



Summer, 2021

Brigade Commander:

Barry Arnold

Regimental Commander:

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

Webmaster:

Paul Bartlett

Civil War Roundtable of Eastern Pennsylvania, Inc.

P. O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105

cwrteasternpa@gmail.com

www.cwrteasternpa.org

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

Campaign 44 is almost here, and I can hardly wait!

On Tuesday, September 7th, we'll be kicking off the year in style with a visit from acclaimed historian, preservationist, and author, Dennis Frye. If you've never heard Dennis speak, you are in for a treat. And don't be surprised if he blows up what you think you know about Harpers Ferry. You can read more about Dennis' many Civil War-related achievements inside.

We're planning for a live meeting ... which reminds me of another treat in store for us: The Holiday Inn, Breinigsville, our meeting location for the last six years or so, was purchased during the pandemic by Marriot. I'm looking forward to seeing the changes inside, but a peek at the outside (see image below) tells me that we won't be disappointed. I think that walking into the refurbished hotel is going to feel like an extra nice "welcome back" gift after such a long time of sheltering in place.

Inside this newsletter, you'll find items that share ways in which the CWRT of Eastern Pa. is making a difference in our local community and beyond and interwoven throughout with stories of influential women in pre-, during, and post-Civil War periods.



(Architect rendering)

Same place with a fresh look and new name. Hope to see you there!

The Center 100 Hotel
7736 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville

P.S. We'll share any mandated requirements for meeting room occupancy in our September, 2021, newsletter and on our website (www.cwrteasternpa.org).

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

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

“Oh, grandpop, look here what I have,”

uttered several times his three-year-old grandson, Willie Rice, [which] did not disturb old soldier Solomon Hilbert, of near Shamrock* as he sat in his armchair in the yard with the child playing about him. He was so accustomed to the prattle of the boy during his two weeks' visit there that he paid no heed to this particular request. If he had, he would have discovered that the child had a monster black snake as a companion and was feeding it coffee from a nursing bottle. Every day the child went to the yard with the bottle filled with coffee, and often returned to have it refilled.

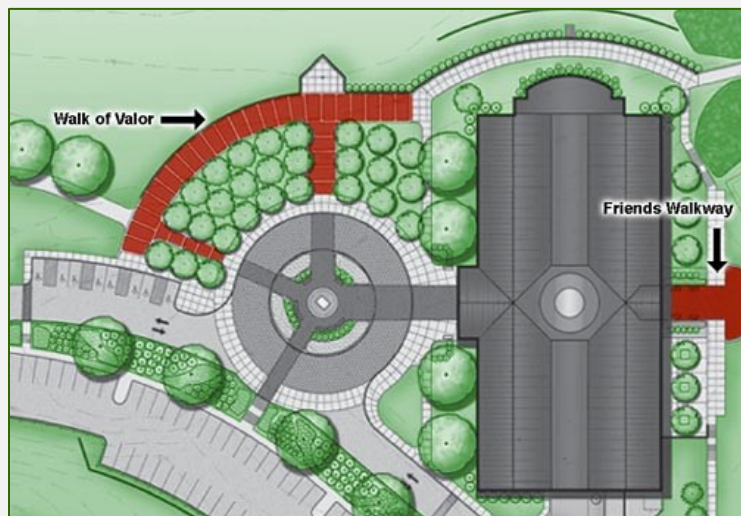
A large black snake had been seen several times by members of the family in the yard, and since the boy went away, it has returned several times, looking much thinner than when it was getting its regular supply of coffee from its little friend. Grandfather Hilbert now feels confident that the child had been giving the snake its daily meals of coffee, and this view is strengthened by the return of the big reptile on Friday to his yard. Last Friday, the old man was sitting in his chair when he noticed the snake coiled up near his chair. Startled, Mr. Hilbert jumped from his chair and walked away faster than he has walked for many years.



Mr. Hilbert served in Company I, Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania Regiment, during the Civil War. During one of the engagements, he was shot in the left leg by a Minnie [sic] ball that dislocated a small bone, making him lame. When he jumped from his chair so suddenly on Friday, it would seem that the shock to his leg threw back the dislocated bone, for now he can walk ever so much better. Mr. Hilbert feels sure that the snake that startled him Friday is the same one that was seen during his grandson's visit, and which he now has no doubt was the child's pet.

* a village in Longswamp Township, Berks County, Pa.

