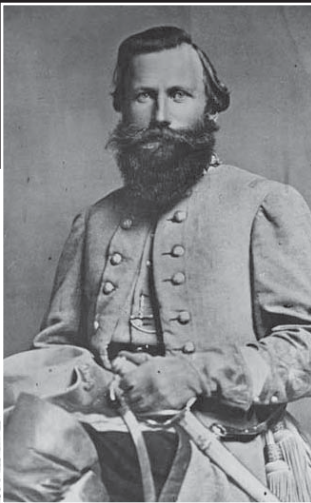


Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pennsylvania, Inc.



Cavalryman of the Lost Cause: A Biography of J.E.B. Stuart



Speaker: Jeffry D. Wert

We begin our 2009/2010 Campaign on a high note with the return of Mr. Jeffry D. Wert to our round table. Jeff is one of the most prolific and highly recognized Civil War authors in the country. He has written a wide range books on the Civil War including biographies of George Armstrong Custer and James Longstreet. Other titles include *Gettysburg Day Three*; *Brotherhood of Valor: The Common Soldiers of the Stonewall CSA Brigade and the Iron Brigade USA*; *From Winchester to Cedar Creek: The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864*; *Mosby's Rangers* and *Sword of Lincoln: The Army of the Potomac*. His latest work – the topic of the evening's program – *Cavalryman of the Lost Cause: The Biography of J.E.B. Stuart*.

Jeff received his B.A. in history Cum Laude at Lock Haven University and his M.A. at the Pennsylvania State University. He recently retired from teaching history after many years at the Penns Valley High School in Spring Mills, PA. Jeff has written numerous articles and essays on the Civil War for scores

of Civil War and military history magazines and journals. Jeff is a strong supporter of historic and battlefield preservation serving on the National Advisory Board of the Civil War Preservation Trust.

Jeff Wert is one of the most popular Civil War speakers on the circuit and is always well received by our round table. Get back on track after Labor Day with an outstanding program. Be sure to make your dinner reservation early. **REMEMBER we will be meeting on the second Tuesday September 8th.**

**CAMPAIGN 32 - SKIRMISH 1
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009
NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING DATE!**

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. for the September 8, 2009 meeting - **NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING DATE!**

Sutler's Call 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Mess Call 6:30 p.m.
Program 7:30 p.m.

The deadline for making dinner reservations is Thursday, September 3, 2009
Please call one of the Brigade Clerks listed below:

Jeff Stocker — 610-867-5178
jsmw@ptd.net

Carol Detweiler — 215-234-4884
cdetweiler01@comcast.net

Website: www.cwrteasternpa.org

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

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

Newsletter via Email

submitted by Joe Riggs

I am sure you are aware of the recent increase in "First Class Postage" and the reduction in services available 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. The electronic newsletter file will be in the PDF format that allows for higher speed downloads but requires Adobe Reader software.

DO NOT PANIC!

This free software 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 our 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 so as 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 mail as usual. (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.

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!



"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!"

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

Continued on page 3

Brigade Call

Where did the summer go?? Hopefully all our members had a healthy and happy one and had the opportunity to visit many of our national historic sites. Many of you were seen in Gettysburg walking with the park rangers during the Anniversary Walks. The weather this year was great, sunny and low humidity!!

Mike Cavanaugh has put together a wonderful slate of speakers for the 2009-2010 Campaign. Jeffry Wert is a valued friend of our group and we are thrilled to have him back for another visit. Make plans now to attend this and every meeting through June 1st!

The latest battle of the Wilderness between Walmart and those who wish to preserve our historic sites continues. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for recent developments.

Have you been working out and getting into shape for our November 7th trek to Gettysburg? The men of Battery B, 4th U.S. Artillery are calling to us from the 19th century to return the land where they fought to the way it looked on July 1, 1863. Help us help the National Park Service Rangers properly interpret the scene of this tough and bloody engagement. Call out your friends, family, neighbors, history buffs or even nature lovers. The more strong bodies present, the more we'll accomplish. See Jeff Stocker at the September meeting for more info and to sign up.

Dues are due so send them to Jeff Gates at the CWRT P.O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105 or bring them to the September meeting.

We have a new print for the benefit of historic preservation. Don Troiani's Emmitsburg Road, one of his signed



On July 3, 1863, Maj. Gen. Isaac Trimble's brigade, Gen. Pettigrew's division, crossing Emmitsburg Road during Pickett's charge at the battle of Gettysburg.



and numbered Gettysburg Series is sold out and valued at \$450.00 unframed on the secondary market.

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.

Remember: Our first meeting of the new Campaign is Tuesday, September 8th!! See you then!

