

Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pennsylvania, Inc.



Prince John Bankhead Magruder, CSA

Speaker: John V. Quarstein

We are pleased to welcome this month award-winning historian, author, and preservationist **John V. Quarstein**. John has served as an adjunct professor at several universities including the College of William and Mary. He is the Director Emeritus of the Virginia War Museum and currently serves as the historian for the City of Hampton, Virginia. John also serves as a museum consultant and historian for various cities and counties. He has provided leadership and project management for the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, the Mariners' Museum, the Rebecca Vaughan House, and the T. C. Walker House. During his thirty-two year career, John has created or revitalized sixteen museums and preserved nine historic sites such as Lee Hall Mansion and portions of the Williamsburg Battlefield.

Mr. Quarstein is the author of nine books including Fort Monroe: The Key to the South, CSS Virginia: Mistress of Hampton Roads, and A History of the Ironclads: The Power of Iron Over Wood. He serves as historian for a local PBS affiliate and produces two shows for the City of Hampton's Channel 47 TV Station. John is now working on documentaries which include Pirates of the Chesapeake.

John Quarstein is the recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 1993 President's Award for Historic Preservation, The Civil War Society's 1996 Preservation Award, and The United Daughter's of the Confederacy's Jefferson Davis Gold Medal in 1999. Other awards include a 2007 Emmy for Jamestown: Foundations of Freedom, a 2007 Silver Telly and a 2008 Bronze Telly Award for his Civil War in Hampton Roads film series. Presently he serves on the board of several national organizations such as Virginia Civil War Trails, Fort Monroe Federal Area Development Authority, and the Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission Advisory Board.

Don't miss this one! John Quarstein gives a most enjoyable and entertaining program. His topic, Prince John Bankhead Magruder, a character in himself, provides for a fun evening. REMEMBER family and friends are most welcome.



The Image of War

CAMPAIGN 32 - SKIRMISH 2 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009

Attention to Field Orders

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

Sutler's Call 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Mess 6:30 p.m.
Program 7:30 p.m.
Speaker John V. Quarstein

The deadline for making dinner reservations is Thursday, October 1, 2009

Please call one of the Brigade Clerks listed below:

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

Website: www.cwrteasternpa.org

Officers

Larry Kern - Brigade Commander
Michael Cavanaugh - Regimental Commander
Susan Kovacs - Company Commander
Bruce Rissmiller - Adjutant
Jack Minnich - Paymaster

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Term Ending June, 2010 - Nancy Keigher, Kim Jacobs
Term Ending June, 2011 - Bob Ashcraft, Kay Bagenstose
Webmaster - Peter Detweiler - pdetweiler@comcast.net
www.cwrteasternpa.org

CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc.

Newsletter via Email

I am sure you are aware of the recent increase in "First Class Postage" and the reduction in services from the USPS. Add in the escalating expenses of printing our newsletter eleven months during a campaign year and we quickly realize that adjustments are required. **We propose to begin the electronic distribution of our newsletter later this campaign year.** Note the electronic newsletter file will be in the PDF format that allows for higher speed downloads but requires Adobe Reader software that may already be on your computer's hard-drive. However, if it's not there, **DO NOT PANIC!** This free software package is available at www.adobe.com and one simply follows the instructions for downloading.

Our conversion to the modern world of electronic communication is an educational process for both the round table membership and your board members who are responsible to make it work. **WE EXPECT SOME DIFFICULTIES** and as such, we will make a gradual transition to the electronic version so not to miss anyone or organization. Therefore: (1) We will continue with the hard copy distribution for several months while we work out the kinks. (2) **Members without computers or email access will continue receiving their newsletters by regular mail.** (3) For members who prefer receiving their newsletter via USPS even though they have email accounts, this service will continue for the time being. (4) It is extremely important that we have your correct email address on file with the round table. Please send your latest or preferred email address to Joe Riggs jorjriggs@ptd.net and Jeff Gates jefgates@ptd.net as soon as possible. (5) Email distribution will follow the Bcc (Blind Copy) format to deter wide distribution of your confidential email address. (6) We are not mind readers, so notify us if you are having problems with the electronic distribution, and we need to know if you are receiving the newsletter without any problems. (7) We appreciate your suggestions and comments.

