



"The fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation...In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free—honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth."

— ABRAHAM LINCOLN, ANNUAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS DECEMBER 1, 1862

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The ANGLE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

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. **Reminder...for all indoor meetings, doors open at 6 PM and the meeting begins at 7 PM.**

JANUARY 24TH

AMIABLE SCOUNDREL: SIMON CAMERON, LINCOLN'S SCANDALOUS SECRETARY OF WAR

From abject poverty to undisputed political boss of Pennsylvania, Lincoln's secretary of war, senator, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and a founder of the Republican Party, Simon Cameron (1799–1889) was one of the nineteenth century's most prominent political figures. A key figure in designing and implementing the Union's military strategy during the Civil War's crucial first year, Cameron played an essential role in pushing Abraham Lincoln to permit the enlistment of African Americans into the U.S. Army, a stance that eventually led to his forced resignation. In his wake, however, he left a series of questionable political and business dealings and, at the age of eighty, even a sex scandal.

Amiable Scoundrel puts Cameron's actions into a larger historical context by demonstrating that many politicians of the time, including Abraham Lincoln, used similar tactics to win elections and advance their careers. This study is the fascinating story of Cameron's life and an illuminating portrait of his times.

DR. PAUL KAHAN is a leading expert on the political, diplomatic, and economic history of the United States nineteenth-century. He earned a Ph.D. in U.S. history from Temple University. Prior to that, Dr. Kahan earned an M.A. in Modern American History & Literature from Drew University and B.A.s in history and English (with minors in medieval/Renaissance studies and music) from Alfred University.



Dr. Kahan has published several books, including *Eastern State Penitentiary: A History*, *Amiable Scoundrel: Simon Cameron, Lincoln's Scandalous Secretary of War*, *The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant: Preserving the Civil War's Legacy*, and *The Bank War: Andrew Jackson, Nicholas Biddle, and the Fight for American Finance*. He is currently working on a "life and times" biography of James Buchanan scheduled for publication in 2021.

FEBRUARY 28TH

THE WAR FOR THE COMMON SOLDIER

How did Civil War soldiers endure the brutal and unpredictable existence of army life during the conflict? This question is at the heart of Peter S. Carmichael's presentation "The War for the Common Soldier." Based on close examination of the letters and records left behind by individual soldiers from both the North and the South, Carmichael explores the totality of the Civil War experience--the marching, the fighting, the boredom, the idealism, the exhaustion, the punishments, and the frustrations of being away from families who often faced their own dire circumstances. Carmichael focuses not on what soldiers thought but rather how they thought. In doing so, he reveals how, to the shock of most men, well-established notions of duty or disobedience, morality or immorality, loyalty or disloyalty, and bravery or cowardice were blurred by war.

PETER S. CARMICHAEL is the Fluhrer Professor of History and the Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College. After completing his doctorate at Penn State University under Dr. Gary W. Gallagher, Professor Carmichael went on to teach at Western Carolina University, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and West Virginia University. He is the author and editor of four books, including *The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion*, which was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2005. He has also published a number of articles for both scholarly and popular journals, and he speaks frequently to general and scholarly audiences. Every June Professor Carmichael directs the Civil War Institute's summer conference, which draws more than 300 attendees from across the country.



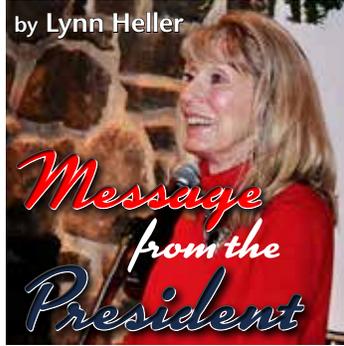
More recently Professor Carmichael has appeared on the PBS Robert E. Lee documentary for the American Experience series and on the popular TV show *Who Do You Think You Are*. His lectures have also been covered by PCN and C-Span. His most recent book, *The War for the Common Soldier*, is now available.

Pete enjoys watching Indiana sports, particularly the Pacers, Colts, and Hoosiers, and traveling to France. He lives in Gettysburg with his wife and twin daughters.

Hello Friends! Happy New Year!

Now that the holidays are over, I find myself reflecting on our roundtable events in 2018. It was a very good year!

Thanks to Roger Heller for providing so many amazing speakers and programs. He has worked hard all year and doesn't let any detail go unfinished. All of the indoor presentations have been outstanding, and how about Scott Mingu's April field trip to Hanover Junction and on to Wrightsville and Columbia! Do you remember the almost hidden Zion Hill Cemetery? Whatever we thought we knew we learned a heck of a lot more that day.



Thanks to Wayne Motts for stepping up at the last minute when our October speaker couldn't make it. Our summer "on the field" tours were just wonderful, led by Jarrad Fuoss, Benjamin Neely, and Paul Shevchuk. The only bummer was that Mother Nature and her snow took over our November meeting with Gene Schmiel, but we had a fabulous Holiday Banquet with the one-and-only Carol Reardon as presenter. In Larry Plymire's absence, Lynn announced that the recipient of the CWRT Gettysburg's 2017 Book Award is Jeffrey Hunt for his book: *Meade and Lee After Gettysburg*. We are looking forward to what Roger has in store for us in 2019!

