



September 2018 – Fall Campaign 41

Meeting September 04, 2018

Reflecting On Karl Lehr, A Legacy of Honor, Commitment, and Generosity

Karl Lehr was truly a renaissance man. He was a teacher, veteran of World War II, a preservationist and a philanthropist. During his time as a member of our Round Table he served our organization in many capacities. His commitment to historic preservation was accomplished through voice, labor and monetary contributions. Karl led a full life and his passing in 2009 at the age of 93 years generated a final gift that will continue to benefit future generations of our great land. A combination of his bequest to our Round Table and matching grants from leading Civil War preservation organizations brought \$463,000 to the cause of historic preservation in 2011. We honor Karl's memory tonight at our "Karl Lehr Memorial Dinner."

From the Brigade Commander: Ed Root

Where did the summer go? Hopefully all have had a safe and enjoyable time these past weeks. Our Karl Lehr Memorial dinner is just around the corner and we honor him for a life well lived as an educator, preservationist and loyal member of our Round Table. We welcome George Franks back to share his knowledge on Johnston Pettigrew. Those of you who heard him speak on Falling Waters and participated in our tour there know that we are in for a treat!

Please see Jim Duffy and Kim Jacob's reports on our Preservation results for the last Campaign. Once again our organization has taken a leadership role in helping to save America's historic fields where so many in the Blue and Gray gave their all.

Speaking of Preservation: **SAVE THE DATE!** Our annual Gettysburg effort will be Saturday, April 27. Tell Cousin Jane to get married some other weekend, forget the High School reunion. No excuses. Be part of something special by helping to conserve and preserve this precious field.

Also note our very special prizes for our June Preservation Raffle as listed elsewhere in this newsletter. We have something for everyone so join the fun. There are no losers where we all support historic preservation.

On Saturday, August 18 Kay Bagenstose, Kim Jacobs and I represented the CWRT of Eastern Pennsylvania, Inc. at the Civil War Round Table Congress at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. This gathering of

representatives from all over the country explored ways to improve all our organizations. Stayed tuned for a full report.

Our cash bar in the meeting room in June was a success, but not quite to the level we needed to make our minimums. So for now if you desire an adult beverage before the meeting you'll have to visit the Holiday Inn watering hole near the entrance.

We have a number of items that have been donated over time that do not quite meet our book raffle guide lines so some will be available at very reasonable prices at the sign in table. Look for them on September 4th!

Our October 20 Field Trip to Antietam with Dennis Frye as our guide is fast approaching. Have you signed up??

Our Round Table Board of Directors meets quarterly at the Southern Lehigh Public Library. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 23rd at 6:30 PM. All members are welcome!

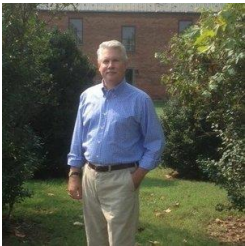
Dues are due! Sooner is better than later. Send your \$25.00 check (It's ok to send more if you're so inclined!) to our PO Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105. Avoid the rush at our September meeting and bring a smile to Paymaster Jeff Gates.

Please see my separate article on The Devil's Dictionary. We want you all to frequent our website often so we are sweetening the pot! Our website can be found at: <http://www.cwrteasternpa.org/> Paul Bartlett does a great job keeping things fresh and we endeavor to add items of interest between newsletters.

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

About Our September Speaker....

George F. Franks, III is the President of Franks Consulting Group, a management consulting firm, and owner of Geo. Franks, Hatter, and a global e-commerce business. He is a former technology executive with extensive international experience. George is the founder and President of the Battle of Falling Waters 1863 Foundation, Inc. and a member of the Board of Directors of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area. He is a Commissioner on the C&O Canal Federal Advisory Commission. George served as an officer and governor of the Company of Military

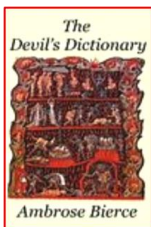


Historians and as President of the organization's Chesapeake Chapter.

