



April, 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

By now, I hope the Internet fairy has successfully delivered news to your inboxes about an upcoming field trip to the G.A.R. Civil War Museum & Library (Saturday, April 27 in Philadelphia); the museum has agreed to open its doors to our group on a day otherwise closed to the public. You'll find a repeat notice on page 5 and on our [Round Table website](#). Speaking of website, don't forget that our web author, Paul Barlett, regularly combs the internet and other sources for Civil War news to post and share with our members.

Our ever-curious newsletter editor picked up on Alan Lowcher's reference to the "story-in-itself" Sibley stove (on page 3) and went looking for tidbits to share about the inventor and the invention. Sibley was a failure as a military commander but, during his life, he contributed bigly to the U.S. military. You'll find this nugget inside, on page 7. Also on page 3, you'll find a sneak preview about a special Civil War display that will be set up, inside our hotel meeting room, for our May 7, 2024, meeting. Come early to get a good look.

Finally, pages 4 and 5 share details of two shooting events, both using period-accurate Civil War weaponry, being hosted this spring in Springfield, Pa. (Delaware County) by the North-South Skirmish Association. The first event offers a chance to hold, load, and fire a Civil War rifle; the other event offers a chance to watch an "against the clock" competition that will involve the use of multiple pieces of weaponry. Admission to both events is free!

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:**“Fort Sumter’s Long Shadow:
Mr. Lincoln Calls for an Army, and the
States Respond”****Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

Leon Reed is a former US Senate aide, defense consultant, and US history teacher. He lives in Gettysburg and is the author of several books on Gettysburg monuments and two on the secession crisis and transition to

Civil War, including, most recently, “Fort Sumter’s Long Shadow: Mr. Lincoln Calls for an Army, the Northern States Respond, and the Border States Rethink Their Status”. He is a regular contributor to *Civil War News* and is the editor of the quarterly magazine of the Battle of the Bulge Association. (Continue reading on page 3.)

SIGN UP TODAY ...

to attend “Fort Sumter’s Long Shadow:
Mr. Lincoln Calls for an Army, and the States
Respond,” Tuesday, April 2, 2024

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, March 29th, 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, 2024, meeting recaps

- ★ **Re-enlistments:** Kay Bagenstose
- ★ **New members:** Welcome to Kevin Sekula, Jack Stanley and Doug Widdowson
- ★ **Donations:** Thank you, Kay!
- ★ **Attendance:** 33 dinner attendees and 11 lecture walk-ins
- ★ **Book raffle proceeds:** \$96
- ★ **Print raffle ticket sales:** \$15

March Book Raffle Winners

Front row (l-r): Marie Maly, Sheri Miller, Frank Whalen

Back row: ?, Bill Frankenfield, Claire Kukielka, Chuck Dzielawa, Tony Major

**March’s speaker,**

Prof. James R. Hedtke, has donated his \$50 honorarium to The Community Foundation’s Happy Soles project.

**February’s speaker,**

Steve Knowlton, has donated his \$50 honorarium to Arm and Arm, a food pantry service in Hamilton, NJ.

