



## **January 2017 – Winter Campaign 39: Meeting on January 03, 2017**

### **From the Brigade Commander: Ed Root**

Kudos to those who braved the elements on December 6th to see and hear our friend of many visits, Charlie Zahm. You were well rewarded for your effort with his songs and stories of history in music. The night may have been ugly, but the room was bright and cheery with Charlie's marvelous voice and presence. You certainly missed a wonderful program if you were not with us to relax, share a great meal and sing along.

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](http://www.lvactivelife.org) You'll note that on January 11th and February 7th yours truly will be speaking. On February 17th Ed Oechsle will 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 and help us recruit new history enthusiasts while you're at it! Thanks to Bill Frankenfield for helping to set all of this in motion.

## **SAVE THE DATES!!!**

**Saturday, April 1:** Trip to visit the Battlefield at Falling Waters with George Franks. This is one battlefield that few have ever visited. Don't miss this opportunity.

**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 have mustered over forty folks each of the last 3 years so let's set the record for volunteers this year. Spread the word!

There will be Interest sheets at the January meeting for all those who wish to participate in these great events or email me at [sartilly@hotmail.com](mailto:sartilly@hotmail.com) to express interest.

**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 a fascinating day so don't miss it!!

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 ticks for

our big June Preservation Raffle. IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES YOU ARE OVERDUE SO SHAPE UP. We need your support!

Do you check our website frequently? If not, shame on you! There are events and news items that can't always make it in the newsletter so wise up and check [www.cwrteasternpa.org](http://www.cwrteasternpa.org) often. Give Tony Major a pat on the back for all his work keeping things updated! We have had wonderful programs thus far this Campaign Year and the New Year looks bright with Timothy Sedore joining us on January 3rd to speak about Virginia's Confederate Monuments. (Bob Ashcraft is already counting the hours until the 3rd!!!) Thank Bob McHugh when you see him for all his hard work bringing these programs to you!

## Preservation by Joe Riggs

Discovering new information relating to my ancestor's regiment is my pastime. I enjoy working with and discovering original documents relating to his regiment. Over the years, visits to several small Wisconsin county historical societies, GAR Halls, libraries and such produce a wealth of new information. During these trips to Wisconsin, I realize much is being lost to the effects of age.

In my opinion, a missing section in the preservation conflict is saving the handwritten record of this war. Schools today are dismissing cursive writing and reading in lieu of completing everything on the computer. Soon, the old folks will be the few able to read cursive including our Declaration of Independence. The original records, diaries, letters and such are in cursive. In my research of my ancestor's regiment, I examine countless shoeboxes of cursive accounts covering the events of 1860-1865 then interpreting and transcribing these wonderful gems. Owning a Webster's 1864 dictionary also helps with the task. The English consider one hundred and fifty year old documents as modern history. However, they realize that time is running out and are employing over a thousand volunteers to transcribe and preserve older official papers. Should we follow their example? Our local historical societies are bursting as such. Consider the wealth of information at the Army War College, Gettysburg, Vicksburg or even the National Archives.

What must we require to begin transcribing these wonderful history treasures? A volunteer organization is essential; however, it is also necessary to have the cooperation of the depository. Oftentimes, this can be a problem where the curators may believe we are invading their turf. We all need to cooperate for our mutual benefit such as, the easy exchange of information via the internet and a new source of income for organizations storing and sharing the data.

Round Table members such as Richard Matthews (discovering the grave sites of nearly one thousand Civil War veterans), Lewis Schmidt (the 47<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania), William Goble (New Jersey regiments), Ed Root (Nisky Hill GAR Civil War plot), Jeff Stocker (153d Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry) and others accomplish much; however, additional material is waiting for our discovery. I wonder if we and other organizations ought to involve ourselves in this side of preservation, or should we lazily wait and hope someone completes the assignment?

If you wonder what tidbits are waiting for discovery, here are two from my ancestor's regiment.

A Wisconsin private writes to his brother about his night in Nashville. "I had a really, really great night in Nashville. Do not tell mom. This is our secret." Translation: I passed the night drinking and with hookers.

