



June 2018 – Spring Campaign 40: Meeting on June 05, 2018

Annual George Seligman Installation Dinner:

June 5th is our annual Seligman Dinner. As George Seligman passed away in 1985, many of you never had the pleasure to have known George. Every organization has one member who leaves an indelible imprint. George was an Air Force veteran and was in the insurance business. He was always cheerful and didn't have a shy bone in his body. It was George who led a small group of Civil War history enthusiasts from the rather formal setting of the Lehigh County Court House to the promised land of monthly dinner meetings and a membership that grew from dozens to hundreds. George, while our gregarious leader, always prodded others into the front, always encouraged others to step up and share the responsibility and the fun of being part of this wonderful round table. George loved to keep things loose and nary a meeting went by without someone being picked on in a loving and caring manner. In fact, it was an honor to be so chosen. He made it clear that we were all students of history, that some may be very knowledgeable and others novices, but the point was that even the most serious and knowing could and did learn from the novice. George loved the story of Joshua Chamberlain and the 20th Maine at Gettysburg in a time long before the Ken Burns' series made him a household name. Our success over the years is due in great part to the foundation and standard that George set. Tonight we remember and honor him.

From the Brigade Commander: Ed Root

"Voices from the Attic." Isn't it amazing that new and significant information is still being discovered all these years after "The Late Unpleasantness." Who knows what treasures still lay hidden in the attics and closets of America? Carleton Young sure found out and we applaud his wonderful research and thank him for sharing the story of Henry and Francis Martin. Their letters certainly add to our knowledge and understanding of the period and of those who lived and died in that defining time of American history.

Our 40th year of study and working to preserve America's historic treasures is drawing to a close. The George Seligman Dinner on June 5th honors the man who led a small group of history students from the wilderness of meeting in a room at the Allentown Courthouse to the promised land of dinner meetings with wonderful speakers, field trips to places we had only read about and to the necessary and critical work of helping to save for posterity America's historic lands and collections. No matter if you've been with us for days or years we thank you for sharing in this journey of comradeship and discovery. George's knowledge, humor and organizational skills put us on the path for 40 years of learning and enjoyment of history and each other's company. What better way to celebrate than to bring Dennis Frye to speak on June 5th. Antietam and Dennis are synonymous. His passion for history and historic preservation is known by all students of the Civil War. We announced at the May meeting that Dennis will

lead us on October 20th on a tour of the portion of the Antietam battlefield associated with Ambrose Burnside's assault. We will visit some areas most folks never get to see and understand the struggle from both the Union and Confederate perspectives. If you've ever been on tour with Dennis, you most likely have already signed on for the October 20 tour. It will be a day to remember. We're working out all the logistics so the sooner you let us know of your interest the better job we can do to prepare for this event.

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.

Please, Please, Please frequently review our website at <http://www.cwrteasternpa.org/> Paul Bartlett does a great job keeping things fresh.

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 June meeting 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.

It has been a privilege to stand before you each month at our dinner meetings. Look around you and notice all those who make our meetings or events a success. Barry Arnold, Paul Bartlett, Rev. John Berntsen, Kay Bagenstose, Chuck Cannon, Mike Cavanaugh, Carol Detweiler, Jim Duffy, Bill Frankenfield, Jeff Gates, Kim Jacobs, Claire Kukielka, Rev. Craig Landis, Tony Major, Bob McHugh, Sherri Miller, Ed Oechsle, Joe Riggs, Wayne Schaeffer, Dr. Gerry Sherwin, and Frank Whelan. If I have forgotten you please chalk it up to an aging mind rather than any intentional slight. Thanks to all those who attend our monthly meetings for without you all of this is meaningless. Thanks also to those who are unable to attend, but support the organization financially. THANK YOU ALL!!

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

About Our June 05, 2018 Speaker, Dennis Frye, Author, Chief Historian at Harper's Ferry National Historical Park

Dennis E. Frye is the Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Dennis has written ten books and 99 articles, with his newest book just released: *Antietam Shadows: Mystery, Myth & Machination*. His previous book, "September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril," won the Laney prize for best Civil War scholarship. Dennis has appeared in numerous documentaries on PBS, the History Channel, the Travel Channel, A&E, Discovery, CSPAN, Fox News and Voice of America. Dennis helped produce Emmy-award shows on John Brown, Antietam, and Maryland during the Civil War. Dennis is an original founder and past president of two nationally renowned preservation organizations - the Civil War Trust and the Save Historic Antietam Foundation. Dennis also is a battlefield guide in demand, leading tours for the Smithsonian, National Geographic and the New York Times. He and his wife Sylvia have restored General Burnside's post-Antietam headquarters as their residence.