Continued from page 2 - Summons to Volunteers

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 after-ward. 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

"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 vegetation 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

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. Remember, the meeting will be held on September 8th!

Is it Really Over?

by Susan L. Keenan

It is remarkable that over 140 years since the end of our Civil War, there continue to be issues of painful remembrance by many people.

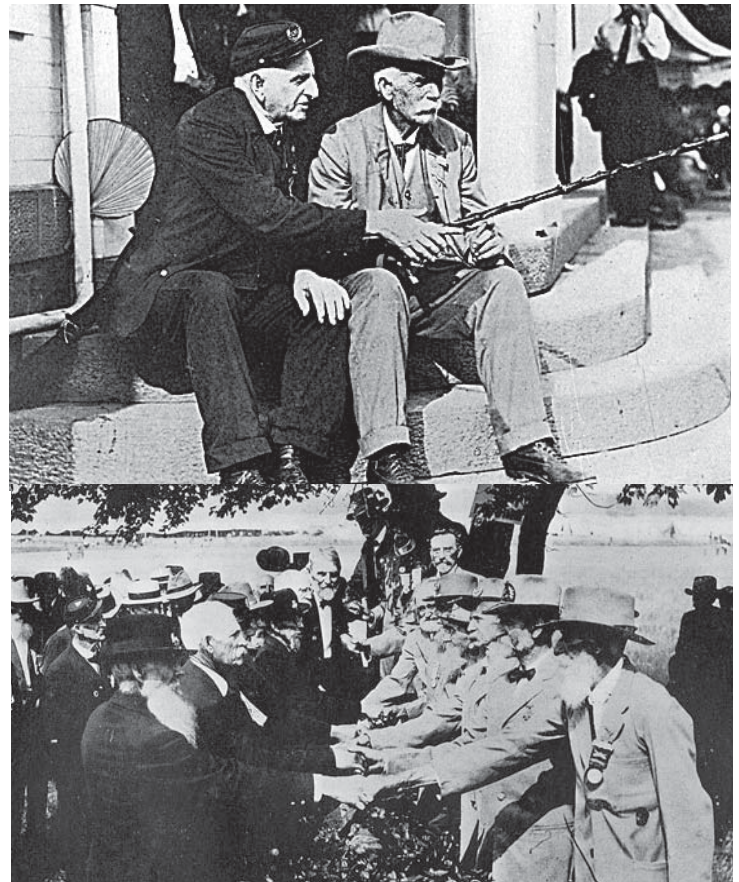
As a member of two New Jersey regiments (33rd NJ and 27th NJ) I see reenactors of both sides socializing at sutlers' tents and swapping amenities. Indeed, there are southern-oriented units and round tables well north of the Mason Dixon line. Yet at a reenactment several years ago, I was a guest in the sutlery of Ben Gormley, sutler, poet, and reenactor of the Sunny South. A finer gentleman I have not known! But – to my surprise – two Yankee reenactors made an unsavory remark about Ben's rebel flag afghans. I truly thought it was all just history now!

About 12 years ago, I was a guest lecturer on the subject of lace making at a Civil War symposium and 1860s formal ball, in Richmond, Virginia. At dinner, before the ball, I found myself at a table with several southern park rangers. I was the only "Yankee." One of the ladies asked me which side I thought REALLY won the war. I replied that I thought both sides won, and both sides lost. North and South won the privilege of remaining together as a nation. Both sides lost the feeling of unity we had in an idealistic young nation; both sides will always bear the memory of so many deaths and so much suffering. They seemed quite pleased with my reply, and my Northern status was not again challenged.

Six years ago, I flew down to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to lecture on lace making and to teach a class in the art of tatting. The girl who picked me up at the airport (and with whom I have remained friends these past years) asked me, after only a few moments in her vehicle, "Is it true what we hear down here, that up North they're still fighting the war?" Flabbergasted, and wanting to retort, "That's what we say up North about the South," I tactfully replied, "No, it's all just history now." While at dinner after one of my lectures (all of which were done fully decked out from head to toe in Civil War era attire) one of the ladies present said, "You don't SEEM like a Northern lady." It was a compliment, I must presume.

This summer, while convalescing from a painful bout of injured neck vertebrae and pinched nerves, I read many of Rita Mae Brown's books. Her writing is described as "cozy cat genre" as supposedly her feline, Mrs. Murphy, collaborates in the writing. The stories all take place in the actual town of Crozet, Virginia, near the Blue Ridge Mountains, in present time. Each story has at least one or two references to the "War Between the States," and outsiders, (not just Northerners) are all known as "come heres," although many of the characters transplanted from other areas have earned acceptance. However, in spite of their integration, it is frequently noted that "they just don't know how we do things here." Northern Virginia is apparently known as "Occupied Virginia." I enjoy uncovering these little tidbits of lingering regional differences as much as I enjoy reading the stories.