He was President of the Capitol Hill Civil War Round Table in Washington, D.C. and is an active member of Hagerstown Civil War Round Table, Save Historic Antietam Foundation and the Civil War Trust. George is the author of *Battle of Falling Waters 1863: Custer, Pettigrew and the End of the Gettysburg Campaign* and lives in the 1830 Daniel Donnelly House on the battlefield - less than a mile from the C & O Canal. George was awarded the 2015 John Frye Historical Preservation Award by the Washington County (Maryland) Commissioners. He studied history at the U.S. Naval Academy and the University of Pittsburgh where he was graduated Magna cum Laude. AT&T selected George for the executive programs in marketing and international business at University of Virginia Darden School and Emory University Goizueta Business School.

About Our September Topic....

"The Life and Death of James Johnston Pettigrew" – Most people only know Johnston Pettigrew from the "Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble Charge" at Gettysburg or from his appearance in the movie about the battle. Pettigrew was considered the "most brilliant man in the South". A scholar, linguist, author, legislator, military advisor and Confederate officer, Pettigrew was a complex man whose contributions are not widely recognized [today](#). George Franks uncovered many stories about the little-known Confederate general during his study of the [July 14, 1863](#) Battle of Falling Waters in Maryland - where Pettigrew was mortally wounded. Franks lives on the Falling Waters Battlefield.



The Devil's Dictionary was written by former Civil War soldier and writer Ambrose Bierce. He served in the 7th Indiana Infantry Regiment and on the staff of General William Hazen. Bierce fought in the Western Theater at such places as Shiloh, Stones River, Chickamauga and was wounded at Kennesaw Mountain. His work was first published as *The Cynic's Word Book* in 1906 and then a more complete version in 1911 as *The Devil's Dictionary*. His satirical and humorous word definitions have made folks laugh and perhaps think ever since. Some of the definitions ring as true today as they did over 100 years ago. We have a tendency these days to believe that the foibles of our contemporaries are unique and new. A few examples follow that prove otherwise:

Alone, adj – In bad company

Prejudice, n – A vagrant opinion without visible means of support.

Rear, n – In American military matters, the exposed part of the army that is nearest to Congress.



What, dear reader does this mean to you? As we wish to encourage all of you to visit our website often **we will hide one of Bierce's gems within it. Beginning with our September Newsletter the first person to find the word and send an email to me with it will receive three free tickets to the book raffle at the September meeting.** So all you need to do is find the word and attend the meeting! www.cwrteasternpa.org
Have fun!!

Ed Root: sartilly@hotmail.com

Fall 2018 & Spring 2019 PROGRAM REGISTRATION DETAILS

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 September 04, 2018 meeting is August 30, 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

Format of all meetings:

Sutler's Call 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Mess Call 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Program 7:30 p.m.

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	Rich Rosenthal	"Civil War Women of Compassion, Courage, and Grit"
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)

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.

New Campaign Prizes

Civil War Roundtable Prizes for 2018 – 2019 Campaign Season

<u>Prize</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	Franklin Mint Civil War Chess set
2	Framed Sherman Autograph
3	Longstreet Pocket Watch
4	Print – “Confederate Infantry Army of Northern Virginia” – Rick Reeve (signed and numbered)
5	Grant’s Memoirs (Vol 1, 1885, Vol 2 1886)
6	Gettysburg – A Journey in Time by Bill Frassanito (Signed)

June 2019 Preservation Raffle

Please note Change in Procedure of Drawing

(Since we have such an eclectic array of prizes it is suggested that the first winner will have the pick of the six prizes and continuing until all prizes are given. If someone will not be available to attend the June meeting he or she can assign a proxy. If not, a prize will be assigned)

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

Donations for Battlefield Preservations – 2017– 2018 Campaign Season

Kim Jacobs and James Duffy

On behalf of the members of the CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc., the speakers for the 2017-2018 received either a plaque or donation to a multitude of worthy preservation efforts. These beneficiaries included the Civil War Trust, Richmond Battlefield, Petersburg Battlefield, Adams County Land Conservancy, Pennsylvania Historical Association, and Friends of Elmira Prison.

