

April 2018 – Winter Campaign 40: Meeting on April 03, 2018

From the Brigade Commander: Ed Root

What stalwarts! Congratulations to everyone who dared to venture out and face the great unknown possible snow event. All who had reservations arrived as well as those who could not make the dinner but arrived in time for the program. We were indeed fortunate to have someone in Michael Gray who is an accomplished historian, but is so involved with the Lehigh Valley history scene. We hope to continue and grow our relationship with him and the Lehigh Valley Historical Society and Heritage Museum. His presentation about Civil War Prisons and how they were viewed will certainly linger with all who attended the gathering.

Barry Arnold and Kay Bagenstose continue to make our 40th Anniversary year meaningful and enjoyable. Please let them know how much you appreciate the hard work that goes into Barry's photographs and Kay's surprise raffle.

We've been fortunate with the weather this Campaign and I hope you kept abreast of developments on our website for possible alerts. Paul Bartlett via the website and Claire Kukielka by way of an email blast did their part to keep everyone aware. All you have to do is pay attention! Check out our site at <http://www.cwrteasternpa.org/> Paul does a great job keeping things fresh.

Our Gettysburg Brush Cutting event on Saturday, April 21 is fast approaching. Check details and logistics further on in this newsletter.

The Nomination Report for Officers and Directors for the 2018-19 Campaign is listed this newsletter. If you are interesting in serving our organization and would like to be considered for a position please see Joe Riggs. Nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to the vote at our May meeting.

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. Don't make me send out the Provost Guard to track you down.....

Our April 3rd meeting with Dave Bastian presenting looks to be a fascinating look at U.S. Grant and his canal at Vicksburg! Please join us for dinner if your schedule allows. You will find the camaraderie and food well worth your time.

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

Our April 03, 2018 Speaker, Dave Bastian

About Our April Topic: Grant's Canal; the Union's Attempt to Bypass Vicksburg

Our speaker tonight is Dave Bastian, the author of *Grant's Canal; the Union's Attempt to Bypass Vicksburg* (now out of print). He has given his presentations to over 90 CWRTs. Tonight's presentation, based upon his

book, is about the two Union campaigns against Vicksburg. It focuses on the efforts to divert the Mississippi River away from Vicksburg by digging a canal across the narrow bend opposite the town. Had the Union succeeded, they would have had immediate and complete control of the river (definitely in the summer of 1862 and possibly in the winter of 1863). The presentation explores Vicksburg's geographical importance and the topographical characteristics that made it so defensible.

Most books are a new twist on a battle, campaign or leader. His book and presentation are about a totally new topic; one that historians have really not understood to date. As a civil engineer who lived in Vicksburg, he understands the river and how close the Union came in succeeding. Had they succeeded, Vicksburg would no longer have been an important target.

This was an engineering project - diverting the Mighty Mississippi! - An engineering solution to a military problem.

About our April Speaker: Dave Bastian

Dave has a degree in civil engineering from Georgia Tech and a masters in river engineering from Delft University in the Netherlands. Of interest, he was a delegate to the tri-national Commission for the Study of Alternatives to the Panama Canal that produced the feasibility study for the Canal's current enlargement. More recently he worked on the post-Katrina levee rebuild in New Orleans and co-authored a book that came out in 2014, **New Orleans, Hurricanes from the Start**. His book, *Grant's Canal, the Union's Attempt to Bypass Vicksburg* is out of print but available on Amazon and Ebay.



