

## September 2020 – Fall Campaign 43

### **From the Brigade Commander: Barry Arnold**

First, welcome back to our 43 campaign season. I had hoped to see you in person on September 01, 2020 and to experience with you the wonderful narrative that Gene Schmiel planned on sharing with us on his book, Lincoln, Antietam and a Northern Last Cause. Unfortunately, we were forced to cancel that meeting.

I would like to take a moment to address a topic that is near and dear to many of our hearts....

Removal of confederate statuary, a thoughtful process that has been underway in many municipalities for some time, has gained far greater attention in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd. At this point, cancel culture has stepped in, and dozens of statues have been forcibly removed by self-appointed groups of people as part of a quest to rid the country of all things racist. In the process, statuary in our national parks, including national battlefields, are now also under threat. In fact, a bill, already passed in the U. S. House of Representatives, calls for all statues that honor the country's discriminatory past to be relocated from prominent locations.

I believe, along with the rest of the Board, that it is the job of the National Parks Service to interpret battlefields, including statuary, and that all monuments on National Parks grounds ought to be left alone and continued to be interpreted for the public by the Parks Service. I encourage those of you who have strong feelings about this impending action to reach out to your federal and state representatives. The system of participatory democracy remains alive and well, but only if we choose to participate.

In other news, the Civil War Round Table continues to face the difficulties that come from having to cancel several lectures early this year. We have likewise chosen to cancel our September, 2020, lecture. The Board is currently exploring alternative ways to deliver quality programming to our members, such as Zoom, a free and easy-to-use internet tool, as we wait out the pandemic and abide by state-imposed mandates. Expect to hear more on this subject in the weeks ahead.

Inside, you'll find a number of news items that address our plan for moving ahead in these uncertain times. On behalf of the Board, please accept my thanks for your continued commitment to Civil War preservation and education. We hope to be able to see you, in person, sometime soon.

*Barry*

### **Preservation Updates:**

Due to cancelled meetings and its effect on our mission all of which is associated with the pandemic, the CWRT Board has voted to hold its annual preservation contributions to \$2,000. No doubt, the loss will be felt greatly by the American Battlefield Trust because, to date, only about 20 percent of Civil War battlefield

has been permanently saved. Of this amount, the Board of Directors decided that \$500 of this money would go to the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library in Philadelphia. The G.A.R. Museum is exclusively dedicated to the veterans and history of the Civil War. Available matching grants are now under review to decide how the remaining \$1,500 will be disbursed. We remind you that donations from members, all of which go directly to our preservation fund, are accepted at any time. You can make a check payable to "Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pennsylvania, Inc." and mail your check to P.O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105.

## **UPDATE ON THE GAR**

The mission of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum & Library, GAR, is to preserve the heritage and history of the Civil War era through the presentation of historical programs, forums and exhibitions designed to promote a better understanding of American history.

During the 19th century the veterans organized over twenty Posts in the City of Philadelphia. The largest Post hall was the memorial Hall established by Post 2 at 667 N. 12th Street. The Post 2 Hall was a magnificent structure composed on multiple meeting rooms, a grand hall, and an extensive collection of artifacts, relics, photographs and memorabilia.

In the mid 1960's the Post 2 Hall was closed and is no longer standing. Several members of the Sons of Union Veterans were able to bring a portion of the vast collection to the Ruan House, the 1796 home of physician Dr. John Ruan that is now the home of the G. A. R. Museum & Library.

In the mid-1980's, Margaret and Elmer "Bud" Atkinson of Philadelphia had a vision of creating a Civil War museum to honor and remember the veterans. The museum then opened for its first visitors in 1985. Since that date, the museum has hosted thousands of visitors and presented historical programs and speakers.

**TODAY WE ARE THE ONLY MUSEUM IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA DEDICATED TO THE CIVIL WAR. WE ARE ALSO A 501(c)3 NON- PROFIT ORGANIZATION.**

## **CAMPAIGN TO SAVE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC CIVIL WAR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY**

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library is currently the only museum in this area that is solely dedicated to preserving the history and telling the story of the Civil War.

