



Fall Campaign 38    October 2015

### About Our October Speaker....Kurt Schweighauser

We welcome Kurt Schweighauser: Kurt is a retired science teacher who resides in Lansdale, Pa. Kurt taught in Ambler for the Wissahickon School District & Philadelphia for the Philadelphia School District. He also taught in Pennsauken in New Jersey and finished his career teaching science students in Las Vegas, Nevada. He went west to see if the students were any different and discovered they were not. He enjoyed every day he spent in the classroom. Kurt loves to tell stories. Kurt started researching the U.S.S. Wissahickon in 1998 and has almost finished. Kurt has a daughter 28, who has both her B.S. and M.S. from Penn State. Kurt's daughter resides in Cleveland.

### Philadelphia Gunboats

The John Lynn Shipyard, located in the Southwark section of Philadelphia, in 1859 built the screw steamer "Habana" for a steam ship company that ran between New Orleans and Havana, Cuba. The Habana was converted at the start of the Civil War by the Confederates into the commerce raider CSS Sumter. In 1861 the Lynn shipyard completed the U.S.S. Wissahickon. This shipyard has the distinction of supplying vessels to both sides of the conflict.



# Brigade Call

## Civil War Round Table of Eastern, PA, Inc.

### Warren Beach

The attendance at the September meeting was disappointing. The program was great. Terry Latschar did a first person story of Tillie Pierce, a young girl present at the battle of Gettysburg. Many of her comments were directly from the book that Tillie Pierce wrote later in life. She did an excellent job and those members who were not there missed a high quality program.

### Reflecting On Our September Talk on Tillie Pierce by Terry Latschar:



Ed Oechsle

Terry Latschar as Tillie Pierce

Warren Beach

### Reflections on September by Tony Major

We kicked off our 38 Campaign Year with 47 members and guests on hand to hear our speaker, Terry Latschar, speak to us as Matilda (Tillie) Jane Pierce. She shared with us Tillie's firsthand account of what she witnessed as a young girl present during the Battle of Gettysburg.

# Fall 2015 & Spring 2016 PROGRAM REGISTRATION DETAILS

All Members and guests of the Lehigh Brigade are ordered to the Days Inn and Suites of Allentown, PA which is located at 3400 Airport Road. **The deadline for accepting dinner reservations is the last Thursday, October 01, before the monthly meeting held on the first Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted.**

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)

## Do You **KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?**

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

1. Who was the author of “Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics”, used by both sides in the Civil War?
  - a. Napoleon Bonaparte
  - b. James Brooke
  - c. John Dahlgren
  - d. William Hardee
2. At the time that the CSS Hunley sank the USS Housatonic and then sank itself who was the commander?
  - a. George Dixon
  - b. Dixon Miles
  - c. David Dixon Porter
  - d. David Farragut
3. What was the name of the Seneca Indian that was at Appomattox and recorded the terms of surrender for Grant/
  - a. Elihu Washburn
  - b. Stand Waite
  - c. Ely Parker
  - d. John Ross

## Save the Date for Gettysburg Brush Cutting

We have had great success the past two years helping to maintain the Gettysburg National Military Park for the benefit of all who visit that sacred field. Last year though our partnership with CWRT friends and family and Boy Scout Troop 89 of New Tripoli, Saucon Valley High School students in Bob McHugh's class and friends from the

Whitehall Historical Society our Round Table mustered 52 hearty souls for a grand day working near the Leister Farm.

So circle, Saturday, April 23, 2016 for this year's adventure. You will have plenty of time to get in shape so no excuses. More details will be provided as soon as we determine a work site. We are also working on a special post work program to reward our great volunteers that you will not want to miss!!!

Any questions, see Ed Root at any meeting.

## **Why Membership Matters? (Jim Duffy – Paymaster)**

In the previous Campaign Season, the CWRT of Eastern PA. was able to disburse to the Civil War Trust \$3000 for land preservation at Antietam, MD and Champion Hill, MS. Also disbursed was \$2000 to the City of Bethlehem for the restoration of the GAR statue dedicated to the memory of Capt. Taylor that was at the Rose Garden on Union Blvd. The CWRT was able to do all this despite the bad winter weather of the past year.

The Membership dues do constitute the largest share of the monies brought in over the year. The dinner is basically self-supporting and the monies received from the monthly Book Raffle and the Print Raffle, while appreciated, do not approach the amount raised by the dues.

It is very important that individuals register as dues paying members of the CWRT because this is money well spent and goes directly toward Preservation.

To encourage more members, it has been decided that if a current paid up member brings in a new member or members, their name will be "placed in a hat" for a drawing of a small framed print at the February Mtg. If successful, this could be continued into the future.

Please consider becoming a member of the CWRT (only \$25 a year) and encouraging like-minded friends to join. You just might win the print. Remember, Membership Matters.

