

"Gen. Sheridan says 'Of the thing is pressed I think that Lee will surrender.' Let the thing be pressed."

— ABRAHAM LINCOLN
TELEGRAM TO
GENERAL GRANT,
APRIL 7, 1865

The ANGLE

MARCH/APRIL 2015

A bimonthly publication of the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
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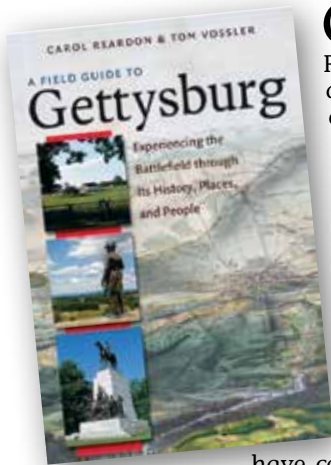
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and Cindy King (past President)

ImpendingActions

Information and details about upcoming
Gettysburg Roundtable presentations.

MARCH 26TH

A Field Guide to Gettysburg



Our speakers in March are winners of the 2014 Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable Book Award. Dr. Reardon and Col. Vossler's collaboration resulted in a guide book to the battlefield that not only breaks the battle into 35 "stops" and describes the combat that took place in each of those locations, but it explains who the commanders were in each part of the field and identifies some of the men who fell in each of the places. What is more, the book introduces the reader to the people who owned and lived on the land affected by the battle. By including the stories of Gettysburg residents, this guide book transcends all those that

have come before it. This book will stand for years as the premier guide book for the Battle of Gettysburg.

Published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2013 for the Sesquicentennial of the Battle of Gettysburg, the *Field Guide to Gettysburg* is a valuable resource for those who wish to study the battlefield in detail whether they have visited the field many times or are first time visitors. It is produced in paperback and as a result is easy to carry by those who wish to use it.

Dr. Carol Reardon is the George Winfree Professor of American History and Scholar-in-Residence of the George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center at Penn State University. She has also served as a visiting professor of military history at the US Military Academy at West Point and at the US Army War College. Carol has been a great friend and frequent speaker to our Roundtable by conducting summer programs on the field for us.



Col. Tom Vossler served 30 years in the US Army. He commanded soldiers during the Vietnam War and in Germany prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Tom's post-military career includes teaching, conducting battlefield tours as a Licensed Battlefield Guide, providing expert advice for TV shows and movies, and owning and operating a cattle farm west of the battlefield.



APRIL 23RD

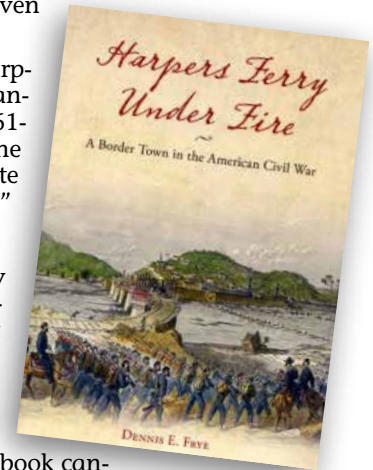
Harpers Ferry Under Fire

Harpers Ferry experienced the Civil War like no other place. Antietam was one day; Gettysburg three. Harpers Ferry was 1,400 consecutive days of civil war. Trapped on the border between North and South, the once-booming industrial town was decimated as the two armies contested for Harpers Ferry's strategic location. The famous railroad bridge crossing the Potomac epitomizes the desperate situation – destroyed nine times in four years. And, Harpers Ferry is a case study of repeated invasions, military occupations, martial law, even executions.

Quaint and beautiful today, Harpers Ferry was one of the most dangerous places in America from 1861-1865. As one observer noted: "The work of destruction was as complete as human malignity could make it."

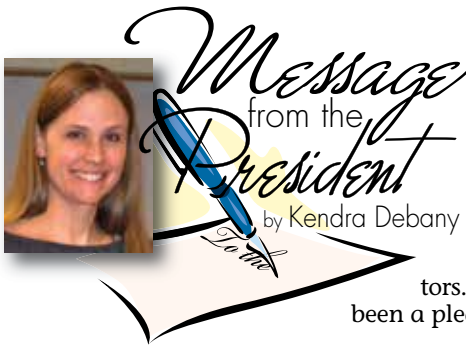
About the Book

Harpers Ferry Under Fire is richly illustrated with over 200 illustrations and maps, and it is the most complete narrative of Harpers Ferry during the Civil War. Price is \$22.00. Proceeds benefit the non-profit organization that benefits Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The book cannot be purchased from Amazon or any other on-line dealer.



