

May 2018 – Winter Campaign 40: Meeting on May 01, 2018

From the Brigade Commander: Ed Root

Most of us, since we live in the eastern portion of the country, have the most interest in the events and personalities that occurred in our “backyard.” So it’s fascinating and refreshing to have a program about what happened in the Western Theater. Dave Bastian shared his thoughts and research about what took place along the mighty Mississippi during the Late Unpleasantness. If you missed his program about Grant’s Canal you missed an excellent one!

It’s difficult to fathom but our 40th Anniversary year is fast coming to a close. Barry Arnold and Kay Bagenstose continue to enhance our meetings with our special raffles. Please let them know how much you appreciate the hard work that goes into Barry’s photographs and Kay’s surprise raffle.

I sincerely hope it’s safe to say that the threat of snow no longer looms as a menace, but that doesn’t mean that you should not frequently look at our website. We add news items and events all the time that should be an interest to all. Please, Please, Please frequently review our site at <http://www.cwrteasternpa.org/> Paul Bartlett does a great job keeping things fresh.

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 the 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 and you have no vote if you are not a member! Don’t make me send out the Provost Guard to track you down.....

Just a reminder...Our conservation work at Gettysburg has been scheduled for April 21. Always a great day. Thanks to all our volunteers!

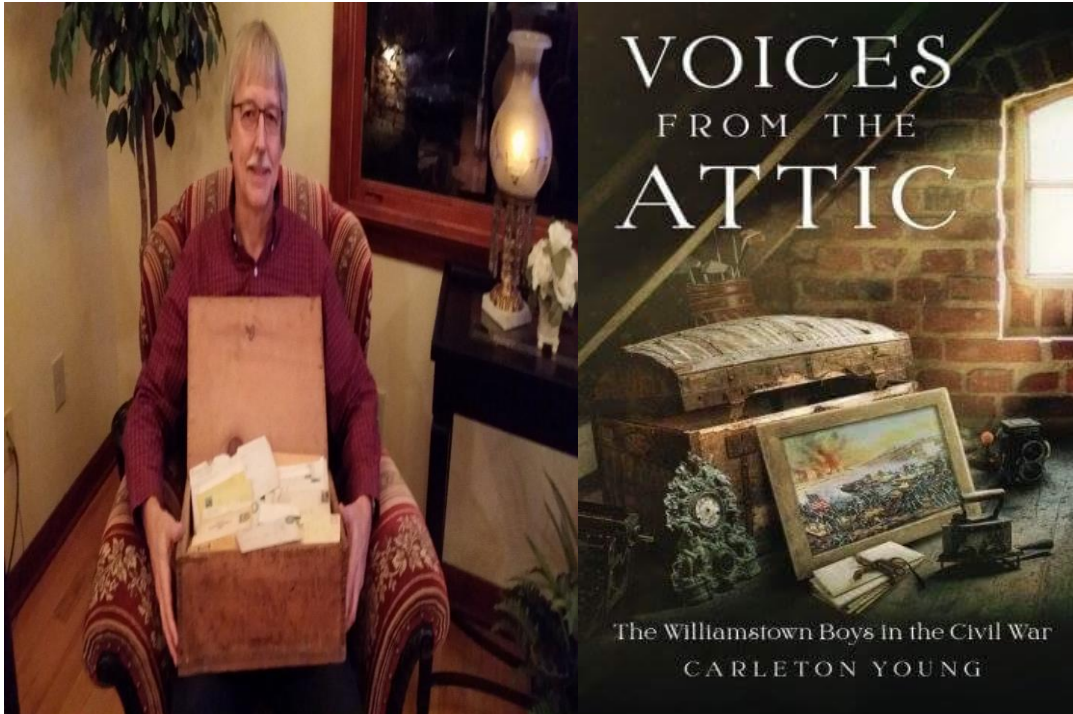
The time of the year for prime battlefield trekking is right around the corner. We have been fortunate that a number of folks have donated to the Round Table many maps that will make any such trip much more meaningful. At our May and June meetings we will have a special table full of such maps. Take as many as you wish. All we ask is for a donation of your choosing in return. Special thanks to Bill Frankenfield and Mike Snyder for giving us many of these maps.

