



CAMPAIGN 33 - SKIRMISH 5

Jeffrey D. Stocker

*We Fought Desperate: The 153rd Pennsylvania at
The Battle of Chancellorsville*



We begin the New Year with one of the long time active members of our round table Mr. Jeffrey D. Stocker. Jeff, a practicing attorney in Allentown, Pennsylvania, is a 1980 graduate of Muhlenberg College, with a BA in history. In 1983, he received his law degree from the Temple University School of Law. He is the editor of *From Huntsville to Appomattox*, Robert T. Coles' history of the 4th Alabama, published by the University of Tennessee Press in 1986. In 2006, he co-authored with Edwin Root, *Isn't This Glorious* published by Moon Trail Books. Jeff is a past Brigade Commander of the Civil War Round Table of Eastern PA. He is presently completing a history of the 153rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He and his

wife Marliese Walter reside in Center Valley, Pennsylvania.

Jeff's program, *We Fought Desperate: The 153rd Pennsylvania at the Battle of Chancellorsville*, tells the story of some 700 members of the 153rd late on the afternoon of May 2, 1863, nervously crouched behind a rude line of breastworks. They, together with less than 300 men from the 54th New York Infantry positioned just to the right, were supported by two pieces of artillery. They formed the extreme right flank of the Army of the Potomac positioned in and around Chancellorsville. What happened in the next few minutes, when the men were overwhelmed by thousands of shrieking Confederates commanded by Stonewall Jackson himself, not only cost the regiment 112 casualties – 16 fatalities - but also cost them, and their comrades of the XI Corps, their reputation.

Jeff's program will look at who these men were; what happened to them on that fateful Saturday afternoon so many years ago; what did the citizens of the North and their fellow soldiers think of their actions; and how they themselves viewed their conduct. Please join us for an advanced look at Jeff's upcoming book. As always, we encourage you to invite friends and family for an informative and enjoyable evening.

Be sure to get your dinner reservations in by Thursday December 30th.

Officers 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

Brigade Clerks: Dinner Reservations:

Carol Detweiler -215-234-4884
cdetweiler01@comcast.net
Jeff Stocke-610-867-5178
jsmw@ptd.net

Appointed Positions with Board Approval
Brigade Recruiting Officer-Jeff Gates
jefgates@ptd.net or 610-966-5773
Newsletter Editor-Joe Riggs jorriggs@ptd.net
or 610-797-5225
Quartermaster-Tony Major
Webmaster-Peter Detweiler
Website: www.cwrteasternpa.org
Photos by: Jeff Heller

BRIGADE CALL: Jeff Stocker for Larry Kern

On Tuesday, December 7, 2010, the 69th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, 71 members and guests of the RT heard our old friend Charlie Zahm entertain us with a variety of Civil War period music and folk songs. Thanks a lot Charlie for yet another wonderful performance! The evening was also enlivened by the appearance of several of our members in period dress, which added a nice dash of "color" to the festive night.

Our January program will be myself, speaking on the performance of the 153rd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment at the Battle of Chancellorsville. Several of our members had ancestors who served in this regiment, which was recruited in Northampton County. Hopefully, my talk will shed new light on the regiment's actions on that fateful afternoon of May 2, 1863, as well as put to rest several myths about the performance of these men, who were swamped by the Stonewall Jackson's men in the famous "Flank Attack."

Company Commander Susan Kovacs is still appealing to the membership to see if anyone is interested in a field trip which would occur in either March or April 2011. The proposed trip would be a tour of the Manassas Battlefield that would take place on a Saturday. The following day, the group would visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico. An added bonus would be that in Manassas, we would visit the site of the land purchased by the CWPT from the Karl Lehr bequest made this year by our RT. Please see

Susan at the next meeting to notify her of your interest and get further details.

