

June, 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

What has been a very challenging campaign year is nearing its end. But despite the many barriers to normalcy, we managed to accomplish our mission of providing American Civil War learning opportunities, using multiple formats and venues. Special thanks to Jim Duffy for taking on the challenge to learn about video conferencing.

Campaign 43 can be summarized in two words: mixed results. Monthly meeting turnout was lower than usual, and we hosted fewer meetings than usual. Print Raffle revenue is tracking lower than usual, and we couldn't hold in-person Book Raffles at all. Plus, our annual Gettysburg NMP conservation event was cancelled. And yet, we have a lot to be thankful for: Reenlistments were above average (for nonprofits), several new recruits joined our Round Table, and monetary donations exceeded expectations. In fact, we think we'll be able to donate a healthy sum to preservation efforts. We'll announce award details at our September 7 Campaign 44 kickoff meeting. (See a complete list of Campaign 44 dates on page 2.)

This was a heck of a year to assume the Brigade Commander position, and I just want to thank all of you for your patience and loyalty and for making it possible for our Round Table to maintain its preservation leadership position.

Winning tickets for the Print Raffle will be drawn at our September 7 meeting; you have until then to make purchases. You'll find a listing of raffle prizes and purchase details on page 8. Inside, you'll also find news of two upcoming Civil War events, a recap of our field trip to Gettysburg NMP, and the usual mix of stories, including an essay about the Battle of Gettysburg, which was written by a 14-year-old history student.

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 (ABT) as a Top 300 Lifetime Donor, a Color Bearer, and a member of ABT's 20-Year Club.

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

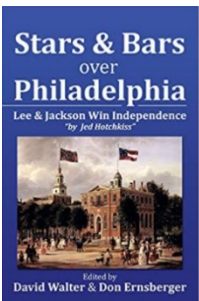
Mark Your Calendar, and Join Us as Dave Walter presents, “Southern Iron Horse at War”

Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 7:00 p.m. start (Zoom meeting)

Our intended speaker for June, historian Dennis Frye, has requested we postpone his presentation until September. His long-awaited talk (he was originally scheduled for earlier in Campaign 43) will undoubtedly be a great way to begin Campaign 44.



Dave’s presentation will cover the role that Southern railroads played in the military strategy of the Confederacy, how the railroads and their management helped—and hurt—that cause, and how the Union armies met the challenges that rapid rail movements brought to the battlefield.



Dave is a member (and current Treasurer) of the Brandywine Valley CWRT in Chester County. He has presented several topics to various Round Tables and other civic and history organizations. Dave is also the co-author of "Stars and Bars over Philadelphia: Lee and Jackson Win Independence," an alternative history novel based on Stonewall Jackson's actual plan to invade the North.

Last Lecture for Campaign 43!

Sign up Today for June’s Meeting and Lecture

To register for June’s virtual CWRT meeting featuring Dave Walter, contact Jim Duffy at Duffysocwk@aol.com or 610-253-4549 (email preferred) **prior to 12:00 p.m. on Monday, May 31**. 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.

Thanks for the History!

A Fond Farewell to Bob McHugh

This month, Bob McHugh will end a 30-year career as a history teacher at Saucon Valley High School and 29 years of service to the CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc. Most recently, Bob served as Regimental Commander. Before this, he served in the capacities of Brigade Commander and Board Member, and his students have been helping to carry the load for our conservation efforts at Gettysburg. Bob’s professionalism and love for history will be sorely missed as he moves to life’s next phase. Thanks for everything, Bob!

Good News for Our Next Campaign Year

The CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc. has reached an agreement with the former Holiday Inn in Breinigsville (now Delta by Marriot); as of now, we plan to hold IN PERSON meetings during Campaign 44.

As always, you can choose to attend the dinner before the lecture – OR – just walk in for the lecture. Costs remain unchanged: \$25 for the dinner; \$5 for walk-ins.