Our May 1 meeting with Carleton Young will once again remind everyone that one never knows what is hiding in the recesses of our attics, basements and garages. You will not want to miss his story about two young soldiers from Vermont. Please join us for dinner if your schedule permits. You will find the camaraderie and food well worth your time.

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

About Our May 01, 2018 Speaker, Carleton Young

About the author – Carleton Young has undergraduate degrees in economics and English from Westminster College and Point Park University, an MA in history from Ohio University, and his PhD in the history of education from the University of Pittsburgh. For 37 years he taught AP American history at Thomas Jefferson High School in Pittsburgh. He has also taught classes as an adjunct professor at the Community College of Allegheny County, the University of Pittsburgh, Eastern Gateway Community College, and in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon University.



The author with his letters and then a picture of the book inspired by those letters.

About Our May Topic: **Voices from the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War**

Imagine clearing out your family attic and discovering an enormous collection of letters written by two soldiers during the Civil War, but not knowing why the letters were there.

Faced with that situation, Carleton Young spent more than a decade visiting battlefields and researching the two Vermont soldiers. In *Voices From the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War*, he tells the story of two brothers who witnessed and made history by fighting in the Peninsula Campaign, then at South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Cedar Creek. They then preserved that history through their surprisingly detailed and insightful letters.

“*Voices From the Attic* is a substantial contribution to the genre of first-person Civil War accounts becoming so popular today ... (and) would make a worthwhile addition to any Civil War student’s bookshelf.” *Civil War News*

“More than another good narrative, the book is an adventure of historical research and discovery.”
Vermont History Journal

“Offers a deeply interesting look into two detailed experiences of the war which explore the battles as well as life in between ... Unlike other soldiers who may have skipped over tough details when writing home to families, the brothers did not shy away from describing the horror of battles, their hardships in camp, and what they saw as they marched through the South ... More than merely satisfying an interest in the war, the author demonstrates our surprising connections to each other both past and present.”

Western Pennsylvania History Journal



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



Congratulations to Kim Jacobs on winning the April monthly drawing for our anniversary celebration.

Thanks to Our April Speaker, Dave Bastian, for his Presentation on Grant's Canal:

The Union's Attempt to Bypass Vicksburg

Dave indicated that our donation to him should be given to our own, Civil War Round Table of Eastern PA for further conservation endeavors. Bob McHugh thanks Dave for a great talk.



Do You KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Taken from the Civil War Trivia Quiz Book by William Terdoslavich

Answers on Page 5

1. Who were the Redeemers?
A) Christian Officers from the South B) Subordinates of Mosby's C) Northern lawmakers trying to force harsh terms on the South during Reconstruction
D) White Supremacists who opposed Republicanism in the South during Reconstruction
2. What Confederates were **not** excluded from Johnson's Amnesty after the Civil War?
A) Former slaves B) Military leaders C) Political leaders D) Citizens worth more than \$20,000
3. What did the First Reconstruction Act demand of Southern states in addition to Black suffrage?
A) Ratification of 14th Amendment B) Ratification of 15th Amendment C) Create individual states Bill of Rights
D) Repatriations
4. Who was the First Grand Wizard of the KKK? Who was the first person to be offered this position and turned it down?
A) Jefferson Davis/Robert E Lee B) Nathan Bedford Forrest/Robert E. Lee C) Nathan Bedford Forrest/James Longstreet
D) James Longstreet/Joseph Johnston

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 May 01, 2018 meeting is Thursday, April 26, 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/>

April Attendance Statistics by James Duffy

Our fourth meeting back in the New Year and we had 48 attendees. That included 32 for dinner and 16 walk-ins. We were glad to see all of you and would love to have you back in May.

