

"I don't care for John Pope
one pinch of owl's dung."

— UNION GENERAL
SAM STURGIS, SHORTLY
BEFORE THE
SECOND
BATTLE OF
MANASSAS



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

THE ANGLE

A bimonthly publication of the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
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Impending Actions

Information and details about upcoming Gettysburg Roundtable presentations. **Reminder...for all indoor meetings, doors open at 6:30 PM and the meeting begins at 7 PM.**

JANUARY 23RD

TOO MUCH FOR HUMAN ENDURANCE

Ron Kirkwood is the author of *Too Much for Human Endurance: The George Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg*, which was published in hardcover in June 2019 and went into its second printing in October.

Too Much for Human Endurance breaks new ground by arguing that logistically the George Spangler farm was the most important farm in the Battle of Gettysburg. The book also reveals new information about Confederate Brig. Gen. Lewis A. Armistead's time at Spangler, the Granite Schoolhouse hospital, the Spanglers, the Artillery Reserve at Spangler and more as well as stories of the suffering and heroism of the surgeons, nurses and patients at the two hospitals on the Spanglers' land. The names, wound and treatment of more than 1,400 men at the XI Corps hospital are included.

Ron is retired after a 40-year career as an editor and writer in newspapers and magazines including *USA TODAY*, the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Harrisburg Patriot-News* and *York Daily Record*. Ron edited national magazines for *USA TODAY Sports*, he was the editor in charge of National Football League coverage for *USA TODAY Sports Weekly* and he managed the 32-person copy desk in Harrisburg when the newspaper won the Pulitzer Prize in 2012 for its coverage of Jerry Sandusky and Penn State. Ron is a graduate of Central Michigan University, where he has returned as guest speaker to journalism classes as part of the school's Hearst Visiting Professionals series.



Ron has been a Gettysburg Foundation guide at The George Spangler Farm Field Hospital Site since it opened in 2013. He lives in York with his wife of 43 years, Barbara. 🍷📖

FEBRUARY 27TH

RICHMOND BREAD RIOTS

On April 2, 1863, more than 300 armed women took to the streets of Richmond, VA shouting "Bread or blood!" On the surface, what became known as the Richmond Bread Riots was a protest over food shortages within the Confederate capital; however, a closer examination of the events and how bystanders both reacted to them in the moment and sought to represent them in the historical record reveals far deeper and more complex dynamics involving class, gender, and political critique. This talk will explore the events of that day through the words of those who lived them to help unpack one of the lesser talked about, but largest and deeply unsettling incidents of organized home front upheaval in the South during the Civil War.

ASHLEY WHITEHEAD LUSKEY is the Assistant Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, where she works with Gettysburg College students on a variety of original research-based Civil War and public history projects, coordinates the annual CWI summer conference, and gives tours of the battlefield to visitors. She holds a PhD in nineteenth-century American history, with academic interests in the Civil War and Reconstruction, Southern history, cultural history, public history, and the intersection of history & memory. Prior to her arrival at CWI, Dr. Luskey worked for ten years with the National Park Service, including eight years as a park ranger and historian at Richmond National Battlefield Park. She has delivered numerous interpretive tours, lectures, and scholarly papers at educational institutions and public venues across the country, and has written articles on a variety of Civil War and public history-related topics for various magazines, journals, and blogs. Her most recent piece, a co-edited article entitled *From Women's History to Gender History: Revamping Interpretation* at Richmond National Battlefield Park, was published in the June 2016 issue of *Civil War History*. 🍷📖



Greetings to all...

I was, of course, extremely gratified at how well the December Holiday Event came off. We had an excellent turnout. Speaker Ben Dixon's fast flowing fount of information made for a fascinating presentation on the evolution of our battlefield. As noted that evening, I am not a party-planner. This was a Lynn Heller production and I am happy to report she's already signed on to give leadership to the celebration in 2020.