At the end of the year on behalf of the members of the CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc., the following funds were donated for the preservation of Civil War battlefield sites with the purpose of the continuing education of the American public and the honoring of those who gave their lives for the preservation of our hallowed land. The sites that we contributed to were are listed below by Kim Jacobs. The matching monies that were available helped to bring our contribution to \$23,655.00

Kim Jacobs noted the specifics below:

- \$1,000 for Three Tennessee Battlefields(Fort Donelson, Franklin, and Brown's Ferry) at a 21.17 to 1 matching grant that equals \$21,170 (Civil War Trust);
- \$1,000 to Three 1862 Battlefields. This includes Shiloh, Glendale, and Fredericksburg at 4.85 to 1 matching grant that equals \$485 (Civil War Trust);
- \$1,000 to Slaughter Pen Farm Annual Mortgage payment(Civil War Trust); and
- \$1,000 to Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation with no matching grants.

Please note, the Board of the CWRT of Eastern PA thanks everyone who contributed toward this successful campaign and urges all to continue this Roundtable's tradition of battlefield preservation during the upcoming 2018-2019 campaign season.

Good Reads...

As we noted in July, we primarily write on the Civil War but when we get a riveting article from another period, we are pleased to feature in our newsletter. Please note our own Mike Cavanaugh has provided us with an interesting story. We will serialize this and provide another piece next month. Stay tuned....

Interesting Tidbits in Military History by Mike Cavanaugh



George "Chappie" Wood - *Four Star Chaplain*

Part Two

Reverend George Bartlett Wood, Jr., of the 82nd Airborne Division, successfully completed his fourth combat jump on September 17, 1944. He parachuted with the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) in Holland as part of Operation "Market Garden." Reverend Wood, affectionately known as **Chappie** by his fellow troopers, is always ready to lend a helping hand, whether it is to care for the wounded, bury the dead, and, most importantly, giving aid and comfort to those who suffered from the mental fatigue of combat. Chaplain Wood and the other chaplains in the 82nd want to participate in combat jumps. They don't do it to put gold stars on their wings. They do it because it puts them on the front lines where they feel they are most needed. This is where the action is. This is their job. Chaplains pay special attention to the dead. They also write letters to family members, taking care of their personal effects, and marking

the location of their burials. Chaplain Wood uses a standard graveside service which, he sadly admits, is used far too many times:

We are gathered here today before God and in the sight of man to give a proper and reverent burial to the victims of atrocities committed by armed forces the name and by the order of the German Government. He concluded with, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish prayers will be said by Chaplains Wood, Hannan, and Wall of the 82nd Airborne Division for these victims as we lay them to rest and commit them into the hands of our Heavenly Father in the hope that the world will not again be faced with such barbarity. (The 82nd Airborne Division Museum, Chaplain George Wood Collection, Fort Bragg, NC).

George Bartlett Wood, Jr. was born June 17, 1910, in Bidford, Maine. The 1930 Census shows him living at home with his parents, he was quickly enrolled in the U.S. Army's Chaplain Corps. Standing six feet tall, and weighing 158 pounds, Lieutenant Wood was in excellent physical condition. Being a very active person, the thought of jumping out of an airplane appealed to him - along with the extra \$50 a month. He volunteered with the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), which had recently transferred into the 82nd Airborne Division.