ANSWERS FOR DO YOUR KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Quiz on page 4

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

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

April 2018 Book Raffle Winners



Winners from L to R: Bill Frankenfield , Lynn Glancy, John Maly, Reverend D. Craig Landis, and Wade Cruse

Special Drawing with Proceeds to go to Preservation

More thanks to Barry Arnold for another photographed and framed picture of a 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. Chuck Cannon was our lucky winner for the photograph.



Chuck Cannon with another fabulous historic picture by Barry Arnold. Chuck is pictured with the April speaker, Dave Bastian.

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

Grier, Helen S. Diary Call No. Am .6090

Helen Grier began her small, sporadic diary on November 21, 1862, in Philadelphia. A young, unmarried woman, she worked with the U.S. Christian Commission and by February 12, 1863, the second entry, she was in Washington praying with and providing food for soldiers. From there she traveled to Virginia with the Army of the Potomac, where she provided similar services.

Grier wrote, often in poor handwriting, of generals, including Butterfield and Howard, who met with the Commission to discuss what assistance they would provide for their men. She visited many camps and hospitals during her time in Virginia and Washington. She fed the sick cornstarch, eggnog, blackberry brandy, soda biscuits, and custard. Grier visited many camps including the 35th New York, 12th New Jersey, and the 140th Pennsylvania regiments, and always brought medicines, food, and prayer with her.

At French's Division Hospital, Grier wrote on April 3, 1863, that there were only "badly regulated five or six tents. Two dead men were carried out behind the tents and one typhoid patient breathed his last as we entered. I saw another sick man with typhoid fever and I fed him custard and blackberry brandy. We gave all soda biscuit and custard." She wrote much of men recovering in this and other hospitals she encountered and the sadness she felt for them. On June 1, 1863, at Potomac Creek Hospital, she met a man from the 6th Maine Regiment while distributing gallons of pudding. "His bright face was touched to tears when I told him of my home." The last entry dated June 5, 1863, was written in Washington.

Grier appeared to have no family fighting, as she never mentioned any names or letters received from soldiers to whom she was related. Nevertheless, she volunteered with the Christian Commission, committing her time and risking personal infection. Perhaps because she was young and unmarried, with few personal responsibilities, Grier was able to travel where she was most needed.

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 Kukiela 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

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

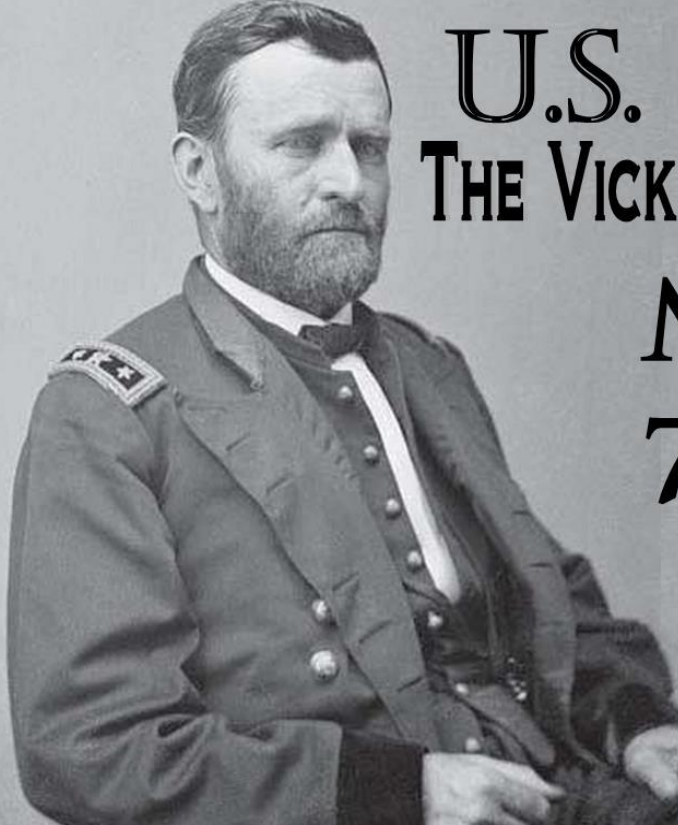
Prize 5- Time detailed maps of the Chancellorsville Campaign, done by the National Park Service

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

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

REENLISTMENT REPORT

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



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.

