

The Regimental Bulletin

Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table of Northern New Jersey

Visit our website to register for all our monthly meeting presentations and updates
www.PhilKearnyCWRT.org

*** NEXT MEETING ***

Wed, Oct 16th @ - 7PM - Online Zoom Presentation

McClellan Finds A Scapegoat

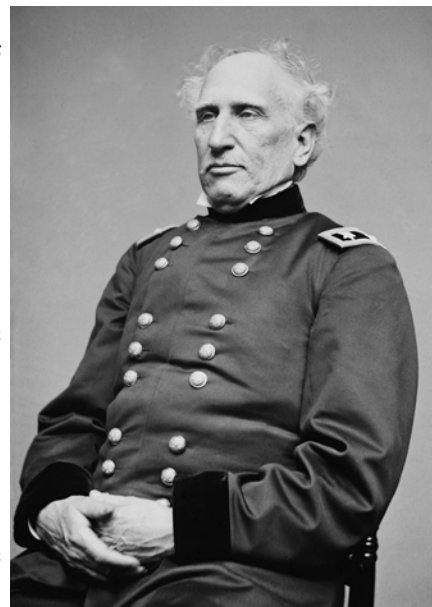
The Battle of Seven Pines - May 31, 1862 With Vic Vignola

The June 2, 1862, New York Tribune led with a banner headline announcing, "**Gen. Casey's Division Routed!**" The story describing the Battle of Seven Pines then led with the full content of McClellan's searing telegram. Thus, McClellan successfully saved his reputation while tarnishing that of Silas Casey.

What was the real story? Did Casey's Division perform as poorly as McClellan claimed? Did McClellan witness any part of the "disaster of Casey"? Who advised McClellan of the "disaster"? What was McClellan's motivation in targeting the performance of Casey's Division?

The answers to these questions - and more - are part of Victor Vignola's presentation describing the fighting that occurred during the May 31 portion of the Battle of Seven Pines. Vignola, author of the award-winning **Contrasts in Command – the Battle of Fair Oaks**, is conducting research on the fighting at Seven Pines. The working title for Vignola's book is: "**A Mismanaged Affair – The Battle of Seven Pines.**"

The Battle of Seven Pines opened when Confederate forces led by Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill sprung a massively powerful attack directly into Casey's division. Casey's men held their position for over two hours, before **Brig. Gen. Philip Kearny** arrived bringing much needed assistance. Find out more details during Vic Vignola's presentation this Wednesday, Oct 16 @ 7pm.



General Silas Casey



Vic Vignola

Award-winning author/historian **Victor Vignola** is a lifelong student of the Civil War. His first book **Contrasts in Command: The Battle of Fair Oaks – May 31 – June 1, 1862**, has received high praise. So stunning is the success of **Contrasts in Command**, it has earned recognition as receiving the coveted **2023 Fletcher Pratt Award**. The American Battlefield Trust also recognized **Contrasts** as a Finalist for the 2023 Best Military History Book, and **Civil War Books and Authors**, an independent review journal of Civil War historiography, included **Contrasts** in their list of Top 10 Books for 2023.



Volume 20 Issue 8

Oct 16, 2024

Officers of the Phil Kearny CWRT

www.PhilKearnyCWRT.org

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Mary Bogen-Kuczek

Founder

*** For those going ***

on the

Annual PKCWRT

Nov. Gettysburg Trip

Please give Norm Dykstra
a head count.

See Page 4

for more details

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

Send your dues to:

Norm Dykstra

77 Walray Ave

North Haledon, NJ 07508

Visit

PhilKearnycwrt.org/Membership.htm

You must register with this new link before the meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZYrdOyuqj8vGtIRG0WVwV92QTBVF0t_8oei#/registration

Kearny at Seven Pines

by Edmund Clarence Stedman



O, evil the black shroud of night
at Chantilly,

That hid him from sight of his
brave men and tried!

Foul, foul sped the bullet that
clipped the white lily,

The flower of our knighthood,
the whole army's pride!

