



March 2019 – Winter/Spring Campaign 41: Meeting March 05, 2019

From the Brigade Commander: Ed Root

It is doubtful that any of us had ever heard of Hinsonville, Pennsylvania or her heroes prior to our February meeting. Now, thanks to Dr. Cheryl Gooch, ably complemented by her associate Robert Ford, we know a great deal about these men and their times. One of the wonderful things about our organization is that we all learn something from each presentation. It doesn't matter if one has studied this period of history for decades or if one is just beginning the journey of discovery, there is always something we each can take away from a meeting. Dr. Gooch gave us something more and that is perspective. None of us can personally truly understand the tragedy of slavery and the quest for freedom and the impact on family for generations. Because of Dr. Gooch's visit we certainly came away with a better appreciation for the people who endured and triumphed over this evil.

It was great to see Brigade Paymaster Jim Duffy and wife, Dee, at the February meeting as he continues his recovery from surgery. He looked super and we can't wait until he's back full time.

I hope you had some fun with my dinner time trivia quiz. I had thought it was somewhat difficult, but Paul Bartlett quickly figured out that the connection between Harriet Tubman, William Seward and Emory Upton was that they all reside in Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn, NY. Paul was the winner of a booklet of tickets for our June Preservation Raffle. You don't have to wait to win a quiz to join that worthy effort for the cause of historic preservation. We have some wonderful prizes so check out the table as you enter each meeting.

Please don't make me continue to whine about the few folks who have not renewed membership in our happy band of history students. I know we have a few slackers out there who have not as yet re-enlisted for this Campaign. You know who you are, but if you've lost your mind and are unsure please see Jeff Gates at the March meeting. We need and appreciate your continuing support!

Bill Frankenfield was kind enough to donate 4 tickets to the combined museums at the Pry House at Antietam, The National Museum of CW Medicine in Frederick, MD & Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office in Washington, DC. These will be raffled off in two different pairs at our April 2nd meeting.

We have partnered with the Southern Lehigh Public Library in the past supporting their Civil War programs. On Monday, April 15 at 7PM. Alisa Dupuy will present a first-person impression of Clara Barton. The program is free, but reservations are required as seating is limited. More information will be forthcoming, but please save the date as this will be an excellent program. www.solehipl.org

You should all be aware that the site of our Gettysburg conservation work on April 27th will be at the John Slyder Farm. No excuses for missing this important work day. There is something for everyone, painting, fencing, brush cutting or just standing around critiquing the work done by others. We'll have fun, learn about that portion of the battlefield and help preserve and conserve our nation's historic land! A sign-up sheet will be at the March meeting.

The Campaign year is going by all too quickly as it always does and soon it will be time for our annual election of Officers and Board Directors. We currently have volunteers for all position but one and that is Brigade Commander.

For any organization to be healthy, to be successful and in fact survive it is imperative that new leadership step forward from time to time to offer fresh perspectives. It's easy to become stale if the same folks run everything for extended periods. I have been honored to have been a member of this fine organization since 1978 and have served in most positions during that time. I have seen us grow from a handful of buffs meeting in the old Allentown Courthouse to one of the most known and respected Round Tables in the country. This group has been a large part of my life for more than half of that life. Like most of you, I am involved in many organizations and have suffered from the "no good turn goes unpunished syndrome of volunteerism." It is time for me to move on. I sincerely hope for the continued success and survival of our group that one of you will answer the call. I'll be more than happy to meet with anyone personally to offer my advice and experience and answer any questions about the position. As Uncle Sam once said, **"I Want You!"**

Please join us on March 5th as Ted Alexander, a long-time friend of our Round Table, will present *Ethnics in the Confederacy*. See you on the 5th!

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

About Our March Speaker....



Ted Alexander was born in Tupelo, Mississippi and at a young age moved to Pennsylvania and later Maryland. He would spend his summers in Mississippi listening to his granddads stories of his father who served in the 31st Mississippi. Back in Pennsylvania his grandmother told him stories handed down about her uncle in the 126th Pennsylvania and her dad who was in the 1st Maryland Potomac Home Brigade. A visit to Gettysburg at age 5 sparked his interest in the Civil War and for the rest of his life he was hooked.

Ted has a B.A. in History and Education from the University of Maryland, College Park and a M.A. in History from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He taught 9th grade U.S. History at Greencastle - Antrim High School for 2 years. In 1980 he achieved his lifelong goal of being hired with the National Park Service; first as a Seasonal Ranger at Harpers Ferry NHP and later as a full time ranger at the National Mall and later Fort Washington, National Park. Since he was a kid, Ted wanted to work as either a ranger or historian at Antietam or Gettysburg. In 1985 his wish came true when he was transferred to Antietam National Battlefield. There he retired as Historian in 2016.

