



April, 2023

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**Civil War Roundtable of
Eastern Pennsylvania, Inc.**

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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

With the advent of Spring, our field trip season has also arrived! So far, we've got plans for two, one-day trips—one in June, one in October—that you can read about inside.

Our next lecture will be a break from the usual, but informative and entertaining nonetheless. This unique, history-based program will focus on life during the Victorian era. And, of course, as any historian knows, one of the best ways to understand a particular historical period (like the American Civil War) is to research customs, culture and values. I hope to see you there ... if not for dinner, at least for the lecture!

Some of the more memorable April events of the American Civil War era include the 1862 act to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, the Great Locomotive Chase, made famous by the 1926 release of "The General," starring Buster Keaton, and the firing upon Fort Sumter. April is also when the skirmish at Miskell's Farm took place—one of many wasted opportunities to shut down Confederate guerilla gunfighter John Mosby, once and for all. You'll find a synopsis of this "fool-ish" event inside.

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 Brigade member of the Color Bearer Society, and a member of ABT's 25-Year Club, all in recognition for its loyal and general support of battlefield preservation.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **Our 45th Campaign Year!** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Join us for:

“A Surprising Look at the Customs and Culture of the Victorian Era” with guest speaker Adam Shefts

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

The Victorian Historian, a.k.a. Adam Shefts, will take us on a grand adventure, sharing glimpses of customs and culture of the Victorian era. This one-of-a-kind journey into the unique, fascinating, and sometimes shocking facts, stories, and happenings, will be delivered through short stories, rare images, video and audio footage, and live demonstrations and work its way, chronologically, to reveal the origin of barbershop quartets, the story of Abraham Lincoln’s beard, the date of the very first selfie, and much more.

Mr. Shefts, a Gettysburg area resident, has been an avid researcher of all things Victorian for as long as he can remember. His “Victorian Historian” program, created in 2018, combines his interest in history and the unusual into an entertaining and educational, multi-media program. Adam is also the author of two books: “Games That Time Forgot” and “History’s Haunted Headlines”, Parts One and Two, with a third book, “Dear Santa Claus,” on the way.

SIGN UP TODAY ...



to meet author and historical researcher, the Victorian Historian, and learn interesting things about Victorian life.

Dinner & lecture fee: \$30 ★

Lecture-only fee: \$5

As always, all fees are payable at the door.

Delta Hotel by Marriot • 7736 Adrienne Drive • Breinigsville (formerly Holiday Inn)

Dinner start: 6:30 p.m. ★ Lecture start: ~ 7:15 p.m.

Deadline to reserve a spot for dinner:

Friday, March 31, by/before 12:00 p.m.

To register, contact Jim Duffy (duffysocwk@aol.com) or 610-253-4549 (email preferred).

Walk-in lecture reservations are NOT required!

March Meeting Recap

★ 30 dinner attendees and 18 lecture walk-ins

★ March book raffle: \$135, bringing the Campaign 45 cumulative total to \$709.

★ March print raffle sales: 7 packs of tickets purchased (\$35).



March book raffle winners:

l-r: Blake Barbarics (who won 3 books!), Bill Frankenfield, Phil Fosco, Gary Weaver, Mike May

March’s speaker, Andy Waskie



treated the crowd to a review of a seminal moment in American post-Civil War history: the formation of the Grand

Army of the Republic.

At Mr. Waskie’s request, the Round Table has donated his speaker’s honorarium of \$50 to the General Meade Society.

CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OF EASTERN PA

Civil War Community News: www.cwrteasternpa.org/news

- Mar 15: New Parking Measures at Gettysburg Visitor Center*
- Mar 13: Ken Burns Gets Taste of the Gettysburg Battle He Chronicled*
- Mar 11: A Confederate General from Pennsylvania*
- Mar 10: Visit Monocacy Nat'l Battlefield (Emerging Civil War)*
- Mar 10: David Wills House Museum Hours of Operation*
- Mar 3: USS Chancellorsville's Name Shift & the US Navy's History of Confederate-Named Vessels*
- Mar 1: Updated Hours Now in Effect for Gettysburg NMP Museum and Visitor Center*
- Feb 27: Gen. Meade Society Symposium (April 2)*
- Feb 22: Honorary First Defenders – Information and Links*

Civil War Preservation News: www.cwrteasternpa.org/preservation

- March 15:** *Stand Up Against Mega-Development at Wilderness Battlefield*
- March 3:** *A Trust Triumph: 47 Acres Saved in the Old Dominion*



Barbeque Lunch and Tour at Evergreen Cemetery, Gettysburg, Pa.

