



December 2016 – Fall Campaign 39: Meeting on December 06, 2016

From the Brigade Commander: Ed Root

When it comes to combat, history has taught us that the best and brightest in the classroom are not always the ones that end up as the best and brightest on the battlefield. Nobody could be a better example than Will Cushing who as a youth and student was considered a troubling ne'er do well by many of his seniors. Jamie Malanowski brought to life the exciting and almost unbelievable escapades of this gallant young sailor. Will, a hero of almost mythical proportions in his day, is relatively unknown today, a sad statement. The fifty-nine members and guests who attended our November meeting left with a new and deep appreciation for this Civil War hero. You missed a great program if you were AWOL for this one!

Our plans for our May 6 Americans at War Conference are coming along nicely. By now I trust you have saved the date and marked your calendar in large bold letters! We have received some nice donations as sponsors for this event, but are looking for more. Anything we can do to hold down the cost to attendees will benefit all. Please see Jim Duffy or me at any meeting.

I mentioned at the November meeting that the Post 182 G.A.R. Monument that sits in Bethlehem's Rose Garden has been shipped to where it will be repaired and refurbished. Stay tuned for further progress reports.

It is very important that we have updated email addresses from you. It is very expensive in time, labor and money to send any newsletter via USPS. We frankly can't afford it without the possible necessity of charging more for that service.

I also mentioned at the November gathering that it would be very beneficial if our Round Table could break into the social media world through Facebook. If any of you are competent in this area or know someone who might wish to become involved please let me know.

Charlie Zahm has performed many times for our Round Table. You will not want to miss our December 6th meeting. Make sure to bring along someone who loves, history, music or just a fun time!!

sartilly@hotmail.com or 610-417-6673

Why Membership Matters?

Bear with me for a moment as I climb up on my soapbox. You've hopefully noticed that from our September meeting on I've be stressing, some might say droning, about getting folks to join or rejoin our happy Band of History Seekers. Membership matters for a number of different reasons. It helps us plan and carry out our programs. We budgeted on 90 members this year and are currently in the neighborhood of a bit more than 2/3 of that goal. Many of you will

remember the gaudy days of the late 1990's when our membership rose to over 300 souls. Since that time most Round Tables have suffered a decline in membership so although we are not alone we do not have to like or accept that sad fact. I strongly believe and feel you will agree that our programs continue to be excellent. There are speaker costs involved; travel, meals and lodging cannot be avoided and are certainly appropriate. The Holiday Inn has been a wonderful partner, but we do have to promise a minimum attendance for dinner to which we are accountable. Your membership shows commitment. Our organization has been a leader in historic preservation for over 30 years. Your leadership consists of an all-volunteer group of dedicated folks who not only give time and labor, but also out of pocket expenses. These are happily rendered. We feel it is members who are more likely to join us for dinner, members who are more likely to volunteer for projects like the Nisky Hill cannon project, Gettysburg conservation work, attend conferences and field trips. We realize that folks can receive our newsletter which we send electronically from friends or members without joining. Life is full of choices. Membership versus non membership does frankly not offer many tangible differences. We sincerely hope and trust that you can recognize and appreciate the comradeship you receive as a member, the enjoyment of our many programs and activities and most importantly the satisfaction of helping to save and preserve many of our nation's historic sites. If we are to not only prosper, but to survive we need your continuing support.

Thanks for listening,
Ed Root, Brigade Commander

About Our December Program....

Join Us for a Musical Program by Charlie Zahm

******Of Special Interest******

This year should be a real treat with Charlie providing a musical tribute with a medley of some of his best loved Civil War music.

MORE ABOUT Charlie Zahm: AND HIS Civil War Music

Charlie Zahm is of the most popular singers at Celtic and maritime music events in the Eastern United States, while Charlie Zahm is one States, several years ago Charlie's interest in the great collection of music from the War Between the States was sparked when friends in the Civil War community *finally* convinced him that with his wide array of Scottish, Irish and otherwise traditional American songs under his belt, he was more than halfway there to a strong Civil War repertoire-and that he would be a welcome addition to that community through his music. They were exactly right! Charlie's interest in history (in fact, one of his degrees is in history) led him to disciplined research of the period, and how it affected the body of music now so important to its proper understanding.

