



February, 2021

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*We strive for accuracy. But if you see something that doesn't look right, please contact us. Sources for newsletter content available upon request.*

## From the Brigade Commander

A belated, but nonetheless heartfelt Happy New Year to you all!

Last month, during the third meeting of Campaign 43, we heard an alternative history account of the Battle of Antietam, shared by speaker Gene Schmiel, author of "Lincoln, Antietam, and the Northern Lost Cause." The book's point of divergence centers on timing and execution: Had every move been executed well and the timing for each move been just right, the American Civil War would have ended at Antietam. Obviously, this was not to be. But, that's the fun of speculating about history.

During our February program (scheduled for February 2), we'll hear about Confederate efforts to recapture key coastal positions in North Carolina. Look inside for more details, including instructions for signing up for the "virtual" (Zoom) meeting. Our attendance is holding steady, but we'd love to see and hear from more of you. And so, I hope you will join me for an evening of "alternative fellowship" and discovery.

We are slowly creeping up in terms of Campaign 43 membership renewals, and I'm grateful to those who have already renewed. You'll find additional "by the numbers" updates inside. Remember that your membership dollars help fund the informative and diverse programming we bring you each month. And, although we can't be together, we can still enjoy the fellowship that comes from seeing each other, even if only in a virtual way.

*Barry*

**The Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc. is a proud leader of America's battlefield preservation movement. It has been designated an American Battlefield Trust Color Bearer and Top 300 Lifetime Donor.**

**\* \* \* \* \* Our 43rd Campaign Year! \* \* \* \* \***

## Mark Your Calendar, and Join Us as Hampton Newsome presents: “The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina, January – May, 1864”

Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 7:00 p.m. start (Zoom meeting)

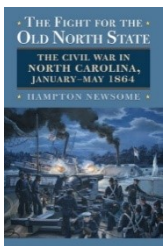


You may know of the first Battle of New Berne (1862) and subsequent Union occupation of the town. But you may not know about one of the last, successful Confederate offensives: the attempt to retake New Bern (1864).

We invite you to join us as Mr. Newsome, an independent writer and staff attorney for the Federal Trade Commission, will speak about Confederate efforts to recapture key coastal positions in North Carolina to secure vital supplies for General Lee’s army and dampen a growing peace movement in the state. The ensuing events (the New Bern Expedition, the Battle of Plymouth, among others) involved complex joint Army and Navy operations, daring raids, and deadly ironclads.

### Sign up Today!

To register for February’s virtual CWRT meeting (via Zoom), contact Jim Duffy at [Duffysocwk@aol.com](mailto:Duffysocwk@aol.com) or 610-253-4549 (email preferred) **prior to 12:00 p.m. on Monday, February 1**. Those who register by/before the deadline will receive an invitation via email that will include the information you will need to enter the virtual meeting room via video or telephone.



### “The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina, January – May, 1864”

**WINNER:** Richard Barksdale Harwell Award, 2020 Emerging Civil War Book Award, Civil War Books and Authors Best Book of the Year

[See all reviews](#)

### EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT FOR CWRT MEMBERS!

Mr. Newsom’s book is available through the University Press of Kansas. To receive a **30 percent discount**, simply type the code, **NC30**, into the website’s checkout page.

University Press website: <https://kansaspress.ku.edu/978-0-7006-2746-2.html>

### In Memoriam:

### Claude E. Kohl Jr.



We are saddened to report that CWRT of Eastern Pa. member, Claude Kohl, died on New Year’s Day after a long illness. Our condolences to his

family, especially his son, Claude III, who is also a CWRT member.

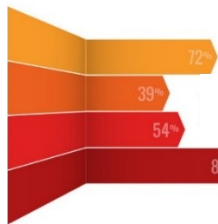
Claude Jr. worked for the Allentown Fire Department for 35 years; at the time of his retirement, in 1994, he was serving as Assistant Chief. Claude also served his country with distinction during the Korean War. Believe it or not, his work as a Crypto Analytic Specialist remained classified for 35 years!

Claude was a member of the American Legion Post 576. He was also a 75-year member of the Boy Scouts and served his community in leadership positions for several other nonprofit organizations.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Minsi Trails Council, 991 Postal Rd., Allentown, 18109 or Burn Prevention Network, 236 N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Allentown, 18104.

### Lecture Fee Payment Reminder:

In these unprecedented times, we understand how easy it is to forget how things used to work. This is a friendly reminder that the standard \$5 per person lecture fee assessed to CWRT meeting attendees remains in force, even though we can’t meet in person. (Back in the “good old days,” your \$25 meeting fee was split: \$20 went to the hotel; \$5 helped to offset speaker and other operating costs and/or generate preservation funds.) Please make payments to **CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc.** and mail your check to P. O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105. And kindly indicate “lecture fee” in the note section of your check. Thank you!



