

# Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pennsylvania, Inc.



October, 2020

**Brigade Commander:**

Barry Arnold

**Regimental Commander:**

Bob McHugh /  
Laura Kleinschmidt

**Company Commander:**

Claire Kukielka

**Adjutant & Brigade Librarian:**

Kay Bagenstose

**Paymaster:**

Jim Duffy

**Membership Director:**

Jeff Gates

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Tony Major  
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Eastern Pennsylvania**

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**Our 43<sup>rd</sup> Campaign Year!**

## From the Brigade Commander

On behalf of the Board of the Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc., I'd like to apologize for any disappointment you may be feeling about our need to cancel our September—**and now, October**—Round Table meetings. Although the Commonwealth has loosened some Covid-19 restrictions, guidelines regarding conference room occupancy and public meals are ultimately set by the hotel's management. As a short-term solution, we are amid contacting speakers to learn their willingness/ability to present their lecture topics via Zoom, an internet tool you will find to be very easy to use.

We have finalized the selection process for preservation gifts for our 42<sup>nd</sup> Campaign Year. Last month, I shared news of a \$500 gift to the GAR Civil War museum in Philadelphia. Another \$1,500 will be sent to the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) to help save a three-acre tract that comprises a portion of West Woods of the Antietam Battlefield—site of some of the heaviest fighting in the entire Civil War, according to the ABT. Our donation will be matched 1:1, which means we will receive credit for \$3,000 of preservation assistance, bringing our total 42<sup>nd</sup> Campaign Year contribution to \$3,500!

While on the subject of Civil War preservation, I'd like to ask that each of you follow in the footsteps of CWRT member, Ed Root. A few months ago, Ed reached out to Representative Susan Wild to express his concern over proposed legislation regarding the removal of Confederate monuments from our national parks. Our colleague, Wayne Schaeffer, has picked up the baton, as it were, and shared an easy way (see page 2) for how all of us can make a lasting difference. I encourage you all to pitch in and demonstrate to our government representatives that the CWRT of Eastern Pa. is serious about the preservation of Civil War history. Thanks.

*Barry*

## Vote for Monument Preservation!

On the recommendation of Les Fowler, President of the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides, we encourage all CWRT members to contact your U.S. Senator and tell him that you do not endorse the part of Bill HR-7608 that calls for the removal of Confederate monuments from our national parks. In your message, indicate that you are a member of the Civil War Roundtable of Eastern Pa., Inc. and, as a student of the Civil War, you believe these monuments are crucial to fully understanding the flow of the battles that took place.

Thanks to our colleague, Wayne Schaeffer, for keeping the preservation conversation going.

\*\*\*

Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
393 Russell Senate Office Bldg  
Washington DC 20510

**Website email form:**

[www.casey.senate.gov/contact](http://www.casey.senate.gov/contact)

**Phone:** (202) 224-6324

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Sen. Pat Toomey  
248 Russell Senate Office Bldg  
Washington DC 20510

**Website email form:**

[www.toomey.senate.gov/contact/email-senator-toomey](http://www.toomey.senate.gov/contact/email-senator-toomey)

**Phone:** (202) 224-4254

## Update on Future Programs

**Robert McHugh and Laura Kleinschmidt**

We are currently reaching out to our blockbuster lineup of speakers to learn if these folks are willing to share their presentations virtually until we can once again meet in person. We will have a modified list of speakers in your hands as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding. Expect more information to come.

\*\*\* **Our October, 2020, program has been cancelled.** \*\*\*

## Print Raffle: Campaign Years 42 and 43

**Jim Duffy**

We have decided to extend the Print raffle that began at the start of Campaign Year 42 until the end of Campaign Year 43. The new drawing date for prizes is June 1, 2021.

**NOTES:** Tickets purchased during Campaign 42 are already included in the June 1, 2021 drawing. The raffle format will remain the same: The owner of the 1<sup>st</sup> ticket drawn gets first choice among items, second ticket owner gets second choice, etc. To sweeten the pot, we have added additional prizes.

You can purchase Print raffle tickets booklets (10 chances for \$5) by sending your check payable to "Civil War Roundtable of Eastern Pa., Inc.," to P. O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105. We'll return your tickets stubs by mail.

