



**CAMPAIGN 32 - SKIRMISH 4**

**TUESDAY, December 1, 2009**

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.

Program .....7:30 p.m.

Speaker .....Larry Alexander

**The deadline for making dinner reservations is Wednesday, November 25, 2009.**

Please call one of the Brigade Clerks listed below:

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

[jsmw@ptd.net](mailto:jsmw@ptd.net)

Carol Detweiler ---- 215-234-4884

[cdetweiler01@comcast.net](mailto:cdetweiler01@comcast.net)

Website: [www.cwrteasternpa.org](http://www.cwrteasternpa.org)

**BRIGADE COMMAND**

Brigade Commander-Larry Kern

Regimental Commander-Michael Cavanaugh

Company Commander-Susan Kovacs

Adjutant-Bruce Rissmiller

Paymaster-Jack Minnich

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Term Ending 2010

Nancy Keigher & Kim Jacobs

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**Larry Alexander: Major Dick Winters & the Band of Brothers**



We are delighted to present our second non-Civil War program this month with award-winning reporter and columnist for the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, *Intelligencer Journal*, Larry Alexander. Mr. Alexander will present a program on his best selling book, *Biggest Brother: The Life of Major Dick Winters, the Man Who Led the Band of Brothers*. Larry has presented this program to many local organizations in the Lancaster area and it is always well received. He grew up on the same street in the same town as Dick Winters and his book is replete with revealing interviews with family, friends, and fellow veterans of Easy Company, 506 PIR, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. As

we all know the book *Band of Brothers* was the award winning work by the late Stephen Ambrose. The book was made by HBO into a highly acclaimed mini-series. It was also a Golden Globe winner in the Best Mini Series or Movie Made for Television category.

Mr. Alexander's second book, *Shadows in the Jungle: The Alamo Scouts Behind Japanese Lines in World War Two*, has also been well received and was a selection with the History Book Club. His latest work entitled, *In the Footsteps of the Band of Brothers: A Return to Easy Company's Battlefields with Sgt. Forrest Guth*, will be released in May 2010. Forrest Guth, who recently passed away at eighty-eight, was a native of the Lehigh Valley. We are happy

## **Regimental Commander: Mike Cavanaugh**

As you know my job as Regimental Commander is to schedule programs for the round table. The last three meetings this 2009-2010 Campaign Year have been exceptional to say the least. I got lucky! Jeff Wert, known to most of us, was his usual great self. John Quarstein, not well known in our part of the country, was most entertaining on the life of Prince John Bankhead Magruder. John Deppen as Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, was one of the finest first-person impressions I have heard. Your after dinner remarks and emails seem to agree.

Early this year the round table went off in a different direction. In March 2009, we hosted Professor Donald Miller of Lafayette College to speak on the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force in World War II. He was a huge success. Over 110 attended including several 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force veterans making this meeting one of the largest we had in years. This December we will present our second non-Civil War

## **Newsletter via E-mail: Joe Riggs**

The October and November issues of our newsletter were distributed to the membership and friends via e-mail. We hope to continue this distribution process thereby increasing our efficiency with important information being released in a timely fashion. Another dozen or so members indicated that they are receiving the newsletter without any problems. We again assume the remainder received theirs okay. **Beginning with the January issue, those with e-mail addresses on file with the Round Table will receive their newsletter in the electronic form only.** Therefore, it is extremely important

to report that Mr. Alexander will have his books for sale at a reduced rate to those attending. Cash or check only please.

Our March 2009's World War II program on the 8th Air Force in World War II by Professor Donald Miller was a huge success with over 110 attending. Several of which were veterans of the 8<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping for the same turnout this December. Be sure to spread the word to friends and family and join us for an enjoyable and informative evening. This December is appropriately the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary month of the World War II Battle of the Bulge, a battle the Band of Brothers were a big part of. Be sure to put your dinner reservations in early.

program with Larry Alexander. He will speak on Major Dick Winters and the Band of Brothers. The non-Civil War programs will not only be on World War II, however. In March 2010, we will feature Mr. John Nagy a well known Revolutionary War author and historian. He will speak on "Mutinies in the American Revolution."

