

"Thus ended the great American Civil War, which must upon the whole be considered the noblest and least avoidable of all the great mass conflicts of which till then there was record."
 – Winston Churchill



The ANGLE

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

MARCH/APRIL 2017

Impending Actions

Information and details about upcoming Gettysburg Roundtable presentations.

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MARCH 23RD

Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign

This PowerPoint presentation focuses on intelligence operations during the Gettysburg campaign. It tells the story of how Gen. Robert E. Lee lost the battle at Gettysburg, because he was ill-prepared from an intelligence point of view to undertake such a complex operation into unfamiliar territory.

It also tells the story of how Lee salvaged the campaign by escaping before the much larger Union forces could do further damage to his army, and how Maj. Gen. George G. Meade hesitated to take action despite having excellent intelligence on Lee's position and his inability to cross the river swollen from heavy rains.

The standard Gettysburg histories provide accounts of infantry, cavalry, and artillery operations. This talk, based on my book "Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign," adds another dimension about the impact of intelligence operations on the outcome of the campaign.

TOM RYAN is the former president of the Central Delaware Civil War Round Table, and a member of the Gettysburg Foundation, Civil War Trust, Fort Delaware Society, and Delaware Historical Society. He has a B.A. from the University of Maryland and an M.A. from the American University School of International Service.



His multiple award-winning book is titled *Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign: How the Critical Role of Intelligence Impacted the Outcome of Lee's Invasion of the North, June-July 1863*. He also published *Essays on Delaware during the Civil War*, that describes the state's political, military, and social involvement during that period.

He has written numerous articles and book reviews about the Civil War for newspapers and magazines, and his "Civil War Profiles" column appears weekly in the *Coastal Point* newspaper, Ocean View, Delaware. He currently writes book reviews for *Civil War News* and *Civil War Monitor Magazine*.

He served three years in the U. S. Army and thirty-five years with the U.S. Department of Defense. Now retired, he and his wife live in Bethany Beach, Delaware.

APRIL 27TH

Introduction to the Field Trip to Antietam

In the aftermath of publishing *A FIELD GUIDE TO ANTIETAM*, Tom Vossler and I have become increasingly reflective about one question we often get: was it easier or more difficult to write this guide after writing the Gettysburg guide. The questioner often assumed greater ease, we learned, since Antietam was only a one-day fight and occurred in three easily understandable phases from north to south, beginning with the early morning fight in the Bloody Cornfield, through the Bloody Lane in late morning and early afternoon, to the midafternoon fight at Burnside's Bridge. One of the most important lessons we learned early on is that understanding the Battle of Antietam is not nearly so simple a matter.

Indeed, the complexity of the twelve-hour fight impressed itself upon us repeatedly. The ways in which the various phases influenced each other, the ways in which the time lines of the three phases overlapped, the essential elements of the battle narrative that have not managed to command the attention (let alone interpretation and visitation) they deserve, all presented us with challenges to tackle. Even seemingly well-known parts of the battle, especially the Bloody Cornfield—Antietam's equivalent to Gettysburg's Wheatfield for complicated ebb and flow combat action—offered surprises of all sorts.

This talk will preview the basic tour route for the group's tour of Antietam National Battlefield in May, the interpretive challenges each stop presented and how they were resolved, and the new perspectives we hope visitors and students of the battle will come to appreciate.

CAROL REARDON is the George Winfree Professor of American History and Scholar-in-Residence of the George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center at Penn State University. She also has served as a visiting professor of military history at the United States Military Academy at West Point and the U.S. Army War College. She recently concluded a four-year term as the president of the Society for Military History. Now a resident of Gettysburg, she is the author of a number of books and articles on the Civil War and other topics in military history. This field program is based largely on her award-winning *Pickett's Charge in History and Memory* (1997) and on her most recent book, coauthored with Licensed Battlefield Guide Tom Vossler, *A Field Guide to Gettysburg*, just made available to the public in June 2013.



Hello Friends!

Spring is just around the corner! We are all eagerly awaiting the first red bud... the subtle change across the battlefield from brown to green... the fresh warm breeze on Little Round Top.

