



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

From the Brigade Commander: Ed Root

Simon Cameron was for most of us a punch line for a 19th Century joke. Dr. Paul Kahan, in his marvelously entertaining presentation in February certainly put flesh on that stick figure. There were many fascinating characters during the era of the Late Unpleasantness and Mr. Cameron was certainly one of them. Because of Paul we understand both Cameron and his time much more fully. Thanks Paul! Have you joined us for the dinner portion of our meeting? If not, please consider doing so. You will be rewarded with good food and fellowship.

The LV Active Life Center has excellent programs. Our CWRT 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. Ed Oechsle spoke on February 16th about Gettysburg Controversies and on March 3rd Dick Jacoby will share some of his original Civil War letters.

SAVE THE DATES!!!

You Better Have SAVED THE DATES!!!

Saturday, April 1, We have received a good response for our one day trip to visit the Battlefield at Falling Waters with George Franks. Final details to follow shortly.

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. Join us for a few hours of work and lots of fun and fellowship!

There will be Interest sheets at the March 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. You have all received the event Flyer and extras will be available at the March meeting. Spread the word! We have already received payment from folks and our current deadline is May 1. If the response continues to be good we may have to cut off registration even sooner so get your check in now!

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.

Don't forget to check out our website www.cwrteasternpa.org

See you on March 7th!!

About Our March Speaker, Milt Diggins



Milt Diggins is a public historian and researcher who moved to Cecil County, Maryland in 1970 after active duty in the United States Navy Reserve. He taught in the Cecil County Public Schools system for 32 years, teaching social studies and history for most of his career. Milt also taught several social studies related courses as adjunct faculty at Cecil Community College in the early 1990s. During the first semester of 2009, he will return to Cecil College to teach American history and Western civilization classes while the full-time instructor is on sabbatical for that semester.

Diggins earned his Bachelor of Science degree in social studies and history in 1968 at Towson State, where he also earned his Master of Education degree in 1978. While working on this project, Diggins had complete access to the large photographic collection at the Historical Society of Cecil County as well as other collections; he was also able to make full use of the research materials at the society.

Diggins serves on the Historical Society of Cecil County Board of Trustees and is past editor of the society's publication, the *Cecil Historical Journal*, a volunteer position he held for eight years. In addition to writing articles for the society, he had an article published in the Maryland Historical Magazine and a number of articles published in the *Cecil Whig*. When not working on self-initiated history and research projects, Diggins takes full advantage of the other freedoms of retirement.

More information about the book's contents is on the [Stealing Freedom](#) page and the [Kidnapping of Elizabeth and Rachel Parker](#) page.

His blog, [Freedom Seekers and Freedom Seekers along the Mason-Dixon Line](#), examines slave catching, kidnapping, and the Underground Railroad in the Baltimore-Wilmington-Philadelphia corridor.

About Milt Diggin's Presentation... Stealing Freedom Across the Mason Dixon Line: Thomas McCreary, the Notorious Slavecatcher From Maryland



Thomas McCreary was a slave catcher and kidnapper unconcerned for the difference between the two activities. He lived in Cecil County, Maryland, the mid-point between Philadelphia, a refuge for freedom seekers, and Baltimore, a major slave market. McCreary and his community provide a close up view of the toxic effects the debate over slavery had on the country in the years leading up to the Civil War. Slave holders, slave dealers, slave catchers, kidnappers, kidnap victims, free blacks, freedom seekers, furtive Underground Railroad agents, outspoken abolitionists, and ordinary citizens caught up in the violence lived in

close proximity in the Baltimore - Wilmington - Philadelphia corridor. This volatile mix made the region a hotspot in slavery-related controversies. This after all, is the region of the Christiana affair, the most violent resistance to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. The treason trial that followed and the story of Thomas McCreary become intertwined. Historians have noted the connection between the killing of the slaveholder at Christiana and the mysterious death of a witness against McCreary after he kidnapped Rachel Parker. But historians stopped there and overlooked a significant connection between the aftermath of the treason trial, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, and the story of Thomas McCreary.

