

"I can better trust those who helped to relieve the gloom of my dark hours than those who are so ready to enjoy with me the sunshine of my prosperity."  
– Ulysses S. Grant



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017  
**The ANGLE**

A bimonthly publication of the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
Visit us online at [www.cwrtgettysburg.org](http://www.cwrtgettysburg.org)

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**ImpendingActions**

Information and details about upcoming Gettysburg Roundtable presentations.

**JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**The Myth of the Lost Cause:  
False Remembrance of the Civil War**

The Southern-created Myth of the Lost Cause has long dominated Americans' remembrance of the Civil War, the country's watershed event. In many ways, that Myth has been America's most successful propaganda campaign.

Historian Ed Bonekemper examines the accuracy of the Myth and how it has affected our perception of slavery, states' rights, the nature of the Civil War, and the military performance of Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant and James Longstreet. He begins by discussing the nature of slavery in 1860, including whether it was a benign and dying institution.

Bonekemper is the author of six Civil War books, former book review editor of the *Civil War News*, and former adjunct military history lecturer at Muhlenberg College. His latest book is *The Myth of the Lost Cause: Why the South Fought the Civil War and Why the North Won*.

**ED BONEKEMPER** taught military history part-time for eight years, and was a visiting lecturer at his alma mater, Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania. Bonekemper also was an instructor in American Constitutional History and Maritime Law at the United States Coast Guard Academy. He was an adjunct professor of Constitutional History at the American Military University.

Bonekemper has written articles for many publications including The Washington Times, The Journal of Afro-American History, and The Journal of Negro History.

Since 1998, Bonekemper has been publishing non-fiction books about the Civil War. His interest in Civil War history grew after multiple conversations with his father-in-law about this particular topic. His first book took him seven years to complete.



Edward H. Bonekemper, III

In 2010, he was named book review editor at Civil War News. In 2015, he was also named book review editor of Civil War Battles and Commanders Magazine.

Throughout his career, Bonekemper has earned numerous awards.

Bonekemper has given over ten lectures at the Smithsonian Institution about the Civil War. He also spoken at hundreds of Civil War roundtable meetings, the Delta Queen, the Lincoln Forum of the District Columbia, the Chautauqua Institution, and numerous other events. Bonekemper has made appearances on C-SPAN to discuss Grant and Lee's Civil war generalship.

**FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>**

**Sickles Gets Away with Murder!**

The 1859 murder of U.S. District Attorney Philip Barton Key by Congressman, and future General, Daniel E. Sickles was considered the "trial of the century." Key was having an affair with Congressman Sickles' wife and Sickles shot Key dead in front of multiple eyewitnesses. Learn how and why Sickles managed to evade justice. View "Then and Now" images of key crime sites. How does this lead Sickles to Gettysburg? Join us for a session of adultery, murder, and marital advice courtesy of Dan Sickles.



Hon. Daniel Sickles shooting Philip Barton Key in Washington Square.

**James Hessler** has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide since 2003.

His 2009 book *Sickles at Gettysburg* was awarded the R.E. Lee Civil War Round Table's "Bachelor Coddington Award" and the Gettysburg Civil War Round Table's "Distinguished Book Award" as the most outstanding work on the Gettysburg Campaign.

His latest book, *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg*, was co-authored with Wayne Motts and was released in July 2015. It has been received very favorably by both readers and critics alike as the first battlefield guide ever published on the famous July 3 assault.

Jim was one of the primary content designers for the Civil War Trust's mobile Gettysburg application and animated maps. He is a frequent speaker at Civil War Round Tables and has taught courses for the Gettysburg Foundation and Harrisburg (PA) Area Community College.



Jim Hessler

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](http://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, January 12, at the Perkins Restaurant on York Street, Gettysburg.

### Happy New Year Friends!

2016 was a wonderful year for our roundtable! Many new members joined and thanks to all of you who chose to spend so many Thursday evenings with us! Your loyalty is sincerely appreciated. Thanks to Roger Heller for providing a spectacular slate of speakers! And thanks to the board, officers, and support staff for keeping us running a top notch organization.

Our Holiday Banquet this year was one of the best! Thanks to all who attended, and to Mary & Dave Diner, who did a great job of graciously checking in the guests. We were treated to the hospitality and bountiful buffet of the Dobbin House, the presentation of the 2016 Book Award, and the entertaining and informative Civil War Photo Extravaganza by LBG and Historian Garry Adelman. A special thanks to all those who donated to our spectacular Door Prize Table, and congratulation to the winners!



Now that we are in the New year, if you haven't renewed your membership, NOW is the time! Individual membership \$30.00/ Family \$45.00. Membership: January 1, 2017–December 31, 2017. Your dues must be paid by March 31 in order to continue to be on the membership list, and to receive the newsletter. Rates are pro - rated for new members that join throughout the year.

2017 is shaping up to be a banner year, with world class speakers, a field trip in May to Antietam with Historian Carol Reardon, and three exciting summer on *the field* programs. We encourage everyone to participate in the activities of the roundtable, and there are many opportunities to become involved. It *Takes a Village* to maintain our outstanding and well respected roundtable. Please see me or any member of the Board if you would like to play a part.