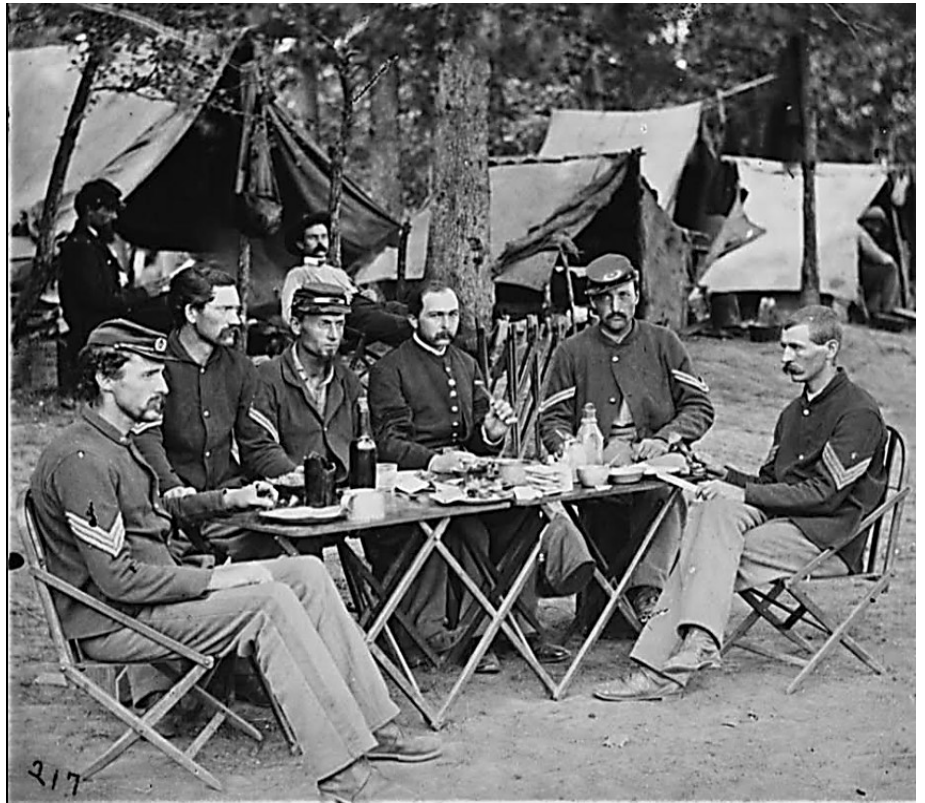
A Special Civil War Exhibit on Display at our May, 2024, Meeting by Alan Lowcher

You may want to mark your calendars right now to remind yourself to join us for our May 7 meeting. In addition to the usual dinner option and lecture will be a special exhibit curated by Round Table members Alan Lowcher and Jack Stanley. Here's a teaser of what's to come:

In keeping with the dinner theme of our meetings, the items on display will be a brought-to-life reincarnation of an 1863 photograph (right) of non-commissioned officers of Co D 93 New York infantry dinner mess. The exhibit will include a basic cooking mess exhibit using original tinware and the often-used Sibley tripod and stove. (The stove, designed by Henry Hopkins Sibley, is a story in itself).

The display will also include an original officer's campaign desk with many officer accoutrements as well as several original uniforms, field gear, and an interesting local item or two.

And, of course, no display would be complete without a few regimental instruments to keep the troops marching along.



April, 2024, presentation synopsis (Item continued from page 3)

In response to the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, President Lincoln made a speech, requesting a 75,000-man army to suppress the rebellion. Mr. Reed's talk discusses the two things that happened in direct response to Lincoln's speech:

- 1) A country possessing a 16,000-man army in the process of splitting in two, an atrophied militia system, and no general staff or mobilization plan actually produced that army, in very short order. He describes the pivotal role of the New York Militia and the under-appreciated contributions of individuals such as Joseph Holt, General John Wool, and John Dix.
- 2) Seven slave states that, until then, had remained loyal, reconsidered their commitment to the Union. In the end, four of these states (VA, NC, AR, TN) departed the Union while three (MO, KY, MD) remained under varying degrees of duress. It all made for a high-stakes drama with larger-than-life characters, dirty tricks, and some questionably legal actions by the Lincoln administration. Arguably, the outcome of the war hinged on these decisions.

Mr. Reed has studied this topic for five years. His book on this subject will be available either for sale or preorder.

North-South Skirmish Association (N-SSA) to Host Two FREE Events at the Springtown Gun Club (www.N-SSA.org)

EVENT #1: Saturday, April 6, 2024

Springtown Gun Club, 3146 Route 212, Springtown, Pa.

Start time: 10 a.m. Rain or Shine.

Have you ever wanted to fire a Civil War rifle? Would you like to learn basic muzzle loading firearms safety? If you answered “yes” to these questions, you’re invited to participate in a **FREE** Recruit Event. You provide your own ear and eye protection; a trained assistant will provide you with the modern-day production of a Civil War rifle and be available to offer assistance.

