

Brooks E. Kleber
Memorial Lecture in Military History
12th Annual Lecture Series

For Brotherhood and Duty:
The Civil War History of the West Point Class of 1862

LTC (RET) Brian R. McEnany
Author

“Joined in Common Cause,” was the motto adopted by the 28 cadets remaining enrolled at the United States Military Academy at West Point the spring of 1862. Half of their brothers in arms, among the secession of their home states from the Union they swore to protect and the roiling turmoil of war, had resigned and taken their new-found military skills south. Yet these students of military science remained to march in the long gray line to serve their country in the coming years of bloodshed as the leaders down on the front, in the blood and guts of their Soldiers, commanding charges and bringing unions back to the nation.

Brian R. McEnany spent years in archives across the country writing his book, *For Brotherhood and Duty: The Civil War History of the West Point Class of 1862*. In this lecture-version of his research, he will focus on sixteen young cadets, as they struggle through their classes while watching the country fall to violent pieces around them. Following these twelve Federal and four Confederate officers onto the battlefield, he uses first person accounts, as well as numerous other primary sources, to give life to their personal alliances, demons, and struggles. Each account not only sheds light on the junior leadership during such battles as Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg, but also reflects on the senior leadership, national strategy, and the soul of the armies contesting the rights of the Federal government versus the states.

LTC (Ret.) McEnany is a 1962 graduate of the United States Military Academy and served as an artillery officer in combat in Vietnam, as well as in garrison in Korea, Germany, and in the U.S. He retired as an operations research analyst with the rank of lieutenant colonel. In his retirement, he has written several historical articles about West Point during the Civil War.

DATE: Thursday, October 29, 2015

TIME: Doors open at 6:30 PM and the talk begins at 7:15 PM. The question period concludes around 8:30 PM.

PLACE: USAHEC, Ridgway Hall, Reading Room

For updates and any last minute changes in meeting times and places, please check the USAHEC homepage: www.USAHEC.org or call the Information Desk: 717-245-3972.