Wisconsin serves as the rear guard during the disastrous Red River retreat. They destroy everything of value and strategic importance such as bridges, food supplies and plantations. At one plantation, they discover the owner's stash of gold coins. There's enough loot for everyman in the detachment to receive a \$20 gold piece.

Should we allow this opportunity to pass and not preserve our local wealth of Civil War data?

## About Our January Speaker, Timothy Sedore

Timothy Sedore is a northerner, a Union man and Professor of English at The City University of New York, Bronx Community College, where he teaches undergraduate courses in composition, literature and religious rhetoric. He was raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but he has Southern roots. His father, from the North, met his mother, from the South, at a USO dance during World War Two, and formed a union--if you will--that lasted 56 years.

His book, *An Illustrated Guide to Virginia's Confederate Monuments* was published in 2011 by the Southern Illinois University Press. His second book, *Tennessee Civil War Monuments*, is in press under contract with the University of Tennessee Press. Once completed, his book-in-progress, *Mississippi Civil War Monuments* will complete a trilogy on Civil War monumentation.

He was ordained to the ministry in 2011 and is active in campus ministries and preaching engagements at various churches. His study of the life, ministry and impact of the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale is in progress.



## About Timoth Sedore's January Program.... Virginia's Confederate Monuments

As America was torn apart by the horrors of the Civil War, no state bore the brunt of battle more than Virginia. Home to the Confederate capitol of Richmond and the linchpin of the eastern theater of the war, the state now bears a myriad of testaments to its harrowing past, waiting to be explored. With *An Illustrated Guide to Virginia's Confederate Monuments*, Timothy S. Sedore presents the first volume to enumerate Virginia's southern Civil War memorials marking the bloody battles that took place on Virginia soil. Sedore's illuminating and highly readable guide catalogs 360 of the state's most infamous and obscure commemorations, and provides not only a fascinating compilation of locations but also a compelling vision of the public sense of loss in the post-Civil War South.

From notorious sites such as Manassas, Fredericksburg, and Appomattox to the lesser-known locations of Sinking Spring Cemetery and Rude's Hill, Sedore leads readers on a vivid journey through Virginia's Confederate history in all its tarnished glory. Tablets, monoliths, courthouses, cemeteries, town squares, battlefields, and more are cataloged in detail throughout this compendium, accompanied by photographs and meticulous commentary. Each entry also contains descriptions, historical information, and location, providing a complete portrait of each site. Designed for the expert historian and the lay reader alike, the vast scope of these locations—from Clinch Mountain near Tennessee to the Eastern Shore, from the northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., to the edge of North Carolina—is organized geographically by region for ease of use. Six maps also are provided for the reader's orientation.

Much more than a visual tapestry or a tourist's handbook, however, *An Illustrated Guide to Virginia's Confederate Monuments* draws on scholarly and field research to reveal these sites not only as monuments to history but also as public efforts to reconcile mourning with Southern postwar ideologies. Unveiled here are dynamic memorials that are at once intimate and aloof, written on stone, bronze, or marble but forged from the language of suffering. Sedore analyzes in depth the nature of these attempts to publicly explain Virginia's sense of grief after the war, delving deep into the psychology of a traumatized area. Insight into these evocative elegies for lost sons, fathers, spouses, and other loved ones provides yet another dimension to this captivating volume.

The first book of its kind, *An Illustrated Guide to Virginia's Confederate Monuments* will appeal to the traveler, historian, and armchair enthusiast alike. Never before has such a comprehensive collection of Virginia's Southern Civil War sites been gathered and examined in one volume. From commemorations of famous generals to memories of unknown soldiers, from the Shenandoah Valley to the Chesapeake Bay, the dead speak from the pages of this sweeping companion to history.