## By the Numbers: The Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa.

### Membership Update *(Jeff Gates)*

Campaign 43 membership renewals are nearing the halfway point. As of the date of issue of this publication, 44 percent of existing members are renewed for 2020-21.

### Paymaster Update *(Jim Duffy)*

**Print Raffle Fundraiser:** No additional tickets were sold during January. If you wish to purchase tickets, see page 6 for instructions.

**Preservation donations:** Total donations for Campaign 43 now stand at \$1,390.00.

### Recent CWRT Website Postings *(Paul Bartlett)*

([www.cwrteasternpa.org/news](http://www.cwrteasternpa.org/news))

**Jan 16:** 3D Building Tours Available at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site

**Jan 13:** American Battlefield Trust: 2020 in Review (YouTube video)

**Jan 9:** When Frederick Douglass Spoke in Allentown in 1870

**Jan 5:** Farmers Sought to Maintain Manassas Battlefield's Landscapes

### In Memoriam:

#### Leonard J. French, Sr.



With heavy hearts, we report that CWRT of Eastern Pa. member, Leonard French, died on December 27. Our heartfelt condolences to his family, especially his wife (and CWRT member), Diane.

In his retirement, Leonard served in multiple capacities for the Saucon Valley School District: Proctor (18 years), high school athletic manager, and co-chair of the high school student government association. He also served as equipment manager for the Greater Bethlehem Soccer League (10 years), and as an Eagle Scout review committee member for Boy Scout Troop 349. He was the former owner/operator of AB Tube, Allentown.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to the First Union Church of Christ, 501 Northampton Street, Hellertown, Pa. 18055.

### From the CWRT website:

#### No, I Didn't Marry for Money! I Had a Reputation to Consider.



Helen Viola Jackson died on December 16, 2020. She was 101. She was also the last remaining Civil War widow, a statement corroborated by The Daughters of the Union Veterans using historical documents.

When she was 17, Helen's father asked her to help a neighbor, James Bolin, with his household chores. He was a 93-year-old widower and Civil War veteran with health issues. Bolin, unwilling to accept charity, decided to ask Helen to marry him, with a promise to leave her his Union pension. She consented to the marriage. But Helen never changed her name and continued to live on her family's farm. When James died, less than three years later, she didn't apply for widow's pension benefits, as she feared others would think she had married James for his money.

James served as a member of the 14<sup>th</sup> Union Missouri Calvary. Organized in St. Louis and Springfield between November 30, 1864, and May 13, 1865, the unit saw duty at St. Louis until June, 1865, then moved to Nebraska and frontier duty on the Plains until mid-November.

**February 6, 1862:**

## **The Gunboat Commodore and the Unconditional Surrender of Fort Henry**

*Many students of the American Civil War know that General Ulysses S. Grant earned his nom de guerre (Unconditional Surrender Grant) at the Battle of Fort Donelson. However, it was Flag Officer Andrew Hull to first to make this demand, which he did, several days earlier, at the Battle of Fort Henry.*



**Andrew Hull Foote**, an American naval officer and one of America's first rear admirals, is noted for his service in the American Civil War. Without resources and working under control of the Army—a branch of the military that did not necessarily consider coastal warfare a priority—he created a flotilla of ironclads and mortar boats that became an effective fighting force.

Sometimes called “the Union's Stonewall Jackson” for his resolute and religious nature, Foote zealously opposed alcohol and flogging. His legacy is his role in the reform of the Navy's crippling seniority system. His book, “Africa and the American Flag,” chronicled, among other things, the evils of slave trade. He was a frequent speaker on the Abolitionist circuit. He also became a committed advocate of temperance and, in 1843, succeeded in making the USS *Cumberland* the first completely dry ship in the U.S. Navy. Many historians also credit Foote as the driving force behind the total elimination of Navy spirit rations in 1862. Ultimately, Foote regarded his command of riverine warfare as his greatest achievement.

His personal life had been marked by several tragedies: He lost his first wife and his three youngest children to illness. When his second wife petitioned Navy Secretary Wells to request that Foote not be separated from what was left of his family, Wells declined. He said that he knew Foote considered it a duty to obey orders of any kind and to go wherever the Department directed or thought he could be most useful.

