

The ANGLE

MARCH/APRIL 2013

A bimonthly publication of the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Visit us online at cwrgettysburg.org

"We are constantly thinking of the great war...which saved the Union...but it was a war that did a great deal more than that. It created in this country what had never existed before - a national consciousness. It was not the salvation of the Union, it was the rebirth of the Union."

- WOODROW WILSON

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Kendra Debany, Roger Heller,
Mike Hietikko, Hilda Koontz, Ron Rock,
and John Winkelman (past President)



Impending Actions

Information and details about upcoming Gettysburg Roundtable presentations.

MARCH 28TH

The Battle of South Mountain

John David Hoptak will be our guest speaker as well as lead the tour of the South Mountain battlefields.

The Battle of South Mountain has long remained in the shadows cast by the larger and far bloodier battle fought three days later along the banks of the Antietam Creek in western Maryland. Yet South Mountain was in itself a significant battle, for it was here that Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North was met and initially repulsed. It was also the first major battle fought north of the Potomac River, and the Union victory there did much to restore confidence in the ranks, which aided them three days later at Antietam.



JOHN DAVID HOPTAK is a lifelong student of the American Civil War who currently serves as a Park Ranger at both the Antietam National Battlefield and at Gettysburg National Military Park. He has earned both a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Kutztown University and a Master of Arts degree in history from Lehigh University. In addition to his service as an Interpretative Park Ranger, Hoptak is an Adjunct Instructor at American Military University, where he teaches courses in American history, Civil War history, and Mexican-American War history.

From September to May, we meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at the GAR Building, 53 East Middle Street. Light refreshments and conversation starting at 7:00 PM., and the featured program beginning at 7:30 PM.

Our June, July, and August summer meetings are in the field starting at 6:00 PM, with the meeting location announced in the bi-monthly newsletter and on the roundtable website: www.cwrgettysburg.org.

Whenever treacherous weather is predicted, the CWRT President and Vice President shall determine by Noon on that day whether the program should be cancelled or not. Announcements will be made on television station WGAL and FOX Sports Radio 1320.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting begins at 6:30 PM on Thursday, March 14, 2013 at the Avenue Restaurant.

APRIL 25TH

From Fredericksburg to Gettysburg: North with Lee, Hooker, and Meade

Why did Lee go North after Chancellorsville. What it for only one reason or for a multitude of reasons?

What incidents occurred as both armies marched north that would directly impact the outcome of those fateful three days in July?

Why did a large proportion of the Army of the Potomac believe that General McClellan was back in command?

How did Jefferson Davis cripple the Army of Northern Virginia as it started North?

What human anecdotes give added dimension to this great drama of American history?

In his presentation, Kim Holien will attempt to answer these questions and others so as to broaden everyone's understanding of the Gettysburg campaign and battle.

Kim Holien is a professional Army/military historian with over thirty years experience in his field. His first visit to our battlefield was in 1956 and since then he has participated in the Civil War Centennial, narrated the 125th Anniversary reenactment and been the civilian historian for a professional military Staff Ride here for the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army and the Army General Staff in the Pentagon. Kim has talked to us before regarding his book, *Battle at Balls Bluff*. For his professional work Kim has received recognition from President Ronald Reagan, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, three Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and the Royal Norwegian Embassy Defense Staff. Kim has worked on five presidential inaugurations and two state funerals. He is past president of both the Alexandria and DC Civil War Roundtables and is a founder of The Friends of Fort Ward.



GETTYSBURG CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
ANNUAL FIELD TRIP • SATURDAY, APRIL 13

The Battle of South Mountain
SEE THE ATTACHED FLYER FOR DETAILS

150 years ago – 1863

March 5

The U.S. Congress enacts a draft, affecting male citizens aged 20 to 45, but also exempts those who pay \$300 or provide a substitute. "The blood of a poor man is as precious as that of the wealthy," poor Northerners complain.

March 13

An explosion in the Confederate Ordinance Laboratory on Brown's Island in the James River near Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond kills 69 people, 62 of them women and young girls. A friction primer exploded.

