



November, 2023

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Barry Arnold

Regimental Commander:

Laura Kleinschmidt

Adjutant & Company

Commander:

Claire Kukielka

Brigade Librarian

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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

Great news bears repeating: We've raised the money needed to acquire the sword of 20-year-old Bethlehem native, Captain Jonathan Taylor! It's often said that preserving history happens one story at a time. And now Captain Taylor's story, recently preserved in print by our own Round Table member, Frank Whalen, together with the upcoming, local display of the sword that Taylor carried into his last battle, to can do what stories do best: influence, teach, and inspire.

Congratulations, and many thanks. Of the \$9,000 needed to purchase the sword, more than 80 percent of that sum came either from Round Table members or friends of Round Table members. Inside, you can read more about the sword and what will happen next. You'll also see a reprint of the first installment of Frank's article.

At our upcoming November meeting, we're heading back to one of our favorite places: Gettysburg. This time, we'll hear from someone who dedicated more than 40 years of her life to learning and teaching others about what happened at this place and why it mattered—and still matters. She is also a retired school teacher. And teachers often make the best storytellers.

You can read more inside about Linda Clark and the upcoming presentation she will share with us on Tuesday, November 7. Hope to see you there.

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 46th Campaign Year! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Join us for:**“Walk a Mile with Lincoln”****Tuesday, November 7, 2023**

On November 19, 1863, Pres. Abraham Lincoln delivered a 272-word speech to dedicate a national cemetery—site of the three-day Battle of Gettysburg. Much has been written about Lincoln and his Gettysburg Address. But little has been written about the residents who heard the Address.

Join us as Linda Clark takes us on Lincoln’s journey, passing residents’ homes on his way from the train station to the cemetery where he delivered his “few appropriate remarks” on November 19th. Time did not permit Lincoln to meet with the residents of those homes. If he had, he would have found it very interesting to learn how similar their lives were to his own.

Linda is a Gettysburg native and a former teacher, librarian and emeritus Licensed Gettysburg Battlefield Guide. She is also the author of a series of nonfiction books for young readers entitled, “The Battle for Gettysburg: What Was It Like for the Citizens of 1863?”

SIGN UP TODAY ...

to attend “Walk a Mile with Lincoln (on Nov. 19, 1863) on Tuesday, November 7.
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**

Dinner start: 6:30 PM ★ Lecture start: ~ 7:15 PM

Deadline to reserve a spot for dinner:**Friday, November 3 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!

October, 2023, meeting recaps

- ★ 23 dinner attendees and 18 lecture walk-ins
- ★ Book raffle proceeds: \$106
- ★ Print raffle ticket sales: \$35

October book raffle winners:**Front row:** Sherri Miller, Kim Jacobs**Back row:** Tom Gauntner, Blake Barbarics, Bill Frankenfield, Marie Maly**October speaker, Victor Vignola with our own Laura Kleinschmidt.**

Mr. Vignola’s \$50 honorarium will be donated to the American Battlefield Trust.



See page 3 for more news from
 our October meeting.

More October, 2023, Meeting News:

- Seven members reenlisted for Campaign 46. Thanks, all, for your continued support!
- Welcome to Daniel Meehan, who joined our Round Table at the October meeting.

We also thanks Kay Bagenstose and Barry Arnold for making general donations and to Kay Bagenstose, Barry Arnold, Neil and Kathy Coddington, and Jim Duffy for making donations to the sword fund.



“We Got the Sword!”

Captain Jonathan Taylor’s Sword Will Soon Begin its Journey Northward

by Ed Root

Now that the work to gather the needed funds is complete, the next steps include getting the sword from its current location in South Carolina to Pennsylvania and waiting for the Historic Bethlehem Museum and Sites organization to complete its work to design, build and install a display area in the school. Once all of these steps are completed, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held.

While we await the display installation, we will be working to see if we can bring the sword to a future Round Table meeting so that those in attendance can get a close-up view. Should the Bethlehem School District policy allow visitors to enter the school, we will also be notifying you of the ribbon-cutting ceremony time, date, and location so that those interested can attend.

On behalf of our Round Table and Civil War artifact preservationists everywhere, I’d like to thank you for your generosity and support.