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

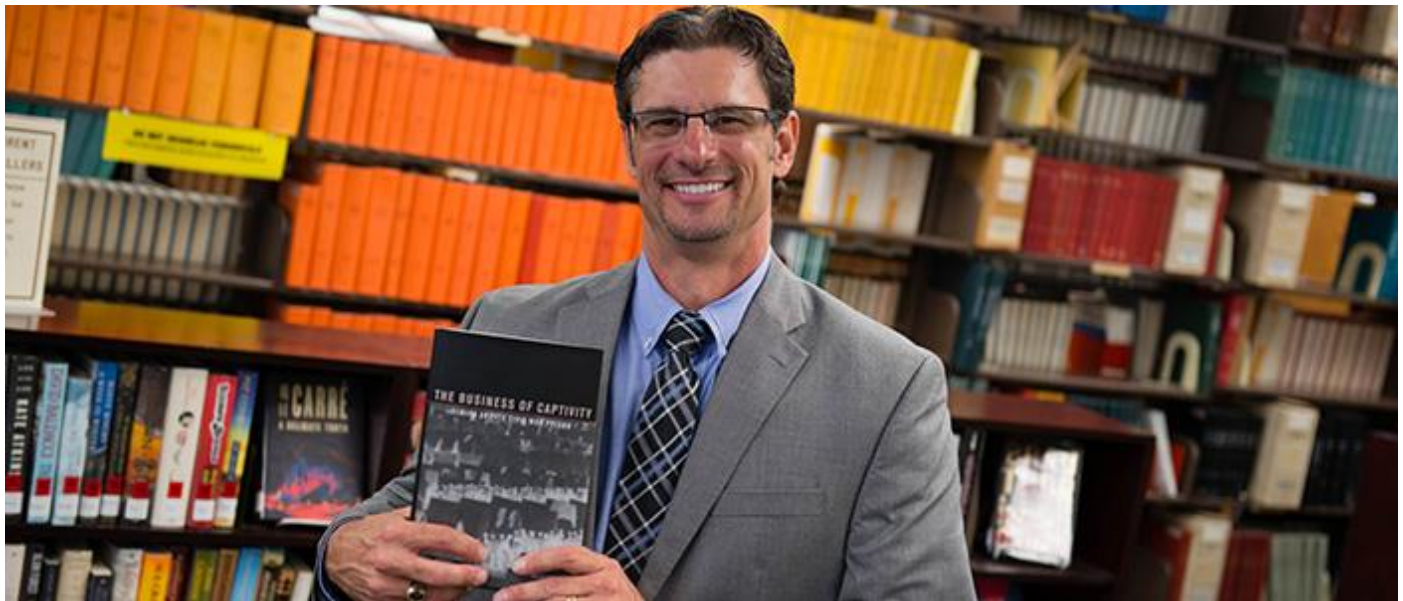


Don't forget in honor of our fortieth birthdate, Kay Bagenstose is making the festivities even grander with special prizes and treats at every meeting. Below is a picture of our March winner. Congratulations to Gerry Haas (see Gerry's picture below) whose name was drawn at the March meeting. Gerry received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



Congratulations Gerry Haas on winning the March monthly drawing for our anniversary celebration.

Thanks to March Speaker, Michael Gray, for his Informative Talk *on Crossing the Deadline: Civil War Prisons Reconsidered*



Michael indicated that our donation should be given to Friends and Descendants of Elmira Prison.

Do You KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Taken from the Civil War Trivia Quiz Book by William Terdoslavich

Answers on Page 5

1. What song was played by the Northern band as Grant rode up to Appomattox Court House for Lee's surrender?
A) Auld Lang Syne B) Dixie C) Battle Hymn of the Republic D) Weeping Sad and Lonely
2. What cavalry general did General Sheridan send to cut off Confederate freight trains at Appomattox Station?
A) Joshua Chamberlain B) George Custer C) Phillip Sheridan D) John Gordon
3. After the signing of the surrender at Appomattox, General Sheridan purchased a souvenir for \$20.00 in gold. What was the souvenir?
A) Pine desk B) Tall case clock C) Ceremonial swords D) Pens that signed surrender
4. Who did Sheridan give the souvenir from Appomattox to?
A) US Grant B) Robert E. Lee C) Joshua Chamberlain D) George A. Custer for his wife

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 April 03, 2018 meeting is Thursday, March 29, 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/>

March Attendance Statistics by James Duffy

Our third meeting back in the New Year and we had 45 attendees. That included 32 for dinner and 13 walk-ins. We were glad to see all of you and would love to have you back in April.

ANSWERS FOR DO YOUR KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Quiz on page 4

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

GETTYSBURG PRESERVATION EFFORTS

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Spring has sprung and that means we will once again be helping conserve and preserve the Gettysburg Battlefield. 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. Our success in recent years is due in great part to our expanded Civil War Round Table family. In addition to our regular members and their families Bob McHugh brings students from Saucon Valley HS, John Duffy (Jim’s brother) leads the Boy Scouts of Troop 89 and Pat Matthews brings a contingent from the Whitehall Historical Society.

This year we will work at the Henry Spangler Farm (999 Emmitsburg Rd) located on the right (west) side Emmitsburg Road as you head south from town. (the entrance is a dirt road and will be marked with an orange cone; 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.

Logistics Guidelines

If you wish to carpool meet at the Holiday Inn around 6:45. Barry Arnold will be on hand to help coordinate. You need to leave no later than 7AM to arrive at the worksite by 9AM. Remember the address is 999 Emmitsburg Road for those using a navigation system.

Parking at the site is somewhat limited. If at all possible, park at the lot across from the National Cemetery and consolidate vehicles before going on to the site.

