



[April 07, 2015 – Spring Campaign 37](#)

About Our Speaker, Malcolm J. Gross

Malcolm J. Gross is a name partner in the 35 member Lehigh Valley law firm “Gross McGinley”. He presently serves as the firm’s Deputy Managing Partner and Chairs the Associates Committee.

He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Lehigh County Bar Association, Da Vinci Science Center, and Lehigh County Historical Society.

He has presented numerous programs to audiences throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey on historical and legal topics. He also lectures at the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Cedar Crest College and as an adjunct professor in communication specializing in First Amendment Law at Muhlenberg College.



Brief Synopsis of Our presentation: Thaddeus Stevens’ Scourge of the South

This program will cover the life and career of Pennsylvania’s most important least known political figures. Stevens was the leading abolitionist in Congress but years before the cause became popular; Lincoln sought his opinions on Pennsylvania Politics in 1848; he became the leader of the Republicans in the House after Lincoln’s election in 1860; he and was responsible for numerous pieces of legislation critical to the Civil War and America’s future development.

He was recently prominently featured in the movie “Lincoln” which focused on his role for passing the 13th Amendment but he was vital to preserving the Union and reshaping our Constitution in numerous other respects.

Campaign Officers 2014-2015 Campaign Year:

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Regimental Commander-Ed Oechsle
Company Commander-Position Open
Adjutant-Kay Bagenstose
Paymaster-James Duffy
Board members-
Kim Jacobs, Kay Bagenstose, Claire Kukielka Open
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Publicity-Bob McHugh

Brigade Clerks- Carol Detweiler-215-234-4884

& Jim Duffy- 610-253-4599

Appointed positions with Board Approval
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610-966-5773
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610-398-1619
Quartermaster-Tony Major Webmaster-Peter
Detweiler pdetweiler@comcast.net
Brigade Librarian-Kay Bagenstose
Website: www.cwrteasternpa.org
Brigade Photographer – Jeff Heller
jrheller@enter.net

About our Meetings: Location of all meetings

Days Inn and Suites of Allentown (formerly Four Points Sheraton)
3400 Airport Road, Allentown, PA 18109

Format of all meetings

Sutler's Call	6:00-6:30 pm
Mess Call	6:30 p.m.
Program	7:30 pm

Cost per meeting

Dinner and Program	\$25.00 per person (Reservation required)
Program only	\$5.00 (No reservation required)

April 07, 2015 PROGRAM REGISTRATION DETAILS

All Members and guests of the Lehigh Brigade are ordered to the Days Inn and Suites of Allentown, PA on April 07, 2015. The deadline for accepting dinner reservations is Thursday, April 02, 2015. For dinner reservations and/or information: Contact any of the following:

James Duffy – 610-253- 4549 duffysocwk@aol.com

Carol Detweiler 215-234- 4884 cdetweiler01@comcast.net

Ed Oechsle – 610-882-9228 ehoechsle@ptd.net

Brigade Call

Civil War Round Table of Eastern, PA, Inc.

Warren Beach

I had planned on writing a few sentences of the winter that we have just finished, however, when I awoke this morning I was made aware of the fact that winter was not quite through with us yet. Hopefully, we have just finished that last snowstorm of winter and can look forward to birds singing and flowers coming up in the backyard. We have several interesting programs planned for the next meetings. There is a history expo coming up soon. The CWRT will have a table there. If any member would like to spend a bit of time at the table, please see any board member for a schedule. Our last meeting was canceled due to bad weather. Let's hope the April meeting goes as planned.

See you the first Tuesday in April.

OPERATION SNOWFLAKE- Please note some changes to the procedure.



For weather related cancellations, please visit the CWRT website - www.cwrteasternpa.org - where any meeting change information will be posted as close to noon as possible. We will also try to send a blast e mail to notify you of any cancellations. If you still have doubts, please call Days Inn of Allentown, PA 1-610-266-1000.