The Reading Times, Reading, Pa., Friday, September 21, 1900, page 5



National Civil War Museum Celebrating 20 Years of Operation

The National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pa., kicked off its 20th anniversary celebration on February 1, 2021. In recognition for its contributions to continuing education, conservation, and, especially, preservation, we've been notified that CWRT of Eastern Pa. members have purchased a 20th Anniversary



Commemorative Brick to honor the Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc. The brick will be placed in the Friends Walkway (see image of the museum grounds above) by October 31, 2021. Each gray limestone brick measures 12" x 12".

CWRT of Eastern Pa. Contributes to Success of 1876 World's Fair Weekend at Bethlehem's National Museum of Industrial History

Thanks to a donation made in Campaign 42, the 1876 World's Fair Weekend received a visit from President Ulysses S. Grant (pictured below). The event, postponed a year, to 2021, took place on June 12 and 13.



The Grant impersonator read the welcoming remarks given by the real President Grant to open the Fair, which was held in Fairmont Park in Philadelphia to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Following Grant's remarks, a restored Corliss engine, among the museum's permanent holdings, was started up inside the museum for the first time ever. (A Corliss Centennial Steam Engine was showcased in Machinery Hall at the 1876 World's Fair.)



Elsewhere, a re-creation of bits and pieces of the World's Fair Women's Pavilion was staged. Here, as was the case in 1876, items on display demonstrated women's positive achievements and influence.



CWRT of Eastern Pa. member, Kathy Coddington, pictured here with her husband, Neil, also a CWRT member, performed the role of docent, walking visitors through an exhibit of decorative and functional household items representative of those displayed in the Pavilion during the Fair. Many of these items were on loan from Kathy's personal collection.

Good News! Philadelphia's G.A.R. Museum Finds New Home



Current location on Griscom St.

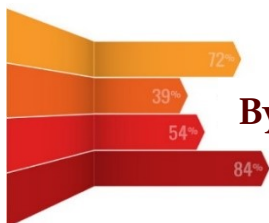
The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum, the only museum in the Philadelphia area dedicated to the remembrance of the Civil War, will move this fall to a new, historic home in a far more accessible area of the city (8110 Frankford Avenue).

Packing and moving will be a monumental task requiring the help of many. If you can assist, please contact the Museum at garmuslib1866@gmail.com. Monetary donations to cover the cost of archival packing, storage and moving of museum holdings are also needed and welcome. The CWRT of Eastern Pa. made a \$500 donation to the museum at the beginning of Campaign 43.



New location on Frankford Ave.

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Send your donation (payable to G.A.R. Museum) to:
G.A.R. Civil War Museum,
4278 Griscom St., Philadelphia, PA 19124.
NOTE: The Griscom Street archive and library is open for research by appointment only. The museum is closed.



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

Membership Update (*Jeff Gates*)

Our final end-of-Campaign renewal rate came in slightly over 90 percent. Thanks once again for your support and loyalty during a very difficult year for all. I'm pleased to announce and welcome two new members: Jeanette Fandl and Jason Dilts. We stand steady at one re-enlistment for Campaign 44.

A Reminder: If you know anyone with an interest in the Civil War, please share a copy of our membership form (page 8) 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. Better yet, why not invite a friend or two along for the kickoff meeting of our Campaign 44 Year on September 7th?

Paymaster Update (*Jim Duffy*)

Print raffle fundraiser: Campaign 42/43 revenue for this fundraiser remains at \$510. It's not too late to participate; the winning tickets won't be drawn until our September 7th meeting. See Page 7 for a listing of the great prizes you could soon be yours.

Preservation donations: Donations for our Campaign 43 Year are \$3,070. Our most recent donors are Lee Kreidler, Wayne Blattner, and Michael Baker. Thanks to everyone who made a contribution during Campaign 43!

Thanks also to the individuals who "tuned in" or "dialed in" to our June meeting!

What a Way to Begin a New Campaign Year!

Mark Your Calendars, and Plan to Join us as Dennis Frye Presents,

"Confluence: Harpers Ferry as Destiny"

Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 7:00 p.m. start (LIVE!)

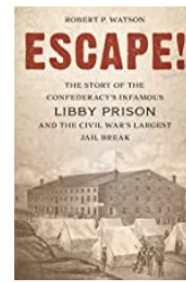
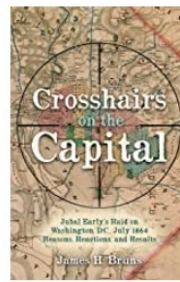
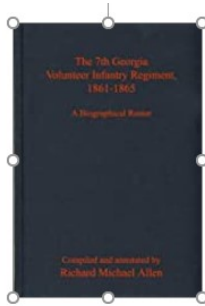
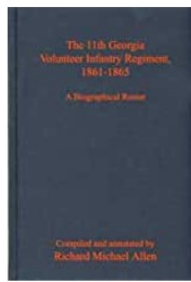


Focusing on personal experiences recorded in journals, letters, and other documents, Dennis will offer a view of Harpers Ferry that is both sweeping and intimate.

