



Winter Campaign 38 January 2016

ATTENTION – ATTENTION – ATTENTION

The CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc. is preparing to saddle up and move

The CWRT of Eastern PA is ON THE MOVE.....PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW MEETING LOCATION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2016

Be prepared to muster at our new meeting location on Tuesday, January 5th, 2016.

The Center at Holiday Inn Lehigh Valley

7736 Adrienne Drive Breinigsville, PA 18031 Phone 610-391-1000

The Holiday Inn is a great facility right off Rte. 100 and is easily accessible from anywhere in the Lehigh Valley via Rte. 22 or Rte. 78 east and west or Rte. 309 or NE Extension for north and south travelers.

Here are the details.....

All members and guests of the Lehigh Brigade meet on the first Tuesday of each month (September - June) at the **The Center at Holiday Inn Lehigh Valley 7736 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville, PA 18031**

I-78 West to exit 49A (Route 100 South) Once you are on 100 South, proceed to first traffic light - Penn Drive Turn right onto Penn Drive Take the first right onto Sycamore and follow to the stop sign Bear left and the Holiday Inn is straight ahead.

Route 22 West to I-78 West towards Harrisburg Take I-78 West to exit 49A (Route 100 South) Once you are on 100 South, proceed to first traffic light - Penn Drive Turn right onto Penn Drive Take the first right onto Sycamore and follow to the stop sign Bear to the left - the Holiday Inn is straight ahead.

Route 222 to Route 100 North Turn left onto Penn Drive at the traffic signal Take the first right onto Sycamore Drive and follow to the first stop sign Bear left and the Holiday Inn is directly ahead.

Here is their link: [Holiday Inn Conference Center Lehigh Valley in Breinigsville](#)

You can enter the address – 7736 Adrienne Drive Breinigsville, PA 18031 into your GPS or you can also find directions at <http://www.mapquest.com>

Please note there are multiple parking lots that you may utilize once you arrive.

About Our January 05, 2016 Speaker....

Born and raised in York, Pennsylvania, Randy Drais developed a keen interest in the Battle of Gettysburg and the Gettysburg Campaign immediately after a 5th grade field trip to that famous Civil War battlefield. A lifelong passion to learn more resulted in his creation in March of 2008 of a website, <http://battleofgettysburgbuff.com/>, for individuals who wish to learn and do more than the average visitor to the battlefield. A “companion” website, <http://battleofgettysburgbuff.net>, Facebook page, and a quarterly newsletter soon followed.

A graduate of York College of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in International Studies, Randy has worked in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, the Pennsylvania Department of State, and the Pennsylvania Senate. Married with two daughters, Randy retired on January 1, 2015 and will be able to devote even more time to his main passion, learning even more about the Battle of Gettysburg and sharing that information with others.

“Exploring” the Battle of Gettysburg

Did you know that there were three privately-owned parks and a trolley line on the battlefield, all roughly operating at the same time? Did you know that in addition to “citizen soldier” John Burns, the 70+ year old civilian who fought alongside Union troops, there were other citizens who fought as well, including an African-American? Did you know that one monument, with an interesting story behind it, includes a depiction of a hornet’s nest with hornets angrily buzzing about? Join Randy Drais, amateur Civil War historian and Battle of Gettysburg buff, for a look at many of the lesser known facts, individuals, and locations pertaining to the Battle of Gettysburg and the Gettysburg National Military Park.