From what I have observed, these non-Civil War programs have been well received by our membership. Many of our members have interest in the military history of all wars. There are some, of course, who are not pleased with our decision. I understand that. This I can promise; however, we will continue to present the very best in the Civil War field. Eight out of ten programs will still be Civil War related. But, as always, I welcome your input. Thank you all for your support.

Mike Cavanaugh  
Regimental Commander  
[chief96pbi@rcn.com](mailto:chief96pbi@rcn.com)

that we have your correct e-mail address on file with the round table. Please send your latest or preferred e-mail address to Joe Riggs [jorriggs@ptd.net](mailto:jorriggs@ptd.net) and Jeff Gates [jefgates@ptd.net](mailto:jefgates@ptd.net) as soon as possible. If you are not receiving the e version, please let us know. Remember, **Members without computers or email access will continue receiving their newsletters by regular mail.** We appreciate your comments, suggestions and help.

We hope that you continue in your support of the CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc.

Joe Riggs 610-797-5225 or [jorriggs@ptd.net](mailto:jorriggs@ptd.net)

## **Book Raffle Winners: Susan Kovacs**

The book raffle winners for the November 2009 meeting were Nancy Keigher, Ruth Kern, Al Massi, Dick Callene, and Samuel Parker. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause!

## **Brigade Call: Edwin Root**



On Election evening John Deppen gave eighty-seven members and guests a unique insight into the life and times of General Winfield Scott Hancock. For the first half of the program Mr. Deppen, in the persona of General Hancock, related "his" role in the three-day Battle of Gettysburg. Following that presentation, Deppen, as the 21<sup>st</sup> century historian, tracked the history of Hancock and his family until his death in 1886 less than a week shy of his 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday. The amount of interest in the topic and speaker was evident in the question and answer session that followed. We thank John Deppen for bringing Hancock "the Superb" alive for our Round Table on November 3, 2009. Thanks to all those who graced the November meeting by attending in period dress. You looked great!

Our December 1 meeting will be your last chance to win Don Troiani's "Emmitsburg Road" print. It illustrates Major Gen. Isaac Trimble's brigade, Gen. Pettigrew's division, crossing Emmitsburg Road during Pickett's charge at the battle of Gettysburg. On the secondary market this sold out beautiful piece of historical art is priced at \$450.00 unframed! Christmas is coming fast so now is the time to take your shot at winning this framed print for the Civil War buff in your family. In addition, the following books will be raffled. *If It Takes All Summer*, by William Matter; *Return to Bull Run*, by John Hennessey; *The Iron Brigade*, by Alan Nolan; and *Inside the Army of the Potomac*, by Gregory Acken. All are autographed. As all proceeds go to historic preservation there are no losers in this raffle!!! See Jeff and Jack at the Preservation table.



## **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 don't want to listen through the many listings on the radio go to [www.waeb.com](http://www.waeb.com) and click on

**Operation Snowflake**. Or, you can **visit the CWRT website – [www.cwrteasternpa.org](http://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**.

## **Trivia Question: Tony Major**

What two Confederate generals with the same last name were killed in action within three weeks of each other?

Once again no one contacted me trying to answer this trivia question.

Correct answer:

Albert G. Jenkins and Micah Jenkins. Albert died on May 21, 1864 at the battle of Cloyd's Mountain and Micah Jenkins died on May 6, 1864 at the battle of the Wilderness.

Due to the apparent lack of interest, this item will be eliminated from our future Newsletters.

## **Donations: Jeff Stocker**

Many times over the years, various well-known historians who have spoken at our Dinner meetings have called our organization "the best RT in the country." In fact, many historians will only speak at our RT, and will turn down all other invitations from other groups around the country. We have earned this excellent reputation for many reasons-the number of people that attend our meetings, the knowledge of our members, the way that we treat the speakers themselves, and most importantly, how much money our group has donated to various preservation organizations over the years of our existence. As one of our past presidents is fond of saying, "It is all about dirt and grass."