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Here's a great chance learn more about the history of the Evergreen Cemetery and nearby Soldiers' National Cemetery—the place where President Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address. Following a BBQ lunch, hosted by Evergreen Cemetery superintendent Brian Kennell, our journey back in time will begin by

passing through the historic gateway to the Evergreen Cemetery, which played a role during the Battle of Gettysburg.

11:00 AM: Carpoolers to leave Delta by Marriot parking lot (former Holiday Inn, Rte. 100, Breinigsville)

1:00 PM: BBQ lunch on the lawn of the Gatehouse

2 – 4:00 PM: Walking tour of the Evergreen Cemetery and (if you like) the nearby National Cemetery

Copies of “Beyond the Gatehouse: Gettysburg’s Evergreen Cemetery,” will be available for purchase, as will music written by the book’s author, Brian Kennell. All proceeds will be used for cemetery preservation and repairs to the Gate House.

Interested? Contact Claire at clkuk@ptd.net



One of several battle-damaged graveyard markers at the Evergreen Cemetery

Remaining Campaign 45 Presentations

Our lineup of speakers for Campaign 45 offers chances for greater understanding of the American Civil War; these presentations are sure to leave you feeling inspired. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us!

Date	Title	Speaker
May 2	Women (Nurses) to the Rescue at the Spangler Farm, Gettysburg	Ron Kirkwood
June 6	Mourning Customs and History	Gretchen and James Kennedy

You'll find preliminary lecture synopses at www.cwrteasterpa.org/calendar-1 and more expansive synopses in the newsletter that precedes each lecture.

NOTE: Speaker conflicts can cause presentations/presenters or presentation dates to change.

Field Trip Update!

Monocacy Battlefield and Visit to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine

Saturday, June 17, 2023



- ~~6:15~~ **6:45 AM:** Carpoolers to leave Delta by Marriot parking lot (former Holiday Inn, Rte. 100, Breinigsville)
- ~~9:15~~ **10 AM:** Muster at the Battlefield's Visitors' Center, where we will be treated to a lecture. Afterwards, participants will return to their vehicles for a drive-yourself tour of Monocacy Battlefield.
- Lunch (details TBD)
- ~~12:30~~ **1 PM:** Arrive at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine; free time on your own to tour the exhibits
- **2-3:00 PM:** Lecture: [Without Concealment, without Compromise: The Courageous Lives of Black Civil War Surgeons](#)
- **3 - 4:00 PM:** Free time to further explore the museum.
- **4:00 PM:** Carpool departs for the Lehigh Valley (museum closes at 5 PM)

Estimated \$20 per-person for the cost of entry into the Museum and lecture.

(NOTE: Entry into the battlefield park is free.)

Interested? Contact Claire at clkuk@ptd.net

Campaign 45 Print Raffle Preservation Fundraiser

You can purchase tickets at all Round Table meetings OR send a check (\$5 for a 10-ticket booklet), payable to "Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc.," to: P. O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105.

If you mail your payment, your stubs will be returned to you by return mail.

- ★ Framed print (38" x 29 1/2") of Gettysburg Battlefield that was addressed to General Meade and signed by Union generals
- ★ Framed print (27 1/2" x 24") of Abraham Lincoln
- ★ Framed (24 1/2" x 18 1/2") front page of *NY Tribune*, Wed., Apr. 19, 1865 (incl. certification paper)
- ★ Small framed letter from D.S. Roth to Peter S. Hamilton dated 11/16/1864 (11" x 9")
- ★ Union General Service Button found at Harper's Ferry with a picture of a cannon on Bolivar Heights (donated by Barry Arnold)
- ★ Tie with Confederate flag
- ★ 2-volume set: *Lincoln's Speeches and Writings* (Vol 1: 1832-1858; Vol 2: 1859-1865)
- ★ "The Campaign of Chancellorsville: A Strategic and Tactical Study" John Bigelow Jr. (1910 edition)
- ★ "Antietam - The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day," by William A Frassanito
- ★ "The Civil War Dictionary" - signed by Mark M. Boatner III (1959 edition)
- ★ 2-volume set - "Abraham Lincoln - The Prairie Years" by Carl Sandberg (1929 edition)
- ★ 4-volume set - "Abraham Lincoln - The War Years" by Carl Sandberg (1939 edition)
- ★ 2-volume set - "Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant" (1885 edition)
- ★ 2-volume set "Lincoln Finds a General: A Military Study of the Civil War," first edition by Kenneth P. Williams
- ★ Framed print (size) of Ben Crippen, 143rd PVI, shaking his fist at Confederates of the first day at Gettysburg
- ★ 2-volume set = "Stonewall Jackson" by Lenior Chambers (Vol 1: The Legend and the Man to the Valley; Vol 2: Seven Days to the Last March) (1956 edition)
- ★ 3-volume set - "Lee's Lieutenants" by Douglas Southall (Vol 1: Manassas to Malvern Hill - 1942 edition); Vol 2: Cedar Mountain to Chancellorsville - 1943 edition; Vol 3: Gettysburg to Appomattox - 1944 edition