DO YOU KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

A Brain- Stretching Quiz About the Historic Struggle Between the Blue and Grey

by **Gordon Leidner** of Great American History

1. What years did each of the following events take place prior to the Civil War, and what was the significance of each?
 - A. The Dred Scott decision.
 - B. The Kansas-Nebraska Act.
2. Who was the inventor of the USS Monitor?
3. What did the South's CSS Alabama do? What US ship sank her and where?
4. Who was Stand Watie? What did he do in the Civil War?

See page 7 for the correct responses to the quiz

By Popular Demand:
Gettysburg Brush Cutting
Saturday, April 25, 2015

Our plans are set for this year's venture helping conserve the Gettysburg Battlefield. We will be working around the famous Leister home, Meade's Headquarters, where we will be cutting brush by stone fence lines and building or rebuilding wooden rail fence lines. Consequently there will be something for everyone to do where one is young, vigorous and full of energy or a tad older and desirous of something less physically demanding.

Work begins at the site at 9AM sharp. Kay Bagenstose will be at the Holiday Inn auxiliary parking lot on Rte 100 at 6:45AM to coordinate any who wish to carpool.

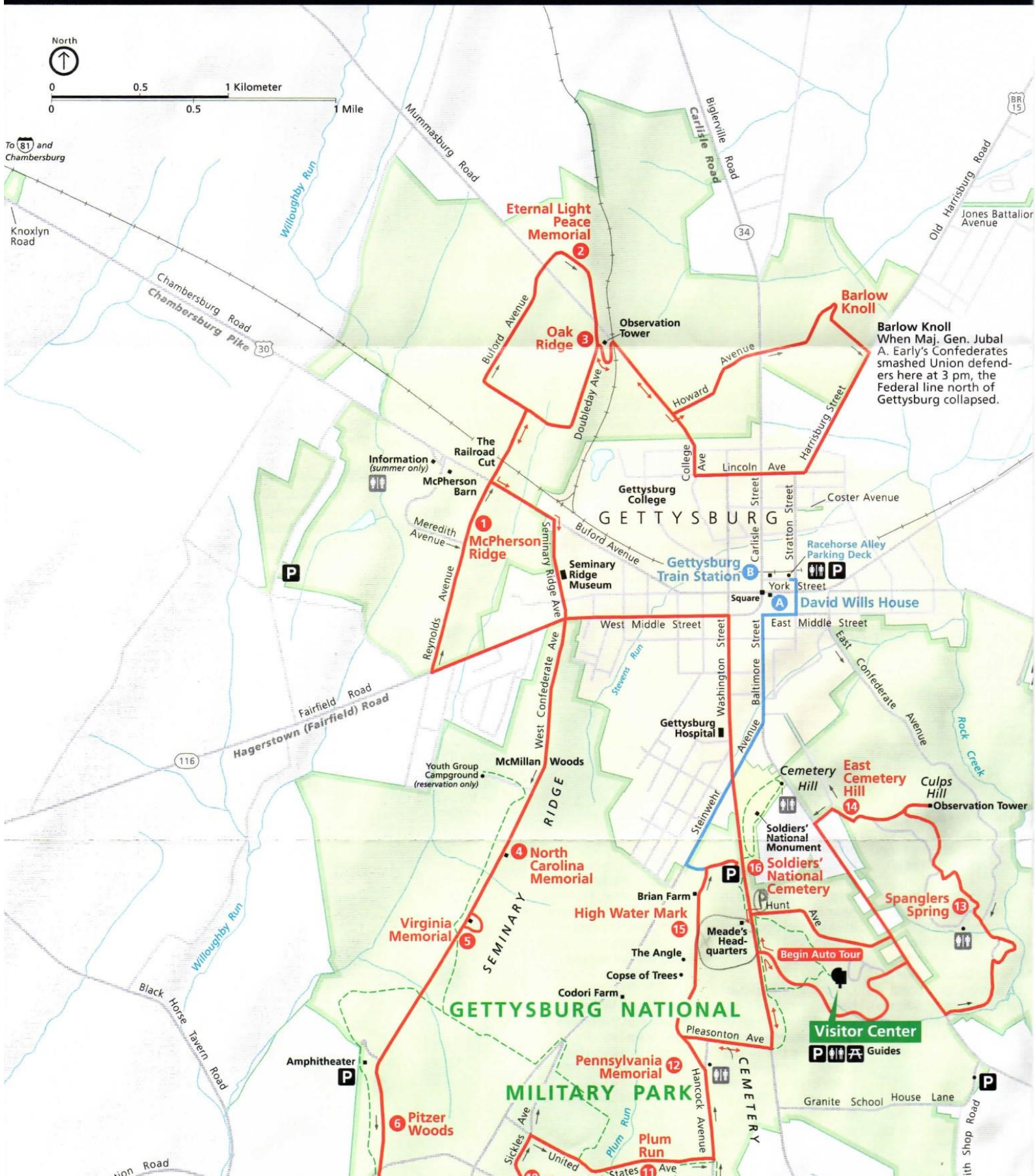
In Gettysburg there are two parking areas. One is directly across the Taneytown Road from the Leister House. This is a dirt/gravel lot and in the event the lot is muddy from earlier rain (THERE WILL BE NO INCLEMENT WEATHER ON APRIL 25) use the macadam lot just north of the site. This is the old Cyclorama lot. Please see following map.