Ted is the author, co - author or contributor to 10 books on the Civil War and other aspects of American history, including *Antietam: The Bloodiest Day*. He has also written more than 200

articles and book reviews for publications such as Blue and Gray Magazine, Civil War Times, and The Washington Times.

He is the co -founder and host for Chambersburg Civil War Seminars. These events feature top scholars such as Ed Bearss, James McPherson, Dennis Frye and others. Since its founding in 1989 these events have raised more than \$215,000.00 for preservation.

Ted is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. He served 2 tours in Vietnam and was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V for valor.

About Our Speaker’s Topic:

Ethnics in the Confederacy - typically the Civil War is viewed as a conflict between white Anglo Saxons on both sides. However, if one turns up the history microscope you will find a multitude of diverse ethnic groups on both sides. Our speaker will discuss the ethnic patchwork of the Southern Confederacy. In this broad brushstroke presentation, our speaker, the co-author and contributor to two National Park Service publications on ethnic participation in the war, will discuss the involvement of at least 10 ethnic groups. Among them; Germans, American Indians, Hispanics and Asians just to name a few. Noted ethnic personalities such as the Cuban, Colonel Ambrosio Gonzalez, the Tejano Colonel Santo Benevides and others will be discussed too.

February Attendance Statistics by Ed Root

Our sixth meeting of the 41st Campaign and we had 52 attendees. That included 39 for dinner and 13 walk-ins. We were glad to see all of you and would love to have you back in February.

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

I’m hoping you all had a wonderful Valentine’s Day! 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. 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 February Dinner Meeting, please mail in your membership form and Check to the Roundtable address. (See last page for form)

Operation Snowflake



For weather related postponements/cancellations, please visit the CWRT website -www.cwrteasternpa.org - where information regarding any meeting change will be posted. If you still have doubts, please call Ed Root at 610-417-6673 or sartilly@hotmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE..... SAVE THE DATE..... SAVE THE DATE..... CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY

Gettysburg NMP Conservation Day – Saturday, April 27, 2019

Our annual work day will entail work at the John Snyder Farm on the southern end of the battlefield. As always there will be something for everyone including fence painting & fence rebuilding. This will be our 5th year since we've expanded our role by including partners from Saucon Valley High School, Boy Scout Troop 89 from New Tripoli & the Whitehall Historical Society. Most groups who volunteer at Gettysburg have limited numbers and have limited goals. Because our numbers have reached 40 to 50 some folks we have been able to help the National Park Service staff accomplish projects other group cannot attempt. Caitlin Brown, Park Coordinator will once interpret action that occurred on the site after our task is completed. All are welcome. Please advise me if you know of any other folks outside of our CWRT membership who may have an interest in this rewarding labor.

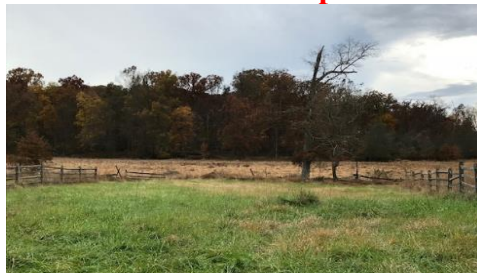


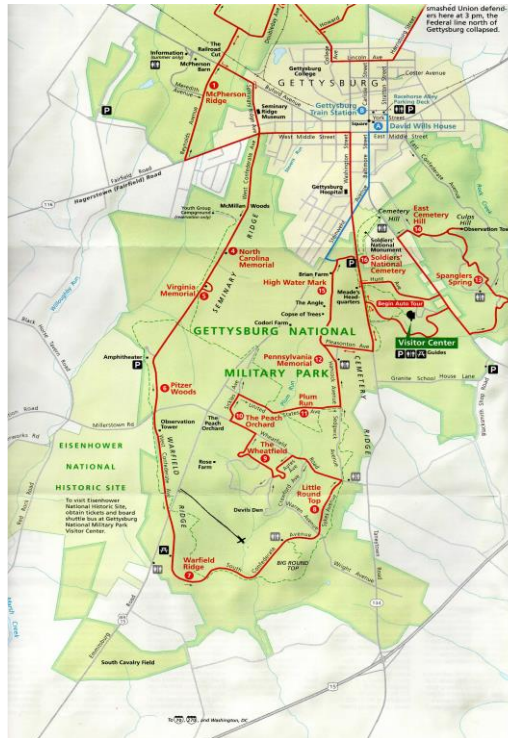
The John Snyder farm was on the western side of Big Round Top, just down Plum Run from the Devil's Den. John had moved from Maryland and bought the 75 acre farm in 1849. By the 1860's it included a two story stone house, barn, blacksmith and carpenter shops, an orchard of peach and pear trees, thirty acres of timber and eighteen acres of meadow.