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## **ANSWERS FOR DO YOUR KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?**

**Continued from page 3**

1. d. William Hardee
2. a. George Dixon
3. c. Ely Parker

# From Our Friends at The Delaware Valley CWRT

## *The Sacrifices of Our Mothers*

Walt Lafty

Sunday September 27, 2015 is Gold Star Mother's Day. The special day is observed in the United States on the last Sunday of September each year. It is a day for people to recognize and honor those who have lost a son or daughter while serving the United States Armed Forces. Each year on Gold Star Mother's Day, the President of the United States calls on all Americans to display the nation's flag, and to hold appropriate meetings to publicly express their love, sorrow, and reverence towards Gold Star Mothers and their families. Government buildings are also required to display the flag.



In 1928, American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was established and then chartered by Congress in 1984. American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. is a Veterans Service Organization of mothers who have lost a son or daughter in the service of our country. They continue to honor their sons and daughters through service -- service to veterans and patriotic events.

While the mothers of the Civil War did not have a formal group such as Gold Star Mother's Inc., they certainly were Gold Star Mothers in the meaning and spirit of that endearing name. They suffered as all mothers do in any conflict, in any country, and at any given time in history. They sacrificed with worry and fear and yet with pride. For the Gold Star Mother, the fear becomes reality and their son or daughter has given his/her life for their country.

Most Civil War Gold Star Mothers had family, friends, religion, and/or community support to help with their grieving. There were many mothers who lost more than one son, like Mrs. Agnes Allison of Port Carbon, Pennsylvania. Four of her five sons were killed in battle. There are Gold Star Mothers like Alletha Sullivan who lost all of her sons, *"The Fighting Sullivans"*. Five brothers who enlisted together and died together during World War II.





## Book Raffle Winners for September



The book raffle winners for the September 2015 meeting were (left to right) Dan Johnson, Joe Johnson, Bill Frankenfield and Peter Angelou. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause!

## 2014-2015 Campaign Print Raffle Prizes

### **Civil War Roundtable Prizes for 2015 – 2016 Campaign Season**

#### Grand Prize

“Battery Longstreet (Battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862) – Numbered Print and Framed

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

“General Meade’s Headquarters – Mrs. Lydia Leister House; Gettysburg, PA.) Ink Drawing print

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

“Stonewall Jackson (2 volumes) – Lenoir Chambers

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Prize

“Battle of Bull Run (collector’s edition) – William C. Davis

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Prize

“Brawling Brass North and South – The Most Famous Quarrels of the Civil War” – Harold B. Simpson

### **The Chambersburg Raid- October 10- 12, 1862 from Wikipedia**

The **Chambersburg Raid**, often identified as **J.E.B. Stuart's Chambersburg Raid**, was a [Confederate States Army](#) cavalry raid into Maryland and Pennsylvania on October 10–12, 1862 during the [American Civil War](#) (Civil War). It became known as Stuart's "second ride around McClellan" because it duplicated Stuart's reconnaissance ride completely around the [Union Army of the Potomac](#) under [Major General George B. McClellan](#) during the [Peninsula Campaign](#).

After McClellan failed to pursue the Confederate [Army of Northern Virginia](#) commanded by [General Robert E. Lee](#) from [Maryland](#) to [Virginia](#) after the [Battle of Antietam](#) on September 17, 1862, Lee planned to achieve some of his thwarted objectives from the [Maryland Campaign](#) through a cavalry raid. He asked [Major General J.E.B. Stuart](#) to lead the raid. Stuart took 1,800 men and a four-cannon light artillery battery on the raid. Stuart crossed into Maryland west of the Army of the Potomac's encampments, raided [Mercersburg, Pennsylvania](#), [Chambersburg, Pennsylvania](#) and locations along his way, and returned south on a longer route which first took his men to the east of the Union Army positions.

Stuart achieved his objectives of securing fresh horses, mules, arms and supplies; capturing about 30 civilian officials to exchange for captured Confederates; destroying important railroad equipment, buildings and track in the vicinity of Chambersburg; capturing and paroling about 280 convalescing Union soldiers; gathering information; and avoiding a significant battle through skillful evasion of pursuing Union cavalry. His men did fail to destroy the important railroad bridge over [Conococheague Creek](#) near Chambersburg which they were told, falsely, was made of iron. The raid contributed to [President Abraham Lincoln's](#) decision to replace McClellan as commander of the Army of the Potomac less than a month later.

From Our Friends at **THE DRUM & BUGLE**  
**Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table**  
"The Three Sanchez Sisters"  
(Lola, Panchita and Eugenia)  
By Jim Smithfield



*Lola Sanchez*  
*(The oldest of the three Sanchez sisters at age 50)*

St John's County, Florida, became the new home of the three Cuban born, beautiful Sanchez sisters. Just prior to America's Civil War breaking out, these sisters moved to Florida from Cuba. The entire Sanchez family had moved to the United States along with their ailing father, Mauritia Sanchez, who had previously lived in Florida for a short while. The Sanchez family was comprised of their ailing father, an invalid mother, a son serving in the Confederate Army and, of course, the three locally acclaimed beauties; Lola, Panchita and Eugenia. The three Sanchez sisters were actually working as recruited spies for the Confederacy and the sisters had truly become completely invaluable Confederate assets. The three sisters had effectively upset repeated Federal plots and in doing this, they maintained a constant leaking of information that flowed to the Confederate Army, stationed at nearby Camp Davis, Florida.

