



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, Jan 15th @ - 7PM - Online Zoom Presentation

A Tempest of Iron and Lead: Spotsylvania Court House, May 8-21, 1864

Presented by **Chris Mackowski, Ph.D.**

Volume 21 Issue 1
Jan 15, 2025

Officers of the Phil Kearny CWRT

www.PhilKearnyCWRT.org

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In Memoriam

Mary Bogen-Kuczek
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Chris Mackowski, Ph.D.

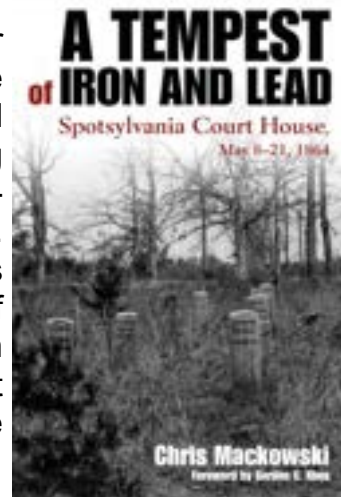
The battle of Spotsylvania Court House (May 8–21, 1864) marked a pivotal and brutal phase of the American Civil War, following the ferocious clashes in the Wilderness. Unlike previous battles where armies disengaged afterward, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant shifted tactics, leading the Union Army southward in relentless pursuit of the Confederates, vowing "no turning back." This continuous engagement led to 13 days of grueling combat, with significant casualties and iconic events such as the

Mule Shoe, the Bloody Angle, and Upton's assault. The fighting tested the endurance

and strategies of both Grant's offensive and Gen. Robert E. Lee's defensive forces.

Chris Mackowski's book, [**A Tempest of Iron and Lead: Spotsylvania Court House, May 8–21, 1864**](#), offers a detailed and accessible account of the battle. Drawing on nearly two decades of experience as a historian and extensive knowledge of the battlefield, Mackowski combines firsthand accounts, maps, and images to provide a vivid, comprehensive narrative of this critical campaign.

Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is a Copie Hill Civil War Fellow at the American Battlefield Trust and the editor-in-chief and co-founder of Emerging Civil War. He is the series editor of the award-winning Emerging Civil War Series, and author, co-author, or editor of more than twenty-five books. Chris is a professor of journalism and mass communication in the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY, and historian-in-residence at Stevenson Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield in central Virginia.



**PKCWRT
Membership
Dues are
\$25
annually**

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/tZAqdu2sqTsoHdS2x1F20qR_x_Ugw27elM8-#/registration

PKCWRT Holiday Dinner 2024 with Lawrence N. Sangi 1863 New York City Draft Riots



Receiving a Certificate of Appreciation is Norm Dykstra, VP.Treasurer,
Lawrence N. Sangi, Speaker & PKCWRT Member, Jospeh Truglio, President



PKCWRT 2025 Schedule

Click on blue links to register for meeting.

Wed, Jan 15 - 7pm

Chris Mackowski

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6485421121>

Wed, Feb 19 - 7pm

Evan Portman

XI Corps at Gettysburg

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9111111111>

Wed, Mar 19 - 7pm

Melissa Winn

John Rawlins

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9111111111>

Wed, April 16 - 7pm

Cecily Zander

General John Pope

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9111111111>

Wed, May 21- 7pm

Sean Chick

PGT Beauregard

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9111111111>

Wed, June 18 - 7pm

Dwight Hughes

Civil War Naval History

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9111111111>

Summer Break July - August

Wed, Sept 17 - 7pm

Michael Block

Cedar Mountain

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9111111111>

Wed, Oct 15 - 7pm

Larry Korczyk

**Gen Rowley on Day 1,
Gettysburg**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9111111111>

Sat, - Nov 1

Annual PKCWRT Field Trip

Wed, Nov 19 - 7pm

TBD

Saturday, Dec 6th, 2025

PKCWRT Holiday Party

TBD

"Fact, Fiction, and Pride: The Unusual Story of a Civil War Veteran's Memorial

-Jim Madden

Recently, our PKCWRT Vice President and Treasurer, Norm Dykstra, visited the Pompton Plains First Reformed Church Cemetery in Pompton Plains, NJ. He shared with us an image of an impressive Civil War Veterans Memorial at the grave of Cornelius Van Wagoner Chandler.

