

November 2018 – Fall Campaign 41

Meeting November 06, 2018

From the Brigade Commander: Ed Root

The regiment was the building block of every Civil War Army and the individual soldier “is” the regiment. This basic fact is sometimes overlooked in the grand scheme of the strategic and tactical movements of thousands upon thousands of combatants. David Ward did a wonderful job bringing the men of the 96th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry alive for us at our October meeting. Much gratitude is also due to Gary Weaver for bringing the flag of the 96th reenactment group to our meeting.

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.

At a recent meeting we have encouraged those who can’t attend the dinner portion of our gathering to move forward from the “walk in” section of the room to better hear and see the speaker. Once the meal is over we’ll announce when it’s appropriate to move your chair or find an empty spot at one of the tables. The choice is yours so sit wherever you are comfortable. We want all attendees to get the best experience from each program.

I will be meeting on November 2nd with Caitlin Brown at Gettysburg and expect to announce at our November meeting the conservation work site for our annual effort. (Saturday, April 27, 2019). Wherever we end up working we will have fun, it will be a beautiful day and the Gettysburg Battlefield will benefit from our effort. Be a part of this wonderful day!

Our Tri-fold Meeting and Speakers information sheets are a wonderful way to spread the word about our meetings and Programs. Please help us grow by doing your part to get our message out into the community!!!

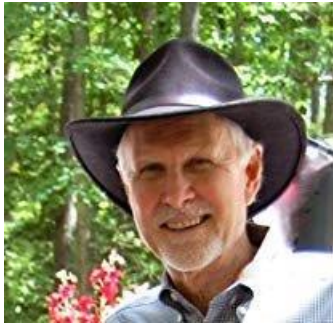
I’ll give you one more chance to play the Devil’s Dictionary Game. Find one of Ambrose Bierce’s fantastic word definitions hidden in our website, email me with the word and receive 3 free raffle tickets to our book raffle at the November meeting. It’s not hard, try it, you’ll like it and I’ll stop whining. It’s a win-win, people!

This month we welcome back one of the foremost scholars of our American Experience, Gordon Rhea! He is an old friend of our Round Table who last visited in 2004 if memory serves. His most recent book, *On to Petersburg: Grant and Lee, June 4 – 15, 1864* belongs on every Civil War student’s bookshelf as did his previous studies on the Overland Campaign. We look forward to all members and friends being present for his latest visit to the Lehigh Valley.

Dues are overdue! Send your \$25.00 check (It’s ok to send more if you’re so inclined!) to our PO Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105. See Paymaster Jeff Gates at the November meeting.

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

About Our November Speaker.... Gordon Rhea



A native of East Tennessee, Gordon Rhea earned a B.A. in history with honors from Indiana University, an M.A. in American History from Harvard University, and a J.D. from Stanford University Law School. He served as Special Assistant to the Chief Counsel of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, as Assistant United States Attorney in Washington, D.C., and the United States Virgin Islands, and has been in the private practice of law for the past three decades. While growing up, he frequently visited Civil War battlefields with his father. His five-volume series on the Overland Campaign between Grant and Lee in Virginia in 1864 stands as the authoritative treatment of those battles. He has written numerous articles, is a frequent speaker at historical societies, and strongly supports the Civil War Trust and other organizations dedicated to preserving America's battlefields. His most recent book, *On to Petersburg: Grant and Lee, June 4 – 15, 1864*, was a finalist for this year's Lincoln Prize and the winner of this year's Emerging Civil War Book Award and the Daniel M. Laney Prize.

About Our November Topic.... On to Petersburg: Grant and Lee, June 4-15, 1864

Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee are customarily considered the leading generals in the American Civil War. Each, however, is often viewed in a distorted, stereotypical fashion. Grant, the story goes, habitually resorted to headlong attacks and seldom maneuvered. And Lee, according to the prevailing mythology, had the uncanny ability of fathoming his opponent's intentions and anticipating his every move.