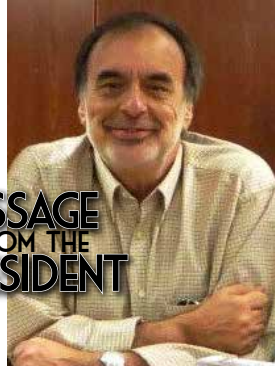
Speaking of Lynn, Ron Perisho passed along a Christmas card from the American Battlefield Trust featuring a Lynn Heller photo of the Virginia Monument in winter. Lynn's 'Gettysburg Expression' is one of my favorite Facebook pages. The recognition from the Battlefield Trust is well deserved. See the photo for yourself on page 6.

Speaking of photographs: Richard Lewis' November presentation asked the question: *As there was no uniformity to Confederate general's uniforms, how is it their pictures all have them in what seems to be the same coat?* I've been reading William C. Davis' biography of John C. Breckenridge. As noted at the Holiday Event, fifty years previous, "Jack" Davis had addressed our group, his subject, the Vice President-turned-Confederate general. Whereas most of the commanders tried for some version of gray, Breckenridge "wore a uniform coat of dark blue 'Kentucky jeans.'" But Google "John C. Breckenridge" and there he is, in the same uniform Richard Lewis talked about. I won't even try to go into Lewis' exploration; suffice to say "The Curious Case of the Confederate Coat" was as quirky and delightful as it sounds.

I know some were frustrated, several months back, when one of our excellent speakers took us right up to our announced 8:30 time of adjournment, giving no opportunity for Q&A. Program Director Roger Heller advises our speakers that a 45 minute presentation is ideal. I have taken to reinforcing that, explaining we'll start precisely at 7:00, move the meeting along, so the presenters can begin no later than 7:25. A 45 minute presentation will have us to Questions and Answers circa 8:10, presumably leaving time at the end for the presenters to sell and sign books. I know Al has been telling our Show & Tell people to limit themselves to five minutes, and I want to reinforce that, as well. But we will start at 7:00 and we will adjourn no later than 8:30.

One last thing to pass along: The Civil War Institute of Gettysburg College is offering members of the Gettysburg CWRT a 15% discount on the 2020 Summer Conference, scheduled for June 12-18. The list of speakers and battlefield tours is extremely impressive. For a complete rundown, enter 'Civil War Institute—Gettysburg College' into your web browser. We'll hope also to have some flyers to distribute at our January meeting, Thursday evening the 23d, starting straight up at 7:00 pm.

BRD



MESSAGE
FROM THE
PRESIDENT

BY BRUCE DAVIS

JANUARY FEBRUARY Stuff to do IN THE AREA

JANUARY 12, PHILADELPHIA, G.A.R. MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE.

Civil War regimental brass band concert to be held at the historic Ruan House located at 4278 Griscom Street, Philadelphia at 1:30 PM. For information: 215-289-6484 or www.garmuslib.org.

JANUARY 25, FREDERICK, MD, LECTURE. *Private Confederacies:*

The Emotional Worlds of Southern Men as Citizens and Soldiers, at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick at 2:30 PM. Free with museum admission. For information: www.civilwarmed.org/event/private-confederacies.

FEBRUARY 12, PHILADELPHIA, LINCOLN BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, PARADE AND CEREMONIES.

Sponsored by the Union League of Philadelphia. Arrive by 10 AM for free parking for reenactors at Laz Garage on the NW corner of 15th and Sansom St. only. There will be a lunch for the participants at 12 noon. After the parade participants are invited to return to the Union League for refreshments and entertainment. Register: awaski01@gmail.com.

MARCH 7, SHIPPENSBURG, CIVIL WAR LECTURE. Join us for a lecture on *South Mountain Communities During the Civil War* at the Shippensburg Historical Society, 52 West King St., Shippensburg at 10 AM. Free, donations welcome. For information: shippensburghistoricalsociety.org.

ON THIS DAY IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

JANUARY 1 1861: New Year's Day and gloomy in Washington. At the White House, there was the usual reception, colorful and gay on the surface, but on the surface only. Southerners attending wondered if this was their farewell. Charles P. Stone was named Colonel of Staff and Inspector General of the District of Columbia. At Charleston preparations for war continued with organization of troops, night patrols, guarding of wharfs and vessels and general mobilization.