Weather, weather, weather. We all talk about it and can't do a darn thing about it. Because of our numbers and multiple groups who participate it's more than a daunting task to reschedule so unless the NPS cancels we're on! It is imperative that I have your contact info in the event I need to relate any last minute developments.

There will be a bathroom on site. (Porta Potty). 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 fighting there when we complete our tasks.

Wear appropriate work clothes. Bug spray and appropriate dress (Long sleeves, safety glasses, and gloves) may protect you from insect bites and poison ivy. The NPS will provide tools and paint equipment but you may bring your own gloves and trimmer if you wish. Bottom line is that we are all volunteers so nobody will be docked if you arrive a minute late or leave a tad early. We have fun, learn about the site during the battle and help the Park. That is what's known as a win- win!

Ed Root – sartilly@hotmail.com

March 2018 Book Raffle Winners



Winners from L to R: David Hohe , Sam Parker, Fred Bomberger, Sandi Sprenger, Gary Schnell, and Lance Nothstein.

Special Drawing with Proceeds to go to Preservation

Kudos to Barry Arnold for another photograph and framed another Civil War site. 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. Neil Coddington was our lucky winner for the photograph.



Neil Coddington with his gorgeous framed picture.

A Woman's Place is In the War: Women During the Civil War by Kristin Leahy, Intern for Historical Society of PA. Published 2011 with updates 2012

Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society *Pennsylvania Abolition Society papers*
Collection No. 490

This collection consists of the minutes of monthly meetings, held on Race Street, of the Female Anti-Slavery Society, organized in 1833. The organization assisted both freed and enslaved African Americans. This society was biracial and consisted of many notable women including Lucretia Mott, a Quaker co-founder of the society, ardent abolitionist, and women's rights activist, and Sarah Pugh, the president of the organization.

During the Civil War years (vols. 5 and 6), the women continued their earlier efforts of helping both escaped slaves and freed men and women. The society organized the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Fair several years before the outbreak of the war. The women sold donated items at these fairs including clothing, produce, and other sundries. In 1861, the fair was held December 17th-20th and the organization raised \$1,350 dollars through their efforts.

Members traveled to Washington and reported at the monthly meetings about meeting William Lloyd Garrison, an abolitionist and founder of the *Liberator*, an abolitionist newspaper, and participating in other activities in the city. Reports of contraband camps in the city were investigated. Rachel Jackson, a society member and visitor to Washington in November 1862, reported that she found these camps to be in poor condition and their inhabitants destitute. The government, she reported, "supplied the men with jobs and pay, but the women and children were suffering to the greatest degree." They slept in tents and sheds throughout the cold months and were provided with little food and meat. "Some effort must be done to afford them relief," she commented, and observed that the contraband hospital was just as indigent. It was crowded and in "terrible condition," and filled with people suffering from typhoid fever and sore throats.

There were guests at the September 1862 meeting who recounted escaping from bondage in Beaufort, South Carolina. It was a "graphic discussion" of traveling six days and nights without food until at last they "reached the Union army and General Sherman."

At the January 1865 meeting, the members composed a letter to be sent to certain railroad companies in the city that did not permit African Americans to ride in their cars. They received letters back from these companies stating that they were taking their complaints "under consideration" and would discuss a possible change in their laws. There was no evidence in the minutes of later meetings that anything actually changed.

Also in January, the women wrote to Congress in Washington asking for an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting slavery in the United States (by this time the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued but there was no further assurance of the prohibition of slavery). They felt that "justice to the slaves and the permanent safety of the nation required" such an amendment. There is no evidence in the collection that Congress responded to their letter.

Remembering The Surrender : 4/9/1865 (Mariners Museum by Tom Lovell)



With Grant are (left to right) Major-General Philip H. Sheridan, Colonel Orville E. Babcock, Lieutenant-General Horace Porter, Major-General Edward O.C. Ord, Major-General Seth Williams, Colonel Theodore S. Bowers, Colonel Ely S. Parker and Major-General George A. Custer. Accompanying Lee is Colonel Charles Marshall, his military secretary.

Nominating Report

Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pennsylvania, Inc.

Nominating Report presented by Joseph Riggs, Nominating Chair
Slate of Officers and Directors for the 2018-2019 Campaign

Election to be held at the May 1, 2018 Meeting
Nominations from the floor will be accepted at that time.