If interested in participating in this event, contact the Springtown Gun Club and provide your name, address, and phone number to Gun Club President Pat Mcginness patmmcginness@gmail.com or 610-248-4672. (NOTE: Observers are also welcome.)



EVENT #2: Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 9

Regional Shoot: North-South Skirmish Association

Springtown Gun Club, 3146 Route 212, Springtown, Pa. Rain or Shine

This competitive team shooting event of N-SSA members, with participants garbed in Civil War era attire and using reproduction Civil War weaponry, will be shooting against the clock using live fire. Onlookers will be treated to the sounds—and smells—of a Civil War battlefield. **FREE** to observers.

Saturday, June 8: Individual Shooting ~9:00 AM start (until 1 PM)

Saturday, June 8: Carbines: Team competition (against the clock) ~1 PM start

Sunday, June 9: Muskets: Team Competition (against the clock) ~10:00 AM start

Sunday, June 9: Smoothbore Team Competition (against the clock) (will begin approximately 30 minutes following the end of the Musket competition)

(continued on next page)

Two North-South Skirmish Association Event (*continued*)



NOTE: At approx. 15 mins. prior to the first June 9 match, all teams will stand in formation to give tribute to all fallen members and our forefathers of the Civil War.

Breakfast and lunch food items (and beverages) will be available for purchase both days. Free parking in the gun club's LARGE lot. (Handicapped parking will be available.) A large pavilion on the property will allow you to get out of the weather. The property is large enough to pitch your own canopy, if you wish. Restrooms available. No seating is provided, but you may bring your own chair.

(Photos used with permission from the N-SSA)



Saturday, April 27, 2024

Fieldtrip to the Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Library

8810 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

(Cost: \$15. Donations are welcome.)

Please join us as Walt Lefty, well-known Civil War speaker, takes us through the museum and library, which now housed in a relatively new location. **NOTE:** All holdings are located on the first floor of the building.

We will meet in the parking lot of the Delta Hotel **at 9:30 AM** and walk to the museum building. A group lunch at a nearby eatery will be organized after the tour for interested attendees. Contact Claire Kukielka (clkuk@ptd.net) with questions AND/OR to reserve your space for the tour and lunch.

Campaign 46 Lecture Schedule: Mark Your Calendars!

The list below represents the final speakers for Campaign 46 and the titles of their presentations. (You'll find information about the April lecture on page 2 of this newsletter).

Tuesday, May 7

**"Hell Comes to Southern Maryland:
The Point Lookout Confederate POW
Camp for Confederates"**

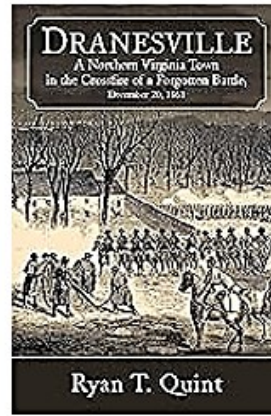
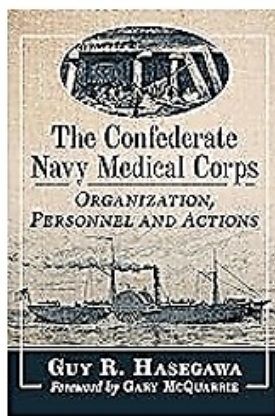
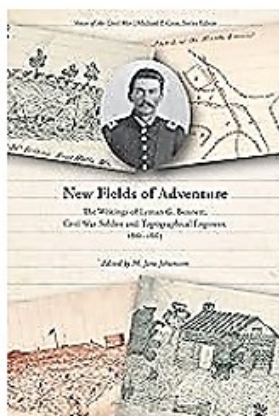
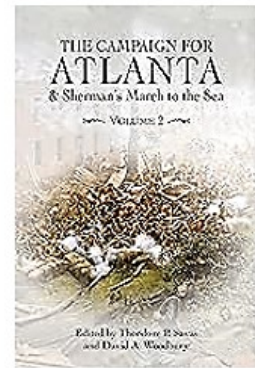
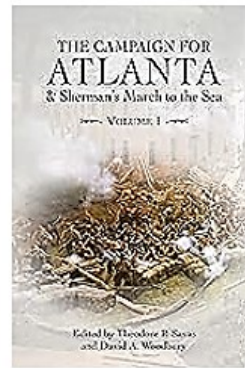
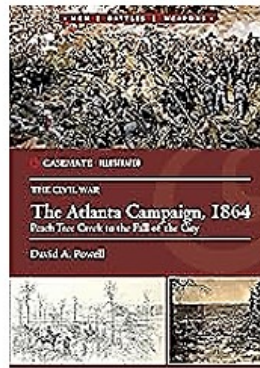
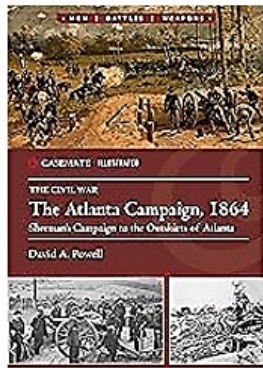
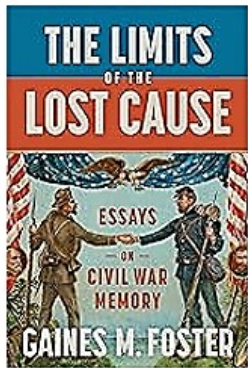
Our guest speaker, Bradley Gottfried has written a book on the same subject.

