

July 2018 – Summer Campaign 41:

From the Brigade Commander: Ed Root

What a glorious way to end our 40th year with our George Seligman dinner! The incomparable Dennis Frye once again made us think and reevaluate what we thought we knew about many aspects of the Antietam Campaign. His knowledge is unsurpassed and his style and sense of humor draw one in and never let go! You will not want to miss our trip to Antietam on October 20th when Dennis will guide us over the Burnside Bridge portion of that bloody field.

Thanks again to all who made this past year so successful. The most important factor is YOU, our members. Bring a friend, acquaintance or a stranger to our September 4th meeting and help increase our ranks! Get ready for another interesting, thought provoking and fun filled 2018-2019 Campaign. Bob McHugh has done a stellar job lining up excellent speakers, both old friends and new folks, to share his or her knowledge of The Late Unpleasantness.

Speaking of our next Campaign, Dues are due! Sooner is better than later. Send your \$25.00 check (It's ok to send more if you're so inclined!) to our PO Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105. Avoid the rush at our September meeting and bring a smile to Paymaster Jeff Gates.

Let us know where you've been this summer as you travel this great land. A number of you endured the heat at Gettysburg over the anniversary. I'm sure you have tales to tell. Please write something about any interesting place you've visited for our newsletter. Your experience just might make someone else aware of a site or collection so please share!

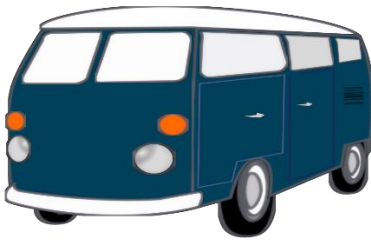
Please frequently review our website at <http://www.cwrteasternpa.org/> Paul Bartlett does a great job keeping things fresh and we endeavor to add items of interest between newsletters.

June Attendance Statistics by James Duffy

Our final meeting of the 40th season and we had 56 attendees. That included 32 for dinner and 24 walk-ins. We were glad to see all of you and would love to have you back in September 04, 2018.



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/>



October 20, 2018 Trip Preparations to Antietam with Dennis Frye- Follow up from Spring Survey

Barry Arnold and Claire Kukielka

If you recall, we surveyed you in the spring to see when and where we should have our field trips in 2018-2019 and mode of transportation. In some instances, the results were a little inconclusive but overall Antietam, MD was overwhelmingly the first choice. That date is set as Oct 20, 2018. The tour begins at 12:30 but we will leave by 9:30 in order to arrive in time. There seemed to be some interest in a van but as you know renting a van will require reservations and monies committed in advance, so we are asking now for all of those who feel sure you will be attending our Maryland trip and of those attending how many will be taking the van and how many will be carpooling? Please respond by August 15, 2018 to either Barry Arnold at bjasparks@rcn.com. Please let him know if you will be attending and if you will be willing to pay the approximately \$60.00 or if you will be coming by another means of transportation. Please note the \$60.00 fee is based on a van being filled with 20 persons. If we do not fill the van, the cost would go up, so we really want to fill it in order to keep the cost down. Plus it will be more fun to have a filled van.

About Our Upcoming 2018-2019 Schedule of Speakers For Campaign 41

Programs: 2018 – 2019 Campaign

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
September 4, 2018	George Franks	"General J. Johnston Pettigrew"
October 2, 2018	David A. Ward	"The 96th Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War"
November 6, 2018	Gordon Rhea	"On to Petersburg: Grant and Lee, June 4 – 15, 1864"
December 4, 2018	Elizabeth R. Varon	"The American Civil War"

