



[May 05, 2015 – Spring Campaign 37](#)

### [About Our Speaker, Jeffrey D. Stocker](#)

We welcome back Jeffrey D. Stocker who has been a long time member and previous Brigade Commander of the CWRT of Eastern PA. Jeff is a practicing attorney in Allentown PA. Jeffrey received a B.A. degree in History from Muhlenberg College in 1980. He then attended Temple University School of Law and received a law degree in 1983. In addition to his many other Civil War contributions, Jeff has edited Robert T. Cole's, [From Huntsville to Appomattox](#), published by the University of Tennessee Press in 1986. In 2006, Jeff co-authored a book with Edwin Root, [Isn't This Glorious!](#) by Moon Trail Books. Jeff is here to speak to us about his most recent book, [We Fought Desperate](#), a story about the 153<sup>rd</sup> PA regiment.

### [Brief Synopsis of Our Presentation:](#)

#### [We Fought Desperate](#)



[Picture from Northampton Historical Society](#)

My most recent work, *"WE FOUGHT DESPERATE"* is a history of the 153rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment, a nine-month unit that was recruited in the early fall of 1862 in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. The 153rd served in the XI Corps of the Union Army of the Potomac, the main Federal army in the Civil War's eastern theater, and saw fierce combat at the Battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. The work, which is 842 pages long, in addition to 59 photographs and 12 maps, is based on numerous primary sources, including documentation found in the soldiers' pension files and compiled service records held in the National Archives, as well as that contained in

dozens of the men's diaries, letters and contemporary newspaper accounts printed in Northampton County newspapers, many of them in German. The book describes the recruiting process, provides a great deal of background on the 993 men and boys who served in the unit, vividly tells the story of the fighting that the soldiers endured at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, and also contains a 286 page detailed roster, which, famed historian Robert K. Krick, in a review published in the March 2015 issue of *America's Civil War*, has deemed "an outstanding effort" and "a model." The same review also states, "[T]his superbly detailed regimental deserves notice as an archetype of the genre."

The book is priced at \$44.95, plus Pennsylvania sales tax of \$2.70. Only some 500 copies of the work were printed, of which over 230 have been sold already. Copies will be available for sale at the meeting, which will be signed, if requested, by the author.

My talk is titled "Portraits of a Regiment." In the course of the evening's presentation, I will give background on the 993 men and boys who served in the 153rd Pennsylvania, describe, in brief, the casualties the unit suffered at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, and then concentrate on several soldiers who served in the unit. Who were they? What was their family background? What happened to them during their term of service, and beyond, if they were fortunate enough to survive their period of enlistment? The talk is designed to "put faces on the dots on a map," as it were, to make the listener realize, in some small degree, what it was like to serve in a regiment from this area during our country's years of travail and tumult known as the Civil War.

### Campaign Officers 2014-2015 Campaign Year:

Brigade Commander-Warren Beach  
 Regimental Commander-Ed Oechsle  
 Company Commander-Position Open  
 Adjutant-Kay Bagenstose  
 Paymaster-James Duffy  
 Board members-  
 Kim Jacobs, Kay Bagenstose, Claire Kukielka Open  
 Paymaster-James Duffy-610-253-4549  
 Publicity-Bob McHugh  
 Brigade Clerks- Carol Detweiler-215-234-4884  
 & Jim Duffy- 610-253-4599

Appointed positions with Board Approval  
 Recruiting Officer- Jeff Gates [jefgates@ptd.net](mailto:jefgates@ptd.net) ,  
 610-966-5773  
 Newsletter Editor – Claire Kukielka [clkuk@ptd.net](mailto:clkuk@ptd.net) ,  
 610-398-1619  
 Quartermaster-Tony Major Webmaster-Peter  
 Detweiler [pdetweiler@comcast.net](mailto:pdetweiler@comcast.net)  
 Brigade Librarian-Kay Bagenstose  
 Website: [www.cwrteasternpa.org](http://www.cwrteasternpa.org)  
 Brigade Photographer – Jeff Heller  
[jrheller@enter.net](mailto:jrheller@enter.net)

### **Format of all meetings**

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

### **Cost per meeting**

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

## **May 05, 2015 PROGRAM REGISTRATION DETAILS**

**All Members and guests of the Lehigh Brigade are ordered to the Days Inn and Suites of Allentown, PA on May 05, 2015. The deadline for accepting dinner reservations is Thursday, April 30, 2015. 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)

### **Reflections on Our Recent Contribution to Preservation:**

#### **Gettysburg Brush Cutting**

**Saturday, April 25, 2015**

**Ed Root**

Fifty-two CWRT members and friends spent Saturday morning, April 25, working at the Leister House property brush cutting and rebuilding fence lines in the fields just south of the home that served as General Meade's Headquarters during the battle. Our Round Table has served as a conservation force at the Park since before the inception of the Adopt a Position Program.