March 17

William Bensinger, Robert Buffum, Elihu H. Mason, Jacob Parrott, William Pittenger and William H. Reddick are exchanged for Confederate soldiers from the prisoner-of-war camp at City Point, Virginia. Among the first Medal of Honor winners, these men were members of Andrews Raiders

March 17

Battle of Kelly's Ford

Federal cavalry under William Woods Averall crossed the ford of the Rappahannock River then ran into a Rebel line. After brief but heavy fighting, the Yankees withdrew that afternoon. Major John "The Galant" Pelham [CS] was killed in this battle. He would posthumously be promoted to Lt. Colonel.



March 28

Battle of Glorieta (Pass), New Mexico territory

April 2

A mob demands bread from a supply wagon in Richmond, starting the so-called Bread Riot. The mob looted other stores and was personally addressed by Jefferson Davis, who tossed the money from his pocket into the crowd. Police and soldiers eventually dispersed the crowd.

April 5

After sailing from Washington, D. C. to Fredericksburg, Abraham Lincoln meets with Joe Hooker to discuss strategy in Virginia.

April 7

A fleet of 9 Union ironclads under the command of Samuel Dupont sailed into Charleston Harbor and attacked Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter. Sumter is visibly damaged but the Confederate batteries from the shore heavily damage the 9 ironclads and they are forced to withdraw. Naval occupation of the harbor is ruled out.

April 12

Siege of Suffolk, VA

General James Longstreet surrounds Suffolk in southeastern Virginia.

Submitted by Joe Mieczkowski

Two years ago I wrote my first letter as your President, this is now my last. I can't thank you all enough for giving such a wonderful gift. I've enjoyed my time so very much. Of course, thanks go to all the members of the Board; they've been such a great group to work with.



Message
from the
President
by
Cindy King

As of this moment, we have a few spots left unfilled on our Board. The President's spot is still open, although we do have people considering taking over. The Vice-President's job is still open as well. Right now, Joe has just about all the dates filled in for this year, so whoever takes over has some breathing space for finding speakers.

Please think about serving our Roundtable in one of these positions; I can assure you you'll be so happy you did!

Thanks again, I'll see you all at the next meeting!

Cindy

THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

in association with the Smithsonian Institution

150th Spring Lecture Series

The National Civil War Museum announces a full complement of speakers for our 150th Spring Lecture Series beginning on April 6, 2013, and appearing every Saturday through April 2013. Each lecture is scheduled from 1pm-2pm in our Education Gallery and is included in the cost of admission and Free to members.

April 6, 2013 – *Trans-Mississippi Theater* presented by Historian Jeffrey S. Prushankin, the Visiting Professor in Civil War Era Studies at Millersville University. Dr. Prushankin is also a lecturer in American History at Penn State University's Abington College and an adjunct professor at Montgomery County Community College. His specialization is the Civil War.

April 13, 2013 – *Jeb Stuart's Ride around Gettysburg* presented by Historian Jeffrey Wert. He is a former high-school history teacher who is a renowned scholar of the Civil War and author of nine books, his most recent book is *A Glorious Army: Robert E. Lee's Triumph, 1862-1863*.

April 20, 2013 – *PA Civil War Trails-More than Gettysburg* presented by Historian Tom Huntington. Tom lives in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, and is an editor for Stackpole Magazines and the former editor of *Historic Traveler* and *American History* magazines.

April 27, 2013 – *Reynolds in 1863* presented by Michael A. Riley. Mr. Riley served as a historical consultant and actor's double for Ron Maxwell's Civil War movie epic, *Gettysburg*. He also appeared as John F. Reynolds in the award-winning *Gettysburg: Boys in Blue & Gray* by Luminence Films. Mr. Riley continues to educate Civil War organizations, historical groups, college students, and school children with his living history portrayals and by teaching history classes.

The 150th Lecture Series is sponsored by PPL and M&T Bank.

The Daniel Heck Tavern

This is an ongoing series of articles, contributed by past roundtable president, John Winkelman, on the inns, hotels, taverns, and stores that were in Gettysburg and the surrounding communities during the battle.

Today on the Baltimore Pike, not far from the entrance to the National Park Visitor Center, stands an old log and stone house. A blue Civil War Hospital sign identifies this as the Henry Spangler Farm. However, decades earlier this was the tavern of Daniel Heck.

The 1792 Tax List for Cumberland Township lists Daniel Heck renting 100 acres on this location. The house itself was old but probably not as old as the 1744 date usually attributed to it. Heck will buy the property a year later and for several years will be listed as a farmer.