LOOKING FOR THE BEST

The U.S. moved to create an Airborne Division by looking at one of the best infantry divisions in the U. S. Army, the **82nd Infantry Division**. Known as the "All Americans," (so named, it was claimed they had men from every state in the Union in its ranks). In World War I, the 82nd Infantry's combat record was second to none. Its most famous soldier, Medal of Honor receipt, Sgt. Alvin York, was brought in to build the morale of the troops. It was a huge success. Turning the WW I infantry division into an airborne division was now in the hands of top notch officers. All were supporters of an airborne division. Omar Bradley, commandant of the Infantry School, was assigned to command the new 82nd Airborne Division. General Matthew Ridgeway was his second in command. When Bradley was transferred to the 28th Division, Matthew Ridgeway took command. The 505th was transferred into the 82nd with Colonel James Gavin, at the helm. William "Bill" Lee (Father of the U. S. Airborne), was a major player in the formation of airborne programs. Maxwell Taylor was named Chief of Staff for Ridgeway. He would become the commanding officer of the **101st Screaming Eagles** down the road.. They were also blessed with lower rank officers and noncoms with past combat experience. In the beginning all they had to work with was a few thousand out-of-condition draftees. A brutal conditioning program and intense paratroop training separated the wheat from the chaff. As things settled, it was found that the 82nd was overloaded with too many men. The 82nd was divided in two and the **101st Airborne Division** was born. The 82nd was made much stronger with the transfer of the highly rated 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), into its ranks. Wood knew right off, he was in a top-notch outfit. The

commanding officer, James M. Gavin, would become the youngest general since the Civil War. General Matthew Ridgeway, the XVIII Airborne Corps commander, remarked, "I have no doubt that, based on its record, the 505th was the best parachute regiment to come out of World War II." The days were filled with long cross-country marches, with full gear and weapons. Night jumps were always a challenge. Exercises that develop quick assembly procedures were vital to survival after the men hit the ground. But most important, a close bond developed between the officers, noncoms and the enlisted men. Gavin was with them every day, training with them and closely recording their progress. He instructed his officers, they will eat last and exit the plane door first. Major Daniel McIlvoy, the regimental surgeon, tells the story he and Father Matthew Connelly were listening to one of Gavin's famous pep talks. Connelly turning to the major said, said "I hope he doesn't ask us to jump without parachutes, because I'm sure no man would have refused to go!" At another Gavin talk a bystander remarked, "Gavin needed only to lift a finger and say 'follow me' and there wasn't a single man who wouldn't have followed him straight to Hell!" Chaplain George Wood, now Captain Wood, went through it all, including jump school at Fort Benning, with the dreaded 250-foot towers. He completed his five jumps and was awarded the coveted paratroopers jump wings. Chaplain George Wood was ready to go to war.

Note: Time and space limitations permit only cursory coverage of the World War II history of the 82nd Airborne Division. These are the four battles the unit made combat parachute jumps.

SICILY

On July 10, 1943, the 82nd Airborne Division parachuted into Sicily in the U. S. Army's first mass combat jump. Despite being scattered over the countryside, with heavy losses, the mission was considered a victory. The 82nd fought the Hermann Goering Panzer Division to a standstill.

In Sicily Chaplain Wood was given credit for being the first American chaplain to make a combat jump. Showing his keen sense of humor, he wrote, *All paratroopers feel like Supermen. After all, when a fellow has defied nature like that [jumping out of airplanes] and escaped, what's a bullet or two?"* (Brooklyn Daily Eagle June 21, 1944).

SALERNO, ITALY

The 82nd was given little time to rest. They were called on to rescue the Allied beachhead at Salerno. Combat jump number two would be a night jump. The Americans were reinvigorated by the arrival of the paratroopers, stopping German counterattacks. The advance on Naples was successful. The city fell to the 82nd on October 1, 1943.

NORMANDY

A news item in the July 18, 1944, issue of the Minnesota *Star Tribune*. Chaplain Wood felt the French Invasion [Normandy] was “far rougher” for the airborne men than anything he had seen in the Sicily or Italian operations. Chaplain Wood, now a captain with two combat jumps, **Normandy** would be his third. He did take notice that the invasion force touched down on the beaches four to the six hours after the airborne armada crossed into France. Ste. Mere Eglise and the 82nd Airborne Division are legends in airborne history.