Further, after finding a photo of Col. Lewis Zahm of the Third Ohio Cavalry at a library in Ohio (pictured here), Charlie found the first of many family connections to the War. Col. Zahm-still much revered in Ohio-was the uncle of the first Charles Louis Zahm (and lent his name to the child, though it is now spelled differently), and Charlie is the fifth in line to hold that exact name; so he is actually, in part, named after a Civil War officer.

Charlie does his best to present these great songs with the honor due both them and the subjects they recollect. His 13th CD, "Americana," is heavily influenced by music of the War, and the collection of songs (clips of which can be heard elsewhere on this website) has proven a favorite of those who enjoy the study of this period. While Charlie can perform in civilian outfits comfortable singing songs of either side of the Conflict, Charlie also presents two distinct musical and historical explorations of the period both North and South.

Remember, you are welcome to wear your period garb if you wish for the holiday dinner.



SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE

Gettysburg "Brush" Cutting

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Ed Root

Our conservation effort at Gettysburg NMP in April will be certainly something different but also very exciting. We are giving brush cutting a whole new definition. On November 3rd Chuck Cannon, Dick Jacoby and I met with Alyce Evans who is responsible for conservation planning and work at the park. As you know, our Round Table has always been had a special role in the work there. We have been the Park's group that always rushes in to do whatever is needed regardless of where. This year our brush work will be literally be with brushes, paint brushes to be specific. We will be painting newly installed fences on the Eisenhower Farm. These fences have just replaced worn and rotted fences and have received a primer coat to get through the winter. The finish coat is up to us. The park will supply all needed materials. So whether you're young or old, short or tall there will be a section of fence just waiting for you.

As always we try to have a program for our volunteers as an extra reward for your work. Alyce was a seasonal ranger at the Eisenhower Farm for 12 years and knows all things about the general, his time in Gettysburg in WWI and the farm and his life after WWII. Her Master's work was entitled "Regrettable Epidemic, The 1918 Influenza in Gettysburg and Camp Colt." We expect a large group and want to plan for a tour of the farm house after we finish work so please let me know of your interest in participating. All of us have been to the battlefield many times over the years. We feel many of you may have never taken the time to explore and learn about Eisenhower and his farm. This is your opportunity!!



Chuck Cannon, Alyce Evans, and Dick Jacoby Anticipating our Spring Masterpiece at the Gettysburg Farm

The CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc.

By Joe Riggs

My first contact with the CWRT of Eastern Pennsylvania is the result of a lunchtime conversation with my co-worker and RT member George Whitman. Over a quick lunch, I mention I believe I have a Civil War ancestor. At family reunions in Wisconsin, this ancestor's escapades during the Gold Rush and with a Wisconsin regiment throughout the Civil War are the topic of many interesting hours. A recurrent theme is Grandpa Riggs is at Shiloh in April 1862. George suggests I attend a February 1982 dinner meeting of our Round Table at the basement facility of the Brass Rail. During this meeting, George introduces George Seligman, Agnes and Bill Goble, Dr. Gerry Sherman, Jeff Heller, John and Bunny Ashcraft and Karl Lehr. I am sure there are several additional members I should mention, but these few influence my study of the Civil War and in particular my ancestor's involvement.

The RT sponsors many battlefield field trips over the years. We visit Gettysburg, Antietam, Harpers Ferry, Manassas, the Shenandoah Valley, Williamsburg and several others. With battlefield guides such as Robert Krick the elder, Robert Krick the younger and Dennis Frye, our knowledge and insight into the events of a century and a half ago greatly increases while we visit areas off limits to the usual battlefield tourist. Humor abounds during our outings: witness Jane Fries losing her designer boot to the Virginia mud at Chancellorsville and Bill Frankenfield winning another book raffle during our Petersburg excursion. Field trips also offer an excellent opportunity to meet and become friends with folks one normally has little contact.