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

Joe Riggs 610-797-5225 or jorjriggs@ptd.net

Summons to Volunteers!

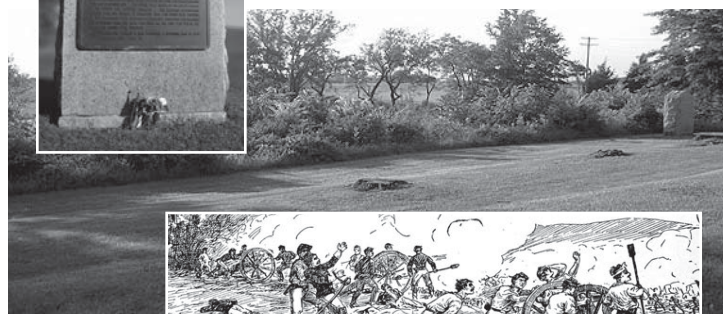
After a more than one year hiatus, our Round Table takes to the sacred field of Gettysburg again. Please join us on Saturday, November 7, 2009! For the first time in our history the Round Table has officially adopted a specific position. In our more than twenty year history of brush cutting at Gettysburg we have always acted as a Fire Brigade, stepping in where the Park officials needed us to perform our magic. The unit we've selected is **Battery B, 4th United States Artillery**, known as **Stewart's Battery**. Mother Nature has changed the field of valor greatly since 1863, overgrowing it so that even the veterans would most likely never recognize it. We have fought nature twice over

the past years at this very location, but while we weren't looking the grass, weeds and saplings have returned.

It is important for visitors today to understand what occurred so long ago. With your help we can enable the Park Rangers to better interpret the bloody action of July 1, 1863.

"We were formed in a small field just west of Mrs Thompson's dooryard, and our guns raked the road at the top of the low crest forming the east bank of Willoughby's Creek.

.... At this time our left half-battery, taking their first line en echarpe, swept it so clean with double canister that the Rebels sagged away from the road to get cover from the fences and trees that lined it. From our second round on a gray squirrel could not have crossed the road alive!"



The cutting will begin at 9AM on November 7, 2009 at Battery B's location on the Chambersburg Pike (U.S. 30), just West of Mrs Thompson's house. (Larson's Motel and Brew Pub.) Car pooling will be available, leaving at 6:30 AM sharp at the Holiday Inn parking lot, just off I78 in Fogelsville. We must use hand tools only, which the NPS will provide. Gas powered weed whackers are permissible so it's ok to bring one.

A volunteer signup sheet will be available at every meeting at the Preservation Table. Call **Jeff Stocker** with any questions, **610-867-5178**.

See you at Gettysburg on November 7! Be a part of preserving our historic sites!

Our friends at Gettysburg NMP are very appreciative of all the effort and results obtained from the Adopt-a-Position Program. See comments below from Park Rangers **John Heiser** and **Eric Campbell**.

"I think the central point behind these projects, including the Adopt a Position program, is maintenance of the battlefield landscape to reflect the scene as it may have appeared in July 1863 as well as to the veterans who returned to this battlefield for so many year afterward. The current battlefield rehabilitation program is the primary undertaking that will correct the wrongs of so many years of benign negligence as to the uncontrolled growth of non-historic vegetation. Volunteer projects will maintain the historic scene."

John Heiser

Continued on page 3

Brigade Call

What a great way to begin our 2009-2010 Campaign year!! **Jeff Wert** was both engaging and informative. The eighty-seven members and guests in attendance went away with a better understanding of the life and career of "The Last Cavalier" J.E.B. Stuart. You'll want to join us on October 6 when John Quarstein will place before us the story of another one of the Confederacy's interesting characters, John Magruder. Find out why he became known as "Prince John."

Our newsletter design and distribution process continues to develop. **Tony Major** has been working with Don Wiles of the Old Baldy CWRT as his mentor on the technical skills and as you can see we are becoming more adept each month. **Joe Riggs** continues to collect a member email record catalog. **Mike Cavanaugh** was our liaison with Don and is working with Tony and Joe to bring our Round Table into the 21st Century with great graphics and design. As costs rise all organizations such as ours must continually adapt if we wish to not only survive, but to be successful. We will continue to rely on our members to help provide content as well as suggestions and support.