The NPS will provide loppers/pruners and scythes, but any such equipment you can bring will be extremely helpful. Gas powered weed trimmers are permitted for qualified operators. Common sense prevails, wear work quality slacks, sturdy shoes and work gloves. There numerous sticker bushes so no shorts or flip flops unless you have masochistic tendencies.

The CWRT will provide water and we will hold a free book raffle for our wonderful volunteers. Additionally we are in store for a rare and special treat. The NPS staff will give a short program about Mrs. Leister's home which became Meade's Headquarters. Afterward they will open the home for us to take a look inside. The building is not generally open to the public so we are extremely grateful to the Park Service for this opportunity!

If you are not signed up please see Ed Root at the April 7th meeting or email at sartilly@hotmail.com or call 610-417-6673.

Touring the Battlefield



Old Baldy CWRT Trip to Woodlands Cemetery in West Philadelphia

Location: 4000 Woodland Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2015 Time: 10:00 AM to about Noon

Cost: \$10.00 Per Person (Cemetery Charge)

Cemetery Tour Guide: Jim Mundy

The Woodlands 54-acre undulating landscape is a one-of-a-kind 18th-century English pleasure garden and 19th-century rural cemetery that is designated a National Historic Landmark District in recognition of its unique history and rich resources. Actively used today, the cemetery, mansion, landscape, and programs are an educational resource for local school children, university students and motivated scholars seeking further understanding of American architectural and botanical history. There are over 1,000 trees and over 32,000 people buried at the historic cemetery.

Just A Few Notable Burials at Woodlands Cemetery

- John Joseph Abercrombie (1798–1877), Civil War general
- Hartman Bache (1798–1872), Civil War Union brevet brigadier general
- David B. Birney (1825–1864), Civil War Union major general
- Sylvester Bonnaffon, Jr. (1844–1922), Civil War Medal of Honor recipient
- Joseph A. Campbell (1817–1900), businessman, founder of Campbell Soup Company
- Edward Coles (1786–1868), 2nd governor of Illinois, private secretary to Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison
- Thomas Cripps (1840–1906), Civil War Medal of Honor recipient
- Francis Anthony Drexel (1824–1885), father of Saint Katharine Drexel
- Thomas Eakins (1844–1916), artist
- John Ely (1816–1869), Civil War Union brevet major general
- Clement Finley (1797–1879), Civil War Union brevet brigadier general
- Alice Fisher (1839–1888), nursing pioneer at the former Philadelphia General Hospital
- James Gwyn (1828–1906), Civil War Union brevet major-general
- Charles Herring (1829–1889), Civil War Union brevet brigadier general
- John Lane (1831–1903), Civil War Union brevet brigadier general

Please Send Payment of \$10.00, Check or Cash to Old Baldy CWRT:
C/O Bob Russo, 15 Lakeview Place, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
Questions: rjrusso58@yahoo.com

Name: _____

Number of Guests: _____ Amount
Enclosed: _____

Email
Address: _____

ANSWERS FOR DO YOUR KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?
Continued from page 3

1.A : March 1857. The Dred Scott decision severely limited the rights of a slave, or any African-American, to pursue any legal recourse in the US Court system.

