

May, 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

To vaccinate or not to vaccinate? Believe it or not, the quandary is age-old, dating all the way back to pre-U.S. history. Look inside for a story about the consequences of vaccine policy and practice during the Civil War. A second story, with a post-Civil War beginning, extends to present day and serves as a reminder of just how thin the line between war and peace really is.

Our drive-yourself field trip to Gettysburg on May 1 is filling up nicely. I'm excited by the prospect of being able to meet in person and catch up in a "non-virtual" way. If you haven't signed up yet, no worries: there's still time for you to join in. Take a look at pages 2 and 3 for details about the trip and sign-up instructions. Ironically, our May speaker will also serve as one of the tour guides for the May 1 trip. Dr. Mark Snell is an Army veteran and a retired professor. On May 4, he'll be sharing a presentation informed by his latest book, "Gettysburg's Other Battle: The Ordeal of an American Shrine during the First World War." You can read Dr. Snell's biography on page 2.

With just a little more than a month left in Campaign 43, our membership renewal rate stands at 84 percent, which equates to \$625 fewer dollars to cover expenses and/or donate to preservation efforts. That said, I do want to extend my thanks once again to all of those who have sent in donations.

A reminder that our print raffle will run until the end of May, so there's still plenty of time to purchase a booklet of tickets. See page 7 for details.

Barry

The Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc. is a proud leader of America's battlefield preservation movement. It has been designated by the American Battlefield Trust as a Top 300 Lifetime Donor, a Color Bearer, and a member of ABT's 20-Year Club.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Our 43rd Campaign Year! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

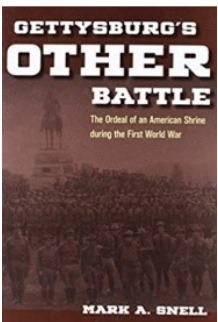
Mark Your Calendar, and Join Us as Dr. Mark Snell presents: “Gettysburg Other Battle: The Ordeal of an American Shrine during the First World War”

Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 7:00 p.m. start (Zoom meeting)



Our May speaker, Mark A. Snell, PhD, is a retired U.S. Army ordnance officer and a retired history professor. While on active duty with the US Army, he served for three years as an assistant professor in the Department of History at West Point and then became executive officer of the Academy's support battalion and, between 1990-1991, commander of the

US Military Academy Airborne Detachment. After retiring from the Army in 1993, he taught for 20 years at Shepherd University and became the founding director of the University's George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War. He retired from the University in 2013.



Mark's specialty is the American Civil War, but he also has produced studies on World War I and World War II. He served as a historical consultant for the 2003 movie, "Gods and Generals" and has appeared as a talking head on several History Channel, BBC and PBS programs.

He currently volunteers as the Chief Historian of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. In 2008, he was the Visiting Senior Lecturer of War Studies at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (in the U.K.). Mark is also a member of the Gettysburg Foundation and the Adams Rescue Mission. ★★ ★

There's Still Time

to join us for the May 1 drive-yourself field trip to Gettysburg National Military Battlefield.

You have **until April 27** to sign up for one ... or both ... walking tours at the Battlefield. If you wish to join the group, contact Jim Duffy (duffysocwk@aol.com or 610-253-4549: email preferred). Please provide Jim with the following information:

- Name(s) of people in your group.
- Contact information (email & mobile phone) for one individual in your group.
- The tour(s) that you and/or your guests wish to participate in.
- Whether you will meet the group at the hotel or in Gettysburg.
- Whether you wish to purchase one or both books. (We must notify the gift shop of quantities in advance.)

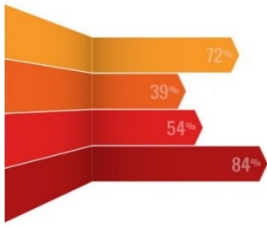
Spend your morning with our December, 2020, speaker, Ron Kirkland, for a 90-minute tour of the Spangler Farm and Field

(Continued on page 3)

Sign up Today for May's Meeting and Lecture!