Have you signed up yet for the Gettysburg Brush Cutting day on November 7? Help the National Park Service interpret the site of Stewart's Battery B, 4th U.S. fight on July 1st, 1863 for visitors to that hallowed field. See **Jeff Stocker** as the Preservation Table at the October meeting.

Have you purchased raffle tickets yet for the chance to win Don Troiani's Emmitsburg Road? On July 3, 1863, Maj. Gen. Isaac Trimble's brigade, Gen. Pettigrew's division crossed Emmitsburg Road at the battle of



Gettysburg on their way into history.

See **Jack Minnich** and **Jeff Stocker** at every meeting. A book of 10 tickets is only \$5.00. We all win when we commit to historic preservation projects.



*Dues are due so send them to **Jeff Gates** at the **CWRT P.O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105** or bring them to the October meeting. Bring a friend, neighbor or co-worker to a meeting and introduce them to our Round Table; the more the merrier. .*

Continued from page 2 - Summons to Volunteers

"I feel Adopt-a-Position is one of the more important volunteer programs at Gettysburg National Military Park. With the current shortfalls in the park's budget, along with the understaffing faced by the maintenance division, the park simply cannot maintain the battlefield in its 1863 condition. Volunteers with Adopt-a-Position therefore fill a critical gap in the park operation and perform valuable work which otherwise would go uncompleted. As nature slowly but steadily takes over the battlefield, thus obscuring its 1863 features, it is extremely difficult for the park staff to properly interpret critical fighting that occurred. A perfect example of this is the position held by Battery B, 4th U.S. along Seminary Ridge on the afternoon of July 1, 1863. The impact of the battery's actions are difficult to explain today, as the once open fields of fire available to their guns are now covered by a thick blanket of recent vegetation. Clearing this non-historic vegeta-

tion will re-open those historic views and make it obvious to the common visitor the scene the men in Battery B would have faced that day. I applaud your efforts in adopting this position, and I'm confident your hard work will greatly benefit both the park staff and the visiting public."

Eric Campbell

Book Raffle Winners

The book raffle winners for the September 2009 meeting were **Cecil Blocker, Roger Tice, Gene Salay, Cullen Meyer, and Durrell Hollenbach**. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause!

Hello, Hello, Please Note:

Please help us out by making your phone or e-mail reservation to Carol Detweiler or Jeff Stocker as soon as possible after you receive this newsletter.

We Are Invited!

The Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia is planning a field trip to Sea Girt, New Jersey on **SATURDAY OCTOBER 24, 2009** to the home of the **National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey**. This unique museum houses more than 300 years of New Jersey's military history in its vast collection. A guided tour of the museum will be conducted by the curator, Mr. Joseph Bilby. Mr. Bilby has authored many Civil War related books and articles and is also a columnist for the **Civil War News** contributing articles on his vast knowledge of military weaponry and equipage.

The National Guard Militia Museum also serves as the "Center for U. S. War Veteran's Oral Histories." Joe will share information to those attending on this very important project. He also serves as a committee member and website editor for the New Jersey Sesquicentennial Commission and will give us an update on the State's plans for celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War from 2010 to 2015. The tour will begin at 11 a.m. with a break for lunch at Rod's Old Irish Tavern in Sea Girt. It will end around 3 p.m. For further information and a look at the museum's collection go to:

www.state.nj.us/military/museum/index.html

Any of our members who are interested in taking part in this trip contact Mike Cavanaugh at 484.225.3150 and/or chief96pb@rcn.com for further information.

