



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

From the Brigade Commander: Ed Root

Once again at our February meeting we were reminded how fresh and fascinating research continues to bring forth “new” stories. Thanks to Jim Remsen for bringing the history of the black men and women who settled in Waverly, Pennsylvania. First as fugitives from slavery prior to the Civil War and later as defenders of the Union who fought in the blue uniform on many a bloody field this is a story largely unknown until now. Thanks Jim!! Once again we were very happy to see some of Bob McHugh’s excellent students from Saucon Valley High School attend our program.

Barry Arnold has donated some wonderful framed photography over the last year or so. Some of his work now resides in Nitschmann Middle school in Bethlehem. Last month, Barbara Kreidler was the happy winner of a view at Gettysburg near Smith’s NY Battery above Devil’s Den featuring one of the Park’s magnificent witness trees. Barry has graciously offered to bring a different image to each meeting. If you want to be in the running for one of these great items see Barry and Tony at the check-in table every meeting.

Don’t forget to frequently check our website. There is always something informative and interesting. We endeavor to include in the Calendar section events being held by other organizations such as the Lehigh County Historical Society at the LV Heritage Museum. 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.

Have you thanked Kay Bagenstose yet for her monthly 40th anniversary special raffle and treats? She’s put a tremendous amount of work AND expense into this effort. Let her know how much it is appreciated!

As you know our Round Table was one of the first organizations to volunteer for “Brush Cutting” at Gettysburg NMP. We’ve been doing this for well over 20 years. For most of that time we have been a “Fire Brigade” going wherever the need was the greatest.

This year we will work at the Henry Spangler Farm located on the right (west) side Emmitsburg Road as you head south from town. (The entrance is a dirt road which will be marked; if you get to the Peach Orchard you’ve gone too far!) The property is about 300 yards west of the road and consists of a house, smoke house and barn. Kemper’s Brigade of Pickett’s Division organized near here for the assault on July 3, 1863. As in previous years we have something for all ages and abilities. There will be brush cutting around fence lines, some fences will need rebuilding and for the artistic there is a picket fence that needs painting. We’ll also need drivers if none of the above fits your job description capabilities.

We’ll work from about 9AM until 12:30 or so. Bring your lunch and eat on the job or wait until everything is done and go into town. As a reward for your service one of the NPS staff will relate the history of the property and finish there when we complete our tasks.

If you have not already done so please see the sign-up sheets at our meeting. We have a wonderful tradition of service at Gettysburg NMP. Be part of our continuing work to maintain and preserve this national treasure. Those wishing to car-pool should meet at the Holiday Inn parking lot and leave no later than 7AM.

If you are one of the few recalcitrant souls who have not reenlisted in our happy band of history students you can avoid everlasting shame by seeing Jeff Gates and bringing your membership up to date. Your membership is important and much appreciated.

Please join us at the March 6th gathering when we welcome back Professor Gray from East Stroudsburg University when he will share his thoughts on "Civil War Captives and a Captivated Home Front: The Rise of Prisons as Dark Tourist Destinations." Mike is also the President of the Board of Trustees of the Lehigh County Historical Society.

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

Our March 06, 2018 Speaker, **About Our March Speaker: Michael P. Gray**

Michael P. Gray is Professor of History at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania where he teaches courses on U.S. History to 1877, the Civil War, Interpreting Civil War Sites & Memory, U.S. Military History, and War and Society--he is currently developing a "special topics" course on Civil War prisons and the home front. His first book, *The Business of Captivity: Elmira and its Civil War Prison* (Kent State University Press, 2001), was a finalist for the Seaborg Award, and a chapter of that work, first published in *Civil War History*, earned "Honorable Mention" for the Eastern National Award. In 2011, he wrote the new introduction to Ovid L. Futch's classic *History of Andersonville Prison*, and in 2013, "Captivating Captives: An Excursion to Johnson's Island Prison" in *Union Heartland: The Midwestern Home Front During the Civil War*. Gray's latest work is an edited volume entitled *Crossing the Deadlines: Civil War Prisons Reconsidered*, available in [October 2018](#). He has won internal and external grants relating to the prisons, including "Civil War Prison Archeology: Team Teaching Public History on Johnson's Island" (2011) as well as the "National Prisoner of War Grant," Andersonville, Georgia (2014). Gray also serves as the series editor to *Voices of the Civil War* with the University of Tennessee Press, which has produced more than 50 primary source volumes related to the conflict. In 2013 he was presented with the "ESU Student Senate Award for Outstanding University Faculty Member," and in 2014, he was the recipient of the ESyoU Employee of the Year Award for "exceptional service to the university and success of students." In 2015 Gray's expertise on Civil War prisons resulted in him being interviewed by CNN. In the past year, Gray was also featured on the Learning Channel's "Who Do You Think You Are" with Jessica Biel, which dealt with finding the history of a lost ancestor incarcerated at a Civil War Prison.