In 1800 Heck will apply for and be granted a license to operate a tavern here and for the next eight years this will be Heck's Tavern.

Apparently by 1809 Heck had enough of the tavern business and will either farm the property or rent it out. John Butler may have had his tavern here in 1826.

Abraham Spangler will purchase the old tavern after Heck's death in 1827 and he will run his tavern here from 1827 to 1829 but it appears that after 1829 it was no longer being used for a tavern. Although he will own the building for many years Spangler usually rented it out to others. At the time of the battle his son Henry was living here with his wife Sarah. Henry would share the profits from the farm with his father who was operating a small farm 1 1/2 miles northwest of Gettysburg.

The old tavern being located on the Baltimore Pike, Meade's main line of communication back to the rail-head and supply base at Westminster, and right behind the 12th Corps line on Culp's Hill made it an ideal

location for a field hospital. There are several accounts by veterans that mention the tavern. In 1913 Bill Simpson, who was a drummer boy in the 28th Pennsylvania Infantry, wrote of his experiences here. He wrote: "I had a good night's fun that evening. Dr. William Altman, surgeon of the regiment, gathered the drummer boys together to establish a field hospital. We went over to the Spangler house and camped in the barn all night. The Spangler house was unoccupied".

Dr. Isaac Stearns of the 22nd Massachusetts also treated the wounded of that regiment here as well. A member of the regiment wrote: "Second Lieutenant Charles Knowles, a gallant officer, was mortally wounded and died on the field, it is supposed in Spangler's large barn on the Baltimore Pike". There were also numer-

ous burials on the property, 78 Union graves and 5 Confederate graves were found here.

After the war both Abraham and Henry filed damage claims for the losses they incurred, mostly crops, fence rails and timber but on January 27, 1882 the government agent reviewing the case stated that no part of their claim came within the

limits of the Act of July 4, 1864. Hence their claim was denied and they received nothing.

Today the old building still stands on the Pike and visitors can see by the sign that it was used as a hospital during the battle but very few realize this was once a tavern serving earlier visitors to Gettysburg. ✦



BOOK Chat

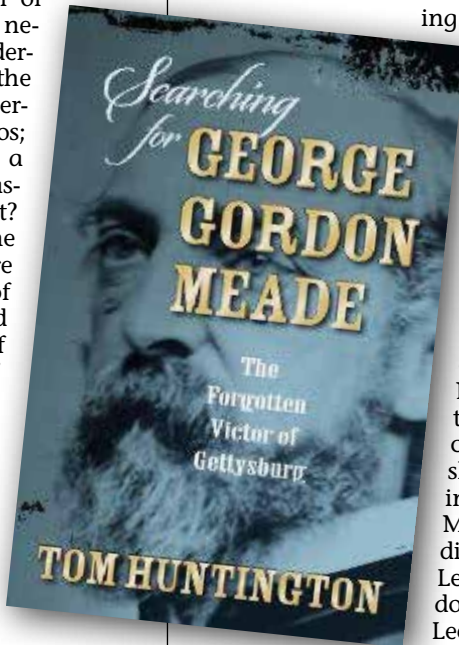
Searching for George Gordon Meade: The Forgotten Victor of Gettysburg

By Tom Huntington

Reviewed by Pat Fairbairn

Civil War buffs know that Robert E. Lee has received more “credit”, and certainly more notoriety, for **losing** the battle of Gettysburg than George G. Meade ever got for **winning** it. Lee has become the icon, the lionized General and worshipped warrior while Meade has almost been relegated to the dustbin of history, forgotten, neglected, and underappreciated. Lee, the subject of numerous books and bios; Meade, almost a historical battle asterisk. Why is that? Did Lee benefit the most from a more active group of biographers and from the myth of the “Lost Cause” that emerged in the decades following the end of the Civil War? Tom Huntington thinks he has some answers for us. He is the author of a new book *Searching for George Gordon Meade: The Forgotten Victor of Gettysburg*.