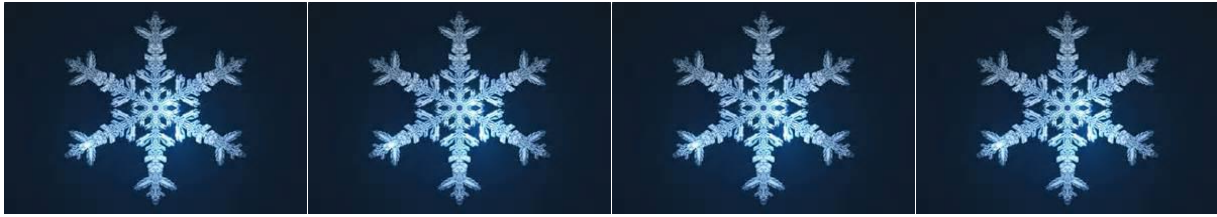
Presentation:

“General George Pickett’s Official Report of the Battle of Gettysburg”

As most (if not all) Battle of Gettysburg buffs know, General George Pickett did write an Official Report after the battle (perhaps even within a day or two) on the operations of his division, but after reading it, General Robert E. Lee responded in early August and ordered Pickett to destroy both the original and the copy and to resubmit a new report because Lee felt the content would cause divisiveness within the army. Considering the controversy surrounding the events of July 3, 1863, the importance of Pickett's Official Report is obvious, but there is no concrete evidence that Pickett even filed a new report.

Rumors persist to this very day that the copy (or another copy) of the original Official Report is still out there somewhere (Pickett’s wife LaSalle claimed to have had the/a copy), but the “million dollar” question still remains: what was in that Official Report that would cause such divisiveness and that General Lee would consider it harmful to the morale of the Army of Northern Virginia? Please join Randy Drais, amateur Civil War historian and Battle of Gettysburg buff, for an unusual Civil War “detective story”.

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.

Brigade Call

Warren Beach

As we end the year, its time to reflect on the past year of the CWRT. We had many great programs. We had great fellowship at the dinners as well as a few laughs. I am looking forward to our new meeting place at the Holiday Inn at Fogelsville so we can fellowship with stories of the Civil War and enjoy good food.

Fall 2015 & Spring 2016 PROGRAM REGISTRATION DETAILS

All Members and guests of the Lehigh Brigade are ordered to the Holiday Inn in Breinigsville, PA which is located at 7736 Adrienne Drive. **The deadline for accepting dinner reservations is next Thursday, which is the Thursday before the monthly meeting held on the first Tuesday of the month. Please contact our staff via e mail or by phone. ***Please try not to call on Christmas day. E mails are always welcome regardless of the time of day.*****

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

Remembering The Battle of Stones River: December 31, 1862-January 2, 1863: CWRT of Arkansas

From December 31, 1862, to January 2, 1863, one of the Civil War's bloodiest battles raged as more than 42,000 Union troops led by General William S. Rosecrans met 37,000 Confederates under General Braxton Bragg near the small town of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The Battle of Stones River, which the Union declared as a victory, significantly boosted Union morale in the Western Theater.

Do You **KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?**

See Answers on Page 7

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

1. What general, waving a tin cup in his hand, was shot while riding a horse names Fire Eater, and later died?

a. Albert S. Johnston	c. Thomas Jackson
b. Joseph Johnston	d. William Jones

2. High Fly was the mount ridden by a General with a gray-red lined cape and an Ostrich plume in his hat. Who was this last cavalier?

a. John Singleton Mosby	c. J.E.B. Stuart
b. John Hunt Morgan	d. Turner Ashby

3. Who, along with Gerrit Smith and Cornelius Vanderbilt, posted a bond for Jefferson Davis to get him out of jail after his capture at the end of the war?

a. Judah P. Benjamin	c. Andrew Johnson
b. Horace Greely	d. Andrew Stevens

Save the Date **for Gettysburg Brush Cutting by Ed Root**

Gettysburg Brush Cutting
Saturday, April 23rd, 2016

Our plans are now set for our next adventure at Gettysburg. The Park was extremely pleased with our work around Meade's Headquarters (the Leister Farmhouse) last year and has requested that we continue working moving south along the Taneytown Road. As last year, there will be plenty to do and something for both the young in body and stamina as well as those of us who are a bit more mature in age. That means fence maintenance and rebuilding as well as brush cutting along stone walls and fence lines.