2008 - 2009 Preservation Donation

by Jack Minnich

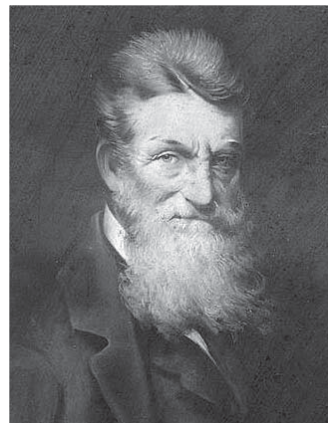
A slow economy last year did not stop the Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa from doing what we have always done, give away money. I'm proud to say that we gave a total of \$4600.00 to Civil War preservation. The membership gave \$100 to Fort Mifflin, \$1000 to the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, \$1000 to the Civil War Preservation Trust and \$2500 to the Richmond Battlefield Association. The donation given to the Civil War Preservation Trust will be multiplied many times due to the matching grants that they negotiate. Tough economic times place an increased burden on organizations like those listed above to purchase and continue to finance debt incurred for land purchases. That is why our continued support is greatly appreciated and is always recognized as a leader in battlefield preservation by these organizations. They continue to do a great job and together with individuals and organizations like ours we will leave Civil War acreage for our future generations to visit and appreciate. The board would like to thank the membership for another generous campaign year and I personally look forward to congratulating you again next year.

Trivia Question:

What does our Mast Head represent? Can you identify the photo?

If you think you know the answer, the person who sends the first correct answer via e-mail to Tony Major at wamsr@ptd.net will be recognized at our next dinner meeting and will be awarded three free book raffle tickets. Please note, you must attend the meeting as a dinner participant or a walk in to win.

The correct answer will appear in our November Newsletter.



John Brown Defends His Raid, 1859

On October 16, 1859 abolitionist John Brown led a small force in an attack on the Federal Armory at Harper's Ferry, Virginia (see John Brown's Raid, 1859). His purpose was to steal weapons in an attempt to rally and arm local slaves and abolitionist whites to his cause. His raid was unsuccessful. Brown was wounded

and captured. He was tired, convicted of treason against the Commonwealth of Virginia and sentenced to be hanged. His sentence was carried out at Charles Town, Virginia (now West Virginia) on December 2 1859.

"You may dispose of me very easily. I am nearly disposed of now; but this question is still to be settled."

Shortly after the raid, John Brown was interviewed by a group of citizens that included Senator Mason and Congressman Vallandigham of Ohio. Still suffering from his wounds and speaking from a bed, Brown revealed his motivation and expectations regarding the raid. Among those present was a reporter for the New York Herald who filed the following report:

Mr. Vallandigham (member of Congress from Ohio, who had just entered) - *Mr. Brown, who sent you here?*

Mr. Brown - *No man sent me here; it was my own prompting and that of my Maker, or that of the devil, which ever you please to ascribe it to. I acknowledge no man [master] in human form.*

Mr. Vallandigham - *Did you get up the expedition yourself?*

Mr. Brown - *I did. . . .*

Mr. Mason - *What was your object in coming?*

Mr. Brown - *We came to free the slaves, and only that.*

A Young Man (in the uniform of a volunteer company) - *How many men in all had you?*

Mr. Brown - *I came to Virginia with eighteen men only, besides myself.*

Volunteer - *What in the world did you suppose you could do here in Virginia with that amount of men?*

Mr. Brown - *Young man, I don't wish to discuss that question here.*

Volunteer - *You could not do anything.*

Mr. Brown - *Well, perhaps your ideas and mine on military subjects would differ materially.*

Mr. Mason - *How do you justify your acts?*

Mr. Brown - *I think, my friend, you are guilty of a great wrong against God and humanity - I say it without wishing to be offensive and it would be perfectly right for anyone to interfere with you so far as to free those you willfully and wickedly hold in bondage. I do not say this insultingly.*

Mr. Mason - *I understand that.*

Mr. Brown - *I think I did right, and that others will do right who interfere with you at any time and all times. I hold that the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would that others should do unto you," applies to all who would help others to gain their liberty. . . .*

Mr. Vallandigham - *Have you had any correspondence with parties at the North on the subject of this movement?*

Mr. Brown - *I have had correspondence.*

A Bystander - *Do you consider this a religious movement?*

Mr. Brown - *It is, in my opinion, the greatest service a man can render to God.*

Continued on page 5

Bystander - Do you consider yourself an instrument in the hands of Providence?

Mr. Brown - I do.

Bystander - Upon what principle do you justify your acts?