January 8, 2019	Chris Heisey	“Photographing Civil War Battlefields”
February 5, 2019	Cheryl Renée Gooch	“Hinsonville's Heroes: Black Civil War Soldiers of Chester County, PA”
March 5, 2019	Marc Blau	“Letters to Homefront Magazine: A Love Story Between a Community and Its WWII Soldiers”
April 2, 2019	Ted Alexander	“Ethnics in the Confederacy”
May 7, 2019	Michael K. Shaffer	“In Memory of Self and Comrades: Thomas W. Colley in the 1st Virginia Cavalry”
June 4, 2019	Ken Serfass	“Grant and the Siege of Chattanooga” (as General Ulysses S. Grant)

For Our Life Long Learners and /or Civil War Enthusiasts

James Duffy noted a great conference that will be held in Chautauqua, New York

THE CIVIL WAR: Causes, Combat, Conclusions and Consequences

August 20, 21 and 22, 2018

Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, NY

Instructor: John C. Fazio

Plus, as a BONUS – Ken Burns (yes that one) will be there as well and his program is entitled “The Filmmaker as Collaborator: A Conversation with Ken Burns and Friends” (Dayton Duncan and Geoffrey C. Ward). This program is given on 8/20 and 8/21.

Registration at <http://chq.org/classes> (course # 1420)

Cost is \$85 for the entire course (daily rate available if only 1 or 2 lectures attended).

Book Review

James Duffy

Kilpatrick's Raid Around Atlanta by Mary L. Weigley (New book available)

Major General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick remains as one of our nations' most controversial and provocative military figures. Nicknamed "Kill Cavalry", this Union Officer was accused of the rough handling of his men and horses. His military decisions, especially as commander of a cavalry division at Gettysburg, continues to draw interest and criticism from today's historians.

In the spring of 1864, Kilpatrick joined forces with Gen. William T. Sherman for the famous "March to the Sea" through the state of Georgia. During those bloody days of August 18 – 22, Kilpatrick's cavalry was involved in an almost forgotten raid around the embattled city of Atlanta. The 7th PA cavalry was involved.

The book can be purchased by check (\$12.95 - \$10.95 plus 2.95 shipping and handling) made payable to Mary L. Weigley at P.O. Box 612, Richland PA 17087.

Help support a local historian and author.