To register for May's virtual CWRT meeting, contact Jim Duffy at Duffysocwk@aol.com or 610-253-4549 (email preferred) **prior to 12:00 p.m. on May 3**. 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 the internet or telephone.

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)*

With Campaign 43 nearing its end, membership renewals stand at 84 percent.

Paymaster Update *(Jim Duffy)*

Print raffle fundraiser: Campaign 43 revenue for this fundraiser remains at \$450. There's still plenty of time to purchase tickets. 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: David Hunsicker, Paul Bartlett, Kay Bagenstose, Kim Jacobs, Chuck Cannon and John Duffy. Total donations for Campaign 43 now stand at \$2,715. Thank you!

Thanks to the 25 individuals who “tuned in” or “dialed in” to our April meeting!

(Continued from page 2)

Hospital, located at 488 Blacksmith Shop Road, Gettysburg. Ron's book, “Too Much for Human Endurance: The George Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg,” will be available for purchase for \$20 (soft cover) ... a 20% discount over the regular price.

Per-person tour cost:

Adults: \$5 Kids under 18: \$2.50

After enjoying lunch on your own, we'll muster at the Gettysburg Heritage Center, 297 Steinwehr Avenue, Gettysburg, and enjoy a 2-hour walking tour of the World War I camp sites, which will be hosted by our May speaker, Mark Snell. Mark's book, “Gettysburg's Other Battle: The Ordeal of an American Shrine during the First World War,” will be available for purchase for \$25 (hard cover) ... a 20% discount over the regular price.

Per-person cost for tour:

Adults: \$10 Kids under 18: \$5

P.S. In the event of inclement weather, those who have signed up will receive a notification by phone, and the trip will be postponed to Saturday, May 8.

Recent CWRT Website Postings *(Paul Bartlett)*

www.cwrteasternpa.org/news

Apr 20: Gettysburg Foundation Names Motts as New President

Apr 18: Underground Railroad Tours are Back at Gettysburg

Apr 6: Multi-million Rehabilitation Coming to Antietam Battlefield Visitor Center

Apr 2: Culp's Hill Cleared at Gettysburg

Apr 2: Old-Growth Oaks Poached from Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP

Apr 2: Telling the Stories of the Civil War in New Mexico

Mar 30: “Glory”: History or Just a Good Story?

(continued next column)

Mar 28: Bomb Squad Safely Detonates Civil War Cannonball

Mar. 24: Gettysburg NMP Plans Prescribed Fires at Little Round Top and Munshower Field

www.cwrteasternpa.org/preservation

Apr 15: Deadline to Save 28 Acres at Gettysburg and Bristoe Station

Apr 9: American Battlefield Trust Announces 226 Acres Preserved at Four Battlefields

Smallpox and War in America

Although the germ theory of disease had been introduced and later expanded more than 100 years before the outbreak of the American Civil War, it would take until the 1890s before medical science embraced the theory.



Smallpox is estimated to have killed 100,000 military men during the American Revolution. Washington and his men first encountered the disease outside of Boston and, at any point in time, upwards to 25 percent of Washington's men were unfit for duty, the majority of them down with smallpox.

Pictured: A victim of the "speckled monster," as smallpox was known.

Having been exposed to the disease years before, Washington understood the implications of epidemic in congested conditions. And so, he quarantined affected soldiers. He also mandated inoculations for