A former editor of the now defunct *Historic Traveler* magazine, Mr. Huntington’s specialty is to fashion stories that merge the past with journeys of discovery in the present. That can be seen in his first two books, *Ben Franklin’s Philadelphia* and *Pennsylvania Civil War Trails*. His new book on General Meade continues that tradition. Huntington visited battlefields and



museums, and talked with academics, professional historians, curators, park rangers, and Civil War enthusiasts, reenactors, and the most notable of all Meade Living Historians, Dr. Andy Waskie, of Temple University, as he examined the life and reputation of the general whose capable leadership prevailed at the battle of Gettysburg. While researching the book, author Huntington visited Sickle’s severed leg; Jackson’s buried arm; and Meade’s horse’s head. He hiked across Civil War battlefields, recited the names of fallen soldiers at the candle illumination ceremony at Gettysburg, and drank a champagne toast at Laurel Hill cemetery in Philadelphia on New Year’s Eve, celebrating the anniversary of Meade’s birthday. It was all part of his quest to learn more about the man who commanded the victorious Union army at the Civil War’s Battle of Gettysburg, yet has been put in the shadow of the foe he so soundly trounced at Gettysburg, the ever since glorified General Robert E. Lee.

As Roundtable regulars know only too well, Meade, placed in command of the Army of the Potomac only three days before the battle, led the Army of the Potomac to a decisive victory, ending the myth of

invincibility of Lee, whose army never fully recovered from that whipping. General Meade, whose prickly personality gave rise to his nickname, the “Old Snapping Turtle”, was retained by Grant as the commander of the Army of the Potomac to the end of the war. Nevertheless, for its’ duration, his reputation suffered in a flap with newspaper correspondents and Sickle’s gamesmanship in recounting the Gettysburg battle in his favor to anyone who would listen. Meanwhile, Grant’s star ascended as he dictated overall strategy and maneuvered Lee into a siege situation at Petersburg that doomed him. Post war, as the reputation of Lee’s military “genius” expanded and became a central tenet of the “Lost Cause” and

the public’s memory of the conflict, Meade’s sank into oblivion. Meade, in a letter to his wife, groused, “I suppose after awhile it will be discovered I was not at Gettysburg at all.”

Searching for George Gordon Meade is not your typical Civil War biography. While Huntington does tell the story of Meade’s life, he also provides first-person accounts of his visits to the battlefields where Meade fought and to the museums that specialize in the Civil War. He includes his conversations with the aforementioned experts and enthusiasts, and the result is a compulsively readable book of history, biography, travel and journalism.

Published by Stackpole Books, February 1st, 2013, hardcover, 416 pages, \$32.95, discounted to \$20.21 at amazon.com. 📖📖

Terrible Swift Sword: The Life of General Philip H. Sheridan

By Joseph Wheelan

Reviewed by Pat Fairbairn

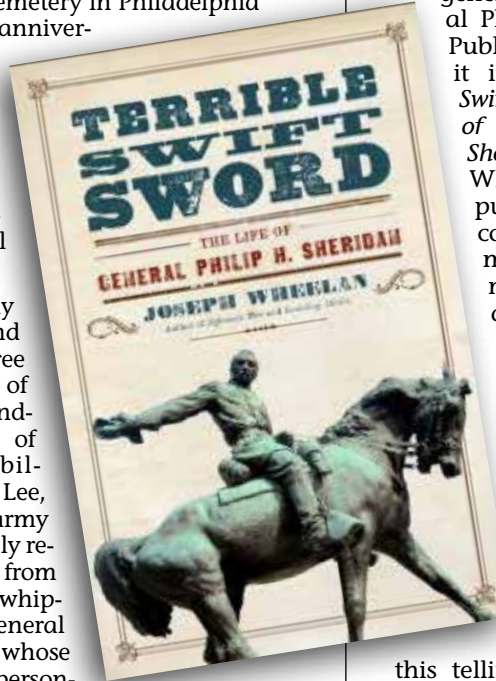
A relatively new biography has also been written about another significant Union general, Major General Philip H. Sheridan. Published last August, it is entitled *Terrible Swift Sword: The Life of General Philip H. Sheridan* by Joseph Wheelan. Sheridan’s pugnacity & bold, courageous command style was notorious in the army and made a very favorable impression on General Grant. (General Meade, as we know, had a somewhat different perspective on “Little Phil”!)