Yet we dream that he still,—in
that shadowy region

Where the dead form their ranks
at the wan drummer's sign,—

Rides on, as of old, down the
length of his legion,

And the word still is Forward!
along the whole line.

The Battle of Seven Pines was fought on May 31, 1862. It was the largest battle in the American Civil War up to that point.

So that soldierly legend is still on
its journey,—

That story of Kearny who knew
not to yield!

'Twas the day when with Jameson,
fierce Berry, and Birney,

Against twenty thousand he
rallied the field,

Where the red volleys poured,
where the clamor rose highest,

Where the dead lay in clumps
through the dwarf oak and pine,

Where the aim from the thicket
was surest and highest,—

No charge like Phil Kearny's
along the whole line.

When the battle went ill, and the
bravest were solemn,

Near the dark Seven Pines,
where we still held our ground,

He rode down the length of the
withering column,

And his heart at our war-cry
leapt up with a bound;

He snuffed, like his charger, the
wind of our powder,—

His sword waved us on and we
answered the sign:

Loud our cheer as we rushed, but
his laugh rang the louder,

"There's the devil's own fun, boys,
along the whole line!"

How he strode his brown steed!
How we saw his blade brighten

In the one hand still left,—and the
reins in his teeth!

He laughed like a boy when the
holidays heighten,

But a soldier's glance shot from his
visor beneath.

Up came the reserves to the
mellay infernal,

Asking where to go in,—through
the clearing or pine?

"O, anywhere! Forward! 'Tis all the
same, Colonel:

You'll find lovely fighting along
the whole line!"

Here is a beautiful rendition of
Kearny At Seven Pines sung by
Derek Warfield

Click link to play on your computer,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXvfc_HjDEK

PKCWRT 2024 Schedule

Wed, Oct 16 - 7pm

Vic Vignola

McClellan finds a Scapegoat
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95874703127?pwd=NzBtZlE2dDZkdjZlVWt1ZW5oZWpHbz09>

Fri - Sat, Nov 1st - 3rd

Gettysburg Trip

The Wheatfield

with LBG Eric Lindblade
Gettysburg, PA

Wed, Nov 20 - 7pm

Heide Weber

Grant at Shiloh

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95874703127?pwd=NzBtZlE2dDZkdjZlVWt1ZW5oZWpHbz09>

Saturday, Dec 7th 2024

1pm

PKCWRT Holiday Party
Bistro 107, Moonachie, NJ
Lawrence N. Sangi
New York City Draft Riots
July 1863



The Rescue of the Colors by William Trego

104th Pennsylvania Volunteers Saving the Colors ☆

During the battle of Fair Oaks, VA on May 31, 1862, the 104th Pennsylvania was protecting a battery of artillery north of the Williamsburg Road. After fighting back Confederate attacks for about two hours, and seeing more Confederates approaching Colonel William W. H. Davis determined that his regiment (minus two detached companies) would attack the approaching rebel troops to give the artillery time to limber up and withdrawal. The men of the 104th sprang forward crossing an open field and seeking shelter behind a worm row fence, which ran diagonally to the line of battle.



The men of the 104th were able to stop the Confederate onslaught, but with high losses and no support in sight, they were forced to withdrawal to the rear. As the regiment slowly withdrew in good order, the color bearer, Sergeant Slack was badly wounded. Not wanting the flag to hit the ground as he fell, Slack jammed the flagstaff into the ground and exclaimed, "I have hit the ground, but Old Glory has not." Seeing Slack fall and the flag unguarded, several Confederates sprang toward the color as Colonel Davis, bleeding from a wounded left arm shouted for the men who were closest to rescue the colors. Major John M. Gries wheeled and led a small squad of men to charge the oncoming rebels, when Sergeant Hiram W. Purcell carrying a Bucks County presentation flag, leapt back over the worm fence and grabbed the state color before the rebels reached it. Purcell quickly wheeled and bearing both colors made a beeline for the rear. As he again jumped the fence a bullet slammed into his thigh, causing him to fall to the ground. Staggering to his feet he mustered enough energy to keep going until he finally collapsed from loss of blood due to two subsequent wounds in the neck

and arm, but he had saved both colors. Upon his collapse two other soldiers grabbed the flags and carried them safely to the rear. Division Commander Silas Casey's bugler found the exhausted, wounded Purcell and carried him to the rear on his horse. Purcell would later receive the Medal of Honor for his rescue of the colors, a well-deserved and hard-won accolade.