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2017! *Lynn*

## HOLIDAY BANQUET MEMORIES

Photos by Lynn Heller



# NOV. MEETING CANDIDS

Photos by Lynn Heller



# MORE HOLIDAY BANQUET MEMORIES

Photos by Lynn Heller



# THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

in association with the Smithsonian Institution

## ATTENTION GETTYSBURG ROUNDTABLE MEMBERSHIP

"This will be a great lecture for our exhibition opening on Reconstruction. Members of the roundtable can come free of charge. They need only contact me at [wmotts@nationalcivilwarmuseum.org](mailto:wmotts@nationalcivilwarmuseum.org)."

– Wayne Motts

### RECONSTRUCTION: THE UNFINISHED WAR

Exhibit Opening

January 18, 2017 | 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Dr. William Blair presents:

### Murders and Outrages: Violence and its Impact in Reconstruction

Within the records of the Freedmen's Bureau lies a collection of material with the shocking title of "Murders and Outrages." These reports from officers of the bureau include more than 4,500 instances of atrocities—murders, assaults, knifings, sexual assaults, economic coercion, and assassinations of government agents—committed by southern whites against Republicans and black people in the post Civil War South. Yet until now scholars have not understood the reason these reports were filed or the impact that they had on northern policy against the former Confederates.

This compilation of violence proved instrumental in mobilizing Republicans to visit a hard peace upon the South that included replacing all governments in the South with military rule.

#### Featuring Special Guest Lecturer Dr. William Blair

Dr. William Blair, Walter L. and Helen P. Ferree Professor of Middle American History and Director of the Richards Civil War Era Center, is a historian of the Civil War era, focusing primarily on the home front and political culture in the middle nineteenth century.



- Refreshments
- Presentation
- Special Exhibit Tour
- FREE to Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable members & NCWM members
- R.S.V.P. [wmotts@nationalcivilwarmuseum.org](mailto:wmotts@nationalcivilwarmuseum.org)

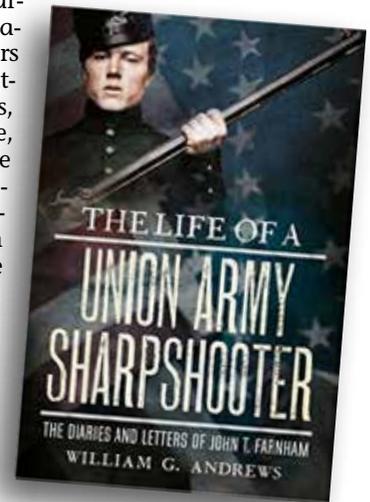
# NEW & Noteworthy

## THE LIFE OF A UNION ARMY SHARPSHOOTER:

### The Diaries and Letters of John T. Farnham

by William G. Andrews

John T. Farnham, a sharpshooter in the Union Army, wrote a substantial diary entry nearly every day during his three-year enlistment, sent over 50 long articles to his hometown newspaper, and mailed some 600 letters home. He described training, battles, skirmishes, encampments, furloughs, marches, hospital life, and clerkships at the Iron Brigade headquarters and the War Department. He met Lincoln and acquired a blood-stained cuff taken from his assassinated body. He befriended freed slaves, teaching them to read and write and built them a school. He campaigned for Lincoln's reelection. He subscribed to three newspapers and devoured 22 books. He attended 23 plays and six concerts during his service. He was a gregarious and popular, naming in his diaries 108 friends in the service and 156 at home. Frail and sickly, he died of tuberculosis four years after his discharge. He paints a detailed portrait of the lives of ordinary soldiers in the Union Army, their food, living conditions, relations among officers and men, ordeals, triumphs, and tragedies.

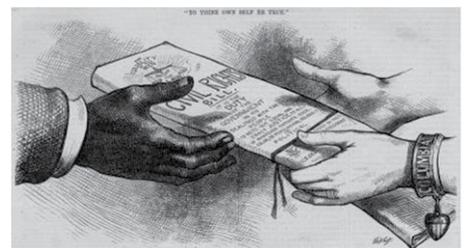


William G. Andrews is a retired college professor and local historian. He published many books and articles in 41 years as a political scientist. He is active in civic affairs, including service as deputy mayor of the village, founding president of the Brockport Community Museum and founding vice president of the Greater Brockport Development Corp. He has traveled extensively and lived in France and Norway. He is a widower with six children and thirteen grandchildren.



## Our Newest Exhibit – Reconstruction: The Unfinished War at The NCWM

The National Civil War Museum announces the opening of *Reconstruction: The Unfinished War*, the newest in our ongoing series of temporary exhibits highlighting specific topics of the American Civil War. *Reconstruction: The Unfinished War* will be open to the public January 19, 2017 – December 31, 2017 and is included in the cost of regular admission to the Museum. The exhibit will discuss the unfinished issue of equality among the races in the reunited states. The fighting came to an end in the spring of 1865, but the bitterness remained, leaving many in the southern states unable to accept that the Confederacy was gone. Former slaves were now able to hold political office and demand equality under the law as citizens of the United States. The reconstruction of a fractured nation would be a long and difficult road to travel, a journey that continues to this day.