This year we made a donation of \$500 to the GAR Hall for very needed window repair on this iconic & historic building. We also made a \$500 donation to York History Center, and we donated \$500.00 to The Adams County Historical Society earmarked for their capital campaign for a new home. Yay us!

Our roundtable was delighted to receive a very generous donation of \$600.00 from "A friend of the Gettysburg Roundtable" to pay our rent for 2018! Thank you, thoughtful person!

We are a lucky bunch to have this roundtable filled to the brim with kind, cheerful, friendly, and really smart people! I am honored to have served as President for this fine, outstanding group of Gettysburg enthusiasts.

Wishing you a joyous and healthy 2019!

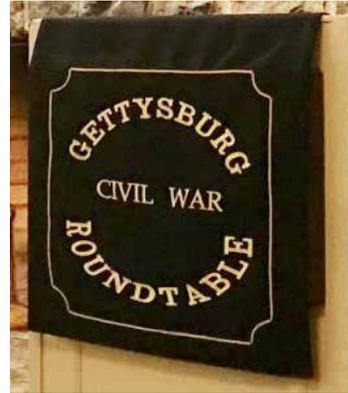
Lynn



New Members Are Joining
Bruce Davis
Charles Reed
Steve Reed

NEWS from... 'round the TABLE

Our new podium banner made with TLC by Mary Diner.



TAKE NOTE... January speaker Paul Kahan will have copies of his biography of Simon Cameron, *Amiable Scoundrel* for sale for \$30 at the meeting for anyone who wants one.



Photos from the Holiday Banquet held on December 6. More photos on page 4.

From September to May, we meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at the GAR Building, 53 East Middle Street. Doors open at 6:00 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 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 10, at the Perkins Restaurant on York Street, Gettysburg.

Joe Lachowski selected as the new chief ranger for GNMP and ENHS

Joe Lachowski has been selected to serve as the new chief ranger for Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, the National Park Service announced today. The chief ranger serves as the senior law enforcement officer for Gettysburg and Eisenhower parks, responsible for the planning, direction, and execution of programs dealing with law enforcement and resource protection, emergency services and safety.

“Growing up on the East Coast, I am excited to return to the area and serve the visitors and employees at these iconic parks” said Lachowski. “I enjoy working in a variety of challenging situations and I am looking forward to becoming part of the hard-working team at Gettysburg and Eisenhower national parks.”

“We are delighted to have Ranger Lachowski join the staff,” said Lewis H. Rogers, acting superintendent at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site. “His depth of experience along with his leadership skills will be great assets to park operations, ensuring safe and successful experience for our more than one million annual visitors.”

Lachowski was a supervisor and protection ranger in both Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and Grand Teton National Park. He is currently attending the National Park Service’s GOAL Academy, a lead-



Park Ranger Joe Lachowski arrives in January as Gettysburg’s new chief ranger.

ership and organizational advancement program. His experience includes all aspects of supervision, management, the incident command system, complex investigations, daily law enforcement operations, structural and wildland fire management and operations, emergency medical services, search and rescue operations and interagency cooperation and operations.

The Secretary of the Interior presented Lachowski with an award for valor in 2014 for the rescue of a drowning victim in extreme surf conditions in Lake Michigan. He has held a number of positions in the National Park Service since 1997. He has a Master of Science in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Maine, Orono, and a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management from Utah State University.

Lachowski will begin his new duties in January. 

Partners support monument preservation at GNMP

The Gettysburg Foundation and the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (GBPA) have provided donations to match federal funds to preserve monuments at Gettysburg National Military Park. Thanks to partner support and federal funding from the Helium Act, a total of \$188,129 is available to do repairs and preservation maintenance for more than 350 civil war monuments on the Gettysburg battlefield.

The Gettysburg Foundation provided \$50,765 and the GBPA provided \$43,300 in a dollar-for-dollar match for \$94,065 in federal funding. National Park Service preservation specialists will use the funds to continue to work on more than 350 of Gettysburg’s 1300 monuments, steam cleaning stone features and pedestals, re-pointing and preserving masonry, power-washing and waxing all bronze elements, and repairing and replacing missing or broken bronze features, as necessary.

The federal funding comes from the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, which provides \$20 million in fiscal 2018 from proceeds from the sale of federal helium, to be used for deferred maintenance projects requiring a minimum 50% match from a non-federal funding source.

Park staff waxing the Vermont monument at Gettysburg



Gettysburg Foundation and the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association help us fund the care of these important monuments.”

Beginning in 1863 veterans and survivors of the battle of Gettysburg preserved the battle grounds and created the commemorative features and monuments that still define the park today. The 1895 law establishing Gettysburg National Military Park authorized the federal government to preserve the “important topographic features of the battlefield” and to preserve and mark the battle positions. 



Park staff reset the 3rd MA battery monument at Gettysburg

HOLIDAY BANQUET CANDIDS



PHOTOS BY WALTER DEBANY EXCEPT THE ONE IMMEDIATELY BELOW.



A great time was had by all!

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