



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, May 21st 2025 @ 7PM - Online Zoom Presentation

Creole General P.G.T. Beauregard with Sean Michael Chick

Volume 21 Issue 5
May 21, 2025

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www.PhilKearnyCWRT.org

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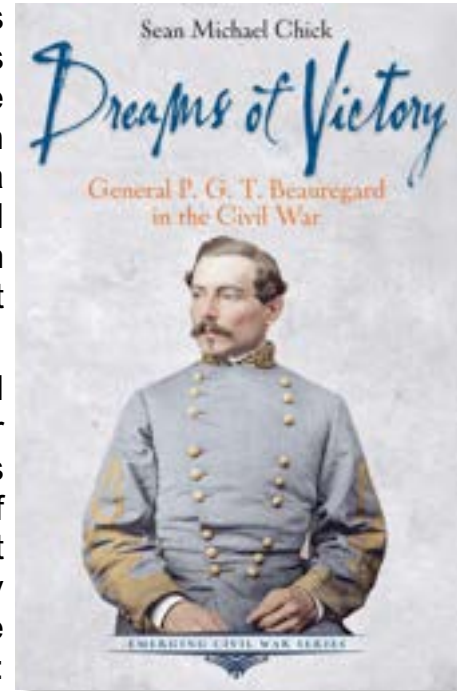
**Your membership of \$25
and
continued support
is always appreciated
as it assists with our
programs and tours**

**Send your dues to:
Norm Dykstra
77 Walray Ave
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Visit
PhilKearnycwrt.org/Membership.htm

Few Civil War Generals attracted as much debate and controversy as Pierre Gustav Toutant Beauregard. He combined brilliance and charisma with arrogance and histrionics. He was a Catholic Creole in a society dominated by white Protestants, which made him appear exotic next to the likes of Albert Sidney Johnston and Robert E. Lee.

He was reviled by Jefferson Davis and often mocked by Mary Chesnut in her diary. Yet, he was popular with his soldiers and subordinates. Outside of Lee, he was the South's most consistently successful army commander. Yet, he lived his life in the shadow of his one major defeat: Shiloh. After the war he was a successful railroad executive and took a stand against racism, violence, and corruption during Reconstruction. Yet, he was ousted from both railroads he oversaw and his foray into reconstruction politics came to naught. His was a life of contradictions and dreams unrealized.



Sean Michael Chick

Sean Michael Chick graduated from University of New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Communications and from Southeastern Louisiana University with a Master of Arts in History. He currently works in New Orleans, leading historic tours of his hometown. He is also a boardgame designer, concentrating on the period of Western warfare from 1685-1866. His main American Civil War research interests include Shiloh, the Army of Tennessee, New Orleans during the Civil War, P.G.T. Beauregard, the Petersburg Campaign, and Civil War tactics in relation to linear tactics from 1685-1866.

You must register with this new link before the meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZcqdO-grj4iGNdeGS8TCdouY3bMPSOvMQ8C#/registration>

Civil War Quiz

1. Which Union general was mortally wounded at the Battle of Atlanta and posthumously elected to Congress?
 - a) George Thomas
 - b) James B. McPherson
 - c) Charles R. Lowell
 - d) Frederick W. Lander
2. What was the name of the Confederate ironclad that battled the USS Monitor at Hampton Roads in 1862?
 - a) CSS Palmetto
 - b) CSS Arkansas
 - c) CSS Virginia
 - d) CSS Manassas
3. Which Confederate general commanded the forces that successfully repulsed Union assaults at the Battle of Franklin (Tennessee) but was later killed at the Battle of Nashville?
 - a) Hiram B. Granbury
 - b) Felix K. Zolliffer
 - c) Patrick Cleburne
 - d) Otho F. Strahl
4. What 1863 campaign featured a deceptive march by General Grant to cross the Mississippi south of Vicksburg?
 - a) Red River Campaign
 - b) Vicksburg Campaign
 - c) Jackson Campaign
 - d) Yazoo Pass Expedition
5. Which of the following Union regiments was composed primarily of soldiers from the Confederate state of North Carolina?
 - a) 1st North Carolina Colored Volunteers
 - b) 37th United States Colored Troops
 - c) 35th United States Colored Troops
 - d) 54th Massachusetts Infantry
6. Who was the only Confederate cabinet member to be captured with Jefferson Davis and later serve in the U.S. Senate during Reconstruction?
 - a) Robert Toombs
 - b) Judah P. Benjamin
 - c) Alexander H. Stephens
 - d) John H. Reagan

PKCWRT 2025 Schedule

Click on blue links to register for meeting.