Campaign 44 Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, September 7
 Tuesday, October 5
 Tuesday, November 2
 Tuesday, December 7
 Tuesday, January 4
 Tuesday, February 1
 Tuesday, March 1
 Tuesday, April 5
 Tuesday, May 3
 Tuesday, June 7

Dinner start time: 6:30 p.m.

Lecture start time: 7 p.m.

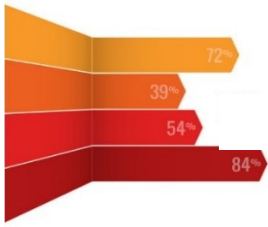
Book raffle

Masks will be required in the public areas of the hotel, but you may remove your mask **once you are seated inside the ballroom**.

Dining seating will be limited to four persons per table; seating for walk-ins will be appropriately distanced. The reception table will be situated inside the ballroom. The buffet line (incl. coffee/tea service) will be situated in the hallway; servers will plate your food.

Disposable plates and flatware will be used. The hotel bar will be open.

We will, of course, notify you if a change in pandemic status causes the hotel to alter its ballroom and/or hotel policies.



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

Membership Update (*Jeff Gates*)

It looks as though we will end Campaign 43 with a membership renewal rate of 89 percent—an above average response rate in any situation but especially during a pandemic. Thanks for your support and loyalty. We’ve also received our first re-enlistment for Campaign 44.

If you know anyone with an interest in the Civil War, please share a copy of our membership form (see page 9) AND/OR share that person’s contact information with me. I am happy to send that individual a few complimentary newsletters and an introductory letter to our Round Table. You can contact me at (610) 966-5773 or jefgates@ptd.net.

Paymaster Update (*Jim Duffy*)

Print Raffle fundraiser: Campaign 42/43 revenue for this fundraiser has risen to \$510. There’s still plenty of time to participate; winning tickets won’t be drawn until our September 7 meeting. See Page 8 for a listing of the great prizes you could win.

Preservation donations: Since our last newsletter, total donations for Campaign 43 now stand at \$2,995. Our most recent donors are David Hohe, Dennis Harris, and John and Marie Maly. Thanks to everyone who has contributed this Campaign year!

Thanks also to the 20 individuals who “tuned in” or “dialed in” to our May meeting!

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Recent CWRT Website Postings (*Paul Bartlett*)

www.cwrteasternpa.org/news

May 11: How Well Do You Know Gettysburg Women’s History? [Click here](#) to go to the online quiz.

www.cwrteasternpa.org/preservation

Apr 29: Gettysburg NMP Museum & Visitor Center to Resume Daily Hours May 1

Upcoming Civil War Events

The 153rd Pa. Volunteer Infantry Reenactment Group invites you to attend a Memorial Day weekend ceremony to honor members of the original 153 PVI and all veterans.

Saturday May 29, 2021, 11 a.m. start
Nisky Hill Cemetery, 254 East Church Street, Bethlehem, Pa.

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National Civil War Museum to Host Community Free Day
Saturday, June 19, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
1 Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, Pa.

ACTIVITIES

10 to 4: Coloring Activity Station

10 to 4: Period Clothing Station (kids and adults): Dress up, take out your cameras, and snap away!

10, 1, and 3: Living History Encampment: Thompson’s Battery C

PRESENTATIONS (*times TBD*)

Dorothy Wickenden: “The Agitators”

Deb Willis: “Reading the Image of the Black Civil War Soldier”

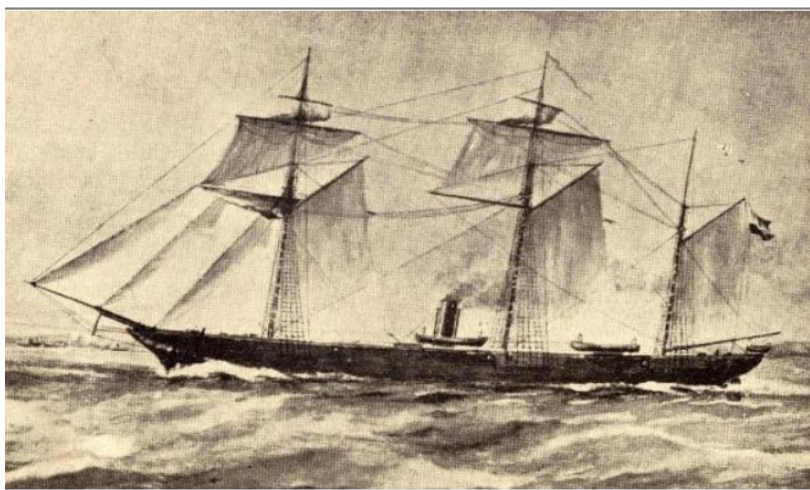
Visit the museum’s website for presentation times, speaker bios and presentation overviews; admission rates and more:

