



THE LIGHT POST

AUGUST 2024



CWRT SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP COMING TO INDIANAPOLIS

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By CWRT Congress

“How do I market the benefits of my Round Table and improve our ability to recruit new members?”
 “What partnerships should my Round Table have in our community and how do I go about initiating or nurturing them?”

Those are just a few of the many intriguing questions that will be addressed during our 2024 *Summer Sustainability Workshops*.

We designed the *Summer Workshops* around topics that continuously come up when we ask Round Tables where they need help: Recruitment

Marketing and Creating Partnerships. And it is interesting to note that a strong, positive community presence will result in increased membership and more inquiries about becoming a CWRT partner.

The first workshop was held at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA., on July 27. See page 8 for a full report. The second is sponsored by the Indianapolis Civil War Roundtable at the Indiana War Memorial on Saturday, August 17. It will run from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, with lunch included in the \$35 registration fee. Be sure to arrive by 8:30 for check-in and orientation.

The workshops will be highly interactive to maximize proven practice sharing, discussion, and brainstorming between the CWRT Congress team and participants. Each session is set up to provide a basic framework of the topics and a plan for when attendees return home.

Workshops are rapidly filling up so don't wait to register via our website:

www.cwrtcongress.org/2024-workshops.html

We look forward to seeing you this summer.

THE JERSEY BOYS: OLD BALDY CWRT HONORS THEIR OWN

By Carol VanOrnum with Frank Barletta

Several years ago, Old Baldy CWRT decided they wanted to sponsor a Civil War Trails sign. An orphan sign needed a sponsor at Ox Hill Battlefield Park in Fairfax County, VA, a park nestled in a community culturally mixed with Hispanic and Korean immigrants. In addition to a description of the battle of Ox Hill, this sign also speaks to the immigrants who

fought in the war. This unique Civil War Trails sign is in half Spanish and half Korean – the first bilingual sign ever created by Civil War Trails.

But OBCWRT wanted a sign that was specific to New Jersey. Drew Gruber, Executive Director of Civil War Trails, advised them there were no battles fought in their home state. He told them, “If you can't have a sign in New Jersey, go to where New Jersey fought!”

When one thinks of Williamsburg, VA, “colonial” comes to mind. Less known is that there was a fierce Civil War battle, significant in size and result: the first battle of the Peninsula Campaign. It involved the Jersey Brigade, specifically the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th regiments. Old Baldy thought this would be perfect, and the Jersey Boys project was born. Their goal was

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WORKING SMARTER, NOT HARDER

By Mike Movius, President

I know that you have heard that term before. Probably many times. But have you thought about how to do that in your CWRT? The reason I ask is that yesterday, I was having lunch with a trusted friend. And he told me about a nonprofit that kept its books in a Word document. Now, as crazy as it may seem to some of us, I'm not sure that is a bit funny to others. So, what is my point?

The point is that there are ways to make a leader's work much easier and take up much less time. Let's look at a couple ways to do that. First up is registration fees and dues. I know firsthand how controversial using online payments can be. But, trust me, it is really the ONLY way to go. Whether your organization chooses Venmo, PayPal, Stripe, WePay, or some other software, it is well worth it. The small percentage one must pay is insignificant when compared to the time, talent, and eventual burnout doing it the "old fashioned way" leads to. And, if your margin is so narrow that the percentage fee makes it untenable, raise your fee by a dollar.

That brings us to an associated subject: in-person transactions. You already realize that we have become a "cashless" society. Sure, there are some that continue to rely on cash and checks. But most of us are using credit or debit cards. When you are sitting at a registration desk and a member or

patron offers plastic, you have got to be ready to swipe or tap it. Many banks offer a free card reader and will help you set it up. For those "young" members we all strive to attract, this is a necessity!