Tuesday, June 4

"Who is James Longstreet?"

Our guests for the evening will include Lieutenant General James Longstreet, CSA, and his wife, Helen Dortch Longstreet, known at one time as "The Fighting Lady" and better known as the second wife of Gen. Longstreet.

April, 2024, Civil War Book Releases



(Hardcover) *The Limits of the Lost Cause: Essays on Civil War Memory*, Gaines M. Foster | Apr 3, 2024

(Paperback) *The Atlanta Campaign, 1864: Sherman's Campaign to the Outskirts of Atlanta*, David A. Powell | Apr 4, 2024

(Paperback) *The Atlanta Campaign, 1864: Peach Tree Creek to the Fall of the City*, David A. Powell | Apr 4, 2024

(Paperback) *The Campaign for Atlanta & Sherman's March to the Sea: Essays on the American Civil War, Volume 1*, Theodore P. Savas and David A. Woodbury | Apr 15, 2024

(Paperback) *The Campaign for Atlanta & Sherman's March to the Sea: Essays on the American Civil War, Volume 2*, Theodore P. Savas and David A. Woodbury | Apr 15, 2024

(Paperback) *New Fields of Adventure: The Writings of Lyman G. Bennett, Civil War Soldier and Topographical Engineer, 1861-1865*, M. Jane Johansson | Apr 19, 2024

(Paperback) *The Confederate Navy Medical Corps: Organization, Personnel and Actions*, Guy R. Hasegawa | Apr 21, 2024

(Hardcover) *Dranesville: A Northern Virginia Town in the Crossfire of a Forgotten Battle, December 20, 1863*, Ryan T. Quint | Apr 30, 2024

A Story in Itself: The Sibley Stove



Although Henry Hopkins Sibley was not considered an upstanding military figure, he is a man of some renown, owing to his accomplishments before the Civil War.

History paints Sibley as a military leader prone to serious blunders, many of which are attributed to alcoholism; his later commands in the CSA (he left the U.S. Army to join the Confederacy after the war broke out) were largely relegated to minor roles. Eventually, he was court martialed (in 1863). His claim to fame came before war broke out: Sibley designed two of the most basic—and important—pieces of Civil War camp gear: The Sibley tent (above, patented in 1856) and the Sibley stove (shown inside the tent, patented in 1857).

The former was used by the U.S. Army beyond the Civil War for winter quarters and training camps. His stove was also used for many years after the Civil War: Stoves were repurposed to serve as smudge pots in Florida orange groves and remained in use until the advent of World War II.

Despite his inventions' usefulness to the military ... and beyond ... neither he nor his kin ever received a dime of royalties. Those who claim they can accurately calculate the money legally owned to Sibley places his estate's loss at \$100,000.

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.**