

GREATER PITTSBURGH CWRT HISTORY

In the year 2000, two women had an idea that the North Hills area of Pittsburgh could sustain a viable and energetic Civil War Round Table! Those two women were Co-founders Allison Barash and Ulli Baumann. Assisting them in this new adventure were four other Civil War fans: Mike Graswick; Bill & Mary Stout, and Darlane Abel.

The first meeting of this new group was held in February of 2000. It was held in a small meeting room at Northland Library, and there were fifty people in attendance to the surprise of Allison and Ulli. Even one new member came in Civil War period dress: Susan Przybylek! The speaker that night was Frank Watters of Photo Antiquities, who displayed and talked about the many Civil War images that are available in his studio. The people at that meeting were very enthusiastic, not only about the speaker and program, but also about the brand new Civil War Round Table that was being formed.

When asked why she wanted to co-found a Civil War Round Table, Allison said: “While there were several Civil War Round Tables in the general area prior to 2000, the North Hills of Pittsburgh did not have one to call its own. There seemed to be a void begging to be filled. We soon learned that our hunch was correct when 50 people attended our first meeting at Northland Public Library. All of the founding members had and still have an abiding and unrelenting interest in all things Civil War. All of us are history buffs who just can’t get enough. And now we share our addiction with all of you; and what a wonderful ride it has been!”

Now, here we are exactly ten years later and our Round Table is at a membership of one hundred and fifty, and we are still enthusiastic and going very, very strong! So, in our ten-year history, we have heard and/or seen 107 programs; taken 19 Field Trips; conducted 6 seminars and worked on 20 Adopt-a-Position week-ends!

Since our beginning in the year 2000, Bill and Mary Stout have retired to Florida and Ulli Baumann has moved to Lancaster, PA. So, if during this “Tenth Anniversary” year, you bump into Allison or Ulli, Mike, Darlane, or the Stouts, be sure that you ‘salute’ them for all that their hard work has accomplished!