The Overland Campaign of 1864 – the initial engagements between Grant and Lee in the Wilderness, at Spotsylvania Court House, at the North Anna River, at Cold Harbor, and the movement to Petersburg – suggests a very different interpretation of these preeminent American warriors. In my presentation, we will step back and take a fresh look at Grant's and Lee's generalship, focusing on how each reacted to the other in this brutal and costly forty-odd-day campaign of wits and will. It is an exciting tale and one that provokes controversy to this day.

I am sure many of you will be interested in purchasing a book from Gordon and thankfully he will be bringing some books specifically for that purpose.

October Attendance Statistics by James Duffy

Our second meeting of the 41st Campaign and we had 50 attendees. That included 31 for dinner and 19 walk-ins. We were glad to see all of you and would love to have you back in November.

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 November 06, 2018 meeting is November 01, 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.

Remembering Battles of Chattanooga: November 23 to November 25, 1863



Captured Confederate Artillery from Missionary Ridge-Library of Congress



The Battle of Lookout Mountain, sometime referred to as the Battle Above the Clouds- Library of Congress

The October Presentation by David Ward was very informative on the 96th Pennsylvania Volunteers



We were thankful for the terrific talk by David Ward. The evening was enhanced by the great flag Gary Weaver brought in to honor the 96th Pennsylvania Volunteers. Bob McHugh is pictured here thanking both David Ward and Gary Weaver for their contributions.

Book Winners for October Drawing



October Book winners include John Maly, Kim Jacobs, Claire Kukielka, Sherry Miller, and Joe Riggs.

Director, Membership Request– Jeff Gates, 610-966-5773...Please read.....

I'm hoping you all had a wonderful summer and were able to visit your favorite Civil War Sites! Our membership remained just shy of 100 this past campaign. I'm looking for your assistance in our endeavor to find new members. Bring a friend, co-worker, family member to a meeting as we try to break back into the triple digits of membership.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to returning member, Rev. Christopher Hershman! Please welcome him when you bump into him at the dinner meetings.

It's that time of year again to renew your membership to the Civil War Roundtable. The Dues for the 2018-2019 Campaign have not changed and remain at \$25.00 (Full Time Student \$10.00). If you wish to avoid the line at the October Dinner Meeting, please mail in your membership form and Check to the Roundtable address.

(See last page for form)

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. Check our website and be the first person to find the word and send an email to me with it will receive 2 of the 3 following prizes: 1) My undying gratitude, 2) a \$1000 gift certificate to Sears, 3) three free tickets to the book raffle at the October meeting. It's my choice which 2 of the 3 will be forthcoming.....**

So all you need to do is find the word and attend the meeting!

www.cwrteasternpa.org

Have fun!!

Ed Root: sartilly@hotmail.com

New Campaign Prizes

Civil War Roundtable Prizes for 2018 – 2019 Campaign Season

<u>Prize</u>	<u>Title</u>
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|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Franklin Mint Civil War Chess set |
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| 2 | Framed Sherman Autograph |
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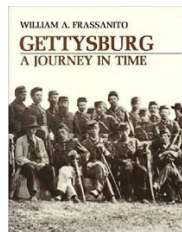


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| 3 | Longstreet Pocket Watch |
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| 4 | Print – “Confederate Infantry Army of Northern Virginia” – Rick Reeve (signed and numbered) |
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| 5 | Grant’s Memoirs (Vol 1, 1885, Vol 2 1886) |
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| 6 | Gettysburg – A Journey in Time by Bill Frassanito (Signed) |
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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!!!

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 on page 10.

1. What was the other name for the Murfreesboro Battle?
a) Stones River b) Brentwood c) Mossy Creek d) Blountsville
2. Whose Federal Brigade held the Round Forest?
a) Oliver Otis Howard's
b) Henry Slocum's
c) Philip Sheridan
d) William Hazen's
3. What Confederate Generals were killed at Stones River?
a. Generals A.P Hill and Roger Hanson
b. Generals Franklin Albert Sidney Johnston and James Rain
c. Generals James Rains and Roger Hanson
d. Generals Franklin Albert Sidney Johnston and Patrick Cleburne
4. What did Rosecrans call his staff officers?
a. Federals
b. Sandy fellows
c. Blue bellies
d. None of the above
5. What Union Generals were killed at Stones River?
a. Generals Edward Kirk and Joshua Sill
b. Generals Nathaniel Lyon and Sylvester Hill
c. Generals William Sanders and Thomas Smythe
d. Generals Nathaniel Lyon and Edward Kirk

ANSWERS FOR DO YOU KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Quiz on page 9

1.A

2.D

3.C

4.B

5. A

History Bytes.....