<https://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org>

When the Civil War Came to France

In June, 1864, the most fearsome ship afloat, the *CSS Alabama*, weighed anchor in the harbor in Cherbourg, France. After a two-year chase, the *USS Kearsarge* had finally cornered its elusive enemy. The resulting confrontation became known as the *Battle of Cherbourg*.

The secret (and illegal) construction of the *CSS Alabama* in England was arranged through the Fraser Trenholm Company, a British cotton broker with ties to the Confederacy. Although *Alabama* carried two horizontal engines of 300 horsepower each, she was a good sailor under canvas; in fact, most of her prizes were taken under sail. Able to remain at sea for three to four months at a time, she struck Northern commerce from the Atlantic to the Caribbean to the Indian Oceans and, over the course of her 22-month life, captured 65 vessels that flew the U.S. flag and sank one Union warship.

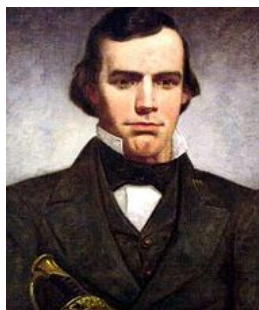


On June 11, 1864, badly in need of a refit, *Alabama* put into harbor at Cherbourg. News of her arrival was soon learned by the *Kearsarge*, which promptly put in for Cherbourg, arriving three days later. On June 19, with few options available to him, *Alabama's* captain, Raphael Semmes, challenged *Kearsarge* to a ship-to-ship duel. *Alabama* steamed out of the Cherbourg harbor on the 19th to meet *Kearsarge*. As *Alabama* approached, Captain John Winslow turned *Kearsarge* to take the battle out of French territorial waters. Once there, *Kearsarge* turned about, hoisted the U.S. Navy Jack, and lined up for a broadside. The engagement followed a circular course, ships steaming in opposite directions and turning to counter the other ship's attempt to gain advantage. *Kearsarge* was hit several times, but *Alabama's* deteriorated powder and shells caused little damage. After an hour or so, *Alabama* began to sink. Captain Semmes tried to run back toward Cherbourg but was headed off by *Kearsarge*. Semmes surrendered when the rising waters stopped his engines.

After the war, the U.S. demanded compensation for the damage wrought by *Alabama* and other British-built, Southern-operated commerce raiders. Representatives cited the illegality of Britain's aid to the Confederacy, estimating this aid had prolonged the war by two years and indirectly cost the U.S. \$2.125 billion. Years went by before any diplomatic settlements were reached. Finally, in 1872, a commission found no cause for Britain to pay indirect damages but did order Britain to pay the U.S. \$15.5 million in compensation.

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June 1, 1861: The Confederate Cause Suffers First Officer Casualty



John Quincy Marr, company captain and founder of the Warrenton Rifles militia, was killed at the Battle of Fairfax Court House during a Union cavalry reconnaissance. As it turned out, Marr had died needlessly. He had been commissioned as a lieutenant colonel in the Virginia forces on May 5, 1861, but the commission was sent to Harpers Ferry by mistake, and he never received it. The battle, while insignificant, but it delayed the Union's drive on Richmond and allowed the Confederates to build up its strength at Manassas—site of the first major battle of the Civil War and a Confederate victory.