Brigade Commander: Edwin Root

Regimental Commander: Robert McHugh

Company Co-Commanders: Claire Kukielka and Barry Arnold

Adjutant: Kay Bagenstose

Paymaster: James Duffy

Board Members, Term Ending June 2020:

William Frankenfield

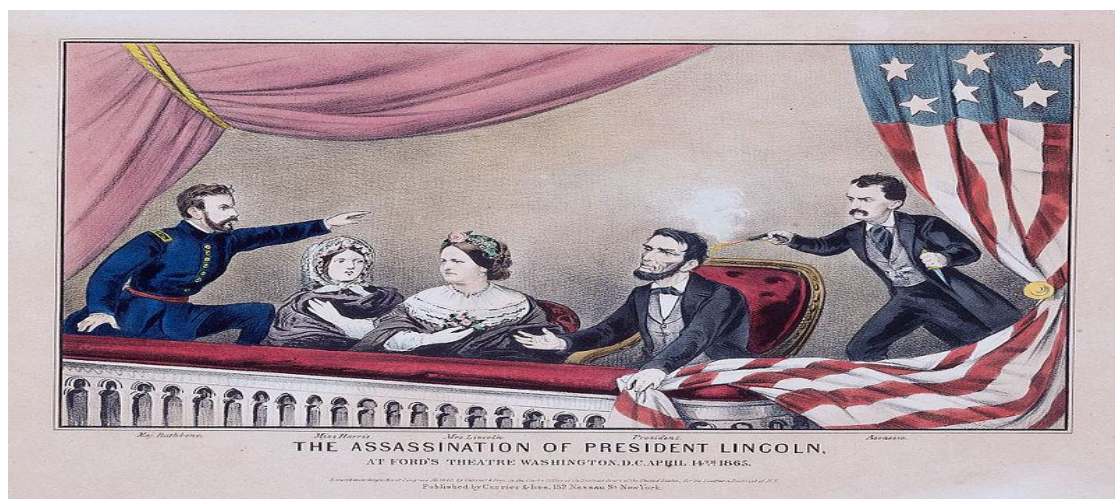
Frank Whelan

Continuing Service: Term Ending June 2019

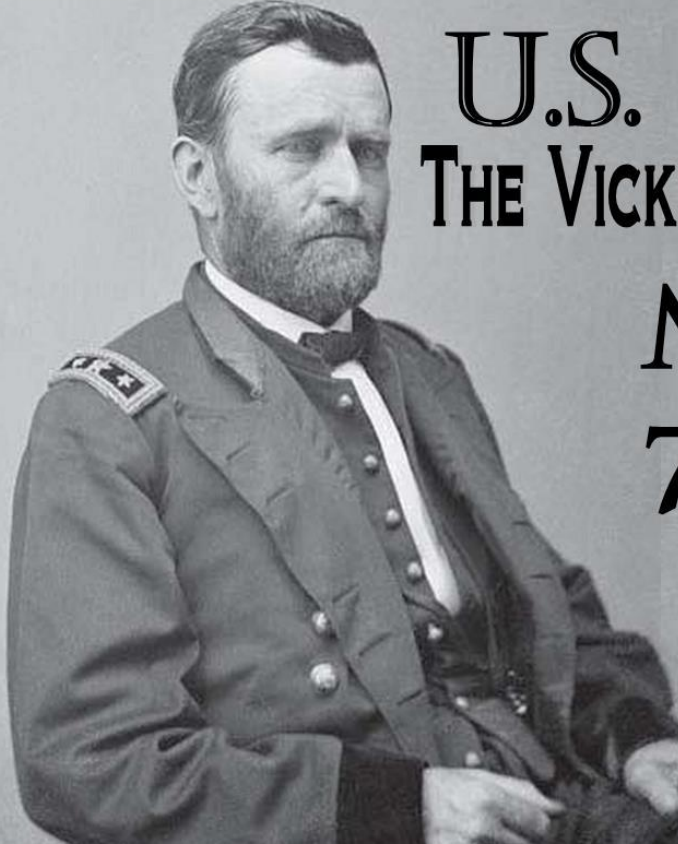
Kim Jacobs

Ed Oechsle

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN: 4/14/2018



Currier and Ives



U.S. GRANT THE VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN

May 14 7:00PM @SLPL

Please register at solehipl.org
in person at the library,
or by phone (610) 282-8825

*co-sponsored by SLPL &
Civil War Roundtable of Eastern PA*



SLPL and Civil War Roundtable of Eastern Pennsylvania are proud to present *Kenneth J. Serfass*, a USMC Veteran and long time Civil War reenactor, as General U.S. Grant. Ken has been a student of Grant all his life. He has appeared nationally on television and film and has been featured at numerous speaking engagements.



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!