Wed, May 21- 7pm

Sean Chick

PGT Beauregard

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/814iGNdeGS8TCdouY3bMPSOvMQ8C#registration>

Wed, June 18 - 7pm

Lance Herdegen

Brawner Farm - Gainesville

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9qzwpHtxsQpifR0QApihnv2fpySc#registration>

Summer Break July - August

Wed, Sept 17 - 7pm

Michael Block

Cedar Mountain

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9rn9kulFENDyu#registration>

Wed, Oct 15 - 7pm

Larry Korczyk

Gen Rowley on Day 1, Gettysburg

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6tzqgsHtJlkpnvqqz-NJLwvk-2wRCC#registration>

Sat, - Nov 7 - Nov 9th

Annual PKCWRT Field Trip

Wed, Nov 19 - 7pm

Dr. Heide Weber

Nathan Bedford Forrest

Saturday, Dec 6th, 2025

PKCWRT Holiday Party

Bistro 107, Moonachie, NJ

TBD

Phil Kearny CWRT

Joe Truglio, President

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Regimental Bulletin Editor

Jim Madden

JMadden@PhilKearnyCWRT.org

Answers

1. b) James B. McPherson
2. c) CSS Virginia
3. c) Patrick Cleburne
4. b) Vicksburg Campaign
5. a) 1st North Carolina Union Volunteers, if you picked b or c you were also correct!
6. d) John H. Reagan

Lost Confederate Flag from Pickett's Charge Sells for \$390,000 After Stunning Rediscovery

by Jim Madden

In a story almost as remarkable as the battle it once witnessed, the regimental flag of the 11th Virginia Infantry, lost during Pickett's Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg, has surfaced after 158 years and sold at auction for an astounding \$390,000 at Fleischer's Auctions in Columbus, OH, this April. The flag's unexpected rediscovery and astonishing journey from a family wall to a global stage has electrified the Civil War community — a reminder that even today, the echoes of Gettysburg can still be heard.

The Flag and the Regiment Behind It

The 11th Virginia Infantry, organized in May 1861, served with distinction in some of the war's bloodiest battles, including First Manassas, Williamsburg, Second Manassas, and Fredericksburg. By the summer of 1863, the regiment, seasoned and scarred, formed part of Kemper's Brigade in General George Pickett's Division.

On July 3, 1863, the 11th Virginia advanced across the fields toward Cemetery Ridge during the ill-fated Pickett's Charge. Under withering Union fire, their ranks were shredded. Amid the chaos, Private George "Big Foot" Walker seized the fallen regimental flag and, according to accounts, rode forward and planted it atop a stone wall near the Codori House. Moments later, Walker and the remnants of the 11th Virginia were overwhelmed. The flag was presumed lost — perhaps trampled into the soil of Gettysburg lost forever.



11th Virginia Battle Flag. Remnants of the flag have been restored by a flag conservator for this photo to appear as the flag would have in 1863. All flag photos from Fleischer's Auction website.

A Forgotten Treasure Reemerges

Fast forward to January 2021, when a curious object in an old frame caught the eye of a collector at a Civil War show in Dalton, Georgia. Behind cracked glass and mounted inside a wooden frame was a faded, battle-torn flag fragment — and two intriguing tags. The owner, who had inherited the piece through family in Memphis, Tennessee, knew little of its true significance.

Sensing something extraordinary, a friend of the owner contacted Civil War flag expert Greg Biggs. As soon as Biggs laid eyes on it, he recognized the distinctive wool bunting, the faded white stars stitched to a blue saltire, and the ghostly outlines of painted lettering. His heart raced — this wasn't just any Confederate flag; it was a Richmond Depot Third Bunting issue, consistent with battle flags carried by Pickett's Division at Gettysburg.