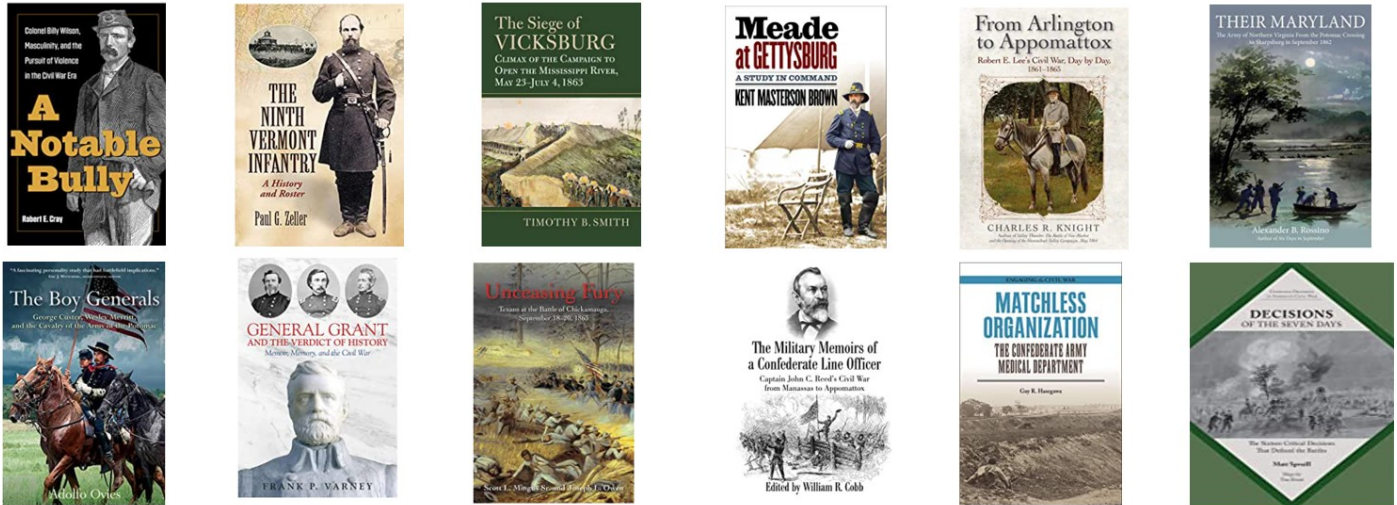
them, even though the public at large, including educated Americans, believed inoculation spread (versus stemmed) the disease.

Fast forwarding about 75 years, most states had outlawed smallpox vaccinations due to the still-unfounded opinion that the practice could actually spread disease. Nonetheless, both Union and Confederate regulations required vaccination and re-vaccination, if necessary, of all troops. Quarantine and the destruction of infected clothes and bedding were tools used to control the spread of smallpox in the armies. Most military hospitals isolated smallpox patients in a separate ward, or even a separate hospital. But inoculation mandates were often not met—in the haste to raise regiments, often uninoculated men were rushed into battle. (Most American Civil War recruits had never been vaccinated—or exposed to—the disease, as they were products of rural backgrounds and had lived in semi-isolation on family farms.)

Another problem was that there was never enough vaccine for everyone. Doctors were typically also in short supply. At the beginning of the War, the Northern army had 98 doctors; the South, 24. Even later in the war, historians believe there was one doctor for every 324 soldiers in the South and one for every 133 soldiers in the North.

As a result, some soldiers took to using pus and scabs (crusts) from their comrades, or even scabs mailed to them from family members, to self-inoculate. What they didn't realize was that the scabs formed by smallpox and syphilis looked remarkably similar—even doctors were regularly fooled. Using pocket knives, rusty nails or anything else with a sharp edge, military men would inoculate themselves by making a deep cut in their arm. Nearly 5,000 Confederate troops at the Battle of Chancellorsville missed the fighting due to complications related not to smallpox, but to self-inoculation.

During the Civil War, the estimated cases of smallpox among white troops was 12,000; the death rate from the disease was around 39 percent.



