many nursing experiences, both as a civilian and as a volunteer. A twelve-year-old in the spring of 1861, Emma devoted her early teens to saving lives. At fifteen she joined the Civilian Volunteer Nurses Corps. When peace finally came, Emma was still busily caring for the wounded and the homeless. Often in later years she told of her home, situated as it was, in Winchester, being frequently in the center of the fighting— an eventuality unforeseen by the Beckers when they had moved south. "One night the Union soldiers occupied our front yard and the next night the South's soldiers would be there. Then the Northern soldiers would return and then the South's forces . . ." Like Sarah Frances Pearce over in Richmond (*SLBG*, p. 490 & *OY&LCWN*, p. 97), Emma inevitably did a considerable stint of nursing for the "other side"— in this case, for the Confederates . . . or was the *other* side the Blue Coats?

A battlefield angel, she bore bandages, water, sponges, gave encouragements, supporting words, long hours. Bandaging, pacifying, praying, giving quinine, calomel and occasional milkpunches (branded milk) upon a doctor's advice— Emma treated as the medicines of her day permitted. She fought successfully against countless gangrenous wounds by applying dressings soaked in weak solutions of bromine—a wonder drug remedy then newly discovered by Middleton Goldsmith, a surgeon in charge of Kentucky and Ohio Military hospitals. ¹

In 1867, Emma Becker settled in Bethlehem with her folks. Here she married Frederick Nagle on Sept. 13, 1869. They lived on West Garrison Street which then had only a few houses west of Monocacy Creek. The Nagles became charter members of Grace Lutheran Church in 1872. Someday she would be its last surviving charter member. Frederick died just a few months after their joining. ²

During her seventy-three-year widowhood, Emma worked primarily as a seamstress. She supported herself and her two children, Robert and Louise. As each war came along—the Spanish-American, World War I and II—Mrs. Nagle gave her time "to do something for the boys." She was a Red Cross worker. During World War II she and her son packed hundreds of kits for servicemen and into these went items of her own handiwork. ³ These activities were a source of pride for her whose sight was dimming. She had spent thousands of hours in community affairs, with civic groups, and for her church, much the way Lavinia Mount Minton in nearby New Jersey was doing (See 1948 Unit, Vol. II). A lovely, signal honor had been bestowed upon her when the local D.U.V. named their unit the Emma Louise Nagle Tent No. 51 in tribute to her years of volunteer nursing. Remembering in detail everything back to her ninth birthday, Mrs. Nagle frequently spoke of her long-ago experiences. Never bedfast, she succumbed to a heart attack at her 148 East Broad Street home. With her was Mrs. Marie Orlando, her housekeeper. Mrs. Nagle was laid to rest in Nisky Hill Cemetery.

¹ Goldsmith's use of bromine reduced gangrene mortality from nearly 100% to 2.6%, effectually eliminating gangrene as a fatal disease. David B. Sabine, "Medicine in the War Between the States," *U.D.C. Magazine*, Jan. 1964, p. 33.

² *New York Times*, Nov. 27, 1946, p. 25, *Bethlehem Globe Times*, Nov. 26, 1946, pp. 1 - 2.

³ *Globe Times*, 11/26/46.

June Preservation Raffle Prizes

Grand Prize- “The Grim Harvest of War” Jackson and the Valley campaign by Bradley Schmehl



Prize 2- Photographs of Union and Confederate Officers in the Civil War in America.
Published by the Civil War Library and Museum, 1996

Prize 3- A Great Civil War by Russell Weigley, signed.

Prize 4- The Gleam of Bayonets by Jim Murfin, signed

Prize 5- Time detailed maps of the Chancellorsville Campaign, done by the National Park Service

Prize 6]-The South to Posterity by Douglas Southall Freeman

REMEMBER, WHEN YOU SUPPORT PRESERVATION, WE ARE ALL WINNERS!!!

February is Black History Month-

Remembering Just One of the Significant Battles the Colored Troops Fought

During the American Civil War (From the Civil War Trust)

Honey Springs, Oklahoma

The Battle of Honey Springs, fought on July 17, 1863, was the first large-scale battle involving African-American, Native American, Hispanic and white troops — a distinction that has led renowned historian Ed Bearss to dub it the “Rainbow Coalition.” The heroics of the First Kansas Colored Infantry, among the first regiments of soldiers of African descent recruited by the Union, ensured the federal victory. The Trust has preserved 84 acres at the Honey Springs Battlefield, commemorating this unique engagement and the largest battle fought in Oklahoma.

