

"In every battle there comes a time when both sides consider themselves beaten, then he who continues the attack wins."

– ULYSSES S. GRANT

The ANGLE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

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



Impending Actions

Information and details about upcoming Gettysburg Roundtable presentations.

SEPTEMBER 27TH

CIVIL WAR MEDICAL AND SURGICAL TECHNIQUES

The Civil War was the first modern war and resulted in the highest number of U.S. casualties per capita of any of our wars as between 750,000 and 850,000 men perished (approximately 8 million in today's population), including roughly 50,000 civilians; 25% of those involved died. These casualties exceeded the total of killed in the American Revolution, War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Spanish-American War, WW I, WW II, the Korean Conflict, and over half of those killed in Viet Nam combined and affected, either directly or indirectly, nearly every family in the North and South

While the impact on the U.S. population was obvious, what is not appreciated, even now, is the rapid advances made by American medicine that were stimulated by this conflict. This presentation will inform the audience of the background, procedures, and personnel that lead to the advancements, many of which are the basis of techniques and procedures that are used today, and their impact on the subsequent development of American Medicine.

DR. PETER D'ONOFRIO is the President and Chief Executive Officer of THE SOCIETY OF CIVIL WAR SURGEONS, INC., a non-profit, tax-exempt, international educational organization whose purpose is to educate the general public, as well as fellow re-enactors, as to the life, times, and role of the Civil War medical professional.



Dr. D'Onofrio is currently engaged in authoring a compilation of medically related books, pamphlets, articles, etc. dealing with Civil War era medicine from roughly 1845 to the present day. Dr. D'Onofrio received his doctoral degree in American History in the Summer of 1998. He is a Guest Lecturer in the Department of History of The Ohio State University.

Recently, Dr. D'Onofrio was instrumental in working with the Gettysburg Battlefield Park in setting up the first ever medical living history weekend (2004) to be held on park property. This effort has resulted in an invitation to repeat this weekend, ever since, on an annual basis.

OCTOBER 25TH

Schuylkill County's Coal Heavers: THE 96th PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS

Originally commanded by Col. Henry L. Cake, formerly of the National Light Infantry, the 96th Penna Vols served for three years in the 2nd Brigade, 1st Div of the 6th Corps in the Army of the Potomac. Principally Civil War Democrats the regiment fought with determination at Gaines' Mill, Crampton's Gap, Salem Church and at Spotsylvania on May 10 and again on May 12, 1864. The regiment lost 6 officers and 126 enlisted—killed or mortally wounded—in its three years of service.

The talk will highlight the regiment's military engagements, offer a few quotes regarding the direction of the war and reactions to Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. In addition, I'll use quotes from the soldiers to describe the generals they served under: Slocum, Bartlett, Franklin, Brooks, Sedgwick, and Upton. In essence the talk is a look at the Civil War from the bottom up thru the eyes of the men from Schuylkill County.



DAVID A. WARD is originally from Pottsville, PA. He earned a BA in history from Franklin & Marshall College in 1980. Graduated 1988 from Southern Connecticut State University with master's degree in history and library science.

Founded Connecticut Civil War Round Table in spring 1989. Hosted New England Civil War Conference June 1990-1992. Owner and operator of the popular battlefield tour company Civil War Tours 2000-2015.

Ward's published works include: The 96th Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War (2018); Sedgwick's Foot Cavalry: The March of the Sixth Corps to Gettysburg (January 2000), Gettysburg Magazine; Of Battlefields and Bitter Feuds: A History of the 96th Pennsylvania Volunteers, Civil War Regiments vol. 3, no. 3 (1993).

He was a historical consultant on the film Lincoln directed by Steven Spielberg 2012; and Mr. Ward is no stranger to the lecture circuit having spoken to various groups on numerous Civil War topics throughout his career.

OFFICERS AND SUPPORT

- Lynn Heller 717.398.2072
President & Facebook Admin..... lynnheller7577@gmail.com
- Kendra Debany..... 717.334.6375
Vice President..... gettysburghouse@aol.com
- Ellie Cingire Bilz..... 717.420.2183
Recording Secretary..... ecingire51@gmail.com
- Linda Seamon..... 717.359.7339
Membership Secretary..... lseamon@aol.com
- David Diner 717.420.5730
Treasurer..... daviddiner@gmail.com
- Roger Heller 717.398.2072
Program Director rdh1948@gmail.com
- Dave Joswick..... 717.877.3975
Newsletter..... art-masters@comcast.net
- Linda Joswick..... 717.253.5477
Webmaster..... linda_joswick@yahoo.com

BOARD MEMBERS

- Fred Hawthorne, Roger Heller,
Hilda Koontz, Dale Molina,
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Hello, Friends!

All seasons are special in Gettysburg, but autumn on the battlefield is hard to beat!

As we return to the GAR Hall for our indoor programs, there are already some golden and crimson colors creeping into the ridges and fields, Soon the hallowed ground will be aglow with full blown autumn splendor.