Work will began at the site at 9AM and we expect to finish our task by 1PM. Parking is available in the gravel lot across the Taneytown Road from the Leister House. The CWRT will provide ice water. The NPS will provide loppers/pruners and scythes, but any such equipment you can bring will be extremely helpful. Gas powered weed trimmers are permitted for qualified operators and the Park will provide fuel. Common sense prevails:

wear work quality slacks, sturdy shoes and work gloves. There numerous sticker bushes so no shorts or flip flops unless you have masochistic tendencies.

As in past years, we and the Park wish to reward our folks who volunteer their time and energy on a beautiful spring day. This year you are in for a special treat which is a private tour of the Park's Cannon Carriage Restoration Shop. This facility, not normally open to the public, is located along Seminary Ridge. It just opened late last summer and is where Gettysburg's 400 cannon and carriages are refurbished and maintained. We plan on going there directly after our work day is complete. So bring your lunch if you wish to eat while you work or plan on a late lunch after the tour.



We need to have an idea of how many folks will be with us that day so please see Ed Root at any meeting or email him at sartilly@hotmail.com to express your interest.

On the afternoon of August 28, 2015, some 30 members gathered on the grounds of the Armory on Confederate Avenue for an historic ribbon-cutting ceremony. It marked the official opening of the Cannon Carriage Restoration Shop for the approximately 400 cannon that need to be repaired and maintained on the Gettysburg National Military Park (GETT). This is the second shop, however, because in the spring of 1999 the first cannon carriage repair shop opened in a warehouse on York Street near the railroad tracks. The Friends (now the membership arm of the Gettysburg Foundation) have been pleased and proud to provide space for the small but very talented staff of artisans who work on the big gun carriages. The facility at the Armory will provide more space, more light, and more air for the park staff and volunteers.

Joanne Hanley, President of the Foundation welcomed the members and guests and Ed W. Clark, Superintendent of GETT and Eisenhower National Historic Site (EISE) spoke to the crowd about the long-time success of the Cannon Carriage Shop and expressed his thanks to the Friends members for funding the project since 1999.

Barbara Finrock, Vice Chair of the Foundation, related some of the background of that first repair shop close to 17 years ago. She thanked businessman Tom Metz, unable to attend, for his commitment to the preservation of the spirit of America as he has assisted the Friends and Foundation in so many projects for more than 26 years. It was part of his company's warehouse space that formed the first repair shop and also housed one of the original offices of the Friends. Tom Vossler was the chairman of the Friends Cannon Carriage Committee, and he met with businessman Metz to arrange for the space and the reconfiguration of that space for the use of the NPS staff. Finrock said she likes to think of that original repair shop as a "tale of two Toms."

Following the dedication ceremony, Lucas Flickinger and Bryan Knepper gave members and guests a tour of the renovated spaces in the new home of Gettysburg's cannon carriage repair shop. The restored carriages are another reminder of the accomplishments of the Friends membership.



BRYAN KNEPPER AND LUCAS FLICKINGER TALK ABOUT THE COMPLEX CANNON RESTORATION PROCESS



FIRST CORPS MEMBERS ENJOY THE PROGRAM AT THE CANNON SHOP



SUPERINTENDENT ED CLARK, VICE CHAIR BARBARA FINROCK, HEAD OF GETT MONUMENT PRESERVATION BRANCH LUCAS FLICKINGER AND GETTYSBURG FOUNDATION PRESIDENT JOANNE M. HANLEY CUT THE RIBBON

ANSWERS FOR DO YOUR KNOW THE CIVIL WAR?

Continued from page 4

1. a. Albert S. Johnston
2. c. J.E.B. Stuart
3. b. Horace Greely



Book Raffle Winners for December 2015



The book raffle winners for the December 2015 meeting were (left to right) Kathy Coddington, David Hohe, Bill Frankenfield, Peter Angelou and Kim Jacobs. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause!

Reflections on our December Meeting with Charlie Zahm



Ed Oechsle and Warren Beach presenting Charlie Zahm with a plaque of appreciation.