June 14, 1917: Flag Day Event Rallies Allentown Citizens; Honors First Defenders

by John Y. Kohl, *Allentown Evening Item*

Today is the proudest day in the history of the Queen City of the Lehigh Valley. At a moment when the war clouds hang low over the nation and the fate of all civilization and of human freedom hang in the balance, threatened by the ravaging hosts of an old world autocracy that is making a last benighted stand against the principles of individual liberty, Allentown, the fount of patriotism and the birthplace of heroes, is rallying its men, its women and its children to once again bespeak its hallowed traditions by means of such a demonstration as the nation has not yet seen since the fateful day, April 6, when America cast her lot with the allied defenders of the rights of humankind.

She has chosen as the day one that is most memorable in American history and one that, symbolically, is most appropriate for the conduct of such a demonstration – the birthday of Old Glory, the first flag dedicated to those principles of freedom that, now granting success to the armies over which that flag shall wave on the fields of France, shall become the principles of all people.

There was a time, however, not much more than 50 years ago, when the Stars and Stripes had to be preserved from internal dissension and her principles vindicated, and in beautiful and reverent recognition of her success in that former crisis, Allentonians are uniting today in the dedication of a beautiful memorial to the first men, the very first, who went out in her defense. One company, the Allen Infantry, was Allentown's gift to the nation and with four more from nearby Pennsylvania towns, formed that glorious company that saved the national capital by their quick response when already the rebel hosts were massing on the Potomac.

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Off the Beaten Track

A Day of New Discovery at Gettysburg Military Battlefield Park



(Above) CWRT of Eastern Pa. field trip attendees with guide, Ron Kirkland (white arrow), on the grounds of the Spangler Barn & Field Hospital, a site owned by the Gettysburg Foundation. Bob McHugh (mentioned on page 2 and circled) is standing in the rear, to the right. Photo by Paul Bartlett

During the morning event, Ron Kirkland pointed out the many ways the grounds were used by the Union XI Corps during and after the battle. The barn's forebay (directly behind the group and supported by beams) served as the operating room; four tables were set up, each attended by a chief surgeon and assistants. In all, more than 1,900 Union and Confederate soldiers were treated here, including CSA General Lewis Armistead, who was cared for and died inside the Spangler's summer kitchen. The afternoon event, a tour of the sections of the battlefield commandeered to serve as a World War I training camp, was conducted by Dr. Mark Snell.

Kids Studying History is More Popular Than You May Think

For some reason, I often hear non-educators say that we no longer teach history in our schools. I don't know where this idea comes from. Saucon Valley High School requires four social studies credits to graduate, including U.S. History, World Cultures, 20th Century Studies, and Government and Economics. Here, history is alive and well and many students excel in the subject. Such an example is 14-year-old freshman Kimberly Moser, who wrote the essay below, which we share with her permission, to analyze why the Union forces were successful at the Battle of Gettysburg. (This article was lightly edited to fit the available space.)

Bob McHugh, CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc.

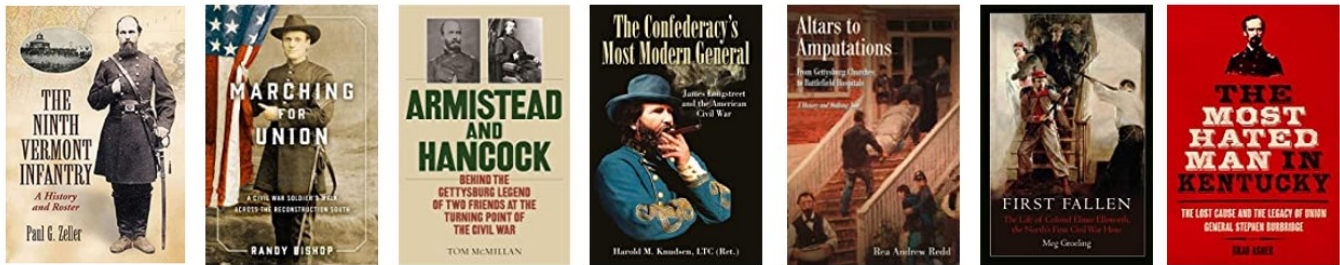
The Battle of Gettysburg is often referred to as the most influential battle of the Civil War by historians, and it's not hard to see why. At this point in the war, the Confederacy had won the majority of the major battles fought. When the Union won the Battle of Gettysburg, it marked a turning point for the war. The Union was able to pull off the win at Gettysburg because they fought in their own territory, they fought on the higher ground, and they utilized their interior lines throughout various points of the battle. Even though these strategies by themselves may not have guaranteed a Union win, together, they influenced the outcome of one of the more well-known battles in American history.