## 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 9

1. Who commanded the Confederate Army of New Mexico?      A. Henry Hopkins Sibley  
B. Charles Constantine Crews      C. Richard Heron Anderson

- D. Sterling Price
2. Who commanded Stuart's Calvary Corps after J.E.B. Stuart's death in 1864?  
A. Wade Hampton      B. D.H. Hill      C. Jubal Early      D. Braxton Bragg
3. What Confederate general was a pharmacist who was part owner to a pharmacy in Arkansas prior to the Civil War?  
A. Braxton Bragg      B. Gideon J. Pillow      C. John B. Flood  
D. Patrick Cleburne

## 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](mailto:duffysocwk@aol.com)

**Carol Detweiler 215-234- 4884**      [cdetweiler01@comcast.net](mailto:cdetweiler01@comcast.net)

**Ed Oechsle – 610-882-9228**      [ehoechsle@ptd.net](mailto: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



***For weather related cancellations, please tune to either radio station WAEB AM (790 on your dial) or B104 FM. If you have computer access and don't want to listen through the many listings on the radio,***



go to [www.waeb.com](http://www.waeb.com) and click on "Operation Snowflake". Or can you visit the CWRT website - [www.cwrteasternpa.org](http://www.cwrteasternpa.org) - where any meeting change information will be posted. If you still have doubts, please call Jeff Stocker at (work) 610-437-5664 or at (home) 610-867-5178.

## **HEAD COUNT FOR DECEMBER 2016 by James Duffy**

We had 32 attendees at the December meeting; twenty attended dinner and twelve attendees walked in for the program only. While the weather was a challenge, the program was impressive. A special thanks to the Coddingtons for attending and wearing period garb. They certainly added to the festivities.

### **In Appreciation of Charlie Zahm Performance on December 06, 2016**



Charlie Zahm is being thanked by Ed Root. Charlie received a check for preservation based on his memorable songs and historic lore which he performed in December 2016.

## 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.

## REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF NASHVILLE, TN- DEC 15, 1864-DEC 16, 1864



On this day in 1864, the once powerful Confederate Army of Tennessee is nearly destroyed when a Union army commanded by General George Thomas swarms over the Rebel trenches around Nashville.

The Battle of Nashville was the finale in a disastrous year for General John Bell Hood's Confederates. The Rebels lost a long summer campaign for Atlanta in September 1864 when Hood abandoned the city to the army of William T. Sherman. Hood then took his diminished force north into Tennessee. He hoped to draw Sherman out of the Deep South, but Sherman had enough troops to split his force and send part of it to chase Hood into Tennessee. In November, Sherman took the remainder of his army on his march across Georgia. On November 30, Hood attacked the troops of General John Schofield at Franklin, Tennessee. The Confederates suffered heavy casualties and much of the army's leadership structure was destroyed: Twelve



generals were killed or wounded along with 60 regimental leaders. When Schofield moved north to Nashville to join Thomas, Hood followed him and dug his army in outside of Nashville's formidable defenses.

Thomas saw his chance to deal a decisive blow to Hood. More than 50,000 Yankees faced a Rebel force that now totaled less than 20,000. Historians have long questioned why Hood even approached the strongly fortified city with the odds so stacked against him. Early in the morning of December 15, Thomas sent a force under General James Steedman against the Confederates' right flank. The Union troops overran the Confederate trenches and drove the Rebels back more than a mile. The short December day halted the fighting, but Thomas struck again on December 16. This time, the entire Confederate line gave way and sent Hood's men from the field in a total rout. Only General Stephen Lee's valiant rear-guard action prevented complete destruction of the Confederate army.

More than 6,000 Rebels were killed or wounded and 3,000 Yankees lost their lives. Hood and his damaged army retreated to Mississippi, the Army of Tennessee no longer a viable offensive fighting force.



*Confederate guns on the crest of Shy's Hill. (Shenandoah Sanchez) from Civil War Trust*





### Book Raffle Winners for December 2016



The winners of the December 2016 book Raffle are (From left to right-Ed Root, Bob Ashcraft, Claire Kukiela, Chuck Cannon, Paul Bartlett, Kathy Coddington, and Neil Coddington.

**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>
<b>Grand</b>	<i>Jackson and His Archangels</i>	Bradley Schmehl
<b>Second</b>	<i>The Vicksburg Campaign</i>	Ed Bearss
<b>Third</b>	<i>The Gettysburg Papers</i> 2 vols	Bandy & Freeland
<b>Fourth</b>	<i>The Civil War - A Narrative</i> 3 vols	Shelby Foote
<b>Fifth</b>	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 4-5

1. A)
2. A)
3. D)

### 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](mailto: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**