



CAMPAIGN 32 - SKIRMISH 8

**Program: *Six Turning Points of the American Civil War*
Edward H. Bonekemper, III**

This month we welcome back Mr. Edward H. Bonekemper, III. Ed received his B.A. (cum laude) from Muhlenberg College and is a graduate of Yale Law School. He also has an M.A. in history from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Ed has written several books on the American Civil War including, *A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius*, *How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War*, and his latest, *Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian*. Ed has written many articles for such publications as *The Washington Times*, *The Journal of Afro-American History*, and the *Journal of Negro History*. He recently accepted the position of Book Review Editor for *The Civil War News*.

Ed has presented programs on a variety of subjects to numerous Civil War round tables and historical and military organizations. Several of Ed's presentations have been featured on C-Span. He is also an Adjunct Lecturer of U.S. Military History at Muhlenberg College.

Winter and 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 do not want to listen through the many listings on the radio, go to **www.waeb.com** and click on *Operation Snowflake*.

Ed has served as a commander (retired) in the U.S. Coast Guard and received the U.S. Coast Guard Commendation and Achievement Medals in 1974 and 1979. He lives in Willow Street, Pennsylvania, where he is very involved in community affairs.

His program, *Six Turning Points of the American Civil War*, include "U. S. Grant's Capture of Forts Henry and Donelson," "Lee's September 1862, Strategic Loss to McClellan at Antietam," "Meade's July 1863, Defeat of Lee at Gettysburg," "Grant's mid-1863, Capture of Vicksburg," "Grant's November 1863, Breakout at Chattanooga," and "William T. Sherman's September 1864, Capture of Atlanta."

The subjects of Ed's books (which he will have available for sale) and programs always brings on a lively discussion and even a little controversy. Please be sure to call in your dinner reservations early and bring a guest or two. This will be an informative and enjoyable evening.

Alternatively, you can 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.**

TUESDAY, April 6, 2010

Attention to Field Orders:

All Members and guests of the Lehigh Brigade are ordered to the **Four Points by Sheraton, 3400 Airport Rd., Allentown, Pa.**, on the above date.

Sutler’s Call 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Mess Call 6:30 p.m.

Program7:30 p.m.

SpeakerEd Bonekemper, III

The deadline for making dinner reservations is

Thursday, April 1, 2010.

Please call one of the Brigade Clerks listed below:

Jeff Stocker -----610-867-5178

jmw@ptd.net

Carol Detweiler ---- 215-234-4884

cdetweiler01@comcast.net

Website: www.cwrteasternpa.org

BRIGADE COMMAND

Brigade Commander-Larry Kern

Regimental Commander-Michael Cavanaugh

Company Commander-Susan Kovacs

Adjutant-Bruce Rissmiller

Paymaster-Jack Minnich

Board of Directors

Term Ending 2010

Nancy Keigher & Kim Jacobs

Term Ending 2011

Bob Ashcraft & Kay Bagenstose

Webmaster-Peter Detweiler

ptetweiler@comcast.net

Brigade Recruiting Officer-Jeff Gates

jefgates@ptd.net or 610-966-5773

Newsletter Editor Tony Major

Nomination of Officers:

In compliance with the by-laws of the Civil War Roundtable of Eastern PA, Inc., we submit the following list of officers and directors for your consideration. Voting will take place at the May 2010 meeting.

2010-2011 Campaign Year

Brigade Commander-Larry Kern

Regimental Commander-Michael Cavanaugh

Company Commander-Susan Kovacs

Adjutant-Bruce Rissmiller

Paymaster-Jack Minnich

Board of Directors Term Ending 2012

Mike Farris & Kim Jacobs

Term Ending 2011-Bob Ashcraft & Kay

Bagenstose

Appointed Positions with Board Approval

Brigade Clerks -Jeff Stocker & Carol Detweiler

Webmaster-Peter Detweiler

Brigade Recruiting Officer-Jeff Gates

Newsletter Editor-Joe Riggs

Quartermaster-Tony Major

Brigade Call: Ed Root

As Civil War students/buffs it is sometimes easy to be so focused on “our” war that we overlook the universality of factors that transcend all conflicts throughout history. John Nagy’s presentation of “Rebellion in the Ranks” reminded us that discord between the rank and file and among military officers did not begin with Fort Sumter. The seventy-five members and guests in attendance found Mr. Nagy’s presentation both enlightening and entertaining. The more one learns about the American Revolution the more it becomes apparent that it was indeed a “close run affair.” Thanks John for broadening our historic horizons.



Brigade Call Continued:

Have you purchased your tickets yet for our June Preservation raffle? Our Spring Preservation raffle is Don Troiani's print, *Lions of the Round Top*. Released in 1995 this print is sold out and is valued on the secondary market unframed at over \$1,000! If that isn't enough to make your mouth water, the following autographed books will also be included: *Generals in Bronze* by Bill Styple, *Don't Shoot That Boy* by Tom Lowry, *Custer* by Jeffry Wert, *The Battle of the Crater* by Bill Marvel and signed by our very own Mike Cavanaugh. WAIT, THERE'S MORE!! ALL THOSE PURCHASING, BY THE JUNE MEETING, \$25.00 OR MORE IN PRINT RAFFLE TICKETS WILL QUALIFY FOR A VERY SPECIAL TRIP TO GETTYSBURG ON JUNE 12TH. PAST BRIGADE COMMANDER MIKE SNYDER WILL TAKE US ON THE JULY 2, 1863 PATH OF JOHN BROOKE'S 2ND CORPS BRIGADE THROUGH THE WHEATFIELD. MIKE'S BATTLEFIELD KNOWLEDGE AND PRESENTATION IS UNSURPASSED.