Commented [S1]:

MARKET GARDEN

On the morning of the jump into Holland - fifty-three miles behind German lines - Chaplain Wood held an unusually well-attended church service. It was his **fourth combat jump**. Thousands of troopers would be jumping in Operation Market Garden, but only a few hundred would be making their fourth combat jump. Some of the men felt like fugitives from the law of averages. Staff Sergeant Russell O’Neal was anxious to get it over with but he was resigned to the fact that his Irish luck was about to run out.

POST WAR

V-E Day May 8, 1945. When summer and the war ended, General Gavin was sure that the 82nd would remain part of the peace-time army. But in early October, the division was notified it would be disbanded. The 101st *Screaming Eagles* would be the airborne division in a peacetime army. The news was devastating to the entire division. The general appealed to every one of importance he knew with no luck. General Gavin did receive an anonymous letter from a former officer in the division who said it all. He wrote, *We know that somewhere there will always be an 82nd Airborne Division, because it lives in the hearts of men. And somewhere, young men will dare the challenge to ‘Stand up and hook up’ and know that moment of pride and strength which is its reward.*

On the morning of **January 12, 1946**, the 82nd Airborne Division moved by truck and rail to Manhattan to march up Fifth Avenue in the great New York City Victory Parade. When an elderly lady remarked, “Why you are only babies!” A nearby sergeant replied “Lady, those are the toughest babies you ever see.”

At the close of World War II, Reverend Wood returned to civilian life and continued his service to the ministry. He graduated from the Hoosac School in Hoosick, New York and held a Doctor of Divinity Degree from the Nashotah House Seminary in Nashotah, Wisconsin. He served as the rector of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for twenty-four years and was also closely associated with the Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, Alabama.

Chaplain Wood, however, did not sever his connection with the 82nd Airborne Division after the war. He served as past president and permanent chaplain of the 82nd Airborne Division Association. While serving as the National Chaplain of AMVETS, Reverend Wood was elected vice-chairman of the Parachuting Hall of Fame. It was when he was named an **Honorary Citizen of Ste. Mere Eglise**, that *Chappie* found most humbling.

On the thirty-sixth anniversary of the Normandy Invasion Reverend George Wood spoke at a local memorial ceremony. *It is not warmongering to say that some things are worth fighting for. I have no time for those who say that our dead died in vain. As long as there is someone left to remember, nobody ever dies. Wherever liberty is threatened, men will die – now and in the future. But they do not die in vain – their deeds live after them.*



On **January 5, 1999**, Major George B. Wood passed away in Huntsville, Alabama. He was buried in the Maple Hill Cemetery with full military honors, George Wood was 88 years of age. His passing was less than a year after his dear wife Wilma E. Wood passed on. In his obituary, Wood requested all donations to be sent to the **82nd Airborne Division Association Education Fund**. *Chappie* was an “All American” to the very end.

Do You **KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?**

A brain-stretching quiz about the historic struggle between the blue and gray

Taken from The Civil War Trivia Book by William Terdoslavich

See answers below:

- At what battle was General Longstreet wounded?
a) Chancellorsville b) Battle of the Wilderness c) Second Manassas d) Shiloh
- What city was George McClellan born in?
a) Philadelphia b) Memphis, TN c) Decatur, Illinois D) Boston, MA
- Which future president commanded a brigade in West Virginia?
a) William McKinley b) US Grant c) Rutherford Hayes d) Woodrow Wilson
- Name the silent epic about the Civil War directed by D. W. Griffith?
a) Gone with the Wind b) The Wizard of Oz c) The Birth of a Nation d) None of these

ANSWERS FOR DO YOUR KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

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

REENLISTMENT REPORT

It is re-enlistment time for the 2018-2019 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 jeffgates@ptd.net

Name _____ How long have you been a member? _____

Address _____ How did
you hear of this organization? _____

What is your occupation/profession? _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

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? _____

___public functions ___political action ___preservation ___living history

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!