The museum's holdings were formed from the historic relics, artifacts, documents and photographs from the Memorial Hall collection of Philadelphia's Post 2 of the Grand Army of the Republic. The collection is recognized for its historical significance and features numerous relics of singular historical importance.

Our home in the 1796 Georgian mansion of Dr. John Ruan is in need of extensive and expensive repairs. The number of visitors and volunteers continues to decline due to our remote location that has very limited off-street parking. Additionally, due to many donations of museum items and documents by concerned citizens, our collections have outgrown the space that we have.

In order to preserve the collection and the future of the museum, it is critical that we find a new home. To accomplish this, we need to create an endowment that will help finance our relocation. The very existence of the Museum and public accessibility to the collection is at stake.

We need to take action now so that the Museum's future will be secure. Your contribution will help maintain the legacy that has been handed down to us from those veterans who gave their last full measure of devotion to save the country. Don't let their history be forgotten and their memorabilia disappear.

**Our campaign goal is to raise \$500,000 in the next 6 months. Please help us save the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum. The museum is a non-profit organization under the Federal income tax section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_ (Payable to the GAR Museum)

Please mail your donation to the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum, 4278 Griscom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124

*In grateful appreciation,  
The GAR Civil War Museum & Library Board of Directors*  
<https://garmuslib.org/>

**For those of you craving the opportunity to learn more about the Civil War and possibly practice/enhance your Zoom skills:**

**THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC CIVIL WAR MUSEUM**  
**Presents a New Program via ZOOM**

**"DAMN THE TORPEDOES! FULL SPEED AHEAD!"  
Admiral David Farragut and the Battle of Mobile Bay**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 at 1:00 pm**

**Presented by: Paul Prentiss, Historian and Navy Veteran**

**On August 5, 1864, at the Battle of Mobile Bay during the Civil War, Admiral David Farragut led his flotilla through the Confederate**

**defenses at Mobile, Alabama, to seal one of the last major Southern ports. The fall of Mobile Bay was a major blow to the Confederacy, and the victory was the first in a series of Yankee successes that helped secure the re-election of President Abraham Lincoln later that year.**

Paul Prentiss is a retired Navy Captain and Chief Scientist for a national science and technology company. He is a graduate of the Naval War College in Newport, RI.

**Please send a request to reserve a virtual seat for this outstanding presentation to  
Garmuslib1866@gmail.com**

You will be sent a link with a password that will enable you to access the program within 24 hours of the start of the presentation.

As a lover of history, you know how critical it is to keep history alive, especially today! We very much appreciate your continued support for the GAR Civil War Museum.



Battle of Mobile Bay

THE G.A.R. MUSEUM & LIBRARY NEEDS YOU TO HELP KEEP HISTORY ALIVE

MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT APPLICATION

**GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC CIVIL WAR  
MUSEUM & LIBRARY**

**4278 Griscom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124**

**215 289-6484 [www.garmuslib.org](http://www.garmuslib.org) [garmuslib1866@gmail.com](mailto:garmuslib1866@gmail.com)**

**The only museum in Philadelphia exclusively dedicated to the veterans and history of the Civil War.**

Only through your membership and support can the G.A.R. Museum continue to provide a full range of educational & historical programs. Your support also provides the funds to continue the conservation and preservation of our singular collection of documents, photographs, artifacts and relics including Old Baldy, Lincoln's blood stained linen relic, John Wilkes Booth's handcuffs, and our extensive research library.

The museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

**Your membership and generous support will continue to enable the museum to "keep history alive!"**

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25.00  
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 35.00  
GENERAL'S STAFF (INCLUDES FAMILY MEMBERSHIP) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50.00  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE G.A.R. (CINC)  
(INCLUDES FAMILY MEMBERSHIP) \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00  
LIFETIME INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00

Please make your check payable to the GAR Museum

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS (street) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Receive museum invitations, updates, & newsletter by email. \*Your privacy will always be protected.

