

**July/August 2020 – Summer Campaign 43**

**From the Brigade Commander: Barry Arnold**

To my friends of the Civil War Round Table: we had a rough time during these past three plus months and into this coming summer. We at the Round Table had to take desperate action to cancel all meetings and activities due to the pandemic events. We will make a come-back this September. The board is lining up greater speakers and field trips. The hotel is accommodating worry-free dining and virus-free areas. Our Round Table members do not have to worry about getting the virus at our meetings. We are taken the safest measure possible to prevent any such happenings. I hope this will reassure you and take the fear out of coming to the Round Table. We want to have you return and enjoy a sociable evening and learn of our Civil War era. So I hope to see you in September, and please bring a friend.

Since the pandemic may have cancelled your summer vacation as it has done for me, I would like to talk about our nearest battlefield and community of Gettysburg. Gettysburg has suffered during the shutdown. Gettysburg is experiencing large unemployment and weak tourism. Their mainstay is the tourist attracted to visiting the battlefield and its monuments. They are predicting by end of June, the shops, museums, and restaurants will be open again for business. Since, this summer is a bust for most of our vacations, let's take a little trip and visit the Battlefield and Gettysburg community and give them a boost to help them make a comeback. I know I'll be there a couple of times this summer. I want to thank you for coming to the Round Table in the past, and I am looking forward to seeing you in September.

*Barry*

**Check the CWRT of Eastern PA website**

Reminder....Paul Bartlett does a fabulous job updating/maintaining our website, so please check out the website often for many intriguing items. Also, in the event of a schedule or speaker change, you may find an important update. Remember our [www.cwrteasternpa.org](http://www.cwrteasternpa.org)

## Procedure for Holiday Inn for Upcoming Year:

Please note as Barry alluded to in his article, we have been assured that the Holiday Inn is mulling over the safest and most efficient system for our program/dinner starting in the fall. Because a lot can be changed between now and then, just be assured that the processes will be updated from last year, and we will let you know closer to September 01, 2020 which is our first meeting date. One thing that should be noted is that the price will be going up to \$30.00 for the dinner and the speaker.

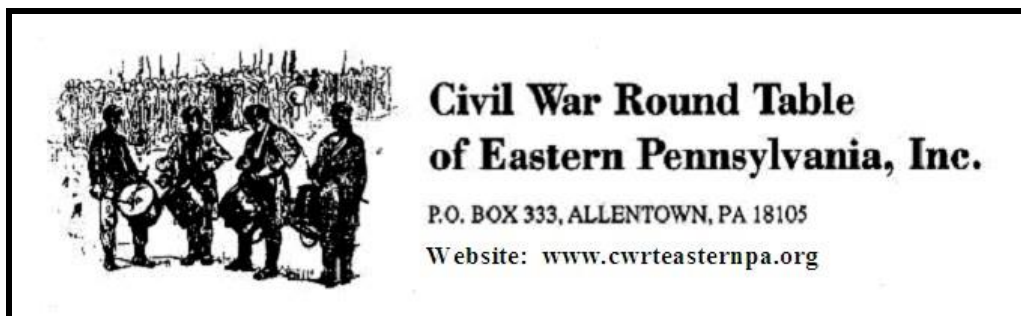
## Update on Future Field Trips:

Claire Kukielka

All field trips and conservation activities were cancelled for the remainder of the year due to the Corona epidemic. We plan on rescheduling next year during the 2020-2021 season. More information to come.

