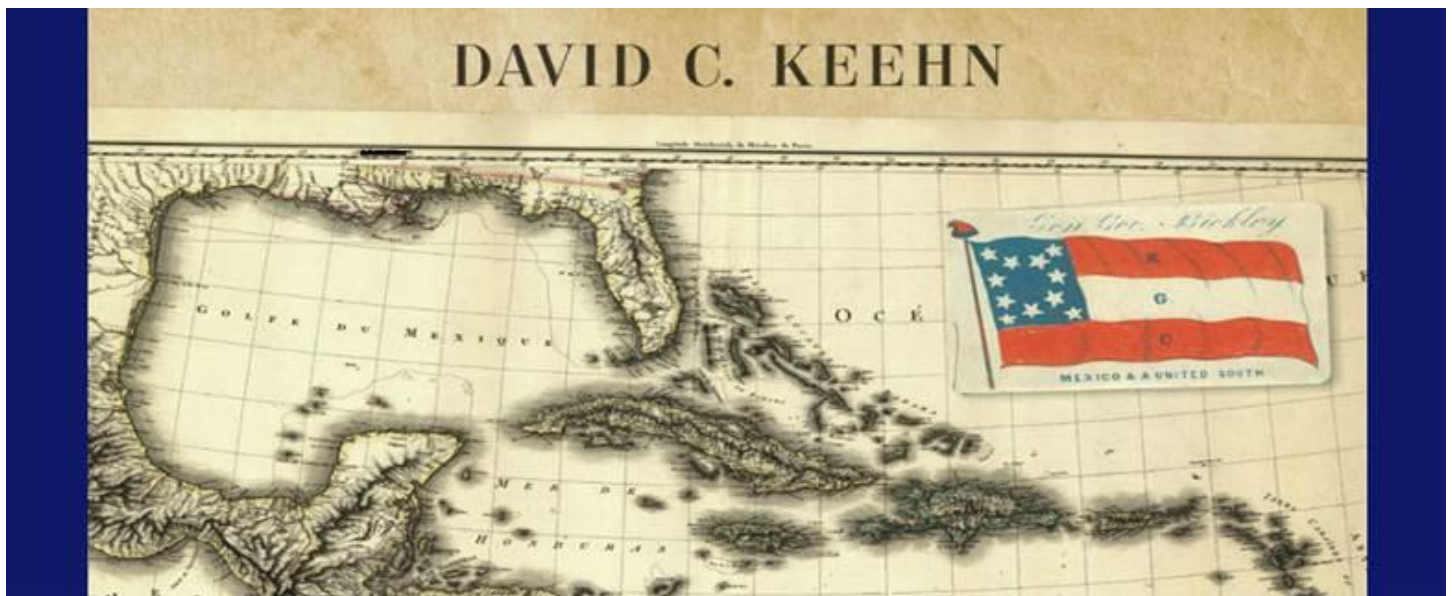




October 2014 – FALL CAMPAIGN 37

**ABOUT OUR OCTOBER 07, 2014 PROGRAM'S TALK,
THE KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE**

with Author, David C. Keehn



Based on years of research, David C. Keehn's study unveils the true history of the shadowy Civil War era secret society that initially sought to establish a slave-holding empire in the "Golden Circle" region of Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central America. Keehn reveals the origins, rituals, structure, and history of these mysterious "Knights", including their later involvement in the secession movement.



*About the Author and our
October speaker,
David C. Keehn*

David Keehn is a full-time writer and lecturer who previously served as a regulatory attorney in a multifaceted career spanning forty years. David graduated cum laude from Gettysburg College as a History Major. He then went on to the University of Pennsylvania Law School where he received his Juris Doctorate and authored a Law Review article on vigilante organizations.

With his wife, who is a noted children's author, David co-authored a nonfiction book on Pennsylvania and has separately published a number of legal and Civil War articles. Among these is "Strong Arm Of Secession: The Knights of the Golden Circle in the Crisis of 1861" that appeared in *North & South* magazine (Vol. 10, No. 6, June 2008), which its editor described as "ground-breaking." This *North & South* article brought David's historical discoveries regarding the Knights to the attention of Dr. Michael Parrish from Baylor University and sponsor of the *Conflicting World* series for Louisiana State University Press.

David spent another four years unraveling the secrets of the Knights. He collected primary sources and rare images from archives and historical societies across the country. He expanded his research to encompass the nation-wide reach of the Knights and their rearguard activities during the Civil War. This includes John Wilkes Booth's involvement as a Knights' leader and the curious number of Knights involved in the 1861 and 1865 attempts to abduct or assassinate Abraham Lincoln. These have been revealed and documented in David's full-length book: *Knights of the Golden Circle: Secret Empire, Southern Secession, Civil War*.

