



January, 2024

**Brigade Commander:**

Barry Arnold

**Regimental Commander:**

Laura Kleinschmidt

**Adjutant & Company**

**Commander:**

Claire Kukielka

**Brigade Librarian**

Kay Bagenstose

**Paymaster:**

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**Membership Director:**

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**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

**website:** [www.cwrteasternpa.org](http://www.cwrteasternpa.org)

**email:** [malymc@ptd.net](mailto:malymc@ptd.net)

*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

After 160 years, the Jonathan Taylor sword has come home! Inside you'll find photos of the sword which, along with other Civil War artifacts, are temporarily on display at Nitschmann Junior High School. Without the encouragement and patronage of so many of you, this historic event would not have been possible. Here's hoping 2024 will likewise be a year full of adventure for our Round Table. And here's to another year of enjoying the company of the same great people ... and the hope that our good work will encourage others to join us.

We'll be getting off to a very early start in 2024; our January dinner meeting and lecture will take place on **Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**. And so, before you get too caught up in the holiday spirit, mark your calendar and plan to join us for dinner or the lecture ... or both. I'm sure Mr. Duffy will be very happy to get an earlier-than-usual email from you to request a seat or two ... or more for our January dinner meeting. You'll find his contact information inside on page 2. As always, no reservations are needed for lecture walk-ins.

As you page through this newsletter, you may notice that our planned-for February speaker will be joining us instead in January ... and vice versa. You can read about Mr. Bryan and his lecture subject on page 2. Inside, you'll also find the final installment of Round Table member Frank Whalen's story about the last days of Captain Jonathan Taylor's life.

*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:**  
**“Cedar Mountain”**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024**



M. Chris Bryan will favor us with the results of his extensive archival research, including detailed maps and images, to offer a compelling story of the Union XII Corps, beginning with its formation as the II Corps in

Maj. Gen. John Pope’s Army of the Virginia—a little-studied yet consequential command.

Chris is a U.S. Navy veteran who served as an aviator. He earned a B.S. in History from the U.S. Naval Academy, an M.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John’s College, and a Masters in Historic Preservation from the Univ. of Maryland. He is also the author of “Cedar Mountain to Antietam: A Civil War Campaign History of the Union XII Corps, July – September, 1862,” a book published in 2022.

**SIGN UP TODAY ...**

to attend “Cedar Mountain” with M. Chris Bryan.  
**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, December 30 by/before 12:00 p.m.**

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

**Walk-in lecture reservations are**  
**NOT required!**

**December, 2023, meeting recaps**

- ★ **Re-enlistments:** Tony Major
- ★ **Donations:** Kay Bagenstose, Neil & Kathy Coddington, Chuck Dzielawa, Tony Major
- ★ 24 dinner attendees and 12 lecture walk-ins
- ★ **Book raffle proceeds:** \$119
- ★ **Print raffle ticket sales:** \$30

**December book raffle winners:**

(I-r): Paul Bartlett, Bruce Rissmiller, Terri Monroe, Gary Weaver, Gary Schnell, Frank Whalen



**December’s guest speaker,**  
**Michael Jesberger**

will donate his \$50 honorarium to the Spencer’s Associated Continental Regiment.





## 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 January lecture on page 2 of this newsletter). For more details, watch for monthly newsletters or visit our Round Table's website [www.cwrteasternpa.org/](http://www.cwrteasternpa.org/).

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February 6	"Thirteen Months in Dixie <b>OR</b> the Adventures of a Federal Prisoner in Texas" <i>NOTE: This presentation was originally scheduled for our January meeting.</i>	Steven Knowlton
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

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

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

by Frank Whalen, CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc.



*Our December, 2023, newsletter issue found the Army of the Potomac, among them Captain Jonathan Taylor, approaching Marye's Heights in Fredericksburg—a place already well-manned by Confederates. (Image: Marye's Heights – Library of Congress)*

It was in the gloom and dark that the 129th advanced. They were told to take the stone wall at the point of a bayonet. Dying men were all about them in the churned-up earth as they charged through mud up to their ankles. The darkness enveloped the battlefield and still they charged forward. One of the first to fall was Taylor, shot through the shoulder and lung. Yet he refused to leave the field, only retreating finally with his men.

In less than an hour the 129th saw 142 men killed, wounded, or missing. "The hideous cries of the wounded, weird, unearthly terrible to hear and bear," echoed through the night," states the National Park Service's account.

Today some historians note that despite the terrible death toll suffered by the Union it was in one way more harmful to the Confederates. It had forced Lee to expend a huge amount of his supplies

and munitions, things that the South had little of. At the same time the North was in the process of turning itself into an industrial war machine. Finally, Burnside was about to lead a charge himself but was dissuaded by his aides. He would go on to a blunder at the Battle of the Crater in 1864 in which thousands of white and Black Union soldiers died. Grant felt looking back on it that Burnside should not have held a rank any higher than colonel.