### (Raffle items, below, from left, counterclockwise):

1. Surrender at Appomattox signing print; 2. Robert E. Lee print; 3. Union "General Service" Coat Button display; 4. "The Life of Billy Yank" and "The Life of Johnny Reb," by Bell Irvin Wiley (2-volume box set); 5. "Stonewall Jackson, The Legend and the Man" and "Stonewall Jackson, Seven Days to the Last March." by Lenoir Chambers (2-volume box set); 6. "The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War (2-volume box set); 7. "The Civil War," by Shelby Foot (3-volume set); 8. "Grant and Lee, The Virginia Campaigns, 1864-1865," by William Frassanito (signed copy); 9. print of Stonewall Jackson, original by J.A. Elder, (original is in Fredericksburg); 10. chess set created by the National Historical Society; 11. print of the Battle of Fredericksburg; 12. lamp made by Barry Arnold



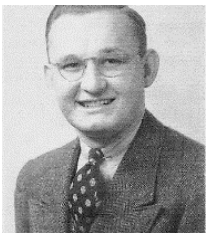


## Preservation Excursion to Nisky Hill Cemetery, Bethlehem, Pa.

We are in the final planning stages for a fall restoration project excursion to Nisky Hill Cemetery in Bethlehem, Pa. During this return visit (we last visited the cemetery in 2016), our volunteers will help restore a GAR canon monument in need of yet another round of sanding and repainting. These kinds of events are always rewarding; we hope you will be able to participate. Watch for more about this excursion as well as other, future field trips.

## Check the CWRT of Eastern Pa. website ([www.cwrteasternpa.org](http://www.cwrteasternpa.org))

Webmaster Paul Bartlett does a fabulous job updating/maintaining our organization website, so please visit regularly to keep abreast on a variety of Civil War-related topics. The website also provides an up-to-date listing of speakers, meeting dates, etc.



## Remembering our Benefactor, the Late Karl M. Lehr

Typically, we recognize Karl each September for his many gifts, including his philanthropy and dedication to historical preservation. Rest assured that, once we meet again in person, we will pay tribute to this remarkable gentleman. Karl served the CWRT of Eastern Pa. in many capacities, and his 2009 bequest, multiplied through use of matching grants, allowed the CWRT of Eastern Pa. to generate \$463,000 in funds that were used preservation.

## CWRT Member, Ed Root, in National Spotlight

*Ed and Nancy Root and President and First Lady Trump approach the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Pa. to lay a commemorative wreath during the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary service dedicated to the 40 victims of Flight 93. Among the victims was Ed's cousin and flight attendant, Lorraine Bay.*

In addition to the many contributions he has made to the CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc., Ed is the vice president and past president of the Families of Flight 93. During his public address at the memorial service, Ed said, "It's always an honor to represent the 40 heroes of Flight 93 and an honor to represent all of the family members of the heroes of Flight 93, as well as the partners of this whole event—the ambassadors, the Park Service people, the Friends of Flight 93."



## Honoring Ed Bearss: The Voice of History

The CWRT of Eastern Pa. celebrates the life of Ed Bearss, who died on September 17<sup>th</sup> at age 97. Bearss began his work life as a member of the Marine Corps, where he served in the Pacific Theater during World War II. After graduating from Indiana University with a M.A. in history, he joined the National Park Service, ultimately rising to the position of chief historian. He authored several books on the Civil War and received many accolades for battlefield interpretation and

preservation. He was among the originators of the modern battlefield preservation movement. His battlefield tours have been described as "legendary."

## A Message from Jeff Gates: It's Time to Re-up for Campaign Year 43!

You'll find a reenlistment report on page 5. These are hard times for many small businesses, including the CWRT of Eastern Pa., and your continued support will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