## Update on Future Programs:

Bob McHugh



Holiday Inn Conference Center Lehigh Valley

7736 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville, PA 18031

(I-78 & Route 100, Exit 49A)

## Programs: 2020 – 2021 Campaign

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
September 1, 2020	Gene Schmiel	“Lincoln, Antietam, and a Northern Lost Cause”
October 6, 2020	Ron Kirkwood	“Too Much for Human Endurance: The Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg”

November 3, 2020	James Mundy	“The Tanner Manuscript – In the Right Place at the Right Time”
December 1, 2020	Randall Miller	“Myths and Meanings of the Civil War”
January 5, 2021	James DelGiudice	“Alexander Gardner: The Eyes of Matthew Brady”
February 2, 2021	Hampton Newsome	“The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War In North Carolina, January – May, 1864”
March 2, 2021	Donald Miller	“Vicksburg: Grant’s Campaign That Broke the Confederacy”
April 6, 2021 in the Aftermath of the Battle of Gettysburg”	Chuck Raasch	“Imperfect Union: A Father’s Search for His Son
May 4, 2021 American Shrine during the First World War”	Mark Snell	“Gettysburg’s Other Battle: The Ordeal of an
June 1, 2021	Dennis Frye	“Confluence: Harper’s Ferry as Destiny”

### **July 3, 2020 Ceremony at Easton Cemetery**

On July 3, 2020 the 153<sup>rd</sup> Pa Volunteer reenacting group held a memorial ceremony in Easton Cemetery to remember and honor the men of the 153<sup>rd</sup> PA, as well as to honor all veterans of all America’s war and those who are serving today to keep the vision of our founding fathers alive. July 4, 2020 was 244 years since our great nation was founded. In the Easton Cemetery, there over 280 graves of civil war soldiers and countless other veterans. Of those graves, there are approximately 20 men from the 153<sup>rd</sup> PA.

Besides the men of the 153<sup>rd</sup> PA, and two of t heir officers, Colonel Charles Glanz and Lt. Colonel Jacob Dachrodt, other Civil War figures are buried here.

- Two Civil War nurses – Mary A. Caldwell and Mary E. Peck

- Fredericka Reeder – President of the Easton Sanitary Aid Society
- George J. Huff – 25<sup>th</sup> Reg. Colored Infantry
- Thomas Coates – Father of Band Music in America.

Biographies of some of the 153rd PA men buried here were read (source: Jeffery Stocker's book, "We Fought Desperate:" A History of the 153<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment"):

- Jacob Dachrodt
- William Beidelman
- William Stoneback
- William Hartzell
- William Taylor
- Charles Knauss

The ladies laid bouquets of flowers at the cannon followed by rifle volley and a moment of silence for all who have served and for those who are now serving.



## PRIZES for 2020 RAFFLE

**2020 Preservation Raffle: Please note, raffle to be held at June Business meeting was Rescheduled to the September 01, 2020 meeting** Please note Change in Procedure of Drawing

## CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc. Preservation Raffle

Once again, we have an excellent array of 8 prizes which should have been awarded at our June 2, 2020 meeting. This meeting was postponed and we will hold the raffle in September 2020. You may still buy chances at the September business meeting and in fact, if you wish to purchase tickets in advance of the September meeting, simply send a check to Jim Duffy via our PO number and he will add them to our list of entries. We will then follow last year's format in which the first winner gets to select from all eight items. Each additional winner will then select from the items remaining. Our Board felt that this was a better method rather than assigning prizes to each drawing. Historic Preservation of our sites and collections is a significant part of our Mission as an organization. There are no losers when one donates to the cause of Historic Preservation. Tickets are sold in booklets of ten for \$5.00 and are available at every meeting.

Here are the specifics of how you can purchase additional tickets in advance.

### **Update on Additional Funds to be raised by Print Raffle in Lieu of our Monthly Meetings:**

In light of the mission of the Roundtable and its goal of raising funds for the preservation of land and artifacts related to the Civil War, our ability to raise funds has been severely hampered by the current health crisis and the necessity of observing the stay-at-home orders.

One of the main ways that we raise funds for our mission is through the "print raffle".

Therefore, I am proposing that to increase the funds normally received via the "print raffle" is to ask that individuals interested in this raffle send a check made out to the "Civil War Roundtable of Eastern PA, Inc." with their address and phone number to the Roundtable (P. O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105) in the amount they wish to purchase the print ticket booklets (10 chances for \$5.00). The funds collected will be put toward the funds for preservation for the current campaign year (2019 – 2020). The booklet stubs will then be returned to the individual via the Postal System. **The drawing for these great offerings will be held at the next meeting of the Roundtable.**

Thank you.

