

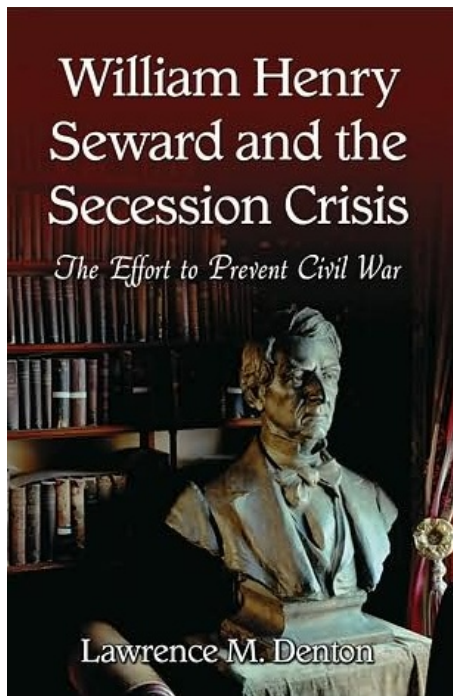


CAMPAIGN 34 - SKIRMISH 2

October 2011

Larry Denton

**Could the Civil War Have Been Prevented?**



We welcome this month Mr. Larry Denton author, historian, and lecturer. Larry is a graduate of Western Maryland College and holds a master's degree, with honors, from Johns Hopkins University. From 1968 to 1978, he held a variety of academic posts at Johns Hopkins. In 1978 he accepted an

appointment as Special Assistant to the Associate Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Washington, D.C. His long career in the field of environmental sciences included governmental and private industry positions.

Larry Denton has been very active in the study of the American Civil War. He is an authority on the secession crisis in Maryland. On Larry's maternal side, he is the great-grandson of William Bayne, an officer in the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland Infantry USA, who was present at Appomattox.

Larry has authored two books on the Civil War. His first, *A Southern Star for Maryland: Maryland and the Secession Crisis* (1995) examines the crisis in the state during 1860-1861. His latest work, *William Henry Seward and the Secession Crisis: The Effort to Prevent Civil War* (2009) deals with Seward's remarkable effort to avert war. Larry has lectured to Civil War and historical organizations throughout the

eastern part of the country. He is now retired and lives in Oxford, Maryland with his wife Susan.

Not much is written about efforts to avert the Civil War. There was serious opposition to the war in the country; not only by Democrats and Copperheads, but also by William Henry Seward one the most

influential men in the North. Join us for an informative and enjoyable evening, and as usual, we always welcome family and friends. Mr. Denton will have copies of his book for sale.

REMEMBER – Call in your dinner reservations on or before THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>.

## BRIGADE CALL – Tony Major



Photo by Jeff Heller

We welcomed 67 returning members and guests to our first dinner meeting of the new campaign year. As expected, Bud

Hall's presentation on the *Philadelphia Cavalry Officers in the Army of the Potomac* was interesting, informative, and entertaining! As usual, Mike Cavanaugh has done an outstanding job for us in lining up quality speakers like Bud. We have outstanding programs planned for the remaining 2011/2012 campaign year. It is my hope that our monthly attendance at our meetings grows each month. Adding to membership enjoyment of our programs is the technical support provided by Bob McHugh. Bob insures that any needed audio/visual equipment needed for each presentation is available. In addition to getting this equipment to our meetings, he sets it up, offers his help to the presenter and takes it away. Bob, your hard work is certainly appreciated!

We are very proud of our Preservation work. This is made possible by your support of our monthly book raffles and with the purchase of tickets for our print drawing. We need this support to continue.

**TUESDAY, September 4, 2011**

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 Denton.