Sheridan’s feistiness is captured in

this telling vignette related by Colonel Horace Porter in his memoir, *Campaigning With Grant*. After the battle of Five Forks, when being gently chastised by Porter for recklessly exposing himself to enemy fire in the fight, Sheridan replied, “I have never in my life taken a command into battle, and had the slightest desire to come out alive unless I won”.

Perhaps Sheridan has the biography from author Wheelan that he so richly deserves. The book has been favorably reviewed and the *The Wall Street Journal* observed: “Joseph Wheelan has delivered an exciting and crisply written biography that, especially in his accounts of battles, fairly gallops across the page in the company of a personality who seemed to his own contemporaries like a god of war incarnated in the body of a pint-size Irish immigrant.”

Published by De Capo Press, August 7, 2012, hardback, 432 pages, \$26.00, discounted to \$15.29 at amazon.com. 📖📖



Got e-mail?

Want to receive your newsletter ahead of traditional mail delivery, and enjoy it in full color? Then join the growing list of members who already receive their newsletter via e-mail. Simply send your e-mail address to Roundtable Treasurer JoyceAnn Deal: jdeal@gettysburg.k12.pa.us, and the next issue will be sent right to your computer on or around May 1, 2013.



MARCH APRIL

Stuff to do in the area

March 1-3. American History Honors Weekend. A Weekend in Gettysburg Honoring those who honor and teach America's history through First Person Impressions, Living Histories and Battle Reenactments. For more information go to homefrontgeneralstore.com/index.php.

March 2 & 3, 9 & 10. Gettysburg National Military Park Winter Lecture Series. Join a Park Ranger for a free Indoor Lecture on various topics related to *The Civil War in 1863*. In the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. For more information call 717-334-1124 ext. 8023 or go to: nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/upload/WinterLectures-2013.pdf.

March 9. Conference. *Lee, Gettysburg, and the Shenandoah Valley in 1863*, sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester. \$20. For more information go to shenandoahatwar.org.

March 12 Clinton High School Band. **FREE** Performance at the plaza at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. Rain location is inside the museum.

March 14-16 Gettysburg Sesquicentennial Seminar. *The Future of Civil War History: Looking Beyond the 150th*. Sponsored by Gettysburg National Military Park and the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College. Contributing partners include the Gettysburg Foundation and the Society for Civil War Historians. Registration is required. Fee. To register or learn more go to: gettysburg.edu/cwi.

March 16. Bus tour. *John Pelham/Kelly's Ford* sponsored by the Brandy Station Foundation. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Details, registration go to brandystationfoundation.com.

March 23. Seminar. Hagerstown Community College Civil War. For more information go to hagerstowncc.edu.

March 23. Conference. *Maryland and the Civil War: A Regional Perspective*, annual event at Carroll Community College in Westminster. 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$35. For more information call 410-386-8100.

April 2, 7:00 PM. Adams County Historical Association. *James Rouzer – Soldier, Lawman* will be the topic of our April 2 2013, meeting. James Rouzer was a member of Company K, 1st PA Reserves, during the Civil War. After the war he was a policeman in Gettysburg. Roger Heller, a native of Adams County, will be our presenter. Roger spent his working life as a schoolteacher in Chester County. After retiring

from teaching, Roger and his wife moved back to Gettysburg. Roger and Lynn are active in the local Civil War community as members of the ACHS and the Gettysburg CWRT.

The program will be held at the Valentine Hall auditorium on the Lutheran Theological Seminary campus. Sponsored by ACNB Bank. Free and open to the public. For more information go to achs-pa.org/events/detail.htm?id=152.

April 5-7. Conference. *Civil War Surgeons*, at the Wyndam Hotel in Gettysburg. Details, registration: civilwarsurgeons.org.

April 6. Bell and History Days in downtown Frederick. Includes living history and special exhibit at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free. For more information civilwarned.org.

April 12-14. The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides, Inc. proudly announces the 2013 edition of its popular spring seminar series. Our spring program will focus on the famous – if misnamed – *Pickett's Charge*. For more information gettysburgtourguides.org/index.html.

April 19 – 21. Gettysburg Foundation Spring Muster. For more information go to friendsofgettysburg.org/EventsCalendar/SpringMusterApril2013.aspx.