Charlie posing with his musket in front of the flag.

Battle of Fort Fisher

First Battle of Fort Fisher

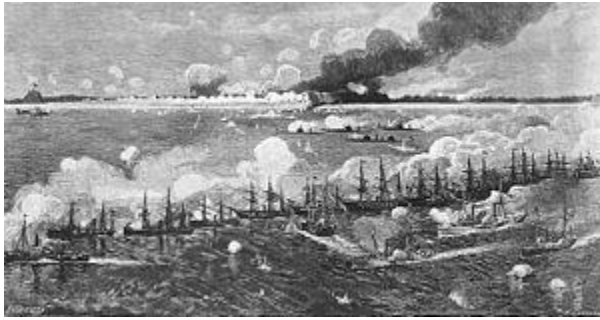
On December 15, 1864, Jefferson Davis supposed that Wilmington had not yet been attacked because it would have demanded *"the withdrawal of too large a [Union] force from operations against points which they deem more important to us."* Otherwise, *"fleets and armies"* would have already been *"at the mouth of the Cape Fear."*

In December 1864, Union Major General Benjamin Butler, together with the Expeditionary Corps of the Army of the James, was detached from the Virginia theater for an amphibious mission to capture Fort Fisher. He was joined by Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter who commanded Union naval forces already in the region.

After being informed about the large Union army heading toward Wilmington, General Lee ordered Major General Robert Hoke's Division to Fort Fisher. Also, Hoke took command of all Confederate forces in the Wilmington area.

The Union attack started on December 24, 1864 with a naval bombardment. The firepower of Fort Fisher was temporarily silenced because some of its gun positions exploded. This allowed the Navy to land Union infantry. The landing force was intercepted by the arrival of Hoke's troops. The Union attack was effectively thwarted, and on December 27 Benjamin Butler ordered the withdrawal of his 1,000 soldiers who were still on the beach. This was in disobedience of Grant's orders, which were to besiege the fort if the assault failed. Because Butler disobeyed his orders, he was relieved of command by Grant.

Second Battle of Fort Fisher



Ships of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron bombarding Fort Fisher prior to the ground assault January 15, 1865.

After Butler's removal, he was replaced by Major General Alfred Terry, and the operation was dubbed "Terry's expedition." Admiral Porter was again in charge of the naval attack. They waited until January 12, 1865, for the second attempt.



Capture of Fort Fisher. Troops led by Union Army Major General Alfred H. Terry fighting Confederates

They started with a strong bombardment from 56 ships for two and a half days. This targeted both of Fort Fisher's fronts. On January 15 at 3 p.m., 8,000 Union soldiers (who landed on January 12) attacked at the Land Face. At the same time 2,000 Navy Sailors armed with small arms attacked the fort's northeast bastion (the point where the Land Face met the Sea Face). As the bombardment continued, the naval attack was repulsed while the Union infantry entered the fortification through Shepherd Battery. Thus, the Confederate soldiers found themselves battling behind their walls, and were forced to retreat.

Altogether, the land battle lasted six hours. At nighttime, General William Whiting, who had been wounded during the battle, surrendered as *Commander of the District of Cape Fear*. He was then imprisoned; he died in prison March 10, 1865. The Confederates who had been captured and were not wounded were taken to the Federal Prison located at Elmira, New York, and assigned to Company E, 3rd Division of Prisoners. Those Confederates that were wounded were admitted to Hammond General Hospital and upon recovery were discharged and transferred to the main prison complex. Hammond General Hospital was outside the Prison Compound at Point Lookout, Maryland. Many of the guards in the Prison at Point Lookout were former slaves that had joined the Union ranks.

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

2nd Prize

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

3rd Prize

“Stonewall Jackson (2 volumes) – Lenoir Chambers

4th Prize

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

5th Prize

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

REENLISTMENT REPORT

It is re-enlistment time for the 2015-2016 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