It was 1863, and the Civil War was still not close to ending. The Confederates were feeling confident after the Battle of Chancellorsville, which was an overwhelming victory for them. The Confederacy decided it wanted to take a risk by fighting a battle on Northern soil. In late June, General Robert E. Lee led his army into southern Pennsylvania. He decided to gather his army at the town of Gettysburg but was met with Union forces led by General George Meade. What ensued was a three-day battle and one of the bloodiest of the Civil War.

One of the reasons the Union was able to win the Battle of Gettysburg was because the Union was fighting in its own territory. Up to this point, most of the major battles were fought in unfamiliar Confederate territory, which led to the Union fighting a more offensive war. Since the battle was fought in Pennsylvania, the Union had better maps, knew where certain towns, roads, and landforms were, and were closer to Union railroads for reinforcements. It also gave the Union soldiers a clear motive to fight for, much like the way Southerners fought for the clear motive of defending their home in battles fought in Confederate territory. The Union's advantage of fighting on home turf was also shown at the Battle of Antietam, which was the only other major Civil War battle fought in the North before Gettysburg, and also a Union victory, one of only two major Union victories before Gettysburg. This shows that the Union had a history of fighting better in the North, and the location of the battle certainly played a major role in the Union's victory.

The Union was also able to win the Battle of Gettysburg because it fought on the higher ground throughout the battle. Gettysburg and the surrounding areas have many hills, valleys, and ridges, including Culp's Hill, Little Round Top, and Cemetery Hill. Many of these hills were occupied by the Union during the battle (even though they may have changed hands a couple of times). It's important to have the higher ground in a battle, because it's easier to defend and also offers protection. For example, during the fighting at Little Round Top, which occurred mostly on the second day of the battle, Confederate forces tried to take Little Round Top multiple times, but fell back each time due to the efforts of a Maine regiment and that regiment's position on the hill. Since the soldiers were on top of the hill, they were protected by the cover of the hill and able to fire downwards towards the enemy. In addition, having the high ground definitely helped when the Union soldiers fighting at Little Round Top were ordered to perform a bayonet charge. When they charged, the Union soldiers ran down the hill, which stopped the Union soldiers from retreating, if they got nervous, and made it easier for them to gain momentum. The high ground position gave the bayonet charge more force and made it a more effective move.

(continued on page 7)



July, 2021, Civil War Book Releases

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

The Ninth Vermont Infantry: A History and Roster, by Paul. G. Zeller – ~~June 2~~ July 6

The Union Blockade in the American Civil War: A Reassessment, by Michael Bonner and Peter McCord – July 12 (book image unavailable)

Marching for Union: A Civil War Soldier's Walk across the Reconstruction South, by Randy Bishop – July 15

Armistead and Hancock: Behind the Gettysburg Legend of Two Friends at the Turning Point of the Civil War, by Tom McMillan – July 15

The Confederacy's Most Modern General: James Longstreet and the American Civil War, by Harold M. Knudsen LTC (Ret.) – July 22

Altars to Amputations: From Gettysburg Churches to Battlefield Hospitals: A History and Walking Tour, by Rea Andrew Redd – July 22

First Fallen: The Life of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, the North's First Civil War Hero, by Meg Groeling – July 22

The Most Hated Man in Kentucky: The Lost Cause and the Legacy of Union General Stephen Burbridge, by Brad Asher – July 27

(continued from page 6)