April 21, 2013. Gettysburg Preservation Walk. 150 years ago, the small town of Gettysburg was thrown into the middle of the American Civil War. From the moment the Battle of Gettysburg was fought, veterans returned to this hallowed ground to honor the fallen and reconcile with their brothers in arms. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, the Gettysburg Preservation Walk will focus on the Reunions and Commemorations that have taken place over the years, walking in the same footsteps as the soldiers.

The Gettysburg Preservation Walk is an approximate 45 minute walk on the battlefield led by Licensed Battlefield Guides. Join other Friends of Gettysburg members in helping to Preserve Gettysburg as they explore where the men gathered to commemorate the anniversary of the battle.

Your donation to participate in this walk will be used to further our mission of preservation. You must register for the Gettysburg Preservation Walk at the Museum and Visitor Center, 1195 Baltimore Pike between 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. on April 21, 2013 to participate and further information and directions will be given at that time. For more information friendsofgettysburg.org/EventsCalendar/GettysburgPreservationWalk.aspx.

April 20. Reenactment. *Mine Run Campaign, 1863*, at Neshaminy State Park in Bensalem. Camps and living history demonstrations with battles each day. For more information neshaminycwevent.org.

April 20. Conference. *The American Civil War at Home* in Williamsburg. The annual Virginia 150th anniversary Signature Conference. Panels: Emancipation and Its Limits and Internal Dissent in the Confederacy and Union. Free. Registration required. For more information virginiacivilwar.org/2013conference.php.

April 20. Lecture. *Stoneman's Raid, May 1863: The Other Major Event of the Civil War in Louisa County*, 212 Fredericksburg Ave, Louisa. 10 am. Free (donation welcome). For more information call 540-967-2200.

2013 Spring Muster scheduled for April at Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg

For more than two decades, the Gettysburg Foundation's Muster weekends have hosted thousands of members for our semi-annual events. This year, we hope you will join us for a weekend of battlefield tours and camaraderie with fellow Friends. The 2013 Spring Muster will be held at the Wyndham Hotel Gettysburg on April 19, 20, and 21st.

The Muster will begin Friday evening with a musical performance from Civil War musician

Charlie Zahm.

Whether you are a Civil War enthusiast or new to the Gettysburg scene, there is something for everyone at this year's Spring Muster. On Saturday, we have a variety of programs and battlefield tours to choose from, an optional buffet lunch, and an evening banquet with a silent auction. For a full listing of programs, please visit friendsofgettysburg.org/Portals/0/Website%20Spring%20Muster%20Info.pdf.

The annual Gettysburg Preservation Walk will take place on Sunday for the 150th Commemoration Reunion Walk: Walking in the Footsteps of Leaders. There will be three tours available, departing from the Museum and Visitors Center lobby at 9:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m., and 11 a.m.

If you are a First Corps member, a buffet breakfast is available on Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. at the Wyndham Hotel Gettysburg. Dr. Carol Reardon, Ph.D

will be the special guest speaker.

Invite your neighbors, family, and friends to join you for this exciting weekend on the Gettysburg Battlefield!

To register for the 2013 Spring Muster, please visit friendsofgettysburg.org/EventsCalendar/SpringMusterApril2013.aspx or call, Ann Swade, Events Logistics Coordinator, directly at 717-339-2148. ☎

TENTH ANNUAL
Civil War Preservation Ball

Saturday, March 23 • 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Rotunda of the Pennsylvania Capitol Building • Harrisburg, PA • \$65.00/Couple • \$35 Single

This event has always been a sell-out and we have had to turn folks away in the past. We expect quick sales since this is the tenth anniversary and the kick-off event of Pennsylvania's Gettysburg Campaign 150th Commemoration.

Remember – unlike most balls – all of the profit from this ball goes to Gettysburg monument preservation. In the last nine years, we have raised over \$58,000 for this worthy cause! We hope you will be able to join us for this worthwhile preservation event that has been described as the best Civil War ball in the most spectacular setting.

The Philadelphia Brigade Band will again provide the dance music and the Victorian Dance Ensemble will demonstrate and teach each dance.

In honor of the tenth anniversary of this ball, we are planning several special treats, including a tour of the Capitol Building at 6:00PM.