Dennis E. Frye is the Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Writer, lecturer, guide, and preservationist, Dennis is a prominent Civil War historian. Dennis has numerous appearances on PBS, The History Channel, The Discovery Channel, and A&E as a guest historian, and he helped produce Emmy award-winning television features on the Battle of Antietam, abolitionist John Brown, and Maryland during the Civil War. Dennis is one of the nation's leading Civil War battlefield preservationists. He is co-founder and first president of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and he is co-founder and a former president of today's Civil War Trust, from whom he received the Trust's highest honor – the Shelby Foote Award. Dennis is a tour guide in demand, leading tours for organizations such as the Smithsonian, National Geographic, numerous colleges and universities, and Civil War Roundtables. Dennis also is a well-known author, with 92 articles and eight books.

Dennis resides near the Antietam Battlefield in Maryland, and he and his wife Sylvia have restored the home that was used by General Burnside as his post-Antietam headquarters.



TWO YEARS...

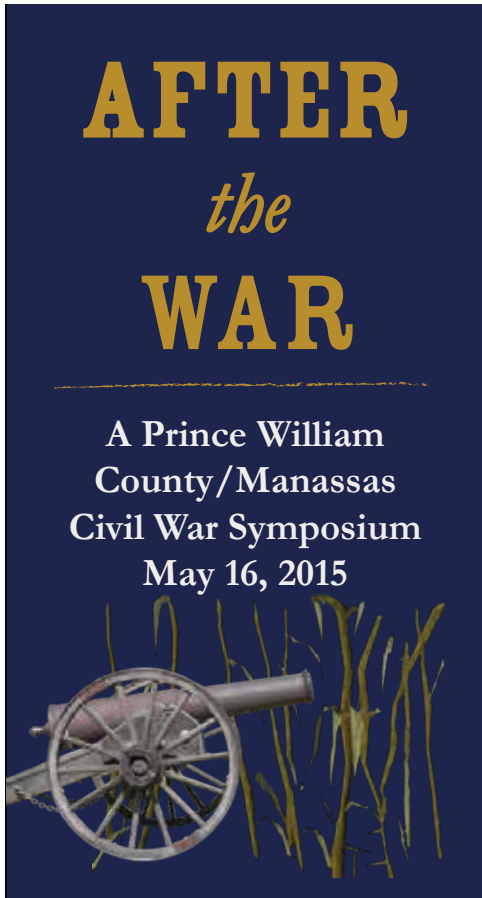
...it sounds like such a long time, but in the blink of an eye it passes. At the end of April, my two years as President of the Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable are already over. It's hard to believe two years have gone by so quickly!

I have enjoyed this opportunity so much! It has been such a fun time for me and I will be sad to see it come to an end. BUT, on the other hand, I will also be happy to still be sitting on the Board of Directors for another two years and to still be seeing all of you at the monthly meetings.

I would like to say a big "thank you" to the members of the Roundtable's Board of Directors. You have made my job so enjoyable these past two years! You guys are a great group and it's been a pleasure working with all of you! Thank you!

See you at the next meeting!

Kendra



SAVE THE DATE

May 16, 2015

After the War: A One-Day Symposium on the Effects of the Civil War, is a regional capstone event for the Virginia Civil War 150th Commemoration at the historic Old Manassas Courthouse.

Speakers include:

Bert Dunkerly on *The Surrender*

George Wunderlich on *Soldiers' Post-war Effects*

Emmanuel Dabney on *The Freedman's Bureau*

Dr. Jane Censer on *Women in Reconstruction*

John Coski on *The Confederate Battle Flag*
and John Hennessy on *Civil War Memory*

\$10 registration fee

Call 703-792-4754 or email historicpreservation@pwcgov.org



Centennial of Guiding: 100 Years of Excellence

By Joe Mieczkowski, current LBG President, past Gettysburg Roundtable President

The oldest professional guide service in the United States, the Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guides (LBG) have been providing quality tours to visitors since 1915. The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides (ALBG) is spearheading the effort to mark the 100th anniversary of licensed guiding at Gettysburg National Military Park. The ALBG is working with the National Park Service (NPS), the Gettysburg Foundation, and many community partners to make this a memorable occasion.

