



The Regimental Bulletin

Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table of Northern New Jersey

***** Last meeting at the Wayne Public Library *****

Issac R. Trimble

Speaker: Rick Trimble

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 7:15pm at the Wayne Public Library

Volume 15, Issue 1

April 17, 2019

Wayne Public Library
461 Valley Road
Wayne, NJ 07470

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Phil Kearny CWRT**
www.PhilKearnyCWRT.org

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C.S.A. General Issac R. Trimble is best known for his role as a Confederate division commander in the assault of Pickett's Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg. He was severely wounded in the leg during that battle, and was left on the battlefield. He spent most of the remainder of the war as a prisoner, finally being paroled on April 16, 1865, one week

after Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

Trimble was a United States Army officer before the War, a civil engineer, a prominent railroad construction superintendent and executive. He was born in Virginia, lived in Maryland for much of his adult life, and returned to Virginia in 1861 after Maryland did not secede.



Rick Trimble
*Speaker for the
April 17th Meeting*

Mr. Richard Trimble has been a classroom teacher for nearly fifty years. Rick teaches at Ocean County College, where he is the director of the OCC Military History Institute, and at Kean University. Semi-retired, Prof. Trimble gets more time to write and is the author of over 15 books. He holds five college degrees and wrote his doctoral dissertation on the meetings topic, Confederate Gen. Isaac Ridgeway Trimble, one of the lesser-known but more colorful figures in the Civil War.

PKCWRT's last meeting in The Wayne Public Library is April 2019

Starting in May 2019, our new meeting place will be the **Hasbrouck Heights Municipal Building** at 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, (Bergen County), NJ. There is plenty of parking around the building, including a parking lot. The Borough has welcomed us and the PKCWRT has arranged for a large meeting room from 7pm-9pm for our 2019 scheduled meetings. Many thanks to Dennis Buttacavoli for securing our new home.

After many years at the Wayne Public Library, due to changes in their administration, new requirements which included more restrictions and costs to rent the room, PKCWRT has decided to relocate. If anyone has questions, please contact President Joe Truglio.

CIVIL WAR QUIZ

Special thanks to Dennis Buttacavoli

1. Which Northern state sustained more casualties at Gettysburg than any other Union or Confederate state in that battle?
2. Which state sent 39 regiments to fight in the Siege of Vicksburg?
3. Why were there no official company designated "J" in either army?
4. By the end of 1864 Lee's Army of Northern Virginia began giving themselves a new nickname based on a popular novel by Victor Hugo. What was it?
5. What year did Congress authorize the first paper currency (Greenbacks)?
6. What was the first year the words "In God We Trust" appeared on a US coin?
7. What was Confederate Private Henry Morton Stanley of the 6th Arkansas, who was captured at Shiloh best remembered for?
8. Which Northern prison had a death rate of 25%, almost equal to that of Andersonville?
9. There was a Union and a Confederate General named for this famed American officer whose service bridged the War of 1812 to the Civil War. Who were they?
10. When General Dorsey Pender was wounded at Gettysburg on July 2, who replaced him as Division Commander and led the division in Pickett's Charge the next day?

ANSWERS TO THE CIVIL WAR QUIZ

1. *New York*
2. *Missouri... 17 Confederate and 22 Union*
3. *To avoid confusion. In the 1860's capital I and capital J looked identical. Uniform button's, insignia, etc would be undistinguishable.*
4. *Lee's Miserables (Les Miserable)*
5. *1862*
6. *1864*
7. *Finding Dr. Livingston in Africa in November 10 1871. "Dr. Livingston, I presume?"*
8. *Elmira Prison in New York State*
9. *Winfield Scott Hancock USA and Winfield Scott Featherston CSA*
10. *Major General Isaac Ridgeway Trimble*



Joe Truglio, Speaker Kevin Pawlak and Bob Gerber after the November 2018 meeting. Kevin Pawlak's talk was on The Gray Ghost, John S. Mosby.

2019 MEETING SCHEDULE

April 17th

*Rick Trimble
Isaac R. Trimble, CSA*

**Starting May 15th - 7PM
New Meeting Venue
Hasbrouck Heights Borough Hall
320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ**

May 15th

*Joseph Rose
Grant Under Fire*

June 19th

*Paul Kahan
Grant's Presidency*

Sept 18th

*Paul Ellis-Graham
Political Cartoons*

Oct 16th

*James Hedtke
Ely S Parker*

Nov 13th

*Chris Mackowski
Picking the perfect army command*

Dec 1st

Holiday Party
*William B. Styple
Philip Kearny Book*



Chris Kolakowski spoke at the PKCWRT 2018 Holiday Dinner on the lives of Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner and Union Lt General Arthur MacArthur Jr.

Dues will be collected at the next meeting

Your membership and support is always appreciated and assists with our programs and tours

Colonel Gilliam Van Houten of the 21st New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, writes this letter home from Virginia while on the march. The 21st NJV was a 9 month regiment out of Hudson, Bergen and Mercer Counties.

Van Houten details army hardships by citizen soldiers, the effects of the war to the local population as well as divine service. The Aquia Church he details still exists. Van Houten was mortally wounded at Salem Heights during the Battle of Chancellorsville and died May 6th 1863.

Camp near Stafford Court House, VA,
Nov 25, 1862

I have a few moments before and will devote it to you to let you know where I am and what I am doing. Since I saw you I have seen something of service. If not fighting, I have in marching and privations of a comfortable home and a happy family whom I adore. I have changed from luxury and ease to one of labor and privations. Since I saw you I have marched my regiment about 220 miles through the roughest road I ever saw. You think the roads rough at the pond and vicinity. It is no comparison to what we travelled; over mountains, through valleys, ankle deep in mud: at every few miles we meet a dead mule or horse completely drove or starved to death.