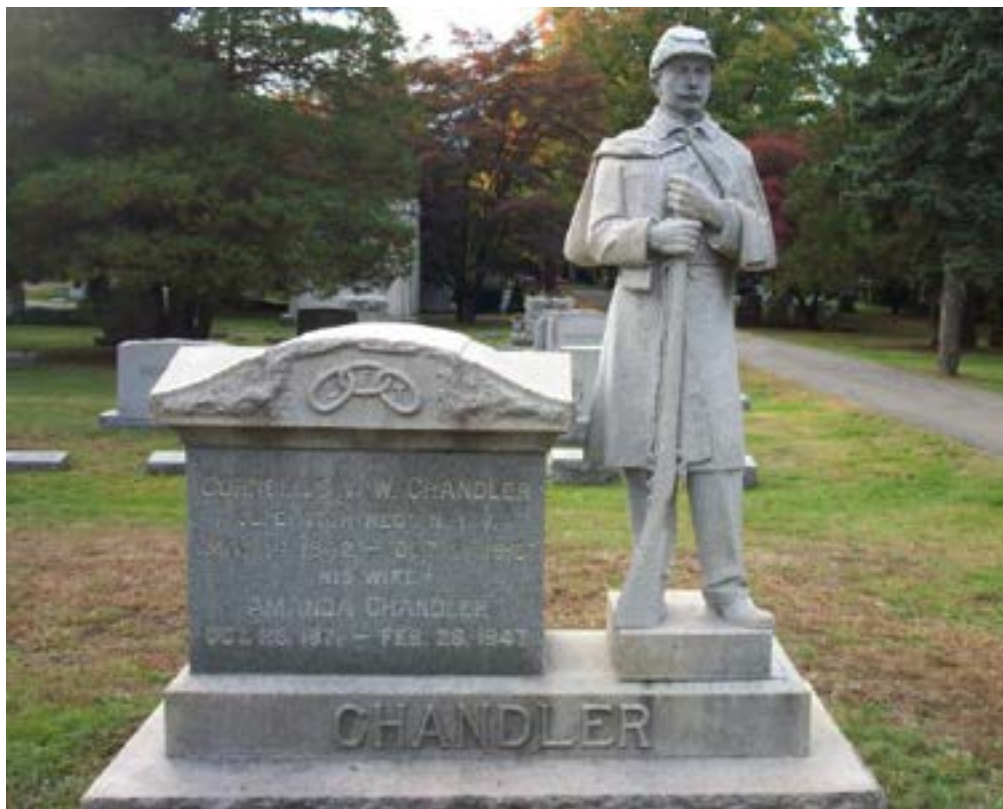


PKCWRT VP and Treasurer Norm Dykstra visits the grave of Cornelius V.W. Chandler

This memorial stands out significantly among veteran headstones. Unlike the standard government-issued markers, Chandler's gravesite features a traditional headstone alongside a full-sized stone statue of a Civil War infantry soldier wearing an overcoat and standing at parade rest. Such a striking and elaborate monument would have been very costly at the time, reflecting Chandler's pride in his military service. However, the memorial raises several intriguing questions.

The headstone provides details about Chandler, including his name, birth and death dates, military regiment, and his wife's name and corresponding dates. Notably, it also displays three chain links at the top, each containing the initials "L-F-T" for Love, Friendship, and Truth—the emblem of the fraternal Order of Odd Fellows, of which Chandler was a long-standing member.

One curious detail is the significant age gap between Chandler and his second wife, Amanda, who was



29 years younger. Amanda outlived Chandler by 31 years, collecting his military pension until her death in 1947. He married Amanda Dewordacko of Paterson in 1910, when he was 68 years old. Chandler was married previously in 1871 to Arabella Glover, but she passed in 1880. They had two sons.

Chandler's regiment is listed on the headstone as "Co. E, 47th Regiment N.Y.V." (New York Volunteers). However, further research revealed that this designation is technically incorrect. Chandler actually served in the 47th Regiment New York Militia, later renamed

the National Guard in 1862. This distinction is important, as New York State often reused regimental numbers, leading to confusion between units designated as "Volunteers" and those as "National Guard." The 47th New York National Guard, based in Brooklyn, served for just three months—from May to September 1862—guarding Baltimore's defenses at Fort McHenry as part of the 8th Corps, Middle Department. The regiment saw no combat. Despite this short and relatively uneventful service, Chandler

took great pride in his time in uniform, even successfully applying for a military pension later in life, which confirmed his limited military tenure.

After his brief military stint, Chandler pursued various occupations, including farming, shipbuilding in Jersey City, and working both as a fireman and later as a watchman for the Erie Railroad while living in the Pompton Plains area.

The impressive graveside memorial may also conceal a more complex story. In 1878, while working for the Erie Railroad in Newark, Chandler suffered a severe injury when he was struck by a train, leaving his arm badly mangled and it had to be amputated. By the early 1900s, Chandler, now living in Wanaque, NJ, applied to be the postmaster of Haskell, NJ. He claimed to be a disabled Civil War veteran who had lost his arm during the war, hoping this would bolster his case for the government position.

Cornelius V.W. Chandler's Pension Record Index. Note the crossed out mistake the clerk made confusing the 47th NYVI with the 47 NYSM - National Guard (3 Months).

While his claim of wartime injury was untrue—his arm was lost in the postwar railroad accident—Chandler nonetheless succeeded in becoming the postmaster. As Norm Dykstra humorously noted, *“It must have been difficult for Chandler to sort mail with one arm!”*

Chandler retired from the railroad and served as postmaster opening the local post office within his general store up until his death. Newspaper records of land sales suggest that Chandler had accumulated significant wealth, likely enabling him to commission the striking memorial at his grave site.