The events committee is planning some exciting seminars this Spring and Fall, and the popular summer evening battlewalk program will be repeated again this year.

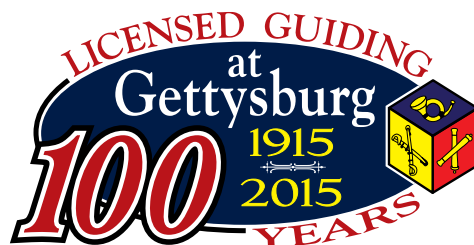
You should start seeing our centennial logo, pictured here, everywhere, and premium items will be offered for sale featuring the logo, as the year moves forward.

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides is working to keep important issues in front of decision makers in the NPS and the Gettysburg Foundation. We've made it clear that brush clearing is important to improve sight lines. Thanks to the initiative of several battlefield guides, meetings will soon be held to improve the LBG testing process.

The 150th anniversary of the battle in 2013, was a banner year in Gettysburg and 2014 was an equally great year with guides and associate members working closely together to improve the visitor experience.

If you are not a member of the ALBG, we welcome your participation as members.

Memberships are available to all licensed guides and associate memberships are available to everyone. For more information or to become an ALBG member, contact Phil Lechak lb14ct@hotmail.com.



Gettysburg loses a battlefield friend: Harry Willcox Pfanz

Harry Willcox Pfanz, 93, Civil War author, former chief historian of the National Park Service, and honorary Licensed Battlefield Guide died of natural causes at his home in Gaithersburg, MD on Jan. 27. Dr. Pfanz grew up on a farm near Columbus, Ohio.

During World War II, he served as a lieutenant in the 912th Field Artillery Battalion and was seriously wounded at the Battle of the Bulge. He later earned a Ph.D. from Ohio State University before moving to Washington, D.C., where he worked as an historian for the Department of the Army. Dr. Pfanz accepted a position at Gettysburg National Military Park in 1956. Over the next 10 years he rose to become the park's chief historian and earned a reputation as the battle's foremost authority. His three books about Gettysburg, written after his retirement in 1981, are still considered by many to be the most definitive books on the subject.



In 1966, Dr. Pfanz accepted a position at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, and was its superintendent when the structure was opened to the public in 1968. In 1971, he left St. Louis and returned to Washington, becoming the National Park Service's chief historian in 1974. As a result of his accomplishments in Washington, he received the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award, Special Achievement Award, and its Distinguished Service Award. A devout Christian, Pfanz held many positions while a member of Christ Lutheran Church. He also served as vice-president of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honorary fraternity; president of the Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable; and resident of the Gettysburg-Adams County Torch Club.

Dr. Pfanz was preceded in death by his wife, Letitia Earl, and his eldest daughter, Letitia Elizabeth Pfanz. Three children survive him: Frederick, of Columbus, Ohio; Donald of Fredericksburg, Virginia; and Marion Ake of Woodsboro, Maryland. He has five grandchildren. ☩

The last Rebel general to surrender was...

In the contest for the honor of being the last to surrender, Confederate Gen. Edmund Kirby-Smith disputed any claims made by others who fought in gray. His Trans-Mississippi Department had been cut off from Richmond by the 1863 fall of Vicksburg, hence the area had become known as "Kirby-Smithdom."

Kirby-Smith led his forces to Galveston late in May and reached a tentative surrender agreement with Federal leaders. On June 2, 1865, formal surrender ceremonies took place, after which he claimed to be the last Confederate general officer to surrender and then left the country for Mexico.

Stand Watie, however, seems to have the stronger claim to be the last Confederate general to surrender. Watie fought at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, as a Confederate colonel of the Cherokee Mounted Rifles and took part in numerous engagements late in the war. On May 8, 1864, he became the only Native American to receive a commission as a Confederate brigadier.

