

JULY/AUGUST 2020

THE ANGLE

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

"Republics are founded on one principle above all else: The requirement that we stand up for what we believe in, no matter the odds or consequences."



When the mob and the press and the whole world tell you to move. Your job is to plant yourself like a tree beside the river of truth and tell the whole world: "No, you move."

– MARK TWAIN

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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.**

PLEASE NOTE: The July and August battlefield walks will be live-streamed. An email reminder blast with all the information will be sent to the membership ahead of the meetings.

JULY 23RD

THE UNFINISHED WORK: WW II ON THE GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD

Jared Frederick's engaging presentation will chronicle the secret, overlooked history of Gettysburg National Military Park in the Second World War era. From classified operations, to prisoners of war, to GI burials in the national cemetery, the battlefield served as a dramatic training ground for a nation at war.

JARED FREDERICK is an Instructor of History at Penn State Altoona and previously worked as a park ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park. The author of numerous books, his most recent work is *Dispatches of D-Day: A People's History of the Normandy Invasion*.

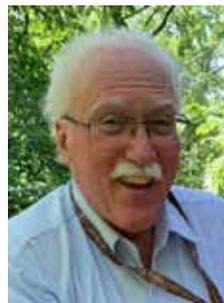


AUGUST 27TH

"THE WORK WAS HELLISH": THE STRUGGLE FOR CULP'S HILL ON JULY 3RD

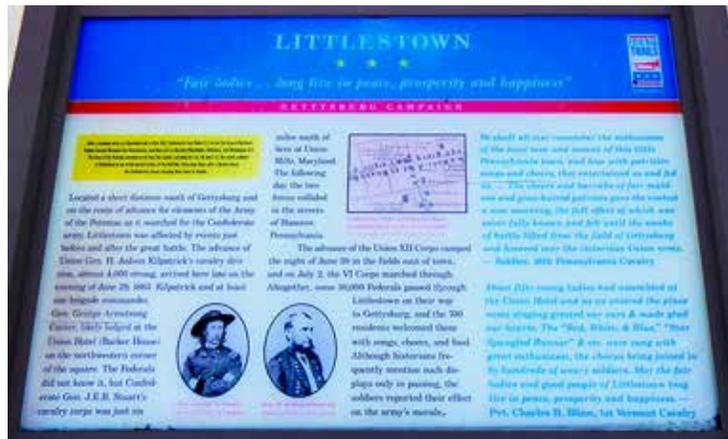
The fighting at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, is more often that not presented as the grand assault on the Union center popularly known as Pickett's Charge, a euphemism created by the National Park Service in the 1930's to attract Southern visitors to the battlefield. Yet the fighting on July 3 actually started eight and a half hours before the artillery barrage that preceded Pickett's Charge had begun.

At 4:35 AM Union artillery arrayed along the Baltimore Pike opened fire thus beginning the longest sustained major fighting of the battle on the Union right at Culp's Hill. This program will attempt to put this terrific conflict in perspective and make the public aware that there is a lot more to the battle of Gettysburg on July 3, than just Pickett's Charge.



CHARLIE FENNELL was born and raised in Western Pennsylvania and became interested in the Civil War in the early 1960's during the centennial and never lost his fascination with the story. Charlie received degrees from Frostburg State College, Clarion State College and a Doctorate in History from West Virginia University. The subject of his dissertation was the fighting on Culp's Hill during the Battle of Gettysburg. Charlie is a published author, has appeared on the History Channel as well as presenting numerous programs for various Civil War Roundtables. Today he lives in Hanover, Pennsylvania, with his wife of 40 years Joleen and can usually be found on the Battlefield of Gettysburg conducting tours as a Licensed Battlefield Guide, a vocation he has enjoyed for 35 years.

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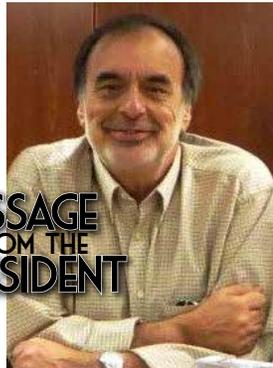


In a June Zoom meeting, the Board of Directors voted to approve a request of support from Civil War Trails. Read about it in the Message from the President column on page 2.

Greetings to all...

...Members and Friends of the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg,

When I retired in 2018, the congregation I was serving in Omaha was gracious enough to give me early leave, so I could be settled into Gettysburg in time for the 155th battle anniversary. That year's reenactment was north of town and I was wowed by the experience. The day was sweltering, disabusing any notion I might enlist as a reenactor. Wearing a wool uniform in this kind of heat and humidity looked to be unbearable. But it was a magnificent spectacle and I had a grand time exploring the camp. It's well that I did, as this year's anniversary is shaping up quite differently. Happily, as a resident of Gettysburg, I'll still be able to experience the field in real time, at the approximate positions of the respective armies over the three days of battle, capped off by walking Pickett's Charge. I'll make this year's charge with the Hessler/Motts account in hand, and hope not to drip too much sweat on the pages.