Do You **KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?**

Answers on Page 7

1. How many troops were in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at the time of the Appomattox surrender?
A) 26,000 B) 100,000 C) 10,000 D) 1,000,000
2. What was the ultimate rank of John Clem by the time of his retirement prior to World War I? John Clem was better known as Johnny Shiloh or the Drummer Boy of Chickamauga.
A) Captain B) Major General C) Private D) Colonel
3. Pauline Cushman was a spy aiding the Union when she was caught by the Confederates and brought before which Southern general? This general had her tried by a military court where she was sentenced to hang.
A) Stonewall Jackson B) Jubal Early C) Braxton Bragg D) Robert E Lee

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 the change in process 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 FEBRUARY 2017 by James Duffy

We had 47 attendees at the January meeting; thirty-four attended dinner and thirteen attendees walked in for the program only. **We are hoping your resolution for this year will be to attend the rest of our programs.**

In Appreciation of Paul Kahan's Presentation on Simon Cameron: Amiable Scoundrel on February 07, 2017



Paul Kahan was thanked by Bob McHugh for his great presentation on February 07, 2017. Paul received a check for preservation in care of the Historical Society of Dauphin County.



Book Raffle Winners for February 07, 2017



The winners of the December 2016 Book Raffle are (From left to right-Claire Kukielka, Bruce Rissmiller, Wayne Schaeffer, Gary Weaver, Russell Brewer, and Kim Jacobs.

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. A)
2. B)
3. C)

FROM OUR PRESERVATION CHAIR, KIM JACOBS.....

Kim received a letter which he wishes to share with you. Please read below...

Dear Kim,

I recently wrote to you to share our work to save 243 acres at four battlefields in Virginia and West Virginia. This effort encompasses historic land at the heart of the Cedar Creek battlefield, acres at New Market Heights (a battle in which 23 members of the U.S.C.T received the Medal of Honor), a massive 200-acre tract at Harpers Ferry (which figured prominently in the 1862 battle and siege), and the first acres ever preserved at Greenbrier River, the scene of an early war clash in West Virginia.

One reason this is such an inspiring opportunity is the Civil War Trust's work with renowned artist Keith Rocco. As a thank-you for your generous contribution, we're able to offer you a specially commissioned, signed and numbered Civil War print that has never before been available to the general public. What makes this image so unique is that the land we are saving now is actually depicted in the background of this very painting!

If you can send a gift of \$100 or more, you will receive a 25" x 16" full-color print on premium matte paper, hand-signed and numbered by the artist. We'll ship your print in a protective sleeve, ready for framing. And if you can help with a gift of \$500 or more, we will send **a printed artist's giclée print in vibrant color** on a 30" x 17" canvas. These look very much like original paintings, and I know you will be proud to display this work of art in your home or office, as you will have had a significant hand in preserving these acres for future generations.

Not only are you helping to protect this hallowed ground forever, but you can have a beautiful keepsake with a gift of \$100 or more.

Thank you for your continued commitment to protect America's hallowed grounds.

Very Sincerely,

Jim Lighthizer

P.S. Help save 243 acres in Virginia and West Virginia. All donors who give \$100 or more will receive an exclusive print of this very land at the Battle of Cedar Creek!

A LETTER FROM THE CIVIL WAR TRUST WAS WELCOME NEWS AND A TRIBUTE TO OUR GROUP

Ed Root has requested this letter be published in this newsletter for your perusal

January 20, 2017

CWRT of Eastern Pennsylvania Inc.,

You, my friends are */rue heroes* of preservation! It is my extraordinary privilege to

recognize you as part of our most esteemed recognition group here at the Civil War Trust: The Top 300. In terms of cumulative giving amount, you are among our top 300 lifetime donors – in the history of our 16 years in battlefield preservation. *Thank You!*

When it comes down to it though we do our best to secure grants and work with government entities for funding, we can only preserve land if we have the money with which to purchase it. In total, our Top 300 members have given over \$81 Million to the Trust –all in the name of battlefield preservation. That's equal to a third of all of the money we've raised, *ever*. Truly amazing.

