

November, 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

Board Members:
Neil Coddington
Bill Frankenfield
Jeff Gates
Kim Jacobs
Tony Major
Ed Root
Frank Whelan

Newsletter Editor:
Marie Maly

**Civil War Roundtable of
Eastern Pennsylvania, Inc.**
P. O. Box 333
Allentown, PA 18105
www.cwrteasternpa.org

Send inquiries to:
sartilly@hotmail.com

★Our 43rd Campaign Year! ★

From the Brigade Commander

Good news!

Rather than continue to wait for the kind of occupancy guidelines that would allow us to return to our “normal” monthly meeting format, we are moving forward with a “virtual” lecture format, beginning in November.

I know that, for some, the idea of a virtual approach may feel a bit worrisome. But keep reading; I think you’ll like what you see.

We’re going to use a tool called Zoom. Here’s the process:

- You can view the program on your computer or cell phone **OR** listen in by phone. You choose.
- If you choose the Zoom internet option, you will need to download the **FREE** Zoom application, which is quick and easy to do.

I can tell you now that we **WON’T** be meeting on Tuesday, November 3rd. But we expect to confirm a date in the next few days, and we will notify you as soon as all of the details are settled. You will also receive instructions that you can follow to access the broadcast. If you receive your newsletter by the USPS, you will receive this information via the USPS.

(Brigade Commander report continued on page 7.)

Heroes Uncovered at Nisky Hill Cemetery, Bethlehem

CWRT of Eastern Pa. members and friends recently gathered to honor Civil War veterans buried in Bethlehem's Nisky Hill Cemetery.

Civil War preservation, like our volunteers, comes in all shapes and sizes, and every bit of it makes a positive difference.

Thanks to those who came out to lend a hand (and share their tools):

Pictured: Jeff Gates; Marie Maly, Jim Duffy; Chuck Cannon; Stu, Emily and Nick Schenkel; Barry Arnold; Kim Jacobs; Ed and Nancy Root; Claire Kukielka

Missing from photograph: Lanie Schenkel (our on-the-spot photographer)

Veteran's grave markers were cleaned, as were fallen leaves scattered around and atop the markers. The G.A.R. cannon, existing stacks of cannonballs, and a newly created stack of cannonballs (thanks to some nifty, onsite welding by Barry Arnold) all received a good wire brushing and fresh coat of paint.

With chores complete, Ed Root took the volunteers to visit the graves of some of the Civil War soldiers and share their stories.



A Bit of Seasonal Local Lore to Lift Your "Spirits!"

Bluecoat Insists He Saw Spectre

The rare experience of seeing a real ghost early Monday morning according to his claim, fell to the lot of Special Officer Harry Strauss, Bethlehem, as he was patrolling beat No. 1, and had the scare of his life according to *The Bethlehem Times*. The experience, unwelcome and difficult of verification, Strauss says he does not care to undergo again.

As he was passing Nisky Hill Cemetery about 2 a.m., the time when it is said a man's nerve is at low ebb, at Church and High Sts., which is an exceedingly lonesome spot, especially so at that hour of the morning, he saw rising slowly out of a grave a figure clothed in white, which he solemnly avers was a ghost. For a period of time, he stood transfixed to the spot and gazed upon the apparition, which he described as being about seven feet tall. While watching it, suddenly the object disappeared as mysteriously as it had appeared. While visible he says it floated over graves.

When Officer Strauss told his story at headquarters, it was at first given but little credit, but Strauss' seriousness soon convinced his hearers that he had seen something, and that something, a real ghost. Other members of the force are anxious to have a try at this next as they wish to have the sensation of experiencing the unreal.

The Allentown Democrat, September 24, 1913



Lanie Schenkel

News from the CWRT Website

- ▶ Death of Civil War author, Winston Groom: Winston authored “Forrest Gump” as well as a trilogy about western armies in the Civil War. ([read more here](#))
- ▶ American Battlefield Trust Announces Two Preservation Opportunities ([read more here](#))

This Month in Civil War History

November, 1861



Abolitionist poet and author, Julia Ward Howe, composed lyrics to “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” on November 19, 1861, to accompany the then-wildly popular tune, “John Brown’s Body.” She was inspired to write the song lyrics after she and her husband met Abraham Lincoln during a visit to Washington, D.C. The song quickly became one of the most popular songs of the Union during the American Civil War.

A friend, Reverend James Freeman Clarke, is credited for having suggested to Howe that she set her lyrics to the tune of “John Brown’s Body.” Her editor, James T. Fields, is credited for having given the song its name.

Julia received \$5 for the piece, about \$150 in today’s money.

Did You Know? According to Annie J. Randall, Professor of Musicology, Bucknell University, the now-familiar tune was borrowed originally from an old Methodist hymn, “Say Brothers, Will You Meet Us.” According to the American Battlefield Trust, the song, “John Brown’s Body” had nothing to do with the famous abolitionist.

