

**Dominion Lecture Series on  
American History presents**



## Eye of the Storm

Cutting-edge historians present recent scholarship on the American Civil War to complement the exhibit *Eye of the Storm: Unknown Stories of the Civil War*. The lecture series is made possible through the generous support of Dominion.

Lectures begin at 8 p.m. in the History Center's Great Hall. HSWP members, \$8 per lecture; non-members, \$15 per lecture. For registration information please call 412-454-6372 or e-mail [nhorner@hswp.org](mailto:nhorner@hswp.org).

Above: from self-portrait of Robert K. Sneden, 1863

**Inside the 'Storm':  
Uncovering the Sneden Story**

Tuesday, April 15, 2003

Charles Bryan, Ph.D., President and CEO of the Virginia Historical Society

**African American Women  
in the Post-Civil War South**

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Tera Hunter, Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University

**April 1865:  
The Month That Saved America**

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Jay Winik, University of Maryland

**Deserters and War Resisters: The Other  
Side of the American Civil War**

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

William Blair, The Pennsylvania State University



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ PITTSBURGH REGIONAL

**HISTORY CENTER**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

dence from the enlisted and officers themselves, we get to know many of the soldiers as Gibbs transports us from Camp Wright in present Verona, where the regiment formed in 1861, through three years of bloody war, ending with its leaving the line at Bethesda Church, Va., in June 1864.

Some readers may be disappointed in the lack of a regimental roster in the appendix common in most regimental histories, but Gibbs refers the reader to the standard reference source utilized for most of the early Pennsylvania regimental histories: Samuel Bates' 1869-70 five volume *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers*. Gibbs more than makes up for this one omission with a detailed, first-rate regimental history.

**Arthur B. Fox, adjunct professor of U.S. history, geography, and Pittsburgh history at CCAC and Duquesne University, is the author of *Pittsburgh During the American Civil War, 1860-1865*.**

## READERSREPLY

Some of your readers may remember an article that detailed the WWII experiences of Charles R. Becker, a B-24 ball turret gunner who was shot down over Hungary. The article appeared in the Fall 1993 *Pittsburgh History* magazine.

Chuck died on October 2, 2002. A native of Pittsburgh's North Side, Chuck was born on March 25, 1924. During the war, he was assigned to the 15th Air Force, 460th Bomb Group, 760th Bomber Squadron stationed in Italy. He flew 37 missions and was shot down in June 1944. After the war, he returned home to Pittsburgh. In 1947, Chuck married Norma Rahe and they raised their family in Brentwood. Chuck is survived by his wife, their three children, and 10 grandchildren.

Although originally trained in the bakery business, Chuck worked as a plumber for most of his adult life and was employed at the old Greater Pittsburgh Airport before his retirement. Chuck was active in the VFW Post 1810.

I had the pleasure of meeting Chuck and Norma in 1988 when we worked together on an oral history project that chronicled his wartime experiences. The project eventually evolved into my 1993 article.

Chuck was a fine man, husband, father, and hero. He will be missed.

Sincerely,  
Audrey Abbott Iacone  
Manager, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh  
Beechview

The article is still well-remembered for Chuck's infamous quote: "I told them I was a baker's helper, so they decided I would make a good armorer gunner." A full transcript of the interview is available at the Historical Society's Library & Archives. —ed.