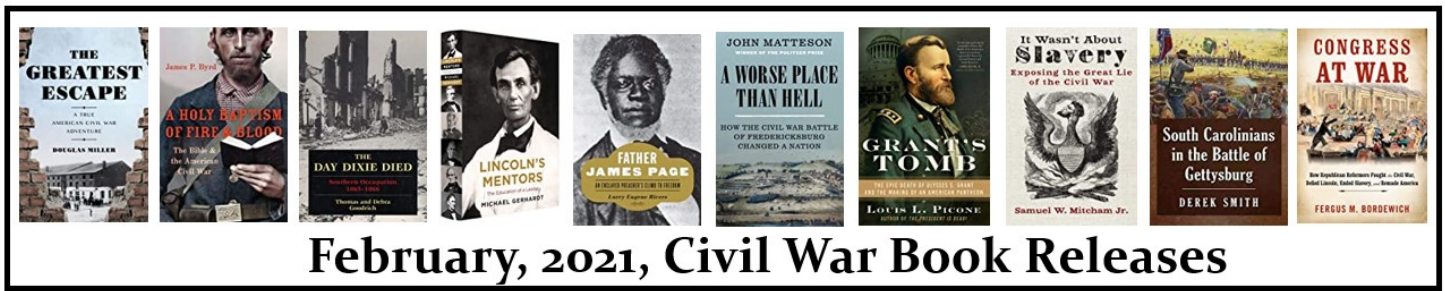
During the Battle of Fort Donelson, Foote was wounded (in the foot). He nevertheless continued on, helping to capture Island Number 10 in the Mississippi. But, in May, 1862, he relinquished all but nominal command to recover from his injury and deal with other ailments. Two months later, he was promoted to rear admiral. In June, 1863, Foote wrote Secretary Welles, saying, with regret, that he had to postpone taking command of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron near Charleston, South Carolina, due to poor health. Unbeknownst to him at the time the letter was written, he was afflicted with Bright's Disease and died several days later, on June 26, while a guest at the Astor Hotel in New York City. The doctor in attendance, who, with regret, shared the diagnosis with his patient, said that Foote responded by saying that he had had enough of guns and war and was ready for death.

### **Wayward Son**

Foote had always shown a keen interest in going to sea. His father, frustrated by his son's independence and unwillingness to pursue what he believed to be a proper career, struck a compromise with the boy and allowed Andrew to enter West Point. Six months later, Foote accepted an appointment as a midshipman in the U.S. Navy and left West Point. His parents were appalled. In the years that followed, Foote saw action in the Caribbean, Pacific, Mediterranean, the African Coast and the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

Foote, who knew his mother disapproved of his being a Navy man, owing to her strong, Christian faith and sailors' well-deserved reputation for drunkenness, would some years later write these words to her:

*(continued on page 5)*



## February, 2021, Civil War Book Releases

*We share, for informational purposes only, what is most certainly a partial online listing of books earmarked for a February, 2021, release.*

“The Greatest Escape: A True American Civil War Adventure,” Douglas Miller | Feb 1

“A Holy Baptism of Fire and Blood: The Bible and the American Civil War,” James P. Byrd | Feb 1

“The Day Dixie Died: The Occupied South, 1865-1866,” Thomas Goodrich and Debra Goodrich | Feb 1

“Lincoln's Mentors: The Education of a Leader,” Michael J. Gerhardt | Feb 2

“Father James Page: An Enslaved Preacher's Climb to Freedom,” Larry Eugene Rivers | Feb 2

“A Worse Place Than Hell: How the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg Changed a Nation,” John Matteson | Feb 9

“Grant's Tomb: The Epic Death of Ulysses S. Grant and the Making of an American Pantheon,” Louis L. Picone | Feb 16

“It Wasn't About Slavery: Exposing the Great Lie of the Civil War,” Samuel W. Mitcham Jr. | Feb 16

“South Carolinians in the Battle of Gettysburg,” Derek Smith | Feb 16

“Congress at War: How Republican Reformers Fought the Civil War, Defied Lincoln, Ended Slavery, and Remade America,” Fergus M. Bordewich | Feb 18

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### ***The Gunboat Commodore and the Unconditional Surrender of Fort Henry (continued from p. 4)***

“Dear Mother, you may discharge your mind from anxiety about your wayward son.”

He went on to tell his mother about his epiphany, which came while standing watch on a beautiful, moonlit night while talking with a shipmate about religion. In the midst of the conversation, Foote said, “... his knees for the first time bowed to his Maker.” He spent most of the next two weeks reading his Bible and, soon after, resolved, “... henceforth, in all circumstances, I will act for God.”