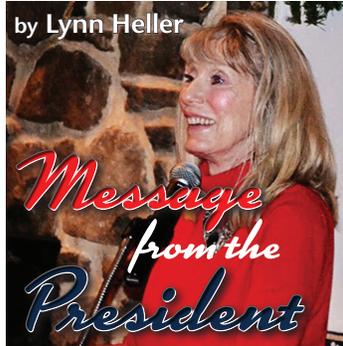
I know that many of you were able to enjoy the wonderful summer "in the field" programs...one of the many benefits of being a roundtable member. In June we were led by Ranger Jarrad Fuoss through the southern end of town, as he related the experiences of the citizens and soldiers as the sharpshooting continued throughout the three days of the battle.

Ben Neely, CEO of the Adams County Historical Society, led our July tour around the grounds and fields of the Seminary, where the drama of the "Battle for the Seminary" played out on July 1, 1863. As we stood and walked in the area of Camp Colt in August, Paul Shevchuk, retired park ranger, discussed the history of the Camp and the importance of Eisenhower's experience as Commander of the Tank Corps to his future military career. Thanks to Roger Heller for putting together three outstanding programs, and thanks to all who attended.

It's not too early to begin thinking of our Holiday Banquet on December 6 at The Dobbin House. More details in the November newsletter. Speaker Carol Reardon will not fail to disappoint! Do you have items you would like to donate as a Door Prize? Would you like to help?

In the meantime, we have a great lineup of Fall speakers, so, I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the Historic GAR Hall. Doors open at 6:30 PM; meeting starts at

Lynn



Here is your RT membership renewal reminder for 2019

Enclosed with your newsletter is a membership form for the upcoming calendar year 2019. This is the form that should accompany your renewal dues. Please get rid of any old forms you may have as this is the only one acceptable. **Note, it reflects the current and correct cost for renewal membership: \$30 for individuals and \$45 for a family, as well as prorated amounts for new members joining later during the calendar year.**

Camp Letterman site update

Glen Hayes from the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association has been working for almost two years in an impressive effort to save 17 acres from development at the site, which is owned by S&A Homes.



He has initiated a letter writing campaign, resulting in a voluminous amount of letters to S&A Homes, written by historical societies, roundtables (Lynn Heller has written twice on behalf of our roundtable), historians, including James McPherson, Harold Holzer, and Gary Gallagher, and preservation societies. Petitions have also been sent. The overwhelming public support from 37 states, Canada, England, and Italy, shows that Camp Letterman is an important part of the Battle of Gettysburg to many people. Resolution is expected in September.

For more information and an indepth interview with Glen Hayes go to www.historynet.com. In the search window type interview glen hayes and hit enter.

Free Admission continues at the David Wills House through 2018

The National Park Service wants the David Wills House to be part of every visit to Gettysburg. To help make that happen, Gettysburg National Military Park has announced that free admission to the David Wills House in downtown Gettysburg will continue through the rest of 2018.

The three-story brick house at 8 Lincoln Square served as the home of David and Catherine Wills before and after the Battle of Gettysburg. President Abraham Lincoln was their house guest the night before the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery. Lincoln finished composing his Gettysburg Address in the second story bedroom the evening of November 18, 1863 (see photo to the right).

"During the summer months admission to the site was free and visitation increased dramatically," said Lewis H. Rogers Jr., acting superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park. "The David Wills House exhibits provide an opportunity to learn about the Wills family and reflect on the meaning of Gettysburg, the aftermath of the battle, and the legacy of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address."

The David Wills House is part of Gettysburg National Military Park and is operated by the Gettysburg Foundation. Throughout the late summer and fall, the Gettysburg Foundation will continue to staff the front desk, provide visitor services and information, and manage the sales area. In 2019 entrance fees will be reinstated.

For more information about hours and fees go to: www.nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/david-wills-house.htm



Lewis H. Rogers Jr. arrives as acting superintendent at Gettysburg NMP and Eisenhower NHS

Lewis H. Rogers Jr. has arrived as the acting superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site. He will serve in this position until late November 2018.

Rogers currently serves as superintendent of Petersburg National Battlefield which includes a 2,700 acre Civil War battlefield and

the Poplar Grove National Cemetery in Virginia. He has been superintendent at Petersburg since 2010 and previously served as acting deputy regional director of the National Park Service Northeast Region, acting superintendent at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, chief of ranger activities at Valley Forge National Historical Park, and other key

leadership roles at Independence National Historical Park, Booker T. Washington National Monument, the Blue Ridge Parkway and other national parks.

"I'm very honored to have the opportunity to serve as acting superintendent for Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site for the next few months," said Rog-

ers. "The stories, landscapes and resources of Gettysburg and the Eisenhower home have inspired generations."



Lewis H. Rogers Jr.

GNMP photo

Gettysburg NMP and the Gettysburg Foundation Team Up on Visitor Improvements

Each year hundreds of thousands of visitors swing open the doors of the LEED-Gold (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park.