Happy Birthday to Us; Happy Birthday to Us

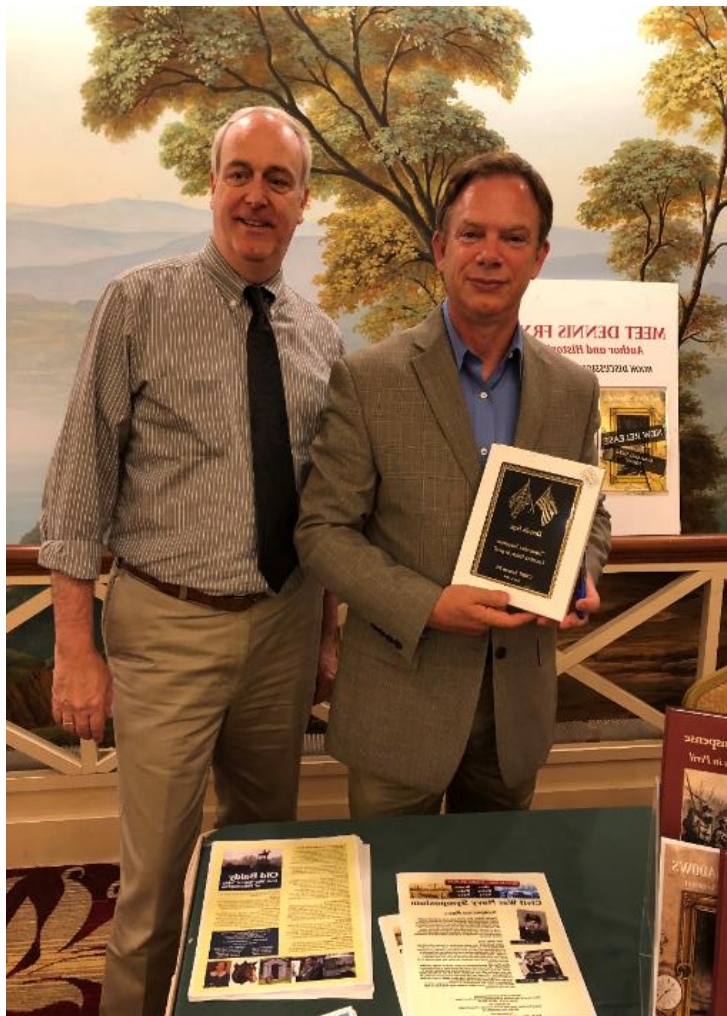


In honor of our fortieth birthdate, Kay Bagenstose planned a variety of treats and gifts. Kay made every month special with prizes and treats. She made the festivities at our last meeting "super sweet" with a special customized candy bar and book give away; it was truly memorable. Below is a picture of our June winner. Congratulations to Jeff Heller (see Jeff's picture below) whose name was drawn at the June meeting. Jeff received a special gift- a book. And all you needed to do was to attend the meeting for your chance to win! Thanks again, Kay, for thinking of all of us!



Thanks to Our June Speaker, Dennis Frye, for his Presentation on Antietam

Dennis received a plaque from the CWRT of Eastern PA for his informative talk. Bob McHugh thanks Dennis for his talk and his long standing relationship with our group and his devotion to promoting Civil War History.



Bob McHugh thanks Dennis 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 6

1. Where was the Monitor built?
A) Elmira, NY. B) Brooklyn, NY. C) Boston, MA. D) Portland, ME.
2. What army did Joseph Johnston command at the beginning of the Civil War?
A) MS and TN B) Shenandoah C) Northern VA D) GA
3. What important Revolutionary hero was General Joseph Johnston's wife, Polly, related to?
A) Patrick Henry B) Paul Revere C) Horatio Gates D) John Adams
4. Were Albert S Johnston and Joseph E. Johnston related? Were both killed in the Civil War? If not which survived?
A) No, Yes, Neither B) Yes, No, Albert Johnston C) No, No, Joseph E. Johnston D) Yes, Yes, Neither

June 2018 Book Raffle Winners



Winners from L to R with our speaker: In the Book Raffle from left to right are: Bruce Rissmiller, Bill Frankenfield, Dick Cruse, Dennis Frye (speaker), Lamar Hartline, and Gary Snell.

ANSWERS FOR DO YOU KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Quiz on page 5

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

Special Drawing with Proceeds to go to Preservation



Barry and Bob pose for a photograph with Ed's winning ticket.

More thanks to Barry Arnold for yet another photographed and framed picture of a Civil War site. Barry donated this picture 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. Ed Oechsle was our lucky winner for the photograph.

June Preservation Raffle Prizes

Grand Prize- Went to Ed Oechsle; it was “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, **Prize 3-** A Great Civil War by Russell Weigley, signed. **Prize 4-** The Glean of Bayonets by Jim Murfin, signed, **Prize 5-** Time detailed maps of the Chancellorsville Campaign, done by the National Park Service and **Prize 6-**The South to Posterity by Douglas Southall Freeman
Prizes 2- 6 went to winners of prizes 2-6 went to Bill Frankenfield, Sherri Miller, Kim Jacobs, Wayne Schaeffer, Peter Angelou (not present), Joe Riggs, and Ed Oechsle (grand prize winner).

We look forward to another year of wonderful prizes in Campaign 41 that help to raise money for preservation.

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

Great Reads.....

While our interest in Civil War is our first interest, from time to time, we pick up on other aspects of military history. The following article is just one of those fascinating accounts.

Interesting Tidbits in Military History by Mike Cavanaugh



This account is a composite of the experiences of World War II paratroopers and myself, as a member of the 326th Airborne Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, at Fort Campbell, KY. 1956-1959.