About Our June Topic: September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril



Our June speaker, Dennis Frye

September, 1862 was the worst period of Lincoln's presidency. At no other time was the United States closer to a permanent divided states. Confederate armies were conducting offensives along a 1,000 miles front from Mississippi to Maryland. Could Washington be saved from invasion? Could Pennsylvania be protected from Robert E. Lee's Rebels? Could Lincoln find a general that could win? No one knew . . . at that moment, at that time. We will live the drama as it unfolds.



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



Congratulations to Dennis Harris on winning the May monthly drawing for our anniversary celebration.



HEAR YE, HEAR YE HEAR YE!!

Many of you enjoy arriving at our dinner meeting a little early to partake of comradeship and an adult beverage at the Holiday Inn watering hole. As part of our 40th year Anniversary Celebration Tony Major has arranged for a Cash Bar to be set up in our meeting room. This will allow you to not only enjoy a beverage and also to chat with all who attend. We do have a minimum to meet so if you are so inclined please come straight to the meeting room. Kindly spread the word as some dummy (that would be me) forgot to mention this important information at the May meeting!! If all goes well we might be able to extend this service to our regular meetings. Thank you, Ed

Thanks to Our May Speaker, Carlton Young, for his Presentation on Voices From the Attic

Carlton indicated that our donation to him should be given to our own, Civil War Trust for further conservation endeavors. Bob McHugh thanks Carlton for a thought provoking talk.



Bob McHugh thanks Carlton for his informative talk.

Do You KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Taken from the Civil War Trivia Quiz Book by William Terdoslavich

Answers on Bottom of page 5

1. What did Grant do with the captured Confederates once Vicksburg fell?
A) Grant had the men sent to prison in Elmira. B) Grant had the men shot. C) Grant had the men paroled.
D) Grant took the captured troops with him for future leverage.
2. Who commanded the Confederate Army of Mississippi at Vicksburg? A) Robert E Lee B) John C Pemberton
C) Jeb Stuart D) Braxton Bragg
3. What state capitol did Grant capture east of Vicksburg?
A) Jackson, MS B) Nashville, TN C) Louisville, KY D) Knoxville, TN
4. In what Battle was JEB Stuart killed and where was that. A) Battle of Wilderness/Yellow Tavern, VA
B) First Manassas/Manassas, VA. C) Second Manassas/Manassas, VA D) Antietam/Sharpsburg, MD

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 June 05, 2018 meeting is Thursday, May 31, 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/>

May Attendance Statistics by James Duffy

Our fifth meeting back in the New Year and we had 47 attendees. That included 34 for dinner and 13 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 top of page 5

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

GETTYSBURG PRESERVATION EFFORTS

What a Glorious Day! The weather on April 21, 2018 was perfect for our annual conservation work day at Gettysburg National Military Park. The site was the Henry Spangler Farm west of the Emmitsburg Road where armies clashed so long ago. Sixty-six volunteers (yes, 66!!!) gave time and effort on a beautiful Spring day as farm fences were torn down and rebuilt, picket fences painted along the dirt road winding past the farm house and hundreds of yards of brush trimmed along more fences. Round Table stalwarts Barry Arnold, Paul Bartlett, Chuck Cannon, Tony Major, Bob McHugh, Ed Root, and Alan Tjeltveit represented our group as well as members Terri Monroe and Gary Weaver who also represented with others the Whitehall Historical Society. Bob McHugh's students from Saucon Valley High School were out in force as well as John Duffy's (Jim's brother) Boy Scouts from New Tripoli Troop 89. The attendance and enthusiasm of these students and scouts is what makes this event a wonderful success. Without them our impact and help to the Park would be a mere shadow of what we've accomplished these past five years since we're reconstituted our work at Gettysburg.

We trust that their work and interest will nourish the seeds already planted by the scout and school leaders. Family members from Tony's and Ed's clans also made the annual trek to work and learn. Caitlin Brown, who is Gettysburg's Volunteer Coordinator, and Jeremiah and George of the maintenance staff were wonderful and Caitlin presented an excellent program about the families who endured those terrible times and the troops who fought over their fields. Ed Courier, a freelance photographer with the Bethlehem Press, heard about our event and was present to take some great group photos. A special thanks to Bob McHugh who generously provided coolers with iced H2O to quench the thirst of our wonderful volunteers. The day was a win-win for all! Join us next year!

Some Pictures from our Preservation Project at Gettysburg



Some of Bob McHugh's Southern Lehigh High School Students Hard at Work



Boy Scout Troop 89 with their leaders. Thanks John Duffy for Coordinating. Thanks also to Ed Courier for his photograph. (© Ed Courier)



The Whole Gang- Includes the hard work of CWRT of Eastern PA members, the Whitehall Historical Association, Boy Scouts Troop 89 and Bob McHugh's students from Saucon Valley High School. Well done! Thanks also to Ed Courier for his photograph. (© Ed Courier)

We were fortunate to have a professional photographer from the Lehigh Valley in Gettysburg at the time. If you are interested in purchasing any of these pictures or several more (not included in this issue), you may contact Ed Courier at edcrlv@aol.com.