Your generosity to the Trust reflects your patriotism and your vision for the future. On behalf of all future generations of Americans, I thank you! As a small token of my thanks, I'm enclosing a series of postcards featuring battlefields that *you* have helped save –just a sampling of the more than 44,000 acres we've saved in 23 states, at 23 battlefields across the country. I hope that as you look at these images, and use these postcards, you will be proud of the difference you are making.

It is my honor to partner with you in this historic effort. I look forward to working closely with you as we continue the fight to save even more hallowed ground. And as always, please let me know if there is anything I can do for you.

Your friend in preservation,

Jim Lighthizer
President

IN PREPARATION FOR OUR MAY ELECTIONS...JOE RIGGS,

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR REQUESTS

Volunteers and Assistants Needed

We desperately need assistance. Although we are in the 21st century, many of us remain embedded in the mid-20th. I am referring to our ability to employ modern technology in the operation of our round table. We are rapidly moving beyond receiving I.T. support from our grand kids. We require several folks to step up and maintain the current level of the Round Table.

Web Page Collaboration: For several years, Tony Major has maintained our website. Without any formal training, Tony managed the site and we all are thankful for his efforts. However, it is time

for help and for his eventual replacement. I am requesting that anyone from the RT familiar with web design and maintenance to step forward.

Publicity: Bob McHugh has been in charge here for many years. Note that he currently holds the office of Regimental Commander with the responsibility of supplying a guest speaker every month for our dinner meetings. This demanding and highly responsible position requires extensive time and effort. To ease his burden, we need someone wise in the ways of social media such as Facebook, Twitter and others plus the ability to charm the local news outlets to cover the RT and our many projects.

Company Commander: This third in command position has been vacant for several years. In addition to attending board meetings, it is the duty of the Company Commander to select and arrange field trips. Once field trips involved a 49-passenger bus, eating arrangements, motel reservations, itinerary and field guides. It was a daunting task, but one handled very nicely by past Company Commanders. We are attempting now to limit our field trips to a Saturday car pool road trip convoy. Is there a member interested in this position and willing to try something new?

For additional information or to volunteer, please contact Joe Riggs.
jorjriggs@gmail.com or call 610-797-5225

Slate of Elected and unelected Positions are Listed below- Those in bold are elected; all others are appointed.

Brigade Commanded - Ed Root (Past Brigade Commander)

Regimental Commander - Bob McHugh (Past Brigade Commander)

Company Commander - OPEN

Paymaster - Jim Duffy

Adjutant - Kay Bagenstose

Director - Kim Jacobs

Director - Ed Oechsle

Director - Barry Arnold - terms ends 2018

Director - Bill Frankenfield - term ends 2018

Quartermaster - Tony Major (Past Brigade Commander)

Publicity - Bob McHugh, We would like someone to take/help Bob with this position) OPEN

Website - Tony Major (We would like someone to take this position or at least help)

Newsletter - Claire Kukielka

Membership - Jeff Gates (Past Brigade Commander)

Preservation - Kim Jacobs

Photographer - Jeff Heller (Past Brigade Commander)

Past Brigade Commander - Bob Ashcraft

Librarian - Kay Bagenstose

Brigade Clerks - Ed Oechsle, Carol Detweiler, Jim Duffy

Remember, the election is in May and the installation is in June.