In 1899, Bucks County artist William T. Trego, himself crippled by a childhood disease that severely affected the use of his hands, created an amazing picture of Purcell's rescue of the colors at Fair Oaks in 1862. The original painting hangs in the Mercer Museum of the Bucks County Historical Society.



***** Special Notice *****
For those going on the
Annual PKCWRT Gettysburg Trip

Please give Norm Dykstra a head count:

- 1) Going on the Saturday Wheatfield tour** (\$20 per person)
- 2) Coming to the Dinner at the Dobbin House** (separate checks)

Contact Norm at Normandy@verizon.net or (973) 809-0283



The above sketch shows the retreat of Franklin's corps at the Battle of Fair Oaks

From the original source description in Harper's Magazine, on page 523 of the 16 August 1862 issue: We continue in this number our series of illustrations of the Army of the Potomac, from sketches by Mr. Alfred R. Waud. Mr. Waud writes respecting the illustrations on pages 516 and 517: THE RIGHT WING FALLING BACK. "This was a scene to be remembered. The clearing was filled with wagon-trains, shown up by the glare of fires lighted for the destruction of such stores as it was impossible to convey with the army. Among these the artillery and infantry steadily moved to take up positions for their defense. By the dull glow of the fires guns in position came into sight formed across the field; and occasionally, when a box of cartridges or other inflammable material would explode, the whole scene would be illuminated brightly in all its detail: artillery moving; guns in battery, with the tired cannoniers sleeping around them; wagon-trains forming for a move; soldiers burning stores, con amore, that 'Johnny Reb' might not profit by them; stragglers and sick working their weary way along, and much more, making a scene of the most dramatic character."