But Burnside's failures on the battlefield did not mar his post-war career. He sat on the boards of several railroads, was elected to three terms as Republican governor of Rhode Island and two terms representing that state in the U.S. Senate. In 1871, according to his Wikipedia bio, Burnside was named the first president of a fledgling organization called the National Rifle Association. He died in the 1880s.

At first, the reports reaching Bethlehem on the battle were relatively positive. It was believed no one was killed and a few wounded. But then the truth, especially about the wounded, came out. Battlefield medicine being what it was in the 1860s, death gradually took its toll. At times Taylor seemed to be getting well. His father David visited him and brought items for other members of the 129th and visited with them. Over the next 105 days Taylor was moved from one place to another by railroad and steamboat. Pain killers and antibiotics were unknown and his suffering from all that movement must have been great.

Finally, he died with his parents at his bedside in a private house in Georgetown (the hospitals in Washington were full) on March 28, 1863, 24 days before his 21st birthday. Like the Greek and Roman heroes he read about in his classroom at the Weaversville Academy, he died a no less heroic death.

At Taylor's funeral a huge number of Bethlehem citizens turned out. Because he attended Moravian services since coming to Bethlehem and at his parents' request, the Moravian Church gave permission for Taylor to be buried in God's Acre cemetery.

The local press covered the arrival and funeral this way:

"The train from Philadelphia containing the remains of the gallant dead arrived at regular time –at half past nine, on Monday morning March 30th. All the principal places of business were closed; flags floating at half-mast could be seen on the Bethlehem Female Seminary buildings on the Eagle and Sun Hotels, and at several other places; bells were tolled from the time the procession left the depot, until it reached the home of the deceased. The Bethlehem Band, the Moravian Day School – hundreds of patriotic girls and boys—in charge of the principal and his assistants: the Burgess and the Town Council and the Diligent Fire Company, formed on the Lehigh Bridge and took the right of procession. Hundreds of citizens followed the vehicles containing his parents and family members, making altogether a most imposing and highly appropriate ceremony in honor of a true patriot, who voluntarily sacrificed his own life in order that the Republic might live." Taylor was buried the next day not far from his parents' West Market Street home.

When the war was over a Grand Army of the Republic Veterans post was formed. It was named Post 182, the Jonathan K. Taylor Post.

On October 11, 1887, in what is believed to have been the biggest parade in Bethlehem's history was held to celebrate the installation of a statue to honor Taylor, their forever young friend, as well as all Bethlehem Civil War veterans, living and dead. Cast of 99.3 percent zinc by the Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut, it is a generic figure, one of many made by the company from 1874 to 1914 on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line. Originally placed on

West Market Street not far from Taylor's home in 1967 it was moved to a more secure location at Bethlehem's Rose Garden.

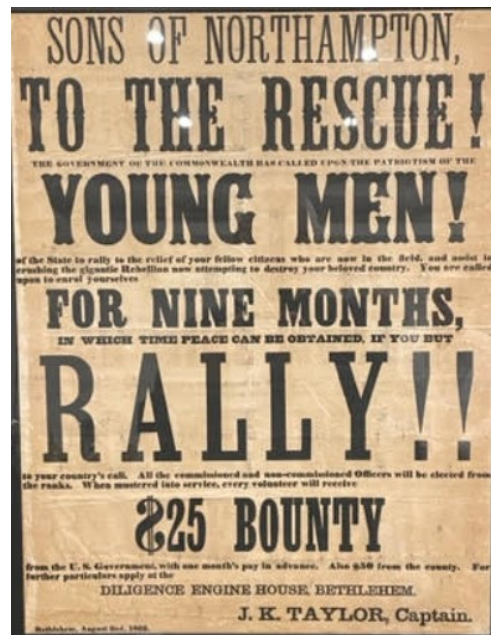
By 2015, in fear that it was leaning left and might topple over, the statue was removed and restored and in May 2017 was securely returned to its place.

Perhaps Ed Root, past president of the Civil War Roundtable of Eastern Pennsylvania said it best of Taylor: "He was brave, he was patriotic, and he was earnest." Even all these years later Bethlehem has not forgotten Taylor's sacrifice, "in order that the Republic might live."

\* \* \*



For those who were unable to attend our December meeting, we share (below) items that are included in the display, along with Captain Taylor's sword (above), at Nitschmann Middle School.



◀ Enlistment broadside for 9-months' service. (Note the name of the unit's captain at the bottom on the broadside.) On loan from Jack Stanley.

Lehigh Valley area ribbons (above) and a photograph (right) on loan from the G.A.R. Museum in Philadelphia. The photo includes William Wobach, the 14-year-old member of the 153<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania that you previously read about who lied about his age when he enlisted. (See p 7 for more photos.)