Skirmish at Miskell's Farm:

A Civil War "April Fool" that Ended Badly for the Union



On April 1, 1863, after securing a civilian volunteer to guide them and with orders to find Mosby and his Rangers, 23-year-old Capt. Henry Flint of the 1st Vermont Cavalry (left) set out with five companies to Dranesville, Va., where Mosby and his men were last reported to have been seen. Flint's men surrounded the town and searched every house. No luck. But they did learn from one of the townspeople that Mosby and his men were bedded down at the nearby Miskell Farm.

"All right, boys; we will give Mosby an April fool," shouted Flint to his men, and they headed off to Miskell's. Only one of Mosby's men was still in town and overheard a 1st Vermonter's inquiry and the townspeople's response. As soon as Flint and his men were headed to Miskell's, the Ranger ran to the barn, saddled up, and rode across the fields, yelling, "Mount! Mount! The Yankees are coming!"

Mosby heard him and looked through the barnyard's plank fence just in time to see both his Ranger and Flint's men approaching. He quickly called for his Rangers to saddle, mount ... and wait.

Once the first rank of Vermonters was through the farm gate, Flint ordered the gate closed and barricaded. Flint and his men now had the Rangers bottled up in a barnyard with only one exit on a farm surrounded on two sides by water with Mosby's men outnumbered by more than two to one. But instead of ordering his men to dismount and prepare to fire their carbines, Flint ordered his men to draw sabers and charge. Mosby, remembering the wise words of General Jackson ("*Shoot the brave officers and the cowards will run away and take the men with them*"), ordered his men to kill Flint. The Rangers waited until the Vermonters came into range, sabers a-flashing, and commenced firing in typical fashion—with both pistols—with Mosby leading the charge on foot. Flint was felled by six bullets and died almost instantly.

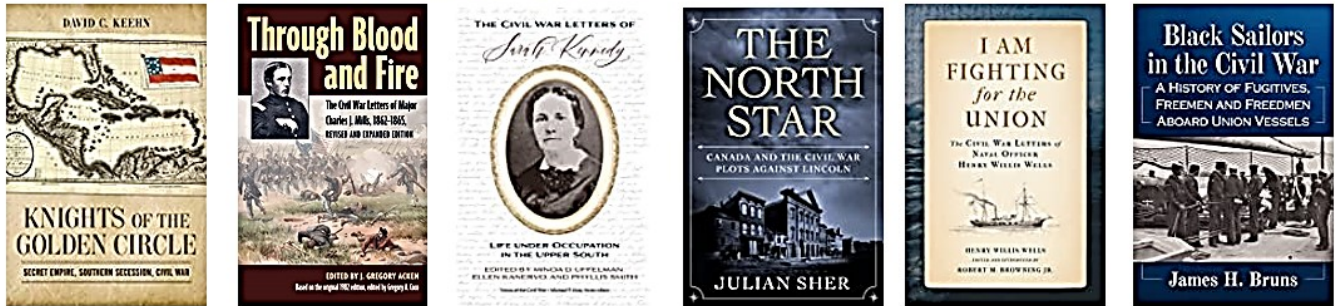
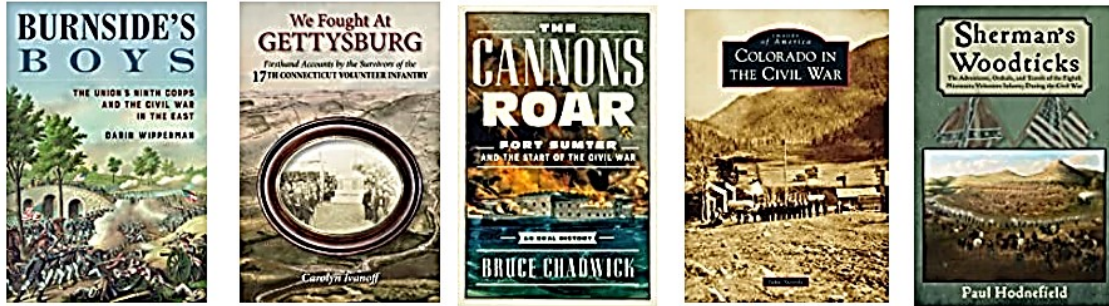
When Flint's second rank came forward and saw riderless horses and men on the ground, they panicked. But none more so than the rank's commander, Captain George H. Bean, who decided it was every man for himself—with him in the lead. Mosby would later report that Bean's men never drew rein or even looked back to see how many (or if any) Rangers were following them. During the escape, one of Bean's men, realizing he had only two choices—surrender or be shot—chose the former. And as Mosby, now mounted, rode passed, the dismounted Vermonters called out to Mosby and his men, "You have played us a nice April fool, boys!"

