

February, 2024

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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 holiday season behind us, most folks have hunkered down for the worst of the winter season. These are the days when it's hard to trade a warm, well-lit home for a cold car and a dimly-lit walk from the parking lot into the hotel. But we hope you'll decide that our February lecture subject, and, of course, the chance to catch up with friends and acquaintances, will be too tempting to pass up. We look forward to seeing you.

Inside, as always, you'll find a summary of our February lecture and information about our guest speaker.

It may still be winter, as we've been reminded in the last week or so—twice, in fact! But spring is already in the air as work on this campaign year's field trip is well underway. We'll share details once the planning is further along.

Finally, some of you may remember "Love is a Battlefield," a song recorded by rocker Pat Benatar. In honor of Valentine's Day (another important reminder to add to your February planning calendar, by the way), we share a few stories and tidbits about the search for love in the Civil War era.

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.

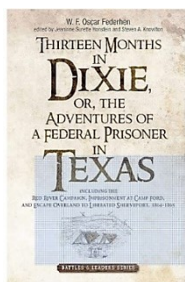
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Our 46th Campaign Year! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Join us for:**“Thirteen Months in Dixie OR the Adventures of a Federal Prisoner in Texas”****Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

Speaker and author Steve Knowlton will share the wartime plight of Oscar Federhen, a relatively new recruit who was captured, sent to, and later escaped from, POW Camp Ford, near Tyler,

Texas—the largest Confederate-run prison west of the Mississippi.

Steve is a Librarian for History and African American Studies at Princeton University. His historical research has been published in multiple peer-reviewed journals. He is also a recipient of the William the Marshall Wingfield Award from the West Tennessee Historical Society and twice won the Justin Winsor Library History Essay Award. “Thirteen Months in Dixie” is his first book.

SIGN UP TODAY ...

to attend “Thirteen Months in Dixie OR the Adventures of a Federal Prisoner in Texas” with Steve Knowlton

Dinner & lecture fee: \$30 *

Lecture-only fee: \$5

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, February 2nd 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!**

January, 2023, meeting recaps

- ★ **Re-enlistments:** Jan Fisher, Wayne Schaeffer and Dale Eck
- ★ **Donations:** Kay Bagenstose and Dick Harris
- ★ 22 dinner attendees and 15 lecture walk-ins
- ★ **Book raffle proceeds:** \$70
- ★ **Print raffle ticket sales:** \$20

January Book Raffle Winners

Tom Gauntner, David Hohe, Gary Schnell, Laura Kleinschmidt, Sherri Miller, John Maly

January's guest speaker,

M. Chris Bryant will donate his \$50 honorarium to Wounded Warrior Project.



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 February lecture on page 2 of this newsletter).

March 5	"Women Combat Soldiers in the War"	Dr. 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

Exchanging Iron V♥lentimes



Image: The water batteries of Fort Donelson looking down the Cumberland River in direction of the approach of the oncoming gunboats. "State of the art" ironclad gunboats of the Union Western flotilla would soon take on

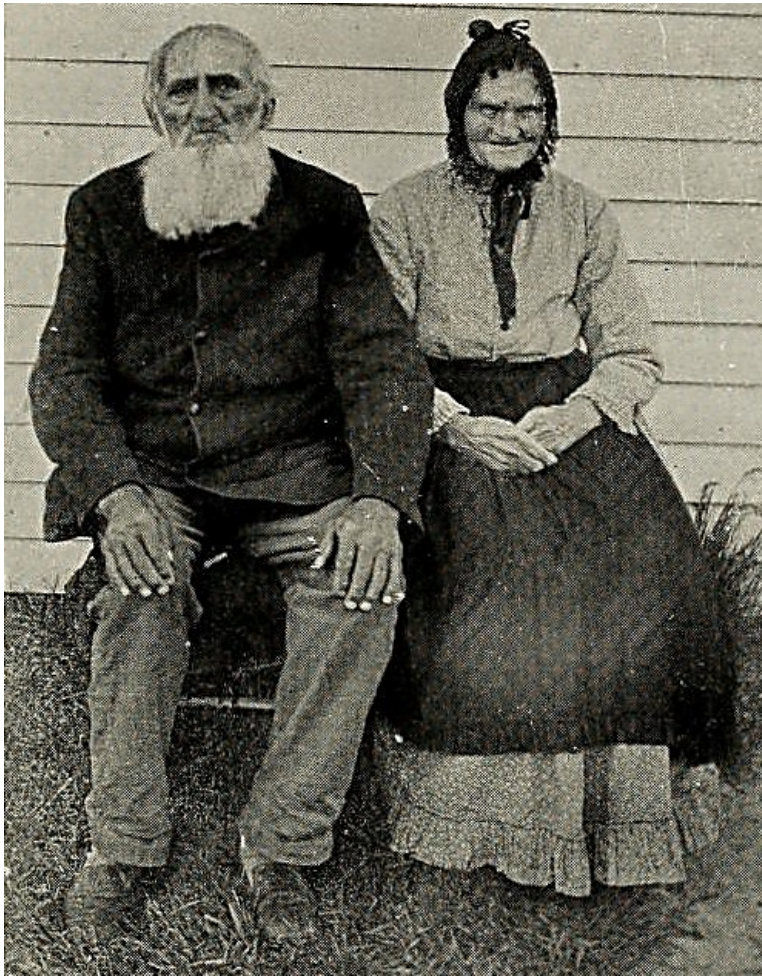
engagement with the heavily fortified river batteries near Confederate Fort Donelson; much of the fighting took place on February 14, the two sides exchanging what the media would dub "iron Valentines."