About Our March Topic:

Michael Gray, author of *Crossing the Deadline: Civil War Prisons Reconsidered* is an edited collection with other scholars so he will briefly talk about his introduction as well as the purpose of the book as well as briefly summarize their contributions-- then he will elaborate on his chapter "Civil War Captives and a Captivated Home Front: The Rise of Prisons as Dark Tourist Destinations."

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 February winner. Congratulations to Joe Riggs (see Joe's picture below) whose name was drawn at the February meeting. Joe received a special gift- a book. And remember, all you need to do is attend the meeting for your chance to win!



Congratulations Joe Riggs on winning the February monthly drawing for our anniversary celebration.

Thanks to February Speaker, Jim Rensen, for his Informative Talk on Embattled Freedom



Jim indicated that \$50.00 should be given back to our organization, CWRT of Eastern PA, for more preservation.

Do You KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

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

Answers on Page 5

1. Which Union officer transformed the medical system into an effective medical corps?
A) Charles Abbott B) John H. Alexander C) John Ferguson D) Jonathan Letterman
2. What battle was the final battle of the Seven Days' Battle, fought on 7/1/1862?
A) Battle of Malvern Hill B) Battle of Gaines Mill C) Battle of Oak Grove D) Battle of Savage's Station
3. What Wild West lawman served as a Union scout at the Battle of Pea Ridge?
A) Bat Masterson B) Wild Bill Hickock C) Wyatt Earp D) Doc Holiday
4. Which prominent Northern publisher posted bail for Jefferson Davis so he could be released at the end of the war?
A) Horace Greely B) William Randolph Hearst C) Joseph Pulitzer D) Schyler Colfax

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 March 06, 2018 meeting is Thursday, March 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/>

February Attendance Statistics by James Duffy

Our third meeting back and we had 55 attendees. That included 44 for dinner and 11 walk-ins. We were glad to see all of you and would love to have you back in March.

ANSWERS FOR DO YOUR KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Quiz on page 4

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

February 2018 Book Raffle Winners



Winners from L to R: Kim Jacobs, Tony Major, Fred Bomberger, Gary Schnell, Bill Frankenfield, and Bill Urland.

Special Drawing with Proceeds to go to Preservation

Kudos to Barry Arnold who photographed and framed a picture of a view in Gettysburg which included an awesome Witness Tree. Barry donated it to the CWRT of Eastern PA. The proceeds from this drawing will be used for preservation. Thank you, Barry, for helping the Roundtable to promote preservation. Also, thanks to all those who purchased tickets. Barbara Kreidler was our lucky winner for the photograph.



Barbara Kreidler with her gorgeous framed picture.

A Woman's Place is In the War from American Civil War: Women Prisoners of War at Castle Thunder by Rebecca Beatrice Brooks from Civil War Saga: August 15, 2012

Castle Thunder in Richmond, Virginia, was one of the few Confederate prisons that held not only male prisoners of war but women prisoners as well.

Located along Tobacco row, near Libby prison, Castle Thunder held around 100 women prisoners for various crimes, such as prostitution, spying and smuggling, although most of them were political prisoners. A few of these women were also female soldiers whose true identity had been discovered.

An article published in the New York Times in July of 1863, states that some of the female prisoners were also wives and children of Union soldiers who were captured after the Union defeat at the second battle of Winchester.

These women and children didn't remain long at Castle Thunder as they were quickly transferred to the United States Hotel in Washington D.C.

Women and African-American prisoners were kept in a separate building at the prison while male Confederate deserters and male political prisoners were held in another.

Conditions at the prison were deplorable. Castle Thunder was filthy, overcrowded, disease-ridden and lacked adequate food and medical supplies for the prisoners.

Executions of Confederate deserters took place in full view of the other prisoners and a notoriously brutal captain, George W. Alexander, patrolled the prison daily accompanied by his aggressive black dog, Nero, both whom taunted and terrorized the prisoners.