The fight resulted in a crushing defeat for the Federals that, fundamentally, came down to a Civil War era game of paper scissors rock. Mosby knew, and the 1st Vermonters soon learned, revolver beats saber in mounted charges. Unfortunately, Flint had not yet learned that, when dismounted (so as not to spook the horses), carbine beats revolver.



Skirmish at Miskell's Farm: Mosby's original destination was the Union picket post at Dranesville. But once he learned the post had withdrawn, Mosby and his Rangers moved on to the Miskell Farm in the hope of finding forage, food and a place to bed down for the night.

April, 2023, Civil War Book Releases



Burnside's Boys: The Union's Ninth Corps and the Civil War in the East, by Darin Wipperman | Apr 1, 2023

We Fought at Gettysburg: Firsthand Accounts by the Survivors of the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, by Carolyn Ivanoff | Apr 3, 2023

The Cannons Roar: Fort Sumter and the Start of the Civil War—An Oral History, by Bruce Chadwick | Apr 4, 2023

Colorado in the Civil War (Images of America), by John Steinle | Apr 10, 2023

Sherman's Woodticks: The Adventures, Ordeals and Travels of the Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry During the Civil War, by Paul Hodnefield | Apr 11, 2023

Knights of the Golden Circle: Secret Empire, Southern Secession, Civil War, by Handfield David C. Keehn | Apr 15, 2013

Through Blood and Fire: The Civil War Letters of Charles J. Mills, by J. Gregory Acken | Apr 18, 2023

The Civil War Letters of Sarah Kennedy: Life under Occupation in the Upper South, by Minoa Uffelman | Apr 21, 2023

The North Star: Canada and the Civil War Plots Against Lincoln, by Julian Sher | Apr 25, 2023

I Am Fighting for the Union: The Civil War Letters of Naval Officer Henry Willis Wells, by Henry Willis Wells and Dr. Robert M. Browning Jr. | Apr 25, 2023

Black Sailors in the Civil War: A History of Fugitives, Freeman and Freedmen Aboard Union Vessels, by James H. Bruns | Apr 30, 2023

Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc.

CAMPAIGN 45 MEMBERSHIP FORM (2022-2023)

Please complete the form below and mail it along with your Campaign 45 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: <input type="checkbox"/> I am reenlisting for Campaign 45 <input type="checkbox"/> I am a new recruit</p>	<p>Indicate your membership preference: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Full-time student: \$10</p>
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(Please print clearly, ESPECIALLY your email address!!)

Name:

Mailing address:

Email address:

Phone number:

I am including a donation (in addition to my membership dues) \$ _____.

Your donation will be used by the CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc. to benefit preservation efforts related to the Civil War, e.g., supporting the vital work of museums and saving battlefield acreage from developers.

(NEW RECRUITS): Please tell us about your American Civil War interests and experiences:

How did you hear of the CWRT Round Table of Eastern Pa.?

Are you a reenactor (Yes/No)? If yes, unit(s)?

Use the space below to share name(s)/unit(s) of ancestor(s) who fought in the Civil War:

(NEW RECRUITS AND REENLISTERS): Do you have a particular interest in the Civil War?

If yes, please elaborate in the space provided below:

Are you willing to speak to groups on some aspect of the Civil War (Yes/No)?

Are you interested in participating in Round Table activities? If yes, please specify below:

public functions political action preservation living history other (note below):

*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. **IMPORTANT NOTE: 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.**