Paratroopers have heard this remark many times: *Why would you want to jump out of a perfectly good airplane?*

Let's take this question a step further. Why would you jump from an airplane carrying well over a hundred pounds of equipment? Better yet, along with your M-1 rifle, you are assigned to jump carrying a .30 caliber machine gun. And after landing, you have to locate the man carrying the tripod and ammo or the gun is worthless. Let's add this scenario; your plane is flying through a thick cloud bank. The pilot, fearing a mid-air collision, drops out of formation. But now he must contend with flak and anti-aircraft tracer fire, along with enemy fighters reported to be very active in the area lately. Climbing to 1,500 feet or more, he banks sharply to the left and then drop down to less than 400 feet (studies show that it takes a drop of 300 feet before a parachute opens fully). Luckily for us, our pilot is a veteran flyer and has a top-notch crew. Despite the bullet holes and shrapnel, he is able to bring the craft under control leveling off at 600 feet. Now the jumpmaster must do his job. This is our first combat jump and despite outward appearances, anyone who says they are not nervous or down-right, scared is a damn liar!

When volunteering for the Airborne you must first complete Jump School. This is a mercilessly physical fitness program augmented with ten-mile runs and countless push-ups. To start you never walk while in Jump School. Everything is double time. Then we have "tower week!" To start you are suspended in a harness for what seems like a least a week. Some recruits refer this apparatus as the "Hanging Agony." This qualifies you for the thirty-four-foot tower. You stand at the door just like an airplane. You jump and drop about 16 feet until a strap catches you. Riding down the steel cable you hit a trip wire and drop another ten to fifteen feet to the ground. Surviving that, you advance to the famous 250-foot tower. While you are being constantly harangued by Jump School cadre, you're practicing your Parachute Landing Falls (PLF), more push-ups and practicing maneuvering and control of your parachute; and, yes, more push-ups.

To graduate, you must make five jumps to qualify for your jump wings. If you change your mind, or can't take it anymore, you may quit and return to a "straight leg" unit (Airborne term for a pair of pants with a crease, as opposed to those "baggy pants"). If you are listed on a jump manifest and want to quit, that could be a problem. You could be court-martialed, especially if it's a scheduled combat mission. Rumor has it that three men quit this morning right before takeoff. Their fate is unknown. I would advise them not to make the military a career choice!

Men do different things to while away the hours on the trip to the drop zone. Most, like myself, try to get some sleep. Some are reading the same letters from home over and over again. If you are trying to engage in conversation, it is almost impossible with the roar of the C-47's engines. When the jumpmaster opens the doors, the noise level increases two-fold and that gets everyone's attention. Now all eyes are fixed on the red light. Despite the noise, you can still hear the jumpmaster yell, **Stand up!** It's a real struggle getting on your feet, but you make it with help from your buddies. **Hook up!** "D" rings are attached to the steel cable. **Check your equipment and count off!** This you have done countless times in jump school and practice flights. **16 OK, 15 OK, 14 OK,** and so on. You carefully check the chute of the man in front of you. You make sure his D-ring is fully closed and attached to the cable properly. You will notice in photographs of paratroopers standing in the door, they have a death grip on that "D" ring. (That's why experienced jumpers are uncomfortable with tail-gate jumps. You must release the "D" ring and run several feet down the ramp and off into space). Next you check his static line to be sure it's free of any hang-ups? Remember his life is in your hands, like your life is in his. If everything is OK, you gave him a tap on the right shoulder. Being the last man in the stick, you turn around and the man in front of you does your equipment check.

The green light flashes on and almost instantly the jumpmaster yells **"GO!"** The first man on each side leaps into space as if they are sucked out of the airplane. Being the last man in the stick, you're literally running when you reach the door. You exit cleanly with the jumpmaster right behind you. Except for the air crew, the plane is now empty. So far, all of these maneuvers were pounded into your head in jump school. You now count, **one thousand, two thousand, three thousand,** the opening shock hits you like a sucker punch in the gut. Some say it feels like your skeleton is coming apart. Recovering, you marvel at the beautiful sight as your chute fully blossoms. You're really happy you paid attention in the parachute packing class.