We are looking forward to wandering or driving the hallowed grounds. Lucky us! We are lucky too, to belong to this very vibrant roundtable that brings together like minded friends – Civil War enthusiasts...battlefield stompers...NPS Rangers...Town Guides...Licensed Battlefield Guides...authors...re-enactors. We are rich in our membership! We love to learn, to share ideas, to enjoy each other's company, and to have the opportunity to keep the memory of Gettysburg's amazing history alive.

I celebrate you...our dedicated Board of Directors, Officers, Committee Chairs and their members, and a loyal roundtable membership!

As we enjoy another year in this Historic GAR Hall, why not bring a friend with you, join a committee, present a Show and Tell, write an article for the newsletter, ask a Trivia question, run for office, AND make sure you pay your dues before the March meeting!



"Spring drew on ...and a greenness grew over those brown beds, which, freshening daily, suggested the thought that Hope traversed them at night, and left each morning brighter traces of her steps."

– Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*.

In friendship...

Lynn

Attention Members

At the January Board Meeting, a motion was made regarding the term of service for the President.

ORIGINAL BY-LAW: *"The President serves a term of one year and may succeed himself or herself for one term of office."*

NEW PROPOSED BY-LAW: *"The President will serve a two year term renewable on a year to year basis for a total of no more than four years."*

The vote by the membership to approve this motion will take place at the April monthly meeting. 🗳️

Cal Doucette Achievement Award

Over the past three years the CWRT has made a presentation of the Cal Doucette Achievement Award. Cal was a member of our Round Table and an active member of the Civil War community. As a Board member he pointed out how many people have engaged in activities which enhance visitors' experiences to Civil War battlefields, positively impact the landscape of battlefield parks, contribute to parks' preservation and maintenance, contribute to learning about Gettysburg and the Civil War, stimulate the interest of children in history, and yet have received no recognition for these activities. Cal suggested that the CWRT create an award for such people. When Cal died the CWRT voted to create such an award in his memory.

Recipients of the award have been: Joan Pore who has volunteered in the GNMP for over 20 years; Bobby and Matt Housch who created and maintain the Gettysburg Daily web site and made videos of the Park's winter lecture series and Ranger field programs; and Ed Hamilton who has spent countless of hours maintaining the cleanliness of the park.

If you know of anyone you think is worthy of receiving this award, please contact Ron Rock at raprock1@comcast.net or by phone 717-337-0733 or with relevant information or with any questions you may have. 🗳️

UPCOMING ELECTION...CANDIDATE NEEDED

The Gettysburg Civil War Round Table needs your help. Our bylaws require that the slate of candidates for the April election be announced at the March meeting, but at the present time no one has stepped forward to run for the office of President. I'm sure we all want to see our Round Table continue offering the wonderful speaker programs and trips which we all enjoy so much, so we ask that you please seriously consider running for the office of President. If you are willing to help us in our search for a new President by submitting your name as a candidate, please contact Ron Rock of the Nominating Committee at 337-0733 or raprock1@comcast.net. 🗳️

A few good members needed to get involved in our roundtable

Candidate for President. Term to begin May 2017. Further info from Ron Rock, Chair Nominating Committee, or Prez Lynn.

One member to join the Audit Committee to assist in the annual financial audit due in March 2017.

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.

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, March 9, at the Perkins Restaurant on York Street, Gettysburg.

Someone to Chair a Refreshment Committee – to set up & clean up refreshment table. One or more members to join this committee so that all meetings are covered.

One or more members to set up the Holiday Banquet Door Prize table

Thanks for considering! 🗳️

SPRING ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Photos by Lynn Heller



GNMPP NEWS



Gettysburg Venison Donated to Central PA Food Bank

The National Park Service at Gettysburg National Military Park has donated 8,436 pounds of venison to the hungry since October 2016 through the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to reduce hunger in 27 counties across Pennsylvania. The venison is from 246 deer taken this winter as part of a deer management program at Gettysburg and neighboring Eisenhower National Historic Site. Butcher Block of Biglerville processed the venison.

The deer management program provides for the long-term protection, conservation and restoration of native species and cultural landscapes at the Gettysburg and Eisenhower parks. Hunting is not permitted inside the two parks--only qualified federal employees take part in the effort.