1.B : May 1854. Kansas-Nebraska proposed the idea of Popular Sovereignty, overriding the Missouri Compromise, and opened the door for slavery to be introduced into ANY new US territory.

2. John Ericson

3. The Alabama was a commerce raider. It captured or sank over 60 Union merchant ships during the Civil War, before being sunk by the USS Kearsarge.

4. He was a Native American Colonel in the Confederate army, leader of a regiment of pro-southern Cherokees.

Please Remember To Visit Our Website: Our website is a treasure trove of up to date information about not only our Round Table and it' activities, but links to events of interest, research aids and other organizations of merit.

2014-2015 Campaign Print Raffle Prizes



Bedlam in the Brickyard by Bradley Schmehl

The CWRT has a multitude of wonderful prizes that will be raffled off on the June 2015 meeting.

1. Framed Signed Print – *Bedlam in the Brickyard – Gettysburg* by Bradley Schmehl. #381/950.
2. The Official Civil War Centennial Commission Commemorative Medallion 1961 – 1965.
3. Framed Print Image of the Surrender at Appomattox with Surrender U. S. Centennial Postage Stamp.
4. *Arms, Equipment and Atlas of the Civil War* – 3 Volume Boxed Set.
5. *The Colton Letters Civil War Period 1861 – 1865*.
6. *The Civil War: An Illustrated History* by Geoffrey C. Ward with Ric Burns and Ken Burns.

REMEMBER, WHEN YOU SUPPORT PRESERVATION, WE ARE ALL WINNERS!!!

The Lesser-Known story of How the Civil War Ended in North Carolina (In April 1865)

By Chick Jacobs, Fayetteville Observer staff writer

DURHAM, N.C. — Confederate Gen. Joe Johnston and a small band of trusted officers slogged along a muddy red-clay road toward Gen. William T. Sherman. Not for battle this time, but in hopes of ending the bloodiest war ever fought in the Western Hemisphere. As Johnston loped toward his Union adversary, he faced a decision: Would he end things quickly and cleanly, a surgical stroke to end the Civil War? Or would he follow the wishes of the Confederacy's president, scattering his forces into a festering guerrilla war?

Johnston was weary of war. And, as he approached the mud-spattered opponent on the road just west of Durham, he saw a man equally weary. There would be no battle that day, April 17, 1865. It was time for peace. Most people believe the Civil War ended when Robert E. Lee offered his sword to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox, Virginia. But the largest surrender on the American continents - and the one that kept the Civil War from sinking into long-running partisan skirmishes - came nearly two weeks later at a family farmhouse near Durham called Bennett Place.

"It's a fact, but the facts don't fit the narrative people were raised on," said John Guss, site director at Bennett Place State Historical Site, which preserves the site of Johnston's surrender to Sherman. "People think that when Lee surrendered, the war was over, right? "But when you realize that a larger Confederate force was still out there, still able to fight - then, no, this war wasn't over." "This army was not surrounded, like Lee's was. They could easily have packed up and headed for the hills. Things could have gotten a whole lot uglier."

But it didn't, thanks to two generals tired of mud and thoroughly mistrusted by their respective governments. If Averasboro and Bentonville had proven one thing to Sherman, it was that his foe would still fight. The Union suffered more than 2,000 casualties in sharp fighting in March, far more than during the entire campaign from Atlanta to Fayetteville. And the Confederate army under Johnston escaped as Sherman's forces advanced to Goldsboro to resupply.