As with any endeavor a great number of people deserve kudos for efforts to make the day a success. Dick Jacoby again organized the dismantling and rebuilding of the fences on top of the low stone walls that bounded the property. John Duffy and his stalwarts of Scout Troop 89 of New Tripoli were the major part of that effort. Pat Matthews once again brought her hard charging compatriots from the Whitehall Historical Preservation Society and worked the wall like brush cutting demons. Allen Handwerk and CWRT member Sam Parker ran their gas powered weed trimmers like men possessed. Member Bob McHugh's AP students from Saucon Valley High School cleared an entire swale/hillock of brush. Round Table members, Kay Bagenstose, Chuck Cannon, Mike Cavanaugh, Bill Frankenfield, Kim Jacobs, Claire Kukielka, Tony Major, Bob McHugh, Ed Oechsle and Sam Parker all more than earned their pay which is "in the mail". Thanks also to CWRT family members Jacob and Daniel Weaver and Emily and Stu Schenkel who brush and fenced. Kay also brought the books from the Round Table supply for the free raffle to thank our volunteers and Bob McHugh's group for bringing water, ice and coolers to keep us all going. Amanda Whitmore of Gettysburg NMP was our contact for the work day. Chris Gwinn of the Park Staff gave us all a rare treat with not only a program about the Widow Leister and what occurred at her home during and after the battle, but access to the home. Thanks to one and all!



Robert McHugh and some of the energetic students from Saucon Valley High School : The "McHugh Marauders"

## Brigade Call

Civil War Round Table of Eastern, PA, Inc.

Warren Beach

Now that the taxes are paid and the spring flowers are up and blooming and the threat of snow is (almost) past we can turn our thoughts to the summer campaigns of the civil war. Some of you have plans to visit civil war sites' over the summer' I wish you a safe and educational journey. You might consider writing up a short brief on your trip for our newsletter. Safe travels and looking forward to seeing you the first Tuesday in May.

### **DO YOU KNOW THE CIVIL WAR? A Brain- Stretching Quiz About the Historic Struggle Between the Blue and Grey**

1. Grant said of this state after many of its soldiers formed a line of resistance at Shiloh, called the Hornet's Nest: "It is a young state but it is a home of heroes. Those boys saved my Army." Which state was Grant speaking of?
 

a. Illinois	c. Iowa
b. Ohio	d. New York
  
2. What Union General officer didn't wear boots because they hurt his feet, so he wore shoes instead?
 

a. Thomas Jackson	c. John Logan
b. William Tecumseh Sherman	d. Dan Sickles



3. What was the first state capital to be lost to the Union by the Confederacy?
- a. Nashville, Tennessee
  - b. Vicksburg, Mississippi
  - c. Baton Rouge, Louisiana
  - d. Columbia, South Carolina
- 

See bottom of this page for the correct responses to the quiz

**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.

## REFLECTING ON OUR APRIL MEETING



Warren Beach, Brigade Commander, presented Attorney Malcolm Gross a plaque of appreciation for his engaging talk on Thaddeus Stevens' Scourge of the South. This was taken at the April meeting.

## ANSWERS FOR DO YOUR KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Continued from page 4 -5

- 1. c. Iowa
- 2. b. William Tecumseh Sherman
- 3. a. Nashville, Tennessee



## **Book Raffle Winners for April 2015**



The book raffle winners for the April 2015 meeting were (left to right) Bob McHugh, Gerald Haas, Fred Bomberger, Bill Frankenfield, Kay Bagenstose and Wayne Schaeffer. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause!

## **April 25, 2015 CWRT of Eastern PA Sponsors a Day of Brushcutting at Gettysburg, PA.**

Here are just a few of the photographs; check out the website for more.



Group hug for all the dedicated workers





Dick Jacoby, Mike Cavanaugh, Ed Root- Taking a break from working



Dick Jacoby and the Boy Scouts, Troop 89, Planning their strategy



Sam Parker and Chuck Cannon - Weed whacking



Claire Kukielka and Kay Bagenstose sharpening their skills



The final product- so beautifully done



Bob McHugh, Bill Frankenfield, Kim Jacobs, and Sam Parker



Robert McHugh and his AP class from Saucon Valley High School



Ed Oechsle taking a well-deserved break





BS Troop 89, New Tripoli- Giving it  
Their All



Chris Gwinn, NPS, with Daniel and Jacob Weaver



Kim Jacobs, Bill Frankenfield, Kay Bagenstose and  
others



Kim Jacobs raking the yard debris



Nancy Root with Schenkel Family



Boy Scout Troop 89, New Tripoli on a rare moment of down time



Chuck Cannon- Still smiling after all the hard work!



Chaperone and some of the Boy Scouts preparing to work.

## **REMINDER: CONSIDER JOINING OUR FRIENDS AT OLD BALDY**

**Old Baldy CWRT Trip to Woodlands Cemetery in West Philadelphia**

**Date: Saturday, June 13, 2015**

**Time: 10:00 AM to about Noon**

**Cost: \$10.00 Per Person (Cemetery Charge)**

**Cemetery Tour Guide: Jim Mundy**

**Refer to the April newsletter for more detailed instructions**



## 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!!!**



CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF EASTERN PA, INC.

P.O. BOX 333 ALLENTOWN, PA 18105

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