The final donor to put us over the top made his contribution to the acquisition of the Taylor sword in memory of the late Colonel James Allen Stauffer—a 1976 graduate of Bethlehem’s Liberty High School class and 1980 graduate of the Virginia Military Academy. He shared Stauffer’s story with us:

Jeff dedicated 35 years of active duty to our nation. As a Captain at Fort Stewart Army Base, he was first trained to be a tank commander. Upon promotion to Major, he served as base commander at Hunter Army Airfield—the Army’s largest and busiest. During this time, he was also chief coordination officer during the Iraqi Enduring Freedom battle under President George H.W. Bush, which earned him a promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

In 2003, Colonel Stauffer returned to the Pentagon, where he worked directly for the Inspector General and the Secretary of the Army as Chief, Senior Official Inquiries. Before
(continued on the page 4)



retiring, he supervised inquiries concerning the Abu Ghraib (Iraq) and Guantanamo Bay detainee camps. Upon completion of his tour of duty, James was visited by President Bush and received his full Colonel promotion. He lived out the remainder of his life in the Lehigh Valley.

Campaign 46 Lecture Schedule: Mark Your Calendars!

The list below represents our lineup of Campaign 46 speakers and the titles of their presentations. (You'll find information about the November lecture on page 2 of this newsletter). For more details, watch for monthly newsletters or visit our Round Table's website www.cwrteasternpa.org/.

December 5	"A Soldier's Civil War Christmas"	Michael Jesberger
January 2	"Thirteen Months in Dixie OR the Adventures of a Federal Prisoner in Texas"	Steven Knowlton
February 6	"Cedar Mountain"	M. Chris Bryan
March 5	"Women Combat Soldiers in the War"	James Hedtke
April 2	"Fort Sumter's Long Shadow: Mr. Lincoln Calls for an Army, and Northern States Respond"	Leon Reed
May 7	"Point Lookout Confederate POW Camp"	Bradley Gottfried
June 4	"Who is James Longstreet?"	Lt. General James Longstreet, CSA, and his wife, Helen Dortch Longstreet

First published in the October 22, 2023, issue of WFMZ.com

History's Headlines: Jonathan Taylor of Bethlehem (Part I)

by Frank Whalen

"It is well that war is terrible, or we should grow too fond of it."

Confederate commander Robert E. Lee, on seeing federal charges repulsed at the battle of Fredericksburg, Va. December 13, 1862.

These oft-quoted words of Lee, usually the only ones selected from him in most books of reference almost brings to life a picture, one of those Don Troiani paintings or prints much admired and collected by Civil War buffs. There Lee sits on Traveler, ramrod straight, half lowered field glass in hand, aides and fellow officers around him. He turns to his trusted aide James Longstreet (later to be defamed by true believers in the Lost Cause after the war by becoming a Republican and supporter of civil rights for Blacks) and utters the quote for which he is most remembered. Was someone taking notes?

Somewhere off of this picture is 20-year-old Jonathan Taylor of Bethlehem and at that moment no one had to tell him how terrible war was. As a Captain of Company C of the 129th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers he found himself in one of the bigger failures of Union military leadership in the Civil War, the battle of Fredericksburg, one that would eventually lead to his wounding and *(continued on page 7)*

Campaign 46 Print Raffle

Based on feedback received from Round Table members, the Board has decided that our Campaign 46 Print Raffle fundraiser will feature fewer items than in previous years. This newsletter issue shares the prints included in this year's raffle. The books and prints will be on display at every monthly meeting during the campaign year.



▲ 140th Anniversary Commemorative:

“Custer’s Gallant Cavalry Charge at Gettysburg”

Brigadier General George Armstrong Custer and the 1st Michigan – July 3, 1863



◀ “Running the Gauntlet at Vicksburg”

General Sherman Meets Admiral Porter on the flagship Benton (Artist: Don Stivers)

Renown Civil War and military artist Don Stivers’ works are on display at military museums and bases, including the Pentagon, U.S. Cavalry Museum, and Army War College. His work is also among the holdings of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Our annual print raffle is one of the ways our Round Table earns revenue to support its continuing Civil War preservation efforts,

so every purchase of a raffle ticket book is an investment in the ongoing struggle to protect our nation’s “hallowed ground” and related artifacts that tell stories about what happened on these grounds. Books of 10 tickets can be purchased for \$5 each at every monthly Round Table meeting or by mail.

To order by mail, send your check, made payable to the Civil War Roundtable of Eastern Pa., Inc. to P. O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105. Unless you indicate otherwise, your tickets will be sent to your home mailing address.

Luscious Landscapes, Famous Inhabitants, Memorial Park: **Round Table Members Visit Evergreen Cemetery**

Judging from the photo below, the weather turned out perfectly for the field trip to Gettysburg Evergreen Cemetery, which is now part of the Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District, and is surrounded by Gettysburg National Military Park and Soldiers' National Cemetery. The gatehouse, which played an important role in the Battle of Gettysburg, is also located here.