World War I Veteran's Bonus Applications

Mike Cavanaugh

In 1924, after four years of intense lobbying by the American Legion, the U. S. Congress passed the so-called veteran's bonus bill. This bill authorized payments to all veterans of the "Great War." They would earn \$1 for each day of service in the United States and \$1.25 for each day overseas. The money would be put into an endowment fund until 1945. With the country in the early stages of the Great Depression and unemployment at an all-time high, President Calvin Coolidge failed in 1924 to sustain a veto the bonus bill realizing its potential cost. In 1931, President Herbert Hoover came to the same conclusion predicting the final cost could be as high as \$4 billion dollars. With the country in serious financial trouble, raising taxes was out of the question. For example, a veteran out of work five hundred dollars could carry him for six or seven months. The veterans had let Washington know they wanted their bonus money and they wanted it now! The March on Washington began when Walter Waters, a thirty-four-year-old veteran of the 146th Field Artillery, was laid off from his job in a canning factory. In March 1932, Waters attended a meeting in Portland Oregon of the National Veterans Association. He addressed the meeting telling those attending that they should band together and go to Washington to demand the bonus money be paid now, when it was most needed. He also reminded them how big business sent lobbyists to fight for their interest. At first not much interest was shown but when the latest bonus bill was defeated in Congress the group decided to take action.

On May 11, having no other means of transportation, the group blocked the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad and commandeered several cars and headed east. They named themselves the BEF, the Bonus Expeditionary Force under the command of their "general" Walter Waters. This was a parody on the American Expeditionary Force sent overseas in WW I. It was an attempt to keep the group together under some sort of military discipline. It took eighteen days to reach Washington. Along the way many new recruits joined the march. Reaching Washington Waters went ahead to pave the way with the District officials. He received an unexpectedly friendly reception from the new Chief of Metropolitan Police, Pelham G. Glassford, a graduate of West Point who earned the field rank of brigadier general and received the seconded highest military award the Distinguished Service Cross. He could not do enough for his fellow veterans, providing needed lodging and food. New marchers were constantly drifting into the city, joining up with the marchers from Portland. Chief Glassford set up a commissary financed with private donations including \$115 out of his own pocket. When Waters was voted in as BEF's Commander in Chief, Glassford was made secretary treasurer.

The streets were peaceful even with the arrival of hundreds, and then thousands of marchers, as they made their way to the capital. Impressed by the welcome the marchers were getting, many brought their entire families. Although President Herbert Hoover was thought to oppose the ever-increasing masses he gave secret approval to Chief Glassford to procure tents, field kitchens, and all the equipment he could lay his hands on. A much-needed

dispensary, equipped complete with personnel, was warmly welcomed. By mid-June there were thousands – some estimated as high as twenty-five thousand marchers – living in twenty-seven encampments. Hundreds more were temporarily housed in several vacant buildings slated for demolition. The presence of thousands of petitioners spurred Congress to get back to work.

A resurrected bonus bill passed the House by a vote of 209 to 176. Now it was the Senate's turn. Hundreds of nervous veterans waited at the Capitol Plaza into the early evening hours. Waters emerged to announce the Senate defeated the bill 62 to 18. Surprisingly the veterans took the news comely. But the big question was, of course, what would the marchers do now? Waters declared "We'll stay until 1945." But as the weeks dragged on the boredom along with Washington's brutal summer heat began to take its toll. The BEF was not only losing its base, it was losing the men who kept things running somewhat in order. When President Hoover quietly supported a bill that would earmark \$100,000 to help marchers return home Waters saw this as a way of weakening the resolve of the marchers. The numbers did show however, the remaining veterans were only about one-half of its peak. Violent demonstrations were increasing forcing Glassford to make more and more arrests. On July 27, Hoover saw an opportunity to remove the marchers from the downtown government buildings. His Secretary of War Patrick J. Hurley, thought army troops should be used. The president refused. Washington D. C. police, he believed, could handle the job. Things went well in the morning. But in the afternoon, when Waters issues a "call to arms" scores of men captured the Anacostia Bridge while others headed downtown. Glassford and his men were pelted with rocks and bricks. Several were badly injured. Two veterans we shot and killed. The District commissioners got into the act insisting that Hoover to send in troops. Hoover relented and ordered Hurley to issue the necessary orders to Army Chief of Staff to General Douglas MacArthur.