Next up is accounting. Years ago, I managed the books for a training firm. I used QuickBooks and it was fabulous! The software was resident on my Pentium computer, and it was slick. When we incorporated CWRT Congress and became

That brings me to event registration. Some CWRTs hold tours, and many have dinner meetings. All must somehow manage the registration process so the fees are collected, the attendee list is printable, thank you notes can be prepared, and surveys about "how we did" can be sent to the right people at the right time. When this is properly done, the budget can be managed, swag numbers



Photo: Mike Movius

a 501(c)3 nonprofit, we looked at QB and found that it had morphed into an accounting nightmare. We eventually found an online software provider and it fits our needs/budget. There are several FREE accounting templates out there waiting for you to evaluate. They can relieve your treasurer from a rather irksome task.

can be developed, and the organizers won't go crazy. There are many online products and services out there. Develop your list of HAVE TO HAVE, and NICE TO HAVE. Then, demo them. Have a pizza party with your board. This is your future. Make it count!

I hope you will embrace the challenge. These tools won't take the drudgery out of the work. But they can take the work out of the drudgery. Cheers!



IMPROVEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND NETWORKING

THE JERSEY BOYS: OLD BALDY CWRT HONORS THEIR OWN

(Continued from Page 1)

to unveil a sign on the 162nd anniversary of the May 5, 1862, battle.

Frank Barletta, OBCWRT treasurer, headed the project. Frank had the experience of pulling together the people, place, and activities of their 2018 symposium aboard the battleship USS New Jersey.

A funding campaign for the signage brought in the necessary \$2,600 signage cost, plus the \$200 per year/10-year-commitment maintenance fee. Finding a place for the sign was challenging. Not only did they need a willing land donor, but the location must work for a directional sign – what happened in front and behind the viewer. Bill Miller, President of Williamsburg CWRT, served as the search host. “Due to my relationship with both Drew and Rich Jankowski (President of OBCWRT),” Bill explained, “I volunteered to show the folks around when they came to town. It turned out that I did three or four tours with Old Baldy folks to show them the ‘Bloody Ravine’ where the Jersey Boys ran into a Rebel hornets’ nest. Bottom line, I was just treating our Jersey wayfarers to a nice dose of southern hospitality.”

Once the location was determined, which was in the front yard of the Teamsters Union Hall, Drew went to work on the legalities.

Frank and his committee worked on bus transportation and lodging for Old Baldy’s weekend visit to dedicate the new sign. Bill introduced them to Don Kline of the Williamsburg

Battlefield Trust who put together tours for the group on their Saturday arrival. Frank said, “That kind of cooperation was wonderful.” He continued. “The amount of detail in the planning was, at times, overwhelming with constantly moving parts. Months of waiting for a response, only to hear ‘no,’ was frustrating for all. But in the end, it all came together.” The small enclave of New Jerseyans arrived and met with others from many states.

The ceremony on Sunday, May 5 included a color guard, led by Sergeant Ramariz from Langley Air Force Base. Several reenactors also participated, and the Daughters of the Revolutionary War donated a wreath. Approximately 70 people attended, along with newspaper reporters and local historians.

An unexpected bonus was a Proclamation from the State of New Jersey Senate, which Rich

Jankowski read to the assembled audience. In part, it proclaimed:

“WHEREAS, the leaders and members of the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia, which is more than one-hundred-fifty strong and includes devoted individuals from nine states – the majority residing in South Jersey – are especially appreciated for their unwavering commitment to the installation, maintenance, and mapping of the interpretive signs along the historical Civil War Trail sites and for ensuring that the brave soldiers from New Jersey are memorialized for posterity.”

Drew then stepped forward to offer a few remarks on behalf of the Civil War Trails organization. He spoke of the power of place, reading

the caption on the sign, looking up and outward to the landscape, and wondering what it was like to be there on that day. Many bystanders were brought to tears at the unveiling and the placing of the wreath. Spirits were “lifted from just putting a sign in to something bigger than us,” Frank expressed.

The weekend concluded with an excellent tour of the Lee Hall Mansion. The exhaustive planning had resulted in a successful and meaningful event. “Proud would not be saying enough,” Frank shared. “I am thankful for everybody who did this with me. I am beyond humbled, grateful, and indebted.”