Soon after learning that Lee had surrendered, Watie took to the hills. More than thirteen months after his elevation in rank, on June 23, 1865, Watie surrendered to Federal authorities. ☩

MARCH APRIL Stuff to do in the area

EVENTS

To March 15, Schwenksville, PA . Exhibit. *The Making of a Hero: The Life of Major General Galusha Pennypacker* at Pennypacker Mills in Schwenksville, home of war veteran and Pennsylvania Governor Samuel Pennypacker. Accoutrements, photos, documents, retirement items. Free. Tuesday-Saturday 10-4; Sunday 1-4 except major holidays. For information 610-287-9349 or www.montcopa.org/pennypackermills.

March 23-May 25, Washington, D.C., Exhibit. *Silent Witnesses: Artifacts of the Lincoln Assassination* at Ford's Theater Center for Education and Leadership. Theater and Lincoln items including top hat, cuff buttons, pocket contents, Booth's derringer, bunting flag, playbill. Limited admission by ticket. For information, www.fords.org/event/silent-witnesses.

Through April, Baltimore, MD, Maryland During War. *Divided Voices, Maryland in the Civil War*, sesquicentennial exhibit at Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore. Annual change of artifacts and programs. Time tunnel, performances, music. For information, 410-685-3750; www.mdhs.org.

Through April, Philadelphia, PA. *A House Divided: The Citizens the Celebrated, and the Seditious of Civil War Philadelphia*, sesquicentennial exhibit, Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia. Burial place of men who fought on both sides, nurses, surgeons, and wain exhibit about eleven military and civilian figures with rotating exhibits about others. For information, 215-228-8200; [www.tours@thelaurelhillcemetery.org](mailto:tours@thelaurelhillcemetery.org).

Through May, Washington, D.C., Exhibit. *Mathew Brady's Photographs of Union Generals* at the National Portrait Gallery. Modern prints made from Brady's studio portrait glass plate negatives in the gallery's Frederick Hill Meserve Collection. Free admission, open daily except Christmas 11:30 AM-7:00 PM. For information 202-633-8300; www.npg.si.edu.

Through May, Washington, D.C., Exhibit. *One Life: Grant and Lee, 1864-1865* at the National Portrait Gallery. Consideration of two lives that were intertwined during the war. For information 202-633-8300; www.npg.si.edu.

Through May, Harrisburg, PA, Prisons. *In the Hands of the Enemy: The Captivity, Exchange, and Parole of Prisoners of War* exhibit at the National Civil War Museum. Artifacts and information about camps and prisoner life. For information www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

Through Sept. 13, Washington, D.C. *President Lincoln Is Dead: The New York Herald Reports the Assassination* at the Newseum. First time since 1865 all seven Herald special editions from April 15, 1865 are shown. For information, www.newseum.org.

Through 2015, Baltimore, MD, Exhibit. *The War Came by Train*, sesquicentennial exhibition that will change annually at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum. National Landmark Roundhouse exhibit of world's largest assemblage of Civil War railroad equipment, military, and personal artifacts. Narrated round trip train ride to original site of Camp Carroll, the city's largest Union encampment. For information 410-752-2490; www.borail.org.

Through 2015, Gettysburg, Exhibit. *Treasures of the Civil War: Legendary Leaders Who Shaped a War* at Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. Rare artifacts related to Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, George G. Meade, Frederick Douglass, Clara Barton and others. Sponsored

see **Stuff To Do** continued on page 4

150 years ago - 1865

Submitted by Roger Heller

In late March, Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia made a bold attempt to break out of the trenches around Petersburg, VA. Using almost half of his dwindling army, Lee attempted a breakout by attacking the Army Of the Potomac at Fort Stedman and it's surrounding batteries. After taking the fort, the attackers came under an intense counter attack by Union forces and were forced to abandon their gains. The Battle for Fort Stedman is noted as the final battle in the siege of Petersburg.

On April 2 & 3, 1865 Lee and his army evacuated the trenches of Petersburg and Richmond was abandoned by the Confederate government. Thus began the final military campaign of the Civil War in the East - the Appomattox Campaign. This campaign is marked by many skirmishes and a relentless pursuit of Lee's army by the Army of the Potomac and its cavalry. Lee was hoping to march west, resupply his army and unite with the forces of Joseph Johnston who was in North Carolina.