To this point, I decided to calculate exactly how much money our RT has raised, and donated, since our group came into being. I contacted long-time member Ed Root, who has collated and saved all the organization's newsletters since the beginning. I then went through them all, and noted all the preservation contributions that have been made from the first one, which was \$50 to the Joshua Chamberlain Home Restoration Project in Maine, to the ones made at the conclusion of our last campaign year. The total amount is in the amount of \$117,759.00. Before that astounding figure can sink it, realize that this number is definitely less than the actual amount. The reason is, during the RT's first few years of existence, in the issues of the newsletter, mention would be made of monetary contributions being made to various

preservation organizations, but no specific dollar amount was noted. Therefore, it probably is a safe bet to state that the actual figures more than \$120,000.

Next, it is important to note that many donations that we have made over the past years to various groups have been increased by these groups getting access to matching contributions. For example, one year, we donated \$1,000 to the Civil War Preservation Trust, which had a 14 to 1 matching program in effect, making the cash value \$14,000 instead of \$1000. These matching grants are not included in the above total of over \$120,000.

Finally, which groups have benefited the most from our largesse? To date, we have donated over \$20,000 to the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, over \$18,000 to the APCWS and its successor organization, the Civil War Preservation Trust, over \$8,000 to the Richmond Battlefield Association, over \$5,000 to the Save Historic Antietam Foundation and over \$2,000 to the Gettysburg National Military Park. Obviously however, the ones who have benefited the most from our generosity are the American citizens themselves, for without people like us digging into our pockets, future generations would never get to walk on the ground hallowed by the deeds of our ancestors. Give yourselves a round of applause next time a speaker says that this is the best RT in the country, for we truly deserve this high praise! But also, let us not rest on our past laurels, for there is much work still to be done.

## **Cutting Trip Summary: Jeff Stocker**

"We [the left three guns of Battery B, 4th US Light Artillery] were formed in a small field just west of Mrs. Thompson's dooryard, and our guns raked the road [the Chambersburg Pike] to the top of the low crest [Herbst's Woods] forming the east bank of Willoughby Run....Then for seven or eight minutes ensued probably the most desperate fight ever waged between artillery and infantry at close range without a particle of cover on either side."

Thanks to the hard work of three members of our RT, Gerry Sherwin, Samuel Parker, and myself, and my niece Samantha Phillips, as well as the maintenance staff of GNMP, visitors can now clearly see the location of this dramatic scene. (This small excerpt is part of a larger work written by a purported member of Battery B after the war; recent research has revealed that the author did not serve in the battery itself, but certainly corresponded with some of the artillerymen, and accurately captured the terrible events of July 1, 1863.)

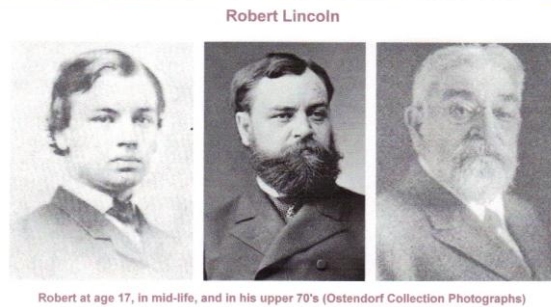
This past summer, our RT formally "adopted" Battery B's position just off the Chambersburg Pike, making us responsible for its future maintenance. The week of our latest "cutting trip," the Park staff cleared the brush and trees away from directly in front of the battery's monument. However, below the field, more brush and trees screened the view of the field from tourists driving east on the Chambersburg Pike. Thanks to the work of the four people named above, at least one third of this brush and trees, that which was closest to the road, has now been cleared. A hearty well done to all!!!

In the spring, another "cutting trip" will be scheduled to finish the job, and honor the memory of the men who fought and died here. Naturally, the more who show up to work, the more work gets done, so I am counting on our members to show up in force this time. Stay tuned to the newsletter for further details.