Frank Barletta and Rich Jankowski unveil *The Jersey Boys – “Not soldiers but bulldogs”* Civil War Trails sign.



KNOXVILLE'S OUTREACH PROGRAM COORDINATOR

By CWRT Congress and Tim Vane, Knoxville CWRT

Very few Civil War Round Tables have created the position of Outreach Coordinator or Community Activities Coordinator. Knoxville CWRT is one of them. Tim Vane explains the importance of having such a position.

CWRT Congress: Please explain the genesis of the outreach.

Vane: The Knoxville CWRT formed in 1983 with a mission of being a non-partisan, non-denominational, educational presence in East Tennessee. A natural component of the mission was outreach into a community that was rich in Civil War history, by caring for landmarks and preserving the history of the area. The actual position of the outreach

coordinator came later, as it was a fundamental aspect of what our Round Tables does and who we are.

CWRT Congress: How did you happen to become the outreach coordinator?

Vane: I joined the Round Table in 2014. Part of my background includes being the Chief of Public Affairs for the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, NC when I was in the Army. Among other community relations activities we pursued was to create and maintain a Speakers Bureau to engage with local and regional organizations and communities. After joining the KCWRT, I volunteered to put one together for use in and around Knoxville. Sometime after that, the board asked me to fill the position of director of community activities.

CWRT Congress: What were your initial goals for the position? Have those goals changed? And, why?

Vane: My initial goal was not to disrupt what was already being done. At that point, we used local newspapers to announce events, buy advertisements in support of our Living History Weekend, etc. But when the pandemic hit, all of that changed. Newspapers either stopped their Local Community Events calendar or required subscriptions to print meeting notices, etc. So, we had to rethink what outreach meant, who we engaged and why. That caused me to start looking at how we can increase our outreach and involvement in various communities. Who could we reach and invite into our network? I made a list of

civic groups and asked, what do we share in common? I tried to put together a network and determine how we can help each other. Covid was the catalyst to force us to change.

CWRT Congress: How were potential outreach partners prioritized?

Vane: There were two parts to this. First, what were the commonalities, joint interests, and overlap? Secondly, where are there possibilities? We looked at opportunities that would promote our organization. A good example is our Dot Kelly Preservation Grant. Dorothy Kelly was a force for preservation efforts in Knoxville in the 1980s and 90s. Since 2015, we have invited individuals and groups to submit a proposed

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The 2024 Winners of the Dot Kelly Preservation Grant Award. Accepting certificates from former KCWRT President Dennis D. Urban are (left to right) Major Marcus Vartan of South Doyle High School JROTC, Whitney and Andrew Petelka of the Hazen Historical Museum Foundation, Patrick Hollis, Executive Director of the Mabry-Hazen House, Dennis Urban, and Josh Loomis, Director of Development of the Mabry-Hazen House.

KNOXVILLE'S OUTREACH PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

(Continued from Page 4)

preservation project, and the winner receives a \$500 grant. So, we contacted museums, historical societies, and other organizations who were like us who might be able to use the funds to further their own objectives and in that way establish a relationship with them.

As far as looking at organizations that would offer an exciting partnership opportunity, we found one with the Urban Wilderness Office for the City of Knoxville. The objective here is to help restore the Armstrong Hill battlefield (November 1863) that would be part of the city's park system south of the Tennessee River. We'd help to definitively identify where the fighting took place, clean up the underbrush on the battlefield, and work with them, and others, to create interpretive signage. Working with the City and potentially other partners like the University of Tennessee and other organizations would round out this partnership effort in a worthy goal. It would add value to the city and East Tennessee.

Another effort that worked out well for the KCWRT and two other organizations is the work that we're doing with two groups that care for cemeteries where Civil War veterans are buried. The first is Bethel Cemetery where

approximately 1600 Confederate soldiers are buried. What's unique about it is that it's a garden cemetery. Almost all of the soldiers were buried in mass graves surrounded by trees and gardens. The KCWRT assists the cemetery staff by cleaning headstones, removing dead and overgrown foliage, and cleans up debris from storms. The other graveyard was established by the Odd Fellows Fraternal Order for the burial of black citizens that also includes the remains of 16 soldiers of the U.S. Colored Troops. Four times a year we clean up at Bethel and tend to the graves and clean the headstones of the USCT soldiers at Odd Fellows.