The annual deer management program at Gettysburg and Eisenhower has been providing venison for more than 36,000 meals each winter through donations to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.

Law Enforcement Ranger honored as "Officer of the Year"

The National Park Service has announced that John Sherman, a law enforcement ranger at GNMPP and ENHS, has been recognized for his efforts to save lives on our roadways through enforcement, education, engineering and EMS Response.

Each year, the National Park Service's Law Enforcement, Security and Emergency Services, Traffic Safety Coalition seeks out those Rangers, Parks, Superintendents and others that have gone the extra mile to ensure the safety of our visitors, co-workers and our park's natural and cultural resources by removing Drunk, Drugged, Drowsy and Distracted drivers from our roadways.



Ranger Sherman

"We are extremely happy to recognize John Sherman for his efforts here at Gettysburg and Eisenhower parks to save lives," said Ed W. Clark, Gettysburg Superintendent. "Ranger Sherman has been honored throughout the National Park system and more than 400 parks as a traffic safety champion!"

Courtesy of the NPS.

This year's Symposium, *The Environment in the Civil War*, promises to be outstanding

by Dr. Daryl Black, Executive Director

Ken Noe and Aaron Astor are among the nation's best scholars of the Civil War and they will be sharing new insights into a long neglected aspect of the conflict. Their thinking really moves the conversation about the war, the environment, and how we understand history forward and promises to be transformative.



ENHS NEWS

Brief closures set for March

Replacement of the Eisenhower Home's Carpeting

President and Mrs. Eisenhower chose wool carpeting in a gold color for much of their home. Interestingly, it was not installed wall-to-wall. Instead, the hardwood flooring was left exposed along the perimeter as if the carpet was an area rug. The gold color coordinated with the cream-colored wall paint in the living room, entrance hall, main stairs, second floor hallways, and back stairs.

The Eisenhower Home opened to the public in 1980. Prior to opening, park staff had the historic carpeting in the hallways and stairways removed and replaced with high quality beige wool carpeting. Unfortunately, gold carpeting was not a commercially available color at that time. Most of the carpet in the Eisenhower Home is over 36 years old. Over three million visitors have walked on it! As you can imagine, it now needs replacement to address both safety and aesthetic problems.

The replacement carpet will be high quality and custom-dyed to match the historic gold color. Visitors will experience a more accurate representation of how the carpeting looked during the Eisenhower era.

To move furnishings and install the new carpeting the National Park Service is announcing the following closures for the site. Temporary closures will be on weekdays only March 20 – 24.

The Eisenhower National Historic Site, starting in March, will be open daily with shuttle buses leaving the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Admission is \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for youth ages 6 -12; children age 5 and under are admitted free. Advance reservations are available and highly recommended for groups. Reservations can be made by calling 877-874-2478.



We will get things off the ground by surveying the field of Environmental History and providing a way to understand the terms of the field and how Civil War scholarship is entering into this new terrain. The afternoon discussion gives us all a great opportunity to kick around ideas and tease out meaning. And of course dinner will be a good time all around, providing plenty of relaxed time for carrying on the day's conversations with fellow scholars. For those of you who have already registered, thanks and we'll see you soon. For those of you who haven't, I hope you will consider spending the day with us.

The Environment in the Civil War

- Saturday, March 18, 2017
- For more information/schedule of events or to register, go to: www.seminaryridgemuseum.org
- Email us at info@seminaryridgemuseum.org
- Call us at 717-339-1300

MEMBER ALERT...

Hilda Koontz will be speaking to the Harper's Ferry Civil War Roundtable on Wednesday, March 8. Her topic will be *Unsuspected: Female Spies in the Civil War*. This program was originally developed for the National Museum of Civil War Medicine for their commemoration of Women's History Month. The program will be held at the Camp Hill Methodist Church in Harper's Ferry. The dinner begins at 7 PM and the program at 8 PM. For further information, please contact Kevin Pawlak at 16kpawlak1829@gmail.com.

Mess Duties

- March 23 We need a volunteer!
- April 27 Deb Novotny