The Battle of Fort Donelson was the first major Union victory of the Civil War.

Photo from the March 15, 1862, supplement to Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper (Source: Library of Congress)

Ain't Love Grand?

A Married Couple That Served Together during the Civil War



John Finnern, a then-recent immigrant to the U.S. from Germany, joined the 81st Regiment, Ohio, in 1861, to help protect his new home and adopted country. His wife, Elizabeth, refusing to remain alone on the farm, volunteered instead as a nurse-laundress for the Union side.

The circumstances under which she chose to pick up a rifle is not known. But she distinguished herself and apparently joined ranks, informally, to serve alongside her husband during several battles, including Corinth, Pocahontas, and Huntsville in Alabama; Harrison in Missouri; and Pulaski, Fort Donelson, and Chattanooga in Tennessee. In all, she is said to have fought in disguise for the Union for more than six months.

When John was wounded at the Battle of Arkansas Post, she is said to have chased after the Reb who had shot him and returned the favor. And, as the story goes, it was at this time that her true identity (sex)

was discovered, and she was relieved of her rifle and any further military duty. Relegated to the field hospital and shocked to witness its disorganization, she took over its operation, renovated the hospital, and is also credited for successfully battling an outbreak of scarlet fever.

Sometime after John died, in 1905, a female doctor who, as a child, had idolized Elizabeth for her wartime efforts, successfully appealed to then-President Theodore Roosevelt for a pension for Elizabeth as a soldier's widow.

After Elizabeth died, in 1907, the unspent portion of the pension Elizabeth received was used (by the same female doctor) to pay for and install a Bedford stone monument to mark the graves of John and Elizabeth Cain Finnern.



The inscription at the bottom of the memorial reads, “She served in male attire until her sex was detected when she was detailed as a nurse serving years.”

Elizabeth and John are buried in Soldier’s Circle in the South Park Cemetery in Greensburg, Indiana.

Wartime Wooing during the Civil War

Source: Special Collections, LSU Libraries and Journal of the Civil War Era, October, 2019

★ “Mother, I have news to tell you which I hope you won’t blame me for. I was married last month on 26th to the one I have spoke [sic] to you so often about but then I did not think of marrying until this was over but we both changed our minds and married while Billy was with us. The ceremony was read by W.C. Harris, an old friend from home and now a stationed Preacher at this place or near here. Ma the only thing that worries me is that you did not see us married.”

★ Frank Adams relayed a story to his sister of a Confederate officer who, after his death, was found to have married several women in Louisiana as the army moved around the state. He adds, “I have heard of at least a dozen of the same kind. These polygamist soldiers took advantage of the nomadic life the war fostered,” he said.”

★ In 1863, unmarried Ardella Brown lamented, “If I Can get any Body [sic] to have me you Shall get to a weding [sic]. But there is nobody a Bout [sic] here only Some old widiwers [sic] for all the young men has [sic] gone to the army.”

★ “One looks at a man so differently when you think he may be killed to-morrow. Men whom up to this time I had thought dull and commonplace...seemed charming.”

★ On July 2, 1861, Frank Schaller of the Twenty-Second Mississippi Infantry sent a letter to his “dearest Sophy” in South Carolina, writing, “Every day I feel more reluctant to go into an uncertain life without having the consciousness of being yours entirely...Now prepare for it. I am in earnest.”

Not only did he believe, “I could fight better & do “everything better” as a married man, he also on her future, “Should I fall, you could have at least the satisfaction to be a soldiers [sic] widow who I trust will only die in honor. Besides, though I know you do not want me to tell you this, some pension would insure you the prospect of a humble but honorable existence.” Frank would be shot, but he ultimately survived the war.