**PLEASE NOTE: IF DUES ARE NOT PAID IN FULL BY THE END OF NOVEMBER, YOU WILL NO LONGER RECEIVE A COPY OF OUR NEWSLETTER**

## Robert Todd Lincoln – Does History Remember Him?

Susan L. Keenan



Does history indeed remember Robert Todd Lincoln? His parents were so very memorable it seems only natural that Abe and Mary's first-born was relegated to a lesser celebratory role, especially as he was a shy and reserved young man. In his mature years, however, "Bob" Lincoln served our government in many important roles.

Born in 1843, Robert hardly knew his father, as Abe was away from home much of the time, often as long as three months, traveling with other lawyers to bring legal services to rural areas in need of such. And so Robert was raised principally by his mother, and consequently always had a more distant relationship with his father. It is said that Robert's strongest memory of his father was of always saying good-bye to him!

In 1860, Robert graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy, and then attended Harvard from 1861 to 1864. He also attended Harvard Law School but did not graduate.

There was a lot of talk about Lincoln's eldest not serving in the war, but his mother was adamant that he not join. But the young man did serve as captain under General Grant just prior to the war's end in 1865. Robert was present when Lee surrendered at Appomattox.

Lincoln's eldest was present at his father's soon-to-be death bed the fateful evening the President was assassinated, although he had not gone to the theater with his parents. In spite of the strained relationship Robert had with his father, it is said that he wept openly when his father died.

In April of 1865, Robert and his mother and brother Tad moved to Chicago, where Robert finished his studies and was admitted to the bar in 1867. Robert married Mary Eunice Harlan on September 24, 1868 (Mary being the daughter of Senator James Harlan). The couple produced two daughters and one son.

Mary Lincoln had been going off the deep end for years after Lincoln's assassination, involved in psychic

and spiritualist movements, as well as excessive spending habits. Her erratic behavior caused Robert to have his mother committed to a psychiatric hospital in Illinois in 1875. However, Mary had powerful contacts on the outside, including a lawyer friend, to whom Mary smuggled correspondence. She also wrote letters to the Chicago times about her "incarceration." After three months she was released, probably to avoid harmful publicity. However, Robert and his mother had an estranged relationship after that.

Robert Lincoln went on to hold many positions in our government. In 1877 he turned down a chance to serve as Rutherford Hayes' Assistant Secretary of State, but did accept an appointment as Secretary of War under James Garfield and Chester A. Arthur, serving from 1881 to 1885.

After his stint as Secretary of War, Robert helped to found an Industrial Training School in 1887 for neglected and homeless children. From 1889 to 1893, Robert was the U.S. Ambassador to the UK under Benjamin Harrison, after which he returned to private practice. In 1911, Robert Lincoln became chairman of the board of Pullman Palace Car Co., a position he maintained until his death in 1926.

Robert Lincoln seemed to have a propensity to be present at assassinations: he was a witness to the assassination of James Garfield in July of 1881. Lincoln was also present at the Pan American Expo in Buffalo, New York, when William McKinley was shot on September 6, 1901. It is said that because of these incidents, he declined subsequent presidential invitations until 1922, when he attended the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial with President Warren G. Harding and former President William Howard Taft.

Robert Lincoln passed away at his Vermont home on July 26, 1926. Later he was interred at Arlington with his wife Mary and their son Jack, who died at a young age of blood poisoning.

Robert's son Jesse produced the only undisputed descendent of Abraham Lincoln: Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith, born 1904 and died 1985, being the famous President's great grand son.

History seems to speak very little about the life of Abe Lincoln's eldest son, and yet Robert appears to have lead a successful life of service and dedication to his country. It is our loss that there are no direct Lincoln descendents to keep the ball rolling!

DINNER MEETING DECEMBER 1, 2009

**Reservation Deadline Wednesday, November 25, 2009**

Larry Alexander: Major Dick Winters & the Band of Brothers



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