In the above box  
Please indicate the membership year for which you are making payment

## **RIP- Additional Updates on Local Civil War Veterans' Gravesites**

Barry Arnold

I am including another installment on local Civil War burials. If you visit Easton Heights Cemetery in Easton, PA, you will find several notables- Brig. General Charles A. Heckman, Col. Charles A. Wikoff, and Medal of Honor winner Brigadier General Theophilus F. Rodenbough.

Brig. General Theophilus F. Rodenbough was born in Easton on November 5, 1838. He attended private schools as a youth and later attended Lafayette College. He became adrift in searching for his life's calling. He finally decided to join the army and test his mettle as a soldier. In March of 1861, he was appointed a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> US Dragoons. The regiment was renamed the 2<sup>nd</sup> US Cavalry. As a captain, he was captured at the Battle of 2<sup>nd</sup> Bull Run and exchanged in September 1862. He served in the Army of the Potomac with the 2<sup>nd</sup> US cavalry during the Gettysburg campaign. This campaign was a series of engagements before and after the battle of Gettysburg. At Gettysburg the first division of cavalry was under Brig Gen John Buford who had these regiments 6<sup>th</sup> Penna, 1<sup>st</sup> US, 2<sup>nd</sup> US, 5<sup>th</sup> US and 6<sup>th</sup> US. Rodenbough received his medal of honor in June 1864 at the battle of Trevilian Station where he was wounded. He, subsequently, lost his right arm in the Third Battle of Winchester. Rodenbough became Colonel of 18<sup>th</sup> Penna. Cavalry until the end of the war. He retired from the army in 1870 with the rank of Colonel. On April 23, 1904 he was appointed Brig General on the retired list. He died December 19, 1912[age of 74].

## **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) has information that includes educational opportunities from such notable groups as the CWRT. They have many intriguing lectures you may wish to participate in.

## **Update on Future Field Trips:**

Claire Kukielka

We plan on scheduling/rescheduling field trips during the 2020-2021 season. Because there is still a great deal of uncertainty associated with the Corona virus, we will not reschedule until we feel things are more predictable. More information to come. We must note, we certainly miss the camaraderie and ability to learn from our excursions as well as reflect on our collective engagement while touring. Our members share a treasure trove of knowledge, experience, and insights which are truly powerful.

**Reminder September 01, 2020 program is cancelled.**  
**Update on Future Programs:**  
**Robert McHugh and Laura Kleinschmidt**

While we announced a host of block buster speakers in our summer newsletter, we are re-looking at which speakers would be willing to provide their topics in a Zoom format, until we can meet again in person. We will re-send the schedule of speakers as soon as we confirm the particulars of our next several months of meeting virtually which we foresee to be the fall months of 2021. Thank you for your understanding. More information to come.

**Monument Removal Saga**

As you probably recall in the summer edition of the newsletter, Ed Root notified membership of the troubling bill that would remove Confederate memorials from the National Park Services. Below is a recent update.

**Monument Removal in NPS Appropriation—An Update**

Chris Mackowski

[I reported last month](#) on a House appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior—HR-7608—that would require the National Park Service, within 180 days of enactment, to “*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.*”

On [July 24](#), 2020, the bill passed the House and, on [July 30](#), 2020, was received by the Senate and referred to the Senate’s Appropriations Committee. (You can follow subsequent action on the bill [here](#).)

The appropriations bill has stirred up much controversy in the Civil War community, so I’ve been following its progress closely. Thus far, here’s what I’ve been able to discern from my contacts on Capitol Hill (and yes, as a former journalist, I do have them!):

According to sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, the bill as it now stands is D.O.A in the Senate, which has been the case for ALL House appropriations this year. For the first time in 35 years, the Senate hasn’t marked up a *single* appropriations bill.

With the COVID-19 relief bill sucking up so much political oxygen, the legislative year heading into the home stretch, and an election looming, the current sense on the Hill is that Congress will pass a series of continuing resolutions (CRs) to fund the government at its current levels rather than descend into political wrangling over specific appropriations. As a result, HR-7608 would not get passed.

“This isn’t going anywhere this year,” one source told me. “We are more worried about this coming up again next year, than it going anywhere this year.”