Now that we are at the unofficial half-way point of our RT's campaign year, let us take a moment to recognize so many of our members who have pitched in so far to help the organization run so smoothly. This list is not intended to be comprehensive, and if I have missed anyone, it is purely because of fast-approaching senility: Our greeters at the monthly dinner meetings, Ed Root and Tony Major, as well as Susan Kovacs and Kathy Minnich, who so ably replaced them for one meeting when Ed and Tony were "holidaying" in Europe; Mike Cavanaugh, who has arranged all our fine programs for so many years, and has handled the speakers with such aplomb; Kathy Minnich and Susan Kovacs again, for pitching in and running a dinner meeting each during the time of Larry Kern's medical sabbatical (get well soon Larry!); Sherri Miller, Kim Jacobs, Mike Farris and Samuel Parker, who sell the book raffle tickets at each meeting; Jeff Heller, our "brigade photographer;" Jeff Gates, who handles the job of getting people to pay their dues, the lifeblood of our organization; Reverend Landis and Monsignor Mulligan, for their fine opening prayers at the beginning of each meeting; Joe Riggs, for handling the difficult job of putting together and dispatching the monthly newsletter; and Jack Minnich, our paymaster, who keeps our books, deposits the money, pays the bills and distributes the preservation donation funds, while always keeping in mind the basic philosophy of the RT-

"It's about dirt and grass." If I have forgotten anyone, my sincere apologies and thanks for your efforts and keep up the good work! We are always on the lookout for "new blood," so if you want to help, by all means, pitch in. We can use you.

See you in January and have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season! Jeffrey Stocker

Regimental Commander's Report: Mike Cavanaugh

Tuesday January 4, 2011 – JEFF STOCKER

Authors & Historian

Topic: *The 153rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry*

Tuesday February 1, 2011 – WARD B. NICKISCH COL.

(Ret) US ARMY

Senior Member U. S. Delegations for POW/MIA

Recoveries

Topic: *Fallen, But Not Forgotten: The Search & Recovery of POW/MIAs from Past Wars*

Tuesday March 1, 2011 – DAVID W. WILLMANN CAPT

(Ret) USN

Historian & Battlefield Guide

Topic: *Staff Rides on Civil War Battlefields*

Tuesday April 5, 2011 – MIKE RILEY

Historian & First Person Impressions

Topic: *An Evening with General John Reynolds*

Tuesday May 3, 2011 – E. A. (BUD) LIVINGSTON

Author, Historian & Past President New York CWRT

Topic: *U. S. Grant and the First Year of the Civil War*

Tuesday June 7, 2011 – FRANK O'REILLY

Author, Historian & Battlefield Guide

Topic: *The Last Days of Robert E. Lee: From Appomattox to Lexington.*

From the Editor:

This Month in 1861—January

Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana secede from the Union and join South Carolina in their rebellion. Lame duck President Buchanan and northern military leaders are unsure or hesitate in their actions and as a result, forces loyal to the South occupy Federal installations and capture U.S. Navy ships in these rebelling states with little resistance from Union authorities and Federal troops. Fort Sumter at Charleston, S.C., under the command of Major Robert Anderson, continues to resist surrender and occupation by South Carolina troops.

Reference:

Long, E. B., *The Civil War Day by Day*, 1985

Note: Several members of our Round Table have roots in the Lehigh Valley dating to before the Civil War. With their distant ancestors serving with the Lehigh Valley regiments i.e., the 46th, 47th, 128th and 153rd, here is the opportunity for anyone to submit articles concerning their forbearers and share their ancestors experiences during this difficult time. See the December and January articles from Jeff Stocker or those from Susan Keenan published in early 2010. It is after all the 150th anniversary of our Civil War, so let's get to work.

Visit Our Newly Designed Web Site:

The Civil War Round Table of Eastern PA, Inc. is proud of our newly designed Website. We are at the same web address www.cwrteasternpa.org We have redesigned it to make it easier to update, so that we can bring

you more up to date resources and news. We would love to get your feedback. If you have any suggestions or comments regarding the site, or any problems using it, please let me know.
Tony Major - wamsr@ptd.net

The 153rd Pennsylvania Infantry: Jeff Stocker

At the Battle of Chancellorsville, the 153rd Pennsylvania lost 16 men killed or mortally wounded, 5 officers and 34 men wounded, and 3 officers and 54 men captured; of the latter, 16 of the 54 men who were captured were wounded before being taken prisoner. Thus, out of the approximately 700 officers and men present with the regiment at the time of the battle, 112, or 16%, were lost.