Sources: [battlefields.org](#), [Wikipedia](#), [civilwartimeline.net](#)

Print Raffle Preservation Fundraiser

Purchase your Print raffle tickets booklets today (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

This Month in Civil War History

November, 1862



The Kearny Medal, first bestowed on November 29, 1862, was awarded to any Union officer performing acts of extreme bravery and heroism in the face of the enemy. Named for Major General Phillip Kearney, commander of the First Division, Third Army Corps (who was killed at the battle of Chantilly), the medal was later renamed the Kearney Cross and awarded to any Union soldier for acts of bravery and heroism while in the face of the enemy. The Medal/Cross is one of the oldest military decorations of the United States Army, second only to the Badge of Military Merit and the Fidelity Medallion.

Sources: civilwartimeline.net/1861-events.php; Wikipedia

Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc.

REENLISTMENT FORM

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

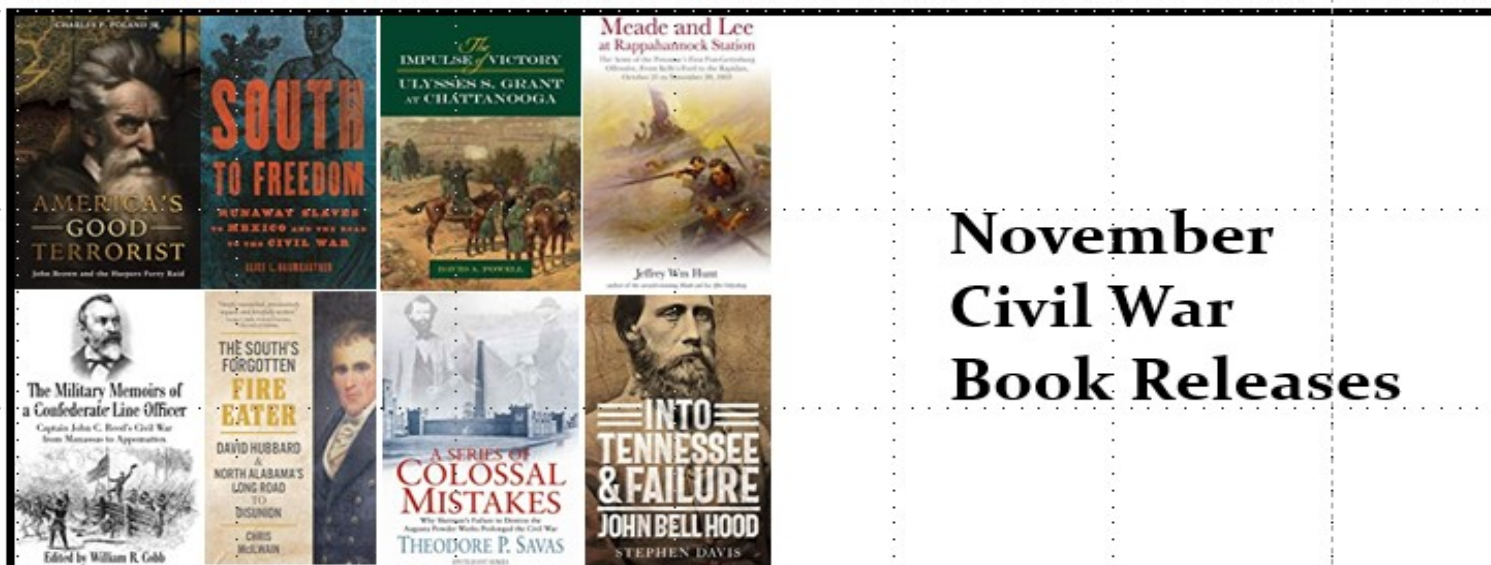
Name _____	How many years have you been a member? _____
Address _____	
How did you hear of this organization? _____	
What is your occupation/profession? _____	
Phone _____	E-mail address _____
Reenactor? (Yes/No) If yes, Unit(s)? _____	
(If known), please give name(s) and unit(s) of ancestor(s) who fought 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 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Your membership dues are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.**



(We share this partial listing for informational purposes only.)

November 2: “Into Tennessee & Failure: John Bell Hood,” by Stephen Davis

November 4: “The Impulse of Victory: Ulysses S. Grant at Chattanooga,” by David Alan Powell

November 7: “America's Good Terrorist: John Brown and the Harpers Ferry Raid,” by Charles P. Poland, Jr.