The most famous of Castle Thunder's women prisoners was Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. Walker was an army doctor for the 52nd Ohio Infantry who was taken prisoner after she encountered a group of Confederate soldiers at Tunnel Hill in Georgia.

Due to her unconventional profession as well as her trademark military uniform, a pair of trousers worn under her skirt, a military jacket and a gypsy hat, Walker attracted a lot of attention from the press and locals in Richmond.

The Richmond Sentinel published the following account of her capture on April 22, 1864:

"The female Yankee surgeon captured by our pickets a short time since, in the neighborhood of the army of Tennessee, was received in this city yesterday evening, and sent to the Castle in charge of a detective. Her appearance on the street in full male costume, with the exception of a gipsy hat, created quite an excitement amongst the idle negroes and boys who followed and surrounded her. She gave her name as Dr. Mary E. Walker, and declared that she had been captured on neutral ground. She was dressed in black pants and black or dark talma or paletot. She was consigned to the female ward of Castle Thunder, there being no accommodations at the Libby for prisoners of her sex. We must not omit to add that she is ugly and skinny, and apparently above thirty years of age."

Walker spent six months at the jail, during which she wrote numerous letters to the press describing the horrible conditions at the prison.

She complained that her mattress was infested with insects, rats ran throughout the prison at night and food rations were meager and inedible.

According to the book Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, later in her life Walker once even complained of a guard who had fired at her while she stood in the doorway to her cell, just narrowly missing her head.

On August 12th, prison officials finally released Walker in an attempt to avoid any more negative press. For the rest of her life, Walker suffered from health problems caused by her malnutrition and exposure to disease at the prison.

Other famous prisoners included two cousins, Mary and Mollie Bell. The Bells were secret soldiers who had disguised themselves as men in order to fight for the Confederacy.



Dr. Mary Edwards Walker in 1863

They fought for two years, under the command of General Jubal A. Early, and took part in a number of key battles, including the Battle of Gettysburg and the Battle of Chancellorsville, before their true identities were discovered after a fellow soldier reported them.

Upon discovery, the Bells were sent to Castle Thunder in October of 1864 and held for three weeks. With no official crime to charge them with, prison officials finally released the cousins and sent them home to Pulaski County, Virginia.

Castle Thunder remained an active Confederate prison until the fall of Richmond in April of 1865. Shortly before the city fell to the Union army, the prisoners were evacuated and sent to Danville, Virginia. The Union army later took control of the prison and used it for similar purposes.

After the war ended, Castle Thunder was returned to its original owners but was destroyed in a large fire in 1879.

Remembering a March Battle in the American Civil War: Battle of Averasboro, N. C.

Union Battle Summary
Averasboro, N.C., March 16, 1865. 14th and 20th Army Corps and Kilpatrick's Cavalry. Gen. Sherman left Fayetteville on March 14. Gens. Schofield and Terry with their columns were to join him at Goldsboro, where he had planned to end his immediate campaign in order to the establishment of his position with New Berne for a base. Johnston had disposed his troops along the Raleigh roads and Sherman understood that the Confederate general would try to turn the Federal left flank in the march to Goldsboro. To meet this movement he threw out Gen. Slocum's left wing, without trains and in light marching order, to cover the advance of the main army and its wagons. A light column embracing Gen. Kilpatrick's cavalry in strong force, the divisions of Gens. Ward and Jackson of the 20th corps, and the divisions of Gens. Carlin and Morgan of the 14th corps, was sent up the Raleigh road in a direct demonstration against Raleigh. The right wing moved on the direct road to Goldsboro. Between it and the light column was the remainder of Slocum's wing. On the evening of the 15th the