Still, it was clear the war was winding down. In Virginia, Grant was trying to pin Lee down. In North Carolina, Sherman could force the issue with a bloody campaign. "Grant and Sherman were planning a hammer-and-anvil operation," said historian Jim Leutze. "The idea was to get Lee and Johnston together, pin the armies between them in Virginia and finish the fight. "It became a moot point when Lee surrendered at Appomattox."

Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865, freed Sherman to end things in the South. "Sherman was a very interesting guy," Leutze said. "He wasn't the stupid brute many in the South would like to paint him. He believed the only legitimate object of war was to secure a more perfect peace. "Ending the disorder of rebellion, not the people he fought, was his goal. Whatever it took, he would do it."

Sherman's army entered Raleigh, which surrendered without a shot, on April 13. In response, the general issued orders that forbade foraging and destruction in the city. "In the South, Sherman has been painted as the villain," said historian Wade Sokolosky. "But it's not that simple. "Raleigh, which feared his scorched-earth reputation, was the only town in the Carolinas campaign that saw no intentional damage from Sherman's forces. As the Confederate cabinet - on the run from Richmond, Virginia - reached Greensboro, Johnston discussed his army's fate with Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Davis was adamant: fight on.

Johnston's view that "it would be the greatest of human crimes to continue the war" prevailed. He sent word to Sherman asking for "a temporary suspension of active operations" and a meeting April 17 to make

"arrangements to terminate the existing war." The wording was important. Johnston was not simply seeking to surrender his command. He wanted to end the Civil War altogether. It was a tone that resonated with Sherman.

"Sherman was far more interested in the long-range results," Leutze said. "He saw that surrendering of Johnston's army was one step, but only one step. It seems strange, given his reputation, but Sherman embraced Abraham Lincoln's lenient vision for a postwar nation." Bennett Place, a small farmhouse just west of Durham Station, was chosen by an accident of timing. The generals had agreed to meet midway between Durham and Hillsborough.

Johnston and his guard were a couple of miles past the farmhouse of James and Nancy Bennett when they met Sherman and his escort. Johnston suggested backtracking to the Bennett house, which had served as a bed-and-breakfast in the past. Sherman agreed, and soon the family was tucked in the nearby kitchen as the generals began talking. Johnston's aides included South Carolina Gen. Wade Hampton, who declined to shake hands with Sherman. Hampton blamed Sherman for the burning of his home, and the two had sniped at each other in the press, including in *The Fayetteville Observer*.

"Legend has it that while their generals were inside ending the war, Hampton and (Union Gen. Judson) Kilpatrick were outside ready to start a new one," Guss said. "Their subordinates had to separate the two more than once. In fact, when the surrender was announced, Hampton would have no part of it. He took several men and planned to continue fighting. He got south of Charlotte when he finally ran out of gas and just went home."

Sherman had more than the surrender on his mind. As his train was preparing to leave Raleigh for Durham that morning, the general received a coded telegram from Secretary of War Edwin Stanton: "President Lincoln was murdered about 10 p.m. last night in his box at Ford's Theatre." The first person he shared the news with was Johnston, and then only after the two were alone. Sherman later recalled that, as Johnston learned the news, "perspiration came out in large drops on his forehead, and he did not attempt to conceal his distress."

Sherman was prepared to offer Johnston the same terms Grant gave Lee. Johnston offered something more: as long as they were talking peace, why not just end the whole war? If Sherman agreed, Johnston said, "instead of surrendering piecemeal, we might arrange terms that would embrace all the Confederate armies." If not, Johnston noted, he could tell his men to melt into the hills and the nation would be subjected to a grueling guerrilla war.

Johnston was fishing, and Sherman took the bait. He returned to Raleigh that evening to discuss the matter with his generals, who agreed with the concept. Johnston returned to Greensboro to apprise the cabinet. When the generals met at Bennett Place the next day, Johnston brought Confederate Secretary of War John Breckenridge. Breckenridge was a lawyer, former vice president, a Confederate general and a shrewd politician. By the time the day was done, a treaty had been written to surrender all arms, recognize state governments in the South, provide a general amnesty for the Confederate cabinet and establish federal courts.

