

February 2017 – Winter Campaign 39: Meeting on February 07, 2017

From the Brigade Commander: Ed Root

How history is remembered not only by those who lived through it, but by the generations that follow is a fascinating subject. Many thanks to Timothy Sedore and his wife Patricia for opening the window so we could view the many memorials and monuments in Virginia that help us remember the "Late Unpleasantness." Special thanks is due to Bob McHugh, Bob Ashcraft & the Holiday Inn staff for getting us through the audio visual confusion prior to the meeting.

The Lehigh Valley Active Life Center has excellent programs throughout the year. Our Round Table is actively pursuing all ways possible to spread the word about our organization in order to enhance our membership. Partnering with LV Active Life seemed like a good way to do it. They have a wide variety of programs including numerous history offerings. Check out their website at www.lvactivelife.org for details. My January 11th program was well received even though the day started out with less than great weather. I'll be speaking again on February 7 about Ben Butler in New Orleans. Join Ed Oechsle on February 17th when he'll be speaking about Gettysburg Controversies and on March 3rd Dick Jacoby will share some of his original Civil War letters. Come out and support your fellow CWRT members.

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Saturday, April 1, We have received a good response and the one day trip to visit the Battlefield at Falling Waters with George Franks is on! Don't miss this opportunity. Details to follow.

Saturday, April 22. Annual Conservation effort at the Eisenhower National Historic Site. We will be helping the NPS by painting new fences at the Eisenhower Farm. Alyce Evans, NPS Coordinator, will provide a program for all volunteers on the history of the family and the farm as well as a tour. We had a good response at the January meeting. Join us for a few hours of work and lots of fun and fellowship!

There will be Interest sheets at the February meeting with Jim Duffy and Kay Bagenstose for all those who wish to participate in these great events or email me at sartilly@hotmail.com.

Saturday, May 6. Our Americans At War Seminar. Join us for this event representing the different eras of U.S. military history. This will be an event you'll not want to miss.

Michael Harris

General John Sullivan and the Battle of Brandywine

Scott Hartwig

The Battle of Antietam

Col. Douglas Mastriano, Ph.D.

Sergeant Alvin York -Legend or Hero? Finding the truth with archeology and ballistic forensics analysis.

Dr. Greg Urwin

The Wake Island Defenders: "Victory in Defeat: War, Survival, Liberation, & Understanding."

Col. Ward Nickisch

Fallen, But Not Forgotten: The Search & Recovery of POWS/MIAS

Schedule details and cost will be available soon.

Stop by and see Jim Duffy and Kay Bagenstose on your way into the room on every meeting night. Check out Jim's graph on the progress of this year's preservation fund raising effort and make sure to purchase your raffle tickets for our big June Preservation Raffle.

See you on February 7th when Dr. Paul Kahan will enlighten us about that "Amiable Scoundrel Lincoln's Scandalous Secretary of War" Pennsylvania's own Simon Cameron.

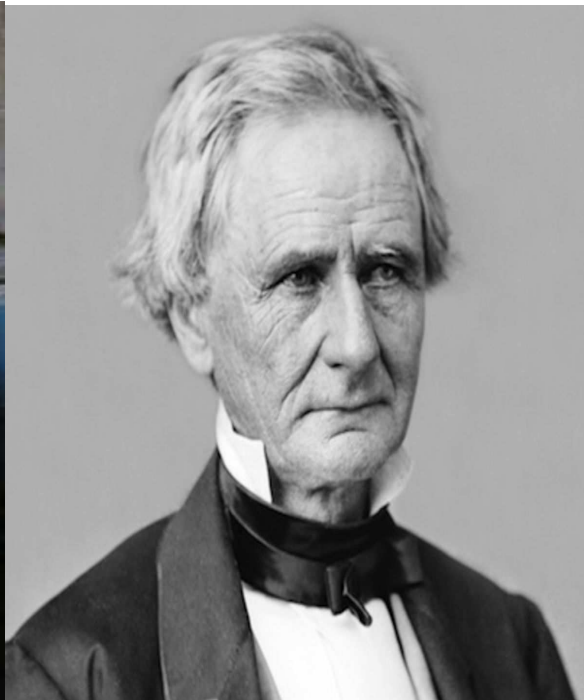
About Our February Speaker, Paul Kahan

Dr. Kahan earned a Ph.D. in U.S. history from Temple University where he worked with William W. Cutler, III. Prior to that, Dr. Kahan earned his M.A. in Modern American History & Literature from Drew University and B.A.s in history and English (with minors in medieval/Renaissance studies and music) from Alfred University.

In 2008, Dr. Kahan published his first book, *Eastern State Penitentiary: A History*. This book explores the penitentiary's history and is written for a popular audience. In February 2012, Peter Lang published Dr. Kahan's second book, *Seminary of Virtue: The Ideology and Practice of Inmate Reform at Eastern State Penitentiary, 1829-1971*. His third book, *The Homestead Strike: Labor, Violence, and American Industry*, was published by Routledge in late 2013. In 2016, Dr. Kahan published *The Bank War: Andrew Jackson, Nicholas Biddle, and the Fight for American Finance*, the first narrative overview of this turning point in American political history in more than half a century. Kahan's most recent book is *Amiable Scoundrel: Simon Cameron, Lincoln's Scandalous Secretary of War*.



Dr.Kahan



Simon Cameron

About Paul Kahan's Talk... Amiable Scoundrel: Simon Cameron, Lincoln's Scandalous Secretary of War

From abject poverty to undisputed political boss of Pennsylvania, Lincoln's secretary of war, senator, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and a founder of the Republican Party, Simon Cameron (1799–1889) was one of the nineteenth century's most prominent political figures. In his wake, however, he left a series of questionable political and business dealings and, at the age of eighty, even a sex scandal.