## Gettysburg National Military Park Announces Its Winter Lecture Series



Featuring some of the best rangers, historians, and authors from across the country, the nine-week Winter Lecture Series returns to the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. Each lecture will begin at 1:30 pm and held in the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. Each lecture is scheduled to run between 45 minutes and 60 minutes.

- Sat., Jan. 6:** “All This is Monument Enough” : Sickles and the New York Monument Commission  
**Sunday Jan. 7:** If These Things Could Talk: The Naval Edition  
**Sat. Jan. 13:** The Heavens Meet Earth at Gettysburg: Design of Sacred Spaces  
**Sun. Jan. 14:** If These Things Could Talk – Treasures from the Collection of Gettysburg National Military Park  
**Sat. Jan. 20:** The Great Crusade at 80: Eisenhower, Gettysburg, and the Legacy of D-Day  
**Sun. Jan. 21:** Wolverines at Gettysburg: Michigan Soldiers in the Battle of Gettysburg  
**Sat. Jan. 27:** Major General George Sykes: The Life and Service of Gettysburg's Least Known and Most Elusive Corps Commander  
**Sun. Jan. 28:** “If I Ever Get Back to You, I Will Live a Different Life”; The Life and Letters of the Iron Brigade’s John Pardington and His Wife, Sara  
**Sat. February 3:** "A Brilliant Victory": The Fight to Preserve the First Significant US Victory of the Civil War  
**Sat. February 3:** Special Walking Tour: African American Service Members Buried in Gettysburg National Cemetery  
**Sun. February 4:** Presidents and Gettysburg  
**Sat. February 10:** Biology on the Battlefield: Natural Resource Management at a Historic and Cultural Park  
**Sat. February 17:** Abraham Lincoln in the Archives: “New” Sources, New Questions  
**Sat. February 24:** Harriet Tubman: In Her Own Words  
**Sun. February 25:** “I Dread the Thought of the Place.” A Conversation on the Craft of History with D. Scott Hartwig  
**Sat. March 3:** Camp Letterman: Life and Death at Gettysburg’s Largest Field Hospital

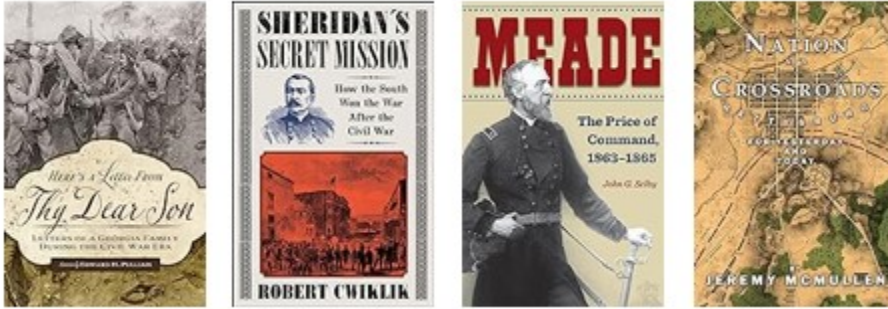
Details about each lecture/event can be found here:

<https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/gettysburg-winter-programs.htm#:~:text=The%20Winter%20Lecture%20Series%20is,first%20come%20%E2%80%93%20of%20first%20serve%20basis.>

Seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Free tickets will be available the day of the program at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. All programs will be recorded by our friends at Addressing Gettysburg and posted afterwards to its YouTube Channel [youtube.com/@addressinggettysburg](https://www.youtube.com/@addressinggettysburg). Live streaming of these lectures will NOT be available.

**NOTE:** The lecture schedule may be subject to change.

## Jan., 2024, Civil War Book Releases



Here's a Letter from Thy Dear Son: Letters of a Georgia Family During the Civil War Era, by Edward H Pulliam | Jan 1, 2024

Meade: The Price of Command, 1863-1865, by John G. Selby | Jan 9, 2024

Decisions at Forts Henry and Donelson: The Twenty One Critical Decisions that Defined the Battles, by Hank Koopman | Jan 12, 2024

Sheridan's Secret Mission: How the South Won the War After the Civil War, by Robert Cwiklik | Jan 16, 2024

A Nation at a Crossroads: Gettysburg for Yesterday and Today, by Jeremy McMullen | Jan 22, 2024

*(continued from page 5)*



◀ This photo captures the entire display now in place at Nitschmann Middle School in Bethlehem.

▶ Our own Ed Root, who was instrumental in bringing Captain Taylor's sword back to Bethlehem, spoke at the ceremony. Later, he told a reporter from *Lehigh Valley News* that because of the ceremony and display, that "the kids are very interested now, and they have a chance to learn more and be part of this history."

"That was the goal all along ...".



# 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."

**Select one:**

I am reenlisting for Campaign 46

I am a new recruit

**Indicate your membership preference:**

Individual: \$25

Full-time student: \$10

(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.**