We host a living history weekend in November that includes live Civil War music, period medical displays, a small battle reenactment, and other events. It is our way of integrating our Round Table into the greater Knoxville community.

We also go into senior facilities and centers to speak to residents who enjoy the intellectual stimulation and engagement. We charge \$100 per visit to cover the speaker's mileage, which usually is donated back to the Round Table.

Finally, probably like most Round Tables, we're mostly older and grayer so we're trying to work with youth groups. In 2023, we engaged some high schools in Knox County that host Junior ROTC programs. We included them in our Dot Kelly Grants program and the winning school this year worked in both cemeteries along with our

own members. Since they are required to learn about history, geography, and leadership, this was a perfect fit.

CWRT Congress: What are the most important things the CWRT wants from potential partners?

Vane: We really want consistency and the interactions to be constant, not episodic. We want to establish relationships over time. We must spend time cultivating relationships until they become routine. That's hard to do, but I think it can be done.

CWRT Congress: How have the other entities and their leaders responded?

Vane: It's been mostly positive. Other civic organizations such as museums, historical societies, etc. hadn't thought of us before, just as we'd never thought of them. We must find better ways to work together. There can be strength and opportunities in numbers.

CWRT Congress: Have there been unexpected things that potential partners have sought from the CWRT?

Vane: Many organizations want speakers or expertise related to the Civil War. We were able to assist a local town by providing accurate information for signage it wanted to post, commemorating a site of a small battle that was part of Longstreet's campaign in November 1863. Interestingly,

Other civic organizations hadn't thought of us before, just as we'd never thought of them.

this little battle included two Union soldiers who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

CWRT Congress: How has the board responded?

Vane: In a positive way. I've got to make the case first of contacting a potential partner, and if it doesn't cost us money, all the better. But part of that buy-in means I can count on them being there to support community activities. I can't think of a single time when I put a program together with an outside group, or invited those groups to some of our functions, that they didn't wholeheartedly support it or participate in the activity. That includes cleaning headstones and taking away brush too.

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KNOXVILLE'S OUTREACH PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

(Continued from Page 5)

CWRT Congress: How do you or your board measure your success?

Vane: Are we contributing to our membership? Do we challenge them? Are we contributing to the Round Table's funding? Are we making an impact with other organizations in and around Knoxville? Just this last year, our speakers bureau supplied presentations 28 times to senior centers and made over \$3,000. This money gives us flexibility to be creative and do different things. We want to be an organization that adds value and has a positive impact in our local area by reminding people of the rich

Civil War history of Knoxville. It's been part of our DNA since our founding. Doing all of those things, and more, is the measure of success.

CWRT Congress: Has the been an unexpected cost to your outreach experience?

Vane: If there's a cost it's in energy. This position, in my opinion, requires focus, consistency, and determination. It can't be done passively. It requires being deeply involved with your members, board, and other organizations and groups.

CWRT Congress: Please advise the important elements of

starting a CWRT outreach position.

Vane: Pick the right person for the job. There can't be the fear of rejection. If that happens, try again with either a new idea or a different organization. Be helpful, positive and persistent. The community activities representative also isn't on an island. The board exists to support the position and that sometimes means being told no or to modify a request or event. Don't take it personally and remember that you're all in it together.



Above, Odd Fellows Cemetery fix
Below, Bethel Garden cleanup



The Wilderness

The Orange Plank Road runs through a desolate Wilderness in this post-battle photo. Traces of the corduroy road surface can be seen in the left lane. Photo: National Park Service

THE CROSSROADS

By William Miller, President of Williamsburg CWRT

Civil War Round Tables, large and small and far and wide, are inevitably confronted with the necessity to make difficult decisions. Whether related to leadership, finances, membership, or other issues, we are all challenged to act, act, act. Simply put, the Round Table has reached a “crossroad,” where the decision may portend sweet success or abject failure.