▲ Evergreen Cemetery field trip attendees

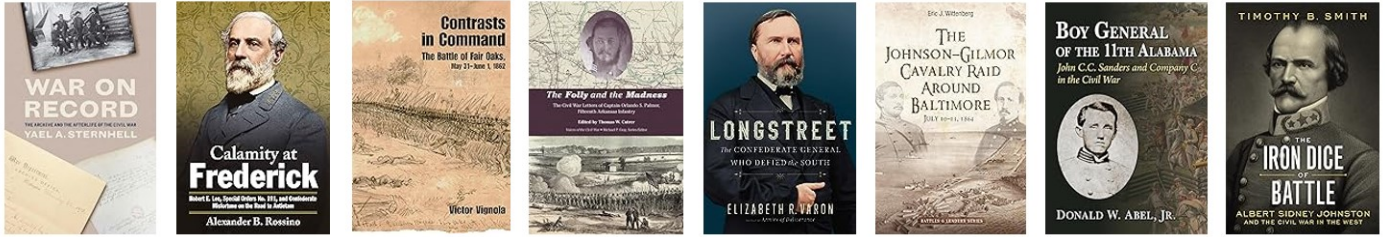


◀ *The Gatehouse basement. The residents (the Thorn family) stayed here during fighting. Wounded were also brought here.*



▶ *Evergreen Cemetery superintendent Brian Kennel. Proceeds from his book, "Beyond the Gatehouse: Gettysburg's Evergreen Cemetery," benefit restoration efforts.*

November, 2023, Civil War Book Releases



War on Record: The Archive and the Afterlife of the Civil War, by Yael A. Sternhell | Nov 7, 2023

Calamity at Frederick: Robert E. Lee, Special Orders No. 191, and Confederate Misfortune on the Road to Antietam, by Alexander B. Rossino | Nov 7, 2023

Contrasts in Command: The Battle of Fair Oaks, May 31 - June 1, 1862, by Victor Vignola | Nov 9, 2023 (*our October, 2023 speaker*)

The Folly and the Madness: The Civil War Letters of Captain Orlando S. Palmer, Fifteenth Arkansas Infantry by Thomas W. Cutrer | Nov 17, 2023

Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied the South, by Elizabeth Varon | Nov 21, 2023

The Johnson-Gilmer Cavalry Raid Around Baltimore: July 10-13, 1864 (Savas Beatie Battles & Leaders Series) by Eric J. Wittenberg | Nov 22, 2023

Boy General of the 11th Alabama: John C.C. Sanders and Company C in the Civil War, by Donald W. Abel Jr. | Nov 26, 2023

The Iron Dice of Battle: Albert Sidney Johnston and the Civil War in the West, by Timothy B. Smith | Nov 29, 2023

History's Headlines: Jonathan Taylor of Bethlehem (*continued from page 4*)

later death. The Civil War monument in Bethlehem's Rose Garden, recently restored, honors Taylor and his fellow soldiers from the Bethlehem and Northampton County area.

Born in Kidder Township, Carbon County on the 21st of April 1842, Taylor moved with his family to Bethlehem in 1858. At the outbreak of the war in 1861 he was a student at the Weaversville Academy, a private school of 100 students, some of whom boarded at the school and included male and female scholars. The academy favored a classical education, which meant an emphasis on Greek and Latin classics in the original languages. If it was like other schools of this type, it included writings of Homer and Caesar and other tales of soldiers from antiquity. The fact that Taylor attended a private school where his parents had to pay tuition rather than a public school suggests that they were of some means if not exactly wealthy.

Part 2 of this story will appear in the December, 2023, issue of the Civil War Roundtable of Eastern Pa., Inc. newsletter.

Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc.

CAMPAIGN 46 MEMBERSHIP FORM (2023-2024)

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 46 <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>
<p>(Please print clearly, ESPECIALLY your email address!!)</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Mailing address:</p> <p>Email address: Phone number:</p>	
<p>I am including a donation (in addition to my membership dues) \$ _____. <i>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.</i></p>	
<p>(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:</p>	
<p>(NEW RECRUITS <u>AND</u> REENLISTERS): Do you have a particular interest in the Civil War? If yes, please elaborate 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? If yes, please specify below: <input type="checkbox"/> public functions <input type="checkbox"/> political action <input type="checkbox"/> preservation <input type="checkbox"/> living history <input type="checkbox"/> other (note below):</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. 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.</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.**