These hopes were dashed by the pursuing Federals. On April 6, the largest battle of this campaign was fought at Sailor's Creek.



The defeat at Sailor's Creek convinced Lee to surrender his army and end the struggle. On April 9, 1865 the war was over in the East.

During these final days of the Civil War President Lincoln took the opportunity to visit the former Confederate

capital of Richmond, VA. This visit, on April 4th, included a visit to the wartime home and offices of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

Meanwhile, Joseph Johnston's Confederate force was being brought to the brink of collapse under the pressure of the Union force led by William T. Sherman.


On March 16 at the Battle of Averasborough and finally at the Battle of Bentonville a few days later, the Western Theater of the war came to a conclusion. Johnston surrendered his force to Sherman on April 26, 1865.



With the war coming to a close President Lincoln and his wife, Mary, attended a play at Ford's Theater in Washington DC. On April 14, 1865 President Abraham Lincoln would be killed by a bullet from the assassin John Wilkes Booth. Booth, a well known actor and Confederate sympathizer, had previously plotted to kidnap the President, but that plan failed to materialize. The assassination plot was an attempt by Booth and his conspirators to cripple the Union government by murdering the President, the Vice President and the Secretary of State. Only the Lincoln killing materialized, but Secretary of State Seward was wounded by his attacker.

Booth would be the subject of the greatest manhunt in American History up to that time and it would end on April 26, 1865 with the death of the assassin.



Although the war was not quite over - pockets of resistance remained - the Lincoln assassination would usher in a new era in American History - the Era of Reconstruction. It too would be a tumultuous period. 

MARCH APRIL Stuff to do

continued from page 3

by Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg Foundation, and other partners. Included in museum admission ticket. For information 717-334-1124; www.nps.gov/gett.

MARCH

March 1, Gettysburg, Film. Buster Keaton in *The General*, 1926 silent film based on war incident and commentary by Evangelina Rubalcava at Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center theater, 1:30 PM. For information, 717-334-1124 ext. 3231; www.nps.gov/gett.

March 1, Gettysburg, Lecture. *Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Spiritual Life* with author Nancy Koester, Seminary Ridge Museum History Conversations Book Series in historic Schmucker House, Gettysburg, 3 PM. Suggested donation \$5. Call, 717-339-1300; www.seminaryridgemuseum.org.

March 4, Washington, D.C., 150th Panel. *Civil War to Civil Rights: The Last Great Speeches of Abraham Lincoln & Martin Luther King, Jr.* Second Inaugural Address Panel at Washington National Cathedral, 5:30 PM. Moderated by MSNBC's Chris Mathews. Free with reservations. Sponsored by Ford's Theater & Washington National Cathedral. For information, 800-982-2787; www.fords.org.

March 5-8, Harrisburg, PA, Civilian Symposium. *Mid-19th Century Clothing & Culture* in Harrisburg. Seminars, tours & workshops, symposium presentations. Dinner & fancy dress party, welcome reception & sociable, juried marketplace, garment displays, needlework competition. Hosted by Genteel Arts. For information 717-3370283; info@genteelarts.com; www.genteelarts.com.

March 6-8, Gettysburg, Reenactor Weekend. Reenactor Appreciation Weekend in Gettysburg, All periods welcome. History trivia, seminars, fashion show, dance, merchant specials, discounts. Sponsored by Steinwehr Avenue Business Improvement District. For information, Kirk Davis, 240-291-4813; homefrontgettysburg@outlook.com.

March 7, Gettysburg, Lecture. *To the Brink of Collapse: The Final Campaign of the Army of Tennessee* lecture by Philip Brown at Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center Theater, 1:30 PM. For information, 717-334-1124 ext. 3231; www.nps.gov/gett.

March 8, Gettysburg, Lecture. *The Closing Scenes: Admiral David G. Farragut and the End of the Civil War* lecture by Karlton Smith at Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center Theater, 1:30 PM. For information, 717-334-1124 ext. 3231; www.nps.gov/gett.

March 20-22, Gettysburg, Symposium. *Reunion/Reconciliation* annual Seminary Ridge Symposium at Seminary Ridge Museum. Keynote speaker David Blight. Also: Caroline Janney, Barbara Gannon, Carl Eeman, Brian Matthew Jordan, \$175; \$150 museum partners, includes speaker programs, Sunday program, museum admission, welcome reception. For information, registration, 717-339-1300; www.seminaryridgemuseum.org.