Finally, the use of interior lines proved to be a useful strategy throughout the battle. Through most of the battle, the Union lines were positioned on the interior side of the Confederate's lines, meaning that the Confederates had a longer line that wrapped around the Union's lines. While it may sound like a negative thing to be surrounded by the enemy, the Union's lines were shorter in length and, thus, easier to reinforce. The Union already had more soldiers at the beginning of the battle, and so the smaller interior lines ended up being well supplied compared to the Confederates' spread-out lines. This is particularly shown during the second day of battle, where the Union troops formed a defensive line shaped like a fish hook. Because this line was well connected, attacks were more coordinated, communications clearer and quicker, and reinforcements easier. Without such a connected and reinforced line, the Union would have had a harder time coordinating attacks and reinforcing weak points and may not have won the battle.

To conclude, the Union had many components working together to win the Battle of Gettysburg. First, they were fighting in Union territory, which motivated the soldiers to defend their home. Second, the Union was fighting the battle on easier-to-defend high ground. Finally, the Union had easier-to-reinforce interior lines. Together, these strategies ultimately led to a Union success. In the end, however, no matter what strategies or advantages were utilized, the Battle of Gettysburg was an influential event that shaped American history.

Ticket Sales for Campaign 42/43 Print Raffle Preservation Fundraiser EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

We'll be drawing winning tickets for the Campaign 42/43 Print Raffle at our September 7, 2021, meeting. You will have until then to take a chance on winning some great prizes. If interested, send your check (\$5 per booklet), 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

Final Thoughts

Forty-three years ago, George Seligman formed what is now known as the Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc. and put it on the path to learning and working to protect land and collections that embody the American Civil War. Back then, the small group of mostly youngsters met in center city Allentown. Today, pandemic notwithstanding, the organization has become synonymous not only for preservation and conservation activities but also "classroom style" and "road trip" opportunities for education and discovery.

And while we cannot honor George in our usual fashion, as is the tradition for our June meeting, this month we nonetheless honor our founding father and his legacy of leadership and devotion to the American Civil War.

Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc.

CAMPAIGN 44 MEMBERSHIP FORM (2021-2022)

Please complete the form below and mail it along with your Campaign 44 dues to **CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc., P. O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105**. Make your check payable to: "CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc."

<p>Select one:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am reenlisting for Campaign 44</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a new recruit</p>	<p>Indicate your membership preference:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$25</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Full-time student: \$10</p>
<p>Name: _____ Email address: _____</p>	
<p>Mailing address: _____</p>	
<p>Phone number: _____</p>	
<p>I am including a donation (in addition to my membership dues) in the amount of \$_____. <i>I understand that these funds will be used by the CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc. to benefit preservation efforts related to the Civil War, i.e., supporting the vital work of museums, saving battlefield acreage from development.</i></p>	
<p>(NEW RECRUITS): Please tell us about your American Civil War interests and experiences:</p> <p>How did you hear of the CWRT Round Table of Eastern Pa.? _____</p> <p>Are you a reenactor (Yes/No)? If yes, unit(s)? _____</p> <p>Use the space below to share name(s) and unit(s) of ancestor(s) who fought in the Civil War:</p> 	
<p>(NEW RECRUITS <u>AND</u> REENLISTERS):</p> <p>Do you have a particular interest in the Civil War? If so, please note in the space provided below:</p> <p>Are you willing to speak to groups on some aspect of the Civil War (Yes/No)?</p> <p>Are you interested in participating in Round Table activities (Yes/No)? If yes, please specify below: <input type="checkbox"/> public functions <input type="checkbox"/> political action <input type="checkbox"/> preservation <input type="checkbox"/> living history other _____</p> <p><i>Sending newsletters and other information to our members via email speeds the distribution process and allows us to divert more funds to preservation and conservation. By providing us with your email address, you are giving the CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc. permission to contact you and/or send information to you via email. We rarely have a need to contact our members by phone but having this information on file is occasionally very helpful. The CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc. will NEVER share your contact information unless it has obtained your permission in advance to do so.</i></p>	

**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.**