As Civil War travelers, we are very familiar with the confluence of roadways, commonly referred to as “crossroads.” While there may be many, there is one that paradoxically personifies both meanings of a “crossroad.”

Harken back to April of 2022 for an impromptu tour of the Wilderness Battlefield. My entourage included both General Grant and General Lee, also

known in our contemporary time as Dr. Curt Fields and Thomas Jessee. This was Curt’s first visit and Tom had visited when he was a kid. We followed the flow of the battle from Grant’s Knoll and Saunders Field to Widow Tapp’s Farm, and we’re now standing at the crossroad of the Orange Plank Road and the Brock Road.

The battle raged for two full days and had gravitated to a bloody climax at this place. Rebels and Yanks attacked and counter-attacked, and the ebb and flow of the battle had yielded no definitive result.

We arrived at the crossroads in the late afternoon, and the cacophony of the rush hour traffic mimicked the activity that was taking place on May 7, 1864. The trees crowd close to the edges of the roadways, and the ubiquitous trench along the west side of the Brock Road

portends the vision of the log palisade that served as a protective shield for the Yanks when Longstreet’s troops drove the Union II Corps back to the crossroad.

There is one new feature that was not part of the scene in 1864. It’s a Compass Rose. This object is a bronze casting that is placed on a ground level foundation and is judged to be approximately four feet in diameter. It’s properly oriented to the north and lists the directions and mileages to local towns such as Fredericksburg and significant landmarks like the Chancellorsville Battlefield. This particular Compass Rose is unique among the others inasmuch as it indicates a distance of 58 miles to Washington and 58 miles to Richmond.

Both General Grant and General Lee were obviously aware that Fredericksburg was midway between the respective Union and Confederate capitals, but it’s highly unlikely that either leader knew that this particular crossroad was equidistant between the two.

And the significance of equidistant location of this crossroad is also manifested by the action that took place after the two days of bloody combat. On May 7, 1864, General Grant moved up from his headquarters to the crossroads of the Brock and Orange Plank Roads and, after a short pause he moved on to the south and on to the direction of Richmond.

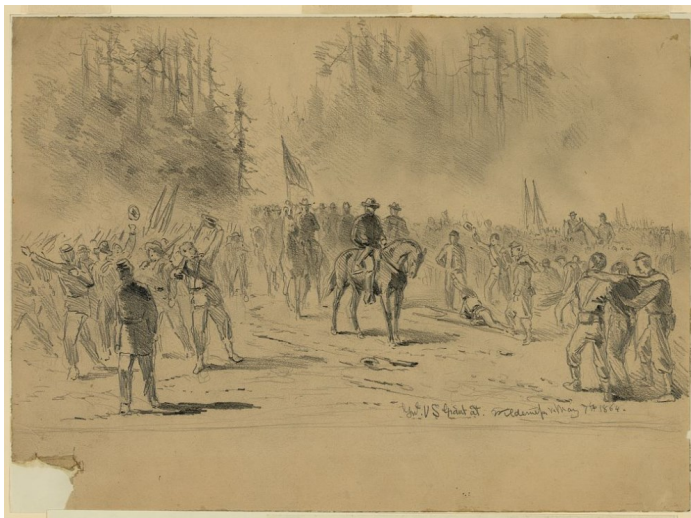
Grant chose the direction he must go, and made the choice that would define his character for the remainder of the war.

General Grant was literally and metaphorically at a crossroad with respect to his decision to continue south. The Army of the Potomac had previously backed away from every battle to refit and regroup before reengaging the Army of Northern Virginia.

But on that day, and at that place, the nature of the Civil War changed. There would be no more pauses. The Army of the Potomac was halfway to Richmond and would move on to sustain the fight.

At a previously obscure crossroad, General Grant chose the direction he must go, and made the choice that would define his character for the remainder of the war.

As Round Table leaders, we would do well to emulate the actions of General Grant as we face the challenges of our own “crossroads.”