(The T-7 was the standard parachute used in World War II. It has a twenty-eight-foot canopy. Post-war, the T-10 was developed. It had a slower decent and a less severe opening shock).

Looking down, you remember in the pre-jump briefing that the Germans flooded the area the day before. Is it a body of water or paved highway? Both not the best for a good PLF! If it's water, carrying all this equipment, there is no way you are going to stay afloat. And being a night drop just adds to the problem. Now the entire area is ablaze with ground and anti-aircraft fire. The enemy can see you hanging helpless in the sky and there's not much you can

do about it. It's only seconds, but it feels like you are hanging in the air forever. Finally, you hit the ground with a grunt. First thing you check for is broken bones. You did hear something snap. With a sigh of relief, it's your M-1 rifle broken in two. Not to worry, you're confident you will be able to pick one up soon. You quickly gather your chute and any equipment that didn't come loose when your chute opened. German fire is increasing and it seems to be coming closer.

You have no idea where you are or where your platoon is. You do see figures moving about, but are they friend or foe? Should I use the cricket? Is it two clicks or just one for id? (It is widely believed that the 101st Airborne Division was the only unit issued crickets. True, but many 82nd troopers had procured their own). I hear a voice. Is it German or American? It's coming from the other side of the hedgerows. It's our platoon leader! I would know that booming voice anywhere. Catching up with the group and, after a few hand-shakes and pats on the back, we are on the move to our first objective. We are picking up more and more troopers along the way. Some are 101st Airborne. I wonder how far off the drop zone they were dropped? The Germans, realizing they are now outnumbered, ceased fire and begin to pull back. With the help of one of our engineer explosive experts, we broke through the hedgerows. On the other side we come across some dead Germans. I realized that this was the first time I saw a dead person. But I'm sure I would see many more dead Germans, and, unfortunately, many Americans. While moving I have to smile to myself; I just parachuted out of an airplane, in the dead of night, under intense enemy fire, and lived to tell about it. It's not only the extra fifty bucks a month, or the jump boots, it's that gold star on my jump wings that I will treasure most. There will probably be more combat jumps before this war is over, and **I wouldn't miss it for the world!**

Mike's Notes: Reading everything I can get my hands on over the years pertaining to airborne operations, the above account is **not** a typical combat jump. Airborne jumps are chaotic to say the least and very dangerous. High casualties, lost leaders, lost equipment, etc. are the norm. It was not unusual to be dropped miles from your intended drop zone. Even Mother Nature can be your enemy. In a 101st Airborne Division training exercise at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in April 1958, five paratroopers were dragged to death and 155 were injured when unpredicted sudden gusts of wind swept the drop zone. "Sure it is sad," said one of the injured sergeants, "but we are all volunteers." Major General William Westmoreland, commander of the 101st Airborne Division, added, "It's part of the business we're in."

Suggested Reading:

Atkinson, Rick *The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943 - 1944*. Henry Holt, 2007.

Blair, Clay *Ridgway's Paratroopers: The American Airborne in World War II*. The Dial Press, 1985.

Gavin, James M. *On to Berlin*. Viking Press, 1978.

Nordhyke, Phil *Four Stars of Valor, The Combat History of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment in World War II.* Zenith Press, St. Paul, MN, 2006.

Rapport, Leonard and Arthur Norwood, Jr. *Rendezvous with Destiny: History of the 101st Airborne Division.*

Ryan, Cornelius *The Longest Day.* Simon and Schuster, 1959.

Trez, Michel De *The Legendary Cricket of D-Day.* D-Day Publishing, 2007.



Next Issue: Part Two “Captain George B. Wood – 4 Star Chaplain

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!