Carefully unfolding the flag, Biggs and his colleagues revealed the key: painted across the fabric, partially hidden for decades, was "11th Va. Infy."



The accompanying period labels clinched it:

One, typewritten, read:

"Confederate flag remnant taken at Gettysburg, By Capt. H.F. Dix, Loan of Ms. Elizabeth Dix, June 1943."

The second, handwritten in faded script, revealed the poignant truth:

"Divided by the men of Co. F, 16th Vt. Vols., July 12, 1863, in honor of Lt. Lawton who was mortally wounded in its capture from retreating Rebels."

Condition and Conservation

Despite the passage of time, the flag retains much of its original material:

Eleven of thirteen stars remain.

Portions of the hoist and fly edges are missing, testament to its brutal service and long journey.

The original red wool field and blue saltire are still visible, and the painted regimental designation remains clear.

Following its discovery, the flag underwent careful professional conservation, stabilized and mounted with museum-grade materials.



A Record-Setting Sale

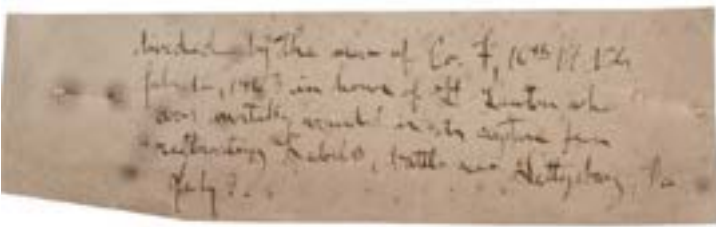
At Fleischer's Auctions, spirited bidding reflected the flag's historic and emotional gravity. When the hammer finally fell, the 11th Virginia Infantry flag achieved a remarkable \$390,000 — one of the highest auction prices ever realized for a Civil War regimental flag.

A Living Link to America's Defining Moment

The rediscovery of the 11th Virginia Infantry's flag serves as a vivid reminder that tangible pieces of America's past still await beneath the surface — in attics, in forgotten frames, in the memories of families who preserved them.

For Civil War enthusiasts, historians, and collectors alike, this flag is not merely a relic of rebellion — it is a symbol of bravery, sacrifice, and the turning point of a nation.

Whether displayed in a museum or cherished in a private collection, the flag's story will endure — just as the fields of Gettysburg still whisper of those who fought and fell beneath its colors.



The flag had been captured by Captain Henry F. Dix of the 16th Vermont Infantry, and preserved in his family for generations. It had hung quietly on a wall in Memphis, unknown to the wider world, until fate — and a keen historian's eye — brought it roaring back to life.

A Rare and Historic Discovery

The discovery stunned historians. This was the only known privately-held Confederate battle flag captured during Pickett's Charge — the high-water mark of the Confederacy — a moment seared into American memory.

While several Confederate flags captured at Gettysburg survive in museums, including the 8th Virginia Infantry flag (also seized during Pickett's Charge, now at the American Civil War Museum), none had remained in private hands — until now.

Moreover, the human story stitched into its fabric — of **Lt. Cyren B. Lawton**, who gave his life capturing it, and of his comrades honoring him by preserving the relic — gives the flag a personal, heartbreaking resonance rare among surviving battle flags.



Who Was Lt. Cyren B. Lawton?

In the swirling chaos of Gettysburg, amid the deafening thunder of artillery and musket fire, one young Vermonter made the ultimate sacrifice. **2nd Lieutenant Cyren B. Lawton** of Company F, 16th Vermont Infantry was not a famous general or celebrated hero — but his courage helped to change the course of history.

Born in Vermont in 1838, Cyren Lawton was a farmer's son, one of thousands of citizen-soldiers who answered President Lincoln's call to preserve the Union. Enlisting in 1862, Lawton and his comrades in the 16th Vermont formed part of General George Stannard's brigade — a unit destined for a pivotal role at Gettysburg.