David lives in Allentown, PA with his wife, where he is involved in a number of community organizations. He enjoys biking, traveling, researching and unraveling historical mysteries, and visiting his two grown daughters.

REFLECTING ON OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER AND AUTHOR, CRAIG SYMONDS by Tony Major



Ed Oeschele (L) and Warren Beach(R) present Craig Symonds (Center) with a plaque in appreciation of his September talk.

There were 57 members and guests were on hand to welcome back Craig Symonds who gave an excellent talk on his new book, OPERATION NEPTUNE: THE ALLIED INVASION OF EUROPE AND THE D-DAY LANDINGS

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

October 07, 2014 PROGRAM REGISTRATION DETAILS

All Members and guests of the Lehigh Brigade are ordered to the Days Inn and Suites of Allentown, PA on October 07, 2014. The deadline for accepting dinner reservations is Thursday, October 02, 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

At the September dinner...



Members enjoying the September talk

Brigade Call

Civil War Round Table of Eastern, PA, Inc.

Warren Beach

Good evening;

As summer comes to a close and the nights become a little chilly, let us take a moment to remember the soldiers of the civil war. I think their view of the changing weather that will end up in winter is perhaps a little different than ours. We see the colors in the trees and the chance to wear fancy sweaters while they began to wonder where they would be when it first snowed. Their wool uniforms began to feel good and many of them wished for the return of their overcoats that they left behind in the spring.

We meet monthly and enjoy a good meal; they oftentimes looked forward to a meal of hardtack. The CSA soldiers probably looked forward without much enthusiasm to "good ole Georgia peas".

Our program for September was a real winner. We hope to see you in October for a very good program.

[More pictures from our September meeting:](#)



Craig Symonds and his wife, Marylou



Craig autographing Ed Root's book

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)

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

1. What number did President Lincoln ask the band to play for the crowd that gathered at the White House after Lee's surrender, saying that the Union armies had "fairly captured" the song?
 - a. "Dixie"
 - b. "Battle Hymn of the Republic"
 - c. "I've Been Working on the Railroad"
 - d. "Maryland, My Maryland"
2. Here are four statements about the meeting at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, where General Lee surrendered to General Grant on April 9, 1965. Just one statement is true. Which?
 - a. Grant and Lee didn't speak a word to each other
 - b. Grant and Lee ate a long lunch, with plentiful wine, before discussing surrender terms
 - c. Grant agreed to let Rebel soldiers take their horses home with them
 - d. Lee asked for a prayer break every ten minutes

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.

Please check it often!! www.cwrteasternpa.org



Book Raffle Winners for September 2014

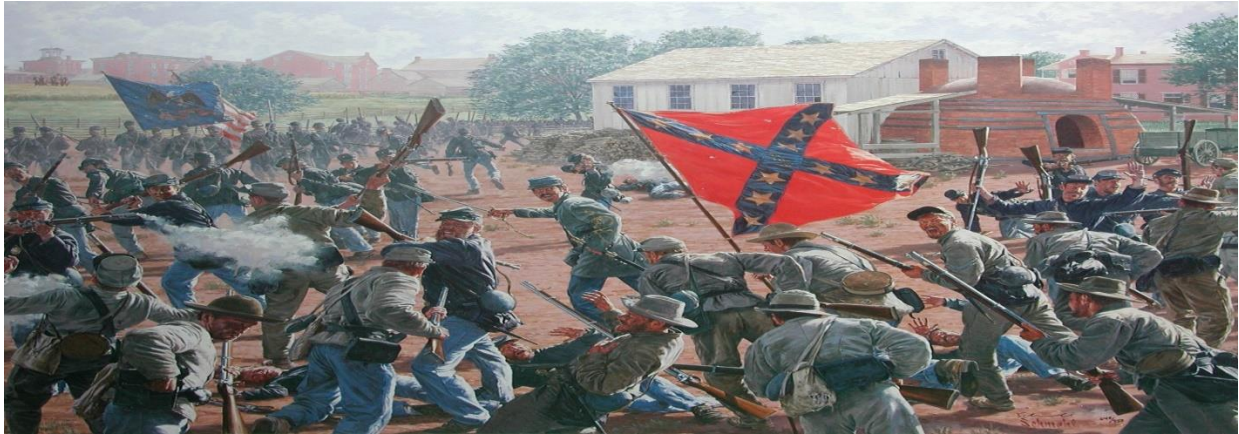


The book raffle winners for the September 2014 meeting include: (front) Jim Jenks; (back – left to right) Al Massi, Dale Taylor, Jerry Haas and Dale Grove. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause!

ANSWERS FOR DO YOUR KNOW THE CIVIL WAR? Continued from page 5

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1. a.
 2. c.

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!!!