# GNMP NEWS

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### JANUARY

- 7 & 8, 14 & 15 & 21, 22, 28 & 29 ..... **Winter Lecture Series: Controversies, Myths, and Misconceptions – Refighting the Civil War.** Saturday and Sunday, 1 PM at the Visitor Center. For more information go to [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett)
- 7, 14, 21, 28 ..... **Gettysburg Battlefield Book Series:** Featuring the *Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara and *Sickles at Gettysburg* by Jim Hessler. Read and discuss every Saturday at 11 AM at the Visitor Center. For more information go to [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett)
- 7, 14, 21, 28 ..... **Winter Reading Adventures!** For children ages 5 to 10 and their families. Join a Park Educator and read along with a collection of Civil War themed picture books. Saturday at 11 AM at the Visitor Center. For more information go to [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett)
- 16 ..... **Martin Luther King Jr. Day/Adams County Community Appreciation Day** at the GNMP Museum and Visitor Center. For more information go to [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org)
- 19 & 20 ..... **Gettysburg National Military Park Homeschool Days:** At the GNMP Museum and Visitor Center. For details and to register online go to [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett)

### FEBRUARY

- 4 & 5, 11 & 12, 18 & 19, 25 & 26 ..... **Winter Lecture Series: Controversies, Myths, and Misconceptions – Refighting the Civil War.** Saturday and Sunday, 1 PM at the Visitor Center. For more information go to [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett)
- 4, 11, 18, 25 ..... **Gettysburg Battlefield Book Series:** Featuring the *Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara and *Sickles at Gettysburg* by Jim Hessler. Read and discuss every Saturday at 11 AM at the Visitor Center. For more information go to [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett)
- Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25..... **Winter Reading Adventures!** For children ages 5 to 10 and their families. Join a Park Educator and read along with a collection of Civil War themed picture books. Saturday at 11 AM at the Visitor Center. For more information go to [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett)
- 18 ..... **Great Backyard Bird Count at the Visitor Center.** From 12:30 - 3:30 PM. For more go to [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett)
- Feb. 20..... **Presidents' Day/Adams County Community Appreciation Day** at the GNMP Museum and Visitor Center. For more go to [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org)



# ENHS NEWS

## Winter Hours at the Eisenhower Site – Visitors in Jan. and Feb. may drive directly to the site

The National Park Service has announced winter hours for Eisenhower National Historic Site, now and extending to March 2, 2017.

From December 5 to December 22, house tours will be daily, serving the shuttle buses at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. On December 10, the public is invited to a holiday open house, with access by shuttle buses hourly from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. From December 23 to December 31, house tours will be daily, serving the shuttle buses at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. From January 2 to March 2, the public may drive to site. From Friday through Monday, house tours will be offered at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The grounds will be available daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for self-guided tours.



The Eisenhower living room.

Throughout January and February, visitors may drive their personal vehicles to the site. At all other times of the year, access is by shuttle bus only from the Visitor Center.

The site will be closed on New Year's Day.

Hats OFF...  
  
 ...TO  
 OUR  
 NEW  
 MEMBERS  
 Amy and Bill Miller  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Yingling

Courtesy of the NPS.

# “Not while I have my sword arm left.”

The fighting near Cemetery Ridge during the Battle of Gettysburg's second day took a terrible toll on the 59th New York Infantry. Afterward, only one of the regiment's staff officers, First Lieutenant and Adjutant William Henry Pohlman was left standing. A relative newcomer to the 59th, Pohlman had left Rutgers College and served stints in the 1st New York Infantry and U.S. Signal Corps before joining the New Yorkers the previous December. His leadership abilities quickly gained him the respect of his peers and the trust of the enlisted men—and served him well at Gettysburg. According to one account, “Young Pohlman was everywhere cheering and inciting his men by his own example to deeds of noble daring.”

On the battle's third and final day, Pohlman and his surviving comrades joined other Union forces in the defense against Pickett's Charge. At some point during the assault, and artillery shell struck near Pohlman and fractured his left shoulder. According to a newspaper report, his men “entreated him to withdraw to the camp, but he answered, ‘Not while I have my sword arm left.’” An hour later, Pohlman's sword arm was disabled by a shot through the wrist, which severed one of the arteries. Faint and bleeding, “he was reluctantly compelled to retire from the field.”

The following day, July 4, 1863, Pohlman mustered the strength to scrawl a note to his sister, “I bear honorable wounds in my country's cause,” he wrote, “I shall soon write again concerning my whereabouts. Until then, farewell!” Pohlman's wounds proved fatal and he succumbed to his injuries on July 21. He was 21 years old. †



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Photo courtesy of the Rick Carlile Collection.



## SNOW CANCELLATIONS

Tune to radio stations:

WGET 1320 AM or WGTY 107.7 FM

You may also call Lynn at 717-398-2072  
after 3 PM on the day of the meeting.

## Mess Duties

January 26 ..... Rick Bilz  
February 23 ..... Katherine Hawkins

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