The Sanchez family had settled along the banks of the St. John's River, just opposite Palatka, Florida, which is about 63 miles due south of Jacksonville, Florida. Like so many of the women who served unheralded during America's Civil War for both sides, very few kept recorded information about their bravery, their personal sacrifices and their many wild adventures.

Due to the constant breach of information concerning Union plans and the apprehension caused by the unknown *Confederate Spy*, an investigation had been launched. A decision was made by the Union forces under General Chatfield that it was actually Mauritia Sanchez (the sister's ailing father) who was the actual Confederate spy. This was obviously aided, no doubt, by the fact that his son was serving in the Confederate Army. To protect his family, Mauritia had relented, allowing himself to be charged and arrested and to then be imprisoned and locked away in Fort San Marco.

It is interesting to note that information after his arrest continued to flow to the Confederates. Apparently, no one actually suspected the three beautiful Sanchez sisters of being the real culprits. Through all of this, the Federal authorities continued to maintain a guard each night at the Sanchez home. The guard was stationed discreetly nearby to watch over the Sanchez home every evening until dawn and there were many periodic searches made of the Sanchez house in an attempt to catch the then still unknown *Rebel Spy*.

On one certain Saturday evening, like so many other evenings, it occurred that the three sisters were once again entertaining male companions in their home. Their companions, on this particular Saturday evening consisted of three ranking Union officers. That evening's conversation moved along as the wine flowed freely. Nothing seemed extraordinary about the evening, i.e., until the sisters had left the drawing room to prepare dinner for their three guests. It was then that Lola Sanchez, listening from the dining room, overheard a joking but hushed private conversation between the three Union officers. This conversation, concerned Union plans to be carried out early the following morning. These plans were as follows, in the early morning hours, while the Confederate camp (Camp Davis) was still sleeping; the Yankees would begin with a staged gunboat raid on the camp. Then, the second part of their plan would entail a large party of Union soldiers heading south from St. Augustine; raiding, seizing, and then killing any/all Confederates that they came across. Hearing this information, Lola Sanchez knowing that time was of the essence, decided to impart this information to her very special friend, one Captain Dickerson of the Confederate army. Dickerson, who was stationed nearby, at the same Camp Davis mentioned in her overheard conversation. Dickerson would be the one she should tell ASAP.

Sneaking away from the house, Lola had left while the Union officers were being entertained by her two sisters. Lola was supposedly in the kitchen cooking the evening's dinner for them all. She saddled her horse and led it on foot away from the house and away from the sentry's post. Lola, then rode alone into the night, riding nearly three miles through Florida's tropical jungle to a St. John's River crossing, near the Confederate camp. Locating a skiff, Lola poled herself across the St. John's River and entered Camp Davis screaming for the attention of everyone and anyone. The next day the planned Union surprise attack on Camp Davis failed completely. Instead of a victory, Union General Chatfield was killed and all of the involved Union troops were either killed, missing or captured in that day's battle. Besides the complete defeat of the attacking Union troops, a Federal Transport along with a Federal Gunboat were both destroyed.

The long and the short of it is that, being forewarned, Camp Davis was more than ready for the Union army's planned *SURPRISE* the next day and they defeated the attacking Federals. It's interesting that Lola had not been missed at home, and she even made it back in time to serve dinner to their three guests. None the wiser, the three Federal officers left early that night, with full bellies and happy thoughts of their upcoming victory.

Later during that same year, Panchita, who'd become determined to arrange for the release of their ailing father from the Union prison. Panchita traveled alone, slowly making her way to St. Augustine, Florida. Panchita is said to have suffered untold hardships along her way traveling to St. Augustine, this was felt to be necessary in order to arrange for their father's release . . .

### Did you know . . . By Jim Smithfield

. . . that in 1909, by making them both “*Pages*” at their Convention “*The Daughters of the Confederacy*” honored the daughters of Lola and Panchita for their mothers and their Aunts bravery and their actions taken in defense of Camp Davis and the Confederate soldiers stationed there?

. . . that Spanish inventor *Monturiol Estarriol* offered in writing to sell to the Confederacy, his advanced submarine, named *Ictineo*, this was, he felt, to be used by the Southern States to break the Federal blockade around the South? Of course, *Estarriol's* submarine was never purchased by the Confederacy! However, the French author *Jules Verne* based his fictional vessel “*The Nautilus*” on *Estarriol's* actual submarine. The *Ictineo* was the world's then, most advanced vessel of it's day . . .

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## **Remembering Santa Rosa Island, At Fort Pickens, Florida, a Union Victory**

**Confederate Attacked the 6<sup>th</sup> Volunteers New York (Zouaves,) on October 09, 1861**



CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF EASTERN PA, INC.

P.O. BOX 333

ALLENTOWN, PA 18105

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**