June, 2021, Civil War Book Releases

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

A Notable Bully: Colonel Billy Wilson, Masculinity, and the Pursuit of Violence in the Civil War Era, Robert E. Cray | Jun 1

The Ninth Vermont Infantry: A History and Roster, Paul G. Zeller | Jun 2

The Siege of Vicksburg: Climax of the Campaign to Open the Mississippi River, May 23-July 4, 1863, Timothy B. Smith, | June 5

Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command, Kent Masterson Brown | June 7

From Arlington to Appomattox: Robert E. Lee's Civil War, Day by Day, 1861-1865, Charles R. Knight | Jun 22

Their Maryland: The Army of Northern Virginia From the Potomac Crossing to Sharpsburg in September, 1862, Alexander B. Rossino | Jun 22

The Boy Generals: George Custer, Wesley Merritt, and the Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac, Adolfo Ovies | Jun 22

General Grant and the Verdict of History: Memoir, Memory, and the Civil War, Frank P. Varney | Jun 22

Unceasing Fury: Texans at the Battle of Chickamauga, September 18-20, 1863, Scott L. Mingus Sr. and Joseph L. Owen | Jun 22

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

Matchless Organization: The Confederate Army Medical Department, Guy R. Hasegawa | Jun 23

Decisions of the Seven Days: The Sixteen Critical Decisions That Defined the Battles, Matt Spruill | June 29

An Unfinished Civil War Peace Memorial

The Peace Monument, a white marble neoclassical sculpture erected in 1877 at the foot of Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., was, and still is, more about conflict and war than it ever was about peace.



(This 1910 photo was taken while the sculpture also served as the site of a trolley stop.)

Atop the 44-foot sculpture is History, who is consulting a book inscribed, “they died that their country might live.” Another female figure, believed to be Grief, cries on History’s shoulder. Below gloats Victory; at her feet are Mars and Neptune. On the opposite side of the sculpture, facing the Capitol, are figures belatedly incorporated into the design, including a dove representing Peace, which once nested upon a sheath of wheat that has been missing longer than anyone’s memory and the symbols of science, literature, and art, which signify the progress of civilization that peace makes possible. The sculpture is inscribed: In memory of the officers, seamen and marines of the United States Navy who fell in defense of the Union and liberty of their country, 1861–1865.

The sculpture was conceived by David Dixon Porter (pictured), the acting Union rear admiral of the Vicksburg Campaign and, for several years after the War, superintendent of the Naval Academy. He envisioned the sculpture to stand near the Tripoli Monument, which had been commissioned by his father, David, a War of 1812 veteran who served under the honorary title of commodore. (David the elder was later court martialed and resigned his commission.)



Porter (the younger) initially sketched a simple design for the sculpture and raised funds from private contributors, including \$9,000 from Naval officers and seamen. (More than \$1 million in today’s money.) The artist, based in Rome, reportedly worked directly with Porter on many changes in the designs, including the late addition of more figures. Once it was determined the sculpture would not be installed in Annapolis, Congress appropriated \$20,000 to have a large, marble pedestal built for the monument.

Since its erection, in 1878, the four bare holes drilled into the base dump water into a surrounding basin. (The cascades of water were originally conceived to have flowed from the mouths of dolphins.) Four granite piers, holding nothing more than protruding naked screws, wait for the envisioned lampposts to be installed.

(continued on page 7)

Print Raffle Preservation Fundraiser

The deadline to purchase your raffle ticket booklets (10 chances for \$5) is May 31. If interested, send 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

(continued from page 7)

No one seems to know why the fountain was never completed, although Porter's relocation from Annapolis, following his promotion to Admiral in 1870, may have had something to do with it. He was also a man who was known to have had enemies. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton was once quoted as saying that Porter was "a gas bag ... blowing his own trumpet and stealing credit which belongs to others."

When the *Washington Star* formally reviewed the Peace Monument, following its installation, it found the sculpture much to be desired and wasted no time in calling out Porter for his role in what has been described as an "amalgam of classical allusions and Victorian funerary motifs [that is] something of a puzzle to modern eyes." Years later, the *Post* would again comment on the monument: "... it is quite the most depressing and lugubrious bit of marble that we can remember having seen anywhere outside of a graveyard." Over the years, the Peace Memorial has been forced to bear additional indignities: In 1971, Vietnam War protesters scaled the monument and rested at the top, holding flags. And, following a rally and subsequent storming of the Capitol last January, someone slung a scarf around Victory's neck; someone else, holding a bullhorn, loomed over the figure of the god of war, Mars.

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

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.**