But these are just numbers, agate type on a piece of paper. Each one of these men and boys were obviously real people, with real hopes, desires, and families at home who loved them. Let us look more closely at one of these men.

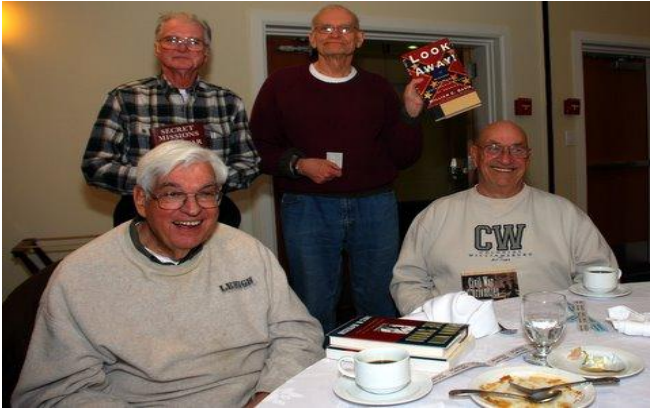
Serving in the ranks of Company E was 19-year-old Private Edward Boadwee, a native of Easton. In 1860, according to the Federal census, the young man was living with his father, mother, older sister and two younger brothers. At the time that the census was taken, Henry, the father, who made his living as a rope maker, owned \$1,000 of real property and \$400 of personal property. Edward worked at the Warren Foundry prior to his enlistment; his wages were \$4.00 per week, which he promptly put into the family coffers each week. Sometime after the battle, Edward's family was

notified that he was "missing in action." As late as 1885, despite repeated inquiries from the anguished parents, the War Department's Adjutant General's Office was still informing them that "investigation fails to elicit any further information in this case."

Unfortunately, Mr. and Mrs. Boadwee never ran across Curtis Strickland, one of Edward's former school-mates who also served in the 153rd, who could have solved the mystery of what happened to their son. Strickland later wrote, "During my brief stay at the improvised hospital [Strickland had been wounded and captured], a comrade, who visited another house on the battlefield, stated that he found a young man at said place, who was seriously wounded; and that he was a member of Co. E...from the description he gave me. I said, 'that in all probability is Edward [Boadwee]-a young man with whom I was well acquainted...!' When I returned after being paroled, I learned, that the young man spoken of, was missing since the battle. He was never heard of...I remember him as an estimable young man, but he was numbered among that silent Company that never came back." Finally, in 1885, the Federal government began paying Edward's mother a pension of \$8.00 per month.

Company Commander's Report: Susan Kovacs

Book Raffle Winners



The book raffle winners for the December 2010 meeting were (seated) Jim Snyder (winner of 2 books) and Ed Oechsle, (standing) Claude Kohl and Fred Bomberger. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause!

December Print Raffle Winners

Winners were Hazel Major - *The War: An Intimate History*, Kathleen Coddington - *A Great Civil War: A Military and Political History*, Ed Oechsle - framed photos of General George Gordon Meade, Sherri Miller - boxed booklet and tape on the June 6, 1944 D-Day Invasion, and (not pictured) Kay Bagenstose the grand prize - the Mort Kunstler print "Distant Thunder". Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause!



RE-ENLISTMENT REPORT

It is re-enlistment time for the 2010-2011 campaign. We finished the previous campaign with 174 members. 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 mail your check payable to CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc. Thanks for your support.

Jeff Gates (610) 966-5773 or jefgates@ptd.net

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REMINDER: Reservations must be made by Thursday December 30.

Dinner 6:30 p.m. - \$24.00
Program only 7:30 p.m. - \$5.00
(No reservations required)

Contact one of the Brigade Clerks listed below.

Brigade Clerks: Dinner Reservations:

Carol Detweiler -215-234-4884

cdetweiler01@comcast.net

Jeff Stocker-610-867-5178

jsmw@ptd.net

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