



December 2014 – FALL CAMPAIGN 37

ABOUT OUR December 02, 2014 PROGRAM'S TALK,

The U.S. Sanitary Commission: Lincoln's "Fifth Wheel"

Although originally referred to by President Lincoln as "a fifth wheel on a carriage", the United States Sanitary Commission (USSC) became the first and only government sanctioned civilian run relief organization during the war. Created in June of 1861 by federal legislation, the USSC bought aid and comfort to the average soldier and served as a focal point for donations from over 7000 Aid Societies. Tonight's program will explore the history and role of the Commission, the people behind it, and its continuing legacy as the premiere example of a citizen run relief organization.

About Our Speaker

As member of the Civil War Round Table of Eastern PA for 20 years and an enthusiastic re-enactor for over 15 years, Kathleen Coddington developed a keen interest in 1860s women's fashion and the role civilians played during the war. After serving 10 years as the civilian coordinator for the 88th PA Volunteer Infantry, she and her husband organized the 153rd PA Volunteer Infantry group where she serves as the civilian coordinator and the secretary-treasurer. She has written several articles on Civil War fashion for the *Civil War Historian* and the *Citizen's Companion*. She is a frequent speaker at historical societies, schools, and local organizations. A resident of Northampton County, she volunteers at the Northampton County Genealogical and Historical Society and currently is the chairperson for their upcoming exhibit "Eras of Elegance" to be held at the Sigal museum in Easton, PA. A former middle school librarian for 30 years and a published author, she teaches a novel writing course at Northampton Community College.



REFLECTING ON OUR NOVEMBER 2014 SPEAKER AND AUTHOR, by Tony Major



Speaker, Michael Wunsch, Receiving a plaque from Ed Oechsle in appreciation from the Easter PA CWRT.

Did You Know?

At the October meeting, there were 64 members and guests were on hand to hear Michael Wunsch's talk on the 1864 National Union Party Convention dealing with the nominations of Abraham Lincoln, and Andrew Johnson.



Our members enjoying the speaker as well as other festivities at the November meeting.

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 and click on "Operation Snowflake". Or can you visit the CWRT website - 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.

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 ,
610-966-5773
Newsletter Editor – Claire Kukielka clkuk@ptd.net ,
610-398-1619
Quartermaster-Tony Major
Webmaster-Peter Detweiler
pdetweiler@comcast.net
Brigade Librarian-Kay Bagenstose
Website: www.cwrteasternpa.org
Brigade Photographer – Jeff Heller
jrheller@enter.net

About our Meetings: Location of all meetings

Days Inn and Suites of Allentown (formerly Four Points Sheraton)
3400 Airport Road, Allentown, PA 18109

Format of all meetings

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

Cost per meeting

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

December 02, 2014 PROGRAM REGISTRATION DETAILS

All Members and guests of the Lehigh Brigade are ordered to the Days Inn and Suites of Allentown, PA on December 02, 2014. The deadline for accepting dinner reservations is Thursday, November 27, 2014.

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

Brigade Call

Civil War Round Table of Eastern, PA, Inc.

Warren Beach

Hello:

It is again a privilege to say few words about the CWRT. I really enjoyed the speaker at the last meeting. Ed O. has done a great job of lining up speakers for us. He deserves a hand for the hard work. Also, the rest of the board has been very supportive in making sure the system runs smoothly. The board is currently seeking ideas for projects that will raise the awareness of the CWRT in the Lehigh Valley. If you have any thoughts, please feel free to contact any board member with your ideas.

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

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

1. John Wilkes Booth fired his Derringer during a big laugh line in Act III, Scene 2, of *Our American Cousin*. Which of these finishes the line: "Well, I guess I know enough to turn you inside out, you..."
 - a. "...scalawag"
 - b. "...round-faced gatherer of mushrooms"
 - c. "...sockdologizing old man trap"
 - d. "...Yankee loser"

2. Booth was tracked out of Washington and trapped:
 - a. in a tobacco barn in Virginia
 - b. near the battlefield in Gettysburg
 - c. in another theater in Washington
 - d. at a schoolbook depository in Texas

Another picture from our November meeting:

Whether purchasing tickets for the Book Raffle or listening intently to the presenter (L-R) our attendees enjoyed the November 2014 event.