Ventfort Hall and Robert Gould Shaw

by Paul Bartlett

On a recent trip to Western Massachusetts, we toured a number of mansions in the Lenox area. At one of them, Vent Fort, the home of the sister of JP Morgan, we were surprised to find a display describing the home's connection to Robert Gould Shaw, who led the 54th Massachusetts into the 1863 battle at Fort Wagner, SC portrayed in the award-winning movie "Glory."

The current mansion, built in 1893, like many of the gilded age "cottages" in the Berkshires, was not the first home on the site. A New York City international merchant, Ogden Haggerty and his wife Elizabeth built a summer home called Vent Fort on the site in 1853. In the early 1860's, a young army officer, by the name of Robert Gould Shaw, came to Vent Fort to court the Haggerty's daughter, Annie.

Shaw and Annie had met in 1860, before the outbreak of the Civil War, at a pre-opera dinner party given by his sister in New York City. In 1861 Shaw enlisted as a private in a New York regiment and later was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Second Regiment of the Massachusetts infantry. He saw action in the Battles of Cedar Creek and Antietam and was wounded twice, rising to the rank of captain. They became engaged in Lenox just after Christmas 1862.



Shortly after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, the governor of Massachusetts was granted permission to raise the first Civil War regiment of "free Negroes." Eight days later, Governor Andrew wrote Captain Shaw and asked him to be Colonel of "the 54th Massachusetts." Shaw accepted what he called "the assignment." Promoted to colonel, Shaw oversaw the recruitment and training of the 54th.

Shaw and Annie Haggerty were married May 2, 1863 in New York City. For the next week, Robert Gould and Annie Haggerty Shaw honeymooned at Vent Fort. On May 9 they celebrated Annie's 27th birthday.

On May 28, the 54th Massachusetts marched through the streets of Boston on the way to their post in South Carolina. Among the thousands watching along the parade route was Shaw's younger sister, Ellen (Ellie). On that day, Ellie wrote, "when I saw Rob's face, it was the face of an angel and I was perfectly sure he would never come back."

He did not live to celebrate his 26th birthday. He was a married man just 77 days; he lived with his wife only 26 days. In his last letter to Annie, actually a fragment of a letter dated July 13, 1863, the last line reads, "That country place of ours is often before my eyes."

The regiment's shining hour came on the evening of July 18, when it heroically assaulted Fort Wagner, an earthwork that defended Charleston. Approaching along the ocean, the 54th assailed the fort's embankment and after

fierce fighting temporarily held it before being forced to retreat. Nearly half of the regiment's troops were casualties—including Shaw, who was killed—but the attack had proved to the world the mettle of black soldiers.

The Confederates buried Shaw in a mass grave with his black troops, believing they were dishonoring him, but Shaw's father discouraged later efforts to recover his son's body, saying that the most appropriate burial place for a soldier was "on the field where he has fallen." A monument to the 54th and Shaw, by sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, was erected on the Boston Common.

Annie never remarried, and after Vent Fort was sold to George H. and Sarah Morgan, Annie returned one day and asked if she could sleep one more night in her honeymoon bedroom.

When the Morgans were ready to build the new, grander Ventfort Hall in the same location as the old house, rather than demolishing Vent Fort, they had it moved across the street.

(Portions from britannica.com and Wikipedia)



[Bronze memorial to Shaw and the 54th regiment](#), by sculptor [Augustus Saint-Gaudens](#), Boston Common (1884–1897) Used in the ending credits scene of the 1989 film, [Glory](#).

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 jefgates@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!