"In general terms," Sherman wrote, "amnesty, so far as the Executive of the United States can command, on condition of the disbandment of the Confederate armies, the distribution of the arms, and the resumption of peaceful pursuits by the officers and men hitherto composing said armies." "Sherman went way, way beyond his authorization," Leutze said. Sherman reached for the moon. He grasped a hornet's nest. When news of the surrender terms reached Washington, politicians howled and publications called Sherman a traitor, suggesting he had been bought with Confederate gold.

Secretary of War Stanton sent Grant to Raleigh to get the army ready for another fight. In Grant's view, however, "Sherman's terms were unacceptable and improper, but he was no traitor. ... At worst, he had broadly construed

Lincoln's lenient sentiments." Grant saw no sense in resuming hostilities, unless Johnston wanted to fight. He didn't. Ordered by Jefferson Davis to lead what was left of the army into the hills, Johnston refused.

With Grant running interference, the two generals regarded as traitors by their own governments patched up the peace on April 26. The terms were similar to those given at Appomattox: No Confederate soldiers would be taken into custody; they simply would sign a parole and go home. Officers and other ranks would be allowed to keep their horses. Officers were allowed to keep their side arms. With the fighting ended, Sherman the monster became Sherman the merciful. He ordered field rations for hungry Confederate soldiers. He issued orders forbidding foraging, then ordered commanders to loan captured horses, mules and wagons to families to aid in spring planting. He also ordered distribution of corn, meal and flour to civilians.

"Sherman understood the South," Sokolosky said. "He knew the people. He knew that giving the South dignity would go a long way toward healing wounds." Confederates who mustered out in Greensboro on May 1-2 also received their last pay: one Mexican silver dollar from a cache of silver that Johnston had reserved for them. Many of the men returned home with small strips of colored cloth. Rather than surrender their company flags, most units chose to either burn them or rip them into small pieces as keepsakes.

"I'm willing to bet over the next 100 years, there were descendants of these men who found these strips of cloth among their dad's keepsakes," Guss said. "They probably wondered what the heck it was." Soon, Bennett Place was a farm again. Some of Sherman's officers ran off with the drop-leaf table on which the surrender was crafted.

Sherman returned to Washington, where his troops staged a big parade before disbanding. When Grant became president in 1869, he named Sherman commanding general of the Army, a position he held until 1883. Johnston returned to civilian life as a businessman and congressman. He and Sherman became friends. In 1891, Johnston was an honorary pallbearer at Sherman's funeral, which hastened his own death. Johnston kept his hat off as a sign of respect, despite a cold rain. "If I were in his place and he were standing here in mine, he would not put on his hat," Johnston said. A few weeks later, he died of pneumonia.

Bennett Place did not survive. After the war, the family left and the house fell into disrepair. It burned in 1921. Thankfully, Guss said, a bit of Civil War ego helped historians restore the home. "Sherman didn't like journalists, but he didn't mind illustrators, it seems," Guss said. "He asked Johnston to pose with him at the table in the Bennett House. That's how we're able to have an exact replica of the interior." Today's restored model of the Bennett family farmhouse offers a look into the daily life of a small Southern family in the 1800s.

"People can stand on the road where the generals met," Guss said. "Battlefields might be remembered, but this is a place that brought peace." One dangerous part of the war is alive and well. Live ammunition, left behind when Confederate forces went home, are often found across the Piedmont. "It makes sense that in a battlefield site like Bentonville, you'd expect to find shells and bullets," Guss said. "There's no reason for people to think about that around here. People don't know there was a skirmish near Chapel Hill on April 17. They don't know about the encampments of thousands of soldiers nearby.

"A few weeks ago, a man was out walking his dog in Chapel Hill after a heavy rain. He looked down and, what do you know? A cannonball, still primed. "They may be old, but they're still volatile. They can kill you just as dead."

Staff writer Chick Jacobs can be reached at jacobsc@fayobserver.com

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF EASTERN PA, INC.

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