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After the capture of Fort Henry, the ironclads were brought back to Cairo, Illinois, for repairs. On the following Sunday, the ships' crews and their gallant Flag Officer Foote attended one of the area's churches. Once the congregation had assembled, someone whispered to Foote that the minister was ill and would be unable to officiate. As Foote was a thorough Christian gentleman and excellent impromptu speaker, he went up into the pulpit himself and, after the usual prayer and hymn, he selected John XIV as the Bible text. (*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*) Afterwards, Foote delivered what was

*(continued on page 6)*

## Print Raffle Preservation Fundraiser

Purchase your Print raffle ticket booklets today (10 chances for \$5) by sending your check, payable to “Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc.,” to: P. O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105. Your tickets stubs will be returned to you 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, (the 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

## The Gunboat Commodore and the Unconditional Surrender of Fort Henry *(continued from p. 5)*

declared to be an excellent sermon. An account of Foote’s appearance in church was widely published, and a copy of a newspaper that carried the story found its way to one of Foote’s nieces. After reading the account, she exclaimed to her father: “Uncle Foote did not say that right.”

“Say what right?” asked her father.

“Why, when he preached.”

“What did he say?”

“He said, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in the gunboats.”

## St. Valentine's Day: Love and Vinegar during the Civil War



By the beginning of the Civil War, commercially produced greeting cards were being marketed to soldiers. And although it appears that the soldiers were less likely to purchase formal Valentine stationery, original poetry and letters of love were, nonetheless, sent home in abundance.

◀ *Sentiment printed on the front of the card:*

### Love Protects

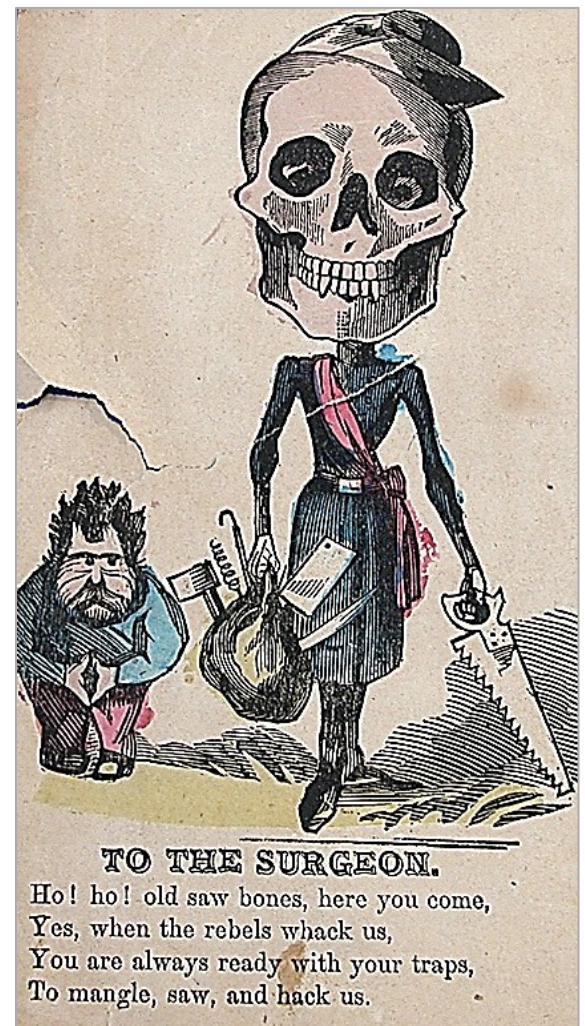
Strong is the warrior's arm,  
That strikes for Fortune and Fame,  
Thrice armed his stalwart form,  
Who fights in thy dear name.

*from the Nancy and Henry Rosin Collection of Valentine Friendship and Devotional Ephemera*

A second type of printed valentine also made its first appearance in time for the Civil War— inexpensively produced cards known as penny dreadfuls or vinegar valentines.

Some of the more interesting *dreadfuls* and *vinegars* produced during the Civil War targeted surgeons, secessionists, zouaves, and quartermasters. Some of the most vicious cards expressed anger toward those serving in the Union Army.

Vinegar cards (see example, right) were decorated with a caricature and featured an insulting poem. Always sent anonymously, the cards offered a safe way to say mean things that the senders might not have dared to say to someone's face. Historians claim that comic valentines—of which vinegar valentines were one type—made up half of all U.S. valentine sales in the mid-19th century.



## Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc. Campaign 43 REENLISTMENT FORM

### 2020-2021 Dues:

**Individuals: \$25.00      Full-time student: \$10.00**

**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.**

Know of anyone who has an interest in the Civil War? Feel free to pass along a copy of this form **OR** pass along his or her name and address to me, and I will send them a few complimentary newsletters and an introductory letter to our Round Table. 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 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
Your membership dues are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.**