



March, 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

This month, I will forego the usual banter and, instead, share a message of educational interest and urgency. On Tuesday, March 2, this CWRT will hold its fifth monthly meeting/presentation of Campaign 43 using an internet tool called Zoom, as in-person meetings are not yet permissible.

I know some folks are uncomfortable using the internet. But since we want you to get the most from your membership, and because continuing support from our members is fundamental to our organization's survival, I want to remind you that Zoom also offers a "listen only" mode via telephone. And while listen-only limits the learning experience, it does offer a way to remain a continuing student of the American Civil War.

After you respond to the email invitation (to indicate your attendance), you will receive (also via email) the information you will need to access the meeting space. About five minutes before the start time for the meeting, dial one of the phone numbers listed on the meeting access email. (You *may* also be asked to enter the Meeting ID and the Passcode that will also be listed on the invite.) Once you are connected, Jim Duffy, our meeting moderator, will admit you to the secure meeting space. If you'd like to ask the speaker a question, simply email your question to Jim ([Duffysocwk@aol.com](mailto:Duffysocwk@aol.com)), and he will forward your question on.

We hope that you'll be able to join us for what should be a terrific presentation. You can read more about the speaker and the presentation on page 2.

**NOTE:** If you don't receive a meeting invitation to your inbox, be sure to check your spam or junk folder. Sometimes, PCs and smartphones send emails to these folders in error.

**Questions?** Contact Jim Duffy ([Duffysocwk@aol.com](mailto:Duffysocwk@aol.com))

**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 Donald Miller presents:  
“Vicksburg: Grant’s Campaign That Broke the Confederacy.”  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 7:00 p.m. start (Zoom meeting)**

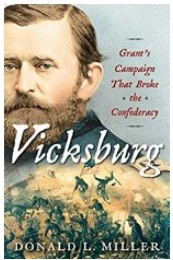


Our March speaker, Donald L. Miller, is the John Henry MacCracken Professor of History Emeritus at Lafayette College and author of 10 books, including “Vicksburg.” Miller has hosted, coproduced, or served as historical consultant for more than 30 television documentaries and has written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and other publications.

The “presentation” portion will begin with a 30-minute interview, conducted by our own Ed Root, after which time, audience members will be invited to ask Mr. Miller their own questions.

**Sign up Today!**

To register for March’s virtual CWRT meeting, 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, March 1**. If you register by/before the deadline, you will receive an invitation via email that will include the information you will need to enter the virtual meeting room via video or telephone.



◀ Winner of the Civil War Round Table of New York’s Fletcher Pratt Literary Award, Austin Civil War Round Table’s Daniel M. & Marilyn W. Laney Book Prize, Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award

“... a superb account of both military leadership and soldierly warfare ... Mr. Miller has done a prodigious amount of research and among the book’s many strengths are the quotations he provides from diaries and letters. ... For soldiers on both sides, as Mr. Miller vividly shows, campaign life was often miserable, with rain, mosquitoes and dysentery abounding. ... It is an epic story in itself but of course one part of the grand epic of the Civil War. Books like “Vicksburg” are exactly what Thomas Hardy had in mind when he wrote that “war makes rattling good history.”

*The Wall Street Journal, October 29, 2019*

**In Memoriam: Eli Lambert**



Our friend and long-time CWRT member, Eli Lambert, died on January 20. His wife, Lucille, also a one-time CWRT member, passed away in 2009.

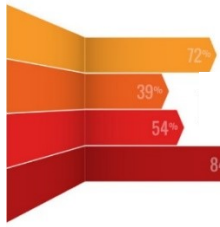
Eli served for 40 years as a civil engineer at the Fuller Company. He was a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Catasauqua, Pa. There, he spent many years serving on church council and the financial committee. He had also been active in his community: He served on the Catasauqua Borough Council in the 1950s and again in the 1970s and had been a member of the Catasauqua Exchange Club for over 50 years.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that contributions be made to the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 604 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Catasauqua, Pa. 18032. Online condolences for the family may be posted at

[brubakerfuneralhome.com](http://brubakerfuneralhome.com)

**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 up to 74 percent. I am also pleased to welcome our newest members, Dan Bastian and Cory Dieterly.