Behind the scenes, the Gettysburg Foundation has worked closely and methodically with staff from Gettysburg National Military Park to make a series of improvements to the visitor experience at the facility.

One set of changes has focused on reducing the facilities' carbon footprint, consistent with our long-running LEED-Gold certified status. More than 100 new geothermal wells have been drilled on the property without disruption to the visitor and they are providing greater energy efficiency. New car-charging stations have been installed to host electric automobiles driven by visitors. In the main lobby, new lighting has been installed throughout the lobby that automatically adjusts to outside lighting levels, reducing energy consumption.

"We have a long-standing commitment to energy efficiency," said Brian Shaffer, Vice President of Facilities for the Gettysburg Foundation, responsible for implementing the many changes

on the grounds. "We have taken many steps that may go unnoticed to the casual observer, but taken together, symbolize our environmental stewardship in a cutting-edge facility."

Signage has been updated to inform and direct visitors. Most notably, the park and the foundation worked together to update visitor information on a brand-new kiosk sign that nearly all visitors see as they start to plan their day. Inside the Museum & Visitor Center, the overhead and wall signs have been updated to point visitors to Ranger programs held just outside and to a new cafe/coffee shop. New signs on limber chest/donation boxes place Gettysburg in the context of international visitors, who can now more easily donate to the foundation to support the park.

Some months back, the park's information desk was moved much closer to the front door so visitors can more easily engage with National Park Rangers and volunteers upon entrance, while the Friends of Gettysburg desk was moved forward in the lobby to provide easy access to people interested in joining the premiere membership organization that supports Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site.

see VISITOR IMPROVEMENTS continued on page 4

Rogers, a veteran of the US Naval Reserves, brings with him more than 30 years of National Park Service experience. He helped create the friends group at Petersburg National Battlefield and works collaboratively with park partners, including community and advocacy groups, and manages all aspects of park operations, including budget and administration, law enforcement, interpretation, resource management and maintenance.

Gettysburg National Military Park preserves, protects and interprets for this and future generations the resources associated with the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, during the American Civil War, the Soldiers' National Cemetery, and their commemorations. Learn more at www.nps.gov/gett

Eisenhower National Historic Site preserves and interprets the home and farms of the Eisenhower family as a fitting and enduring memorial to the life, work, and times of General Dwight David Eisenhower, 34th president of the United States, and to the events of far-reaching importance that occurred on the property.

GNMP photo



Gettysburg visitors talk with a National Park Ranger at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center.

IN THE FIELD CANDIDS

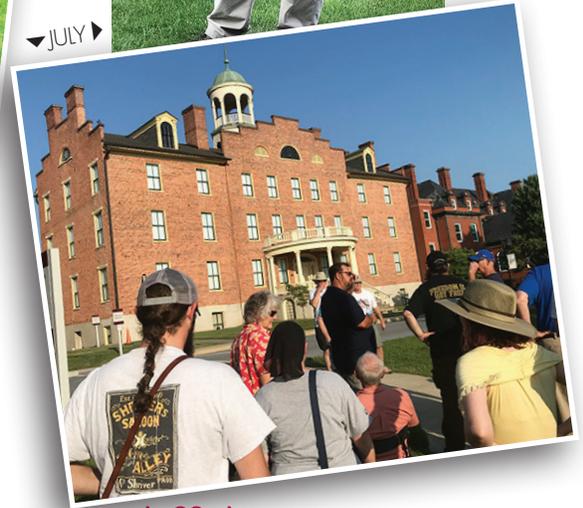
JUNE TOUR GUIDE: RANGER JARRAD FUOSS • JULY TOUR GUIDE: BEN NEELY • ALL PHOTOS BY LYNN HELLER



▲ JUNE ▶



◀ JULY ▶



Visitor Improvements *cont. from page 3*

Other improvements made by the Gettysburg Foundation included: automatic doors throughout the museum that ease the way for visitors with disabilities; a newly constructed leadership pavilion right outside to host small groups and provide visitors with a covered place to picnic; repainting of crosswalks and parking areas to maximize pedestrian safety; and perhaps mostly notably, a wall of brand-new charging stations where visitors can charge their phones and other devices as they experience Gettysburg.

“We are so pleased to have systematically worked our way through such a comprehensive set of visitor improvements on the grounds,” said Matthew Moen, president of the Gettysburg Foundation and Zach Bolitho, Acting Superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, in a joint statement. “Our commitment to an excellent visitor experience at the Gettysburg and Eisenhower national parks is paramount and our organizations have systematically cooperated to ensure it remains that way.”

From September to May, we meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at the GAR Building, 53 East Middle Street. Doors open at 6:30 PM, with the featured program beginning at 7:00 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 severe weather is predicted, program information can be found on the roundtable website and Facebook page after 3 PM or you can call Lynn at 717-398-2072.

The next scheduled board meeting begins at 6:30 PM on Thursday, September 13, at the Perkins Restaurant on York Street, Gettysburg.