May 2018 Book Raffle Winners



Winners from L to R: Bill Lambert, Chuck Cannon, Jeff Gates, Sherry Miller, Maria Maly, and Terry Latscher.

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. Bill Frankenfield was our lucky winner for the photograph.



Bill Frankenfield is the lucky winner of another fabulous historic picture by Barry Arnold.

A Woman's Place is In the War: EMMA EDMONDS

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/sarah-emma-edmonds>

Sarah Emma Edmondson was born in New Brunswick, Canada in December of 1841. Her father was a farmer who had been hoping for a son to help him with the crops; as a result, he resented his daughter and treated her badly. In 1857, to escape the abuse and an arranged marriage, Edmondson left home, changing her name to Edmonds.

Edmonds lived and worked in the town of Moncton for about a year, but always fearful that she would be discovered by her father, she decided to immigrate to the United States. In order to travel undetected and to secure a job, she decided to disguise herself as a man and took the name Franklin Thompson. She soon found work in Hartford, Connecticut as a traveling Bible salesman.

By the start of the Civil War in 1861, Edmonds was boarding in Flint, Michigan, continuing to be quite successful at selling books. An ardent Unionist, she decided that the best way to help would be to enlist under her alias, and on May 25, 1861, Edmonds was mustered into the 2nd Michigan Infantry as a 3 year recruit.

Although Edmonds and her comrades did not participate in the Battle of First Manassas on July 21, they were instrumental in covering the Union retreat from the field. Edmonds stayed behind to nurse wounded soldiers and barely eluded capture to return to her regiment in Washington. She continued to work as a hospital attendant for the next several months.

In March of 1862, Edmonds was assigned the duties of mail carrier for the regiment. Later that month, the 2nd Michigan was shipped out to Virginia as part of General McClellan's Peninsula Campaign. From April 5 to May 4, the regiment took part in the Siege of Yorktown.

It was during this time that Edmonds was supposedly first asked to conduct espionage missions. Although there is no definitive proof that Edmonds ever acted as a spy, her memoirs detail several of her exploits behind enemy lines throughout the war, disguised variously as a male "contraband" and an Irish peddler.

On May 5, 1862, the regiment came under heavy fire during the Battle of Williamsburg. Edmonds was caught in the thick of it, at one point picking up a musket and firing with her comrades. She also acted as a stretcher bearer, ferrying the wounded from the field hour after hour in the pouring rain.

The summer of 1862 saw Edmonds continuing her role as a mail carrier, which often involved journeys of over 100 miles through territory inhabited by dangerous “bushwhackers.” Edmonds’ regiment saw action in the battles of Fair Oaks and Malvern Hill, where she acted once again as hospital attendant, tending to the many wounded. With the conclusion of the Peninsula Campaign, Edmonds returned with her regiment to Washington.

On August 29, 1862, the 2nd Michigan took part in the Battle of Second Manassas. Acting as courier during the battle, Edmonds was forced to ride a mule after her horse was killed. She was thrown into a ditch, breaking her leg and suffering internal injuries. These injuries would plague her for the rest of her life and were the main reason for her pension application after the war.

During the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 11-15, Edmonds served as an orderly for her commander, Colonel Orlando Poe. While her regiment did not see much action, Edmonds was constantly in the saddle, relaying messages and orders from headquarters to the front lines.

In the spring of 1863, Edmonds and the 2nd Michigan were assigned to the Army of the Cumberland and sent to Kentucky. Edmonds contracted malaria and requested a furlough, which was denied. Not wanting to seek medical attention from the army for fear of discovery, Edmonds left her comrades in mid-April, never to return. “Franklin Thompson” was subsequently charged with desertion.

After her recovery, Edmonds, no longer in disguise, worked with the United States Christian Commission as a female nurse, from June 1863 until the end of the war. She wrote and published her memoirs, *Nurse and Spy in the Union Army*, the first edition being released in 1864. Edmonds donated the profits from her book to various soldiers’ aid groups.

Edmonds married Linus Seelye in 1867 and they had three children. In 1876, she attended a reunion of the 2nd Michigan and was warmly received by her comrades, who aided her in having

the charge of desertion removed from her military records and supported her application for a military pension. After an eight year battle and an Act of Congress, “Franklin Thompson” was cleared of desertion charges and awarded a pension in 1884.

In 1897, Edmonds was admitted into the Grand Army of the Republic, the only woman member. One year later, on September 5, 1898, Edmonds died at her home in La Porte, Texas. In 1901, she was re-buried with military honors at Washington Cemetery in Houston.

Election 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 held at the May 1, 2018 Meeting

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

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!!!



Reminding All Travelers- As you take your summer trips- day or even longer. Please remember to take pictures and send us an article on the historic sites you are visiting. We would love to hear from you.