See Jack and Jeff at the Preservation table each month to purchase your tickets. A packet of ten tickets for only \$5.00 is a bargain and all proceeds benefit historic preservation!

Welcome new members Shawn Glancy of Bethlehem and Jean Gerhart of Allentown! Please make Shawn and Jean welcome and somebody please clue them in as to how Bill Frankenfield almost always wins the book raffle.

Our newsletter should ALWAYS be in your hands no later than one week prior to any monthly meeting. So, if you have not received it by USPS or e-mail delivery by then, please email joririggs@ptd.net or call Joe Riggs at 610-797-5225. Note, we prefer e-mail delivery. Along those same lines of communication PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE contact our Brigade Clerks with your dinner reservations no later than the THURSDAY prior to the monthly meeting. Your faithful servants (i.e. Round Table volunteers and the hotel staff) have to scramble at the last minute to accommodate last minute additions and if we end up short we are charged for those unused dinners. Sometimes things fall through the cracks, but if we all do our part things will run much smoother. Thanks for your help! See you on April 6th.

Book Raffle Winners



The book raffle winners for the March 2010 meeting were Al Massi, Tom Petrilla, Tony Major, Warren Beach, Carl Deppe, and Terry Monroe. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause!

The Hook Tour, Brooke's Brigade in the Wheatfield: Mike Snyder

By late June of 1863, the wheat growing on John Rose's farm was ready for harvest. The stalks stood chest high to a man and the heads were so heavy with grain that they bent over. Unfortunately, for Rose, he would not harvest any wheat from his field that summer. The only crop that would come out of it was the dead and mangled men who fought there on the afternoon of July 2, 1863 during the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg.

For hours on July 2, Rose's Wheatfield and the ground around it was the scene of brutal fighting as soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia fought to break the lines of the Army of the Potomac. At one point as Rebel troops from South Carolina and Georgia were on the verge of breaking through in that sector, they were hit hard by a counter attack from Brig. Gen. John Curtis Caldwell's 1st division of the Second Corps of the Army of the Potomac. After much hard fighting, temporarily restored the area to union control.

Caldwell's division contained some of the toughest troops in the Union Army. Among them was a brigade of five regiments led by Col. John Rutter Brooke, a belligerent twenty-four-year-old farmer from Montgomery Co., Pa. Brooke's brigade, the last of Caldwell's division to enter the battle, went in in fine style charging south across the wheat field, into Rose's Woods, over Plum Run, and to the top of the hill beyond, driving all Confederate troops from that area and restoring it to Union control.

Notice to Membership:

We are currently searching for volunteers to serve on your roundtable's board. If you would like to be a part of the active operation of the RT, now is the time to step forward. Positions are open for the 2011-2012 campaign years. If you are interested, please contact Joe Riggs at 610.797.5225 or jorjriggs@ptd.net.

The tour on Saturday, June 12th will follow the route of Brooke's regiments from the point where they began their attack in Trostle's Woods to their line of monuments on Brooke Ave. where it ended. Along the route we will discuss some of the previous fighting that took place and examine some of the little known monuments in this area of the battle field.

We will meet in the "old" Cyclorama parking lot at 9:30 AM sharp.



Captain Henry Van Aernam Fuller is probably best known at Gettysburg for having one of the least visited markers on the battlefield. It is located in Rose's Woods near Rose's Run. Fuller was commander of Company F of the 64th New York Infantry Regiment. He was killed on July 2, 1863, as the 64th New York, of Brooke's Brigade was retreating through Rose's Woods towards the Wheatfield.

Gettysburg National Military Park News Release

February 1, 2010

Gettysburg will remove modern intrusions from Devil's Den

Gettysburg National Military Park and the Gettysburg Foundation will be working together this spring to remove modern intrusions from Devil's Den on the Gettysburg battlefield.

The Gettysburg Foundation has raised funds to remove the restroom as well as the intrusive utility lines that provide power to it. The Foundation will also bury intrusive overhead utility lines in several areas in the southern part of the battlefield near the historic Althoff, Snyder, and Trostle farms. Initially, the Park had asked the Foundation to raise funds to bury the intrusive power lines to the Devil's Den restroom but concerns about potential environmental impacts to the floodplain and the geology, as well as the expense of burying the lines in a boulder field, led to the decision to remove the restroom altogether, in favor of returning more of the area to its battle era appearance.



Photo by Ed Root

“The building is in a sensitive location for the environment and for the historic scene,”

said J. Mel Poole, interim superintendent for Gettysburg NMP. “We think we can offer comfort facilities for the visitors elsewhere and do a better job with preserving the historic battlefield here.” The boulders of Devil's Den and the nearby stream known as Plum Run are significant “major battle action areas” of the Gettysburg battlefield. Benning and Law's Confederate brigades advanced across the area while attacking the lines of the Union army on July 2, 1863. The restroom building dates to 1935 and does not contribute to the national significance of the park, as documented on the National Register of Historic Places.

The current roadways, visitor parking, and paths at Devil's Den, as well as the pedestrian bridge over Plum Run, will stay. Visitors will be directed to use other park restrooms nearby, such as at the South End Guide Station on Emmitsburg Road and next to the Pennsylvania Memorial. The project is part of a long-term plan to return the major battle action areas of the park to their appearance at the time of the fighting in July 1863. The Gettysburg Foundation is funding and managing the project on behalf of the National Park Service.

Prior to making the decision to remove the restroom building, the National Park Service consulted with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

DINNER MEETING APRIL 6, 2010

Reservation Deadline Thursday, April 1, 2010

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Vicksburg-Harper's Weekly-May 1863

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
OF EASTERN PA, INC.
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