WE ARE ONCE AGAIN CALLING ALL MEMBERS WITH PERIOD GARB TO DRESS FOR THE OCCASION- THIS USED TO BE A TRADITION OF THE DECEMBER MEETING AND



WE ARE BRINGING IT BACK.....

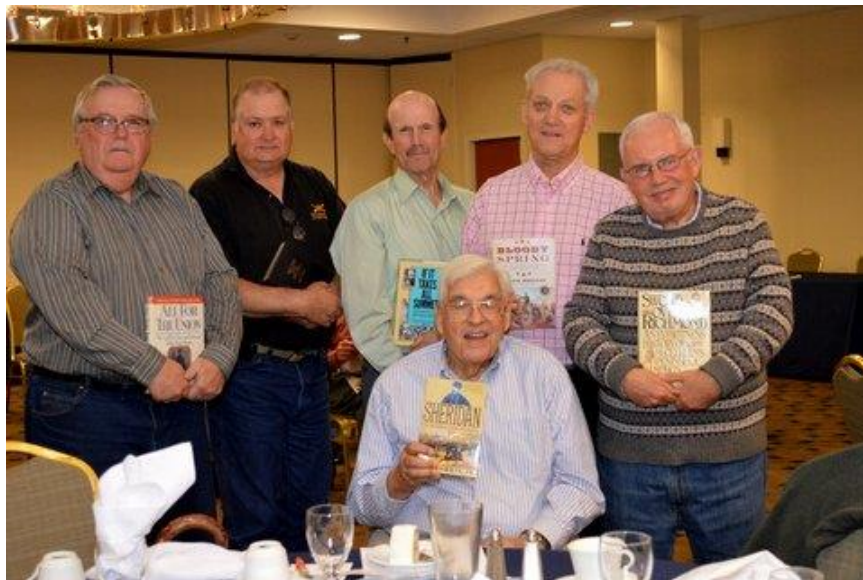
We encourage our members to attend in period dress on this night. So put on those uniforms (Union or Confederate) and hoop skirts and relax for a great evening with Kathleen Coddington. Be sure to include your family and friends for this night.

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.



Book Raffle Winners for November 2014

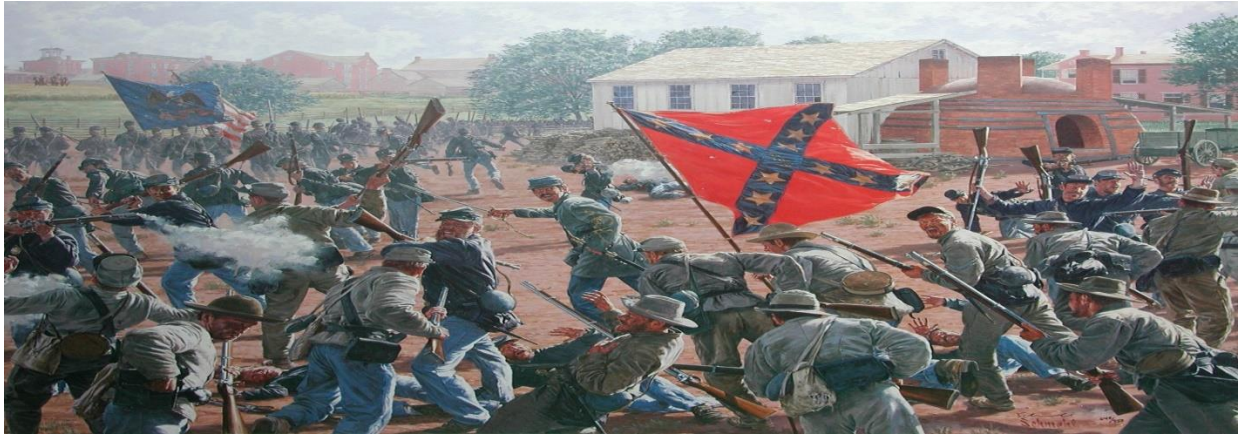


The book raffle winners for the November 2014 meeting were (seated) Jim Snyder; (standing – left to right) Neil Coddington, Gary Weaver, Bob Ashcraft, Bill Urland and Frank Whelan. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause!