Phil Kearny CWRT

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Jim Madden

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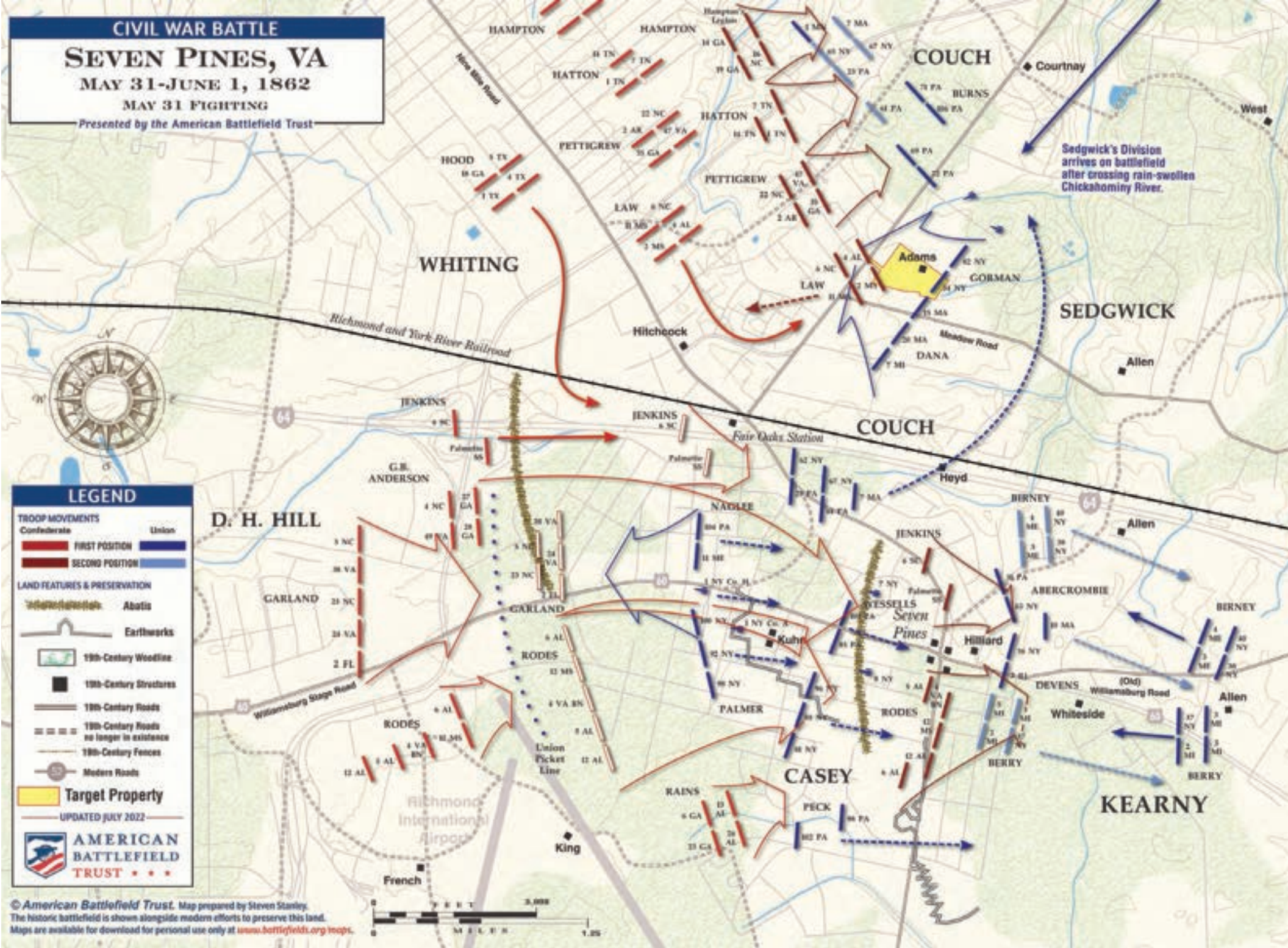
CIVIL WAR BATTLE

SEVEN PINES, VA

MAY 31-JUNE 1, 1862

MAY 31 FIGHTING

Presented by the American Battlefield Trust





The Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table Holiday Party

Saturday, Dec. 7th at 1:00pm - \$55

RSVP by Nov 21st

At Bistro 107 Cucina Italiana

107 Moonachie Rd, Moonachie, NJ - (201) 440-3339

Our Holiday Dinner Speaker

Lawrence N. Sangi

Historian, Educator, Movie Actor & 1863 New York Draft Riots Scholar

As seen in the 1993 Movie Gettysburg!



RSVP to the PKCWRT Holiday Party by NOV. 21st!

Our Speaker Lawrence N. Sangi will talk about the New York Draft Riots.

Saturday, December 7th - 1:00PM at Bistro 107 in Moonachie, NJ

\$55.00 (same cost as last year)

Contact Norm at Normandy@verizon.net or (973) 809-0283



Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table

Membership Form

Dues are \$25 a year

Please send a check or money order payable to:

The Phil Kearny Round Table

% Norm Dykstra

*77 Walray, North Haledon, NJ 07508 email:
Normandy1@verizon.net*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zipcode: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

REMINDER: New and returning members, Renew your membership in the Phil Kearny CWRT, which is \$25 annually.

Each Phil Kearny CWRT Bulletin Newsletter there is always a reminder, and we do accept renewals at any time. Our "membership year" has always been from April to March. So, if you have not yet paid your dues for 2024 (*thank you to those who have already*), now is the perfect time to write that check! You can find my address on the front page of every PKCWRT newsletter as well as on this membership form.

Thank you,
Norm Dykstra
PKCWRT Treasurer