Federal cavalry advance encountered that of the enemy 5 miles from Fayetteville and forced it to fall back to Kyle's landing, midway between Fayetteville and Averagesboro. Reinforced by an infantry brigade, Kilpatrick camped during the night within easy range of the Confederate pickets and at daylight on the 16th he moved out in line of battle, the infantry having the center. The enemy's pickets were driven in and his skirmish line forced back to his main line of battle. Doubting the prudence of an attack, Kilpatrick sent back for infantry reinforcements and the entire 14th and 20th corps were hurried forward. In the meantime the enemy moved out of his works and furiously attacked Col. Jones' cavalry on the right. Jones gallantly held his position until reinforced by the brigades of Jordan and Atkins, when he repulsed three determined attacks, then charged in turn and drove the Confederates back behind their works. The 14th and 20th corps having gone into position, Kilpatrick's cavalry operated on the right throughout the day, and mounted or dismounted fought side by side with the infantry. Gen. Howard was ordered to send his trains, under good escort, well to the right, toward Fairon's depot and Goldsboro and to hold 4 divisions in light marching order to go to the aid of the left wing if that should be attacked while in motion. The weather was bad and the roads were a mere quagmire, passable for wheels only after being corduroyed. Sherman accompanied Slocum, who went up the river road on the 15th, following Kilpatrick to Kyle's landing, Kilpatrick skirmishing heavily with the enemy's rear-guard at Taylor's Hole creek, 3 miles beyond. On the morning of the 16th, the column advanced in the same order and developed the enemy with artillery, cavalry and infantry entrenched a mile and a half in front of Moore's cross-roads, the junction of the Smithfield and Raleigh road with the one toward Goldsboro through Bentonville. Hardee, in retreating from Fayetteville, had halted in the narrow swampy neck between Cape Fear and South rivers, hoping to impede Sherman's advance and enable Johnston to concentrate his forces at Raleigh, Smithfield or Goldsboro in Hardee's rear. To keep the Goldsboro road clear and to prolong the feint on Raleigh, Sherman had to dislodge Hardee. Slocum was ordered to press forward and carry the position, a difficult undertaking, because horses sank in the swampy ground and men could scarcely walk on it. Hawley's brigade began skirmishing early in the morning. It was 10 o'clock before other troops could reach the field. The 20th corps under Gen. Williams had the lead and Ward's division the advance. This division was deployed to the left of the road, its right connecting with Hawley's left, and developed Rhett's brigade of heavy artillery armed as infantry, posted across the road behind a light parapet, with a battery enfilading the approach across a cleared field. Williams sent Case's brigade by a circuitous advance to turn this line. Case charged on and broke Rhett's brigade, which retreated to a second line of barricades, better built and more strongly held. The advantage was promptly followed up by a destructive fire from three batteries, under Maj. Reynolds, chief of artillery of the 20th corps. Ward's division advanced and developed a third and still stronger line. Jackson's division was deployed forward on the right of Ward and two divisions of the 14th corps under Davis on the left, well toward the Cape Fear river. Kilpatrick, acting in concert with Williams, now massed his cavalry on the extreme right and with Jackson felt forward for the Goldsboro road. He reached that road with one brigade, which was driven back by Claws' division to the flank of the infantry. Late in the afternoon the whole Federal line drove the enemy well within his entrenchments, pressing him so hard that in the stormy night which followed he retreated over almost impassable roads, leaving his dead and wounded. Ward's division followed him to and through Averagesboro, developing the fact that Hardee had retreated, not on the Raleigh but on the Smithfield road. The Federal loss in killed, wounded and missing was 682. The enemy's loss may be inferred from his dead, 108 of whom were buried on the field by Federals.

Source: The Union Army, Volume 6, Cyclopedia of Battles, 1908

Chicora Cemetery



In early 1866, the ladies of Smithville met at Oak Grove plantation to form an organization to honor the memory of the deceased Confederate soldiers of the Battle of Aversboro. Some of the soldiers' remains had been disinterred from temporary graves or sent home, but many were buried in a single cemetery, located near the site of the final line of battle beside the Fayetteville to Raleigh road.

As of May 15, 1867, the women had formally organized the Smithville Memorial Association and initiated efforts to enclose the cemetery and erect a monument. By May 10, 1872, the cemetery had been named "Chicora," the native American name for Carolina; a wrought iron fence was in place; and the monument had been erected. The monument was then dedicated on that date to the fallen soldiers. Memorial services and living history displays have been conducted regularly and periodically at the site through the years and will continue.

In May 1904, the Smithville Memorial Association became the Chicora Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

This cemetery is the final resting place of 56 Confederate dead from the battle. The small enclosure includes monuments to North Carolina and South Carolina troops, and McLaw's Division; a Confederate monument; an interpretive marker for Phase Two of the Battle of Aversboro; the marked graves of Lieutenant Colonel Robert de Treville, First South Carolina Infantry, who was killed in the battle, and eighteen-year-old Alfred Henry Angel, of Charleston, South Carolina, who was mortally wounded and died April 24, 1865; and a reconstructed Civil War era log cabin transplanted from Farquhard Smith's home, "Lebanon."

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!!!

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!