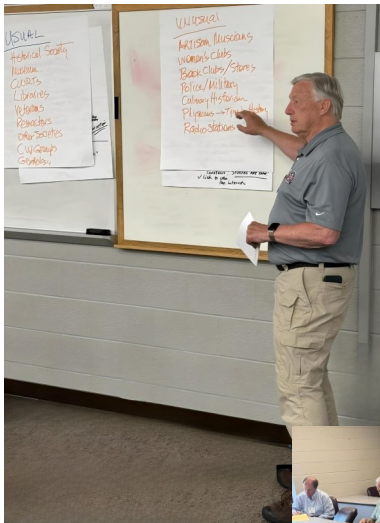


Artist Edwin Forbes sketched the enthusiastic reaction of the federal troops as Ulysses S. Grant (on horseback) led them onward. Library of Congress

2024 SUMMER SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS WINCHESTER, VA



Our first Summer Sustainability Workshop, Saturday, July 27th, was a great success in Winchester, Virginia. Small and large groups brainstormed ideas on ways to improve their Round Table in target marketing recruitment, improving their new member experience, redefining partnerships, and exploring organizational partnering opportunities. These lively discussions unlocked different possibilities for their Round Tables to further develop when attendees returned home.

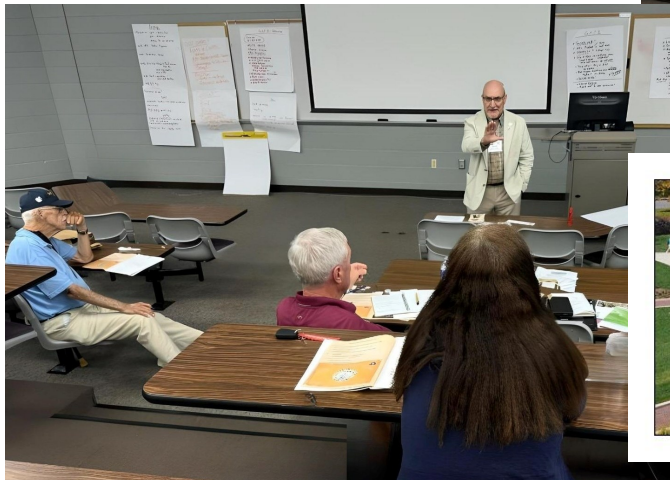
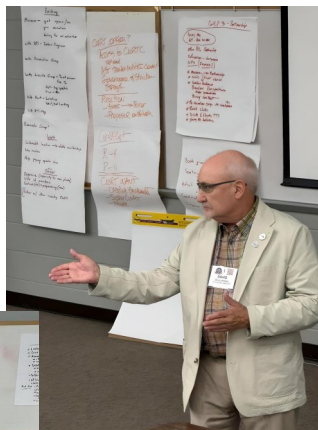


The feedback the CWRT Congress received was very positive. For example, we heard such things as, "...Our group really enjoyed being at the University yesterday for the CWRT Congress," and "We now have a definite plan for extending our partnership with our museum hosts."

We give a special *thank you* to Jonathan Noyalas, Director of the McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah University, for co-hosting the event.

It's still not too late to register for the Indianapolis Summer Workshop on Saturday, August 17th. It will be co-hosted by the Indianapolis CWRT at the Indiana War Memorial.

For more information and to register, please click [HERE](#).



A NONPROFIT COMES IN FROM THE COLD

By Gordon Gidlund

Since the centennial of the Civil War in the early 1960s, I've been interested in the late unpleasantness and so have been involved over the years with various Round Tables. In trying to advise these buffs, I have often encountered the common world view of many civic groups that the good Lord alone will take care of them. You too may encounter a long-standing collection of decent citizens devoted to a particular worthy purpose who "believe" they are an official nonprofit organization but who never bothered to set up either a corporation or an unincorporated association.

In California and other states, generally, when a group of people decides to carry on some activity together without filing any legal paperwork or establishing any formal structure, whether they know it or not, whether they like it or not, at minimum, they have set up an unincorporated association. See e.g., Cal. Corp. Code § 18035. And then, of course, when any money comes into the picture, consequences follow. The Federal and state governments do not give you a pass simply because you do good works.