FEBRUARY 6 1861: The Lincolns held a farewell reception at their home in Springfield, IL, with a large attendance, including politicians from many sections who had been flocking to the Illinois capital.

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.cwrgettysburg.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 Bruce at 402-686-6969.

The next scheduled board meeting begins at 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 9, at the Perkins Restaurant on York Street, Gettysburg.

GNMP & ENHS NEWS

Steven Sims Named Permanent Superintendent of GNMP, ENHS

National Park Service (NPS) Region 1 Regional Director Gay Vietzke has named Steven Sims as the new permanent superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site in Pennsylvania. Sims is currently serving as superintendent of Valley Forge National Historical Park, Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site and the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail. He will begin his new assignment in late January.

"Steve brings a broad set of skills that will be very beneficial to both park units. He is experienced at bringing partners together to work towards a common goal and values the importance of community engagement," said Vietzke. "His background as a West Point graduate and military officer will provide the valuable leadership that is needed to define and carry out the mission of the parks. In his current assignment, Steve has made significant strides in reducing the park's maintenance backlog and preserving park resources. In addition to millions of dollars in completed projects, Steve has led Valley Forge National Historical Park through a \$14M visitor center renovation and the production of five new park orientation films which are scheduled for completion in summer of 2020."



"I am honored to have been selected to serve as the superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site," said Sims. "As a former Army Officer, I feel a deep responsibility to care for the hallowed grounds of Gettysburg, moreover, honoring the legacy of one of the most notable military generals and presidents of our nation is a privilege. I look forward to serving these parks and our neighbors in this new role."

During his 22-year federal career, Sims has also served as the chief facility manager for the Northeast Region, facility manager for Independence National Historical Park and civil engineer/facility manager for the National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington, DC. Prior to working for the NPS he served as a consultant engineer and as an officer in the US Army. Sims is a graduate of West Point, where he earned a bachelors in science in civil engineering and was commissioned as an officer in the engineer branch. He also holds a masters in science in engineering management from the University of Missouri and an MBA from Norwich University.

Sims is originally from Tehachapi, California. He is married and has two children. His hobbies include hiking, fly fishing, beekeeping and riding his motorcycle.



GUESTS BEGIN TO TAKE THEIR SEATS in the Abigail Adams Room at the Historic Dobbin House in Gettysburg on the evening of December 5 for the annual Roundtable Holiday Banquet. The buffet dinner was outstanding (as always); the guest speaker, Ben Dixon kept everyone entertained with his after dinner lecture; and some wonderful door prizes were auctioned off; and let's not forget the fellowship that was shared by all. See page 5 for lots more photos of the memorable evening.



GNMP & ENHS NEWS

GNMP Offers Winter Lecture Series: Jan. 11 – Mar. 22

National Park Service rangers and leading historians from across the country offer free hour-long talks exploring important aspects of the American Civil War and the Battle of Gettysburg.

- Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center
- Saturdays and Sundays, January – March at 1:30 PM.
- These programs are free of charge.
- Limited seating is available on a first come, first serve basis.
- Subject is schedule to change.