Mr. Brown - Upon the golden rule. I pity the poor in bondage that have none to help them; that is why I am here; not to gratify any personal animosity, revenge or vindictive spirit. It is my sympathy with the oppressed and the wronged that are as good as you and as precious in the sight of God.

Bystander - Certainly. But why take the slaves against their will?

Mr. Brown - I never did. . . . I want you to understand gentlemen - (and to the reporter of the Herald) you may report that - I want you to understand that I respect the rights of the poorest and weakest of colored people, oppressed by the slave system, just as much as I do those of the most wealthy and powerful. That is the idea that has moved me, and that alone. We expected no reward except the satisfaction of endeavoring to do for those in distress and greatly oppressed as we would be done by. The cry of distress of the oppressed is my reason, and the only thing that prompted me to come here. . . .

Mr. Vallandigham - Did you expect to hold possession here till then?

Mr. Brown - Well, probably I had quite a different idea. I do not know that I ought to reveal my plans. I am here a prisoner and wounded, because I foolishly allowed myself to be so. You overrate your strength in supposing I could have been taken if I had not allowed it. I was too tardy after commencing the open attack - in delaying my movements through Monday night, and up to the time I was attacked by the government troops. It was all occasioned by my desire to spare the feelings of my prisoners and their families and the community at large. I had no knowledge of the shooting of the negro (Heywood). . . .

Mr. Vallandigham - Where did you get arms to obtain possession of the armory?

Mr. Brown - I bought them.

Mr. Vallandigham - In what State?

Mr. Brown - That I would not state. . . .

Reporter of the Herald - I do not wish to annoy you; but if you have anything further you would like to say I will report it.

Mr. Brown - I have nothing to say, only that I claim to be here in carrying out a measure I believe perfectly justifiable, and not to act the part of an incendiary or ruffian, but to aid those suffering great wrong. I wish to say, fur-

thermore, that you had better - all you people at the South - prepare yourselves for a settlement of that question that must come up for settlement sooner than you are prepared for it. The sooner you are prepared the better. You may dispose of me very easily. I am nearly disposed of now; but this question is still to be settled - this negro question I mean; the end of that is not yet. . . .

Bystander - Suppose you had every [negro] in the United States, what would you do with them?

Mr. Brown - Set them free.

Bystander - Your intention was to carry them off and free them?

Mr. Brown - Not at all.

Bystander - To set them free would sacrifice the life of every man in this community.

Mr. Brown - I do not think so.

Bystander - I know it. I think you are fanatical.

Mr. Brown - And I think you are fanatical. 'Whom the gods would destroy they first made mad,' and you are mad.

References:

This eyewitness account was originally published in: the New York Herald, October 21, 1859, republished in: Hart, Albert Bushnell, American History Told by Contemporaries v. 5 (1929).

"John Brown Defends His Raid, 1859" EyeWitness to History, www.eyewitnesstohistory.com (2009).

2009/2010 Campaign Speakers

Tuesday October 6, 2009

JOHN V. QUARSTEIN - Director, Newport News Museums
Topic: Prince John Bankhead Magruder, CSA

Tuesday November 3, 2009

JOHN DEPPEN - Author & Living History Reenactor
Topic: An Evening with General Winfield Scott Hancock

Tuesday December 1, 2009

LARRY ALEXANDER - Author, Historian and Columnist
Topic: Major Dick Winters and the Band of Brothers

Tuesday January 5, 2010

ANDY JOHNSON - Researcher, Gettysburg Campaign
Topic: Longstreet in East Tennessee

Tuesday February 2, 2010

PETER COZZENS - Author, Historian
Topic: The 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign

RE-ENLISTMENT REPORT

It is re-enlistment time for the 2009-2010 campaign. We finished the previous campaign with 179 members. Once 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 their name and address along to me. I will send them a few complimentary newsletters and an introductory letter to the Round Table. Or better yet, bring them to a dinner meeting.

We need your help with insuring that we have your current e-mail address.

Please note: If dues are not paid in full by the end of November, you will no longer receive a copy of our newsletter

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 on page 6 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

Enlistment Form on Page 6

Enlistment Form

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
_____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

How long have you been a member? _____ How did you hear of this organization? _____

What is your occupation/profession? _____

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

Mail this form to CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc., P.O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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