CHANDLER'S MARKET

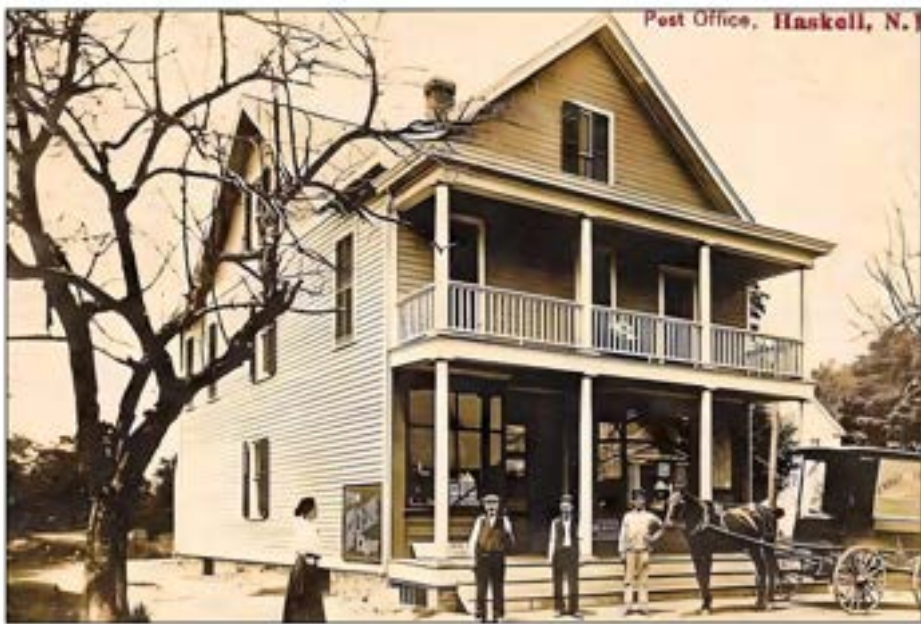


PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD TOWNSEND

This market was in Wanaque's Haskell section along Ringwood Avenue. The General Store was owned by Cornelius VW Chandler and served both as the US Post Office and general store. Looking closely, the older man in the middle of the photo appears to be missing a left arm and very likely Cornelius VW Chandler.

When Chandler passed away in 1916 at the age of 74, his obituary in *The Morning Call* (Paterson, NJ) inaccurately described him as a two-year Civil War veteran. It seems that Chandler perpetuated embellishments about his military service throughout his life, even embedding them into his legacy through his magnificent monument.

It's remarkable that such an elaborate marker was erected for a man whose military service, while valid, was brief and relatively uneventful. Chandler's story underscores how perceptions of one's life can be shaped—sometimes by a mix of fact and fiction—and continue to intrigue those who uncover them.

**A Toast to the Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table,
A journey through time, our bond unbreakable.
In 2024, we celebrate with cheer,
Thirty years strong, our history clear.**

**This poem inspired by Norm Dykstra at our Holiday
feast,
A moment to honor, and never cease.
It began in July, 1994,
With Mary Bogen-Kuczek, who opened the door.**

**At Barnes & Noble, in West Paterson's store,
The Civil War Discussion Group began to soar.
In June '96, our first trip was planned,
To Gettysburg's fields, a pilgrimage grand.**

**By November '96, we took a new stand,
Adopt-A-Battlefield, with NPS's hand.
In July '99, a new name was born,
The 41st New Jersey Volunteers were sworn.**

**On January 1, 2000, we crossed a field,
Pickett's Charge, where history was sealed.
By March '01, we moved with grace,
To Wayne Public Library, a welcoming place.**

**March 2002, a new thrill did arrive,
The Gettysburg Murder Mystery Weekend came alive.
In September 2002, we took our pride,
Named for Phil Kearny, our guide.**

**A general of valor, with courage untold,
A one-armed hero, fierce and bold.
By October '03, our mission complete,
We cleaned the battlefield, then took a guided seat.**

**Jim Hessler led our first tour that day,
With knowledge so vast, he paved the way.
In February '04, another mystery grew,
The second Gettysburg weekend, a thrill for the crew.**

**In August 2007, Mary stepped down,
Joe Truglio took the lead, wearing the crown.
Through the years, we carried on strong,
Guided by history, where we all belong.**

**By May 2019, we moved once again,
To Hasbrouck Heights, where we'd remain.
Then came 2020, with Covid's reign,
But Jim Madden led us through Zoom's domain.**

**Though the world changed, we stayed on track,
Continuing our mission, we'd never look back.
And in November '24, a milestone to see,
Our 35th trip to Gettysburg, a legacy.**

**Through the years, we've visited sites galore,
Other battlefields, and so much more.
From the start, Norm Dykstra was there,
Guiding, assisting, with wisdom to share.**

**So here's to the Round Table, our journey and might,
With Phil Kearny's spirit, we stand in the light.
We honor the past, and together we thrive,
As we keep history alive, and our memory alive.
We raise a glass to our Phil Kearny CWRT!**

-J. Madden





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 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