- Sat., 1/11.....**Ranger Matt Atkinson:** *Freemasonry at Gettysburg: Fraternal Bonds Tested by Battle*
- Sun., 1/12.....**Ranger Bert Barnett:** *Gettysburg – Recovery, Memorialization, Preservation, & Commercialization*
- Sat., 1/18.....**Historian Codie Eash:** *Pray for Oblivion to His Memory: Frederick Douglass on the Legacy of Robert E. Lee*
- Sun., 1/19.....**Prof. Kent Gramm:** *Gettysburg: The Living and the Dead*
- Sat., 1/25.....**Ranger Steve Phan:** *The Defenses of Washington during the Gettysburg Campaign*
- Sun., 1/26.....**Historian John Heiser:** *Neglected Heroes of Gettysburg: The Army Mule*
- Sat., 2/1.....**Artists Pat Bauer and Dave Geister:** *Tales from the Little Log House on the Emmitsburg Road*
- Sun., 2/2.....**Ranger Angela Atkinson:** *The Second Middle Passage: An Examination of the Antebellum Interstate Slave Trade*
- Sat., 2/8.....**Ranger Troy Harman:** *Is Gettysburg the High Water Mark?*
- Sun., 2/9.....**Ranger John Hoptak:** *'With Eagles on their Buttons and Bullets in their Pockets': South-Central Pennsylvanians in the 54th Massachusetts Infantry*
- Sat., 2/15.....**Ranger Daniel Vermilya:** *'These Honored Dead': World War II Burials in the Gettysburg National Cemetery*
- Sun., 2/16.....**Ranger John Nicholas:** *What you don't know can hurt you: The Information War and the Gettysburg Campaign*
- Sat., 2/22.....**Ranger Tom Holbrook:** *If These Things Could Talk: Treasures from the Collection of Gettysburg National Military Park*
- Sun., 2/23.....**Historian Christopher Gwinn:** *Memories of Battle – Union Veterans Remember Culp's Hill*
- Sat., 2/29.....**Ranger Barbara Sanders:** *Beyond Lincoln: How Veterans, Politicians, Poets and Filmmakers Address the Changing Meaning of the Civil War*
- Sun., 3/1.....**Licensed Battlefield Guide Mary Turk Meena:** *The Messy Business of War: Civil War Runs Headlong into Politics as Politicians Fight for Power and Breed Jealousy, Self-Promotion and Self-Preservation Among Military Leaders*
- Sat., 3/7.....**Ranger Zach Siggins:** *The Flying Dutchmen: The 11th Corps on July 1*
- Sun., 3/8.....**Artist Wendy Allen:** *Searching for the Exact Location of America's Soul: An Artist's Pursuit*
- Sat., 3/14.....**Ranger Matt Atkinson:** *Earl Van Dorn: The Life and Death of a Confederate Cavalier*
- Sun., 3/15.....**Ranger Karlton Smith:** *Soldier in Training: James Longstreet and the Mexican War*
- Sat., 3/21.....**Ranger Troy Harman:** *Scouting the Union Right: Lee and Culp's Hill, July 1-2*
- Sun., 3/22.....**Ranger Bert Barnett:** *Personal Turning Points: Jefferson Davis and George Thomas*



New Members Are Joining
 Veronica Brestensky
 Rick Epstein
 Brian Gormon
 Dale Miller
 Jeannie Shearer
 and Willian Ward

Welcome to all; we're glad to have you with us!

HOLIDAY BANQUET CANDIDS



The December 5 speaker was Benjamin Dixon who spoke on **OUR BELOVED GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD & PARK, 1863-2019 – HIGHLIGHTS FROM 23 YEARS OF RESEARCH**

Unless otherwise noted, photos by Lynn Heller



- Area merchants and individuals who generously donated to the Holiday Banquet Door Prize tables:
- Blue and Gray Bar and Grill
 - General Pickett's Buffet
 - King James Gallery
 - Larry Sherfy
 - Linda and Dave Joswick
 - Linda Seamon
 - Lord Nelson Gallery
 - Lynn Heller
 - Mason Dixon Distillery
 - Robert Strangfeld
 - Seminary Ridge Museum
 - Studio Elysian
 - Sue Doucette
 - Ted and Susie Hirt
 - The Heritage Center
 - Union Drummer Boy
 - Warren Wilde



A PHOTO WORTHY OF A CHRISTMAS CARD *don't you think?* As a matter of fact, this battlefield winter shot taken by Lynn Heller was recently selected by the American Battlefield Trust for their donor Christmas card. I'm sure you will agree that Lynn has a very artistic eye for composition and lighting in her photos and we're glad she shares her talent on the pages of our newsletter from time to time. Congrats, Lynn on a beautiful photo that's Christmas card worthy.