### Paymaster Update (*Jim Duffy*)

**Print Raffle fundraiser:** Campaign 43 revenue for this fundraiser has risen to \$450. See Page 7 to see the great prizes being offered.

**Preservation donations:** Since our last newsletter, the following CWRT members have made a preservation donation: Robert Ashcraft, Michael Baker, Jan Fisher, Kay Bagenstose. Total donations for Campaign 43 stand at \$1,755.

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

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

**Feb 7:** She Was the First Black Person Freed by Lincoln, Long before His Presidency

**Feb 6:** Captain Yeager and Allentown's First Defenders (written by CWRT BOD Member, Frank Whelan)

**Feb 5:** CROHL Presents, "USCT in Battle at New Market Heights" (Sun., Feb 28, 3 p.m.) FREE!

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

**Feb 17:** Help Us Save 36 Acres of the Wilderness Battlefield

**Feb. 11:** Donations Needed to Preserve the "Slaughter Pen" Farm

**Feb. 4:** 22 Acres Preserved at New Market Heights

### News from the Board of Directors

\* Tony Major will approach the Center 100 Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn) to inquire about terms for a two-year contract extension for the conference room we have been using for our dinner meetings. There is no new word from the hotel regarding the lifting of in-person COVID restrictions.

\* Jim Duffy reported that, assuming continued renewals, print raffle ticket sales, and donations from CWRT members, we will be able to make a preservation gift at the end of the campaign.

\* Claire Kukielka reported that the operations manager of Gettysburg National Military Park contacted us to share disappointing news: "Due to continuing COVID restrictions and cautions, the Park's Adopt-A-Position program for 2021 has been cancelled" (i.e., no CWRT brush-cutting/painting event in 2021). Hill said he will communicate additional updates or volunteer opportunities as they arise. Ed Root suggested an event to replace missing and/or broken flag holders at Nisky Cemetery in Bethlehem and hold a Memorial Day rededication ceremony. Other activities, such as outdoor walking tours, are also under investigation. Stay tuned.

### 19<sup>th</sup> Century Letter Writing

Have you ever been confused by terms used in Civil War era letters, reports or memoirs?

The designation "inst.," from the Latin *instante mense*, was used to indicate an event either before or after the date of a letter, so long as it fell within the same month. For example, a letter written on June 14<sup>th</sup> referring to, "Your correspondence of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst.," means June 7<sup>th</sup>. A letter written on the same day referring to "our meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst." means June 21.

However, if the writer uses the term "ult." (*ultimo mense*), he or she means last month, so a letter written on June 14<sup>th</sup>, speaking of the 7<sup>th</sup> ult., means May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Just to complete the trilogy, if the writer on June 14<sup>th</sup> references the 7<sup>th</sup> "prox." (*proximo mense*), he or she means next month, or July 7<sup>th</sup>.





## The Civil War Era Lives on, And Closer to Home Than You Might Think

Tired of being cooped up by COVID (and now, snow, too)? Well, once the snow melts or gets properly cleaned up, you can get your “fix” for all things Civil War right ... in your own backyard.



### **The Allen Infantry “First Defenders” Memorial** (shown left)

***West Park, between Linden and Turner Streets and 15<sup>th</sup> and No. West Streets, Allentown***

The statue depicts Corporal Ignatz Gressner, an Allentownian honored in 1895 with a Medal of Honor for his heroism at the battle of Antietam. (He carried a wounded soldier from the field while under enemy fire.) He served in the 128<sup>th</sup> PVI. The soldier Gressner helped, William Henry Sowden, survived his wounds and went on to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Allen Infantry was one of five groups of volunteer soldiers to respond to President Lincoln’s call for militia to put down the rebellion of the South’s military forces.

### **Soldiers and Sailors Monument** ***7<sup>th</sup> and Hamilton Street, Allentown***

Erected in 1899, the monument, which stands 99 feet above the city’s center square, includes both a Confederate and Union Civil War soldier; these figures were added by the artist as a gesture of reconciliation. The monument was erected to honor the 47<sup>th</sup> PVI and other men who served in the war.

### **Samuel McHose Bust**

***Buck Boyle Park, 10 Pump Place, Allentown***

McHose was the first mayor of Allentown and a delegate to national conventions that nominated Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant.