March 21 & 22, Baltimore, Arms Show. Baltimore Antique Arms Show at Timonium Farigrounds, Timonium, Saturday 9-5; Sunday 9-3. Admission \$10. Sponsored by Maryland Arms Collectors Assn. For information, www.baltimoreshow.com.

March 22, Gettysburg, Lecture. *Marching Home: Union Veterans & Their Unending Civil War* with author Brian Matthew Jordan, 3 PM. Seminary Ridge Museum History Conversations Book Series in historic Schmucker House. Suggested donation \$5. For information, 717-339-1300; www.seminaryridgemuseum.org.

March 28, National Park Day. Annual Civil War Trust Park Day for volunteers to help clean and restore parks across the country. All ages, abilities & new sites welcome. For information www.civilwar.org/parkday.

continued on page the next page

March 28, Harrisburg, Lecture. *Defiance on the Border: Maryland Confederate Women Versus Their Union Occupiers* by Dr. Claudia Floyd at the National Civil War Museum, 1-2 PM. Included with admission. For information 717-260-1861; www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

APRIL

April 9, Gettysburg, Living History. Commemoration of the Terms of Surrender meeting between Gens. Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant at Seminary Ridge Museum, 4 PM. Ceremony of Reflection and Reconciliation at Museum's Peace Portico. For information 717-339-1300; www.seminaryridgemuseum.org.

April 10-12, Chambersburg Symposium Tour. *Ed Bearss Symposium: Leadership and Combat in the Civil War* Chambersburg Seminars & Tours program. Sessions and bus tour of Gettysburg. Speakers and guides include: Ed Bearss, Dennis Fry, Tom Huntington, Perry Jamieson, Wayne Motts, John Priest, Richard Sommers. Fee. For information 717-264-7101; www.civilwarseminars.org.

April 11, Harrisburg Lecture. *Closing Down the Kingdom: The Wilmington Campaign, 1864-1865* by Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr. at the National Civil War Museum, 1-2 PM. Included with admission. For information 717-260-1861; www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

April 14 & 15, Washington, D.C. 150th Lincoln. *The Lincoln Tribute* around the clock event marking the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Assassination. At Ford's Theater. For information 800-982-2787; www.fords.org.

April 15, Washington, D.C. 150th Wreath Laying. National Park Service Commemorative Wreath Laying at Peterson House 7:22 AM, the time when President Lincoln died at the house. Followed by a short speaking

program, moment of silence & church bells tolling across the city as in 1865. For information 800-982-2787; www.fords.org.

April 18, Harrisburg Lecture. *The Myths of Lee's Surrender* by Patrick Schroeder at the National Civil War Museum, 1-2 PM. Included with admission. For information 717-260-1861; www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

April 18, Gettysburg Seminar. *Gettysburg Beyond the Battle* seminar presented by the Gettysburg Licensed Town Historians at Trinity United Church of Christ. Topics include *Eight Miles From Slavery*, *Conspiracy to Steal Lincoln's Body*, *The College at War*, and an interactive session. \$50. For information lseamon@aol.com.

April 19, Gettysburg Lecture. *Gettysburg Religion, Refinement, Diversity & Race in the Antebellum and Civil War Border North* with author Stephen L. Longenecker, Seminary Ridge Museum History Conversations Book Series in historic Schmucker House, Gettysburg, 3 PM. Suggested donation \$5. Call, 717-339-1300; www.seminaryridgemuseum.org.

April 25, Harrisburg Lecture. *The Grant-Sherman Partnership* by Dr. Mark Grimsley at the National Civil War Museum, 1-2 PM. Included with admission. For info: 717-260-1861; www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

April 25 & 26, Bensalem, PA, Reenactment. *Actions Around Petersburg 1865.* 26th Annual Neshaminy reenactment at Neshaminy State Park, Bensalem. Battles both days, living history, military demonstrations, music. Camps open 9 AM; free admission. Sponsored by 28th Regiment Co. C, 1st Division, Army of Northern Virginia. Historical Society of Bensalem, GAR Civil War Museum & Library, Delaware Valley CWRT, Neshaminy State Park & Parx Casino. For information cdgilson52@comcast.net; www.neshaminycwevent.org.