**The deadline for making dinner reservations is**

**Thursday, September 29, 2011.**

Please call one of the Brigade Clerks listed below:

Jeff Stocker -----610-867-5178 or [jmww@ptd.net](mailto:jmww@ptd.net)

Carol Detweiler ---- 215-234-4884 or [cdetweiler01@comcast.net](mailto:cdetweiler01@comcast.net)

**BRIGADE COMMAND**

Brigade Commander-Position Open

Regimental Commander-Michael Cavanaugh

Company Commander-Position Open

Adjutant-Kathy Minnich

Paymaster-Jack Minnich

Board of Directors

Term Ending 2012

Mike Farris & Kim Jacobs

Term Ending 2013

Warren Beach & Kay Bagenstose

Webmaster-Peter [Detweiler - pdetweiler@comcast.net](mailto:Detweiler-pdetweiler@comcast.net)

Brigade Recruiting Officer-Jeff Gates

[jefgates@ptd.net](mailto:jefgates@ptd.net) or 610-9665773

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

**SUPPORT PRESERVATION, PURCHASE PRINT RAFFEL TICKETS!**



Sons of Erin by Don Troiani

September 17, 1862. It was just 10:30 a.m. and the battle that was raging around the village of

Sharpsburg, MD has already claimed the lives of thousands of Union and Confederate soldiers in attacks and counter-attacks that swirled and snapped through woods, cornfields, and around a modest, little country church. Perhaps the Army of Northern Virginia's most daunting position on that field was along a portion of the Sharpsburg Road which ran a few feet below the surrounding surface of the land, making it a natural rifle pit.

Wave after wave of Union assaults were repelled by the Confederates. Led by their flamboyant leader - General Thomas Francis Meagher - the Irish Brigade rose to the task of taking the sunken road.

On their second charge the brave and gallant soldiers of the Irish Brigade had pushed the Confederates from their stronghold, but at a dear price: 113 killed and 422 wounded.

**YOUR BRIGADE NEEDS HELP!**

I know you have heard this plea several times before. Unless more members come forward to assist in the running of your Brigade, the continuation is in jeopardy. It should be obvious to most, if not all of you, that your Brigade has been

functioning by the work and dedication of very few people. The problem is that they are getting tired and want to step down. A word of caution, and advice, members need to come forward and indicate a willingness to help keep your Round

Table going. The time to for action is now. Please consider this request and indicate your willingness to help to any Board Member. Another thought would be for those interested to be guests at our Board meeting. We meet at the Southern Lehigh

Public Library, 3200 Preston Lane, Center Valley, PA 18034. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:00pm. Time is running out!

**REMINDER:** Dues for the 2011/2012 campaign year are being accepted. It is \$25.00 for individuals and \$10.00 for full time students. Either complete the form in this

newsletter and send it to: **Civil War Round Table of Eastern PA, Box 333, Allentown, PA. 18105**, or see Jeff Gates at the Membership Table at the October meeting.

## Do You **KNOW?**

### THE CIVIL WAR

A brain-stretching quiz about the historic struggle between the blue and gray

**1. To which church did Lincoln belong?**

- a. Presbyterian
- b. Episcopal
- c. Unitarian
- d. None

**2. Before Lincoln's inauguration, in March 1861, seven states seceded from the Union. South Carolina was first. Which state was second?**

**3. Richmond wasn't the first capital of the Confederate States of America. Which city was first and how long did it host the new government?**

Answers on page 5

#### Book Raffle Winners



Photo by Jeff Heller

The book raffle winners for the September 2011 meeting were (front – left to right) David Hohe, Bill Frankenfield (rear – left to right) Lamar Hartline, Durrell Hollenbach and Dave Weinstein. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone for supporting the preservation cause!

**RE-ENLISTMENT REPORT**

It is re-enlistment time for the 2011-2012 campaign. We finished the previous campaign with 149 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 fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to CWRT of Eastern PA, Inc. Thanks for your support.

Jeff Gates (610) 966-5773 or [jeffgates@ptd.net](mailto:jeffgates@ptd.net)

**ENLISTMENT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you been a member? \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ How did you hear of this organization?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is your occupation/profession? \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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**

**ANSWERS FOR DO YOU KNOW THE CIVIL WAR**

1. d.
2. Mississippi
3. Montgomery, Alabama; under four months

Check out our website [www.cwrteasternpa.org](http://www.cwrteasternpa.org) for 150th Anniversary events and programs.

**Please fill out the enclosed Enlistment Form for our next Campaign. Dues are payable now!**

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
OF EASTERN PA, INC.  
P.O. BOX 333  
ALLENTOWN, PA 18105

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**