Far more than a biography of Cameron, *Amiable Scoundrel* is also a portrait of an era that allowed—indeed, encouraged—a man such as Cameron to seize political control. The political changes of the early nineteenth century enabled him not only to improve his status but also to exert real political authority. The changes caused by the Civil War, in turn, allowed Cameron to consolidate his political authority into a successful, well-oiled political machine. A key figure in designing and implementing the Union's military strategy during the Civil War's crucial first year, Cameron played an essential role in pushing Abraham Lincoln to permit the enlistment of African Americans into the U.S. Army, a stance that eventually led to his forced resignation. Yet his legacy has languished, nearly forgotten save for the fact that his name has become shorthand for corruption, even though no evidence has ever been presented to prove that Cameron was corrupt.

Amiable Scoundrel puts Cameron's actions into a larger historical context by demonstrating that many politicians of the time, including Abraham Lincoln, used similar tactics to win elections and advance their careers. This study is the fascinating story of Cameron's life and an illuminating portrait of his times.

Do You **KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?**

Answers on Page 8

1. Which battle was the first in the Civil War to use black troops?
A) First Manassas B) Second Manassas C) Gettysburg D) Island Mount
2. Which battle was where Stonewall Jackson was mortally wounded?
A) First Manassas B) Second Manassas C) Chancellorsville D) Island Mount
3. The Battles of Peach Tree Creek, Ezra Church and Jonesborough were actions designed to take what important southern city?
A) Raleigh B) Atlanta C) Mobile D) Charleston
4. The battles of Groveton, Cedar Mountain, and Chantilly are part of what campaign?
A) First Manassas B) Second Manassas C) Hampton Roads
D) Chancellorsville

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 January 03, 2017 meeting is Thursday, December, 29, 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/>

Operation Snowflake Please note a change in process; please see below.



For weather related postponements/cancellations, please visit the CWRT website - www.cwrteasternpa.org - where any meeting change information will be posted. If you still have doubts, please call Ed Root at 610-417-6673.

HEAD COUNT FOR JANUARY 2017 by James Duffy

We had 42 attendees at the January meeting; twenty-seven attended dinner and fifteen attendees walked in for the program only. While the date being so close to New Years, may have deterred a few of you from attending, our speaker was very interesting. **We are hoping your resolution for this year will be to attend the rest of our programs.**

PRESERVATION GOAL by James Duffy

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.

In Appreciation of Timothy Sedore's presentation on Virginia's Confederate Monuments on January 03, 2017



Timothy Sedore is being thanked by Bob McHugh. Timothy received a check for preservation in care of the Civil War Trust based on his memorable presentation on January 3, 2017.

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VALENTINE'S DAY IN CIVIL WAR TIMES [Arkansas Toothpick.com](http://ArkansasToothpick.com)- Dec 2007

I would also like to include something this month that one may find interesting: The switch from handmade to manufactured Valentine cards began during the 1840s. During the Civil War manufacturers were marketing Valentines to soldiers for their loved ones. During the Civil War there were special Valentines for soldiers and their sweethearts. Some showed couples parting ways. Others had a tent with flaps that opened to reveal a soldier. This was called a "Window Valentine". Another Civil War novelty was the Valentine that included a lock of hair. And another was the paper doll Valentine that had a painted face and feet, with the figure dressed in cloth or paper. Valentine cards became popular in the United States during the Civil War. Elaborate cards trimmed with satin ribbons, mother-of pearl ornaments, and spun glass were sold.

Within a few years of the War Between the States, Valentine's Day received almost as much attention as Christmas Day. Here is an example of a verse found in cards sent from soldiers in the field during the War:

*"To horse!" the bugle sounds the call, The
foe rage like waves at sea; If cruel fate should
bid me fall, My last fond thought shall be of
thee."*



Book Raffle Winners for January 03, 2017



The winners of the December 2016 book Raffle are (From left to right-David Hohe, Terri Monroe, Sherri Miller, Sandra Todd, Bill Frankenfield, and Jerry Haas.

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 4

1. D)
2. C)
3. B)
4. B)

FASCINATING FEBRUARY FACTS- Civil War Institute

On February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born in Hodgenville, Kentucky. The self-educated lawyer served in the United States House of Representatives as a delegate from Illinois before being elected as the sixteenth president of the United States.

In February of 1861, the Confederacy formed a government at Montgomery, Alabama and appointed Jefferson Davis as President of the Confederate States of America.

The capital would soon be moved to Richmond, Virginia, following Virginia's secession that spring.

President Davis would be formally inaugurated in February of 1862 to a term of 6 years.

In the West, Union General Ulysses S. Grant captured the Confederate strongholds at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson. These February 1862 battles gave the Union control of the vital Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers and helped General Grant rise to fame.

By February 1864, Prisoner of War camps were beginning to fill up due to the breakdown of the prisoner exchange program. The notorious Andersonville Prison in Georgia first opened its gates on February 27, 1864. Of the roughly 45,000 Union troops who would be interred there during the war, about 13,000 of them died due to poor sanitation, hunger, thirst, and exposure.

Earlier that month, over 100 Union officers escaped from Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. Over half of them managed to find their way to Union lines, while the other half were either recaptured or drowned during the escape.

February 1864 also saw the first successful submarine attack of the Civil War. The *CSS Hunley*, manned by seven confederate sailors, stuck a torpedo to the *USS Housatonic* in Charleston harbor. Both the *Hunley* and the *Housatonic* sank as a result of the explosion.

I'm Jeff Lauck and this has been This Month in Civil War History, a coproduction of WZBT and the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College.

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