When we consider the invasion of the South by retired Northerners, it's a wonder there are folks left who still remember "that recent unpleasantness." A lace maker



friend of mine and her husband retired a few years ago to North Carolina. A condo village in the area has attracted so many "come heres" that it is referred to as "Yankee Stadium"

I have observed that one can travel through "Occupied Virginia" without ever hearing the softness of a southern accent. The same may be said for many of the southern states. When I was in Baton Rouge, the people there told me they do not consider Virginia a southern state. "It's SO FAR NORTH!" they said.

At times I ask myself how many more years before we all truly look at the distant conflict as "just history." Perhaps when massive numbers of Californians take a liking to our southern states, or folks from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan decide to introduce a slightly "different" accent throughout the various regions. Of course foreigners continue to flock to our shores and, unless they are history buffs, know and care little about our favorite time period. The same may be said about our young people today, many of whom seem to show little propensity to be moved by events from the past. Many New Age writers claim this to be a good thing: live in the NOW and cease to think like the people we no longer are. However, I rather like the fact that those deep memories continue to resurface. We should never forget the sacrifice and suffering that occurred on both sides, and we should always feel that we did the right thing to remain one nation. Many may still recall that "recent unpleasantness" of the past but will nevertheless come together for events like 9/11, the New Orleans flood, and much more. Perhaps by honoring those distant days of sacrifice without taking sides, we are all better equipped to put the aches and pains of the past behind us so that we may truly see it all as "just history."

Walmart continues to plan a new store at the intersection of State Routes 3 and 20, in Orange County

The **Fredericksburg based Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT)** has acquired an option to purchase approximately 93 acres of historic ground on the Wilderness battlefield. As Walmart continues to plan a new store at the intersection of State Routes 3 and 20, in Orange County, the CVBT has moved to protect nearby terrain in Spotsylvania County from development. This newly preserved land is on the south side of Route 3, adjacent to the Wilderness Tavern site, and protects the historic crossroads, through which a large portion of the Union army marched as they were fed into battle in the Wilderness. CVBT President Erik Nelson explained: "The proposed Walmart site is near the present day intersection established by the state highway agency in the twentieth century. The ground preserved by CVBT is the historic gateway to the Wilderness."

One of the historic roads across this property is the old Orange Turnpike, which runs to the southwest, toward Elwood, the Colonial period home that served as General Warren's Fifth Corps headquarters. The other road is the original Plank Road that extends southeast to the Brock Road and its intersection with the Orange Plank Road, which became the storm center of the Wilderness fighting. The CVBT already owns 19 acres of ground at the intersection of Routes 3 and 20, comprising the knoll where U.S. Grant had his headquarters during this confrontation with Robert E. Lee and his vaunted Army of Northern Virginia.

This latest acquisition retains exceptional historic integrity. While the battle action during the Wilderness campaign occurred in dense secondary growth, the approach to the battlefield was through relatively unrestricted terrain. A panoramic wartime sketch by Edwin Forbes shows this very ground, filled with wagons and troops, with clouds of battle smoke rising from the trees in the background.

From this open expanse, the Federal troops deployed into the horrendously dense thickets of the Wilderness.

The sellers are pleased that this farmland will not be developed and the CVBT has readily agreed to pay \$10,000 per acre. The owners have been in discussion with the CVBT about a sale for many years, but the battlefields trust had other, more immediate projects. With Walmart about to construct a new store nearby, however, the CVBT found it imperative to keep the historic gateway to the Wilderness intact. CVBT President Nelson notes: "This land looks much as it did in 1864, but we needed to move quickly to be able to afford to keep it that way."

The new CVBT purchase protects a large amount of acreage from any future development that would compromise the Wilderness battlefield. More importantly, the protected terrain provides an option to establish an entryway to the Wilderness battlefield that avoids the twentieth century intersection of Routes 3 and 20 entirely. CVBT President Nelson observed: "Battlefield preservation requires long-range thinking, even as we acknowledge that the time we have left to actually save ground from development is exceedingly short. This land is not only important historically, but will have the added benefit of providing an alternate way to bring visitors to the battlefield without having to pass through the bright lights of modern commercial activity."

The CVBT formed in 1996 and has preserved over 800 acres of historic ground on all four of the area's battlefields. Over 200 of these acres have already been transferred to the National Park Service. The organization will launch a concerted fund raising campaign to pay off this project as quickly as possible so it can keep moving on to the next threatened site. Details can be found on its website at www.cvbt.org.

RE-ENLISTMENT REPORT

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. 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.

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

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Eastern Pennsylvania, Inc.
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