**Another Opportunity to Attend An Informative Program:
Please Note the CWRT of Eastern PA is a Cosponsor**


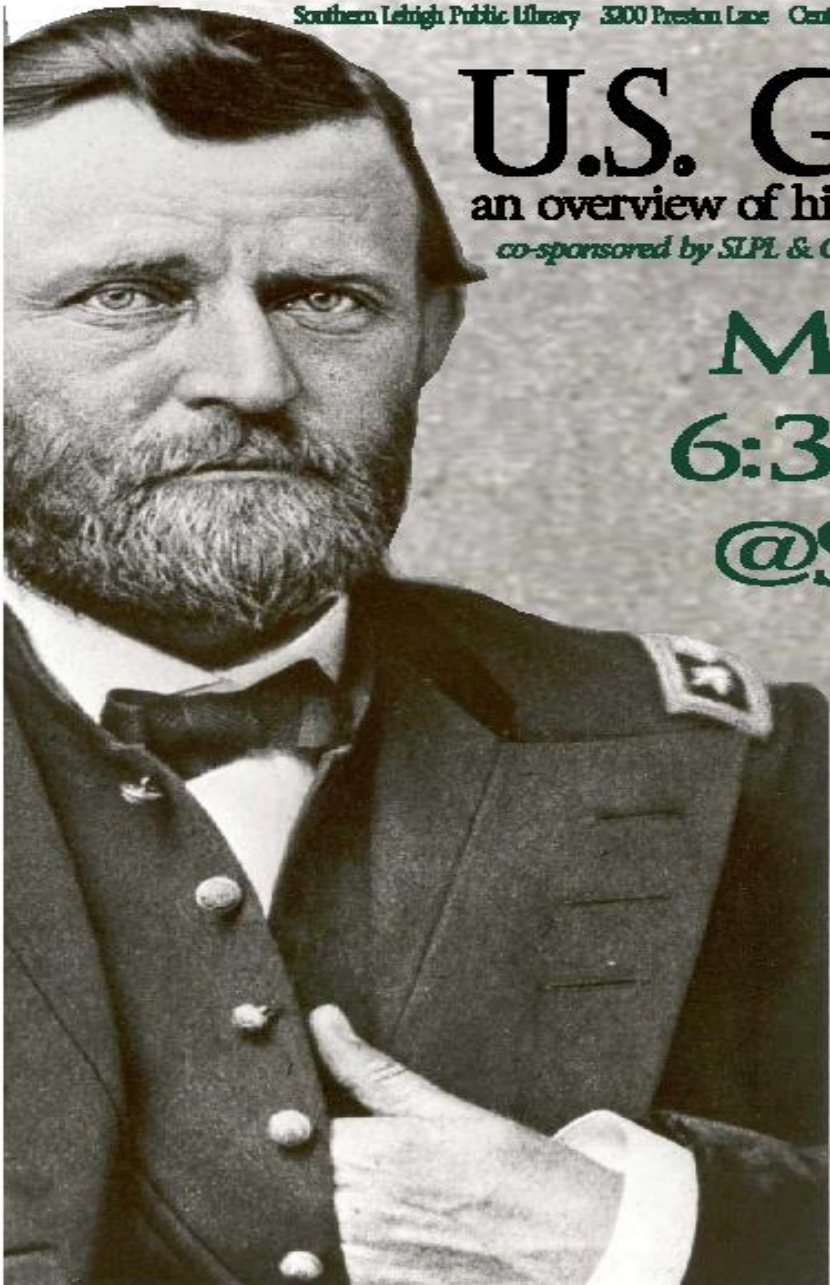
Southern Lehigh Public Library 3300 Preston Lane Center Valley, PA 18034 solehipl.org (610) 282-8825

U.S. GRANT

an overview of his life and life lessons
co-sponsored by SLPL & Civil War Roundtable of Eastern PA

**May 1
6:30PM
@SLPL**

Please register at solehipl.org
in person at the library
or by phone (610) 282-8825



SLPL and Civil War Roundtable of Eastern Pennsylvania are proud to present Kenneth J. Serfass, a USMC Veteran and long time Civil War reenactor, as General U.S. Grant. Ken has been a student of Grant all his life. He has appeared nationally on television and film and has been featured at numerous speaking engagements.

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF EASTERN PA, INC.
P.O. BOX 333 ALLENTOWN, PA 18105

FIRST CLASS MAIL