MacArthur's orders were to go to the scene of the most troubled location and cooperate fully with the D. C. Police Force. He was to surround the affected area and turn over all prisoners to the civil authorities. As he was inclined to do his entire career General MacArthur ignored orders. He was to mass his troops which included a contingent of cavalry and six small tanks along Pennsylvania Avenue. As the troops advanced marchers in one of the vacant buildings let the bricks and stones fly. Soldiers responded with tear gas. Most of the marchers retreated to the bridge. Hoover was appalled by what was happening. He sent orders to MacArthur not to cross the bridge. The general ignored those orders also and early the evening he sent his men across the river and into the BEF camps scattering the few people who left. Retreating marchers set fire to the camps and, the charging troops finished the job. MacArthur insisted the burning was necessary to keep the marchers from returning. The march on Washington faded away to history. Herbert Hoover would not win a second term and MacArthur's reputation would be a little tarnished especially with veterans.

Herbert Hoover tried to put a positive spin on the whole affair. "A challenge to the authority of the United States Government has been met, swiftly, firmly." His handling of the crisis was not the only reason for his landslide

loss to Governor Franklin Roosevelt, 22,800,000 to 15,750,000 (The Electoral College margin was 472 to 59 in favor of the governor). In a nut-shell Roosevelt did not get caught up in the politics of the Great Depression and the March on Washington. He created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) where thousands were given better jobs with better pay. Many were veterans of WW I and the March on Washington. The Bonuses? No need with the CCC they just faded away. Also, it is believed the rugged out- door life and discipline of the CCC were a God-sent when these young men entered the Second World War.

Suggested reading: *The Great Depression: America in the 1930s* by T. H. Watkins (The companion volume to the public television series)

Veteran's Compensation Application form:

The State of Pennsylvania issued claim forms to veterans requesting the bonus. The information on these completed forms are a great source of genealogical information. Beginning with the veteran's present residence, it lists his place and date of birth, father and mother's full names, wife and minor children information, if applicable. Military information includes serial number, unit assigned to, rank or grade with any promotions, engagements, etc. Dates of any wounds and injuries, honorably discharged date. Finally, the amount of bonus money the veteran would receive if approved.

On a personal note: I had two uncles that fought in WW I. Uncle **Francis "Frank" Cavanaugh** was a member of Co. D, the 61st Infantry Division. Fighting in the Meuse Argonne he received a gun-shot wound of the right side on November 10, 1918 (Yes! the day before the Armistice). He did survive the war. Over the years it was said in the family that Uncle Frank received a pension for surviving a "Gas Attack." He did receive a regular disability pension but I found no evidence that pensions were given for injuries related to gas attacks.

Uncle Daniel P. Cavanaugh was a member of the 338th Ambulance Company, 5th Army Corps. (Did he ever meet Ernest Hemingway?). Both veterans are buried with their wives in the Beverly National Cemetery in Burlington, New Jersey.

Contacting the State

I have made repeated calls to the Pennsylvania State Archives over the years concerning the status of the **WW I Veteran's Compensation Application** collection in hopes it was available on line. As of **March 1, 2018**, it is not. For further information contact the **Pennsylvania State Archives, 350 North Street, Harrisburg, PA. 17120-0090**. Phone:**717. 783. 3281**. Title of the collection, **WW I Veteran's Compensation Applications**. **email:**

ra-statearchives@pa.gov

Mike Cavanaugh

chief96pbi@rcn.com