### **Bethlehem Rose Garden**

***651-699 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bethlehem***

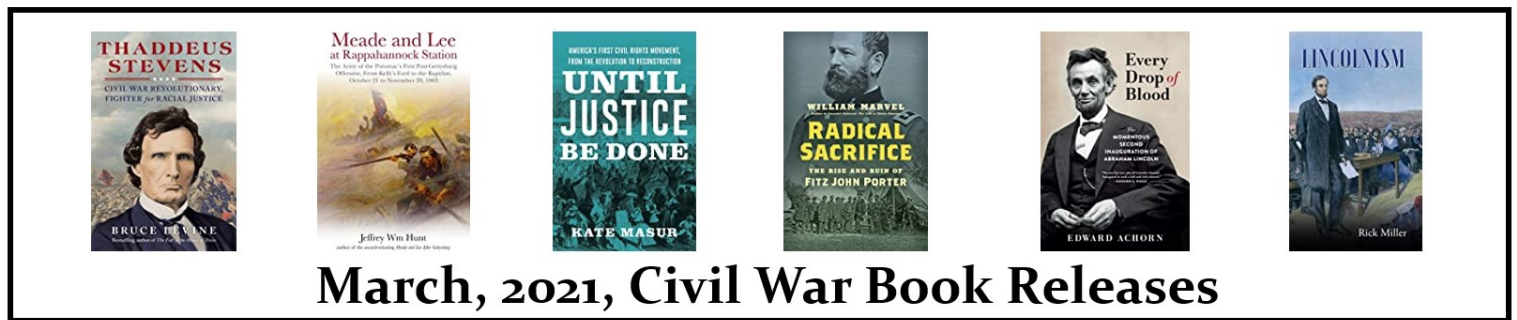
This Civil War monument features Capt. John Taylor, a Bethlehem native, who fought with the 129<sup>th</sup> PVI. Wounded in 1862 on the first day’s battle at Fredericksburg, he refused to leave his men. Once he and other wounded soldiers arrived at a Washington D.C. hospital, there was no bed available for him, and he was taken to a private home and treated by a doctor from Bethlehem. Eighty-two days after the battle, John died. The Bethlehem GAR Post was named in his honor.

### **Soldiers and Sailors Monument**

***900 Packer Avenue (Center Square), Easton*** (where 3<sup>rd</sup> and Northampton Streets intersect)

The bugler on top of the monument was reputedly sculpted using drummer, Francis Reed, 96<sup>th</sup> PVI, as the model. The monument honors the four major branches of the Army during the Civil War.

And don’t forget local cemeteries, where you are almost certain to find veteran monuments and Civil War veteran tombstones.



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

“Thaddeus Stevens: Civil War Revolutionary, Fighter for Racial Justice”, Bruce Levine | Mar 2

“Every Drop of Blood: The Momentous Second Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln,” Edward Achorn | Mar 3

“Lincolnism,” Rick Miller | Mar 7

“Radical Sacrifice: The Rise and Ruin of Fitz John Porter,” William Marvel | Mar 8

“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, Jeffrey Wm Hunt | Mar 15

“Until Justice Be Done: America's First Civil Rights Movement, from the Revolution to Reconstruction,” by Kate Masur | Mar 23

**March 4, 1861:**

## **"Stars and Bars" Named as First Official National Flag of Confederate States of America**

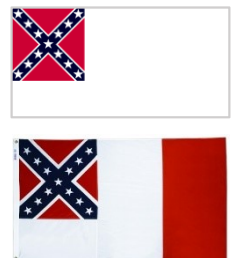


The Confederacy's first official national flag, often called the *Stars and Bars*, flew from March 4, 1861, to May 1, 1863. This original version of the flag featured a circle of seven white stars in the navy-blue canton, representing the seven states of the South that originally comprised the Confederacy: Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. Stars were added each time an additional state joined the Confederacy.

The designer of this flag remains in dispute.

Most believe the flag was designed by Prussian-American artist Nicola Marschall and resembled the flag of Austria, with which Marschall would have been familiar. Orren Randolph Smith, a North Carolinian, claimed the flag to have been of his design and was made under his direction by Catherine Rebecca (Murphy) Winborne. Although Smith never offered proof that the flag design had been his, he was nevertheless honored on several occasions for this feat.