On July 2nd [Confederate General John B. Hood's Division](#) swept across Snyder's farm in its advance toward the Devil's Den and Little Round Top. The crops and orchards were trampled and destroyed and the farm buildings became a Confederate field hospital, with the family's possessions looted or spoiled. Two months after the battle, in September, John sold the farm and moved to Ohio. The Snyder family had connections with other Gettysburg families. John's wife Catherine was the sister of [Lydia Leister, whose house](#) became General Meade's headquarters during the battle. And in October of 1863 John's son William married Josephine Miller, the granddaughter of [Peter and Susan Rogers, whose farm lay on Emmitsburg Road](#).

The farm passed to the Snyder family, who owned it around the turn of the century. It is now owned by the National Park Service. The [monument to Companies E & H, Second United States Sharpshooters \(Vermont Sharpshooters\)](#) is beside the driveway in front of the farmhouse.

Pictures for our Upcoming Conservation Excursion in April 2019





X marks the Snyder Farm on the map below. The entrance is off of the Emmitsburg Road (also known as Business Route 15 & Steinwehr Avenue). Logistical details to as we get closer to April 27.

Fall 2018 & Winter/Spring 2019 PROGRAM REGISTRATION

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. For the February 05, 2019 meeting, the deadline for making dinner reservations is January 31, 2019. Please also note for this month, Ed Root should be contacted rather than Jim Duffy. We are hoping that Jim will be back in the very near future.

For dinner reservations and/or information: Contact any of the following:

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

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's activities, but links to events of interest, research aids and other organizations of merit.

Kudos to our March Speaker, Dr. Cheryl Gooch

Bob McHugh thanks Dr. Cheryl Gooch and Robert Ford for the marvelous program. It was spellbinding to hear about the lives of these Black soldiers. Dr. Gooch has requested we provide a check to ASLAH, Association or the Study of African American Life and History to be used for their efforts towards ongoing historical preservation.



Book Winners for February Drawing



February Book winners include James Whitney Lamar Hartline, Kim Jacobs, John Maly, and Gary Schnell.

New Campaign Prizes

Civil War Roundtable Prizes for 2018 – 2019 Campaign Season

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



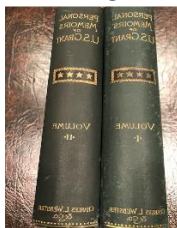
- 3 Longstreet Pocket Watch



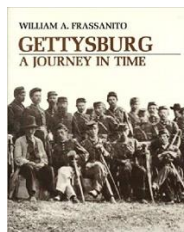
- 4 Print – “Confederate Infantry Army of Northern Virginia” – Rick Reeve (signed and numbered)



- 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!!!

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 page 11

1. Which state was to be invaded during the Red River Campaign?
a. Texas b. Louisiana c. Tennessee d. Delaware

2. What vital crop to the South's economy was the target of this campaign?
a. Corn
b. Cotton
c. Peas
d. Yams

3. What general led the campaign?
a. Edmund Kirby Smith
b. N.P. Banks
c. David Dixon Porter
d. Robert E. Lee

4. Who was the Confederate leader who led a regiment of German cavalry forces from Texas?
a. Augustus Buchel c. Jurgen Wilson
b. Franz Sigel d. Paul Frank

REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF LAREDO

<https://civilwartalk.com/threads/battle-of-laredo-texas.6158/>

Battle of Laredo, Texas

March 19, 1864

Source: Article in Civil War Times Illustrated, August 1980

The stage for this battle was actually set on November 2, 1863 when a force of nearly 7000 Union troops landed at Brazos Island, off the Texas coast, after a stormy passage from New Orleans, LA. This troop movement was part of the Union plan, led by Major General Nathaniel Banks to cut off the flow of cotton and seize Texas for the Union. Three days later, the Union force landed at the mouth of the Rio Grande River and began to march on Brownsville, 30 miles away. Confederate defenders, led by Brigadier General Hamilton P. Bee, numbering about 100, had no choice but to evacuate the town. Forty-five wagons carried supplies toward the Nueces River as troops destroyed Fort Brown and as much cotton as they could. The fire soon went out of control and destroyed an entire block along the riverfront. Adding to the destruction was an explosion involving 8000 pounds of gun powder.

At 10:00 a.m. on November 6, 1863, the 94th Illinois Regiment entered Brownsville, facing light resistance. At 3:00 p.m., with assistance from the 1st Missouri Light Artillery and the 13th Maine Regiment, the town was secured. Brownsville would be used as a base for expeditions up the Rio Grande in order to cut off a route for goods that entered the Confederacy from Mexico.