On July 3, 1863, during Pickett's Charge, the 16th Vermont swung into action, flanking and tearing apart the advancing Confederate brigades of Kemper and Wilcox. It was during this critical maneuver that Lt. Lawton was mortally wounded while assisting in the capture of the 11th Virginia Infantry's battle flag — the very flag recently rediscovered after 158 years.

Lawton lingered for eight days before succumbing to his wounds on July 11, 1863. In his honor, the men of Company F reverently divided a portion of the captured flag among themselves, a moving tribute to the sacrifice of a brother-in-arms.

Though he did not live to see the Union victory he helped secure, Lt. Cyren B. Lawton's legacy lives on — stitched into the tattered fabric of the flag he helped seize, and remembered by all who still study the battlefields where ordinary men did extraordinary things.

Echoes in Cloth: What a Captured Flag Still Teaches Us

The journey of the 11th Virginia Infantry's battle flag—from the blood-soaked fields of Gettysburg to a forgotten frame in a Memphis home, and finally to a record-setting auction—is more than a remarkable artifact story. It is a testament to how memory, sacrifice, and material history remain intertwined. In an era when the Civil War still shapes our national consciousness, such discoveries offer rare, tangible connections to the men who marched, fought, and fell beneath these banners. Each captured flag tells not just the story of a regiment, but of the individuals whose bravery—Union and Confederate—gave shape to a defining chapter of American identity.

For auction details, please visit: <https://bid.fleischersauctions.com/online-auctions/fleischers-auctions/civil-war-captured-confederate-flag-picketts-charge-7194835>



2nd Lt. Cyren B. Lawton, Co F, 16th Vermont. Enlisted Sept 3rd 1863, Died July 11, 1863 (age 23)

Severely wounded in the arm at the Battle of Gettysburg July 3rd 1863, while capturing the battle flag of the 11th Virginia Infantry flag. Lawton died from his wound on July 11, 1863 at a army hospital in Gettysburg.



Confederate Flags Captured at Pickett's Charge, Gettysburg, July 3rd 1863

Confederate Regiment	Capturing Union Soldier & Unit	Current Location
2nd Florida Infantry	Unknown, 16th Vermont Infantry	Unknown (flag missing)
11th Mississippi Infantry	Sgt. Ferdinando Maggi, 39th NY Infantry (<i>Garibaldi Guard</i>)	American Civil War Museum, Richmond, VA
26th North Carolina Infantry	Unknown, 14th Connecticut Infantry	North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh, NC
28th North Carolina Infantry	Unknown, 12th New Jersey Infantry	American Civil War Museum, Richmond, VA
8th Virginia Infantry	Pvt. Piam Haines, 16th Vermont Infantry	American Civil War Museum, Richmond, VA
11th Virginia Infantry	Capt. Henry F. Dix, 16th Vermont Infantry	Private Collection (sold for \$390,000 in April 2025)
19th Virginia Infantry	Sgt. Benjamin Falls & Cpl. Joseph H. De Castro, 19th Massachusetts Infantry	American Civil War Museum, Richmond, VA
28th Virginia Infantry	Pvt. Marshall Sherman, 1st Minnesota Infantry	Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN

Reserve Now for the Annual PKCWRT Gettysburg Trip

Friday, Nov 7th - Sunday, Nov 7th

with Licensed Battlefield Guide Jim Hessler

Author of the new "First Day at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863" Book

Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table has a block of 10 rooms reserved from Fri, Nov 7th to Sun, Nov 9th, at the Best Western in Gettysburg.