We are also soliciting donations for the Monument Endowment Fund. Individuals, organizations (Reenactment Units, CWRTs, SUVs, SCVs, etc.) and businesses are encouraged to support the cause by becoming supporter, patron or advertiser in the ball program.

For information, email: PreservationBall@CivilWarDance.org; website: CivilWarDance.org.



The Asheville Oral History Project blog worth checking out

Friends at the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg:

Below is a screen shot of the Asheville Oral History blog

I would like to present to you The Asheville Oral History Project's latest story!

I have recently posted the first in what will be a series of portraits based on the Civil War correspondence of John H. Mathews. His letters offer a unique view of that historic conflict—from the beginning when he fought at the Battle of Vicksburg to his stint at the end of the war in as a Provost Guard at the notorious Point Lookout Prison. He observed the carnage around him with a keen understanding of the absurdity of war and an eye for the historic moment.

His great-grand niece Robin Gilbert, who has possession of his letters, finally decided it was time to tell his amazing story...but in his own words. She assures me that the letters you read here have never been made public before now — over 150 years after his remarkable journey began.

Please enjoy the posting entitled *The Siege of Vicksburg, the Guns of Memphis, and the Healing Power of Sassafras Tea* and feel free to pass it on to anyone who might be interested. Any comments are surely welcome.

You can find John H. Mathews' story on my history blog at: <http://ashevilleoralhistoryproject.wordpress.com/>

Thank you, Cliff Davids

Inside Elada Orphanage"—And Other Stories | Asheville...

The Siege of Vicksburg, the Guns of Memphis, and the Healing Power of Sassafras Tea"—as told in the Civil War letters of John Mathews

on January 21, 2013

 (AOHP Note) The Union triumph at The Siege of Vicksburg in 1863 is widely considered to be one of the significant turning points in the Civil War. The capture of that strategic town, located on a bluff high above the Mississippi River, crippled the Confederacy and opened up the river as a continuous and uninterrupted supply route for the North. President Abraham Lincoln himself stated, "Vicksburg is the key—the war can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket."

Starting in December of 1862, Major General Ulysses S. Grant engaged in several unsuccessful military operations in an attempt to capture that heavily protected city known as "The Gibraltar of the Confederacy." Finally, after isolating the Confederate Army inside Vicksburg with a force of 75,000 Union soldiers, and with Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman and his

[Continue reading —>](#)

in Civil War Letters | 6 Comments

Elada Orphanage"—And Other Stories

Blog at WordPress.com. Theme: Two. Follow

12:10 AM

Starving Women In Richmond

submitted by Joe Mieczkowski

The Richmond Bread Riot, which took place in the Confederate capital of Richmond on April 2, 1863, was the largest and most destructive in a series of civil disturbances throughout the South during the third spring of the American Civil War (1861–1865).

By the spring of 1863 the war was having a devastating effect on the Confederate economy. Along with shortages of food and basic supplies, inflation was driving prices of available goods beyond the means of ordinary citizens. In the two years since the war had begun, prices had increased sevenfold, and the poor in the cities were unable to afford the necessities of life.

Richmond, VA, was especially hard hit by the war. Many of the food-producing areas of the surrounding countryside had been devastated by battles and plundering soldiers, and Northern and Southern armies had stripped the farms to feed their troops. The population of Richmond had more than doubled since becoming the Confederate capital, straining the available supplies even more.

On April 2, several hungry women assembled at a church in Richmond and marched to Capitol Square, where they angrily confronted Gov. John



Letcher and demanded relief from the high price of food. When he offered no solution to their plight, the group of wom-

en turned into an angry mob. Shouting "Bread! Bread!" they began smashing windows in the shopping district and loot-

ing the stores. Several eyewitnesses reported seeing a gaunt woman raise a skeleton of an arm and scream, "We celebrate our right to live! We are starving!" Others heard a chant of "Bread or blood!" The mob then began attacking government warehouses, grocery stores, and various mercantile establishments, seizing food, clothing, and wagons, as well as jewelry and other luxury goods. Some merchants resisted the rioters while others watched helplessly as the looters seized bacon, ham, flour, and shoes.

Their number increased to over a thousand as more and more destitute women and a few men converged on the scene and indiscriminately helped themselves to whatever could be found in the shops and warehouses.