MESSAGE
FROM THE
PRESIDENT

BY BRUCE DAVIS

Like pretty much every other organization in the age of Coronavirus, the Roundtable is trying to make the best of a less than optimal situation. I am disappointed to settle for a virtual *Summer on the Battlefield*, but it's far from a total loss. I made it a point to visit Culp's Hill yesterday. I'm a Culp's Hill regular and this latest excursion was informed by Richard Goedkoop's wonderful June 25 online presentation, *What Mean These Stones?* It would have been even better, I suppose, to have walked the ground with the Licensed Battlefield Guide; on the other hand, his virtual tour included photos of monument dedications that might have been more difficult to appreciate in the normative pass-arounds. Dr. Goedkoop surely had to do some serious revisiting of his planned presentation for online purposes and we are deeply appreciative of his effort. Richard's program, like those of Mary Turk-Meena and James Broomall in April and May, are archived on our website and Facebook page. And this is cool: In August, we'll virtually revisit Culp's Hill, this time with Charlie Fennell. Rich focused on the stones; Dr. Fennell will walk us through the battle action.

We are very much hoping to be back inside in September. As the GAR is about the worst possible place for social distancing, we're currently exploring other *temporary* options that would afford larger space to spread out. We'll keep you posted on that, of course.

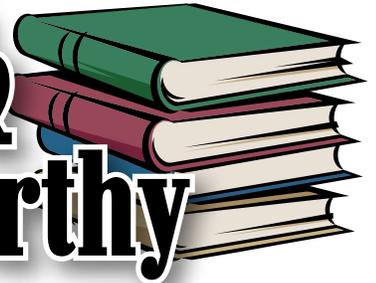
We have not hit "pause" on preservation. In a June Zoom meeting, the Board of Directors voted to approve a request of support from Civil War Trails. The excellent organization is needing some new sponsors, and we will be taking responsibility for the marker at the Littlestown History Plaza. There was quite a trail of Federals coming through Littlestown up the Baltimore Pike. The cavalry of Kilpatrick and Custer rode into town on June 29, Custer is said to have stayed in a ho-

tel across the street from the History Plaza. The XII Corps was cheered by residents on the 30th of June, followed two days later by VI Corps in their epic march. All told, some 30,000 Federals came to Gettysburg on this Civil War Trail. We're talking with the organization about partnering in future projects.

Please continue to check for updates on the website www.cwrtgettysburg.org and Facebook page. This is not how I saw my second year in office going, but I remain enormously thankful for the opportunity to serve as president of the Civil War Roundtable of Gettysburg. BRD

BRD

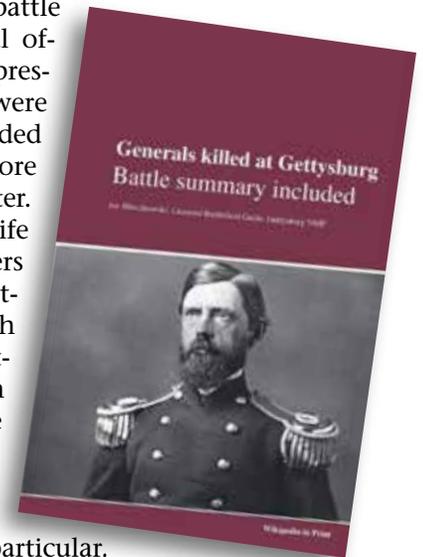
NEW & Noteworthy



GENERALS KILLED AT GETTYSBURG Battle Summary Included

by LBG Joe Mieczkowski, 158 pp., March 2020, paperback, \$23.90 • available at amazon.com & other outlets (see below)

In this book, author and battlefield guide Joe Mieczkowski examines the Generals killed at The Battle of Gettysburg. No other Civil War battle claimed as many general officers. Of 120 generals present at Gettysburg, nine were killed or mortally wounded during the battle. Two more would die soon thereafter. The devastating loss of life among the general officers contributed to the outcome of the battle. Both North and South attempted to cope with the death of their leaders and the resulting instability. Following the battle neither army was ever the same again. The South, in particular, never recovered. We can only guess at how the war might have changed had so many not been killed.



Joe's new book is not only available on Amazon but in local book stores. Contact Joe direct at josephmieczkowski@yahoo.com for details on how you can purchase direct from him at a discount plus free shipping. 📖

Summary taken from <https://www.amazon.com/Generals-killed-Gettysburg-summary-included/dp/3868980113>