Oh, the horrors of this unnatural war! The poor men dragged out from long marches, sick and worn, sore feet and diseases of every description. Since I saw you, I have been in my saddle three days out of seven for six and eight hours; the only time for rest was about fifteen minutes at one time. Think of this for men who lived the luxury

at home, all for the Constitution and the Union. If this is not

patriotism, there is none in this country. When I lay my pallet of straw in my tent

or under the largest tree that happened to be nearby, when the wagons cannot travel as fast as the men, then I have to sleep. If any, with my blanket wrapped around me on the cold, damp ground as best as I can. At times I order my pioneers to make shelter of brush and fence rails, at other times with corn stalks, and when I find neither the next best thing I find is close to the trunk of the largest tree, which I have been compelled to do two occasions already, and this is only the beginning for what I expect.

Of all the God Forsaken countries this beats all – fences burnt wherever the army rests for the night, and if it should stay any longer, next goes the wood so clean that there is none left to make a new fire with. My regiment has lain on the present ground since last Tuesday. We have burnt all the fences in sight and cleared about three acres of wood. I have a large fire in front of my tent for my accommodation which burns night and day and consumes about one cord every twenty-four hours. The sentinel in front of my tent keeps it going during the night.



Van Houten's 1862-1863 winter quarter's tent, drawn by an artist and made into CDV's later given out at 21st NJ Veteran Reunions. - JMM



Col Gilliam Van Houten with his wife Margaret and son Edwin, Sept 1862 - JMM.

only the beginning for what I expect.

We are encamped at Aquia village of old, it was then the head of tide water. Boats then came up as high as this, and large tobacco warehouses were built for inspection of the same. There are about three houses, but they have all gone to decay. About one mile from my tent there is an old church built in the year 1751 and burnt in 1754 and rebuilt in 1757. It was built by the Moncure family, according to inscription in the building. It forms the Episcopal cross in architecture and was built with brick brought from England. The floor is laid with diamond shaped free stone in the aisle, the pews are square inside instead of long and narrow, as now. The old pulpit remains just as it was then built. The backs of the pews have been cut down, the church was overhauled and repaired, but the interior remains old. The rebels have used it rather hard. It stands

about one half of a mile from the road in a dense wood, no habitation in sight, and but one building within two miles.

He was much please with our sermon. This is the first time in my life that I was at church when there was not a woman present, as that is the place, they generally select to show their new hats and silk dresses. That, I presumed, is the reason they remained at home. As for the new hats and dresses – that is played out in this country. They look as though they would like to see some themselves.



Col G. Van Houten
Twenty First Regiment,
Third Brigade, Second Division, Sixth Corp

One of the corner stones of the Aquia Church graffitied by a soldier of the 21st NJV, H Smith. There are three possible Smith candidates from the regiment with similar first initials.



War time sketch of the 21st New Jersey Winter Camp (1862-1863)

Last Saturday morning I saddled my horse and went in search of this old relic. After looking for some time and riding by it, and within three hundred yards I met an old citizen, and he told me where it was. I went and examined it and made up my mind to have divine service held there next day. I returned to my camp, ordered my regiment into line, reported what I had discovered and my determination as to the morrow, and issued my orders on the spot accordingly. I notified my chaplain to be prepared to deliver his sermon in the old church, the first inside since we entered the service. According to orders, the next morning the line was formed, and we marched to the old church, and had service for the first time in months. It was filled with the Twenty first New Jersey Volunteers, commanded by G. Van Houten. The only citizen present was one of the vestrymen of the church, who was elected one of the Union delegates to the Richmond Convention for the purpose of saving her to the Union. He says he has been persecuted for his Union sentiments.



The Aquia Church, Then and Now. It was unusual for a Colonial Styled Church to be 2 stories. It was built with imported English Brick and had several fires, always being rebuilt and restored.

To learn more about this Historic Church visit <https://aquiachurch.org>



The inside of the Aquia Church remains the same since built. The floor tiles and pews are as Colonel Van Houten describes.

Speciality Shenandoah Valley Guided Battlefield Tours

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park offers FREE customized ranger guided tours of ALL Shenandoah Valley Battlefields.

These professional tours, for groups from small to large, are personalized to meet your group's specific interest and needs. Most tours are offered by individual vehicle, although car caravan or a step on guide for buses is also available, depending on group size. Walking tours can also be arranged.

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Tours can last a few hours to multi days for any of the battlefield and/or campaigns.



For more information and to book a tour, please contact:
Eric Campbell, Chief of Interpretation
Email: Eric_Campbell@nps.gov
Call: (540)_ 868-3051

Tours Include:

Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign

- 1st Kernstown
- McDowell
- Front Royal
- 1st Winchester
- Cross Keys
- Port Republic

Lee's Advance to Gettysburg in 1863

- 2nd Winchester
- Lee's Retreat

Spring/Summer/Fall Valley Campaign of 1864

- Piedmont
- Cool Springs
- 3rd Winchester
- Fisher's Hill
- "The Burning"
- Tom's Brook
- Cedar Creek

Mosby in the Valley

Eric Campbell has worked for the National Park Service for 31 years at parks such as Independence National Historical Park, Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site. He has served as the Chief of Interpretation at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park since 2009.

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\$25 per year for membership