Now whenever I try to point out this concern to such salt-of-the-earth folks, it is usually explained to me, "Why, sonny, that kind of dang legal nonsense

is more trouble than it's worth, by golly." My response naturally is that the same can be said about observing speed limits or—*gasp*—paying taxes.

An uphill battle it may therefore be to convince such persons of the need to observe all the required regulatory niceties. After all, either the IRS or the state authorities can always decide to inquire into any such assemblage no matter how high-minded that receives significant membership dues, donations, or sales receipts. Administrative process may be employed and bank accounts reviewed, certainly raising everyone's blood pressure.

But even once they are convinced, what is the best way to bring the nonprofit in from the cold? Luckily, incorporation or filing as an unincorporated association is not terribly onerous or expensive in most states. And surprisingly, the IRS is not all that difficult to deal with these days with jiffy approvals of submitted Forms 1023-EZ.

The real challenge may come with state taxing authorities and attorneys general. And it is at this point, you should prepare to be shot as the messenger.

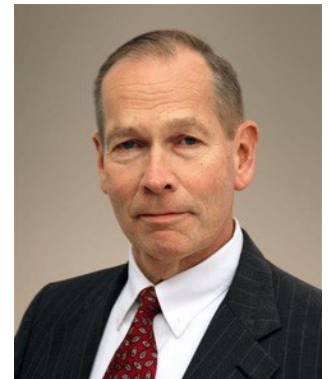
In one matter that I handled recently, both the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Attorney General insisted that the group in question file tax returns and

certain verification forms going back *five years*. Fortunately, in our case, due to the size of the group, the tax returns were simply of the postcard variety, requiring only the amount of gross receipts for each year. But for any more detailed information, this may prove to be a problem if the group is unable to retrieve bank records from that far back. And smaller nonprofit groups have notorious problems with keeping their treasurers. After all, no one signs on to a worthy cause to be a bookkeeper.

Now you may ask yourself, why not then just disavow the former enterprise and start afresh? The trouble is that such groups are prone to bragging and puffery, and so, it may be a little difficult to assert you are a brand-new gang when you boast on your website and in your fundraising appeals that you have been proudly functioning since nineteen-aught-nine. And government employees now know about how to look these things up and can be prickly in demanding explanations.

A wise mentor of mine once said that the attorney's toughest job is to give the client bad news. That is certainly the cross you must bear as advisor when seeking to put otherwise well-meaning people on the legal straight and narrow.

The Federal and state governments do not give you a pass simply because you do good works.



Gordon Gidlund is a tax attorney who has practiced for 37 years and who taught for 17 years as an adjunct professor at the University of San Diego School of Law. He is currently the Treasurer of the San Diego Civil War Round Table, the Secretary of the African Americans in the Civil War Era Round Table, and a Director of the Inland Empire Civil War Round Table. He can be reached at gordon@kimrosado.com.

ALL HONORS TO THE BRAVE: GEORGE WHITE, 2ND VERMONT

By Jared Peatman

A few years ago, I was walking past a section of our basement where my father had stored some things that belonged to my grandmother before she passed away. As I did so, I noticed a small, leather-bound journal and thought, I know what this is (or might be). I have seen many diaries from Civil War soldiers over the years, and this item's size, structure, and apparent age suggested that it could be one. Excited, I opened the journal, and sure enough, inside the front flat was a name and identification: G[eorge] A. White, Co. H., 2nd Regt. Vermont Volunteers.

George White was twenty years old when he enlisted as a private in the 2nd Vermont in August of 1861. His parents were in their late 50s and his father was nearly blind, leaving them dependent upon George for financial support. The promise of bounties and steady pay was appealing, and as a result White's parents put down \$50 (of \$225) to purchase a small farm in Woodbury shortly after their son enlisted.