ANSWERS FOR DO YOU KNOW THE CIVIL WAR? Continued from page 4

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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!!!

[New Post on The Blog of Gettysburg National Military Park](#)



Gettysburg Programs continued:

Winter's cold does not deter Gettysburg's rangers from continuing to study and develop programs on the meaning, significance, and impact of the battle of Gettysburg and the American Civil War. From January through early March, Gettysburg National Military Park will offer a series of lectures that touch on many different aspects of the Civil War in 1865 with programs expanding beyond the boundaries of the Gettysburg Campaign. The consequences of the conflict, presidents and generals, the final battles and profound decisions, the aftermath and reconstruction will all be examined. Programs are held on weekends in the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center at 1:30 PM. The lectures from January 3 to February 22 will be held in one of the theaters and the lectures on February 28, March 1, 7, and 8 will be held in the Ford Education Center. All lectures are free and open to the public.

For more information, call the Visitor Information Desk at 717-334-1124 ext. 8023

Can't make it to Gettysburg? All Winter Lectures will be filmed and made available on our park YouTube page: [youtube.com/GettysburgNPS](https://www.youtube.com/GettysburgNPS)

January Winter Lecture Series Amplified:

Saturday, January 3

Robert E. Lee Comes Home from War - 1865 to 1870

Lee came home from Appomattox confronting an uncertain future. He faced unemployment, failing health, and a potential indictment for treason. Yet, Lee's post-war years also represent a remarkable chapter for the once great general as he helped to set the tone for a torn nation beginning the long process of reconciliation and reunion.

– **Matt Atkinson, GNMP**

Sunday, January 4

"Not Yet!" Longstreet at Appomattox

Join Ranger Karlton Smith and examine the role played by Lt. Gen. James Longstreet in the final movements of the Army of Northern Virginia from Petersburg on April 2 to Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. This lecture will trace Longstreet's role in the fall and retreat from Petersburg, his reactions to Grant's demands for surrender, as well as Longstreet's return to his home in Georgia. – **Karlton Smith, GNMP**

Saturday, January 10

Famous Utterances on the Road to Appomattox: Importance of Rhetoric and Language in the War's Final Hours

This lecture explores the richer contextual meaning of words uttered in the final days and hours of the war in the East. Because language and rhetoric are so vital in shaping perceptions then and now, it is important to look back at some of the statements made by Lee, Grant, Longstreet and others that helped to define memory of the war. Moreover, these words help us peer into the soul of a generation – **Troy Harman, GNMP**

Sunday, January 11

***"It was, indeed, a scene of unsurpassed grandeur and majesty"* – An Audio-Visual Presentation of the National Park Service's Coverage of the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War**

Over the past four years, the National Park Service has covered the commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War through extensive photography and video projects. From behind the camera, Jason's team of passionate and dedicated staff and volunteers have spent countless hours capturing these once-in-a-lifetime events. They

January Winter Lecture Series Amplified:

have been used for immediate use on web and social media sites for a worldwide audience and have been saved and cataloged for ages to come. Beginning with the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) in July, 2011, Jason will highlight some of the most remarkable and stunning pictures and videos from the past four years.

– **Jason Martz, Visual Information Specialist, Northeast Region, NPS**

Saturday, January 17

Rocking the Cradle of the Confederacy - Sherman in South Carolina, 1865

Following his successful capture of Savannah in December of 1864, General Sherman's next target proved to be South Carolina – “the cradle of the Confederacy.” The intensity of his next campaign, almost countermanded before it commenced, proved in sharp contrast to his army's advance through Georgia and North Carolina. Opposed by relatively few, Sherman's troops were determined here to leave “a warning to future generations to beware of treason.” – **Bertram**

Barnett, GNMP

Sunday, January 18

The Civil War – A Waypoint in Military History

The Civil War provided a transformational platform for innovations in equipment, leadership, procedures and soldiering that had far-reaching impacts on the journey of the American military. While in some instances these changes were immediate, others came with time. All had their roots in the four year conflict. In this one hour lecture we will explore the broad and specific impacts the Civil War had on the American military.