Announcing An Exhibit Opening: “The American Spirit: The Paintings of Mort Künstler”

Mort Künstler, reveals the thought-provoking process involved in researching and painting historical scenes, followed by a book signing. The exhibit features fifty Künstler paintings representing a panorama of U.S. history. www.lehighvalleyheritagemuseum.org

- **When:** October 18th : 1 p.m.
- **Price:** \$8; \$3, children; free, members
- **Venue:** Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum
432 W. Walnut St. , Allentown , PA , 18102
- **Phone:** 610-435-1074 or 610-435-1074 (Phone)

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!

The Battle of Byram's Ford from Wikipedia

The **Battle of Byram's Ford** was a minor engagement of the [American Civil War](#), comprising two separate skirmishes on October 22–23, 1864, in [Jackson County, Missouri](#). It formed a part of the larger [Battle of Westport](#), which ultimately resulted in a Union victory and the end of all major Confederate operations in Missouri. This battle is also sometimes referred to as the "Battle of the Big Blue River".

[Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's Confederate Army of Missouri](#) was headed westward towards [Kansas City](#) and [Fort Leavenworth](#), hoping to capture Missouri for the South and negatively influence [Abraham Lincoln's](#) chances for reelection in 1864. Maj. Gen. [Samuel R. Curtis's Army of the Border](#), in and around Westport, was blocking the Confederates' way west, while Maj. Gen. [Alfred Pleasonton's](#) provisional [cavalry](#) division was pressing Price's rear. Price had nearly 500 wagons with him, and required a good ford over the [Blue River](#) to facilitate passage of his supplies. Byram's Ford was the best crossing in the area, and would clearly be a point of great strategic significance during the impending Battle of Westport.

First engagement, October 22

On October 22, Maj. Gen. [James G. Blunt's](#) division held a defensive position on the west bank of the Big Blue River. Around 10 a.m., part of [Brig. Gen. Joseph O. Shelby's](#) Confederate division conducted a frontal attack on Blunt's men. This attack was a ruse, because the rest of Shelby's men flanked Blunt's hasty defenses, forcing the Federals to retire to Westport. The brunt of the Battle on October 22nd was born by about 300 of Col. Veale's 2nd Regiment of the Kansas State Militia (KSM), a mixed unit of infantry, cavalry, and artillery. Brigadier General M.S. Grant (KSM) ordered Col Veale's unit to use their howitzer to stop the Confederate onslaught. The major Battle started around 4p.m. and lasted about an hour before the 2nd Reg. KSM was overrun by Shelby's forces. About half of the 2nd Regiment at Bynam Ford was killed, wounded or captured. Price's wagon train then crossed the Big Blue River at Byram's Ford and headed south to the village of Little Santa Fe and safety. Ref: Samuel J. Reader's autobiography volume 3 at www.kansasmemory.org item 206900.

Second engagement, October 23

The Battle of Westport began in earnest on the morning of the October 23. Pleasonton's cavalry was hot on the tail of Price's army, having engaged his rear guard in nearby [Independence](#) the previous day. Brig. Gen. [John S. Marmaduke's](#) Confederate division had stopped Pleasonton just west of Independence, and now held the west bank of the Big Blue at Byram's Ford to protect Price's rear from an expected Union attack.

Pleasonton began his assault on Byram's Ford around 8 a.m. Initially the Confederates held their own. One of the Union brigade commanders, Brig. Gen. [Egbert B. Brown](#), stalled his attack and was placed under arrest by Pleasonton for disobeying orders. Another of Pleasonton's brigade commanders, Col. [Edward F. Winslow](#), was wounded and succeeded by Lt. Col. [Frederick Benteen](#), who later rode to fame at the [Little Bighorn](#). Despite these setbacks, Federal troopers gained the west bank by 11 a.m. and Marmaduke retired. As Brown's brigade (now led by Col. John F. Philips) forded the river, they came under heavy fire from Confederate artillery. Once they had crossed, they charged Marmaduke across an open field; during this charge, Union troops from Missouri and Arkansas battled Confederates from these same two states. As Marmaduke rejoined Shelby and Fagan, Blunt pounded the consolidated Confederate forces with his own

cannon, completing Pleasanton's victory at Byram's Ford and contributing significantly to Curtis's larger triumph at Westport.

Aftermath

With Pleasanton now across the river he was now an additional threat to Price, who was heavily engaged with Curtis's main force at Westport. Defeated by Curtis there and menaced by Pleasanton and an additional Federal brigade under [John McNeil](#), Price had to abandon his Missouri campaign and retreat southward. This brought to a close the last major Confederate military operation west of the [Mississippi River](#), and ended the last major Southern threat to any Northern state.

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF EASTERN PA, INC.

P.O. BOX 333

ALLENTOWN, PA 18105

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