Jim Duffy (Paymaster).



#### 1. **Appomattox Surrender Signing Print**



2. Robert E. Lee Print
3. Union "General Service" Coat Button Display (mounted & donated by Barry Arnold)

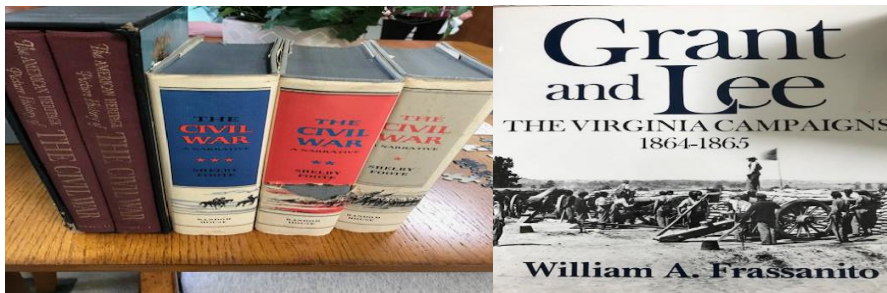


4. The Life of Billy Yank and The Life of Johnny Reb by Bell Irvin Wiley (2 Volume Boxed Set)



5. Stonewall Jackson, The Legend and the Man & Stonewall Jackson, Seven Days to the Last March by Lenoir Chambers (2 Volume Boxed Set)

6. The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War (2 Volume Boxed Set)



7. The Civil War by Shelby Foote (3 Volume Set)
8. Grand and Lee, The Virginia Campaigns, 1864-1865 by William Frassanito (Signed Copy)

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

**Speaking of Supporters: The CWRT Would like to thank the following friends who have contributed:**

**Name:**

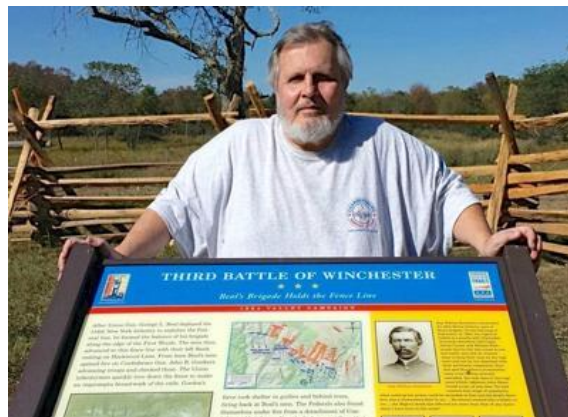
Nancy Keigher  
Lee Kreidler  
David Hohe  
Michael Cavanaugh  
Tony Major  
Brian Smith  
Kay Bagenstose  
Dr. Joseph Brewer  
Gerald. Sherwin Group

**Name:**

Neil Coddington  
Tony Major  
Edwin Root  
Joe Riggs  
Ed Oechlse  
Paul Bartlett  
Len & Diane French

**Antietam's 'legend' of a historian dies**

By Mike Lewis [mlewis@herald-mail.com](mailto:mlewis@herald-mail.com) July 9, 2020



Ted Alexander

Historian, author, teacher, preservationist and Elvis Presley fan Ted Alexander has died.

"He is a legend. There's not a lot of people I would say that about, but he was a legend at Sharpsburg," said John Howard, retired superintendent at the Antietam National Battlefield.

Alexander served for more than a quarter-century as chief historian at the Antietam grounds near Sharpsburg and became a nationally renowned historian.

He wrote books, including "The Battle of Antietam: The Bloodiest Day" and "Southern Revenge: Civil War History of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania." He also wrote, edited and contributed to other books and more than 200 articles and book reviews.