- **William Hewitt, GNMP**

Saturday, January 24

What Gettysburg Meant: Civil War Veterans Reflect on America's Most Famous Battle

Few events figure as prominently in the American story as the battle of Gettysburg. In the past century and a half the three-day struggle has come to occupy a central place in our national memory and understanding of the American Civil War. But, what did Gettysburg mean to the Union and Confederate veterans who fought there? How did they reflect on its legacy and meaning in the decades immediately following the end of the four year conflict? Join Christopher Gwinn for a look at the significance of the battle of Gettysburg from the perspective of the men who fought there and lived to tell the tale.

– **Christopher Gwinn, GNMP**

Sunday, January 25

If These Things Could Talk- 1865

Original objects from the park's museum collection are examined for the larger stories they tell about the war in 1865 and the end of the four year conflict.

– **Tom Holbrook, GNMP**

Saturday, January 31

The Final Fourteen Days of Father Abraham

April 1865 marked one of the most dramatic and momentous times in American history. Join Ranger Chuck Teague and discover what Father Abraham experienced as the American Civil War drew to a climax. What would the first two weeks of that month have been like from the perspective of President Lincoln? Where did he go? Who did he meet with? What were his conversations? His decisions? His mood each day?

The Battle of Dranesville: 12-20-1861



The Battle of Dranesville from Boy Scout Troop 1018

http://www.troop1018.org/History/history_dranesville.html

By the fall of 1861 it had become obvious to both the North and South that the Civil War would not be the short little war that many had anticipated. Both sides had settled into camp life, waiting for an unknown future. From time to time, however, skirmishes did occur and one such battle was fought at Dranesville, VA on December 20, 1861. Brig Gen J.E.B. Stuart led a brigade sized force to protect a Confederate foraging action. The head of Union forces, Gen George McClellan dispatched Brig Gen E.O.C. Ord to stop the Confederates and encountered Stuart's forces in the area of Georgetown Pike. Stuart's units came from the area around Centreville, up the Dranesville Ridge Road, now known as Reston Ave. Ord's troops were dispatched from Camp Pierpont, 12 miles from Dranesville along Georgetown Pike (now Old Georgetown Pike).

Most of the actual fighting took place on the south side of Leesburg Pike in the area east of Sugarland Road (down the hill from the church). Union forces set up four artillery pieces at the junction of Georgetown Pike and Route 7 (current location of the gas station) and, by all accounts, wreaked havoc with the Confederates. Stuart's holding action allowed his supply wagons to escape, but Ord was the clear victor on the battlefield. By the time Stuart withdrew in the mid-afternoon the Confederates had suffered 230 casualties to the Union's 71. Following the battle, Ord gave chase for a short distance, but fearing a counterattack by superior forces withdrew back to Camp Pierpont.

Stuart returned the following day to pick up his dead and wounded, carrying them back to Centreville (with the exception of a few too critically wounded to move, who were left in Dranesville). While the battle is generally unknown today, at the time it generated considerable notoriety. Following the dismal showing of Union forces at the Battle of Bull Run in the summer of 1861, and subsequent defeats in minor battles in Northern Virginia, the North needed some good news.

The defeat of Confederate forces at Dranesville -- the first victory by Union forces in Virginia -- provided a considerable morale boost to Union soldiers. Results of the battle were widely published in newspapers and journals of the day -- including a two page drawing in Harpers Weekly. Of course, later battles far eclipsed the importance of the action at Dranesville, but in December of 1861 even a small victory was big news in the North.

REENLISTMENT REPORT

It is re-enlistment time for the 2014-2015 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