★ “A war is fast approaching. Oh Let me claim you as my own! Let me have the right to protect you, and shield you by my earnest love.” Realizing Georgia (his intended) might object to their rushed courtship, he urged, “Do not let, oh! do not let, any slight obstacles, or conventionalities, prevent you from being mine as soon as you can. We know not what may happen!” They married July 9, 1861. William died in Georgia’s arms on October 4, 1862, after sixty-seven days of dysentery.

★ “But as this is the age when Secession, Freedom, and Rights are asserted, I am claiming mine.” The woman who wrote this note married the man she was writing to the following year.

Just Published.

MATRIMONY MADE EASY!

How to Win a Sweetheart or a Lover!

If any young Gentleman or Lady wishes to know how to begin a Love Correspondence, or, if they wish to speak their mind in a tardy, bashful or a careless way to their lover, this book tells exactly how it should be done. It tells you how to write Love Letters, and how to win your Sweetheart every time. It tells you how you can Marry whoever you wish, and how you can become rich in a very short time. Handsomely bound in gilt muslin. Sent by mail, postpaid, for 75 cents. Send all orders to

**O. L. BRIGGS, Publisher,
92 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.**

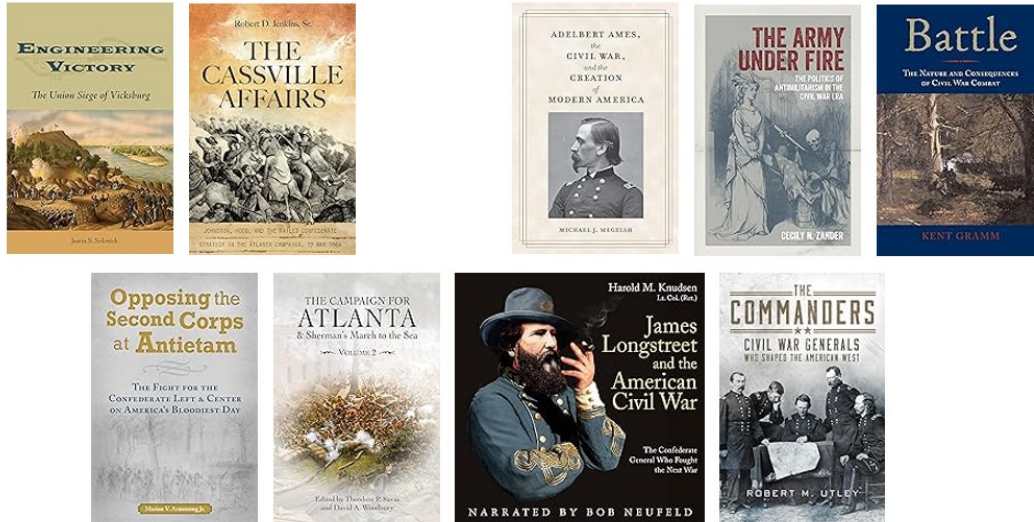


In 1862, Confederate soldier Robert King made this basket weave folded Valentine's Day card for his wife, Louiza, from scrounged paper. When opened, the card showed two figures crying.

The image proved to be an omen; King never saw Louiza or their child again; some time after sending the card, he was killed in battle.

February, 2024, Civil War Book Releases

Apologies for the continued, redundant notices, but supply chain issues continue and, as you've probably noticed, book launches are regularly pushed a month or more beyond the original estimate.



Engineering Victory: The Union Siege of Vicksburg, by Justin S. Solonick | Feb 2, 2024

The Cassville Affairs: Johnston, Hood, and the Failed Confederate Strategy in the Atlanta Campaign, 19 May 1864, by Robert D. Jenkins Sr. | Feb 6, 2024

Virginia Secedes: A Documentary History, by Dwight Pitcaithley | Feb 9, 2024

Adelbert Ames, the Civil War, and the Creation of Modern America, by Michael J. Megelsh | Feb 13, 2024

The Army under Fire: The Politics of Antimilitarism in the Civil War Era, by Dr. Cecily N. Zander and T. Michael Parrish | Feb 14, 2024

Battle: The Nature and Consequences of Civil War Combat, by Dr. Kent Gramm, Eric T. Dean, et al. | Feb 15, 2024

Opposing the Second Corps at Antietam: The Fight for the Confederate Left and Center on America's Bloodiest Day, by Marion V. Armstrong Jr. | Feb 15, 2024

The Campaign for Atlanta & Sherman's March to the Sea: Volume 2, by Theodore P. Savas and David A. Woodbury | Feb 22, 2024

James Longstreet and the American Civil War: The Confederate General Who Fought the Next War, (**paperback edition**) by Harold M. Knudsen, Bob Neufeld, et al. | Feb 22, 2024

The Commanders: Civil War Generals Who Shaped the American West, by Robert M. Utley | Feb 26, 2024

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.**