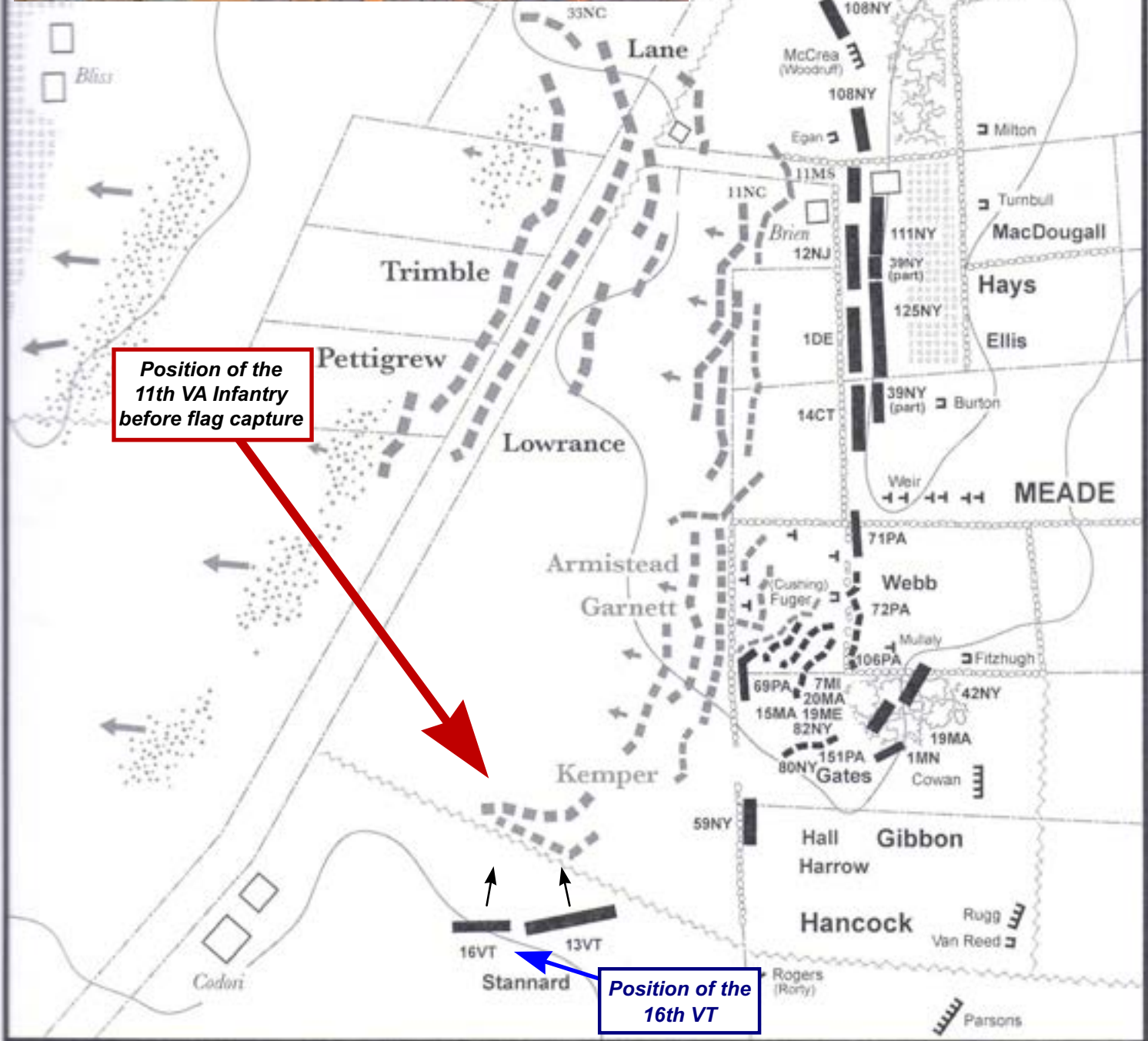
The rates for a King room with sofa (\$145) and two Queen bed rooms (\$135) - Use the Confirmation Code: PKCWRT110725, Call to reserve the Best Western, 301 Steinwehr Ave, Gettysburg, PA, (717) 334-1188.

This rate and block is available until Oct 7th 2025. Tour scheduled to be First Days Action.



Pickett's Charge, Gettysburg, PA
July 3rd, 1863 - 3:10pm - 3:30pm

The Last Inspection by Dale Gallon Members of Company 'A', 11th Virginia Infantry, Kemper's Brigade, Pickett's Division undergo an inspection of arms prior to moving to their final attack at Gettysburg.





Phil Kearny Civil War Round

Membership Form

Dues are \$25 a year

Annual renewals start in April

The Phil Kearny Round Table

% Norm Dykstra

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

RENEW TODAY!

Please send a check or money order payable to:

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 2025 (*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

www.PhilKearnyCWRT.org