President Jefferson Davis appeared on the scene. Standing in a wagon, he flung money from his pockets to the crowd, saying, "You say you are hungry and have no money – here is all I have." Next he held up a watch from his pocket and told the rioters if they did not disperse within five minutes, he would order the militia to fire upon the crowd. With muskets leveled at them, the rioters scattered, melting back into the side streets and neighborhoods from which they had come. The bread riot in Richmond was

150th Commemoration of the Presentation of the Medal of Honor

The National Civil War Museum welcomes Dr. Richard Banz on Saturday, March 24th, 2 - 3p.m. – Dr. Banz will lecture about the Medal of Honor, first

presented on March 25, 1863 to six of the surviving members of Andrew's Raiders – the soldiers of The Great Locomotive Race. The Museum has one of the original Medals of Honor in our collection and it will be on exhibit along with five other medals from six different US servicemen, representing three US Wars. This rare exhibit will be on display during this event only. The lecture will take place in our Education Gallery, main floor.

Dr. Richard Banz has spent twenty-three years of his professional career in the education and museum

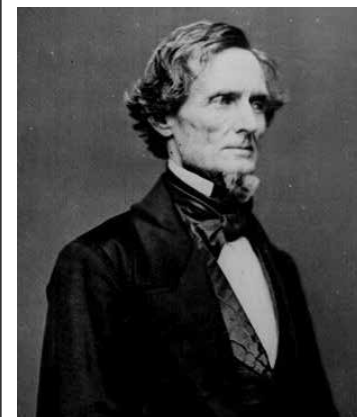
THE NATIONAL
CIVIL WAR
 M U S E U M

in association with the Smithsonian Institution

ous employers include York College of Pennsylvania, York County Heritage Trust Museums and the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Dr. Banz has also served as the president of the Association of Pennsylvania County Historical Societies. Published in transportation history and adult learning, he has a doctorate degree in adult education from Pennsylvania State University and a master's degree in history from the University of Maryland.

His interests include visiting Civil War sites and model railroading. Richard and his wife Debra reside in Acworth.

fields. Currently he serves as the executive director of the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw, Georgia. Previ-



not an isolated affair. People in the Confederate capital would read about similar revolts in Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, and Macon, Georgia; in Salisbury and High Point, North Carolina; and in Mobile, Alabama.

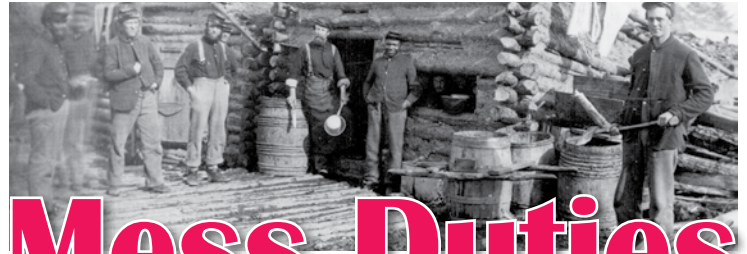
Notable Quotables

from Pat Fairbairn

"Come on, boys. Turn back, face the other way. Give 'em hell, God damn 'em. We'll make coffee at Cedar Creek tonight. I am going to sleep in that camp tonight or in hell".

Phil Sheridan

October 1864, confronting and rallying his retreating troops at Cedar Creek, October 1864.



Mess Duties

March 28	Mary Ellen & Pat Fairbairn
April 25	Covered
May 23	Beth Hoffman

Show & Tell

For our monthly meetings we are looking to continue our "Show & Tell" session of about 5-10 minutes where you can show our members your items, tell how you acquired them and what they mean to you.

We'd like to see and hear about them so if you are interested please contact John Winkelman on 717-337-0979 or email gburg1863@comcast.net.

The Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable was well represented at the Civil War Education Association Conference in Sarasota FL (picture taken 1/24/13)

Below, left to right are: Roger Heller, John Zervas, Chris Mieczkowski, Lynn Light Heller, Joe Mieczkowski



On the day before the first shot was fired at Fort Sumter, crowds gathered in the streets of Philadelphia. Civilians listened to Mayor Henry promise, "By the grace of Almighty God, treason shall never rear its head or have a boothold here." Once the oratory was concluded, a mob marched to the post office and angrily reprimanded the postmaster who that morning had forgotten to run up the U.S. flag.