16th Annual Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and Longwood University FREE CIVIL WAR SEMINAR – 1865

JARMAN AUDITORIUM • LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY • FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA

Friday, March 13 through Sunday, March 15, 2015

This seminar is FREE and open to the public

Annual seminar is sponsored by: Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Eastern National Bookstore, The Department of History, Political Science, & Philosophy, and the Center for Southside Virginia History at Longwood University.

Parking available on Longwood University campus except in 24 hour reserved spaces, handicapped, or tow-away zones.

Lunch is available at the Longwood University Dining Hall.

Signs will be posted on the Longwood University Campus. For directions to the campus go to www.longwood.edu. For more information on agenda and speakers, contact Dr. David Coles at 434.395.2220 or Patrick Schroeder at 434.352.8987, Ext. 232.

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 or mobile device on or around March 1, 2015.

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.cwrtgettysburg.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 WGTY 107.7 FM and ESPN Radio 1320 AM.

The next scheduled board meeting begins at 6:30 PM on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at the Avenue Restaurant.



Study finds skull is not from the Battle of Gettysburg

The human remains, almost sold at auction last June, are 700 years old

In June of last year, an auction of a human skull, reportedly from the battle of Gettysburg, was cancelled due to public outcry. The remains were then donated to Gettysburg. A scientific study by the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History conducted at the request of Gettysburg National Military Park has now determined the cranium to be more than 700 years old and from the American Southwest.

The skull and a number of artifacts that were going to be sold with it were offered as a donation to Gettysburg National Military Park (GETT) and the park asked the Gettysburg Foundation to accept the donation on its behalf.

Douglas W. Owsley and a team of forensic anthropologists at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History completed an examination of the skull and determined, in summary the remains:

- are not those of an American Civil War soldier;
- are those of an American Indian male, aged 22-25;
- are likely dated to approximately 1269 – 1299 AD;
- are likely from the American Southwest; and
- were not removed from the Josiah Benner farm at Gettysburg.

“When we learned of these remains in June we were immediately interested in their respectful treatment, whether they were from a soldier who died at Gettysburg or not,” said Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent Ed Clark. “This result is not what we expected but we stand by our commitment to be respectful of these remains, fulfill our responsibilities, and find the best course of action for their final resting place.” Superintendent Clark also expressed his gratitude for the assistance provided by the scientists and staff of the Smithsonian Institution.

The park and the Gettysburg Foundation are determining Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) responsibilities and the appropriate disposition of the remains.

National Park Service special agents and law enforcement rangers from Gettysburg National Military Park conducted an investigation to determine the provenance of the remains. The investigation continues pending any new information that may come forward.

An examination of the thirteen artifacts that were to be sold with the skull determined that a number were not authentic to the Civil War period, including a Louisiana stamped metal hat or cap plate which was post war, most likely made for souvenir purposes.

“Our intent has always been to do the right thing with and for the remains,” said Joanne M. Hanley, President of the Gettysburg Foundation. “When the Foundation accepted the skull as a donation, it was the right thing to do to protect it from auction on the open market. We will continue to do the right thing with its future disposition to ensure respect and dignity.”

Background

On June 2, 2014, news stories about the planned auction of the Civil War human remains quickly spread, including National Park Service comments from staff at Gettysburg National Military Park that the sale was disrespectful and “a spectacle.” An unprecedented outcry from concerned citizens, fueled by social media, overwhelmed organizers of the auction, and within six hours the sellers decided to cancel the sale and donate the remains and the artifacts found with them to the Gettysburg Foundation. On the evening of June 2, Joanne Hanley, president of the Gettysburg Foundation, went to Hagerstown, MD, picked up the remains and the artifacts and turned them over to the park for safe keeping.

In 1996 human remains were found at Gettysburg National Military Park after erosion exposed them near a railroad embankment. Scientists from Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History studied those remains as well and determined that they were from the battle of Gettysburg. The remains were interred in a specially designated plot in the Soldiers’ National Cemetery at Gettysburg marked, *Unknown Civil War Remains.* 卐