He founded and coordinated the Chambersburg Civil War Seminars and Tours and raised thousands of dollars to preserve battlefields.

Family members acknowledged the death in posts to their Facebook pages, and posts by friends on Alexander's Facebook page indicated he died early Wednesday morning.

A native of Tupelo, Miss., Alexander also was known as an avid fan of another Tupelo product, Elvis Presley.

After coming to Maryland, Alexander graduated from Smithsburg High School in 1967, according to his Facebook page.

The next year he joined the Marines and served two tours in Vietnam. He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V, according to an online biography.

He received a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Maryland College Park and a master's degree in history from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

He taught history at the Greencastle-Antrim High School and worked for the National Park Service during summers, according to fellow Civil War historian Dennis Frye, retired chief historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

Alexander eventually joined the park service full time and was a ranger at Fort Circle Parks, the Civil War defenses around Washington, D.C., and at Fort Washington Park.

In the 1980s, Alexander was sent to Antietam National Battlefield and became its chief historian.

"That was heaven on earth for Ted Alexander. ... He made quite a name for himself," Frye said.



Among his other accomplishments, Alexander was "the first National Park Service historian to really investigate minorities' roles during the Civil War, specifically the role of Hispanics during the war and the role of Native Americans during the war," Frye said.

Alexander also led other endeavors, including the Chambersburg academic seminars, working with the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce.

"That was a brilliant business stroke by Ted Alexander. That model has been extremely successful," Frye said.

Alexander brought nationally known scholars to those seminars, which attracted people to the area and helped raise money to preserve historic battlefields.

Frye, a co-founder and past president of the American Battlefield Trust and the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, saw the fruits of those labors.

"No other individual has raised as much money to preserve Civil War battlefields as Ted Alexander. Nobody. ... He told me that was his greatest contribution to history," Frye said.

Tom Riford, former president and CEO of the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, said he worked with Alexander on tours, talks and other initiatives, including the Chambersburg seminars.

In an email, Riford, who is now an assistant secretary in the Maryland Department of Commerce, wrote that Alexander brought "significant attention to the 1862 Confederate invasion of Maryland (the Antietam campaign), and could speak on several significant aspects of the America's Bloodiest Day."

Riford and Alexander also shared stories as fellow Marines.

"We lost a great person," Riford wrote.

Howard recalled that Alexander was one of the first staff members he met when he became the superintendent at Antietam. At the time, Howard didn't know a lot about the history of the place.

"Ted provided me with a list of books I should read and things I should know," Howard said.

From time to time, Alexander would update that list. And occasionally the superintendent felt as if Alexander was quizzing him to make sure he'd read the books.

"That was Ted to a T," Howard said with a laugh.

Howard praised Alexander's dedication to providing "an honest, truthful account of what happened."

He also said Alexander helped countless others with their research.

"He wouldn't do your work for you, but he would steer you in the direction you needed to go so the work was accurate," Howard said.

## **From Former Brigade Commander, Ed Root**

**After reading about proposed H.R. 7612, Ed Root wrote a letter in July to Representative Wild:**

### **H.R.7612 - Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021**

INTRODUCED ON [JULY 14](#), 2020 BY REP. BETTY MCCOLLUM, - D, MINN - 4

FUNDING PROHIBITION FOR CONFEDERATE FLAGS

SEC. 441. None of the funds made available to the National Park Service by this Act may be used for the purchase or display of a Confederate flag with the exception of specific circumstances where the flags provide historical context as described in the National Park Service memorandum entitled "Immediate Action Required, No Reply Needed: Confederate Flags" and dated [June 24](#), 2015.

REMOVAL OF CONFEDERATE COMMEMORATIVE WORKS

SEC. 442. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or policy to the contrary, within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the National Park Service shall remove from display all physical Confederate commemorative works, such as statues, monuments, sculptures, memorials, and plaques, as defined by NPS, Management Policies 2006, §9.6.1.