The flag was also used in battle, but similarities between the two nation’s flags caused confusion. And so, between 1863 and 1865, the “Stainless Banner” (right, top) became the official battle flag and was replaced, shortly before the Confederacy’s dissolution, with the “Blood-Stained Banner” (right bottom). A red bar was added to this flag so it would not be mistaken as a truce flag. The familiar “Dixie Flag” was sometimes used in battle but was rejected from consideration as the official flag of the Confederate States of America.



## Test Your American Civil War Knowledge

What do all of the following names have in common?

Andrew G. Curtin  
Benjamin Harrison  
Elihu Washburne

Fitz John Porter  
Frederick Douglass  
Roger Taney

Julia Ward Howe  
Samuel Heintzelman  
Wade Hampton

(See answer at the bottom of this page.)

**March 2, 1864**

### The Dahlgren Affair: A Failed Plan to Raid Richmond and Assassinate CSA President Davis and His Cabinet

*The story of a bungled Union raid, masterminded by Brigadier General H. Judson Kilpatrick, which resulted in minor damage to Confederate infrastructure—and created a controversial episode in American Civil War history.*

**February, 1864:** After consulting with President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, Kilpatrick receives permission to raid Richmond and destroy rails, canals, and other infrastructure; liberate Union prisoners at Belle Isle; and share word of Lincoln's recent amnesty proposal.

**February 28:** The fiasco, better known as the Battle of Walkerton, begins when Kilpatrick, with 4,000 men, heads out to raid Richmond. An advance force of 500 men was sent southwest, led by Colonel Ulric Dahlgren. General George Custer led a diversionary attack on the Confederate left.

**February 29:** Kilpatrick's main body tears up track along the Virginia Central Railroad and burns a rail station. But news of the raid arrives in Richmond before either Kilpatrick or Dahlgren. Dahlgren, unable to penetrate Richmond's defenses, tries to escape northward.

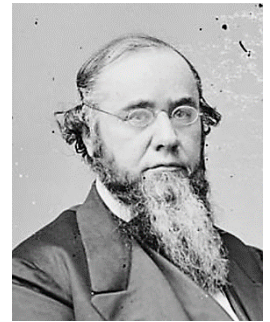
**March 2:** Dahlgren and about 100 of his original force of 500 men are ambushed by calvarymen and bushwackers. Dahlgren is killed; most of the 100 men with him are captured.

**March 3:** While searching Dahlgren's body for valuables, signed orders written on Union army stationery papers were found that detailed plans to burn Richmond and assassinate CSA President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet.

**March 4:** CSA Secretary of War James A. Seddon releases the documents to Richmond newspapers for publication; the contents of the documents appear in print the next day.



Gen. H. Judson Kilpatrick



War Secy. Edwin Stanton

*A handwriting study of the Dahlgren papers performed during the Smithsonian Channel's "America's Hidden Stories," Season 1 (2019), Episode 2, appeared to have confirmed that Stanton was the originator of the assassination order. Some speculate that this event became the impetus for John Wilkes Booth's plot to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.*



## Print Raffle Preservation Fundraiser

Purchase your 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) (donated by Jeff Heller); 10. chess set created by the National Historical Society; 11. print of the Battle of Fredericksburg; 12. lamp made by Barry Arnold

## March 6, 1862

### Lincoln Delivers Compensated Emancipation Proposal to Congress

Nearly a year into the Civil War, Lincoln concluded that the cost of continuing the war would far outweigh the cost of purchasing all the slaves in the loyal border states. To this end, Lincoln called for a Congressional resolution that endorsed compensated emancipation and pledged federal support to states that adopted it. Paying to end slavery, he insisted, would ensure the border slave states would have nothing to gain by joining the Confederacy. A month later, Lincoln’s plan passed the House and Senate by large majorities. But the idea of compensated emancipation never took root—not one vote came from border state Democrats. Lincoln ultimately settled for prohibiting slavery in the District of Columbia; slaveholders received \$300 per slave. It would be the only example of compensated emancipation ever put into practice in the US.

## 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.**