Dennis Frye is a former chief historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and recipient of the Distinguished Service Award—the Department of Interior's highest honor. He is past president and co-founder of what is known today as the American Battlefield Trust (ABS) and was recognized by the ABS with a Shelby Foote Award for his leadership. He is also a founding member of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and served as the group's second executive director. Dennis served as historian and producer for the 2003 movie, "God and Generals" and had a cameo role in the film, as aide to Brigadier General Simon Goodell Griffin. In all, Dennis has authored 11 books and more than 100 articles about the Civil War. He co-authored "Confluence" with Catherine Mägi Oliver.

The signup deadline for dinner attendance is Friday, September 3rd. Contact Jim Duffy at Duffysocwk@aol.com or 610-253-4549. (No advance notification is needed for lecture-only walk-ins.)

Dinner & lecture fee: \$25 Lecture-only fee: \$5 (All fees are payable at the door.)



August, 2021, Civil War Book Releases

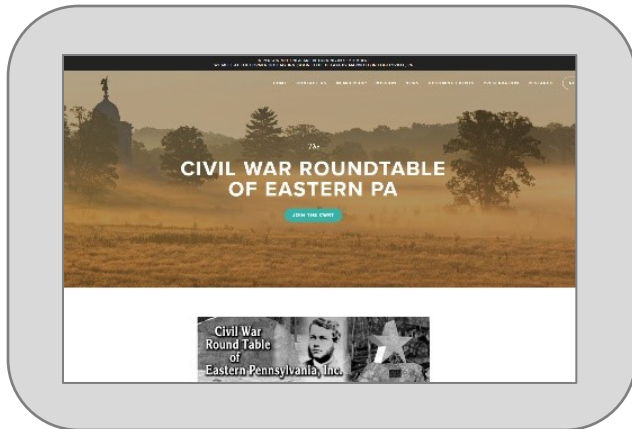
We share, for informational purposes only, what is most certainly a partial listing of books earmarked for an August, 2021, release.

Escape!: The Story of the Confederacy's Infamous Libby Prison and the Civil War's Largest Jail Break, Robert P. Watson | Aug 15, 2021

The 7th Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1861-1865: A Biographical Roster, Richard Allen | Aug 22, 2021

The 11th Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1861-1865: A Biographical Roster, Richard Allen | Aug 22, 2021

Crosshairs on the Capital: Jubal Early's Raid on Washington, D.C., July 1864 - Reasons, Reactions, and Results, James H. Bruns | Aug 23, 2021



Recent CWRT Website Postings

Webmaster Paul Bartlett does a great job of combing the internet to bring CWRT members relevant Civil War news. He also provides recaps of meeting lectures.

Click link to view the items below: [Preservation](#)

May 30: Preservation Setback at the Haw's Shop Battlefield

June 11: Help Forever Protect Two Gettysburg Campaign Sites

Click link to view the items below: [Community News](#)

June 1: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Opens Renovated Museum and Visitor Center

June 14: A Summer of Restoration for the Kirkland Monument at Fredericksburg Battlefield

June 23: The Black Influence – Series 3 – Gettysburg's Underground Railroad

July 1: Preserving an Arm and a Leg (Prosthetic)

Click link to view these items below: [Lecture Recaps](#)

May 5: "Gettysburg's Other Battle: The Ordeal of an American Shrine during the First World War," by Mark Snell

June 1: "Southern Iron Horse at War," by Dave Walter

August 23, 1861

Verdict: House Arrest for Woman Accused of Spying for Confederate Forces



Rose O'Neal Greenhow was once one of the most powerful women in Washington, D.C. Thanks to her husband's social standing and position at the U.S. Department of State, she was welcomed into high society and moved in important political circles, cultivating friendships with presidents, senators, and high-ranking military officers. She was 26 when she married Dr. Robert Greenhow—a 43-year-old doctor, lawyer and linguist.

Robert's work with the State Department took the family to Mexico City in 1850 and then, to San Francisco. Shortly after Rose returned to Washington D.C. to prepare for the birth of their fourth child, Robert, still in California, died from an injury sustained in a fall. While widowhood did not disrupt Rose's popularity in the capital city, she nonetheless fell into a melancholy mood and came to feel great empathy for the Southern cause—emotions possibly encouraged by one of her many political associates, South Carolina Senator John Calhoun. Soon after, she was recruited to become a Confederate spy, using both her charm and guile to successfully pass along key military intelligence regarding the defenses of Washington and Union troop movements. She considered Massachusetts Republican Senator Henry Wilson, who lavished her with love letters, as her prize source of military intelligence.