Late in November, a force of 1500, consisting of the 1st Texas (Union) and 2nd Texas (Union) Cavalry regiments, under the command of Brigadier General Edmund Jackson Davis, a Unionist Texan. The 1st was a unit that came over from New Orleans while the 2nd was formed in Brownsville and composed of Unionist Hispanics. The force went up the Rio Grande aboard the steamer Mustang and seized Ringgold Barracks and the town of Roma with no resistance. As word of the advance spread up the river to the town of Laredo, a local leader, Santos Benavides, who was a local merchant and political leader, became concerned. As leader of Laredo's Hispanic population, and one time mayor in 1856, he had thrown in his lot with the Confederacy as other Hispanics became pro-Unionists. This was the condition along the river as various factions vied for supremacy. With the withdrawal of General Bee's troops, Benavides, a Confederate Colonel, had the only creditable force in South Texas, and that wasn't much. Fortunately, the Federals halted for the winter, allowing the Rebels to gather supplies for the fight that was surely coming.

Early in 1864, a reconnaissance force of 25 led by Lieutenant Martin Gonzales left Laredo and rode 200 miles into deep South Texas and managed to track Federal movements, revealing that Davis' troops were on the move and heading for Laredo. On March 17, 1864, Confederate troops under Colonel John "Rip" Ford left San Antonio on what was called the "Rio Grande Expedition" hoping to take back the lower Rio Grande Valley. The lead elements were ambushed by Union guerrillas under Cecilio Valerio, a pro-Union Hispanic attached to the 2nd Texas (Union), and stopped. This left Benavides with only a total of 72 militiamen in order to defend Laredo.

March 19, 1864: a relative of Benavides named Cayetano de la Garza rode into Laredo and reported that a force of 1000 was approaching the town. Benavides ordered bales of cotton, at the time being stacked for shipment into Mexico, be used as barricades in case of street to street fighting. He also ordered the cotton burned if things went against the Confederates. As citizen volunteers lined the roofs of Laredo, Benavides, also ailing, led his small force out to face the enemy.

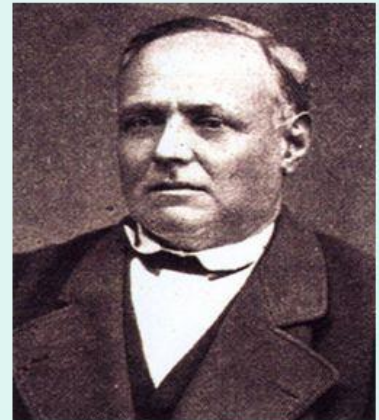
The Federal force approaching Laredo actually consisted of 200 men, half under Valerio and the other half under Jim Fisk, another guerilla. In order to get to Laredo, the Federals crossed into Mexico and rode up the south bank until they were within a few miles of their objective, then they crossed the river again and soon was within a half mile of the town. Benavides placed his 42 men into a corral east of town and sent the remainder into Laredo as a final defensive line. As the Union troops approached the corral, they split into groups of 40 and began to launch their attack. Through three hours of fighting, Benavides' men held off the Federals with no Rebel casualties, but managed to inflict substantial losses on them. After three heavy assaults and with night falling, the men of the 2nd Texas (Union) had to retreat to the southeast and make camp three miles away. In the early morning hours of March 20, Confederate cavalry, who were in a camp 25 miles to the north, arrived to reinforce Benavides, with the added effect of forcing the Union force to break camp and retreat further away. On March 21, a scouting party sent from Laredo and commanded by Benavides' brother Refugio found a trail of abandoned equipment, some of it bloody, and spotting several groups of Federals who were running back toward Brownsville. The Federal force had totally broken.

Benavides' illness caught up with him and he collapsed while checking out a report on another force of Union troops approaching Laredo (this turned out to be one of his own scouting parties). Soon, help arrived in the form of Colonel Ford's troops from San Antonio, the ambush only delaying them. Laredo became the staging area for a new Confederate offensive to drive the Federals from South Texas. Benavides had to sit out the first stages of the offensive due to his illness, but recovered in time to participate in driving the

Federals from Brownsville and ending Edmund Davis' dream to reconquer Texas for the Union. Benavides would be promoted to Brigadier General for his actions.

Following the end of the Civil War, Benavides would return to his businesses and Davis returned to Texas as Governor (one of the worst ever), both would become friends.

Colonel Santos Benavides



- **Santos Benavides was a Mexican-American Colonel in the Civil War and the highest-ranking Tejano soldier in the Confederate military.**
- **He led Confederate troops to defend Laredo against Union troops and participated in the Battle of Palmito Ranch.**

ANSWERS FOR DO YOUR KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Quiz page 9

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

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!