For additional perspective on the issue of monuments on national battlefields, see Gary Gallagher’s editorial for the upcoming issue of *Civil War Times*. Or you may access it from The Express, August 21, 2020 edition online. <https://www.lockhaven.com/opinion/columns/2020/08/opinion-leave-them-standing-confederate-monuments-must-remain-at-gettysburg-to-help-interpret-civil-war-causes-consequences/>

### **Gettysburg Foundation Response Regarding the House Passage of HR-7608**

Our mission as a 501(c) (3) non-profit philanthropic, educational organization is to operate in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, and to educate the public about their significance.

According to our Articles of Incorporation, it is unlawful for Gettysburg Foundation to lobby for or against local, state, or national legislation; however, as an educational organization, we are committed to share information that may impact our mission.

Recent House legislation (HR-7608) is a bill that, if passed, mandates that within six months, NPS “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” (Sec 442).

The passing of this bill would have significant impacts to our educational mission. We are continuously monitoring its progress and encourage you to do the same—and take action—as you deem appropriate.

Collectively, these monuments provide insight into and education about the history of this decisive battle and its still-contested popular memory. Of the 1,328 monuments and markers on the Gettysburg battlefield, approximately 350 are specifically Confederate. The NPS is currently working on efforts to provide greater contextualization of these monuments and markers for the visiting public.

As is its policy, the NPS does not comment on pending legislation.

Thank you for your steadfast support for this hallowed and increasingly relevant ground.

August 13, 2020

### **PRIZES for 2021 RAFFLE:**

**Please note, raffle to be held at the June 01, 2021 Business meeting**

**Please note Change in Procedure of Drawing**

#### **CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc. Preservation Raffle**

Once again, we have an excellent array of prizes which should be awarded at our June 1, 2021 meeting. This meeting was postponed and we intended to have in September 2020. Since the September meeting is cancelled, we have decided to roll the drawing back to June 01, 2021. In order to reward our loyal participants, we are adding additional offerings to our list of prizes. We will then follow the last several year’s format in which the first winner gets to select from all of the 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, since the pandemic has impeded our ability to meet in person.

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

Therefore, I am proposing that to increase the funds normally received via the “print raffle” is to ask our members/friends interested in this raffle to 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 (2020 – 2021). 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 June 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)**

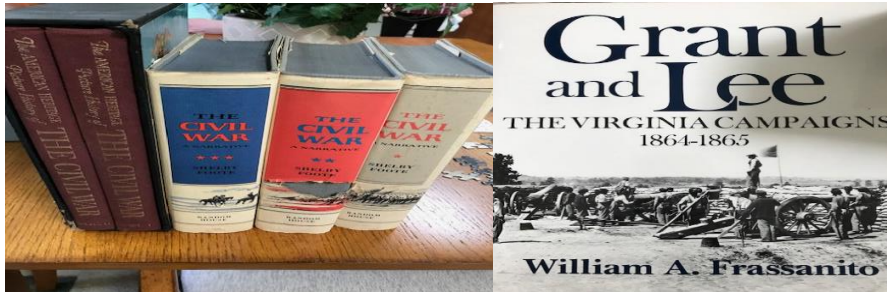


4. **The Life of Billy Yank and The Life of Johnny Reb by Bell Irvin Wiley (2 Volume Boxed Set)**



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)

**New additions:**

9. Print of Stonewall Jackson , original by J.A. Elder, original in Fredericksburg



10. Chess Set created by National Historical Society





**11. Print of The Battle of Fredericksburg**



**12. Lamp created by Barry Arnold**

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

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

It's that time of year again to renew your membership to the Civil War Roundtable. I'm hoping you all had a chance to start thinking about joining/re-joining our group. During last year's campaign, our membership remained just shy of 75 people. I'm looking forward to your joining/rejoining and request your assistance in our endeavor to find new members. The Dues for the 2020-2021 Campaign have not changed and remain at \$25.00 (Full Time Student \$10.00). It would be greatly appreciated if you mail (first class) your initial/renewal membership form and check to the Roundtable address below:

CWRT of Eastern PA  
PO Box 333  
Allentown, PA 18105

# REENLISTMENT REPORT

It is re-enlistment time for the 2020-2021 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](mailto: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!**