INVENTORY OF ASSETS WITH CONFEDERATE NAMES

SEC. 443. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations an inventory of all assets under the jurisdiction of the Department of Interior with Confederate names.

### **See Ed Root's response to H.R 7612 below:**

Dear Representative Wild,

I am dismayed beyond measure at the news [today](#) of H.R. 7612 containing provisions to purge American history from our National Parks.

I have included the offending sections, section 442, below for your convenience. This is a far cry from removing statutes of men from city squares that honor the terrible belief in slavery. The fascists' are infamous for book burnings and the communists are infamous for purging whatever history is deemed inconvenient. As Americans, we

must face our sin of slavery, a sin that took the lives of hundreds of thousands during our Civil War and the still present racism that we continually battle on a daily basis. We are not the Taliban, we are Americans who must be honest with our past no matter how painful. We can only reach the promise of our Declaration of Independence if we learn and there is no better place to learn than our National Park System.

You have always been a voice of reason during trying and even emotional times and I sincerely hope that you will not support such a measure as this section of H.R. 7612.

Thank you  
Edwin Root

**Ed Root then received a note back which was more or less a form letter with a canned response to his letter. Consequently, Ed Root, Jim Duffy and other interested parties will form a committee to try and craft a response as well as a strategy for any interested parties, please contact Ed at [sartilly@hotmail.com](mailto:sartilly@hotmail.com). Ed will be bringing an update to our September 01, 2020 meeting.**

## Last person to receive a pension from American Civil War dead at 90

By Vincent Barone June 4, 2020 | 10:57pm

New York Post



*Irene Triplett's father, Pvt. Mose Triplett fought for both sides of the American Civil War.*

UIG via Getty Images

### MORE ON:

The last person to receive a pension from the American Civil War has died. Irene Triplett had collected a \$73.13 check every month — a century and a half after the war ended — up until her death at the age of 90 on Sunday, [according to her obituary](#) in The Wall Street Journal.

There were several factors for the shocking payouts. Triplett's father, Pvt. Mose Triplett, fathered her during his second marriage when he was just a few weeks away from turning 84 years old.

And Irene, who suffered from mental disabilities, qualified for the pension as a helpless adult child of a veteran, receiving \$876 a year. She passed away due to complications with a surgery in a North Carolina nursing home where she resided.

Mose Triplett fought for both sides in the war. First, he enlisted in the Confederacy, fighting for two North Carolina infantries. He was in the 26th North Carolina Infantry Regiment when he became sick as they marched toward Gettysburg and ended up missing the historic battle that led to the killing, wounding or capturing of all but a few dozen in his regiment.

Triplett ran from the hospital and then joined a Union regiment in Tennessee as a Confederate deserter, the Journal reported. After the war, Mose Triplett ended up marrying Elida Hall in 1924, when she was 34 and he was 83.

The Wilkes Genealogical Society in Wilkes County, North Carolina, first raised awareness of Irene's unusual story back in 2011, when she was featured in its quarterly publication, [The Washington Post](#) reported.

Irene appeared to have a difficult life growing up in Wilkes County, according to multiple reports on her life. "Irene could not recall much of her childhood and has no recollection of Mose," wrote the historical society in its article. "She has virtually no memories of fun, presents, friends, neighbors or such, as they lived so isolated, and she had to work on the farm each day, where they primarily raised chicken[s] and kept some hogs and cows as well.

In a feature in the Journal in 2014, Irene said she began chewing tobacco in grade school and was routinely beaten by teachers at school and her parents at home. Her fellow students would taunt her, saying her father was a "traitor," before she dropped out after the sixth grade without developing reading or writing skills. "I didn't care for neither one of them, to tell you the truth about it," Irene told the Journal. "I wanted to get away from both of them. I wanted to get me a house and crawl in it all by myself."

She found peace at the long-term care facility where she spent her final days, telling the Journal it was the favorite place she ever lived as she filled her days watching TV, participating in crafts and attending religious services.