November 10: “South to Freedom: Runaway Slaves to Mexico and the Road to the Civil War,” by Alice L. Baumgartner

November 13: “Changing Sides: Union Prisoners of War Who Joined the Confederate Army,” by Pat Garrow

November 15: “Unfading Light: The Sustaining Insight and Inspiration of Abraham Lincoln,” by Richard Fritzyk, Todd Brewster, et al.

November 15: A Series of Colossal Mistakes: Why Sherman's Failure to Destroy the Augusta Powder Works Prolonged the Civil War (Spotlight Series), by Theodore P. Savas

November 17: “The South's Forgotten Fire-Eater: David Hubbard and North Alabama's Long Road to Disunion,” by Chris McIlwain

November 22: “Meade and Lee at Rappahannock Station: The Army of the Potomac's First Post-Gettysburg Offensive, from Kelly's Ford to the Rapidan, October 21 to November 20, 1863,” by Jeffrey Wm Hunt

November 22: “The Military Memoirs of a Confederate Line Officer: Captain John C. Reed's Civil War from Manassas to Appomattox,” by William R. Cobb

This Month in Civil War History

November, 1863



During the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa., President Lincoln delivers a speech that becomes known as the Gettysburg Address. As intended, his speech was short: renowned orator, Edward Everett, was the keynote speaker, not Lincoln.

Sources: www.liverichlivewell.com, www.wuwm.com/, www.legacy.com

Did You Know? Lincoln wrote five different versions of the Address, each designated for a different occasion. According to historian Thomas Martin Sobottke, the words we know as the Gettysburg Address are most likely a spruced-up version of one of Lincoln's five drafts—and not exactly what Lincoln said on November 19th.

Brigade Commander Report (continued from page 1)

We are also making good progress in the areas of membership renewals and print raffle revenue:

- Thirty-two percent of members of record (as of this time last year) have renewed for Campaign 43.
- Raffle ticket sales to date total \$285.

I want to thank those of you who have made these promising early revenue gains possible. I also want to remind all of you that every month we can't meet in person, we are losing walk-in fees and book raffle revenues. And, although we are avoiding speaker mileage and hotel room costs, we have needed to spend treasury dollars to purchase a Zoom membership. When we add up Campaign 43 budget numbers and include the cost for the Zoom membership, our anticipated revenue losses will be larger than our expense avoidances. And that means fewer dollars going to preservation efforts. Of course, all this assumes we will need to continue in this mode for the entire campaign. Only time will tell.

These are hard times for small businesses like the CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc., and your continued support via print raffle ticket purchases and/or donations will make ultimately a difference in how well our nation's history is preserved. For your convenience, we've included a donation form inside this newsletter edition. You can also send in a donation along with a copy of the membership renewal form you'll also find inside.

Barry Arnold

This Month in Civil War History November, 1864



A group called "Confederate Mission to Canada" made plans to burn New York City in the weeks leading up to the Presidential election in the hope of swaying the popular vote in favor of McClellan. The group planned to occupy federal buildings, obtain weapons from arsenals, arm a crowd of supporters, and then raise a Confederate flag over City Hall and declare that New York City had left the Union and aligned itself with the Confederate government in Richmond. Fortunately, news of the raid leaked, and

plans were thwarted when the Lincoln administration sent thousands of federal troops to ensure a peaceful election.

Sources: *Hidden-History-The-Confederate-Attack-on-New-York-City*, Strausbaugh, John. "City of Sedition: The History of New York City during the Civil War," Wikipedia.

This Month in Civil War History November, 1865



The 14-month saga of the Camp Sumter prisoner of war camp at Andersonville culminates with the hanging of Camp Commandant, Confederate Major Henry Wirz, for the crimes of conspiracy and murder. Of the 45,000 Union soldiers sent here, approximately 13,000 are buried in a cemetery outside the prison walls. Now called Anderson National Cemetery, the site has been a unit of the National Park system in 1970.

Sources: www.nps.gov, Wikipedia

Did You Know? The cemetery is still in use; an average of 150 burials take place here each year.

Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc.

CAMPAIGN 43 APPEAL

During this unprecedented time in history, we ask for the support of members like you. Your generosity will help the Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc. to carry on its mission to offer excellent programming to its members and the broad community we serve and make a lasting mark in the preservation of and access to Civil War history.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip Code_____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Enclosed is my check for: (circle a donation level or fill in an amount in the space provided)

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$150 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other: \$_____

Please make your check payable to “**CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc.**” and mail to:

CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc.
PO Box 333
Allentown, PA 18105

Even if you don't itemize on your tax returns, **you can still make tax-advantaged donations to non-profit organizations that are designated as 501(c)(3).** The Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc. has been designated by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed in March, 2020, allows taxpayers taking the standard deduction to claim up to \$300 in charitable deductions. To qualify, you must give money to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Keep a record of your gift(s).
- If you are 70½ or older, you can give directly from your IRA to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit without having to declare the amount as taxable income.