Our RT schedules a one-day field trip to Harpers Ferry in the fall of 1985. Because it is a three-hour bus trip from Allentown to West Virginia with a 6-7 hour tour of the area and a three-hour return trip, we take along field rations for lunch and a snack on the bus coming home. We arrive at Harpers Ferry by 9 a.m. where we meet a very young Dennis Frye. Dennis points out the most interesting locations including the firehouse where John Brown made his stand against R.E. Lee. Around noon, we stop on a hill above the Potomac River for a leisurely lunch. Most folks on this trip have hoagies, sandwiches and snacks to tide them over. John and Bunny Ashcraft are the exception. They drag out an enormous picnic basket loaded with fried chicken, cheese & crackers and several bottles of wine with wine glasses. They are the apex of field preparation, and willing to share their bounty with those bringing peanut butter sandwiches and bottle water. I always smile when I remember that trip. Join us for Picket's Charge during a thunderstorm or Manassas in torrential rain. Currently in the planning stage, our RT hopes to run a field trip next spring to Falling Waters, Maryland. Bravely go where few dare. More details to follow.

Since our beginning in 1978, it is our mission to preserve and protect our Civil War battlefields. Through many fundraisers, sale, matching funds and proper management of the RT's finances, we donate to various preservation groups over \$600,000. Many question our decision to prevent the development of these sacred areas; after all, it is just a piece of ground. My wife harbors similar views until we visit Normandy and Omaha beach. Imagine a Miami Beach hotel environment at Normandy! She now understands the significance of preserving these battlefield lands, and I hope everyone will. Other preservation projects include Pennsylvania flags of the Civil War and several monuments honoring our Civil War soldiers.

Members of our RT and others participate in the "Brush Busters" campaigns. In today's world, rarely are there sufficient funds to maintain all our battlefield areas. When viewing the battlefield from various strategic positions, one can see only 75-year-old trees, overgrown brush and lots of trash. In cooperation with the Gettysburg National Military Park, we form a volunteer group with the mission of removing trash, eliminating obstructive trees and clearing the overgrown brush. The GNMP does not allow the use of power tools by amateurs. Twenty years ago, we accomplish this task with only our hand tools. Now, we are growing long in tooth, losing our hair and adding a few extra pounds, so we depend more on the Boy Scouts and school kids to assist with this project. As our reward and completing the day's task, we usually receive a private tour by one of the Gettysburg Rangers.

Returning to my Civil War ancestor, his oral history is not quite correct. With the help of Bill Goble and Karl Lehr, I acquire a short history of the regiment and Grandpa's military and pension records. First, his regiment forms four months after the Shiloh battle. Second, although he is not in the battle, his regiment passes through the battlefield area in January 1865 moving to winter quarters in Eastport, Mississippi. Technically, he is at Shiloh.

When you have time, invite a neighbor, friend, your children or grand kids to attend a dinner meeting of the RT. Introduce yourself to your tablemates. Some members and former members can no longer drive at night. Offer a ride to someone stuck at home. Introduce yourself to your tablemates. Our meetings are always a fun night.

Do You **KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?**

A brain-stretching quiz about the historic struggle between the blue and gray

Taken from The Civil War Quiz and Fact Book by Rod Gragg

Answers on Page 11

1. Who said, "Really Mr. Lincoln, I have had enough of this show business" and went back to the front rather than attend a party?
A. Ulysses S. Grant B. William T. Sherman C. John Pope
D. Winfield Hancock
2. What was "pop-skull" ?
A. Hard tack B. Leave C. Pay day D. Liquor
3. What were Quaker guns and who used them?
A. Rifles, Union soldiers B. Dahlgren guns, Union soldiers C. Fake cannons, Confederate soldiers
D. Dahlgren guns, Confederate soldiers

Fall 2016 & Spring 2017 PROGRAM REGISTRATION DETAILS

All Members and guests of the Lehigh Brigade are ordered to

Holiday Inn Conference Center Lehigh Valley in Breinigsville

7736 Adrienne Drive Breinigsville, PA 18031 Phone 610-391-1000

The deadline for accepting dinner reservations is the last Thursday, before the monthly meeting held on the first Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. Please note the deadline for making dinner reservations for the November meeting is Thursday, December, 01, 2016.

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

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. Website: <http://www.cwrteasternpa.org/>

In Appreciation of Jamie Malanowski's Presentation on Will Cushing and the Albemarle: November 2016



Jamie Malanowski is being presented with a plaque for his talk by Bob McHugh.