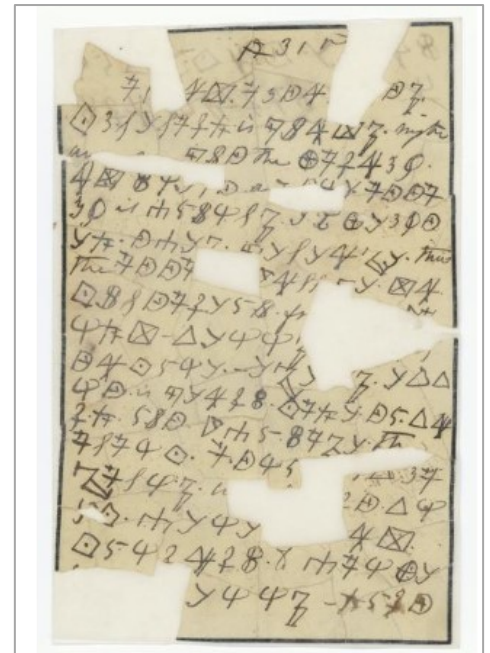
Ultimately, Rose's spy network would grow several states wide and 50 people strong (48 women, 2 men). Later, CSA President, Jefferson Davis, would credit her for ensuring victory at the First Battle of Manassas.

Allan Pinkerton, recently made head of the newly formed U.S. Secret Service, was tasked to watch Rose. Soon after, he placed her under house arrest. Upon searching her house, Pinkerton's men found extensive intelligence materials that she had tried, unsuccessfully, to burn.

Right: An example of the cipher Rose used to send secret messages.

Months later, Northern outcry for Rose's too-lenient treatment resulted in her imprisonment in the Old Capital Prison in Washington D.C. There, she continued to pass along intelligence using the positioning of window blinds, candles, and the waving of colored handkerchiefs. Four months later, she was released, without trial, on condition she remain within Confederate boundaries. President Davis wasted no time in enlisting her as a courtier in Europe, a role she held between 1863 and 1864, traveling through France and Britain on diplomatic missions to build support among aristocrats for the Confederacy.

Rose met her demise in August, 1864, while returning to America with gold coins sown into her underclothes—the royalties she had earned through the sale of a memoir she wrote while in Europe. When her ship became grounded (near Wilmington, North Carolina), she tried taking a row boat to shore (presumably to avoid capture). When a large wave capsized the row boat, she sank to the bottom.



There's Still Time to Buy a Winning Ticket!! Drawing 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. 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 **OR** you can purchase tickets when you come out for our Campaign 44 opener on September 7th ... and bring your friends!



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

July 5, 1865

Camp Chase Union Prison of War Camp Closes

The erstwhile military staging and training camp turned prisoner of war camp is today site of a cemetery for 2,260 Confederate soldiers who died in captivity in Ohio. Between 1861 and 1865, as many as 150,000 Union soldiers and 25,000 Confederate prisoners passed through the camp's gates.

According to numerous sightings that continue today, an apparition known as "The Lady in Gray" frequents the cemetery. She is thought to be the ghost of Louisiana Ransburgh Briggs, who, in life, wore a veil to conceal her identity when placing flowers on the graves of the fallen soldiers. The Lady is said to be particularly fond of Private Benjamin F. Allen of the 50th Tennessee, one of the soldiers buried there, although she also makes frequent visits to the grave of the Unknown Soldier. She's also been heard crying and spotted walking THROUGH trees and out of the closed and locked iron cemetery gates. Some claim (without evidence) that she had once been engaged to Allen.

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>_____</p> <p>Phone number: _____</p> <p>I am including a donation (in addition to my membership dues) in the amount of \$ _____. <i>Your donation 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 and 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>_____</p> <p>Are you a reenactor (Yes/No)? If yes, unit(s)?</p> <p>_____</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 AND REENLISTERS):</p> <p>Do you have a particular interest in the Civil War? If so, please note in the space provided below:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Are you willing to speak to groups on some aspect of the Civil War (Yes/No)?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Are you interested in participating in Round Table activities (Yes/No)? If yes, please specify below:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public functions <input type="checkbox"/> political action <input type="checkbox"/> preservation <input type="checkbox"/> living history other (use space below)</p>	

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.

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.