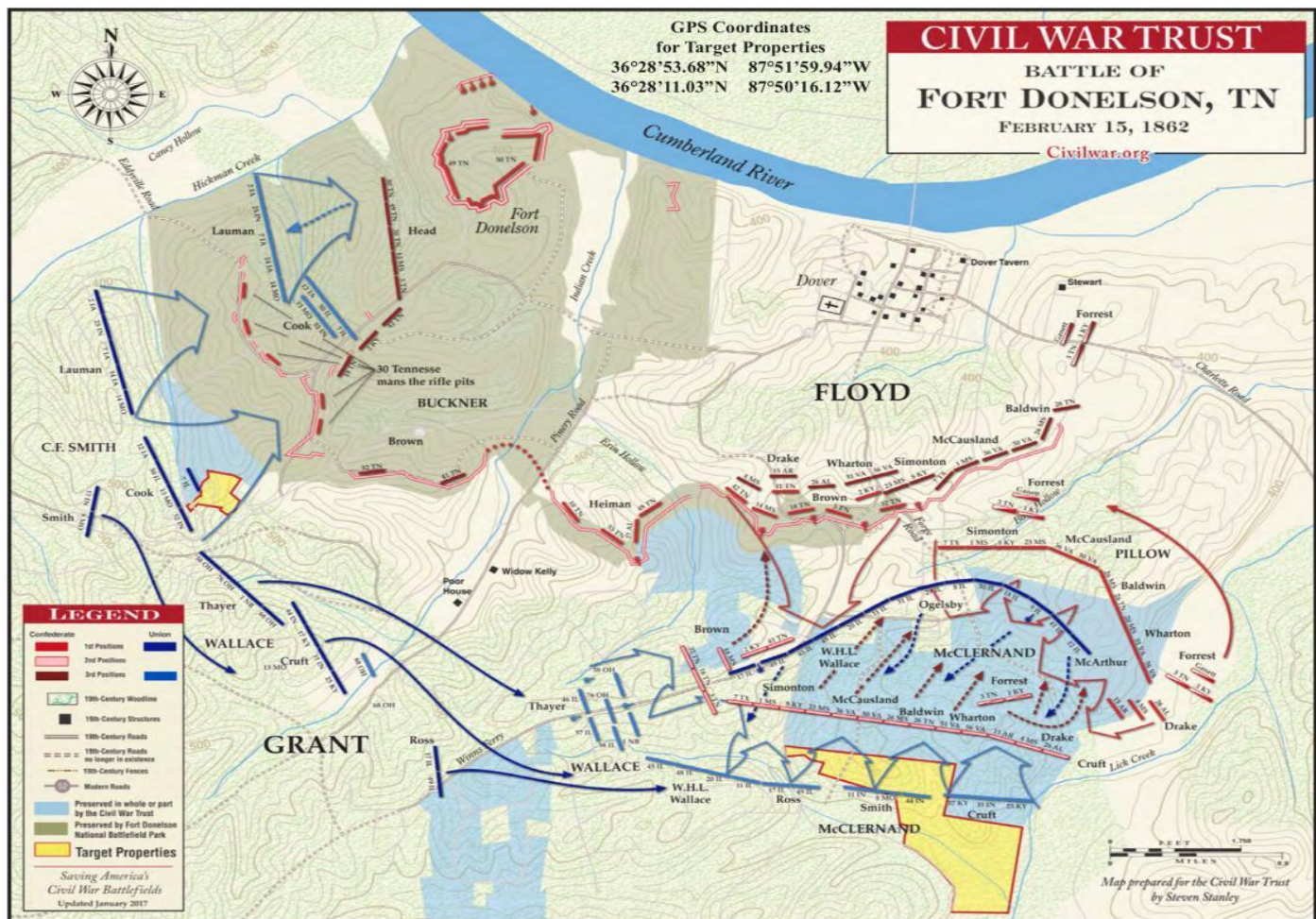


Battle of Honey Springs Published in Harpers Weekly (Taken from Civil War Week: August 28, 2011)

Honey Springs was the most important Civil War battle fought in Indian Territory. It preserved Union ownership of Fort Gibson and dealt Confederate forces a blow from which they never fully recovered. It also opened the way for the Federal capture of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and helped justify the recruitment of black regiments by the Union army.

Fort Donelson February 15, 1862 **From The Civil War Trust**

Early in the war, the Union realized control of the major rivers would be the key to success in the Western Theater. After capturing Fort Henry on the Tennessee River on February 6, 1862, Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant advanced 12 miles cross-country to invest Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. By February 13th, Grant had surrounded the fort with about 25,000 men, and had conducted several small attacks to probe the fort's defenses. Inside and around the fort, Confederate commander Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd led a garrison of three divisions of about 16,000 infantry and cavalry. Union Navy gunboats attempted to reduce the fort on February 14th but were beaten back by heavier Confederate artillery from the fort. On the morning of the 15th, the Confederates launched a surprise attack on the right flank of Grant's lines outside the fort. Grant counterattacked in the afternoon, and despite some success, Floyd ordered his men to fall back inside the fort. The next day, Floyd and some other senior commanders and a few men escaped the fort, turning over command to Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, a pre-war friend of Grant. Later that day, Buckner reluctantly surrendered the remaining garrison unconditionally to his old friend. The capture of Fort Donelson was a major victory for Grant and a catastrophe for the South. It helped ensure that Kentucky would stay in the Union and opened up Tennessee for Union advances up the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. Grant received a promotion to major general for his victory and attained stature in the Western Theater, earning the nom de guerre "Unconditional Surrender."



REENLISTMENT REPORT

Jeff Gates

It is re-enlistment time for the 2017-2018 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 a dinner meeting. The dues are \$25.00 for individuals, \$10.00 for full-time students. To avoid standing in line at the meeting, please fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc. Thanks for your support. Jeff Gates (610) 966-5773 or jefgates@ptd.net

CWRT of Eastern PA ---REENLISTMENT FORM

Name_____

How long have you been a member? _____

Address _____

Phone_____

E-mail address_____

How did you hear of this organization?

What is your occupation/profession?

Reenactor?___ Unit _____

Please give name and unit of ancestor 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?

Would you be interested in participating in round table activities? _____(yes or no) Here are just a few of the ways you

Could get involved: ___public functions ___political action ___preservation ___living history _____

Other:_____ (Please specify)

Dues (Please make checks payable to CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc.)

___ Individual (\$25.00) ___ Full-Time Student (\$10.00)___ Tax Deductible Donation

Please fill out the Enlistment Form above for our next Campaign and mail FIRST CLASS to CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc., P.O. Box 333 ALLENTOWN, PA 18105

Dues are payable now!