Nisky Hill Cemetery **Bethlehem, PA**

Saturday morning, October 29th, was as beautiful a fall day as could be imagined or desired. Our eleven intrepid workers mustered at 10AM and immediately began lightly sanding and then painting the Dahlgren cannon and stacked cannon balls placed in the midst of the flag covered graves of 59 Union veterans. The previous Saturday had originally been the target, but the heavens cried and the winds howled and our volunteers regrouped! Morning Call reporter Scott Kraus joined us and did a nice story on our work which was completed before noon. Ongoing research into the war time service and post war lives of these men has given us a glimpse into the trials and tribulations of living and dying in the 19th and early 20th centuries. We hope to end up with a permanent record of the lives of these gallant men who helped save the Union.

Thanks to Barry Arnold, Chuck Cannon, Bill Frankenfield, Jeff Heller, Claire Kukielka, Alan Lowcher, Emily, Stu, Nick and Lanie Schenkel for participating.

Ed Root – Brigade Commander



First step is sanding the cannon.



Barry patiently painting the cannon balls.



We were having so much fun, the time went quickly!

PRESERVATION GOAL

At the recent Board Meeting, it was decided to set a financial goal and share the progress toward this goal with the membership of the CWRT of Eastern PA. This is an effort to demonstrate to the members and benefactors of this Roundtable where the funds raised for Battlefield Preservation are going in their name.

At the 11/1 general meeting there was a bar graph set up in the back of the room that showed the goal (\$5000) for the Campaign Season of 2016 -2017. This bar graph will be updated at each meeting showing the progress toward this goal.

As of 11/1, the CWRT of Eastern PA has raised approximately \$1600 toward the goal of \$5000. Also shown is where donations in the name of this Roundtable have gone since the start of the Campaign season. Since the first meeting, \$125 was given to the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg and \$50 given to the Battle of Falling Waters Foundation (Maryland).

At the December meeting and subsequent meetings, take a minute to look at the poster and see the progress toward the goal and where funds have already been donated.

Jim Duffy, Paymaster



Book Raffle Winners for November 2016



The winners of the November 2016 book Raffle are (From left to right-Kim Jacobs, Terry Benner, Glenn Baumer, Gerry Sherwin, Peter Angelou, and Claude Kohl Jr.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause.

Campaign Print Raffle Prizes

Civil War Roundtable Prizes for 2015 – 2016 Campaign Season

<u>Prize</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Artist</u>
Grand	<i>Jackson and His Archangels</i>	Bradley Schmehl

Second	<i>The Vicksburg Campaign</i>	Ed Bearss
Third	<i>The Gettysburg Papers</i> 2 vols	Bandy & Freeland
Fourth	<i>The Civil War - A Narrative</i> 3 vols	Shelby Foote
Fifth	Mounted Artillery Artifact from Petersburg	Barry Arnold

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

ANSWERS FOR DO YOUR KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Quiz on page 6

1. A) Ulysses S Grant
2. D) Liquor
3. C) Fake cannons

REENLISTMENT REPORT

It is re-enlistment time for the 2016-2017 campaign. Again, our numbers have decreased over the past year and the Roundtable can use your help in acquiring some new recruits. If you know of anyone who has an interest in the Civil War, please pass his or her name and address along to me. I will send them a few complimentary newsletters and an introductory letter to the Round Table. Better yet, bring them to a dinner meeting.

The dues are \$25.00 for individuals, \$10.00 for full-time students. To avoid standing in line at the meeting, please fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc. Thanks for your support. Jeff Gates (610) 966-5773 or jefgates@ptd.net

Name _____ How long have you been a member? _____

Address _____ How did
you hear of this organization? _____

What is your occupation/profession? _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Reenactor? ___ Unit _____

Please give name and unit of ancestor who fought in the Civil War _____

My major interest is: _____

Would you be willing to speak to groups on some aspect of the Civil War? _____

Would you be interested in participating in round table activities? _____

☐public functions ☐political action ☐preservation ☐living history

Dues (Please make checks payable to **CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc.**)

☐ **Individual (\$25.00)** ☐ **Full-Time Student (\$10.00)** ☐ **Tax Deductible Donation**

**Please fill out the Enlistment Form above for our next Campaign and mail FIRST CLASS to CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc.,
P.O. Box 333 ALLENTOWN, PA 18105**

Dues are payable now!

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF EASTERN PA, INC.

P.O. BOX 333 ALLENTOWN, PA 18105

FIRST CLASS MAIL