George appears to have been a solid soldier and a hard-fought one. The 2nd Vermont was present at most of the major battles in the Eastern Theater and by war's end lost 223 men killed in battle or mortally wounded. In December of 1863 George reenlisted for an additional three years,



committing himself to seeing out the end of the war and securing additional bounties.

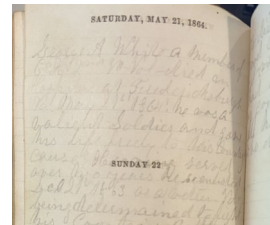
The diary I had stumbled upon was for 1864, and White began with a series of quite short entries on the weather and food but soon trailed off and, after a couple of weeks, was only recording letters written or received. On May 4, however, he noted that his unit had crossed the Rapidan River, and on May 5 he summarized their participation in the Battle of the Wilderness: "marched 4 miles had a great fight lost 31 men." That was the last entry White wrote.

The diary's next entry began on May 21 and stretched over several days. It was clear that this was written in a different hand. The entry reads:

"George A. White a member of Co. H 2nd VT Vol - died in Hospital at Fredericksburgh, Va. May 21st 1864. he was a valiant Soldier and gave his life freely to his Country Cause. Having served over two years he reenlisted Dec 21, 1863 as a Veteran Vol. being determined to fight his Countries Battles to the end. But poor Boy he was a wounded May 12 on a charge on

the enemies earth works. he was never known to turn his back to this foes unless so ordered to do. His right arm was amputated near the Sholdier and he died from the loss of blood. He did not have very good care while in Hospital yet with the means they had they [word illegible] as well as could be expected all honors to the brave who die in their Country Cause."

On May 12, 1864, during the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, the 2nd Vermont was a



part of the Union's attack on the Confederate defensive line at the famous "Mule Shoe." Three men in the 2nd Vermont won the Medal of Honor for their actions that day, and their citations give a sense of the ferocity and brutality of the battle. Captain Dayton Clarke displayed "distinguished conduct in a desperate hand-to-hand fight while commanding the regiment," while Private William Noyes "standing upon the top of the breastworks, deliberately took aim and fired no less than 15 shots into the enemy's lines, but a few yards away." Sometime during this intense firefight White was wounded in the right arm, one of 350 Vermonters to fall that day.

An amputation was not enough to save White's life, and he passed away on May 21, 1864. Someone, likely an officer, wrote the account of White's final hours and then sent that diary home to George's parents. Alfreda White applied for a pension the following month, giving as justification that with her husband's blindness, she was reliant upon her son's labor for financial support and that they would have to relinquish the farm they had begun to purchase. The pension was granted quickly, and Alfreda drew \$8 a month for the next dozen years before she passed.

This diary, and particularly the account of George's wounding and death, offers a fascinating insight into how families were notified of their soldiers' passing. While much of the entry sought to assure the family that their son was a good soldier who did his duty - the proverbial "good death" - the writer also implies that the death was perhaps unnecessary by categorizing the medical treatment as poor. White gave his life for his Country's Cause, the writer tells us, but perhaps his life could and should have been saved.

Jared Peatman, Ph.D., is nearing completion of a book on the 20th Maine that he began as a pre-teen. Jared is the founder of Four Score Consulting, a small company that provides history-themed leadership development events. He is a Board Director of the CWRT Congress.

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ATTENTION CWRT LEADERS!

The CWRT Congress has an initiative of periodic interviews with CWRT leaders like yourself. The purpose is to share your successes and challenges with the CWRT community while offering ideas and perspectives which will help others grow. These recordings will be published on our website and YouTube channel. If you would like to be a part of this exciting initiative, contact carol@cwrtcongress.org.

MEET OUR NEWEST DIRECTOR MELISSA A. WINN



Melissa A. Winn is the Marketing Manager at the American Battlefield Trust, the nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving America's hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and the Civil War. Previously, she was director of photography for HistoryNet, publisher of nine history-related magazines, including America's Civil War, American History, and Civil War Times, for which she served as the primary photo researcher, photographer, and a regular writer. She's a member of the Professional Photographers Association, Authors Guild, and the Center for Civil War Photography.

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