## Your Raffle Dollars and Donations at Work!

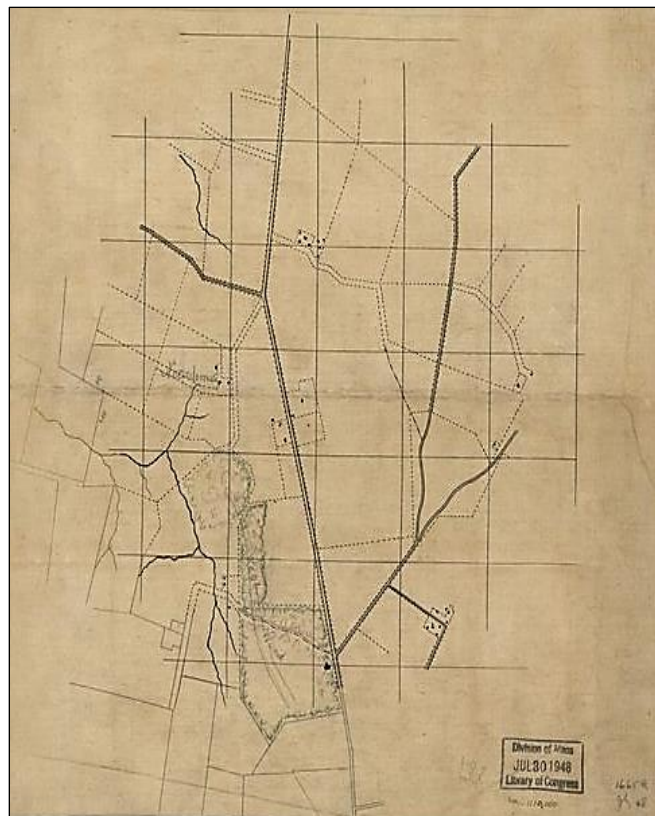
Our recent preservation gift of \$1,500 (to be matched 1:1 by a challenge grant) will help save a three-acre tract that comprises a portion of the West Woods. Thanks to you, a piece of our national heritage ... and natural habitats ... will be preserved!

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On the morning of September 17, 1862, West Woods was the scene of some of the opening fighting of the Battle of Antietam and some of the heaviest fighting of the entire war. Around 9:30 a.m., part of General Edwin Sumner's Union Second Corps advanced into the West Woods. The combined firepower of Confederate artillery and attacking infantry drove them back. Union General John Sedgwick's division lost more than 2,200 men in less than 30 minutes in ill-fated charges.

*Image: Sketch of a portion of the Antietam battlefield, north of Sharpsburg, near to the West Wood, North Wood, and East Wood.*

*Source: Library of Congress*



## October Civil War Book Releases

(We share this listing for informational purposes only.)

- Oct. 6, 2020: *The Zealot and the Emancipator: John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, and the Struggle for American Freedom* (H. W. Brands)
- Oct 7, 2020: *Civil War Supply and Strategy: Feeding Men and Moving Armies* (Earl J. Hess)
- Oct 6, 2020: *The Untold Story of Shields Green: The Life and Death of a Harper's Ferry Raider* (Louis A. Decaro Jr.)
- Oct 7, 2020: *The Howling Storm: Weather, Climate, and the American Civil War* (Kenneth W. Noe)
- Oct 12, 2020: *Storming Vicksburg: Grant, Pemberton, and the Battles of May 19-22, 1863* (Earl J. Hess)
- Oct 20, 2020: *Vicksburg: Grant's Campaign That Broke the Confederacy* (Donald L. Miller)
- Oct 22, 2020: *From Arlington to Appomattox: Robert E. Lee's Civil War, Day by Day, 1861-1865* (Charles R. Knight)
- Oct 29, 2020: *The Confederacy's Most Modern General: James Longstreet and the American Civil War* (Harold M. Knudsen LTC (Ret.))

## Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc.

### 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 our next dinner meeting or excursion.

#### Dues are payable now!

2020-21 dues are \$25.00 for individuals, \$10.00 for full-time students.

Please complete the form below and mail it with your check payable to CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc. to:  
P. O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105.

Thanks for your support. Questions? Contact Jeff Gates (610) 966-5773 or [jefgates@ptd.net](mailto:jefgates@ptd.net)

Name _____	How many years have you been a member? _____
Address _____	
How did you hear of this organization? _____	
What is your occupation/profession? _____	
Phone _____	E-mail address _____
Reenactor? (Yes/No) If yes, Unit(s)? _____	
(If known), please give name(s) and unit(s) of ancestor(s) 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? (Yes/No)	
Would you be interested in participating in Round Table activities? (Yes/No) If yes, please specify below: ___ public functions ___ political action ___ preservation ___ living history other _____	

*(Please make your check payable to CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc.)*

\_\_\_ Individual membership (\$25.00) \_\_\_ Full-time student membership (\$10.00)

\_\_\_ I am also enclosing a donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to benefit our CWRT's preservation fund.  
(Use the blank space provided below if you are making a donation in memory of an individual):

**The Civil War Round Table of Eastern, Pa., Inc. is a non-profit organization.  
Your membership dues are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.**